

St. Catharines, Ontario

The

Brock Broadcaster



A newsletter for the Brethren of Brock Daylight Lodge No. 745, Niagara "A" District, All Members of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario and Beyond.

September 2021

WHENCE CAME YOU?

Daily this question is asked by Masons without the slightest thought as to its real meaning.

It is fitting that the answer we make to it in the Lodge is well nigh unintelligible, for it is about as intelligible as any ever given it or as probably ever will be given it.

Who can answer the question "Whence Came You?"

Who has ever answered it? Who will ever answer it?

Equally baffling and profound is that companion question, familiar in some jurisdictions, "Whither art thou bound?"

Equally an enigma is the answer we give it. Simple as these questions appear, they search every nook and cranny and sound every depth of every philosophy, every mythology, every theology, and every religion that has ever been propounded anywhere by anybody at any time to explain human life.

They allude to the problems of the origin and destiny of mankind; they lie at the foundation of all the thinking and of all the activities of man except such are as concerned with the purely utilitarian question, "What shall we eat and wherewithal shall we be clothed?"

All our better impulses, all our loftier aspirations, all our faiths, all our longing for and striving after a nobler state of existence, either in this or a future life, are but attempts to answer these two questions.

They are the supreme questions which men have been asking themselves and each other since men were able to think and talk, and they are the questions which men will continue to ask oftenest and most anxiously until the time when we are promised that we shall know even as we are known.

It is thus that study and reflection bring out the beauty and the profound significance of the simplest of Masonic formulae.

Bro. Oliver Day Street
Masonicdictionary.com



CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE

Have you ever heard of Cleopatra's Needle, and do you know where it is?

Cleopatra's Needle is a popular name for each of three ancient Egyptian obelisks re-erected in London, Paris and New York City during the nineteenth century. The obelisks in London and New York are a pair, and the one in Paris is also part of a pair originally from a different site in Luxor, where its twin remains. Although all three Needles are genuine ancient Egyptian obelisks their shared nickname is a misnomer, as they have no connection with Queen Cleopatra VII of Egypt and were already over a thousand years old in her lifetime. The London and New York "Needles" were originally made during the reign of the 18th Dynasty Pharaoh Thutmose III. The Paris "Needle" dates to the reign of 19th Dynasty Ramesses II and was the first to be moved and re-erected as well as the first to acquire the nickname, "L'aiguille de Cleopatre" in Paris.

The London and New York pair both are made of red granite and stand about twenty-one metres (sixty-nine feet) high, weigh about two hundred and twenty-four tons and are inscribed with Egyptian hieroglyphs. They were originally erected in the Egyptian city of Heliopolis on the orders of Thutmose III, around 1450 BC. The material of which they were cut is granite, bought from the quarries of Aswan, near the first waterfalls of the Nile. The inscriptions were added about two hundred years later by Ramesses II to commemorate his military victories.

The obelisks were moved to Alexandria and set up in Caesareum – a temple by Cleopatra in honor of Mark Anthony or Julius Caesar – by Romans in 12 BC, during the reign of Augustus, but toppled sometime later. This had a fortuitous effect of burying their faces and so preserving most of the hieroglyphs from the weathering.



Cleopatra's Needle – Paris

<https://dreamtime.com/cleopatraneedle>

Across the pond the London Needle is in the City of Westminster on the Victoria Embankment near the Golden Jubilee Bridge. It is close to the Embankment underground station. It was presented to the United Kingdom in 1819 by the ruler of Egypt and Sudan, Muhammad Ali, in commemoration of the victories of Lord Nelson at the Battle of the Nile and Sir Ralph Abercromby at the Battle of Alexandria in 1801. Although the British government welcomed the gesture, it declined to fund the expense of transporting it to London.

Meanwhile in the United States, the Needle was brought to this country by Bro. Lieutenant Commander HH Goringe, United States Navy, the entire expense of which was born by the late Mr. William H Vanderbilt of New York.

When Goringe lifted the monument, for the purpose of shipping it, he was surprised to find that under its base were many symbols which seemed clearly Masonic. The Great Lodge of Masons in Egypt sent a committee of its best men to examine these emblems and give an opinion. They were unanimous in their opinion that the emblems were Masonic and gave the following definitions. Goringe had a drawing

made, not only to show the emblems and the relative positions, but for use in replacing them when the shaft should be erected at New York.

The Committee thought the stone, with figures resembling snakes, was emblematic of Wisdom. They thought the “axis-stone” represented the trestle-board and the marked stone bore the mark of a Mark Master. The two implements, the trowel and the lead plummet, are emblematic of Freemasonry; the white stone is the symbol of purity, as we always understand it.

The Obelisk was brought to New York and erected in Central Park, where it now stands. The corner stone was laid with Masonic ceremonies on October 5, 1880, and the emblems were replaced exactly as they had been found at Alexandria.

New Jersey Lodge of Research and Education – Volume 13, Issue 3
<https://www.ancient-origins.net>

.....

Ritual...

Practice, Practice and Practice

Education...

On the History of our Gentle Craft

Mentoring

Demonstrate and Explain the Symbolism and Philosophy of Craft Freemasonry

GRAND LODGE MASONIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE MONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES



Bro. Christopher Earnshaw is a 33rd degree Honorary Inspector General Orient of Japan and Korea. He is a Past Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Japan and a Past Master of the Research Lodge, Grand Lodge of Japan. Bro. Earnshaw looks at the structure of ancient Chinese cultures and how they relate to the governance model used in today’s Masonic Lodges.

.....

GRAND LODGE VISION STATEMENT

“Our vision is that our Lodges are vibrant, the ritual conferred with excellence, and our members, being happy, all contribute to our legacy from one generation to the next. Membership is explored by men who have witnessed our character and actions and that our communities regard Freemasonry for its ideals, dedication to family and to those less fortunate.”

As before, our Grand Lodge believes that over the next decades Ontario Freemasons will be presented with some of the most exciting and challenging opportunities in our jurisdictions' history. We are the current custodians of a way of life that has inspired and helped to cast generations of great men and leaders both here in Ontario and around the world. We look forward with hope that our vision can be made a success. The Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario intends to embrace and exercise its mandate to protect and promote Freemasonry in Ontario, ensuring that Masonry's timeless philosophy and way of life continue to be vital to countless future generations of men in Ontario.

.....

Question?

Why is the sun over the JW's chair and the moon over the SW's chair if the SW is in charge during the work of the Lodge and the JW in charge during refreshment, or not at work?

Answer

Two unrelated problems are linked here, which are not designed to fit logically with each other, though they are not really incompatible. Perhaps the best explanation will appear if we trace how the sun and moon, JW and SW got into those positions. In our earliest ritual documents, we read frequently of 'three lights' candles, standing in various indeterminate positions. An exposure of 1724 said that they stood 'East, South and West', (clearly implying the course of the sun at sunrise, at meridian and at sunset, though this was not mentioned in the text). In *Masonry Dissected*, 1730, the 'Three Lights' are still...situated 'East, South and West' and they represent sun, moon, and Master-

Mason and the same text says that both Wardens stand in the west.

In operative times, when the Masons worked with hammer and chisel, there was only one Warden in charge of the craftsmen; he was a 'progress-chaser' and it was his duty to ensure that nothing disturbed the progress of the work. In non-operative Lodges certainly before 1730, there were two Wardens and some time between 1730 and 1760, when, for ritual purposes, it was deemed advisable to allocate specific duties to each, the SW remained in charge of the Lodge at labour, and the JW was placed in charge of the Lodge at refreshment. The earliest ritual text that describes this is *Three Distinct Knocks*, 1760, where the WM is in the East, and for the first time, the JW is in the South and the SW as before in the West. In the opening ceremony the JW's duty is:

The better to observe the Sun. at high Meridian to call the men off from Work to Refreshment and to see that they come on in due time.

Notice the JW only called the Lodge to refreshment at the midday break, and it seems to me that the points raised by the question are not incompatible. In the course of this lengthy answer, I have tried to show:

- 1.How the three lights, E., S. and W. came to represent the daily course of the Sun.
- 2.How the JW and SW arrived at the S. and W. and acquired the Sun and Moon emblems on their chairs.
- 3.How the JW duties came to be allocated.

The real problem is how to reconcile the E., S. and W. with the Sun, Moon and Master', the traditional reply which still appears in our modern ritual. After much study, I am convinced that if we said 'South, West and East', that problem would disappear as well.

WHATEVER ROUTE YOUR TRAVELS
TAKE YOU...
YOU ARE NEVER FAR FROM THE
SQUARE AND THE COMPASSES



Toronto Rd., Port Hope



Claude St., Wiarton



King St. North, Oakland



Haist Road, Fonthill (Pelham)



Goderich St., Port Elgin



15 Main St., Port Dalhousie

Until the next edition, take care,
stay safe and always be kind.

RW Bro. Edward F. Dunsmore... aka "Ted"

