

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SO MOTE IT BE

Q. What is the origin of the words 'So mote it be' which we use at the end of our Opening and Closing odes, etc.?

A. From the Masonic point of view, they came into our usage in the 14th century, and our two earliest versions of the Old Charges both include the phrase in their closing words, which I render in modern spelling, as follows:

The *Regius MS.*, c. 1390, after a closing prayer adds
'Amen, amen, so mote it be
Say we all, for charity'.

The *Cooke MS.*, c. 1410, has 'Amen so mote it be'.

The phrase means literally 'So be it' and it was used in the middle ages in England as a pious finale to prayers or blessings. It should be noted that the medieval formula began with the Hebrew word 'Amen', nowadays often omitted from Masonic usage. The word "Amen" has a range of meanings all related to fidelity, constancy, sureness, trust, and when used at the end of Hebrew prayers and blessings it was as a formula.

GUTTURAL, PECTORAL, MANUAL, PEDESTAL

Q. In the Lectures of the Three Degrees in Craft Masonry, in the First Lecture, Sixth Section, the following question is posed:

'How many original forms have we in Freemasonry?'

The answer is given in abbreviations which I cannot understand. Can you tell me what these letters stand for?

A. The four abbreviations represent the four words shown at the head of this question. They made their first appearance in a Masonic context, in slightly different sequence, in an anonymous twelve-page pamphlet exposure, published in London, in 1724, under the title *The Grand Mystery of Free-Masons Discover'd*.

The question, in the modern Lecture, refers to these four words as 'original forms', but the exposure calls them 'signs', and lists them as follows:

THE FREE-MASON'S SIGNS

A Guttural (sic)	>
A Pedestal	L
A Manual	7
A Pectoral	X

(The four words mean respectively, 'pertaining to the throat, the foot, the hand, the heart'.)

The exposure does not attempt to elaborate on the manner of making the so-called 'signs'. A close examination of earlier and contemporary documents may provide the answers to the first and last; but 'Pedestal' and 'Manual' are rather doubtful, because each of them involves several possibilities.

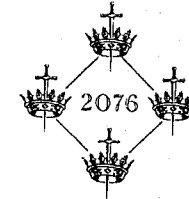
This print appeared at a time when (so far as we know) only two degrees were practised, and it affords no evidence as to which of the signs belonged to each degree. At a later stage, the same text has the question, 'How many proper points?', and the answer is a variant of the 'Points of Fellowship' which had appeared regularly in most of the seven catechisms and exposures that had preceded this publication.

I have used the word 'Pedestal' hitherto, because that is how it was printed in the exposure. It should, of course, be 'pedal', pronounced 'pee-dal'.

Perhaps the most interesting puzzle in the extract quoted above, is in the four 'geometrical' diagrams, which are presumably intended to illustrate the 'signs'; I have never seen a satisfactory explanation of them.

QUATUOR CORONATI LODGE No 2076

**W. Bro. 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@iscali.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 Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, on Thursday 18 February 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 3.00 p.m.

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 13 May;

Wednesday 30 June*; Thursday 9 September;

Thursday 11 November (Installation)

**Please note the change of day and date.*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Lodge Numbering

Q: I have reason to believe that there was a Lodge which met in Deal, Kent, with the number 191 but I see from the Grand Lodge year book that Lodge 191 meets in Bury in the Province of East Lancs. Can you tell me if this is the same Lodge?

A: This problem frequently arises in Masonic history and in order to solve it we require a date for the Lodge in question. The number of a lodge was originally made according to its seniority in the Engraved List in 1729. Following this there were five closings-up of numbers to allow for the erasure of lodges. The Antients had their own numbering system when they were set up and these were amalgamated with the Moderns in 1813 at the Union of the two Grand Lodges. Since that time there have been two closings-up of numbers to allow for erasures in 1832 and 1863. The Deal Lodge was originally No. 282 in 1762 and was named 'Royal Navy Lodge' in 1776 by which time it had taken the number of 229. In 1781 it became number 184, in 1792 number 157 and finally in 1814 number 191. It was erased in 1822. Such problems can only be resolved by reference to *Masonic Records* by John Lane, a remarkable and valuable book published in 1895.

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 consider the Treasurer's Report and the Accounts for the year ending 31 October 2008.

To receive a paper by Bro. J.W. Daniel, entitled:

The Masonic Observer 1856-59: a 'specialist masonic publication par excellence'

Synopsis: Bro Daniel's paper picks up where Bro Newman's finished at the September 2009 meeting. It investigates the short-lived masonic periodical, *The Masonic Observer*, and its place in the history of English freemasonry in the formative period of the mid-1880s. It reveals the name of its publisher, connections between Bath and London, and the extent to which the periodical initiated or supported the claims of the 'Oxford Party', aka the 'Constitutional Party' and the 'Observer Party', to senior masonic offices.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF THE PAPER

Bro. Jim Daniel was appointed Deputy Grand Secretary of the UGLE in April 1998 and then served as Grand Secretary from 1 June 1998 to 28 February 2001 when, in his 60th year, he retired from full-time employment and returned to his native Cornwall. He had been the Grand Secretary General of the Supreme Council 33° from 1989 to 1998, having resigned from the British Council after 25 years' service, spent mostly overseas. He is an honorary member of the North American Conference of Grand Secretaries, a Past Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, a Past Senior Grand Warden of the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise and a member of the Texas Lodge of Research. In his retirement he is in the final stages of submitting his completed PhD thesis at the University of Sheffield, working with local charities and sailing his Cornish Crabber. In 2004 Bro. Daniel served as Worshipful Master of this Lodge and, as Master of Royal Somerset and Inverness Lodge No. IV (4), as a Grand Steward.

To close the Lodge.