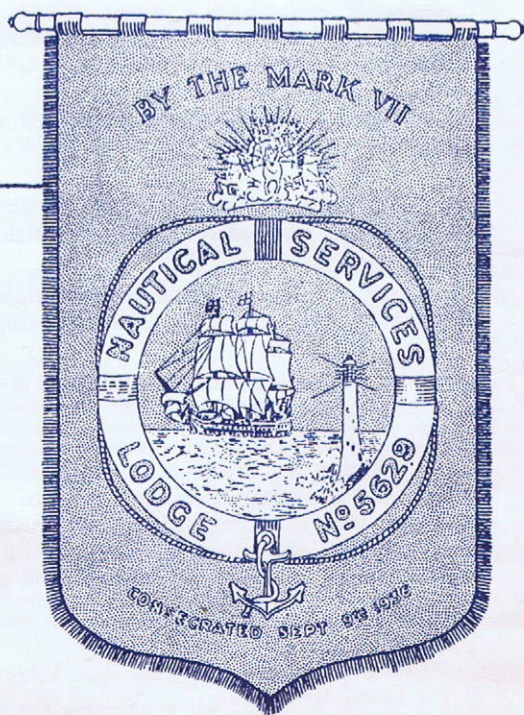
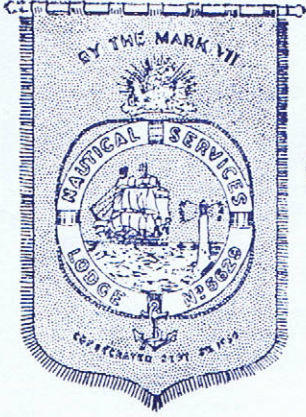


The
Nautical
Services
Lodge
No. 5629.

Consecrated September 9th, 1936
at the Masonic Hall, Stechford,
Birmingham.

by
Rt. Wor. Bro. General Sir Francis J. Davies,
K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., V.L.
Deputy Grand Master. Provincial Grand Master.
assisted by Wor. Bro. Alfred Allen, P.G.D.,
Deputy Provincial Grand Master.
and the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire.





The

Oration given at the Consecration of THE NAUTICAL SERVICES LODGE No. 5629.

on Wednesday, September 9th, 1936

by the Consecrating Chaplain,

The Rev. R. A. HAYSOM, M.A.,

Asst. Grand Chaplain, P. Prov. Grand Chaplain.

The Oration at a Consecration is, according to the Order of Procedure, to be on the nature and principles of the Institution; so we may start by referring to that all-important question asked the Entered Apprentice, before he is passed to the second degree, namely: "What is Free-masonry?" The answer is that it is a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. In other words, it is a rule of conduct, the truths of which are often hidden by symbols.

As I look through the list of Founders of this Nautical Services Lodge, I am convinced that merely to repeat the fundamentals of Masonry in the form with which you are all familiar, would not carry with it the appeal or the force of exhortation that so sacred a moment as the Consecration of your new Lodge demands.

You are all so familiar with the symbolism of the ordinary Masonic Working Tools, that I can safely leave the inculcation of the underlying truths to the Worshipful Masters who, in turn, will rule over this Lodge.

I would rather, therefore, ask your attention for a few moments to the symbolism which I want to suggest, underlies your own choice of a symbol.

You are to-day to be Consecrated the Nautical Services Lodge. You have seven Past Masters, you have seven other Brethren, your motto is to be "By the Mark VII."*

I could give you countless instances of the sacredness of the use of that number seven from the Volume of the Sacred Law, starting with the creation of the world in seven days, going right through to the seven Golden Candlesticks, the seven Churches and the seven Angels of the Apocalypse, but time will not permit. It is sufficient to point out that you have chosen well.

In a few moments the ship of your Lodge will be launched, launched into deep water, and you will straightway commence your voyaging "By the Mark VII.," seven fathoms of water beneath you. To you who are Founders is committed the task of continually taking that sounding. You start off with seven fathoms—they are familiar fathoms these seven:—

- (1). Brotherly love.
- (2). Relief.
- (3). Truth.
- (4). Temperance.
- (5). Fortitude.
- (6). Prudence.
- (7). Justice.

It must be always by the Mark VII.—not one fathom less.

(1). **Brotherly love**—that truly Masonic principle which will enable each one of you to continue to carry out that real spirit of comradeship which you learnt while at sea.

(2). **Relief**—that helping hand held out to all in distress.

(3). **Truth**—that straightforwardness in word and conduct which makes for the banishment of hypocrisy and deceit.

(4). **Temperance**—that due restraint of all the passions, so that mind and body alike are under complete control.

(5). **Fortitude**—that moral courage which can stand up for that which we know to be right, and can boldly repel that which we know to be wrong.

(6). **Prudence**—that careful weighing of every problem of life so that a balanced mind leads us to the true value of things temporal and eternal.

(7). **Justice**—that virtue which is called the cement of Civil Society, and which renders to every man his due.

Finally, my Brethren, let me exhort you to have the Volume of the Sacred Law as your Chart, and above all, that Great Pilot of the Seas as your Helmsman. With Him at the Helm you start your voyaging. He is the Captain of your Ship; He will steer you clear of any Rocks in your path; the winds and storms and tempest may rage about you, but He will hold you to your course and bring you in peace and safety unto that Haven where you would be.

So mote it be.

* NOTE.—The motto "By the Mark VII." was the inspired designation of the Rt. Wor. Provincial Grand Master.

The Address

By The Rev. R.A. HAYSOM, M.A.,

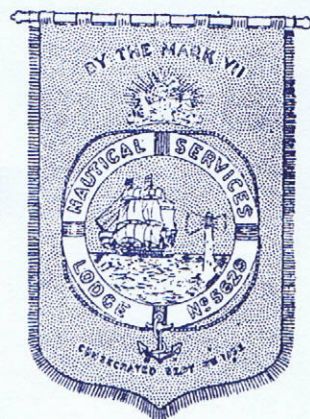
Asst. G. Chaplain, P.P.G. Chaplain, on the occasion of the
DEDICATION OF THE LODGE BANNER by the

Rt. Wor. Bro. General Sir Francis J. Davies,

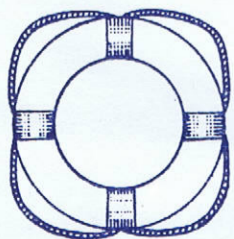
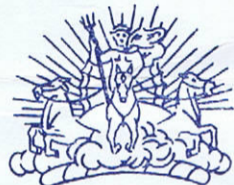
K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., V.L.

Deputy Grand Master, Provincial Grand Master,

on Saturday, March 6th, 1937.



BY THE MARK VII.



As the Consecrating Chaplain of this, the Nautical Services Lodge, I am glad of the opportunity of being present, and of taking part in the Dedication of your Lodge Banner.

In the olden days the Banner or Flag was always the rallying point for the members of a particular unit. Around it they gathered, under it they fought, and to keep it flying and to keep it in safety, they were prepared to give their lives. It was symbolic to them of all that was best of honour and virtue, of chivalry, loyalty and courage. As it was raised above them, it stood for all these things. *Your* Banner represents *your* Lodge and all that it stands for. What is its symbolism?

Worked on this beautiful Banner, either by accident or design, there are seven symbols, each full of meaning. They are:—

- (1). The Lodge Motto—"By the Mark VII."
- (2). Neptune driving his sea horses.
- (3). H.M.S. Victory in full sail with the Union Jack, St. George's Flag and the Royal Naval Ensign all flying.
- (4). The Lighthouse with its light shining, built firmly on a rock.
- (5). The Sea with its restless waves.
- (6). The Life-belt.
- (7). The Anchor.

As that Banner hangs above you in your Lodge, what do those symbols suggest for you? I want them to bring to your minds some of the following thoughts:—

1. The Lodge Motto.

From time to time your visitors to this Lodge will ask you the meaning of your Motto. You will be able to explain to them that your Lodge has been launched into deep waters—seven fathoms deep. I suggested to you at your Consecration that you should take your soundings frequently, so that those seven fathoms, well-known in Freemasonry—Brotherly Love, Relief, Truth, Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice—should never be allowed to become shallow in your Lodge, but should have real meaning to great depth.

2. Neptune Driving His Sea Horses.

The Ruler of the Seas. You should constantly bear in mind, as the Charge to the Initiate so strongly emphasises, your duty to Him who is the Ruler of all Voyaging—the Great Pilot of the Seas—more familiarly spoken of in Freemasonry as the Great Architect of the Universe.

3. H.M.S. Victory.

In this ship you are reminded of the best traditions of the Service, and that it must be the best, and only the best, of which we are capable, that Masonry and the world in which we live, must receive from us.

H.M.S. Victory is in full sail; there must be no standing still in your Lodge; it must be always under sail—always progressing—pressing on towards the highest ideals.

The Union Jack is flying—also recalling the Charge to the Initiate, never to lose sight of the allegiance due to the Sovereign of your native land.

It also has the St. George's Flag—another reminder that nature has implanted in our breasts a sacred and indissoluble attachment towards that country whence we derived our birth and infant nurture.

It flies, too, the Royal Naval Ensign, bringing back to your minds that you are a Nautical Services Lodge and continually recalling that wonderful service rendered, and that glorious spirit of comradeship which you then experienced, and which is renewed and developed in Masonry.

4. The Lighthouse,

firmly established on a rock, with its light shining out brilliantly. With your faith as firm as a rock and that Great Light in Freemasonry—the Volume of the Sacred Law—kept clearly shining, you have indeed a safeguard whereby you and others can escape the dangers of shipwreck and see clearly the course to follow.

5. The Restless Waves

On the sea of time tell you that in this life you are voyaging on to eternity—that here, though the waves may toss you hither and thither, your journeying through them is leading you over the storms and tempests of this life into the calm waters of eternity and that you should always have that eternity in view.

6. The Life Belt

is a symbol to all the Brethren of that which is considered the distinguishing characteristic of Freemasonry—Charity. It is by the exercise of this virtue towards all men—not only towards our Brethren in Masonry—that the young may be saved from hurt, the poor can be saved from want, and the distressed saved from despair.

7. The Anchor

is the last symbol on your Banner. It has always been considered the emblem of hope. May your Masonry inspire you all in this Lodge with that confident hope that when for you this transitory life shall have passed away—when your voyaging on life's restless waves shall have ended—you may, led by the Great Pilot of the Seas, find a safe and calm anchorage in the harbour of immortal life and everlasting bliss.

So mote it be.

NOTE.—The Banner was presented to the Lodge by Bro. F. J. Bruford, J.W.

Founders

W. Bro. JAMES MITCHELL, P.P.G.W.
W. Bro. A. W. SMALLWOOD, P.P.G.W.
W. Bro. E. B. THORN
W. Bro. T. B. HOWSE
W. Bro. HURLEY ROBINSON
W. Bro. W. HARVEY MARSTON
W. Bro. GEO. A. NOTT
Bro. C. EDDY
Bro. F. J. FRIFFORD
Bro. P. C. WILDE
Bro. G. FRUICKSHANK
Bro. W. H. DEGREY
Bro. J. BREWSTER
Bro. E. BRUNNING

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