

# The Ailsa Craig

## Fixtures and Fittings

- There was a 2nd Degree practice working of the Lodge in October
- Bro Charlie Fox (JW) St. Johns Lodge 1021 S.C. from Aberlour, Banfshire, Scotland visited and long lost Bro Chee Koon Lim (PM)
- At the subsequent harmony, Bro Chang Pinang was presented with a token of appreciation for his long service to the lodge

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## Up-Coming Items

- Lodge Ailsa has booked 3 tables for the 150th Anniversary and as seats are in great demand early booking should be made.

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## Tinkers Corner

• Bro Colin Macdonald visited Lodge Kaapstad 81 S.A. in Cape Town, South Africa recently and witnessed their excellent 1st Degree working. The Lodge was established in 1777 as a Dutch Lodge and at their subsequent harmony, a bottle of local wine was signed by all as part of their outstanding hospitality. The Lodge building is part of the parliament building complex and is purported to be built on the proportion of King Solomon's Temple. Some of the various Cape lodge notices are attached for information, as FM is still very active in the new South Africa.

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## Classified

• Photographs are now also available of the recent Ladies Night, as well as various books and regalia which can be obtained through the QCCC via Bro Colin Macdonald.

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## **THE ENIGMA OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE**

For centuries Christians, Jews, archaeologists, biblical scholars and Masons worldwide have attempted to construct a model of King Solomon's famous Temple. As described in I Kings and II, Chronicles in the Old Testament the details are incomplete and ambiguous. A recently discovered Dead Sea scroll has clarified many of the 3000-year-old enigmas.

The House of the Lord was 90 feet long by 30 feet wide divided into two separate chambers. The eastern chamber, 60 feet by 30 feet (and probably 30 feet high) was called the

Holy Place. The only interior details provided were the golden tables and ten golden lampstands placed on either side. Biblical references to women's, men's and priests' courts were postulated by some to be located within the Holy Place. The western chamber was the Holy of Holies, a 30 foot by 30 foot room, 30 feet high. This chamber contained the hallowed Ark of the Covenant, a shewbread table, menorah and an incense altar (possibly outside) - all made of gold. Two carved wood angels, 15 feet tall with wingspans of 15 feet, stood side by side with their faces turned towards the Ark. They were overlaid with gold and their combined wingspans extended from wall to wall. The entrance from the Holy Place was through two folding, golden doors. A crimson and blue veil decorated with angels was draped from ceiling to floor to separate the two chambers. The House throughout had cypress floors and cedar panelling inlaid with gold and jewels. The only entrance was at the East end through two golden doors.

A partially covered vestibule 30 feet wide well known to Masons and 10 feet high extended 15 feet out from the East end. Two 35-foot-high bronze pillars 5.5 feet in diameter were placed on either side of the porch. The capitals of the pillars were lily-shaped and flared into a 45-foot-high rock. The two capitals were adorned with bronze chains hung with 400 bronze pomegranates and surmounted with two pommels.

On both sides and around the rear of the House were about ninety annexes (chambers) arranged in three storeys of thirty chambers each. The second and third storeys were supported by timbers resting on the stepped exterior of the outer wall. The annexe rooms were each 7.5 feet high and varied in width from 7.5 feet on the first storey, 9 feet on the second and 10.5 feet on the third - their length was unspecified. It was postulated that these small chambers were living quarters for the priests. The Bible mentions that access to the upper chambers was from the North side of the House via the winding stairway.

The description thus far is based on texts from the Bible. In 1967 the Israelis acquired a Dead Sea Scroll which was ultimately to be designated the "Temple Scroll". After nine years of painstaking analysis and translation of the badly damaged, 30-foot-long leather scroll by Yagael Yadin, it was determined to have been written about 150 B.C. It detailed the construction of the Temple and prescribed rituals and procedures.

by BRO. ROBERT ROMAN, Virginia, U.S.A.  
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