



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 62, No. 10

Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner

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The Mystery of Faith

It is a great source of confusion that causes me no end of amazement when I hear of "Fraternal Brotherhood" misconstrued as a secret cult. I can assure you it is not a cult; it is, however, a mystery.

It is a mystery which began as a result of another mystery, which took place when God, the Supreme Architect of the Universe, decided to intervene in our lives. It's the mystery of the Virgin Birth.

In this mystery we come face to face with the wonderful work of God breaking through into our time, our space, our world — to be with us. This extremely mysterious event we now call Christmas.

By this unique event, God visited and touched this earth of ours in the form of a small child. A normal baby, yet destined to bring to us the promise of a new beginning, a promise filled with hope, a promise that fills us with inner joy, an inward peace and stability that no one, ever, will be able to take away from us.

As a fraternal brotherhood of Masons, free as we are, we too must never depart from our chosen course. We must continue to appreciate one another and allow the great light of God to illuminate each home, each heart, wherever God's people meet in fraternal alliance.

Soon we shall celebrate, in all its fullness, the good news of Christmas. The Word of God becoming flesh to live with us and in us — we share our life and conquer its death. On this day, set aside to allow us closer harmony with one another, we pause to reflect on life itself; it is the day when the Word comes to give us power to become the Children of God.

That mystery could be manipulated to mean many things. In most cases it is taken as a time of peace and joy, a time when we take special care by making others laugh and be happy. The truth of this mystery is whenever and wherever we meet in true brotherhood or sisterhood, we are called upon to experi-

ence a mystery. Let the lights of our fraternal affiliation burn in our hearts this Christmas, and may the power of that light enlighten the darkness of ignorance all year long.

Brothers and Sisters, the next time someone challenges your Lodge or your faith, simply reply: "I do indeed have a mystery to relate to you. It's not a secret society. It is a fraternity of people who, in freedom, have chosen to come together under the great canopy of heaven, to bring to fruition the mystery of a Supreme Architect of the Universe who came to our aid in a mysterious way."

May the light of the eternal love of God be with you all this Christmas and in the New Year ahead. — So mote it be!

Bro the Reverend Richard L. Conrad†
The Very Worshipful Grand Chaplain

Happy Hanukkah!

To all our Brethren of the Jewish faith, who unite with those of other faiths in the Grand Design of Being Happy and Communicating Happiness to Others, the Bulletin Committee extends fraternal best wishes on the occasion of their commemoration of the rebuilding and rededicating of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. May the miraculous lamp keep burning for them during the Festival of Lights and throughout the coming year.

Shalom!

Editorial

Goodwill Toward Men

Volume 4, Issue 2 of *FOCUS*, a communication of the Masonic Service Association of North America, brought us an article worth considering in its entirety. It is entitled *THE ALTA VENDITA*.

"Several Catholic newspapers, particularly in the Northeast and Midwest (United States), have been running a story with the headline the *Alta Vendita* with a sub-headline *A Blueprint for the Subversion of the Catholic Church.*"

Season's Greetings

from the Grand Lodge Office

On behalf of Judy Rivers, Valerie Levson and myself, Gerry Webber, we would like to send our best wishes to all Brethren and their families, for a wonderful Christmas Season and a healthy, prosperous New year. The past year has gone by so quickly. It has been a very rewarding, productive and exciting year. We thank you all for making our jobs so much more enjoyable.

It has become a bit of a tradition in our Grand Lodge Office to share an "Open House" during the Festive Season. We look forward to a day of meeting and greeting those with whom we have worked closely over the past years and to also meeting new friends. Should you have time to share with us, Thursday,

December 18, 1997 from 10:00 AM to 3:00

PM, please stop by 330 - 12th Avenue SW, Calgary, Freemasons' Hall.

We encourage you to bring your spouse, friend or family.



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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Editorial Committee

Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner, 403-483-5124, Fax 403-486-4512

WBro Loren Kline; Bro Trevor Morris; WBro Peter Proudlock

The Editor reserves the right, due to limitations of space, to accept, reject and re-write
material submitted for publication.

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“There follows a story about the “secret” plan of the Freemasons to infiltrate the Catholic Church, particularly by introducing such ideas as the “Principles of 1789” which include: pluralism, equality of religions, and separation of Church and State. The *Alta Vendita* plan was supposed to have been introduced around 1820.

“Supposedly the *Alta Vendita* was the highest lodge of the Carbonari (an Italian Secret Society), and their secret papers fell into the hands of Pope Gregory XVI who ordered their publication.

“Because the story had such wide circulation, we thought our readers should have some background as to its origin.

“The story itself is baseless and false. Freemasonry neither had nor has a plan or a desire to infiltrate or try to destroy the Catholic Church. As best as we can determine, this particular story is being retold by extremists within the Catholic Church to strengthen their own position. Much anti-Masonic material is distributed by extremists within several Protestant denominations.

“Freemasonry is making every attempt within its power to establish cordial relations with the Catholic Church, based on mutual respect and toleration. We shall continue this effort!”

So much for the article in *Focus*. Let us not dwell on the supposed connection between our Craft and the 19th century Carbonari (or charcoal burners of France and Italy) who died out about 1830. Any interested Brother can read up on them in most encyclopædias, including some Masonic ones. We still might want to know the meaning, in English, of *Alta Vendita*. The Carbonari called a lodge a *vendita* which, curiously enough means “sale”, although “venditio” is the more proper term (hence our vendor). The adjective *alta* (the feminine gender of *altus*) means, high, deep or profound. Would we, in language familiar to us, translate *Alta Vendita* as “Grand Lodge”? This, however, we need not do because we are not responsible for the Carbonari of yore, nor do we have to defend ourselves. After all, these accusations can rightly be called, again in Latin, *ex alto*, and that, we are happy to note, means “far fetched”!

The closing paragraph of the quoted article above, ending in “We shall continue this effort” says it all — let us dispel any misconceptions about Freemasonry in friendly conversation, and what better time of the year is there to remind us of the dictum to exercise GOODWILL TOWARD MEN?

An Innisfail Special



On the evening of May 15, 1997, Innisfail Lodge No. 8 held a memorable meeting at which six chairs were filled with members of the Jackson family: WBro Brent Jackson as WM, RWBro Wes Jackson as SW, WBro Ed Jackson (who that evening also received his 50-year jewel) as JW, Bro Tim Jackson as SD, Bro Bruce Jackson as JD and VWBro Jack Jackson as JS.

The picture taken on this rare occasion shows (L to R): Bruce, Wesley, Jack, Edgar, Brent and Timothy.

Book Review

Bloodline of the Holy Grail

Laurence Gardner

Element ISBN 1-85230-870-2

This is yet another of those speculative books which claim to have sorted out the true story of the New Testament, the Holy Grail, the lineage of Jesus, and what happened to many Biblical personages. The book suffers from some of the usual shortcomings of this class. References to well-established works are few, in fact in many places where footnotes are needed they are lacking. For example, on page 59, “Jesus was a distinctly westernized Jew — Hellenist — as opposed to the rigidly staunch Hebrews such as John the Baptist.” Some evidence or reference from the New Testament would have made the statement more meaningful. On page 63, “The Essenes were advocates of the Greek philosopher Pythagoras...” No reference to any of the published Dead Sea Scrolls or other writing is offered. Believe the authors on faith. On page 311 the authors state that Dante, author of the *Divine Comedy*, was a notable Rosicrucian Grand Master (no reference given). One of Dante’s most avid students was Christopher Columbus. Dante’s dates are 1265-1321; Columbus 1446-1506. How could Columbus study under Dante after Dante was dead? If the authors meant Columbus studied Dante’s works why not say so? And which works of Dante prove the assertion of Dante being a Rosicrucian Grand Master? Of course, no references are given.

The author has Jesus survive the crucifixion, but has him die probably in India. Other authors of this genre have Jesus die in Rome after travelling around with Paul, or in the south of France. Jesus’ wife, Mary Magdalene and his son do escape the Holy Land and live in the south of France. The description of the bizarre pattern for conjugal relations to occur between Jesus and his wife makes one wonder how speculative the author can become. James, the brother of Jesus, according to the author, used the name Joseph of Arimathea to travel around England. Obviously James does not die as described in

the New Testament any more than Jesus does.

The book rambles for 489 pages. It rewrites much history and decides that the Royal House of Stewart are descendants of the bloodline of Jesus and his brother James. This reviewer is still uncertain about how the Holy Grail fits into all of this. The Knights Templar are dredged up again in both the Holy Land and Scotland.

For those interested in arcane literature and like to speculate that much of history is hidden from us ordinary folks, this book is for them. This reviewer is tired of dogmatically written speculation and also wonders how the authors of this speculative history always seem to "discover" the true meaning of writings or events when recognized scholars seem to be too dense to see the true interpretation. The book is a long, and for this reviewer, tedious read. Again, those who like speculation might enjoy it.

Loren W. Kline

1998 Masonic Spring Workshop Prepares For a New Direction

On a recent meeting notice, a cry from our Masonic wilderness drew my attention. The concern could not have been more adequately expressed by any Mason. It read: "Where are we going? How do we get there? Who is going to lead us? Who will lead us into the 21st century?"

These questions show a growing concern over the diminishing popularity of Freemasonry with its declining membership. Various factors have been cited for this obvious dilemma, amongst them are:

- the increasing demand on available time;
- a lack of a united focus;
- an inherent opposition to change;
- the increased incidence of anti-Masonic influences;
- the lack of a Mission and Strategic Plan;
- reactive rather than proactive remedies; and
- insufficient leadership development.

The Masonic Spring Workshop Committee, at a meeting held on November 28, 1996, unanimously agreed that the theme for the 1998 workshop will be 'FREEMASONRY'S DIRECTION — WEATHER VANE OR COMPASS' and that the workshop motif will include a weather vane and a directional compass. Such a theme will provide ample scope for the workshop sessions to set the stage for a reversal of the membership trend and a possible return to perpetual growth.

The Keynote Address for the 1998 Masonic Spring Workshop will be delivered by Dr. Gary H. Leazer, Ph.D., of Georgia. Described as a dedicated and conservative Christian Scholar, minister and author, Dr. Leazer is the Founder and Director of the Centre for Interfaith Studies. He is also the author of the book *Fundamentalism & Freemasonry, The Southern Baptist Investigation of the Fraternal Order*.

The story of Dr. Leazer's journey to the door of the temple is a remarkably poignant one. He was introduced to Freemasonry by an ironic twist of fate. In 1993, as a Director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, he was ordered to investigate the Masonic Fraternity. A scholar of uncompromising integrity and conviction, Dr. Leazer endured dismissal and alienation rather than distort the truth.

On 17 September 1996, he was initiated into Freemasonry, and raised on 8 February, 1997 in Clarkston Lodge No. 492, Georgia. Dr. Leazer's fourteen plus years with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, coupled with the valuable experience gained whilst investigating the Fraternity, have provided him with a unique and unbiased perspective of the Craft, the story of which he has agreed to share with us at the 1998 Masonic Spring Workshop.

In his book, "Fundamentalism & Freemasonry," Dr. Leazer devotes two chapters to the subject of responding to specific attacks on Freemasonry. The valuable content of these chapters enables the Mason to politely correct and intelligently enlighten the critic of Freemasonry. Dr. Leazer will likely expand on his keynote address when he facilitates a Saturday workshop session.

The Workshop Committee is now concentrating on the type and content of the Workshop sessions and we anticipate that they will be planned to serve as a prescription to remedy the Fraternity's malady; or at the very least attempt to suitably respond to the earnest plea in the opening paragraph of this message.

Tom Hargreaves, General Chairman
1998 Masonic Spring Workshop

1998 MSW Application Form

To attend, you must have at least received your EA Degree. The registration fee of \$235 is based on **double occupancy**, and it includes two nights accommodation and five meals starting with supper on Friday evening and ending with breakfast on Sunday. Single accommodation is available at a fee of \$330. **This fee must accompany your registration. Post-dated cheques will not be accepted.** Please make cheque payable to the MSWPC. Your cancelled cheque or charge card billing is your receipt. **Absolutely no refund after 3 April 1998.**

To register, fill out a registration form below and **send it with the required fee directly to the MSWPC.**

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Second Name _____

Name as it should be on your Name Tag _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____ Phone No. _____

Lodge Name & No. _____ Current Office _____

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Attended before?	

Rank: MM WM PM Other: _____

Smoking: Yes No Special health requirements? (elevator, diet, etc.) _____

I wish to room with: _____
Name _____ Lodge _____
(Cards should be received together to ensure request filled.)

Visa _____ /
 MasterCard _____ Number ▲ _____ Expiry ▲ _____

Signature ▲ _____ Today's Date ▲ _____

Mail cheque or credit data (\$235 D/\$330 S) or fax credit data to:

Masonic Spring Workshop Planning Committee
Box 265, Didsbury, Alberta T0M 0W0
Phone 403-335-4384 Fax 403-335-2398

Our DDGMs

Battle River District

RWBro James R. Christensen was born in Acadia Valley, Alberta, on September 7, 1930. His family moved to Edgerton in 1933. James is the father of five children and he runs a mixed farm operation with his only son, Chris. He has been on council with the M.D. of Wainwright since 1974 and of those years he has served as Reeve since 1979 to the present.

Our Brother was initiated, passed and raised in Edgerton Lodge No. 102 in 1959. He was Worshipful Master of that Lodge in 1963-64 and again in 1977-78. He was elected District Deputy Grand Master for the Battle River District.



Lakeland District

RWBro Lorne R. Langman was born in Edmonton on March 29, 1935. He is married to Joan, and the couple have one daughter, Lorna, who lives in Calgary. He retired from the University of Alberta Hospital after 28 years, having served in various positions in the physical plant department. Lorne is an active member of Robertson-Wesley United Church in Edmonton where he has spent 38

years in the choir, and is serving as chairman of the property committee. His hobbies include bowling, curling, golfing and working in his greenhouse and garden. He has travelled extensively through the British Isles, Europe, Japan, Hawaii and across Canada. He is also a former member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Club of Edmonton and a member of the Edmonton School Boys Band Alumni.

Our Brother received the three Degrees of Freemasonry in 1970, in Acacia Lodge No. 11, which Lodge he served as WM in 1981.

Mighty Peace District

RWBro John J. Gamble was born April 11, 1930 in Scarborough, Ontario. He served in the Railway Equipment Department, first of Northern Alberta Railway (NAR) and then the Canadian National Railways (CNR) for thirty-three years, retiring in 1986. He and his wife Mavis reside in Peace River. The couple have three sons, Glen, Blair and Brent, and one daughter, Gail.

Bro Gamble received the three degrees of Craft Masonry in Wahpun Lodge No. 88 in High Prairie, Alberta, which Lodge he served as WM for three consecutive terms in 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91. Following amalgamation of Wahpun Lodge, he became a member of Peace River Lodge No. 89. He was appointed Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Alberta for 1993-94 and in 1996, he was elected to his current office of District Deputy Grand Master for the Mighty Peace District.



Northern Lights District

RWBro John R. Fraser, a native of McLennan, Alberta, was born August 4, 1939. He retired from the NAR/CNR after 35 years of service. He is married to Joyce and the father of one daughter, a Past Honoured Queen of Bethel 13, IOJD, and of one son, a Past Master Councillor of the Edmonton Chapter, Order of DeMolay.

Our Brother has been initiated, passed and raised in 1976, in Patricia Lodge No. 91 in Edmonton, where he served as WM in 1985-86 and again in 1994-95. He is also a member of the A&ASR bodies of the Edmonton Valley and of Al Shamal Temple, AAONMS, as a member of the Clown Unit. His support of the Masonic young men's organization was rewarded when, in 1991, he received the DeMolay Cross of Honour. He was also awarded a special recognition from the Priory of Canada of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, in 1987.



Phoenix District

RWBro Paul L. Rabel was born in Silver Creek, Saskatchewan, on July 12, 1923. In 1941 he came to Alberta where he worked as a farm hand for many years. For the past 26 years he has resided in Airdrie, and has now retired as manager and ice maker at the Town and Country Centre in Airdrie.

Bro Paul married Shirley Scott of Innisfail in 1953. They have been blessed with four sons, two granddaughters and 11 grandsons.

Bro Rabel was initiated in 1982, and passed and raised in 1983 in Crossfield Lodge No. 48, was their WM in 1992, was elected as Grand Tyler for 1993-94 and appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil).



Grand Master's Itinerary

December

- 1 Strathmore Lodge, Game Supper
- 6 Hanna & Handhills Lodges, Amalgamation
- 8 Robert Burns Cresset Lodge, Carmangay, Surrender of Charter
- 13 Canada Lodge, Calgary
- 29 Crossfield Lodge, Crossfield

Do you read Hungarian?

The "Symbolic Grand Lodge of Hungary" has informed us that they would be happy to provide interested Brethren in our jurisdiction with details on how to subscribe to their magazine *Kelet*, a periodical in the Hungarian language, which they promise provides readers with high level contributions from leading researchers, historians and writers.

Anyone interested, please write to the Grand Secretary, with your name, address and Lodge affiliation, under the reference word HUNGARIAN.