

Patmos Tabernacle No. 21

The Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests

Grand College of England

Some reflections on the formation

of the Tabernacle

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Foreword

At the informal dinner held after the Consecration of the Tabernacle, I was asked by several Consecrating Officers if it would be possible to circularize some details concerning the Consecration and the dinner. This I promised to do, and these notes are the result. In addition the members of the Tabernacle are hoping in January 1960 to be able to send to all the Consecrating Officers a group photograph of the Founder Members.

T. W. Fripp.

Hong Kong,  
1st December, 1959.

The project of forming a Tabernacle of Knight Templar Priests in Hong Kong may have originated in 1929 or 1930 with Kt. Pt. the late Alfred Morris, P.E.P. of Victoria Preceptory and Priory No.78 and Provincial Prior of China from 1931 to 1941, and Kt. Pt. the late G. F. Nightingale, also P.E.P. of Victoria Preceptory and Priory. On the introduction of the former Kt. Pt. M. J. B. Montargis was admitted a member of Royal York Tabernacle No.2 on 16th June 1930.

Unfortunately the untimely death of Bro. Nightingale, the onset of the Pacific War and the retirement of Bro. Morris prevented a Tabernacle being formed at that time.

In 1949, Kt. Pt. Montargis, now V. Em. Kt. M. J. B. Montargis, K.C.T., Officer of the Legion of Honour, Past Provincial Prior of the Far East revived the project and by his introduction the majority of the founders of Patmos Tabernacle were admitted to the Order between 1954 and 1959.

W. Bros. K. M. A. Barnett and H. L. W. Aitken were first selected as candidates and admitted to the Order in the Tabernacle of St. John No.5 on 25th June 1954. Unfortunately as often happens with overseas brethren Kt. Pt. Aitken did not return to the Colony. Kingsway Tabernacle No.17 admitted W. Bro. S. C. Smith on 10th November 1954 and W. Bro. T. W. Fripp on 15th June 1955.

Difficulties were immediately experienced in selecting other qualified candidates who were proceeding on home leave to England, but on 5th November 1957 W. Bro. C. S. Johnston was admitted a member of the Britannic Tabernacle No.13.

At this stage V. Ill. Kt. Pt. H. H. C. Prestige and Ill. Kt. Pt. A. A. Murphy who had given the Hong Kong brethren so much assistance previously, furthered the possibility of the formation of a Tabernacle in Hong Kong by obtaining dispensations for Kt. Pt. K. M. A. Barnett to be given the H.P. degree on 17th October 1958 followed by S. C. Smith on 11th February 1959 and T. W. Fripp on 17th June 1959.

On 20th May 1959 Kt. Pt. T. W. Fripp on behalf of the Hong Kong members attended the Annual Assembly of Grand College in Hull. He was greeted very warmly by the G.H.P. and all members of Grand College, and during tea a discussion was held with the Grand Recorder as to the best procedure to adopt in order to form a Tabernacle in Hong Kong. Two courses appeared possible, either to consecrate the Tabernacle in Hong Kong, or to consecrate it in London during the month of June. As R. W. Bro. D. S. Hill was a candidate for St. John on 26th June 1959 it seemed obvious that this might be a suitable date, and with the approval of the G.H.P. arrangements were put in hand accordingly.

V. Em. Kt. Pt. K. M. A. Barnett forwarded the Petition from Hong Kong and V. Ill. Kt. Pt. H. H. C. Prestige, Recorder of St. John, very kindly made all arrangements for the consecration. Without his help the consecration would never have taken place.

The Hong Kong members had always hoped that Kt. Pt. M. J. B. Montargis would be the Founder H.P. but unfortunately at this time he was very ill and unable to leave the Colony, therefore the choice fell upon the senior installed H.P. - V. Em. Kt. Pt. K. M. A. Barnett, with V. Em. Kt. Pt. S. C. Smith as VII P and (at that time) R. W. Bro. D. S. Hill as VI P.

Quite unexpectedly it was found that W. Bros. R. S. Barry and F. W. Golding were arriving in London. Arrangements were hurriedly made for these brethren to be admitted as candidates and for them to become Founder Members. W. Bro. F. W. Golding was admitted in Kingsway Tabernacle on 17th June 1959, and W. Bro. R. S. Barry in St. John (with R. W. Bro. D. S. Hill) on 26th June 1959.

Therefore the Founder Members of the Tabernacle were:-

- 16. 6.30 Maurice Jean Baptiste Montargis
- 25. 6.54 Kenneth Myer Arthur Barnett
- 10.11.54 Samuel Clifford Smith
- 15. 6.55 Thomas William Fripp
- 5.11.57 Campbell Stanley Johnston
- 17. 6.59 Frederick William Golding
- 26. 6.59 David Smith Hill
- 26. 6.59 Robert Shearman Barry

The Consecration took place at 10 Duke Street, St. James', London, S.W.1 on Friday, 26th June 1959 at an Especial Assembly of Grand College held immediately following the Regular Meeting of The Tabernacle of St. John No.5.

The Consecrating Officers were:-

- M. Ill. Kt. Pt. G. W. Bourn ..... G.H.P.
- M. Em. Kt. Pt. S. Embleton O.B.E. .... D.G.H.P.
- V. Ill. Kt. Pt. R. Sandford ..... G. VII P.
- " " J. F. Newman ..... G. VI P.
- " " W. G. Bird, P.G. VII P. .... Grand Recorder
- Ill. Kt. Pt. T. E. Peal ..... G. D. of C.
- " " V. E. K. Beckett ..... G. V P.
- V. Ill. Kt. Pt. H. B. C. Prestige, C.B.E.,  
P.G. VII P. .... as A.G.D.C.
- " " F. T. Duxbury, P.G. VI P.,  
Grand Treasurer . as A.G.D.C.
- Ill. Kt. Pt. A. A. Murphy, P.G. IV P. ... as K.I.P.
- Kt. Pt. R. L. Siffleet ..... as Grand Organist

Of the Founder Members:-

- V. Em. Kt. Pt. T. W. Fripp
- Kt. Pt. F. W. Golding
- " D. S. Hill
- " R. S. Barry

were present.

After the Ceremony of Consecration had taken place the G.H.P. stated that in the absence of V. Em. Kt. Pt. K. M. A. Barnett, H.P. Designate, he would assume the Throne of High Priest of Patmos Tabernacle No.21. He then declared V. Em. Kt. Pt. K. M. A. Barnett to have been duly inducted as the first H.P. and V. Em. Kt. Pt. S. C. Smith as VII P. and Em. Kt. Pt. D. S. Hill as VI P. and authorised and directed that all other officers should be appointed and invested so soon as it was conveniently possible to hold a meeting of the Tabernacle. He then delivered to V. Em. Kt. Pt. T. W. Fripp for safe delivery to the H.P. the Warrant, a copy of the Regulations and a copy of the ritual. The Tabernacle was then duly constituted.

The brethren who remained in Hong Kong held a private dinner party in Hong Kong on the same day to celebrate the Consecration.

As the arrangements for the Consecration of the Tabernacle were made so quickly it was not possible to hold a formal Banquet, but arrangements were made for a small private dinner party at the Majorca Spanish Restaurant, 66 Brewer Street, London, W.1, V. Em. Kt. Pt. T. W. Fripp and Em. Kt. Pt. D. S. Hill were able to entertain on behalf of the Tabernacle the following guests:-

Consecrating Officers

- M. Ill. Kt. Pt. G. W. Bourn
- M. Em. Kt. Pt. S. Embleton
- V. Ill. Kt. Pt. T. R. Sandford
- " " W. G. Bird
- " " H. H. C. Prestige
- " " P. T. Duxbury
- Ill. Kt. Pt. T. E. Beal
- " " V. E. K. Beckett
- " " A. A. Murphy
- Kt. Pt. R. L. Siffleet

(It is regretted that V. Ill. Kt. Pt. L. F. Newman was unable to attend).

Guests

- V. Em. Kt. Pt. E. A. H. Thompson, H.P. No.5
- V. Ill. Kt. Pt. A. G. Rumbelow
- Kt. Pt. Sir G. Boag

Of the Founders Kt. Pt. R. S. Barry was unable to attend as he had to fly to New York the following morning, and Kt. Pt. F. W. Golding had unfortunately to return home owing to the illness of his wife.

M. Ill. Kt. Pt. G. W. Bourn, G.H.P., graciously took the Chair, and a very enjoyable evening was had by all. The G.H.P. proposed the Toast of Patmos Tabernacle and both Founder Members present replied. The Grand Recorder also made a short speech.

The Founder Members of Patmos Tabernacle No.21 would like to record their appreciation to all those who made the consecration possible, and in particular, the G.H.P., the Grand Recorder, the Consecrating Officers, and the members of the Tabernacle of St. John No.5 and Kingsway Tabernacle No.17.