

The Museum Collection

No.26

Ceremonies of The Knights of the Golden Horn



A look at the Enrolment Ceremonies
of Knights of the Golden Horn
sanctioned by Grand Camp circa 1910

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Introduction

In order to understand the purpose of the Knights of the Golden Horn (KGH) it is essential to understand the Organisation from where it was formed.

The Knights of the Golden Horn originated in the nineteenth century within the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes. The organisation seems originally to have had just one lodge, or 'encampment', the Hull Encampment, tasked with the running of ceremonies and the raising of members to the senior position of Knight of the Order of Merit.

In 1880 a group of Buffaloes met at the Robin Hood Hotel, Commercial Street, Middlesbrough, to discuss how to improve the Order of Buffaloes and make it more select. They decided that the answer was to expand the Knights of the Golden Horn as a higher order within the Buffaloes, and accordingly they applied for a charter from the Hull Encampment to open a new lodge on this altered basis. Permission was granted, and No.1 Erimus Encampment opened in Middlesbrough on 22nd September 1880.

The new Order spread rapidly in North East England: by 1889 there were five more encampments, at Bradford, Wakefield, Huddersfield, West Hartlepool, and Stockton. All were subject to the rulings of the Hull Encampment and paid quarterly fees to it. There

were three degrees: Companion, Knight Commander, and Order of the Shield.

All went well for several decades and the order continued to expand within the RAOB; however, eventually friction began to develop between the various districts and the Hull Encampment. The districts wanted to pass new by-laws to suit their individual circumstances and the Hull Encampment continually vetoed them. In particular, the encampments wished to initiate new members, who were not Buffaloes, as Comrades of the Knights of the Golden Horn; this the Hull Encampment refused to allow. Finally, in 1926 the encampments sent a deputation to Hull to plead their case, which was rejected; they then decided to sever the connection with the Hull Encampment (and therefore with the Buffaloes) and form a new independent order, to be known as the Grand United Order of the Knights of the Golden Horn (GUOKGH).

The Hull Encampment seems to have withered away subsequently, and other bodies such as the Roll of Honour and Knights' Chapter arose within the RAOB to fulfil what had been its role. But the new independent GUOKGH flourished, still primarily in the north-east, and continues until the present day. In spite of the break with the RAOB there does not appear to have been any hard feeling between the Golden Horn and the Buffaloes; it was acceptable to belong to both, and the RAOB museum at Harrogate contains displays of Golden

Horn jewels and regalia.

The Knights of the Golden Horn were originally conceived as an order of chivalry, based on the Knights of the First Crusade who went to the Holy Land via Constantinople and crossed from Europe

into Asia there; the name derives from the inlet of the Bosphorus, called the Golden Horn, around which the city of Constantinople was built. (This may have been a riposte to the Masonic Order of Knights Templar; clearly any order of Knighthood formed there would have had seniority over the Knights Templar, who were formed only after the Crusaders had captured Jerusalem). The imagery and titles are in accordance with this concept — Grand Knight Commander, Scribe, and so on as



are the motifs on the regalia, which include lances, armoured Knights, helmets and hunting horns (though the hunting horn tends to look remarkably similar to the bugle horn badge used by the Light Infantry and Light Cavalry of the British Army. But the overall shape of the aprons and chain link collars of the order is generally similar to that of the Buffalo regalia.

It has been proved beyond doubt that the roots of the RAOB were founded by the Thespians of Drury Lane. The travelling actors were not always able to find work and would often go hungry. Actors however, would meet after a performance at a hostelry for celebration after a



performance, or just to meet with other actors to discuss things relevant to their art. Being good hearted souls they would often give assistance to those of their profession who could not make ends meet. Actors Guilds would spring up in every City and actors learned to seek out



their meeting places as they travelled the country. In this way they formed the basis for the Order, in much the same way that Stone Masons did. The Stone Masons went on to form Masonic Lodges and the Freemasons Order. The acting fraternity most probably copied their ideas. Both Freemasons and Buffaloes began from similar backgrounds and both claim to be “the oldest and most Honourable Order ever formed by man”.

Freemasonry can be proven to be the older of the two and it is known that Masons were members of early Lodges. However, at this stage we still only have the foundations laid for the formation of the Buffaloes in many more years to come.

This book in the Museum Collection Series is a copy of the Enrolment Ceremonies of Knights of the Golden Horn as used by that body in 1910. It has been copied word for word from a book that

came into my possession during 1986, the only difference being it has been enlarged to fit in with the size of the other museum books in this collection.

Many of the passages in this ceremony appear to be taken from that other organisation which is similar but older than the RAOB, it goes to show that the beginnings of our Order has its starting date stemming from those actors who were disillusioned by restrictions placed upon them by their fellow members with regard to the stage hands and those that made up the company that put on the various plays in theatres throughout the country.

The Knights of the Golden Horn are not to be confused with the later organisation which has as its title Grand United Order of Knights of the Golden Horn (G.U.O.K.G.H.), an Order which is still operating and has Encampments in various parts of the United Kingdom.

As there is so much more research to be carried out, the subject matter with more detailed information of both of the Golden Horn Orders will be shown in another Museum Collection yet to be finalised.

Read and enjoy

Mick Walker, ROH

August 2010

KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN HORN



GRAND CAMP OF ENGLAND.

Constituted under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England, R.A.O.B., June 5th, 1872, and confirmed by Charter issued by the Grand Lodge of England, March 5th, 1902

HEADQUARTERS:—1872-1901, Hull; 1901-1907, Sheffield; 1907-1910, Portsmouth

Enrolment Ceremonies

SANCTIONED BY GRAND CAMP
FOR USE IN
ALL MINOR ENCAMPMENTS.

—PORTSMOUTH, 1910.

CHESTERFIELD :
Brynshaw & Bateman, Printers, Low Pavement.
1910.

K.G.H.—GRAND CAMP OF ENGLAND

Enrolment Ceremony for Companions.

The Camp being in proper order, and all Officers in their places, the Candidate is prepared in an adjacent room by being blindfolded, and divested of *all monies* and *valuable articles*, which are taken care of by the Warden of Treasury. An halter is placed round his neck, he is then led to the portals of the Camp by his Introducer, or Warden of Ceremonies who knocks for admission.

The K.C. having seen that all properties used in the Ceremony are ready and in proper order, the Officers and Members assembled in their proper places; strikes the Battle-axe, commands silence and strict attention.

K.C.: Who demands admission to our Camp?

Sentinel: The Warden of Ceremonies with (giving the name) a Candidate desiring the honour of sitting in your presence, Knight Commander.

K.C.: Is he a member of the Royal Order, under the Grand Lodge of England?

Sentinel: He is, Knight Commander.

K.C.: Name his Mother Lodge.

Sentinel (enquires): Answers, according to information received.

K.C.: Is he still a loyal supporter of the Crown and Constitution?

Sentinel: He is, Knight Commander.

K.C.: Admit him to our presence.

The Candidate is then led to the foot of the Throne, preceded by the Guard holding a drawn sword at the salute, and the Warden of Ceremonies, the Halter. The Warden of Treasury bringing up the rear. They place him kneeling on the left knee, his right hand resting on the Camp Head-piece.

K.C. : What is your name?

Answers: N. or M.

K.C.: I presume by your presence here, that you are desirous of being elevated to the rank of a Companion of this Encampment, and that you have well and duly considered the great responsibilities that will devolve upon you?

Candidate Answers: I have.

K.C. That being so, I shall now administer to you the sacred and solemn Oath of this High Order

The Candidates right hand being still resting on the recognised Headpiece, the edge of a sword is held to his throat until the Oath is administered.

K.C. : Comrades to Arms ! (all upstanding, under their respective Banners, or Shields, and in solemn silence) the K.C. then addresses the kneeling Candidate.

K.C. to Candidate: Now repeat after me?

I (*giving his full and proper name*) do most solemnly swear with my hand upon a human skull and a naked sword at my throat to keep faithfully, all the secrets of this Order and never to divulge to any one who is not a Knight or Companion of this Order, anything that shall take place therein and I also swear to be a true and loyal subject to the King and to uphold the Crown and Constitution.

I also take upon myself the obligation at all times to assist a Comrade, Sir Knight, Knight, or Companion by any means in my power, and always to give him the preference over any others, and if ever I violate this, my solemn Oath may I be held up to the scorn and execration of all honest men and may the wretched fate of a perjurer be mine.

The members present solemnly chant in unison.

“So, say we all”.

The bandage is removed from his eyes.

The KC. saying: Rise Companion N. or M.

The Sir Knights, Knights, and Companions now resume their seats.

The Scribe then says to the Candidate: Before the Warden of Ceremonies communicates to you the Signs and Passwords, I shall require the Enrolment Fee.

Answer: I have no money.

Scribe: Have you anything of value you can deposit as security ?

Answer: I have nothing whatever.

Scribe: What is to be done, worthy Knight Commander?

K.C.: Will any charitable Knight, or Companion assist this poor Comrade in distress?

All: I will, worthy Knight Commander.

K.C.: Thanks Sir Knights, Knights and Companions, as I cannot accept all, I will receive the amount from the Warden of Treasury.

The K.C. sounds the gavel-axe, commands attention, and delivers the following charge:

K.C.: Worthy Comrade, I will now explain to you the meaning of the Ceremonies through which you have just passed, and the Symbols employed therein. When you first entered this Camp you were blindfolded, to typify the benighted state of your mind with regard to the privileges, axioms, and obligations of this Noble Order, of the Knights of the Golden Horn. A naked sword was placed at your throat to prevent you from rashly rushing forward to unveil our secret mysteries before the appointed time, and your neck encircled with an halter, so that you might not basely fly ere your task was accomplished.

You were sworn with your hand upon a human skull, the *Emblem of Death*, to remind you of *your* mortality, and also, that when *your* head, now so full of life and vigour, shall assume that same condition, and *you* will have to answer before another *tribunal* for any violation of this your most *solemn pledge*.

You were deprived of your valuables, in order that during your future life, should you ever find a Comrade in distress, you might remember how *you* found a friend when you stood in the midst of this Camp, penniless, and unable to meet your payments, and the recollection of that moment, will, I hope, move your heart to render the needy Comrade timely counsel, and assistance.

Respected Comrade, allow me now to congratulate you on becoming a member of our Noble and Philanthropic Order, and I sincerely hope we may have the pleasure of your frequent visits and advice, to enable us to guide to a successful issue, the great and worthy objects of our Order, and as nothing tends more to raise a man amongst his fellows, than in his striving to excel in good and charitable deeds, we trust that such will be your desire, and that, by an honest and earnest intention to do your duty to the Encampment and Order, and to use your best endeavour to promote a thorough good feeling amongst its Members, we shall have reason to be proud of having accepted you as a faithful allegiant in our circle of Comradeship.

Omnes: "So say we all".

The K.C. then commands the assemblage to rise and form a circle under their respective banners, each member giving the sign as he counts, and keeping the sign until all have counted, and the K.C. having called the last number declares:

K.C.: Comrade (N or M), I now declare you Brother (or Primo) of the R.A.O.B. Grand Lodge of England, legally and constitutionally enrolled a Companion of the Knight of the Golden Horn, duly and legally recognised by the Grand Lodge of England of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

The K.C. then directs the Warden of Ceremony to convey the signs and passwords to the newly Enrolled Companion.

Enrolment Ceremony for Knights.

The Candidate is prepared in the same manner as for Companion and conducted to the portals of the Camp.

K.C.: Who demands admission?

Sentinel: The Orderly, and Warden of Ceremonies with (giving his name) a Candidate for the honour of sitting in your presence, worthy Knight Commander.

K.C.: Is he a Knight, or Primo of the Royal Order?

Sentinel: A Knight (or other title) worthy Knight Commander.

K.C.: Is he still a Loyal supporter of the Crown and Constitution?

Sentinel: He is, worthy Knight Commander.

K.C.: Admit him to our presence.

The Candidate is then led to the foot of the throne, preceded by the Guard, with drawn sword, and the Orderly with the halter, the Wardens of Ceremonies, and Treasury bringing up the rear. They place him kneeling on the left knee.

K.C.: What is your name? Answer N or M.

K.C.: I presume by your presence here that you are desirous of being elevated to the rank of a Knight of the Golden Horn, and Comrade of this Encampment; and that you have well and duly considered the great responsibility that will devolve upon you ?

Answer: I have.

K.C.: I shall now administer to you the sacred and solemn Oath of this Order.

The Candidate's right hand is then placed upon the recognised Headpiece, and the edge of a naked sword held at his throat until the Oath is completed.

K.C.: Comrades, to Arms! (all upstanding under their respective Banners, and in solemn silence).

K.C. (to Candidate): Now, repeat after me. I (giving his full, and proper name), do most solemnly swear, with my hand upon a human skull, and a naked sword at my throat, to keep faithfully all the secrets of the Order, and never to divulge to anyone, not a Knight or Companion of this Order, anything that shall take place therein, and I also swear to be a true and loyal subject of the King, and to uphold the Crown and Constitution. I also take upon myself the obligation to assist a Comrade by any means in my power, and always to give him the preference over any others, and if ever I violate this my solemn Oath, may I be held up to the scorn and execration of all honest men, and may the wretched fate of a perjurer be mine.

Omnnes: "So say we all".

The bandage is removed from his eyes, and the *K.C.* taking sword performs the accolade, saying:

Rise Knight N or M, Knight of the Golden Horn.

The members being again seated, the Scribe says:

Scribe: Before the Warden of the Ceremonies communicates to you the signs and passwords I shall require the Enrolment Fee.

Answer: I have no money.

Scribe: Well surely you have something you can deposit as security?

Answer: I have nothing whatever.

Scribe: What is to be done worthy Knight Commander?

K.C.: Will any charitable Comrade assist this poor Knight in distress.

All: I will.

K.C.: Thanks, Sir Knights, Knights and Comrades, as I cannot accept all, I will receive the amount from the Warden of Treasury.

The *K.C.* sounds the gavel-axe for order, and delivers the following charge:

K.C.: Worthy Knight, I will now explain to you, the meaning of the Ceremonies through which you have just passed, and the Symbols employed therein.

When you first entered this Camp you were blindfolded, to typify the benighted state of your mind, with regard to the privileges and obligations of this noble Order of Knighthood.

A naked sword was placed at your throat, to prevent you from rashly rushing forward to unveil our secret mysteries before the appointed time, while an halter was placed around your neck, so that you might not basely fly ere your task was accomplished.

You were sworn with your hand upon a human skull, the Emblem of Death, to remind you of your mortality, and also that, when your head, now so full of life and vigour, shall assume that same condition, you will have to answer before another tribunal for any violation of this your most solemn pledge.

You were deprived of your valuables in order that during your future life, should you ever find a worthy comrade in distress, you might remember how you found a friend when you stood in the midst of this Camp, penniless, and unable to meet your payments, and the recollection of that moment will, I sincerely hope, move your heart to render the needy Comrade timely counsel and assistance.

It is also my duty to impress upon your mind some of the obligations that the bestowal of Knighthood will entail upon you. A strict regard to the Rules, and Regulations now existing, and from time to time legally made, must be one of your first considerations, as on that mainly depends the just and efficient working of our Camps; also, by all means in your power, endeavour to carry out a fearless impartiality in all matters that may come before you for adjudication; in cases of difficulty it may be necessary and judicious for you to take counsel with those Knights and Officers whose age and past experience in the various offices of the Order, may be of service and assistance to you, and which assistance, as becomes all true Comrades, will be honestly given, yet let me strongly impress upon you the great power of self-reliance, which, whilst

not disdaining, but truly valuing advice honestly tendered, still endeavours to rise equal to the occasions, when firmness of purpose, tempered with discretion shall make its demands upon it.

Always remember that your path of *duty* is your path of *strength*, and that a decision honestly given will command the respect of all true men, although some may differ from you.

You may at times be called upon to arbitrate and decide on matters both difficult and delicate in their relations to the Camps, and those with whom it may be (for the time) at some difference. At such times, call to your aid all that honest chivalry, which is the great characteristic of all true Knights, to assist you, to so form your judgments, that your own conscience will enable you to say I have honestly and faithfully endeavoured to do my duty to all parties, and at such times it would be well to recall to your mind that grand axiom "That to err is human, to forgive is divine".

In conducting the business of the Camp, endeavour as far as possible to so facilitate it as to give yourself as much time as occasion will permit to open it for harmony and conversation, as by this means you will better tend to secure the attendance of its members, for when they find that they are not always in martial order, but that the time occupied in business is reasonable and just, and that they have an opportunity for relaxation and conviviality, so will the attendance increase, and so much more will it redound to your credit, and the benefit of the Camp over which you preside.

Worthy Knight, in conclusion, allow me to congratulate you on becoming a Member of our Noble, and Philanthropic Order, and I hope we may have the pleasure of your frequent visits and advice so as to enable us to guide to a successful issue the great and worthy objects of our Order, and as nothing tends more to raise a man amongst his fellows than in striving to excel in good and charitable deeds, we trust that such will be your desire, and that, by an honest and earnest intention to do your duty to the Encampment, and to use your best endeavours to promote a thorough good feeling amongst its Members, we shall have reason to be proud of having accepted you as a Knight of the Golden Horn.

Omnes: "So say we all."

The K.C. then commands the members to rise and form a circle round the Camp, each member giving the sign as he counts, and keeping the sign until all have counted. The K.C. having counted the last number.

K.C.: I..... now declare you, Sir (or Primo)..... N or M of the R.A.O.B., legally and constitutionally Enrolled a Knight of the Grand Camp of the Knights of the Golden Horn, duly and legally recognised by the Grand Lodge of England of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

G.L.E.



Raising, Companion to Knight.

Installing Ceremony to be read when a Companion is chosen, and elected to be raised from the rank of Companion to that of a Knight of the Golden Horn. He must be introduced to the Knight Commander, by a Knight of the Golden Horn accompanied by the Warden of Ceremonies. The Introducer must obtain from the Scribe a copy of the minute so electing the Companion to be raised, together with the Confirmation by Grand Camp, and present the same to the K.C. at the finish of the Introduction.

The Knight introducing will say:

Most Worthy Knight Commander, it gives me great pleasure to have the privilege to introduce to your special notice Companion N or M, who has been chosen and elected by the members of this Encampment to be raised from the rank of Companion to that of a Knight of the Golden Horn, and I most respectfully request you as the elected Knight Commander of this Camp to proceed according to our Knightly Custom to initiate and endow Companion N or M with the full privileges and prerogatives of a Knight of the Golden Horn, and I herewith present to you the necessary authority, (hands K.C. a Copy of Minute and Confirmation), as passed by this No..... Encampment, confirmed by Grand Camp and signed by the worthy Scribe, duly qualifying Companion N or M to be elevated, and raised by you to the honour and dignity of a Knight of our Order.

K.C. addressing the Introducer:

Worthy Knight, amongst the various duties which occur to a Knight Commander during his term of office, none can give him greater pleasure than to accede to such requests as this, so ably presented by you, and to you it must be a gratification to be empowered to present one to be raised to that position which this Camp in its wisdom accorded to you in the time past, and I trust that in the time to come, you

may never have cause to look back with regret that this presentation and the request which accompanies it, was made by you, but that the recipient will by his future conduct, justify the confidence placed in him by you, and the Knight and Companions by whom he has been elected to this important position in our Order.

To the Knight elect:

Respected Comrade, before proceeding to carry out the requests made by the Comrades of this Camp on your behalf, I feel it my duty to impress upon your mind some of the obligations that the bestowal of Knighthood will entail upon you.

A strict regard to the Rules and Regulations now existing, and from time to time legally made, must be one of your first considerations, as on that mainly depends the just and efficient working of our Camps.

Also, by all means in your power endeavour to carry out a fearless impartiality in all matters that may come before you for adjudication. In cases of difficulty it may be necessary and judicious for you to take counsel with those Knights and Officers whose age and experience in the various Offices of the Order may be of service and assistance to you, and which assistance, as becomes all true Comrades, will be honestly given, yet let me strongly impress upon you, the great power of self-reliance, which while not disdaining, but truly valuing advice honestly tendered, still endeavours to rise equal to occasions, when firmness of purpose, tempered with discretion, shall make its demands upon it.

Always remember that your path of *duty* is your path of *strength*, and that a decision honestly given will command the respect of all men, although some may differ from it.

You may at times be called upon to arbitrate and decide upon matters both difficult and delicate in their relations to the Camp, and those with whom it may be (for the time) at some difference. At such times call to your aid all that honest chivalry which is the great characteristic of all true Knights,

to assist you to so form your judgments that your own conscience will enable you to say, I have honestly and faithfully endeavoured to do my duty to all parties, and at such times it would be well to recall to your mind that grand axiom "That to err is human, to forgive is Divine".

In conducting the business of the Camp, endeavour as far as possible to so facilitate it, as to give yourself as much time as the occasion will permit, to open it for harmony and conversation, as by this means you will better tend to secure the attendance of its members, for when they find they are not always in Martial Order, but that the time occupied in business is reasonable and just, and that they have an opportunity for relaxation and conviviality, so will the attendance increase, and so much more will it redound to your credit, and the benefit of the Camp over which you preside.

And now, worthy Comrade, you having by your past conduct and attention to the minor duties entrusted to you, so far won the good opinions of your Comrades, that they have elected you to this higher degree, let me earnestly entreat you to continue in the good course you have hitherto pursued, and strive to show by your future conduct, either as Knight Commander, or in any other Office to which you may be appointed, that it is your sincere desire as far as in your power lies to further the interests of this Camp and the Order, and to further gain the good feeling and wishes of your Comrades.

The Knight elect will then kneel upon the left knee, the K.C. laying the sword upon his left shoulder, saying:

I, Knight N or M in virtue of the power conferred upon me by this Camp, order you to rise as Knight N or M.

May you long have health to enjoy the dignity to which you have attained, and may wisdom and strength be granted, so as to enable you to faithfully fulfil its duties.

Omnes: So say we all.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

INSTALLATION LECTURE

FOR EXALTATION OF KNIGHT, TO KNIGHT ORDER OF SHIELD.

(WHICH MUST BE PERFORMED BY A K.O.S.)

Comrades, once more you have gallantly responded to the Roll Call of your Camp, not only in obeying your instructions of Duty, but also to do honour to a respected Comrade of this Encampment, who by his loyal conduct has won your confidence and esteem, and we sincerely hope that his actions in the future will prove that he has well deserved the greatest honour you could bestow upon him.

From time immemorial it has always been the pride and pleasure of all good men to decorate some of their Comrades with some distinctive honour in recognition of some special service rendered, either in the senate, or for the general good of his fellows, or some deed of daring done by flood or field.

Sometimes the honour conferred is a title; in some cases it takes a more solid form, in the shape of Gold or Silver Medals; or sometimes, as in our case, it embraces both the title and the insignia.

Although Knighthood was in being some years before the reign of Richard I, better known as the Lion Hearted, yet it was not until about the year 1190 that Knighthood gradually acquired organization and became an Order into which admission could only be obtained by a prescribed course of training. Installations of Knighthood have been conferred with great pomp and special formalities and were regarded as a very high distinction. The most solemn vows imposed, fidelity to engagements, courtesy of manners, disregard of money, the protection of the weak, the defence of women, crushing the oppressor, and rescuing the oppressed, an active sense

of justice, and a determination of courage to its best end, the prevention or the redress of injury, such, Comrades, was the idea of Knighthood and chivalry in its purest form.

In the time of Richard, chivalry was comparatively rude, it attained its highest state of refinement in the reign of Edward III, although the nodding plume, popularly associated with all periods of its history, did not appear until a later date.

The first half of the Tudor period was its last age, and it would appear that Elizabeth correctly noted the changed state of society in her day when she remembered—*“in formertimes force and arms did prevail, but now the wit of the fox is everywhere afoot”*.

Yet just after historical chivalry had expired, the ideal received its noblest illustration in the person and life of Sir Phillip Sidney, who went over to Holland with 6,000 troops to assist the oppressed; he fell in a battle near Zutpen, mortally wounded, and as he lay stretched upon the battle field, stiff with gore, and parched with thirst, his comrades brought him some water, procured with difficulty in the heat of battle from a distant spring. But Sir Phillip, observing a private soldier near, mangled and wounded like himself and apparently dying, refused the water, saying — *“give it to this man, his necessity is still greater than mine”*. And as we cannot resuscitate historical knighthood and chivalry, we can propagate, preserve and reward the ideal; and such, Comrades, becomes our pleasing duty this evening.

Since the formation of this Order it has been thought good from time to time to select some Comrade who, by his justice, courtesy, general interest for the welfare of his Camp and Comrades, has signalized himself above the rest, to select him, and to show that his services have not passed unnoticed by his admiring Comrades, to present him with the *Golden Shield* of our Order, which is emblematical that he shall shield, and defend his Encampment from its enemies. Having gone thus far, I ask you Comrades to bring forth Knight..... to our presence.

The Knight to be exalted is then led by the two oldest Knights of the Shield to the foot of the Installing Knight's

Chair, where a cushion is placed. The Scribe stands upon the left hand with the jewel in its case open. The Guard stands upon the right hand side with a drawn sword, the Knights and Comrades grouped along each side of the Installing Knight, all standing up.

Most Worthy Knight: This evening it is my pleasing duty to present to you the highest honour that this Encampment can confer upon a Comrade, namely, *The Shield*, and in doing so, I would impress upon your mind, that we have full confidence in you that you will never dull the brightness of that "*Shield*" by an unworthy act to your Camp or *Comrades*, and that your Comrades will never have cause to regret having chosen you from amongst so many to receive this *high honour*, but that it will be your highest ambition in the future, as far as in your power lies, to extend the area of its usefulness and Philanthropy, and to use every legitimate means for its advancement, and those connected with it.

Here, worthy Comrade, is a wide field for your exertions, and, although Ignorance, Can't, False Ambition and Spite are enemies and obstacles both powerful and dangerous, yet, with the Charger of Argument, the Sword of Truth and Justice, and the Shield of Honest Purpose, you may ride through the list of public opinion unharmed and victorious.

The Installing Knight here takes the Shield from its case and pins it upon the left breast of the Knight he is Installing, saying:

By this act and deed, I declare Knight..... a Knight Order of Shield and Defender at this Encampment, as one of our chosen Champions; and I charge all loyal Comrades to regard and honour him as such.

It will now be your imperative duty, Sir Knight, at all times, and more especially when ignorance and prejudice asperse our Noble Order, to champion its cause, and defend its principles to the best of your abilities against those who wantonly or ignorantly injure it.

Such worthy Knight, is a great and glorious path for you to follow, a path we sincerely hope you will embellish as you,

pass along it, and leave such landmarks behind you that those who may be fortunate enough to follow you may have every reason to exclaim:—

“Here was a man to whom all honour’s due,
His mind was perfect, and his purpose true”.

If tempted to deviate from the strict path of right, imitate the conduct of the noble Ulysses, close your ears to the Syren’s wiles, and you will escape the destruction that thousands less cautious have found, and still be able to maintain your honour with your safety. And should you at any time be beset by foes that you feel your strength failing you, place your hand upon your Shield, summon all your remaining strength, remember the trust your Comrades have reposed in you, the confidence they have displayed in you, by electing you as one of their Champions, remember the Watchword and Motto of your Camp: *Pro Rege, Lege et Crege*, and victory will be yours.

And now, in conclusion, according to our customs and laws, I will ask you to give your Knightly pledge of undying fidelity to the assembled Comrades.

The new made Knight then kneels with his right knee upon the cushion, the Guard hands him the naked sword, which he holds by the blade, the hilt being uppermost, so forming a cross; the Scribe reads, and the Knight repeats aloud (whilst kneeling) the following pledge, and after doing so, kisses the sword and hands it back to the Guard, who passes it to the Installing Knight for the purpose of using for the accolade.

I (*name*) do most solemnly promise by this naked sword, the Emblem of Truth and Justice, and in this assemblage of Knights and Companions, to do all that in my power lies to maintain the Honour and Dignity of this High Degree, and I hope my conduct in the future will prove to you that your confidence has not been misplaced, and if I prove a recreant and false Knight, may I be shunned as an outcast, and my presence avoided by all true hearted men.

Knights and Companions chant :—

“We all bear witness
To this solemn pledge,
So may it be.”

Installing Knight: Right loyally and gallantly have you pledged yourself to this Encampment, and we now tender to you the right hand of fellowship.

Rise, Sir Knight Knight Order of Shield.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

The only authorised version sanctioned by Grand Camp,
revised to date by Sir Knight EDWIN ROSE, K.O.S., R.O.H.,
Grand Scribe. *January 1st, 1910.*
