

The Ancient or Athol Lodge

St. John's

No.



70

250th Anniversary Meeting

Wednesday 24th June 2009

Date of Warrant

Wednesday 21st March 1759

William Bennett

Worshipful Master

1759



Ian Charles Scriviner

Worshipful Master

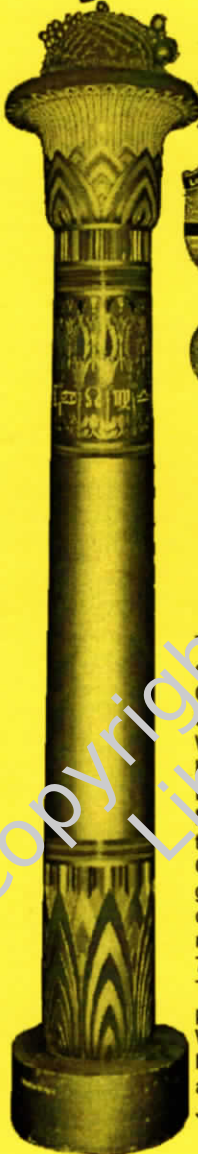
2009



V. W. Bro. Dr. H. John White J.P.
Past Grand Sword Bearer

The illustrations are of the Original Centenary Jewel of the Lodge for which a Warrant was granted by the United Grand Lodge of England in March 1863 and of the present Centenary Jewel granted on the change of the Lodge number from 83 to 70.

The Lodge is also in possession of a Warrant, dated 21st March 1959, granting a Bi-Centenary Jewel.





Worshipful Brother Ian Charles Scriviner
extends to you a warm welcome
and hopes that you enjoy yourself
on the occasion of the
250th Anniversary Dinner
of

The Antient or Athol Lodge
St. John's, No 70

During its history, our Lodge has served under 10 different Monarchs, 17 Grand Masters, 8 from the Antient's Grand Lodge, 10 from the UGLE and at least 17 Provincial Grand Masters; 16 from the current Province of Devonshire and 1, or maybe 2, from the Antient's Province of the West of England. (70, in common with 5 other Lodges meeting in Devonshire pre-dates the formation of the current Provincial Grand Lodge.)

During this time Freemasonry has been lauded by the good and great, feared as a Jacobite breeding ground, condemned by religious leaders, hated by totalitarian states, held up to ridicule by those who cannot or will not understand its aims and yet it still survives as a beacon of morality in the world.

The Lodge has witnessed the rise and fall of empires, of monarchies, of dictatorships, of slavery and abolition. It is as old as the Industrial Revolution and older than Guinness and Plymouth Gin; a couple of months younger than Robert Burns and a couple of months older than Bill the Younger. There was even a period of 24 days when our Lodge and George Frederic Handel were on the planet together, although it is probable that he was totally oblivious to our existence!

The Lodge has had over 300 Worshipful Masters and 70 proudly holds the position of second senior (and third oldest) Lodge in the Province. It has the extreme good fortune still to have the vast majority of its history intact and we are lucky to live in times when we can draw on sources unimaginable to previous generations of historians. This not only allows us to view the activities of our Lodge in the light of global events (and these have impacted heavily on our activities) but also at the more local level, and this is leading to a greater understanding of the relationship between Freemasonry and the immediate community in which it finds itself.

The Lodge has the backing of 250 years of history – 250 years of strife, of joys and sorrows, of Masonic change and, dare it be suggested, of Masonic innovation.

What can be hoped for in the next 250 years? Do we look to our current leaders for that answer or do we look at today's Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts and Master Masons? Where do we look, in this increasingly secular and self-centred world, for our successors?

The achievement of this Anniversary rests firmly on the shoulders of the Brethren who have gone before us – the next 250 years lies with those who are to come; we are simply custodians for the present whose simple job it is to ensure the good health of our Lodge, promote the good name of Freemasonry and to pass on something worthwhile to future generations.

Toast List

THE QUEEN AND THE CRAFT

"God Save the Queen"

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL THE GRAND MASTER

His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent
KG, GCMG, GCVO, AOC

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL THE PRO GRAND MASTER

Peter Geoffrey Howsdes

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Jonathan Spence

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL ASSISTANT GRAND MASTER

David Kenneth Williamson

AND THE REST OF THE GRAND OFFICERS, PRESENT AND PAST

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

Right Worshipful Brother Michael T. Penny

OUR LADIES AND OUR GUESTS

2019/13-323-42

Anniversary Meeting



**Mount Edgcombe Masonic Hall
Stradel Road
Plymouth**

Anniversary Dinner



**Holiday Inn
Armada Way
Plymouth**