

*"There he will examine himself, his motives and draw up his spiritual testament by answering the three great questions of human existence: "What are your duties toward: the Supreme Being? Yourself? Humankind?"*

# Kaleidoscope

Issue No. 11 October 2012

Editor: Bro. Joerg W. Butscher

Zeitland Wilson Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 86 G.R.C.

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## The Chamber of Reflection

### THE EIGHTY PLUS CLUB

HAPPY TO MEET,

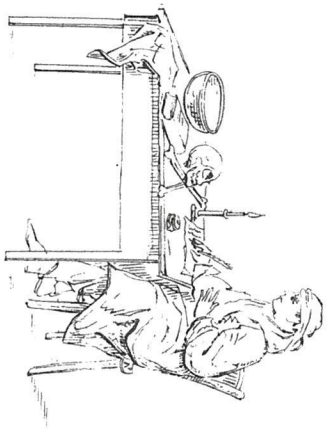
SORRY TO PART,

HAPPY TO MEET AGAIN





## The Chamber of Reflection



The Encyclopedia of Freemasonry states that: ***the Chamber of Reflection is a small room adjoining the Lodge, in which preparatory to Initiation, the Candidate is enclosed for the purpose of indulging in the most serious of meditations which its somber appearance and gloomy emblems with which it is furnished are calculated to produce.*** It is also used in concordant bodies of Masonry.

The basic idea of this room is meditation. The room is always dark, illuminated by a candle with walls painted anywhere from plain black to an imitation of a cave. Within the room is found a simple wooden table and objects to guide the Candidate through his meditation. Objects such as a human skull resting on two crossed femur bones, an hourglass, a lit candle and snuffer, a chunk of bread, a cup of water, a cup of fresh sea salt, a cup of sulphur, paper and a pen, a black equilateral triangle, Death and Fool tarot cards, A Last Will and Testament form, Alchemical symbols for Mercury, Salt and Sulphur and a scythe. It is very common to find such things like a picture of a Rooster and the letters *V.I.T.R.I.O.L.* placed or painted on the wall above the table and a wooden stool or chair for the Candidate to sit on. The order in which these items are placed varies throughout the progression of the Candidate's journey through the degrees.

The idea of the Chamber is to symbolize death followed by rebirth. When entering a Chamber of Reflection, its gloomy appearance gives you the sense that your time on Earth is short, therefore there is only a short time to do good deeds.

The "rebirth" after leaving the Chamber is also intended to give a sense of regression back to the Mother's womb, symbolizing innocence. Once the Candidate leaves the Chamber, he is reborn. This also represents the regression to the stage of primordial man, living in caves and leaving them in order to seek wisdom and enlightenment.

## The Chamber of Reflection

In our case, the Chamber is not a permanent fixture to our Lodge, and so Zetland Wilson Lodge A.F.&A.M. No. 86 G.R.C. has incorporated them in the text of the **scroll** presented to the Candidate on his entering the Chamber.

These warnings, such as:

***"IF YOU THINK WE WILL FIND OUT YOUR DEFECTS, YOU WILL FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE AMONG US"***

***"IF CURIOSITY SPURS YOU TOWARDS US, GO AWAY!"***

***"IF YOU ARE CAPABLE OF DECEPTION, TREMBLE! YOU WILL BE FOUND OUT!"***

***"IF YOU TAKE NOTICE OF HUMAN DIFFERENCES, LEAVE! WE DO NOT KNOW THEM HERE!"***

***"IF YOUR SOUL IS FEARFUL, DO NOT PROCEED!"***

***"IF YOU PERSEVERE, YOU WILL BE PURIFIED, YOU WILL OVERCOME DARKNESS, YOU WILL BE ENLIGHTENED!"***

These warnings are designed to provoke a response and show that, to Masons, to walk through that door is a serious undertaking and should not be embarked upon lightly.

In conclusion, The Chamber of Reflection teaches us powerful lessons. It is instrumental in the process of Initiation and that nobody can transform Man but Himself. It is also a place of reflection and meditation for Masons.

### Note from the Editor:

This article was written and submitted to the Kaleidoscope by Bro. Jonathan (Jay) Graham and by Bro. Nathaniel (Nat) Brescia. The Chamber of Reflection was introduced by W. Bro. H. Evan Woodhead, FCF, Past Master 2011 - 2012, as well at the Town Hall Meeting, March 6th 2012, to M.W. Bro. D. Garry Dowling, Grand Master, Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada In The Province Of Ontario, which was hosted by Zetland Wilson Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 86 G.R.C. W. Bro. James Greavette, Worshipful Master for 2012 - 2013 will continue the tradition.

All our recent Candidates were introduced to the CH. of R. to begin their journey into our gentle craft and they made good use it.

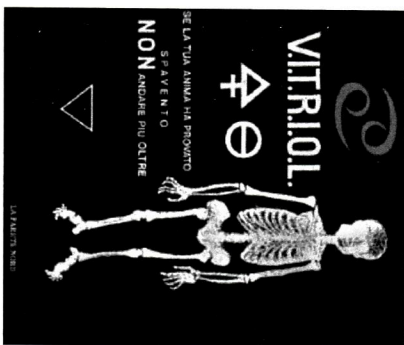
A commendable website to peruse >

[The Chamber of Reflection - Grand Lodge of British Columbia and ...](#)

[Images for CHAMBER OF REFLECTION](#)



The cup of **Water** represents the source of life and is connected to the symbol of salt in that salt comes from sea water and is necessary for the retention of water by living organisms. It is the vehicle for our psychic or emotional life, as is seen in our tears, our blood and sexual fluids.



**V.I.T.R.I.O.L.** or vitriol is a sulphuric acid which is also used in alchemy. In an esoteric sense, it is an acronym for the latin "Visita Interiora Terrae Rectificando Invenies Occultum Lapidem" Translation; "Visit the Interior of the Earth and Rectify, You will find the Hidden Stone". With regards to Masonry, this means to search deep within oneself to discover the truth of oneself and the solution to all our problems. Enlightenment.

In addition to these objects we include the **Death Tarot card or Scythe** representing the fragility and mortality of human life and the need to be alert and awake to the reality of change and transformation that is constantly going on around and inside of us. It is the symbol of Universal Justice for "as we sow, so shall we reap".

The **black equilateral triangle** is the symbol of manifestation, of matter, Saturn and all things concrete and yet passing.

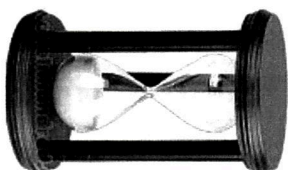
The **Last Will and Testament** symbolizes our heart's desire, the true inner expression of our personality as we seek to transcend it and enter into the divine world.

The **Pen and Paper** are used in some Masonic traditions to write answers to specific questions used to prove their proficiency in order to advance to the next degree. Some Lodges around the world practice these exercises and the WM will review the Candidate's answers before allowing the rite of passage to commence and the Candidate to advance.

There are certain warnings to be found, written on the walls of the Chamber.

The **Skull and thigh bones** and the hourglass symbolize mortality. The thigh bones represent strength and virility; the skull represents death, the cycle of life.

The **hourglass** represents our time of life, the passing and marking of time, as well as the ability of the human consciousness, or soul, to experience 'timelessness' or genuine immortality despite the passing of earthly things. We also find several elements from Alchemical teachings, which are shown within the Chamber. The Alchemists goal was to turn worthless metals into priceless metals, metamorphically, this is in line with Freemasonry, and this is called "The refinement of man" or The Great Work". Such alchemical symbols and objects are represented on the wooden table:

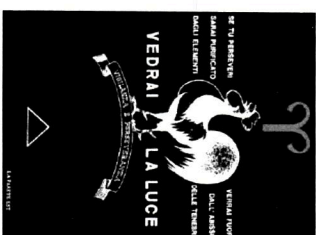


The **Sulphur** on the table symbolizes "spirit" or the consciousness of man. It is seen as the soul of the mineral world.

The **Salt** is a symbol of all life and purity. It represents the fundamental matrix of physical life. It is also a symbol for the 'Elect', or those who by free will and choice elect to serve deity and to become craftsman in the building of the Divine Temple on Earth.

The last of the alchemical elements is **Mercury** though it is not physically present due to its toxic nature, it is represented by the Rooster on the wall with reference to Hermes who happens to be also known as Mercury.

The **Rooster** also represents the coming of a new dawn after the darkness of ignorance and fear. It is also the omen foretelling spiritual trial and testing.



The **chunk of bread** represents the transformation of the vegetable world, through the use of scythe and fire (the candle) into a processed form of energy and life sustaining product. Through the proper use of our skills we can create life sustaining and therefore consciousness sustaining products that advance human life and well being.



## The Eighty Plus Club

MEMBER	DATE OF BIRTH	MASONIC AGE	HOME PHONE
Bro. Gordon Tate Berry	1918 Oct 07	68	1 403 256 5179
W Bro. James McGibbon	1920 Jan 31	50	705 426 7038
Bro. Ralph Russell	1921 Aug 08	52	416 626 1015
Bro. William (Bill) E. S. Taylor Jr.	1922 Dec 05	65	416 243 8132
Bro. John Henry Ortiz	1922 Feb 02	35	1 705 436 3128
Bro. Hossien Abhary	1922 May 04	13	416 324 8272
W. Bro. Don Gorman	1922 May 06	41	416 757 2749
W. Bro. Joseph Ernest Binns	1922 Oct 28	46	905 420 0655
Bro. Weldon F. Hambly	1923 Feb 13	45	
W. Bro. Hon. Richard Stanbury	1923 May 02	59	416 481 4878
R.W. Bro. Seyd A. Soltanzadeh	1923 Oct 24	41+	905 640 1440
W. Bro. William Desmond Aitken	1924 Aug 31	59	416 233 7898
Bro. Samuel Beattie	1924 Jan 03	61	416 466 7740
W. Bro. Ronald Wilkinson	1924 Jul 20	58	1 519 634 5200
Bro. Mehdi Eslambolchi	1925 Jul 15	23	905 737 2543
W. Bro. Percy Philip McGregor	1925 Jun 24	63	416 241 5196
R.W. Bro. John M. Boersma	1925 Mar 11	40	416 622 5414
V.W. Bro. John A. (Pat) Paterson	1926 Feb 12	46	905 281 0123
W. Bro. John Francis Bennett	1926 Feb 20	59	416 494 0289
W Bro. Salter Slater	1926 Jun 14	54	1 905 668 9201
Bro. Ernest Heniss	1926 May 01	43	416 488 2785
V.W. Bro. Lloyd Richard Bittle	1926 Nov 26	59	905 857 1653
R.W. Bro. Rev. Roland de Cornelle	1927 May 19	55	416 221 1053
W. Bro. John Alan Johnson	1927 Nov 27	56	1 905 478 1918
Bro. Rev. John Stephen Calvert	1928 ? ?	53	011 44 152 442 4491
Bro. Norman Lawrence	1928 Apr 26	42	1 480 634 7522
W. Bro. Charles William Bratton	1928 Dec 14	44	61-39 882 2922
Bro. Murray Allan Hall	1928 Jul 17	60	1 613 547 4390
Bro. Frederick Wilson	1928 Jun 02	33	416 741 1405
Bro. Brian Holgate	1928 Nov 08	55	416 482 6462
M.W. Bro. Ronald Groshaw	1929 Dec 10	53	416 614 9987
Bro. John Russell	1929 Jan 24	53	1 905 349 3111

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MEMBER	DATE OF BIRTH	MASONIC AGE	HOME PHONE
V.W. Bro. John Vincent Lawer	1929 Mar 31	54	416 513 0538
Bro. Roy Albert Head	1929 May 27	32	1 905 373 4639
Bro. William (Bill) Whitehead, Sr.	1929 Nov 11	33	416 221 6984
W. Bro. Walter Cornelius Knaap	1930 Apr 17	54	1 905-621-5597
W. Bro. James (Jim) C. Grassie	1930 May 28	29	416 695 2224
Bro. John Sweetman	1931 Sep 23	58	1 905 634 4910
W. Bro. Werner O. Salge	1931 Nov 24	41	905 279 5226
Bro. Dr. Harry Edward Woodhead	1932 Apr 03	?	905 338 6434
W. Bro. John Sampson	1932 Jun 25	58	416 244 6075
W. Bro. Peter Crudden	1932 Sep 22	46	416 649 9804

Dear Brethren,

W. Bro. Kenneth Heans, past President of the Eighty Plus Club, in the June 2004 issue of "the ZET News" wrote the following ...

*"Combination of ages, health and distance make it impossible for most of these brethren to attend our Lodge regularly, if at all. Some are domiciled many miles from where we meet. We should keep their names before us, lest they be forgotten. I am certain that most of them, especially in the Toronto area would welcome a short visit or a wee note, or even an occasional call, from those who knew and remember them, and from the Lodge officers, whose duty should be to get to know them."*

*"You asked, and it was given to you;  
you pursued, and you found it;  
you knocked and the world opened to you;  
you now stand as a just and upright mason*

*Fraternally,*

*Joerg*

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