

14th. July 1970.

Dear Br. Bill,

In your letter of 29th. August 1969 you were kind enough to suggest that an article on "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire" might be of some interest. Rather belatedly, I have put pen to paper and enclose the result in approx. 1,500 words for your perusal.

If you feel it does not come up to the mark please do not hesitate to say so - my powers of journalism are very limited.

Rather than confine my remarks to Freemasonry in Worcestershire I have broadened the canvas so that Worcestershire can take its proper place and be seen against a background of English F'masonry.

English Freemasons have little or no knowledge of the structure of Freemasonry in the States and, I presume, the same might be said (in reverse) of many of your Brethren. So, if what I have written is of interest my labour, though small, will not be lost.

I can now assure you that the 2nd. Volume of the A. & A. Rite (Southern Jurisdiction) has been duly received and both volumes now adorn our Library at Worcester. Please accept our most grateful thanks - your generosity is greatly appreciated. One last request - when you are next in England and can find the time to visit Worcester we would ask you to autograph these volumes and thus further enhance their value.

Fraternal regards,

Yours sincerely,

To. M.W. Br. W.D.E. Sharp.

Paul Grand Master

(Oregon) (U.S.A.)
The attached "article" was reproduced (w/English spelling)
in "The Oregon Freemason" in its issue for

March 1970.

JOTTINGS ON ENGLISH FREEMASONRY

(1500 words)
approx.

with particular reference to the Masonic Province of Worcestershire.

[This Paper was reproduced in the periodical "The Oregon Freemason" (U.S.A) in the issue for P.G.M. 1969]

To some of our American Brethren the structure of English Freemasonry may be unfamiliar in that we have a three-tier arrangement i.e. the governing body is "The United Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England" ruled over by the Most Worshipful Grand Master (at present H.R.H. Duke of Kent) under which there are Provincial Grand Lodges presided over by Right Worshipful ^{P.G.M.} Grand Masters and under whom the Private Lodges work.

A Province is generally synonymous with the English (and Welsh) Counties, the exception being Bristol City which is designated, for Masonic purposes, a "Province" and has its own Provincial Grand Master.

Despite the liquidation of the British Empire and the formation of autonomous Grand Lodges overseas, there are still more than 700 Lodges, spread over Africa, America, Asia, Australasia and Europe holding allegiance to the United Grand Lodge of England (hereinafter referred to as 'U.G.L.E!'). Lodges in those areas are grouped into Districts and each is presided over by a Right Worshipful District Grand Master. In addition, where it is impracticable to erect a District Grand Lodge, there are 32 Lodges (in groups of from 3 to 6 Lodges) under the superintendence of a Grand Inspector (who bears the prefix of "Very Worshipful").

Lastly, there are 17 "unattached" Lodges in various parts of the world under neither a District Grand Master nor a Grand Inspector but who "report" directly to Grand Lodge in England. In all, there are approximately 8,000 Lodges under U.G.L.E. with a total membership of (in round figures) 600,000 and, by simple arithmetic, that gives an average Lodge membership of 75 - but more on that point later. (i)

It will be recalled that the first Grand Lodge in England (and the world, for that matter) was formed in London in 1717 and from then until 1813 a new Grand Master was elected annually. In 1751, the Atholl (or Antient) Grand Lodge was formed in opposition to the first (or Premier) Grand Lodge but in 1813 the Premier and Atholl Grand Lodges were united and became the U.G.L.E. From that time until the present there have been but ten Grand Masters viz:

- 1813 - 1843, H.R.H. Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex
- 1844 - 1870, Thomas 2nd. Earl of Zetland
- 1870 - 1874, George, 1st. Marquess of Ripon
- 1874 - 1901, H.R.H. Prince Edward (afterwards King Edward VII)
- 1901 - 1939, H.R.H. Arthur, Duke of Connaught
- 1939 - 1942, H.R.H. George, Duke of Kent
- 1942 - 1947, Henry, 6th. Earl of Harewood
- 1947 - 1950, Edward, 10th. Duke of Devonshire
- 1951 - 1967, Lawrence, 11th. Earl of Scarborough
- 1967 - H.R.H. Edward, Duke of Kent

Cheshire was the first Province to have a Provincial Grand Master. That was in 1725 and others followed in due course. In the early days some P.G.Ms were appointed to Provinces in which there were no Lodges. In contrast, the famous Thomas Dunckerley was at one time P.G.M. of no less than nine Provinces! He was an exceptionally keen Mason and it is believed that he was instrumental in paving the way for the union of the Premier and Atholl Grand Lodges which, as previously stated, took place in 1813.

That, in brief, deals with the first or upper tier. The middle tier comprises the various Provincial and District Grand Lodges.

(i) THE AVERAGE LODGE MEMBERSHIP IN THE PROVINCE OF WORCESTERSHIRE IS 60, WHICH INCLUDES BROTHERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF MORE THAN ONE LODGE.

Provincial (and District) Grand Lodges. (1)

As the influence of the Premier Grand Lodge extended into the Provinces and over-seas, it was found necessary, as early as 1725, to appoint Provincial Grand Masters, the appointment being (2) the prerogative of the Grand Master. The Provincial Grand Master was, from the start, invested with the power and rank of a Grand Master within his own particular province and entitled to wear the clothing of a Grand Officer; he was also empowered to appoint Provincial Grand Officers who were authorised to wear the clothing and enjoy the privilege of Grand Officers while officiating within their own province but at no other time or place, nor were they (as such) Officers of Grand Lodge.

During the 18th. century and for some time after the Provincial Grand Master often selected his Provincial Officers from his own Lodge which he used as a sort of headquarters.

By the middle of the 19th. century it was found necessary, on account of the distance between London and Lodges overseas and the consequent delays in communications, to give somewhat extended powers to their rulers. They were, therefore, formed (circa 1866) into District Grand Lodges with powers and duties defined by the Book of Constitutions.

Nowadays, a Provincial Grand Master has precedence in Grand Lodge immediately after the Assistant Grand Master and, by virtue of his appointment, ranks as an Officer of Grand Lodge. He holds that Office "during the pleasure" of the Grand Master and is, therefore, not re-appointed annually.

A Provincial Grand Master has the power to appoint a Deputy Provincial Grand Master and, when the number of Lodges in his Province reaches 50, an Assistant Provincial Grand Master. Brethren so appointed are always selected from Past Masters of Lodges in the Province, but their appointments as such do not rank them as Officers of Grand Lodge. It is customary, however, for the Provincial Grand Master to recommend some of them in due course to the Grand Master who then confers Grand Rank on them. There is a limit to the number who can be so recommended and depends on the number of Lodges in the Province. In Worcestershire, where there are 106 Lodges, the limit is three.

From these 106 Lodges ⁽³⁾ and by virtue of the power conferred on him by the Book of Constitutions the Provincial Grand Master appoints and invests 56 Provincial Grand Officers at his annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge as follows:- (in order of precedence)

- 2 Provincial Grand Wardens
- 2 " " Chaplains
- 1 " " Treasurer (elected)
- 1 " " Registrar
- 1 " " Secretary
- 1 " " Director of Ceremonies
- 5 " " Deacons (Senior)
- 5 " " Deacons (Junior)
- 1 " " Sword Bearer
- 2 Deputy Provincial Grand Directors of Ceremonies
- 1 " " " " " Sword Bearer
- 2 Assistant Provincial Grand Chaplains
- 1 Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works

(1) Vide "The Freemasons' Pocket Reference Book" by F.L.Pick & Knight
 (2) And still is
 (3) In 1969

- 1 Assistant Provincial Grand Superintendent of works
- 10 Assistant Provincial Grand Directors of Ceremonies
- 3 Provincial Grand Standard Bearers
- 1 " " Organist and a Deputy
- 1 " " Grand Secretary
- 1 " " Pursuivant and 2 Assistants
- 10 " " Stewards
- 1 " " Tyler

These Brethren hold Office for one year with the exception of the Provincial Grand Secretary and Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies who are usually reappointed year after year. When a Brother has completed his year as a Present Provincial Grand Officer he hands back his Jewel of Office to the Provincial Grand Lodge when it is appended to the collar of his successor at the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge. He (the retiring Provincial Officer) then purchases a "Past" jewel (which bears the symbol of the Office he served in) and appends it to the collar of his (dark blue and gold embroidered regalia which he is entitled to wear on all Masonic (Craft) occasions. The Provincial Grand Stewards' regalia is red with silver embroidery. When a Brother has completed his year as, for example, a Provincial Grand Warden he automatically becomes styled a Past Provincial Grand Warden and is entitled to write after his signature the initials "P.G.W. (Worcs.)"

Up to 1908, for Brethren in London Lodges (1) there were no honours intermediately between those conferred in private Lodges and office in Grand Lodge. In that year, however, "London Rank" was instituted and conferred by the Grand Master upon a certain number of Past Masters of London Lodges. In 1939 the designation was changed to "London Grand Rank" and its holders wear regalia similar in every respect but one to that of Provincial (& District) Grand Officers. The exception is the symbol of rank which is the 47th. Proposition of Euclid. London Grand Rankers are all equal in status unlike Provincial (& District) Grand Officers, the order of precedence of the latter being as set out above.

In passing, and in reference to the powers of the Grand Master, Rule 15 of our Book of Constitutions states

"If the Grand Master should abuse his power and render himself unworthy of the obedience of the Lodges, he shall be subjected to some new regulation, to be decreed by the occasion; because, hitherto, the Ancient Fraternity have had no reason to provide for an event which they have presumed would never happen"

A kindly and comforting thought! But if, for ^{the sake of argument} ~~example~~, a Grand Master did 'kick over the traces' and were voted out of Office his successor could, if he so wished, appoint a completely new set of Grand Officers which, of course, includes Provincial Grand Masters who, in turn, could appoint new Deputies (and Assistants, where applicable) for, remember, the Provincial Grand Masters hold office "at pleasure". That is a state of affairs which would, doubtless, be catered for in formulating

(1) All Lodges held within 10 miles from Freemasons' Hall, London, are designated "London Lodges"

"some new regulation"

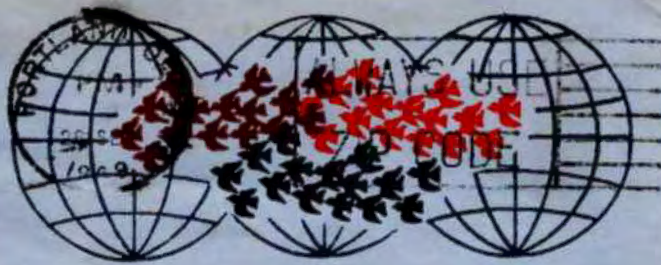
In reference to the number of Lodges under the English Constitution it has been mentioned that the average membership per Lodge is approximately 75 - thus a Lodge with a membership of 100 or more (to say nothing of 500 or more) is considered "unwieldly". The average English Mason regards the attainment of the Mastership of his Craft Lodge as the acme of his Masonic career and, generally speaking, he gets there in 14 or 15 years from the date of his "raising", sometimes sooner depending on circumstances such as the number of Brethren who joined before him and are not yet in 'office'. The larger the membership the longer the wait, with the result that some of the younger Brethren get together and form a new Lodge consisting of up to 25 founders.

Since 1946 the English Craft has grown by nearly 2,000 Lodges and it is still growing at the rate of 40 per year. When an English Craft Mason hears of Lodges in the U.S.A. with a membership of 500 (or even more) his bewilderment will be appreciated. In saying that, no direct or implied criticism is intended.

Having attained the Chair of his Craft Lodge, the English Mason can then pursue a career in Royal Arch Masonry after which the path to the extraneous or 'higher' degrees is open.

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Mr. Rex G. St. George
6, Widney Lane,
Solihull,

England

Warks.

VIA AIR MAIL • PAR AVION

SECOND FOLD

John
A. R. Sharpe
16595
97223
K.S.A.

that talk early next year or in the
Fall.

Sincerely or fraternally

Bill Sharpe

16595 S.W. Queen Mary Ave

Jigara, Oregon 97223

August 29 1969

Dear Bo Rex.

I certainly appreciated your letter of July 2nd⁽¹⁴⁾ which was waiting for me when I arrived home, after spending time in Denver with my younger daughter and her family.

I brought the 14 yr old granddaughter back with me and picked her 16 yr old sister up in Seattle the next week (she had been camping on an island in the San Juan channel with a Girl Guide group). Then took a run into Vancouver, B.C. to visit friends. I had 3 teen age girls with me for 10 days. They are home on the 20th so I gradually getting caught up.

Yesterday I was able to contact the Secretary (Walter Youngson) of the Scottish Rite and I can obtain a copy of the History you would like to get. I also can obtain a copy of "Morals & Logna" and will mail them under the "Educational Clause" this should save you from paying any duties.

Ralph should be getting "The Freemason" the masonic publication in Oregon, although not published by the Grand Lodge, it being a private enterprise. Sometimes I think it could be greatly improved but it is not a hospitable undertaking. Maybe you and Ralph could prepare an article on the Provincial G.L. of Worcestershire, its operation. The library, collection of books etc.

I am looking forward to another trip to England again soon and spending much longer with Ralph or visiting you & other members of the Craft.

The evening I spent with you & Ralph at the Club, was very enjoyable and unfortunately too short, so like you I am looking

16595, S.W. Queen Mary Ave
Seaside, Oregon 97223
Sept 24 1969

Dear Bro. Rex.

Guess we are in luck, I talked
to the Secretary of the Scottish Rite here
Bro. W.W. Youngson 33° and he has a
copy of the "History of the Supreme Council"
also one of "Morals & Dogma A.A.S.R."
and I explained your position in the
Craft and the Prov. Grand Lodge of
Worcestershire - Librarian.

He is going to let me have
them to mail you, in fact I may
even be able to have him take care
of that through the Rite.

I'll air mail them as soon
as he has taken care of it. They
will be mailed as - Books -
Educational Material - maybe
that will get it through without
duties.

... about cost - if there
is, it will be my pleasure to present
them to you.

Sorry for delay but "Wally" has
been on vacation and I have been
out of town on Grand Lodge Committee
work for some two weeks total.

Hope you & Ralph are still enjoying
your "get togethers" at the Club. Please
have one for me. Hope we can have

March 12 1970

Dear Brother Rex,

I must ask you to excuse me for not writing thanking you for the kindness & thoughtfulness in sending me the history of the S. L. of England.

I have read the majority & have mailed your letter to John Wilkinson, while I have been at meetings at the same time have not had the opportunity to discuss the matter.

It may not surprise you, ^{as} Ralph too much, but I remarried on Dec 17th to a widow a few years younger & whose husband was suffering from cancer some 8 or 9 years & spent the ~~first~~ last 8 months in hospital he passed away about 2 years ago.

She was Deputy Treasurer of Longview Washington (maybe Ralph will remember the town on the Columbia River) about 50 miles from Portland.

Rexley have been real busy selling her house and combining two furnishings into one. Disposing of many items and giving much of it away. She had 3 cats & 2 dogs - we cannot keep cats or dogs here except on a leash so keep one dog a small poodle, personally I would much rather have none.

I had made preliminary arrangements for a tour to the South Pacific so now we will go together, she is taking care of her expenses, so maybe we can make that

trip to England together.

I will call Brother Wally Youngson tomorrow and make certain he mailed Volume 1 of the History of A.S.R. as he told me he had. If so you should have received it by now. Do not do anything until I have checked and

FIRST FOLD

DO NOT USE TAPE OR STICKERS TO SEAL

NO ENCLOSURES PERMITTED

AÉROGRAMME PAR AVION

ENGLAND.

Scientific, Massachusetts

13 Mistry Lane

Mr. St. George

USA

Jagard Oregon 97223

1695 S.W. Queen Mary Ave

W.B. Skarpe



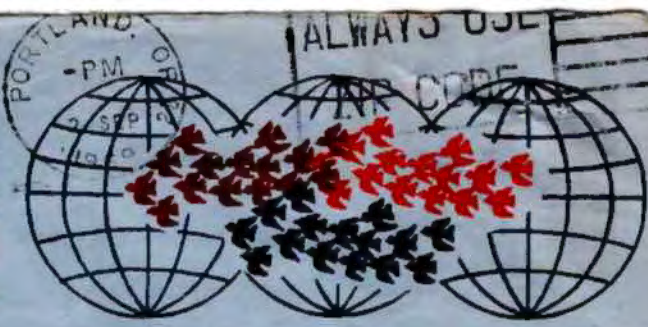
SECOND FOLD

let you know.

I'll mail you copy of Scottish Rite News for February as I think it may be of interest. I had the job of organizing and putting over the 100 anniversary of the Lodge of Perfection.

All the very best
Sincerely & fraternally
Bill

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Rev. St. George Esq.,
6 Widney Lane,
Salihull,
Warks
England

VIA AIR MAIL • PAR AVION

SECOND FOLD

From
W. B. Sharpe
16595, S.W. 2nd Ave
Tigard, Oregon, 97223
U.S.A.

forward to the next visit.
My daughter & grand daughter (who I am
sorry you did not meet) thoroughly enjoyed their
visit to the Ralph Inghams and the "Old
Country". Well everything is starting
out again and Masonic activities start
Sept 1st - in fact I'm going to participate
in a program on Sept 2 of helping outline the
Centennial Celebration of Scottish Rite's
admission & recognition in the State of Oregon.
All the very best & I'll keep in
touch.
Sincerely & fraternally, Bill

6, Widney Lane,
Solihull,
Warwickshire,
England.

M.W.Br. W.D.E. Sharpe, P.G.M. (Oregon)
16595, South West,
Queen Mary Avenue,
Tigard,
Oregon, 97223, U.S.A.

23rd. December 1969.

Dear Br. Bill,

Although you will not receive these settings till well after Christmas, I hope you spent it happily and that you will be blessed with good health in the New Year.

Up to a few days ago we had a period of almost arctic weather which reduced me to near complete inactivity! Warm weather now prevails and in consequence very many people are laid up with influenza. Poor Ralph has had a bad bout of bronchitis but I am glad to report he has now recovered.

Incidentally, he lent me his "History of the G.L. of A.F. & A.M. of Oregon" by Br. John Wilkinson, which I read with much interest. In the Introduction written by Br. Clarence D. Phillips, P.G.M., there is a statement (p.1) that "His Uncle, Leonard Wilkinson, a Church of England Minister, was Provincial Grand Master of Gloucestershire, England, for many years", which, apart from the spelling, is incorrect. The Provincial Grand Secretary of Gloucestershire informs me that the Rev. Leonard Wilkinson was a member of the Royal Forest of Dean Lodge No.1067 (in the Province of Gloucestershire) and that in 1896 he was appointed and invested as Provincial Grand Chaplain. I thought, in the interests of accuracy, you might like to know that.

p.t.o.

What do you know about "The Universal League of Freemasons"? The Secretary (in U.S.A.) is one Lt.Col. Harvey N. Brown of Texas. In 1966 I received (out of the blue) a copy of the magazine (Vol.31) published by the League in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian. With it was included reproductions of correspondence between Brown and M.W.Br.J.Carroll Hinsley, Grand Master, G.L. of Texas, which seemed to me to be in questionable taste since much of it was acrimonious. As far as we of the U.G.L. of England are concerned the "League" is taboo, the reason for which the Colonel cannot understand. I notice no brother from Oregon is identified among the list of executives of the League.

Lastly, I want you please to accept the accompanying book as a token of fraternal regards and thanks for your kindness in obtaining Pike's "Morals & Dogma" and Vol. 2. of the A. & A. Rite. If you already have a copy may I suggest you pass it on to a masonic friend or deposit it in your Lodge Library.

Fraternal regards and best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

16595, S.W. Queen Mary Ave

Tigard, Oregon. 97223

Nov 12 1969

Replied 19/11/69.

Dear Bro. Rex

Sorry I have not answered your letter of Oct 15th sooner. However I left for a 25 day tour of Mexico only the 2nd Oct & since having been back have been staying at my older daughters place in the country as she & her husband are out of town until the 17th or 18th. He has to attend a conference of orthodoxists in Denver. So I had not had too much spare time.

I talked to Henry Gringson & he has promised to send you a copy of Volume I (1801-61) I have to make certain he has your correct address again. Will be able to take care of that next week, when the kids are back. Have to make certain Liz is at school by 8.30am & pick her up at 4.15pm & it's an hour to town & 25 minutes to my place.

I hope you have received the ^{other books} _{arr. 18/11/69.} in good condition & I am certain they will make a good addition to your library.

I wrote Ralph last week & I know he will be discussing it with you, he knows Liz. Hope you can still enjoy the little get togethers. All the best

Sincerely & fraternally
Bill

Thursday October 2 1969

Dear Rex,

Today, Ill. Brother Wallace W. Youngson 33°
Secretary, Portland Valley, A.R.A.S.R., 709 S.W. 15th
Ave., Portland, Oregon 97205 mailed you a copy
of "Morals & Dogma" and "History of the Supreme
Council 33° - 1861 - 1891."

Wally tells me this is volume II &
has a copy of volume I - 1801 - 1861 and he
he told me if you needed one he will mail one
to you.

I know he would appreciate a letter from
you when the books arrive, as he has
arranged for them to be sent with his
and the Portland Jewish Rite Bodies.

Sure hope they arrive in good condition
should be in about 3 weeks. Please let me
know if you would like a copy of the volume
number one 1801 - 1861, and I'll pass the
word along.

Hope you and Ralph still get together
Saturday evenings, hope I can join you in
the not too distant future

All the very best

Sincerely & fraternally

Bill Sharpe

Replied 15/10/69.
Vol. I wanted.

(Prov. Lib. & Museum letter-paper)

4th. July 1969.

(address as above)

M.W.Br. William D.E. Sharpe, P.G.M. (Oregon)
16595, South West,
Queen Mary Avenue,
Tigard,
Oregon, 97223,
U.S.A.

Dear Br. Bill,

I trust you will forgive the familiarity of address but in talks with Ralph Ingham you have been referred to so often by that style that I wrote it automatically.

I greatly enjoyed our talk at the Club and wished it could have been prolonged. However, I look forward to another on your next trip.

Your membership of Antiquar Coronati C.C. interested me (I am the Local Secretary for Worcestershire) and it will not surprise you to learn that I have been closely associated with our (i.e. Worcestershire) Provincial Library & Museum for many years. We are very proud of our collection of books, glass, china, jewels etc. and Harry Carr, who is no mean judge, agrees it is one, if not the best, outside our Grand Lodge in London. If you could spare the time on your next trip I would be delighted to take you down to Worcester (or meet you there).

I mentioned that we were having difficulty in obtaining a copy of Carter's book "Supreme Council 33°" the full title is:-

"HISTORY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL 33°
(Mother Council of the World)

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry-
Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., 1861-1891."

By James D. Carter, 33°

(Published by The Supreme Council 33°, Washington D.C. 1967)
Price 6s.

If you could procure a copy I should be most grateful.

P.T.O.

1967/17.41

Payment may present some difficulty but it may be you have a bank account over here or have other ideas on the subject. If, for any unforeseen reason, you find it impossible I shall fully understand.

We are all shocked to learn of the death of the Earl of Scarborough - he has been a tower of strength to the English Jurisdiction and not less to the young Duke of Kent who succeeded him as Grand Master in 1967.

At the risk of repetition, I look forward to meeting you again and for a longer time.

Fraternal regards,
Yours sincerely,

(R.G.St.George.)

I thank you for the gift of the book "The History of the Grand Lodge of England" which I have been referred to so often by those who are interested in the history of our Order. I have been very glad to hear that you are so interested in the history of our Order and I shall be pleased to hear from you again when you have had a chance to read the book. I am sure you will find it very interesting and I hope it will give you a better understanding of the part that we all play in the history of our Order. I am sure you will find it very interesting and I hope it will give you a better understanding of the part that we all play in the history of our Order. I am sure you will find it very interesting and I hope it will give you a better understanding of the part that we all play in the history of our Order.