

(continued from page 1)

The conference was officially opened on the Saturday morning by MWBro Dr Gregory Levenston, MD, JP, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, who was accompanied by his partner, Judith Morrice, and by the Grand Librarian, RWBro J V Haffner. In his opening address, Dr Levenston called for research to be made more attractive to ordinary Masons and challenged ANZMRC to make the conference the starting point to reinvigorate research and study, to reach out to younger Masons, personally and electronically, and to make a difference. For the full text of his address, see Issue 44 of *Harashim*.

Dr Levenston presented Kellerman Lecturer certificates to the following: Rodney Grosskopff (South Africa), Geoffrey Ludowyk (NSW&ACT), Gordon Fraser (NZ), David Beagley (Vic), Ian Green (Tas), David Ganon (WA), Colin Heyward (NZ) and Harvey Lovewell (Qld).

In addition to the Conference *Proceedings*, which was included in the registration fee, a number of other Masonic and related publications were for sale on stalls operated during the conference. Stallholders included Dr Bob James PhD, EA, of the Australian Centre for Fraternalism, Secret Societies and Mateship (<http://www.fraternalsecrets.org/>), Wayne Bugden (Qld), with his books on Masonic Halls in Australia; Graeme Love (Vic) with back issues of the *Transactions* of the Victorian Lodge of Research (a very popular stall, as usual), Graham Stead (Qld) with the Scottish magazine the *Ashlar*. Also available were CDs of the ANZMRC Digital Library & Catalogue (edition 1), and the *Collected Kellerman Lectures 1992–2004*.

Biennial General Meeting

The biennial general meeting was held on the Sunday afternoon with President Peter Verrall in the chair. All Affiliates were represented by voting delegates, either in person or by proxy, except for the South Australian Lodge of Research (Adelaide) and Leichhardt Lodge of Research (Darwin), whose delegate (Webmaster Richard Num) was unable to attend.

Apologies for absence were received from R Dawes, F Loupos, G Love, N Morse, R Num, K Wells & M Yaxley.

The minutes of the previous meeting at Ballarat in 2006 were taken as read, but two matters arose from the minutes:



A bizarre Co-Masonic ritual? No! Judith Morrice photographing her partner, GM Greg Levenston, presenting a Kellerman Lecturer certificate to Ian Green (Tas). On the left are (from front to rear): David Slater (ACT), David Ganon (WA), Les Cooper (Vic) and Peter Verrall (WA).



Kellerman Lecturers 2008 with the Grand Master of NSW&ACT (left to right) Colin Heyward (NZ), Ian Green (Tas), Gordon Fraser (NZ), Rodney Grosskopff (SAF), Harvey Lovewell (Qld), GM Greg Levenston, David Beagley (Vic), David Ganon (WA) and Geoff Ludowyk (NSW&ACT).

- ◆ K. Henderson moved, and K. Nicholls seconded 'That non-masons, as defined by the committee, be eligible to attend Kellerman Lectures, except where the committee determines otherwise on a case-by-case basis.' Carried.
- ◆ D Slater reported that the Travelling Gavel was in either Adelaide or Darwin.

The Treasurer, A Walker, advised that the Accounts were not yet prepared, but would be circulated to Affiliate Lodges as soon as possible

It was moved C. Heywood, seconded A. Walker, that the written, pre-circulated reports of the President, Secretary and Editor, as attached to these minutes, be taken as read and adopted. Carried. [copies of these reports are

included in this issue of *Harashim*.]

The meeting confirmed that the 10th ANZMRC Conference would be held in Western Australia in 2010, and approved the establishment of a Conference bank account for that purpose.

As reported in Issue 44 of *Harashim*, it was agreed that instead of obtaining a visiting lecturer from outside of the local jurisdiction for 2009, Peter Verrall (WA) would tour New Zealand, and Kerry Nicholls (New Zealand Kellerman Lecturer for 2006) would tour Australia.

RWBro Rodney Grosskopff (South Africa) was appointed ANZMRC touring lecturer for 2011.

After the election of officers for 2008–2010 and necessary appointments, Ed Robinson reported on the ANZMRC Catalogue and Digital Library projects (see separate article), and he was authorised to continue the projects.

On the motion of Kent Henderson and Colin Heyward, it was determined that in future Kellerman Lectures should be of one hour duration, with an additional 30 minutes for comments and questions.

A minute of appreciation to the outgoing Secretary, Kent Henderson, was recorded on the motion of Harvey Lovewell and Andy Walker.

ANZMRC Executive Changes

Peter Verrall was *elected* President, having previously served in that office by *appointment* since President Max Webberley died in office in March 2007. (It promises to be an eventful term of office for Peter; in 2009 he will make a lecture tour of New Zealand, and in 2010 will chair the 10th biennial conference of ANZMRC in his home town of Mandurah, Western Australia.) David Ganon OAM, the 2008 Kellerman Lecturer for Western Australia, joins the ANZMRC committee as conference convener for the 2010 event.

Graham Stead (Qld), having served as

(continued on page 4)

President's Corner



Although I am writing this article at the end of 2008 to meet the *Harashim* deadline, you will read this in the New Year. I wish you all a very rewarding and healthy twelve months and hope that you enjoy the Masonic activities in which you take part. If you are organising activities in your lodge, try to ensure that they are stimulating and enjoyable for your fellow Masons.

Our main ANZMRC activity this year will be a new venture: instead of having one touring lecturer, we will have two, with an interchange between Australia and New Zealand. This 'in house' activity will give us the opportunity of hearing and seeing the local talent, of cementing the Masonic bond between our two countries and, I hope, reducing the travelling costs. Very soon the various member lodges of the ANZMRC will receive information about the two lecturers and the selection of presentations that they offer. The larger the number of lodges that participate, the more brethren will have the opportunity to hear about Freemasonry. In order to facilitate arrangements for the two tours, please ensure that your lodge makes an early decision not only to participate but also to select the presentation that you would like to receive.

Those of you who attended our Biennial Conference in October will already be aware that the 2010 Conference is to be held in Mandurah, south of Perth, Western Australia, from Friday 3rd to Monday 6th September inclusive. The extra day will allow us not only to reduce the number of lectures each day but also to have the opportunity to hear and meet our outstanding keynote speaker from England, WBro Yasha Beresiner GLR (EC), who was both the touring ANZMRC Lecturer and a Special Kellerman Lecturer in 2000. He will be accompanied by his wife, Zmira. Arrangements are well under way to make it a Conference 'with a difference', and it is hoped that a good contingent of Masons and their wives will attend from South East Asia, South Africa and the United States. The timing has also been chosen so that those who wish can see the marvellous wildflowers and spectacular sights of Western Australia. If you wish to be kept informed about the 2010 Conference and the opportunities to see our lovely state, please email me at pverrall@q-net.net.au, or the Conference Convener, David Ganon, at yganon@bigpond.net.au.

We are hoping that Affiliate Lodges of all jurisdictions will contribute Kellerman lectures on this occasion. *Now* is the time for brethren to submit the titles and synopses of their prospective lectures for selection. It is only one year before final selections have to be in the hands of our Secretary, *so please get cracking!*

Peter Verrall



Musical chairs—Kent Henderson and Colin Heyward exchange jobs as Secretary and Assistant Secretary, while Graham Stead moves back to his old job of Treasurer, and Andy Walker moves up to senior Vice President.

(continued from page 3)

Immediate Past President, resumed his earlier role as Treasurer when Andy Walker (NSW & ACT) relinquished that office to become senior vice president. The other vice presidents are Charles Miller (NZ), re-elected, and Ian Green, 2008 Kellerman Lecturer for Tasmania, newly elected.

Kent Henderson (Vic), foundation Secretary, stood down after 16 years continuous service in that office, but agreed to serve the next two years as Assistant Secretary. Colin Heyward (NZ Kellerman Lecturer 2008) was elected Secretary. Richard Num (SA) was re-elected Information Officer (aka webmaster).

Tony Pope was re-appointed editor, and Alan Gale was appointed assistant editor. Les Keane was appointed auditor.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present this report to you as President of the ANZMRC.

At the last Biennial Conference in Ballarat in October 2006 the last thing on my mind was that I would be in this position today. On that occasion, our incoming president, RW Bro Max Webberley, was his usual bustling self and the following month I had the opportunity to catch up with him in Perth at the time of the Grand Installation of the Grand Lodge of Western Australia.

It was a shock to all of us when we heard of his sudden death in March 2007 and I am sure we will miss his presence today. Max was the inaugural Kellerman Lecturer for Tasmania in 1992 and gave a second Lecture at Brisbane in 2000. In 2004 in New Zealand he was elected a Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand Masonic Research Council in recognition of his great contribution to Freemasonry in general and to the Council in particular.

It is perhaps a time to pause and to remember the other Kellerman lecturers who have gone to the Grand Lodge above. Also in 2007 we lost the 1996 Kellerman Lecturer RWBro Robert Linford OBE from NSW and ACT. Other deceased Kellerman Lecturers include Arthur Astin (1999), Harry Kellerman (2000) after whom the lecture is named and Brian Burton (2008) from NSW and ACT, Bill Gibson (2002) and Guy Palliser (2004) from NZ, Brian Palmer (1998) and Jim Hughes (2000) from Queensland and Ron Cook (2000) from Victoria. Their contributions to our organisation are certainly recognised.

The international Lecture Tour by RWBro Jim Daniel PJGW, PGSec (EC)

from England started off with his arrival at Perth Airport just after midnight on 29 September 2007. Luckily his host was there to meet him because another brother who had arrived earlier, went to sleep in his car and awoke several hours after the flight's arrival. Jim delivered a total of 18 lectures in 45 days and covered a distance of about 5000 kilometres. No mean feat! Is it any wonder that Jim, in his 'The Daniel Report' printed in the April 2008 *Harashim*, asked us to consider three questions,

1. Who is research for ?
2. What are the advantages of conducting and delivering research ?
3. How many of today's research lodges are sailing under false colours ?

Jim did not have the answers but he considered that they should be addressed again in both hemispheres. I think this is very relevant and I hope we will have the opportunity to have some discussion when we consider matters surrounding the lecture tours due in 2009 and 2011.

We must again express our appreciation to 'The Few' who run the Council in the time between our Biennial Conferences. In my last 'President's Corner' I wrote that we have no central headquarters, no regular meeting place and generally we only see each other every two years. Yet it is most important that if we are to survive, and I consider that we are one of the most important constituents of Freemasonry, we must get support from all the Research Lodges and act as a united body.

We must support 'The Few' in every way by our quick responses on matters raised by our Secretary, Kent Henderson and Assistant Secretary Colin Heywood, by contributions to 'Harashim' through our Editor Tony Pope and by supporting the Host Biennial Committees.

Without the backroom work carried out by these brethren (and you need have been in one of these offices to appreciate what they do) we could very easily fade away into Masonic obscurity. We are sometimes more inclined to criticize than to praise. Let us this year and for future years take the latter course.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve you as President.

Peter Verrall

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Council has enjoyed a prosperous period over the last two years. Administration has flowed smoothly,

and I am grateful to the various lodge secretaries, and members of the Committee, who have contributed.

Harashim continues to be one of the many strengths of the Council, thanks to the untiring efforts of our Editor, Tony Pope. The distribution of *Harashim* as a PDF file by email continues to prove popular, and has clearly reduced printing and postage costs to the Council.

I suggest then time has come to seriously reduce numbers of the printed version of *Harashim*. I recommend that each Affiliate and Associate receive only *one* printed copy in future, and that each edition be placed on the ANZMRC website in downloadable form.

It is great to see that nearly all New Zealand Research Lodges are now Affiliate Members of the Council, and we must thank Colin Heyward for his unrelenting efforts in achieving this. He has one more to get, but I understand this is imminent!

We have challenges ahead. Some of our member lodges are not particularly healthy, and they will need all the support other Research Lodges can give them in the years to come.

My sincere thanks to those many that have assisted me in my role over the last two years, their assistance has been greatly appreciated.

I have been the (only!) Secretary of the Council since its inception in 1992 – I have thus served in the role for sixteen years – not quite as long as the sentence one would get for murder, but nearly.

While I am happy to serve again in a capacity, I think the time has come for a new Secretary to take up the reins. I certainly wish him, and all other members of the new Committee, every success.

Kent Henderson

EDITOR'S REPORT

Editing and publishing are by no means exempt from Murphy's Law, as this report will indicate. The report refers to each ANZMRC publication since the last Conference, and to two other matters: the need for an Assistant Editor with a view to replacement of the present editor; and a small public relations exercise in 2007.

Masonic networks & connections

Jim Daniel has made a study of a particular period of English Masonic history which affected Freemasonry globally, and continues to affect relationships between Grand Lodges. In organising the Daniel tour and making

both new and previously published work available in one volume, ANZMRC has made a significant contribution to Masonic research in the English-speaking world. This was achieved by the publication of *Masonic networks & connections* by ANZMRC, and subsequently also by the Library and Museum of Freemasonry (London).

At 344 pages (including preliminary matters and the index) this is by far the largest book we have published, and the first for which I have no serious self-criticism. I took the unfinished work with me when I went overseas in April 2007, remaining in contact with the author, and completed the draft while in America. I had a technical problem with converting the work to PDF format for the printer, but this was solved by Brent Morris and his DTP specialist. Upon my return to Australia there was a slight delay in the printing, but the end result was pleasing.

ANZMRC sold the digitised text to the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, which published the English edition a few weeks after the completion of the lecture tour. The Director, Diane Clements, added portraits and other images copyright by the Library and Museum, which, together with a more imaginative cover design, resulted in an even better book.

Harashim

Publication of *Harashim* suffered a hiatus in 2007, when I left it in the hands of the Assistant Editor, who was unable to produce any issues of the newsletter during the year. Ultimately, the responsibility is mine. Publication was resumed in 2008 with four issues of 16 pages each. Worldwide circulation in PDF format has increased, and the initial problems with conversion to PDF format have been resolved. With the acquisition of new software and the application of a little imagination, the appearance may be improved next year.

ANZMRC Proceedings 2008

Murphy struck again with the printing of the current *Proceedings*. I converted the edited text into PDF format and then proofed the whole PDF file. Layout and all images were satisfactory, and I mailed the PDF file on CD for printing. When I received an advance copy of the bound book, the first page of the first Kellerman Lecture was the disaster which you will all have seen on page 5 of the book. At that stage there was little option but to grin and bear it; to scrap the book and reprint and rebind it would have doubled the cost of production.

I can only apologise to readers and to the author whose work was spoiled.

Collected Kellerman Lectures 1992–04

The first cycle of ANZMRC conferences commenced in Victoria in 1992 and was completed in New Zealand in 2004. Subsequently it was decided to publish a collection of all the Kellerman Lectures of this period, making them available on CD, with a limited edition in hard copy.

I arranged the lectures by jurisdiction, re-formatted and re-proofed them, and then requested members of the committee to obtain biographical details and photographs of authors in their jurisdictions, to supplement those already in my possession. In many instances, the committee members were unable to assist. This left the text incomplete, and therefore I could not commence indexing. Technically, the CD version does not require an index because the Adobe Reader program contains a 'find' function, but the printed version demands an index.

Therefore I have entirely removed the biographies and photos already placed in the text, rather than leave this aspect incomplete, and have supplied the Secretary with a PDF file for publication on CD. It contains a short preface, a table of contents, all the Kellerman Lectures for the period 1992–2004, and an illustrated history of ANZMRC (basically, a paper I presented in PowerPoint format at Walter F Meier Lodge of Research and other American lodges in 2007).

The print version has been put on hold. I will do my own research to obtain the missing biographies and then compile an index. The result will be well over 500 pages of A4 size, and may require to be split into two or three volumes. I recommend that it be spirally bound, like the *Proceedings*, with a first printing of 20 copies.

So that a similar problem does not arise after the second cycle of ANZMRC conferences, I suggest that future Kellerman Lecturers be required to submit suitable photographs and biographical details with their papers. I will ask 2006 and 2008 Lecturers for similar material, and will archive it with their lectures.

That trip

My trip around the world in 2007 was primarily for personal reasons, but I took the opportunity to make contact with Masonic researchers wherever possible, and carried with me a PowerPoint presentation on the history of ANZMRC, and a CD containing: issues 1–40 of

Harashim, a personal selection of Kellerman Lectures from each jurisdiction, and a few other items, all in PDF format. I deposited copies of the CD (copyright ANZMRC 2007) for libraries of the following:

Alexandria-Washington Lodge 22 VA
Cape Masonic Research Association,
South Africa
Daylight Lodge of the Arts 232 WA
George Washington National
Masonic Memorial
Grand Lodge of Canada in the
Province of Ontario
Grand Lodge of France
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
Grand Lodge of South Africa
Grand Lodge of the District of
Columbia
Grand Lodge of Washington
House of the Temple (Scottish Rite
SJ)
Lodge of the Nine Muses 1776 DC
Maryland Masonic Research Society
Philalethes Society
Phylaxis Society
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Arizona
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Maryland
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ontario
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the
District of Columbia
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Washington
Toronto Society for Masonic
Research
Vancouver Masonic Center, WA
Walter F Meier Lodge of Research
281 WA

On my return to Australia I supplied a copy of the CD to Kent Henderson so that he could make a similar distribution on his speaking tour of North America later that year.

Assistant and replacement

Once again I will belabour the obvious: I need either a replacement or an assistant with a view to becoming my replacement. There was a time, in the second half of 2007, when I thought I had the ideal assistant/replacement, an experienced New Zealand editor. Unfortunately, he made the decision to devote his time to other pursuits.

I have another prospective assistant with a view to replacement and I will submit his name for approval.

In any event, please note that I wish to retire as editor, completely, by 2012 at the latest. Of course, the meeting may decide to retire me forthwith, in which case I shall be happy to assist my successor in any way he requires.

Tony Pope



World News

Much ado . . .

The Grand Lodge of New York has withdrawn recognition from the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia because DC has chartered a lodge in Lebanon, and the Grand Lodge of Scotland has supported New York by instructing Scottish Masons not to visit the DC lodge in Lebanon, and not to admit that lodge's members to Scottish lodges.

There are 20 or more Grand Lodges in Lebanon, some having only one lodge each, and none of them recognised by mainstream Grand Lodges. Scotland first chartered a lodge in Lebanon in 1862, which ceased work in 1895, and now has five lodges on its rolls, the oldest dating from 1900. New York first chartered lodges in Lebanon in 1924, and also a lodge in Syria the same year. New York has chartered a further eight lodges in Lebanon, the most recent being a research lodge, Veritas, in 1993. The New York lodges were placed under a District Grand Lodge of Syria–Lebanon. From time to time, New York has found it necessary to suspend the operation of its lodges in Lebanon, and it is difficult to ascertain how many of the ten NY lodges are working at present because the website of the District Grand Lodge (<http://www.masoun-loubnan.org>) has been 'down' for some time, but at least

one is suspended. The Regular Grand Lodge of Italy (GLRI) has chartered five lodges in Lebanon, forming them into a District Grand Lodge of Lebanon. Scotland recognises GLRI, but NY and DC do not. For further details about Lebanon prior to 2000, see volume 2 of *Freemasonry Universal*.

In recent years, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia has been active in chartering lodges and sponsoring Grand Lodges in eastern Europe. DC has members of Lebanese origin in Washington, including Grand Secretary Mansour Hatefi, PGM, and 2008 GM Akram Elias, and also some DC members who have returned to Lebanon. Some of the DC members in Lebanon held plural membership in NY lodges in Lebanon. GM Elias granted a dispensation for Ahiram Lodge 1000 in Beirut, consecrated its temple in August 2008, and issued its charter in October, with Maurice Feghali as WM and Elias Feghali as Secretary. Both these brethren were also members of lodges under the New York DGL of Syria–Lebanon. GM Edward Gilbert of NY states (in a decree dated 5 November 2008) that the brothers Feghali were 'under lawful suspension of the Grand Lodge' of New York at the time Ahiram Lodge was chartered by DC. GM Elias counters (on 10 November 2008 in the DC magazine



Ahiram Lodge, Beirut, Lebanon

The Voice of Freemasonry, vol 25 #3 p6) that both brethren demitted from their NY lodges, on 23 June and 21 April 2008 respectively, prior to the formation of Ahiram Lodge.

GM Elias completed his term of office in December, and was succeeded by Dr Kwame Acquah, the first black Grand Master of a US mainstream grand lodge. GM Acquah is a member of Sojourner Kilwinning Lodge 1798 DC, and hails originally from Ghana, West Africa. He is a lawyer, with a PhD in Management, and used to be legal counsel for the *Masonic Globe*.

More on North Carolina

Following the recognition of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina by the mainstream Grand Lodge of North Carolina last September (reported in Issue 44 of *Harashim*), the two Grand Lodges held a formal signing ceremony in the old House chambers in the state capitol at Raleigh. Before a large gathering of Masons and friends, the two Grand Masters signed the accord on the table where North Carolina's resolution to secede from the Union was signed in 1860.

The United Grand Lodge of England extended recognition to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina in December.

What we did not know, when reporting events in the last issue of *Harashim*, was that at the close of the session of the mainstream Grand Lodge, Joseph Adegboyega, the first Black WM of a lodge under the mainstream Grand Lodge of North Carolina, was selected to give the *Closing Charge*, which is given at the end of all lodge and Grand Lodge



GM Gilbert (NY)



GM Elias (DC)



GM Acquah (DC)



Joseph Adegboyega delivering the Closing Charge at the conclusion of the Annual Communication of the (mainstream) Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

photo courtesy of the North Carolina Mason



The big guys, GMs Fitch and Cash, and the littlest witness, at the signing ceremony.

photos from the website of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge



meetings; the words of this very moving charge have been supplied by the editor of the *North Carolina Mason*:

Charge at Closing

Brethren—We are now about to quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mix again with the world. Amidst its concerns and employments, forget not the duties which you have heard so frequently inculcated, and so forcibly recommended, in this Lodge. Be diligent, prudent, temperate, discreet. Remember that, around this altar, you have promised to befriend and relieve every brother who shall need your assistance. You have promised, in the most friendly manner, to remind him of his errors, and aid a reformation. These generous principles are to extend further. Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good unto all. Recommended it more especially “to the household of the faithful.” Finally, brethren, be ye all of one mind; live in peace; and may the God of love and peace delight to dwell with and bless you.



English Research Centenary

The Manchester Association for Masonic Research (MAMR) will celebrate its centenary in May this year with a presentation by John Wade of his Prestonian Lecture for 2009, ‘Go, and do thou likewise: English Masonic processions from the 18th to the 20th centuries’.

The Association has a webpage on the website of the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Lancashire, and announces a full programme of events for 2009, at <http://www.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk/pages/bodies/bodiesmamr.htm>.

For the benefit of any brethren who may plan to visit the UK this year, and as an example for ANZMRC research

lodges of how to plan and present an annual research programme, it is reproduced here in full, with permission of Provincial Webmaster Chris Butterfield, PPrJGW:

Programme for 2009

All meetings held at Freemasons’ Hall, Bridge Street, Manchester M33BT

Tuesday 27 January 5.45 pm

Installation and Inaugural Address

Roderick Hildegard Baxter: Architect and prime leader of MAMR

WBro Robert S C Mitchell, PSGD, PAProvGM

R H Baxter was the most active and able Masonic researcher and lecturer in East Lancashire during the first two decades of the Manchester Association for Masonic Research. He applied high standards and a critical eye to everything he touched. Elected WM of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No 2076 in 1922, and appointed Prestonian Lecturer in 1927 (these jointly being regarded as the highest accolades in English Masonic scholarship), his qualities and career are long overdue for appreciation.

Wednesday 25 March at 5.45 pm

Freemasonry in Ireland

RtWBro Robert T Bashford

Bob Bashford is the leading light of The Lodge of Research No CC, and of the Irish Chapter of Research No 222, Dublin. He edits both their Transactions. Archivist and librarian of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim, he also manages to work for a living. Such is his enthusiasm that he manages to combine a close and quizzical eye for detail with remarkable panæsthesia when it comes to Irish Masonic history. This suits the subject well. Come and enjoy it (and believe what you may)

Wednesday 27 May (whole or part-day proceedings)

Centenary of the foundation of the Manchester Association for Masonic Research

Guided visits to the superb Chetham and Rylands Libraries in Manchester will be available in the morning. After an informal lunchtime, celebration of the Centenary will commence at 2 pm. This will include talks by several rare world-class speakers. In the evening there will be a chance to hear the 2009 Prestonian Lecturer, WBro John Wade (himself a vice-president of MAMR) on the topic of ‘Masonic Processions’.

Ladies will be welcome throughout the day (this is 2009!) and may find the occasion of more than usual interest!

(continued on page 12)

ANZMRC Digital Library

The ANZMRC digital library is the brainchild of Ed Robinson, editor of the *Transactions of Wellington Lodge of Research*.

The original intention in 2003 was to develop a catalogue of research papers published by Australian and New Zealand research lodges, enabling users to ascertain what local Masonic literature had been published, by whom, and where it could be accessed either gratis or for a fee. Ed Robinson and Colin Heyward were authorised at the 2004 ANZMRC Conference to seek material from the lodges and to develop the concept.

Some research lodges co-operated by providing digitised full text, and others were able to provide only paper copies.

Ed extracted information from both types of copy, building a database of authors, subjects, titles, publishers and keywords. He soon realised that he was also acquiring the material for an inter-jurisdictional library of full-text papers which would give researchers better and quicker access, and therefore he began the parallel project of the digital library. To house and organise this library, Ed selected the 'Greenstone Library' system, which is a suite of open-source multilingual software for building and distributing digital library collections, and provides a means of organising information and publishing it on CD-ROM or on an Internet website.

Progress was reported at the 2006 conference, and continuation of both projects was approved. See also 'How to avoid re-inventing the wheel' in Issue 41 of *Harashim*.

In November 2007 CDs were distributed to secretaries of all affiliates, with a request for evaluation and reports. There were few responses, but there were reports that the system did not work on Macs and the CD did not install correctly on operating systems other than Windows. Nevertheless, Ed continued with both projects, and produced a CD containing Edition 1 of the Masonic Digital Library, Greenstone software, and Edition 1 of the ANZMRC Catalogue. This was made available gratis to contributing lodges and their members, and was available for purchase by others at the 2008 conference.

The contributors to Edition 1 of the digital library are: ANZMRC (*Proceedings, Harashim*, 368 items), Hawke's Bay Research Lodge (*Transactions*, 221), Research Lodge of New South Wales (*Proceedings*, 10), Research Lodge of Wellington (*Transactions*, 759), South Australian Lodge of Research (*Masonic Research in South Australia*, 75), Waikato Lodge of Research (*Transactions*, 210), and other NZ sources (*New Zealand Craftsman*, Grand Lecturers, F G Northern's book *History of the Grand*

Lodge of New Zealand 1890–1969, 41 files).

The research lodges of Otago and Western Australia have subsequently supplied material which will be included in a second edition in 2009. It is essential that new material for the library be submitted in *digitised* form by the contributing Affiliate. ANZMRC does not have the staff or the time to scan or key in new material.

The current CD is self-installing, providing the option of downloading the full collections to a computer if there is room on the hard disk. If all elements of the CD are downloaded, it is not necessary to insert the CD again, to access papers; the papers are readable when using a browser such as Internet Explorer or Firefox, even when not connected to the Internet. If the library files are not downloaded, it is necessary to insert the CD each time.

The library papers themselves can be stored on a CD (as the first edition papers are) or they can be stored on a website and accessed each time via the Internet. CDs are cheap to produce but limited in capacity, and need replacement as the material increases, whereas a website can be expensive but provides more storage capacity and can be readily updated by the webmaster as new papers become available. This was explained by Ed Robinson at the 2008 biennial general meeting, which authorised him and Secretary Colin Heyward to investigate options for use of a website, including seeking co-operation from the Grand Lodges in Australia and New Zealand.

Consequently, the Secretary has written to each of the Grand Lodges, explaining the system and seeking their participation. The letter includes an appendix outlining desirable features of the venture, as follows:

1.1 The home pages for the collection will appear to the user as an ANZMRC web page, and the collections will be able to be accessed from the ANZMRC homepage (<http://www.anzmmc.org/>). We would encourage links to the



Ed Robinson

collections from other Masonic websites.

- 1.2 Only Freemasons authorised by ANZMRC or its appointed representatives shall have access to the Masonic Digital Library, although the Catalogue may be available to a wider group (such as all Freemasons in a recognised constitution). Access would be by an initial password sent to an approved email address on registration (or similar standard system). Members of Lodges that are participating publishers in the Digital Library would have access while they remain members; other individual Freemasons may be authorised for limited periods (e.g. a year) by subscription. In some cases identification of those persons may be able to be arranged through current Grand Lodge systems.
- 1.3 It may be desirable to have the collections hosted in each of Australia and New Zealand for cost reasons.
- 1.4 Updates to the collection would be no greater than once a month, but more probably less frequently.
- 1.5 The 'look and feel' of the 1st Edition is functional and adequate but could be improved. It is possible that more efficient updating of the collections (including re-indexing) could be achieved through selection of a different indexing package within Greenstone (e.g. Lucene rather than MGPP). ANZMRC does not currently have the technical skills available to consider these matters.
- 1.6 The basis of charging for access to the collections is yet to be developed, and will depend on costs that need to be met, but is likely to be by annual subscription, with participating ANZMRC member lodges being charged in 'bulk', and other individuals paying a higher fee. Another alternative is that sponsorship be sought (possibly from Australasian Grand Lodges) for either or both initial development and ongoing management.
- 1.7 It would be desirable if Edition 2 of the collections was available online by June 2009 or earlier, but actual timing may depend on costs and resources of both ANZMRC and supplier.

The hope is that the request will be discussed at a meeting of Grand Masters in March 2009.

Africa's Freemasons: A strange inheritance

by Claude Wauthier, translated by Barbara Wilson

A European import, Freemasonry is remarkably widespread in both French and English-speaking Africa, as it is in Latin America and the United States. Freemasonry is often to be found close to the centres of power. Simon Bolivar and President Roosevelt were both Masons; and in Gabon, President Omar Bongo is their *éminence grise*. African Freemasons often seek to act as mediators in the frequent crises accompanying the current democratisation of the continent.

In Congo-Brazzaville, the former president, Denis Sassou Nguesso, and his successor, Pascal Lissouba, are both Freemasons, although they belong to different chapters of the order. Mr Lissouba is an initiate of the Grand Orient of France while Mr Sassou Nguesso belongs to a Senegalese lodge affiliated to the French Grand National Lodge. After the recent clashes of armed militia in the capital, French and African Freemasons of the Grand Lodge of France, the United Grand Lodge of Côte d'Ivoire and the Grand Orient and United Lodges of Cameroon joined forces in an attempt to restore peace, though their efforts have not so far met with success (1). This is, nevertheless, a revealing instance of the Freemasons' influence in French-speaking Africa.

The Grand Orient established its first lodge at Saint-Louis in Senegal in 1781 and, as a consequence, the names of a number of distinguished Freemasons are to be found in the history of French colonial rule. First came two proponents of the abolition of slavery: the Abbé Grégoire at the time of the French Revolution, followed by Victor Schoelcher, a junior minister for the navy under the Second Republic, who was instrumental in obtaining the final abolition of slavery in 1848 after its restoration by Napoleon I (2). Then, Algeria's Emir Abdel Kader was admitted to the Grand Orient in 1864 as a mark of gratitude for his protection of the Damascus Christians during the 1860 massacres, when he was in exile in Syria.

The great French empire builder, Jules Ferry, was also a Freemason and so was the colonial governor, Félix Eboué, a Black from French Guiana, who rallied Chad to the Free French cause in 1940, leading the whole of French Equatorial Africa and Cameroon to support General de Gaulle at a time when the Vichy Government was introducing laws against masons and Jews.

There were a good many Freemasons (or members of the 'brotherhood of light' as it is sometimes known) in the French colonial administration. After the second world war, most of them campaigned for independence for the French overseas territories in Africa and more and more Africans joined the lodges. After 1960, the great year for independence, Freemasonry continued to spread, acquiring an African identity and losing its ties with the French chapters. National chapters were established in a number of French-speaking African countries but they retained fairly close links with the French chapters, sometimes even reflecting the divisions between them.

Freemasonry is known for being multifarious, divided even, and perhaps more so in France than elsewhere (3). The clearest division is between the Grand Orient and the other lodges. Unlike the other rites, the Grand Orient does not invoke the 'Great Architect of the Universe', that is to say God, in its constitution and its members do not swear on the Bible. The Grand Lodge of France and the French Grand National Lodge both recognise the 'Great Architect', but the latter is the only one to be recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England, the parent chapter of the order worldwide.

French Freemasons continue to take an interest in Africa. Under the Fifth Republic, at least two Freemasons were in charge of the ministry for cooperation, the Socialist Christian Nucci of the Grand Orient and the Gaullist Jacques Godfrain of the Grand Lodge of France (4). Guy Penne, adviser on African affairs to François Mitterrand during his term as president between 1981-86, is a member of the Grand Orient. And Ambassador Fernand Wibaux, President Chirac's personal adviser on African affairs (along with the late Jacques Foccart), is an initiate of that chapter.

Generally speaking, the national

chapters in French-speaking African countries are the fruit of a merger between the lodges of the Grand Orient and the Grand Lodge of France, established before independence. This is true of the Grand Equatorial Rite of Gabon, the Grand Orient and United Lodges of Cameroon, and the Grand Orient and Associated Lodges of Congo and Benin. In Gabon, however, in addition to the Grand Equatorial Rite of Gabon, there is also a Grand National Lodge affiliated to the French Grand National Lodge. In Côte d'Ivoire, there are a number of different chapters, including the Grand United Lodge and the Grand Eburnie, which are close to the Grand Lodge of France and the Grand Orient respectively. In Togo, there are lodges affiliated to the Grand Orient and the Grand Lodge of France.

In Senegal, the lodges of the Grand Orient and the Grand Lodge of France have also kept their affiliations, but the French Grand National Lodge is also represented. The Freemasons of Togo and Senegal have not established a national chapter, apparently because they are afraid it might be infiltrated by the regime and used for its own ends, as has sometimes happened in other countries.

However that may be, most of the chapters that are linked to a greater or lesser degree with the Grand Orient and the Grand Lodge of France participate in the REHFRAMS (African and Madagascan humanist and fraternal meetings) which have been held in an African capital every year since 1992 and to which those French lodges are invited. There were 400 delegates at the meeting at Libreville in Gabon in 1996 and 600 at Cotonou in Benin in 1997, including representatives from several countries in Europe.

The African lodges affiliated to the French Grand National Lodge, which is on its own in this respect, do not take part in these meetings. The Lodge has

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

increased its membership in Black Africa in recent years and its progress, as the only French chapter recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England and by Freemasonry in America, is a source of annoyance to the other French lodges where it is regarded by some members as a covert means of extending Anglo-American influence in Africa – an imputation that is hotly denied.

None of the lodges in former British colonies are invited to the REHFRAMS (they too are divided into chapters linked with the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland respectively). This is the case, for example, in Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Uganda. On the other hand, the Grand Orient of Zaire, an emanation of the Grand Orient of Belgium, does take part in these humanist and fraternal meetings between lodges in French-speaking Africa.

Persecution

Freemasons have always attracted enemies, often of a somewhat nefarious kind, and this is perhaps their best claim to the high moral ground. The most violent and inveterate of these was Hitler, locked in combat against an imaginary Judeo-masonic plot. Freemasonry was also outlawed under the fascist dictatorships of Mussolini, Franco, Salazar and Pinochet.

At the other extreme, the communists, too, were hostile, at least in the early years. In 1922, the French Communist Party ratified the decision of the Fourth Congress of the Communist International to exclude Freemasons, and French communists were effectively obliged to choose between Freemasonry and membership of the party (5). More recently, Islamists, too, have formally declared their opposition to the order.

The Vatican's position has changed substantially over the years. The Catholic Church first condemned Freemasonry in 1738. This was essentially the work of Pope Clement XII, whose hostility to the 'brotherhood of light' came to a head at the time of the movement to separate Church and State. Despite a certain stand-off in the battle between clergy and laity – Freemasons are no longer excommunicated – the lodges are still suspect in the eyes of hardline Catholics. In 1983, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith again proclaimed that practising Freemasons were 'in a state of grievous sin'. It was against this background that Freemasonry was banned and masons persecuted in many African countries.

The worst persecution of African Freemasons occurred in 1963 in Côte d'Ivoire, when President Félix Houphouët-Boigny imagined himself to be the target of a series of plots. This was reason enough for getting rid of the leaders of the left wing of the Democratic Party – the only party in Côte d'Ivoire at the time – who were suspected of communist sympathies. Many of those accused were Freemasons, most of them members of the Grand Orient, notably Jean-Baptiste Mockey, Jean Konan Banny, Amadou Thiam and Ernest Boka. They were humiliated, beaten and tortured, sometimes in the presence of the president himself, at Yamoussoukro. Ernest Boka died in detention. Freemasonry, including the Grand Lodge of France, was outlawed.

However, in 1971 the president himself issued a solemn public statement, acknowledging that the 1963 plots had been a pure fabrication and laying the blame on an obscure police inspector. The accused were rehabilitated and some of them, for example Jean-Baptiste Mockey, were even reinstated as ministers. The Ivorian lodges were revived in the early 1970s after Pierre Biarnès, an initiate of the Grand Orient and West African correspondent for *Le Monde* at the time, approached Mr Houphouët at the request of Fred Zeller, then Grand Master of that chapter of the order (6).

In the former Zaire, President Mobutu outlawed Freemasonry when he took power in 1965, but reinstated it in 1972. In Madagascar, President Didier Ratsiraka prohibited the movement during his first term of office, at a time when he had Marxist leanings (though he was married to a Catholic). But it has become very active again in the island since the shift to democracy in the run-up to the election of President Albert Zafy in 1993. A Madagascan Grand National Lodge was established in 1996 under the auspices of the French Grand National Lodge and in competition with the Grand Rite of Madagascar, which had close links with the Grand Orient.

With the advent of Marxist or proto-Marxist governments under Sékou Touré in Guinea, Modibo Keita in Mali and Mathieu Kérékou in Benin, Freemasonry was outlawed in those countries. Fily Dabo Cissoko and Hammadoun Dicko in Mali and Barry Diawandou and Barry III [*sic*] in Guinea, Freemasons who opposed the regimes in those countries, were arrested and died in detention. In Benin, Guy Penne had to intercede in the

early 1980s, to persuade Mr Kérékou to allow the lodges to reopen.

It was in Liberia, however, that Freemasons suffered the most savage attacks, when Staff Sergeant Samuel Doe seized power in a coup d'état in 1980. For generations, the presidency of the republic and the government had been the preserve of Afro-Americans, generally affiliated to the Grand Order of Black American Freemasons, known as the Prince Hall chapter, and masonic arms were displayed in the presidential palace. President Tolbert, a Freemason like his predecessor William Tubman, was assassinated and all the members of his government were publicly executed on the orders of Samuel Doe.

Islam, too, has Freemasonry in its sights, though this does not prevent Black African Muslims from joining the movement. Christian and Muslim Lebanese established in Africa account for a relatively high proportion of the membership of West African lodges. The reference to the 'Great Architect of the Universe' is highly ecumenical and Muslim Freemasons can therefore, in principle, swear on the Koran, as Jews can on the Torah and Christians on the Bible. One of the most eminent Muslim Freemasons is undoubtedly the President of Gabon, El Hadj Omar Bongo, whose conversion to Islam in 1973 came as a great surprise, the more so as most of the people of Gabon hold either animist or Christian beliefs (7).

In Senegal, Freemasons are to be found in the seats of power despite the fact that the vast majority of the people adhere to the Muslim faith. An Islamist fringe element in the country is violently opposed to Freemasonry. The review *Etudes islamiques* ran the headline: 'No, Muslims cannot be Freemasons' and the periodical *Wal Fadjiri* reprinted an article from the Egyptian review *Al Lewa al Islami* affirming that 'Freemasonry and the Bahai movement, together with the Rotary, Lions and other clubs that serve them, spring from Judaism and are clearly incompatible with Islam'. This hostility does not prevent various chapters from seeking to extend their membership in Muslim countries. Thus the French Grand National Lodge has recently established three lodges in Djibouti, where members swear on the Koran.

Why has Freemasonry flourished in Black Africa? It can of course be argued that Africans have a long acquaintance with secret societies. There are such societies in most village communities, where, according to ethnologists such as

Father Eric de Rosny, they provide an effective counterbalance to the power of the traditional chiefs (8). It is also likely that in colonial times, those Africans – generally members of the intelligentsia – who took up Freemasonry saw it as a means of social advancement, since admission to a lodge placed them on an equal footing with white members of the chapter.

The esoteric and quasi-mystical aspect of the movement also attracted intellectuals such as the great Mali writer Hampaté Ba, a Muslim, who thought it would foster ecumenism and reconciliation between the monotheist religions (9), although he did not remain a Freemason for long.

The chapters of the order naturally cultivate the life of the spirit, but they are also making their mark in the world of action in the present century. The lodges in Africa, as in other continents, mean to participate in national affairs and enter the political arena on occasion, frequently in the role of mediators. A notable instance of this occurred in Benin, at the national conference accompanying the restoration of the multi-party system in 1989, when the Grand Benin Lodge issued a call for tolerance and helped to prevent violent confrontations. The Freemasons of Togo, too, attempted to effect a reconciliation between President Eyadema's Rassemblement populaire du Togo and his opponents, at a meeting organised in Paris in 1993 at the headquarters of the Grand Orient. The president had closed the lodges in 1972, only to allow them to reopen a few years later. No real progress was made at the Paris talks and, as we know, this was also the case recently in Congo-Brazzaville.

Struggle with the Rosicrucians

These excursions into politics naturally cause serious divisions, not only between rival chapters but also between the masons and other organisations more or less closely associated with them, at least in the minds of the public. This was the case in Cameroon, where the masons and the Rosicrucians apparently became embroiled in a struggle for power.

President Paul Biya was long assumed to be a Rosicrucian, a rumour that was lent some credence by the appointment of Titus Edzoa, former minister and Grand Master of the Rosicrucians in Cameroon, as Secretary-General to the Presidency. So it came as a terrific shock in 1996, when Serge Toussaint, the Grand Master of the French branch of the Ancient and

Mystical Order of Rosicrucians, announced in the course of a working visit to Douala that the President's name was not on the roll of the Order. Titus Edzoa left his post in the Presidency a few months later and in 1997 he was arrested in connection with the liquidation of a bank. Meanwhile, the Grand Master of the Rosicrucians had announced his intention of running against Paul Biya in the next presidential elections (10).

The recent REHFRAMs have received wide coverage in the local press and press conferences have been given by African and French Grand Masters, including a joint press conference at Cotonou in 1997, reported in a Benin daily. One of the masonic dignitaries plays down what he describes as the 'misunderstandings' between the Catholic church and Freemasonry, adding, however, that 'with other religions, Protestant and Muslim for example, there is no problem' (11).

However the 1997 REHFRAM was the occasion of a serious confrontation between the Grand Orient of France and the African chapters. The delegation of the Grand Orient took the opportunity to preach French-style secular agnosticism and this brought a strong rejoinder from the Conference of African masonic powers, to which most French-speaking lodges belong. The Conference issued a statement, complaining that Africa had suffered too much interference of every kind and asserting that the REHFRAMs cannot be allowed to become a focus for rivalries, a platform for battles of words, or the object of open or unavowed ambitions to achieve supremacy.

The last warning was essentially directed against the attempt by the Grand Orient to persuade the African chapters to abandon the liaison and information centre of the masonic powers signatories to the Strasbourg appeal, and join the intercontinental liberal masonic association established on the Grand Orient's own initiative. The Grand Orient had itself severed its links with the centre during a meeting at Santiago de Chile in 1996, accusing it of behaving like a 'super-power'. The centre, established in 1961 and currently run by the former Grand Mistress of the Grand Women's Lodge of France, Marie-France Coquard, leaves chapters free to decide whether or not belief in God is to be a condition of membership, but it is critical of Freemasonry in England and America (12) and aims to act more or less as a counterbalance to that tendency. It comprises almost 50 chapters in

Europe, Africa and South America.

The association, which originally included some ten chapters, is even more secular than the centre and the Grand Orient's action at Cotonou should probably be seen in the wider context of French and American rivalry in Africa. However, quite apart from the negative reaction of the African chapters, the Grand Orient's action caused a number of lodges to leave the association and other French lodges made it clear that they shared the view taken by the Conference.

Sociologists will doubtless see the reaction of the Conference and its implicit rejection of the proposals of the secular members of the Grand Orient as evidence that African society is still deeply imbued with religious feeling, be it in the form of traditional, Christian, or Muslim beliefs. But that may be too simple a view. Secularism, as the Grand Orient understands it, does not exclude freedom of conscience, witness the fact that Catholic, Protestant and Muslim Freemasons are admitted to that chapter of the order, an illustration of the somewhat strange attraction exerted by Freemasonry in Africa.

Endnotes

- (1) According to *La Lettre du Continent*, Paris, 3 July 1997.
- (2) The fact that a mason was responsible for the abolition of slavery explains the high incidence of masonry in the West Indies. Its influence is even to be found in voodoo, where masonic signs have sometimes been incorporated in the iconography of the cult, particularly in Haiti.
- (3) See Luc Néfontaine, 'La Franc-maçonnerie – une fraternité révélée', *Découvertes* series, Gallimard, Paris, 1994; Paul Naudon, 'La Franc-maçonnerie', *Que sais-je?* series, PUF, Paris, 1995.
- (4) *L'Express* of 6 May 1995 suggested that Michel Roussin, minister for Cooperation in the Balladur Government, had masonic connections. On the other hand – contrary to certain reports – Charles Josselin, who is a junior minister for cooperation in the Jospin Government, is not a mason.
- (5) The only communist country where Freemasonry has not been outlawed is Cuba, but they say Fidel Castro's father was a mason.
- (6) Pierre Biarnès is a member of the French Senate representing French citizens abroad.
- (7) President Bongo is said to have embraced Islam under the influence of Colonel Gaddafi and with a view to obtaining his country's admission to the

(continued on page 12)



World News

(continued from page 7)

Wednesday 24 September, 5.45 pm

Freemasonry in Scotland

Bro Robert L D Cooper, BA, FSA (Scot)

Bob Cooper, Curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Library and Museum, is currently the leading Scottish Masonic lecturer. As such he was quite recently invited to tour Australia. His latest books have conclusively debunked the pernicious Templar and Rosslyn myths. For all these mercies he is numbered among the august members of the Lodge of the Four Crowned Martyrs, Quatuor Coronati Lodge 2076 (the Masonic saints!) in London.

Tuesday 24 November, 5.45 pm

England: Freemasonry in the Edwardian City

Professor Andrew Prescott

The immediate past Director of the

Centre for Masonic Research at the University of Sheffield retains, very fortunately for us, a continuing warm attachment to the study of Freemasonry and fraternalism as it affects, and is affected by, changes in society. His professional insight, capacious knowledge and astonishing output have set new, and possibly unbeatable, standards in the field. This is Masonic history as Masonic history ought to be, meaningful, readily understandable, illustrative and surprising.

Note: Regalia will be worn at all meetings **except** those during the Centenary of MAMR on 27 May.

Dining: Members, guests and visitors who wish to dine **MUST** notify the General Secretary **NO LATER** than **FOUR** clear days before, enclosing the dining fee of £19 (drinks excluded) per person. Cheques should be made payable to 'MAMR Dining a/c and sent to:

Kevin A Horne, 2 Blackburn Road, Padiham, Burnley, Lancs BB12 8JZ (Tel: 01282 772373)

kevinhorne@lineone.net.

If you are interested in attending or would like further details, please contact manchesterresearch@tiscali.co.uk.

Africa's Freemasons: A strange inheritance

Footnotes

(continued from page 11)

- Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
- (8) Eric de Rosny, 'Les yeux de ma chèvre', Terre humaine series, Plon, Paris, 1981.
- (9) See the following titles by Muriel Devey: 'Hampaté Ba, l'homme de la tradition', Nouvelles éditions africaines, Paris, 1993, and 'Le Temps des marabouts', collected works edited by David Robinson and Jean-Louis Triaud, Karthala, Paris, 1997.
- (10) See *Jeune Afrique*, 9–15 July 1997, and *Libération*, 27 July 1997.
- (11) *Le Citoyen*, Cotonou, 10 February 1997.
- (12) At Strasbourg in 1971, the signatory chapters, including the Grand Orients of France, Belgium and Germany and the Grand Lodges of the Netherlands, Denmark and Italy, attacked 'the dogmatic and conservative attitudes of the masonic movements in England and America', which do not recognise the liaison and information centre of the masonic powers signatories to the Strasbourg appeal.

News in Brief

Scotland

The preliminary programme of the 2nd International Conference on the History of Freemasonry, to be held in Edinburgh on 29–31 May 2009, is now available in PDF format as a download from the Grand Lodge of Scotland website, www.grandlodgescotland.com/, but *not* from the conference website.

If you get past the typos on page one (*Freemasonary* and *Freemassonary*), there are some familiar names within: on the Local Organising Committee, Robert Cooper, Jim Daniel, Andreas Önnersfors; on the Academic Committee, Andrew Prescott, Margaret Jacob, Paul Rich, Aubrey Newman and John Hamill.

Among the speakers from the UK are Diane Clement, Jim Daniel, Andreas Önnersfors, John Acaster, John Belton, Bob Cooper, Matthew Scanlan, Andrew Prescott; from France, Roger Dachez; and from USA, Adam Kendall, Mark Tabbert, Robert Watkins and Paul Rich.

Recycling in Pakistan

In Pakistan, a country where organised Freemasonry no longer exists, a century-old Masonic building in Karachi is being restored—for use as a wildlife museum

and library. Known to the locals as *Jadoo Ghar*, or Magic House, it is said to be in good condition, needing little more than removal of recent accretions and careful cleaning.

Congratulations

David Slater, 2004 Kellerman Lecturer for NSW&ACT, and Preceptor of Canberra Lodge of Research and Instruction (host lodge for the recent ANZMRC Conference) received an early Christmas present—the conferred rank of Past Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies—well deserved.

Irish Jewels

Robert Bashford (aka bobthebuilder), of the Irish Lodge of Research, directs our

attention to www.irishmasonicjewels.ie, the website of WBro Denis McLoughlin, containing hi-res illustrations of Irish jewels of the Craft and other Orders, and all the supporting information you would ever need. It is a useful resource and well worth a visit, or three.

Harashim

This edition is smaller and later than usual, as a result of other duties, Masonic and otherwise. The concluding episode of 'A Masonic Odyssey' will appear in the next issue.

Fortune-cookie Philosophy
Food cures hunger;
study cures ignorance.

Renovating the Masonic lodge, Karachi
photo Daily Times, Pakistan



Grand Lodge of Ireland 275th anniversary jewel
photos by Denis McLoughlin

