

27.12.27

Please Return to W.T.P.

WESTFIELD,
METCALLEY LANE,
BARBORNE.

20th December 1927

Dear W. Bro. Page,

Very many thanks for your kind letter and enclosures, from which I am delighted to learn that you are keeping fairly well.

Turning to the Ritual:- In the first place, when words are omitted in my copy, it is not because I do not know them, but I have a horror of running the risk of shewing too much, I therefore leave much to oral teaching, as it used to be in my mother Lodge in the old days.

Now as regards the word "degree of an I.M.". It is certainly inconsistent, to tell the M.E. in the Declaration that no Degree is being conferred, and then use it throughout the Ceremony. But : There is much inconsistency in other things. In the R.A. Chapter, the Candidate seeks and gains admission to the Supreme Degree, and is then told towards the close :- You may conceive that you have this day been admitted to a fourth Degree in Fmy, such however is not the case etc. I believe I am perfectly right in saying that in some Countries this ^(the I.M.) is considered an actual Degree, notwithstanding what is said by Grand Lodge. Any-way if you rule it so, there can be no objection to using your wording indicated in pencil on page 1 and the upper part of page 5. But you yourself use the word Degree on your page 25, and I do not see what other word you could use. Personally I greatly prefer "Degree" every time, and think the Ceremony loses something of its impressiveness by

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the substitution of any other Word. (I think it was *Compromise of G.L. in a difficult place*)

Page 2.my copy. It is only intended that the D.C.instructs the P.Ms present in the method of giving the S. Nothing else is there called for.

Page 2 etc. The expression Wor.Sir was most certainly the usage in the Grosvenor Lodge in my Father's time, and to the best of my recollection also in the Worcester Lodge where I first saw it actually worked. Again if you so rule it,Wor.Master,(or Installing Master)can of course be used, tho' I personally like W.Sir. (*It is somewhat of a differentiation*)

I enclose a separate piece of paper containing a reference which will indicate what I gave Underwood.The paper can then be burnt. I had never heard the word he gave me,at any rate,in this connection. I ~~may~~ shall be exceedingly surprised if I am mistaken in thinking that this is correct.

Page 4.my copy. Where you have pencilled "4" you will note I have indicated P.g. *which is the same.*

Now to your other and perhaps most important question:—

I have tried hard, but I cannot recall what they did at Worcester in 1901 when I saw the Old Working. Therefore,I can only report what they did in my Mother Lodge. My fathers Ritual says:— The I,M,comes down from the Pedestal, and gives the pmg saying r.....

You will not however be surprised to know that I cannot help feeling that you are right. It seems so obvious that the proper time for the w is not then, but as you say when he is invested.

Although I knew this working from your good-self, and have actually said that I believed this was our Worcestershire Working when teaching the Warwickshire Brethren,I had a somewhat difficult job as so many of

the Moderns are so-called Emulation Workers, and you will see that I was able - with my copy - to say that the Old Work would not displace the Emulation portion, but was in addition to it.

As I think I told you I have already been Installing Master - as regards the Old Work - in the Grosvenor, The Howe, The King's Norton and the Warwickshire Installed Masters Lodge, and in every case the Brethren all seemed delighted with the Ceremony, and I have heard of no adverse comment afterwards from any-one. Even Quale-Jones who beforehand said he did not like it, never having seen it, afterwards said I do not dislike it, and at the War. I. Masters Lodge, specially desired to associate himself with Pritchett's thanks for the Demonstration.

For the foregoing reasons I carefully abstained from giving any particulars of the other part of the Working.

For the moment, I therefore return the papers etc you sent, and if you would like me to make a further set of copies with the following modifications I will with great pleasure do so, at your wish.

My copy.:-

Page 1 Add W. O. I. M.

(where pencilled)

,, 2 etc put Wor. Master instead of Wor Sir.

,, 2 (if you think it necessary, indicate that the 4. S. only are to be given, but I think the J. W.'s request I think shews that. It is nothing to do with the raising.)

,, 3 & 4. If you think it desirable, I can shew what books the Chaplain reads from, though it seems to me that it is best left out.

I hope that I have touched on all your questions. I cannot say how greatly I appreciate your kind interest in this work. The one thing I miss the Secretary-ship most for, is your frequent letters to me.

From a good many things I have come across lately, I verily think that Worcestershire is really a MODEL PROVINCE. Some time I will tell

Rec'd by
16.1.28.

WESTFIELD
METCALLEY LANE
HARBOURNE

15th January 1928.

Dear Bro. Page,

Very many thanks for your letter of Dec. 31st, with the enclosures. I have amended the Copy of the Ritual to bring it in conformity with the notes you kindly sent me, but in order to do this properly I have taken out page 3, and substituted a fresh one, which I hope you will approve.

On reading your letter again, I'm sorry to find that I did not notice today, that you did not wish any division to Emulation Working until I had actually typed the new page and inserted it. But still, as so many Lodges use that Working for the other part, perhaps you will not mind as this Copy does not pretend to give more than the ADDITIONAL Work.

I hope that otherwise I have carried out your wishes.?

In view of what Bro. Robins said to us in G.L. in Sep. 1926, namely that he had never seen the Ceremony worked, and that it had been a source of worry to G.L. since 1862 and consistently stated as irregular by G. Secretaries when asked, it strikes me as to say the least rather curious that a Brother from Cornwall brought a version of it to one Lodge in Warwickshire - which rightly or wrongly I was informed was as Worked in a Cornish Lodge.

After the Old Working was finished at the Howe last week, a Brother came up to me, saying how delighted he was to see it again, as he had only seen it once in Durham. I asked him the date, and he said 1917 ! !

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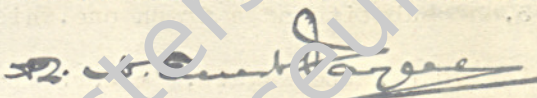
Whatever its origin, the Ceremony seems to be extremely liked by the Brethren who witness it today.

The W. Master of the Prometheus Lodge No. 4209 who saw it at the Warwickshire Installed Master's Lodge, asked me to coach him in it the other day, which I did. He said that to him, after seeing it, other Installations where it was omitted, seemed very meagre and incomplete.

It has been very interesting, but it has caused me a great deal of work performing myself, coaching others, and making copies.

With all best wishes and kindest regards

Your's as always sincerely and fraternally



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