

## IRISH FREEMASONRY.

Irish Freemasonry has the second oldest Grand Lodge in the World, and is the only one to have held a regular meeting in another country. I/e at Farnborough in 1932 for the constitution of LESWARREE Lodge no 646 in the Kings Royal Irish Hussars. In 1938 the Lodge Glittering Star No 322. (Worcestershire Regiment) held a meeting in the Tower of London, the only lodge ever to do so. Over 350 Brethren attended this lodge's bicentenary celebrations at Norton Barracks Worcester in 1959. The Grand Lodge of Ireland was the first to issue ambulatory warrants to regiments in the British Army. After the Battle of Waterloo military lodges began to die out, but there are still <sup>three</sup> working under the Irish Constitution including Lodge Glittering Star No 322.

By 1760 at the latest the Irish ritual had assumed very much the form as is in use today. Up to 1875 Irish lodges installed their masters on two occasions each year, on the two days of ST. JOHN. Since that date there has been only one installation a year on or after 27th December. After the installation of Grand Officer in Grand Lodge at High Noon. Other points of differences in the two Constitutions (although the substance of the systems is of course the same) include:-

1. In Ireland all offices in Grand Lodge (save the Deputy Grand Master), Provincial Grand Lodges (save the Prov D.G.M. and the Provincial Grand Inspectors - an office unknown in England) and in Lodges, are filled by Election not by appointment.
2. England does not have a Grand Lodge or Instruction.
3. All Irish Grand Lodge Officers are either RW, or VW.
4. Ireland still has Overseas Provinces (Districts in England since 1865).
5. Irish Private lodges usually have 7 to 8 regular meetings a year. A formal dinner seldom follows except on Installation nights.
6. Irish lodge By-Laws state Place, Date, and Time of regular meetings.
7. The term 'Installation' applies in Ireland not only to the Master, but to both Wardens, the other officers being 'Proclaimed'.
8. With the exception of the instructions to the New Master, which are restricted to a conclave of installed masters, the entire Installation is carried out in open lodge in the first degree.
9. No brother can be Installed (if elected to an office), without written approval of Grand Lodge.
10. No one under the rank of MM. can vote in lodge, or be elected to an office. Traditionally a Fellow Craft has the right - seldom exercised - to speak but not to vote.
11. In the absence of the WM. and JEM. the SENIOR PM. presides.
12. No one who is maimed, or lame, or defective can be admitted as a candidate except by Dispensation.
13. No more than one candidate at a time may be taken in the 1st and 3rd degree.
14. When the initiate is restored to light, his attention is drawn to the attitude of the Brethren gathered round the Altar. On the one hand he sees hands stretched out in welcome, and fellowship, on the other backs turned in indifference, working tools snatched up as hostile weapons, and drawn swords etc. A warning of what he might expect (symbolically) if he fail to keep his undertaking.
15. The Steps or distinctive modes of progression, are unknown in Irish Masonry.
16. The English Joining Bro' is in Ireland Affiliated.
17. An Affiliating Bro PM takes precedence immediately after the WM of the year in which he affiliated, and not placed at the bottom of the roll as in England.
18. An Irish Lodge secretary must be a PM. except by special dispensation.
19. Minutes when confirmed are signed by the secretary as well as by the WM. They must also be sealed. The seal to bear the device of a HAND & TROWEL with the name and No of the Lodge.
20. The Irish Tyler is not deemed an officer of the Lodge.
21. The Tyler's Obligation may be administered to Irish Lodge Visitors.
22. Tracing Boards are NOT used in Irish masonry workings.
23. Ireland forbids the printing of books of rituals.
24. Irish Aprons are invariably worn under the jacket, this is because candidates are 'Clothed' while still clad for the ceremony.
25. No Royal Arch jewels may be worn in a craft lodge, nor craft jewels in a Chapter.
26. Traces of Christianity have persisted in Irish Masonry. Christian forms of Prayer are still printed in the book of Constitutions (1965) for use when no brother was present to whom they could be offensive. The Lords Prayer is often used as part of the ordinary Craft Ritual.
27. All Charges are read.

NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY