

Organisations rarely record their origins in sufficient detail to satisfy future historians, and Masonic research groups are seldom the exception. That is why Canberra Lodge of Research & Instruction recorded an interview of Kent Henderson—which will be transcribed and published, perhaps in *Harashim*—and why RWBro Andy Walker, PJGW (NSW&ACT), FANZMRC, Kellerman Lecturer (2002), was asked to record part of his contribution to the development of ANZMRC.

Origins of our Logo

by Andy Walker

Following the lecture tour in 1991 by John Hamill, curator of the museum and library of the United Grand Lodge of England, the first tour book, *Masonic Perspectives*, was published in 1992. I was disappointed that the only logo shown on the cover was the traditional 'square & compasses' and that the newly formed Australian Masonic Research Council (AMRC) had not developed a logo of its own.

After discussions with Bill Caulfield, foundation president of the Council and secretary of Research Lodge of New South Wales 971, I prepared a few possible designs. Eventually I whittled them down to three and, being the proud possessor of a newly acquired modem, I faxed them off to AMRC secretary Kent Henderson for his consideration.

The chosen logo was quite simple: A map of Australia (including Tasmania) with a flaming torch superimposed, and the square and compasses over the torch. The torch and the lamp (Aladdin's type) have often been used as symbols of education and learning; many research lodges used the lamp in their logo, but none (to my knowledge) the torch. The torch was the logo for NSW 'Official Lecturers', and I was already was familiar with it in my drawing programmes, so that seemed to be the way to go.

This design was surmounted in a curve with the words 'The Australian Masonic Research Council', and centred below was the cipher 'Est. 1992'. The whole was enclosed in a circle outline. This was purely a monotone idea as colour printing was far too expensive for a new group to consider in those days.

At the 1996 Conference at Perth, some of the New Zealand Research

Lodges had petitioned to be admitted as full members of the Council. This was accepted and the name was changed to 'The Australian and New Zealand Masonic Research Council'.

The logo was no longer valid! Solution: shrink the map a little, add a map of New Zealand at the same scale, and change the title above.

Problem: If the torch was superimposed centrally over the map it would cover two of the locations of research lodges, Adelaide and Darwin. If the torch was shrunk down it would become insignificant. So the torch was enlarged a little and placed behind the map.

Next problem: scale distance to NZ. Solution: who cares as long as they are both there? Well I did have one comment about that. No names, no pack drill, eh Tony?

At the next conference at Launceston in 1998 it was agreed that we produce a badge for Kellerman Lecturers. Back to the drawing board. Originally we had wanted to produce a collarette or breast jewel but could not get approval from the Grand Masters of the relevant Grand Lodges, so a badge it had to be. I had told the Conference I could produce them for about \$10 each. I did, but my pay rate was about 75¢ an hour. I have never tried to make money from the Craft.

To denote the badge as that of a Kellerman Lecturer, a scroll was placed beneath the logo with the words 'Kellerman Lecturer' inserted. The recipient's name, Constitution, and year of presentation are engraved on the back of the badge.

This now brought up the problem of colours. Eventual decision: all lettering

and outlines in gold; background dark garter blue, as the sea and as in Grand Lodge regalia; scroll background light garter blue, as in Craft regalia; land masses earthy khaki; flame, red.

So in the year 2000 at the Brisbane Conference the badges were presented for the first time. As many of the earlier recipients had passed to the Grand Lodge Above, their badges were made to be passed on to their next of kin.

Currently the original stock has been depleted, the last of the originals were issued at Queanbeyan in 2008. As most of the technicians who helped me produce them have also passed to that same Grand Lodge Above, I am investigating a couple of alternate producers. From the samples I have seen of their work the standard will still be there.

Conclusion: Attend the next Conference at Perth in 2010 and buttonhole the proud wearers of a Kellerman Lecturer badge. Those prior to 1998 will be wearing the AMRC badge, and those from 1998 onwards the ANZMRC badge.

We all regard that badge as a recognition of our work as Masonic researchers and speakers.

Addendum

In June 2009, Bro Michael Leon, communications officer for the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, designed a new logo as part of a new webpage necessary for development of the online digital library project—more about that in the next issue of *Harashim*—and the new logo was approved by the ANZMRC executive committee, including Andy, in July.

