

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DUE EXAMINATION OF VISITORS

Q. Rule 125 of the Book of Constitutions requires that visitors to a Lodge must be vouched for by one of the Brethren present. But if the visitor is unaccompanied, or if no Brother is able to vouch for him, the rule requires that 'he shall be well vouched for after due examination'. I cannot find a precise definition of 'due examination' and opinions on this point in our Lodge Committee vary considerably. Can you clarify the position for us?

A. The phrase 'due examination' has not been defined by Grand Lodge, and its interpretation is left to the discretion of the Brethren who conduct the examination. In the majority of Lodges visitors are vouched for by their hosts and, for that reason more than any other, examinations are extremely rare. Rule 125 says that 'He shall, *if required*, produce his Grand Lodge Certificate and proof of good standing in his Lodge'. The words, 'if required', indicate that the request is optional, implying that production of the G.L. Certificate is not essential. This may be taken as a useful guide to procedure, but I would urge that, in every case where there is the least doubt, 'due examination' must be strict.

Example: Bro. X, a Provincial Mason in London on business, is staying at the Right Royal Hotel where the notice board shows that a Lodge is meeting that evening. He presents himself, but without Grand Lodge Certificate or means of identification. The examining Officer would be fully entitled to refuse admission; but, assuming that he is willing to test the visitor, the following is suggested:

1. Ask for the Signs, Tokens and Words of the three Degrees. The visitor may be hesitant, or not wholly correct in his answers. He may even be a non-Mason who has obtained his information from some irregular source. The examination should be extended to include one or two procedural questions relating to specific details *in the ceremonies*. But there is a useful additional check.
2. Ask the name and number of the visitor's Lodge with the place and dates of Meetings. (All these can be instantly checked in the *Masonic Year Book*.)

Responsibility for the admission of visitors is primarily with the Junior Warden, who is so directed at his investiture. But ultimate responsibility rests with the W.M., who undertakes, at his Installation, that no visitor shall be received 'without due examination, and producing proper Vouchers of his having been initiated in a regular Lodge'. If the J.W. is on duty in the Lodge, the W.M. may delegate the D.C., or one or more P.M.s to act as 'examiners', and it is they who become, in a sense, the 'proper Vouchers', when they are satisfied.

QUATUOR CORONATI LODGE No. 2076

W. Bro. Dr. John Stephen Wade, PPJGW (Yorks. W.R. & Derbys.)
Master



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Brother

As a member of this lodge or of the Q. C. Correspondence Circle, you are warmly invited to attend the meeting at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, on Thursday 9 September 2010 at 5 o'clock p.m., precisely.

*By command of the Master
James W. Daniel, PJGW
Secretary*

Morning Dress or Dark Suit, Undress Regalia and White Gloves

N.B. The Standing Committee will meet at 3.00 p.m.

• A particular welcome is extended to members of the Correspondence Circle and to members (not below the rank of Master Mason) of lodges in the Correspondence Circle who are all cordially invited to make the fullest use of their association with Quatuor Coronati Lodge

**Dates of other Meeting in 2010
Thursday 11 November (Installation)**

OFFICERS OF THE LODGE 2009-10

W.Bro. John Wade	.....	Master
W.Bro. Tom Webb	.....	Senior Warden
W.Bro. Robert Cooper	.....	Junior Warden
W.Bro. Aubrey Newman	.....	Chaplain
W.Bro. John Acaster	.....	Treasurer
R.W.Bro. Jim Daniel	.....	Secretary
W.Bro. Yasha Beresiner	.....	D. C.
V.W.Bro. John Mandelberg	.....	Almoner
W.Bro. Brent Morris	.....	Charity Steward
W.Bro. Antony Baker	.....	Senior Deacon
W.Bro. Roger Burt	.....	Junior Deacon
W.Bro. David Peabody	.....	A.D.C.
W.Bro. Kirk Macnulty	.....	Inner Guard
W.Bro. Brian Cattermole	.....	Tyler

ADVANCE COPIES OF THE PAPER

Advance copies of the Papers to be delivered at the meetings are available at a price of £3.50 from the Q.C.C.C. Ltd. office about three weeks before each meeting. The paper delivered by the newly installed Master will also be available on or after, **but not before**, the day of Installation, at the same price. The office address is shown on the front of this summons.

DINING ARRANGEMENTS

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY. The members of the Lodge will dine together after the meeting. Those brethren who also wish to dine **MUST** book their meal by 4.00 p.m. on the **MONDAY** preceding the lodge meeting. Bookings **WILL NOT** be accepted after 4.00 p.m. on that Monday. Payment for the meal will be collected at the table. Cheques payable to Q.C.C.C. Ltd. are acceptable. If you require a fish or vegetarian meal, please mention it when making your reservation.

PLEASE NOTE that once meals have been ordered it is obligatory to pay for them whether or not they are taken. Cancellations are accepted up to 4.00 p.m. on the Monday preceding the meeting. Failure to cancel will result in a charge being levied.

ALL REMITTANCES, for whatever purpose, must be in favour of Q.C.C.C. Ltd. Please remember this as, otherwise, it means additional work for the staff.

AGENDA

- At 5 p.m: to open the Lodge.
- To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting.
- To report on membership of the Correspondence Circle.
- To receive a paper by Bro. Fabio Venzi entitled:

Freemasonry: An Initiatic Society or an Association?

SYNOPSIS

What is Freemasonry? Is it an association, a Pseudo-religion, the origin of modern political parties, or, alternatively, an Initiatic Society? To provide an answer to these questions, fundamental to the comprehension of the future that awaits Freemasonry, this paper examines the degeneration of several Masonic rituals from an initiatic-esoteric body to an association-political form. The first part of the paper compares the Masonic Rituals adopted in the Consecration of a new Temple and a new Lodge as practised in England and Scotland, on the one hand and the Grand Orient of France, on the other. The substantial differences in the content of the rituals are examined. The paper illustrates how the rituals of the Grand Orient of France - an atheistic Masonic body which removed all references to the Great Architect of the Universe in 1877 - employ political and profane practices that cannot be associated with the ideals of an initiatic society. The second part of the paper illustrates the harm caused by historians who, through their studies, have conveyed a political and misleading concept of Freemasonry. This includes English historians who have markedly diminished, or completely disregarded, the esoteric significance of Masonic rituals. The third and last part is intended to demonstrate the initiatic and esoteric origins of the rituals used in the Consecration of Temples, referring specifically to the archaic rites of foundation, the fundamental importance given to orientation of the Temple and to spatial collocation. Freemasonry is gradually losing the true, most significant connotations of its esoteric-initiatic component, at times transforming rituals so completely as to create a practice differing entirely from the original forms. If no action is taken to check this transformation, the remaining initiatic and ritual traces, together with the metaphysical and esoteric doctrines underlying the latter, will degenerate even further.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF THE PAPER

Fabio Venzi was born in Rome in 1961. He graduated in Sociology at the University of Rome "La Sapienza". His academic dissertation was about the relationships between Italian Masonry and Fascism. He is the founder and editor of the Masonic journals *De Hominis Dignitate* and *Quattuor Coronatorum* and from 1998 to 2001 worked as the historical consultant for a series of studies on Southern Italy for Edizioni d'Arte in Rome. Bro Venzi has been widely published on the subject of Freemasonry. He has spoken at numerous historical-philosophical and Masonic conventions in Italy and all around the world, including the Cornerstone Society in Sheffield in 2004, the Canonbury Masonic Research Centre in 2008 and the Edinburgh International Conference on the History of Freemasonry in 2009. His most recent books are on *The Influence of Neoplatonic Thought on Freemasonry* (Guild Publishing, 2007) and *Freemasonry and Fascism* (Castelvecchi Editore, 2008). In 2007 he received the "Premio Bernard Russell" from the University of Reggio Calabria. MW Bro Fabio Venzi was installed as the Grand Master of the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy in December 2001.