

The Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests.

CANTUAR TABERNACLE No. 26.

TREASURER,
A. E. MASTERS,
7, HAWKHURST WAY,
WEST WICKHAM, KENT
SPRINGPARK 6304

RECORDERS,
L. F. ELVIN,
25, LIPHOOK CRESCENT,
FOREST HILL, LONDON, S.E. 23
FOREST HILL 4308

Dear W. Bro St George.

25.5.62


Thanks for your letter of the 11th returning photo etc and glad to know they were useful and hope that the Comon's address will find some sort of printed expression and that I may be able to read it. Our inherited post is still full of interest.

3rd Div. R. W. Bro John Lawrence III^o
to give him his title in the "operatives" was a well known member of our order, as well as being the Secretary of a well known body of Research. By the way our member was spelled HAWRANCE but I do not doubt he is the one you refer to. His passing was

a blow to us for he had a lot of our
research material, which we have since
been unable to obtain from his son, who
is shall we say un-masonic in fact and
outlook, for he seems to have disregarded
our requests and burned the bulk of the
"rubbish" (as he terms it) which his father
had in his possession. Much of our
material was irreplaceable and there is
nothing we can do about the great loss.
What a tragedy! How much easier it
is to destroy than to compile or build.
However, such useless vandalism leaves one
speechless.

All good wishes + fraternal greetings

Yours sincerely



R.G.St.George.

Worcestershire.

11th. August 1962.

6, Widney Lane,
Solihull,
Warwickshire.

W.Br. L.F.Elvin, 2nd.G.M.M.-in-Charge,
The Worshipful Society of Free Masons,
25, Liphook Crescent,
Forest Hill,
London. 23.

Dear W.Brother Elvin,

Further to your letter of 28th. June last
I duly sent on a copy of it to W.Br. Canon Braley with
a request for a copy of his paper in due course.

It now transpires that he spoke from notes
which I have seen and assure you they are quite unintell-
-igible in their present form.

If and when he does it out in 'Paper' form
I will obtain a copy for you to peruse.

In the meantime, please accept the Canon's
and my grateful thanks for all the attention you gave to
our request for information on the Worshipful Society of
Free Masons.

Lastly, as requested, I return the photograph
of the Arms of the Free Masons, Rough Masons etc. together
with the two cuttings you kindly loaned. Please also
accept my thanks for those.

In the Q.C. Transactions for 1961 I noticed
among the Obituaries the name of W.Br. John Lawrence P.A.G.D.C.
- was he a member of The W.S. of F.M.?

W

Fraternal regards,
Yours sincerely,

-COPY-

Homestead,
South Park,
Barnstaple,

17th March 1962.

Dear Bro. Braley,

I am delighted to receive your letter, as although the query you put may now have no positive answer it is one a Mason must have a great interest to find the answer. As you remark on our personal relationship— Brothers who meet on the Square can never be strangers. What information I have is willingly yours -- but it is little and negative.

I am an Architect and have sought our connections with the Operatives. Yes, I am a member of a (so called) "Operative" Lodge. The Channel Row Assembly, meeting at Duke St. I doubt if any of its members is a practical worker in stone, and the ritual 'speculative' in character, but possibly more factual than our Craft

The Lodge working I found of great interest but was disappointed in that I was no nearer to the actual or practical worker in stone.

I write to a Brother who, I feel sure, will be discreet in dealing with such information as I have to give.

There are in all (I believe) 9 degrees of which I have taken six & equivalent to the I.M.-- very much as Swedish Masonry is organised. A Candidate must be a M.M., he is, prior to entering the Lodge, examined by a 'doctor' and (symbolically) bathed. The I° although very different, is only slightly more operative than the Craft I° .

The fees are paid on the footing stone in the Lodge.

I am a P.M. of Quatuor Coronati and as you know if we err, it is on the side of holding all in doubt unless positive proof is forthcoming.

The Operative Ritual seems to be founded on information supplied by a Brother who claimed to have been the 'doctor' to an Operative Lodge in a Derbyshire Quarry where he received the first three degrees. It is held highly suspect in Q.C. Circles.

Personally I find more conclusive proof in the E.A. and F.C. and also in the Mark, where the first section has by far the largest Operative content.

Should my personal views on these interest you please let me know.

Harry Carr, Sec. Q.C. has done invaluable work on early Scotch records and I would strongly recommend "The Cathedral Builders" by Jean Gimpel, Evergreen Books Ltd., 20, New Bond St.,

Good hunting and hearty good wishes from
Bruce Oliver.

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Library and Museum Trust

COPY.

THE WORSHIPFUL SOCIETY OF FREEMASONS.
Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers and Plaisterers.

Westminster Division.

ABBEY ASSEMBLAGE
(Constituted February 9th.1943)

Clerk:
L.F.ELVD. F.I.C.D.,
25, Liphook Cres.,
Forest Hill, S.E.23.

Dear W.Bro. St.George,

28-6-'62.

Further to yours of the 10th. U.S.M. Order of
the Secret Monitor

Candidates must be Master Masons
Headquarters- 40, Upper Brook St.,

Eri.--- Order of Eri

Candidates must be 5th S.R.I.A.
Headquarters- 27, St. Queen St., (= O.C.L.)

When was the Worshipful Society of Free Masons formed
as such?

No one can say, in olden times nobody could transmit
to paper any of the information for which we seek and it
was not much before the time of the Union that records were
kept.

Some of the early Scotch Lodges are still called
"Operative" in their title, they are now, of course, completely
Free & Accepted, but probably they are the lineal descendants
of purely Operative Lodges.

The enclosed photo, which I shall be glad if you will
return in due course, shows the badge which can still be seen
in the Guild Hall, Durham. The other badge is a piece
torn from one of our old certificates, and the badge we still
use.

As far as the Society, as now constituted, is concerned
we do not claim to go back further than 1913 when Channel
Row Assemblage was re-constituted (the minutes say RE-con-
stituted) by representatives from the Midlands & North.

Of course, old Lodge No.4 1717-1723 met at the
Rummer & Grapes, Channel Row, Westminster this is still
Lodge No.4 & now called the Royal Somerset House & Inverness
Lodge. But it's records show that even in those days it was
speculative & not operative. Lodge No.2 (also Time Imm.)-
Lodge of Antiquity met at the Goose & Gridiron, St Pauls
Churchyard, but that also, at the time of the Union, was not

operative. The mention of a Channel Row at Westminster as well as at St. Pauls is not unlikely for the Channel or Channel Row was the route by which material reached the building site.

The original of the charges were definitely operative.

So when you say-- When was The Worshipful Society of Free Masons formed I have to say I do not know-- but the present Society has continuous records since 1917 in London.

I wonder if V.W.Bro Canon E.F.Braley's paper was printed, if so would it be possible to get hold of a copy.

I would be very intrested to read it through carefully. Even Bro. Harry Carr's notes would make an intresting study.

If you can do anything to arrange this I would be glad.

Yours in fraternity,

(sgd) L.F. Evin.

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Library and Museum Trust

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(sgd) L.F. Zvin.

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THE OLD PREBENDARY,
COLLEGE YARD,
WORCESTER.

28 July 1962

Dear Brother St Seage

I am sorry to say

that I returned to you the second
typed copy of this obituary letter
by mistake. I have only
just discovered my mistake

May I have it back please?

I am very sorry to disturb
all your work

Yours sincerely
& patiently

E D Hall

30 JUL 1962

THE OLD PRECEPTORY,
COLLEGE YARD,
WORCESTER.

26 July 1862

Dear Broome George

Thank you very much

for your letter + enclosures

I am delighted that you
have typed out my lecture

You sent me two copies of

Olevis letter - so I am returning
one of them

I quite agree with you that you
do not send a copy of the lecture
to Broome Oliver Elwin.

I hope we shall meet again
before long as I should enjoy
a talk with you

With renewed thanks + best

wishes
Yours sincerely

E. F. Hooley

THE OLD PREBENTORY,
COLLEGE YARD,
WORCESTER.

July 12/62

Dear Brother & Sarge

~~I am extremely~~ I

was very sorry I did not see
you after the service & on some
case Sunday to the Cathedral. I was
besidegled by a number of people &
when I got away, you had departed.
Thank you for your letter of 11th inst
with the enclosed. I am returning it
in a separate parcel.

My lecture at Worcester Lodge I
am enclosing too. I hope you can
read it.

Will you be sure to return it
to me before the end of this month
as I am compelled to read it a 2nd time
the first week in September.