

Reagan Lodge No. 1037 A.F. & A.M.

1606 Heights Boulevard



Houston, Texas 77005

In the Heart of Historic Houston Heights

BETWEEN FRIENDS

YESTERDAY • TODAY • TOMORROW



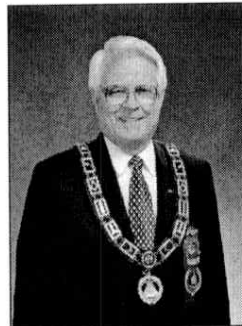
# THE CORNERSTONE

Issue #109

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF REAGAN LODGE NO.1037

## GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS' NEW GRAND MASTER INSTALLED

Brethren, as we greet a new year let us also greet our new Grand Master for 2009; **Most Worshipful W. David Counts...**



Grand Lodge is currently updating their website in preparation for the new Grand Master's Message and 2009 logo/merchandise. What *is* currently available, however, is a page for each and every Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Texas going back to 1837 and the original Grand Lodge of Texas. Included are articles, lectures, bios and several video interviews for your viewing pleasure.

Visit: <http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org/pastgms.php>

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## REAGAN LODGE TO HOST CERTIFICATE EXAMS IN JANUARY

The third Friday evening in January is a longstanding date for Masons from all across Houston to journey to Reagan Lodge to test their skills and memory in their "*Masonic Work*". If you think you've become proficient enough to "stand the test" or if you just want to come "listen and learn" from the pros, mark your calendar for **Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**. Refreshments will be served alongside a heaping portion of Masonic Fellowship.

# WHAT'S WITH THE WHITE GLOVES?

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## MASONIC GLOVES

By: James R. Manuel

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*-Editor*

Hoodwink removed, the hawk soars high into the air currents, swoops down to capture his prey, and then lands on the upraised, gauntleted arm. His rear talon, the killer claw, can exert a force capable of cutting through a human wrist that is protected by a thick leather glove. He is quickly hoodwinked and cheated out of his prey. The hood serves to keep the hawk "In the dark" and allows him to remain calm while waiting for its master's orders. The glove serves as the master's protector. There are other practical uses for the glove, but in adopted speculative Masonic ritual its symbolism needs to be explained.

In medieval times, the poor wore mittens while the rich wore gloves. In courtly etiquette, a knight would offer a pair of white perfumed gloves to establish a relationship of dependency. A knight wore gloves as a means of protection and to improve his grip. First made of leather, later the gloves were made of steel mail. The glove was a symbol of power and played a part in the investiture of a knight. To present a glove meant giving up the means of protection and granting the power to the receiver, while throwing the glove was an act of condemnation and represented unfaithfulness. In medieval court, the judge threw the glove at the convicted convict.

In the coronation of the Kings and Queens of England, the Earl of Oxford shall *bere with him the Coyfe and the Gloves of lynnyn clothe for the kyng is anoyntyngē bothe to his heed and to his hondis*. The purpose of the gloves was to keep the king from being soiled by contact with impure things. After the ceremony the gloves were burned, to prevent them from being used for profane purposes.

The Medievals played a game called "Drop Gloves." Drop Gloves was played in a circle. The players all faced the center except "it". The "it" walked slowly around the circle behind the players, and then dropped a glove behind the back of one of them. That player had to pick up the glove and race after the "it" in the same direction around the circle. If the "it" could reach the space left by the chaser before being tagged, the chaser was "it". If he was tagged first, he was "it" again.

Let us now look at how gloves as a part of Freemasonry have evolved. The gloves, which, like the apron, form part of our regalia nowadays, were originally a necessary part of the operative masons' protective clothing, the gloves being especially important to prevent injury. Numerous early records show that they were supplied to the masons by their employers. At Ely, in 1322, the Sacrist bought gloves for the masons engaged on the *new work*, and at Eton College, in 1456, five pairs of gloves were provided for *lavers of die walls* as custom may have required.

At York, in 1423, ten pairs of gloves were supplied to the mason setter at a total cost of eighteen pence. At Ayr, Edinburgh and Andrews there are a

large number of records of gloves supplied to *hewers* and *layers* from 1598 to 1688.

All these records relate to masons on the *job*. But for the masons in their lodges there was another source of supply. From 1599 onwards there is evidence that masons were obliged to furnish a pair of gloves to each of the Brethren on the day of their entry into the lodge, as part of their admission fees. The earliest official record on the subject is in the Schaw Statutes addressed to the Kilwinning Lodge in 1599, requiring that all Fellows of Craft at their admission to that grade were to pay £ 10 Scots with 10/- worth of gloves. (These fees must be divided by twelve to find the corresponding English sums. FC's therefore paid the equivalent of 16/8d plus ten pence for gloves.)

Records of the Lodge of Melrose for 1674 and 1675 show that both apprentices and Fellows at their entry were to pay the requisite fees with *sufficient gloves to ye whole company...* (Vernon, pp. 12J 13.) At Aberdeen, in 1670, the apprentice was called upon to pay 4 *rex* dollars, with... *Ane linen apron and a pair of good gloves...* to each of the Brethren. The linen apron is rather surprising, but linen was probably a local product and therefore economical.

At Dunblane, in 1724, the Lodge presented gloves and aprons to its entrants. At Haughfoot, as late as 1754, the Lodge enacted: *... that none can Enter here in time Comeing without a pair of Gloves to each member of the sd Lodge.* In 1723, a Masonic exposure, now known as *The Mason's Examination*, was published in a London newspaper, *The Flying Post*. It's opening words run: *When a Free-*

*Mason is enter'd after having given te, all present of the Fraternity a Pair of Men and Women's Gloves and Leathern Apron ....*

Additional note by Christian GUIGUE (France). One ritual, the first Apprentice ritual from Rectified Scottish Rite, 1773, use three pairs of gloves. One for himself, one for the mystery lady he esteems the most (later, in high degrees, he will understand that this lady is not a woman but a picture of Mary the Virgin, mother of Jesus), the last pair of gloves will be an emblem of the purity he has to reach. Only the first pair will be worn in lodge.

Now we look forward to our present day and how we use gloves in our Masonic ritual. It is part of the regalia of the American Canadian Grand Lodge to wear white gloves in closed lodge at all times. It is customary in most ACGL lodges to present the newly initiated with his first pair of white gloves. A brief ceremony has been developed and has become one formal way of instructing the new Entered Apprentice with the meaning behind the wearing of the white gloves. This brief, but impressive ceremony follows with remarks from the Master.

The following is not part of the ACGL standard ritual, but has been used successfully in several Lodges. This ritual is conducted in the First Degree Work, in the Lodge, immediately prior to starting the Second Section Lecture. The white gloves given to the newly made EA must have no Masonic symbols on them. On 14 April 2000, Brother John P. "Buck" Buchanan, Junior Grand Warden, wrote, "Although I revised the original work to suit my own style of speech

and presentation, full credit for the availability of this beautiful piece goes to Bro Ron Maskell." Below find a copy of this white glove presentation that Brother John P. "Buck" Buchanan loved so much to verbalize to the newly initiated Entered Apprentice.

### WHITE GLOVES

Modified version of "Clean Hands", by Bro Buck Buchanan. Nov 1999.

"Brother xxxxx,  
Clean hands have long been a symbol of purity.

The psalmist says, "That he only shall ascend into the hill of the Lord, or shall stand in His holy place, who hath clean hands and a pure heart."

In the Ancient Mysteries, the washing of the hands was always an introductory ceremony to the initiation; and, of course, it was used symbolically to indicate the necessity of purity from crime as a qualification of those who sought admission into our sacred rites.

The white gloves worn by Masons as a part of their clothing allude to this symbolizing of clean hands and a pure heart.

I now present you with your own pair of white gloves. --

Always wear them when attending Lodge.

Let them be a constant reminder to you, as an upright man and Mason, to ever have clean hands and a pure heart."

Thus we have a brief history of gloves and their significance in our Grand Lodge. In the words of the Ancients...

*We wil and we graunt. Be it soo. Be it soo, AMEN.*

The Masonic use of both gloves and aprons probably sprang from the operative custom of wearing them for the same reasons that other workmen found them necessary for protection and, hence, they were appropriate and useful gifts in the operative era. As they merged into the speculative era, aprons became smaller and gloves lighter.

Didron (*Annales*) cites examples in the 14th and 15th centuries where 3 dozen pairs of gloves were presented to the masons who began the building of the Chartreuse of Dijon; where gloves were bought for the masons to shield their hands from the stone and lime; and where 22 pairs of gloves were given to the masons and stonecutters working at Amiens. In the 18th century, it was the custom to require the candidate to *clothe the lodge* by presenting to each member an apron and gloves, and sometimes an extra pair of gloves for the Mason's wife. Dr. Plot's *History of Staffordshire* mentions this general practice as of 1686 so that it probably dates back to the operative era. Gloves were worn in some lodges well into the 19th century and even today are worn by the officers of some lodges, especially, if the officers are in evening dress. White gloves are, of course, worn by all Masons participating in funeral services. These are now generally knit but were formerly of kid leather.

*(Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia)*



## Reagan Lodge 2009 Annual Blood Drive

**JANUARY 10, 2009 / 10am -2pm**

Please join **Reagan Lodge** and the **Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center** by

contributing your valuable time and donating that precious gift to such a worthwhile cause as saving lives.