



Greetings Brethren,

Summer is in the air at last! In order to make the Diary more meaningful, I have included the District Ceremonial Visits by an asterisk in the left hand column. Once again I ask all Lodge Secretaries to send in their Lodge workings, so that we can fill all the gaps.

I know that there are many Brethren out there that do Masonic research, so, please Brethren send in any and all your articles/lectures and points of Masonic interest for our Newsletter!

To print this document without colour, select 'File' then click 'Select all' then click on the 'colours' toolbar and click on 'automatic'.

To subscribe, or to unsubscribe, just send an e-mail to jrhoda@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!

Bro. Neville Boner PM, DGSw Br.

Nevilleb@ispr.co.za

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Haggis - the culinary wonder long associated with Scotland - made its first appearance in an old English cook book, a historian claims.

This has caused quite a stir on SkyNews and you may have seen it already. BUT it certainly gave me a good laugh as I like "English Haggis". I would recommend that with immediate effect Haggis be no longer served at Burns Suppers but rather on Kipling Nights instead. We can all sing Land of Hope and Glory while we cut open the English Haggis with Saxon broadsword! Hahahahaha

The first haggis recipe was 'published in an English book' Details of the recipe were discovered in a 1615 edition of recipe and lifestyle book The English Hus-Wife by Gervase Markham. The reference is dated some 130 years before the first known recorded mention of **Scottish** haggis in 1747. Food historian Catherine Brown said it indicated the dish was enjoyed south of the border long before it was popularised by the Scots.

Bro. Colin Browne RWM, Zion Lodge No.891

WHAT IS LIFE?

A Freemason's Guide to the Universe. (Part II)

Near Death Experiences (NDE).

What is a near death experience?

A near death experience is a profound psychological event that may occur to a person close to death or, if not close to death, then at least in a situation of physical or emotional crisis. Attempts to dismiss NDE as a figment of a fertile imagination have not been successful.

According to Dutch cardiologist Pim van Lommel, "Some people who have survived a life-threatening crisis report an extraordinary experience. Near-death experiences (NDE) occur with increasing frequency because of improved survival rates resulting from modern techniques of resuscitation." Research has revealed that the content of NDE and the effects on patients seem similar worldwide, cutting across all cultures and spanning across all times." The subjective nature and the absence of a frame of reference for this experience inevitably mean that individual, cultural, and religious factors will determine the kind of vocabulary that will be used to describe and interpret the near death experience. So, for instance, one cannot expect a Muslim to see visions of Jesus, but to a fundamentalist Christian such a vision is almost a certainty. And while for some this may indicate that NDE are nothing more than hypoxic hallucinations, the converse may in fact be true. It may just be that the code of conduct one follows in this, conscious existence will have a significant effect on what happens to us after death.

What makes an NDE particularly interesting is that people who have experienced one tend to describe it almost in an identical manner as other "experiencers" without being aware of the fact that other people have had similar experiences. Moreover, some of the accounts come from people in relatively undeveloped countries, which excludes the possibility of them having read or heard about NDE, and are consequently simply remembering thoughts and impressions that were lying dormant in the deep recesses of their minds.

So profound is the effect of an NDE on the individual that psychiatrists and psychologist have remarked on how it takes them years of therapy to effect one minor behavioural

change in a patient, but after an NDE the subject undergoes an intense and radical change in lifestyle, as well as a loss of a fear of death, which seems to last for the rest of his/her life.

Characteristically, a person having an NDE undergoes an out-of-body experience in which they frequently see themselves on an operating table with the surgeons, nurses, anaesthetist and technical staff in attendance. They also often see the kind of instruments being used or the procedures being carried out on them. More often than not the NDE is accompanied by pleasant feelings, seeing a tunnel, seeing a light, seeing deceased relatives, or having a brief but complete and clear life review.

Situations which bring about NDE include cardiac arrest or "flatlining" (clinical death), shock after loss of blood, traumatic brain injury, intra-cerebral or intra-cranial haemorrhage, near-drowning, and asphyxia (suffocating). But NDE also occur during serious diseases which are not immediately life-threatening. Similar experiences to near-death ones can occur during the terminal phase of illness, and are called deathbed visions. Additionally, identical experiences, the so-called "fear-death" experiences, are mainly reported after situations in which death seemed unavoidable like serious traffic or mountaineering accidents. Comatose patients reported after they regained consciousness, that they had experienced clear consciousness with memories, emotions, and perception out of and above their body during the period of their coma. According to van Lommel, this begs the question "How is consciousness related to the integrity of brain function?" "Is it possible to gain insight in this relationship?" he asks, and then goes on to say, "Consciousness presents temporal as well as everlasting experiences." Which brings us to another question, "Is there a beginning – and an end – to consciousness?" In other words, "Do we continue to exist in a non-material form after death?"

For further reading please see Pim van Lommel's excellent website at:

<http://www.towardthelight.org/neardeathstudies/pimvanlommelarticles.html>

and also. Van Lommel W, Van Wees R, Meyers V, Elfferich I. Near-death experience in survivors of cardiac arrest: a prospective study in the Netherlands. *Lancet* 2001;358:2039-2045

Other references

include:<http://profezie3m.altervista.org/archivio/TheLancetNDE.htm> and

http://www.iands.org/nde_index/ndes/what_is_an_nde.html

By Bro. Zak Theron WSW, Unity Lodge, 1006

POINTS TO PONDER

A SMILE

It cost nothing, but means so much.
It enriches those who receive it,
without impoverishing those that give it.
It happens in a flash,

but sometimes the memory last forever.

None are so rich that they can get on without it
And none so poor, but are the right for its benefits
It is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged
Sunshine to the sad and nature's best antidote
in times of trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, borrowed or stolen
For it is something that is no earthly use to anyone
unless given away

And if in the rush of business a man is too tired
to give you one

Then leave on of yours.

For no one needs a smile

so much as those who have none to give

THE WORKING TOOLS OF THE ELECTRONIC MASON

I now present to you The Working Tools of The Electronic Mason

These are The Mouse, The Keyboard, and The Modem

The Mouse is to move within the desktop,

The Keyboard to input the data,

and The Modem to publish the data into cyberspace.

But as we are not, however, here assembled as mere computer nerds, but rather as Free and Accepted, or Electronic Masons, we use these downloaded tools as vehicles of moral significance and to show us the true meaning of Electronic Masonry.

And thus -

The Mouse teaches us to keep within the bounds of the screen, the screen being a square wherein which we must all meet;

The Keyboard shows us that communication will lead us to a better understanding of each other and the rest of mankind;

And the Modem to teach us that even when we are alone on the most remote parts of the globe we may meet and gain moral sustenance from each other and thus learn more of the wonderful works of our Ancient and Honorable Fraternity.

So mouse't it be.

Grateful thanks to Bro Donald Macleod, PM, Lodge Fortrose No 108

POEM

A Mason's Wife

From active Masons, resolute,
Our wives and families we salute;
We surely know the price you pay,
Who sit alone while we're away;

No high degrees on you conferred,
In Lodge, your name is seldom heard;
You serve our cause though out of sight,
While sitting home alone tonight;
Masonic papers list our names,
Awards are given, fit to frame;
But yours is absent...you who strive,
To keep our fortitude alive;

You're part of every helpful deed,
On your encouragement we feed;
Without your blessings, how could we,
Continue acts of charity?

And so, this poem, we dedicate,
To every Master Mason's mate;
And offer our undying love,
Rewards await in Heaven above

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

"Don't let what you cannot do, interfere with what you can do!"- John Wooden.

Dignity consists not in possessing honors, but in the consciousness that we deserve them:
Aristotle

It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare: *Mark Twain*

There are no traffic jams along the extra mile.-
Roger Staubach

New International Version (NIV Bible)

The New International Version (NIV) is a translation made by more than one hundred scholars working from the best available Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts. It was conceived in 1965 when, after several years of study by committees from the Christian Reformed Church and the National Association of Evangelicals, a trans-denominational and international group of scholars met at Palos Heights, Illinois, and agreed on the need for a new translation in contemporary English. Their conclusion was endorsed by a large number of church leaders who met in Chicago in 1966. Responsibility for the version was delegated to a self-governing body of fifteen Biblical scholars, the Committee on Bible Translation, and in 1967, the New York Bible Society (now Biblica) generously undertook the financial sponsorship of the project. The translation of each book was assigned to a team of scholars, and the work was thoroughly reviewed and revised at various stages by three separate committees. The Committee submitted the developing version to stylistic consultants who made invaluable suggestions. Samples of

the translation were tested for clarity and ease of reading by various groups of people. In short, perhaps no other translation has been made by a more thorough process of review and revision.

The Committee held to certain goals for the NIV: that it be an Accurate, Beautiful, Clear, and Dignified translation suitable for public and private reading, teaching, preaching, memorizing, and liturgical use. The translators were united in their commitment to the authority and infallibility of the Bible as God's Word in written form. They agreed that faithful communication of the meaning of the original writers demands frequent modifications in sentence structure (resulting in a "thought-for-thought" translation) and constant regard for the contextual meanings of words. In 1973 the New Testament was published. The Committee carefully reviewed suggestions for revisions and adopted a number of them, which they incorporated into the first printing of the entire Bible in 1978. Additional changes were made in 1983.

See: <http://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-International-Version-NIV-Bible/>

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

Some interesting and unusual Masonic videos:-

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnZMBieoMPU>>
re: Freemason Lodge in Adelaide, Australia

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2oy0U2DMw4>>
with more of the same at
<<http://www.vidchili.com/author/dcsymbols/>>

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFPRUVsI0JY>>
entitled "Hiram Abif"

UNDERSTANDING OUR LAWS AND BYE-LAWS **Law 228-**

Communications for the Grand Master Mason or any Brother acting on his behalf, Grand Lodge or Grand Committee shall be addressed to Grand Secretary. Communications for a Provincial or District Grand Master, or any Brother acting on his behalf, a Provincial or District Grand Lodge or Grand Committee shall be addressed to the Provincial or District Grand Secretary. Communications to a Daughter Lodge shall be addressed to the Secretary.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE

**1a Minnar Street
Forest Hill, 2190
Johannesburg**

**P.O. Box 74208
Turffontein**

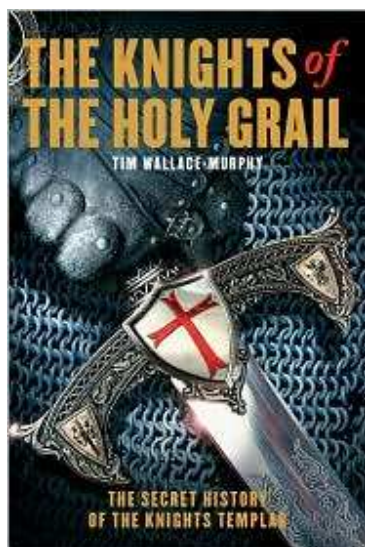
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BIBLIOPHILE- Book Review:



The Knights of the Holy Grail : the secret history of the Knights Templar / Tim Wallace-Murphy. – Watson, 2007. – ISBN 13: 9781905857333
Bro. Tim Wallace-Murphy is a Freemason and the BBC's resident expert on the Knights Templar. He is a very fine historian, and someone who is at least respectful of the esoteric tradition

within the Craft.

His writing style is easy on the mind, and he proceeds systematically through history without creating major logical gaps; unlike Knight and Lomas ... Another thing that makes this book an ideal addition to your library, is the fact that Bro. Tim colours in the broader historical background within which the well-known story of the Knights Templar was played out. Many niggling details in the history are thus cleared up.

I have just two reservations about the book (which most Brn. will find to be strengths):

- Only Bro. Tim and his co-authors as yet believe the “Rex Deus” idea; Google it and see – no-one else has bought into this concept. It's not even good Latin. That doesn't mean that certain influential Rabbinical families did **not** migrate to Europe and intermarry with local nobility, but the doctrine that they developed long-range plans to create the New Jerusalem by becoming a government within governments sounds too much like Icke-ism. My personal belief is that this idea is “not proven.”
- Bro. Tim has bought the Baigent, Leigh & Lincoln idea hook line and sinker. But I don't. The idea that the word *sangraal*, to initiate really should be *sang real* is highly problematic. The first time the word is used is in the title to Chretien de Troye's work. He clearly states *Le Conte du Graal*. Not *san graal/sang real*. The word grail comes from *gradalis* in Latin – of or appertaining to *gradus* – a step, or degree.

Also, Baigent Leigh and Lincoln ignore the entire context of the story in which the Grail appears: the proving by trial and

ordeal of the perfect Knight. There is nothing in the tales of the Holy Grail which points to a secret lineage other than the discovered pun *sangraal/sang real*.

Fanciful etymology and exegesis.

But the possibility that Jesus, like all good Rabbis, married and procreated is not necessarily impossible. To believe otherwise is to remain shackled to the idea that sex is sinful – even within the context of a marriage blessed by Spiritual Authority...

This book is one of the best I have read: simply and interestingly narrated, highly accessible and well-researched.

By Bro. D McClymont PM, Lodge Alberton No.1651



**Lodge Turffontein/Discoverers
Annual Charity Golf Challenge
Wednesday 23rd September 2009
Southdowns Golf Club.
BE THERE!!!**

PROTOCOLS AND POINTS OF ETIQUETTE

There are many protocols and points of etiquette associated with Freemasonry. Many of these may be described as common courtesies and should be regarded as such. A point in question arose fairly recently when several Brethren arrived late for an Installation meeting. The visiting Brethren were admitted on time as were the Deputations from the District Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge. The Right Worshipful Master had read his report and was well into the beginning of his duty of installing his successor. A report was taken from the Tyler intimating the arrival of the late Brethren, one of whom had been given the honour of fulfilling the duty of Installing Deacon. The Presiding Officer correctly informed the Tyler, via the Installing Junior Warden, that these Brethren would be admitted when the Entered Apprentices and Fellows of Craft departed the Temple as per the Ritual or when the Master Masons were to be re-admitted after the Board of Installed Masters had been closed. Apart from the fact that the ceremony would have been disrupted, had these Brethren been admitted at any other time, the protocol states that no one is admitted, out with the normal proceedings of the meeting, after the Presiding Officer and or the District Grand Master and or

the Grand Master Mason has entered the Temple. This is common courtesy and respect for the Office. The District Grand Director of Ceremonies has an extremely difficult duty to fulfill at an Installation meeting. He must of necessity draw a line as to time he needs to replace the scheduled Installing Office Bearer who, for whatever reason, has failed to report to him. This is usually done approximately ten minutes prior to the Deputation from the District Grand Lodge entering the Temple. Once the absent Installing Office Bearer has been replaced, the dye is cast and should the scheduled Brother appear at a later stage, he will be required to forego the honour afforded him. It must be stressed that this is not a “punishment for being late”, it is a practical solution to an ever increasing problem.

Communication and co-operation with the Presiding Officer and his Director of Ceremonies will pre-empt and obviate many of the issues which sometimes tend to detract from the Harmony of the evening. We must bear in mind that we all strive towards the same goal, Brotherly Love.

By Bro. R.G. Law RWDGM

ALMONER'S CORNER

We call on all Lodge Secretaries / Almoners or indeed any Brother to let us know what is happening in their area of the District. It is the aim of the District Grand Almoner's office to provide a forum for a Brother to submit his thoughts on a deceased Brother or his partner, and of course, his congratulations and / or greetings for happier events such as initiations, 2nd degrees and 3rd degrees.

As a Brotherhood, we would all appreciate the opportunity to be a part of and share and or offer support in these very important events in the lives of our Brethren.

Obituary Column

Our condolences go to the family, friends and Brethren of those mentioned below:

- Bro Ray Hewitt from Lodge Herodome passed away suddenly at the age of 57. Our condolences, prayers and thought go to his family. He hails from Belfast. He leaves behind Pam, his wife, Kelly, his daughter and his son Dean.
- Bro Peter Harmer, a widower, passed away at the age of 78. Our condolences and prayers go to his family.
- Condolences go to Bro Sven Smuts – Muller, whose mother passed away.

And so it has come to pass, a loved one, having completed all the design's laid down on the Trestleboard of Life, has answered the summons of the G.A.O.T.U. and has entered into the Grand Lodge above. They shall be missed.

Brethren and Families

Our thoughts and prayers go to:

- Bro Bernie Bortz, PDGM is currently in Millpark Hospital, after undergoing further tests. We wish him well and may he have a complete recovery.
- Bro Hienz Wirtz underwent surgery to remove a clot from his leg. The procedure was successful, and I'm happy to report that Bro Hienz is recovering well.
- Bro Morris Linton, PDGM and his wife are overseas at present. Bro Linton's good lady is undergoing treatment for a serious condition. Our wishes and prayers go to her for a speedy and lasting recovery.
- Bro Billy Moore, whose wife underwent successful surgery a few days ago. Our wishes and prayers go to her for a speedy and lasting recovery.
- Bro Ian Headland is currently in Union Hospital and is receiving treatment for surgery. He is in the Cardiac ICU of Union Hospital, Alberton.
- Bro Franco Fiaschi was held up at gunpoint at his offices on Thursday, 27th at 06:30. It is just another of several warnings to be vigilant.

Brethren, a 'phone call or any form of support to Brethren that are in distress or have suffered trauma, will, I'm sure be greatly appreciated.

Welcome and Congratulations go to the following Brethren:

- Bro David McGill, Lodge Far East Caledonian, Initiated in May
- Bro Johan van der Merwe, Losie Laeveld, Raised to the 3rd degree, in July
- Bro Tomas Duda, Lodge Peglarae, Passed to the 2nd degree, in July
- Bro Ross McAlister, Lodge Far East Caledonian, Raised to the 3rd degree, in August
- Bro Johann van Aardt Landsberg, Losie Laeveld, Initiated in August.
- Bro Stephen Baird, Lodge Herodome, Raised to the 3rd degree in August.
- Bro Kieran Harriman, Lodge Argyll, Raised to the 3rd degree in August

May you have many years amongst your Brethren. May the light of the G.A.O.T.U shine upon you always.

Almoner's Call Centre

When personal tragedy strikes, as it has done for many Brethren over the years, please call the Almoner's Call Centre at the District Grand Office, and one of the below mentioned Almoners will either contact you directly or ensure that someone with knowledge of that particular tragedy or trauma will contact the Brother concerned. It is entirely contrary to a Freemasons creed that a fellow Brother or their connections must suffer in isolation. To this end we ask that you contact the District Grand Lodge and volunteer your assistance, or if you know of a Brother who may benefit from a kind word and support.

In conclusion, please submit your message, whatever it is, to the District Grand Lodge to the contact numbers / address mentioned below:

Email: john.f@districtgrandlodge.co.za

Tel: 011 683 8314 **Fax:** 011683 3072

District Grand Almoners in your area:

Bro Roger Edmed	082 760 1513	Gauteng
Bro Mike Ioannou	082 466 6035	Gauteng
Bro Brian Prinsloo	072 277 7459	Gauteng
Bro Rubin Sosa	082 549 3554	Gauteng
Bro Vic Allen	082 827 9285	Free State
Bro Eduard Mellaart	083 560 6033	Mpumalanga

MASONIC DIARY

SEPTEMBER 2009			
*	1	Jakaranda	1st Degree The Willows
*	1	Golden Light	Potchefstroom
*	2	Turffontein	Rewlatch
*	2	Cosmos	Witbank
	2	Eenheid	Boksburg
	3	Caledonian	South
	3	Athol	Lecture Boksburg
	3	Balmoral	Discussion Olifantsfontein
	3	Randfontein	Randfontein
	4	Scotia	3rd Degree Orange Grove
	5	Welkom-Rendezvous	Installation Bothaville
	5	Nelspruit United	Installation Nelspruit
*	8	Nigel	Nigel
	8	King Solomon	Lecture Germiston
	8	Heredom	3rd Degree Boksburg
	9	Douglas	3rd Degree North
	9	Benoni Kilwinning	Germiston
	9	N W Bedford	Lecture Boksburg
	9	N W Bedford	Lecture Orange Grove
	9	Piet Retief	1st degree Vereeniging
	9	Alpha Crucis	Rewlatch
	10	Roodepoort Caledon	Roodepoort
	10	Kempton	Kempton Park
	10	Brakpan	Brakpan
	10	Golden Thistle	Installation Park Lane
	11	Alba Gu Brath	Sinai
	11	Northern Province	Lecture Orange Grove
	12	St. John in the South	Installation Barbeton
*	12	Lime Acres	Lime Acres
	14	Sound Memory	3rd Degree Orange Grove
	14	Alberton	Germiston
	14	Border	Vereeniging
	14	Discoverers	Lecture Roodepoort

15	Thistle		Bloemfontein
15	St Andrew	Installation	Kensington
15	Cairngorm Republic	Recess	Orange Grove
15	King Solomon		Germiston
15	Kempton		Kempton Park
16	Gordon	Lecture	Rewlatch
16	Caxton	1st degree	Orange Grove
17	Far East Caledonians	1st Degree	Springs
17	Unity		Pretoria
17	Pythagoras		Park Lane
18	Tvl Volunteer	1st Degree	Park Lane
19	Laeveld		Nelspruit
21	Zion		Orange Grove
21	Liberty	Lecture	The Willows
21	Florida	1st degree	Roodepoort
22	Middelburg United		Middleburg
23	Argyll	Lecture	Roodepoort
23	Orpheus	Lecture	The Willows
23	Oranje	Lecture	Bloemfontein
23	Somah Herber	1st degree	Park Lane
24	Brixton	3rd Degree	Norwood
24	Glen Douglas	1st Degree	Rewlatch
24	Sabie		Nelspruit
24	East Rand Scots		Boksburg
25	Robbie Burns Mem		North
25	Robbie Burns Mem		Germiston
26	Blyde	2nd Degree	Pilgrims Rest
26	Pegrae	Installation	Rustenburg
28	Pretoria Celtic	1st degree	Olifantsfontein
*	Braemar		Rewlatch
*	The Century L of Research	Lecture	Orange Grove

Note: * denotes District Ceremonial Visit

