



## Pillars of Light



Compiled by the  
Editorial Team of the  
Grand Lodge Library

Volume 5 Issue 2 (51)  
February 2009

### Grand Lodge Library Volunteers' Christmas Function



Throughout the year many dedicated volunteers come into the Sydney Masonic Centre to staff the Grand Library. Each year the Library is open five (5) hours a day, five (5) days a week for about fifty (50) weeks a year. One does not have to be a mathematician to understand that that amounts to well over a thousand voluntary hours spent by staff looking after the Library and information needs of the jurisdiction.

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008 over ten Library volunteers and their partners gathered in the Grand Library in celebration of a year's hard work.

This is usually the only time when most of the volunteers get to see each other in the Library. So much time was spent in catching up, swapping stories and reminiscing. The ladies and Brethren were treated to delicious home cooked food and pastries lovingly prepared by Mrs Judith Haffner.

After a brief overview of the work done during the past year, the Grand Librarian, RW Bro. Joe Haffner thanked the Library Volunteers for their dedicated work and their partners for the great support without which the effort would not have been possible.

Later in the afternoon "Father Christmas" in the form of the Grand Librarian distributed gifts to each Library volunteer. They were well received and much appreciated.

Everyone had reflected on a year's effort spent and were looking forward to a relaxing Christmas / New Year holiday. A well earned rest.

So after refreshments, tea, coffee and soft drinks, the dedicated group slowly disbanded saying their goodbyes until their next happy meeting.

Chris Williams  
Librarian



## OUR MOVEABLE JEWELS by R K Whiteley PM

The word jewel normally refers to a precious stone or gem or to any person near or dear to one, a good person, or a very good or treasured object. Our Masonic jewels come within this broad definition. They are those instruments which, by visual presentation and explanation of their symbolism during our ceremonies, form an essential part of the sacred principles and precepts of Freemasonry.

Masonic jewels are first introduced to each candidate in what many regard as one the most important and instructive of Masonic charges, the First Tracing Board.

The Square, the Level and the Plumb Rule are **described as the "moveable jewels" carried by the Master and the Wardens as emblems of the authority of their respective offices.** As such they also form an important and integral part of the Ornaments and Furniture of a Masonic Lodge.

In some Masonic ceremonies, the principal officers stand to exhibit their jewel of office as it is named during recitation of the Tracing Board.

**The question may be asked, "Why the square, the level and the plumb rule should be worn by the principal officers of the Lodge. No other working tool is worn by any other officer".**

**The question may also be asked "why should these tools also be the working tools of the Second Degree and not the Third Degree". A third Question is "why are they moveable". The answer to the Second question should come first. It is the easiest.**

Our Craft masonry, as practiced in the early eighteenth century, consisted of only two degrees, the third degree being that of an Installed Master. During this time the second or **Fellowcraft degree was the "top" degree administered prior to a Brother being elected a Worshipful Master.**

The emblematic working tools of the Second Degree, the Square, the Level and the Plumb rule, remained those of the Worshipful Master.

As our modern Craft evolved from Operative masonry to Speculative Masonry, the symbolic working tools of the First or Entered Apprentice degree became the simple tools employed in ancient times at the quarry workface to prepare

**stone for the building of King Solomon's Temple, the 24 Inch Gauge, the Common Gavel and the Chisel.**

Entered Apprentices, as workmen, were under the control of a superior not directly engaged in the work of preparing stones, but who came from their ranks.

It was his task to interpret the plans as supplied, to measure, assess and direct the standard of work carried out by those under his supervision, in particular, to assure the workmen received their entitled wages.

Instruments of superior quality and precision were required to confirm the accuracy of the work from the simple tools of the Entered Apprentice, and thus to verify that new stones fitted precisely into the intended design.

More advanced and accurate instruments, the square, the level and the plumb rule, were necessary for this requirement. These were the working tools of the superior tradesman, the Fellowcraft Mason, who was responsible for the quality of work he supervised.

The primary purpose of modern speculative masonry is **"to make good men better men"**, thereby strengthening the morals and improving the manners of man; and to delight in making each other happy.

The symbolism of the working tools of the Fellowcraft Mason is therefore intended as educative of this important mission.

As result of the evolution of the Craft over several hundred years, the modern Fellowcraft is charged with the duty, indeed has the obligation of **"a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge"**, an important primary aim of modern Freemasonry. And within our Lodges the workface **"Craftsmen" are you and me!**

Just as there must be overseers to ensure the total quality of a building project, Freemasonry also requires overseers for guidance and quality control in our Lodges.

This must come from the Master and his Wardens; and it is for this reason that the symbols of their offices are the working tools of the **Second Degree. These are the highly valued "jewels" of Freemasonry.**

**Continued on page 4**

**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](http://www.uglnsw.freemasonry.org.au/Library/Default.htm)**

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



## “What does it mean to call another man Brother?”

What does it mean to call another man Brother? Is this simply a term we use to refer to one another to set us apart from everyone else? Do we do it because everyone else does it? Is it because we are obligated to do so? How is it that two men who have never met one another can meet on the level and treat each other like Brothers?

Before becoming a Mason, I, like most people, was cautious upon meeting strangers. The process of getting to know someone can take weeks, months, or years. Can this person be trusted? Do we have anything in common?

And yet, as a Freemason I can meet a man with whom I have never spoken, about whom I know nothing, except that he is a Freemason. And that is enough.

Without hesitation, I am prepared to render any and all assistance to him. I trust his word implicitly. I will go to the length of my cabletow for this man I have never met.

He is truly my Brother. There is a certain bond that exists which I have found difficult to express. Perhaps like the Tao when looked for, it cannot be seen; reached for, it cannot be grasped; listened to, it cannot be heard. And yet, it is there; undeniable; present; unshakable.

I am profoundly moved by the acceptance I have found within the Craft. I am not referring to simple camaraderie, although that in itself is a wonderful thing. I have the feeling of coming home after being away for a very long time.

The men who I call Brethren are the most honest, the most sincere, most caring and most wonderful men that I have ever had the pleasure to meet. When I think of all I have learned thus far, and all I still have to learn, I realize that I can never truly repay the debt I owe. None of us can.

But this debt is not like money owed. It is a debt which makes each of us richer and better. I now realize that Freemasonry holds the key to the greatest secret of them all. And yet, it is not really a secret. Is it?

As we look around the world today and back through the veils of history, we see that mankind has always been at war.

Hatred has twisted the minds of men, turning brother against brother. Religion and politics have lead to the senseless slaughter of millions upon millions of people. Fear and paranoia have shaped the development of civilizations since the beginning of time.

But we, as Freemasons, have discovered the most profound of all secrets. The secret is that we are all BROTHERS UNDER THE FATHERHOOD of the ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE.

This simple truth allows each and every one of us to treat one another with dignity, respect, and caring. If we find a brother in need, we give him aid and comfort without hesitation and without thinking of what we can gain in return. Within the body of a Lodge, we all are equal.

Certainly, some may have more money, others may be more intelligent, but these things are irrelevant. What matters is only that the man next to us is a Brother. Our shared experience of being Entered, Passed and finally Raised, regardless of our personal religious belief, regardless of our nationality or political opinions, makes us Brothers.

The simple yet profound Truth has the potential to change the world. My Brothers, we hold the key. What we chose to do with this key is up to each and every one of us. What does the future hold for mankind?

No one knows. But imagine a world where every man, woman and child lived this Truth. Impossible? I think not. We are proof of that. Every time we reach out a helping hand to a Brother in need, every time we live the teachings of Masonry, we bring this reality a little closer.

The future is what we make it. Let us to resolve to make our Masonic future the beginning of truly Universal Freemasonry.

(credit to Kevin M. Tucks, MPS and published by the Philalethes Apr 1996)



## OUR MOVEABLE JEWELS

Continued from page 2

Why then are these jewels classified as "moveable"?

The simple answer is given in the first Tracing Board. However, there is a deeper meaning that reaches into the fabric of Freemasonry. If the fundamental aim of our Craft is to make good men better men then it follows that the duty of the Master and his Warden is to fulfill to the best of their ability the basic obligations and tenets of our Craft.

They are both the controllers and the implementers of the lessons of our ritual; and on them largely depends the quality of their individual Lodge.

Freemasonry is a progressive science; and while we cannot claim to be universities, it is our duty to seek the truth and the pursuit of excellence in all our undertakings.

In this context, the precept of the transfer of responsibility and power within the Lodge, from one brother to another, after a discrete period of office, is important both for personal development of the individual officer and for the effective management of the Lodge. The obligations associated with each "jewel" remain permanent. But senior officers move progressively to greater responsibility, challenged in each more senior role to strive to make the brethren of their Lodge "better men, more useful to themselves and more useful to the community in which they live."

The Craft requires the holders of office to submit themselves for re-election each year.

The holder of senior office must annually hand over his present duties to a successor. The accompanying transfer of the symbols or jewels of office, and the knowledge and power pertinent to each office, occurs each installation night. Hence the term "moveable jewels"

Whenever "jewels" move, an important aspect of management in Craft Lodges also moves; and with it the most serious obligations attached to the holders of higher office.

This indeed is the purpose of the "Moveable Jewels", on which the future of each Lodge largely depends.

## Better Understanding of....

**Ritualism:** The art of performing something that will lead to a degree of enlightenment

**Symbolism:** The art of hiding something behind something else

**Interpretation:** The art of recognizing something that is hidden.

**Kabbalism:** That which is hidden behind the interpretation

### FIDELITY, Fidelity, Fidelity....

Fides was the Roman goddess of fidelity, sometimes represented as a female figure holding a key and with a dog at her feet, also by a human heart held in the palm of a hand or by two right hands clasped. Fides was sometimes represented as the sister of Justice. There seems to have been a related god at Rome called Fideus, who presided over contracts, pledges and oaths. It is also said that two right hands clasped were used as a symbol of deity. The goddess Fides inspires a part of the Entered Apprentice Degree.

### The prominently hanging letter "G"

We often speak of the letter "G" and the subject is always invoking a certain perplexity or differences of idea, but strangely enough, it always leads to the same conclusions. Many questions remain without precise answer: What is behind its meaning? Where is its correct place? Should it be illuminated when the Degree commands darkness in Lodge? When did it make its way to our lodges?...

**Its name:** Grand Geometrician, Great Geometrician of the Universe, Geometry, Great Architect of the Universe....and many more...

**Since when used:** In 1725 in "The Whole Institutions of Free-Masons Opened" the examination is as follows: "... Who is the master of all Lodges, God, and the Square..." and in 1727 (Wilkinson manuscript, "What is the centre of the Lodge? The letter "G"..."

**Where is it located?:** This is depending on the Jurisdiction or the Lodge room. In many English and USA Lodge rooms as well as here in NSW, it hangs from the ceiling in the centre of the Lodge. In some European lodges it appears high up on the western wall. In some Scottish Lodges it hangs above and in front of the SW. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century it was found within a diamond or a blazing star or even within the Square and the Compasses. Yet, still in some jurisdictions, the symbol is represented by a triangle containing the Hebrew name for God.

The records show that 400 years BCE, Plato spoke of God as a Geometer (ician). This term seemed to be more appropriate and it is most probable that during the early Masonic period which was part of the Enlightenment era, it must have been evident that "Geometer" became the more appropriate term and "God" remained the term used by the Church exclusively. Later on, when certain liberalism was acceptable, all our Lodges, and that refers to the Blue Lodges, adopted the term "God".

(Ref: 'The Craft and its Symbols'-A.E.Roberts; Harry Carr "The Freemason at Work; own papers/lectures)



## Enlightened Pillars of the Grand Librarian

Any Questions? Ask the Grand Librarian-POL edited by Rt Wor Bro J. V. Haffner

### The Ten Commandments of Freemasonry

The Ten Commandments of Freemasonry:

1. *Belief in a Supreme Being, but our Lodges are neither Christian Churches, nor Jewish Synagogues or Moslem Mosques, but reiterate the precepts of morality and good in all religions.*
2. *Belief in the immortality of the soul. Man has high duties to perform on earth as a preparation for the hereafter.*
3. *Struggle against vice, which must be combated by law, duty, character and exemplary conduct.*
4. *Reverence for knowledge. The Volume of the Sacred Law, Square and Compasses teach respect for knowledge. We must strive to improve our effectiveness in our calling through constant reading and study and strive to excellence in everything we undertake, realising that knowledge is light and ignorance is darkness.*
5. *Reverence for age and past accomplishments as guides for future progress.*
6. *Loyalty to God, our country and our family, our calling, ourselves and humanity.*
7. *Justice. The Freemason must be zealous, faithful and benevolent in dealing with people. The Square and Compasses, the Plumb and Level are tools to inculcate uprightness and careful consideration of facts, accuracy in judgement and uniformity in decisions.*
8. *Importance of Freedom and Equality. This recognizes that all people are entitled to Freedom and Equality, irrespective of the several hazards of one's birth such as race, colour, religion or place of origin.*
9. *Importance of industry. The Freemason is expected to work hard, study much, say little, but hear and think much, and strive to do earnestly and vigorously what may be expected of him as a citizen, as a family man and as a worker in his calling, constantly keeping in mind duty and good of mankind.*

*Tolerance. This involves patience, fairness and humility in judging opinions and practices of others, especially if these differ from one's own, in matters political, social and religious. The Freemason opposes fanaticism, discrimination and persecution.*

**The Freemason appreciates the power of prayer and of true Charity toward our fellow human beings. He strives to act nobly and do his best at all times and on all occasions.**  
(From the Indiana Freemason- 197)

#### A Boss or a Master?

*A Boss drives – A Master leads  
A Boss says 'I' - A Master says 'we'  
A Boss knows how – A Master shows how  
A Boss fixes blames – A Master fixes mistakes  
A Boss relies on authority – A Master relies on cooperation*

**Brethren are Masters, Masters are Brethren.**

**Are you in love with our traditions and the richness of our heritage?  
Are you thirsty to delve 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**