

Notes & Queries

1. FROM BRO. CHRISTOPHER POWELL

The Earliest Engraved List of Lodges

In his excellent book *A Handy Book to the Study of the Engraved, Printed and Manuscript Lists of Lodges of Ancient, Free and Accepted masons of England . . . from 1723 to 1814 . . .* published in 1889, John Lane notes, when discussing the early engraved lists of lodges, that he felt there must have been a list published before the then earliest extant list in the Library at Great Queen Street dating from 1724. Lane inferred the publication of an earlier list from the fact that the extant list of 1724, engraved by Emanuel Bowen during the Grandmastership of the Earl of Dalkeith, appeared to be a sequel to an earlier four-page list, with an extra fifth page tacked onto the end.¹ He was right.

By great good fortune a single copy of the 1723 list has at last turned up, tucked into a collection of thirty-six letters written by Charles Lennox, the 2nd Duke of Richmond, to Martin Folkes, now housed in the Library of the Royal Society in London under the class mark RS MS/865. The collection of letters remained in the Folkes family until 1932 when Martin Folkes's great-great-granddaughter, Viscountess Downe, sold them at Sotheby's sale on 27 June, 1932. They were purchased by Bro. Lewis Edwards (1888–1969), a Past Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge (1941).² Bro. Edwards discovered the 1723 list tucked into the letters and shared his discovery with Bro. Claude Rotch who made a copy of the list.³ However, upon the death of Bro. Edwards an extensive search was made for the list, but it could not be found among his papers and was believed to have been lost. Bro. A. R. Hewitt related what he knew about it in a one-page article

¹ J. Lane, *A Handy Book to the List of Lodges* (London: George Kenning, 1889), 5.

² Lewis Edwards was born Lewis Moses and changed his name by deed poll.

³ In the Library of UGLE.

entitled 'The Earliest Engraved List of Lodges' in *AQC* 82 (1969), 254. Bro. Edward's wife and brother predeceased him and it seems no-one else knew he had a bank deposit box. The list and the letters were presented to the Royal Society on 20 May, 2010.

Forty-one London lodges are named on the list with the time and place of their meetings. The list was engraved by John Pine, whose name appears on the header. John Pine was a member of the lodge at the Horn Tavern, Westminster, and of the lodge at the Globe Tavern in Moorgate. The header has the name of the Duke of Wharton as Grand Master at the top, so it must have been produced between 24 June 1722 and 24 June 1723, when he was Grand Master. Since the central figure on the header, who presumably represents the spirit of Freemasonry with her right arm resting on a Corinthian capital, is holding a copy of the 'Constitutions', the list was probably published after James Anderson's *The Constitutions of the Free-Masons*, which appeared on the last day of February 1723, and thus the list probably dates from March or April 1723, the same time of year as the 1723-4 and 1724-5 lists appeared. The cherub on the left of the header, seated on two books, is playing a harp alluding to the important place music had in the early lodges. The two cherubs on the right of the header appear to be exchanging a private Masonic greeting. Another interpretation might be to emphasize the harmony and sociability of Masonic fellowship.

The list is a single, almost square, piece of paper, printed on both sides and folded to form four very small pages measuring 65mm x 140mm (2½" x 5¼"). It is sewn into a cover made from green-coloured, embossed paper and placed into a simple slip-case, covered in orange-coloured paper with a marbled design.

Forty-one lodges are named on the 1723 list while there are fifty-one lodges on the 1724 list. Apart from the ten extra lodges named on the 1724 engraved list, a number of changes occurred in the twelve months between the printing of the two lists. Four lodges have been removed, having either changed their day and place of meeting or ceased to exist: the Dog, Palace-yard, Westminster; the King's Arms, Newgate street; the George & Dragon, Dyot-street, St Giles; and St Alban, St Albans street, Pall Mall. Of course, it is possible that the members of these lodges moved to other premises, but this does not appear to be the case. Four lodges have been added: the Half Moon, Cheapside; the Crown, behind the Royal Exchange; the Prince of Denmark, Cavendish street; and Busiebody, Charing Cross. Two lodges stayed in the same place but changed the day on which they met: the lodge at the Dolphin, Tower-street, and the Crown, At Acton. Thus, in the twelve months between the publication of the two lists, thirty-seven lodges continued to meet, fourteen new lodges were formed and four lodges ceased to exist, or moved to another location.

Engraved List of Lodges 1723 [John Pine]

Duke of Wharton Grand Master

[Engraved Signs]

Goose and Gridiron	St. Paul's Church-yard	every other Mond. from ye 29 th of April inclusive
Queen's Head	Knave's Acre	every other Wedn. From ye 24 th of April inclusive
Queen's Head	Turn stile	First Wednesday in every Month
Cheshire Cheese	Arundel street	First Thursday in every Month
Horn	Westminster	Third Fryday in every Month
King's Head	Ivy lane	every other Thurs. from ye 20 of June inclusive
Griffin	Newgate street	First Monday in every Month
Three Cranes	Poultry	Second Wednesd: in every Month
Three Compasses	Silver street	every other Fryd: from ye 26 th of April inclusive
Fountain Tavern	in the Strand	First Fryday in every Month
Rose and Crown	King-street Westminster	every other Mond. from ye 29 th of April inclusive
Greyhound	Fleet-street	last Fryday in every Month
Crown	near Cripplegate	fourth Thursday in every Month
Rummer Tavern	Charring Cross	first Thursday in every Month
Half Moon	in the Strand	fifth Day of the Month
"St. John's gate"	Clerken Well	every other Tuesd. from Easter Tuesd. inclusive
Coffee House		
Castle	Drury-lane	Second Monday in every Month
"DB" Bedford's Head	Southampton street	Second Thursday in every Month
	Covent-Garden	
Castle Tavern	St. Giles's	every other Thursd. from ye 2 nd of May inclusive
"EC" Cardigan's Head	Charring Cross	First Fryday in every Month
Swan Tavern	Fish-street Hill	Second Wednesday in every Month
Bull's Head	Southwark	Second Monday in every Month
Anchor	Dutchy-lane	Second Fryd. in every Month
	in the Strand	
Baptist's Head	Chancery lane	First Monday in every Month
Sun	Clare Market	First Wednesday in every Month
Dog	Pallace-yard	First & Third Thursday in every Month
	Westminster	
King's Arms	Newgate street	Second Fryday in every Month
Swan	Ludgate street	First & Third Wednesday in every Month
St George and the Dragon	Dyot-street St. Giles	every other Mond. from ye 22 nd April inclusive

NOTES & QUERIES

“Ben’s” Coffee House	New Bond street	every other Tuesd. from June ye 18 th inclusive ⁴
Ship	Bartholomew lane	First Tuesday in every Month
King’s Arms	St. Paul’s Church-yard	First Fryday in every Month
Queen’s Head	Great Queen street	First & Third Thursday in every month
Crown	St. Johns Wapping	Second Tuesday in every Month
St. George and the Dragon	Charring Cross	Third Thursday in every Month
Ship	behind ye Royal Exchange	First Wednesday in every Month
Dolphin	Tower-street	Second Wednes. in every Month
Masons’ Arms	At Edgworth	every Thursday
Crown	At Acton	First & Third Sat. in every Month at 12 at Noon
St. Alban	St. Albans street Pall Mall	First Tuesday in every Month
“Dick’s” Coffee House	by ye New Church in ye Strand.	Second Tuesday in every Month

⁴ Lane, *A Handy Book*, mistranscribed as 18th in the 1723–24 list on page 169.