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# MASONRY IN MANITOBA

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## The Grand Master's Message

I'll open with a remark made by Albert Einstein: *"Religion without science is blind and science without religion is lame...The most beautiful and most profound emotion we can experience is the sensation of the mystical."* Society today is enjoying a fascination with the mystical. Hence the unprecedented success of Dan Brown's book 'The DaVinci Code'. This book continues to be so successful that it was republished as a more expensive illustrated edition which has further added to its intrigue. I have a DVD titled 'Breaking the Code' in which Dan Brown states that while he would like to attribute his success to writing skills it is in reality the allure of the mystical which has captivated his readers. Although Freemasonry is mentioned we must be very careful not to be drawn into thinking that Freemasonry currently nor has it ever supported his particular metaphor of the Holy Grail. When combined with 'Angels and Demons' it does make a captivating read. His next book, 'The Solomon Key', will deal with Freemasonry's involvement with the formation of the American nation. At the Midwest Conference of Grand Masters last August we were treated to a video presentation by Senator Lee Sherman Dryfus, a 32<sup>o</sup> Freemason, in which he deals precisely with that subject and as well includes Freemasonry's involvement in spreading freedom and democracy around the world. It is a fascinating story and one I am certain will bring more very positive attention to our Craft. The film 'National Treasure' also portrayed Freemasonry in a positive light al-

though it too was just a story.

Locally the Craft has experienced yet more positive public relations through Bro. Frank Albo's research into the symbolism of our Legislative Buildings. He was initiated into St. John's Lodge No. 4 in early February. Bro. Frank spoke recently to a standing room only audience at the Fort Garry Hotel. He was also featured on a recent Vicki Gabereau show. This story will continue as the province will undoubtedly move to promote the Legislative Buildings as a tourist attraction. It is interesting to note that the George Washington Monument, which is widely known for its rich symbolism, was also designed by an architect trained at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris where Bro. Frank Simon, the architect of the Legislature, was educated.

All year I have stressed the importance of being prepared for the next wave of men joining the Craft to learn of the secrets and mysteries of Freemasonry. It becomes more apparent that they are indeed coming. Have you ever seen eighteen men presented with their Master Mason's aprons? What a thrill for everyone involved. These new Masons and the hundreds that are thinking of joining will demand meetings that inspire, educate and to borrow one of Dudley Davis' words, delight. They will expect unconditional friendship, a fraternity free from strife and petty bickering. They will want to learn our mysteries. Does your Lodge provide an environment where they will grow and prosper? If we've not learned our lessons from the

past, sadly, history will repeat itself. By now the Lodge Education Officers will have seen the new EA course and with a little fine tuning it will be ready for your use. I do hope your LEO was present and will be ready to inspire you and your new EAs and others who would care to learn, with the mysteries concealed within the ritual.

The Grand Lodge of Alberta is celebrating their centennial this year. To assist in their celebrations the Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of North America was held in Calgary from Feb 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. Freemasonry is alive and well in most jurisdiction south of the 49<sup>th</sup> and it is inspiring to hear of their successes. I attended a number of most interesting breakout sessions. Without going into any detail the ongoing public relations strategies were outlined and they will be built into our Strategic Plan. Our Kids ID program will have the opportunity to evolve and become a part of a North American strategy on Child Identification. This program, entitled CHIP, not only deals with child identification but also includes an educa-

tional section designed to alert children to and protect themselves from potentially dangerous situations. Grand Master's special one-day classes and alternatives to the traditional proficiency requirements were also discussed. There appear to be as many variations as there are jurisdictions. What a great opportunity to renew acquaintances, to make new friends and to share in the spirit which is driving us all onward and upward.

The shortness of a single year is becoming painfully obvious as June draws ever nearer and there are still many plans on my Trestle Board. I am so pleased that they are now also entrenched in our Strategic Plan and that we will not only pursue them to completion, but more importantly, we will continue to dream and then proceed to make those dreams too, become a reality. Our membership numbers may not yet reflect the spirit and enthusiasm that we are currently enjoying, but they will!

Yours in the faith,  
Bro. Don

## GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

*Any Master Mason may accompany the Grand Master on his Official Visits*

### APRIL

7	Grand Lodge of Minnesota		OV
12	Glenboro Lodge No. 48	Glenboro	8:00 PM OV
13	Board of General Purposes	MMT	7:00 PM
15	Consecration of lodge building	The Pas MB	
16	MM Degree (G.L. Degree Team)	Flin Flon MB	
18	Assiniboine Lodge No. 7	Masonic Temple, Portage	7:30 PM
28	Mound Lodge No. 118	Pilot Mound MB	8:00 PM OV

Please check the Grand Lodge website at [www.grandlodge.mb.ca](http://www.grandlodge.mb.ca) for the most current information on the Grand Master's Itinerary



### **125th Birthday of Stonewall No. 12**

Stonewall Lodge No. 12 will hold its annual "Blue and Gold Event" in the Canada Room, 420 Corydon Avenue, on April 28, 2005. Past Grand Masters will occupy the chairs for the evening.

A banquet will be held at MMT at 6:30 pm, before the meeting which starts at 8:00 pm. Dinner tickets will be sold in advance prior to April 15, 2005. Tickets are \$20 per person. All Masons are welcome to attend both or either. Tickets are available at the Grand Lodge office or by calling Bob Greentree, WM of Stonewall No. 12 at (204) 222-3608.

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### **From the Grand Archivist**

If any Lodges are planning to do some spring housecleaning of old records before sending material in to the Archives, PLEASE DO NOT arbitrarily throw out old correspondence.

While going through material from a Lodge which closed ten years ago I have discovered a wonderful story in a bundle of correspondence. Any one letter from this group could have been completely meaningless in itself, but when viewed in the context of the entire bundle it is quite significant.

- R.W. Bro. Al Brock

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### **Grand Master's Northern Trip**

The trip to visit our Brethren in the Northern Lodges is tentatively scheduled for September 8th to 12th, 2005. As in the past, providing numbers are sufficient, we will be traveling by charter bus, leaving MMT on Thursday morning and returning on Sunday evening.

Last year we made the trip in reverse (i.e. The Pas, Flin Flon & Thompson) which proved quite successful, so we are planning to do the same thing this year. Hopefully when we get to Thompson we will again have an opportunity to go down into the mine.

The cost will be approximately \$100.00 per person for the bus (again depending on the number of participants) and three nights of hotel accommodations. There will, of course, be other costs for meals and refreshments etc., but these are not out of the ordinary, as we all have to eat regardless of where we are.

We will keep you updated as events are finalized, but in the meantime please give this trip some consideration as it is a great weekend of fun and fellowship. Above all don't forget that the ladies are welcome and encouraged to join us. Be assured that southern hospitality is nothing compared to the northern hospitality that our Brethren extend to us.

- R.W. Bro. George Forzley, DGM

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420 Corydon Ave,

Winnipeg MB R3L 0N8

Tel (204) 453-7410 or 1-800-665-2712 (MB) Fax (204) 284-3527

e-mail [glsec@grandlodge.mb.ca](mailto:glsec@grandlodge.mb.ca).

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Four weeks prior to the month of issue:

(March 31, 2005 for May 2005 issue)

M.W. Bro. Steve Kane - Editor Emeritus,

M.W. Bro. Don Beattie (ex officio) Scott Howarth - Editor

## EVENTS AT THE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION - 2005

The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Donald W. Beattie, cordially invites all Master Masons to attend the 130th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba to be held at the Canad Inn, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba on Friday and Saturday June 3 and 4, 2005. A number of social events have been planned. The Grand Master's Lady extends an invitation to the ladies to participate in the activities which have been planned for them.

Please send the tear-off portion of this page to the Grand Lodge Office no later than April 30, 2005 to reserve your tickets.

- Friday June 3 Past Masters' Luncheon - \$16.00
- Ladies Luncheon - \$15.00
- Grand Lodge Dinner and Dance - \$30.00
- Saturday June 4 Men's Lunch - \$12.50
- Ladies' Brunch - \$11.00

The Public Installation of the Grand Lodge Officers for 2005 will commence at 1:00 pm on Saturday, June 4th.

### BALLOTING

The polling station will be open from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm on Friday June 3rd, and from 8:00 am to 10:00 am on Saturday June 4th. All Master Masons of the jurisdiction may cast their ballot during these times. You must present a valid 2005 dues card to the Registrar to be eligible to vote.

Reservations for accommodation at CANAD INN, Portage la Prairie  
Telephone 1-888-332-2623 or (204) 857-9745 or (204) 239-6245 (Fax)

Standard Room rates: \$75.00 Double or Single, plus taxes

Queen Room rates: \$95.00 Double or Single, plus taxes

*WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS PLEASE INDICATE YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH THE GRAND LODGE OF MANITOBA, and QUOTE "BLOCK # 995"*

#### I/We plan to attend the following social events:

Friday - Past Masters' Luncheon \$16.00	Yes	No
Friday - Ladies' Luncheon \$15.00	Yes	No
Friday - Grand Lodge Dinner & Dance \$30.00	Yes	No
Saturday - Mens' Lunch \$12.50	Yes	No
Saturday - Ladies' Brunch - Saturday \$11.00	Yes	No

*(Ticket Prices shown above are per person)*

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Payable to Grand Lodge of Manitoba)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Lady's name: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/PROV: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_