



The

Coromandel Courier

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Half-yearly Newsletter of the District Grand Lodge of Madras



Message of R. W. The District
Grand Master,
R.W. Bro. K.R.N. Menon

By the time this issue of the Courier reaches your hands, we would have met at Trivandrum for the Half-Yearly Meetings, where the registration approaches a triple century - and we hope we can continue to have disciplined gatherings despite the numbers. My congratulations to all the organising Brethren of Lodge Minchin.

In my message for August on our website I had conveyed the principles of the 3 D's - Duty, Dignity and Discipline which continue to govern our conduct, and therefore it is not surprising that we are able to manage our affairs severally with that order which separates us from the mob.

Trivandrum also witnessed for the first time the consecration of two Chapters of the Rose Croix Ancient and Accepted Rite, arising from the secularisation of this degree, and the recent formation of a Supreme Council for India to govern its affairs. In our District, Chennai will also have a Chapter soon, while Hyderabad already has two Chapters consecrated in November 2005. This means of course that progression to the 33rd Degree is now possible within India, allowing Brethren opportunities for further progress in the Masonic arts.

While I have this opportunity of reaching all of you, I should not lose the chance of once again reminding you of the Cornwallis Home for Senior Citizens, which is now nearing completion and will be ready for occupation, in a few weeks from now. Although the deadline for registration for residence therein, by our Brethren is about to expire, we would welcome any applications from

Brethren before the next few weeks, as a possible last resort stretching of the deadline.

We are hoping to have a 'soft' opening on Elders' Day (October 1st) to run-in the Home facility with short-let tenancies, before we throw open the gates to Senior Citizens after the official inauguration. As you all already know, the inauguration is set for the 6th of December 2006 by Lord Cornwallis who will be accompanied by Lady Cornwallis. There will be a subscription Dinner in Bangalore that evening, for those Brethren and their Ladies who wish to attend about which you will be notified separately.

By the time the next issue of the Courier is out, the Cornwallis Home would be up and running, and the Editor should consider a special issue of the Courier on that venture of our District Grand Charity Fund Trust, to coincide with the inauguration of the Home.

Wishing all our Kerala Brethren a HAPPY ONAM!

R.W. Bro. K.R.N. MENON
R.W. DISTRICT GRAND MASTER



The Ideal Mason

The ideal Mason is one whose word is his bond; who can be depended upon to do what he undertakes to do; to be what he ought to be; who recognizes his obligations, not only to his fellows in Freemasonry, but to his brother man as well.

District Grand Lodge News

The Half Yearly Convocation of the District Grand Lodge was held at Thiruvananthapuram on 12th August 2006, under the banner of Lodge Minchin No. 2710.

The Festival begun in the Lodge premises, with the meeting of the Chitty Conclave and the fun, frolic and fellowship at the Bar Dive, the previous evening ended the next day with the DGL Convocation and banquet in the air-conditioned hall of the proverbial Trivandrum Club. Brethren were accommodated comfortably in the city's best hotels reaching up to Kovalam, providing them with a swift network of transportation and options to visit the fantastic beaches, the tourist's paradise in God's Own Country and God's Own Abode, the famous Padmanabhaswamy temple, made *immortal* by the royal sage Marthandavarma Maharaja, founder of the city. The arrangements made in the Trivandrum Club for the conduct of the meeting were simply charming and orderly. The cuisine was an example of the unique blend of the modern and the traditional; the Mughal whole lamb barbeque and the grilled fish alongside the truly Travancorean delicacies represented the culinary art and the developing taste blends of Kerala. The entire scenario provided a new experience to the participants ever fondly to remember; and at the same time proving the soundness of the wisdom of holding the DGL meetings in different parts of the District to enable Brethren enjoy the mosaic of local hospitalities and the broad spectrum of tradition.

Every Brother of Lodge Minchin, ably led by W. Bro. R. Suresh Mohan, W.M. and W. Bro. G. Kumaran Nair, Secretary and General Coordinator, deserve our appreciation and CONGRATULATIONS for so enviably winning the hearts of the visiting Brethren.

Brethren of Thiruvananthapuram had all along striven to exemplify *Masonry Universal*. Once again it was proved with an impressive pageant of 35 Brethren from the various lodges under the Grand Lodge of India in the city and around, led by R.W. the Regional Grand Master of Southern India, R.W. Bro. G. K. Selvarajan accompanied by the veteran Freemason, R.W. Bro. K.R. Rajasekharan Nair, OSM, Past Deputy Grand Master and Past Regional Grand Master, Southern India.

Addressing the Brethren R.W. District Grand Master, R.W. Bro. K.R.N. Menon, said that the Charity front the contributions received by the Disaster Relief Chest for relief to Tsunami victims has exceeded Stg. £ 850,000; out of which a grant of Stg. £ 320,000 (Rs. 12.6 crores) supports childcare centres in Tamilnadu and 58 boats have been delivered benefiting 230 families.

The prestigious Project of our District-the Cornwallis Masonic Home for Senior Citizens is progressing according to schedule and getting ready for formal inauguration by M.W. Bro. Fiennes, Lord Cornwallis on December 6, 2006. Under a running-in plan, partly to ensure early earnings to augment the Charity Funds, it will be possible by October 2006, to set apart a few rooms for casual occupancy as serviced apartments. This will also enable the administratio to get adequately oriented to the needs of senior citizens before they move in. A recent expert valuation of the 3 acres land comprised in the Masonic Home put its current market value at a conservative figure of Rs. 2.3 crores, against the procurement cost of Rs. 30 lakhs, which points out to the need of putting the same to good remunerative use to the advantage of our Charitable activities.

R.W. DGM recalled our duty to address the needs of the Brethren and their spouses in distress, particularly those suffering from terminal ailments, and confirmed that the Masons' Welfare Fund, will be activated immediately after the Cornwallis Home is up and running. The need to maintain properly the various Lodge Buildings which have survived the test of time along with their Lodges is a matter of grave concern. The Masonic Heritage Building Trust, presently occupied with the rehabilitation and upkeep of the Masonic buildings in Chennai, is contemplating building up a good corpus for the Fund to be able to assist Lodges, in due course, with loans to repair and maintain their Temples and to protect their valuable properties.

W. Bro. Jacob Mathew laid down office as District District Assistant Grand Secretary effective August 31, 2006 and, at the request of the R.W. DGM, W. Bro. J.M.I. Sait, District Senior Grand Warden, took over the responsibilities from September 1, 2006.



OUR HERITAGE

<< Present view of the building that once housed The Lodge of Perfect Unanimity

THE LODGE OF PERFECT UNANIMITY # 150 EC

The Only Bicentenary Lodge In The District Of Madras Consecrated before the Grand Union

"Whereas it appears by the Records of the Grand Lodge that on the 7th day of October 1786 a Warrant of Constitution was granted to certain Brethren therein named authorising them and their regular successors to hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons at Madras and numbered 233 on the Register of the Premier Grand Lodge and Whereas in the year 1790 the Lodge took the name of Lodge of Perfect Unanimity and Whereas in consequence of the alterations made in the numbers of Lodges in the year 1792 it became no. 199 and Whereas in consequence of the Union of the said Grand Lodge with the Atholl Grand Lodge on the 27th day of December 1813 the said Lodge became No. 248 on the Register of United Grand Lodge of England and Whereas in consequence of the subsequent alterations made in the numbers of Lodges in 1832 and 1863 the said Lodge became No. 150....."

- excerpted from the Bicentenary Warrant dated 7th October 1986.

The Lodge of Perfect Unanimity was the first Lodge to be formed in South India immediately after the union of the Provincial Grand Committee of Athol Lodge No. 152 and the Regular (or Modern) Provincial Grand Lodge. The process of union was formally completed on 5th October 1786 and General Horne took over as Provincial Grand Master. On the third day, 7th October, Lodge Perfect Unanimity No. 1 was consecrated by him. An account of the situation prevailing before and at the time of consecration is vividly presented by R. W. Bro. K.R.N. Menon in the History of the Lodge carried on the Bi-century souvenir. There he quotes from Preston's Illustrations of Freemasonry a picturesque account of the proceedings of the consecration, where Colly Lyon Lucas Esq. was

installed the first Master. The most interesting part of the formation of PU was the end of Athol Masonry in the South though it took another 27 years for the ultimate union, England, to occur in 1813. While the PU banner incorporates the coats of arms of both Athol and Regular Grand Lodges, commemorating the local union of 1786, its seal and Past Master's jewel contain the coat of arms of the Premier Grand Lodge of England recognizing that it was a Regular Lodge when consecrated.

The Lodge survived the politically critical times on many occasions; the first two decades were strife with wars with the French and Tippoo Sultan when many Brethren of the Lodge were prisoners of Tippoo and some lost their lives in confrontation with the French. Interestingly, in spite of the prevailing hostilities, English Masons received courteous and brotherly treatment, even as prisoners of war, from the French.

From the time immemorial no brother was permitted to be absent from his Lodge except for genuine cause. In the early days of PU, this norm was strictly followed and brethren absenting without convincing reasons were heavily fined by the Lodge. The Lodge used to meet twice a month, first and third Thursdays, except for 9 months from July 1790 to March 1791 when it met on first and third Wednesdays.

Another interesting feature was keeping the three degrees as water tight compartments, each being opened and closed independently and according to the degree to be conferred. Proposal and balloting was done for initiation, passing and raising. There was practically no difference between the regular and emergency meetings as the latter were treated as additional regular meetings. In the absence of fans and air coolers windows had to be laid open and punkhas used. Many tylers were engaged to guard the windows and to manage the punkha boys and to keep off the syces, palanquin bearers, butlers, cooks and mateys of the day.

In the early period the Lodge should have met at different places as it had no permanent place of its own. In 1800-01 the Lodge met in the Pantheon Rooms, presumably in Pantheon Road, Chennai. In 1802 it met for a time in a private residence in

Spur Tank Road; in 1826 it was using the College Hall in College Road. The hall was ill adapted for a lodge being much exposed and much hot when closed. Bad financial position prevented any thought of new construction. Membership had fallen from 78 in 1796 to about a dozen in 1826; but by 1838 it regained strength to 106 and the improved finances emboldened the Brethren to venture new construction. A Masonic Temple was constructed on the corner of Edward Elliott's Road and Marina, with the funds contributed by the Brethren and the Lodge and through an issue of interest free debentures. The temple was used hardly for 17 years when in 1859 it had to be leased out and the Lodge moved to a rented place on Mount Road as municipal taxes and costs of maintenance had become exorbitant. Two years later, in 1861, it was shifted to Cotgrave Hotel, Vepery, sharing the makeshift temple with Lodge Universal Charity and later with Lodge Pitt Macdonald. The old temple was sold to the Government in 1873. It took them 11 years to buy another property at the junction of General Patters Road and Mount Road. Though fortunate to hold meetings thereafter on own premises the Lodge room was real sham - a hall without any ceiling and invaded by tree-rats, owls and bats and a leaky roof covered by tarpaulins during the monsoons. In 1888, 45 grounds out of the 100 grounds held by the Lodge were sold to raise just enough money to pay off the debentures it had issued and other minor loans. But the repairs bills were once again mounting and the Lodge had to resort to a further issue of debentures.

By 1905 the burdensome fallacy of the pride of owning independent premises had its full quota of tolls and the Lodge was on the verge of disposing of the remaining land and the building when the District Grand Lodge offered to buy the land for constructing a new building for the common use of all the Lodges functioning in Madras. DGL took over the premises on a down payment of Rs. 5,000 to discharge the immediate liabilities and the balance of Rs. 75,000 in debentures, partly interest free, PU continuing on the premises on a nominal rent. This marked the beginning of the DGL owning and managing premises for the common benefit of the daughter Lodges - the biggest contribution PU could give to the Craft. The most

important contribution of PU, however, was the initiative taken in 1800 to establish a Free School, called Freemasons' School, which in 1872 to 1954 went under the name of the Civil Orphan Asylums, and thereafter as St. George's School and Orphanage. The Free School started with 50 boys as day scholars, the parents of whom were either dead or unable to pay for their tuition elsewhere, children of Masons being given preference.

The standard method of raising funds to assist in a charitable cause was to announce an appeal in the Lodge and to open a subscription list for Brethren to contribute according to their mite; the list was closed as soon as the purpose was fulfilled. Circulating of the Charity Box at regular meetings appears to be a practice initiated by PU in 1886 and later adopted by other Lodges in the District. Though the practice went out of usage intermittently, it was revived in November 1914 and since then it has remained a constant item on the agenda. The District Grand Charity owes its origin to PU in that in 1818 the then WM of PU proposed in the provisional Grand Lodge establishment of a Masonic Charity Fund with contributions from the Lodges under the Province, and donations from individual brethren. One of the interesting charitable initiatives was a spontaneous response to the invitation by the District Grand Master, R. W. Bro. T.V. Muthukrishna Aiyar to assist in the establishment of a Masonic Nursing Home. Since March 1961, four rooms have been rented at the Pandalai Nursing Home, Poonammallee High Road for use by deserving masons.

(Basic source : Bicentenary Commemoration Volume, 1986, compiled by R.W. Bro. K.R.N. Menon and W. Bro. D.H. Carpenter of Lodge Perfect Unanimity)

THE EDITOR'S NOTE



Thank you, Brethren, for your spontaneous response to the May 2006 issue of The Coromandel Courier. But I remain disappointed at the sluggish flow of information about the happenings at the Lodges. Permit me reiterate the request earlier made to keep me posted with information on your Lodge activities. Needless to emphasize that the Coromandel Courier is your News Letter and your News always carries priority.

J.M.I. Sait

For Your Kind Information :

(The Coromandel Courier has tried to find answers to certain questions frequently asked by Brethren. They are not necessarily complete, but we have tried to rely upon the best available sources..... Editor)

Question 1. What is the procedure for amending the Bylaws of the Lodge ? Can an amendment be retroactive?

1. Any amendment to the Bylaws, other than the subscription clause, shall be announced in the Lodge in writing at a Regular Meeting. No discussion should take place at this stage. The amendment, along with the original clause being amended, should be included in the Summons for the next Regular Meeting where it should be considered. If carried, with or without further amendments or modifications it should be included in the summons for the next Regular meeting for confirmation.
2. On confirmation, the amendment should be submitted to the District Grand Secretary in the form of a detailed statement, in triplicate, for consideration by the District Grand Master. When it is approved by him it will be forwarded to the Grand Secretary for the approval of the Grand Master. If approved, two copies will be returned to the District with a memorandum of approval, one copy of which will be sent by the District Grand Secretary to the Lodge. On receipt of the approval, the Secretary will insert the amendment in the Lodge Bylaws in the appropriate position.
3. The amendment is operative from the date it is approved by the M.W. Grand Master.
4. In the case of amendments to the subscription clause, Notice of motion is put on the summons and circulated to all members. It is not discussed at this stage. Any member may propose a change or modification in writing to the Secretary. The motion along with the modifications notified should appear on the summons for the next meeting at which it shall be discussed. If approved, the amendment becomes effective when the next subscription becomes due. It cannot be made retroactive.
5. The term Subscription does not include any fees payable on initiation, joining or rejoining.

Question 2: Being an Installed Master in a recognized constitution can I perform the initiation ceremony in a Lodge under English Constitution?

1. Rule 119(b) of the Book of Constitutions reads as follows: "Save as hereinafter provided, if the Master be not present, the Immediate Past Master, or if he be absent the senior past

Master of the Lodge present, or if no Past Master of the Lodge present, the senior Installed Master who is a subscribing member of the Lodge shall take the chair and rule the lodge, or may request any other installed master who is a subscribing member of the Lodge to do so. If no installed Master who is a subscribing member of the Lodge be present, then the Senior Warden, or in his absence the Junior Warden shall conduct the business of the Lodge but shall request an Installed Master to occupy the Chair to open and close the Lodge and to confer degrees.

2. The term Installed Master is not defined. However, the Board of General Purposes have defined a Past Master as one who has served a year as Master of a Lodge under the English Constitution and has not been promoted to Grand rank, Metropolitan, Provincial, District or Overseas Grand Rank. The Board of General Purposes has categorically ruled that a Past Master of a Lodge under a Constitution other than the United Grand Lodge of England cannot occupy the Eastern Chair of a Lodge under UGLE. The case is **not different** even if he is a member of the Lodge. He may, however, conduct a part of the ceremony without occupying the Eastern Chair.
3. Attention is also invited to a Ruling by the Board in 1965 to the effect that any Master installed in a recognized Constitution is entitled to the prefix 'Worshipful' and to wear the levels on his apron. He is, however, not entitled to wear a Past Master's collar until he has qualified as such by service in the chair of an English Lodge.
4. It may also be noted in this context that to be eligible for being elected as Master of an English Lodge he must have served as a Warden for a full year in a Lodge under UGLE.
5. Thus by inference, an Installed Master referred here means an Installed Master of a Lodge under the UGLE.

Question 3: Can a Secretary be presented with a Jewel for service rendered for a long period?

The Board of General Purposes considers it undesirable to make a presentation to a Lodge Officer in recognition of the performance of an official duty. As such issue of jewels to officers as they retire or for long service is irregular. Presentation of Past Master's Jewels has been approved because of long usage. Founder members of Lodges are allowed to wear a Founder's Jewel of a design approved by the Grand Master. A bar descriptive of the difference between the various recipients is not permitted.

The Cornwallis Masonic Home for Senior Citizens

The Status of Construction Work at the Cornwallis Masonic Home for Senior Citizens, Bangalore

Structural Work : Completed

Finishing Work: Painting, Flooring, Plumbing and Sanitation - In progress and is expected to be completed by the last week of September in one portion of the building, that can be readied for occupation in the first week of October.

Furniture and Furnishings: Execution of Orders on schedule

Permanent Water and Power connections: Under process by the Departments concerned.

Landscaping: To be taken up shortly

Administrator: Recruitment at the final stage

FAQ

1. How far is the Project Site from Bangalore ?

27 Kms from Vidhan Soudha off the Bellary - Hyderabad Highway.

2. What is the area of the Site and the constructed area ?

3.3 acres. 30,624 sft. 2.64 acres free land around.

3. How many floors is the building ?

Ground plus one only.

4. How many apartments are provided? What are the amenities?

There are 50 bed-sitter apartments of 290 sq.ft. each, with attached kitchenette, and toilet facility; fully furnished, provided with computer, telephone and television ports; Dining Hall-cum-Cafeteria, Library, T.V. Lounge, Prayer Hall etc.; allows for ramps and wheel-chair access; factored in for Rain Water Harvesting, Solar Heating, Re-cycled water for Toilets etc. Full Vegetarian catering is provided - Non-Vegetarian meals extra on request.

5. What are the developments coming up nearby?

This is a fast developing area on account of the prestigious International Airport coming up within ten kilometers of the Home, and the nearby colony of the Bharath Earth Movers Welfare Society, Schools and Engineering Colleges etc.; a gated development by FERNs with a Club House. It will be a secure and well populated area, when fully occupied by 2007.

6. When will the Home be ready ?

Construction is well under way and the inauguration has been set for 6th December 2006, to be opened by Rt. Hon. Fiennes, Lord Cornwallis Past Pro. Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

7. Who are qualified to be residents of the Home ?

Men, Women of the ages of 58 and above as well as couples of that age group. Freemasons and their widows will have preference; but members of the Public are free to apply. The Governing Council of the Home reserves the right to interview and screen the applicants prior to admission.

8. What are the charges / deposits that are levied ?

A refundable, interest-free deposit of Rs.7 Lakhs on acceptance of residential admission. Monthly charges will be Rs. 12,000/- for double occupancy and Rs. 8,500/- for single occupancy to cover the costs of vegetarian meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner), bed linen, and towels.

9. What will be the staff and medical back-up available?

The Home will be managed by a Resident Manager, with support staff for Housekeeping, Canteen etc., There will be Doctors regularly calling at the Home. A consultation room and lying-in facility for minor ailments is available. Major Hospitals like Manipal Medical Mission are planning large facilities in the vicinity which should be in place within the next few years. Baptist Mission, and Columbus hospitals are within about 20 minutes drive from the Home, on the Bellary - Bangalore Highway.

10. What are the transport arrangements ?

Two ten-seater vans will do twice daily runs to the City and back, at pre-scheduled times for a small charge. Parking can be arranged for residents' cars on prior intimation.

(Courtesy : W. Bro. K.V. Srinivasan)

Contact for further information and registration

The Secretary, District Grand Charity,
Freemason's Hall, 87 Ethiraj Salai, Chennai 600008
Tel : (044) 2827 1250, e-mail: dgl@dglmadras.org.in



MASONIC G.K.

The Hebrew Formula:

GOD =	G	+	O	+	D
=	Gomez	+	Oz	+	Dabar
=	Beauty	+	Strength	+	Wisdom
Exemplified by	HAB		HRT		SRI

The Stuffed Mason

An African child born in 1721 brought to Europe as a slave in 1731, became a favourite with the Emperor of Vienna. He was made a Mason in 1776. When he died in 1779, the Emperor had him stuffed and mounted in the Natural History Museum. He thus became the first Black of African birth to become a Mason, and also the first Mason to be stuffed, mounted and displayed!

THE CHARITY ARCADE

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Apart from giving alms and providing help liberally to those in need or distress, Charity is also defined as love of one's fellowman, as kindness and leniency in judging others" - M.W. the Grand Master

"Friendship is the cement which binds us together. Integrity is a characteristic which should be inherent in Freemasons, but Charity in all its aspects is the practical application of Freemasonry to the rest of the world." - M.W. the Grand Master

(Source : Address of M.W. the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. HRH the Duke of Kent at the Quarterly Communication on 8th March 2006)

CHARITY REDEFINED



Exhorting Lodges to form Almoner's Committees to interact with widows of brethren and distressed Masons R.W. Bro. Dorab C. Bajan, R.W. the District Grand Master of Bombay and Northern India (E.C) observed :

"Charity is not just about raising money and making donations to good causes, valuable thoughts though these are. It has a broader and deeper purpose. ... Many of our Brethren and their Lodges already give much of their time and money to practical charitable work, which is entirely laudable, and must continue. But, as Masons, we should try and involve ourselves to a greater extent in activities which bring joy and happiness into the lives of the disadvantaged, and not just assume that a cash donation discharges our obligations..... It is only when we can be of help to our own that we will be able to bring joy to those outside the Masonic fold." (Coutresy, The Mason, June 2006)



FELICITATIONS

HEARTY FELICITATIONS TO W. BRO. V.V. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN ON THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF HIS SERVICE TO MASONRY.
W. Bro. V.V.V. was initiated into Freemasonry on September 20, 1946 in Lodge Universal Charity #273, installed Worshipful Master in 1956 and became the District Senior Grand Warden of our District in 1981. We wish him many more years of enjoyable Masonic Fellowship and active guidance to the younger folk.

From the Half Yearly Reports of Lodges : (30 June 2006)

St John's Lodge # 434 EC runs a Charity clinic on a permanent basis which provides free consultation and medicines to the needy. On an average 25 patients are attended to daily. Monthly expenditure amounts to Rs. 20,000 to 25,000. Family members of the Brethren are encouraged to organize their own charitable activities. Some of the programmes undertaken by the ladies included donating 20 Kg milk powder to the Home for the aged and distribution of sweets to the inmates of the Home for the Mentally Retarded Children. The Lodge also sponsors full educational expenses of poor children, especially the physically challenged. It has also implemented a pension scheme under which the widow of a Past Master of the Lodge and her mentally retarded child receive subsistence. As part of the 170th year celebrations coming up in October / November this year, it is planned to hold a Medical Camp for Cardiac Care, a Blood Donation Camp, and a Dental Camp for the physically challenged, particularly the hearing impaired.

Pitt Mac Donald Lodge # 1198 has a permanent scheme of providing noon meals for the poor children of selected schools, institutions and centres in the city. A monthly rice bag scheme where every member contributes a rupee a day is in vogue for quite some time. A novel idea implemented by the Lodge under a literacy advancement programme is to distribute dictionaries to the schools. During the half year the Lodge executed a grant to a school for renovation with a DGL assistance amounting to Rs. 80,000.

Golconda Lodge # 249 discovered unusual talents in a Standard IV school boy, parents too poor to support his studies. The Lodge adopted the child for his entire future education.



OBITUARY

The Coromandel Courier places on record deep condolences, on behalf of the Brethren of the District, to the families and relatives of the following Brethren who were recently called to the Grand Lodge Above for Divine Duties. May their souls rest in peace in TGAOTU.

W.Bro. M.S. Pilkington, PM, Pitt Macdonald Lodge
W.Bro. S. Ramakrishnan, Hon. Member, Lodge Ampthill
W.Bro. Dr. R. Janardhanan, PM, Lodge Ampthill
W.Bro. Lt. Col. G. Gajendran, CA, Lodge Southern B'hood
W.Bro. T.V. Comfort, former member, St. John's Lodge
Bro. A. Abdul Azeez, Lodge Minchin

THE KERALA LODGE # 2188 KOZHIKODE



Returning Light from West



Worshipful Master W. Bro. Dr. V. N. Moni and Brethren of Lodge Kerala cordially invite all the Brethren of the District to the Annual Investiture Convocation of the District Grand Lodge of Madras, being held at Kozhikode on 10 February 2007.

Kozhikode, formerly called Calicut was the traditional capital of Northern Kerala under the Samuthiri's (Zamorin's) rule. As the most important city of Malabar region of Kerala, it was a leading trading centre for spices on the West Coast of India during the medieval period and a crucible blending in it various oriental and occidental cultures, which is reflected in its cultural fabric and in its cuisine. An entire street in the city, the Sweet-meat Street, deals in traditional and exotic Kozhikode Halwa the bench mark of sweets. In 1498 Vasco da Gama laid anchor at Kappad, 16 KM from the city, after a year at sea. In less than two years, in 1500, the first European factory was established in India, at Calicut, by Pedro Alvarez Cabral. Kappad is today a world-renowned beach resort, contiguous with Bekel. The unique seafaring vessel, Odam, connected India with the Arabian and Persian Gulf countries for centuries and continues to be the most often used means of cargo transportation between them, besides itself being a prestigious export commodity. Calicut is the maritime gateway to Lakshadweep and Minicoy.

A bustling city and commercial capital of Malabar, Calicut, has been on the Masonic map from 1886 when a Local Warrant, under the style Lodge Kerala, Calicut, No. 2188 EC, was issued by the District Grand Master of Madras RW Bro. Arther Morell Sanders. The Grand Lodge warrant was also issued the same year. The consecration meeting was held on Saturday the 16th October at 5 pm at the Masonic Hall near Captain's Tank, which belonged to the Scottish Lodge

of Southern Cross, Calicut, whereat the founding Master W. Bro. F Wilkinson was installed by W. Bro J. F Jowitt of Ceylon (Srilanka) in the presence of Wor. Bro. Capt F. M. Gillham, P.D.G.A.DoC (Madras), P.M. of Coramandal Lodge No. 1810 and W. Bro. E. Krishnan, Past Master of Southern Cross. Eleven out of the seventeen Founder members attended the consecration.

It is worth remembering that the concept of KERALA had already been in the minds of the British military men, like Gilham who was the guiding spirit behind the constitution of this Lodge, almost a century in advance of the actual realization of the State of Kerala in 1959. Interesting enough, none of the 17 founders ever contemplated of living permanently in this part of the country to see Kerala happening; all of them returned to their native country on the completion of their respective military and other assignments before the turn of the century.

The Lodge celebrated its centenary on 16th October 1986 and was attended by M. W. Bro. Rt. Hon. Lord Cornwallis, M.W. the Pro Grand Master and Lady Cornwallis accompanied by the District Grand Master R. W. Bro. A. P. Tampi. MW Bro. Lord Cornwallis was presented with a silver salver and a formal address inscribed on palm leaves, resembling the ancient manuscripts of Kerala, in a sandalwood casket. The two presents adorn the Grand Lodge Museum at a prominent location.

Today the lodge has 74 members including 22 from the medical profession. The members consist of men from a cross section of the society, the youngest being 28 years, the senior most 89. Over the years the Lodge has initiated more than a dozen Lewises and produced many very eminent Freemasons; of whom particular mention should be made of Hon. Herbert Bradley who became the Dy. District Grand Master in 1901 and Lionel Vibert, a renowned Masonic scholar (PM QC Lodge), W. Bro. D.V. Nambudiripad, PJGD, PDJGW, W. Bro. B. M. Udiyavar, PAGDC, PDSGW, W. Bro. P. Mukundan, PSGD, PDG Dy. DGM, and W. Bro. K. K. Varma, PAGDC, Dy. DGM.

The next Annual Investiture Convocations of the District Grand Lodge of Madras and the District Grand Chapter of Madras will be held at Kozhikode on the 10th February 2007 under the banner of Lodge Kerala, No. 2188 EC .

Produced and published by J.M.I. Sait, Editor on behalf of the District Grand Lodge of Madras, Chennai.

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