

THE CRYPTIC FREEMASON

SPECIAL EDITION TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

*Words are just words until they
Inspire you....*

Create Opportunities and Convey the Unbelievable

We are positioning ourselves for growth but we will face challenges and unique opportunities to better prepare for the next generation of Cryptic Masons.

"Cryptic Freemason" - Magazine at a crossroads
By George C. Sellars, Editor

In contemplating the direction of the Cryptic Freemason magazine over the last four (4) years, we were surprised to see how a few organizations have addressed the problems of communicating with their membership. Several renowned research Lodges and fraternal organizations have re-directed their contact methods with the members. Many institutions, similar to Freemasonry, have down sized their paper publications and launched an effort to modernize their communication methods by using the electronic medium. Everyone calls it *"The Digital Age."* No surprise to some of us.

What are we saying? Technology is growing all around us and it should be one of the driving forces in our Masonic fraternity, too. Isn't it one of our goals to teach and educate and to gain further light? We should look at this medium carefully. Advances in technology have produced videotapes, digital devices and thousands of web sites. These are only a few of the major trends that will continue to grow and consume us.

In January, I was privileged to attend the first "National Masonic Publications Conference" held in Washington D.C. The attendee's represented a good cross section of Masonic Editors and Publishers across America. The main theme was to gain knowledge on writing procedures and possible cooperation. One of the sub agenda items was the "Digital" influence, which became an over riding, hot topic, most of the AM. Later, two (2) presenters occupied the balance of the AM and into the PM. One was recounting the printing industry, giving its history and present situation, and the other was from the U.S. Post Office. Both related massive reductions and rising costs in their industry. Even though the picture was bleak for the paper industry, it was the consensus of the participants that the Masons were at least ten (10) years away from electronic distribution. It was a good conference. It was a good start. Good information.

Now lets look at the Cryptic Rite and its publication. As we approached 2009, the issue of the Cryptic Freemason magazine, its subscribers and editor were hanging in the balance. So what is right for the membership? What is right for the subscribers? What are we trying to convey? To whom should we send our messages? How can we better serve our membership? More questions than answers for the magazine.

There appears to be two (2) trends of thought relative to sending communication material: one is enjoying reading the messages in a paper magazine; the other is enjoying using technology to research for information, reading online, and downloading copies, which appears to be the majority and growing in number. Hold that thought for a moment.

Lets look at where we, the Cryptic Rite, are presently. We have 1,100 subscribers, out of a membership of approximately 90,000 members, or around 1% coverage. Who are we reaching? We are certainly not reaching our total membership, or even a majority of membership, not at all from my

perspective. We have asked the questions at the Regional meetings, who subscribes? Less than one third of those present! Who wants a paper issue? Very few! It's a sad picture for the effort to provide a good edition of the Cryptic Freemason magazine in paper form.



The Quest to Improve Our Communication

The newspaper industry is in a declining mode due to digital delivery. It's clear we have to decide our direction, too, since we only deliver to 1% of our membership. That is to say, do we stay the course and publish the paper magazine or make the hard decision of adjusting to the transformation in society, no less in Masonry? We can be a leader or follow everyone else until the end or critical mass time (ten years or less), using a multitude of money to keep a news magazine afloat. This is a business reality!!

We are seeking to make major improvements to the "Cryptic Freemason" by providing the Cryptic story and events, plus significant Council research through field writers. We also understand that with the decline in membership and reaching only 1% of the objectives of communication, and the advancements of the digital age, shouldn't we stress our efforts in modern technological services?

We will not implement any policy change without consulting our subscribers first. Hence, we ask you to consider two (2) options of communication:

1. Receive the magazine in the present paper form via mail.
2. Elect to receive the publication electronically via the web systems.

The printed Cryptic Freemason can still be made available in paper form to those who request it in that fashion. In addition, our subscribers, remember its only 1% of the membership, will have access to an electronic edition, too, that will be the same as the printed issue on their computers. We need to consider a shift of resources to the web site for all the membership at a fraction of the cost. The General Grand Council has agonized over the direction of the magazine for years. We need to be a leader in this process and look to the future for the best coverage for all our membership, that is, even down to the grass root Council members. Let's not copycat other organizations or wait ten (10) years to play catch up to every one else.

Please make your selection of the two (2) options above which suits you best, then return your results to:

David A. Grindle, GGR
PO Box 138, Boise, ID 83701-0138
Off # (208) 870-8397
Email: ggr@ggcmi.org

If you do not respond to the options by June 30, 2009, we will assume you have elected the electronic category.

Your cooperation is vitally necessary to enable us to provide you the best communication tools available in the Masonic market place.

We are making progress every day, and we will not stop until our work is complete.

IT WILL BE BURIED THERE

BY BENJAMIN F. WADE

“In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with GOD and the WORD was GOD.”

Mackey says that the “WORD symbolizes Divine Truth”, but we believe that it is much more than that. IT symbolizes all the attributes of Deity, even GOD himself, the knowledge of whom makes the possessor divine.

In the symbolic degrees of Freemasonry, we have an account of the loss of that WORD, we search for it, but do not find, and have to be satisfied with a substitute for it, along with a promise of its recovery at some future time. In the Capitular degrees we do further search and find a key, that we are told would lead to its recovery. Full enlightenment is found only in a careful examination and understanding of the Cryptic degrees. The truths shown to us there alone will allow us to find that which we seek, thereby completing our mystic circle of perfection, allowing us to unlock that mysterious door that leads to ultimate truth.



The rituals of our degrees have varied through the years, and have been traced by Masonic scholars, to many lands and systems of enlightenment. Remember that the legends on which our degrees are based were in use long before their inclusion in our modern system of work. While the modes of presentation or representation of our work may have undergone some changes due to the religious, political, economic and social climate that then existed, it is important to note, that the basic truths that they contain have always been imbedded within them, truth will always endure, eternal and everlasting.

Where is that great truth? Where is the WORD that we seek? Where is it concealed? Where can we find clues that would point us to that which we seek? Many Masonic scholars have attempted to give us some kind of an answer, however arcane and convoluted their reasoning; they do not seem to have a clear and/or concise exposition of that which we are seeking. To the worthy works of those scholars, I would like to add one more possibility, to wit:

The Wade Hypothesis

The best place to hide this sacred treasure would be in plain sight. The clues must be consistent and constant and non-contradictory. Brother Mackey and the words of Saint John tell us what we are looking for, and Hiram Abif, in the Royal Master Degree shows us where it is to be found.

When Hiram is asked: “When shall I receive the Masters WORD?” He replies to the candidate, “You will receive it when the temple is completed, and then only in the presence of all three Grand Masters.” Upon consideration of this, the candidate then asks:” But if death should strike one of them, even you yourself, how then should I receive it? During the course of Hiram’s reply to that question, he three times stops west of the altar and says:” I may not live to see the temple completed, but if I die,” he then raps three times and with a significant gesture, points and says: “It will be buried there.”

From the above, we have a location where the WORD is now buried, until his unfortunate death, we were told that the WORD would be buried, but at this death it became buried. But where did Hiram point to? It is the only place in our rituals that imply a spe-

cific location. Did he point to our Holy Altar? No, I think not. The Altar is a place at which to worship, offering up the incense of a pure and contrite heart, to be found worthy of that which we seek, it is not that which we seek. Did he point to the VSL resting upon it? No, but a careful reading and understanding of its precepts would certainly help our search. Did he point to the Secret Vault erected below? No, not there either. It was in that place that King Solomon had deposited a true copy of the Ark, into which he placed testimonials of our heritage, along with a true copy of the Holy writings of that time, into which he placed a key. (or a clue) to an understanding of that which we seek, and was written into or in addition to the V.S.L., authored by Solomon himself.

But, these material things can not be that which we are seeking, the WORD can not be contained within any material substance, it by definition is boundless, omnipotent, something that can not be contained, but is everywhere present and eternal.

So, where then did Hiram point?

The answer has been in every degree through which you have received, confirmed by subtle reference and YOUR own participation and place in our ceremonies, and it was YOU who took a place west of the altar, and knelt there.

So, when Hiram said that it will/is buried there, he is pointing at that place that you had occupied in all previous degrees. He is pointing at your heart. At that place where YOU were first made a Mason.

Waite says: “In the proper understanding our secret vaults are like our concealed treasurer, they lie beneath temples not built with hands...”

William Davis, in “The London Freemason”, of August 17, 1901, says: “As the secret vault contained the Ark of the Covenant in which were deposited the testimonials... so in every human heart there is an ark of divine mercy in which GOD has placed the most sacred treasure pertaining to human kind...”

In the “Oliver” ritual of the Royal Master Degree, circa 1740, we have King Solomon saying: “To the ends of the earth we desire His Holy name to be carried, and to unborn generations of men transmitted forever.”

The WORD, then, is within us, within our souls, within our very beingness, an integral part of that which sets us apart from the Neanderthal, it sets us apart as true children of GOD, written as a part of our genetic code, that it may truly be transmitted forever. That is how it is transmitted from generation to generation forever and ever, into our sons and they to theirs.

Continuing with the “Oliver” ritual King Solomon states further that this WORD must not be tampered with, that “Ye may be found to have preserved the WORD of GOD in your, souls, inviolate and incorrupt.” Jer. 31, v.31-34 “...I will put my Law in their inward parts, and in their hearts will I write it...”

The Psalmist says “Thy WORD have I hid in thy heart...” and that we may know the WORD when we find it, we must make search of the V.S.L. for the key put there by King Solomon, that we may have a proper understanding of our duties concerning the WORD. We must see that not one jot or tittle of it is altered or obscured by even the best intentioned, only then may this promise by fulfilled, and the Great light of that which is the WORD shall be eternal and an everlasting and ever living promise. It is in GOD I am. We are truly that WORD, now and evermore.

So mote it be.

**VISION-
PROVERBS 29:18 "WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, PEOPLE PERISH; HE THAT KEEPTH THE LAW, HAPPY IS HE."**

So it can be said the organization that has no vision will perish! So what is the vision of the General Grand Council?

A vision gives us the focus to achieve. For example, Henry Ford had a vision to mass-produce automobiles, and from that vision came the development of the assembly line. While that may sound simple, every vision takes on challenges, but by sticking to the vision, comes solutions. Mr. Ford had the obstacle of a work force to over come and because of the vision he was able to overcome the challenge. During his lifetime, and even today, the vision is the same, although there have been many challenges and changes in the way Ford Motor Co. builds automobiles.

As I traveled seeking election to the General Grand Council Principal Conductor of the Work position, I spoke about a vision for General Grand Council. The vision I had was for General Grand Council to achieve financial stability, to better serve the Companions, to provide better communications, and to keep God at the center of all endeavors.

Now that I have been elected it becomes my responsibility to keep focused on the vision. I'm pleased to be able to say that these are not my visions alone, but shared by the Board.

All of the outlined visions are dependent upon the success of just one, and that is financial security. In order to communicate, educate, build and serve the General Grand Council, it takes funding.



Your General Grand Council Board is reviewing numerous ways to generate and build the corporate finances to insure future funding will be available and General Grand Council will be a viable organization. Because we have been so cheap for so long, we are all but bankrupt. Financial stability, coupled with strong leadership, will provide us with the prestige that comes with a vision fulfilled over time.

Our vision will bring many changes in the way we currently look after our membership. For instance, the Cryptic Magazine currently serves less than 2% of our membership and is very costly. For good communication, we need to be able to provide a method that will reach most of, if not the entire, membership. Currently the Internet offers the most promising option.

Much the same can be said for serving the Companions. Education and training resources are limited. For those of our membership who would like to make a difference, there are numerous opportunities to serve, whether it is through web design, programming, preparing presentations, teaching, fund raising, reviewing, or rewriting materials. You, the membership of General Grand Council, are our greatest resource.

Now I will leave you with the following quote.

"Obey the voice within - it commands us to give of ourselves and to help others. As long as we have the capacity to give, we are alive."

KIRK DOUGLAS

Fraternally,



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2008-2011**

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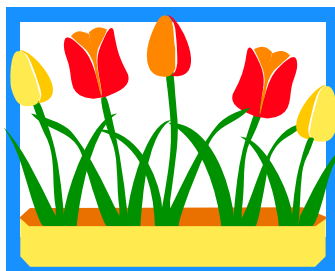
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SPRING HAS
FINALLY SPRUNG!!!



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Want to See Your Articles in the Cryptic Freemason?

Then send your articles and
pictures to:

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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT...

We are defined by what we pass on to the next generation of Cryptic Masons.

That is why we are working to rebuild the infrastructure of General Grand Council and become economically and politically efficient. In the process, we are teaching our membership about the importance of giving back and making better use of our Masonic Heritage.

This is so we can pass on what matters to the ones who matter the most, our membership and our future generations.

We should not care how creative we are. If we are not doing the job expected of us, who cares!



We must attempt, through a relentless focus, to find and reward strong leaders.

Eight gifts for friends and relatives.

1. The Gift of Listening.
2. The Gift of Affection.
3. The Gift of Laughter.
4. The Gift of a written note.
5. The Gift of a compliment.
6. The Gift of a favor.
7. The Gift of solitude.
8. The Gift of Cheerful disposition.