

# The Ailsa Craig

## Fixtures and Fittings

- Bros. Mel Gil and Andrew Logue (who may be leaving us for South America soon) were Raised to the Third Degree at the November meeting.
- The next meeting in December will not be a working (but the Ladies Dining -In).

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## Up-Coming Items

- A Mark Degree working is planned for February 1997.

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## Tinkers Corner

- Practice meetings are now back to 1:30pm on the Saturday preceding the Working.....remember the free lunch!

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## Classified

- The Ladies Night Photographs have raise the sum of \$140 for the Steward's Fund.
- Please e-mail me at - colinmac@pacific.net.sg if you are on the net. Surfers will get their copy of Ailsa Craig early through the net.

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## Lost and Found

- We were all suprised and delighted to be visited by our Original Tinker, Bro Gary MacPhie at the harmony. Tales of the trials and tribulations of the Masonic activities in Taiwan were told

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## Son of the Forge

(from a Rabbinical Legend)

And it came to pass, when Solomon, the son of David, had finished the Temple at Jerusalem, that he prepared a feast for his chief craftsmen and artificers. And the seat of the king was apart on a raised dais facing the head of the table, and the two famous pillars of bronze, with their beautiful capitals of lilies, pomegranates and delicate network, stood, one on his right hand and the other on his left, and the lintel hereof was a canopy over the head of the king.

And Solomon had also prepared a seat of honor, and set it on his right hand, ready for the craftsman who might be pronounced most worthy among all who wrought in building the house of the Lord.

And when all was ready, he called unto him his chief architects and master-overseers, and the head-artificers who were cunning workers in gold and silver, in bronze and ivory, and in wood and stone, yea, all who had labored in building the Temple of the Most High, and he said unto them, 'Come now with me and partake of the feast which I have

prepared. Stretch forth your hands; eat, drink and be merry. The skilled artificer is worthy of honor.

And when Solomon and his guests had arrived at the place of the feast, they beheld a man, clad in the garb and covered with the soil of labor, seated in the chair of honor not yet awarded. And the king waxed wroth, and said, "What manner of man art thou? Why comest thou thus unseemly and unbidden to our feast, where none are invited save the chief workers on the Temple?"

And the man answered and said, "Please you, I came in unbidden. Was it not proclaimed this day the chief workmen of the Temple dine with the king? Therefore am I come."

And when the man had thus spoken, the guests talked with each other, and he who carved the cherubim spake aloud and said, "This fellow is no sculptor. I know not him."

And he who inlaid the roof with pure gold said, "Neither he of those who work in refined metals." And he who wrought in raising the walls said, "He belongs not with those who are cutters of stone."

And one who labored in shaping the timbers of the roof said, "We who are cunning in cedar wood, and know the mystery of joining strange timbers together, know him not. He is not one of us."

Then said King Solomon, "How sayest thou now? Wherefore should I not have thee plucked by the beard, scourged with scourge and stoned with stones, even unto death?"

But the man was nowise daunted, and he rose from his seat and came to where the wine was set, and took a cup of wine and raised it high and spake aloud, saying, "O king! Live forever!" He then drank long until the cup was emptied.

He now returned to the seat and spake to the guests who had rebuked him, and said unto the chief of the carvers in stone, "Who made the instruments with which you carve?"

And he answered, "The Blacksmith."

And to the chief of the workers in wood he said, "Who made the tools with which you felled the cedars of Lebanon, and shaped them into pillars for the roof of the Temple?"

And he also answered, "The Blacksmith."

Then he spake to the artificer in gold and ivory and precious stone, saying, "Who fashioned the instruments with which you wrought beautiful ornaments for my lord the king?"

And he too made answer the same, "The Blacksmith."

Then said the man to Solomon, "Behold, O king! I am not whom, when men deride, they call the Blacksmith, but where they would honor me, they call me Son of the Forge. The craftsmen say truly that I am not of them. I am their superior. Without my labor first, their labor could not be. The great Tubal Cain, whom all men honor, taught those who in turn taught me my handicraft, and the mighty Vulcan, who wrought in fire and smoke and sweat, as I do, was it not deemed fitting that he should have even the Queen of Beauty to wife?"

"Son of the Forge," said Solomon, "I too honor thee, the worthy successor to the great master, Tubal Cain. Take this seat at my right hand prepared for the most worthy. It thine due."

Thus it came to pass at the feast of Solomon, the wise king of Israel, and from that time forth the smiths were held in high esteem, and greatly increased and multiplied in all lands.

*Extracted from Masonry Universal No. 4  
by Bro Mark Sigismund - msigismund@worldnet.att.net*