

Review: Peter Lazar (editor): *It's No Secret, Real Men Wear Aprons: The Story of Freemasonry in Australia, Masonic Care Limited, Sydney, NSW, 2000*

Pages: 267

Masonic Lies and Marketing Propaganda

Edited by the marketing force behind forced fluoride poisoning of the Australian water supply, this is a marketing piece designed to promote the Craft. For this reason it is light on detail, and heavy on strawmen and glowing testimonials of Masons.

One example of its Jesuitry is stating the Entered Apprentice ceremony doesn't use a noose, rather a cable tow [p. 82]! Also, Masons don't drink out of a human skull [it's plastic in the 30th Knight Kadosh degree!].

The most dangerous lie Peter Lazar makes is that: "Freemasonry is not a religion nor a substitute for religion" [p. 8]. This is clearly false: Masons must believe in God; they do prayers; and teach a unique system of morals, which, when followed, result in the best possible life and entrance into eternal life with the Great Architect of the Universe [Richard Reid's third tracing board teaches that Masons who live by the Craft have no need to fear death (p. 174)].

Furthermore, he contradicts himself on p. 177 with this: "Religion" is, "the quest for the values of an ideal life ... practices for attaining the values of the ideal ... and worldview," so it could be said that Masonry fills a certain level of the criteria.

The many and varied testimonials from high-ranking politicians, explorers, and businessmen are one giant fallacious appeal to emotion and can be rejected out of hand; there were many more such men in history who *weren't* Masons.

Sadly, those who do no research outside of reading this may be hooked in and deceived into this false religion.

Overall, a highly Jesuitical work.

Foreword (pp. ix-x)

Prologue: The Secret Is How to Live (pp. xi-xvii)

Masons embrace diversity as they believe we all, “sprung from the same Nature and are Sharers of the same Hope.” [p. xiii]

Lazar claims Masonic wisdom stretches back to King Solomon, which is a myth.

There are an estimated 50M Masons across 164 countries.

The four cardinal Masonic values are: Temperance; Prudence; Fortitude; and Justice.

Freemasonry: a Definition

Masonry is defined as: “A peculiar system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.”

The system is hidden.

I) What is Freemasonry? (pp. 1-20)

Masonry has their own ethical values.

“Free Mason” first came in use in the medieval ages when stonemasons travelled Europe building cathedrals, castles, and palaces. They used secret signs and words, receiving work and protection in return.

Lord Carrington was the first Grand Master in Australia.

Freemasons use Tracing Boards.

Modern (“Speculative”) Masonry began with the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717.

There is no single international authority, and no Masonic “Pope”.

“Freemasonry is not a religion nor a substitute for religion [p. 8],” yet all candidates are required to express their belief in a Higher Power or a Supreme Being.

Discussion of (other) religions and politics is forbidden in Lodges. Masonry is the origin of, “never talk about religion or politics!”.

Masons are not urged to proselytise.

Any man over eighteen can apply, and Lodge members vote by casting black and white balls. Two black balls and he is rejected (being “blackballed”).

II) Masonic Ceremonies (pp. 21-44)

Masons laid the cornerstone of St Mary’s Catholic Cathedral in Sydney, and the first Court House in Melbourne (1842).

The Grand Chaplain offers prayers for the building, the Grand Master and Wardens test the stone by measuring it, then anoint it with wine, oil, corn, and salt. [p. 23]

The Masonic Tribute at a funeral is performed in a place of worship, crematorium, or cemetery.

Masonic ceremonies were formalised between 1717 and 1840, and adapted from the Old Testament.

Entered Apprentice degree: “ Let me assure you, however, that in such vows there will be found nothing incompatible with your moral, civil, or religious duties”. [p. 28]

Square floor tiles signify life offers choices leading to light or dark episodes.

Masons are taught to give allegiance to their government.

Lodges are oriented to the East, where the Master's chair is, which recognises the Sun rises in the east and is the source of learning. [sun worship]

Some Masonic ceremonies are performed in darkness.

There is "Masonic Light".

Members must be unarmed inside Lodges.

"The Lodge is the people, not the building". [p. 31]

Brethren are advised to, "keep the secrets of this night's proceedings safe and sacred".

Botanist Joseph Banks (1743-1820) was the first Mason to land in Australia.

Masonic Prime Minister Edmund Barton (1849-1920) granted women the vote.

III) Debunking the Myths: Perception and Reality (pp. 45-62)

Straw men of riding the goat, drinking from a human skull, death rituals and mock murders are mentioned.

The skull is plastic [!].

Atheists can join the Grand Orient of France, making it "irregular".

IV) Leading by Example: Explorers and Settlers, Innovators and Entrepreneurs (pp. 63-89)

Ten of twenty-five Australian Prime Ministers have been Masons.

Winston Churchill, Mustafa Kemal Attaturk, and Prince Philip were Masons.

Sir Samuel Griffith , “Father of the Australian Constitution”, was a Mason.

The First Fleet brought 1,000 people.

The oldest Masonic document in Australia was in 1802.

All 18-year olds in Athens swore the “Athenian Oath” to respect and defend age, attainment, and legal authority, and leave his country not less, but better.”

“We should stand tall and profess our faith in our organisation”. [p. 78]

Mason Arthur Fadden was instrumental in establishing the Reserve Bank.

V) Principles in Practice (pp. 90-110)

Masons founded the Salvation Army, the Mormon Church and The Smith Family [p. 90].

Masons founded the Royal Freemason’s Benevolent Institution (RFBI) in 1880.

Mason John Gowing established Gowings in 1868.

VI) Masons at War (pp. 111-131)

General Yamashita had 50,000 POWs at the capitulation of Singapore.

The Rough Ashlar represents the mind’s uninformed state, the Perfect after the benefit of Masonic wisdom.

Richard Reid’s third tracing board (c. 1827) teaches that Masons who live by the Craft have no need to fear death [p. 174] ; it has a sprig of acacia representing immortality of the soul.

VII) Symbols of an Ancient Craft (pp. 132-146)

The working stonemason’s tools are the most important in Masonry: square, level and plumb.

The First Degree has a 24-inch gauge to remind the Mason of the 24 hours in a day. He is also given a white lambskin apron which is a “badge of innocence” and bond of friendship.

The Second Degree Fellow Craft level shows within Masonry there are no distinctions between race or religion [p. 136].

“We hope to ascend to those immortal mansions whence all goodness emanates.” [p. 137]

The Third Degree Master Mason has: the skerrit reflecting that **any** sacred text is the line of conduct to be followed; the pencil to symbolise a Mason’s words and actions are recorded by the GAOTU, to whom all must give an account of their conduct.

Hamilton Hume and Charles Kingsford Smith were Masons.

VIII) Architecture and Freemasonry: “To Build the New Jerusalem” (Dr Bob James) (pp. 147-165)

The Temple is a symbol of the greatness of the moral law.

“G” in Lodge rooms stands for “Geometry”.

Leonardo Da Vinci’s Vitruvian Man is named after Roman engineer Vitruvius who wrote *De Architectura*.

In the late 18thC, Scottish stonemasons and Freemasons left for America to help build Washington D.C. George Washington belonged to the Scottish Lodge in Fredericksburg.

Washington (1792): Freemasonry is a, “Society whose liberal principles are founded in the immutable laws of truth and justice”.

St Andrew’s in Sydney was designed by Masons.

Robert Menzies (1894-1978) was Attorney-General in the United Australia Party and was instrumental in forming the Liberal Party in 1949.

IX) Masonic Art (pp. 166-183)

Tracing board artworks are found in every lodge and are from cloth drawings which stonemasons could easily roll up and take to various job sites.

Entered Apprentice tools are to energise a situation, analyse it, and determine how much effort to use.

Fellow Craft use “tools of testing”.

Master Mason tools are for “design”.

Solomon’s Temple, completed 960 BC, represents body, mind, and spirit.

In Masonry, the three historical columns (Ionic, Doric, and Corinthians) mean “Wisdom”, “Strength” and “Beauty”.

The mosaic pattern reflects diversity of creation.

The all-seeing eye represents Deity, and is flanked by the Sun on the left and Moon and Stars on the right, as messengers of the Great Architect’s Divine Will.

The two columns Boaz and Jachin represent the pillars of fire and smoke that accompanied the Israelites’ desert wanderings.

GAOTU is also symbolised by the seven-pointed star.

“Religion” is, “the quest for the values of an ideal life ... practices for attaining the values of the ideal ... and worldview,” so it could be said that Masonry fills a certain level of the criteria. [p. 177]

X) Masonic Music (pp. 184-199)

Australian lodges have always had an organ.

Mozart (1756-1791) was a Master Mason, who wrote *Die Zauberflöte* (The Magic Flute).

In 1986 for the Australian Opera's *The Magic Flute*, Goran Jarvefelt wrote:

“And men may all be gods of light ... the story is a quest or awakening. It shows the journey from darkness to light ... undertaken by four characters – Tamino and Pamina, Papageno and Papagena; these four stand for us ... Wisdom is only of value, if you use it. Tamino has to develop his talents, if he is to fulfil his destiny. He must undergo the trials, to conquer his fear of death. Only then can he become part of the unknown. That is what Mozart says and what his opera wants us to do. If these things happen, then human beings will be like gods. It is our task to develop God in ourselves.” [pp. 191-2]

Caleb Soul (1817-1894), founder of Soul Pattinson Chemists was a Mason.

XI) Another Book About Freemasonry (Dr Bob James) (pp. 200-223)

The Order of De Molay was established in Kansas City, Missouri, 1919.

Masonry was central to the cohesion of the British Empire.

XII) Crafting the Future (Jan Lee Martin) (pp. 224-230)

XIII) Heading for 2115... (pp. 231-238)

Masonry is claimed to have been born many centuries before Christianity.

Acknowledgements (Peter Lazar) (pp. 239-242)

Appendix A: History of Freemasonry in Australia. (pp. 243-252)

The NSW Grand Lodge was opened 1884 in Sydney.

Appendix B: Other Orders and Degrees (pp. 253-256)

The parent trunk of Masonry is the Ancient and Accepted Order of Freemasons in which there are only three degrees,

The Australian Order of the Eastern Star began 1912 in Qld.

The Order of the Amaranth was founded 1873, based on Queen Christina of Sweden's order.

Appendix C: Script for the Son et Lumière at Sydney's Grand Lodge Centres (pp. 257-267)

“In the beginning, the Great Architect created the heavens and the earth.”
[p. 257]