

THE KEYSTONE



Publication of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon

The Grand First Principal's Spring Address

Volume 7, Issue 1
March 2007

My Companions,

My year as your Grand First Principle is almost half over, and so far I have been encouraged by what I have seen in our Chapters. As I have sojourned around the Province I have been very well received and most heartened by the amount of new candidates entering Royal Arch: I believe we have well over 90 new candidates in the whole Province.

As you know, my theme for this year is "Growing our Fraternity", but the declaration of that theme alone will not bring in new candidates: It is only YOU, Companions, who can do that. Let's get out into our Craft Lodges and let our Brethren know what we have to offer; let's tell them that we continue on after the third degree to complete their Master Mason Degree with their receiving the Masters Word in the Holy Royal Arch Degree. You know, Companions, asking Brethren to join the Royal Arch is only an initial step in involving them in Capitular Masonry. What are we going to do to keep them as active Royal Arch Companions once they complete their Holy Royal Arch degree?

Do you have a program in your Chapter that will make them want to attend ?

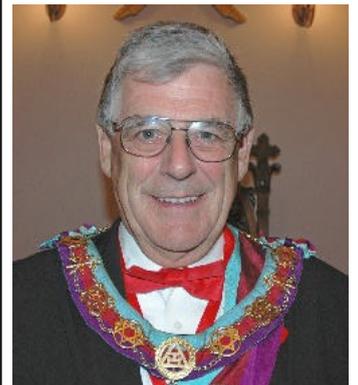
Do you practice good ritual?

Do you have small items of education at each of your meetings?

Do you have social occasions wherein families are involved?

If the answer is NO, NO, NO, NO, then we should ask why. Companions let's try something different. Don't be discouraged by those who may say that your new ideas won't work: Only after you have tried it can you make such a statement.

Finally, if you need any help in improving your Chapter, REC Larry Atkinson has produced an excellent program to help us move into the future. Your District Superintendents have a copy on CD, and I am sure they will make a copy available to any Chapter that wishes to use that program to assist your Chapter to move forward.



I am looking forward to visiting the rest of the Chapters within our Grand Jurisdiction in the Spring. If you have any special occasions that you would like me to attend, I will make every effort to be there.

Fraternally

M.E.C. Les Robinson

Grand First Principal

In This Issue:

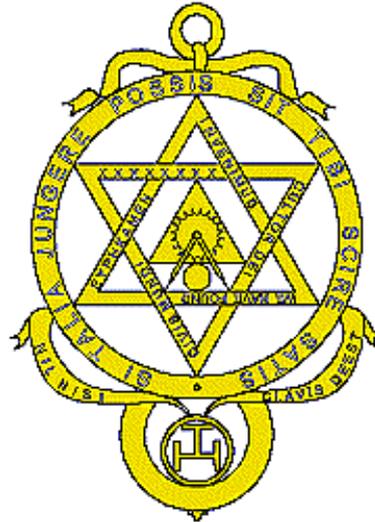
Page

<i>The Seal of Solomon</i>	2
<i>Spring Board of General Purposes</i>	2
<i>Sir Alexander Fleming, Freemason</i>	3
<i>88th Grand Convocation</i>	4
<i>The Skull and Bones</i>	4

The Seal of Solomon

The September, 2005, issue of the Keystone included a short note on the fact that author Dan Brown was working on a successor to the Da Vinci Code tentatively called the Solomon Key. No one who has read the Da Vinci Code will be surprised to learn that the Solomon Key is a prominent symbol in Royal Arch Masonry, as is the Seal of Solomon. Every companion wears those symbols on his sash or lapel as a part of the Royal Arch Companion's Jewel. In modern times, the Companion's Jewel has become somewhat simplified and somewhat smaller than it's historic antecedents, such as the one depicted on this page, which offer an expanded meaning. The Seal of Solomon is the two, interlaced triangles depicted in the centre of the jewel, also known, geometrically, as an hexalpha, and also known amongst the Hebrews as the Shield of David. It is said to have been inscribed on the foundation stone of the Tem-

ple of Solomon, and it was a common feature in the seals of medieval masons. The Latin inscription upon the Seal itself reads: "We have found the worship of God, o Citizen of the world;" and encircling the Seal: "If thou canst comprehend these things, thou knowest enough". And the Solomon Key? We, as Royal Arch Masons, know it by another name: the Triple Tau. "Nothing is wanting but the key," reads the banner over the Triple Tau. In its simplest form, the Triple Tau it is just that: Three Taus, the nineteenth letter of the Greek alphabet. The apparent configuration of a T resting on an H has given rise to the meaning, *Templum Heirosolyma*, or Temple of Solomon. Noted Masonic scholar, H. Meji, Past High Priest of Tokyo Chapter No. 1 has described a fascinating correspondence whereby the angles contained in the Triple Tau (the Key of Solomon) unlock the Seal of Solomon to reveal the five Platonic solids: the Dodecahedron, the



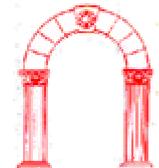
Tetrahedron, the Octahedron, the Hexahedron and the Icosahedron, a further link to operative Masonry.

Sources:

Meji, H: www3.tky3web.ne.jp

Jones, B.E. 1956. *Freemason's Guide and Compendium*. Barnes & Noble: New York.

Mackey, A.G. 1909. *Lexicon & History of Freemasonry*. McClure Publishing: Philadelphia

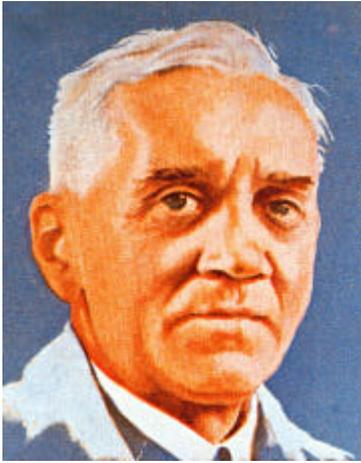


Spring Board of General Purposes March 23-25, Victoria

Location: Masonic Temple, 650 Fisguard Street
Host Hotel: Traveller's Inn City Centre Hotel, 1961 Douglas, 1-888-877-9444
Optional Hotel: Traveller's Inn Downtowner, 1850 Douglas, 1-888-254-6476

March 23	7:00 PM	Past Master Degree by Columbia Chapter No. 1
	9:00 PM	Meet & Greet for Companions & Ladies
March 24	Noon	Commencement of Grand Chapter Spring Board
	6:00 PM	Companions & Ladies Lunch, Golden City Restaurant
March 25	9:15 AM	Cocktails (no host), Traveller's Inn City Centre Hotel
		Church Service, St. Michael's & All Angels Anglican Church 4733 West Saanich Road

Sir Alexander Fleming, Freemason



Born into a farming family on August 6, 1881 in Lochfield, Ayrshire, Scotland, he did his early schooling locally before moving to London to attend St. Mary's Medical School at London University, from which he qualified with distinction in 1906 and entered into research under Sir Almroth Wright, who was pioneering the study of vaccine therapy. Gaining an MB and BS with

Gold Medal in 1908, Fleming went on to lecture at St. Mary's until 1914. It was during that time (1909) that he was Initiated into Freemasonry at Santa Maria Lodge No. 3286, London.

In World War I, Fleming served as a Captain in the Army Medical Corps and was mentioned in dispatches. He returned to St. Mary's in 1918 and was elected Professor of the School in 1928. That was the same year that he discovered a bacteria resistant mould. Experimenting further, he was able to isolate the active substance, which he named penicillin. So successful was the drug at fighting bacteria that, by

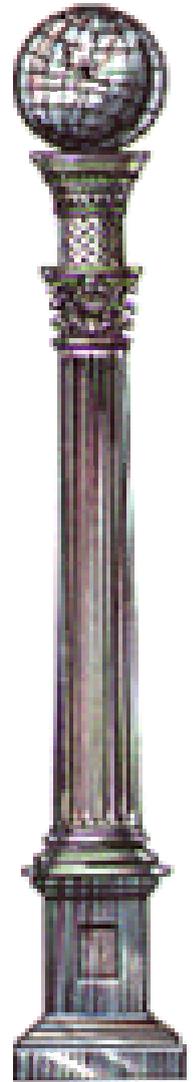
the 1940's it was being mass-produced. As Dr. Fleming's medical vocation blossomed, so did his Masonic avocation. He became a member of Misericordi Lodge No. 3286 and was elected Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of England in 1941. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1943, joint winner of the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1945, Emeritus Professor of Bacteriology at the University of London in 1948, and was knighted in 1955, the year in which he died.

Sources:

freemasonry.bcy.ca

nobelprize.org

bbc.co.uk/history



A Correction



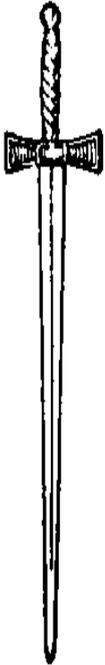
Companions will recall from the last issue of the Keystone the emblem at the left, that of the Knights of Columbus. Without having cross-checked my source (and having forgotten my Roman history, for which my Grandfather, a Classicist and theological scholar would be much chagrined), I described the axe

and bundle of rods at the centre as a mace. It is, of course, a fasces, an ancient Roman symbol of authority, as Comp. Dale Townsend of Salmon Arm Chapter No. 29 has been kind enough to point out. My apologies for the error, and my thanks to Comp. Townsend.

The Editor



The Skull and Bones



This article is the third in a series describing some of the fraternal bodies and other groups which are often mistaken by the public for concordant bodies within the Masonic Fraternity.

The most famous secret society at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, the Order of the Skull and Bones was established by Alphonso Taft (Grandfather to US President Howard Taft) and General William Russell in 1832. "Bonesmen", as they are known, are assigned or invited to choose secret names. Interestingly, any varsity football captain becomes known as Boaz. The name, Skull and

Bones, relates to the death of the famous Greek orator, Demosthenes in the year 322. His death corresponded to the introduction of Eulogia, the Goddess of Eloquence into the ancient pantheon. Debate has been a prominent part of their proceedings.

The Skull and Bones building almost windowless, Greco-Roman in style, little ornamented and guarded by iron doors. The most private room in the building (no. 322) is known as the Inner Temple. The only other property of the society is Deer Island, on the St. Lawrence River.



Once home to playing fields and tennis courts where elegant meals were served in the summer, it is now a ruins. The glory days of the society would seem to be passed, now revived only in literature and in the 2000 Universal Studios film, the Skulls.

Sources:

Skullandcrossbones.org

freedomdomain.com

en.wikipedia.org

88th Grand Convocation September 20-22, Nanaimo

Headquarters: Coast Bastion Hotel
11 Bastion Street
Phone: 250-753-6601 or 1-800-663-1144

Convocation Chair: V.E.C. Angus Nichol
Senior Grand Steward
PO Box 25
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Registration: on-line at www.grandchapter-bc-yukon.ca
or pick up forms from your Scribe Ezra

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