



Greetings Brethren.

Thank you to those that contacted me with your Lodge activities. The next step I would ask for Brethren to contribute any articles, news, events or anything that's on your mind. All correspondence and/or questions will be answered.

To subscribe, or to unsubscribe, just send an e-mail to rhoda@absamail.co.za [Rhoda is my sister/secretary] with your request in the subject line, and that will do the trick.

Once again, here goes and enjoy reading!

Neville Boner.

Nevilleb@ispr.co.za

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Neville, It is wonderful to see how this newsletter has grown. Now six pages long and more importantly allowing a discourse in which we all can participate.

Most of these discussions/chats/points of view were usually just held between the 2 or 3 brethren huddled around Bro Bob or one of the other knowing masons at the corner of the harmony table and we therefore did not get the kind input that makes our order stronger and more viable.

Congrats to you and your "Brother Sister" on putting this all together. Yours Fraternally,

Bro. Andy Kiloh RWM Lodge St. Andrew 954 SC

UNDERSTANDING OUR LAWS AND BYE-LAWS

LAW 119- Every Lodge shall annually on or before 1st January, apply for and obtain a certificate from Grand Lodge, hereinafter called an Annual Certificate, which shall continue to the lodge the privilege of holding Masonic meetings for the ensuing twelve months ending 31st December.

THE ENEMY WITHIN

It is doubtful if anyone ever became a Freemason because George Washington or Sir Alexander Fleming was a Mason. It is equally unlikely that someone will have become a Mason because he was impressed with our "Masonic Ritual." Quite frankly, people couldn't care less whether some or other illustrious historical figure was a Freemason or not. Nor will our Masonic Ritual impress them because, no matter how much one reads on the subject, one can only truly appreciate its beauty once one goes through the ceremony. Furthermore, it doesn't matter whether our Fraternity was founded by Adam, Noah, Moses, Pythagoras, King Solomon of Israel, or even a legend or partial-legend of a Master Builder who died because he refused to divulge the "Genuine Secrets" of a Master Mason. All of these are totally irrelevant to a non-Mason. So why would anyone want to become a Freemason?

The reason, we suggest, is because they know or knew someone - a father or a grandfather, a business associate or a casual acquaintance - whom they admired and they were motivated to become like that person. It is as simple as that. This means that we, the rank-and-file Freemasons, are the only people who can show the world out there what Freemasonry is all about. No amount of philosophical speculation or intellectual excellence will accomplish what a simple, "I care" will accomplish. Stated differently, people don't care how much we know until they know how much we care. Which brings us to our rubric, "The Enemy Within."

Since we are the walking, talking examples of Freemasonry, it follows that the opinion anyone holds of Freemasonry depends on the opinion they have of you and me. If a Mason is guilty of unseemly conduct, then the whole will be judged by the part. And this is where we can become our own worst enemies. It is not the so-called enemy "out there" harms our cause. It is the Mason who behaves un-Masonically in the presence of the uninitiated. He is the enemy within, because he is the one who gives the opponents of Freemasonry the ammunition to fire accusations at us. He is, as it were, the villain of the piece. Having aired this caveat, it should also be said that there are few things which impress more than a man whose actions match up to his words.

By Bro. Zak Theron P.M. Unity Lodge, 1006

THE INTERNATIONAL MASONIC POETRY SOCIETY-IMPS for short.

In 1994 a Welsh mystic called Bill Shorto decided that his love of poetry and literature should not be kept to himself but shared amongst his Brethren in Freemasonry. Bill was a retired Civil servant who had really found his calling by moving to Wales, a place called Penybontfawr, and making rocking horses!! His thoughts bordered on the mystic, or esoteric, and he had published a volume of poetry before founding IMPS.

The stated aim of the Society is as follows. "IMPS has been devised and launched in an attempt to serve the needs of all those brethren who recognise the poetry of the ritual; those who take pleasure in writing of their own experiences in poetic form; those who appreciate such writing; and those who seek material in this form for use at the festive board or other proper occasions.

It recognises that an important function of the fraternity is to be happy and to communicate happiness, and that this state can be served by verse of both a serious and humorous nature, as well as by encouraging a deeper understanding of the work."

Two of the most eminent poets from the British Isles, one a Scot, our own R Burns esq., and the other an Englishman, R. Kipling were keen Freemasons and both left a legacy of poetry of a Masonic nature which, when taken at face value, is very entertaining and true, but, when analysed a little, had a deeper connotation. A little known work by Kipling was published in the Masonic World in July 1923 called "the Dedication",

My new-cut ashlar takes the light
Where crimson blank the windows flare
By my own work, before the night,
Great overseer I make my prayer.

If there be good in that I wrought,
Thy hand compell'd it, Master, Thine;
Where I have failed to meet Thy thought
I know, through Thee, the blame is mine.

One instant's toil to Thee denied
Stands all eternity's offence;
Of that I did with Thee to guide
To Thee, through Thee, be excellence.

Who, lest all thought of Eden fade,
Bring'st Eden to the craftsman's brain,
Godlike to muse o'er his own trade
And manlike stand with God again.
The depth and dream of my desire,
The bitter paths wherein I stray,
Thou knowest who has made the fire,
Thou knowest who hast made the clay.

One stone the more swings to her place
In that dread temple of Thy worth-

It is enough that through Thy grace
I saw naught common on Thy bearth.

Take not that vision from my ken;
O' whatso'er may spoil or speed,
Help me to need no aid from men,
That I may help such men as need.

This has overtones, and undertones, of pure humbleness which we would do well to try to emulate. Finally, as an example of straightforward truth which, I'm sure affects us all, read the following.

"One pound to a tenner"

It's "Brother this, and Brother that"
Close the Lodge- lets have a jar,
We gave a single pound for Charity,
But we'll spend a "Tenner" at the bar.

'Have you anything for Charity?'
Ritual words, they make you think.
But when the meeting's done and over,
We'll spend tenfold on our drink!

Our Masonry stands for Charity,
And all that's good and fair,
'One pound to a "Tenner"
When we meet upon the square.

By Bro. Bob Stewart PM. Lodge Golden Thistle No.744

TOWARDS AN ELUCIDATION OF ECCLESIASTES 12: 1- 7

Some biblical commentators see in this striking text an allegory to the ravages of time on the human body. To them, the golden bowl is the skull, the silver cord is the spinal cord, "the keepers of the house" are the hands, the "strong men" the thighs, etc. The whole picture is made to symbolise the body's degeneration and the approach of death. One hesitates to differ from an interpretation so exquisite in its application and so dignified by its associations. But it is doubtful that the cheerless fellow who composed these lines had the intention of turning them into a medical discourse on senility.

The major problem with this interpretation is that it is based on a somewhat loose translation of the original Hebrew. Here are a few alternate paraphrased meanings of certain keywords in verses 3 – 6. It will be noticed, for instance, that the ominous phrase, "...and desire shall fail..." does not actually appear in the text:

v3. In the day when the keepers (guards) of the house shall stir (in panic), And the men of valour bend down (stoop, crouch), When the grinding-maidens halt (quit) because they are few, And those peering out through crevices are

darkened. v4. When the doors to the road are closed (locked), When the sound of the grinding is dull (becomes inaudible), And one jumps up (as when startled) at the sound of a bird. And all the choirgirls will prostrate themselves (in trepidation); v5 Furthermore, one fears lofty places (because of impaired visibility), And many hazards are on the road, Then the almond tree will flower (the Hebrew word *shaged* here rendered “almond tree” literally means “to watch, to hasten,” hence, “a man will be more vigilant” cf. Jer. 1: 11, 12), And the grasshopper drags himself along (probably because his wings are drenched), And the caperberry becomes tasteless (is no longer piquant), Because man goes to his eternal (everlasting) home, And those lamenting turn about (swing around) in the streets; v6. Remember Elohim, while the silver cable is not yet pulled away, (before) the golden bowl is crushed, or the jar is broken (shattered) at the fountain (spring), or the turning wheel is splintered at the cistern (well).

Quite possibly the author is here describing the (imagined) horror of death set forth in the metaphor of a thunderstorm in Palestine - thunderstorms being a very uncommon sight in those areas. Let us picture the following scenario:

It had been a day of wind and cloud and rain; but the clouds did not disperse after the shower. They returned and covered the heavens in blackness. As the storm broke, the strong men guarding the gates began to tremble because even they were scared in this strange weather; the drone of the mills ceased because the grinding women took shelter; and those who had been gazing out through lattices stared into the darkness and murk of a thunderstorm. The ones sitting about indulging in Epicurean delights lost their appetites. Some were so nervous that the twitter of a bird startled them.

As the terror of a thundershower, the writer says, so the coming of death. When man goes to his everlasting home mourners will scurry about in the streets like bewildered men at the sound of thunder. And whatever our status in life may have been, death will be the great equaliser. A man may have been rich, like a golden lamp on a silver chain; he may have been as poor as the clay vessel in which maidens carry water, or even as crude as the wooden wheel with which they drew the water; none of this matters because death reduces us all to the dust from which we were originally fashioned.

So, while the author of Ecclesiastes undoubtedly has in mind the impairments of old age, he seems to liken the gloom of foul weather to the tribulations of the aged. This explanation doesn't *change* the time-honoured view. It simply *elucidates* it.

By Bro. Zak Theron P.M. Unity Lodge, 1006

POINTS TO PONDER

"Live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart. Trouble no one about his religion. Respect others in their views and demand that they respect yours. Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and of service to your people. Prepare a

noble death song for the day when you go over the great divide.

Always give a word or sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend, or even a stranger, if in a lonely place. Show respect to all people, but grovel to none. When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life, for your strength. Give thanks for your food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason to give thanks, the fault lies in yourself.

Abuse no one and no thing, for abuse turns the wise ones to fools and robs the spirit of its vision. When your time comes to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song, and die like a hero going home."

by: **Tecumseh -(1768-1813) Shawnee Chief**



Saturday nite-01-11-2008-Lodge Golden Thistle-
PUB QUIZ at 434 Commissioner Str.-call Bro. Roger Edmed 082-7601513

Sunday-09-11-2008-Lodge Sound Memory-

until the New Year

Saturday nite-15 Nov 2008 18h00 for 18h30-
"ANNUAL MASONIC AND PUBLIC DINNER DANCE"

The 2008 Convocation will again be hosted at the St George Hotel, in the form of a Dine and Dance evening with the very popular all-round Rock Band called "Profile", complete with four vocalists to heat up our evening with some modern music! Craft Lodges and all Orders are most welcome to make this their Annual Ladies evening! There

will be NO other speeches or activities at the dance, only the Toasts before Supper! This is a superb Mediterranean Style Venue that lends itself to total enjoyment and an atmosphere of relaxation There is parking for several thousand cars, and security guards to take care of the rest whilst we enjoy ourselves. For those who feel like staying over.....Luxury rooms to suit your

needs, or.....Maybe the Presidential suite? Book on the website at www.dgrac-sa.com , click on the Convocation tab, and book online!

Saturday 4th November Lodge Blyde –
"DONKEY DERBY" call Bro. Ted Bone 072-1438303

Sunday morning 30th Nov-10h00- **ROSLYN PARK ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE** at Roslyn Park

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

You are never so easily fooled as when trying to fool someone else.

–François, Duc de La Rochefoucauld, 1613 - 1680

When you want to fool the world, tell the truth.

–Otto von Bismarck, 1815 – 1898

You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.

–John Wooden, sports coach

The problem with any unwritten law is that you don't know where to go to erase it.

–Glaser and Way

As scarce as truth is, the supply is always greater than the demand.

–Josh Billings, American author and humorist (1818 - 1885)

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

<http://www.nymasons.org/cms/> Official website of the Grand Lodge of Free and accepted Masons of the State of New York.

<http://www.esoterikalodge.net/intro.htm> An esoteric lodge, or a lodge focusing on the examination and contemplation of the deeper philosophies, traditions, practices, and ritual, that have become the Degrees of Freemasonry today.

<http://www.thaifreemason.com/> An overview of Masonry in Thailand. A must for visiting Brethren.

<http://www.nullens.org/> A collection of books by researcher Giles CH Mullens.

NEWS FROM NEW YORK

Library Acquires Copy of *Processus Contra Templarios*

The Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library of Grand Lodge has announced the acquisition of *Processus Contra Templarios*, an unprecedented publication containing a collection of facsimile manuscripts relating to the trials of the Knights Templar.

The Holy See shocked the world when it announced that the Vatican Secret Archive would publish exclusive and previously unavailable source material on the hearings against the medieval warrior-monks. The announcement was of special interest to Freemasons and students of Masonic history, as many theorists trace modern Freemasonry's origins to the military-religious order, and the modern Masonic Templar organization is an important part of the fraternity today. To date, there is no proven historical link between the medieval Knights Templar and

modern Freemasonry.

Presented to the world in October 2007, the 700th anniversary of the arrest of the Templars, *Processus Contra Templarios* is a joint project of the Vatican Secret Archives and Italy's Scrinium cultural foundation. This unique work is being published in a limited run of 800 copies, under the supervision of Archive officials, and includes faithful replicas of the original parchments closely guarded at the Secret Archive, along with exclusive critical commentary on the minutes of the inquiry.

The publication is highly valued for its documents and critical texts. The most exciting manuscript in the document collection is the "Chinon Parchment," which contains Pope Clement V's absolution of the Templars on charges of heresy, which had been the backbone of King Philip of France's attempts to eliminate them. The pontiff had suspended the Templar Order, without disbanding it, and eventually re-admitted the Templar officials and the entire Order back into the Roman Church community. The pope recognized that they were guilty of many other minor crimes, but not heresy. The parchment, also known as the "Chinon Chart," was misplaced in the Vatican archives until 2001, when a medieval historian stumbled across it. The parchment was incorrectly catalogued at some point in history and was the key document historians had been looking for. [see full story here]

<http://www.nymasoniclibrary.org/events/templars.htm>

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A MASONIC FAMILY REUNION

How nice to report something cheerful, Masonic and not in the least philosophical, mystical or anything else. I had the really great and almost indescribable pleasure of being present, with my son, at my father's installation in the Chair of King Solomon in his Lodge in England, Abington Lodge E.C., on the 18th October 2008. What added to the occasion was that my brother – in – law was also there and we almost constituted a 'take over' bid. My father was honoured by his Lodge at the grand old age of 92, and because of the high esteem in which he is held; they altered the way that certain parts of the ceremony are performed so that he didn't have to stand too long. It is a very rare occasion to have three generations of a family in a Lodge at the same time and we, of the Edmed 'clan,' were visibly emotional and proud. The welcome that we received, both in the Temple and the Festive Board was truly Masonic. It will remain a more than fond memory for the rest of my life. In my humble opinion, it's without doubt what Masonry is all about, a real example of Brotherly Love.

An interesting part of the Festive Board is the amount of singing that was performed. One of the Past Masters sang, "Warm Masonic Hearts to Greet You" and was joined by the IPM for another song. There were three or four songs in total and added to the occasion in no small way. It was one of the most dignified Festive Boards I have ever attended and none of the enjoyment or fun was sacrificed as a result. There was no lounging at the bar, instead, all the Brethren got their drinks and sat down. The W. Master, W. Senior and Junior Wardens used the gavel when a toast was about to be given, which in my opinion, adds a crispness to the proceedings and most definitely invokes a welcome silence when a Brother is about to speak or reply to a toast. In the meantime, waitresses served a delightful three course meal, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all there. Interestingly, after the meal, the lights were dimmed for the 'Toast to Absent Brethren,' – a nice gesture which adds poignancy to the words in the prayer.

On reflection, and with regard to the singing, the thought that went through my mind was, "thank the great singer in the sky that we don't sing in my Lodge and indeed most Lodges I've visited." There was, at one time, a brief existence of "The Golden Thistle Glee Club," and after several rehearsals, we were all able to sing in the right key and tune, but unfortunately, never at the same time. Inexplicably, membership of the Glee Club fell at an alarming rate and the remaining member emigrated to England! We now restrict ourselves to the opening and closing odes and of course at the Harmony a usual rendition of "Will ye no come back again" to the visitors after suitable vocal cord lubrication!

Where are all the aspiring Harry Gulbrandsens'? I am certainly not one of them as anyone who has had the misfortune to hear me sing will testify.

MASONIC DIARY

NOVEMBER 2008

3	Towerby	2nd Degree	Rewlatch
5	Turffontein	1st Degree	Rewlatch
5	Ophirton	Installation	Boksburg North
6	Balmoral		Olifantsfontein
6	Randfontein		Randfontein
7	Scotia	3rd Degree	Orange Grove
		Installation/100yrs	
8	Caledonian	Rededication	Germiston
	Sound		
10	Memory	2nd Degree	Orange Grove
10	Discoverers	3rd Degree	Roodepoort
	King		
11	Solomon	1st Degree Quiz	Germiston
11	Heredom	1st Degree	Boksburg North
12	Alpha Crucis	1 st Degree	Rewlatch
12	Douglas		Germiston
	North		
	Western		
12	Bedford	Installation	Orange Grove
12	Piet Retief	Xmas Dinner	Olifantsfontein
	Golden		
13	Thistle	1st Degree	Park Lane
13	Roodepoort Caledonian		Roodepoort
14	Northern Province	Open Evening	Orange Grove
		3rd	
17	Somah Herber	Degree/Emergency	Park Lane
17	Liberty		The Willows
17	Zion	2nd Degree	Orange Grove
17	Florida		Roodepoort
		Open Eve/Xmas	
18	St Andrew	Dinner	Kensington
18	Cairngorm Republic		Orange Grove
19	Gordon	1st Degree	Rewlatch
19	Caxton		Orange Grove
20	Unity	Lecture	The Willows
20	Far East Caledonians		Springs
21	Tvl Volunteer	In Memoriam	Park Lane
22	Blyde	Xmas Dinner	Pilgrims Rest
	Welcome		
22	Rondezvous	Installation	Bothaville
24	Braemar		Rewlatch
24	Pretoria Celtic	Discussion	Olifantsfontein
26	Oranje		Bloemfontein
26	Somah Herber	2nd Degree	Park Lane
26	Argyll	1st Degree	Roodepoort
27	Glen Douglas		Rewlatch
27	Brixton	1st Degree	Norwood
28	Robbie Burns Memorial	2 nd Degree	Germiston