

Lodge Banner ~

EDWARD

FREDERICK

HANSON

9463

A consecrated banner:
Is it just a length of cloth
to hang without some careful thought
for the mildew and the moth?

There are hours of loving draughtsmanship,
designing, preparation,
and many kinds of craftsmanship
before its consecration.

These are the material things;
the work of present masters.
The finished work does not record
their triumphs and disasters.

The banner is the embodiment
of hopes and aspirations;
of tears, and joy, and laughter,
and mystic celebrations.

And so throughout the history
of banners through the ages,
they represent the soul of man,
of soldiers, saints, and sages.

Each drop of blood that's fallen
makes its mark upon the banner;
each tear of sadness or of joy
is woven in like manner.

So, as with darkness visible
we gaze on this creation,
and for that veil of future years
record today's elation,
let's watch each stain as it appears
on this, our soul, so handsome;
and keep the honour burnished bright
of Edward Frederick Hanson.