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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 8 May 2002, commencing at 7.00pm.

AGENDA

- 1 Opening
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Preceptor's comments
- 4 Secretary's report
- 5 What is Prince Hall Freemasonry?
- 6 Other business
- 7 Closing

Neil Wynes Morse KL
Secretary
April 2002

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

Bro. Bob Nairn will present a paper which will be an informative backgrounder to the visit of Bro. David Gray in August.

OUR LAST MEETING

We decided to host Bro. David Grey and, after some 'spur of the moment' negotiations, Lodge Ethos have agreed to co-host the meeting on 21 August. The PR machine will roll out soon.

A DAILY ADVANCEMENT...

The *ADA* is a list of the recognitions by US 'mainstream' Grand Lodges to Prince Hall GLs, together with a paper which may act as a lead-in to Bro. Nairn's presentation.

GRAND MASTER'S FORUM

Efforts are continuing to transfer the videotape of the Grand Master's Forum in Canberra on 21 April to VHS format. It would be foolish for discussion regarding the proposals outlined at that meeting to be undertaken without first viewing the tape. Further information will be forthcoming soon.

YASS TRACING BOARDS

Whilst at a meeting of Yass Lodge of Concord recently I was shown their original TBs. These are in need of professional conservation, as they have suffered the ravages of time since at least the 1860s. Do you see R&I having a role in the preservation of these Boards? Let us know your views.

TABUTEAU PAPERS REVEAL UNIQUE RITE

In July I will be co-presenting the oral version of a paper to the Victorian Lodge of Research regarding the Re-formed Triad Rite. In the introduction to the written version of the paper we say:

"For some twenty years in the middle of the last century there existed in Australia an extraordinary, and perhaps unique, masonic order, known to very few of the masonic fraternity. Created just prior to the Second World War, it survived into the postwar peace, and then appears to have drifted into oblivion, possibly in response to the changed political situation in China."

For some years a colleague of mine in Melbourne has had in his possession several papers relating to the closure of the order in that city, but these gave little indication of the extent or operations of the order. References to the order in the Tabuteau Collection provided sufficient information regarding the order to make preparation of a comprehensive information paper worthwhile.

The records are not complete, for example no ritual has yet been found, and many of the suppositions in the paper, based on our reading of the correspondence and other records from the Tabuteau Collection, could not be discussed and confirmed with the participants, as none remains. However, the discovery of a masonic body

having its origins solely in Australia is significant to the history of Freemasonry in Australia.

In the written version of the paper the authors' appreciation is expressed to Bro. Cole, as Preceptor of the Canberra Lodge of Research and Instruction, for his permission to quote from the material in the Tabuteau Collection.

When approaching the Grand Secretary of the, United Grand Lodge of New South Wales in November 1947 for permission to meet in the Lane Cove Masonic Temple, Bro. H W Levy made the following statement:

"... the regeneration of a very old society, which under political pressure had fallen on evil days, to a place and function in Asiatic life in some measure resembling that of the Craft today, is work which only freemasons can do; and it is both significant and fitting that the initiative in setting up such a research organisation should have been undertaken by Australian rather than by

United Kingdom or American freemasons."

I believe that the preparation of this paper has been some of the most significant original Australian masonic research undertaken in Australia in the past ten years. It is but one example of the use of the wealth of material in the Tabuteau Collection of which we, as Canberra R&I, are the custodians.

GRAY VISIT PLANNING

Those who attended the April meeting will have a copy of the proposed itinerary for Bro. Gray's visit to the national capital. The dates in Canberra have now been confirmed. The proposed visit details are:

Monday 19 August

Pickup at Berrima (lunch at Surveyor General Hotel?) and proceed to Canberra / visit Lodge Capitol?

Tuesday 20 August

Tour Canberra visiting the usual sights, War Memorial, National Museum, etc. / visit Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew?

Wednesday 21 August

Visit National Aquarium and Zoo to pat kangas and koalas, etc. / lunch at CIT hosted by WM, Lodge Ethos / Lodge Ethos and Canberra R&I host meeting with Bro. Gray delivering papers on PH Freemasonry.

Thursday 22 August

Depart Canberra on QF 763 at 0955 for Tasmania.

I would welcome any suggestions/proposals which would augment this draft outline. Any thoughts on a lunch (BBQ?) on the Tuesday? This would depend to some extent on the weather and also on what Bro. Gray wants to do. He may want a rest as he will have spoken at ten meetings in the 27 days since he left Ohio - five at New Zealand lodges and then in Townsville, Cairns, Brisbane and Sydney prior to coming to Canberra!

Besides, if we don't have anything planned, we will have nothing to change!

In addition I would welcome any thoughts on fundraising activities we

could run to cover the costs we will incur by having Bro. Gray with us. Some income will come from South fees and the proposed 'guessing competition', but more ideas would be great.

THE INVISIBLE COLLEGE

In the *Canberra Times* of 23 February Frank O'Shea wrote: "Add the author's need to show the guiding hand of Freemasonry in everything that happened and his tendency to repeat himself from one chapter to the next, and you have a story that requires great patience and an occasional snooze."

Bro. Robert Lomas has again written a book which will probably gain him a useful sum of money, but which adds nothing to Masonic scholarship. Don't waste \$55 - my copy is available for loan.

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CANBERRA LODGE OF RESEARCH
AND INSTRUCTION

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Neil Wynes Morse KL
Secretary
November 2002

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GRAY VISIT PLANNING

WORK OF THE EVENING

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