



London First Principals Chapter No 2712

The First Fifty Years



E Comp R F B Cross OSM PAGSoj, the founding First Principal of the Chapter.



E Comp R J Race DL PGSN DepMetGSupt(London), the 51st First Principal of the Chapter.

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The First Fifty Years

FOREWORD

*By E Comp R B F Khambatta PG Supt (Pakistan)
First Principal of the Chapter 1982-83*

I am honoured, indeed, to be asked to provide a few words to introduce this history.

London has the “premier” Lodge of Installed Masters – Jubilee Masters Lodge No 2712, consecrated in June 1898 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the accession of Queen Victoria. London had to wait until 1957 for its First Principals Chapter, preceded by others in six provinces. This Chapter was finally conceived and launched by the London Grand Rank Association – an Association which has been in the past, and will continue to be, the bedrock on which London Masonry will prosper.

Consecrated on 23rd July 1957 by the then Scribe E, Sir Sydney White, it had 72 Founders (representing the number sitting in the Sanhedrin). In his oration, Rev Prebendary F W Ferraro commented:

“Most Excellent was a misnomer, as ‘Perfection belongs only to God’ but a better term would ‘Excelsior’ – ‘higher and higher’ . . .

“. . . Companion is a compound word – cum (with) and panis (bread) – one who shares his bread; or, shows friendliness, hospitality and brotherly love”.

E Comp Michael Barnes has truly compiled an enthralling history – difficult to put down – and he has used the subject rather than the date method, which makes easier reading.

I must not hold you back, you will savour the story of dedicated men, year after year, who have not only built an exemplary structure, but for fifty long years, have exemplified the spirit of “Excelsior” and “Companionship”.

At the Consecration convocation, the First Principal of the new Chapter, E Comp R F B Cross, promised:

“(We shall) go forward strengthened, and confident of success”.

When you finish reading this extremely well-written history, you will be able to say that truly, successive Principals, Scribes, Treasurers and Companions have fulfilled this promise.

So, let us wish “Excelsior” for the next fifty years.

AUTHOR’S INTRODUCTION

This 50-year history of the London First Principals Chapter is based largely on information gleaned from minutes of the Chapter’s convocations and Committee meetings, together with that gained through consultation with members of the Sub-Committee set up in 2004 to oversee arrangements for the 50th Anniversary in 2007. Additional information, mainly on the profiles of distinguished companions, was obtained through the good offices of the Grand Lodge Library.

To ensure that this booklet was ready in time to be issued to the companions attending the Fiftieth Anniversary Convocation in September 2007, it was necessary to end the History a few months beforehand. It therefore covers the 50-year period up to and including the May 2007 convocation.

The Author, with the Sub-Committee’s approval, has avoided a single chronological layout, describing a meeting by meeting series of events, in favour of a subject-based structure. In this way, the various aspects of the Chapter’s activities over the years are presented under separate headings, thus allowing the reader to locate particular events of interest more easily.

In order to save space, certain abbreviated forms have been adopted. These are mainly defined within the text, for example, LFP refers to London First Principals. When the term “the Chapter” is used, it is taken to mean the London First Principals Chapter No 2712. The style “Excellent Companion” or “E Comp” has largely been dropped because it applies to nearly all the companions referred to.

At various points in the history *italicised text* appears. This is additional information intended to add clarity to the point being discussed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Author is indebted to the members of the 50th Anniversary Sub-Committee for their guidance and assistance, and especially for reading and commenting on

the proofs and to E Comp Roeinton Khambatta PGSupt (Pakistan), the senior Past First Principal of the Chapter, for kindly writing the Foreword.

The Author also wishes to record his appreciation to Mark Perkins, Scribe E, for his invaluable support in providing additional details for inclusion in the Appendices and to Roger Bathurst, Treasurer, for supplying missing dining figures.

Sincere thanks are also due to Diane Clements, Director of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, Freemasons' Hall, London, and her staff, for the valuable help given in locating much detailed information, which has added considerably to the value of the history.

BACKGROUND

The first Royal Arch Chapter to be styled a "First Principals" Chapter was Essex First Principals Chapter No 3256, founded in 1934. There followed another five, all in the south east of England, before London joined the scene in 1957. This is perhaps rather surprising considering that our sponsoring Lodge, Jubilee Masters, was founded in June 1898, well before the other Masters Lodges. At the time when London First Principals Chapter was consecrated, Jubilee Masters was already preparing to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee. Furthermore, there were 685 Chapters in London at the time the Chapter was consecrated, potentially more than enough First Principals to swell the membership.

It appears that, during the early 1950s, some of the more enterprising members of The London Rank Association (*it became The London Grand Rank Association in 1961*) had put forward a suggestion of forming a "London Chapter Rank Association", to complement the existing Craft one. While this idea failed to produce a favourable response, an alternative suggestion of a First Principals Chapter for London was met with much greater enthusiasm.

BEGINNINGS

A letter from Reginald Cross (*who was to become the Founding First Principal*), dated 9 October 1956, to the Grand Scribe E, read as follows:

"My Dear Grand Scribe E,

A number of Past Principals of Chapters within the London area, most of whom have obtained the high distinction of London Grand Chapter Rank, are desirous of forming a Past Principals Chapter within the London area.

The number of applications to participate are so numerous that it has been decided that the number of founding members should be limited to 72, a significant number in the Royal Arch.

I have been deputed to ask your kind consideration of the project, and have the assurance of those interested as to the excellent future prosperity of the proposed Chapter.

May I therefore respectfully request the issue of ten appropriate forms.

Awaiting your kindly consideration.

*I am,
Yours thoroughly and fraternally
R F B Cross (signed)
Hon Secretary"*

A paper prepared by Augustus Gibson (*the founding Scribe E*), dated November 1956, setting out the aims of the proposed Chapter, its meeting details, and its initial fees, was issued to all petitioners.

The petition was signed by the Master and Wardens of the sponsoring Lodge, Jubilee Masters, at its meeting on 15 March 1957 and the completed petition was submitted to the Grand Scribe E on 4 April. A letter dated 2 May 1957 from the Grand Scribe E notified that the petition had been successful and that the Charter was being prepared.

However, two late applications were approved and added to the petition. These were from Sir Frederick Rowland and Hans Otto Mauerhofer, the latter, in addition to being a member under the English Constitution, was also Grand Scribe E of the National Grand Chapter of Helvetia (*he was in London to sign the petition on 9 July*). This brought the total petitioners to 74. In the event, two petitioners subsequently dropped out, leaving 72 Founders as originally planned.

Evidently the Chapter, from its inception, has been closely associated with the LGRA. The three Principals designate were all Past Presidents of the LGRA and among the other first officers of the Chapter were the President, four other Past Presidents, and several other officers of the Association. More than half the petitioners were also members of the sponsoring Lodge, Jubilee Masters.

An Early Committee

A meeting (*the first for which notes exist*) to discuss the formation of the Chapter was held at 19/21 Great Queen Street, London (*an RMBI office used by Reginald Cross*), on 9 May 1957. There were eleven companions present, including Reginald Cross OSM PAGSoj, the First Principal designate, who presided. There were three apologies for non-attendance.

The Committee were advised that accommodation had been reserved at Freemasons' Hall and at the Connaught Rooms for the Chapter to meet on the last weekday (Saturdays excepted) of January, May and September (*as it does to the present day*).

A letter from Sir Sydney White *KCVO*, Grand Scribe E, was read, fixing Tuesday 28 May 1957 at 11.30 am as a suitable occasion to meet him to arrange a date for the Consecration. The month for the installation meeting would be decided once this date was known. Pending this, a first full meeting of petitioners to discuss the arrangements was set for 30 May.

Various administrative and financial matters were then discussed, including banking arrangements, a locker, and a decision to include the dining fee for guests at the Consecration (2 guineas) in the founders fee. It was also agreed that the first officers would present their collars and jewels of office to the Chapter, suitably inscribed. It was further resolved that a sum not exceeding £50 be taken from Chapter funds to purchase suitable gifts to present to the Consecrating Officer and his team.

Special invitations would be extended to G S Shepherd Jones PAGSoj, Life President of the Aldersgate Chapter of Improvement, and to all First Principals and Scribes E of like Chapters in the Home Counties (*numbering 6*).

Finally, the meeting resolved to leave all further arrangements in the hands of the three Principals designate, the Scribe E and the Treasurer.

The suggested design for the Chapter's crest was submitted for approval on 28 May 1957. The approved crest was affixed to the summons of the Consecration meeting and has appeared on every summons since.

First General Meeting of Petitioners

This meeting, in Conference Room No 1 at Freemasons' Hall, was held on Thursday 30 May 1957 at 4.45 pm, attended by 42 petitioners.

Arising from the meeting on 28 May, Sir Sydney White, Grand Scribe E, had proposed that the date of Consecration should be 23 July 1957, starting at 3.45 pm. It would be held in Temple No 1. The names of the Consecrating Principals would be announced later.

Expressions of gratitude were extended to Jubilee Masters Lodge No 2712 for sponsoring the Chapter and a letter to that effect would be sent to the Lodge.

The following matters were then covered:

Dining fee for the Consecration meeting, originally £2.2.0, should be increased to £2.5.0

Ceremony to commence at 3.45 pm, all seated by 3.30, petitioners to report at 2.30.

List of Principals and first Officers was read and confirmed

Bylaws were approved, with one amendment

Offices in the Chapter were not to be progressive

Joining fee to be £4.4.0 and the fee for Exaltation to be £52.10.0

Reginald Cross expressed his thanks for the support given by the petitioners with such a good attendance.

A vote of thanks and appreciation of the work done by Reginald Cross and Augustus Gibson in forming the Chapter was proposed by P G Hunt on behalf of those present. Sympathy was expressed to Reginald Cross on the sudden passing of his son.

CONSECRATION

The Ceremony

By 3.30 pm on Tuesday 23 July 1957, the companions had assembled in Temple No 1 at Freemasons' Hall awaiting the entry of the Consecrating Officer, Sir Sydney White, Grand Scribe E, and his Assisting Officers.

There were present:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| E Comp Sir Sydney White, <i>KCVO</i> , Grand Scribe E | Cons Officer |
| E Comp Sir Ernest Cooper, <i>DL</i> , PGSN | as H |
| E Comp Rev Preb F W Ferraro, <i>MA BD</i> , PGSN | as J |
| E Comp W S Wigglesworth, PGStB | as Scribe N |
| E Comp D Butler Evans, <i>TD</i> , PDepGDC | as DC |

With E Comp Dr Norman F Smith, PGOrg as Organist

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| E Comp James Young, Grand Janitor | as Janitor |
| E Comp R F B Cross, OSM, PAGSoj | Z designate |
| E Comp J Lawrance, PGStB | H designate |
| E Comp C H Watson, PAGDC | J designate |

Together with 17 Officers designate, 44 other Petitioners, and 216 Visiting Companions. Total attendance 287.

Among the distinguished guests were James W Stubbs DepGSE, the First Principals and Scribes E of the six existing First Principals' Chapters, and nine companions from overseas.

The Consecrating Principals entered the Chapter Room at 3.45 pm, accompanied by Sir George Boag, *KCIE, CSI.*, PGSupt(Madras), President of the Committee of General Purposes.

Addressing the large assembly, Sir Sydney White explained that the new Chapter had two objects in view. Firstly, to afford the opportunity for First Principals and Past First Principals of London Chapters to associate and exchange views on Royal Arch teachings, as it appealed to them individually. The second, and yet more important object, was the educational aspect of passing on to their respective chapters the knowledge they had gained by virtue of their membership.

In his oration, the Reverend Prebendary Francis William Ferraro, expounded on the meanings of the words 'Excellent' and 'Companion', emphasising that these titles were not simply to be accepted but represented ideals that we should continually strive to embrace and practice. He went on to discuss certain references in the ritual to the Old Testament and the importance of the Royal Arch in presenting to us the most exalted views of God. He concluded by drawing attention to the significance of the use of the censer that he was to carry later in the ceremony of Consecration. It was a symbol of silent prayer in which all should join in a solemn act of re-dedication to the service of the Most High.

The Chapter was duly Consecrated, Dedicated and Constituted according to the traditional ceremonial, the solemn ceremony being enhanced by the signing of three anthems by the choir.

Unqualified Companions having retired from the Chapter, the Induction of the Principals designate was proceeded with. Sir Sydney White, duly installed Reginald F B Cross as First Principal; Sir Ernest Cooper, installed John Lawrance as Second Principal; and the Rev Preb F W Ferraro installed Charles H Watson as Third Principal.

All Companions having been re-admitted, the other Officers were invested. The complete list of Founders and First Officers is detailed in Appendix A and some of the more prominent among them are mentioned elsewhere in the history.

The Chapter Bylaws, as previously distributed and agreed, were then adopted, after which the MEZ was presented with the Charter.

On the first rising, the Consecrating Team were elected honorary members of the Chapter. Sir Sydney White, on behalf of the Team, accepted the honour with sincere thanks.

Other business having been concluded the Chapter was closed and subsequently 271 Companions dined in the Grand Hall of the Connaught Rooms.

The Festive Board

The Companions enjoyed a four-course dinner accompanied by Hock and Burgundy and concluded with Coffee, Cognac and Port, at a charge of £2.5.0 a head.

Following the observance of the Loyal Toast and that to the Most Excellent First Grand Principal, ME Comp The Right Honourable the Earl of Scarbrough, the toast to the Grand Officers was proposed by the Scribe E, Augustus Gibson LGCR. In his response, Sir Ernest Cooper, PGSN, President of the Committee of General Purposes and a Past Master of Jubilee Masters, the sponsoring Lodge, congratulated those involved in the pioneering work of founding such a Chapter for London. He emphasised the great responsibility that rested upon the Founders for ensuring that the Chapter fulfilled its objectives and wished the Chapter every success in its endeavours.

In proposing the toast of the Consecrating Officers, Reginald Cross made special mention of the acting Grand Director of Ceremonies, Derek Butler Evans PDepGDC, for his painstaking efforts and patience in the rehearsals and for taking charge so well in the ceremony itself. He congratulated all who had taken part for making it such a memorable occasion and promised that the Founders would spare no effort in making the Chapter an outstanding centre of the Royal Arch, both at home and overseas. In his concluding remarks he presented each of the Consecrating Team with a memento of the day, a silver ashtray personally engraved with their name.

Rising to much applause, Sir Sydney White, on behalf of the Consecrating Officers, thanked the Chapter for the thoughtful gesture. He went on to recommend the Founders to ponder upon the points raised in the Oration and in

his own opening remarks. As the Chapter's work would not include the ceremony of Exaltation, apart from the Installation Convocation, there would be two meetings a year for which work would have to be found, devoted to educational purposes. It was a problem perhaps less easy to solve than in the Craft where a greater number of lectures and lecturers were available. He hoped that any presentations would be couched in readily assimilable language so that the companions would be able to grasp the points raised and thereby be enriched by the knowledge imparted. Concluding, he spoke of the pride he felt, and the other Consecrating Officers shared with him, of being an Honorary Member of a Chapter of such potential usefulness.

Robert J Coley, PAGSoj, IPZ, then rose to propose the toast to the Principals. He recalled the axiom that success depended upon the beginning but felt sure that with a set of Royal Arch Masons as represented by the Founders, there ought to be no doubt offered on that score. John Lawrance, PGStB, Second Principal, responded suitably.

To the Treasurer, Reginald J Davis, PAGSoj, was entrusted the privilege of welcoming the many visitors, including several from overseas. He stressed the value of the Chapter in following the fine traditions already set as an example by the Jubilee Masters Lodge, first stimulating interest and imparting knowledge, but also of extending hospitality to its many visitors. He asked each of the nine overseas visitors to rise on the call of his name, each being greeted with vigorous applause. Before the formal reply, Sir George Boag, on behalf of Supreme Grand Chapter and of all the visitors present, extended a special welcome to London First Principals Chapter. The reply for the overseas visitors was given by Clarence U A Williams, Past Hon Depute Grand Superintendent, British Guiana, under the Scottish Constitution. He spoke with praise and admiration for the experience of the day, which had left an unforgettable impression that he would convey to the Lodges and Chapters of his District on his return in a few days.

Financial Summary

The Chapter incurred the following costs for the Consecration Meeting.

| | £ | s | d | |
|---------------|-----|----|---|--------------|
| Charter | 5 | 5 | 0 | |
| Petitioners | 9 | 0 | 0 | 72 @ 2/6d |
| Temple Rent | 21 | 0 | 0 | |
| Printing | 105 | 19 | 0 | |
| Souvenirs | 60 | 0 | 0 | |
| Music & Choir | 12 | 12 | 0 | |
| Banquet | 569 | 2 | 0 | 271 @ £2 2 0 |
| Total * | 782 | 18 | 0 | |

* This does not include the costs of books for minutes, attendance and accounts, or of the 20 collars (at £4.5.0 each) that were presented to the Chapter by the first officers.

For comparison, the equivalent costs in 2005 were, for a Charter, £200, to rent No 10 Temple, £450, and for a comparable 4-course dinner at the Connaught Rooms, £35. The relative purchasing power of the pound being approximately 16.1 times greater in 1957, the corrected figures are (rounded), £12, £28 and £2, respectively. So the Charter now costs about twice as much, the Temple Rent is up about 30% but the Dining is about the same. It is particularly noticeable that the equivalent printing costs nowadays are significantly lower, because of the advancements in printing technology.

EARLY YEARS

As the general pattern of the meetings up to the present day has changed very little in 50 years, only the first three years are described in this way, the remainder of the history being structured under subject headings.

1957

Following the Chapter's successful launch in July, the second regular convocation on 30 September witnessed the election of the first eight joining members, who were duly welcomed as such by the MEZ. He also welcomed the distinguished Masonic scholar, Bernard E Jones PGStB, whose talk entitled "Royal Arch Masonry, the story of the early years" was received with much interest and enthusiasm. In his opening remarks, Bernard Jones expressed the great honour and privilege he felt at being chosen as the Chapter's first lecturer. Following the talk, the vote of thanks proposed by the MEZ was received with acclamation.

1958

The third regular convocation, on 31 January, learned of the sudden death of the MEZ, Reginald Cross OSM PAGSoj, who had died on 17th January. Robert Coley, acting as MEZ, spoke of E Comp Cross's distinguished Masonic career and of the fact that he had been largely responsible for the formation of the Chapter. To fill this unexpected vacancy, the Chapter elected Robert J Coley PAGSoj as MEZ, following which he was duly inducted into the First Principal's chair.

More sad news was delivered to the fourth regular convocation on 30 May. This was the death of the Chapter's Consecrating Officer, Sir Sydney White, Grand Scribe E, who died on 9 March. The ballot for the Principals resulted in the election of Sir Frederick Rowland as MEZ, Reginald J Davis as H, and Alfred C

Duncan as J. Robert Coley (MEZ) was elected Treasurer, an office he held for the next five years. G S Shepherd - Jones *OBE* PAGSoj, Life President of the Aldersgate Chapter of Improvement, then delivered his paper entitled "A Few Observations on Royal Arch Masonry". He also answered several questions, including some at the festive board that followed. On the first rising it was announced that James W Stubbs had been appointed Grand Secretary (and Grand Scribe E) in succession to Sir Sydney White.

At the fifth convocation in September, following the induction of the Principals Elect, Sir George Boag, President of the Committee of General Purposes, delivered his paper entitled "An Address on Royal Arch Masonry". A proposition to make a presentation to the outgoing First Principal in recognition of his services was made, thus introducing a practice that has continued to the present day.

1959

Acting as First Principal, Reginald Davis informed the sixth convocation in January that messages of regret had been received from Sir Frederick Rowland (MEZ) and Robert Coley (Treasurer) that, because of thick fog and adverse weather, they were unable to be present. The Scribe E delivered an address to the Chapter entitled "An Explanation of the Royal Arch Jewel", with the aid of some large illustrations. The Reverend Preb F W Ferraro PGSN (*Consecrating Third Principal and Honorary Member, who attended quite frequently*) thanked the speaker for his talk which emphasised points only seldom touched upon.

At the seventh convocation in May, Sir George Boag, PGSupt (Madras), President of the Committee of General Purposes, was elected an honorary member. Sir George, being present, thanked the companions for the great honour bestowed upon him.

1960

With great regret, the MEZ announced at the ninth convocation in January the death of Sir Frederick Rowland PGSN, the third MEZ of the Chapter. He had passed away on 13 November 1959. A letter from Lady Alice Rowland was read thanking the Chapter for the kind message of sympathy. The Chapter had made a donation of £10-10-0 to the City of London Old Peoples Welfare Association, of which the late Sir Frederick had been Chairman.

SCRIBES AND ADMINISTRATION

Scribes Ezra

The first Scribe E, Augustus William Gibson, known as 'Gus', was one of the leading lights in the formation of the Chapter and a very hard working and loyal member. He was meticulous in the way he kept the minutes, particularly his clear recording of the details of everyone present, which on occasions included several hundred guests.

The convocation in September 1970 witnessed the retirement of 'Gus' Gibson. The MEZ spoke highly of his many and valued services, sentiments endorsed by all those present. His swan song was to deliver a paper on the formation and history of the Chapter to the great appreciation of the companions. At the same meeting another Companion whose name will be forever linked with London Masonry was invested as Scribe E, this was of course Nigel Thorold Haines, who, apart from a year as MEZ in 1977-78, held the office until 1990. Having spent 19 years in the north of the Chapter, he was not only the longest serving Scribe but also the longest serving of any officer.

With his other hat on, Nigel Haines was Secretary of the London Grand Rank Association (LGRA) from 1971 until 1990, concurrent with his office in the Chapter. From time to time this situation gave rise to some of his much enjoyed remarks - usually advising the companions about his having to consult on some matter with the Secretary of the LGRA. Indeed, some Chapter committees seemed to serve a dual purpose, particularly on items encouraging recruitment for the Royal Arch in general and assisting Chapters with low membership. If this were not enough work, he was also Secretary of Jubilee Masters Lodge from 1975 to 1984, previous to which he was the Assistant Secretary. He was awarded the Grand Master's Order of Service to Masonry in 1984.

The convocation in January 1990 was given the sad news that the normally ever present Nigel Haines was in hospital after suffering a stroke in December. Sidney P Johnson, Assistant Scribe E, acted in his absence. Nigel returned to the Chapter in September but was unable to resume his duties and so Sidney Johnson was appointed to the office.

Sidney Johnson held the office until 1995 when Peter F Fuchter was appointed. He was followed by Peter J Clatworthy in 1999 and, in September 2002, by our present very industrious Scribe E, Mark L Perkins.

Publicity and Recruitment

At the Committee meeting in April 1958, Scribe E proposed that the secretary of the Jubilee Masters Lodge (*who happened to be Sir Frederick Rowland, the next*

MEZ) be approached with a request that the dates of the Chapter's meetings be included on their summonses. This was agreed. Later, a similar approach would be made to the London Rank Association. This subject was raised at several later Committees before it was subsequently put into effect.

When Nigel Haines came on the scene he struck up an excellent rapport with James Stubbs, Grand Secretary (and Grand Scribe E), in consequence of which a number of the Chapter's announcements were circulated with the notices convening Grand Chapter convocations. This proved immensely fruitful in the Chapter's recruitment drive and also in publicising some of the special demonstrations hosted by the Chapter.

Restricted Membership

Although it can not be enforced by rule, it is understood that membership of the Chapter is restricted to First Principals, present and past. This is provided for in the pre-amble to the Chapter's Bylaws which states: "This Chapter is especially established for the Association of First Principals and Subscribing Past First Principals in and of Chapters within the London Area (vide B of C 128)." The subtle but important amendment was to add the words "in and". Some also wanted to add the words "and of Grand Officers" to the end of the pre-amble but this amendment was defeated. The revised pre-amble was adopted in May 1968. However, in January 1996, the Chapter voted in favour of adding the phrase "and all Officers of Supreme Grand Chapter", thus reversing the earlier defeat of a similar amendment – this also brought it into line with Jubilee Masters Lodge.

Then, in September 2001, a further addition was suggested. That "Any Royal Arch Companion who is an Installed First Principal or a Subscribing Past First Principal of a Chapter and a subscribing member of Jubilee Masters Lodge No 2712 is also eligible for membership."

Bylaws

There have been nine subsequent amendments to the Bylaws since they were adopted at the Consecration. The most significant amendment was the replacement of Bylaws 6 and 7 with a new Bylaw 6. This change, introduced in May 1973, separated the dining fee from the Annual Subscription. Although the proportion of members dining dropped from that point, the change was inevitable given the increases in dining costs.

The composition of the Committee, defined in Bylaw 4, has been discussed and revised on several occasions. A Committee meeting in April 1985 considered that the composition of the Committee, which included all Past Principals of the

Chapter, gave rise to an average attendance of about 30. This was considered too large. After some discussion it was agreed that the Bylaw should be amended so that the Committee comprised the Three Principals, the Past First Principals of the Chapter, together with the usual named officers, plus 4 to be elected annually. In the latter case, those nominated would be the immediate past Second and Third Principals, the "Chief Steward", and one other. This was adopted at the convocation in September 1985. But in January 1997, the Chapter reverted to its former position by amending the Bylaw again to include all Past Second and Third Principals and, in addition, the Scribe N. Finally, in September 1997, the number of additional companions to be elected annually was reduced from 4 to 2.

At the convocation in September 1995, Bylaw 6 was amended to permit the Chapter to exclude a member whose subscription remains unpaid for nine months. Hitherto, the limit was 12 months.

At the same meeting notice was given that, for the first time, an Almoner and a Charity Steward be appointed, and Bylaw 2 amended accordingly. (*This was in consequence of a change to Royal Arch Regulation 48, passed by Grand Chapter in November 1994, permitting Chapters to elect or appoint these additional officers.*) At the following convocation in January 1996 the proposition was carried and Peter Clatworthy was appointed and invested as the first Almoner. The first Charity Steward, Brian H Lawrence, was appointed and invested in September 1996.

The Summons

Apart from its size and layout, the summons has changed little in fifty years. The only significant addition was the inclusion of the list of Past First Principals, introduced in May 1965. The addition of the lists of subscribing Past Second and Third Principals came in January 1975. However, at the Committee in December 1980 it was thought desirable to change the wording on the front from "Dear Sir and Companion" to "Dear Excellent Companion" and to add "Yours sincerely and fraternally" after "by command of the MEZ". While the latter has remained ever since, the former lasted just two convocations before being changed back to the previous wording. Then, after 43 years, the wording "You are desired to attend . . ." was changed in January 2000 to "You are summoned to attend . . .".

TREASURERS AND FINANCE

Treasurers

The founding Treasurer, Reginald Davis, held office for the first year only before being installed as Second Principal in 1958. However, he had the task of

managing the consecration cost. He observed at the Committee meeting in February 1958, that while the newly formed Chapter had been given a very good start, he feared that "we had definitely erred on the side of extravagance". This was in part a reference to an "exorbitant" charge for stationery, which was later rectified by a refund of £25 from the supplier. He presented the first set of accounts, including the costs of the Consecration, to the fifth convocation in September. After covering the financial situation, which was satisfactory, he went on to thank the first officers for purchasing their collars and then to extol the virtues of Augustus Gibson who was not only a perfectionist as Scribe E but also the unpaid Treasurer.

Reginald Davis was succeeded by Robert Coley, who held the office for six years. At the May 1964 convocation it was announced that Robert Coley wished to retire from office because of advancing age and indifferent health. Evylyn George Barnikel was elected to succeed him. He held the office for 13 years, making him the longest serving Treasurer. Because of poor health, he stepped down in September 1978, and received hearty thanks and a special presentation from the Chapter in appreciation of his much-valued services.

Richard Mordant was elected in his place and filled the office until 1986 when he was installed as First Principal, during which year C H Meredith was Treasurer. Richard Mordant resumed as Treasurer in 1987 and was destined to serve for another 4 years. At the May 1989 convocation he announced that he would be happy to relinquish the office and the Chapter complied by electing Harold Gould in his place, who they believed would be willing to serve. Unfortunately, the elected companion was on holiday at the time and on his return, while appreciating the honour conferred, had to decline because of other commitments (*he had just succeeded Richard Mordant as Treasurer of Jubilee Masters Lodge*). And so Richard Mordant's fate was sealed. At the convocation in May 1991 the MEZ thanked him, on behalf of the Chapter, for his much valued past services. In his place Leslie D Sinclair was elected. Unfortunately, he was taken ill just before the January 1992 convocation and was unable to perform his duties. At the next convocation, with Leslie Sinclair still indisposed, Richard Mordant found himself back in harness again. He advised the Committee in August 1992 that, owing to circumstances beyond his control, he was unable to complete the accounts. He informed the September convocation that the accounts had been prepared but, because of a breakdown in communications, they had not been audited. They were deferred to the January 1993 convocation but, alas, they had not been audited in time for inclusion with the summons. They were finally presented and adopted at the May 1993 convocation.

Meanwhile, at the May 1992 convocation, the Honourable P M Dayton had been elected Treasurer. He too reported at the August 1993 Committee that the

accounts for the year ended 30 June 1993 had not been audited. Sadly, the January 1994 convocation learned that the Treasurer had died the week before, so although he had been elected for a second year he was never invested as such. The accounts had been prepared but because of the late discovery of a typing error they were deferred again. They were duly adopted at the May 1994 convocation, with Richard Mordant once again presenting them. So ended a very difficult two-year period in the Chapter's financial management, rescued by the ever-reliable Richard Mordant.

Peter Brassett, who was elected Treasurer in May 1994, filled the office for the remainder of the late Treasurer's year. At the convocation in September 1995, when he was due to present his first set of accounts, he was away on his honeymoon! However, his written report was well received and the accounts were duly adopted. Peter filled the office with distinction for the next 8 years when, in 2002, the present incumbent, Roger Bathurst, took up the challenge.

Auditors

Of the 19 different companions who have been auditors of the Chapter's accounts, most have been chartered accountants. The first auditors, Albert V Hussey and Henry T Hodge, were the longest serving duo with 7 years and, after his year as Second Principal (1965-66), Albert Hussey returned to do another 4 years. During Robert Coley's term as Treasurer he also prepared the statements of accounts. Only Howard Beber, first elected in 1996, can match his length of service.

Subscriptions and Fees

Rather unusually, in May 1962, the Joining Fee was reduced from its initial level of four guineas (£4-4-0) to one guinea, with the object of attracting more members. In those days the subscription was inclusive of dining and, following price increases by the Connaught Rooms, the Annual Subscription was increased in 1964 from £4-4-0 to £5-5-0. This also necessitated an amendment to the Bylaws as, at that time, the amount of the subscription was specified therein. (*The minimum dining charge at the Connaught Rooms in 1966-67 was £1-16-0*).

In September 1968 the Joining Fee, which had been reduced 6 years earlier, was increased to £2-0-0, at the same time the Subscription was increased to £6-10-0 and the Non Dining Subscription to £2-10-0.

(Decimal currency replaced £-s-d on 15 February 1971. Hereafter, amounts quoted are in the new format)

The accounts presented at the September 1972 convocation showed a deficit of £220 on the General Fund and the companions were invited to pay a voluntary surcharge of 50p for their dining. Soon after, a sub-committee was formed to discuss the Chapter's finances in the light of increasing costs. There was also the effect of VAT to consider, which would be introduced in 1973 (*to replace Purchase Tax*). The result was a motion to replace Bylaws 6 and 7 with a new Bylaw 6, thus separating the Dining Fee from the Annual Subscription. This was passed at the convocation in May 1973. At the same time the Annual Subscription was set at £4.00 and the Dining Fee would be determined from time to time by resolution. These measures proved very effective, for the 1974 accounts showed a surplus of £745 and, after a series of substantial surpluses over the next 9 years, the balance in the General Fund had exceeded £5000 in 1983. The first deficit in 10 years came in 1984 but by then the balance was over £6000.

The subscription was kept at its 1973 level until 1987. In contrast, the dining fee was increased quite frequently to keep pace with the Connaught Rooms' prices. In 1975 the fee was £4.75, then at 5-year intervals it was £10.50, £14.50, £23.00, £26.00, and £31.00 in 2000, the figures reflecting the high inflation of the 1970s and 80s.

The companions present at the convocation in May 1983 were advised that Grand Chapter dues would be increased from 20p to £1.50, thus eliminating the subsidy previously given by the Craft over many years. The new contribution reflected the true cost of administering the Royal Arch. In 1988 it was doubled to £3.00. Anticipating this latter increase, and in view of the deficit of £200 in the General Fund the previous year, the Treasurer recommended that the annual subscription be increased from £4.00 to £7.50 with effect from 1 July 1987. Although large, this was the first increase in the subscription for 14 years. It was maintained at this level until 1992 when it was set at £12.50. At the same meeting the joining fee was increased by £1.00 to £5.00, this being the first time it had exceeded its original level of 4 guineas (£4.20) set by the Founders.

The subscription was not increased again for a further 12 years when, in 2004, it was set at £15.00. All things considered the Chapter has proved to be excellent value for money!

Bylaws and other Matters

To allow the auditors more time to carry out their work, the Chapter's financial year, that had hitherto ended 31st July, was altered in 1975 to 30th June.

In December 1978 a sub-committee was set up to consider ways in which the Chapter could avoid paying Corporation Tax on its bank interest. After much

deliberation the recommendation was for the Chapter to establish a Benevolent Fund. This is described elsewhere under the heading of charity.

Prior to 1980 it had been the practice for joining members to pay a proportion of the annual subscription when joining partway through the financial year. At the August 1980 convocation it was decided, in view of the very modest subscription, that this practice be discontinued.

Because of the frequent need to increase the dining fee, it was resolved at the May 1981 convocation that Bylaw 6 be amended by deleting the reference to the fee. This would enable the Treasurer and Scribe E, with the approval of the Principals, to adjust the fee without the necessity of giving notice on the summons.

A sub-committee was formed in 1982 to consider financial matters. It agreed to recommend to the Chapter that the General Fund should bear the cost of the dinners for the Scribe E, Janitor and Official Guests so that these would be a charge on all members and not just on those dining (*implying that diners had previously met these costs!*). While in the process of altering Bylaw 6 (*to remove mention of the Dining Fee*) it was suggested that the Exaltation Fee be increased from £52.50 to £100. It was also suggested that Bylaw 9 should be amended to provide that the maximum sum that could be expended in an emergency be increased from £21 to £50. These proposals were adopted in January 1983.

Fiftieth Anniversary Fund

The need to make provision for the Chapter's 50th Anniversary in 2007 was first raised by the Treasurer at the Committee in December 2000. Detailed discussion was deferred to the next meeting when, after considering the balance of £6000 in the General Fund, it was agreed that a sum of £2500 be transferred from the General Fund to a Chapter 50th Anniversary Fund. This was duly passed at the convocation in September 2002.

CHARITY

In the 1960s the possibility of opening a Benevolent Account had been raised at several Committee meetings, the decision each time being left in abeyance. However, the Chapter did resolve to make regular annual donations to the three Masonic Institutions (RMIG, RMIB and RMBI), the Royal Masonic Hospital, and The Hostel of God. The first donations were made at the convocation in September 1960, each charity being voted £5-5-0. Because of the healthy state of the Chapter's General Fund, these amounts were increased in 1974 to £20, to £25 the following year and, by 1980 to £50.

At the Committee in May 1967 the MEZ raised the question of organising a contribution to the appeal for the 1968 RMIB Festival, which was to be presided over by Sir Alan Adair. It was decided that a collection be made at the dinner table after the next convocation.

The Committee in April 1977 agreed to recommend to the Chapter that a list be taken up in support of the London Appeal for the 'Girls' (RMIG) 1979 Festival. In the event, the Chapter gave its support through the Jubilee Masters Lodge list.

The early efforts to start a Benevolent Fund for the Chapter finally came to fruition at the convocation on 28 September 1979. Then it was resolved that a trust fund called "London First Principals Chapter No 2712 Benevolent Fund" be established with Alan Robert Jole, Richard Alfred Coleman Mordant, and John Sydney Butler, as the Trustees. It was initially allocated a sum of £25. It was also resolved that the First Principal and Scribe E be authorised to execute on behalf of the Chapter a Deed of Covenant to pay the Trustees yearly, for a term of 7 years, a sum equal to 75% of the gross taxable income of the Chapter. Scribe E, at the January 1980 convocation, reported that the Trust Deed and Deed of Covenant had been completed and, on behalf of the Chapter, thanked Sidney Pearlman for his work in preparing and handling the documentation.

The Chapter's charity record, as at May 1982, stood at:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------|
| Royal Masonic Institution for Girls | £519 | Patron |
| Royal Masonic Institution for Boys | £497 | Patron |
| Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution | £423 | Patron |

The Chapter was also a Grand Patron of the Royal Masonic Hospital.

The Bagnall Report, published in 1974, made a series of recommendations for a major re-think about Masonic Charity in general and for the re-organisation of its Institutions in particular. Many of its recommendations were subsequently adopted, among the most significant being the establishment of a Central Charity, later known as the Grand Charity. This was established in 1980 and replaced the Board of Benevolence on 1 January 1981. At the convocation in September 1982 the Chapter made its first donation of £175 to the new body. At the same meeting it also donated £75 to the RMIB (*but not to the RMIG or RMIB*) to bring its total donations to that Institution more in line with the others. The traditional donation to the Trinity Hospice (*formerly the Hostel of God*) was also made.

From 1984, the Chapter modified its pattern of charitable giving to reflect the changes in the Masonic Institutions, namely, the establishment of the Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys in 1986, the New Masonic Samaritan Fund in 1990, and, during its brief existence, The Masonic Foundation for the Aged and Sick. It also

added the LGRA Heritage and Educational Trust, founded in 1984 (*marking the 75th Anniversary of the LGRA*). But the new list still included the Trinity Hospice.

With the centenary of our sponsoring Lodge, Jubilee Masters, due to be celebrated in 1998, the Chapter at its September 1989 convocation added the Jubilee Masters Centenary Fund to its list of charities. The first contribution of £200 was followed by 8 further annual contributions of £100 or more.

Until recent years, it had never been the practice in the Chapter to take a charity collection but at the convocation held in January 1988 one was taken for the Grand Charity on the occasion when the meeting, because of the large attendance, was held in the Grand Temple. However, Grand Lodge had agreed to charge the Chapter only its normal temple fee. The collection raised £470 from among the 607 companions present (*an all time record attendance*). A collection was also made at a similar convocation in the Grand Temple in September 1988 when 513 companions were present. To supplement the income from the covenant, which had been diminishing, regular charity collections were started in January 1992 - initially these were taken at the door upon retirement from the temple but from January 1993 they appeared as an item on the agenda.

The Deed of Covenant, dated October 1979, was renewed in January 1986. This one expired in January 1993 but then the Committee seemed to experience difficulty in getting it renewed. Eventually, having sought expert guidance from Michael Lawson, it was renewed in January 1996. At the same convocation two new Trustees, Peter G Brassett and Peter F Fuchter, were nominated for the Benevolent Fund, the third existing Trustee being Richard Mordant.

In January 1994 the Chapter voted in favour of opening a Relief Chest for its Benevolent Fund.

With the restoration of its covenanted income in 1996, together with the regular charity collections in the temple, the Chapter was not only able to contribute greater amounts to charity but also to diversify its giving. In 1998 the Chapter qualified as a Grand Patron of the New Masonic Samaritan Fund.

Into the 21st Century, the Chapter has continued to support both Masonic and non-Masonic charities, particularly, in the latter case, London based charities through the London Masonic Charitable Trust.

TRENDS IN MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

The table in Appendix G provides a summary of membership and attendance for each year since the consecration. The attendance figures are the averages for the three meetings, September, January and May.

The Chapter started in 1957 with 72 Founders. But the members seemed strangely cautious about admitting more companions in the early years of the Chapter's existence - either that or the Chapter did not, initially, appeal to London's First Principals. Apart from an intake of 21 joining members during the first year, there was little progress during the next four years. By the end of the 1962 season the membership was still only 97. From 1963 until 1971, the intake of new members was gradual but steady and by the close of the 1971 season the membership stood at 178.

In an effort to boost membership, 211 letters were sent to those honoured with LGCR in 1971, from which just 5 definite applications were received. In addition, Scribe E had prepared a leaflet listing the titles of lectures given to the Chapter, as a handout to prospective candidates. In November 1973, by kind co-operation of Grand Scribe E, a letter promoting the Chapter was sent out with the Grand Chapter summons. This facility continued for some years after. Collectively these measures had the desired effect, because 1972 to 1976 was a period of rapid growth, most meetings in that interval witnessing double figure intakes, the highest being 24, both in September 1972 and January 1975. By the end of the 1976 season the membership had reached 325.

Inevitably, this rate would not be sustainable. Nevertheless, membership increased steadily for the next 10 years, apart from a small dip in 1982. It exceeded 400 in 1985 and remained above that level until 1991, with a peak of 439 in 1989. After the peak of 1989, the membership declined to 300 in 1995 but has rallied somewhat in recent years. The period between 1989 and 1995 was a particularly sad one, with very high losses through deaths and resignations.

It was conjectured that the formation of the Euclid First Principals Chapter in 1980 would have an adverse effect on the Chapter's recruitment. Whatever the impact was, it did not stop the continued growth in membership during the 1980s.

The largest intake of joining members in a single meeting was 33 in May 1996.

As would be expected, as the membership has increased so has the attendance - but the proportion of members attending has declined. During the first 16 years, when the membership was below 250, the proportion attending was 50% or higher. When the membership exceeded 300, this proportion dropped below 40%

and down as low as 27%. After the peak membership of 1989 the proportion fell even further - at some meetings below 20%.

It also interesting to note the proportion of companions who have dined after the meetings. In the early years it was close to 100% - indeed it was 100% at some meetings. This very high proportion, with rarely more than 5 non-dining members at a meeting, continued until 1973, after which there was a sudden drop. Thereafter, it was common for the number of non-diners to range between 20 and 50. An examination of the minutes yields the answer - at the May 1973 meeting the Chapter Bylaws were revised so that the annual subscription no longer included the dining fee, from that time on dining was to be paid separately.

And finally, for those who really enjoy statistics. The highest attendance recorded was for the meeting in January 1988 when the changes to the Royal Arch Ritual were demonstrated to a gathering of 607. The second highest attendance was 513 in September 1988 for a similar demonstration - this meeting also saw the highest turnout of members at 157.

The best attended festive board followed the meeting in May 1972 when the companions were treated to a demonstration of the Installation ceremony by a team from the Irish Constitution - of the 416 present, 312 dined afterwards.

MISCELLANY

Mementos and Presentations

It has been mentioned elsewhere that the founding officers presented their collars of office to the Chapter.

At the convocation in September 1960 the Chapter was presented with a set of two ebony gavels and blocks. These had been a gift to Arthur E Smith, then Second Principal, from an anonymous donor in gratitude for his valued services (*we are not told what these were*).

From the outset it has been the practice for the Chapter to present a memento to the outgoing First Principal, as a mark of esteem and in appreciation of his valued services as MEZ. These have normally taken the form of a cheque that the recipient usually donated to a charity of his choice. But in earlier times mementos were tangible gifts, examples being a pair of binoculars presented to Arthur A Murphy in 1968, a wallet to Peter J Swanston in 1969, and an electric shaver to Eric E A Thompson in 1970.

At the convocation in January 1980, the Chapter presented a Charter Case, suitably embossed, to the newly formed Euclid First Principals Chapter (*consecrated 10 January 1980*), whose First Principal, Albert Rabson PGStB (*a member of LFP Chapter since 1972*), was present to receive it.

In January 1989 the companions were informed that our sponsoring Lodge, Jubilee Masters, at its meeting in March, would be hosting a special presentation to Grand Lodge. A copy of a portrait of the 8th Duke of Norfolk, Grand Master (1729 – 1731), obtained by the LGRA Heritage and Educational Trust, would complete the set of portraits of Grand Masters. The presentation would be made by Nigel Haines and received on behalf of Grand Lodge by the Pro Grand Master, Lord Cornwallis.

Unusual Meetings and Special Events

Most of the Chapter's convocations have followed a fairly consistent pattern - a lecture or presentation, the installation of the Principals and investiture of officers, and the usual business items. However, there have been a few occasions that are worth a special mention.

The first two meetings of this kind followed the convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter on 8th November 1961, when approval was given to a permissive variation in the form of the installation ceremonies. These variations were known as Appendix C and Appendix D. Both provided for the obligations of the Principals to be taken in open Chapter thus allowing all companions to be present for a greater part of the proceedings. In Appendix C the Principals are installed in the order Z, H and J, the reverse is the case for Appendix D. A demonstration of the new procedure (Appendix C) was given in the Chapter at the convocation in January 1962 by the Domatic Chapter of Instruction No 177. Scribe E said that he had received approximately 1000 applications for tickets but, regrettably, we could seat only 520 (*458 actually attended*). A similar demonstration (of Appendix D) was given by the Aldersgate Chapter of Improvement at the following convocation in May 1962, attracting an attendance of 306.

In May 1972, a team from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Ireland gave a demonstration of the Irish Royal Arch Installation Ceremonies, before an audience of 417 companions. A similar demonstration by the Irish Grand Chapter was given at the convocation in May 1987.

The companions present at the convocation in January 1985 witnessed the first official delivery of the newly instituted Batham Royal Arch Lecture. The Lecture entitled, "Ezra, the Scribe", was given by E Comp Brian J Bell.

It was announced at the convocation on 31 January 1990 that just three days earlier Joe Elman PGStB had been installed as Honorary Third Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Israel. The MEZ congratulated E Comp Elman on this high honour and the companions greeted the news with acclaim.

Outings

The Chapter had hoped to receive a demonstration of the Bristol Royal Arch working in London but this did not prove to be practical. Instead, the Chapter enjoyed a talk on Bristol Royal Arch Masonry by E Comp Francis John Hector *MD FRCS*, Grand Superintendent in and over Bristol, in May 1971. But, determined to see the Bristol working, if Bristol could not come to London, then London would go to Bristol. Thus, having obtained the necessary dispensations from Grand Chapter and from Bristol, the Chapter organised an Emergency Meeting at Park Street, Bristol, on 29 June 1971. With 49 members and their 14 guests present, the Chapter was opened. The only item on the agenda, other than the reading of the dispensations, was to admit members of the Jerusalem Chapter, the host, so that they could witness our closing ceremony. The companions then attended a meeting of the Jerusalem Chapter to witness a demonstration of the ceremony of exaltation. Following a well planned itinerary, the companions returned to London on the 6.15 pm train. The cost, including return fares, three course lunch with wine, and tea, was £5.00 per head.

A visit to the Sussex First Principals Chapter, meeting at Brighton, was organised for June 1973 (*along similar lines to that previously arranged for Bristol*). In June 1974 there was a return visit to Bristol, on this occasion to witness the installation ceremonies. A similar visit was arranged in 1977 to the Chapter of Fidelity at Cambridge to witness a unique exaltation ceremony, this was preceded by a tour of Jesus College. To complete the 'Oxbridge' tour, in June of the following year, a visit to Alfred Chapter in Oxford proved equally successful. All visits were well supported and in each case numbers had to be limited to 70.

In October 1977 the Chapter accepted an invitation from the Anglo-Dutch Chapter (*London*) to provide a team to demonstrate the Royal Arch Lectures in catechetical form.

Further visits were organised to the Apollo University Chapter (Oxford) in October 1981 and a return to the Chapter of Fidelity (Cambridge) in June 1984. However, these visits were not as well supported as the earlier ones and a proposed visit to Dublin, announced in January 1989, did not materialise. After that no further outings were arranged.

Assistant Scribe E, Stewards and the Festive Board

The Chapter has always dined at the Connaught Rooms and from time to time there have arisen the inevitable arguments over quality, dining arrangements and, more especially, the quantity of wine consumed. While in a Chapter the size of LFP it is not possible for every member to be offered a senior office, potentially, every member has the opportunity of serving as a Steward, Stewardships being offered in rotation in order of joining. There were 6 Founder Stewards in 1957 and this number was appointed each year until 1971 when it was increased to 8. It was further increased to 10 in 1975, to 11 in 1980, and to a peak of 12 between 1983 and 1990, these increases reflecting, more or less, the growth in membership of the Chapter. Since 1990 the number appointed has been between 8 and 10. In 1985 guidance notes for Stewards, based on those used in the Jubilee Masters Lodge, were prepared by the MEZ, Peter Lonnon. The Committee meeting in August agreed that they should in future be issued to the Stewards and thanked the MEZ for producing them. It was noted at this meeting that of the 12 offers of Stewardship sent out only 2 responses had been received but, as Scribe E commented, this was quite usual!

The office of Assistant Scribe E (ASE) has traditionally been associated with arranging the Festive Board and overseeing the work of the Stewards, although in LFP Chapter he had, in the past, taken on other responsibilities (*like mailing the summonses*). The practice of the ASE and Stewards retiring from the Chapter just before or during the risings to attend to the Festive Board was first recorded in the Chapter minutes in 1972.

It had long been the custom for the Scribe E to propose the toast to the guests at each meeting (*believed to have started with Augustus Gibson*). This was certainly the case during Nigel Haines's time and it has continued to the present day, with a few exceptions. In December 1995, the Scribe E, Peter Fuchter, enquired of the Committee if it was their wish to continue the practice of having the Scribe E always propose the toast. The Committee concurred that it need not always be the case and at the next convocation, in January 1996, Brian Vickers (DC) agreed to do the honour, and so the pattern was broken.

The Principals Bar

Since its inception, the Chapter had paid for a VIP bar, later referred to as the Principals Bar, to enable the senior members to receive the guests of the Chapter. On grounds of increasing cost, attributed to gatecrashers, the Committee in September 1969 voted to dispense with the bar. The following year a suggestion to reinstate it was deferred. Through the good offices of Nigel Haines, who organised a new admission ticket system, it was restored at the January 1971

meeting, apparently without any problems. At the Committee Meeting in August 1971 a proposition that the Committee invited to the Bar should be surcharged 50p for their own guests was carried but would be reviewed in one year. A financial report produced in 1972 stated that the Bar attendance averaged about 40, being 27 Committee and 13 guests and this cost the Chapter some £120 - £130 for the three meetings. It therefore suggested that the Bar be run as a cash bar in future, with special arrangements for guests. But a Committee in December 1975 agreed that because the Chapter's finances were now much stronger, the "Principals Cocktail Bar" should revert to its former financing for the next Installation meeting when further consideration could be given to the subject. In 1978 it was agreed that it should again revert to a cash bar and this was also endorsed the following year. Then in January 1986 the Chapter dispensed with the Principals Bar and from thence there would be one bar for all companions attending (*except on special occasions*).

Organists and Janitors

Other than the Scribe E and Treasurer, very few officers serve for long periods. The exceptions are sometimes the Organist and the Janitor.

The Chapter's music has been in the hands of no less than 12 Organists since the Consecration, among them being Brian Vickers who took on the job for one year in 1993-94. Only four have served for more than 5 years, namely, M P Cooper LGCR 1968-74, George J Bowden PGOrg 1974-86, Michael Newton GOrg 1987-93, and our present Organist, Phillip W G Merritt, since 1998.

It had been noted at a Committee meeting in February 1958 that the founding Janitor, C E Blackman, did not wish to continue in office, for domestic reasons. Instead, Albert Payne PProvAGDC (Middx), Tyler of the Jubilee Masters Lodge, had agreed to serve and was duly elected. He filled the office for the next 16 years. He resigned, because of ill health, in 1974. Over the next 13 years the Chapter was served by three Janitors, viz, Walter H Edwards (1974-78), Victor Rigden (1978-82) and Ronald F Woodhams (1982-87), all of whom died in office. Howard R Gibson, elected in 1987, retired in 2006 and is the longest serving one to date. The present Janitor is John P Gaffney.

Other First Principals Chapters

One of the joys of being First Principal or Scribe E of a First Principals Chapter is that of being invited to other similar Chapters, likewise of receiving their officers in London. Initially there were six such Chapters, namely, Essex, Sussex, Surrey, Buckinghamshire, West Kent, and Hertfordshire. Later, as more were formed,

the list of guest chapters has grown and as of today there are 16, including two others in London - Euclid and Clerkenwell.

Up until 1989 the MEZ and Scribe E of each Chapter were invited as honoured guests for the year. In 1990, in view of the high cost of dining, only one or the other was invited. Between 1991 and 1995, the wording on the summons read "First Principals and / or Scribes E" (*effectively implying both again*). Then in 1996 and 1997, the wording "First Principals and Scribes E" re-appears (*unambiguously inviting both*). But in 1998, "First Principals or Scribes E" has returned, thus reverting to the 1990 situation of inviting one only. In 1999 the more general invitation is extended for "one representative" of each Chapter to attend, which is the present situation.

At the Committee in December 1995 the MEZ, Bert Davis, suggested, in view of our long and close association with the LGRA, that the President of the LGRA should be included among the honoured guests of the Chapter. This was agreed and took effect as from September 1996.

White Gloves

Following the lead taken by Supreme Grand Chapter at its convocation in April 1993, the Chapter opted to dispense with the wearing of white gloves as from its September 1993 convocation.

Salutes

A letter from ME Comp Rt Hon Earl Cadogan, Pro First Grand Principal, dated November 1972, addressed to all Chapters, expressed his concern that the R or H sign was being used incorrectly. It was never to be given to any individual but always directed to the Altar, then discharged before speaking. Up until that time most commonly used rituals had indicated to the contrary but thereafter they were duly corrected. In 2004 the Strategic Working Party on Royal Arch Masonry also recommended that the practice of saluting the Name on the Altar before addressing the Chapter for the first time also be dropped. Naturally the Chapter has always promptly adopted these changes.

Induction of the Principals Elect

Such is the nature of the Chapter that very little ceremonial work is performed. There are no exaltations and, apart from the openings and closings, the only other ceremonies are the shortened forms of the installations of the Principals Elect, known as inductions. At the Committee in April 1997 Brian Vickers submitted a booklet he had prepared on the induction ceremonies. This was to replace the

earlier version based on the old system of installations (*when the obligations were part of the Inner Working*). The ceremonies are very brief, with no obligations, no scripture readings, and no addresses on the Robes and Sceptres (*although the latter have been given on rare occasions in the past*).

At some point the Chapter appears to have adopted the Domestic Working as its 'official' ritual but with its members hailing from so wide a diversity of other workings, the connoisseur will no doubt have noticed occasional variations.

FIRST PRINCIPALS

Key Chapters given are those at time of founding or joining
C = Chapter, D = Died, F = Founder, J = Joined, R = Resigned
Ranks are those at time of death or latest known, Craft and Royal Arch.

This section gives brief details of those companions who served as First Principal of the Chapter. Of the 72 founders, 29 eventually held office as Principal. Of those, 16 served as First Principal, 6 as Second, and 7 as Third. With the notable exception of James Stubbs, who was installed in 1963, only founders occupied the First Principal's Chair during the first 15 years. Founders also monopolised the Second and Third Principals' Chairs for the first 10 years.

Of all the members who have served as First Principal only three were not Grand Officers and while some very senior companions have reached the Chair very soon after joining, others have had to wait many years to enjoy the privilege. Of the latter, mention should be made of W G (Bill) Roworth who joined in 1964 and finally reached the top Chair in 1998 after 34 years. He was also one of only three companions to have passed through all three chairs, the others being Frederick Hughes and Josh Shirman.

In what follows no mention is made of the involvement of companions in the Mark and other Masonic Orders – some of whom held senior ranks in these Orders. It should also be borne in mind that Grand Ranks in the Craft and Royal Arch have changed significantly over the years, particularly in their relative precedence. For example, the office of Grand Deacon in the 1950s and earlier was a much higher rank than it is today – it took precedence after the Grand Director of Ceremonies. Grand Sojourners were likewise higher in status.

1957 Reginald Farleigh Bloomfield Cross, OSM, PJGD, PAGSoj
Founding FP. Raised 1903. Exalted 1905 in C179. D 17 Jan 1958 (Age 81)
Profession: Accountant

LGRA President 1933-34 WM Jubilee Masters 1943-44
 54 years service to Masonry at the time of the Consecration. He was a member of six Craft Lodges, including Jubilee Masters. At the time of his death he was Senior Vice President of the Board of Benevolence, and a member of the Board of Management of the Royal Masonic Hospital. He had also served on the Board of General Purposes. He was awarded the Grand Master's Order of Service to Masonry in 1951. He died in office two weeks before the third meeting of the Chapter.

1958 Robert James Coley, PJGD, PAGSoj
 Founding IPZ. Raised 1907. Exalted 1915 in C8 (Canada). D 28 Jan 1969
 Company Director WM Jubilee Masters 1956-57

1958 Alderman Sir Frederick Rowland, PJGW, PGSN
 F. Raised 1902. Exalted 1916 in C174. D 13 Nov 1959
 Chartered Accountant WM Jubilee Masters 1941-42
 Lord Mayor of London 1949-50. He was abroad at the time of the Consecration.

1959 John Lawrance, PJGD, PGStB
 Founding Second Principal. Raised 1909. Exalted 1918 in C733. D 15 Feb 1961
 Chartered Surveyor LGRA President 1942-43

1960 Charles Henry Watson, PAGDC, PAGDC
 Founding Third Principal. Raised 1907. Exalted 1922 in C2021. D 1965
 Profession unknown LGRA President 1950-51

1961 Harold John Crawford, PAGDC, PGStB
 Founding Scribe N. Raised 1926. Exalted 1933 in C1269. D 6 Mar 1963
 Master Printer LGRA President 1959-60

1962 Reginald James Davis, PJGD, PAGSoj
 Founding Treasurer. Raised 1921. Exalted 1936 in C3096. D 28 Nov 1965
 Company Secretary LGRA President 1948-49
 AProvGM (Middx) WM Jubilee Masters 1955-56

1963 Sir James Wilfred Stubbs, KCVO, TD, OSM, PSGW, PGSE
 J Jan 1963. Raised 1931 Exalted 1931 in C357 D 7 Mar 2000 (Age 89)
 Schoolmaster Grand Secretary & Grand Scribe E, 1958-1980.
 WM Jubilee Masters 1959-60 & 1973-74
 PM of Quatuor Coronati Lodge. Prestonian Lecturer 1982.

1964 Augustus William Gibson, PGStB, PAGDC
 Founding Scribe E. Raised 1922. Exalted 1934 in C2846. D 12 Sep 1973
 Electrical Engineer LGRA President 1965-66

1965 Nils Lovold Victor Eckhoff, PSGD, PAGSoj
 Founding Steward. Raised 1930. Exalted 1932 in C2410. D 6 Nov 1969
 Surgeon

1966 Claude Orton Walker, PAGDC, PAGSoj
 Founding ASE. Raised 1929. Exalted 1942 in C3601. D 1979
 Dental Surgeon LGRA President 1973-74

1967 Arthur Albert Murphy, PJGD, PGStB
 Founding DC. Raised 1932. Exalted 1933 in C2921 D 20 Feb 1982
 Profession unknown LGRA President 1964-65
 WM Jubilee Masters 1981-82

1968 Peter John Swanston, PAGDC, PAGSoj
 Founding Steward. Raised 1925. Exalted 1933 in C3612. D 16 July 1979
 Bank Manager

1969 Eric Alexander Hindmarsh Thompson, PAGDC, PGStB
 F. Raised 1930. Exalted 1938 in C4272. R May 1986
 Chartered Electrical Engineer WM Jubilee Masters 1975-76

1970 Geraint White-Phillips, PJGD, PAGSoj
 Founding ADC. Raised 1940. Exalted 1940 in C2620. D 12 Dec 1986
 Physician LGRA President 1972-73

1971 Eric Norman Le Fre, PJGD, PAGSoj
 F. Raised 1924. Exalted 1925 in C3098. D 16 July 1979
 Sales Engineer

1972 Leonard Charles Wilson-Day, PAGDC, PGStB
 F. Raised 1936. Exalted 1945 in C5797. D 11 Dec 1978
 Profession unknown LGRA President 1969-70

1973 Robert Arthur Roy Wells, PJGD, PAGSoj
 J Jan 1963. D 16 Nov 1990
 Insurance Representative LGRA President 1982-83
 PM of Quatuor Coronati Lodge Author of several Masonic books.
 Prestonian Lecturer 1977 WM Jubilee Masters 1985-86

1974 Alfred Edward Matkins, PJGD, PAGSoj
 J June 1963. D 12 Feb 1999
 Fine Art Dealer LGRA President 1975-76

1975 V Rev H G Michael Clarke, PProvGM (Warks), P3rdGP
 J Sep 1972. D 19 Aug 1978
 Clerk in Holy Orders Third Grand Principal 1968-72
 Prestonian Lecturer 1963

1976 Wilfred Albert Harold Keeley, PAGDC, PGStB
 J May 1969. D 10 Aug 1994
 Company Director

1977 Nigel Thorold Haines, OSM, PGSwdB, PGStB
 J Jan 1968. D 23 Dec 1993
 Bank Manager LGRA President 1978-79 & Secretary 1971-1990
 Largely responsible for the LGRA Heritage and Educational Trust
 WM Jubilee Masters 1984-85

1978 Alan Robert Jole PGSwdB, PGSwdB
 J May 1974. D 2 Oct 1990
 AGSec 1957-61, DepGSec 1962-64, Secretary RMIB
 WM Jubilee Masters 1971-72

1979 Frederick Charles Hughes, PSGD, PAGSoj
 J Jan 1958. D 12 Apr 1984
 Solicitor WM Jubilee Masters 1980-81

1980 Mortimer Silverman, TD, PJGD, PAGSoj
 J Sep 1973. D 22 Oct 1985
 Solicitor WM Jubilee Masters 1976-77

1981 Sidney Pearlman, PJGD, PAGSoj
 J May 1966. D 28 Feb 1993
 Solicitor WM Jubilee Masters 1983-84

1982 Rocinton Burjor Framji Khambatta, PDistGM (Pakistan), PGSupt (Pakistan)
 J Jan 1976.
 Consultant Cardiologist WM Jubilee Masters 1986-87
 PM of Quatuor Coronati Lodge Prestonian Lecturer 2007

1983 Joseph Wiliam Davies, PGStB, PAGDC
 J Jan 1967. D 24 Jan 1997
 Executive Buyer LGRA President 1984-85
 WM Jubilee Masters 1987-88

1984 Lt Col Peter William Lonnon, OBE, PAGDC, LGCR
 J May 1974. D 10 Apr 1987
 Government Service

1985 Cyril Northwood Batham CStJ, PJGD, PAGSoj
 J May 1974. R Apr 1994 (D 10 Oct 1996)
 Secretary PM of Quatuor Coronati Lodge.
 Prestonian Lecturer 1981
 The Batham Royal Arch Lecture, instituted in 1984, was sponsored by him.

1986 Richard Alfred Coleman Mordant, PJGD, PAGSoj
 J Sep 1971. D 29 Feb 2004 (age 88)
 Chartered Accountant WM Jubilee Masters 1991-92

1987 Robert Gold, PJGD, PGStB
 J Jan 1964. D 3 Oct 1994
 Chartered Accountant

1988 Leslie David Sinclair, PJGD, PGStB
 J Sep 1975. R June 1994
 Chartered Secretary

1989 Major Leslie Herbert Lockley, PAGSuptWks, PGStB
 J Jan 1973. D 26 Sep 2002
 Chartered Surveyor

1990 Israel Harry Mendoza, PGStB, PAGSoj
 J Jan 1974. R May 2004
 PM of Quatuor Coronati Lodge. Author of Masonic books.
 Company Director / Insurance Broker Prestonian Lecturer 1984

1991 Alan Glyn Davies, PDistGM (Nigeria), PGSupt (Nigeria)
 J Sep 1983. R Jan 1997
 Bank Manager

1992 Walter Crombie, PGSwdB, PDepGSwdB
J Sep 1981. D 23 Oct 2004
LGRA President 1993-94 & 2003-04 / Secretary 1990-2004
Jeweller & an accomplished musician WM Jubilee Masters 1997-98

1993 Barry Clarke, PAGDC, PAGDC
J May 1977. R Nov 2003
Schoolmaster

1994 Bryan Frank Page, PAGDC, PAGSoj
J Jan 1977.
Chartered Librarian WM Jubilee Masters 2006 -2007
Dep Librarian & Curator, UGLE Prestonian Lecturer 1998

1995 Herbert Arthur Davis, PSGD, PAGSoj
J Jan 1985.
MD of TV / Radio Rental Company

1996 Sidney Peter Johnson, SLGR, SLGCR
J May 1986. D 12 Sep 2000
Police Officer

1997 Joshua Shirman JP, PAGDC, PAGSoj
J Sep 1975. D 2006
Engineer

1998 William George Roworth, SLGR, SLGCR
J Sep 1964. D 15 Sep 2002
Aeronautical Engineer LGRA President:

1999 Peter Fidelis Fuchter, PGStB, PAGDC
J Jan 1988.
Inspector of Wine Standards, Board of Vintners Co

2000 Brian Anthony Vickers, PGSuptWks, PGSwdB
J May 1980.
Engineer / Power Station Manager, CEGB
Past Chairman, Devonshire Group, London.

2001 Harold Gould OBE JP DL, PJGD, PAGSoj
J Jan 1983.
Chartered Accountant WM Jubilee Masters 2000-01

2002 Peter George Brassett, PGSuptWks, PGSwdB
J Jan 1986.
Chartered Accountant LGRA President 2002-03.
Past Chairman, Connaught Group, London

2003 Brian Anthony de Neut, PGSwdB, PGSwdB
J May 2000
Chartered Engineer Past Dep Chairman, London Management

2004 George Kosta Todorovitch, PAGDC, PGStB
J May 1977.
Company Director / Printing WM Jubilee Masters 2007 - 2008

2005 Derek Gordon Hugh, PJGD, PAGSoj
J May 1990.
Chartered Engineer

2006 John McKenzie Hamill PGSwdB, PGSwdB
J May 1982
Chartered Librarian WM Jubilee Masters 2005- 2006
Librarian & Curator UGLE 1983 – 1999
Director of Communications UGLE 1999 -

2007 Russell John Race, PJGW, PGSN
J Sep 2004.
Company Director / Stockbroker
Deputy Met Grand Master (London) and Deputy Grand Superintendent (London)

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

After some 280 years, the structure of London Freemasonry and its position in relation to Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter began a process of change. In July 1997 a new London VGO scheme was introduced with London's Lodges and Chapters being split into 22 Groups, each under a Group Chairman. LFP Chapter came under the Payne Group. This introduced a new level of management (*administered by the London Department*) between the private Lodges and Chapters and Grand Lodge / Grand Chapter. Two years later the new organisation assumed the title of London Management. On 1 January 2002, in preparation for what was to come, the Lodges and Chapters were further re-organised into 10 larger Groups. The Chapter then came under the Albert Group - the Group Chairman, Keith Hodgson, subsequently became the Chapter's Visiting Grand Officer (*and remained so until it was announced that the London Groups were to be replaced with a new structure in 2007*).

The next phase was completed on 1 October 2003 when the Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Metropolitan Grand Chapter of London were constituted. On the recommendation of the Committee, the Chapter, at its May 2003 convocation, voted in favour of becoming a Founding Chapter of the Metropolitan Grand Chapter of London at a fee of £1895 (*£5 per member*). The following year the Chapter also approved a donation of £145 towards the cost of the Deputy Grand Superintendent's chain of office, which the incumbent, Russell Race PGSN, acknowledged with thanks.

Following the introduction of the new structure in London, to replace the Group system, the Chapter hosted the investiture of the first Metropolitan Grand Inspectors at its meeting on 31 May 2007. On that occasion the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent, Lord Millet, carried out the investiture.

CONCLUSION

Fiftieth Anniversary Preparations

At the Committee in August 2004, the Scribe E, Mark Perkins, reminded the companions that the Chapter's 50th Anniversary would be celebrated on or after 23rd July 2007. It was agreed that the MEZ, George Todorovitch, would form a Sub-Committee for the purpose of steering the project. At the following Committee, November 2004, the MEZ confirmed that Harold Gould had agreed to chair the Sub-Committee, the other members being Michael Barnes and Bryan Page, with the MEZ and Scribe E as ex-officio members. Michael Barnes had agreed to compile a history.

The Sub-Committee held its first meeting on 9 March 2005, just before the meeting of the Chapter Committee, when the following items were agreed:

That the event should be celebrated at the regular convocation on Friday 28 September 2007 (later changed to Wednesday 26 September 2007).

That Russell John Race, PGSN, Deputy Grand Superintendent, Metropolitan Grand Chapter of London, should be invited to be MEZ for the year 2007 – 2008.

That a list of honoured guests be drawn up.

An outline of proposed content of the history of the Chapter, prepared by Michael Barnes, was approved and it was agreed that it should be printed as an A5 booklet. It was also agreed that Roelinton Khambatta, being the senior subscribing Past First Principal of the Chapter, should be asked to write the Foreword.

The Future

After many years of growth, membership of the Royal Arch has suffered a significant decline in the admission of new members since 1995 and shows no immediate sign of recovery. The number of London Chapters has also been declining since the peak of 732 in 1970-71. These factors will inevitably make the task of recruiting new members even more challenging than in the past. On the other hand there are over 600 London Chapters from which to recruit (*rather less than when the Chapter was Consecrated*). If just 5% of them were to yield one candidate each year, it would provide sufficient new members to compensate for expected losses and to ensure a steady growth for the next few years.

However, in terms of quantity, the likely long-term trend does not seem promising. The huge rate of growth of Masonry, particularly in the large urban areas like London in the years prior to and following the Second World War, was never likely to be sustainable. We are now witnessing the inevitable result, exacerbated by the adverse effects of modern social and economic factors. The only positive answer is for the Chapter to continue to offer high quality and diversity in its lectures and presentations in order to attract good quality new members, regardless of number, and to retain the interest of the existing membership.

There is no doubt that the Chapter has always fulfilled the objectives set by the Founders and while it continues to do so the future seems assured.

Appendix A Founders and First Officers

First Officers and acting IPZ 1957 – 1958

| Name | Rank | Office | Exalted |
|------------------|--------|--------------------------|---------|
| R F B Cross | PAGsoj | MEZ | 1905 |
| J Lawrance | PGStB | H | 1918 |
| C H Watson | PAGDC | J | 1922 |
| R J Coley | PAGSoj | as IPZ | 1915 |
| A W Gibson | LGCR | Scribe E | 1934 |
| H J Crawford | PGStB | Scribe N | 1933 |
| R J Davis | PAGSoj | Treasurer | 1936 |
| A A Murphy | LGCR | DC | 1933 |
| F W Torrens | PGStB | PS | 1931 |
| W G Stevenson | LGCR | 1 st Asst Soj | 1928 |
| E W J Hills | PAGDC | 2 nd Asst Soj | 1924 |
| G White-Phillips | LGCR | ADC | 1940 |
| S E Macy | PGOrg | Organist | 1943 |
| C O Walker | PZ | Asst Scribe E | 1942 |
| Arthur E Smith | PAGDC | Steward | 1928 |
| N L Eckhoff | LGCR | Steward | 1932 |
| A V Hussey | PZ | Steward | 1943 |
| H G Peterkin | PZ | Steward | 1943 |
| P J Swanston | PGStB | Steward | 1933 |
| S E Ward | PZ | Steward | 1944 |
| C E Blackman | LGCR | Janitor | |

Other Founders

| Name | Rank | Exalted |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
| J M Ashworth | PGStB | 1928 |
| R E Averre | LGCR | 1935 |
| E G Barnikel | PZ | ? |
| J M Battershell | LGCR | 1923 |
| G Becker | PZ | 1940 |
| J Bulkeley | PAGDC | 1932 |
| A H Chivers | PAGDC | 1919 |
| S F G Collier | PProvGSoj Middx | 1942 |
| E A A Cooke | LGCR | 1936 |
| A C Cooper | PAGDC | 1922 |
| D T Davies | LGCR | 1935 |
| L C W Day | PZ | 1945 |
| C S Dodwell | DepGSwdB | 1923 |
| A C Duncan | PAGSoj | 1926 |

Other Founders (continued)

| Name | Rank | Exalted |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| E H P Dyer | PZ | 1945 |
| H B Q Evans | PAGDC | 1927 |
| P George | PZ | 1920 |
| H G Gold | PAGDC | 1914 |
| A J Green | PAGDC | 1922 |
| H J F Gregory | PAGDC | 1938 |
| L A Harrington | PGStB | 1920 |
| J N Hart | PGStB | 1943 |
| F V Hazell | PZ | 1944 |
| H T Hodge | PZ | 1946 |
| W T Hogg | PAGDC | 1914 |
| P G Hunt | PAGDC | 1932 |
| E N Le Fre | PAGDC | 1925 |
| W Markham | PZ | 1934 |
| W Marshall | MEZ | 1946 |
| H O Mauerhofer | PDistGSoj (HK&China) | 1939 |
| G E Miles | PZ | 1949 |
| C Moss | PZ | 1950 |
| J H Murison | PZ | 1946 |
| G I Noble | PZ | 1943 |
| R J Power-Berry | PZ | 1941 |
| E E Raggett | PZ | 1939 |
| A E C Rayment | PZ | 1933 |
| A E Rivers | PZ | 1944 |
| L J Rivett | PZ | 1943 |
| J Rogers | LGCR | ? |
| Sir Frederick Rowland | PGSN | 1916 |
| J D Rubens | PZ | 1934 |
| F T Simmonds | LGCR | 1921 |
| Albert E Smith | PGStB | 1924 |
| E F Stammers | PZ | 1950 |
| A C Stahelin | LGCR | 1931 |
| W Taylor | PZ | 1944 |
| E A H Thompson | LGCR | 1935 |
| C B Vanstone | PZ | 1938 |
| E J G Weare | PZ | 1949 |
| A D Wells | PZ | 1944 |
| J W Whitlock | PGStB | 1922 |

Appendix B

Honorary Members

Since its inception the Chapter has elected 13 companions as Honorary Members - these are listed below. Initially, according to established Masonic custom, the Consecrating Officer and his Assisting Officers were elected and although all have since passed on to higher service, Derek Butler Adams, the DC, remained a member for 39 years.

| | |
|---|---|
| E Comp Sir Sydney White <i>KCVO</i> Grand Scribe E | Elected 23 July 1957 (D 9 Mar 1958) |
| E Comp Sir Ernest Cooper <i>DL</i> PGSN | 23 July 1957 (D 7 Sep 1962) |
| E Comp Rev Preb F W Ferraro <i>MA BD</i> PGSN | 23 July 1957 (D 8 Mar 1963) |
| E Comp W S Wigglesworth PGStB | 23 July 1957 (D 1972) |
| E Comp D Butler Adams <i>TD</i> PDepGDC | 23 July 1957 (D 2 Jan 1996) |
| E Comp Sir George Boag <i>KCIE CSI</i> PGsupt(Madras) | 29 May 1959 (D 25 April 1969) |
| E Comp Augustus William Gibson PAGDC | 30 Sep 1971 (D 12 Sep 1973) |
| E Comp Leslie Arnold Harrington PAGSoj | 31 Jan 1973 (D 4 Apr 1974) |
| ME Comp Rev Francis G W W Heydon P3 rd GPrin | 24 May 1982 (D 14 Mar 1994) |
| ME Comp Rev Peter Hemingway P3 rd GPrin | 31 Jan 1996 |
| E Comp Sir James Stubbs <i>KCVO TD</i> OSM PGSE | 30 May 1997 (D 7 Mar 2000) |
| E Comp Alfred E Matkins PAGSoj | 30 May 1997 (D 12 Feb 1999) |
| E Comp The Rt Hon Lord Millet <i>PC</i> MetGSupt(Lond) | 31 Jan 2005 |

Sir Sydney White, the Consecrating Officer, was Grand Secretary and Grand Scribe E from 1937 until his death in 1958.

Sir Ernest Cooper, the Consecrating H, was President of the Board of General Purposes from 1946 to 1958.

The Reverend Prebendary Francis William Ferraro, the Consecrating J, was Rector of St Matthews Church, Bethnal Green, 1939 – 1949 and Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral from 1945 until his death in 1963.

Appendix C

Principals of the Chapter 1957 – 2007

| Yr | First Principal | Second Principal | Third Principal |
|------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1957 | † Reginald F B Cross OSM PAGSoj (1) | * John Lawrance PGStB | * Charles H Watson PGStB |
| 1958 | * Robert J Coley PAGSoj (2) | | |
| 1958 | * Sir Frederick Rowland PGSN | * Reginald J Davis PAGSoj | * Alfred C Duncan PAGSoj |
| 1959 | * John Lawrance PAGSoj | * Arthur Albert Murphy PAGDC | * Frank W Torrens PGStB |
| 1960 | * Charles H Watson PGStB | * Arthur E Smith PGStB | * Ernest W J Hills PAGDC |
| 1961 | * Harold J Crawford PGStB | * Nils Lovold Eckhoff PAGSoj | * Leslie A Harrington PAGSoj |
| 1962 | * Reginald J Davis PAGSoj | * W Godfrey Stevenson PGStB | * Eric A H Thompson LGCR |
| 1963 | * Sir James Stubbs <i>KCVO</i> OSM PGSE | * Peter John Swanston PGStB | * Sidney F G Collier GSIB |
| 1964 | * Augustus W Gibson PAGDC | * Jack Rogers PAGDC | * Geraint White-Phillips PAGSoj |
| 1965 | * Nils Lovold Eckhoff PAGSoj | * Albert V Hussey LGCR | George W Thompson PAGDC |
| 1966 | * Claud O Walker PAGSoj | † Henry T Hodges LGCR | * Leonard C Wilson-Day PAGDC |
| 1967 | * Arthur Albert Murphy PGStB | * Eric N Le Fre PGStB | * Sidney E Ward PAGSoj |
| 1968 | * Peter John Swanston PAGSoj | * R A Roy Wells PAGDC | Douglas K Fenton PAGDC |
| 1969 | * Eric A H Thompson PGStB | * Alfred E Matkins PGStB | Gerald G Swan PGStB |
| 1970 | * Geraint White-Phillips PAGSoj | * Arthur F Walton PAGDC | Henry J Hutchinson PGStB |
| 1971 | * Eric N Le Fre PAGSoj | * Bertram Challiner PGStB | * Frederick C Hughes PGStB |
| 1972 | * Leonard C Wilson-Day PGStB | * Leslie Rose PGStB | * George W Edser PGStB |
| 1973 | * R A Roy Wells PAGSoj | * Sidney Pearlman PGStB | * George W Heather PAGDC |
| 1974 | * Alfred E Matkins PAGSoj | * Newton S Cole PGStB | * Stephen F Nash LGCR |
| 1975 | * V Rev H G Michael Clarke P3 rd GP | * Frederick C Hughes PGStB | * William G Roworth SLGCR |
| 1976 | * Wilfred A H Keeley PGStB | * Godfrey M Tiffen SLGCR | * Harry Newman PGStB |
| 1977 | * Nigel T Haines OSM PGStB | * Kenneth B Robinson PAGSoj | * Joseph W Davies LGCR |
| 1978 | * Alan R Jole PGSwdB | * Robert Gold PGStB | * George J Bowden PGOrg |
| 1979 | * Frederick C Hughes PAGSoj | * Mostapha Kamill <i>GM</i> PAGSoj | * Kyriacos K Kcmaris PGStB |
| 1980 | * Mortimer Silverman <i>TD</i> PAGSoj | * Maj Leslie H Lockley PGStB | * Fred S Shepherd PAGSoj |
| 1981 | * Sidney Pearlman PAGSoj | * Harry L Moore PAGDC | * William C Brentnall PAGDC |
| 1982 | Roointon B F Khambatta PGsupt (Pak) | * Karl M Blauhorn PGStB | * William D Main SLGCR |
| 1983 | * Joseph W Davies PAGDC | * Lionel H Shrago PAGSoj | * William A Hepworth SLGCR |
| 1984 | * Peter W Lonnon <i>OBE</i> LGCR | * E Gregory White SLGCR | * Sidney J Patmore PGStB |
| 1985 | * Cyril N Batham <i>CSU</i> PAGSoj | * Richard S Hughes <i>TD</i> PGStB | William E Harris PGStB |
| 1986 | * Richard A C Mordant PAGSoj | * William G Roworth SLGCR | † I Harry Mendoza PAGSoj |
| 1987 | * Robert Gold PGStB | Samuel H M Jones PAGDC | * Joe Elman PGStB |
| 1988 | * Leslie D Sinclair PGStB | † Barry Clarke PAGDC | Alfred G Arber PAGDC |
| 1989 | * Maj Leslie H Lockley PGStB | * Henry A Thompson PAGSoj | Josh Shirman <i>JP</i> PAGSoj |
| 1990 | † I Harry Mendoza PAGSoj | * William D Main SLGCR | * Gilbert A Lawrence SLGCR |
| 1991 | * Alan G Davies PGsupt (Nigeria) | * Fred S Shepherd PAGSoj | * Robert E Secular PGStB |

† Died in Office * Deceased ‡ Resigned (1) Died 17 Jan 1958 (2) From 31 Jan 1958

The ranks given are the latest known (c. May 2007)

Principals of the Chapter 1957 – 2007

(continued)

| Yr | First Principal | Second Principal | Third Principal |
|------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1992 | * Walter Crombie PDepGSwdB | Alfred G Arber PGStB | * John E Moss LGCR |
| 1993 | † Barry Clarke PAGDC | * Charles F Shepperd PAGDC | * Bryan C Burton SLGCR |
| 1994 | Bryan F Page PAGSoj | Timothy J Lewis PAGSoj | * Iain P Campbell PAGDC |
| 1995 | Herbert A Davis PAGSoj | Josh Shirman JP PAGSoj | Peter F Sayer JP PAGDC |
| 1996 | * Sidney P Johnson SLGCR | † John E Moss LGCR | George K Todorovitch PGStB |
| 1997 | Josh Shirman JP PAGSoj | * Robert E Secular PGStB | Terence F Wauer PAGSoj |
| 1998 | * William G Roworth SLGCR | Victor A Cowan PAGDC | * David C Nelson PAGSoj |
| 1999 | Peter F Fuchter PAGDC | Wilfrid E Reed PGStB | * Bertram O Rivers LGCR |
| 2000 | Brian A Vickers PGSwdB | Anthony JF Nightingale PAGSoj | Andrew G Peto LGCR |
| 2001 | Harold Gould OBE JP DL PAGSoj | Derek W Bellingham PAGDC | Ernest Low SLGCR |
| 2002 | Peter G Brassett PGSwdB | Derek G Hugh PAGSoj | Howard A Beber PGStB |
| 2003 | Brian A de Neut PGSwdB | Keith Tallon PAGSoj | Ajay H Vyas LGCR |
| 2004 | George K Todorovitch PGStB | Michael F Barnes PAGSoj | Richard Machin PGStB |
| 2005 | Derek G Hugh PAGSoj | Michael Mullally PAGSoj | Keith D Bleasdale PGStB |
| 2006 | John M Hamill PGSwdB | Daniel Leno PGStB | Ronald A Wark SLGCR |
| 2007 | Russell J Race PGSN DepGSupt (Lon) | John D Hussey PAGSoj | George E Dyball PAGDC |

† Died in Office * Deceased ‡ Resigned (1) Died 17 Jan 1958 (2) From 31 Jan 1958

The ranks given are the latest known (c. May 2007)

Appendix D Scribes E, Treasurers and DCs of the Chapter 1957 – 2007

| Yr | Scribe E | Treasurer | Director of Ceremonies |
|------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1957 | Augustus W Gibson LGCR | Reginald J Davis PAGSoj | Arthur A Murphy LGCR |
| 1958 | --- | Robert J Coley PAGSoj | Leslie A Harrington PGStB |
| 1959 | --- AGDC | --- | --- PAGSoj |
| 1960 | --- PAGDC | --- | --- |
| 1961 | --- | --- | Eric N Le Fre PAGDC |
| 1962 | --- | --- | --- |
| 1963 | --- | --- | Arthur E Smith PGStB |
| 1964 | Claud O Walker PGStB | E George Barnikel LGCR | --- |
| 1965 | --- | --- | Peter J Swanson PGStB |
| 1966 | Augustus W Gibson PAGDC | --- | Alfred E Matkins PGStB |
| 1967 | --- | --- | --- |
| 1968 | --- | --- AGDC | Arthur F Walton PAGDC |
| 1969 | --- | --- PAGDC | --- |
| 1970 | Nigel T Haines PAGDC | --- | Charles H Locke LGCR |
| 1971 | --- | --- | --- PAGDC |
| 1972 | --- | --- | Newton S Cole PGStB |
| 1973 | --- | --- | --- |
| 1974 | --- | --- | Wilfred A H Keeley |
| 1975 | --- | --- | --- |
| 1976 | --- | --- | Robert F S Carroll |
| 1977 | Robert F S Carroll | --- | William D Main |
| 1978 | Nigel T Haines OSM PGStB | Richard A C Mordant PGStB | --- |
| 1979 | --- | --- | --- LGCR |
| 1980 | --- | --- | --- |
| 1981 | --- | --- PAGSoj | --- |
| 1982 | --- | --- | Peter W Lonnon OBE LGCR |
| 1983 | --- | --- | --- |
| 1984 | --- | --- | F W Kempton LGCR |
| 1985 | --- | --- | --- |
| 1986 | --- | C H Meredith LGCR | Barry Clarke PAGDC |
| 1987 | --- | Richard A C Mordant PAGSoj | --- |
| 1988 | --- | --- | Colin C Coles PGStB |
| 1989 | --- | --- | Peter A Rogers PAGSoj |
| 1990 | Sidney P Johnson LGCR | --- | --- |
| 1991 | --- SLGCR | Leslie D Sinclair PGStB | Bryan F Page PAGSoj |

† Died in Office * Deceased ‡ Resigned

The ranks given are the latest known (c. July 2007)

Scribes E, Treasurers and DCs of the Chapter 1957 – 2007
(continued)

| Yr | Scribe E | Treasurer | Director of Ceremonies |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1992 | --- | The Hon P M Dayton LGCR | --- |
| 1993 | --- | --- | --- |
| 1994 | --- | Peter G Brassett PGSwdB | Terence F Wauer PAGSoj |
| 1995 | Peter F Fuchter PAGDC | --- | Brian A Vickers PGSwdB |
| 1996 | --- | --- | --- |
| 1997 | --- | --- | --- |
| 1998 | --- | --- | George K Todorovitch PGStB |
| 1999 | Peter J Clatworthy LGCR | --- | --- |
| 2000 | --- | --- | --- |
| 2001 | --- | --- | --- |
| 2002 | Mark L Perkins TD LGCR | Roger B Bathurst PGStB | --- |
| 2003 | --- | --- | Terence J Chalcraft JP PGStB |
| 2004 | --- | --- | --- |
| 2005 | --- | --- | --- |
| 2006 | --- | --- | --- |
| 2007 | --- | --- | Kenneth F Beckett PGSoj |

† Died in Office * Deceased ‡ Resigned

The ranks given are the latest known (c. July 2007)

Appendix E Officers of the Golden Jubilee Year, 2007 - 2008

| Name | Rank | Office |
|---------------|-------|--------------------------|
| R J Race | PGSN | MEZ |
| J D Hussey | PGSoj | H |
| G E Dyball | PAGDC | J |
| M L Perkins | LGCR | Scribe E |
| D A Hussey | SLGCR | Scribe N |
| R B Bathurst | PGStB | Treasurer |
| K F Beckett | PGSoj | DC |
| J Stonely | SLGCR | Almoner |
| B A Fennings | PZ | Charity Steward |
| P D Cook | SLGCR | PS |
| M J Stirton | LGCR | 1 st Asst Soj |
| H F Gudka | SLGCR | 2 nd Asst Soj |
| P L Smith | LGCR | ADC |
| D D Black | LGCR | Organist |
| P J Gaffney | SLGCR | Asst Scribe E |
| J M Adamson | PZ | Steward |
| J M Bowie | PZ | Steward |
| J E Burnapp | PZ | Steward |
| J S Dhadialla | LGCR | Steward |
| K J Edwards | LGCR | Steward |
| P R Elliott | PZ | Steward |
| J R Garlick | PZ | Steward |
| N C Jenkins | LGCR | Steward |
| M S Jutlla | PZ | Steward |
| M R Thompson | PZ | Steward |
| J P Gaffney | PZ | Janitor |

Appendix F Lectures and Presentations

| Date | Lecture | Speaker |
|--------------|---|--|
| 23 Jul 1957 | Consecration | --- |
| 30 Sep 1957 | Royal Arch Masonry- The Story of the Early Years | Bernard E Jones PGStB |
| 31 Jan 1958 | The Significance of Royal Arch Masonry | R A L Harland LGCR President, Dormer Masonic Study Circle |
| 30 May 1958 | A Few Observations on Royal Arch Masonry | G S Shepherd Jones <i>OBE</i> PAGSoj, President, Aldersgate CoI |
| 30 Sep 1958 | Royal Arch Masonry | Sir George Boag <i>KCIE CSI</i> President Comm of General Purposes |
| 30 Jan 1959 | An Explanation of the Royal Arch Jewel | Augustus W Gibson LGCR |
| 29 May 1959 | The Scriptural Basis of the Chapter Teaching | Rev Joseph Moffett <i>DD</i> ME Grand Supt Hertfordshire |
| 30 Sept 1959 | The Scriptural Background of the Royal Arch Ritual | Rev Everett G Turner <i>MA</i> PGSN |
| 29 Jan 1960 | The Charter of Compact and Lord Blayney | J R Dashwood PAGSoj Secretary, Quatuor Coronati Lodge No 2076 |
| 30 May 1960 | The Royal Arch Jewel and the Platonic Bodies | Augustus W Gibson AGDC |
| 30 Sep 1960 | The Royal Arch Degree | Ex King Lt Col Frederick Adams <i>MA</i> , Past E King Lewarree Chapter No 646(IC) |
| 31 Jan 1961 | Masonic Lights | Rev F J Dove <i>MA</i> PGStB |
| 30 May 1961 | The "Hidden Name" | Rev F G W W Heydon PGStB |
| 29 Sep 1961 | Glimpses of the Royal Arch and its Ritual | H J Cavell LGCR |

| Date | Lecture | Speaker |
|-------------|--|---|
| 31 Jan 1962 | A Rehearsal of the Installation Ceremonies | Domatic Chapter of Instruction No 177 |
| 31 May 1962 | A Rehearsal of the Installation Ceremonies | Aldersgate Chapter of Improvement No 1657 |
| 28 Sep 1962 | The Royal Arch Degree | E A Clutton PAGDC |
| 31 Jan 1963 | More Light on the Holy Royal Arch | Harry Carr PGStB Secretary, Quatuor Coronati Lodge No 2076 |
| 7 Jun 1963 | The Banners | Col R T S Kitwood PGStB |
| 30 Sep 1963 | Royal Arch Masonry | James W Stubbs Grand Scribe E |
| 31 Jan 1964 | Early Evidence Relating to the Royal Arch | W Ivor Grantham <i>OBE LLB</i> PGSoj |
| 29 May 1964 | Some Interesting Features at the Inauguration of the Grand Chapters of Switzerland Finland and India | Sir George Boag <i>KCIE CSI</i> President, Comm of General Purposes |
| 30 Sep 1964 | The Inception Purpose and Objects of a First Principals Chapter | Augustus W Gibson PAGDC |
| 29 Jan 1965 | Royal Arch Matters | R A Wells PZ, Scribe E, Domatic Chap of Instr'n 177 |
| 31 May 1965 | Notes on the History of the Royal Arch Degree | Edward Newton PZ Asst Librarian UGLE |
| 30 Sep 1965 | Revision | Rev E G Turner <i>MA</i> PGSN |
| 31 Jan 1966 | Whence came the Royal Arch? | L E C Peckover PGStB |
| 31 May 1966 | The Royal Arch in the years of Development | Ivor Evans PZ |
| 30 Sep 1966 | A Masonic Walk around Jerusalem | D Mason PZ |
| 31 Jan 1967 | The Early Development of the Royal Arch from Craft Masonry | Dr S Vatcher <i>OBE</i> |
| 31 May 1967 | Royal Arch Masonry - of French Origin? | C N Batham |

| Date | Lecture | Speaker | Date | Lecture | Speaker |
|-------------|--|--|-------------|--|---|
| 29 Sep 1967 | The First Grand Chapter and The Charter of Compact | Augustus W Gibson PAGDC | 31 Jan 1972 | Unravelling Riddles of the Royal Arch | Rev Neville Barker Cryer Third Prov Grand Principal, Surrey |
| 31 Jan 1968 | An Explanation of the Symbolic Lecture | R A Wells PAGDC | 31 May 1972 | Demonstration of the Irish Royal Arch Installation Ceremonies | Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland |
| 31 May 1968 | The Climax of Freemasonry - As I See It | Oscar Farrant PAGSoj Editor, Lodge of Research No 2429 | 29 Sep 1972 | The Royal Arch Words, Syllables and Characters Examined. | Roy A Wells PAGDC |
| 30 Sep 1968 | A New Theory as to the Origin of the Banners and Ensigns of the Royal Arch | The Hon W R S Bathurst <i>TD FSA</i> GSupt, Glos & Herefordshire | 31 Jan 1973 | Whose Names They Bear | Rev Canon Richard Tydeman PGSN |
| 31 Jan 1969 | The Historical Origins of the Royal Arch Legends | Rev J E Penney PGStB | 31 May 1973 | The Royal Arch Banners - a Reappraisal | Dr Geraint White-Phillips PAGSoj |
| 30 May 1969 | Royal Arch Masonry | T O Haunch PProvGSN(Notts) Asst Librarian UGLE | 28 Sep 1973 | The Royal Arch as the Perfection of the Master's Degree | Roy A Wells PAGDC |
| 30 Sep 1969 | One of the Lesser Known Rituals | James W Stubbs Grand Scribe E | 31 Jan 1974 | Some Early French Royal Arch Rituals Examined | C N Batham PM Quatuor Coronati Lodge No 2076 |
| 31 Jan 1970 | Royal Arch Ritual of the 18 th Cent | A R Hewitt PGStB Librarian & Curator UGLE | 31 May 1974 | The Platonic Bodies and the Royal Arch Breast Jewel | Harry Mendoza |
| 29 May 1970 | A Study of the Symbols on the Royal Arch Principal Banners | Roy A Wells PAGDC | 30 Sep 1974 | Observations on early forms of Royal Arch Ritual. | Alfred E Matkins PAGSoj |
| 30 Sep 1970 | The Origin, Formation and History of our Chapter to Date | Augustus W Gibson PAGDC | 31 Jan 1975 | From the Craft to the Royal Arch | K C Brown PGStB |
| 29 Jan 1971 | The Royal Arch in relation to Other Constitutions | J W Chitty <i>MBE</i> PGSoj | 30 May 1975 | Demonstration of Installation Ceremonies | Domestic Chapter of Instruction No 177 |
| 27 May 1971 | Aspects of the Royal Arch Ceremony as Practised in the Province of Bristol | Francis John Hector <i>MD</i> <i>FRCS</i> , GSupt Bristol | 30 Sep 1975 | What the Craft and the Holy Royal Arch teach about Personal Conduct | Very Rev H G Michael Clarke, Third G Principal |
| 29 Jun 1971 | Demonstration of Bristol Royal Arch Ceremony at Freemasons' Hall Park Street, Bristol. | Jerusalem Chapter No.686 Province of Bristol | 31 Jan 1976 | Demonstration of the Proposed Method of Rendering the Historical Symbolical and Mystical Lectures in Catechetical Form | The Principals and Members of the Chapter |
| 30 Sep 1971 | Inaugural Address by MEZ | Eric N Le Fre PGStB | 1 Jun 1976 | Rehearsal of Installation Ceremonies | Aldersgate Chapter of Improvement No 1657 |
| | | | 30 Sep 1976 | Concerning Royal Arch Installations | Roy Wells PAGDC |

| Date | Lecture | Speaker | Date | Lecture | Speaker |
|-------------|--|---|-------------|---|--|
| 31 Jan 1977 | His Once Favoured People | Kenneth Hastwell PAGDC | 24 May 1982 | The Grand Charity | Sir John Stebbings PGSN President, Grand Charity |
| 31 May 1977 | Three Master Masons from Babylon | R J Raymond ProvGReg (Surrey) | 30 Sep 1982 | The Universality of the Royal Arch – a Personal View | Dr R B F Khambatta Past District Grand Superintendent (Pakistan) |
| 30 Sep 1977 | Inaugural Address | Nigel T Haines PGStB | 31 Jan 1983 | Freemasonry in the Holy Land | Joe Elman PAGDC |
| 31 Jan 1978 | Changes in Grand Chapter over the past 30 years | James W Stubbs Grand Grand Scribe E | 23 May 1983 | Royal Arch Treasures in the Library and Museum | John Hamill PZ Librarian & Curator UGLE |
| 24 May 1978 | Demonstration of their Exaltation Ceremony | Chapter of Fidelity No 441 Province of Cambridge | 30 Sep 1983 | Installation Meeting | Joseph W Davies PAGDC |
| 29 Sep 1978 | Installation Meeting | Alan R Jole PDepGSE | 31 Jan 1984 | Royal Arch Matters – Part 3 | Roy A Wells PGStB |
| 31 Jan 1979 | Royal Arch Masonry | T O Haunch PGStB Librarian & Curator, UGLE | 31 May 1984 | Some Notes on the Royal Arch | A E Matkins PAGSoj |
| 31 May 1979 | Demonstration of the delivery of the Historical, Symbolical and Mystical Lectures in Catechetical Form | The Three Principals and Members of the Chapter | 28 Sep 1984 | Installation Meeting | Peter W Lonnon <i>OBE</i> LGCR |
| 28 Sep 1979 | An Interesting Fragment of Antients Royal Arch Ritual c1803 | Roy Wells PGStB | 31 Jan 1985 | Ezra – The Scribe Official Delivery of the Batham Royal Arch Lecture 1985 | Brian J Bell |
| 31 Jan 1980 | Masonic Music & Musicians | Leslie Lavers PJGD Sidney South PGOrg | 31 May 1985 | Some Early French Royal Arch Rituals Examined, followed by a mini demonstration | Cyril N Batham PAGSoj |
| 30 May 1980 | An Old American Working of the Third Degree | Colne Valley Chapter No 2154, Prov of Essex | 30 Sep 1985 | Installation Meeting | Cyril N Batham PAGSoj |
| 30 Sep 1980 | Installation Meeting | Mortimer Silverman <i>TD</i> PGStB | 31 Jan 1986 | The Banners | Col Rex T S Kitwood PGSupt Hants & IOW |
| 30 Jan 1981 | Royal Arch Matters – Part Two | Roy Wells PGStB | 30 May 1986 | Evolution of Royal Arch Masonry in France 1760-1820 | Cyril N Batham PAGSoj |
| 29 May 1981 | Demonstration of the Ceremony of Passing the Veils | Colne Chapter No 2477 Province of Essex | 30 Sep 1986 | Installation Meeting | Richard A C Mordant PAGSoj |
| 30 Sep 1981 | The Future Organisation of the Masonic Charities | Alan R Jole PDepGSE | 30 Jan 1987 | The Sacred Word to Keep | Harry Mendoza PAGDC |
| 29 Jan 1982 | The Royal Arch in the USA York Rite | Roy A Wells PGStB | 29 May 1987 | A Demonstration of the Opening & Closing and the Installation of Principals in an Irish Constitution Royal Arch Chapter | The ME & Supreme King Samuel J Martin and other members of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland |

| Date | Lecture | Speaker | Date | Lecture | Speaker |
|-------------|--|--|-------------|--|---|
| 30 Sep 1987 | Inaugural Address by the Third Principal | Joe Elman PGStB | 30 Sep 1992 | Installation Meeting | |
| 29 Jan 1988 | A Demonstration of the suggested changes in the Royal Arch Ritual rendering of the Mystical Lecture. | Roy A Wells PAGSoj and Chapter Members | 29 Jan 1993 | The Work of the Information Committee of the Board of General Purposes | Walter Crombie PAGSoj |
| 31 May 1988 | A Message of Hope for the 20th Century | Rabbi I N Fabricant | 28 May 1993 | Conduct Unbecoming | Peter C Nievens <i>OBE</i> <i>QPM</i> PGStB |
| 30 Sep 1988 | A Demonstration of the suggested changes in the Royal Arch Ritual rendering of the Mystical Lecture | Roy A Wells PAGSoj and Chapter Members | 30 Sep 1993 | Installation Meeting | |
| 31 Jan 1989 | The Premier Grand Lodge and the delayed recognition of the Royal Arch | Roy A Wells PAGSoj | 31 Jan 1994 | A Demonstration of the Passing of the Veils Ceremony | Colne Chapter No 2477 Province of Essex |
| 31 May 1989 | English, Scottish and Irish Royal Arch Masonry | Bryan F Page LGCR Dep Librarian and Curator UGLE | 31 May 1994 | The Royal Arch Ensigns | T E Lumley PProvDepGReg (Middx) |
| 27 Sep 1989 | The Grand Chapter Certificates | L H Lockley PGStB | 30 Sep 1994 | Cyrus and the Royal Arch | Bryan F Page PGStB |
| 31 Jan 1990 | The Ensigns and Banners | Harry Mendoza PAGSoj | 31 Jan 1995 | Sir Christopher Wren, St Paul's Cathedral and Freemasonry | A H Perry LGCR |
| 31 May 1990 | Some Explanations of the Peculiar Characteristics of the Royal Arch Chapter | Rev Neville Barker Cryer PGSoj | 31 May 1995 | The Royal Arch 1740-1813 | Yasha Beresiner <i>LLB</i> Quatuor Coronati Lodge No 2076 |
| 28 Sep 1990 | ... ought to propose for the good of Royal Arch Masonry? | Harry Mendoza PAGSoj | 29 Sep 1995 | Reminiscences of a Grand Officer | Rev Peter Hemingway Third Grand Principal |
| 31 Jan 1991 | From Babylon Most Excellent | Richard Sandbach PGSupt Northants & Hunts | 31 Jan 1996 | The Anomalies of the Royal Arch - Craft Connection | Douglas W Burford PGSwdB, Quatuor Coronati Lodge No 2076 |
| 31 May 1991 | What is it that was lost and is now found? | Harry Mendoza PAGSoj | 31 May 1996 | Rudyard Kipling - Poet & Mason | John Webb, Quatuor Coronati Lodge No 2076 |
| 30 Sep 1991 | Royal Arch Masonry in Ghana | A G Davies PGSupt Nigeria | 30 Sep 1996 | Installation Meeting | |
| 31 Jan 1992 | The Committee of General Purposes | Maj Gen D A Beckett <i>CB</i> <i>DSO OBE</i> , President, Comm of Gen Purposes | 31 Jan 1997 | Companions, whence come ye? | John M Hamill <i>BA</i> PAGSoj, Librarian & Curator UGLE |
| 29 May 1992 | Illustrated by Symbols - Masonry and the Qabala | Alan G Davies PGSupt Nigeria | 30 May 1997 | The Vision Splendid | Rev Graham I Williams <i>MA</i> , PGSupt (Surrey) |
| | | | 30 Sep 1997 | The Spiritual Dimension | J Shirman <i>JP</i> PAGSoj |

| Date | Lecture | Speaker |
|--------------|---|--|
| 30 Jan 1998 | The Excellent Grand & Royal | John M Hamill BA PGSoj Librarian & Curator UGLE |
| 29 May 1998 | Interesting Variations in Present Royal Arch Ceremonies in England | Rev Neville Barker Cryer PGSoj |
| 5 Oct 1998 | Installation Meeting | |
| 29 Jan 1999 | A Charter of Compact - Falsified or Altered? | Yasha Beresiner LLB |
| 28 May 1999 | The Use, Misuse and Abuse of Ritual | Richard Sandbach PGSupt (Northants & Hunts) |
| 30 Sep 1999 | Installation Meeting | |
| 31 Jan 2000 | What did Cyrus say and other mysteries? | John S Butler PAGDC |
| 31 May 2000 | Demonstration of the 4 th Degree of the Antients including the Ceremony of Passing the Veils | Sutton Coldfield Demo Team assisted by Chapter Members |
| 29 Sept 2000 | Royal Arch Origins and History | Brian A Vickers PAGSoj |
| 31 Jan 2001 | The Trials and Tribulations of a Grand Director of Ceremonies | Peter G Lowndes PGSN G Director of Ceremonies |
| 31 May 2001 | Freemasonry and the Early Antarctic Explorers | John Pinchin |
| 28 Sep 2001 | The MEZ's Membership of his Royal Arch Chapters | Harold Gould OBE JP DL PAGSoj |
| 31 Jan 2002 | The Royal Arch Jewel | Peter L Clatworthy LGCR |
| 31 May 2002 | The Fact, Fable and Fiction of the Royal Arch | Edward K Patnick PGStB |
| 30 Sep 2002 | Numbers connected with the Craft and Royal Arch | Peter G Brassett PGStB |
| 31 Jan 2003 | The Three Dukes of Sussex | John F Ashby PGStB |

| Date | Lecture | Speaker |
|-------------|---|---|
| 30 May 2003 | Demonstration of "Robes, Sceptres and Crowns" | Chapter of Sincerity No 600, Province of Yorkshire, West Riding |
| 30 Sep 2003 | Installation Meeting | |
| 30 Jan 2004 | The Holy Royal Arch – an extension to but neither a superior nor a subordinate part of the Degrees which precede it. | Brian de Neut PGSwdB 2 nd Met Grand Principal |
| 25 May 2004 | Chapter Ritual before 1830 | Gordon W S Davie PAGSoj |
| 30 Sep 2004 | Demonstration of the proposed changes to Royal Arch Working | Paul L Ostwind PAGDC and the Prov of Herts Demonstration Team |
| 31 Jan 2005 | Lincoln's Inn Fields – one of London's best kept secrets | Brian G Tierney MBE PAGDC |
| 31 May 2005 | Scalprum looks back - changing patterns in health care delivery | John L W Wright RD FRCS, PGSwdB Met Group Chairman |
| 30 Sep 2005 | Installation Address by MEZ | |
| 31 Jan 2006 | The Volume of the Sacred Law in Multi-Faith Freemasonry | Chhotalal D Pattni PGStB |
| 31 May 2006 | The Royal Arch Tracing Board | Richard A Crane PGTreas |
| 29 Sep 2006 | Installation Address by MEZ | |
| 31 Jan 2007 | Blue, Red and Gold, the recipe for Royal Arch fudge | Revd Elkan D Levy PAGSoj Met 3 rd Grand Principal |
| 31 May 2007 | (Investiture of Met Grand Inspectors) | |

Appendix G Membership Statistics

| July (a) | Mem (b) | Average Attendance | | | |
|----------|---------|--------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| | | Mem (c) | Guests | Total | Dining |
| 1957 | 72 | | | | |
| 1958 | 92 | 58 | 21 | 79 | 77 |
| 1959 | 97 | 55 | 28 | 83 | 81 |
| 1960 | 99 | 50 | 23 | 73 | 72 |
| 1961 | 97 | 52 | 20 | 72 | 70 |
| 1962 | 97 | 54 | 228 * | 282 | 174 |
| 1963 | 111 | 62 | 20 | 82 | 79 |
| 1964 | 130 | 76 | 33 | 109 | 105 |
| 1965 | 147 | 81 | 34 | 115 | 113 |
| 1966 | 148 | 72 | 27 | 99 | 99 |
| 1967 | 152 | 84 | 30 | 114 | 109 |
| 1968 | 171 | 95 | 39 | 134 | 132 |
| 1969 | 180 | 95 | 31 | 126 | 126 |
| 1970 | 178 | 93 | 23 | 116 | 114 |
| 1971 | 178 | 87 | 27 | 114 | 111 |
| 1972 | 205 | 109 | 114 * | 223 | 187 |
| 1973 | 244 | 125 | 26 | 152 | 147 |
| 1974 | 270 | 110 | 22 | 132 | 108 |
| 1975 | 297 | 121 | 61 * | 182 | 129 |
| 1976 | 325 | 126 | 59 * | 185 | 119 |
| 1977 | 341 | 129 | 31 | 160 | 119 |
| 1978 | 357 | 127 | 35 | 162 | 115 |
| 1979 | 370 | 128 | 59 * | 187 | 121 |
| 1980 | 374 | 124 | 37 | 161 | 105 |
| 1981 | 379 | 132 | 83 * | 215 | 132 |

Notes

- (a) On or about 1st July
- (b) Subscribing Membership
- (c) Includes Honorary Members, Joining Members and Tyler

* Meetings in these years included special events which attracted large numbers of self-invited guests, the figures are therefore atypical

Appendix G Membership Statistics (continued)

| July (a) | Mem (b) | Average Attendance | | | |
|----------|---------|--------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| | | Mem (c) | Guests | Total | Dining |
| 1982 | 375 | 112 | 23 | 135 | 93 |
| 1983 | 390 | 106 | 20 | 126 | 84 |
| 1984 | 395 | 106 | 16 | 122 | 81 |
| 1985 | 417 | 116 | 31 | 147 | 102 |
| 1986 | 430 | 115 | 21 | 136 | 108 |
| 1987 | 417 | 134 | 65 * | 199 | 124 |
| 1988 | 425 | 126 | 166 * | 292 | 124 |
| 1989 | 439 | 129 | 125 * | 254 | 94 |
| 1990 | 421 | 82 | 15 | 97 | 67 |
| 1991 | 416 | 76 | 11 | 86 | 62 |
| 1992 | 366 | 78 | 11 | 89 | 64 |
| 1993 | 338 | 70 | 15 | 85 | 62 |
| 1994 | 325 | 74 | 12 | 86 | 65 |
| 1995 | 300 | 66 | 12 | 78 | 59 |
| 1996 | 323 | 78 | 17 | 95 | 76 |
| 1997 | 334 | 84 | 12 | 96 | 77 |
| 1998 | 386 | 82 | 20 | 102 | 82 |
| 1999 | 333 | 85 | 20 | 105 | 79 |
| 2000 | 355 | 101 | 44 * | 145 | 108 |
| 2001 | 373 | 90 | 14 | 104 | 77 |
| 2002 | 373 | 83 | 14 | 97 | 72 |
| 2003 | 375 | 75 | 20 | 95 | 79 |
| 2004 | 374 | 79 | 13 | 92 | 77 |
| 2005 | 358 | 79 | 15 | 94 | 74 |
| 2006 | 374 | 98 | 19 | 117 | 100 |
| 2007 | 384 | 106 # | 52 # * | 158 # * | 131 # * |

Notes

- (a) On or about 1st July
- (b) Subscribing Membership
- (c) Includes Honorary Members, Joining Members and Tyler

* Meetings in these years included special events which attracted large numbers of self-invited guests, the figures are therefore atypical

Jan & May meetings only