

THE ALBAN QUARTERLY

December 2013

THE QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER OF
LODGE
HAIG-BROWN,
3829 E C



By way of introduction A note from the Worshipful Master

Subeer Datt Verma

I am sure there are at least a dozen questions in your mind, as you set eyes on this newsletter ... the first edition of The Alban Quarterly.

It is not born entirely from a whim of my mind. Nor is the idea new or original.

Last year, R W Bro Percy Driver showed me the inaugural issue of a newsletter launched by a Lodge he had just visited. The idea took seed in my mind and it has been over a year in gestation.

The colours, the design, the layout ... in fact everything about this newsletter ... is

open to suggestion and review until we get it right! After all, this Quarterly is all about us.

About the special people and events in our lives that don't get talked about often enough. About places we visit and people we meet. About the cars we drive and the stamps we collect. Its all about the everyday that we don't get to share as often and as much as we would like to.

We have a one man editorial team! Cedric has, very generously, agreed to help me with getting the newsletter together and keep it going, each quarter. The intention is

to allow it to grow in whichever direction it best chooses ... until we have enough experience to put a few rules into place!

And, finally, a word about the title "The Alban Quarterly." Very simply put, this Lodge commemorates William Alban Haig-Brown, the R W District Grand Master of Bombay from 1912 to 1923.

There is more legend attached to the name Alban ... and I will write more about it, elsewhere, in this issue.

Recently, friends have been asking why I stopped writing: maybe I was waiting for this.

Cedricentricities

The AraujEd Page

By Cedric Araujo

Writing an Editorial can be quite soul-destroying! One has to rein the imagination, stay objective, provide the right kind of flavour: and hope that someone reads what you have spent hours biting fingernails and sweating over!

September was an action packed month.

First, the Half-Yearly Communication of the District Grand Lodge was held at Pune, on Saturday 21st, with the usual splendour, ceremony and enjoyment.

Krishna Pereira and Anuya Aras bagged BMA awards for academic excellence. Krishna, for the second year running. Anuya, sadly could not attend the function, but Krishna was there, with her proud parents, Ingrid and Christopher.



Above, Krishna receiving her award from R W Bro Percy Driver.

At right, W Bro Gerry Peres at the Installation Meeting.

At left, the District Grand Master, R W Bro Percy Driver with the new Master, W Bro Subeer Verma



Then, the Lodge held its Installation Meeting on Monday 23rd, when W Bro Subeer D Verma was installed as the Worshipful Master for the year 2013-14. The Meeting was attended by the R W District Grand Master, his deputation and visitors from Lodge Gomantak No 248 (GLI).

The highlight of the evening was the presence of W Bro Gervazio Peres, who had been critically ill for almost two years, from a stroke that left him completely paralysed on his left side. He sat through the Meeting on a wheelchair and later, joined in the festivities ... quite a hit with the ladies.

Despite inclement weather, the “Ladies Nite” that followed was fun packed. Godwin, Preeti and Rafique kept the mood upbeat with foot stomping live music and karaoke. An American auction, raked in Rs. 30,000 towards the Centenary Fund.

Charity

The Lodge is redoubling its charity efforts and our next issue will be devoted to the subject. As a start, we have instituted a scholarship on merit cum means basis. If you have ideas and suggestions, please do write in. Our e-mail is albanquarterly@gmail.com. Mark your mail “CHARITY” in the subject-line.



Albanus Saint or myth?

By S D Verma

I am allowing myself the liberty of breaking a rule that I, normally, never deviate from: putting together an article around various quotations.

Saint Alban is venerated as the first British Christian martyr. He was martyred by beheading in the Roman city of Verulamium sometime during the 3rd or 4th century, and his cult has been celebrated there since ancient times. (Wikipedia)

According to the historian Bede, he served in the Roman army and was converted to Christianity by a fugitive priest whom he sheltered and with whom he exchanged clothes, so that he was martyred in the priest's place (c. 304; other dates suggested by scholars are c. 254 or c. 209). His feast day is commemorated on June 17 in the Church of England, apparently because of misreading of the Roman numerals XXII. His tomb was venerated, and a church had been built on the site as early as 429. Later, the Abbey of St. Albans was founded there, and around it grew the town of St. Albans. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

According to Charles W Leadbeater (*The Hidden Side of Christian Festivals*), St Alban is the patron saint of several churches. He was very closely associated with the Church and with Freemasonry and played an important part in both.

“Albanus, as his name was in Latin, joined the Roman army and served in Rome for seven years. It was in Rome that he learnt his Freemasonry and also became proficient in the Mitharic mysteries, which were closely associated with it in those days. After his time in Rome he returned to his birthplace in England and was appointed governor of the fortress there.

He also held the position of ‘the master of works’ ... and he was at the same time the Imperial Paymaster. The story goes that the workmen there were treated as slaves and wretchedly paid, but that St Alban introduced Freemasonry and changed all that, securing for them better wages and greatly improved conditions generally.”

We are told that a great deal is said about St Alban's work for the Craft in the Watson manuscript of 1687. It is mentioned that he brought from France certain ancient charges which are practically identical with those in use at the present time.

Leadbeater has us believe that Albanus or St Alban went through several incarnations as Proclus in 411, Roger Bacon in 1211 and as Christian Rosenkreutz in 1375. The last “being of considerable importance, for in it he founded the secret society of the Rosicrucians - a society which has not really died out although it is supposed to have done so. Various organizations claim its name and some of its teachings; the original society still remains, but it is absolutely secret.” After two more rebirths, came “one of the greatest of his rebirths” as Francis Bacon, in 1561.

Albanus, Leadbeater claims, is still around: “he turns up at intervals, but we have little definite information about him.”

“This saint and teacher still lives, and his present body has no appearance of great age. I myself met him physically in Rome in 1901, and had a long conversation with him.”

Is it possible that William Alban Haig-Brown was another incarnation of Albanus or St Alban? I leave it to you to ponder over: if you believe in reincarnation. ■



I came

Here comes an angel!!

Just to say 'Hi ...' to Sarah Ann! She couldn't have happened to nicer parents.

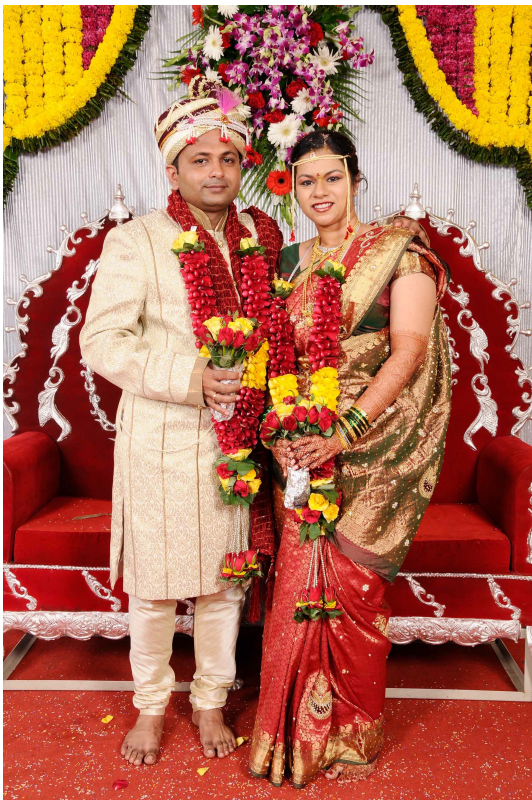
Ana Karina and Cedric were blessed on September 25, 2013



THE GOOD NEWS PAGE

I saw

John and Aurea Noronha with their family at the Christening of their grandchild, Frederica



... three cheers!

I conquered ...

Mansi, daughter of Ajay and Meena Aras, married Amit on October 19, 2013