



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

VCL. 52, NO. 6

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

FEBRUARY 1987

## BANFF MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP APRIL 10-12, 1987 PLANNING COMMITTEE

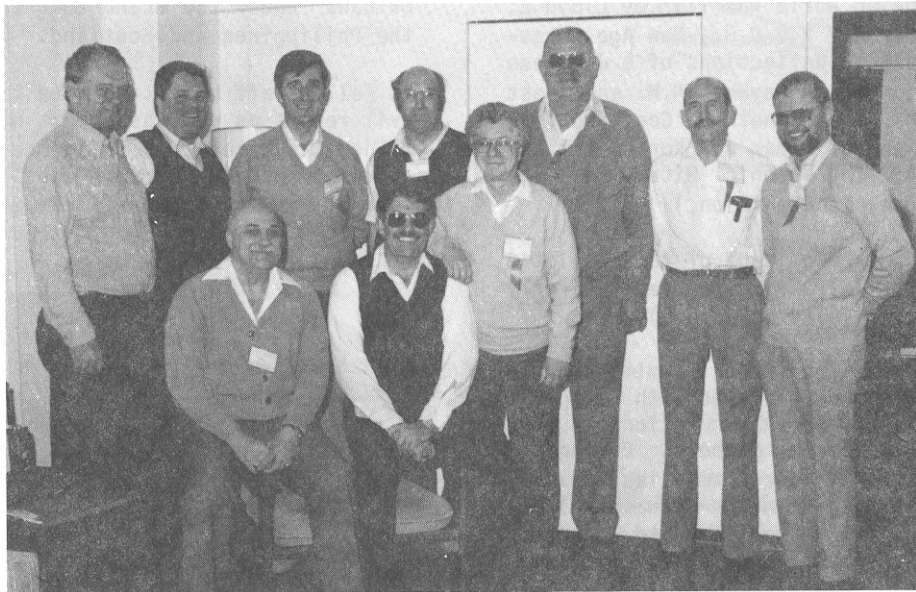


PHOTO: left to right, W.Bro. Bob McKee; R.W.Bro. Steve McVittie; R.W.Bro. Hugh Young; M.W.Bro. Bill Graves; V.W.Bro. Cal Shaver; R.W.Bro. Al Teuling; V.W.Bro. John Pelletier; R.W.Bro. Ed Yonkers; R.W.Bro. Stan Mottershead; R.W.Bro. Al Aylesworth.

### MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL CHAIRMAN

This year's theme "A Mason's Honour" and M.W.Bro. Gordon Thompson are a match that should not be missed. M.W.Bro. Thompson is an active and well known Mason who practises Masonry in the lodge, home, church and community. In this year's theme he has a message for everyone from the new Mason to the life time mason which all should find stimulating and motivating.

In addition there will be the schools of instruction, whose format and subject matter have been changed. Please be sure to check the description of the schools before you select. Masonic education will have a new approach and also new times. The fun night is changed so all get a chance to participate..... enter your contributions early. Then at great expense, we bring in 500 of the most talented, knowledgeable and active Masons for our discussion groups, giving you access to discussion on all aspects of Masonry never before available. To top off this great weekend of fellowship and brotherly affection, Bro. Rev. Jim Roberts will conduct our Sunday Service. Those who have heard him speak before at the workshop will not want to miss this year, and those who will hear him for the first time are in for a great Masonic treat.

Your Workshop Committee has put this great weekend package together for you at a cost that has not changed from last year. Send your cards and payment in early and prepare yourself for one of the best weekends of your life.

Bro. S.E. (Steve) McVittie  
General Chairman  
1987 Masonic Spring Workshop

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

Mailing Address:

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

**MASONRY IN JAPAN - A BRIEF HISTORY**

by V.W. Bro. G.M. Girolodi, 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.)

(Continued from January's issue of the Bulletin in which V.W. Bro. Girolodi discussed the early history of Masonic activity in Japan.)

Although the Japanese Government permitted these Lodges to exist they were viewed with a great deal of suspicion and Japanese nationals were strictly forbidden to become members. During the 1920's and 30's anti-Masonic activities steadily increased and with the imminence of war in 1941, Masonic Light was extinguished in Japan. However in 1942 of an emergency meeting of Lodge Star In The East, No. 640 (Scottish Const.) was held aboard the first exchange ship, M.S. GRIPSHOLM, enroute to the United States carrying five thousand Americans repatriated from the Far East.

Shortly after the landing of Occupation Forces in 1945, several Brethren met and formed a Masonic Club in Yokohama. Through their efforts the Masonic Temple in that City was rehabilitated and work was resumed by Lodge Star In The East, No. 640 on April 9, 1946.

On October 9, 1947 approximately 160 Master Masons, representing about half the Grand Lodges in the United States, met and formed the Tokyo American Lodge which operated under Dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. At about the same time a group of Masons at Tokosuka secured a Dispensation from the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and began work. In the summer of 1948, Dispensation was granted for the formation of Far East Lodge, F. & A.M. in Yokohama.

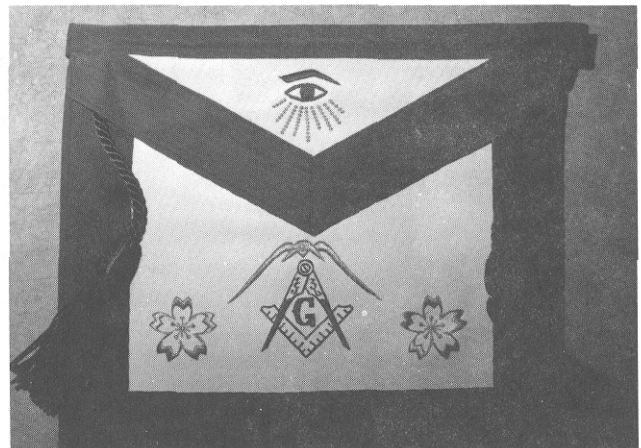
Masonic Light continued to spread and on April 7, 1950 the first Japanese nationals to receive the degrees of Masonry in their homeland were raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.

In March of 1957 thirteen Lodges operating in Japan under jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines formed the Grand Lodge of Japan.

The following year, the Grand Lodge, seeing the necessity for ritual uniformity among its constituent Lodges, undertook the preparation of a new ritual. Among the references used in this task were the Rituals, Monitors and Manuals of the Grand Jurisdictions of the Philippines, California, Louisiana, Alabama and South Carolina. This ritual has since been translated into the Japanese language.

By the mid 1970's there were twenty Lodges operating in Japan and Okinawa under the Grand Lodge of Japan. This number has since been reduced to 18 mainly because of cut-backs in U.S. Forces personnel in the Far East. However, there are also 10 other Lodges at work in Japan and Okinawa under the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, the Philippines and Scotland.

As Fellowcraft Masons we were taught that "through evil report as well as good, Masonry has maintained its beneficent influence, spreading wider and wider over the earth. "I believe that the history of Masonry in Japan affirms that teaching.



The apron shown above is known as a "Traveling Apron". Master Masons in Japan, unlike here, do not receive an Apron upon being raised. Unless one becomes an officer, the only apron worn after initiation is the white, cloth type used by visitors here in Alberta. The Traveling Apron is made available through the Grand Lodge and is intended to be worn when traveling outside the Grand Jurisdiction of Japan.

The Apron contains two sets of symbols: those in the garter blue, of Grand Lodge; the tassels, square and compasses and the All-Seeing Eye are, of course, Masonic and need no further explanation. Those in silver, however, are symbolic of Japan and are thus explained: the rosettes are formed in the shape of the Cherry Blossom which is Japan's national flower. The symbol which appears above the square and compasses represents Japan's sacred mountain, Mount Fuji. The radiating lines below the All-Seeing Eye symbolize Japan itself - The Land Of The Rising Sun.

**THEME SPEAKER**



**GORDON DENCHFIELD THOMPSON**

Born in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, May 28, 1921, M.W.Bro. Thompson took his public and high school education in Lashburn, Saskatchewan, attended the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, in the engineering and commerce facilities prior to joining the R.C.A.F. in November 1941. He served with the R.C.A.F. and R.A.F. Ferry Command, as a navigator and navigation instructor until March 1945. After demobilization, he joined the Federal Civil Service with the audit division of the Department of National Revenue in Edmonton in April 1945. He served in various sections of the audit Division, and was the Chief of Field Audit for the Edmonton District Office until his recent retirement.

M.W.Bro. Thompson married Joan A. Pickard of Edmonton in 1943 and they have two sons, Steve and David.

M.W.Bro. Thompson was initiated into Freemasonry in West Edmonton Lodge No. 101, G.R.A. in August 1950. He served as Worshipful Master of that Lodge in 1969-70, and was elected District Deputy Grand Master for District No. 12 in 1975-76. He served on the Board of General Purposes and in June 1981, was elected Junior Grand Warden. He was appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia in 1983. In June of 1983 he was elected and installed the Grand Master of Masons in Alberta.

He has been active in Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite as Chairman of the Finance Committee of the joint bodies of Edmonton, and was the Commander-in-Chief of the Alberta Consistory. He is also a member of the Royal Order of Scotland.

He has been an active member of St. Mary's Anglican Church for many years serving on the vestry, the Boy Scout Group Committee, and for thirty year, a member of the choir.

**FROM AFAR**

The Scout Association have a leaders' course at Gilwell Park, Essex each year and those who are Masons have a reunion under the auspices of one of the "Scout Lodges".

**MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP 1987  
APRIL 10th-12th**

The Committees for next year are already well into the planning stage and in order to develop the "Fun Time" session a different approach has been suggested. Here it is repeated for those who have not yet put in their proposal.

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**HELP WANTED**

Individual or group proposals for the Fun Night Entertainment are required. Any sort of light entertainment will be considered and variety and reasonably short length are vital. Can you sing, has the Lodge a choir, have we saw players, tap dancers, sword swallows, snake charmers, or mini plays put on by Lodges.

Send in you proposal to "The Masonic Spring Workshop Committee, c/o Grand Lodge before March 1st so that the Committee has time to select (and laugh). Your contribution will be welcomed with pleasure.

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**QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

We have all heard "more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle, more honourable than the Star and Garter". Where and when were these orders created and who was responsible?

**ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

The answer to the December Question of the month is given by M.W.Bro. A.O. Aspelet, Member of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980.

Sign of Assent: Bro. Henry F. Berry, M.A. of the Public Record Office, Ireland (JW Trinity College Lodge No. 357 I.C.), discovered among papers of Archbishop Ussher, preserved in the Library of Trinity College Dublin, a complete code of manual signs used by the Victorine Canons at St. Thomas' Abbey, Dublin. This code Bro. Berry has edited and illustrated with an exhaustive and erudite commentary, for the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, and from it I make the following extract interesting to students of Masonic Ritual.

"Pro signo annuendi, leva manum moderate at move non inversam sed ut exterior superficiessit sursum",

"For the sign of assent, lift the hand moderately, and move it not inverted, but so that the outer surface may be upwards".

This code dates from the middle of the Thirteenth century and is published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland; part 2, vol 2, 5th series 1892.

Transactions of the Lodge Quatour Coronati Vol 7 page 55 1894.

**1987  
"FORGET-ME-NOT"  
TOUR OF EUROPE**

Departs Edmonton November 14, 1987, returns December 7, 1987, by Air Canada. Guided by R.W.Bro. Robert Juthner and a tour guide of Globus Travel, we will follow the route shown in the map, with lodge visits in Heidelberg and Lahr (American-Canadian Grand Lodge), Munich, Salzburg, Klagenfurt, Vienna, the famous Masonic museum of Bayreuth, and culminating in the 250th anniversary celebrations of Freemasonry in Germany in Hamburg. While in lodge, the ladies will be well looked after, and both men and ladies will enjoy sightseeing and cultural events. Although much will be offered, this is designed as a leisurely tour, not overtaxing anyone's stamina.

Our tour will take us along the Rhine River to the Black Forest region of Germany, on to Bavaria Munich's Oktoberfest area and the famous passion play town of Oberammergau. We will visit Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg, Austria, drive through Innsbruck and the Tyrol, crossing the Brenner pass into Italy, see the world famous ski resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo and crossback into Austria's southern province of Carinthia known for the warmest alpine lakes and beautiful scenery. On to imperial Vienna for three days of culture and sightseeing, and then along the Danube River to Passau, Regensburg, along the "Romantic Road" to medieval Rothenburg and to Nuremberg where the world-renowned pre-Christmas toy fair will be in full swing. A brief round trip will take us to the Richard Wagner festival theatre and the Masonic museum of Bayreuth, the old city of Bamberg and back to Nuremberg. On the final leg of the journey we will taste Franconian wine in Wuerzburg, sojourn in Hannover, and finally arrive in West Germany's largest city and busiest seaport, Hamburg. There the days will be filled with sightseeing, unforgettable Masonic events and attendance at the Hamburg State Opera, at a command performance for the Masonic community.

Accommodation in first-class, superior tourist-class hotels is based on two persons in one room. Inter-city travel is via private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach.

The cost per person is based on 40 or up (max 48)

Air return trip and European guided tour...	\$2,558
Canadian departure tax.....	15
Cancellation and medical insurance.....	113
Total (subject to change).....	\$2,686

Deposit required by April 15, 1987	\$500+133= \$613
Balance due on September 25, 1987	\$2,073

The price includes all transportation costs, accommodation, continental breakfast, and dinners daily except in Vienna and Hamburg when these are left to personal preferences. Two cultural evenings, in Vienna and Hamburg, are also included. All moneys received will be deposited in a special trust account.

Consideration of travellers will be on a "first come, first serve" basis. Interested Brethren are asked to mail the tear-off application on the this flap, to the address stated, as soon as possible.

**THE FORGET-ME-NOT**

**THE STORY BEHIND THIS BELOVED EMBLEM OF THE CRAFT IN GERMANY**

In early 1934, soon after Hitler's rise to power, it became evident that Freemasonry was in danger. In that same year, the "Grand Lodge of the Sun" (one of the pre-war German Grand Lodges, located in Bayreuth) realizing the grave dangers involved, adopted the little blue Forget-Me-Not flower as a substitute for the traditional square and compasses. It was felt the flower would provide brethren with an outward means of identification while lessening the risk of possible recognition in public by the Nazis, who were engaged in wholesale confiscation of all Masonic Lodge properties. Freemasonry went undercover, and this delicate flower assumed its role as a symbol of Masonry surviving throughout the reign of darkness.

During the ensuing decade of Nazi power a little blue Forget-Me-Not flower worn in a Brother's lapel served as one method whereby brethren could identify each other in public, and in cities and concentration camps throughout Europe, the Forget-Me-Not distinguished the lapels of countless brethren who staunchly refused to allow the symbolic Light of Masonry to be completely extinguished.

When the "Grand Lodge of the Sun" was reopened in Bayreuth in 1947, by Past Grand Master Beyer, a little pin in the shape of a Forget-Me-Not was officially adopted as the emblem of that first annual convention of the brethren who had survived the bitter years of semi-darkness to rekindle the Masonic Light.

At the first Annual Convent of the new United Grand Lodge of Germany A.F. & A.M. (VGLvD), in 1948, the pin was adopted as an official Masonic emblem in honour of the thousands of valiant Brethren who carried on their Masonic work under adverse conditions. The following year, each delegate to the Conference of Grand Masters in Washington, D.C., received one from Dr. Theodor Vogel, Grand Master of the VGLvD.

Thus did a simple flower blossom forth into a symbol of the fraternity, and become perhaps the most widely worn emblem among Freemasons in Germany; a pin presented ceremoniously to newly-made Masons in most lodges. In the years since adoption, its significance world-wide has been attested to by the tens of thousands of brethren who now display it with meaningful pride.

- From the Presentation card issued by the AMERICAN CANADIAN GRAND LODGE, A.F. & A.M. within the United Grand Lodges of Germany.

I am (we are) seriously interested in the planned 1987 "FORGET-ME-NOT" tour of Europe, and request that you furnish me (us) with a detailed itinerary and all other follow-up information.

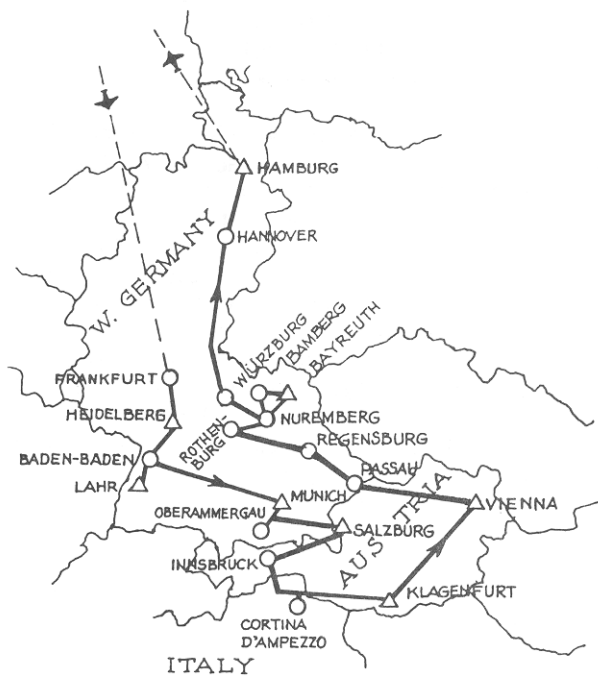
TO:  
DIRECT TRAVEL SERVICE LTD.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOWN OR CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ (res) \_\_\_\_\_ (bus) \_\_\_\_\_  
 LODGE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_ RANK: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME OF 2nd PERSON IN ROOM: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATUS " " " " " " \_\_\_\_\_

(spouse, Brother Mason, etc.)

I enclose the deposit of \$613.00 . . . . .  
 I will remit the deposit of \$613.00 within the time limit stated

A Canadian or other valid passport is required.



**AREA MEETINGS**

March 7, 1987 in Vegreville  
 March 28, 1987 in High River

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

"I don't like to see the extra fly leaf on the Bulletins between September and December, as with no meetings of our lodge in September, there is an extra Bulletin, the district notice, the Bursary envelope and other fillers and you can only stuff so much in an envelope for weight. I know of some lodges that discard one Bulletin rather than double up." "A Secretary-Treasurer"

**Editors Note:**

The editor feels that an occasional increase of mailing costs may be required when there is much material to mail to members and it seems inappropriate to discard a Brother's Masonic link with the Craft outside his Lodge as a means of saving a few cents.

What do other brethren think of this approach and also what are your thoughts on the occasional increase in size of the bulletin?

**FROM THE NOTICES**

In the Notice from Innisfail Lodge No. 8, were found ten questions for the brethren to answer. The answers will be presented in the next month's notice. This is an excellent way to hold the members interest. Congratulations Innisfail on an interesting computer printed notice.

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

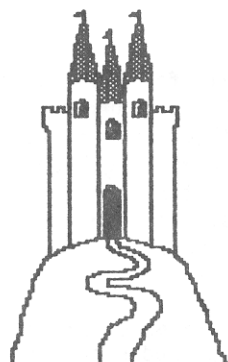
A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life.

Charles Darwin (1809-1882)



# MASONIC

## SPRING WORKSHOP



### SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION



### Communication Skills

The ability to communicate effectively both in our Lodges and in our daily living is of the supreme importance to each of us. This school will concentrate both on Lodge presentations and the basic skills which we should use in communicating in our daily lives.

### Department Etiquette & Protocol

We all want to "do it right" when we are in Lodge, at the festive board and in our dealings with other Masons. This school addresses such matters. A most popular school last year has caused its repeat this year.

### First Steps in Masonry

This school is directed towards those who are relatively new in Freemasonry and is intended to answer some basic questions and to direct the participants along the road of Freemasonry. This school is given in the morning only.

### Masonic Roots

This school traces the roots of Freemasonry from the days of King Solomon's Temple through the formation of modern Freemasonry to today in Alberta. This School is given in the afternoon only.

### PAST MASTERS

This school is especially for the Past Masters of our Fraternity. It will direct itself towards the place of Past Masters in the Lodges; current trends in Freemasonry; and much more of interest to this group.

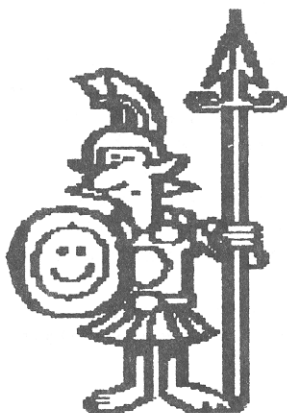
### 3 PRINCIPAL OFFICERS & SECRETARIES

This school is in two parts, namely,

- 1) Working together as a team; (Morning Only)
- 2) Planning for the future. (Afternoon Only)

The sections are self-explanatory and will prove to be of great benefit to the officers involved.

### APPOINTED OFFICERS



This school addresses the responsibilities of those filling appointed offices and encourages them to always plan for the future.

We encourage you to attend this school both if you are a junior officer at this time or are contemplating this step in the future