

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

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A WINDOW FOR FREEMASONRY



Improving the world around us



Robert O. Ralston, 33°
Sovereign Grand
Commander

"We don't
always get
to hear
directly
of our
impact."

Recently I received a letter that was so heartwarming and exciting that I must share it with you. While it is just one of many letters we receive from students and parents who have participated in our 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children program, this one in particular is a moving example of how our work affects the lives of others.

Although we know our charitable efforts are improving the world around us, we don't always get to hear directly of our impact.

It is almost impossible to read this without feeling proud that we are 32° Scottish Rite Masons.

The mother explains that her son was previously diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, depression and a seizure disorder. As he grew older, he had severe behavioral problems in school, and eventually he was unable to attend. He was treated at a psychiatric center and home schooled until it was thought he was doing better and could return to school.

The mother writes: "As soon as he started back to school, the behavioral problems started again. In January 1999, I received a phone call from school. He had tried to commit suicide."

According to the letter, when the student started at one of our learning centers in June 1999, it was very difficult for him. Reading had caused him enormous stress and failure in the past. The mother said they left the tutoring sessions early more often than not during the first couple of weeks, usually with her son in tears. Once the boy "got it," however, things improved rapidly.

"Once he realized that he was finally learning to read, he gave it his best effort. He would even complain when there would be breaks between semes-

ters that the breaks were too long and he wanted to get back to his tutoring."

The mother continues: "The benefits of the program became apparent as soon as he started school part-time in August. During the second week of school, I asked him how school was going. His response was, 'Great, I can read now.' After only 10 months time he advanced three and a half grade levels. Most people would consider this alone to be amazing. In addition, our family was given back the compassionate, sensitive and spirited life of our 12-year-old son."

The mother proudly reports that her seventh-grader is back in school full-time and has not exhibited any behavioral problems.

"His teachers say he is so eager to learn and contributes so much to class. We have also been able to reduce his medications. He has not had a seizure in over a year and a half. I completely attribute this to his reduced stress from being able to read," the mother wrote.

Although this boy's story is extreme, it certainly illustrates how important it is for us to continue our efforts in providing this type of care for those in need. What could be more rewarding than knowing we are able to make a profound difference through our charitable works?

The mother's words sum it up beautifully:

"The Masonic Learning Center filled in the missing link to my son's success in life. Thank you very much."

Sovereign Grand Commander



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SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER
Robert O. Ralston, 33°

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Meet Mr. Fix-it

New director brings roll-up your sleeves attitude to museum

During his interview for the executive director position at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage, winning candidate John Ott recited an extensive list of ideas to improve and enliven the museum. One of the search committee members shook Ott's hand as he left and said, "Well, if you get the job, you'll have plenty to fix."

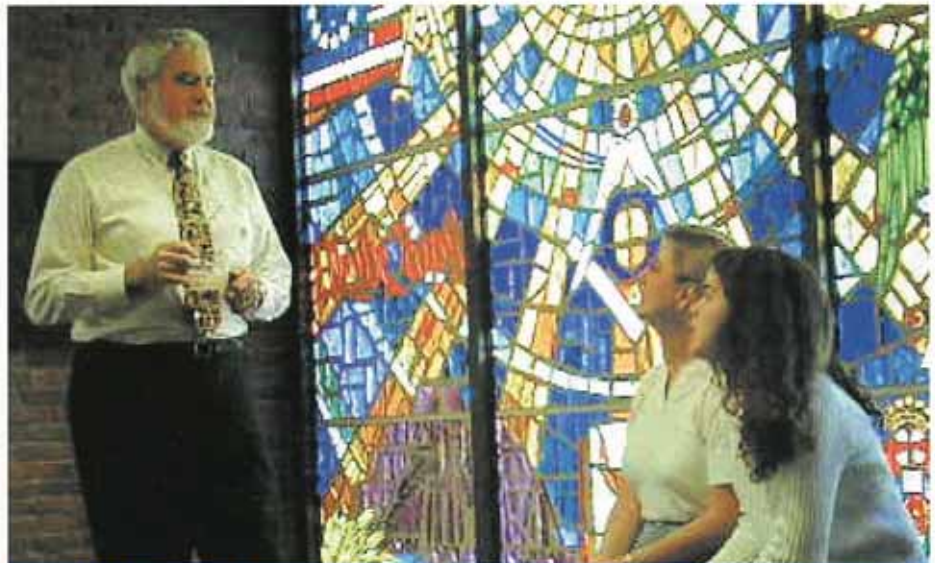
And fixing things is what Ott, 56, does best. Whether it's bringing life to a museum, or repairing the lock on his old suitcase just hours before travel time, Ott has a strong personal philosophy that predisposes him to being a "fix-it" man.

Starting with his first museum job at Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, MA, Ott quickly mastered the art of museum administration and has since taken the Village, the Atlanta Historical Society, and the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore to new heights. After only one year in Lexington, MA, he is continuing that trend at MONH.

According to the museum's director of finance and administration June Cobb, Ott has already achieved in 12 months more than anyone ever expected of him.

"It is almost miraculous what he has been able to do in one year," said Cobb, who has worked with the previous two directors in her 14 years at the museum.

When Ott came on board, MONH had been operating without a director



Ott explains the museum's Masonic window to visitors Ann Murphy from Rochester, NY and Jonelle Trimble of Medford, MA.

for nine months. Working virtually without oversight, each department appeared to turn inward to govern itself, with no overall goal or long-term vision except within each department.

"John came into a place very departmentalized," Cobb observed. "And he has worked very hard at trying to get everyone working together again."

Cobb also noted that Ott has been very successful in getting the community more involved in the museum. He has invited the town of Lexington to hold its town meetings in the auditorium for the next three years, as its usual facilities are being renovated. He has also offered the museum's space for public forums and discussions to community organizations.

Over an all-you-can-eat lunch buffet at a local Chinese restaurant, Ott

shared his vision for the museum. After being at the helm for a year, he said he is beginning to implement a plan for improving on its already "sterling reputation."

According to Ott, MONH has a tremendous potential for growth and for gaining even more distinction as a historical museum.

He says it already has a strong presence in the industry as an excellent exhibition research center, and he wants to make sure more people become aware of its virtues.

"The museum has a reputation for doing exhibits in what's called a 'high style,' in other words, being done well, and in good taste, and in a way people in the industry respect," he said. "I don't want to change that. But I would like to see us become more connected to the community and to Masons in all of our jurisdiction."

Ott wants the museum to become a viable resource for all those who live



ROBIN ROBINSON, Assistant to the Editor, is a former community newspaper editor and reporter with a master's degree in publishing and writing.

throughout the 15-state Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. He plans to make the museum mobile by producing videos of exhibits and lectures that can be distributed across the jurisdiction and perhaps broadcast on local television stations. He also plans to enhance the museum's website to make it more interactive and informative. He would also like to see the Valleys in the jurisdiction enter into a cooperative effort with the museum concerning sharing information and material. Ott said it is important for the museum to broaden its audience to include everyone in the jurisdiction.

"We want to ask ourselves, what can this museum be to the Mason in Wisconsin?" he said.

Ott often compares MONH to a military Stealth fighter plane. The Stealth is a well-built, very sophisticated plane, but it is designed to fly undetected.

"Like the Stealth, the museum is beautifully built, well equipped with apparatus, can reach almost anywhere and is the most sophisticated museum in New England," he said. "But it is flying undetected, and we need to let people know we are here."

It is only the beginning, but Ott has already proven he can make things happen: if there are any doubts, his track record supports him further.

In 1983, Ott was hired as director for the Atlanta Historical Society, previously seen as an "old boys" network run like an elitist private club. AHS had a large budget, but catered to a very small, very white, audience. Ott said immediately upon taking the job he felt it was a shame that the AHS had so much to offer and was reaching such a small select number of people.

In *Profiles in Excellence*, a book that pinpoints factors needed to create a successful nonprofit organization, Ott is featured as a dynamic leader instrumental in turning the AHS around.

In eight years, Ott increased the guest base by broadening the scope of the society, transforming it into an encompassing entity that embodied the complete history of Atlanta, not just the elitist view.



Ott meets frequently with staff to exchange ideas.

According to book authors E.B. Knauff, Renee A. Berger and Sandra T. Gray, as new director, Ott immediately launched the society on its much broader course by revisiting and expanding its mission, spurring the professionalism of its staff and board, embracing a larger constituency, and diversifying its resources.

AHS board members credit Ott with bringing the society's message to more audiences through his outreach to other organizations, his skill as a public speaker, and his ability to build networks. According to the book, "John Ott is a study in leadership skills. He is, as one AHS staff member put it, 'the shirt-sleeves type who doesn't hide in his office.'"

The staff at MONH would have to agree with that analysis, since Ott has been very effective in opening the lines of communication between departments and has been trying in the last year to get "everyone on the same page."

For a museum to be successful in its mission, Ott says a staff must work well together and have a common purpose and vision. His management policy is to share information and treat everyone with respect and dignity, and he requires his staff to do the same.

Ott also organized the management structure so senior staff can better manage its people and tasks. He has also instituted change management exercises to try and obtain a revitalized sense of the museum's mission.

"What was going on in 1976 is not the same as what is going on now, not in the town, not in the community, not in the museum, or even the country," he said. "We need to refocus our efforts, look at what is the same and what is different, and then tell people who we are and what we do and why and how we do it."

Ott says one of the greatest needs of the museum is to increase its marketing and publicity efforts.

"I know we're not doing our job because too many people don't know we are here," he said. "When I hear a visitor who lives right here in the neighborhood say, 'Why have I never been here before?', I know we have work to do."

Ott also plans to take his "everyone on board" policy outside the museum walls. He says he wants to get the community and its business leaders, Masons, the Supreme Council and anyone else he can find to join the museum in accomplishing its goal.

Ott has been venturing out into the community by attending various town meetings, visiting Rotary luncheons and joining the Board of the Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Advisory Board. Ott hopes these avenues will help him discover what the community wants and needs from the mu- ➤

"John Ott is the shirt-sleeves type who doesn't hide in his office."

—Atlanta Historical Society staff member

➤seum, as well as what it might be able to offer in return.

"The biggest thing is to open up the lines of communication within the museum and outside the museum," Ott said.

Ott said he developed his community-oriented philosophy from being the son of an Episcopal minister.

"I grew up seeing my father worry about everyone. It made an impression on me. I learned that you look out for others, if help is needed you offer it, and it will come back to you."

Ott's point was driven home in a very strange way when he worked as director of the B&O Railroad Museum, which is considered to be the birthplace of American railroading. The B&O is the only railroad dedicated by a signer of the Declaration of Independence, making it a viable historic location, but the museum had very few resources to sell itself.

Because of its location, the museum was constantly plagued by vandalism. Ott began working closely with the community and getting those outside and inside the museum to buy into its credibility. Eventually, vandalism dropped and the museum was able to create a more inviting environment for visitors.

However, the museum did get robbed of a shipment of brand new hand tools, and when the crime was reported, the police just shrugged and told Ott he shouldn't plan on seeing any of them again.

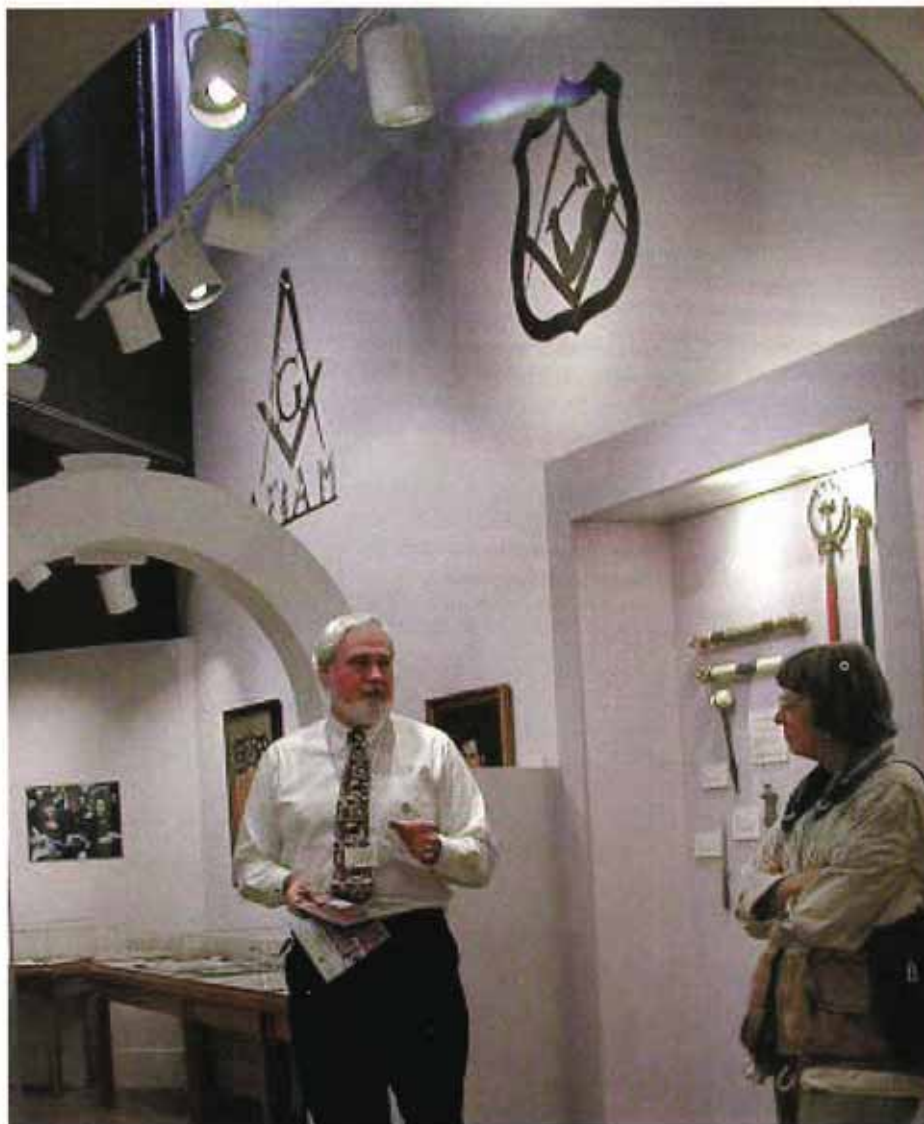
However, when the thieves tried to unload the tools at neighboring stores and pawnshops, owners of the stores realized the tools must have come from the museum. Because those business owners cared about the museum and saw it as a partner, the museum ended up recovering every tool except one.

"The police were dumbfounded," Ott said, "but instead of just worrying about the museum, we were also concerned about the community, and the community returned the favor."

Becoming the director of MONH has felt like "coming full circle" to Ott, because he has had indirect connections to it since it opened in 1975.

The first MONH director, Clement Silvestro, tried to hire him as a curator back in the 1970s. Silvestro, reached at his home in Maine, said he will expect to see great exhibitions coming from Ott's experienced hand.

"When I heard the news that John Ott was appointed director, I said,



Frequent museum visitor Dorothy Macdonald, Burlington, MA, discusses the "Initiating America" exhibit with Ott.

"Well, well, my instincts were right, but my timing was premature."

Ott has another colleague connected to MONH. Barbara Franco, who is currently executive director of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., was the assistant director from 1974-1989. Franco and Ott attended Cooperstown Graduate Program together in the late 1960s. The program, co-sponsored by the State University of New York College at Oneonta and New York State Historical Association, provides an intensive program that combines both academic and professional practice. Ott graduated with a master's in museum administration and American folklore.

Franco said she is confident that Ott will bring new energy and life to the museum. "John is one of the people in the museum field whose work I admire and respect," she said. "He has

left every institution he's worked for in better shape and has made some really significant contributions."

While he tackles the challenges ahead at the museum, he and his wife Lili have taken up residence in Groton, MA. Lili is the director of marketing for the Ecotarium, a center for environmental exploration in Worcester.

Ott gives credit to his humble beginnings and his training in the Army for his effectiveness in museum management. Ott enlisted in 1967 during the Vietnam war, and was commissioned an officer three months later.

"As an Army Ordinance officer, I learned that nothing is more important than common sense. Rules are useless if they don't make sense at the time," he said. "I am no miracle worker by a long shot, but what I do have is lots of common sense."

Annual Meeting Highlights

Supreme Council elects new Deputies, Active Members

An unusually large class of 32° Scottish Rite Masons became the recipients of the 33° during the course of the Supreme Council's annual meeting held at Pittsburgh in September. The millennium class included many who were honored for their work beyond the fraternity. Among the honorees were two U.S. Congressmen: Nicholas H. Smith of Michigan and Paul E. Gillmor of Ohio.

The list of recipients was announced a year ago at the close of the meeting in Atlantic City. Since that time, five members received the 33° posthumously.

Among the guests at the meeting were the Grand Masters from each of the 15 states within the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Three were members of the 33° class: Wayne T. Adams, Maine; Earl T. Washburn, Vermont, and Jack L. Allen, Ohio. Ill. Brother



Pennsylvania Grand Master Robert L. Dluge Jr. welcomed the guests to his state.

Allen became acting Grand Master following the untimely death in early September of the Ohio Grand Master, Ronald R. Rogers.

Also in attendance were representatives from 16 other Scottish Rite Supreme Councils throughout the world. Represented were Southern Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Northern Jurisdiction, Canada, France, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Italy, Honduras, El Salvador, Iran-in-Exile, South Africa, Czech Republic, Portugal, Hungary, and Poland.

Many new faces appear on the official tableau as a result of action taken at the session. Retiring Deputies include Ill. Richard W. Parker, 33°, Vermont, who will continue as an Active Member; Ill. Norman R. Buecker, 33°, Illinois, and Ill. Warren F. Schueler Sr., 33°, Delaware. Ill. Brothers Buecker and Schueler became Active Emeriti Members. ➤



The Grand Masters from all 15 states in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction were in attendance at this year's Supreme Council session. (Front) Leonard F. D'Amico, Connecticut; Jeremy J. Sawyer, New Hampshire; Robert L. Dluge Jr., Pennsylvania; Grand Commander Ralston; Earl J. Washburn, Vermont; Fred K. Bauer, Massa-

chusetts, and Benjamin Phillips, Rhode Island. (Rear) Wayne T. Adams, Maine; William T. Wadkins Jr., Delaware; Robert P. Conley, Michigan; Jack L. Allen, (Acting) Ohio; Carl J. Smith, New York; Gail N. Kemp, Indiana; J. Garrie Burr, Illinois, and Ferris Tryon, New Jersey. Missing from the photo is Stephen D. Willett, Wisconsin.

► Newly elected Deputies are Ill. Peter G. Huntsman, 33°, Vermont; Ill. Robert V. McDowell, 33°, Delaware, and Ill. Phillip C. Kenney, 33°, Illinois.

Also retiring as Active Members and named Active Emeriti Members were Ill. A. Norman Johnson, 33°, Connecticut, and Ill. Bruce W. Widger, 33°, New York.

Six new Active Members were elected. They are Ill. Donald D. Thomas, 33°, Delaware; Ill. Gail N. Smith, 33°, Connecticut; Ill. Ralph I. Sewall, 33°, Massachusetts; Ill. Frederick D. Greene, 33°, New York; Ill. Richard E. Hildebrand, 33°, Vermont, and Ill. Verdon R. Skipper, 33°, New Jersey.

Ill. Brother Thomas, 69, is a retired information systems manager. A Scottish Rite Mason since 1965, he has served the Valley of Wilmington, DE, as Thrice Potent Master and Commander-in-Chief. He received the 33° in 1979.

Ill. Brother Smith, 63, is a retired Connecticut state police officer and the current vice president of fraternal relations for the Masonic Charity Foundation in his state. A recipient of the 33° in 1985, he is a Past Grand Commander of the Knights Templar, 1984; Past Commander-in-Chief of Connecticut Consistory, 1985-86, and Past Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut, 1989.

Ill. Brother Sewall, 58, a construction equipment salesman, has served the



(Front) Ralph I. Sewall, Massachusetts; Frederick D. Greene, New York; (Rear) Donald D. Thomas, Delaware; Richard E. Hildebrand, Vermont; Verdon R. Skipper, New Jersey, and Gail N. Smith, Connecticut.

Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in a number of capacities. He is a Past Commander-in-Chief of Massachusetts Consistory and a recent Deputy's Representative. He received the 33° in 1996.

Ill. Brother Greene, 59, is a retired controller and operations manager. He is a 1997 recipient of the 33°. For the Valley of Syracuse, he has served as Most Wise Master, 1984, and Com-

mander-in-Chief, 1997-99. He was also appointed a Deputy's Representative in 1999.

Ill. Brother Hildebrand, 63, is a retired design engineer for General Electric. He has served as Thrice Potent Master and Most Wise Master for the Valley of Burlington, VT. He received the 33° in 1999.

Ill. Brother Skipper, 66, is a retired owner of manufactured housing communities. He was Most Wise Master for the Valley of Trenton in 1995 and has served as the Deputy's Representative.



In his Allocution, the Sovereign Grand Commander expressed his disappointment with the recent action taken by the Imperial Shrine to remove prerequisites for Shrine membership. Time will tell whether the move was a wise one, he said.

"The action taken by the Shrine has not brought us to a fork in the road or a parting of the ways. But it has changed the Masonic landscape, and Scottish Rite must adjust rapidly to the new terrain." He urged Scottish Rite leaders to accept the challenge by building upon the strength of 32° Freemasonry.

Equating Scottish Rite to the theme, "improvement of the mind," The Grand Commander said. "The lessons of the degrees emphasize personal improvement so that we may better serve



Grand Commander Ralston welcomed the newly named Emeriti Members of Honor: Sovereign Grand Commanders Jean W. Sicinski, Poland; Peter W. Frohmader, Honduras; Norman E. Byrne, Canada; Sergio Notario, Paraguay.



Ariel, a student at the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children in Pittsburgh, tested her skill at reading by addressing the members during the general session. She was introduced by Marie Paluselli, director for the Pittsburgh center. A check was presented to Ariel for offering to speak to the group. She then chose to pass along the check to the learning centers program because she wanted "to see other kids get the same help I got" from the program.

ourselves, our families, our community and our country. The Scottish Rite charities allow us to carry out our mission to serve others."

The Supreme Council passed a resolution on the Shrine legislation. A copy of the resolution is available on request and is also posted on the SupremeCouncil.org web site.



The Supreme Council approved the recommendations of the Rituals Committee to adopt the tentative rituals for the 14° and 25° with minor changes and to make them permanent.

In other action, two Lodges of Perfection in Vermont have surrendered their charters. Members of the Valleys of Bennington and St. Johnsbury will be automatically transferred to another Valley in the state.

An increase in the annual Supreme Council assessment was approved. The new fee of \$8.50 is the first increase since 1990. The constitutional change becomes effective with the filing of Valley annual returns made to the Supreme Council as of June 30, 2002.

Also an adjustment was made for the Meritorious Service Awards pre-

sented on a statewide level. This constitutional amendment adjusts the basis on which the number of recipients is selected.



The Sovereign Grand Commander announced the appointment of new Emeriti Members of Honor.

Recognized at this year's session were four visiting Sovereign Grand Commanders: Ill. Norman E. Byrne, 33°, Canada; Ill. Peter W. Frohmader, 33°, Honduras; Ill. Jean W. Sicinski, 33°, Poland, and Ill. Sergio Notario, 33°, Paraguay.



DeMolay International Master Councilor Bryan H. Langston of Little Rock, Arkansas, brought a message to the group and showed the latest video recently released by the DeMolay International headquarters. Langston was introduced by DeMolay Grand Master Ross Vann Ness Bayer, 33°.

Kern Award



Winner of this year's Kern Award for outstanding participation in the Blue Envelope appeal was the Valley of Portsmouth-Dover, NH. Accepting the award on behalf of the Valley is New Hampshire Deputy Robert E. Hansen. Making the presentation is Pennsylvania Deputy C. DeForrest Trexler. The award was established by the Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation to honor the memory of the late Dr. Richard A. Kern, 33°, who had served as Deputy for Pennsylvania, was chairman of the Supreme Council Committee on Benevolences, and an avid promoter of the annual appeal.

New Video for Charities

A new video highlighting the four Scottish Rite charities received high praise following the premiere showing at the Supreme Council annual meeting.

The 12-minute video was produced by Communications for Learning, an Arlington, MA, based company that produced the millennium 2000 video and the recent Scottish Rite promotional films.

Copies have been sent to each Scottish Rite Valley. Additional copies are distributed through the Supreme Council headquarters. The video is designed for both Masonic and non-Masonic audiences.

Franklin Awards for Valley Publications



Winners of the 2000 Brother Franklin awards were announced during the Monday morning general session. The awards are presented annually to Valleys with outstanding publications. They are awarded on the basis of the size of the Valley membership. Receiving special recognition were the following:

Category I (Valleys with less than 1,200 members)

Best Publication

Valley of Marquette, MI

R. Thomas Peters Jr., 33°, editor

Honorable Mention

Valley of Traverse City, MI
Valley of Utica, NY

Donald Sevick, 33°, editor
Frederick E. De La Fleur, 32°, editor

Category II (Valleys with 1,200-2,500 members)

Best Publication

Valley of Youngstown, OH

H. Douglas Wilcox, 33°, editor

Honorable Mention

Valley of The Androscoggin, ME
Valley of Bridgeport, CT
Valley of Erie, PA

Robert W. Johnston, 32°, editor
Leo H. Lohrman, 33°, editor
Eric M. Marshall, 32°, editor

Category III (Valleys with 2,500-5,000 members)

Best Publication

Valley of Milwaukee, WI

Leigh E. Morris, 32°, editor

Honorable Mention

Valley of Freeport, IL
Valley of Northern NJ
Valley of Williamsport, PA

John A. Reining, 33°, editor
Roman K. Sobon, 32°, editor
Gerald D. Wagner, 33°, editor

Category IV (Valleys with 5,000-8,000 members)

Best Publication (tie)

Valley of Cleveland, OH
Valley of Toledo, OH

David B. Mackey, 32°, editor
George O. Braatz, 33°, editor

Honorable Mention

Valley of Boston, MA
Valley of Chicago, IL

Keith M. Curtis, 32°, editor
Randall W. Becker, 32°, editor

Category V (Valleys with more than 8,000 members)

Best Publication (tie)

Valley of Indianapolis, IN
Valley of Pittsburgh, PA

Alan G. Lisle, 33°, editor
D. William Roberts, 32°, editor

Honorable Mention

Valley of Cincinnati, OH
Valley of Columbus, OH
Valley of Dayton, OH
Valley of Detroit, MI

Harry C. Carpenter, 33°, editor
Dennis L. Young, 32°, editor
Charles W. Wright, 33°, editor
David R. Bedwell, 32°, editor

To Protect and Serve

By MARK A. TABBERT, 32°

*Museum preserves and conserves
artifacts for posterity*

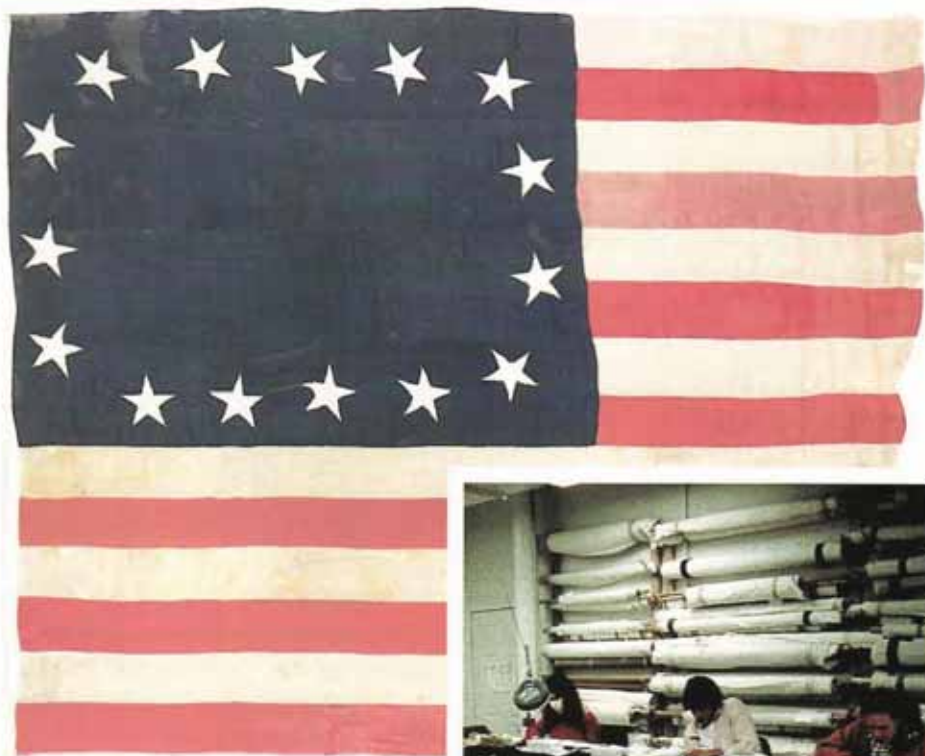
When the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage accepts an artifact for its collection, it doesn't go immediately to a shelf in the vault or to a public display case in the museum galleries. The object accepted into the collection is carefully recorded and evaluated, and in some cases, must be cared for through a preservation or conservation process. Although the two processes sound similar, they are very different.

All objects are carefully described, numbered and stored in our collection vaults to be exhibited to the public or used by researchers. Objects that need special care and attention prior to display or study undergo the crucial process of preservation and conservation. Performing these processes on the historical artifacts is as important as acquiring, studying or displaying them.

Part of the museum's mission is to hold artifacts in trust, keeping them viable and in good condition for future generations.

The museum is responsible for not only displaying artifacts, but also "to protect and serve" them for perpetuity. To assist us in this mission, we maintain contacts with highly skilled experts who evaluate objects, and recommend and implement treatment.

Two of the museum's most significant objects highlight the skills, care and considerations we use to preserve and to conserve Freemasonry's history and "our national heritage."



The museum's 15-star American flag (above) required extensive restoration by specialists (right).



Preserving the Flag

In 1995 John E. Craver presented a large 15-star American flag to the museum. His family owned the flag for several generations and a legend had been passed along that it had once flown over Fort Ticonderoga, New York, in 1795.

The museum immediately recognized its historical significance and was very excited to accept it as a donation. The museum was in the midst of constructing its James F. Farr Conference

Center and plans were made for the flag to become its display centerpiece.

The first step the museum made was to study the flag for both its authentic history and its condition. The museum needed to discover if it did really fly over Fort Ticonderoga and was it "healthy" enough to be displayed and exposed to light and variable climates for a long period of time.

The historical question proved easily answered. While its size was sufficient (10 feet 5 inches x 12 feet 9 inches) for a fort or ship flag, the 15-stars meant it must have been officially used between 1795 and 1818, when there were 15 states. The fort was unfortunately de-



MARK A. TABBERT, 32°, curator of Masonic and fraternal collections at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage, is a member of the Valley of Boston.

► commissioned in the 1780s, before the flag was even made.

Evaluating the flag's condition was more of a challenge. It appeared to be missing a stripe and much of its length. The oval pattern of the stars was also unusual, since by the year 1818 they were usually ordered by rows.

Through the preservation and conservation of historical objects, the museum protects and serves our heritage one object at a time.

The museum called in Whitney Smith, Ph.D., of the Flag Research Center, who determined it originally had a 15th white strip to match the 15 stars and its true size to be 11 feet x 22 feet. He also noted the fraying of the flag was probably caused by being flown on a fort staff or ship mast and there were many hand-stitched repairs made to the flag.

The loss of the bottom stripe and the shortened length came from its extensive use. Apparently, the flag was trimmed as it became ragged. Dr. Smith's evaluation confirmed that it was an authentic flag nearly 200 years old that had been fully used.

The museum's next step was to determine how best to prepare it for display. The first priority was to make sure its condition was stabilized so that the deterioration would be slowed — in other words "preserved."

Professionals from textile laboratories were brought in to examine its condition and make recommendations. Since its condition came from its use rather than poor storage and abuse, the museum decided not to add back the stripe or attach the missing 9 feet 3 inches of length, which would distort its authenticity. The preservation of the flag would stabilize its condition, but not distract from its "history."

The flag was stabilized, cleaned, and prepared for display at the Textile Conservation Center at the American Textile History Museum, in Lowell, Mass.

It was finally unveiled and "flown" again on August 22, 1997, nearly two full years after the flag was first donated by Mr. Craver.

The flag was preserved in its current state and not restored to its original con-

dition because to completely restore it would destroy its true beauty and historic value. That is the difference between preservation and conservation.

Conserving the Tracing Board

There are some objects, however, such as visual art, that do need to be restored to their original condition in order to reveal their beauty. The museum would not display a torn painting, a broken china vase, or damaged furniture. These items would be "conserved" and returned to close to their maker's "vision."

We recently received a Masonic tracing board that required such conservation. In 1998 Trinity Lodge, Clinton, Mass., donated the tracing board or "master's carpet."

Tracing boards are used in lodges to instruct new members in the symbols, morals and precepts of the fraternity. In the early 1700s they were originally drawn with chalk on the floor. Later they were painted on canvas and laid

on the floor for instruction. By the 1860s they often hung on the wall, like school-room maps. Today many lodges use slides or lecture props for instruction.

Trinity Lodge's history is just as evolving. Originally chartered in 1778 it "went dark" during the anti-Masonic period in 1832. A new Trinity Lodge was instituted in 1858, yet it was not until the middle of the Civil War that the need for a new tracing board was recognized.

According to the lodge's minutes, Brother Levi Green purchased this tracing board on Nov. 25, 1863. Used for many years, it was hung in the lodge from a cross bar. Eventually gravity and wear tore it from its top cross bar. Finally, the carpet was rolled up and stored for many years.

Unlike flags, tracing boards are only used in the privacy of the lodge, only seen and understood by brother Masons. Even though the purpose of the board is not known universally, its artwork and historic value would appeal to everyone.

Storage, Display and Handling of Your Historic Objects

- Light, temperature, humidity, dryness and gravity accelerate deterioration of objects.
- Central heating systems cause drying and cracking of organic materials.
- Direct light, especially sunlight, fades most materials.
- Most objects should only be handled using gloves to prevent the transfer of skin oils and dirt.
- Do not use adhesives, tapes or "post-it notes" on objects.
- Textiles and costumes should be kept in clean, dry and dark storage. Folding or hanging textiles breaks the fabric fibers and causes seams to tear. Light fades dyes.
- Paper and printed material should be stored flat and in acid-free folders or boxes. High humidity and temperature encourage molds and pests.
- Paintings and framed art should be hung using proper hanging hardware and acid-free mats and backing boards. Fluctuating humidity results in paint flaking off canvas or panels.
- Furniture and other constructed objects should be handled by the base, or supporting structure. Do not place stress on joints. NEVER drag furniture.
- Never handle metals without gloves for skin oils increase tarnish and corrosion. High humidity and dampness encourage rust.
- Glass and ceramics may be handled without gloves to maintain firm grip to avoid dropping. Do not carry or display by handles or joints and use both hands and support beneath base. Store in padded protected case to safeguard against vibration and gravity.

Source: Looking After Antiques by Anna Plowden and Frances Halahan. Harper & Row, Publishers, 1988.



Masonic tracing board (circa 1863), above and left, before conservation treatment and, pictured right, after treatment.



The paint and canvas employed, the styles and methods of design, and the artist all have their own history. The symbols chosen for the tracing board tell us when new symbols were adopted and the styles assumed. The wings on the hour glass are not in common use today, and the ark here has a three-story deckhouse, while most show but one.

When Trinity Lodge brought the tracing board to the museum for donation, the first consideration was whether it was even possible to conserve it. Created with oil paints on canvas, it was brought to the museum rolled up and in extremely poor condition. Simply unrolling it for examination caused the canvas to tear more and the paint to flake further. The museum saw beyond its poor condition to its true beauty and agreed to accept the object and treat it the best way possible. The curator and registrar called on highly trained conservator Gianfranco Pocobene to begin extensive treatment on the object. Once the object was flattened and stabilized, the next issue was how far to restore the tracing board.

In its stabilized state the tracing board was not presentable to put on display, but such a significant work of art should be displayed.

Unlike the flag, the tracing board's wear and damage did not come from use, but from gravity, time, and small accidents. Returning it to its original state would not detract from its history, but enhance it. The paint loss and tears obscured the symbols making it difficult to discern their meaning. If restored to its original condition, its beauty would more powerfully convey the symbols to the public or Mason.

The conservator's credo, "all work done to an object must be reversible," means that what is good for the object today may be harmful to it in the future and any alterations or additions done cannot be permanent.

The conservator proceeded to repair the tears, in-paint where paint had flaked off, remove dirt and grime and affixed it to canvas and stretcher for hanging. This process took several months to complete and the tracing board was returned to the museum in March of this year.

The long and complex process to determine conservation and preservation treatments involves many skills and talents in the arts and sciences.

Unfortunately, many objects are beyond repair or require attention beyond the museum's resources and so must be declined.

For example, we could conserve an abused and dirty 1990s American flag, but it might be better to simply acquire a brand new one.

The technology exists to reconstruct and conserve a shattered porcelain vase, but the large amount of time and money needed might be prohibitive to do so. The museum must weigh this process prior to accepting full responsibility and ownership of every object offered for donation.

Seeking, finding and acquiring objects is only the first step of a museum's mission and purpose. The real challenge is to safely protect and display the objects for today, tomorrow, and decades to come.

As long as the process allows for future reversal and improvement, the museum works to find the best solution to every object's condition. Through the preservation and conservation of historical objects, the museum protects and serves our heritage one object at a time.

The museum is also willing to help others find solutions for their own fragile or damaged objects. We welcome inquiries, and our staff is available to give advice on care or referrals to local museums, professional conservators and conservation laboratories.



32° MASONIC LEARNING CENTERS FOR CHILDREN

Dyslexic directors bring a little extra to the job

When it comes to Orton-Gillingham tutoring, the director of the Valley of Milwaukee 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children, Chris Barry, knows it from all sides. Illiterate until the age of 24, he has been both a dyslexic student and a tutor of the program.

As director of the Milwaukee Learning Center, he is one of more than half a dozen directors and tutors who are dyslexic and work for a 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children.

If it weren't for the effectiveness of the Orton-Gillingham method, Barry, 37, is not sure where he would be today. He struggled through school, and although he was diagnosed with having a "learning disability," the special education he received did not help.

"My parents purposely moved around to get a better school system for me, but it wasn't the school system. It was the instructional base," he said.

Barry attended a college that offered Orton-Gillingham tutoring, and finally, he was able to grasp the concepts of reading.

"Somebody (at the college) taught me Orton-Gillingham, and it was the first thing to ever make sense to me," he said. "The doors just opened wide — exponentially, not just a little bit, but wide open. I did undergrad in three and half years, and my grades just got better and better and better."

Many people suggested he become a teacher to advocate the method, but Barry said his bad experiences in school left such a mark on him that he had no desire to be in the education field.

"My fear of school was beyond what most people could imagine," he said. "But I kept running into children who had the same problem as I did."

Even though he was working in a completely different field, Barry said



Milwaukee Director Christopher Barry holds his daughter Anna in front of a reading display at the Milwaukee Learning Center.

he could not ignore the fact that dyslexic kids needed the help of the Orton-Gillingham program.

So Barry went back to school, became a teacher, and worked in public schools in special education.

Barry also became the president of the International Dyslexia Association, Wisconsin branch, and the former association president, a Mason, approached him with the idea of running the 32° Learning Center in Milwaukee.

"It sounded like a dream, to have something coming to fruition so soon," he said. "This job was made for me."

Barry said that although he does miss the one-on-one interaction with the students he experienced during his teaching days, he is able to revisit the rewards by helping test the students.

"I sat down with a boy to test him, and he had been real resistant to reading, so after the testing I asked him, 'Do you feel this helped you a lot?'"



Karen Bradford
Columbus Center Director

and he said, 'Oh yeah!' Then I asked if he would do it over again by his own choice, and he said, 'Well, yeah.' "

Barry said figures show that out of the 39 students who have attended the center, the average student shows 2.4 years of growth in reading in one year, and 1.5 years of growth in spelling.

Valley of Columbus learning center director Karen Bradford, 55, is also dyslexic, and says it is results like those that make being a part of the program so rewarding.

"That is why so many of us (dyslexic staff) are here," she said. "We know it works."

Bradford didn't realize she was dyslexic until her two children were diagnosed with it in elementary school.

"My kids were remediated back in the first grade, and the school system said to me, 'Wait a minute. Did you have any trouble, because it is hereditary.' "

Bradford said she was often told growing up that she had "no common sense" and now she knows that she was actually dyslexic.

After seeing how the program helped her children, she became a tutor and then head of the language skills department at a private school in her hometown. She is vice president of the International Dyslexia Association and the first and only Academy of Orton-Gillingham fellow in Central Ohio.

Bradford said from her point of view, she can relate to both the students and the parents.

"That is why I am so committed, because I have seen it work, and I've seen how frustrating it is for people not to be the best they can be," she said. "My experience helped me to become a tutor and understand and connect with kids, because I am one of them. I can connect with parents because I am one of them. I have all the angles covered."

In particular, Bradford said she brings "absolute hope" to the students.

"They get real bug-eyed when they find out I'm dyslexic. They say: 'Wait, how can you be a teacher?' " she said.

Bradford said the kids learn that nobody is perfect and you still have to take risks even if you are dyslexic.

"Kids with dyslexia don't like to make mistakes, but we show them the sun will still come up again tomorrow if they do."



Sovereign Grand Commander Ralston, Board of Trustees Chairman Steven J. Krekus, 33°, Learning Center Director Mary Ann Glasgow, and four students help cut the ribbon at the Cleveland dedication this summer.

Bradford says she also lets parents know that their lives are always going to be a little different from those in a non-dyslexic household.

"You can't live the life of others," she said. "Your house has to be so organized. I tell them they can't compare themselves to other families."

Speaking for herself and other dyslexic directors and tutors, Bradford said, "We lived it. We know it changes lives and that it makes all the difference. We are very grateful and want to give back."



PHOTO BY DAVID MACKAY

Learning Center benefactor Everett Allen, 33°, Board of Governors Chair Bonnie Youngblood and Commander Robert Ralston cut the cake at the Valley of Cleveland dedication.

Check the Numbers

Learning Centers Operating
27

Centers Ready to Open Soon
6

Projected Student Enrollment
for 2000-01 Term
700

Tutors and Trainees
175

Recent Dedications

- Cleveland, OH
July 16, 2000
- South Bend, IN
Aug. 8, 2000
- Harrisburg, PA
Aug. 26, 2000

Whence came the Apron?

By C. BRUCE HUNTER

Some historians link it to operative masons, while others associate it with Templars

The Masonic apron is considered a descendant of those worn by operative stonemasons, and this is certainly possible. Aprons have been around forever and are commonly used by craftsmen. But we may be wrong in believing that Freemasons wear aprons because all the operative masons wore them.

While medieval illustrations show some masons wearing aprons, they imply that many others did not. So in medieval times the mason's apron may have been the exception rather than the rule. And this suggests the possibility that the modern craft introduced the garment into its regalia from somewhere else.

There's no reason to doubt that the craft would do such a thing. During the early 18th century, Masonic ritualists put together a body of symbolism drawing from several sources. In addition to the medieval craft, they used classical architecture, the Old and New Testaments, Greek philosophy and more.

The ritualists' main concern was the symbolic value of the "tools" they employed in the ritual, and they drew their material from any source with the proper symbolism. But if they did not get the apron from the operative craft, where did it come from?

To answer this question, we must observe that a Masonic apron is traditionally made of lambskin, which ties it to biblical, and especially Christian, ideas. Since ancient times, lambs were a symbol of innocence and were therefore

used as a sacrifice to atone for sin, which, of course, was the basis for figuratively referring to Jesus of Nazareth as a lamb.

This would be a perfectly logical reason for the ritualists to adopt a lambskin apron as one of their emblems. Leather aprons were common enough, both during the Middle Ages and in the 18th century. And the way they are used dovetails with the concept of a lamb's innocence. The apron is explained in the ritual as an emblem of purity, an obvious reference to its ordinary function of protecting its wearer from becoming soiled.

But if an apron was not a standard part of the operative mason's apparel, could the ritualists actually have gotten it from a different source?

There is indeed another possibility. Since the 1730s the craft has claimed descent from the medieval Knights Templar, and a standard part of a Templar's uniform was a pair of lambskin breeches. As a Crusader knight, he wore them to symbolize Christ's innocence. And if a Templar was tempted to remove his clothes to commit immorality, the breeches reminded him of his obli-

gation to keep himself pure.

Thus as a Masonic symbol, the Templars' breeches work even better than the stone mason's apron. They have all the symbolism inherent in the apron, but they also remind the wearer – just as they did the medieval knight – to keep himself morally pure.

However, if we accept the theory that the Templars were the source of the modern Masonic apron, a complication arises. The appearance of the apron in Masonry predates the supposed introduction of Templarism in the 1730s.

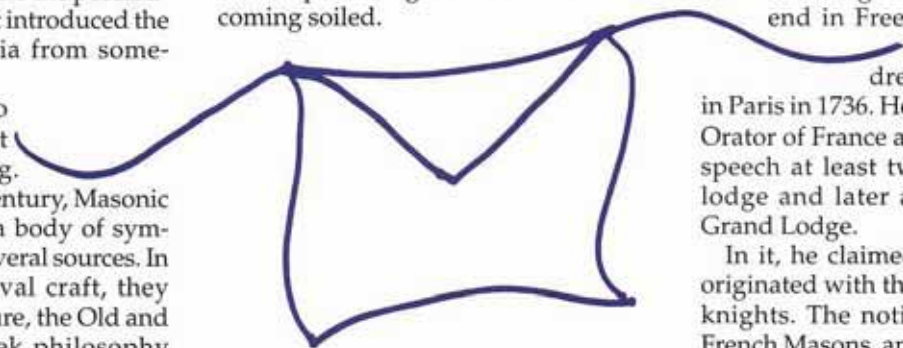
Historians agree that the Templar legend in Freemasonry dates to a speech made by Andrew Michael Ramsay in Paris in 1736. He was then the Grand Orator of France and made his famous speech at least twice, first in a local lodge and later at a meeting of the Grand Lodge.

In it, he claimed that the fraternity originated with the orders of Crusader knights. The notion appealed to the French Masons, and supposedly all the Templar degrees grew from Ramsay's assertions on this occasion.

But Masonic literature contains a reference to the apron several years earlier. In 1723, a letter published in an English newspaper included a Masonic catechism. Such things occasionally appeared in print in those days, and while some are obvious forgeries, they generally provide a good impression of what was going on in the craft at the time.

This particular letter, which is known in Masonic circles as "A Mason's Examination," says in part:

When a Free-Mason is enter'd, after having given to all present of the Fraternity a Pair of Men and Women's Gloves and a Leathern Apron, he is to hear the ***** belonging to the Society read to him by the Master of the Lodge.



C. BRUCE HUNTER, a member of Biltmore Lodge No. 446, Ashville, NC, has co-authored a book with Andrew Ferguson. *The Legacy of the Sacred Chalice* presents a new theory on the origin of Masonic ritual. Published by Macoy Publishing in Richmond, VA, the book is scheduled for release in early 2001.

Of course, this document says nothing about symbolism. Exchanging aprons in the lodge could have been just a formality. But the practice does link the apron to the craft. And it seems that presenting aprons was associated, even then, with communicating a ritual word. So we see here what appears to be at least a forerunner of the apron's modern symbolic use.

Now, if the apron did come from the operative craft, there is nothing unusual or surprising about this bit of ritual. But if it came from the Templars, we have a small problem. This reference occurred more than a decade before Ramsay supposedly invented the idea that the Masons descended from crusading knights. And there's no telling how long the apron was associated with Masonry before it was mentioned in the newspaper.

The romantic solution to this problem is to conclude that Ramsay was right in claiming the craft descended from medieval orders of knighthood. Of course, we can only speculate about these matters, and a letter to the editor proves nothing.

It's possible that English Masons merely invented a Templar legend a few

years before Ramsay told the French about it. He was closely associated with the lodges in London and would cer-

tainly have known what was going on there.

But it is also possible that the craft was influenced by the medieval Templars, either historically or through Masonic legends which originated centuries earlier. And the leather apron may originally have been a reference to the Templars' lambskin breeches instead of the operative mason's apron.

None of this proves the Masons actually descended from the Templars. But it does suggest that the craft may have had a Templar influence long before the "official" introduction of the notion. If so, the origin of the craft's apron may be more cryptic than we thought. 🌿



Many early prints show stonemasons without aprons.

(Above) Sultan Omar rebuilds the Temple of Jerusalem, c. 1470.

(Left) King Dagobert visiting the original building site of Saint-Denis. The abbey church was consecrated in 1144.

Fraternal expert to speak on brotherhood

The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage will host sociologist Mary Ann Clawson on Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. as part of its Lowell Lecture series. Clawson, author of "Constructing Brotherhood: Class, Masculinity, and Ritual in Europe and America," will discuss the history of fraternalism in America.

Clawson said she has studied fraternalism because she was interested in discovering why 19th- and 20th-century people found fraternalism so intriguing and how fraternalism related to the country's cultural change.

"What is so compelling is that in a cultural forum, the fraternal order was used in so many ways," she said. "For example, unions: locals were once called lodges."

In the United States, fraternal organizations have historically provided social programs and a sense of community to millions of families. Claw-

son, professor of Sociology at Wesleyan University, will explore in her discussion why these organizations have been so popular in American culture.

"It was a logical way to get things done and to create trust," she said.

Clawson has written many articles on fraternal history and impact. Her other areas of expertise include gender issues and feminism.

"My doctoral dissertation began with my interest in service clubs. I came to realize service clubs grew from the midst of the much larger world of fraternalism," she said.

Clawson is on the advisory board for the upcoming exhibit on fraternal orders scheduled to open in early 2001 at the museum.

The Lowell Lecture Series at the museum is a granted program that involves lectures and seminars on a variety of topics. Each year the series has

a theme and is funded by a grant from the Lowell Institute.

Clawson's lecture was one of five offered in the fall 2000 program, all designed to review the last 25 years of the museum's public programming and promotion of humanities initiatives. These lectures reflected the diversity of the nation's people and their history.

In addition to Clawson's lecture, other topics included the archeological finds of the Big Dig, the struggle of the Negro Baseball League, American Women in a World of War, the American fascination with the diner, and the Jewish community in Boston. The Cambridge Forum will later broadcast some of these lectures on NPR. There are an additional five lectures planned for the spring of 2001.

The schedule information for the broadcasts can be found on the internet at www.cambridgeforum.org.

2001 Calendars continue the tradition of giving

The Scottish Rite Masonic 2001 calendar is on its way to all Scottish Rite members of the Northern Jurisdiction. Once again this colorful calendar will feature the original artwork of Doron Ben-Ami. The calendar features 12 Masons who have made outstanding contributions to society and who have played a significant role in the legacy of Freemasonry.

Ben-Ami creates the portraits of the well-known Masons and the calendar highlights their individual accomplishments. Famous Masons featured include William McKinley, JC Penney, Dave Thomas, Moses Cleaveland and Charles Lindbergh.

The calendars are complimentary, but it is hoped that recipients will show their gratitude for the gift by continuing their support of the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children.

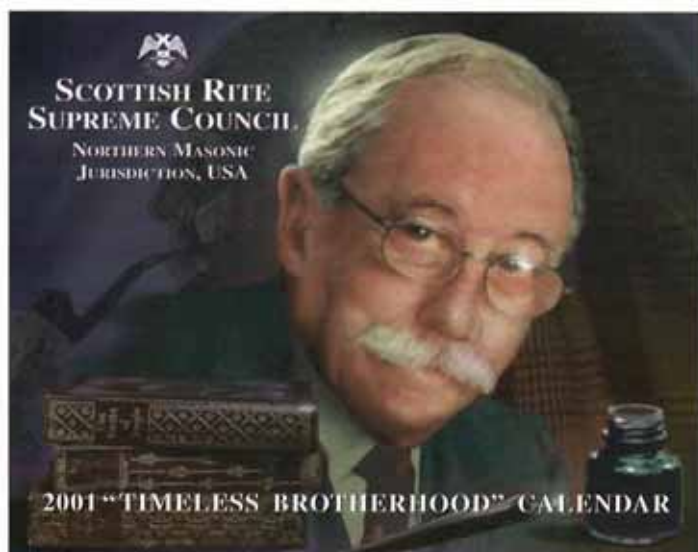
More than 26 learning centers have opened across the jurisdiction, with many more to follow. The successful Orton-Gillingham tutoring program is making a difference to many students in all 15 Northern Jurisdiction states.

In order to continue to help children with dyslexia — to give the gift of literacy — we must continue to fund this worthwhile cause.

Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston, 33°, encourages members to further their financial support of this worthwhile program.

"Any donation to this crucial program is significant, as it helps children overcome their struggle with dyslexia and sets them on the path to success," he said.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is featured on the cover of this year's calendar. The English physician and novelist created the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. He was raised in Phoenix Lodge No. 257, Portsmouth, England, in 1893.





By Leigh E. Morris, 32°

cc: be a responsible net user

Alphonse Karr is credited with first observing, "The more things change, the more they remain the same." He was smart enough to put it in print, but I suspect the ancients recognized this basic fact of life as well.

Civilization always has depended upon the rapid movement of information. In ancient times, runners would carry messages from place to place. Then some genius figured out it would be faster to send messages with horseback riders. Movable type, mass literacy, newspapers and postal services all increased the speed at which information was disseminated. Then came the telegraph, the wireless, radio, television, fax machines and the Internet.

Each advance in civilization's ability to move information rapidly has been followed by economic growth and increased prosperity. However, with each advance comes greater responsibility and increased risk. This is where you come in.

Thanks to the Internet, information can be sent around the block, across the continent or to the other side of the world in the blink of an eye. Amazing! But with that ability comes the responsibility for each and every Internet user to assure the accuracy of the information that is being sent – and for each recipient to ascertain the accuracy of information received before acting on it or passing it on to others. Just because it appears on your screen doesn't make it true.

Not long ago, a major technology company was victimized by an Internet hoax. A bogus negative report on the company spread panic throughout Wall Street (a place that has always been driven more by emotion than logic). Jittery investors sold their shares and stock prices plunged before the truth came out later in the day. Though the company's stock price rebounded, it was not before large numbers of small investors sold their shares at significant losses. One hoax caused turmoil in the markets and, more importantly, robbed many average Americans of money they had invested for their future.

While this story made headlines, other hoaxes and misinformation wreak their own sort of havoc each and every day. They often arrive on your computer as forwarded e-mails or are found in newsgroups and chat rooms. They may sound plausible, but are as phony as a three-dollar bill. Common subjects include computer viruses, product warnings, safety issues, stock advice, fund-raising appeals and health matters. Though acting on most of these messages usually will cause no more than minor inconvenience or possible embarrassment, heeding the advice of some missives could leave you poorer, compromise your privacy and even create potential legal problems.

So, what can you do to protect yourself and others? When you receive a suspect message or read one in a newsgroup, begin by checking it out on the Urban Legends Website:

urbanlegends.about.com/culture/urbanlegends/.

Well researched articles on this site do an excellent job of separating fact from fiction. In most cases, you will find a report on the message you are seeking information about when you go to this site. If not, you can ask Urban Legends to research the information.

Of course, there are many other ways to check out information. Did you receive a hot stock tip or a dire stock warning? Get in touch with your broker. Your doctor, local health department, pharmacist and hospital all can help sort out the fact from fiction when it comes to health issues. Did you receive a fund-raising appeal? Ignore it.

When you receive a message you determine to be bogus, reply to the person who sent it to you or post a message regarding your findings on the newsgroup or chat room where you saw the message. Suggest that they verify messages before sending them and provide them with the Urban Legends Web address.

Finally, never forward a message or send information regarding issues of alleged fact until you are completely satisfied the information is truly factual and presented in an accurate, understandable manner.

We all understand the impact interest rates have on the economy. We know what rising energy costs mean to both individuals and the entire nation. It is equally important that we have a similar understanding of the impact of instant communication and the importance of information accuracy.

The hoax involving the technology company's stock should serve as an early warning to all of us. If one hoax could send the stock of one company into a free fall, imagine what a hoax involving an entire sector of the economy could do to the market. And if that doesn't concern you, then consider what might happen if just one person followed some potentially dangerous health or safety advice that came across the Net.

Ultimately, the ability of the Internet to serve as high-speed information highway unfettered by government regulatory interference depends largely on our ability as individuals to use it responsibly.

Questions or comments? Send me an e-mail at
2r6@onemain.com
(please note that this is a new e-mail address).

New member appointed to museum board

The Sovereign Grand Commander announces a new member to the Museum and Library Board of Directors. Ill. Richard P. Kughn, 33°, historian, collector and museum owner, has eagerly accepted his appointment.

"I am honored and very pleased to be asked," he said from his corporate offices in Detroit.

Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston said he is also pleased to have an experienced museum person on board to help guide and support the museum's efforts.



Richard P. Kughn, 33°

"I think Richard will bring a lot of knowledge to the board," the Commander said. "He'll be a great resource."

Kughn believes the museum's mission is an important one, and he is looking forward to being a part of it.

"It showcases a very, very important part of Masonic history," he said. "I think it is essential to let people know about Masonry and our nation's heritage."

This is not the first time museum executive director John Ott and Kughn have worked together. Kughn served on the board of directors for the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore from 1991 to 1996 during Ott's tenure as executive director. Kughn serves on the board of many professional and civic organizations. "Carail," Kughn's private museum located in northwest Detroit, was featured in the November 1998 issue of *The Northern Light*. The museum features many of his vintage and classic automobiles, pedal cars, antique bicycles, automotive art and sculpture and toy trains.

A member of Redford Lodge No. 152, Detroit since 1962, Kughn is also a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Detroit.



One of the scheduled events of the Scottish Rite Millennium 2000 program was a tour of England and Scotland in October. The tour guides in London and Edinburgh were Masons and were able to highlight significant points of interest. Participants were given guided tours of the Grand Lodge facilities in both cities as well as a visit to the historic Temple Church in London. While in Edinburgh, some took advantage of a side trip to Roslyn Chapel. Both sites have relevance to Freemasonry. The Scottish Rite tour package was arranged through Garden City Travel Services.

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.

(CONTROVERSY) + (LEMONADE) -

(MOVER) + (BELOW) - (TREAD) -

(EYES) + (EARNEST) - (LOCAL) +

(MUSCLE) - (BONES) - (WESTERN)

=

Clue for this puzzle appears on page 25.

Answer from previous issue: BIBLE

The Stamp Act

A Philatelic Review



By Robert A. Domingue

Israel Putnam is shown on a stamp issued by Equatorial Guinea - Bissau in May 1976. A veteran soldier when the American Revolution began, he was one of the four original major generals of the Continental Army in 1775 and played an important role at the Battle of Bunker Hill. He was in command of the forces at the Battle of Long Island in 1776, where they were defeated and forced to retreat. He was assigned to defend Forts Montgomery and Clinton in New York and lost both to the British. In 1778-79 he commanded troops in Connecticut. He suffered a stroke of paralysis in 1779 forcing him to retire from military life, although he remained on the active list. Born Jan. 7, 1718, in Salem Village, now Danvers, MA, he received a scanty education and moved to Pomfret, CT, in 1740, where he became a prosperous farmer.



He died May 29, 1790, in Brooklyn, CT.

Brother Putnam received his degrees in a military lodge at Crown Point, NY, June 7, 1758. He is recorded as having visited St. John's Lodge No. 8, Hartford, CT, in 1763 and at a lodge of Freemasons held at Fountain Tavern, New Haven, CT, in 1766.

★ ★ ★



William Hogarth, painter and engraver, is pictured on a stamp issued by Umm Al Qiwain in 1967. Bro. Hogarth was an active Freemason and not only served as Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of England in 1735 but designed the jewel of the Grand Stewards' Lodge that is still used today. He was a member of the lodge at the "Bear and Harrow," Butcher's Row, in 1730 and at the "Hand and Apple-tree," Little Great Queen Street, in 1725.

Hogarth was born Nov.

10, 1697, the son of an unsuccessful schoolmaster who was imprisoned for being in debt and later pardoned and released. By 1720 Hogarth had his own business engraving bookplates and painting portraits. He became

associated with artist Sir James Thornhill and in 1729 he eloped with Thornhill's daughter. He became one of the greatest artists of his generation, establishing his own school and lobbying Parliament to pass the Engraver's Copyright Act in 1735.

Later in life he became a friend to Brother Ben Franklin. In 1763 he had a

paralytic seizure but the following year began working again. Upon returning from the country on Oct. 25, 1764, he began to draft a reply to a letter he received from Franklin, but died within two hours of his return.

★ ★ ★

Matthew Calbraith Perry is commemorated on a United States stamp for his negotiations with Japan. The stamp was issued on July 14, 1953, the centenary anniversary.



Brother Perry joined the Masonic fraternity in 1819 being raised in Holland Lodge No. 8, New York City. He served in many commands but his crowning effort was the expedition to Japan to establish international relations. He conducted the negotiations without force or bloodshed, opening Japan to foreign commerce in 1854.

Perry was born at Newport, RI, on April 10, 1794. He entered the Navy in 1809 as a midshipman under his brother, Oliver. His brother is known for his description of the War of 1812 Battle of Lake Erie, in which he said, "We have met the enemy and they are ours."

In the War of 1812, Matthew Perry served under Commodore Rodgers in destroying British commerce. Promoted to lieutenant the

following year, he transferred to Commodore Decatur's new frigate, "United States." In 1819 he convoyed the first company of freed Negroes to Africa, assisting in establishing the Republic of Liberia. He died at New York on March 4, 1858.

★ ★ ★

Victor Horta was honored by Belgium with a stamp in February 1962. Bro. Horta was initiated Dec. 31, 1888, in Lodge "Les Amis Philantropes," Brussels, and raised there in 1890.

Born Jan. 6, 1861, in Ghent, Belgium, the noted Belgian architect studied drawing, textiles and architecture at the Ghent Academie des Beaux Arts, then he worked in Paris. He was one of the renewers of Belgian

Art Nouveau Architecture until Art Nouveau fell out of favor. His chief work of later years was the Palais des Beaux-arts, Brussels, completed in 1928. He died Sept. 8, 1947, in Etterbeek.



★ ★ ★

CORRECTION:

In the August 2000 issue, "The Stamp Act" reported erroneously that Peter Sellers served in World War I. He served in World War II.

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



By THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°

A Republic for the Ages: The United States Capitol of the Early Republic edited by Donald R. Kennon. Published in 1999 for the United States Capitol Historical Society by The University Press of Virginia. \$55.

A Republic for the Ages is a book written by 14 noted historians. "It emanated from a symposium held by the United States Capitol Historical Society in 1993 to commemorate the bicentennial of the laying of the cornerstone of the United States Capitol."

It is divided into the following five chapters:

"Capitol Ideas" dealing with the site selection of Washington, D.C. as the Capitol of the United States, the changing ideals of the period and the reality of what developed.

"Gender and Politics in the Early Capitol" reveals the position and influence of women in the public domain.

"Freemasonry and the Capitol" describes extensively the influence the craft had in the development of the Capitol both in its idealism as well as its architectural character.

"Republican Iconography and the Capitol" presents the architectural and allegorical meaning, development and evolution into its form, as well as the influence of Jefferson upon its development, and the attempt to instill the spirit and persona of Washington, the man, into the city.

The final chapter, "Conclusion-Conglomerate Rock," is an analysis of the extensive 3,758 page *History of the United States 1800-1817* by Henry Adams. It relates the efforts to unite the country into one strength and unity from the diversity of that time, hence the title *Conglomerate Rock*.

Since I am writing for a Masonic publication, I shall concentrate on the Masonic relativity of the text, but it should be noted that every writer has made a magnificent contribution in producing a very excellent book. From Melvin Yazawa's discussion of the expectations and ideology to David Grimsted's brilliant analytical review of Henry Adam's great work, it is well worth reading.

The three who have shared their views in the Masonic section are Len Travers, Steven C. Bullock, and James Stevens Curl. According to these authors, the craft influenced not only the development of the ideology of the

period but also the actual physical structure of our nation's Capitol.

It is noteworthy that historians are at last writing about the influence of Freemasonry upon the evolution of civil society, and the writings by these three authors should cause us all to be proud of our heritage.

Curl writes, "Any understanding of the 18th-century Enlightenment ought to embrace an acknowledgement of the importance of Freemasonry in shaping it, yet the influence of the craft is often ignored by commentators."

There are so many great statements concerning Freemasonry in this book that I cannot cover them here, but I will give you a few with the hope that they might stimulate you to read it:

"At the more secular level, the formal observances helped to promote a showpiece city that was off to a slow start, and to spotlight the Freemason who, along with their most illustrious member, occupied center stage in these proceedings."

"More than anyone else, the Freemasons had purged loyalists from their ranks and the fraternity had gained a reputation as 'an archetype of the republican society based on virtues and talent' that Americans hoped for."

In Latrobe, (the architect of the Capitol) "The United States of America had an architect of genius who expressed the political structure and its Freemasonic origins in an unequivocal way," and "The Capitol, it is submitted, is an architectural equivalent of Mozart's Masonic music, with allusions that are just as clear, just as important, and blindingly obvious once they are recognized."

Three of the observations made would be well worth our close examination for they provide lessons for us today that we ourselves seem to be forgetting.

"Central to any basic understanding of Freemasonry is the role of memory, for the lodge itself was a mnemonic of the Temple of Solomon, the lost ideal."

"Exemplifying republican ideals, Masonry united the virtuous and the talented, accepting and promoting them, according to merit."

"Freemasonry sought links with antiquity, and strove for enlightenment and the spiritual rebirth of mankind; it saw itself as the preserver of knowledge, wisdom, and ethics, expressed in the beauty of geometry."

For many years we as a craft have tried to connect Jef-

Three of the observations made would be well worth our close examination, for they provide lessons for us today that we ourselves seem to be forgetting.

erson with Masonic membership to no avail. It is almost ironic that this book deals with not only Freemasonry's significant involvement in the development of the Capitol but also of Jefferson's. I can only assume that what Jefferson saw in Masonic ideals meshed well with his for the successful incorporation of the ideas and thoughts of those strong minds.

I highly recommend this book. It should not only benefit you, but also Freemasonry, by rejuvenating your appreciation of the craft.



A Trilogy-Inner Journey to the East-Meditations of a Master Mason Along the Way-Masonry for the Millennium by George R. Adams. Published in 1999 by SELFormation Corporation, Inc., PO Box 577, Glen Echo, MD 20812-9998. \$24.95

The author of this volume, George R. Adams, is a Past Grand Master of the District of Columbia. He divided it into three books: *Inner Journey to the East*, *Meditations of a Master Mason along the Way*, and *Masonry for the Millennium*.

Inner Journey to the East is the author's "personal interpretation of the inner message of Freemasonry and the stages of unfoldment of the individual Freemason in his search for enlightenment."

Meditations of a Master Mason along the Way is arranged to reflect "the inner subjective journey through these stages of unfoldment and to express in varying

degrees the subjective elements of wisdom,

immortal life and love found within

every individual,

symbolically represented

in Freemasonry by the three

great pillars that support King

Solomon's Temple, namely, the Pillar of Wisdom, the Pillar of Strength, and the Pillar of Beauty."

Masonry for the Millennium he hopes will be "helpful in sorting out the role of Masonry in the 21st century."

The first two books are the result of an interjection of mysticism and the metaphysical into Freemasonry. Every member sees in the craft something different and, as long as it is positive and not damaging, that is their prerogative. The author states he "does not presume to interpret Freemasonry for anyone." Although the first two chapters are stimulating, they may be more difficult to understand.

The first book expands greatly upon the author's interpretations of the symbolism of the degrees as well as the meaning of the tools and symbols of the craft. As I have indicated, his translation of these meanings applies a far more mystical application than many members may be capable of assimilating.

The second book is a collection of 40 meditations prepared by the writer "which lead to the symbolic East, the source of light." The number 40 was chosen because

"In ancient mythology, the number 40 signified a period of completion in one's growth." They are very well written and reflect much thought. They are worth taking the time to read for the beauty of their composition. There are those who will strongly disagree with some of the meditations due to the equalizing of religions, but they must be acknowledged in the form and purpose for which they are written.

It is the third book of this volume that will be the most valuable to the majority of our members. It offers a far-reaching perspective for the craft as it enters the new millennium and gives this book its greatest value.

I hasten to state that I do not agree with all that is found in this part of the book. What is taking place in the District of Columbia is still much different from most of the United States. It is a vastly different environment than in other jurisdictions, and what may work there, may not work well in other areas.

The author does, however, offer a great analysis of the changes that have taken place during our history and how they affected the craft. He also projects very well the changes which might affect us in the future. What is far more important, however, are his projected solutions for the present and the future.

His analysis of Freemasonry, its strengths and its weaknesses, is sound although there are observations made which might be debated, again because they are not applicable to a broad spectrum of jurisdictions.

His analysis of the Freemason of the 21st century is

probably right on the mark. Also his observations that "Freemasonry should be enjoyable,

not painful. It should

be intellectually re-

warding, not shallow.

It should provide

bonding, not isolation. It

should provide an avenue for charity, not self aggrandizement.

Most of all, however, Freemasonry should be fun and entertaining" is hardly debatable. In addition, his recommendations for the 21st century leader offers great insight into what guidelines might be followed for success.

If there were such a thing as required reading for our leaders, this portion should be placed on the list. This book accomplishes the intent of the author: to make the reader think, not only about Freemasonry, but the future of Freemasonry. Even though I did not agree with all his ideas, I totally support his purpose, and it is the best writing I have seen as an observation of the future.

If there were such a thing as required reading for our leaders, Masonry for the Millennium should be placed on the list.

THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°, recently retired as 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

Fish diet may help maintain vision

Age related macular degeneration (AMD) affects the eye's central vision. Now researchers studying people aged 49 and older find that those who eat the most fish cut their risk of late-stage AMD in half compared to those who ate fish less than once a month.



Eating fish as seldom as one to three times a month may reduce the risk of developing AMD, say researchers writing in the *Archives of Ophthalmology*.

Once-a-day insulin

People with diabetes may be able to reduce insulin injections to one per day with a long-lasting insulin just approved by the FDA. Glargine remains active for 24 hours. It became available in September 2000.

Coffee may prevent Parkinson's

Drinking four to five cups of coffee each day may help prevent Parkinson's disease. A study of 8,000 Japanese-American men shows that those who drink coffee are less likely to de-

velop Parkinson's than those who never drink it.

One problem: some researchers speculate that people who need all that caffeine may have a type of brain chemistry that is simply less prone to Parkinson's. If you are bothered by caffeine, they don't suggest drinking coffee just because it might protect you from Parkinson's.

Aging athletes not at a disadvantage

The extent to which muscle and reaction time are affected by age depends on many things. They include genetic factors, exercise habits, diet, general health, and smoking and alcohol use. Surprisingly, increases in body fat may be more closely related to physical activity and genetics than to aging itself.

Studies at Tufts University show that body fat is inversely proportional to the number of hours people train each week (more training, less fat), whether they are age 20 or 50. In one study, men at age 70 who lifted weights regularly had the same muscle size and power as sedentary men in their 20s.

A new way to fight tooth decay

According to *Discover* magazine, University of Florida microbiologist Jeffrey Hillman has created a bacterium that prevents tooth decay. The genetically engineered bacterium is a modified version of *Streptococcus mutans*. Normally, *S. mutans* causes tooth decay by breaking down sugar into acid, which destroys the tooth enamel. The genetically engineered version can't make the acid.

Clinical trials of the bacterium are expected this year. The bacterium could be squirted onto the teeth and, in one application, the major cause of tooth decay would be eliminated.

Allergy sufferers need not fall asleep

After reviewing data from 43,000 patients, the *British Medical Journal* says the prescription antihistamines Allegra and Claritin were least likely to make allergy sufferers sleepy. Researchers say people who must be alert should ask their doctors about these newer medicines.

Cauliflower hailed as powerful healing food

Doctors at the Foundation for Preventive Oncology say cauliflower is one of the most powerful healing foods you can buy. Its phytonutrients, sulforaphane, and indol-3-carbinol, or 13-C, are the main reasons why people who eat cauliflower and other cruciferous vegetables are less likely to get cancer.

Sulforaphane increases production of enzymes that clear toxins out of the body; 13-C removes harmful estrogens before they foster tumor growth in sensitive cells like those in the breasts and prostate.



Lutein may protect the colon

Doctors at Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore report a new study that shows vegetables containing lutein offer a measure of protection against colon cancer. They found an average 17 percent lower risk of colon cancer among those who ate the most lutein-rich foods when compared with those who ate the least. Foods rich in lutein include spinach, broccoli, tomatoes and oranges.

Watch that knob

Frequent hand-washing is one of the best ways to minimize your chances of getting a cold or the flu. Germs are on virtually everything you touch.

A University of Arizona study of 800 common sites shows that some top-ranked germ carriers are shopping-cart handles, escalator handrails, door knobs and vending machine knobs.



"I'll have him back up and making your life miserable in no time."

Enhancing the lives of others

Charitable giving offers many ways for you to improve the lives of others through a donation to Scottish Rite charities.

The Builders Council was established to honor members and their families who make a planned gift or bequest to one or more of the four Scottish Rite charities. One of the purposes of the Builders Council is to show appreciation for their commitment.

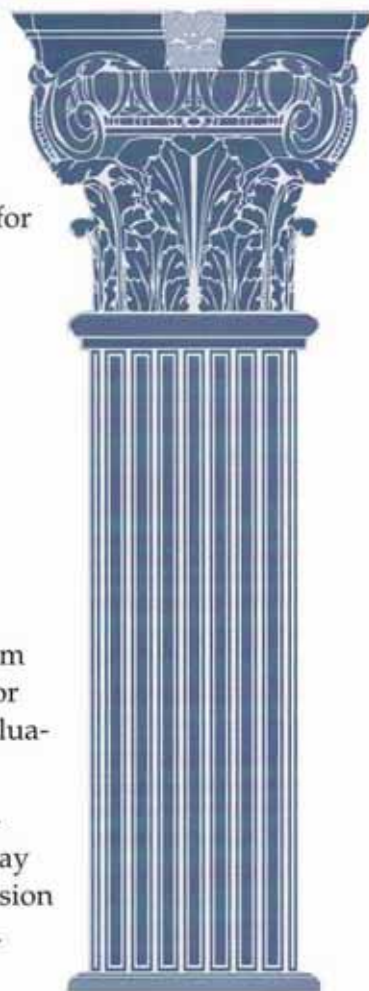
There are many types of gifts that qualify for the Builders Council membership:

- Bequest of a specific property or a percentage of estate
- Bequest of residue of estate
- Bequest using various charitable trusts
- Naming a charity as beneficiary of life insurance or pension
- Charitable Remainder Trust

A Charitable Remainder Trust allows the donor to realize current income from donated assets at favorable rates while also benefiting from income, gift and/or estate tax charitable deduction; capital gains avoidance, and reduced estate valuation and taxation.

The Builders Council offers members flexibility in making a gift that will enhance the work of a Scottish Rite charity while allowing them to donate in a way that is appropriate for them. Membership in the Builders Council is the expression of your commitment to help the fraternity leave its mark on the lives of others.

For more information, use the form below.



- ☐ I have already included a Supreme Council Scottish Rite Masonic Charity in my estate plan. Please send Builders Council membership information.
- ☐ I am considering a bequest or other planned gift to one of the four Masonic Charities. Please send more information on planned giving options.

Name	Phone
Address	Date of Birth
City	State Zip

✱ Please return completed form to: Director of Development, Supreme Council, PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420 ✱

VIEWS FROM THE PAST

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

The Ideal Lodge

Over many decades, especially in the United States, our lodges' programs have developed in directions that many no longer consider a vital part of society. In order to preserve our craft and hand it down to future generations, we in America need to make immediate and dramatic changes in our lodges: not in the craft's ritual and philosophy, but in the way we practice that ritual and develop our understanding of that philosophy.

In order to build a good lodge that can address society's needs, we must start with strong leadership. The lodge must have a Master and a group of officers who are willing to work as a team. In the ideal lodge, the Master is more of a manager who divides the workload and responsibility among his officers, and is able to devote his time to overseeing the fruits of their labor. This role will allow the Master to devote more time to craft and design an exciting program for the lodge.

One of the reasons why Masonry has had declining membership over the past 40 years is the lack of interest of brethren who feel the lodge has little to offer them. In order to fix this problem, we must establish programs that engage the brethren and encourage their participation. By creating an environment in which the lodge's program is based upon the wishes of the brethren, the planning committee becomes instrumental in generating needed change.

Finally, and most importantly, the ideal lodge should enjoy an environment that attracts qualified and influ-

ential candidates. The value and importance of the degrees must be enhanced, not diminished. The ideal lodge's members must be committed to making the Master Mason's degree the worthy goal that the candidate must "earn." In order to return to that high standard, we must revalue the fraternity in our own estimation.

In order for a candidate to move upward in Masonry, he should spend an established period of time preparing for the next degree. During that time of preparation, the candidate should attend lodges of instruction to receive and participate in general Masonic education, as well as instruction in the catechism.

And, in the ideal lodge, generating brotherly love and friendship between new brothers and among the lodge as a whole is always the primary goal, and the lodge's greatest satisfaction.

— Victor Petrossian, 32°, *The Newsletter*, Benjamin B. French Lodge No. 15, Washington, DC, Winter 1998



"I'd like to hear your acceptance speech later especially if I'm having trouble sleeping."

Communicating Relevance

As Masons we take pride in the "brotherhood of man." Some regard this term as old-fashioned but the essential reality remains that this is a concept which underpins a cohesive and stable society. It does not mean that there will always be unanimity of views but it provides a framework in which differences can be negotiated without recourse to actions and attitudes which may undermine or destroy the fabric of society.

Fundamental to Masonic teachings is a belief in the dignity of man and we are advised that our constant aim must be to improve the manners and correct the morals of men in society. We hold in high regard morality, ethics, freedom of speech, family life, loyalty and respect for the law and its processes.

The challenge of Freemasons is to communicate outside the doors of our lodge rooms the passionate belief we have in these qualities. We live in an age of openness and freedom of information and it behooves us to adjust to this environment. This does not mean that we need to communicate to the world at large those things which are basic confidences within our fraternity. It does require us to communicate our pride in membership of that fraternity.

Freemasonry is as relevant today as it has been for centuries. What is needed is a review of the way in which its tenets and activities are presented, both within lodges and to the community at large.

The challenge to Freemasons is to put into practical use the principles they are taught, and to take an active role in the affairs of their local and wider community.

Individual Masons and lodges would do well to examine the way in which they currently communicate Freemasonry both internally and externally.

—Editorial, *The NSW Freemason*, February 1999

A Candle Burning in the Dark

There is something brave about a candle burning in the darkness. Some people are brave only when they are a part of a crowd, but a candle — it may be a dim and feeble thing in the daylight, but alone in the dark it rises to the occasion and sends out its beams as fearlessly as the brightest sun.

It is not given to a candle, burning in the darkness, to know who sees its far-flung ray or who may be cheered or guided or saved by it. And so Freemasonry is content to shed its

gentle light for the guidance and encouragement of mankind without the blare of trumpets. Quietly, impartially, universally, it holds aloft its light for the benefit of friend or foe.

Just as the rays of the candle shine across the artificial boundaries of geography and race and religion, so Freemasonry offers its warm and friendly light to all men of all countries and of all faiths.

— Address by Joseph Earl Perry, 33°,
Grand Master of Massachusetts,
1939

The Hope of Man Lies in Himself

The only hope man has is man himself. That does not exclude God because man is a free moral agent; he has the right and privilege of choice. The reason why his society is in such a mess will be found in the choices he has made.

Everything we see taking place today is the direct result of the choices men make. God is not to blame. The fault lies with man — himself — and the quicker we acknowledge the fact the sooner we may be able to improve our condition.

We will not get much relief so long as we keep on making these wrong choices even though we make the heavens ring with our pleas for help.

Just so long as we permit vaunting pride, covetousness, jealousy, unbridled ambition, hate and greed to dictate our choices, we can expect to find others using those same forces against us. Where suspicion rules, confidence flees. Where hate is, love is not. Where greed controls, charity is smothered. But where brotherhood exists, confidence, love and charity combine to create and cherish peace.

This is the mission of Masonry. Not to establish these things in its own name and right, but to create the manner of living and example that will bear such fruit.

— Editorial, *Masonic Review Digest*,
Spring-Summer 1963

Masonry and Maturity

A very important sign of a Mason may be found in his tolerant attitude toward others. People who judge others harshly are really revealing their own fears and frustrations.

A Mason must learn to be patient with those whose opinions conflict with his. No one has a monopoly of truth. While you may not be totally right, your opponent may not be totally wrong. It is indeed more profitable for you to look for faults in your judgment than in that of others. Tolerance, patience, and right motives will give you a sense

of emotional and mental security. Let your emotionally developed life speak eloquently of your Masonic ideals.

If we seek to be helpful and kindly and act maturely, if we look on frustrations and setbacks as things on which to try our mettle, if we can keep alive a sense of humor that saves us from becoming obsessed with our own importance, then we can reap our own reward of being a Mason, right here in this life and in this world.

— Rabbi Harry Silverstone, 32°
The New Age, January, 1985

Quick Quotes

A smile is the light in your window that tells others that there is a caring, sharing person inside.

— Denis Waitley

If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.

— Henry David Thoreau

An enjoyable job is like the fountain of youth.

— Mike Thomas

You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lip.

— Oliver Goldsmith

Far away in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they may lead.

— Lousia May Alcott

Our greatest glory is not in never falling but in rising every time we fall.

— Confucius

Growth demands a temporary surrender of security.

— Gail Sheehy

With every friend I love who has been taken into the brown bosom of the earth a part of me has been buried there; but their contribution to my being of happiness, strength and understanding remains to sustain me in an altered world.

— Helen Keller

Turn your face to the sun, and the shadows fall behind you.

— Maori proverb

Trouble is the next best thing to enjoyment. There is no fate in the world so horrible as to have no share in either its joys or sorrows.

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

■ Driving to work can be dangerous

If you drive a truck, make a delivery, drive to another office, or do anything involving a motor vehicle, you are doing something that is statistically more dangerous than most jobs that are considered to be hazardous.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of work-related death among U.S. workers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Most fatally injured workers were drivers (76 percent); 14 percent were pedestrians; 9 percent were passengers.

Among fatally injured drivers and passengers, 62 percent were not using any type of safety restraint.

■ Stamp cost on the rise

First Class postage will rise from 33 cents to 34 cents for the first ounce on January 1, 2001.

Rates for all other types of U.S. mail will also rise, including Express Mail and Priority Mail.

The cost of third and fourth class mail will rise. The amount has not been set at this writing, says the *Kiplinger Washington Letter*.

■ Save at the Market

Mary Hunt, editor of *Cheapskate Monthly* newsletter advises:

- Buy the "loss leaders," deeply discounted items that lure you to the store and are heavily advertised.
- Look high and low. Expensive brands are displayed at eye level.
- Don't buy non-food items. They are more expensive at food stores.
- Shop with cash, and take only the amount you intend to spend.
- Eat first or you'll buy more stuff.



■ Waiting-for-dinner ideas for kids

Fruit Turkey. Give older kids a colored apple or pear half for a turkey's body. Then provide toothpicks and small foods (raisins, celery, cherries, marshmallows) that they can use to create turkey heads and tails.

Coloring placemat. Cover the table with butcher block paper. Trace plates at each seat. Let kids use crayons to draw a meal while they wait for the real thing. Then give them a fresh sheet while they wait for dessert.



■ Heat is hot commodity

The American Petroleum Institute says crude oil stores fell in August to the lowest level in 24 years.

The U.S. Department of Energy is predicting that this could be the most expensive winter for natural gas users in 15 years. In Chicago and Boston, power companies say gas bills will be up by 40 percent.

Here are a few steps you can take to save energy:

- Install programmable thermostats.
- Buy low-energy use appliances. Check for the Energy Star.
- Replacing an old refrigerator can save \$150 or more per year in energy costs.
- Buy Compact Fluorescent (CFL) bulbs that use 80 percent less power.
- Buy a front loading washing machine. They use half as much water as other machines.
- Insulate, weather-strip, and caulk your home.

■ Red light safety

Each year there are 1.8 million crashes at intersections, killing more than 7,800 people, says the Federal Highway Administration.

The federal government has launched its "Stop Red Light Running" project, and localities are cracking down with hidden cameras that snap pictures of law breakers.

In the 1970s, the typical wait at a red traffic light was about 45 seconds. The wait started growing in the 1980s and grew still more in the 1990s.

Today, a 90-second wait is common and some are closing in on the three-minute mark.

Quoted in the *Wall Street Journal*, an official who chairs an engineering committee on traffic signals says the time has crept up gradually.



■ Overweight kids choose menu

Researchers for the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children in New York state discovered that parents of overweight kids treat mealtime differently from parents of healthy ones. They often let the child choose the meal, usually something less nutritious and including sweets as a reward for eating it all.

■ It's safer to be a kid

Child mortality in the United States fell by 57 percent from 1960 to 1990 for 1- to 4-year-olds. It fell by 48 percent for kids between the ages of 5 and 15. Authorities at Columbia University point to a big decline in accidents. They credit consumer safety standards, child safety seats, fencing around swimming pools, and laws requiring window guards in apartments with children.

More than that, however, they credit the decline in kids' injuries to better parental access to information regarding child safety.



Our Readers Respond



"John can't come to the phone right now. He's reinventing himself for his next lodge meeting."

Good men and deeds

I note with great pleasure the many good deeds that we are doing, especially the bus shelters piece (Aug. 00).

But I would voice a word of caution.

Masonry has always had the notion that "we take good men and make them better." I think it might be a mistake to stress unduly the good that we do, when traditionally we stress the good that we are.

Masonry, although it does many good works is not a service club. We are not good because we do good works; we do good works because we are good.

Watson Parker
Rapid City, SD

Flag etiquette

Many service people, as well as veterans, must have cringed, when seeing the picture of the Marine Color Guard ("Family Day 2000," Aug. 00). I'm sure they would never place another

flag to the right of our Country's Colors. Must have been a printing error?

Harold Bach
New Baltimore, MI

Editor's note: The plan called for the color guard to march directly into position for presentation. Unfortunately, they marched around the table that was in place for the cornerstone ceremony, and in so doing they found themselves in reverse order when they stopped to face the audience. Errors will occur — even with the Marines.

We welcome letters from our readers in response to articles appearing in *The Northern Light* and will reprint them as space permits. Letters must be signed, should be brief, and are subject to editing.

On the Lighter Side

Did you ever notice that ...

Anybody who can read is never very successful at cleaning out an attic.

This past summer the lawns in our country were better kept than the laws were.

It's difficult to practice shelf control...that's when you go to the store for a loaf of bread and you only buy a loaf of bread.

One of the nicest things about your conscience is that it never bothers you until you've had your fun.

A monologue is a conversation between someone who just had an operation and someone who didn't.

We've borrowed customs from other civilizations, but somehow we missed out on the siesta.

The best way to forget your own problems is to help someone else solve theirs.

A clean basement is a sure sign of a cluttered garage.

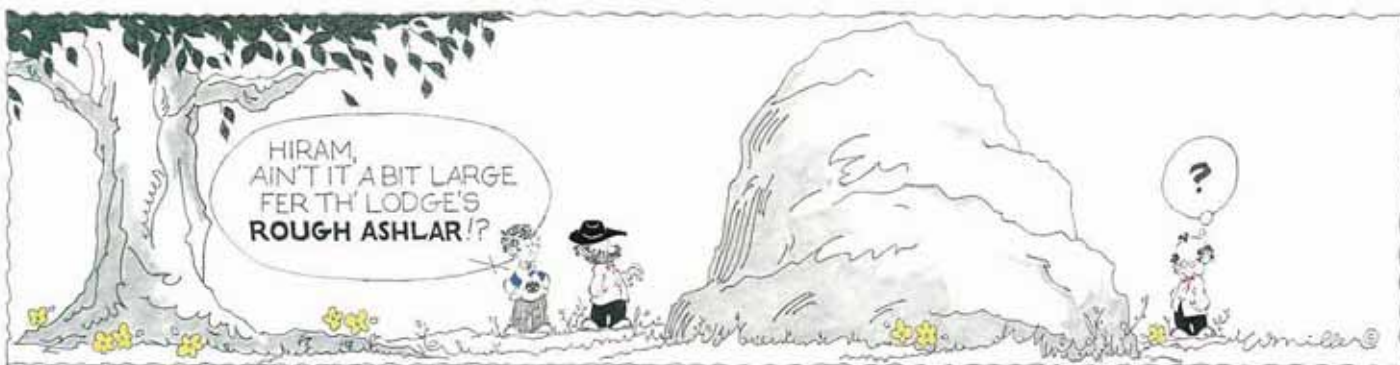
A neighbor will talk for 20 minutes standing at the front door because there isn't time to come in.

You feel very humble when a repairman discovers you tried to "do it yourself."

When you buy a house the only thing that will last 30 years for certain is the mortgage.

HIRAM™

By WALLY MILLER





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Card # _____ Exp. _____

Print Name as it appears on card: _____

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No penalty for cancellations received 60 days prior to tour departure.

Footnotes*



* **Letting freedom ring.** As you watch the television coverage of the 2001 Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day, look for the float identified as the "Family of Freemasonry." The parade is seen by millions of viewers around the world.

The parade theme is "Fabric of America," and float designer Bill Lofthouse of Phoenix Decorating has woven together three significant symbols of freedom to represent Freemasonry in the parade. The 35-foot float will include the Liberty Bell, the U.S. Constitution and the 1777 design of the stars and stripes.

As the float heads down Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, the sound of the bell will be heard along the parade route. The bell on the float will be similar in size to the original bell, which was 12 feet in circumference. Appearing on the float will be representatives from some of the Masonic-related youth groups.

Stanley Channon, a Past Grand Master of California Masons and chairman of the Masonic float task force, says, "We wish to remind viewers that Freemasons played a large part in the founding of America." He is excited about this year's entry but warns that it may be the last year for Masonic participation in the parade because of rising costs and diminishing contributions.

Masons throughout the world are asked to contribute to the cost of sponsoring the Family of Freemasonry float. You may do so by sending

your donation, made payable to Rose Parade Masonic Float, to Donald A. Journey, treasurer, 608 Los Olivos Drive, San Gabriel, CA 91775-1617.

* **Millennium Video.** We continue to receive requests for copies of the millennium video shown at the April 29 jurisdiction-wide class day. As we indicated in the last issue of the magazine, the video is not available for sale. Each Valley does have a copy of it and has been directed to loan it to members for viewing to Masonic and non-Masonic audiences.

The Supreme Council headquarters also has a limited number of copies that can be loaned for selected showing. If you have not seen the video, we strongly recommend that you borrow the video from your Valley or from the headquarters. The 32-minute tape is an upbeat and inspirational portrait of the fraternity.

* **Whiz kid.** His Florida license plate says "Whiz-Kid." When he was 30, he was called "Grandpa Whiz," because he was a leading influence for a young baseball team to enter the World Series.

Brother Andy Seminick, 32°, was the catcher for the 1950 Philadelphia Phillies, a team that became known as the "Whiz Kids." They edged out the highly favored Brooklyn Dodgers for the National League pennant before losing to the New York Yankees in the World Series.

This summer as he approached the age of 80, Brother Seminick joined

nine other players from that 1950 team who were honored in Philadelphia.

* **Family Life.** For several decades Scottish Rite Sovereign Grand Commanders have been urging Valleys to provide programs and events for the entire family. Originally the program placed emphasis on Thanksgiving week but has since been expanded in a year-round celebration.

At the end of each year the Valley chairmen are asked to submit a report highlighting the activities. A committee reviews the reports and selects the best programs.

Here is a list of winning Valleys from the 1999 Family Life program:
Valleys with over 5,000 members

Best Overall Program

- Danville, IL

Honorable Mention

- Columbus, OH
- Indianapolis, IN
- Reading, PA

Between 2,500-5,000 members

Best Overall Program

- Peoria, IL

Honorable Mention

- Northern New Jersey
- Springfield, IL

Between 1,000-2,500 members

Best Overall Program

- Moline, IL

Honorable Mention

- Bloomington, IL
- Eau Claire, WI

Under 1,000 members

Best Overall Program

- Augusta, ME

Honorable Mention

- Green Bay, WI
- Jamestown, NY
- Niagara Falls, NY
- Schenectady, NY

Valley chairmen are reminded that the 2000 reports are due at the Supreme Council headquarters by Feb. 1, 2001.



RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°
Editor

THE BUILD A PATHWAY PROGRAM

ERIE STREET DESIGN
SUPPORTS THE
LEARNING CENTERS

THANKS FROM
THE HARRIS FAMILY

SARAH AND
DANNA THANK T
LEARNING CENTE

OHIO SAFE
DEPOSIT AND TRUST
COMPANY



The Supreme Council presents the "Commander's Walk," a brick-laid courtyard to be constructed at Supreme Council headquarters in Lexington, Mass. You can be a part of this walkway by purchasing a brick, complete with a brass plate for your name or the name of someone you love.

Purchasing a brick not only gives you the opportunity to memorialize a special occasion or loved one, but also benefits Scottish Rite charities:

- 32° Masonic Learning Centers
- Abbott Scholarships
- Schizophrenia Research fellowships
- Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage

You can purchase a personalized walkway brick for only \$132 (\$100 is tax-deductible). You will also receive a bronze paper-weight replica of the inscription placed on your brick.



HOW TO ORDER

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Supreme Council
P.O. Box 519
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If you'd like to order more than one brick, simply copy this order form, and print your new message on it.

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