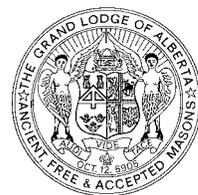


THE ALBERTA FreeMason



Editor: MWBro
Robert E. Juthner

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The “All Canada” Conference

A Report on the 24th Annual Conference of Grand and District Grand Lodges of Canada in Winnipeg, Manitoba, March 31 and April 1, 2006
By RWBro J.R. Malcolm Berry, Deputy Grand Master

The Conference was attended by the Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of all ten Canadian Grand Lodges, as well as the District Grand Master and Deputy of the District Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The Grand Officers represented Canadian Freemasonry ranging in number from the 900 members of Prince Edward Island to in excess of 56,000 members of

the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

Sessions were held on Friday afternoon and evening and throughout the day on Saturday. The Friday afternoon session commenced with the presentation of a paper entitled *Masonic Ritual — a new Tower of Babel*. This

paper examined the progressive erosion of the ritual from the aspect of content and delivery, hence creating a Masonic “Tower of Babel.” It was pointed out that today’s newly made Masons were very concerned and are anxious for the Craft to return to the high standards of our forebears. It is recognized that while ritual does vary to some extent throughout the country and the world, *“it is not the differences in ritual, but the*



indifference to ritual that we have to worry about. We should always remember that low standards are self-propagating and are injurious to Freemasonry.

The second paper, entitled *Candidate Proficiency*, concentrated on an examination of the definition of the word “suitable” in the universal question “Has he made suitable proficiency in the

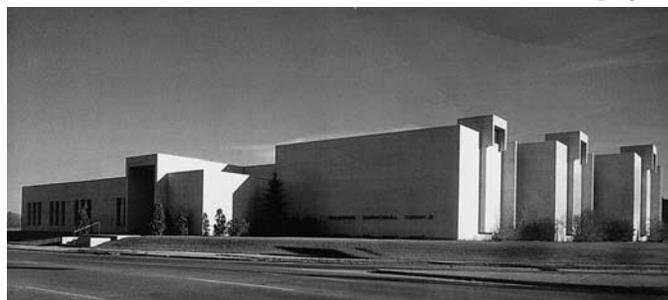
work of the preceding degree?” Once again it was pointed out that where a relaxation of standards in requirements to study, learn and understand the ritual and its meanings and application has been to the detriment of the Craft. There is a ground swell of modern day sentiment that the Craft must return to making Masons out of men rather than processing them through the system in the easiest and quickest way possible. The attitude of the young Masons today is epitomized by the story of the young Standard Bearer who, in the heat of battle, found himself far out in front of the advancing line of troops. When called upon to bring the Standard back to the line, he replied “No! Bring the line up to the Standard!”

The afternoon session concluded with a lively discussion, in “break-out groups,” regarding the “*Them and Us*” syndrome between the members of the Craft on the one hand, and Grand Lodge

See *All-Canada*, page 2.



The North portico of the Manitoba Legislature with a statue of Queen Victoria in front. This building, built between 1913 and 1920, is said to be full of symbolism Masons would understand. Note the six Corinthian columns supporting the pediment and the sphinx on the roof to each side guarding the portico.



Freemasons' Hall in Winnipeg showing the three lodgerooms to the right of the main entrance. To the left are the administrative offices and resource centre.

Editorial

What's Suitable Proficiency?

In the third paragraph of the front page article, the Deputy Grand Master's informative report on this year's All Canada Conference, we read about the concept of "Candidate Proficiency" and the importance of not relaxing the standards or requirements appertaining thereto. Do we know what these requirements are? Oh yes, we know what the Regulations and our ritual, *The Work*, say. The former states, in R3.9.4: *A Candidate shall not be passed or raised at a shorter interval than four (4) weeks from the date of his having received a previous degree, except under dispensation from the Grand Master, nor until he shall have passed an examination in open Lodge in such previous degree.* It does, however, not state of which such examination has to consist. That is where *The Work* comes in. Both versions in use in Alberta, *Canadian Rite* and *Ancient York Rite*, make use of a catechism, a series of fixed questions and answers meant to establish a Brother's proof of being a Mason of one of the three established degrees. Repeating the obligations follows the catechism.

So far, so good! Now let us ask what the candidate has shown when he

repeated everything word-perfectly. Certainly that he does well with rote learning (some call it "parroting")—but does it give proof of his understanding the meaning of every detail and does this alone make him "proficient"? Does it show that, between degrees, he had immersed himself in the study of Masonry, thus striving for "more light"? Hardly. Perhaps we can learn from most European jurisdictions who allow one year forming the interval between degrees and giving the candidate the opportunity to read from a wealth of Masonic literature, while attending Lodge meetings and learning by personal involvement and contact with his senior Brethren. Then he would be required to prepare a paper on a Masonic subject, to be read and accepted in open Lodge as his *proof of proficiency!*

Any objections? Like: "Oh no, we've never done it that way!" Why not turn that response into its opposite: "Let's do it that way!" There are some in our country who dare a new approach, i.e., "new" only in our and some other countries.

We were shown such a "new" approach at the 41st Masonic Spring

Workshop in Kananaskis, on April 29th. The Brethren of *Templum Sion Lodge UD, GRM*, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, demonstrated their concept of a Lodge with a difference which slows the rate of candidate progression through the degrees and demands a Master Mason Thesis before declaring his proficiency before he becomes eligible to be raised. They chose a motto, in Latin, "Divinus Lux Sacramentum" to mean "Divine Light, Sacred Rites." (Unfortunately, it must be said, one should learn Latin before using it: *Lux* is feminine, *Divinus* is masculine, and the adjective should follow the noun, with one word added: *Lux Divina Sacramentum Est*, where *Sacramentum* means a guarantee or oath; otherwise it would have to read *Lux Divina Sacramentumque.*)

Similarly, some Brethren in Edmonton actively pursue the establishment of a new Lodge based on a similar concept, or to affiliate with an existing Lodge which would be willing to adopt that plan. There may be hurdles to be taken, at first, such as proposing some changes to the Committee on the Work, and amendments to the Constitution and Regulations, but if the concept is sound, and there is a will, there is a way. Maybe, some day, we will indeed be making **proficient Masons.**

All-Canada, from page 1.

Officers and Grand Lodge Offices on the other, as well as between the average member and the Officers and Past Masters at the Lodge level. Whether these problems were real or perceived, the solution seemed to be in striving for more effective communication and mutual understanding.

Following dinner, the delegates focused on the business aspects of the Conference, with particular reference to funding. The aim was to provide a "level playing field" for all jurisdictions regardless of size and/or geographic location. In true Masonic fashion, and after

considerable discussion, an equitable solution was found to the satisfaction and mutual benefit of all.

The Friday sessions dealt with several reports, such as matters of Recognition or Non-Recognition of other Grand Jurisdictions throughout the world, other Masonic Conferences throughout North America, as well as a discussion paper on the re-alignment of Districts in Ontario from an historical and modern perspective to accommodate the changing needs of the Craft. "Break-out sessions" dealt with a number of issues including: the process and suitability of amalgamations and surrender of char-

ters; COMELY and equivalent programs; costs, quality and availability of Masonic regalia; the need for and costs of certain types of insurance; and funding of Masonic charities—to name but a few. The findings of each group were presented, in summary form, to the Conference at large at the conclusion of the day.

Altogether, the Conference was highly successful and provided an excellent opportunity for the delegates to interface and network with their peers and to share dialogue on common and specific issues, and concepts and solutions of significance and importance to the Craft.

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Deputy Grand Master & Grand Secretary
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Masonic Property Association Pool Auction raises \$81,694.24...

...reads the front page headline of *The Bassano Times* of February 7, 2006.

It goes on to say:

The 2006 Bassano Masonic Fund Raising Auction held Saturday, January 28 drew a large group of supporters.

The grand total raised was \$81,694.24. The top fund raiser, which many people contributed to, was the "Speedo Event," which raised \$7,705.00. Darryl Magnusson, Tom Rose and Doug Moss modelled the "speedo," a real crowd pleaser!

This was followed by the autographed Flames sweater of Miikka Kiprusoff, donated by the Calgary Flames, which went for \$6,400, then a hand made Cedar Chest made by Ed Maurer went for \$4,400. A framed hand-painted hawk feather by Betty-Anne Burrows went for \$2,900.

"Also a big thank you to the Bassano branch of the Chinoook Credit Union who purchased \$10,000 in auction items and donated them back for resale, helping to raise a total of \$21,655.00. A great community support," said Ed Maurer of the Bassano Masons...

Following the delicious meal prepared by Linda Maurer and her crew, the auction was held. Ed Maurer welcomed ev-

eryone and thanked all for the donation of funds and items to be auctioned, to make the event possible. He thanked Triple X Red Angus and Two Bell Ranches for donating the beef.

He introduced Tom Rose and Tammy Schaffer-Miller who are on the Pool Committee. Tom Rose, who is also a Mason as well as being on the Pool Committee, said that the theme for the pool fund-raiser is "Pool Dreams." (Build it and they will come.)...

"We are shooting for 2007 to begin construction," said Rose... Besides Bassano, the communities of Rosemary, Hussar, Gem, Cluny and Gleichen use the pool for lessons or just to swim... There were over 53 items contributed for the auction, such as 10 inch laser mitre saw, car tool set, canopy room, pig cut, wrapped and frozen, queen size hand-made quilt, as well as a number of items for the silent auction and a number of cash donations were made.

A sincere thank you to the Brethren of Bassano Lodge No. 55 for their community work. Does this give other Lodges any ideas? — Ed.



Water has always been important to the Bassano region. Without it, there would be few people and little commerce. In 1910, the CPR began construction of this dam 6 km southwest of Bassano to open up the region. In 1935, a group of farmers bought the Bassano Dam and canal system from the CPR, forming the Eastern Irrigation District (EID) that provides water in an area larger than the province of Prince Edward Island. Virtually all



the water used within the EID, originates at the Bassano Dam. This includes water to irrigate over 113,000 ha of farmland, water to feed over 12,000 ha of managed wetland habitat, water requirements for local industry and the domestic needs of a population base close to 20,000 people. This is the same do-it-ourselves spirit behind the successful auction for the latest water-related project

How Do You Know Yourself To Be A Mason?

Author unknown. A paper donated to the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia Board of Masonic Education, 10 February 1990.

When that question was asked of you during the work of the First Degree, did it register as being of great importance? To most candidates it doesn't. Usually it appears to be just a question that occurs in the process of instruction, and the answer seems to be very simple, of course, but as the student of Masonry progresses, he discovers that even the simplest of thoughts in Masonry have deep meanings attached to them. Very

little occurs in the work of the Craft that is of small significance.

All of us have noted certain Brethren in our town and in other Lodges who seem particularly apt to learn and express themselves Masonically. These men are sure to be found at the head of Lodge activities. They are moving spirits. They know the work, and they know how to get things done. Moreover, they appear eager to advance in the interest

of their Lodges. They think up things to do, or rather observe things that need doing. Sometimes, their energy even grates a little on other Brethren. Once in a while, criticism may be heard, the burden of which is likely to be that these Brethren are a trifle too ambitious.

One knows himself to be a Mason when he begins to view truth, honour, justice, and charity not as abstract principles, but as practical everyday

virtues which he must practice and exemplify in all of his relationships with his fellowmen. When within him burns an intense desire to protect and advance the welfare of his Brethren and with a constant care, that no harm or injury comes to them through acts of his, a man may know he is developing the Masonic spirit.

Such a thing may occur once in a while to be sure, but not often. As a rule the active Brother is one who knows he is a Mason, why he is one, and how he got that way. To such a Brother the question of how he knows he is a Mason is a sort of challenge. He knows very well the simple answer in the ritual isn't all of it by any means. It is only the beginning. He knows the ceremony whereby he was brought to light was merely the lighting of the lamp. By it he was able to enter the Lodge, to greet the Brethren Masonically, but so far as actual work was concerned he was verily an Entered Apprentice. The light illuminated his

own character and revealed to him obligations owing to his fellowmen. It was then he began to understand knowing a few of the secrets of the Craft is not what makes him a Mason. It is true that many good men feel these same things without being Masons. But any understanding Mason knows such men would accomplish more and find greater joy in their service, if added to their natural goodwill, they had the encouragement, fellowship, and inspiration of a great fraternity wholly dedicated to the same high aspirations.

You know yourself to be a Mason first by understanding the eternal principles upon which the Craft is founded, and then by feeling in your own heart a clear response to their call. When, gradually, the new Brother learns of the glorious history of the Fraternity, and begins to feel kinship with the legions who went this way before him; when in the events of the past he is able to discern the fine handcraft of Brothers and Fellows,

tracing out their beneficent influence in the progress of mankind; then he knows himself to be a Mason in spirit and in truth.

The place to look for evidence that you are a Mason is not in the head, where memory of rituals, grips, signs, and tokens may be retained, but in the heart from whence will flow the healing streams of brotherly love, generosity, kindness, patience and goodwill. If those are found you will know your Masonic fellowship has borne good fruit and you are in fact a Mason.

To this may be added what is the custom in European Masonic rituals, in their catechisms, that when asked "Are you a Mason?" or "Are you a Fellowcraft?" or "Are you a Master Mason?" this must never be answered with "Yes," but rather with "My Brethren regard me as such." That is another important consideration, never to be forgotten. — Editor.

Alberta Miscellany

Evergreen Lodge No. 166

A Lodge is the sum of its members. Every Brother contributes to the success of the Lodge according to his ability and the length of his cable tow. It is important that we are always aware of our limitations and do not pressure a Brother for more than he is willing to contribute in his particular situation, nor a Brother to take on more than he is able to, until he has time and commitment to do well.

To keep the Brethren engaged and to ensure the success of the Lodge, it is vital to carefully balance the needs of the individual members and the needs of the Lodge as a community of men of common interest.

WBro Doug Elford, WM

Strathmore Lodge No. 53

Society changes, yet Masonry does not. Let us recall our first steps. I hear so often how my son doesn't have time, **or** he just is not interested, **or** he can't afford it. I refer all of us to consider a few lines of the Grand Master's Inaugural Address at Medicine Hat last June:

Never has there been a time in history when the principles of our Craft have been needed more. What more incentive do we need to get more men? Do you not think we have a high calling to spread the principles on which we stand? Principles

that bind men, not separate them.

I hope we are doing enough to do what is right for the men in our families. The only thing I know of what is wrong with Masonry is the **m** in "me" which has to be turned upside down: **w**. — **We** can do it.

WBro Gary Lyons, WM

Griesbach Lodge No. 191

I continue to be amazed at how well the Lodge runs. Not only do our meetings seem to fly by because they are efficient, but because they are enjoyable. There is a truly remarkable team spirit and "can do" attitude around the Lodge. Lots of people volunteer, while those who are asked to accept a task do so cheerfully, and I try to spread the work around so that nobody is overburdened or left out. If I am failing in either of those two categories, please do not hesitate to let me know. I want to keep this cooperative spirit alive and well, and I want this to continue to be "**our**" Lodge, not "my" Lodge or "their" Lodge.

WBro Chris Chodan, WM

Millennium Lodge No. 2000

In these busy, challenging and exciting times we focus on the immediate task at hand and all too often family and friends are ignored or adversely affected by these actions. I urge each of

the Brethren to take a special moment during his busy days, or nights, to make a special moment for his loved ones, letting them know that he is thinking of them.

What does it mean to be a Mason? Why are Masons sought out by some and feared by others? Where have we been and where are we going? It is these questions that we need to research and understand if we are to grow as a Masonic family and have viable Lodges. I do not know all the answers. I, and each of you, my Brethren, do know what being a Mason means to us personally. It is this meaning that we must project in a way that will draw other like-minded men to us. These men are out there, and they want to join us. We must give them good reasons to join us. We must advertise our presence in a manner that will educate and attract these good men, and welcome those that fear us...

WBro Morris Nesdole, WM

Commercial Lodge No. 81

The new members I've spoken to express that much of Masonry's draw was a glimpse of the esoteric, and a cleaner path to a moral compass. Finding a path to "like-minded men" in today's hyper-networked society is no great task — the trick is in finding a path to your *own* centre. Our new members are challenged every month to find a mentor, or a friend, or, crucially, a resonant idea in

Grand Master's Itinerary

June

- 1-3 Grand Lodge of Manitoba Annual Communication; Winnipeg, MB
8-10 Grand Lodge of Alberta Annual Communication; Radisson Hotel, Calgary

GM 2006-2007

June

- 10 Grand Lodge of Alberta Annual Communication, Installation; Radisson Hotel, Calgary
15-17 Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan Annual Communication; Prince Albert, SK
22-24 Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon, Annual Communication; Chilliwack, BC
27 North Star No. 4, Lethbridge No. 39, Diamond City No. 65 and Charity No. 67, Installation of Officers; Masonic Hall, Lethbridge; dinner 18 30 h, tyle 19 30 h

July

- 2-6 Imperial Shrine Annual Convention; Tampa, FL
11 Nanton No. 17, Charity Golf Tournament; D'Arcy Ranch, Okotoks; 19 30 h

Miscellany Continued

the ritual and camaraderie that the rest of us take for granted, in order to keep them coming back. Our Lodge is challenged to communicate our philosophy and tradition without dilution of their context, and to follow through on the sales-pitch we gave these men when they first knocked on our door.

WBro Michael Tolboom, WM

Lethbridge Lodge No. 39

Integrity is a trait that must be exemplified by Masons, as it has since time immemorial. We must forever hold Freemasonry, and our Brethren, to these higher ideals and standards to preserve intact our fraternity as it was given to us by our eminent Brethren, to in turn relinquish to our Brethren that are yet to come. No one man, Lodge or Grand Lodge owns Freemasonry; it is owned by the character of every past, present, and future Brother. Every action we take individually ripples throughout the Craft and can become labelled a Masonic act, possibly detrimental to our Order. The actions we take today, as Masons, affect the infinite number of men's character — a responsibility that mustn't be taken lightly.

WBro Scott Sawatsky, WM

- 24 Beacon No. 190, Zoo Cruise; Sylvan Lake; 19 00 h
30 Irricana No. 137, Family Barbecue; Ron Jones' Farm; 14 00 h

August

- 1 Edgerton No. 102, Fraternal Visit; Edgerton Masonic Hall; 20 00 h
3 Excelsior No. 80, Fraternal Visit; Daysland Community Hall; 20 00 h

Summer Lodges

July

- 4 Vulcan No. 74, Regular Meeting; 20 00 h
6 Excelsior No. 80, Regular Meeting; 20 00 h
6 Lake Saskatoon No. 106, Regular Summer Meeting; Wembley; 20 00 h
11 Rockyford No. 123, Western Night, Bowmont Hall, Calgary; 19 30 h
12 Grand Prairie No. 105, Regular Meeting; 20 00 h
12 Bow River No. 1, Masonic Stampede Meeting; Freemasons' Hall, Calgary;

Cocktails 17 00 h, Dinner 18 00 h, Entertainment 18 45 h; Cost \$15.00; tyle 19 30 h

- 15 Nanton Lodge No. 17, Annual Outdoor Meeting; Mark Fox Ranch; 19 30 h; BBQ after
17 Bassano No. 55, Open Air Lodge; Meet at Bassano Lodge Hall 09 30 h; tyle at 11 00 h
19 Redwood No. 193, Fort Edmonton Park; 19 30 h
26 Forestburg-Alliance No. 128, Regular Meeting; 20 00 h

August

- 1 Edgerton No. 102, Regular Meeting; 19 30 h
3 Lake Saskatoon No. 106, Regular Meeting; Wembley; 20 00 h
3 Excelsior No. 80, Regular Meeting; Daysland; 20 00 h
9 Grand Prairie No. 105, Regular Meeting; 20 00 h

Yahoo!

Hey Pardner, the Calgary Stampede is comin' fast. We're invitin' you to come down to Calgary Freemasons' Hall for our first **Stampede Breakfast**.

We're holdin' it **Saturday, July 8th, 2006**, startin' at **8:30 AM** and runnin' 'til **11:00 AM**.

We're lookin' forward to sharin' grub with you, and meetin' 'n greetin' you and your family.

Our corral is set up at **330 - 12th Avenue SW, Calgary**.

There ain't no charge but we're hopin' you'll make a donation to our Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund.

The good folks responsible for this shindig are The Grand Lodge of Alberta, the Scottish Rite and Calgary Freemasons' Hall.

We are also lookin' to find some volunteers to give us a hand, and if anyone out there is willin' to contribute some grub, please give us a holler.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Grand Lodge Office at **403-262-1149**

Thanx!



Several Calgary Lodges participated in the 2005 Calgary Stampede Parade, marching with the Shriners' parade entries. The beautiful banner was used in several parades across the province and, with an annual date change (the year is attached with velcro), it will serve Alberta Freemasonry extremely well in the many parades to come. The banner may be borrowed for Alberta Lodge parade events by contacting Bro Ed Ashby at eashby@nortelnetworks.com.

Three Stories

Taken from MQ, the official magazine of the United Grand Lodge of England, issues 12 & 14, January & July 2005, as reported in Focus 12/4, Dec. 2005.

The King and the Craft



King George VI in Regalia

“The world today requires spiritual and moral regeneration. I have no doubt, after many years as a member of our Order, that Freemasonry can play a part in this vital need.”

The above was written by HM King George VI on 5 November 1951 in a letter to MWBro Rt Hon the Earl of Scarborough. His Majesty had promised to install Lord Scarborough as Grand Mas-

ter on 6 November, but was prevented from doing so by what proved to be his final illness.

It echoes similar statements he had made on a number of occasions when he attended Grand Lodge as both King and a Past Grand Master. He was in no doubt that Freemasonry was a force for good and had a vital part to play in the life of his country and empire.

Hollywood Comes to Grand Lodge

The ever-growing popularity of Freemasons' Hall as a venue for the film and television world was underlined in May, when a major event was held for the Hollywood blockbuster Disney film *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, part of which was actually filmed in the building.

The Grand Temple and surrounding areas were completely transformed for the 1,000 guests to the extravaganza in a way never seen in the building before. The event followed the World Premiere at the Empire, Leicester Square, and was organized by Amanda Davies and her company, AD Events.

As guests came through the Tower entrance in Wild Street, they were greeted by a Vogan soldier, one of the characters from the film created by Hensons, with another Vogan helping in the cloakroom. Afterwards a couple of them danced

with the guests. All the waiting staff were dressed in costumes.

Old Soldier Remembered

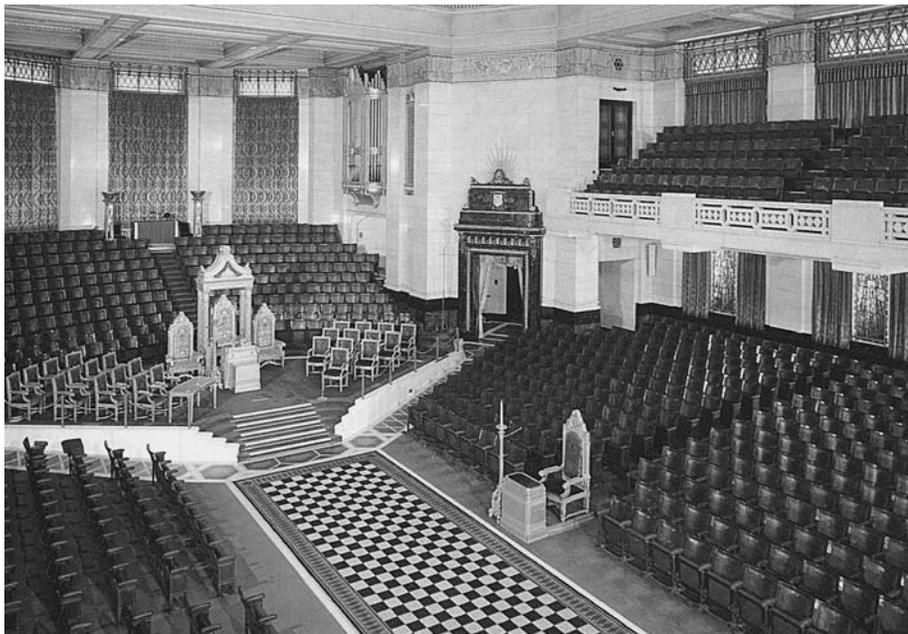
Troop Sergeant Major Richard Williams of the 17th Lancers, a Freemason who was in the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava in the Crimea on 25 October 1854, was honoured by Masons, non-Masons and civil and military dignitaries in October.

The ceremony at his grave at St Mark's Church, Worsley in Lancashire, marked the 150th anniversary of the famous Charge against the Russian guns. Lt.-Col. Martin Steiger, Honorary Colonel of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry and Brigadier W G Hurrell, Colonel of the Queen's Royal Lancers took part.

The church bell was tolled 110 times to mark the number of chargers killed, and a trumpeter sounded the Last Post and Reveille...

Born at Bath in 1819, Richard Williams moved to Worsley in 1867 after leaving the army, and was the local postmaster for 30 years and a sidesman at St Mark's Church for 35 years.

Richard Williams was initiated into United Lodge No. 697 at Colchester in 1857, joined Bridgewater Lodge No. 1213 in 1870 and was a founder of Worsley Lodge No. 1814 and Lathom Lodge No. 2229, all in West Lancashire. He died on 7 July 1910 and the cortege was escorted by mounted policemen.



The Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London.



Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street also doubled as the MI5 Thames House HQ in the BBC drama *Spooks*.