



DGL NEWS

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE of CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA

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and there are over 1000 books written about our Robert. There have been countless 'Immortal Memories' delivered at Burns Suppers since the first celebration in 1801 at the family home in Alloway. The debate rages about the type of person he was. Was he a whisky swilling womaniser? A romantic poet? A political radical? Or a ploughman poet? In truth probably all of the above and much more. Whatever your preferred personality, Burns is rooted in the heart and soul of Scotland and is a cultural icon around the world.

Jean Armour, Mrs Robert Burns (1765-1834)
Jean Armour's story began in the little village of Mauchline in Ayrshire where she was born on 25th February 1765, being the second oldest child in a family of eleven!! Who would have thought that Jean's first encounter with Robert Burns, way back in 1784 on her drying green in Mauchline would later lead to her worldwide recognition! Life in the eighteenth century was tough for Robert and Jean and despite Robert's many wanderings, Jean's love for her husband never waivered. As well as bringing up their own children, Jean brought up Robert's illegitimate daughter as one of her own. After Robert's passing, Jean was to become as well-known as the man himself, something which she never sought. She was well respected in the market town of Dumfries where she spent the 38 years of her widowed life until she passed away on 26th March 1834. An excellent read is the book entitled Jean Armour, My Life and Times with Robert Burns, edited by Peter J Westwood and presented as if written by Bonnie Jean herself.

Burns Night
Each year on January 25th, Scots everywhere take time out to honour a national icon.

Whether it's a full-blown Burns Supper or a quiet drink with friends, Burns Night is a night for all Scots but how did it all begin?

On 21st July 1796 Scotland mourned the loss of its beloved Ploughman Poet. Five years after his untimely death at the age of 37 a group of his friends and followers in Greenock set up the first Burns

Club, known today as the 'Mother Club', to celebrate the Bard's Life & Works. The first Burns celebration was held on the 5th anniversary of his death in 1801 in the house where he was born in Alloway.

Following this tribute to Burns it was then decided to move the event to the anniversary of his birth. The following year the



FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings Brethren,
Compliments of the Season to one and all! I can't believe how quickly the new year has once again reared its head. Traditionally January is dedicated to the Bard, Robbie Burns, so I hope you enjoy what we have to offer.

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

Bro. Neville Boner PM, Lodge Sound Memory No. 1655

SC - Nevilleb@ispr.co.za

ROBERT BURNS- 25th January 1759 - 21st July 1817

About the Bard

Robert Burns, Scotland's greatest poet, was born on Thursday, 25th January 1759 in a two roomed thatched cottage in Alloway, near Ayr where his father, William Burnes, ran a small market garden. Burnes senior came from the north-east of Scotland descending from a line of poor farmers. Robert was to drop the 'e' from the name and become Burns.

Googling 'Robert Burns' gave us more than 1,800,000 results

first Burns Supper was held on 29th January, becoming the first Burns Night and Burns Supper. However, in 1803, a search of the Ayr parish records confirmed the bard's birth date to be 25th January 1759.

<http://www.worldwidetoasttorobertburns.com/content/blogcategory/22/88/>

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

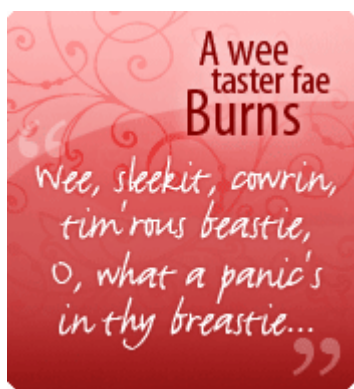
http://www.worldwidetoasttorobertburns.com/component/option,com_frontpage/Itemid,1/ - A Robert Burns memorial site

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> - one of the largest online sources of original [genealogical information](#).

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/help/index.aspx?r=546&453> - other famous Scots

<http://masonic-poets-society.com/index.html> - for all aspiring masonic poets

<http://burns.visitscotland.com/> - official Robert Burns site-Scottis National Tourism Organisation



A Grace Before Dinner

O thou who kindly dost provide
For every creature's want!
We bless Thee, God of Nature wide,
For all Thy goodness lent:
And if it please Thee, Heavenly Guide,
May never worse be sent;
But, whether granted, [or](#) denied,
Lord, bless us with content. Amen!

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

"Any fool can make a rule, and any fool will mind it."-- Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

"Liberty is to the collective body, what health is to every individual body. Without health no pleasure can be tasted by man; without liberty, no happiness can be enjoyed by society." - Thomas Jefferson

If a man insisted always on being serious, and never allowed himself a bit of fun and relaxation, he would go mad or become unstable without knowing it.- Herodotus (484 BC - 430 BC)

"Real worth requires no interpreter: its everyday deeds form its emblem." Sebastien-Roch Nicolas De Chamfort

NEWS FROM ABROAD

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1337976/Real-life-Da-Vinci-Code-Tiny-numbers-letters-discovered-Mona-Lisa.html>

THE REAL-LIFE DA VINCI CODE: Historians discover tiny numbers and letters in the eyes of the Mona Lisa

By [Nick Pisa](#) and [Luke Salkeld](#)

Last updated at 7:42 AM on 13th December 2010

Intrigue is usually focused on her enigmatic smile. But the Mona Lisa was at the centre of a new mystery yesterday after art detectives took a fresh look at the masterpiece – and noticed something in her eyes. Hidden in the dark paint of her pupils are tiny letters and numbers, placed there by the artist Leonardo da Vinci and revealed only now thanks to high-magnification techniques.



Under the microscope: Historians in Italy have discovered that by magnifying the eyes of the Mona Lisa painting tiny numbers and letters can be seen. Experts say the barely distinguishable letters and numbers represent something of a real-life Da Vinci code. The revelation could have come straight from the pages of Dan Brown's best-seller *The Da Vinci Code*, in which the Mona Lisa is said to contain hidden clues about the Holy Grail.

Silvano Vinceti, president of Italy's National Committee for Cultural Heritage, which spotted the symbols, said: 'To the naked eye the symbols are not visible but with a magnifying glass they can clearly be seen.'

Genius: Historians believe that Da Vinci's love of riddles led him to paint himself as a woman - with some believing the Mona Lisa is a self-portrait

'In the right eye appear to be the letters LV which could well stand for his name, Leonardo da Vinci, while in the left eye there are also symbols but they are not as defined.'

'It is very difficult to make them out clearly but they appear to be the letters CE, or it could be the letter B.'

'In the arch of the bridge in the background the number 72 can be seen or it could be an L and the number 2.'

'You have to remember the picture is almost 500 years old so it is not as sharp and clear as when first painted.'

'From the preliminary investigations we have carried out we are confident they are not a mistake and were put there by the artist.'

Mystery: The codes and riddles that the artist hid in his work were illustrated in the Dan Brown book and 2006 film 'The Da Vinci Code'

The search was initiated by another Dan Brown-style plot device after a fellow committee member discovered a musty book in an antique shop referring to symbols in the Mona Lisa's eyes.

Mr Vinceti added: 'Da Vinci put a special emphasis on the Mona Lisa and we know that in the last years of his life he took the painting with him everywhere.

'We also know that Da Vinci was very esoteric and used symbols in his work to give out messages.

'Who knows, they may even possibly be a love message to the figure in the painting.'

Mr Vinceti is a member of a group which is seeking permission to exhume da Vinci's remains from his tomb at Amboise Castle in France's Loire Valley. They want to see if the artist's skull is there so that they can try and recreate his face and establish if the Mona Lisa – owned by the French government and on display in The Louvre – is in fact a twist on a self-portrait of the artist as some believe.

WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

By Grant Devine, PM, Lodge Sound Memory No. 1655 SC, Kilarney Lodge No. 858 IC

As Masons, we have had the honour and privilege of knowing so many great men, who have passed on to the Grand Lodge Above.

Over time our memories of them does dim, and in some cases fades almost completely. These are men who have shaped Masonry, and have kept the craft alive for all of us to enjoy. Too often, we attend a funeral service, or a memorial service for a man who was our Brother, and all too soon we do it again for another Brother and in time, good brethren are forgotten.

I have always wanted to see a permanent reminder of those who have gone before us.

While we are looking at a new centre for our District, this would be a perfect opportunity for us to establish a WALL OF REMEMBRANCE for all who have passed on.

I do realise that a plaque on a wall does not bring a Brother back, or imprint him in our memories, but it is a good way to mark the fact that he was here, and for his family to know that a part of him lives on.

POINTS TO PONDER

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust
If you plant goodness, you will reap friends
If you plant humility, you will reap greatness
If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment
If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective
If you plant hard work, you will reap success
If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation
So, be careful what you plant now; it will determine what you will reap later.
"Whatever You Give To Life, Life Gives You Back"

A DAILY SURVIVAL KIT FOR FREEMASONS

by Bro. Dennis A. Coltart, PM.

Today, I will contemplate my presence here on earth and that my Creator has a purpose for my existence which may

or may not always be clear to me, but will live by his Commandments in order that I might not spot or stain the character which has become me.

Today, I will strive to be a good citizen in the eyes of my neighbor, my community, the state and my country. I will revere my country's banner, honor its Constitution and laws, be grateful for the freedoms I enjoy and bear in mind that the right to those freedoms has cost in lives throughout the ages.

Today, I will remind myself that I am a Master Mason and that I have knelt at the altar and have taken an obligation upon myself and in the presence of those, my brethren, with my hands, my heart and my mind focused upon the Holy Bible, Square and Compass and to live and act in accordance with their moral and symbolic teachings.

Today, I will extend my hand to a worthy brother in distress, and to all persons knowing them to be one of God's children who is in need or suffering, and will require of them only the reassurance that they would act and perform the same should they find another in like situation as they themselves are and requiring no more or less of them.

Today, I will be more tolerant and cordial of those around me, and will abstain from being judgmental of those who are less fortunate than myself, but will encourage them to stand erect, to count their blessings and to make the best of the life which God has so graciously given them.

Today, I will speak only positively about my fellow man and will cast away all criticism, animosity and jealousy that may offend, humiliate or otherwise degrade another's name, their heritage or their religion, keeping in mind that we are all made in the image of the Grand Architect of the Universe and through him we are all related.

Today, I will do whatever is required of me to perpetuate the existence of Freemasonry by being mindful of those who have not found it in themselves to seek more "light" about our gentle craft, its beginnings, its tenets, and its teachings. To offer up information to those who demonstrate a genuine interest and, who in my mind, are worthy to receive that "light".

Today, I will spend quality time with my family and provide for their happiness and welfare so that together we may support one another physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Today, I will pray to my God according to the dictates and customs of my chosen religion.

Today, I will support Freemasonry by attending a Symbolic Lodge and will endeavor to be an active, enthusiastic, and supportive member of the world's largest and oldest "Brotherhood of Man."

"LET THERE BE LIGHT"

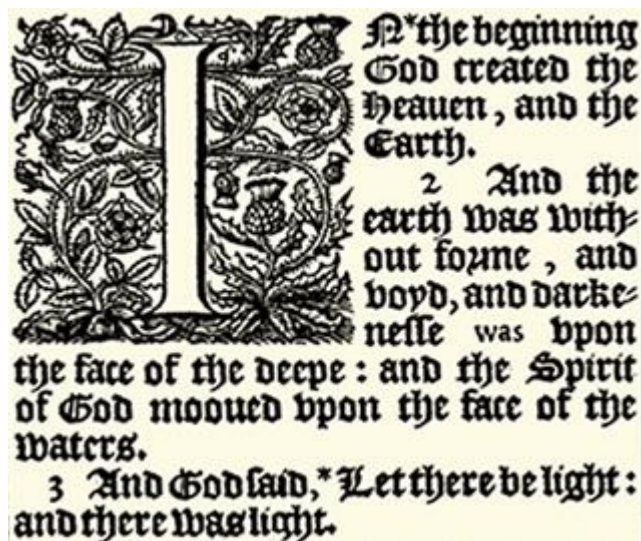
This week is the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the publication of the [King James Version of the Bible](#) (or Authorized Version). The KJV is a strong contender for the accolade of 'the book that has had more influence on the development of English than any other'. Many phrases that are now common currency in the language appeared first in the King James Bible. Likewise, a varied collection of everyday words also first saw the printer's ink in the work; for example, 'accurately', 'battering-ram', 'expansion', 'gopher', 'ingenuously', 'needleworker', 'phrasing', and so on...

The text of the KJV has been used in numerous important works; from the libretto of the best known of all choral oratorios, Handel's *Messiah*, 1741, which is taken almost verbatim from the Authorized Version, to Martin Luther King's *I have a dream* speech, which he delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in

Washington in 1963 and in which he quoted directly from the KJV, *Isaiah 40:4*:

"[I have a dream that one day] *every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.*"

However, the influential power of the book isn't based on the number of phrases and words that were coined for it; earlier versions of the Bible and luminaries like Shakespeare can claim many more. Its impact came because it brought clearly expressed, accessible and poetically beautiful English to the populace for the first time. The KJV was written to be spoken and, as James I's authorization states, it was 'appointed to be read in Churches'. Church services in England at that date consisted largely of readings from the Bible. By providing short verses in the plain colloquial English that the illiterate congregation could understand and remember, the verses became cemented into the spoken language. No verse exemplifies this power and simplicity better than one from the very beginning of the book "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light". This is one of the best-known phrases in English. It is a translation of the Latin 'dixitque Deus fiat lux et facta est lux' (which hardly trips off the tongue) and appears in the opening lines of the Bible, in Genesis 1. The English translation was first printed in *Miles Coverdale's Bible*, 1535, but the version of it that was known by every English speaker from the 17th century onward was that of the [King James Version](#), 1611:



In the beginning God created the Heauen, and the Earth. And the earth was without forme, and voyd, and darkenesse was vpon the face of the deepe: and the Spirit of God mooued vpon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

From the Blogs:

CELTIC "AMAZING GRACE"

Everyone should thoroughly appreciate and absolutely enjoy this...

A Celtic (pronounced Keltic) Amazing Grace - from the André Rieu orchestra (about three minutes in length - and you will wish it were way longer!) it begins with the leading notes being played on a pennywhistle (an instrument which comes to us from Ireland)

...then, the lead is taken over by a single bagpiper...

...thereafter followed by an entire array of bagpipers!

I'm hoping you have external speakers and that you'll really crank them up for this be blessed as you watch and listen click link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TY8J35OXVxg&feature=related>

DGL INFO:

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE of CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA

1a Minnar Street P.O. Box 74208
Forest Hill, 2190 Turffontein
Johannesburg
South Africa 2140
E-mail: john.f@districtgrandlodge.co.za
Tel: 011-6838314/8380 Fax: 011-6833072

District Grand Lodge: www.dgl-sa.com

District Grand R A Chapter: www.dgrac-sa.com

POEM

"A LETTER FROM A MASON'S WIFE"

How many wives of Masons....

Have given very much thought,
To the wonderful Biblical lessons
That Masonry has taught?
Have you asked yourself this question?
When you sit alone at night?
While hubby is away at Lodge,
"Is my reasoning wrong or right?"
The nights are lonely and long, I know,
But then this thought occurred to me,
"If my husband wasn't a Mason,
What kind of man would he be?"
They call us "Masonic Widows,"
I've been one for many a year,
I have spoken my piece on lonely nights
And I even berated my hubby dear.
Later, I regretted speaking those words
And with compassion tried to see,
"If my husband wasn't a Mason,
What kind of man would he be?"
I attempt to be a patient wife,
And while alone I meditate,
I try to see *his* point of view,
It's only fair; after all, he *is* my mate.
I always knew what the situation was
It's really nothing new,
So why complain after all these years,
I'm sure I speak for each of you.
Many say that men make Masonry
And this I understand.
But deep in my heart I am still convinced,
It's Masonry that makes the man.
As we journey along life's highway together,
Finding the inner most dreams of life,
I pray that Masonic ideals keep him the way he is,
Yours truly, a Masons wife.

DGL VISIT TO GRAND LODGE

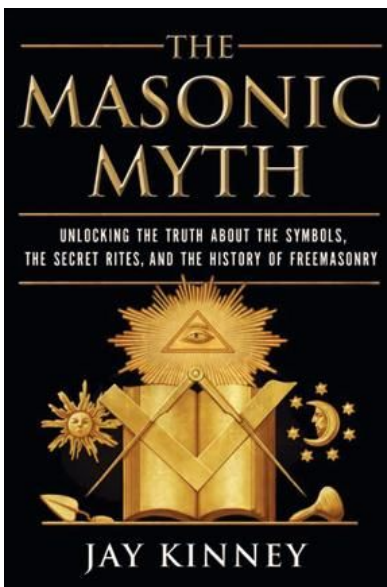


BIBLIOPHILE:

The Masonic Myth: Unlocking the Truth About the Symbols, the Secret Rites, and the History of Freemasonry by Jay Kinney

Review By Bro. Wesley Almeida.
Unity Lodge 606, Toronto Humber Valley District,
Dufferin Lodge 291, Hamilton District C, Ontario,
Canada,

I recently had the privilege of receiving a copy of The Masonic Myth by Jay Kinney, a book about the history of Freemasonry and its symbols and rites. Almost refreshing to notice is that the author, Jay Kinney, is a Freemason and a



member of a regular lodge, unlike many authors on the topic lately. The book is just about 250 pages and gives an educated breakdown of Freemasonry: its history from the time of operative masons to the detailed history of the spreading of Freemasonry in North America and Europe, its structure and hierarchy, its appendant bodies and rites, and its symbolism and explanations. Conveniently, a few

days after receiving a copy of The Masonic Myth I found myself using it as reference to have a clear 'map' of the chairs within the lodge, while out one night with some brothers from lodge, then later again a few days later when I was looking for information about the Scottish and York Rites' degrees. While absolutely interesting and easy to read from a non-mason's footings, I found this book to be more

than helpful as an active member of a lodge. While dispelling common rumours and conspiracy theories about the Fraternity, Jay Kinney later comments on the future of Freemasonry regarding demographics and dwindling memberships, bringing focus to other fraternal orders which both rose and fell in the 19th century. Sure, you may be able to strike up a conversation about lower memberships numbers with just about any Mason, but Kinney makes interesting notes on the sudden (massive) expansion of communication with brethren from across the world using various methods online including e-mail lists, message board forums, and [chat rooms](#).

I must state again that this book was thoroughly researched, and shows no signs being thrown together to appease the masses (*cough*Dan Brown*cough*). Different than fictional books using the history of Freemasonry as an engine, Jay Kinney drives excitement just the same- more than just "based" on a true story in The Masonic Myth. I have the paperback version, but I'll likely pick up the hard cover just so I have a copy to lend out, and one to store on the shelf in my collection. It's great for reference and the easy-to-read and often humorous lines (like the pop culture reference to The Simpsons in the first chapter) makes this a great choice for some Masonic reading before bed.

“SLAINTE MHATH”