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Powers of the Master

by Carl H. Claudy

The incumbent of the Oriental Chair has powers peculiar to his station; powers far greater than those of the president of a society or the chairman of a meeting of any kind. President and chairman are elected by the body over which they preside, and may be removed by that body.

A Master is elected by his lodge, but he cannot be removed by it; only by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge. The presiding officer is bound by rules of order adopted by the body and by its by-laws. A lodge cannot pass by-laws to alter, amend or curtail the powers of a Master.

The Master may congregate his lodge when he pleases, and for what purpose he wishes, provided it does not interfere with the laws of the Grand Lodge. He may assemble his lodge at an Emergent Communication to confer degrees, at his pleasure; but he must not, in so doing, contravene that requirement of the

Grand Lodge which calls for proper notice to the brethren, nor may a Master confer a degree in less than the statutory time following a preceding degree without a dispensation from the Grand Master.

The Master has the right of presiding over and controlling his lodge, and only the Grand Master, or his Deputy, may suspend him.

It is the Master's right to control lodge business and work. It is in a very real sense his lodge. He decides all points of order and no appeal from his decision may be taken to the lodge. He can initiate and terminate debate at his pleasure, he can second any motion, propose any motion, vote twice in the case of a tie, open and close at his pleasure, with the usual exception that he may not open an Emergent Communication at an hour earlier than that given in the notice, or a Regular Communication earlier than the



VW Bro. Norman McEvoy assists the Grand Master, MW Bro. J. Alan Cross at the formal opening of the Ashlar College of Freemasonry this past February.

hour stated in the by-laws, without dispensation from the Grand Master. He is responsible only to the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge, the obligations he assumed when he was installed, his conscience and his God.

The Master has the undoubted right to say who shall enter, and who must leave the lodge room. He may deny any visitor entrance; indeed, he may deny a member the right to enter his own lodge, but he must have a good and sufficient reason therefore, otherwise his Grand Lodge will unquestionably rule such a

drastic step arbitrary and punish accordingly. *Per contra*, if he permits entry of a visitor to whom some member has objected, he may also subject himself to Grand Lodge discipline. In other words, his "power" to admit or exclude is absolute; his "right" to admit or exclude is hedged about by pledges he takes at his installation and the rules of the Grand Lodge.

A very important power of the Master is that of appointing committees. No lodge may appoint a committee. The lodge may pass a resolution

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Power of the Master from page one

that a committee be appointed, but the selection of that committee is an inherent right of the Master. He is, *ex officio*, a member of all committees he appoints. The reason is obvious; he is responsible for the conduct of his lodge to the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge. If the lodge could appoint committees and act upon their recommendations, the Master would be in the anomalous position of having great responsibilities, and no power to carry out their performance.

The Master, and only the Master, may order a committee to examine a visiting brother. It is his responsibility to see that no cove or eavesdropper comes within the tyed door. Therefore, it is for him to pick a committee in which he has confidence. So, also, with the committees which report upon petitioners. He is responsible for the accuracy, fair-mindedness, the speed and intelligence of such investigations. It is, therefore, for him to say to whom shall be delegated this necessary and important duty.

There are some matters in which the Worshipful Master is not supreme, a few things he may *not* do.

The Master, and only the Master appoints the appointive officers in his lodge. He cannot suspend, or deprive of his station or place, any officer elected by the lodge. The Grand Master or his Deputy, may do this; the Worshipful Master may not.

A Master may not spend lodge money without the consent of the lodge. As a matter of convenience, a Master frequently does pay out money in sudden emergencies, looking to the lodge for reimbursement. But he cannot spend any lodge funds without the permission of the lodge or as limited by the lodge by-laws.

A Master cannot accept a

petition, or confer a degree without the consent of the lodge. It is for the lodge, not the Master, to say from what men it will receive an application, or a petition; and upon what candidates degrees shall be conferred. The Master has the same power to reject through the black cube as any member has, but no power whatever to accept any candidate against the will of the lodge.

The lodge, not the Master, must approve or disapprove the minutes of the preceding meeting. The Master cannot approve them; had he that power he might, with the connivance of the secretary, run wild in his lodge, and still his minutes would show no trace of his improper conduct. But the Master may refuse to put a motion to confirm or approve minutes which he believes to be inaccurate or incomplete; in this way he can prevent a careless, headstrong secretary from doing what he wants with his minutes! Should a Master refuse to permit minutes to be confirmed, the matter would naturally be brought before the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master for settlement.

A Master cannot suspend the by-laws. He must not permit the lodge to suspend the by-laws. If the lodge wishes to change them, the means are available, not in suspension; but, in amendment.

A Worshipful Master has no more right to invade the privacy which shrouds the use of the black cube or ball, or which conceals the reason for an objection to an elected candidate receiving the degrees, than the humblest member of the lodge. He cannot demand disclosure of action or motive from any brother, and should he do so, he would be subject to the severest discipline from the Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodges usually argue that a dereliction of duty by a brother who possesses the

ability and character to attain the east, is worse than that of some less informed brother. The Worshipful Master receives great honour, has great privileges, enjoys great prerogatives and powers. Therefore, he must measure up to great responsibilities. A Worshipful Master cannot resign. Vacancies occur in the east through death, suspension by a Grand Master, or expulsion from the fraternity. No power can make a Master attend to his duties if he desires to neglect them. If he will not, or does not attend to them, the Senior Warden presides. He is, however, still Senior Warden; he does not become Master until elected and installed.

In broad outline, these are the important and principal powers and responsibilities of a Worshipful Master, considered entirely from the standpoint of the ancient usages and customs of the Craft. Nothing is said here of the moral and spiritual duties which devolve upon a Master.

Volumes might be, and some have been, written upon how a Worshipful Master should preside, in what ways he can give the brethren good and wholesome instruction, and upon his undoubted moral responsibility to do his best to leave his lodge better than he found it. Here we are concerned only with the legal aspect of his powers and duties.

Briefly then, if he keeps within the laws, resolutions and edicts of his Grand Lodge on the one hand, and the Landmarks, Old Charges, Constitutions and "ancient usages and customs" on the other, the power of the Worshipful Master is that of an absolute monarch. His responsibilities and his duties are those of an apostle of Light!

He is a gifted brother who can fully measure up to the use of his power and the power of his leadership. ■

MW Bro. Carl H. Claudy (1879-

1957) was Grand Master of the District of Columbia in 1943. The author of thirty-two books and numerous essays, short stories and plays, he served as associate editor of the Masonic Service Association's magazine, The Master Mason from 1923 until 1931 and founded the masonic Short Talk Bulletin, of which he wrote some 350. His three volume Introduction to Freemasonry is still in print and highly recommended to the new freemason.

Counsel

There is little guidance offered the brethren as to precisely when to come to the sign of fidelity.

While our goal may not be military precision, perhaps a simple guideline may be that we all follow the lead of the Chaplain, or whoever is addressing the Volume of Sacred Law.

A secret

"Freemasonry has no secrets. *It is a secret*, which cannot be taught or learned, but it can be felt only in one's heart.

Founder of several English lodges, Bro. Frank Bernhart (1895-1965) wrote four research papers for Quatuor Coronati Lodge and was promoted to London Grand Rank in 1948.

Soul of the nation

by Bro. Howard Coop

Frequently, soul, a word familiar to almost everyone, is defined as "an entity that is regarded as being the immortal or spiritual part of the person and, though having no physical or material reality, is credited with the functions of thinking and willing, and hence determining all behavior."

Then, there is another less often used but significant definition of soul that is worthy of note. Using this definition, soul may be defined as the

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Junior Grand Warden statements of availability



RW Bro. Doug Collins

RW Bro. Douglas Charles Collins was born in Vancouver on 24 April 1948, receiving his education in Prince Rupert, Penticton and Vancouver.

A lifelong broadcaster, he has served in senior management since 1971.

He has specialized in communication skills and human resource management. He is currently the Director of News, Information and Television Operations for the Jim Pattison Broadcast Group in Kamloops.

A strong team player and communicator, he has contributed to a number of City of Kamloops civic committees. In 2008 he was named Broadcaster of the Year by the BC Association of Broadcasters, and his work has been recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Radio-Television News Directors Association of Canada.

RW Bro. Collins was raised in Kamloops Lodge No. 10 in 1979, serving as Worshipful Master in 2007. He has served on the Community Relations Committee since 2007 and was appointed to the Jurisprudence Committee the same year.

He has also served as Regional Representative for Region 2. He was appointed DDGM for District 3 in 2010. He also serves on the Grand Lodge Communication

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RW Bro. Philip Durell

RW Bro. Philip Durell was born 27 July 1947 in Watford, England, and attended Plymouth University where he received his B Sc degree and Master Mariner certificate.

Serving twelve years in the British merchant navy, he was later employed as a manager and senior executive in various seaports worldwide, including Empire Stevedoring and Fraser Surrey Docks, before joining BCIT in 1991 where he became chief instructor. He is currently self-employed.

RW Bro. Durell was raised in Maple Leaf Lodge No. 74 (now Maple Leaf Park No. 63) in 1992, serving as Worshipful Master for 1996-1997 and Secretary from 1999-2001.

A founding member of Excelsior Lodge No. 195, he served as Worshipful Master for 2009-2010. He was appointed as DDGM for District 13 for 2001-2002.

Since 1995 he has served on many Grand Lodge committees including chairman of the Committee on Warranted Lodges and Lodges Under Dispensation for 2003-2004 and the *ad hoc* Masonic Commission in 2000-2001. He has currently served on the Leadership Committee since 2007; the *ad hoc* Committee on Organizational Analysis since 2009; and as the Regional

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RW Bro. Bob MacKenzie

RW Bro. MacKenzie was born 5 August 1945 in Montréal and after attending Sir George Williams University (BSc) worked for a non-ferrous smelter in Montréal as a chemist and administrator for several years. He returned to university, earning a BA, B Ed, M Ed, and specialist certifications in Tech Ed, during which time he taught at the university and senior high school level for 35 years in various teaching and administrative rôles.

He wrote and taught a career preparation programme in aviation and offered aviation seminars throughout the province, through his own firm.

Initiated, passed and raised into Western Gate 48, Vancouver, in 1980, he served as Worshipful Master in 1986-1987. He was an active member of the Vancouver Lodge of Education and Research until relocating to the Cariboo where he affiliated with Mount Begbie 183, 100 Mile House and Centre 113, Williams Lake. He is also an active member of Cariboo 4, Barkerville, and Cascade 12, Vancouver. He currently serves as Worshipful Master of Centre 113, Williams Lake.

He has served as Director of Masonic Education and Secretary in Mount Begbie Lodge, District Education Officer in Cariboo District 4S and DDGM for District 4S.

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Don't
like driving
at night?

Don't
give up lodge.

Visit or join
a daylight
lodge!

Dogwood Lodge No. 192
Third Saturday
Meridian Lodge No. 108
Second Saturday



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Langley

Online registration
freemasonry.bcy.ca/gl2011

Soul of the nation from page two

“embodiment or personification” of something. William Gladstone, a prominent English statesman of the later part of the nineteenth century, is frequently credited with relying upon this definition when he said, “The homes of the people are the soul of the nation.”

Robert Frost, the noted New England poet of the early part of the twentieth century, wrote in a poem entitled *The Death of the Hired Man*, “Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in.” But home is more, much more, than that. Beyond the structure, simple or elegant, in which it is housed, the home is the place where caring and loving parents, a good father and a good mother, work side by side to create a favourable atmosphere that enables the children who are dear to them to develop into reliable, dependable, trustworthy, and self-reliant individuals who grow up to be persons who have strong moral character and are willingly to assume responsibility and act accordingly in both ordinary and extraordinary circumstances.

Children who grow up in such homes become a powerful influence for good, and they are a saving and preserving force in human society. They grow up to become involved citizens who are the embodiment or personality of the country in which they live.

By the way they live, they determine at all times the course of the nation.

Therefore, Gladstone was right. The homes of the nation are, indeed, the soul of the nation. ■

Excerpted from “An encouraging word”, a syndicated column written by Bro. Howard Coop, Chaplain of Lancaster Lodge No. 104 F. & A. M., Lancaster.

The mind

“For the mind does not require filling like a bottle, but rather, like wood, it only requires kindling to create in it an impulse to think independently and an ardent desire for the truth.” ■

Lucius Plutarch (46-120), Moralia

Working tool

For those of you responsible for editing or writing masonic notices, newsletters and websites, the following bit of humour is provided by the Worshipful Master of Cloverdale Lodge No. 168, W Bro. K. Guy Olsson. The last phrase is particularly drawn to your attention.

“I now present you with the working tool of a masonic editor.

“The working tool of a masonic editor is the fine tooth comb. The comb is an instrument made use of by operative masons to organize their hair into horizontals and perpendiculars, better suiting it to the

Junior Grand Warden statements of availability from page three

RW Bro. Doug Collins

Committee and was a member of the Committee that produced the new Grand Lodge DVD. He co-chaired the successful Grand Lodge Communication in Kamloops in 2010.

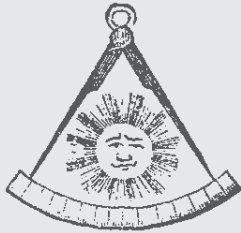
RW Bro. Collins married Susan in 1971 and they have two sons, a daughter and three grandchildren. ■

RW Bro. Philip Durell

Representative to the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes for Vancouver Region 6 since 2008.

He is active in the Scottish Rite, Royal Arch and Gizeh Temple masonic bodies.

Married to Paulette Goddard, they have two sons, two daughters and three (soon to be four) grandchildren. ■



GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY APRIL 2011

1-2	F-S	All Canada Conference		Winnipeg
4	M	Mine Whistle Night	Nanaimo 110	Nanaimo
7	Th	Banquet	King Edward 28	Greenwood
9	S	District 7	Ymir 31	Salmo
14	Th	Master Mason degree	Kitselas123	Terrace
16	S	District 10	Orion 51	Penticton
23	S	International Day	Creston54	Creston
23	S		Bonner's Ferry 43	Bonner's Ferry
30	S	District 6	Star of the West 61	Nakusp

customary appearance of the Craft, but we, as Free and Accepted Masons are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of divesting our publications of all errors or omissions, better fitting them to the lofty examples of Grand Lodge, enhancing and clarifying our communications, for not only that paper file, but for that file not printed, eternal on the internet. ■

Online

For those brethren interested in masonic education on the internet, www.weofm.org now brings you “Masonic Awareness @ the Speed of Light.”

This one-year programme of streamed videos and real-time

chatroom sessions will introduce a diverse panel of international presenters on a range of masonic topics. Presentations by Professor Andrew Prescott of Sheffield University, Bro. Robert L.D. Cooper, author of *The Rosslyn Hoax*, and Dr. John S. Wade, Past Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge, London, are already available. There will be a new video presentation every week, leading to an anti-climactic chat in December by our own Grand Historian, VW Bro. Trevor W. McKeown. ■

Ask yourself

by MW Bro. John Moyers

Is anybody happier because you passed this way?

Does anybody remember that you spoke to him today? The day is almost over and its toiling time is through. Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word to you?

Did you waste the day or lose it? Was it well or poorly spent? Did you leave a trail of kindness or a scar of discontent? As you close your eyes in slumber do you think God will say you have earned one more tomorrow by the work, the good, you have done today? ■