

**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 20th 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 27th October 1982 Brigadier Geoffrey Galloway, the Grand Master, issued a centenary warrant confirming 100 years continuous existence from 20th 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 (2nd 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 20th 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 GSecy*

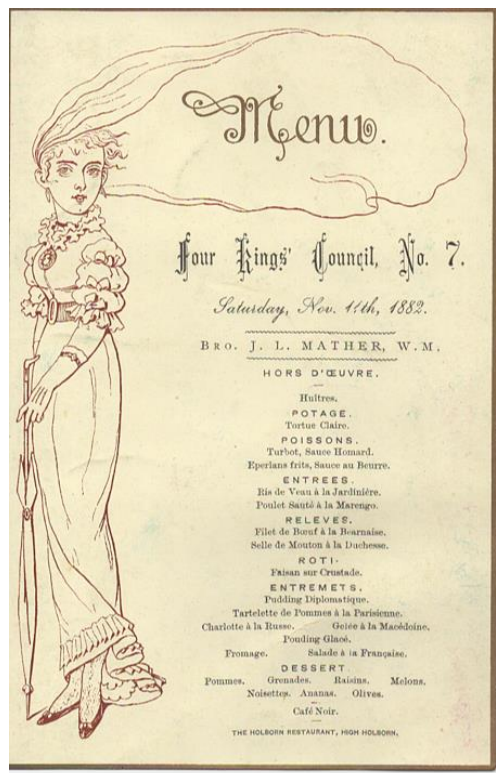
Bros. Williams and Dewar returned thanks for the honour conferred on them.

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

Continuing Masters of the Council from 1958 :-

R A C Mordant 1958/9

F J Crow 1964/5

J Foreman 1971/2

L D Sinclare 1978/9

R A C Mordant 1982/3

A C Moles 1983/4

L J Kent 1984/5

P J Fortune 1985/6

E L J Smith 1986/7

Dr R B J Khambatta 1987/8

T R Pogson 1988/9

R S Filbey 1989/90

B A Foreman 1990/1

J J Edwards 1991/2

D E Shalders 1992/3

P M Jones 1993/4

K J Lockyer 1994/5

E D Riegler 1995/6

B A J Green 1996/7

A T Baillie 1997/8

Elias M H Dangoor 1998/9

Simon B Aybes 1999/2000

Peter Voudris 2000/1

William E Warner 2001/2

Graeme Bruce Borland 2002/3

Lionel B Mee 2003/4

Francis Clarembaux 2004/5

William Gordon Smith 2005/6

George Austin Keen 2006/7

L B Mee 2007/8

P M Jones 2008/9

Alain D Gherson 2009/10

Jeffrey Sloneem 2010/1

P F Fuchter 2011/2

John K Hicks 2012/3

Stephen J Beckett 2013/4

Anthony D A Batkin 2014/5

Graham Francis 2015/6

Stuart Graves 2016/17

Stephen Fenton 2017/18

Robbie Benham 2018/19

Pierre Doumit 2019/20