Who Was Hiram, King of Tyre?

Editor's Note—The following article was written by Bro. Lewis M. Parker, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey and one of their Grand Instruction.

Our Masonic tradition tells us that our Craft has three original Grand Masters. The first of these, Solomon, the King of Israel, figures prominently in our Masonic story and is still known as a great personage thirty centuries after his time. The third of this trio is the center and source of our deepest teaching and to him all Masons are bound by a unique tie. But the second of our Grand Masters has only a passing reference in our Ritual and outside of a Masonic Lodge is known only to a few specialists in history. Hiram of Tyre was a monarch who ruled over a powerful kingdom at the peak of its greatness. He and his people desire to be known better by the Masonic fraternity.

The kingdom of Tyre, or Phoenicia, as it was more generally known, was located on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean sea, the cradle of the ancient world. Its greatness was the sequel of Tyre, which because of its geographical location became a converging point on the great trade routes. Tyre became one of the foremost commercial centers of the ancient world and grew rich and powerful.

LOST AND FOUND

A Masonic ring has been found in Ashland, Pa. This ring was found during the Labor Day weekend and turned over to the Worshipful Master of Ashland Lodge No. 294, Bro. Harry N. Herbach. Initials inside the ring read L. R. B. Ring can be returned to its rightful owner by contacting the Secretary of the Lodge, Bro. Joseph L. Stahler, R. D. No. 1, Box 143, Ashland, Pa., 19721.

GUEST FUND

Reminder
If you have misplaced, or have not received, a self-addressed envelope for your annual contribution to the Guest Fund for the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, send your check or money order direct to: Superintendent, Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, PA. 17022. Be sure to note your Lodge Number in order that your Lodge will be credited with your contribution.

The Pennsylvania Freemason
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Grand Officers Serving in Bermuda
Visit Our Grand Lodge Quarterly

Three Masonic leaders from Bermuda, representing the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland, were guests of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania at the September Quarterly Communication, September 23. Bro. Robert E. Deyoe, R. W. Grand Master, invited the Bermuda Brethren as his special guests in an effort to recognize the courtesies they have extended to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. They were formally welcomed into Grand Lodge by the Grand Master and given an opportunity to speak. While in Philadelphia, the visiting Brethren and their ladies were taken on a guided tour of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown and Masonic Temple, Philadelphia.

Before leaving the states, Bro. Talbot, V. W. Grand Inspector for English Lodges in Bermuda, wrote a note to the Grand Master, saying: "I cannot leave this country without trying to express to you our appreciation. The whole visit was staggering to us because of the warmhearted friendship, cordiality and hospitality beyond description. To say ‘thank you’ is entirely inadequate.”

Freemasonry Is Not a Religion

While Freemasonry is religious, our purpose is not that of a religion. We seek no converts. We raise no money for religious purposes. We do not ask our members to subscribe to any religious tenet or dogma.

There are some who would make it so in order that they personally might rationalize and excuse their own escape from the claims of religion. Being completely a tolerant organization, there is nothing in Freemasonry that is opposed to the religion a man brings with him into the Lodge. We have none of the marks of a religion. We have prayers, but they are true—invocations to Deity, but we have no ritual of worship. We have no symbols that are religious in the sense of the symbols found in Church or Synagogue. Our symbols are related to the development of Character and of the relationship of man to man. They are teaching tools—used in the building of life.

Freemasonry does not assert and does not teach that one religion is better than another. We do not say that all religions are equal because we admit men of all religions. We do ask a man whose religious beliefs are such, but as a man—worthy to be received into the Lodge. We have none of the marks of a religion. We have prayers, but they are true—invocations to Deity, but we have no ritual of worship. We have no symbols that are religious in the sense of the symbols found in Church or Synagogue. Our symbols are related to the development of Character and of the relationship of man to man. They are teaching tools—used in the building of life.

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Past Masters' Assn. Active in Philadelphia

Established for serving Masons and Lodges in particular and Freemasonry in general, the Past Masters' Association of Philadelphia has become both active and useful.

The group was organized in 1957 by Past Masters of Lodges in Masonic District "A" while Bro. John K. Young, W. D. Deputy Grand Master, was present. They have grown to include Past Masters of other Lodges in the Greater Philadelphia area.

Their activities take many worthwhile services in and around Philadelphia. They will conduct Masonic Funeral Services and serve as Brethren of other Jurisdictions as often requested through the offices of the Ro. G. Grand Secretary. They will make visits and investigations as requested by other Jurisdictions. On occasions they have provided tourist guides for visiting sojourners.

Geared with a set of practical By-Laws and enthusiasm for Brotherly love and affection, they meet regularly to enjoy an evening of Masonic fellowship and discuss ways and means by which they can remain active by using their time and talents to serve the Craft.

Washington at Prayer Statue Dedication
Set for Sept. 9, 1967; Committee Appointed

The Bro. George Washington at Prayer Statue will be dedicated at Freemasons' Hall, Valley Forge, Pa., on Saturday, September 9, 1967. Bro. Robert E. Deyoe, W. D. Deputy Grand Master, has urged Masons throughout the state not to plan any other function for this day. He said:

"It is my hope that Masons throughout this Jurisdiction make a special effort to be present for this very important public Masonic dedication.

"Since this is a public dedication, Masons are urged to have their ladies accompany them." The Grand Master said that details of the dedication will be provided at a later date. He announced the appointment of the following general committee for the dedication:

General Chairman
Bro. Robert W. Dietrich, District Deputy, Masonic District "X"
Bro. George A. Williams, Past Master of Joseph M. Houston Lodge No. 731 and Representative in Grand Lodge
Bro. Glen T. Renoir, District Deputy, Masonic District "L"
Bro. John R. Conley, District Deputy, 36th Masonic District
Bro. Herman Witte, District Deputy, Masonic District "W"
Bro. Bruce C. Clarke, U. S. General, Retired and Representing Freemasons in Pennsylvania
Bro. Arthur T. Moore, Assistant to the Grand Master

The Grand Master has approved the final model of the statue, which was created by Donald DeLue, sculptor.

In the spirit of the dedication, the Grand Master has requested that Masons bring their ladies to the event.

Have You Paid Your Dues?
Your Lodge Dues for 1966 should be paid on or before the date set by your Lodge Secretary and preside your good Masonic standing?

If your 1965 Dues are still unpaid, avoid suspicion by paying them in time. We do not want to lose you.

Freemasonry needs the support of all of us!
Districts Urged to Conduct a Workshop

The success and general reaction realized from the several Masonic Culture Workshops already conducted in various Districts, encourages a continuation of this worthy activity.

Renewed interest in Masonic education and added enthusiasm in Lodges has been evidenced in Districts where Masonic Culture Workshops have been conducted. Several of the Districts have arranged to have a Masonic Culture Workshop at least once each year.

Your Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture is always ready and willing to cooperate and even participate in a Workshop. Packets of literature and other supplies are made available in large quantities.

The initiative in arranging a Workshop should come from the District Deputy Grand Master and his District Chairman to the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture.

Although a Workshop can be arranged and successfully conducted in a single District, we have found that the combined efforts of two or three Districts have proven to be more practical.

Your Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture encourages interest in these Workshops, particularly among those Districts who have not had a Workshop. Procedure, suggestions and advice in arranging a Workshop are always available upon request.

A Mason 75 Years, a Past Master 56 Years


Member of St. Andrew’s Lodge, became enthusiastic with the progress of Freemasonry in his chosen city of McKeesport, Pa., and resigned to become a Warrant Member of the new Lodge being formed. He is the oldest living Past Master of McKeesport Lodge, having served as Worshipful Master in 1910.

Residing in Mt. Lebanon, 15 miles from his Lodge, Bro. Brown still looks forward to attending his “Blue Lodge” meetings and reminds the Brethren that: “God willing, I shall be back to see you at another meeting soon.”

He is also a Member of Duquesne Chapter, No. 153; Mt. Moriah Council, No. 2, McKeesport Commandery, No. 86, and Syria Temple.

PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR LODGE SECRETARY OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Copies of The Pennsylvania Freemason returned by Past Officers, due to incorrect addresses, cost ten cents each.

Several hundred of these Postal Returns can amount to a sizable expenditure.

You can help reduce this additional postal fee by notifying your Lodge Secretary immediately when you change your address.

Please include your ZIP Code.

Thank you.

Reading and Research Is Good for All Masons

One peculiarity about Freemasonry is that it will lend itself to investigation. The deeper the research, the more extensive the knowledge of its hidden art and secret mysteries, the more highly it is appreciated and accepted.

The man who merely takes the degree in a listless, careless sort of manner, and who remains a mere spectator at Lodge meetings, and then considers the customary refreshments after Lodge is closed as the best part of the proceedings, may well think that Freemasonry differs very little from other fraternities.

On the other hand, the Member who dives deeply into Masonic literature, takes an interest in the Ritualistic and Work of the Lodge, attempts to learn the origin and meaning and moral bearing of the symbols, cannot possibly fall into such an error.

To bring this type of influence to bear on every Member of the Craft, and to direct them to the systematic study of Freemasonry, should be the great aim of every true Master Mason who has the welfare of the Fraternity and his Brethren at heart.

Valley Lodge Master Performs Heroic Deed

Much praise and commendation is due Bro. Roy E. Wilson, Worshipful Master of Valley Lodge, No. 459, held at Masontown, Pa., for an heroic deed performed on June 25, 1966.

While landing his boat near Jordan’s Harbor on Chest Lake in southwestern Pennsylvania, Bro. Wilson noted Mr. R. L. Everets suffer some type of seizure while fishing and fall from a dock into deep water.

Bro. Wilson immediately leaped into the water and, after diving several times, was able to locate Mr. Everets and pull him to shore. Bro. Wilson then administered artificial respiration until a fire company’s rescue squad arrived and administered oxygen while the victim was rushed to West Virginia University Medical Center at Morgantown.

Mr. Everets was up and around within a few days.

Under a 148-year-old lease, a Masonic Lodge in Bermuda rents the Old State House in St. George for one dollar per week ten years.
Lodges Need Leaders

There is an old saying that every organization is the lengthened shadow of one man. Dig into the history of any company. Some man—an individual—not a committee, had a dream, and that one man turned that dream into reality by fighting, by exercising the kind of single-minded leadership that drives through to a goal no matter what the obstacles may be. In the process, no doubt, he ruffled some feathers, but he got the job done.

The quality of leadership is the determining factor in every institution that makes up our society. Whether it's a Rotary Club, a Church, or a Masonic Lodge, if you have the right person heading it up, it gets some place. If you don't—just doesn't happen.

Leadership is a personal thing inevitably focused on one man. What a wonderful thing for Freemasonry it would be if every Worshipful Master were willing to face up to this fact.

A Freemason may be at fault for that which is judged by the actions of its Members. Whether you learn within, and show it outward, or merely outward—any company. Some man-and-fellowmen-things make up our society.

What really counts lies buried within the human breast, and Freemasonry has greatly enriched my life; it has given me friendship that I cherish dearly. It has whispered subconsciously to me in silent hours words of caution and encouragement.

I like going back to my Lodge. I have found it refreshing and good to step aside out of the path of my busy life and sit again with the Masons who have carried on in my absence. To this end, I would like to express myself fully, as a boy returns again to his old home which he left to seek his fortune. Still and true, the older brothers awaited me and showed me the door to welcome me. Grown a little older I find them, but still strong and eager for the duties of a Mason! With them I can be what I so often long to be—just one of the Craft. Their oaths and mine are made of the same cloth; their dreams and mine are similar; their work and the same inspiration, and we are all at peace.

Bro. Kimmel Elected ‘Active’ for Penna. in Supreme Council, NMJ

Bro. W. Orville Kimmel, R. W. Junior Grand Warden, joins the top administrative group of Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, having been elected an Active Member for Pennsylvania at the Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council.


NEEDED! Knowledge of Freemasonry

At no time in Masonic history has there been a greater need for an understanding of what Freemasonry is, and what it stands for than is today. Much has been left undone in the education of Members of our Lodges.

The first essential in Masonic education is that desire to become interested and enthusiastic in Freemasonry followed by a thirst for knowledge as to what Freemasonry is all about. Here is where the instructors, working under the Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture, can serve well and can influence the candidate in a continuous search for more Masonic Light.

The qualifications for instructing are less exacting than may be imagined. What is essential is a basic knowledge of Freemasonry by the instructor. In this day and age, with so many counter attractions, it becomes more evident that greater efforts must be put forth to instruct our new Members in the ideals and fundamentals of Freemasonry.

Every Lodge should have a definite program along authentic Masonic educational lines. We must understand what Freemasonry really is before we can practically instruct our new Members. We must remember that Freemasonry is judged by the actions of its individual Members. We must set an example to those outside the Craft at all times.

The need for Masonic knowledge is often evidenced in our Lodges. This can be alleviated where dedicated Members qualify as instructors and then serve in teaching the principles and fundamentals of Freemasonry to all who will listen.

A Mason and a Man

My Brother, Masonry means much more Than the wearing of a pin, Or carrying a gold stick receipt So the Lodge will let you in.

You may wear the emblem on your coat From your fingers both a ring, But it's not worth a cent at all This doesn't mean a thing.

It's merely an outward sign to show The world that you belong To this great free masonic freethought That teaches right from wrong.

What really counts lies buried deep Within the human breast, Till Masonic teaching brings it out And puts it to the test.

If you can practice out of Lodge The things you learn within, I wish you good cheer at all And to your fellowmen—

Converse a Brother when he's sick Or point him when in need, Without a thought of personal gain For any skill or deed.

Walk and act in a way That the world without can see, That you are Masonry's own In all ways it seems to me, as I hear it is judged by the actions of its Members. Whether you learn within, and show it outward, or merely outward—any company.

A Freemason may be at fault for that which is judged by the actions of its Members.