



"Sequendo Lampada Disco"
Victorian
Lodge of Research No.218
United Grand Lodge of Victoria

THOUGHTS FOR THE ENQUIRING MASON

SEP 2011

THE TWO SAINT JOHN'S

=====

NB: We must thank Bro . Eilliam Evers (New York) for a question relating to this Subject.

Brethren I suggest you read this TFTEM with its so-called "cousin edition" of Nov 1994.

Question: Why are our Lodges dedication to the two St. John's?

1) A quote from my received copy from the Ground Lodge of New York, Book 5, 1990 Edition, Pages 5-10 & 5-11.

"TO WHOM DEDICATED – Anciently, Lodges were dedicated to King Solomon, as he is said to have been our first Most Worshipful Grand Master; but Speculative Masons dedicate theirs to the memory of St.John the Baptist, and St.John the evangelist."

2)quote from "Freemasons' Guide and Compendium" by Bernard E. Jones. New & Revised Edition. HARRAP, London 1986.

Pge 338, St.John the Baptist (Church Festival (Dec 27) Saint's day of Martyrdom, alongwith "the Blessing Fires". There is a salutation taken from an irregular publication of 1725;

Q. "From whence come you?"

A. "From a right worshipful Lodge of Masters and Fellows belonging to Holy St.John, who doth greet all perfect Brothers of our Holy Secret, so do I you, if you be one."

Q. "What Lodge are you of?"

A. "Of the Right Worshipful Lodge of St. John's."

Pge 339 St. John the Evangelist; Many ancient lodges had their winter festival (solstice) on "the Evangelists day". These two days were cleverly approved of by the Church Fathers.

3) quote from "A Reference Book For Freemasons" compiled by Frederick Smyth" AQC Correspondence Circle Ltd, London, England. 1998. ISBN 0-90765541-6. Page 151.

"JOHN, THE SAINTS. In the non-masonic world the reverence paid to the two Saints John is well accounted for in the New Testament. How, it is often asked, did their association with freemasonry come about? One of the possible answers is suggested by the dates in the Christian calendar which mark their Feasts: 24 June and 27 December. These are near enough to the summer and winter solstices to hint at a connection with ancient customs. The calendar leads to another theory, that Robert the Bruce revived the masonic fraternity after the battle of Bannockburn, fought on St.John the Baptist's Day. ... We know that the Grand Lodge of London & Westminster (1717) was constituted on St.John the Baptist's Day in 1717 and that for some years on the same day was held a Quarterly Communication. It also must be noted that it was for a while for the practice for Grand Lodge to meet also on 27 December, the Evangelists' Day.

In many versions of the Lecture (English) on the First-Degree Tracing Board the grand parallels are now said to represent Moses and King Solomon, they were formerly associated with the two Saint's John. To this day many Scottish Rituals still refer to the two Saint's John.

=====

Brethren can I be so bold as to suggest;

The Saint's John – Christian (Scottish) recognition of Olde (Pre-1717).

Moses / King Solomon – Roman Catholic / Jewish recognition of Olde? (Post-1717)

History: As the early freemasonry travelled the world, it was initially common for other Jurisdictions to take on the "St. John's appellation.

Ref: As quoted in the body of the document.

Creator/Editor: VWBro.G.LOVE, PO Box 2380, RINGWOOD NORTH, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA, 3134