

[Book Review by Graeme Love, January 2010]

***IT'S NO SECRET: REAL MEN WEAR APRONS***

Sub-Title: The Story of Freemasonry in Australia

Edited by V W Bro. Peter Lazar

Published by Masonic Care Ltd, as a trustee for

The Museum Of Freemasonry Foundation,

The United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT (2009)

ISBN 978-0-646-52446-7

The Book has no Reference Bibliography.

The Book is basically a book for NSW Freemasons.

This Book needs to carry the sub-title: A reply to Dan Brown's "The Lost Symbol".

Dan Brown definitely stumped Peter Lazar for a duck.

Editors Masonic Background

50 years a Freemason

Director, Freemasons Benevolent Institution

(Retirement Villages)

No mention of his masonic involvement; His Lodge Career, etc.

He tried at a job which became difficult due to lack of studious research, and lack of communicating with real masonic researchers, rather than Grand Officer material.

FOREWORD by MWGM Greg Levenston (2 pages)

Written pulp-style by a typical Grand Officer being a non-student of Freemasonry.

PROLOGUE (5 pages) by Editor

Lazar is hung up (via a persecution complex) by Dan Brown's "The Lost Symbol". We are not interested in his family history.

Freemasonry: A Definition (pgs XVI & XVII)

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He fails to inform us of WHICH DICTIONARY he is quoting from.

CHPT 1: What is Freemasonry?

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Page 1

1<sup>st</sup> Para: 1<sup>st</sup> Sentence can be correct BUT is failed by the incorrectness of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sentence.

Page 2

I consider this page is flummery.

Page 3 OK

Page 4

Origins of freemasonry back to KST – Rubbish

He refers to "Free Masons" - Rubbish

Page 5

1<sup>st</sup> Para – Entered Apprentice, CRAFTSMAN, or Master Mason.

(Wrong)

(Wrong)

Page 6

The (NSW) Museum of Freemasonry is NOT UNIQUE in Australia.

Why only mention the Knights Templar? Is Lazar a KtT?

Freemasonry in Sydney is NOT UNIQUE.

Page 7

2<sup>nd</sup> Para. – GL of E should read G.L. of London and Westminster 1717.

3<sup>rd</sup> Para. – "a Lodge being a group of masons recognised by the United Grand Lodge"

WRONG

Recognised by A (sometimes 'united') Grand Lodge.

"More about the early history of Freemasonry in Australia can be found at Appendix A.."

RUBBISH – the book sub-title refers "The Story of Freemasonry in Australia"

Lazar considers NSW as the centre of Freemasonry in Australia – RUBBISH.

Page 7 / 8

“.. most Lodges in England, the USA, Australia and New Zealand are historically related to the Grand Lodge of England”.

NB: This is a most inaccurate statement both as to the BACKGROUND of Lodges AND That there is NO, NEVER has been a Grand Lodge of England.  
LAZAR is NOT a Masonic Researcher. I suggest he become a CMS Student.

Page 8

4<sup>th</sup> Para. – Is he a Jew and doesn't understand that the Middle East is NOT the centre of the World's Religions as recognised by Freemasonry. Suggest he realise he should attend our Victorian CMS Course.

Page 9 Nothing

Page 10 Nothing

Page 11 Nothing

Page 12 & 13 So what is so special. He is obviously a NSW Freemason.

Pages 14 – 17 Famous Freemason from NSW.

James Hardy – 4 pages

Page 18 – 20 OK

Page 21

“Four hundred years ago, in the beginnings of Freemasonry..” Rubbish / Crap  
1717 – 2009 = 292 Years c.1725 - 2009 = 3- degree system only 284 Years  
Lazar definitely needs our CMS Course.

Page 22

4<sup>th</sup> Para. – Wardens Book is woefully WRONG.

Page 23

The reference to ‘Masonic Lodge’ is WRONG, as it should be M.L. Building.

Page 24 – Masonic Tributes

Simplistic description is WRONG, as it depends on the Religion of the Deceased.

Page 25

“As we saw in Chapter One, the history of Freemasonry begins in Europe..” RUBBISH.

“When a Lodge of stonemasons finished a great building in one city or one country, they would move to another..” WRONG, do your research properly.

“ all that the Master of the Lodge needed to do was to approach the foreman or architect at the new building site and shake his hand..” WRONG, do your research properly.

Page 26

Stop generalizing – NSW/ACT is NOT THE CENTRE OF AUSTRALIA.

Page 27

“.. the best way to learn about Freemasonry is to experience the ceremonies as a candidate.” WRONG, as proven by Freemasonry's failings.

Victoria's MAP and CMS is one type of answer.

“.. create a memorable experience” Part of the answer BUT MUST INCLUDE explanation.

Page 28

1<sup>st</sup> Para. - READ, READ, READ and perhaps STUDY, STUDY, etc.

4<sup>th</sup> Para. – Careful, not in all Lodge Rooms.

5<sup>th</sup> Para. – Careful, not in all Lodge Rooms. Does Lazar not realise the World is NOT centred on the Middle Eastern's three Religions.

Page 29

Para 1. – “decorated walls” Maybe in NSW but not in Victoria.

Para 2. – “Masons walk in a regular pattern of squares and right angles” Most times ONLY.

Para 3. – If a musician exists in the Lodge, else NO.

Para 4. – “Classical columns adorn the outside of most Masonic centres”. SOMETIMES.

Page 30 OK maybe.

Page 31

Para 1. - If everyone can get detailed accounts in books or on the Internet – WHY do we need your Money making book?

Para 2. – Swords, use of, are under special Legal clearance control in Victoria.

Last Lines – Stop marketing the NSW/ACT G.L. Library & Museum.

Page 32

It is the UNITED Grand Lodge of England.

Stop. Now start promoting ALL Australian Grand Lodge Libraries/Museums, etc.  
Sovereign Hill is only ONE site of many in Victoria, DO YOUR HOMEWORK.  
STOP this NSW, NSW, NSW, etc.

Page 33, 34

Lose it. Rubbish.

Page 35

“Secret Men’s Business” – Maybe in your Household and sometimes Geelong, NOT mine.

Page 36-38

Pathetic.

Page 39

So you DO believe some men are more equal than others.

Pages 40-44

Famous Freemasons – Two out of Five = NSW.

Nothing of their Masonic Careers.

Page 45 – Debunking the Myths.

Pages 45-48 Rubbish.

Page 49 – Riding the Goat cont’d

Para 1

Before 1853 (156 years ago) Rev. Oliver stated the “Supreme Being” is changed to ‘Great Architect of the Universe’. In the USA, since 1815 it has been the ‘Grand Architect of the Universe’.

NB: Talking about Myths ONLY re-invigorates them.

Page 50

So Lazar considers Dan Brown is the ultimate; well, they both idiots.

I will NOT usurp my Obligation and reveal the Third Degree because ONLY SINCERE brethren will Learn.

Initiates of the First Degree learn, or hear NOTHING of the Third Degree.

Lazar start learning after, sadly, 50 years as you say.

Page 51

Dan Brown has made Lazar paranoid. Typical of an old man Mason.

Page 52

‘The Masonic Bible’

I’ve never seen one, maybe unique to NSW!!

The Heirloom Bible was presented to me in Country Victoria 34 years ago.

It was presented to me as a present for a Lecture given.

Page 53

Scrap this page.

Grand Orient of France is not unique and is NOT ‘Freemasonry in Australia’.

The US\$1 bill is NOT Freemasonry in Australia.

Pages 54/55

Scrap these pages; NOTHING to with Australia.

Pages 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62.

Famous Freemasons – 3 England, 2 NSW, 1 Victoria..

Nothing of their Masonic Careers.

Page 63, 64, 65

The Real first 3 Pages of his book.

Page 66

To become a Freemason, does not make you a Freemason, unless you prove it.

Para’s 2, 3, 4. Are not Australian, scrap them.

Page 67

First Para is Rubbish.

Page 68

“~~1718~~ some 50 years after the formation of the ~~Grand Lodge of England~~”

1718 – 50 = 1718 (1717 is correct)

Grand Lodge of London & Westminster

Page 69 & 70 – Good

Page 71

In the story should have quoted the appropriate English Legislation.

‘... Masonic historian, Philip Crossle’ – WHO? WHERE FROM?

Pages 72, 73, 74 – Good

Page 75

History related to NSW History not Australian!!

Page 76

Para’s 2, 3, 4 – Apply to the NSW Grand Lodge obviously.

Para 5, 6 – Nothingness.

Page 77

Who is Leon Carter?

Page 78

‘Masonic Museum’ – Which one? Don’t tell me, NSW again.

Last Para - ‘profess our faith in our organisation’; so Freemasonry in NSW is a religion!

Page 79-83

So What!! He’s not unique. You are old fashioned!!

Pages 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89

Famous Freemasons – 2 NSW, 1 Qld, 1 England/NSW, 1 pure England.

Nothing of their Masonic Careers.

Page 90

Fair.

Page 91-101

NSW is the centre of the world obviously. CHARITY = NSW.

Page 102-104

The story of a successful Freemason?

Page 105-110

Famous Freemasons – 1 WA, 2 English, 1 Victoria (Wrong Lodge spelling), 1 NSW

Nothing of their Masonic Careers.

Page 111-125

Obviously WAR is more important than Freemasonry.

Page 126-131

Famous Freemasons – 5 NSW.

Nothing of their Masonic Careers.

Colour Photo’s

1) Acceptable, but why not include an acceptable average Masonic temple?

2) 3) Acceptable

4) 5) Acceptable

6) 7) Why NSW? Why not another Jurisdiction?

8) NSW again!!

9) Only an example of a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, NOT common throughout Australia.

10) Definitely Ultra Modern 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. NOT common throughout Australia.

11) Definitely a simple version of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree.

12) WHY a second 1<sup>st</sup> Degree. Compare w/9).

13) WHY a second 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. Compare w/10.

14) WHY a second 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. Compare w/11.

Page 132

“Stonemasons and Builders”

“Craft guild(s)”

“Master Mason”. WRONG

Page 133

Ritual quoted is no doubt ONLY from the NSW 1<sup>st</sup> Degree.

Quote: “..They are most often made of wood.” Maybe in NSW, but elsewhere WRONG.

Page 134, 135, 136, 137.

NSW Ritual.

Page 138

Masonic Apron – WRONG.

Which United Grand Lodge?

Quote: “In Australia, The Blue Lodge – to which Freemasons belong..” Wow.

Page 139

- APRONS – Lambskin. Maybe NSW.  
Ritual quotes are NSW Only.
- Page 140  
Ritual quotes are NSW Only.
- Page 141-146  
Famous Freemasons – 1 English, 2 NSW, 2 Victorian, 1 Qld.  
Nothing of their Masonic Careers.
- Page 147-158  
Dr. Bob James was only Initiated in NSW in 2008.  
He did not ENTER Freemasonry; he was INITIATED, but he wouldn't know that?
- Page 159-165  
Famous Freemasons – 4 Victoria, 2 NSW.  
Nothing of their Masonic Careers.
- Page 166-167  
Masonic Art – OK
- Page 168  
Don't mix habits of Operatives with Speculatives.
- Page 169  
Stones & Tools – OK
- Page 170  
Architecture  
Centred on KST (or should it be Assyrian?)  
Age of Orders?  
Nature  
Globes – NOT necessarily  
Acacia is also IMMORTALITY  
Codes, Diagrams, etc. – OK  
Composition  
Masonic Lodge may be a BUILDING – CAREFUL!!
- Page 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183  
Famous Freemasons – 1 English/NSW, 4 pure NSW, 1 USA,  
Nothing of their Masonic Careers.
- Page 184  
Masonic Music  
Completely overlooks RESEARCHERS.
- Page 185-193 – OK
- Page 194-199  
Famous Freemasons – 1 NSW, 1 Vic., 1 English/WA, 1 NSW/English  
Nothing of their Masonic Careers.
- Page 200-206  
Dan Brown Paranoia again!!  
Plus at least 24 other Books  
Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown  
The Brotherhood by Stephen Knight  
Cracking the Da Vinci Code by Stephen Cox  
Giodarno Bruno and the Hermetic Tradition by Francis Yates  
Freemasonry: Possibilities of a Neglected Topic by J. M. Roberts  
The Holy Blood & the Holy Grail by Baigent, Leigh & Lincoln  
The Temple and the Lodge by Baigent & Leigh  
The Book of Hiram by Knight & Lomas
- Page 207  
The Templar Revelation by Picknett & Prince  
The Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry  
Freemason's for Dummies  
The Everything Freemason's Book
- Page 208  
Founding Fathers [USA], Secret Societies

- Solomon's builders by C. Hodapp  
Born in Blood by John Robinson
- Page 209
- Origins of Freemasonry; Facts and Fiction by Margaret Jacobs  
Origins of Freemasonry: Scotland's Centenary by David Stevenson
- Page 210
- Travelling Brothers by R.A. Leeson  
The Mythology of Secret Societies by J. Roberts
- Page 211
- Researching Freemasonry by Jan Snoek  
The Social Impact of Freemasonry on the Modern Western World  
by M. Scanlan
- Page 212
- The Rosslyn Hoax by Robert Cooper  
Cracking the Freemasons Code by Robert Cooper  
Builders of Empire by Jessica Harland-Jacobs
- Page 213 - NIL
- Page 214-217 – Dr. Bob James
- Page 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223  
Famous Freemasons – 3 NSW, 1 Victoria, 1 France.  
Nothing of their Masonic Careers.
- Page 224-230  
Jan Lee Martin is incorrect, as this Book, by Title, was supposed to be  
“The Story of Freemasonry in Australia”.  
It seems to only speak of NSW, as though this stood for Australia.
- Page 231-238  
Scenario's 1, 2, 3, 4 – Either Crap, Greenies, Climate Change or too Political.
- Page 239-242  
His short-comings and fears are shown here. Not Freemasonry in Australia.
- Page 243-252  
Here Lazar tries to cover the failings of the previous 242 pages.  
Page 249 – Here he shows his lack of Research by the use of Grand Lodge of Victoria  
twice.
- Page 253-256  
Page 254 – WRONG Chart, NOTHING to do with Australia.  
Do your Research properly.  
Page 255 – Eastern Star is NOT Women's Freemasonry.  
Do your Research properly.  
Page 256 – Co-Masonry began in France in 1893, NOT 1902.  
Do your Research properly.
- Page 257-267  
Promoting your own non-Masonic career is Masonically incorrect.