

Caring for Your Masonic Treasures

(reprinted with permission of Phoenix Masonry.com)

We at the National Heritage Museum often receive calls from Masonic lodges asking how to preserve their historic documents—diaries, manuscripts, charters, minute books, and certificates—as well as their photographs and books. We have produced this booklet to help fill this need. It will help you preserve your lodge's history by extending your collection's life as long as possible. This booklet outlines various preservation techniques and explains:

- how they relate to what the items are made of.
- how they counteract environmental influences that can age the items in your collection.
- how to store your documents and books appropriately, and
- how to contact and hire a professional conservator to repair damaged documents and books.

With these suggestions in hand, you can start preserving your Masonic lodge collections right away.

COMPOSITION

When you are planning to preserve your historic collections, the first thing to consider is what the items are made of. Some materials simply last longer than others. Organic materials - ones that come from plant or animal sources - are more likely to deteriorate than inorganic materials. For example, paper and leather are more fragile than ceramics or stone. Other materials break down more quickly because of "inherent vice" which is inevitable deterioration, often caused by the materials the item is made of. One example is common wood-pulp papers that produce acid as they degrade. The following is a description of materials that make up paper, inks, photographs, and books and what makes them deteriorate naturally.

Paper

Most Masonic lodge documents are made of paper. Paper is made of plant fibers such as cotton, wood, flax, straw, and mulberry that have been reduced to pulp, suspended in water and then matted into sheets. However, some lodge documents from the late 1700s, such as certificates and charters, were made from animal skin, called parchment or vellum. This material is more stable and durable than paper.

Some types of paper are more chemically stable than others - that is, some types do not deteriorate as quickly as others do. Paper from the 1700s and early 1800s is generally quite strong and flexible because of its cotton and rag content. In the late 1800s, as papermaking became more mechanized, new processes and materials resulted in much less expensive but shorter-lasting paper. Manufacturers began to use ground wood pulp because it was plentiful and cheap. However, it does not produce stable paper because it produces acid as it ages.

How durable ink is depends on what it is made of. There are many types of inks including carbon ink, iron gall ink, and copying inks. Iron gall ink, commonly used in pens in the 1700s and 1800s, fades when exposed to light. Because this ink is made of iron mixed with several

types of acid, it can burn into paper. Other inks bleed through the pages onto adjoining ones over time, producing smudges or shadows.

Photographs

Collections of historical documents often include photographs. A photograph consists of a support or base, usually paper, upon which an image-bearing chemical layer, or emulsion, is applied. The photographic images are formed when the emulsion is exposed to light. The most common emulsion is gelatin, and the image in most black-and-white prints is made of a fine metallic silver dust. Although photographs can be made of different support or base materials, such as metal, glass, or plastic film, we will only consider paper prints here because they are the most common in historic Masonic lodge collections.

Books

Although books have been made since medieval times, the ones in your lodge's collection are probably less than 200 years old, so we will consider only these types of books here). Each book includes many different materials. The pages are made of paper, which are sewn together with thread. The cover is made of cloth or leather stiffened with boards and the pages are glued into the cover using a piece of heavy gauze.

As with documents, the quality of paper used in books varies greatly. Paper high in wood pulp content, introduced in the late 1800s, is very acidic. Pages made of this paper will turn yellow, dry out, and begin to crumble into dust within just a few years. However, a book printed on acid-free paper can last a long time.

All of the following preservation techniques will help slow down the natural processes of deterioration in paper, ink, photographs, and books.

ENVIRONMENT

Where and how you store your Masonic lodge documents, photographs, and books can greatly affect how long they will survive. This section will help you understand how light, temperature, and humidity can affect these collections and what you can do to keep the environment stable and moderate.

Light

Exposure to light, even for a short time, is damaging. This deterioration is cumulative and irreversible— that is, once a document has faded, it cannot be restored, and further exposure to light will fade it more. For this reason, items in your collection should not be exhibited for more than three to four months. Light also weakens paper, making it brittle, or it can cause the paper to bleach, yellow, or darken. Light also causes inks to fade or change color, making the documents and books difficult to read. It can also fade bookbindings. Exposure to light can discolor photographs, especially color prints.

Although all types of light are damaging, invisible ultraviolet (UV) radiation is especially harmful to documents, photographs, and books. Sunlight and artificial fluorescent light emit high levels of UV energy, so they are the most destructive. Ideally historic documents, photographs, and books should be exposed to light only while they are being used. When not in use they should be stored in a windowless room that is lighted with incandescent bulbs. If your storage area has

windows, you should cover them with drapes, shades, blinds, or shutters that completely block the sun. These simple changes to your storage area can keep the items in it from fading.

Temperature and Relative Humidity

Extreme temperatures and high humidity contribute significantly to the breakdown of paper and other materials, so keeping a constant environment in your building is crucial for preserving historic documents, books, and photographs. Heat greatly speeds up deterioration with each increase in temperature of 18° F approximately doubling the rate of most harmful chemical reactions. Relative humidity is the relation of moisture in the air to temperature. High relative humidity causes chemical changes to paper. In combination with high temperature, humidity encourages mold growth and insect activity on all types of materials. These high levels of humidity and temperature also soften gelatin emulsions in photographs, causing them to stick to other surfaces. Extremely low relative humidity, which can occur in centrally heated buildings during the winter months, causes certain types of paper and books to become brittle. It can also cause emulsion layers on photographs to crack or peel.

Frequent small changes in temperature and relative humidity are even more damaging than constant extremes. Because paper and books easily absorb and release moisture, they expand and contract in response to daily and seasonal changes in temperature and humidity. These changes accelerate deterioration, causing paper or parchment to wrinkle, ink to flake, emulsion to crack or separate from the base layers on photographs, and book covers to warp.

The best temperature for storing materials is between 65° F and 70° F and the best relative humidity is between 30% and 50%. A combination thermometer and hygrometer measures both temperature and relative humidity accurately, and can be purchased inexpensively. Climate control equipment as simple as a room air conditioner, a humidifier, or a dehumidifier can help maintain a constant temperature and relative humidity, slowing the deterioration of materials considerably. Buildings should be well maintained, and cracks that allow water leaks should be sealed as soon as they appear. Doors and windows should be weather stripped and kept closed at all times.

STORAGE ENCLOSURES

Proper storage can increase the life of Masonic documents and photographs. When planning storage, you should consider the size, shape, and composition of the items. Then purchase boxes, folders, and shelving made of appropriate materials.

Enclosures for Documents and Photographs

To ensure they last a long time, you should store your rare and valuable Masonic lodge charters, certificates, and photographs in protective boxes, folders, and envelopes. These storage enclosures should provide physical support for documents and photographs. Items should be stored individually or in small groups, and the size and shape of each folder or envelope should match the item in it. Boxes should be able to close properly.

Some storage enclosures are made of materials that can actually damage the historic lodge documents and photographs they are intended to protect, so you must choose your boxes, folders, envelopes, and sleeves carefully. You may be surprised that specialized storage

materials are only slightly more expensive than standard office supplies, and they will greatly lengthen the life of your documents and photographs.

Paper and paperboard boxes and folders are recommended because they are opaque, which means they can protect documents from exposure to light. Enclosures should be acid-free as well as lignin-free. Acid-free paper and paperboard have a neutral pH. They are made with very little added acid and a large amount of alkaline chemical that neutralizes the acids that are there. Lignin is an unstable, light-sensitive component of wood pulp that breaks down into acid compounds as it ages. Suppliers of these acid-free, lignin-free boxes, folders, and other storage materials are listed on page 17 of this booklet.

See-through plastic sleeves are helpful for storing documents or photographs because there is less need to handle documents that are visible. Before buying these sleeves, read the labels on the packages carefully. Some types of plastic, such as those containing plasticizers or vinyls, can damage documents. Mylar D, a nearly inert polyester, is recommended. These clear enclosures are available at stores like Staples. Polyethylene and polypropylene that do not contain plasticizers can also be used for storing paper items. Avoid using plastic sleeves that contain polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which reacts readily with many other materials and can damage historic documents and photographs.

Mylar D is best for storing photographs. Sleeves should be slightly larger than the photographs, should not exert pressure on them during insertion or storage, and should not distort their shape. The sleeves should be stored flat, but with no pressure from piling other photographs on top. Many mounted prints become curved over time, and flattening them can crack both the emulsion and the mount. Consult with a conservator or archivist before attempting to flatten photographs. Unmounted prints should be stored in rigid, supportive folders or sleeves made of either acid-free paper or inert plastic. You can insert a piece of acid-free paperboard into the plastic sleeve, under the photo, to provide this support.

Remove all lodge charters, certificates, and photographs from their frames before storing them in individual enclosures as described above. Also remove matting, which is often made of acidic paper and can accelerate the deterioration of the items it is attached to. If matting cannot be removed easily, then consult a conservator.

Enclosures for Books

Rare, valuable Masonic books should be stored in custom-made boxes designed to give them structural support and to protect them from dust, dirt, and light. Again, these boxes should be made of acid-free, lignin-free paperboard, which will protect the books from the acidity and oils in leather bindings that migrate into paper and cloth bindings of nearby books and speed up their deterioration.

All damaged books should be boxed. Two types of boxes are recommended for preserving books: clamshell boxes and phase boxes. Clamshell boxes give the most support, so you should use them for storing extremely valuable books. They consist of a case and two trays that fit into one another. You will need a conservator to make this type of box. Phase boxes give less support than clamshell boxes, so you can use them for books of lesser value. They are made of two pieces of acid-free paperboard wrapped around the book and sealed with Velcro. You can make these boxes yourself at your lodge. Instructions can be found in a University Products catalog.

Each box should fit well around the book inside it. If the box is too loose, it will not give the needed support and the book will have room to shift. If the box is too tight, it can damage the edges of the book cover. Thinner books or pamphlets can be stored in acid-free envelopes, although these envelopes provide less support.

STORAGE METHODS

Storage Methods for Documents and Photographs

Once you have all your documents in folders, you need to put the folders into appropriate boxes. Only similar items should be stored together. For example, do not store single sheets of paper or photographs in the same box as books or pamphlets. Heavy or bulky objects should be stored separately from lighter, smaller ones. The difference in bulk and weight causes uneven pressure in the boxes, and can damage the items inside.

Because acid from cheap paper affects any other paper it comes in direct contact with, you should separate more acidic from less acidic items. Newspaper clippings, for example, are extremely acidic and can stain or discolor historical manuscripts and books. Always remove newspaper clippings from Masonic manuscripts or books and place them in acid-free envelopes. Use an Abbey pH pen on a small, unseen corner to tell if paper is acidic or alkaline. A mark made on acidic paper will turn yellow, while a mark on alkaline paper will turn purple. You can purchase Abbey pH pens from University Products.

Do not unfold documents and manuscripts for storage unless you can do so without splitting, breaking, or damaging them. If the paper is flexible and will lie flat in a folder, you can unfold it. Otherwise, leave the document folded until you can consult with a conservator. Before storing historic documents, remove all fasteners, including staples, paper clips, rubber bands, and pins. Place about ten to fifteen sheets of paper in each folder, unless the documents are especially valuable or fragile. Then fewer sheets should be stored in each folder.

Keep the folders in acid-free, lignin-free storage boxes. All folders should conform to the size of the box. Do not stuff or overcrowd boxes. Boxes can be stored either flat or upright. Flat storage supports the documents, prevents their edges from crumbling, and keeps the paper from becoming curved. However, flat storage causes documents in the bottom of the box to bear the weight of those above. For example, a delicate parchment Masonic charter might be crushed if it is stored in the bottom of a box full of certificates. Documents and folders can be stored upright if they are supported by spacer boards, which are pieces of corrugated acid-free paperboard you insert into a box to take up unused space and support the documents. These spacer boards prevent documents from curving and protect their edges from damage. Make sure that no folders and boxes are too large or heavy for you to handle safely.

Once you have inserted individual photographs into plastic sleeves, they should be stored flat, to provide overall support and avoid bending. As with documents, similar-sized items should be stored together in flat files or flat boxes. Storing items of different sizes together can cause scratching and breaking.

Storage Methods for Books

Books should be stored upright on shelves with other books of the same size, with bookends at both ends of each shelf. Shelves should be full, but not too tight. When books lean to one side or the other, their bindings can become strained. If books are shelved too tightly, the bindings can be damaged when you remove them from the shelf. When removing a book from the shelf, grasp it by the middle of its spine, not the top or bottom. Oversize books should be stored flat on separate shelves, giving them the support they need. Before putting books on the shelves, remove all bookmarks, newspaper clippings, and pressed flowers from between the pages. These items are acidic, and can damage or discolor the paper. Do not use Scotch tape to mend detached bindings. Instead use neutral pH glue such as Lineco, which you can purchase from University Products or consult with a book conservator.

Storage Furniture and Buildings

Once you have your collection safely in folders and boxes, you can put everything into storage rooms. The best flat files and shelving for documents and books are made of anodized aluminum or steel with various powder coatings. They should have a smooth, nonabrasive finish. Baked enamel and wood give off harmful acids and gases such as formaldehyde, so you should avoid them. Drawers in flat files should be no more than two inches deep, because stacking items in deep drawers puts extra weight on the ones on the bottom. This weight causes stress on them when they are removed. Careful storage of items will protect them and make it easier to handle them safely when you need them.

Shelves should not be placed directly against exterior or basement walls because excessive moisture or condensation can build up or actual leaks can develop. Never store materials below water pipes, steam pipes, lavatories, air conditioning equipment, or any other potential sources of leakage. Leaky pipes can cause serious harm to collections.

Store historic material at least four inches above the floor, and avoid keeping them in basements or attics. For good ventilation, there should be at least twelve inches between any storage unit and the wall or ceiling. Avoid structural elements such as pipes or light fixtures. To help prevent leaks, have your roof inspected regularly and repaired as needed. Also clean your gutters and drains frequently.

With these suggestions in hand, you can start preserving your Masonic lodge collections right away. Start piece by piece, then group the items, and then store everything in a special room.

WORKING WITH A CONSERVATOR

Some items in a collection of historic documents, photographs, or books are so significant and fragile that they need conservation—that is, they require more care than basic preservation techniques allow. Conservation treatment chemically stabilizes and physically strengthens items to lengthen their lives, often using non-original material. An example would include repairing a torn historic letter using a new piece of Japanese paper. Although conservation can be expensive and time-consuming, it is sometimes necessary to protect your rare and valuable documents and books).

Some specialists work with paper, and others work with photographs or books. You can call a local museum, library, or the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) for referrals to

professional conservators who practice in your area. They can also provide an outline of what to expect from a conservator. Be prepared to provide the conservator with information about:

- the type of problem you want solved (for example, torn paper, brittleness, fading image, or detached binding).
- how you expect to use the piece (for example, for an exhibit in Masonic lodge).
- environmental conditions such as light, temperature, and humidity in your storage area
- what type of folders, boxes, and shelving you are using, and
- what outcome you desire from treatment of your item (for example, repair a torn certificate, reattach the binding to a book, flatten a rolled photograph).

Once you contact a conservator, he or she will come to your facility to briefly examine the document or book and propose treatment. If you decide to proceed, the conservator will then take the historic document, photograph, or book back to his or her laboratory to prepare an in-depth report describing the materials and structure of the item, how it was made, and the location and extent of damage to be repaired. Along with this report, he or she will provide a written treatment proposal with different options for correcting the problem, including what each option would accomplish, how long it would take, and what it would cost. Once you choose an option, the conservator can begin work.

After the conservator finishes treatment of the document, photograph, or book, he or she should provide you with a final report listing the techniques and materials used. It should also include photographs or slides showing the condition of the piece both before and after treatment. You should keep this report in your lodge records in case the piece needs additional treatment later.

CONCLUSION

This brochure has recommended techniques you can use to preserve your Masonic lodge's documents and books yourself. It has also provided information on hiring an outside professional to conserve especially fragile or rare pieces. Prioritize your projects, keeping your budget in mind. If you have to choose, it is better to create a stable environment for most of the collection than to have a few items conserved.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Most of these books and journals can be found at your local library, bookstore, or on the Internet at amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com.

American Institute for Conservation. *Guidelines for Selecting a Conservator*. Washington, D.C.: AIC, 1991.

Applebaum, Barbara. *Guide to Environmental Protection of Collections*. Madison, Conn.: Sound View Press. 1991.

Baldwin, Gordon. *Looking at Photographs*. Malibu, Calif.: J. Paul Getty Museum. 1991.

Clapp, Anne F. *Curatorial Care of Works of Art on Paper*. New York: Nick Lyons Books. 1987.

Cunha, George M. "Conserving Local Archival Materials on a Limited Budget." AASLH Technical Leaflet #86. *History News*, Vol. 30, November 1975.

DeWitt, Donald I. "Leather Bookbindings: Preservation Techniques." AASLH Technical Leaflet #98. *History News*, Vol. 32. August 1977.

Eaton, George. *Conservation of Photographs* (Kodak Publication No. F-4). Rochester, N.Y.: Eastman Kodak Company, 1985.

Gaylord Preservation Pathfinder. Syracuse, N.Y.: Gaylord Bros., 1998.

Glaser, Mary Todd. "Storage Solutions for Oversized Paper Artifacts." AASLH Technical Leaflet #188, *History News*, Vol. 49. July/August 1994.

Greenfield, Jane. *Books: Their Care and Repair*. New York: H. W. Wilson, 1983.

Greenfield, Jane, *the Care of Fine Rooks*. New York: Nick Lyons Books [Distributed by Lyons and Burford], 1988.

Handle with Care: Preserving Your Heirlooms. Rochester, N.Y.: Rochester Museum & Science Center. 1991.

Long, Richard W. *Caring for Your Family Treasures: Heritage Preservation*. New York: Harry N. Abrams. 2000.

Macleish, Bruce, and Greg Harris. "Bringing Up Boomer: Archival Care of Mid-Twentieth Century Media." AASLH Technical Leaflet #195. *History News*, Vol. 51, Autumn 1996.

Martin, Elizabeth. *Collecting and Preserving Old Photographs*. London: William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd., 1988.

Mibach, Lisa. "Collections Care: What to Do When You Can't Afford to Do Anything." AASLH Technical Leaflet #198. *History News*, Vol. 52. Summer 1997.

Ogden, Sherelyn, ed. *Preservation of Library and Archival Materials: A Manual*. Andover, Mass.: Northeast Document Conservation Center, 1992 & 1999

Perkinson, Roy L. and Francis W. Dolloff. *How to Care for Works of Art on Paper*. 4th ed. Boston: Museum of Fine Arts. 1985

Ritzenthaler, Mary Lynn. *Preserving Archives and Manuscripts*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1993.

Ritzenthaler, Mary, Gerald Munoff, and Margery Long. *Administration of Photographic Collections*. Chicago:

Society of American Archivists. 1984. Tribolet, Harold W. "Rare Book and Paper Repair Techniques." AASLH Technical Leaflet #13. *History News*. Vol. 25. March 1970.

Vanderbilt, Paul. "Filing Your Photographs: Some Basic Procedures." AASLH Technical Leaflet #36. *History News*. Vol. 21, June 1966.

Wilson. William K. Environmental Guidelines for the Storage of Paper Records. NISO Technical Report: I. Bethesda. Md.: National Information Standards Organization, 1995.

COLLECTION CARE RESOURCES

Resources for Conservation Help

American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) 1400 16th Street NW, Suite 340 Washington, D.C. 20036 Telephone: (202) 232-6636 Fax: (202) 452-9328 E-mail: InfoAIC@aol.com

Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts 264 South 23rd Street Philadelphia. PA 19103 Telephone: (215) 545-0613 Fax: (215) 735-9313 www.ccaha.org E-mail: ccaha@hsle.org books, paper documents

Intermuseum Conservation Association Allen Art Building 83 North Main Street Oberlin, OH 44074 Telephone: (440) 775-7331 Fax: (216) 774-3431 paintings, paper

Northeast Document Conservation Center 100 Brickstone Square Andover, MA 01810-1494 Telephone: (978) 470-1010 Fax: (978) 475-6021 E-mail: nedcc@nedcc.org www.nedcc.org books, paper, photographs

Upper Midwest Conservation Association c/o The Minneapolis Institute of Arts 2400 Third Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55404 Telephone: (612) 870-3120 Fax: (612) 870-3118 www.preserveart.org paper, paintings, sculpture

Storage Material Suppliers

Gaylord Bros. PO. Box 4901 Syracuse, NY 13221-4901 Toll-Free: (800) 448-6169 Toll-Free Fax: (800) 272-3412 Toll-Free Help-Line: (800)428-3631 www.gaylord.com

Light Impressions PO. Box 22708 Rochester. NY 14692-2708 Toll-Free: (800)828-6216 Telephone: (716) 271-8960 Toll-Free Fax: (800) 828-5539 www.lightimpressionsdirect.com

Metal Edge. Inc. 6340 Bandini Blvd. Commerce CA 90040-3116 Toll-Free: (800) 862-2228 www.metaledgeinc.com

Staples, the Office Superstore www.staples.com

University Products, Inc. 517 Main Street PO. Box 101 Holyoke. MA 01041-0101 Toll-Free: (800) 628-1912 Telephone: (413) 532-3372 Toll-Free Fax: (800) 532-9281 Fax: (413) 432-9281 E-mail: info@ universityproducts.com www.universityproducts.com.

Linking To Talent by VWBro Daniel Zrymiak.

This article is for the benefit of lodges and districts who wish to delight and impress the brethren attending meetings. While lodges are expected and encouraged to build the skills and capabilities of their own brethren, there are times when it is inspiring and refreshing to enjoy the work of others who, by virtue of their expertise and proficiency, can display their talents and ceremonial panache to the pleasure and delight of all.

A few months ago, I had the opportunity to accompany the Grand Master as part of his suite to an emergent meeting at Duke of Connaught lodge in North Vancouver. At this meeting, an Entered Apprentice Degree was conferred by the Jack Turnbull Memorial Degree Team. Following the conclusion of the ceremony, a guest presenter, V.W.Bro. Donald Stewart of Perfection Lodge in New Westminster, addressed the brethren with a compelling and memorable lecture.

Lodges have been engaging guest speakers and degree teams throughout the history of Freemasonry. This is a practice which, if done in a manner that meets and surpasses expectations, can be satisfying and delightful for the candidates and lodges, and fulfilling for those who are extended the privilege and opportunity to present. However, for those of us not endowed with the influential power of the Grand Master, there should be a convenient way to identify and request performances from distinguished guests. I will refer to this practice as "Linking To Talent".

The Grand Lodge of Alberta has an excellent resource on their Grand Lodge website at:

http://www.freemasons.ab.ca/primary/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=157&Itemid=299

This site permits brethren to qualify speakers by their expertise (categorized by General Topics, Instructional, Interpretation, History, Other Bodies, Esoteric, Non-Masonic). Degree teams can be qualified by their work (Fellowcraft Degree, Entered Apprentice Degree) or affiliation (i.e. Veterans). The Grand Lodge of British Columbia has similar distinctions (i.e. Jack Turnbull Memorial, RCMP Degree Team), and a roster of Masonic speakers can be aggregated from the BC Web Site by reviewing past issues of the published Trestleboard and Grand Masonic Day communication items.

Lodges can link to talent through personal connections. As we have many learned and well-travelled brethren within the Craft, a few informal phone calls could readily generate ideas of potential candidates for speakers or presenters. This is particularly important if a Worshipful Master has to make a sudden substitution for a key ritual or education piece. Professional conferences support this by arranging for contingency or "back-up" speakers or presenters. Conversely, those who become proficient at a particular ritual or ceremonial portion (i.e. Address to the Brethren) can cultivate a reputation and following that will place a demand on their participation.

To simplify and support this type of exchange and interaction, I propose that the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon adopts the practice of our Alberta neighbors by placing a contact list on the Grand Lodge website. This would be voluntary, and would need to abide by the privacy requirements to avoid improper communications to participating brethren. I believe that this type of resource would support brethren, lodges, participants, and raise the quality level of our meetings and events. It would also create visibility of our "homegrown talent" so that our jurisdiction would be enhanced by the prestige and reputation of such accomplished speakers and ritualists.

I view this an initiative which can be completed as a Quick Win for our jurisdiction, and can be done in a few manageable steps:

Step 1: Invite and elicit participants, requesting their descriptions of their talents and capabilities with respect to speaking and ritual. Ensure that they include the scope and breadth of their travel and time commitments (i.e. Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, Monday-Thursday)

Step 2: Aggregate and categorize the list of participants to create portfolios of speakers. This can reveal a level of depth and coverage, and will identify whether particular areas are thin and need further development.

Step 3: Upload this onto a commonly available but secured website. This can be updated in a manner similar to the Grand Lodge Directory, which is available in a password protected portion of the Grand Lodge website.

Step 4: Socialize and communicate this resource to DDGMs and Lodge leaders (including the Lodge Secretary, Director of Masonic Education, and Director of Ceremonies). Having access to an updated list will actually create demand and entice the creation of innovative programs to showcase talent for the brethren.

Step 5: Encourage new participants to continually add to the “talent pool”. Continue to maintain and raise the standard of performance so that proficiency becomes the norm.

Linking to Talent is a practice that benefits all, and raises the level of performance to new standards. By using our own brethren, this demonstrates how we can be inspired by the quality within our jurisdiction.

65-year Masonic member Jack Merrett passed at 100 years of age.

RWB John Eric (Jack) Merrett passed to the Grand Lodge above May 23rd of this year, at the age of 100. He was a 65-year Freemason, having been initiated in Zarthan Lodge in Ashcroft in 1949.

Over his Masonic career, as he moved throughout the province for work, he was a member of Zarthan 105, Cranbrook 34, Nelson 23, and Aurora 165. He was a DDGM in District 1 in 1986-87, and for a time was the Secretary of the Victoria Lodge of Education and Research.

He was a Mines Inspector with the B.C. government for much of his career and eventually became the Deputy Inspector of Mines for the province. RWB Merrett was married to Ida for 62 years.

Highlights of the 143rd Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.

Editor's note- Thanks to WB Richard Porter of Orion Lodge No. 51 for preparing this summary, with additions from the Editor.

1. Right Worshipful Brother Ron Yates was elected, first ballot, as our new Junior Grand Warden.
2. Report of the Rituals Committee Resolutions 1 and 2, pp46, were passed.
3. Committee on Warranted Lodges and Lodges under Dispensation Recommendation, pp49, a warrant was assigned to Dimasalang Lodge No. 196 now listed within District No. 26.
4. Report of the Committee on Constitution Review, pp 50, Recommendation and proposed that the *Constitution and Regulations* as revised by the committee be adopted and replace the existing *Book of Constitutions*; carried.
5. Very Worshipful Brother Dick Auty provided a Notice of Motion under New Business that he will either move or cause to be moved that the burden of the basic cost of GL, normally borne by those who attend, be spread across the whole membership, and added to the per capita assessment.
6. Report of the ad hoc Five Pillar Plan Audit, pp52, the separate Leadership and Education Committees will cease to operate in an irregular manner and will be recombined, in due form, as the Education and Leadership Committee. The Research Committee will cease to exist and be combined into the Community Relations Committee.
7. Our New Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Philip Durell, has a very busy year planned with possible consolidation of Grand Lodge Districts and lodges. The New Member Pathways Ad Hoc Committee will continue and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Five Pillar Plan will be renamed and focus on issues of Governance. The Conference of Grand Masters of North America will be held in February in Vancouver. This is open to all Masons and details will be available shortly.

Freemasonry in Action



Grand Lodge of Hawaii- April 2014

GM MWB Don Stutt with the Grand Master of Hawaii and several BCY Grand Lodge officers who accompanied the Grand Master on his trip.

Freemasonry in Action

Zion Lodge No. 77

Centenary Celebration



On May 30th, Zion Lodge No.77 welcomed their visitors for their *Centenary Celebration* gala at the Marine Drive Golf Club in Vancouver. Our MW Grand Master, MWB Don Stutt, was in attendance, along with many other distinguished Brethren and their ladies. RWB Aidan Gordon was our MC for the evening, and we were treated to an excellent evening of very fine food and great fellowship.



Freemasonry in Action

Mt. St. Paul Lodge No. 109

Kamloops



On June 7th The Brethren of Mt. St. Paul Lodge No. 109 in Kamloops welcomed their visitors for the Installation of WB Peter Sharp and the Investiture of his Officers for the coming year. Once the Lodge was opened, the RCMP Installation team marched into the Lodge in formation, and RWB Danby assumed the gavel as Installing Master. He was ably assisted by RWB Money as Master of the Board, and RWB Tarr as DoC. Once the Lodge was closed, the ladies were admitted, and RWB Tarr gave the Address to the Brethren. After the Installation, we all enjoyed a fabulous prime rib dinner, which was catered by the ladies of the Eastern Star, and after more fine fellowship,.

Freemasonry in Action



On June 6th The Brethren of Lewis Lodge No. 57 in New Westminster welcomed their visitors for the Installation of WB Kevin Walsh and the Investiture of his Officers for the coming year. This will be the last-ever Installation for Lewis Lodge at the Agnes St. Lodge as the building is to be demolished this summer. Once the Lodge was opened, RWB Dan Ipsen took the gavel as Installing Master. He was assisted by VWB Hodgkiss as Master of the Board and RWB Brownell as DoC. RWB Dave Goddard gave the Address to the Brethren.

Freemasonry in Action

Goldstream Lodge No. 161

On June 24, the Brethren of Goldstream Lodge No. 161 welcomed the MW Grand Master and other visitors for their annual Outdoor Degree. This year, Bros. Brooks, Kobayashi and Peterson were to be raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.



Our evening started with a somewhat harrowing ride up the hill in the back of a pickup we were all treated to a fine BBQ of burgers and dogs.

After the BBQ, the Lodge was duly opened, and our MW Grand Master and his suite entered the Lodge, piped in by RWB Westmacott. After all of the usual courtesies,

MWB Durell introduced his suite, which included the JGW; 4 DDGMs; Gr. DoC & Marshal; Gr. Std Bearer and Dir. of Music; and 2 Gr. Stewards.

An alarm at the entrance to the Lodge proved to be the three Brothers mentioned above, and the Sublime Degree was conferred upon them in fine form.

Our MWGM congratulated the Lodge on its fine work, and spoke to the Brethren on his theme for this year, "Be Inspired by the Quality Within".

Our MWGM then closed the Lodge in short form, and we retraced our steps down the hill and off into the night.

It was a fine evening, and I know I will be making every effort to attend next year - you should too!



Freemasonry in Action

Fire in Merritt



Brethren in Merritt are working at finding a temporary home after their Lodge building burned down June 30th. The fire broke out in the building next door to the Lodge building, and spread quickly through the roof. The Warrant and a few other articles were salvageable, and Brethren are now looking at their future, whether it be a rebuild or locating to a new facility. Our support is with them as they plan for their future.

Freemasonry in Action

Bethel No. 29, Campbell River



On June 29th Our MWGM, MWB Philip Durell visited Bethel No. 29 in Campbell River for the Installation of Honoured Queen Rebecca Adams and her Officers for the coming Term. Honoured Queen Sydney presided as Installing Officer. Our Grand Master was accompanied by his wife, Pauline Goddard; the JGW; DDGM for District 22; and Gr. Marshal. In his remarks, the Associate Bethel Guardian stated that in his almost 40 years with the Bethel, that this was the first visit by the Grand Master, and how much it was appreciated. MWB Durell congratulated the Bethel on the outstanding quality of their ritual and floor work, noting how this ties in with his own theme, "Be Inspired by the Quality Within". Our Grand Master also noted the complete Term Plan that the Honoured Queen has for her term. Meetings, practices and social events for the whole term are already mapped out, and many Lodges could benefit from this type of detailed planning. Once the meeting was closed, we all proceeded downstairs for a fine buffet dinner.

Get out and visit your local Bethel - you too will come away inspired by their "quality within".

Freemasonry in Action

Dimasalang Lodge No. 196,



July 12 was an historic occasion - the Constitution and Consecration of Dimasalang Lodge No. 196 - together with the Installation and Investiture of its Officers. Our Most Worshipful Grand Master presided over the ceremonies, which took place at the Kerrisdale Masonic Temple in Vancouver. The Lodge room was packed to the gunwales! Our MW Grand Master was accompanied by the entire Grand Line; one Past Grand Master; 7 DDGMs; both Gr. Deacons; the Gr. DoC and Marshal; Gr. Hist. and Sup't. of Works; Gr. Chaplain and Std. Bearer; Gr. Pursuivant & Dir of Music; and 3 Gr. Stewards. After the very moving ceremonies of Constitution and Consecration, our MWGM presided as Installing Master and installed WB David Rarama as the first WM of Dimasalang Lodge No. 196, followed by the Investiture of his Officers by their Grand Lodge counterparts. Our Grand Master was ably assisted by the Gr. DoC and Marshal, with the Deputy Grand Master giving the Address to the Brethren. Once the Lodge was closed we joined the ladies and guests for a marvellous Festive Feast to celebrate the Constitution of the Lodge. It was a day to be remembered..



Freemasonry in Action

Service Awards (June 5-July 22nd)

Lodge Name	Lodge #	Term	Title	First Name	Last Name
Britannia	73	25	V.W. Bro.	Gregory	Wagner
Langley	184	25	R.W. Bro.	Christopher	Simmonds
Hiram	14	30	Bro.	Hugh	Campbell
Whitehorse	46	30	M.W. Bro.	Jared	Decker
Whitehorse	46	30	R.W. Bro.	Monte	Ervin
Britannia	73	30	W. Bro.	Grant	Kitching
Whitehorse	46	40	R.W. Bro.	John	Johnson
Britannia	73	40	Bro.	Arthur	O'Keeffe
Whitehorse	46	45	W. Bro.	Ronald	Bowen
Hiram	14	50	Bro.	Roy	Benson
Hiram	14	50	Bro.	Daniel	Blue
Hiram	14	50	Bro.	Andrew	Brown
Hiram	14	50	Bro.	William	Hicks
Hiram	14	50	Bro.	Peter	Holmes
Hiram	14	50	Bro.	John	Wharton
Hiram	14	50	W. Bro.	Stanley	White
Temple	33	50	Bro.	Arnold	Krenz
Temple	33	50	Bro.	Brian	Nicol
Whitehorse	46	50	Bro.	Mitchell	Miller
Burrard	50	50	Bro.	James	Campbell
Burrard	50	50	W. Bro.	John	Cook
Burrard	50	50	R.W. Bro.	William	Leggatt
Burrard	50	50	Bro.	Robert	Peterson
Britannia	73	50	Bro.	Matthew	Brown
St. James	80	50	Bro.	Richard	Greening
Malahat	107	50	W. Bro.	William	Nelson
Fort St John	131	50	Bro.	Bernard	Duncan
Capilano	164	50	V.W. Bro.	Norbert	Gutzman
Capilano	164	50	Bro.	Donald	Hammond
Capilano	164	50	Bro.	David	Stanger
Pythagoras	194	50	R.W. Bro.	Martin	Dick
Pythagoras	194	50	Bro.	John	Preovolos
Hiram	14	60	Bro.	John	Bulcock
Slocan	29	60	Bro.	Jack	Fisher

Burrard	50	60	V.W. Bro.	Sydney	Foster
Maple Leaf Park	63	60	W. Bro.	Loyd	Dearlow
St. James	80	60	W. Bro.	Thomas	Back
Keystone Lions Gate	115	60	Bro.	William	Gordon
Lynn Valley	122	60	Bro.	Jack	Elsy
Kitselas	123	60	Bro.	Edward	McFadden

Brethren

And here we are into our second year of E-Bee. It has been an interesting first year and I thank all the Brethren who have contributed articles, and in particular the editors who put them together. I also want to thank our webmaster, WB Robert Whitwell, who has gone above and beyond to ensure all the changes we've asked for have been made promptly and effectively. We have asked a lot of him and he has done a great job in this first year, which required a lot of fine tuning as we found our way.

We have made great strides from our first edition almost a year ago. With gentle feedback from our Brethren, we have tried to make adaptations which will make the Bulletin more easily read, more easily accessible, and more functional for our readers. We have not been able to solve all the concerns brought forward, some of them may be more difficult than others. But your feedback has been important to us, and I would ask you to keep it coming.

One of the things we need more of is pictures around the Jurisdiction. RWB Tim Yates is unable to be everywhere, but if it were not for him, we would have far fewer pictures for publication. So if there's an event in your area, please take some pictures and send the best to us. Our Freemasonry in Action editor, VWB Chris Foxon, has done an outstanding job in coordinating them and putting them in a colorful display.

Given that the theme of the current Grand Master is "Be Inspired By The Quality Within", I thought that you might appreciate a recent announcement. One of our editors is VWB Dan Zrymiak. He has submitted a number of thoughtful articles over the past year and is one of those people who is always quick to respond to a request, and I am constantly impressed by his vast network on a variety of subjects.

VWB Zrymiak was recently selected to be the Regional Director for Canada, for the professional organization, American Society for Quality (ASQ). This organization represents the quality management profession across all industries and countries, and has many programs and events dedicated to quality and associated programs including lean, six sigma, social responsibility, and continuous improvement. Freemasonry needs to have more people aspire to a higher quality in their daily and Masonic lives. We look forward to some of the insights that VWB Zrymiak may be able to provide us going forward.

Congratulations, Dan.

Till next month, Brethren.

RWB Doug Collins

Managing Editor- E-Bee