

The Museum Collection

No.4

Claims and Fantasy

Part One



Initiation Ceremony circa 1790

R.A.O.B. League of Light

Bro. J. P. Dowling, F.F.Sc., C.P.

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Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, Grand Lodge of England.

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PREFACE

Brother Stan Stirman, the curator to the R.A.O.B. Museum, has since his appointment undertaken an extensive examination of the manuscripts, documents, files, Minute Books and other non regalia items which have been donated to the Museum.

Amongst the papers that he inherited are a considerable number of manuscripts, many handwritten in pencil, some over one hundred years old, which are now so old and worn that I fear the likelihood of their surviving for much longer is in doubt.

Brother Stan, has transcribed these into computerised copy in an attempt to preserve them for future members of the Order, since they have an important story to tell in the origins of the Order

Progressively these will be published as fund-raisers for the Museum under the banner title of "The Museum Collection".

This edition deals with a form of an Initiation Ceremony claimed by Brother J.P. Dowling to prove that the date of formation of the Order was before 1822. Dowling first published his thesis on the Order in the 1890's after the split by the London Lodges to formulate the Banner or Section now known as the Grand Lodge of England Ltd.

This Ritual makes many references to "R.A.O.B. or Royal Antediluvian". We know that the title "Loyal/Royal" was added to our title following the Seditious and Riotous Assemblies Act of the 1870's that is to say eighty years after the date of this Ritual.

Brother Dowling, undertook considerable research on the subject of the Order but none of his papers appeared to have survived the passage of time. Photographic copies of photographic copies of photographic copies of some appear with limited regularity. Much of his work was unsubstantiated, and was later discredited by his own Banner.

Non-the-less his thesis establishes with ease the manner with which an unsubstantiated story can easily be accepted as "historical fact". The Buffalo making ceremony described here and purported to be 1790 is almost word for word similar to that used by another philanthropic Order of the same period.

In all his writings, Dowling never gave an established date for the formation of the Order, but attempted to draw comparisons with the mysteries of Bull worship from ancient Egypt and thereby left his readers to draw their own conclusions. Would any modern historian be allowed to get away with that?

As previously stated, the position of Grand Lodge of England remains unchanged from that which Culshaw in the 19th century, or Rose, and Payne in the 20th century declared. If anyone can produce tangible proof together with the supporting evidence that the Order developed any earlier than 1822, it will be given due consideration and the widest publicity.

All known Sections of the Order have accepted that 1822 is the most probable date of the birth of the R.A.O.B. movement at the Harp Tavern, Drury Lane.

Bro. Mick Walker
Grand Registrar 1984
April, 2000.

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THE
CORRECT VERSION
OF THE
OLD R.A.O.B. RITUAL

Compiled by Primo J.P. Dowling F.S.Sc and issued under the
Auspices of the R.A.O.B. League of Light, Grand Chapter
26, East Hill, Wandsworth London, S.W.

FOR THE FIRST DEGREE
THIRD EDITION

PRICE SIXPENCE

This embodiment of our Old Ritual was first used in England
For the making of a Buffalo in the year 1790; but written by
George Cooper Murray some years previous to that date.

This ritual is printed and published by A. CONSTANCE.
“Buffalo Record” Office, 209, Walworth Road, London, .S.E.

THIRD EDITION

OLD R.A.O.B. RITUAL, FIRST DEGREE

Compiled from the original in my possession, with all the objectionable and other extraneous interpolations, which greatly disfigured it by being inserted therein about sixty years ago, cut out.

The Ritual for a First Degree making now presented to the Order is done so in the state of classical purity, as when issued from the pen of its illustrious author, veiled under the tri-temuric name of George Cooper Murray, that is to say each name consisting of six letters corresponding to the six points of the Buffalo Star.

The garbled portions inserted in a bibulous age have been reconstructed from the most authentic sources; the Old Ritual for a 1st Degree Making is now presented to the Order as a consistent Archaic classical whole, and forms a correct ceremony to be used at the making of a Buffalo.

Fraternally yours,
Primo J.P. Dowling, Compiler.

THE INITIATION

All literary matter in connection with this Ritual should be addressed to Primo J.P. Dowling, President of the Metropolitan Section of the R.A.O.B. League of Light, 26, East Hill, Wandsworth, London, S.W.

The Lodge being duly laid out according to correct R.A.O.B. symbolism (see lectures) *Three knocks* are heard outside the Tile when the Sitting Primo makes the sign of Harpocrates, being the sign of the Buffalo Rose by placing the fore finger of his Dexter or right hand on his lips.

Immediately the S.P. giving this sign, there is silence.

The City Tyler having ascertained the business of the Tile, *says:*

“Worth Primo an unenlightened individual seeks to become a Member of our Ancient and most Honourable Order”.

S.P. “What is his name?”

C.T. Gives the name.

S.P. “Brothers, an unenlightened individual bearing the name of _____ seeks to become one of us; does any Brother present know aught against this _____ of sufficient weight for me to dismiss his application?”

If no objection be made

S.P. “Who vouches for the bona-fides of this unenlightened?”

C.T. *Enquires the name of the sponsor outside the Tile, and gives it to the Sitting Primo.*

S.P. “Brothers, a true and proved good-hearted Buff, Brother _____ whom you all know, vouches for this unenlightened individual: Do you desire me to proceed?”

The Lodge expresses their desire by slightly shuffling their feet.

S.P. “Such is your desire Brothers, it is well. City Tyler, what is the age of this unenlightened?”

C.T. Gives the age, which must be over 21 years.

S.P. “What is his height?”

C.T. *Enquires and says* “Nine feet nine inches Worthy Primo”

The Lodge laugh in derision and exclaim with one voice

ALL “He is too tall – cut him down – cut him down!”

The Sponsor of the unenlightened being informed by the City Tyler that the Lodge consider the Candidate too tall, comes back with an amended message

“The Candidate is only three feet three inches in height”.

The Lodge laugh in derision, again, and exclaim with one voice

ALL “Too short, too short, stretch him!”

S.P. “What is his height now?”

C.T. “About three cubits and a span”.

The Lodge is now satisfied, and exclaim in one voice

ALL “That is better, much better”.

S.P. “Admit him”.

The lights of the Lodge having been lowered, the Initiate is led in by his sponsor, blindfolded. His coat has been removed his shirtsleeve on the right arm is rolled up to the elbow, his waistcoat unbuttoned, ditto collar and necktie in disorder as if from a recent struggle.

As soon as he is well in the Lodge and the door securely tiled, whispers encouraging words in his ear, and hands him over to the to the care of the City Constable, who

has already placed a chair in the middle of the Lodge room facing the Sitting Primo, over the back of the chair has been placed a short iron chain about three feet in length and a coil of rope about three yards in length.

C.C. *speaking to Candidate by name* “Brother Give ear to what our Sitting Primo says; if your heart fails you to undergo the ordeal of initiation, it is even now not too late for you to retract and retire from this Lodge by the way you came”. *Listen.*

S.P. “Do you, most unenlightened individual bear the name known to the world of darkness as _____ enter this lawfully constituted Lodge of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes of your own free will and consent? Answer truly as your heart desires”.

Cand. “I do”. *Being prompted by the City Constable*

S.P. “Seize and bind this unenlightened”.

The City Constable takes the coil of rope and from the back of the chair and lightly winds it twice round the Candidate’s body in which is enclosed his left arm by his shirt sleeve, bared to the elbow, the right one being left free. The two ends of the rope are then tied in a knot of twice tying at the left side. While this being done the whole Lodge with the exception of the Sitting Primo and City Marshal rise to their feet and form a circle, but not linked

The Sitting Primo again makes the Harpocratic sign when a dead silence is maintained of about a minute.

S.P. “Lead him through the cavernous shades of Hades”¹

The Candidate is then lead slowly round the Lodge within the circle, ingenious devices such as shaking the sheet of iron to simulate thunder, the burning of aluminium ribbon to that of lightning, these are done as the Candidate slowly wends his way within the circle twice, in custody of the City Constable, a Brother holds now and again a light walking cane at a level with his forehead and again at a lower part of his legs in order to give the impression that he is passing under low arches or stumbling up steps, these ideas encouraged by the City Constable whispering “Lower your head, lift your foot”, according to the position of the cane. Thunder rolls, lightening flashes, and the circle of upstanding brothers groan, all this must be done with the utmost solemnity and gravity, not the slightest return of the now dead tomfoolery to be indulged in or even thought of, the symbol of Hades is so impressive and beautiful that any semblance of vulgarity is here entirely out of place.

¹ In the days of boisterous Buffaloism, Hades was called the Khyber Pass – Tomfoolery was here rampant.

S.P. “Take him to the Royal Standard, *pause*, What is his height now?”

The City Constable places one hand on top of the Candidate’s head and runs the other down his body to his feet, He then answers:

C.C. “Three cubits and a span most Worthy Primo”, *this must be said in a loud impressive voice.*

At this announcement a general feeling of satisfaction pervades the Lodge, Brothers congratulate each other and express their joy that he has passed the ordeal of measurement so well.

S.P. “Three cubits and a span Brethren is the right measure of a Buff. It fills my heart with joy that our soon to be Brother has come out from his measurement so well. City Constable AT ONCE release your prisoner and hand him over to his sponsor, Brother whom I thank in the name of this Lodge for introducing so eligible an unenlightened to our combined notice”.

The City Constable then leaves him, and his sponsor stands by his side.

S.P. *To the sponsor* “Brother take our future Brother to the Royal making chair.”²

S.P. “Kangaroos to your seats”.

A confusing shuffling of feet, and noises of chairs being moved is here made, when all are seated.

S.P. “City Tyler, is the Tile of the Lodge secure?”

C.T. “It is Worthy Primo”.

S.P. “City Constable, is this unenlightened individual properly bound, *by the cord*, the two edged sword of justice ready to smite him in case of need; is the corded dagger of the Holy *Vehm* within your reach should the sword fail?”

C.C. “He is properly secured most Worthy Primo, the sword of justice is in my hand, the corded dagger, the instrument of the Holy *Vehm* which never fails is in my belt, and ready for immediate action if necessary”.

² The making chair is placed as already indicated, and the initiate is then seated and the chain placed on his knees by the City Constable.

S.P. “All then is in order for the *Exordium*”.

C.C. “All is strictly in order most Worthy Primo”.

ALL *The whole of the Lodge then chants* “So mote it be”.

THE EXORDIUM

S.P. “Most unenlightened individual you are now about to become a member of one of the most ancient, most illustrious and honourable Orders ever formed by man.

It is not only calculated to dispel ignorance, that curse to the human race, by its inculcations of real knowledge, but by its inherent principles of true Brotherhood to relieve the members of this fraternity from poverty or the fear of it.

Buffaloism creates a superior character in man above all other societies, it ennobles and enriches a man physically, socially and morally, it dispels the clouds of ignorance, and tears out of the mind of man superstition, and that worst of all falsities selfishness; also that terrible illusion into which the outside world of darkness has fallen into, which sets up the comfort of the mere individual as superior to all others.

Buffaloism came into existence soon after the creation, for Symbolic Bull worship as it does the highest intellectual considerations of man’s mind, at one time practically ruled the civilisations wherever established.

Buffaloism at times has been completely hidden from the minds of men, for the darkness of ignorance and prejudice emanating from that ignorance caused at times a veil of obscurity to descend on men’s minds and to hide the beauties of Buffaloism, and its teachings from the investigations of our race.

But I am happy to inform you that those periodic descending of the veils of obscurity have now ceased, that they have been rent asunder for ever, never again will the supreme enlightenment of our noble Order be hidden from those who seek its wisdom and are found worthy as you have been, to receive such.

This great work was commenced in the past by the formation of missionary Lodges. The supreme Grand Primo of our Order about the year 1776, whose name I know but am not permitted to reveal to you at present, taking into consideration the obscurity into which Buffaloism had fallen at that time, granted a Dispensation to Primo George Cooper Murray, of thrice blessed memory, to extend and consolidate our Order by disseminating its principles, which mission he fulfilled with an astounding zeal and wisdom, and by his work, slowly, but sure in its progress, we have been supplied the means to secure a great blessing to the whole human race, inasmuch as Buffalo Lodges run now into thousands, where the English language is spoken. Buffalo Lodges exist, no matter where you may be, there you will find Brothers to guide you and Lodges into which you can go, a home from home and a haven of refuge should you be in distress.

Child of darkness and pupil of the world's presumption, whose benighted soul has not yet been freed from the chains of ignorance, of which that now hanging across your knees is a symbol, and which I would advise you to cast from your person with a suitable expression of your disgust either orally or in action”.

Here the Candidate is advised by his sponsor to take the chain in his free hand, and cast it from him with a suitable expression in action of his disgust.

This being done, the Sitting Primo continues.

S.P. “That action of yours bodes well for your future conduct. The chain you have cast from you was a symbol of your ignorance, your prejudices and your unintentional, in most cases, of want of charity towards your fellow man, all of which have been instilled into your mind by an unenlightened world, for a man in ignorance of the precepts of Buffaloism is in our Buffalo sense bound in chains, a portion of those symbolic chains were within your reach, you have cast it from your person, I am pleased to observe your readiness to become enlightened.

Your sight, however, is still obscured from the light of heaven yet that also as a symbol is as nothing compared to the state of darkness into which the eyes of your mind has hitherto been enveloped.

The mists of ignorance which have so long dimmed your understanding, will in a few minutes be symbolically removed by the bandage now covering your eyes, taken away and with that action the Tree or Tau of Buffaloism *will be planted in your soul.*

The most ancient records of our illustrious Order inform us that Buffaloism has been supported by almost every form of government for thousands of years, and in every country where it was not so supported, mankind in consequence became irrational because bound in the chains of ignorance diffusing war and strife wherever they went.

I shall in a few minutes develop to you what Buffaloism really is, how the true character of a Buff was first formed, what are the unchanging laws of our Order, and what the conditions necessary to be attended to whereby continued prosperity may be secured to the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloism, and every member of it throughout the world, be cordially united in the bounds of friendship and affection.

Brother *Addressing the sponsor,* I give you a minute for private encouragement to the Candidate”.

Here the sponsor seat himself on the right side of the Candidate and whispers him not in any way to be alarmed as to what is about to take place. This being done the S.P. continues.

S.P. “Is the most venerable and learned City Physician in the Lodge?”

C.P. “I am here Worthy Primo”.

S.P. “Look to the state of the unenlightened, and report to us”.

The City Physician examines the Candidate in a Decorous manner.

C.P. “The Candidate I find to be mentally excited, blood is rushing too freely to his brain, he must be bled”.

ALL *The Lodge in deep sonorous tones* “What more blood? Another sacrifice?”

S.P. “The prerogative, Brothers, for once is out of my hands. The City Physician I must remind you is a Buff, and all Buffs are both merciful and just, but I will ask our City Physician if he does not think a little bodily refreshment to the Candidate under present circumstances advisable?”

The City Physician again examines the Candidate.

C.P. “Refreshment would be advisable, Worthy Primo”.

S.P. “Then by all means let him have some”.

The Candidate after refreshment and the City Physician reporting favourably.

S.P. “Then City Physician do your duty”.

The bared right arm of the Candidate at the bend of the arm is then slightly pinched and a little water from a small piece of soaked sponge is made to trickle down the same.

ALL *The Lodge chants* : “See how he bleeds, watch the flowing blood, omen for evil, omen for good”.

S.P. “How is the Candidate now, City Physician?”

The City Physician again decorously examines the Candidate

C.P. “Very weak, Worthy Primo”.

S.P. “What do you advise?”

C.P. “Mental refreshment, Worthy Primo”.

S.P. “Let him have it”.

A glass of water with a little salt dissolved in it is handed to the City Physician and presented to the Candidate, the sponsor whispering to him only to take a sip.

S.P. “City Physician, is your charge in a fit state to be put into the hands of the City Barber?”

C.P. “He is, Worthy Primo”.

S.P. “Is the City Barber in the Lodge?”

C.B. “I am here, Worthy Primo”.

S.P. “Examine the Candidate’s hair and beard, and report to us”.

C.B. *The City Barber lightly passes his right hand over the hair and beard of the Candidate and reports* “Too much hair and too much beard, Worthy Primo”.

S.P. *(Addressing the Lodge):* “Brothers, the ancient customs of our Order enjoined that all initiates into our Bull or Buffalo Mysteries should neither eat salt, of which the Candidate has just been reminded, salt crystallises into squares, a square has four points and the number four is the number of God, the symbolic meanings of salt are most profound.

The Candidate is also here reminded that all initiates before presenting themselves for initiation were closely shaved by the Temple Barber.

All these sublime mysteries are now unfolded in our Lodges of instruction. In the present case the City Barber in order to conform with our most ancient customs will simply snip off a very small portion of the Candidate’s hair and beard”.

The City Barber snips both hair and beard with a pair of scissors.

S.P. “Unenlightened; having so bravely surmounted the most trying part of your initiation, I shall now reward your fortitude by unfolding to you portions of our history, and enumerate a few names of illustrious Buffs of former ages in ancient Greece and Rome.

Buffaloism began its existence from our reckoning when B was the first letter in the alphabet. This mystery will be explained to you in our higher instructions.

The first Buff mentioned in our ancient records is NOAH. He was as you are aware, ordered to build an Ark which floated on the waters of deluge, 40 days and 40 nights.

At the expiration of that time Noah sent out a bird, which did not return.

He then sent out another bird which returned with an Olive branch in its beak, a symbol denoting peace.

And when Noah saw this, he was assured that the waters of the deluge had abated and that there was land.

Solomon is the next Buff we hear of. He is represented in the Old Testament as having 300 wives and 700 concubines. These statements you must regard as purely symbolical. The supreme mysteries of Buffaloism are veiled in allegory and clothed in symbols, it will also be as well for you to know that when Bullism or Buffaloism came to be a mighty power in Egypt, Assyria and elsewhere, men taught in symbols, spoke in symbols and wrote in symbols, consequently Buffaloism is prominently symbolic society.

Speaking of women, most men are fond of women, but here I must caution you how you trust them; we must never admit any of the female sex to our councils. Samson was a Buff and betrayed by a woman; it was a woman that betrayed the Capitol, and also Brutus. Another good Buff, by the aid of Cato's daughter, was it not a woman that caused the ten year's war, which at last laid old Troy in ashes?"

ALL *The Lodge groan and exclaim: "It was, it was".*

S.P. Another cost Mark Anthony the world; for these reasons, as I have already said, we never admit them to our Councils. There ever was one Buffaloess, there never can be another, she was a credit to our Order as I shall presently show.

Passing from ancient to modern history we come to the time of conquest by William of Normandy. He was no Buff; it was he who introduced the Curfew Bell.

The City Marshal strikes three times on a small gong.

S.P. The Curfew Bell prevented the brethren from meeting in their Lodges in the evening, unless they did so without fire or light, and this, so great was their love their Order, they frequently did.

William of Normandy was no Buff.

Henry the Second was a good Buff. He gave rise to the House of Commons, upon which the liberties of the Buffs was established, and of which it is the constitutional guardian.

In his time, Thomas A Becket's name was erased from our books for being a traitor to his oath and the principles of Buffaloism.

Richard the First was a good Buff, and fought in the Holy Land, but his brother was a great enemy to us, for he refused us Christian burial.

The Barons, however, nobly resented this for they besieged him in the Tower, and from thence to Runnymede, where he signed that great bulwark of English liberty the Magna Charta.

Edward the III, was a Buff and won the battle of Cressy, so was his son the Black Prince and his grandson Richard II.

Henry the IV, was no Buff, but his son was and won the battle of Agincourt.

In his time lived Sir John Falstaff, the largest Buff we ever had.

We have also an instance of another good Buff in the reign of the IV Edward.

The Duke of Clarence had by some means offended the state and having, we are told, the choice of the means of death passed upon him elected to be drowned in a butt of wine.

The only Buffaloess we ever had was Elizabeth Queen of England; at that time the Earl of Essex was Grand Primo and in order to convince her Majesty that our society was not a political one, the Earl had full permission to inscribe her name in the books of the Lodge, upon which she expressed herself convinced how beneficial the Order was to a well regulated government that she presented us with a banner of silk, emblazoned in gold, bearing the motto of our Order in Latin,

“Nemo Mortalium Omnibus Horis Sapit”. In case you do not understand the Latin tongue I will translate the Latin into English, which means, “Mortals are not wise at all hours.” Doubtless bearing reference to her own founded suspicions as to what Buffaloesism was before she became initiated.

You will do well to remember this in the future and should you hear our Order traduced by ignorant or evil-minded persons, turn upon the traducer, but firmly, and say
“Mortal are not wise at all hours”.

In Queen Elizabeth’s reign lived the great dramatic luminary William Shakespeare. Sir Walter Raleigh, the introducer of the great Buffalo weed Tobacco into England, al lived in her reign and a host of other exalted personages enumerated in English history, too numerous to mention, were brother Buffs.

Here I must impress upon your mind that the principle objects of our Order are Philanthropy and social enjoyment, the former more particularly towards a brother Buff, and let my words sink deep into your soul, that you will best promote your own happiness by mitigating the sufferings and sorrows of your less fortunate fellow creatures: but whenever a poor brother crosses your path and appeals to you for help, give him whatever you can afford with a cheerful heart, saying, “take this and fare better elsewhere”.

And now having enumerated the names of so many good Buffs, I hope soon to take you by the hand and rank you amongst their number. City Constable, unbind him and take him to the Royal chair”.

The Candidate is then unbound and led to another chair which must be cushioned and of tasteful make. He is then instructed to place his left knee on the cushioned seat and face the Sitting Primo, not more than three yards distant.

S.P. “What would you most like to see?”

The sponsor prompts Candidate to say “Light”.

The lights of the Lodge are then turned on full.

The spirit fire is then lighted, brothers bearing Buffalo Bannerettes and Buffalo Symbols on long slender rods, grouping themselves in front of the Candidate.

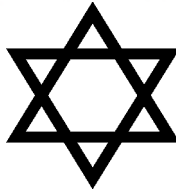
S.P. “Let him behold it”.

The bandage is then removed by the City Physician. NO OTHER OFFICER IS QUALIFIED TO DO THIS.

The Lodge chants “Rejoice, rejoice, and let us sing the glories of our mystic ring”.

S.P. *The Sitting Primo holds up a small gilt hoop about a foot in diameter.*

S.P. *The Sitting Primo holds up our Buffalo star – shaped*



S.P. “Partially enlightened, the two symbols I have shewn you are full of most important Buffalo secrets”, *addressing the Lodge* “Brothers, the utmost silence please, and you (*addressing the Candidate*) are now required to make a declaration of a most solemn character, please repeat after me

“I Do hereby most solemnly declare that I will never divulge under any circumstances the secrets, signs and passwords which may be delivered to me on my honour, in this or any other Lodge of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes. I will not write them nor cause them to be written, nor communicate them to an unenlightened; I will at all times act in strict conformity with the laws and customs of the Order. I will also to the full extent of my power succour, shield and defend a brother under circumstances, provided the same does not clash with the laws of the Realm, but more especially in trouble, in difficulties and need”.

All these promises I make sincerely and without any mental reservation whatsoever. I make them kneeling as I do in the presence of the most High of whom this Lodge is a symbol and with the same solemnity which is attached to an oath”.

S.P. “And God will help you to keep it”.

ALL *The Lodge chants*

“Great and mighty spirit of the Blue pillar of our Order assist us.
Feathered heeled Mercury lend us thine aid.
Undines Naides of the waters be with us
Spirit of the Barley corn hover around us
It’s crossed, it’s crossed it’s crossed, the charm is crossed”.

S.P. *Breaks the pipes.*

All “It’s broke, it’s broke, it’s broke, the charm is broke”.

The Royal Holy Grail or Loving Cup is then handed, filled with generous liquor, first to the Sitting Primo who places it in the Candidate’s right hand,

S.P. “Repeat after me, “I Drink success to this Lodge and all other Lodges of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes throughout the world”.

ALL *The Lodge chants:-* “He is made, he is made, he is made a Buffalo”.

The Candidate is then introduced to the City Marshal who shakes hands with him and wishes him God speed in all he undertakes. Each brother in the Lodge also shake hands with him, wishing him the same. He is then lead back to the Sitting Primo who commands him to kneel on his left knee while he bestows on him, his blessing, this he does with his right hand placed on the Candidate’s bowed head and the left uplifted in an admonitory manner.

S.P. “I bless you, my brother; may God of whom this Lodge is a symbol, ever keep you steadfast in the pure paths of Buffaloism”.

This done, and the Candidate risen from his kneeling position.

S.P. “Brothers, link”. *Usual link, explanation of link and count.*

S.P. “I Primo Buffo over this Lodge, hereby declare and affirm that Brother, our latest recruit to Buffaloism, has been duly initiated into the minor mysteries of our Order with the exception of the signs, grips and passwords thereof, these will be given him in the inner chamber by his sponsor, Brother..... ”.

The initiate is then led out of the Lodge, when he returns his dress is properly arranged. When he has worked his way into the Lodge in the usual way, he is then led by his sponsor once more to the Sitting Primo who, standing up with the initiate in the usual place for a link.

S.P. “Link Brothers”. *When the link is properly made and tested as such in the usual way the Sitting Primo crosses two property pipes made of wood and painted white and ringed with black paint. The Lodge chants “It’s crossed, it’s crossed, it’s crossed, the charm is crossed”.*

S.P. “Yes Brothers, the charm is again crossed, and now that our newly made Brother is in possession of our signs and passwords pertaining to the First Degree of Buffaloism, and has by their aid worked his way into this Lodge to the satisfaction of all present there is no necessity to break in twain these emblems of peace.

In the first instance there existed this necessity, inasmuch Brother had not been furnished with our signs and passwords, in this condition of affairs the charm was faulty and had to be broken.

Nothing now remains, but to place these symbols of peace and rational enjoyment in a place of safety so that they shall *not be broken*.

The Sitting Primo places the property pipes in a box prepared to receive them, this he locks and hands the key to the City Constable.

S.P. “Brother it is not obligatory on you to say anything, but if your heart prompts you on this most auspicious occasion to say a few words to your Brothers assembled, now is your opportunity”.

When the speech making, if any, is over it would be very much to the purpose, in order that the newly made carry home with him a lofty idea of the Order, that some parts of the lectures be read and discussed, after which the usual business of a R.A.O.B. Lodge is once again in evidence.

END OF THE FIRST DEGREE RITUAL

Advice to all Sections or Banners contemplating using this ritual for a First Degree Making:

This Ritual must be used verbatim et literatim as here printed or not at all. Opinions of any R.A.O.B. council as to what should be used and what deleted cannot be entertained by the League of Light, under whose auspices this ritual is issued.

Over thirty years study and research has been expended over our old Ritual and as near as possible the Ritual from an Archaic standpoint is perfect.

What is wanted in Buffalo ceremony is consistency. This Ritual is consistent and when used will reflect that consistency, we want facts, not opinions.

Opinions have torn Buffaloism into shreds and patches, as witness the twenty-three or more divergent Rituals now in use not one being worth a brass farthing as far as symbolic Buffaloism is concerned. As soon as Buffaloism ceases to be a symbolic society, it ceases to be Buffaloism, well intentioned ignorance has worked much harm in our Order by clipping, trimming, and deleting our symbols into what opinions suggested our symbols should mean, that what they do.

Buffalo Symbology is a science; opinions never can coalesce into a science. Ritual is here presented to the Order that if used will lift the First Degree ceremonial from out of the mud and mire of confusion into which opinion has cast it and places it on a pedestal of fact for the admiration of all concerned.

Therefore, Brothers, the Ritual as here printed, or nothing. The first Banner that elects to use it and is tempted to alter parts of it so as to bring it up to date in their opinions is at once by doing so on the downward grade.

The question of Buffaloism being up to date is ridiculous. Buffaloism always was, and always will be; dates do not affect the status of Buffaloism therefore the Ritual as here presented and nothing but that Ritual. Don't twist and trim, clip or delete this Ritual; as soon as you do, you are sowing the seeds for another state of ceremonial confusion which may be worse than the one already existing.

I am quite aware that these appended notes will be read by the Councils in general as too autocratic; I cannot help that; the Councils are excellent in all secular matters, that is to say matters of business, but in dealing with R.A.O.B. Archaics, until they educate themselves up in such, they are far from excellent; that this is so, the dire confusion that reigns supreme in Ritualistic ordinances, the outcome of R.A.O.B. Council interfering with matters they did not understand is proof. On page 11 of this Ritual we are told of the UNCHANGING LAWS of our Order; hence my plea.

J.P. Dowling