THE INVESTIGATOR

Based on the premise that life is a continuous search for knowledge OR In search for that which was lost

Presented by REC. Norman McEvoy. Volume 3 Number 1 January 2011 Edition

Fraternal Greetings Companions:

During the past week I have the pleasure of attending, and participating in, the Installation of Officers Ceremonies for three separate Chapters, all within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of BC & Yukon.

On each of these occasions two separate matters came up for discussion, one raised by myself, and dealing with the wearing of Royal Arch Regalia OR Jewels when sitting in a Craft Lodge under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia & Yukon, and the second dealing with the wearing of white gloves in Lodge or in Chapter.

Rather than attempting to elaborate on these matters at that time and possibly disturbing the harmony of the Chapter, I decided to research both these matters and share my findings using this forum. Hopefully by doing so, there can be an airing of opinions which can then be shared with those who may have an interest.

Regulation 158 Grand Lodge of British Columbia & Yukon (2010)

Jewels to be worn

1. No honorary or other Jewel shall be worn in any Constituent Lodge which shall not appertain to or be consistent with the Degrees of Ancient Craft Freemasonry, as recognized or acknowledged by Grand Lodge.
   Members of a Lodge who belong to the Order of the Holy Royal Arch may wear, in Lodge, the honorary Jewel of the Order, but not the clothing.
   A Brother from a recognized Jurisdiction may appear as a visitor in the clothing recognized by his own Grand Lodge.

2. (in part) The Honorary Jewel of the Order of the Holy Royal Arch shall be worn on the RIGHT lapel.

My purpose in presenting these quotations is simply to assist those Brethren & Companions who may not be aware of them and others who may have heard some discussion on the matter and did not know where to conduct their search.

The next matter for consideration would seem to be “What Jewel constitutes the Honorary Jewel”??? and it is here that I can only express my opinion as I can find no reference that would make this totally clear.
My opinion is that this refers to the Jewel presented to each Royal Arch Mason during his ceremony of Exaltation. There is always the possibility that my assumption is incorrect and, if so, it would be wonderful to have other opinions shared with me.

One may ask, *why is this important?* and my answer is the fact that we, Royal Arch Masons, are the **ONLY** Concordant body, permitted to identify themselves in a Lodge setting and this is a **HUGE** compliment to us as Royal Arch Masons & our Order in General.
It also presents a wonderful opportunity to answer questions, regarding the Jewel, and solicit members to our Order.
I strongly encourage all Royal Arch Masons to take advantage of this opportunity.

The Wearing of White Gloves in a Royal Arch Setting

As in all cases, where clarification is seen to be required, I decided to conduct an investigation into the matter and am now in a position to share my findings with you all.
At this point I will qualify my comments to my interpretation of information available through the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of BC & Yukon. **PLUS** my own personal observations:

In perusing the Constitutions of the Grand Chapter of BC & Yukon the **ONLY** reference to attire is in Section 24.3 which makes a **recommendation** that Business Suits should be worn at both Chapter & Grand Chapter convocations before 6pm & that officers wear tuxedos after 6.00pm. (No mention of Gloves)

Next, in perusing the Grand Chapter Protocol Guide, the only reference to attire is contained in 16.2 "Mode of Attire" which again makes a **recommendation** echoing that of the Constitution (again no mention of gloves).

Having now dealt with documented rules and regulations I am left with the view that the wearing of "White Gloves" appears to be a personal decision to be made by the Companion himself and based on his own background, experience and preference. The decision to wear or not to wear is therefore personal and, in my own case, is based on **THREE** considerations:

1. I quote from Bernard E. Jones "Freemason's Guide and Compendium Page 461 *"As Masonic Emblems, aprons and gloves are closely associated, and have the same import, being emblems of innocence and purity of heart"*
   It is thus my opinion that, as we go about our Rituals, that the wearing of White Gloves **adds** dignity & decorum to those ceremonies.

2. I have also had it explained to me by a Past Grand Master that, over the centuries, Freemasonry has been seen as a place where all men meet on the level, irrespective of vocation or station in life, and thus ,by the wearing of "White Gloves", it is virtually impossible to determine a fellow Brother/Companions status by observing his hands.

3. Lastly, from a health standpoint, the wearing of "White Gloves", greatly reduces the possibility of the transmission of germs through the traditional exchange of greetings in the shaking of the hand of a fellow Brother/Companion.

For all of the considerations noted above, it is my preference to wear "White Gloves" and encourage my fellow Brothers/Companions to do the same.

Having stated my preference, I would be delighted to receive the position of fellow, Brothers/Companions who may be in disagreement and have them share their viewpoints for my personal growth and development.

Conclusion
In our journey through life we are in a constant mode of learning and even more so as Freemasons. We as Freemasons have made a commitment to a daily advancement in our Masonic Education, and it is my hope that by sharing in this manner we will all be the better for it.
May I thank you for the opportunity to share with you and remind you that feedback is not only welcome but greatly appreciated.

Have a wonderful day and God Bless

Norm