

The District Light

The information bulletin
of Niagara B District

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In This Issue

Each of the past issues of this bulletin has had a theme (check it out). This one is a potpourri of delightful bits of mostly masonic meanderings.

For example:

The Forget-Me-Not



In the years between World War I and World War II the blue Forget-Me-Not flower was a standard symbol used in Germany by most charitable organizations.

It had a very clear meaning: "Do not forget the poor and the destitute".

This use of the flower was first introduced into German masonry in 1926, but became more important with the rise of the Nazi regime. In early 1934, Freemasonry there was in danger of persecution.

The German Grand Lodge, realizing the threat involved, adopted the Forget-Me-Not flower as a substitute for the traditional Square and Compasses. It was felt that the flower would provide brethren with an outward means of identification while lessening the risk of possible recognition in public by the Nazis, who were engaged in wholesale confiscation of all Masonic Lodge properties.

Freemasonry went underground and this delicate flower assumed its role as a symbol of Masonry, surviving throughout the reign of terror.

Today, in Europe, the Forget-Me-Not is an interchangeable Masonic symbol with the Square and Compasses.

Some men also use it to remember those Masons who were victimized by the Nazis.

In Canada, the flower is used in place of or in association with a masonic symbol.

On the Other Hand . . .

Not everyone thinks of masonry as the noble institution that we know it to be. Some people can find masonic messages in any image or action.

Sarah Palin is supposed to making a masonic gesture in this photo. Maybe politicians will do anything to get votes.



This character from the film *Avatar* is marked with a masonic symbol. Or maybe not. Fortunately for us, he was one of the good guys.

And, of course, it is obvious to some that masonry is really a front for a Jewish plot set to rule the world.



Here, the actress, Lindsay Lohan is sitting on a masonic cabinet between masonic pillars and her arms are in the position of "as above, so below." You can speculate if this is anti-masonic or inappropriate or just cute.

On TV

A recent television commercial had a satanic figure try to make a contract with a man for a new car.



Masons were distressed because the 'devil' wore a masonic ring. Linking masonry with satanism has many historic roots and surely is not to be promoted.

The car company has responded that the ring is not masonic.

(In fact, it is unlikely that the ring shown would be made, but the general public would not recognize the distinction.)

You can decide the case for yourself after viewing the commercial at www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIgRFQv92dM



On The Screen

Masonic references have been made in many movies. For a long list, look at this site:

<http://www.freemasonry.bcy.ca/fiction/cinema.html>



One early movie star who was a mason was Tom Mix. Between 1909 and 1935, Mix appeared in 291 films, all but nine of which were silent movies.

He was Hollywood's first Western megastar, the first King of the Cowboys, and is noted as having helped define the genre for all cowboy actors who followed.

I am not aware of any masonic content in his roles, but the 'gentleman hero' in westerns is certainly a masonic ideal.

For a time, the Ralston-Purina company used the Tom Mix reputation to create a radio show and club called *The Straight Shooters*.

THE SECRET PASSWORD

The secret password of the Straight Shooters is always given with the secret grip. It should never be spoken above a whisper. The password is given whenever a Straight Shooter wants to find out if another person is a member. The first Straight Shooter whispers the word "RAL." The second Straight Shooter should then whisper the word "STON." Afterwards, both Straight Shooters whisper "RALSTON." The password must be given at all secret meetings of the Straight Shooters.



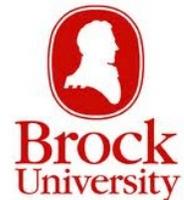
The Brock University Partnership

R.W.Bro. Donald Campbell, the Deputy Grand Master of Ontario, explains:

The public perception of Freemasonry is largely formed by fiction rather than fact. Best-selling novels, block-buster movies, sensational television 'documentaries' and anti-Masonic websites all create a false impression of the world's oldest and largest fraternity.

The Brock University Partnership will encourage professional historians and sociologists to study the positive impact Freemasonry has made on the history of this country over the last three centuries.

To gain academic credibility would do much to enhance the image of Freemasonry in the public perception and restore it to the place of respect it once enjoyed in society. If we do not take affirmative action to set the record straight, no one else will.



This partnership between two great educational institutions will provide for the inspiration for future generations to take Freemasonry seriously.

Screen and Stage



The idea of a movie night for your lodge families has already been proposed. Information can be found for The Boutique Theatre at information@boutiquemovies.com or 905-894-9911

Another idea is to take your members' families to the dinner theatre show at Oh Canada, Eh?! Multi-talented performers sing Canadian songs in a friendly, wilderness atmosphere inside a rustic log cabin. While you are enjoying the show, the performers serve your meal.



The theatre is at 8585 Lundy's Lane in Niagara Falls. For information, call (905) 374-1995 or see <http://www.ohcanadaeh.com>

Book under the group name "Mason" and get a !0% discount or a free children's entrance.

Or You Could Try Reading

There are many books of masonic interest. Here are some to consider:

1. Grand Lodge texts: The Constitution, Guide Lines for Lodge Officers, Meeting the Challenge, The Masonic Manual, Beyond the Pillars. (These are available through your lodge secretary)
2. *BORN in BLOOD* (The Lost Secrets of Freemasonry) by John J. Robinson, suggesting that the Knights Templar formed a secret society which became Freemasonry
3. *The HIRAM KEY* by Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas attempts to find the origins of Freemasonry. This book reads like one terrific detective novel.
4. A Pilgrim's Path, John J. Robinson



"It's called reading. It's how people install software into their brains."

Or You Could Visit

Visiting other lodges is encouraged, but maybe that would happen more often if the lodges did more to welcome their guests.

In your lodge:

- Who watches for and greets a visitor?
- Who is responsible for investigating the credentials of a visitor?
- How is the visitor introduced?



"Introduce yourself" is the least desirable method. If a visitor is met and engaged in conversation, then that member would be a good choice to do a formal introduction to the lodge members. The senior Warden or one of the Stewards might be designated to be responsible for visitors. In some lodges, the master comes down to greet the visitor. The visitor might be invited to sit in the east. Be good hosts.

When you visit, it would be good to have an ID card which states your name (with title), your lodge and district, your Grand Lodge number, and any other pertinent information.

This card could then be given to whoever will do the introduction.

Or you could go out

- April 10: Homecoming of our DDGM, Tom McClellan, to Clifton Lodge. 7:30
- April 16: District dinner. The Deputy Grand Master, Donald Campbell, may attend.
- April 28: Divine Service at 369 Thorold Road West in Welland. 2:00 p.m.
- May 6: Installations begin.

Poetry Corner

I need a little help here.
What would you put in for a last line?

According to my wife
My faults are only two:
Everything I say
And . . .

