

The Gables  
Perry Park Road  
Blackheath  
Birmingham  
1/31/37

Dear Bro Barlow

At Gosson Lodge last  
Wednesday, my brother, who is  
a member of a Warrington Lodge  
was much impressed with the  
little ceremony we did at the  
end of the Initiates Song. The  
practice of forming a chain is  
apparently not done in Lancashire  
and he spoke to me on Saturday  
to know if this was purely a  
local practice or whether it was

of any particular ritual. I  
am afraid I was unable to answer  
him but I promised to see if  
you could let me know. He was  
also very impressed with the little  
address you gave to the Institute  
and would like to introduce this  
at his own Lodge. I should be  
very grateful if you could answer  
his question re the ritual and  
if it is not too much trouble, let  
me have a few observations on  
the lines of your address to the Candidates.

With kind regards and  
fraternal greetings

Yours sincerely

L. J. Dallow

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3rd March 1927.

L. T. Dallow Esq.,

The Gables,  
Ferry Park Road,

Blackheath, B'ham.

Dear Bro. Dallow,

Your letter of 1st March is very complimentary and I am glad that your visitor was so much impressed by the little ceremony, which I can assure you was quite a spontaneous effort with the previous permission obtained of the W.M. I have always felt that we were a little too loose in dealing with this matter, and I wanted to show the members that there was some symbolism worth having in mind in preference to what sometimes borders on horse-play. It was a bit of a risk, but so many of our friends spoke to me afterwards about it that the risk was justified.

I will endeavour to answer your questions, but if I strike a difficulty I will do a bit of hand-writing to try to complete the job.

Certainly in Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire the circle is made. I feel quite sure that I have seen it elsewhere, and I do not remember visiting a Lodge where it was not made. The very words of the last verse of the song justify the action, and I still believe that our ancient predecessors knew more about symbolism than we know to-day, so that to remind ourselves of it is all to the good.

I am sure you will agree with me that the double link chain is better than a plain single hand to hand one. Of course, it also means that ~~each~~ member covers and protects the breast and even the heart, of his right-hand and left-hand neighbours. If you bear in mind, too, the original entrance of the candidate, who, in theory, is more or less a stranger to us, and is treated accordingly, you will observe the contrast after he has actually become one of us. The first reception is made with every evidence of caution, whereas the reception of which we had an experience last

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week, is of quite another nature.

This better method is employed in a particularly nice way in the Three Shires Lodge in Birmingham, and one of the senior members does what I endeavoured to do, and makes a very complete job of it. I think that we might write out a few carefully chosen sentences to express more completely that which I endeavoured to convey, and even use them on future occasions. That, of course, is a matter for the W.M. and the P.M.'s to consider. Reference might be made to the first reception of the candidate and then comparison made with this second reception. It might deal with mention of the circle which is a very ancient form or hieroglyphic, representing the Deity. The circle being without beginning and without end usually represents the Deity who is without beginning of days or end of years. That is very ancient teaching and you will easily recall where we use almost the very words. Of course, from that as a starting point it is easy to mention the reception of a new member into the order and not merely into the lodge itself. Members present usually represent a variety of lodges, and as a group of course represent the whole order. Death and sometimes other reasons robs us of a member, and one link of the chain disappears, but again, somewhat naturally, we are constantly adding new links to the chain, and this is one of the occasions. A chain is always as strong as its weakest link, and consequently the opportunity can be taken to exhort the new link to endeavour to do its best to strengthen the circle and the order, by acting up to its highest principles.

This, in brief, is what I endeavoured to convey but if asked to do so, I will try to formulate a short statement that can be used, not, of course, word for word, but generally.

This letter is being typed in duplicate in case you may wish to send a copy of it to your friend, and if I have missed out any point and you will let me know, I will try to make it up.

With very kind regards and many thanks for your kind letter,  
Yours sincerely and fraternally,

By permission of the W.M., may I draw your attention to the symbolism as expressed in the words of the last verse of the E.A.'s song.

We make a circle by extending our arms outwards, and link hand in hand with the Brother next but one on each side of us; by so doing we cover and protect the breast, and even the heart of our right-hand and left-hand neighbour.

A circle is a very ancient form or hieroglyphic, of something without beginning and without end, representing the Deity, Who is without beginning of days or end of years.

Our new made Brother was first received with every evidence of caution; now we receive him into the order, as in this group are members of many other Lodges representing the whole of the order.

Death and sometimes other reasons rob us of a Member, and one link of the chain disappears, but again we are constantly adding new links to the chain, as on this occasion.

A chain is always as strong as its weakest link, and I strongly exhort our NEW LINK to endeavour to do its best to strengthen this circle, and our order, by acting up to its highest principles.

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Telephone: 57344

Tudor House

Stourbridge

March 26<sup>th</sup> 1934

Dear W & Bro Bates.

Thank you very much for your letter & enclosures which I have found very helpful, I am returning them to you, together with a copy of my notes. It is very good of you to find time to write to me, & I appreciate it.

Thanks very much, again.

Yours fraternally

Arthur Bates

Telephone: 57344

Tudor House

Stourbridge

April 1<sup>st</sup> 1934

Dear Walter Balaw,

Thank you very much for your  
letters and father's notes on Synopses they will  
be very helpful to me & I will do my best to  
"put it over" in Godson style, tonight.

I hope you have had an  
enjoyable holiday. I have spent a few  
days with my friend, at Abingdon,  
we were most fortunate with the weather, &  
he is better too, I am pleased to say.

With kind regards

Yours fraternally

Archie C. Balaman

C. J. Balawan

Telephone: 57344

Tudor House

Stourbridge

July 10<sup>th</sup> 1934.

Dear Walter Beshaw

Thanks very much for your letter, I enclose the notes you made for me, I found the Promenade Bulletin most interested in this exhibition. In fact may I suggest you lay it out in a form that it can be memorised. I would be only too pleased to commit it to memory, it is well worth it.

Kindest regards

Yours paternally.

Archie Beshaw

C Y Beshaw Esq.  
Handsworth.