



# The Discoverer

The Monthly Newsletter of The Lodge of Discovery

In this Issue	
Emblems of 1st Degree Part 4	2
A Golden Age in Freemasonry	3
Freemasonry in Cuba	6
Old Tiler Talk	13
Humour	15

## Greetings Brethren,

This month I present you with a thought-provoking article entitled 'Towards a Golden Age in Freemasonry—see Page 3

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## THE EMBLEMS OF FREEMASONRY

### The First Degree—Part 4

#### The Three Great Pillars

The three grand pillars which support the Lodge are Wisdom, Strength and Beauty - wisdom to contrive, strength to support, and beauty to adorn. The R.W.M. in the E...represents Wisdom, the W.W. in the W. -. represents Strength, and the W.J.W. in the S... represents Beauty. The Pillars further represent Solomon, King of Israel, Hiram, King of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff. Solomon, King of Israel, for his wisdom in building, completing and dedicating the Temple at Jerusalem to God's service; Hiram, King of Tyre for his strength in supporting him with men and materials ; and Hiram Abiff for his curious and master workmanship, as seen in the incomparable beauty of the same. As there are no noble orders in Architecture known by the names of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty, the Freemason refers them to the three most celebrated - Ionic, Doric, and Corinthian. The Ionic column represents Wisdom, because it wisely combines strength with grace; the Doric column represents Strength, as it is the strongest and most massive of the orders; and the Corinthian represents Beauty because it is the most beautiful and ornamental. The Universe is the Temple of the living God whom Masons serve. Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty are about His Throne as Pillars of His Works. His Wisdom is infinite, His Strength omnipotent, and His Beauty shines through the whole of creation. The Heavens He has stretched forth as a canopy, He has planted the Earth as His footstool, He has crowned His Temple with stars as with a diadem. The Sun and Moon are messengers of His divine will, and all His laws are concord.

#### The Covering

The Covering of a Freemason is Lodge is a celestial canopy of divers colours, even the heavens. The sun, moon, and stars which adorn it are emblems of the power, goodness, omnipresence and eternity of God. The way by which Freemasons hope to arrive at it is by climbing the ladder which in Scripture is called Jacob's Ladder.

#### The Ladder

The Ladder is composed of many staves or rounds which point out as many moral virtues. The three principal ones are Faith, Hope, and Charity - Faith in God, Hope in immortality, and Charity towards all men. The Ladder, which reaches to the Heavens, rests on the V... of the S... L , because in that work the Great Architect of the Universe has set out those holy truths by the patient study of which we are enabled to ascend step by step towards the immortal mansions where the Grand Master rules and reigns forever.

*The feature is taken from William Harvey's book, "The Emblems of Freemasonry" 1918.*

## Towards A New Golden Age of Masonry

*By Bro. Stephen F. W. of Lodge Germania 1036 UGLNSW*

To My Brother,

***Our voluntarie service he requires,  
Not our necessitated, such with him  
Findes no acceptance, nor can find, for how  
Can hearts, not free, be tri'd whether they serve  
Willing or no, who will but what they must  
By Destinie, and can no other choose?***

– John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, 1667

### The 21st Century Masonic Lament

Being a relatively young fellow of only thirty years, it is only natural that I should enjoy reading widely and talking to all the interesting people I meet. Everyone from the potential candidate joining us at the festive board for the very first time, to the most experienced and learned brethren. The subjects and topics of conversation vary wildly of course, as might be expected from such diverse company, but on more than one occasion I have come across what I have since termed the **21st Century Masonic Lament**. Whether directly or obliquely, they allude to a feeling or perception that:-

***Masonry Just Ain't What It Used To Be.***

Is it really? I'm afraid I cannot say for sure. Unfortunately, I haven't had the pleasure of being around long enough to experience first-hand the past six hundred years of Masonry. When the **Regius Poem** was first inscribed on vellum in 1390, nobody sent me a copy. When the four English lodges met for dinner in 1717 at the **Goose and Gridiron** alehouse to form the **Grand Lodge of London and Westminster**, I wasn't invited. Nor did I receive an invitation in 1888 when the masters and wardens of 183 lodges assembled, and adopted the articles of union which established the **United Grand Lodge of New South Wales**. (Australia)

What is it exactly that has changed?  
The quality of our candidates?  
The quantity of our brethren?  
The exclusivity of our fraternity?

I think not. The candidates of Masonry is now what they have always been, a diversity of men drawn from a cross-section of society who have volunteered of their own free will and accord to undertake the three degrees. They are simply a reflection of the wider world in which our fraternity exists, so it is only natural and indeed inevitable that as the world evolves, so will our candidates. So long as they are just, upright and free men of mature age, sound judgement and strict morals, we should be happy to consider their petitions. High quality lodges full of high-quality brethren attracts high quantities of candidates. This is a function of social dynamics.

The reverse is also true. High quantities of candidates allow high quality candidates to be initiated and thus form high-quality lodges. This is a function of mathematical probability. It is a virtuous and self-perpetuating cycle, and the lodge whose members' minds are filled with knowledge and whose hearts are filled with brotherly love, stand forever strong against the test of time.

### ***I can't believe we let that guy in!***

I can only speculate as to what was uttered under murmured breath, or lingered at the back of the minds of our operative brethren, all those centuries ago when the first gentleman was initiated as a speculative mason into that fateful operative lodge.

***Look at his hands! Too soft to have ever put chisel to rock! Too smooth to have ever toiled a day in the quarries! Couldn't tell the difference between a gavel and a mallet!***

Have we lost our aura of exclusivity? Once again, I think not. Our fraternal ancestors were not aristocrats nor clergy, but labourers who worked the stone with simple hand tools. The exclusivity of their fraternity was one of knowledge regarding mathematics, geometry, and construction methods. Similarly for us speculative masons of today, the exclusivity of our fraternity is also one of knowledge, albeit regarding the self-improvement of character through the practice of brother love, relief, and truth. If we should be exclusive, let us be only men of good character and report, who prize honour and virtue above the external advantages of rank and fortune, scrupulously guarded through the vetting of candidates and the secret ballot. This should make each of us feel very special indeed!

If ***Masonry Just Ain't What It Used To Be***, it is only because it hasn't been ***What It Used To Be*** for at least 300 years. Otherwise, we would still be in the quarries chiseling stone with gavels. It is only through the process of gradual change, that Masonry has remained exactly the same as what it has always been, an adaptable and resilient organisation that has withstood the test of time.

### **The Golden Age of Masonry**

However, the ***21st Century Masonic Lament*** reveals a far deeper and more troubling concern among the brethren. It voices a yearning for the past, dissatisfaction with the present and pessimism for the future. It is a fear that the ***Golden Age of Masonry*** has come and gone and that the best days of our fraternity lay in the past and not the future. So just when was the ***Golden Age of Masonry***? It's a very tricky question to answer. I posed the question to a variety of experienced and learned brethren, and in turn received an equal variety of answers.

Was it during the late medieval 12th to 16th century ***Gothic Period***, when the ***Regius Poem*** was penned and operative masons built magnificent cathedrals, abbeys, castles and palaces, complete with pointed arches, ribbed vaults and flying buttresses out of rough hewn rock? Or was it during the 1870-1910 ***Golden Age of Fraternalism*** after the end of the American Civil War, when Bro. Albert Pike penned his famous ***Morals and Dogma***? Men and women flocked by the thousands to join Masonry and the Order of the Eastern Star. Other fraternal societies such as the Odd Fellows also flourished, whilst entirely new ones came into being, including the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Loyal Order of Moose.

Perhaps it was during the 1946-1964 ***Boomer Years*** in the aftermath of World War II, when servicemen returned home to settle down and raise new families? Many were hardened men with hearts of stone, cold and heavy after all the killing they had done and witnessed on the battlefield. They joined Masonry in search of the brotherhood and camaraderie they experienced during wartime, and in civilian life they found it within our lodges. The huge influx of brethren was such that Masonry reached its peak in terms of absolute numbers in 1959. This generation of brethren has had a greater and more pronounced impact on modern Masonry than any other, and their immense influence continues to be felt in every aspect of lodge life.

Need I continue? I haven't even mentioned the ***Renaissance*** or the ***Age of Enlightenment***, either of which would make fine candidates for being the ***Golden Age of Masonry***. No I say, for it is pointless, because the ***Golden Age of Masonry*** lays not in some imagined, recorded or dimly

remembered past but in the inevitable future. The world will turn, and the present will pass, but Masonry will remain. May the **Golden Age of Masonry** forever remain in the future, as something to strive towards, for the best is yet to come.

### **Towards a New Golden Age**

The **Gothic Period**, the **Renaissance**, the **Enlightenment**, the **American Reconstruction**, the **Boomer Years**. What do these **Golden Ages** all have in common? They were all periods of great turmoil, social upheaval and extremely rapid change. Daily life for the common man was terribly harsh, brutish and often short. None of these periods seemed to be a **Golden Age** for the men on the ground who lived through them. It is only with the benefit of hindsight that we recognise these periods as such, a term bestowed retrospectively after the period has already ended and is compared with what follows. It is during these periods of great strife and uncertainty that Masonry truly shines! It is then that our fraternity is needed most! It is then that we stand in sharpest contrast with the profane world around us!

If we lived in a perfectly peaceful and a harmonious world of brotherly love, relief and truth, there would be no need for Masonry, because everyone would already be a mason! Today we live in a chaotic world, at war with itself, seemingly adrift without a working moral compass & desperately searching for real and meaningful values, yet unable to find any. It is an age of extremely rapid social, technological and economic change, seemingly without any direction or clear objective. We have bestowed upon ourselves the instruments of mankind's own potential destruction, very real today but completely unimaginable even 100 years ago.

But yet there is a ray of hope! We have survived thus far and may yet survive a little longer! For 600 years there has been an order of men which history has shown to be adaptable and resilient! Who profess to be just, upright and free! Who profess to practice the tenets of brother love, relief and truth! Who are now able to communicate with each other at close to the speed of light using AES256 encryption! To see, speak and write to each other just as easily and securely from Sydney, London, New York or Hong Kong as if they were in the same room!

So dear brother, fear not the young men knocking on the doors of Masonry today, for they will be the masons of tomorrow. They must become the standard bearers of our fraternity, for it is only they who can carry on our **Great Work**, our legacy, our traditions and our hopes for a better tomorrow. If they are in darkness, enlighten them. If they are ignorant, teach them. If they are fearful, demonstrate by example the virtues of brotherly love. On the other hand, if we spurn them, they may not return. If we ignore them, they may lead themselves astray. If we fail them, they may become disappointed in our fraternity. Masonry is not, and has never been just a big social club. It's not just a charity or service organisation. Nor is it just a set of rituals buried deep within heads or written down in books. It is an adaptable and resilient philosophy for the strong, a way of life that beckons to be practiced. Let us remind ourselves, every time we remove the cable tow from a newly initiated brother, that the bonds that truly bind cannot be perceived by the eyes that receive physical light.

***May we live with the Faith to persevere, striving towards the Hope of a New Golden Age of Masonry, through the Charity of voluntary service to the Great Architect of the Universe!***

### **Comment by the Educator**

During the past few weeks, as a member of an international email sharing group, there has been a thread of brethren wondering where our brethren have gone and wondering what is ahead for Freemasonry. In moments like this, inevitably a paper or reference drops on my desk and is just what I have been looking for.

I offer my thanks to Bro. Wong for sharing his positive & enthusiastic message to us all.

## FREEMASONRY IN CUBA

*Our Junior Warden, Bro. Shaun Gilchrist recently made a trip to Cuba. After consultation with UGLE he verified that the Grand Lodge of Cuba was recognised by UGLE. This is his overview of Freemasonry in Cuba.*



### Brief History of Cuba

The island of Cuba was inhabited by numerous Mesoamerican tribes prior to its discovery by the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus in **1492**. After Columbus' arrival, Cuba became a Spanish colony, ruled by a Spanish governor in Havana.

The Seven Years' War, which erupted in **1754** across three continents, eventually arrived in the Spanish Caribbean. Spain's alliance with the French pitched them into direct conflict with the British, and in **1762** a British expedition of five warships and 4,000 troops set out from Portsmouth to capture Cuba. The British arrived on June 6, and by August had Havana under siege. Less than a year after Britain seized Havana, it signed the Peace of Paris together with France and Spain, ending the Seven Years' War. The treaty gave Britain Florida in exchange for Cuba.

It remained a colony of Spain until the Spanish–American War of **1898**, which led to nominal independence as a de facto United States protectorate in **1902**. Cuba gained formal independence from the U.S. on May 20, 1902, as the Republic of Cuba.

Current Population: 11,239,004 (2015 census)

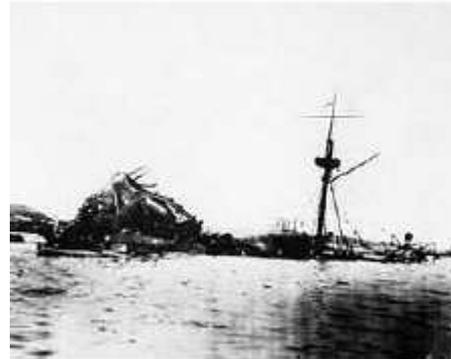
### Cuban Independence



**José Martí** - (28 January 1853–19 May 1895) Cuban independence leader and national hero.

Through his writings and political activity, he became a symbol for Cuba's bid for independence against Spain in the 19th century. Martí was an active and prominent Freemason.

### USS Maine



On 15 February 1898, the *Maine* was destroyed by an explosion, killing 268 crewmembers. 130 Members of the crew who were killed were Masons.

### Batista



U.S.-backed Dictator **Fulgencio Batista**, leader of Cuba from 1933-1944, and from 1952-1959, before being overthrown as a result of the Cuban Revolution.

### Castro

Fidel Castro, politician and revolutionary who governed the Republic Cuba as Prime Minister from 1959 to 1976 and then as President from 1976 to 2008.

Oswaldo Dorticós Torrado served as President from 1959 to Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 1976



of

## Architecture in Havana



## Freemasonry in Cuba



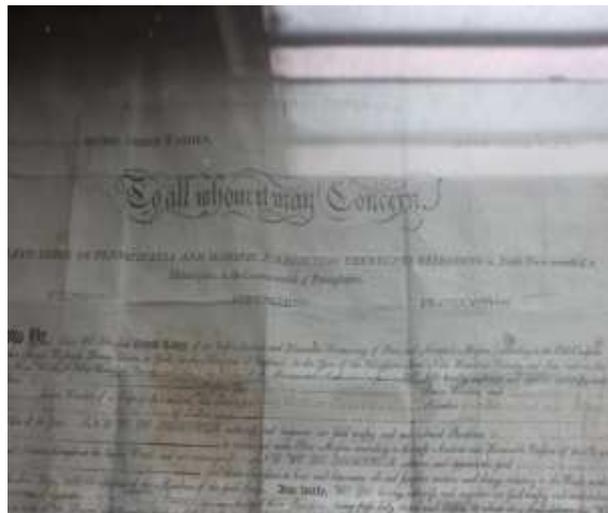
**Grand Lodge of Cuba**



**Grand Lodge Temple**



**First Warrant Issued 17<sup>th</sup> December 1804**



**Entry to Grand Lodge of Cuba Museum**



Monument to Marti



Replica of Grand Lodge of Cuba



### Masonic Fire Engine



### Cuban Masonic Youth Movement



### Freemasonry in Cuban Prisons



### Freemasonry and the Cuban Flag



Adopted May 20<sup>th</sup> 1849

Official Description:

**Narciso López** - The three blue stripes represent the three departments in which Cuba was divided at that time, the white purity of ideals, the light; the red triangle, originating from the French Revolution – and the three ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity: red for the blood and the courage; the star was the new state that should be added to the United States

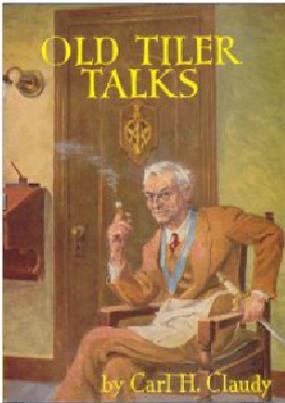
Masonic Description:

3: Blue Stripes, 5: Blue Stripes and White Stripes, 7: Blue Stripes, White Stripes and two sides of triangle

Masonic Blazing Star - 3 Rule a Lodge, 5 Form to the Lodge, and 7 (or more) make it perfect

### Vehicles of Cuba





## Old Tiler Talks— LEARNING THE WORK

"It seems to me," began the New Brother, offering a cigar to the Old Tiler, "that we make unnecessary demands on a candidate."

"Thanks," answered the Old Tiler. "Such as what, for instance?"

"A candidate who has received the Entered Apprentice degree must perfect himself in it before he gets his Fellowcraft. After he is a Fellowcraft he must learn that ritual before he can become a Master Mason. I can see the reason why all brethren must understand them and be able to tell about degrees, but I don't see why we must learn word for word and letter for letter. Last meeting we turned back a young fellow because he had not learned his Entered Apprentice degree. If he didn't learn it because he didn't want to he wasn't worth having, but it seems he just couldn't. Refusing him was an injustice. He's only one-third a Mason, and not likely to get any farther."

"You sure think of a lot of things Masonic to find fault with!" countered the Old Tiler. "But we would get along faster if you didn't mix your questions."

"How do you mean, mix them?"

"In one breath you want to know why Masonry requires learning degrees by heart, and don't I think it was an injustice to a certain young fellow because we wouldn't admit him to full membership when he couldn't or didn't, only you don't think it an injustice but a righteousness if he could and didn't. You agree that one of the safeguards of Masonry which keep it pure is what we call the ancient landmarks?"

"I agree."

"And you know one of the landmarks is that Masonry is secret?"

"Of course."

"If we printed the work would it be secret?"

"Certainly not. But you don't have to print it."

"No? But if we can't print it and won't learn it, how are we to give it to our sons?"

"Oh!" The New Brother saw a great light. "We all learn the work and so know when mistakes are made and correct them in the workers, and our sons hear the same work we did and learn it and transmit it. But wouldn't it be enough if only a few men learned the work- those well qualified and with good memories? How would that do?"

"It is good Masonry and good Americanism that the majority rules. Masonry is not a despotism but a democracy. If a favoured few were the custodians of the work would not the favoured few soon become the rulers of Masonry, just as the favoured few have always ruled the lazy, the ignorant, and the stupid?"

"If that happened we'd just put them out of office."

"And put in men who didn't know the work? Then what becomes of your landmark?"

"You are too many for me," laughed the New Brother. "I guess there is a reason why we have to learn the work. But I still think we might make an occasional exception when a man just can't memorize."

"If you read the Bible, you know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump. One bad egg will spoil an omelette. The man who won't learn is not fit to be a Mason, since he is not willing to tread the path all his brethren have trod. The man who can't learn the work hasn't control enough of his brain to enable him to appreciate Masonic blessings. This is no question of education. A brother of this lodge has had so little education that he barely reads and write. His grammar is fearful and his knowledge of science so full of things that are not so that it is funny when it isn't pathetic. But he is a good Mason for all that, and bright as a dollar at learning the work. It's only the stupid, the lazy, the indifferent and dull-witted, the selfish and foolish man who can't learn or won't learn Masonry. They add nothing to it; it is better they are kept out. To make an exception merely would be to leaven our lump with sour leaven."

"But, Old Tiler, many who learned it once have forgotten it now."

"Of course they have! You can't do a quadratic equation or tell me the principle cities in Greenland, or bound Poland, or do a Latin declination. You learned it and forgot it. But you had the mental training. If I told you a quadratic was worked with an adding machine, that Poland was in china, or that hocus-pocus meant Caesar's lives, you'd know I was wrong. Same way with ritual; leaning it is Masonic training, and though we often forget it we never lose it entirely, and through the whole of us it is preserved to posterity."

"Oh, all right! I learned mine, anyway. Have another cigar, won't you?"

"Thanks," answered the Old Tiler. "You have learned rather well, I'll admit, that I like your cigars!"

## News from the South

### Lodge Birthdays

<b>Ross McDonald</b>	<b>34 (J)</b>
<b>Jean-Luc Bador</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Maurice Masuino</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Geoff Elvy</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Dan Garrigan</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Ollie McArthur</b>	<b>6</b>

Bro. Shaun Gilchrist gave a very interesting presentation on Freemasonry in Cuba at our last meeting which has been reproduced in this edition. And yes, there is a Lodge at Guantanamo.

**Subject: Why teachers continue to drink heavily**

The following questions were in last year's GED (General Educational Development—U.S. & Canada) examination

(These are genuine answers).

Q. What is a turbine?

A. Something an Arab or Sheik wears on his head. Once an Arab boy reaches puberty, he removes his diaper and wraps it around his head.

Q. How is dew formed?

A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on?

A. If you are buying a house, they will insist that you are well endowed.

Q. In a democratic society, how important are elections?

A. Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election.

Q. What are steroids?

A. Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.

(Shoot yourself now, there is little hope.)

Q. What happens to your body as you age?

A. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

(So true)

Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.

A. Premature death.

Q. What is artificial insemination?

A. When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow.

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour?

A. Keep it in the cow.

(Simple, but brilliant)

## Humour

Q. How are the main 20 parts of the body categorized (e.g. The abdomen)?

A. The body is consisted into 3 parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels: A,E,I,O,U (WTF!)

Q. What is the fibula?

A. A small lie.

Q. What does 'varicose' mean?

A. Nearby.

Q. What is the most common form of birth control?

A. Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condominium.

(That would work.)

Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section.'

A. The caesarean section is a district in Rome.

Q. What is a seizure?

A. A Roman Emperor.

(Julius Seizure, I came, I saw, I had a fit.)

Q. What is a terminal illness?

A. When you are sick at the airport.

(Irrefutable)

Q. What does the word 'benign' mean?

A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

(brilliant)

Q. Name the four seasons

A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.