



UNION LODGE NO. 3, A. F. & A. M. OF OREGON

PO Box 453, McMinnville, OR 97128

MASONIC NEWS & TRESTLEBOARD May 2009

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TIDINGS FROM THE EAST

I hope this finds all of you well. I have always thought that Charity was one of the most important things we as masons do. The following is an article by Bro. Hamill who is a member of QUATUOR CORONATI Lodge No. 2076, the premier Research Lodge in Freemasonry I believe the article says a great deal.

Fraternally

Scott Magers

Freemasonry, we say, is founded upon three Grand Principles--Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. It is with the second of these Grand Principles--Relief--that this Prestonian Lecture is concerned.

In simple terms our early brethren understood Relief to mean the alleviating of the suffering of a brother, or the dependents of a deceased brother, by giving money or sustenance until circumstances improved. In modern terms we see Relief in its wider context of Charity, that is not simply providing money to relieve distress but actually caring and giving of our time and talents in the service of our communities as a whole and not just to our brethren and their dependents.

The practice of Charity has been so inextricably linked with our Institution that I would claim it as a landmark of the Order. If we define a landmark as being something in Freemasonry which if it were removed its removal would materially alter the essence of our Institution then Charity is certainly a landmark. Without the second of its three Grand Principles Freemasonry would be a different organization.

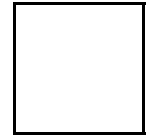
That Charity was important is clearly shown in our earliest surviving documents. The manuscript Old Charges or Gothic Constitutions are a marvelous series of documents comprising a 'history' of the mason craft followed by a series of Charges in which were outlined a masons' duties to his God, his master, his family and society in general. It was from these Old Charges that the Rev. Dr. James Anderson 'digested' the Ancient Charges which prefaced the 1723 Book of Constitutions, and all of its subsequent editions. Over one hundred versions of the manuscript Old Charges survive today, dating from circa 1390 to the mid-18th century.

The earliest versions are clearly operative in character but the later have a much greater speculative content. In operative terms the Old Charges enjoined the stone masons to assist a strange mason with up to two weeks' work and lodging. In speculative terms they enjoined a mason to succor the needy and act with Charity towards all mankind. This is not the occasion to discuss the origins of Freemasonry but it has been suggested in recent years that charity might have been one of the reasons for the founding of Freemasonry. Box Clubs were known to have existed in many trades and crafts in the 1600s. Members of a particular trade or craft would meet on a regular basis in a local inn or tavern to socialize and discuss the affairs of their craft. Prominent at their meetings would be a box into which the members would pay their dues at each meeting and into which would go the fines levied on members for misdemeanors occurring during their enjoyment of 'innocent mirth' at their meetings. If a member became sick, had an accident or was prevented from working for lawful reasons he could claim sustenance from 'the box' until he recovered his health or regained employment. Many of these box clubs are known to have had primitive entrance ceremonies and to have begun to admit as members men who had no connection with the particular trade or craft. It has been suggested that Freemasonry may have developed out of just such a series of box clubs originally limited to operative stonemasons.

Whatever its origins, it is certain that even after the formation of the premier Grand Lodge of England in 1717, Masonic Charity was carried out on a very casual basis, and that casual relief of necessity has continued to be an important function of Masonic Charity. In 1725 the Immediate Past Grand Master, proposed that Grand Lodge should set up a central Fund of Charity to provide financial relief to brethren or their dependents. A Committee was set up to investigate ways and means and like many good Masonic Committees it met regularly, argued long, presented an unworkable scheme and was sent back to think again. Their new scheme was accepted in 1727 and resulted in the formation of the Committee of Charity. To be comprised of the Grand Officers (then only the Grand Master, his Deputy, the Grand Wardens and Past Grand Masters) and the Masters of Lodges 'within the Cities of London and Westminster' the Committee of Charity was empowered to receive and deliberate on petitions and to grant assistance of up to five guineas to each case. If they believed that a case warranted greater assistance it could be recommended to a meeting of the Grand Lodge itself. Lodges were invited to make voluntary contributions to the Charity Fund and a Treasurer--to become the Grand Treasurer in 1727--was appointed to receive the money, invest it, make disbursements and keep accounts which had to be submitted to the Grand Lodge for approval.

To Be Continued in the June Trestleboard

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 You are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Deadline
 for copy is the 15th day of the month preceding publication date.
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- MAY 2** Tuality #6 Stated. 10:00 am
- MAY 5** Union Lodge #3 Stated; Dinner 6:30 pm;
Lodge 7:30 pm
- MAY 5** Holbrook #30 Stated. 7:30 pm
- MAY 6** Rickreall #110 Stated. 7:30 pm
- MAY 11** Intrepid #224 Stated. 6:30 pm
- MAY 13** Sheridan-Dayton #64 Stated. 7:30 pm
- MAY 14** Newberg #104 Stated. 7:30 pm
- MAY 26** Union Lodge Trustee's Meeting; 6:30 pm;
Officers Meeting 7:00 pm

\$7.00		\$7.00
Dinner Menu		May 5
<p>Glorified Meatloaf King Potatoes, Emerald Peas Sunrise Salad White and Chocolate Cake Coffee, Tea or Milk</p>		
<p>Prepared by Knowles Chapter #12, O.E.S.</p>		
<p>Brothers, your ladies are most welcome to attend our dinners.</p>		

Notice


The Officers Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 28th has been cancelled.

Uniform Night

If you currently wear a uniform or have ever worn one, please be sure to wear it to our Stated Meeting on May 5th. Be they military, law enforcement, fire department, or even door man, all uniforms are welcome.

Don't worry if they don't button quite the way they did at one time. We just want to see you in your uniforms.

Also at the May 5, 2009, Stated Meeting we will conduct the Draping of the Altar ceremony in memory of WB Bill Bach

	
Knowles Chapter #12, O.E.S.	
Margaret Brixey, Worthy Matron	503-472-2446
Hunt Compton, Worthy Patron	503-472-3082
Evelyn Bach, Secretary	503-472-2387
May 11	8:00 pm Stated Meeting, Election of Officers Mothers' Day refreshments courtesy of the Men
May 25	A HAPPY AND SAFE MEMORIAL DAY TO ALL
<p>YOUR SUPPORT AND ATTENDANCE AT OUR MEETINGS IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN OUR ACTIVITIES.</p>	