



2015 New Year's Message

RWBro Chris E. Batty, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Alberta

The Winter Solstice is not only a time for family, a time for friends, a time to renew old acquaintances and a time for rejoicing, but also a time of great expectations and a time of new challenges and new beginnings. And so we celebrate the coming of the longer days and the return of that great luminary and giver of life with



the greatest and oldest festival of the year, Christmas. With the passing of Christmas, we need to turn our thoughts and efforts to planning for the new challenges and new beginnings of the New Year and how we can accomplish them.

Thus it is in our Lodges, particularly those who have their Installation ceremony at this time of year, with the celebration of Saint John the Evangelist on December 27. It is a time when the new officers learn new parts of the ritual, with messages of how we are to act, behave and use our time. Being actively engaged in these pursuits, focused and dedicated, can help us in our work, our careers and our family life, as well as making a daily advancement in our Masonic knowledge. There is always something new to learn, some Masonic symbol that will provide us with guidance on how we may improve our lives.

The seven symbols of the Deputy Grand Master's regalia are particularly interesting in this regard and include the united square and compasses, the five pointed star (a pentagram), the three Past Master squares, the seven-eared wheat, the pomegranate and the lotus.

The symbolism of the square and compasses are explained to us in the Junior Warden's Lecture as well as after the obligation in each of the three degrees, including the ceremony in the Board of Installed Masters. It is by these symbols that we regulate our lives and actions and keep us within due bounds with all mankind.

The five pointed star is a symbol that represents the five senses, as well as containing the geometric golden ratio, not once but three times. The single star is often the symbol of the Pole Star, the star by which we find our way and keep focused on our destination.

The three Past Master squares are symbols of having spent time working in the quarries, learning and working as a team member to complete a specific plan or project, as well as guiding others in how to work together in diligent and



dedicated team work.

The seven-eared wheat is referred to specifically in Genesis 41:22 through to Genesis 41:36 and the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream by Joseph, that there will be seven years of plenty and abundance followed by seven years of famine, and that we should save in the times of plenty for the times of famine.

The pomegranate, a symbol of the Fellowcraft degree and depicted in our Lodges on the two great pillars, is a recurring symbol in ancient Egypt, Judaism, and Hinduism of prosperity and ambition, fruitfulness, and prosperity

and fertility respectively.

In both Egypt and India, the lotus symbolizes the union of the four elements: earth, water, air, and fire. The lotus grows in the earth's mud, it lives in water, its leaves are nourished by air and it blooms through the power of the sun's fire. The major symbolism of the lotus is its association with spiritual awakening or enlightenment.

As we plan for the New Year and all that we hope to accomplish, it is the application of the intent of these symbols that will help us accomplish our goals, regulate our lives and actions and keep us in due bounds with all mankind; keep us focused on our destination by diligent and dedicated team work; encourage us to save in times of plenty and ultimately result in fruitful activities and prosperity leading us to our enlightenment.

On behalf of the Grand Master and his Grand Lodge Officers I wish you all a happy, healthy, and wealthy New Year.

References

Lotus flower, picture:

<http://www.flowerhdwallpaper.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/photo-of-lotus-flower-3.jpg>

Lotus flower, symbolism: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padma_\(attribute\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padma_(attribute))

Pomegranate, picture: <http://www.gardeningblog.net/how-to-grow/pomegranates/>

Pomegranate, symbolism: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pomegranate>

Wheat, picture: <http://i.huffpost.com/gen/808053/thumbs/o-WHEAT-WAR-facebook.jpg>



People who Changed the World.

Masonry in Manitoba, Volume 72, No. 3, Spring 2014

An interesting book appeared under the Christmas tree, entitled *People who Changed the World*. Interestingly, ten individuals who lived in the area of the Mediterranean basin prior to the first century CE were therein identified, then all is quiet until a movement referred to as the Renaissance developed in Italy during the 13th and 14th centuries. Again there is a time of relative quiet, until the Enlightenment began in the 18th century. Let's look at some of those early thinkers who laid down the foundation for our knowledge of the liberal arts and sciences.

We will begin with the ancient Greek philosopher **Socrates** (471–399 BCE), who lived by his own adage “*the proper study of mankind is man.*” The son of a stonemason, his education included geometry, mathematics, astronomy, music and the development of moral character. A man of principles, he refused to moderate his thinking and was sentenced to death by the Senate and, true to his belief, approached death by ingesting hemlock with cheerful confidence.

Hippocrates (470–348 BCE) was the ancient Greek “*Father of Medicine*” and was very much ahead of his time. Prior to this time it was believed that sickness was caused by the wrath of the gods or by supernatural events. He believed in the healing power of nature and that proper diet and exercise were essential for good health. He insisted that the work of a doctor be separate from that of the priest, a revolutionary idea at that time. His *Hippocratic Oath* is a treatise on medical practices and the *Hippocratic Oath* is used today as a guideline for the proper moral and ethical behaviour to be followed by doctors. It has been shortened to simply “*First, do no harm.*”

Plato (427–348 BCE) was the founder of modern philosophy whose theories on religion, politics and knowledge shaped Western thought for over

a century and continue to exert a profound influence even today. He was a student of Socrates and taught Aristotle. He left a substantial body of writings and his *Theory of Forms* had a critical effect on Western religion and philosophy. His universe consisted of the visible and that which exists beyond the senses, the latter Christian concept of heaven. He echoed Pythagoras' notion that man consists of a mortal body which encloses an immortal soul, which Christian theologians would later develop in their dogma.

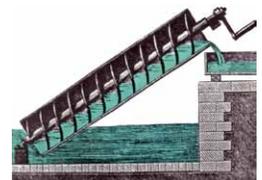
Aristotle (384–322 BCE) was one of the greatest philosophers of this classical period. He was one of the most influential figures in the development of Western ethics, logic, science and politics. His study of the physical sciences of zoology and biology remained the accepted norm for over a millennium. He studied and later taught at Plato's academy and at one time was a tutor to Alexander the Great until his ascension to the throne in 336 BCE. His works not only influenced Western philosophic and scientific traditions, but also Islamic culture, which the Templars would later carry into Europe.

While **Alexander the Great** (356–323 BCE) may be best remembered for his military prowess, he did spread Greek culture not only to all the lands surrounding the Mediterranean, but as far east as India. He founded the city of Alexandria on the Nile River delta, which would in due time become the repository of the greatest collection of knowledge at that time. This library was opened during the reign of Ptolemy I or II, and employed many scribes who borrowed books from around the world, copied them onto papyrus scrolls and then returned them. Its later destruction may have been orchestrated by Pope Theophilus, the 32nd Pope of Alexandria, at the time of conflict between the newly dominant

Christians and the pagan establishment at Alexandria. He has been described as the perpetual enemy of peace and virtue, a bold, bad man whose hands were alternately polluted with gold and with blood. There are also other theories, but regardless the fires raged for what seemed an eternity and this site of learning and education was reduced to ashes. The books discovered at Nag Hammadi in 1945 doubtless were taken from the library, sealed in a clay container and buried in the desert with the hope that one day they would be discovered, and some 1500 years later they were!

Our next man is referred to, albeit briefly, in our ritual and is a Greek mathematician, the “*Father of Geometry*” named **Euclid** (330–220 BCE). He may have studied at Plato's academy in Greece and later founded a mathematics school at Alexandria during the reign of Ptolemy (323–283 BCE). He is most famous for his book *The Elements*, which is based on the works of Aristotle, Hippocrates, and Pythagoras. This book remained fundamental to the teaching of mathematics and geometry until the 19th century and is still relevant today!

Archimedes (287–212 BCE) is probably the most famous mathematician of the classic world whose formulas relating to spheres and other solids remain at the basis of all mathematical knowledge. He developed the Archimedic Screw, which was a practical irrigation device which we still see today adapted to become a grain auger. He also developed the law which relates to the buoyancy of objects in water. Like Pythagoras, the exclamation *eureka!* heralded this revelation. He also established the principles of the lever. Unfortunately many of his works disappeared during the ensuing 2000 years.



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Julius Caesar (100–44 BCE) was one of the most outstanding generals of all time and an ambitious Roman statesman, whose impact upon the Roman Empire was immense, increasing it to include Gaul and Britain. He introduced political reforms and established the 365-day Julian calendar. Some 350 years later, Constantine the Great would rule this vast empire and move its headquarters from Rome to Byzantium (modern day Istanbul). He would adopt the fledgling movement of Christianity as the state religion and build a cathedral, the original Haggai Sophia, in this city.

No history of the nations surrounding the Mediterranean at this time would be complete without making a reference to the most famous queen of ancient Egypt, **Cleopatra** (69–30 BCE). She was a descendent of one of Alexander's generals, Ptolemy, whose dynasty would rule Egypt for over 300 years. A femme fatale, she courted the political elite of the day, yet eventually Rome was successful. [She and her lover, Mark Antony, committed suicide after the defeat of Egypt by Octavio (*Ed.*)] Antony fell upon his sword and she clasped a poisonous viper to her breast. Upon their demise the once mighty Egypt was reduced to a Roman province.

Our final champion from this era is **Ptolemy** (100–168 CE). He may or may not be a descendent of the line derived from Alexander's general who became a ruler of Egypt from 323–283 BCE. In 305 he demanded to hold the Egyptian title *Pharaoh*. He sponsored the great mathematician Euclid and aspired to learn his wisdom, but was told: "Sire, there is no royal road to geometry!" The Ptolemy we are looking at lived some 400 years later. He wrote a book which was translated into Latin and republished a thousand years later under the title *Almagest*, which has enjoyed numerous reprints since. Although he held the common belief that the earth was at the center of our system he did develop a system to explain and forecast the movement of the planets and other heavenly bodies. He did know that the earth was not flat but spheroid in shape. His star catalogue listed some 1,200 stars. The title *Almagest* is from the Arabic words "the greatest!"

This period of unprecedented growth was to be followed by a dark period which would last until the 14th century, when there would be a movement to



The School of Athens fresco by Raphael, painted 1509–11 in the Apostolic Palace, Vatican, contains many of the philosophers mentioned in the article, a key to which may be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_School_of_Athens#Figures

return to learning based upon classical sources which came to be referred to as the Renaissance. There is a wide belief that this movement actually began in Florence, Italy and was centered upon three giants who would jumpstart the cultural development of mankind.

The first one we will look at is **Leonardo Da Vinci** (1452–1519), who Dan Brown made a household name in his recent best seller *The Da Vinci Code*. He was a great artist and his *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper* are amongst his best known works. This latter work does seriously question the position of Mary Magdalene as one of the followers of Jesus Christ. His anatomical and botanical drawings are equally important. His memorials include some 13,000 pages of scientific diagrams, architectural plans, inventions including such futuristic items as a helicopter and a battle tank, and theories regarding tectonics, the movement of the Earth's plates.

He was closely followed by another artistic giant, **Michelangelo Buonarroti** (1475–1564), a pre-eminent painter and sculptor of the Renaissance period. His marble statue *David* displayed his talent in making marble seem to come to life, and his painting of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel is magnificent both in terms of its beauty and also his interpretation of nine episodes from the Book of Genesis. Three decades later he was commissioned to paint, in fresco, *The Last Judgement* behind the altar in the Sistine Chapel.

This part of the world was not finished in supplying us with great men, as **Galileo Galilei** (1564–1642) — who was named by Stephen Hawking as perhaps the man most responsible for the birth of modern science —

would be born in the same year that Michelangelo died. He was supposed to study medicine, but mathematics and science fascinated him and while teaching mathematics he studied motion, especially pendulums, which would eventually be used to regulate clocks. He also challenged one of Aristotle's laws of physics, proving that gravity works equally on all objects, regardless of weight. After learning of the development of the telescope he built his own and was able to prove conclusively that Copernicus' theory of the sun being at the centre of our system was indeed correct! He was a religious man, but he openly questioned the Church's position and in 1633 the Inquisition found him guilty of heresy and while he escaped the normal penalty he was confined to his home where he continued his research. He died in 1642 with a tarnished name and reputation. It was not until 1992 that Pope John Paul II expressed regret for how the Galileo affair was handled and issued a declaration acknowledging the errors committed by the Catholic Church tribunal that judged the scientific positions of Galileo Galilei.

With the world poised to enter the industrial age, those who began speculative Freemasonry resolved to restore to the modern world the traditional mystic wisdom and science which were a part of the mysteries which, during the oppression of the Roman Empire, had been forced underground, where they smoldered for some 1500 years before bursting into flames once again. The light from that fire, assisted by that light which is from above, quickly spread across the face of the globe, carrying with it democracy, the respect for human rights and the quest for truth and knowledge.

Thoughts on Forming a New Lodge

From the Trestleboard of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research, November 2014

I write this notice having been privileged to attend the Consecration of a new Lodge last weekend. It was a day and an event that drew many from across the province to Okotoks, and it caused many of us to consider the commitment to the Craft that is required to see a new Lodge through from conception to constitution.

The energy required is extraordinary, for there are hurdles to overcome, and the process is more a marathon than a sprint. Over the course of two or perhaps three years, the idea has a framework developed; the framework is filled in; working pieces are found, put in place, and tested out in operation. It is not an easy thing to do, and we saw

the culmination of the process played out with WBro Mark Toon and the rest of Lodge Pythagoras 345 No. 202 taking their seats in the new Lodge and being installed by the massed members of Grand Lodge.

The thing is, or so it seems to me, that such an outpouring of energy and commitment was part of the beginning years of every Lodge. Each of our constituent Lodges, whether still extant or no longer with us, began with such enthusiasm and great hope. In every case, they begin to wane as the eager new members age, as the Lodge develops traditions and then becomes somewhat complacent in them, as generational change brings in more and more men

who do not know what it took to get the Lodge off the ground.

That level of commitment and energy can aid any Lodge in the jurisdiction, and it need not be a new one. The most successful Lodges show renewing bursts of energy and — dare I say it? — change every few years, for the Lodge needs to be what its members want it to be, not what its founders, back in the days of yore, wanted it to be. We see that in all Lodges, and we see that here in Fiat Lux Lodge of Research.

I would call upon all of our members, and on anyone who cares about the research Lodge(s) in Alberta, to ensure that their energy is applied, that they work to see that the Lodges of which they are members reflect the aims and goals — the enthusiasms — of their members. It is through the process of reassessment that enthusiasm is engendered and harnessed, and it is through the process of renewal that the Lodges grow and develop to reflect the desires of their members.

As the old year begins to wane, and the new year begins to loom before us, full of potential and energy, let us pause to consider what we want in our Lodge, and consider how we can best effect the Lodge to be what we want it to be. For we know that skill without exertion is of little avail, and that perseverance is necessary to establish perfection. Let us bring to the table our skills and our efforts so that we may enjoy the fruits of our labours in the years to come.

WBro R John Hayes, WM



There were 130 Brethren from 50 Lodges, over 30 of them Grand Lodge Officers, who attended the Consecration of Lodge Pythagoras 345 No. 202 at Okotoks Masonic Hall on 29 November 2014. The photo shows the Brethren of the newly Consecrated Lodge with the Grand Lodge Officers present.

Southern Alberta Tartan Degree Team Degree and Fundraiser

RWBro Joe Bratton, Secretary, Tartan Degree Team



On Thursday, 27 November 2014, the Southern Alberta Tartan Degree Team conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree on Bro Gary Gillan at Ashlar Lodge No. 28 in Calgary. The event was well attended, with over 50 Brethren present, and raised over \$1,100 for "A Centre to Celebrate! New Hope for Children with Dyslexia" and over \$300 for the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund.

Grand Master's Itinerary

January

- 1 Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92, New Year's Levee; Freemasons' Hall, Edm; GLO gather in small lodge room at 11 00 h; function commences at Noon
- 16–18 Al Azhar AGM and Installation of Officers; Potentates' Ball follows
- 22 Acacia Lodge No. 11, Burns Supper; Acacia Masonic Hall, Edm
- 23 Annual Burns Supper; Edmonton (no other information available)
- 26 Beacon Lodge No. 190, Annual Burns Night; Red Deer Freemasons' Hall; 18 00 h
- 28 Canada Lodge No. 165, Robbie Burns Night; King George Masonic Hall, Calgary; 18 00 h

Norwood Lodge No. 90 and the Milne Family

Within the first 100 years of its existence Norwood Lodge has had on its roll four generations of the same family. On 21 October 2014, the Lodge initiated four candidates. Three are members of the Milne family and represent three generations (grandfather, father and son). The great-grandfather, WBro Gilbert Milne, was also a member of Norwood and served as the Master of the Lodge in 1938–1939.

The candidates are, in front from left to right, Bro Alexander Milne (son), Bro Dennis Milne (father), Bro Patrick Milne (grandfather) and Bro Aldo Trombetta. Behind are RW Bro Sam Ekpe (Lodge Secretary), Bro Bill Curnew (Junior Warden), WBro Ron Fadden (Worshipful Master) and Bro Sheldon McKenna (Senior Warden).



North Dakota's Masonic Island

North Dakota Mason, November, 2012

Lake Metigoshe lies across the US-Canadian line. About 1.5 miles south of the Canadian boundary is a 7.2-acre spot of land, Masonic Island.

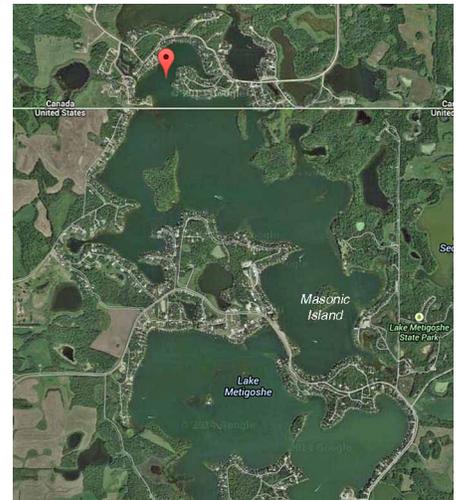
Its interesting history has been chronicled by James Savaloja, Past Grand Master and Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota. The island was owned by Brother V.B. Noble, a member of Tuscan Lodge, who purchased it from the Government in 1899. The first Masonic meeting was held there in 1906, when Tuscan Lodge opened Lodge and then permitted Westhope Lodge to confer the Master Mason Degree.

Over the years, the island was frequently used for Masonic meetings, with attendance sometimes reaching 500 or more. A complete outdoor Lodge room and a staircase leading up from the dock was built in 1935. In 1933, the land was transferred from Brother Noble's estate to the North Dakota Masonic Foundation, and was dedicated by the Grand Lodge in 1934.

According to MWBro Savaloja, "It is a known fact that Masonic Island was probably the first place where visas to enter the United States were lifted for Masons of Canada during WWII by an agreement between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Mackenzie King, who were both members of the Fraternity. This agreement stated that the Canadian Masons could enter the United States by boat from the north

shore of Lake Metigoshe, which is in Canada. As long as their feet never touched the shoreline of the lake in the US, and they landed only at Masonic Island when a meeting would be held, they would not be in violation of our wartime rules of entry."

Today, Masonic Island is being restored as a special historic location in the Turtle Mountains. The island lays claim to being the only spot in the area untouched by the fires and other disasters of nature which decimated old growths of oak trees and other flora and fauna. Because of the island's location in the center of the lake, it has some of oldest trees and unusual plants in the state.



Lake Metigoshe is on the border south of Brandon and just west of the International Peace Gardens. Canadian Masons would embark from the area indicated by the red marker.

Part of the "Lodge Room" on Masonic Island, a mile and a half south of the border on Lake Metigoshe in the Turtle Mountains of Manitoba and North Dakota. The island has the only remaining old growth timber in the area and had been used as a picnic area by Masons since 1904. Soon an area in the center of the five acre island was cleared and the emblems of the Order were set up. The first Lodge meeting was held there on 24 July 1906 when three Brethren were raised in three separate ceremonies. A full history may be found at <http://www.ndmasons.com/Library/Grimson/1947GGMI.pdf>



Your DDGMs 2014–2015

We are pleased to introduce to our readers the District Deputy Grand Masters serving the Craft in Alberta during the 2014–2015 term. This concludes the series.

Mighty Peace District

RWBro Geoff Milligan was born in Edmonton, Alberta in 1945. He was raised on a mixed farm near Bon Accord, just north of Edmonton. With a view toward a career on the farm, Geoff attended the University of Alberta and graduated with a degree in Agriculture in 1966. The opportunity to participate in the “Green Revolution” of the sixties, the opportunity for world travel and marriage to a like-minded young nursing graduate led to a two-year commitment to serve with the Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO) on assignment in India. Back in Canada Geoff went on to obtain a Master’s Degree in Community Development and returned to work with CUSO in Nigeria for another 14-month contract.

With the travel bug out his system, Geoff settled down to a 35-year career in community development and public administration with the Alberta and British Columbia governments. During most of his career Geoff and his family have lived in northern Alberta and BC. He was engaged in community and regional economic development, small business consulting and public administration. For seventeen years he worked in several different capacities with the Northern Alberta Development Council. Prior to his retirement in 2003 he was the Director of Child Welfare for Region 14 Child and Family Services in Peace River.

Having been raised in a community oriented family engagement in the community, church and school has always been a priority. After retirement, Geoff served three terms on the Peace River town council and continues to be involved as Treasurer of the Rotary Club, Chair of the Camp Artaban Foundation and on the board or as a volunteer with several non-profit organizations.

Geoff and Phyllis moved to Peace River for two years, stayed to raise their family and have retired there. They have two girls and three wonderful grand children.

His interest in Freemasonry comes from the example set out by his grandfather and uncles who were Masons. He was initiated 34 years ago into Peace River Lodge No 89. He served as Worshipful Master of Peace River Lodge in 1985 and has held several positions in the Lodge. He is currently the Secretary-Treasurer of that Lodge.

Northern Lights District

RWBro Martin Brown

No biography provided.



Palliser District

RWBro Peter D. Devlin was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1963. Peter served 22 years with the Canadian Army, and is now employed by the British Army in Suffield. He has been married to Kandie for 26 years, and they live in the town of Redcliff, outside of Medicine Hat. They have four children, ages 20 to 26: Adrienne, Gregory, Austin and Bernadette.

RWBro Devlin comes from a Masonic family, as his father and mother were involved in Masonry and Eastern Star. He began in the Order of DeMolay in Halifax in 1979. He was initiated, passed and raised in Coverdale Lodge No. 52, GLNB in 1984 and served as Worshipful Master for 2000 and 2001 in Centennial Lodge No. 53, GLNB. In 2002 he was appointed Grand Junior Deacon of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick.

He is a member of both Canadian and Ancient York Rite Lodges in Medicine Hat: Mizpah Lodge No. 35 and Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2. He is very active in both York and Scottish Rite bodies, and is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. He has served as presiding officer in most of the concordant bodies, as well as holding Grand positions.

Peter has spent three decades involved in Masonry and has been asked several times what motivates him to continue. The answer is simple, “For the love of it.”

Phoenix District

RWBro Robin McKinnon

No biography provided.

