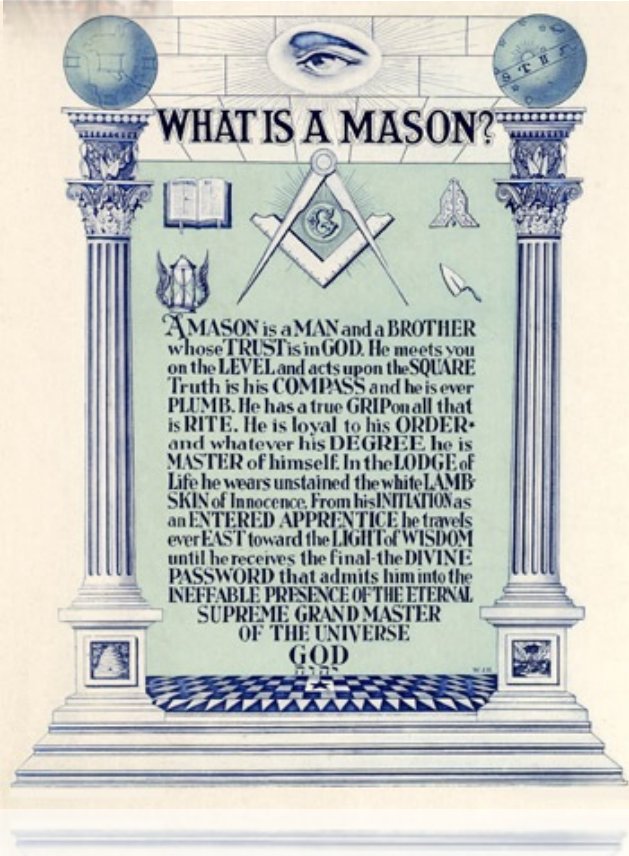


The Nippon Traveler



Nippon Lodge #9 is proud to present our first quarterly newsletter, which will no doubt become a long lasting tradition. The goal of the Nippon Traveler is to present relevant, interesting, and useful information, and keep the brothers close to the pulse of the lodge. The Nippon Traveler would like to kick off the first issue by exploring the answer to a question that all Masons will encounter eventually; what is a Mason? Many men over many generations have answered the question, "What is a Mason?" One of the most eloquent was written by the Reverend Joseph Fort Newton, an internationally honored minister of the first half of the 20th Century and Grand Chaplain, Grand Lodge of Iowa, 1911-1913:

When is a man a Mason? When he can look out over the rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope, and courage-which is the root of every virtue. When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive, and to love his fellowman. When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins-knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds.

When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all how to keep friends with himself. When he loves flowers, can hunt birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child. When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life. When star crowned trees and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead. When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response. When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be. When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin. When he knows how to pray, how to love, how to hope. When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellowman, and with his God; in his hands a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of a song-glad to live, but not afraid to die! Such a man has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one which it is trying to give to all the world. - Reverend Joseph Fort Newton

The Nippon Lodge #9 Historical Committee is at work archiving our lodge history (p. 3).



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Charity @ Nippon Lodge #9



Nippon Lodge #9 has been hard at work making a difference in the Sasebo community. The duty of Masons to 'give in the cause of charity' was stressed by William Preston in his *Illustrations of Masonry* (1772). He laid it down as axiomatic that 'To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Freemasons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and to restore their troubled minds, is the great aim we have in view' Since Preston's time, Masonic charities have been active in the relief of human suffering in almost every country in the world.

Today some hundreds of millions of dollars are distributed every year by Masonic bodies worldwide. for medical care and research; for social and cultural welfare; and for the relief of victims of both natural and man made disasters. There is, of course, considerable support for Masonic hospitals in many countries, for institutional homes for elderly Masons and their dependents and for Masonic widows and orphans. But this is not at the expense of non-Masonic charities and it is too little recognized that the relief of Masons by fellow Masons removes considerable financial burden from the community at large and releases funds to meet the needs of others.



Nippon Lodge #9 has been an active philanthropic force in the Sasebo community for many years. Recent charitable efforts include \$40,000 in building repairs at Seifuen Orphanage, wheel chair cleaning at a local elderly home, new television unit installed in a mental health facility, and many fun events for the Seifuen orphans.

Masonic History



Bro Bill Cloonan has been hard at work as head of the Nippon Lodge #9 Historical Committee. Carefully archiving the rich history of Nippon Lodge #9, a rich detailed history is emerging from archives long forgotten. The Nippon Traveler will share this rich history in future issues.

FREEMASONRY'S HISTORY IN JAPAN: Isaac Titsingh arrived in Japan among Dutch traders who were among the first foreigners to visit after Japan ended nearly 400 years of isolation. He is believed to be the first mason to visit Japan. He was initiated in Batavia in 1772 when he was in the service of the Dutch East India Company. He came to Japan three times - 1779 to 1780, 1781 to 1783, and 1784 - and headed the Dutch trading post in Nagasaki. Bro. Titsingh made acquaintance with many Japanese in high place and Japanese scholars of western learning. His books, *Cérémonies usitées au Japon pour les mariages et les funéailles* (1819), *Mémoires et anecdotes sur la dynastie régnante des djogouns, souverains du Japon* (1820) and *Illustrations of Japan* (1822), are valuable sources of information on Japan and its people and customs in the latter half of the 18th century.

While Japan was in a state of isolation, foreign vessels frequented its coasts from time to time. In the first half of the 19th century, their encroachment became particularly noticeable.

They urged Japan to open ports. Eventually the government opened the country and concluded treaties with foreign powers. The treaties included extra-territoriality by which foreign residents in Japan came under the legal jurisdiction of their own countries' consuls. The abolishment of the seclusion policy threw the country into turmoil. The unequal treaties with those countries, rampant inflation largely due to the commencement of foreign trade and other unfavorable factors resulting from the opening of the country caused some Japanese, especially samurai (professional warriors), to entertain the idea of "Sonno Joi" (unifying the country under the imperial rule and repelling the incursions caused by foreigners). Dissatisfied with the government policy toward foreign countries, some samurai took advantage of the situation and assaulted foreigners in order to harass the now-weakening government. Such attacks became frequent in the late 1850s and early 1860s. As a result, foreign powers lodged strong protests. In 1863 the Japanese Government agreed to have the British and French troops stationed in Yokohama.

It was during this period that the first masonic lodge was introduced to Japan. A military lodge called Sphinx Lodge No. 263, Irish Constitution, came to Japan with a detachment of the British 20th Regiment which arrived in Yokohama in 1864. While in Yokohama, the lodge held meetings and admitted civilian members. Being a military lodge, however, it could not operate in Japan long. It held its last meeting in March 1866. Meanwhile, those brethren living in Yokohama felt it desirable to form a lodge of their own and they petitioned for a formation of such a lodge to the United Grand Lodge of England. Thus the first local lodge, Yokohama Lodge No. 1092, came into being, holding the first regular meeting on June 26, 1866. A total of six English and three Scottish lodges were formed in Japan before the last war. With the abolishment of the extra-territoriality in 1899, the brethren held their meetings in accordance with the gentlemen's agreement with the Japanese Government that the government would not interfere with the fraternity's activities as long as the membership was limited to foreign nationals and that the meetings were conducted without ostentation. The members included those who contributed to the modernization of Japan, e.g., Bro. E. Fischer, a German merchant involved in the development of Kobe; Bro. William G. Aston, a British diplomat and scholar of Japanese literature whose works introduced Japan and its civilization to the English-speaking world; Bro. A. Kirby who built the first iron-clad



warship in Japan; Bro. Thomas W. Kinder, a Briton who was in charge of the Mint Bureau in Osaka; Bro. John R. Black, a British journalist who published an English-language newspaper, the Japan Gazette, and Japanese newspapers, Nisshin Shinjishi and Bankoku Shimbun, and wrote an important book, Young Japan; Bro. William H. Stone, a British telecommunications engineer; Bro. Paul Sarda, a French architect; Bro. Edward H. Hunter, a British shipbuilding engineer; Bro. John Marshall, a British port captain; Bro. Felix Beato, a Venetian-born British photographer; and Bro. Stuart Eldridge, an American doctor. Anyway, all the members of the lodges in Japan in those days were foreigners.

JAPANESE MASONS BEFORE THE WAR: However, some Japanese joined the Craft abroad prior to the last war. Among them were two Japanese scholars -Amane Nishi (1829-1897) and Mamichi Tsuda (1829-1903) - who studied at the University of Leyden in Holland from 1862 to 1865 under Prof. Simon Vissering who was a Freemason. Nishi was initiated in La Vertu Lodge No. 7 in Leyden in October 1864 and Tsuda in November 1864. Count Tadasu Hayashi (1850-1913), a career diplomat and later a statesman, was stationed in England from 1900 to 1906 and became a member of the Craft, while in England. The Anglo-Japanese Alliance was concluded in 1902 and he signed this treaty on behalf of Japan. He was initiated in Empire Lodge No. 2108 in February 1903, passed to the Second Degree in March and raised to the Third Degree in May. Bro. Hayashi became the Master of the lodge in January 1904. His rapid progress to that office was due to the lodge members' wishes to acknowledge his high official position and his possible departure from England in the near future for appointment to some other post. As the Japanese mission in London was promoted from a legation to an embassy, he became the first Japanese Ambassador to Great Britain. Japanese nationals were initiated in some other countries as well, e.g., the United States and the Philippines.

THE OUTBREAK OF WAR: The situation began to deteriorate for Freemasons in Japan in the late 1930s when the government authorities began to crack down on the fraternity, especially after the outbreak of war with China in 1937. In the early 1940s the anti-masonic movements intensified and all the lodges had to cease their operation.

AFTER THE WAR: After the war, masonic activities were resumed. One English and two Scottish lodges survived. The Grand Lodge of the Philippines began to found lodges in Japan. During a 10-year period from 1947 to 1956, 16 lodges were founded. Gen. Douglas McArthur, who was the Supreme Commander of the Allies which occupied Japan after the war and himself a mason, was very supportive of masonic activities in Japan. Eventually masonic membership became available to Japanese nationals. Seven Japanese men including five Diet members were initiated in 1950 for the first time in Japan. In March 1956, 15 Philippine lodges operating in Japan formed the Grand Lodge of Japan. The membership on its roll steadily increased, reaching 4,786 in 1972. Since then, however, the membership has been on the decrease and it now stands at just over 2,000. The current list of lodges and their locations are found in an attached sheet. Today the Grand Lodge of Japan is in amity with more than 150 Grand Lodges around the world.

In addition to those lodges operating under the Grand Lodge of Japan, there are several other lodges in Japan which were in existence at the time of its formation in 1957 - one English lodge, two Scottish lodges, two Philippine lodges and one American lodge (Massachusetts) which, originally founded in Shanghai, China, was reactivated in Tokyo in 1952. There are several more lodges which meet in Japan under the charter of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington, with which the Grand Lodge of Japan established fraternal relationship in 1998.

A Word from the WM in the East



WHO ARE WE, AND WHAT DO WE DO AS MASONS?

In short, Masons are men who have joined a non-profit organization and the worlds most known, renowned, and ancient fraternity. Once accepted into the fraternity, these men forever refer to themselves as Freemasons.

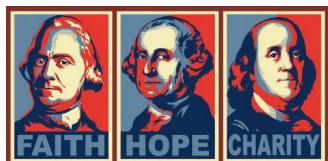
The main principles of Freemasonry insist that each member show tolerance, respect, and kindness in his actions towards others. Freemasons meet these principles head on by practicing charity and care for the community as a whole, and strives to achieve high moral standards in his own personal life.

Honor and integrity are at the core of Masonic principles. Members are obligated to practice self control and treat people around them with respect, regardless of their own personal opinion of that person.

Freemasons are heavily involved in charities, including organizing and participating in various fundraisers in the community to promote our charitable causes.

Today, Freemasonry still practices this virtue and "CHARITY" is still the name we use to describe our support for many programs of assistance we operate in the community.

Considering all that we do as Masons, and on behalf of all the brethren of Nippon Lodge #9, I can say that we are all proud and grateful of who we are and honored to be part of the oldest fraternity committed to making a difference. United we will succeed... United we stand!



Fraternally and Sincerely,
Worshipful Brother Reiner Tumang

