

Good Evening Brethren:

Shortly after being installed as the District Deputy Grand Master of our District, Hamilton Masonic District "C", I attended an orientation meeting along with several other newly installed D.D.G.M.s.

During the course of this meeting, please don't quote me on this, I believe it was suggested by our Grand Master "that as soon as these cuffs, the insignia of the office of District Deputy Grand Master were slipped unto each of our respective wrists, each of us obtained instant knowledge".

Well following the meeting, I went home, continued on with my daily activities, all the while waiting patiently for this vast Masonic knowledge to alight and infuse me with the knowledge that would be required for me to have a successful year as D.D.G.M. of our District.

After several weeks, I realized that life is not quite that simple and like with most things, we are required to work towards our goals. I am sure the Grand Master was simply telling us to prepare ourselves properly and we will succeed.

I have always enjoyed reference books of all kinds, be it "how to" books, map books, books of instruction, for example: books on chess, books on checkers and so on.

This reminds me of a story, one summer many years ago at a cottage, a friend of mine by the nickname of Saltwater Sam would pull out a checker board and we would spend the afternoon playing checkers to the delight of a retired neighbour. This gentleman was apparently a Grand Master of checkers way back in the 1940's. Well I never won a game against the Grand Master nor did I win a game against Saltwater Sam. In fact, the elderly gentleman, after beating me seven games in a row, kindly suggested that maybe I should consider taking up some

other game. Upon returning home from our vacation, I was at a bookstore in a mall browsing through the books whereupon I came across a book entitled 'How to win at checkers'. The price of this little book was \$1.50. I did mention that this was many years ago. I purchased the book, took it home and began to read it page by page and was amazed at the fancy traps and exciting moves and strategies it taught me. From that day on, Sam rarely won a game against me. Years drifted by and anytime we tried something new, if I was successful with it, Sam would always retort "What did you do, buy a book on it?" And of course on many occasions the answer was Yes.

But then why not use the knowledge and dedication of others to further your own knowledge. In fact, I am sure if you were to ask those many experts in their own fields what they enjoyed the most with the success in their field, their reply would almost always be the fun and satisfaction of having the opportunity and the skill of communication to pass their skills onto others.

Which brings me to the point at hand. I believe we all have a thirst, in varying degrees, for Masonic knowledge. It has often been said every time you go to lodge you do learn something new and exciting or at the very least learn to look at something in a new light. On many occasions, we have the thrill of watching the ritual work done in a manner that we could only wish to master ourselves or to watch the officers of a lodge perform the mechanics of the Work in a military and precise manner.

But possibly the secret of some of these worthy brethren, is their ability themselves to draw from the knowledge and expertise of others.

Where do we look? Well of course in the Lodge room, but also in the Masonic books, which are easily available to us by purchasing them at our Grand Lodge's office or by borrowing them from the Grand Lodge Library.

For example, here are some great books:

Constitution of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario 2004

Book of the Work - 1999

Guide Lines for Lodge Officers in the Mechanics of the Work – 1985

Ceremony of Installation & Investiture of Officers of a Lodge -2001

Beyond the Pillars – 1973

Whence Come We? - 1980

The Freemason at Work - 1976

The Masonic Manual - 1989

Meeting The Challenge - 1976

The Memorial Services 1999 (large & small size)

Finally the book that weaves the information drawn from the above books into a thoroughly enjoyable network of understanding is a book compiled by M. W. Bro. C. Edwin Drew – Custodian of the Work

Grand lodge of Instruction - **‘Questions and Answers’**  
**This book contains 250 questions & answers that come up time after time.**

I believe I have time for three (3) examples of the questions contained within this book.

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Page 11 No. 52 (Optional)

Brethren, I do hope that I have sparked your interest in these wonderful books of instruction and knowledge.

Thank you.