

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

THE ORIGIN OF THE COLLAR

Q. Where did the Masters' (and Officers') Collars originate, and why?

A. By a resolution of Grand Lodge on 24 June 1727 the Master and Wardens of all private lodges were ordered to wear '... the jewels of Masonry hanging to a white ribbon'. This may be taken as the first regulation relating to what afterwards became the Master's, Wardens' and Officers' Collars. On 17 March 1731 white leather aprons lined with white silk were also specified for the W.M. and Wardens.

At this time, the 'ribbons' of the Grand Officers were blue, and those of the Grand Stewards were red, and their aprons were lined to match.

The word ribbon seems to have been interpreted rather loosely—perhaps because no particular width was specified, and early illustrations of Brethren wearing Masonic clothing seem to confirm that the ribbon was always quite narrow, sometimes no wider than a silken cord. Generally it seems that the ribbons (apart from the distinctions of colour, mentioned above), were strictly utilitarian, i.e., they were not at first intended as decoration in themselves, but simply as a means of hanging the respective jewels.

The first hint of the Collars as properly 'tailored' articles of clothing appears in *Le Secret des Francs-Maçons*, 1742, by the Abbé G. L. C. Perau, in which he describes the clothing of the Officers, as follows:

'On initiation days, the Worshipful [Master], the two Wardens, the Secretary, & the Treasurer of the Order, wear a blue Ribbon round their necks, cut in the shape of a triangle . . . At the base of the Master's Ribbon there hang a Square and Compasses . . . The Wardens and other Officers wear only the Compasses.' [Translated by Harry Carr]

Perau uses the word *Cordon* which may be translated as 'cord' or 'ribbon', but his phrase *taillé en triangle* ('cut in the shape of a triangle') confirms the interpretation that this was a 'Collar', tailored approximately to the same shape as we use nowadays. As though to confirm his intention, he adds a footnote:

'It is not absolutely necessary that the Ribbon should be of the shape described here. I have seen them being worn like the Cordon [of the Order] of the Golden Fleece; that always forms a sort of triangle but it is not so exact as the one which I have described.'

Obviously, there was no rule—and indeed no strict fashion—that was to be observed in this matter, but Perau's description in 1742 may be taken as the earliest evidence of the beginning of the Collar in its modern shape.

QUATUOR CORONATI LODGE No. 2076

W. Bro. Dr. John Stephen Wade, PPJGW (Yorks. W.R. & Derbys.)
Master



20 Great Queen Street
London WC2B 5BE

Tel: 020 7405 7340

Fax: 020 7404 8131

Email: quatuorcoronati@tiscali.co.uk

Brother

As a member of this lodge or of the Q. C. Correspondence Circle, you are warmly invited to attend the meeting at Tapton Masonic Hall, Shore Lane, Sheffield, on Wednesday 30 June 2010 at 5 o'clock p.m., precisely.*

*By command of the Master
James W. Daniel, PJGW
Secretary*

Morning Dress or Dark Suit, Undress Regalia and White Gloves

**N.B. The Standing Committee will meet at Tapton Hall at 3.00 p.m.
(Room to be arranged and signed at the entrance hall)**

☛ **A particular welcome is extended to members of the Correspondence Circle and to members (not below the rank of Master Mason) of lodges in the Correspondence Circle who are all cordially invited to make the fullest use of their association with Quatuor Coronati Lodge**

Dates of other Meetings in 2010

Thursday 9 September;

Thursday 11 November (Installation)

**Please note the change of date and venue for this June meeting.*

OFFICERS OF THE LODGE 2009-10

W.Bro. John Wade	Master
W.Bro. Tom Webb	Senior Warden
W.Bro. Robert Cooper	Junior Warden
W.Bro. Aubrey Newman	Chaplain
W.Bro. John Acaster	Treasurer
R.W.Bro. Jim Daniel	Secretary
W.Bro. Yasha Beresiner	D. C.
V.W.Bro. John Mandleberg	Almoner
W.Bro. Brent Morris	Charity Steward
W.Bro. Antony Baker	Senior Deacon
W.Bro. Prof. Roger Burt	Junior Deacon
W.Bro. David Peabody	A.D.C.
W.Bro. Kirk Macnulty	Inner Guard
W.Bro. Brian Cattermole	Tyler

ADVANCE COPIES OF THE PAPER

Advance copies of the Papers to be delivered at the meetings are available at a price of £3.50 from the Q.C.C.C. Ltd. office about three weeks before each meeting. The paper delivered by the newly installed Master will also be available on or after, **but not before**, the day of Installation, at the same price. The office address is shown on the front of this summons.

DINING ARRANGEMENTS

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY. The members of the Lodge will dine together after the meeting. Those brethren who also wish to dine **MUST** book their meal by 4.00 p.m. on the **MONDAY** preceding the lodge meeting. Bookings **WILL NOT** be accepted after 4.00 p.m. on that Monday. Payment for the meal will be collected at the table. Cheques payable to Q.C.C.C. Ltd. are acceptable. If you require a fish or vegetarian meal, please mention it when making your reservation.

PLEASE NOTE that once meals have been ordered it is obligatory to pay for them whether or not they are taken. Cancellations are accepted up to 4.00 p.m. on the Monday preceding the meeting. Failure to cancel will result in a charge being levied.

ALL REMITTANCES, for whatever purpose, must be in favour of Q.C.C.C. Ltd. Please remember this as, otherwise, it means additional work for the staff.

AGENDA

- At 5 p.m: to open the Lodge.
- To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting.
- To report on membership of the Correspondence Circle.
- To receive a paper by Bro. John Mandleberg entitled:

Promulgation and Reconciliation

SYNOPSIS

By 1808 English Freemasonry had for some 60 years been divided between those who adhered to the Premier Grand Lodge, the 'Moderns', and those who considered that in its working the Premier Grand Lodge had departed so far from the original plan of Freemasonry that they preferred to support a rival Grand Lodge erected in 1751, the 'Antients'. The Union between these Grand Lodges which took place in 1813 has often been dealt with in the literature. However, few Brethren realize how fortunate they are today that a United Grand Lodge of England ever came about. The final steps towards union were taken haltingly. The negotiations did not run smoothly. The changes at the highest level which accelerated the process were fortuitous. Furthermore, it is often overlooked that after the Act of Union was signed there were still serious disagreements which imperilled its implementation. This paper, by detailed reference to the original Minutes not only of the Grand Lodges of both the Antients and the Moderns, but also to those of the Lodges of Promulgation and Reconciliation, describes the personalities of those who took part and how the difficulties were overcome.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF THE PAPER

Born in Manchester in 1922, John Mandleberg qualified and practised as a research scientist after war service in the Army before turning to industrial management, spending more than thirteen years as a chief executive before his retirement in 1989. Trained in scientific research and the necessity to represent its conclusions in papers which will survive peer review, he brings to his Masonic writings its methods of employing only well documented original references, avoiding second-hand conclusions and unsupported speculations. Initiated (by dispensation) 68 years ago, in addition to being a Past Grand Sword Bearer and having served as a Grand Steward, he holds senior Grand rank in the more generally accepted Masonic orders outside the Craft, and is the author of several books and papers as well as being Honorary Historian to the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite.