



Nevada Lodge of Research #2
2200 Mesquite Avenue, S-155
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

James H. Beggs, Master
2012 Park Way
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89106
(702) 382-9812
jim@jabeggs.com

Michael L. Kandt, Secretary
1913 Coralino Drive
Henderson, Nevada 89074
(702) 897-4778
lmkandt@aol.com

The following is a reprint for our members of material found in Volume 17, 2009 of Heredom and published by the Scottish Rite Research Society. The Schaw Statutes is the earliest known formalization of rules and regulations or a constitution meant to govern and standardize early Masonic Lodges, some of which were in full operation in the early 1300rds in Scotland. It is provided to show where the concept of the Grand Lodge Code finds its origin. It is an important document speaking to the question of from whence we came.

The Schaw Statutes of 1598

**Edinburgh the 28th day of December,
And year of God One thousand five
hundred and ninety-eight.**

THE STATUTES AND ORDINANCES to be observed by all the master masons within this realm, set down by William Schaw, Master of Work to His Majesty [*this would be King James VI*] and general warden of the said craft, with the consent of the masters [omitted here] after specified.

[1] **ITEM** First that they observe and keep all the good ordinances set down previously concerning the privileges of their Craft by their predecessors of good memory and especially that they be true one to another and live charitably together as becomes sworn brothers and companions of [the] craft.

[2] **ITEM** That they be obedient to their wardens, deacons and masters in all things concerning their craft.

[3] **ITEM** That they be honest, faithful and diligent in their calling and deal uprightly with the masters or owners of the works that they shall take in hand, be it in task, meat and fee, or weekly wage.

[4] **ITEM** That none [shall] take in hand any work, great or small, which he is not able to perform in a qualified manner under the pain of forty pounds or else the fourth part of the worth and value of the said work, and that by and through any adequate amends and satisfaction to be made to the owners of the work at the sight and discretion of the Warden-General, or in his absence at the sight of the wardens, deacons and masters of the Sherifffdom where the said work is being constructed or worked.

[5] **ITEM** That no master shall take any other master's work over his head, after the first master has agreed with the owner of the work either by contract, aries' or verbal condition, under the pain of forty pounds.

. Aries A Scottish word, still used in fanning circles, meaning 'earnest money given in confirmation of a bargain:

[6] **ITEM** That no master shall take the working of any work that other masters have worked at before, unto the time that the first workers be satisfied [i.e. paid] for the work which they have done under the pain previously mentioned.

[7] **ITEM** That there be one warden chosen and elected every year to have charge over every lodge, as they are divided} and that by the votes of the masters of the said lodges, and the consent of their Warden-General if he happens to be present. And otherwise that he be advised that such a warden has been chosen for such a year to the end that the Warden-General may send directions to the elected warden.

[8] **ITEM** That no master shall take any more apprentices than three during his lifetime without the special consent of all the wardens, deacons and masters of the Sherifffdom where the said apprentice that is to be received dwells.

[9] **ITEM** That no master shall take and bind any apprentice for fewer than seven years and likewise it shall not be allowed to make the said apprentice brother and fellow in the craft until the time that he shall have another seven years after the end of his apprenticeship without a special license granted by the wardens, deacons and masters assembled for that purpose, and that sufficient trial be made of the worthiness, qualification and skill of the person that desires to be made [a] fellow in [the] craft, and that under the pain of forty pounds to be regarded as a pecuniary penalty from the person that is made [a] fellow in [the] craft against this ordinance, besides the penalties awarded against him by the lodge where he remains.

[10] **ITEM** That it shall not be lawful for any master to sell his apprentice to any other master, nor to dispense with the years of his apprenticeship by selling the apprentice to himself, under the pain of forty pounds.

[11] **ITEM** That no master shall receive any apprentice without signifying the same to the wardens of the lodge where he lives, to the end that the said apprentice's name and the day of his reception may be orderly entered in the books.

[12] **ITEM** That no master or fellow of craft be received or admitted without ~here being six masters and two apprentices present, the warden of the lodge being one of the said six, and that the day of the receiving of the said fellow of craft or master be properly booked and his name and mark inserted in the said book with the names of his six admitters and entered apprentices, and the names of the intenders that shall be chosen for every person shall also be entered in their book. Provided always that no man shall be admitted without an assay and sufficient trial of his skill and worthiness in his vocation and craft.

[13] **ITEM** That no master [shall] work [at] any mason work under [the] charge or command of any other craftsman that takes in hand or upon himself the working of any mason work.

[14] **ITEM** That no master or fellow of craft receive any cowans to work in his presence or company, or send any of his servants to work with cowans under the pain of twenty pounds as often as anyone shall offend against this [rule].

[15] **ITEM** It shall not be lawful for any apprentice to undertake any greater task or work in hand from an owner that will extend to the sum often pounds under the pain aforesaid, to wit twenty pounds, and that task being finished they shall not enterprise further without license of the masters or warden where they live.

[16] **ITEM** If there be any question, strife or variance among any of the masters, servants or entered apprentices, the parties that are in debate shall signify the cause of their quarrel to the particular wardens or deacons of their lodge within the space of twenty-four hours under the pain of ten pounds, to the end that they may be reconciled and agreed and their variance removed by the said wardens, deacons and masters; and if any of the parties shall remain willful or obstinate they shall be deprived of the privileges of their lodge and not permitted to work thereat until such time as they submit themselves to reason in the sight of their wardens, deacons and masters.

[17] **ITEM** That all masters undertaking any work be very careful to see that their scaffolding and footways be surely set and placed, to the end that through their negligence and sloth no hurt or injury may come to any person working on the work, under the pain of prohibiting them thereafter from working as masters in charge of any work, but ever to be subject all the rest of their days to work under another principal master having charge of the work.

[18] **ITEM** That no master is to receive or reset [accept] any other master's apprentice or servant that shall happen to run away from his master's service, or entertain him in his company after he has got information of the position, under the pain of forty pounds.

[19] **ITEM** That all persons of the mason craft convene at the time and place after being lawfully warned, under the penalty of ten pounds.

[20] **ITEM** That all the masters that may be summoned to any assembly or meeting shall be sworn by their great oath that they not hide or conceal faults nor wrongs done by any to another, nor the faults or wrongs that any man has done to the owners of the works that they have in hand as far as they are aware, and that under the pain of ten pounds to be recovered from these who concealed the faults.

[21] **ITEM** It is ordained that all the aforesaid penalties shall be taken from the ! offenders and breakers of these ordinances by the wardens, deacons and masters of the lodges where the offenders live and be distributed ad pios usus [*Latin for: "with prayer and common practice"*] according to good conscience by the advice of the aforesaid.

[22] **ITEM** And for the fulfilling and observing of these ordinances as set down, the whole masters convened on the aforesaid day bind and oblige themselves to faithfully hereto. And therefore has requested their said Warden General to subscribe these presents with his own hand to the end that an authentic copy hereof may be sent to every particular lodge within this realm.

William Shaw

Master of the Work
Scotland

Transliterated by Bro. George S. Draffen

