

THE KEYSTONE



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

The Grand First Principal's Summer Message

Volume 7, Issue 2
September 2007

My Companions,

This will be my last address in the Keystone; and, as my year as Your First Principal is almost over, I would like to thank all of the Companions whom I have had the pleasure of meeting on my travels around British Columbia and the Yukon for their companionship and their courtesy.

You know, there is a reason why we are called "Companions," and I have seen it exemplified this year. Though I have seen many Chapters that are having difficulties, whether it be from not having enough active members or not being able to fill their slate of officers, I have seen far more healthy and progressive Chapters than I had anticipated

For those Chapters who are having difficulties at present, I suggest that you look upon the next few years as "building years". Try building the social side of your Chapters to encourage not only the interest, but the enthusiasm of your membership.

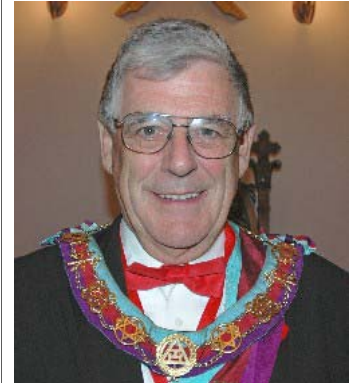
I have had the pleasure of attending many a social occasion throughout this Royal Arch Masonic Year of which our ladies were a part. All were a great success; in no small part due to their very welcome presence and participation.

There are many new Masons entering our Craft Lodges. I encourage each and every one of you to let your Brethren in

the many Lodges of our Grand Jurisdiction to make them aware of the broader nature of the Masonic Family and of the important step represented by Royal Arch Masonry in completing their Master Mason Degree. Invite them to our social functions, and let them both know and see what Royal Arch Masonry has to offer.

As my term draws to a close, I would particularly like to thank all of my elected and appointed officers who have supported not only me, personally, but who have worked so well together as part of our Grand Chapter team on behalf of all of the Companions in our Grand Jurisdiction.

My sincere best wishes to the incoming team of offi-



cers of Grand Chapter for a rewarding and successful year ahead. I look forward to seeing many Companions at Grand Chapter Convocation in Nanaimo in September.

Fraternally,

M.E.C. Les Robinson

Grand First Principal

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Anno Lucis

Everyone is familiar with the abbreviation AD for the Latin, *Anno Domini* (the year of His Dominion), but it is only through Freemasonry that most men are introduced to the abbreviation AL for the Latin, *Anno Lucis* (the year of light). A Brother has but to look at his Master Mason certificate to be reminded of this unusual, Biblical dating system.

The name, as bequeathed by Freemasons of the mid 18th Century, derives from the biblical account of the creation of the Universe: "And God said, "Let there be light, and there was light" (Genesis 1:3). In fact, though, what we know today as the Masonic Calendar was originally named *Anno Mundi* (the year of the World) by one Archbishop James Ussher of Armaugh (pictured at the left) who invented the calendar by computing the birth of Christ at "*Anno Mundi*" 4004, or as contemporary chronologists would call it, 4004 BCE

(Before the Common Era; which is to say, before the Christian era). Many English Bibles show Ussher's dating system. It was inserted in the margin of the Great Edition of the English Bible in 1701 (also known as the Authorized King James Bible) By Bishop William Lloyd of Winchester.

Our Brethren of the 18th Century elected to set *Anno Lucis* at 4000 BCE. Whether the change of four years was made for mathematical convenience, as some suggest, or out of a desire to pre-date Archbishop Usher's usage as others claim, the date, itself, has no Masonic significance other than to add to the notion of the antiquity of the Craft and to thwart Archbishop Usher's claim that Christ had been born some 4 years earlier than a 6th Century monk of Scythia Minor, Dionysius Exiguus, had first determined in his efforts to date Easter. Those efforts led to the Church adopting what we know as the BC-AD system of time today.



Sources:

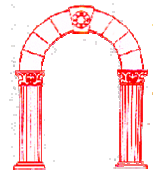
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www.phoenixmasonry.org

Mendoza, Harry. 1980. *Anno Lucis et al*. IN: *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*, v. 95. United Grand Lodge of England



Grand Chapter Convocation September 20-22, Nanaimo

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

September 20	8:00 AM 9:15 PM	Registration Opens, society meetings and OHP follow Informal Opening
September 21	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Formal Opening of Grand Chapter Banquet
September 22	8:30 AM	Installation of Officers

Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton, Freemason



Born on February 15, 1874 at Kilkea House, County Kildare, Ireland to a Quaker family, originally from Yorkshire, England. His father, Abraham, was a farmer who wisely abandoned his farm during the potato crop failure at the age of 33 to take up the study of medicine at Trinity College, Dublin. In 1884, Dr. Shackleton moved his family to London, where Ernest did

much of his growing up. By the time he was ready for Dulwich College, where his father had hoped that Ernest would follow him into medicine. But Ernest had other ideas, leaving college in 1890 at the age of 16 to join the full-rigged sailing ship, the *Hoghton Tower*, bound for Valparaiso by way of Cape Horn, a tough introduction to life at sea. It was one which appealed to the young Shackleton, who got his captaincy by the age of 24.

Ernest Henry Shackleton was initiated into Freemasonry in 1901 in Navy Lodge No 2612, passing to his second degree in Guild Freeman Lodge No. 3525 in 1911, and

being raised in that same Lodge in 1913.

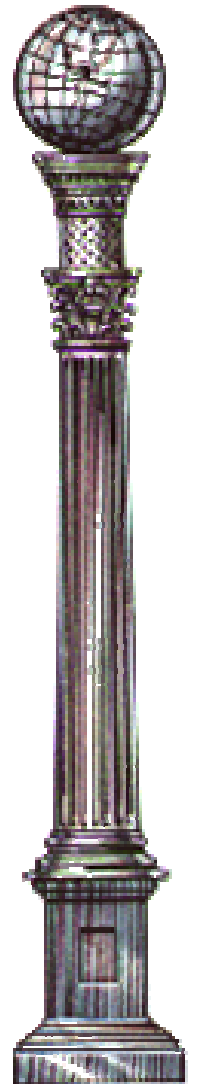
Shackleton's first trip to the Antarctic was as a part of the 1901 expedition of Captain Robert Falcon Scott (also a Freemason). But it was as leader of the 1907-1909 Antarctic expedition that earned Bro. Shackleton his knighthood (CVO). And his best recalled for the 1914-1916 Endurance Expedition, now popularly known as the Shackleton Expedition. He died of a heart attack on yet another Antarctic expedition in 1922.

Sources:

www.mqmagazine.co.uk

www.south-pole.com

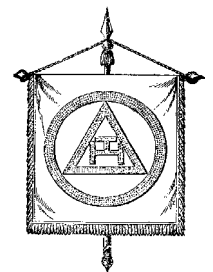
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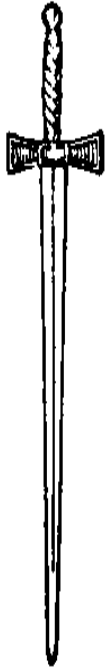
Planting and Idea:

A Masonic Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire was dedicated late last year as a permanent memorial to all Bretheren who have given their lives for peace and freedom.

MQ Magazine, Vol. 20



The Loyal Order of Moose



This article is the fourth 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.

Founded in the spring of 1888 by Dr. John Henry Wilson at his home in Louisville, Kentucky, as a social organization for men, the organization faltered after only a dozen years until James J. Davis, a government clerk in Elwood Indiana joined one of the two remaining lodges in 1906, becoming member number 247 and managed to change the nature of the organization from a social group to one that pro-

vided protection for member's families in the event of their death. By 1912, the membership was almost half a million in over 1,000 Lodges. The year 1913 saw the establishment of a children's home, Mooseheart. In 1926, the Loyal Order of Moose expanded to Canada and the UK. It was the 1920's, too, that saw the birth of Moosehaven, a home for the elderly of limited means.

Katherine Smith of Indianapolis spearheaded the creation of Women of the Moose in 1921. And today the combined organization is



known as "**Moose: The Family Fraternity**", an international organization of men and women dedicated to caring for young and old, bringing communities closer together and celebrating life.

Sources:

www.mooseintl.org

Wor. Bro. Jim Mckinley, Doric Lodge No. 18, Nanaimo, BC, (pers. comm.)



Moose International Logo

The Keystone is a publication of
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