



History of the Logic Ritual Association

incorporating the

Logic Club

(Formed in 1881)

Brethren.

This electronic document is an ‘abridged’ version of the new History Booklet that we hope will soon be published in both ‘Hard’ and eBook versions.

We sincerely hope it provides enough of a ‘taster’ for what is to come and will provide members of logic lodges and Freemasons in general a greater understanding of how ‘Logic Workings’ came about, how the Logic Club influenced important aspects of our Masonic History and how as an Association, we hope to continue the finest traditions of Logic by performing our ceremonies with feeling and understanding as well as support all Logic Lodges now and in the future.

Logic Ritual Association



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This book is dedicated to;

W. Bro. John Stonely, PGStB (7459)

Preceptor

**And the following members of the Logic Ritual
Association that have since passed to Grand
Lodge Above since the publication of the
revised ritual book in 2016.**

P. Headley, PProvJGW (Essex) (4117)

Batkin, LGR (2705)

Foreword

This written presentation of the History of the Logic Ritual Association, incorporating the Logic Club, was first researched in 2013-14 and has since been re-visited in 2021-22.

The previous History booklet that was in circulation amongst various members of the Logic Ritual Association, was produced in 1984, but was a reprint of a previous document created in 1973, with the addition of what was called 'Period V' that took the history up to 1984.

In 1940, the minute books, documents, records and furniture that were owned by the Logic Club were lost as a result of enemy action in World War II, when the building they used in those days was directly hit and destroyed.

With a loss of nearly 60 years of history, much of what was compiled to present the history of the Logic Club and to produce that booklet was in itself taken from another small booklet that was originally published and distributed to members of the Logic Club in 1932.

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Any information gained beyond that period consisted of information taken from notes, jottings and conversations from past members of the Logic Club and through other brethren that had visited the Club that were recorded through the Second World War and beyond.

The record of events as outlined in the above booklet showed the rise and decline of the Club over the ages, through the two World Wars and up to an address that was given about the Clubs history in 1973. What is clear is that the Logic Club and later, the Logic Ritual Association and its members have served as an interesting chapter in the continued shaping of the history of Freemasonry, particularly in London and that involvement and interest continues to this day.

When I took it upon myself to look again and research the history, I knew that with previous records having been destroyed, there may not have been much more to find, but thankfully, I was wrong. I spent considerable time in the Library of Freemasons Hall, for which I am thankful to the staff for their assistance, along with numerous hours researching records and information online.

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Amongst the jewels of what I discovered were photographs of the founders and some old Logic Ritual books, the oldest of which dated from 1899, which was later to be one of the exhibits on show in the newly renovated Museum at Freemasons Hall.

Also, what became clear was that certain aspects of the previous history were in fact incorrect, and this re-written history has been presented not only to address some of those inaccuracies, but to create a platform from which to record the more recent history and indeed our history, which is yet to be revealed. Further research is currently being undertaken to enhance what we already know and to try and bring our history to the present day and to then make these pages a 'live' document.

The Logic Ritual Association aims to maintain the objectives as originally set out by the founders, providing informative, interesting and passionate instruction and by continuing with its active involvement in Freemasonry.

Logic Ritual, since its inception, has been about Performing our ceremonies with feeling, passion and understanding rather than word perfection and we will hopefully continue to forge its own significant history for years to come.

W.Bro. David Varney – SLGR

The Formation

In 1881, three Freemasons decided to come together and meet on Sunday mornings to pursue their own Masonic instruction, which they were unable to do at their usual weeknight meetings due to their respective professions. These meetings were initially held in one of the friend's houses in Camden Road until such time that the meetings became so popular, they had to move to a more commodious venue, namely the Camden Club in London and so it was, that the Logic Club of Instruction was founded.

These friends and Freemasons, who were to be the principal Founders of the Logic Club were W. Bro. John Maclean and W. Bro. George Buckland, who were also joined by W. Bro. James Fitzgerald. Their reason for not being able to meet for weeknight sessions of instruction was because they were all part of the 'theatrical' profession, with their work and performances mainly being on weeknights and Saturdays.



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Both John Maclean and George Buckland were members of the Lodge of Asaph 1319 in London, which was itself consecrated in 1870 but at the time, did not have its own Lodge of Instruction. However, when we look at the history of that Lodge and the purpose for its formation, it clearly outlines the same reason why the Logic Club was formed: *'Purpose of affording to members of the musical and theatrical profession the opportunity of taking a more active role in Freemasonry, than had hitherto been possible because of their working hours'*.

With the founding of the Logic Club of Instruction, John Mclean continued with his role as Preceptor, which he had carried out since they had formed with George Buckland the Treasurer and James Fitzgerald the Secretary.

It is often asked why it was called a 'Club' rather than a 'Lodge of Instruction' and this was purely down to the fact that, because it met on a Sunday, the Book of Constitutions lays down that Sundays are not permitted for Masonic meetings, and so they were unable to work under the sanction of a parent regular lodge and therefore, had to resort to working as a club.

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The Sunday meetings were to prove increasingly popular, and working from George Buckland's house was no longer an option for the group, attracting more brethren from not only the Theatrical profession but also with brethren connected to the Legal and Medical professions.

Although the Sunday morning format was popular, what became increasingly clear was the instruction that was being given by John Maclean was so very well received, it was gaining notoriety, making the Club more and more popular.

With John Maclean being a prominent and studious actor of his time, he appears to have naturally become an enthusiastic Masonic student and he was said to provide a 'cultured' means of instruction, providing impressive teachings and allowing the "Beautiful ceremonies of the Craft to be performed with impressive dignity and with Grammatical, Biblical and Logical correctness".

(More detail in the printed version – soon to be published)

The Founders

Unfortunately, there is very little known or that I have been able to find about George Buckland and James Fitzgerald.

The initial meetings of the Club had been held at the home of George Buckland, who, in 1870, was one of seven founders of the Lodge of Asaph No.1319. He was installed as Worshipful Master of that Lodge 1878 and unfortunately died in 1884.

At the March meeting in 1884, the Lodge was informed that a 'Benefit Concert' for George Buckland would be held in St. George's Hall on 26 March 1884 and in due course, a Petition having been made to the Board of Benevolence of Grand Lodge, his widow received some assistance and an annuity.

Even less is known of the second of the 'founding fathers', James Fitzgerald, so it is to the third and probably the most prominent member, John Maclean where we concentrate our attention.

I'm unsure why, but previous history writes that John Maclean was a Scottish Mason and lists his Lodge as 'Dalhousie No. 860' from the Scottish Constitution, so it was with surprise when I enquired with the Grand Lodge and Masonic Museum of Scotland to be told that such a lodge did not exist in their constitution and that John was not listed as a Scottish Mason.

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Dalhousie No.860 was in fact an English lodge, so named after the Earl of Dalhousie, who was Deputy Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England and who later became the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Dalhousie Lodge met at the Duke of York's pub in the Old Kent Road and as it did not come within the required five-mile radius from Freemason's Hall at that time, it was therefore deemed to be a Surrey Lodge.

On John Maclean's application to join the lodge, he wrote his occupation down as 'comedian', however, perhaps what should be explained is that in the Theatrical profession, there are two main divisions of theatrical performance, namely 'Tragedy' and 'Comedy', and it's said that the former is about 'portraying the triumph of circumstances over man and with the latter, the triumph of man over circumstances', and in the 19th Century, Comedy was regarded as a specialised art and the comedian and tragedian rarely trespassed on each other's territory.

The other aspect of previous historical accounts that needs to be addressed, is that when Maclean became a Founder of the Club, he was a Master Mason and not a Past Master. At the time, he was the Senior Warden of the Lodge of Asaph No.1319 and was installed as Worshipful Master on the 6th November, 1882.

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John Maclean was born in London on the 31st March 1836 and he first appeared before the public in an amateur capacity, giving dramatic readings with a Mr. T.J. Searle and, at the same time, studied Shakespeare and other dramatic authors with a Mrs Dallas Glyn, who was Scottish and a prominent actress of her time. He began his professional career at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth in 1859 and after playing various minor parts for three months, he got the sort of break every young actor dreams about.

(More detail in the printed version – soon to be published)

The Evolution of Ritual

It is somewhat ironic that much of what was learned by Freemasons, as well as the general public in the 18th Century was as a result of 'Exposures', which have also provided historians a glimpse of aspects of Freemasonry that might otherwise have been lost. These 'Exposures' were usually written by disaffected Masons, the most famous of which is Pritchard's, 'Masonry Dissected', which was first published in 1730 and due to it actually containing a recognisable representation of the 3 degree ceremonies, much of its success was due to the fact that Masons themselves were desperately buying up the publication in order to assist them in learning their ritual.

To understand why 'Logic' and indeed, other ritual workings came about, we have to first look at how ritual evolved but more importantly, why?

The political and social situations evolving at the time give a great insight as to how Freemasonry was affected, but that is not to be examined further here. If we just look back to the 'Lodge of Promulgation' that was formed by the 'Moderns' in 1809, in order to revert their ritual to a standard that would appease the 'Antients, Scots and Irish', it was then some 4 years later in 1813 when the 'Lodge of Reconciliation' was formed with its *raison d'etre*, to standardise the ritual worked by lodges across England and Wales.

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This was done by receiving visiting delegations from lodges across the country to London as well as delegations from the Lodge of Reconciliation going out and travelling to other lodges. It appears there were sometimes many months between these 'rehearsals', but between these invited and learned Brethren, over a period of approximately 3 years, an approved and accepted format of ritual was agreed upon.

On the 20th May 1816, the Lodge of Reconciliation performed a rehearsal and then on the 5th June, a full demonstration of the of the proposed ritual for the 3 degrees was performed by the lodge before an '*Especial Grand Lodge*'.

What was pivotal in the shaping of our ritual to come, was the fact that the obligations taken at that time were vehemently adhered to, to such an extent, that no official written records were taken over those years and absolutely no written records were permitted by anyone attending the various meetings or rehearsals (albeit personal notes have been found that were written by a handful of individuals that attended these meetings, but even these have huge variations...

(More detail in the printed version – soon to be published)

Lodges of Instruction & Improvement

The earliest recorded history of a 'Lodge of Instruction' is dated from 1768, where the minutes of St. John's Lodge No. 167, "*required that Brother Marshall...should attend on the Lodge and members thereof, on Thursday nights as a School of Instruction of the Younger Members*".

I can only assume that following on from the activities of the Lodge of Reconciliation, there was a desperate need to practice and instruct others on what had been approved and so, a means of further instruction was brought about by the opening of two schools of instruction, namely *The Stability Lodge of Instruction* that was formed in 1817 and the *Emulation Lodge of Improvement*, which received its first authority as a lodge of instruction in 1823 (7 years after the Lodge of Reconciliation ended).

It should be noted that no lodge can claim to be working the ritual as approved by the Lodge of Reconciliation as no notes were made of that ritual to compare. However, both Lodges of Instruction can claim to have had members that were either involved in some way with the Lodge of Reconciliation or visited during its existence.

What we must remember still, is that the original purpose of a Lodge of Instruction was to preserve the oral nature of our ritual and intended for Master Masons and for working the lectures only, but as there was still a strict adherence to the obligations, there were still no written materials of indeed ritual books until around 1835.

(More detail in the printed version – soon to be published)

A Logical Evolution?

The first printed rituals, albeit seen as ‘irregular’ made an appearance around 10 years after the Lodge of Reconciliation ceased to exist, in around 1826, but the first regular ritual to be published in around 1835 can probably be attributed to George Claret.

Although variations of printed ritual appeared from around 1871 purporting to be the workings of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, its official version was only published in 1969 and ‘The Standard Ceremonies of Stability Lodge’ were printed in 1902.

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By the time the Logic Club was formed, we already had Ritual Books, albeit many of which were very similar variations of a theme, so in trying to understand why Logic Ritual was written, we know that the founders wanted to address certain 'grammatical, biblical and logical' inaccuracies that they saw in other workings and teachings of the time. This we know as it has been one of our earliest recorded objectives in the by-laws of the Logic Ritual Association.

It's extremely difficult to determine how many of these inaccuracies there were, that prompted such a move that created many other ritual workings around a similar time, many of which also cited certain inaccuracies, particularly grammatical as their rationale for being created and indeed, it could well be a whole research piece on its own...

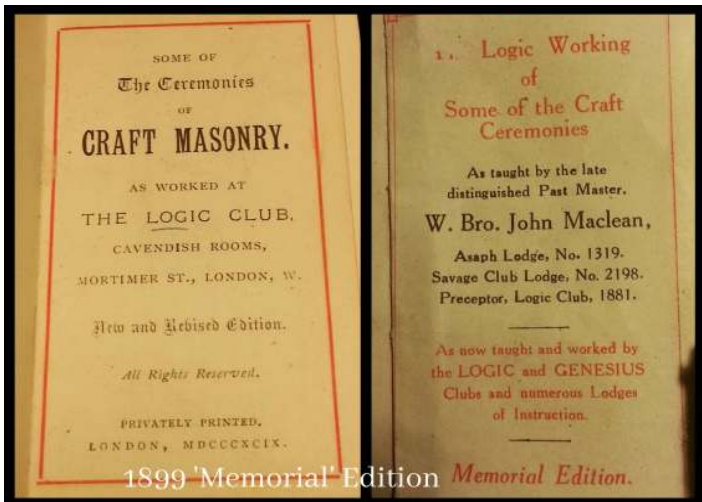
(More detail in the printed version – soon to be published)

The Golden Age

Having created such a wonderful hub of instruction, it is extremely sad to see that Bro. Buckland died in 1883 and Bro. Maclean some 7 years later in 1890. I am sure that if records were available, they would have shown what a sad loss their deaths would have been to the Logic Club and Freemasonry in general.

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The only possible record of how important Bro. Maclean was to the Logic Club has been found in the form of a ritual book dated 1899 and is shown as a 'Memorial Edition', highlighting the fact that the ritual was '*as taught by the distinguished PM, W.Bro. John Maclean of Asaph Lodge 1319, Savage Club Lodge 2198 and Preceptor, Logic Club 1881 and as now taught and worked by the Logic and Genesis Clubs and numerous Lodges of Instruction*'.



History of the Logic Ritual Association

There are very few records that exist for the names of Officers and Preceptors from 1890, but thankfully, a history document from Kent Lodge No.15, shows the Preceptor that succeeded John Maclean was W.Bro. Jimmy Matthews, who in turn was followed by Charles F. Quicke PGD, on whose death the late Percy Horsley, PAGDC was appointed and on the death of the latter, W. Bro. R. A. Turner, PAGDC was elected.

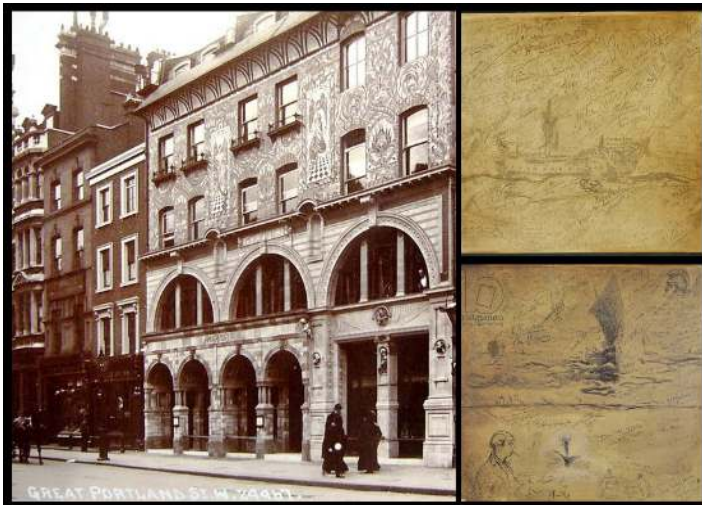
Much of what we know from this period was from recollections of individuals that were recorded following the Great War.

It is thought that Jimmy Matthews was preceptor until around 1916, after which Charles (Chas) Quicke took over, where he was noted as being the only surviving original member of the Logic Club when the first History booklet was produced in 1932.

(More detail in the printed version – soon to be published)

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Previous records show that the next move was to the fated premises of Pagani's Restaurant in Great Portland Street, which had a more commodious Masonic Temple on the second floor. However, research has shown that there may have been a previous premises to this, as highlighted in the 1899 ritual book mentioned earlier, stating that the Logic Club taught in the 'Cavendish Rooms', Mortimer Street, London. W1.



Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland St (with drawings and jottings from the 'Artists Room')

(More detail in the printed version – soon to be published)

The Struggle & Decline

With the outbreak of War in 1939, the Logic Club along with all other Masonic organisations temporarily closed down. However, this soon changed when permission was given to 'carry on', but with many of the members having either been evacuated or enlisted into H.M. Forces, the momentum and continuity of the Club had been broken.

The task of reorganising the Club would have been difficult in itself, but before this could be attempted, what was described as 'the great disaster' occurred in the form of an enemy bomb, scoring a direct hit and completely demolishing Pagani's Restaurant in 1940, with all of the Club's records and belongings destroyed.

The valuable information that was held had been lost, particularly relating to the years between 1890 and 1920. A void in our history was created with the names of officers and preceptors, details of illustrious speakers and names of venues and visiting foreign Lodges being lost forever.

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In 1942, W.Bro. Horsley and Bro. Dale Double, two members of the Logic Club began to try and gather as many members together as could be traced and decided to restart the Club, but with two very major differences; firstly, it was decided that meetings should take place on a weekday evening instead of Sunday mornings; secondly, they were to be held monthly instead of weekly. One can only imagine why these significant changes were made; going against the whole rationale for forming the Club in the first place, but we should be thankful that the Club did not go into total decline.

While the War lasted, attendances were comparatively good due to many other Lodges and Clubs of Instruction being closed down for the 'duration' and this included the Cathedral Lodge of Instruction, No. 2741, who had allowed the Club to use its premises and furniture.

However, with the cessation of hostilities, these Lodges and Clubs began to start up again and as a result, the Logic Club attendances began to suffer accordingly and with the sad loss of W.Bro. Horsley, one of the Clubs prominent members, the survival of the Club was gravely threatened.

W.Bro Reginald Turner, who had been closely associated with Bro. Horsley since he took over as preceptor in 1942, was himself elected as preceptor.

Again, with the assistance of notes from Kent Lodge History, we know that in 1952, the Logic Club was now meeting at 6.00pm on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in October to June at 'Canuto's in Baker Street, which was a restaurant that was also previously the meeting place for the British Sherlock Holmes Society

(More detail in the printed version – soon to be published)

A Moment in Masonic History

The Committee came together once or twice a year until a major event in December 1964, when at the Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge, a resolution to approve a 'permissive variation to the working of the penalties in the Craft obligations' was duly passed. This was essentially changing the wording of the ritual regarding the penalties of the obligations from 'actual' penalties to 'alluded' and 'symbolic' penalties, that separated 'operative' from 'speculative'.

When the resolution was put to the meeting at Grand Lodge, it is historical record that every seat, gangway and entrance in the Grand Temple was not only occupied but crammed. After all, this was perhaps a once in a lifetime opportunity to witness this meeting, with Grand Lodge having not deliberated on matters of ritual since the Lodge of Reconciliation in 1816.

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The Logic Club Committee held several meetings prior to this event and having carefully considered all aspects of the proposal, unanimously pledged their support for the changes and when the resolution was passed, the matter of incorporating these variations into the ritual was left to the discretion of the teaching bodies and Lodges of Instruction and it was at this point that the eminent Masonic scholar and Prestonian Lecturer, W.Bro. Harry Carr was deputed to call the various ritual committees together to examine the form that the variations would take.

The history booklet stated that it was with great surprise to high-ranking officers of the time that London could only produce two live and active central bodies for the meeting at Freemasons Hall, namely Emulation and Logic and although 'Stability' had a committee at that time, nobody attended on their behalf, so they were also represented by W.Bro. Harry Carr.

What is clear, that had it not been for the efforts of W.Bro. Turner to keep the Logic Club running in the late 1950's to early 60's, there would not have been any alternative amendments to the ritual other than those advocated by the Emulation Lodge of Instruction.

(More detail in the printed version – soon to be published)

The Turning Point

Due to the ill health of W.Bro. Turner, a change in leadership was required in early 1967 and the Preceptors Committee were called together to decide who should take over. It would appear that there was a reluctance by the nominated individual to accept the responsibility due to the fact that he had been unhappy with the state of the Club for some time.

Support for the Club had dwindled alarmingly, with only the ten lodges represented by the committee being supported by only a handful of other Lodges, with little interest being shown. W.Bro. Stanley Rae intimated that if he was to assume leadership of the Club, two conditions must be fulfilled; that the Club should become an Association of Lodges, widely represented on the committee and that a further revision of the Logic Ritual was of paramount importance.

The four Preceptors assured W.Bro. Rae of their full support and a report was prepared, clearly stating the situation, recommending the radical changes, which was then signed.

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At the Annual General Meeting on the 20th October, 1967, twenty four lodges sent representatives who enthusiastically welcomed the recommendations and proposed that a new Constitution be prepared and submitted to a Special General Meeting.

This was held at Freemasons Hall on the 20th January 1968, when again there was a large attendance with a similar number of lodges represented.

The new Constitution was submitted and approved with only a few minor amendments, and it was at this meeting that the Logic Ritual Association, incorporating the Logic Club, came into existence.

With the influence the Logic Club had during the permissive variations, the more recent reconstitution followed by the publishing of a new ritual book, the committee took steps to consolidate the positive changes that had taken place. They were further encouraged by the many Lodges that continued their support, but also by the many more who became affiliated during recent years.

(More detail in the printed version – soon to be published)

The Tracing Boards

Following the publication of the revised Logic Ritual in 1972, it was noted that the illustrations of the tracing boards were found to have been printed from stock plates used by Emulation and were not appropriate to our own extended ritual.

When the Logic Ritual Association (LRA) decided to look at the tracing boards, the librarian and curator of the Grand Lodge Museum, W.Bro. T.O. Haunch was consulted and being an expert in this field, provided some helpful advice. What became clear was that at no time had a set of truly Logic Tracing Boards ever been produced and so after much consideration, the committee of Preceptors decided to that a set of Logic Working Tracing Boards would be designed and produced.

The preparation of the new designs was entrusted to W.Bro. Esmond Jefferies, with the help of other committee members, who undertook considerable research where details were minutely considered over a period of two years. W.Bro. Harry Carr gave invaluable assistance with the interpretation of Hebrew inscriptions and the Masonic cipher on the 3rd Degree Tracing Board.

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In August 1973, the designs were finally approved and Bro. Jefferies was able to produce specimen illustrations of the Boards for the three degrees, after which it was agreed to proceed with the printing of insertions for the ritual books. A leaflet was also produced, depicting and explaining the new Tracing Boards, which was widely circulated giving good publicity and arousing interest in the venture and no doubt the LRA itself.

The next stage in this project was to arrange for colour printing of the Boards, so Bro. Jefferies first produced colour sketches and then finally, oil paintings. The issue of cost was always of serious concern and with some of the members of the committee having the requisite technical knowledge in this area, it was decided to produce the boards by lithographic reproduction rather than the silkscreen process. The expense was of course a heavy burden but with Lodges pre-ordering Boards, it enabled the LRA and its members to cover the rest.

At the Annual General Meeting in April 1977, Bro. Jefferies exhibited the completed paintings of the three Tracing Boards, explaining how these differed from other versions, with Bro. Walter Strutt giving the First Degree Board Lecture to the assembled brethren.

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November 1977 saw the production of the first 25 sets of the Tracing Boards, of which the Association was quite rightly proud.

The Boards were of superb craftsmanship, both in design and production and the LRA was immensely indebted to all who assisted in the work, especially Bro. Jefferies for his amazing industry and patience.

One of the most honoured and flattering aspects of having these new Boards produced was when the designs were used in W.Bro. Harry Carr's book "The Freemason at Work", particularly in respect of the third degree Tracing Board where he says it is one of the few versions to contain a complete and perfect Hebrew inscription, which he then translates line by line.



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As an artist myself and interested in the design aspects of the Boards, I researched this subject further and was somewhat surprised to see that the designs were not entirely original but were essentially used as a template on which to add more detail.

What was not as obvious was the 3rd degree Tracing Board, which is quite different to what we usually see, but again, research has shown that even this design was based on an original from the mid-19th Century, but I will explain further.

In the mid-19th Century, the Emulation Lodge of Improvement wanted to bring about a standardised set of Tracing Boards, so in 1845, they held a competition and numerous artists submitted various designs, but it was a famous English artist of the time and Freemason, John Harris that won the competition. He slightly revised the winning designs in 1849, but

(More detail in the printed version – soon to be published)

Third Degree Tracing Board

The 3rd Degree Tracing Board is more interesting in terms of what design was presented for approval to the Logic Ritual Association and how that compared to the existing designs of the time. The images below show the comparison between the Esmond Jeffries design and the design adopted by 'Emulation' and as is usually depicted in Lodges, particularly in England. Based on this comparison, the image that is seen within the lodge and what will be used when giving an explanation

However, during my research about tracing board designs, I was surprised to find another design by the same artist, but painted in around 1850, some 5 years after the previous competition designs and a year after he made amendments to those designs.

(More detail in the printed version – soon to be published)

Centenary Dinner

The Logic Ritual Association committee gave much thought to the way in which to mark the completion of one hundred years since the Association, incorporating the Logic Club was founded in 1881. It was clearly impossible to bring every Logic worker together into the celebration, so it was decided to hold a small commemorative dinner party to which a few distinguished guests would be invited.

The dinner was held on the 18th May, 1981 at the Penthouse Suite at the Café Royal. Among the guests were the Grand Secretary, V.W.Bro. Commander Michael Higham, R.N., W.Bro. Nigel Haines, Secretary of the London Grand Rank Association and representatives from Emulation, Taylors, Universal and West End Ritual Associations.

Activities

The Association continued to regard the demonstration of our ceremonies according to Logic Working as one of its primary activities and throughout various periods, questions have arisen relating to the workings and ritual, which sometimes produced renewed or extended ritual.

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W. Bro. Harry Carr continued to in his role as Vice President, providing much support and interest at our meetings until he sadly passed away in 1983. He was a truly great Masonic historian, helping brethren obtain a better understanding of the fundamentals of Freemasonry through his lectures and writings. His work was acknowledged by the M.W. the Grand Master's award of the Order of Service to Freemasonry, which was presented to him in 1982, shortly before he died.

It would not be possible or practicable to go into full detail of the work done by so many brethren, who over the years have made their contribution to the Association both at the committee and elsewhere.

However, the previous booklet has highlighted the work of Deputy President, W.Bro. Fred Humphries, who was a link to the Logic Club and was very much engaged in the Association since it came into being.

(More detail in the printed version – soon to be published)

The Early Ritual Books

The earliest Logic ritual book I have been able to find to date was from 1899, followed by a 1920 edition. The books themselves were even smaller than we have today, and in the case of the 1899 book, has no rubric at all by which to learn the ritual, emphasising the past methods of instruction by 'showing and telling' only. It's very interesting seeing the subtle changes to words and phrases as time goes by but even more so when the words that you are so familiar with are totally different, such as when a certain sign took its' rise, not just from when Joshua fought the battles of the lord, but when he 'fought the Amalekites in the valley of Rephidim...'.

It will also come as a surprise to some that the second degree working tools

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The Next Chapter

For those of you that were familiar with our previously written history, you will identify the areas that have been amended and updated and hopefully appreciate the areas of enhanced history relating to other aspects of Freemasonry at the relevant time.

With the previously recorded history taking us to 1984, we have more of a book to research rather than a new chapter if we are to bring our history up to the present day.

I am therefore in the process of trying to collate information, documents, and personal accounts in order to plug the 40 plus years gap in our recorded history and get at least some connection to the present day.

Before we end this chapter and in order to give some current information, I will highlight a special time of the existence of the LRA, which was the immensely difficult and time

intensive period in producing the current Logic Ritual Books with their extensively revised Rubric and additional ritual and instruction

History of the Logic Ritual Association

In 2011, it was identified by the Association that there was a decline in Lodges of Instruction along with what was perceived to be a decline in instruction and knowledge around actions and perambulations involved with our ceremonies, which prompted the association to not only review the existing ritual book of the time, which was published in 1988, but to create a rubric that was detailed to the extent that brethren that were unable to attend an LOI would not only know what they should be saying, but have a detailed instruction on any actions they should be performing and when they should be doing it.

The other aspect of this project was to create a template of instruction for Preceptors and Directors of Ceremonies as those experienced in these offices will tell you that much of the instruction required is actually unwritten and this is what has created so much variance in how lodges performed their ceremonies.

Obviously, all lodges will have their certain 'traditions', but what we wanted to prevent was other workings creeping into the instruction for logic lodges.

One of my favourite stories of such an issue was of a Logic lodge that had joining members that worked 'Taylors' Ritual and so over time, their ritual evolved into what was colloquially known as 'Tragic Workings'.

History of the Logic Ritual Association

All of the existing committee members of the Logic Ritual Association were involved in some part with the production of the new ritual book.

The words within the ritual have been left virtually unchanged, but the work undertaken to produce the extended rubric along with extra ritual has been immense and at the Annual General Meeting on the 7th July, 2015, a representative from Lewis Masonic Publishing stated that it was a 'world class rubric' that would change Freemasonry, particularly in other countries and inspire other associations to perhaps do the same.

Particular mention should go to our current President, W.Bro. Jeffrey Sloneem (L6701) in starting the work along with W.Bro. Michael Keisner (L8993) in 2012, but also to the excellent work by W.Bro. Laurie Shaffer (L6718) and W.Bro. John Stonely (L7459), both of whom were the main preceptors and W.Bro. Paul Ostwind (L6269) in working through and creating the newly extended rubric with Laurie and John and producing the book in electronic form.

History of the Logic Ritual Association

The time and effort of all of the committee members at the time for their dedication in attending lodges of instruction to go through the ceremonies in practical terms as well as providing essential commentary around the written formats was extremely important, along with those that spent numerous hours proof reading.

All through this period, the LRA would organise lodges of instruction or 'Masterclasses' in order to give practical demonstrations of pieces of ritual along with the explanations of why certain aspects of ritual were done as they were, but what became increasingly obvious during this time was that the LRA's 'Masterclasses' would probably function better if it was aligned to a particular lodge and so, the promotion and promulgation of the new ritual book was the primary focus for the LRA in the year 2015/16, along with plans to adopt a failing lodge in order to promote logic working as well as reinvigorate the monthly 'Masterclass' instruction.

Hopefully, what most people will know is that the newly revised Ritual Book for the 3-degree ceremonies with the extended rubric and extra detail pages was finally published in 2016, followed in 2018 by the new Installation Ceremony book.

History of the Logic Ritual Association

In addition to the books, the LRA also produced electronic formats of the Tracing Boards, allowing lodges to purchase Logic Tracing Boards through 'Lewis Masonic'.

What many people may not know, is that the LRA fulfilled its ambition to assist an ailing lodge in order to regularly work the ceremonies and start to build its Lodge of Instruction. The Lodge was officially renamed in 2021 as the 'Logic Club and Allied Arts Lodge' and has so far, been successful in attracting both new and joining members.

The period from 2012 to 2018/19 was an extremely busy but productive time for the LRA and it's probably true to say that once the ritual books, tracing boards and lodge take over were complete, there was a period of consolidation and time to breathe to assess where the association would be heading next.

What no one would have envisaged was the forced break in Masonic activities in 2020 due to a global pandemic.

These were unprecedented times and at the time of writing this in March 2022, we are still suffering from the consequences, with London Freemasonry being hit particularly hard. However, there is a renewed energy and desire to build on where we left off and build a better connection with Logic Lodges in general.

2022 Onwards

We will soon be at a stage where the existing 2016 ritual book will be reviewed and in due time, be re-published. It doesn't matter how many people and how much time is spent reviewing written records, mistakes and errors will always occur and the LRA are aware of some in the new ritual book, no matter how hard we tried to prevent it, so we will endeavour to rectify those in due course.

Along with this History being updated, a 'Logic Ritual Association' web site is finally being put together. This will hopefully be a one-stop-shop for all aspects of Logic Ritual.

It will have links to this history document, the logic ritual books and even links to being able to purchase 'Logic' tracing boards.

There will be a list of Logic Lodges across Metropolitan, Provincial and District Areas as well as a page dedicated to the 'Logic Club and Allied Arts Lodge', which is essentially the LRA Committee Lodge.

In addition to the web site, there are plans to create an LRA Facebook Page and the hope is that all logic lodges and their members will use this as a communications platform to promote and support each other.

History of the Logic Ritual Association

Through these avenues, we hope to achieve 3 things:

1. Improve the connection between the LRA and Logic Lodges
2. Establish a system to promote inter-visiting between all Logic Lodges
3. Establish a 'Ritual Support Team' to assist lodges that might require specific pieces of ritual and/or ceremonies.

We hope that all logic lodges will come together to help each other, not only to promote Logic Workings, but to help our lodges thrive. The list of Logic Lodges was last updated in 2011 and since then, 3 lodges have surrendered their warrants and one has amalgamated.

We now only have 43 London Lodges and a handful in Provincial and District areas, so we must all work together to preserve our wonderful workings, so we will be getting in touch with all the lodges to re-establish our connection with a specific point of contact and start to build an improved structure of mutual support.

I know that there is a desire to hold at least an annual 'Logic' Festival, but perhaps more with a view to logic lodges coming together, demonstration ceremonies being performed and enjoying the company of all those that appreciate our workings.

History of the Logic Ritual Association

For now,

sincerely and fraternally,

W.Bro. David Varney – SLGR

(Asst. Secretary)



www.logicritual.org



Performing our Beautiful
Craft Ceremonies with,
'Gramatical, Biblical and
Logical Correctness'

*The Logic Club was formed in 1881 for the,
'Purpose of affording the members of the
Musical and Theatrical Profession the
opportunity of taking a more active role in
Freemasonry than had hitherto been
possible because of their working hours'.*