

Mark My Words

-- The Newsletter for the Mark Master Mason

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THE MARK MASTER AND THE BUILDING OF KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE Part 2

By **R.W.Bro. Desmond Barnett, J.P.**, Provincial Grand Master

This is the second in a series of two articles explaining the role of the Mark Master Mason in the building of King Solomon's Temple. It will also be of interest to Craft Freemasons since it explains how Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts were employed.

We have already heard how the three Grand Master Masons, Solomon, Hiram and Hiram Abiff sent for craftsmen to help them to build the Temple at Jerusalem. After rejecting the young, the old, the women, men of unsound mind unable to appreciate the wisdom or guard the secrets, and men who did not believe in God, over 100,000 remained.

Men who had wisely served the interest of Architecture and Geometry came up to them for recognition, approval and acceptance as a superior group.

The major problem remained because there was this vast body of men with all the problems previously described. The men were rigorously tested as to loyalty, honour, trust and knowledge of Geometry and Architecture. The tests were exhaustive and were both oral and practical since nearly all the men were illiterate. Many were categorised as Fellow-Crafts and the remainder as Entered Apprentices. The latter were to develop their skills under the supervision of the Fellow-Crafts. Some 1100 operative lodges, each of Fellow-Crafts and Entered Apprentices were formed. Much order and harmony was present and prevailed among the workmen. Each Degree had its own pass word of recognition for each grade. There was present no envy, no distrust and no confusion. Complete harmony and peace prevailed.

Solomon's stroke of creative genius was to use workers from the especial group, who had been initially accepted as proven experts and who had already earned his trust, as Overseers or MARK MASTERS. He initiated the Mark Master Mason Degree and placed these Mark Masters or Overseers under the direct control of Ghiblim with a daily wage of 25 shekels. There were said to be 1100 of these, one in charge of each operative lodge. The degree of Mark Men was also instituted and these were the remaining members of the trusted premier group. These were under the control of Stolkyn and received a daily wage of 9 shekels. Incidentally, Stolkyn was later chosen as one of the 15 Fellow-Crafts who were sent by King Solomon to find the Temple deserters and the three murderers of Hiram Abiff. The pay

differential demonstrates the superiority of the Mark Master. There were 2,200 Mark Men and these were distributed two to each lodge. Each lodge then had a Mark Master, two Mark Men as Senior and Junior Wardens, and 100 Fellow-Crafts and Entered Apprentices.

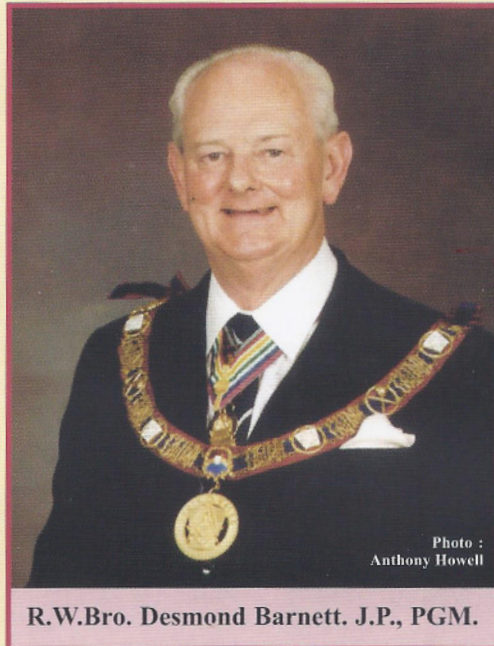
All directions for the building were communicated from the three Grand Master to the Mark Masters at daily meetings. Every portion of the Fellow-Crafts work for the building of the Temple was submitted to the greatest scrutiny by the Mark Master and his Wardens or Overseers. Every workman received with great punctuality the reward for his industry and skill. It had been determined that there should be neither hammer nor axe, nor any tool of iron used in the Temple, so that no sound would be heard when it was being built in Majestic Silence. Thus the Temple work right from the start would be clean and unpolluted.

The stones were made ready before being brought to the Temple and erected with the assistance of wooden implements.

Although the stones were prepared at a great distance from the Temple, Such was the skill and ingenuity of the workmen that when the stones were put together each part fitted with so exact a fit that it seemed more like the work of God rather than that of mere men. The Mark Master was the very key to the success of the whole operation. Each Fellow-Craft had his own peculiar mark that was known only to his Mark Master. When the Fellow-Craft's work was finally approved by the Mark Master he would code the stone so that its place in the building would be known and there would be no chance of its being misplaced. The use of the Mark and the expert supervision of the Mark Master in each of the 1100 lodges ensured that the potential chaos that would have resulted from over 100,000 workmen producing stones without order and discipline was averted.

After the untimely and tragic death of Hiram Abiff, his place was taken by Adoniram. The final magnificence and wonder of King Solomon's Temple was only possible through the blessing of God; the genius of King Solomon; the support of Hiram, King of Tyre; the supervision of Hiram Abiff and then Adoniram; and not forgetting the Mark Masters. So Brethren be very proud of your heritage.

Desmond Barnett J.P., P.G.M.



R.W.Bro. Desmond Barnett, J.P., PGM.



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Mark Lodges join for Sunday Lunch at Merthyr

Photographs : Anthony Howell

There has always been difficulty in suggesting to the Mark Lodge of Progress that they arrange social events when, out of their two Saturday meetings, their



Paul & Molly Clement

Election Meeting is always followed by a lunch at Caerphilly, where they are joined by their ladies and, of course, their guests and their ladies. The main difficulty, however, is that all members belong to at least one other (mother) Mark Lodge, where they have fully supported their mother Lodge's social activities.



Elaine & Des Barnett

when having to cater for over fifty, so as nearly 50% shared a common membership of the two Lodges, Merthyr was chosen and arrangements went ahead through Brian Kinnear and the very successful lunch took place on Sunday 12th June.

The two Masters were very happy to welcome the Provincial Grand Master, Des Barnett and his wife Elaine, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Paul Clement and his wife Molly, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Tony Moore and his Mum.

In all, well over eighty Mark Masons and their families really enjoyed themselves and all were of one accord, that the event

To join in with another Lodge has been thought of previously but it was only when the current Master, Vaughan Harries got together with the IPM Gordon Davies Evans, who also happens to be the present Master of St. Tydfil's, hatched the idea of a joint Sunday Lunch. It is always extremely difficult to make such arrangements at any hostelry



Brian Langley, Babs & John Wiggins & Jennie Langley



Tony Moor with Wynne & Gordon Evans

should be repeated. Full appreciation must be recorded of the organization by Brian Kinnear, both before and during the lunch, when a raffle raised the impressive sum of almost £300.00, which was donated to the Provincial Grand Master's Discretionary Fund.



Margaret & Anthony Howell, with Mrs. Florence Lasky

LODGE NEWS

Ysgollion Lodge

It's not only for the W. Masters that the year flies - the Lodge correspondents find time "like an ever rolling stream" too! At this stage it is possible to look back at the Masonic year for the Lodge, and ask how successful it has been, both from the view of Lodge strength, (and strengths!) and success.

Ysgollion has long prided itself on its abilities to welcome and impress its advances, and this is evidenced by the enthusiasm of its officers, present and past. Under the tutelage of our W. Master, W. Bro. Dennis Tucker, the officers have performed their duties in an exemplary manner, as evidences by the comments during the after-proceedings.

On a sadder note, we were unable to find our full quota of three for the year, but the odd "early bath" can do wonders for our fellowship, and it is significant that we rarely sit down to eat with less than 25 present. The number of members totals forty eight, a sign of a successful Lodge.

Our election night produced a closely fought battle between our senior Warden, Bro. Gordon Longmore, and the twelve Past Masters present, but wisdom finally prevailed. The Master Elect's son has just returned from Officer's duties with the army in Iraq, so perhaps the big guns were brought to bear!

The end of April saw the holding of a Ladies' Evening at the Temple in Pontyclun, which, in spite of clashing with the PGM's bonding weekend in West Wales, had a turn out of fifty five, including seven guests of the Lodge. It was unfortunate that our arrangements were put in hand before the Provincial dates were known. We'll do better next year.

We were delighted at the Mark Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in June, when our long serving Treasurer and Past Master of the Lodge, W. Bro. Don Ramsay, was promoted to P.Prov.G.J.Warden., a well deserved honour, and Past Master, Huw Gosling was

appointed to P.Prov.A.G.D.C. W. Bro. Huw is at present lecturing at the Police college at Bramshill, so he is not able to attend regularly.

We are still looking for old boys of Penarth and Cowbridge Grammar Schools who may wish to join us. While they have no Craft Lodges, as such, I am sure that there are sufficient capable old boys of these schools who would be eligible to form a group within Ysgollion to offset the bad influences of the likes of Barrian, Cantonion, Howardian, Monktonian and Ymlaen Lodges. Joining members would also be welcomed in a truly Mark manner. In the meanwhile, The Master and Brethren of Ysgollion Lodge offer to all readers of "Mark My Words" a continuing welcome to Pontyclun, and until then, enjoyment of the Summer break.

W. Bro. Fred Fox.

Cambrensis Lodge

The Installation meeting of the Lodge was held on Thursday 7th. April. The meeting commemorated the Silver Jubilee of the consecration of the Lodge in 1979, and the Lodge was honoured to have the Assistant P.G.M. in attendance. He was



Asst. P.G.M. W. Bro. Anthony F. Moore presents the citation to W. Bro. Paul Kelvin Smith

Cowbridge Lodge

Travelling Man

Dave Cousins, Worshipful Master of the Cowbridge Mark Lodge probably travels more miles than any brother to preside over his Lodge. Dave, a retired QS, and his wife Jan, recently uprooted sticks in Pencoed, Bridgend, to take up residence in far away Kings Lynn, Norfolk. Prior to which, he spent much of his leisure time over the years renovating and tastefully restoring his dream home.

To avoid doubling up on travelling time he stayed on after the June meeting in Cowbridge, having called a 10.00 a.m. committee meeting of the St. Quentin's Chapter, of which he is First principal Elect - a devil for punishment! The meeting was well attended despite the lure of the All Blacks Test.

Business concluded, Dave winged his way across the width of the land from God's country to the Fen country. W. Bro. Sid Robling.



W. Bro. Paul Kelvin Smith, W. Bro. A.F. Moore, W. Bro. S.W.J. Clarke, Members of Cambrensis Lodge and the Provincial Team

formally greeted by the W.M., W. Bro. John Davidson. On this occasion W. Bro. Anthony F. Moore assumed the chair of the Lodge and called on the Provincial Grand Secretary, V.W. Bro. S.W.J. Clarke to read a citation commemorating the event

The Assistant P.G.M. congratulated the Lodge and presented the citation to the P.G.M., to be included in the minute book. A new book is to be started for the next 25 years. W. Bro. Sid Richards