

## More Questions and Answers . . .

WB AURELIO L. CORCUERA (4) PM

235. *Is it true that a Master who has been elected and installed but for one reason or another after serving a few months leaves the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, is not entitled to the rank of Past Master?*

Yes, by definition of the term Past Master (Art. II, Part VII, Constitution) defines Past Master. It says: "This title applies only to one who have been regularly elected or named in a charter and installed, and have served a term as Master of a chartered Lodge within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, and who remains a member, in good standing, of one of its subordinates." One's term of office does not expire until his successor has been elected and installed.

236. *When was a formal statement on religion made by a Grand Lodge?*

When the Grand Lodge of England (organized in 1717) approved on March 25, 1722. The *Charges of a Freemason*, presented in 1721 by Dr. Anderson and Dr. Desaguliers. Charge I, *Concerning God and Religion*, says: "A Mason is obliged, by his tenure, to obey the moral law, and if he rightly understands the art, he will never be a stupid atheist nor an irreligious libertine. But though in ancient times Masons were charged in every country or nation, whatever it was, it is now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves, that is, to be good men and true, or men of honor and honesty, by whatever denominations they may be distinguished; whereby Masonry becomes the center of union, and the means of conciliating true friendship among persons that must have remained at a perpetual distance.

The word *libertine*, from the Latin *libertinus*, which referred to a man who was once a bondsman, but who has been made free. In the phrase "irreligious libertine," it refers to a free thinker, or Deist, that is, one who believes in a personal God but not in the distinctive doctrines of revealed religion.

237. *Is it true that in some jurisdictions the Master appoints the two Wardens?*

Yes; According to the English Constitution (Rule 137) the Master and the Treasurer (and the Tyler if so provided in the by-laws) are elected at a regular meeting. The installation takes place at the next following regular meeting. Upon the installation of the Master (Rule 116) he appoints his two Wardens and the other officers, other than those elected, and then installs all those present.

238. *Are there Lodges in which all the officers are elected?*

Yes; Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, at the annual election, elect all the officers, except the Depute Master and the Substitute Master.

239. *Is the term Subordinate Lodge universally used for the Lodges owing obedience to the Grand Lodge?*

No. In England the term used is Private Lodge; in Scotland, Daughter Lodge.

240. *What is the "Grotto"*

The members of the Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm (M.O.V.P.E.R.) meet in bodies styled Grottos. Membership in the organization are confined to Master Masons.

241. *Is the holding of the annual election of officers of a Lodge at the stated meeting in December compulsory?*

Sec. 1, Art. I, Part IV of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines provides that "the Master, Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary of each Lodge shall be elected annually, by ballot, at the stated meeting next preceding the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist. . . ." Since the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist is December 27, it follows that if the date of the stated meeting in December is before the 27th that the election should be held at the stated meeting in December. But if the date is after, it should be held at the stated meeting in November.