

From The Chair



Kilwinning 565 News

DDGM Official Visit

The big night of our Lodge calendar was Friday February 18. This was the occasion of the official visit to Kilwinning Lodge of our District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Mark Stoiko. As usual, there were a number of Grand Lodge officers in attendance, including: (our own) R. W. Bro. Chas. Reid, Member of the Board of General Purposes, R. W. Bro. Lew Crocker, Past Grand Senior Warden (Hon), V. W. Bro. David Moss, Grand Steward. Also visiting were V. W. Bro. Hugh McKnight, Master of Long Branch Lodge, W. Bro. George Warner, Master of West Gate Lodge, R. W. Bro. Geoff Bailey, V. W. Bro. Gordon Sinclair, V. W. Bro. William Hotham, Bro. George Burrows, recipient of the William Mercer Wilson Medal, W. Bro. Jan Kawenka, W. Bro. Bill Bath, and W. Bro. Eric Ireland.



During the proceedings, R. W. Bro. Bill Bain

conferred the Title of Honourary Scotsman on R. W. Bro. Mark Stoiko and informed him that he may henceforth be known as Mark MacStoiko. This was followed by the presentation of a Kilwinning Tie and Pin.

Our new brother Gene Walley was then initiated with the lodge members doing some great work.

The DDGM closed by saying that our Lodge was in good order.

Afterwards, in the banquet hall, we were treated to a great dinner, with a slight Russian flavour, by our wonderful kitchen staff, followed by the usual toasts.

All in all, I think it was a successful night, and we can be proud of our Lodge. I think we will have a great year, thanks to you all!

Keep the good work going, learn, grow, and have fun!

New Initiate—Helder Goncalves

Helder Goncalves, whom we initiated in January, is in the field of investment banking. He initially studied biological sciences at York University, then moved into market trading. He has worked for several private investors based in the United States, and as a senior trader and investment banker. In 2010 he decided to start a capital firm with American partners that deal with fund management, venture capital and corporate finance. He currently attends the London school of Economics for Economics and Mathematics. Helder intends to one day soon reach his goal to be a momentous venture capitalist specializing in innovation, energy and mining. In his leisure time he enjoys reading, cooking, foreign films, philosophy and aspiring to learn new languages, even though he already speaks four.



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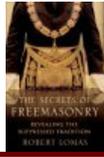
Special points of interest:

- *Big Night Successful - DDGM visit*
- *Profile—who is Bro. Helder Goncalves?*
- *Educational Articles*
- *2 Book Reviews*
- *What's coming up?*

Book Reviews

The Secrets Of Freemasonry

by Robert Lomas



The title of this book is a misnomer. It has nothing to do with secrets, but is a summary of the viewpoints from five different Masonic writers and researchers on the origins of the Craft.

He references and comments on books by William Preston, Robert Gould, JSM Ward, AE Waite and WL Wilmshurst. He helps make some of the earlier writers easier to understand by “translating” into more modern language.

Each has different ideas on the origins and lineage of Freemasonry and touch on both Craft Masonry and Scottish Rite.

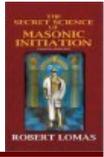
They touch on charters and manuscripts from early times with discussion on Knights Templar and their possible influence on some aspects of Masonry.

There is a chapter devoted entirely to the history of Mother Kilwinning and her influence on Lodges over time.

While their conclusions are diverse, they all agree that the origins of Freemasonry are much older than the 18th Century as the UGLE like to state, and are *not* derived from the Operative guilds.

The Secret Science Of Masonic Initiation

by Robert Lomas



Being familiar with the work of this author, the content of this book surprised me.

This is a book about the deeper, hidden, spiritual meaning behind the ritual of our degrees.

Lomas was inspired largely by the work of William L Wilmshurst. This inspired me to read the books and papers of Wilmshurst and I'm really glad I did. While Lomas does take the reader through the three degrees, he really just skims the surface. I think his intention was to encourage Masons to dig deeper. I got a lot more “meat” out of Wilmhursts books.

I don't recommend this for Brethren who are not yet Master Masons, since his coverage of the degrees will be meaningless unless one has been through them.

However, I do recommend this for every Master Mason who is not content with just the social side of Masonry, who is looking for something deeper.

Three Steps to the Altar in the EA Degree

“The way to approach the altar in this degree is by three steps, the first of fifteen inches, the second of twelve, the third of nine”.

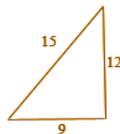
First, why three steps?

Three is the dominant number in this degree. Read the ritual and see for yourself.

Second, why fifteen, twelve, and nine inches?

These are the lengths of the three sides of a Pythagorean triangle, used to construct a right-angle.

So, from a mason's point of view, this could be used to create a square. Obviously that's of great use in building and construction, but as we are not operative but Free and Accepted masons, we make use of it for more noble purposes.



As Masons, we understand the moral lessons derived from the square. These are taught in the ritual and lectures of the EA Degree.

The triangle is an ancient symbol, and its many forms have various meanings.

From a spiritual point of view, we should understand the base of the triangle to represent the physical aspect of ourselves. The vertical line is the mental, and the hypotenuse or diagonal as the spiritual side.

There are other shapes of triangle which are important in Masonry, but I'll leave that for another time.

Send your educational articles to W.Bro. Rob Lund.

Have you noticed.....?

There is one step up to the Junior Warden's chair, two steps up to the Senior Warden's chair, and three steps up to the Master's chair.

The reference to 'Lucifer' made by Albert Pike

Article by W.Bro. Rob Lund

Fundamentalist anti-Masons love to condemn all Freemasonry based on the writings and philosophy of Albert Pike. Many non-masons also don't distinguish between Scottish Rite and Craft Masonry.

One quote in particular is used often:

"Lucifer, the Son of the Morning! Is it he who bears the Light, and with its splendors intolerable blinds feeble, sensual, or selfish Souls? Doubt it not!"

This quote, from Pike's "Morals & Dogma of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry", two lines from a book of over 800 pages, is seen to refer to Satan, the fallen angel, ruler of Hell. This is unfortunate, because the equating of Lucifer with Satan is based on a mistranslation, deliberate or not, in the King James version of the Old Testament.

Firstly, the reference to Lucifer occurs only *once* in the King James version of the Old Testament, and is found in Isaiah 14, the 12th sentence: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!".

Secondly, Lucifer is a Latin name, so ask how it found its way into a Hebrew manuscript, written before there was a Roman language? Well, it didn't. Here is a translation from the original Hebrew: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O day-star, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, that didst cast lots over the nations!". There is no reference to Satan, at all, in this verse.

Thirdly, "Lucifer", meaning "bringer/bearer of light", is the name given to Venus, the morning star, and is used in this text as a reference to a Babylonian king, who persecuted the Children of Israel, just before his death. The king's name was Helal, son of Shahar. The name "Helal" is best translated as "Day star, son of the Dawn".

Fourthly, over the centuries, a metamorphosis took place. Lucifer the morning star became a disobedient angel, cast out of heaven to rule eternally in hell. Theologians, writers, and poets interwove the myth with the doctrine of the Fall, and in Christian tradition Lucifer is now the same as Satan, the Devil and, ironically, the Prince of Darkness.

Many translation problems such as this, were resolved at a conference which was

held in October 1946, attended by delegates of the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, Baptists, Methodists, and Congregationalist churches. At another meeting four months later, delegates from the Presbyterians and Quakers joined the original group, along with representatives of various Bible societies. Still later, observers were sent as representatives of the Roman Catholic Church. The result of this joint effort was *The New English Bible*, of which the

New Testament was published in 1969 and the Old Testament in 1970.

"Lucifer", meaning "bringer/bearer of light", is the name given to Venus, the morning star.

Unfortunately, however, misunderstanding and ignorance continue.

References:

A Pilgrim's Path by John J. Robinson

Morals & Dogma of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry By

Upcoming Events

- March 5—Pub night
 - March 7—2nd Degree x 2
 - March 10—V.W. BRO. LEN I. LEVY 90th Birthday
 - March 17—Initiation
 - March 29—Grand Master's Reception
 - April 4—2nd Degree x 2
 - April 15—Initiation
 - April 30—At The Hop (King Hiram Lodge dinner/dance)
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Send your articles, book reviews, and suggestions for this Newsletter to W. Bro. Rob Lund (rob.lund@rogers.com)