

**THE ORDER OF THE ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES  
OF ENGLAND AND WALES AND DISTRICT AND COUNCILS OVERSEAS**



**COUNCIL OF THE FOUR KINGS  
No. 7**

**HISTORY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE FOUR KINGS  
Compiled by W. Bro. Peter Fuchter**

When I became the Secretary of the Council in November 2013 the only minute book available was the current minute book that was started in January 1987.

The only records which I had prior to January 1987 were an incomplete list of Worshipful Masters which is shown below.

At the end of March 2020 I was contacted by an Antique Dealer who told me that he had purchased a parcel of Masonic Memorabilia amongst which was a minute book for the Council of the Four Kings. He searched the internet and found us still in existence and me as Secretary. I have purchased this minute book which runs from our Consecration on 11 November 1882 to 20 October 1920, and am currently transcribing detail from this rather fragile minute book and hope to provide more updates to our history.

The minute book was part of a collection of Masonic memorabilia of Albert Nice, a PM of this Council in 1932 and who died in 1969, sold by auction in March 2014. As it seems likely that the second minute book was also in that collection, so I fear that it is lost.

This Council was consecrated on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1882 at The Masonic Hall, Red Lion Square, London, by The Rev George Raymond PORTAL, MA Oxen., the Grand Master.

The Founders were:

John Lawrence MATHER, Primus Master

James MOON

George LAMBERT

Herbert Charles LAMBERT

Alfred WILLIAMS

John RANWEY

Charles Fiez-Girald MARTIER

Donald Mangles DEVAT

Charles Henry DRIVER

Stephen Barton WILSON

On 27<sup>th</sup> October 1982 Brigadier Geoffrey Galloway, the Grand Master, issued a centenary warrant confirming 100 years continuous existence from 20<sup>th</sup> September 1882.

There have been a number of members appointed to high office over the years

John Lawrence Mather (Primus Master) appointed Deputy Grand Master in 1885  
Charles Henry Driver (2<sup>nd</sup> Master) appointed Deputy Grand Master in 1886  
Arthur William Dentith (Master 1935/6) appointed Deputy Grand Master in 1944  
Frank Joseph Crow (Master 1964/5) appointed Deputy Grand Master in 1985

R A C Mordant

District Grand Prefect of Thames Valley 1986 – 1992  
President of the Executive Committee 1992 until his death in 2004

F J Crow

District Grand Prefect for Southern Counties 1977 – 1986  
District Grand Prefect of London 1986 - 1991

The Secretaries of the Council

Bro. T R Pogson until November 1987  
W. Bro. A C Moles 1987 – 2002  
W. Bro. Keith Lockyer 2002 – 2013  
W. Bro. Peter Fuchter 2013 – to date

Below is some details from the recovered minute book describing the consecration meeting and the first regular meeting of the council

*On 20<sup>th</sup> September 1882 the Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees granted a Petition from*

*John Lawrence Mather*  
*James Moon*  
*George Lambert*  
*Herbert Charles Lambert*  
*Alfred Williams*  
*John Ramsey*  
*Charles Fitzgerald Matier*  
*Donald Mangles Driver*  
*Charles Henry Driver*  
*Stephen Barton Wilson*

*to hold a regular Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees to be known as, 'The Council of the Four Kings No.7', and that John Lawrence Mather should be the first Master.*

*This was granted by The Rev George Raymond PORTAL, Grand Master.*

*The meeting appointed for the Consecration of the Council of the Four Kings was held on Saturday 11 November 1882 at the Masonic Hall 8a Red Lion Square, London, WC when there were present:*

*R.W. Bro. C Fitzgerald Matier DGM*

*R.W. Bro. Alfred Williams SGW*

*V.W. Bro. Donald M Dewar GSec*

*W. Bro. George Lambert*

*W. Bro. S Barton Wilson*

*W. Bro. John L Mather*

*W. Bro. J Poore*

*W. Bro. John Ramsey*

*W. Bro. F W Driver*

*W. Bro. W M Bywater*

*W. Bro. James Moon*

*W. Bro. Henry Venn*

*W. Bro. Herbert Dicketts.*

*The Chair was taken by Bro. D M Dewar and a Lodge of the Order of St Lawrence was opened.*

*The following Mark Masters were duly approved of, and admitted to the Order of St Lawrence by Bro. D M Dewar:*

*Bro. Charles Edwin Ferry (Old Kent Mark Lodge TI) of 58, Old Broad Street*

*Bro. George Henry Hunker (Old Kent Mark Lodge TI) of 79, Petherington Road, Highbury*

*Bro. N. Frederick Joseph Tyler (Old Kent Mark Lodge TI) of 92, Cheapside*

*Bro. Edward James Mills (Old Kent Mark Lodge TI) of 8a Red Lion Square*

*Bro. Robert Hosier Halford (Old Kent Mark Lodge TI) of 43 Fenchurch Street*

*Bro. Webster Glynes (Bon Accord Mark Lodge) of 6 Staple Inn, Holborn*

*The Chair was then taken by the Deputy Grand Master, Bro C F Matier, the Consecrating Officer, who appointed Bro Henry Venn as SW and Bro George Lambert as JW, and with their assistance formerly Constituted, Consecrated and Dedicated the Council of the Four Kings No.7 in due form.*

*The WM nominate, Bro J L Mather was then presented and installed in the Chair, with the customary ceremonial, in the presence of a Board of Installed Masters.*

*On the return of the Brethren below the Chair, the WM was proclaimed and saluted and appointed his officers as follows:-*

*Bro. C H Driver – SW*

*Bro. James Moon – JW*

*Bro. George Lambert was unanimously Elected Treasurer*

*Bro. C Fitzgerald Matier – Secretary*

*Bro. J Ramsey – Conductor*

*Bro. Herbert C Lambert – SD*

*Bro. S B Wilson – JD*

*Bro. F W Driver – IG*

*Bro. R P Spice – D of C*

*Bro. C E Soppet – Steward*

*Bro. Mills was unanimously Elected Tyler*

*The WM proposed, and Bro. S B Wilson seconded, a vote of thanks to the Consecrating and Installing Officers, which was carried by acclaim and for which Bro. Matier returned thanks in suitable terms.*

*It was then proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that the following Brethren be elected Honorary Members:*

*Bro. F Buiches PGSW*

*Bro. Alfred Williams GSW*

*Bro. S Rawson GTreas*

*Bro. Thomas Poore*

*Bro. Don M Dewar GSecty*

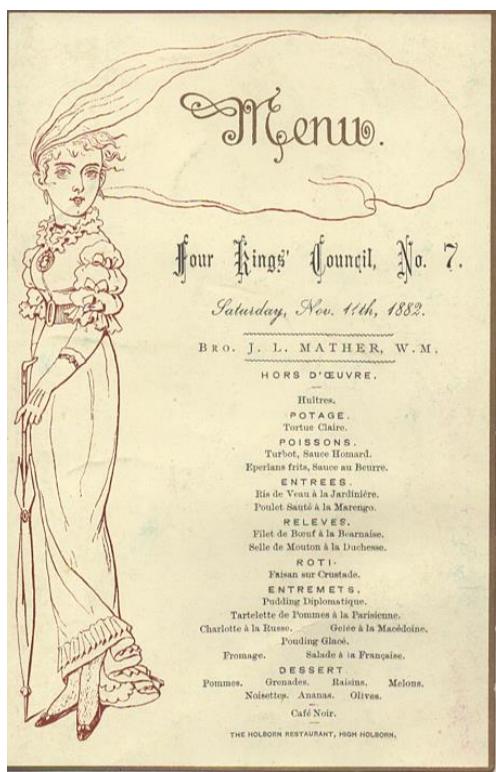
*Bros. Williams and Dewar returned thanks for the honour conferred on them.*

*Telegrams and letters of apology were received from Bro C H Driver & several of the proposed candidates.*

*The annual subscriptions were set at Half a Guinea or 10s 6d (or 52½ pence).*

*Hearty good wishes were expressed, and the Lodge of St Lawrence was closed in peace and harmony at 4.45 with solemn prayer according to ancient custom.*

The menu for the subsequent banquet follows and this Banquet at a cost of One Guinea.



**The first regular meeting of the Council was held at 3pm on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 1883 at the Masonic Hall, 8a Red Lion Square, WC.**

*A Lodge in St Lawrence the Martyr was opened at 3.30pm and after the approval of the minutes, a ballot, which proved unanimous in each case, was taken for :-*

*Bro. J H Hawkins of Panmure Lodge No.169 (now listed as No. 139)  
Bro. G R Ousey of Royal Navy Lodge No.239  
Bro. Joseph Hart of Royal Navy Lodge No.239  
Bro. C Cordingley of Era Lodge No. 176  
Bro. W A S Humphries of Era Lodge No. 176  
Bro. H G Ball of Era Lodge No. 176  
Bro. John Smith of Era Lodge No. 176  
Bro. L J Fountaine of Era Lodge No. 176  
Bro. W H P Thomas of Era Lodge No. 176  
Bro. Henry T Nell of Era Lodge No. 176  
Bro. E A King of Era Lodge No. 176  
Bro. A W Rendle of Bon Accord Lodge T I*

*The following Brethren, being in attendance, were admitted to the Degree of St Lawrence by the WM:-*

*E A King  
J H Hawkins  
G R Ousey  
Joseph Hart  
L S Fountaine  
C Cordingley  
W A S Humphries*

*The By Laws were then read and fully discussed and were ordered to be printed, subject to the approval of the Grand Council.*

*The Lodge was then opened as a Council of Knights of Constantinople, and the following members of St Lawrence were received into the degree by the RW Deputy Grand Master:-*

*Bro. Joseph Hart  
Bro. S B Wilson  
Bro. G R Ousey  
Bro. J H Hawkins  
Bro. C E Ferry  
Bro. E Mills  
Bro. C Cordingley  
Bro. E A King  
Bro. L S Fountaine  
Bro. R H Halford*

*The Council was resumed as a Lodge of St Lawrence and the WM took the Chair, and closed the Lodge in peace and harmony with solemn prayer at 5.00pm.*

### **Record of the Masters of the Council from 1882 to 1939 :-**

John L Mather 1882/3	Capt. Bradshaw Dixon 1911/12
Charles H Driver 1883/4	Henry Burgess 1912/13
James Moon 1884/5	Edward Henry Lewis 1913/14
John Ramsey 1885/6	Gordon P G Hills 1914/15
Stephen Barton Wilson 1886/7	Frank Pearson Skeffington Cresswell
Frederick William Driver 1887/8	1915/16
Beniah Ranney Bryant 1888/9	Hugh C Knowles 1916/17
Ernest Montagu Money 1889/90	Walter H Brown 1917/18
William Alfred Scurrah 1890/1	James Parsons 1918/19
Harry Parnell Hay 1891/2	W F O Shove 1919/20
Jabez Church 1892/3	J G Dew 1920/1
William Joseph Spratling 1893/4	R Walford White 1921/2
James Balfour Cockburn 1894/5	Stanley Wallen Rodgers 1922/3
Charles William Carrell 1895/6	James Russell McLaren 1923/4
Robert James Voisey 1896/7	John Morgan 1924/5
William Briant 1897/8	Edgar Clarence Waymark 1925/6
Frank William Williams 1898/9	Samuel Widgery Culley 1926/7
John Alexander Braik 1899/1900	G C Parkhurst Baxter 1927/8
Frederick Atkinson Powell 1900/1	James Gerald Gould 1928/9
John Christian Osterstock 1901/2	Dr John McGregor 1929/30
Vincent Thomas Murche 1902/3	Hedley J Williams 1930/1
William John Songhurst 1903/4	A E Collins Nice 1931/2
William Metcalf 1904/5	A E Collins Nice 1932/3
William Dawson 1905/6	J G A Baillie 1933/4
Gerald Maxwell 1906/7	A H Harding 1934/5
Walter Lawrence 1907/8	A W Dentith 1935/6
Cotterell E W Boughton-Leigh 1908/9	Lewis Edwards 1936/7
Samuel Withers 1909/10	C C Birchmore 1937/8
Major Maitland Coffin 1910/11	E Alven 1938/9

### **Continuing Masters of the Council from 1958 :-**

R A C Mordant 1958/9	A T Baillie 1997/8
F J Crow 1964/5	Elias M H Dangoor 1998/9
J Foreman 1971/2	Simon B Aybes 1999/2000
L D Sinclare 1978/9	Peter Voudris 2000/1
R A C Mordant 1982/3	William E Warner 2001/2
A C Moles 1983/4	Graeme Bruce Borland 2002/3
L J Kent 1984/5	Lionel B Mee 2003/4
P J Fortune 1985/6	Francis Clarembaux 2004/5
E L J Smith 1986/7	William Gordon Smith 2005/6
Dr R B J Khambatta 1987/8	George Austin Keen 2006/7
T R Pogson 1988/9	L B Mee 2007/8
R S Filbey 1989/90	P M Jones 2008/9
B A Foreman 1990/1	Alain D Gherson 2009/10
J J Edwards 1991/2	Jeffrey Sloneem 2010/1
D E Shalders 1992/3	P F Fuchter 2011/2
P M Jones 1993/4	John K Hicks 2012/3
K J Lockyer 1994/5	Stephen J Beckett 2013/4
E D Riegler 1995/6	Anthony D A Batkin 2014/5
B A J Green 1996/7	Graham Francis 2015/6
	Stuart Graves 2016/17
	Stephen Fenton 2017/18
	Robbie Benham 2018/19
	Pierre Doumit 2019/20