

ANTIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED  
MASONS OF ENGLAND.

GRAND LODGE BI-CENTENARY.



H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, K.G.

M.W. Grand Master.

JUNE 23 · 24, 1917.

United Grand Lodge

OF

Antient, Free & Accepted Masons of England

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**Bi-Centenary Celebration.**

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ORDER OF PROCEDURE

At the Especial Grand Lodge,

TO BE HOLDEN AT

The Royal Albert Hall, London,  
On Saturday, the 23rd day of June, 1917.

# BI-CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Of the Grand Lodge of England.

JUNE 23RD AND 24TH, 1917.

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Among the writings of the late Brother W. J. Hughan, whose knowledge of Masonic History was unrivalled, the following words are to be found: "Grand Lodges are a modern outgrowth of Operative Freemasonry." Building on this foundation, it is obvious that, while the ancestors of the present (and premier) Grand Lodge in England can claim, rightly, a descent of many centuries, yet it alone in this current year, can celebrate the first Bi-Centenary of any properly constituted and regulated Ruling Body of Freemasons.

The Grand Lodge of England alone can point to an unbroken record of 200 years, whether in its succession of Grand Masters, its Books of Minutes or its Hall of Officers. The old Freemasons or Architects, with a Guild history stretching into the long past ages, kept no permanent record of their work, while it was progressing under their religious care: hence there are few authentic papers, except the old Rolls of Constitutions, of which the earliest known is the "Regius MS." at the British Museum of about the year 1390, and somewhat later the "Grand Lodge, No. 1" at Freemasons' Hall, of about 1583.

Whenever a great edifice, whether Cathedral or Castle, was desired, four or five of these travelling Architects could meet, engage on the work, and themselves plan and carry out the entire building. By their Guild Rules they also could initiate fresh workmen, as apprentices, who held for a term of years a subordinate position, and were not advanced until they had produced for inspection and approval "a Masterpiece" executed by themselves. Such a temporary Lodge usually elected the oldest Mason amongst them as the Master, and did not dissolve until the Building was completed or stopped, when the members scattered to look for other and further work. In their history it is occasionally noted that gentlemen or "Speculative" members joined the Craft, notably Elias Ashmole

in 1646 with some companions ; Randle Holme in 1688 ; and several of like standing and repute, in some cases as an honour conferred, in others to carry on their own designs under the ægis of the Guild. When later Freemasonry dwindled down, because the Religious had no further necessity for Cathedrals, or the Nobles for Castles and Strongholds, these Speculatives had gained sufficient power to introduce a Ruling Committee (afterwards named a Grand Lodge), to govern the Craft, while the whole Institution was re-cast.

The history of this great change is given in its greatest length by Dr. James Anderson in his 2nd Edition of "The Constitutions of Freemasonry," dated 1738 ; wherein he says that a Committee or Ruling Body was first formed for London and Westminster, but that this almost immediately developed into a Grand Lodge, under a Grand Master. This memorable event—the Bi-Centenary of which is celebrated this year—took place on the Festival of St. John-in-Summer, 1717, under the guidance of certain old Lodges.

The Four old Lodges which headed the movement were:—

1. The Lodge at the Goose and Gridiron, in St. Paul's Churchyard:  
Now The Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2.
2. The Lodge at the Crown, in Parker's Lane, near Drury Lane:  
This Lodge lapsed and was struck off the Roll in 1740.
3. The Lodge at the Apple Tree Tavern, in Charles Street, Covent Garden:  
Now the Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge, No. 12.
4. The Lodge at the Rummer and Grapes Tavern, in Channel Row, Westminster:  
Now the Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge, No. 4.

In 1716, "These Lodges and some old Brothers met at the said Apple Tree, and having put into the Chair the oldest Master Mason (now the Master of a Lodge), they constituted

‘ themselves a Grand Lodge, *pro tempore*, in due form:’ and at the next annual meeting, ‘The Brethren by a majority of hands elected Mr. Anthony Sayer, Gentleman, Grand Master of ‘Masons, who being forthwith invested with the Badges of Office and Power by the said oldest Master, and install’d, was duly congratulated by the Assembly, who pay’d him the homage— ‘Captain Joseph Elliot, Mr. Jacob Lamball, Carpenter, Grand ‘Wardens.’

Thus the old Minutes: again they are well summed-up by Bro. Hughan: ‘From so unpretentious an organization all ‘other Grand Lodges, where ever located, have derived their ‘authority, or have been the imitators thereof:’

The above facts clearly show the right of the Grand Lodge of England to claim:

- 1.—A legal Founding by four duly established and recognised Lodges.
- 2.—Correct procedure in their union into one Ruling Body or Committee
- 3.—The due election of a Grand Master by a vote at an Annual General Meeting.

The example thus set in England was soon followed in other countries for Grand Lodges were established in Ireland in 1729; in Massachusetts, a year or so after, although this lasted only a very short time; and in Scotland 1736, until at the present time few countries or colonies are without their Ruling Body.

The Coat of Arms of the earliest Grand Lodge, which is hereon reproduced, is copied from the frontispiece of the First Book of the Minutes, given to it by the Duke of Norfolk, whilst he was Grand Master in 1730. This Grand Lodge was named ‘The Moderns’ by its younger rival, started in 1751, which was known as ‘The Antients.’ The latter took a different Coat of Arms, Crest, and Motto: while in 1725 a Grand Lodge had been formed at York, by the York Masons, and called The Grand Lodge of All England. This last Body was never very numerous and died out, leaving only two antagonists, whose rivalry came to an end mainly through the wisdom of H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex. It had been for some years desired to unite the Craft

and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (who afterwards became His Majesty King George IV.) in 1813, was succeeded in the Grand Mastership of "The Moderns" by H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex; while the 4th Duke of Atholl was Grand Master of "The Antients." The influence of The Duke of Sussex in 1813 succeeded in placing in the chair of "The Antients," his brother, H.R.H. the Duke of Kent, an ancestor of our present Grand Master, when, all differences being adjusted, THE ARTICLES OF UNION were signed by both Grand Lodges. The Duke of Kent resigned in favour of his brother; and on January 1st, 1814, *The United Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of England* came into being, as the sole ruler of the Craft in England. At the Union a new motto was chosen, and the two Coats of Arms, hereon reproduced, were combined.

English Masonry always has been highly honoured by the Royal Family, as is shown in the names of the Members of the Reigning House who have occupied the Grand Master's Throne :

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|--------------|--|
| 1790 - 1813. | H.R.H. George, Prince of Wales.        |
| 1813 - 1843. | H.R.H. The Duke of Sussex.             |
| 1813.        | H.R.H. The Duke of Kent.               |
| 1874 - 1901. | H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales. |

And lastly, from 1901, THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT AND STRATHEARN, our present and beloved Grand Master, whom may the Great Architect of the Universe long preserve. Her Majesty Queen Victoria and His Majesty King George V. also have shown their gracious interest in our Order by consenting to occupy the position of Grand Patron of the Great Benevolent Institutions of the Craft.

At this Bi-Centenary celebration the whole Craft pays its humble homage to the Most Worshipful Grand Master, and assures him of its loyalty to his person, and to the King's Most Gracious Majesty, representing that Royal Line, which for a long series of years has upheld our Fraternity.

WILLIAM HAMMOND,

*Librarian to Grand Lodge.*

## ORDER OF PROCEDURE.

At 3 o'clock the following Procession will enter  
the Grand Lodge :

- Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.  
Grand Stewards.  
Two Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies.  
Four Junior Grand Deacons  
Assistant Grand Pursuivants.  
Grand Pursuivants.  
Assistant Grand Standard Bearer.  
Assistant Grand Secretary.  
Assistant Grand Sword Bearer.  
Deputy Grand Sword Bearer.  
Assistant Grand Superintendents of Works.  
Grand Superintendent of Works  
Assistant Grand Registrars.  
Assistant Grand Chaplains.  
President Board of Benevolence.  
President Board of General Purposes.  
Deputy Grand Registrar.  
Grand Registrar.  
Grand Treasurer.  
Grand Chaplains.  
Two Junior Grand Deacons.  
Provincial and District Grand Masters.  
Visitors of Distinction.  
Grand Wardens.  
Two Senior Grand Deacons.  
Acting Deputy Grand Master.  
Grand Sword Bearer.
- RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER**  
(THE RT. HON. T. F. HALSEY).  
Grand Standard Bearer.  
Four Senior Grand Deacons.  
Grand Stewards.

Grand Lodge will be Opened by the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master.

The arrival of the Most Worshipful Grand Master will be announced by the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master will direct a Deputation of Provincial Grand Masters, Past Grand Wardens, and Grand Officers to be formed.

The following Procession having been formed will retire and escort His Royal Highness into the Grand Lodge:

Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.  
 Two Grand Stewards.  
 Two Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies.  
 Two Junior Grand Deacons.  
 President of the Board of Benevolence.  
 Grand Secretary,  
 President of the Board of General Purposes.  
 Grand Registrar.  
 Grand Treasurer.  
 Grand Chaplains.  
 Four Past Grand Wardens.  
 Six Provincial Grand Masters.  
 Deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland.  
 Deputation from the Grand Lodge of Ireland.  
 The Most Worshipful Grand Masters of Scotland and Ireland.  
 Grand Sword Bearer.  
**The Most Worshipful Grand Master,**  
 HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, K. G.  
 Grand Standard Bearers.  
 Grand Director of Ceremonies.  
 Two Senior Grand Deacons.  
 Two Grand Stewards.



The Most Worshipful Grand Master will be conducted to the Throne.

The Maul of Sir Christopher Wren will be presented to H.R.H. by W. Bro. J. E. K. STUDD, P.G.D. (Master of the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2).

The Grand Director of Ceremonies will call upon the Brethren to Salute the Most Worshipful Grand Master according to antient form. The Grand Masters of Ireland and Scotland will be saluted according to antient form.

The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master will address the Most Worshipful Grand Master in the name of the Craft, and His Royal Highness will graciously be pleased to reply.

The Most Worshipful Grand Masters of Ireland and Scotland will address the Most Worshipful Grand Master, to each of whom His Royal Highness will graciously be pleased to reply.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master will be pleased to confer Masonic Honours on certain Brethren and Lodges, and will signify his pleasure that Provincial and District Grand Masters shall be entitled to confer Honours in their Provinces and Districts in celebration of the occasion.

Grand Lodge will be Closed in ample form, and the National Anthem sung by all the Brethren.

By Command of the M.W. Grand Master,

J. S. GRANVILLE GRENFELL,

G.D.C