

[Book Review by Tony Pope, published in *Harashim* #3, July 1997.]

SOME WORDS and THOUGHTS Collected from the Writings of R.W.Bro. M.H.Kellerman, O.B.E., PDGM, UGL of NSW

Maurice Herman (Harry) Kellerman, compiled by Andy Walker, privately published by the compiler, under the auspices of the Research Lodge of New South Wales No 971 NSWC, Sydney, 1997.

ISBN 0 646 30442 9, paperback, 92 + vi pp, \$8 post paid in Australia, from A C Walker, 72 Bogalara Rd, TOONGABBIE, NSW 2154; review copy from the publisher.

Harry Kellerman, the doyen of Australian researchers, now in his 95th year, still has something to say that is worth hearing, and pondering. Andy Walker, Secretary of the Research Lodge of New South Wales, has been Bro Kellerman's amanuensis for the past seven years, recording Harry's words on the faithful Macintosh and printing them out as required, for presentation in lodge or for distribution in newsletters and ephemeral pamphlets. We are greatly indebted to Bro Walker for recording this material in more enduring form, in its bright and shiny yellow cover, and making it available to us, and to posterity, at the give-away price of \$8.

Indeed, there are only two criticisms of this book, both of marketing rather than substance: the title and the price. What can one do with a title half a yard long? In informal speech, 'Harry Kellerman's little yellow book' or 'The thoughts of Chairman Kellerman' might suffice, but how does one cite it as an authority? And the price? Well, the author insisted that the work be produced as cheaply as possible, so that it should be available to the most impecunious Mason, and the compiler (who really deserves the title of Editor, but modestly declines it) has done a magnificent job within those constraints. One may defer to the author's sentiments and at the same time regret the continued promotion of 'cut-rate' Masonry.

Between the covers are six research papers, three short addresses, eight comments on the papers of others, ten answers to questions, seventeen 'points to ponder' and five 'suitable poems'. Of the six research papers (five from the nineties—the 1990s, which largely coincide with the author's 90s—and one from 1975), four are concerned with the future of Freemasonry: an old friend, the 1992 Kellerman Lecture for NSW, 'The challenge of the changes in membership in New South Wales'; a paper given at the Townsville Convention in 1994, 'Freemasonry in the future'; a paper delivered to the Research Lodge of NSW (1995) on the three most urgent needs of Freemasonry today, 'Words, Brotherhood and Leadership'; and an address to a 'mixed' audience of Masons and non-Masons in 1996, 'What is Freemasonry? — The Basics' (which resulted in 10 petitions for membership). The last-mentioned paper by itself is worth more than the price of the book. Get a copy, if there are any left!