



# The Beacon

## Central District Masonic Newsletter

June 2009

In the Grand Lodge of Alberta, officers are elected or appointed for a one year period. The following are those elected and appointed for the 2009-2010 term.



MW Bro. Brian Shimmons Grand Master

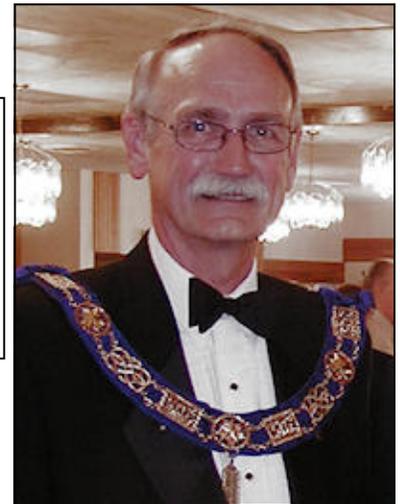


RW Bro. Randall Robinson  
District Deputy Grand Master  
Central District  
(Red Deer #12)



RW Bro. Peter Dunlop  
Senior Grand Warden

<b>ELECTED OFFICERS</b>	<b>ELECTED OFFICERS</b>
GRAND MASTER	MW Bro. Brian Shimmons
DEPUTY GRAND MASTER	RW Bro. Gerald Waldern
SENIOR GRAND WARDEN	RW Bro. Peter Dunlop
JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN	RW Bro. David Roth
GRAND TREASURER	MW Bro. John Hart
GRAND SECRETARY	RW Bro. Jerry Kopp



RW Bro. David Roth  
Junior Grand Warden



Bro Jay Byer, Grand Standard Bearer  
(Eureka #10 & St. George's #169)  
&  
VW Bro. Don Anderson, Grand Historian  
(Apollo #27)



**DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS0**

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| ALPHA            | RW Bro. Keng-Wei Chiew   |
| ATHABASCA        | RW Bro. Colin Reichie    |
| BATTLE RIVER     | RW Bro. Donald Hawken    |
| BEAVERHILLS      | RW Bro. Leigh Spicer     |
| CALGARY-HIGHWOOD | RW Bro. Garry Bonnell    |
| CENTRAL          | RW Bro. Randall Robinson |
| CHINOOKARCH      | RW Bro. David Gregory    |
| DINOSAUR         | RW Bro. Garland Bruce    |
| LAKELAND         | RW Bro. Fred Bowker.     |
| MIGHTY PEACE     | RW Bro. Peter Harris     |
| NORTHERN LIGHTS  | RW Bro. Jack McBride     |
| PALLISER         | RW Bro. Bert McFadyen    |
| PHOENIX          | RW Bro. Allan Long       |
| YELLOWHEAD RW    | Bro. Charlie Miner       |

**APPOINTED OFFICERS AND TYLER**

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| GRAND CHAPLAIN        | VW Bro. Louis Fradette   |
| GRAND D OF C          | VW Bro. Byron Nelson     |
| SENIOR GRAND DEACON   | VW Bro. Doug Sharkey     |
| JUNIOR GRAND DEACON   | VW Bro. Gordon Berard    |
| GRAND HISTORIAN       | VW Bro. Don Anderson     |
| GRAND ORGANIST        | VW Bro. Grant Trimble    |
| GRAND PIPER – NORTH   | Bro. Angus Campbell      |
| GRAND PIPER –SOUTH    | Bro. Neil Walker         |
| GRAND PURSUIVANT      | VW Bro. Richard Trippel. |
| GRAND REGISTRAR       | VW Bro. Herm Woetowich   |
| GRAND STEWARD         | VW Bro. Bill Harrison    |
| GRAND STEWARD         | VW Bro. Mark Johnson     |
| GRAND STEWARD         | VW Bro. Jack Peacock     |
| GRAND STEWARD         | VW Bro. Angus Stewart    |
| GRAND STEWARD         | VW Bro. Martin Langshaw  |
| GRAND STEWARD         | VW Bro. Stan Clayton     |
| GRAND STANDARD BEARER | Bro. Jay Byer.           |
| GRAND TYLER           | VW Bro. Wally Watts      |

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## **FIAT LUX LODGE OF RESEARCH No. 1980**

Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980 was formed to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. The lodge name chosen translates to "LET THERE BE LIGHT".

The moving force appears to have been R.W.Bro. W.N. Love, who, at the time, was the Chairman of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

M.W.Bro. Aspeslet undertook the project of spearheading the formation of this new Lodge. Four meetings a year were envisioned, two in the fall and two in the spring. At that time there were no articles in the Grand Lodge Constitution relating to Lodges of Research. Accordingly amendments to the Constitution were needed. They were drafted, presented through the Jurisprudence Committee, etc., and adopted at the 1979 Annual Communication.

There are several differences between this, a Masonic Research Lodge, and a regular lodge, namely:

- 1. The Research Lodge does not have authority to 'make a Mason'.**
- 2. This Research Lodge has a 'Travelling Charter' so as to be able to meet anywhere in Alberta.**
- 3. There are two forms of memberships of this Lodge available to Masons in good standing:**
  - a) Affiliated Membership (which is not considered 'Dual Membership). This is a full member of the Lodge.**
  - b) Subscribing Member: This member can attend all meetings as a visitor but cannot vote. The subscribing member will receive all published papers.**

The Lodge was instituted on October 30, 1979, at a Red Deer meeting; It's Charter was issued on June 14, 1980, and Constituted on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1980 (in the Masonic Temple, Calgary). The Ceremony of Constitution was performed by the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. W.E. (Curly) Foster.

**Lodge Publication:** The Lodge publication is "Vox Lucis" (Voice of Light), which has been published, in two volumes, containing 82 worthy, well researched, Masonic papers.

**Editor's Comment:** The Fiat Lux Lodge of Research held their regular meeting in Red Deer on Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup>. The meeting included three papers, including one presented by Beacon's own Bro. Jim Innes in which he discussed the symbolism of the snake in Masonry and possible reasons why it is included as the clasp on our Masonic aprons and in the collars of Lodge Officers. A second paper dealt with the awakening of Masonry in Mid-Eastern Europe, presented by Bro. Juthner.

The Third paper was presented by Bro. Glenn McConnell and dealt with the often asked question of "What is Freemasonry". I was confronted with this question just the other day, while presenting a charity cheque, the recipient's father said he had never heard of the Freemasons and wanted to know more. After stumbling around for a bit we finally stumbled on the Shriners - which he had dealt with before - and he was very surprised to find out that all Shriners were Masons. This is why I found Bro. McConnell's paper so interesting and with his per-

mission have published his speaking outline below. He does advise that the full paper will be published in the Fiat Lux "Vox Lucis" later this year, however, I think the outline presents a very good basis or starting point for one to develop your own answer for "What is Freemasonry".

## Freemasonry - What It Is

A Concise Explanation for Masons and Non-Masons

VW Bro Glenn McConnell April, 2009

A. Freemasonry is a **philosophy** - which is based on **ethics and morality**

Ethics and morality refer to standards of conduct and the distinction between right and wrong.

B. The philosophy has 6 components:

1. It is based on a belief in a divine creator.

2. It adopts the 2500 year-old Golden Rule:

***'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you'.***

3. It embraces the Four Cardinal Virtues from ancient Greece and advocates their contemplation and daily application:

***Prudence –Temperance – Fortitude - Justice***

4. It advocates the pursuit of the liberal arts and sciences.

***Study of the liberal arts and sciences offers knowledge, understanding, truth and wisdom with regard to society, politics, history, philosophy and science.***

5. It utilizes the ancient process of initiation.

***Initiation rites and ceremonies have been practiced for tens of thousands of years. They are designed to open the mind and heart' and induce a transition or transformation. Birth, starting school, starting jobs, marriage, giving birth, retirement, death - are all transitional events. Freemasonry provides an inspiring drama to facilitate a transition to self-enlightenment.***

6. It includes social interaction.

***Masonic social activities continue the opening of mind and heart and reinforce the philosophy***

**Number 226 - May 25, 2009 - Old Tyler's Tale**

Dear Masonic Student - Old Tyler talks are loved by many because of the simple truths they convey. This one comes from material Brother Kevan Van Herd compiled for his book Masonic Inspirations. There is no author mentioned for this 'Old Tyler' talk. I looked in my copy of "Old Tyler Talks," by Brother Claudy and this one is not in there.

**DIFFERENT KINDS OF MASONS**

"I'm almost through!" The New Brother displayed a sheaf of cards to the Old Tyler. "Soon I will have joined them all and become every kind of Mason there is."

"What do you know about the kinds of Masons there are?" asked the Old Tyler, interested. "You have not been a Master Mason long enough to gain all that knowledge!"

"That's not hard to gain with all the brethren poking petitions at you. There are Scottish Rite Masons and York Rite Masons and Templar Masons and Chapter Masons and Council Masons, and. "

"Oh!" The Old Tyler said, "I didn't understand. I thought you couldn't have learned yet."

"Learned what? Are there some more kinds of Masons?"

"Indeed, yes! Answered the Old Tyler. "A great many kinds. But, seven you haven't mentioned stand out more prominently than others."

"Do tell me! I thought I had joined most of them..."

"You don't join these. You become one, or are made one, or grow into one of them. For instance, there is the "King Solomon Mason." He thinks that everything that Solomon did as a Mason is right and everything he didn't do is wrong. To him, Masonry was conceived, born and grew up in the shadow of King Solomon and every word of the legend is literally true, much like the man who refuses to believe the earth is round, because a verse in the Bible refers to the 'four corners of the earth!' The King Solomon Mason lives his Masonry according to his light; perhaps it's not his fault it is so dim.

"To the "Ritual Mason," the importance of Masonry is the form of its words. A good Mason in his belief is one who can repeat a lecture from end to end without a slip. A man may do battle, murder, or cause sudden death, commit arson or run away with a neighbor's wife; but if he knows his ritual letter perfect, it 'was all a mistake!' The man who doesn't know his ritual letter perfect is not, in this man's eyes, a good Mason; not though he give to charity with both hands and carry love for his fellowman in both head and heart.

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

"The "Practical Mason" looks at life from a utilitarian standpoint. He prefers electricity to candles for the Lesser Lights because they are simpler and prefers candles to electricity because they are cheaper. He thinks a choir is impractical because it produces nothing permanent and would rather spend the money for printed matter or a new carpet. He is at his best when raising money for a new temple and at his worst when asked to express himself upon the spirit of Masonry. His hand is in his pocket for charity, but never for entertainment. He is usually on the finance committee and recommends a budget in which rent and heat and light are bigger than relief.

"The "Heart Mason" is the opposite. He is full of impractical schemes. He wants to start a new temple which will never be built. He talks much of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, but is absent when the hat is passed and the committee on funds needs a few workers to go out and gather in. The heart Mason is the lodge sob-sister; he usually seconds any motion to spend any amount of money for flowers or to send a brother away for his health and always makes a little tear-filled speech about the fatherless loved ones, even if the dear departed died a bachelor.

The "Business Mason" belongs because he thinks it helps his job. He usually sits next to the solid business man in lodge and likes to tell people what he does. If he is a Past Master, he never comes to lodge on time, so that he can get a special welcome at the Altar. His favorite speech is about the man who tried to advertise his business in lodge and how evil this was; in the speech he always mentions his own business. He wears an extra large sized pin and prints squares and compasses on his letterheads.

"We dominate another kind by the expressive term of "Belly Mason." He is most faithful in attendance at lodges where there may be a feed. He will cheerfully spend twenty cents car fare and a long evening to get a fifteen cent sandwich. If there is to be a sit-down meal he will sit up all night to be on time. If the affair is in another lodge and needs tickets, he will take time off from his job to hunt a brother who has a ticket and doesn't want it. He usually manages to cross the lodge room while the cigars are passed so he can dig into the box twice. If the crowd is small, he is the last man to get a smoke, so he can take all that are left. If the crowd is large, he is among the first, to make sure he doesn't get left.

"And then there is the "Regular Mason," the fellow who does his best with the time and brains he has. He is the great bulk of the fraternity. He pays the dues and fills the chairs and does the work. He is seldom a fine ritualist, but he is usually an earnest one. He is not very practical and would spend more than we have if it wasn't that he is too sentimental to permit the charity fund to be robbed. He passes the sandwiches and coffee, and if there is any left, he gets his; but he doesn't care so long as the evening is a success. He isn't a student, but something in the heart of Masonry has reached deep into his heart, and so he comes to lodge and does his best. He is not

*(Continued on page 7)*

learned, but he is not stupid. He is not hidebound and yet he is conservative. He loves his lodge, but not so much he cannot see her faults. He is most of us."

"And what class of Mason am I?" asked the New Brother, uneasily looking at his sheaf of cards.

"You have cards enough to be considered a Mason for almost any reason," answered the Old Tyler. "But I'll take your word for it. What kind of Mason are you?"

"I don't know for sure, but I know what kind I am never going to be!" answered the new Brother, putting his many cards away.

Words to live by: When we're tempted to take too much pride in ourselves, remember this; mankind owes its very existence to a six-inch layer of top soil and timely rains.

*Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass...  
It's about learning how to dance in the rain*



Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Lodge of Perfection, Central Valley  
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 8:00 pm  
Freemason Hall, 4722 - 49B Ave, Lacombe, AB  
Contact Vern Otto, 403-782-3988



Royal Arch, Lebanon #38  
Meetings: Third Thursday  
Apollo Lodge Hall, 5114-50 Ave Stettler, AB  
Contact: Jim Lockhart, jim.lockhart@ufa.com 403-742-5775



Al Azhar Shriners - A.A.O.N.M.S. Red Deer Unit  
Meetings - 3rd Wednesday  
Freemason Hall, 4811-52nd Street, Red Deer, AB  
Contact: Box 42, Red deer, AB, T4N 5E7  
Club Pres. Dude Hughes dmhughes@xplornet.com 403-356-1807  
1st Vice Garry Hodge ghodge@shaw.ca 403-356-1807



**Mountain View #1** (Olds) 1st Tuesday  
**Venus #2** (Red Deer) 2nd Monday  
**Alexandra #4** (Lacombe) 2nd Tuesday  
**Victoria #14** (Stettler) 3rd Monday  
**Innisfail #37** (Innisfail) 1st Thursday  
**Battle River #47** (Ponoka) 3rd Thursday  
**Lochearn #129** (RMH) 1st Saturday - 2 pm

# COMING EVENTS



Innisfail Lodge No. 8  
Annual Outdoor Lodge Meeting  
& B.B.Q.

Thursday May 21

Refer to the invitation & Map on the D.D.G.M. Web Page  
<http://mastermason.com/Beacon190/ddgm.htm>  
Or call Bro Ian Stuart at 403-357-4912



Beacon #190 - Annual Masonic Zoo Cruise  
3 hour cruise on Sylvan lake,  
Includes a steak BBQ & cash bar.  
Sails at 7pm  
main pier at south end of beach  
(opposite A&W Restaurant)  
\$25.00/person - Max. 40 tickets

**For Information & Tickets Contact:**  
**Bro. Jordan Sinclair**

**Monday July 27th**

**Email [xtrememtbr@hotmail.com](mailto:xtrememtbr@hotmail.com) : Phone 403-505-5442**



Central District Golf Tournament - Hosted by Innisfail #8  
**Saturday September 6th**  
Bowden Hi-Way Golf Course  
Registration 9 AM - Tee Off Starts at 10 AM  
Entry Fee \$40.00 - 9 holes of golf, Steak Dinner & Prizes  
All Masons, Ladies and their invited guests welcome  
**Register by May 30th**

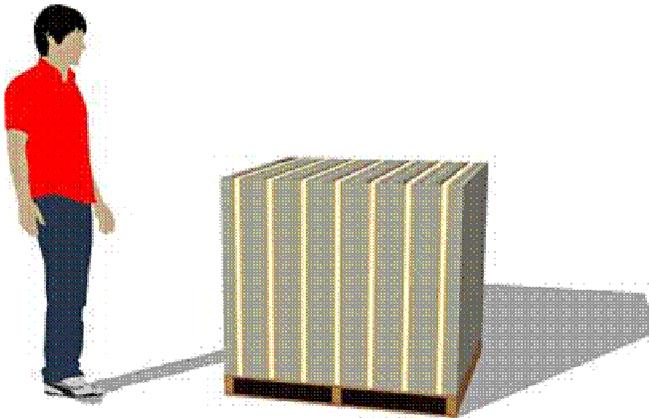
For information & to Register contact  
Bro. Clayton Ross at  
[cdross@telusplanet.net](mailto:cdross@telusplanet.net)  
or phone 403-227-6068  
\*enter as foursomes or as individuals  
\*Non-golfers welcome dinner @ \$14.00  
\*Power carts are available for \$17.00  
\* If you have prizes to donate contact Bro.  
Ross

## Have you ever wondered what a TRILLION Dollars looks like???



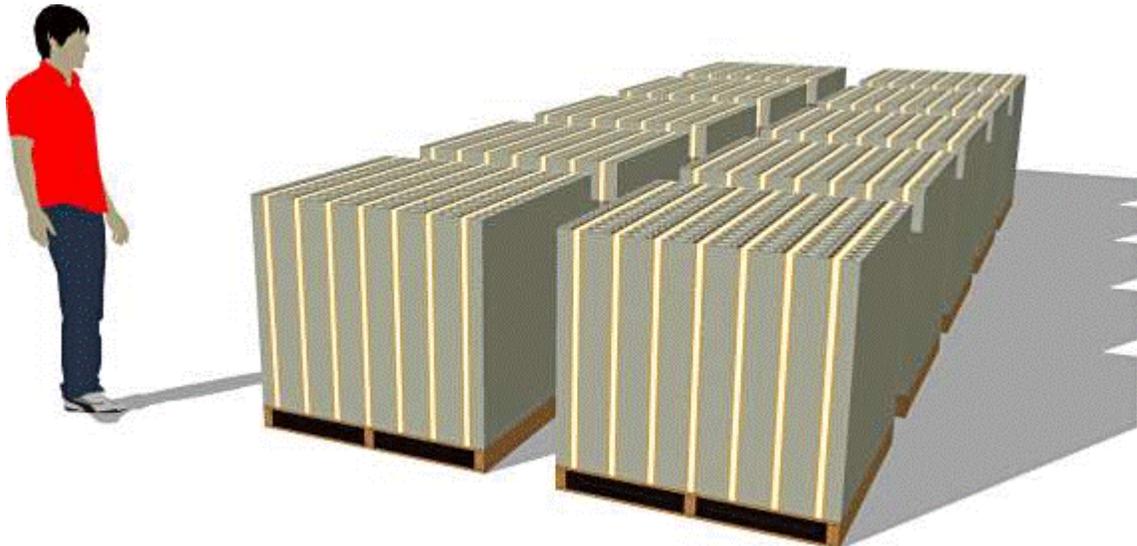
A packet of one hundred \$100 bills is less than 1/2" thick and contains \$10,000. Fits in your pocket easily and is more than enough for week or two of shamefully decadent fun.

Believe it or not, this next little pile is \$1 million dollars (100 packets of \$10,000). You could stuff that into a grocery bag and walk around with it.



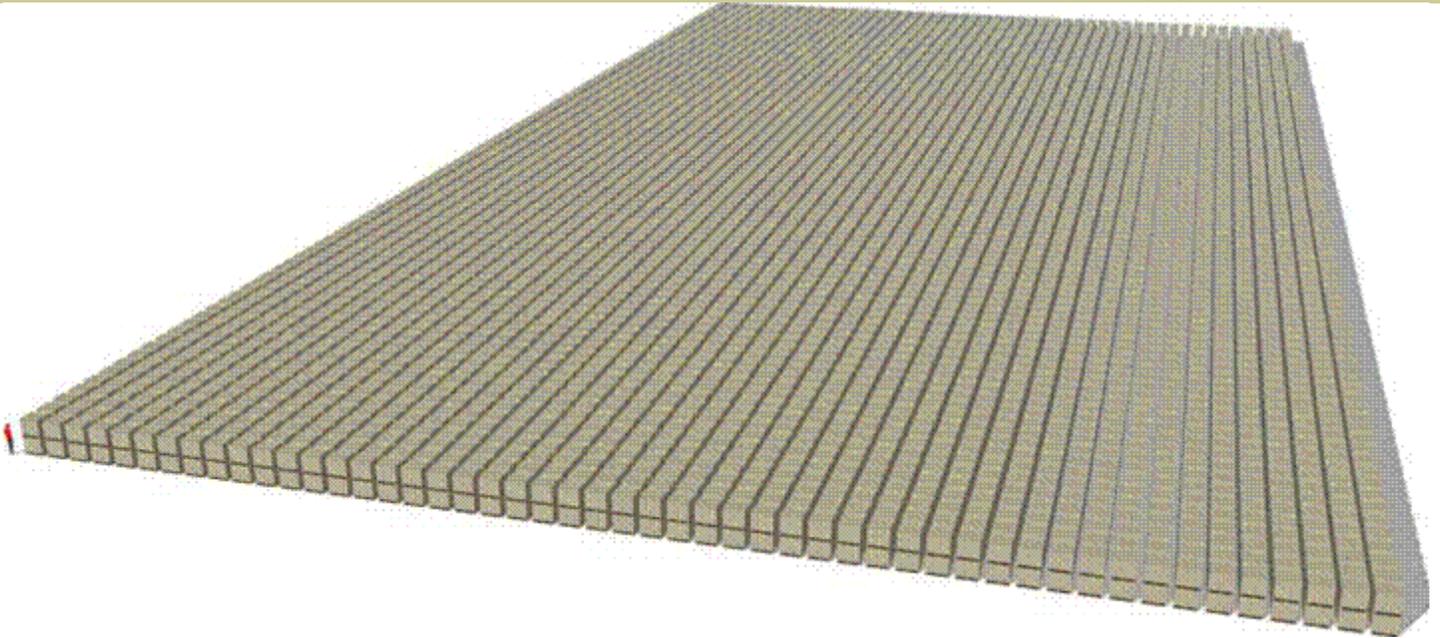
While a measly \$1 million looked a little unimpressive, \$100 million is a little more respectable. It fits neatly on a standard pallet...

And \$1 BILLION dollars... now we're really getting somewhere...



Next we'll look at ONE TRILLION dollars. This is that number we've been hearing so much about. What is a trillion dollars? Well, it's a million million. It's a thousand billion. It's a one followed by 12 zeros.

You ready for this? It's pretty surprising.



(And notice those pallets are double stacked)  
So the next time you hear someone toss around “trillion Dollars”...  
that’s what they are talking about.

Obtained via [www.pagetutor.com](http://www.pagetutor.com)

Editor’s Comment: - I did not count the pallets ;>)



Editor's Comments:

- This newsletter is not an official Masonic publication and does not express the policies or opinions of any specific Masonic Lodge, District or Grand Lodge.

So go ahead and enjoy it as my gift to you. If you have any ideas or suggestions to improve it let me know - I will always listen, I may not do anything about it, but I will listen. I would love to publish some of the stories from around the District or even Alberta. Stories about individuals, Lodge happenings or histories of Lodges.

This newsletter will not be published in paper format, but feel free to print it out and pass on to a brother.

The subscription list for this newsletter came from the CDMEL (Central District Masonic Email List). If you would rather not receive this Newsletter, let me know and I will remove your name - Your name will not be removed from the CDMEL unless you specifically request it. If you would like to be added to the subscription list send me an email.

W. Bro. Clark Johnston  
Beacon #190  
[cjohnst@telusplanet.net](mailto:cjohnst@telusplanet.net)

**A Beacon never goes anywhere  
It's just helps points the way**

**Are you your brother's keeper?** Several Masons in the District do not have access to computers &/or the Internet. If you know of such a Bro. And you think this newsletter is worth while, why not print off a copy to pass on. Another idea—if you would like a copy, but do not have a computer, ask your son or grandson to print it for you -he may get an idea of what it is you do at that secret Lodge!

## The Beacon - bookstore

The following books can be purchased on line at The Beacon Bookstore, by following the link below.. Prices are in US funds and do not include G.S.T. or shipping costs. There is no shipping costs associated with downloading the books. Payment can be made with Major Credit Cards through the PayPal payment system. Stay tuned as more books will be added in the future.

<http://stores.lulu.com/thebeacon>

I hope you enjoy them,  
Travel Well  
Bro. Clark Johnston

### *Masonic Papers and Addresses - Bro. James W. Roberts*

**NEW**

Print: \$20.00 U.S.-Download: \$10.00 U.S.

A United Church Minister, a Past Grand Master, a Mason of 50 years, a Bro. & a Friend. This book is a collection of papers he has written and presented at the Masonic Spring Workshop (Masonry In The Mountains) as theme speaker (3 times), Grand Chaplin of the Grand Lodge Of Alberta (5 times), plus the Christmas Message for the Grand Lodge Bulletin (4 times) and his Inaugural & Final presentations as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. It also includes his presentation to the Grand Lodge of Quebec on Freemasonry and Religion - (Nov. 1993). The messages contained herein are as relevant to Masons today as they were when they were written and will prove inspirational to any who reads them.

This book also available from the Grand Lodge of Alberta Bookstore \$20.00 CAD  
(and while supplies last from the webmaster at [cjohnst@telusplanet.net](mailto:cjohnst@telusplanet.net))

Masonic  
Papers and  
Addresses

Bro. James W. Roberts

### *Masonic Etiquettes*

Print: \$20.00 US funds

Download: \$10.0 US Funds

Masonic Etiquette and Protocol as it relates to Craft Lodges in Alberta, Canada. Originally published in 1994. An excellent guide for Lodge Officers to maintain the traditions for conduct within the Lodge. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this book goes to Masonic Charities

This book also available from the Grand Lodge of Alberta Bookstore \$20.00 CAD  
(and while supplies last from the webmaster at [cjohnst@telusplanet.net](mailto:cjohnst@telusplanet.net))

Masonic  
Etiquettes

Harry J. Noble, P.M.

### *History of the Grand Lodge of Alberta 1905 - 1980*

Print: \$20.00 US funds - Coil Bound

Download: \$7.50 US funds

This is a reproduction of the book by the same title originally published in the 1980s to commemorate the first 75 years of Freemasonry in Alberta, Canada. It is 154 pages with B&W photos which include pictures of the Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries as well as 10 historical photos. Also includes Lodge distribution graphics. This re-publication was done mainly to make the manuscript available in digital format. **Hard cover original version is available from the Grand Lodge of Alberta - Bookstore**

**NEW**

History  
of the  
Grand Lodge  
of  
Alberta  
1905 - 1980

J.W. Collett, F.G.M.

### *Freemasonry – A Way of Life-Download: FREE*

**A WAY OF LIFE**; a brief overview of what Freemasonry is and what it isn't. Of interest to someone looking to find out more about the craft - with a view to joining.

**HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BECOMING A MASON**; a series of questions and explanations directed at someone considering Masonry and wondering if it is an organization suitable to their needs.

Freemasonry

A Way Of Life

Have You Ever Considered Becoming A Mason?