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Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: S. CARL HECKBERT, P.G.M., Vermilion, Alberta

Morley G. Merner - Grand Master



M.W. Bro. Wm. H. Harper, Immediate Past Grand Master, acted in his official capacity for the last time on conclusion of the scheduled business of the recent Grand Lodge sessions when he installed his successor, in the person of M.W. Bro. Morley G. Merner, into the highest office within the gift of Freemasons in Alberta.

M.W. Bro. Merner was born at Langside Portsoy, Scotland, joining Freemasonry as a member of Renfrew Lodge in 1930; on settling in the more northerly section of the Province he became a charter member of Jordan Lodge No. 177, Wetaskiwin; attaining prominence in his own district he was named a Grand Steward in 1946 and Grand Registrar in 1953 and 1954.

He was elected Junior Grand Warden in 1957 and proceeded through the senior positions, attaining the high office of Grand Master through the pleasure of the membership in Alberta.

At the request of the Bulletin, M.W. Bro. Merner directs the following message to the Brethren throughout the Grand Jurisdiction.

"I thank you for the honour and privilege of serving as your Grand Master and trust that I may prove worthy of your confidence.

It has been a pleasure for me, as my first duty, to confirm and to instal the District Deputy Grand Masters whom you have elected in the respective districts and I fully realize that their support is an urgent necessity to a successful year for our Grand Lodge. I bespeak on behalf of the Deputy Grand Masters, the other officers and myself, the ardent and continuing support of our membership generally, for it is only through that support that we may effectively carry out the duties that devolve upon us.

Some thought has been given to the matter of District Meetings and with a hope that the services of Grand Lodge may be more effective throughout the Province in the coming year it is altogether probable that 'area' rather than 'district' meetings will be officially attended by the senior officers of Grand Lodge, while the 'district' gatherings will be devoted primarily to the

business of the district itself and opportunity will be afforded for the members of the various lodges constituting the district to take advantage of the opportunities of a broader fellowship.

Your Committee on Education has given consideration relative to a mentor plan for candidates in Masonry, with a view to the new member becoming a more informed individual with respect to Masonry and its meanings; it is hoped that the plan will be fully developed and made known to the constituent lodges in the not too distant future.

It will, I hope, by my pleasure to visit all parts of our Province for Area Meetings, Consecrations, anniversaries and other outstanding gatherings and I shall look forward to broadening my friendships on every convenient opportunity.

To each member of the fraternity throughout the Province I extend my best wishes for a pleasant and profitable year in Freemasonry."

M.W. Bro. Merner will have as his active supporting officers for the coming year R.W. Bro. W. L. McPhee who is well known to the membership; a native of the Province of Prince Edward Island who came to Calgary many years ago and has established a wide connection throughout Alberta. A member of Perfection Lodge No. 9, Bro. McPhee has served as Worshipful Master of his lodge and later as District Deputy Grand Master; he is active in concordant bodies and has capabilities which insures success as Deputy Grand Master.

R.W. Bro. H. S. Hardin, who will occupy the office of Senior Grand Warden, is a member of St. John's Lodge, Vegreville, and has been most active in every phase of Masonic endeavor throughout District No. 10, he is an inveterate visitor to lodges throughout northern Alberta and is in close touch with Masonry over a wide area; his contribution to the work of Grande Lodge is one that will undoubtedly do him a great deal of credit. R.W. Bro. (Rev.) William John Collett elected as Junior Grand Warden at the 1961 communication will add strength to the administration due to his wide experience as Principal of Mount Royal College at Calgary. R.W. Bro. Collett has served effectively as Grand Chaplain and is widely known

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EDITORIAL

Having accepted an invitation from the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master, to continue to act as editor of the Bulletin for another year it is my earnest desire to make our monthly publication as worth while to its readers as possible. In recent months a number of generously complimentary letters have been received from lodges and individuals in connection with the paper and I trust future issues may have an appeal to all concerned.

It is rather difficult to efficiently gauge the type of material that carries the broadest appeal and with this, the first issue of the coming Masonic year, I solicit the suggestions of members who are interested in having a publication of value.

Some months ago it was intimated that articles dealing with the unusual or interesting activities of our lodges would be of interest and the column of reports under the caption 'Within the Craft in Alberta' seems to have been well received. A more recent suggestion brought out the idea that the Grand Jurisdiction might well be divided in districts for reporting lodge activities; there would appear to be some danger of reports of the contributions of individual members becoming prominent and, with the limited space available it would be virtually impossible to carry reports other than those of province wide interest.

On more than one occasion it has been suggested that note should be made of the passing of members, especially those who have attained rather unusual prominence in Masonic or community affairs; certainly it would be acceptable so far as the editor is concerned, but there is always the danger that an obituary might not be forwarded for publication and some feeling be aroused simply because the passing of one member was given notice, while that of another, equally deserving of mention was overlooked through failure of proper advice.

In the past year cognizance has been taken of the celebration of anniversaries and there would appear to be a general acceptance of the worth of such articles. Considerable effort has been expended in an endeavour to obtain articles written by our own members; unhappily the effort has not been as acceptable as one would wish and our paper has contained articles culled from the more prominent Masonic papers. In every case authority to publish such material has been obtained and acknowledgement made.

There is little question but that worthy contributions could be made by students of the science of Freemasonry in our Province and they are earnestly solicited; if they cannot for any reason be used, due notice will be given the contributor.

S. C. H.

THE PILLAR OF THE CORINTHIAN ORDER

The following account of how the Corinthian Pillar came to be designed is taken from the December 1958 issue of the Masonic Record of London, England, and should make interesting reading to our Brother Junior Wardens.

Our lodges are supported by three great pillars called Wisdom, Strength and Beauty, but as we have no noble orders of architecture known by these names we refer them to the three most celebrated, namely, the Ionic, Doric and Corinthian.

The Corinthian pillar, "the emblem of Beauty," is entrusted to the Junior Warden, and indeed is a symbol of the beauty of human friendship—the beauty that adorns the inward man.

There is a delightful legend told of the origin of the Corinthian capital which I would like to recapitulate as follows:

A Grecian princess who, during her lifetime, had been an ardent collector of pottery, died at an early age. On her decease, one of her untiring maids who had dearly loved her mistress, collected some of the choicest pieces of her mistress's collection of pottery-ware and placed them in a small woven basket and went and placed the basket at the head of the grave of her mistress, and to keep the basket in position she placed at the top of it a square slab of stone.

Quite unwittingly, she had placed the basket on a root of Acanthus, and in the spring the leaves grew and encircled the basket and, reaching the stone placed on top, the leaves curled over. The legend tells us that Callemachus of Corinth, the renowned worker in bronze, passed by the grave and, seeing the basket encircled by the Acanthus, he was struck by its beauty, and he modelled it in bronze and gave to the world and posterity the beautiful Corinthian capital.

So, from the simple act of devotion and friendship of a humble Grecian maid, we have today in our lodges the beautiful and inspiring symbol of the beauty of human relationship and friendship.

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throughout Alberta; born in England he came as a youth to Canada and has attained a position of prominence in his adopted city. Holding several degrees, including that of Doctor of Divinity, he is a member of the Senate of the University of Alberta, Chairman of the Calgary Public Library Board, Vice-President of the Calgary Community Chest, a member of the Session of the Scarborough United Church and Chaplain of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, Alberta Branch.

Masonically, R.W. Bro. Collett was initiated in Cairo Lodge, Claresholm, in 1944, becoming its Worshipful Master a few years later; he was a Charter Member of Elbow River Lodge No. 180 in Calgary and has been active in carrying the principles of Freemasonry to the entire Province.

We welcome this distinguished Brother to the line of senior officers and anticipate a most worthy contribution to this Grand Lodge.

Within the Craft in Alberta

MELROSE LODGE MARKS HALF CENTURY

On the evening of July 20th the members of Melrose Lodge No. 62 at Bawlf celebrated their 50th Anniversary; a large gathering of members and visitors was in attendance for the important event. Prominent among the visitors was the M.W. the Grand Master, Morley Merner of Wetaskiwin; R.W. Bro. H. S. Hardin, SGW and a number of present and past Grand Lodge officers. R.W. Bro. W. H. Riley presided and a special Thanksgiving Service was conducted under the direction of R.W. Bro. R. D. Thirsk; this was concluded by a Litany of Remembrance impressively given by R.W. Bro. Reid Elliott.

Several toasts were proposed, much of the tribute being in jocular vein and a very pleasant evening was spent. Unusual interest was given when past masters of the lodge took over the conduct of the lodge; in the south W. Bro. Wilbur Jain, 86 years of age, handled the gavel; in the west was W. Bro. S. W. Pierce, still active and regular in attendance at the age of 75 fulfilled the office, while R.W. Bro. Riley, 69 years old, fittingly directed the lodge.

During the evening the recently purchased and renovated lodge premises were officially opened, adding much of interest to the proceedings.

Guest speaker for the evening was R.W. Bro. Hardin, S.G.W., and a prominent member of St. John's Lodge, Vegreville for many years; his address was received with applause and prior to the dispersal of the fine gathering M.W. Bro. Merner gave an interesting report of the Grand Lodge sessions recently held in Calgary.

Masons throughout Alberta extend congratulations to Melrose Lodge for the attainment of fifty years of worth while service.

CENTURY LODGE PAYS TRIBUTE

At a meeting of Century Lodge, Milk River, held just prior to the summer recess, brethren from Lethbridge and from the State of Montana joined with the members of Century Lodge in paying tribute to R.W. Bro. Robert Douglas, Past District Deputy Grand Master for District No. 7 on his having reached the distinction of fifty years as a member of the Order in recognition of which he had only recently been presented with a Fifty Year Jewel in his own lodge, North Star, in the City of Lethbridge.

One would judge from his name that Bro. Douglas might well claim the land of the heather as his home and this was confirmed when the pipes under the guidance of Bros. Alex and John McColl led the procession to the lodge room; R.W. Bro. Douglas was accompanied by R.W. Bro. Norman Noss, District Deputy Grand Master, and a number of other distinguished members, including W. Bro. Wm. Gould of Shelby, Montana, who added an international touch to the pleasing affair.

W. Bro. W. F. Smith traced the Masonic life of the honoured guest from his initiation in Pitlochry Lodge in Fifeshire, Scotland, and paid high

tribute to a career which had been marked by previous presentations of a Life Membership in North Star Lodge, Lethbridge, and an Honorary Life Membership in Century Lodge No. 100. Following a presentation of an ebony desk set to the guest of the evening, the distinguished Mason expressed his pleasure on the tributes paid to him and on his long and eminently satisfying Masonic career.

GRAND SECRETARY ON TOUR

R. W. Bro. E. H. (Ned) Rivers is presently on tour in the United Kingdom and continental Europe and we will doubtless hear much of the trip on his return in September.

It will doubtless be of general interest to members throughout Alberta to know that soon after his arrival in England, R.W. Bro. Rivers attended the fiftieth anniversary of Canada Lodge in London and, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, presented this Lodge with a fine set of gavels, the handiwork of R.W. Bro. David Penman of Edmonton.

Canada Lodge is well known to many former service men and other Canadian visitors and a brief report now would only serve to dim a much more complete report which we shall expect from Bro. Rivers at a later date.

The gathering at which the presentation was made numbered some two hundred members of the fraternity and included R.W. Bro. H. D. Fawcett (165), V.W. Bro. C. S. B. Lait (134) and W. Bro. C. J. Long (7).

GRAND LODGE SESSIONS HOLD MUCH OF INTEREST

The sessions of Grand Lodge, held in Calgary during June, held appeal for every member in attendance and it was noted with considerable pleasure that only eleven lodges failed to have representation at the communication.

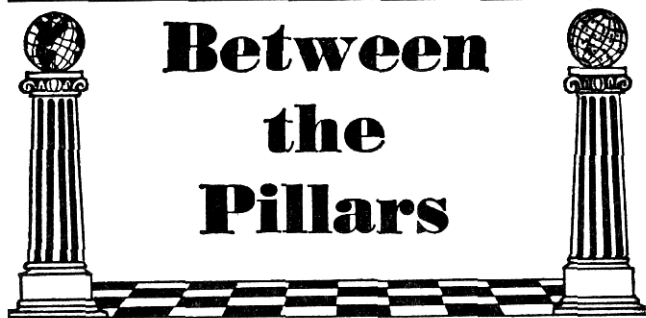
Bulletin readers will appreciate the fact that it is not possible to fully report the sessions but it is desired to once more point out that the proceedings of the meetings will soon be in the hands of lodges and it is urged that full use be made of the very interesting and informative material which will be so readily available.

Fall and winter meetings will afford an excellent opportunity for all Masons to become fully informed with respect to the progress of Masonry in Alberta and elsewhere and the address of M.W. Bro. C. McL. Pitts will be given in full for the enjoyment of all.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

"God has not promised skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through.
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the weary, light on the way.
Grace for the troubled, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy — undying love."

Uthor Unknown.



Between the Pillars

A FREEMASON'S WORTH

A Freemason's worth is his intellectual ability to know, and natural impulse to carry out, that which his Masonic apron stands for, and which must never be disgraced. Such worth is the life-blood of a Craftsman.

How many Freemasons pause to realize, and ponder on, this significant emblem, the "Badge of innocence and purity." The Badge which should be a constant reminder of purity of life and action. To put it more plainly, how many Craftsmen could stand up to this test, and to what strength does it flow through their veins.

It is nothing short of humbug to trifle with such Masonic principle. Freemasonry cannot be made cheap. It is not "sounding brass or tinkling cymbals" Freemasonry rings true and its vibrations are ever refreshing to mind and body, extending brotherly service to great and humble alike and to ever remember that all men are stewards, one to the other and, as the sacred law directs, "it required of stewards that they be found faithful."

Faithfulness or worthiness, not building "Castles in the air," but having a firm hold of all that is Masonic, so that the word brother means brother in fact, it's use not merely a matter of habit. Nothing could be more distinctive and give greater personal affection, one to the other, than the contribution Freemasonry has made known throughout its generation, the "Brotherhood of Man." Brotherhood is not an imagination in the Masonic outlook, neither is it a sacrifice. It is a gift of the Great Architect, adding to life's pleasures, fitting a brother to know what worth, is worth; bestowing help and encouragement to those in need of it—and they are many.

Turn up any phraseology and for the word Brotherhood, among its many meanings, will be found Freemasonry and Fraternity.

Plato, in his time, recognized—"That the ancient mysteries were established to refine the morals and manners of men, and to restrain society by the obligations of the fraternity." If that was the vision of Plato in his day, it is equally true of the Masonic fraternity today. Freemasonry seeks perfection in one and all of its members, producing evidence of worth by integrity and moral rectitude, thus the Brotherhood is a "gem of great price" and an ornament to be worthily used in the Masonic path of life.

A Freemason's worth is not viewed in words and actions alone, they stand for nothing, unless the mind conceives their worthiness, and bears witness to their value.

Thus, a Freemason's worth is one of hard self discipline, to gain control of his nature, that he may be Master, not alone of a Lodge, but of himself.

An Editorial
The Ashlar.

WHAT IS IT FOR?

It is not the primary function of Masonry to initiate candidates, nor to enlarge its membership. Were that so there would be no basis for our laws against proselytising. The primary function of the Craft is to train its members to an understanding of the truth which its rituals and ceremonies are calculated to inculcate, to develop its members as benevolent men, to cultivate the social virtues and to propagate the knowledge of art.

The chief concern of our lodges is with the welfare, happiness and Masonic development of its members, not with the admission of those who seek entrance at its doors. Success as a Masonic lodge cannot be gauged by the extent of its membership nor the size of its accumulated funds.

The beauty of our ritual and the good fellowship among lodge members cannot be conserved when the chief aim is to make Masons and acquire money. "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth"—the life of a lodge does not depend on the size of its acquisitions, but on the contribution which it makes to civilization and society through which the influence of those whom it has helped to train in what we call Masonic character.

It is the absolute duty of every lodge to put in action a plan for education its members in Masonic history, symbolism and philosophy, and to devote more of its meetings to this much neglected function.

Psychologists say that few people ever develop more than a small part of their potential ability. It is highly necessary that we increase the percentage who may be induced to develop a contemplative attitude of mind. We must demonstrate to newly made Masons the fact that Masonry is a life to be lived, not a formality to be observed.

If, by self-analysis, we can discover and discard those traits which seem to lead us in the wrong direction, and at the same time cultivate those natural tendencies which point the way to higher achievement, then we shall have carried into effect one of the greatest principles of Masonry.

If Freemasonry has done for past ages all that has been claimed for it, the question remains: "What will it accomplish now?" In this fast moving age in which we live it is capability and not sentiment that determines the usefulness of men and institutions. The vital test is not "What has been done?" but "What can we do now?"

The present is not the time for resting on accomplishments of our forebears; the torch is in our hands and we must bear it forward to still greater accomplishments and we must strive with all our might for the good of mankind. We are honour bound to ceaseless efforts to improve the lot of all men, not only the chosen few within our circle. Adapted from the Masonic Circle.