



105th Annual Communication

The 105th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M., will be held in the Deerfoot Inn & Casino, 1000, 11500 – 35 Street SE, Calgary, AB, commencing on Friday, 11 June 2010 at 09 30 h and continuing on Saturday, 12 June 2010. Brethren are encouraged to be in place at 09 00 h in order to receive Special Dignitaries, Representatives of Concordant and non-Masonic groups, etc.

AGENDA: The Annual Communication under provision of the Constitution and Regulations R1.1.4 will be conducted by **MWBro Brian Shimmons**, from the agenda (see page 3), governed by the Rules of Order as per the Constitution and/or those listed in the Preliminary Report. The Grand Master reserves the right to revise the Agenda, R1.1.4.

NOTICES OF MOTION & NOMINATIONS: The complete list of Notices of Motion to amend the Constitution and Regulations and all Nominations will appear in the Special Edition, *The Alberta Freemason*, May 2010.

REGISTRATION & BALLOTING shall begin at **08 00 h, 11 June 2010 and continue until 18 00 h**. Registration and Balloting resumes at **08 00 h, 12 June 2010** and closes at **10 00 h**, as per Section R1.2.9.

ACCOMMODATIONS: All reservations are on a first come basis: **Deerfoot Inn & Casino, 1-403-236-7529 or toll free at 1-877-236-5225**. The cost of a room is \$169.00. Prices in effect until 10 May 2010.

FUNCTION TICKETS: Can be ordered through the Grand Lodge Office. Ticket orders (with payment) **must** be placed before 22 May 2010. Tickets after 22 May 2010 will be increased by \$5.00/ticket. **Only tickets ordered by the Lodge Secretary will be mailed out.** Any individuals ordering tickets will retrieve them at the registration desk at the Annual Communication. Payment will be expected at the time of pick up if not previously paid for.

INSTALLATION OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS: Immediately following the business before Grand Lodge, MWBro John Hart will be the Installing Grand Master with the assistance of Past Grand Masters.

DRESS: Grand Lodge Communication — Business Suit/Regalia. Grand Lodge Banquet — Dark Business Suit, Semi-Formal, except Grand Lodge Officers to wear Tuxedos at Grand Master's Banquet, Grand Lodge Banquet and at the Installation of Officers.

Regalia must be worn at all sessions

Master Masons are very welcome to attend the Annual Communication.

2009 Grand Master's Class at Alberta DeMolay Convention

Kevin Thompson and the 2009–2010 ADA Executive

I wish to share some information regarding the current relationship between DeMolay and Masonry in Alberta.

In November 2009 the Alberta DeMolay Association Annual Convention was held in Kananaskis. The highlight of that Convention was the 2009 Grand Master's Class, where seven new DeMolay were initiated and 14 members of DeMolay went through the DeMolay Degree, which is the second step in becoming a fully initiated DeMolay. The ceremony was dedicated to MWBro Brian Shimmons, Grand Master of Alberta, who was in attendance.

Also at the Convention, Eric Bjerisgaard (Calgary) was elected and installed as the Alberta DeMolay Association Master Councillor, a position in which he governs the Alberta DeMolay Association. Kurtis Mullet (Edmonton) and Brennan McMillan (Calgary) were elected and installed as the north and south representatives, who assist and



MWBro Brian Shimmons, Grand Master of Alberta (centre rear with beard) with the young men attending Alberta DeMolay's Annual Conclave in Kananaskis.

promote DeMolay in their region. Megan Duffell (Calgary) was elected to serve as the Alberta Sweetheart, a position which helps keep the ties between

DeMolay and Job's Daughters strong. To assist Megan, Mom Jo Ann Pimlott (Calgary) was selected as ADA Mom.

See **DeMolay**, page 2.

DeMolay, from page 1.

Also, two Deputy Executive Officers, Kevin Thompson (Edmonton) and Will McMillan (Calgary), were appointed to assist the Executive Officer of Alberta, John Slade (Edmonton). If you wish to contact any member of the Association please email John Slade at jbslade@telus.net and he will direct your request.

At the Convention banquet we had some outstanding speeches. Neil Blue (Edmonton), retiring Master Councillor of ADA, spoke of the headway Alberta DeMolay is making. DeMolay is becoming stronger because of many events that have brought the Order closer with the Masonic order. For instance, through discussions between Neil Blue and Barry Gogal, Potentate of the Al Shamal Shrine, Al Shamal has donated the Al Shamal temple for DeMolay and Job's Daughter functions. This is one example of the many situations where Masons are becoming aware of a need and filling it. Neil Blue also told a touching story regarding hope that he learned from his Grandfather, Neil Blue Sr. of Avon Glen Lodge No. 170. Neil hoped that DeMolay would become even stronger in Alberta with increased support of the Masons of Alberta. He stated that Masonic Lodges will begin to see their membership numbers increase and average age decrease as a direct relation to the growth and strength of our Masonic youth organizations. Grand Master Brian Shimmons reiterated Brother Neil Blue's thoughts, agreeing that the Masonic Order and DeMolay need each other to grow. MWBro Shimmons presented statistics to show the ratio between Masons in Alberta and DeMolay. He also stated that there are many Alberta cities that have strong Masonic presence but the youth never get the chance to be involved in a great Fraternity.

The election of RWBro Leigh Spicer as DDGM of Beaverhills District afforded me the opportunity to speak about DeMolay during his official visits. This has exposed me to different Lodges with similar needs and has shown me

that Lodges in Alberta need younger members and a feeder system to acquire them. The Order of DeMolay is that feeder system.

In Alberta we have two DeMolay Chapters, one in Edmonton and one in Calgary. In a perfect world all Senior DeMolay would become Masons, but this is not always the case. Nobody joins a group without first having a common bond of friendship. We are lacking in Masons who are willing to work with the young men. Our Lodges never dismiss the chances to help, support and donate, but the issue here is that we need more Masons to make it their concern to work with the young men directly, to help them in their efforts, teach and guide them in Masonic morals and way of life. If we want to affect the world and see more people act as Masons do, then why are we missing out on the opportunities with our sons, nephews, grandsons and neighbours?

In my visits with Lodges in the smaller cities the Lodge members would say, "We would love to have a DeMolay Chapter but we can barely keep our Lodge alive with the members we have now." This is a common thought and a common mistake. My only response is that if you do not strive to establish DeMolay in your community then your Lodge will continue to diminish. The time you take to assist the young men in your community to become better men refreshes your knowledge about Masonry. Those young men will reach the age of 21 and recall the lessons and time that you, as a Mason, gave to them. Helping a young man into manhood and possibly into Masonry has infinite benefits, but at the very least our good works and morals are spreading across our land. The world of today needs more people like us, people grounded in those important lessons we have learned from important traditions.

What you can do is simple. Notice if there is a young man in your life that could use Masonic morals or you think would be a great Mason one day. Discuss

life in general with him and use the knowledge you have gained from your journey so far. Be Masonic mentors in your community. Finding one person will lead to several others. Then contact the DeMolay Executive Officer to look into DeMolay specific actions. The important thing is having youth who will carry Masonic teachings in their daily lives. That is how Masonry will spread and that is how Masonry will survive.

One final thought. WBro Ken Williams, while Worshipful Master of Redwood Lodge, came to every DeMolay meeting he could. One night he met a young DeMolay in the cloak room where the young man was trying to tie his tie. He asked if he needed a hand, and the young man promptly replied, "No, I will keep trying until I get it myself". That speaks of the true essence of DeMolay. A young man tries and accomplishes things he would not normally attempt, with a wise man standing by ready to offer assistance, but willing to let the young man make his best effort. This type of thinking and practice is needed more and more in this world today.

DeMolay's motto is **Tomorrow's Leaders, Today!**

Wouldn't you like a hand in that?

Thanks from the Jobies

The Job's Daughters of Alberta would like to express their appreciation to all members of the Masonic Family for their continued support of our activities, and in particular for the financial assistance extended to our two girls who have become Miss International Job's Daughters: Megan Semaniuk, 2008-2009, Bethel Seven, Edmonton and Ana Kryhanivska, 2009-2010, Bethel One Calgary. You can be very proud of these Daughters and the way they have represented Alberta and the Masonic family during their travels.

Hoping the New Year brings you all good health and safe travels

The members of Job's Daughters
International, Alberta

Provided to Freemasons of Alberta and the Northwest Territories west of the 4th Meridian who are members of
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Program for the 105th Annual Communication

10, 11 and 12 June 2010

Deerfoot Inn & Casino — Calgary, Alberta

Thursday, 10 June 2010

Grand Master's Banquet (by invitation)

- 17 00 h Social
- 18 00 h Dinner (**Chrome Room**)
- 20 00 h Social Gathering, No Host Bar (all attendees)
Chrome Room — Casual Dress

Friday, 11 June 2010

- 08 00 h Registration/Balloting Opens under the direction of the Grand Registrar
Outside **Sundance B & C**
- 08 00 h Board of General Purposes Meeting (members only and invited observers) — **Sundance A**
- 09 15 h Formation of Grand Procession
- 09 30 h Grand Lodge Procession
Reception of:
 - Past Grand Masters
 - Visiting Grand Lodges
 - Concordant Bodies
 Presentation of the Colours
Excuse non-Masonic guests
Opening of the 105th Annual Communication (Tyled)
Motion of Loyalty
Confirmation of the Proceedings of the 104th Annual Communication
Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving — Grand Chaplain
Rules of Order
- 11 30 h **Lunch** (Ticketed, **Midnapore A & B**)
- 13 00 h Reconvene the 105th Annual Communication
Presentation of the following reports:
 - Block A — Operations
 - a) Jurisprudence
 - b) DGM's Implementation
 - c) Committee on the Condition of Masonry
 - d) Masonic Higher Education Bursary
 - Block B — Information
 - e) Grand Librarian
 - f) Grand Historian
 - g) Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin
 - h) Public Awareness & Communication
 - i) Masonic Spring Workshop
 - Block C — Financial
 - j) Grand Treasurer
 - k) Finance Committee
 - l) Auditor and Financial Statements
 - m) Board of Benevolence
 - Block D — Administration
 - n) Fraternal Relations
 - o) Publication and Forms Committee
 - p) Grand Secretary
- 14 30 h Grand Master's Address
Correspondence and regrets
Recognition of Grand Representatives
- 15 30 h Adjournment
- 18 00 h Balloting and Registration suspended

Evening Program

Grand Lodge Banquet (**Sundance A,B & C**)

- 17 30 h Reception
- 18 45 h Seating
- 19 00 h Dinner
Toastmaster: Junior Grand Warden
- 20 30 h Entertainment
- 21 00 h Presentation of Ross Sheppard Memorial Bursary

Saturday, 12 June 2010

- 08 00 h **Balloting and Registration resumes**
- 09 00 h **105th Annual Communication reconvenes**
Any reports not completed from Friday's session
Block E — Legislation
 - q) Committee on the Work
 - r) Board of General Purposes
 - 1. Appointment of Auditor 2010
 - 2. Approve 2011 Capital & Operating Budget
 - 3. Confirm Grand Secretary Appointment
 - 4. Notices of Motion
- 10 00 h **Balloting and Registration Close**
Report of the Credentials Committee
Report on the Elections
Other Masonic Awards
- 11 00 h General and Unfinished Business
Election of Grand Tyler
Any unfinished business of Grand Lodge will be tabled to next Communication
Grand Master's Comments
- 12 00 h **Lunch** (Ticketed, **Midnapore A&B**)
- 13 30 h 105th Annual Communication Reconvenes
Installation of the Grand Master and Investiture of the Grand Lodge Officers for 2010–2011, under the direction of MWBro John D. Hart
- 15 30 h Grand Lodge Closes
- 15 45 h 2010–2011 Officers' Pictures
- 17 30 h Incoming Grand Master's evening — BBQ

** Ladies' Hospitality **Bridlewood A&B**

NOTE: There will be an enjoyable Ladies' Program (details to be forwarded to the Lodge Secretaries).

NOTE: Tuxedos to be worn by Grand Lodge Officers at the Grand Master's Banquet, Grand Lodge Banquet and Installation of the Grand Master and Investiture of the Grand Lodge Officers.

Masonic Spring Workshop

The Chinon Parchments, the papers released by the Vatican that exonerated the Knights Templar of heresy, will be available for viewing at the Masonic Spring Workshop, thanks to David Allan of Aurora Borealis Lodge No. 201.

There is still time to register for the workshop that takes place 23–25 April 2010 at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis. Go to www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca for information.

Freemasonry in Today's World

MWBro Stewart W. Miner, PGM GL of Virginia, GSec GL of District of Columbia
Short Talk Bulletin 82.3, March 2004; Edited here by MWBro Robert Juthner

It seems that Freemasons have long been entirely too preoccupied with the past, an extensive period when almost every good and perfect act, at least since the beginning of the Grand Lodge era, has been impacted by the thoughts and deeds of Freemasons of great renown. Thus we in this country [the USA] take pride in the certain knowledge that many of our past national leaders, in government, the military, the arts and the sciences, sought out the mysteries and the benefits of Freemasonry.

It is a pity, however, that our knowledge of how Masonry actually influenced the lives of these leaders is so limited. We cannot augment our restricted knowledge of our leaders and their commitment to the Craft because of the inadequacy of source documents that are available to us. Hence, in most instances, we are not able to state with certainty how Masonry may have influenced the thoughts and deeds of those we revere.

Did these men, our Masonic heroes of yesterday, choose Freemasonry because of their appreciation of its teachings or, conversely, did they, after forming their personal moral and spiritual beliefs elsewhere, seek out like-minded men in the temples of Freemasonry? In the assessment of the past we need to be especially careful that we not trespass from fact to fantasy. With few exceptions, little is really known about our Masonic forefathers other than where and when they took their degrees. Minutes, up to the dawn of the 20th century, tend to be brief to the extreme and even those records have not been adequately preserved for posterity. Proper attribution of Craft accomplishments, therefore, is usually very difficult and sometimes it is entirely impossible.

Nevertheless, we acknowledge that in the past much was accomplished. Beautiful temples were erected, tremendous financial resources were accumulated and world class charities established by a Craft that was numerically small but philanthropically sensitive to need and opportunity. Our predecessors were truly builders for the future, intent on serving both the today and the tomorrow of their allocated periods of life. That they did so is a matter of record, and by their works, if not their words, they have spoken of their devotion to

duty and dedication to principle.

So much for our thumbnail account of what was, a long period about which our store of information must be considered imperfect. While we cannot, in post-facto fashion, fill in the informational voids of our past, we can, if we are diligent, insure that the record that we compile for **our posterity** will be more complete. A few observations about the present — the “**what is**” period of Masonry — may be useful. Let us begin by recognizing that, for the better part of the four decades leading to the present, we have busied ourselves, almost exclusively, with the examination and identification of fraternal ailments. Almost everyone can recite an almost endless litany of Craft afflictions, with handwringing accounts of attendance and declining membership. “Address these symptoms,” so it is said, “and the Craft will thereby be returned to good health and prosperity.”

Thus far, most of our attempts to treat perceived issues have been for naught. Not only have our endeavours fallen short of our aspirations, but in the process the issues appear to have become ever more pervasive. Perhaps we need to look not to ministering to the treatment of the symptoms of fraternal ailments but to the identification and subsequent treatment and containment of what may be a fundamental but unappreciated disease — **the obvious lack of demonstrated interest in Masonry by Masons**.

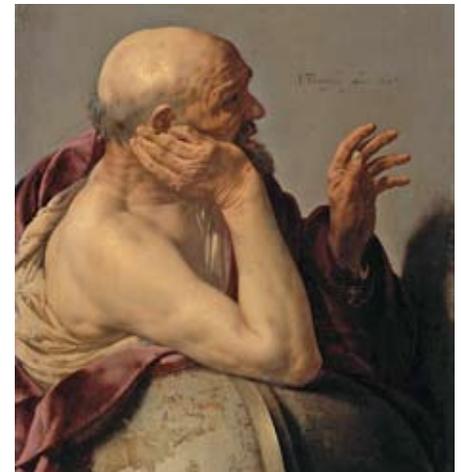
The return to health of the Craft will depend in the long run not on quick fixes or gimmicks, but rather upon the fullest appreciation of the depth or lack of depth of the average member's concern for Masonry and its works; upon the understanding of the reasons underlying the Mason's lack of appetite for fraternal involvement; and on the apparent preference of almost all Masons to remain outside, rather than within the circle of active Brethren. Thus our major interest should not rest on the number of members that are on our rolls or on the length of the list of names recorded on the attendance roster. Rather our efforts should focus on finding a solution to the most fundamental, indeed, the root issue for our order — **the Freemason's undeveloped interest in Freemasonry**.

Where are those Lodges that are

building to meet our present and future needs? Where are those Grand Lodges that are laying the groundwork for advancement into the current millennium? Where are those Masonic bodies that have competent visionaries capable of achieving their visions? Who is placing imaginative and feasible plans on the trestleboard and who is evaluating and marshalling the means by which those plans are to be worked?

In thinking about our answers to these questions we perhaps ought to ask ourselves if Masonry is properly organized for progress in the rapidly changing social environment in which it finds itself. Indeed, if we successfully identify motivated and capable men to address our most pressing issues, will they be able to implement their plans within the institution as it now stands? The future can be as strong, viable, and influential as we and our leaders will it to be. Let us therefore take heed of the observation of a wise man* who once said that the only constant in this world is **change**; let us accept that change is a part of life. Let us accept it, prepare for it, and cope with it. It is the only way!

**Article editor's comment: The “wise man” here referred to was the Greek philosopher Heraclitus (c. 500 BCE) who postulated that “permanence is an illusion; everything is in the process of constant change: panta rhei, everything flows — you cannot step into the same river twice”! Also, about the remedies suggested by the present author: can we ever expect the greatest plans for future action to come to fruition if our “visionary” leaders, in Lodge or Grand Lodge, continue to be limited to only one year in office? Think about it.*



Democritus, oil on canvas painted in 1628 by Hendrick ter Brugghen (1588–1629) Current location Rijksmuseum.

Short Notes from Around the Jurisdiction

Jasper Park Lodge No. 143 Robbie Burns Night, 7 January 2010



Left to right are WBro Don Anderson, Piper; WBro Bev Bentley, WM Hinton Lodge No. 178; WBro Ed Chilton, PM of Mount St. Paul Lodge No. 109, Kamloops, BC; and Bro Frank Leong, SW Jasper Park Lodge No. 143.

W Bro. Chilton is shown about to address the haggis in grand Scottish style. He was initiated in Jasper Park Lodge on 28 September 1978.

The event proved to be a very successful and enjoyable evening for all.

New from Internet Lodge of Research

Check out the contents of the Internet Lodge of Research's new blog at <http://www.internetlodge.ab.ca/blog>

Edson Lodge No. 68 Donates to Local Food Bank

Bobbie Foulds, *The Anchor*, Monday, 14 December 2009

In the spirit of giving, the Edson Masonic Lodge collected and presented over 50 pounds of food and \$210 to the Edson Food Bank on 8 December 2009. Worshipful Master Greg Templeton said everyone had heard of the Food Bank, but unless they have actually been there, they do not realize how essential the service is. "I'm very fortunate in my life,

but there are many others who don't have enough to eat. The Edson Food Bank is a wonderful service, and we (the Masonic Lodge) will do as much as we can to help others."

The Masons had a regular meeting 3 December, with a sociable dinner following the gathering; the proceeds from the meal and food donations were collected

and presented to the Edson Food Bank President Linda Brown.

"I am very proud to live in Edson, because as a community, Edson has a generous spirit. The people here are not afraid to help others," explained Brown as she thanked Templeton and Bro Bob Carter [Secretary-Treasurer of the Lodge]. Brown added, "We can use every donation you send us".

Beauty of the Ritual (Part 2)

RWBro Richard C Friedman, Chairman, Custodians of the Work and Bro Peter Kermani
The Empire State Mason, Summer 2008, Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York

Part 1 of this article appeared in the last issue. While the direct references are to the American ritual, many of the words are the same. Their beauty, the sentiments they express and the importance of the lessons they teach are universal. Ed.

At the outset of our journey in Freemasonry we are reminded that our lives on earth will end and that we will be evaluated according to our ability to adhere to the lessons learned in the Ritual.

And when at last your weary feet shall have come to the end of their toilsome journey, and from your grasp shall fall the working tools of life, may the record of your life and actions be as white and spotless as the emblem I place in your hand tonight.

The phrase "and from your grasp shall fall the working tools of life" is beautiful and sounds beautiful. It provides clear evidence of the beauty of our Masonic language and promotes one of the most important traditions of our ancient and gentle Craft.

As Freemasons our Ritual enjoins us to walk and act against the "backdrop of eternity" always keeping the Great Architect of the Universe in our hearts and minds:

The world itself styles him who knows no God a heathen. He is

a menace to society and a moral blank in himself. The Mason who acknowledges God in the Lodge room and ignores or blasphemes Him out of it, sins and violates his oath. Your Masonry must be proven by your real attitude toward our Supreme Grand Master. The tongue, which takes the obligation of the Mason, should not demean the Mason's God.

We are told that beauty adorns all great and important undertakings. Our reverence for Him is the most great and important undertaking of all. His is the real beauty to adorn. Has there ever been a more melodic and accurate and beautiful description of music than that which we hear on our road to the Middle Chamber?

Music is that art which effects the passions by sound. There are few who have not felt its charms and acknowledged its expressions to be intelligible to the heart. It is a language of delightful sensations, far more eloquent than words; it breathes to the ear the clearest intimations; it touches and gently agitates the sublime passions, it wraps us in melancholy and elevates us in joy; it dissolves and inflames; it melts us in tenderness and excites us to war.

How about the sheer majesty of the

following words that provide a clear perspective on what is really important in the world?

...and the mellowing tides of old cathedral airs vibrating through aisles and arches have stilled the ruffled spirit and, sweeping away the discordant passions of men, have borne them along its resistless current, until their united voices have joined in sounding aloud the chorus of the Heaven-born anthem, "Peace on Earth, good will toward men"; but it never sounds with such seraphic harmony as when employed in singing hymns of gratitude to the Creator of the Universe.

We know that millions of words have been written about the Craft of Freemasonry. Many a Masonic leader has asked his advisors to come up with a true definition of the Mason and what our Craft truly means to the individual.

Yet, perhaps unbeknownst to us who are closest to it, the following piece of Ritual clearly delineates the mission, the heart, the soul and the direction that every Freemason must live out to fully reach their potential. Hear in your heart the magnificent conclusion to the Middle Chamber Lecture:

Every Brother admitted within the sacred walls of this Middle Chamber

should heed the lessons here inculcated, and remember that as a Freemason, he is also a builder, not of a material edifice, but of a temple more glorious than that of Solomon; a temple of honor, of justice, of purity, of knowledge and of truth. These emblems of the operative Mason's art indicate the labors he is to perform, the dangers he is to encounter, and the preparations he is to make in the up-rearing of that spiritual fabric wherein his soul shall find rest forever, and forevermore.

It would be our wish that every candidate for office in the world could hear and express the beauty of these words from the Second Degree Charge:

No household can fashion the home where dissension and selfishness knell the death of unity and peace. No community can protect character where petty strife is born of mischievous tongues. No city can become a place of prosperous growth whose citizens care little and do less for its advancement. No state can derive the benefit of its own resources whose people obey but the one law of individual inclination and greed. No government can stand firm whose adherents are blind to the unalterable law, "in union is strength, in harmony is peace".

Some of the most beautiful Masonic language of all is contained in the Third Degree Charge. "Your manhood does not depend upon your position, but upon your character." "Do not measure your importance by your titles or your money, but by the texture of your character and the cleanliness of your speech." "Make others to know always that a gentleman stands before them." Man is "the most

Grand Master's Itinerary March

- 6 Eastgate Lodge No. 192, Annual Taste of the Orient; Mirama Restaurant, Edmonton; 18 00 h
- 9 Patricia Lodge No. 91, Blarney Night; Edmonton Freemasons' Hall; 18 00 h
- 11 Carstairs Lodge No. 20, Fraternal Visit; Crossfield Masonic Hall; 19 30 h
- 16 Northland Lodge No. 147, Fraternal Visit; Fairview Legion Hall; 19 30 h; All Mighty Peace Masons requested to attend.
- 20 Griesbach Lodge No. 191, Annual Mess Dinner; Jefferson Armoury, Edmonton; 17 00 h
- 26-28 All-Canada Conference; Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, MB

glorious climax of all created things!" What eloquent words!

My brothers, we have selected these examples from hundreds we could have used to illustrate the fact that our Ritual is adorned with beauty. We hope that you seek out your own favorites.

It was our forefathers who knew instinctively that it was the music expressed in our Masonic language that would draw the attention of reflective brothers to the meaning of its words. At the same time, they understood that for this to happen, the words themselves had to *sound* beautiful.

To accomplish this critical task we implore you to deliver your work as a Craftsman with the same excellence of preparation that GMHA applied to his adornment of King Solomon's Temple. If this does not happen, the beauty adorned in our Ritual will remain unheard and the Craft will never function

the way our fathers intended.

The Pillar Beauty adorns both our Lodges and our Ritual. It is a living, breathing thing. This is an absolute truth as well as a time honoured principle of our Institution.

Our Fathers had faith that if a committed Mason was presented with wise and serious truths, adorned with noble thoughts in beautiful ways, then to the reflective Mason the words of our Ritual, as well as their meaning would become indelibly imprinted upon his mind.

They understood that through a succession of ages, the beauty of our language was just one more way to make certain the tenets of our Institution were transmitted unimpaired. They understood that the communication of our Ritual was indeed, a wise and important undertaking.

We can afford no less an understanding in the present and in the future.

Alberta Miscellany

Thoughts from the summonses, selected by Bro Trevor Morris

Exemplar Lodge No. 175

It is easy to lose sight of the individual Mason in the crowd that is Freemasonry; yet no other organization offers such a wonderful opportunity to be with men of like mind and strong character. Like you, he chose of his own free will and accord to spend his time with you. Give of yourself, for the potential exists that he may become an important part of your life. Each moment you spend with that man will be a gift, and when his time is at end, you will be content in your memory of him.

WBro Daniel Boyco, WM

Redwood Lodge No. 103

Freemasonry appeals greatly to the sole practitioner. The path that the Craft takes the individual on is varied and often winding. We find many of the lessons and teachings in Freemasonry challenge the individual man to incorporate the principles and ideals of the Craft into his own life through introspection and self examination. One of the hallmarks of Freemasonry is the journey that a man is encouraged to make throughout his adult life, from something that is rude and temporal toward something that is more refined and closer to Divine. If this is so, then one asks himself, Why do Freemasons meet frequently and in numbers?

The answer may be that finding and

walking one's own path is only part of the whole experience that is Freemasonry. By meeting with and talking to other Brethren, our bond with Freemasonry is reinforced and amplified. Also, we benefit from each other's perspective on the Craft, and it allows us to incorporate those perspectives into our own.

The Lodge also offers a unique opportunity for men to connect as friends. It can be difficult at times for men to form new friendships in adulthood, with the business of careers, family and other obligations. Freemasonry offers an excellent venue for men to come together and share experiences and find companionship. It affords men a place to share and celebrate their victories and accomplishments, and also to find sanctuary from the pressure of hectic schedules and busy lives, as well as strength and support in the knowledge that as men we are not islands unto ourselves, and that a shared bond and connection exists with other men who are there to support and encourage one another.

I encourage you to take the time to get to know the members of our Lodge, to learn what their hobbies and interests and passions are. Ask them what brought them to the door of the Lodge. The bonds that we make and strengthen with one another will also strengthen Redwood.

WBro Stantton Pallister, WM