



Pillars of Light



Compiled by the
Editorial Team of the
Grand Lodge Library

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Editorial

A new year opens new avenues of thinking, researching, studying and if these are successful, new discoveries are here to enrich our Masonic life.

Wilmshurst, in his classical book "The Meaning of Freemasonry", has observed that "Masonry is a sacramental system, possessing, like all sacraments, an outward and visible side consisting of its ceremonial, its doctrine and its symbols which is available only to the Mason, who has learned to use his spiritual imagination and who can appreciate the reality that lies behind the veil of outward symbol".

Anyone, of course can understand the simpler meaning of our symbols, especially with the help of the explanatory lectures. But he may miss the meaning of the scheme as a vital whole...

The Craft, whose work we are taught to honour with the name of "Science", a "Royal Art", has surely some larger end in view than merely inculcating the practice of social virtues common to all the world and by no means the monopoly of Freemasons.

Surely then, it is necessary for us to acquaint ourselves with what that larger end consists, to enquire why the fulfilment of that purpose is worthy to be called a "Science", and to ascertain what are those "Mysteries" to which our doctrine promises we may ultimately attain if we apply ourselves assiduously enough to understanding, what Masonry is capable of teaching us.

Many eminent Masonic authors have written on various aspects of Freemasonry and have brought out the symbolism as well as other attributes and tenets of our Craft forcibly impressing upon us the dignity and the enlightening influence of the Fraternity. It is never too late to start reading the books of our eminent Masonic thinkers. They are all in our Library, acquired with much love by generations of past librarians, in the firm, but humble confidence, that one day, it will provoke you too, my Brother, to think and contemplate the Symbolism and obtain enlightenment.

The real secret of Masonry appears to remain hidden to many – as sunlight hides the depths of heaven.

This Year

This year I will put to work the philosophy that I have adopted.

This year I will think more of my blessings and less of my troubles.

This year I will speak well of my brethren, all that I failed to speak last year.

This year I will stop long enough to listen more attentively to human beings.

This year I will ask the Great Architect of the Universe to give something to somebody else.

This year I will place a sentinel over my mouth and guard my words.

This year I will try to be the man that I'm capable of being.

This year I will elevate myself morally and spiritually by acts of love, by expressions of friendships, by thoughts of man's possibilities.

This year I will try to be a creature fashioned in the image of the Creator.

This year I will give something back to life for the privilege of life.

This year I will acquire a daily bit of knowledge.

This year I will discover my Masonic potential and put it in the service of my fellows Masons.

This year I will respect my obligations and sacred trusts, be a kind father, a faithful husband and a good citizen.

We must always keep the vision clear and maintain a crystal view of our objectives, purposes, our principles and ideals.

Throughout the centuries Masonry has gone its silent and forceful way of stressing the wisdom of the ages in terms of the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man. Stubbornly it has maintained the nobility of man based upon the moral responsibility of the individual, while the world has struggled over insignificant differences. Masonry proclaims the truth that all men are brothers.

In our days, Science, the lofty lessons of human right to development and progress, is used in a horrible, destructive game so terrifying that it frightens equally those who have it and those who do not possess the secret token of the game. Man is driven by this monstrous game to decisions greater than its own capacities. Shall it be the survival of man through Understanding, Love and brotherhood, the principles of Freemasonry, based upon Divine Laws or shall it be destruction beyond imagination, because man refuses to surrender its old, old hatreds.

Masonry is a Moral Science. The weight of our Institution will now become the deciding factor in the history of mankind. It may not be the name "Freemasonry", but it must be Freemasonry *in principle* if man is to become the victor over the science of destruction.

It is important, important beyond the imagination for every Mason to add his individual strength on the side of Right and Brotherhood in this crisis of civilization, by committing himself to a certain attitude in the coming year. For many of us, this is all what we can do. And this is of a tremendous value or weight in the great balance of Good and Evil that is in our hands.

J.V.H.



FAMOUS FREEMASONS

Sir Joseph Banks- 1st Baronet



Born February 13, 1743 – Died June 19, 1820, Joseph Banks was an English naturalist and botanist. He took part in Cook's first great voyage (1768–1771), and some 75 species bear Banks' name. He is credited with the introduction to the West of eucalyptus, acacia, mimosa, and the genus named after him, *Banksia*.

Born in London to the wealthy William and Sarah (Bates) Banks, Joseph Banks was at Harrow School, and Eton with Constantine John Phipps. He acquired a passion for botany while at Oxford University in the early 1760s; it was an exciting time for the field. In the decades following the revolution sparked by Linnaeus, and after inheriting his father's fortune, Banks set himself up as a full-time botanist. He soon established his name by publishing the first Linnaean descriptions of the plants and animals of Newfoundland and Labrador.

He was promptly appointed to a joint Royal Navy/Royal Society scientific expedition to the south Pacific Ocean on HM Bark *Endeavour*, 1768- 1771. This was the first of James Cook's voyages of discovery into that region. This voyage went to Brazil and other parts of South America, Tahiti (where the transit of Venus was observed, the primary purpose of the mission), New Zealand, and finally to the east coast of Australia where Cook mapped the coastline. He made landfall at Botany Bay close to present-day Sydney and at Cooktown in Queensland, where they spent almost 7 weeks ashore while their ship was repaired after foundering on the Great Barrier Reef, he is thus held to be the first Freemason known to have been in New Zealand and Australia. While in Australia, Banks, and the Swedish and Finnish botanists Daniel Solander and Dr. Herman Spöring made the first major collection of Australian flora, describing many species new to science.

While in Brazil, Banks made the first scientific description of a now common garden plant, bougainvillea (named after Cook's French counterpart, Louis-Antoine de Bougainville). Upon his return to England, Banks was elected to be a fellow of the Royal Society and later as their president from 1778-1820.

Before his great voyages, Joseph Banks had become a Freemason, and at some date prior to 1768 he had become a member of the Old Horn Lodge No. 4. In 1717 this Lodge met at the Rummer and Grapes tavern, being one of the four founding lodges of the Grand Lodge of England (it is now known as Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge No. 4 E.C.).

It was the time in Australia, however, which was to lead to

Banks' second great passion: the British colonization of that continent. He was to be the greatest proponent of settlement in NSW, as is hinted by its early colloquial name: Botany Bay. The identification may have been even closer, as the name "Banksia" was proposed for the region by Linnaeus. In the end, a genus of Proteaceae was named in his honour as *Banksia*.

Upon his return home he left the British Isles only once more, on a trip to Iceland. The 1772 Iceland trip was taken on the "Sir Lawrence". When he settled in London he began work on the Banks' Florilegium. He married in 1779, and continued to live with his sister Sarah Sophia Banks. He was made a baronet in 1781, three years after being elected president of the Royal Society. The latter position he would hold for a record forty-two years, and from it he could direct the course of British science for the first part of the 19th century.

He was directly responsible for several famous voyages, including that of George Vancouver to the Northwest Pacific, and William Bligh's voyages to transplant breadfruit from the South Pacific to the Caribbean Sea islands; the latter brought about the famous mutiny on the *Bounty*. The redoubtable Bligh was also appointed Governor of New South Wales on Banks' recommendation, which in turn led to the Rum Rebellion of 1808. During much of this time, Banks was an informal adviser to King George III on the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, a position that was formalized in 1797. Banks dispatched explorers and botanists to many parts of the world; through these efforts Kew Gardens became arguably the pre-eminent botanical gardens in the world, with many species being introduced to Europe through them.

Finally, Banks was a major financial supporter of William Smith in his decade-long efforts to create a geological map of England, the first geological map of an entire country in history. He died in London at the age of 77.

Banks' impact on history was as a systematiser *par excellence*, very much in step with his times. He was also a major supporter of the internationalist nature of science, both being actively involved in keeping open the lines of communication with continental scientists during the Napoleonic Wars and in introducing the British people to the wonders of the wider world. As befits someone with such a role in opening the South Pacific to Europe, his name dots the map of the region: Banks Peninsula on South Island, New Zealand, the Banks Islands in modern-day Vanuatu and Banks Island in the Northwest Territories, Canada.

The Canberra suburb of *Banks* as well as the Sydney suburb of *Bankstown* are named after him.

Bro Gabriel Bilyk
Librarian

May we suggest to the Brother Secretary that it would be greatly appreciated if he could include regularly our link:

www.uglnsw.freemasonry.org.au/Library/Default.htm

in the Notice Paper sent to the members of the Lodge.



Our Readers Write

Dear Grand Librarian,

I often have encountered the notion of "knowing self" and I would like to propose on the subject the following line of thought:

Masonry, blessed with wisdom of the ages, points to the greatest of all lessons, *the study of self*. There is a distinction between *thinking* too much of self and *knowing* self.

A great teacher was asked if he could tell all the Law in as little time as a man could stand on one foot. To which he answered: "*What is hateful to thyself do not do to others.*"

The sting of unkindness, the sharp blade of unfairness, the brutality of intolerance, are weapons that have been used against us. Have we used these weapons against others in our individual lives? Masonry tells us to consider well this question.

We must study self more, in order to understand that unkindness is not of lesser degree when we use it against others than when others use it against us. Tolerance begets Tolerance and Understanding begets Understanding. What comes back to us is in some strange way the very thing that we send out.

Masons, students of self and the science of Morality, will forever cry out against the enemies of mankind, Intolerance, Injustice and Greed. To become victors over these destroyers of life, we must know that we have looked upon them within our own being, and have eliminated them from our character. Only when we would attain the mastership of self by a thorough study and knowledge of self, would we be able to consider ourselves as an integral part of our Masonic community. We should continue and daily strive to attain this level.

Dr. Isaac Maimon –
Lodge Woollahra 341

Dear Brother Joe,

I have learned from own experience the benefits of this great gift given by the Great Architect of the Universe – *Friendship* - and its most important reverberation, the *Masonic Friendship*.

Some say that friendship is discovered in difficult times and it is generally agreed that friendship is one of the finest fruits of Masonry. I have experienced recently, in some stressful circumstances the value of trust in friends and found that if we review our days and years in the Craft, we instantly mark our experiences by various friendships formed over the years.

Acquaintances are easily made, and many, aside from our Masonic associations, grow into abiding friendships. However, there is a definite reason for the solid foundation upon which Masonic bonds are made and increased. Men who share a similar education, a common culture, even a same language, who have in common the gifts of Masonic

teachings, who take solemn and sacred Obligations at the same pedestal, lay the groundwork for enduring friendships of such fiber that they have a spiritual strength beyond the power of description.

Masonry is ever the advocate of the principle of freedom of thought and speech, and the fact that men may differ in their private opinions tends to give dignity to man, and strength to Masonic friendships.

Men who keep before them the ideals of a universal acceptance of the right of everyone's creed and religion, men not bound by the chains of edicts and dogma, but governed by the lofty teachings of the Craft, men who are ever conscious of their duty to God, to neighbour and to self, men who do not practice deception – such men are rightful claimants to rich and wonderful friendships. This is what I discovered every day of my struggle to be a Friend to my Brethren.

And a wonderful friendship - is what they shared with me – a Brotherly Friendship for which I am deeply and most humbly thankful.

Marc Rozanes WM
Lodge Miguel de Cervantes

Dear Bro. Joe,

Before this, I rarely visited the Freemasonry website (NSW), and the library one.. now you have started me reading Pillars of Light etc., and I plan to print them out each month. Thanks!! :-)

I might even print off a bunch and leave them for distribution at my next Blue Lodge meetings..

with Lodge Kellerman Fraternal Regards,
Dean Pistilli - Lodge Kellerman

We need you !!!

Do you have thoughts on Masonry to share or expand?

Do you want to express your views and enlarge our knowledge?

Then come and join in our Study Circle.

**Call the Grand Librarian, (02) 9284 2825
e-mail: library@uglnsw.freemasonry.org.au**



Enlightened Pillars of the Grand Librarian

Any Questions? Ask the Grand Librarian



Q - I heard the expression of "Passing the Chair". Is that referring to the Ceremony of Installation?

A - Though it does not properly merit the title of Installation, it was a Ceremony, usually described as "fictitious" which was practiced in England from the mid 18th century until as late as 1863. The ceremony, whatever it may have been, arose soon after the Royal Arch appeared in England. The Royal Arch was exclusively a ceremony or degree for Masons who had "pass'd the Chair", hence, for Installed Masters or Past Masters.

In effect, the ceremony which in some cases was only slightly similar to our times Ceremony of Installation, enabled the recipient to acquire a so-called "Chair Degree", though his tenure of office as Master might be only a matter of minutes, simply to qualify him to be admitted into the Royal Arch. It is believed that "Passing the Chair" did not grant the title of P M in the Craft. Some tensions on the subject were the reason for the Royal Arch to abolish the need for it.

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Q - What was the number of Lodges from each Constitution, who actually formed the United Grand Lodge of NSW in 1888?

A - GL of England 74; GL of Scotland 53; GL of NSW 49

(Lodges of the Irish Const. would be joining only later the UGL of NSW)

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Q - Freemasons are builders. We have to build the spiritual temple, the temple not built with human hands but, eternal in heaven. What temple is then referred to ?

A - I could find no better answer than that proposed by W Bro W. Wilmshurst an eminent Masonic author. He says: "It is that temple of which all material edifices are. It is the temple of the collective body of humanity itself, of which... St. Paul said: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God?"

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Q - When the master of a Lodge is absent through illness and the I.P.M. acts as W.M, who acts as I.P.M. ?

A - First let it be clear that the status of I.P.M. is not an office and nobody can act for him, so we can only discuss the question of who is to occupy the I.P.M.'s Chair when the I.P.M. acts as a Master. The Rule is that some form of seniority should prevail. Therefore, this implies that the senior P.M. might be chosen to occupy the I.P.M. Chair.

Your Library

offers a new service

If your lodge is without degree work, we offer to help with talks or even...with talkers.

The library is your hub of Masonic knowledge and we have many talks available in our files that have been compiled over many years by eminent Freemasons. These talks are available for delivery by your own brethren, should you so desire, or, in our ranks we have a number of Accredited Masonic Speakers who may be able to help you.

For this new service, contact the Gr. Librarian

Ph: 02 9284 2825

or e-mail: library@uglnsw.freemasonry.org.au

Are you in love with our Traditions and the richness of our Heritage?

Are you thirsty to dwell into the Hub of Knowledge, your Library?

Would you invest a few hours a week and be recognized

as a valuable member of our Volunteers Team?

All you need is a true love for the Craft, its Literature & a Masonic heart that is ready to offer, and glean the satisfaction of serving the Order.

Contact the Grand Librarian RW Bro. Joseph V. Haffner Ph. (02)9284 2825

E-mail: library@uglnsw.freemasonry.org.au



An extract from

The 12th Grand Master's Study Circle

The Study Circle held in the Library on Thur. 14 Dec 2006 was convened to answer to a question proposed by the DGM, RW Bro G.H. Levenston:

"What do you wish of your Grand Lodge Library?"

We decided to invite to the debate, a majority of young Masons, active and interested in the development of our jurisdiction and the increase of the level of its Culture. Around the table gathered, individual thinkers of great value, brethren from the Study Committee, the Think Forward Team, as well as some veterans, dedicated lovers of our Hub of Knowledge and of course our Deputy Grand Master.

The Grand Librarian, RW Bro. Joe Haffner opened the meeting at 12.30 precisely and introduced the Facilitator, W Bro. Robert Taylor who proceeded to present briefly the subject under different aspects, including the actual operation of the Library, our efforts to improve the services etc.

The discussion covered many aspects of the current operation of the Library, touching on some of the limiting factors such as hours of operation which virtually preclude attendance by Masons still working. The lack of easy parking was also seen as making access difficult and not serving the purpose of increasing the number of users. The physical layout of the Library was considered as not being "user friendly" despite the efforts of Library staff to make it so.

On the other hand, it was clearly recognized that the Library, now enriched with electronic facilities, is providing a tremendous service by continuously keeping in touch with the Jurisdiction by means of the publication "Pillars of Light" as well as by many enquiries answered.

One recommendation for the short term was a "make-over" to improve the layout and make it more amenable and attractive to users. As this proposal is un-costed and in view of the budget limitations, there was not much support for it.

It was felt that longer opening hours could improve and increase the rate of usage of the library, by city workers. If this proposal is supported by GL Management, the Librarian undertook to examine and provide volunteering work to achieve this goal.

A proposal came forward, to utilize corner space on the ground floor of the SMC and convert it into a composite book-shop, library, internet-café. It was believed that this type of

establishment would bring Freemasonry closer to hundreds of visitors who regularly utilize our meeting facilities. Whilst some participants thought this proposal utopian, it was still lauded as a desirable way to present FMry to the public. It was noted that Masonic Speakers and researchers are using the Library daily to further their activities.

The strong consensus of opinion was that we need to give the younger members of the Jurisdiction a strong reason to use the Library as a source of Masonic information and knowledge. In short, create the demand for the services and assets of the Library. It was mentioned that the Universities only teach their students to a point., and beyond that, if they wanted to qualify, they have to utilize the library of the Uni. to complete their research. It was thought that this approach could be adopted by the Craft in future, to control the advancement of candidates. It surely could greatly enhance the general knowledge on Masonic matters and the interest in Masonry as a whole, if candidates had to prepare papers and deliver them personally in Lodge, before being advanced to a higher degree. It was proposed that the Think Forward Team would present a case for further studies, to ensure a greater participation by younger Masons in learning about the Craft, and to make them earn their advancement.

It was suggested that a tear-out questionnaire be included in the NSW Freemason, to ask the readers how the Masonic asset that is our Library, could be better utilized.

A general consensus was reached on the importance of maintaining and developing the Grand Lodge Library, enhancing the richness of this source and encouraging by all possible means, its use by our generation of Masons in an effort to become more knowledgeable and articulate, to improve our image as an Order that strives to educate its members and increase the level of our Culture.

At the conclusion of yet another enlightening discussion, the Facilitator summarized the salient points for the participants.

The Grand Librarian and the DGM thanked all attendees for their participation. The Study Circle closed at 1.30pm.

W.Bro. Robert Taylor- Librarian



LIBRARY TEAM MEETS TO WORK AND CELEBRATE

15 Dec. 2007- This Friday was the annual opportunity for all of us to meet and celebrate the festive season of Christmas, in true Brotherly Love and dedication to our common treasure, our hub of Knowledge.

It was an opportunity as well, to meet around



our table in the Library and discuss our great work and the volunteering spirit that animates us all.

The Grand Librarian reported on the Study Circle held, the day before on the subject "What do you wish of your Grand Lodge Library?" Despite the limited usage of our Library, there had been a commitment from all present for its continued operation, as our unique repository of Masonic Knowledge.

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation by our VW Bro Walt Billington, of the work he has done in creating the NEW Library section of the GL Website. A real work of art and love, that has been proposed to replace the actual old fashioned, incomplete Library section. At the conclusion of the demonstration, Walt was heartily congratulated by all present on his diligence and perseverance.

The Pillars of Light has been well received and commended on by overseas Masonic organizations that had accessed it on our site. There have been favourable comments from members of our own Jurisdiction as more and more have had the opportunity to appreciate the publication. It was noticed that some inspired Lodge Secretaries, have decided to promote the Pillars, by including the "link" to access it in their Notice Papers and some, even

printed copies to distribute in lodge to members who have no access to computers. A commendable attitude, for which the entire Team of Volunteers in the Library are most sincerely thankful to them.

The meeting concluded at 1.30pm and we all joined our ladies to partake of some light Christmas refreshment. We missed some of our valuable colleagues who were unwell but we also enjoyed some of our retired Librarians who made a special effort to join the Team of which they were so valuable part for so many years. It was a joyful gathering of people sharing the same interest and love, who do not have often the opportunity to meet each other as each is working on a different day.

Blessings were shared; the smile of satisfaction was on everybody's lips. We all thanked our wives - partners- husbands, for the tremendous support given to enable us to better serve our Order.

The Grand Surprise was of course the appearance of Wonsy- Santa Claus -Librarian, himself, who laden with his heavy sack of presents, made a very special effort to be in time (10 days earlier)!...

We had all a great time and would like to thank



everyone for being present, especially to our Ladies for preparing and for decorating the content and the background of our Library Annual Gathering.

Manfred von Risch- Librarian