



PROTOCOL & ETIQUETTE ESSENTIALS

Prepared by the Grand Lodge P. & E. Committee
Issue No. 23 – March 2013

Greetings from Your P. & E. Committee

Welcome to the latest issue of "**P&E Essentials**". It is anticipated that these informative and easy-to-read newsletters will be published several times a year.

"**P&E Essentials**" is intended to be an interactive instrument, designed to help you make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. The Committee welcomes questions and/or suggestions for topics that could be addressed in future issues. Questions or suggestions not related to Protocol and Etiquette will be forwarded to the appropriate Grand Lodge Committee for response.

Committee Members

The current Protocol & Etiquette Committee members are:

Gordon Crutcher (*Chairman*); Steven Armstrong; William Elliott; Saliem Khoury; Michael Litvak; George McCowan; Bryan Middleton; Richard Morreau; James Pearson; George Pohle; David Purvis (*Secretary*); Brian Seabourn; David Stevens; and Terrance Van Horne.

With appropriate advance notice – and subject to travel constraints – any member of the Committee would be happy to make a presentation about P&E in your Lodge, or at a District Meeting.

JEWELS and PINS

A few brethren have asked **WHAT** jewels and pins can be worn when attending a Lodge in our Grand Jurisdiction. They also wanted to know **HOW** these jewels should be worn, i.e. in what order of precedence.

As you would expect, we do have a protocol for that.

With respect to **WHAT** jewels and pins can be worn, the topic is addressed in Section 384 (b) of our Constitution, which reads:

"(b) No jewels shall be worn in a lodge other than those specified for the officers, except the jewel of a Past Master, a representative of another Grand Lodge, a Royal Arch Mason, a Lewis Jewel, the

Veteran Jubilee Medal, the Maple Leaf pin with the square and compasses, the Grand Master's Meritorious award, and any other jewel, button, or medal specially designed and/or authorized by Grand Lodge, and any lodge insignia approved by the Grand Master. (2006)"

(Please note the **Veteran Jubilee Medal** is not a military medal. It is presented in recognition of long service to a Mason who has completed fifty years of continuous membership in good standing in a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.)

(A) How Jewels Should Be Worn

- As is the case with the protocol outlined by the Chancellery of Honours for The Canadian Honours System, all jewels are worn on the left side of your jacket.
- All Craft Lodge jewels are worn first, followed by other recognized jewels.
- When a brother is entitled to wear several jewels, the **order of precedence**, beginning from the heart and proceeding outward, is:
 - A Past Master's Jewel;
 - A Veteran Jubilee Medal;
 - A Lewis Jewel;
 - A Royal Arch Jewel;
 - Medals or jewels from other Jurisdictions, providing they were legitimately presented and that our Grand Lodge recognizes the Jurisdiction from which they originated.
- If he so qualifies, a William Mercer Wilson Medal recipient can also wear such jewels as a Lewis Jewel or a Royal Arch Jewel.
- The medal worn by recipients of the Grand Master's Meritorious Service Award hangs from own royal blue ribbon, which is worn around the neck.

Please share this newsletter with other members of your Lodge – and your Masonic friends

(B) What Pins and Buttons Can Be Worn

With the exception of the pin which designates the recipient as having been invested with the Order of Canada, (which is the centrepiece of Canada's honours system), as per Section 384 (b) of our Constitution, the only pins and buttons that are to be worn in lodge are those specially designed and/or authorized by Grand Lodge.

The only such authorized pins are:

- The square and compasses imposed upon the red maple leaf;
- Long service pins (i.e. for 25, 50, 60, and 70 years service); and
- Pins recognizing past service as a Worshipful Master or as a District Deputy Grand Master.

The pins (and jewels) for any military and/or civilian orders are **NOT** to be worn in lodge – except for the Order of Canada – and as noted below under the heading “Military & Civilian Medals & Pins”.

(C) Royal Arch Jewel

Only the Companion Jewel of a Royal Arch Mason is to be worn in a Craft Lodge. This jewel is defined in Section 110 (c) of the Grand Chapter Constitution.

Section 110 (c) defines three different types of Companion jewels, which vary according to your Royal Arch rank.

They are all collectively recognized as “Companion” jewels. The only difference between them is the colour of the ribbon from which the jewel is suspended.

Please note, however, that a **PAST FIRST PRINCIPAL'S JEWEL** (the jewel which identifies a **Past Zerubbabel**) is not mentioned in Section 110 (c). Therefore this particular Royal Arch jewel is **not** to be worn in a Craft Lodge.

MILITARY & CIVILIAN MEDALS & PINS

As noted above – with the exception of the Order of Canada – medals and pins awarded for any military and/or civilian orders are **NOT** to be worn in lodge, except during Lodge Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

Section 384 (c) of our Constitution is the authority to be followed. It reads:

“(c) At any lodge which holds a Remembrance Service before, during, or after their November meeting, all brethren may wear military, or civil orders, decorations, or medals to which they are entitled, and the traditional poppy, in memoriam of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice and in recognition of honourable and valuable service to the Crown and Canada. (2002)”

So, simply stated, military and/or civilian medals and pins may only be worn during **Lodge Remembrance Day ceremonies**. They are **not** to be worn at Grand Master Receptions, at regular lodge meetings, nor other formal Masonic events.

Neither are Civilian Commemorative Medals, (such as Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal [1977], Golden Jubilee Medal [2002], Diamond Jubilee Medal [2012], or the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada Medal [1992]) to be worn at Grand Master Receptions, or at regular lodge meetings, etc.

COLLARS

For hundreds of years, collars have been known as a distinguishing mark of office or dignity. However, as pointed out by Bro. Harry Carr, (in his book *The Freemason at Work*), the collars used centuries ago by our operative brethren were originally utilitarian. Their purpose was to suspend certain working tools.

Even in the early days of speculative Masonry, collars were not intended as decoration in themselves but simply as a means of hanging jewels, those symbols of office which serve to identify one's distinctive function.

While our Officers' collars today have evolved into properly “tailored” and sometimes ornate articles of clothing, they still basically continue their prime function as regalia from which to hang jewels.

Brethren are reminded that however plain or ornate may be one's collar, its purpose never was to be a place for you to display your name badge, any pins or jewels, or even a poppy.

Indeed, one of our former Grand Masters, M. W. Bro. Robert. J. McKibbin, actually issued a decree to this effect.