

March 12, 2011
District #22 Education Day
Masonic Trivia

In China, about 300 B.C., Mencius wrote "A master Mason, in teaching his apprentices, makes use of the compasses and the square. Ye who are engaged in the pursuit of Wisdom, must also make use of the compasses and the square." Additionally, in a book called *Great Learning*, 500 B.C., we find that "A man should abstain from doing unto others what he would not they should do unto him; and this is called the principle of acting on the square."

**In 1860 in Limerick, Ireland, there was found in a small chapel a stone dated 1517 with the following inscription:
"I will serve to live with love & care
Upon the level, by the square."**

In Christchurch New Zealand, there are two natural eroded stone pillars standing at the entrance to Tumbledown Bay. Looking from the land, the one on the left is named Boaz and the other on the right is named Jachin. Leads one to believe that the founders were indeed members of The Craft.

Lux in Tenebris Lodge # 3856 in London is for blind Masons. The Latin words mean "Light in Darkness."

When Brothers Richard E. Byrd and Bernt Balchen first flew over the North and South Poles, they dropped a Masonic flag on each Pole. Then, in the 1933-35 expedition, Brother Balchen tossed his Shrine Fez on the North Pole.

Brother and General Thomas H. Benton, Grand Master in Iowa, 1860-1862, posted federal troops around Brother Albert Pike's Masonic Library at Little Rock, Arkansas to protect its valuable contents when that city was invaded during the Civil War.

Brother "Buzz" Aldrin, a member of Clear Lake Lodge #1417 in Texas, when he stepped onto the surface of the moon, carried a special deputation from his Grand Master to claim the moon as being in the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas. And so it is.

The first evidence of Freemasonry in North America appeared in Nova Scotia. A stone engraved on the top with a square and compasses was found on the shore of Goat Island in the Annapolis Basin in Nova Scotia. In the center of the flat slab was the date 1606. Dr. Charles T. Jackson of Boston wrote about it in 1829, calling it the "Annapolis Stone." The stone is said to have become a part of a wall for a building; it was covered with cement and never found again.

During the years that Spain was under the control of General Franco, Freemasonry was a "crime" and Masons were imprisoned for a term of years equal to the number of Masonic degrees possessed by the *"guilty one."*

A Lodge may not be adjourned for any purpose. No member has the authority to present a motion for adjournment since that would usurp the Master's power. A Lodge must be in one of three conditions: Closed, open and at work, or at refreshment.

St. John's Chapel, Edinburgh, Scotland is said to be the oldest Masonic Lodge Room (1736) in the world.

When the first Grand Lodge was formed in 1717, it had no jurisdiction, ritual, constitution or laws. There were only two degrees... The third degree was first reported in 1725 and came into being without sanction of the Grand Lodge.