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Grand Lodge Bulletin

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 M.W. Bro. B. Brown. R.W. Bro. C.E. Pinnell.
 R.W. Bro. P.J. Kendal. R.W. Bro. E.J. Thomson.
 GREETINGS
 STANDARD WHITE COURT WASKATENA UBERYCK REEK LUCERNE
 HIGHWAYS PEACERIVER
 PATRICIA
 NORTHSTAR

THE LIGHT OF TRUTH

Guest Editorial by
R.W. Bro. Dr. E. J. THOMPSON
Grand Junior Warden

During the month of December we are very conscious of the shortening of the days. Each morning the sun rises a little later and each evening it sets a little earlier. Then comes the turning point about December 21st and the sun shines a little longer each day. As we enter the New Year the promise of the return of the sun warms our hearts. If we did not know that this turning point would inevitably come we might well give way to despair so important is light to man. We could, if we were not informed, naively assume that, the darkness would eventually smother all light and existence. The very thought of such a calamity makes us aware of the importance and the desirability of light. It is not surprising that two great religious traditions have important celebrations in December relating to light.

The Hebrew community will celebrate Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, lasting some eight days. The Christian community celebrate Christmas, the coming of Jesus Christ whom they later called "the Light of the World." St. John, in his Gospel, writes, "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." What these Christians were saying was that God had revealed to man a way of life, the way of love, and this was the light which enabled man to see his way through the difficulties, the temptations, the tragedies and the mysteries of human existence.

We, in our Fraternity, are very familiar with the symbolism associated with light. Indeed any man seeking admission must witness to the fact that he seeks "more light". Jesus said, "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness." We might say, "Blessed are they which seek after light and more light."

Light is often spoken of in close association with truth. When the mind of man is in possession of the truth, we say the mind is illuminated by truth. The darkness of ignorance is driven out, the clouds of prejudice are swept away, the blackness of resentment, self-pity and hate is swept aside. His mind illuminated by truth, a man is able "to see life clearly and to see it whole."

As we begin a New Year the words of Oliver Wendel Holmes may well express our thought:

*"Lord of all being, throned afar,
Thy glory flames from sun and star;
Center and soul of every sphere,
Yet to each loving heart how near!*

*Lord of all life, below, above,
Whose light is truth, whose warmth is love,
Before thy ever-blazing throne
We ask no lustre of our own.*

*Grant us Thy truth to make us free,
And kindling hearts that burn for thee,
Till all thy living altars claim
One holy light, one heavenly flame."*

THE GRAND MASTER'S COLUMN

A great many of our Lodges, throughout our jurisdiction are starting this New Year under new Masters and officers. Would it not be fitting for them and for each of us, to pause and take inventory?

In our New Year's inventory should we not pause and look back at what we have done that is good and look at what we have? Should we not also take inventory of what the future holds that may be evil as well as good. Surely we must look into the days that lie ahead and take guidance from what has gone before. Masonry since the dim far distant past has helped man find proven principles on which to plan his future, guidelines on which to build a better life.

Our Lodges provide us with the opportunity of finding the key to the good things in life. We may be members of this Lodge or that Lodge, but this does not mean that we have availed ourselves of its teachings. The key is there, but we must become interested and use this key to open the door to Masonic philosophy and truths. He who knows nothing of these will never be an active member nor will he ever be rich in knowledge. We owe to ourselves, if we hope to be competent to meet the future, to be first students of the past and the present. If we are to be of value to our fellowman in the future, we must be learned of the past.

Our Lodges have been handed down to us by the pioneers of Masonry. God-fearing men, honest and dedicated Masons. We owe it to them to take inventory of ourselves, to know that we are deserving of their trust and challenge. Our physical assets are not the primary concern. We as Masons look elsewhere for our true values. Membership is not part of our evaluation, but the quality and dedication of our members must be our vital concern, for never in the history of man have we needed more strength of purpose for the good of all mankind.

Take a good long look at the inventory list that you obtain, both Lodge wise and individually. Do we have dead stock, mildewing on our shelves, which with a little effort on our part we can again market and be made to become bright and polished for the advancement of Masonry. Some of us have seen a very great change in this world of ours, we are also viewing a great changing in Masonry. We are witnessing today, dramatic changes in morality, spiritual and political philosophies. Does this not make it more needful now, to take inventory of life's values? Should we not see if we are rich in Masonic principles?

All these things must be considered in our inventory. There are many problems ahead for all of us to solve. Lukewarm Masons may not be able to measure up to the demands. An inventory of ourselves and our Lodges should tell us if we are ready and capable to meet our obligations. Never will there be a more opportune time than now, New Years 1968, and may the Most High give us the wisdom and the strength to make the future of this World wonderful beyond compare.

Bernie Brown.

"The Entered Apprentice Degree"

(Excerpts from a paper by R.W. Bro. P. J. KENDAL, S.G.W.)

INTERPROVINCIAL CONFERENCE, Banff, 1967

The ceremony of initiation into all secret societies, ancient and modern, has commonly been accompanied by impressive rites. Let us therefore consider the ceremonies practised today. How many of us have really understood the vital and fundamental truths which they symbolize?

It is not the primary function of Masonry to initiate candidates or to enlarge its membership. The primary function of our craft is to train its members to an understanding of the truths which its rituals and its ceremonies are calculated to inculcate. It is from a lack of instruction rather than a lack of desire to learn that the craft suffers today.

The future development and value of the Order as a moral force in society depends therefore upon the view its members take of their system. If they do not spiritualize it, they will but increasingly materialize it.

Initiation opens the eye of the new candidate to a representation of a new world, of which the lodge is a symbol. While he may at first think that light has been taken from him for the purpose of initiation and then automatically restored when he has partly finished the ceremony, thus only returning him to his previous condition, in reality the light is restored to him in another place — he has put aside old things and has come to things that are new. He will never pass out of the lodge quite the same man as he entered.

At any initiatory ceremony the most important consideration is the impression made upon the candidate. His mental condition is favorable, and with good degree work his interest is assured. Masonic initiation is intended to be a profound and revolutionary experience; as a result of which the candidate should become a new man. He should acquire a new range of thought, a new feeling about mankind, a new confidence in immortality, a new passion for brotherhood, a new generosity and charity. The whole purpose of what is said and done is to bring about such a transformation . . . if it does not accomplish this it is a failure.

In many cases the poor effect of initiation is due to the carelessness of the lodge. The ritual cannot be properly administered in a mechanical way. The candidate is entitled to an "authentic" presentation with earnest thought and expression behind it. The importance of a proper impression being made on the candidate at his first reception by a Masonic Lodge cannot be overestimated as his entire idea of the institution is formed at this time.

It should be a well known fact that the two great ends in Freemasonry are character and brotherhood. We are trying to build better men and we are trying to establish the collective life of mankind in brotherhood. There is something that we must do about these characters of ours to improve them. It is no use wishing for high character if we insist upon engaging in low acts. This part of the entered apprentice degree fairly shouts at us that we must will the conditions of worthwhile character if we would achieve it.

To these ends, the entered apprentice degree furnishes the candidate with symbolic working tools. One teaches him that if he would build a better character he must begin by divesting his heart and mind of the vices and excesses of life which tend to disfigure and create roughness of character. Another teaches him that he must organize his time in an orderly fashion, and spend it on those worthwhile and necessary pursuits, work, worship, rest and recreation, for by such correct uses of his time, he will not waste it nor use it unwisely. And yet another teaches him that when he has mastered the use of these first two, this third one shows him how to further polish this new improved character by advanced studies and training, fitting him for still higher stations in life.

These and other "symbols" of the entered apprentice degree should be thoroughly learned by the candidate if he is to understand and make proper use of the many other symbols and working tools he is to encounter in his future progress. He must be given every opportunity to get the correct introduction into our system, for it is truly a system. It is not a mere hodge podge of rules, maxims and precepts thrown together without order or design, as some Masons so often suppose. It is a step-by-step system expertly contrived by men of great wisdom over many hundreds of years, designed to teach in beautiful ceremonies the doctrine of the right and wrong of human conduct. Rightly understood, the whole system is an elaborate allegory of human life made intelligible by the many symbols accompanying it.

As stated earlier, "The primary function of our craft is to train its members to an understanding of the truths which its rituals and its ceremonies are calculated to inculcate." Let us then rededicate our efforts in lodge to a study of the numerous symbols and allegories which are the means given to us to spread the message we have to spread. Let us begin not at the last and highest degree in craft Masonry, let us begin at the beginning, the first and most impressive degree that of the entered apprentice. Before we would delve into the "secrets" of a fellowcraft or a master mason, let us first be certain that we understand those basic lessons we should have learned (but probably did not) as entered apprentices. How much discussion and enlargement has been brought out in your lodge on the Masonic meanings of wisdom, strength, beauty, brotherly love, relief, truth, temperance, fortitude, prudence, justice, chalk, charcoal and clay?

Our candidate came to us in search of those "secrets" which, through a predetermined favourable impression of the institution, he felt compelled to seek. If we fail to give our fullest efforts toward satisfying that curiosity, then we have deceived our initiate with false promises and are deluding ourselves with the belief that we are doing our duty to him, to our fraternity and to ourselves.

G.L.B.

EDMONTON LODGE No. 7**75th ANNIVERSARY**

The 75th Anniversary of Edmonton Lodge No. 7 was officially recognized at their regular meeting held October 10, 1967.

The Worshipful Master W. Bro. W. Armstrong warmly welcomed the Grand Master and his entourage.

R.W.Bro. Rev. E. J. Thompson, J.G.W. conducted a thanksgiving and memorial service. W. Bro. F. Sharp then followed with a resume of the history of the Lodge since its inception on October 20, 1892.

A set of gavels, encased in a handsome hardwood box was presented to the Lodge by R.W.Bro. D. D. Penman P.D.D.G.M. and honorary life member of Edmonton Lodge No. 7. In his presentation remarks this esteemed Brother said he had tooled 137 sets of gavels for distribution to various lodges throughout the world. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered for his kind gesture.

A roll call of Past Masters and affiliated Past Masters of the Lodge was conducted by the Worshipful Master. Twenty-eight such members stood before the Altar with the two eldest standing immediately before the Altar. They were: W.Bro. Donald Ross, Master in the year 1926 and R.W.Bro. Fred Whitfield, P.G.R., Master in the year 1927.

The Lodge closed at 7:20 and all present retired to a lower floor for a "fraternal and acquaintance hour."

The toastmaster R.W.Bro. P. Kendal introduced the guest speaker M.W.Bro. P. Galbraith, P.G.M., who gave a very interesting and provocative talk. The year this Lodge celebrated its 50th Anniversary M.W.Bro. P. Galbraith was Grand Master and also guest speaker at the Lodge's celebration.

A toast was given to Edmonton Lodge No. 7 by M.W. Bernie Brown and replied to by the two oldest Past Masters.

A most interesting feature of the evening was a display in the banquet room at the Lodge's historical records. Several tables were needed to handle the fine array. R.W.Bro. Fred Whitfield has worked unstintingly to put together the complete story.

Edmonton Lodge No. 7 is fortunate in having this esteemed Brother on its roster. The facts both in story form and pictures were there to acquaint one with the Lodge's history over the 75 years.

On the evening of October 21st, members, their sweethearts and a few honored guests celebrated "Ladies Night" in commemoration of the Lodge's 75th Anniversary.

CYPRUS LODGE No. 113

Cyprus Lodge No. 113, Three Hills, was presented with a gift of a new Volume of the Sacred Law and Jewels by Rt. Wor. Bro. B. F. Mathers. The Worshipful Master, W. Bro. H. J. Miller, conducted a dedication ceremony and was assisted by Rt. Wor. Bro. W. F. Bannister, W. Bro. K. A. Wright, W. Bro. G. Raffin, Bros. A. Barrie and V. Carnahan.

This gift will continue to remind the members of Cyprus Lodge that Rt. Wor. Bro. Mathers is a mason who is a true and faithful Craftsman and a friend to all.

CAMROSE LODGE No. 37

Camrose Lodge No. 37, Camrose, celebrated its Sixtieth Anniversary on Thursday, November 9, 1967. A banquet was held in the Elks' Hall with eighty-five brethren attending from twelve different Lodges. Following the banquet a meeting was opened in the Lodge Hall by W. Bro. R. H. Ross, W. M., Camrose No. 37. Representing the Grand Lodge of Alberta were M.W. Bro. Brown, Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Alberta, who addressed the brethren at the banquet, M.W. Bro. G. Towers, P.G.M. addressed the brethren at the Lodge meeting, R.W. Bro. A. Rands D.D.G.M. District No. 5, R.W. Bro. R. Hume, P.D.D.G.M. No. 5, R.W. Bro. R. Thirsk P.D.D.G.M. No. 5 Bro. W. French, Chaplain of Camrose No. 37 led the Thanksgiving and Memorial Service. W. Bro. D. G. McIver gave a very interesting resume of the history of the Lodge. R.W. Bro. Hume, W. Bro. East and W. Bro. A. Ross reminisced about the early days and some interesting happenings in Camrose No. 37. Lodge was closed in harmony at 11:00 p.m. It was particularly noticeable the spirit of friendship and brotherly love that prevailed throughout the whole evening's celebration.

**MASTERS, WARDENS AND DEACONS'
ASSOCIATION OF EDMONTON**

For some years now, the Masters, Wardens, and Deacons' Association of Edmonton have attempted to visit out of town Masons confined to City of Edmonton Hospitals.

The complete success of this project can only be realized if they are informed as soon as possible of the Brothers confinement by writing to:

W. Bro. K. Wenner, 9228 - 93 Avenue, Edmonton

W. Bro. W. Hrychuk, 10616 - 42 St., Edmonton

giving the name of the hospital, the name and lodge of the confined Brother, so that they may notify you of his progress.

For the third year the Association has arranged a Christmas light tour for the Senior Citizens living in the Provincial Lodges. Six city buses are engaged and the tours are very much appreciated.

City of Edmonton Lodges give financial assistance to the projects.

The Bulletin Committee extend their thanks to Bro. Arthur Price, Lodge Renfrew No. 134 for drawing the front page of this New Year's issue of your Bulletin.