

# Lodge of Superintendents

## Prologue



presented by M.V.Bro. G.T. Jones, Sept. 21, 1991  
published in the Architext 1991

Brethren, we are now sitting in a tyled Lodge of Superintendents, perhaps the only one in the world at the present time. It was just 9 years ago that Capital City Council #154 first presented this degree, on the occasion of a fraternal visit from Land O'Lakes Council #150, which subsequently went into darkness.

Today, at the 7th Annual Convocation of the Grand Council of AMD of Canada, the two Ottawa Councils, Capital City #154 and Colonel By, UD are joining forces to present this degree again. I'd like to take a few moments to give you some background to the degree and to explain what will be expected of you.

Those of you who have read the pamphlet on the History of the AMD<sub>1</sub> may realise that the Architect Grades or Degrees were not among the original 6 degrees received from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland at the formation of the AMD in the United States in 1932. They were added in 1933.

R.V. Bro. W.L. Cummings states in an article on the Architect Degrees<sub>2</sub> that the Architect, Grand Architect and Superintendent degrees were lifted bodily from Carlile's "Manual of Freemasonry". Coill's Masonic Encyclopedia states that Carlile's manual was published in 1845<sub>3</sub>.

I have found another source for these degrees, which is an early English handwritten manuscript ritual<sub>4</sub> located in the George Washington Memorial Association Library, and which was reprinted by the Grand College of Rites in 1966. They are almost identical. Voorhis states<sub>4</sub> that the manuscript has a signed and witnessed promissory note, dated 1830, written in the back of it.

Thus the Superintendent degree is certainly over 160, and possibly, over 200 years old, by A.E. Waite's estimate<sup>9</sup>. It was variously called the Intendent, Superintendent or Scots Master degree. There does not seem to be any clear relationship between this degree and the Scottish master or Maitre Ecossais degrees which grew up in Europe circa 1740.

The essentials of the Architect and Grand Architect degrees were also found in the Early Grand Scottish Rite of the Early Grand Encampment of Scotland<sub>5</sub>, which were published in 1893.

Moving to the details of the degree, several of the words used are not explained in the ritual. Two of these are CIVI and CAKI. I was able to locate some explanation in yet another expose<sup>6</sup> which addresses what it calls the Scotch Rite degrees.

In the 7th or Provost and Judge degree, the words CIVI and KY are used in a similar context as were CIVI and CAKI in the Superintendent degree. The meaning of CIVI is given as "ask or knock and it will be opened". That for KY is given as "arise or seek and it will be found". These words are also used in the 11th or Sublime Knights Elected degree.

The same words appear again in the Provost and Judge degrees in both Allyn's "Ritual of Masonry" and Carlile's Manual of Freemasonry<sup>7, 8</sup>.

It is interesting that Carlile co-titles this degree, the Irish Master, whereas he co-titles the Superintendent degree, the Scotch Master. The Early Grand Encampment of Scotland derived from the Early Grand Encampment of Ireland.<sub>4</sub>

It is interesting to note that A.E. Waite states<sup>9</sup> that the "Grand Architect" and "Intendent of the Building" grades are found in a "Collection Maçonique" which is undated but printed on pre-revolutionary paper. This would place it in the 16th century.

Now, to return to today's degree; the Superintendent degree represents the Ultimate degree in Masonry. Bro. Moabon, who had been selected as an Architect and subsequently admitted as a

Grand Architect, is now to be adopted and proclaimed as an Illustrious Superintendent. In such capacity he will be the successor to Grand Master H.A. and will preside over the Lodge of Superintendents.

In Craft Masonry, the candidate is escorted past the Master once in the EA degree, twice in the FC degree, etc. In the Grand Architect degree he is lead 3x9 or 27 times around the Lodge. In this degree, the number is increased to 9x9 or 81 times!

Now, since our Very Honourable Wardens are not up to this sort of ordeal, and since we would all probably lose track of where we were, we have, in our wisdom, reduced this number to a symbolic 9, which is the square root of 81.

After Bro. Moabon has completed his travels, he will be asked to read an obligation before he agrees to assume it. While he is doing this, V.H.Bro. Secretary will read the obligation aloud for your benefit.

Bro. Moabon will then be asked if he will assume the vow. After he assents, you will all be asked if you also agree to assume the Vow.

The V.H. Wardens have strict instructions laid down in the ritual, that if any of you do not agree to assume this Vow, they are to 'pump' you from the Lodge. This means that they will point their swords at your back and drive you before them 27 times around the Lodge and then thrust you out of doors.

After the obligation has been assumed, you will be asked to meditate for a few moments on the tragic end of him whom you are called to succeed.

At the command, CIVI, all of us will put one knee to the ground. The V.P.M. will then knock 3 times, and we will put our head in our hands in a pensive or meditative posture.

At the command, CAKI, we will all rise and place our hands on our heads, fingers open, and say out loud, "We adopt Moabon as our brother, and we acknowledge him to be our Grand Master".

In our closing ceremony, you will notice that we will use the full series of 81 knocks

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