

# HOWE

LODGE OF MARK MASTERS

HELD AT BIRMINGHAM

according to the

Ancient Custom of the Order  
Time Immemorial

1850 — 1950

11th November, 1950

## Toast List

- 1.—H.M. The King and Mark Masonry.  
*Proposed by*  
THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER.
- 2.—The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brig.-General W. H. V. Darell, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.  
*Proposed by*  
V.W. BRO. CHAS. F. MONK, P.C.Ov., P.P.G.W.
- 3.—The R.W. Deputy Grand Master, Rev. Canon Frederick Halsey, M.A., and the Officers, Present and Past, of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and the Dominions and Dependencies of the British Crown.  
*Proposed by*  
W. BRO. LESLIE BURNETT, P.P.G.W.
- 4.—The R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Percy H. Jackson.  
*Proposed by*  
R.W. BRO. V. W. GROSVENOR, LL.B., J.P.,  
PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER (WORCS.).
- 5.—The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W. Bro. D. G. Price, P.G.Ov., and the Officers, Present and Past, of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire.  
*Proposed by*  
THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER.
- 6.—The Worshipful Master.  
*Proposed by*  
W. BRO. J. T. BURGESS, P.G.D.
- 7.—The Newstead Mark Lodge, Time Immemorial.  
*Proposed by*  
W. BRO. L. J. BIDDLE, LL.B., P.P.G.REG.
- 8.—The Visitors.  
*Proposed by*  
W. BRO. M. P. PUGH, P.P.G.REG.
- 9.—The Tyler's Toast.

# We Commemorate

the visit to the

TOWN OF BIRMINGHAM on

15th OCTOBER, 1850

of a Deputation from the

NEWSTEAD LODGE OF MARK MASTERS,  
NOTTINGHAM,

consisting of:—

BRO. BLACKNER, W.M.,  
BRO. WYNN, BRO. MILLINGTON,  
BRO. CLARK, BRO. BOSWORTH,  
BRO. HART, BRO. CAKEY,  
BRO. BARDSLEY, BRO. STECK,  
BRO. GARLAND, BRO. KING,  
and Bro. DANSE, Tyler,

when the following Brethren were advanced to the Degree of  
Mark Master Mason:

BRO. JOHN WARD LLOYD,  
BRO. BASSETT SMITH,  
BRO. BENJAMIN WILLIAM GOODE,  
BRO. LEOPOLD COHEN,  
BRO. ISAAC HAWKER BEDFORD,  
BRO. MAURICE MYERS,  
BRO. FREDERICK JAMES ROBERTS,  
BRO. THOMAS JAMES,  
BRO. ALEXANDER McCracken,  
BRO. ALFRED ROBINSON,  
BRO. GEORGE JAMES KAIN,  
BRO. FREDERICK EMPSON,  
BRO. FREDERICK BALL RYLEY,  
BRO. SARGENT PEARSON,

and were constituted a Lodge of Mark Master Masons  
now known as

THE HOWE LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS  
TIME IMMEMORIAL.

## One Hundred Years

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A hundred years may seem a very short time in the long history of Freemasonry, but the past hundred years has made fundamental changes in the position of the Mark Degree.

One hundred years ago there was no Grand Mark Lodge, no Provincial Grand Mark Lodge, and no standardized ritual of the Degree. Scattered over England, Scotland and Ireland were Lodges and Chapters which claimed the right, by immemorial custom, to confer the degrees of Mark Mason and Mark Master according to rituals of their own which differed widely in form and intention, and also the further right to constitute other Lodges which could in turn confer the same degrees.

In August, 1850, certain enthusiastic Brethren in the then newly-created borough of Birmingham, being engaged in the formation of a new Craft Lodge, and feeling that their new Lodge should have the power and authority to confer the Mark Degrees upon their members, applied to the Newstead (Craft) Lodge, No. 55, of Nottingham for the constitution of a Lodge of Mark Masons in Birmingham. The Newstead Lodge readily acceded to this request and on 15th October, 1850, sent a deputation of twelve Brethren to Birmingham, where they advanced fourteen candidates in the Mark degree and constituted them into a Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

The Lodge was temporarily placed under the superintendence of the St. Paul's Lodge, but upon the issue of the Warrant for the Howe Lodge, No. 857, the Mark Lodge was handed over to that Lodge, which continued to manage its affairs for the next twenty years.

For the next three years the Brethren were very busy with the organization of the new Craft Lodge, and the first meeting of the Mark Lodge was therefore not held until 9th February, 1854. The union with the Howe Lodge, No. 857, was affirmed and the authority of that Lodge recognized in its management. The Warrant which had been granted by the Newstead Lodge was altered by erasure and interlineation to serve as the Warrant for "The Howe Mark-Masters Lodge, No. 857," as it was called. The position of the Mark Lodge as an adjunct of the Craft Lodge is clearly illustrated by the fact that all candidates for the Mark Degree were balloted for in the Howe (Craft) Lodge, No. 857, to whom their fees were also paid. There was no annual subscription of any kind, and the ordinary running expenses of the Mark Lodge were covered by the advancement fees.

The Mark Lodge proved an immediate success and candidates came forward from Craft Lodges throughout the Midlands. The Lodge also gave its support to the formation of other Mark Lodges, including the Shakespeare (now No. 40), the Bedford (now No. 115), and the Athol (now No. 174). It actually granted a warrant of constitution to the Athol Mark Lodge on the 16th June, 1862.

In 1863, in consequence of the revision of the numbers of the Craft Lodges, the Howe Lodge received the new number of 587, and the Mark Lodge accordingly adopted the title of the Howe Mark Masters Lodge, No. 587.

In consequence of the refusal of the Grand Lodge of England to recognize the Mark Degree many of the Mark Lodges combined, in 1857, to form a Grand Mark Lodge with Lord Leigh the Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire as the first Grand Mark Master. After a number of discussions over more than ten years, the Howe Mark Lodge, in 1868, appointed a deputation to wait upon the Howe (Craft) Lodge to obtain approval to the affiliation of the Mark Lodge to the Grand Mark Lodge. The Craft Lodge appears to have been too busy to see the deputation and there was no further meeting of the Howe Mark Lodge until March 1873, when the members passed a formal resolution to affiliate with Grand Mark Lodge. The Worshipful Master informed the Craft Lodge of this decision and received a reply to the effect that the Mark Lodge only existed to serve the needs of the Craft Lodge and any thought of a separate existence was intolerable. The Mark Lodge was the property of the Craft Lodge and had no powers to discuss anything, but only to advance Brethren into the Mark Degree. This snub dealt the Mark Lodge a death blow and the meeting of April, 1873, at which this answer was read is memorable as the last meeting of the Howe Mark Lodge, No. 587.

During the next five years the former members of the Lodge retained their loyalty and affection for their old Lodge and worked steadily to achieve its revival. At length, on 29th January, 1878, a meeting of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge was held at which the Howe Mark Lodge was re-constituted as a Time Immemorial Lodge under the Grand Mark Lodge. Rt. W. Bro. Isaac Hawker Bedford, a founder of the Lodge and Provincial Grand Master in the Mark Degree for Staffordshire and Warwickshire, became the first Worshipful Master under the new warrant.

So, after perishing in the flames of fraternal strife, the Howe Mark Lodge, Time Immemorial, rose like a phoenix from the ashes of its former self, reconstituted and rejuvenated, and took its rightful place at the head of the Province, where, we trust, it will ever remain.

L. J. B.

## Subscribing Past Masters

- 1926 W. BRO. J. T. BURGESS, P.G.D.
- 1927 V.W. BRO. T. BURMAN, P.G.M.OV.
- 1928 W. BRO. FRANK BURNETT, P.G.D.
- 1931 W. BRO. G. E. NINESS, P.A.G.D.C.
- 1933 W. BRO. H. E. SHAY, P.P.G.W.
- 1934 W. BRO. LESLIE BURNETT, P.P.G.W.
- 1935 W. BRO. A. M. HUTTON.
- 1937 W. BRO. M. P. PUGH, P.P.G.REG.
- 1940 W. BRO. L. J. BIDDLE, LL.B., P.P.G.REG.
- 1941 W. BRO. A. J. COLINGS, P.P.G.W.
- 1942 W. BRO. S. GEISE, P.G.M., PROV.G.SEC.
- 1943 W. BRO. C. E. MOORE, P.P.G.REG.
- 1944 W. BRO. W. F. HORDEN, P.A.G.D.C., PROV.G.ORG.,  
P.P.G.W., P.P.G.W. (STAFFS. & SHROPS.).
- 1945 W. BRO. V. W. GROSVENOR, LL.B., J.P.,  
PROV.G.M. (WORCS.).
- 1946 W. BRO. WILLIAM C. HOWARD, P.P.G.W.
- 1947 V.W. BRO. CHAS. F. MONK, P.G.OV., P.P.G.W.
- 1948 W. BRO. THOMAS JENKINS, P.P.G.OV.
- 1948 W. BRO. BERTRAM S. JEAVONS.
- W. BRO. T. ALAN FURSE, P.P.G.REG.
- W. BRO. F. WILSON STUART, P.P.G.OV. (WORCS.).
- 1930 V.W. BRO. JOHN HILL, P.G.OV., P.P.G.W.,  
P.P.G.W. (WORCS.).
- 1949 W. BRO. H. T. ROPER-HALL, I.P.M.

# Officers

Installation, 17th January, 1950.

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Worshipful Master	-	BRO. C. H. BLACKFORD.
I.P.M.	- -	- W. BRO. H. T. ROPER-HALL.
Senior Warden	-	- BRO. F. M. BRADLEY.
Junior Warden	-	- BRO. W. I. G. WATKINS.
Master Overseer	-	- BRO. F. POWELL.
Senior Overseer	-	- BRO. H. E. TYLER.
Junior Overseer	-	- BRO. A. N. HOLDEN.
Chaplain	- -	- W. BRO. H. E. SEAY, P.P.G.W.
Treasurer	- -	- W. BRO. G. E. NINESS, P.A.G.D.C.
Registrar of Marks	-	- W. BRO. FRANK BURNETT, P.G.D.
Secretary	- -	- W. BRO. A. J. COLLINGS, P.P.G.W.
Director of Ceremonies	-	- W. BRO. CHAS. F. MONK, P.G.OV., P.P.G.W.
Almoner	- -	- W. BRO. T. JENKINS, P.P.G.OV.
Senior Deacon	-	- BRO. G. J. BARAGWANATH, J.P.
Junior Deacon	-	- BRO. G. H. JOLLY.
Asst. Dir. of Ceremonies	-	- W. BRO. J. T. BURGESS, P.G.D.
Organist	- -	- W. BRO. W. F. HORDEN, P.A.G.D.C., PROV.G.ORG., P.P.G.W., P.P.G.W. (STAFFS. & SHROPS.).
Inner Guard	- -	- BRO. N. C. PLUMMER.
Steward	- -	- BRO. J. H. PARSONS.
Steward	- -	- BRO. S. PARSONS.
Tyler	- -	- BRO. GEORGE COLLINS, P.P.A.G.TYLER.

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## BRETHREN NOT IN OFFICE.

BRO. A. M. HENDRY, F.R.C.S.  
BRO. P. R. HACKETT.