

LAWS AND CONSTITUTIONS

OF THE

Grand Lodge of Ireland

THE BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS
COMPRISING
THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
GRAND LODGE
OF
Free and Accepted Masons
OF IRELAND
TO WHICH ARE APPENDED
THE OLD CHARGES,
PRAYERS AND FORMS TO BE USED
IN LODGES
AND THE
BOOK OF CLOTHING AND INSIGNIA

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The Declaration that follows was read by the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Donoughmore, K.P., Most Worshipful Grand Master, at the meeting of the Grand Lodge held in Belfast, 6th October, 1938, and was unanimously approved by the Brethren present:—

DECLARATION

1. From time to time the Grand Lodge of Ireland has deemed it desirable to set forth in precise form the aims of Freemasonry as consistently practised under its Jurisdiction, since it came into being as an organised body in 1725, and also to determine the principles governing its relations with those other Grand Lodges with which it is in fraternal accord.
2. In view of representations which have been received, and of statements recently issued which have distorted or obscured the true objects of Freemasonry, it is once again considered necessary to emphasise certain fundamental principles of the Order.
3. The first condition of admission into, and membership of, the Order is a belief in the Supreme Being. This is essential and admits of no compromise.
4. The Bible, referred to by Freemasons as the Volume of the Sacred Law, is always open in the Lodges. Every candidate is required to take his Obligation on that Book or on the Volume which is held by his particular creed to impart sanctity to an oath or promise taken upon it.
5. Everyone who enters Freemasonry is at the outset strictly forbidden to countenance any act which may have a tendency to subvert peace and good order of society; he must pay due obedience to the law of any State in which he resides or which may afford him protection, and he must never be remiss in the allegiance due to the Sovereign of his native land.

6. While Irish Freemasonry thus inculcates in each of its members the duties of loyalty and citizenship, it reserves to the individual the right to hold his own opinion with regard to public affairs. But neither in any Lodge, nor at any time in his capacity as a Freemason, is he permitted to discuss or to advance his views on theological or political questions.

7. The Grand Lodge has always consistently refused to express any opinion on questions of foreign or domestic state policy either at home or abroad, and it will not allow its name to be associated with any action, however humanitarian it may appear to be, which infringes its unalterable policy of standing aloof from every question affecting the relations between one government and another, or between political parties, or questions as to rival theories of government.

8. The Grand Lodge is aware that there do exist Bodies, styling themselves Freemasons, which do not adhere to these principles, and while that attitude exists the Grand Lodge of Ireland refuses absolutely to have any relations with such Bodies or to regard them as Freemasons.

9. This Grand Lodge is a Sovereign and independent Body practising Freemasonry only within the three Degrees and only with the limits defined in its Constitution as “pure Ancient Masonry”. It does not recognise or admit the existence of any superior Masonic authority, however styled.

10. On more than one occasion the Grand Lodge has refused, and will continue to refuse, to participate in Conferences with so-called International Associations claiming to represent Freemasonry which admit to membership Bodies failing to conform strictly to the principles upon which the Grand Lodge of Ireland is founded. The Grand Lodge does not admit any such claim nor can its views be represented by any such Association.

11. There is no secret with regard to any of the basic principles of Freemasonry, some of which have been stated above. The Grand Lodge will always consider the recognition of those Grand Lodges which profess, and practice, and can show that they have consistently professed and practised those established and unaltered principles, but in no circumstances will it enter into discussion with a view to any new or varied interpretation of them. They must be accepted and practised wholeheartedly and in their entirety by those who desire to be recognised as Freemasons by the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

In accordance with the terms of the above Declaration, Grand Lodge passed the following resolution on 7th December, 1939:—

“The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland will not in future enter into relations with a Grand Lodge which is in amity with any of the Bodies referred to in paragraph 8 of the Declaration as ‘Bodies styling themselves Freemasons’.

Furthermore, as and when a vacancy shall occur in the Representation of a Foreign Grand Lodge at the Grand Lodge of Ireland or of the Grand Lodge of Ireland at a Foreign Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge of Ireland will not make, sanction, or approve a new appointment if the Grand Lodge concerned recognises any of the bodies referred to above.”

The following Extract from the Minutes of Grand Lodge of 6th October, 1949, bears on the same subject:— “The Grand Lodge of England has been asked if it still stood by this Declaration, particularly in regard to paragraph 7. The Grand Lodge of England replied that it stood by every word and then asked for the opinion of the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland. A conference has been held between the three Grand Lodges and all unhesitatingly reaffirm the statement that was pronounced in 1938; nothing in present day affairs has been found that could cause them to recede from that attitude.

If Freemasonry once deviated from its course by expressing an opinion on political or theological questions, it would be called upon not only publicly to approve or denounce any movement which might arise in the future but would sow the seeds of discord among its own members.

The three Grand Lodges are convinced that it is only by this policy that Freemasonry has survived the constantly changing doctrines of the outside world, and are compelled to place on record their complete disapproval of any action which may tend to permit the slightest departure from the basic principles of Freemasonry. They are strongly of opinion that if any of the three Grand Lodges does so, it cannot maintain a claim to be following the Ancient Landmarks of the Order and must ultimately face disintegration.”

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This reprint of the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Ireland contains all alterations made therein, to 1st October, 2011.

D.B. LYONS
Grand Secretary

THE BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS

COMPRISING

THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

GRAND LODGE

OF

Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland

1. The Grand Lodge of Ireland, hereinafter called the Grand Lodge, as representing the whole Fraternity of Freemasons in Ireland, has an inherent right to make new Laws and Regulations, and to alter those already made, preserving at the same time the Ancient Landmarks.
2. The following Laws and Regulations, shall take effect from the first day of October, 2011, and all other general Laws and Regulations hitherto in force are hereby repealed, except as regards any proceedings of the Grand Lodge heretofore taken.
3. Pure Ancient Masonry consists of the following Degrees and no others, viz—The Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, the Master Mason and the Installed Master, but the Degrees of Royal Arch and Mark Master Mason shall also be recognized so long as the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland shall work only those two Degrees in the form in which they are worked at the passing of this Law.

OF THE GRAND LODGE

4. The Government of the Fraternity is placed in the hands of the Grand Lodge, which is composed of the Grand Master, the Grand Officers, the Past Grand Officers, the Provincial Grand Officers, the Acting Master and Wardens of the Grand Master's Lodge; the Masters and Wardens of each Lodge on the Register of Ireland; and all Past Masters who have taken out their Past Master's Certificate.

All members of the Grand Lodge must be subscribing members of a Lodge on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

5. The members of the Grand Lodge rank in the following order, viz.:

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master,
 The Most Worshipful the Patron,
 Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters,
 The Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master,
 Right Worshipful Past Deputy Grand Masters,
 The Right Worshipful the Assistant Grand Master,
 Right Worshipful Past Assistant Grand Masters,
 Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Masters,
 Right Worshipful Past Provincial Grand Masters,
 The Right Worshipful Chairman of the Metropolitan Board,
 Right Worshipful Past Chairmen of the Metropolitan Board,
 Right Worshipful Grand Inspectors,
 Right Worshipful Past Grand Inspectors,
 The Right Worshipful the Senior Grand Warden,
 Right Worshipful Past Senior Grand Wardens,
 The Right Worshipful the Junior Grand Warden,
 Right Worshipful Past Junior Grand Wardens,
 The Right Worshipful the Grand Treasurer,
 Right Worshipful Past Grand Treasurers,
 The Right Worshipful the Grand Registrar,
 Right Worshipful Past Grand Registrars,
 The Right Worshipful the Grand Secretary,

Right Worshipful Past Grand Secretaries,
The Right Worshipful Grand Director of Ceremonies,
Right Worshipful Past Grand Directors of Ceremonies,
Right Worshipful Senior Grand Chaplain,
Right Worshipful Past Senior Grand Chaplains,
Right Worshipful Junior Grand Chaplains,
Right Worshipful Past Junior Grand Chaplains,
The Very Worshipful the Senior Grand Deacon
The Very Worshipful the Junior Grand Deacon,
Very Worshipful Past Grand Deacons,
The Very Worshipful Grand Superintendent of Works,
Very Worshipful Past Grand Superintendents of Works,
The Very Worshipful Assistant Grand Treasurer,
Very Worshipful Past Assistant Grand Treasurers,
The Very Worshipful Assistant Grand Secretary,
Very Worshipful Past Assistant Grand Secretaries,
The Very Worshipful Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies,
Very Worshipful Past Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies,
Right Worshipful Provincial Deputy Grand Masters,
Right Worshipful Past Provincial Deputy Grand Masters,
Right Worshipful Provincial Assistant Grand Masters,
Right Worshipful Past Provincial Assistant Grand Masters,
Very Worshipful Assistant Grand Inspectors,
Very Worshipful Past Assistant Grand Inspectors,
The Very Worshipful the Grand Steward,
Very Worshipful Past Grand Stewards,
The Very Worshipful the Grand Sword Bearer,
Very Worshipful Past Grand Sword Bearers,
Very Worshipful Grand Stewards of Charities,
Very Worshipful Past Grand Stewards of Charities
Very Worshipful Grand Almoners
Very Worshipful Past Grand Almoners
The Very Worshipful the Grand Organist,
Very Worshipful Past Grand Organists,
Very Worshipful Grand Lodge Standard Bearer,
Very Worshipful Past Grand Lodge Standard Bearers,

Very Worshipful Grand Master's Standard Bearer,
 Very Worshipful Past Grand Master's Standard Bearers,
 The Very Worshipful the Grand Inner Guard,
 Very Worshipful Past Grand Inner Guards,
 The Right Worshipful the Representatives of Foreign Grand Lodges,
 The Right Worshipful the Past Representatives of Foreign Grand
 Lodges,
 Very Worshipful Grand Secretary for Instruction,
 Very Worshipful Past Grand Secretaries for Instruction,
 Very Worshipful Assistant Grand Secretary for Instruction,
 Very Worshipful Past Assistant Grand Secretaries for Instruction,
 Very Worshipful Elected Members of the G.L. of Instruction,
 Very Worshipful and Worshipful Provincial Grand Officers,
 according to rank and seniority,
 Very Worshipful and Worshipful Past Provincial Grand Officers,
 according to rank and seniority,
 Worshipful Brethren holding Overseas District Grand Rank,
 Right Worshipful Acting Master and Wardens of the Grand
 Master's Lodge,
 The Masters and Wardens of all Subordinate Lodges, Past Masters.

Past Grand and Past Provincial Grand Officers shall rank according
 to seniority, after the Actual Grand or Provincial Grand Officers of
 the same rank; but no Past Grand or Provincial Grand Officer shall
 be called upon to fill any Office below that which he formerly held.

Past Grand and Provincial Grand Officers shall have rank and
 precedence amongst themselves according to seniority, the most
 senior ranking after the Actual Grand or Provincial Grand Officers
 of the same rank.

6. Every Brother regularly installed as Master of a Subordinate
 Lodge, under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, who has held
 office for the regular time, shall, at the termination thereof, be
 registered in the Past Master's Register. No Past Master, however,
 shall be entitled to vote on any question in Grand Lodge, or in any

Provincial Grand Lodge, until he has taken out his Past Master's Certificate. The Past Master's Register shall be produced at each Communication of the Grand Lodge.

7. The Grand Lodge shall meet for the despatch of business on the First Thursday in the months of March, June and October; and on the Festival of St. John, 27th December, or on such other day and at such hour as the M.W.G.M. or the R.W.D.G.M. or the R.W.A.G.M. may appoint should occasion require, and at other times when duly summoned. The Grand Officers elected for the ensuing year will be proclaimed and saluted at the St. John's Day Communication of Grand Lodge, when the newly elected Officers of subordinate Lodges will be submitted to Grand Lodge for approval. In case the Festival of St. John falls on a Sunday, the Communication shall be held on the Monday following.

The Communications of Grand Lodge shall be held in Dublin, but in the case of either the March or the October Communications the Grand Master may, at his discretion, order such Communication to be held in any one of the Provincial Centres of Masonry which he may think desirable, provided that one such Communication of Grand Lodge shall be held each year alternately in the Provinces of Antrim and Down.

Grand Lodge shall always be opened on the Third Degree, except in the case of an occasional Grand Lodge summoned for the purpose of Constitution only, which shall be opened on the First Degree.

8. At each Communication the Grand Lodge shall be opened and ruled by the Grand Master, in his absence by the Deputy Grand Master, in his absence by the Assistant Grand Master, and in his absence by the member of the Grand Lodge then present, who shall be next in order of precedence, according to G.L. Law No. 5, excepting therefrom the Representatives of Foreign Grand Lodges, and the Wardens of all Subordinate Lodges.

9. No Brother, who is not a member of the Grand Lodge, shall be present at its Communications, except by permission of the Presiding Officer. Any Brother so admitted shall not be allowed to address the Chair, unless by permission of the Presiding Officer, nor shall he in any case vote.

10. Each member of the Grand Lodge attending any Communication thereof, shall, before entering, sign his name in a book provided for that purpose. (See G.L. Law No. 122.)

11. All Brethren attending the Grand Lodge or any Subordinate Lodge shall wear the appropriate Apron, and the Collar and Jewel of his rank, but no member of the Grand Lodge or any Subordinate Lodge or visitor thereto shall be permitted to wear any Jewel, Medal or Device belonging to any Order or Degree beyond that of a Master Mason, in which however the Jewel of a Past Master is included. The Representatives of Foreign Grand Lodges may wear the insignia of the Grand Lodges they represent.

12. The Jewels of Office worn by the Masters and Wardens of Subordinate Lodges shall be of Silver; the Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, Provincial and Past Provincial Grand Officers, and Officers of the Grand Master's Lodge are entitled to wear Jewels of Gold.

13. All Brethren entitled to seats on the dais — that is to say, Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, Representatives of Foreign Grand Lodges, Elected Members of the Grand Lodge of Instruction, and Actual and Past Provincial Grand Officers — attending the evening Communications of Grand Lodges are expected to appear in evening dress.

14. At each Communication of the Grand Lodge the front seats below the dais shall be reserved for the Masters and Wardens of Subordinate Lodges. The Grand Director of Ceremonies and the Grand Steward shall strictly enforce the regulations concerning Clothing and Precedence.

15. The Grand Lodge having been opened, the Minutes of the last Stated, and of any intervening, Communication, having been circulated previously, when confirmed, shall be signed by the Presiding Officer, after which motions of which due notice had been given, shall be taken into consideration. The report of the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes shall then be submitted to the Grand Lodge for its determination. The Grand Lodge reserves to itself the power of hearing and determining all applications, memorials and petitions which it may deem proper, though not previously submitted to the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes.

16. All differences amongst Lodges or Brethren which cannot be adjusted by a Provincial Board of General Purposes or the Provincial Grand Lodge, the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District, or otherwise, shall be decided by the Grand Lodge. Any Brother aggrieved by such decision may at any time within six months, or if residing outside Ireland and Great Britain within twelve months apply to the Grand Lodge for a re-hearing of the case. No appeal or application for rehearing can be received unless couched in proper and respectful language.

17. All motions submitted to the Grand Lodge shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present, the Presiding Officer included; and if on a division the numbers be equal, the Presiding Officer shall have a casting vote.

18. The Master and Wardens of any Lodge which shall have neglected for one whole year to make its returns and payments to the Grand Lodge, shall be thereby disqualified from voting in the Grand Lodge, or acting upon any Board or Committee, until such returns and payments shall have been made.

19. This Law rescinded by Grand Lodge, 2nd June, 1983.

20. Each Brother while addressing the Chair shall remain standing, and shall not be interrupted unless by a special motion to order, or by being called to order by the Presiding Officer.

21. A Brother shall not be at liberty to speak more than once on the same motion, unless in explanation or reply, or when called upon by the Presiding Officer. If any Brother behave in Grand Lodge in such a manner as to disturb the harmony of Grand Lodge, he shall be formally admonished by the Presiding Officer, and if he persists in his irregular conduct he shall be excluded for the remainder of the meeting on the vote of the majority of the members present. The same power may be exercised in Provincial Grand Lodges and Subordinate Lodges, but in such cases an immediate report shall be made to Grand Lodge or Provincial Grand Lodge as the case may be.

22. A notice for the enactment of a new Law or for the alteration or repeal of an existing Law, or for the grant of money (except in such cases as are provided for in G.L. Law 97), shall be entertained at any Communication of Grand Lodge; provided also that notice thereof in writing, shall have been given at a previous Communication of Grand Lodge; such notice shall be printed in the summons for those Communications, and a copy of such summons shall be sent to each of the Provincial Grand Secretaries, the Secretary of the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District, and to the Secretary of each Subordinate Lodge in Ireland, as well as to all duly registered and subscribing Past Masters in the Metropolitan District, at least ten days before.

However, the Grand Officer who is to preside, having received prior notice of a matter and deeming it to be of pressing urgency, may agree, prior to any Communication of Grand Lodge, to admit such matter for discussion and resolution.

23. Notices relating to alterations in Grand Lodge Laws, the appointment of Representatives of Foreign Grand Lodges, and appeals from either Lodges or Brethren, shall be communicated to

the Provincial Grand Secretaries, and the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District, immediately after the Communication of the Grand Lodge at which such notices are given.

24. A discretionary power is vested in the Presiding Officer of rejecting, at the time of its being handed in, any notice of motion, if such shall be deemed by him improper, unlawful, or inconsistent with the Ancient Landmarks.

25. Any motion, the substance of which the Grand Lodge has already considered and decided upon, shall not be again brought forward or otherwise discussed until after the lapse of six months from the date of such decision, except in cases of appeal as in G.L. Law No. 16.

26. If the proposer of a motion shall not attend to move it or authorise some other Brother so to do, then, unless the Grand Lodge shall consent to a postponement, it shall be competent to any other member of the Grand Lodge to move it, as if he had originally given notice thereof.

27. Any communication from a Lodge to be submitted to the Grand Lodge must be signed by the Master and Secretary, and have the Lodge Seal affixed.

28. The Transactions or Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, or any Provincial Grand Lodge, or of any Subordinate Lodge, or of any Masonic Committee, or any comment thereon, or reference thereto, shall not be printed or published without the permission of the Grand Lodge; or of the Grand Master, or the Deputy Grand Master, or the Assistant Grand Master, or if in a Masonic Province, of the Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy.

29. The Grand Lodge shall subscribe annually, having regard to the state of Grand Lodge funds at the time, to such Masonic Charity (one or more of them) as Grand Lodge shall from time to time decide, such sums as shall be the subject of motion annually in Grand Lodge.

30. The accounts of the Grand Lodge, and also of the Charity Fund, up to and including 31st December in each year, shall immediately thereafter be audited as hereinafter provided, and on or before the 1st March, next succeeding, be printed and sent to the several Lodges in correspondence with the Grand Lodge, together with all new Laws, Regulations, and Standing Orders of the Grand Lodge; the number of all Warrants cancelled, suspended, sent in, or restored, and the names of all Brethren who may have been individually expelled, suspended, struck off, or restored, during the previous year.

31. No paid Officer of the Grand Lodge shall act as Secretary or Treasurer to any Lodge or other Subordinate Masonic Body. The Tylers to the Grand Lodge shall not, while holding office, be members of the Grand Lodge.

32. The Grand Lodge strictly prohibits as unlawful all assemblies of Freemasons in Ireland, under any title whatever, purporting to be Masonic, not held by virtue of a Warrant or Constitution from the Grand Lodge or from one of the other Masonic Grand Bodies recognised by it and acting in Masonic union with it.

Any Brother being a member of any Lodge on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Ireland or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, who shall take any part in such unlawful assembly, or shall join or become a member of any Body or Society in Ireland purporting to be Masonic, and not in connection with or sanctioned by the Grand Lodge or other Masonic Grand Body recognised by it, shall be liable to suspension, or such other penalty as the Grand Lodge may think fit. No Member of any Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ireland shall be a member of or attend any meeting of any Body or Society which requires Freemasonry as a basis of or qualification for membership, except of such Bodies as are included in the Calendar published annually by the authority of Grand Lodge.

If any Lodge or member of a Lodge shall give any information as to the standing of a member in reply to an enquiry from any such nonrecognised Body, it shall be deemed to be unmasonic conduct and may be dealt with accordingly. Members of Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Ireland are forbidden to join or to belong to Clubs or other Bodies purporting to be or calling themselves Masonic, including “Benevolent Associations”, established within Subordinate Lodges for the purpose of raising funds for the Benevolent Institutions, unless such Clubs or Bodies have been sanctioned by the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master, or if in a Masonic Province by the Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy, or if abroad in a country under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge recognised by the Grand Lodge of Ireland by such Grand Lodge. Such sanction may at any time be withdrawn without notice.

33. No discussion on religious or political matter shall, under any pretence whatever, be permitted in any Masonic assembly.

34. Masonic Clothing or Insignia shall not be worn at any Masonic procession, ball, concert or other assembly, unless by permission of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, or the Deputy Grand Master, or the Assistant Grand Master; or the Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy, if in a Masonic Province; and at all Masonic processions of any kind whatsoever, even though authorised as above, it is strictly prohibited to introduce any party colours or party tunes.

35. If a charge involving suspension or expulsion is brought against any Brother, either by a Lodge, or by a Brother, or by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland, such charge shall be in writing, and shall, if the Brother charged belongs or has belonged to a Lodge meeting within the Metropolitan District or elsewhere than in a Masonic Province, be referred directly to the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes; and if the Brother belongs or has belonged to a Lodge meeting in a Masonic Province, then directly to the Board of General Purposes of such Province.

Such charge shall be sent to the Grand Secretary or the Provincial Grand Secretary, as the case may be, and in the case of a Brother belonging or who has belonged to a Lodge meeting within the Metropolitan District or elsewhere than in a Masonic Province, shall at once be brought before the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District, and in the case of a Brother belonging or who has belonged to a Lodge meeting within a Masonic Province, shall, as soon as practicable, be brought before the Board of General Purposes of such Province, and at the same time a copy of the charge so preferred shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary's office.

If, on consideration of the matters alleged in such charge, the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District, or of the Provincial Grand Lodge shall find that a *prima facie* case has been made, then they shall cause to be served on the Brother so charged a summons to attend before the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District or of the Provincial Grand Lodge, as the case may be, or any Committee thereof, or in the case of the Brother so charged belonging or who has belonged to a Lodge not in the Metropolitan District or a Masonic Province to attend before a local Committee appointed by the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District, and answer the charge. Such summons shall specify where and when the charge is to be heard and together with a copy of the charge shall be served upon the Brother charged, either personally or by the posting of a registered letter direct to the Brother charged, at his last-known address. At least seven days shall intervene between the date of the service of the summons and the date fixed for the hearing of the charge.

On satisfactory proof of the service in the manner aforesaid, the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District or the Provincial Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes, or any Committee appointed as aforesaid, as the case may be, shall at the time and place specified in the summons, proceed to hear and investigate the charge, whether the Brother charged attend or not, and may from time to time adjourn the hearing and investigation as

they shall think fit, and on the conclusion thereof shall report to the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes on the following points:—

- I. Whether the charge has, in their opinion, been proved, and if so, to what extent.
- II. Whether, in their opinion, any, and, if so, what penalty shall be inflicted by the Grand Lodge.
- III. Whether there are any, and, if so, what facts and circumstances in connection with the case, which, in their opinion, it is necessary or desirable to bring before the Grand Lodge.

The report (having first been laid before the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes for consideration under G.L. Law No. 67) shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge at the next stated Communication at which same can be properly brought forward pursuant to G.L. Law No. 15, as to notice hereinbefore contained and the Grand Lodge on consideration of the report shall punish, reprimand or acquit the Brother charged as they shall think fit.

The Grand Master, or his Deputy, or his Assistant, may if he thinks fit, in the case of any Brother charged with an offence involving expulsion or suspension, prohibit temporarily such a Brother from attendance at his own or any other Lodge under the Irish Constitution, or at Refreshment in connection therewith, pending investigation of the charge. In Overseas Provinces a like power may be exercised by the Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy, but in such case, an immediate report must be made to the Grand Secretary.

Any Brother aggrieved by any such decision of the Grand Lodge, may at any time within six months, or if residing outside Ireland and Great Britain, within twelve months, apply to the Grand Lodge for a re-hearing of the case, as provided by G.L. Law No. 16.

36. If a Committee of enquiry be appointed by the Grand Lodge to investigate and report upon any complaint, the Brother or Brethren

who apply for such Committee, shall thereupon deposit in the hand of the Master of the Lodge to which the authority to hold such investigation shall be given a sum of one hundred euro; which sum, or so much thereof as shall be necessary, the Committee of enquiry shall have authority to apply in discharge of the travelling expenses of the Committee; and the surplus, if any, shall be returned to the Brother or Brethren so depositing the same; and the expenses of such investigation shall be finally chargeable on and paid by the Brother or Brethren who shall be adjudged in fault.

37. Any Lodge wilfully transgressing or neglecting to obey any Law or Regulation herein or hereafter to be prescribed, or being guilty of unmasonic conduct in any other respect, shall in addition to any fine or other penalty imposed for such breach of any Law, or such unmasonic conduct, be liable to be tried for such misconduct in such manner as the Grand Lodge shall direct, and if found guilty, shall have its Warrant suspended or cancelled as the Grand Lodge may direct. Each subscribing or actual member of such Lodge, at the time of its having incurred either of these penalties, shall be under suspension, unless specially exempted (see G.L. Law 109), and shall not have the privilege of joining or visiting any other Lodge until his suspension is removed by the Grand Lodge on the petition of the member so suspended. If the offence be deemed not to deserve suspension or cancellation of the Warrant, the Grand Lodge may reprimand, fine, or otherwise punish the said Lodge.

38. If any Brother shall wilfully transgress or fail to observe any of the Laws or Regulations hereinbefore prescribed or which shall hereafter be prescribed, to be kept or observed by the individual Brethren, or shall be found guilty of any unmasonic conduct, the Brother so offending may, in addition to the pecuniary penalty (if any) which is, or hereafter shall be, imposed for the breach or nonobservance of any such Law or Regulation, be reprimanded, suspended, or expelled as the Grand Lodge shall direct.

OF THE GRAND OFFICERS

39. The Most Worshipful the Grand Master and all the Grand Officers, except the Deputy Grand Master, the Assistant Grand Master and the Grand Master's Standard Bearer — that is to say, the Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, Grand Registrar, Grand Director of Ceremonies, Grand Chaplains, Grand Deacons, Grand Superintendent of Works, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, Grand Steward, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Lodge Stewards of Charities, Grand Almoners, Grand Organist, Grand Lodge Standard Bearer, and Grand Inner Guard shall be annually elected by the Grand Lodge.

40. The Grand Master shall, with the concurrence of Grand Lodge, have the power of conferring Honorary Past Grand Rank on such Grand Officers of other Jurisdictions in Masonic union with the Grand Lodge of Ireland as he shall consider worthy of this distinction, provided that such Honorary Rank shall not be higher than that which they enjoy or have enjoyed in their own Grand Lodge. The Grand Master with the concurrence of Grand Lodge shall also have the power of conferring Honorary Past Grand Rank upon such Past Masters of the Irish Constitution as may be considered worthy of the distinction; also of conferring the Honorary Rank of Past Master under the Irish Constitution on any Brother who has already passed the Chair of Master in a Lodge under the Constitution of either England or Scotland or of any Sovereign Grand Lodge with which Grand Lodge is in amity in any country which is or was a member of the Commonwealth of Nations.

In Overseas Districts where there is not a Provincial Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall have the power of conferring Overseas District Grand Rank upon such Past Masters of the Irish Constitution as may be considered worthy of the distinction.

Brethren on whom this honour has been conferred shall rank after Worshipful Past Provincial Grand Officers and they may wear

Aprons and Collars similar to Past Provincial Grand Officers with a Jewel bearing the design — a trowel superimposed on a terrestrial globe.

41. No Brother shall be eligible for election to any office in the Grand Lodge, unless he be a subscribing Past Master of a Subordinate Lodge, and a Master Mason of at least five years' standing.

42. No Grand Officer under the rank of Junior Grand Chaplain (excepting the Grand Superintendent of Works, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and the Grand Organist) having held office for a period of one year shall be eligible for election to the same or any inferior office until after the interval of at least three years, but the Offices of Junior Grand Chaplains, Grand Lodge Stewards of Charities and Grand Almoners may be held for a period of three years.

43. The Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes shall have the privilege of nominating Brethren to hold office in Grand Lodge, and the Auditor of Grand Lodge Accounts; such nomination to be submitted to the Stated Communication of the Grand Lodge in June, together with a return showing the attendance of the Grand Deacons and Junior Grand Officers during the previous year; and at said Communication it shall be competent for any member of the Grand Lodge to propose any other qualified Brother or Brethren for any such office. If more than one Brother be proposed for any such office, the election shall be by ballot at the October Communication, otherwise those nominated by the Grand Lodge Board shall be declared elected.

44. The property and funds of the Grand Lodge of Ireland shall be vested either in not more than six Trustees who shall be members of Grand Lodge or solely in any trust corporation incorporated within Ireland of which all the directors and members are members of Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes shall appoint the Trustees subject to the approval of Grand Lodge. The

said property and funds or any part thereof may from time to time be disposed of or dealt with by way of sale, mortgage, lease, investment or otherwise as the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes from time to time may direct and so that any person or persons or corporation holding any of the said property or funds on a Trust, whether express or implied, on behalf of the Grand Lodge shall carry out any such sale, mortgage, lease, investment, disposition or dealing in accordance with the directions given by the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes in connection with any such sale, mortgage, lease, investment, disposition or dealing.

45. Personal canvassing for any of the Grand Offices is strictly forbidden, and any Brother proved to have been personally engaged therein shall thereupon be deemed ineligible for election to such Grand Office.

46. If a vacancy in any office in the Grand Lodge, save that of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Assistant Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Registrar, Grand Secretary or Grand Superintendent of Works shall occur during the year, such office shall remain vacant until the ensuing annual election.

47. If the Grand Master shall decline to preside over the Fraternity, the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes shall recommend a suitably qualified Brother for the Office of Grand Master; such recommendation to be submitted to the Grand Lodge at its next Communication, at which Communication it shall be competent for any member of the Grand Lodge to propose any other qualified Brother, and in such case the election to such office shall be held at the ensuing Communication of the Grand Lodge.

48. The Grand Master shall, as his inherent right, nominate and appoint the Deputy Grand Master, who thereupon shall be proclaimed, saluted and installed in proper form. The Grand Master, in like manner, may appoint an Assistant Grand Master who thereupon shall be proclaimed, saluted and installed in proper form.

49. In the case of the demise of the Grand Master, or if from any cause the Grand Master be rendered permanently incapable of discharging the duties of his office, the Deputy Grand Master, or the Assistant Grand Master, or in their absence the Senior Grand Warden, or other Grand Officer, according to seniority, shall forthwith summon a meeting of the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes to be followed by an Emergency Communication of the Grand Lodge, if deemed expedient, in order to elect a Grand Master; but until a Grand Master shall have been elected and installed, the Deputy Grand Master shall act as Grand Master, and shall have the powers and privileges of Grand Master.

50. The Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master and the Assistant Grand Master shall have authority to require the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary to attend them with their books whenever they shall respectively deem it necessary.

51. The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Assistant Grand Master have each full authority and right to preside in any Provincial Grand Lodge or Subordinate Lodge, and to order the Grand Wardens to attend who, if present, are to fill the Wardens' Chairs in such Lodge.

52. No communication should be made direct to the Grand Master, but to the Deputy Grand Master, through the Grand Secretary. In the case of the absence of the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary may forward such communications direct to the Grand Master.

53. The Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes shall nominate a Brother for the Office of Grand Secretary, subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge, such nomination to be made as soon as practicable after a vacancy has occurred, and to be submitted at the following Communication of Grand Lodge.

OF THE BOARDS OF GENERAL PURPOSES

54. The Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes shall consist of the following:

Ex-Officio	Representing
Grand Master	
Deputy Grand Master	New Zealand and South Africa Northern
Assistant Grand Master	Southern Cape Province and Natal
Senior Grand Warden	Zimbabwe and India
Junior Grand Warden	Nigeria and Sri Lanka
Grand Treasurer	Zambia
Grand Registrar	Bermuda
Grand Super. of Works	Jamaica and The Bahamas
Grand Sec. for Instruction	The Far East and South East Asia

3 Representatives to be elected by the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District.

5 by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim.

4 by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down.

3 by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry and Donegal.

2 each by the Provincial Grand Lodges of Armagh and Tyrone and Fermanagh; and one each by the Provincial Grand Lodges of North Connaught, South Connaught, Meath, The Midland Counties, Munster, North Munster, South Eastern and Wicklow & Wexford.

55. The Lodges of the Metropolitan Area shall elect each year fifteen Past Masters (being then subscribing members of Lodges in the Area) or Actual Masters or Masters Elect to form the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan Area and shall, on or before the 8th day of November, return to the Grand Secretary the names of the Brethren so elected, which names shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge for approval.

Each Provincial Grand Lodge, and Provincial Grand Lodge having jurisdiction outside Ireland, shall set up and establish a Board of General Purposes, consisting of Actual or Past Masters, for the respective Province; the constitution of each such Board shall give

such Representation thereon to the Lodges in the Province as shall be ordained by the respective Provincial Grand Lodges (subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge).

The duties of such Boards of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District and of Provincial Grand Lodges shall be to receive in the first instance and investigate all subjects of Masonic complaint or irregularity which may occur within their respective Districts; and generally to manage all Masonic affairs in their own District. All cases involving expulsion or suspension of a Brother, the grant, cancellation or suspension of a Warrant, the issue of Duplicate Certificates or Warrants, or appeals for funds outside their District, and all such cases as are specifically provided for in G.L. Laws shall, after investigation as aforesaid, be reported to the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes and finally to Grand Lodge.

The Board of General Purposes in the Metropolitan District shall elect its own chairman and adopt its own By-laws (subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes).

The Provincial Grand Master shall be the Chairman of his Provincial Board of General Purposes, which shall adopt its own By-laws (subject to the approval of its Provincial Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes).

The Provincial Grand Secretary shall act as the Secretary of the Provincial Board of General Purposes.

56. The Boards of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District and of each Provincial Grand Lodge shall not later than the tenth of November in each year elect the number of Qualified Brethren specified in the preceding Law No. 54, to serve as Representatives for the ensuing year on the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes, and the names of the Representatives so elected shall be returned to the Grand Secretary's Office for approval at least 14 days before the December Communication of Grand Lodge.

57. In case there shall be any failure so to elect as in Law No.56 on the part of the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District or any Provincial Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge may nominate any duly qualified Brother or Brethren to fill the vacancy or vacancies.

58. Any Lodge in the Metropolitan District which shall have neglected for one whole year to make its returns and payments to the Grand Lodge, shall not be entitled to elect or nominate a Representative for the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District.

59. If any elected member of the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes shall be absent for three successive meetings (unless in case of illness) his place shall be vacated.

60. When any vacancy occurs on the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes, such vacancy shall be notified to the Provincial Grand Lodge, or Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District, in respect of which the same shall have occurred; and such Body may, if it should think fit, proceed to elect another Qualified Brother to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the then current year.

61. The Stated Meetings of the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes shall be held on the Thursday next but two preceding each Stated Communication of Grand Lodge; but special meetings may be held at such other times as the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master may deem necessary. Five shall constitute a quorum of the Board.

62. The Deputy Grand Master shall be the Chairman, the Assistant Grand Master shall be the Vice-Chairman, and the Grand Secretary shall act as Secretary of the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes, and shall also act as Secretary of the Metropolitan Board of General Purposes.

63. The Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes may appoint subcommittees from amongst its members, for specific purposes, who shall report to the Board on the subjects referred to them.

64. The Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes shall at its first meeting in each year elect a sub-committee of eight, one of whom shall be the Grand Treasurer *ex officio*, who shall be Chairman, to be termed the Committee of Audit and Finance. Two shall form a quorum. They shall meet monthly, or more often if necessary, and their duty shall be to examine at each meeting the Accounts of Grand Lodge as shown by the Abstracts of Income and Expenditure and the Bank Statement. They shall also examine all accounts and if found correct shall authorise payment of same and shall from time to time report to and advise Grand Lodge upon questions of finance. All cheques drawn on Grand Lodge account shall be signed by one signatory authorized by the Committee of Audit and Finance and countersigned by the Grand Secretary.

65. The Accounts of Grand Lodge shall be audited each year by a Professional Accountant, who shall be a member of Grand Lodge and shall be entitled to such fee as agreed with the Committee of Audit and Finance. His appointment shall be made in conformity with Grand Lodge Laws 43 and 67, para III. If the Auditor of Grand Lodge Accounts shall die or resign or become incapable of carrying out the duties of his office before he shall have completed the audit of the Grand Lodge Accounts, the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes shall at its next meeting appoint a duly qualified Brother to audit or complete the audit of the Accounts as may be necessary.

66. The audited Accounts of Grand Lodge, signed by the Auditor, shall be presented by the Committee of Audit and Finance to a special meeting of the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes in the month of February of each year and after their investigation and approval shall be submitted to Grand Lodge at its meeting in March by a member of the Committee of Audit and Finance. There shall be included in the Annual Report, when printed, a statement of the

Income and Expenditure of the year and a statement showing all sums remaining due to Grand Lodge.

67. The duties of the Grand Lodge Board shall be as follows:

I. To investigate all subjects of Masonic complaint or irregularity which may be sent forward by Provincial Grand Lodges or the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District; to examine into the correspondence between the Grand Lodge and other Masonic Bodies or individuals, and into all applications, memorials and petitions to the Grand Lodge (those for charity alone excepted) and to decide thereon. In cases involving the suspension or expulsion of a Brother, or the granting, cancellation or suspension of a Warrant, the Board shall make a report thereon to the Grand Lodge for its decision; but in all other cases the Board's decision shall be final, unless an appeal be made to the Grand Lodge, pursuant to Grand Lodge Law No. 16.

II. To submit to the Grand Lodge at its Stated Communication in the month of March in each year, a correct list of all Lodges whose Warrants have been cancelled, suspended, surrendered, or restored within the last preceding twelve months, and the names of all Brethren suspended, struck off, expelled, or restored within the same period.

III. To nominate Grand Officers in conformity with Grand Lodge Law 43, Trustees in conformity with Grand Lodge Law 44, and also the paid Officers of Grand Lodge including the Auditor of Grand Lodge Accounts, such nominations to be subject in every case to the approval of the Grand Lodge.

IV. To define the duties of the paid Officers of the Grand Lodge.

V. To supervise and control the management of the property and finances of Grand Lodge subject to any directions and decisions of Grand Lodge.

VI. To recommend the name of a suitable Past Master to fill any vacancy which may occur in the representation of a Foreign Grand Lodge at the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Such recommendation shall be reported to the Grand Lodge and to the Provincial Grand Lodges and the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District in accordance with G.L. Law No. 23. The nomination of other qualified Brethren shall be received at the Grand Secretary's Office at any time up to four weeks previous to the next Stated Communication of the Grand Lodge, at which Communication the election shall take place, and the name be sent forward for approval to the Foreign Grand Lodge. Provided always that three names be sent forward by the Board when any Foreign Grand Lodge shall require more than one name to be submitted, preserving, however, the existing right as to nomination for ballot.

68. In order to perform the duties aforesaid, the Board shall have access to, and be furnished with all books, communications and documents connected with the business of the Grand Lodge; and in cases of dispute or difference between individuals or Subordinate Lodges, the Board shall have power to examine witnesses, either orally or in writing, as the case may require, and to call for and compel the production of the minute books of each Subordinate Lodge, and of all Masonic documents in the possession of any Subordinate Lodge or individual Brother.

69. All matters on which the Board shall have come to any decision shall be entered in their report book and submitted to the next Communication of the Grand Lodge.

OF COMMITTEES OF CHARITY AND OF INSPECTION

1. The Metropolitan Committee of Inspection

70. The Metropolitan Committee of Inspection shall consist of the Grand Officers and the W. Master for the time being of each Lodge in the Metropolitan District. No W. Master shall be permitted to act on the Committee until he shall have been installed. If the W. Master of a Lodge be unable to attend, he may appoint a Past Master of the same Lodge as his proxy, such appointment to be valid for one meeting only.

The Representatives of Provincial Grand Lodges and the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District, on the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes shall have power to attend the Committee but shall vote only on the eligibility of candidates, resident in Dublin, for initiation in their respective Provinces.

Any other Actual or Past Master in good standing may be present at the meetings of the Committee by permission of the Chairman, but shall not vote.

71. No Master, whose Lodge has neglected to make its returns, or to pay its dues and fees to the Grand Lodge for the last preceding twelve months shall act as a member of the Committee.

72. The Committee shall meet on the fourth Wednesday in each month; and the Grand Secretary shall be empowered to convene a special meeting of the Committee on the requisition of the Secretary of any Lodge within the Metropolitan District on the payment of the cost of postage.

73. Five members shall constitute a quorum of the Committee.

74. The Senior Grand Officer present at the appointed hour of meeting shall preside. In the event of no Grand Officer being present

the Committee shall have power to elect their own Chairman for that meeting. All questions shall be decided by open voting; the Chairman shall have a casting vote if the numbers be equal.

75. The Grand Secretary, or his Assistant, shall act as the Secretary of the Committee, and shall enter all the proceedings in the minute book.

76. At each Stated Meeting of the Committee, the minutes of the preceding meeting or meetings shall be read, and, when confirmed, shall be signed by the Chairman, and countersigned by the Secretary.

77. It shall be the duty of the Committee to decide on the eligibility of all Candidates for initiation who have been previously balloted for and duly elected in any Lodge in the Metropolitan District. In like manner, it shall be the duty of Provincial Committees of Inspection to decide on the eligibility of Candidates in their respective Provinces or Districts in accordance with such Regulations as shall be approved by Grand Lodge.

78. A fee of ten euro will be charged for any Candidate being submitted to the Committee which shall be paid to the funds of Grand Lodge; the fee to be charged to the Lodge account. If the Candidate is not approved no charge will be made.

79. A Statement of the name, residence and profession or occupation (if any) of each Candidate, signed by the Secretary of the Lodge in which he has been elected, must be deposited in the Grand Secretary's Office, at least twenty-eight clear days prior to the meeting of the Committee at which the eligibility of the Candidate is to be considered; and notices containing the foregoing particulars shall be sent to each member of the Committee, and also to the Secretary of each Metropolitan Lodge at least twenty-eight days prior to each meeting of the Committee.

80. If any Lodge in the Metropolitan District or in any Province or District wherein there is a Committee of Inspection shall initiate a Candidate without the previous approval of the Committee having jurisdiction in the case, such Lodge shall be liable to have its Warrant cancelled or suspended, or to be fined one hundred euro, as Grand Lodge shall determine.

81. No Lodge in the Metropolitan District, or in a Province or District wherein there is a Committee of Inspection shall initiate any Candidate until the Lodge has been officially notified that the Candidate has been approved by the Committee having jurisdiction in the case.

82. In the event of the name of any Candidate being withdrawn, or rejected by the Committee, it shall not be again submitted for approval for at least six months.

83. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to apply to the Grand Master's Lodge, or to abrogate or interfere with its privileges.

84. Each Lodge in the Metropolitan District shall pay a subscription to be fixed annually by the Committee to defray the expense of the Master or his proxy at the Committee dinners; which dinners shall be held each month after a stated meeting of the Committee on the fourth Wednesday. The expenses of the Senior Grand Officer presiding, and also of the Grand Secretary or his Assistant, and the Grand Organist or his Deputy, shall be defrayed by Grand Lodge.

85. The Committee shall subscribe annually from the Dinner Fund to Masonic Charities the sum of two hundred euro.

86. Any Installed Master eligible to attend the Committee but not being the Actual Master of a Lodge in the Metropolitan District or his proxy, who shall dine with the Committee shall defray the cost of his dinner.

OF THE GRAND LODGE COMMITTEE OF
CHARITY AND THE CHARITY FUND

II. The Grand Lodge Committee of Charity

87. The Charity Fund of Grand Lodge shall be applied to the relief of distressed Brethren or the widows or children of deceased Brethren, or deserted wives of Brethren, and shall be administered by a Committee of Grand Lodge consisting of the Grand Officers, the Representatives of Provincial Grand Lodges on the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes, and the Members of the Metropolitan Committee of Inspection.

88. Every Lodge in the Metropolitan District shall pay to the Charity Fund an annual sum of fifteen cent, and all other Lodges (except Overseas Lodges) a sum of five cent for each subscribing member of such Lodge, which sum shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st January in each year. All collections in Grand Lodge shall be carried to the credit of the same Fund. The accounts of the Charity Fund shall be kept separately from all other accounts, and shall be presented annually to the Grand Lodge.

89. No portion of the Charity Fund shall be disbursed without an order from the Grand Lodge or from the Committee of Charity, signed by the Chairman for the time being, except in cases of urgent distress, to meet which, funds to the extent of three hundred euro shall be left in the Grand Secretary's hands, to be used by him at his discretion, and to be accounted for by him at each meeting of the Committee.

90. All applications for relief must be by written or printed petition stating the name, occupation, residence and present circumstances of the petitioner; and in the case of a Brother, the number of the Lodge in which he was initiated, and of any other Lodge to which he may have been affiliated. The applicant must sign the petition unless unable to do so through illness or accident.

91. To every petition shall be appended a recommendation from the Lodge to which the applicant does or did belong (or in the case of a deceased Brother's widow or child or of a deserted wife, the Lodge to which the husband or father belonged or belongs), or from a Lodge meeting in the immediate neighbourhood of the applicant's residence. Such recommendations shall be signed in open Lodge by the (acting) Master, Wardens and Secretary on behalf of the Lodge, in pursuance of the vote (taken by ballot) of the majority of the members then present; and previously to such petition being considered by the Lodge, a visit shall have been paid to the applicant at his or her residence by the Master or some Brother deputed by him, and the result of his enquiries shall have been reported to the Lodge in writing. This written report must also be endorsed by the Secretary, and forwarded with the petition to the Committee.

92. Except in accordance with a special resolution of the Grand Lodge, no Brother under the Irish Constitution nor his deserted wife, shall be entitled to relief unless he shall have been a subscribing Master Mason for three years; nor shall the widow or children of a deceased Brother be relieved unless the deceased shall himself have been entitled to relief, or have been a subscribing member up to the time of his death. This limitation of three years shall not be held to apply to fully attested cases of maritime disaster, or loss by fire, or of breaking or dislocating a limb.

93. All Certificates of deceased Brethren in possession of their widows or children applying for relief, must be lodged in the Grand Secretary's Office before their petitions can be considered.

94. A Brother, his deserted wife or the widow or child of a deceased Brother, who has been relieved by the Committee, shall not be again relieved until after the expiration of one year from the date of the last grant unless some new and unexpected circumstance, to be stated in the petition, shall have arisen to warrant a new grant within that time; nor shall the deserted wife of a Brother or the widow or child of a deceased Brother be relieved more than three times, except in accordance with a special resolution of the Grand Lodge.

95. All petitions for relief must be lodged in the Grand Secretary's Office at least one week prior to the meeting of the Committee. The Grand Secretary, or his Assistant Grand Secretary, shall examine the same and report thereon, and shall act generally as Secretary of the Grand Lodge Committee of Charity.

96. Petitions for relief shall be considered only at the Stated Meetings of the Committee on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

97. In such cases as shall have complied with the foregoing rules, the Committee of Charity shall have power to grant any sum not exceeding six hundred euro, and if any such case shall appear exceptionally deserving the Committee shall have power to grant a further sum, subject to confirmation by the Grand Lodge at its next ensuing Communication.

98. Brethren under the Constitution of the Grand Lodges of England or Scotland, as well as Brethren of all other recognised Grand Lodges, may be relieved on the production of their Grand Lodge Certificates or other satisfactory credentials together with proof of their identity.

OF SUBORDINATE LODGES

99. The members of the Grand Master's Lodge shall be entered in the Grand Lodge Register before those of any other Lodge; the precedence of all other Lodges shall be according to the number of their Warrants.

100. The Grand Master's Lodge is to be governed as heretofore by the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master or the Assistant Grand Master, and in their absence by the Acting Master, who shall be elected annually by the Lodge.

101. All Candidates for admission into the Grand Master's Lodge are to be proposed, seconded, and balloted for in the usual way, and are also to be subjected to the approval of the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master or the Assistant Grand Master.

102. The Members of the Grand Master's Lodge are permitted to wear aprons fringed and bound with gold, similar to those worn by the Grand Officers, but distinguished by the letters G.M.L., embroidered in gold thereon.

103. A Lodge shall not be assembled without a Warrant or authority from the Grand Lodge, nor shall any individual be acknowledged or received as a Freemason who has not been initiated in a regular Lodge. Such Warrant must be evident at every Communication of the Lodge, whether Stated or Emergency.

104. Every application for a new Warrant shall, where practical, have the recommendation of three regular Lodges meeting in the neighbourhood where it is proposed that the new Lodge shall be held, and also of the Provincial Grand Lodge, or of the Provincial Grand Master, or his Deputy, if there be such Officers within the District from which the memorial shall have been sent; the Grand Lodge having the power, if it should think fit, to dispense with any of the foregoing recommendations.

105. When a memorial for a Warrant, to be held in any of the Masonic Provinces in Ireland, shall have been forwarded to the Grand Secretary's Office without the recommendation of the Provincial Grand Lodge, notice of the receipt of such memorial shall, prior to its being submitted to the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes, be sent to the Provincial Grand Secretary of such Province.

106. The cost of each Warrant for a Lodge shall be one hundred euro which sum must be deposited with the Grand Secretary before the application for such Warrant can be taken into consideration.

This sum shall defray all charges for the registry of the Warrant and of the three Principal Officers of the new Lodge, and for a copy of the Book of Constitutions.

107. The Grand Secretary shall not issue any Warrant without having received the fees payable for same, under a penalty of one hundred euro.

108. If the Warrant of any Lodge be purchased or procured by any other means than the regular permission of the Grand Lodge, such Warrant shall be cancelled; and all acts done under such Warrant, after the same was irregularly obtained, shall be void.

109. If any Lodge be suspended, or have its Warrant cancelled by order of the Grand Lodge, each subscribing member of such Lodge, at the time of its having incurred such penalty, except such member or members as shall be specially excepted by name in such order, shall be considered as under suspension, and shall not be allowed to visit or join any other Lodge, at labour or refreshment, until his suspension shall have been removed by order of the Grand Lodge, obtained on the memorial of the member so suspended.

110. On satisfactory evidence that a Warrant has been lost or destroyed, the Grand Lodge may grant a duplicate on payment of fifty euro; but a Warrant called in by order of the Grand Lodge shall forthwith be forwarded to the Grand Secretary's Office, and marked null and void.

111. A Lodge shall not assemble in any tavern, house of public entertainment, or other place, unless such place of meeting be first approved of by the Grand Lodge or if situated within a Masonic Province by the Provincial Grand Lodge. The Master of any tavern or house of entertainment at which a Lodge meets shall not hold any office in such Lodge without permission from the Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Master, or their respective Deputies.

112. A Lodge shall not be removed from its usual place of meeting until a month's notice of the proposition for such removal shall have been given in open Lodge, which proposition must be approved of by a majority of the members present at a Communication which shall be summoned by the Secretary for that special purpose, at least one week before such Communication shall be held; such removal must also have the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes of the Metropolitan District, or the Deputy Grand Master, or of the Provincial Grand Lodge, or the Provincial Grand Master, or his Deputy (if the Lodge wishing to remove meets or desires to meet within the Metropolitan District or a Masonic Province respectively) and must be finally sanctioned by the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes.

113. None of the Subordinate Lodges in the Metropolitan District shall meet for, or continue at labour, on any day appointed for a Communication of Grand Lodge, during the time the Grand Lodge shall be sitting; nor shall any such Lodge meet for refreshment on any day on which an evening Communication of the Grand Lodge is appointed to be held.

114. No Lodge, wherever held, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, shall meet for labour or refreshment on Sunday.

115. A Lodge of Emergency may, at any time, be called by the authority of the Master, but not otherwise. The business to be transacted at such Lodge of Emergency shall be expressed in the summons, and no other business shall be entered on at that Communication.

116. The ordinary Officers of a Lodge are:— The Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies, Steward of Charities, Almoner, Chaplain, Senior and Junior Deacons and Inner Guard who must be subscribing members of the Lodge. A Lodge may also have an Assistant Treasurer, an Assistant Secretary, an Assistant Director of Ceremonies, Stewards and an Organist or

Organists, but these Brethren shall not be deemed Officers of the Lodge. The Director of Ceremonies must be a Past Master save in the exception contained in Grand Lodge Law No. 123 in regard to the Secretary of a subordinate Lodge which shall also apply to a Director of Ceremonies. A Brother shall not hold the position of Secretary whilst serving as Master or Warden, but the Offices of Treasurer and Secretary may be filled by the same Brother. There must also be a Tyler who shall not, however, be deemed an Officer of the Lodge.

117. No Brother shall be eligible to hold any Office in his Lodge, or to vote therein on any question, until he shall have obtained the Third Degree.

118. No Brother shall be elected to hold the Office of Master of a Lodge unless he shall have served the Office of Warden in some Lodge under the Irish Constitution, nor shall he hold the Office of Master of a Lodge oftener than twice consecutively, nor shall any Brother be competent to hold any of the three Principal Offices, or the Office of Secretary in more than one Lodge at the same time; provided, however, that the Grand Lodge shall have power to dispense with any part of this Law.

119. All Lodges shall elect their Officers prior to the 31st of October in each year, and shall without delay make a return of same to the Grand Secretary. The names of the said Officers shall be submitted for the approval of Grand Lodge at its Stated Communication on St. John's Day. No subordinate Lodge in Ireland shall, under any circumstances, install its Officers prior to St. John's Day, 27th December, nor prior to making the return required by Grand Lodge Law No. 148, nor prior to paying all Fees and Fines due to the Grand Lodge at the date of such return, nor prior to receiving the approval of Grand Lodge from the Grand Secretary.

120. Lodges meeting outside Ireland may elect their Officers on or before St. John's Day, 24th June, in each year, provided such be

sanctioned by their By-Laws (previously approved by Grand Lodge, or if in a Masonic Province, by the Provincial Grand Lodge and finally by Grand Lodge) and immediately after such election a return of the same must be sent to the Grand Secretary, or the Provincial Grand Secretary; but no subordinate Lodges meeting outside Ireland shall, under any circumstances, install their Officers until they shall have received intimation from the Grand Secretary, or the Provincial Grand Secretary, that such Officers have been approved.

In the case of Lodges meeting outside Ireland within the jurisdiction of a Provincial Grand Lodge, the names of Officers duly elected shall be submitted to the Provincial Grand Secretary and he will, in turn, submit them to the Board of General Purposes of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The Board of General Purposes may, at its discretion, approve of or decline to approve any one or more of the elected Officers and shall notify the Lodge concerned without delay. Lodges shall not proceed with the installation of any Officers until they have received intimation of approval by the Board of General Purposes from the Provincial Grand Secretary.

The Grand Lodge recommends that no Brother should be elected to the Office of Master who is not capable of properly conferring the Degrees of Craft Masonry.

121. The name and residence of the three Principal Officers of all Lodges within the Metropolitan District must be sent to the Grand Secretary's Office on or before the 1st November in each year, in order to be submitted to the next meeting of the Metropolitan Committee of Inspection, whose duty it shall be to report thereon to the Grand Lodge at its Communication on St. John's Day, December 27th. Such Officers shall not be installed until such return shall be approved by the Grand Lodge.

122. The three Principal Officers of every Lodge shall be registered in the Books of the Grand Lodge, and no Master or Warden shall be permitted to attend the Grand Lodge as such unless and until his name shall appear in such register.

123. In every Lodge a Past Master shall be appointed Secretary, who shall keep a book in which he shall enter all the transactions of the Lodge, according to the form appended to these Laws, or as near thereto as circumstances will permit. The Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes may, upon fit cause being shown, give permission to any Lodge to elect to the office of Secretary a Brother below the rank of Past Master, provided that in the case of a Lodge meeting within a Masonic Province such permission shall only be granted upon the recommendation of the Provincial Grand Lodge, the Provincial Grand Master, or the Provincial Deputy Grand Master.

124. The Master of every Lodge shall cause all communications to and from the Grand Lodge, or the Provincial Grand Lodge, if in a Masonic Province, to be read in open Lodge, and entered on the minutes.

125. No Communication of a Lodge shall be regular unless an Actual or Past Master be present at the opening and during the Communication of the Lodge. In the absence of the Worshipful Master, a Past Master of the Lodge, or Actual or Past Master of any other Lodge must occupy the Chair.

126. In case the Worshipful Master of any Lodge shall during his term of office die or be removed, or become incapable of discharging the duties of his office, then the immediate Past Master, or in case of his absence or incapacity, the Senior Past Master (such immediate or senior Past Master being a subscribing member of the Lodge) shall rule the Lodge until the next election of Officers, and the installation of the newly-elected Master.

127. No person shall be admitted a member of, or be initiated in any Lodge, until he shall have been balloted for, nor shall a Brother be affiliated until he has produced his Grand Lodge Certificate, and also, when possible, a Clearance Certificate or Demit from the last Lodge of which he has been a member, from which Lodge a recommendation of him as a joining Brother must be requested and obtained; and read in open Lodge prior to ballot.

If a Brother seeking to be affiliated be still a subscribing member of another Lodge, he shall not be balloted for until due enquiry shall have been made and a satisfactory reply received from such Lodge, which shall be read in open Lodge before ballot. Any Lodge knowingly affiliating a Brother who is in arrears of dues in another Lodge shall be held liable for such arrears.

128. No person shall be balloted for in any Lodge unless he shall have been duly proposed and seconded in open Lodge, and seven days at least shall elapse between the day of proposal and the meeting for ballot; the day either of proposal or of ballot must be a Stated Communication of the Lodge. The summons for ballot shall notify the name, profession or occupation, and residence of the candidate; also the names of the proposer and seconder, and shall be sent to every member of the Lodge at least three days previous to the ballot. In the case of an adverse ballot, the Master, if he has any reason to believe that a mistake has been made, may order a fresh ballot.

A Lodge may elect as Honorary Members Brethren of eminence or distinction in the Craft, or who may have rendered special service to the Lodge. Such Brethren may be of the Irish Constitution, or any other Constitution recognised by the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Such Honorary Members shall not be eligible to hold office in the Lodge, or to vote on any question before the Lodge; nor shall any Lodge confer Honorary Membership on one of its own members.

No annual fee shall be payable to Grand Lodge in respect of such Honorary Members, their election shall be on the same terms as affiliates, and the Provisions of G.L. Law 159 regarding exclusion shall also apply to them.

129. Balloting must in all cases be with beans, one black bean to exclude, except in the case of Brethren already members of the Craft seeking Affiliation, when admission shall be according to the By-Laws of the Lodge; if a Lodge has no By-Law on the subject, the election must be unanimous. In every case the proposer or seconder

must be present at the ballot; and every subscribing member who has obtained the Third Degree shall, if present, be required to vote.

130. No Candidate for initiation rejected by a Lodge shall be again proposed in same Lodge until after the lapse of at least six months.

131. If in any Lodge under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ireland a Candidate is proposed who does not reside in the town, village, or neighbourhood, and within the boundaries of the Masonic Province or District in which the Lodge into which he seeks to be admitted holds its Communications, he shall not be balloted for until due enquiry shall have been made respecting his character from the local Committee of Inspection having jurisdiction where he resides, either in the Province or in the Metropolitan District as the case may be. If there be no Committee of Inspection in the Province within which he resides then the enquiry shall be made of such Lodge or Lodges as may exist in the neighbourhood of his residence (see Law 132). Such enquiry when received must be made in open Lodge, and such reply made as may be directed by the Lodge. In all cases a satisfactory reply must be received and read in open Lodge before the ballot is taken, under penalty of the Lodge having its Warrant suspended or cancelled, or of payment of a fine not exceeding one hundred euro, as Grand Lodge may determine.

No Lodge under the Constitution of this Grand Lodge shall initiate any Candidate whose usual place of residence or domicile is in England or Scotland, or in any place where the United Grand Lodge of England or the Grand Lodge of Scotland has exclusive Masonic Jurisdiction, without first making all enquiries and obtaining the special permission of the Grand Lodge concerned. This law shall not apply to members of any University where there is a Lodge confined to members of that University.

The home address of any member of the Security Forces shall not appear on any circular, but his address, the branch of the Security Forces to which he belongs and his place of employment must be

submitted on the form sent to the Committee of Inspection. No candidate may be balloted for, who has not at least twelve months residence within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

132. In addition to the provisions of Law 131 respecting the case of a Candidate resident in another Province where no Committee of Inspection exists, it will be necessary before balloting to submit the name to the Provincial Grand Master or Provincial Deputy Grand Master of the Province in which the Candidate resides and to receive his approval.

133. In the case of a Candidate resident in the same Province, but not in the same town, village, or neighbourhood in which the Lodge into which he seeks admission holds its Communications, the enquiry shall be sent to the Committee of Inspection of the Province, if there be such Committee, which shall refer the enquiry to one or more of the Lodges within its jurisdiction, to report directly to the Lodge making the enquiry.

134. No Military Lodge, under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, shall initiate any civilian anywhere if a lawfully constituted Lodge exists within ten miles of the place where such civilian resides, or where such Military Lodge then meets. A Lodge of civilians shall not initiate any military man below the rank of a commissioned officer, where there is a Warranted Lodge in the Regiment or Garrison to which such military man belongs; nor shall a Regimental Lodge initiate any military man not belonging to the Regiment if there is a Garrison Lodge in the locality where the Candidate is stationed, or where such Regimental Lodge then meets. Any Lodge violating this Law shall have its Warrant cancelled or suspended, or shall be fined one hundred euro, as the Grand Lodge may see fit.

135. A Lodge shall not initiate any person until he shall have attained the age of twenty-one years, unless by Dispensation from the Grand Master, or the Deputy Grand Master, or, where a Lodge

meets outside Ireland, from the Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy or from the Grand Inspector where one exists.

136. This Law rescinded by Grand Lodge, 7th October, 1995 (See Grand Lodge Resolution on p. 67).

137. No Lodge shall initiate any person who is not able to read and write. Any Lodge violating this Law shall have its Warrant cancelled or suspended or be fined one hundred euro, as Grand Lodge shall see fit.

138. Any Subordinate Lodge on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Ireland may confer any Degree upon a Candidate who has been elected a member of another Lodge of the Irish Constitution upon receipt of a written request to do so, signed by the Master, Wardens and Secretary of the Lodge of the Candidate on whose behalf the favour is sought and having the Lodge Seal affixed, accompanied by a Certificate that all the provisions of the Constitution applicable to the case have been complied with.

Any Subordinate Lodge on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Ireland may, as a favour and without affiliation or entrance fee, pass or raise any Candidate from England, Scotland, or any other Masonic Jurisdiction having a Grand Lodge recognised by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, upon receipt of a written request from the Lodge of which the Candidate is a member, countersigned by the Grand Secretary or other appropriate Officer of the Grand Lodge to whose Jurisdiction it owes allegiance, and forwarded by him in the first instance to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland for transmission to the Lodge by which the Degree, or Degrees, are to be conferred. The fact that any Degree has been so conferred shall be reported to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland who shall report in due course to the Lodge of which the Candidate is a member and to the Grand Lodge of the Masonic Jurisdiction to which the Lodge belongs, from which Grand Lodge alone the Certificate of the Degree, or Degrees, shall be issued.

No Candidate for initiation to a Lodge belonging to any Masonic Jurisdiction other than that of the Grand Lodge of Ireland may be initiated in any Lodge working under a Warrant from the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

139. The Minimum Fees for initiation shall be one hundred euro for a Candidate initiated in any Lodge, except in Lodges within the Provincial Grand Lodges of North Connaught, South Connaught, Meath, Midland Counties, Munster, North Munster, South Eastern, Wicklow and Wexford and the County of Donegal where the Minimum Fees for initiation shall be eighty euro.

A Candidate resident within the Metropolitan District or within a Province where the Minimum Fees for initiation are one hundred euro shall not be initiated elsewhere for a lesser sum than one hundred euro. In every case, the fees must be paid in full before the initiation of the Candidate; and a Lodge shall not on any pretence remit, repay, refund, receive by instalment or in any way defer payments of the whole or any part of the foregoing fees.

For any breach of this Law, a Lodge shall be subject to a fine of one hundred euro, and to such further penalty as Grand Lodge may determine.

140. Every Brother shall, on his admission as a member, sign a declaration, pledging himself to observe the By-laws for the time being in force in the Lodge, and shall be furnished with a printed copy of such By-laws.

Every Brother seeking Affiliation from a Lodge not on the Register of Ireland shall, on his admission as a member, sign in open Lodge a declaration pledging himself to observe the Laws, Regulations and Usages of Grand Lodge and shall also be furnished with a printed copy of the By-laws of the Lodge (See page 62 for form.)

141. I. No Lodge shall initiate a Candidate on the day on which he shall be balloted for, except by Dispensation from the Grand Master, or from the Provincial Grand Master, or from their respective Deputies, or from the Grand Inspector where one exists, nor shall a Lodge on any pretence confer more than one Degree on the same person on the same day.

II. The First Degree should normally be conferred on only one Candidate at a time, but if it should be imperative that the Degree be conferred on more than one Candidate at the same Communication, each Candidate must be received and obligated and instructed in the Secrets of the Degree after which he must be invested and saluted in accordance with ancient custom. It is permissible to omit any explanations until the second (or third) Candidate has been obligated when the explanation of the various points may be given to both, or all, together.

When the First Degree is to be conferred, the Degree shall take precedence over all other business.

The Second Degree may be conferred on not more than three Candidates at the same time.

The Third Degree can only be conferred on one Candidate at a time and must be conferred in its entirety.

Not more than three Candidates may receive Degrees at any one Communication.

III. Twelve weeks at least shall intervene between the conferring of any two Degrees, except as hereinafter provided, or in such cases as a Dispensation from the Grand Master, or from the Provincial Grand Master, or their respective Deputies, or from Grand Inspector where one exists, shall have been previously obtained by the Lodge, authorising the conferring of the said Degrees, or any of them, within a shorter time than the said period of twelve weeks.

All applications for such Dispensations must give good and sufficient reasons for granting same, and must be signed by the Master and Secretary of the Lodge.

IV. In case of Naval or Military Brethren, who, owing to the exigencies of the Service, may be required on short notice to remove from the locality of their respective Lodges, an interval of one week between each Degree shall be deemed sufficient, but the circumstances justifying such exception must be forthwith notified to the Grand Secretary.

V. In Lodges abroad, not under the superintendence of a Provincial Grand Lodge or a Grand Inspector, an interval of one week between each Degree may be held sufficient in the case of Candidates who produce evidence of exigencies of time or distance analogous to those of Naval or Military Service, but the circumstances justifying such exception must be deemed satisfactory by resolution of the Lodge and must be forthwith notified to the Grand Secretary's Office.

Any Lodge violating this Law, or any clause thereof, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred euro, or to have its Warrant suspended.

142. No Lodge shall Initiate, Pass or Raise any one admitted into, or belonging to another Lodge, unless on the written requisition of such Lodge, signed by the Master, Wardens and Secretary thereof, and having the Lodge Seal affixed.

143. No visiting Brother shall be permitted to be present at the opening of any Lodge unless vouched; nor shall he be entitled to admission thereto during the time of labour or refreshment unless vouched or otherwise qualified to the satisfaction of the Master, nor until he has, if required, produced his Grand Lodge Certificate. The Master shall have power to refuse admission to any Brother who, in his opinion, has forfeited his right to visit, or whose admission would, in the opinion of the Master, disturb the harmony of the Lodge. No visitor shall be entitled to vote or take part in any discussion, nor to be present at refreshment of a Lodge unless invited.

VISITING.— No Brother unless he has received the Degree of Master Mason shall visit a Lodge if unvouched nor shall he claim to be examined. Brethren of the rank of Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft, if vouched, may by permission of the Worshipful Master as in all other cases be present whilst the Lodge is at Labour on the Degrees which they have received.

EXAMINATION.— No unvouched visitor claiming to be a Freemason shall be examined before being admitted to a Lodge, until he has satisfied the examiners that the Lodge of which he claims to be a member is warranted by a Grand Lodge which is in amity with and recognised by the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

144. Any Lodge knowingly permitting a person to be present at any of its Communications who has not been initiated in a regular Lodge, or who is disqualified by being suspended or expelled subverts the Landmarks of Freemasonry, and the Warrant of any Lodge so offending shall be suspended or cancelled, and the offending members thereof punished at the discretion of the Grand Lodge.

145. Any Brother who shall knowingly or wilfully be present or assist at any irregular meeting of a Lodge, shall be punished as the Grand Lodge may deem expedient.

146. If any Brother shall disturb the harmony of a Lodge, he shall be admonished by the Master, and if he persists in his irregular conduct shall be punished according to the By-laws of the Lodge, or the case may be reported to the Provincial Grand Lodge or the Grand Lodge for adjudication.

147. Every Lodge meeting within Ireland shall pay to the Grand Lodge thirty euro per annum for each subscribing member, of which three euro shall be applied to the Grand Lodge Loan and Grant Fund, except in the case of affiliate members when the sum shall be thirteen euro, so long as such affiliate members continue to be paid

for at the full rate in another Lodge. In Lodges meeting outside Ireland, the subscriptions shall be twelve euro and seven euro respectively. Such payments shall be made at the time when the Return directed by Grand Lodge Law No. 148 is forwarded to the Grand Secretary's Office.

148. Every Lodge shall make an annual return of its members, distinguishing those initiated or affiliated therein since last return, with the dates of Initiation or Affiliation, and in the case of Brethren Passed or Raised, with the dates of conferring those Degrees, respectively, together with the titles, professions or occupations of such Brethren; and, in the case of affiliated members, the number of the Lodge to which they belonged. Such return shall also specify the Master, Wardens, and Past Masters of the Lodge; shall be signed by the Secretary, and shall be forwarded directly to the Grand Secretary or, in case of overseas Lodges to the Provincial Grand Secretary, on or before the 30th. November in each year; and at the same time all moneys then due to the Grand Lodge shall be forwarded.

Any Lodge failing to make said returns in strict conformity with this Law shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred euro, and the Secretary thereof to suspension.

149. If any Lodge shall not have been opened for labour during one year, or if its subscribing members shall be less than three, its Warrant shall be suspended, and the Secretary, Master, or other Brother in whose possession or custody said Warrant may be, shall be called upon to deliver up same. Any Brother retaining a Warrant after it has been called in by the Grand Lodge shall be liable to suspension.

150. No memorial, recommendation, or other application shall be received from any Lodge which has not made the regular returns of its officers and members according to the foregoing Laws.

151. Every Brother affiliated to any Lodge must be registered as such in the books of the Grand Lodge. Every Brother affiliating from a Lodge not on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Ireland shall, on submission of his signed declaration, as per Grand Lodge Law No. 140, be supplied with an Affiliation Grand Lodge Certificate and, at the same time, be furnished with a copy of the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Ireland and a copy of the current issue of the Irish Freemasons' Calendar and Directory.

152. No Duplicate Certificate shall be granted unless satisfactory proof be produced of the loss or destruction of the original, and in every case the application must be recommended by the applicant's Lodge.

153. Every Brother shall be entitled to a Grand Lodge Certificate immediately upon his being registered as a Master Mason in the books of the Grand Lodge, and his Lodge shall forthwith procure such Certificate and issue it to him. At the same time as his Grand Lodge Certificate is issued, every newly raised Brother will be supplied with a printed copy of the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Ireland and a copy of the current issue of the Irish Freemasons' Calendar and Directory.

154. Every Brother to whom a Grand Lodge Certificate is granted must sign his name in the margin thereof immediately on receipt of same. Without such signature the Certificate shall not be valid, and when practicable, the signature shall be appended in open Lodge.

155. Any member of a Lodge is entitled to retire therefrom upon paying all dues and discharging all liabilities thereto. Any member clear of dues and in good Masonic standing, retiring from a Lodge, shall be furnished with a Clearance Certificate or Demit, signed by the Master, Wardens, and Secretary, and having the Lodge Seal affixed thereto. (See page 61 for form.) A Brother wishing to resign from a Lodge must submit his decision, in writing, to the Lodge Secretary for reporting to the Lodge; or verbally, in person, at a Stated Communication of a Lodge, when it must thereupon be taken as an item of business.

A Minimum Subscription of thirty euro per annum shall be payable by all Subscribing Members of Lodges in the Constitution.

A Lodge may grant 'Country Membership' on a Minimum Subscription of fifteen euro per annum to any Brother who does not reside, or attend a regular place of business, within fifty miles from the place of Meeting of the Lodge.

156. No Brother shall be suspended for non-payment of dues to his Lodge, but the Lodge shall have the power of striking off its roll any member more than twelve months in arrear of dues, provided that one month previously, application in writing for such arrears shall have been sent by registered letter or recorded delivery to the member, directed to his last-known address, together with an intimation that in the event of non-payment, his name will be removed from the roll of members of the Lodge, and the removal reported to the Grand Secretary's Office.

157. A Brother removed by his Lodge from membership for nonpayment of dues shall not be affiliated by, nor shall he continue a member of, any other Lodge, nor shall he be permitted to become a member of the Grand Lodge, or to visit any Lodge at Labour or refreshment, until it shall have been ascertained from the Lodge from which the Brother was removed, that such arrear of dues has been discharged.

Any subordinate Lodge knowingly violating this Law shall be held liable for such arrears, and shall pay same to the Lodge of which the Brother was formerly a member, and shall further pay a fine of one hundred euro to the Grand Lodge.

158. A register shall be kept in the Grand Secretary's Office of the names and addresses of Brethren reported in accordance with G.L. Law No. 156, and in each case the amount of arrears due shall be specified. The Secretary of a Lodge neglecting to make such a report shall be liable to suspension.

159. A Lodge shall have power to exclude from membership any Brother whose continuance as a member may be considered objectionable, or injurious to the Lodge, provided that four-fifths of the subscribing members present shall so decide at a Communication specially called to consider the matter. The decision of the Lodge shall be by ballot (with beans). Every subscribing member who has obtained the Third Degree, it present when the ballot has been declared open, shall vote, and the decision shall be subject to an appeal to the Grand Lodge by the Brother so excluded. The W.M. shall have power to order a second ballot if he has reason to believe that a mistake has been made in the first, but shall report to Grand Lodge the circumstances which justified such procedure.

160. Subordinate Lodges shall for their better government frame their own By-laws, provided that the same be in accordance with the Ancient Landmarks, and with the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge. Two copies of such proposed By-laws, and of any subsequent alterations therein, shall be submitted for approval of the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes, and shall become valid and take effect only from the date of such approval. One copy of such Bylaws, when approved, shall be deposited in the Grand Secretary's Office, and one with the Provincial Grand Secretary of the Province in which the Lodge meets.

161. Each Lodge shall have a Seal wherewith to verify the Lodge transactions. The device shall consist of a Hand and Trowel, together with the number and name of the Lodge, and the name of the place where held.

162. All Lodges are enjoined to observe the same usages and customs in working; any wilful deviation therefrom shall be visited with the censure of the Grand Lodge, and if persevered in, shall be punished as the Grand Lodge shall think fit.

OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGES GENERAL REGULATIONS

163. Each Provincial Grand Lodge shall consist of a Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Deputy Grand Master, Provincial Assistant Grand Master (where such an Officer has been appointed in accordance with Grand Lodge Law No. 166), Provincial Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, Provincial Grand Treasurer, Provincial Grand Secretary, Provincial Grand Deacons, and Provincial Grand Inner Guard, together with the Master and Wardens for the time being of each Subordinate Lodge in the Province, and all Past Masters who are subscribing members of a Lodge within the Masonic Province. A Provincial Grand Chaplain and other Provincial Grand Officers may be appointed, taking precedence as in Grand Lodge, and also Provincial Grand Inspectors, in accordance with G.L. Law No. 180. The Present and Past Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Deputy Grand Master and Provincial Assistant Grand Master are styled "Right Worshipful"; Present or Past Provincial Grand Wardens, Treasurers, Secretaries, Directors of Ceremonies or Chaplains, "Very Worshipful", and all other Provincial Grand Officers, "Worshipful".

164. The appointment of a Provincial Grand Master is the prerogative of the Grand Master; by whom a patent may be granted, during the pleasure of the Grand Master for the time being, to such Brother of eminence and ability, being a Past Master as may be thought worthy of the appointment. On the demise or resignation of the Grand Master, each Provincial Grand Master shall continue to discharge his functions until the pleasure of the succeeding Grand Master shall be declared.

165. The Provincial Grand Master when duly installed, is empowered to appoint as his Deputy a Past Master, being a subscribing member of some Lodge in the Masonic Province; and the Provincial Grand Master shall, within one month after such appointment shall have been made, cause the name and residence of

such Deputy to be transmitted to all the Lodges within his Masonic Province, and also to the Grand Secretary's office, in order that the appointment may be duly registered.

166. The Grand Master may authorise a Provincial Grand Master to appoint annually a Past Master, who shall be a Subscribing Member of a Lodge in the Province, to act as Provincial Assistant Grand Master. If considered desirable the Provincial Grand Master may be authorised to appoint more than one such Assistant. The name and residence of such Assistant or Assistants to be transmitted to all Lodges within the Province within one month of such appointment. Provincial Assistant Grand Masters in their own Province shall take precedence immediately after the Provincial Deputy Grand Master. In a Province where there is more than one Provincial Assistant Grand Master they shall take precedence among themselves in accordance with seniority of appointment.

In the absence of the Provincial Grand Master or the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, a Provincial Assistant Grand Master may visit and preside in every Lodge within his Province. The Brother appointed shall be obligated and installed. The Jewel shall be the Compasses extended to 45° and a jewelled and irradiated Sun in the centre, all enclosed within a broad circle on which is inscribed the name of the Province.

167. All elective Provincial Grand Officers (who must be Past Masters, and also subscribing members of some Lodge in the Masonic Province), shall be annually elected by the Provincial Grand Lodge, and their names must be notified to the Grand Secretary's Office on or before the 20th November in each year, for registration in the books of the Grand Lodge; provided always that this rule shall not apply to Provincial Grand Masters, or their Deputies.

168. Each Provincial Grand Lodge shall at the time of the election of its Officers elect the number of Qualified Brethren in accordance

with G.L. Law No. 54, being then members of the Provincial Grand Lodge, as representatives on the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes for the ensuing year, and the names of the Brethren so elected shall forthwith be returned to the Grand Secretary's Office.

169. The Provincial Grand Master, or in his absence the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, shall hold a Provincial Grand Lodge within his Masonic Province four times in each year; one in each quarter, for the despatch of business, and may convene Provincial Grand Lodges of Emergency whenever such may be deemed necessary; and at each Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge the Chair shall be filled by the Provincial Grand Master, and in his absence by the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, and in his absence by the member of the Provincial Grand Lodge present who shall be next in order of precedence, excepting the Wardens of Subordinate Lodges.

In Overseas Provinces a By-law may be introduced to permit a Provincial Grand Lodge to hold less than four, but not less than two, Stated Communications per annum.

170. Members attending, or Brethren visiting, a Provincial Grand Lodge shall appear in full Masonic clothing as required when attending the Grand Lodge.

171. The Provincial Grand Secretary shall summon the Provincial Grand Officers, and the Master and Wardens of each Lodge within the Province to attend each Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge; but an advertisement published in a local newspaper, circulating in the Province, shall be deemed a sufficient summons to all other members of the Provincial Grand Lodge; such advertisement to be published at least five days previously to the day of meeting.

172. The Provincial Grand Master or the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, assisted by his Provincial Grand Lodge, shall have power to hear and determine all subjects of Masonic complaint or irregularity respecting Lodges or individual Brethren within the Province; and

may proceed according to the Laws of the Craft, to admonish, reprimand, or fine; which decision in all such cases, shall be final, unless there be an appeal made therefrom to the Grand Lodge within one month after such decision; provided always that when the case is of such a nature as to require the suspension or cancellation of a Warrant, or the suspension or expulsion of a Brother, the Provincial Grand Lodge shall proceed in accordance with G.L. Law No. 35.

173. If the Provincial Grand Master or Provincial Deputy Grand Master shall neglect or decline to bring before the Provincial Grand Lodge any application or complaint on which its decision may be required, such application or complaint may be transmitted directly to the Grand Lodge.

174. The Provincial Grand Master, or in his absence, the Provincial Deputy Grand Master or a Provincial Assistant Grand Master, may visit and preside in every Lodge within his Province.

175. The Provincial Grand Lodge may summon any of, or all of, the Officers of any Lodge within its Province, or any individual member or members thereof, to attend and produce the Warrant, books, papers and accounts, or other documents of such Lodge. If the summons be not complied with, or sufficient reason not given for non-compliance, a peremptory summons shall be issued; and in case of contumacy the Lodge or Brother shall be liable to suspension, and the proceeding shall be notified to the Grand Lodge.

176. The Provincial Grand Master is responsible that the Provincial Grand Lodge does not at any time exceed its lawful powers; he shall therefore cause correct minutes to be kept of all its proceedings, and produce them to the Grand Lodge whenever required.

177. The Provincial Grand Master shall, when required, transmit to the Grand Lodge an account, in writing, of the state of Masonry within his Masonic Province.

178. If the Provincial Grand Master die, resign, or be removed, the authority of the Provincial Deputy Grand Master shall continue for a period of six months after such event, or until a successor to the Provincial Grand Master shall be appointed and installed within said period. In case no appointment of a Provincial Grand Master shall have been made before the expiration of said period of six months, the Grand Master shall have power of appointing some Brother, being a Past Master, to act as Provincial Deputy Grand Master pending the filling of the vacancy in the office of Provincial Grand Master.

179. Each Provincial Grand Lodge shall have the power of framing By-laws for its own government, including its Board of General Purposes, provided that such By-laws as well as any alteration that may be made therein, shall be first submitted to and approved by the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes, and shall become valid and take effect only from the date of such approval. Two copies thereof, as approved, shall be lodged in the Grand Secretary's Office.

180. The Provincial Grand Master, with the concurrence of his Provincial Grand Lodge, shall have power to appoint Provincial Grand Inspectors. They shall rank immediately after the Provincial Grand Inner Guard, and their duties shall be to visit such Lodges in the Province as may be placed under their supervision, and to carry out such instructions as may be given by the Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy. They shall have power to call for and examine the minute book and other official books and documents belonging to the Lodge visited, and any refusal or neglect on the part of the Officers or Brethren having custody of same, to produce them after due notice, shall be reported to the Provincial Grand Lodge, which may may thereupon proceed by admonition, reprimand, or fine against the Brother or Brethren so reported.

181. In each Province of the Irish Constitution, the Provincial Grand Master is empowered, annually, at his discretion and option, to confer upon Brethren of worth and experience, who are members

of a Lodge within his Province and have rendered distinguished service to the Craft and who fulfill the provisions of Grand Lodge Law No. 41, the Honorary Rank of Past Provincial Grand Officer. A Brother upon whom Honorary Past Provincial Grand Rank has been conferred under this Law, shall be entitled to wear the regalia of a Past Provincial Grand Lodge Officer of equivalent Rank. Brethren, on whom this honour has been conferred, shall rank after the holder and past holders of the Provincial Grand Rank to which they have been appointed.

Provincial Grand Lodges within Ireland

1. In any Province of 75 or more Lodges, four Honorary Past Provincial Grand Officers of whom one may be a Junior Warden, the other three of lesser Rank.
2. In any Province of 30 or more Lodges but less than 75, two Honorary Past Provincial Grand Officers, of whom one may be a Junior Warden in each other year, the others to be of lesser Rank.
3. In any Province of less than 30 Lodges, one Honorary Past Provincial Grand Officer of lesser rank than Junior Warden, but once in every five years the Rank may be Junior Warden.

Provincial Grand Lodges Overseas

1. In any Province with 30 or more Lodges, four Honorary Past Provincial Grand Officers, of whom one may be a Junior Warden, the other three of lesser Rank.
2. In any Province with less than 30 Lodges, two Honorary Past Provincial Grand Officers below the Rank of Junior Warden, but once in every five years a Brother may be given the Honorary Rank Junior Warden.

OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGES OVERSEAS

182. A Provincial Grand Master of any Provincial Grand Lodge outside Ireland on the advice and with the consent of his Provincial Grand Lodge, may confer Honorary Membership of such Provincial Grand Lodge on such District or Provincial Grand Masters of recognised Sister Constitutions having Lodge meetings in his Province as he shall consider worthy of this distinction. He shall inform the M.W. The Grand Master immediately such distinction has been conferred.

183. Provincial Grand Masters of Provincial Grand Lodges outside Ireland on the advice and with the consent of their Provincial Grand Lodges, may appoint District Grand Inspectors to represent them in country districts where such districts are very distant from the place where the Provincial Grand Lodge holds its Communications. Such District Grand Inspectors must be Past Masters and subscribing members to a Lodge in the District. They must be resident in the District for which they may be appointed.

184. The duty of such District Grand Inspector shall be to investigate all cases of Masonic irregularity which may arise in his district, and forward the evidence taken thereon, with his remarks, and a judicial statement of the matter in dispute to the Provincial Grand Master, whose instruction thereon he shall fully carry out. He is to transmit all applications for Warrants, Dispensations, and Certificates to the Provincial Grand Secretary, and shall, when required, report on the condition of Masonry within his District. He shall rank as the highest Masonic Officer within his District excepting the Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Deputy Grand Master. His powers and authority shall be confined to the District for which he has been appointed.

In overseas Districts where there is no Provincial Grand Lodge, the Grand Master may, with the consent of Grand Lodge, appoint Grand Inspectors whose duties shall be similar in all respects to those of the

Provincial District Grand Inspectors mentioned above, but who shall rank as the highest Masonic Officers in their own Districts, and as Grand Officers immediately after Past Provincial Grand Masters, such Grand Inspectors overseas may, with the approval of the Grand Master, appoint Assistant Grand Inspectors, who must be Past Masters and subscribing members to a Lodge in the locality for which they may be appointed.

SCHEDULE OF FEES
PAYABLE UNDER THE GRAND LODGE LAWS
AS AT 27th December, 2007

LAW	€
106 For a Lodge Warrant	100.00
110 For a Duplicate Warrant	50.00
147 For Subordinate Lodges (annually)— Each subscribing member (See Law for exceptions)	30.00
88 For the G.L. Charity Fund (annually)— By Metropolitan Lodges, for each member	0.15
By Provincial and Military Lodges, for each Member	0.05
139 For Initiation (minimum payable to Lodge)— In Lodges within the Provincial Grand Lodges of North Connaught, South Connaught, Meath, Midland Counties, Munster, North Munster, South Eastern and Wicklow and Wexford.....	80.00
In all other Lodges	100.00
78 For passing a Candidate at the Metropolitan Committee of Inspection	10.00
36 For Committee to investigate Complaints	100.00

CHARGES BY ORDER OF THE GRAND LODGE

Registration of Honorary Past Grand Rank	100.00
Duplicate G.L. or P.M.s Certificates	25.00
Where both Certificates are required	40.00

METROPOLITAN LODGES

Capitation Fee – per subscribing member.....	35.00
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SCHEDULE OF FEES AND FINES
 PAYABLE UNDER THE GRAND LODGE LAWS
 AS AT 27th December, 2007

LAW		€
	For receipt of Grand Lodge Minutes.....	10.00
107	For issuing a Warrant irregularly	100.00
139	For initiating at less than minimum Fee	100.00
80	For initiating a Candidate in a Metropolitan Lodge without approval of the Committee	100 00
137	For initiating a Candidate disqualified under G.L. Laws	100.00
134	For initiating a Military man in Civilian Lodge or a Civilian in a Military Lodge.....	100.00
131	For initiating a non-resident without due enquiry ...	100.00
157	For affiliating a Brother struck off the Roll for non-payment of dues, the amount of his arrears and	100.00
148	For neglecting to make an annual return of Officers and Members.....	100.00

SPECIMEN
OF
A LODGE MINUTE BOOK

..... day of.....,Lodge No
..... at Freemasons' Hall..... Co.

<p>Present ----- Officers Bro.W.M SW. JW Treas Sec. D.C. S. of C Almoner Chap. S.D. J.D. I.G. ----- Members Bro.....</p>	<p>The Lodge opened at ...o'clock... in Form on the Entered Apprentice Degree.</p> <p>Mr. being in attendance, and being Duly prepared for admission, received the Entered Apprentice Degree, and was saluted according to ancient usage.</p> <p>The Minutes of the last Stated (and any intervening) Communication having been read and confirmed, were signed by the W.M., and countersigned by the Secretary; and the Lodge Seal was affixed thereto.</p> <p>Bro. AB. Proposed — “that the name of Mr..... residing at(state profession or calling) be placed on the books of the Lodge for the usual time previous to ballot.” Seconded by Bro. CD., and agreed to. Bros. X., Y and Z were appointed as Committee of Enquiry.</p> <p>Mr. E.F., who had been proposed at a previous Communication, and concerning whom the Committee of Enquiry reported favourably was balloted for and elected.</p> <p>Brother G.H. proposed the motion of which he had given notice, and it was seconded by Bro. J.K. After due debate the W.M. put the question from the Chair and declared it carried. A division having been demanded, the numbers appeared, for the motion, against; whereupon the W.M. declared the motion carried (or lost).</p>
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Visitors

Brother—
of Lodge

The Secretary read a Communication from the Grand Lodge as follows:— (here **insert the letter**).

It was ordered “That, &‘

A memorial was read from the widow of Brother No. S.J., formerly of Lodge No.... praying for relief; and the same having been duly investigated and recommended, it was ordered that the sum of €... be allocated from the Lodge Funds, to be paid her by the Treasurer. A further sum of €... was ordered to be paid from the funds for the relief of Brother *P.R.* of Lodge No. now in distressed circumstances.

The Lodge was then called up to the F.C. Degree, all Brethren not of that Degree having previously retired.

Business, &c. &c.

The Lodge was then called up to the MM. Degree, all Brethren not of that Degree having previously retired.

Brother ST., a Fellow Craft Freemason, being prepared, was raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason, and saluted.

The Lodge was called down to the Fellow Craft Degree, and subsequently to the Entered Apprentice Degree, and then closed in Peace, Love and Harmony.



..... **W.M.**

..... Secretary,

(Date)

FORM OF DEMIT

or

CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

(Required by G.L. Law 155)

*We, the Master, Wardens and Secretary of
Lodge No.holden under the
 Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland
 do hereby Certify that Brother*

*(whose Signature is annexed
 in the margin) was a member of this Lodge from
 ... to...
 he has paid all Fees and Dues up to this date;*

Dated at..... this..... day of..... 20.....



..... W. Master }
 S. Warden } Of Lodge
 J. Warden } No.
 Secretary }

**N.B. Please note the Provisions of Grand Lodge Board Decision
 No. 33 on page 81**

FORM OF DECLARATION
FOR
BRETHREN AFFILIATING FROM FOREIGN
CONSTITUTIONS

(Required by Grand Lodge Law No. 140)

I, having been regularly initiated in Lodge No.....on the Register of the Grand Lodge of and being now desirous of membership in Lodge No. on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, do hereby solemnly declare in open Lodge that I will faithfully observe the Laws, Regulations, and Usages of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

(Signature and **Date**)

In witness whereof we subscribe our names, and append the Seal of the Lodge.



..... W.M.
..... Secretary

The above Bro. (occupation)

was duly affiliated to Lodge No.....

on the day of 20...

When this form has been completed, it should be forwarded to the Grand Secretary's Office.

**RESOLUTIONS OF
GRAND LODGE**

and

**DECISIONS OF THE
BOARD OF
GENERAL PURPOSES**

RESOLUTIONS OF GRAND LODGE

That, in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, it is a breach of Masonic Duty on the part of any Brother present at any meeting of the Committee of Inspection, to disclose outside such Committee the name of any member in connection with any observations made at such meeting.

In the opinion of Grand Lodge it is not in accordance with the spirit of Freemasonry that any portion of the funds of a Subordinate Lodge should be used for the purpose of making presentations to individual members of such Lodge, unless such presentations take the form of Masonic Jewels or Insignia, or presentations of Life Governorships in one of the Masonic Charities; and any violation of this resolution may be dealt with under Grand Lodge Law 37.

It is agreed that where there is a Royal Arch Chapter of the same number as a Lodge, and/or where there is a clear association and affinity between a Lodge and a Royal Arch Chapter, then the Lodge Summonses may include reference to the date, place and time of meeting of same Royal Arch Chapter, in accordance with the provisions of Grand Lodge Law No. 3. Overseas Lodges are permitted to give information on their Summonses as to the Registrar and location of Royal Arch Chapters in their area.

EMERITUS MEMBERS

Where a Brother may have rendered signal service to his Lodge, or there are special personal circumstances to justify it, a Lodge may elect a Brother, being a subscribing member of the Lodge, to the dignity of Emeritus Member. Such Emeritus Member shall not be eligible to pay annual dues to his Lodge; but the Lodge will be responsible for paying his Grand Lodge dues and Provincial Grand

Lodge dues, if any, annually on his behalf. An Emeritus Member, unlike an Honorary Member who is not a subscribing member of another Lodge, is not debarred from membership of other Branches of the Order; and he shall retain full rights as theretofore, to hold Office, to propose motions and vote on any question before the Lodge.

HARMONISATION OF THE MASONIC CHARITIES

‘Whereas the Victoria Jubilee Masonic Benevolent Fund, the Belfast Masonic Charity Fund and the Belfast Masonic Widows Fund have agreed a closer working relationship with each other to enhance their work in looking after our widows and distressed Brethren, that Grand Lodge approve a merger of the activities and financial and management resources of the above-named Charities and that they harmonise their rules, assessment criteria and payments for the benefit of all those obtaining assistance from these Funds’.

This proposal included in the financial management that monies contributed by Brethren will be deposited in a sterling account in Northern Ireland and in a euro account in the Republic of Ireland.

PAST MASTERS’ JEWELS

The question of permission to wear Past Masters’ Jewels of gold was considered by Grand Lodge on 6th June, 1918, when it was decided that such a practice was not in accordance with Grand Lodge Regulation as to Jewels of Office.

TENURE OF OFFICES AND APPOINTMENTS

It is hereby resolved that, as and from January 1st, 1991, unless in exceptional circumstances and then subject to dispensation only by the Grand Master, or the Deputy Grand Master, or the Assistant Grand

Master, (or by the Provincial Grand Master within a Province) no Masonic Office or Appointment shall be held, or be extended, beyond a period of ten years from date of Installation or Appointment.

At the 2nd March, 2002, Stated Communication of Grand Lodge it was resolved, on the recommendation of the Grand Master's Council, to suspend the provisions of the Ten Year Rule concerning tenure of Offices and Appointments insofar as these apply to Craft Lodges.

A Brother shall not be eligible to serve a second term in an Office or Appointment that he has already held for a period of ten years, even after an interval of time shall have elapsed. This Resolution shall not however encompass the paid Officers of the Grand Lodge, or of a Provincial Grand Lodge, whose terms and conditions of employment shall remain as heretofore; nor shall it apply to Actual or Honorary Past Grand Officers or Past Provincial Grand Officers, or Elected Members of the Grand Lodge of Instruction.

MAIM AND DEFECT

If a candidate proposed for admission be in any manner maimed, lame or defective he shall not, as heretofore, require a dispensation; for, in symbolic masonry, it is his moral worth, not physical integrity, that justifies his admission.

DISPOSAL OF THE FUNDS AND ASSETS OF A LODGE

If upon the adoption of a resolution to return the Warrant of a Lodge to Grand Lodge or the suspension of any Lodge or the cancellation of the Warrant of any Lodge there remains after satisfaction of all the debts and liabilities of the Lodge any property whatsoever, the same shall not be distributed among or paid to the members of the Lodge but shall be transferred or given to another Lodge or paid to a Masonic Charity or Charities or otherwise as may be approved by Grand Lodge.

CIRCULATION OF THE PRINTED PROCEEDINGS OF GRAND LODGE

A printed report of the Proceedings at the preceding Quarterly Communication and at any intervening meeting of the Grand Lodge shall be forwarded to all those entitled to receive Grand Lodge Notices, at least ten days before the ensuing Quarterly Communication, along with the appropriate Notice for same.

Any Member of the Grand Lodge may have such Notices and Proceedings posted to him on registering his address with the Grand Secretary and paying such fee as shall be fixed, from time to time, by the Finance Committee of the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes.

DECISIONS OF THE
BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

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1.—LODGE COMMUNICATIONS

The By-laws of a Lodge must prescribe the hour of meeting for its Stated Communication. No meeting of a Lodge other than a Stated Communication can be called without the authority of the Worshipful Master. All meetings should start punctually.

2.—LODGE QUORUM

Three Master Masons (one of whom must be an Acting or Past Installed Master) may hold a Warrant. This does not refer to a case where the majority of the members of a Lodge desire to return the Warrant to Grand Lodge. Five may hold a meeting and transact ordinary business including the reading of the minutes. At least seven must be present at the conferring of a Degree. Of this minimum number of seven, in the First Degree, all need not be Master Masons, in the Second Degree all must be at least Fellow Crafts and in the Third Degree all must be Master Masons.

3.—UNVOUCHED VISITORS

The Worshipful Master of a Lodge may at his discretion refuse to examine an unvouched Worshipful Master or P.M., at the Ceremony of Installation of Officers, and may request him to retire.

4.—LAPSED MEMBERSHIP

A Brother lapsing from membership, whether by resignation, by suspension, or by being struck off the roll for non-payment of dues, cannot resume membership until he has been duly proposed, balloted for, and elected.

5.—NON-RESIDENT CANDIDATES

(a) Residents outside the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ireland who may return to their native town or district on a temporary visit are not eligible for initiation there until enquiries shall have been made by the Grand Secretary from the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction over the neighbourhood of the Candidate's permanent residence.

(b) Where there are more Lodges than one meeting in the neighbourhood of the Candidate's residence the enquiry need only be made of one such Lodge, provided that the reply from it be specified and adequate.

When a Lodge receives similar inquiries respecting the character of a local resident proposed elsewhere, the reply which must be the result of discussion in open Lodge, should deal solely with his suitability as a member of the Fraternity at large, and not with his eligibility for admission to that particular Lodge.

6.—BALLOT FOR CANDIDATES

At a ballot for Candidates all subscribing members of a Lodge present at the ballot must vote, even if in arrear of dues provided they have attained the rank of M.M. On all other subjects members may refrain from voting if they so desire.

If, upon taking a ballot for the Initiation of a Candidate, the number of beans in the box does not coincide with that of the members present, the ballot is void, and it may be held again immediately, or at a subsequent meeting. In the event of an adverse ballot, it must be borne clearly in mind that the Master of a Lodge should have some substantial reason for supposing a mistake to have been made in the first ballot before ordering a second to be taken, and it is very difficult to imagine a case which would justify a third.

7.—RESIGNATION OF A W.M.

A W.M. cannot resign his Office and remain a member of the Lodge.

8.—FEE FOR INITIATION

No dues or charges whatever may be included in the fee chargeable under the By-laws of a Lodge for Initiation. The fee must be paid in full in one sum before Initiation.

9.—WHEN DUES BECOME PAYABLE

Unless special provision is made to the contrary in the By-laws, a newly-elected Brother is not liable for Lodge dues until the period when dues next become payable by members as fixed by the Bylaws; for example, a Candidate joining a Lodge whose By-laws provide for the quarterly payment of dues in advance, will not be liable to pay dues until the first day of a quarter following his admission.

10. —APPEALS FOR MASONIC CONTRIBUTIONS

No appeal should be made for subscriptions to any Masonic object (such as building a New Hall), to Brethren or Lodges outside the Irish Constitution, or to non-Masons.

11.—BY-LAWS

The By-laws of a Lodge cannot take effect until confirmed by the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes and when so confirmed cannot be altered, suspended or abrogated, except with the sanction of the Board.

12.—PRECEDENCE OF AFFILIATING PAST MASTERS

An Affiliating Past Master takes precedence in the Lodge immediately after the Worshipful Master of the year in which he affiliated.

A member of one Lodge serving as Worshipful Master of another to which he affiliated takes precedence in his Mother Lodge immediately after the Worshipful Master of the year.

An Installed Master of the Irish Constitution who is one of the founders of a new Lodge should be regarded as *ipso facto* a Past Master of the new Lodge, taking precedence in accordance with the order of his signature on the Memorial.

A Past Master under the English Constitution has no precedence in an Irish Lodge unless he has served Office under the Irish Constitution, except by special dispensation by Grand Lodge. This of course applies to a P.M. of any other recognised Constitution.

13.—DELAY IN INITIATION

It occasionally happens that a Candidate duly elected by a Lodge fails to present himself for Initiation within a reasonable time. There is no Grand Lodge Law bearing directly on the point, but the Board having regard to the fact that if the interval be a long one (twelve months or more) the Candidate might not be acceptable to the existing members, consider that his election should be regarded as void and take a fresh ballot.

14.—SECRECY OF BALLOT

It is one of the fundamental rights of every member to be able to express, by the ballot, his unbiased opinion on the desirability, or otherwise of admitting a new member, and after the ballot has been declared no discussion shall be allowed respecting the reason which may have actuated any member in casting his vote, and no attempt should be made directly or indirectly to ascertain how any individual voted.

15.—APPEALS FROM LODGES

The Board of General Purposes decided that all appeals emanating from Subordinate Lodges for contributions to presentations to members, or appeals for charity, must receive the sanction of the local Provincial Grand Lodge before being circulated in the Province, and the sanction of Grand Lodge before circulation in the rest of Ireland.

16.—SUSPENDED MEMBER

When suspension is removed a suspended member is only restored to good Masonic standing and not to membership.

17.—DEFINITION OF FOUNDATION MEMBER

A Brother who signs the Memorial for a New Warrant and does not withdraw his name before the Constitution of the Lodge, or offer a sufficient reason for his failure so to withdraw his name, is deemed to be a Founder-member of the Lodge and therefore liable for dues from the date of Constitution.

18.—LODGE TITLES

In the early days of Irish Masonry, Lodges were distinguished by the number of the Warrant alone. Afterwards, however, following the practice of other jurisdictions, in which the Lodges are identified by their name rather than the number, either a Territorial or Symbolic Title was occasionally added. In connection with a Memorial for a new Warrant the Board expressed the opinion — which was subsequently confirmed by Grand Lodge — that it is undesirable to name Lodges after living individuals.

19.—PROPOSAL OF CANDIDATES

From time to time By-laws have been received for approval containing a clause to the effect that the names of Candidates should in the first instance be submitted to a Standing Committee appointed for the purpose, and only proposed in Lodge with the consent and approval of the Committee.

The Board ruled that every subscribing Master Mason has an inherent right to propose in open Lodge a Candidate for admission to his Lodge, after which the Lodge may either refuse to accept the proposal or refer the name to a Committee of Scrutineers for enquiry and report, or otherwise deal with it as it may think right, but this must be after and not before the actual proposal.

20. CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHARITIES

From time to time a By-law has been adopted by some Lodges providing that in addition to the Lodge dues, a certain sum is payable by each member and handed over in his name as a contribution to one or other of the Masonic Charities. The Board decided that such a rule is contrary to Masonic practice in Ireland, and cannot be approved. The By-laws of a Lodge should deal only with the business of the Lodge itself and the dues collected for its upkeep, and as the support of the Masonic Benevolent Institutions has always been entirely voluntary, the introduction of a system of compulsory subscriptions is not considered desirable. Of course a Lodge is at perfect liberty to vote grants to these Charities out of its surplus funds, but should not coerce its members to subscribe individually.

21.—APPLICATION FORMS FOR CANDIDATES

The question as to the form of application which may be used by Candidates for admission to the Order came under consideration, when it was decided that it should contain nothing more than an expression of the desire on the part of the applicant to join the Society of Freemasons, his name in full, place of abode, his profession or occupation, a statement that he is twenty-one years of age or upwards, and if he has previously applied for admission to another Lodge. In many Masonic Jurisdictions in America the form contains in addition to the above, questions which in Ireland are only put to the Candidate during the ceremony of Initiation, and as this form was being adopted in some of our Northern Lodges, the Board took the opportunity of expressing their disapproval of the innovation. The greater number of Irish Lodges do not require any written application from a Candidate, his proposal by a member acquainted with him being deemed sufficient, and the form approved by the Board is to be considered permissible and not compulsory.

22.—BONA-FIDE RESIDENT

The Board, without defining what precisely constitutes a bone-fide – “resident”, is of opinion that no person shall be so regarded who had not lived in the neighbourhood for at least a period of twelve months.

23.—PAID TYLER

While there is no law on the subject expressly forbidding it, the Board considers it very undesirable that a Brother should be at the same time a paid Tyler and a subscribing member of the same Lodge.

24.—POWER TO VARY PLACE AND TIME OF MEETINGS

That general power be given to the Most Worshipful Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master, or the Assistant Grand Master to vary the place and time of meetings of all Lodges in the Metropolitan District should circumstances render it desirable, and to extend the same power in the case of the Provinces to Provincial Grand Masters, their Deputies and Assistants.

25.—APPEALS FOR FUNDS TO BUILD NEW MASONIC HALLS

From time to time applications have been received from Lodges asking for permission to appeal for funds to build New Halls. The Board has always granted permission in cases that are recommended by the Provincial Grand Master, or his Deputy, but have refused to permit the issue of ballot tickets.

26.—SECRETARIES MAY NOT BE PAID

A Lodge submitted a By-law providing for an annual fee to the Secretary. The Board of General Purposes ruled that this cannot be done.

27.—FUNDS OF LODGES SOLELY FOR MASONIC PURPOSES

The Board was asked if the funds of a Lodge might be used for a purpose which was not Masonic. They ruled that the funds of a Lodge were collected solely from Masonic sources for Masonic purposes only, and should not be used for any other purpose whatever unless by special permission of the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master.

28.—MONEY GRANTS

The amount of a grant as proposed by a Notice of Motion may be decreased on amendment but cannot be increased without a fresh Notice of Motion.

29.—‘CLASS’ LODGES

The Board ruled that a Lodge could not have a By law limiting members to one particular class. It was, however, agreed that a Preface might be used stating that the Lodge was primarily for persons of a certain class.

30.—SUBORDINATE LODGE ACCOUNTS

The Grand Lodge Board decided that a certified copy of the Balance Sheet of Subordinate Lodges in the Provinces, when audited, be

forwarded to the Provincial Grand Secretaries prior to the 31st March each year, and in the case of Dublin Lodges to the Grand Secretary, year in each case to be 31st December. That each Lodge have a Bank Account in the name of the Lodge or in the name of three Brethren appointed by the Lodge, cheques on which to be signed by any two named Brethren at least. That all moneys received be lodged forthwith in said Account, and that all payments thereout be made by cheque on same Account.

31.—MASONIC SIGNS OR EMBLEMS FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES

The Grand Lodge Board ruled that members of the Craft are strictly forbidden to use the fact of their membership as a means of promoting business or of securing private advantage. They are forbidden to use any of the emblems of Freemasonry on a sign or in any other way on business premises, business correspondence paper or in connection with any business advertisement. A Masonic Certificate must not be displayed or allowed to be displayed on business premises. Any breach of this ruling will be considered as un-Masonic conduct, and may be dealt with as provided by G.L. Law No. 35. This rule is not intended to apply to the sale of Masonic articles in Masonic circles or advertising them in Masonic Papers.

32.—TENURE OF MASONIC HALLS

Grand Lodge ruled that it is the Masonic duty of those Lodges who are the owners of Halls, and of the Trustees in which the Halls are vested, to afford all accommodation reasonably required by other Lodges or Masonic Bodies recognised by Grand Lodge, and that they should obey the directions in these respects of Grand Lodge in the Metropolitan District, and of the Provincial Grand Lodge in each Masonic Province with a right in the latter case to appeal to Grand Lodge against any direction of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

33.—RESIGNATIONS AND CLEARANCE CERTIFICATES

A member resigning whose dues were remitted may get demit with words "clear of all dues" instead of "paid all dues".

34.—LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR BRETHREN IN ARREARS

The Board ruled that a Brother who is in arrear of dues cannot be granted leave of absence.

35.—MASONIC TOASTS, NON-MASONS PRESENT

In view of the established and increasingly popular practice of Ladies and non-Masons being invited to attend Festive Boards and other Masonic occasions, the Grand Lodge Board has ruled that collars and jewels may be worn within Masonic premises, if appropriate and as customary, and that Masonic Toasts may be proposed and responded to, so long as no salutes shall be given.

36.—AFFILIATIONS FROM GRAND LODGES NOT RECOGNISED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND

The Board ruled that such Candidates are not eligible for affiliation, but would have to be initiated, passed, and raised under the Irish Constitution.

37.—CANDIDATES REFERRED TO IN GRAND LODGE LAWS Nos. 131. 132 and 133

The Grand Lodge Board ruled that these Laws referred to Candidates for initiation only.

38.—ABSENCE OF WORSHIPFUL MASTER

A ruling of Grand Lodge Board was sought in the case of a Worshipful Master who during his year of Office had left the country for service in the Army, as to what his duties are in appointing a substitute.

The Board ruled that in this or any like case where a Worshipful Master's absence is due to change of residence or of employment or some such cause, Grand Lodge Law No. 126 does not apply but that the position is governed by the duties of a Worshipful Master as explained to him in the Ritual of the Opening Ceremony. The Board held that the Worshipful Master should appoint a substitute, but may do so for one meeting only, and that a renewal of the appointment or

a fresh appointment must be made for each separate meeting of the Lodge at which the Worshipful Master is unable to be present, to hold good for that meeting only.

39.—AFFILIATIONS FROM GRAND LODGES WHICH HAVE BEEN SUPPRESSED OR CEASED WORKING

The Board made the following ruling:— If a Brother seeks affiliation from a Constitution that has been suppressed or which has ceased to work, but which was in Amity and exchanged Representatives with the Grand Lodge of Ireland up to the time of its suppression or cessation, he must produce his Certificate or a document corresponding thereto, showing that he was a Mason in good standing before the suppression or cessation of the Constitution under which he was initiated, and the Lodge to which he wishes to affiliate must make all possible enquiries about him. The result of these enquiries must be sent to the Grand Secretary, and the Brother concerned shall not be balloted for until the permission of the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master shall have been given.

40.—NO ENDORSEMENT TO BE MADE ON M.M. CERTIFICATE

Grand Lodge approved the following ruling of the Board:— That under no circumstances may an addition of any kind be made to a M.M. Certificate after it has been issued, other than the signature of the Brother in whose name it is made out.

41.—Re LODGE MEETINGS ON LICENSED PREMISES

The Board held that the intention of Grand Lodge Law No. 111 was to prevent Lodges from meeting in premises where intoxicating liquor was sold, except under sanction as laid down in the said Law, so it ruled that if a Club Licence or any other Licence for the sale of intoxicating liquor was obtained for premises in which Lodges met, that fact did constitute those premises a tavern and so brought them within the restrictions laid down in Grand Lodge Law No. 111.

42.—W.M. POWER TO REFUSE ADMISSION TO VISITING BROTHER

Law 143, which provides that the Master shall have power to refuse admission to any Brother whose admission would, in the opinion of the Master, disturb the harmony of the Lodge, necessarily imports that where the Master knows, or has reason to anticipate, that a Brother whose admission he would feel bound to refuse, will or may seek admission, the Master (in order to obviate the unpleasantness of a refusal in Open Lodge) has power to give the necessary instructions to the Tyler in advance.

43.—HONORARY MEMBER

A ruling of Grand Lodge was sought in the case of the election of an Honorary Member of a Lodge who desired to become a member of that Lodge.

The Board ruled that an Honorary Member of a Lodge desiring to become a Member of the Lodge must be proposed, seconded and balloted for in accordance with the first paragraph of Grand Lodge Law No. 127.

44.—WEARING OF JEWELS

Grand Lodge approved the following ruling of the Board:—“Grand Lodge Law No. 11 applies to meetings for refreshment as well as for labour.”

45.—USE OF TAPE RECORDER

The Board was asked for permission to use a tape recorder for providing music in the Lodge Room during the giving of Degrees and also for the opening and closing.

The Board ruled that permission could not be given for the use in Lodge of a tape recorder for any purpose whatsoever. The Board also ruled that it is not permissible for any Brother to bring a tape recorder or any other form of recording instrument into Lodge with him. The Board agreed that a record player or a playback instrument

can be used in Lodges for the purpose of playing Masonic pre-recorded music providing such instruments are intrinsically incapable of recording sound.

It was recommended that any breach of this ruling should be subject to very severe penalties.

46.—REDUCED SUBSCRIPTION

Grand Lodge confirmed the following decision:— Subject to the provisions of Grand Lodge Law No. 155, a Lodge may grant a reduced subscription to Members reaching normal retiring age or being permanently retired at an earlier age due to illness or disability or redundancy.

47.—COUNTRY MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICE IN LODGE

The Board was asked to make a ruling on the eligibility for Office of Brethren paying country members' subscriptions and Grand Lodge confirmed the following decision:— A Brother paying and continuing to pay a Country Membership Subscription in one Irish Constitution Lodge only shall not be eligible for Office in that Lodge whilst he is paying such Subscription.

Subject to the permission of the Deputy Grand Master in the Metropolitan District and elsewhere than in a Province or Inspectorate or of a Provincial Grand Master in a Province or of a Grand Inspector in an Inspectorate overseas, a Brother who is a Subscribing member, i.e., a full Subscribing Member of one Lodge and a Country Member of one or more other Lodges in the Irish Constitution, shall be eligible for election to Office in the Lodge or Lodges of which he is a Country Member.

48.—SUITABILITY OF CANDIDATES AND COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION

(a) The Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes directs the attention of Lodges to the fact that it is the duty of every member of a Lodge to be satisfied as to the suitability of every Candidate proposed for membership of his Lodge.

If it seems desirable, the appointment of Scrutineers or a Sub-Committee of Members to assist the Lodge in examining the suitability of a Candidate after proposal in Open Lodge is in accordance with the spirit of Grand Lodge Laws.

(b) At a Committee of Inspection, any objection to a Candidate must be such that he might be considered unfit for Freemasonry in general. The Committee's decision shall be by open voting, one adverse vote to exclude.

If someone has an objection it is recommended that he communicate with the Secretary of the Committee who may ask him to meet the Lodge's Representative beforehand for private discussion.

49.—LODGE SUMMONSES

The Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes considered suggestions that Lodges be permitted to issue an Annual Card or Circular giving the dates of Communications having regard to the steep increase in Postal and Printing Charges. The Board agreed to the idea provided that when a Ballot or a Notice of Motion or an Emergency Communication or when the Worshipful Master would consider it desirable, that Notices would be issued on each of these occasions.

50.—STEWARD OF CHARITIES AND ALMONER

The Board decided that where there is some overriding reason, or in a Lodge with a small Membership, the Offices of Steward of Charities and Almoner may be held by the same Brother. It is not a requirement that either Office be held by a Past Master. Where both Offices are held by one Brother, he should be invested in the Senior Office and have both Charges read to him consecutively.

It is recommended that the Steward of Charities be an active (young) Mason who can actively promote a high level of charitable donations; and that the Almoner be an experienced Mason who can actively visit and maintain contact with members, their widows and children, who may need help or assistance of a financial or caring nature.

Both Officers will need to work closely together and maintain contact with the various Charitable Bodies.

51.—BALLOT BOX

The Board decided in connection with the ballot box, that, if there be more than one Candidate for initiation or affiliation, then separate ballots must be held, unless the ballot box makes provision for multiple ballots in separate compartments.

52.—CLARIFICATION OF THE TEN YEAR RULE ON TENURE OF OFFICES AND APPOINTMENTS

On completion of a total of ten years in Office as Secretary or Treasurer; or ten years, part as Secretary and the remainder as Treasurer, or vice versa, a Brother shall not be re-elected to either Office, or as Assistant Secretary or Assistant Treasurer, except by dispensation, as set out in the Rule. A Brother who has completed ten years in Office, as above, shall not subsequently be eligible for election as Director of Ceremonies, though he may be eligible for election to the other non-rotational Offices, such as Steward of Charities, Almoner or Chaplain. This decision to apply equally to Provincial Grand Lodge Offices as to subordinate Lodge Offices.

DECISION NO. 52 AMENDED FOLLOWING THE GRAND LODGE RESOLUTION OF 2ND MARCH, 2002.

53.—AT THE FUNERAL OF A BROTHER

At its Stated Meeting on 15th November, 1990, the Board considered a letter from the Provincial Grand Secretary of Antrim asking if it was permissible for Brethren attending the funeral of a Brother to cast sprigs of acacia in the grave as a sign of mourning. The Board decided that it was permissible for one Brother, representing all those present, to cast a sprig of acacia into the grave, providing that permission had first been sought and given by the widow or close family of the deceased Brother.

54.—TEMPORARY REMOVAL OF A WARRANT

The Board considered the increasingly common practice of Lodges seeking to meet in locations other than those to which their Warrant was issued. The board ruled that Warrants are issued to a particular location and cannot be removed therefrom except where a Lodge wished to hold a meeting in the Headquarters of Irish Freemasonry at Freemasons' Hall, Dublin. This prohibition on the 'travelling' of a Warrant to refer particularly to any suggestion of the Warrant being removed outside the jurisdiction and to places where other Grand Lodges hold sway or areas where territory is shared, by agreement. This Decision was amended in 2001 to permit temporary removal of a Warrant where a dispensation had been granted by the Provincial Grand Master.

55.—JEWELS FOR PAST OFFICERS OF LODGES

The Board ruled that the Irish Constitution did not make provision for jewels for Past Officers of Lodges.

56.—TRUSTEES

At its Stated Meeting held on 3rd December, 2009, the Board decided that any Brother who has ceased to be a member of the Order, whether by retirement, resignation, expulsion, suspension, or by any other cause whatsoever, shall thereupon cease to hold any office of Trustee or any other office within or in connection with the Order.

57.—RITUAL

At its Stated Meeting held on 14th September, 2006, the Board decided that all Ritual worked in a Lodge under the Irish Constitution must be in accordance with that laid down by Grand Lodge. It is strongly recommended that visitors from other, regular and recognised Constitutions do not participate in ceremonies during Labour, particularly the conferring of degrees. In rare and exceptional circumstances, where their participation is required, and permission having been granted, the visitor must first pass an examination in Irish Ritual by acknowledged experts.

THE OLD CHARGES
OF THE
Free and Accepted Masons
OF IRELAND
AS ORIGINALLY ISSUED FOR THE USE OF
LODGES IN
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND
1730

ALSO
THE CHARGE TO
NEW-ADMITTED BRETHREN
AS ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY
THE GRAND OFFICERS OF IRELAND
1734

THE CHARGES OF A FREEMASON

(Reprinted from the Version published in 1730 by Bro. John Pennell, Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland)

THE GENERAL HEADS

- I. Of God and Religion.
- II. Of the Civil Magistrates, Supreme and Subordinate.
- III. Of Lodges.
- IV. Of Masters, Wardens, Fellows, and Apprentices.
- V. Of the Management of the Craft in Working.
- VI. Of Behaviour, viz.:—
 1. In the Lodge while constituted.
 2. After the Lodge is over and the Brethren not gone.
 3. When Brethren meet without Strangers, but not in a formed Lodge.
 4. In presence of Strangers not Masons.
 5. At Home, and in the Neighbourhood.
 6. Towards a strange Brother.

I. CONCERNING GOD AND RELIGION

A Mason is obliged, by his Tenure, to obey the moral Law, and not to be a stupid Atheist, nor an irreligious Libertine; that is, Masons are to be good Men and true, or Men of Honour and Honesty, by whatever Denomination or persuasion they may be distinguished; whereby Masonry becomes the Centre of Union and the means of conciliating True Friendship among Persons that must otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance.

II. OF THE CIVIL MAGISTRATE, SUPREME AND SUBORDINATE

A Mason is to be a Peaceable Subject to the Civil Powers wherever he resides or works, and is never to be concerned in Plots or Conspiracies against the Peace and Welfare of the Nation, nor to behave himself undutifully to inferior Magistrates. Ancient Kings and Princes have been much disposed to encourage the Craftsmen because of their Peaceableness and Loyalty, whereby they practically answered the Cavils of their adversaries and promoted the Honour of the Fraternity, who ever flourished in the Times of Peace. So that if a Brother be a Rebel against the State he is not to be countenanced in his Rebellion, however, he may be pitied as an unhappy man; and, if convicted of no other Crime, though the Loyal Brotherhood must and ought to disown his Rebellion, and give no Umbrage or Ground of Political Jealousy to the Government for the time being, they cannot expel him from the Lodge, and his relation to it remains indefeasible.

III. OF LODGES

A Lodge is a place where Masons assemble and work; hence that Assembly or duly organised Society of Masons is called a Lodge, and every Brother ought to belong to one, and to be subject to its Bylaws and the General Regulations. It is either particular or general, and will be best understood by attending it, and by the Regulations of the General or Grand Lodge hereunto annexed. In ancient times no Master or Fellow could be absent from it, especially when warned to appear at it, without incurring a severe censure, until it appeared to the Master and Wardens that pure necessity hindered him.

The persons admitted Members of a Lodge must be good and true Men, free-born and of mature and discreet age, no Bondmen, no Women, no immoral or scandalous Men, but of good report.

IV. OF MASTERS, WARDENS, FELLOWS, AND APPRENTICES

All Preferment among Masons is grounded upon real Worth, and personal Merit only, that the Lords may be well served, the Brethren not put to shame, nor the Royal Craft despised. Therefore no Master or Warden is chosen by Seniority, but for his Merit. and no Master should take an Apprentice unless he has sufficient employment for him, and unless he be a Perfect Youth, having no maim or defect in his body, that may render him incapable of learning the Art, of serving his Lord, of being made a Brother and Fellow-Craft, and in due time a Master, and, when qualified, he may arrive to the honour of being Warden, then Master of a Lodge, then Grand Warden, and at length Grand Master of all the Lodges, according to Merit.

No Brother can be a Master, Warden, or Deacon of a Lodge, until he has passed the part of a Fellow-Craft; and the Grand Master has power to choose his own deputy, who must likewise have passed the part of a Fellow-Craft.

These Officers are to be obeyed in their respective Stations, by all the Brethren, with all Humility, Reverence, Love, and Alacrity.

V. OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CRAFT IN WORKING

All Masons shall work honestly on working days, that they may live creditably on holy days; and the times appointed by the Law of the Land, or confirmed by Custom, shall be observed.

The most expert of the Fellow-Craftsmen shall be chosen or appointed the Master, or Overseer of the Lord's work, who is to be called Master by those that work under him. The Craftsmen are to avoid all ill Language, and to call each other by no disobliging Name, but Brother or Fellow, and to behave themselves, courteously within and without the Lodge.

The Master, knowing himself to be able of Cunning, shall undertake the Lord's Work as reasonably as possible, and truly dispend his Goods as if they were his own; nor give more Wages to any Brother Apprentice than he really may deserve.

Both the Master and the Masons receiving their Wages justly, shall be faithful to their Lord and honestly finish their Work, whether Task or Journey; nor put the Work to Task that hath been accustomed to Journey.

None shall envy the Prosperity of a Brother, not supplant him, or put him out of work, if he be capable to finish the same.

All Masons employed shall meekly receive their Wages without Murmuring or Mutiny, and not desert the Master until the Work is finished.

A younger Brother shall be instructed in working, to prevent spoiling the Materials for want of Judgment, and for increasing and continuing of Brotherly Love.

All Tools used in working shall be approved of by Grand Lodge. No Labourer shall be employed in the proper Work of Masonry; nor shall they teach Labourers and unaccepted Masons, as they should teach a Brother.

VI. OF BEHAVIOUR

1.—IN THE LODGE WHILE CONSTITUTED

You are not to hold private Committees, or separate Conversation, without Leave from the Master, nor to talk of any Thing impertinent or unseemly, nor interrupt the Master or Wardens, or any Brother speaking to the Master. Nor behave yourself ludicrously or jestingly while the Lodge is engaged in what is serious and solemn; nor use any unbecoming Language upon any Pretence whatsoever; but to pay due Reverence to your Master, Wardens and Fellows.

If any Complaint be brought the Brother found guilty shall stand to the Award and Determination of the Lodge but you must never go to Law about what concerneth Masonry, without an absolute Necessity apparent to the Lodge.

2.—BEHAVIOUR AFTER THE LODGE IS OVER AND THE BRETHREN NOT GONE

You may enjoy yourself with innocent Mirth, treating one another according to Ability; but avoiding all excess or forcing any Brother to eat or drink beyond his Inclination, or hindering him from going when his Occasions call him, or doing or saying anything offensive, or that may hinder an easy and free Conversation; for that would blast our Harmony and defeat our laudable Purposes. Therefore no private Piques or Quarrels must be brought within the Door of the Lodge, far less any Quarrels about Religion, or Nations, or State Policy, we being only, as Masons, of the Catholic Religion abovementioned; we are also of all Nations, Tongues, Kindred and Languages, and are resolved against all Politicks as what never yet conduced to the Welfare of any Lodge, nor ever will.

3.—BEHAVIOUR WHEN THE BRETHREN MEET WITHOUT STRANGERS, BUT NOT IN A FORMED LODGE

You are to salute one another in a courteous manner, as you will be instructed, calling each other Brother, freely giving mutual Instruction as shall be thought expedient without being overseen or overheard, and without encroaching upon each other, or derogating from that Respect which is due to any Brother, were he not a Mason. For though all Masons are Brethren upon the same Level, yet Masonry takes no Honour from a Man that he had before; nay, rather it adds to his Honour, especially if he has deserved well of the Brotherhood, who must give Honour to whom it is due, and avoid ill Manners.

4.—BEHAVIOUR IN PRESENCE OF STRANGERS NOT MASONS

You shall be cautious in your Words and Carriage, that the most penetrating Stranger shall not be able to discover or find out what is not proper to be intimated; and sometimes you shall divert a Discourse and manage prudently, for the Honour of the worshipful Fraternity.

5.—BEHAVIOUR AT HOME AND IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

You are to act as becomes a moral and wise Man; particularly not to let your Family, Friends or Neighbours know the Concerns of the Lodge, &c., but wisely to consult your own Honour, and that of the Ancient Brotherhood, for Reasons not here to be mentioned. You must also consult your Health, by not continuing together too late, or too long from home after Lodge Hours are past; and by avoiding Gluttony or Drunkenness that your Families be not neglected, or injured, nor you disabled from Work, or other Business. You are likewise honestly to pay the Debts you contract, and not to contract Debts, but such as in your conscience you know yourself able and willing to pay, and that in a reasonable Time that the Craft be not Despised, nor the Brotherhood evil spoken of on your Account.

6.—BEHAVIOUR TO A STRANGE BROTHER

You are cautiously to examine him, in such a Method as Prudence shall direct you, that you may not be imposed upon by an ignorant, false Pretender, whom you are to reject with Contempt and Derision, and beware of giving him any Hints of Knowledge. But, if you discover him to be a true and genuine Brother, you are to respect him accordingly; and if he is in want, you must relieve him if you can, or else direct him how he may be relieved. You must employ him some days, or else recommend him to be employed; but you are not to do beyond your Ability nor prejudice yourself, only to prefer a poor Brother, that is a good Man and true, before any other Person in the same Circumstances.

Finally: All these Charges you are to observe, and also those that shall be communicated to you in another way; cultivating Brotherly Love, the Foundation and Copestone, the Cement and Glory of this ancient Fraternity; avoiding all Wrangling and Quarrelling, all Slander and Backbiting, nor permitting others to slander any honest Brother; but defending his Character and doing him all good offices, as far as is consistent with your Honour and Safety, and no farther. And if any of them do you Injury, you must apply to your own Lodge, and from thence you may appeal to the Grand Lodge, at the Quarterly Communication, and from thence to the annual Grand Lodge, as has been the ancient laudable Conduct of our Forefathers in every Nation, never taking a legal Course but when the Case cannot be otherwise decided, and patiently listening to the honest and friendly Advice of Master and Fellows when they would prevent your going to Law with Strangers, or would excite you to put a speedy Period to all Law Suits, that so you may mind the affairs of Masonry with the more Alacrity and Success. But with respect to Brothers or Fellows at Law, the Master and Brethren should kindly offer their Mediation which ought to be thankfully submitted to by the contending Brethren; and if that Submission is impracticable, they must, however, carry on their Process, or Law Suit, without Wrath and Rancour (not in the common way), saying or doing nothing which may hinder Brotherly Love and good Offices to be renewed and continued, that all may see the benign influence of Masonry, as all true Masons have done from the Beginning of the World, and will do to the end of Time.

Amen.

THE E.: A.: CHARGE

(Reprinted from the original issue, published under the sanction of the Grand Officers of Ireland, in Brother William Smith's Freemasons' Pocket Companion, Dublin 1734.)

A SHORT CHARGE

TO BE GIVEN TO

NEW-ADMITTED BRETHREN

You are now admitted by the unanimous Consent of our Lodge, a Fellow of our most Ancient and Honourable Society; Ancient as having subsisted from Time immemorial, and Honourable, as tending in every Particular to render a Man so that he will be but conformable to its glorious Precepts. The Greatest Monarchs in all Ages, as well as of Asia and Africa, as of Europe, have been Encouragers of the Royal Art; and many of them have presided as Grand Masters over the Masons in their respective Territories, not thinking it any lessening to their Imperial Dignities to level themselves with their Brethren in Masonry, and to act as they did. The World's Great Architect is our Supreme Master, and the unerring Rule He has given us is that by which we work.

Religious disputes are never suffered in the Lodge; for, as Masons, we only pursue the universal Religion, or the Religion of Nature. This is the Cement which unites Men of the most different principles in one sacred Band, and brings together those who were the most distant from one another.

There are three general Heads of Duty which Masons ought always to inculcate, viz.: to God, our Neighbours, and Ourselves. To God,

in never mentioning His name but with that Reverential Awe which becomes a Creature to bear to his Creator, and to look upon Him always as the *Summum Bonum* which we came into the world to enjoy; and according to that View to regulate all our pursuits.

To our neighbours, in acting upon the Square, or doing as we would be done by.

To Ourselves, in avoiding all Intemperances, and Excesses, whereby we may be rendered incapable of following our Work, or led into behaviour unbecoming our laudable Profession, and in always keeping within due bounds and free from all Pollution.

In the State, a *Mason* is to behave as a peaceable and dutiful Subject, conforming cheerfully to the Government under which he lives. He is to pay a due Deference to his Superiors, and from his Inferiors he is rather to receive Honour with some Reluctance, than to extort it.

He is to be a Man of Benevolence and Charity, not sitting down contented while his Fellow Creatures, but much more his Brethren, are in Want, when it is in his Power (without prejudicing himself or Family) to relieve them.

In the Lodge, he is to behave with all due Decorum, lest the Beauty and Harmony thereof should be disturbed or broken.

He is to be obedient to the Master and presiding Officers, and to apply himself closely to the Business of *Masonry*, that he may sooner become a Proficient therein, both for his own Credit, and that of the Lodge.

He is not to neglect his own necessary avocations, for the sake of *Masonry*, nor to involve himself in Quarrels with those who through Ignorance may speak evil of or ridicule it.

He is to be a Lover of the Arts and Sciences, and to take all Opportunities of improving himself therein.

If he recommends a Friend to be made a Mason, he must vouch him to be such as he really believes will conform to the aforesaid Duties lest by his Misconduct at any Time the Lodge should pass under some evil Imputations. Nothing can prove more shocking to all faithful MASONS than to see any of their Brethren profane or break through the sacred Rules of their Order, and such as can do it they wish had never been admitted.

APPROBATION

“We, the Grand Master of the Right Worshipful and Most Ancient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, the Deputy Grand-Master, and the Grand-Wardens, having perused this *pocket companion*, do give our solemn Approbation for the printing the same; and do recommend it for the Use of the Brethren.”

Kingsland, Grand Master.	}	(1734)
James Brennan, M.D., Deputy.		
Wm. Cobbe		
John Baldwin		
}	Esqrs. G.W.	

EXTERNAL FORMS
and
CEREMONIES

FOR USE IN THE LODGES

*Recommended by the Grand Lodge of
Instruction, 11th May, 1899.*

*W.J. CHETWODE CRAWLEY,
Grand. Sec. Inst.*

Approved by the Grand Lodge, 1st June, 1899.

*CASTLETOWN,
G.S.*

INTRODUCTION

THE OLD CHARGES refer to the Craft of Masonry under two denominations. Operative and Speculative. The skill of the operative Fraternity, handed down from generation to generation by oral tradition in secret Lodges, was displayed in building material edifices, conspicuous for Wisdom of Design, Strength of Construction and Beauty of Figure. The corresponding task of Speculative Craftsmen is to take their share in building up a moral edifice, which shall display to like advantage the social, intellectual, and spiritual faculties with which it has pleased the Great Architect of the Universe to endow the Brethren.

The Articles, Obligations and Sanctions of the Mediaeval Brotherhood, designed to prevent knowledge from falling into unworthy hands, serve the same purpose to-day, though the Operative has become merged in the Speculative aspect of the Fraternity. The Ceremonies, Methods and Implements of the Operative Brethren continue to condense and convey instruction which, without such Emblems, Symbols and Mnemonics, would run the risk of being distorted or lost in the Vicissitudes of oral tradition. It behoves every Freemason, therefore, to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the outer forms, as well as with the inner teaching of our Ritual, so that neither encroachment on our Ancient Landmarks, nor deviation from our Established Usages shall take place.

THE MANNER
OF
CONSTITUTING A LODGE
INCLUDING THE
CEREMONY OF INSTALLATION
ETC.

An application for a Warrant to erect a new Lodge must be by petition to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge. It must be signed by not less than three regularly registered Master Masons, and the Lodges to which they belong, or formerly belonged, must be specified. The names and Lodges of all the Brethren who are to be thus formed into a new Lodge must be appended to the application.

The Brethren nominated as the first Master and Wardens must sign the application, and must be Master Masons of at least five years' standing.

The petition should whenever practicable, have the recommendation of three regular Lodges in the district where the new Lodge is to be held; and if the new Lodge is to be held within the limits of a Masonic Province it must also have the recommendation of the Provincial Grand Lodge, or of the Provincial Grand Master (or his Deputy). Each Signatory to a Memorial shall produce to the Grand Secretary or (if the new Lodge is to be held within the limits of a Masonic Province) to the Provincial Grand Secretary, as a condition precedent to the recommendation of the Memorial, a clearance certificate or demit from the last Lodge of which he has been a member, or, if he be still a subscribing member of another Lodge or

Lodges, a certificate or certificates in the prescribed form, from the Secretary or Secretaries of the Lodge or Lodges of which he is a member, that he is in good standing, and that all dues have been paid by him up to date. Any signatory may also be called upon to produce his Grand Lodge Certificate. The fee payable for the Warrant must be deposited along with the petition in the Grand Secretary's Office. The Grand Secretary shall then lay the petition before the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes for their consideration and shall submit their report thereon to the Grand Lodge (*See G.L. Laws, Nos. 104 to 106*).

FORM OF PETITION

The following is the form of petition, copies of which may be had at the Grand Secretary's Office:—

“To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland.

We, the undersigned, being regularly registered Master Masons of the Lodges specified against our respective names, having the prosperity of the Fraternity at heart, and being anxious to use our best endeavours to promote and diffuse the principles of Freemasonry, are desirous of forming ourselves into a New Lodge.

In pursuance of this desire, we pray for a Warrant of Constitution, empowering us to assemble as a regular Lodge,* at in the town of and county of , to be called theLodge, and to meet as aforesaid, within the limits of the Masonic Province of there to discharge the duties of Freemasonry in a regular and constitutional manner, according to the usages of the Craft, and the Laws of the Grand Lodge; and we have nominated and do recommend Brother (A.B.=) to be the first Master, and Brother (C.D.=) to be the first Senior Warden, and Brother (E.F.=) to be the first Junior Warden of the said Lodge. The prayer of this petition being granted, we promise strict obedience to all the Laws and Regulations of the Craft, and to the Edicts and Commands of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge.”

* See G.L. Laws “Subordinate Lodges”. No. 103 et seq.

= These Brethren must be Master Masons of at least five years' standing and particulars of their Lodges must be appended.

CEREMONY OF CONSTITUTION

In the event of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Assistant Grand Master, or the Provincial Grand Master (or his Deputy) not being able to attend in person, they, or any of them, may delegate, by written authority under hand and seal, power to constitute to any three Grand Officers, or to the Worshipful Master and Wardens of any Subordinate Lodge.

If the Grand Master is present in person, the Lodge is said to be opened in *ample form*; if the Deputy Grand Master or the Assistant Grand Master or the Provincial Grand Master presides, it is said to be opened in *due form*; in all other cases the Lodge is said to be opened in form.

The Presiding Officer and the Brethren in attendance on him form in procession, and enter the Lodge-room wherein the other Brethren are already assembled. Three suitable vessels containing respectively Corn, Wine, and Oil, and the Three Great Lights, are borne before the Presiding Officer by Past Masters or other Senior Brethren. When silence has been proclaimed the Presiding Officer takes the Chair, and appoints to the Wardens' Chairs, the Brethren designated in authority to constitute. The Subordinate Offices are then filled as may be expedient, and the Presiding Officer proceeds to open the Lodge on the First Degree, as an Occasional Lodge for the purpose of Constitution only.

When this ceremony has been completed, the Acting Secretary of the new Lodge announces:

“Sundry Brethren, to wit, Bros.* _____ duly instructed in the Mysteries of Freemasonry and having the interest of the Craft at heart, are desirous of forming themselves into a new Lodge. With this intent, they have applied to the Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Grand Lodge for a Warrant or Charter of Constitution, which has been granted to them. These Brethren are now in attendance, and await the pleasure of the Grand Lodge.”

* Recapitulating their Names and Lodges.

The Presiding Officer informs the Brethren that he is empowered to constitute them into a Lodge; and, if he be other than the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Assistant Grand Master or the Provincial Grand Master (or his Deputy), orders the written authority under which he acts to be read. He then calls on the Acting Secretary to produce and read the Warrant, which, together with the Furniture, Insignia, and Jewels of the Lodge, are entrusted to his keeping till the Officers have been installed. The Acting Secretary must also submit for the inspection of the presiding Officer the Roll of Officers and Members of the new Lodge, and copies of the *Laws and Constitutions* of Grand Lodge, and of the *By-laws* of the Lodge. These preliminaries having been complied with, the Presiding Officer proceeds to dedicate the Lodge.

The Presiding Officer calls the Brethren to prayer, and, all assuming a posture of devotion, the Chaplain reads the following prayer:—

PRAYER

Almighty God, Great Architect of the Universe, who hast laid the foundations of the Earth, and reared the Heavens on high, mercifully look upon Thy servants now assembled before Thee, and grant that our labours begun in Thy name, may be continued under Thy direction, and ended to Thy glory. Graciously bestow upon us Wisdom in all our undertakings, Strength in all our difficulties and the Beauty of Harmony in all our Communications. Let Faith be the foundation of our Hope, and Charity the fruit of our obedience to Thy will.

May all who shall be appointed to rule in this Lodge be under Thy special guidance and protection, so that they may faithfully fulfil their obligations to Thee and to the Lodge. May all who enter the Lodge have but one heart and one mind, to serve, and to honour, and to obey Thee, as Thy Majesty and beneficence require, and to love one another as Thou hast loved us. May the Great Light of the Sacred Law, ever present in our Lodges, illumine our minds with its steadfast rays, to the end that Peace and Contentment, Love and

Charity, Harmony and Happiness, may dwell triumphant in our hearts. May we here meet in Thy presence as a band of Brethren who were brought into being by the same Almighty parent, are daily sustained by the same bountiful power, and are travelling the same road to the gate of Death.

And finally, when the time of our earthly labour is drawing to an end, and the Pillar of our Strength is lowered to the ground, enable us, supported by Thy rod and Thy staff, to pass through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, to those mansions eternal in the Heavens where Peace, and Love, and Harmony, such as the world cannot give, for ever reign before Thy Throne. *Amen.*

The Brethren all answer aloud— “Glory to God on high, on earth peace, goodwill towards men. So mote *it be*”.

(Solemn Music may here be introduced.)

* * * *

The Vessels containing Corn, Wine, and Oil are then borne in procession, thrice round the Lodge room, before the Presiding Officer, who halting in the East on the first round, scatters Corn on the Altar; on the second round sprinkles Wine, and on the third sprinkles Oil. He accompanies these actions with announcements to the following effect:

FIRST ROUND

“I scatter Corn, in token of Prosperity and Plenty.”

SECOND ROUND

“I sprinkle Wine, in token of Cheerfulness and Joy.”

THIRD ROUND

“I sprinkle Oil, in token of Peace, Love and Harmony”

And each time the Brethren shall respond — *So mote it be.*

The Presiding Officer having resumed his seat, the Three Great Lights are borne in procession thrice round the Lodge. The Senior Brother in the procession, requests the Presiding Officer to place the Three Great Lights in proper position for the use of the new Lodge. The Presiding Officer does this in person, and makes proclamation to the following effect:—

“By virtue of the authority entrusted to me I place in proper position for the use of Lodge No., the Three Great Lights, without which no Work can be lawfully transacted in the Lodge.”

Then, directing the Brethren to assume a posture of devotion, the Presiding Officer delivers the Invocation.

“Invoking the blessing and favour of the all-merciful and gracious Creator, of whose free and universal Bounty this Corn, Wine, and Oil are the significant emblems, and of whose Laws the Three Great Lights are the symbols to us, I dedicate this Lodge of Freemasons to Virtue, Truth, and universal Benevolence. *Amen. So mote it be.*”

The Brethren all respond— “The Lord is gracious and His mercy endureth for ever. *Amen. So mote it be.*”

* * * *

The Presiding Officer then resumes his seat; the Brethren do likewise, and the Ceremony of Dedication ends with an Anthem or other solemn music.

The Presiding Officer then calls upon the members of the new Lodge to come forward. The Acting Secretary reads their names, beginning with the Worshipful Master, from the Roll placed on the Pedestal. The Brethren advance in order towards the East, and stand before the Chair, the Presiding Officer and the other Brethren being seated. The Presiding Officer thus addresses them:—

“By virtue of the authority vested in me, I constitute and form you, my Trusty Brethren, into a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. I empower you to act hence-forward as a regular Lodge, constituted in conformity with the Laws and Usages of the Grand Lodge, the Charges of our Ancient and Honourable Society, and the Ancient Landmarks of the Craft; and may God be with you. *Amen. So mote it be.*”

The Presiding Officer, advancing to the front of the dais, directs the Wardens to declare the Lodge (designating it by its title and number) to be at labour, &c. &c.

He then calls on the rest of the Brethren present to salute the newly constituted Lodge, after which a suitable Charge or Address on the history, tenets, and duties of Freemasonry should be delivered by the Presiding Officer, or such other competent Brother as he shall appoint.

(Solemn Music may here be introduced.)

* * * *

The Presiding Officer proceeds to install the Officers of the new Lodge in the manner hereinafter prescribed; which form is also to be observed at the installation of a new Worshipful Master and Officers in Lodges previously established.

FORM OF INSTALLATION

(No Officers can be Installed otherwise than in Open Lodge, at Labour on the E.A. Degree.)

1. The Warrant, II, the Book of Constitutions, together with the Bylaws of the Lodge. and III. The Volume of the Sacred Law, are borne in procession before the Master elect, who is conducted thrice round the lodge by two Past Masters, or two Senior Master Masons, to the steps of the Throne, and presented to the Worshipful Master as follows:

“Worshipful Master— We present unto you this our worthy Brother to be installed Master of this Lodge. We know him to be of good morals and great skill, true and trusty, and a lover of the whole Fraternity, wherever dispersed over the face of the earth.”

The Worshipful Master then informs the Master elect that his assent is required to the Old Charges, and proceeds to read the following summary of them:—

“1.—You are to be a good man and true, and strictly obey the Moral Law.

2.—You are not to be concerned in plots or conspiracies against the State, but you are to be a peaceable subject, and cheerfully to conform to the laws of the country wherein you reside.

3.—You are to respect the civil magistrate; to work diligently, live creditably, and act honourably to all men.

4.—You are to obey the rulers and governors of the Society of Freemasons, Supreme and Subordinate in their several stations; and submit to the awards and resolutions of your Brethren.

5.—You are to avoid all private piques and quarrels, as unworthy of a Mason; and to guard against all manner of Intemperance and excess.

6.—You are to be cautious and prudent in your behaviour, courteous to your Brethren, and faithful to the Lodge to which you belong.

7.—You are to respect all genuine Brethren and to discountenance all impostors.

8.—* You are strictly to attend to the duties of the Grand Lodge, and to see that they be similarly attended to by your Wardens, so that the dignity of the Society may be supported.

9.—You are to promote to the utmost of your ability the general good of the Society, to cultivate the social virtues, and to be always ready either to give or receive instruction.”

The Worshipful Master then addresses the Master elect thus:—

“Do you now, Brother, cheerfully submit to these several charges and regulations, and promise to support them as all good Masons have done?”

The Master elect having signified his assent, the Worshipful Master shall then proceed as follows:—

“Then, Brother, in consequence of the recommendation I have received of you, and your cheerful conformity to the Charges and Regulations rehearsed, and since it is the will and pleasure of the Brethren of this Lodge that you become Master thereof for the usual time, as they confide in your known good behaviour, and deem you a fit and proper person to discharge the duties of said Office; I am ready and willing to admit you thereto, and install you therein; cautioning you that you are not only to walk uprightly before God and Man, and strictly to maintain the Ancient Landmarks and Constitutions of Freemasonry in general, but also to obey the Laws of Grand Lodge, and the By-laws of this Lodge in particular, which shall be delivered to you along with the implements of your Office.”

* ‘This charge may be omitted if the Lodge does not meet in the Metropolitan District or in a Masonic Province. If in a Masonic Province, insert “Provincial” before the words “Grand Lodge.”

Here the Worshipful Master calls upon all Brethren who have not passed the Chair to retire from the Lodge room.

The Master elect shall then receive the Secret Instructions in the presence of none but Installed Masters (Actual or Past), of whom at least three must be present.

When the Secret Instructions have been communicated, the Brethren who retired are to be recalled and the newly Installed Worshipful Master proclaimed according to Ancient Usage.

The Immediate Past Master (or Installing Master) then addresses him thus:—

“First — I deliver to you this Maul, which shows your authority to the Brethren, testifying to them to whom the title of Worshipful Master belongs.

Secondly — I invest you with this Collar and Jewel as the Insignia of your Office, and ornamental badges of Freemasonry, that have with pride been worn at all times by Masters of Lodges. Observe, the Jewel is a Square denoting in its moral sense, that you are always so to square your life and actions as to convince all men that you are worthy of the pre-eminence conferred upon you; and in its Masonic sense, that as when applied to work it shows whether it be straight, even, and correct, so it is to remind you that it should be your constant care to see that not only your own conduct and actions, but also those of the Brethren entrusted to your charge, are straight, even and correct.

Thirdly — I render unto you the Volume of the Sacred Law, which contains the rules and precepts whereby all men, but particularly Freemasons, ought to govern and regulate their entire course of life.

Fourthly — I give unto you this Book of the Constitutions of Freemasonry, together with the By-laws of the Lodge, by which you are to regulate your conduct as Worshipful Master, and to direct the actions of those under your authority.

And lastly — I hand over to you the Warrant of this Lodge, being the authority under which its meetings are held.”

The Installing Master then proceeds thus:—

“We most heartily wish you all happiness, and pray God of His infinite mercy and goodness to guide and direct you in the governance of this Lodge, and keep you from being ever guilty of any breach of the duties of your important Office.” *Amen.*

After which, the New Master is saluted according to Ancient Usage.

* * * *

(Solemn Music may here be introduced.)

SENIOR WARDEN

The Senior Warden elect is then brought up by two Past Masters, or by two Senior Master Masons and similarly presented to the new Master, who thereupon invests him with the insignia of his Office, and thus addresses him:—

“Brother (X) you are by the consent of this Lodge, elected Senior Warden thereof for the usual time, in consequence of which I now invest you with this Collar and Jewel as the Insignia of your Office. Observe the Jewel is a Level, to denote to you, in its moral sense that in the original state of mankind all were meant to be on a level and, morally speaking, may be deemed so still; and in its Masonic sense, that you are to maintain the original principles of equality without subverting the distinctions necessary in the concerns of the Craft. Your early and regular attendance at your Lodge is particularly necessary, in order to assist to the utmost of your power and skill, in the good management thereof.”

The Senior Warden is then installed in his chair and saluted.

JUNIOR WARDEN

The Junior Warden elect is then, in like manner brought up to the new Master, who thereupon invests him with the Insignia of his Office, and thus addresses him:—

“Brother (X) you have been by the consent of this Lodge elected Junior Warden thereof for the usual time, in consequence of which I invest you with this Collar and Jewel as the Insignia of your Office. Observe the Jewel is a Plummet, with plumb-line affixed, to denote to you, in its moral sense, that you are at all times to be upright in your conduct; and in its Masonic sense, that, as your new office entails new responsibilities, you are to take especial care to act with perfect uprightness, when entrusted with the charge of your Brethren.”

The Junior Warden is then installed in his chair, and saluted.

TREASURER

The Treasurer (if that office is to be held separately from that of Secretary in the Lodge) is then brought up to the Master who invests him with the insignia of his Office. saying:—

“Brother (X) you are chosen to be the Treasurer of this Lodge, and I therefore invest you with the Insignia of your Office. Be faithful and diligent in the trust reposed in you, so that the Brethren may never have reason to alter their opinion of your integrity. It is expected that your accounts shall always be kept accurately, clearly, and intelligibly, and ready for inspection. Remember that the Lodge confides to you, not only its pecuniary resources, but its character and its credit. The due discharge of your important duty to the Lodge will justly entitle you to our gratitude.”

The Treasurer is then conducted to his seat, and saluted.

SECRETARY

The Secretary is then brought up to the Master and invested with the Insignia of his Office, when the Master addresses him thus:—

“Brother (X) you have been elected Secretary to this Lodge; it is your province to record the Minutes, to apprise the members of our Communications, to carry on the correspondence of the Lodge, and to make the due returns of Officers and members to the Grand Lodge. Your zeal for Freemasonry, and your attachment to this Lodge will, I am confident, induce you to discharge the duties of your Office with fidelity, as by so doing you will continue to merit the esteem and approbation of your Brethren.”

The Secretary is then conducted to his seat, and saluted.

CONJOINT OFFICES OF TREASURER AND SECRETARY

If the Offices of Treasurer and Secretary are held by the same Brother, the Master, when investing him with the Insignia of his Office, shall address him to the following effect:—

“Brother (X) I invest you with the Insignia of the conjoint Offices of Treasurer and Secretary of this Lodge. In your double capacity you will have confided to your care the collection of the dues payable to the Lodge, the discharge of its various liabilities, and the administration of its charity. In all these matters, you must be faithful, diligent and punctual, so that neither the resources of the Lodge may be impaired by your remissness, nor its character blemished by your improvidence. You will also have to keep the records of the Lodge, to apprise the members of its Communications, to carry on its correspondence, and to make proper returns to the Grand Lodge. I feel assured your conduct will justify the confidence your Brethren repose in you.”

The newly-invested Brother is then conducted to his seat, and saluted.

DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES

The Director of Ceremonies is then brought up to the Master, and invested with the Insignia of his Office, when the Master addresses him thus:—

“Brother (X) you have been elected as Director of Ceremonies of this Lodge. It is an important Office for it will be your responsibility to assist the Master to see that our Ceremonies are carried out with dignity and accuracy. Your early and regular attendance is essential so that all may be in readiness for each Communication of the Lodge.”

The Director of Ceremonies is then conducted to his seat, and saluted.

STEWARD OF CHARITIES

The Steward of Charities is then brought up to the Master, and invested with the Insignia of his Office, when the Master addresses him thus.’—

“Brother (X) you have been elected to the Office of Steward of Charities, an Office of great importance in the Craft and in which I have pleasure in investing you. Your responsibility is to see that the Brethren are at all times aware of the needs of the Charities and the necessity to support them to the utmost of their power. Your regular attendance at meetings will ensure that these ideals are kept well to the forefront of our thoughts and actions.”

The Steward of Charities is then conducted to his seat, and saluted.

ALMONER

The Almoner is then brought up to the Master, and invested with the Insignia of his Office, when the Master addresses him thus:—

“Brother (X) I now invest you as Almoner with the Insignia of your Office. Your duty is to attend to the comfort and comforting of the aged and unfortunate among your Brethren and their dependants.

You are to seek out the needy, visit the sick, administer to and, if possible, anticipate their requirements, remembering always that, in the particular sphere of your activities, you can bring joy and comfort to those who are in need.”

The Almoner is then conducted to his seat, and saluted.

CHAPLAIN

The Chaplain is presented to the Master and invested with the Insignia of his Office when the Master addresses him thus:—

“Brother (X) as Chaplain of this Lodge, you will be responsible for ensuring that at each Communication, whether regular or emergency, due acknowledgement is made of the Great Architect of the Universe whom we all seek to serve and obey in all our labours. You have also an important role to play in maintaining in the Lodge those great Masonic virtues of Peace, Love and Harmony through helping to spread Tolerance, Contentment and Happiness in all our undertakings.”

The Chaplain is then conducted to his seat, and saluted.

DEACONS AND INNER GUARD

The Deacons and Inner Guard are then invested with the Insignia of their respective Offices; upon which the Master addresses them as follows:—

“Brothers (X), (Y) and (Z) it is your province to attend on the Master and Wardens, and to act as their assistants in the active duties of the Lodge; such as the reception of candidates into the different Degrees of Freemasonry, and the constant practice of our ceremonies. These badges of your Office I entrust to your care, being assured of your vigilance and attention.”

The newly-invested Brethren are conducted to their seats, and saluted.

CHARGE IN CONCLUSION

The newly-installed Master then addresses the newly-installed and invested Officers in the following terms:—

“It is the will and pleasure of the Brethren forming this Lodge, that you are now to discharge the duties of your respective offices for the usual time. You have heard the Old Charges read to the Master, in fulfilling which, according to your several stations, you are each to bear a part; and further, you are to aid and support him in the good government and well-being of this Lodge. You are all, I trust, too well grounded in the principles of Freemasonry to require further instruction in the duties of your respective Offices; suffice to say, it is hoped and expected, that you will carefully imitate what you have seen praiseworthy in others, and avoid what may have appeared defective in their work. You are at all times to endeavour to promote good conduct and goodwill, thereby setting a bright example for the other members of the Lodge. To do all this properly, you must make yourself well acquainted with the general Constitutions of the Craft as well as the By-laws of the Lodge.”

W.M. gives one knock — all remaining Brethren rise.

‘And we pray the Great Architect of the Universe to bless your endeavours to discharge your duties towards the Lodge, and to give you grace to acquit yourselves in all things like men of probity and zeal. Amen’.

SO MOTE IT BE.

(Solemn Music may here be introduced.)

THE
CHARGES

APPOINTED FOR USE IN LODGES

THE FOLLOWING
CHARGES OR ADDRESSES
ARE APPOINTED FOR THE
THREE DEGREES

THE FIRST DEGREE
CHARGE TO A NEWLY-MADE BROTHER

Brother:— As you have now gone through the ceremony of initiation, allow me to congratulate you on being admitted, by the unanimous consent of the Lodge, a member of our Ancient and Honourable Society; Ancient, as embodying principles that have existed from time immemorial; and Honourable, as tending to make all those honourable who are strictly obedient to its precepts. No institution can boast a more solid foundation than that on which Freemasonry rests — the practice of social and moral virtue. And to so high an eminence has its credit been advanced, that even monarchs have become the promoters of the Craft; have not thought it beneath them to exchange the sceptre for the trowel; have become members of our Society; and taken part in our assemblies.

As a *Freemason*, I would first recommend to your most serious contemplation the Volume of the Sacred Law; charging you to consider it as the unerring standard of truth and morals, and to regulate your actions by the Divine precepts it contains. Thereby you will learn how to discharge your duty to your God, to your neighbour, and to yourself. To God, by never mentioning His Name save with the awe and reverence that are due from the creature to the Creator; by imploring His aid on all your undertakings; and by looking up to Him in every emergency for comfort and support. To your neighbour, by acting towards him uprightly; by rendering him every kind office that justice or mercy may require; by sympathising in his distresses, by soothing his afflictions, and by always doing to him as you would he should do unto you. To yourself, by such a

prudent and well-regulated course of discipline as may tend to preserve your faculties in their fullest energy, and may enable you to exert most usefully the talents with which God has blest you, as well to His glory as to the welfare of your fellow-creatures.

As a *Citizen*, I enjoin you to be exemplary in the discharge of your civil duties, by never proposing or countenancing anything which may disturb the peace and good order of society; by paying obedience to the laws of the State in which you reside, and by which you are protected; and by never losing sight of the allegiance you owe to the sovereign of your native land.

As an *Individual*, I would enjoin upon you the practice of every domestic as well as public virtue. Let *prudence* direct you; *temperance* chasten you; *fortitude* support you; and *justice* be the guide of all your actions. Bear constantly in mind the indispensable duties of Candour, Discretion and Fidelity. And be especially careful to maintain in their fullest vigour those truly Masonic characteristics, Benevolence and Brotherly Love.

SALUTE

THE SECOND DEGREE

CHARGE TO A NEWLY-PASSED FELLOW CRAFT

Brother:— As you have now been passed to the Second Degree of Freemasonry, it is my duty to remind you of the responsibilities, which, by your entrance into our Society, you have bound yourself to discharge, and of the necessity for a conscientious endeavour to fulfil your voluntary obligations. Your experience in the previous Degree will have given you an insight into our tenets; and in your new character it is expected that you will not only assent to the principles of the Craft, but steadily persevere in their practice.

The first Degree is intended to enforce the duties of Fidelity, Candour, and Discretion, and thereby to safeguard the noblest principles which can adorn the human mind; the second Degree extends the plan, and develops a comprehensive system of Benevolence. The responsibilities of your new position require you to be particularly attentive to your behaviour at our assemblies. You are never to neglect the duty of being present, when regularly summoned, at our meetings subject only to the exception already explained to you. You are to help the weak, to relieve the distressed, and to assist the struggling and industrious among your Fellows in the Craft, to the utmost of your power and ability.

As a *Craftsman*, in our private assemblies, you are entitled to offer your opinion on such subjects as are regularly introduced under the superintendence of the Master, whose duty it is to guard our Landmarks from encroachment. Thus you may improve your intellectual powers, qualify yourself to be a useful member of our Society, and eventually become a skilled Craftsman, by constantly striving to excel in what is good and great.

SALUTE

THE THIRD DEGREE

CHARGE TO A NEWLY-RAISED MASTER MASON

Brother:— Your zeal for the principles of Freemasonry, your progress in their practical application, and your obedience to our general regulations, have pointed you out as a fit object of esteem and advancement.

In the character of a Master Mason, you are henceforth authorised to warn the younger Brethren against conduct tending to any breach of fidelity, and to bring all irregular work into conformity with the general plan of Freemasonry. You are to inculcate universal

benevolence, and by the propriety of your own behaviour, to afford the best example for the conduct of others. The Ancient Landmarks of the Craft are to be your constant care, and you are to preserve them sacred and inviolate, and never to sanction an infringement of our customs, or a deviation from established usages.

Duty, honour, and gratitude now bind you to your trust; let no motive, therefore, ever make you swerve from your voluntary obligations. Imitate, rather, the example of that true and trusty Craftsman whom you have once represented. Endeavour, in a word, to convince the world that merit alone has been your title to our confidence, and that on you our privileges have been deservedly bestowed.

SALUTE

**PRAYERS
TO BE
USED IN LODGES**

TO BE USED AT THE OPENING OF
LODGES

May the favour of Heaven be upon this meeting; and as it is happily begun, may it be conducted with order, and closed with harmony. *Amen. So mote it be.*

TO BE USED AT THE CLOSING OF
LODGES

May the blessing of Heaven rest upon us, and all regular Masons; may brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement and unite us. *Amen. So mote it be.*

TO BE USED AT THE INITIATION OF
A CANDIDATE

Vouchsafe Thy needful aid, Almighty Architect of the Universe, to this our present convention; and grant that this Candidate for Masonry may dedicate his life to Thy service, and become a true and faithful Brother among us; endow him with a competence of Thy Divine Wisdom, that he may be better enabled to display the beauties of Godliness to the honour of Thy Holy Name. *Amen. So mote it be.*

TO BE USED AT PASSING A CANDIDATE TO
THE SECOND DEGREE

We supplicate Thine aid, O Merciful Lord, on behalf of ourselves and of him who now kneels before Thee: may the Work begun in Thy Name be continued to Thy glory, and evermore established in us, by obedience to Thy holy precepts. *Amen. So mote it be.*

TO BE USED AT RAISING A CANDIDATE
TO THE THIRD DEGREE

Almighty and Eternal Being, Thou great and glorious Architect of the Universe, by Whose creative word all things were made, we, the frail creatures of Thy Providence, implore Thee to pour on this our convention, assembled in Thy Holy Name, the continual dew of Thy blessing; more especially we beseech Thee to impart Thy grace to this Thy servant, who now offers himself a Candidate to partake with us the mysterious secrets of the Master Mason, endow him with such fortitude, that in the hour of trial he fail not; but that passing safely under Thy protection through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, he may finally arise from the tomb of transgression to attain everlasting life, and to shine with the stars for ever and ever. *Amen. So mote it be.*

RULES

OF

**The Grand Lodge
of Instruction**

As Approved by Grand Lodge

CONSTITUTION
OF
The Grand Lodge of Instruction

1.—The Grand Lodge of Instruction consists of the following Grand Officers as members *ex-officio*, viz.:—

- M.W. The Grand Master,
- R.W. The Deputy Grand Master,
- R.W. The Assistant Grand Master,
- R.W. The Grand Wardens,
- R.W. The Grand Treasurer,
- R.W. The Grand Registrar,
- R.W. The Grand Secretary,
- R.W. The Grand Director of Ceremonies,
- V.W. The Assistant Grand Secretary
- V.W. The Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies,

together with such other Past Masters as have been or shall hereafter be elected by the Grand Lodge of Instruction; provided that at no time shall the total number of Elected Members exceed 50 and provided always that in no case whatever shall any Brother be eligible for membership of the Grand Lodge of Instruction unless he be a subscribing Past Master of at least three years standing, and also of proved skill and practical experience in working the Degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry.

The Provincial Grand Lodges of Antrim and Down may each elect from its Members four, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry and Donegal may elect from its Members three, and each other Provincial Grand Lodge may elect from its Members two Past Masters of the standing, skill and experience prescribed above, as Representatives to the Grand Lodge of Instruction, who shall be

entitled to vote on all questions concerning the Ritual or Ceremonies of Ancient Craft Masonry, provided that no Provincial Grand Lodge shall elect less than two such Representatives.

2.—All questions concerning the Ritual or Ceremonies of Ancient Craft Masonry shall be decided at the Stated Communications of the Grand Lodge of Instruction, or at a Communication thereof specially summoned for the purpose, by a majority of the votes of the Members and Representatives then present.

3.—Every decision of the Grand Lodge of Instruction in reference to matters of Ritual or Ceremony when approved by Grand Lodge, is binding on every Lodge and on every member of the Craft under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ireland; and any deviation therefrom shall be dealt with as provided by Grand Lodge Law No. 162.

STATED AND SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS

4.—The Stated Communications of the Grand Lodge of Instruction shall be held in the months of May and October in each year, on such dates and at such hours as the R.W. the Deputy Grand Master shall decide.

5.—A Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of Instruction may be convened by the Secretary, or on the requisition of any three Members. The notice convening a Special Communication shall be issued at least ten days before the date of the meeting, and shall specify the business for which it is convened. No business other than that mentioned in the notice shall be transacted at any Special Communication, and, unless Seven Brethren be present, the Communication cannot be held.

6.—The Grand Lodge of Instruction shall have power, at the Stated Communications, or at a Special Communication, to appoint two or more of its Members or Provincial Representatives as a committee to instruct any Lodge in the proper working of any of the Degrees of

Craft Masonry, including that of the Chair, and such conjoint instruction shall be received by such Lodge, as the working authorised and deemed correct by the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

7.—The Grand Lodge of Instruction, at its Stated Communications, or at a Special Communication, shall have power to enact Rules or By-laws regulating its course of proceedings at both Open, Stated and Special Communications, subject to the approval of Grand Lodge.

8.—Members or Representatives of a Provincial Grand Lodge, duly accredited, are alone entitled to be present at the Stated or any Special Communications.

OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

9.—Open Communications of the Grand Lodge of Instruction shall be held in Dublin, at 7.30 o'clock, p.m., on the second Thursday in the months of November, December, February and March in each year, and at such times and places as the R.W. the Deputy Grand Master shall authorise.

10.—At every Open Communication, in the absence of the M.W. the Grand Master and the R.W. the Deputy Grand Master and the R.W. Assistant Grand Master, the Senior Member (other than the Secretary, or in his absence an Assistant Secretary) who shall not have already presided during the current session, shall have the right to preside. The Grand Lodge of Instruction shall not be opened unless either the Secretary, or an Assistant Secretary, or a Deputy appointed under Rule 16, and, at least, one other Member of the Lodge be present.

11.—All Master Masons, vouched as such, may attend the Open Communications of the Grand Lodge of Instruction, and shall be subject while present, to its Rules and Usages.

12.—All Brethren attending the Open Communications of the Grand Lodge of Instruction shall have the privilege of asking questions on the subject under immediate consideration.

13.—At the Open Communications in Dublin, an attendance book shall be provided in which each Member and Visitor attending a Communication may enter his name.

14.—No subject, except such as relates to the Ritual, History or Ceremonies of Ancient Craft Masonry, shall be introduced or discussed at any Open Communication.

THE SECRETARY

15.—The Grand Lodge of Instruction, at its Stated Communication in May of each year, shall elect a Secretary and an Assistant Secretary and may elect one or more Assistants from amongst its Members. The elections in case of a contest, shall be by ballot, and be subject to the approval of Grand Lodge. During their terms of Office the Secretary and Assistant Secretary shall rank as Grand Officers; any Brother who shall have held the office of Secretary or Assistant Secretary to the Grand Lodge of Instruction for a continuous period of three years, shall, on retirement from that office, hold the rank of a Past Grand Officer, with the precedence as in Grand Lodge Law No. 5.

16.—At every Communication of the Grand Lodge of Instruction in Dublin, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to attend; and at every Communication of the Grand Lodge of Instruction held elsewhere than in Dublin, it shall be the duty of such Assistant Secretary as shall be appointed for the purpose, to attend.

The Secretary or such Assistant Secretary, in case of his unavoidable absence, shall appoint a Member of the Grand Lodge of Instruction as his Deputy.

The Secretary shall keep the Roll of Members, specifying the Name and Address and Date of Admission of each Member, which Roll he shall produce at every Stated Communication.

The Secretary or such Assistant Secretary shall arrange the course of proceedings at the Open Communications, and shall perform such other duties relating to the business of the Grand Lodge of Instruction as shall be determined by Grand Lodge or the Grand Lodge of Instruction.

17.—Any expenses incurred by the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary in the performance of his duties as such, or in carrying out any rule or regulation of, or relating to the Grand Lodge of Instruction, shall, when sanctioned by the Board of General Purposes, be considered as part of the current expenses of Grand Lodge, and treated in all respects as such.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS

18.—No proposal for election to Membership of the Grand Lodge of Instruction can be accepted until permission shall have been obtained from Grand Lodge to declare a vacancy.

The election of Members shall take place at either of the Stated Communications, or at a Special Communication summoned for that purpose. In every case the election shall be by ballot, every Member present to record his vote, and one black bean in five shall exclude.

The summons convening the Communication shall specify the Name, Address and Lodge of every Candidate, as well as the names of the Members proposing or recommending him.

19.—Every Candidate for Membership must be proposed by a Member of the Grand Lodge of Instruction and seconded by at least two other Members. Every such proposal must be on the regular form, which can be obtained only from the Grand Secretary for Instruction.

Application for such form must be accompanied by full particulars of the suggested Candidate.

Completed forms must be lodged with the Grand Secretary for Instruction on or before the first day of March for the May Communication, and the first day of August for the October Communication.

No Candidates shall be Balloted for until the Grand Lodge of Instruction shall have been satisfied that he is fully qualified in every way in accordance with Rule 1.

20.—The names of all Candidates elected shall be submitted to the next ensuing Communication of Grand Lodge, and on approval thereby, shall be entered on the Roll of the members of the Grand Lodge of Instruction.

Any elected Member of Grand Lodge of Instruction with less than 20 years membership who shall not have attended one Stated and at least two Open Communications in the preceding year ending 1st October, shall cease to be a Member unless the Members present at the October Stated Communication shall, by ballot determine otherwise. Any Provincial Representative who shall not have attended one Stated and at least two Open Communications in the preceding year ending 1st October, and any Provincial Instructor who shall not have attended at least two Open Communications in the preceeding year ending 1st October shall have his name forwarded to the Provincial Grand Lodge which he represents, or in which he instructs, with a view to having some other Brother nominated.

21.—If any Member of the Grand Lodge of Instruction, or Representative thereat from a Provincial Grand Lodge, shall cease to be a Member of Grand Lodge, or shall in any way incur the censure of Grand Lodge, he shall cease to be a Member of, or Representative at, the Grand Lodge of Instruction.

22.—The Grand Lodge of Instruction shall have a Special Seal, and the Minutes of its proceedings when confirmed at a subsequent Open

or Stated Communication shall be signed by the Presiding Officer thereat and by the Secretary, and shall have the Seal of the Lodge affixed thereto.

23.—The Members of the Grand Lodge of Instruction, as defined in the first paragraph of Rule No. 1, are entitled to wear Aprons and Collars similar to those of the Officers of Grand Lodge of and under the rank of Grand Warden. They are also entitled to wear on the left breast a quatrefoil medal with the words “Grand Lodge of Instruction” on a border of blue enamel, enclosing a Past Master’s Jewel. The Medal may be worn from an enamelled bar.

24.—Representatives from Provincial Grand Lodges to the Grand Lodge of Instruction may wear a similar Jewel, enclosed in a Garter, on which are the words ‘Representative from the Province of’ The Jewels issued to Members are the property of Grand Lodge, and each Jewel is to be returned to the Grand Secretary when the holder has ceased to be a Member of the Grand Lodge of Instruction.

Those for Provincial Representatives are issued to the Provincial Grand Lodges, and each Jewel is to be returned to the Provincial Grand Secretary when the holder has ceased to represent his Province at the Grand Lodge of Instruction.

25.—On the written request of a Provincial Grand Lodge, through its Secretary, to have one or more of its Members, being Past Masters of not less than three years standing under the Irish Constitution, examined as to his or their skill in working the Degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry, the Secretary shall arrange for the examination of such Brethren by a Board of not less than three elected Members of the Grand Lodge of Instruction, whose report shall be put before the next Stated Communication of the Grand Lodge of Instruction for approval, and if approved, the Grand Secretary for Instruction shall issue to each Candidate a Certificate authorising him to act as an Instructor within his own Province, but always as one of two such certified Instructors.

26.—A Grand Inspector may also request that a Past Master of not less than three years' standing under the Irish Constitution be suitably examined as arranged by the Grand Secretary for Instruction and if approved may be authorised to act as an Instructor in the area of the Inspectorate.

27.—Such certificated Instructors may wear the Jewel of a Provincial Instructor, which Jewel shall be the property of the Provincial Grand Lodge, by whom it shall be called in if, in the opinion of the Provincial Grand Lodge, or of the Grand Lodge of Instruction, the holder is not carrying out efficiently the duties of a Provincial Instructor.

28.—The foregoing Regulations re-enacting or amending the Constitutions adopted on the 4th of May, 1876, shall constitute and regulate the Grand Lodge of Instruction for Ireland. They shall have force and effect from the 1st October, 2011, and any Rule, Regulation or Usage to the contrary is hereby abolished.

By Order of the Most Worshipful
The Grand Lodge of Ireland.
D. BARRY LYONS,
Grand Secretary,
1st October, 2011

Freemasons' Hall
Dublin

**Masonic
Clothing and Insignia**

BY ORDER OF

**The Grand Lodge
of Ireland**

NOTICE

No modification or ornamentation, inconsistent with the established forms, or tending to obscure the original design of the Clothing and Insignia, shall be permitted.

All designs for Lodge Badges or Insignia, involving any addition to, or variation from the patterns annexed, shall be submitted for approval to the Board of General Purposes, or such other authority as Grand Lodge shall from time to time prescribe.

MASONIC CLOTHING AND INSIGNIA

BY ORDER OF

The Grand Lodge of Ireland

APRONS

ENTERED APPRENTICES

Of plain white lambskin, from fourteen to sixteen inches wide; twelve to fourteen inches deep; square at bottom, and without ornament, white strings.

FELLOW CRAFTS

Similar to the foregoing, with the addition only of two sky-blue rosettes at the bottom.

MASTER MASONS

Similar to the foregoing, with sky-blue binding and sky-blue edging an inch-and-a-half deep; an additional rosette on the fall, which is to be triangular; and silver tassels. No other colour or ornament shall be allowed, except the number or Badge of the Lodge, which may be embroidered in silver on the Apron in such a manner as shall have been approved by the Board of General Purposes, or such other authority as Grand Lodge may from time to time prescribe. Silver braid, not above half-an-inch-wide, may be worn upon the blue edging.

W ∴ MASTERS AND PAST MASTERS

Same as for Master Masons, with an addition (if the wearer pleases) of the square and compasses enclosing the letter G embroidered in silver.

GRAND MASTER'S LODGE

The Members of the Grand Master's Lodge are allowed to wear Aprons similar to those of the Grand Officers of and under the rank of Grand Warden, but with the letters G.M.L. embroidered in gold on the fall.

REPRESENTATIVES OF GRAND LODGES

Representatives of Foreign Grand Lodges may wear such Aprons, Collars and other Insignia, as may be prescribed for them by the Grand Lodges which they represent.

PROVINCIAL GRAND OFFICERS

Provincial Grand Masters and other Provincial Grand Officers, past and present, and Members of the Grand Lodge of Instruction, are entitled to wear Aprons similar to those of the Officers of the Grand Lodge of and under the rank of Grand Warden.

GRAND OFFICERS

All Grand Officers, past and present, of and under the rank of Grand Warden, are entitled to wear Aprons of the same dimensions as those worn by Master Masons, but with the point of the fall squared off. The Apron is to be lined and edged with sky-blue silk, the edging not to exceed two inches in width; trimmed with gold lace on the sides of the edging, and fringed on the outside with gold fringe not exceeding an inch-and-a-half in depth.

The Deputy Grand Master and the Assistant Grand Master are entitled to wear Aprons similar to those of the other Grand Officers, but laced with three bars of gold lace upon the blue edging, and fringed with gold fringe not exceeding two inches in depth.

The Apron of the Grand Master is to be laced upon the edging with three bars of gold lace, and is to be fringed with gold bullion not exceeding two inches in depth.

All Past Grand Officers and Past Provincial Grand Officers may wear the Aprons of the Offices they have held.

COLLARS OF OFFICE

The Collars of Officers of Subordinate Lodges are to be of sky-blue watered ribbon, about four inches wide. They may be edged with silver lace not more than half-an-inch wide, and may have the number or Badge of the Lodge embroidered in silver on the front. Silver Collars of such pattern as shall have been approved by the Board of General Purposes, or such other authority as Grand Lodge may from time to time prescribe, may be substituted for the above in Processions.

PROVINCIAL GRAND OFFICERS

Elected Members of the Grand Lodge of Instruction and Provincial Grand Officers shall wear Collars of sky blue watered ribbon about four inches wide, with the ends squared in front. They may be edged with gold lace half-an-inch in width and fringed at the ends with gold fringe, similar to that worn on the Aprons.

Past Provincial Grand Masters may have a central bar of gold lace in addition.

GRAND OFFICERS

The Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of Ireland shall wear Gold Chains of Office as Collars.

CHAINS OF OFFICE

Provincial Grand Masters, Provincial Deputy Grand Masters, Provincial Assistant Grand Masters and Grand Inspectors overseas appointed by the M.W.G.M. under Grand Lodge Law No. 184, may wear Gold Chains of Office as Collars.

GAUNTLETS OF OFFICE

The Gauntlets of Grand Officers and of Provincial Grand Officers shall not exceed eight inches at their greatest depth. They shall be made of sky-blue watered silk, edged with gold lace, and ornamented with the Jewel or Badge of the Office to which the Bearer is entitled. The use of Gauntlets, though permitted, is not to be considered imperative except in Grand Lodge or Provincial Grand Lodge.

JEWELS OF OFFICE

(Which are to be of gold and worn suspended from prescribed Collars)

THE GRAND MASTER

The Square and Compasses, the latter extended to 45° , with a segment of a circle at the points. In the centre a jewelled Sun irradiated.

PAST GRAND MASTER

The same as the foregoing, with the letter G in place of the Sun.

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

The Compasses extended to 45° , with a segment of a circle at the points, and a jewelled and irradiated Sun in the centre.

PAST DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

The same as the foregoing with the letter G in place of the Sun.

ASSISTANT GRAND MASTER

The Compasses extended to 45° , and a jewelled and irradiated Sun in the centre.

PAST ASSISTANT GRAND MASTER

The same as the foregoing with the letter G in place of the Sun.

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

The Level.

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

The Plumb.

GRAND TREASURER

Crossed Keys.

GRAND REGISTRAR

A Scroll with Seal attached.

GRAND SECRETARY

Crossed Pens.

GRAND DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES

Two Batons crossed.

GRAND CHAPLAIN

An open Bible within a radiant Triangle.

GRAND DEACONS

A Dove and Olive Branch, and two Wands crossed saltier-wise.

GRAND SUPERINTENDENT OF WORKS

A semi-circular Protractor within a wreath of palm leaves.

GRAND STEWARD

A Cornucopia.

GRAND SWORD BEARER

A Sword, point upwards, within a wreath of palm leaves.

GRAND STEWARDS OF CHARITIES

On the Sun in splendour a five pointed star having a shamrock at each point. Superimposed in the centre the All Seeing Eye with the right hand of fellowship emerging from the clouds both surrounded by a Wreath of Laurels.

GRAND ALMONERS

A Scrip-purse upon which is a heart.

GRAND ORGANIST

An Irish Harp.

GRAND LODGE STANDARD BEARER

The Grand Lodge Arms within a Wreath of Shamrocks.

GRAND MASTER'S STANDARD BEARER

The Grand Master's Arms within a Wreath of Shamrocks.

GRAND INNER GUARD

Two Swords crossed.

GRAND SECRETARY, G.L. OF INSTRUCTION

The Medal of the Grand Lodge of Instruction, imposed upon two crossed Pens.

TYLER TO GRAND LODGE

A Sword, point downwards.

PAST GRAND OFFICERS

The Jewels are to be suspended from plain sky-blue ribbons round the neck, or suspended from a gold bar.

PROVINCIAL GRAND OFFICERS

Provincial Grand Officers wear the same Jewels as Grand Officers of corresponding rank, but enclosed within a broad Circle, on which is inscribed the name of the Province, and are to be worn suspended from prescribed Collars.

PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND OFFICERS

The Jewels are to be suspended from plain sky-blue ribbons round the neck, or suspended from a gold bar.

PROVINCIAL GRAND INSPECTORS

A Trowel imposed on open Volume of The Laws and Constitutions.

OVERSEAS DISTRICT GRAND RANK

A trowel superimposed upon a terrestrial globe.

GRAND LODGE OF INSTRUCTION

The Members of the Grand Lodge of Instruction are entitled to wear a quatre-foil medal, with the words "Grand Lodge of Instruction, Ireland," on a border of blue enamel enclosing a P.M. Jewel. The medal may be worn from an enamelled bar.

W.: MASTERS OF LODGES

The Square.

PAST MASTERS

The Square and Compasses, enclosing the letter G. The Past Master's Jewel may be worn from a sky-blue ribbon or cord round the neck.

SENIOR WARDEN

The Level.

JUNIOR WARDEN

The Plumb.

TREASURER

Crossed Keys.

SECRETARY

Crossed Pens.

DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES

Two Batons crossed.

STEWARD OF CHARITIES

On the Sun in splendour a five pointed star having a shamrock at each point. Superimposed in the centre the All Seeing Eye with the right hand of fellowship emerging From the clouds both surrounded by a Wreath of Laurels.

ALMONER

A Scrip-purse upon which is a heart.

CHAPLAIN

The Volume of the Sacred Law, open within a radiant Triangle.

DEACONS

A Dove and Olive Branch, with two Wands crossed saltier-wise.

INNER GUARD

Two Swords crossed.

TYLER

A Sword, point downwards.

If supplementary Officers, such as a Steward or an Organist, be appointed by a Subordinate Lodge, their Jewels of Office are to be similar to those of the corresponding Officers of Grand Lodge.

All Jewels of Office in Subordinate Lodges are to be worn suspended from the prescribed collars, and are to be of silver, except those of the Grand Master's Lodge, which may be of gold.

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