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Physical penalties

At the November meeting of the **Vancouver Lodge of Education and Research** a debate was held on whether or not retaining the physical penalties in the obligations benefits Freemasonry.

The affirmative team of W Bro. Michael Yule of **Mount Hermon Lodge No. 7** and Bro. Kent Johansen of **Lodge Southern Cross No. 44** proposed arguments ranging from appeals to tradition; a belief that the history and symbolism of the penalties were unique aspects of Freemasonry; and objections to a perceived appeasement of outside pressure. The negative team of W Bro. Neil Jump of **Richmond Lodge No. 142** and W Bro. Robin Y. Smith of **Centennial-King George Lodge No. 171** stressed the fact that our penalties are not landmarks and do not predate 1717; that the three premier Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland relocated

the penalties in the ritual outside the obligation many years ago; and made the observation that the penalties were obviously never intended to be put into practice.

Both teams presented well-researched histories of the introduction of the penalties into our ritual, their evolution through the many published exposures of the eighteenth century, and the objections of non-masons to their inclusion.

An interesting sidelight was also given with an explanation of the sources for the physical penalties in various military and civil codes.

A telling argument was made with the observation that in every working the phrase "under no less a penalty than...." precedes the physical penalty. In effect the physical penalties are not the masonic penalties but an indication that the real penalties—of being shunned by the brethren and living with the knowledge that

I have a number of questions that I would like us to ask ourselves and a number of suggestions that I feel may benefit our Craft.

We must continue to do what we do—but do it better! We have been a positive force in the world for at least three centuries. We must be doing something right. But we must continue to improve our work, and ourselves as human beings and freemasons.



MWBro. C. William Ferguson

I urge you to greet everyone at the door of the lodge. Fellowship and friendship are the essence of our Craft. We must be sure everyone who comes into our lodge is made to feel welcome and an important part of the proceedings. Brethren must look forward at the end of the evening to the next meeting; not wonder why they bothered coming.

We must carefully plan what we are going to do. Whether it is the planning of programmes, entertainment or community service—whatever it might be, it must be done with forethought and care to ensure its success.

We must develop leadership among all our members. It is not just our Worshipful Masters and principal officers who provide

What we must do

leadership, leadership comes in many forms and

should involve everyone in the lodge. Opportunities for brethren to take on leadership rôles must be created, welcomed and encouraged. Ask your District Deputy Grand Master when your district will be having a Leadership Workshop.

Charity is one of the basic principles of Freemasonry. Are we doing enough in this area? Are we looking at creative and enjoyable ways to raise money for charity?

Are we relevant in this day and age? Although I must stress the preëminence of the Craft lodges, we must not forget the

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he is a wilfully perjured individual—are greater penalties than any physical penalty could ever be.

The discussion amongst the brethren after the debate was one of the more spirited seen at this lodge.

While an attempt was made to follow the rules of formal debate, rather than using judges, the brethren were asked to vote on which team they felt had presented the best

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argument. Of the thirty-six brethren present, including RW Bro. David Officer who was attending for his official visit to the lodge, and one Entered Apprentice, the result was three to one to retain the penalties in their present form. ■

Compasses

The question is sometimes posed, which is correct: compass or compasses? According to the *Oxford English Dictionary* the plural, "a pair of compasses" or "compasses," is common in the Romance languages while the singular, "compass", is usual in the Teutonic. Although there is some uncertainty regarding the word's history, its possible origin in the Latin "compassus" would explain our current pronunciation.

The term applied to an instrument for describing circles predates that for a mariner's compass, the first meaning to step over or stride with the legs apart while the second is derived from the face of a sundial. The OED concludes by stating that any current usage can only be considered provisional and conditional on further research into the root terms. Usage in the 13th to 17th centuries varied between compas, compass, compasse, compasses, and compasses.



W Bro. Palmer Cox

The earliest exposures of our ritual in the 18th century—*A Mason's Examination, The Secrets of Masonry Made Known to all Men, Three Distinct Knocks, and Masonry Dissected*—spelt it "compasses."

Again according to the OED, dividers, or dividing compasses, are a kind of compasses worked by means of a screw fastened to one leg and passing through the other, or a simple pair of compasses with steel points.

While the graphic representation found in masonic iconography is properly speaking a form of dividing compasses, the simpler term "compasses" better satisfies our symbolic values involving boundaries, proportion, regularity and order; meanings which can also be traced to as early as the 14th century. ■

Another name

Masonic Service Association.

In the city of Fulda, Germany, a quarrel arose earlier this year about naming the new high school in that city. The name of Professor Karl Ferdinand Braun had been suggested because he was a Nobel Prize winner in Physics and the inventor of the TV picture tube.

However, his name was objected to in this city of Bishops, because he had been a Protestant; was believed to have been a freemason, and was cremated.

The discussion about the naming of the high school was broken off by the Mayor, Dr. Cuno Raade, with the observation, "There's still lots of time for naming the building before it is completed."

The new building was finally finished and ready for dedication. In the meantime those who were in favour of naming the school for Professor Braun had succeeded in proving that

Professor Braun was not a freemason; yet the new high school was named after Baron von Stein, the "Father of Local Self Government."

But here is the payoff. The "Father of Local Self Government," the Baron Heinrich von Stein (1757-1831), was an enthusiastic freemason who, like George Washington, had derived his political principles from the ideals of Freemasonry. ■

Lodge minutes

Please be advised that the Grand Secretary's Office has been informed by the Chairman of the Constitution Committee that sending lodge minutes to brethren, either electronically, by hand or by mail, contravenes regulation 159 of our *Book of Constitutions*. He further suggests that a few highlights included in the lodge notice would be acceptable providing the intent of Regulation 159 is observed. ■

Cancer Cars

The Cancer Car Project requires seventy drivers, ten dispatchers and ten computer operators to complete its allotted task each week.

The project runs five days a week with two shifts per day: 7:00 am to noon and noon to 5:00 or 6:00pm.

Volunteers are needed for all three jobs: drivers take patients to the clinic and home again after treatment; dispatchers are responsible for directing the cars to pick up patients; and computer operators are required for data entry. Please consider volunteering.

The Vancouver Coördinator, Don FitzPatrick, can be contacted at 604-465-0987 or leave a message at the Project office: 604-872-2034. ■

Publicity

MW Bro. Donald Mumby, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, was recently interviewed by Ian Gillespie, of the *London Free Press* in what resulted in a favourable review of the Craft. MW Bro. Mumby was in London to present a three-year \$105,000 donation to the University of Western Ontario's Dr. Richard Seewald for his work with hearing-impaired infants. The writer also claimed to have had the grips of the three degrees demonstrated and explained to him, which may raise eyebrows in not a few quarters.

This past summer **Mount Elphinstone No. 130** received a bit of favourable publicity when a local newspaper columnist interviewed the "affable" W Bro. Ray Middlemiss and wrote an article on the history of their recently refurbished lodge hall. ■

Assistance

The Trustees of the Board of Benevolence wish to remind all lodges that where genuine need exists, there is assistance available to members as well as their widows, orphans and dependents from the Benevolent Fund. The necessary application forms are available from our Grand Secretary's Office. ■

Istanbul

The November 23, 2003 bombing in Istanbul included several brethren amongst the twenty-seven dead and resulted in the Grand Lodge of Turkey ordering a temporary closure of all masonic halls. The Turkish Minister of the Interior promised increased protection, as there have been threats to the Craft and to individual freemasons.

One anonymous claimant

for responsibility for the bombing also stated: "Our attacks on the centres of international freemasonry will continue."

Charities

This year's Lights of Hope display at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver has one more star, thanks to a \$10,000 donation from our Grand Lodge.

Nelson Lodge No. 23 has established the Nelson Masonic Lodge Bursary Fund with its donation of \$50,000 to the Osprey Community Fund in October. The donation received suitable coverage in the *Nelson Daily News*.

Our Grand Master has directed that all funds donated to the forest fire fund should be forwarded to our Grand Secretary's Office where they will then be distributed to the appropriate lodges. No receipts for tax receipts can be issued.

The Grand Lodge of New York has recently given an accounting of the monies collected for the World Trade Center Disaster Fund Drive. Of a total \$3,035,000 collected, something less than one million was distributed to masonic families while the balance went to various emergency services organizations, children's societies and other groups. No monies collected went to operational costs, the Grand Lodge of New York donating the cost of overhead and expenses.

With the assistance of the Masonic Relief for Cuba Committee **Logia Humanidad**, Santiago de Cuba has started a medical clinic staffed by two doctors as well as supplying medicine to the Masonic Home for the Aged in Havana.

W Bro. Doug Wellington, Worshipful Master of **Admiral Lodge No. 170** on Salt Spring Island, presented a cheque for \$10,000 to Mrs. Karen Davies, Manager, Patient/Client Services-Southern Gulf Islands, who received it on behalf of



Mrs. Karen Davies and W Bro. Doug Wellington

the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation.

The hospital is currently engaged in an ambitious expansion programme involving upgrades of both buildings and equipment. The lodge has had a long relationship with the hospital, as shortly after its construction on the current site in the late 1950s, the lodge provided the furnishings for a ward in the Acute Care wing and over the years many volunteer hours have been provided by the brethren.

Lodge notes

Kootenay Lodge No. 15 was unable to meet in November due to a fire in the building adjoining the lodge hall. While the fire did not damage the lodge hall, there was extensive water and smoke damage.

The chairman of our Constitutions Committee, W Bro. Ray T. Bryant of **Vancouver Quadra No. 2**, can be justifiably proud of his son Michael's appointment as Attorney General for Ontario.

The Brethren of **Prince David Lodge No. 101** in Maple Ridge were justly proud when the Grand Master, MW Bro. C. William Ferguson presented three of their

brethren with long service jewels during his recent visit to District 28: Bro. Graham Mowatt for 60 years, Bro. Russell Newman for 50 years and Bro. Leslie Osborn for 50 years. While Bro. Robert Verhoeve—a fourth recipient—could not attend, together they celebrated a total of 210 years of Freemasonry.

Selecting our DDGMs

The method of choosing DDGMs is outlined in our *Book of Constitutions and Regulations*, Section R3 (7).

"After confidential consultation at a meeting to be attended by a Past District Deputy Grand Master (when possible) from each lodge in the District, to submit to the Grand Secretary, not later than the first day of January in his year of office, three or more names of suitable candidates for appointment at the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, to the office of District Deputy Grand Master for his District, from which names the incoming Grand Master, if he sees fit, select a nominee."

There are a number of directives made in the above that should be noted:

The confidentiality of this process must be stressed. Discussion or comment outside of the meeting is not acceptable. The names of candidates should never be mentioned outside this meeting.

Although a minimum of one Past DDGM from each lodge in the District is asked for, common courtesy and a concern to select the best candidates would require that all Past DDGMs in the District should be consulted. Those who cannot attend a meeting should be contacted by phone.

In some Districts of wide geographical area, a meeting may be impractical. Phone calls to all Past DDGMs in the

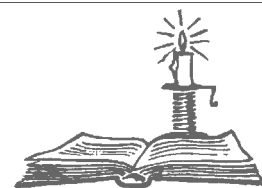
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District will work although it is not as effective as face-to-face consultation.

Note that the report must be submitted to the Grand Secretary by the first day of January. He will pass it along, unread, to the Deputy Grand Master.

On this report there is a section for recommending freemasons for other Grand Lodge offices. Recognition can be given for Past Masters of long service and seniority.

The DDGMs rôle has changed over the years. Seniority should no longer be the factor for nominating a Past Master for this office. He must have managerial skills that enable him to perform the duties of this office. The best man for the job should be selected. Some districts rotate the position through their lodges—some do not. The procedure that the district is familiar with should be the one followed.

It is important to realize that the names submitted are only a guide to the Deputy Grand Master. The brethren that he chooses are his representatives and he may select whosoever he feels is best suited to the job. It is his choice. If the whole process is kept confidential there will be few disappointments. However, it is very unmasonic to complain after he has made his choice. ■

Grand Masonic Day

Vancouver Grand Masonic Day will be held on Saturday, February 21. Speakers this year will include Bro. Marc Desjardins of **Lynn Valley Lodge No. 122** and Bro. John Chacko of **Kamloops Lodge No. 10**.

The afternoon session will be an exemplification of the Entered Apprentice Degree by the officers of **Centennial-**

King George Lodge No. 171, with commentary by the committee chairman and Education Officer for District 25, Bro. Mark S. Dwor.

The cost to attend—for two speakers, lunch and the afternoon session, as well as a copy of the proceedings—is still only \$30. Tickets are available at the door only, Freemasons' Hall, 1495 West Eighth Avenue, Vancouver, at 9:00 am.

A tradition in some lodges is to pay for their newest members' tickets; this practice is heartily endorsed.

On the preceding evening, Friday, February 20, the **Vancouver Lodge of Education and Research** will present a programme of masonic music for our Grand Master's visit.

Brethren who want to make a masonic weekend of it, will be interested in the District 25 Table Lodge, to be held at Marpole Masonic Hall, 8486 Granville, at 7:00 pm. Contact the chairman of District 25 Masters, Wardens and Deacons Association, Bro. Daniel S. Ferguson at 604-272-3260. ■

Research

For those interested in research into Freemasonry, its history and current activities, the following will be of some assistance. These organizations publish books and magazines on masonic topics and themes, providing researched, documented information.

The Masonic Service Association

Silver Springs, Maryland, 20910-4785

Publication: *Short Talk Bulletin*

Ihmbra Society

P.O. Box 449, Dundee. Il. 60118

Publication: *Ihmbra*

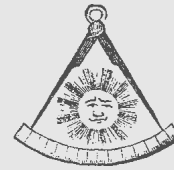
The Philaethes Society

Drawer 70, Highland Springs, VA 23075

Publication: *The Philaethes*

St. Alban's Research Society

P.O. Box 10361, College Station, TX 77842-0361



GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY DECEMBER, 2003

6	Sat	Board of General Purposes	Vancouver
13	Sat	Principal Officers meeting	Vancouver
13	Sat	District No. 17 Lynn Valley No. 122	North Vancouver

Publication: *American Masonic Review*

In addition, **Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076** in England publishes an annual entitled *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*, available through the Library at Grand Lodge ■

Incoming

Bro. H.R. Ashlie of **Fidelity Lodge No. 32** writes in response to a recent article on the exclusion of women from Freemasonry to propose that when common washrooms become acceptable to the majority of society it would certainly follow that the Craft at that time should consider admission of the fairer sex, but not before then. Your editor is unsure if the metaphor is apt, much less flattering.

In recent correspondence, Bro. Michael Green of **Rainbow Lodge No. 180** has

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masonic family of appendant and concordant bodies which offer many opportunities for personal satisfaction beyond the basic three degrees. Freemasonry must see itself involving all members of our own families, to create a larger family where all are welcome.

We must attract new members! This is a large and complex challenge. I offer the thought, if it works, keep it—if it doesn't, get rid of it!

Do we understand our ritual? If not, reread it, discuss it, seek expert comment; ensure it is not just memorized for our

given much time and thought to the symbols of Freemasonry, their practical application in our lives and their deeper application to our individual spiritual development. He exhorts us all to trust and respect our higher selves when faced with the many choices and temptations that flesh is heir to. He posits a daily struggle between our lower natures and higher selves and concludes that as we have been given free will, in the final analysis, we are what we choose to be.

Bro. Rob Bell-Irving of **Discovery Lodge No. 149**, Campbell River, writes to thank us for the "truly excellent" Masonic Alphabet in the October issue and would like to see further issues dedicated to educational themes, believing that the general dumbing down of society should not be tolerated in our Craft. ■

meetings but meditated upon for action in our lives.

Set Goals! Plan for them—and achieve them!

And finally, let me remind you that we are here to enjoy ourselves! This is of paramount importance—we must enjoy what we do, and share that enjoyment with others. "To please each other and to unite in the great design of communicating happiness." ■

Thanks are extended to W Bro. Harry Seddon of Tsawwassen Lodge No. 185 for taking these notes when MW Bro. C. William Ferguson addressed the brethren of District 25 at the Ladner lodge hall during his visit this past October.