

## OFFICERS OF THE LODGE, 2002-2003

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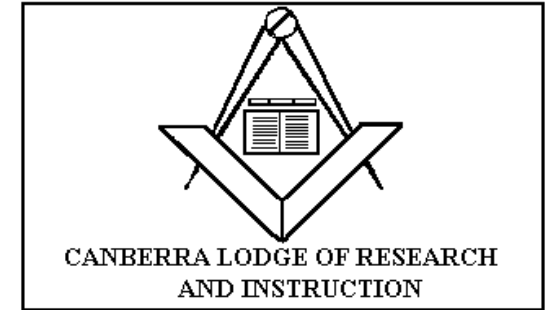
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## INVITATION

On behalf of the Preceptor, I invite you to attend the next meeting of the Canberra Lodge of Research and Instruction to be held at the Canberra Masonic Centre on Wednesday 14 February 2004, commencing at 7.00pm.

### AGENDA

- 1 Opening
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Preceptor's comments
- 4 Secretary's report
- 5 *A Visit with General Albert Pike*
- 6 Other business
- 7 Closing

Neil Wynes Morse KL  
Secretary  
March 2004

The Lodge meets on the **second Wednesday** of February, April, May, July, August, October and November. All Master Masons are welcome; dress: coat and tie.

## WORK OF THE EVENING

Tonight we will view the recently released DVD presentation 'A Visit with General Albert Pike'. This DVD was filmed as a special theatrical performance at the Scottish Rite Research Society meeting in October 2001.

## OUR LAST MEETING

The brethren present listened to, and then discussed, the audio presentation by Bro John Hamill on theories of origin. It was felt that the use of such material would be of assistance to local lodges where a spare 20 odd minutes was available, or as an aid to new members of the Craft. The evening concluded with the traditional R&I festive season repast of cake and port.

## A DAILY ADVANCEMENT...

Who was Albert Pike? The ADA for this meeting gives a potted outline of his life and career.

## PIKE'S MORALS AND DOGMA

As advised in the last summons, I have this book available in a .doc file format. Please contact me if you would like a copy. The hardcover book is not easily found in Australia and usually sells for more than A\$50!

You may well ask 'What is the relevance of Pike to Australia?' I believe that we should be aware of it as he is quoted, usually out of context, very frequently by anti-masons around the world.

The following passage from Art deHoyos and Brent Morris's *Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?* is useful:

### Morals and Dogma

Few Masonic books have created as many controversies as Albert Pike's *Morals and Dogma*. It is a collection of thirty-two essays that represent Pike's interpretation of the lessons of the Scottish Rite degrees. The essays are largely concerned with the history of philosophy and with man's constant search for God. First published in 1871, the book was given to every 32° Mason in the Southern Jurisdiction

for about a century; hundreds of thousands of copies have been distributed. It is now out of print, though widely available in used book stores.

*Morals and Dogma* is not available only from a "secret publishing house," it is not "the Bible of the Masons," nor is it "the most readily available and universally approved doctrinal book of Freemasonry." It is not even widely distributed or read. It is used only by the Supreme Council 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, which in 1871 had far less than 5% of American Masons as members and in 1993 claims only 20%.

The preface gives the best understanding of how Pike and all succeeding Supreme Councils have viewed his book.

The teachings of these Readings are not sacramental, so far as they go beyond the realm of Morality into those of other domains of Thought and Truth. The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite uses the word "Dogma" in its true sense, of *doctrine*, or *teaching*, and is not *dogmatic* in the odious sense of that term. **Every one is entirely**

free to reject and dissent from whatsoever herein may seem to him to be untrue or unsound. It is only required of him that he shall weigh what is taught, and give it fair hearing and unprejudiced judgement. Of course, the ancient theosophic and philosophic speculations are not embodied as part of the *doctrines* of the Rite; but because it is of interest and profit to know what the Ancient Intellect thought upon these subjects, and because nothing so conclusively proves the radical difference between our human and the animal nature, as the capacity of the human mind to entertain such speculations in regard to itself and the Deity.

This is not the way to introduce the ultimate authority on any subject. Anti-Masons choose to ignore the clear intent of the book and to distort Pike's personal opinions into the absolute truth for all Masons.

One of the most frequently quoted passages by anti-Masons from *Morals and Dogma* concerns Pike's theory that symbolic lodges exist to hide the true secrets of Masonry from the masses.

The Blue Degrees [1<sup>o</sup>-3<sup>o</sup>] are but the outer court or portico of the Temple. Part of the symbols are displayed there to the Initiate, but he is intentionally misled by false interpretations. It is not intended that he shall understand them; but it is intended that he shall imagine he understands them. Their true explication is reserved for the Adepts, the Princes of Masonry. . . . It is well enough for the mass of those called Masons, to imagine that all is contained in the Blue Degrees. . . .

Anti-Masons would have us believe this passage is a public admission of the deceptions imposed on most Masons by the "leaders" of the Craft. Common sense is again thrown out the window. Why would such a damaging "secret" doctrine be printed in a widely available book? With hundreds of thousands of copies distributed, shouldn't some blue lodge Masons have caught on by now? Anyone, like Pike, is free to think he knows the true interpretation of Masonic symbolism, but it will remain his personal opinion. Only grand lodges have the authority to interpret the symbolism of the blue

lodge, and they are not inclined to yield to any other power. Pike was simply repeating one of the currently popular theories about the origins of the "high degrees." Just because Albert Pike was a brilliant ritualist, an able administrator, and a well-respected Mason doesn't mean all of his opinions are right. The Masonic encyclopedist, Henry Wilson Coil, offers a good summary of the influences on Albert Pike's Masonic writings.

Fate decided that Pike should enter the Scottish Rite only four years after he became a Mason and before he had time or occasion thoroughly to study the history of all branches of the Society and, so, he began his study from the upper levels without knowing much of the foundation. He evidently did not know until his later life that the Scottish Rite degrees were a part of that type of ritual which sprang up in France in 1737 and subsequent years but regarded it as Primitive Masonry which had come right on down from Greece, Asia Minor, and Egypt and out of the Ancient Mysteries and Magism, which

there held sway. He found books which said so and he never had any doubt about that theory. He regarded Craft Masonry as then known to be puerile, though he said it had a deeper meaning which was hidden from its superficial adepts, who were taught to be satisfied with trite explanations. He even asserted that Craft Masonry had been devised so as not only to hide its true meaning but to cause its members to think that they understood it. Mackey encouraged him in those notions, for he, too, had been made a Mason only four years before he began writing books on the subject, in which he adopted the more sensational theories of mystery and symbolism. But Mackey changed his views as soon as the work of the British realistic school began to be felt. Pike did not waver; his work was nearly complete and too voluminous to be done over.

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CANBERRA LODGE OF RESEARCH  
AND INSTRUCTION

## INVITATION

On behalf of the Preceptor, I invite you to attend the next meeting of the Canberra Lodge of Research and Instruction to be held at the Canberra Masonic Centre on Wednesday 14 October

### AGENDA

- 1 Opening
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Preceptor's comments
- 4 Secretary's report
- 5 *Review of the GL Lodge Talks*
- 6 Other business
- 7 Closing

Neil Wynes Morse KL  
Secretary  
October 2004

The Lodge meets on the **second Wednesday** of February, April, May, July, August, October and November. All Masons are welcome; dress: coat and tie.

### **WORK OF THE EVENING**

Tonight we will review the Lodge Talks issued by GL. The suggestions we make will be forwarded to GL, via the Research Lodge of New South Wales.

### **OUR LAST MEETING**

### **OUR NEXT MEETING**

The evening will conclude with the traditional R&I festive season repast of cake and port.

### ***A DAILY ADVANCEMENT...***

The *ADA* for this meeting gives the Talks we will be looking at. .