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R.A.O.B. League of Light



R.A.O.B. LEAGUE OF LIGHT
initials L.O.L

A Critical Examination of History
and R.A.O.B. Symbolism, bearing upon
this most Important Question

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IS THE R.A.O.B ANTEDILUVIAN?

A Critical Examination of History
and R.A.O.B. Symbolism, bearing upon
this most Important Question

by

Primo J. P. DOWLING

Author of the
“History and Mystery of Buffaloism”

Preface

It is not that I do not have any faith in the teachings of those whose historical research go back some thousands of years, but it is the belief that there is still no documentary evidence of any section of the R.A.O.B. including the League of Light being alive and kicking before 1822.

Many authors and books delving into the past some times come up with various fantasies and fairy tales that purport to show that the Buffalo Order, that is the R.A.O.B., is some mystical occult organisation which pre dates even the birth of this very earth, but Dowling is a great believer in the ancient Egyptian philosophy and the Gods that were worshipped in that era. In particular Osiris and his sister Isis. Osiris pictured right, Isis pictured below.



Whilst the historical virtues of those authors is not in question, it is the facts on which they base their assumptions with regard the R.A.O.B. that is.

Mervyn Payne in his book, *The Origin and Development of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes*, refers to making contact with every Public Library Authority in Britain with special reference to the pre 1822 period and coming up with a complete blank.

There is no doubt that Brother J. P. Dowling did a considerable amount of



research into Bull Mysticism and Ancient Egyptian Rites and Occultism and to say he was a prolific writer would be an understatement and I have nothing but admiration for the power of his writing, but he had so much faith in his own conclusions that he was unable to accept the views of others.

The following is a quotation from Dowlings Book “The Origin of the RAOB” and can be found in Museum Collection No.11.

“This school of instruction in the R.A.O.B., was started in the year 1902.

Three brothers are responsible for that step in the year mentioned, viz., our late and much lamented Editor of Laurie’s Gems and Buffalo Star, Brother A. E. Laurene, of Leeds, R. H. Oldershaw, P.G.P., of Nottingham, well versed in R.A.O.B. esoterics, and the author of this work.

The title “League of Light” was suggested by Bro. R. H. Oldershaw, submitted by him, and agreed to be used. The title explains the objects of this movement, i.e., to diffuse the blessings of light and wisdom in the hitherto ignorance and custom darkened chambers of the Kosmic erected Temple of our Order”.

That the League of Light existed is not in question, I have in my possession several jewels to prove the same, (pictured right) but until someone shows me evidence of a connection with the R.A.O.B. prior to 1822 I will hold my views.

Read and enjoy.

*Mick Walker R.O.H.
Grand Primo 2006.
April 2008*



Three League of Light jewels showing right to left: a standard Jewel with a maroon ribbon and a single yellow stripe, a double yellow stripe with a bar reading 'Companion' and a triple yellow stripe with bar reading 'Guardian'. All three have a top suspender reading League of Light and all have as a pendant a tiny lantern.

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 Culshaw's Story of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.
- No.4 Claims and Fantasy Part One.
- No.5 Minutes of the first meeting of the Grand Primo Lodge of England.
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- No.15 League of Light.
- No.16 The York Weston Super Mare.
- No.17 The Seminars.
- No.18 Benevolence.
- No.19 Peter the Hermit.
- No.20 Light.

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ARE WE ANTEDILUVIAN?

(Introductory)

In all our public announcement we call ourselves The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, either in full, or initial, our title as R.A.O.B. both being understood by an unenlightened world to mean a secret Order of mysterious jolly good fellows, whose idea of life appears to be to take it lightly and do a good turn when they can.

One thing is undeniable; the R.A.O.B. is fast becoming a power in the world; its lodges already run into thousands' its expansion during the last forty years has been phenomenal, bordering on the marvellous; all grades and callings of men belong to it, from the peer of the realm, in his ermine and scarlet, to the peasant, whose one ambition in life appears to be, how to drive a straight furrow.

Such is the R.A.O.B. at the present moment, a truly cosmopolitan fraternity in whose lodges all ideas of outside social distinction is swallowed up and lost in the one consideration of brotherhood.

Hitherto this in every way commendable Brotherhood has been content to jog its happy-go-lucky way along of doing good when the opportunity presented itself, and enjoying itself in the doing it; how it came into existence, and consequently by what right it claims so ancient an ancestry as Antediluvian, very few of its members seem to have concerned themselves latterly, however a change seems to have come over the R.A.O.B. A body of brothers, calling themselves the R.A.O.B. League of Light, Imbued with the critical spirit of the times, are not content to take such a claim as Antediluvian on trust, they are asking themselves, is such a claim a real one or is it to be taken in a Pickwickian sense, viz., with a large grain of salt?

Times out of number, when an eligible unenlightened has been asked to join us, the question has been put to the zealous

brother indicated in the asking: "Why do you call yourselves Antediluvian - that means over 4,000 years ago? "Where are your proofs for such a statement"?

The zealous one, anxious as all Buffs are to increase the strength of his Order, but hitherto following in the happy-go-lucky wake of the R.A.O.B. as a whole, has not been able to give anything like a satisfactory answer to so pertinent a question from an unenlightened.

This difficulty has been experienced by many of our brothers when on the propaganda warpath. These letters will clear away such difficulties, so that all in our ranks, who care to read them, will be able, instead of evading the difficulty, to meet it in the only way it should be met, viz., as follows: "It is not permitted", the brother should say, when so confronted, "to explain our mysteries now; when you join us you will be eligible to link yourself up to Chapters of enlightenment established in our Order to explain to the brothers our grand and ancient mysteries; sufficient, however for me to say, that not only are we Antediluvian but, as our Ritual will inform you when you are made, the Order came into existence soon after the Creation of man; more than this I am not permitted to divulge; ours you must bear in mind is a secret society".

Such an answer would be sufficient for the time being, and in order that the promise regarding the Chapters of enlightenment shall be duly prepared we will now consider seriously whether we are Antediluvian or not, an affirmative position taken in these letters, A negative position courted for the columns of this Journal, which will have a due consideration from myself and from others also.

Here I shall allow myself the same latitude accorded by other secret societies to members of the same, who publicly write on their Ancient Mysteries - as the secrets of their Orders moult no feather at the hands of such writers, so shall the secrets of Buffaloism moult no feather at my hands.

Evidence for our Antediluvian existence is simply Legion; but in the first place, let us critically examine what the word

Antediluvian is intended to convey. The correct meaning of this word before we can make any satisfactory progress must be sifted from the literal crude by which it has been invested.

The word Antediluvian taken literally, means before the Flood; to wit, that about 4,000 years ago this planet, or world of ours, was submerged in water, nothing escaping in the form of terrestrial life from death by drowning, with the exception of Noah and his family and the pairs of animal life imprisoned in an Ark - the literal account of this catastrophe is, however, so well known that further dilation on the theme is unnecessary on my part.

To save going into particulars, it may be sufficient to broadly state that scientific men, theologians of all sects, and historians of reputed standing are unanimously agreed - that no such event ever literally took place at so recent a date as 4,000 years ago, that like a host of other Biblical statements, such as the building of the Tower of Babel, Jonah being swallowed by a whale, etc., the turning of Lot's wife into a pillar of salt, Joshua commanding the sun and moon to stand still, the crossing of the children of Israel on dry ground through the Red Sea, the waters of which at the command of Moses rolling themselves up into watery walls to allow them to reach the opposite shore; the building of Solomon's Temple in which the sound of a hammer or axe were not heard, etc., etc., such a statement as a universal flood, together with the other impossible instances quoted, must be taken allegorically or rejected altogether as idle myths of a superstitious period.

By the aid, however, of the science of Correspondencies and other Occult science tests applied to the literal statements of the Flood, together with the other statements briefly glanced at, a grateful stream of enlightenment flows into the mind of the student, instead of physical impossibilities, we get spiritual lessons of the highest import to man, instead of the Bible being regarded in the light of a contradictory farrago of superstitious myths set down by an ignorant migratory tribe

of Jews, we get a profound Hermetic treatise worthy of all acceptance, and the Bible still stands out as the book of books unsurpassable in its Divine wisdom.

As an allegory then we must regard the Flood, the date, however, viz., 4,000 years ago is no allegory to us; that I intend to show must be taken literally.

And, now, with regard to allegory, our Old Ritual is full of them, modern worded Rituals now in vogue, the work of well meaning, but ignorant-of-Symbolism-Buffs, are of no value.

Our old Ritual can be supplied for 6d., write to Editor. As a diligent student of that Ritual, I am disposed at times, to think, that it will have to remain with future students to know into what profound depths of Occult science those allegories will take us. What little I know of them I am satisfied is but as a crumb of bread compared to a whole loaf. How senseless then is it for brothers in our Order, who have not even taken the pains of mastering the elementary rules of Occult science to condemn, as some of them do, a subject they know nothing concerning. Opinions on these subjects are of no value whatever; science never dates its conclusions on opinions, but always on facts. In these letters I shall have no opinions to offer, Buffs, very properly, do not care a rap as to what my opinions are. What, however, they are interested in, and which affects them in more ways than one, is the light supported by facts I may be able to throw on our past history.

The question was once put to me, by a very intelligent brother, why the necessity for this Allegorical and Symbolical veiling - why clothe sacred and Buffalo ritualistic subjects in a garb that wants so much study before they can be properly understood? Why not state the matter in plain English, so that all may understand? Allegory is fogging, and symbolism a matter not more than one man in a hundred has any conception of; for my part I think we should, as an Order, get on much better without such veiling and hiding up".

To the best of my belief, the following was my answer: "Personally, I am not responsible for the allegorical or

symbolical veiling, either in Biblical or Buffalo subjects; the veiling in both instances was done long before my time as a student, I can only deal with such subjects in the same way that other students have dealt with them, viz., make an attempt to understand them”.

As far as all students on such subjects have discovered Allegorical and Symbolical veiling in order to conceal truths of the highest importance has been the mode of all mystical writers, having a set purpose, viz., not to disclose too much of the riddles of the universe to the eyes of the profane, who, in all probability, would only make mischief were they entrusted with knowledge and powers only intended for the wise, consequently they have hidden what they knew behind Allegorical and Symbolical veils.

Our Old Ritual, as a written Mystical treatise is no exception to what appears to be the rule with all mystical writers; it is useless for well-intentioned ignorance to carp at the why and the wherefore; if we are practical men, we must take things as we find them, and endeavour to understand them as they are presented to us; anyway, it is folly the Mystical pronounced for some of our brothers to attempt to square as they do, the motives of mystical writers dealing with Kosmic Metaphysics, with the motives or ethics of a man that opens a cheesemonger's shop, or, is ready to swap a pile of old scrap iron in his possession for a pile of bricks in the possession of someone else, provided, of course, he can see his way to making a 'quid' or two out of the deal.

Still more ridiculous does the why and wherefore become when we consider that all the mystical Allegorical and Symbolical writers concerned either on Biblical or Buffalo matters are dead, and cannot therefore be questioned regarding their motives, so that perforce, with regard to the allegories and Symbols set down in our Old Ritual, and more particularly as far as this enquiry is concerned, the allegory that deals with the flood, and our existence prior to that date.

Two ways are open before us, either to remain in ignorance or to become enlightened regarding that particular allegory.

I write now for those in our Order who desire enlightenment; and not those in the R.A.O.B, who seem to think that it is only necessary to give an opinion implying a 'pooh pooh' on any matter, ranging from squaring the circle to a differential calculus. Regarding this latter class of Buffs, fossils I call them, which the glorified Beer era of our Order has washed on our shores, I have nothing further to say, beyond this - assertive ignorance may be a good dog to fight, but knowledge is a far better one, and further, the emancipation of struggling humanity, for a better life, which we are all fighting for, each according to his lights will not be brought about by ignorance, that is as certain as the sun will shine on England tomorrow.

If, then, ignorance will not bring about what we all of us in our heart of hearts desire, let us try something else. Personally, I pin my faith to knowledge, that is to say enlightenment, and ask all who think with me to rally up and support this Journal; let each brother make it a point to take TWO copies, one for himself and one for distribution.

With this introduction to my subject, I will now close this letter.

Brothers, make this as widely known as you can

Yours fraternally,
Primo J. P DOWLING



SECOND ARTICLE

It is my purpose in these letters to trace Buffaloism to the Apisian or Bull mysteries of old Egypt as the 'fous et origo' of the Order, and to rescue the names from oblivion, as far as our Order is concerned, of many well known in other respects departed Brothers, and more particularly that prince of poets and philosophers, Quintus Horatius Flaccus, better known as Horace as a brother, who was born on the 8th of December, 65 years before the Christian era.

Up to Horace's time from this year of grace 1907, or close on 2,000 years ago, the period for all practical purposes may be called, as far as the R.A.O.B. is concerned, modern Buffaloism; in this period Buffaloism assumed many names. Its philosophy, however, and its teachings remained intact; the Bull mysteries were always to be found ensouled in the Rituals, etc., etc., of such correlations of Buffaloism known as the ESSENES, veiled in our old ritual under the word ESSEX, The cult of Abraxas of which the two letters A,B, in our Tetragramme give the key, and the Roman Collegia, will also be found to be studded with Egyptian lore, i.e. Bull mysteries, so also will the cultores Osiris, i.e. the cult of the Bull, the cultores Isis, i.e. the cult of the cow, the Sodalitates or Roman clubs, etc., etc., and where Roman rule was overthrown by the Goths, who more or less adopted the civilisation of the conquered, the same cultores, Sodalitates, etc., etc., flourished, but under different names, hence we have the many secret fraternities and guilds of the middle ages practising the same rites as did the Roman cultores, but under different titles. The Templars, whose most potent symbol being a bearded and horned head which they called "Baffomet", in all probability a Buffalo's head, is a case in point. The Templars also had another sacred animal symbol, similar as we have in our kangaroo. It is admitted that the Templars play a most important part as a via media for the handing down of ancient mysteries to modern times, more of this anon.

Medieval times is full of connecting links by which the student of Buffaloism can link up his Order of the present time with the mysteries enacted in Rome from those to Greece, and from Greece to Egypt.

The mention in our old Ritual of the Order existing in ancient Greece and Rome is therefore no figment of the imagination, as is contended for by a certain Brother in our Order who writes for the Press now and again, and who would have you believe that the Order sprang from a glorified taproom in 1822, but on the contrary is a literal fact, which I shall prove up to the hilt ere these letters are finished.

One more brief glance at another link in medieval times must be sufficient for the present, viz., in the persecuted Culdees. Here I shall show the origin of our curfew bell.

We now come to the year 1784, not 1822, Brother "W" please bear the date in your mind, 1784, when three well known Occultists, whose names are veiled in our old Ritual in a Tri-Temura, viz., George, Cooper, Murray, each name having six letters, were responsible for certain Egyptian mysteries performed for the first time in France in a vast mansion in the Rue Saint Horrors, Paris, on the 9th of August, 1785, with the Elector of Hanover as Grand Hierophant.

Shortly after this, according to Samuel Maunder and William J. R. Cates' Biographical Treasury, published by Messrs, Longman, Green, Reader and Dyer, 1858, page 151, these Egyptian mysterials were brought to London by one of the three already indicated, veiled in our old Ritual under the name of "Cooper" and were carried on by him in North Audley Street, and also in Whitcomb Street, London.

Here also "Cooper" published his celebrated letter to the English people in the year 1786, for which he was bitterly attacked by M. de Morande editor of the *Courrier de L'Europe* (the usual fate of all Occultists).

The attack brought about the following reply, in which "Cooper" defended himself, and was published in a newspaper of the time called *The Public Advertiser*, under date September 3rd, 1786.

“COOPER’S REPLY TO M. DE MORANDE”.

In physics and chemistry, Mr Joker’s arguments go for little, and sneers for nothing - experience is all. Permit me, then, to propose a little experiment, which will divert the public, either at your expense or mine.

I invite you to breakfast for the 9th of November next, at nine o’clock in the morning. You will furnish the wine and the accessories; I will furnish one dish in my own style - a little sucking pig, fattened according to my own method, Two hours before breakfast I will present him to you alive, fat and healthy.

You will engage to have him killed and cooked, and I will not go near him till the moment he is put on the table. You shall cut him yourself into four pieces. Choose that which attracts you most, and give me any piece you please.

The day after breakfast one of four things will have happened; either we shall be both dead or alive, or I shall be dead and you alive, or you dead and I alive.

Out of these four chances I give you three, and I bet 5,000 guineas that the day after the breakfast you will be dead, and I shall be in good health. You will confess that no fairer offer could be made, and that you must either accept the wager or confess your ignorance, and that you have foolishly and duly cut your jokes upon a subject beyond your knowledge.

M. de Morande would not accept the challenge, and was well laughed at in consequence.

How history repeats itself. I have also a sucking pig fed on facts, which I challenge Bro. “W” who has been flourishing lately in the Daily Chronicle and Reader with his 1822 nonsense, to swallow any portion of without getting defeated.

I refrain from publishing the Brother’s name in full, not forgetting the motto of our Order - *Nemo mortalium omnibus horis sapit.*

Brother “W” has touched on a subject he knows little or nothing concerning. Let him be wise, and not forget the story

which he will find in The Public Advertiser, date September 3rd, 1786. I have told him about the SUCKING PIG.

“Cooper’s” advent in London was marked with the same enthusiasm which greeted him wherever he went; crowds flocked to him seeking to gain an audience; the fashionable world being no less curious than the rest of mankind.

Amongst the notables who visited him was Richard Brindsley Sheridan, who became a frequent visitor to his house, not only at North Audley Street, but also at Whitcomb Street, where the Egyptian mysteries were carried out. In short, “Cooper” and Sheridan were on most intimate terms; both being brilliant, intellectual men, they were mutually attracted,

Not being there at the time, I cannot absolutely say that Richard Brindsley Sheridan became an initiate in the Egyptian mysteries carried on as indicated, but circumstantial evidence of the strongest kind point to the conclusion that he was, for the following reasons, “Cooper” brought these mysteries to London, Sheridan was on the most intimate terms with “Cooper”.

In 1777 Sheridan produced his “School for Scandal” at Drury Lane Theatre, a year after “Cooper” first came to London, in which one of the characters is called my Lord Buffalo. The Buffalo is one of the Seven correlations of the Egyptian Bull mysteries; each of these correlations having the prefix “Lord”.

It is natural to infer that Sheridan, with the novelty of the Egyptian mysteries fresh on him, should invest the same in a character, which he did in “The School for Scandal” in that of MY LORD BUFFALO. As Charles Dickens left his mark of being made a Primo of our Order in Bleak House further particulars of this interesting item cannot be indicated here for obvious reasons, but any Primo can be made satisfied of the fact by calling on me.

That our old Ritual, published by A. E. Lawrence price 6d., and in vogue for the making of a Buffalo more than a hundred years ago, is based on the Biblical Enock and Elias; Egyptian

Mysteries, see the Book of the Dead and Accadian Mysteries, see Chaldean Magic, by Francois Lenormant, chap vi., page 78, published by Samuel Bagster and Sons, 15, Paternoster Row, proofs of which are given in the nine Lectures on "The History and Mystery of Buffalofilm" also published by A. E. Lawrence; 4s. the set, or 6d. each Lecture.

That this old Buffalo Ritual, so full of Archaic lore, could not have been the work of members belonging to a glorified tap-room in 1822, as Bro. "W" would have you believe, for the all sufficient reasons that Primo Richard Brindsley Sheridan who made use of it, coloured with the Bacchanalian spirit of the times, died in 1816, and Edward Walford, in his "Old and New London", see Vol.3, page 279, gives particulars which brings the existence of the Order up to 1806.

That all the old rituals mention the FACT of Primo Brindsley Sheridan being a brother; one has lately come into my possession kindly lent by Bro. Cosens, of Aldershot, very old, which mentions it.

If, after this letter, Bro. "W" persists in making use of the Press to further ventilate his 1822 nonsense as the date for the origin of Buffalofilm I shall construe such into a direct attack on the integrity of the L.O.L., in which case I must inform him that I have a card up my sleeve not played yet, nor do I wish to play it, inasmuch it would not enhance Bro. "W" in the estimation of his brothers (from a logical sequence point of view), were I to play it. Privately I have a great esteem for Bro. "W". Any brother who has worked in the Amalgamation Movement as Bro. "W" has worked has my sincere regard; but Bro. "W" for no fault of his own, unfortunately looks at the Order through Bacchanalian spectacles; in short, he is one of the 1822 Bon Vivant Apologists, or in other words, a fossil that the Beer era of Buffalofilm has washed on our shores. He means well, but is a fair example of the aphorism, "SAVE US FROM OUR FRIENDS"!

Having brought to your notice the manner in which Buffalofilm was first introduced into England, and the date,

simple as it is to record has been nevertheless the work of years, I will now finish this part of my work by giving the DESENT in more senses than one, of Buffaloism from the year 1786 up to the time the L.O.L. came to the rescue to save the Order from Archaic extinction, Evans supper rooms, and the Hum-ums, both in Covent Garden, have each a claim for providing a Home for Egyptian burlesqued ceremonies - (this it must be borne in mind was in an age when everything sacred, was burlesqued and turned into tomfoolery - from there the Order found a home in the Wrekin Tavern, Broad Court, Bow Street, from there to the Harp Tavern, opposite Drury Lane Theatre, from there a party of Actors took it across the water to the Bower saloon, near the Canterbury Theatre of Varieties, from there to St. George's Tavern, opposite St. George's Road, and it was at St. George's Tavern that the first split in the Order took place over a dispute about the Rye House fete tickets, nearly forty years ago; from that time the Order is to be remarked as a splitting Order, which is the cause for the existence of over 22 R.A.O.B. Banners, according to the calculation of my esteemed co-writer in the League of Light, Bro. C. S. Tomlin, K.O.M. Secretary of the Amalgamation Movement. Each of these Banners has a Ritual and Ceremonies of their own, compiled and arranged by brothers utterly ignorant of what Buffaloism really is; the concrete confusion emanating from those can better be imagined than described. Hence the objects of the R.A.O.B. League of Light, viz., to restore order out of chaos with regard to our ceremonial,

In my next and concluding letter, I shall offer proofs from comparative data, that the R.A.O.B. is more than 4,000 years old.

Yours fraternally,
Primo J. P. DOWLING



THIRD ARTICLE

On ceremonial, Buffaloism hangs most of its claims for an Antediluvian, nay, for the matter of that for a pre-historic ancestry, our Old Ritual informs us that the Order came in “soon after the creation of man” and most of our modern Rituals, which for their strict Buffalo value axe not worth a brass button, have copied the statement; of course, our Bacchanalian apologists for the Beer origin of Buffaloism are so wise in their own unlettered conceits that it would be a sheer waste of time to follow them and their Beer evolved chimeras which would only end in froth and an unlimited verbosity buzzed in a vacuum.

With regard to ceremonial Buffaloism, that has been so emasculated in the past 40 years, that were it not for a few prominent symbols retained of the old ceremonial, such as the crossed weed consumers, the link, the B.E.B. more or less correct coloured regalia, and the peculiar arrangement of a Primo’s lodge, correct symbolic Buffalo ceremonial for all intents and purposes may be said to have ceased to exist.

The modern Buff will never know what correct Buffalo ceremonial means, unless he procures our Old Ritual in vogue for the making of a Buffalo more than a 100 years ago, published by the Editor of this Journal, price 6d, and what is more, he will never understand what these articles “Are we Antediluvian”? demonstrate, unless he does so; our new fangled Rituals are more or less an abomination to the Archaic Buffalo student. If any brother in our Order thinks they are not, let there be a discussion on this question in the columns of our Journal, the “Buffalo Star”. Our worthy Editor will, I feel sure, only be too glad to open his columns to anything that has the welfare of Buffaloism for an object.

If the L.O.L. elects me for its champion, I will, in view of the debate indicated, undertake to show that our modern Buffalo ceremonials would be “more honoured in the breach than in the observance”, that in short they are utterly unworthy to

be associated with Buffaloism in their present shape; our Order is a growing Order, and in my opinion from its intrinsic merits is bound to be in the near future one of the dominating Orders of the world. How necessary then to have a ceremonial that will appeal not only to the run of intelligence, but also to the Archaic student. The L.O.L. is, I am glad to say, now actively engaged in sowing the seeds for this very necessary but long delayed Buffalo reform, viz., a correct, Buffalo ceremonial for a making, its efforts are meeting with practical responses all over the country, and now and then a raising is conducted under L.O.L. auspices - see page 115 for the August 1907 issue of this journal - to the delight and satisfaction of packed lodges, who come and see for themselves what the L.O.L. is aiming at in the direction of correct Buffalo ceremonial,

True, the L.O.L. is greatly hampered in its operations by incongruous (according to correct Buffaloism) wording in the Rituals now in vogue and set down to be used for the purpose of a raising, etc.; but so long as such is in the hands of so able a brother as E. Forbes, R.O.H., of Bolton, the very best is made of bad materials. Anyway, a packed lodge of over a hundred were delighted at the L.O.L. function already indicated.

This success of the L.O.L. for the uplifting of our Order has, I regret to say, provoked the ire of a prominent member of the G.S.B. Banner, who writes me in no measured terms of his entire disapproval of the L.O.L. propaganda, and like all men who jump to conclusions, is as far from the truth as hasty judgements generally places men who indulge in this mental acrobatic performance. I make no mention of names, but if the brother (and a prominent one to boot) thinks, after further consideration of the position he has taken up, that the L.O.L. is to blame for providing a splendidly decorated lodge with correct Buffalo symbols, the work of E. Forbes, R.O.H., L.O.L. who to his honour and credit delighted all present with his artistic abilities in such decorations, I, in

the name of the L.O.L., say he is utterly mistaken in such a position, and I hereby challenge him to a debate on these points in the columns of this journal, provided always the Editor will open up his columns for this purpose, and the L.O.L. elects me as their champion if this challenge is accepted, and I hope it will. Let the L.O.L. cry be “ADVANCE BUFFALOISIM” the other side can take up what cry it likes.

A suggestive one, however, in the light of the letter I have received as indicated, would be BEER AND IGNORANCE.



SYNOPSIS OF EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE ANTEDILUVAN

Firstly our Old Ritual, as published by the Editor of this journal, price 6d., informs us that “the Order came in soon after the creation of man”. This to me is all conclusive evidence, knowing as I do what the Old Ritual really is; but what is evidence to me is not evidence to others. It is, therefore, to the “others” that I now direct my remarks.

And here let me say the evidence to hand bearing upon our Antediluvian original is so abundant that, on space considerations, I can only give you a little of that evidence.

That little, however, would carry my case in any court of enquiry relying on facts and not on opinions.

First of all let me take you back in time to 10,000 years ago, 6,000 years before the Flood; let me take you to the oldest city in the World as yet discovered, viz., to the City of Bismaya, in Assyria.

I shall pass over the many objects of interest that have been unearthed from that once flourishing centre of a high civilisation, but shall direct your attention to two remarkable State seals (which the explorers have brought to light), in which the Buffalo is depicted couchant, seated as a human, and erect on their hind legs, the significance of which will be apparent to the Occult science student. The seals, in short, show that the Buffalo or Buffaloism entered largely into the statecraft of that remote period (see article by Dr. Edgar J. Banks published in the Daily Chronicle, September 13th, 1907).

From 10,000 years ago, we come to 7,000 or 8,00 years ago, viz., to Egyptian dynasties prior to that of Menes. Here we find Bull worship and its correlations strongly in evidence at that remote period; Bull worship, of course, includes the Apisian Mysteries of old Egypt. Speaking of these mysteries, Robert Freke Gould, barrister-at-law, in a monumental work of five quarto volumes, published by Thomas C. Jack, 45, Ludgate Hill, London, 1886. Vol.1. Page 13, says: “The first

and original mysteries appear to have been those of Isis and Osiris in Egypt”, or in other words, the mysteries of the Cow and the Bull. He then goes on to say, “The allegorical history of Osiris (the Bull) the Egyptians deemed the most solemn mystery of their religion”. Some of these mysteries are allegorised in our old Buffalo Ritual already indicated.

These Bull mysteries he also informs us were established in Greece 1,400 B.C.

Herodotus, in book “Euterpe” one of his nine bearing on ancient history, mentions these ancient Bull and Buffalo mysteries, but being an initiate of the same, he is very guarded in his expressions. He, however, gives us information which enables the Archaic student to piece up the old Bull ceremonies with those of our own times, I don’t allude to our modern Rituals, which save for a few symbols retained, is not Buffaloism at all, but simply the concoctions of well meaning, but ignorant of their subject, brothers who flourished about the year 1870, or perhaps a little later; but to the Ritual published by A. E. Lawrene, price 6d.

Like modern Buffaloism, which has split off from the parent stem, viz., the G.S.B. into 22 or more Banners, so did those ancient Bull mysteries split off into Delphic, Samothracian, Pythagorian and other secret cults, all, however, having the Bull and Cow as the leading features in their ceremonies.

It would require a work of three vols. at least to trace the devious windings of these Bull and Buffalo mysteries from their supposed inception through Platonism, Neo Platonism, Gnosticism, Manichaenism, etc., etc., until we find them in the Roman cultores or clubs, such the cultores Isis, the Cow Club, the cultores Osiris, the Bull Club, etc., etc.

When we compare what is known of these ancient mysteries with those set down in our Old Ritual, we are struck with admiration at the similarity of the two – the taking of a cup mysteriously compounded, the initiate being led by the mystagogue in the darkness of night, and from thence into the lighted sanctuary, etc., etc.,

It is impossible, for obvious reasons, to go on enumerating the points of resemblance between what is known of the ancient Egyptian Bull mysteries and those set down in our Old Ritual. The student, however, can further enlighten himself by comparing our mysteries with those enumerated by Francois Lenormant in his work "Chaldean Magic" published by Samuel Bagster .and Son, 15, Paternoster Row, London, and the "Egyptian Book of the Dead", supposed to be the oldest book in existence.

Suffice to say that when the initiate was conducted into the lighted sanctuary, i.e. the Primo's lodge, he was then allowed to see what none but the Eoptae ever beheld (see "Blackwood's Magazine" February 1853).

The ancient Brahmins had similar mysteries (see Captain Wilford in the "Asiatic Researches" vol.v., page 300, 1798).

Reference has already been made in a previous article of mine to our manual or finger symbology (see a learned article in the "Pall Mall Magazine" for May, 1895, by John O'Neil, entitled "Hands all round"). Bearing upon our finger signs, John O'Neil clearly shows that our finger symbols takes us back to the Mudras of the Vedantins more than 4,000 years ago.

Primo R. H. Oldershaw, of 11, Postern Place, Middle Pavement, Nottingham, a reputable Archaic Buffalo student, has gone to some trouble in getting a few copies of the "Pall Mall Magazine" as indicated. Those who are interested in our Archaic finger symbolism had better communicate with him; he may have some copies left - the copies are well worth the money he asks for them.

I must now conclude a few observations as to the existence of the Order in medieval times.

Take, for instance, our word Gatta; this is clearly derived from gat - a goat (see "Lloyd's Encyclopaedic Dictionary" vol.111, page 714). Now the goat, according to that learned occult science writer, A. E. Waite was the leading animal symbol of the Templars, known as the Baffomet or Buffomet,

a clear corruption, to my mind, of our word Buffalo. Anyway, the Buffomet, according to A. E. Waite, was a goat's head (see his work "Devil Worship in France" published by Geo. Redway in 1896, London),

It would occupy too much space to trace the word Gat into Gatta i.e. refreshment; but some help to the student can be derived from the fact that in some of the correlations of Templarism of medieval times it was the practice to convert the FINES levied on the brethren into refreshments for the general benefit (see Freke Could's work already indicated, vol.1. page 251), precisely as it was the custom in Buffalo lodges up to forty years ago. The last relic of this medieval custom in Buffalo lodges, to the best of my belief, was swept away at the Golden Lion Lodge, situated in the Ditches, Southampton, 40 years ago, when Sir Andrew Greig came to Southampton from the G.S.L.

But all old Buffs of over 40 years standing, will readily remember the custom when a 6d. covered the whole expenses of a visit to a R.A.O.B. lodge. Let the Buffalo Archaic student also look up the history of the various Androgyne mystic lodges of the Continent, and Charlestown, America; the Egyptian Rite of Adoption, called the Rite of Cagliostro, and the Order of the Palladium; the Order of the Seven Sages (see our seven minor officers), by Ragon, the eminent French writer, The division of the Order of Adoption into three grades, as symbolised on the stems of our weed consumers; the Rites of Memphis and Misraim, the investment of Grand Hierophant, i.e. Grand Primo, let him, I say, study these sources of Buffalo enlightenment and compare them, as I have done, with our grand old Buffalo Ritual, as published by the Editor of this journal, to see, and by seeing, to be convinced as to the origin of our truly great, Ancient and Honourable Order.

The L.O.L. now firmly established in Buffaloism, bases its claims to be heard on evidence that cannot be impeached.

The L.O.L. justifies every Primo who tells an initiate that the Order has existed for thousands of years.

The L.O.L. is purely an educational organisation. It interferes with nothing of an official character, no matter the Banner, and so long as any Banner does not issue an edict AGAINST ENLIGHTENMENT the L.O.L. is a law-abiding organisation.

The L.O.L. does not favour one Banner more than another, its teachings are open to all brethren of the R.A.O.B.

It is the opinion of many prominent members of the L.O.L. that amalgamation can only come via the media of the L.O.L. for this simple reason petty ideas of supremacy or precedence cannot exist in the ranks of the L.O.L.

The L.O.L. is certainly the most uplifting factor the R.A.O.B. has known for many years, In a scholastic sense, it places the R.A.O.B. second to none to any Order in existence. Before its influence the drinking slander, so long endured by the brethren, would be silenced quickly, never to be, revived.

Let our cry be "Advance Buffaloism", we have truth on our side, and truth is mighty and must prevail.

Fraternally yours,
Primo J. P. DOWLING

