

OUT OF THE BLUE NEWSLETTER



LONDON EAST DISTRICT

SPRING, 2009

The London Lux Quaro Chapter



LUX QUARO CHAPTER of The Philaethes Society is a local Masonic study and information group. Meetings are held four times each year, at which time informative and well researched articles of Masonic interest are presented.

Past Chapter projects have been the publication of books of Masonic interest. The main ongoing projects are the operation of the Masonic Library at Dufferin Hall plus available support for the Pioneer Masonic Lodge at the London Fanshawe Pioneer Village.

Lux Quaro Chapter was chartered on February 8, 1985.

Membership is open to all Master Masons.

Information is available from W. Bro. Art O'Halloran at 519-686-0520 and/or W. Bro. Norm Dix at 519-858-1356.

Web site: http://www.geocities.com/lux_quaro/

The London Masonic Temple Library

The Library at 453 Dufferin Avenue is open each lodge night from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All lodge members (East or West Districts) may borrow a book or books by signing the register. All volumes are well marked for easy viewing; Proceedings, Craft, History, General Literature and Symbolic Works. Separate sections deal with the York Rite, the Scottish Rite, as well as the Shrine of North America.

A large number of new and used books have been received. Including a number of controversial new volumes.

One example is "The ROSSLYN HOAX". Written by Robert Cooper, the curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Museum and Library. It deals with subjects such as The Knights Templar, Freemasonry (especially Scottish), the St. Clair family and Rosslyn Chapel itself. The author asks a number of thought provoking questions which will provide many answers for readers of 'The Temple and The Lodge'; 'The Hiram Key'; 'The De Vinci Code' and others.

Your Library staff needs your ongoing support. Please return books as quickly as possible when finished with them, Brethren are asked to donate any and all Masonic books and publications that they may have no further use of.

All Financial donations will be gratefully received and properly applied.

Submitted by: W. Bros. Art O'Halloran and Norm Dix.

Did You Know . . .

that the DDGM submits a summary report regarding his district to Grand Lodge in May. This report is printed in the Grand Lodge Proceedings which are published in December of each year.

The DDGM may also send an individual report after his visit to the Master of each lodge stating his opinion on the health and well being of his lodge. That report may recommend correcting such problems that the DDGM or his secretary may find. This report may or should be discussed with the general membership of the lodge. Following is the Report for London East in 2008.

London East District – 14 Lodges, R.W. Bro. John E. Stevens

As had been identified by my predecessor, the district appears to have been coasting along and relying on it's past. Of the 1800 masons in the district, there are only about 150 who are active. There seems to be a fair bit of apathy in the membership.

We have taken a rather aggressive approach with the district programs this year. All the DDGM's talks have been directed toward problem areas and possible solutions. We hosted a number of seminars directed toward those areas, such as the Grand Lodge Long Range Planning and Brother to Brother Seminars. These were followed up with district seminars to expand on the principles. As a result, most lodges have B2B programs and are developing long range plans.

The district initiated a Masters Orientation Seminar for the newly installed masters addressing GL concerns, protocol, Rules of Order and responsibilities of the master. It was styled after the DDGM sessions held after GL each year. It was well received and its effects have been such that it will be repeated after this year's installations.

Increased social functions, as a district, are enhancing the Masonic experience and strengthening relationships. Sending minutes with the summons is providing improved contact with those "in-active" members of the district.

While the quality of the "work" ranges from poor to excellent, emphasis on regular, well-attended practices and instruction in the ritual will pay dividends.

Most of the district lodges are involved in various community programs ranging from road clean-up, education bursaries, community charity work and the highly visible MasoniChIP. Several lodges hold their own Divine Service, as part of a regular church service, in addition to the district service. The Masonic float is made good use of at area parades.

The district, through the use of the various programs and increased social activity, is "rebuilding" itself This process needs time to bear fruit and, if nurtured, will do so over the next few years. I believe that, at least among active masons there is a very positive view of the future.

The 3rd Annual London East Picnic

The 3rd Annual London East Picnic is being held Rain or Shine on Sunday, July 5th at the Nilestown Masonic Park starting at 1:00 pm till approx. 5:00 pm. There will be hamburgers, hotdogs, juices, pop etc. from 1:00 pm until ?? Cost is FREE. Donations will be gratefully received.

This has proved to be a grand event for fun and fellowship for our families, especially the children. All are invited from both London Districts and we encourage the invitation to be extended to friends and family. There will be a number of games for the children and some for the adults to participate in.

Because of the success of our last two silent auctions we are again asking for any handcrafts or lodge donations for this year be directed to: **Ray Charles at phone number 519-681-7304.** Hope to see you there.

The Forget-Me-Not

(Das Vergissmeinnicht)

The Story Behind This Beloved Emblem Of The Craft in Germany.

The preserved records of the Reichsicherheitshauptamt (the Reich Security Main Office) show the persecution of Freemasons. RSHA Amt VII (Written Records) was overseen by Professor Franz Six and was responsible for “ideological” tasks, by which was meant the creation of anti-Semitic and anti-Masonic propaganda. While the number is not accurately known, it is estimated that between 80,000 and 200,000 Freemasons were killed under the Nazi regime. Masonic concentration camp inmates were graded as political prisoners and wore an inverted red triangle.



The small blue forget-me-not flower was first used by the Grand Lodge Zur Sonne, in 1926, as a Masonic emblem at the annual convention in Bremen, Germany.

In Early 1934, soon after Hitler’s rise to power, it became evident that Freemasonry was in danger. In that same year, the “Grand Lodge of the Sun” (one of the pre-war German Grand Lodges, located in Bayreuth) realizing the grave dangers involved, adopted the little blue Forget-Me-Not flower as a substitute for the traditional square and compasses. It was felt 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 undercover, and this delicate flower assumed its role as a symbol of Masonry surviving throughout the reign of darkness

In 1938 the forget-me-not badge – made by the same factory as the Masonic badge – was chosen for the annual Nazi Party Winterhilfswerk, a Nazi charitable organisation which collected money so that other state funds could be freed up and used for rearmament. This coincidence enabled Freemasons to wear the forget-me-not badge as a secret sign of membership. During the ensuing decade of Nazi power a little blue Forget-Me-Not flower worn in a Brother’s lapel served as one method whereby brethren could identify each other in public, and in cities and concentration camps throughout Europe. The Forget-Me-Not distinguished the lapels of countless brethren who staunchly refused to allow the symbolic Light of Masonry to be completely extinguished.

When the ‘Grand Lodge of the Sun’ was reopened in Bayreuth in 1947, by Past Grand Master Beyer, a little pin in the shape of a Forget-Me-Not was officially adopted as the emblem of that first annual convention of the brethren who had survived the bitter years of semi-darkness to rekindle the Masonic Light

At the first Annual Convent of the new United Grand Lodge of Germany AF&AM (VGLvD), in 1948, the pin was adopted as an official Masonic emblem in honor of the thousands of valiant Brethren who carried on their masonic work under adverse conditions. The following year, each delegate to the Conference of Grand Masters in Washington, D.C., received one from Dr. Theodor Vogel, Grand Master of the VGLvD.

Thus did a simple flower blossom forth into a symbol of the fraternity, and become perhaps the most widely worn emblem among Freemasons in Germany; a pin presented ceremoniously to newly-made Masons in most of the Lodges of the American-Canadian Grand Lodge, AF & AM within the United Grand Lodges of Germany. In the years since adoption, its significance world-wide has been attested to by the tens of thousands of brethren who now display it with meaningful pride



The Reason Why!

According to Masonic tradition, medieval European stone-masons would meet, eat and shelter outside working hours in a Lodge on the southern side of a building site, where the sun warms the stones during the day. The social Festive Board (or Social Board), part of the meeting is thus sometimes called the South. Early Lodges often met in a tavern or any other convenient fixed place with a private room.

Long Service Awards

60 YEARS A MASON

Bro. **Ralph McLeod** – King Solomon 394
W. Bro. **Ernest Richards** – Temple 597

50 YEARS A MASON

V.W. Bro. **Russell Farquar** – Belmont 190
W. Bro. **William Elliott** – Mt. Olivet 300
W. Bro. **Ivan McGuffin** – Mt. Olivet 300
Bro. **Frederick Dufton** – Mt. Olivet 300
Bro. **Peter Brown** – Merrill 344
Bro. **Bruce May** – Nilestown 345
Bro. **Warren Biggs** – Nilestown 345
R.W. Bro. **Wayne Elgie** – King Solomon 394
Bro. **Werner Mollé** – Temple 597

25 YEARS A MASON

Bro. **Gerald Ollson** – King Solomon 394
W. Bro. **Douglas Taylor** – King Solomon 394
Bro. **Edwin Barden** – King Solomon 394
V.W. Bro. **Wayne Allistone** – Ionic 716
W. Bro. **Gordon Carriere** – Ionic 716

25 YEARS A PAST MASTER

W. Bro. **Gerald Lindsay** – Mt. Olivet 300

Newest Masons in London East

Bro. **Andrew J. Brown** – St. John’s 20
Bro. **Chad Asselstine** – St. John’s 20
Bro. **Ameer J. Esho** – St. John’s 20
Bro. **Christopher O. Smith** – St. John’s 20
Bro. **Kenneth A. Hoggart** – St. John’s 20
Bro. **Joe Fontana** – Kilwinning 64
Bro. **Heiner Phillip** – Kilwinning 64
Bro. **James K. Hackland** – Merrill 344
Bro. **Kizysztow Nowicki** – Merrill 344
Bro. **Matthew Johnson** – Nilestown 345
Bro. **Robert S. Drake** – Nilestown 345
Bro. **George Hunter** – Nilestown 345
Bro. **Eric Haldenby** – Nilestown 345
Bro. **Dirk Vandenberg** – Middlesex 379
Bro. **Blair Walker** – Union 380
Bro. **Terry Walker** – Union 380
Bro. **Kirk Brunson** – King Solomon 394
Bro. **Antoine El Kareh** – Moffat 399
Bro. **James A. McCabe** – Centennial 684
Bro. **Jerry A. Feth** – Centennial 684
Bro. **Garratt J. Wootton** – Centennial 684

The Modern Cowan

Floren L. Quick

In Scotland, the operative Mason knew cowans to be ignorant builders who put stones together without mortar. They piled rough fieldstones into a wall without hewing them true, or squaring them. They masqueraded as Masters, but they did not have the Word.

Now and again, today – fortunately not too often – we find a modern equivalent of the operative imposter. One such is the Mason who manages a place in an officer's line with little or no effect of his own to deserve it. With only that exertion that is necessary to maintain his place, he continues to advance in line until he receives the jewels and honours that he prizes so highly. But he does not know the Constitution, and he does not understand the traditions and dignity of the Craft. As a presiding officer, his vocal ability is more noteworthy than his executive ability; and when his term is ended, he is seldom seen until another honour or prize appears to be within his grasp.

He is a contemporary builder who works without the benefit of the mortar of real enthusiasm or accomplishments. His structure is likened unto the rough stone wall, having little beauty of value. He is the cowan of modern speculative Masonry.

He is to be pitied, for he is a Masonic failure. His honours are shallow. Bringing no interest to his position, he received little of the satisfaction and respect that belong to the real Master.

Masonry has failed to reach him with a clear understanding of those marks of true devotion which she has to offer. He never knows the opportunities that the Craft makes available to those who diligently seek them. He misses the opportunities that the Craft makes available to strive for a just and worthy cause. He misses the opportunity for continuing fellowship and friendship. He misses the opportunity for loyalty and devotion. He misses the opportunity for development of his executive, intellectual and oratorical abilities. And most of all, he misses the opportunity for service – to God – to his community – and to his fellow man.

These are the jewels that Masonry has to offer, but in his quest for position and honours, the modern cowan misses them. Like the operative cowan, he does not have the Word.

Reprinted from the Masonic Shimbun in the GLBC Bulletin, Nov. '79.

Then and Now

Your editor found among his books, a copy of The London Area Masonic Directory for 1962. Among other things, it lists the membership totals for the various lodges. The following lodges would form London East District in 1966.

Ionic 716 and London Daylight 735 were not in existence in 1962.

	Membership Total 1962	Membership Total 2008
St. John's 20	558	263
Kilwinning 64	675	264
Belmont 190	141	43
Mount Olivet 300	137	74
Merrill 344	140	57
Nilestown 345	287	154
Middlesex 379	90	76
Union 380	559	104
King Solomon 394	129	60
Moffat 399	84	41
Temple 597	282	72
Centennial 684	179	325
Ionic 716		104
London Daylight 735		90

Let Someone Know

The following was submitted by W. Bro. Lawrie Cousins a member of London Daylight 735.

Contacting the Lodge is not a difficult matter. The Lodge Secretary's name appears on all dues cards and lodge summons.

ILLNESS

In the event our member becomes ill, we want to know. If you are sick at home, in the hospital, in a long term residence or nursing home and would like visitors or a phone call, please have your family or a lodge brother or someone advise your lodge secretary or the chairman of the sick and visiting committee about your situation. This also applies for the York Rite or Scottish Rite. Again, the same method of notifying us can be used as explained previously. In the past, members have fallen ill without our knowing it and their loved ones have been displeased with us for a seeming act of disregard, when in fact we have been unaware of the problem.

MASONIC FUNERAL

Any member or former member, at the time of his death is entitled to a Masonic funeral service if he or his family requests it. Such a request should be made to the Master of his Lodge who will make the necessary arrangements for the service.



A service is authorized by the jurisdiction in which you are located and consists of participation at the mortuary.

In general, the Lodge will do as much or as little as the nearest relative wishes it to do.

Most lodges are presenting a "Widows Pin" to the wife of a deceased brother. This pin is recognized by our Grand Lodge.

Any masonic apron, collars, lapel pins, jewels could be returned to his lodge. Masonic rings, cuff links, tie clips etc. could be given or sold to a mason's family member or to a friend. Do not dispose of them, Just get in touch with the lodge secretary.

The Ronald L. Lake Parkette – Belmont

In Belmont, on Friday, September 26th, 2008, a Parkette situated between the former Masonic Lodge building and Belmont TV was named in honour of V.W. Brother Ron Lake who has been a resident of Belmont for almost 50 years.

V.W. Brother Lake joined Belmont 190 in 1967. In January that same year, he took office as a Belmont Village counciler. In 1969 he was elected Reeve of the Village of Belmont. In 1974 he was elected Warden of Elgin County. In 1976 he was appointed as Justice of the Peace retiring from politics in 1979. After his retirement, he became the Sheriff of Elgin County until December 1989.

At 83 years of age, he is still keeping busy and very active in Belmont and Belmont Lodge 190 having served as Worshipful Master in 1986.



V.W. Bro. Ron Lake cutting the ribbon along with other dignitaries.

The 2009 Worshipful Masters for London East District



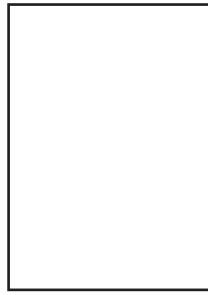
Wm. J. (Andy) Anderson. St. John's 20



Brian Maxwell Kilwinning 64



Randy Dunlop Belmont 190



Shaun Bolton Mt. Olivet 300



Norm Dix Merrill 344



Bob Rossi Nilestown 345



Rick Jones Middlesex 379



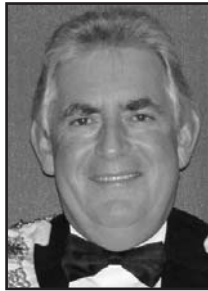
Bill Kaiser Union 380



Dr. Ted Dundas King Solomon 394



Lawrence Martin Moffat 399



John Burke Temple 597



Gary J. Penn Centennial 684



Mike Belan Ionic 716



Vern Leffler Daylight 735

Web Sites

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freemasons>

www.masonicrestoration.com

www.geocities.com/mcmurraymasons/

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