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Grand Master's report

by MW Bro. William Unrau, Grand Master 2004-2005

It is with much pleasure that I provide this report outlining some of the very positive activities in our grand jurisdiction.

Many lodges are experiencing growth in membership not seen in recent years. Our website is proving to be worth its weight in gold as a means for potential candidates to find out about Freemasonry and make contact with us. It is interesting to note how many new Canadians are joining.

Further to this we have recently been contacted by two jurisdictions seeking approval to use the material that has been posted on our website, with comments of appreciation for the efforts put into it.

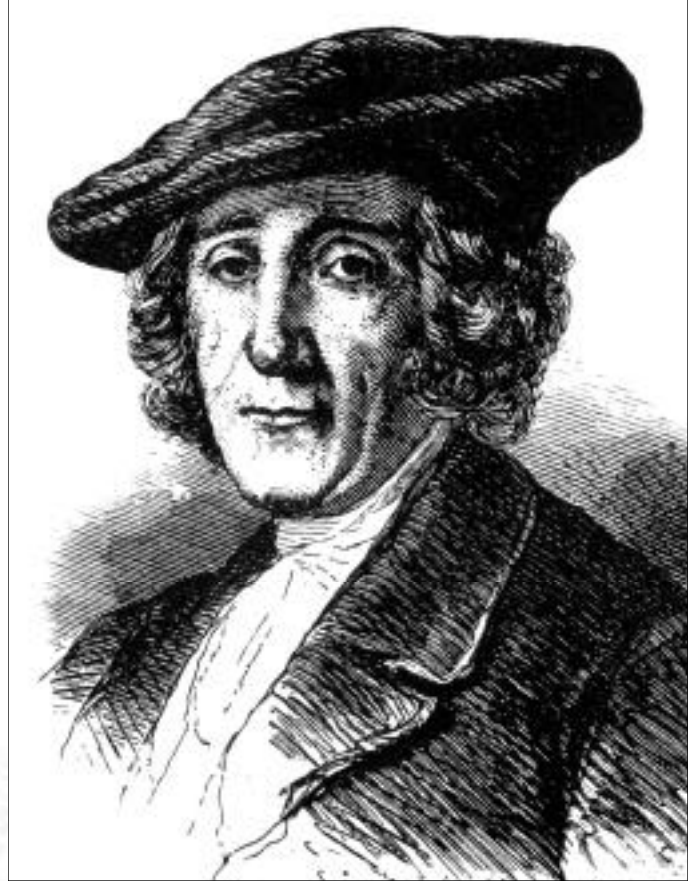
I am encouraged and committed to help generate growth in this organization by further developing programmes designed to reach out to the residents of this jurisdiction. We must and will remain a relevant organization in our communities.

In this regard Grand Lodge

officers attended the dedication of a plaque commemorating fifteen years of operation—partnering with the Canadian Cancer Society—in driving patients to treatment centres.

More and more this programme is paying dividends and proving to be a worthwhile endeavor for Freemasonry. We recently had a van donated by the wife of a deceased brother, and numerous lodges have been able to make considerable contributions. Thank you to all who have contributed to the success of this programme.

I hope our November *Bulletin* has helped many of you become more familiar with all the charities operated or supported by our masonic family, thereby developing a much richer understanding and appreciation of the fine organization you belong to. It is impressive, and there is no reason why we can't become much more effective in this regard. The solution is not to be asking fewer members, who



Elected in 1736, the first Grand Master Mason of Scotland, William Saint Clair, the 21st Baron of Rosslyn, was a skilled golfer and archer. His full length portrait hangs in the chapel of Canongate-Kilwinning Lodge. This illustration is taken from Robert Freke Gould's 1885 *History of Freemasonry*.

are growing older, to contribute more. We have many new ways to generate contributions to our programmes and we must continue to develop them.

An example is to ask our members who help draw up wills, and who may act as executors of estates, to be aware of our charities and consider them when required to disburse funds to charities and receive tax receipts.

I have heard some comments that we are not a service club, but please refresh

your memory of when you were initiated, and the lesson taught about charity. This fraternity has always been involved in service to our citizens and communities. We have all been told it is for each individual to discover Freemasonry and involve himself as he finds suitable. Some find the brotherly love in the fraternity enough for them, others appreciate the teaching of the ritual and still others commit all their energy to our

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VOLUME 68 / NUMBER 4

EDITED by Trevor W. McKeown for the Grand Secretary's Office and published by the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of British Columbia and Yukon. The VIEWS AND OPINIONS expressed in the *Masonic Bulletin* are those of the individual authors and writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions. CORRESPONDENCE: 1495 West Eighth Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia V6H 1C9 Canada. WEB: <http://freemasonry.bcy.ca> TELEPHONE: +1-604-736-8941. FACSIMILE: +1-604-736-5097. EMAIL: editor@freemasonry.bcy.ca

Grand Master's report
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charitable efforts. To each his own, and please don't discourage those who have other interests than yours.

You will recall that one of my four objectives is to establish much greater participation by our membership in youth activities, and in this regard have appointed RW Bro Barry Burch to chair a committee. Our Board of General Purposes has held considerable discussion about a Code of Conduct for our members who involve themselves in our youth programmes and, through our Order, with youth in their communities.

On first thought, the question might be asked, why? But as other organizations have come to realize, the day is past when strict rules of conduct are not required when their members are involved with youth. If we remind ourselves that we have already obligated ourselves to a high moral standard, to accept a Code of Conduct will not be asking anything more of the brethren.

In the near future I will be providing material outlining an edict which I have made for this jurisdiction introducing such a Code of Conduct.

Hopefully everyone will accept it in the spirit intended and realize that it can only support our organization's claim that we are the most moral institution which has ever existed.



W Bro. Palmer Cox

Winter Solstice

Franz Carl Endres

Let haters hate! Once hate will die,
when mankind wiser has become,
and heroism will have a new meaning,
that is: to help and not to murder.
In the chain we extend our fraternal hand
and greet you beyond sea and land,
you, brother in mankind. We do not hate.
Forward towards truth! Forward towards light!

Let liars lie!—the lie will die.
Once better days will come,
when to our grandchildren our time will seem
no more than a faded tale.
In our circle the lie is dead.
Through the night we see the approaching dawn
and prepare the way and have no dread.
Forward towards truth! Forward towards light!

Let glasses tinkle on the solstice!
Everything in the world is turning.
The ruler of today, tomorrow's nothing.
What is life but a becoming?
We see the goal, where the sun rises,
where its rays give life to a new earth.
We turn towards the East our face:
Forward towards truth! Forward towards light!

From "Alpina", Grand Lodge of Switzerland. Translation by Leon Zeldis and Fritz Levy.

Having completed two District visits I must say what an enjoyable experience it has been and I sincerely look forward to meeting with the brethren in my future district visits.

Chaplain's corner

by VW Bro. Ian Paton, Grand Chaplain

If any month of the year could be described as "veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols" it is the month of December

Centuries ago, the midwinter feasts and festivals of December heralded the lengthening of days and gave rise to many of the symbols and customs that characterize modern year-end celebrations

The symbolism of the ancient bonfires that dispelled winter gloom became the

symbols of the Light of the World who came for those who are drawn to the good news that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Lights of Christmas—lights of Hannukah—lights on carol ships and trees—lights in department store windows and lights around altars in masonic lodges all symbolize goodwill, forgiveness, faith, generosity and love among all of God's creatures.

In every way from mundane year-end tax calculations to children's' anticipation of Santa's arrival; December is the month of taking stock and resolving to welcome a new year in a renewed spirit of friendship and brotherly love.

January is named after Janus, the two headed god who looked backward and forward at the same time.

I think December is an even better month for that sort of thing. We wind down after a

busy year, we feast and celebrate and give of ourselves to those around us and we start to wind ourselves up as a new year approaches, determined to live out a renewed message of peace and goodwill

There isn't much better symbolism than that.

Jobies

Job's Daughters Bethel 40 invites you and yours to a traditional English Christmas Pantomime, *Ali Baba And The Forty Thieves*, on 16 December, 2004. Showtime is 7:00 pm at the Metropolitan Coöperative Theatre Society, 1370 SW Marine Drive, Vancouver. Tickets are \$12.

Many people confuse a pantomime with mime, where there is no sound or speaking. A pantomime is far from being silent. An English pantomime has singing, dancing and jokes about current affairs thrown in when you least expect them. This is a delightful show for kids of all ages and part of the magic is watching the kids in the audience participate in the production.

Boo the bad guy, cheer on the good guy and be prepared for lots of laughter. Contact Bro. "Fraser" Fraser at 604-271-9771 for tickets

Grand honours

Grand Honours, in this jurisdiction, appears to have bestowed upon itself certain honours unilaterally. The Grand Lodge Committee on Rituals has studied this carefully and finds that nowhere in any of our rituals is the sign we call Grand Honours communicated to the candidate. There is no indication Grand Honours are, or ever have been, a secret sign restricted to Master Masons.

Grand Honours were first given in public at the July 1872 mortuary cornerstone laying in

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New Westminster, and continue to be given in public at funerals and cornerstone laying. They were given by Entered Apprentices at installation ceremonies, until the ceremony was revised in 1921. A recommendation in 1946 to Grand Lodge to change Grand Honours from the present (English Funeral Grand Honours) to the Third Degree English Grand and Royal Sign was defeated. Other jurisdictions have Public and Private Grand Honours, of which the latter, by their very nature, cannot be given in public under any circumstances

The committee therefore recommended that Grand Honours as we know it in this jurisdiction be given in any degree or in public as and when required in our ceremonies. At our last Annual Communication this recommendation was duly adopted by the brethren of this jurisdiction. ■

Lodge notes

Kootenay Lodge No. 15 is back in the lodge room that was damaged by smoke and water during a fire last November. An open house was held on Saturday, 20 November, showing off the refurbished premises to the brethren and their friends and families.

Membership drive

W Bro. Richard Wallach

Freemasonry is the greatest thing that's ever happened to me. How can I share it?

How can I show men what goes on in a lodge meeting, if they're not already freemasons?

Bro. Jason Upton of **Melrose Lodge No. 67** found an answer to these questions.

He chaired a committee of four (along with Bro. Geoffrey Rosen, Bro. James Lindsey, and W Bro. Rick Wallach) who organized a Buddy Night on 29 September 2004. But this one was done a little differently.

It was a "boy's night out" so it was open to all freemasons and all their male friends.

Rather than being held at the lodge room, they booked a private room at Hy's Steakhouse in downtown Vancouver.

Rather than being a sit-down dinner, it was more of a cocktail party: the guest were free to mingle, sit or stand, while waiters presented various hors d'oeuvres throughout the evening. Thus, anyone was free to chat with anyone else, rather than just his immediate table partners.

And of course, the room came with its own bartender.

All guests were given \$1000 in "funny-money" which they gambled away at the blackjack and roulette tables run by professional croupiers. A few brethren made some official remarks, but mostly it was an informal affair: any man was free to ask any question of any freemason there.

It was a smash hit. Over forty tickets were sold, and the attendees were nearly 70% non-mason.

Besides being a lot of fun, Melrose Lodge received two signed petitions, and they expect to have four others sign up very soon.

Melrose Lodge is going to make this an annual event every October. ■

Notes

Publicity

In yet another example of promotion for masonic charities, the September issue of *Lifeline*, published by St. John Ambulance, reported on the We Can Help Project, pointing out that our Grand Lodge has sponsored this project for the last eight years.

This programme trains some 25,000 Grade Four students each year in basic first aid.

Request for donations

The Grand Lodge Annual Communication registration committee needs more computers. If you have an older

Pentium 600+ with at least two gigabytes of hard drive space that you would consider donating, please contact W Bro. Keith Glen at quadman@sunwave.net.

Survey

According to *The Indianapolis Star* of 23 July 1990, a Standard and Poor's survey found that executives are getting younger. "The composite picture of a typical US business executive is that of a 48-year-old man who works in New York, is president of a company and belongs to a masonic order." ■

Scotland

Spring tour

Bro. Johnny Forrest is planning a masonic tour to Scotland this coming May, arriving in Glasgow on 3 May and returning to Vancouver on 18 May.

Starting with Johnny's mother lodge, Carluge Lodge No. 187 in Glasgow, this holiday outing will also include visits to Bro. Robert Burn's lodge, Mother Kilwinning and Tarbolton, tours of the Grand Lodge of Scotland museum and Roslin Chapel, and the opportunity to visit five other lodges in Glasgow. Day tours of Glasgow, Edinburgh and the Border Country are included as well as ample opportunity for striking out on your own. Contact Bro. Johnny Forrest at 604-273-3601 for details.

William Saint Clair of Roslin

The First Grand Master Mason of Scotland, William Saint Clair, was elected in 1736 when the Grand Lodge of Scotland was formed, an office he held for one year only. A good deal of discussion has been had pro and con as to the validity of two old documents known as the *Saint Clair Charters*, one dated about 1601 and one 1628, in which documents the statement is made that the Operative

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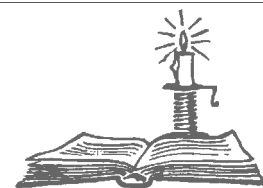
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Masons of Scotland had conferred upon the family of Saint Clair of Roslin the honour of being recognized as Patron and Protector of the Craft. In 1736 when a first Grand Master was to be chosen for the Scottish Grand Lodge, William Saint Clair was made a freemason in the Lodge Canongate Kilwinning and he also formally resigned all claims to be Patron and Protector of the freemasons in Scotland on 30 November of the same year at a meeting held at Edinburgh. William Saint Clair died in 1778.

Grand Lodge of Scotland records his initiation on 18 May 1736 and passing on 2 June 1736 in Lodge Canongate Kilwinning. He was installed on St. Andrew's day 1736. ■

Excerpted from Albert G. Mackey Encyclopedia of Freemasonry.

Evil

The story goes that at a certain college there was a professor with a reputation for being tough on students of religious conviction. At the first class every semester he proceeded to degrade them and to mock their statement of faith.

One semester, he asked the students if they believed in God and a young man raised his hand. The professor asked, "Did God make everything, young man?"

He replied, "Yes sir he did!"

The professor responded, "If God made everything, then he made evil."

The student didn't have a response and the professor was happy to once again prove God to be a myth. Then another man raised his hand and asked, "May I ask you something, sir?"

"Yes, you may," answered the professor.

The young man stood up and said, "Sir, is there such a thing as cold?"

Of course there is, what kind of a question is that?

Haven't you ever been cold?"

The young man replied, "Actually, sir, cold doesn't exist. What we consider to be cold is really an absence of heat.

Absolute zero is when there is absolutely no heat, but cold does not really exist. We have only created that term to describe how we feel when heat is not there."

The young man continued, "Sir, is there such a thing as dark?"

Once again the professor responded, "Of course there is."

And once again, the student replied, "Actually, sir, darkness does not exist. Darkness is really only the absence of light. Darkness is only a term developed to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally, the young man asked, "Sir, is there such a thing as evil?"

The professor responded, "Of course, we have rapes, murders and violence everywhere in the world. Those things are evil."

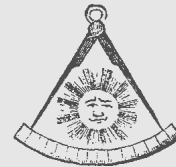
The student replied, "Actually, sir, evil does not exist. Evil is simply the absence of God. Evil is a term developed to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. It isn't like truth, or love which exist as virtues like heat or light. Evil is simply the state where God is not present, like cold without heat, or darkness without light."

Thus endeth the lesson. ■

Anti-masonry

In their thirty-four article *Covenant* released in 1988, the Islamic Resistance Movement defined its goals and objectives, and its world view. Freemasonry is erroneously and unfortunately mentioned several times as an enemy of Islam.

"...Freemasons, Rotary Clubs, espionage groups and others, which are all nothing



GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY DECEMBER, 2004

4	Sat	Installation	Crystal Lodge No. 122 Marysville, WA.
8	Wed	Board of General Purposes, 12:00 pm	Vancouver
9	Thu	Grand Lodge line officers meeting, 10:30 am	Vancouver
9	Thu	District No. 28 Tuscan No. 138	Port Coquitlam
11	Sat	District No. 2 North Star No. 167	New Westminster
12	Sun	Amaranth Social Agnes St.	New Westminster
13	Mon	Maple Leaf 74 & Park 63, Rupert St	Vancouver
14	Tue	Victoria Scottish Rite	Victoria
15	Wed	District No. 26 Prince of Wales No. 100	Vancouver
17	Fri	Installation Walter F. Meier Lodge No. 281	Bothell, WA.
18	Sat	Installation Lakeside Lodge No. 258	Bellevue, WA

more than cells of subversion and saboteurs."

"These organizations operate in the absence of Islam and its estrangement among its people. The Islamic peoples should perform their rôle in confronting the conspiracies of these saboteurs. The day Islam is in control of guiding the affairs of life, these organizations, hostile to humanity and Islam, will be obliterated."

"They were behind the French Revolution, the Communist revolution and most of the revolutions we heard and hear about, here and there. With their money they formed secret societies, such as Freemasons, Rotary Clubs, the Lions and others in different parts of the world for the purpose of sabotaging societies..."

"With their money they were able to control imperialistic countries and instigate them to colonize many countries in order to enable them to exploit their resources and spread corruption there."

"... Freemasons, The Rotary and Lions clubs, and other sabotage groups. All these organizations, whether secret or open, work in the interest of Zionism and according to its

instructions. They aim at undermining societies, destroying values, corrupting consciences, deteriorating character and annihilating Islam. It is behind the drug trade and alcoholism in all its kinds so as to facilitate its control and expansion."

It is an unfortunate fact of our modern world that religious fundamentalists of whatever stripe continue to perceive Freemasonry as an active threat. ■

Excerpted from The Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS)-Palestine: 1 Muharram 1409 Hijri. 18 August 1988.

The sword

According to Albert G. Mackey: formerly, and indeed up to a comparatively recent period, the Tyler's sword was way in shape, and so made in allusion to the "flaming sword which was placed at the east of the garden of Eden, which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life." It was, of course, without a scabbard, because the Tyler's sword should ever be drawn and ready for the defense of his post. ■

Albert G. Mackey, Encyclopedia of Freemasonry. 1966.