

My report this year must of course be brief for during the year our efforts have been to consider the Exhibition to be held from the 25th of this month for a week.

Our visitors to the Museum have been few, though as usual a number of brethren and ladies arrive and when they go they do not sign the book. However those we have had are brethren concerned in Masonic Research, among them Rev. Barker Cryer, who as you know has just produced a book on Masonic Halls. He was however not here on that subject, but to have a look at the Museum which he found very interesting, so much in fact that he came back again to look at several articles which interested him, and as you know he is the present Secretary of ARS Quatuor Coronatorum. His interest is in the several old Tracing Boards in this building, one of which is in normal use in the Worcester Lodge, which this year will celebrate its By-Centenary. The others concern another original board which is the property of the Worcester Lodge and dates as the former from 1790. However another Craft Tracing Board has come to light on our moving items out for the Museum. It is a Board of about 1820, and is very interesting, though it depicts the type of First Tracing Board we have today, but it is not a Harris. The other Tracing Board is that used in the Mark Degree and is one of the very few boards surviving of this type designated the Connaught Board. I might add these several boards will be on display in two weeks time. Brethren please study them carefully and try and think what they tell us.

Once again several members of your Committee have been out lecturing to Lodges, where we have been very well received and enjoyed our visits. We do not charge expenses out it would be very considerate of the Lodge if they would ask the brother delivering a talk if he would like the Alms collection to go to any specific Charity, not in his name but in the name of the Lodge.

Though we always try to help out, we are not very keen in loaning out lectures and talks, remember brethren these are the copyright of the Author. Sadly to say brethren talks have been loaned out, and photocopies have been taken and it has been known for a brother to read the paper as his own at another meeting.

Following giving a talk at a Lodge, which was on the History of that Lodge extended further back, on the way home I had deep thoughts on how nice it would have been for a young brother of that Lodge to have been asked to do the talk and told where he might research for the information. This brethren would encourage young brethren to take interest, and not sit round feeling they have nothing to do but await their turn to proceed up the Ladder. Last year I was asked about getting out a Catalogue of the Museum Library. Though I informed you that this would take about two to three years and that every Lodge had a copy last time it was done, I was approached by the same brother asking me when was this catalogue coming out. Brethren that brother would have done more for the Museum if he had organised a party from his Lodge and come to have a look at the jewel in the Crown of this Province. With the space available we now have to look carefully at items sent in to us. In the past few years it would appear many good items go astray before the remainder are sent to us. I was appalled a few weeks ago when I was sent from Kings Heath two books, surplus to their requirements in their new Library. We sent those books originally to Kings Heath to assist them when things were not going well. We shall burn the same as they are of no use to anyone and are out of date, and we already have a number here. Brethren this is the Provincial Museum and not a tip for things other people do not want.

In the last three months we have been able to put two more cupboards under two of the show cases which has given us a little more room for storage.

This Museum holds quite a stock of excess books. They are too valuable to destroy, I mean the History of Freemasonry by Goulde, which is really a text book on Masonry. We have plans to dispose of these extra copies held. In addition we have a stock of Q.C. Annual Communications. As we hold a complete set of hard bound copies I am at present in touch with that Lodge to see if they wish to take them back as they are actually in need of the old copies.

In the past month Secretary on my behalf enquired of the Building Company if we could expand the library into the rehearsal room next door to the Museum. Permission has been granted for us to have a Book-case which would give us three units wide and the height of the room. However this progress is for the next year.

We are now looking forward to the exhibition, and I hope brethren that you may see during that week items you may not have seen before. Do not just look at them and pass on, think if there is anything behind what you see and how our brethren in time gone by held their Lodges. To get the feeling of many things you may need to come more than once don't forget your friends are welcome, in fact you may even get a laugh brethren you never know. A great deal of thought and work has gone into this exhibition and there is a great deal to do in the next 14 days. I hope that you will all like and go away having felt you have increased your knowledge of Masonry. We shall of course be on hand to explain some of the items to you if necessary.

I thank you for your presence here this evening, and look forward to your continued support.

Once again I must thank the deputy Curator and more so the Secretary to the Committee who has suddenly taken a very keen interest on the Museum side, and finally my thanks to the Chairman and Committee.

Thomas W. Grounsell, PGStB
Librarian and Curator

Items Received

The Ashlar (Journal for Norfolk Masons) Librarian & Curator
History 'The Royal Yorkshire Lodge No.265 1788/1988 W.Bro. Dr. E.V. Dulson.
History Unity Lodge No. 5812 50th Anniversary. Lodge
G.L. of British Columbia Cent. Jewel 187161971
Apollo University Lodge No.357
R.A. Jewel.
Mark Ben.Fund Jewel Estate of late
Hall Stone Jewel W.Bro. L.W. Greenwood.
Hospital Jewel.
M.M.M. Jewel and Mark Token
Three French Rituals: Instructions Des Trois Degres 1839
Rit Ecossais AVIC .:Accepte (Hand written)
4Cr. Maitre Secret Decoration de la lodge. (W.Bro. H.J. Lorton)
Q.C. Vol. 101 By Subscription.
Masonic Square " "
Flask (Silver mounting) W.Bro. Dr. B. Milligan.
Charity Jewels W.Bro. A. Grove; W.Bro. R. Bennett (Damaged in Post)
(Light & Bostin)