



# THE NORTHERN LIGHT

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A WINDOW FOR FREEMASONRY

Brother  
Amadeus



## Kindness Begets Kindness



Robert O. Ralston, 33°  
Sovereign Grand  
Commander

"The tragic  
events of  
Sept. 11  
showed us  
that we can  
be polite."

How quickly we forget. It seems like only yesterday that our nation was shocked with disbelief when terrorist attacks caused such vicious destruction within our borders. Although there was fear in our hearts that another attack could happen, Americans united in a spirit that brought the nation together. We proved to ourselves that we have a common thread and that we can meet on a common ground. We felt the need to share our thoughts with our neighbor seeking comfort.

For awhile people seemed to be more cautious, but they also tended to show more respect. It was as though the entire country had become one fraternal brotherhood.

And yet a survey conducted by Public Agenda less than four months after that eventful day shows that we have reverted to our old ways of rude behavior. The study, "Aggravating Circumstances: A Status Report on Rudeness in America," was funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts. The report examines the behavioral attitudes of Americans. Of those interviewed, 74 percent thought that people were more caring and thoughtful toward one another as a result of the terrorist attacks. When that group was asked how long it would last, 46 percent insisted it would be only a few months, and 18 percent felt it was already over.

Some 88 percent considered lack of respect and courtesy to be a serious problem, yet 41 percent indicated that they are part of the problem.

When asked why people are so rude, here are the ways they responded:

- Too many parents are failing to teach respect to their kids. (84 percent).

- Values and morality are in decline in our society. (62 percent).

- Too many negative role models in society teach kids to be disrespectful. (60 percent).

- There is a declining sense of community. It's easier to be impolite and disrespectful when people don't know each other. (47 percent).

- Rude behavior is so common that people stop being nice and act like everyone else. (41 percent).

These are disturbing facts. If the trend continues, rudeness will be so commonplace that we will no longer trust anyone. Freemasons are not the force that they once were. Yet we must do our part—even if it is only a small part—to turn the tide.

If we accept politeness as a way of life, perhaps it will rub off on others. We know that when we are polite to someone and offer them a courtesy, it makes us feel good. We feel a sense of accomplishment. We can only hope that the recipient will pass on that courtesy to another. Kindness begets kindness. And eventually that minor act of kindness will be magnified many times over.

The tragic events of Sept. 11 showed us that we can be polite. The tough assignment will be to maintain that politeness.

Sovereign Grand Commander





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Robert O. Ralston, 33°

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# Mozart's Masonic Music

*The key of E-flat became the hallmark  
of the maestro's Masonic work*

*"Strength has prevailed  
And in triumph  
Crowns Beauty and Wisdom  
With an eternal crown!"*

**T**he *Magic Flute* concludes with a joyful allegro chorus, celebrating the Masonic virtues of Strength, Beauty and Wisdom. Mozart's opera has been recognized as the most outstanding tribute ever offered to Freemasonry in the form of musical art.

To Freemasons, at least, the Masonic inspiration, theme, and symbolism of *The Magic Flute* are or should be readily discernible. Unfortunately, the opera's Masonic associations also have been recognized by the most malevolent enemies of the craft, including Nazis and more contemporary critics, who have concocted the vicious and baseless fiction that Mozart's revelation of Masonic secrets in *The Magic Flute* brought about his murder by poison at the hands of his vengeful fellow Masons.

What is perhaps not so well known to Mason and nonmason, friend and foe alike, is the fact that *The Magic Flute* is not unique among Mozart's creations in having a Masonic purpose or character.

Masonic music in a range of variety and complexity spans virtually the entire career of the prodigious and prolific maestro. These compositions can be classified into three general types:



BY GERRIT GREVE/CORBIS

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

- (1) functional music, intended for use in Masonic ceremonies;
- (2) music based on Masonic themes;
- (3) music appropriate for Masonic use, although not originally intended for that purpose.

Masonic music is almost as old as the fraternity itself. It may be traced as far back as the 1720s.

Sharing the fraternity's English origins, early Masonic compositions included music familiar today as the national anthems of Great Britain and the United States. In 1746, a book of Masonic songs, *Freimaurer Lieder*, was published in Germany. At the same period a *March of the Grand Lodge of Masonry* appeared in France. In 1781, Johann Naumann produced *Osiris*, an opera with a Masonic theme, thereby anticipating *The Magic Flute* by 10 years.

These are but a few examples from a lengthy catalog.

By the time Mozart arrived on the scene, music had become a common, if not essential, feature of Masonic ceremonies. Just like uniform dress and ritualistic words and forms, music served the purpose of uplifting the member out of daily routine to a more sublime state of mind and unity with his Masonic brothers.

Although it was customary, and perhaps preferable, for Masonic music to be composed and performed by fellow Masons, it was not at all unusual for works of nonmasons to be adapted for Masonic purposes, or even for nonmasons to receive commissions to write Masonic music. This was the case with Mozart.

As early as 1772, at age 16, Mozart wrote a song for voice and piano, *Heiliges Band der Freundschaft* (*Sacred Tie of Friendship*), K. 148 (Mozart's works are catalogued chronologically and identified by "K" or Kochel number.)

Whatever the origin of the text, it easily lent itself to Masonic use and soon found its way into Masonic lodges. Of course, a tenor voice was substituted for the soprano as Mozart had written it.

Only a year later, in 1773, Mozart accepted a commission from Tobias von Gebler to provide music for Gebler's Masonic drama *Thamos, King of Egypt*. Gebler had sought unsuccessfully to engage fellow Masons for the task, including Christoph von Gluck, before turning to the youthful musician. Mozart undertook the assignment, providing the *Symphony in E-flat Major*, K. 184, as an overture. The key of E-flat was to become a hallmark of Mozart's Masonic music, predominating in *The Magic Flute*. Perhaps it was because this key of three flats lent it-



Ill. C. DeForrest Trexler, 33°, is Scottish Rite Deputy for Pennsylvania and Grand Treasurer General of the Supreme Council.





A concert at Mozart's home is featured in this woodcut print, ca. 1880.

self to Masonic symbolism.

Six years later Mozart returned to *Thamos*. As revised and ultimately completed, Mozart's incidental music for *Thamos*, K. 345, included three choruses and five instrumental interludes, in addition to the original overture.

In 1783, probably of commission by Masonic lodges, Mozart composed two companion instrumental works intended for lodge processions: *Adagio for Two Bassett Horns and Bassoon*, K. 410, and *Adagio for Two Clarinets and Three Bassett Horns*, K. 411.

Because the second composition features a recurring theme of three strikes, it has been argued that it could not have been written until after Mozart became a Mason.

Of course, there is no reason why Mozart the nonmason could not have been aware of the importance of the number three in Masonic ritual without being familiar with its symbolic meaning.

A more significant composition followed in the same year, probably also the product of a Masonic commission. The stirring cantata *Dir, Seele des Weltalls* (*To You, Soul of the Universe*), K. 429, was written for a male chorus with orchestral accompaniment. The cantata is reminiscent of Mozart's *Thamos* chorales and includes a three-strike theme.

As a resident of Vienna, Mozart increasingly moved in Masonic circles, both socially and professionally. From these associations, as well as from the increasing frequency of his being

called upon to write Masonic music, Mozart doubtlessly came to recognize his affinity for the aims professed by Freemasonry. In due course, he expressed interest in becoming a member of the fraternity.

The Masonic life of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart began on Dec. 14, 1784, when, at the age of 28, he was initiated an Apprentice in Lodge *Wohltätigkeit* (Benevolence) in Vienna. His sponsor was the Venerable (Worshipful) Master of the lodge, Otto von Gemmingen, a dramatist with whom Mozart had been acquainted and collaborated several years before his arrival in Vienna. Passed to the Degree of Journeyman, or Fellowcraft, in March, 1785, Mozart was raised to the Degree of Master Mason on April 22, 1785.

In the meantime, he had persuaded his father, Leopold, to join him as a member of the craft. A resident of Salzburg, Leopold visited his son in Vienna and, apparently by dispensation, received all three degrees within only three weeks, being raised a Master Mason on April 22, 1785, at the same lodge meeting as the younger Mozart.

At the time there were eight Masonic lodges, with approximately 1,000 members, meeting in Vienna. At the end of 1785, however, the eight lodges were consolidated to form three new lodges. In this process, Mozart's mother lodge, Benevolence, merged with Lodge *Gekronte Hoffnung* (Crowned Hope) to become Lodge *Neugekronte*

*Hoffnung* (Newly Crowned Hope). Venerable Master of the new lodge was Tobias von Gebler, who, 13 years earlier, had involved Mozart in the *Thamos* project and no doubt had stimulated his interest in Freemasonry.

Mozart's Masonic activity is reasonably well documented, showing him to be in frequent attendance at meetings of his own and sister lodges in Vienna. His initiation into the fraternity also brought a virtual explosion of Masonic musical compositions and concert performances.

A manuscript dated March 26, 1785, shortly after Mozart himself was passed to the Fellowcraft Degree, is titled *Gesellenreise* (*Fellowcraft's Journey*), K. 468. It is a simple song for tenor and organ, welcoming the new Fellowcraft Mason upon his advancement.

Within a month, on April 20, 1785, only days before his elevation to Master Mason, Mozart composed the *Kantate Maurerfreude* (*Mason's Joy Cantata*), K. 471. Written in the symbolic key of E-flat for tenor, chorus, and orchestra, it was performed just four days later in the Lodge *Crowned Hope* on an occasion honoring the lodge's Venerable Master, Ignaz von Born.

Born was a distinguished metallurgist and scientist, as well as one of the most prominent Viennese Masons of Mozart's day. He would again be honored by Mozart, posthumously, as the model for a leading character in *The Magic Flute*.

*Maurerfreude* achieved immediate fame beyond the Masonic lodge and



► Vienna. The score was published with an engraved frontispiece, depicting the Temple of Humanity, as well as the honoree, and offered for sale throughout Germany. Proceeds were designated "for the benefit of the poor."

According to surviving documents, *Maurerfreude* again was featured in a concert given in Crowned Hope Lodge in December 1785. The concert program also included Mozart's performance of an unnamed piano concerto, perhaps the premiere of *Piano Concerto in E-flat Major*, K. 482, the symbolic Masonic key.

During a visit to Prague more than a year later, in January 1787, members of Lodge Wahrheit und Einigkeit (Truth and Unity) rose to their feet and broke into the strains of *Maurerfreude* as Mozart entered the lodge room. Mozart used the *Maurerfreude* theme again in his *Horn Concerto No. 4 in E-flat Major*, K. 495.

Even more famous than *Maurerfreude* was the *Masonic Funeral Music*, K. 477, composed for a lodge of mourning held in November 1785, to memorialize two deceased Masonic members of the nobility. Somber to a degree uncharacteristic of Mozart's work, the *Funeral Music* evokes human struggle succumbing to the inevitability of death. Familiar to the general public, *Masonic Funeral Music* can be found today in orchestral repertoires.

In December 1785, for the occasion of the formation of the new Lodge Newly Crowned Hope, Mozart pro-

duced two songs to be performed by solo voice and piano at the opening, K. 483, and closing, K. 484, of a Masonic lodge.

In the summer of 1791, even though he was preoccupied with *The Magic Flute*, Mozart found time to compose another cantata - *Die ihr des Unermesslichen Wetalls Schopfer Ehrt (You Honor the Creator of the Boundless Universe)*, K. 619. The cantata consists primarily of five brief vocal solos with piano.

There is no record of its purpose, but it seems likely to have been intended for use in a Masonic lodge.

In November of 1791, after completing *The Magic Flute*, and only three weeks before his death, Mozart produced the *Kleine Freimaurer Kantate (Little Masonic Cantata)*, K. 623. Its purpose was the dedication of the temple of Lodge Newly Crowned Hope. Written for two tenors, chorus, and orchestra, the text, "Loudly Proclaim our Joy," was the work of Emanuel Schikaneder, librettist of *The Magic Flute*. The Masonic message of the cantata is unmistakable, containing a succinct, but nonetheless, moving explanation of Masonic purpose and philosophy.

"We consecrate ourselves to the sanctity of our labor,

Which is to discover for ourselves the great mysterious truth...

Where every brother's heart speaks Of what he was and what he is,

And what, by his endeavors, can become.

He learns by example, shielded and nurtured

By brotherly love."

There are two further works of Mozart which this writer believes deserving of mention, although they cannot be directly related to Freemasonry. They are Masonic mood music, if you will.

The first is *Symphony No. 39*, K. 543, written in 1788, of course in the Masonic key, E-flat. The second is the *Clarinet Concerto*, K. 622. Written late in 1791, just as the premiere performances of *The Magic Flute* were being staged, it expresses a nobility of spirit which is one with that of the Masonic opera.

It remains to be asked, how and why all of this was possible for a man who was a Roman Catholic living in that time and place?

The succession of condemnations issued against Freemasonry by the Church of Rome, beginning in 1738, threatened recalcitrance with excommunication, disenfranchisement, forfeiture, and worse.

In the case of Mozart, the "how?" is explained by the failure of civil authorities to promulgate the Papal condemnation. This failure was primarily due to the influence of prominent individuals, including Emperors Francis I and Joseph II, who either were members or were sympathetic with Freemasonry.

Thus, Freemasonry could be practiced openly, without disability — a lesson to Masonic purists that well-placed members can be of service to the fraternity without entering the lodge room.

In matters of faith, Mozart was a life-long communicant in a church which viewed the beliefs and practices of Freemasonry as incompatible with Christianity. One may speculate as to the depth of Mozart's devoutness, but the fact remains that he never succumbed to the intellectual lure of deism, as did many other men of the Enlightenment, especially Freemasons.

The "why?" is explained by the fact that Mozart, unlike many of his contemporaries and ours, saw no conflict between the two spheres of Church and Freemasonry. Indeed, he saw them as complementary — on the one hand, the promise of personal redemption and salvation, and on the other, a humanitarian mission. ❀

**Ages of salutes to the genius of our Masonic brother, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, have produced no finer eulogy than that given at his passing by the brothers of his own lodge, Newly Crowned Hope.**

"It has pleased the Eternal Architect of the world to tear from our chain of brothers one of its most deserving and beloved links. Who did not know him? Who did not esteem him? Who did not love him?...

It is the sad fate of men to have to leave this life with their excellent works unfinished. Though whole nations mourn them, it is usually their fate to be forgotten by these admirers — but not by us, my brothers. ...

Half of Europe esteemed him, the great called him their darling, and we called him — brother! ...

He was a zealous member of our order. His love for his brothers, his cooperative nature, his charity, his deep joy whenever he could serve one of his brethren with his special talents, these were his great qualities. He only lacked riches to make hundreds of people as happy as he wished them to be."

— Paul Nettl, *Mozart and Masonry*, New York: Dorset Press, 1987



# Crash Site Revisited

*The tragedy of Flight 93 transformed a rural Pennsylvania County*

When United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in a field adjacent to a wooded area near Shanksville in southwest Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, it took Nevin Lambert three days to find his cows.

Lambert lives on a knoll overlooking the crash site and was out in the yard at the time. He thought the plane was flying quite low, but he said he couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the plane make a sharp turn and head directly for the ground.

The noise was deafening and obviously bothered Nevin's cattle. The cows hid themselves so well that no one could find them. It was days later before they reappeared from their hiding place.

Lambert is now one of the ambassadors at a nearby memorial site. The ambassadors answer questions for people who come to view the area.

Flight 93 originated in Newark and was headed for San Francisco. It is believed that hijackers had other plans for the plane, possibly in or near the nation's capitol. The plane had been turned around and was approaching its eventual destination from the west. Shanksville is about 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

The plane landed with such an impact that it left a huge hole in the middle of the field. According to Mark Stahl of Somerset, the impact left a blackened crater at least 45 feet in diameter. Stahl had arrived on the scene with a digital camera soon after the crash.

Smoke billowed far into the sky. The sound of the crash rattled homes and could be heard for miles. At first, most people in this quite rural area had no idea what had happened.

One of the first to arrive on the scene was Clyde Ware, an auctioneer who lives in Stoystown not far from the



Clyde Ware and David Miller, 32°, both of Stoystown VFD, escorted the editor of *The Northern Light* to the site of the temporary memorial for the victims of the Flight 93 plane crash.

scene. Ware is assistant chief of the Stoystown Volunteer Fire Department, and it was quite common for him to witness destruction. This was the worst he had ever seen. "The largest piece of the plane I found would fit in a bushel basket," he said.

Men and women from other Volunteer Fire Departments in Somerset County soon arrived but all were amazed at what they saw. "We're trained to save lives, but in this case there was no one to save," said Ware. "We felt completely helpless."

There were 45 people on board, yet nothing remained but body parts. Eventually all passengers were identified, some requiring DNA testing as the only means of determination.

"None of us remember an alarm we answered where there was so little we could do," said William Merrill of the Berlin Fire Department. "It was total

destruction."

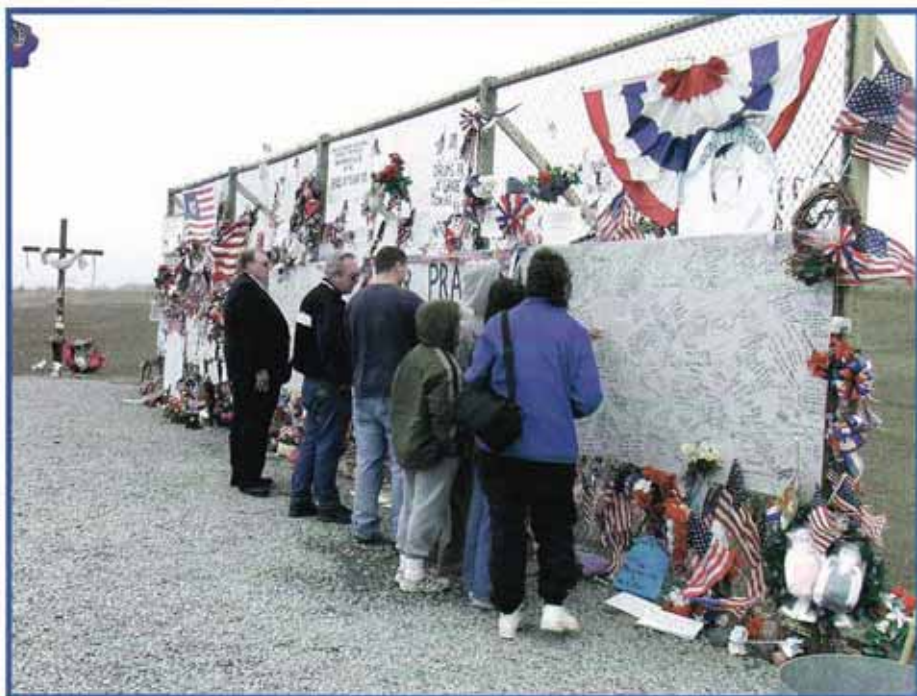
As the FBI and other agencies rushed in to cordon off the area, the volunteers were recruited to assist with other aspects of the mission. Like many others, Ware closed his auction business for four to five weeks to spend time at the site.

About 50 acres surrounding the actual site are still fenced off and visitors are not permitted to go up to the site because it is considered a crime scene.

Overlooking the area, however, is a temporary memorial that has been erected. A plywood wall allows people to write their comments. As the sheets of plywood are filled up with notes, the section is replaced.

The old sheets are currently being stored by the Historical Society of Somerset County. Members of the society regularly pick up items that have been left if they feel the material will be af-





The temporary memorial attracts many visitors who deposit items in memory of those who lost their lives in the disaster. As the plywood panels are filled with notes, new panels are added. The notes and mementos are being catalogued by the Somerset County Historical Society.

►fected by the weather. The items are then catalogued.

At the six-month anniversary of the crash a memorial plaque was dedicated. The plaque contains the names of the victims on the plane. There is also a set of small flags placed near the plaque to honor the victims.

On an average weekend it is not unusual to have 50-60 cars drive to the memorial, according to David Miller, 32°, a member of the Stoystown Volunteer Fire Department. A dirt road was paved to make access to the area more convenient.

Plans are underway to establish a permanent memorial. Susan Hankinson was appointed by the County Commissioners to be the Somerset County Flight 93 memorial coordinator.

With nonstop phone calls, she arranged a memorial service at a local church prior to the January ceremony to dedicate the plaque. A number of families of the victims attended the tribute, which coincided with a similar event in Washington, DC.

A task force has been named to work with Hankinson to make arrangements for the permanent memorial.

U.S. Congressman John Murtha has introduced legislation to make the area a national memorial site under the National Park Service.

This once quiet area of America has been turned upside down. In the days

that followed the disaster, the burroughs were teeming with strangers that made the locals nervous.

Representatives from the FBI, other

A memorial plaque listing the passengers and crew of Flight 93 was dedicated in January. The plaque is displayed at the memorial site.



governmental agencies, and airline officials were on the spot immediately. Many of them remained until the clean-up was completed.



Nevin Lambert, one of the ambassadors to the memorial site, keeps a record of the visitors. On this day he had already recorded before noon a list of visitors from more than a half dozen states.



# Scottish Rite Honors Pennsylvania Fire Departments

When David J. Miller, 32°, wrote to the Sovereign Grand Commander several months ago to tell him about the dedicated efforts of the volunteer fire departments in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, at the time of the Flight 93 plane crash, Grand Commander Ralston responded quickly.

"With all the attention focused on New York and Washington, it is easy to overlook the United Airlines flight that went down in rural southwestern Pennsylvania," said Ill. Brother Ralston. "That plane could have caused major damage if it had reached the hijackers' intended target."

Although all passengers and crew on board were killed, there were no additional casualties on the ground because of the location of the crash.

Brother Miller pointed out that many firefighters gave up their regular job for days and even weeks to assist the clean up effort in Somerset County.

Commander Ralston offered donations from the disaster relief fund to each of the eight volunteer departments that participated.

At a luncheon in March, Ill. C. De-Forrest Trexler, 33°, Scottish Rite Deputy for Pennsylvania, made the presentations to representatives from each department. Assisting him was Ill. Terry D. Bentzel, 33°, Supreme Council Active Member from Harrisburg.

Ill. Brother Trexler praised the departments for their work and emphasized the importance of their willingness to provide their services at a time when volunteers are hard to find.

Also attending the luncheon were Pamela Tokar-Ickes, county commissioner, and Susan Hankinson, Somerset County Flight 93 memorial coordinator. Both expressed their appreciation to the 32° Masons for the generous support given to the volunteers.

Firefighters receiving financial support represented the volunteer departments in Berlin, Central City Friedens, Hooversville, Listle, Shanksville, Somerset and Stoystown.

Brother Miller, of the Stoystown department, pointed out that the Scottish Rite recognition came at a time when the departments needed a boost. "It was a light in what had been a somewhat dark tunnel," he said.



At a luncheon in March, representatives from eight fire departments were in attendance to receive a donation for their department. Ill. Brother Trexler presents a check to Ed Baumgardner of Friedens, Toni Hoffman of Listle and (back row) Tom Tweardy of Shanksville, Clyde Ware of Stoystown and Bill Merrill of Berlin.



Ill. Brother Bentzel recognizes Jim Clark of Somerset as memorial coordinator Susan Hankinson and county commissioner Pamela Tokar-Ickes look on. Also receiving recognition are (back row) David Miller of Stoystown, Jerry Jerome of Somerset, Jim Karashowsky of Hooversville and Dean Fleagle of Century City.

The frustration of the firefighters is best expressed in the remarks of William Merrill of the Berlin department. "We are firefighters so we can help our neighbors in their time of need," he said. "This time, we could do nothing! That is very rare, and not a

feeling we wish to have again."

Clyde Ware, assistant chief at Stoystown and the coordinator for the luncheon, commented, "We always ask ourselves, 'Are you ready for the big one?' Our job is to protect and preserve, but in this case there was nobody to save."



# Responsibility Lies Within

*As Masons, we need to let the world know our core values*

Excerpts from an address delivered at the annual banquet of the Allied Masonic Degrees in Washington, DC, on Feb. 16, 2002.

Lately, whenever Masons gather, the topic soon turns to numbers. Numbers relating to our diminishing fraternal population in all of the branches of our Masonic tree.

Soon the conversations begin to lament our diminished influence on the world in which we now live. Diminished influence in the lives of our neighbors, our local, state and federal governments, our civil and religious institutions and our business and social practices. Perhaps, even diminished influence in our own lives and families.

In general, we must acknowledge that the society, which we believe our forefathers conceived and created for us with the help of Almighty God, no longer acknowledges our fraternity for its core values.

## Whose fault is that?

In his time, if our revered Brother George Washington and the members of his lodge were now gathered here



with his Masonic contemporaries, I suggest that it might have made news. I am certain that it was newsworthy when they laid the cornerstone of the capitol and planned the physical structure of this city, but, I see no mention of us in today's *Washington Post*. There is, however, much reported where the influence of Masonic values could have made a significant difference.

Perhaps these other headlines and stories would not be in today's paper if

knows how many others with similar revisions to American history lessons and tests. Nor am I proud of the national news report that the school board in Madison, Wisconsin opposed the suggestion of opening each school day with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Whose fault is that?

Didn't Masonic philosophy play a key role in shaping the minds and attitudes of those who led, founded, and

*"There are thousands, if not millions, of men seeking an organization that will live up to the lessons that we teach."*

.....

more were to learn and practice outside the lodge those lessons that we are taught within its walls.

The reporters obviously don't know how important we are, or maybe, if they don't know how much we care, they don't care how much we know!

## Whose fault is that?

I did learn, from the radio press in Milwaukee last week, that the state of New Jersey has removed the requirement of history students acquiring any knowledge of our Brothers Washington, Jefferson and Franklin in their courses of study.

Now before you get upset with New Jersey educators, I must tell you that I understand that they only join with those in Ohio and Indiana and who

defended our early colonies? Didn't it also subsequently inspire five other successful revolutions? Successful revolutions, as suggested by former Wisconsin Governor Lee Sherman Dreyfus, 33°, himself a former college history professor "because they were conceived to provide liberty and freedom to the common man." Truly a Masonic principle.

The revolutions that followed ours were also led by Masons; Danton in France, Garibaldi in Italy, Kossuth in Hungary, Juarez in Mexico and Bolivar for South America. Yes, Masonic men and values were present in the great American Revolution and at the founding of this great country and in the history of others. As this is true, why is this Masonic influence only taught in Masonic gatherings?

## Whose fault is that?

Let us think about some numbers other than the size of our membership.

III. Norman L. Christensen, 33°, is a Supreme Council Active Member for Wisconsin.



Let us reflect on the Masonic numbers of 3, 5 and 7, to which I suggest that we add the numbers 9 and 11. Nine eleven (9/11), which are now significant to everyone in this country and most of the free world. 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 — what can these five odd numbers mean to us? Let us consider them in reverse order.

Nine eleven (9/11) or September 11, 2001. The events of that day have forever changed the way we live. I pray that they will not forever change the freedoms that once were ours, for if we must sacrifice our freedoms to be secure, we shall not long be either free or secure.

Ours is a society that requires a devotion and responsibility from all its residents. Not unlike our fraternity, our way of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is only assured for one generation. Unless each new generation embraces those historic values and commits to their defense, neither this country, nor our fraternity, will be sustained as we know it! We can only leave the idea and history of the pure ideals to ancestors.

Each of us can recall where we were as the events of 9/11 unfolded. It was no different for some than Pearl Harbor or the day that President Kennedy was assassinated.

In the events of 9/11, many had feelings of helplessness and for some hopelessness as we watched in horror as thousands of our fellow Americans and citizens of other countries perished. "Why?" we asked ourselves. Is there that much hate in the world? Is evil that strong and cunning? Is there no help for us?

The collapse of the World Trade Center on top of an already soft economy has threatened our financial security, tested our physical security and caused many to lose hope and trust.

For those who only place their financial trust in the value of their investments, or the strength of our economy, or the security of their pensions, that trust is also not well-founded measured by today's news. As important as they are, those who depend only on a strong military or police force for their physical security are no better served based on what we read in today's news reports. To whom shall we turn? To whom have some turned again? Where is our trust placed?

Many have turned or returned to their church, mosque or synagogue in search of a renewed faith. Will they also turn to membership in our fraternity as

a further means of reinforcing and finding the values for which they now search as history might suggest? Will we be ready to receive them and to respect and reinforce their faith in God? What lessons will our fraternity be prepared to teach them in a meaningful way today?

As Masons we have been inspired to turn to God! We are taught to turn to Him in prayer before engaging in any endeavor. We were required to acknowledge our trust in Him before we were accepted as a member and given any further instruction in this fraternity. We have learned that not only is our trust well-founded by placing it in Him, but, our hope for the future is well placed there as well. We believe that all men are the sons of God and that as we acknowledge Him as our Father our relationship is truly that of the "Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God."

Why doesn't more of the world understand that principle? If they did, would there have been a 9/11?

#### **Whose fault is that?**

We believe that good will triumph over evil and that God is ultimately in charge of our lives both here and in the hereafter. We take strength from the faith of our fathers. The faith that sustained them in coming to this country, creating America as the shining beacon of light and opportunity that it has become for most of the world and certainly for us. Faith as represented by then General George Washington as he knelt in prayer during that terrible winter at Valley Forge when many thought the cause was lost.

Our whole American history and our greatest leaders, many of whom were Masons, are but examples of a well placed faith and trust in God! Masonic teachings reinforce these lessons and discipline. Why doesn't the world know that?

#### **Whose fault is that?**

It was soon after the collapse of the Towers on 9/11 that we turned again to our God in prayer. Individually and as a nation we soon were on our knees asking for His strength and guidance. Our President and other spiritual and civic leaders led us and our military in services of prayer and remembrance.

Our simplest prayer was once again, God bless America. We are taught that God answers prayer. Do our rituals suggest that we are directing a role for God

or asking God for his role for us and our fraternity in today's world? What do you think would happen if every Masonic body in the country opened its meeting with a simple prayer asking God, "What do you want us to do with this fraternity today?" Do we believe He would lead us?

**"If I want more  
Masonry in the  
world, then I must  
put more Masonry in  
me."**

Masonic ritual, no matter how well done, has but one purpose in my estimation. That purpose is to remind us of our faith in God that each man brings with him to the fraternity and to reinforce our relationship with God and with all men of all faiths everywhere.

We need to let the world know our core values. More importantly, each of us needs to commit himself to living and sharing those values with everyone that we meet every day and in everything that we do.

I honestly believe that there are thousands, if not millions, of men seeking an organization that will live up to the lessons that we teach.

More importantly, in today's society and complex family structure, where husband and wife, father and mother are both working and both have responsibility for sustaining their home and caring for the children, that a wife will still encourage her husband to take the time required to become an active and educated Mason. A Mason whom she perceives to exemplify that striving for personal perfection, championed by our craft. A Mason who is associating with other men in an organization that is dedicated to strengthening his faith in God and expanding his liberal education to make him a better husband, father, churchman, workman, neighbor and citizen. Why isn't that our image?

#### **Whose fault is that?**

Many times I have asked the question, "Whose fault is that?" It is time ►



► for me to answer that question and the answer is, "It is mine!"

It is mine because I am the only Mason whose actions I can control or for whom I can truly be responsible. It has been said that I cannot do everything but what I can do I will do and, more importantly, if I truly love the fraternity, I must do it now.

If I want more Masonry in the world then I must put more Masonry into me. If I want more motivated Masons, then I must become more motivated. If I want more knowledgeable Masons then I must become more knowledgeable about this fraternity.

I can only encourage by example those who are and those who I would like to be Masons. I have learned that the only things I can really change are those people or situations that may change as a result of perceived changes in me, for which I am responsible with God's help.



**FRAUNCES TAVERN MUSEUM** — The consistory apron and collar owned and worn by Brother Simon Bolivar, the "George Washington of South America," are among the many items on display at Fraunces Tavern Museum in New York City. The exhibit, "Colonists, Revolutionaries, Builders: Freemasons in America," is open through May. These, like many pieces on display, are on loan from the Grand Lodge of New York. The Grand Lodge received Brother Bolivar's regalia in 1934 as gifts from Brother Francisco Reiguera of La Union Lodge No. 9, Madrid, Spain. Bolivar joined the craft at Cadiz, Spain, in 1807, and took the Scottish Rite degrees in 1824.

## *In Memoriam*

### *Ill. Raymond Benjamin Perry, 33°*

Ill. Raymond B. Perry, 33°, Active Emeritus Member for the Supreme Council, died on Feb. 3, 2002, at his home in Monroe Township, New Jersey.

Born in Shamokin, PA, on Oct. 2, 1919, he attended the public schools of Shamokin, and furthered his education by earning a bachelor's degree at the Bloomsburg State Teachers College, now Bloomsburg University, in 1943.

He earned a master's degree in education at Columbia University Teachers College.

In 1943, he began his teaching career in the Scotch Plains, NJ, school system. Ill. Brother Perry retired in 1978 after 35 years of service. He was a life member of both the National Education Association and the New Jersey Education Association.

On June 3, 1944, Ill. Brother Perry married Tressa Belle Driggers, who predeceased him in 1969. On Dec. 19, 1976, he married Clair Margaret Groulx, who survives, along with a stepdaughter, Gale A. Holst.

He was a member of the Scotch Plains Baptist Church but also attended St. George's Episcopal Church, Helmetta.

He enjoyed performing with the 190th Field Artillery Band during World War II and then with the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra for 20 years.

Raised a Master Mason in Anchor Lodge No. 149, F. & A.M., Plainfield, NJ, on April 23, 1946, Brother Perry was the Worshipful Master in 1954. He also served the Grand Lodge as Grand Chaplain in 1972-73.

Within the York Rite, Brother Perry was exalted in Jerusalem Chapter No. 24, R.A.M., now Corothian Chapter No. 57, in Westfield, NJ, in Oct. 1952, and greeted in

Adoniram Council No. 9, R. & S.M., on Nov. 7, 1992. He was knighted in Trinity Commandery No. 17, K.T., on Nov. 28, 1992.

Brother Perry completed the Scottish Rite degrees in the Valley of Trenton on May 18,

1957. He was Sovereign Prince of Mercer Council, Princes of Jerusalem, in 1967-68, and Commander-in-Chief of Trenton Consistory in 1974-75. He was a member of the Executive Council for the Valley of Trenton for nine years, chaired many Valley committees, and was the Class Sponsor for the May 1991 Reunion. He took part in all Scottish Rite degrees except the 14° and 22°.

In addition, he served the New Jersey Council of Deliberation as 2nd Lieutenant Commander and the New Jersey Society of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General as president. He served as the Installing Officer at the installation of Valley officers for seven years.

Ill. Brother Perry was created a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, at Boston, in 1969, and was crowned an Active Member at Chicago in Sept. 30, 1992. He became an Active Emeritus Member at the close of the Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, 1995.

He performed various special assignments and served on Dispensations and Charters Committee, 1992-95 and the Unfinished Business Committee, 1993-95.

Ill. Brother Perry was a member of Crescent Shrine Temple and the Royal Order of Scotland. He was also a Past Patron of Atlas Chapter No. 99, Order of the Eastern Star. He was awarded the DeMolay Legion of Honor and was Secretary/Treasurer of the New Jersey Preceptory.





## New Masonic Exhibit Opens in June

A major exhibition on Freemasonry will open at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA, on June 1. "To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community" has been several years in the making.

Mark A. Tabbert, 32°, curator of the museum's Masonic and fraternal collection, has created the exhibit around the Masonic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. It emphasizes the important role that Freemasonry and other volunteer organizations have played in American social history.

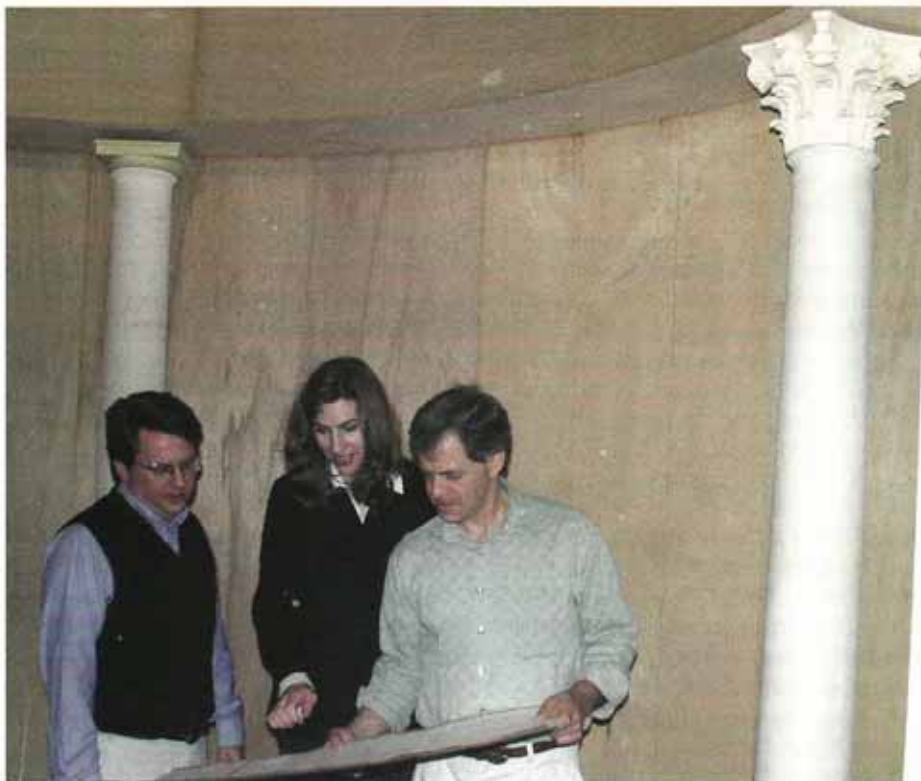
Visitors will gain a better understanding and appreciation of Freemasonry's complex and often misunderstood history.

Following a brief introductory section outlining the origins of Freemasonry in America, the exhibition then explores in a unique way the reasons why Americans have joined fraternal organizations, and discusses Freemasonry today.

Much of the material on display comes from the museum's own collection, but there are also items that have been borrowed from more than 40 other institutions. Among the loaned items are a famous Masonic Bucktrout Chair loaned by Colonial Williamsburg and the original charter issued to Prince Hall by the Grand Lodge of England. The exhibit uses more than 300 objects, ranging from photos, to regalia, to ephemera to tell its story. These items are associated with not only Freemasonry but also other fraternal and volunteer organizations, many of which trace their origin to the Masonic fraternity.

"With the cooperation of so many museums, lodges and Grand Lodges, we hope this new exhibit will display the great richness and heritage of American Freemasonry," said Brother Tabbert. "It should dispel the false notion that Freemasonry is a 'secret society'."

After the exhibit opens, Brother Tabbert will be preparing a catalogue to supplement the exhibit. The Masonic exhibition is tentatively scheduled to remain at the museum for four years.



Curator Mark Tabbert, 32°, reviews the plans of the Masonic exhibit with Hilary Anderson, director of collections and exhibitions, and Michael Rizzo, museum designer.



Brother Tabbert points to the position of the keystone in the arch that will represent a Masonic temple within the exhibit. The temple is one a series of representational buildings that will tell the story of fraternal and volunteer organizations.





## Growth of Learning Centers Exceeds Expectations

There are now 39 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children participating in the 2001-02 academic term. Seven new learning centers opened their doors in 2001, and two more welcomed students in the first quarter of 2002.

The new centers are located in Cambridge, OH; Fort Wayne, IN; Portland, ME; Madison, WI; Providence, RI; Worcester, MA; Altoona, PA; Waterbury, CT, and Hasbrouck Heights, NJ.

The newest center in New Jersey is the result of additional financial support from the Charitable Foundation of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey.

The 39 learning centers employ 182 certified tutors, most of whom were trained within the centers. They provide tutoring services for approximately 876 children.

"This growth demonstrates the widely successful potential of the program, but it is to a large degree outpacing our own vision," said Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston, 33°. "We continue to grow at

a pace much faster than we ever expected."

With the growth comes an increased demand for financial resources.

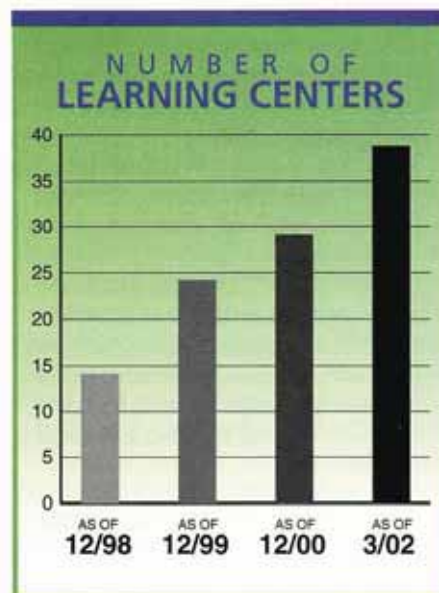
Although the facilities for the learning centers are provided rent-free by Masonic groups and hundreds of Masons and other community leaders volunteer countless hours each year for administrative details, the cost to assist each child is approximately \$5,000.

The delivery of program services requires approximately 90 percent of this amount for compensation to learning center administrators and the professionals who provide the tutoring services.

"Clearly, we have been remarkably successful in the growth of our program and the positive impact we are having on the children and their families," said Grand Commander Ralston. "As we tutor more children and train more tutors, we are also positively affecting our communities."

"We are helping dyslexic children

learn to read, which benefits not only the child but also the family and the community as well," he said. "We must continue this growth and manage it in a manner consistent with our financial resources."



## Providence Learning Center Dedicated

In a spirit of cooperation between Masonic-affiliated organizations, Palestine Shrine Temple of Cranston, RI, offered space in its building for Rhode Island's Scottish Rite Masonic Learning Center for Children. The Temple is adjacent to the Scottish Rite Cathedral for the Valley of Providence.

Conducting the dedication ceremony in March for the Sovereign Grand Commander, Grand Secretary General Philip L. Hall, 33°, noted the great cooperation that exists between the two organizations.

The guest speaker, Robert A. Weygand, praised both groups for providing a service in Rhode Island for

dyslexic children. Weygand is president and CEO of the New England Board of Higher Education and a former U.S. Congressman.

He said he really did not understand dyslexia until about five or six years ago.

He told the story of a girl who wanted to go to college. Her teachers discouraged her, but she went anyway.

Finding the college courses very difficult, she eventually found that she had dyslexia. Years later she became mayor of West Warwick.

Weygand used the story to emphasize to the students they can also overcome the challenges that lie ahead.

Center director Louise Cherubini pointed out that "the heart and soul of the program is the children and parents." She then introduced the mother of a student who started by indicating she didn't know what to say and left the audience spellbound with her remarks. "Each kid who walks into this building is special," she said, and then proceeded to explain how her daughter's life was turned around.

Also in attendance for the ceremony was M.W. Dennis W. Pothier, 33°, Grand Master of Masons in Rhode Island. He praised the united effort to help others and said, "We have taken another step deeper into our community."



# Providence leads the way with 'Sponsor a Child' program

The Valley of Providence has taken a substantial lead in the recently instituted "Sponsor a Child" program to support the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children. In fact, the Valley is 25 percent higher than its closest competitor.

The program was first tested as a pilot program a year ago in six centers throughout Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. It met with such success that it was expanded throughout the jurisdiction within six months.

Joseph J. Berlandi, 32°, executive director for the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., said the program is designed to connect donors with the children they help. Sponsorships are \$5,000 a year or \$2,500 a year for a co-sponsor. Tax-deductible gifts of \$10,000 fully sponsor a complete two-year tutoring cycle for one child.

"We have received financial support from local businesses, foundations, civic organizations, individuals and

....Perhaps the most important byproduct of his lessons was his renewed sense of self-esteem. Our son was back, in every sense of the word. He had that "I know I can do it" attitude when it came to his schoolwork. He became an independent student who took charge and responsibility for his education. He is halfway through the seventh grade and continues to be an honor student. I can't thank you enough for all you've done for him and all of the other students at the center. You have made a huge difference in their lives.

—Mother of a Nashua, NH, learning center student

Before I came to the learning center I used to feel kind of stupid. When it was time for me to go into second and third grade, I would cry because I didn't think I was ready. I knew I was so far behind. It made me feel really sad and stupid. My Mom started taking me to the Learning Center.

I really didn't think it was going to help me but my Mom kept telling me it would. Then before I knew it, I saw a difference. Now I read better than lots and lots of other kids. If it wasn't for the learning center I would probably still be on a kindergarten or first grade level and I would feel even more stupid than I did before.

So, thank you for this program. You helped me see that I am not stupid. I am really smart. I even made the honor roll this year. I never used to think I would be able to do that.

— Student from the Milwaukee Learning Center

Masonic organizations," said Berlandi. "The initial response to the pilot program was so successful that we quickly made it available to all learning centers."

As of the end of March, more than \$290,000 had been received in sponsorships. Providence recorded 16 sponsors and more than \$80,000 in donations.

The "Sponsor a Child" program seeks to support the learning centers in two ways — to fund the cost of tutoring for each child while simultaneously raising community awareness of dyslexia and the positive impact of the program.

According to Berlandi, the success in Rhode Island is due to the leadership and enthusiasm of James C. Owen, 32°, Board of Governors member and chairman of the Charitable Giving Committee. Ill. Gardner C. Sconyers, Deputy for Rhode Island, has also contributed greatly to the center's achievement.

"Our ambitious goal is to find a

sponsor for every child," said Berlandi. "We are off to a terrific start, and with continued support within and without the fraternity, we will be able to match additional sponsors to every child in our program."

## 'Sponsor a Child' Funds by Center

Providence, RI	\$82,000
Detroit, MI	65,000
Worcester, MA	26,925
Madison, WI	25,000
Greater Boston, MA	17,020
Cleveland, OH	15,000
Nashua, NH	15,000
Rochester, NY	11,018
Bay City, MI	10,000
Lexington, MA	7,500
Dayton, OH	5,455
Pittsburgh, PA	5,000
Waterbury, CT	5,000
Lowell, MA	2,500

## Types of Sponsors

13	Blue Lodges
6	Valleys
2	Grand Lodges
1	Commandery
1	Masonic Association
1	Masonic Temple
6	Foundations & Trusts
1	Bank
1	Corporation
9	Individuals



# Autograph Please!

*A boy receives a letter and  
a collection is born*

Around the time Commodore George Dewey was battling the Spanish-American War, the late G. Edward Elwell Jr., 33°, was a child experiencing a bad case of the measles. Convalescing in his bed, the 12-year-old boy amused himself by looking at pictures of the war.

On May 1, 1898, the soon-to-be named Admiral and his men roused the Spanish at the Battle of Manila Bay in the Philippines. Historical records show that it was at this battle that Dewey spoke the well-known command to his captain, "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley."

We can only guess that Elwell must have heard rave reviews of the commodore's success and in awe of Dewey's war hero status, the young Elwell wrote to congratulate him on his stunning victory and to ask for a war souvenir.

The war hero's response, dated Dec. 9, 1898, was informal and personable, opening with the salutation, "My dear little friend."

Dewey apologized for not having any war souvenirs to send the boy, but wrote that he appreciated the boy's interest in the Navy.

Apparently, Elwell sent a photograph of a model warship he had built, and Dewey closed with, "...the photograph of your cardboard Iowa is splendid. I hope some day to see your fleet. With best wishes, Yours sincerely, George Dewey."



The letter from George Dewey that started G. Edward Elwell Jr.'s autograph collection soon to be on display at the library.

That signature started a lifelong collection soon to be displayed in the library at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA. The collection is scheduled to be exhibited in three parts, with the first exhibit, called "Kings, Queens, and Statesmen, autographs from the G. Edward Elwell Jr. collection," currently in the planning stages. This exhibit, opening by the end of the year, will feature just a sampling of the Pennsylvania Mason's collection, including signatures from Queen Isabella, Louis the XIV, Marquis de Lafayette and Henry VIII.

The library hopes to produce two subsequent displays of the vast collec-

tion so as many of the valuable documents can be viewed as possible.

Elwell's collection contains 102 autographed documents spanning more than 500 years, from 1489 to 1960.

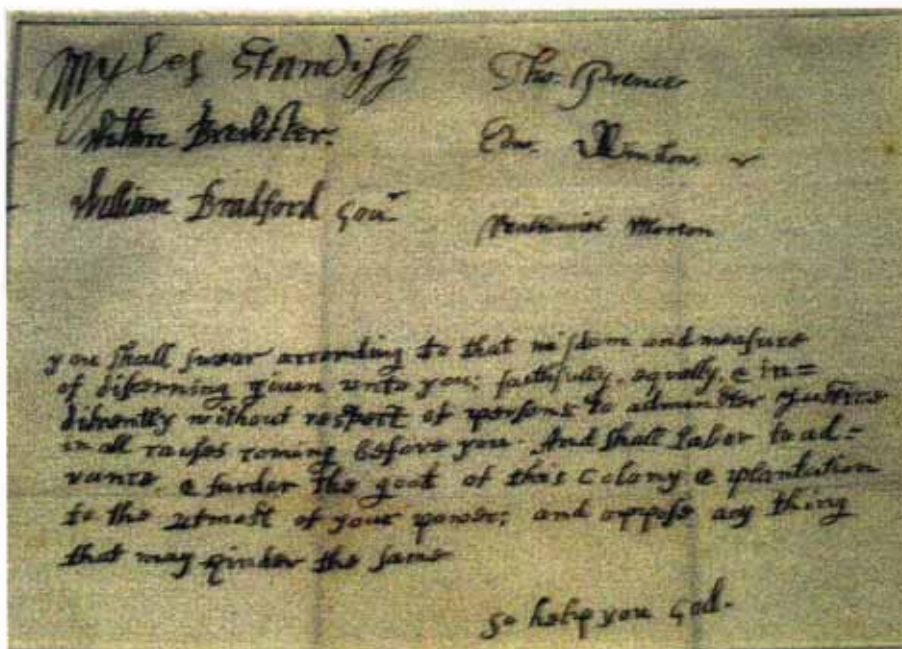
Where and how Elwell acquired all his autographs is unknown, but for almost 50 years he collected documents from all over the world, prioritizing those that pertained in some way to the founding and history of America.

He collected 36 presidential signatures, succeeding in acquiring one from each president from George Washington through Lyndon B. Johnson. His intent was to possess a signature written while each was serving in



CATHERINE SWANSON, Library Archivist and HELAINE DAVIS, Reference Public Services Librarian are collaborating on this exhibit at the National Heritage Museum.





This document, the oath of office signed by Pilgrim Founding Fathers, is ca. 1650. The autograph of Myles Standish can be seen clearly top left.

office, and all but three (William Henry Harrison, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson) fit that criterion. The documents from these three men were signed when not in the presidential office.

He also garnered signatures of European individuals who were essential in the making of American history, such as Marquis de Lafayette and Elizabeth I, as well as every British monarch from Henry VII to Elizabeth II.

Most of the documents in this collection are in very good condition considering their age, and are easy to read. Some have historical research value, as well.

King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain signed the oldest document, a letter to Don Gutierre de Cardenas, Commendator Mayor of Toledo. The letter, apparently written by a scribe, instructs Gutierre to take office as Alcalde Mayor. It is signed on March 20, 1489, with the signatures "Yo el Rey" and "Yo la Reyna," (I am the King and I am the Queen). The letter is in impeccable condition for its age and has an interesting and clearly visible watermark — a hand with a flower sprouting from the middle finger.

To put this letter in historical context, Isabella sponsored Christopher Columbus' voyage to the New World just three years after it was written, in 1492.

Lyndon B. Johnson signed the most recent autograph in the collection. The

letter, dated July 18, 1960, is typewritten on United States Senate letterhead, as Johnson was a Senator at that time. The letter is addressed to a Mr. D. Temple of New York who apparently had offered his political support for Johnson's run for President. Johnson states in the letter, "I believe that this is the year the American people will turn to the Democratic Party for the leadership our country so badly needs." Johnson's signature is written bold and straight at the end of the typewritten page.

Other examples of famous signatures to be displayed include Napoleon I, Louis XIV, Edward VII (a Mason), Albert I, Queen Victoria, and King Henry VIII.

There is a military document with George Washington's signature, an Oath of Office

William III, known as William of Orange, signed this document written in Holland in 1692.

signed by Pilgrim founding fathers, and a letter pertaining to British diplomat and ambassador Robert Hill written in Dutch, signed by William III.

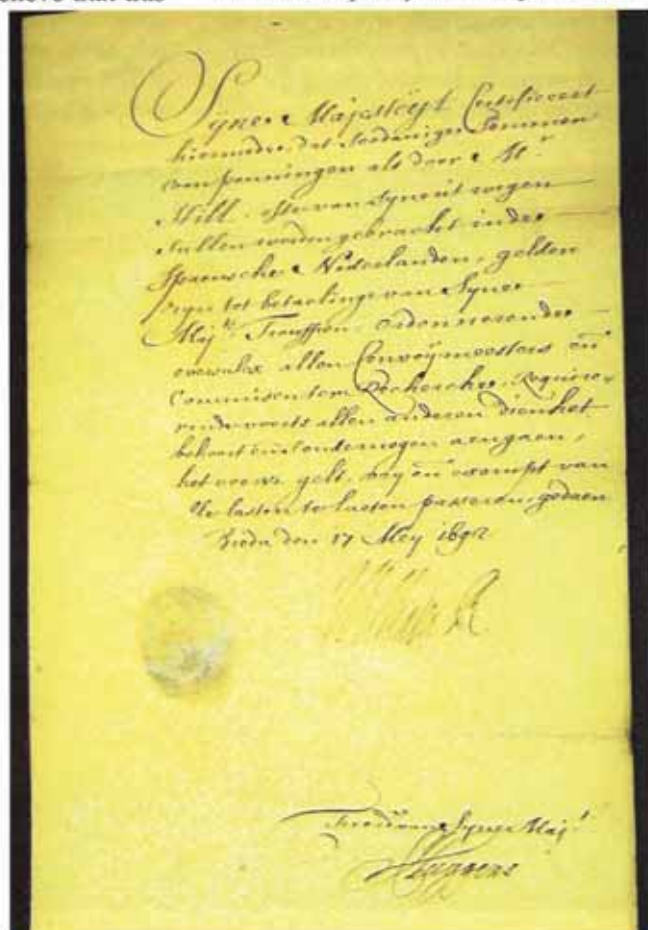
Although it is not known why Elwell was driven to collect autographs, most collectors find it interesting because the signatures authenticate documents through time. By signing one's name or individual mark, the signer states that they have either written the document or have authorized and agreed to its preparation.

The display, a joint effort between Archivist Catherine Swanson and Reference Public Services Librarian Helaine Davis, will also include supporting portraits, biographical material, historical background and other visuals to accompany the documents.

Although the museum has had possession of the collection for more than 25 years, this will be the first time the autographs will be exhibited here.

In 1958, Elwell donated the collection to Caldwell Consistory of Bloomsburg, PA, where it was displayed for many years.

After the Museum of Our National Heritage was built in Lexington, MA, in 1975, the Consistory felt that the collection would best be stored there, with the capacity for temperature ➤





► and humidity controls and fireproof storage.

The Sovereign Grand Commander at that time, Ill. George A. Newbury, 33°, welcomed the collection and had hopes it would someday be displayed in its own room in the museum.

When the exhibit opens, the quality, quantity and historical interest of these documents will not only inspire museum visitors, but will also showcase the variety of materials that can be found in the library and archives. The documents demonstrate the connection between European Royalty and the formation of America, and illustrate the concept that the United States did not develop in a vacuum.



## Collector had strong Masonic ties

Ill. G. Edward Elwell Jr., 33°, was raised a Master Mason in Washington Lodge No. 265, Bloomsburg, PA, in April 1909, and served as Worshipful Master in 1925. He was exalted in Bloomsburg Chapter No. 218 and was High Priest in 1917. Elwell received his Scottish Rite degrees in the Valley of Bloomsburg in 1909 and became Commander-in-Chief of the Caldwell Consistory in 1939. In 1938, he received the 33°. He authored a history of the Valley of Bloomsburg in 1957, which was published posthumously in 1974. Elwell died in Bloomsburg in 1969 at the age of 83.



## Museum Print Now Available

The National Heritage Museum at Lexington, MA, has made special arrangements with Qoro, inc., a fine art reproduction company in New Castle, Delaware, to provide museum quality reproductions of one of the paintings in its collection.

The 1860 painting by American artist J.H. Hall depicts the Schooner Oliver M. Pettit of Boston flying a Masonic square and compasses flag from one of the masts.

The museum collection includes a series of paintings of ships bearing the

Masonic emblem.

Hoisting a Masonic flag or pennant was common practice at the time and provided a means of recognition among fellow Masons whether at sea or in port.

Qoro offers a unique spectrum of products and services to artists, galleries, publishers, and other clients interested in the reproduction of fine art. Qorographs are museum quality digital reproductions that resolve the light and moisture sensitivity concerns of artists, galleries, museums, and collectors.

By using nano-pigmented inks and a customized selection of canvases, papers and coatings, Qoro offers fine art reproductions that are true to the original and provide a lifetime of enjoyment.

The print (22" x 30") is ordered directly from Qoro appropriately framed or stretched on canvas ready for framing.

Since each print is prepared as the order is received, please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Information on purchasing a print can be found on the back cover of this issue.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the prints will benefit the Scottish Rite museum.







By Leigh E. Morris, 32°

## Security Continues to be a Hot Issue

There's one industry the recession has not slowed down. In fact, the economic downturn probably has spurred its growth. I am referring to identity theft.

Of course, identity theft always has been a problem. However, the widespread use of the Social Security number as a de facto national ID coupled with the growth of Internet use has made identity theft far easier and much more profitable.

Recently, I learned about a man who was victimized not once, but thrice. With his Social Security number, three low-lives were able to make a mess of his life. They secured credit cards and then proceeded to buy goods and take cash advances. One opened a checking account and promptly wrote dozens of bum checks. Another bought a car and skipped town without ever making a payment.

As best as investigators have been able to determine, the Social Security number was obtained by a hacker who went into the man's computer that was used for his small business. You might think that would be difficult, but it really is very easy.

Think of your computer as a house and the Internet connection as a door. That door allows you to venture out into the Net and the Web. However, doors work both ways. If you can venture out, someone else can come in unless you put a lock on the door. The victim I described did not have a lock.

Dead bolt locks are found on most homes. A dead bolt should be standard for computers, as well. That is the function of a firewall. Generally, firewalls are designed to keep unauthorized users out of your computer. While no firewall is perfect, they can afford a high level of protection.

Firewalls are especially important for those of you who use high-speed Internet services that eliminate the dial-up connection. Your computer is connected to the Net whenever it is on, even when you are not using the Net. Without a firewall, you leave the door to your computer wide open.

A firewall is a must for any business, church, blue lodge, Valley or Shrine computer that has Internet access. The information on those computers is proprietary and you want to keep it that way.

There are many good firewalls available for Windows and Macintosh systems. One that merits consideration is ZoneAlarm, ([www.zonelabs.com/](http://www.zonelabs.com/)) which offers free firewall software for Windows systems. Macintosh users can check security options at (<http://netsecurity.about.com/cs/macsecurity/>), another Web site.

However, do not believe for a New York second that a firewall will make you invincible. A firewall only is designed to keep hackers out of your computer. It offers no protection against carelessness.

You can enhance your security by not storing sensitive information on your personal computer. This would include Social Security, credit card, driver's license, bank account and similar numbers. Small businesses, lodges and others may want to isolate computers with sensitive information from Internet access.

Never send sensitive information by e-mail. Never provide sensitive information through a non-secure Web site. And never open an e-mail attachment unless you trust the sender. This last item is important because firewalls offer no protection against viruses.

On a broader basis, you can enhance your own security by not putting your Social Security or driver's license number on checks. Do not give these numbers to anyone unless there is a proven need. Completely destroy those unwanted credit card applications you receive in the mail.

If you do become an identity theft victim, you will need to act quickly and decisively. A first step is filing a complaint with the police or sheriff. Contact your bank, credit card companies and others who have extended credit to you. Get in touch with your local Social Security Administration office. Not only does SSA have helpful information, but, in some cases, it will issue a new Social Security number. You may want to consult an attorney.

Identity theft may destroy your credit, create tax problems with the IRS and otherwise turn your life upside down. A firewall on your computer and other prudent steps will significantly reduce the likelihood that you will become a victim.

As the sergeant on Hill Street Blues said, "Let's be careful out there."

Be sure to send your complete name, city and state of residence, Valley and e-mail address to me at <[studebaker@motion.net](mailto:studebaker@motion.net)> for our Masonic E-Mail Directory. Also, send along any and all interesting Masonic Web sites. Those will be included in the directory. And don't forget to send along your questions, comments and other thoughts.

Questions or comments? Send me an e-mail at  
[studebaker@motion.net](mailto:studebaker@motion.net)  
(please note that this is a new e-mail address).



## Dogs take lead in raising funds



Participants of the Oct. 7, 2001 dog parade, sponsored by Pittsburgh Lodge No. 45.

Fund raising has gone to the dogs in Pennsylvania, where Brother Eddie Grimes from Pittsburgh Lodge No. 45 has given canines and their owners the opportunity to use paws for a cause.

For the past three years, the lodge has sponsored a local dog parade to raise money for Independence Dogs Inc., a nonprofit organization in Chadds Ford, PA, that provides highly trained service dogs for people with mobility impairments.

Brother Grimes, raised to Master Mason just three years ago, did not waste time finding a way to live the tenets of the fraternity.

After hearing a moving presentation given by a local dog trainer at his lodge, Grimes jumped at the chance to help. He discovered his lodge and the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge both supported matching fund grants, and he worked with other service organizations in town to coordinate the dog parade.

With the help of his brothers and others, the lodge has been able to donate more than \$8,000 to Independence Dogs Inc., in three years. This year, the lodge collected more than \$2,400 to give to the school. According to Grimes, the cost to train one dog at Independence Dogs Inc., is \$12,000.

In actuality, the parade proceeds are minimal, but those funds, matched and sometimes doubled by the lodge and the Grand Lodge, are supple-

mented by individual and merchant donations. For example, Grimes donated a portion of the proceeds from the sale of his pedigree springer spaniel puppies to the cause. Another lodge member raised \$800 with the help of his Sunday school class.

Grimes said as soon as he saw the presentation about service dogs and their need, he was spirituality motivated to act.

"I know what my dog means to me—the company and the comfort and companionship," Grimes said. "When I saw that someone in a wheelchair could have a companion who can help do the tasks that this person can't, I was literally brought to tears."

Grimes said planning the event is simple and takes minimal time. The event, over in just two to three hours, also yields a lot of community participation and involvement.

"It took eight hours of my time," Grimes said, noting he used that time to solicit contributions and participation from veterinarians, pet grooming businesses, and local merchants. "I maybe got one contribution out of 50, but in the long run I got something!" he said.

The lodge promoted the parade by posting bulletins within the lodge, the Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus and churches.

A \$5 fee was due when participants signed in for the parade, and contestants ranged from members of the local

dog club to dog breeders to neighborhood kids with their pets.

For the past two years, the lodge strategically planned the dog parade to take place during an annual Octoberfest, taking advantage of the already gathered crowd to support the parade.

"You want the parade to happen where there are already people to 'ooh' and 'ahh,'" Grimes said.

The parade has had as many as 80 dogs and owners participate. Prizes are awarded for the smallest dog, largest dog, the dog with the shortest legs or longest tail, "and any other non pedigree item we could muster," Grimes said.

Many dogs come sporting creative costumes; some disguised as bikers, prisoners, cows and patriots.

Raising money via a dog parade is not limited to lodges that have a dog school in the area, Grimes said. There are dog schools all over the country and funds can be raised and sent wherever a lodge wishes.

"I want others to see what a real easy thing this is to do," Grimes said. "Even if you only raise \$100, that's \$100 these people would have never seen."

Grimes said he feels it is particularly important today for Masons to be visible in the community and this is a lighthearted way to accomplish that.

"Today more than any other, Masons have to prove who they are, what they are, and what they do," he said.





# The Stamp Act

## A Philatelic Review



By Robert A. Domingue



Leo Slezak is pictured on an Austrian stamp issued Aug. 17, 1973, to commemorate the centenary of his birth. He is listed as a Mason by Hans Ofenbach in his book "Briefmarken Erzeklan Freemaureuge Schichte," but no other details are available.

Born in Marisch-Schoenberg, Moravia, on Aug. 18, 1873, he was an engineering student who decided on a singing career. His first job was in the chorus of the Brunn Opera. On March 17, 1896, he made his debut in Lohengrin at Brunn and went on to become one of the most celebrated tenors of the 20th century. He sang at Berlin and Covent Garden and was the principal tenor at the Vienna Opera for 25 years. He sang at the Metropolitan and was their Wagnerian tenor in 1912-13. He was active on the concert stage and became a character actor in German films of the 1930s. His final role was in Baron Munchhausen in 1942. He died June 1, 1946.

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Andrew Jackson has been illustrated on several stamps around the world, including this one with Bro. George Washington released by USPS on Aug. 19, 1994. The seventh president of the

United States, Jackson was born March 15, 1767, at Washaw Settlement, North Carolina. His political career started as a delegate to the state constitutional convention whose aim it was to pre-



pare Tennessee for its admission into the Union. He served as Congressman and then as Senator starting in 1797. He achieved military fame by defeating the British at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815, and was re-elected to the Senate in 1823. He defeated John Quincy Adams for the presidency in 1828 and was re-elected in 1832. He died June 8, 1845, and is buried in the garden of his Tennessee home, the Hermitage.

Bro. Jackson was a member of Harmony Lodge No. 1, Nashville as early 1800, but the dates of his degrees have not been found, primarily as a result of conflagrations. He was present at the first meeting of Tennessee Lodge No. 2 in Knoxville, TN, on March 24, 1800, and the first meeting of Greenville Lodge No. 3,

Greenville, TN. He served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee from Oct. 1822 to Oct. 1823, and was elected Honorary Member of several lodges.

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George M. Pullman is featured here on a souvenir sheet issued by Maldives on Nov. 26, 1989. Born March 3, 1831, in Chautauqua County, NY, he joined his elder brother at the age of 17 in the cabinet making business in Albion, NY. He moved to Chicago in 1859 and constructed entire blocks of brick and stone buildings there. In 1858, his attention had been drawn to the discomfort of long distance railroad travel and the following year he remodeled two old day coaches of the Chicago and Alton into sleeping cars.



In 1863, he built the prototype of the present Pullman car. He later designed dining cars, chair cars and vestibule cars. He died on Oct. 19, 1887.

Bro. Pullman was a member of Renovation Lodge No. 97, Albion, NY.

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Robert Edwin Peary and Bro. Matthew Henson are pictured here on a May 28, 1986 USPS issue stamp from a set honoring Arctic explorers. Born on May 6, 1856, at Cresson Springs, PA, Peary graduated from Bowdoin



College in 1877 and was commissioned in the Navy as a Civil Engineer in 1881. He led several explorations to Greenland and points north from 1886 to 1909. In 1908, he embarked on his famous trip that culminated in his arriving at the North Pole on April 6, 1909 with five companions. He was given the rank of Rear Admiral in 1911 and died in Washington, DC in February 1920.

Bro. Peary received his degrees in Kane Lodge No. 454, New York City, in 1896. He presented the Lodge the Masonic Flag that was raised at Independence Bay, Greenland, May 20-25, 1895.

ROBERT A. DOMINGUE is secretary for St. Matthew's Lodge, Andover, MA, and editor of The Philatelic Freemason.





By THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°

*The Freemasons: A History of the World's Most Powerful Secret Society* by Jasper Ridley. Published in 1999 with a first edition release in the U.S. in 2001 by Arcade Publishing, Inc., New York. Distributed by Time Warner Trade Publishing. \$27.95

This just might be the finest, and fairest, historical review of Freemasonry ever published. Jasper Ridley is a highly respected British historian and is not a Freemason. He therefore carries the credibility of his profession without the perceived bias of Masonic membership. He has authored at least 18 other histories and has written as honest and fair an evaluation of Freemasonry as I have ever read. He shows no predisposition either in favor of or against the craft. He reveals our beauty and our warts.

The writings in this text trace the history of Freemasonry from its origin through to the present. It discusses the spread of the craft throughout the world, along with its challenges and its influences, its highs and its lows, its strengths and its weaknesses.

One of the greatest challenges to our integrity has historically been the accusation that our commitment to a brother is higher than any other including our obligations to our government's laws. Ridley has examined this aspect applied to the craft extensively and responds creditably. He cites numerous examples of Freemasons working together, but also numerous examples of Freemasons opposing one another when their primary duties lay elsewhere. "If we examine the history of the Freemasons in the last 300 years, it is quite clear that the Freemasons are right, and fears that they constitute a society whose members help each other to break the law, are unfounded."

He begins the book with an examination of the system of Operative Masonry and continues the development of Speculative Masonry with its belief in religious toleration, a radical concept in that day. He acknowledges that this transformation is not fully understood, but that it led to the attracting of some of the greater personages in mind and in social placement of the day. "There was no shortage either of scholastic Masonic philosophers or of members in the aristocracy."

Ridley determines the theory of our descent from the Knights Templars as unlikely. His writing implies that our prohibition against discussion of religion and poli-

tics within the lodge, along with our premise of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity, was of paramount importance in our survival.

The author also discusses the historic differences between Freemasonry and the hierarchy of the Catholic Church. He points out that with the writing of Anderson's Constitutions, the Freemasons' lodges were open to anyone believing in God. Even though Catholics "could not be MPs, army officers, or hold any public position in the state, they would be welcome in a Freemasons lodge." The major obstacle between the two entities was the Masonic precept of toleration.

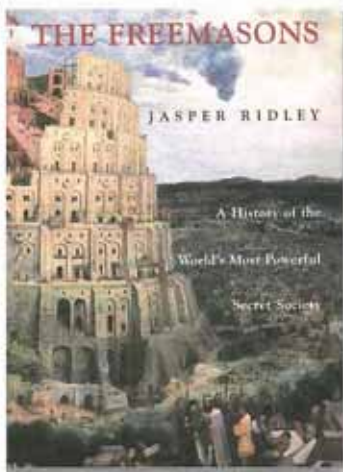
The book deals with the subject of the Illuminati, with which Freemasonry is sometimes erroneously connected. He analyzes the Morgan affair, with its devastating impact on North American Freemasonry. He also debunks some of the hoaxes that have been perpetrated against the craft, including that of Leo Taxil.

The author points out that Freemasonry at times tended to take on more of the characteristics of that of which it was accused. Hence when the accusation was that of being revolutionaries, it attracted revolutionaries. When accused of being a mutual aid society, it attracted those who sought help in securing jobs and assistance. (Sound familiar?) He points at some of the accusers of Freemasonry condemning it by citing its own precepts. "Freemasonry was a movement which believed in absolute freedom and equality, and would therefore destroy any social system based on hierarchical authority."

The chapter on Modern Freemasonry in the United States provides a good analysis of the success of the craft in this country. He provides interesting statistics, some of which I was unaware. He is in error, however, regarding American Masonic presidents. Hoover was not a member; there is no conclusive proof that Madison was a member, and Lyndon Johnson is not regarded as a member, having received only the first degree. Many of our members make the same errors.

Ridley emphasizes that "The Freemasons in the United States, with their great roots in the American way of life and widespread influence among their fellow citizens, need not worry unduly if they form a smaller percentage of the total population than they did 70 years ago."

There are a couple of misleading observations made for which he can be forgiven, since he is not concentrat-





ing on, nor as familiar with, American Freemasonry. For example, he states that the Grand Lodges in North America "are linked together by the system that Albert Pike created," that "the majority of white mainstream lodges adopt Pike's Scottish Rite, others adopt the York Rite," and that "the Shrine is considered to be the highest form of Masonry in the United States." I can understand how these conclusions were made, but they are simply not accurate.

I also do not understand the categorization of Freemasonry into a deistic society, or perhaps the author's use of the word deism. Freemasons do not reject reliance on revelation or authority. Freemasonry does not encourage deism; it requires a belief in a Supreme Being, but encourages man to worship God in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience. Few of our members would regard themselves as deists.

I appreciate one of his conclusions, "the Freemasons can certainly claim to be one of the few organizations where words like 'virtue' and 'morals' are taken seriously, and are not regarded only as something ridiculous which interferes with the sacred pursuit of making money."

We have all been aware of some of the great heroes of the world being Freemasons. This book showed me there were even more. In addition, it reveals to the reader some of the great leaders who were Freemasons in a diversity of fields. It comprises a compendium of notable Freemasons throughout the centuries, a who's who of prominent publications and other leaders, writers, businessmen, thinkers, and artists.

Every Freemason should read this book. It is not a glossed-over view of our craft, and it is credible. It not only gives us reasons to be proud of our accomplishments, it helps neutralize our own self-prejudice. The final chapter is titled, "Are Freemasons a Menace?" It concludes with this sentence: "Let us hope that it will not be necessary for 6 million Freemasons to be slaughtered before it becomes unfashionable to denounce them."



***A Shared Spirit: Freemasonry and Native American Tradition***, a compilation of articles by several authors. Published in 2001 jointly by the Masonic Service Association of North America, 8120 Fenton St., Silver Spring, MD 20910, and the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, P.O. Box 1019, Guthrie, OK, 73044. \$4.

*A Shared Spirit* is a 53-page paperback prepared in celebration of the 800th performance by the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team and in "recognition of the many shared traditions in Freemasonry and the spiritual heritage of the American Indian."

A number of different authors have contributed to this compilation, several of which are noted Masonic scholars. Brothers Robert G. Davis and Jim Tresner, who are the principle authors, write the preface, and Brother

Wallace McLeod writes one short biographical sketch. These names should be well known to all of us. In addition, other authors have contributed their expertise to the content.

Brother Terry Adams, director of the Indian Degree Team, presents a history of the heritage of the unit, and Most Worshipful Robert T. Shipe, Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, writes about the Seal of the Grand Lodge.

The book is divided into five sections. The first being the history of the heritage of the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team, followed by Symbols and Traditions, The Lodge and the Lodge: Two Traditions -- One Impulse, Voices across the Years, and Two Biographical Sketches.

The book should be extremely interesting reading to Freemasons because of the extensive traveling and wide exposure generated by the degree

team. In addition, however, the analogies made between Freemasonry and Indian Secret Societies, including the symbolism and ideals, reveals a bond of understanding that many members lack. The magnitude of the similarities in the teachings should be seen as a tie uniting us in a common spirit. I find it impressive how well the phraseology of Freemasonry and Indian Secret Societies are interchangeable. The basic issues and principles, as well as the precepts and philosophy, are very similar.

According to the authors, similarities between our Masonic cultures and Indian cultures played a major role in the eventual compatibility within our early nation.

Although I was aware of various American Indians becoming Freemasons early on in our history, I was unaware of the extent of the influence of the craft upon the members, or the numbers involved.

In this book, you will find stories that will contribute to your better understanding of Freemasonry's influence with the Indian nations and with the Indians themselves. It will give you another cause to have pride in our heritage.

For me it was relaxing to read a book that took less effort than I am used to, in either reading or understanding. It was a noted change. I recommend it.

**THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°**, was formerly Grand Secretary for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He is Executive Secretary for the World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges and the book reviewer for *The Northern Light*.





# HealthWise

## Ideas for Health and Fitness

### ■ Remedy for eczema

Protopic is the first steroid-free medication for treating eczema. The ointment, recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, is in a new class of drugs called topical immuno-modulators.



They suppress the immune system on the skin surface. Dermatologists at Northwestern University say this is a

significant improvement over topical steroid creams, which have unwanted side effects.

New users may experience some stinging, burning, or itching in the first week of use.

### ■ Immediate benefits from exercise

Do you have to train for weeks before you get any benefits from exercise? Doctors at Ohio University say not.

You can shave pounds within a week, and your strength will sharpen. Their studies show that muscle responds to weight lifting after only four sessions.

Doctors say reduced stress, a more positive outlook, more confidence, and sounder sleep show up after one workout.

### ■ Use a smaller dish?

Most of us listened when Mom and Dad said we should eat everything on our plate.

Two-thirds of us still do that. According to the American Institute for Cancer Research, 67 percent of Americans eat everything on their plates, no matter how much is on it.

That means part of the solution to overeating could be a smaller plate or smaller helpings of food put on the plate at serving time. When you eat it all, you won't be eating as much.

### ■ Leading source of kids' recreational injuries

A bicycle doesn't look particularly dangerous, but it is the most common source of recreational injuries in kids.

Some 415,000 musculoskeletal injuries from bike riding were treated in emergency rooms and doctors' offices in 2000, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. One reason there are so many injuries, of course, is that more kids are involved in bike riding than in any other sport.

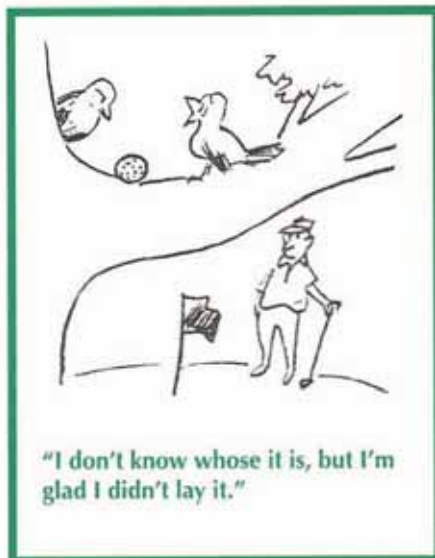
Basketball came in second with 407,000 cases, followed by football with 389,000 injuries.

### ■ Tired? Drink water

If you're tired more often than you should be, try drinking more water.

Doctors say fatigue is an early sign of mild dehydration. You can get a third of your water needs from food, but you still need eight cups of fluid each day to feel right. Five of them should be water.

Drink an extra cup if you down diuretics such as coffee or liquor.



### ■ Get heart smart: Know fact from fiction

When it comes to heart health, myths can be dangerous.

Here are some popular ones, according to Dr. James Rippe, author of *Heart Health for Dummies* (Hungry Minds):

**Myth:** Heart disease strikes middle aged and older people. **Fact:** A study of young adults shows that up to 75 percent have narrowing of the coronary arteries.

**Myth:** Men are more likely to develop heart disease than women.

**Fact:** Men just show symptoms earlier.

**Myth:** Once you have it, it is always progressive.

**Fact:** Some 20 major studies indicate that eating a low-fat diet, exercising regularly, and taking cholesterol-lowering medications can often halt or reverse the progress of heart disease.



### ■ Ankle BP testing

Patients whose blood pressure is lower at the ankle than at the arm should be tested for peripheral arterial disease (PAD).

Studies at the University of Minnesota found that 29 percent of patients with PAD didn't know they had it. They had not yet experienced the classic symptoms of leg cramps and leg fatigue.

Researchers say the blood pressure reading at the ankle should be about 90 percent of the blood pressure reading at the arm.

### ■ Alternative breast cancer treatment

Doctors at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston say several technologies to remove cancer without surgery are on the horizon. Other techniques under study include radio frequency heat, laser heat, or freezing techniques to kill cancer cells deep inside the breast. Because they require only a small nick in the breast, they leave minimal scarring.

Survival rates are the same for both lumpectomy and mastectomy. The same will be true with the new procedures.



# Wisconsin's Project ADAM provides defibrillators

In Wisconsin, Masons are taking their commitment to community to heart.

The Masonic Medical Foundation has partnered with individual lodges to match funds that will provide automatic defibrillators to high schools and public buildings throughout the state.

To date, more than 66 lodges have contributed in this way to Project ADAM.

After his friend Andrew Lemel died during a high school basketball game in 1998, student David Ellis developed the concept of Project ADAM: Automatic Defibrillators in Andrew's Memory. The program, launched in 1999, arose not only from Lemel's death, but also from several sudden deaths of high school students in southeastern Wisconsin.

Many of these deaths appeared to be due to ventricular fibrillation — chaotic contractions of the heart muscle — leading to cardiac arrest. If an automatic defibrillator had been on hand, perhaps some of those athletes would be alive today.

The project's goal, therefore, is to provide portable automatic defibrillators (AEDs) and someone trained to use them at every high school sports event in Wisconsin.

The project, stemming from Ellis' initial idea, is coordinated by Children's Hospital, the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, Medical College of Wisconsin and the Paramedic Training Center of Milwaukee County. It can only be successful, however, if the necessary equipment is available.

That's where the Masons come in.

In 1999, the Masonic Medical Foundation earmarked a total of \$100,000 for the purchase of up to 50 AEDs, with a \$2,000 limit placed on any single AED application from a lodge or group. Each AED costs approximately \$4,000.

An additional \$100,000 was designated in 2001 to fund another 50 AEDs.

During the three years that the

foundation has provided matching funds for the project, a total of 66 Wisconsin lodges have stepped forward to purchase more than 100 devices.

Project ADAM seeks to have an AED-trained person at every high school sporting event in Wisconsin, with training required for all coaches and referees, because a quick response is crucial in the survival of a cardiac arrest victim.

Among the 66 lodges to be involved, Nathan Hale Lodge No. 350, Greenfield, has sponsored six AEDs in the high schools and is working on number seven for this year.

In addition to donating funds to the high schools in support of Project ADAM, the lodge has donated an AED to the Greenfield City Library and the Wisconsin Scottish Rite building.

"We are real proud of how we are using our Masonic abilities," said the lodge's Worshipful Master George Wolwark.

According to Wolwark, the lodge has been a leader in all of southeast Wisconsin in the number of AEDs donated.

"Our lodge has distributed six AEDs to high schools," he said. "To my knowledge, that's more than any other lodge."

The lodge also agreed to fund AED and CPR training for the members of the Scottish Rite for as long as necessary.

"We feel that this could be a life saving thing for one of our brothers," he said. "When we talk of helping a brother Mason in need, this is the closest thing we can do. We just hope we never have to use it."

## MASONIC WORD MATH

*How to solve:* Start with the first word. Add to it the letters of the second word. Then add or subtract the letters of the following words. Total the remaining letters and unscramble them to find a word associated with Masonry.

(CENTURY) + (HORSES) - (TENSE) +  
(DETERMINE) - (COURSE) +  
(GLADIATOR) - (YEAR) - (DIME) +  
(NEST) - (OLD) - (TRAIN)

=

Clue for this puzzle appears on page 4.  
Answer from previous issue: MASTER'S CHAIR



# VIEWS FROM THE PAST

*Quotations selected  
from the past  
may not necessarily  
represent  
today's viewpoint*

## Our National Responsibility

There is no question in the minds of the members of our brotherhood that Masonry and its age-old lessons of Truth have played a prominent part in American history, both on the field of battle and in our legislative halls. And from the early days to the present time, it has gone a long way in knitting together more closely the various divisions of our government.

In this present day when the greater part of the world is torn by political and economic strife — when the horrors of war and villainous intrigue in high places are continually broadcast throughout the length and breadth of this fair land, we of the Scottish Rite are awakened to a new interest in our national responsibilities and regard with deep reverence for the Constitution of the United States of America.

We have come to a fuller, more significant realization of its importance, and we feel we must be rededicated to the truths that are inseparably bound together in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

Masonry played a most important and influential part in the conception and framing of this inspired document. While we, the people as a whole, may amend the details of this great document when necessity warrants, we will always remain a great brotherhood working for the good of all mankind. We will fight to the last to preserve and defend the principles for which our Constitution stands.

— Frank Wilson Atherton,  
*Detroit Lodge of Perfection, 1938*

## Masonic alliance saves lives

From blood-drenched Armenia comes this bit of history to gladden the hearts of all true Masons. Picture the helpless Armenians in a whirlwind of persecution, driven like cattle from home and country by the despotic Turkish government. Picture in the little town of Sivas a group of these wretched and pitiable people under the lash of the tyrants' whips, huddled together in the village square awaiting the bullets of the Turkish muskets to put an end forever to their misery and suffering.

Picture from among this terrorized band a young Armenian, a Freemason, fired by the teachings of his Order and emboldened by that calamity which threatened his loved ones, springing to the side of the Turkish officer and whis-

pering those mystical syllables.

The story is soon told. The merciful bonds of the craft, which knows no race, creed, or condition of life, bridged the chasm between the Mohammedan officer and the Christian prisoner. The brotherly enshielding arm of the Turk parried approaching death from this defenseless brother and his family.

Surely, the recitation of this noble deed of Masonic devotion sends a thrill through the true craftsman — a thrill akin to that when the sacred words were first whispered to him in the fraternal embrace and the world of the square and compasses lay treasured in his bosom.

— Charles C. Newcastle Jr., *The New Age Magazine, September 1919*

## Applied Freemasonry

As we prepare to go into the 21st century, Freemasonry may enter a stage called "Applied Freemasonry" as it begins to serve the human race, its true destiny.

There are five stages of life in every organism: birth, growth, use, decay and death. This applies to life groups, to nations and races. It applies to religions and systems of government. The stage of usefulness should start during the stage of growth. Masonry is at the end of its growth stage and it must turn now to a state of usefulness.

In the new era, Masonry should inspire all Masons to live a Masonic life. How a Mason lives outside the lodge is much more important than what he does in it. Taking another degree, another oath, learning a new sign, does not necessarily evidence forward steps in Masonic living.

Historically, Masonry resists change. But humanity is changing, and like it or not Masonry, consisting of human beings, cannot divorce itself from human life.

The change from Speculative to Applied Freemasonry will not harm Masonry any more than the change from Operative to Speculative. For Masonry to live on in the future, it must demonstrate its usefulness to mankind.

— Ralph E. Head, *The California Freemason, March 1989*



"Now we can begin our meeting."



## Extremism vs. Freedom

In the past, our craft has always defended its basic commitment to freedom of conscience. Masonry's dedication is to each person's right to decide matters of faith for himself. Freemasonry leaves each person to embrace the creed of his choice and teaches toleration. There they are encouraged to live according to the tenets of their own faith.

Our Masonic position is simple: all men and women have the right to be free. They have a

right to think for themselves in all matters civil, political, and religious.

Today, however, divisive sectarianism is gaining strength. Within some denominations, extremists are demanding new rules, which would force many a Mason to choose between his church, synagogue, or other religious membership and his fraternal membership.

The most recent instance is the creation by the June 1992 Southern Baptist Convention of a special "investigation" of Freemasonry by its Interfaith Witness Department. The one-year study is to determine if Freemasonry is compatible with the Christian faith.

That, in itself, is not a concern. All thinking Masons know Freemasonry

is compatible with all the great faiths of the world, including the Christian faith.

We also know any objective unbiased study on the subject will prove this to be true. Freemasonry's main concern is, whatever the report to the Convention may be, that it will be twisted to condemn Freemasonry.

The result could be a devastating blow to Freemasonry. Minimally, it is estimated we could lose 20 percent of our present members, not

to mention the loss of prospective members. We should not forget that the anti-Masonic furor of the 1826-56 period resulted in Masonic lodges losing as many as 75 percent of their members.

Clearly, all caring and thoughtful Masons today must take the threat of religious extremism seriously. We must get back to our Masonic roots and again become outspoken champions of toleration and religious freedom. We must let the world know that Masonry is not the enemy of any church, but its servant and ally. Religion and Freemasonry; both feed the spirit in different ways.

— James B. Wilkinson,  
*Ihmbra, February 1993*

**Masons today must take the threat of religious extremism seriously.**

## Pass on traditions of the craft

We have heard about "Obituary Masons," men who join the fraternity who have no intention of practicing the craft but who want the honor of having their Masonic body memberships listed in their obituary. We joke about the "Knife and Fork Degree," a sarcastic term used of those Masons who take more delight in the banquets and other festivities of the fraternity than they do in its more serious labors.

What is just as unsettling as non-practicing Masons is a recent study by the Masonic Leadership Center which reveals that Freemasonry would die out altogether if it were not for the 20 percent of its membership keeping it alive by passing on

the tradition through its lodges and appendant and concordant bodies. Only 20 percent? Where are the other 80 percent?

Brothers, we have a daunting challenge before us. All of our brothers are depending upon us to pass on the stories, rituals and symbols of the craft to others. Their purpose was not simply to entertain us, but to put the pieces of true Masonic Light into place for us to share with those who come after us.

Attaining the 32° will mean nothing unless we each take responsibility to pass it on to others.

— Logan Garth Swanger,  
*Scottish Rite Bulletin, Valley of Williamsport, February 1997*

## Quick Quotes

The greater danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.

— Michelangelo

I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.

— Helen Keller

Grief and tragedy and hatred are only for a time. Goodness, remembrance, and love have no end.

— George W. Bush

Be bold in what you stand for and careful what you fall for.

— Ruth Boorstin

First ask yourself: What is the worst that can happen? Then prepare to accept it. Then proceed to improve on the worst.

— Dale Carnegie

You are the master of the unspoken word; once spoken, you are the slave.

— Russian Proverb

There is often in people to whom "the worst" has happened an almost transcendent freedom, for they have faced "the worst" and survived it.

— Carol Pearson

Pain comes like the weather, but joy is a choice.

— Rodney Crowell

Goodness is the only investment which never fails.

— Henry David Thoreau

Just remember, when you're over the hill, you begin to pick up speed.

— Charles Schultz

You don't raise heroes; you raise sons. And if you treat them like sons, they'll turn out to be heroes, even if it's just in your own eyes.

— Walter Schirra Sr.



## ■ Build your child's self-esteem

Writing in *Psychology Today*, Robert Epstein, Ph.D., says many parents forget where self-esteem comes from.

We feel good about ourselves when we are effective in the world.

Help your children acquire the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

As your resources allow, get them tutors and extracurricular classes to build intellectual and physical abilities. If their schools are second-rate, consider switching.

An inflated sense of self-worth without underlying abilities is useless if not dangerous, says the doctor.

## ■ Keeping love alive

Advice from happily married couples:

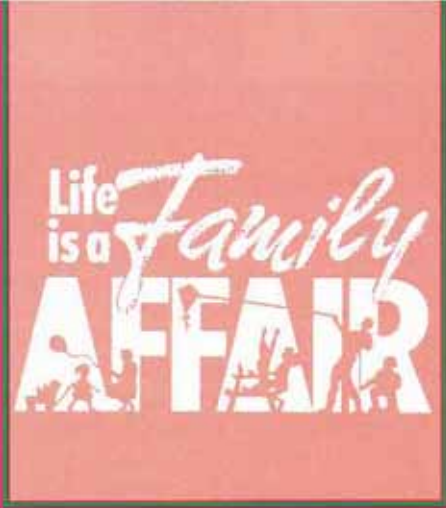
- Always wish the best for each other.
- Show your love. Kiss in elevators; hold hands in movies; tell her she's beautiful.
- Never speak ill of his family or friends, especially those you don't like.
- Listen to each other. Say you're sorry when you're wrong; don't mention it when you turn out to be right.
- Never embarrass or correct each other in public. Try not to do it in private.
- Don't yell unless the house is on fire.
- When you don't like each other, remember that you love each other, say experts writing for Scripps Howard News Service.

## ■ Retiring with pals

It's a new retirement trend that is gaining attention: Retire with your closest friends.

Some couples plan to move to the same retirement community where they can lend each other a helping hand. One group, interviewed for *Time*, will buy land where each couple or individual can build a home. They will build a pool and tennis court for all to share.

Still another group has bought a huge house where four individuals or couples can live, and where there will be a place for a young man to do the heavy work.



## ■ Broken-hearted kids

In a recent survey, 84 percent of parents said their children had an experience that left them broken-hearted. Whether it's a lost boyfriend or being cut from the team, Sal Severe, Ph.D., says parents need to have empathy without judgment during this painful life experience. Severe, author of *How to Behave So Your Children Will Too!* (Viking Press), says your message should be, "I care about you and I'm so sorry you're going through this." Giving an example from your own life can help. Telling them that something similar happened to you shows that these things happen to everyone. Finally, let them know that life really will get better.

## ■ Video card protection

If someone uses the card to rent a stack of videos and keeps them, you could be charged for their replacement. Since tapes purchased for rental cost much more than those for individuals, the bill could be hundreds of dollars, says *The Kiplinger Letter*.



"You're dad's a Mason? I thought they only drove little cars."

Protect yourself by writing down your video-rental card number and the number of the store. If your card comes up missing, contact the store immediately and ask that your account be closed. Follow up with a letter saying the same thing.

## ■ Three factors of family security

Financial advisor Jane Bryant Quinn wrote in her *Newsweek* column: Families are looking for increased security now, and that begins with cash, life insurance, and bonds.

- Have available cash. It's important to have three to six month's worth of expenses in the bank, but it's even more important in such unusual times as these.
- Check your life insurance. As a rule of thumb, says Quinn, parents of two children should carry policies worth seven times the family's income. Two-income couples need to divide the coverage proportionately. If one parent earns 60 percent of the income, he or she should carry 60 percent of the insurance.
- For investments, she advises conservative bond mutual funds now.

## ■ Homeowners get help

Homeowners who have suffered personal disasters or job layoffs may get relief from foreclosure through a negotiation with the mortgage holder. Mortgage lenders are using "loan modification" programs to keep the housing market afloat during economic distress. The industry, including Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, approves of refinance plans that add missed payments to the mortgage balance. In some cases, current payment amounts can also be lowered.

## ■ Clicking their way to a degree

Two years after the dot.com downturn began, e-learning has emerged as one of the Internet's most useful applications. Nearly half of the 4,000 major colleges and universities in the U.S. now offer courses, says International Data Corp. Some 2 million students take online courses, and that number is expected to rise.



# The Builders Column



## The Story of Ruth

Ruth, a Mason's widow with modest means, wanted to plan her assets so that she would have adequate money for the rest of her life, leave a sum to her relatives and also help charitable groups.

She was not sure, however, if her moderate assets could spread that far. Upon the death of her husband, Ruth had to determine how to prepare herself financially for the future. She turned to her financial advisor and attorney, both of whom were 32° Masons, for advice.

Her financial advisor set her up with a solid investment account that provided a safe investment on the proceeds when she sold the house. She decided her best course of action was to set up a revocable living trust in which she would be the initial trustee. She named backup trustees in case of her death, and specified how she wanted things left.

Her attorney and advisor came up with a plan where Ruth would leave 20 percent of whatever remained in her estate at her death to one or more special charities that would help children in Eastern Maine.

Although she did have an extended stay in a nursing home, the costs did not deplete her assets significantly. She had done well with her investments and lived well within her income.

At the time of her death in December 1999, her modest assets of \$150,000 had grown to \$500,000. Ruth left 80 percent to her relatives and 20 percent to the charitable account.

One of the charities chosen by her trust was the 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children in Bangor, Maine. The center received a portion of Ruth's charitable giving totaling \$38,000.

Ruth started with modest assets and faced an extended nursing home stay, yet by planning she created the possibility of charitable giving, as well as benefiting the children in eastern Maine.

Ruth's gift makes it possible to fund the continued success of the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children that help young people overcome their dyslexia disability, as well as two other charities who received similar gifts.

Ruth's story could be your story. Whatever happens to you in life, plan to take care of yourself as Ruth did, but leave a charitable component to help others. It can be the greatest lasting reward of all.



## Support the Blue Envelope Appeal

For generations the "blue" envelope appeal has been a part of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. This appeal supports three of our charities: National Heritage Museum, scholarships, and schizophrenia research. You can help by sending a tax-deductible contribution to Blue Envelope Appeal, Scottish Rite Masonic Charities, McCormack Post Office, PO Box 9233, Boston, MA 02209-9233

## Timeless Calendars

The "Timeless Brotherhood" calendar for the year 2002 features many familiar names of men who were Masons. We can feel proud that our organization has played a role in the lives of these great men and that we also play a role in the organization that inspired them. Men like these have shaped the world around them by giving of themselves for others, and now we ask that you do the same thing.

If you have not yet sent in your donation for the "Timeless Brotherhood" calendar, please do so soon. Your help is needed to continue our efforts to help children with learning disabilities. Your contribution to the calendar program goes directly to help fund the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc. which enables us to give the gift of literacy and the pride and self-esteem that goes along with it.

(Please complete and return this reply form.)

- ☐ Please contact me regarding one of the planned giving options.
- ☐ I have already remembered the Supreme Council Scottish Rite Masonic Charities in my estate planning.
- ☐ Please send me information about the Builders Council.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to: Director of Development, Supreme Council, P.O. Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420, or contact him at: [ffletcher@supremecouncil.org](mailto:ffletcher@supremecouncil.org)



# Our Readers Respond

## Book Nook

On my way to bed I happened to grab my copy of *The Northern Light*. While lying in bed I read Ill. Thomas W. Jackson's book review and commentary ("Book Nook," Feb 02).

With eyelids testing gravity, one paragraph led to another, then another, before I finished reading the article and turned out the light for a good night's sleep.

Good night's sleep . . . Hmmm. Yeah, right. After reading the article I tossed and turned in bed most of the night. Many of the statements in the article were wandering through the mind. I was contemplating the philosophical purpose of the craft.

You hit the nail on the head with your comments.

Michael S. Franck, 32°  
Valley of Detroit

I read the book reviews with interest. I've followed up on many of the suggestions and found an entire world of Masonic opinion and history out there that the lodges ignore.

I certainly can't believe a few guys in a pub in England pulled all this together. The connections to the Knights Templar and even Egypt are fascinating.

Why wouldn't a better understanding of the origins of Masonry enhance the lodges and maybe even attract new members with a broader world view?

I think Ill. Brother Jackson is right on the mark.

W.G. Weiss Jr., 32°  
Alden, MI

## "Master" Leavitt

The portrait of Dudley Leavitt ("Historic Chair Makes Rare Visit," Feb 02) that will appear in the new Masonic exhibit implies that he was a Mason.

I am working on a biography of Charles Gilman, an exceptional Mason and Past Grand Master of New Hampshire, and became interested in "Master" Leavitt for his possible links with my main subject. He was called "Master" because of his extraordinary teaching abilities and not for being a Mason. The Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire informed me there is no evidence indicating that he was a Mason.

I would like to know Dudley Leavitt's Masonic history.

Jorge Soto  
Antioch, CA

**Editor's note:** Museum curator Mark Tabbert apologizes for the misleading reference. The portrait appears in the exhibit because Leavitt is reading the book, *The Mind Is the Man*. Visible on one of the pages is a square and compasses emblem. Brother Tabbert has been advised by both the Grand Lodge and the New Hampshire Historical Society that there is no positive proof of Leavitt's Masonic membership.

## On the Lighter Side

### If they merged . . .

If there was a merger between Yahoo and Netscape, the new name might be Net'n'yahoo.

If there was a merger in the works involving Polygram Records, Warner Brothers, and Keebler, it would be called: Poly-Warner-Cracker.

3M and Goodyear would make a delicious company called mmmGood.

Good advice: John Deere and Abitibi-Price could join forces and become Deere Abi.

What could Zippo Manufacturing, Audi, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining be called in the music business? Zip Audi Do Da.

If W. R. Grace merged with Fuller Brush, Mary Kay Cosmetics, and Hale Business Systems, it could result in the mega-corporate entity known as: Hale Mary Fuller Grace.

Appropriately, if Folgers Coffee, Detroit Edison and Rolex merged, their new name might be Folderol.

If Honeywell and Imasco join forces with Home Oil, a new name could be Honey, I'm Home.

Denison Mines & Alliance & Metal Mining = Mine, All Mine.

**HIRAM™**

By WALLY MILLER





# Footnotes\*

\* **Lowering the age.** Pennsylvania has become the 23rd Grand Lodge in the United States to accept petitions under the age of 21. Grand Master Marvin A. Cunningham Sr. announced at a quarterly communication in March a decision that lowers the eligibility to petition a Pennsylvania Masonic lodge to 18 years of age.

When asked for his opinion of the decision, Ill. Thomas R. Labagh, 33°, DeMolay Executive Officer for Pennsylvania, indicated that he sees only positive things coming from the decision.

"The Masonic fraternity has long recognized that the membership of DeMolay is not to be considered a recruiting ground for Freemasonry," he said. "However, we all know that young men who work closely with Masons generally gain a favorable impression of the fraternity. We have been very careful in DeMolay to state that membership in the order is not to be considered a guarantee of membership in the craft. But we know that lodges are generally very happy to receive DeMolay members who bring with them a vast knowledge of the fraternal system of organization and experience in ritual performance."

\* **Jazz it up.** Children's learning centers are conducting fund-raising events to assist with the cost of operating the centers. The flagship center at the Supreme Council headquarters is no exception.

The board of governors have announced a band concert for Mother's Day, May 12, at 2 p.m., featuring the New, New Orleans Jazz Band. The concert will be held at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington. For those who will be in the area on Mother's Day, tickets will be available at the door or can be purchased in advance at the museum.

\* **Masonic reading.** When we run columns and feature articles in the magazine, we never know how well some of them are received until we begin to get a response. In fact, sometimes we wonder if we are living in a vacuum.

Since the inception of *The Northern Light* in 1970, each issue has carried at least one book review. A readership survey conducted in 1992 indicated that the book reviews were not a high priority. We persisted in giving it space, because we thought it was a valuable tool to educate Masons.

Much to our surprise, recent letters have been commenting on the "Book Nook" column, perhaps stirred by the commentary by the reviewer, Ill. Thomas W. Jackson, 33°, in the February issue. We have included several of the letters in this issue.

We were not able to print all of the responses. For instance, one reader wanted to know if Ill. Brother Jackson would provide a list of his "Top 10" Masonic books. Such a list did appear in the May 1995 issue of *The Northern Light*, when a cover story was devoted to the subject. It not only included Brother Jackson's list and the editor's choices but also provided lists from three other Masonic scholars.

Although there have been a number of new books published since 1995, the lists still give an insight into some quality material that should not be overlooked. For those who missed the issue or misplaced their copy, we will be happy to send along another copy upon request. After all, educating Masons is our business.

\* **Fine print.** Obviously Ill. Robert W. Heald, 33°, reads the *Keene (NH) Sentinel* very carefully. David Proper's weekly column on

regional history was relating the history of football and its predecessor, rugby, in Keene. Buried in the story was a brief reference to the captain of an 1885 high school rugby team—one Leon M. Abbott.

Ill. Brother Heald knew not only that Abbott was a former Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern Jurisdiction but also that his remains lay buried in a cemetery in Keene. It took a "keen" pair of eyes to spot that passing reference.

\* **Tea brewing.** The Valley of Boston has commissioned two professional playwrights to prepare a production that a cast could perform for the public. The outcome is "Something's Brewing in Boston," a play centered around the Boston Tea Party. Performances will take place on June 14-15 at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington. The presentation will allow Valley members to show off their talents usually restricted to closed Scottish Rite degree work and also make use of the colorful colonial costumes.

\* **Indexes.** Copies of the indexes for *The Northern Light* are available on request. They are prepared in five-year intervals. The most recent is the period from 1995-99.

Also available are open-ended slip cases that will conveniently hold back issues for a five-year period. The cost is \$6 per case. They can be ordered through *The Northern Light*, P.O. Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420. A limited number of back issues for most editions are also available at a cost of \$2 per issue or \$1.50 per issue when ordering three or more issues.

If you wish to order back issues in five-year increments, they are available for \$12 per bundle. These bundles can only be ordered for the periods 1975-79, 1980-84, 1985-89, 1990-94, and 1995-99.



RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°  
Editor



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