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## QUESTION AND ANSWER EVENING

held July 30, 1951

*Answers by the Editor, incorporating as far as possible the views expressed in the discussion.*

*Question 1.*—Is there authority for coupling the King and the Craft in one toast?

*Answer.*—R. Wor. Bro. R. C. Rutherford devoted his Installation Address to this Lodge to a discussion of this topic. The toast is sanctioned by long usage; for, upon the formation of the Grand Lodge in England in 1717, the Grand Master revived the old toasts, among which was "The King and the Craft." Anderson's Constitutions of 1738 tell us that this toast was first honoured by Scottish Masons in the fifteenth century during the reign of James I of Scotland. This may be legendary history; but in a Lodge in Glasgow an old chest is preserved which was said to have been used to store and preserve old Lodge records. On it is carved, "God save the King and Mason Craft, 1684."

In 1757 the D.G.M. of the G.L. of England, writing to a Brother at The Hague and giving details of the toasts honoured, says, "Our healths in Lodge are: First, 'The King and the Craft' with 3.3; secondly, 'The Grand Master' with 3.3," etc.

The toast is not given only when the Sovereign is a Mason, for it was honoured in the reigns of George II and George III, neither of whom was a Freemason. In the reign of Queen Victoria the toast became "The Queen and the Craft." The toast is honoured because "Loyalty to the Sovereign is an essential element of Freemasonry."

A proposal to alter the toast to "His Majesty the King and the Craft" is quite wrong, being an innovation based on the erroneous conception that the toast is drunk only when the King is a Mason. Some forty years ago the G.L. of England directed Brethren to continue to honour the toast in the form "The King and the Craft," and a model toast list prepared by our own New Zealand Board of General Purposes commences with "The King and the Craft."

(See R.W. Bro. Rutherford's paper, 31/3/37, Research Lodge of Otago, No. 161.)

*Question 2.*—What is the origin of the "Happy" verse, sometimes quoted by the J.W. at the closing of the second degree?

The answer to this one was not available, but will be given at a later date.