

THE KEYSTONE



*Publication of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons
of British Columbia and Yukon*

*Volume 3, Issue 3
December 2003*

The Grand First Principal's Christmas Message

My Companions,

Regardless of whatever religious faith or creed any of us may profess, we cannot help but be moved by the Spirit of Christmas. It is a season that voices humanity's longing for peace on Earth.

As Companions of the Mystic Tie, we know that, whenever the hope of love and compassion is lifted in the hearts of men, then the Spirit of Royal Arch Masonry is there to sustain and strengthen them. And, the Companions of Royal Arch Masonry, and indeed the members of all of the Masonic Family, strive to make this possible among men of good will. You have only to look at the work accomplished by our Royal Arch Charities to see the example of Masonic good will in evidence in this Grand Jurisdiction.

The Spirit of Christmas and the Spirit of Royal Arch Masonry have marched hand in hand throughout the ages. Century after century, the spirit of universal brotherhood has emblazoned the Spirit of Christmas upon every banner, and carried it to the farthest corners of the globe, spreading the bond of universal friendship and brotherly love throughout the world. It is this spirit that I have seen evidenced everywhere I have travelled in this Grand Jurisdiction of British Columbia and Yukon.

Today, wherever Yuletide trees brighten homes and corners, wherever bright lights burn to give cheer to the lonely and the tired, wherever glad voices sing songs of great joy, wherever the laughter of little children and the happy smiles of grandparents round out the hours; there you will see the Spirit of Christmas and the Spirit of Royal Arch Masonry.

Of course, in Royal Arch Masonry, it matters little the belief system from whence we come, so long as we have faith in a Supreme Being – that Grand Geometrician of the Universe – capable of moving us to love one another. It is this beautiful, moving and



universal principal of religion that permits us to shake hands and meet on the level, with good men of all faiths, in essentially every country of the world. Such is the extent of Royal Arch Masonry!

The pure and moral principles of our beloved Fraternity inculcate charity to all mankind as Companions without boundaries, a faith without sectarianism, a patriotism without party, a unity of hearts universal, embracing humanity throughout the world.

At every Chapter I visit, I am constantly embraced by the feeling of "goodwill towards men" from all of the Companions and their families. And, is this not the true Spirit of Christmas?

On behalf of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon, I extend warmest greetings

and best wishes for the good health, happiness and prosperity during 2004 of all Companions, their families and, indeed, members of all of the Masonic Family, wherever you may be located throughout British Columbia and Yukon. And, may Peace, Love and Harmony prevail in all facets of your lives.

M. Ex. Comp.
Basil Roland Hobbs
Grand First Principal



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The Colours of Freemasonry

The colours of Freemasonry are as many and varied as the many degrees and concordant bodies of the Craft, but five colours occur more frequently than others. They are: **WHITE**, **BLUE**, **RED**, **PURPLE** and **BLACK**.

Just as white is the colour of innocence in western society, the colour white in Freemasonry is emblematical of that innocence, purity of heart and rectitude of conduct which should characterize a Freemason. An investiture in white was a part of all of the ancient mysteries. The colour white is preserved in Freemasonry by the lambskin apron with which the initiate is invested and in the gloves which are traditionally worn in many lodges. As well, the colour white describes in the colour of one of the veils (or curtains) of the Holy Tabernacle which is employed in the Holy Royal Arch Degree.

The colour blue, the colour of the first three degrees of ancient Craft Masonry, is explained as emblematic of universal friendship and benevolence; instructing us that, in the mind of a Mason, those virtues should be as extensive as the blue arch of heaven itself. For that reason, the Craft Lodge is also known as the Blue Lodge, and the first three degrees as Blue Masonry. The colour blue also figures in the colour of one of the

veils (or curtains) of the Holy Tabernacle which is employed in the Holy Royal Arch Degree, and in the colour of the ceremonial robes associated with the Third Principal of a Royal Arch Chapter.

The colour red, an emblem of fervency and zeal, figures definitively in the name of the first degree conferred in Royal Arch Masonry, that of Knight of the Red Cross. Red is also the most prominent colour within a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons; hence, it is also referred to as the Red Lodge. As well, the colour red describes the colour of one of the veils (or curtains) of the Holy Tabernacle which is employed in the Holy Royal Arch Degree, and the colour of the ceremonial robes associated with the First Principal of a Chapter.

The colour purple is an emblem of union, being formed of a mixture of blue and red. It is used in Royal Arch Masonry as a reminder of the intimate connection between Craft Masonry and the Royal Arch Degree; that degree having originated as a fourth degree, once conferred within a Freemason's Lodge. As well, the colour purple describes the colour of one of the veils (or curtains) of the Holy Tabernacle which is employed in the Holy Royal Arch Degree, and the colour of the ceremonial robes associated with the Second

Principal of a Chapter.

The colour black is a universal symbol of grief and mourning, no less in Freemasonry than it is in the rest of occidental society. In the York Rite degree of Knight Templar, it refers to the execution of Jaques de Molay; in the elu (or fourth) degrees of the Scottish and other rites, to the death of the chief builder of the Temple, Hiram Abif; and in the Rose Croix Degree, to the crucifixion.

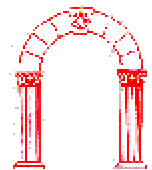
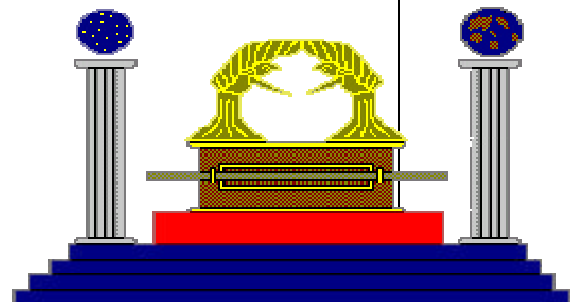
Thus, the colours of Freemasonry serve to embellish the may rites of our orders with vivid symbols of the precepts which are so fundamental to a successful and upright society.

Sources:

Mackey, A.G. 1909. *Lexicon and History of Freemasonry*. A. McFarlane: Vancouver, BC. 570 p.

Masonic Ritual

From an educational address to Manoah Lodge No. 141, by



Basil Deacon Hobbs, Pioneering Aviator & Mason

December 20, 1894 - 1963. Basil Deacon Hobbs, DSO, OBE, DSC, was one of the most highly decorated pilots in Canada. Born in Arlington, Berks, England, he moved to Canada with his family as a young man.

in Montreal.

In 1924, he was the sole pilot for the first long range air survey undertaken in Canada, over the northern region of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The official history of those flights quotes it as “certainly the greatest ever flight undertaken for aerial survey; and, when considered in the light of practical results, it is one of the most brilliant achievements in the history of flying.”

Recommissioned into the RCAF with the rank of Group Captain at the beginning of World War II, he served as a commanding officer at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, where he was employed in anti-submarine warfare training and operations.

B.D. Hobbs was named posthumously as Member of Canada’s Aviation Hall of



fame in 1987, with the following citation: “This man truly reached for the stars and, through his flying achievements and ability, through peace and war, brought honour to the aviation fraternity of Canada.

Basil Deacon Hobbs was initiated into Freemasonry on December 12, 1917, in Felix Lodge No. 2371, Felixtowe, England. He is the Grandfather of Most Excellent Companion Basil Roland Hobbs.

*Remember the
Spring Board of
General Purposes*

April 3, 2004

In 1915, he joined the Royal Naval Air service as a flight Lieutenant. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in 1917 as well as the Distinguished

Service Order. In November of the same year, he was awarded a Bar to his DSC and was Mentioned in Dispatches. In 1919, he returned to Canada as an RAF Major.

He joined the Canadian Air Force in 1920, and was shortly thereafter appointed Director of Air operations in Ottawa. In 1927, he resigned to establish an importing business

Principal Officers of Grand Chapter

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Grand Junior Sojourner	REC	William Fooks



The Keystone is a publication of The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon

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The Gospel According to St. Mathew, Ch. 2, Vs. 1-11

Now, when Jesus was born in Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, where is he that is born King of the Jews, for we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him?

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had

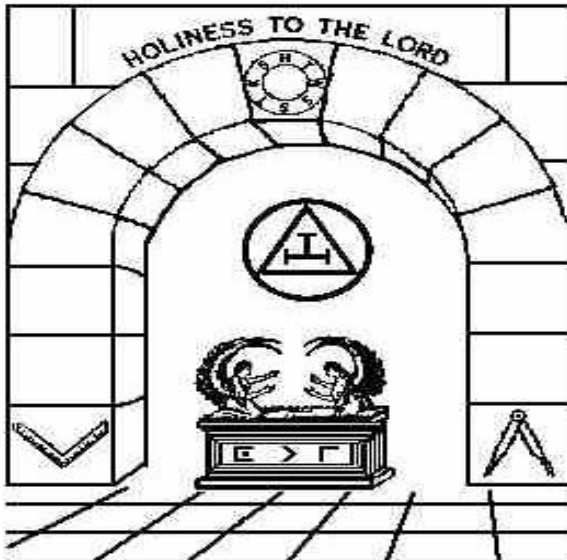
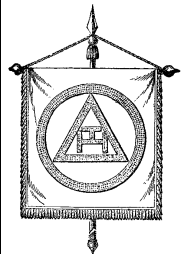
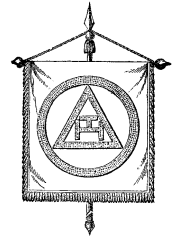
gathered all the chiefs and priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

And they said unto him, in Bethlehem of Judea, for thus is it written by the prophet, and thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a governor that shall rule my people Israel.

him, bring me word again that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy, and when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

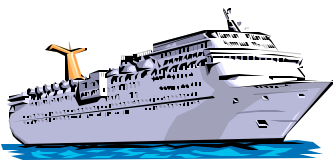


Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, go and search diligently for the young child; and when you have found

And he sent them to Bethlehem and said . . . bring me word that I may come and worship

MEC Basil Hobbs Invites You To Go Sailing In Hawaii

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