

Daily Advancement

April Meeting

Your attendance is requested in performance of your Masonic duty for the next regular meeting of Lodge Pembroke to be held at the Masonic Hall, 3 Forcett Street, Sorell on **Thursday 24th April 2008** to be tyled at **7.30pm** sharp.

Agenda

1. Confirmation of Minutes
2. Business Arising
3. Correspondence & General Business
4. Financial Report
5. Almoner's Report
6. Receive Visitors (incl. Kingston Fraternal Visit)
7. **Initiation: Andrew MONTGOMERY**
8. ANZAC Memorial
9. Close Meeting

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| Obligation | Wor Master |
| Lesser Lights | Wor Bro George Sanders |
| Secrets & Investiture | Senior Warden |
| Apron Extension | Bro Graham Alomes |
| Northeast | Wor Master |
| Reasons for Preparation | V Wor Bro John Millington |
| Working Tools | Junior Warden |
| Final Charge | Wor Master |

Special Invitation to Ladies

Please note that for this meeting, an invitation is extended to the wives and partners of Brethren to attend the Lodge and join us in welcoming a new Brother into Freemasonry. The Ladies will be entertained in the Supper Room while the Brethren meet in the Lodge Room.

After the close of the meeting, Brethren and their Ladies will sit down together for the Banquet in the South.

Assistance with the supper would be appreciated.

ACCIDENTAL MEMBERS?

We all know that there can be a thousand reasons why men become Freemasons, but here's an unusual story.....

A young man passed a pawnbroker's shop. The money lender was standing in front of his shop, and the young man noted that he was wearing a large and beautiful Masonic emblem. After going on a whole block, apparently lost in thought, the young man turned back, stepped up to the pawnbroker, and addressed him:

"I see you're wearing a Masonic emblem. I'm a Freemason too. It happens that I'm desperately in need of \$25 just now. I shall be able to repay it within ten days. You don't know me; but I wonder whether the fact that you are a Freemason and that I am a Freemason is sufficient to induce you to lend me the money on my personal note?"

The pawnbroker mentally appraised the young man, who was clean-cut, neat and well-dressed. After a moments thought, he agreed to make the loan on the strength of the young man being a Freemason. Within a few days the young man repaid the loan as agreed and that ended the transaction.

About four months later the young man was in a Lodge receiving the Entered Apprentice Degree; he had not really been a Mason when he borrowed the \$25. After he had been admitted for the second section of the degree, the young man looked across the Lodge room and saw the pawnbroker from whom he had borrowed the \$25. His face turned crimson and he became nervous and jittery. He wondered whether he had been recognized by the pawnbroker. Apparently not, so he planned at the first opportunity to leave the Lodge room and avoid his benefactor. As soon as the Lodge was closed he moved quickly for the door, but the pawnbroker had recognized the young man, headed him off and, to the young man's astonishment, approached him and greeted him with a smile and outstretched hand.

"Well, I see you weren't a Freemason after all when you borrowed that \$25," the pawnbroker commented.

The blood rushed to the young man's face as he stammered, "No, I wasn't, but I wish you'd let me

explain. I had always heard that Freemasons were charitable and ready to aid a Brother in distress. When I passed your shop that day I didn't need that \$25. I had plenty of money in my wallet, but when I saw the Masonic emblem you were wearing, I decided to find out whether the things I'd heard about Freemasonry were true.

You let me have the money on the strength of my being a Freemason, so I concluded that what I had heard about Masons was true, that they are charitable, that they do aid Brethren in distress. That made such a deep impression on me that I presented my petition to this Lodge and here I am. I trust that with this explanation you will forgive me for having lied to you."

The pawnbroker responded, "Don't let that worry you too much. I wasn't a Freemason when I let you have the money. I had no business wearing the Masonic emblem you saw. Another man had just borrowed some money on it, and it was so pretty that I put it on my lapel for a few minutes. I took it off the moment you left. I didn't want anyone else borrowing money on the strength of my being a Freemason. When you asked for that \$25, I remembered what I had heard about Masons, that they were honest, upright, and cared for their obligations promptly. It seemed to me that \$25 wouldn't be too much to lose to learn if what I'd heard was really true, so I lent you the money and you repaid it exactly as you said you would. That convinced me that what I'd heard about Masons was true so I presented my petition to this Lodge. I was the candidate just ahead of you.

Masonic Anniversaries

Rudyard Kipling

was initiated on 5th April 1886.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

was raised to Master Mason

on 22nd April 1785.

President Theodore Roosevelt

became a Master Mason

on 24th April 1901.

A DIFFICULT REBIRTH

Aspiring for world supremacy? Then the Russian Freemasons are not the group to join.

Freemasonry once boasted an elite following in Russia, including 18th- and 19th-century nobility. These days, however, it is a more modest order. Indeed, the fraternity does not count any billionaires or senior politicians as members. Most members are middle-class intellectuals, retired military officers and small-time businessmen.

Andrei Bogdanov, the grand master of the Grand Lodge of Russia, is perhaps Russia's best-known Freemason, after he ran for president on March 2, placing last in the vote. He first took the spotlight in late 2007 when his Democratic Party ran in State Duma elections.

Freemasonry has been viewed with suspicion for centuries, largely because of its reputation as a clandestine society that uses secret handshakes and passwords to recognize members. To be in good standing, Russian Freemasons must belong to a "regular" lodge -- one where members are all male, believe in a "supreme being" and do not engage in politics. Members who do not comply attend "irregular" lodges.

Just over 500 people have joined in Russia since the first regular lodge opened in 1992, but half of all new Freemasons stop being active members within two years.

The Grand Lodge oversees 28 regular lodges. The first post-Soviet lodge, Northern Star, was irregular when it opened in 1991, allowing women and atheists as members.

The first Freemasons on Russian soil were British. The earliest documents about Russian Freemasonry date back to 1731, when Captain John Phillips was appointed by the Grand Lodge of England as the provincial grand master of Russia and Germany.

Freemasonry was popular among Europe-oriented Russian nobility until 1822, when Alexander I banned it by an edict that also ordered state bureaucrats to give an oath not to get involved with Freemasons. Freemasonry continued in a semi-legal manner.

The Russian Orthodox Church has never openly criticized Freemasons, although it has viewed them with suspicion.

Many Freemasons fled after the Revolution and kept lodges abroad. In 1922, Leon Trotsky made a call for Communists around the world to abandon Freemason lodges. After that, remaining lodges in Russia were targeted by the Soviet authorities together with all other secret organizations.

Freemasons remain quite secretive today. Lodges convene once a month and have a joint assembly every year. Bogdanov was elected Grand Master at such an assembly in June 2007, attended by some 100 delegates. Lodge meetings usually begin with presentations dedicated to the arts or science, followed by a discussion and a social talk, which continues during the agape, an informal dinner.

An informal rule requires Freemasons to socialize with other Freemasons and this is the only way to be promoted in rank, by demonstrating knowledge and communication skills. The Grand Lodge follows 33 degrees, from the Scottish Masonic charter.

The Grand Lodge of Russia was established by the Grand National Lodge of France in 1995 and has since been recognised by more than 90 foreign Grand Lodges.

For those thinking of taking a trip to the frozen north, there is a lodge in Moscow where all communication is in English for the convenience of visiting brothers from abroad.

A FRIENDLY WELCOME

Pembroke gained a promising new member when Christopher Healy was initiated at its March meeting. The Officers of the Lodge performed the required work with great skill and accomplishment, which cannot failed to have made an impression on the candidate. The work was especially enhanced by the presence of Wro. Bro. Bob Grundy who assisted in the role of Senior Warden for the evening, while V. Wor Bro Curtain stood in as Junior Deacon.

The meeting was attended by Wor Bro Alan Burton from Clarence and Wor Bro Basil Masters from Glenora, as well as a number of other visitors. Some of these were accompanied by their ladies who joined with Pembroke ladies and the brethren for supper in the South after the meeting.

This was an innovation at Pembroke and, if the success of the evening is any indication, it was the first of many such occasions.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

Committee of Management has adopted a program of works aimed at addressing some minor issues with the lodge building and making some much needed improvements in certain areas. The work will be performed progressively over the next few months.

The work will include repainting the exterior of the building, lining and painting the toilets and installing some new fittings and fixtures. After preliminary work and preparations a date will be set for a working day at the Lodge to do the finishing work, probably some time in May or June. There will be a barbecue lunch and we hope that as many of the Brethren as possible will be able to attend and assist with the work.

Calendar

Thursday April 17th 2008

Pacific Installation
(Bro. Jack Clear)

Saturday April 19th 2008

Bothwell Installation
(Wor Bro. Robert Comley)

Monday April 21st 2008

Eastern Shore Fraternity Night
at Bowen Lodge

Tuesday April 22nd 2008

Rehearsal: First Degree

Thursday April 24th 2008

Pembroke Regular Meeting
(First Degree)
(Kingston Fraternal Visit)

Friday April 25th 2008

ANZAC DAY

Wednesday May 7th 2008

Lodge of Instruction
(Third Degree)

Tuesday May 20th 2008

Committee of Management

Thursday May 22nd 2008

Pembroke Regular Meeting
(Huon Fraternal Visit)

Pembroke Propositions

Nicholas Benjamin CURTAIN

Single DOB 19/7/1988 Self-employed

PA 36 Pawleena Road, Sorell

BA 5 Giblin Drive, Sorell

Proposed: V Wor Bro Barry Curtain

Seconded: Wor Bro Paul Kregor

Jeremy Todd MCGUIRE

Married DOB 2/6/1972 Locksmith

PA 427 Shark Point Road, Penna

BA Shop1/5 Fitzroy Street, Sorell

Proposed: V Wor Bro Barry Curtain

Addresses

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SECRETARY

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CARETAKER

Wor Bro George Sanders
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ALMONER

Bro David Arnott
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