

Victoria Lodge of Education and Research
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THE MCHUTCHON REGALIA

by

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I must thank you for your trust in placing me in the Chair of this Lodge for the second successive year. And for the second time I wish to address you on a topic associated with R.W.Bro. Jim McHutchon. From the moment of entering this Masonic Temple I was conscious of walking, as it were, in the shadow of a great Mason. I never knew him but you who sat in Lodge with him have impressed upon me the high regard you held for him.

Before I was installed in this Chair for the first time, Bro. Ray Tate, our Junior Warden until this evening, had asked me to give an account of R.W.Bro. McHutchon's regalia preserved in this Masonic Library and Museum. I set this request aside last year and instead, you will recall, paid tribute to him in a different way by addressing you on the topic 'More Masonry into Men' the motto of the English Lodge of Research in Hong Kong of which R.W.Bro. McHutchon was a founder member and himself addressed that Lodge on that same topic before my time.

The regalia which has been so effectively displayed in this cabinet by Bros. Howard Burleigh and Gordon Hunter is of great interest in itself. But it represents more than itself. It reflects the richness of Freemasonry in Hong Kong and it also reflects the part played by a great Mason against the rich background and in contributing to its further enrichment. I propose therefore to sketch in the outlines of that background and, in addition, give a few biographical details of R.W.Bro. McHutchon's Masonic career in Hong Kong. W.Bro. McHutchon's three craft aprons (more about this third resplendent apron shortly) represent craft Masonry in Hong Kong. One could say that craft masonry in Hong Kong is 70-odd years older than Hong Kong itself,

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the Lodge of No.407 (No.225 in 1813) being the first Lodge to be established among that Far East trading community as early as 1767 under the so-called 'Modern' Grand Lodge.

Of thirteen English Craft Lodges comprising the District of Hong Kong and the Far East, five are refugee Lodges from Communist China and one in Kobe, Japan, was formerly under the District Grand Lodge of Japan. The first of these was warranted in 1844, three years after Hong Kong was ceded to Britain. In addition there are two Irish Lodges; also five Scottish Lodges comprising a District which also includes two Lodges in Japan and one in Korea. In all there are nineteen warranted Craft Lodges and two Lodges of Instruction, under three different Grand Lodges, meeting in Zetland Hall named for the 2nd Earl of Zetland who was Grand Master 1844-70. There is still a Zetland Street where an earlier Zetland Hall was destroyed by Japanese bombs in 1941. It is often remarked that the Chinese character representing the letter G was unharmed and unmoved but exposed to the heavens by this bombing.

Whereas the officer in charge of a District in British Columbia is known as District Deputy Grand Master his counterpart in English Masonry is the District Grand Master (in England, Provincial Grand Master). As in B.C. this officer is styled 'Right Worshipful'. Unlike B.C. practice, the D.G.M. remains in office indefinitely, the present incumbent having already held the office for eleven

years and being only the twelfth D.G.M. in 97 years. Again unlike B.C. he has a complete suite of district Grand Officers ranging from District Grand Tyler to Deputy D.G.M. (not to be confused with your District Deputy Grand Master in B.C. which is a higher official. Customarily, all of these officers, with a few exceptions, change every year. One of these exceptions is Deputy District Grand Master. W.Bro. McHutchon held this office from 1927 until he retired to Victoria at the end of 1931.

D.G.M. is itself a Grand Lodge rank. Deputy D.G.M. is not, but it is customary for Deputy D.G.M.s to be appointed Past Grand Deacon (in this connection 'Past' means 'Honorary'). W.Bro. McHutchon became P.G.D. in 1930. Here we have displayed, not his regalia as Deputy D.G.M., but his regalia as Past Grand Deacon. We have both the undress apron and collar as well as the dress regalia which also includes cuffs and is lavishly embroidered with the ear of corn and the sprig of acacia, both reserved for Grand Lodge rank,- and lots of gold trimming. There is only one P.G.D 's jewel which would be transferred from one collar to the other as needed. The oval shape and the blue enamel denote past rank: the jewel of a serving officer is circular and without blue enamel. His regalia as Deputy D.G.M., dress and undress, would have no corn or acacia, 2 ins. of garter blue- instead of 3½ ins. and in general much less ornate. The jewel would be circular with a square, point upward.

Other craft jewels on display are: Past Master of Perseverance Lodge No.1165, (he was initiated in this lodge in 1909 and reached the chair in 1916). Founder Member of Paul Chater Lodge of Installed Masters No. 5391 and a large number of charity jewels.

This opens up a topic on which I have spoken at length to one or two lodges in Victoria. I do not here have time for a full account of masonic charity that is an outstanding feature of English masonry. Reference to the most important jewel must suffice and, incidentally, will explain most of the others. That is the Grand Lodge Charity Jewel. Quite distinct from the Grand Lodge Fund of Benevolence there are four charitable institutions authorized by Grand Lodge but run independently.

These are the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls (184 years old), the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and the Royal Masonic Hospital. The first three raise the greater part of their funds by Annual Festivals which are as old as the Institutions themselves. Brethren are invited to serve as Stewards at these festivals. The steward's fee is about \$3 or \$5 but they must first qualify to serve as steward by making a donation of not less than about \$30. A brother who has served a stewardship of at least two of these three institutions is entitled to wear this Grand Lodge Charity Jewel. W.Bro. McHutchon served as Steward of -all three Institutions.. This is reflected in the three colours of the ribbon; white for Girls, blue for Boys, red -for Benevolent Institution. This is also engraved around the edge

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of the jewel. That he served- stewardships in many additional years is signified by the several supplementary 'bars' and special jewels among the charity jewels. Of interest is the fact that the R.M.I.G. set an all-time record this year for these annual festivals by a grand total of £1,129,544. Similar festivals are held in Mark Masonry and- there are several Steward's jewels from the Mark Benevolent .Fund in the display.

In English masonry there is no bifurcation into 'York Rite' and 'Scottish Rite' and virtually all masons who proceed to other Orders are first of all exalted in Royal Arch Chapters. There are nine chapters in Hong Kong: six English, two

Scottish and one Irish; two are refugee chapters from Communist China. The display includes jewels which show that Excellent Companion McHutchon was M.E.Z. or 1st Principal of Cathay Chapter No.1165 in 1918-19 and a Founder Member of University Chapter No. 3666. There is a very close association between Craft and Royal Arch. This is emphasized in the very first sentence of the Regulations: 'pure Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz. those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow-Craft and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.' It is exemplified in the Masonic Year Book which serves both Craft and Royal Arch. Every R.A. Chapter must be attached to a Craft lodge and it bears the same number irrespective of its age. Thus the youngest chapter in Hong Kong is only 30 years old but-it is attached to the oldest lodge and therefore bears the same No. 501 even though the oldest chapter, over 100 years old, is No. 525. Furthermore, Royal, Arch Regulations provide that the Grand Master of the Craft shall be First: Grand Principal of Royal Arch, the Pro-Grand Master shall be Pro First Grand Principal and so on for Deputy Grand Master, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer and Grand Registrar subject to the proviso that all Grand Officers shall be Past First Principals and that the Grand Treasurer shall be nominated and elected.

The Regulations do not prescribe that a District Grand Master in the Craft and his Deputy shall be First and Second District Grand Principals but that is customary, certainly in Hong Kong. Thus E.Comp. McHutchon held office as Second District Grand Principal in Royal Arch in the same years as he was Deputy D.G.M. in the Craft. As in the Craft, this office is not a Supreme Grand Chapter rank but it is customary for holders of this office to be appointed to Past, (i.e. Honorary) Grand rank. Thus, in the same year as he was appointed Past Grand Deacon in the Craft E. Comp. McHutchon was appointed Past Assistant Grand Sojourner (i.e. in 1930). The only Royal Arch regalia in the display is appropriate to this Past Grand rank. The features of this regalia peculiar to Supreme Grand Chapter Officers are the 4-inch wide tricoloured collar, the 4-inch border to the apron and the two branches of laurel The District Grand Chapter collar which is also included in the display is the narrow 2-inch collar. I have not found the jewel of the Order with which he was decorated at his exaltation.

In 1856, United Grand Lodge of England had under consideration the motion that the Mark Degree 'is not at variance with the Craft and should be added thereto'. On 4th June that year the motion was rejected. On 23rd June the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons was consecrated. Thus it is that English Mark Masonry is completely separate from the Craft and Royal Arch. It was in Mark Masonry that R.W. Bro. McHutchon attained his greatest eminence in Hong Kong, from which he derived title 'Right Worshipful'. His great attachment to it may be inferred from the fact that it is only in Mark, as in the Craft, that the display preserves his mater mason's and his past master's aprons.

There are four Mark Lodges in Hong Kong, one being a refugee. R.W.Bro. McHutchon appears to have been a member of all four. He was advanced in the oldest of these, Eothen Mark Lodge No.264 warranted 1880. The Mark Penny in the collection bears the name of this lodge. He was a Founding Member of Concordia Lodge No. 721 and of Shameen Lodge No. 832 as reflected in his jewels which also include a jubilee jewel of United Mark Lodge No. 419 (1890 - 1940). His Past Master's jewel shows that he was the first Master of Concordia Mark Lodge. One could also say that he helped found the District Grand Lodge M.M.M. of Hong Kong and South China in 1926 and he became the second District Grand Master of it the following year. This resplendent apron, and collar are the dress regalia appropriate to this office which

is a Grand Lodge Rank as indicated by the 4-inch wide collar, the 4-inch wide edging to the apron, the dark blue as distinct from light blue, the embroidery of rose leaves and hyssop and the scroll bearing the name of the District. The collar jewel (there are two) bears the name of the District around a circle. Inside the circle is the familiar keystone and lewis on which the square and compasses identify the District Grand Master. The Mark Jewel in the display is that worn by a Mark Master Mason. Were the silver lewis and bars to be replaced by gold and the light blue replaced by dark blue in the ribbon it would then be appropriate to Grand Lodge and District Grand Lodge rank.

1927 was a truly memorable year in R.W. Bro. McHutchon's masonic career. In that year he became Deputy D.G.M. in the Craft, Second D.G. Principal in Royal Arch and District Grand Master in Mark Masonry. In May of that year he attained his 44th birthday. He was already Past Third D.G. Principal (1925), Past Commander of Royal Ark Mariners, (1924), Past Preceptor of Knights Templar (1925), Past Most Wise Sovereign of Rose Croix (1923) and almost certainly 30° Ancient and Accepted Rite (there is no 'Scottish' rite in England). By the time he retired in Victoria four years later at the age of 48 he had attained Grand Rank in the Craft and Royal Arch and Great Priory rank in Knights Templar; he was Provincial Prelate in Provincial Priory and, I suspect, 31° in A. and A.R.

From Mark one naturally proceeds to Royal Ark Mariners which, in English Masonry, must be sponsored by a Mark Lodge and the two carry the same number. In Scottish Masonry, Ark Mariners is attached to Royal Arch; here in Canada it is part of Cryptic. There is displayed the collar and apron of a Past Commander and his Past Commander's Jewel of Ararat Lodge R.A.M. No. 264. R.W. Bro. McHutchon did not bother to replace the silver button and braid on the collar, the silver triangles on the apron and the silver in the jewel by gold when he attained Mark Grand Lodge rank. Since 1968 there has also been Grand Rank and District Grand Rank in the Royal Ark Mariners Order itself. I cannot find the jewel of the order which is a rainbow and a dove suspended from ribbon of rainbow colour. (There is one in another display case in the Library).

This apron stumped me until I saw that it was made in Canada. Thereafter it did not take long to identify it as a Cryptic apron. Cryptic is not worked in Hong Kong except by the Scottish where the Cryptic Council is attached to a Royal Arch Chapter and carries the same number.

Another branch of masonry I am not familiar with is the Order of the Secret Monitor based on the friendship between David and Jonathon. This jewel, with the letters 'D' and 'J' and three arrows reminiscent of the Old Testament story belongs to this order. The Hong Kong Conclave was not warranted until 1955. Bro. McHutchon was inducted into the 1st degree and advanced to the 2nd degree on one of his return visits to Hong Kong. Not present in the display are the sash and sword of the Order (there is no apron). The sword has a crimson scabbard and is suspended in a 4-inch sash coloured, from centre to outer margins, crimson purple orange purple.

I have already mentioned V.E. Knight, Bro. McHutchon's attainment in Knights Templar. There are two preceptories in Hong Kong, one being a refugee from Shanghai. These two, together with two others in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur comprise the Provincial Priory of the Far East. Victoria Preceptory and Priory No. 78 celebrated its Centenary in 1964 and this jewel commemorates that event. Next to two craft lodges it is the oldest masonic body in Hong Kong indicating that membership of Royal Arch was not a qualification for admission in 1864 as it is now. Very Eminent Knight McHutchon was Preceptor in 1925 as indicated by his Past Preceptor's jewel. He would also wear the Star with Patriarchal Cross,

the Knight Templar Cross, the Knight of Malta Cross and, latterly, the Centenary jewel. The clothing includes the tunic, not worn by Canadian Knights, with a Latin cross on the front. The black sleeves are not part of the tunic; they simulate the black sleeves of a dinner jacket protruding through the arm-holes of the sleeveless tunic. This enabled the knight to take off his jacket when wearing this warm clothing in a hot climate, especially before the days of air-conditioning. The black sash is worn over the tunic; the gold fringe identifies a Preceptor. This was later superseded by the sash of a Great Priory Officer 'differenced' with three white stripes. The red lining of 24. the hood and the tassels and cord of the mantle are appropriate to a Preceptor as also is the patriarchal cross. There are no red stripes around the edge and bottom as in the Canadian mantle. This large badge corresponds to his rank as Past Great Registrar. The cap has the patriarchal cross of a Preceptor; the gold indicates Great Priory rank. The gold hilt, guard and scabbard mountings identify the sword as a Preceptor's sword. This collar jewel belongs to the Red Cross of Constantine which Sir Knight McHutchon joined here in Victoria. The Order was not introduced to Hong Kong until 1959. Had he been installed in Hong Kong he would have worn this jewel as a breast jewel together with the jewel and the white sash of the appendent orders of the Holy Sepulcher and St. John the Evangelist.

This is the mitre worn by all members of a somewhat rare order - Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests. Until 1924 this Order had been preserved by only one Tabernacle in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The Grand College in Newcastle now has 40-odd Tabernacles throughout the Commonwealth including one in Canada. The Grand College of America was consecrated in 1933 and now has 50-odd Tabernacles including two in Canada (one of these is dormant) and one in Washington State. A Tabernacle of this Order was consecrated in Hong Kong in 1959 and our brother was admitted on one of his return visits.

The Provincial Grand Chapter and Lodge of the Open Ports of China and the Colony of Hong Kong of the Royal Order of Scotland was consecrated over 100 years ago in 1865 but it did not come to Hong Kong until 1952. It is the third oldest lodge of this Order, the oldest being in Glasgow and the second oldest in the Maritimes. The display includes the apron, the red and green baldrics worn over the left and right shoulders, the garter worn on the left arm and the jewel or Star of the Order.

There is no Lodge of Perfection in the Ancient and Accepted Rite for England and Wales. St. Mary Magdalene Chapter Rose Crox No. 73 was consecrated in 1876. There is also a Scottish Chapter. Illustrious Bro. McHutchon was Most Wise Sovereign in 1923 - his Past Sovereign's jewel is displayed but his collar, apron and jewel of the 18th degree are not here. Under English Regulations he was not eligible to receive the 30th degree until he was Past Sovereign. A minimum of five years later (though that is not the only qualification) he might have been elected to the 31st degree. It seems probable that he had attained the 31st degree when he retired to Victoria. Some time later (again at least five years later) he was elected to the 32°, a degree limited in numbers to 500 including brethren in the Dominions and Dependencies of the British Crown as well as England and Wales. This embraces such likely countries as Australia, India and New Zealand, as well as such an unlikely country as Finland. This distinction is so rare that Ill. Bro. McHutchon was one of only seven Past Sovereigns to be elected to 32° in the first 50 years of the Chapter's history. Since then Supreme Council has been more generous and elected eleven more making a total of eighteen in 96 years. Only two of these attained 33°.

The regalia displayed includes the 4½ inch wide collar, black edged with

silver lace, embroidered with the emblems of the 32°. It is two-sided being red, with a black cross, on the reverse. The collar jewel is surmounted by a crown and bears the number 32 in the centre. The collarette for this degree is red edged with gold. There is suspended from it; not the number of the degree as in Canada, but a black eagle surmounted by a crown and holding a sword in its claws. It bears that amount of gilt which is appropriate to the 32° (outer feathers of wings, legs and claws). The display also includes the Canadian 32° jewel. The sword with gilt hilt, guard and scabbard mountings and having a white scabbard belongs to the 31°. The sword with similar gilt but with the black scabbard, which I identified earlier as being appropriate to a Preceptor in Knights Templar, could equally be appropriate to the 32°.

The remaining items are jewels some of which require further study. There is a jewel commemorating the Bi-centenary of Grand Lodge, 1717 - 1917, when H.R.H. Arthur, Duke of Connaught was Grand Master. There is also a Hall Stone medal of the Craft signifying a donation to the building of Freemasons Hall in London which, as you are aware, was built as a War Memorial. It bears the dates 1914 - 1918. There is also a Mark jewel engraved 'Peace 1919', This brethren completes my account of a truly remarkable display of masonic regalia which reflects the career and attainments of a truly remarkable mason.