

THE ALBERTA FreeMason



Editor: MWBro
Robert E. Juthner

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In Memoriam MWBro Philip Jack Kendal Grand Master 1969-1970

MWBro Philip Jack Kendal passed, prepared and peacefully, to the Grand Lodge Above on May 8, 2002, in the Rockyview General Hospital, Calgary, at the age of 92 years.

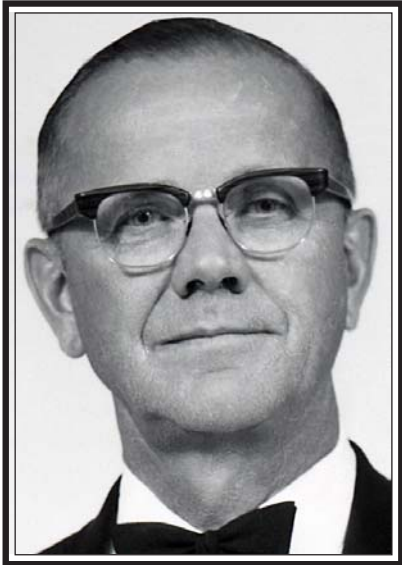
Philip Jack Kendal was born at Goodeve, SK, October 7th, 1909. He received his Elementary and High School education there, and studied dentistry at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, graduating with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1936. In 1941 he completed postgraduate work in dental Oral Surgery and Exodontia. After first having practiced in Vegreville, he moved to Edmonton to practice for the next thirty-five years, retiring in 1976 after forty years in the profession.

Philip Kendal married Margaret Donaldson in 1933. He was predeceased by his wife of sixty years in 1993. The couple had two sons, two daughters, thirteen grandchildren and twenty-eight great grandchildren.

Brother Kendal was initiated in Freemasonry in St. John's Lodge No. 25 at Vegreville on February 6, 1939. Following his move to Edmonton, he affiliated with Edmonton Lodge No. 7 in 1947, which Lodge he served as Worshipful Master in 1964. In 1966 he was elected Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Alberta and was installed as MW Grand Master for the

1969-1970 term. The following Lodges bestowed Honorary Life Membership on him: Acacia Lodge No. 11; St. John's Lodge No. 25; Forestburg Lodge No. 128; Avon Glen Lodge No. 170; Centennial Lodge No. 194; and Fort McMurray Lodge No. 195; besides his own Lodge, Edmonton Lodge No. 7. He was similarly awarded the rank of Honorary Past Grand Master by the Grand Lodges of British Columbia, Idaho, Manitoba, Minnesota, Montana, Saskatchewan, South Dakota and Washington.

Companion Kendal was particularly active in Capitular Masonry, as a member of North Star Chapter No. 2



RAM since 1948, Zohar Council R&SM since 1953, and Edmonton Preceptory. He occupied the principal chair in all these bodies, and in their governing bodies, such as Grand First Principal of Alberta, RAM, 1974-1975; MI Grand Master of Western Canada Cryptic Rite Masons 1977-1978; and Supreme Grand Master, Sovereign Great Priory of Canada 1981-1983. Additionally, numerous honours were bestowed on him by the several branches of Capitular Masonry.

In other concordant bodies, Brother Kendal received honorary life memberships

from Al Azhar Temple, AAONMS, in 1984 and from the Edmonton bodies of the A&ASR in 1987. All in all, his deep involvement in and devotion to Freemasonry found due appreciation and acclaim by countless Brethren and Masonic institutions in Canada and abroad, all of which was certainly deserved.

The family and the Craft said their last good-byes to "Phil" at a memorial service held at the Holy Nativity Anglican Church in Calgary on May 11, 2002. Our senior Past Grand Master will be missed by all who knew him well.

REJ

MWBro Terrence Armitage Drolet

MWBro Terrence (Terry) Armitage Drolet was born in Wetaskiwin, Alberta, on February 26, 1936. He received his primary and secondary education in Wetaskiwin and then attended the University of Alberta, graduating in 1960 with the degree of M.D. After spending two years in internship and residency, he returned to Wetaskiwin to establish a family practice, being still involved as senior member of a nine-doctor clinic. He became officially "semi-retired" on October 1, 1999. He has been a medical examiner (coroner) with the Alberta Department of Justice since 1973.

During his school years in Wetaskiwin, Bro Drolet was an active member of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets and, as such, represented their Alberta contingent at the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in London in 1953. While at university, he served in the University Naval Training Division attached to HMCS *Nonsuch*. Later he served as medical officer with the RCSCC *Wetaskiwin* and became its Commanding Officer.

Terry began the study of the violin at the age of twelve years. He won the See **Grand Master**, page 2.



Editorial

Cultivate Your Namesakes

Elsewhere in this issue, titled "Commercial" Lodges Visit in Scotland, is an account of one Alberta Lodge reaching out to contact other Lodges of the same name, a commendable effort to strengthen fraternal ties with Masonic Brethren in the worldwide union of sister jurisdictions. Most of the time we give little thought to the universal character of our fraternity; so it is nice to see how one local Lodge has substituted action for mere words, and successfully so. In this particular instance a beginning was made during the 1997 Grand Master's (MWBro Young's) Tour to Scotland, when a number of this Lodge's members made the initial contact. This prompted a goodly number of Brethren from Oban Commercial Lodge in Scotland, and some others, to pay a return visit to their namesake Lodge in Edmonton, which in turn led to the visit described

in the article.

What's the point? The point is the desirability of establishing and maintaining fraternal ties with our overseas friends and Brethren (and some closer to home as well). Of course someone has to take the first step, and what's easier than to contact a faraway Lodge that bears the same name as one's own? How to go about it? First, to find out about those namesakes, borrow the Lodge Secretary's current copy of *List of Lodges — Masonic* and search for all those Lodges — not only in English speaking jurisdictions but others also — and start writing that important first letter. To do it right, send the first one through the office of our Grand Secretary, later you may receive permission to correspond directly. Then see the results!

Guess how many Lodges there are in

the world named Ionic, Doric or Corinthian, Acacia, Apollo, Ashlar, Britannia, Charity, Eureka, Excelsior, Fidelity, Harmony, King Solomon (this may be spelled Salomo elsewhere, but means the same), Loyal or Loyalty, Mystic Tie, North Star, Patricia, St. George's, St. John's, Vulcan, York and even Zetland. (The last mentioned had already, years ago, made such contact as had Britannia.) Those of our Lodges that bear geographical names may not be equally blessed and may find it hard to find a match, but maybe something there in their research may inspire them to make an interprovincial or international contact.

There are so many things, we, as Masons, can do outside of the ritual, the Constitution and Regulations or the Lodge By-Laws, and obtain satisfying and enjoyable results. So, why not cultivate a friendly intercourse with our Masonic namesakes, first by letter or e-mail and then in person. It's worth the try.

Grand Master, from page 1.

silver medal for the highest marks in the violin from the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, for three consecutive years. On entering university, he played with the University of Alberta Symphony Orchestra and was active in the Music Club, playing in recitals. He met Marilyn Smith, an accomplished pianist, while at university. They were married in 1958 and have one son James, and two daughters, Shauna and Carole. They are now blessed with five grandchildren.

Bro Drolet was initiated into Wetaskiwin Lodge No. 15, GRA, in 1964, and served his Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1970 and as Secretary for a total of

twenty years. He was DDGM of then District No. 20 (now Beaverhills District) in 1975-76 and served on the Board of General Purposes of Grand Lodge for two terms. In 1989 he was the general chairman of the Masonic Spring Workshop Planning Committee. He is a member of the Northern Alberta Veterans' Degree Team.

Our Brother is a member of the A&ASR, Valley of Edmonton, and was TPGM of the Edmonton Lodge of Perfection in 1982-83. In 1990 he was coroneted an Honorary Inspector General 33°. He is also a member of Mt. Olivet Chapter RAM and a Past Grand District Superintendent of District No.

5, Grand Chapter of Alberta RAM. He is a member of the Red Cross of Constantine, the Royal Order of Scotland and the Order of the Eastern Star where he was Worthy Patron of Victory Chapter No. 32 for fifteen years.

Bro Drolet was appointed Honorary Past Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan in 1999 and Honorary Past Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Idaho in 2000. First elected Junior Grand Warden in June 1999, he proceeded through the offices of Senior Grand Warden and Deputy Grand Master to be installed as the MW Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta on June 15, 2002 at Calgary.


From the Inaugural Address of MWBro Terrence (Terry) A. Drolet

The theme for Grand Lodge this year is **Strength Through Commitment**. To succeed in any endeavour in life requires **Commitment**. Likewise, in Masonry, commitment is vital. On entering Craft Masonry, we knelt at the

altar three times as we progressed through the degrees. We obligated ourselves to uphold the Principles and Tenets of Freemasonry. In doing so we committed ourselves:

- To Freemasonry in general by

attempting to live up to the teachings of Freemasonry to the best of our ability. Am I projecting a positive image of Freemasonry in my dealings with the community, my friends, family, my colleagues at work?

<p>Provided to Freemasons of Alberta and the Northwest Territories west of the 4th Meridian who are members of The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M. 330 - 12 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2R 0H2 Tel 403-262-1140 — Fax 403-290-0671 www.freemasons.ab.ca</p> <p>Grand Master MWBro Terrence A. Drolet Deputy Grand Master RWBro Norman R. Thomas Senior Grand Warden RWBro Rodney B. Ponech Junior Grand Warden RWBro Ken C. Manly Grand Secretary RWBro Jerry W. Kopp</p>	 <p>Published each month except July and August by The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M.</p> <p>Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner 14103 Buena Vista Road NW, Edmonton, AB T5R 5S2 Tel 780-483-5124 — Fax 780-486-4512 e-mail: praga@compusmart.ab.ca</p>	<p>The Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin MWBro Robert E. Juthner (Chairman); WBro Garth Cochran; WBro Loren Kline; Bro Trevor Morris — Ex Officio: Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master & Grand Secretary</p> <p>Annual subscription rate for non-members of the GLA is C\$10.00 plus mailing costs. Republication rights are granted to other Masonic Jurisdictions, but acknowledgement of the source is requested. The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject and re-write material submitted for publication. Deadline for copy is the 1st day of the month, two months prior to the month of issue.</p>
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“Commercial” Lodges visit in Scotland

By RWBro David Roth, PDDGM (81)



Commercial Lodge No. 81 is trying to establish contact with all the “Commercial” or “Commercial Travellers” Lodges in the world. It turns out that most of them are in Great Britain, with eleven in England, three in Ireland and two in Scotland. There is supposedly one in Australia and one in Lagos, Nigeria, which we have not yet contacted.

On May 9, 2002, four Brethren from

Commercial Lodge No. 81 attended Oban Commercial Lodge No. 180 in Oban, Scotland and witnessed a brilliant first degree. On May 10th they travelled to Glasgow and attended a meeting of Lodge Commercial No. 360 there, along with three Brethren who came down from Oban. That was the first night that members of three “Commercial” Lodges met together.

The four Brethren from No. 81 were:

- To our Lodges by attending the meetings, taking part in the life of the Lodge, supporting the Worshipful Master and the officers of the Lodge. Also showing concern for the Brethren in our Lodge, visiting the sick and shut in, looking out for the widows of our departed Brethren, showing concern for those who do not attend by inviting them back and picking them up. Show them that “We Care.”

Lodges also have a commitment to the Brethren of the Lodge. It is the Lodge’s duty to “Instruct the Brethren in Freemasonry.” This is not learning just the catechism, but mentoring them and guiding them throughout their Masonic career. Recognize the talents of each Brother and make use of them. The Lodge also has a duty to provide leadership and membership development. The Doric Plan for Lodge development is a most useful tool. It, however, requires **Commitment** on the part of the Lodge, and it is a **Long Term Commitment**. . . It is the Lodge’s duty to promote positive community relationships. “Let the world see how Masons love one another.”

Grand Lodge also has commitments to its Constituent Lodges. The District Deputy Grand Masters are the direct representatives of the Grand Master to their Districts. They also act as liaison

between the Grand Lodge and its Districts. Constituent Lodges have a commitment to see that they are represented at the Grand Lodge communications, to have a voice in Grand Lodge. By following the Constitution and Regulations of Grand Lodge, they CAN bring formal concerns and motions to the floor of Grand Lodge for consideration.

Have we lived up to our commitments? Are Lodges taking responsibility for their future?

For myself, again I pledge my commitment to carry out my duties as your Grand Master to the utmost of my ability.

“Commit thy way unto the Lord. Trust also in Him and He will make it pass.” Ps.37,v5

Thank you all, my Brethren.

Terrence (Terry) Drolet

Grand Master’s Itinerary

September

5–14 Grand Master’s Alaska Cruise, “Lodge at Sea”

21 Concord Lodge, Calgary

28 Yellowhead District Meeting, Edmonton

District Meetings

September

Yellowhead District, September 28th, 2002

RWBro David Roth, DDGM Beaverhills; WBro Wing Keeley, PM; Bro Michael Tolboom, JD; and Bro Bill MacLean, Honorary Life Member. We were treated with great affection by the members of both Lodges. Presentations of Lodge and Masonic ties were exchanged in Oban. In Glasgow, in addition to exchanging ties, we presented them with a marquetry plaque by Bro Siegfried Klotsche (81), and they presented us with a gavel to mark the occasion.

It turns out that the Brethren of Oban and Glasgow Commercial Lodges have been exchanging visits for the last two years, ever since Commercial 81 of Edmonton visited Oban in 1997 and Oban Commercial 180 returned the visit here in 1998. Oban Commercial celebrated its 210th anniversary in 2001 and Glasgow Commercial celebrated its 150th last year as well. We of Commercial Lodge No. 81 will be celebrating our 90th anniversary in 2003, and it looks like we can expect visitors (of same-named Lodges) on that occasion. During the next year or so, we will be trying to find out where the next major “Commercial” Lodge celebration will be held, and by corresponding with the other Lodges, see if a visit can be arranged where several “Commercial” Lodges can be represented.

So far there seems to be quite a bit of enthusiasm behind the idea of Commercial Lodge intervisitations and as several Brethren observed, “If Wing Keeley can do it as his age (92 years), we should be able to do it as well.”

Shown in the picture are (l to r): David Milligan, SW; Allistair Crowe BB, PM; James Strachan, PM; Michael Tolboom, JD (81); Scott McAlister, SD; Neil Home, PGC; Wing Keeley, PM (81); Doug Craig, Sec.; David Roth, DDGM (81); and Bill MacLean (81 & 167).

Letter

I wish to congratulate our VWGrand Chaplain, WBro Earle Sharam, on his article titled “Grand Chaplain’s Message” which appeared in the June 2002 issue of *The Alberta Freemason*.

I suggest that if every Mason in our jurisdiction would read it and take it to heart, Freemasonry in Alberta would undoubtedly benefit.

Yours fraternally,

RWBro R.D. Clarence Comrie
Patricia Lodge No. 91

Wetaskiwin Lodge No. 15: 1902–2002

A Century of Masonry in the Country

Since its beginnings in the early 1900s to the present day, Wetaskiwin Lodge No. 15 has played a large role in both the Masonic community and the community of Wetaskiwin. This coming October 26, 2002 we celebrate the Centennial of Wetaskiwin Lodge and its past and present members and all of their accomplishments. On the subject of accomplishments, this year as well as our Centennial, Wetaskiwin Lodge is very proud to have as members both our Grand Master and the DDGM Beaverhills District. I may have to do some research but I don't recall ever hearing of both high offices filled from one Lodge in the same year. We will tyle at 2:00 PM at our Lodge located at the corner of 40th Avenue and 53A Street. For those who wish to avoid the drive from Edmonton, RWBro Nestor Kwascynia has graciously offered the services of his buses, departing from

Capilano Mall in Edmonton. This is tentatively set for 12:00. The ladies in attendance will be treated to a tour of the Reynolds Alberta Museum while the men are in Lodge. The museum is an incredible place to visit and we are sure our ladies will not be disappointed. We will all join up together again around 4:30 or so at the Lodge Hall for fellowship and an opportunity to meet and chat with new and old friends. From there we will move over to the Wetaskiwin Memorial Arts Centre for what promises to be a most splendid banquet, and after dinner we can all move our feet out on the dance floor. To say that the members of Wetaskiwin Lodge are excited about the upcoming celebration would be a serious understatement and we want all of you to share this excitement with us.



Tickets for this extravaganza are only \$25.00 per person and if you would like more information or to order tickets please contact Bob Carroll at (780) 387-5209 or you can e-mail me at bobcat@connect.ab.ca. Please let me know how many tickets you will need, and if you will be using the bus from Edmonton. Wetaskiwin is ready to welcome you (from all over the jurisdiction) with our well-known hospitality. We look forward to seeing you there.

Bob Carroll, WM
Wetaskiwin Lodge No. 15

Alberta Miscellany

Baseline Lodge No. 198 — A “Planning and Practice Session” was held on July 28, 2002 for “as many Brethren (finding it) possible to attend — Coffee juice and doughnuts will be served” it said in the call for the meeting. Its purpose:

- For the JW-elect to present his upcoming schedule of festive boards, social events and (other) activities for the upcoming Lodge year, including preparations for the ten-year anniversary celebration.
- For the director of (Masonic) education to outline his upcoming agenda. The Lodge would like to maintain and even improve on its recognized dedication to one of the most important aspects of Lodge activity, that being the enlightenment and education of the Brethren through the presentation of interesting research papers and items of Masonic information: general knowledge, utilizing verbal, visual, dramatic means, and guest speakers.
- For the WM-elect to lay out his plans for the upcoming year.
- To discuss and consider ideas or suggestions to improve Lodge activities, the fraternity of Baseline's membership, for the good of Freemasonry.
- To practice various situations which may arise, for the benefit of

officers taking new stations within the Lodge; advice and assistance to be provided by all the Brethren present (including ritualistic performances, balloting, the collection for benevolence and the making of motions and parliamentary procedure using Robert's Rules of Order in a business meeting).

This is an example of proper planning, worthy of being emulated (Ed.)

Northland Lodge No. 147 — It was “Fill the Chairs Night” but it turned out to be a sea of dark blue aprons on April 16, 2002 as Northland Lodge No. 147, in Fairview, Alberta, held its first “Past District Deputy Night.” The officers' chairs of the Lodge were all filled by Past District Deputy Grand Masters of

the Mighty Peace District, with the exception of the IPM, which was occupied by the current DDGM of the District.

The total count came to 13 PDDGMs and 2 DDGMs, as the DDGM of District 19 of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon was also in attendance, together with a PDDGM of his District. The event was the idea of RWBro Don Chilcote of Northland Lodge who used it as a tool to help “fill the chairs” in the Lodge. The “fill the chairs” night is an ongoing event in the District. Last year RWBro Chilcote filled the chairs by passing out a chair to each Brother as he entered the Lodge room.

It is believed that the “Past District



Deputy Night” might be the first for the Grand Lodge of Alberta and maybe even for Canada. It was a great success and there is hope of making this an annual event in the District. Any project like this is good for Masonry as it brings the Brethren together and increases the attendance at Lodge.

RWBro Don Chilcote, PDDGM (147)

Redwood Lodge No. 193 — (From a series of notices of motion to amend the Lodge By-Laws):

10.3 – “Board of General Purposes” becomes “General Purposes Committee”

Comment: A step in the right direction to replace a too common colloquial term by its proper designation. The Constitution and Regulations of this jurisdiction recognize only two “Boards,” both on the Grand Lodge level: the Board of Benevolence and the Board of General Purposes, both presided over by “Presidents,” while other working groups are styled “Committees” headed by “Chairmen.” “Masonic Boards of Relief” may be authorized by Grand Lodge (R3.15.4). On the Constituent Lodge level, there is only an “Examining Board” (R3.2.6&13), and a “Board of Installed Masters” is not

an administrative or policy-setting unit but comes under The Work, our ritual. Therefore, all working groups appointed by the Worshipful Master are “Committees.” (Ed.)

Diamond City Lodge No. 65 — We have reached a milestone in our Lodge, that of presenting RWBro Thomas H. Parker with the 60-Year Bar to his 50-Year Jewel on April 22, 2002 in the Coalhurst Community Centre. The meeting was preceded by refreshments and dinner, and was then tyled at 8 PM.

MWBro Douglas N. Troock, Grand Master, did us the honour of coming to Coalhurst on short notice after attending the Masonic Spring Workshop at Kananaskis, and presenting Bro Parker with his 60-Year Bar, and also WBro Arthur E. Furlong of Lethbridge



Lodge No. 39 with his 50-Year Jewel. This was very much appreciated.

The picture shows (l to r): WBro Arthur Furlong; MWBro Doug Troock; RWBro Thomas Parker.

Alberta Lodge No. 3 — The third oldest Lodge in the jurisdiction conducted a successful “Open Air Lodge” on Wednesday, June 19, 2002. No written report was received but the accompanying picture shows some of the members present in the attire fitting the occasion.



Freemasonry in Alberta

By RWBro Larry Watson, Canada Lodge No. 165

The history of Masonry in Alberta is associated with that of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. The mother of Alberta and Saskatchewan Masonry was established in 1875. It was another thirty years before the Grand Lodge of Alberta was founded.

Masonry has its ebbs and tides, membership and financial stability, and overall direction — all key factors affecting the Craft. At every gathering of the Craft these topics, in one form or another, are discussed, but what is being resolved to ensure our beloved Craft will exist a hundred years from now?

In every major organization, its existence depends on solid leadership and the skill that leadership exhibits. The Charge from the Northeast to every Installed Master clearly presents that challenge to him. Brethren, do you nominate your Master because of the leadership qualities he has exhibited or proven to have? I so often see nominations made to fill the position without thought to the leadership role that is very much needed to keep the Lodge going. Each Lodge has its separate difficulties to act on and face up to. I believe we often forget that the great leaders of a Lodge, upon completion of their term as Master, are pushed to the sidelines, which has proven time and again to be unwise. Every Lodge must use, but not abuse, its Past Masters; at some point in time you saw fit to make them leaders in your Lodge, so use them!

In every organization of note there is a hierarchy. Freemasonry is no different. In Freemasonry the Grand

Master is responsible for the good and welfare of the Craft, the fraternal side. The Grand Secretary and his office are responsible for the administration, financial accountability, and ensuring that the Constitution and Regulations are applied with fairness to all in the Craft. This is a responsibility which requires a special Brother with great skill in dealing with individuals from every sphere of society. Does the hierarchy in Freemasonry create problems for those responsible to govern the Craft?

These are but a few of the questions we as members ought to ask. We must cast aside that which is found wanting, but retain that which is proven to be beneficial. Freemasonry in Alberta will go on existing.

Edmonton Grand Masonic Ball

Presented by the Masters, Wardens and Deacons
Association of Edmonton.

SATURDAY, 28 September 2002 at the Coast Terrace Inn,
4440 Gateway Blvd, Edmonton, commencing at 6:30 PM.

Reception, Dinner and Dance.

Dress: Black Tie, evening gowns.

Only 150 tickets available at \$80.00 per person.

For tickets send cheque to VWBro Ross Cawley,
5603 – 109A Street NW, Edmonton, AB, T6H 3C3

For further information contact WBro Colin Reichle,
President MW&DA Edmonton, at (780) 460-9639

How Should Freemasonry, As It Exists Today, Be Judged?

By Jack Levitt, PGM (CA)

The first principle of judging the value of a fraternal organization should be the measure by which it enhances the life and character of its constituent members. How should the fraternity of Freemasonry, as it exists today, be judged? To answer how, it is necessary that three propositions be considered. First, that Freemasonry's purpose is to make its members wiser, happier and, above all, better, so it teaches ways to improve character and suppress material desires. Second, as espoused by the philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer, that character lies in the will and not the intellect. And thirdly, that morality should not be the doctrine by which we make ourselves happy, but rather the doctrine by which we make ourselves worthy of happiness.

As to the first proposition — making members better — Freemasonry instructs in the mysteries of life, relationships and the spark of Divinity within, by use of symbols and allegories. But, as Plato reasoned, knowledge which is acquired under compulsion has little hold on the mind. So, memorization alone of a required proficiency doesn't necessarily assure understanding. Freemasonry extracts a charge for understanding its principles — study, reflection and discrimination. It recognizes that ignorance is not bliss, but is akin to unconsciousness; that only knowledge, accompanied by understanding, can allow one to share in the shaping of one's own fate. The degrees give the instrumentalities to accomplish mental growth, but the rest depends upon our study and absorption. Herbert Spencer tells of a Frenchman who, having been in England two weeks, proposed to write a book on England. After three months, he found he was not quite ready. After three years, he concluded that he knew little about England. Similarly, every Masonic scholar agrees that merely being exposed to the degrees does not equip one to know much about Freemasonry. Education should be a continuous growth of the mind and a continuous illumination of life. There is no reason why learning should stop before one's death. Each Mason should apply himself to study Freemasonry and thus continue himself upon the track of personal improvement.

The second proposition — that character lies in the will and not the intellect — is shown by the evidence of the mechanical skill of animals. For example, a young dog fears to jump down from a table; it foresees the effect, not by reasoning, for it has had no experience, but by instinct. Hence, Freemasonry teaches that men can begin to be less like the beasts and begin to be more like a deity by exercising moral sense in the face of temptation, i.e., moral sense of what is right and wrong, not by reasoning, but by vivid and immediate feelings. If truth is a divine attribute, to anyone, irrespective of intellectual application, not to lie should be a categorical imperative. Everyone can exercise his will not to lie, even if to lie would be to one's advantage. Everyone can choose honesty by following the moral law in one's heart, which should be unconditional and absolute.

The third proposition — that morality should be the instrument by which one makes oneself worthy of happiness and not a doctrine for necessarily acquiring happiness itself — arises from the fact that what a man is will ultimately contribute more to his happiness than what he has. Hence, through Freemasonry, one should seek perfection,

whether it brings immediate happiness or not, and despite the fact that the universe in which perfection arises is itself imperfect. One who is wiser, and thus becomes better, is more moral and consequently becomes happier.

After considering these three propositions, additional questions arise:

Are Freemasonry's Lodges providing: (1) the incentive to appreciate the value of the Craft's teachings?; (2) the desire to learn more?; (3) the "open sesame" of improved morality?; and are Freemasonry's candidates even being informed of the necessity to study further? If the answer to any of these additional questions is in the negative, wouldn't that indicate the necessity to change the Masonic drive from one of primarily seeking candidates to one of stressing the duty of every Freemason to learn and improve? Wouldn't it further indicate the necessity to change the emphasis from merely obtaining the degrees to learning to strenuously enforce, by precept and example, a steady obedience to the tenets of Freemasonry? If these changes were made and observed, wouldn't Freemasonry then properly be judged of great value?

The Montana Masonic News,
57:457, June 2002

Deus lo volt: Chronicle of the Crusades

Evan S. Connell, Counterpoint Publishers, 2000, 462 pages

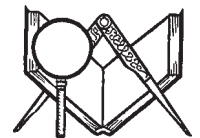
Initially I was not going to give this book a particularly favourable review. The reason for this is simple. The book is a rehash of the same old history of the Crusades. It is more readable than most history books because it is a fictionalized account and therefore "dresses up" the story to be more enjoyable. I originally purchased the book as it is advertised as a chronicle, i.e. written from the perspective of someone living at the time of the events. This, I thought, might be interesting and refreshing. I started the book in early September, and I was getting somewhat tired of the same old down with Allah and Islam themes. While I could not deny that this certainly reflected the attitude of the Frankish soldiers of the times, it was tiresome.

Along came September 11th, my view of the book took an interesting turn. To see Islam falling out of favour in our

times as it was in the bigoted attitude of 500 years ago was a strange coincidence.

In addition, it was a bit of a shock to see some of the hysterical messages coming out of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iraq. They kept referring to the American and European armies as Crusaders. The book recounts the general barbarity of both sides 500 years ago. It was surprising to see that after 500 years some people had not forgotten the misdeeds done in the name of religion.

If you have not read much about the Crusades and want to read about them in a style which mimics the attitudes of the times then this book will be an enjoyable read. If you are even somewhat knowledgeable of the times and events, this book will be redundant. It adds nothing new.



Loren Kline