

THE FIRST TWELVE YEARS OF THE ARCHITECT by Glenson T. Jones Capital City Council No. 154 Council of Nine Muses

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For those of you who were not around in the early 1980s, the Association of Canadian Councils of the AMD was formed on July 28, 1982 at a meeting of Canadian Councils called together by R.Ven.Bro. Raymond Loose, Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Council of AMD of the USA. Bro. Loose held a commission from the SGM "to inquire into the advisability of the formation of an Association of Canadian AMD Councils and if favourable, to elect officers, establish bylaws and arrange financing.

The reason for forming the Association was to provide a forum for coordination of activities and for discussion of future direction. Since early in 1980 there had been several moves to gather interest in forming a Grand Council of the AMD for Canada. The Association gave the Canadians an officially sponsored forum to explore these ideas (and unofficially saved a lot of correspondence back and forth to officers of Grand Council). The first officers were;

- President - Reg Forest-Jones, Medwayosh Council #62 - Vice-President - James Shaw, Burlington Council'70 - Secretary-Treasurer - Norman (Robbie) Robertson, Ontario Shores Council'151

The Architect began its existence in September 1983. The stated purposes were:

- to keep our brethren informed of the AMD events occurring within Canada to promote the activities of Grand Council to promote interaction and exchange of visits among our Councils to encourage the holding of field days at which several Councils could exemplify our degrees
- to provide a forum for each of you to exchange information on subjects of AMD interest to publish extracts of papers prepared by our brethren which may be of interest to other of our brethren to publish such other information as may be of interest to our brethren.

I was the first and indeed the only editor. For the first 17 issues the Architect was a four page newsletter published about four times a year. This kept the mailing costs down but also offered very little space for papers.

The first page always contained a letter from the President of the association. This was followed by news of AMD activities in Canada, promotion of the Masonic Weekend in Washington, DC, poems and papers. Starting with the Nov. 1984 issue a letter from the Sovereign Grand Master of The Grand Council of AMD of Canada was also included. We tried to include papers and input from all Councils in Canada no matter which allegiance they maintained.

In 1989, the Architect was expanded to a 116 page booklet format published once a year. That issue contained 29 papers and 13 Masonic poems. That was the first year that it was published under the banner of the Grand Council of AMD of Canada and assumed a form similar to the Miscellanea published by the G.C of AMD of the USA. By that time the Association, while still existing, had effectively ceased to function because the majority of Councils were by then involved in giving form to the new Grand Council.

From 1990 to 1995, 41 more papers were published along with 14 more Masonic poems.

The time has come however to pass the torch to another editor.

My duties as Grand Secretary are demanding increasingly more time. I got married almost 3 years ago so there are demands of a non-masonic nature now as well.

I informed the Grand Executive at the June 3, 1995 meeting that I would like to be relieved of this task even though I have always enjoyed the role.

It has always given me much satisfaction to put the tangible results of our Allied brethren in a form which could be shared with all. I have been told by many members that they look forward to The Architect and feel that it stimulates them and their brethren to do similar studies. The presentation of papers has always been a part of the AMD experience in Canada.

The job of Editor is not a heavy one but it does require someone who has a computer and someone with the time and enthusiasm to type and edit the many pages of papers which are received each year. A number of these are now being received on disk but some are still received in hard copy which has to be typed into the computer.