



Culture in the Capital

The sun was still shining vigorously, and there remained a bit of warmth in the air, when the first of the National Museum staff trundled up the steps at 4.30 p.m. “Can you not read?” says I; “We don’t open till 5”. “But sure we’re open ourselves then”, says she; “Can we not have a look round now?” Magnanimously, we threw open the doors on the spot; and we did not manage to lock bar and bolt those self same doors until 10.45 that night.

Yes, Culture Night had arrived in the Capital once again, and with coloured balloons tied to the polished rails on the steps, we signalled Freemasons’ Hall participation in this annual event. This involved a large number of institutions, over 130 in all - museums, libraries, galleries etc. - opening their portals on Friday evening, 24th September to the denizens of Dublin and beyond.

We had expected a fair few visitors over the evening, attracted, as usual, by simple curiosity, but we had no idea just how many. We soon did however as there formed, quite literally, a queue of people from the very outset until our forced closing at 9.30, when the building was completely full and it would have been unwise to allow more in.

Our in-house guides, one to a room, were on their feet and describing, discussing and detailing their areas for five and a half hours, without a break - take a bow Morgan McCreddie (who managed two rooms, actually), Daniel Stanford and Keith Stent - your collective dedication in the circumstances could not have been bettered.

The front of House was patrolled in enthusiastic fashion by Paddy Fennell and Cristina Eremia, who greeted the visitors and handed to each a one-page description of the Hall and rooms; and the treasures in the Museum were manfully guarded, and explained, by no less a personage than our own Chairman of the Metropolitan Board. The whole thing was masterminded and organised by the Curator and Archivist Rebecca Hayes, and to say that she did a superb job would be a complete understatement. The Grand Secretary was also in attendance and ate most of the sandwiches. Philip Daley ate the rest.

The visitors generally, expressed awe at the scale and style of the building, most having no conception whatever of the size of the place before entering. The feedback was very encouraging and positive, and the usual challenging questions got a good airing - can women join?; why not?; why do men join? What do you do in a meeting? How many politicians are members? etc. etc. The more bizarre queries that we occasionally encounter surfaced also - are you part of the world-wide Jewish conspiracy? Do you control the Bank of Ireland?; Is it all witchcraft and mumbo-jumbo?

According to the following day’s Irish Times, “the Hall” proved to be one of the most popular venues of the evening (We believe we had over three thousand people in) and for the successful handling of that we must applaud the Curator and her extraordinarily hard-working crew - perfectly well done gang, and don’t worry - next year we will have replacements to hand, and you can all have a sandwich!

Summer Lodge and Metropolitan Art Exhibition

The 12th Annual Summer Lodge took place in the Grand Lodge Room, Molesworth Street on Wednesday 21st July with 150 Brethren present for a very enjoyable afternoon.

R.W.Bro. Philip Daley, Chairman of the Metropolitan Board welcomed the many distinguished Brethren, representing Freemasonry in Ireland and in particular the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. George Dunlop, the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey and the Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Leslie Johnston.

The ritual was excellent and it was a delight to receive a short presentation on the important work of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, with particular emphasis on the dramatic enhancement of Dementia Support in all Homes, by W.Bro. Chris Caine, Past Senior Grand Deacon. Chris is the Chairman of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and we were delighted to welcome him to Summer Lodge to learn something of the work of the RMBI.

During the afternoon the Grand Master presented the Claret Jug and the Captain Alan Guest Trophy. The Claret Jug is presented to a Lodge in the Metropolitan area that in the opinion of the Board have worked together as a team to enhance all aspects of the Lodge. The criteria covers areas such as membership, new candidates, ritual and degree work, charity giving and the social aspect including festive boards and visiting other Lodges. This years recipient of the Claret Jug was The Military Lodge of Ireland No. 728.

The Captain Alan Guest Trophy, generously presented by W.Bro. Martin Lenihan, on behalf of Dublin Garrison Lodge No. 730 commemorates the memory of Captain Alan Guest a Past Master of Dublin Garrison Lodge No. 730 and founder of the Alan Guest Ritual Class now known as the Metropolitan Craft Ritual Class.

The trophy is presented to a Metropolitan Lodge

with the best attendance at the Metropolitan Craft Ritual classes during the preceding year. This year the Lodge with the best attendance at the Metropolitan Craft Ritual Class was Dublin Garrison Lodge No. 730.

Following the meeting the Brethren retired to complimentary refreshments. This was an amazing display of the caterer's art prepared by our very own and very talented Bro. Tim Murphy and his band of willing helpers.

A wonderful afternoon, good ritual, good speakers, good festive board, good charity and most importantly good fellowship. What more could we ask for?

Next year this event will be held on Wednesday 20th July. Don't say that you were not told in plenty of time.

The Metropolitan Art Exhibition

The Metropolitan Art Exhibition was officially opened on Tuesday 20th July by the Lord Mayor of Dublin Councillor Gerry Breen.

The exhibition with 260 exhibits from 70 talented artists proved to be a resounding success and with the sale of 27 paintings the charities will benefit from the proceeds.



R.W.Bro. Philip Daley (Chairman of the Metropolitan Board), R.W.Bro. Leslie Johnston (Assistant Grand Master), Councillor Gerry Breen (Lord Mayor of Dublin), R.W.Bro. Douglas Grey (Deputy Grand Master).

Duke of York XXV

Duke of York Lodge XXV was founded in its present form in 1853, and has worked under the warrant originally issued to a military or travelling lodge based in Youghal in the early days of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The current Lodge has always been based in Dublin and was at one time a magnet for some of the most distinguished Masons in the City, indeed it is the only Dublin Lodge to have the portrait of a member in Lodge Regalia on display in the Grand Lodge room. In Dining room number 3 there is an apron worn by the wives of the members of the Lodge at the Great Fair. So it is correct to say that the Lodge has had a distinguished past.

But what of the present and future of the Lodge? Over the last number of years the Lodge attracted a number of young members, but the prevailing economic climate has resulted in some of them moving abroad in search of work, and therefore they are not regular attendees. The Lodge has also seen some of our more senior members pass on to the Grand Lodge above.

However, under the leadership of W.Bro. Jim Stewart as WM the Lodge is moving to attract new members once more and to implement a plan to maintain the interest of the current membership. Duke of York meetings have always been convivial and welcoming and the wit and banter flows easily. But meetings where there is little business give little incentive to attend on cold and rainy winter nights. The WM has therefore arranged a series of lectures for this year, which started with Bro Andrew Lyall

giving a detailed description of some of the lesser known Masonic charities. It is planned to hold two lectures on the activities of the charities per year, giving the members the fullest information possible about where their money is going. The next lecture was a fascinating talk by Bro Daniel Stanford on the symbolism and history of the Grand Lodge Room, the room in which we meet and sometimes take for granted!

When we initiate our next candidate it is planned to hold a talk on the Tracing Board of the EA degree at the following meeting, along with a short talk explaining the symbolism employed. We do not believe that it is adequate to tell the candidate that he will understand it all when he sees the degree given to another candidate.

Hopefully this will give us an interesting programme for W.Bro. Jim's year in the chair, and the focus on Recruitment and Retention should pay dividends into the future. Duke of York has been a society Lodge, and a Lodge of Engineers, as well as a refuge for ex pupils of the Masonic Boys School and has been lucky to have many Past Grand Officers in its ranks. The history of the Lodge and the service given to it by the Past Masters of the Lodge demand that the future be secured and that each meeting be an event in itself. We should all be Happy to meet, Sorry to part and Happy to meet again.

*WB Michael Curran
Secretary, Duke of York Lodge XXV*

Societas Rosicruciana in Hibernia

All Brethren should be aware that the organisation calling itself *the Societas Rosicruciana in Hibernia* is not recognised by the Grand Lodge of Ireland and as such, therefore, under Grand Lodge Law No. 32, is not recognised as a lawful fraternal assembly. Brethren of the Irish

Constitution should not join this body.

It is not to be confused with the Rosicrucians in England, a separate organisation, correctly constituted and recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England.



The Great Seal of Saorstát Éireann

In the summer of 1922 the recently declared SAORSTAT EIREANN - THE IRISH FREE STATE decided that it was necessary for legal reasons to adopt a Great Seal. In the words of Hugh Kennedy, the Chief Justice;- *“The Great Seal of the Saorstát must be individual and characteristic, at once recognisable as of Ireland and it must be dignified and worthy to speak for an ancient nation”*.

The task of designing the seal was given to a metropolitan Freemason, Brother Archibald Mc Googan (1860-1931) a member of Peace Love and Harmony Lodge No. 666 (now incorporated into the Military Lodge of Ireland No. 728). He was initiated into Lodge 666, receiving his E.A on 14th March 1919, F.C on 13th June 1919 and M.M on 12th September 1919. He ceased to be a member in 1929, two years before his death.

The Great Seal as designed by Brother Mc Googan, is circular in shape, featuring the Brian Boru Harp in the centre, bearing the words SAORSTAT EIREANN in Gaelic script, surrounded by a series of Celtic designs which incorporate elements of the Ardagh Chalice. Brother Mc Googan's design was formally adopted and sent to the Royal Mint to be cut, silver on one side and copper on the other.

So who was Brother Archibald Mc Googan?

He was born in Ballycastle, Co. Antrim in 1860 but moved permanently to Dublin in the 1880's. He worked for 40 years in the Art Department

of the National Museum of Science and Art in Kildare Street, Dublin, where he became the Senior Art Assistant. He was residing at 8 Ardenza Terrace, Seapoint, Co. Dublin until his death on 10th May 1931.

Archibald Mc Googan was a noted landscape and portrait painter, photographer, violinist and President of Seapoint Boat Club. He exhibited at least 60 times with the Royal Hibernian Academy, was a regular contributor to periodicals and the Dublin Sketching Club. During the Easter Rising, he produced one of his most famous paintings “After the Bombardment, The holocaust of Ireland's Greatest Thoroughfare, Friday morning 29th April 1916”, which showed the destruction of Sackville Street, now O'Connell Street. In 2007 his painting of “Winter on the Dodder at Rathfarnham 1888 was sold at Whytes for €3000. A beautiful stained glass window in St. Patrick's Church of Ireland in Glenarm in Co. Antrim dedicated to the memory of Cannon Dudley-Janns was designed by him.

In 1923 he designed the beautiful crest and jewel for Tudor Lodge No. 522, which can be seen in a glass case in the Masonic Museum in Molesworth Street, Dublin.

The above article is condensed from a more detailed and illustrated history on Archibald Mc Googan which I recently researched and presented to (1) the Military Lodge of Ireland No. 728 and (2) Grand Lodge Archives.

Edwin S. Hancock P.M. Fidelity Lodge No. 125.

Metropolitan Board Concert

The last Saturday in October will see the Metropolitan Board of General Purposes present a Gala Concert in Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street. The evening will feature The Stedfast Band and the Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir, both of whom will perform an extensive variety of Popular music from their wide ranging repertoire. The event will take place in the Grand Lodge Room and start time for the Concert will be 8.00pm. This will be

followed by a Wine Reception. A pre concert Supper has been arranged and will be available to all who wish to attend. This will be held in the Dining Room at 6.00pm. The evening promises to be very entertaining and we hope that it will be supported by one and all. Tickets are available for both Concert and Supper at €15.00 each, from the Hall Porter's Office or from any member of the Board.

Lodge 511 Carol Evening

Often referred to as the “*real start to Christmas*”, the annual Caxton 511 Carol Evening will be held in the Grand Lodge Room on Saturday 11th December at 7.30pm. The inaugural Carol Evening was the brain child of R.W.Bro. Lionel McKee, who came up with the idea of having a participation event to celebrate Christmas in song, as well as raise much needed funds for the Masonic charities. From the very beginning, Grand Organist R.W.Bro. John Rowden took on the role of musical director, and has been the Carol Evenings’ greatest supporter ever since.

The Carol Evening gives everyone the opportunity to participate in singing a selection

of old favourite Christmas Carols, as well as the chance to hear guest performers sing for your enjoyment.

This year we are very lucky to have the services of Alan Stanford to introduce the carols and the performers. The evening is rounded off down stairs with a glass of mulled wine and mince pies, courtesy of Campbell Catering, followed by a charity raffle.

This is a superb event to bring both Masonic and non-Masonic friends to, tickets at €15 for the Carol Evening are available from the porter’s office from the end of October onwards.

Lodge 2 Annual Poker Classic

The eagerly anticipated *Lodge 2 Annual Poker Classic* will take place this year in Freemasons Hall on Friday 12th November at 7.30pm.

Brethren and non-brethren are all invited to get involved in this exciting event now in it’s 4th year.

Prize money is estimated at €1,500 with many places at the final table qualifying for a payout.

Brethren from Lodge 2 have featured highly in the rankings in the last couple of years with

W.Bro. Neville Thompson being the one to beat having won the event once and runner-up the following year. Is there a brother from another Lodge out there who can call his bluff and beat him?

Tickets are €40 including registration and chips. All brethren and non-brethren are welcome.

For tickets, contact Kevin McParland on 0863536519 or Michael Curran on 0872212072

“... A spectacular event to be held in the stunning location which was the Masonic Girls School.”

The Metropolitan Board of General Purposes presents

The 2011 Freemasons’ Masquerade Ball



in aid of Laura Lynn House

Saturday 7th of May 2011

Thomas Prior Hall, Bewley’s Hotel, Ballsbridge



New Members Committee

In times past, the most usual path to membership of Freemasonry in Ireland had been through family or work connections. An Uncle, Father or Colleague would be a member and would be able to provide information and background knowledge about the Order to a prospective candidate. In a similar way, because of the close relationship, the background and character of the potential candidate would be known to the member thus providing a level of comfort that he would fit into our Order.

Times have changed. We now have relatively large numbers contacting both the Grand Lodge and individual Lodges through email and the various web-sites. These are generally people with an enormous interest in the order but no contact with anyone known to them who is a member. This gives rise to problems for both sides. The interested party has probably read widely about Freemasonry, and as we all know, is therefore likely to have some pretty wild ideas about what we do. There is no formal structure to provide education to potential candidates about the reality of Irish Freemasonry. On the other side, the order is faced with someone who has 'come in off the street' and has no knowledge of that person's background or whether they are likely to fit in.

In order to address these issues, a committee has been set up, under the authority of the Grand Secretary's office, whose remit is to build structures to educate and assess these applicants and to enable the smooth admission of those who prove suitable while dealing sensitively and appropriately with those who do not. This

committee has been in place for less than a year and is still evolving the correct methods to carry out its function.

It should be emphasized that the committee is the first point of contact for potential candidates from around the country and not just the Dublin Metropolitan area.

As part of this initiative, a 'New Members' night' was held in early 2010. This assisted the process in a number of ways. Not only was it for potential candidates to come into the building and learn a little about the practicalities of Irish Masonry, but it also provided a platform for newly initiated Masons to ask questions and offer advice to those wishing to join. The idea was to allow a free exchange of views and a point for recent and potential members to interact.

The evening included short lectures on Craft Masonry, Royal Arch Masonry and The Council of Knight Masons. There was a Question and Answer session followed by a Supper which provided an opportunity for the attendees to mix and exchange ideas. Some more experienced Masons were also available to address any additional questions.

About fifty potential and new members attended the meeting and subsequent supper and tour of the building. Many of the potential candidates are now well on their way to membership. The committee intends to hold similar meetings on a regular basis and looks forward to assisting in the admission of many new members.

*Peter Fellows-McCully
Chair, New Members' Committee*

Diary Dates at Freemasons' Hall

Metropolitan Craft Ritual Class

Each Monday from 4/10/10 at 7:30pm

Irish Freemasons Young Musician of The Year 2010

Semi Final Thur 14/10/10 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm

Final Saturday 16/10/10 at 7.30pm

Metropolitan Grand Concert

Saturday 30/10/10 at 8:00pm

Supper at 6:00pm

Grand Lodge Meeting

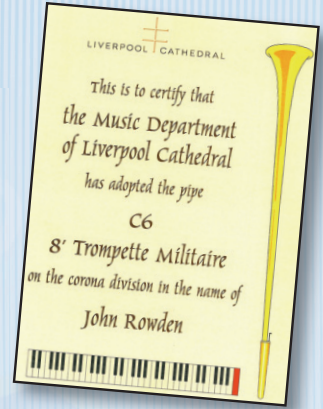
St. John's Day 27/12/10

at 12:00noon

Congratulations, R.W. Bro. John Rowden

R.W. Bro. John Rowden is known to most as the Grand Organist at the Grand Lodge of Ireland. He started playing piano at the tender age of 8 and realized his ambition by transferring to organ at 16. He has played magnificently at most Grand Masonic events for over 20 years. John has also played at the National Concert Hall, Dublin, the Ulster Hall, Belfast and the Guild Hall in Derry as well as many other venues throughout Ireland. Recently John was honoured by Liverpool Cathedral when they adopted the pipe C6 8' Trompette Militaire on the Corona Division in the name of John Rowden for his ongoing interest in and support of Music in Liverpool Cathedral.

This beautifully illustrated certificate was presented to John in the Cathedral by the Organist and Master of the Choristers, Dr. Professor Ian Tracey. John tells me that his remaining ambition is to play at Notre Dame, Paris.



Metropolitan Board of General Purposes Website

The MBGP are launching a website at the end of October www.mbgp.org dedicated to disseminating information about the many functions of the board. To start with, the website will contain information about the board itself, its members and the boards' function within the Metropolitan area.

As well as publishing the *MetroMason*, the MBGP organise and sponsor many charitable events through the year – events like Summer Lodge, The Metropolitan BBQ and most recently sponsoring the Young Musicians Competition.

A website is an ideal way of helping to get this information to every Lodge and every Brother in the Metropolitan area.

As the website grows, it will give the facility for individual Lodges to publicise their own events, and perhaps in time those Lodges who wish, can host a web page on the MBGP website.

The MBGP website is a resource for you and your Lodge, and we would like to hear your feedback after the site launches, as well as ideas and suggestions for things that you would like to see on the website.

Clontarf Lodge 249 – Hog Roast BBQ

Friday 20th August last was a warm mild evening and the Brethren of Lodge 249 together with their families and friends “tucked” into some fine fare – the reason for the evening was the pursuit of fellowship and fundraising and by the time morning broke, €1,300 had been raised for Masonic Charities.

Many thanks are due to W.Bro Paul Brockman and his Lodge Team (including Wives of Brethren who produced the desserts) for organising the

event but our special acknowledgement and gratitude must go to Dr Anne Lodge who kindly allowed us use her Residence at the Church of Ireland College of Education.

A wonderful occasion enjoyed by all – will be hosting again in 2011 and we extend an invitation to all Brethren of different Lodges to join us then (further details will follow nearer the event).

W.Bro. George Rogers, WM

Good Public Reaction To Music Competition



There has already been excellent public and press reaction to the first 'Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year', which holds its Semi-Finals at 2.00pm and 7.00pm on Thursday, October 14th, and the Final on Saturday October 16th at 7.30, all at Freemasons Hall. At the time of writing three newspaper articles have appeared, and there have been nine broadcast interviews with our Patrons, or Competitors, on various radio stations, with more to come.

The eleven semi-finalists chosen by Irish Music Colleges from their third-level students are over a broad spectrum. *The CIT Cork School of Music is represented by Conor Palliser on piano, Sinead Frost on bassoon, and oboist Ciara Glasheen. The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance in Limerick is fielding cellist Peter Sébéstyen and viola player Niamh Roche as their entries. From Dublin Colleges, the Royal Irish Academy of Music have entered Jessica Grimes on clarinet, pianist Soo-Yeon Ham and a further clarinetist Macdára Ó Seireadáin; the DIT College of Music have entered violinist Deirdre Reddy, Giovanna Di*

Lece on Concert Harp, and saxophonist Daniel Dunne. In all, almost an orchestra!



Four world-renowned musicians from Paris, Vienna, London and Italy, are the Jury under the chairmanship of Dublin's own Jane Carty, they will have the difficult job of deciding the ultimate winners. There's full details of all the Competitors and Jury on the Competition website which is www.freemasonsmusic.ie. (RTÉ lyric fm will broadcast a recording of the Final on Monday, October 18th at 8.00pm)

Tickets (at €5 for each of the Semi-Finals and €10 for the Final) are available at the Porter's Lodge at Freemasons' Hall. The Final is rapidly selling out so don't delay. But remember that you hear all eleven competitors at the two Semi-Finals not just four finalists, so they are a good bargain, and some tickets still remain. This competition is a major high-profile event for the Order, and attracting a great deal of outside interest, so please come and support it!

RTÉ lyric fm

*On a February night in 1955
to become a Mason I did decide
not knowing what went on inside
my brother Tom all details did hide*

*The first night came as a big surprise
and after a few months I did realize
that good deeds was the enterprise*

*After three years one starts to doubt
for you sit at each meeting doing naught
no one tells you what the rest of Masonry
is about
start to miss meetings and some drop out*

*Now 55 years have come and gone
I am still a staunch Mason all day long
learning to be a WM made me strong
for that quiet and shyness in me, is long gone*

*In the MetroMason I did read
of something I always thought was a need
to tell new Brethren what they can achieve
the New Members Seminar could sow the seed*

*So to all you new Masons take this hint
for you will enjoy the years that you did your stint
by learning your Ritual without needing a hint
and like me, you'll look back at years well spent.*

by Sydney Ingram, Lodge 249, Carrick Manor.