



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PAPER NO. 150

PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY: Jim Ruxton

DATE: 26 November 2007

Bro. Dr. LEOPOLD DINTENFASS (1921-1990)
Ph.D., M.Sc., F.R.A.C.I., M.I.E.(Aust.), F.I.C.A., F.R.S.H.
PHYSICAL CHEMIST AND MEDICAL SCIENTIST

During the 1960s and 1970s there were stories of a mysterious scientist working away in a back room at the Kanematsu Institute of Pathology at Sydney Hospital. He later developed the first Australian experiment conducted on the space shuttle. He was in fact a world expert on haemorheology and biorheology. Such a man was Bro Leopold Dintenfass.

Researcher and Haemorheologist., Leopold Dintenfass was born on 29 April 1921 in Turnow, Poland, first son of Dr Isser Dintenfass and his wife Anna. His mother and father were killed in a German concentration camp in 1942.

He received early education in Rzeszow, Poland and after interruptions due to war, graduated in chemistry in 1946. He journeyed to West Germany where he obtained employment as an instructor in chemistry.

In 1950 he arrived in Australia and was engaged in industry as a research chemist. He obtained his Master of Science degree in 1958 and Doctor of Philosophy in 1962-both degrees were conferred by the University of New South Wales.



Bro. Leopold Dintenfass

On 26th September 1962 he married Miss Irene Kurzer who was born in Poland, educated in Italy and arrived in New South Wales in 1952. She was employed as an interpreter with the Department of Attorney-General and Justice.

Bro Dintenfass was Clinical Haemorheologist and Director of Haemorheology and Biorheology Department, Medical research, Kanematsu Memorial Institute, Sydney Hospital and Honorary Associate, Department of Medicine, University of Sydney. He was a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Sydney 1962-1975. He was also a Senior Research Fellow with the National Heart Foundation.

He conducted deep research into the development of methods and techniques for the study of blood viscosity factors, blood rheology and blood flow. He applied these to diagnostic, predictive and preventive medicine. He published literally hundreds of papers and at least two books, in 1971 and 1976.
He was an avid reader of history, psychology and scientific journals.

Leopold Dintenfass was initiated, passed and raised in the three degrees of freemasonry on 5th June 1969, 5th February and 5th March 1970 in Lodge William Taylor, No 833 UGL of NSW & ACT, consolidated with Orpheus becoming Orpheus William Taylor on 1st November 1982. Called off on 7th August 1989.
Bro Leopold Dintenfass died on 8th August 1990.

Ref: Wikipedia

The NSW Freemason, Vol. 10, No. 2 August 1977