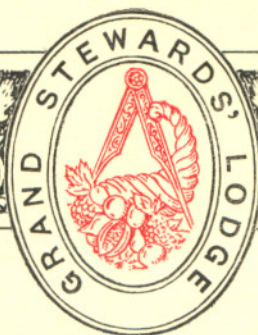




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GRAND STEWARDS' LODGE
1735 ~ 1935



BI-CENTENARY
CELEBRATION

OF THE

GRAND
STEWARDS'
LODGE

JANUARY THE SIXTEENTH

1935

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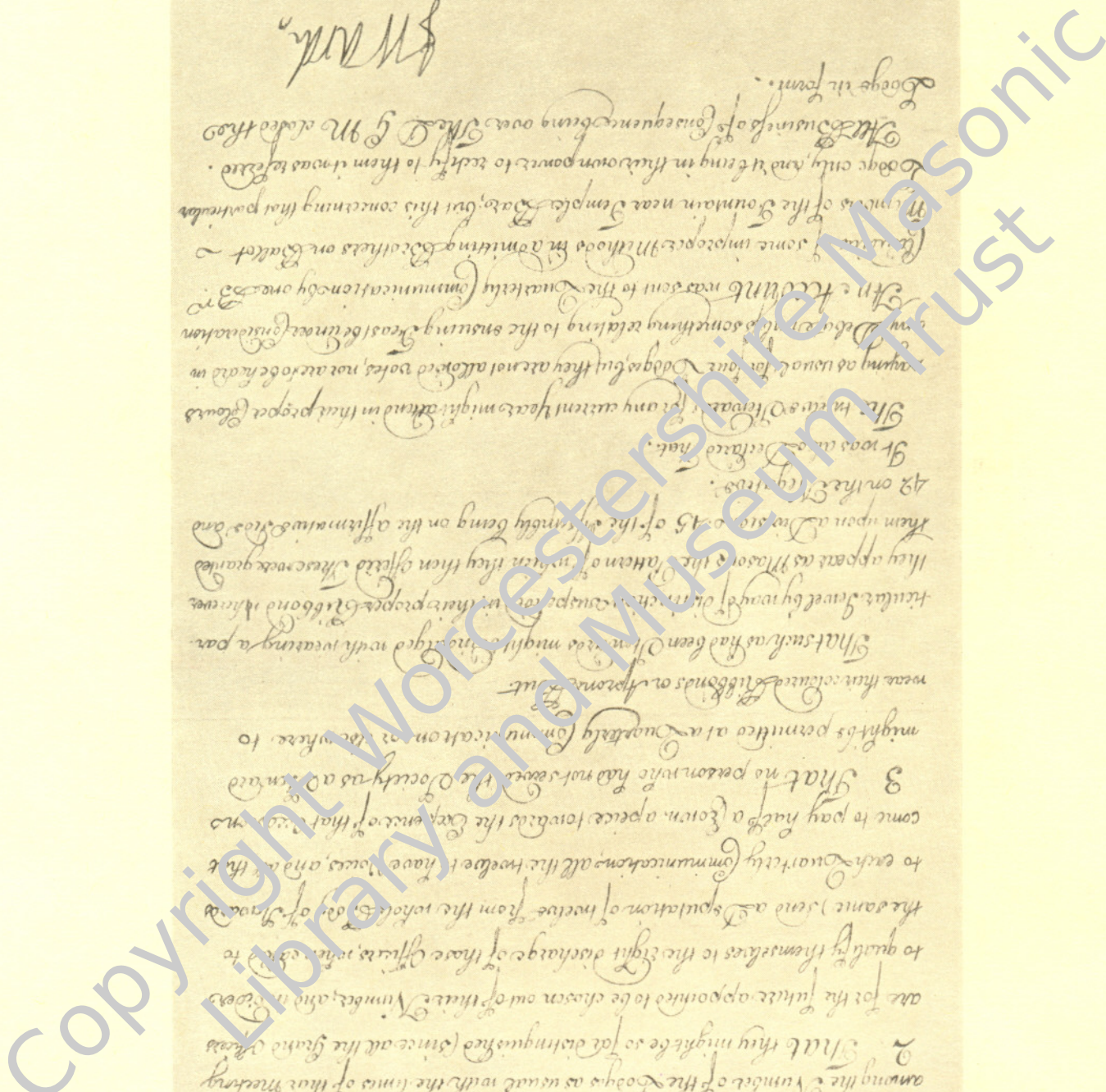
THE OLD GRAND TEMPLE, FREEMASONS' HALL,
WHERE MANY MEETINGS OF THE LODGE WERE HELD.

§ 17th

In Address from the Body of the Gentlemen who had served the -
 Society in the quality of Wardens directed to the Grand Lodge was then
 read praying certain Privileges in consideration of such their Services &c.
 1. That they might meet monthly or otherwise as a Lodge of Masters
 Masters under the denomination of the Grand Lodge, and be entitled
 among the Number of the Lodge as usual with the limits of that meeting
 2. That they might be so far distinguished since all the Grand Lodges
 are for the future appointed to be chosen out of that Number, and it
 to qualify themselves in the right discharge of those Offices, and to
 the same (and a separation of notice from the rest of the Lodges
 to each Quarterly Communication, all the Lodges have Votes, and that
 come to pay had a Town, a piece towards the Expenses of that Lodge
 3. That no person who had not served the Society as a Warden
 might be permitted as a Quarterly Communication, or otherwise to
 wear their coloured Ribbons or Aprons &c.

That such as had been chosen might be obliged with wearing a pair
 of white gloves by way of distinction, and that proper notice should
 they appear as Masters of the Lodges, they then they should be guarded
 them upon a Table of 15 of the Assembly being on the right hand side and
 42 on the left hand side.

It was also directed that
 She in this regard for any current year might attend in that proper place
 paying as usual for one of the Lodges, they are not allowed to be in
 any degree of something relating to the ensuring of a most direct communication
 The Resolution was sent to the Quarterly Communication by one of
 the same some imposture Methods in admitting Brethren or Masters
 Members of the Lodges near Temple Bar, but this concerning that particular
 Lodge only, and being in their own power to rectify to them it was referred
 The necessity of consequence being over the 5th of June 1735.



The
GRAND STEWARDS' LODGE

HISTORICAL NOTES

BY

W. Bro. SIR GERALD WOLLASTON, K.S.V.O.,
Garter Principal King of Arms,
P.G.D., P.M.



THE Grand Stewards' Lodge was constituted by a vote of the Grand Lodge (of the Moderns) on 24th June, 1735, when an address presented by "the Body of the Gentlemen who had served the Society in the quality of Stewards," praying certain privileges, was read and approved. These privileges were: (1) That they might meet as a Lodge of Master Masons under the denomination of "The Stewards' Lodge"; (2) That, since all the Grand Lodge officers were in future appointed to be chosen out of their number, they might send a deputation of 12 Stewards to each quarterly communication, to qualify themselves for their duties; (3) That they might wear a distinctive jewel, riband, and apron, and that no person who had not served the Society as a Steward might be permitted to wear their coloured ribands and aprons.

The Lodge so constituted bore the number 117. Its number fluctuated from time to time, but became 147 in 1781, and so remained until 18th April, 1792, when the Grand Lodge ordered that the Stewards' Lodge should be placed at the head of the Roll of Lodges without a number, and should thenceforth be known as "The Grand

Stewards' Lodge." This title and proud position it retains to-day, and Rule 122 of the Book of Constitutions runs as follows:—

“Lodges shall rank in precedence in the order of their numbers as registered in the books of Grand Lodge. The Grand Stewards' Lodge shall not have a number, but shall be registered in the books of the Grand Lodge, and placed in the printed list at the head of all other Lodges, and rank accordingly.”

The restriction of Grand Rank to those who had served the office of Steward is stated as a fact, and not preferred as a request, in the petition, and it evidently had an earlier origin. In the Minutes of 1778 it is referred to as having been established “by the ancient charges of the Book of Constitutions and likewise by the invariable usages of this Society.” By a resolution of Grand Lodge, passed on 3rd February, 1779, the further limitation was imposed, that at the time of his appointment a Grand Officer must be a subscribing member of the Stewards' Lodge. It may be imagined that, as time went on, these restrictive qualifications were not always observed. In 1805 the Lodge drew the attention of the Grand Secretary to the fact that some Grand Officers were not members of the Lodge, and resolved “that the Right Worshipful Master be requested to move in Grand Lodge at the next anniversary, prior to the nomination of Grand Officers for the ensuing year, that the resolution of Grand Lodge made on 3rd February, 1779 be read”; and in 1828 a motion was made in the Lodge (but subsequently withdrawn) “that a Memorial be presented to the Most Worshipful Grand Master for the purpose of submitting to him the state of the Lodge and the injury arising from the Grand Officers not being chosen from the members of the Lodge according to ancient custom.” No doubt among the changes brought about by the amalgamation of the two Grand Lodges in 1813, this ancient privilege of the Lodge gradually fell into desuetude.

The distinctive jewel referred to in the petition was that now known as the “Hogarth jewel,” believed to have been designed by William Hogarth, the celebrated artist. Hogarth served the office of Steward, as a representative of the Stewards' Lodge, in 1735, and must have been one of its original members. He is known to have executed Masonic designs and paintings for the Lodge, though

definite evidence that he designed this jewel is not forthcoming. Down to 1835 the jewel was worn by all members of the Lodge, but in that year the badge of a Cornucopia between a pair of Compasses was established as the badge to be worn by all present and past Grand Stewards, and the "Hogarth jewel" was restricted to the then existing members of the Grand Stewards' Lodge as a Centenary jewel, a scroll being added to it with "Centenary 1835" engraved thereon. In 1883 permission was given to all subscribing members of the Lodge to wear this Centenary jewel suspended from a red ribbon on the left breast, and in 1904 the Worshipful Master and all Past Masters of the Lodge were authorised to wear it pendent from a red collarette round the neck. None of the original jewels of 1735 are now in existence; that now worn by the Worshipful Master was presented to the Lodge in 1905, and bears date 1800.

From its constitution in 1735 down to 1868 the Lodge virtually acted as a "Lodge of Instruction." At first on four, and afterwards on two, evenings in the year it held a "Public Night" which all Master Masons were invited to attend, and at which the ceremonies and lectures of the craft were performed by members of the Lodge for the instruction of those present. These "Public nights," were, no doubt, of great service to the Craft, and were very widely patronised down to, at least, the Union of the two Grand Lodges. Thereafter, the alteration of the ceremonies, and the consequent growth of the Lodges of Instruction which we know to-day, rendered this work of the Grand Stewards' Lodge of less importance; the attendances at the "Public nights" began to diminish, and in 1868 they were discontinued.

Constituted as a Lodge of Master Masons, and limited to those who had served the office of Steward, the Grand Stewards' Lodge, thus deprived of the ordinary sources of recruitment common to other Lodges, has throughout its long history been beset by two great anxieties—the maintenance of its membership, and the consolidation of its financial position. These twin skeins of fate form the warp and the woof of the Minutes of the Lodge, and often they were strained almost to breaking point. So long as the rule which limited the selection of Grand Officers to members of the Lodge was observed, the advantage of joining it was perhaps sufficiently obvious, though it may be remarked that, as in other spheres of life what are now

regarded as coveted honours were in early days deemed, rather, burdens to be escaped, so it is possible that in these early days of Masonry the laws governing supply and demand with respect to Grand Officers were not quite the same as they are to-day. Be that as it may, when the selection of Grand Officers, at the commencement of the 19th century, ceased in practice to be restricted to members of the Lodge, it is clear that the inducement to those who had served the office of Steward to join it was considerably diminished. It is a tribute to the reputation of the Lodge and to the loyalty of our predecessors in the office of Grand Steward that, in spite of all difficulties, the Lodge carried on, and never failed to fulfil these high duties to the Craft which its original founders conceived to be its mission.

These anxieties were terminated, in 1918, by the amalgamation of the Lodge with the Grand Stewards' Mess. The latter body had been formed in 1903 to enable present and past Grand Stewards to dine together after the Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge, and was represented, in 1918, by a large and increasing membership. As a result of consultations between representatives of the Lodge and the Grand Stewards' Mess, the members of the Mess became members of the Lodge; the dates of the Lodge meetings were altered to correspond with the Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge, the Mess was dissolved, and its dinners became the dinners of the Lodge. Thus, happily, was found a solution of past difficulties, and it cannot be doubted that both the Lodge and the Grand Stewards in general owe much to the foresight and statecraft of those whose influence brought about this happy consummation. Each body contributed to the enhancement of the dignity and reputation of the other, and thenceforward the Lodge, practically synonymous with the whole body of Grand Stewards, fulfilled that destiny which throughout its history had been its aim and its ambition.

One hundred years ago, when celebrating its centenary, the Lodge, then composed of 37 members, received from H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, M.W.G.M., an expression of his satisfaction at "the zeal with which the members of the Grand Stewards' Lodge have at all times exerted themselves to promote the general interest of the Craft, and the manner in which their labours have been conducted to preserve in due purity the various forms, ceremonies, and

landmarks of the Order." A few years later, in a circular addressed to the Red Apron Lodges, its members could draw attention, with pride, to the fact that, on the "Public nights," the lectures delivered in the Temple were attended by a large and increasing assemblage of the Fraternity, while yet expressing anxiety lest, for lack of members, the "decadence and extinction" of the Lodge should terminate that trust which they felt was reposed in them as "Public Stewards for the observance of the landmarks of the Order."

To-day, at this celebration of its bicentenary, the Lodge, with a membership of more than two hundred, representative of the highest ranks in the Fraternity, can look back with still greater pride, not only on its past history, but on the more recent recognition by Grand Lodge of its high position in the Craft. On two occasions, in 1919 and 1933, it has been privileged, at the request of Grand Lodge, to entertain the distinguished visitors from the Empire and Foreign Countries who attended the celebrations of Grand Lodge in those years; and, again in 1933, at the same request, it held an emergency meeting, at which the Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master, attended by his officers, invested for the first time, members of London Rank, a service which was repeated in 1934. It can therefore look forward, with increased confidence, to a future of continued usefulness to the Craft, service to Grand Lodge, and honourable maintenance of its great traditions.

LIST OF MEMBERS

1935

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Rt. Hon. The Lord Amptill, *G.C.S.I.*, Rt. Hon. The Lord Cornwallis, *C.B.E.*,
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Brig.-Gen. Sir R. G. Gilmour, *Bart.*, *C.V.O.*, Smith, Sir Colville, *C.V.O.*, P.G.W., G. SEC.
C.B., *D.S.O.*, P.G.M. OF SCOTLAND.

SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS.

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N. P. Andrew.
Canon E. W. P. Archdall.
Leonard Arnott.

W. N. Bacon, P.A.G.D.C.
C. R. Baddeley, P.DE.P.G.D.C., W.M.
H. E. Baker
W. Girling Ball, *F.R.C.S.*, P.G.D.
G. E. J. H. Barlow, P.G.D., P.M.
E. M. Barlow.
C. E. Bartholomew, P.G.D.
George Bartlett, *J.P.*
E. H. Beckett.
H. S. Bell.
Sir I. Hamilton Benn, *Bart.*, *C.B.*, *D.S.O.*
Capt. L. V. Bennet.
E. H. Bressford, *M.R.C.S.*, P.A.G.D.C.
Ernest E. Bird, P.G.D., P.M.
W. Watkins Birts.
C. Wendel Bishop.
Col. R. J. Bladham, *C.B.*, *C.M.G.*, *C.I.E.*,
D.S.O., *M.D.*, P.G.S.W.B.
Major H. A. Blair.
A. C. Bonham.
J. S. P. Bookless.
A. R. Bosman, P.DE.P.G.D.C.
Sir George M. Boughey, *Bart.*, *K.B.E.*,
P.DE.P.G.D.C.

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S. Bradgate

F. Branley.
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T. Dudley Cocke.
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Bernard Collett.
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Surgn. Capt. A. D. Cowburn, P.A.G.REG.
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Capt. A. S. Cunningham-Reid, *D.F.C.*, *M.P.*

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F. F. Day.
L. F. Day, P.G.D.
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