

MASONIC MUSINGS

The Masonic Education Newsletter

of Lodge Epicurean No 906 and Lodge Amalthea No 914

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Welcome to *Issue Thirteen*, the first for 2014. In this edition I shall start with a name-dropping ditty that recently popped up in my email in-box, entitled *Installation Night at the Celestial Lodge*. As will be obvious, it is of American origin... If nothing else, it demonstrates that the list of those who have, historically, been Freemasons is very impressive indeed! After a *footnote* of some interest (?)...as usual, I follow with a couple of "Questions and Answers".

Fraternal regards,
Kent Henderson.

Installation Night at the Celestial Lodge

Over the centuries many well known men have been members of our Noble Craft. For a few moments, please allow your imaginations to run wild and consider what may take place at the Installation of The Celestial Lodge, otherwise known as the Grand Lodge Above.

Even though it was late fall, there was a warm breeze blowing and the sun was setting behind the Lodge Hall. Gathered in the parking lot filled with their works were Bros Henry Ford, Ransom Olds, Walter Chrysler, John Willys and Andre Citroen. The only vehicle missing was Bro Hart Massey's tractor.

Greeting members in the entrance hall was Bro Cliff Arquette of Charley Weaver fame and Bro Ed Wynn. In the boardroom, a group of senior DeMolays were gathered including Bros Walter Disney, Chet Huntley, Wendell Corey, Van Johnson, Robert Cummings, John Steinbeck, Fred McMurray and John Cameron Swayze.

King Gillette, razor in hand, passed the lodge caretaker who was having a minor problem with his vacuum cleaner, which was quickly cleared up with the help of its inventor, Bro Frank Hoover, while at the other end of the hallway Bros Emmett Kelly, Clyde Beatty and all seven of the Ringling Bros were discussing the Shrine Circus.

Taking a quick look into the Banquet Hall, Bros John Molson, Frederick Pabst and Joseph Schlitz were busy rolling in some kegs of beer for Bros Sam Bronfman, late President of Seagrams Distillers, who was setting up the bar for the Festive Board to follow the Ceremony.

Bro Colonel Harland Sanders was cooking up a storm in the kitchen and it was an easy guess as to

what the evening meal would consist of. The orchestra members for the dance to follow the Banquet were tuning. Members of this All-Star group included leader Paul Whiteman, WC Hardy, Nat King Cole, Irving Berlin, George M Cohan, Cyril Stapleton, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Count Basie and Al Jolson. Tonight's performance would be M.C.ED by Bros Arthur Godfrey and Danny Thomas.

Magical Bros Harry Houdini and Harry Blackstone were setting up their props while Bros WC Fields, Oliver Hardy, Bud Abbott, Harpo Marx, and Foster Brooks were fine tuning their comedy routines for tonight's show which was being produced by Bros Cecil B DeMille, Flo Ziegfeld, Louis B Mayer, Hall Wallis and DW Griffiths.

A number of sports celebrities were gathering together, including Bros Abe Saperstein, creator of the Harlem Globetrotters, who was explaining his version of the game to Bro James Naismith, the inventor of the game. They were joined by baseballers Bros Charles Ebbetts, Ty Cobb, Branch Rickey and Cy Young, the first pitcher to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

A little further along the hall was an array of masons dressed in knee breeches, lace cuffs and powdered wigs, others in tuxedos, including Bros Kit Carson, Davey Crockett and Buffalo Bill Cody, clad in their familiar buckskins, Chiefs Crazy Bull, Tecumseh and Joseph Brant in their native attire discussing his discoveries with Ben Franklin.

Most colourful are the military uniforms of Lord Nelson, Lord Cornwallis, Captain James Cook, the Duke of Wellington George Washington and

John Paul Jones. I was gazing in awe at these members of Celestial Lodge, when the Grand Master, MW Bro Harry Truman, appeared from the preparation room accompanied by Bros John Jacob Astor, Luther Burbank, JC Penney, Adlai Stevenson and Jennings Bryan.

Bro John Diefenbaker had just signed the Tyler's Register with one of Bro John Shaeffer's pens. He was accompanied by Bros Robert Borden and RB Bennett. Fellow Canadian Prime Ministers, and by Bro Joe Smallwood of Newfoundland. At this time, the Tyler, Bro J Edgar Hoover, informed the brethren that the meeting was about to come to order.

On entering the lodge room the brethren were greeted by the Inner Guard, Bro Paul Revere. Seated already were polar explorers, Robert F Scott of England and Bro Richard E Bird of the United States, together with Matthew G Perky and Canada's Henry Larsen. Bro Charles Lindbergh could be seen in deep conversation with Bros Hap Arnold, Gus Grissom, Eddie Rickenbaker and Charles Kingsford-Smith.

From the Junior Warden's station came a burst of laughter. Bro Will Rogers had brought broad smiles to the faces of the Royal personages gathered around him, including George I, Frederick the Great, Gustav V of Sweden and George VI. To the right of the Junior Warden's chair, architect Sir Christopher Wren was joined by Statue of Liberty sculptor, Frederic Bartholdi. Bros Norman Vincent Peale and Peter Marshall, who would assume the Chaplain's duties this evening, were in conversation with the DuPonts, Peter and Victor, and the Rothschilds, James and Nathan.

Gathered around the Secretary's desk, Bro Rudyard Kipling was discussing the evening's proceedings with Bro Robert Burns, who was to give one of the Charges assisted by Bro Mark Twain. Also taking part were Bros Conan Doyle, Walter Scott, Samuel Johnson, Alexander Pope and Robert Service.

The Grand Organist, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, was discussing last minute changes with Bros Gilbert and Sullivan. Bros Clark Gable, Peter Sellers, Wallace Beery, Douglas Fairbanks and Brian Donleavy were discussing boxing with champions Jack Dempsey, Jack Johnson and Sugar Ray Robinson.

Another small group, in the persons of Bros John Wayne, Hoot Gibson and Tom Mix, were listening to Bro William Thaddeus Phillips, also known as Butch Cassidy. The founding members, Bros George Washington, Sir John A MacDonald, Guiseppe Garibaldi, Benito Jaurez, John Hancock and Ben Franklin were seated in the East.

They have been joined by Sir Stamford Raffles, founder of Singapore. The Generals, Omar Bradley, Jimmy Doolittle, George C Marshall, John Pershing and Douglas McArthur, take their seats next to Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. The Lodge Treasurer, Bro Henry Knox was busy collecting dues from Bros Thomas E Dewey and William McKinley. The Master, MW Bro HRH The Duke of Connaught, has rapped the gavel to call the Lodge to order and it is now time for us to depart.

With one last look at this brilliant assembly, one wonders what the public's perception of Freemasonry might be if they were able to visit such a lodge.

FOOTNOTE: I have recently started work on my next Masonic book, a biography which will probably be entitled ***100 Famous Australian Freemasons***, but it might get up to 125 or 150 in the end! My **Initial List**, which is pretty impressive, is as follows:

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|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|---|
| 1. | Adams, George (Tattersalls) | 20. | Cook, Sir Joseph |
| 2. | Banks, Sir Joseph | 21. | Dargie, Sir William |
| 3. | Bannerman, Alexander Chalmers | 22. | Davidson, Alan Keith AM MBE |
| 4. | Barassi, Ron | 23. | Dawson, Herbert Henry 'Smokey' |
| 5. | Barclay-Harvey, Sir Charles | 24. | De Groot, Francis (Harbour Bridge) |
| 6. | Barton, Sir Edmond | 25. | Dunlop, Sir Edward 'Weary' |
| 7. | Blackburn, Brig. Arthur Seaforth VC | 26. | Dymock, William |
| 8. | Bland, Dr William | 27. | Ellison-Macartney, Sir William |
| 9. | Braddon, Sir Edward Nicholas Coventry | 28. | Fadden, Sir Arthur William |
| 10. | Bradman, Sir Donald George | 29. | Fisk, Sir Ernest |
| 11. | Brassey, Lord | 30. | Flinders, Capt Matthew |
| 12. | Brooks, Sir Dallas | 31. | Fuller, Sir Benjamin John |
| 13. | Brownlow, Charles | 32. | Galleghan, Sir Frederick |
| 14. | Bruce, Viscount Stanley Melbourne | 33. | Goffage, John William Pilbeam (Chips Rafferty) |
| 15. | Brunton, Sir Charles | 34. | Goode, Sir Charles Henry |
| 16. | Carrington, Lord | 35. | Gorton, Sir John Grey |
| 17. | Charlton, Eddie | 36. | Gowrie, Lord |
| 18. | Chelmsford, Lord | 37. | Greenway, Francis |
| 19. | Clarke, Sir William Bt | | |

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|-----|---|------|--------------------------------------|
| 38. | Gregory, Cecil Albert. Gregory Street Directory | 69. | Nichols, Pastor Sir Douglas |
| 39. | Gregory, Sir Augustus Charles. Explorer | 70. | Northcott, Gen. Sir John |
| 40. | Grey, Sir George | 71. | Northcott, Sir John |
| 41. | Griffiths, Sir Samuel Walker | 72. | Oldfield, William Arthur Stanley MBE |
| 42. | Grout, Wally | 73. | Opperman, Sir Hubert H |
| 43. | Hackett, Sir John | 74. | Oxley, John |
| 44. | Hardy, Sir James | 75. | Packer, Sir Frank |
| 45. | Hargraves, Edward | 76. | Page, Sir Earle Christmas Grafton |
| 46. | Heron, Sir Leslie James. Chief Justice | 77. | Peacock, Sir Alexander |
| 47. | Hosking, John. 1st Mayor of Sydney | 78. | Peters, Frederick Augustus. Icecream |
| 48. | Howse, MajGen Sir Neville, 1st Oz VC | 79. | Playford, Sir Thomas |
| 49. | Hume, Hamilton | 80. | Ponsford, William Harold |
| 50. | Huntingfield, Baron | 81. | Reid, Sir George Houston |
| 51. | Isaacs, Sir Issac | 82. | Rene, Roy (Mo) |
| 52. | James, Sir Claude | 83. | Riley, Archbishop C O L |
| 53. | Jersey, Lord | 84. | Robertson, Lt Gen Sir Horace |
| 54. | Kennedy, Graham | 85. | Rosenthal, Maj Gen Sir Charles E |
| 55. | Kingsford-Smith, Air Cmdr Sir Charles | 86. | Ryrie, MajGen Sir Granville de Laune |
| 56. | Lawry, William (Bill) | 87. | Scott, Thomas Alison – Sugar founder |
| 57. | Leacock, James (inventor of the ‘ute’) | 88. | Skilton, Bob |
| 58. | Lees, Rev Harrington. ArchB of Melb. | 89. | Smith, Sir Gerard |
| 59. | MacKay, Rev James Frederick | 90. | Spencer, T E (poet) |
| 60. | Macquarie, Lachlan | 91. | Stonehaven, Baron |
| 61. | McGilvray, Alan David | 92. | Stradbroke, Lord |
| 62. | McKay, Very Rev James Frederick. (Flying Doctor) | 93. | Street, Edwin. Ice cream |
| 63. | McMahon, Sir William | 94. | Stuart, John McDoull |
| 64. | Menzies, Sir Robert | 95. | Tingwell, Charles ‘Bud’ AM |
| 65. | Messenger, Herbert Henry (Dally) | 96. | Townsend, Sir Lance |
| 66. | Morris, Arthur Robert | 97. | Vasey, Maj Gen George Alan |
| 67. | Morshead, Lt. Gen. Sir Leslie | 98. | Walker, Fred (vegemite) |
| 68. | Neal, Sir Eric AC AVO PProGM | 99. | Way, Sir Samuel |
| | | 100. | Wentworth, William Charles |

I will add that writing a biographical work entitled *100 Famous Australian Freemasons* is a task fraught with difficulty. Gaining the necessary data, given the necessary research, is relatively easy. Choosing the 100 individuals to be included is infinitely more difficult, who to include and who to omit? Perhaps it should be 200 or 300? Certainly, that number of souls who, arguably, merit inclusion could be found, but obviously as author I will have to make a number of subjective decisions – and to draw the line on producing a single book or what would otherwise have to be a multi-volume *Dictionary of Biography*.

And there will be subsequent argument, no doubt, over the virtues of some of those that I have included as opposed to others I have omitted. Most probably, no two authors, set the same task, would come up with identical lists. Needless to say, there are more than a few others that could have been included but, as I say, I will have to draw a line somewhere.

Those I propose to include in the book are not all ‘Australian’, *per se*. Some, such as Sir Joseph Banks and several State Governors/Australian Governors-General are merely *Australian-by-connection*. Yet, given their relative eminence and those Australian connections, I feel it is necessary to include them.

What is certain is that all those that will be listed in the book were or are, indeed, Freemasons. And

that is where their connection ends. Some were very active Masons throughout their life and became quite senior in the Craft – becoming Master of a Lodge or in some cases Grand Master. Others merely joined and remained inactive members for all or most of their life. This has long been the case with Masons generally. It ‘grabs’ some men more than others and as a result some are more involved than others – or, not infrequently for busy men, it comes down to available time. Many men have numerous other pursuits to follow in their lives, in both career and family, and there always remains but 24 hours in any day. Without doubt, for many of the men who will be the subjects of this book (and indeed, for many who are not!) – they led a very full life – often leaving little time for Masonic endeavours.

The point is that it would be most subjective, and indeed, unjust, to judge any man on his depth of involvement in Freemasonry – which in itself teaches that career and family and then lodge should be the order in which one should conduct one’s life.

A more accurate title for my book would probably be *100 Famous Australians, or Australians-by-connection, who, coincidentally, also happened to be Freemasons*. But be that as it may, there can be no doubt that the 100 subjects in the book have all made an outstanding contribution to Australia – across a wide range of careers and endeavours – and thus richly merit their inclusion.

Questions and Answers

What is the significance, if any, of the E.A. and F.C. Aprons being fastened with cords and the M.M. with belt and buckle?

In short, the answer is none! The E.A. and F.C. Aprons are comparatively simple and inexpensive articles for temporary use and remain Lodge property. The M.M. Apron, on the other hand, is a substantial piece of regalia, the Brother's own property, and intended to last all his Masonic life. Hence a broad band of substantial material is used. The Snake Buckle is not specified in the

Book of Constitution as part of the M.M. Apron and is probably the idea of a Regalia manufacturer who thought it would be a good idea as it is a convenient form of fastening and the serpent is generally regarded as the symbol of wisdom. The Ritual makes no reference to the Snake Buckle and the Serpent has no Masonic symbolism or significance in Craft Masonry.

What is the significance of the Flap on the E.A.'s apron? Why are Rosettes added for the F.C. and MM.? ...and what do they signify?

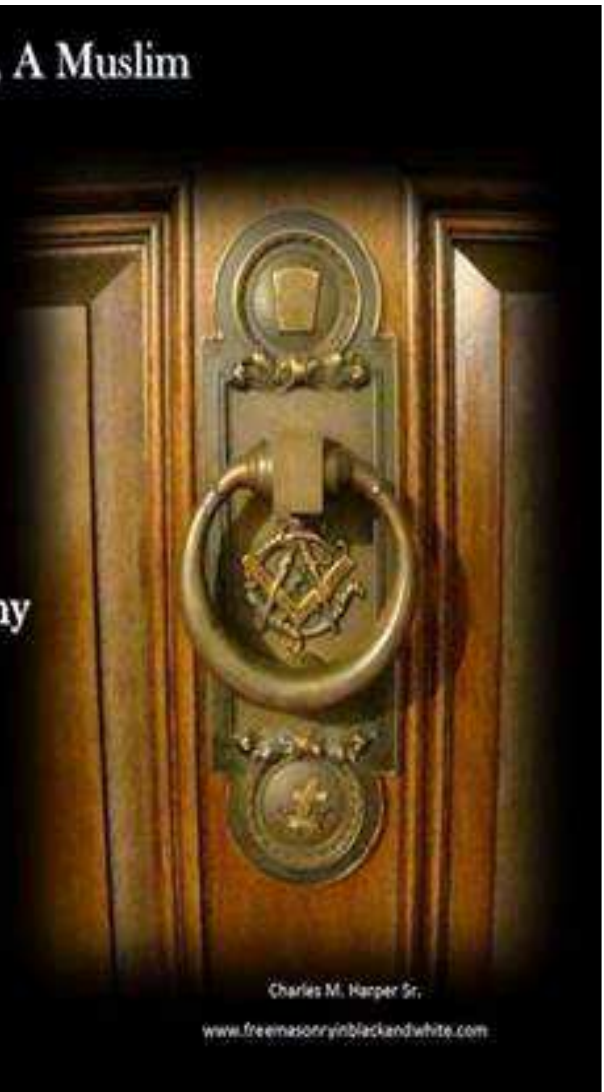
The Masonic Apron represents the apron of the old Operative Mason. It reached nearly to the ankles. It was fastened by two thongs passed round the waist and tied in front, the tassels of the Master Mason's apron being a relic of their ends. The upper part covered the chest and was held up by a loop round the neck. By such an apron the

apprentice, doing rough and dirty work, protected his clothing. Various adjustments of the Flap are used to distinguish Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts in the American and in European Lodges time, and these vary from one State to another, and from one Country to another!

Being neither a Christian nor a Jew, A Muslim
or Hindu, being a Democrat nor a
Republican, being Black, White,
Hispanic, Asian, nor Indian, being
rich nor poor, has anything to do
with me amongst my Brethren
behind this door.

Only my trust in God, the faith in my
Brothers, and the charity given to
mankind as a result of my actions
matter in this place.

I am a Freemason.



Charles M. Harper Sr.

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