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## Unique Features at Goulburn Lodge Room

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When you enter the lodge room at Goulburn, you will notice that it is not like any other lodge room. There are several features that, in my opinion, make it unique. It could be the wood panelling, the furniture, the decorated ceiling or the pillars in the East. The whole of which, make the Masons of Goulburn very proud of such a building. One of the unique features you will see is the beautiful pipe organ. This instrument was donated to this temple in 1928 by RWBro William Bartlett PDGM, when this portion of the building was erected.

Bro Bartlett was the proprietor of the local brewery. He also donated to the City of Goulburn the land on which that prominent landmark, the Goulburn War Memorial, now stands. It is said that the cost of the organ, landed in Sydney from the manufacturers in London, was one thousand pounds. It cost a further 100 pounds to transport it from Sydney to Goulburn and erect it in this building. The minutes of the Management Committee tell us that a special meeting was held with the architect to discuss raising the ceiling height of this room to fit in the pipes.

In 1976 the organ was showing signs of requiring some major work to keep it playing. The Management Committee of the day thought the expense of repairs to the organ to be excessive and were contemplating just replacing the keyboard with an electronic keyboard. As a member of that Committee, I was not in favour of that proposal. Following discussions with the late VWBro Brian Stoneman, and seeing the work he had performed in installing a pipe organ in his own home, I was able to convince the Committee that something could be done to keep the organ more or less original state. With the help of Bro Stoneman, members of the Canberra Organ Society and our own brethren, we were able to convert the organ from manual to electronic operation. The work took four years to complete, and today we have, I believe, the only lodge room in the state with a pipe organ; the greatest problem is having someone to play it.

The other unique feature when you enter the Lodge Room at Goulburn you will notice above the Senior Warden two chains hanging from the ceiling. Attached to one chain is the letter 'O', and the other the letter 'S'. These have created a fair amount of interest from visitors in the past. In fact, while they are there for a very basic reason, brethren have on non-masons' nights and other occasions said to visitors that these are symbols of great Masonic significance.

With this thought in mind, I am reminded of the story of Sir Christopher Wren, when walking among the workmen at the rebuilding of St Paul's Cathedral in London. He approached one man and asked 'What are you doing?', to which the man replied; 'Can't you see! I'm chipping a stone.' A little further along he asked the same question of a second worker, who replied 'Earning my wages'. Further along still a third worker was asked the same question, 'What are you doing?', to which he replied 'Why, Sir, I'm helping to build a cathedral'.

From that story it is evident that we can look at something quite simple and see a number of different explanations.

As we look at our S and O, maybe we can see something of Masonic significance. It could remind us that we belong to an Organisation in our Society called Freemasonry. To belong to that organisation we must have a belief in a Supreme Being. No matter what Supreme Being we believe in, I am sure that there is a belief that that Being has Omnipotence, Omniscience and Omnipresence. That is, being all powerful, all knowing and to be everywhere at the same time.

It could remind us that in each of the three degrees, we undertake a Solemn Obligation, not only to preserve the secrets of the Order, but to act on the Square to all mankind. That the Square, when combined with the Compasses, is the main symbol of Freemasonry. That the Square is the jewel of the Worshipful Master; that it is by the assistance of this implement that rude matter is brought into

due form, so it is that by the Square conduct of the Wor. Master that animosities are made to subside should they arise, and the business of the lodge conducted with harmony and decorum.

We could also be reminded of the message of the Skirret, the Star or Glory in the Centre, or any number of items either beginning with 'O' or 'S'.

It may even suggest that we have an organ on one side of the room and a Secretary on the other. Thinking of the organ as mentioned before, we could maybe think of some of the Organists of the past. Then on the other side think of some of the Secretaries of the past..

So, Brethren, whenever you enter our lodge room, you may be able to see something of Masonic significance in our 'O' and 'S'—or you may just see them as being there for the basic purpose of opening and closing the ventilators between the ceiling and the roof.