

# Mencius Lodge No. 93

## F. & A.M.

Scottish Rite Temple  
1828 Taft Avenue  
Manila, Philippines

**WE ARE NOT** a memoirist but we desire to keep our past alive, especially during this rainy month of June, by culling a little bit of history from the old pages of *The Cabletow* when this publication recorded events invariably incorporating the four W's (Who, When, Where, and Why) and was thus rated according to its content, editing, and writing, one of the best Masonic journals then. Here is the chronicle inscribed for posterity which we quote for our own edification:

In the constitution of Mencius Lodge No. 93, on June 28 in the Masonic Temple, Escolta, Manila, there occurred an event unparalleled in the history of our great Institution.

So far as we are aware, this is the first time in any of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons has issued a charter to a Lodge the membership of which is composed exclusively of nationals of what was formerly known as the Celestial Empire. We have a large number of Chinese Masons in this jurisdiction, and many Chinese have become members of our Order in other jurisdictions as well. Mencius Lodge, however,

is *sui generis* in that, from its Master down to its newest initiate, each and every member is of the blood of Cathay.

Mencius Lodge had its origin in the desire on the part of some of our active Chinese Masons for a closer relationship in their Masonic work. The dispensation was granted January 15, 1924, the charter was issued on January 25, and June 28 marked the official constitution of the Lodge. The name chosen was that of one of the greatest of Chinese philosophers. The Lodge membership is now close to fifty, and includes many prominent and wealthy Chinese of this city. Work is put on in both English and Spanish, the two languages permitted in this jurisdiction.

The constitution of the Lodge, and the installation of officers, immediately following, were both open to the public, and conducted in Spanish.

During the constitution, the following brethren filled the offices: Rt. Wor. Francisco A. Delgado, Senior Grand Warden, as Grand Master; Very Wor. Bro. Eugene A. Perkins, Junior Grand Lecturer, as Deputy Grand Mas-

ter; Rt. Wor. Bro. Joseph H. Schmidt, Junior Grand Warden, as Senior Grand Warden; M.W. Bro. Newton C. Comfort, P.G.M., Grand Secretary; Wor. Bro. Juan Munoz, P.M. and present Master of Makiling Lodge No. 72, as Grand Treasurer; Wor. Bro. Ramon Mendoza, Master of Batong-Buhay No. 27, as Grand Chaplain; Rt. Wor. Bro. Teodoro M. Kalaw, P.J.G.W., Grand Orator; Wor. Bro. Antonio Gonzalez, Master of Luz Oceanica No. 85, as Grand Marshal; Bro. Jose L. Intal, S.W. of High-Twelve No. 82, as S. G.D.; Wor. Bro. Faustino Mañago, master of Pillar No. 15, as J.G.D.; Bro. Andres Filoteo, S.W. of Luz Oceanica No. 85, as S.G.S.; Wor. Bro. Gelario Villegas, Master of Taga-Hog Lodge No. 79, as J.G.S.; Bro. Jose Arpal, Master of Batangas No. 35, as Grand Pursuant; and Wor. Bro. Juan Arayde, P.M. of Minerva No. 41, Tyler.

With M.W. Bro. Rafael Palma, P.G.M., as installing officer and Wor. Bro. M. Goldenberg as Master of Ceremonies, the following were installed as officers of Mencius Lodge: W.M. Bro. Luis Lim Billan; S.W. Bro. Yu Chun Teck; J.W. Bro. O. Hway Peck; Treasurer, Bro. Gonzalo C. Go Quio-lay; Secretary, Bro. Marciano Ong; Chaplain, Bro. Say Kock; S.D., Bro. Manuel Govantes; J.W., Bro. Leandro Fua Guioji; Master of Ceremonies, Bro. Chau Lin Cuon; S.S. Bro. Chua Chin Sian; J.S., Bro. Lim Su An; Organist, Bro. Tieng Sing; Tyler, Bro. Gaw Punso.

Wor. Bro. Lim Billan, as one of the speakers after the installa-

tion, stressed the fact that the founders of the Lodge were in no way actuated by a desire to make its membership exclusively Chinese, and stated that applicants of whatever nationality or creed would be eligible as members, if found worthy. His words in this Connection forcibly reminded us of "that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who best can work and best agree."

M.W. Bro. Frederic H. Stevens, P.G.M., set for the part he had played in the formation of the Lodge, prophesied that events of great Masonic moment would result therefrom, and stated that Masonry expected much from Mencius No. 93.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Teodoro M. Kalaw, P.J.G.W., delivered a very able discourse, with special reference to the influence which Chinese philosophy had had on the philosophical teachings of Masonry saying that these principles had first gone from the Orient to the Occident, and were now returning to the Orient in the form of Masonry.

Rt. Wor. Bro. F. A. Delgado, in representation of the Grand Master, spoke in both humorous and serious vein, emphasizing the underlying truths of Masonry, and congratulated the new Lodge on its auspicious beginning.

Bro. Delgado read a telegram of felicitation and best wishes from M.W. Bro. Wenceslao Trinidad, Grand Master, who was unavoidably absent in the Visayas on business.

Over four hundred people were present.

1924 was, indeed, a year with the same fundamental problems as we have now. There was need of increasing cooperation among men, and a demand for national unity, enlightenment and discipline. Some of our Masonic pillars of 39 years ago are still with us and directing with wise word and counsel, the younger ones in furthering their Masonic work. They can rest assured that we, the 83 Master Masons in the active rolls, are carrying on.

An example of our present work which is nearing its fruition is the submission of the report of the Special Committee on the proposed Mencius Friendly Scholarship to be sponsored by our Lodge. The fund for this purpose, by the way, was further augmented by a substantial donation of P400.00, from W.B. Benjamin C. Gotamco, P.M. The amount turned in by our present worthy Treasurer on such auspicious occasion has certainly given the movement a great boost and since it is said that money begets money, the momentum now gaining under the force of a bright idea from our Bro. Johnny de G. Rodriguez will soon be translated into something tangible. Watch for further an-

nouncements. Have you chipped in your grain of sand? Remember that little poem:

*Little drops of water  
Little grains of sand  
Make the mighty ocean  
And the great big land*

Our Worshipful Master appointed Wor. Bros. James V. Limpe, Benjamin C. Gotamco, Tan Chin Teck, and Bro. Eugene K. Lim to take charge of raising funds for the Scholarships which, after a careful and exhaustive study, the Lodge will sponsor at the College of Engineering, University of the Philippines. With the guidance and assistance of our Bro. Juan de G. Rodriguez, former Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and originator of the idea, negotiations are now in progress for the enrollment of the first scholar at the College of Engineering. The Committee, however, is handicapped by insufficient funds for our project to be a continuing one, so it behooves each and every one of us to support this laudable enterprise where we have to *make* more, *have* more, *want* more and *spend* more.

RICHARD KHOO, P.M.  
*Secretary*



He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much, who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who has left the world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem, or a rescued soul; who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it; who has always looked for the best in others and given the best he had; whose life was an inspiration, whose memory a benediction.