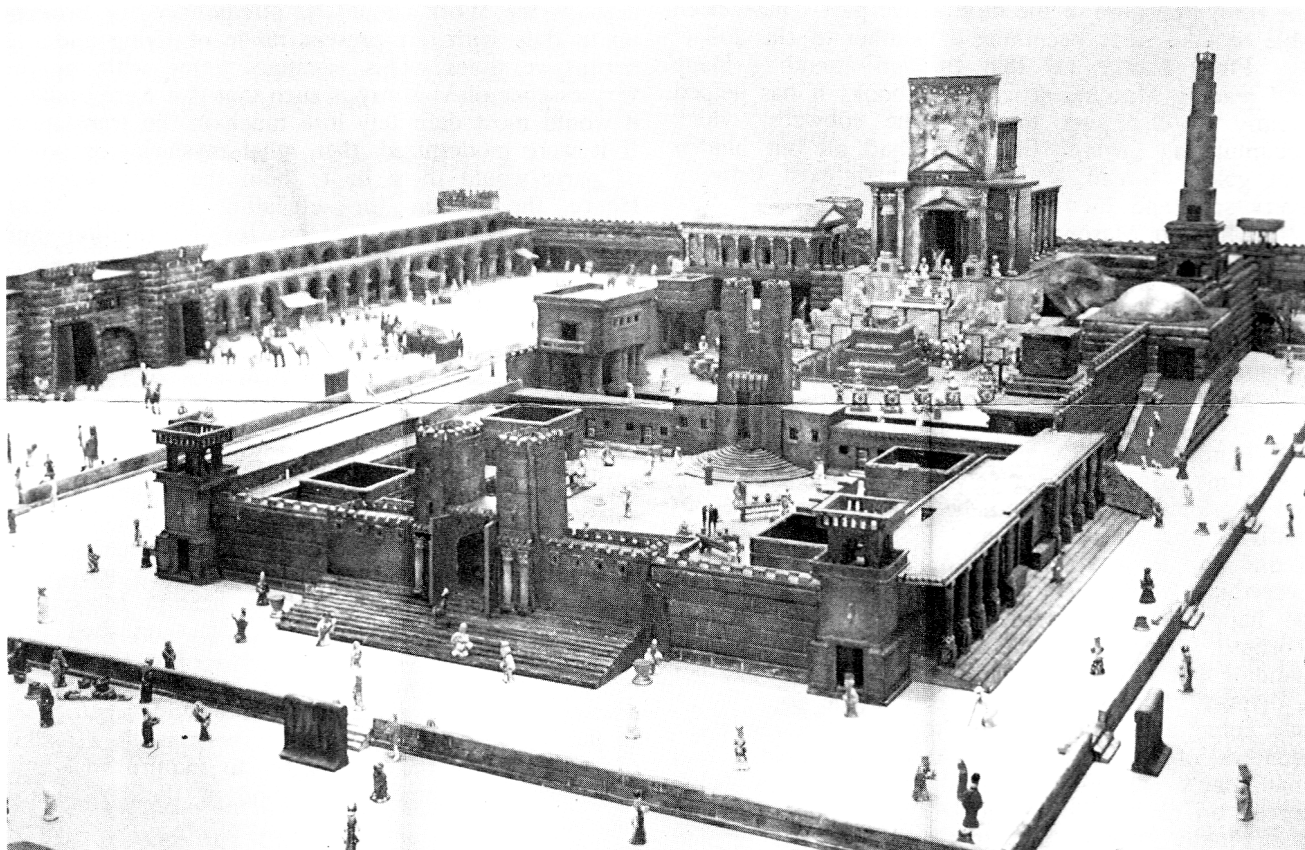




Grand Lodge Bulletin

Chairman, Editorial Comm. W. J. Collett, P.G.M., 330 - 12th Ave. S.W., Calgary 3, Alberta.



The original of this picture of King Solomon's Temple, reproduced above in reduced form, was purchased for presentation to the archives of the Calgary Masonic Temple, when facilities to display similar items are available. The photo was taken of a very detailed large model on display in the Judean Pavilion at Expo '67 in Montreal, the subject presentation being approximately fifteen feet by thirty feet, mounted on a lighted, slightly inclined platform, accompanied and complimented by a ten to fifteen minute taped dialogue. All the humans in the model were dressed in the garb

of the times, but the predominant colour was the sandstone/beige of the Temple walls, and the sand shades of the courtyard. The entire effect, rather drab at first glance, assumed considerable beauty when studied in detail as the individual costumes provided pin-points of varying hues throughout.

The only remaining portion of this structure is a part of the outer wall in the upper left hand corner of the picture, and is the "Wailing Wall", often illustrated in current newspaper articles from Jerusalem.

WHAT MASONRY MEANS TO ME

Presented to Westlock Lodge No. 114 by Bro. H. Bell.

I deem it the duty of all who in their search for truth and light, and who having knelt at the Altar to have the sublime degree of Masonry conferred on them, that it is to their advantage to not only hold fast to that Light which they sought, but to enrich their own and the lives of others by extending its rays in depth and scope whenever and wherever the opportunity may occur.

As the wisdom taught through Masonry is freely given to the one who seeks; so also should a Mason endeavor to pass on that light to his seeking brethren and fellow man. Therefore Brethren, having taken that step, I feel that perhaps a few words on the subject "What Masonry means to me" may help console me for, what one may term "My thorn in the flesh", because of the little active part I have been able to take since becoming a member of this lodge.

First, I may say that through attending lodge and reading Masonic articles and books it has helped greatly to clear my mind of the cobwebs, which accumulating through the years, had all but hidden that golden thread of relations which exist between every soul and their maker.

Through Masonry I have also found a way of life whereby one can study — Soul-Food — subjects; weigh their worth and hope that in time I too may be worthy to add to them, so that others who follow in their search for truth may find the way a little brighter.

Masonry has also helped me to bury myself in-Stillness—no matter what my noisy surroundings are, and-Think. Too few of us in this age of speed, take time to release ourselves from the noises of our workaday world, and be still long enough to cultivate the art of thinking. It is so easy to turn a dial and let — John — do our thinking for us on everything from how to set a mouse trap to how to be happy though married. I heard of a chap in Toronto; expert or something on marital relations, handing out advice on same. I hear he recently got a divorce. I do not mean to belittle the good which has come and will continue to man through these wonders of Radio, TV and Automation, but I feel that man's salvation from all the pressures being forced on us lies in the field of individual thinking.

Finally, I may add that Masonry has opened my eyes to new adventure: the greatest adventure of all. It's in the field of Human Relations, whereby we can learn to work with our Creator, the better to serve Him and by serving Him, we can better serve our fellowman. In so doing, lie blessings and riches, for mind and body, far transcending anything the most adventurous treasure hunter ever dreamed of.

Masonic Dedication of a Public Monument

Last August, the brethren of Standard Lodge No. 152, dedicated a Public Monument in the Standard Cemetery. Under a special dispensation from the then Grand Master, M.W. Bro. P. J. Kendal, they composed a special ceremony and wore regalia. From all accounts, the efforts of this Lodge in community service were very well received.

INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Presented to Kitchener Lodge No. 95, Rimbey, by Bro. W. S. Ford, Kennilworth Lodge No. 29, Red Deer.

It is my contention that more education should be given to new M.M.'s, inasmuch that they are passed, raised, and then forgotten. I believe that every sponsor should see that a new M.M. should continue to be guided and helped, and assisted to learn, for at least a period of one year. There are many questions that arise after being raised to the sublime degree, and in some instances these questions remain unanswered, perhaps because they are not spoken, or perhaps no one is available to answer them, or there might even be an element of doubt in the mind of the member.

It has been discussed at various times that perhaps the Work should be streamlined, or brought up to date with our present mode of living and our permissive times. This I cannot agree with, as the very essence of Masonry is such that if it were updated it would most definitely lose much in the translation. If it were modernized, then what mysteries or points or parts would there be to hold the craft together? Hence the reason for educating the new M.M. properly. Hence the reason for information and guidance.

The Work, and the use of various words and phrases may be bewildering to the newcomer, but if these items are explained properly, he will get much more out of Masonry than one who just goes along, attends meetings, and leaves the Lodge feeling that he has done his duty by being there once a month.

How many of us have asked ourselves — why are there 3 degrees, why not 2 or 5?. Why are we called "Ancient Free, and Accepted Masons"? Surely these and other questions have gone through our minds at one time or another, but, they remain unspoken. It is alright for those who have been a Mason for 4 or 5 years, to sit back and reflect on their own raising, but what of the novitiate — how long must he remain so, how long must he wait to get the answers? I think the very nature and significance of the Work, particularly in Degrees, instills a feeling of reluctance in the new M.M. to inquire why, and the reasoning behind the method of these rites and the wordage.

I sometimes wonder if perhaps this is one of the reasons why we lose members, there is not enough at a normal meeting to keep up their interest. They are approved, accepted, passed and raised, they study extremely hard for a period of 2 to 3 months, take a real and logical interest in all phases of the work, and then suddenly — there is nothing, just a mental letdown to the point where it becomes a chore to attend meetings.

It is not against any Lodge law, nor is it detrimental to the Work to have a question period during a meeting, and I am sure it would benefit both old and new members. How many of us here have questions that have come up in our minds, and still remain there?

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HOW TO USE THE NEW PLAN

Bro. R. G. Aberdeen, Senior Warden, Empire Lodge No. 63 (This is a summary of a paper given at the Area Meetings in Lethbridge and Red Deer in March to introduce the New Mentor Plan.)

The new Lodge Plan for Masonic Education, officially announced at the Area Meetings in March and recently on display at the Spring Workshop, is now being used successfully by a number of Lodges in Alberta. It incorporates the present Mentor Plan booklets into a complete, self-perpetuating system for the instruction of candidates and provides an opportunity for **all** Masons to participate actively in the work of the Lodge.

The plan is simple, easy to put into operation and requires little preparation on the part of the instructors. The Candidate meets five times with a Committee from the Lodge—once after he has received the letter from the Secretary, but before he is given the petition, once after he has been balloted on but before his initiation and once following each degree.

The method of instruction employs a series of prepared talks which are designed to provide pertinent information and stimulate discussion. At the conclusion of each meeting, the Candidate is presented with the appropriate Mentor Plan booklet for his further study.

As the first meeting precedes the petition, it is somewhat different in circumstance from the rest. The Committee for this meeting consists of at least two of the Principal Officers together with as many Past Masters as can be present. The talk given is entitled "The Nature of Freemasonry and the Requirements of Membership" and expands on the Secretary's letter. The ensuing discussion gives the proposed petitioner the widest possible experience and information on which to base his decision to apply for membership. It also gives the Committee the opportunity to encourage or discourage his application as they may judge necessary, with no embarrassment on either part. There is no Mentor Plan booklet at this stage, of course.

The Committees for the succeeding meetings are appointed by the Worshipful Master and their activities are co-ordinated by the Senior Warden.

To prepare the Candidate in mind and spirit to receive initiation, the Mentor Committee presents four talks: What Is Freemasonry? What is Its History and Development? What Can Freemasonry Mean to You? and How Does It Work? In the final talk, the use of symbolism as a teaching method is explained in a quotation from Haywood.

The Entered Apprentice is prepared for the next step by these four subjects: Symbols of the Entered Apprentice Degree; The Place of the Obligation in Masonic Law; What Masonry Owes to Architecture and The Mason as a Citizen.

Preceding the Master Mason Degree, the Mentor Committee appeals to the intellectual faculties of the Fellowcraft, laying emphasis on the philosophy of Masonry and its great teachings by discussing: An Interpretation of the Ritual of the Fellowcraft Degree;

FIFTY YEAR JEWELS

V.W. Bro. P. C. F. Routledge was presented with both a Fifty Year Jewel and a Life Membership by M.W. Bro. E. J. Thompson, Grand Master, at his home in Red Deer. The Grand Master was accompanied by officers of Red Deer Lodge No. 12 and some Grand Lodge officers.

M.W. Bro. P. J. Kendal presented a Fifty Year Jewel to W. Bro. H. G. Sorenson of Norwood Lodge No. 90.

W. Bro. A. W. Shaw of St. John's Lodge No. 25, Vegreville, W. Bro. J. T. S. Warden of Beacon Lodge No. 190, Red Deer and Bro. W. Simpson of Crescent Lodge No. 87, Calgary were presented Fifty Year Jewels in their respective Lodge in April, 1971.

Due to an oversight it was not published that Bro. J. M. Fleming of Strathcona Lodge No. 77 was presented with his Fifty Year Jewel on May 8, 1970. Apologies are made to Bro. Fleming from the Secretary of Strathcona Lodge for this oversight.

Symbols and Allegories of the Fellowcraft Degree; The Teachings of Masonry and Masonic Education. Here the Candidate begins to realize that there is a great deal more to Freemasonry than he can understand in a few minutes: that he must apply himself, enter into it and take an active part in all its affairs if he is to enjoy to the full, the rich life that pulsates through it.

The final meeting takes advantage of the impressionable period immediately following the Degree of Master Mason to encourage and guide the Candidate to form the habits of a **working** Mason; to become a Mason in **fact** as well as in name. The talks given are: An Interpretation of the Ritual of the Master Mason Degree; Symbols, Emblems and Allegories of the Master Mason Degree; The Tragedy of Hiram Abif and The Duties, Rights and Privileges of a Master Mason.

These seventeen talks contain more information than the average Mason could accumulate in years of study, if left to his own devices. The new plan presents an ideal opportunity to involve the newly-made Master Mason in the work of the Lodge. Since the material to be presented is completely contained in the booklet, there need be no fear of embarrassment of lack of Masonic knowledge or experience. Indeed, this may be where the Candidate's **real** education begins, because the act of presenting a talk to a new Candidate and taking part in the subsequent discussion will reinforce his own knowledge and experience.

The book has been carefully designed for use in the Grand Jurisdiction of Alberta. Whether your Lodge works in the Canadian or the Ancient York Rite, no changes or deletions are required. If your Lodge does not yet use The Lodge Plan for Masonic Education, you should encourage the members to make a few copies of the booklet available to a study committee of your Lodge, chaired by the Senior Warden. Individual copies are available from the Grand Lodge office at 330 - 12 Avenue S.W., Calgary, at \$1.00 each. Since the minimum complement required by a Lodge is five copies, a quantity price of five for \$4.00 has been established.

GRAND MASTER'S COLUMN

It is with both satisfaction and regret that one comes to the end of his term as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M. Satisfaction because of many opportunities to meet brethren, to observe their various activities, to take part in the planning, the work and the fellowship of the fraternity, and to realize that here, throughout this large jurisdiction, there are thousands of good men dedicated to the high principles and ideals of masonry, and who are striving to make those principles "come alive" in personal and community life.

It has been heart-warming to experience the generous hospitality of men and lodges, to observe the efforts to make masonry a prosperous fraternity, and to participate in the social intercourse and warm fellowship in so many places. It is with profound gratitude that I express my deepest appreciation to you all for your many, many kindnesses and loyal and generous support. It has been a year of rich and satisfying experiences.

At the same time there is regret: regret that the year is over, regret that so many more things might have been done, regret that my abilities and capacities were not sufficient for all that is demanded, and regret for mistakes and failures. It is good to remember that while perfection is a goal to strive for it is not the achievement but the faithful striving that counts.

It has been a privilege to be surrounded and supported by good men and true. I must pay high tribute to all with whom I have worked and by whom I have been so generously and faithfully supported.

Masonry is what you make it. I have no doubt that you will all go forward to make it even more meaningful and significant both in personal life and in community life. Once again a profound "Thank You" for the privileges and the opportunities of this high office.

See you at Grand Lodge!

Fraternally yours,
Edmund J. Thompson
Grand Master

Information and Guidance (continued from page 38)

Perhaps some questions that have been asked would interest you such as: Is there a proper way to wear a Masonic ring? Should the tips of the compass be towards the fingers, or the reverse? Why is Masonic ritual regarded as so important? What Masonic penalties are enforced? Why does the ritual use so many repetitions, such as duly and truly, worthy and well qualified, free will and accord, parts and points, *hele and conceal*? Why are candidates hoodwinked? Where does the word "Cowan" originate from, and what is its meaning? Why are there 3 degrees? Why do we walk around the altar so much in the degrees? Why do we call them "Entered Apprentices"?

I believe that there are many more questions and points that could be brought forward, and if the answers were not available at the immediate time of asking, it would benefit both the inquirer and the concerned member to do research on it.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARIES

Monitor Lodge No. 120 held their 50th Anniversary on Wednesday, April 21, 1971 in Consort. In attendance were M.W. Bro. E. J. Thompson, Grand Master; R.W. Bro. J. S. Woods, Deputy Grand Master; R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers, Grand Secretary and W. Bro. W. H. Houghton, a Past Master of Canada Lodge No. 165, who was the W.M. of Monitor Lodge in 1940.

A Historical sketch was presented in the Anniversary program and we have selected a number of highlights from this sketch. Monitor Lodge was formed from a meeting of seventeen resident Masons on September 24, 1920. Committees were elected to look after financing, furniture and a hall, dues were set and it was decided to adopt the York Rite. It was decided to purchase Blair Hall and money was raised by personal loans from each member. Date of Institution was set for December 17, 1920 with 20 Charter members. Many pieces of furniture were donated by individual members.

The Lodge continued to prosper until 1932 when the depression caused a serious decline in membership, and in 1939 it was decided to move the Lodge to Consort while retaining the name Monitor Lodge. The Lodge has prospered since.

Rockyford Lodge No. 123 also celebrated their 50th Anniversary, but as we have not received any details we cannot enlarge on this important date for Rockyford Lodge.

York Lodge No. 119 will celebrate their 50th Anniversary on May 8, 1971 and Concord Lodge No. 124 will celebrate their 50th Anniversary on June 12, 1971.

SPRING WORKSHOP

The Sixth Annual Masonic Spring Workshop was of equal success to those that preceded it. The attendance was slightly below that of the Fifth Workshop, however there were about 450 Masons in attendance. Visitors were present from Ontario, British Columbia and Colorado in addition to the usual enthusiastic representation from Saskatchewan. The play "The Bishop's Candlesticks" which was presented on Saturday afternoon was very well performed and, of course, the theme speeches and Sunday Morning Service gave evidence of the usual thorough preparation. It has been recommended to the Grand Master elect that V.W. Bro. R. J. L. Borland, Zetland (83) be the general chairman for the Seventh Workshop and the committee has plans already underway.

GRAND LODGE

The Grand Lodge Communication which will be held in Calgary on June 9, will be underway before some brethren get this issue of the Bulletin. It is important to remember that every Lodge should be represented and there may be time to make the move to attend. The Banquet will be held on Wednesday night with R.W. Bro. J. H. Laycraft as the guest speaker. The brethren will not want to miss the address of the retiring Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Dr. E. J. Thompson.