

More Questions And Answers

By A. I. CORCUERA

21. What part of King Solomon's Temple was the Middle Chamber?

The Middle Chamber was the second story of the three-storied structure built against the walls of the Temple on the north, west, and south sides, the entrance to the lowest story being on the south side of the house. (1 Kings 6:5,6,8)

22. How many gates were there in the Temple of Solomon?

One only, at the east end. The inner courtyard had gates on the north, east, and south.

23. Is it true that there are countries in which the modes of recognition are different from those in the United States?

Yes. The D.G. is not known outside of the United States. Under the British system a number of signs are used with which American Masons are not familiar. In view of these differences one of the propositions presented at the Masonic Congress held in Paris in 1856 was that "Masters of Lodges, in conferring the degree of Master Mason, should invest the candidate with the words, signs, and grips of the Scottish and Modern [French] Rites." Unfortunately, the proposition did not receive the general concurrence of the representatives of the Craft. It might have lessened, if it did not abolish, the confusion.

24. Is it true that there are two substitutes for the M.M.'s word?

Yes. The one with which all M.M. in the Philippines and in the U.S. are familiar, is the universal word. The other is used in Scotland and in the French or Modern Rite.

25. Was that which the Men of Tyre sought to extort from the Grand Master H.A. given to any of the Craft at the completion of the Temple?

No. Because it could only be given in the presence of, and by the common consent, of the *only three* who knew it. After what happened to one of them the two remaining could not give it without violating the solemn agreement entered into at the beginning of the building of the Temple.

26. Was the Temple of Solomon ever completed, notwithstanding the tragedy?

Yes. It was completed in the eleventh year of the reign of Solomon, in the month of Bul, the eight month of the Hebrew religious year. (1 Kings 6:38)

27. To what does the Second Temple refer?

The Temple built by Solomon is known as the First Temple. It was dedicated on the Feast of Tabernacles, 15th Ethanim (Tishri), 1004 B.C.; destroyed by Neeuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, on 7th Ab, 586 B.C. Cyrus, King of Persia, issued his decree permitting the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple in 536 B.C. (2 Chronicles 36:22,23). Zerubbabel built the Second Temple on the ruins of the First Temple. This was completed and dedicated in 516 B.C.

28. Was that which was lost before the completion of the Temple ever recovered?

Yes. While the foundation for the Second Temple was being laid.

29. Is there a Masonic degree in which the recovery of that which was lost forms a part of the legend?

Yes. The Degree of Royal Arch, the highest degree in the Chapter of Royal Arch.