Free Tason



Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner

Vol. 71, No. 3

Pythagoras — ca. 570–497 BCE

Compiled and edited by WBro Barry D. Thom, Lodge Mackay No. 1129 SC, Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

What do we really know about Pythagoras? In the Junior Warden's lecture we are informed that he, along with certain Egyptians, was a philosopher and that they were a society with secrets and were bound by oath never to reveal them. Pythagoras was born in the Greek

city of Samos, on the island of Samos. He is often described as the first pure mathematician and as an extremely important figure in the development of mathematics. Yet we know very little about his mathematical achievements. Unlike many later Greek mathematicians, of whom at least we have some of the books which they wrote, we have nothing of Pythagoras' writings. The society which heled, partly religious, partly scientific, followed a strict code of secrecy.

As a child, Pythagoras spent his early years in Samos but also travelled widely with his father. He was well educated, learned to play the lyre, studied poetry and could recite passages from Homer. Around 535 BCE Pythagoras went to Egypt where he was accepted into the priesthood. It is not difficult to relate many of Pythagoras' beliefs to the customs that he came across in Egypt. For example the secrecy of the Egyptian priests, their refusal to eat

beans, their refusal to wear clothes made from animal skins, and their striving for purity. These were all customs that Pythagoras would later introduce to his followers. Under the Egyptians, Pythagoras furthered his knowledge of geometry.

In 525 BCE Cambyses II, king of Persia, invaded and captured Egypt. Pythagoras became a prisoner and was taken to

Babylon. While there, he associated with the Magi, was instructed in their sacred rites and learned about a very mystical worship of the gods. He also reached the height of perfection in arithmetic, music and the other mathematical sciences taught by the Babylonians. In about

520 BCE Pythagoras left Babylon and returned to Samos where he founded a school which was called the *Semicircle of Pythagoras*. This was a forum in which the Samians held political meetings. Outside the city he made a cave the private site of his own philosophical teachings, spending most of the night and daytime there, doing research into the uses of mathematics.

Around 518 BCE, Pythagoras left Samos and went to southern Italy where he founded a philosophical and religious school in Croton. Pythagoras became the head of the society with an inner circle of followers known as *mathematikoi*. These lived permanently

with the society, had no personal possessions and were vegetarians. They were taught by Pythagoras himself and obeyed strict rules. The beliefs that Pythagoras held were as follows: (1) that at its deepest level, reality is mathematical in nature; (2) that philosophy can be used for spiritual purification; (3) that the body has a soul which can rise to union with God; (4) that certain symbols have a mystical significance; and (5) that all members of the order shall observe strict loyalty and secrecy.

Both men and women were permitted to become members of the society of mathematikoi. The members of the outer circle were known as the akousmatics, who lived in their own houses, only coming to the society during the day. They were allowed their own possessions and were not required to be vegetarians. Of Pythagoras' actual work nothing is known. His school practiced secrecy and communalism, making

it hard to distinguish between the work of Pythagoras and that of his followers. Certainly, his school made outstanding contributions to mathematics.

First we should be clear in what sense Pythagoras and the *mathematikoi* were studying mathematics. They were not acting as a mathematics research group. There were no "open problems" for them See **Pythagoras**, page 2.

Editorial

For Posterity

Now, by March, it can be safely assumed that the Centennial Edition of The Alberta Freemason, symbolically dated "1905 — 12 October — 2005" in commemoration of the date of founding The Grand Lodge of Alberta, has reached its destination, namely, each and every Brother Mason who is a member of a Lodge in this jurisdiction. Copies were delivered to the District Deputy Grand Masters in December 2005, and they must be thanked for passing them on to all Lodges in their respective Districts. Ten thousand copies were printed, with a view of sending them also to all Grand Lodges in Canada, the USA, Australia, Great Britain and Ireland, and most jurisdictions of Europe, Central and South America, Africa and Asia. The governing bodies of our Youth organizations have also been on the mailing list.

Anumber of Brethren have been kind enough to comment favourably on the contents of the magazine's thirty-two pages in colour and on glossy paper. Yet, the editor would have been happier if he could have gone to forty-eight pages and include more articles of great worth to the reader. Still, what is contained between the covers, aside from congratulatory messages, most of which include informative passages, is a selection of sincere thought and insight, the past, present and future, and what could be termed "good to know."

As the preparation of that issue has been a once-in-a-long-time effort which in the foreseeable future may not be repeated, those who received it are urged not to relegate it to "file 13" but to preserve it and to make it available to future generations of Brother Masons, to interested members of the public, and those who ask what Freemasons and Freemasonry are all about. Additional copies are in the hands of Lodge Secretaries, District Deputy Grand Masters and the Grand Lodge office, and should be placed in public places such as libraries, archives, community buildings, school and hospital reading rooms, post-secondary institutions and the local media. The Chapters and Bethels of our Masonic youth groups may also be interested.

It's for everybody to see!

Pythagoras, from page 1.

to solve, and they were not in any sense interested in trying to formulate or solve mathematical problems. Rather, Pythagoras was interested in the principles of mathematics, the concept of numbers, the concept of the triangle or other mathematical figures and the abstract idea of a proof. Pythagoras believed that all relations could be reduced to numbers. This generalization stemmed from Pythagoras' observations in music, mathematics and astronomy. He noticed that when vibrating strings of, say, a lyre produced harmonious tones, that the ratios of the lengths of the strings resulted in whole numbers, and that these ratios could be extended to other instruments as well. In fact, Pythagoras made remarkable contributions to the mathematical theory of music. He was an accomplished musician and used music as a means to help those who

Pythagoras studied the properties of numbers which would be familiar to mathematicians today, such as even and odd numbers, triangular numbers, perfect numbers, etc. However, to Pythagoras numbers had personalities which we hardly recognize as mathematics today.

Each number had its own personality — masculine or feminine, perfect or incomplete. Ten was the very best number as it contained in itself the first four integers: one, two, three and four [1+2+3+4=10] and 1-2-3-4 written in dot notation formed a perfect triangle.

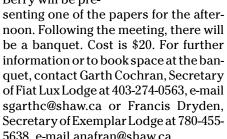
This school, after existing for thirty years, was brought to destruction by a wealthy inhabitant who was denied admission. In revenge he excited the citizens against it. A lawless mob attacked the scholars while at an assembly. They set fire to the building and dispersed the disciples, burning forty in the process. After the destruction of his school at Croton, Pythagoras fled to Metapontum where he sought asylum from his enemies in the temple of the Muses where, tradition says, he died of starvation at age eighty [circa seventythree? Ed.].

Even today Pythagoras, in all his mystery, still remains a fascinating character in a long line of mystics and primitive scientists.

Fiat Lux in Edmonton

Exemplar Lodge No. 125 will be hosting the next meeting of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No 1980 on 25 March 2006. The meeting will be held at Freemasons' Hall, tyling at 2 PM. This is the Official visit of the Deputy Grand Master, RWBro Malcolm Berry, under whose jurisdiction Research Lodges are placed. Fiat Lux meetings are unique. Except for the Worshipful Master, Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, all Brethren are referred to as "Brother" and all wear aprons denoting no rank higher than Past Master. The afternoon's program of research and education is held while

the Lodge is at refreshment, allowing the most freedom for discussion. RWBro Berry will be pre-





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Annual subscription rate for non-members of the GLA is C\$10.00 plus mailing costs. Republication rights are granted to other Masonic Jurisdictions, but acknowledgement of the source is requested. The Editor reserves the right to accept reject and re-write material submitted for publication. Deadline for copy is the 1st day of the month, two months prior to the month of issue.

Three brothers — Three Brothers

It was a rather unique occasion for Mayerthorpe Lodge, at their October 2005 meeting, when three brothers, who had grown up in the Mayerthorpe area, were in attendance and sat in the three principal chairs: WBro Stan Hughes as the Worshipful Master, WBro Lloyd Hughes as the Senior Warden and Bro Doug Hughes as the Junior Warden (left to right in the picture). These three brothers/Brethren represent a total of 162 years of experience in Freemasonry. They were congratulated on the efficient and dedicated manner in which they conducted the meeting.

WBro Stan Hughes was presented with the 60-Year Bar to his 50-Year Jewel at this meeting.

WBro Stan Hughes resides in Wetaskiwin, WBro Lloyd Hughes in Mayerthorpe, and Bro Doug Hughes in Calgary.

RWBro Al Vickery



Alberta Freemason reaches "New Heights"



Bro **Michael Rainey** of Bow River Lodge No. 1, Calgary, and his wife **Linda** are avid hikers who took on the challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, East Africa, this past summer. The mountain stands at 5,895 m and is the world's seventh highest peak.

After a three-day climb, Michael is seen here proudly holding a banner with the Masonic square and compasses and Bow River Lodge No. 1 prominently displayed. Congratulations to Michael and Linda! Their effort complements the various centenary projects undertaken in 2005 by Alpha District Lodges.

Glenn McConnell

Editor's Note: According to one list, Kilimanjaro ranks seventeenth. Those higher are: Mount Everest (Himalaya) 8840m; K2 (Karakoram) 8611m; Tirachmir (Hindu Kush) 7750m; Przewalski Range (Kuënklun) 7720m; Kungur-tagh (Pamir) 7665m; Aconcagua (Chile) 7039m; Pik Kaufmann (Transalai) 7000m; Chan Tengri (Tiënshan) 7000m; Nevado de Huascaran (Argentina) 6763m; Llullaillaco (Argentina) 6620m; Illampu (Bolivia) 6617m; Coropuna (Peru) 6615m; Sajama (Bolivia) 6415; Chimborazo (Ecuador) 6310m; Mount McKinley (Alaska) 6187m; Pik Baba (Alai) 6000m. Nevertheless, this ranking does not detract from our Brother's and his wife's achievement.

Charlie — 90

A party was held in late November, 2005, for RWBro **Charles Dyson**, to celebrate his 90th birthday. It was very well attended by his family, many friends and Masonic Brethren.

Bro Charlie, fondly known as **Mr. Ashlar**, was the Worshipful Master of Ashlar Lodge No. 28 in 1957 and served as the District Deputy Grand Master for Alpha District in 1973. His son, David, was Potentate of Al Azhar Shrine in 2005.

Bro Charlie has been a cornerstone to Ashlar Lodge and is a good friend and support to all who know him.

Happy birthday, Charlie!

Glenn McConnell

Many happy returns — the Editor.



Rare Achievements

It has been reported that in March, 2006, the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island, AF&AM, will hold a Special Communication to commemorate **80 years** of service to Freemasonry by WBro **Louis Cantello** of St. George's Lodge No. 4, in Georgetown, PE. Bro Cantello is 101 years old.

Similarly, University Lodge No. 496, AF&AM, GRC, of Toronto, ON, has within its ranks a Brother of **80 years** standing, in the person of WBro **Bill Dowds** who will be 103 years old this year.

Who knows anyone close in Alberta?

Questions and Answers from "Down Under"

By Joseph V. Haffner, Grand Librarian

United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the A.C.T. (= Australian Capital Territory) *Pillars of Light*, Vol. 1(10), September 2005

We are frequently asked by people, and sometimes even by friends, certain questions that are important and I feel that as articulate Masons, proud members of our fraternity, we should know what and how to respond. It is of major importance as we sometimes face strangers who might interpret our answers in a way that will help them and others to denigrate the beautiful Order of which we are so proud to be members.

Here are a few questions and the proposed answers, to assist you in difficult situations.

Frequently Asked Questions on Freemasonry:

1. What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is

- one of the world's oldest, caring societies.
- a unique society concerned with moral and spiritual values
- seeks to make good men better.
- teaches morality through symbolism.
- uses ancient and meaningful ceremonies to instruct its members.

2. Who are the Freemasons?

 We are ordinary people in the community who care about the welfare of others.

3. Are you a secret society?

• No. Until recently, our policy was to be rather discreet about ourselves, our community work and even our membership. However, times have changed and so have we. Masons will often talk freely about their activities and their membership. Lodge rooms are often opened to visitors and enquiries about Masons and their valuable community work are always welcomed.

4. Why do you have secrets at all?

 The "secrets" of Freemasonry are the traditional modes of recognition, just like PIN numbers and computer passwords, and today are widely known through many books freely available.

5. Is it a Religion?

 No. Freemasonry does not instruct its members in what their religious belief should be, nor is it a substitute for religion.

6. What do you believe in?

- Freemasons have a common belief in a Supreme Being.
- They believe in high moral standards.
- They believe in honesty in everyday life.

7. What do you wear?

 Just like clubs, Freemasons have a dress code at their meetings.

8. Why do you wear an apron?

 It is a traditional and ceremonial form of recognition within the membership.

[Not a very good answer, Alberta Ed.]

9. Where do you meet?

 More than five million Freemasons meet world-wide in buildings known as Lodges. The word "Lodge" has become a traditional name for a meeting place since the Middle Ages. Most Masonic Lodges can be found in prominent locations in the community.

10. What do you do at meetings?

- The same as the business meeting of any other organization.
- Instruction is given in the form of ancient ceremonies that teach the value of high moral standards.
- Social gatherings in the best spirit of fellowship.

11.I've heard that some of your ceremonies are embarrassing.

 That is wrong. The ceremonies are not embarrassing to our members. In fact, they are memorable experiences that members treasure and respect.

12.I am told that if I am a Freemason, it will be an advantage in my job. Is that true?

No. Masons are under a strict obligation not to use their connection to obtain any personal advantage, but of course, being known as a Freemason means that you will be recognised as a person of integrity who can be relied upon.

13. Why do some people criticize Freemasonry?

 Because of a lack of knowledge. If you have any question, just ask, because today, Freemasons will talk openly about their beliefs.

14.How much does it cost?

 Certain fees are expected from members. However, the fees are structured so as not to exclude any member of society.

15. How old is Freemasonry?

It dates from the Middle Ages in Europe. Its present form began in the 18th century. [It came to Australia at the beginning of the 19th century.] There are many books available to the general public on the subject of Freemasonry, to be acquired or to be consulted in Public Libraries and especially in our Grand Lodge Library.

16.How much time is expected from me?

Initially one or two nights a month.
 As you progress, further time may be needed, but this is optional.

17. Why can't women join?

• Traditionally, Freemasonry has been just for men. However, in the Masonic larger family there are various other activities, social and charitable, which cater for all members of the family. And then, as we have our Freemasonry for men, so do have the women their own Freemasonry, their own Lodges, where they limit admission only to Ladies. [In Alberta the Order of the Eastern Star, for women and men. Ed.]

18.Are you an organization like Lions and Rotary?

 In some respect it is similar, as in our charitable work. But, Masonry can be distinguished from service organizations by its emphasis on the traditional manner in which it passes on its ancient beliefs and tenets.



41st Masonic Spring Workshop

Delta Lodge at Kananaskis April 28, 29 & 30, 2006

Bro Murray Pay (118)

Masons have met for the past 40 years for a weekend of Fellowship and Instruction in the Alberta Rockies. Over the years, the committee has invited the best in keynote speakers from across Canada, such as the late Dave Bruce, without question, probably the most respected speaker in the Order around here; from the USA, Jim Tresner, author of *Albert Pike, The Man Beyond the Monument*; and from Britain, Chris Knight, co-author of *The Hiram Key* — all who have delivered messages to enlighten, illuminate and stimulate your mind.

Why should you attend? Casual Environment

The Masonic Spring Workshop goal is to create a Masonic, thought provoking weekend experience in a relaxed atmosphere of fellowship. No titles — every one is Brother regardless if he is the Grand Master. No Regalia. No Suits. No Ties. You are not timetabled. You can take the time to pick sessions that suit what interests you and still have time for a quiet walk on the extensive pathways that surround the complex, or go for a swim, or hot tub soak. Did I say bring your bathing suit?

Being nestled in a spectacular mountain location located in the heart of the Eastern Slopes of the Canadian Rockies—one of nature's wonders—enriches the retreat environment. Enhanced by the elegant Delta Lodge at Kananaskis resort, excellent dining supervised by a gold medalist chef; spacious accommodations in Kananaskis Country, it is a totally rewarding weekend for new and to be renewed Brethren to attend. Benefits & Education

Invigorating themes and speakers spark debate to enhance, to enrich and to educate the Masonic mind. You have the opportunity to be challenged and exposed to new ideas while having the opportunity to express views and to be mentored in the ways of Freemasonry. Lively question periods bring out many points of view, which, history informs me, have been known to be heard long afterwards in corners and rooms throughout the resort.

Throughout Saturday there are workshops presented by skilled facilitators, many based on the theme. You can opt to sit in on any of these programs and glean what you want to take away with

you, without being forcibly governed by any agenda. Usually, there

are also presentations related to Lodge Officers, such as preparing to be Master of your Lodge aimed at Senior Wardens, or tricks and tips for Secretaries.

Masonic Spring Workshop

It is the duty of each and every one of us to strive to expand our knowledge at all times. An education paper may happen during a business meeting here and there throughout the year at your Lodge (and in many cases does not happen). The same old format and showing up for Lodge may not be the menu you are looking for in Masonic enlightenment and does become stale to the membership. Here you can pick up new ideas to bring back to your own Lodge.

The Spring Workshop is a non-profit, volunteer committee with all receipts going to maintaining the event. The Spring Workshop committee is committed to deliver a second-to-none workshop that is not duplicated by any other

Masonic jurisdiction in North America with top notch Speakers that you or I could not afford to bring into our Lodges, as well as time proven facilitators. You have it all under one roof in a pristine relaxed environment. Can this be necessarily available at any other time? Perhaps. Can you get the same enrichment if we were trying to do this as an

individual Lodge? I would say not. The Spring Workshop clearly delivers the messages that many Masons hunger for.

It not only provides for feeding the mind, but also, for sure, the body with top notch culinary treats. Finally, with your mind and your body refreshed, likewise your spirit and soul is refreshed before your departure with a short ecumenical Sunday service delivering the final theme message from God's word. *Fellowship*

One could say we get this by attending Lodge or through visitation. But are

you limiting yourself? By meeting

your Brethren from other parts of the province, you can further share ideals and strengthen your knowledge by listening to their points of view. You hear refreshing, positive exchanges at the coffee

breaks, the meals and in the hallways. What else do you hear? Laughter! There is no negativity. Laughter rings through the weekend. You make new friends. It's a retreat to leave behind the stresses of your business, to breathe in the fresh air, to free and cleanse the mind, and to purify your soul.

Still an Affordable Package

Many Brethren return year after year from the far reaches of the province and drive numerous hours because they recognize the value they are receiving from their attendance.

The weekend package for \$325 per person (double or triple) offers you 2 nights, 5 top quality meals in a 5 star resort hotel, including all taxes and gratuities. It's the best bang for the buck. Drive up Friday afternoon, unrushed, and return Sunday at a leisurely pace in a renewed frame of mind.

A recent advertisement for 1 night, dinner, taxes and gratuities at the Banff Springs Hotel seen in the *Calgary Herald* was to Let Ralph pay for it — \$400 per person.

Freemasonry and the Community — The Development of Modern Society

This year's keynote Speaker, Mark A. Tabbert, will without

question truly represent the theme — "Masonry and the Community." Mark was the Curator of the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, Massachusetts. He has recently moved to be Director of Collections at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. He is the Author of American Freemasons, Three Centuries of Building Communities and is Worshipful Master of Mystic Tie Lodge, MA. He is a young man who will bring with him young ideas plus his considerable knowledge of Freemasonry's history and enthrall all age boundaries.



WBro Mark Tabbert,

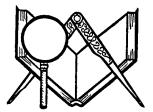
Valley of the Craftsmen

W.L. Fox. Editor, 2001 ISBN 0-9708749-1-x

This book was commissioned by the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry to celebrate their bicentennial (1801–2001). The editor is W.L. Fox, the author of The Lodge of the Double-Headed Eagle, which is a full historical account of the first 200 years of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, USA. The current book is a natural follow-up on the first. Unlike the historical book, the Valley of the Craftsmen is a pictorial history of the Southern Jurisdiction's first two hundred years.

This is a large format book (26 x 31 cm). It is a wonderful collection of photographs of the people, places and artefacts that shaped the Southern Jurisdiction. There is a nice mix of text to accompany and explain the drawings and photographs. The preface includes

8:30 AM



the answer to an often-

asked question, "Why are the local Scottish Rite bodies organized into units called Valleys?" As a hint, the book of Nehemiah contains the answer.

The first chapter provides a brief history of Freemasonry in general and its development in the United States. The author uses the device of a human chain to tie the organization together through its two hundred years. Washington and Lafavette were both Masons, and active in the colonies and early United States. Albert Pike had the opportunity to meet Lafayette; John Cowles (the second-longest serving Sovereign Grand Commander, Southern Jurisdiction, after Pike) met Albert Pike; and Fred Kleinknecht (Sovereign Grand Commander at the time of writing the book) knew Cowles. This completes the

chain from 1771 to 1985; thus covering the 1801-2001 bicentennial celebrations for the existence of the Southern Jurisdiction.

The book would complement the library of anyone interested in the history of Masonry in North America. The pictures are excellently reproduced and the text is informative and fascinating. I would wholeheartedly recommend it,

Loren Kline

Grand Master's Itinerary March

- 2 Lake Saskatoon Lodge No. 106; Masonic Hall, Wembley
- 9 Board of General Purposes, Red
- 11 Ye Olde Craft Lodge No. 196, Installation; Acacia Hall, Edmonton
- 14 Patricia Lodge No. 91, Blarney Night, Presentation to MWBro Art Jones: Freemasons' Hall, Edmonton; 1930 h
- 18 King Hiram Lodge No. 21, Confirming the Consecration; Masonic-Star Hall, Didsbury
- 31-1 April All Canada Conference; Winnipeg, Manitoba

41st Masonic Spring Workshop

28 to 30 April 2006



XGX	Tentative Agenda 🥦				
Masonic Spring 1	Workshop	Friday, 28	April 2006	Masonic Spring Workshop	
8:00 PM	Bookstore open 2 –10 PM Friday, 8 AM Saturday Closed during all sessions. Open during breaks.	Mark Tabbert — Keynote Speaker Freemasonry and the Community — The Development of Modern Society			
Saturday, 29 April 2006					
Location	Stewart Room	Bronze	Silver	Gold	
	For L	odge Officers	General Interest	Controversial	
9:00 AM to 10:15 AM		Techniques Secretaries' Clinic Jerry Kopp & Hugh Young	Masons in Public Office Speaker to be Announced (Check www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca for updates)		
	Coffee Break — Convention Foyer				
10:45 AM to Noon	Video & Discussion Sessions Sandy Sandford See Schedule at Theatre Entrance	Floor Work for Dummies Lodge for Instruction Canadian & Ancient York Rites Avon Glen & Eastgate Lodges	Passionate Eye Concordant Bodies & Community Programs AASR, AAONMS, RAM Bruce Zawalsky	Presentation/Discussion Back to the Future The way we were — Again? Mark Toon & Cyril Abbott	
	Buffet Lunch in Branders — (Back of Peaks Restaurant)				
1:30 PM to 2:45 PM	Video & Discussion Sessions Sandy Sandford See Schedule at Theatre Entrance	Techniques Wardens & Deacons Planning for your Year in the East Mahlon Weir	Presentation/Discussion The Internet Community Masons Worldwide Stephen Dafoe with Robert Lomas On-line	Information/Education What World Wide Conspiracy? Why do people say these things about us? Peter Ebdon & Peter Smith	
	Coffee Break — Convention Foyer				
3:15 PM to 4:30 PM	Bookstore Closes for Weekend at 5 PM		Keynote Wrap-up Freemasonry and Society Where Do We Go from Here! Mark Tabbert, Keynote Speaker & Tren Cole, Chairman 2006		
6:00 PM		Cash Bar & Banquet Followed in the "Theatre" by the film <i>National Treasure</i> (free popcorn)			
		Sunday, 30	April 2006		

Interfaith Devotional Service — Rev. Jim Roberts — Music — Jamie Beckstead — Gold Room Followed by a Buffet Breakfast in the Silver and Bronze Rooms