

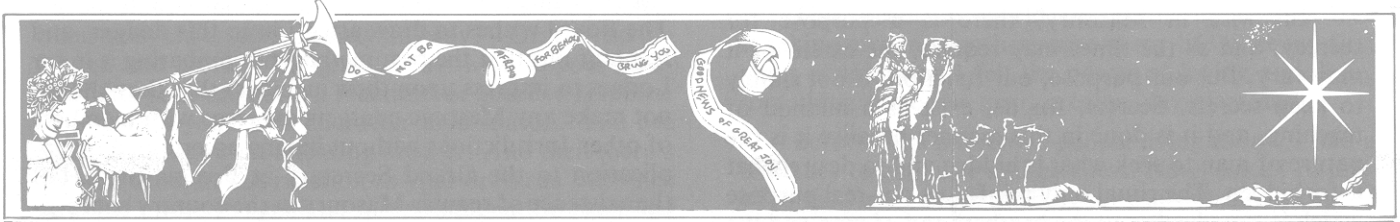


Grand Lodge Bulletin

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Editor, M.W. Bro. W.J. COLLETT

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The Leading Of A Star

By V.W. Bro. J.W. Roberts, Grand Chaplain

In the story of **The Other Wise Man** by Henry van Dyke, the hero tells his three companions: "I have called you here to tell you of a new light and a truth that have come to me through the stars". He spoke of a new light to guide and a new truth to experience. Thus did the Magi — or as we call them — the Wise Men, set out on a journey that would bring them to a threshold of a new revelation by the light of leading star.

Did you ever stop to think that of all the people in that part of the world, only three saw this star as a divine portent? And I wonder how many of us today look for the same kind of light and truth in the stars of life. For a few moments then, let us meditate on this beautiful story and draw some conclusions for the contemporary scene. The first quality of a star is that of its constancy. Whether the star is fixed or moveable, there is the highest degree of constancy. And what is more, the astronomers of any age can predict the movements of the stars years and years ahead. The Wise Men of that age were prepared for this one bright star.

The first lesson then is one that teaches the necessity of knowing that which is constant. In our Masonic Order we are being reminded in every meeting and every degree that there are standards which are eternal, and that our landmarks are unchanging. They are like the fixed stars or the constant orbits from which we ought not deviate. A meteor or a comet may be spectacular, as are indeed, some innovations of the moral code — but we learn to our sorrow, they are inconsistent, and useless to set a course in life by.

Second: One writer suggests that God used, not the sun or the moon to lead the Wise Men, but a star, which by comparison was much paler. And no matter how bright a starry night may be, there is very little real guiding light on a desert floor. We can well imagine how the Wise Men must have yearned for a clearer light for their journey so that they would avoid the hidden holes and submerged rocks on the caravan trail. How natural it is for us to desire the kind of path that is easy and uncluttered. We dislike having our clearly worked out plans go awry. But sometimes we are given light "but only partially" and we become impatient and we fret and complain that the guiding star does not have a sun's brilliance or even a moon's glow. Yet when we look back on life and its journey, are we not aware that at the bleakest times and on the darkest nights of our soul's pilgrimage, we were very much aware of the pale star's leading? So the Wise Men of that age — and of this age — are helped by the slender light of a star that leads us through the darkest valleys.

But what good is the leading of a star unless there is a destination? The story tells us that "the star which they had seen in the East went before them till it came to rest over the place where the young child was." There was a destination for the Wise Men. They did not set out with the confidence that they would reach an intended goal. It was a journey undertaken in faith, and yet with an assurance that the destination God had intended, would be there!

At Christmas time the light shines anew, bringing us to old landmarks or newer destinations. It shines in a world's darkness and leads us again to the young children of our world. We come to them led by the light God gives, with our gifts of brotherly love, relief and truth, sharing our abundance with them, with the hope that the guiding light will become theirs. May the message of the Wise Men's Christmas be that of Artiban — "I have called you here to tell you of a new light and truth that have come to me through the stars."

SECRETS OF FREEMASONRY

From the Trestle Board of Redwood Lodge No. 193

(Reprinted in part from a paper by Peter Lawall, MPS
The Philalethes, August 1981)

A man does not normally choose to tell any random listener of his personal philosophy regarding a supreme being because he does not normally choose to debate the merits of that philosophy with one who might be incapable of understanding it. The extent of his faith is kept his secret, but his conduct as a result of that faith clearly shows the depths of it.

Likewise in Masonry, there is a purpose for secrecy, and as the times may require, the extent of it may vary. But our purpose, our function, is not simply to keep secrets. Secrets, for us, exist as a method of teaching, and it is done in this manner because it is the nature of man to seek what is hidden and to desire what is forbidden. The ritual only reinforces our real purpose which is aimed solely at the brotherhood of man and the absolute supremacy of God.

That which is secret remains a secret.

Proverbs 25:09

“Do not disclose another's secrets; lest he who hears you bring shame upon you and your ill repute have no end.”

Ecclesiastes 12:14

“For God will bring every deed into judgement, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

Mark 4:11

“To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables so that they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand.”

Mark 4:22

“For there is nothing hid except to be made manifest: nor is anything secret except come to light.”

ITALIAN FREEMASONRY

(From a report of the Board of General Purposes of the
United Grand Lodge of England AF & AM, September 1981)

In view of the very wide publicity attracted by the so-called P 2 Lodge in Italy, the Board thinks it appropriate to make a short statement on the present position.

The United Grand Lodge of England recognized the Grand Orient of Italy in September 1972, upon being satisfied, *inter alia*, that the latter met the Basic Principles for Recognition. One of these, No. 7, requires that “the discussion of politics and religion within the Lodge shall be strictly prohibited”.

The Board is informed that P 2 was suspended by the Grand Orient of Italy in July, 1976, and that no Masonic activity by P 2 has been authorized since then. The Board is further informed that Licio Gelli, formerly the Master of P 2, has also been suspended, and that

proceedings are pending against him before the appropriate Masonic tribunal in Italy.

The authorities of the Grand Orient have recently reaffirmed their adherence to the Basic Principles for Recognition, and in particular No. 7 referred to above. The Board intends to keep the matter under review, but in the meantime does not recommend that any other action should be taken.

The Board is informed from time to time of members of Lodges who go abroad and become involved, generally through ignorance, with Masonic bodies not recognized as regular by the United Grand Lodge. The Board wishes to draw attention to this danger, and to point out that the best method of combating it is for Lodges to impress upon their members that they should not make any Masonic contacts overseas with members of other Jurisdictions without having ascertained by application to the Grand Secretary at Freemasons' Hall the existence of regular Masonry in the country concerned, and the address to which Masonic enquiries in that country should be directed. The Board recommends not only that this warning be given in Lodge verbally, particularly to each new Master Mason when his Certificate is presented, but that it should be printed at least once a year on Lodge Summonses.

Brethren must also be careful to remember that the lists of recognized Grand Lodges differ to no small extent between one Grand Lodge and another so that it is always possible that when they visit a Lodge under another Constitution there will be present, quite legitimately so far as it is concerned, members of a Constitution not recognized by ourselves. Such a situation calls for tact and diplomacy on the part of our members in withdrawing without giving offence, particularly where the visit has been formally arranged; but it has to be borne in mind that it is part of their duty as members of the English Constitution not to associate masonically with members of unrecognized Constitutions and that this duty transcends the more apparent calls of courtesy and politeness.

When visits are contemplated or being arranged it is therefore essential to ascertain in writing through the Grand Secretary's office whether the Lodge to be visited is fully alive to this complication, and is prepared to accept it.

EDMONTON RESEARCH GROUP

The Edmonton Research Group is pleased to offer to the Masons of Edmonton and area, papers presented by outstanding Masons of Alberta.

The speakers for the 1981-1982 year will be:

- Jan. 25, 1982 R.W. Bro. E.A. Demers
- Feb. 22 W. Bro. R.E. Gordon
- Mar. 22 W. Bro. J.D. Lee
- Apr. 26 R.W. Bro. G.D. Thompson
- May 24 W. Bro. S.E. McVittie
- June, July & Aug. No Meeting

The Group meets in the top floor library of the Central Masonic Temple at 7:00 P.M. All Master Masons are welcome.

BE ON GUARD!!!

**W.Bro. N.R. Thomas
Griesbach Lodge No. 191**

Did you read the newspaper report (Edmonton Journal, May 22nd) recounting how members of a particular masonic lodge in Italy were involved in criminal activities on a grand scale? How does the story affect you? Not at all? Do you, like the Apostle Peter, deny relationship? Do you shrug your shoulders, dismiss the story by concluding that the lodge is clandestine? Or do you allow the thought to flicker across your mind: "Well, masons are no different and what can you expect when you join a secret society anyway?" Or are you offended and morally indignant? Just what is your reaction? It's your unguarded reactions or guarded response that reveals your true character as a mason. You are either a caring or an uncaring brother. And then there's the well thought out reaction to your brethren's offence skulking under the guise of moral indignation exercised in the pharisaical mode so as to permit envy and hate towards a brother or even character assassination. Did you note John Paul II's response to the assassin's bullet, "How could they do it?", reminiscent of the words that come striking through from the Cross. And then the Pope declares, "I am sorry . . . I forgive him". Quite a different reaction from the above don't you think? In a world of shameful and senseless terrorism John Paul II was simply restating his belief in the command of the Master, "How many times shall I forgive my brother? Seven times? Nay not seven but seventy times seven?". The example is there for us all. Be on guard!



WHAT MASONRY MEANS TO ME

I had always heard of the Masonic Lodge but I did not know what kind of organization it was.

When I was asked to join the Masonic Lodge, the first question that came to mind was 'What is Masonry'.

Having heard of initiation ceremonies at other organizations I expected something similar however, the ceremony into the Masonic Lodge which has a history of hundreds of years, was to me; to say the least; very impressive.

Initiation into the Third Degree will undoubtedly be the most memorable for me. I had the privilege of being initiated into this Degree by the City Police Degree Team.

My involvement in Research and Education has helped me to better my understanding of Masonry.

As a Master Mason in the Masonic Lodge, I have found friendship, fellowship and the true meaning of brotherhood. At this time I would like to thank Ron Llewellyn for sponsoring and introducing me into Masonry.

I look forward to many more years in Masonry.

Lawrence Wizniak
Corinthian Lodge No. 22

**LETTERS FROM MASTER MASONS INITIATED
IN THE 75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR.**

Before reading this letter. I would like you to excuse me a little but, English is not my mother tongue. I came in CANADA in 1969 directly from FRANCE, so any mistakes, awkward statements should be considered because I wrote this letter with no help from anyone. It is my heart who spoke not my mind.

It is very difficult for me how to explain my personal feelings about the meaning of Free Masonry.

This beautiful world of brotherhood and true speaking give me another sense in my life since my first night of initiation I felt the power of loving and doing something for other men, greater, day after day.

Before, like numerous people living today, I had a tendency to get more and give less. Now, since I returned to read more often the holy scriptures I find a kind of peace in my heart.

Often, reading my Bible in the country where I have a kind of year round secondary residence in the shore of a little river among birds and squirrels I find the beauty of our great Mother Nature coincided with the reading of the holy book in the world close to God. My thirst of knowledge in Free Masonry and history is insatiable. Every document -brochure - book - encyclopedia I could read. I just devoured them. It is still difficult for me, and probably too early in my knowledge and young memory of Free Masonry to believe. Since century or milleniums Masons gather together to build a better world and places to live. How many souvenirs of reminded places such architectures, cathedrals, abbeys, castles and temples still alive today for the benefit of visitor thirsting for beauty and geometrical forms. How this powerful order of faith and chivalry could survive in the tumultuous past century of wars, crime and persecutions. Because the best of mankind get together in an indissoluble chain of brotherly love, relief and truth all around the globe with no barrier of race or language.

The word was "helping each other" such this example in the "five points of fellowship". Actually, in our world of disturbances, crime and perhaps war tomorrow. One day at the latest we will need the fraternity sincere of good Free Masons for rebuilding and helping each of our family member to survive through many years and century of good and distressed time to come.

My deep confidence in the order is such for the future. We will have enough good Masons like good roots for a tree or a plant to restart again a new and good life on the principles of the holy and sacred scriptures.

This is "What Masonry Means to Me" a little philosophy of taking good time when there is and facing bad times when they occur with the help of a brother or brothers.

Thank you again for reading me and understanding my feeling in Free Masonry.

M.J. Joel Crocq
Edmonton

THE PORT OF MISSING MEN

(A few months ago the Central Edmonton Bureau suggested that the Grand Lodge Bulletin include a column with the above title. Secretaries of Lodges were invited to contribute to this column. Undoubtedly in the next few months Lodges will discover they have not up to date addresses for some members and the Bulletin offers its service. The first request has arrived and is published below)

Buffalo Park Lodge No. 44, Box 876, Wainwright T0B 4P0 would like to know the address of Bro. Thomas E. Cook whose last known address was 36 Lake Adams Place S.E., Calgary T2J 3S8.

CALGARY LODGE NO. 23

At its October meeting Calgary Lodge No. 23 commenced its Seventy Fifth Anniversary Celebrations. The evening started with a banquet following which the Lodge was tyled. There was a Roll Call of members and a history of the Lodge was read. The M.W. the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. M.N. MacIver was in attendance and was received in proper form.

CRESCENT LODGE NO. 87

Crescent Masonic Lodge Hall is located on 16th Avenue N.W. in Calgary and is an old historic building. An inspection of the hall by the Fire Department resulted in the demand for a number of renovations to prevent an order for closure of the building. The updating had to be completed by July 15. True to its long history of getting things done the Lodge set about to meet the requirements. The total bill was \$4423.60, which the Lodge has now ordered to be paid.

In addition to this, at its October Meeting, Crescent Lodge conferred a courtesy Fellowcraft Degree on Bro. Ian Robert Darling who is a member of Markham Union Lodge No. 87 on the registry of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

LETHBRIDGE BARBEQUE

The Four Lethbridge Lodges held their Annual Four City Lodge Annual Barbeque in the Amouries at the Lethbridge Airport in October. Members were asked to bring their own meat and utensils. All other trimmings were provided at a nominal cost. The evening was concluded with fellowship and dancing.

NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION

In keeping with a long tradition Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92 will hold a reception in the Central Masonic Temple, Edmonton on January 1, 1982 between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. The M.W. the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. M.N. MacIver will assist in receiving the guests and other Grand Lodge Officers are expected to be in attendance. Ladies, families and friends are invited to attend.

TWENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Exemplar Lodge No. 173 celebrated its Twenty Fifth Anniversary in October. To mark the occasion twelve members were presented with 25 year Lapel Pins. The M.W. the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. M.N. MacIver was present for an official visit.

MASONIC WORKSHOP

Camrose Lodge No. 37 held a Masonic Workshop on October 31. The guest speakers for the event were R.W.Bro. S. Harbin, D.G.M.; M.W.Bro. K. Crockett, P.G.M.; V.W.Bro. J. Forbes; R.W.Bro. T. Drolet and W.Bro. K. Stuparek. A very informative masonic day was enjoyed.

HONOURARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Beacon Lodge No. 190 to W.Bro. H.M. Perry presented by W.Bro. V.W. Osbaldeston, Grand Prairie Lodge NO. 105 to V.W.Bro. Walter Kujath presented by the M.W. the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. M.N. MacIver. Bro. Kujath was also elected D.D.G.M. for District No. 13 next year.

FIFTY YEAR JEWEL

Kennilworth Lodge No. 29 to W.Bro. J. Isbister presented by R.W.Bro. C.D. Holmes who was making his Official Visit to this Lodge.

In practicing the art of parenthood an ounce of example is worth a ton of preachment.

When we set an example of honesty our children are honest.

When we encircle them with love they will be loving.

When we practice tolerance they will be tolerant.

When we meet life with laughter they will develop a sense of humor.

Our children are watching us live and what we are shouts louder than anything we can say.

Wildred A. Peterson
from Beacon Lodge No. 190

PRAYER

An ancient prayer found in Chester Cathedral contained these words of wisdom, which could have been written specifically for Freemasons.

“Give me a good digestion, Lord
and also something to digest.
Give me a healthy body, Lord
with sense to keep it at its best;
Give me a healthy mind, good Lord,
To keep the good and pure in sight,
which seeing sin, is not appalled
But finds a way to set it right;
Give me a sense of humour, Lord
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some happiness from life
And pass it on to other folk.”

From Beacon Lodge No. 190
