

A Jigsaw called Freemasonry

We are told that we are members of the oldest fraternal organisation in the world, whose roots may be traced as far back as King Solomon.

That it is a society which owes much to the ancient craftsmen of the middle ages. An organisation whose beginnings are clouded in the mists of time and that we have only anecdotal or legendary histories for reference, as few written records have survived the passage of time or the paranoia of secrecy.

However, one thing is certain, it is suggested that originally there were only two degree ceremonies to communicate the lessons and principles of the Craft. A third Degree ceremony was introduced in the 1800's in order to expand the lessons of Freemasonry, called the M. M. Degree.

How do I know this ? ? In what 'Authoritative' book is this information set out. Is there an 'official' history or guide to Freemasonry which details the reasons and purpose of the many and varied practices. Unfortunately there is no single book or even set of books that will provide the answers to your questions. You could say that we are still working out the questions, next we will try to figure out where to look for the answers.

For many years, certainly the whole of the 1900's, countless researchers, each quietly digging away at their own particular line of investigation, have slowly brought to light numerous 'Gems' of Masonic knowledge. This new information may add to the total sum of our enlightenment or it may change our understanding of what we had previously believed, or changed our methods of deduction. Meanwhile, and all over the place, little parts of the jigsaw that is Freemasonry continue to emerge and few if anyone has the time or inclination to sift, collate, evaluate, index, review, even discard the countless claims of the tireless army of researchers.

So I dig in the places where these claims or revelations are most likely to be found, and tonight I present for your consideration some of the small parts of the jigsaw that is Freemasonry.

Lodge Rising Sun Gosford City
Wednesday 13th September, 2000.

Lectures :

- Who was Thomas Dunkerley ? --- * Abide with Me.