

History of the Council of the Nine Muses # 1

Prepared by M. Ven. Bro. Glenson T. Jones, SGC, Capital City Council, # 154.

Published in the *Architect* 2009

The *Council of Nine Muses* of the Grand Council of A.M.D. of Canada was created to serve the same purposes as was the *Council of Nine Muses* of the Grand Council of A.M.D. of the USA. The mother Council of 9 Muses, in an A.M.D. sense, was created in 1934 and has been functioning for over 75 years. The Council was formed for purely literary purposes and its membership is restricted to nine Masonic authors. In addition to being a stimulation to Masonic Authors within the A.M.D., one of its activities was to prepare papers to be presented in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of Grand Council. It is still done every year by the Grand Council of the USA.

At the first Annual Communication of the Grand Council of A.M.D. of Canada on October 19th, 1985, the following introduction was given to the paper presented by the Sovereign Master of the *Council of Nine Muses*, (Rt. Ven. Bro. Glenson T. Jones, who was also the SGM-elect)

As the founding Sov. Master of the *Council of Nine Muses*, it falls to me to give a paper at this our first Annual Communication of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of Canada. I must say that I am most flattered and pleased that our first Sov. Grand Master, Most Ven. Bro. John B. Carson conferred this honour upon me. I shall certainly do my best to see that the mandate of this Council is fulfilled.

Before I get to the paper for today, let me speak to you about the purpose and membership of the *Council of Nine Muses*.

Section 4 of Article IX of our Constitution, dealing with constituent councils, reads as follows;

"The *Council of Nine Muses* shall consist of no more than nine members. The purpose of this Council will be to honor those Brothers of the Order who have made outstanding contributions to the field of Masonic literature. This Council shall be required to make annual returns but shall be exempt from all provisions and excluded from all prerequisites pertaining to constituent councils in this Constitution."

As our membership is severely restricted, we are in no hurry to fill our ranks. I have expanded the ranks, over this past year, to the Masonically appropriate number of three. The present membership is as follows:

- Myself as Sov. Master
- Ven. Bro. Ivan Marshall as Senior Warden, and
- Bro. Jack Meek as Junior Warden

Ven. Bro. Marshall is the most senior member of any A.M.D. Council in Canada and was a founding member of *Medwayosh Council # 62*. We look to Ivan for contact with our roots and with the early history of Allied Masonry in Canada.

Bro. Meek is the Grand Historian of the Grand Chapter of British Columbia and has written many papers and several books on Masonic subjects. His most recent book is called "*The Royal Art: A History of Royal Arch Masonry in British Columbia and the Yukon*". I have published several of Bro. Meek's papers in *The Architect*.

The paper which was then presented was “*The Nine Muses and the Inquiring Mind*”. It was published in the 1995 addition of *The Architect*.

M. Ven. Bro. Jones was invited to present a paper to the Ontario research lodge, *Heritage Lodge No. 730*. The paper he gave on May 17th, 1986 was entitled *The Byways of Masonry*. It dealt with the rise and history of the Appendant Orders, including the Allied Masonic Degrees.

In 1986 a paper was presented to Grand Council on behalf of Ven. Bro. Ivan Marshall, the second SM of the *Council of Nine Muses*, by Ven. Bro. Gilbert Beckett. It was “*The Most High*” written by the late R. W. Bro., R. Rev. W.C. White, and published in 1948 in the “*Manual for Instructors and for Masonic Students*”.

The Grand Executive ruled subsequently that they did not wish to allow time on the agenda for papers to be read in conjunction with Grand Assemblies so the *Council of Nine Muses* was not invited to present papers after that.

The *Council of Nine Muses* therefor focussed on stimulating interest in the intellectual side of the A.M.D. They tried to stimulate the giving of papers in their own Council and District and to send papers for publishing in *The Architect*.

Nineteen papers were published in the *Architect* from 1985 to 1995 identified as being from members of the *Council of Nine Muses*:

1985 In The Beginning by R. Jack Meek
1986 The Order of the Scarlet Cord by R. Jack Meek
1987 The Poet and the Prostitute by R. Jack Meek
1988 Knights Templar by R. Jack Meek
1989 The Degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr by Glenson T. Jones
1989 The Order of the Scarlet Cord by R. Jack Meek (originally published in 1986)
1989 The York Rite of Freemasonry by Glenson T. Jones
1989 Meditations on the Rite of Masonry by Glenson T. Jones
1989 Sources of Masonic Inspiration by Glenson T. Jones
1989 The Order of the Secret Monitor by R. Jack Meek
1989 The Byways of Masonry by Glenson T. Jones (originally given to *Heritage Lodge*)
1991 Lodge of Superintendents by Glenson T. Jones
1993 Freemasonry in Wales by Eric O. Burt
1994 The History of the Order of the Secret Monitor by Glenson T. Jones
1995 The First Twelve Years of The Architect by Glenson T. Jones
1995 The Evolution of an Order by Glenson T. Jones
1995 Test, Trial, Torture and Truth by Donald Cookson
1995 The Rites of Masonry by Glenson T. Jones
1995 The Nine Muses and the Inquiring Mind by Glenson T. Jones (originally read to Grand Council in October 1985)

In addition, eight other papers were published in *The Architect* in the 1999 to 2002 period by members of the Nine Muses but the authors were not identified as being members of the Nine Muses:

1999 Masonic Research and its Value to the Craft by Michael Jenkyns

1999 Columns: Persistent Symbols by Donald Cookson
1999 Concerning God and Religion by Ernest J. Brown
1999 A System of Symbols and Allegory by Donald Cookson
2000 Military Lodges by Michael Jenkyns
2001 Old Masonic Toasts by Michael Jenkyns
2001 The First Military Lodge by Michael Jenkyns
2002 The Beginnings of Prince Hall Masonry by Michael Jenkyns

At a meeting of the Grand Executive on March 28th, 1998, without prior notice (under the topic of Other Business), James Finch, Albert Card and Ernest Brown challenged Glenson Jones to show why the *Council of Nine Muses* should continue to exist. There were a number of allegations which hinged on the idea that the *Council of Nine Muses* was not fulfilling its functions. Bro. Jones accepted a mandate to chair a committee to address each of the allegations.

The results of that study were presented to the August 1998 meeting of the Grand Executive in a five page report which covered Publications, *The Architect* and the *Council of Nine Muses*. It addressed each of seven allegations. Four of the allegations were based on misunderstandings of the purpose of the Council, two of the allegations were really proposals to change the purpose of the Council (to become less intellectual and more honorary) and one related to the fact that the Council had not sent in an annual return in 1997. This last one surely didn't require more than a reminder as no dues are ever paid from this Council. The Annual Report for the *Council of Nine Muses* for 1998 was also submitted.

The Proceedings of the 14th Assembly of Grand Council (1998) mention a report from M. Ven. Bro. Jones had been received but it did not specify its title nor contents. It was referred to a Committee! No report from that Committee was ever published. Nothing is mentioned of having received the Annual Report of the *Council of Nine Muses* either!!!

The Minutes of the Grand Executive meeting in August 1999 state the Annual Report from the *Council of Nine Muses* had been received and approved for presentation to Grand Council.

In the fall of 1999, M. Ven. Bro. Jones received a letter from the Grand Secretary that M. Ven. Bro. James Finch had appointed R. Ven. Bro. William Pozer to do another study of the *Council of Nine Muses*. M. Ven. Bro. Jones wrote to Bro. Pozer in November with a summary of the events as well as copies of the previous reports. No Report from Bro. Pozer was ever published.

On June 16th, 2002 the subject of the *Council of Nine Muses* was again raised under Other Business, without prior notification. To quote from the minutes:

Halliday, supported by Purslow, gave the history of the *Grand Master's Council* and the *Council of Honour*. The former was shut down last year and it was agreed to discuss the latter at a later date when the E.K.C. of the RBE was present. So that left the *Council of the Nine Muses*. At this point Jenkyns took over and explained the history of the Council, its purpose and where they are at present. After lengthy and heated discussion where many alternatives were presented by Jenkyns (status quo) Halliday (Publishing Board) Whiting (close down) and others, the chair accepted the Jenkyns/Whiting motion to abolish the *Council of the Nine Muses* from the A.M.D. of Canada and erase all references in the Constitution and Regulations Carried.

In the Annual Report for the Council in 2002, M. Ven. Bro. Jones wrote:

On May 1st, 2002 I was again asked to justify the existence of the *Council of 9 Muses* and I referred the Grand Secretary to the detailed report I had written in 1998. It was stated that the *Council of 9 Muses* "submits no report". That is incorrect. I have ALWAYS tried to submit a report on behalf of the *Council of Nine Muses* along with the other reports I have submitted.

I complained in my report in 1999 that my previous reports had never been reported to the Grand Executive. That seems still to be true. I have not been asked for any clarification nor been allowed to review any comments which have been made about my report or about the *Council of Nine Muses*.

I believe that this matter has been handled in a very inappropriate manner.

I repeat from my report in 1998,

The concept of the *Nine Muses* has functioned successfully for 70 years in the U.S.A.. I think the brethren who have criticised the *Nine Muses* have not properly understood what its intended function is. They have also confused its functions with those of *The Architect* and the Publications Committee.

The Nine Muses is not intended to be a way of recognising people who have done good work for the A.M.D., not even if that work was primarily by way of giving papers. It is intended to stimulate the very best writers to be even better.

The Minutes of the August 8th, 2002 meeting of Grand Executive state that the Annual Report of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals had been received from M. Ven. Bro. Jones but it makes NO REFERENCE to the Annual Report of the *Council of Nine Muses* (even though they had been mailed to the Grand Secretary in the same envelope).

THE COUNCIL OF NINE MUSES, THUS DISAPPEARED FROM THE GRAND COUNCIL OF A.M.D. OF CANADA.

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>Notes</u>
9001	13 Oct 1984	Glenston T. Jones	Capital City # 154	
9002	25 Feb 1985	Ivan R. Marshall	Medwayosh # 62	
9003	25 Feb 1985	R. Jack Meek	Dogwood # 171	deceased 10 July 1995
9004	15 Aug 1989	R. Cedric Telford	Dogwood # 171	deceased July 1992
9005	26 Sep 1992	Eric O. Burt	Bridge City # 197	deceased
9006	26 Sep 1992	Frank Standring	London # 68	
9007	26 Sep 1992	Ernest J. Brown	Ontario Shores # 151	
9008	20 Aug 1994	Donald G. Cookson	Arcana # 215	deceased
9009	20 Aug 1994	Norman Pearson	Arcana # 215	
9010	12 Aug 1995	Robert F. Gordon	Capital City # 154	
9011	12 Aug 1995	S. Michael Jenkyns	Colonel By # 217	
Honorary		William G. Peacher PSGM,	GC AMD-USA	