



MASONIC EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

October, 2013

“... and without neglecting the duties of your station to consider yourself called to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge”

WELCOME to the monthly newsletter of the Committee on Masonic Education. The purpose of the newsletter is to engage the brethren of our jurisdiction with interesting, thought-provoking material by means of articles, book reviews and guides to other sources of educational material.

WE sincerely welcome constructive criticism and suggestions as well as educational submissions to the CME Newsletter and the REFLECTIONS Newsletter.

THE members of the Committee on Masonic Education are as follows:

Committee Chairman:	R.W.Bro. Charles A. Woods	charleswoods@sympatico.ca
The College of Freemasonry:		
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In addition, there are several other hard-working Masons who serve on the various committees, such as mentors and examiners of the College – too many to mention

LONDON MASONIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Will be held on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2013** at the London Masonic Temple, 453 Dufferin Ave., London.

Registration will take place at 8:30 am, conclusion at 3:30 pm, Cost: \$25 incl. Lunch

Keynote speaker: Bro. 2nd Lieutenant, Joseph F. Curry, Beaches Lodge #473 and Canada Lodge U.D., Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Contact: Randy Hearn – Masonic.conference@gmail.com

Please register in advance or **NO LUNCH**

OBSERVING THE CRAFT by Andrew Hammer (Mindhive Books, 2nd ed, 2012)

ISBN: 978-0-9818316-6-4

Reviewed by R.W.Bro. David Cameron, F.C.F.

W. Bro. Andrew Hammer was the guest speaker at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. He is a past master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, Virginia, one of the oldest lodges in the U.S.A.. In his book, *Observing the Craft*, he explores the themes with which he enthralled us in his speeches in July. He presents us with a vision of what Masonry could be again: a philosophical society which demands of its members the highest standards in all areas of its labour. While acknowledging the diversity which the Craft possesses, he calls us to closely examine those things which have made Freemasonry what it is, and concentrate on them. And to rid ourselves of those things which have crept into our practice that are not Freemasonry. He notes that we are distracted from our true work by many things which have become accepted parts of our institution – by affiliated organizations, by the collecting of degrees, by projects, by charitable work – all laudable things, but things that never-the-less pull away our time and concentration from working on the core of Freemasonry. Our leadership is distracted by membership numbers and financial woes. They try to shore up the institution by short-term solutions, by trying to bring anything and everything into the Masonic fold. He warns against offering up Freemasonry on the cheap just to keep numbers up, and of watering it down for the same reason, or even worse, for improved public perception. He reminds us that Freemasonry is a method of instruction in higher things, and not those higher things themselves.

Hammer presents three areas in which we may choose to pursue excellence: dress, ritual and the festive board. There is good reason to show reverence and respect by dressing formally for lodge, and we in Ontario have, for the most part, maintained that.

He extols the virtues, not only of ritual done well, but the value of music and of silence, the motifs of light and darkness, and the esoteric and transformative energy of candle-flame. We ought to pay attention to the whole package of the degree, and think about its impact from the viewpoint of the candidate.

And lastly, he makes a case for the importance of the festive board. The joy of a meal with toasts, songs and merriment so effectively contrasts with the solemnity of the preceding ceremony, as the alternation of light and darkness does in our degrees, that it highlights and focuses both. A meeting without the formal banquet gives only half the experience of the Craft.

He sums things up thusly:

For too long it seems as if we have been at refreshment; doing the minimum to keep our Lodges in existence, focusing instead on picnics, projects and pastimes which are removed from anything Masonic. Like Esau, we have been too willing to sell our birthright – a birthright of pioneering minds in serious pursuit of moral, social and philosophical light – for a quick and easy stew that satisfies only the immediate hunger of the moment. This book was written in an attempt to call the Craft from refreshment to labour.

More at www.observingthecraft.com

LAUDABLE PURSUIT: A 21st Century Response to Dwight Smith

Copyright 2005-2006 by the Knights of the North, Editor: Christopher L. Hodapp (author of *Freemasonry for Dummies*)

Available for downloading from <http://www.hodapps.com/LaudablePursuitFinal.pdf>

Reviewed by R.W.Bro. Charles A. Woods

This interesting 38-page booklet echoes many of the thoughts put forward by W.Bro. Hammer in the previous book, "Observing the Craft", on a vision of our Craft and what ails it as well as how we could work to improve it. It is a compendium of ideas arising from internet discussions and correspondence among Master Masons, Past Masters and Past Grand Masters, including PGM Dwight Smith of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, who created a list of Ten Questions regarding the health of Freemasonry along with a list of Ten Pitfalls that have harmed the Craft.

"Laudable Pursuit" discusses issues from qualifications of the Master and leadership, the West Gate and potential candidates, the relatively inexpensive cost to joining Masonry, shrinking numbers of members, the effect of appendant bodies, the quality of the banquet hour, dress code, and, finally, a 13-point outline of recommendations to inspire quality and improve our Craft.

An excellent book for Lodge discussion.

THE COLLEGE OF FREEMASONRY

The Committee on Masonic Education offers it's challenging Correspondence Course of Masonic Education throughout this jurisdiction. The College of Freemasonry offers 3 courses of study available to all Master Masons in this jurisdiction:

1. **Masonic Arts & Sciences Course** – completion allows you to become a Fellow of the College of Freemasonry (F.C.F.)
2. **Past Master's Course** – completion allows you to meet the requirements of the Book of Constitution Section 50(b)
3. **Worshipful Master's Course** – completion allows you to be a better informed Mason about many aspects of our Craft on your way to the East

A certificate of completion will be given at the completion of any of the above courses of study. You may continue to another course of study and be credited for the modules you have already completed.

Brethren, this is a real opportunity – don't miss it – broaden your Masonic knowledge. Education is the key to your enjoyment of your Masonic future!

To register, go to the Grand Lodge website (www.grandlodge.on.ca) sign in, click on "Membership", and then click on "College of Freemasonry". You may download the course prospectus and application form from there, or you may contact one of us at masonic.college@gmail.com to send you an application.

Old DDGM Course Grandfathering – For those brethren who are ***currently*** registered for the old DDGM course (before July 1, 2012), you will be able to complete it and receive your DDGM certificate until December 31, 2013.

You must have successfully completed ALL THREE assignments by this date, no exceptions. After that date, you must transfer to and complete the new Past Master's course (11 modules) in whole.

Interesting Facts

- 1st)** R. W. Bro. Siemiernik has personally contacted all old DDGM students (who have not completed it but are registered for it) to encourage them to meet the grandfathering deadline.
- 2nd)** The College is currently assisted by 38 Mentors to aid in the education of students.
- 3rd)** The following numbers are for the period of July 2012 – Sept 2013. This is the period for which the new modular system has been in effect. Take note that the Arts & Sciences course (F.C.F. typically takes 9-18 months to complete because of its length).

<u>Registered</u>	<u>Completed</u>	
FCF	156	8
PM	98	19
WM	26	2

4th) **Calendar Assignments**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Graded</u>	
2011	232	
2012	427	- Modular system began
2013	480	- Year not completed

Respectfully submitted by:

W. Bro. Rick Cadotte, FCF
Principal
College of Freemasonry

Bro. Mark Kapitan, FCF
Secretary/Mentor Coordinator

REFLECTIONS NEWSLETTER

If the brethren hear an exceptional speech or presentation, please send it – with the presenter's permission – to the Editor of the Reflections Newsletter, Bro. Andrew Douris, FCF at andrewlp11@yahoo.ca.

If you wish to subscribe to the Reflections Newsletter, the cost is \$18/year for 4 issues. Until further notice, please email me directly at charleswoods@sympatico.ca. We are in the process of having subscriptions managed on the Grand Lodge website and are hopeful that this will take effect in the near future.