

Functions of Grand Lodge
and
Provincial Grand Lodge.

1717 Formation of the Premier Grand Lodge by Lodges who met at the following hostelries.

Goose and Gridiron Ales House St. Pauls Churchyard.
Crown Ale House Parkers Lane, near Dury Lane.
Appletree Tavern, Charles St. Covent Garden.
Rummer and Grapes Tavern, Channel-Row, Westminster
and others.

1720 Saw the consolidation of the new Grand Lodge, as the centre of organised Freemasonry. Taking its first steps towards the co-ordination and regulation of the Craft and extending its sphere of active influence and authority. This Grand Lodge did not assume authority over the whole country, there being other Grand Lodges in being at this time. The basis of membership of Grand Lodge (which originally consisted of the Grand Officers of the year and the Masters and Wardens of Regular Lodges was broadened during the period first to include :-

1724 Past Grand Masters.

1726 Past Deputy Grand Masters

1727 Past Grand Wardens

1724 Brethren not in Lodges in London or an area of 10 miles under the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge were not allowed in as visitors.

1725 Article 3 altered of General Regulations set out in the Constitutions of 1723.

This article dealt with the functions of, and the diverse business to be transacted and Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge. Among the matters mentioned, is a declaration that:- Apprentices must be admitted Masters and Fellowcrafts only at Grand Lodge, unless by Dispensation.

Later in 1725 a Motion was put to alter this Regulation relating to the making of Fellowcrafts and Masters and requested that it be altered as follows:- That the Master of each Lodge with the consent of his Wardens, and the majority being Masters, may make Masters at their discretion.

1726. P.G.H.'s APPOINTED

1727 Saw the first regulation on Clothing, when it was laid down that Masters and Wardens should wear Jewels hanging on a white Ribbon.

The Grand Fund of Charity at Grand Lodge was brought into being. and the Annual Assembly of Grand Lodge and Feast, and to choose a Grand Master would be held on St. John the Baptists Day, 24th June. To assist the Grand Wardens at this function, the Grand Master was empowered to appoint Stewards.

1735 Saw Grand Lodge extend its power over Lodges outside London, when the regulations were altered that automatic erasure of Lodges would take place if the Lodges had been allowed to lapse. Four months later these regulations were extended to all Lodges within England. Grand Lodge it should be noted was claiming jurisdiction over the whole country. At this time there was a Grand Lodge of All England at York and another at Wigan.

Further measures were taken to seek uniformity of Masonic Clothing.

1731 Grand Stewards Clothing came into being, and one year later they gained the authority to nominate their successors.

1735 Preferential treatment of Stewards, when they were allowed to form their own Master Masons Lodge.

There were very little Changes made during the period to the union of the two Grand Lodges, the Priier and the Antients, the latter coming into being in 1751.

1776 → 1819 ^{SAB OVER.} Though Deacons had been introduced into the Antients Lodges, it was not until this year that they were introduced into the regulations of the United Grand Lodge of England, along with the Office of Inner Guard.

In this year the Ceremony of the Consecrating of a new Lodge was recognised.

Some of the Principal alterations to the 1819 Book of Constitutions were:-

No Lodge may be erased or Brother expelled until summoned before Grand Lodge.

None below the rank of a Grand Master may sit in the Grand Masters Chair.

All Subscribing Past Masters of Warranted Lodges are members of Grand Lodge

All preferment among Masons should be based on real worth and oven merit.

New Grand Lodge Certificate designed in 1818

Though a Candidate at his Initiation had to promise submission to the Constitutions and Regulations, it was not obligatory to provide him with a copy until 1940.

The original Article Vi for Grand Assembly specified 9 Grand Officers. Article XIII for the future Seven.

Article VII mentioned 8

After the Union and for 30 years except in 1815 when no appointments were made. H.R.H. The Duke of Sussex appointed 15 Grand Officers besides the Dep. Grand Master.

In addition Senior and Junior Deacons were made each year from 1814 and Assistant D.C. from 1829.

Only Grand Eardens and Provincial Grand Wardens had to be installed. Masters.

Grand Deacons had to have been Warden in a Private Lodge. For most other ranks, M.M. was sufficient.

Grand Officers can only be removed by Grand Lodge to whom the Grand Master could report cases of his dissatisfaction

Until 1816 P.G. Rank did not descend below Deacon.

1845 All Committee virtually amalgamated into the Board of General Purposes.

Until December 1868, Grand Lodge appeared for business at 8.00 p.m. and closed at 11.00 p.m. after this date times were reduced by one hour.

1856 Lord Zetland gave a ruling that Grand Lodge cannot be adjourned except to the next regular Meeting and this has been held to apply to all Masonic Meetings. (hence Brother J.W. your final statement on the closing of a Lodge).

1884 Book of Constitutions, the main changes were in the manner of constituting a new Lodge and the order of precedence of Grand Officers.

Two new ranks were created in 1881 Dep.G.D.C. and G.St.B

1887 After this date Provincial Brethren received Grand Rank.

Provincial

~~1726~~ Provincial Grand Masters appointed.

1776 1786 Appointment of Provincial Grand Officers first recognised by Grand Lodge.

Provincial Grand Masters did not necessarily appoint any Provincial Grand Lodge Officers or hold Provincial Grand Lodges until after the Union.

Only in 1815 was it laid down by rule that Annual Meetings be held and that distinctive clothing be worn.

1918. Dress Regulations came into being, which deprived G.L.O. of the opportunity of wearing "Full Dress Regalia" in private Lodges. Many Brethren turned a blind eye to the new rules, and it was not until 1957 that the argument was concluded.

Position of Grand Lodge:

- (1) G.L. issue the Warrant of a Lodge etc.
- (2) They issue the pattend of the Prov.G.M.
- (3) Private Lodges are only Warranted by G.L. though they are Consecrated by the Prov.G.M. outside London.
- (4) Grand Lodge has complete control of all Lodges under the Book of Constitutions.
- (5) Provincial Grand Master has control of his own Province in so far as he appoints his Officers. He himself is a Grand Officer and ranks at the present time in front of the Grand Wardens.
- (6) Provincial Grand Officers are only Officers in their own Province. On visiting another Province, they are accepted in their ranks, but sit Junior to their own Provincial Officers
- (7) Grand Officers when visiting hold their rank in any Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of England, and sit on the immediate right of the W.M. except on the night of of an initiate at the Festive Board, and in Lodge when the Provincial Grand Master's Representative is present. The only Brother who can sit senior to him, is another of higher rank in G.L.
- (8) A Provincial Brother attending Q.C. of Grand Lodge even if he is a Provincial Officer, signs in under rank as a P.M., unless he holds Grand Rank when he puts his rank in. It should be noted that when visiting Grand Lodge Q.C. that Black ties must be worn, there should be no motif on the tie. (This applies a great deal now, when Provincial Grand Masters have allowed Provincial Ties in a good many Provinces.