

# THE B Y E - L A W S

OF THE

## Polish National Lodge.

### GENERAL DUTIES OF THE MEMBERS.

1.—Obedience to the Master of the Lodge, and to the commands of the Grand Lodge of England; charity towards poorer bretheren, hospitality to guests, masonic and gentlemanly conduct on every occasion in and out of the Lodge; love of truth and unsullied honor should be the characteristics of every Member of the Polish National Lodge, and therefore, any one of them infringing these bye-laws, or found deficient in any of the qualities just specified, must, on conviction in open lodge, be struck off the list.

2.—Each Member of the Polish National Lodge is a guardian of its good fame, and the Master for the time being with all his Officers, are especially bound strictly to guard its honor: nor should any Member of the Polish National Lodge for a moment forget, that the same stain, which rests unremoved upon one of them, sullies the whole Lodge and the name it bears.

## INITIATION and AFFILIATION.

3.—Every Candidate for Initiation or membership, must be proposed and seconded by a Member in open Lodge, and balloted for at the next Meeting of the Lodge; one black ball shall exclude, and the Candidate cannot again be proposed, until six months have elapsed from the time of his rejection.

4.—The Polish National Lodge being chiefly composed of Polish Exiles, charges for initiation the lowest sum allowed by the Statute Book of English Freemasonry, viz Four Guineas: nor does the lodge exact any specified sum as "entrance money", or "joining fee," but it leaves to the good will and the means of each joining Member, to give towards the Funds of the Lodge, what he can well at the time afford.

5.—Every Brother on joining the Lodge is bound to pay:—1st the Registration Fee—2nd if he is not an English Mason 6s. 6d. for his Grand Lodge Certificate; both of which sums must be paid by the Lodge on account of the joining Brother to the Grand Lodge of England—3rd Seven Shillings for his decoration—lastly, his yearly subscription for the maintenance of the Lodge—It is also provided by these Bye-Laws, that a Brother who has not paid all these dues, can neither vote nor exercise any of the privileges belonging to the Members of the Polish National Lodge.

6.—Each Member of the Polish National Lodge, with the exception of Honorary Members, shall pay One Guinea per annum, either in one payment or by instalments of 5s. 3d. each quarter day, such subscriptions being always payable in advance; out of the sum so arising all the expenses of the lodge are to be paid, including 4s. per year for each Member of the Polish National Lodge to the Fund of Benevolence. If any Member be one quarter in arrear, he shall be written to by the Secretary, if two, he shall be reported to the Lodge, if three, he shall be considered unfit for any office in the Lodge, and if four, he ceases to be a Member of the Polish National Lodge, unless such delay shall be accounted for to the satisfaction of the lodge.

#### DECORATIONS.

7.—The peculiar decoration or distinctive jewel granted to the Polish National Lodge by the M. W. G. M. of England, and described in the warrant dated 28 August, A. L. 5846, A. D. 1846, is to be called the Polish White Eagle. Every Member of the Polish National Lodge has a right to wear this decoration in all Masonic assemblies: but to prevent irregularities, he must have a Certificate of his having been duly invested with it. The Certificate is to be given in the name of the W. M. under the Seal of the Polish National Lodge, and signed by him and the other Officers for the time being—This decoration is to be worn at the button hole, on blue and black riband, also described on the warrant.

8.—The W.M., with the unanimous consent of the Members present in open lodge, may confer upon any Member the right of wearing this decoration round the neck, attached to the riband by a Gold Royal Crown, and to be called the Commander's White Eagle.

9.—To commemorate for ever the names of the M.W.G.M. under whose protection the Polish National Lodge was established in this country, and of the M.W.D.G.M. who presided at its consecration, the W.M. of the Polish National Lodge for the time being shall wear the decoration called the Commander's White Eagle, on which shall be engraved the names of the Right Honorable Earl of Zetland, and of the Right Honorable Earl of Yarborough; with this jewel every Master of the Polish National Lodge shall be invested, at the time of his installation.

#### MEETINGS and BANQUETS

10.—The ordinary meetings of the Polish National Lodge shall be held on the second Thursday in the months of September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April, and May, at 8 o'clock in the evening, in the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields. The Master, Treasurer, and Tyler, shall be elected at the meeting in May. The Master is empowered to call lodges of emergency. Every Member shall receive at least

seven days previous to the meeting of a lodge, whether ordinary or of emergency, notice thereof. The notice is to contain the order of the day.

11.—The second Thursday in June shall be considered as the Anniversary of the consecration of the lodge. The Lodge on that day shall meet at 4 o'clock for the purpose of installing the Master, the Treasurer and the other Officers of the Lodge. After each Anniversary Meeting there shall be a Banquet, to which as many guests shall be invited, as the funds of the lodge can reasonably admit of. Invitations rest with the W. M. for the time being and shall be confined to those Brethren who are eminent in the craft, or whose Lodges have received with hospitality any member of the Polish National Lodge. Neither guests invited by the W. M. nor Honorary Members of the lodge, pay anything towards the expenses of the Banquet; every other Brother wishing to be present at the Banquet shall leave One Guinea with the Treasurer. Every Member of the Polish National Lodge living within 15 miles of St. Paul's Church is bound to attend this Banquet of the Lodge, and in case of non-attendance, unless arising from illness, certified by another Brother, the Guinea shall still be payable to the funds of the Lodge.

12.—At every Meeting of the Lodge, the minutes of the last lodge shall be read in the first place, after the lodge has been opened, and put for confirmation;

and when approved signed by the W.M.; the Report of the Treasurer shall then be read. At the Anniversary Meeting the Report of the Auditors shall be read after the Minutes.

#### OF THE OFFICERS OF THE LODGE.

13.—All monies payable to the Lodge shall be received by the Treasurer who, previously to each meeting of the lodge, shall make out an account of his receipts and disbursements since the last meeting, shewing the balance remaining in his hands.

14.—The Master shall at the meeting in May nominate a Committee, consisting of three Members, to audit the accounts of the Treasurer for the past year, and they shall report to the next meeting of the lodge.

15.—It is the duty of the Secretary to send notices to the members of all meetings of the lodge, to keep minutes of the proceedings, and lists of the members and visitors.

16.—The Master of the Ceremonies receives distinguished visitors, and has the charge of all jewels and furniture belonging to the lodge.

17.—The jewels, and all other things appertaining to the Polish National Lodge, are vested in the principal Officers of the lodge for the time being, as their personal property.

18.—The Polish National Lodge, No. 778, being of recent creation, there shall be for the year 1847, 1848, and 1849, a double number of Wardens, viz: a first and second senior warden, and a first and second junior warden.

19.—Nothing in these Bye-Laws can be altered or annulled, nor can any addition be made to them, unless, for two consecutive meetings, three-fourths of the Members present at those meetings, agree to alter or annul any regulation herein contained, or to make any additional regulation. Every Member of the Polish National Lodge on his admission, signs his name to the Bye-Laws, as a proof of his assent to them, and a pledge that he will observe them.

FINIS.

---

LONDON :

Printed by W. H. BIDMEAD, 3, Brownlow-street, Holborn.