

The Museum Collection

No.14

The Old Ritual



The Initiation Ceremony for the First Degree
as claimed by the R.A.O.B. League of Light
circa 1790

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Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, Grand Lodge of England.

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PREFACE

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

I, along with Brother William Hartmann and Brother Stan Stirman have transcribed these into computerised copy in an attempt to preserve them for future members of the Order to read and enjoy, since they have an important story to tell in the origins of the Order.

This edition of the Museum Collections is an updated version of the Museum Collection number four dealing with the Initiation Ceremony claimed to be used in 1790 by the R.A.O.B. League of Light and written much earlier by George Cooper Murray. In it are references to the Hexalpha Board and the positioning of the Royal Lights.

The Lecture or Initiation Ceremony of the early era, though long and complicated was not printed, very rarely was it committed to writing, it was memorized and so passed from one to another until this version came on the scene.

Thus it came to pass that while the main features of the Ceremony remained practically identical, the procedure when considered in detail was far from uniform, it varied considerably, for the actors could and did “gag” unmercifully when given the opportunity.

The ceremony itself was theatrical and terrifying, and of the type designed to try the nerves of and temper of a candidate to the utmost: he was baited and spoofed unmercifully, much rough horseplay being indulged in of course, care was taken

that he came to no actual hurt, but for about a quarter of an hour and even longer, he had anything but a comfortable time. Suggestions of “Bloodletting” and “Burning” would not tend to give assurance to a nervous individual, “as can be seen from the previous ceremony”.

Our position remains today, exactly as it was at the beginning of the 20th Century. In the absence of any proof to the contrary, 1822 must be accepted as the birth of the Order. If at some future date someone finds information leading to our antecedents at an earlier date than 1822, I am sure that our leaders at that time will give such evidence all the due care and consideration it deserves.

Some very vague and conflicting views are held. The title takes us back to a very early but improbable date in the worlds history, while certain “historical” statements made in its “Lecture” would, if accepted as literal facts, show it to have existed from a very ancient date indeed and thus give justification for the use of the phrase that its “Origins were lost in the mists of antiquity”.

I have only to add that I thank all who loaned me documents, for their kindness I am deeply grateful, for without their aid this book would not have been written. To the many “Buffalo Historians” who have given me information and encouragement, I must express my heartfelt thanks, and if this little effort of mine, only gives half the pleasure in its perusal, as I have experienced in keying in the typewritten words for its compilation, I shall not have laboured in vain.

*Mick Walker ROH
Grand Primo 2006
May 2008*

Also available in the Museum Collection series

- No.1 General Laws of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.
- No.2 Minutes and Proceedings of the Finance Committee August 1895.
- No.3 Culshaws Story of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.
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- No.5 Minutes of the first meeting of the Grand Primo Lodge of England.
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- No.21 Gradus.
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Copies of these and other publications by the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes Grand Lodge of England can be obtained from the Grand Secretary, Grove House, Skipton Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 4LA



*Fraternally yours,
J. P. Dowling.*



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.

"THE TRUE ORIGIN OF BUFFALOISM IN ENGLAND"
By Primo J. P. DOWLING, F.S.Sc., is now published.

*This Ritual is Printed and Published by A. CONSTANCE,
"BUFFALO RECORD" OFFICE, 209, Watworth Road, London, S.E.*

THIRD EDITION
OF
THE CORRECT VERSION
OF THE
OLD R.A.O.B. RITUAL: FIRST DEGREE
Which was used in the making of a Buffalo in
England about the year 1790

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

The ritual for a first degree making, now being 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 ribulous age have been reconstructed from the most authentic sources; the Old Ritual for a First 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

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

THE INITIATION

The lodge being duly laid out according to the correct R.A.O.B. symbolism, (see lectures) three knocks are heard outside the Tyle when the S.P makes the sign of Harpocrates, being the sign of the Buffalo Rose by placing the forefinger of the Dexter hand (right) on his lips.

Immediately on the SP giving this sign, there is silence.

The C.T., having ascertained the business at the Tyle, says: "Worthy 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, the SP says;

S.P. "Who vouches for the bona fides of this unenlightened?"

C.T. Enquires the name of the sponsor outside the Tyle, and gives it to the S.P.

S.P. "Brothers, a true and proved good hearted Buff, Bro. whom you all know vouches for this unenlightened individual; do you desire me to proceed?"

The lodge express their desire by slightly shuffling their feet.

S.P. "Such is your desire brothers, it is well. City Tyler, what is the age of the unenlightened?"

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

S.P. "What is his height?" (*The cutting down and stretching the candidate before he was admitted into the Lodge, refers to a part of our Ancient History, when a party of Buffs were waylaid by Procrustes, an Attican highwayman, and tortured to death by being placed on a rack and decapitating bedstead. A further description in the lectures.*)

C.T. Enquires and says “nine feet nine inches, Worthy Primo”.
The lodge laugh in derision, and exclaim with one voice
“He is too tall, cut him down, cut him down!”.

The sponsor of the unenlightened, being informed by
the C.T. that the lodge consider the candidate to be too
tall, comes back with an amended message and says
the candidate is only three feet, three inches in height.
The lodge again laugh in derision and cry out with one
voice, “Too short, too short, stretch him”.

S.P. to C.T. “What is his height now?”

C.T. “About three cubits and a span”.

The lodge is now satisfied and exclaim with one voice
“That is better, much better.

S.P. “Admit him”

The lights in the lodge having been lowered, the initiate
is led in by his sponsor blindfolded. His coat has been
taken off, his shirt sleeve on the right arm rolled up to
the elbow, his waistcoat unbuttoned, ditto his collar and
necktie in disorder as if from a recent struggle.

As soon as he is well in the lodge and the door securely
Tyled his sponsor whispers encouraging words in his
ear, and hands him over to the care of the C.C. who has
already placed a chair in the middle of the lodge facing
the S.P., over the back of the chair the C.C. has placed a
short iron chain about three feet in length and a coil of
rope about three yards in length.

C.C. Mr Calling the initiate by name;

“Give ear to what our Worthy City 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 bearing a name
known to the world of darkness as, enter this
lawfully constituted lodge of the Royal Antediluvian Order
of Buffalos of your own free will and consent?. Answer
truly and as your heart dictates.

The Candidate answers, being prompted by the C.C. "I do".

S.P. Seize and bind this unenlightened.

The C.C. takes the coil of rope from the back of the chair and lightly winds it twice around the body of the candidate, in which is enclosed the left arm covered by his shirt sleeve, the bared to the elbow 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 is being done, the whole lodge with the exception of the S.P. and the C.M. rise to their feet and form a circle, but not linked. The S.P. again makes the Harpocratic sign when, a dead silence is maintained for about a minute.

S.P. "Lead him through the cavernous shades of Hades", (*in the days of boisterous Buffaloism, Hades was called the Kyber Pass, Tomfoolery was here, rampant*).

The candidate is then led slowly round the lodge within the circle. Ingenious devices, such as the shaking of sheet iron, to simulate thunder. The burning of aluminium ribbon, to that of lightening, these are done as the candidate slowly wends his way within the circle twice, in custody of the C.C. A Brother holds, now and again, a light walking cane at the level of the candidates forehead, and again at the lower part of his legs, in order to give the impression that he is passing under low arches, or stumbling up steps, these ideas to be encouraged by the C.C. whispering, "lower your head, lift your foot" according to the position of the cane. Thunder rolls, lightening flashes, and the circle of brothers, upstanding, 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.

S.P. "Take him to the Royal Standard, what is his height now?"

The C.C. places one hand on top of the candidates head and runs the other down his body to his feet, He then answers “three cubits and a span 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 of his measurement so well? “City Constable, AT ONCE release your prisoner, and hand him over to his sponsor, Bro whom I thank in the name of this lodge, for introducing, so eligible an unenlightened to our combined notice”.

The C.C. 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”. (This is the chair placed in the centre, by the Constable, the candidate is seated, and the chain placed upon his knees)

S.P. “Kangaroos to your seats”, A confused shuffling of feet and noises of chairs being moved, is here made when all brothers are seated.

S.P. “City Tyler is the Tyle 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 the 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”.

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

C.C. "All is strictly in order most Worthy Primo".

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, 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, and 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 falsities, selfishness; also that terrible illusion into which, the outside world of darkness has fallen in to, which sets up the comfort of the mere individual, as superior to all others.

Buffaloism came into existence soon after creation, for the Symbolic Bull Worship ensouling, as it does, the highest intellectual considerations of mans mind, at one time practically ruled the civilisation 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 descendings 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 into 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, slow, 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 their 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 worlds 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 S.P. continues. 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 toward 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 for so long dimmed your understanding, will, in 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 moments, 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 are 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 bonds of friendship and affection.

S.P. Bro (addressing the sponsor) I give you a minute for private encouragement to the candidate.

Here the sponsor seats himself next to the candidate (on his right) 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 C.P. then 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”.
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 the present circumstances, advisable.

The C.P 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 C.P. 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.

The lodge chant:— “See how he bleeds, watch the flowing blood, omen of evil, omen for good”.

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

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 then handed to the C.P. and presented to the candidate, the sponsor whispering to him to take only one 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 candidates hair and beard and report to us".

The C.B. passes his hand (right) over the hair and beard of the candidate and reports.

C.B. "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 candidates hair and beard.

The C.B. then snips both hair and beard with a 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, even in ancient Greece and Rome.

Buffaloism began its existence from our reckoning when B was the first letter of the alphabet. This mystery will be explained 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 the 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.

As soon as Noah saw this, he was assured 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 a symbolic society.

Speaking of women, most men are fond of women, but I must here caution you how to 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 who 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 years war which at last laid Troy in ashes?

The lodge groan and exclaim:— "It was, it was".

S.P. "Another cost Mark Antony the world; for these reasons as I have already said, we never admit them to our councils.

There never was but one Buffaloes, there can never be another, she was a credit to our Order as I will presently show.

Passing from ancient history to modern, we come to the time of the conquest by William of Normandy. He was no Buff, it was he who introduced the curfew bell”

The C.M. strikes, slowly three times a small gong.

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 of the Order they frequently did.

William of Normandy was no Buff.

Henry the II was a good Buff, he gave rise to the House of Commons upon which the liberties of the Buffs are 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 the 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 also have 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 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 on 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 with gold bearing the motto of our Order in Latin 'Nemo Mortalium Omnibus Hone 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 ill founded suspicions as to what Buffaloism was before she was 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 mildly but firmly and say:— 'Mortals are not wise at all hours'.

In Queen Elizabeth's reign, lived that great Dramatic Luminary, William Shakespeare. Sir Walter Raleigh, the introducer of the great Buffalo weed Tobacco into England, also 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 on your mind that the principle objects of our Order are Philanthropy and social enjoyment, the former more particularly to 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 taken 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 S.P. not more than three yards distant.

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

The sponsor prompts him to say ‘light’

The lights are then turned full on.

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”.

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

The lodge chant.

“Rejoice, rejoice and none shall mar the brightness of our mystic star”.

The S.P. holds up our Buffalo star of this shape.



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, repeat after me”
I do hereby most solemnly declare that I will never divulge, under any circumstances the secrets, signs, or 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 this Order. I will also to the extent of my power succour, shield, and defend a brother under any 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 reservations 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 attaches to an oath.

S.P. “And God will help you keep it”.

The lodge chants:—

“Great and mighty spirit of the Blue Pillar of our Order assist us.

Feathered heeled Mercury lend us thine aid.

Undines and Niads 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

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 S.P. who places it in the candidates 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.

The lodge chant:—

He is made, he is made, he is made a Buffalo.

The candidate is then introduced by his sponsor, to the C.M. who shakes hands with him, and wishes him God speed in all he undertakes, each brother of the lodge also shakes hands with him wishing him the same, as he is led back to the S.P. who commands him to kneel on his left knee while he bestows on him his blessing, this he does with right hand placed on the candidates 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 the kneeling position.

S.P. "Brothers link".

Usual link, explanation of the link and count.

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

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 S.P. 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 S.P. crosses two

property pipes made of wood, painted white, and ringed with black paint.

The lodge chant:— 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 S.P 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 of the Order that the newly made, carry home with him a lofty idea of our 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 councils as to what should be used and what deleted cannot be entertained by the R.A.O.B 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 Buffaloism ceremonial, is consistency. This Ritual **IS CONSISTANT** 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 into our Order by clipping, trimming, and deleting our symbols into what opinions suggested our symbols should mean, and what **THEY DO**.

Buffalo Symbology is a science; opinions never can coalesce into a science. A Ritual is here presented to the Order, that will, if used lift the 1st Degree Ceremonial from out of the mud and mire of confusion into which opinion has cast it, and place 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 opinion, is at once by doing so, on the downward grade.

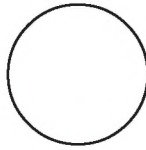
The question of Buffaloism being up to date is ridiculous, Buffaloism always was, and always will be; dates do not affect the status of Buffaloism, therefore **THE RITUAL** as here presented and **NOTHING BUT THAT RITUAL**. Don't twist, trim,

clip, or delete this Ritual; as soon as you do so, 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 read to 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 direct outcome of R.A.O.B. Council interfering with matters they did not understand is proof. On page 6 of this Ritual, we are told of the UNCHANGING LAWS of our Order; hence my plea.

THE SIX MYSTIC SYMBOLS

The Circle



Symbolises the Oneness of our Order, Symbol of the Universe:— (Rejoice and sing the Glories of our Mystic Ring). It is also the Male representation of our Order.

The Triangle



The first perfect form symbol of the Full Man. Creature of Three Dimensions each equal and also possessing three Characteristics:— Body, Reason, and Spirit. Symbolic of the No 3 in our Order:— Three Knocks, Three Rings on the Pipes, Three Degrees etc, (it can be proved beyond doubt that there should only be THREE Degrees as our Banner decrees). If Knights of the Order of Merit call to mind the Password of the Third Degree, this should enlighten them.

The Square



Represents Four, and Four is the number of God. Salt crystallises into squares and is the symbol of the Almighty. The square also represents the Cubic Chamber. The Sanctum Sanctorium in the Ancient Temples were in cubic form. In such a chamber, all the Initiates to the Bull or Buff Mysteries were made.

The Decussate Cross



Symbolises the flame of fire, the passing of the Initiate through fire, formed by the invisible lines from the S.Ps Red Lights to the C.Ms Blue light and vice—versa. Where the lines cross is the all seeing eye of OSIRIS, searching the soul of the Initiate, it was under this spot that the Royal Making Chair was placed.

The Hexalpha Star



Two Triangles interlocked or reversed upon each other. The Seal of Buffaloism, Symbol of a Buff Lodge. Symbolising the Union of Heaven and Earth, thus bringing into direct communication with the Divine. The Buff Star heralding the new born Buff (initiate). The Star which rising before dawn was said to herald in the new born day:—(Rejoice for none can mar the brilliance of our Radiant Star).

Holy or Latin Cross



Again a symbol of the Cubic Chamber of Sanctuary. A cube has six sides, which, opened out in whatever manner resolves itself into a cross.

Consider the Symbols in the Business of a Minor Lodge.

The *Circle* is the Link.

The *Triangle* is the fact of Man Himself.

The *Square* is the area bounded by the Royal Lights. (It should be noted that the Old Practice forbade any brother whatever to pass between the Royal Lights except participants at a Degree Ceremony.

The *Decussate Cross* appears when the Royal Lights are lit and the Red lights connect to their opposite Blue lights.

The *Hexalpha Star* is the complete form of the centre of a Minor Lodge, the Worthy Sitting Primo occupying the Royal Chair being connected to the Royal Lights on the Marshals Rostrum, the City Marshall being similarly connected to the Sitting Primos Royal Lights.

The *Latin or Holy Cross* appears twice, being symbolic of the City Marshall, reflecting the Sitting Primo. It is formed by the lines from the S.P to the C.M through the Centre point being crossed by the lines of the Royal Lights on their respective Rostrums.

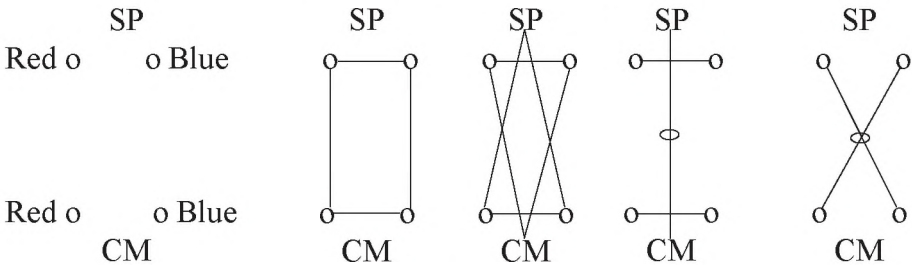
ROYAL LIGHTS

The Royal Lights have their probable origin in the Egyptian Mysteries.

The Red as the Symbol of OSIRIS the Great Judge holding authority under Divine Intelligence (RA). Blue is the Symbol of ISIS wife of OSIRIS who acted for him when he was absent.

These two also symbolise the essential creative force, Male and Female, leading to new life.

Position of Royal Lights



Lights also play an essential part in Lodge Regalia. The Sitting Primo's Collar should be Red and the City Marshall's Collar should be Blue. These should never be changed, as these two colours are what the Old Egyptian Primos called the Primary Colours, all other colours are subservient to, or a coloration of red and blue with the exception of Black, This colour, being a self colour, and able to obliterate all others, was the colour used for the Old Office of City Physician his Collar used to be Black edged with Silver, this was the only Officer eligible to take the prerogative out of the hands of the occupant of the Royal Chair; for this reason the Office was usually held by a very senior member of the Lodge.