



Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 52, NO. 5

EDITOR, R.W. BRO. NORMAN J. SENN

JANUARY 1987

THE CHALLENGES FOR 87

The dawning of a new year, brings with it new hopes and new dreams as well as new and exciting challenges. The keys that will open the doors to success in these challenges and dreams are commitment, dedication and perseverance.

The Masonic Institution offers to all of us the challenge of developing our strengths and talents and in the process assisting us in growing to become more of what we are. This growth will enable us to provide a positive example for others in their desire for reaching greater self-fulfilment.

Leadership in today's society is a major challenge. Effective leadership, in Freemasonry in particular, may be defined as being the exploitation of every opportunity to take people, with diverse beliefs and values, forward toward the common goal. Although known by all, the goal often becomes dim or even lost in the challenges and pressures of day to day operations.

During the coming year there will continue to be many thorns that will challenge our very existence. We must, with commitment and perseverance, search beyond these thorns in order to find the roses that give us the strength and the encouragement in conquering even greater challenges.

On behalf of the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Norman Oslund, and the Officers of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, I wish you every success, during 1987, in meeting these important and exciting challenges.

R.W. Bro. D.A. Bruce
Senior Grand Warden.

FROM THE NOTICES

I AM FREEMASONRY

I was born in antiquity, in the ancient days when men first dreamed of God. I have been tried through the ages, and found true. The crossroads of the World bear the imprint of my feet, and the cathedrals of all nations mark the skill of my hands. I strive for beauty and for symmetry. In my heart is wisdom and strength and courage for those who ask. Upon my altars is the Book of Holy Writ, and my prayers are to the One Omnipotent God. My sons work and pray together, without rank or discord, in the public mart and in the inner chamber. By signs and symbols I teach the lessons of life and of death, and their relationship of man with God and of man with man. My arms are widespread to receive those of lawful age and good report who seek me of their own free will. I accept them and teach them to use my tools in the building of men, and thereby, find direction in their own quest for perfection so much desired and so difficult to attain. I lift up the fallen and shelter the sick. I hark to the orphan's cry, the widow's tears, the pain of the old and destitute. I am not church, nor party, nor school, yet my sons bear a full share of responsibility to God, to country, to neighbour and themselves. They are freemen, tenacious of their liberties and alert to lurking danger. At the end I commit them as each one undertakes the journey beyond the veil into the glory of everlasting life. I ponder the sand within the glass and think how small is a single life in the eternal Universe. Always have I taught immortality, and even as I raise men from darkness into Light, I am a way of life. I AM FREEMASONRY.

Ivanhoe Lodge No. 142

BURSARY RECIPIENTS

In the same way that your Bursary donations are welcomed throughout the year, the letters of thanks also come throughout the year. We print excerpts from just two of the many letters received at the Grand Lodge Office. You will see the importance of your contribution to these recipients and the impact it has their feeling about Masonry.

"Thank you so much for once again considering my application, and for granting me this most generous Bursary. I was informed of your cutbacks soon after the submission of my application, and was therefore not expecting any such award. I was simply so grateful for your assistance over the last three years, that I fully understood your reasons for first considering applicants who had not before benefited from your generosity.

This last year of University will include my teaching practicum - what is considered to be the most challenging part of the entire four year education program. Your Bursary has already succeeded in alleviating some of the anxiety that comes along with this final year of study. Your help to me and my family throughout my years at university has been immense. We will never forget your organization's goodwill and kindness."

* * * * *

"I deeply appreciate your generosity, and confidence. The Bursary was very helpful in my first year at University. It alone paid for my tuition.

I cannot thank you enough for your help and I will always remember the Grand Lodge of Alberta."

* * * * *

Please remember Brethren you can contribute today and at any other time in the year and assist others.

PAPERS OF THE CANADIAN MASONIC RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

In 1949 the Canadian Masonic Research Association was founded as an outcome of one of the meetings of the Conference of Grand Masters and Provincial Grand Masters (Newfoundland) of Canada. It operated for twenty seven years until it finally ceased operation in 1976.

The meetings of the Association, which were held anywhere in Canada, resulted in the delivery of 116 papers and the publication of 107. Eight have still not been found but the 107 previously published and another found in a U.S. Grand Lodge Archives are reprinted in a three volume set by The Heritage Lodge No. 730, G.R.C.

The Grand Lodge Library has obtained one of the 1000 set, limited edition and they are now available for the enjoyment of the brethren of Alberta.

Titles such as "Early Freemasonry in the Canadian West, 1951; Bow River Lodge No. 1 Calgary, 1955; The First Fifty Years of Perfection Lodge No. 9 Calgary, 1963" show that Alberta is represented amongst the papers.

The papers are easy to read with clear print and the photographs are of very satisfactory quality.

Any brother who has an interest in Canadian Masonry in particular will find much of interest in this new acquisition.

FORESTBURG MORTGAGE BURNING

An unique and very historical event took place in August 1986 at Forestburg Lodge No. 128 when an overflow crowd joined the Grand Master to celebrate the burning of the mortgage of this newest Lodge Hall.



Photo from left to right: W.Bro. J.B. Gowanlock (the instigator and driving force behind the project, who lit the match); M.W.Bro. N.J. Oslund, Grand Master; M.W.Bro. S. Harbin, P.G.M. (the G.M who laid the Cornerstone); R.W.Bro. J. Crawford (current Grand First Principal of Royal Arch Masons in Alberta and member of Forestburg Lodge)

MASONIC EDUCATION

There is a common problem in establishing a program of Masonic Education and it relates to the way in which the program is chosen. A wise Masonic Education Committee spends considerable time in finding out what the brethren of their lodge want and enjoy. The first program of a new committee chairman would be to have a "wide open" discussion to find out what the Lodge expects from the committee. The Lodge should be at refreshment which will allow for easier discussion and possibly splitting a larger lodge into several small groups. The suggested items should then be listed for all to see. A short discussion on which items are preferred by the largest number of members will ensure the best possible guideline for the development of a year's program.

After the first two or three presentations during the year, it is an excellent idea for the Chairman to seek feedback on what has been done. This will show the level of satisfaction and value for the effort being put into the program.

The message is, that it is better to follow the wishes of your lodge than impose what you think the members need, and it is certainly no more difficult.

The Grand Lodge Bulletin is published by the Grand Lodge of Alberta on each month of the year excepting July and August.

Mailing Address:
330 - 12 Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2R 0H2

Republication approval is granted to all other Jurisdictions but printed acknowledgement of the source is requested.

GREETINGS FROM THE GRAND LODGE OFFICE

The staff of the Grand Lodge Office wish all the best in the New Year of 1987 and great success to all lodges and members from; Allen Aylesworth, Cathy Sundberg, Margaret Horne, Cindy Austin, and Wes Thomas.

MOZART'S BURIAL

A few words to make things clear and to reject the old fairy-tale about the mass-grave and of Mozart not getting a funeral. In those times, a "masonic funeral" was unknown in Vienna. There was the usual funeral ceremony at St. Stephen's Cathedral and this is where the members of the family and the brethren took part. After this, Mozart was "buried" - as they called that - in a chapel of the cathedral, as usual. The next day there was extraordinary stormy weather and the corpse was taken to the distant cemetery of St. Marx, without any escort, as far as we know. (This also was not unusual for a middle-class funeral at this time). He then was buried in a usual shaft-grave, which means that three to four dead bodies were buried in one grave within a certain time - just as it is usual all over Europe today. The big difference is, that nowadays the shaft-grave is used by the members of one family or by friends. At the time of Mozart's death it was used by everyone not belonging to the nobility or not being rich. This is why no tombstone was set although there must have been some marks. It was the fault of Mozart's wife Constanze, that she did not visit the gravesite for some years. When after several years a stone was purchased to commemorate Mozart, it was not exactly known where the grave was. The commemorative stone is still standing there, but it is possible that the actual location of the grave could be some distance away.

Ferdinand Zorner Freimaurerische
Forschungsloge "Quatuor Coronati" or Wien.

FROM THE NOTICES

WAGES OF A MASON

Masonic labour is purely a labour of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold or silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealing with one another: sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason.

Vulcan Lodge No. 74.

**EXCERPTS FROM THEME ADDRESSES GIVEN AT THE BANFF MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP 1986.
BY BRO. TINK ROBINSON.**

Our theme of 1986 is "Something to Believe in". It is a fact that whatever you vividly imagine, ardently desire, earnestly believe in and enthusiastically act upon, must inevitably come to pass. Masons historically, have been believers and achievers.

* * * * *

We, as Speculative Masons, no longer toil with the working tools of our Masonic forefathers. We no longer have to be Masters of the fine art of stone masonry. I am sure that there are many Masons who have never set foot inside a sixteenth century cathedral, and who would not have a clue on how to go about building one. But we as Speculative Masons are builders none the less, for each second, each minute and each hour of every day, we are building something. The whole human race is a race of builders as well. Why? Because no matter what your race, creed or political ideology represents, you were all given the power to think thoughts. Thoughts, brethren, are the building blocks of the Universe.

Thomas Carlyle, in the 19th Century, had this to say about thoughts.

"This city with all its houses, palaces, steam engines, cathedrals and huge immeasurable traffic and tumult, what is it but Thought, but millions of thoughts made into one - a huge immeasurable Spirit of Thought embodied in brick, in iron, in smoke, dust, palaces, parliaments, coaches, docks, and the rest of it! Not a brick was made but someone had to think of the making of that brick."

CELEBRATIONS

Edson Lodge No. 68 will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary on June 20th 1987. A full day of activity will be planned around a Joint Installation of Edson Lodge No. 68, Jasper Lodge No. 143 and Hinton Lodge No. 178.

There will be an Open House at the Lodge Hall for the Ladies with a banquet, entertainment and a dance. All are invited and should contact Bro. John Templeton, Sec-Treasurer at 723-4540 for more information or if you plan to attend. Bro. Templeton asks that any pictures of the Lodge Hall or the members who have moved away would be appreciated. Send to Box 1283, Edson, TOE 0P0.

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

The Eighty-Second Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alberta A.F. & A.M. will take place in the City of Edmonton in the Edmonton Inn, commencing on June 12, 1987. Please be sure you have this date in your calendar.

HIDING YOUR LIGHT UNDER A BUSHEL?

The Masonic symbol is well known to masons and to see one is a sign of friendship in the location visited. Sometimes the signs are so small that they are easily missed. This is not the case for the two lodges shown below - Dawson City, Yukon has a huge gold coloured symbol above its main door while in Skagway, Alaska the symbol is walked through to enter the building. Visiting brethren and the public certainly know where these Lodge Halls are.

There are only a limited number of signs on the outskirts of Alberta towns showing that Lodges meet, but more of these are appearing. It is hoped that more signs showing times of meetings will also appear so that visitors may join with local brethren at their meetings.



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

- a) What is a Lodge of Instruction?
- b) Is there such a thing in Alberta?

ANSWER TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The November question was related to a reference in the Ancient York Rite to "the fabled Upas Tree".

A response was received which gave the details of the tree itself which comes from the forests of Java and is named *Antiaris toxicaria*. The "toxic" part of its name suggests its characteristics. The bark of this tree, when crushed, yields a poisonous milky juice which when concentrated was used as an arrow head poison.

The fabled aspect of the tree, related to the stories developed by those who used the products of the tree but wished others to keep away. They spread the story that the poison was so lethal that even to walk near the tree could cause death and that grass and other trees near the Upas were killed by the spreading poison. Those who heard these vivid tales but had not seen the tree,

believed and expanded on the stories, until the tree assumed horrifying qualities of destruction of all around it, hence the other words "that blights all healthy life and makes a desert round it". The tree when viewed, appears no different than any other trees and there is neither "blighting" nor "desert" near it.

Bro. T. Morris, Mosaic Lodge No. 176, Calgary.

We thank W.Bro. G.C. Leeson, King Hiram Lodge No. 21, Didsbury and W.Bro. K.A. Roberts, York Lodge No. 119 Lethbridge for another correct answer.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

Most of us live in a comfortable rut; that's a grave with two open ends.

Bro. Tink Robinson, 1986.

"If you have an important point to make, don't try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time - A TREMENDOUS WHACK"

Winston Churchill.

MASONRY IN JAPAN - A BRIEF HISTORY

by V.W. Bro. G.M. Giroldi, Brooks Lodge No. 73.

(Acknowledgements: "The First Masonic Lodge in Tokyo, Japan Following World War III" by Lloyd E. Church, D.D.S., Ph.D. 32 K.C.C.H., New Age Magazine, October, 1978; "Reflections of a Japanese Master Mason" by Tomotsu Murayama, M.M. and "Post War Masonry in Japan" by Kenneth S. Coe, Scottish Rite Bulletin (Orient of Japan and Korea) 1st and 3rd Quarters, 1984; The Masonic Ritual of The Grand Lodge of Japan, 1966 edition.)

In the year 1854 the first Treaty between the Shogun and the United States was signed opening the way to further relations with the West. By 1858 some 15 other nations had also acquired treaty rights. The small foreign community which was established in Yokohama soon included a number of Masons. These Brethren had arrived from China where several Lodges had long been operating, the oldest being Amity No. 407 established in Canton in 1767.

In 1864 a detachment of the British 20th Regiment arrived for garrison duty in Yokohama under the Treaty terms, bring in with it Sphinx Lodge No. 263 under the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The stimulating meeting held by this Lodge led the Brethren in the foreign community to consider the formation of a local Lodge and in 1866 Yokohama Lodge received its Charter. By 1936 there were 5 English speaking Lodges in Japan with 271 members and operating under the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland.

(to be continued in February's issue)