



No. 14

JANUARY, 1976

THE INSTALLATION MEETING

The 71st Installation Meeting of Canute Lodge No. 3104, must surely be regarded, at least by those who attended, as one outstanding in the whole of the Masonic calendar.

W. Bro. Geoffrey Bond was installed as Worshipful Master of Canute with a ceremony of complete sincerity and, I venture to say, unequalled perfection.

After having been installed, W. Bro. Geoff took command of the Lodge with a confidence rarely seen, and I am sure he would agree, that this was in no small way helped by the confidence, sincerity and near perfection of W. Bro. Frank Ellis and W. Bro. Sid Lennard, both of whom made this such a memorable occasion for all the brethren present.

The Festive Board was equally successful. The visiting brethren were treated to the usual Canute hospitality and were very content after an excellent meal, during which the wine and conversation flowed freely.

The after dinner speeches were memorable, notably those of W. Bro. Morrie Woolf and W. Bro. Stanley Holland, both of whom obviously regard Canute in very high esteem, and made all our members feel extremely proud.

During the festivities a raffle was held to boost the funds of the Almoner, and as it raised nearly £55.00 it must be regarded as entirely satisfactory. The Charity Shield was passed round, and thanks to the generosity of the brethren, almost another £20.00 was collected.

The choir was in good voice and was very well received. Bro. Jim Bolton produced his usual special ditty for the new master, and he also composed new lyrics to an old Scottish ballad to welcome back W. Bro. Angus Grant after his illness.

What else can be said? Only, I think, that this was an evening of true Masonry and one that we all, especially W. Bro. Geoff, will remember with pride and satisfaction.

OUR NEW MASTER

R.J.H.

Geoffrey Aleck Arthur Bond was born in Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, on 2nd July, 1923, and lived his early years in Kent, attending Keston Village School.

On leaving school he entered into accountancy, a profession he has remained in, more or less, ever since.

During the early war years he met and married his very charming wife, Connie. Their only daughter is now

married, and they are both very proud grandparents of her two children.

At the outbreak of the war W. Bro. Geoff volunteered for the Royal Air Force, and served with Bomber Command as a Flight Engineer in Stirling bombers.

It was on the night of 31st August - 1st September, 1943, whilst on a raid on Berlin, that his plane was shot down. The facts surrounding his survival from this traumatic experience deserve far better description than I could give, suffice it to say that he was forced to parachute from the blazing aircraft, and whilst descending received a wound to his right hand. Incidentally this occurred only three months after his marriage, and one can only imagine the anguish his wife must have endured before learning he was alive through, strangely enough, Lord Haw Haw otherwise William Joyce, who revealed Geoff was a prisoner on one of his propoganda broadcasts.

W. Bro. Geoff served the remainder of the war in various prisoner of war camps in Axis territory. Needless to say his guards did not give him the key of the door on his 21st birthday.

On being liberated by the Allies in April, 1945, he returned to England, where he had to undergo further surgery on his injured hand, and on being discharged from the R.A.F., returned to his former occupation as an accountant.

I have had the good fortune to know W. Bro. Geoff for many years now, and as my seconder I was able to judge his sincerity as a Mason even before my initiation, as before agreeing to put his name to my proposal into Masonry, he gave me the "third degree", and I was left in no doubt as to the seriousness of the step I was about to take. Since then I have tried to model myself in his likeness, and I know the advice he gave me will always stand me in good stead.

I know all will join me in wishing him happiness and success in his year as Master of Canute Lodge, No. 3104, and without question he can be assured of our loyalty and support.

R.J.H.

MINI FESTIVAL

The now firmly established Lodge of Instruction Ladies Festival, was held at the Temple, Woodgrange, Drive, Southend-on-Sea, on Friday, 7th November, 1975, and was, once again, a very happy and successful occasion.

W. Bro. Geoff Bond, who was at the time Senior Warden, followed the usual custom, and was President for the evening.

The festivities began with W. Bro. Geoff and his lovely lady, Connie, welcoming everyone, after which we sat down to a truly marvellous meal, the thought of which, even now, makes my mouth water.

The after-dinner speeches were kept to a minimum, and were very well received. W. Bro. Frank Ellis proposed the toast to the Prsident, to which W. Bro. Geoff replied in his own inimitable style. W. Bro. Sam Pollard toasted the Ladies, and we were treated to an exceedingly witty reply by Mrs. Ray Lennard-Brown. Bro. Bob Hyde carried out the pleasant duty on behalf of the Lodge and presented Mrs. Bond with the gift of a wrist watch from the brethren of the Lodge of Instruction, for which she suitably thanked them.

Each lady received at least one gift, and thanks are here due to Bro. Edgar Easlea who obtained such a wide variety of such pleasing items.

After the dinner there was dancing to Direct Sounds and it would seem that dancing to recordings of the top bands and artistes is now generally accepted, and without doubt is becoming more popular.

A profitable raffle was held to help swell the funds for forthcoming events, and again our thanks must go to Bro. Edgar for providing the bulk of the prizes.

Thanks must also go to the Committee who so ably organised this function, especially Bro. Dennis Tapsfield who put in a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes. A small but very necessary mention here to his wife who provided such beautiful floral decorations for the tables.

To sum up, this was undoubtedly an exceedingly pleasant evening for all who attended and must be rated as one of the best yet.

R.J.H.

EXTRA MURAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

As most members of the Lodge will know, the Extra Mural Activities Committee has been formed to organise various functions outside Lodge meetings.

Their last effort was a Social Evening at the Temple for Lodge members and their wives. The idea behind this function was to enable Lodge members and their wives to get to know each other better. A very pleasant evening was had by all, and with one or two minor improvements, it is hoped to repeat this type of gathering on 31st March, 1976.

There are a number of other events in the pipeline, the first being a repeat of last years very successful L.of I. night at the Temple, which has been arranged for 3rd of February, 1976. More about that later.

The second is a possible visit to the Royal Masonic School for Boys. As we are all aware, the school will be closing in the not too distant future, and this will no doubt be the last opportunity for such a visit. If there is sufficient support we hope to arrange this visit for late spring or early summer next year.

The suggestion of the visit to the boys school came from a Lodge member, and the committee would welcome other proposals. We would also like to have your comments on the various events that have already taken place. Remember the committee is only trying to arrange these functions for the benefit of Canute Lodge, although we often invite Brethren from other Lodges to join us.

Please pass your suggestions and or comments to the Worshipful Master.

D.T.

Dear Brethren,

As you all know our March Meeting was rather a special one for me. One which had consequences beyond my control, and one which resulted in a great deal of family worry.

Personally I thank the Great Architect of the Universe for my recovery, but also to a very great extent every Masonic Brother who rallied round and helped me recover from a very traumatic experience.

Some Brethren have made very special efforts in this direction; the Canute Tide has flourished; the Viking Night has had another very successful evening; the Charity Representative's work has been taken on with great success and understanding; the Extra Mural Committee has continued its good work.

I know that all this has only been possible by a very great deal of effort, understanding and dedication by all the Brethren, from all walks of life, both in and out of the Lodge, and to all of you, may I in turn say Thank You.

Angus Grant.

LETTER TO THE BRETHERN OF CANUTE LODGE, 3104.

REDEVELOPMENT AND MODERNISATION FUND,
ROYAL MASONIC HOSPITAL.

Secretary
W. Bro. R.E. Lawson,
F.C.I.S., P.J.G.D.

Dear Bro. Barber,

CANUTE LODGE, 3104.

I have received from W. Bro. L.K. Corbett, P.A.G.D.C., P.P.Dep.G.Reg., your Provincial Grand Secretary, the very generous donation of £125.00 from your Lodge, and I have pleasure in enclosing our formal receipt.

Please will you accept and convey to all your Brethren our warmest thanks for this kind help and support, which are of so much encouragement to us in our great task. We are truly grateful for your sympathetic concern for our special needs at this time.

With renewed thanks for all you are doing to help us and with fraternal regards.

Yours sincerely,

W.E. Lawson.
Secretary.

VISIT TO THE ROYAL MASONIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Providing sufficient support is forthcoming, a day trip will be arranged for a visit to the Royal Masonic School for Boys, to take place in late April, 1976.

As we all know it is a sad but true fact that the school will be closed in 1977, and there is no doubt this will be the last opportunity for such a visit.

If any member of Canute or any other Lodge would like to go, then please contact Bro. Dennis Tapsfield without delay.

R.J.H.

GOLDEN JUBILEE - SWEYN LODGE No. 4764

Friday, 26th September, 1975, was the Golden Jubilee of Sweyn Lodge No. 4764, and a Special Dispensation was granted by Provincial Grand Lodge for a special meeting to be held to mark the occasion, which, because of commitments at the Temple, was actually held on Tuesday, 30th September, 1975.

I had the great pleasure of attending this meeting, and Sweyn Lodge being the daughter Lodge of Canute, it had a special interest for me.

The Lodge was opened a few minutes after 6 p.m. and the Special Dispensation was read in open lodge, by W. Bro. Guy Jerman, their Secretary.

There was a report and it was announced that the R.W. Provincial Grand Master was at the door of the Lodge and demanded admission. The Worshipful Master, Kenneth J. Buxton, stated he would be pleased to accede to the demand, and Grand Officers then retired to for a procession for the Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy and Assistant Deputy.

The Provincial Grand Master declined to accept the Worshipful Master's gavel and the Provincial Grand Master was then formally greeted by all the Brethren present with seven, to which he expressed his thanks and greetings.

A short history of Sweyn Lodge was then given by W. Bro. Guy Jerman, which was both informative and at times amusing. He explained the lecture was being kept short as a brochure had been prepared giving a detailed history, and that all present would receive one at the Festive Board.

An explanation of the First Tracing Board was given by the Senior Warden and Master Elect, Bro. Dennis Winterbottom, who was warmly and deservedly congratulated during the course of the evening by the Provincial Grand Master and of course by many of the Brethren for his truly noble effort.

A proposition was put to the Brethren of Sweyn Lodge that a donation of £500.00 from their Benevolent Fund, be given to the Provincial Grand Master to add to his personal list for the Royal Masonic Hospital (Modernisation and Re-Development Fund). The proposition was unanimously carried, and a cheque was then presented to the Provincial Grand Master, who expressed his sincere appreciation to the W.M. and Brethren of Sweyn Lodge.

W. Bro. Jerman announced that the Charity Box would not be passed round in open lodge, as he intended to make a special appeal at the Festive Board. The Lodge was the closed.

It took some time for the procession, which included many Grand Officers to clear the Lodge, but Bro. Edgar Easlea and I eventually gained access to the bar. Incidentally, we were the only members of Canute Lodge present.

The Festive Board was most enjoyable, with the usual excellent meal and very few speeches, which were confined to the Worshipful Master expressing his appreciation of the visit of the Provincial Grand Master, and his Deputy and his Assistant Deputy. Provincial Grand Master replied and at his request all the visitors toasted the health of Sweyn Lodge and its members.

W. Bro. Jerman made a special appeal for the Charity Box, which, after being passed round, realised the sum of £72.00.

The evening concluded with entertainment by Betty Collini (soprano) and John Read (Baritone), who sang some nostalgic songs, accompanied by Mme. Vere Roper (piano).

A truly memorable evening with just the tinge of regret that Canute Lodge was not more widely represented on this special occasion of her daughter Lodge.

R.J.H.

PERMANENT GUESTS REPORT

On Monday, 13th October, I was in Guernsey where I spotted a building with a sign above the door, 'Square - Compass - 1882'. I was admitted and shown round the various rooms, which house nine of the Islands ten Lodges. The Temple consisted of two storeys and a basement, and the total area was about 2 - 3 times the size of our own. The furnishings were basically Victorian and they were very highly polished; indeed the entire building was absolutely spotless, and Mrs. Cory, the Caretaker, fully deserved the praise she had showered upon her at the subsequent Meeting.

On Wednesday 15th October, I attended the Temple for the Meeting of Loyalty Lodge, No. 243, Consecrated 1810. My invitation was obtained by a Masonic arm-twist on my host, Bro. Len Marriette, a Steward of that Lodge. About 65 Brethren were present for an Initiation. I noted there were three chairs on the Worshipful Master's dais, a Grand Lodge Officer and the I.P.M. occupied the other two. The working was, nominally, our own. At least verbally it was, but physically it differed considerably. For instance we had a loud "shin-bone crash", and I was informed "the Preceptor likes it done that way".

Most noticeable was the tiled area in the centre of the floor, occupying approximately 5 feet by 7 feet and surrounded by parquet flooring.

At the Third Rising (?), the Charity Representative reported that 990 Island Brethren had contributed the sum of £10,000 for that year. Remarkable.

The bar, at least as large as our Temple, was organised as we entered. The tumblers of ready-filled whiskey and gin, meant we were in "Duty-Free Land". Adjourning to the dining room, we awaited the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. T.A. Loveridge, and he was rapidly followed by the four-course meal - cooked at a nearby hotel. My host, a Steward, you may recall, had "Mercurystyle" flying feet, as he together with his brothers of like rank, served the entire meal, plus cheese, biscuits, fruit (bananas a foot long) and those gorgeous French (After Eight type) Mints. I did observe that whereas some Stewards favoured napkins on the left arm, others chose the right. A question of seniority, maybe?.

My memories? There are two. The Worshipful Master in his speech referred to the Bro. Initiate, saying, "It is nice to know that we have got him off on the right foot". Corrections came from all points of the compass. Then reference was made to "our three guests from overseas". I looked round for the usual tell-tale signs, and found eyes were on me. Yes, Brethren, I was indeed one of them!

PERMANENT GUESTS REPORT - Cont.

On Tuesday, 21st October, W. Bro. R.E. Farrin invited me to attend True Friendship Lodge, No. 160, for a Demonstration by the Bromley and West Kent Masonic Study Circle, of a "Lodge Night c. 1759". I noted there were three other "Canutes" among the 133 who attended the Meeting.

The Demonstration lasted about 90 minutes, and was re-enacted in the centre of the Temple floor. The participants were attired in the costumes of the period, and ate cubes of Cheddar, whilst partaking of a Punch, consisting of Lemonade and Vina Sacro, which kept intact our 'non-alcoholic covenant'. I suppose it could be compared with 'live theatre', and the Brethren who were privileged to see it applauded loud and long.

It consisted mostly of ritual, covering all degrees. Humorous in parts, and we were assured this was typical of the period. The actual Meeting and Festive Board were apparently one entity in those days.

If the opportunity arises for you to see them, it's a MUST. Where do they perform? Well in 1970, at Blackpool they demonstrated for the Satantia Lodge of Installed Masters, where 1,308 attended.

At the Festive Board the '1759 era Masons' sang replies to their toasts. I had heard these sung previously in a few Lodges, so at least they have survived the years.

My memory? The "broken column" collection in the Temple went round with a request from the Worshipful Master for "Notes only". It worked too. At the Festive Board copies of the "Demonstration Booklet" were sold for 50p. The Team have raised £14,000 in fourteen years.

Good Meeting, excellent host, admirable food. Yes, for one visiting brother, "True Friendship" indeed.

J.B.

CANUTE CHARITIES

Our coming Master for 1975-6, Bro. Geoff Bond, intends to place his Charity List to the Re-Development and Modernisation Fund, Royal Masonic Hospital, in support of the appeal by the Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. F.W.R. Leistikow.

This is a very worthy cause, please support him to the utmost of your ability.

Every effort has been and is being made by the Charity Committee to make a success of the Canute Masonic Charity Association. A book of By-Laws, complete with record of payment section, is now available to every member. Please see your Charity Rep. Bro. Les Barber, if you have not already obtained one.

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our September meeting was held in the Upper Temple, the usual venue for this meeting and, as in past years, was not very well attended. It is peculiar that the first meeting held after the summer recess always appears to lack support. This surely cannot always be attributed to holidays, and it would be interesting to learn from the brethren if they have any theories as to why this particular meeting produces such a small gathering.

One reason may be the weather, for most years it turns out to be a real sizzler and can get uncomfortably hot, but this year was a complete turnabout because it was wet and cool, and one almost regretted the cold meal, specifically arranged to keep the brethren cool.

However, what we lacked in quantity was relieved by the quality, and it was gratifying to welcome W. Bro. Howard, Deputy Assistant Provincial Grand Master, representing the Province.

Bro. D. Mudie was passed and is now only one step from becoming a Master Mason, congratulations to Bro. David.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming to our ranks, Bro. Kenneth A. Burrows, who was initiated the same afternoon, and we look forward to his company, both in Lodge and at the Lodge of Instruction for many years to come.

Unfortunately, it was found necessary to give notice of Motion for an increase in Fees and Subscriptions, an all too familiar state of affairs in this day and age, but necessary to keep pace with all the increasing costs which Lodge affairs are subject to.

The annual elections took place and on a personal note I would like to place on record my appreciation to all the brethren for electing me as their Master for the ensuing year.

In the above circumstances, this is the last time I shall report on the Meetings as Senior Warden, and I now pass this duty on to Bro. Don Watkins with my blessing.

S.W.

ALMONER'S REPORT.

Dear Brethren,

I am happy to report that as a result of our two successful raffles during the year, I was able on behalf of the lodge, to provide Christmas parcels for the widows living locally, and to send cheques to those who live away. I would like to thank Bros. Barber and Jones for their mobile assistance in this task.

I am sorry to report that our Secretary, W. Bro. Charles Hall, has had a spell in hospital, but is now again with us, and we hope his health continues to improve.

Bro. John McIntosh is unfortunately still in Basildon Hospital after a severe illness, but is making progress. We look forward to seeing him with us again.

Perhaps the worst news was of the death of that stalwart of the lodge, W. Bro. Frank Streeter, and I am sure that all members of the lodge will join with us in extending our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Streeter in her sad loss.

ALMONER.

FUN AMONG THE MASONS

On the evening of his initiation, the candidate was detained until the last moment at business.

Rushing home, he changed, dashed to the station, but missed the train by a minute. The Lodge was being held a few miles away, so he rushed round to the bus terminus, but to his amazement, saw the bus disappearing in the distance.

To arrive on time, nothing remained except to make the journey on his bicycle, which he obtained and at last started out on the road that led to the Lodge.

Unfortunately when about half way, the chain broke, and he was held up again, miles from anywhere. Luckily, a motor cyclist eventually came along to whom he explained his difficulty. A piece of cord was produced and he was able to fix up a tow.

At the proceedings of the Lodge, the initiate, when responding to his toast, remarked that he always understood how wonderful Freemasons were, but for all that he could not understand how they knew he came there that evening of his own FREE WHEEL and A CORD.

L.A.B.

SO MOTE IT BE

This phrase first appears in Freemasonry in a M/S dated 1390, the closing words being:-

"Amen, Amen, so mote it be,
say we, say all for charity"

Another M/S dated 1410 says:-

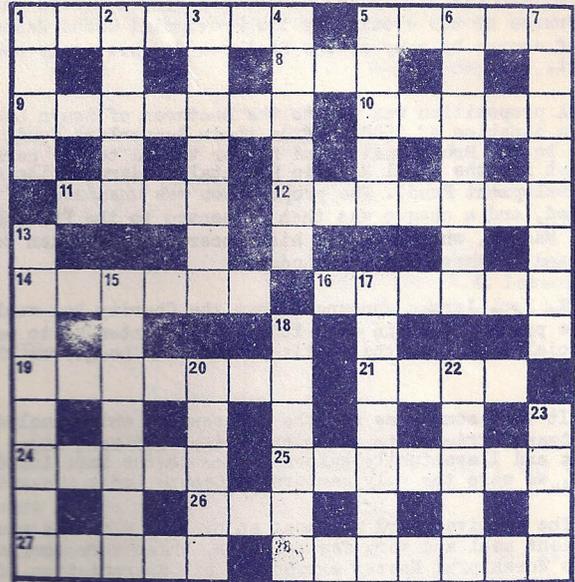
"Amen, so mote it be".

In the Middle Ages in England "So mote it be" literally meant, "So be it", and was used at the end of a prayer.

"Amen", which is a Hebrew word has several meanings all related to fidelity, constancy, sureness, trust and when used at the end of a prayer or blessing is meant to imply, "Truly we believe that it is, or will be so".

It will be seen that originally the word "Amen" and the phrase "So mote it be", had different meanings, but over the centuries they have become regarded as having virtually the same meaning. This may be the reason why "Amen" is now omitted from Freemasonry usage.

D.C.



ACROSS

1. Two vehicles travelling together for safety in the east?
5. Did the backward boy try the patience of the Saint enough to cause him to make this sound?
8. Many moons.
9. Briefly two men of the Lord go together to rise in rebellion.
10. The beast looking at this wild flower.
11. Rave about this girl.
12. Northern Scandinavian area.
14. 007's boss in debt for cutting at Blades.
16. Do you need a lamp within this Essex area?
19. Alison and I get together.
21. Animal in love mix up.
24. You could use this fireplace to rhyme in any jingle.
25. Raised to the peerage?
26. Nothing outside the door but a beetle.
27. Ed has a yen to become this. Poor chap.
28. I've given you this clue three times.

DOWN

1. The engineers company is at the centre of things.
2. Internationally famous in his own field.
3. The rogue hides in the villa.
4. Little Leslie's caught in the net, but has settled down.
5. Nothing on the post-script to help this mean spy.
6. Wear this above everything.
7. Grind tea by stepping on it?
13. Chief Inspector Maigret's creator gets part of a clue to help him find this painting.
15. Join the Great Western railway and learn about the dispute.
17. Can Dave go forward?
18. The rest in addition to the article.
20. "Yes, Ed, Correct, I don't feel well".
22. This ticket rings a bell.
23. More than one member.

SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Across. 1. Rostrum. 5. Pasha. 8. Eve. 9. Exposed. 10. Antio. 11. Grid. 12. Enemies. 14. Badger. 16. Illegal. 21. Cute. 24. Aster. 25. Unequal. 26. Egg. 27. Ended. 28. Hatched.
Down. 1. Reel. 2. Super. 3. Residue. 4. Medley. 5. Peace. 6. Sitting. 7. Accosted. 13. Obligate. 15. Deleted. 17. Ancient. 18. Plough. 20. Gored. 22. Touch. 23. Fled.

MASONRY DEFINED

A writer in a recent issue of the South African Journal summed up what Freemasonry is in the following words.

"In the home," he said, "it is kindness; in society, it is courtesy; in business, it is honesty; in work, it is fairness; toward the unfortunate, it is pity; toward the wicked, it is resistance; toward the weak, it is help; toward the strong, it is trust; toward the penitent, it is forgiveness; toward the fortunate, it is congratulations; toward God, it is reverence and love."

(Extract from Grand Lodge Bulletin, Grand Lodge of Iowa, April, 1975.)