

# LODGE LIGHT IN ARABIA

No. 3870



## The First Fifty Years

1918 -1968

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## PREFACE

The compilation of this volume was undertaken to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the consecration of Lodge Light in Arabia No. 3870. As the Lodge was consecrated in Aden, Southern Arabia and subsequently Transferred to Croydon Surrey, the opportunity has been taken to record the brief history of Aden leading up to its occupation by the British in 1839 in an endeavor to provide the background against which Freemasonry was introduced into Arabia, and its subsequent development.

Through the ravages of time, the climate and the White ant, unfortunately many original documents are no longer available and such information as it has now been possible to accumulate has been obtained in diverse ways not least of all through the ready co-operation of the Grand Secretary's office where the Grand Lodge records were made available for inspection.

A very great debt is also owed to R.W. Bro. Lt. Gen. Sir Harold Williams, KBE, CB, OSM, PGW, who was initiated in the Lodge on 11th September, 1919. His response to a request for assistance he was able to afford in compiling the history was truly magnificent, and without it the record of the Lodge's earlier days in Aden would have been very sketchy indeed. His notes following visits to the District Grand Lodge of Bombay for perusal of the records there and his recollections of the early days in Aden have been most valuable. In the course of a visit to New Delhi from Tehran in February, 1971, I had hoped to meet R.W. Bro. Williams but found that he had left for the United Kingdom. It had been arranged that we would meet on his return to India, but, regretfully, having arrived back on 12th October, 1971 R.W. Bro. Williams had a heart attack at midnight on the 16th October and died at 0916 hours on 17th October, 1971.

Thanks are also due to W.Bro. M.V.S. Iyer, PG St B, PDGW District Grand Secretary' Bombay for the original draft of the revised By-Laws approved on 24th July, 1932 and other notes; to W. Bro. H.T. Seymour, PG St B, PPGW (Surrey), LGR, LGCR, General Librarian of the Surbiton Masonic Library for his advice and suggestions, and to W.Bro. B.F. Gotobed, PG Org., PDGDC (Bombay), PPGOrg (Middlesex) the first initiate of the Lodge for his permission to use the photograph of the Lodge's original meeting place in Sheikh Othman.

Through the good offices of the Grand Secretary it was also possible to trace the only surviving 'founder Member, W.Bro. H.H.S. Bishopp, PGStB, who celebrated his 85th birthday in February, 1970, and thanks are due to him for the loan of many interesting papers including the notice of an Emergency Meeting held on 5th December 1918 and the summons for the meeting held on 13th February, 1919. Grateful thanks are also due for permission to use historical information contained in the H.M.S.O. publication "Aden-Report for the years 1957 and 1958". In addition, acknowledgement is made of the detail of Freemasonry's introduction into Aden through the founding of Lodge Felix No. 355 S.C. 2 provided by W.Bro. Sorobjee P Patel M.B.E., D.Suptd. of Arabia Felix (S.C.), Hon. J.G.W. (S.C.). Other small items of information provided by brethren of the Lodge are all acknowledged with grateful thanks.

The investigations which formed the first steps towards compilation of this history were undertaken by W.Bro. D.S. Willson, PDSGD (Bombay) in 1968 but the need to fit in the manifold duties of Lodge Secretary, a year as 1st Principal in Chapter, his promotion and consequent change of job, his move from London to Harrogate, and finally, his departure for a tour of duty in Germany all contributed to delay in completing the task. As the move to Germany was likely to delay publication for a long time to come authorship was taken over by me, in October 1970. As I was also posted for an overseas tour of duty at the British Embassy in Tehran, leaving the United Kingdom early in January 1971 further set backs were occasioned through the difficulties of authorship and research at this distance.

The need to correspond between Tehran and London and subsequent changes of location have further complicated the process of finalising the text and arranging printing but we trust the final result will be of interest to old and new members alike.

Finally, thanks are due to all these brethren who vetted the drafts for their co-operation and patience.

G. K. T.

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## FOREWORD

The History of Freemasonry in the United Kingdom has, throughout the years, re-floated the major trends in the national history of the time.

During the great Empire building era of the 18th and 19th centuries the British were to be seen in almost every corner of the globe in capacities as varied from aristocratic Governors and Commanders-in-Chief to private soldiers of the infantry of the line. It was inevitable that many were members of the Craft and only natural that, spending many years in what were then far-off places, these Brethren should wish to establish local Lodges to act as a Masonic home for themselves and to welcome visiting Brethren. In this way many Lodge. Were established in British territories under Warrants issued by the three Masonic authorities of the United Kingdom; notwithstanding the presence of Lodges of English, Scottish and Irish Constitutions, these all worked together in extreme harmony.

It was perhaps at the height of this period during the last months of the First World War that the Lodge Light in Arabia came into being in Aden and the subsequent history of the Lodge mirror the fortunes of the British in Aden from that time on, culminating in the transfer of the Lodge to England in 1967. The Lodge is very fortunate in having the services of W.Bro. G.K. Taylor and W.Bro. D.S. Wilson to chronicle so well that is 'a very interesting and exciting first half century of the Lodge's existence.

The province of Surrey is glad to have been able to welcome the returning expatriate Brethren and include the Lodge. Light in Arabia in our Masonic family of which all Surrey Masons are so proud. Whilst, we hope, not affording a future chronicler the chance to record events as turbulent as those in Aden in the early 1960s, the Province congratulates the Lodge on its past atonements and wishes it well for a stable, prosperous future in its new home.

Shannon  
Provincial Grand 'Master.



## OFFICERS FOR 1968/69

Worshipful Master	W.Bro. G.K. Taylor
Senior Warden	Bro. E.R. Frost
Junior Warden	Bro. H. Biron
Chaplin	W.Bro. G.A. Woodstock
Treasurer	W.Bro. C.J. Smith PDG Purs (Bombay)
Secretary	W.Bro. D.S. Willson PDSGD (Bombay)
Director of Ceremonies	W.Bro. W.H. Marriner Bottomley
Senior Deacon	Bro. T.C.G. Rickard
Junior Deacon	Bro. R.E. Carter
Asst. Director of Ceremonies	W.Bro. G.H. Marshall
Almoner	W.Bro. E.T. Borsberry PDGADC (Bombay)
Inner Guard	Bro. G.A. Breakspear
Stewards	Bro. R.F. Levison
	Bro. P. Walker
	Bro. C. Tompkins
	Bro. J.C. MacDonald
	Bro. J. Fowler
	Bro. F.R. Walkley
Tyler	W.Bro. E. Pickton PPJGW

## PAST MASTERS

1919	T.W. Twaddle	1944-45	H.E. Vincent
1919-20	J. Williams	1945-46	L. Flood Cooke
1920-21	R. Boal	1946-47	F.L. Escott
1921-22	D. Thompson	1947-48	C.G. Darton
1922-23	D. Thompson	1948-49	P.P. Patel
1923-24	A.C. Faulkner	1949-50	P.O. Purchase
1924-25	E.S. Phipson	1950-51	A.V. Clements
1925-26	E.G. Trout	1951-52	J. R. Fullick
1926-27	T. Lunson	1952-53	P.O. Purchase
1927-28	T. Johnston	1953-54	S. J. Saddleton
1928-29	C.W. Empson	1954-55	G.H. Robinson
1929-30	S.N. Neech	1955-56	G.H. Robinson
1930-31	N.B. Lawson	1956-57	H.E. Smith
1931-32	R. Smith	1957-56	E.H.C. Robinson
1932-33	L.H. Floyd	1958-59	H.R. Reo
1933-34	A.B. Wiggin	1959-60	L.G. Goodban
1934-35	D.C. Way	1960-61	D.S. Willson
1935-36	A.I. Laljee	1961-62	L.B. Horner
1936-37	C.M. Robertson	1962-63	C.J. Smith
1937-38	Mohamed Abdullah	1963-64	W.J. Brackley
1938-39	A.M. Von Essen	1964-65	P.J.R. Freston
1939-40	A.E. Sutton Jones	1965-66	G.A. Woodstock
1940-41	Mohamed Ahmed	1966-67	G.H. Marshall
1941-42	J. Mann	1967-68	R.W. Henning
1942-43	C.H. Masters		
1943-44	Shiv Singh		

## THE SPIRIT OF LODGE LIGHT IN ARABIA

The events of the years 1964 to 1967 during which violence erupted in Aden as a prelude to the granting of independence could have been fatal to Lodge Light in Arabia, but, despite its fluid membership, the resolute spirit which so characterises the Lodge and quickly permeates the consciousness of every initiate, joining member or visitor never faltered, and now after a short-lived Slowing down in the period immediately following its transfer to Croydon, the Lodge is as full-blooded as ever.

There is more than the natural feeling of pride about one's Lodge, something deeper - that the essence of the spirit of Freemasonry really was distilled in that land of barren rocks, mere brotherly love abounded and was so patently in evidence between men of different social status, Culture, religion and colour who truly met on the level.

That spirit still persists, but now that the extremely close-knit community has been replaced by the scattered urban existence here in modern Britain, and meeting a mere four times a year - not twelve, it will become increasingly more difficult to maintain it. Indeed, it may even be self-destructive, since any influence it may have on these who may come into contact with it will stimulate interest which will be expressed in encouraging prospective members to seek admission to the Order in their local communities. This can only benefit Freemasonry in general, but the gradual dilution of Lodge Light in Arabia through reduced intake and ageing membership is a matter which should concern all present and future members.

## ADEN CLIMATE

This publication will be received in different ways by different people. For some it will recall memories of an arid, uncomfortable restricted country before the advent of such now commonplace amenities as ceiling fans, water-borne sewage, domestic refrigerators or air conditioning. But to all who served in Aden it will perhaps recall pleasant memories of the friendship formed and forged in the happy environment of the Lodge. For these who were not privileged to enjoy the benefits of membership "out there" but were only able to join us since the Lodge came to Surrey in February 1967 it should perhaps be explained that Aden's climate was not one to be envied. although the worst description given by early travelers perhaps account for its bad name more than fact. for despite its discomfort, Europeans generally managed to stay healthy. The period October to April was generally considered to be the 'cool' season with temperatures varying from mid-sixties at night to around 85°F by day. The rest of the year. the 'hot' season. brought temperatures varying only between about 85°F at night to 95° - 100F by day, However. added to this was the discomfort between June and August of frequent dust storms carried in by the southwest monsoon - throughout this period the high humidity was very oppressive. There was little indigenous disease but 'prickly heat' and 'Aden tummy' (a bowel infection) were regarded as occupational hazards.

## ADEN - GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Aden, (now the South Yemen Republic) is situated in Latitude 12° 47" N and longitude 45° 10" E on the Southern coast of Arabia about 100 miles east of the Straits of Bab el-Mandeb.

With the opening of the Red Sea route and the Suez Canal in 1869 Aden became important as a coaling station as sailing ships were replaced by steamers, and the journey was a long and tiresome four and a half thousand miles from London. Immediately before the closure of the Suez Canal this long journey was a pleasant ten days cruise undertaken by many of our members on vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company they returned to the United Kingdom on leave or on completion of their tour of duty - but: the advent of air travel had also reduced the journey time for those not so leisurely spirits to a non-stop twelve hours.

## ADEN – HISTORY

The earliest references to Aden appear in the Old Testament of the Bible as 'Eden' (possibly the 'Garden of Eden?') and in the 27th Chapter of the Book of Ezekiel reference is made to the "merchants of Eden". Historically it is not possible to separate Aden from South West Arabia and particularly the Yemen. There is archaeological evidence of a flourishing civilization during the pre-Christian millennium and three thousand years ago long trains of camels burdened with frankincense and myrrh (and often with gold, pearls, ivory, cinnamon and silks) passed through Aden from the Far East moving along the incense road stretching from the valley of the Hadramout and Dhofar, across South Arabia and northwards to the Mediterranean. Frankincense was Arabia's wealth. Resins, gums and spices were used in embalming, fumigation and medicine in the ancient world and were burned on funeral pyres, at weddings and other celebrations; but religious rites demanded the largest quantities of best incense – frank (or real) incense, even the temple at Jerusalem contained a chamber for storing it. The Arabs in Persia provided Darius with a yearly tribute of 30 tons and in Babylon the god Bel required the burning of a like quantity, Hindu, Buddhists. Greeks and Romans all demanded incense and for at least 1000 years Arabia prospered, gaining its classical name of Arabia Felix (Happy Arabia) a name associated with Freemasonry in Aden from its earliest days. The people of South Arabia fought for control of the incense road since control enabled tribute to be extracted from the passing caravans and in about 950 BC the Kingdom of Saba (better known to us as Sheba) controlled part of it. Sheba's rulers were using trade contacts in the north and it was at this time that the Queen of Sheba (a cousin of Hiram King of Tyre) went to interview King Solomon.

From the earliest times when trade moved by sail the winds which blow from the Red Sea made it easy even for heavily laden dhows to sail across in either direction at the proper season without having to tack. Because of this sea breeze Aden was the gateway through which the caravan routes of the East converged on equatorial Africa. The ship-building yard situated in Ma'alla is one of the oldest ship building yards in the world where even in modern times vast baulks of timber are shaped by hand and drilled by the age-old method of turning a bit by means of a bow and twins, and according to legend, it is the construction site of Noah's Ark. Further biblical connection exists near the main pass which leads to Crater, once known as Aden Camp, in the legendary grave of Cain, the son of Adam and Eve.

Amongst the ancient relics preserved in the museum there is evidence that Aden was the home of a highly developed civilisation for more than 2,000 years before the Christian era. Among the most striking is the bull's head which in Sabean mythology was the emblem of the moon-god. The bull's horns symbolised the crescent moon and the Star Venus, the god of the heavens, used to be placed between the horns of the crescent. Islam took over this traditional symbol and the star and crescent was so derived.

The Romans captured the seaport of Aden about 24 AD but their attempted conquest of the country failed.

Christianity first came to Aden in 35 AD when Emperor Constantine II sent a Christian mission to the Yemen and one of the first churches was built at Aden. In about 525 AD the Emperor Justin requested Caleb, ruler of Abyssinia to send a punitive expedition against the Yemen because of the persecution of the Christians, the Abyssinians ruled for some fifty years and were deposed in turn by the Persians, a period of violence ending with the restoration of law and order in 95 AD.

In the seventh century Islam came to Arabia under the militant leadership of Ali, the Prophet's son-in-law, and since then it has been supreme. In the years that followed Aden passed under the control of one warring Sultan after another until it once again came under the control of the Imam of Yemen although when Marco Polo visited Aden in 1285 AD he described it as a prosperous port which dominated the coast of South Arabia as far East as Muscat and which had a large fleet of armed merchant ships.

Towards the end of the fourteenth century the Portuguese began their voyages to this part of the world and in 1513 AD they attempted to capture the stronghold of Aden, a few years later in 1516 AD another attack by Suleiman, an officer of the Mameluke Sultan of Egypt, was repulsed, but in 1538 AD following the murder of the Governor aboard a Turkish ship off Aden the fortress and port were taken and Aden (and eventually the whole of Yemen) came under Turkish rule.

The discovery of the Cape of Good Hope route to the Indies by Da Gama in 1498 AD and the depredations of the wars led to the run down of trade and the rich commerce of Aden disappeared. British ships called in 1609 AD when the port was

visited by the East India Companies vessel "ascension", but the captain was thrown into prison and his ship pillaged, other ships were badly treated the following year at both Aden and Mokha.

In 1630 AD the Turks gave up the Yemen and control reverted to the rule of the Immans until 1735 AD when possession of Aden was taken by the Sultan of Lahej whose greed and mismanagement ruined what was left of the port's prosperity.

During the next 100 years or so the port continued under the rule of first one chieftain and then another until in 1838 Bro. S.B. Haines, MM of Lodge George William 94th Regiment, Captain of the Indian Navy went to Aden to demand restitution for outrages committed upon the crew and passengers of an Indian ship which had been wrecked near Aden. Later treachery brought negotiations to nothing and the port was blockaded. Subsequently, in January 1839. an expedition was sent from India in two ships under the command of Captain Haines with a force under Major Baillie when Aden was captured with 15 British casualties.

Captain Haines became the first British Resident. But at the time of Aden's capture he wrote "The little village (formerly the great city) of Aden is now reduced to the most exigent condition of poverty and neglect. In the reign of Constantine this town possessed unrivalled celebrity for its impenetrable fortifications, its flourishing commerce, and the glorious haven it offered to vessel from all quarters of the globe. But how lamentable is the present contrast!"

In 1862 the town of Sheikh Othman was purchased from the Sultan of Lahej and in 1888, Little Aden, renamed Bureikha, was purchased from the Akrabi Sheikh.

With the commercial development of the port of Aden which followed British occupation. in 1869 the British Indian Submarine Telegraph. Company undertook the laying of a submarine cable between Bombay and Aden, and from Aden to Suez whilst a year or so after its capture a Captain Luke Thomas was established as Agent to the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company.

From ancient times the harbour used was on the eastern side of the peninsular off Crater, but in the latter part of the nineteenth century this was gradually silting up and the harbour on the west side was brought into use. In 1888 the Aden Port Trust was established.



Aden an outlying part of British India until 1937 when it was a British Colony. On the 11th February, 1959, The Federation of the Arab Emirates of the South was inaugurated at a public ceremony at Khormaksar in the presence of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Luce, KCMG, KBE, and on 1st March, 1963 Aden Colony joined the federation as Aden State and the new federation became the Federation of South Arabia. Following a state of emergency and armed insurrection Aden was granted independence at the end of 1967 as the Peoples Republic of Southern Yemen.

## ADEN-POPULATION

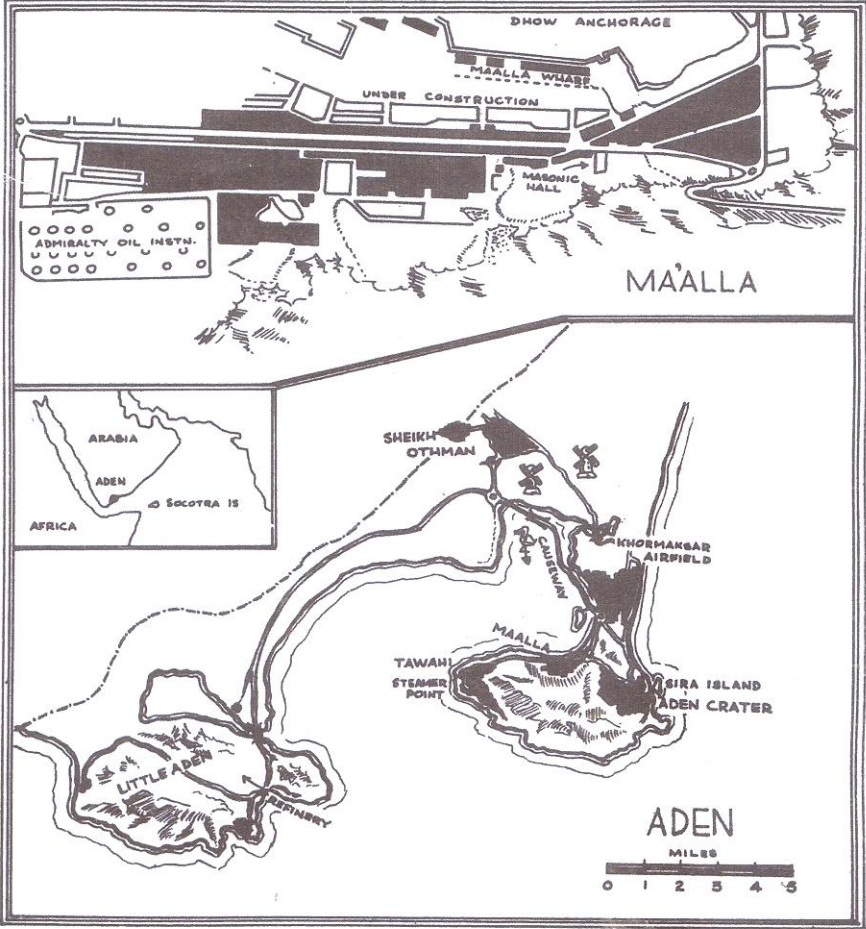
Prior to independence the population was mainly composed of Arabs. Somalis and Indians with a considerable number of European civilians and members of H.M. Forces. The rapid growth is illustrated by the following figures which exclude H.M. Forces.

1839	500
1911	46000 (Estimate)
1946	80516 (Census)
1955	138441 (Census)
1966	250000 (Estimate)

The distribution by nationalities recorded in the 1955 census was:

Aden Arab	40.4%
Yemen Arab	34.8%
Indian	11.4%
Somali	7.7%
British/Europeans	3.2%
Jewish	0.6%
Others	<u>1.9%</u>
	<u>100%</u>

The main areas of civil population were Tawahi (generally referred to as Steamer point). Ma'alla, Crater and Sheikh Othman whilst a further township was established at Little Aden in the vicinity of the oil refinery. In the early 1960' a new township of Al Mansoor was built to the South of Sheikh Othman. Latterly the British Forces were mainly encamped at Khormaksar airfield and nearby barracks, and also at Steamer Point but in the period 1961 to 1963 vast and rapid development of the Ma'alla Main Road provided hundreds of flats in multi-storey blocks especially for lease as Married Quarter hiring for the Forces. The plan of Ma'alla at Plate 1 shows. the area of development and the location of the Masonic Hall.



## ADEN – TOPOGRAPHY

Aden comprised.

- a) The peninsula, on which were situated the towns of Crater and Tawahi, the Ma'alla development and location of the Masonic Hall, the harbour and the area leased to the Ministry of Defence and known as Steamer Point.
- b) The Khormaksar isthmus.
- c) The area of land extending north and west to the Little Aden peninsula in which were situated the town of Sheikh Othman and. Al Mansoor, and the Villages of Hiswa with Buraikha and Fukum on the Little Aden peninsula where the oil refinery and associated buildings were located.

The map of Aden at Plate 1 shows their general locations.

The Aden peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation, the highest point Jabel Shamsan being 1725 feet high. Crater lies in the extinct volcano on the east of the peninsula.

The Isthmus is a flat, sandy plain and an ideal location for Khormaksar airport.

The wells at Sheikh Othman provided all water supplies and allowed the only regular cultivation of land there in the form of a fruit and vegetable garden and some date palms.

## INTRODUCTION OF FREEMASONRY INTO ADEN

Freemasonry was established in Aden in 1850, when Lodge Felix No 355 was formed following a meeting of brethren on 23rd March, 1850, at which it was agreed to form a committee to find suitable premises. A petition for the formation of a lodge was drawn up to the Grand Lodge of Scotland and signed by eighteen brethren including Bro. S.B. Haines Captain Indian Navy, who commanded the expedition which captured Aden in 1839. Between this time and the founding of Lodge Felix however, there is little doubt that military lodges attached to certain regiments met and worked in Aden although no record existed except in the minutes of the lodges concerned. The minutes of Lodge Felix refer to a proposition carried on 5th November, 1862, that a banquet be given to members of Lodge No 91 of the Irish Constitution, the lodge of the 1/4 Regiment (KO), and on 15th May, 1896 they refer to a letter from Lodge The Glittering Star No 322 IC, the lodge of the 1st Battalion Worcester Regiment. In 1850 the 78th Highlanders were stationed in Aden and - the eighteen petitioners for the formation at Lodge Felix, nine were members of that regiment.

Once formed, Lodge Felix relied upon the military for its members and their frequent movement was a source of embarrassment in the early years, indeed the lodge was in abeyance from 1851 to 1855. Over the years this lodge has prospered and still meets regularly.

## FORMATION OF LODGE LIGHT IN ARABIA

With the growing importance of Aden as a coaling station and commercial centre the tiny population of five hundred in 1839 had increased to an estimated forty six thousand in 1911, and this was augmented by military personnel.

By the Spring of 1918 a considerable military garrison was stationed at Sheikh Othman and the influence of freemasonry had become so strong that a petition for the formation of a lodge under the English Constitution at Sheikh Othman was drawn up in February, 1918 and signed by the following brethren:

	Lodge
W.Bro. W. Boughton Chambers PDSGW ( Bombay )	1066, 3184, 3456
W.Bro. E.J.P. Gildea	1307
W.Bro. J. Malcolm	1463
W.Bro. J. Williams	563
W.Bro. T.W. Twaddle	991
Bro. W.E. Glaysher	3651
Bro. W.H. Bingham	2998
Bro. A.D. Develin	1065
Bro. R.G. Cawte	1313
Bro. H.H.S. Bishopp	563
Bro. E.D. Welch	563
Bro. T. Crowe	563
Bro. W.S. Hopkins	563
Bro. O.A.B.F. Bridle	563
Bro. W. Lacey	3651
Bro. E. D'Roche	1507

The petition was recommended on 9th April, 1918 by the Worshipful Master and Wardens of Research Lodge No 3184 which met at Freemason's Hall, Ravelin Street, Bombay, and nine days later by the District Grand Master for Bombay. It sought a Warrant of Constitution "to meet as a Regular Lodge at Sheikh Othman, Arabia on the first and third Thursday monthly" and nominated Bro. William Boughton Chambers to be the first Master, Bro. William Edmund Glaysher to be first Senior

Warden and Bro. John Williams to be first Junior Warden. In submitting the petition to Grand Lodge the District Grand Master recommended that because, in normal times, Sheikh Othman was an Arab town of seven to eight thousand inhabitants with few Europeans, the petition should be granted for Lodge Light in Arabia to meet at Aden with license during the war to meet at such premises as may appear suitable to the Worshipful Master; he confirmed that these arrangements would be acceptable to the petitioners. The warrant was granted by Grand Lodge on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1918.

*Corrected Return.*

**FORM OF RETURN TO BE MADE ANNUALLY BY EACH LODGE TO BE MADE ABROAD.**

Form of Return to be made annually by each LODGE, immediately after the Installation of Master, and forwarded to the Grand Secretary, Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C. 2.

*Corrected - 29.1.1919*

Return of the Master, Wardens, and all Past Masters of Lodges under the English Constitution being Subscribing Members to the "Book of Constitutions", Lodge No. 3078.C. meeting at *St. Michael's, Brighton, Brighton*, who claim a right to sit and vote in the United Grand Lodge pursuant to Rules 9 and 179 of the Book of Constitutions.

Name (in full) of Master and Warden.		Rank.	Date of the Master's Installation, and of the Installation of Warden.	Name and Number of the Lodge in which each P.M. served as Master.	Date when in the Chair.	Name and Number of the Lodge in which each P.M. served as Master.	Date when in the Chair.
<i>Thomas Wilkinson, Loddon</i>		W.M.	29 <sup>th</sup> day of <i>January</i>	<i>Felix 33536</i>	1909	<i>Felix 33536</i>	1909
<i>William, Plownd, Slough.</i>		S.W.	29 <sup>th</sup> day of <i>January</i>	" "	1906	" "	1906
<i>John, Williams</i>		J.W.	29 <sup>th</sup> day of <i>January</i>	<i>William Beggie</i>		<i>John Ross Brown</i>	
<i>William, Boylston, Chambers</i>							
<i>John, James, Parrell, Gilla.</i>							
<i>John, Malcolm, Harker, Capers, Aden.</i>							
<i>W. M. P. Wood</i>							
<i>Henry McAlister, Tamate</i>							

NAME AND ADDRESS OF SECRETARY: *R. G. Condit, Old Mission Hill, Park, Aden, Aden*

I hereby certify that the above is a correct Return, this *28<sup>th</sup>* day of *February* 1919

(Signed) *T. W. Stoddell* Master.

Postal communications between England and Aden must still have been a little uncertain for in December of that year a cable was sent from W. Bro. Colonel William Boughton Chambers in Aden to the Grand Secretary reporting that the warrant had evidently been lost in transit and requesting that a dispensation be cabled to open



the Lodge pending receipt of a Charter of Confirmation; he added that this was a matter of urgency since he (Bro. Chambers) and another Founder were due to leave Aden. A cable conveying the necessary dispensation was sent by return.

According to the records held by the District Grand Lodge of Bombay and the Lodge copy of the Consecration Return of Master, Wardens and Past Masters of the Lodge (See Plate 2) Lodge Light in Arabia was consecrated on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1919. The Grand Lodge records, however, record the date of consecration as 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1919 under a Provincial Warrant issued by the District Grand Master for Bombay. The Worshipful Master is shown as Bro. John Williams – the Senior Warden as Bro. B.J. Ward (who, incidentally, was not a petitioner but appears in the list of promoters), and the Junior Warden as Bro. H.H.S. Bishopp. No ready explanation of this discrepancy is available but the Installation Return of Master, Wardens and Past Masters as at 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1919 (See Plate 3) confirms these three brethren in their offices although it is evident that there was a change of plan in the appointment of Senior Warden and for the date of the meeting.

The notice reproduced at Plate 4, kindly loaned by W.Bro. H.H.S. Bishopp PG St Br (Junior Warden 1919), is interesting as at the date of issue, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1918, the lodge was stated to be “Working under Charter from the Grand Lodge of England and under the Jurisdiction of the District Grand Lodge of Bombay”. Unless there was a Library Room at that time in the Crescent, the main shopping street in Tawahi (generally referred to as Steamer point), it is now difficult to place the location of the meeting. The Crescent Hotel which in later years was the annual venue of the lodge Ladies’ Festivals was not built until 1931/32.

NOTE: ALL RETURNS SHOULD BE BY REGISTERED POST.

**LODGES ABROAD.**

Form of Return to be made annually by each LODGE immediately after the Installation of Master, and forwarded to the D. G. Secretary, Bombay.

*Return of the Master, Wardens, and all Past Masters of Lodges under the English Constitution being Subscribing Members to the "Light-in-Arabia" Lodge, No. 3870 E.C. who claim a right to sit and vote in the United Grand Lodge pursuant to Rules 9 and 179 of the Book of Constitutions.*

Names (in full) of Master and Wardens.		Rank.	Date of the Master's Installation, and of the Investiture of Wardens.	
John Williams & John Benjamin Ward		W.M.	13th day of	March 1919
Robert George Giffte		S.W.	" " day of	" " 1919
Henry Harold Steven Biggoyr		J.W.	" " day of	" " 1919
<p><small>Note.—Where the qualification of the Master has been obtained in another Lodge, full particulars must be given.</small></p>				
Names of Past Masters.	Name and Number of the Lodge in which each P.M. served as Master.	Date when in the Chair.	Names of Past Masters.	Name and Number of the Lodge in which each P.M. served as Master.
William Boughton Chambers	"Research" 3184	1906/10		
Edward James Purcell Gildea	"Moolton" 1807	1889		
Joh Maloolm	"Northern Star" 1463	1918		
Herbert Cooper Anderson	"Charity" 3342	1914		
William Madden Pierpont Wood	"Tyrrell Leith" 2162	1915		
Henry Matcham Thorston	"Royal Lodge of Friendship" 278	1917		
Thomas Wilkinson Twaddle	"Light-in-Arabia" 3870	1919		

NOTE.—Past Masters of the English Constitution only are eligible to be included in this Return. The names of Honorary Members must not be included.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF SECRETARY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I hereby certify that the above is a correct Return, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1919.



# LODGE LIGHT IN ARABIA.

Working under Charter from the Grand Lodge of England  
and under the jurisdiction of the District Grand Lodge  
of Bombay.

Aden, 2nd. December 1918.

**FOUNDERS,**

- W. Boughton Chambers.  
P. D. G. S. W. Bombay.
- E. J. Gildea. P. M.
- W. E. Glaysher P. S. W.
- W. H. Bingham.
- A. A. Develin.
- J. Williams. P. J. W.
- H. H. S. Bishopp.
- E. D. Welch.
- T. Crowe.
- W. S. Hopkins.
- O. A. Bridle.
- W. Lacey. P. S. W.
- E. D. Roche.
- J. Malcolm. P. M.
- R. G. Cawte.
- T. W. Twaddle. P.M.

**PROMOTERS,**

- P. J. Revell.
- G. H. Nunn.
- H. Cooper Anderson.
- W. M. P. Wood P.D.G.J.W. BO.
- A. F. Ford. P. S. W.
- F. H. Key.
- J. R. Deane. P. M.
- F. D. Bramble.
- P. H. Mecey.
- W. N. Powell.
- F. B. Stocks.
- L. W. Smith. P. M.
- J. Johnson.
- W. M. Leftwich.
- R. Boal
- W. B. Hawkes.
- W. Roberts Thomson.
- R. E. Jenkins.
- E. G. Wade.
- J. W. Johnson.
- S. H. Hewett.
- B. J. Warde.

Dear Brother,

Please attend an **URGENT Meeting**  
of **Founders & Promoters** of this Lodge  
to be held on **Thursday 5th December** at  
**Library Room Crescent, at 6. 30 p.m.**

**May I solicit a full attendance.**

Yours fraternally,

*W. Boughton Chambers*  
for Secretary

**Business**

1. To confirm Minutes
- 2 To receive report.

A copy of the summons for the meeting of 13th February, 1919 also loaned by W.Bro. Bishopp lists the agenda as,

To read the summons convening the Meeting.

To read and confirm the minutes of the Consecration and Installation meeting held on 29th January, 1919.

To read and pass the By-Laws of the Lodge.

To elect a W M for the ensuing year should the By-Laws be passed.

Any other business the W M may authorise to be brought forward.

It also includes the following brethren as "eligible for the Chair" .

W.Bro. T.W. Twaddle PM

W.Bro. H.M. Thornton PDGD (Gib)

W.Bro. H. Cooper Anderson PM

W.Bro. J. R. Deane PM

W.Bro. W.M.P. Wood PDJGW

W.Bro. J. Malcolm PM

W.Bro. W. Brazier PM

W.Bro. W.E. Glaysheer SW

Bro. J. Williams JW

Bro. A. F. Ford PSW

Further, it lists forty two members of the lodge. These were the sixteen petitioners, twenty three promoters (as detailed below) and Brothers J .B. Whiting, E.G. Wade and P. J. Revell but as an addendum to the summons was issued on 11th February, 1919 listing the promoters and the three other brethren for ballot as joining members, the list on the summons was obviously a little premature.

#### PROMOTERS

W.Bro. H. Cooper Anderson

W.Bro. W.M.P. Wood PDJGW (Bombay)

W. Bro. J. R. Deane

W.Bro. H.M. Thornton PDGD (Gibraltar)

W.Bro. W. Brazier

Bro. G.J.I. Tuck

Bro. A.F. Ford

Bro. F.H. Key

Bro. F D Bramble

Bro. P H Mecey

Captain R.E

Political Officer

Mariner

Cable Operator Eastern Telegraph Co

Mariner

Engineer

Engineer

Lieutenant R.E.

Cable Operator Eastern Telegraph Co

Cable Operator Eastern Telegraph Co

Bro. W H Powell  
Bro. F.B. Stocks  
Bro. J. Johnson  
Bro. W.M. Leftwich  
Bro. R. Boal  
Bro. W.B. Hawkes  
Bro. W.R. Thomson  
Bro. R.E. Jenkins  
Bro. J.W. Johnson  
Bro. S.H. Hewitt  
Bro. B.J. Ward  
Bro. G.S. Tuck  
Bro. G.T. Dunitt

Cable Operator Eastern Telegraph Co  
Cable Operator Eastern Telegraph Co  
Bandmaster 1/7 Hants  
Asst. Cable Censor  
Major R.E.  
Captain R.E.  
Lt Col. 1/7 Hants  
Captain 1/7 Hants  
Lieutenant R.T.M  
Lieutenant S & T Corps  
Supervisor Eastern Telegraph Co  
Cable Operator Eastern Telegraph Co  
Captain 1/7 Hants



It is also interesting to note that the face page of the summons, reproduced at Plate 9 states the meeting was to be held at the Masonic Hall, Sheikh Othman. This is not strictly correct since there was no Masonic Hall at Sheikh Othman, the consecration took place in a bungalow hired from Mr Menahem Massa at Sheikh Othman, now W.Bro. B.F. Gotobed PG Org., PDGDC (Bombay), PPG Org., (Middx) has provided a photograph of that building and this is reproduced at Plate 5.

## CONSECRATION OF LODGE LIGHT IN ARABIA

There is no doubt that Lodge Light in Arabia was consecrated at Sheikh Othman on 29th January, 1919 and indeed the preamble to the bylaws approved on the 11th February, 1932 and confirmed on 10th March, 1932 states:

"Lodge 'Light in Arabia' No 3870 EC was formed, and is still maintained, primarily for the convenience of the members of the Army, Navy and Air Force and European civilians residing in Aden and neighbourhood, but membership is not necessarily restricted to Europeans.

The Lodge was consecrated on the 29th January, 1919 by W.Bro. H.M. Thornton PDGD (Gibraltar) by dispensation from the District Grand Lodge of Bombay, with the assistance of W.Bro. J. Malcolm as Senior Warden, W.Bro. I. R. Deans as Junior Warden, W.Bro. Ramage as Chaplain, W. Bro. W. Brazier as Inner Guard and W.Bro. T.W. Twaddle was later installed as first Master of the Lodge.

The first meeting place of the Lodge was a bungalow at Sheikh Othman; soon after its foundation, however, the Lodge moved to Ma'alla and since 13th March, 1919. its meeting place has been the Masonic Hall. Ma'alla, by fraternal arrangement with Lodge Felix No 366 S.C."

It should, perhaps, be added that Bro. W.E. Glaysher was invested as first Senior Warden and Bro. J. Williams as Junior Warden.



## THE WARRANT

Since it was necessary to ask in December 1918 for dispensation to open the lodge without a warrant, and this was granted, it would not be unreasonable to ask that the Warrant of Confirmation which would have been necessary in replacement of the original warrant lost in transit was not issued until March 1919 and recorded the names of the brethren installed and appointed at the meeting held at the Masonic Hall in Ma'alla on 13th March, 1919. It is also clear from copies of correspondence between the District Grand Secretary, Bombay and the Grand Secretary that communications were somewhat confused at the time and the lodge was recorded in the year book not as a lodge working within the District of Bombay but as one of the "Lodges Abroad not under Districts or Grand Inspectors".

When the warrant was submitted, to the Grand Secretary by the Provincial Grand Secretary for Surrey for endorsement with respect to the transfer of the lodge from Aden to Croydon, it was decided that a Warrant of Confirmation was necessary as the original was, no longer valid, having been mutilated to the extent that it no longer carried the signature of the Grand Master. The new warrant was issued in 1967 bearing the names of the Master and Wardens for that year, namely W.Bro. R.W. Henning as Master, Bro. G.K. Taylor as Senior Warden and Bro. E.R. Frost as Junior Warden.

The minutes of the Permanent Committee meeting held on 3rd February, 1933 reveal that there was discussion on keeping of the warrant 'rolled up in the case' during the time the Lodge was open and consideration was given to mounting it on rollers 'in map form' and other methods to preserve it and enable it to be properly exhibited. On the 20th February, 1933 it was decided to mount it 'in map form' on rollers. Following such preservative measure, there is little wonder that its mutilation ensued and we are frankly surprised that it should have been bandaged only to the extent of losing the signature of M.W. The Grand Master in the course of the following 34 years.

## THE BY-LAWS

Naturally, in essence, the by-laws of the lodge have varied little over the years. The earliest text now available is that of a revision passed by the lodge on 8th October, 1931 confirmed on 16th November, 1931 and approved by the M.W. The Grand Master on 24th July, 1932.

Contrary to the now accepted practice of paying subscriptions by banker's order, the early by-laws provided for a monthly payment of Rupees 5 (about 7s. 6d). We can only conjecture that the Treasurer had more than usual difficulty in extracting these (presumably) cash payments from the brethren for in addition to the normal provisions for exclusion on account of non-payment brethren in arrears for three months and over were debarred from the privilege of voting. This must have rendered the procedure for dealing with motions before the lodge most complex, and how it could be reconciled with "a majority of those present" leave us a little bewildered for there was no question of depriving brethren of membership in such cases. However, the effect on the recalcitrant brethren must have been salutary.

An early amendment to the by-laws provided that where an emergency meeting was held for the sole purpose of conferring a degree at the request of or for the convenience of a candidate (a) the lodge may require: from such candidate (a) a total sum not exceeding two guineas towards the expenses of the meeting. Whilst this may now seem to be an odd provision it does reflect the high rate of work accomplished and the frequent requests by other lodges to conduct work on their behalf whilst their members were serving in Aden. This provision remained, except for amendment of the currency to East African shillings until the by-laws were revised in 1960.

The development in Aden is also reflected in the definition of resident members as "those who reside within the Fortress of Aden and Sheikh Othman". A provision which was only amended in 1955 to "... those who reside within Aden Colony and Protectorate". The definition was removed in the revision of 1960.

Until the situation in Aden made it desirable that the day of the regular meetings of the lodge should be changed, as recorded in the report of. sub-committee set up in June 1963 (See Section - An Era Draws to a close), they were always held on the first

Friday of each month. On 15th January, 1964 an amendment to the by-laws was approved changing this to the first Wednesday of each month. Following the transfer of the lodge to the Province of Surrey the original regular meeting day was re-established as the first Friday of the month, but, of course, the frequency of meetings was reduced to only four times a year, February, April, October and December; we can be thankful that the reduced number of meetings has not affected the Installation meeting which is still held according to established custom on the first Friday in April.

The following comparative table of fees is of interest particularly in the consistency of the resident members subscription although it was absorbed in the combined subscription/dining fee from 1962 to 1967 until its reduction and incorporation with the absent members subscription in 1967 when the Lodge was transferred to the Province of Surrey. On the other hand the initiation fee has risen from £11 to £25 (although even this has been constant since 1960), the main increase being a doubling of the previous fee in 1956 for reasons not now obvious, for in 1955 there were 6 initiates and 9 joining members, and following the 'increase 'in 1956 and 1957 there were combined totals of 25 'initiates and 21 joining members.

FEE	DATE OF OPERATION						
	1931	UNKNOWN	1956	1960	1962	1967	
INITIATION	Rupees £ s. d 145 (10.17.6)	Rupees £ s. d 200 (15. 0.0)	EAS £ s. d 400 (20. 0.0)	EAS £ s. d 500 (25. 0.0)	EAS £ s. d 500 (25. 0.0)	£ s. d 25. 0.0	
LODGES OF EMERGENCY	15 ( 1. 2.6)	- ( 2. 2.0)	42 ( 2. 2.0)	-	-	-	
JOINING	10 ( 15.0)	20 ( 1.10.0)	45 ( 2. 5.0)	( ( ( 55 ( 2.15.0)	( ( ( 55 ( 2.15.0)	3. 0.0	
JOINING FROM OTHER CONSTITUTIONS	20 ( 1.10.0)	30 ( 2. 5.0)	55 ( 2.15.0)	( ( (	( ( (		
REJOINING	5 ( 7.6)	30 ( 2. 5.0)	45 ( 2. 5.0)	( (	( (		
RESIDENT MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTION	5 ( 7.6) monthly	5 ( 7.6) monthly	7.50 ( 7.6) monthly	90 ( 4.10.0) p.a.	200 (10. 0.0) p.a.	(2. 5.0) (p.a.) ( (	
ABSENT MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTION	- ( 15.0)	18 ( 1. 7.0)	25 ( 1. 5.0)	25 ( 1. 5.0)	25 ( 1. 5.0)	AS decided by the Lodge	
DINING	Costs pooled			As decided by the Lodge	Deleted		

## MASONIC HALL MA'ALLA

It is perhaps, appropriate at this point to refer to the meeting place for the lodge in Aden, for although it originally met in Sheikh Othman arrangements were evidently concluded with Lodge Felix No 355 S.C. for the use of the Masonic Hall, Ma'alla from March 1919 and it was there that the lodge worked and flourished for forty eight years until the prevailing political situation brought about its transfer to England in 1967.

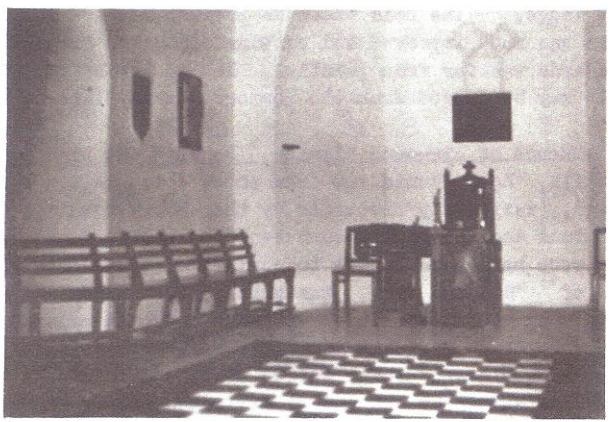
The frontispiece to this review is a photograph of a painting in oils by W.Bro. G.K. Taylor which he offered to the lodge shortly after his installation as Worshipful Master in 1968 and which was gratefully accepted. It is now proudly displayed at the festive board after each meeting and serves as a pleasant reminder of our origin, nostalgia to these brethren who served in Aden and a visual manifestation of the spirit inherited by our newer brethren.

The corner stone of the original building was laid in 1865 in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of Queen Victoria and funds for its erection were raised by voluntary contributions from the members of Felix Lodge and donations from other Freemasons in Aden not subscribing to that lodge. The hall that the present members remember with much pleasure was much improved and extended from the original but by British standards was far from palatial. Indeed the stark simplicity of the temple may be judged from the photograph at Plate 6.

In the absence of air-conditioning, beneath the high roof of the temple the still, hot, humid air from which moisture was squeezed by every movement, was hardly disturbed by the slowly turning blades of the ceiling fans and the hard wooden benches running round the whitewashed walls were hardly conducive to comfort. Even the recognised summer dress of "Red Sea Kit" was unbearably stuffy to wear and strange as it may seem to these who have not been privileged to be members of our beloved' lodge in Aden full officer's regalia worn with open-necked short-sleeved white shirt, white cotton slacks and black cummerbund, shoes and socks was not at all incongruous, and whilst the perspiration of our labours may have done nothing to retain the initial military smartness of freshly laundered clothes, each meeting was conducted with a sense of occasion and never appeared untidy. Needless to say, the stewards were in great demand after the meetings to provide the refreshment essential to replace the natural losses. "Ma'alla" as the hall was

known colloquially had a peculiar attraction", perhaps strengthened by distance, which will always endear it to all these who were privileged to work there, and even to casual visitors,

PLATE 6



## THE EARLY YEARS

The only early documents available being the copy returns of Masters and Wardens it has not been possible to put together a comprehensive account of events immediately following the consecration of the lodge, Indeed, much of the material in the minute books now available records mundane matters of no interest to us now, and events recorded are often in such abbreviated form that no background can be gleaned and often lack of follow-up notes leaves the outcome in the realms of speculation, It is to be hoped that future secretaries will bear posterity in mind and maintain records and correspondence files which will be good source material for these brethren to come who will be moved to enquire into our own actions and driving motives.

The earliest entries in the existing registers of members appear to have been transcribed from the original register (or registers) in May 1923 and only cover these brethren who were still members of the lodge at that time, Accordingly there are no details of early initiates or joining members whose membership ceased before the existing registers were opened, However, from the transcribed details we know that the following brethren were members at that time:

No in Lodge Register		Occupation	Initiated	Joined	Died
1	William Boughton Chambers	Indian Army	No. 438	29 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 1919	13 <sup>th</sup> June 1947
16	Thomas Wilkinson Twaddle	Engineer	No 991	29 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 1919	Died 12 <sup>th</sup> April 1939
44	Arthur Gilman Watson	Merchant		14 <sup>th</sup> August, 1919	20 <sup>th</sup> November 1946
46	Bertrand Frank Gotobed	Musician	No 3870	8th May, 1919	

47	Charles Frederick Wright	Cable Telegraphist	No 3870	22nd May, 1919	1944
49	Eric Francis Ashley Garner	Cable Operator	No 3870	12 <sup>th</sup> June 1919	Resigned 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 1945
69	Percy William Godfrey	Indian Army	No 3870	11 <sup>th</sup> November 1920	1960
70	Guy Vivyan Wickham	Civil Administrator	No 3545	11 <sup>th</sup> November 1920	Excluded 31st October 1940
76	Rand Rakha Mal Anand	Indian Medical Service	No 3870	9 <sup>th</sup> December 1920	Excluded 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 1938
77	John Vionnee Alexander	Engineer	No 3870	13 <sup>th</sup> January, 1921	Resigned 30 <sup>th</sup> June 1933
79	Henry Bennett Marcoolyn	Army Officer	No 3870	10 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 1921	11 <sup>th</sup> May 1964
89	Douglas Kenneth Hardisty	Insurance	No 3870	12 <sup>th</sup> May, 1921	Excluded 1 <sup>st</sup> January 1947
106	Phirozshay Pallonjee Patel	Merchant	No 3870	9 <sup>th</sup> February 1922	
108	Ahmed Ismailbhoj Lalljee	Merchant	No 3870	9 <sup>th</sup> February 1922	Exclude 30 <sup>th</sup> June, 1960
111	Dadabhoy Bhicajee Motiwalla	Merchant		13 <sup>th</sup> April 1922	28 <sup>th</sup> August 1949
118	George Fredrick Ings	Clerk	No 3870	12 <sup>th</sup> October 1922	7 <sup>th</sup> October 1939



121	Alexander M. Klauder	Merchant	No 3870	11 <sup>th</sup> January 1923	Resigned 30 <sup>th</sup> April, 1939
124	Frederick Richard Cook	Army CSM	No 3870	25 <sup>th</sup> January, 1923	5 <sup>th</sup> October, 1935
126	Thomas Lunson	Engineer		8 <sup>th</sup> February, 1923	Resigned 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 1952
130	David Johnston	Army Sergeant		10 <sup>th</sup> May, 1923	Resigned 25 <sup>th</sup> November, 1941

Only two are still members of the Lodge, having been elected to honorary membership the same day, 3rd August 1966, W.Bro. P.P. Patel, of course, lives in the South Yemen republic but our very first initiate W.Bro. B.F. Gotobed, still very active in Freemasonry, has been a with us regularly since the lodge was transferred to Croydon.

The earliest existing lodge minute book dates from 4th July 1952 (the previous one was destroyed by white ants) and the earliest available record of attendance at lodge meetings is for that held at Ma'alla on 4th May, 1951, whilst the minutes of the Permanent Committee go back a little further to 1930.

Despite the lack of original records due to the ready response of R.W. Bro. Lt. Gen. Sir Harold Williams KBE, CB OSM, PGW to approaches for his assistance it is possible to give a personal pen-picture of the early times in the lodge, R.W. Bro. Williams who, regrettably died in India during the preparation of this review has had an extremely full masonic life as exemplified by the words of R.W. Bro. Rt. Hon The Earl Cadagan MC, DL Deputy Grand Master on the occasion of his announcement of the M.W. The Grand Master's appointment of R.W. Bro. Williams to his Order of service to masonry at the Convocation of Grand lodge held on 11th September, 1968:

“R.W.Bro. Lt. Gen. Sir Harold Williams, KBE, CB, who has been a Grand Officer for over twenty years, was one who never despaired of establishing a Grand lodge of India with the agreement and co-operation of the English, Irish and Scottish Lodges. It is particularly gratifying to me that I should be called upon to undertake this investiture, as I had the privilege seven years ago of helping to bring the Grand Lodge of India into existence, and therefore know at first hand how much this was due to his wise counsel. Although Bro. Williams was then appointed to high office in the new Grand Lodge, and later in the Grand Chapter when it was formed, he has never ceased to act as an adviser and mediator for all parties in India, and there can be no doubt that the maintenance of cordial relations between the new Grand Lodge and the old Districts is as much due to him as was its original foundation.

R.W. Bro. Williams is now retiring to well deserved retirement to this country, but it is hoped that this will by no means involve his retirement from the Masonic scene.”

Of the years 1919 to 1921 R W Bro. Williams wrote:

"The War with Turkey ended in October 1918 but for some months before that the Turkish Forces, (who had invaded the Aden Protectorate from the Yemen) facing the Aden Field Force, had ceased to fight and there was virtually an unproclaimed truce between both sides. For example, the Turks allowed large numbers of Arab drivers and their camels to pass through their lines laden with vegetables for Aden (it took me several years to recover from a surfeit of spinach day after day)and we in turn allowed them to carry back the cloth and medicines which the Turks needed so badly, The end of the war however seemed a long way off and time must have hung heavily on many people's hands. It was probably this that decided the brethren in the 1/7th Hants Regiment and others to apply for a warrant to found a lodge at Sheikh Othman where the British Forces were mainly stationed.

The founders and promoters of the new lodge formed a fairly good cross-section of the Aden which I knew in 1918. All the following were represented:

(a) Units of the Aden Field Force:

1/7 Hants Regiment

1/7 Rajput Rifles

Artillery

51 Field Company Bengal Sappers and Miners

RAMC, IMS, IMD.

Supply and Transport Coy.

(b) Aden Permanent Garrison 23 (Fortress) Coy:

Bombay Sappers and Miners, Military Engineer Service

(c) Royal Indian Navy

(d) Aden Port Engineers and Mariners

(e) The Eastern Telegraph Company

(f) The Political Department of the Government of India

Lodge Felix 355 S C and R A Chapter 90 S C met for some years before the war at Freemasons Hall Ma'alla, half-way between Steamer Point and Crater. There was no Masonic or other Hall at Sheikh Othman twelve miles away and it was not possible now to identify the building in which the Lodge was consecrated. The bungalows in and round Sheikh Othman were taken over by the army and used as officers' messes etc. (my unit, 51 Field Coy, occupied the Scottish Missions' bungalow which was later handed back to its representative Dr Young) and it is probable that the Lodge met, in its early' days, in one of them. The decision to meet at Sheikh Othman may have been made because at the time the warrant was applied for, units were still at short notice and leave to go to Aden was very sparingly granted. It is however clear that very few brethren of Lodge Felix 355 S C joined in founding the lodge and it may be that the older S C lodge viewed with some misgivings the foundation of an English Rival. Later however several influential members of the business community in Aden joined from Lodge Felix and as the military "birds of passage" departed from" Aden they played an important and necessary part in the affairs of the lodge. I remember in particular Bro. W. Meek, Manager of the coal bunkering firm of Cory

Bros., Bro. E.S. Murray, Manger of Luke Thomas, and Bro. E.N. Duggan, Chairman of the Port Trust.

The lodge was consecrated at Sheikh Othman on 29th January, 1919 by W. Bro. H.M. Thornton PDGD (Gib) a member of the Eastern Telegraph Company. He installed W.Bro. Thomas W. Twaddle, an Aden Port Engineer and a P M of Lodge Tyne 991 E C as the first Worshipful Master. The lodge then held an election meeting in February 1919 and on 13th March, 1919 Bro. Lieut. John Williams 1/7 Hants Regiment became Worshipful Master. He was a founder member, and also a member of Lodge Charity 563 E C. He occupied the Eastern Chair on the evening of my initiation 11th September, 1919. It Was the occasion of a farewell to the brethren of the 1/7 Hants Regiment which was shortly leaving for the U K and a large number of both the Aden lodges were present.

The following year my Commanding Officer Bro. Major Robert Boal DSO, OBE, was installed as Worshipful Master. He had qualified as a warden in the Beauchamp Lodge 1422 E.C. Roorkee. He was a very remarkable man, greatly liked and respected by all who knew him in the Aden Field Force. He had been Regimental Sergeant Major of the Bengal Sappers and Miners when the war broke out in 1914 and was commissioned almost immediately. By 1917 he was commanding the 51 Field Company at Sheikh Othman. He was seriously wounded in action in January 1918 and evacuated to India before I arrived but later returned and at once made his influence felt. On one memorable occasion he won the silver cup presented by Lord Inschape for a tennis tournament open to everyone in Aden. There was a rather expensive selling sweepstake but I felt that loyalty to my C O required that I should buy him in. That evening he stood us a champagne dinner at the club and I was tolerably rich for some months to come. He served in India for many years afterwards and died in England some years ago about ninety years of age.

Then on 10th March, 1921 Bro. D.B. Thompson of the Military Engineer Service, who had joined the lodge on 11th November, 1920 only four months before became Worshipful Master. He was a member of Lodge St. Andrews 500 E C and Lodge Alexandria 1065 S C. Though returns to the District Grand Lodge of Bombay (of which strangely enough Lodge Light in Arabia formed a part, because the Aden protectorate was administered by the Province of Bombay) do not show an unusual\_ large number of brethren as "resigned" it is obvious that most of these who helped found the lodge in 1919 had left Aden by 1921.

It is of some interest to note that most of the early members of the lodge "are members of Lodge. in India, e.g. Charity 653 E C Amballa, Mooltan 1307 E C, Rock of Gwalior 1066 E C, Kitchener 2998 E C Simla, St. John The Evangelist 1483 E C Lahore.

Bro. S.H. Hewitt S T C Proposed me. We used to go for a ride almost every afternoon and from time to time he had to get back early so as to go into Aden. On several occasion. I asked what he was doing there, with the result in due course I found myself bidden to be present at the Masonic Hall, Ma'alla. I told my C S M, Mr A. Millar, the only other European in the Company, that I was going into Aden that evening and he asked for a lift. When I got out of the car at Ma'alla I thought he was going to steamer Point. However later when I was directed to observe the three Lesser Lights. I was astonished to Bro. Millar sitting in the South. He was a visitor on that occasion but joined the lodge later on 12th February, 1920. Bro. Lt. G.C. Douglas R A was initiated with me but he seems to have left Aden shortly afterwards and I was passed to the F C degree with Bro. M.I.O. Steel I M D on 23rd October, 1919.

In the last years of British rule in the Protectorate Aden was a thoroughly unpleasant and dangerous place, and it is difficult now to realise how peaceful and contented a place it was in the years following the Great War 1914-18. There used to be an idea that for British troops it was a "Punishment station" and it is true that Crater where some of their barracks were located was on the whole a hot and sultry place. But the years I spent in Aden were happy ones, and I went everywhere without let or hindrance. Except when I was far out in the Protectorate or in the island of Perim and Kamaran in the Red Sea distance never prevented me or the other brethren from attending lodge and we thought the journey from Lahej and beyond, quite normal.

We dined after every meeting and at Installation Banquets enjoyed much excellent fare Procured by our brethren of the Port Trust from some visiting ship and kept in cold storage for the occasion. The Masonic Hall was in a rather isolated site and was next to the Jewish Cemetery. The local Arabs were said to believe that we spent a great deal of our time on Lodge evenings searching the graves nearby for hidden gold and collecting the skulls of the wealthier dead as souvenirs. (Author's note: The temple was referred to by the local Arabs as "Beit al Shartari" - "House of the Devil". The emblems of mortality may have given rise to the belief).

Reading through the earlier returns I note the names of several other brethren of whom I have very happy recollections. Bro. Capt. H.C. Anderson of the M E S was Treasurer of the lodge for several years. He was to show me great kindness later when he was stationed at Simla and I was suffering from the effects of enteric and bitharizia contracted through bathing in the river up country in the Aden Protectorate. On one occasion the Andersons acted as host and hostess at the wedding reception of a young R I N Officer and his bride from England. The reception was on board, Aden was at its warmest, and the hospitality was traditionally naval. All went well until it was time to go ashore, when to Mrs Anderson's horror hardly any of the ladies of the party could face the journey down the gangway into the boat. Bro. Capt. C.K. Calder, Veterinary Surgeon, was initiated on 13th November, 1919. Unfortunately on that occasion he was not "properly reported" and the ceremony had proceeded some way before it was noticed that the Tyler had forgotten the c.t. Instead of making good the omission quietly Bro. Calder was led out of the Lodge and reintroduced \_all over again. This had the effect of leading him to believe that he was being made a fool of and on the journey back to Sheikh Othman we found him in a very unhappy mood. It was some time before we could persuade him to attend again and I notice from the returns that he was not passed until 8th May, 1920, and raised on 23rd May, 1920 presumably by dispensation because he was leaving Aden hurriedly. Bro. Capt. R.R.N. Anand was an Indian Christian in the Indian Medical Service. He was initiated on 8th December, 1920 and we found him a very useful and pleasant member. His wife however objected strongly to the late hours we kept and she sent several letters to W.Bro. Boal the Worshipful Master asking him to discharge her husband from the Lodge. Bro. G.V. Wickham - joined the Lodge in November, 1920 was a Capt. in the Yemen Infantry, a unit which some years later had to be disbanded because some of the men murdered an officer in it in order to get hold of the Treasury Chest Keys.

I find that no degrees were conferred in December, 1919 or January, 1920 - why, it is not possible to determine from the returns. Possibly because the Worshipful Master and many of the officers of the lodge had left at the same time as the 1/7 Rants Regt. As a result I was not raised until February, 1920.

I went to the U.K. on leave early in 1921 and as my Field Company returned to India in April, 1921 I went straight back to India when my leave ended. I knew well that I would never be stationed in Aden again as I became deeply involved in masonry in Roorkee and Meerut I wrote resigning from both Light in Arabia and Felix and the

Chapter early in 1922. I landed in Aden on several occasions on my way to or from the U.K. by ship. Once I took a friend to see the Tanks in Crater having explained to him that they were always dry as it never rained in Aden. We had a short sharp shower as the ship set sail! On the last occasion we were only allowed to enter the Crescent. It was sad to see the club locked up and deserted. A year or so later British troops left Aden".

An analysis of the early membership is interesting; the thirty nine founders and promoters comprised:

1/7 Hants Regiment	13	)	
Royal Engineers	4	)	
Supply and Transport Corps	4	)	66%
Medical Corps.	3	)	
1/7 Rajput Rifles	1	)	
Royal Indian Marine	1	)	
Eastern Telegraph Company	9	}	23%
Political Officer	1	]	3%
Aden Port Engineers & Mariners	3	)	8%

This is confirmation that the 1/7 Hants Regiment were the prime movers in founding the lodge even though the meeting held on 11th September, 1919 was by way of a farewell meeting to the regiment which was, shortly to leave Aden for the United Kingdom.

Analysis of the subscribing membership some fifty years later on 31st March, 1969 reflects the changes in Aden's development and consequent shift in population structure:

Civil Servants	35	21%
Engineers	35	21%
Military - Army	6	)
RAF	16	)
Managers	12	7%

Retired (no traceable profession)	12	7%
Teachers	9	6%
Accountants	6	4%
Mariners	4	2.5%
Oil Refinery Operators	4	2.5%
Others	26	16%

From the dates of the earlier entries in the registers, meetings continued to be held twice a month as stated in the petition, until about March, 1923. From then on, meetings appear to have been held once a month but we cannot be certain of this. However, we can be certain that the by-laws confirmed on 16th November, 1931, approved by the District Grand Master for Bombay on 12th May, 1932 and by the MW The Grand Master on 24th July, 1932 provided that,

"The lodge shall meet in the Masonic Hall, Ma'alla, Aden on the first Friday in each month, at such hour as the Master may direct".



## THE LODGE AT WORK

The changed circumstances which accompanied the lodge's transfer to England have brought a marked reduction in activity, but over the years a great deal of work has been undertaken. From the sixteen petitioners and twenty-three promoters in 1919 membership rose to 103 in 1934 and by 1951 had risen to 154, it rose to a peak of 185 in 1963 but by 1968 had fallen slightly to 163. It is interesting to note that at the time of writing the lodge has the biggest membership of all lodges in the Province of Surrey with the exception of the Masters' Lodges:

East Surrey Masters	No 5888
North Surrey Masters	No 5905
South West Surrey Masters	No 5965
Mid Surrey Masters	No 7388

The following summary gives an idea of the continuing high level of activity in the Lodge and represents an average of more than seven initiations a year, throughout the period of its existence. Whilst the backbone of support for the lodge was to be found in the business community of Aden, the greater part of the European population was made up of British Civil Servants and military personnel posted there on restricted tours of duty normally of two year duration. In consequence the number of joining members averaged nine a year over the fifty years and not unnaturally the rate of resignation closely followed this trend whilst exclusions were also unusually high through members leaving Aden and losing contact for a variety of reasons when they might otherwise have simply resigned on departure.

Year	Initiations	Joining Members English Constitution
1919	10	27
1920	4	4
1921	9	14
1922	8	8
1923	11	8
1924	11	10
1925	6	10
1926	7	12

1927	6	17
1928	5	18
1929	9	8
1930	8	7
1931	13	7
1932	3	7
1933	6	8
1934	4	2
1935	4	2
1936	10	2
1937	3	3
1938	5	10
1939	5	2
1940	6	7
1941	11	12
1942	13	7
1943	9	5
1944	9	2
1945	13	7
1946	6	2
1947	4	3
1948	8	1
1949	7	4
1950	7	7
1951	11	9
1952	4	7
1953	6	3
1954	7	7
1955	6	4
1956	13	7
1957	12	11
1958	5	6
1959	9	11
1960	10	13
1961	10	6
1963	6	7
1964	8	5

1965	6	4
1966	7	6
1967	1	2
1968	2	3
Totals	372	356
		459

Because the lodge membership includes a fair proportion of Civil Servants and military men who have continued their interest even though, in the course of duty, they have moved on to other foreign countries a short analysis of the 1968 membership figure makes interesting reading:

	Initiates	Joining	Totals
Residing UK	93	22	115
Residing Overseas	<u>32</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>48</u>
	125	38	163

From this it will be seen that one third of all initiates remained members of the lodge whilst the proportion for joining members is as low as one twelfth.

The available statistical information is most complete for the period from 1952 onwards but since this period is also representative of the conditions against which the operation of the lodge on its home ground can best be appreciated by present members who served in Aden, the following is based upon figures for the fifteen years 1952 to 1966 inclusive during which the lodge served a highly fluid community; over the whole period these conditions were a constant factor although it must be accepted that since service in Aden was bound by the length of tours of duty, there were fluctuations in statistics from year to year, also that variations in fluidity would reflect in higher or lower intake and wastage rates. During this fifteen year period the number of new members was 255. The wastage rate in numbers and expressed as a percentage of intake was:

Resignations	125	(49%)
Exclusions	87	(34%)
Deaths	19	(7.5%)

This means that we only retained 9.5% of our new members.

In the changed circumstances of the lodge the future intake will be severely curtailed, and with the sharp fall in numbers of brethren joining the lodge and moving swiftly on, the incidence of exclusions should become an exceptional factor. Equally the resignation rate should fall sharply but if the intake remains at its current level of two initiates and one joining member (and there is no certainty in this) the past average death rate could well account for a wastage rate of at least 33% of intake and when resignations or loss through other causes of only one per annum would account for a further 33%, it is plain that any further upward variation in excess of one would not only negate a whole year's recruitment but deplete the membership. Since the present age distribution places almost 50% of the members in the 50 - 55 bracket and a further 21.5% aged 60 and over there could be a very bleak future for the lodge in a few years time.

It is not always easy for even U.K. resident members to journey to Croydon for meetings but figures for 1969 indicate that of the very low number of 60 or so brethren who have attended - meetings of the Lodge since its transfer from Aden, the regularly attending members totalled only 12% of the total lodge membership, or 16.66% of the U.K. resident membership. Without doubt this situation will require very close attention for the future well-being of the lodge.

## OVER THE YEARS

The lack of records prevents the formation of a complete picture of activity throughout the years.

The earliest minutes of a Permanent Committee meeting still in existence are dated 11th December, 1930. An entry concerning the proceedings of a meeting held on 25th March, 1946 records that:

"W.Bro. Secretary sought permission to burn certain correspondence dating from 1930 as it was of no further value."

Although the Secretary was given sanction to use his own discretion in the matter he was directed to retain - correspondence that might be required for future reference. As the minutes now only date back to 1930 we cannot help wondering whether his discretion was too liberally applied to all aspects of the lodge records.' The skeletal nature of some of the later minutes and the patent lack of system in clearing "matters arising from the previous minutes at each subsequent meeting render the production of a coherent picture impossible. There are a number of interesting items in the Permanent Committee minutes, however, and it is a great loss that minutes of lodge meetings are not available before 4th July, 1952 to enable the outcome of many recommendations to be traced. For example, on 11th December, 1930 it was agreed that Master Oswald Gillespie, a ward of the lodge at Barnes School, Deolali, India in arrangement with the Bombay Masonic Association, should be given a Christmas present of a hockey stick, ball and boots.

On 21st April, 1931 there was agreement that six dozen firing glasses should be ordered for the lodge, but there is no evidence that this was finally approved by the lodge or "whether they were ever received; but perhaps even if they did arrive, with monthly' meetings and enthusiastic Aden 'fire' the glasses were not destined to last too long.

One event recorded in the minutes of 1st May, 1933 leaves us to conjecture on the reason:

"The practice of delivering Masonic correspondence to private addresses instead of via the "Post Bag" was discussed the Secretary was instructed to approach the Post Master and arrange that future correspondence for WM., Secretary and Treasurer or other officers be delivered only to the Secretary via the locked bag sent down to the Post Office for Wednesday's and Sunday's mails."

Out of context and 37 years ago it is perhaps a strange entry but it had a happy ending for it is recorded on 29th May, 1933 that the Secretary confirmed "the Post Office appear now to be treating correspondence in a correct manner."

On 2nd July, 1932 expenditure in the sum of Rupees 60 was authorised for the purchase of a lodge 'safe - we can only imagine it must have been a cash box. On 9th November, 1933 the Treasurer reported that his bungalow had been burgled and lodge funds said to be in the region of Rupees 250 to 300 (around £20) were stolen from the lodge safe. Subsequently the thief was arrested and fortunately the money was recovered; the outcome of the incident being an earnest appeal to all brethren to pay their dues by cheque.

The lodge Was evidently in good heart in the early 1930's, even if a little short of lodge furniture, for the following it- are recorded as evidence of the deep fraternal feeling of certain brethren:

18th September, 1933 - W. Bro. E.S. Phipson PDGW expressed his intention to present three wand stands.

18th December, 1933 - W. Bro. S.A. Livierato expressed his intention to present a set of tracing boards.

20th January, 1935 – The committee thanked W.Bro. A.B. Wiggin for his presentation of a Tyler's sword to the Lodge.

Reflecting the changing fortunes of the world, however, on 17th June, 1940 serious thought was given to putting the lodge into abeyance owing to the declaration of war with Italy, Indeed, following careful discussion it was decided that as a large percentage of the resident members were also members of the Service or engaged on A.R.P. work there was little hope of a sufficient number attending the next lodge meeting to form a quorum and allow the lodge to be opened. The Secretary was instructed to Cable the District Grand Secretary Bombay for permission to put the

lodge into abeyance. Previously Permanent Committee Meetings had be on hold but the next recorded meeting is dated 6th December, 1940 when a number of subjects were including the provision of a Christmas present for the lodge in the sum of Rupees 30, but no further mention is made of the lodge being in abeyance. As the report for the year records 11 regular and 5 emergency working 26 ceremonies, with an average attendance of 17 members and 8 visitors it certainly could not be argued that there was any dilution of fraternal activity. The worst fears of the Permanent Committee were not realised although its immediate concern in June must have been of substance for there was no meeting in July.

A particular note of sadness was sounded on 2nd August, 1939 when a letter was received from Mrs. Twaddle announcing the death of her husband on 12th April, 1939, W. Bro. T.W Twaddle, of course, was the first Master of the Lodge and a brass plate recording his services was mounted in the Masonic Hall at Ma'alla.

In general, however, the 1930's were happy years and in the year ending 31st March, 1932 there was recorded membership of 96. In September of that year consideration was even given by the Permanent Committee to the founding of a new lodge. The proposal was to have been placed before the brethren in open lodge but in the absence of minutes of lodge meetings for this period there is no record of the views expressed at that time. It is indisputable, however, that the proposal did not become fact for it was many years later that a second lodge was founded under the English Constitution in Aden.

The report for the year ending 31st March, 1934 shows an increased membership of 103, but its transient nature is reflected in the fact that only 24 were then resident in Aden. An average attendance of 17 members and 7 visiting brethren at each meeting therefore was very creditable.

The 1930's, as today, were a period of tribulation for India and on 21st July, 1935 there is reference to an appeal from the District Grand Lodge of Bombay for the Quetta Earthquake Fund. The absence of records again precludes the formulation of a total contributed by the members beyond the initial Rupees 50 proposed at the meeting of 21st July. The report for the year records a donation of Rupees 300 to the Viceroy's Earthquake Fund, Shortly after on 14th April, 1936 the receipt of a Grand Lodge letter concerning donations to the Rebuilding Fund for the Masonic Hall at Quetta is recorded but it has not been possible to trace the amount of any resulting donation from the lodge.

It is relevant at this point to refer to the appointment of Sir Roger Lumley, Governor of Bombay Presidency of British India, as District Grand Master of Bombay in 1940. (Sir Roger succeeded to the title of the 11th Earl of Scarborough in 1948. Meanwhile in 1947 he became Deputy Grand Master and in 1951 he was appointed the 48th Ruler of the Craft. The Right Honourable the Earl of Scarborough KG, GCIS, GCIE, GCVO, TD held the appointment of Most Worshipful Grand Master from 1951 to 1967 when His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent was installed in that office, however, he continued to serve the Craft as Pro Grand Master until his death on 29th June, 1969.)

The 25th Anniversary of the founding of the lodge passed almost without comment. A proposal that the Silver Jubilee should be celebrated at a special banquet was superseded and it was agreed that it should be incorporated with the normal Installation Banquet. The special commemorative dance scheduled for 29th January, 1944 was Cancelled as the lodge was in a period of 3 months mourning following the death of R.W.Bro. W.A.C. Bromham the District Grand Master for Bombay. A commemorative tablet etched in marble was presented to the lodge by the brethren of Lodge Felix No. 355 S.C. but regrettably this was not transported to England when the lodge was transferred to Croydon. However, the reproduction at Plate 7 is taken from a colour photograph by W.Bro, G.K. Taylor.

A slight hint of trouble arose in early 1944 when a Permanent Committee meeting was called on 14th January to discuss 'urgent' business, following "which the following extract appears in the minutes:

"..... The W.M and brethren of the Permanent Committee were gravely concerned with the number of candidates who had not passed ballot ..... The W. M. intimated that he would not accept further initiates during the remaining period of his office ....."



PLATE 7



To  
The Worshipful Master, Warden and Brethren of  
Lodge Light in Arabia No. 3870 E. S., Aden.  
Dear Brethren,

To the R. W. Master and Brethren of  
Lodge Tulla No. 355 Scottish Constitution Aden  
You are here full congratulations on the attainment  
of the Silver Jubilee of your Worshipful Lodge.

For the last 25 years the Brethren of your  
Lodge have worked shoulder to shoulder for the welfare  
of Freemasonry in general in Aden, Arabia.

The cordial relations which have been  
maintained between these two Lodges are a proof of  
an admirable bond of friendship which is the founda-  
tion of all Masonic Institutions working in unity with  
each other. May the same fraternal regards continue  
for many years to come.

May the Lodge Light in Arabia secure  
as much prosperity and progress as it has enjoyed  
in this quarter of a century is the fervent wish of  
the Brethren of Lodge Tulla.

With sincere greetings

We remain, Brethren,  
Internally yours

Sorabjea Pallonje Bell

On 19th January, 1944 it was agreed that an address prepared by a special sub-committee of the Permanent Committee should be read in open lodge at the next meeting - but then the subject dies. With 9 initiates admitted in 1943 and 9 in 1944, in retrospect it seems that perhaps there was undue concern expressed on this account, but without facts it is not possible to give a balanced opinion. It is certain that the popularity of the lodge was as high as ever about this time for on 10th January, 1945 a proposition was considered for meeting the cost of visitors meals 'in view of the large numbers of visitors now entertained by the lodge" and we do not imagine this would include visitors attending as the personal guests of members.

The records between 1935 and 1948 cover a fallow period in which little has been recorded other than mundane matters of no interest to us now but on 21st May, 1948 there is a sorrowful entry that "the loss of one and a half bottles of whisky be written off." On 21st February, 1949, however, the first reference is made to the proposed formation of a Grand Lodge of India, but even this did not attract much detailed entry and on 16th May, 1949 the Master proposed no further action be taken and that the matter be held pending to await further developments.

The developments are unrecorded, but it transpired that R.W. Bro. Lt. Gen. Sir Harold Williams KBE, CB, OSM, PGW was to be appointed chairman of the Steering Committee set up by the Grand Masters of the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland to recommend how the Grand Lodge of India should be brought into being. This resulted in its formation in November 1961, when the new Grand Lodge was consecrated by the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, constituted by the Deputy Grand Master of Ireland, while the first Grand Master was installed by our own Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Rt. Hon. The Earl of Cadogan M.C., DL. All lodges working under the jurisdictions of the Indian Districts were allowed the option to join the new Grand Lodge, and indeed, 96 out of a total of 184 English lodges did so. R.W. Bro. Bhogilal C. Shah the District Grand Master for Bombay who was appointed Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India and consequently resigned his appointment as District Grand Master, was a subscribing member of Lodge Light in Arabia until his resignation on 1st September, 1970.

In July, 1952 it was suggested that the lodge should seek to leave the District of Bombay and operate directly under the jurisdiction of United Grand Lodge. Obviously this was a subject which generated considerable differences of opinion for it was again the subject of discussion by the Permanent Committee on 16th

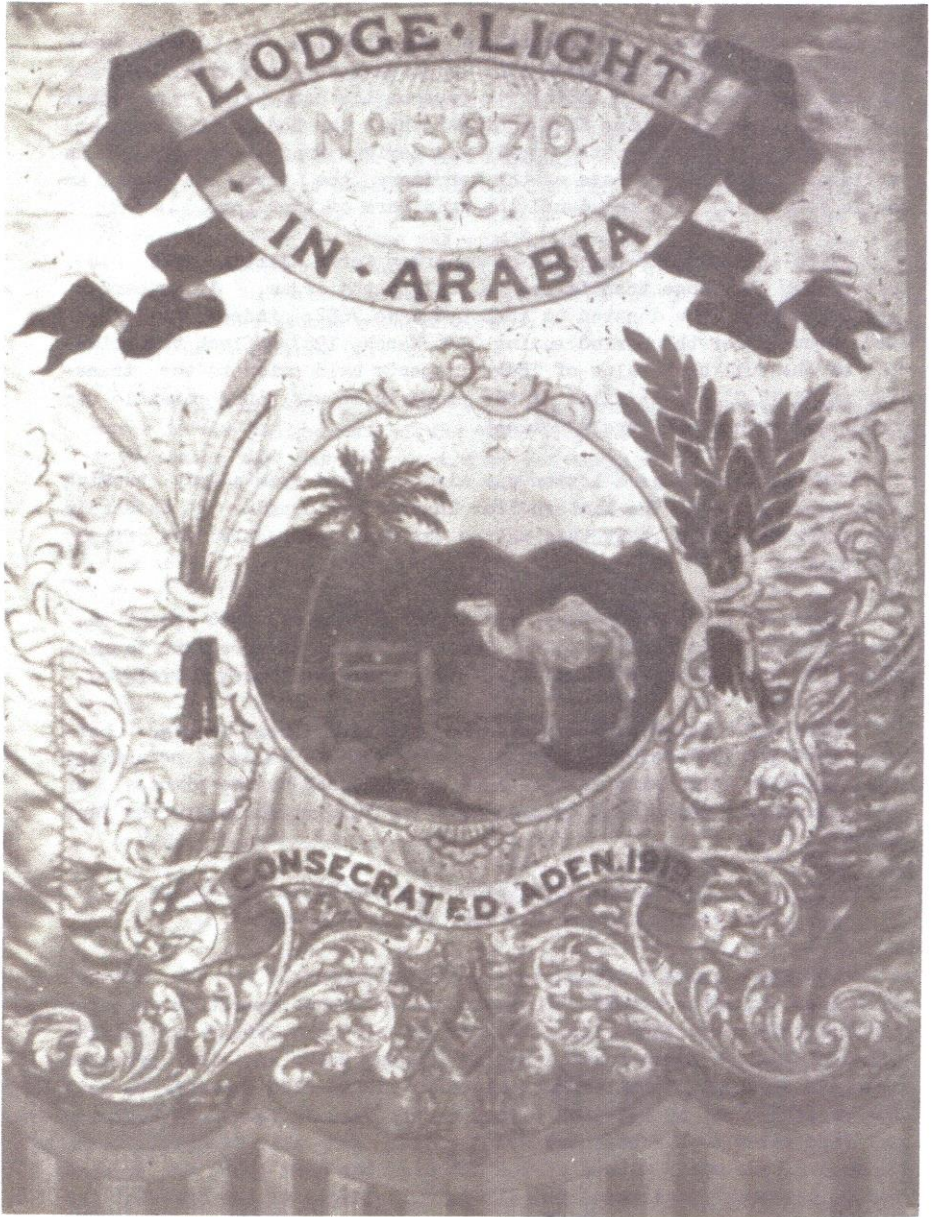
February, 1953 when it was decided to put an appropriate notice of motion before the lodge. It appeared on the summons for the meeting held on 1st May, 1953 and the minutes of that meeting reveal that the voting was even with 12 for and 12 against the motion when the Master gave his casting vote to preserve the status quo.

In early 1953 there is evidence that the fluid membership and changes of Secretary had created difficulties in administration for a number of queries on previous years returns to District Grand Lodge attracted a fair amount of research. Even in 1955 the apparent confusion in the records would not seem to have been entirely eliminated for on 1st July, 1955 District Grand Lodge had occasion to issue a formal reminder that the Grand Lodge and District Grand Lodge dues for the period ending 31st December, 1954 had not been received and requested the lodge be informed at its next regular meeting that if they had not been paid before the ensuing meeting was held, the by-laws of the District Grand Lodge governing the submission of returns and payment of dues would be invoked. This would have resulted in the Master, Wardens and Past Masters being disqualified from attending District Grand Lodge and exercising a vote in the election of, or sitting on, any Board or Committee. Fortunately, a previous less formal reminder had already resulted in payment being remitted before the receipt of the formal warning, and all was well.

By August 1956 the lodge banner was evidently showing considerable signs of wear and it was decided to enquire into the cost of replacing it. This was the original banner but it has not been possible to discover when it was purchased, however in November of that year it was agreed that the cost of replacement was far too expensive and the possibility of renovating the banner was examined. This cannot have proceeded very far because in 1959 its state of deterioration once again became a matter of concern and it was again decided to explore the possibility of replacing it. The outcome was that by resolution of the lodge on 1st May, 1959 it was agreed that a new one should be ordered from Messrs Barton Son and Co. in best embroidery at a cost of about Rupees 500. The new banner was duly received and it was dedicated by R.W. Bro. Bhogilal Chimanlal Shah the District Grand Master for Bombay at an emergency meeting on the 10th October, 1959. The banner is beautifully executed and is as bright today in Croydon as it was on first receipt - a photograph of it is reproduced at Plate 8 from which it will be seen that it incorporates the lodge crest which bears representations of the barren peaks of

PLATE 8





Aden with the light in the form of the sun shedding its rays on the dawn palm, the camel and the well representing Sheikh Othman where the lodge was formed and first met. (Aden's water supply was derived from the Sheikh Othman wells and in the barrenness of the territory the town was also an oasis (the palm) with the camel the main form of transport.)

1956 also saw the purchase of an organ for a little over £100. Later when the lodge transferred to England the organ, lodge carpet and typewriter were donated to Aden Lodge No.7652; indeed, the adopted accounts for the period ending 31st March, 1967 reflect the write-off of the full book value of lodge property held prior to the transfer (£251.17.9) as the value of the property it was found possible to bring to England was purely nominal.

In this same year a letter was also received from a lady seeking assistance to join "The Eastern Star Chapter" in Canada. It is hardly necessary to mention that this matter was very correctly and firmly dealt with!

There is a brief record of a discussion in April 1958 about the provision of a new Masonic Hall. However, beyond an agreement to make enquiries there is no other mention and the proposal never developed.

Aden will always be remembered for the troublesome period between 1964 and 1967 but the pressures which rumbled below a reasonably calm exterior were being felt in 1958 as evidenced by the minutes of the emergency meeting held on 31st October, 1958 which record the fact that:

“ ..... due to the imposition of a curfew in the Crater area, the explanation of the TB. was postponed.”

The 1960's were destined to see the withdrawal of the British from Aden and after almost 50 years of continuous operation brought the removal of the lodge from its home where it was truly a shining light of English Freemasonry. However, these years saw the greatest charitable effort of the lodge's history. It is also pleasing to note the presentation, in 1964, of a copy of the Masonic Year Book Historical Supplement to the District Grand Master and all District Grand Lodge Officers while a copy of the Masonic Year Book 1966, was presented to District Grand Lodge and all private lodges in the District of Bombay. It was also during this period that we

find record of donations given to mark the masonic Golden Jubilee of the District Grand Master R.W. Bro. S.K. Kapadia, to the S.K. Kapadia Golden Jubilee Endowment Fund and the A.C. Bottomley Memorial Fund in addition to a contribution towards the portrait in oils of the late R.W. Bro. A.C. Bottomley which was unveiled in the District Grand Lodge of Bombay on 23rd September, 1965. It was also in 1964 that the attention of all members was drawn to their responsibilities as sponsors with the issue of personal copies of that excellent London Grand Rank Association pamphlet "A Guide on Admission into Freemasonry", and in June the same year the lodge became a subscribing member of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge Correspondence Circle.

It is also worthy of note that the permissive alternative form of words in the obligations of the three degrees approved by Grand Lodge in December 1964 was not adopted by the Lodge.

## CHAPTER LIGHT IN ARABIA

The formation of a Royal Arch Chapter attached to the Lodge was first discussed by the Permanent Committee on 14th June, 1934 but it was decided to recommend to the Lodge that the formation of an English Chapter in Aden should be deferred. It was not until 16th July, 1936 that the subject was again discussed but on this occasion consent for the formation quickly followed and was given at the regular of the Lodge held on 3rd August, 1936. Five months later the Secretary reported that the charter for the proposed new Chapter had been approved and the consecration would take place sometime after the District Grand Lodge meeting scheduled for March 1937.

The Chapter was consecrated on 14th May, 1937 by E. Comp. Major S.K. Engineer, O.B.E., 2nd Dist. Grand Principal assisted by E. Comp. K.C. Dinshaw as 2nd Dist. Grand Principal and E. Comp. Khan BaBahadur, P.N. Daver, P.G.St.B., Dist. G.S.E., as 3rd Dist. Grand Principal. There were twelve founder members:

Ex. Comp. A.B. Wiggin	Sgr. Lt.
Ex. Comp. E.S. Phipson	Surgeon Lt. Col. Indian
CIE, D50, MC, MRCP	Army
Ex. Comp. A.I. Laljee	Merchant
Comp. C.M. Robertson	Dairy Farm Manager
Comp. N.B. Lawson	Engineer
Comp. M. Abdulla	Advocate
Comp. C.A. Bush	Engineer
Comp. L.J. Hazel	Shipping Manager
Comp. M. Ahmed	Medical Practitioner
Comp. W.R. Melling	Captain, Merchant Marine
Comp. D.C. Way	Pilot
Comp. C.L.L. Stokes	Major, Indian Army

The first installed principals of the Chapter were:

1st Principal	E. Comp. Sgr. Lt. A.B. Wiggin
2nd Principal	E. Comp. Lt. Col. E.S. Phipson
3rd Principal	E. Comp. A.I. Laljee



The fortunes of the Chapter followed these of the Lodge and on 8th November, 1967 it was transferred to England, where the first convocation was held at Croydon on 19th March, 1968, and now works under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Surrey.

## LIGHT IN ARABIA LODGE OF INSTRUCTION

The Lodge of Instruction minute book is endorsed:

"This book was presented to the Lodge of Instruction from Lodge Light in Arabia on 9th April, 1931 at the Installation Meeting. Opened on 1st May, 1931."

The first recorded minutes refer to the minutes of a previous meeting held on 3rd April, 1931. So although we know that it operated continuously from April, 1931, it is probable that it was well established for some time before that date.

Regular meetings were held and although there was a temporary faltering in June and July 1940 for the same reasons that gave rise to consideration of putting the Lodge into abeyance, there was good attendance and the Lodge met throughout World War II. However, in April 1953 the lack of support gave the Permanent Committee cause to discuss the advisability of continuing to maintain a Lodge of Instruction. Following the Master's exhortation for support at the next regular meeting of the Lodge in May 1953 there is no evidence of any subsequent lack of attendance until 1964. The last recorded minutes of the Lodge of Instruction are for the meeting held on 25th November, 1964 which were signed on 31st March, 1965. The security situation in Aden finally proved to be too severe for its continuation and at the regular meeting of the Lodge held on 1st June, 1966 the motion:

"That the Lodge withdraw its sanction for the Lodge of Instruction under BC 135."

was carried and formally ended the basis of the high standard of working recognised as the hallmark of the Lodge Light in Arabia. Now that the Lodge has been transferred to England and its resident members live across the whole of the British Isles it is not possible to run a Lodge of Instruction, but because these who now actively support the Lodge are also members of other lodges and lodges of instruction in their home localities, the standard of working remains remarkably high.

## DAUGHTER LODGES

As recorded earlier, consideration was first given to the founding of another English lodge in Aden, in 1932, but it was not until April and May 1958 that preliminary discussions were held on a proposal to found a second lodge with a view to its consecration in December that year. The proposal was discussed at the regular meeting of the Lodge in June when the Master-designate presented the formal request for sponsorship and was accorded the unanimous support of the members.

The new lodge, Aden Lodge No. 7652, was consecrated on 9th October, 1959 by the District Grand Master for Bombay, R. W.Bro. Bhogilal C. Shah.

Although only a mere 27 months had elapsed since the consecration of Aden Lodge, in February 1962 there was discussion on founding yet another English lodge in Aden, which gives some idea of the masonic enthusiasm existing at that time. Indeed, at the Installation meeting of the Lodge that year there were no less than 80 brethren present and all attended the subsequent festive board.

Arrangements were completed very quickly and on 27th June, 1962 the new lodge, Friendship in Aden Lodge No. 7845 was consecrated by the District Grand Master for Bombay R.W.Bro. A.C. Bottomley It is so very easy to be wise in retrospect, but when just over a year later doubts were being expressed about there being any future for Freemasonry in Aden we wonder if the obvious enthusiasm was allowed too much rein in influencing the decision to form this new lodge at that particular time, especially in view of the events which resulted in the transfer of Lodge Light in Arabia from Aden.

## PROPOSED FORMATION OF MARK AND ARK MARINERS LODGES

In 1957 there was enthusiasm on the part of a few members of the Lodge for the formation of Mark and Ark Mariners lodges in Aden.. Even though the numbers of petitioners were much smaller than would normally have been acceptable, on 3rd January, 1958 the Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and the Dominions and Dependencies of the British Crown notified the agreement of the Grand Master and the Board that their formation should go ahead. It is evident, however, that the formation of these lodges did not have widespread approval in the Colony for the petitioners were part way through short tours of duty and the brethren generally were fearful that having formed these lodges the transient brethren would leave behind an unwanted body which, in the name of Freemasonry, they would feel compelled to support. The matter was finally resolved following the visit of the Mark District Grand Master in February, 1958 when the petitioners wrote to him on 12th February, 1958 asking that the petitions should be temporarily held over. The request was communicated to the Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, and as nothing further matured there the episode ended. It is comforting to note that good sense prevailed and that consideration of Freemasonry in general, rather than the wishes of a few isolated brethren, dictated the outcome.

## CHARITY

Over a span of 50 years the attendant variable factors of a highly fluid membership and the inevitable inflationary aspects of the later years render it difficult today to appreciate the charitable effort behind annual donations totalling 5 or 10 guineas in the 1920's and 1930's, particularly when many brethren contributed generously to lodges elsewhere than in Aden. However, it is clear that the truly Masonic ornaments of Benevolence and Charity have been maintained in their fullest splendour by the Lodge for it is a Patron of:

The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys  
The Royal Masonic Institution for Girls  
The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution  
The Royal Masonic Hospital  
The Bombay Masonic Association

- whilst it has established with the Bombay Masonic Association and the Bombay District Board of Benevolence three funds which are still in existence, namely:

The Lodge Light in Arabia Scholarship Fund  
The Lodge Light in Arabia Endowment Fund  
The Lodge Light in Arabia Past Masters' Endowment Fund

The endowment funds were created just before the Lodge transferred to Croydon to maintain ties with the District of Bombay. On at least two occasions, the RMBI Festival 1962 and the RMIG Festival 1963, the Lodge is recorded as the highest subscribing overseas lodge. In addition, number of brethren hold personal qualifications as Patrons and Vice-Patrons of the Institutions and the Hospital. It is the Hospital, however, which has attracted the greatest charitable effort as a glance at the table of donations at the end of this section will confirm, and it is with the Hospital that the Lodge is qualified as a "Founding Lodge 1956". particular pride is felt in the achievement, in June, 1967. of the target to name a patients' day room on the first floor of the Wakefield Wing as the "Aden Room" towards which the total of £2.776. 5s. 6d donated during the years 1963 to 1967 was taken together with

donations from Aden Lodge No. 7652 and Friendship in Aden Lodge No. 7845, £5,000 in all. The enthusiasm of the brethren for this project is reflected in the fact that no less than £296. 15s. 0d of this total resulted from specially organised 'Curry Luncheons' at the time of the armed insurrection in Aden when gatherings of any kind attracted danger to life. It has not been possible to obtain the total. of donations given to the Bombay District Board of Benevolence, but up to 31st December, 1966 a total of Rupees 6389 (about £400) had been contributed to the Bombay) Masonic Association, in addition to these shown in the table of donations.

Other references to charitable donations are difficult to locate, but the few that are available indicate that many other charities have been supported from time to time and these may well have resulted in the (now) seemingly small contributions reflected in the early years of the table donations. For instance, the following general totals are recorded, and in view of the limited record. now available and the varying standards of recording over the year. it is inevitable -that the detail of many others will never come to light,

Year ending	Rupee	Annas	
31st March, 1931	3807	11	(about £211)
31st March, 1932	2162	6	(" £162)
31st December, 1938	465	1	(" £ 35)
31st December, 1939	902	12	(" £ 68)
31st December, 1940	929	12	(" £ 70)

In addition, in 1940 there was a donation of Rupees 371 (about £28) to the War Gifts Fund (Hospital Special Appeal).

The only enlightening reference to the broad base of the Lodge's charitable efforts in its earlier days is contained in the printed Almoner's Report of May 1933, which lists the Masonic charities having first claim on the Lodge Benevolent Fund and a number of non-Masonic charities to which the Lodge contributed from time to time as follows,

1. Grand Lodge Masonic Charities.
  - RMI.* Boys
  - R.M.I. Girls
  - R.M. Benevolent Institution

## Freemasons Hospital and Nursing Home

2. District Masonic Charities  
Bombay Masonic Association  
Lodge Scholarship, Barnes School, Deolali  
Christmas Gift to Boy Gillespie
  
3. Non-Masonic Charities  
Royal National Lifeboat Institution  
St Dunstan's Homes  
Lord Roberts Workshop  
Lord Mayor Treloar's Homes  
London Hospital  
Aden Poppy Fund  
Bombay Children's Aid Society  
Kalimpang Homes, India  
- and a few others.

It is interesting to note that even as long ago as 1933 the Almoner suggested that in addition to the regular support of the four Masonic charities. at a rate of not less than 5 guinea. each per annum, thought .should be given to having a bed at the Hospital named after the Lodge. There is no record of the outcome of this suggestion. Some confusion is apparent in monetary matters at this time for it was the Almoner's opinion that the Lodge Benevolent Fund was larger than it need be and he advocated using the money for a definite purpose rather than keeping it on deposit in the bank. On the other hand "in view" of the general shortage of money" he suggested the suspension of all subscriptions to non-Masonic charities for the time being.

The by-laws of the Lodge at this period provided for a resident membership fee of Rupees 5 monthly, the cost of refreshments other than liquors being pooled at each meeting and met by the brethren attending. For the Installation Banquet provision was made for a grant to be made from lodge funds, the amount being subject to the approval of the Lodge. It is evident from the Almoner's Report, however, that the cost of the Installation Banquet was wholly met from lodge funds and he put forward suggestions for the maintenance of a separate Stewards Account through which accrued profit, could "go a considerable way towards meeting the cost of the

Installation Banquet, and thus reduce the heavy drain on lodge funds which the present system involves, and which though permissible, reflects no great credit on the Lodge and diminishes its capacity for carrying out its charitable obligations". At the Permanent Committee meeting which considered the report it was agreed that the four masonic charities. should be .supported "but not necessarily at the rate of 5 guineas", also that donations to non-Masonic charities should be suspended and that a separate Stewards Account should be created. The principle that members' refreshments should not be a charge to the Lodge following the Installation Meeting was also agreed, but the suggestion for the application of a voluntary levy of Rupees 1 per month on all resident members to help meet the Installation Banquet expense was put in abeyance, while that for a 10% levy on the sale of all bar books was not agreed; however the transfer of 10% of the total income of the Lodge to the Benevolent Fund (plus any grant which the Lodge may make from the General Fund) was confirmed.

The table of donations reflects the concentration of effort for the Hospital during the years 1963-1967, and towards the 1971 Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution at which the R.W. Provincial Grand Master for Surrey was to preside, following the Lodges transfer to the Province, as opposed to the greater diversity of support in prior years. It is also to be noted that in the later years it was the practice to support the Master's List of each English lodge in Aden, in rotation.

For the future, the factors leading to the views expressed in the section "The Lodge at Work" will undoubtedly lead to a parallel diminution in the fruits of the Lodge's charitable efforts, of which every member has been so proud in recent years. Indeed, in his letter of 12th January, 1962 about the proceedings of the District Grand Lodge of Bombay on the occasion of the installation of W.Bro. A.C. Bottomley as District Grand Master, the District Grand Secretary wrote,

" ..... R.W.Bro. Bottomley spoke at length about the charity donation. made from time to time from Lodge. No. 3870 and 7652. Indeed it is a great pride to the District to have on its Roll Lodges members of which so extensively practise one of the primary principles of Freemasonry....."

For all that, "charity finds in the act reward, and needs no trumpet", the standard, pro-rata, will undoubtedly remain as high as ever.



This section would not be complete without mention of the commemorative jewel now worn on the Master's collar to mark the Lodge's qualification by the contributions of its members to the M.W. The Grand Master's appeal to establish the 250th Anniversary Fund in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the foundation of Grand Lodge.

## AN ERA DRAWS TO A CLOSE

Following the creation of the State of Aden, the resulting demands of the Aden politicians for independence by October 1963 and withdrawal of all Indians and Europeans from the country brought in its wake a host of rumours; but the situation generally became sufficiently alarming to raise doubts about the future of Freemasonry in Aden, particularly when the B. P. Refinery at Little Aden was losing about 40 expatriate employees per year for replacement by Adenis and the issue of work permits to expatriates was strictly curtailed to cases of special need.

At the regular meeting held on 7th June, 1963 the brethren voted to set up a sub-committee whose report requires no further amplification and it therefore follows verbatim:

"1. We are appointed at the Regular Meeting of. Lodge Light in Arabia No. 3870 on 7th June, 1963 and of Aden Lodge No. 7652 E.C. on 10th May, 1963 with the following terms of reference:

"That the Lodge appoint a sub-committee to investigate and report on changes implicit in the creation of the State of Aden and its joining the Federation of South Arabia, vis-à-vis public holidays, the By-Laws, effect of continued adherence to the District Grand Lodge of Bombay and other relevant matters".

As two brethren on each sub-committee are members of both Lodges, it has been thought expedient to issue a joint report which can incorporate the views of the members of both sub-committees for the consideration of the brethren.

2. We have met and considered the various points raised in these terms of reference, and now report as follows:

### 3. Public Holidays and Rest Days

The former Colony of Aden has now become a State within the Federation of South Arabia. Subject to several reservations of powers to the High

Commissioner, the Law-making body for all normal purposes is the Supreme Council of the Federation.

4. All Government offices now observe a six-day working week, with Friday as the rest day instead of the Sunday, as previously, There was some initial public opposition to this change of rest day, but now it has been largely adopted, and some commercial houses and banks have agreed to open on Sunday, and although the Armed Forces still continue to observe Sunday as a rest day, there is reason to believe that the Government would like to see Friday observed throughout the whole Federation in due course.
5. At the moment, Lodge Light in Arabia meets on the first Friday of each month, Aden Lodge meets on the second Friday of each month, and .also joins with Lodge Light in Arabia in the Lodge of Instruction held on the last Friday of each month. Meetings of the permanent Committee of the Lodges are generally arranged to be held on the same afternoon as the Lodge of Instruction.
6. It follows from the above that for a majority of the brethren, Friday has become the official rest day, and also a lodge meeting day. As the Lodge is tyled at 6.30 p.m. it means that all officers and brethren must be back at their homes by 5p.m, at the latest on that day in order to change and be at the Lodge for 6 p.m. or shortly after. Many brethren have wives and families with them in Aden, and whilst wives have, in the main, shown great support for the Craft and toleration of their husbands' absence at meetings, it is felt that they will now be led to protest against the enforced curtailment of their rest day by reason of lodge meetings. The brethren themselves, whilst ready to observe their existing obligations will eventually come to feel that some alteration of dates of meetings would be desirable.
7. It is therefore proposed that an alternative day be agreed for the meeting of each Lodge, and we recommend a day other than Friday for the monthly regular meeting, This, when eventually voted on by the Lodges, will necessitate a change in their By-Laws.

8. The finances of the Lodge

Both Lodge Light in Arabia and Aden Lodge have always tried to maintain a reasonably sound financial position, avoiding near bankruptcy on the one hand, and affluence on the other. Their contributions to District Grand Lodge, to charities and to benevolence have been very generous.

9. In the light of what is written below, however, it is for consideration whether more of the existing available funds should be disbursed in the near future. It is impossible to assess the future of Freemasonry in Aden, and if the lodges were ordered to be closed by command of the Government, the Warrant, the lodge books and all assets would have to be surrendered to District Grand Lodge. It is devoutly to be hoped that such a state of affairs will never arise, at the same time, it may be that there might be some virtue in seeking the Lodge's authority for putting all available funds to their best possible use now, rather than to allow them to accumulate, only to be deprived of them indirectly at some future date.

10. Government has already made it known that, with the impending closure of the East African Currency Board, a new system of currency will be introduced into Aden, possibly early next year. It is presumed that this new system will be backed by the Bank of England. It is not known, however, what measure of success the new currency will enjoy, and to what extent remittances may continue to be made to places outside Aden.

11. In these circumstances, the disposal of the existing funds may be regarded as a matter of some urgency.

12. The future of the Craft and of the Lodges

It is quite impossible to guess what view the new Government will take on the continued existence of Freemasonry in the federal territory. Despite the long and distinguished career of the Craft over the past 100 years, very few Arabs have sought admission, and at the present time,

the total number of Arabs throughout all the Aden lodges is no more than six. As the Federation moves towards complete independence, there may be a move to proscribe societies generally as was done in Egypt, irrespective of their ancient and honourable nature. It is true that lodges continue in Bahrain and Kuwait, and there is no reason to think that Freemasonry in Aden has ever been regarded as other than completely non-political and of the highest integrity. At the same time, thought must be given to possible political pressure, however, remote.

13. In this, attention must be paid to the rise of Arab nationalism, in Aden as in other parts of the Middle East, and the unhappy position of racial minorities to be found in these states where Arab nationalism is being intensified. The Indian minorities in Kenya and Tanganyika are cases in point.
14. Several of our brethren are Indian, and the fact that Aden lodges are under the jurisdiction of the District Grand Lodge of Bombay, in the light of existing knowledge, animus might eventually be directed against Freemasonry in Aden by the more fervent nationalists, by reason of these facts.
15. A break with District Grand Lodge of Bombay would not lightly be made, in view of the long and fruitful collaboration which has existed between the District Grand Lodge and the Aden lodges for so many years; yet, if it did transpire that Freemasonry were to be permitted to continue, on condition that it became autonomous or under some jurisdiction other than that of India, such a possibility of break must be envisaged.
16. It is recalled that when the question of continued adherence to the District Grand Lodge of Bombay was brought up before Lodge Light in Arabia in 1953, the voting was equally divided, and, by a casting vote of the then W. Master, it was resolved to remain under the jurisdiction of Bombay.
17. If it becomes necessary to seek to cede from the jurisdiction of the District Grand Lodge of Bombay, owing to political pressure, the following consequences may be noted.

- a). There will be some considerable reduction in lodge dues.
- b). No further District ranks will be forthcoming; in this connection the subcommittee is constrained to mention the very small number of District ranks which have come to the Aden lodges in relation to their size and the very generous contributions which have been made to District Grand Lodge over the years. In the current year three District Grand rank promotions have been bestowed on three Brethren of Lodge Light in Arabia, two of whom left Aden over 10 years ago. One brother, not passed the Chair, was appointed to District Grand Rank.
- c). If the lodges are compelled to come under United (,rand Lodge, the award of one overseas Grand Rank, between the three Lodges may be expected each year.
- d). The payments to District Grand Lodge include Benevolent Fund and the Bombay Masonic Association, but it is well known that Aden has never asked of charity, and equally well known that there would be great difficulty in obtaining exchange control consent for any remittance.
18. Only time will tell what the future of the Craft is to be in Aden in the future. In addition to the above possible external events which may cause a set-back to Freemasonry, there is the further point to be made of the reduction in the number of expatriates who will remain in the Federation as a result of independence, and a serious consequent loss of experienced Masons. There is reason to think that there will not be an overnight hand-over of control in Aden such as that which caused such chaos in the Congo. At the same time, it is known that whilst many expatriates will still wish to serve in the new Government even if a scheme of compensation is introduced, there may be many others who either by their own choice, or because no offer to remain is forthcoming, will leave Aden in the foreseeable future.
19. The lodges in Aden have always looked to the Services for a constant supply of initiates and joining members, but for a majority of Service people, their tour is limited to two years, after which they are posted

away, and they seldom return. Thus the real burden of the work of maintaining the lodges has been borne by those who have been permanently here, mostly civilian Government officers.

20. If there is a run-down of these Government officers, the position - well be serious, as has been observed above, since the remaining civilians will be almost entirely Indian nationals, and not Arabs.
21. It is therefore for consideration that steps must be taken to ensure that existing lodges are kept running in the event of such a run-down, say, over these next two or three years. In this connection it may be considered whether the existing three English lodges can continue to exist as individual lodges, or, whether some form of amalgamation will be necessary and the ultimate closing down of - lodge or lodges whose future is jeopardised by a shortage of existing members and paucity of candidates for initiation.
22. The general supervision of all the English lodges has for some years been carried out by our one Grand Lodge Officer, who has attended all meetings of the two lodges and of their Permanent Committee and some meetings of the third lodge. He has been the Visitor at the installation Meeting at the direction of the District Grand Master, and has given freely of his time and experience to ensure that the working and discipline of the lodges corresponds to the highest ideals of the Craft. This Officer expects to retire and leave Aden in three years; the question of looking to a successor who can be ready to assume the part which he has played for so long, should be regarded as one of some urgency.

23. Recommendations

In the light of the above, this joint sub-committee now makes the following recommendations,

(1). Public rest day

That Lodge Light in Arabia change the day of its Regular Meeting from Friday to Wednesday, and meet on the first Wednesday of each month, and that

Aden Lodge should meet on the second Wednesday of each month. That application be made for the By-Laws to be changed accordingly.

(2). Finances of the Lodges

That substantial donations be made at an early date to selected charities, and that in the future the balance on the Accumulated Fund be kept to a minimum.

(3). The future of the Lodges

No specific recommendations can be made until the future can be seen more clearly'. It is, however, suggested that the Grand Officer mentioned in para 22 above may be approached and his advice sought on these brethren in both lodges who may be considered as his potential successors.

Sub-committee  
of Lodge Light in Arabia  
No. 3870

A.V. Clements P.Dist.G.W.  
L.B. Horner P.Dist. J.G.D.  
W.J. Bracklay W.M.

Sub-committee of  
Aden Lodge  
No. 7652

A.V. Clements P.Dist. G.W  
L.B.Horner P.Dist. J.G.D.  
J. Spiers P.Dist. Gt.Br.

Aden, July 1963."

The report was duly noted by Grand Lodge and District Grand Lodge and following the recommendations of the sub-committee and amendment to the by-laws changing the day of its regular meeting from Friday to Wednesday was formulated in December 1963 and approved by M. W. The Grand Master on 15th January, 1964. It had already been decided in mid-1963 to provide a room at the Royal Masonic Hospital by joint effort of the three English Constitution lodges and a provisional figure of £2,000 had been planned to be contributed as £1,000 from Lodge Light in Arabia funds, £600 from the other two lodges funds, with the balance contributed by the brethren generally. The future could not be predicted with - accuracy and therefore no further moves were made concerning the future of the Lodge.

By the end of 1964 the political situation in Aden had deteriorated to the extent that violence erupted, a grenade was exploded in a bar in Ma'alla Straight and a worsening situation developed which rendered it necessary to employ a guard on



the Masonic Hall whenever a meeting was held. As time passed it became evident that the British armed forces would be withdrawn in the not too distant future with a consequent run-down and withdrawal of the U.K.-based Civil Servants who provided support. With the attendant diminution of the expatriate oil company employees it was obvious that the very foundation on which such a superb edifice had been raised would not be eroded, but quite simply, it would' be removed almost completely.

Meetings were held only with difficulty, and with a curfew imposed by the Security forces, by 1966 meetings were being held in the afternoons. Security demanded that large numbers of people should not congregate together and publicity of the meeting place or the time of meeting were obviously also to be avoided when violence was the order of the day. District Grand Lodge allowed discretion to meet where and when it was reasonable to do so in the prevailing circumstances, summonses were printed without detail of meeting place, date or time and filled in at the last moment.

In the worsening situation and with little prospect for the future, the transfer of the Lodge to England was under active consideration and then in March 1966 the Secretary was authorised to proceed with all the requirements of Grand Lodge, the District Grand Lodge of Bombay and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Surrey with a view to effecting the transfer, the target date for transferring the Lodges inscribed jewels and furniture being the first week of September 1966. By August of that year such progress had been made that the Lodge Permanent Committee gave approval for the agreement of the Provincial Grand Master for Surrey to be sought to the Lodge meeting dates, and for every endeavour to be made to hold the first meeting in Croydon in December, 1966 or if this was not possible, in February, 1967 at the latest to enable a team of officers to be prepared for the April, 1967 Installation Meeting.

At the regular meeting held on 5th October, 1966, as required under 141 of the Book of Constitutions the following motion was considered and carried.

"That this Lodge shall transfer its Charter from the Masonic Hall, Ma'alla, Aden to Surrey and meet at the Croydon and District Masonic Hall, 73, Oakfield Road, Croydon, Surrey on the first Friday in February, April, October and December."

Receipt of the approval of MW. The Grand Master to the transfer of the Lodge to Croydon w67 reported to the permanent Committee on 2nd January, 1967 when it was arranged that the Charter and lodge books should be conveyed by hand on 11th January, 1967. The last meeting was held in Aden on 4th January, 1967 and a farewell party on 27th January was the final seal on 48 years of activity in that barren land.

## ENTRY INTO SURREY

The formalities necessary for the transfer of the Lodge to England having been completed, and the last meeting in the Masonic Hall, Ma'alla, Aden held on 4th January, 1967, without a break in continuity the first meeting in England Was held under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Surrey at the Croydon and District Masonic Hall, 73, Oakfield Road, West Croydon on 3rd February, 1967.

This meeting was a memorable occasion but unfortunately only 19 members were able to attend although these were supplemented by 10 visitors. In the absence of the regular officers of the Lodge who were still in Aden the Immediate Past Master, who had already returned to England and had done much sterling work as liaison officer during the process of transferring the Lodge, presided. The Lodge was opened with the following officers:

W.Bro. G.A. Woodstock	as Worshipful Master
Bro. G.K. Taylor	as Senior Warden
Bro. E.R. Frost	as Junior Warden
W.Bro. D.S. Willson PDSGD (Bombay)	as Secretary
Bro. H.R. Farningham (Aden Lodge No.7652)	as Senior Deacon
Bro. D. Blair Roberts	as Junior Deacon
Bro. T.C.G. Rickard	as Inner Guard
W.Bro. E. Pickton PPJGW	as Tyler

Apart from its historic significance, this meeting was vital in the Lodges new surroundings for it was also the election meeting. Bro. R. W. Henning was elected Master for the ensuing year, W.Bro. C. J. Smith PDG Purs (Bombay) Treasurer, and W.Bro. E. Pickton PPJGW Tyler. The die was cast and the Lodge was established in its new home.

A great amount of work was undertaken by W.Bro. L. B. Horner PDSGW (Bombay) Secretary of the Lodge from 1963, in Aden, and W.Bro. D. S. Willson PDSGD (Bombay) later to be appointed Secretary at the Installation Meeting in 1967, in England, and a great deal of credit is due to these worthy brethren for the smooth manner in which the transfer to England was affected and for the very solid new foundation on which the future of the Lodge can be so safely built. The move to the

Province of Surrey could not have been made without the unstinted and valuable aid afforded by the R. W. Provincial Grand Master and his officers. The warmth of their welcome was truly magnificent and it was heart warming to receive the Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. A. C. Searle PAGDC, PPJGW who visited unofficially to ensure that all arrangements were satisfactory and to offer his personal welcome at the first meeting in Surrey.

It was a fitting reception indeed for this first meeting was held in the beautiful F.T.B. Wheeler Temple, named after the then Provincial Grand Master, and created by flooring the former lofty Church at gallery level beneath a fine timber roof, so utterly different from the stark simplicity of the Temple in Aden.

Although the attendance at this meeting was relatively small, the brethren travelled from many parts of the country. Some who had been unable to attend for many years following their repatriation from Aden and some closely associated with the Lodge in the years immediately prior to its transfer. The old and the new met in true fraternal accord and many new friendships were firmly established that evening. It was particular delightful to meet W.Bro. E. F. Troughton MSM who was an initiate of the Lodge in June 1925 whilst serving as a member of the RAOC in Aden, and who travelled from York at the age of 76 years to extend his welcome home. Unfortunately we were to see no more of him and the Lodge was sad indeed to learn of his death on 30th December, 1969. The name of W.Bro. B.F. Gotobed PGOrg. PDGDC (Bombay) PPG Org (Middx) had appeared on the Lodge summons since September, 1966 following his election as an honorary member of the Lodge, and it was a pleasure indeed for these who had not met him previously to receive the warm fraternal greeting of this much respected and active brother. W.Bro. Gotobed was the first initiate of the Lodge on 8th May 1919 and he now regularly attends our meetings at which he is kind enough to act as Organist to the delight of all who hear him play.

The warmth of the Provincial Grand Lodge reception was epitomised by the official visit of the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. F.T.B. Wheeler MA, PGD, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Secretary at the following meeting, the Installation Meeting, on 7th April, 1967. This was a happy and memorable occasion and the Provincial Grand Master's personal welcome to the Province expressed at the Festive Board endeared him to the hearts of all. Up to this time it had not been the practice of the Lodge to give Masonic Fire (PIR) at the table, but R.W. Bro.

Wheeler left his personal mark by instructing the Master and brethren in the manner of its execution and all subsequent gatherings have resounded by its use - a fitting memorial to a very great Freemason who was mourned by the members of the Lodge, who had known him but a short time as much as by those who were privileged to work with him through his distinguished career, when he died on 23rd December, 1970.

During the first year of the Lodge's operation in the Province of Surrey it was without regalia but further evidence of the warmth of its reception in the Province generally was exemplified by the kindness of Riddlesdown Lodge No. 6107 who offered the use of their regalia until such time as our own arrived.

Provincial Grand Lodge interest in the Lodge's progress was again in evidence when we were honoured to welcome the official representative of the Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. L. Poynder PGStB on 1st December, 1967, W.Bro. G.J. Redgrove PGD, Assistant provincial Grand Master who visited the Installation Meeting on 5th April, 1968 unofficially, and W.Bro. Lt. Col. H.G. Daniels DL, FCA, PGD, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, accompanied by W.Bro. J .C. Hendey Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, who visited officially at the meeting held on 7th February, 1969.

It was with equal pleasure that the Lodge welcomed R.W. Bro. The Rev. Cannon C.A. Bolton PDGM (Bombay), MSM on 6th December, 1968. R.W. Bro. Bolton had taken a keen and lively interest in Lodge affairs for many years and it was particularly delightful to have him lead the singing of the opening and closing odes in the absence, on that occasion, of our distinguished honorary Organist. The news of his death on 24th July, 1970 was a sad blow to many of the older Lodge members.

This period of the Lodge's history was one of consolidation for the future. It was a period in which great satisfaction could be taken from the fact that in the peculiar situation where members having a home address in the Province were almost the exception rather than the general rule, it had been so successful. Without the blessing of a Lodge of Instruction and consequent co-ordinated practice, it is remarkable that the standard of work in the Lodge was maintained at such a high level, more particularly so when brethren attending Lodges of Instruction in other Provinces., and therefore under the influence of other practices, met at Croydon and

within minutes of arrival launched into smooth flowing work such as we came to expect in Aden when the Lodge of Instruction met monthly.

During this same period, in July 1968, the Lodge adopted a form of Grace dating from the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, which had come to the attention of W.Bro. G.H. Robinson PAGDC, PDSGW, (Bombay) in the course of the ordinary duties of his station at the Missions to Seamen. It needs no embellishment,

"God bless our meat, God guide our ways,  
God give us grace our Lord to please,  
Lord bless with joy and peace and health,  
Our gracious Queen Elizabeth"

Then it also saw the initiation in February, 1969, of the first two candidates having no connection with Aden whatsoever. One brother was enabled to take his second and third regular steps after nearly seventeen year. for having been initiated as long ago as September, 1951 through a variety of circumstances he had been unable to progress further, Whilst another brother was able to take his third step having waited six years between his first and second. A period of consolidation indeed!

## GRAND LODGE AND DISTRICT GRAND LODGE VISITORS

In April, 1931 the District Grand Master R.W. Bro. Sir Reginald Arthur Spence attended a Permanent Committee meeting of the Lodge when the S.S. Ranchi in which he was travelling to the United Kingdom called at Aden. Amongst the matters discussed was the standing of lodges under the Egyptian Constitution. On his return journey to India the District Grand Master again attended a Permanent Committee meeting on 6th December, 1931 and it is recorded that an emergency meeting of the Lodge was arranged to receive him on 9th November, 1931.

On 14th March, 1950 it is recorded that the Grand Secretary would be calling at Aden on 30th April, 1950 en route to Australia and would like to meet the brethren of the Lodge. Unfortunately there is no traceable record of this meeting.

On 16th October, 1952 The District Grand Master, R.W. Bro. J.S. Tilley, O.B.E., visited the Lodge but once again no record of the visit remains.

On 6th June, 1956 The District Grand Master, R.W. Bro. The Venerable C.A. Bolton, Archdeacon of Bombay attended an emergency meeting of the Lodge and in August, 1957 it was agreed that the District Grand Master should be invited to pay a full visit to Aden when he was accommodated by W.Bro. G. H. Robinson with the Lodge paying his air fare. The programme for the DGM's visit was arranged as follows:

6th February, 1958	Chapter convocation
7th February, 1958	Regular Lodge meeting
9th February, 1958	Masonic Service (at Christ Church Steamer Point, with the D.G.M. giving the address)
11th February, 1958	Ladies' Festival

To complete a very full visit, on 8th February, 1958 he also attended a Permanent Committee meeting of the Lodge and spoke on the proposal to form a Mark Lodge and a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge in Aden. He also dined with the Governor.

Aden must have been very popular with District Grand Lodge about this time for following the resignation of R.W.Bro. The Venerable C.A. Bolton as District Grand Master from 1st March, 1959 and the Appointment of R.W. Bro. Bhogilal C. Shah in his stead, the new District Grand Master paid a visit in October, 1959.

Following his arrival in Aden, where he was accommodated by W.Bro. H.R. Rao, on 6th October, the very full programme included:

6th October, 1959	Rehearsal
7th October, 1959	Visit to Lodge Felix No. 355 S.C. followed by a Ladies evening.
8th October, 1959	Visit to Lodge Pioneer No. 1305 S.C .
9th October, 1959	Consecration of Lodge Aden No. 7652
10th October, 1959	Dedication of the new banner Lodge Light in Arabia No. 3870

Yet another visit was paid by the District Grand Master, R. W.Bro. Bhogilal C. Shah when he attended the Installation meeting of the Lodge held on 20th April, 1961 by dispensation as the date for the regular meeting should have been 7th April, 1961, but within a few months, on 1st December, 1961, he resigned from office on his appointment as the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India which was inaugurated in November 1961. (R.W. Bro. B.C. Shah became a member of Lodge Light in Arabia on 7th July, 1961 and resigned on 1st September, 1970). R. W.Bro. C.A. Bottomley was installed as District Grand Master on 9th January, 1962. Most regrettably R. W.Bro. Bottomley died in Germany just over a year later on 10th December, 1962. In the meantime, however, he visited Aden and consecrated Lodge Friendship in Aden No. 7845 on 27th June, 1962. R. W.Bro. S.P. Kapadia was appointed as successor to R. W.Bro. C.A. Bottomley with effect from 13th February, 1963, and "Within twelve months of his installation he also visited Aden, staying "With W.Bro. H.R. Rao in Crater. On this occasion another very full programme was arranged as follows:

Aden Chapter No. 7652	Installation Convocation.
22nd January, 1964	Friendship in Aden Lodge No. 7845
24th January, 1964	Emergency meeting Aden Lodge No. 7652
25th January, 1964	Return to Bombay

In typically generous manner the Lodge marked the visit by accepting a motion:



"That in order to mark the visit of the R. W. the District Grand Master, the Lodge donate Rupees 1,000 from its Benevolent Fund for such masonic charities as the District Grand Master may select."

This visit was the last to be made by a deputation from the District Grand Lodge of Bombay.

## HONORARY MEMBERS

The most complete list of honorary members it has been possible to compile include the following brethren in order of election.

R.W. Bro. The Rev. Canon C.A. Bolton PDGM, PAGChap.

W.Bro. Sorabjee P. Patel, D.Suptd of Arabia Felix (SC), Hon. PGW(SC)

W.Bro. Ralph E. Jenkins

W.Bro. B.F. Gotobed, PFor. PDGDC (Bombay), PPGOrg (Middx)

W.Bro. P. P. Patel, PDGSW (Bombay)

W.Bro. Jenkins died in September, 1965

and R.W. Bro.Bolton on 24th July, 1970.

## LODGE SUMMONS

Little comment has been traced on the production of the lodge summons although mention was made in the records of consideration having been given to improving its layout on 14th April, 1936 and again on 8th February, 1952, when it was agreed to delete the list of members following W.Bro. J.R. Fullick's report that house servants were selling the list:

The earliest form of summons available is reproduced at Plate 9. That in use in 1955 is at Plate 10. The form in use during the later years in Aden is represented by the summons issued for the last meeting held there at Plate 11 whilst the current form of summons in use is illustrated by the last summons issued for 1968/69 at Plate 12.

PLATE 9

# LODGE LIGHT IN ARABIA.

No. 3870 E. C.



Wor. Bro. T. W. TWADDLE. W.M.

Ordnance Field Park  
Isthmus.

February 5th. 1919.

Dear Sir and Brother,

You are hereby summoned to attend a Regular Meeting of the above Lodge which will be held in the Masonic Hall, Shaik Othman, on Thursday 13th. inst.

The Lodge will be close tyled at 5 P.M. precisely.

By command of the W. M.

Yours faithfully & fraternally,

**R. G. CAWTE.**

Secretary.



**M. W. Bro. The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Scarbrough, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., T.D.**  
*Grand Master.*

R. W. Bro. The Revd. Canon A. Bolton,  
 W. Bro. Bhogilal C. Shah, P.A.G.D. of C.  
 Wor. Bro. J. George,

*District Grand Master.*  
*Deputy District Grand Master.*  
*Assistant District Grand Master.*

## LODGE LIGHT IN ARABIA No. 3870 E.C.

PATRON LODGE ROYAL MASONIC HOSPITAL—1937.  
 VICE PATRON LODGE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION—1953.  
 VICE PATRON LODGE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS—1953.  
 VICE PATRON LODGE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS—1953.

**Wor. Bro. G. H. ROBINSON, Worshipful Master.**

Bro. H. E. SMITH,  
*Senior Warden.*

Bro. H. R. RAO,  
*Junior Warden.*

C/o Headquarters, A.M.D.G.W. Steamer Point, Aden,  
 12th September, 1955.

Dear Sir and Brother,

You are hereby summoned to attend the duties of your Lodge at the Masonic Hall, Maalla, on Friday the 7th day of October 1955. The Lodge will be tyled at 6-30 p.m. precisely,

By order of the Worshipful Master.

*Dress: Dinner Jacket,  
 Uniform, or  
 Red Sea Kit*

**D. S. Willson,**  
*Secretary.*

### BUSINESS BEFORE THE LODGE.

1. To open the Lodge.
2. To read the summons convening the meeting.
3. To read, and if approved confirm the minutes of the last regular meeting.
4. To elect a Treasurer for the remainder of the year vice Bro. T. M. Shah who has resigned this office.
5. To ballot for as a Candidate for Initiation:—  
 Mr. Elmer William Ralph Hindle, aged 28, Electrical Engineer, c/o Electricity Department, Aden. Proposed by Bro. Ismail A. Laljee and seconded by Bro. Ismat A. Laljee on 2nd September 1955.
6. To read the Bye-laws of the Lodge.
7. To exclude Brethren in arrears in accordance with Rule 148 of the Book of Constitutions.
8. To raise Bro. Richard Rees Thomas (passed 2nd September 1955) and Bro. Arthur Richardson (passed 5th August 1955) if present, or Bro. J. O. Featherstone as requested by the Worshipful Master of Lighthouse Lodge No. 6357 (passed in this Lodge 2nd September 1955).
9. To collect Alms.
10. Any other business that the Worshipful Master may wish to place before the Lodge.
11. To close the Lodge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Treasurer:—VACANT.*  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**PATRON**

Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.  
Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.  
Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.  
Royal Masonic Hospital.  
Bombay Masonic Association.

DISTRICT



OF BOMBAY

**THE LODGE LIGHT IN ARABIA**  
**No. 3870 E.C.**

**Wor. Bro. G. H. Marshall**

**Wor. Master**

P.O. Box No. 1251  
Aden.

15th December, 1966.

Dear Sir and Brother,

You are requested to attend a Regular Meeting of the Lodge at the Masonic Hall, Ma'alla, on Wednesday, 4th January, 1967, at 3.00 p.m. Dress is optional.

Yours sincerely & fraternally,

L. B. Horner, P. Dist. G.W.

# LODGE LIGHT IN ARABIA No. 3870

(Province of Surrey)



## PATRON

Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.      Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.  
Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.      Royal Masonic Hospital.  
Bombay Masonic Association.

W. Bro. G. K. TAYLOR  
MASTER

Tel.: 01-857 8652

53 NEW STREET HILL,  
BROMLEY, BR1 5AX.

18th January, 1969

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,

You are requested to attend a Regular Meeting of the Lodge at  
CROYDON AND DISTRICT MASONIC HALL, 73 OAKFIELD ROAD,  
CROYDON, SURREY, on

FRIDAY the 7th FEBRUARY, 1969.

The Lodge will be tyled at 5.00 p.m. Please complete and return the enclosed card  
to reach me not later than Monday, 3rd February, 1969.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

D. S. WILLSON, P.D.S.G.D. (Bombay),  
*Secretary.*

**DARK SUIT, BLACK TIE, WHITE GLOVES**

**DINNER 7.30 p.m.**



## LODGE JEWELS

A photograph of the Past Masters' jewel is included at Plate 13. The original silver officers' jewels are still in use and were presented to the Lodge by the first office holders. They are suitably engraved on the reverse as follows:

W.M.'s jewel	"Presented by W.Bro. T.W. Twaddle, I.P.M 1919"
S.W.'s jewel	"Presented by Bro. B.J. Ward, First SW 1919"
J.W.'s jewel	"Presented by Bro. H.H.S. Bishopp, First JW 1919"
Treasurers jewel	"Presented by W.Bro.T.W. Twaddle, First WM 1919"
Secretary' jewel	"Presented by Bro. F.D. Bramble, First Sec. 1919"
D of C'. jewel	"Presented by W.Bro. H.M. Thornton PPGD (Gib), First D of C, 1919"
S.D.'s jewel	"Presented by Bro. R.G. Cawte, First SD 1919"
Almoner's jewel	"Presented by Bro. G.H. Nunn, First Almoner 1919"
Steward's jewel	"Presented by Bro. R.E. Jenkins First Steward 1919"
Steward's jewel	"Presented by Bro. G.S. Tuck First Steward 1919"

The Master's collar chain is engraved:

"Presented by W.Bro. E.S. Phipson"

(W.Bro. Phipson was Master of the Lodge 1924/25)

The Lodge Square and Compass and set of Working Tools are engraved.

"Presented by H.M. Thornton, Consecrating Officer 1919"



## CONCLUSION

Compared with many other lodges, Light in Arabia is still very young but in the Province of Surrey its past history is unique. It has spread the light of Freemasonry in a Land once known as “The White Man’s Grave”, it has erected a superb edifice and has striven to be obedient to the precepts of our ancient and honourable institution.

We look back on the Lodge’s first fifty years with pride and entertain no doubt that its future conduct will be such as to merit the esteem of all brethren. Over confidence in the future we do not entertain, but the spirit of the Lodge is reflected in the words of the 51<sup>st</sup> Master at the festive Board immediately following his installation of his successor:

“The support I have had from the officers and brethren alike made it a wonderful year and my task an easy one. Indeed, just when I really felt at home and to have acquired the right measure of confidence my term of office comes to a close – and this is surly just how it should be: over-confidence is avoided, the regular flow of brethren towards and through the Chair ensures that an ever fresh mind is applied to the duties of the master and the brethren in general are encouraged to work.”

He concluded his address by presenting a set of gavels to the Lodge “as some small contribution towards the refurbishing of our lodge furniture and a token of my appreciation for a great year.”

A great year indeed, the end of the first half-century and the start of a perhaps even greater challenge than has already been overcome, in a world of changing moral values.

We are proud to have had the honour of compiling this review which at times appeared to be an impossible task. We are well aware of its shortcomings on account of the dearth of recorded fact, but we earnestly hope the brethren who know Aden intimately and these who may never near its shores will find in it something to inspire them to even greater effort in the name of our beloved Craft. We respectfully dedicate it to all those worthy brethren who lifted the name of the

Lodge Light in Arabia to such high eminence, a shining example for the future and a light to guide these who will follow in the next fifty years.

## APPENDIX

### NOTES ON FREEMASONRY IN ADEN AFTER THE TRANSFER TO ENGLAND

1. Despite much enquiry it has not been possible to determine the exact state of Freemasonry in Aden following the political situation which gave rise to the transfer of the Lodge to England and the granting of independence to the State of Aden, However, in April 1969 W.Bro. Sorabjee P. Patel reported that "owing to change, in Administration and the withdrawal of 5,000 British and 10,000 Israelis this Station has gone poorer every day and since new regulations have been introduced we work under difficult circumstances".
2. On 17th December, 1967 the National Liberation Front, the then ruling party in Aden, took possession of the Masonic Hall, Ma'alla by force. In December. 1968 R.W.Bro. Lt. Gen Sir Harold Williams reported from Bombay that some brethren had had talks with the NLF at high level and it was felt that they had reduced the suspicions held by the NLF. However, so far as we are aware, the use of the Masonic Hall has not yet been restored.
3. (i). The Lodges and Chapters which worked in Aden from the time of the establishment of Lodge Felix were:

#### Scottish Constitution

Lodge Felix No. 355  
Lodge Pioneer No. 1305  
Lodge Centenary No. 1449  
Lodge Someliland No. 1560  
Chapter Felix No. 90  
(Felix Council of Royal &  
Select Masters No. 90  
Felix Royal Ark Mariners Lodge  
& Red Cross Council No. 90  
Felix Cryptic Council No. 90)

#### English Constitution

Lodge Light in Arabia No. 3870  
Lodge Aden No. 7652  
Friendship in Aden Lodge No. 7845  
Chapter Light in Arabia No. 3870  
Aden Chapter No. 7652

(ii). Lodge Pioneer was first opened in Abadan, Iran, on 12th December, 1922 but moved to Aden following the withdrawal of British staff from the refinery in 1951 when it went into dormancy. It was resuscitated on 23rd September, 1954 at the Masonic Hall, Little Aden, a building donated by the British Petroleum Co. Ltd.

Lodge Centenary, a Past Masters' Lodge was consecrated on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1950 to mark the centenary of Lodge Felix.

(iii). Lodge Somaliland was consecrated in Hargeisa on 23rd June, 1959 but moved to Aden in 1965 when masonic activity was banned following the granting of independence to Somalia.

(iv). The English lodges have been dealt with in the review of the first fifty years of Lodge Light in Arabia.

(vi). R.W. Bro. Williams report of 1968 records that Lodge Felix had been meeting in private houses but was to hold its Installation meeting at Little Aden; Lodge Pioneer, being largely a Refinery lodge, was fairly active, Lodge Centenary only had four active members and Lodge Somaliland had no members. Of the English lodges, he reported that both remaining lodges were reasonably active but that it had been hinted some special interest on the part of the District Grand Lodge of Bombay would help to stimulate enthusiasm, In December, 1972 W.Bro. M. V. S. Iyer, District Grand Secretary, Bombay, reported that Aden Lodge had not been holding meetings since January 1970 because of the political situation.