



Hempstead Masonic Lodge #749 AF & AM

*Worshipful Master Kelly Cox Secretary John "Corky" Daut
Hempstead Masonic Lodge Was Chartered December 6, 1893*

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SPECULATIVE MASONRY IN ANCIENT CHINA

There is often debate as to when speculative Masonry began. Some would say that it was when the Grand Lodges were formed in the early 1700s; but research produces interesting evidence which might well change that opinion. Evidence of Masonic truths has been found in ancient Greece, in India, in Egypt and in China; and it is to China that attention is directed in this Article.

The books of ancient China contain many Masonic expressions. For example, in a book called "The Great Learning", written in 500 BC, it is stated "A man should abstain from doing unto others what he would not they should do unto him, and this is called the principle of acting on the Square". Confucius, the great Chinese moral teacher, born about 550 BC and Mencius, his pupil, arranged an orderly system of moral teaching. From the sixth volume of the work on philosophy, I quote; "A Master Mason in teaching his apprentices, makes use of the compasses and the square. We who are engaged in the pursuit of Wisdom, must also make use of the compasses and the square".

Mencius also wrote; "Men should apply the compass morally to their lives, and the level and marking-line besides, if they would walk in the straight and even path of Wisdom, and keep themselves within the bonds on honour and virtue".

In Peking, in China, there is a place called the temple of Heaven, one of the few ancient relics of the Chinese monotheistic faith. It is constructed in the form of a square, with special seats in the east, the west and the south. There is an altar in the very center. There are three circular platforms of diameters of 90 feet, 150 feet, and 210 feet. Note that these are in the ratio of 3, 5 and 7. The temple was built in 1420, but the altar is considered to be 4000 years old.

There was a society called HUNG, or "The Brotherhood of Heaven and earth". This can be traced back to 386 AD. It had a supreme Grand Master, a Senior and Junior Warden, and many subordinate lodges. In the lodge ceremonies, the initiate knelt at the altar, with the Senior and

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TED WREN JR.

9:30 AM Friday Morning January 7, 2005

We just received word this morning that Brother Ted W. Wren Jr. had passed away at 6:30 AM in the intensive care unit at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston. His breathing problems had gotten so bad that he was admitted to the hospital a couple of days ago and placed in the intensive care unit.

As almost all of us remember, Brother Ted was Worshipful Master and a pillar of both Hempstead and Waller Lodge for many years.

His family was somewhat unique in that he, his father, his son and his brother-in-law Mark Herrington were all Master Masons and all four served as Worshipful Masters of Waller Lodge.

As I told Nellie Sunday night after seeing the huge crowd at Cannon's for the viewing, "If there was anyone in Waller County that Ted didn't know they must have moved here last week. The building was full of family and friends.

The funeral was conducted by Cannon Funeral Home in Waller at 10:30 AM Monday morning and Brother Ted was laid to rest in the Field's Store Cemetery.

ANCIENT CHINA (Continued From 1)

Junior Wardens kneeling at his right and left, each holding a sword overhead to form a right angle over the candidate. The lecture given by the Worshipful Master taught that all are equal, that they must live uprightly and justly, that they must help a brother in distress, preserve his secrets, respect the chastity of his wife, and that they must obey the Worshipful Master. The three great principles of the Hung lodge were Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Brethren, it is interesting to note that there has been no Masonry on mainland China for very many years, but now, in 1988, a new Lodge is being constituted there under the Irish Constitution.

Ref: Lodge of Research No.200 (1993), Grand Lodge of Ireland, and Ashlar Lodge No.247, G.R.C. (May 1993)

Editor: While definite historical evidence for the Hung may not go back beyond 1662, Hwui-yin did establish his "White Lotus Society", at Rozan, south of the Yang Tze, c.376 AD. Due to persecutions of worshippers of Amitabha Buddha, the White Lotus went through a quiescent period until Han Shan-tung (1344) revitalised the Society. By the 18th century the Hung and the White Lotus are intermingled until primarily the Hung are only heard of. The White Lotus did rise up after the slaying of Su Hung-u-, and the in the proclamation of 1662. path.

Once upon a time, a beautiful, independent, self assured princess happened upon a frog in a pond.

The frog said to the princess, "I was once a handsome prince until an evil witch put a spell on me. One kiss from you and I will turn back into a prince and then we can marry, move into the castle with my mom and you can prepare my meals, clean my clothes, bear my children and forever feel happy doing so."

That night, while the princess dined on frog legs, she kept laughing and saying, "I don't THINK so."

Lorky's Corner

The revised Hempstead Masonic Lodge web site has just moved to a new location. One without all those irritating popup advertisements. Don't forget to bookmark the new site so you can come back to it often.

You will find Masonic facts — Hempstead Masonic Lodge #749 history — All of the Newsletters from November 2000 to date — Birth & Anniversary dates — and a little humor.

The new site is located at — <http://www.mastermason.com/hempsteadlodge/index.htm>

Goodbye To The Old Railroad Track Sales Shed

Many of us have stood under the old shed selling Bar-B-Que chickens and Briskets in all kind of weather.



But, a couple of weeks ago a citizen who was said to be full of Christmas spirits couldn't coordinate his driving skills well enough to make the turn off of Austin Street and laid the shed down.



The Masonic Apron

The Apron is not a modern invention, in fact it is the most ancient of all garments. In the 3rd Chapter of Genesis these words are written: "*and the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*"

We are not so much interested in Adam and Eve's apron as we are in the Masonic apron. Boutelle, in his story of the building of King Solomon's Temple, says: "When the construction of King Solomon's Temple was commenced, workmen were selected to carry out the different trades. Hiram, the widow's son, proclaimed that before entering upon the undertaking the aid of God should first be invoked, and as the Temple was to be **God's Holy House** and erected to Him, each workman having a part in its construction should offer a sacrifice to God on the Altar of Burnt Offering. The Lamb had in all ages been deemed an Emblem of Innocence and was offered as a sacrifice. With the exception of the skin, the whole of the lamb was consumed. The skins were properly prepared and Hiram caused aprons to be made of them. One apron from the skin of each lamb sacrificed, one apron for each mason under him."

When the aprons had been presented to the workmen, Hiram is reported to have said: "Masonic authority makes this, the snow-white lambskin apron, its first tangible gift to you and ordains that all Masons in all ages, wherever they may be throughout the world, shall ever receive it and always wear it." The apron is an emblem of innocence. Innocent life has gone out of the world: for every man an apron - for every apron a life.

The Entered Apprentice Apron.

The apron is a perfect square, its four right angles teach us that Purity, Truth, Sincerity and Honesty are the foundations of morality. Its four sides remind us to practice the four cardinal virtues - Temperance in word and deed; Fortitude in a noble purpose; Prudence in judging wisely; Justice to the humblest and greatest alike. The Square (or 'four') is the symbol of matter. Four was the emblem of matter to the ancients because they thought that the earth flat, square, and marked by the four points of the compass.

The flap is triangle whose three sides teach us to

relieve a distressed brother. To be kind and friendly in dealing with our fellow men. The triangle is the threefold revelation for God, or Divine Wisdom. The circle formed by the strings is the symbol of Spirit.

The Entered Apprentice Apron should have the flap pointing upwards, indicating that Divine Wisdom has not yet truly penetrated the gross matter of our bodies.

The Fellowcraft Apron

The Fellowcraft Apron has the flap pointing down and indicates (1) That wisdom has begun to enter and therefore control matter, and (2) that the Soul and body are acting in unison. The two rosettes stress the dual nature of man and have a clear reference to the two Pillars. The two rosettes also point out that the Fellowcraft has not yet completed Freemasonry as it requires a third rosette to form a triangle. It is thought by some that the blue rosettes added to the Fellowcraft apron indicate the progress being made in the science of regeneration and that the candidate's spirituality is beginning to bud forth, also that the wilderness of the natural man is now blossoming as the rose, in the flowers and graces of his regenerated nature.

The Master Mason's Apron.

The addition of the third rosette forms a triangle, pointing upwards. A triangle, point upwards, represents Fire or Divine Spark. It is the emblem of Shiva, the third member of the Hindu Trinity. It also represents spirit. The triangle of the flap and triangle of the rosettes form a square where they overlap. This square represents matter. Thus we have the union of Body (square), Soul (top triangle) and Spirit (lower triangle).

Date Raised

Carter, Malcolm A.	01-24-72
Lay, Thomas Fox	01-27-50
Lyons, Steven Dale	01-12-85
McWilliams, James	01-12-85

BIRTHDAYS

Banks, Daniel	01-07-48
Cox, Kelly O'Neal	01-06-66
Daut, John N. Sr.	01-07-53
Smith, Huey D.	01-08-32
Stasny, Roland E.	01-14-50

Listen to this unusual story by the man who lived it. The most bizarre thing just happened to me today on my way home from work: Traffic was heavy as usual, and as I sat there at a red light, out of nowhere a bird slammed into my windshield. If that wasn't bad enough, the poor creature got a wing stuck under the windshield wiper.

Just then the light turned green, and there I was with a bird stuck on my windshield. Without any other apparent options, turning on the windshield wipers seemed the only thing to do... it actually worked! On the upswing, the bird flew off - and here is the crazy thing - it slammed right onto the windshield of the car behind me: A POLICE CAR! (No, it didn't get caught under his windshield wipers.)

Of course, knowing my luck, immediately the lights went on and I was forced to pull over. The officer walked up and told me he saw what had happened at the light. Trying to plead my case fell on deaf ears. He simply stated: "I am going to have to write you up for flipping me the bird."

*Don't Forget To Visit The
Newly Revised Hempstead
Lodge Web Site*

HEMPSTEAD LODGE #749

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