



Our 2002 “Medal of Merit” Awards

At the Grand Lodge Communication, on June 14th, MWBro Calvin Shaver again presented three deserving Master Masons to the Grand Master and the Brethren present, to be awarded the Medal of Merit for their outstanding service to the Craft and the community. Also shown in the accompanying picture, they were:

Bro William “Bill” McCollum

...who was initiated, passed and raised in King Solomon Lodge No. 378, GRC, in London, ON, in 1949. During his residency in Winnipeg, he affiliated with Fort Gary Lodge No. 130, GRM, and, following his move to Edmonton, with Commercial Lodge No. 81, GRA, in 1968. For the past 34 years he has faithfully attended Lodge meetings and served on several committees, such as the Sick and Visiting Committee, the Lodge’s 75th Anniversary Committee, and the COMELY Committee. He is also a faithful supporter of such activities as the annual picnic, ladies’ night, annual speaker’s dinner and the Masonic Spring Workshop. He is a keen visitor to many Lodges around Alberta. In 1999 he was presented with his 50-Year jewel in a moving ceremony in his Lodge. During the 2000–2001 term, he was appointed COMELY chairman of Beaverhills District and as such attended all of the DDGM’s official visits, making presentations on the benefits of the “Calling on Masons (of) Every Lodge Yearly” program. Along with his wife he is a steady member and supporter of the Order of the Eastern Star, of which his wife has been a member for many years.

Bro McCollum joined the Royal Canadian Navy and saw active service during the Second World War. His community service has seen a wide variety of endeavours and keen interests. For 25 years he served on the Volunteer Board of Fort Edmonton Park. As plans began to develop for the then fledgling 1905 theme street in the Park, he suggested that a reconstruction of the original Masonic hall from downtown Edmonton would be appropriate. He solicited the support of a Brother from his own Lodge, who happened to be the Grand Master of the day, MWBro Bernie



Medal of Honour recipients — Bros Bill McCollum, Pete Morison and Jack Owen.

Brown, who subsequently met with the Board and confirmed that the Freemasons would support such a reconstruction.

Bro McCollum has been a long time member of St. Paul’s United Church, has been actively involved with the Specification Writers of Canada, the Alberta Railway Museum, the Alberta Council on Aging, the YMCA, and the Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired. He has provided numerous volunteer hours to such efforts as Habitat for Humanity, Children’s Health Foundation Telethon and as Santa Claus for a seniors’ home.

Bro Bill McCollum is an enthusiastic and ever thoughtful supporter of his Brethren, his Lodge and the Fraternity, a man who will volunteer whenever he can. He is extremely proud of his Masonic life and continually exemplifies the ideals of a Freemason. It can be truthfully said that he is one of many quiet, honest, industrious, faithful Freemasons whose light shines brightly and illuminates his corner of the world to the benefit of all those around.

Bro Allan Irwin (Pete) Morison

...received the three degrees of Ma-

sonry in 1964. For his dedicated service to his Lodge he was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in 1994. He was fortunate to attend the installation as Worshipful Master of his son in 1981, and of his grandson in 2000, a rare milestone in any Mason’s life. He has been a hard working force for his Lodge behind the scenes for his entire Masonic career. He has always supported special Lodge projects, both physically and financially. He has helped at social functions and was an eager participant in the curling bonspiels and crib tournaments, where he even won at least twice. Bro Morison has not been able to attend Lodge during many years as he had to spend the time at Municipal Council meetings held on the same night as the Lodge met.

Bro Morison has been married to his wife Bernice (Bernie) for 58 years. They have several children and grandchildren. It is of interest that his wife too has a Masonic connection, as her father and both her brothers were all Past Masters. Before World War II he farmed with his father, and then struck out on his own, putting together a land base, which now supports four genera-

See **Medal of Merit**, page 2.

Editorial

What the Petitioner Seeks and What He Finds

The following are the thoughts of Bro Georg Held, a member of Lodge "Libertas et Concordia" in Chur, Switzerland, as reprinted in 1-1998 The Israel Freemason, translated into English by this editor. It is presented as food for thought, and may make us ask ourselves if we even discuss all these things with our own petitioners.

In our conversations with petitioners we find out if they have unbiased, tolerant and humanitarian views, or if they are open to an honest opinion and world view shared by their fellow humans, and if they endeavour to live sincere and honourable lives in society, having both feet firmly planted on the ground, as the saying goes. We tell the petitioners about Freemasonry as a "School of Life," about the great edifice of humanity, about mutual education in the most important matters concerning humanity, about the cultivation of the "ideal" and stimulation of true friend-

ship, about the rendering of social duties and the habit of benevolence. Such allusions suggest that Freemasonry does have something to offer which will be of benefit to the petitioner in his own efforts. From such allusions petitioners derive different expectations [of the Craft] which they often combine with gaining spectacular knowledge or insight.

What, however, do these "seekers for light" find beyond the doors of our Lodges? A broad palette of means to promote human education and self-perfection, ways to achieve the knowledge of oneself, and paths to humaneness, tolerance and brotherhood. We must not underestimate the ritualistic experience of our symbolism that can deepen the development of personality and the achievement of wholeness, even when we cannot expect miracles or spectacular results.

On the other hand the petitioner can-

not fail to discover that the spiritual visions, the psychological vitality and physical strength of the era of the founders of Freemasonry have since declined, and that the ideals are in danger of decaying to bloodless phrases. It seems that our meetings no longer stimulate, but – not always but often – tend to irritate or bore. Willing to act tolerantly and in the spirit of brotherhood, illuminated by the Great and Lesser Lights, significant deficiencies are noticeable which make us ask what concrete impact our basic principles, symbols, degrees, duties and meetings have on the individual Brother. Have we become indolent, inactive, complacent and incapable of learning? The Lodge is a place where men meet and work who, without the order of Freemasonry, would have "remained at a perpetual distance." This ancient insight is both a chance and a challenge we must recognize to obviate bitter disappointments.

Medal of Merit, from page 1.

tions of the family, including two sons and a grandson. He has always owned at least one racehorse for a hobby and has been a member of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association for years. His wartime service was in the Navy, and while aboard the HMCS *Victoriaville*, escorted the first U-Boat, *U109*, which surrendered May 12th, 1945, into Bay Bulls near St. Johns, NF.

In the early sixties he became very involved with hail suppression, working closely with the world famous scientist Dr. Irving P. Kirck, and devoted countless hours to try to overcome this scourge which was so devastating to so many of his farmer friends and neighbours. Closer to home he spearheaded the renovations and refurbishment of the local Goldenrod Community Hall. The Airdrie Community Hall had a complete face-lift when he was president of

the Community Association, again involving many hours of volunteer time. Not content with all of his community service, Bro Morison served on the Rocky View Municipal Council. He was first elected in 1974 and then re-elected in 1977, 1980, 1983, 1986 and finally in 1989. He served as Deputy Reeve from 1981 to 1983. He was held in such high regard that his fellow Councillors named him Reeve in 1984 and 1985.

Bro Morison is an active member of the Airdrie United Church. The new Christian Education Building and extensive renovations and rebuilding of the Church were special projects of interest to him, and to see these projects through to completion took many hours of his time when he served on the Property Committee.

Bro Morison is a dedicated citizen, giving many long hours of his time and talents to his community.

Bro John Thomas "Jack" Owen

...was initiated, passed and raised in Freemasonry in Carstairs Lodge No. 20 in 1988. His outstanding contribution to Carstairs Lodge for the past fourteen years has been characterized by 100% attendance and flawless demeanor. He continually excels in the administrative support of the activities of the Lodge, which provides an example to be imitated by all the Brethren.

A relatively personal individual who shuns publicity, he has never expressed a desire to progress through the chairs, but frequently is called upon to fill the chair of an absent Steward, which he accomplishes with considerable poise and dignity. On Lodge nights he always arrives early and prepares the Lodge for the labours of the evening. When the meeting ends he assists in stowing the equipment as required. At the festive board following each meeting he as-

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Our Bursaries



Traditionally, October has been considered "Bursary Month", and in the earlier years of Alberta's Masonic Higher Education

Bursary Fund's existence Grand Masters had declared this month as such. Nowadays we enjoy such widespread support of our principal charity that it can be safely said that "every month is bursary month." Let us see how we did this past year:

During the year ended, the fund received \$39,227.64 from Calgary Freemasons' Hall (bingos and casinos), Tuscan Society of Calgary and other donations from outside the Craft, while Alberta Masons donated \$88,890.36 for a total of \$128,228, which enabled the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee to award 102 bursaries, each in the amount of \$1,250, which were the first since increasing the value from

sists the Junior Warden by preparing and serving the meal, and never leaves until everything is clean and back in its place. He has the additional responsibility of publishing the monthly Lodge summons, which he does for the cost of material only, thus saving the Lodge hundreds of dollars each year.

As a businessman he is often called on to provide his knowledge and experience relative to financial concerns of the Lodge, which is very much appreciated. This Mason gives freely of his time and expertise, not for himself, but for the love of the fraternity which is abundantly exemplified by his dedication and devotion to the ancient landmarks and fundamental principles of the Masonic order.

Bro Owen is an active member of several business related associations, the Craftsman Club, the Graphic Arts Association, the Canadian Association of Printers and the Highwood Community Association. He publishes the weekly community letter free of charge, along with the Highwood Breeze, a local newsletter. His membership in these organizations finds him travelling periodically throughout the country, responding to the requirements and needs of his business associates in other provinces. His regular attendance, with his wife, at the community

\$1,000. The money received from the Brethren represented a 15 per cent increase in donations over the previous year. It may also be of interest to know that 174 applications had been received, of which 129 made it to the interview stage and, as stated above, 102 bursaries were awarded.

The winners of the "Bursary Challenge Plaque" this year, one for each District, were: Bow River Lodge No. 1, Brooks Lodge No. 73, Temple Lodge No. 167, Kitchener Lodge No. 95, Edgerton

Lodge No. 102, Granite Lodge No. 127, Vulcan Lodge No. 74, Spitzie Lodge No. 6, Norwood Lodge No. 90, Evergreen Lodge No. 166, Peace River Lodge No. 89, Irricana Lodge No. 137, Loyalty Lodge No. 197, Millennium Lodge No. 2000 and Avon Glen Lodge No. 170. The newly created Inter-District Challenge Plaque went to Alpha District, with the highest per capita donation.

On June 12, 2002, Mayerthorpe's newspaper, *The Freelancer*, printed the following article:

Local students receive Mason bursary for education

By Al Vickery, Bursary Chairman for Northern Lights District

Historically, Freemasons have always believed that education was the key to social and economic advancement and have always encouraged members to seek more information.

In 1956, Grand Master Ross Shepherd, who was a well-known educator (an Edmonton high school is named in his honour), realized that, as Alberta was rapidly changing from an agricultural to an industrial society, advanced

education was becoming essential if our youth were to be employable and competitive in the industrial world. However, high education is very expensive and often beyond the financial resources of many worthy students and their families. To help address that problem and to give Grand Lodge a visible outreach charity which would help to promote a good reputation of Masons in the Province, he led in establishing the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund.

A few years later it was registered as a charity so that tax receipts could be issued. Since that time it has been funded by donations from members, Lodges and gifts from the public; some people have also given bequests as part of estate plans. Grand Lodge has always supplied staff to run the bursary program, so unlike most charities; all money donated is passed directly through to fund the bursaries.

It should be understood that bursaries are not scholarships. Bursaries are given to worthy students who are in financial need, so they can achieve some sort of post-secondary education and become more productive members of society. All students in Alberta are eligible to apply for, and receive bursary assistance. Family Masonic membership has no bearing on the awarding process. Bursary funds are issued jointly to the student and the college he or she is attending; they are used to help pay tuition fees.

One student wrote to thank Grand Lodge saying: *Now I will be able to eat, my budget was so tight that food was uncertain before your generous gift.* In 1997, 72 bursaries were given, in 1988, 92 were given, in 1999, 84 and in 2000 (in a nine-month collection year) 81, and in 2001, 101.

See *Bursaries*, page 4.

Church reflects his relationship with the deity and his devotion. Bro Owen has been active in the Boy Scout movement and makes donations to various charities through his business and at his residence.

Bro Owen has "quietly moved in the sphere of his life," helped where needs be and, having given that help, moved on. He is that Mason we all strive to be, retiring and private, not casting a shadow but spreading light with his quiet works.

Grand Master's Itinerary

October

- 8 Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2
- 16-18 Inter-Provincial Conference of the Four Western Jurisdictions
- 19 Avon Glen Lodge No. 170, Edmonton
- 21 Chinook-Spitzie Lodge No. 6, Cowley
- 25 Commercial Lodge No. 81, Edmonton
- 26 Wetaskiwin Lodge No. 15

District Meetings

- 5 Northern Lights District, Fort Edmonton Park
- 5 Palliser District, Freemasons' Hall, Medicine Hat
- 19 Calgary-Highwood District, Freemasons' Hall, Okotoks
- 24 Chinookarch District, Lethbridge Masonic Hall

Bursaries, from page 3.

The Masons of Alberta are to be congratulated for the major fund raising that they do to support a bursary program that has been able to give 430 bursaries over the past five years, at a cost of \$430,000. We have given 1,948 bursaries since the program began in 1959. This is one of the largest privately funded bursaries programs in Alberta, and should be a source of great pride for all Masons. It should certainly help to answer the question "What do Masons do?"

And what a former recipient wrote:

Dear Grand Lodge of Alberta,

Once again I'd like to thank you for your scholarship which I re-



A grateful graduate, Jennifer Villebrun



In Mayerthorpe on May 31: Back row (l to r): Masons Albert Vickery, Frank Wilkinson, recipients Sara Olsen, Laura Henning, Brad Oates, David Szybunka. Front row: Mason Charles Burns, recipients Derek Walkom, Sheena Prokipchuk, Jennifer Wilkinson, and Mason Stan Bembridge.

ceived in 1998. I have recently completed my Bachelor of Arts in Criminology at the University of Alberta. Without your assistance, this would not have been possible. Your assistance has

helped me in my goal of studying law and I will be starting law school at the University of Toronto this fall. Thank you very much!! Yours truly,

Jennifer Villebrun

The Stampede, Klondike and the Square

On July 10, 2002 an historic occasion took place at Freemasons' Hall, Calgary. Hosted by Jordan Lodge No. 177, a meeting was held to add a Masonic gathering to the annual Calgary Stampede festivities. The fifty-two Brethren in attendance enjoyed a fine presentation on the history of Freemasonry in Western Canada, given by WBro Garth Cochran. MWBro David Bruce provided organ music. The meeting was followed by dinner and lively entertainment with Darol Fonteyne at the keyboard and Val Hudson, vocalist.

Grand Lodge was represented by RWBro Norman Thomas, DGM; RWBro Ken Manly, JGW; RWBro Jerry Kopp, GSec; and RWBro John Hart, DDGM. Although the meeting was attended primarily by Brethren from Alberta, next year it will be promoted in several sister jurisdictions in order to provide a wider opportunity for Masonic fellowship during Calgary Stampede week.

Glenn McConnell (WM, 177)

On July 24, 2002 the annual "Klondike Lodge" meeting was held by Redwood Lodge No. 193 at Highlands Masonic Hall, Edmonton, with an attendance of thirty-four Brethren, including one visiting Brother from Mexico who, after having been duly examined, was accorded a hearty welcome by the Brethren in tyled Lodge.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the guest speaker, Bro Simon Simonson, Hon. Life Member of Redwood Lodge, who was introduced by his son, WBro Parnell Simonson, PM. At age 92, the speaker held his audience spellbound as he elaborated, without any notes, on the theme "What caused you to look to Masonry, to join the Lodge?" In his charming way, he related

personal reminiscences, which included his father, a Mason, and the ritualistic requirements for admission, the impact of the obligations, and the relationship with one's fellow man. He concluded, "It's nice to be with people who think as you do; that's why I come to Lodge!"

The ensuing festive board gave an opportunity to mix and mingle and enjoy that fellowship of which Bro Simonson had spoken.

Robert Juthner

An Appeal

We, the members of King Solomon Lodge No. 41 are looking for old photos of our Lodge building. As the 100th anniversary, both for the town of Cochrane and our Lodge hall, is quickly approaching, we are trying to find pictures of the building as it was in the beginning.

Originally, it was a school in the town of Mitford, later to become a store, a bar, a movie theatre and a school in Cochrane, and finally the Masonic hall. We are hoping that some Brethren, or Lodges, may have in their possession a picture or image of which we could get a copy, so as to renew our connection to the past [and print it in *The Alberta Freemason*, Ed]. Any help in providing pictures, or leads to persons who might have pictures, would be greatly appreciated.

Bro R. Tony Turner
JW King Solomon Lodge No. 41

Canadian Mounties to help Shriners

...reads the headline of a Shrine News Release, reprinted in *Emessay Notes*, Feb.2000:

In a cooperative venture, members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) are teaming up with Shriners Hospitals to find kids who need expert orthopedic and burn care.

Through a program called *Operation Red Coat/Red Fez*, more than 3,000 Mounties, support troops and volunteers of the RCMP in the Province of Alberta will carry a new Canadian version of the Shriners Hospitals toll-free number business cards. When members of the RCMP find a child they think can use the services of Shriners Hospitals, they will provide the child's parent or guardian with the toll-free number business card, along with selected Shriners Hospitals brochures.

Membership Decline and Recovery in Our Jurisdiction

By Glenn McConnell WM, Jordan Lodge No. 177

March 24, 2002

I met a Past Master recently who stood up at a Craft Lodge festive board and politely encouraged the Brethren to join the Shrine. He pointed out several of the attractive opportunities for participation, community contributions and healthy fun. In speaking to him afterward, I happened to mention the general decline in our membership numbers. He was shocked. I was surprised that, as a Shriner and PM, he was unaware of the membership decline in our jurisdiction during the past forty years as he dutifully went about the usual recruitment activities within Craft Lodges.

The Decline...

As our membership goes, so shall go our fraternity. If there are Brethren, such as my Shriner friend, who are not aware of our membership decline, let us apprise them of the numbers now. In 1962 we numbered 19,357¹. In 2000 we numbered 8516². The direction of change is downward at the rate of 285 members per year. These statistics present a very serious scenario. However, viewed from another perspective, the scenario is even more alarming. In 1962 the population of Alberta was 1.4 million³. In 2000 the provincial population had increased to 3 million⁴. If our membership had expanded in the same proportion, it would have reached 41,423 members. Viewed in this way, we might say that our membership is "down" by 32,907 members. We might also describe this as a "decline" at the rate of 865 members per year.

There are Brethren who feel that Masonic memberships have cycled upwards and downwards on previous occasions and, therefore, concern is not in order. This leads to discussion, which is mostly philosophical. In the meantime, when incoming Brethren become aware of our numerical decline and proceed to ask how have we been addressing the issue, we appear sadly lacking a sense of self-preservation.

The Recovery...

Can we recover? Of course. Should we try? Yes, if we can simultaneously address both membership decline *per se* and the many issues which relate

directly to membership. Although we may be twenty years late, serious action will yield serious benefits and we do not have to start from scratch. The relevant research and experience of sister Lodges has been available for a considerable time.

The Masters, Wardens and Deacons Association of Calgary has reviewed this research and determined that it may play a significant role in Craft Lodges development and membership recovery. Presentations are being made at its monthly meetings dealing with the following core areas of Lodge management: 1) **Retaining members;** 2) **Public Relations;** 3) **New Member Sup-**

port; 4) **Masonic Education;** 5) **Inactive Members;** 6) **Family Involvement;** 7) **Communication;** and 8) **Officer Preparation.** A set of guidelines for each of these areas is in preparation and will be mailed to all Lodges in our Jurisdiction as they become available. It is hoped that this project will not only provide current, uniform development information to all Lodges but also encourage sister Lodge communication, contact and networking.

If we begin to apply the guidelines in 2003, Brethren, we might possibly see a reversal in our membership trend prior to 2005 — our Centennial Year. Why not set this as a goal? Let's do it!

¹Proceedings of The Grand Lodge of Alberta, 1963, p.203.

²Proceedings of The Grand Lodge of Alberta, 2001, p.259.

³Annual Demographics, Statistics Canada, 2000.

⁴CANSIM II, Table 051-0001, Statistics Canada.

From our Youth Groups DeMolay

DeMolay International has joined in celebrating Walt Disney's 100th birthday. Disney was born December 5, 1901 and died December 15, 1966. He had been initiated in "The Mother Chapter" of DeMolay, in Kansas City, MO, on May 29, 1920 and was inducted into the DeMolay Hall of Fame in 1986. He was quoted as having said:

One of the most important events of my youth, and one of the happiest, too, was my acceptance into the membership of DeMolay. And I realize now, even more than then, how deeply my whole life, personal and professional, has been influenced by that early association. I feel a great sense of obligation and gratitude toward DeMolay for the important part it played in my life. DeMolay stands for all that is good for the family and for our country.

DeMolay and Masonic leaders gathered at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, on March 30, 2002, for the unveiling and dedication of the new DeMolay display. This features touch-screen technology, which offers two Masonic videos and a DeMolay membership introduction. It means great public relations for DeMolay, as the Memorial has over 400,000 visitors per year, many of

whom are Masons and their families. DeMolay had previously presented a bronze statue to the Memorial, depicting George Washington as the Charter Worshipful Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22. The day it was dedicated, February 22, 1950, President Harry S. Truman, Past Grand Master of Missouri, presided over the dedication and gave the presentation address.

Job's Daughters

The 2002 Supreme Session, termed the Southern Cross Supreme Guardian Council Session, was held in Brisbane, Queensland, concluding on August 10th, 2002. It was reported as a huge success, with over 1000 attending from all over the Jobies' world. The Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland, MWBro Allan Herbert Wright, accompanied by many of his officers, made a formal entry on the opening night of the session. The 2003 session will be held in Chicago, IL, next July.

Louise Windbiel, Past Grand Guardian of British Columbia, was elected Supreme Marshal. This means that she will be the Supreme Guardian in four years. It is customary for Supreme Session to be held in the Supreme Guardian's home state or province.

(Sources: DeMolay International press releases May 21 & July 22, 2002; IOJD Supreme News Exchange, July 2002; Garry Wilson, Queensland)

Book Review

The Freemasons

By Jasper Ridley, Robinson Publishers, London

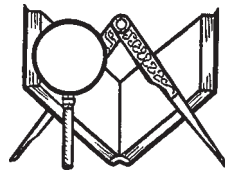
1999, paperback, 340 pages ISBN 1-84119-23-4

This book is a fair and complete historical review of Freemasonry. Jasper Ridley is not a Freemason, but a well-published British historian, providing the book with a credibility that being a member might not bring. The book does not dwell on the hoaxes perpetrated against the Craft, including those of Leo Taxil or Sergei Nilus (publisher of the book *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*) nor does it exaggerate the Craft's virtues.

The author briefly traces the history of guilds and the joining of gentlemen members. He then discusses the evolution of these guilds into Lodges and eventually the formation of the Grand Lodge in London. One of the appeals of Freemasonry was its religious toleration, which was a radical concept at a time of frequent religious persecution. Ridley also describes how the early Masons worked hard to attract members of the aristocracy into important roles such as Grand Master. What better way to gain acceptance and relief from persecution than having a member of the royal family in an important role?

Ridley examines the theory of the Craft's evolution from the Knights Templar. His conclusion is that this is an unlikely turn of events. He also examines the William Morgan affair. Morgan's possible murder, allegedly by Masons, led to the anti-Masonic movement in the United States. Ridley concludes that Masons, however misguided, probably murdered Morgan.

No aspect of Freemasonry's impact on society, past or present, is ignored. Ridley examines Freemasonry's role in the American and French revolutions. While it cannot be denied that Freemasonry has promoted Equality, Fraternity, and Freedom, members of the Craft are likely to array themselves under the banners of both sides of a conflict. This is to say that there were Masons fighting for King George III as well as for George Washington. The author also points out that Masonic oaths became secondary during such conflicts. The author seems to take special pains to show how Masons condemned each other to execution during the two aforementioned revolutions as well as revolutions in Mexico and South America. His conclusion is that the Fraternity did



not get in the way of political objectives. The author also discussed the political nature of the Craft, especially in Europe and South America. Some Lodges were actively involved in revolutionary activity. This led to the Grand Lodge in London to strengthen its rules against political discussions and involvement. It is clear, however, that this decision was meant to prevent government censure of British Freemasonry. It is also clear this ruling was not meant to stop internal discussion of issues regarding the politics of a Grand Lodge.

This book is comprehensive in its examination of the Craft. Knight's anti-Masonic books are examined and flaws discussed. Taxil's and Nilus' hoaxes are examined and debunked. The trend, now fading, against British Freemasons in the judiciary and police are also examined. Interestingly, the causes of the

persecution and solutions are discussed in an open-handed manner.

The concluding chapters discuss Freemasonry in the World, Modern Freemasonry in Britain, and "Are the Freemasons a Menace." The first two of these chapters provided an interesting review of the current state of the Craft. The last chapter concludes that the Craft is not a menace. However, the author is not particularly flattering either. This reader's impression was that the author basically felt the Craft was a relatively harmless organization that enjoyed its rituals and strove to do some charitable good works.

This book is highly recommended. It is comprehensive in its scope and fair in its analysis of the Craft's history and accomplishments. There are a few minor points that might be considered errors; however, they are minor and do not detract from the book. The book is very readable and every member will find something that will stimulate thought and discussion.

Loren Kline

Religious Tolerance in Freemasonry

One of our readers (of *Emessay Notes*) sent MSA a copy of a page from *Freemasonry Today*, a publication of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. The article talks about Volumes of the Sacred Law on the pedestal (altar in the US and Canada).

"In a recent letter to the editor of *Freemasonry Today*, reference was made to St. Luke in Essex Lodge No. 8714 (Hutton, England) where six different volumes of the Sacred Law are placed on the pedestal. They are (in no particular order): **Hindu Gita, Jewish Torah, Sikh Buru Granth Sahib, Christian Bible, Buddhist sayings of the Buddah,**

Muslim Qur'an.

"In New Zealand, Lodge Mangere No. 330 (Manaurewa, NZ) made use of four different volumes of the Sacred Law, being: **Muslim Qur'an, King James Version of the Christian Bible, Lebanese language version of the Christian Bible, Sikh Guru Granth Sahib.**

"As they have a candidate of the Jewish Faith, they also expected to add the Jewish Torah shortly. In both cases these are visible and tangible evidence of the religious tolerance to be found in Freemasonry."

Emessay Notes, May 2002

What is Freemasonry to you?

If a non-Mason were to ask you, "**What is Masonry?**", how would you answer? When I am asked this question, I usually say that to me Masonry is ten things:

1. *In the Lodge Room*, speculative Masonry is information and inspiration.
2. *In the home*, Masonry is kindness and fidelity.
3. *In business relationships*, Masonry is honesty and veracity.
4. *In my daily work*, Masonry is thoroughness and dependability.
5. *In social contacts*, Masonry is moderation and self-control.
6. *Toward the fortunate*, Masonry is congratulations and best wishes.
7. *Toward the weak*, Masonry is compassion and assistance.
8. *Toward wickedness*, Masonry is rebuke and resistance.
9. *Toward the penitent*, Masonry is forgiveness and another chance.
10. Finally, *toward God*, Masonry is reverence, love and obedience.

Warren F. Schueler, Scottish Rite News, Wilmington, DE, December 1992

(Submitted by Norman J. Senn, Editor emeritus)