



1769 - 2019

CHAPTER of FRIENDSHIP

**A SHORT HISTORY
1769 - 2019**

**COMPILED BY
E COMP. PHILIP PURVES PPGRReg
from Chapter records and
records in Supreme Grand Chapter**

PREFACE

I have tried to retain the abbreviations used in the Minutes of the time so as to retain a feel for them.

In the introduction, I have tried to distinguish between the verifiable facts and the deductions which may be made from them. The latter are, of course, speculative but are based on reasonable interpretation of the facts. It is unfortunate that records from the period are somewhat scanty – in fact there is no extant record of any return to Grand Lodge from The King's Head for its entire existence! It is only when it switched to the Antients that there were records from its first year's membership.

Until the end of WW1, the UK was on the Gold Standard, meaning that the value of the currency was based on the Sovereign, a £1 coin (20 shillings), and the Guinea a superseded gold coin of 21 shillings value. There were 12 pence to the shilling and the usual method of indicating a price was £0/0/0 or using a – instead. Thus one pound was £1/-/-, ten shillings, 10/- etc. In early 1919, the value of a sovereign was around £240, and since there are 240 pence in a pound, the present value of a penny under the gold standard would be £1! It should be borne in mind, however, that at times of stringency, the gold content of a sovereign was temporarily reduced ie, the currency was devalued!. Where I have indicated a present value in the text it is based on these figures. After 1919, this method can no longer be used as the currency has continued to be debased. In 1962 I could buy abroad a sovereign for £5 and since then the rate of devaluation may be deduced from the increasing fees and subscriptions.

I acknowledge the assistance I gained from The History of Phoenix Lodge and Chapter of Friendship by A. Howell in respect of documents he recorded which are not now available.

INTRODUCTION

In the Beginning

“In 1769 a charter was granted....” So begins our summary in the Installation ceremony.

But what led up to this? Of the six original members, four were listed as members of the Vine Lodge and only Samuel Palmer was acknowledged to have been a member of the Lodge of Antiquity as well. All were already Companions, three of sufficient seniority to be the first Principals. So where were they exalted?

Let us consider the possibilities: The Lodge of Antiquity moved into Portsmouth in 1736 from Gosport. Within three years another Lodge was registered with Grand Lodge – **The King's Head**. One may speculate that the new arrival gathered members by claiming to be “genuine” - as this was a period when Grand Lodge claimed there were many spurious masons. A previously established unwarranted Lodge might find itself under pressure to become “recognised” but, having succeeded, may well, as not infrequently happened, have continued with its original ceremonies. Evidence of this may be inferred from the “coincidence” that the Antients' Constitutions were published in 1756 – shortly before it surrendered its Warrant. Antiquity on the other hand, given this claim of “regularity”, would have followed Grand Lodge – who, at that time, did not recognise the Royal Arch.

So let us follow this Kings Head Lodge. It was registered with Grand Lodge from 1739 (No.184) to 14th February 1758 (No.172) and the Antients Lodge No 68 was registered on 15th February 1758 and continued until 1762 when it appeared to go into abeyance (at this time it made a return which listed 44 founder members and a further 47 initiations or joiners but note the Antients Lodge No 79, founded in Sept. 1759 (with nine founder members from 68 among its 22 founders) in Gosport which later moved to Portsmouth – initially at the Spring Clock – and later at the Theatre Tavern from which was sent a vitriolic letter to Samuel Palmer when they heard that he was proposing to form the

Phoenix. With so many members, it seems unlikely that it would just disappear, and seems to have been larger than “Antiquity” at that time. There is a strong possibility it amalgamated with no. 79. By coincidence, The Vine Lodge No. 291 was then registered with Grand Lodge in 1762 and was struck off by Thomas Dunkerley in 1773 (as No. 234) for irregular meetings and lack of members (it listed 12 in a return of 1768). Samuel Palmer, who claimed to have been Master, and Thomas Scanville, who was initiated (or joined) in 1759, had been members of No. 68 and were two of the founder members of Vine Lodge (the other two were William Cook, RWM, and William Price) so, on this argument, may have been members of the Kings Head (for which there are no surviving returns) if he was of sufficient experience to have become RWM of the Antients Lodge during its four years of existence. When Phoenix Lodge charter was applied for, it was the Vine Lodge that Samuel envisaged resurrecting. I suggest that this (almost continuous) history for Phoenix from 1739 - and probably before - is the most likely although, of course, it cannot now be proved. However, if any Portsmouth source for Royal Arch masonry can be postulated it would almost certainly be through this pedigree.

One reason for the demise of the Vine Lodge may have been that several of the senior members concentrated on the Chapter of Friendship after its foundation (also, Samuel Palmer was married around this time and his wife produced seven children between 1770 and 1782). I suggest that Samuel may not have had the time to concentrate on very much freemasonry!!

The erasure of the Kings Head seems to mark a period of great unrest in Portsmouth freemasonry.

Although “Antiquity” continued, it started to become “irregular” in meetings and, until around 1785, made no returns to GL. In fact, in 1773, it too was erased but was reinstated the following year by Dunkerley, whose mother Lodge it was, and who paid its dues to GL for a number of Years.

In addition to the Vine, there were also the Royal Oak (No.242) founded in 1759 (possibly a moderns "rump" from Kings Head), The Bell Tavern (No.265) in 1761 and the Bell (No.276) in 1762. These were erased in 1768, 1766 and 1767 respectively. I feel that all these were likely, in the main, to be splinters of the Kings Head

There is also record of the Bedford Man of War (No.101 Antients) in 1762 (There seems to be a likelihood that this was actually based on a ship, which would explain why it had no further record of existence).

Considering these alternative origins for Royal Arch Masonry in Portsmouth, it would seem illogical for Companions to seek a Warrant to form a Moderns Chapter if the existing Moderns Lodge was working the degree. Furthermore, there is little record of any subsequent Candidates from that Lodge. One is forced to conclude that the applicant Companions were exalted elsewhere and the logical alternative is the King's Head Lodge, notwithstanding Dunkerley's comment that he was Exalted in Portsmouth in 1754, the year he was initiated in the Lodge of Antiquity. Given that it would be very unlikely that he would have been Initiated, Passed, Raised and Exalted in the same year, and also that the names given to the ceremonies were quite regularly misused at that time, either he was exalted elsewhere at a later date or he was exalted in the King's Head in a ceremony equivalent to the Antients later practice. If that were the case, he must have attended both Lodges in the same year! I am firmly of the opinion that, given the Masonic history of the founder Companions, they must have been exalted either in the King's Head or the Antients no. 68 which succeeded it – and that they had continued to practice in private (perhaps in the Vine) until they heard of the Formation of the Grand Chapter to whom they made application for a warrant in 1768.

THE CHAPTER

The Founding

Their application, together with two others, was considered on 13th January 1769 and approved with the No. 3 being allocated but, as the Grand Chapter had no die to seal the Warrant, it remained "on the table" pending the manufacture of this die. When it did become available, the nine Chapters approved during that year had their warrants sealed at different meetings.

Thomas Dunkerley then brought the Charter to the Companions on 1st September 1769 and spent the meeting making them Mark Masons and Mark Masters. (Early records show that the early Chapters carried an alternative Lodge name – in the case of Chapter of Friendship this was Lodge of Tranquility and I assume that this was intended to be for when they worked the Mark.)

The six founder members therefore were:-

Z William Cook (RWM of Vine Lodge and possibly of Kings Head since he is not listed as a member of Antiquity or the Antients No. 68);

H Samuel Palmer (said to have been RWM of No 68, founder member of Vine and returned as member of Antiquity "– before 1768" and, possibly, of Kings Head);

J Thomas Scanville (founder member of Vine and listed as PM and ?joining member of 68, and, as Wm. Cook, possibly of Kings Head);

Henry Dean no affiliation known, not listed for "Antiquity", again, maybe Kings Head;

Philip Joyes - comments as for Henry Dean;

Thomas Webb - comments as for Henry Dean.

Note that all these presumably had passed the Chair with all but Palmer and Scanville possibly having been members of the short lived moderns Lodges which sprang up after the King's Head surrendered its warrant!

In those early days, the Royal Arch was intended to be a next step for Past Masters so as to encourage them to progress further and thus give opportunities for the “up and coming”. It would appear that this was not altogether successful as it became necessary to provide a way in for those who had not “passed the chair”. This was sometimes referred to as the Past Masters Degree but there is no record of this being worked in the Chapter of Friendship prior to 1790. (which was around the time that the Excellent and Super Excellent degrees apparently ceased to be worked)

Friendship was next introduced to these Excellent and Super Excellent degrees by a visitor (possibly from Ireland which was practising these degrees at the time) in 1771 and continued to work them. Between 1770 and 1778, a number of the minutes record Palmer as Z and, in 1783, a minute records that meetings had become irregular due to the ill health of Cooke, who had passed away..

From an early date, “Breeding” was employed to set up etc. the rooms for Ceremonies but it was not until 1811 that he (or his son – Breeding's boy as he appeared once in the early minutes) appeared in the minutes as Janitor and was there regularly until 1829.

Knights Templar

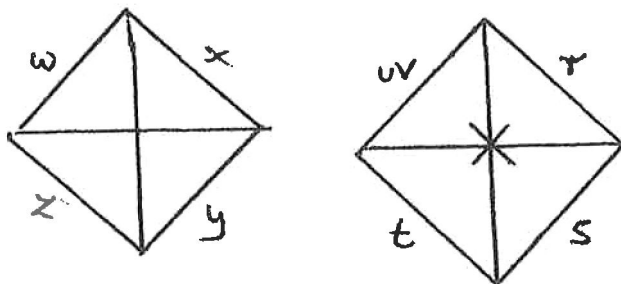
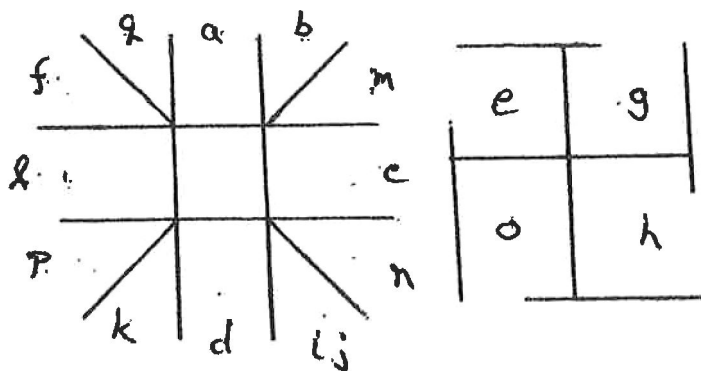
In 1778, Dunkerley wrote to them saying that they might make Knights Templar – “and it was resolved so to do”. Thus in the 1780s, until the KT became affiliated to the newly formed Grand Conclave as RN Encampment No. 2 in 1791, the usual procedure was first to make the Mark (Man and Master), then Excellent and Super Excellent, then Knight Templar before finally exalting to the Royal Arch. Often all in one evening!! A Candidate could decline any of these.

The fees were, for those days, high! Ten shillings for each degree and two guineas for the RA! A minute records that, on one occasion, four brethren were made Mark Man, Mark Master, Excellent and Super Excellent, KT and RA and paid eighty two

shillings each. It would appear that a fee was also required to be entered in the Grand Chapter register (5 shillings in 1787). (pv at this time, one shilling equivalent to around £12) In 1786, there was a minute that the Companions dined with the members of Phoenix Lodge (Samuel Palmer MEZ being WM thereof) and "We intended to make a bro. Royal Arch after dinner but thro' divers causes could not as some were indisposed. We went home later than usual about four o' clock"

In 1788, Dunkerley visited and clarified a misapprehension which had existed since his original visit – that the cypher he had introduced to them was for use in the minutes of the Mark and not Royal Arch. The first minute book was immediately curtailed and a new one commenced for Friendship. In the fullness of time, this original enciphered minute book was forgotten and the new one became regarded as the original resulting in the Centenary being celebrated in 1888!

Cypher as introduced by Dunkerley



AT A ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

HELD AT THE GEORGE TAVERN IN PORTSMOUTH
ON FIRST SEPT. SEVENTEEN HUNDRED AND
SIXTYNINE =

PRESENT THOMAS DUNKERLEY ESQ

WILLIAM COOK "Z" SAMUEL PALMER "H" THOMAS

SCANVILLE "J" HENRY DEAN PHILIP JOYES AND

THOMAS WEBB = THE "PRO.GM" THOMAS DUNK

ERLEY BR'T THE WARRANT OF THE CHAPTER

AND HAVING LATELY REC'D THE "MARK" HE MADE

THE BRE'N "MARK MASONS " AND "MARK MASTERS"

AND EACH CHUSE THEIR "MARK" VIZ W COOK Z

" " S PALMER H " " T SCANVILLE J " " H

DEAN " " PHILIP JOYES " " T. WEBB " " = HE

ALSO TOLD US OF THIS MANN'R OF WRITTING

WHICH IS TO BE USED IN THE DEGREE WCH

WE MAY GIVE TO OTHERS SO THEY BE FC

AND "MARK MASONS" AND MASTER M

AND "MARK MASTERS"

Death of Samuel Palmer

The Chapter met in the George Hotel – Palmer's own Hostelry - from its inception until after his death in 1791. The Chapter continued to flourish under Samuel's successors with close association with (but not attachment to) Phoenix Lodge. The practice of Excellent and Super Excellent died out with the demise of Samuel Palmer as noted above, but the Chapter continued to make the Mark until 1856 when Phoenix Mark Lodge became affiliated to Grand Mark (as No. 2). During this period, it appears from the minutes that the Principals were elected when a vacancy occurred at the decision of the incumbent. Meetings were held nearly every month and the Principals for the evening could be any qualified member present.

This makes identifying the actual Principals difficult to determine absolutely.

In November 1798 a bible was purchased for £3/10/- (?£840 pv though this was a period of monetary deflation) and is still, though the binding has been heavily restored, in use in the Chapter.

In 1810, the charge for exaltation was £2/7/0 and for the Certificate was 10/6. Subscriptions were charged at 5/- quarterly and were not regularly paid on time. In 1811, Rankin (the MEZ) was recorded as being 10 quarters in arrears with two other Companions being 11 quarters in arrears. It seemed that most settled biannually or annually. The number of subscribers - and, by inference, members was 25 that year. It is clear from the minutes that many of the Exaltees never became members – notably Naval Officers and Merchant seamen (mainly Masters).

In January 1813 John Rankin, MEZ proposed an amendment to the Bye- Law Article 2 that no Brother with less than twelve months from being raised to the Degree of a Master Mason should be exalted to the Sublime Degree of a Royal Arch Mason except he be a soldier, sailor or about to leave the kingdom (This pre-empted a similar decision by Grand Chapter by nine years!), In May of that year a dispute arose over the eligibility of two of the three

founding Principals of a Chapter (Chapter of Mount Horeb No 178) being sponsored by Friendship. This was ultimately referred to Supreme Grand Chapter but the decision therefrom was not recorded – although some Companions concerned resigned including John Rankin the MEZ. One objection deserves note; One of the Principals proposed for the New Chapter, a member of Friendship, was, it appears, the publican of the Inn wherein the new Chapter was to meet and the objection was that this was in contravention of the Royal Arch Book of Constitutions 1807 which, in Article 9, said “No Master of a Public House or Tavern shall be a member of any Lodge held in his house”. Had this been in force earlier, Samuel Palmer himself would have been unable to host either Friendship or Phoenix!

Loss of Independence

The independence of the Chapter came to an end in 1824 when, as a consequence of decisions made after the formation of United Grand Chapter in 1817, the Chapter was required to become attached to a Lodge, to adopt its number and to surrender its Charter in exchange for a confirmatory Charter. Unfortunately, the original Charter appears not to have survived in the archives of Grand Chapter. The minuted letter reads:- 24 July 1824

E. Comps

Comp Nicholson has handed me Comp Harper's letter of 19 ult. In reply thereto I beg to state that the following is a list of the Companions now comprising the Chapter of Friendship.

Samuel Kentish Z	Edward Casher
John Nicholson H	James Fowler
Samuel Foss Dession J	Thomas Edgecombe
George Stebbing	James N. Robinson
John Porter	James Jarvis
	George Williams
	William Breading Janitor

And the said Chapter is to be attached to the Phoenix Lodge No. 484 held at the Kings Arms Tavern, Grand Parade it is intended to be held on the 2 Wednesday of each Month.

J. Fowler Secretary.

Copy of a letter in the 1888 minutes

"London Sept 18th. 1824

E. Companion

Enclosed herewith we beg to hand you your Charter of Confirmation for the Chapter attached to the Lodge Phoenix, a copy of the Laws of the Order, as also a ruled form, agreeably to which Returns are to be made to the Grand Chapter.

The Old Charter, we beg to say is returned with a view to its being cancelled, it being an order of the Grand Chapter that no Chapter can at one time, hold two documents to the same same effect.

We beg to remain, with due regard E. Companion

Your faithful Servants and Brothers

Change of Ritual

Eleven years later, the officers (George Stebbing ,IPZ; John Porter, MEZ; John Lindegren, H: and Captain Sir Lucius Curtis, J,) travelled to London to receive instruction on the "new" ritual (including installation) to be followed. This implies that it was considerably different from that which had previously been practised, and this may be recognised both from comments made by other writers that it had once been much more "Christian" and from the fact that in Friendship ,the minutes only record the ballot for Principals and Officers, but no ceremony at all!

The earliest version I have found seems to date from around 1824 (See Manual of Freemasonry by Richard Carlile, but note that he gave a very different version - possibly N. American Antients - in his Rituals of Freemasonry). Given the fact that most of the early Companions received their exaltation in Antients Lodges or in Moderns which followed "Antient" rituals, it is likely that the earliest forms of RA workings would be similar to those practised either in Antient lodges or under other Constitutions – eg Scottish, Irish or York. (There appears to be no copy of Dunkerley's ritual for the Moderns Chapters still in existence.)

The Royal Arch Ritual was extensively revised in 1834/5 at which time the triple tau, which apparently appeared somewhere between 1807 – when it was, and had always been, T over H (it appears in the minutes in 1770 and apparently stood for Templum

Heirosolyma – The Temple of Jerusalem) and 1817 when RA Regulations described the T as being attached to the H and the term Triple Tau began to come into use, was given a much higher profile, being referred to as “the mysterious triple tau”. It was originally intended to be affixed to the summonses of Royal Arch Masons on occasions of more than usual importance (note that this is still done for a Provincial visit) and, from there, became adopted in Convocations. There is still no requirement for a banner containing it and it appears Grand Chapter has never promulgated a formal description. Thus, our old banner with its red ground is as authentic as the more commonly used white ground. It would therefore seem that our old banners may have been made around this time – unless the RA banner was a later addition or was amended to make the TH into a triple tau. It is interesting to note that the T over H appears from time to time, in the minutes under the secretary's signature until the end of the 19th. Century

It is interesting to note that there is a gap in the minutes from December 1837 when Sir Lucius Curtis was installed as MEZ to March 1840. A letter in the minutes dated 17th.April is signed by Lucius Curtis PGSt for Hants and the May meeting lists him as MWS and Comp. Meadows installed as J. There are then only two minutes before regular records resumed in April 1842 the Minute book finishing with the meeting in June 1843 where Comp E. Scott was elected J and Comp Saffen was elected E. The minutes were signed by G. Meadows Z and included the insignia T over H E. Comp. Sir Lucius Curtis was MEZ in 1838, coincident with being promoted to Rear Admiral, 1839 and 1840 in which year he was appointed Grand Superintendent, a position he held until his death in 1869 and during which he became Admiral of the Fleet. There is no mention of his death in the minutes of the Chapter.

Records Missing

It is a great shame that our minute book for this important period 1843 to 1865 has been missing since it was completed as the record of Chapter Principals is incomplete for this period and the Chapter's contribution to the emerging Provincial Grand Chapter

cannot now be ascertained. (Coincidentally, the gaps in the Minutes almost coincide with the period during which Lucius Curtis was MEZ and MEGS) It was in this period, in June of 1856, that the Chapter members who were working the Mark Degree applied to the newly formed Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons for a warrant which was issued to Phoenix Lodge of Mark Masters No.2

Towards Centenary Celebration

The First record in the minutes of a Provincial appointment (apart from Grand Superintendent) was in the form of a memo noting that, in 1870, E. Comp G.W. Meeham was appointed Prov. Gr. J and another that Companion Trower, MEZ had been appointed Provincial Grand Sojourner and Comp. Tuohy, H, Assistant Provincial Sojourner. with the minutes of February 1872, Other memo's Jan. 25th 1873 Comp Jolliffe SE was appointed Prov. Grand Sword Bearer :Jan 26th 1874: Comp. De Fraine, MEZ was appointed Principal Grand Sojourner: Jan.20th 1875: John Lillywhite, J was appointed Provincial Grand Sojourner. In 1877 a minute lists Mark E. Frost as PZ (Portsmouth Chapter 487) and PGTreas.

After the Union, the bye-law requiring a ballot for Principals and Senior Offices had been amended to allow seconded propositions for these offices until a Grand Chapter requirement for change in the bye-law to require ballots instead of propositions was introduced in 1878. The Chapter minutes were memorialised by the Grand Supt. in 1879 for failure to change the custom!

In 1882, the first inclusion of a printed summons included a simple triangle rayonné with an open book in the centre. On the second one the following year, a note was added that 9 Companions were required to open the Chapter. (Royal Arch Regulations) As the minutes show, in the past this had not always been achieved and some future meetings also failed in this respect! .

As was mentioned, the first minute book was put aside in a safe place and almost burned during a great clear out of old documents which were burned in 1880. The first minute book was saved from

the pile awaiting incineration by W. Bro M.E. Frost,(joined Phoenix 1863, resigned 1871 after a problem with the dining accounts but rejoined 1879. Joined Chapter of Friendship 1869 and was a PZ of Portsmouth Chapter no. 487). At the same time, ME Comp. G.F. Lancaster PZ Royal Sussex Chapter No. 342 who joined in 1885, saved a number of other Certificates and account books.. He was later associated with the deciphering of the first Minute book,

This great clear out coincided with the Phoenix Lodge raising the rents for other Orders in order to pay for extensive improvements. Both Phoenix Mark and Rose Croix No.9 moved out as a result of this – the former to Landport Masonic Hall and the latter to Highbury Street Masonic Hall.

In 1885, “ME Comp G.F. Lancaster PZ” (who had recently joined the Chapter) reminded the Companions that the Chapter had been in existence for nearly 100 years and preparations were made for a Centenary Celebration which took place in 1888.” (The original warrant being no longer in existence, the confirmatory warrant not being so labelled and the original minute book not having been deciphered and recognised, the origins of the Chapter had been overlooked and the second minute book was presumed to be the first!!). However, the letter to Supreme Grand Chapter clarifies this as Follows:-

“To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Freemasons of England -

We, the undersigned Principals, Officers and Members of the Chapter of Friendship attached to the Phoenix Lodge No 257 and held at the Lodge Rooms No. 110 High Street Portsmouth, having good reasons to believe that the Chapter has existed uninterruptedly for a period of one hundred and nineteen years, do therefore hereby pray the Supreme Grand Chapter to be pleased to grant a warrant to this the Chapter of Friendship – authorising the members thereof to wear a Centenary Jewel in accordance with the Regulations of the Order.

In support of this application we beg to state that our Chapter

originated in a Charter granted on the 11th. Day of August 1769 by the original Grand Chapter, the three Principals appointed therein, to preside over the Chapter, being -

William Cook, Z
Samuel Palmer, H
Thomas Scanville, J

who were empowered to hold a Chapter of the Order at Portsmouth Common.

This Chapter appears as the Chapter of Friendship No.3, on the following printer lists – viz – 1790 - 1793 – 1794 – 1796 – 1807 – 1814 – 1823 and onwards, and also in the report of Grand Chapter dated Nov. 7th 1821, as one of the Chapters which had conformed to the Regulations of the Grand Chapter. We beg further to state that the Chapter is in possession of minutes, lists of members and other documentary proof of its continuous working from the date of the Original Charter until now: and we forward herewith a copy of the Charter of Confirmation under the authority of which the Chapter now works, and also a Copy of the letter sent with the Charter of Confirmation, giving directions as to the disposal of the Original Charter -

The prayer of this Memorial being granted, we promise strict obedience to the commands of the First Grand Principal, and the laws of the Supreme Grand Chapter.

Done in Open Chapter this fifteenth day of May AD 1888 .
signed Principals, 4PZs, SE, SN, Treasurer, PS, 2AS, 6 members.
Note that the original letter re Original Charter no longer seems to exist (see copy in 1824)

This begs the question – why, if all this information was available, despite the original minute book not having been recognised and deciphered, was the Centenary not applied for in 1869?! The minutes note that it was E Comp Lancaster, who had only joined the Chapter in 1885, who had taken the trouble to put together the information for the Memorandum.

At the August meeting there was a change in the opening. Hitherto, the Companions had gathered in the Chapter room and had withdrawn while the Principals and Past Principals had

conducted the opening. The members then returned. At this meeting and thereafter, the Companions waited outside and entered, in order, after the opening.

A letter confirming the Centenary which had been received from Grand Scribe E was read out whereupon a Committee was set up to plan for a Centenary Celebration. This consisted of the Three Principals, 6PZs, Scribe E, and 2AS's. At a meeting they held on 22nd. October, they decided that the celebration would be on November 2nd. : That a dispensation to hold it then would be applied for: That E. Comp. Lancaster would draw up a programme of proceedings and be DC on the night; that the price of the Banquet would be 12/6 to include wine and 2 Companions would draw up the menu and arrange the Banquet; that first Principals of neighbouring Chapters would be invited in addition to the Grand Superintendent and Provincial Officers and Grand Scribe E. MEZ offered to pay for all official guests.

This was then presented to an emergency meeting the same evening when there were 3 Exaltations.

On November 2nd., the Principals, 6PZs, SE, PS + both AS and recent members, Gen Sir Geo. Willis, Cmdre A.H. Markham, Cdr. C.G. Robinson, Dr. J. O'Connor, J. Winterbottom, Dr. W.C. Bland, J. Griffin, G.H. Stainer and our oldest surviving Exalte J.B. Mackay were in attendance.

Guests: W.W. Beach MP, Grand Supt., J.E le Feuvre Prov.G.J., W. Gieve, Prov Scribe E, MEZ's of 309, 342 and 1428

Proceedings began by Balloting for two former members to rejoin. The Provincial Party then entered to a Grand March on the Organ. A short address by MEZ was followed by a reading of the Charter of Confirmation then one of the Centenary Warrant.

E. Comp Lancaster then delivered a short history of the founding of the Chapter for which a vote of thanks was proposed from the chair. And He was then presented with a Centenary Jewel as a token of thanks.

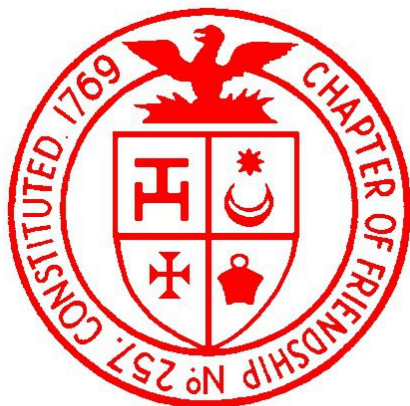
There then followed a short thanksgiving service.

Towards the New Century

In November of 1893, the dates of Meetings in the Bye-Laws were

changed from second Wednesdays in February, May, August and November to the First Thursday in January, March, May and November to take effect from the next Installation meeting. The minutes of the 3rd. May 1894 record the presentation by E. Comp Howell of the original minute book from 1769 which he had rebound and had deciphered. It was at this meeting that the new dates of meetings were implemented and E.Comp. Lancaster was first elected Scribe E

The May 1895 Installation meeting was attended, by invitation, by the Provincial Grand Principals and other members of Province who installed the Principals and officers of the Chapter. In January 1897, E. Comp. J. Brickwood, MEZ in 1893 tendered his resignation from the Chapter. In the March Minutes, E. Comp. T. Bramsdon, MEZ 1894 was noted as 3rd. Prov. Gr. Principal. The first summons with the Friendship Badge is in the minutes dated 30th. Dec. 1897. As there is no mention in the minutes of this being formally adopted, it may be assumed that it was the invention of E. Comp Lancaster, the Scribe E!



On 6th. May, the Grand Superintendent (and 3rd. Grand Principal) with members of Province attended the Installation Ceremony and acted as Installing Principal.-

On the 5th. January 1899, E. Comp. Hubert Garvey Giles, H of Patriotic Chapter No. 51 Colchester was proposed as a Joining

Member by E. Comp. Bramsdon and seconded by E. Comp. Gillman.- Carried unanimously. Shortly before the March Meeting, the MEZ W. Hynes died suddenly. In the subsequent elections, E. Comp. Giles, who was acting H for the evening was elected MEZ for the coming year. A dispensation to allow this was applied for. A membership list for this occasion is 52 – despite the Chapter making multiple exaltations on most occasions – including Installation evenings!

This is a pattern which has been clear for a hundred years. In the early days it was mainly transient seagoing personnel who must have been issued with Chapter Certificates. More recently, most of the candidates were members of Phoenix Lodge many of whom, it seems, did not become or remain members.

It also seems as though the resurgence in the Chapter had, at its heart, E. Comp. Lancaster who, it appears, was involved in almost all the incidents recorded above.

The May Convocation was attended by all three Provincial Principals accompanied by eleven Provincial Officers and nine visiting MEZs. The Grand Superintendent then installed the new Principals

The New Century

On 1st. March 1900, the wording of the opening was changed to “The Chapter was opened in due form “which seems to imply that Companions were present – a change to the former procedure.

The change of wording lasted for three meetings and then reverted to the old formula so this was clearly not the case.

The Grand Superintendent was again present for the Installation Convocation and again acted as Installing Principal. The Chapter voted a sum of five guineas to augment the fund being raised to purchase the “Beach Perpetual Presentation” to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

In May 1901, E. Comp Lancaster was appointed Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

In May 1902 the minutes noted for the first time that the Chapter was opened in due form without mention of the Companions

entering. This seems to have been an immediate response to the requirement from SGC that Companions be present at the opening. In November a circular was read asking support for a memorial to the late Grand Sup't "Beach Perpetual Presentation" to the Masonic Institution for Girls. This was to be considered, and a Circular of donations was attached to the minutes for May 1903 indicating that ten Guineas had been donated by the Chapter. The same minutes noted that the second Principal elect was unable to accept office owing to non-residence in the town!

In the January 1904 minutes it was resolved that the sceptres and other fittings requiring it be put in proper order. A Members list counted 49 members which is a small increase compared to the number of exaltees – often two or more per meeting – including Installation meetings. Many of the exaltees must have declined membership and, since the majority were from Phoenix Lodge, it seems that they were almost automatically exalted when eligible

At the May 1904 meeting, E. Comp. Giles proposed and E. Comp. Cross, J seconded that the annual subscription be increased from 6/0 to 10/0 p.a. After two amendments were defeated the motion was voted on with pro and con equal so the Acting MEZ cast a vote in favour.

At the November meeting Comp. Willcox, who had been present in May, gave notice that he would propose that the subscriptions be again fixed at 6/0 The same meeting responded to the following circular from the Province by contributing 3 guineas from the Chapter funds

"W. Brother or E. Companions

In order to give expression to the general feeling which has arisen that the time has arrived wherein to recognise the long and consistent services freely given to Freemasonry in all its phases by W. Bro. Lancaster, Ass't. Prov. G. Sec., etc., the Rt. Wor. Prov. Grand Master and MEG Supdt has authorised the issue of this circular, to give Brethren and Companions, etc., an opportunity of marking, in a tangible form, their appreciation of services which, briefly stated, are as follows:-

Since the year 1870 Bro Lancaster has devoted the greater part of his leisure time to the affairs of Freemasonry, and has ever been ready and willing to help in any Masonic work whenever appealed to. He is already Past Master of nearly 30 years standing, a Founder of three Lodges in the Province (two of which were started on his initiative), and in each of which he laboured long, either as Master or Officer, to consolidate them and promote their prosperity.

In the Prov. G. Lodge records it is seen that since the year 1872 Bro. Lancaster has assisted continuously in the administrative work of the Province, either on Committees or as a Prov. Officer, and that his labours have been valued is evidenced by his having held the following appointments, viz.:- Prov. G. Steward 1872, Prov. G. Deacon 1878, Prov. G. Reg., 1886, and Prov. Ass't G. Sec. From 1890.

In Royal Arch Masonry Comp. Lancaster has been particularly active, being a PZ of three Chapters, two of which he is a Founder. He has exalted some hundreds of Candidates to the degree and in various Chapters, far apart in the Province, has acted, on more than a hundred occasions, as Installing Principal. In Prov. G. Chapter he has held four offices, viz.:- Prov G. Swd. Br. 1876, Prov. G. Prin. Soj. 1878, Prov. Third G. Principal 1884; and Asst PGSE from 1890. The large number of Past Principals whom Comp. Lancaster has installed and assisted in carrying out their duties can bear testimony as to his services in the Order of the Royal Arch.

In the year 1901, Bro. Lancaster was honoured by appointment to office in the United Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter.

In Mark Masonry he is a PM of two Lodges (one of which he is a founder and first Master), has held five offices in the Prov. G. Mark Lodge and is a Past Grand Overseer of England since 1897.

He has passed the Chair in the order of Knts. Templar, the Cryptic and Allied Degrees, is a past Grand Officer in each of these bodies, and a P.M.W.Sov. in the Rose Croix. Hon Member of seven Craft Lodges, nine R.A. Chapters and three Mark Lodges, Life Governor and Past Steward of each of the Masonic Charities. In 1883 Bro. Lancaster, in conjunction with another brother, edited

and issued the first of the present series of Prov. Calendars, subsequently adopted and continued as an official publication, and now held to be indispensable to every active worker in the Province.

Having regard to all these facts, and more especially in view of the private circumstances of Bro. Lancaster, due to lack of employment and advancing years, the R.W. Prov. Grand Master has approved the formation of the following Committee for the purpose of raising a fund as a testimonial to Bro Lancaster in appreciation of his long and useful services to the Craft in this Province:-

G.F. LANCASTER TESTIMONIAL COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: W. BRO, E. GOBLE

W. BRO. T.A. BRAMSDON

R. W. BRO. R. LOVELAND

-LOVELAND K.C.

“ SIR JOHN BRICKWOOD

W. BRO. HAROLD PINK

“ SIR WILLIAM DUPREE

“ W. A. ROWE

“ JOHN W. GIEVE

“ H.G. GILES

Your personal donation is very earnestly solicited, and may be remitted to Cmdr. H.G. Giles RN, Little Green, Alverstoke, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Committee.”

At the meeting in March 1905. Comp. Willcox motion was seconded and, after discussion which included two potential amendments, was passed nem. con. In January 1907 he presented apology for absence due to illness and in March 1907 a letter was read from his widow lamenting the death of her husband Comp Cdr. Scott J.B. Willcox RN (Scribe N).

In March 1908, a further contribution of 5 guineas was voted to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution to bring the total from members and Chapter to the 20 Guineas (pv approx £5000) which would secure for the Chapter 4 votes in perpetuity. E. Comp .John Campbell, PZ of Royal Gloucester Chapter No 839, residing in Southsea, was elected a joining member and was noted to be Grand Supt. Of Worcester in November of 1909.

A single column clipping 10” long from the Derby Mercury commemorating the 66th birthday of Sir John G.N. Alleyne Bart. of

Chevin House, Belper who was noted by Scribe E as being the "father " of the Chapter having been Exalted in 1875 and MEZ in 1879 was attached to the minutes for Nov, 1908.

A year later, ME Comp Sir Augustus E. Webster Bart, PZ Unity Chapter No 1629, Grand Superintendent, was proposed as a joining member by Capt, H,G. Giles RN, Prov. 2nd. Grand Principal and seconded by M.E. Comp Anthony Pusey Prov. Grand Scribe E. At the same Convocation, E. Comp. Pusey gave notice of a proposition for the Chapter to provide itself with a Banner. This proposition was never subsequently made!.

In May 1911, a Dispensation was successfully applied for for J and SN respectively to be installed in the Chairs of Z and H without having occupied the chairs of H and J respectively. At the next Convocation, the condition of the large Chapter banners was discussed and it was decided that they should be touched up and revarnished. (since they then lasted for another hundred years, it would seem probable that they were then at least that age)

In February 1912, a new appeal was launched, sponsored by the Chapter of Friendship, for contributions towards a fund for Comp .G.F. Lancaster citing his small pension and increasing ill health. It commented on the result of the previous appeal which had raised sufficient to purchase a house, managed by Trustees, in which he now resides rent free – although rates etc. are charged. His income is a small Naval pension which is supplemented by remuneration for his work as Prov. Lodge and Chapter Assistant Secretary.

In November of that year E. Comp. John Apsey, 3rd. Prov. G. Principal was elected a joining member.

The Great War Years

The first intimation that war had been declared was in the minutes of November 1914 that the Chapter was in mourning for Comp. Lieut E. Kent, the son of E. Comp G. Kent, MEZ in 1897, PPr.GJ, who had been killed in action at Mons. This was followed, in the

December Agenda, with the report of the death in action of Comp. Lt. C.E.E. Gray RN on HMS Good Hope (at the Battle of Coronel.)

The May 1915 minutes noted that more than half the members were on active service. In August, a circular from SGC required Companions belonging to Alien Enemy Nations to abstain from attending Royal Arch Chapters during the War and in November the minutes noted the death of Comp. E.E.G. Helger for whom a letter of condolence was sent. No other details were given. In the summons dated 26th. October 1916 The death of Comp. Lt. D. Rae Fraser RN was reported – apparently incorrectly as he was subsequently reported to be seriously ill in hospital on Malta; and the death, in August, from leukemia, of Comp. Cdr. H. Finch Dawson, recently exalted, for whom a letter of condolence and his SGC Certificate was sent to his widow. He had served in 1914 on HMS Agincourt and was seconded in 1915 to the RNAS, spending much of 1916 at HMS Daedalus

A new list of members was ordered to be drawn up with a list of names of Companions on the Roll of Honour on the reverse.

A circular from the Provincial Chapter is appended to the minutes dated 10th April 1917 instigating new Chapter contributions towards the two Masonic Institutions, changing PGC bye-law on charges for Dispensations to include “to be paid on application” and to draw attention to a communication from SGC that it wished it to be known that dark morning dress is preferable to evening dress while the war is in progress.

The next notable entry in the minutes was on 7th December 1918 when a notice of motion was given that a Committee should be formed for the purpose of making suitable arrangements for the 150th Anniversary.. This was implemented at the meeting on 2nd. January when there were exaltations of two members of the clergy. Although the summons sent out on 26th. December make no mention of it, the minutes record the death, on 2nd. December,

of E. Comp. Lancaster and record a moving tribute to him also recording the attendance of the MEZ representing the Chapter at his funeral.

There is no copy of the membership as proposed in 1916 in the minutes nor any sign of their having been one. It appears that the custom of appending a current list of members to the minute book had been discontinued. It is also noticeable that, after Oct. 1916, no reports of casualties to members were recorded, only condolence letters to current members on the loss of a relative. The membership list for 1909 lists 51 members of which 25 were Naval. Between then and 1918 there were a further 24 naval officers listed as exalted and the membership had risen to 89.

150th Anniversary Year

The wartime dress code recommended by Grand Chapter (Dark Morning Dress or Uniform) was continued indefinitely including at the 150th Anniversary meeting.

In March the Committee reported to the Convocation that they recommended a date of 1st. September for the 150 anniversary, That the Principals' chairs be filled by Grand officers and that all other offices be filled by Provincial officers viz.

Z ME Comp. Major Sir Augustus F. Webster Bart. Grand Superintendent (Joined 1909)

H, E. Comp Sir Thomas Bramsdon MP JP Pr. Grand J (1907)
P.Gr. Soj.

J, E. Comp. Anthony Puzey, Pr. Gr Scribe E P Grand St.Br..

Scribe E..... E, Comp, Dr, A,D, Pithie PZ PPGSN

Scribe N..... E, Comp, Rev, W.,C, Hawkesley MA PZ PPGSN Gr, St. Br,

Treasurer..... E, Comp, Col, G.E. Kent, JP PZ PrGJ (1909)

Prin Soj.....E. Comp Cdr, W, H, du C Chads RN PZ PrGJ (1916)

1st, Ass't Soj E. Comp. F.W. E. Evans PZ PrGJ (1918)

2nd, Ass't Soj E, Comp, Rev, W,H, Bond MA PZ PPGSN

DC..... E, Comp, Sir John Brickwood. PZ PPAGSoj PGStBr

Organist..... E, Comp, R,H, Tutner MA Mus Bac FRCO PZ Asst
GSE PPGO

Stewards,,, E, Comp, Major A,H, Wood MA PZ PPGSN
E, Comp, Leslie G, Austen PZ PPGSoj
E, Comp, Eng Capt, Lindsay J, Stephens CBE RN
PZ PPGSoj

Janitor..... A, M, Hitchcock PPGJanitor

This report was accepted and adopted,

The Companions then proceeded to elect the officers for the year
– as above!

At the May Convocation, two joining members were balloted for
and four Candidates for exaltation, Three of the latter being in
attendance, they were exalted before the Installations were
performed!

There was an emergency meeting in June when four candidates
were exalted,

On 1st September there was an emergency meeting to Induct the
MEZ who had been unavoidably absent from the May meeting
and to celebrate the 150 years, Apart from the officers, there were
present 30 Companions, 2 serving companions and 16 guests.

After the induction and installation of Companions unavoidably
absent in May, the Third Principal read a brief history of the
Chapter which was followed by a short service of thanksgiving
which was conducted by the Rev, Hawkesley, Scribe N. Apologies
were read from the Grand Superintendents of Dorset and Surrey,
Past G Sup't of Sussex, GSE, three Past Grand officers and nine
other E, Companions The Chapter was then closed and the
Companions adjourned to the Town Hall Banqueting room (kindly
lent by the mayor!) for a 7pm Dinner the tickets for which were
12/6 without wine or 17/6 with wine!

In November the amendments to the bye-laws were discussed
and then postponed for further discussion at the next meeting
where the final form was agreed which was, in turn, presented to
the Companions at the 1920 March meeting in the minutes as
follows:

iv That every brother who shall be in future exalted in this Chapter
shall pay for such exaltation the sum of £2/12/6 which includes the
Registration fee with Certificate from Grand Chapter; and shall

also pay the annual subscription for the current year.

v That the annual subscriptions shall be eight shillings payable in advance. The First Principal shall pay a Fee of Honour of 5/- and H & J one of 2/6 each.

vi The candidates for Exaltation into the Royal Arch or Companions who desire to join the Chapter, must be proposed and seconded by two contributing members, either in a regular Convocation or by letter sent to the Scribe at least 14 days before the next Convocation, when they shall be balloted for, and should there not appear three or more black balls, they shall be considered duly elected. Joining Companions who are members of the Phoenix Lodge shall pay 10/6 as a joining fee; members of any other Lodge or Chapter to pay £1/1/- on joining..

If Joining from a Chapter not under the English Constitution the fee of £1/15/- must be paid

It is interesting to note that vi did not affect a regular item on the agenda "To exalt any brother who, being eligible, may present himself"

The UK came off the Gold standard at this time so the present value of cash will now always require a check on the value of the sovereign at the time.

The Interwar Years

May 1920, a dispensation was given for Comp Oldfield to be installed as Second Principal, previously passing through the Third. The "passing" was performed by both Companions Oldfield and Apps (J elect) being admitted, presented and installed into the Third Principal's Chair in a Conclave of Third Principals which was opened after the Conclave of First Principals was closed. The Conclave of Second Principals was then opened and E. Comp Oldfield was installed. Not mentioned but it would seem that E. Comp Apps must have withdrawn during this ceremony. Scribe E

was authorised to have 200 copies of the Bye-laws printed, to revise and have printed 130 copies of the List of Members – and to obtain a new minute book (in which the minutes of this meeting are to be found)

Elections were held in March 1921 for all officers (Scribe E and Treasurer resigning office). E. Comp .P.H. Childs was elected Scribe E and E. Comp. F. W. Evans Treasurer and, shortly after, a joint Auditor!

A year later, E. Comp Evans was replaced as Auditor, E. Comp Green (MEZ 1916) was congratulated on his appointment as Prov. Grand Registrar, E. Comp. Turner (MEZ 1917) on his as Prov. Grand Scribe E and Comp R. Phillips as Ass't PrGScribe E

In March 1923 there were 2 Joining members and 3 Candidates for Exaltation successfully balloted for, with all three Candidates being exalted before the Ballots for the ensuing year after which two further joining members were proposed. E. Comp Turner (organist) informed the Chapter of the gift of three antique firing glasses for the Chapter.

In May the two joining members were balloted for, in the presence of 26 members and 13 visiting MEZs, before the installations. In November, the dress for the evening was evening or dark morning dress and thereafter, evening dress became an option – and, occasionally, required.

At the 1924 March Convocation there was a proposition that 120 guineas be donated to the 1924 Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. After some discussion it was agreed that 140 guineas should be donated. (This equates to over £30,000 pv). It was also announced that E. Comp. Cdr. Hubert Giles (PZ) Prov. 2nd. Grand Principal had been appointed Grand Superintendent. In May, the Grand Superintendent was in attendance. The balance sheet shows 94 members.

On Monday 5th. January 1925 there was an emergency meeting to

exalt, (by dispensation) Bro. F. Tough as Serving Brother. The Regular Convocation took place on Thursday 8th. January in the presence of MEGS of Hants & IoW accompanied by E. Comps . A. H. Summers (PZ) ProvG J, R.H. Turner(PZ) ProvG Scribe E, Sir J. Bramsdon (PZ) PGrPr Soj, F. W Evans(PZ) ProvG. Treasurer and 8 other Provincial officers. (evening dress only!) In March, 2 Companions were reported to be 6 years in arrears with their subscriptions. Their exclusion, duly proposed and seconded, was passed unanimously.. A letter from Phoenix Lodge was read advising that the rent would be increased to 8 Guineas p.a.(around £1700 p.v.)

At the November Convocation it was reported that Mrs Soltau, widow of .W. E. Soltau (MEZ 1903) was in a destitute condition. It was proposed that a sum of 2 guineas be donated from Chapter funds to assist her – passed unanimously. 2 brethren were exalted.

The dress code for this year and thereafter alternated between evening or dark morning dress and service or dark morning dress with important occasions e.g provincial visits being evening dress only. Convocations opened at either 5.00pm or 5.30. p.m. depending on the agenda and dining was at 7.45.p.m.

During the preceding years, E. Comp. Nicholson advanced through the Principals' Chairs but only delivered the Historical lecture whilst J and was seldom present as H or MEZ, neither delivering the Symbolical or Mystical Lectures or Installing his successor.

In May 1926 E. Comp. Childs (Scribe E) was congratulated on his appointment as Prov. Grand Registrar and Comp. Staley as Prov. Assis't Grand Scribe E

In November E. Comp. Phillips was installed as Second Principial and, at the subsequent exaltation, delivered the Symbolical Lecture.

The summons for the May Convocation states “In view of the work, the MEZ desires a *punctual* attendance “(at 5.00p.m.); Dinner at 7.45; absent Companions at 9.30. Evening dress at the

Convocation. E. Comp. J. Stephens was reported to have been Installed as Grand Standard Bearer of England.

November "Attention was drawn to the Rule that Companions three years in arrears would be excluded and 3 Companions were so excluded.

In January 1928, for the first time the agenda includes "The Ceremony of Exaltation will be rehearsed" but the Lectures will not be delivered. E. Comp. Summers delivered a lecture entitled "The Origin and History of Royal Arch Masonry." It is sad that a copy was not included in the Minutes.

In March 1928 "To Ballot for and, if elected, to Exalt W. Bro. Rt. Rev. Ernest Neville Lovett CBE Lord Bishop of Portsmouth" which was duly done.

At the May Convocation (held, by dispensation, on 24th. April) a motion was carried that, at the request of Most Excellent Grand Superintendent to regularise practice in the Province, the Chapter would adopt the "Complete working of Royal Arch Masonry" instead of the "Perfect Ceremonies" hitherto used – except the retention of the opening and closing ceremonies from the Perfect Ceremonies.

In November, E. Comp. F.W. Evans PPGJ, Prov. Treasurer, was reported to be appointed PAGDC. The newly adopted ritual was rehearsed. The MEZ proposed that, "For the future and, until the Chapter pass a resolution to rescind this resolution, the Three Principals be empowered at the Installation meeting, to appoint the other officers other than the Treasurer and Janitor instead of the same being elected by ballot – carried unanimously.

The March 1929 minutes record that, for the first time, a meeting of PZs recommended the Principals for the forthcoming year – all of whom were duly balloted for and elected. This became the practice. (This was the first mention of a PZs meeting other than one called and formulated for a specific purpose and there are no minute books extant of these PZs deliberations)

In November, A letter of appeal for £250,000 for building a new Hospital was read from the the Freemasons Hospital and Nursing

Home. It was resolved to send a copy with the January summons to all members of the Chapter.

A letter was read from the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth in connection with a Hospital Fund but it was considered that this was a non Masonic Charity and that Companions had doubtless contributed to it largely in their Individual Capacity so it was allowed to lie on the table.

In March 1930 The question of a Banner was again raised and it was resolved that the question be referred first to a PZs meeting. There is no record of this meeting reporting back to the Chapter. In May, the putative MEZ not being available due to overseas commitments, J had been elected MEZ and he was installed, by dispensation "having first been passed through the Second Chair" At the November Convocation, It was determined that the question of a "fifth" banner be laid before a meeting of PZs. Again, the minutes make no further reference to this but the Balance Sheet for the period record to "Regalias Ltd.13/- " (approx £130 p.v.)

There is a copy of a Provincial Form B in the minutes at this place which required a prompt return of the Principals and all Past Principals attending each Convocation!

The minutes from 1931 onwards contain little record of Chapter business which must have been conducted by PZs meetings without report to the Chapter. It may be assumed from occasional comments about reducing the work to shorten the meetings (including not delivering all the lectures on each occasion) that this was the purpose.

May 1932 a companion in arrears was excluded.

November, "2 rejoining companions and 4 candidates balloted for successfully."

December there was an emergency Convocation to ballot for and, if successful, to exalt Bro. R.C. Clavell Lt.Cdr. RN and Squadron Leader RAF. 21 Companions attended.

May 1933 E. Comp. R.C. V. Staley MEZ
November, Bro C.H. Ford-Palser Balloted for and Exalted. Notice
of the 92nd. Annual Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for
Boys in February 1934.

October 1935, the Chapter was in mourning for:

Sir Thomas Bramsdon PZ PPGJ PGPr Soj

Rt Hon Lord Apthill Pro 1st.G Principal

Rt Hon Lord Cornwallis 2nd. G Principal

the latter two until March 1936. Mourning emblems; All
Comps..three black rosettes on apron, Grand, Provincial and
Principals a additional rosette at base of Collar above badge.
November, Serving Comp. Tough resigned as Janitor and asked
for help. The Chapter unanimously voted 3 guineas be given to
him.. A letter was read advising that Domus Dei Lodge was
having a Chapter dedicated.

In March 1936 the Chapter was in mourning for the death of King
George V and also for two members: E. Comp. Cdr. S. Robinson,
Chapter H and Comp. Paymaster Cdr. V. O. Padwick.
Bro. Joseph Bolton was elected Serving Comp. (by dispensation)
and exalted. Surg.Rear Adm. B. Pickering-Pick elected MEZ and
Past Principals elected H & J.

Appeal from Royal Masonic Hospital for building a nurses home.
Charity box £1/-/10 donated to Royal General Hospital to add to
previous year's £1/13/6.

In May the Chapter was in mourning for E. Comp. Ernest Hall PZ
PPGStB the senior member of the Chapter (exalted 57 years ago)
Official visit by MEGS with 4 Provincial members and 10 MEZs.
E. Comp Major F.H.Trent appointed Provincial Grand Scribe N
and E. Comp Rev. E.S. Phillips appointed Past Gr. St. Br. Charity
Box £ 2/19/6 given to Samaritan fund of the Royal Masonic
Hospital, a donation of 2½ Guineas to the nurses hostel of RMH
and a donation of 1 guinea to the Ivetta Masonic building fund.
Later that month there was an emergency meeting to exalt Bro.
H.R. Rowan proposed by MEGS at the previous meeting and who
was in attendance.

The November Convocation was in mourning for E. Comps. P.J. Holden PZ PPrPrincGSoj DC and H.A. Dart PZ PPGReg and Comp. H.A. Roberts. Minutes commenced by Scribe E and completed by Treasurer.

March 1937 there was a lecture by E. Comp .Summers PPGJ, PGStBr entitled "Some Remarks on the Records of the Chapter". As a consequence of this a Committee of 5 PZs was appointed to consider the best method of preserving the Chapter records. In May, there was a dispensation for Comp. F.O. Goodwin to be installed as H and the MEZ continued for a second year. In November, the Committee reported that it had purchased a strong box for the preservation of records.

In January 1938 a letter was read from the Chief Constable confirming there was no objection to parking without lights in St. Thomas Street on Chapter evenings.

In March, there was notification of the resignation of E. Comp. Cdr. Giles PZ as Grand Superintendent due to defective hearing and the appointment of the Earl of Malmsbury as his replacement. E. Comp. Lt. Col. L.W. Lewer PZ PGStBr. PrGSN was appointed Prov. 2nd.Gr Principal.

In May Charity box £2/15/9 was donated to Samaritan Fund of RMH

There was a emergency meeting in October to Ballot for and exalt E.E Tipper – but no lectures were given.

November an appeal: MEGS will preside over the 1944 Festival in aid of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. Companions requested to contribute a sum equal to the annual subs. each year together with their Subs.

On the Recommendation of the Committee, E. Comp .Childs was elected Chapter Representative on the Provincial Grand Chapter Group Committee for Portsmouth.

The resignation of Comp. Admiral T.A. Sommerville was accepted with regret.

E. Comp. Lewer Prov. Grand H was appointed to care for

Chapters in the Portsmouth and IoW Groups and an E. Comp officer of SGC shall occasionally visit the Chapter.

In January 1939 a letter from the Province instructed that, in future, the Mystical Lecture must be delivered at every Exaltation by the MEZ or a PZ – and may be shared. The other Lectures to be delivered as occasion permits. The Chapter decided that these will be delivered at the discretion of the Principals.

In March, E. Comp. Aylen PZ, DC was congratulated on his appointment as PPGSN.

In May, the National savings Certificates were realised and the proceeds placed in P.O. Savings Bank (£149/19/-). The PZs Committee recommended that the Bye-Laws be revised and a committee consisting of E. Comps. Summers, Lewer and Wanhill was convened for this purpose and to consider the Opening and Closing. This was considered and the forms thereof were attached to the minutes.

The Second World War

There was a letter in September suspending all Masonic Meetings on the outbreak of war but later in the month meetings were resumed but not on Sundays. Morning Dress or Uniform only; as early in the day as possible; brief and simple after proceedings; Principals to be empowered to cancel meetings if circumstances warrant; Principals may alter the date within seven days of regular day without dispensation – but should advise PSCE; A Chapter may resolve, after notice on summons, to alter dates and subscriptions temporarily without altering by-laws; Any required business for a regular meeting not held must be transacted at the next practicable meeting without disability provided the facts are stated on the annual returns. All this was formulated and entered in the minute book prior to the November Convocation.

At that Convocation the Chapter was in mourning for the death of E. Comp. Summers and MEGS was elected an Honorary Member. Phoenix suggested that the Chapter contribute £1/14/- towards the cost of blacking out.

In January 1940, a proposition "That in future the Broken Column be placed outside the Chapter room, The MEZ to draw the attention of the Companions to its situation there at the close of each Convocation" was carried. The purpose of this is obscure. In March the final printed draft of the new by-laws were approved. Up to this date, no member had been reported as lost on active service. In August a Provincial notice was received giving details of the procedures for preserving Masonic records – with Provinces being made responsible to the safety of records deposited with them. Chapters which did not wish to take advantage of this were warned that Banks could not be regarded as entirely safe!. Grand Chapter gave permission for a photostat copy of the Warrants to be made for use in the Chapters, such copy to be endorsed by the three Principals and MEGS, for the duration of hostilities. On 31st. October, the Chapter was given 5 days to parcel up, and deposit with Province, their documents for safe keeping. There was no record of a meeting in November.

In March 1941, E. Comp. Evans resigned as Treasurer due to ill health after 20 years in that office and E. Comp. Pickering – Pick was elected in his place.

In November the Chapter was in mourning for the loss of Comp. Vice Admiral L.E. Holland CD RN on HMS Hood. There was a request from Phoenix Lodge for £1/10/- towards the cost of Fire watching Feb-Nov 1941 which was agreed. The most valuable portion of the Chapter furniture and effects had been removed to a place of safety in Sussex and insured under the War Damage Act scheme. There was a letter from Prov. Grand Scribe E requesting a subscription of £1/11/- towards the cost of replacing PG Chapter Regalia destroyed by enemy action.

1st. January 1942 the death and funeral of E. Comp. R.H. Turner MA MusBac FRCO PGOrg PPrGSE PPrGOrg was reported and a fulsome eulogy was delivered by MEZ and E. Comp. Childs for his many years of service to the Chapter and Province.

In November the Chapter was in mourning for 1st. Grand Principal M.E. Comp. Air Commodore HRH The Duke of Kent KG.

£5/-/- was voted to be retained for a PZ Jewel for E. Comp. F.B. McCarter and E. Comp Pickering-Pick was appointed Prov.GJ

January 1943 Chapter still in mourning for 1st. Grand Principal and also for E. Comp. F.W.E. Evans PPrGJ. Dispensation to exalt Bro. E.H. Ventham as Serving Comp. Elected and exalted. Report that Comp. T.F.J. Sparks had had a knighthood conferred in the New Year Honours List.

November Chapter in mourning for Comp. Paymaster Rear Admiral George Grant (Exalted 1924)

!944 During this year, E. Comp. W.E.S. Ingles served as Prov. J March; the monies collected for the RMIG Festival (£51/18/11) were added to the Phoenix contributions and a further individual donation of £5/5/- was given directly.

May, at installation “due to illness and exigencies of service” only Scribe N, Assis't DC and 2 stewards could be invested.

In January 1945 a new visiting Grand Officer was appointed – E. Comp. A.E. Madgewick PSADC who was present and welcomed. E. Comp. R.H.P. Bevis exalted his Brother A. C. Bevis (DoB 20/6/1884)

May, 18 members and 17 guests in attendance E. Comp. Ingles (Organist) recorded as 3rd. Prov. G Principal. The PZ's Jewel was presented to E. Comp. McCarter.

November, Bro Lt. I.C.G. Webster RM was exalted and Comp. J.F. Freeston was welcomed back from active service. He and three others were presented with their Grand Chapter Certificates.

During the war years, the minutes make hardly any mention of the war – not even the destruction of 109 High Street, the provincial office next door.

Towards the Bi-Centenary

One of the first effects of the end of hostilities was, in March 1946, a Supreme Council circular giving modifications to the Directive issued at the outbreak of hostilities which included the following:-

Chapters should meet in Morning Dress or uniform.

Principals would no longer have the power to cancel a Regular Meeting.

Subject to Rule 139, Principals may not alter the date of a Regular Meeting without dispensation.

Where it is still impossible to meet at the place specified in the by-laws, any dispensation to meet elsewhere remains in force.

Where a Chapter has been using a photographic copy of the Charter, steps are to be taken to resume work under the Original Charter and the copy returned to Grand Scribe E (or Provincial Grand Scribe E) for cancellation.

In January 1947, there was an item on the agenda to ballot for, as an Honorary member, E. Comp. Col. Ir A.R. Holbrook KBE, D.J. J.P. PAGSoj, PPGSN but instead the Companions stood in memory of his death.

During the remaining convocations, the Companions mourned the passing of a further 5 Companions and, in November, Comp. Rt. Rev. Bishop Neville Lovett DD CBE who had been exalted in this Chapter in 1927 was elected an Honorary Member.

On 1st. January 1948 The bye-law for subscriptions was amended from 8/- to £1/1/-, the first increase for 30 years.

Little of note over the following years, except that in 1950 E. Comp. F.O. Goodman, MEZ in 1938, was appointed Provincial Second Grand Principal, an office he held for 14 years and in 1951, E. Comp. Pickering Pick retired as Treasurer after 11 years. In March 1952, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent accepted an invitation to be present and was accompanied by his Provincial Officers. At this Convocation the summons notes the wearing of Gloves for the first time since before the War and mourning for the Death of H.M. King George VI.

In November 1953, Freemasons attended the dedication of Bishop Lovett Memorial Chapel in the Cathedral at 5-00 pm and the Chapter was opened at 6-25pm. There was a notice of motion that

50 guineas be donated to the 1954 Festival for the RMIB and it was announced that a printing of the opening and closing ceremonies was available at a cost of 2/- . The dues paid to SGC for this year were £1/12/6 and to Province were £8/3/-

In 1955 it was decided that the Chapter funds on deposit at the P.O. Savings Bank be transferred to the Hampshire Building Society. The Phoenix Lodge suggested and their GPC has implemented a Property of Phoenix Fund (POP) under the control of the Senior Steward of the Lodge to finance maintenance of the building. Already (in a month) £20 has been raised and donations (suggested at 10/- pa) would be welcomed. Contributions to Comp. Dr W.L. Milligan.

In 1956, a comment from Province after examination of the minutes required that the names and masonic ranks of all attending be entered in the minutes as specified in Rule 144. (The practice had been to enter "members and visitors as recorded in the attendance book"). SGC dues £6/8/- and Provincial £8/3/-

In May 1957, Most Excellent Grand Superintendent was elected an Honorary member and there was an official visit by MEGS accompanied by Prov J, and Prov's GSE, G Treas, G St Br ,G.St Br and E. Comp Ford Palser acted as GDC for the evening. Visitors were the MEZs of 804,1705, 2074, 2938, 4356, 5150, 5151, J of 5151, 2 PPGrand Officers and 4 Comps. It was also noted, with Congratulations that E. Comp. Windsor Roberts had been appointed Archdeacon of Dorking
In November the death was reported of Comp. Canon A.J. Smethurst.

In 1958, for the first time in over 40 years, a list of members is appended to the minutes. It lists 2 Honorary and 72 members of whom 8 were Joining – 3 of whom became Prov J, two after having been MEZ of the Chapter. Of the other members, 2 had been Prov. H and 1 had been Prov J

In 1959, there was an emergency meeting in February, due to exigencies of the service, to exalt Bro John Desmond Francis Harvey Cantrill RM. Throughout this year, the summonses list J as Comp PD Childs JP until the Installation Convocation in May. In November the death was recorded of E. Comp Madgewick, our VGO and the appointment of his successor E. Comp. J.W. Copsey PGSoj PrGDC, who sent his apologies for absence.

The balance sheet for 1960 makes no mention of "Fees of Honour" so it would appear that this element in the bye-laws had been removed without mention in the minute book. It was recorded in May that E. Comps. G.T. Brockhurst and J.F. Freeston had both been promoted to PGStBr.

In March 1961 E. Comp. Col.R.T.S. Kitwood visited the Chapter for the purpose of delivering an address entitled "The Banners".

The next year he was appointed 3rd. Prov. Grand Principal and two years thereafter became MEGS.

In February 1962 25 guineas was donated to the Memorial Fund for the late E. Comp. P.H. Childs. (1 Sovereign = £5(approx) so the pv. of the donation was approx £1250).

In May E.Comp. W.H. Griffiths retired as Treasurer after 11 years.

In January 1963, due to stress of weather, only five members were present so the Chapter opened, the minutes were read and the Chapter then closed again.

In March, E. Comp. Dines (J) regretted that, due to business circumstances, he would be unable to be considered for election to H. E. Comp. Ford Palser, PZ was elected H and Comp. W.L. Milligan was elected to J

In May, E. Comp. C.S. Irvine, J of Navy Chapter 2612, was elected a joining member. Visitors were PrGDC, 8 MEZs of neighbouring Chapters and 2 E. Comps.

In November E. Comp. F.O. Goodman (MEZ 1938) resigned as 2nd. Pr. G. Principal (in his 13th year) due to ill health.

In January 1964 25 guineas was donated from Chapter funds to the 1964 Festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution. In April there was an emergency meeting to Exalt Bro. Rt. Rev. John Henry Lawrence Phillips DD Lord Bishop of Portsmouth. In May It was reported that E. Comp. Goodman, who was ill in Hospital, had been awarded the Order of Service to Masonry. E. Comp. W.L. Milligan was installed as MEZ, E. Comp. J.F. Freeston was installed as 3rd.Prov. G. Principal and E. Comp. G.T. Brockhurst was Pr. G Treasurer. Comp S. C. Saunders was appointed an auditor of Prov. G. Chapter.

The following May, E. Comp. Freeston was appointed Prov. G Scribe E an office he then held for five years. In November, the death of E. Comp. R.S. Wayland was announced and the Companions determined to have a memorial dinner in each July. Notice of this dinner was included in the April Summons from 1971

In January 1966 there was an official visit by MEGS R.T.S. Kitwood. Bro. H.W.P. Rooke was exalted.

The Bye-laws were amended so that the Annual Subscription was raised from 1 guinea to 1½ guineas (fees for exaltation remain at 2½ guineas and Joining at 1 guinea) The action taken by the Bi-Centenary Committee in ordering the making of New Principals' Robes at a cost not to exceed £45 was confirmed.

In November MEGS, Prov. 3rd Grand Principal E. Comp. J.C. Brodrick and a Provincial Party attended to invest E. Comp. G.T. Brockhurst as Prov. 2nd Grand Principal – an office he then held for 12 years.

In the January 1967 minutes there is a reference, for the first time, to the "Charge after Closing." (see Appendix 2) In November a sum of £25 for provision of a suitable Case for the Robes was approved.

In May, the usual progression of the Principals was broken with E. Comp. Saunders remaining as H and E. Comp. Madden as J while E. Comp. Ford Palser (MEZ1950) was again elected as

MEZ. In November, E. Comp. E.H. Buswell PGSt.B was appointed the VGO. The following were elected Honorary members:-

Comp. The Rt Hon. The Earl of Scarborough, Pro 1st. Grand Principal

Comp. J.W. Stubbs Grand Scribe E

Comp Hon. E.I. Bailieu Grand DC

Comp. Col R.T.S. Kitwood Grand Sup't Hants & IoW

There was a successful Ballot for, as a joining member, Comp. R.A. Harris late a member of Aitkin Chapter (India) whose clearance certificate is appended to the minutes Bro B.M. Puyer was successfully balloted for, as a Candidate for exaltation, and was then Exalted.

The Convocation held, by dispensations on, 13th. January in the Masonic Hall, 79 Commercial Road Portsmouth was the Bicentennial Meeting and opened at 5.00 pm. In attendance were the three Principals, 46 E. Comps and Comps of the Chapter and also some 140 Grand Officers, Provincial Officers, E. Comps, Comps and Guests of members.

In the Order of Business, the MEZ received:-

1. Representatives of the Provincial Grand Chapter of East Lancs.

2. ME Grand Sup't and the 2nd. And 3rd. Grand Principals of Hants & IoW

3. ME Pro 1st. Grand Principal supported by Grand Officers

The order of business was then

4. To open the Chapter

5. To read the Dispensations

6. To read and confirm the Minutes of the November Convocation

7. A reading of the first (deciphered) Minute

8. The Bi-Centenary Charter was read by the ME. Grand Scribe E

9. the Bishop of Portsmouth Comp. Dr. J.H.L. Phillips delivered an address

10. Apologies

The accounts for the event were:

Bi-Centenary Fund 1965/6	£ 63/15/-	207 dinners	£232/15/-
(rolling)	1966/7 £ 99/4/8	Wine	£109/3/8
	1967/8 £127/0/6	Stationery	£ 23/1/11
	1968/9 £187/10/-	Bi-Cent. Booklet	£ 59/10/-
including accrued interest		Balance Carried Fwd	£ 16/4/5
Dining Fees (157)	£353/5/-		
	-----		-----
	£540/15/-		£540/15/-

During 1969, five deaths were recorded; E. Comp's Lt. Col. L.W. Lower DSO PZ257 PGStB PP2nd. G Principal, R.C.W. Staley PPGSN, the senior Chapter member exalted in Nov 1919, Comp's Dr. K.V. Mead, Major Sir Reginald Bullin OBE TD, and Geoffrey Heather. The Death of Comp Rt.Hon. The Earl of Scarborough was also recorded. Bi-Centenary jewels were also available at £10/15/6 for silver gilt and metal gilt at £9/15/6.

In 1971, Congratulations were extended to Comp's. P.R.J. Duly and Rev. P. Knight on admission to OBE. A donation of £50 was made to the Royal Masonic Hospital – this including the remainder of the Bi-Centenary a/c. Our Hon. Member the Grand Superintendent attended and the death of E. Comp. P.J. Parkhurst PZ who had achieved distinction and rendered valuable service in all Degrees of the Phoenix Group.

In 1972, Most Excellent Grand Superintendent attended to deliver an address on the Historical Background to Royal Arch Masonry. It is to be regretted that no copy of this was attached to the minutes. The 3rd. Prov. Grand Principal made an official visit to the next Convocation.. At a subsequent Convocation he presented a PZ Jewel previously owned by E. Comp. Lower to the Chapter

In 1973, £10 was donated to each of Royal Masonic Samaritans

fund and the Provincial Comforts Fund and £20 to the 1974 Festival subsequently, a further £100 was donated to this Festival from the General fund (taken from the Hants. Building Society Shares). It was also noted that all three Provincial Principals were members of the Chapter - MEGS (Hon), 2nd. E. Comp. Brockhurst and 3rd. E. Comp. Milligan.

In 1975, Scribe E apologised for the fallibility of his deciphering equipment and made an earnest plea for legibility of signatures in the Register. In March a dispensation was sought from SGC for "John Henry Lawrence Phillips Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Portsmouth to be eligible for election as 3rd Principal of the Chapter notwithstanding that he has not served in the office of Scribe, Principal Sojourner or Assistant Sojourner. He was elected as MEZ and in May a further Provincial Dispensation was granted for this provided he was passed through the Chairs of Joshua and Haggai – which was done at the enthronement at which meeting it was agreed that the subscriptions would be increased to £2.50. In November E. Comp. Rev. Canon Richard Tydeman PGSN, Prestonian Lecturer attended to present his lecture "Whose names they bear"

It was reported that E. Comps. Milligan and Irvine had both been appointed GStB(active).

During the next eight years, subscriptions continued to rise to £14, printing and postage rose from £45 to £158, Contribution to Lodge Rooms from £65 to £360 .SGC and Prov. Dues which had been fluctuating at not in excess of £16 rose slowly until the 1980s when first province in 1982 increased from £38 to £79 and then two years later SGC increased from £9 to £39 and by 1989 were £225 while Prov. Dues steadied.

At the November Convocation, there were four Candidate successfully balloted for and were exalted over the following year. It appears that the practice of multiple exaltations had been abandoned.

In January 1978, E. Comp. Ventham, Janitor was welcomed into the Chapter on the 35th Anniversary of his being exalted in the Chapter as a Serving Brother. In November it was recorded that E. Comp. Milligan had been appointed Prov. 2nd Grand Principal, succeeding E. Comp. Brockhurst who had been in the post for the previous 12 years.

At the next Convocation, Comp. Cdr. R.A. Champion was elected a joining member and E. Comp Milligan stood in as Haggai.

In 1980, there was a “referendum” on the time of commencement and the result was 19 to 9 in favour of maintaining the status quo. Comp. Duly RN was recorded as achieving Flag Rank. The Treasurer reminded Companions of the necessity of increasing Alms contributions in light of the rising demands on the Charities supported by the Chapter. In November Comp R.A. Champion was appointed Assistant Provincial Scribe E.

A year later, there was an official visit by MEGS accompanied by the 2nd. and 3rd. Provincial Grand Principals and various senior Provincial Officers.

In 1982, E. Comp. Ron Champion who was Haggai contrived to sit on his Sceptre and it suffered a greenstick fracture which is still commemorated by a brass band repair effected by E. Comp. Hills, Joshua. In June of this year, E. Comp. Dr. W. E. Milligan became Most Excellent Provincial Grand Superintendent, an Office he held until 1989.

In January 1984 Comp. Stuart Read the senior member of the Chapter attained 50 years therein which was suitably commemorated.

In March MEGS was in attendance and presented the Royal Arch booklet to the Candidate which he, and E.Comp. Kitwood who was also in attendance, signed.

In Feb. 1985 bye-law IV was substituted with:-

“The fee for exaltation shall be £3,00, the Joining fee £3.00 save for joining companions who are members of Phoenix Lodge who

shall pay £2.00 as a joining fee and the Annual subscription due and payable in May shall be of such amount as the Chapter shall from time to time decide by resolution after Motion on the Summons.

In addition to such fees the Candidate shall pay to the Chapter such registration fees as are payable to the Grand Chapter, together with any tax payable thereon, and the Candidate shall, before becoming a member, be informed of the total amount due. Any member whose subscription is unpaid for one year shall be liable to be excluded from the Chapter, after due notice, in accordance with Rule 71 Royal Arch Regulations and Rule 81, Book of Constitutions (Craft)"

1986 May Convocation made donations of £70 each to RMH Samaritan fund and Provincial Comforts Fund. E. Comp. Ron Champion PZ Pr.GSE appointed to Grand Chapter Rank.

1989 May MEGS E. Comp .Liddell Milligan stepped down and was replaced by E. Comp. Rev. D. Michael Morgan. It may be noted that there have been 10 Grand Superintendents in 200 years and 2 of these were exalted in this Chapter with a further 2 being joining members only one of whom had not been our MEZ. E. Comp. Ron Champion stood down as PrGSE

In 1990, E. Comp. Harry Rooke took over the office of DC from E. Comp .Ron Champion .

In 1991 Bro J.A.K. Colville was exalted and in May E. Comp ."Teddy" Ventham died in his 48th.year as Janitor. His portrait is in the Dining Room..

In November 1992, Comp. W.B. Norton joined the Chapter and in the following year subscriptions were raised from £14 to £23.. In 1994 E. Comp B.C. Bellinger (Scribe E) was appointed 3rd. Prov. Grand Principal in which office he served for 2 years. He was replaced as Scribe E by E, Comp. V.G Smith. E. Comp. Champion was promoted to PAGSoj. And this year marked the 225th. Anniversary of the Chapter which was duly celebrated.

In June 1995, E. Comp. R. Knight was appointed PrGChStB and, in November, for the first time in many years, there were three Candidates for exaltation..and the following January the Symbolical lecture was delivered in Catechetical form. to the first of the Candidates. In June, E. Comp. J.P.N. Brogden was appointed PrGTreasurer. Again, in November there were three Candidates for exaltation. A letter was read from the Scribe E of Hants & IoW First Principals' Chapter No. 5990 inviting all "Z's" and PZs to join at a subscription fee of £10 pa and joining fee of £2.50. Despite this sudden plethora of Candidates, there were no multiple exaltations performed.

In February 1997 E. Comp. Geoffrey Brockhurst PZ PMEGS died .and there was a moving eulogy in the March Convocation. There were also 2 further Candidates for Exaltation and subscriptions were to be raised from £23 to £28.. In November there were fulsome eulogies for E. Comp. W.E. Latham ("Jimmy") and E. Comp. G.S. Irvine, exalted in Navy Chapter in 1949 and joined Friendship in 1963. A letter of resignation was received from E. Comp. Roger Villar.

In January 1998 E. Comp. H.K. Childs passed away and the MEZ E. Comp.T. Hughes resigned so E. Comp. Salter acted as MEZ. The eulogies to all three of the above are included in the minutes and are worthy of a read!

At the May installation it was reported that the incoming MEZ, E. Comp. Patrick McManus had been appointed Ass't Grand Chaplain. In November there were two Candidates for Exaltation and one joining member..

In January 1999 The Chapter was in mourning for E.Comp .H.W.R. Lubbock PPGSN MEZ 1961, Treasurer for 30 years from 1962. The Historical lecture was delivered in Catechetical form. In March E. Comp. P.F. Probert (SN) delivered a lecture entitled "The opening and closing ceremonies of the Royal Arch Chapter", the full text of which is in the minutes and deserve further attention and in May the chapter was again in mourning for E. Comp. P.R. Hancock (MEZ 1963) who had been Scribe E for sixteen years

from 1968.

In March 2000, E. Comp. Probert (J) gave another lecture entitled "Some Thoughts on Royal Arch Terms " an erudite and interesting delivery. After the closure of this Convocation the Companions in Office were photographed for the Bimillennial. In June, at the Provincial Convocation, E. Comp. C. Hills received promotion to PPGSN and E. Comp. V. Smith to PPGReg. In November, the Treasurer reported that, as a result of the take over of the Bradford and Bingley Building Society, the Chapter had received a windfall of 250 shares which were subsequently sold for £609.60.

In 2001, the membership stood at 62. In May, the MEZ was unable to attend as he was in hospital, and E. Comp. Goodall stood in as MEZ for the Installation.

In November, following his appointment as MEGS, E. Comp. R. Jago issued a recommendation to Chapters concerning the wearing of Gloves. consequent on the decision in 1996 by SGC that gloves would no longer be worn at their Convocations. This recommendation is that gloves will no longer be worn at Provincial Convocations or by Principals making visits to Chapters and that Chapters should no longer wear them,. This was considered by the PZ Committee the following February and the decision was that the Chapter would continue to wear them..

In January 2002 the death of E. Comp. "Bill" Salter was noted together with a request from his widow for the words of the Naval Prayer which was to be read at his funeral. This was supplied and Joshua read it in Chapter as a tribute. In March, MEZ delivered a lecture entitled "An explanation of the Second Principal's Symbolical Lecture" In June, E. Comp. John Brogden was appointed Provincial Treasurer.

During 2003 E. Comp's D. White and P. Purves inventoried the contents of the Secretary's Office and arranged for the Minute books of the Phoenix Lodge and Chapter of Friendship to be archived at the Portsmouth City Records Office where they could

be stored in a more suitable environment. They will be available for study and may, with the consent of the Order, be taken away. Minute books containing the names of current members were retained. Also during this year, SGC began revising the RA Ritual and sought comment from Companions. MEGS also indicated this year that officers should not ideally be held by an individual for more than 5-7 years so as to encourage the maximum number of PZs to have the opportunity to take office. E. Comp. Roger Knight was promoted to PPGSwdB.

In 2005 E. Comp. David Goodall, Scribe E produced an edition of the revised ritual which was approved by the PZs Committee and produced for sale to the Companions in two volumes - the ritual for Exaltation and the Installation ritual, the latter only available to E. Companions. These were introduced at the November Convocation – an interesting baptism of fire for the newly appointed DC!

In March 2006, E. Comp. Purves delivered a lecture entitled “The Life and Times of Samuel Palmer”. A wording change to the new Symbolical Lecture proposed to SGC by E. Comp. Purves was approved for use in the Chapter and was, at the next PZs Committee, approved for inclusion in our new ritual.

E. Comp. P.J. Wyles PPGSN gave a lecture to the January 2007 Convocation entitled “The Qualifications for Exaltation” a copy of which is attached to the minutes. In November E. Comp. Ron Champion tendered his resignation from the Chapter citing residence in Eastbourne and the demands of other Masonic obligations

At the Committee meeting 1 February 2008, it was suggested that, to assist companions to attend, the meeting dates should be changed to the first Thursday in February, April, June and November. This proposal, however, found no favour. Finding officers to progress was becoming an acute problem. The change to sending summonses by e-mail was progressing – albeit slowly.

Also, for the first time an Almoner was appointed.

At the May Convocation, E. Comp. Tuck delivered an outstanding talk on "The Royal Arch in the Beginning" with a demonstration of an 18th. Century Opening . A copy of this talk is in the minutes. Revised bye-laws were circulated to the Companions prior to a notice of motion to adopt them.

This was done in January 2010 at which Convocation inclement weather prevented 14 Companions and 10 visitors from attending.. In March, E. Comp. B. Bellinger was presented with his 40 year Certificate of Service by the Provincial 2nd. Grand Principal. The MEZ elect was unable to attend the Installation Convocation due to professional avocations and subsequently resigned from the Chapter. necessitating a dispensation allowing E. Comp. J.E. Pullinger to be inducted in the the Chair of Zerubbabel for the third successive year. Two more E. Comp.s, W.S. Pitt and P.E. Harbord, Became eligible for a 40 year Certificate.

The PZs Committee noted in February that the number of Provincial Officers wishing to attend at Official Visits was resulting in the dining room reaching full capacity and the Province was requested to restrict the numbers attending. In April 2011, E. Comp. B. Bellinger was invested as Grand Scribe Nehemiah and in June E. Comp. J. Colville was invested as Provincial 3rd. Grand Principal and relinquished the office of Chapter DC..

In 2012, the Committee revisited the decision re gloves as it was drawn to our attention that we were one of very few Chapters still doing so and it was, with regret, decided that gloves would no longer be worn. In May, a notice of increase of fees ro Province was received effectively being £1 on subscriptions and all registrations. In November the Companions mourned the deaths of both E. Comp. W.S. Pitt and Comp. A. W. Wilcox, the former having received his 40 year Certificate and the latter his 50 year Certificate in 2010.

In January 2013, E. Comp P. Purves, Scribe E assisted by E. Comp. B. Olive Ass't Scribe E gave an explanation of the Ensigns on their Staves, based on one delivered by E. Comp. Kitwood. In February, the Committee considered a volunteer to head up preparations for our quarter millennial Celebration and E. Comp .Pullinger agreed to implement this. A small sub-committee of volunteers agreed to assist him and Scribe E provided some guides as to what had been done on previous occasions. At the March Convocation E. Comp. A. Berman, MEGS presented E. Comp. R. Knight with his 40 year Certificate and, in May, E. Comp. K. Nixon was elected an Hon member, having been exalted in the Chapter in 1968 and now, for reasons of health was unable to attend again but wished to be kept informed of Chapter activities.

In November 2015, E. Comp. M. Pipes was presented with his 40 year Certificate and, at the Convocation, the Companions remembered Comp. K. Howard PPAss'tGSE who had served the Chapter as Treasurer for 10 years and had been High Street Steward for more than 12 years. Between 2006 and 2015 there had been 13 Exaltations of which 5 were of serving officers and 7 Joining members.

In January 2016, the Companions noted, with approbation, the 50th. Anniversary of the exaltation of E. Comp .H. Rooke PAGDC, MEZ 1978 and 1985, Prov. G Registrar (1986) ADC 1987-89 and then DC until 1996. His certificate was presented to him privately at home by MEGS .

In November the Companions mourned the passing of E. Comp. K. Nixon PGStB. A moving eulogy was delivered by E. Comp. B. Bellinger culminating in the encomium, in the words of Chaucer, "He was indeed a verry parfit gentil knight".

At the 2017 Committee meeting, Scribe E delivered a short address on the subject of Recruitment and Retention – commenting that, over the previous 8 years there had only been 9 exaltations some of whom did not wish or were unable to progress

and that rehearsals were becoming poorly attended which was resulting in a deterioration in the standard of our Ceremonies. This led to a lively debate but no solutions except to try to increase recruitment! In April Scribe E relinquished his office after serving 8 years, prior to which he had been ADC for 3 years and DC for 4.

A year later, the Committee was advised that there had been no progress in preparing for the Quarter Millennial Celebration, due to E Comp Pullingers health issues and noted that this needed to be addressed urgently and scheduled another meeting in the Autumn to finalise what had been arranged. They also agreed to progress an application for a banner and authorised E. Comp. Purves to do.

In March the Companions stood in memory of E. Comp. W.B. Norton PMEGS of Andalucia in the Spanish Constitution who had been a member of the Chapter for 25 years. This Convocation was struck by adverse weather which resulted in only 9 members being able to attend although the full business of the evening was completed..

The Autumn meeting of the Committee was not convened so at the November Convocation E. Comp. Purves reported on progress concerning the Banner which had initially been rejected by SGC for a number of reasons not least among which was that the Chapter badge was against their regulations as having a shield which rendered it subject to the Court of Chivalry who would not acknowledge it. This necessitated a redesign of the badge which had to be approved by the Chapter as well as SGC. The former having been achieved, the new badge was resubmitted to SGC from whom a response was awaited

At the January Convocation, which should have been our quarter millennial celebration, E. Comp. B. James presented his talk "An explanation of Some of the Features of the Royal Arch". The February Committee Meeting acknowledged that the Celebration date had passed with no preparation and proposed to ask if the Chapter could join in the Phoenix Mark Celebration in September. E. Comp. Purves reported that he was still awaiting response from SGC concerning the Badge.

The March Convocation was attended by E. Comp. A. Berman MEGS and his party which included a number of Principal Officers. The death of E. Comp. J. Colville was reported and E. Comp. B. Bellinger delivered the eulogy which included the comment that “he was the only member within living memory who had occupied the chairs of all six of the Orders in the Phoenix Group.” He was a driving force in all masonic activities he undertook. There was then a ballot and exaltation before the elections of officers.. After the Meeting closed, photographs were taken of the Officers and of Members and Guests.

At the end of March ,E. Comp. Purves received response from SGC concerning the badge and finalised design thereof before submitting the Banner design. The final form of the latter was agreed just before the May Convocation and these were presented thereto by E. Comp. Purves for approval on the fourth rising. He paid tribute to E. Comp B. James for the artwork on the badge and E. Comp . B. Graham for infinite patience in producing designs for the banner. Both badge and banner received their formal seal of acceptance from SGC a week later and quotations for manufacture of the banner were then requested.



No. 257

Appendix 1

Principal Provincial Appointments

(as noted in passing in the minutes and Provincial Yearbook)

Grand Superintendents

1840 -1869	Sir G. Lucius Curtis	
1902 – 1923	Sir A. F. Webster	J 1909
1909 -	J. Campbell	J 1905 MEGS Worcester
1923 – 1938	Cdr. H.G. Giles RN	J 1899
1982 – 1989	Dr. W. Liddell Milligan	
2008 -	Cdr. W.B. Norton RN	J 1992 MEGS Andalucia

2nd Provincial Grand Principals

1902 – 1922	Cdr. H.G. Giles RN	J
1938 – 1940	Lt.Col. L.W. Lewer	
1950 – 1964	F.O. Goodman	
1966 – 1978	G.T. Brockurst	
1978 – 1983	Dr. W. Liddell Milligan	

3rd.Provincial Grand Principals

1870	G.W. Meeham	
	R. Loveland-Loveland	MEZ 1878 *
	W. Campbell	MEZ 1890 *
	Capt. W.H. St. Clair	J
1884/1891	G.F. Lancaster	Hon 1885
1897	T. Bramsdon	
1898	W. Gilman	
1901	H.G. Giles	J
1908	W.A. Rowe	
1910	G. Kent	
1912	J. Apsey	J
1915	W.C. Apps	
1917	F.W. Evans	
	Adm. Pickering Pick	J
1944	W.E.S. Ingles	
	Ven W. Roberts	
	Rev. G.W. Page	J
1964	J.E. Freeston	
1973	Dr. W. Liddell Milligan	
1994	B.C. Bellinger	
2011	J.A. Colville	

Where no date is given, listed in membership lists as PPrGJ

- 1899 PPGJ

Appendix 2

see January 1967. This appears in the "Perfect Ceremonies"

Charge given when the Chapter is closed, but before the Comps.
have separated.

Z. - You are now about to quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mix again with the world. Amidst its concerns and employments, forget not the duties you have heard forcibly and so frequently inculcated in our meetings. Be ye therefore diligent, prudent, temperate and discreet; remember also that around our altar you have solemnly and repeatedly engaged yourselves to befriend and relieve with unhesitating cordiality, so far as shall be in your power, every Br. who shall need your assistance, and that you have promised to remind him, in the most tender manner, of his failings, and aid his reformation, to vindicate his character when wrongly traduced, and to suggest, in his behalf, the most candid, favourable, and palliating circumstances in extenuation of his conduct even when it is justly reprehended; that the world may observe and feel how truly Masons love one another. These generous principles ought to extend beyond the limited area of our own society, for every human being has a claim upon your kind offices, so that we enjoin you to do good unto all, but more especially to the household of the faithful. By diligence in the duties of your respective callings, by liberal benevolence and diffusive charity, by constancy and fidelity in your friendship, by uniformly just, amiable and virtuous deportment, we charge you to manifest the beneficial effects of our ancient and honourable institution; and let it not be supposed, Bn., that you will labour in vain or spend your strength for naught, for your work will be with the Lord; and your recompense with God. Finally, Brethren, be ye all of one heart and one mind, love one another, and live in peace; and may the God of love and peace delight to dwell with you, and bless you.

