

THE ALBERTA FreeMason



Editor: MWBro
Robert E. Juthner

Vol. 70, No. 8

Our Centennial Medal of Merit Recipients

At the 100th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alberta in June 2005, the Chairman of the Masonic Medal of Merit Committee, MWBro Calvin D. Shaver, stated:

As indicated at the 2004 communication of Grand Lodge, the jurisdiction was asked to make a special effort to submit applications to enable each District to have a recipient of the Masonic Medal of Merit in recognition of our centenary celebrations for your Grand Lodge, as well as the Province of Alberta and individual Lodges. It was pleasing to see multiple nominations from some Districts, but disappointing other Districts were notably missing. However, we have twelve worthy Brethren receiving this prestigious recognition in 2005.

The Chairman then went on to say that this year the presentation would be modified to permit the recipient from Palliser District (the host District of the 100th Annual Communication) to receive his medal at Grand Lodge, and that the other eleven recipients be acknowledged and presented with their medals and certificates at their respective District Meetings, or at special celebrations conducted at individual Lodges. In this way they will receive recognition among the Brethren whom they know and who know them best, he added.

While more elaborate write-ups have been supplied to the individual Districts, because of their great number, for the purposes of this publication, tribute to the recipients is made in a synoptic or point form, listing the honoured Brethren in the order of precedence of their Districts.

Bro John Henry Reynolds, Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2, Palliser District, member since 1976, originally Quarry Lodge No. 70; retired, served in the British Army 32 years; married 50 years, has three children and two grandchildren.

Outstanding contributions to Family, Community and Freemasonry: Numerous chairs in Lodge, participates in

degree work and education papers; active in concordant bodies, serving as secretary and on property and regalia committee; member of the Royal Canadian Legion for 23 years; Medicine Hat United Services Institute; Scouting, including Canadian and World Jamborees, 37 years; Medicine Hat Community Services Association, 12 years.

Bro Robert Coates, Meridian Lodge No. 129, Yellowhead District, member since 1999.

Outstanding contributions to Family, Community and Freemasonry: Active participant in Lodge work, serves as Chaplain and assists in the many social functions; on behalf of the Sick and

See **Medal of Merit**, page 3



Masonic Medal of Merit: (l) obverse; (r) reverse.

One Hundredth Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Alberta

on the evening of

Wednesday, October 12th, 2005

at the

**Radisson Hotel, 511 Bow Valley Trail
Canmore, Alberta**

Bow River Lodge No. 1

will recognize the exact

Charter date of the Grand Lodge.

The ceremony will be held in conjunction with the
**65th Annual Inter-Provincial Conference of the
Officers of the Four Western Masonic Jurisdictions.**

Masons and their ladies in attendance.

Dress formal, full regalia and white gloves.

Editorial

Make Use Of Source Material

Ordinarily, what is quoted here below, would appear under the heading *Letters (to the Editor)*. However, it is of such an essence as warrants the support of editorial opinion. It reads:

Re: September 2005 issue, "Alberta Miscellany"

The comment by WBro Payment, WM of Jasper Park Lodge, recalled to mind the final paragraph of the little brown book, Lodge Plan for Masonic Education, which, sadly, is unknown to many members of the Craft in this jurisdiction. Possibly, if you could find space to print it, it might serve as a reminder of the existence of this publication. It says:

*Remember — in every moment of your life — in public — at work — at pleasure — with your family — even when you are alone — **you are a Mason.** The non-Masons who know you will judge you as a Mason, and Masonry itself, by the way you conduct yourself. You have in trust the reputation of every one of us. Moreover, and most importantly, you are to apply the teachings of Freemasonry in the world about you, to give leadership to your community, your country, the nations of the world, as it may be in your power, thus ever endeavouring to contribute to the betterment of mankind: Master Mason!*

Fraternally, J. E. Forsdick

Thank you, RWBro Forsdick, of Norwood Lodge No. 90. The publication referred to was put together by Bros Bob Aberdeen (63) and Robert Juthner (81), and authorized for the use of **all** Lodges in Alberta by the Grand Master, MWBro Edward J. Thompson, March 1970. The final paragraph quoted above had been written by this editor, but it is not for that fact but rather for the timely reminder from the pen of Bro Forsdick that this becomes the topic of an editorial. The writer intimates that the "little brown

book" is unknown to many members of the Craft in Alberta, meaning that there are still Lodges that, in educating their new members, fail to make use of this readily available aid. Let those who have hitherto ignored it take in the words of Dr. Thompson in the preface:

It is with great satisfaction that I write the foreword to this booklet. The proposed plan for Masonic education is both comprehensive and sufficiently detailed to present a sound understanding of the Craft. Many questions are raised in such a manner as to provoke a serious search for the right answers. Facts and specific information on a multitude of topics are presented in a way that is interesting and can be understood. Here is a consistent and progressive program of information and instruction. The serious use of this booklet will result in a new depth of understanding of Masonry.

It will enable Masons to enter more fully into the splendid heritage and traditions of the Craft... a book, which we hope, will be widely read and carefully studied.

To the editor's knowledge, the booklet has been in use by Masonic education committees in several Lodges in Alberta, albeit not all, ever since it was first published. In some cases, instructing Brethren made adaptations to it, which is quite acceptable so long as it serves the purpose of making our new Brethren better informed. Also, it is not just because of the closing paragraph, quoted, but for the entire contents, dealing with the three degrees of Freemasonry, and the involvement of several Brethren in the education process, that — thirty-five years after first going to print — this *Lodge Plan for Masonic Education*, **Publication 351**, is again warmly recommended for consistent use in all Lodges throughout our jurisdiction. It's available from the Grand Lodge office, at the annual Workshop and some Masonic halls. Each Lodge should stock it.

THE MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

August 2, 2005

MEMO TO: All Grand Secretaries of North America
SUBJECT: Appeal for Relief — FLORIDA

The Grand Lodge of Florida has been receiving many calls for assistance from the Pensacola area which has suffered two hurricanes in what has turned out to be an extremely active hurricane season. Many people are still trying to recover from the 2004 hurricane season as well and the need is very great.

Please forward to the MSA such funds as you feel appropriate to help our devastated Brethren and their families in this stricken jurisdiction. Please make checks payable to the MSA Disaster Relief Fund and send to 8120 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785.

Thank you very much for your help!


Most sincerely,
(sgd.) Richard E. Fletcher, PGM
Executive Secretary

Editor's Note:

*At the time of going to press with this issue, it can be assumed that since September even greater need exists in the hurricane Katrina stricken areas of the Gulf of Mexico, notably New Orleans. It is understood that cheques may be sent to **MSANA Katrina Relief Effort.***

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The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M.
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Medal of Merit, from page 1.

Visiting Committee visits many ailing members and families; readily shovels snow or mows grass for ailing members of the Lodge, church or Legion, never accepting compensation of any kind; donates plants and assists in the Lodge's centennial project—the Meridian Lodge Gardens at the Stony Plain Hospital; Past President of the Royal Canadian Legion, currently the services officer; Past President of the Three Pillars Society; deacon of his church; member of the Geological Society of Alberta.

Bro John A. Bowie, Britannia Lodge No. 18, Central District, member since 1986, retired from Alberta Transportation Bridge Branch; married, has four children and eleven grandchildren.

Outstanding contributions to Family, Community and Freemasonry: A regular attendee, served in numerous chairs and fills vacant positions when needed; participates in degree work; travels extensively with the degree team throughout Alberta; active in many committees, discussions and debates; a true mentor for younger Brethren; supports the Ponoka Burns Club and many other local functions and charities.

Bro Kenneth Bryan Rayment, Camrose Lodge No. 37, Battle River District, member since 1957, a retired dentist, married.

Outstanding contributions to Family, Community and Freemasonry: Faithfully attends Lodge as Organist and enthusiastically participates in all activities and degree work; is a member of concordant bodies and of the Lions Club from 1956 to 1971 where he served as director and president; was president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1965 and there worked on committees overseeing the Jaywalker Jamboree and sporting activities such as Nordic Skiing; member of the Rotary Club for 25 years, there president in 1985/86; member of Toastmasters Club; belongs to Camrose Anglican Church; a supporter of Augustana University (formerly Camrose Lutheran College); an avid skier who served as president of the Cross Country Ski Club.

Bro John C. Cockwill, Vulcan Lodge No. 74, Chinookarch District, member since 1998.

Outstanding contributions to Family, Community and Freemasonry: Has served in various chairs of the Lodge and is currently Secretary-Treasurer, with

sincerity and professionalism, always first to volunteer to assist or head up social functions; has occupied various offices of Arrowwood Lions Club; has been a board member of Arrowwood Co-op Association; and belongs to Vulcan United Church of Canada; his thoughtfulness, generosity and constant good humour are known throughout the community.

Bro Gordon Allan Gehman, Rocky-Summit Lodge No. 30, Three Rivers District, member since 1984, a retired Forestry Officer.

Outstanding contributions to Family, Community and Freemasonry; has been Chaplain of the Lodge for several years and readily fills any chair at a moment's notice; works unassumingly in the background, not to bring attention to himself; is an active volunteer, member of Crowsnest Pass Gun Club; Past Exalted Ruler of the Crowsnest Pass Elks Lodge; and driver for the Crowsnest Pass Long Term Care Centre.

Bro Edwin Kenneth Schmidt, Norwood Lodge No. 90, Lakeland District, member since 1969, a Medical Doctor, married, with three children.

Outstanding contributions to Family, Community and Freemasonry: Has served in numerous chairs of the Lodge and as an officer in the Masonic Funeral ceremony; active in various concordant bodies; has provided support in the special project for disadvantaged children attending in the Lodge's namesake school; has given counselling and advice to sick members and families during difficult times or when help is required; readily delivers flowers to widows, and anonymously provides financial aid to members in distress; is active in his church and at the local city centre social organizations, as well as in organizations such as Doctors Without Borders, the Save The Children Fund, and the Canadian Red Cross; instead of jumping up to duties that are visible, he prefers to work behind the scenes.

Bro Joe Clarence Vallee, Whitecourt Lodge No. 153, Northern Lights District, member since 1997.

Outstanding contributions to Family, Community and Freemasonry; a very willing and enthusiastic worker within the Lodge; organizes the annual fishing derby; serves on the Parade Float Committee with float construction and remodelling; an extensive traveller around the world and true ambassador

for Freemasonry; and an active member of the Whitecourt Fish and Game Association.

Bro Ron Thoreson, Lake Saskatoon Lodge No. 106, Mighty Peace District, member since 1989.

Outstanding contributions to Family, Community and Freemasonry; an active member assisting in any chair or office and currently the Secretary of his Lodge who also readily assists in the maintenance of the Lodge building at Wembley; organizes information on several Masonic topics; is the official photographer at the Masonic Spring Workshop at Kananaskis and well known for the colourful Lodge Summonses he produces as a labour of love; active in concordant bodies; a strong community supporter, including the Community Protection and Policing recognition banquet and awards night; a volunteer driver for cancer/hospital patients; and a member of the Grande Prairie Oilmen's Club.

Bro Clayton Edmond Bailey, Carstairs Lodge No. 20, Phoenix District, member since 2000, retired from the Canadian Armed Forces.

Outstanding contributions to Family, Community and Freemasonry; has one hundred percent attendance at Lodge, displaying flawless demeanour; currently the Lodge Secretary and as such recognized for his administrative and organizational support; maintains regalia, prepares Lodge prior to meetings and cleans up after the festive board; readily assists at the Masonic Lodge at Heritage Park in Calgary; a member of concordant bodies; conducts volunteer work for non-Masonic organizations.

Bro Peter Lloyd Davis, Balmoral Lodge No. 185, Athabasca District, member since 1983.

Outstanding contributions to Family, Community and Freemasonry; has served in numerous chairs and is currently the Lodge Treasurer; his ritual work and record of visitations set an example for younger members; he encourages and organizes contributions to benevolence and charitable organizations; he is a member of Ducks Unlimited of Canada where he has been working on various committees and fund raising projects; active with the Lung and Cancer Foundations of Alberta and with community fund raising projects.

Continued on next page.

Bro Karim-Aly Kassam, Commercial Lodge No. 81, Beaverhills District, member since 1989, a University of Calgary Professor and author, married, with two children.

Outstanding contributions to Family, Community and Freemasonry; provides educational papers, many involving facets of Islam; 2004 theme speaker on *Tolerance* at the Masonic Spring Workshop; after raising, having been presented with a Holy Bible in turn presented his Lodge with an altar VSL

of the Holy Qur'an; took post-graduate studies at the Institute of Ismaili Studies, the University of Cambridge, and London School of Economics; Fellow of the Cambridge Commonwealth Society who conducted research on the role of Masonry in the origins of the League of Nations; involved in the development of the Theme School of Northern Planning and Development at the University of Calgary; the first Canadian to receive the prestigious J. William Fulbright Ecology Fellowship leading to his doctoral

studies at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, since completed; also first to hold the prestigious Murray Fraser Chair of Community Economic Development at the University of Calgary; president of the World University Service of Canada 1985–1987; for the academic year 1998/99 received the Teaching Excellence Award from the Students Union at UC; though only 39 years of age, he recently was identified in *Alberta Ventures Magazine* as one of the fifty most influential Albertans in the province.

Cornerstone Centennial

On **Saturday, 26 November 2005**, Cornerstone Lodge No. 19, at High River, will mark its Centennial with a visit by the Grand Master and his Officers for a landmark ceremony to confirm the Constitution and Consecration of the Lodge. The ceremony, for Masons only, will be held in the afternoon at the High River Masonic Temple at the corner of 3rd Avenue and 4th Street SW, while afternoon events for the ladies will be arranged. A 100th anniversary banquet, for Masons and ladies, will follow at the Heritage Inn at 1104 – 11th Avenue SE.

Cornerstone Lodge was the first to be consecrated by the newly formed Grand Lodge of Alberta, having been instituted on 28 November 1905. It is of note that

coverage of the event appeared on the front page of the first issue of the *High River Times*, which was founded that same week.

“On Tuesday last,” the article states, “District Deputy Grand Master M.J.T. Macdonald of Calgary, accompanied by a number of officers and brethren from Perfection Lodge, instituted a Masonic Lodge in High River — the first one formed in the new province of Alberta. This fact suggested the very appropriate name it bears, Cornerstone Lodge AF&AM. The evening train of that date was late, which prolonged the sessions somewhat. The meeting place will be



Cornerstone Masonic Hall, High River, Alberta

above the Gillies & Richardson store. Organization was effected by the following officers: Percy Taylor, WM; W.C. Laycock, SW; H. Gould, JW. They will control the destiny of the lodge for the ensuing year.”

The first Secretary was Charles Clark, founder of the newspaper of former Prime Minister Joe Clark.

For further information about times, etc. of the celebration on November 26th contact Bro Bill Holmes at holmesw@telusplanet.net

Grand Master's Itinerary

October

- 1 Athabasca District Meeting, Acacia Hall, Edmonton; 13 00 h
- 12–14 Western Canada Conference, Canmore
- 15 Especial Communication, Britannia Lodge (18) confirming the Consecration; 14 30 h
- 22 Northern Lights District Meeting, Freemasons' Hall, Edmonton; 11 00 h

District Meetings

October

- 1 Athabasca, Acacia Hall, Edmonton; 13 00 h; GM
- 22 Northern Lights, Freemasons' Hall, Edmonton; 11 00 h; GM
- 22 Palliser, Masonic Hall, Oyen; 12 00 h; SGW
- 27 Chinookarch, Lethbridge Masonic Hall; 17 30 h; JGW
- 29 Calgary-Highwood, Freemasons' Hall, Calgary; 11 00 h; DGM
- 29 Central, Masonic Hall, Stettler; 12 00 h; SGW
- 29 Yellowhead, Highlands Masonic Hall, Edmonton; 11 00 h; GSec

Scout Renewal Night



On 25 February 2005, King George Lodge No. 59 in Calgary conducted a First Degree for an active Scout Leader, Bro Terry Avramenko, the Scout Master of the 18th Scout Group ANAFVO. All chairs were filled by active scout leaders or former scouts. In attendance were King Scouts, Queen Scouts, Chief Scouts, Lone Scouts and Leaders.

The evening included conferring of the First Degree and at the end a renewal of the former Scout Oath. It should also be noted that those who attended and

were not former Scouts took the oath as well, became “Honorary Scouts” and were presented with their World Wide Scouting Badge. An amusing note came at the banquet, after the meeting was concluded: it consisted of typical Boy Scout fare, namely, hot dogs, beans, chips and ice cream!

To our knowledge, this was the first such night that has been celebrated in the province. Scouting is closely allied to the Craft in concept and principles; it made a fitting combination.

Lodge of the Double-Headed Eagle

W.L. Fox, University of Arkansas Press
ISBN 1-55728-477-6, 492 pp, 1997

This book is not an “authorized” history of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the United States. The author was given full access to the archives of the Southern Jurisdiction by the then Sovereign Grand Commander, C. Fred Kleinknecht; however, the work is Fox’s without review or rewrite by anyone from the Southern Jurisdiction.

The book is a critical review of the Southern Jurisdiction’s distinctive place in middle-class American culture. It reviews the formation in America at Charleston, South Carolina, in May 1801. The Supreme Council was composed of eleven founders, an almost evenly divided representation of Protestants, Catholics and Jews. This is an example of how the Rite would mirror American assimilation and toleration.

The Southern Jurisdiction is geographically the largest Masonic jurisdiction in the world; the oldest established Scottish Rite in continuous existence, and numerically the most numerous one. The book not only explores the institutional history, it also examines the influence of the Rite on the development of American democratic, civic and moral values.

It is difficult to review a book filled with such historical information. How can one condense 200 years into a few paragraphs? The account of the founding of the Supreme Council in Charleston and how Albert Pike became involved will probably fascinate those interested in the earliest beginnings of the Rite in the southern United States. Early in the last century (1900–1914), the Rite became involved in philanthropic endeavours, including sending over \$25,000 to aid in relief efforts after the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, and the establishment of scholarships for orphans or sons of a Scottish Rite Mason. The Rite emphasized literacy and education, and was one of the earliest supporters of the establishment of a Department of Education in the US

government. While the early attempts to establish such a Department failed, highly placed members of the Supreme Council continued to lobby their political connections until successful

On a stranger note, in 1923 the Sovereign Grand Commander Cowles was asked about the relationship of the Scottish Rite with the Ku Klux Klan which was enjoying much popularity in the Midwestern and Southern United States. While Cowles had refused an invitation to the Klan, he did note “...the Klan is thoroughly American and a proper organization for a 32nd Mason to belong to.” After study and consideration, the linking of the Klan and the Rite faded away.

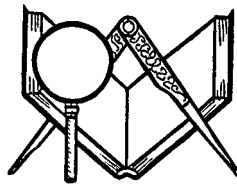
Membership is always a topic for discussion. In the mid-1920s Cowles felt that there had been a loss of interest in Freemasonry by the membership, accompanied by indifference by the general public. The causes were attributed to over-organization, increased cost and over-building. At the time all kinds of Masonic clubs, circles, bands, orchestras, patrols, and guards appeared; each had dues and service commitments. It was felt that too much time and money was being required from

the members. Fees were also increasing to pay for charitable activities and building endeavours. The buildings included temples and homes for the care of the elderly. It should be noted that despite these problems, in 1927 the Supreme Council donated \$1 million for the establishment of a department or school of government at George Washington University; it was to be a memorial to George Washington, the Mason.

Besides involvement with charitable works and education, the Supreme Council was also politically active. From the earliest days, members of Supreme Council were lobbying politicians for various matters, such as tax exemption for the House of the Temple property. In 1928, a dinner was held to honour eleven 33rd Masons who were members of Congress. The 59 Senators (of 96 at that time) and 317 Congressmen who were members of the Craft were invited. About 200 attended, together with 100 Brethren from the army and navy, government, business and professions. Cowles had a remarkable ability to promote the fraternity among the leadership of his nation and the city of Washington.

The book is a fascinating account of the development of the Scottish Rite in the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite in the United States. It shows how the leadership has overcome declining membership, pursued charitable activities, and attempted to influence government to pursue beneficial goals. Anyone interested in the role of the Scottish Rite in North American culture will enjoy this book.

Loren Kline



Grand Master’s Tour of British Columbia — September 2006

The Grand Master-elect, Deputy Grand Master Malcolm Berry and his wife Dawn invite you to join them on a 15-day/14-night sightseeing and Masonic tour by a 56-seat luxury motor coach through British Columbia. The tour will take you from Edmonton/Calgary through the Crowsnest Pass and through southern BC — Cranbrook, Castlegar, Oliver, Hope to Tsawassen — by ferry to the Gulf Islands, Vancouver Island — Victoria, Chemainus, Pacific Rim National Park, Long Beach, Tofino — then from

Port Hardy via BC Ferry Service through the Inside Passage to Prince Rupert. You will explore the north-central part of BC via Prince George to Dawson Creek and finally return to Edmonton/Calgary.

Cost per person (twin-sharing) is \$2,250 (single supplement \$890). To register, or for more information, contact RWBro Marv Foote at Grace Travel, PO Box 32026, 2619 – 14th Street SW, Calgary, AB, T2T 5X6; phone 403-294-0452; fax 403-216-2488, Email: mfoote@travelmasters.ca

Freemasonry — a Product!

Two paragraphs from the valedictory address given by **RWBro Michael W. Walker**, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, at the Quarterly Stated Communication of the United Grand Lodge of England, held on Wednesday 9th March 2005, in Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London.

Submitted by **WBro David Needham** (77),

In marketing terms we must view Freemasonry as a product. This is what we are “selling”, or otherwise providing, for uptake by members and potential members. To increase our sales, we must either improve our product or make the packaging more attractive. Freemasonry is a fairly stable product in itself — very little can be done to alter the product without changing it entirely in both essence and appearance. Its principles and precepts have stood the test of time and are as valid today as ever. We cannot change the product and remain in the same business; and we must be true to ourselves in this. If we want change in the extent of getting into a new line of business it must be accepted and recognized that this is exactly what we are doing; and will it perhaps not be long before somebody decides that the new product is not quite right and needs further adjustment to meet the current demands of society. This, I suggest, is not an option which is open to us. What we have and what we stand for will always be right, even if its acceptance rises or falls on the scales of time.

What we can do is upgrade the packaging, and make it look more at-



RWBro Michael Walker

tractive to potential customers, while also making it more palatable to current consumers. In the former case we can — and already so do — actively adopt a higher profile; and gently but firmly “let our light shine before men”. The candle in the window is the invitation symbol understood by all; and some will accept and knock on the door. I am entirely against the “go out into the highways and by-ways and compel them to come in” attitude as is currently being adopted and practised by some North American Grand Lodges. Hard-sell is not for Freemasonry; however, you may try to dress it up. Freemasonry is there to be adopted and savoured by those with minds attuned to, or even seeking, its attainment and what it provides. Freemasonry is not for everyone; but within all populations and at all times there will be those to whom it will appeal. By its packaging and presentation these customers may be identified and maximised but they cannot be created. Our principles, sometimes referred to as “Ancient Landmarks”, must stand firm, upright and visible, like the pillars of stone and brick raised by Enoch in the Land of Siriad, and which were still

standing in the time of Josephus, lest Arts and Sciences — in our case the whole body of Freemasonry — should slip from the knowledge of men.

AF&AM Masons of Ireland

Grand Lodge News

www.irish-freemasons.org/GLI News 05.pdf

“Community” the Focus of 2006 Spring Workshop

RWBro Tren Cole, says the 2006 Masonic Spring Workshop will deal with “Freemasonry and the formation of Community — its health, and the Craft’s philosophical and practical contributions.” It’s an important topic, but no Canadian Mason has researched the Craft’s impact on the development of Community.

Fortunately, there is one who has. He’s WBro Mark Tabbert, Master of Mystic Valley Lodge and Curator of Masonic and Fraternal Collections at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA. He has just published his results in *American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities* (ISBN: 0-8147-8292-2). Despite its title, this is really the story of the development of Freemasonry from its genesis in the 1600s to the building of communities across North America — a process that included the Canadian west.

Writing about “the real story” of Freemasonry in the U.S. News & World Report of 5 September 2005, Jay Tolson noted:

The real history of Freemasonry is arguably more interesting than all the tales woven about it. But that history is at least in part the story of the many fanciful interpretations of the brotherhood. Indeed, the Masons’ substantial accomplishments—in forming solid citizens, in forging social networks, in mending certain social divisions, in supporting philanthropic causes—are all the more remarkable in the face of past efforts to defame or even dismantle the organization...

Bro Cole, the Workshop’s 2006 Chairman, expects the Brethren to go beyond the history and research to discuss the future of the Craft and whether that future will include the kind of community spirit that built the west.

Mark your calendars now for the 2006 Masonic Spring Workshop, 28–30 April 2006 at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis. Check www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca over the winter for details as they develop.

P2 Lodge Scandal Resurfaces

Several years ago [1978, Ed.] a tragedy involving the infamous P2 Lodge made national headlines. One of its members, Roberto Calvi, was found hanging by the neck on Blackfriar Bridge in London. The resulting scandal — death, missing funds, mysterious connections, and corruption — led to an investigation that included Freemasonry. The death of Roberto Calvi was ruled a suicide, but now the case has reopened with the arrest and pending trial of several men charged with his murder. The trial, set for October 2005, may focus, in part, on the P2 Lodge.

Dateline NBC devoted a full hour to this subject in a show aired on 11 May 2005. Masons who may be asked about Masonic involvement in this case should refer to a statement made on the *Dateline NBC* show which said:

We know that Calvi was a Freemason — not the Masons as they are known in the United States, but a member of an outlawed secret sect in Italy that had broken away from the mainstream order. Reportedly the clandestine group called one another Blackfriars, and used the traditional Masonic symbols of bricklayers and builders. Did his killers stuff bricks in Calvi’s trousers as a symbol — a warning to others in the renegade secret society?

Focus, 12/2, June 2005