

No 26

SPHYNX LODGE NO:225

REPORT OF THE R..W..M.. MARCH, 1949

Brethren,

It need hardly be said that I deeply regret the circumstances which make it necessary for me to report to you from so far away, but I feel comforted by the sure knowledge that the work is going on in my absence.

This year has been a very full one for our Masonic community, and consequently, for our Lodge. Following on the last Annual Business Meeting, and before our Installation, occurred an event important in the history of CoFreemasonry in South Africa. I refer, of course, to the first South African Comasonic Convention which was held in Durban at Easter last year. A number of our Brn.. were able to attend this convention and absorbed much practical information as well as spiritual inspiration from this unique occasion.

We were fortunate to have with us at that time The Illus... Bro... A.L. Berry 32°, a member of the consistory council of the British Federation, who arrived unexpectedly from India. Her strong and gracious presence in Lodge, as well as her very deep knowledge of both the constitutional and the inner side of Masonry were a very real source of inspiration to all who contacted her. Later, immediately after our own Installation Meeting, our illustrious visitor paid a flying visit to our Orient, when, at an Emergency Meeting called for April 29, 1948, Sphynx Lodge had the honour to entertain The Illus... Bro... Berry and members of the other Transvaal Craft Lodges at what really amounted to a combined Craft meeting.

This auspicious opening to our year was soon followed up by much business which ultimately resulted in our acquisition of our own Masonic property, bought in the name of Sphynx Lodge, but really owned jointly by all the Lodges in the Orient. The taking over of the property and its conversion to our needs gave splendid opportunities for much hard work and happy co-operation. Our efforts in this direction were intensified by the news of the coming of the M...P...G... C... of our Federation in our midst. This was an honour so great and so unexpected as to leave us practically breathless with expectancy.

In due course, The V...Illus...Bro...Arnold Banks arrived, being officially received into Sphynx Lodge on October 15, 1948, a glowing milestone in the history of the Lodge. What his visit has done for each one of us individually and for the Lodge in general is something too big to go into words and must be accounted by each Bro... in his heart.

Two other visitors from London were Illus...Bro...Hammond 30° and Bro... Bidgood, who brought with them that spirit of mutual aid and support which is the aim of every true Freemason.

In spite of all this what I might call 'external' activity, the true work of the Lodge has flowed on without hindrance. There has been a steady influx of initiates, and our E..A..'s and F..C..'s have been steadily going forward.

/The departure

REPORT OF THE R..W..M.. MARCH/1949 Continued

The departure of R..W..Bro..Roni Pizzighelli and myself was both sudden and unexpected, and I wish to thank R..W..Brn.. Wellbeloved and Robinson for stepping into the breach so nobly in our absence. Of the affairs of the Lodge since our departure I am sure R..W..Bro..Wellbeloved will make full report to the Brn..

Our trip has been a very fine experience, but we look forward with great pleasure nevertheless to being once more among our Brn.. of the Lodge, which should be, if no more shipping difficulties arise, early in April. During our sojourn in India we have had the privilege of joining the Rising Sun of India Lodge here at Adyar, thereby forging a link with the Eastern Federation which we trust will be of inestimable value to our Order in South Africa in the future.

(sgd) CYNTHIA PIZZIGHELLI

R..W..M..

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT OF THE R..W..M..
BY THE ACTING R..W..M..

Brn..

There is very little to add to this report from the R..W..M.. except that it has been a very busy period since she left us in November. We have had a double Ceremony of Passing, and two R..'s since January, and we are very glad to welcome these Candidates to a fuller participation in our Mysteries.

We now look forward to an instructive and interesting series of Meetings during the Convention which is to be held in this Orient in April; this having been arranged within a year of the last Convention so that we may have the privilege and benefit of the presence of our M..P..G..C.. for this occasion.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the Officers, who have worked splendidly and been most helpful; also those who have stepped into the breach when necessary and taken an Office or part in a Ceremony at very short notice.

I wish the incoming Master a very happy and successful year, with the same loyal co-operation from her Officers as I have experienced; and hope that our Masonry will go on from strength to strength both spiritually and numerically

(sgd) E. WELLBELOVED

Acting R..W..M..

SECRETARY'S REPORT 1948/49

During the year there were 16 Meetings - 10 regular, 4 emergency and 2 practice. These were 1 Installation, 4 I.: , 5 P.: , 3 R.: and 1 Business.

The 3 T.:Bs.: were read, the International Signs and Mot Annual received, and the new Bye-laws confirmed.

Two distinguished visitors from London were received - the M.:P.:G.:C.: The V.:Illus.:Bro.:Arnold S. Banks 33° and The Illus.:Bro.: A.L. Berry 32°

Bro.:H. Philippe 18° was made an Hon. Life Member.

Property at 19, Bezuidenhout Street was bought in the name of the Lodge.

At Easter representatives of the Lodge attended the Convention at Durban. In 1949 the Convention will be held at 19, Bezuidenhout Street.

Unfortunately, owing to illness, R.:W.:Bro.:Bruno Bischoff 18° had to resign his office of Treasurer; but fortunately, The Illus.:Bro.:Dirk Bischoff 32° was able to take his place.

Our present Capitation List contains 55 members, and 42 members receive the International Freemason Bulletin through Sphynx Lodge. About 29 members attend Lodge regularly.

During the year 1040 agendas were sent out and each member supplied with a copy of the amended Bye-Laws.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the R.:W.:M.: and Brethren for a very happy year of office, and would like to wish the incoming R.:W.:M.: and Officers and all the Brn.: a successful and happy year's work during 1949/50.

(sgd) E. HITCHCOCK
Secretary.