



Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 49, NO. 5

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

JANUARY, 1984

HAPPY 1984

I feel very honoured to have been asked to prepare the New Year's Message for the Grand Lodge Bulletin. I trust that my efforts will be of some value.

The New Year is usually a time to reminisce, to think of the past and to the future, to plan. It appears to me that it is very important for man to remember the past, to study history, however, we must not live in the past; also we cannot live on the record of those who in the past have made this craft great. We must learn from the past, get ideas from it, then go on and improve on it. In all this we must also keep in mind those true masonic lessons of brotherhood, charity and truth.

If nothing else the New Year reminds us that time is passing us by, if we do not do something with our time it will soon be gone and we will have contributed nothing to society or our lodges. In nature the stars must follow a beaten path, the planets relentlessly follow a given orbit around the sun. Man, however, is different, he has a mind of his own, man can change his direction, he can do almost anything that he sets his mind to. Man does not succeed, however, unless he sets clear goals and objectives for himself. Two examples of setting clear goals are familiar to most of us as they are quite recent. In the decade of the forties man was given the objective of releasing the power of the atom, he succeeded. President Kennedy gave the nation the objective of placing a man on the moon, this was successfully accomplished. Both these objectives in their day seemed insurmountable and success was certainly not the result of the efforts of just one man, it was the result of the concerted effort of many.

So it is with Freemasonry. It is the responsibility of the lodge officers to prepare a well thought out objective followed by a sensible plan, and then to put that plan into action. To put the plan into action of course requires the support of all the members, each of us must be prepared to carry our share of the load. There are times when objectives are decided upon and plans are laid, but they do not come to fruition, we mean well but we keep on postponing, we expect to get more time another day, tomorrow would be better; in other words we procrastinate. This is fatal, we would do well to remember a phrase in one of the third degree lectures, "Be careful to perform your allotted task while it is yet day". This is our responsibility, **do it now.**

The New Year brings with it a reminder that this is a time for giving, a time for rededication, a time for thanksgiving, a time for renewal and a time to be grateful for all the blessings the G.A.O.T.U. has bestowed on us.

GIVE as much time as possible to your lodge and community,
REDEDICATE yourself to the craft make it a part of your life,
THANKFUL that you are able to do the things that you love,
RENEW your obligations and strive for renewed effort, and
GRATEFULLY thank the G.A.O.T.U. that you are able to use your energies to good purpose.

As lodge officers make this year outstanding by planning programs which will interest the members, be dedicated and follow through with these programs. As members at large let us rededicate ourselves to service to the lodge and to its officers, they cannot do the job alone. Then and only then will we have a **Happy New Year.**

M.W. Bro. A.O. Aspeslet
P.G.M.

WHAT CAN I TELL . . . ABOUT MASONRY

By **Alphonse Cerza — President**
 “The Philalethes Society”

Masons as a rule are very circumspect when it comes to discussing the Craft with non-Masons. Some members are so careful that they are afraid to even mention the things that everyone knows about the organization. This is probably because they believe that Freemasonry is a “secret society” and that members are forbidden to talk about the association with non-members. This is a mistaken idea and there are many things that Masons can tell their non-Masonic friends. Let us consider a few of these.

The first question that is usually asked by a non-Mason is “What is Freemasonry?” There are many definitions of the word but none are complete because the organization embraces a wide scope of activity. But a short definition is: Freemasonry is a fraternal organization, religious in character, based on the principle of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. Through its teaching and ceremonials seeks to make good men better and thereby make the world a better place to live in.

Freemasonry is a “voluntary” association in that no one is invited to become a member. You can tell your non-Masonic friends that unlike college fraternities and other organizations, Masonry never has membership drives and never solicits anyone to become a member. As a matter of fact, you should make it clear that it is a violation of Masonic law for any member to invite anyone to join the Craft. You should emphasize that the prospective member must truly come of his own free will and accord, and that he usually seeks membership because of the high opinion he has of the Craft as a result of the upright conduct of Masons.

You can make it clear that Freemasonry is not a religion. Sometimes outsiders claim that the Craft is a religion. You can explain to your non-Masonic friends that Masons do not look upon their organization as a religion or as a church, and that most Masons belong to an established church. Masons do not go to lodge to worship God; they do this on Sunday when each Mason goes to his own church. It is religious in that one cannot become a Mason unless he believes in God; but there is no religious test applied to the prospective member; nor is he required or asked to subscribe to any religious tenet or dogma. You can explain that it is forbidden to discuss religion or politics in lodge.

You can explain that Freemasonry is not a “secret society.” A secret society is one that keeps its existence a secret and whose members do not make known their affiliation with the group. Freemasonry is not a secret society because it does not hide its existence, members do not hide their membership, but on the contrary the organization meets in buildings located on public streets, announces its meetings in newspapers and magazines, engraves the words “Masonic Temple” on many of its buildings, publishes periodicals. Like most organizations it has some “secrets” but it is not a “secret” society.

You cannot, of course, discuss the ritual, the passwords, and other matters of a confidential nature. But you can tell them the things printed in our monitor. You can go so far as to tell them that the three degrees of Masonry consist of a ceremony of a strictly serious nature, without horse-play, which teaches basic moral truths in an impressive and solemn manner. You can tell them that the ritual contains a philosophy of life which provides the new member with something on which to build a hope that is eternal.

Sometimes a non-Mason wants to know about the ceremony of initiation. He may ask specific questions. You can tell him, in general terms, that each candidate takes part in a ceremony of initiation, is then advanced to the second degree, and later promoted to the third degree. You can tell him that promotion from one degree to another depends on his proficiency in learning certain things relating to Freemasonry, its ethics, and

its philosophy. Certainly you can tell him that no man ever took the degrees without becoming a better man. You can tell him that the basic ethical principles exemplified in the ceremonies of the degrees are such as are accepted by all good men; they are lessons based on the golden rule, tolerance towards all men, respect for one’s family, charity towards all, and being true to God for his manifold blessings. We should be proud to proclaim to the world that we are a serious organization of mature men — an organization that instills a love of God, teaches charity in its broadest sense, and shows each member how to live a better life.

You can tell him that Masons take the simple tools of an operative Mason and use them as symbols to teach basic moral truths.

Non-Masons sometimes wonder at the close bond that exists between Masons. There is a simple explanation: Masons are bound together by the deep and abiding knowledge that each of them, during the ceremonies of the degrees, has accepted certain high ethical standards of conduct. These standards insure a band of faith and confidence between Masons.

You need not be afraid to discuss Freemasonry with the non-Mason. Thousands of books have been published on the subject. The matters discussed in this paper are just a few of the things that you can tell your non-Masonic friends, but they are enough to show him that Freemasonry is one of the great organizations of the world and a steadying influence in a faltering world. — *Masonic Tidings*.

WHAT IS MASONRY?

In the home it is kindness.
 In business it is honesty.
 In society it is courtesy.
 In work it is fairness.
 Toward the unfortunate it is pity.
 Toward the weak it is help.
 Toward the wickedness it is resistance.
 Toward the strong it is trust.
 Toward the penitent it is forgiveness.
 Toward the fortunate it is congratulation.
 Toward God it is reverence and love.
 He has not served who gathers gold,
 Nor has he served who’s life is told
 In selfish battles he has won,
 In deed of skill that he has done,
 But he has served who now and then
 Has helped along his fellowmen.

Author Unknown.

Printed in the Bulletin of the Masonic Relief Association

FROM TIME TO TIME the Bulletin receives tributes and obituaries. We regret that we are unable to print these, deserving as the Brethren may be. The basis of the policy is that, inevitably, we would miss someone whose name should have appeared. The only obituary printed is that of a Past Grand Master.

KENILWORTH LODGE NO. 29 presented an Honourary Life Membership to R.W. Bro. A.G. Phillips at its November meeting.

M.W. BRO. S.H. HARDIN, P.G.M. arranged a Memorial Day Service in the Beth Shalom Synagogue on November 11 to mark Remembrance Day. Edmonton Masons were invited to attend.

WHATSHISNAME?

R.W. Bro. G. Gibbs, P.D.D.G.M.

Whatever happened to Whatshisname?
 He used to come to Lodge.
 You know the Brother
 That used to do that part
 That no one else has done?
 He rarely missed a business meeting,
 And he never missed a First,
 And we never had to ask his help
 'Cause he was always there.
 Maybe he got tired of meeting Brethren
 He didn't know — I mean, those
 Brethren who came and went,
 And opened and closed,
 Filled offices
 Passed Bills and Fellowcrafts
 Raised dues and lots of candidates,
 But never really talked Freemasonry
 The way he would —
 In Lodge or at the Festive Board.
 And he always talked of spreading the Cement,
 Of Brotherly Love,
 Of Fellowship,
 Of Compassion and Empathy,
 Of Relief — and, of course, Truth —
 Even when you met him on the street!
 His knowledge could quench the thirst
 Of any Craft Mystique,
 You know, I sure miss that guy at Lodge.
 I wonder where he is?
 I wonder why he doesn't care anymore,
 And why he doesn't come
 To tell us more about the Craft?
 How else can the Brethren learn?
 No wonder things are dragging in our Lodge
 — Like the blind leading the blind.
 Doesn't he care about his Brethren anymore?
 Well, maybe we can find someone else
 To teach us and talk about Freemasonry.
 Boy, some Brethren are pure insensitive
 To the needs of the Lodge!
 — Especially — Whatshisname!

BALMORAL LODGE NO. 185 has changed its place of meeting from Braeside Presbyterian Church in St. Albert to the Upper Lounge of the Loyal Order of the Moose, 14510 - 142 Street, Edmonton. The Lodge meets on the first Wednesday of the month.

THE SECRETARY OF JASPER PARK LODGE NO. 143 would like to know the addresses of Bro. J.L. Kelly, formerly of Whiteshorse, N.W.T. and Bro. J.H. Hitchcock, formerly of Fort Saskatchewan. His address is G.H. Switzer, P.O. Box 460, Jasper, Alberta T0E 1E0.

CASCADE LODGE NO. 5 continues to catch up on history after a good deal of research. At its November meeting an Honorary Life Membership and a Fifty Year Jewel was presented to W. Bro. O.L. Bain. A number of twenty-five year lapel pins were presented also.

THE FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE

By Bro. John McHugh
 Concord Lodge No. 124

The Fellowcraft Degree is a much misunderstood one, certainly not to be wedged between an inferior and a superior rank.

It has an identity all its own, and deserves much more study than we are accustomed to give to it. There is no doubt that we should study it carefully, and follow its teachings. It would immeasurably increase our awareness of our fellowman.

At one time, the Fellowcraft degree was the highest of the degrees. This may explain why the three principal officers of a Master Mason's lodge wear jewels of office that are the working tools in the Fellowcraft degree: the Square, the Plumb, and the Level.

The Installation Ceremony of a Lodge is conducted in the Fellowcraft degree.

Some of our most important symbols and stimulating lessons and teachings are to be found within this degree.

This degree represents a man starting forth on the journey of life, with a great task before him of self-improvement, with the end result being the development of all his intellectual faculties, and the acquisition of truth and knowledge. He learns to judge his work by his own plumb line, and not by another's. If he erects that which is good work, true work, square work with his own working tools, in other words, by his own standards, he does well. Only when he is false to his own conscience does he build other than fair and straight work.

It is the internal and not the external qualifications of a man that are of the greatest value to a mason.

The wages earned by the Fellowcraft in the days of King Solomon were Corn, Wine and Oil. Symbolically the Corn represented Plenty, the Wine represented Health and the Oil represented Peace.

To receive the masonic equivalent of the ancient corn, wine and oil, a brother must labour, he must till the fields of his heart or build the temple of his own house by his own standards and conscience.

Therefore, assured of his wages, his reward shall be plenty, not mere sufficiency, but plentitude to supply all his physical, moral, and spiritual wants: — health of body, mind and soul; peace in this life; in the hours of death and also in the life to come.

Are not these wages worthy of the labour? Conversely! Idleness and vice surely lead to poverty, disease and despair.

I have just lightly touched upon two or three of the seeds of knowledge that are contained within the second degree, which when nurtured can develop into the encyclopedia of life, that can assist you to develop yourself into a practicing mason and, therefore, a Man Among Men.

The winding stairs symbolize our journey through life. The Middle Chamber symbolizes that Eternal Temple at which we hope to arrive by our own endeavors. A virtuous life, the blessings of God, come by following the lessons and teachings within the Fellowcraft degree.

The challenge is yours. There is a Middle Temple. There are wages to be earned.

ADVICE FOR 1984

BE HAPPY

To leave the old with a burst of song,
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;
To forget the things that bind you fast
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;
To have the strength to let go your hold
Of the not worthwhile of the days grown old;
To dare go forth with a purpose true,
To the unknown task of the year that's new;
To help your brother along the road,
To do his work and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,
Is to have and give a Happy New Year.

Anonymous

BE A FRIEND

I'd like to be the sort of friend you have been to me;
I'd like to be the help that you've been always glad to be;
I'd like to mean as much to you each minute of the day
As you have meant, old friend of mine, to me along the way.

I'd like to do the big things and the splendid things for you,
To brush the gray from out your skies and leave them only blue;
I'd like to say the kindly things that I so oft have heard,
And feel that I could rouse your soul the way that mine you've stirred.

I'd like to give you back the joy that you have given me;
Yet that were wishing you a need I hope will never be;
I'd like to make you feel as rich as I, who travel on
Undaunted in the darkest hours with you to lean upon.

I'm wishing at this New Year's time that I could repay
A portion of the gladness that you've strewn along my way;
And could I have one wish this year, this only would it be;
I'd like to be the sort of friend that you have been to me.

Edgar A. Guest

GIVE

You must give something to your fellow man, even if it is a little thing. Do something for those who have need of help. Something for which you get no pay, but the privilege of doing it. For remember, you do not live a world of all your own, your Brothers are here too.

Albert Schweitzer
Beacon Lodge No. 190

HAVE COURAGE

The hills ahead look hard and steep and high
And often we behold them with a sigh;
But as we near them level grows the road.
We find on every slope with every load
The climb is not so steep, the top so far,
The hills ahead look harder than they are.

And so it is with troubles though they seem so great
That men complain and fear and hesitate;
Less difficult the journey than we dreamed
It never proves as hard as once it seemed,
There never comes a task, a hill, a day
But as we near it — easier the way.

Douglas Mallock
Greisbach Lodge No. 191

RISK

To laugh is to risk appearing a fool,
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental
To reach out for another is to risk involvement

To expose feelings is to risk exposing your true self
To place your ideas, your dreams before the crowd is to risk loss.

To love is to risk not being loved in return.

To live is to risk dying
To hope is to risk despair

But Risk We Must . . .

Because the greatest hazard to life is to risk nothing.

The man who risks nothing — has nothing, is nothing
He may avoid suffering — but!
He simply can not learn, feel, change, grow, love, live

Chained by his attitudes.
He is a slave, he has forfeited freedom.
Only the person who risks can be called a free man.
And only a free man can join FREEMASONRY!

Author Unknown
Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 54

PRAY

"Let nothing disturb thee,
Let nothing affright thee,
All passeth away,
God alone will stay,
Patience obtaineth all things."

(Quotation from St. Augustine)
W. Bro. Wm. Parker, W.M.
Carstairs Lodge No. 20

PUT MASONRY TO WORK

'Let us open up our natures, throw wide the doors of our hearts
and let in the sunshine of goodwill and kindness.'

O.S. Marden
Ashlar Lodge No. 28

BUILD

"Go out and build a better world," God said,
I answered, "How"?
The world is such a great vast place,
So complicated now.

And I so small and useless am,
There's nothing I can do.
Then God in all his wisdom said,
"Just build a better you".

When we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight, nor for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for, and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when these stones are to be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and men will say as they look upon the labour and wrought substance of them and say see "This our Fathers did for us".

John Ruskin