The Cable Tow

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

PUBLISHED FOR AND IN THE INTEREST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

A PILLAR OF CHINESE MASONRY

AMITY • LODGE

SPECIAL • NUMBER

Rt. Wor. Bro. Hua Chuen Mei, P.D.G.M.

(An interview with him appears in the Spanish section of this issue)

The Grand Master's Message

Our Public School System

HUNDREDS OF radio listeners all over the Philippines were shocked to hear the address of Fr. R. Sullivan, S. J., over station KZRM, Radio Manila, on October 6, 1940, assailing our public school system, the most valuable gift of American democracy to the Filipino people. Fr. Sullivan called the system "unconstitutional." If such a statement came from a common Catholic layman, it would not surprise us, but from the lips of a professor of a leading Catholic school in the Philippines, it does not make sense.

A thing is unconstitutional when it is against the mandate of the fundamental law of the land. The Constitution of the Philippines clearly provides for the present school system, that it should be free from any sectarian interference. Thus we have seen to it that the system is strictly as our fundamental law wants it to be, but our Catholic friends simply would not abide by the letter and spirit of that law, in Article VII, Section 15, of which reads: "No public money or property shall ever be appropriated, applied or used directly or indirectly for the use, benefit or support of any sect, church, denomination, sectarian institution or system of religion, or for the use, benefit or support of any priest, preacher, minister or dignitary as such."

It will thus be seen that what is unconstitutional is the insistence of the Catholic Church to teach religion in our public schools. The Church-sponsored religious instruction bill was wisely vetoed by President Quezon in 1938, because it ran counter to our fixed policy not to let any religion interfere with the functions of our government. It is very apparent that Fr. Sullivan is a recalcitrant against this policy.

He mentioned The New Age in the United States, and The Cabletow as the two magazines that have been most pronounced in advocating freedom for our public school from the shackles of sect. We do not deny this charge, for we consider the complete separation of Church and State as the best human arrangement and have not hesitated to say so openly. We speak as the heroes of our race spoke—Rizal, Del Pilar, Bonifacio, Mabini—all of whom labored that the tyranny of the human agents of the Catholic Church may not be forever with us. Many of those who took part in the war against Spain who may still be living today can testify to the fact that the Filipinos went to the battle fields to fight, not the Spanish people with whom they had no quarrel, but the human elements of the Catholic Church who abused our people and enriched themselves and their religious orders on the fat of our lands.

The separation of Church and State is a principle which is close to the hearts of all liberty-loving people. The Supreme Court of the United States, in interpreting this principle, said the following in an illuminating decision handed down in the case of Watson vs. Jones, 13 Wallace 728: "In this country (U. S.) the full and free right to entertain any religious belief, to practice any religious principle, and to teach any religious doctrine which does not violate the laws of morality and property, and which does not infringe personal rights, is conceded to all. The law knows no heresy, and is committed to the support of no dogma, the establishment of no sect."

Our patriotism teaches us that the law of our country is higher than the law of any church, and our loyalty to the church ends where its transgression against the law of our cauntry begins. Jesus Himself taught respect for constituted authority when He said, "Give unto Cæsar that which is Cæsar's."

There are, it is claimed, over 12 million Catholics in the Philippines and that all these want religious instruction in our public schools. We doubt this claim, for we know that while many Filipinos profess Catholicism, they do not obey the dictates of the priests blindly, and if Fr. Sullivan wishes to know more, let him just read the Philippine Revolution. Just to cite two instances, we have the President and the Vice-President of our Commonwealth. Both are Catholics, but when it came to a showdown, they convinced the world that they were Filipinos first. The courage of these two gentlemen is an inspiration to all right thinking citizens of this country, and should lead those wavering and blinded souls who are within Fr. Sullivan's gathering gloom, to come out in the open and be Filipinos once more. I, for one, believe that it is not too late to rescue from the clutches of a sectarian octopus our countrymen who are being indoctrinated into ideas which make them total strangers in their own mother country.

We wish to emphasize that we have no quarrel with those who disagree with us. The whole trouble is that they insist on a proposition that is clearly against the Constitution, and all law-abiding citizens, whether Masons or not, are duty-bound to defend the fundamental law of the land.

Jose de los Reyes
Grand Master

THE CABLETOW

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Editor: Antonio Gonzalez, P.G.M.

EDITORIALS

TEN YEARS OF FIDELITY

TEN YEARS of faithful labors for the Craft, in spite of all kinds of vicissitudes; ten years of struggle to keep the three lights burning at the Masonic altar without let or hindrance, despite the countless dangers of violent suppression—this is the heroic record of Amity Lodge No. 106 in China under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

We have the honor and the pleasure of celebrating the tenth anniversary of the founding of this Lodge; the honor is ours for a record of fidelity that brings abundant credit to this Jurisdiction, and so is the pleasure for having fathered the organization of such a Lodge whose members have proved true Brothers to us in a common cause.

China's spirit has not been conquered by the long and brutal assaults of war. The Chinese government stands today exactly as it stood before, fearless and unsubdued in its determination to live its life as it has been destined to live it through the centuries—free from bondage to any foreign power.

It is this same determination of the Chinese people that we find at work within the four walls of Amity Lodge. Masonry, conceived in the God-given freedom of the human conscience from dictation and tyranny, cannot but find in such determination its own reason for being in a world facing slavery by the totalitarian powers of darkness.

It is more than merely a pleasure to us that Amity Lodge has successfully weathered the bad times of the last ten years. Our happiness is not more than our faith fortified by the example of the brethren in China—faith in the fundamental soundness of our principles, and what is more, faith in the deathlessness of those principles against all the designs of human cunning and human violence.

FOR ALL THIS WE THANK GOD

UPON THE fifth anniversary of the founding of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, we raise a prayer to the Supreme Architect for blessing its existence with light and plenty. This government has seen the light through the gloom that false prophets have tried to cast upon it in the name of Intolerance. This government has refused to surrender its birthright of freedom of conscience to Sect and Dogma. Its Constitution lives unimpaired in its essential idealism of republican liberty, and in the mandates of that fundamental law ideas and principles dear to all Masons remain unassailed. By virtue of that same Constitution, the Church is still where it should be—apart from the State—with no chance at meddling in our affairs.

Thus we have seen the light as against all attempts to befog issues and obscure our intelligence. But this is not all that the Supreme Architect has made possible: we also have here plenty of the bread of life—the material as well as the immaterial—which other countries now do not have, thanks to the plunderers who have invaded their boundaries and reduced them to virtual vassalage.

For all this we have to be thankful to the Eternal Deity Who watches over our destinies.

WE MUST HONOR THE AMERICAN FLAG

(Editor's note: Address delivered by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Maj. Gen. Jose de los Reyes, before Far East Chapter No. 15, National Sojourners, on September 26, 1940.)

Most Wor. Bro. Toastmaster,
Friends and Brethren:

Once more, within the short span of the life of a single generation and before the balm of time has completely healed the wounds which the last World War had inflicted in the hearts and souls of millions of men, women, and innocent children, we are again living in a dark period—perhaps the darkest—in the history of the human race since the dawn of Christianity.

This time a great confusion never before seen reigns in the universal temple, seeming to portend evils and sufferings far greater than those brought about by any war in the past ages. Science and all its marvelous discoveries and progress which should be devoted exclusively to building up and enriching civilization the better to ameliorate the condition of life of all races, are being turned to the service of greed for selfish nationalism, despotism, and domination. Deadly weapons for the destruction, not of human happiness alone, but of life itself, are every minute being produced in the manufacturies of death.

Lawlessness has supplanted peace and order in the existence of many a nation; and wherever ruffiianism has succeeded in gaining foothold through brutal force individual freedom, honor, and innocence are insulted with impunity. At this calamitous time, even our faith in justice and our hope in the ultimate brotherhood of men are subjected to a hard test, making fear for the very foundations of our belief in love and charity among men.

My brethren, there are in the not distant horizon discernible signs which seem to forebode the setting in of a dark chaos which may blight in the short time of a single night all the fruits and all the achievements of human progress, material as well as spiritual, which have been made possible only through centuries of unceasing efforts and painful toil. With that chaos there will come the horrors of oligarchy, the spoliation and exploitation of nations by nations, the oppression of men by men. Every vestige of freedom and democracy will then be trampled into the mud under the heels of the tyrant.

Perhaps some men may remark that these words of mine are dictated by hatred, or by defeatism, or by fear. No, my brethren, far from that. Masons are taught never to hate. And a Mason, old or young, if he is true to his profession of faith, may be believed or supposed to have learned the fundamental Masonic principle that he must practice all social and moral virtues, and noble living so as to be always prepared to meet death at any turn of the tortuous trail of life.

He is taught that the mystery of death is not a thing men should be afraid of, and that it is not all death in death, as it is not all life in life. I do not think any normal sensible man would call life, and consciously accept for himself or for his nation as life, one of agony and shame under the whip of an insensate master.

Let us just try to imagine, if we can, seeing electricity, deadly gasses, fire and steel put into action and spreading havoc and death all around us; hordes of human beasts, athirst for blood, desecrating the sanctity of homes; defenseless old men, women, and children kicked about and insulted; and a vanquished people subjected to indignities, and we have but a vague picture of the informal reality. That is death and not life.

Even we, who live in peace and security in these fair islands, are daily suffering from a deep, mournful sensation caused in our hearts by the accounts of untold sufferings undergone by millions of people in the war now raging in Asia, Europe and elsewhere.

It is needless for me to say here that the essence of our venerable Order being the Brotherhood of men under the Fatherhood of God, we should abhor war. But Masonry stands for Truth, source of universal justice, and for Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity. As citizens, we Masons cannot forget to love and practice justice, to respect and obey the laws of the land, to honor and love our country and, if necessary, to lay down our lives for the honor of the flag of the great nation that now protects this democratic Commonwealth, under which we all equally enjoy the rights and liberties of free men. We must freely give our all to save civilization and to make this world safe for free citizens and democratic institutions, and we must resolve to accept this task without counting the cost.

One may acquire a fortune through inheritance but common sense and a good character cannot be inherited.

PAST GRAND MASTER'S FATHER DIES

Mr. Charles Stevens, father of our Past Grand Master Frederic H. Stevens, died at his home in Chicago, Ill., on October 20, 1940, at the ripe age of 83 years.

He was for many years manager of A. R. Barnes & Co., printers in Chicago, and retired only a year ago. About 50 years ago, he held the amateur lightweight wrestling championship for both Illinois and Michigan, besides being stroke on the four-oared racing gig of the Chicago Yacht Club that won the amateur championship race at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1894.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens of Chicago; his son, our Past Grand Master; his grandson, Lee Stevens, his granddaughter, Mrs. Fred C. Brown, a former screen star during the days of silent pictures; and great grandchildren now residing in Manila.

We extend to Bro. Stevens our heartfelt condolence.

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AMITY'S DECENNIAL, 1930-1940: A RETROSPECT

By HUA-CHUEN MEI, P.D.G.M.

FROM THIRTY-ONE founders groping in the gloomy summer of 1930, petitioning for a dispensation to the proud and established position of premier Philippine Lodge in China in 1940, with a five-fold increase in membership selected from the ranking elements of cosmopolitan Shanghai, with a resourceful, energetic leadership, with no debt but substantial Lodge investments, and prospect of owning its temple in measurable distance of early realization,—is indeed a far cry. It is also a remarkably successful record of the first decade of Amity Lodge No. 106. As one who shared in its early struggles, experienced its growing pains, helped to see it thru several crises of its childhood career, and watched its gradual growth into maturity, I look back upon their decennial milestone with a peculiar satisfaction, grateful for the signal blessings of the Great Architect of the Universe Who assured its steady progress, and for the constant paternal care and protection of the Grand Lodge which gave it being.

Amity began its Masonic career upon its institution on November 22, 1930, tho its officers knew little or nothing of either Philippine ceremonial or that of its precursor, the California ritual. Ritually, it was a hodge-podge body. The founders had come out of English, Scottish, Massachusetts or New York jurisdictions. They could hardly decipher the Philippine Blue Book; they made poor guesses at the esoteric mysteries and blundered with the floor work, until confusion became worse confounded. That state of affairs was, however, soon arrested when the Grand Master of the Philippines assigned to Amity its first Inspector, Wor. Bro. Edwin Webster Lawson of Cavite No. 2 who, as expert lecturer, coach and director-of-ceremonies all rolled into one, quickly dispersed the clouds of doubt, and with extraordinary zeal, good humor and tact, whipped the officers into efficient degree teams. After a few weeks of intensive drilling, Amity began initiating, passing and raising candidates like a veteran organization. In those busy beginnings, hardly a week passed without at least one practice and one degree meeting. By May, 1931, when M. W. Bro. George R. Harvey and Wor. Bro. George C. Dankwerth arrived in Shanghai to constitute the Lodge in behalf of the Grand Master, some twelve new brethren attended as Master Masons to witness the impressive ceremony that formally set up Amity as a regularly chartered Lodge.

From its inception, the purpose was to admit into Amity membership only those best qualified: men of character, of education, of responsibility in the community, fluent in handling the English language. These standards automatically restricted candidacies to a small but select section of the population, and Amity wanted only the cream of the chief of city of China. We could afford no other course, considering the high ideals of the founders, and with some fourteen Lodges of five other Jurisdictions anxiously watching our experiment. Nevertheless, thru the last ten hectic years of economic depression, currency depreciation and two wars which made and are still making life and work difficult—and sometimes impossible—the Lodge has held indomitably true to those standards, otherwise the present membership would be several times its present size. As a result of most careful selection, 90% of the members are college graduates, professional and business men who are leaders in their respective fields. In this connection it is interesting to recall that some years ago, a Scottish Rotarian (a Past Master of his Lodge) proposed the formation of a Lodge in Shanghai to be composed of Masons belonging to Rotary Clubs. I had the quiet satisfaction of pointing out to him that such a Lodge already existed, for Amity had upon its roster some 35 Rotarians!

In the best traditions of the Craft, Amity has raised good men and true, regardless of their racial antecedents, credal differences and nationality. Thus there are some fourteen nationalities and six or seven religions represented. I had the rare privilege of initiating a Parsee upon the Zendavesta, a Jew upon the Old Testament, and adherents of other faiths upon the Volume of the Sacred Law. Yet, all these brethren of diverse backgrounds, both cultural and spiritual, have labored in complete harmony, joined in the finest sort of social fellowship, enjoying a free intellectual companionship, eschewing all political and religious controversy, happy in a common purpose, glorifying in the great heritage of our noble Institution, and sharing in the task of who best could work and best agree.

Educationally, Amity has endeavored to keep pace with Masonic research and study as carried on throughout the Craft. In this direction, it has provided the members with a good-sized library of standard texts, with annual appropriations to add at least a few volumes to the book shelves. The Lodge has been for ten years and still is a subscriber to the Masonic Service Association publications, whose lectures are avidly read, and selections are made by the Master for reading at every Lodge of Instruction held periodically. By this and other means, Amity men hope to keep abreast with the best Masonic thought throughout the world-wide fraternity.

Financially, the Lodge is still sound, despite the hardships of the past four years of disturbance. Free from debt, its investments conservatively placed and jealously husbanded by the trustees to yield a fair income from the dozen or so life memberships, endowment, charity and building funds, it may be said that there are few Lodges which are so well situated. Nevertheless, like every other institution in war-torn areas, Amity has suffered its share of losses and privations, not the least of which is the extreme difficulty in maintaining touch with its far-flung membership, now scattered in remote parts of Free China or to the four corners of the earth, in collecting dues, and, on account of depreciated currency and abnormal exchange, in remitting its Grand Lodge obligations from the diminished Lodge income. It is with prideful gratitude to note here that Grand Lodge, out of its traditional generosity and stewardship for its daughter Lodges in China, had in its 1940 Communication adopted the proper measures to see that those twin evils of war did not operate to the lasting injury and perhaps crippling of Amity, or any of the five other Lodges—something that the brethren in China shall never forget nor fail to appreciate.

That there might be no over-emphasis of ritualistic activities nor "all work and no play making Jack a dull boy," the Lodge organizes every spring either an outing to some lake resort or a picnic for the members, their wives and children, an autumn function jointly with the Amity Ladies' Circle (lately expanded into the Amity-Sun Ladies' Circle), and a Christmas party for the Lodge children. These get-togethers, in informal, joyous fashion have knitted the members and their families into a distinctly pleasant social group, providing the utmost in wholesome fun and helpful companionship, and at the same time creating a solidarity which has had far-reaching benefits for all within the charmed circle.

The foundations have been well-laid.

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GREETINGS TO AMITY LODGE

THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER,
WARDENS AND MEMBERS,
AMITY LODGE No. 106,
SHANGHAI, CHINA.
BRETHREN:

IT IS with deep pleasure that I am extending to all and every one of you my felicitations on the Tenth Anniversary of your Lodge, which falls on November 22, 1940.

To keep carrying on your Masonic labors, and to attain a signal success amidst general confusion created by a protracted war now raging throughout your great country, placing the lives and safety of your people in constant jeopardy, this to me, shows not only courage on your part, but also a high spirit of sacrifice and devotion to the noble cause of our Venerable Order.

In the face of the evils that now threaten to destroy morality, law and justice in the relations of men and of nations, let us always remember Him in Whom we have put our trust. With faith in the unerring Justice and Wisdom of our Supreme Grand Master, the Ruler of heaven and earth, let us reaffirm our resolve to face still greater misfortunes and sufferings in the performance of our duties without ever allowing the divine spirit in us to bow before all the force and impositions of unrighteousness. Faith and firmness in the service of Justice and Right make an unconquerable force.

I wish Amity Lodge No. 106 further and greater success, happiness for each one of its members, and to the great country of China go my best and fervent wishes for brighter days in the near future.

JOSE DE LOS REYES
Grand Master

I am congratulating Amity Lodge on its Tenth Anniversary as a Masonic body in China under our Jurisdiction. There is no doubt in my mind that you are a source of inspiration to the people of China who would like to enjoy peace in the Orient. I hope that you will be instrumental in bringing about an everlasting, but honorable peace—not a peace imposed by lies, brutality and outrage—but one emanating from the principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

I wish you success for many, many more years to come! Congratulations!

JOSE P. GUIDO
Senior Grand Warden

Brethren of Chinese nationality, for many years before our Lodges in China were established, had proved their worth as excellent members of the Craft. This gave rise to the idea of establishing Lodges under our Jurisdiction in China. Full credit is due our Most Wor. Bro. Vicente Carmona for seeing fit to grant dispensation to Amity Lodge, and later effecting its charters by Grand Lodge.

May all China Lodges survive the catastrophy which has befallen their beautiful land, and that a victorious China in the near future might give our Lodges and their loyal membership greater opportunities for real service to their country and its inhabitants without distinction.

Our China Lodges are doing great Masonic work. We are all proud of their achievements and I sincerely assure them our full cooperation and sympathy.

M. GOLDENBERG
Junior Grand Warden

There fell upon me in 1930 as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines the pleasure of granting the dispensation for the establishment of Amity Lodge, against the opposition of a Sister Grand Jurisdiction. This action was taken by me because my associates in our Grand Lodge and I were convinced that the opposition was due only to the lack of knowledge on the part of some brethren about the character and ability of the Chinese people. Fortunately, it appears that, after seeing the good deportment of the members of Amity Lodge, all the brethren now admit the wisdom of our decision in authorizing the establishment of Amity Lodge.

V. CARMONA, P.G.M.
Grand Treasurer

The real worth of a Lodge is the way it tries to rise to the high plane of ideals and sentiments, leaving behind wordly and mundane levels. Physically and spiritually, men always tend to rise to immeasurable heights perchance to reach those regions where they may not be besmirched by base human passions. The sputterings of the miseries of human life should not reach those who, having crossed the threshold of a Lodge, have come to know its elevated sentiments and ideals. Amity Lodge No. 106, has known how to live such a life during its ten years of existence.

ANTONIO GONZALEZ, P.G.M.
Grand Secretary

Although I have never had the privilege of sitting in meeting with the brethren of Amity Lodge, I have had the honor and pleasure of meeting several of them at our Annual Communications. Knowing them has been one of several factors which have caused me to follow with a keen interest the fortunes of Amity Lodge during the decade of its existence.

I congratulate Amity Lodge No. 106 on its having carried on and increased its membership under circumstances and through a period which have tried men's souls, as the souls of men have seldom been tried in this generation. Their progress is all the more noteworthy in the face of the fact that from Lodges in other localities, where the surroundings have been congenial and the social order tranquil, decreases in membership are continually reported. Surely, as Mathews has said: "The school of adversity graduates the ablest pupils."

Again, I congratulate Amity Lodge No. 106 on its name. "Amity" is expressive of those friendly and peaceful relations which should exist not only between person and person everywhere, but between nation and nation. It embodies in a word the supreme Masonic idea of human relationships. It is at once a name and a symbol.

I congratulate the brethren of Amity Lodge No. 106, because the location of their Lodge and tenets for which it stands have made it emblematic of the real "new order in Asia" that is to be. Asia is now witnessing the earthquake and the fire. God is not in these. After them shall come the still small voice. The things typified by Amity Lodge No. 106, like the "kingdom of heaven," may be likened to "leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal until the whole has leavened." Our Masonic philosophy of progress, our Masonic faith in the Great Architect of the Universe, make it impossible for us to admit that the forward march of Masonic principles in the world can be ultimately turned back. Though everywhere "truth" seems to be on the scaffold;" everywhere "wrong" seems to be on the "throne," yet it is implicit in the soul of every freeman and Freemason to believe with Lowell, that,

> "....the scaffold rules the future
> And behind the dim unknown,
> Standeth God within the shadow
> Keeping watch above his own";

and, in spite of the brutal rush of "Gog and Magog to the fray" throughout the world, to have confidence that from behind that dim unknown, "He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call

(Continued on the next page)

GREETINGS TO AMITY LODGE

(*Continued from the preceding page*)

retreat."

So, I congratulate Amity Lodge No. 106, once more, as a young and vigorous Masonic body with enthusiasm, that heritage of youth, situated where it may set in motion waves of influence which shall break upon the shores of history centuries to come. Surely its members may truly say to one another, in the words of Bishop Coxe:

"We are living, we are dwelling
In a grand and awful time;
In an age of ages telling—
To be living is sublime."

J. F. BOOMER
Grand Chaplain

One of the duties of the Grand Marshal is to lead Masonic processions of the Grand Lodge.

It, therefore, becomes my pleasant duty to take part in the procession of congratulatory remarks directed to Amity Lodge No. 106, in Shanghai, China, on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of its founding.

Rightly, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines is the one who should be congratulated. Congratulated for having under its Jurisdiction a daughter Lodge whose exemplification of our basic Masonic principles in the face of adversity, persecution, and even physical attack, will forever stand as a high-water mark, as a shining light and as a goal for all Masonic Lodges throughout the world.

BERTRAND HAROLD SILEN
Grand Marshal

Amity Lodge No. 106, is doing a very great service to the cause of Masonry and to humanity in general. It enters upon another decade of its existence in a troubled world, and I hope that it will become stronger and more determined to carry on its noble task of defending and promoting the doctrines and activities of Masonry, and the peace and happiness of all humanity. My warmest congratulations to the Lodge and its worthy officers and members.

ORESTES HERMOSURA
Grand Standard Bearer

I just wish to express my warm good wishes as your Tenth Anniversary approaches and may the joy of this happy occasion continue to brighten the many more years to come. We in the Philippines are intensely interested in the welfare of our Masonic brethren in Shanghai. And, as we realize the hardships they are experiencing for the cause of democracy for which Masonry stands, we are confident that Amity Lodge No. 106 will live forever to enjoy the satisfactions and delights which she deserves.

JOSE C. VELO
Senior Grand Lecturer

Having been chairman of the Committee which recommended the granting of a Charter to Amity Lodge, it has been with the greatest interest that I have followed its Masonic history. I feel sure that all brethren of this Grand Jurisdiction will agree that the issuing of a Charter for the dissemination of American Masonry in China has been of great benefit, and that no one regrets the action taken ten years ago by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands.

JOHN M. AARON
Junior Grand Lecturer

Through thick and thin, Amity Lodge No. 106 has endured all the trials and tribulations of life in a period of uncertainty, and withstood all the external assaults of the last ten years, undaunted. You deserve the admiration of the Masonic world, and I most heartily congratulate the officers and members of your Lodge, and wish you many more manifold decade of happiness and prosperity.

J. M. E. LEON, Jr.
Senior Grand Deacon

The name adopted by Amity Lodge was a happy choice, meaning as it does, friendship and harmony. It was well-founded, has been well conducted, and, undoubtedly, will well continue its good work, particularly if in the future, its membership is as carefully selected as it has been in the past. Among its members are some outstanding Masonic figures well known in this Grand Jurisdiction, and whose names it is not necessary to mention. The good relations and harmony which now exist between it and all other Masonic Lodges in China augur well for the future, and I take this opportunity to congratulate Amity Lodge No. 106, its officers and members, as well as the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands on having such a Lodge within its Jurisdiction.

J. W. FERRIER
Junior Grand Deacon

It is not without mixed feelings of delight and misgiving that I extend my greetings and felicitations to Amity Lodge's celebration on the Tenth Anniversary of its foundation, coming, as it does, during the most critical period in the history of our neighboring Republic, when practically the whole world is aflame, with the security and continuity of democratic institutions hanging in the balance.

I am confident, however, that Amity Lodge's celebration is the signal to all the brethren throughout the globe for a rededication and reconsecration of the undying ideal of democracy and to the spirit of brotherly love, tolerance, broad-mindedness and service which are being put to an acid test against the forces of destruction.

Let me urge and enjoin my brethren to take fresh courage and dispel fear and defeatism with the absolute certainty that our precious ideals, being deathless and immortal, will rise phoenix-like, from the ashes and ruin of matter, and shine forth with added brilliance to illumine a new world order.

TEODORICO A. JIMENEZ
Senior Grand Steward

Philippine Masons rejoice in the fact that for a decade the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, has had a bulwark of democracy in Shanghai. The foundation of Amity Lodge No. 106, and the thought that its members, no doubt, directly or indirectly, have served and are serving in the supreme struggle for the preservation of the oldest nation known to mankind, are both stimulating.

JOSE J. DE GUZMAN
Grand Tiler

As first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, I congratulate you on your tenth birthday and say to you that we are proud of your work and accomplishments. Our hearts and brotherly love are with you, God bless you and help you carry on.

H. E. STAFFORD
Past Grand Master

It is with much pleasure that I am writing to you about your proposed celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the organization of Amity Lodge under a Dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippine Isands.

Your Lodge was established under very favorable conditions, and I felt highly honored in being designated as the representative of Most Worshipful Brother William Wiley Larkin, Grand

(*Continued on the next page*)

GREETINGS TO AMITY LODGE

(Continued from the preceding page)

Master in 1931, to constitute that Lodge on May 25, 1931. In my report to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge I stated as follows:

"There was not a discordant note in the whole proceedings. Every word of the speakers indicated the true Masonic spirit, and it is believed that unity and cooperation will be the watchwords of the Masonic brethren in China, without regard to the Constitution under which they serve the cause."

We have believed in your fidelity to the principles of Masonry. We have felt that you obeyed the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of our Grand Lodge in your relations with other Lodges, and that you deserved the approval and commendation of all good Masons everywhere; yet, for reasons beyond your control, you have had difficult problems in your onward and upward march to a high degree of success. In every crisis, you have shown that Amity Lodge is composed of good men and true Masons, and you have been able to solve your problems with credit to yourselves and with satisfaction to Grand Lodge.

I am informed that on November 22, 1940, you will celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the institution of the Lodge under Dispensation. It does not seem possible that it has been almost ten years since I disembarked at Shanghai on May 25, 1931, on my way to the United States, and constituted Amity Lodge in the evening of that date. Many changes have taken place in Shanghai and in all China within these ten years. The Chinese people have shown their courage, fortitude, and bravery on the field of battle, as well as their diplomacy in the gentle arts of peace. More particularly, I desire to commend your Lodge upon the splendid record you have made in holding high the banner of Masonry, and setting a worthy example of Brotherhood and individual conduct as Masons; and you have shown yourselves to be a Lodge worthy of emulation by other Lodges in China.

It has not been my privilege to visit Amity Lodge since it was organized, but the reports that have come to me about the work of your Lodge and the work of our other Lodges in China, have been of a very satisfying character. As a Grand Lodge, we are very happy over the fact that our Lodges in China have established and maintained amicable relations with the members of the Lodges of other Grand Jurisdictions in China and have been able to add much to the prestige which our Grand Lodge has earned throughout the Masonic world.

With assurances of our vital interest in all that concerns your continued success as a Lodge and as individual members of the great Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons.

GEO. R. HARVEY
Grand Master, 1915-16

When one reaches the Tenth Anniversary of anything, it is always a landmark, particularly in the case of a Masonic Lodge.

It does not seem like ten years since Amity Lodge No. 106 asked our Grand Lodge for a Charter. At least it does not until one stops to think of the many things that have happened.

Terrible things are happening to your beloved country but as the noise and turmoil in the Temple taught us that peace will come, so we believe that, because of the travail China is enduring, she will rise stronger and better.

To the brethren of Amity Lodge, we greet you and take this opportunity to tell you how much we admire your fight for Masonry and Masonic principles in the face of almost insurmountable odds in the Land of Cathay.

FREDERIC H. STEVENS
Past Grand Master

I am indeed glad to offer you my felicitations on the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of Amity Lodge.

Your Lodge has had to suffer a great many trials and difficulties which were not dreamed of when the Lodge was founded. If you had been able to foretell these trials, you would undoubtedly not have undertaken the task of forming a new Lodge.

However, as we look back over the work of the past ten years, we can see that the work of Amity Lodge has been an outstanding achievement. You have been a pillar of strength and have been a rallying point for the spread of Masonic Light throughout China far more than you had expected, and even far more than most of us at present realize.

The Grand Jurisdiction of the Philippines has never for a moment regretted its entrance into China by issuing a charter to Amity Lodge; on the contrary it has been ever more and more thankful for having taken this step. The best wishes of all members of this Grand Lodge go to you at this time for your continued success and prosperity.

JOSEPH H. ALLEY
Past Grand Master

I never cease to think anxiously and affectionately of you all in the midst of these turbulent times of terror, trials and tribulations.

But, as we together approach our Lodge decennial, anxiety gives way to beautiful, even poignant memories, and to reassuring hopes. For the past, we are all properly mindful of the blessings of Deity Who has vouchsafed our organization its extraordinary vitality, its purposeful life, and Who will safeguard its abundant and fruitful future.

Amity has safely weathered some severe storms in its thus far brief career: wars, depressions, doubts, fears and opposition from more than one external danger, but happily she has survived, and will outlive them all. She will continue to prosper, ever more significant in its beneficent influences, and a joy to its membership into the distant future.

In thinking of its past history, its present hazards, and its future brightness, I am reminded of that gnarled, old zigzag tree on top of a high New Hampshire hill, bent by the force of years of wintry blasts until it completely doubled over, yet it did not snap. Rather, it waxed and grew from its new, tho somewhat bizarre position—and lifted its leafy boughs in triumphant thanksgiving to the sky. Truly did the prophet Isaiah say: "The bruised tree will bend, but not break!" And so, my brethren, I am more than ever persuaded, nay, it is a conviction, that despite the vicissitudes of these terrible years, Amity possesses that capacity for self-repair which is essentially the mark of life—that spark within which overcomes external circumstances and environmental elements.

Hail and congratulations! And may the Great Architect of the Universe bless and keep you, each and every member, your loved ones, safe and sound, until those halcyon days of peace shall link us all again in the bond of fraternal reunion.

HUA-CHUEN MEI
Past District Grand Master

Ten years of Masonic work will lie behind you this 22nd of November, 1940. Looking backward, you have every reason to be proud of your work, because those ten years were years of hard struggle against difficult economical, political and personal condition. As good soldiers of our common Masonic cause you have kept the banner of Masonry flying high despite all hardships. We cannot but congratulate you with all our heart on what you have done and are doing, and

(Continued on the next page)

GREETINGS TO AMITY LODGE

(Continued from the preceding page)

send you our best wishes for the future of your Lodge to which we feel closer related because of Amity Lodge.

WERNER SCHETELIG
Master
Pinagsabitan Lodge No. 26

Allow me, in behalf of Zapote Lodge No. 29, to convey to you all our sincere congratulations on the occasion of the glorious event crowning your success with the laurel of victory, the truimphant march of Amity Lodge No. 106.

P. DE LOS REYES
Master
Zapote Lodge No. 29

On behalf of the brethren of Lincoln Lodge No. 34, I send you our fraternal greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the foundation of your Lodge.

We have nothing but words of praise and admiration for the great courage you are displaying, for in spite of the privations and sufferings occasioned by war in which your people are engaged, you still can carry forward the service and fellowship of Masonry.

PURISIMO RAMOS
Master
Lincoln Lodge No. 34

On the Tenth Anniversary of the foundation of Amity Lodge No. 106, the members of Kalilayan Lodge No. 37 extend to you our most sincere congratulations and wish you continued success. We are not unaware of the hardships and sufferings that beset the Lodges in China in spite of which you have endeavored to advance in your undertakings.

FEDERICO M. UNSON
Master
Kalilayan Lodge No. 37

On the 10th anniversary of the foundation of Amity Lodge No. 106, constituted by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, permit me to extend in the name of the members of Magindanaw Lodge No. 40, our most sincere felicitation and rejoicing for the uninterrupted successes of our brethren in China despite all adversities, material and personal sacrifices.

RAMON SANTOS
Master
Magindanaw Lodge No. 40

The members of Pampanga Lodge wish Amity Lodge long life in usefulness and prosperity in order that all of us, members of this honorable fraternity, may reach that goal which gives light to all submerged in darkness.

May Amity Lodge live forever!

P. D. NAVARRO
Secretary
Pampanga Lodge No. 48

In this troubled time when our fraternity throughout the world is facing the crucial test, it is heartening to know that your Lodge has withstood all vicissitudes and carried on its noble mission.

JOSE MIGUELINO
Master
Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49

It is very heartening to know that on or about November 22, 1940, Amity Lodge No. 106, the first Lodge constituted in China by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines, will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its foundation. Our sincere best wishes.

T. I. ALFELOR
Master
Sarangani Lodge No. 50

With grateful pleasure I convey my sincere greetings to Amity Lodge No. 106, on their Tenth Anniversary. I am aware of the precarious situation at present obtaining in China. But I am also aware that this institution, of which we are all a part is an important and indispensable factor in bringing chaos into its proper order, with the Divine help of the Great Omnipotent.

With indomitable courage what you have faced the past ten years! Bravo.!

JOSE T. DARBIN
Master
Isabela Lodge No. 60.

We certainly appreciate this privilege of congratulating you on this occasion of the 10th anniversary of the foundation of Amity Lodge No. 106. All these years you have carried on in spite of the tremendous difficulties under which your people are laboring. Your example is indeed an inspiration to all of us. Your spirit reminds us of the great Masons of history, who surmounted difficulties and endured ridicule and persecution, of whom the world is justly proud.

SEVERO G. DIA
Master
Mayon Lodge No. 61

On the occasion of your 10th anniversary, November 22, 1940, the members of Baguio Lodge No. 67 extend their congratulations, wish you unlimited decades of life, and express the hope that in the not too distant future the teachings of our venerable order may so subdue the discordant passions now loose in the world that peace and happiness may again prevail. Your boyhood thus far has been ever a rough and rugged road but, thanks to the guidance of that All Seeing Eye, as interpreted and carried out by yourselves, you have come through stronger in spirit and more fixed in determination to endure to the end.

Though separated by many miles of distance, our thoughts and good wishes will be with you in your celebration on November 22nd.

CARL B. ESCHBACH
Master
Baguio Lodge No. 67

The brethren of Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69, in their stated meeting of October 5, 1940, upon learning the happy news of your coming Tenth Anniversary celebration, have unanimously and spontaneously expressed their profound feeling of joy and exultation, and resolved that their warm congratulations and affectionate greetings be extended, as it is hereby extended, to the worthy brethren of Amity Lodge No. 106, Shanghai, China, who have successfully completed ten strenuous years of Masonic activity, despite mounting difficulties and constant turmoil to which they have been exposed in their own beloved country. May the Great Architect of the Universe bless you all to forge ahead and keep the light burning in your part of the globe.

DAVID ESPINOLA
Master
Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69

The members of Union Lodge No. 70 desire to express their most sincere congratulations to Amity Lodge No. 106 on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of its foundation. We hope and pray that the members of Amity Lodge situated as it is in a country full of turmoil, may be instrumental in soon rehabilitating their devastated country.

FEDERICO CONCEPCION
Master
Union Lodge No. 70

(Continued on the next page)

GREETINGS TO AMITY LODGE

(Continued from the preceding page)

In the name of Agno Lodge No. 75, I am sending this short message of congratulations to all the brethren of Amity Lodge No. 106 on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the foundation of their Lodge, who are true to their principles braving their part even in midst of the present struggle for their rights and liberties.

I wish you all success.

MARIANO B. VELASCO
Master
Agno Lodge No. 75

May the Supreme Architect of the Universe continue giving you more vigor, success and prosperity in all your Masonic endeavors in China for many more years to come, despite the uncertainties of the world.

In conclusion, the brethren of my Lodge join with me in wishing you always "MABUHAY."

H. M. SAYCON
Master
Kasilawan Lodge No. 77

We hope that the principal tenets of our fraternity will bring your people and ours to mutual and frendly understanding, and that peace and harmony will always prevail not only with you but also between the Chinese and the Filipino peoples. Long live Amity Lodge!

VICENTE GUSTILO
Master
Acacia Lodge No. 78

I congratulate you on your Tenth Anniversary. The zeal and devotion to the cause of the Craft which have guided the organizers of Amity Lodge No. 106, in order that the influence of Philippine Masonry may be extended into the vast territory of China, is worthy of every emulation. The members you have taken in are a credit to every decent society of men, and they prove that you are striving for quality rather than for quantity. I am fully aware of the struggles you have had to contend with during the last decade. Your fortitude shown in the face of the disastrous war now raging in your country, has served as an inspiration to all Masons all over the world.

HYMAN M. LEVINE
Master
Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 80

On behalf of the brethren of Muog Lodge No. 89, I am taking this means of conveying to you our congratulations on your having completed ten years of admirable Masonic progress under the most trying circumstances. Be assured that the members of the Craft in the Philippines are most proud and happy at the unflinching support Masons in China are giving at such a tense and uncertain time in the history of nations. After it is all over and this terrorism ceases, we will be glad to know that peace, righteousness and brotherly love are the victors over hatred and bigotry.

JAMES KABAKOW
Master
Muog Lodge No. 89

Mencius Lodge No. 93 has the great pleasure to congratulate Amity Lodge No. 106 on the Tenth Anniversary of its foundation. Amity Lodge is the first Lodge in China working under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. The adverse situation prevalent in China has not in the least discouraged Amity Lodge in marching onward to diffuse the sublime principles of our Order, those principles that are the corner-stone of our moral and spiritual undertakings. After 10 years of continuous struggle, Amity Lodge No. 106 occupies now an enviable position as the bulwark of Freemasonry in China under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands, and deserves the admiration, wholehearted encouragement and support of all the Masons of the Grand Jurisdiction of the Philippines.

GAW PUNSO
Master
Mencius Lodge No. 93

The members of Isagani Lodge No. 96 desire to fraternally greet and congratulate you on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the foundation of your Lodge. May the Great Architect of the Universe grant you continued success. MABUHAY!

JULIAN ESTEBAN
Secretary
Isagani Lodge No. 96

The officers and members of Keystone Lodge No. 100 join in extending their heartiest congratulations for the celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of Amity Lodge No. 106, on November 22, 1940.

SANTIAGO BOTER
Master
Keystone Lodge No. 100

The officers and members of Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105 congratulate you on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the foundation of your Lodge.

With the assurance of our great esteem and brotherly love we extend sincere fraternal salutations.

LEONARD W. HASSET
Master
Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105

In connection with the celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of your Lodge, I avail myself of this opportunity to extend to you my warmest congratulations. In the name of Kutang Bato Lodge No. 110, and in behalf of its members, I extend to you our fraternal greetings and pledge to you our perpetual friendship with the hope that the principal tenets of the Fraternity will strengthen the ties which bind us together as Masons.

ALBINO R. BARLAAN
Master
Kutang Bato Lodge No. 110

SICK COMMITTEE

The following brethren have been appointed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master as members of the Sick Committee for the month of November, 1940:

Hyman M. Levine (80), Bachrach Motor Co., Manila.

Pedro Lopez (81), Bigaa, Bulacan.

Adriano C. Uson (82), American President Lines, Manila.

AMITY'S DECENNIAL

(Continued from page 105)

The edifice erected thereon promises to become an enduring, permanent inspiration and uplift. The Craft, once an alien organization, has found root in China, and bids fair to become an indigenous institution. Rebased upon the philosophical writings of China's great sages: Confucius, Mencius, Mo-tsze and the galaxy of moral teachers and poets whose principles, so much akin to Masonic tenets, have graced Chinese literature for thousands of years, our Craft stands today in ancient China,—a China reborn from the stress and strain of a protracted war,—as a steadfast appeal to the noblest sentiments and instincts of man. It is no less than the dream of the poet who sang of "the brotherhood of man, and the parliament of the world." Of this ideal, Amity Lodge aims to be a worthy exponent and fit exemplar.

AMITY, FIRST PHILIPPINE LODGE IN CHINA

By DAVID W. K. AU, D.G.M. for China
(One of its first initiates)

ON THIS THE twenty-second of November, our thoughts turn back to the same day ten years ago when Amity Lodge No. 106 first took its place among the Masonic bodies of the world. The institution meeting itself was devoid of fanfare, just a brief business session with the usual opening and closing. The officers were somewhat nervous about their work, a bit excited over the dawn of a new day preceded by the long night of darkness, suspense and doubt. But the birth of Amity Lodge was no ordinary event, it was full of significance.

In the first place, its conception was fraught with difficulties. There were disappointments and delays, prejudices to overcome, misunderstandings to smooth over. Only their tenacity enabled the founders to survive the previous abortive attempt.

Secondly, Amity came into being for the avowed purpose of carrying on as an international Lodge. There were those who, doubtless with good intentions, discouraged the idea on the ground that this very principle upon which Masonry was erected was impracticable. Others thought Shanghai already had too many Lodges. To the founders must be accorded further credit for the courage of their convictions and the proven success of their virtue.

Thirdly, the dispensation to form Amity marked the first missionary effort of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines to spread Freemasonry in China. Amity's tenth anniversary is, therefore, also the decennial of Philippine Masonry in China. For the full portent of this event, we can hardly do better than quote Grand Master Kalaw who at the 1929 Annual Communication of Grand Lodge spoke as follows:—

> ".....Let us spread Masonry in the Far East among its various peoples. Let us have the natives of these Isles and regions of Asia and Oceania mingle with peoples in centers of fraternity, equality and democracy, such as Freemasonry, that they may not only become better acquainted with one another, do good and practise charity together, but that they may love one another and teach the rest of the world the benefits of that love, The coming years will be a time of intense activity, perhaps of great unrest among the peoples of Asia and Oceania who have hitherto remained dormant. The West is flooding us with its men, its trade, its ideas, its principles, its method, its institutions. The East is awakening. That awakening brings consciousness of its own worth and responsibility. The final readjustment of a clash of interest and civilizations that is drawing near will inevitably be preceded by serious conflicts that it is our duty to prevent, and the bad effects of which we must at least endeavor to palliate. Let us organize Lodges in every important city of the Orient and have natives and foreigners fraternize in them daily. This will show that they are brothers who can live together without hate who can also introduce into their relations an element of love and unity, indispensable for the progress and harmonious living together of these races."

This prophetic utterance of Bro. Kalaw is now being fulfilled almost literally. There came intense activity among Asiatic peoples during the past ten years; China has been fighting a war since 1937 and is still fighting. The founding of Amity was followed by the erection of five other Lodges in Nanking, Canton, Chengtu, Hangchow and Shanghai, where good men and true of all races and creeds fraternized under the banner of Freemasonry. We shall not rest until hate is finally removed and love and unity reign supreme.

Amity's decennial is also an occasion to remind us of those responsible for bringing it into being, for sustaining it during its infancy, for encouragement and cooperation given it ever since. To Most Wor. Bro. Vicente Carmona who issued the dispensation; to Very Wor. Bro. Eduardo Tankiang who so eloquently presented its petition for the charter, to the brethren of Grand Lodge who voted favorably upon it; to the late Most Wor. Bro. W. W. Larkin who signed it; to Most Wor. Bro. G. R. Harvey who constituted the Lodge; to Most Wor. Bro. Antonio Gonzalez who as Grand Master paid it the first Official Visitation and to all other Grand Officers: Most Wor. Bros. Frederic H. Stevens, C. W. Rosenstock, Stanton Youngberg, Manuel Camus, Samuel R. Hawthorne, Conrado Benitez and Joseph H. Alley—who honored it with their visitations; to the late Most Wor. Bro. Newton C. Comfort, Most Wor. Bro. Teodoro M. Kalaw and Wor. Bro. Leo Fischer, who rendered it yeoman service during their charge of the Grand Lodge office; to Rt. Wor. Bro. H. C. Mei, P.D.G.M., who had worked indefatigably thru some 20 years for Masonry in China, who justly earned the title of "Father of Amity Lodge;" to Wor. Bro. James L. E. Chow, its first Master, as well as to all others who in various ways contributed to its success—Amity Lodge owes a heavy debt of gratitude.

Those of us privileged to assist at laying the foundation stone of the Lodge know it was well and truly laid, and though we may not be spared to see its future glories, we shall pass on in the certain knowledge that it will outlast the ravages of time, the incursions of force and stand a monument to the able craftsmanship of those who planned, and adorned the noble structure.

RETAZO

Enriqueta C. Sarmiento

MGA DAMIT NA YARI PARA SA BABAE AT LALAKE MAGING BATA O MATANDA

•

DAMIT NA HINDI YARI
Sa POR KILO O POR METRO

•

Mga Puestong Bilang 322, 324 at 326
PAMILIHANG YANGCO
Maynila, K. P.

•

PANGUNAHING TANGAPAN
1571 Juan Luna — Tel. 4-91-07
689 Ilaya — Tel. 4-78-54

BRO. MEI HONORED BY GRAND MASTER

ON OCTOBER 7, 1940, the Most Worshipful Grand Master Jose de los Reyes gave a luncheon at the Dao Room of the Manila Hotel in honor of Right Wor Bro. Dr. Hua-Chuen Mei, Past District Grand Master for China.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master in a brief remark said that the occasion was to express the gratitude of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines to the valuable work of the guest of honor for the cause of Masonry in China, he being the moving spirit in starting Masonry there under our Constitution, fighting almost single-handed and against great obstacles to make the District Grand Lodge of China what it is today. The guest of honor, deeply moved, responded as follows:

"M. W. Grand Master and brethren of Grand Lodge:

"I need scarcely tell you how deeply sensible of the great honor you have done me at this sumptuous luncheon; the more so, because being back in the rank and file of Masonry, one is content to keep to the sidelines. Nonetheless, I am profoundly grateful for this magnificent kindness that you all show to a stranger, one who is more or less of a refugee from the horrors of war in China. I want here and now to acknowledge my appreciation of the real fraternal services done me by the Grand Secretary, M. W. Bro. Gonzalez, the Sr. Grand Warden, Right Wor. Major Guido, Wor. Bro. Yamzon, and Wor. Bro. Tankiang in effecting my safe landing in Manila with the courtesy of the port—kindnesses I shall never forget, just as I can never forget the fatherly care that M. W. Bro. Alley took of my daughters three years ago when they were evacuated here from Shanghai at the outbreak of the war.

"Perhaps you brethren might be interested in some Masonic experiences during the two years I spent in America. There are many, but I shall not detain you by referring to them all, only the high-lights, if you will grant me indulgence.

"First of all, I want to preface these remarks by saying that in June, 1938, I had intended to make but a 6-month visit with my family, but due to illness of my wife, it extended into 2¼ years. Happily during that period, I was enabled to travel thru the N.E.S.W. and N.W. of the United States and had the privilege of attending the Annual Communications of the Grand Lodges of California and New York, at each of which, unofficially, I extended the greetings of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Philippine Islands.

"In both California and New York, the Annual Communications were burdened with an enormous amount of business, much routine, tedious reports and debates, and visitors were usually introduced at the end of the second morning session. To liven matters up a bit, when my turn came, I spoke for a minute or two in Chinese—the first time, I venture to say, the Chinese language was ever heard in those temples. I could see that the audiences were aghast, wondering if I were to continue in Chinese and who was to translate. When I did my own interpreting, the surprise to them and to me was equally noticeable and electrifying. And when I tendered the fraternal regards of our G. M. and G. L., the applause was deafening from the thousand odd Masons that crowded both the temples at San Francisco and New York. It was also the first time that any Chinese Masonic officer had made the greetings to either of those jurisdictions, and I was glad and proud that I had the honor of representing you on both occasions.

"In California, I was happy to meet M. W. Bros. Boynton and Wollenberg who visited the Orient in 1935, and R.W. Bro. John Whicher, Grand Secretary, who attended our Annual Communication here in 1934. These brethren were most kind and helpful to my family when they severally landed in San Francisco. I found unusual interest among Calif. Masons in the G. L. of the Philippines and in its China Lodges. The Grand Master in 1938-9, M. W. Bro. Leon Whitsell, is a great Masonic historian, who later sent me a brochure on the history of our Grand Lodge, prepared and presented to him by one of our Past Grand Masters, Bro. Taylor, whom I had the misfortune to miss everytime I went to San Francisco,—a work that I had not theretofore seen but it proved most illuminating to me, especially the events that led up to the amalgamation of Lodges of the Spanish Grand Orient with those of our Grand Lodge.

"Under the Grand Lodge of California are some Lodges working in the Italian and French languages, and I had the rare pleasure of attending the First Degree exemplification of the French Lodge, giving that degree in accordance with the ceremonies of the Scottish Rite, rather than in the ritual familiar to us all in the symbolic Lodges. It was a most absorbing and impressive performance, the temple jammed full with some 1,200 people, the like of which I had never seen, and which will ever be most memorable.

"There are clandestine bodies in California among the Mexicans and Negros, each claiming to be sovereign in California, and I was amazed to find the extreme toleration of the G. L. of California, whose liberality is probably based on the assumption that it is better to let them alone, so long as they are doing some good to the Mexicans and colored men that belonged to them. It was then for the first time I understood how it was possible for a Mexican to present to me in Shanghai a number of years ago some alleged credentials showing that he was a member of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines in California. He came asking for Masonic relief, but got no recognition, even tho he was recommended to me by the Deputy District Grand Master of Massachussets.

"There were some 25 Chinese Masons belonging to various Lodges around the Bay area of San Francisco who were kind enough to stage several functions for me, but to some mysterious reasons, they are not organized in a Lodge nor even a club, much as I tried to get them to effect some sort of organization, at least social in character. But they were very interested in our plan for an Amity Lodge temple at Shanghai, and volunteered subscriptions thereto whenever we decide to build.

"I was taken to visit the two really wonderful Masonic homes maintained by the Grand Lodge of California, the one for old people, indigent Masons or dependents of Masons at Decoto where there were 1,000 inmates kept in every comfort, I might even say luxury, each

(Continued on the next page)

RADIO PROGRAM

The regular Masonic radio program for this month will be broadcast from station KZRH on November 4th and 18th, at 7:30 in the evening.

Mrs. Agnes Schoening, a well known social worker, will speak on November 4th. Her subject will be "The Order of the Eastern Star and its contribution to humanity." The speaker on November 18th will be our Grand Secretary, Past Grand Master Antonio Gonzalez. Wor. Bro. Henry Gilhouser will act as master of ceremonies.

BRO. MEI HONORED BY GRAND MASTER

(Continued from the preceding page)

man or woman given a plot of ground to cultivate either flowers or vegetables in the wide grounds of that model institution. The other is the Covina Home for Children—a real home in every sense of the word, with a housemother for every floor, giving every care to children of Masons from three to nineteen years of age of both sexes. It is like a first-class hotel, with extensive grounds for every hobby for every child, from citrus fruits to animal husbandry and all sorts of manual crafts. And yet there was entirely absent any institutional atmosphere about the place, and the boys and girls there for many years past now have distinguished themselves in the local schools far more than the regular Community people. I saw two little Chinese orphans there, whose father, a member of a Lodge on the Mexican border, had died, and who spoke but very few words of Chinese, but who were beautifully taken care of, just like the rest of the American children—an example of the entire absence of race discrimination that was conspicuously present in San Francisco, tho not necessarily within the Craft.

"In New York, I had the pleasure of sitting on the rostrum with Grand Masters of Mass., Conn., N. J., Delaware, Rhode Island, and of one or two other jurisdictions. Only reigning Masters could find accommodation in the Temple, so that the Wardens were not expected to attend. Even so, more than 1,000 were crowded in. There was less formality there than in California, for in San Francisco the Grand Lodge officers marched in military formation and the Marshal at the Altar divided the procession into two columns before they ascended the platform, both opening and closing ceremony being most impressive and colorful. There was little oratory at either Communication, except the set orations of the Grand Orator, more rather than less patriotic in character. In New York they presented a medal of distinction to Prof. Roscoe Pound, former dean of the Harvard Law School and famous authority on Masonic Jurisprudence whose address was full of erudition and philosophy, which you have probably read in the New York Proceedings.

"In the 2¼ years I spent in America, I have addressed over a hundred Lodges, both Symbolic and Scottish Rite, and everywhere I was met with kind consideration and sympathy. At some they offered contribution to our Masonic Relief Fund, and I am glad to report to you, M. W. Sir and brethren, that I have remitted several thousand dollars to our brethren at Chengtu, Hangchow and other places who are ministering to the thousands of helpless war refugees, who otherwise would have had no medical care at all.

"Before I conclude, I want to assure you, M. W. Sir and brethren of Grand Lodge, of the very real and heartfelt gratification that possesses me, that I have given the best ten years of my life to the promotion of Philippine Masonry in China, and the fact that we have now six prosperous Lodges there that bravely struggle on to maintain Masonic fellowship among our four hundred odd brethren there in these awful war times, that fact is only possible because of that unfailing care and interest which you, M. W. Grand Master, and the other officers of Grand Lodge for the past decade have so generously assured them at every step of the way. For that fact, we Masons of China, of every Jurisdiction working there, but especially of the Philippines, can never be sufficiently grateful, and in the next few weeks, Amity Lodge will celebrate its decennial anniversary, with every manifestation of its loyalty to Philippine Masonry."

Present at that luncheon were the following brethren: the guest of honor, Grand Master Jose de los Reyes, Deputy Grand Master John R. McFie, Jr., Senior Grand Warden Jose P. Guido, Junior Grand Warden M. Goldenberg, Grand Treasurer Vicente Carmona, P. G. M., Grand Secretary Antonio Gonzalez, P. G. M., Past Grand Masters George R. Harvey, Frederic Harper Stevens, Manuel Camus, Stanton Youngberg, Conrado Benitez, Joseph H. Alley, Jose Abad Santos, Wor. Bros. Jose Artiaga, Jose C. Velo, John M. Aaron, Jose Ma. E. Leon, Jr., John W. Ferrier, Bertrand H. Silen, T. H. Gewald, Enrique R. Martinez, Pablo Samson and Ricardo C. Santos.

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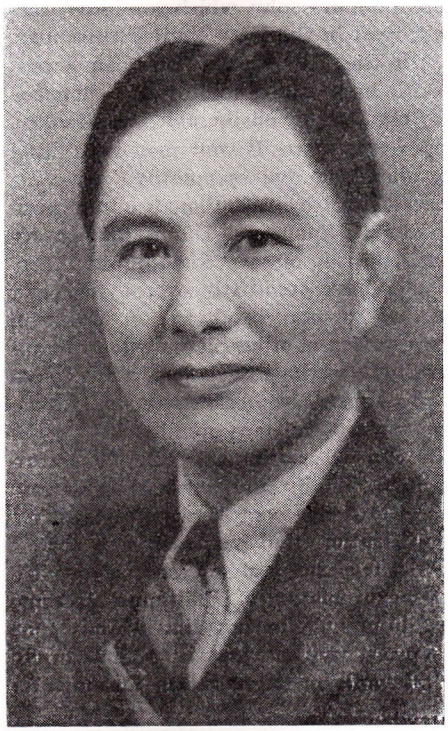
EX ORIENTE LUX

By HONORIO C. EVANGELISTA

ON MORE senses than one Amity Lodge has for ten years represented, reverently be it said, "The Light of Asia." Out of this ancient land's hoary history and rich literature the germs of our Masonic philosophy spread to the West, and from the West, processed into a mighty world-wide force for human enlightenment, they had returned to their own via the Philippines, themselves a part of the Orient. It was, therefore, fitting and proper that on November 22, 1930, Amity Lodge came into being, symbolizing the first seed of Philippine Masonry outside its national bounds since the founding of Charleston Lodge on the island of Guam.

It is only natural that this auspicious occasion of our tenth birthday should not be allowed to pass unnoticed or unsung, however deep we may be in the throes of looming events, world-wide in their scope, significance and perhaps dire in their eventual consequences. Surely, Amity must be true to its traditions of steady growth, unabated activity, regardless of all obstacles, even as it has marched on and upward, from triumph to triumph during the past decade.

The seed that our Grand Lodge so meticulously sowed, nursed by the untiring labor of Amity's founders, its succession of faithful masters and officers, had long ago sprouted and borne fivefold fruit in its sponsoring of five other Lodges, in other parts of this country. That is indeed a rich yield. So, as we celebrate our adolescent birthday, we look with grateful eyes to our parent body, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, for its far vision, its courage and patient fostering of us during ten tough years. We think and fervently believe that Grand Lodge's staunch championship of our cause, its constant efforts to lift us out of menacing perils, its sacrifices of material income in order that we might survive the present ordeal of war, all these shall not have been in vain.



Wor. Bro. H. C. EVANGELISTA
Master, Amity Lodge No. 106

For all the kind messages sent us by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, his office bearers, and the Worshipful Masters of our sister Lodges throughout the Jurisdiction we are profoundly grateful, for they will be treasured in our memories as well as our archives. As the first Filipino Master of Amity Lodge, I am all the more appreciative that such generous sentiments have been so generally expressed to my officers, my brethren and myself, for I am most sensible of the high honor that this anniversary should fall within my term of office. We should have been enormously proud if the Grand Master or his Grand Representative could have come to add significance to the occasion, for their coming would most assuredly have proved an inspiring incentive to all of us in Shanghai. We know, however, that they will all be with us in spirit and in their fraternal goodwill. We thank them all for their splendid expressions of sympathy and congratulations, and in return pledge Amity Lodge's continued loyalty to our Most Worshipful Grand Master and Grand Lodge.

I should be remiss in my duty did I fail to record here our affectionate regard for those valiant pioneers, the founders of Amity Lodge, most of whom, unfortunately, cannot be present at our celebration, especially Rt. Wor. Bro. H. C. Mei, our first District Grand Master, and many of his associates, several of whom have past to the celestial Lodge above, who had all so ably directed the destinies of our Lodge. But we are happy to enjoy still the skilled counsel of our present District Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. David W. K. Au, whose untiring aid has rendered our task so much lighter and pleasant.

So now, with grateful memories of past achievements, with every confidence in continuing our present labors, and with full faith in the future, we march on for greater service to our community and our generation.

"His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world 'This was a man.'"

Chips from the Quarries

The message of our Most Worshipful Grand Master Jose de los Reyes for the month of July, 1940, is reprinted in full in *The Craftsman*, a weekly magazine of Erie, Pennsylvania. It is prominently displayed on the front page, in big bold letters, entitled "A Grand Master's Message."

We read from the monthly bulletin of Ginling Chapter No. 4, Order of the Eastern Star, in Shanghai, China, that the recommendation of our Most Worshipful Grand Master at the last Annual Communication regarding the Order of the Eastern Star, has been reproduced with the following comments: "Such words from the highest official in Masonry in this part of the world is worthy of notice. We can heartily agree he is far-sighted in thinking of the wider interests of Masonry."

The comments were closed with the following lines from Henry van Dyke:

"Four things a man must learn to do,
If he would make his record true:
To think without confusion clearly;
To love his fellow men sincerely;
To act from honest motives purely;
To trust in God and heaven surely."

We are thankful that the sentiments published in our official organ find an echo in other parts of the world.

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Fraternal Reviews

By JOSEPH F. BOOMER, P.M.

MAINE

One hundred twenty-first annual communication, May 7-9, 1940, at Portland, George F. Giddings, G.M., presiding.

Reports showed a total membership of 35,132 representing a net loss of 605.

Interesting data from G.M.'s report:

Maine heads the list for the percentage of initiates between the ages of 21 and 25, inclusive, with a score of 36.53%. Those between 26 and 30 are 25.72% of the total initiates.

Family tradition was found to be a stumbling block in the way of the consolidation of weak Lodges.

Recommendation made that funds be voted to repair the monument to Col. William Tyng, P.M., founder of Masonry in Maine.

Committee appointed to study and report on a standard form of Private Grand Honors.

Committee appointed to study and report on the matter of preparing an official Masonic cipher.

A proposed abridged funeral service was referred to the committee on Revision of Masonic Textbook.

The conferring of a 50-year Masonic medal on Grand Secretary Convers E. Leach was reported. Also the bestowing of several distinguished service medals known as Josiah Hayden Drummond medals was noted.

M. W. Bro. Ashley A. Smith reviews Proceedings of some sixty Grand Lodges, among them that of the Philippines under M. W. Bro. Jose Abad Santos, which is given sympathetic attention.

Harold H. Murchie, Grand Master, Calais.

Convers E. Leach, Grand Secretary, Portland.

* * *

QUEENSLAND, 1939

Six Communications were held during the year as follows: Special, July 28, 1938; Quarterlies, September 7, 1938, December 7, 1938, March 1, 1939; Special, May 29, 1939; Quarterly, June 7, 1939.

Our Grand Representative R. W. Bro. J. T. Phipps, P. G. W., was present on December 7, 1938.

The Grand Master, His Excellency Col. the Rt. Hon. Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, Governor of Queensland, who was installed for his fourth year in succession as Grand Master made a short address. Concerning conditions he said:

> "We can look back on the past year with the feeling of satisfaction that Freemasonry progresses in this jurisdiction — slowly but surely — as it should."

One new Lodge was consecrated and a New Temple dedicated during the past year.

The Special Communication of May 29, 1939, was opened on the First Degree. The first speaker, M. W. Bro. F. G. Nevill, began by saying, "For three special reasons this meeting is unique in the annals of Freemasonry in this Jurisdiction, and probably throughout the Masonic World. Firstly: because it is the first time Grand Lodge has been opened in a degree other than that of M. M., thus allowing those below that rank to participate in its proceedings; Secondly: it is the first occasion sanction has been granted for addresses to be given in Grand Lodge for the general information of the brethren; and thirdly: because this is, most likely, the only Grand Lodge in the world which has held a meeting to commemorate the death of the Rev. Bro. James Anderson, M. A., D.D., Junior Grand Warden of England." He then continued his address under two headings, "Who was James Anderson" and "The Grand Lodge of England." A very interesting address.

The Sandgate Home on June 30, 1939, had 13 brethreh in residence. The cost of maintenance was 834 pounds plus from which was deducted the amount of 504 pounds, pensions, leaving a net cost of 330 pounds plus.

Relief grants during the year totaled over 1419 pounds.

There are no reviews.

Grand Master, Sir Leslie Orme Wilson.

Grand Secretary, L. P. Marks, Masonic Temple, Ann Street, Brisbane, Queensland.

* * *

EL SALVADOR

28th Annual General Assembly of Grand Lodge Cuscatlán of the Republic of Salvador at San Salvador, December 26-27, 1939, Fidel C. Garay presiding for the fourth time.

The proceedings are published in the *Shittah*, official organ of the Grand Lodge Cuscatlán.

The Grand Master closed his report with an appeal for a united effort for the preservation of democracy and the restoration of peace in Europe.

Report of Jose Lacayo Téllez, Grand Secretary, shows that four quarterly assemblies were had during the Masonic year; that the financial situation of the constituent Lodges was not, in general, good and that the Grand Treasury was hard pressed to meet the requirement of the budget.

Bro. Rafael Araujo represents the Grand Lodge of Cuscatlán in this Jurisdiction and Manuel A. Perez is the Grand Representative of the Philippines in El Salvador.

Fidel C. Garay was reelected Grand Master.

Report of Jose Lacayo Téllez (Grand Secretary.

* * *

TENNESSEE

126th annual communication, January 31, 1940, Nashville, Lindsay B. Phillips, presiding. Present 14 Grand Officers, 14 P.G.M.'s 118 P.M.'s; 375 Lodges represented and 21 not represented, showing 8 fewer Lodges than existed the previous year.

The Grand Master, after commenting on untoward world conditions, reported Masonry in Tennessee in a more thriving condition than for many years; emphasized the good that may flow from the conferences of Grand Masters at Washington; stated that a number of corner stones of public buildings had been laid throughout the State, and discussed the enforcement of an edict against the conferring of two degrees on a candidate in less than 28 days and another against Masons' engaging in the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Thos. Earl Doss, Grand Secretary, reported a total membership of 36,091, representing a net loss 246 compared with the preceding year, the smallest net loss since 1929.

In the proceedings are printed: the constitution and edicts of the Grand Lodge to 1940; the declaration of principles adopted by the conference of Grand Masters at Washington; reviews prepared by Bro. J. T. Peeler, chairman of committee on correspondence; of the proceedings of 64 Grand Lodges; and the amendments to the Masonic code of Tennessee.

Paul F. Lanius of Nashville was elected Grand Master,

Samuel H. Cooper, Johnson City, Deputy Grand Master,

Thos. Earl Doss, Nashville, Grand Secretary.

A ROSE UPON THE ALTAR

THE NEXT Grand Lodge monthly gathering will be held at Plaridel Temple on the fourth Wednesday of this month, November 27th, at eight o'clock in the evening. On that occasion the beautiful drama entitled **A Rose upon the Altar**, written by Right Wor. Bro. Carl H. Claudy, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association, and translated into Spanish by our Grand Secretary, Past Grand Master Antonio Gonzalez, will be staged for the first time in this Jurisdiction. The affair will be preceded by an official visitation of the Most Worshipful Grand Master to a joint meeting of the 19 Lodges working in Plaridel Temple. Following is the program:

The Officers and Members
— of —

Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4
Biak-na-Bato Lodge No. 7
Walang Lodge No. 13
Dapitan Lodge No. 21
Solidaridad Lodge No. 23
Minerva Lodge No. 41
Kasilawan Lodge No. 77
Nilad Lodge No. 12
Dalisay Lodge No. 14
Rizal Lodge No. 22
Batong-Buhay Lodge No. 27
Commonwealth Lodge No. 57
Taga Ilog Lodge No. 79
Modestia-Liwayway-Hagdang Bato Lodge No. 81
Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 80
High Twelve Lodge No. 82
Hiram Lodge No. 88
Luz Oceanica Lodge No. 85
Service Lodge No. 95

cordially and fraternally invite
all Master Masons
to a Joint Meeting on the
occasion of the
Official Visitation
of the

Most Worshipful Grand Master

accompanied by
Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge
of the Philippine Islands
and to the

Monthly Masonic Gathering

to be held thereafter under their auspices
at Plaridel Masonic Temple
520 San Marcelino, Manila
on Wednesday, November 27, 1940, at 8:00 p. m.
on which occasion the Masonic play entitled

"A Rose upon the Altar"
(Una Rosa sobre el Altar)

by Right Wor. Bro. Carl H. Claudy
Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association
translated into Spanish by
Most Wor. Bro. Antonio Gonzalez
Grand Secretary
will be shown for the first time in this
Grand Jurisdiction, in accordance with the following
program:

"A ROSE UPON THE ALTAR"

A Masonic Play in Two Acts
and an Interlude
by Carl H. Claudy
Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association
Adapted from the short story by the same author,
"The Rose and the Altar"
published in the New York Masonic Outlook,
on December, 1931

CAST
(In order of speaking)

Master Amos Andrews ...	**Wor. Bro.**		José Artiaga
Treasurer and Past Master Sneed	"	"	José P. Guido S.G.W.
Past Master Elliot	"	"	Honorio Musni
Past Master Denby	"	"	Orestes Hermosura
Chaplain Dr. Blair	"	"	Ireneo de Vega
Visitor, Brother Morris ...		"	Augusto Rodriguez
Brother Hiram Woodley ...	"	"	Cipriano Mateo
Brother and Squire Bentley	"	"	Enrique R. Martinez
Secretary Jeffries	"	"	Ricardo San Agustin
Brother Billy Morton	"	"	Andres Filoteo
Senior Warden Mather	"	"	José M. E. Leon, Jr.
Dr. Witherspoon	"	"	Mariano Gonzalez
Junior Deacon	"	"	Joaquin Garcia
Junior Warden	"	"	Felipe S. Carbonilla
Master of Ceremonies	"	"	José P. Santos

Time: the present

Place: A Lodge Room, in a small town. The Lodge meets every week.

ACT I. Evening, December 20th, Lodge has just been opened on M. M. degree.

INTERLUDE. Midnight, the same day.

ACT II. Evening, December 27th, Lodge has just been opened at the annual St. John's Day Communication.

Beginning of the play: end of first Act and beginning of Interlude; end of Interlude and beginning of Second Act, end of play, indicated by lowered lights. The lights are extinguished for ten seconds in the middle of Act II, to indicate lapse of one hour.

Brethren are requested to refrain from smoking, speaking, or taking part in the action, during the play.

Officers of the Special Team

Master	Wor.	Bro.	Horatio S. Arnold (95)
Senior Warden	"	"	Gonzalo P. Leyva (88)
Junior Warden	"	"	Adriano C. Uson (82)
Treasurer	"	"	Troadio San Miguel (85)
Secretary	"	"	Pedro Lopez (81)
Chaplain	"	"	Hyman M. Levine (80)
Marshal	"	"	Clemente Bernabe (79)
Senior Deacon	"	"	Honorio M. Saycon (77)
Junior Deacon	"	"	Edward A. Gebert (41)
Senior Steward	"	"	Juan G. Cortes (57)
Junior Steward	"	"	Delfin A. Viola (27)
Tiler	"	"	David Baltazar (23)

Executive Committee

Wor. Bro. Jose C. Velo	*Chairman*
" " Fidel T. Manalo	*Secretary*

Masters of the 19 Lodges in Plaridel Temple, as Members

Committee on Refreshments

Wor. Bro. Antonio A. Francisco (13)	*Chairman*
" " Hermogenes Alonso (14)	*Member*
" " Ciriaco Acuña (21)	"
" " Delfin A. Viola (27)	"
" " Edward A. Gebert (41)	"

Committee on Program

Wor. Bro. Mamerto M. Buenafe (4)	*Chairman*
" " Marcos G. Garcia (7)	*Member*
" " Epifanio T. Santos (12)	"
" " Daniel S. Albano (22)	"
" " David Baltazar (23)	"

SECCION CASTELLANA

NOTAS EDITORIALES

A LA LOGIA AMITY No. 106 EN SU DECIMO ANIVERSARIO

EL VEINTIDOS de los corrientes celebramos el décimo aniversario de nuestra Logia Amity No. 106. Es nuestra primera Logia en el territorio de la vecina república de China. Es talmente la Logia que bajo nuestra jurisdicción llevó nuestro pabellón masónico por la antigua Cathay.

Como se dijo entonces cuando se solicitó su carta constitutiva, la Logia Amity iba a extender el evangelio de amor y de mutua comprensión entre los hombres y razas que llenaban el territorio de la China. La Logia Amity reafirmaba su adhesión a los principios de nuestra institución y su lealtad a nuestro programa masónico. Y cumplió con su misión.

Han transcurrido desde entonces diez años y la Logia Amity se ha mantenido al mismo nivel. Una Logia en tanto vale en cuanto su actuación va elevándola al plano inconmensurable de las ideas y de los sentimientos. Hay siempre en el hombre ansias de desprenderse y desligarse de la costa material y elevarse a aquellas regiones a donde no lleguen las salpicaduras de las miserias y mezquindades de una humanidad que se debate en sórdidas luchas y rastreras pasiones. Aquella Logia que imparte a sus miembros y a la comunidad en que se agita este sentimiento de propia superación va cumpliendo con su misión y destino.

La Logia Amity No. 106 ha cumplido con esta misión en sus diez años de existencia, por lo mismo que ha sido la suya una actuación de siembra de ideas y calorización de sentimientos. Aquellos valores morales que dignifican al hombre y despiertan en él las ansias de lo infinito, aquellos valores morales que hacen de la comunidad un conglomerado de hombres y no un hato de ovejas que va tras el cabestro, aquellos valores morales que elevan a la humanidad a planos espirituales, han tomado cuerpo de realidad en la brillante labor de diez años de la Logia Amity No. 106.

Es por eso que celebramos con placer este décimo aniversario y nos congratulamos con los Hermanos de China por este trascendental acontecimiento.

UN CIRCULO LITERARIO MASONICO

POCO SE HACE para dar mayor empuje a nuestra literatura masónica local. Desearíamos que haya aquí mas Logias y Hermanos que se dediquen a la expansión de los estudios sobre literatura masónica. Sin duda alguna, con ello la cultura masónica quedaría elevada a más alto nivel en beneficio de todos.

Un centro literario masónico o un círculo de literatura masónica ayudaría en gran escala a despertar entusiasmos y a orientar aquí éste género de labor. No está de sobra repetir una vez más que necesitamos aquí una educación masónica más sólida en todos sus aspectos. Debemos promover mayor afición en los Hermanos por los estudios sobre simbolismo masónico, historia, filosofía, legislación y jurisprudencia, y un círculo o centro literario masónico podría encauzar facilmente estas actividades.

Ha sido buena la idea de dramatizar y poner en escena muchas de nuestras ideas y principios. Las lecciones que de ello se derivan quedan mejor y mas facilmente inculcadas. Tanto los Hermanos de habla inglesa como los que prefieren hablar en castellano han quedado profundamente impresionados con las primeras tentativas que aquí se ha venido haciendo a este efecto. Esto nos ha inducido, no solamente a animar a todos hacia esta clase de trabajo, si no también a lanzar la idea de un círculo masónico verdaderamente literario que abarque, como una de sus actividades, el escribir obras para la escena como también el preparar a los mas competentes para su adecuada representación.

No hacemos por ahora mas que lanzar la idea y rogamos a los Hermanos a que francamente nos digan su opinion. Mas tarde podríamos, con la cooperación de todos, formular los planes para darla forma y organización conveniente y adecuada.

LO QUE NO PUEDE HACER UNA LOGIA

[Continuamos]

Admitir la solicitud de afiliación de uno que sea entonces miembro de otra Logia bajo la jurisdicción de la Gran Logia de las Islas Filipinas a menos que dicha solicitud vaya acompañada por lo menos de un certificado expedido por el Secretario de la Logia de donde es miembro acerca de su condición masónica y bajo la condición de que si dicho solicitante fuere elegido para afiliarse a la Logia, podrá hacerse miembro de ésta con sólo presentar al Secretario de la misma, en una tenida regular, su plancha de quite de la Logia a que perteneció ultimamente, con excepción del caso en que se permite que uno sea miembro de dos Logias al mismo tiempo (dual membership), pues, en este caso no se necesita la plancha de quite, debiendo en dicho caso el Secretario de la Logia donde se haya afiliado el miembro notificar a la Logia madre del mismo y por escrito del hecho de la afiliación inmediatamente, entendiéndose que esta clase de afiliación (dual membership) está prohibida cuando las dos Logias tuvieran la misma jurisdicción concurrente al mismo tiempo, y entendiéndose también que el ser miembro de una Logia bajo dispensa no se considerará como ser miembro de dos Logias a la vez;

Privar a un Maestro Masón en pleno uso de sus derechos como tal (in good standing) o a su viuda o huérfanos, de sus derechos de pedir y recibir, cuando se hallen en la miseria, socorro de la Logia de la cual dicho Maestro Masón sea o fue miembro, o de la Logia dentro de cuya jurisdicción estén o puedan estar él, su viuda o hijos o cualquiera de ellos, o de cualquier Maestro Masón que esté en condiciones y posibilidad de conceder el socorro, entendiéndose, sin embargo, que dicho socorro no es mas que un acto de caridad y estrictamente discrecional de parte de la Logia, y que no se puede reclamar dicho socorro como un derecho legal;

Darle a un Maestro Masón de baja en sus registros como miembro de la Logia a no ser que el mismo haya dejado de pertenecer a la misma (a) por disolución de la Logia, o (b) por consolidación de la Logia con otra u otras, o (c) por renuncia voluntaria después de haber dado el aviso correspondiente, o (d) por muerte, suspensión o expulsión;

Considerarse disuelta como Logia como no sea por (a) entrega voluntario de su Carta Constitutiva, cuando tal entrega haya sido aceptada por la Gran Logia o (b) por revocación de su Carta Constitutiva por la Gran Logia;

Hacer entrega de su Carta Constitutiva a menos que esto se haya acordado mediante una resolución, la cual debe ser anunciada previamente en una tenida regular al efecto de que dicha resolución se presentará en la siguiente, y no debiendo oponerse en dicha tenida a dicha resolución trece (13) de los miembros presentes, entendiéndose que tal entrega no se considerará definitiva hasta que haya sido aprobada y aceptada por la Gran Logia, y entendiéndose también que todos los masones que se encontraran en pleno goce de sus derechos como miembros de una Logia a la fecha de la devolución de su carta, y cuyas cuotas estuvieren pagadas, tienen derecho a pedir, y recibir, del Gran Secretario, un certificado sobre dicho hecho, certificado que tendrá el mismo efecto que una plancha de quite recomendatoria expedida regularmente por una Logia existente;

Desobedecer, descuidar, abandonar o infringir algún precepto de la Constitución o Reglamentos de la Gran Logia o desacatar la autoridad legítima del Gran Maestro, o infringir o abandonar o descuidar los usos antiguos o reconocidos de la Orden, o aceptar a solicitantes notoriamente indignos o no querer o dejar de corregir a miembros indignos o dejar de reunirse por seis (6) meses consecutivos, pues, en cualquiera de estos casos se podrá revocar y cancelar su Carta Constitutiva, entendiéndose, sin embargo, que no se podrá hacer esto a menos que se presenten antes cargos contra la Logia y se investiguen los mismos en la Gran Logia, debiéndose notificar debidamente de dichos cargos a la Logia acusada, pudiéndose también suspender la Carta Constitutiva por el Gran Maestro o la Gran Logia hasta su próxima reunión anual por razones satisfactorias que se hayan expuesto, y entendiéndose también que la cancelación o suspensión de la Carta Constitutiva de una Logia implica la suspensión de todos sus miembros de los derechos y privilegios de la masonería, con excepción de aquellos a quienes el Gran Maestro declare especialmente exentos de dicho efecto, y entendiéndose, por último, que la entrega y la cancelación de la Carta Constitutiva de una Logia tendrá efecto decisivo sobre la Logia y sus miembros;

Disponer de sus fondos, joyas, mobiliario, cuotas y propiedades en caso de disolución de cualquier otro modo que no sea entregando los mismos al Gran Secretario, quien por sí mismo, o por algún Hermano debidamente autorizado por él, procederá inmediatamente a recibir los fondos de aquélla que se hallen a mano, y a recaudar las cuotas pendientes de cobro y disponer de sus joyas, mobiliario y toda otra propiedad de cualquier clase, en la forma que estime mas prudente, colocando el producto de ello, después de pagar todas las deudas legítimas y gastos necesarios, en el tesoro de la Gran Logia;

Consolidarse con cualquier otra Logia o Logias, sin antes obtener el consentimiento por escrito de las tres cuartas partes de todos sus miembros en una tenida ordinaria, celebrada por lo menos después de los tres meses de haberse notificado de la propuesta consolidación a todos los miembros a menos que el Gran Maestro, encontrando que no es practicable la celebración de dicha tenida, o la obtención del consentimiento arriba referido, apruebe la consolidación con sólo el consentimiento escrito de no menos de una mayoría de los miembros de la Logia, debiendo siempre tener en cuenta que la consolidación no puede surtir efecto alguno hasta que no se someta a aprobación y se apruebe por la Gran Logia o el Gran Maestro en el entretanto, entendiéndose que cuando así se consolidan dos Logias y el Venerable Maestro de una de ellas sea el Venerable Maestro de la Logia así consolidada, quedando privado en virtud de esta consolidación de su cargo de Venerable Maestro el otro, éste deberá ser considerado como que ha servido todo el año, y que al fin del año por el cual ha sido elegido tendrá derecho al rango, título y prerrogativas de ex-Venerable Maestro;

[Continuaremos en el número siguiente]

De Charla con Nuestros Hombres

"El gremio de Masones, que fuera antes una organización extraña, se enraizó en China, y ya se está indicando como una institución nativa," nos dice el Ilustre Hermano HUA CHUEN MEI.

EN NOVIEMBRE 22, 1930, principió la Logia Amity No. 106 a actuar. Entonces sus oficiales conocían muy poco, o casi nada, del ceremonial seguido por la Gran Logia de Filipinas o del de California.

—.....

—Todo aquello se debía a que sus fundadores venían de otras grandes jurisdicciones como de la Inglesa, Escosesa, de la de Nueva York y Massachusetts. Tenían cierta confusión en cuanto a su trabajo esotérico hasta que el Gran Maestro de la Gran Logia de Filipinas nombró como Inspector de la Logia al Venerable Hermano Edwin Webster Lawson, de la Logia Cavite No. 2, quien, como un verdadero experto y con verdadero celo y buen humor, consiguió que los oficiales pudieran trabajar con eficiencia.

—.....

—No pasaron muchas semanas cuando ya la Logia Amity principió a iniciar, pasar y exaltar a muchos candidatos como si fuera una de nuestras tantas Logias veteranas en trabajos ritualísticos.

—.....

Fué nuestra norma desde un principio admitir tan sólo a aquellos que estuvieran bien cualificados, es decir, a hombres de cierta cultura, de carácter y de responsabilidad en la comunidad, y bien versados en el idioma inglés. Esto necesariamente causó el que nuestros candidatos fueran bien seleccionados de entre un pequeño grupo de la población de China.

—.....

—No podía ser de otro modo, si tenemos en cuenta los elevados ideales de nuestros fundadores, y habida consideración a que unas catorce Logias pertenecientes a cinco Grandes Jurisdicciones extrañas estaban observando celosamente nuestros pasos.

—.....

—Esta política no sufrió desviación alguna durante estos diez años que han pasado, no obstante la aguda depresión económica, la depreciación de la moneda y las dos guerras porque está atravesando China y que hace muy dificultosa la vida, si no completamente imposible. Si hubiésemos observado otras normas, tal vez el número de nuestros miembros sería muchísimo mayor.

—.....

—Como resultado de esta selección, el noventa por ciento de nuestros miembros son graduados de colegios, profesionales y grandes comerciantes, verdaderos caudillos en sus respectivas esferas.

—.....

—Hemos seguido las verdaderas enseñanzas y tradiciones de la orden, al no mirar más que a la cualidad del hombre, sin tener en cuenta sus antecedentes de raza, su credo religioso o su nacionalidad. Por esto, en la Logia Amity existen ahora miembros que representan a seis o siete religiones y que pertenecen a catorce diferentes nacionalidades.

Ven. Her. Prisco N. Evangelista

De las Rentas, un experto,
En Finanzas, un perito,
De su Logia, un erudito,
De Saber, un buen injerto.

—.....

—Yo he tenido el privilegio singular de haber iniciado a un Parsi que juró sobre el Zendavesta, a un Judío que juró sobre el Antiguo Testamento, y a afiliados de otros credos que juraron sobre la Ley Sagrada.

—.....

—En el campo de la cultura y educación masónicas, la Logia Amity ha procurado estar al nivel de los estudios de investigación apropiado, proveyendo a los miembros de una buena biblioteca, de buenos libros y procurando que en las tenidas de instrucción se leyan trabajos meritorios.

—.....

—Si vamos a examinar sus finanzas, podríamos decir que, no obstante los cuatro años de guerra, la Logia Amity tiene niveladas sus finanzas. No tiene ninguna deuda, sus inversiones están bien puestas y sobre todo bien guardadas por fieles fideicomisarios. Sin embargo, como cualquiera otra institución que se mueve en zonas de guerra, la Logia Amity ha sufrido y viene sufriendo también sus pérdidas y no pocas privaciones.

—.....

—Es muy difícil ponerse en comunicación ahora con todos sus miembros que se hallan esparcidos en partes remotas de la China libre o a los cuatro puntos del globo. Es también difícil el ir cobrando puntualmente sus cuotas y esto, añadida la circunstancia del cambio anormal y de la depreciación de la moneda, hace que no se pueda cumplir con las obligaciones a la Gran Logia como hubiéramos querido. No podemos olvidarnos de la ayuda que la Gran Logia nos ha prestado últimamente en relación con esto y por ello damos a todos los Hermanos de la Gran Logia nuestras más sentidas gracias.

—.....

—No todo es labor ritualístico en la Logia Amity. También se organizan *picnics* entre sus miembros, y los miembros de sus respectivas familias, y también tenemos nuestros *Christmas parties* para los niños. Esto ha dado como resultado una mayor solidaridad entre los Hermanos y sus familiares.

—.....

—Los fundamentos, la base de la Logia Amity están bien colocados. El edificio erigido promete ser duradero. Será una inspiración permanente y elevada para todos nosotros.

—.....

—El gremio de Masones, que fuera antes una organización extraña, se enraizó en China, y ya se está indicando como una institución nativa, por lo mismo que tiene por base la filosofía de grandes chinos, como Confucio, Mencio, Mo-tsze y de toda esa galaxia de moralistas y poetas que adornan la literatura china ya hace miles de años.

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