



**Past and Present
Qingdao and Weihaiwei
Masonic Halls
Revisited
By**

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Qingdao Masonic Hall



Weihaiwei Masonic Hall



PREFACE

This paper records a visit to the Qingdao and Weihaiwei Masonic Halls in Shandong Province, China by some Hong Kong Masons in October 1998. These Masonic Halls were closed in 1939 and again in 1953 respectively. The former owners of the buildings were North Star of China Lodge No. 2673 EC and Daintree Lodge No. 2938 EC respectively. The latter was the only Lodge in China that was resurrected after WW II to find a home in the United Kingdom.

In this paper, we have used the modern 'pin yin' names such as Qingdao (Tsingtao) but use the full name of Weihaiwei for sentimental reasons. The name has now been abbreviated to Weihai in some maps. The Chinese word basin or harbour seems to have been dropped.

As there was a time limit to complete the project, this paper was compiled from material available in Hong Kong.

It is hoped that this paper will spark further interest of the Lodges that operated in Northern China and how the brethren coped often under difficult circumstances.

DEDICATION

This paper is dedicated to the brethren of Northern Star of China Lodge No. 2673 and Daintree Lodge No. 2938— past and present.



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District Grand Lodge of Hong Kong and the Far East

*Past and Present
-Qingdao and Weihaiwei
Masonic Halls
Revisited*

*“Time present and time past
Are both perhaps present and time future,
And time future contained in time past.”*

Thomas Stearns Eliot (1886-1965) British Poet

Introduction

Within the confines of Zetland Hall our Masonic past is displayed around us. For example, there are a number of old oil portraits adorning the walls of our distinguished brethren forebears who have for many years look down upon us in solemn judgment. Faded lodge banners that once graced those lodges when they were operative in China. Also, a collection of old photographs of Masonic Halls erected in old Cathay. One has, on many occasions, to stop and muse at those photographs. If only they could tell us more about the ardent brethren who initiated the construction and used those early Masonic Halls. Are those buildings still standing, one wonders? If so, to what purpose are they now used? Or has the materials have been spirited away for less fitting use?

A number of our brethren have shared these thoughts and we were fortunate that the District Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Peter Wong Hong-yuen, initiated a series of visits to China to resurrect interest in our eminent Masonic past

China is increasingly more open now and visits to China are welcome. Therefore, planning by the brethren to visit Shandong Province commenced earlier this year. The District Grand Master decided to visit the former Masonic Halls situated in Qingdao and Weihaiwei later in the year. Early photographs of the Qingdao and Weihaiwei Halls still adorn the bar at Zetland Hall so we knew what to look for. The Northern Star of China Lodge No. 2673 EC and Daintree Lodge 2938 EC for many years used these Halls in the early 1900's. The possibility of finding the two halls after the best part of a century, two World Wars and other various upheavals only heightened our interest. The plan was to form a party of brethren and ladies to visit Qingdao and Weihaiwei between the 9th and 12th October 1998.

To assist readers in placing these Lodges and their Halls in their historical context, we should remember that the Craft probably appeared in China in the early 1750's. About a hundred years later, the Craft was well established in the Far East. For many years, the English Lodges in Hong Kong and China came under London (1844-1847), the Province of China (1847-1866); District of China (1866-1875) and again under London (District of Hong Kong) (1875-1877). Two English Masonic Districts were then formed as the number of Lodges grew to improve the administration. The other was the District Grand Lodge of Northern China. In the year 1877, a Patent was granted to W.Bro. Cornelius Thorne and was appointed the first District Grand Master

of the Northern District. The boundary of the former was all those places south of Ningpo, and Ningpo and northwards was placed under the jurisdiction of the District of Northern China (1877-1952). Remember too that China was one of the few countries where lodges worked under at least six Constitutions in harmony.

Milestones of China's Political Development 1800-1997

- During the Qing Dynasty, arts flourished but the ruling Manchus were conservative and inflexible.
- By 1840, steady decentralization of power and rebellions sprouted, such as the Taiping rebellion.
- In 1895, Japan defeated the Chinese fleet at Weihaiwei.
- In 1900, the Boxer rebellion was crushed by foreign powers and acquired 'rights'.
- In 1911, the Qing Dynasty collapsed and the Chinese sided with the Allies but at the Treaty of Versailles, Shandong Province was handed over to the Japanese.
- In 1919 (4.5.1919), the 'Fourth May Movement' initiated a protest by University students at Tiananmen Square.
- By 1920, Dr. Sun Yat-sen head of the Nationalists accepted Soviet aid and forged an alliance with the Communist Party.
- In 1925, Dr. Sun Yat-sen died and Chiang Kai-shek launched the 'Northern Expedition' and massacred CCP members in Shanghai. Nationalists closed in on the Communists.
- In 1934, the Long March of 6,000 miles commenced. Out of 100,000 persons only up to 8,000 remained at the end. Mao consolidated the Communist Party.
- In 1937 the Japanese entered Shanghai.
- 1939 saw the beginning of the Second World War.
- In 1941 brought the U.S.A. into the War following the bombing of Pearl Harbour.
- 1945 saw the end of WW II but the Nationalists and the Communists were opposed to each other.
- By 1949, the Nationalists incurred huge bills and printed money leading to hyperinflation and so they fled to Taiwan while Mao took over the reins. Mao Tze-tung proclaimed the People's Republic of China.
- In 1953, the Korean War hostilities ended.
- In 1958, the 'Great Leap Forward' commenced and with it collectivization of farming and use of excess labour into producing steel.
- By 1960, China saw the greatest famine in history.
- China launched the 'Great Proletarian Culture Revolution' and formation of Red Guards.
- In 1967, civil disturbances throughout Hong Kong and Macau.
- 1969 the Cultural Revolution ended.
- Mao Tze tung died in 1976 and Deng Shiao-ping emerged with his economic reforms.
- The English Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, visited China regarding the future of Hong Kong.
- In 1984, the Joint Declaration returning Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty was formalized.
- The Chinese students in 1984 protested at Tiananmen Square.
- Deng Shiao-ping died on 19.2.1997 succeeded by Jiang Ze-min as President.
Hong Kong was handed over to China on 30.6.1997.

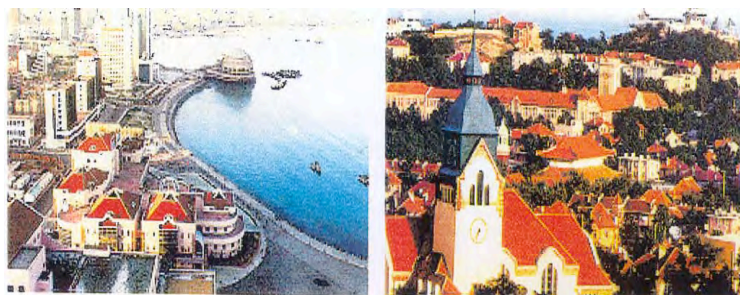
Thus, the people of China endured. The Masons living in China weathered many storms until the early 1950's when it was no longer expedient to continue the Masonic Art on mainland China

Masons Return to Shandong Province

Following further correspondence between R.W. Bro. Peter Wong and 'Daintree Lodge' members, the visit to Shandong was firmed up. W. Bro. Quincy Quang made a pre-visit to Qingdao and Weihaiwei and District Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Peter Nunn, made suitable arrangements for the party of nine ladies to accompany the thirteen brethren. The party departed Hong Kong on 9 October 1998 and arrived in Qingdao later that same afternoon. (See the list of participants at Appendix 1)

Qingdao

The city of Qingdao has a population of 1.5 million and is the largest city in Shandong Province. Qingdao means 'Green Island' and is almost a replica of a German village as the city boasts red-tiled roofs and European angles and shapes down to the gardens. The stylish houses and the early German influence and planning are still apparent. The waterfront beaches are backed by sharp hills edging the skies. The climate is favourable being warmer in winter and cool in summer than most parts of China so that it was a favourite resort for the leaders of the Shanghai community in bygone days. Some kept resort holiday houses there. As the city has been occupied by successive foreign powers, it is not surprising that the city was one of the leading proponents of the production of liquor. The nearby Laoshan mineral waters and natural products aid to the production of the earliest beer factory constructed in China. The 'Tsingtao Brewery' is still producing a fine beer.



Milestones of The Northern Star of China Lodge No. 2673 EC

- **May 1897** – A Petition was drawn up and formed.
- **18.7.1897** – The Warrant for Lodge No. 2673 was issued named Northern Star of China to be held at Newchwang.
- **7.9.1897** – The first provisional meeting was held over the Bowling Club.
- **18.6.1898** - The Lodge was solemnly consecrated and officers invested.
- **November 1899** – The Lodge moved to rooms in the Manchuria Hotel.
- **4.8.1900** – The Boxer rebellion commenced and Newchwang was bombarded by Russian gunboats (no Lodge meeting).
- **April 1903** - The Lodge purchased a plot of land to build a Masonic Hall.
- **March 1904** – Due to the Russo-Japanese War, the Lodge jewels and property were sent to Tientsin for safekeeping.
- **May 1905** – The Lodge moved to the Newchwang Club.
- **March 1907** - The old lot was sold for a profit and a new lot purchased. Messrs. Ford and Shaw drew up the plans of a Masonic Hall including a Masonic Club on the ground floor.
- **14.5.1907** – R.W. Bro. W.H. Anderson conducted the ceremony of laying the Foundation Stone.
- **January 1908** – The Lodge moved into the two storey Hall.
- **End 1910** – The Lodge held 154 Regular and 11 Emergency meetings in which they Initiated 104, Passed 101 and 84 Raisings.
- **Post 1912** – The changing political conditions affected the economic conditions and it became increasingly difficult to hold meetings.
- **October 1930** – The last meeting of Northern Star held in Newchwang.
- **Post 1933** –An initiative was taken to move the Lodge to Qingdao.
- **June/July 1933** – The Lodge moved to Shanghai under dispensation.
- **1933** – A site was purchased in Great Chan Shan Road and an Architect, Mr. G. Smirnoff, prepared the plans.
- **1.2.1934** – Meetings started in Qingdao at the American Square Club, the Grand Hotel and the Master's home in Edgewater Mansions and the Newchwang Hall was sold.
- **14.9.1935** – Saturday at 4.00 p.m. the Foundation Stone was laid by W.Bro. H.E. Olsen and W.Bro. F.A. Fairchild delivered the Address.

The stone bore the following inscription

‘This Stone was Laid by
Wor. Bro. H.E. Olsen, P.D.G.S.D.
W.M. Northern Star of China Lodge, No. 2673 E.C.,
Wor. Bro. M.L. Snow, I.P.M.
Northern Star of China Lodge, No.2673, E.C.,
and
Bro. S.B. Duncan, J.W.
Northern Star of China Lodge, No.2673 E.C.,
in the presence of many Brethren on
14th day of September, A.D. 1935, A.L. 5935.’

- **12.11.1935** – The first meeting of the Lodge was held in the new premises but the consecration was delayed.
- **12.1.1937** – The Hall was consecrated by R.W.Bro. W. Nation P.G.D, P.G.M. and thirty-three brethren were present of which ten were Installed Masters drawn from five Constitutions.
- **July 1937** – Outbreak of Sino-Japanese hostilities and meetings continued.
- **January 1938** – Withdrawal of Chinese Administration and the Installation was postponed and Japanese military occupation commenced.
- **1.2.1938** – The Installation was held.
- **By 1950** – It was obvious that Masonry was in decline due to the dwindling of members, not due to objections by the authorities but due to the process of economic change and attrition of members.
- **20.3.1951** – the D.G.M. resigned and the Northern District, in effect, no longer existed and was changed into an Inspectorate District.
- **1953** – Northern Star of China Lodge No. 2763 E.C. closed its doors.

[Qingdao Masonic Hall](#)

Time has not permitted a search of records as to what happened to the Hall between about 1938 and 1953 and beyond. However, the tour bus driver of our intrepid party had no difficulty in finding the Qingdao Masonic Hall in Great Chan Shan Road. The surrounding area is pleasant with large houses planted with leafy trees. It was a surprise to find that the Hall looked remarkably intact.

When first constructed in 1935, there was no pavement. A low wall surrounded the Hall and garden. This was topped by ironwork that matched the design of the iron front gate. Two pillars on which lanterns stood straddled the gate. The Square and Compasses adorned the entrance above. The Lodge had constructed the Hall in 1935 in such a way a second storey could be added. Perhaps that is why it looks so solid even today. One has to remember that the Hall was constructed in a short period. The architect seems to have followed the architectural style of the times – solid but using simple lines.

Today, the Hall does not seem to be large but it does look imposing. There is a pavement now and some mature elm trees have been planted just in front of the building. Some low green bushes have been planted along the perimeter wall. On either side of the gate supports some stonework has been added on which there were some Chinese characters. The characters have been removed. It is understood that an Insurance company last used the building but it has been left empty. On the roof are four large Chinese characters on either side of the entrance meaning, ‘China Pacific Insurance Company’. The iron frames supporting the Chinese characters are rusting and staining the stonework in front to some degree.

To our regret but perhaps understandably, the Square and Compasses have been removed and nor could we enter the building, as it was locked. The original lanterns have also been removed. The windows look as if they are intact as well as the ornate chimney. There were two holes bored into the stonework on either side of the windows to the left and these may have been used for split air conditioners. We could not see the original inscription on the Foundation Stone. Nor did we feel like trespassing onto the plot as our intentions might have been misunderstood.

All in all, we were of the view that the building was still in good shape despite the chaos that must have occurred over the last sixty-three years since the building was constructed. (See figure 1 & 2 shows the Hall in Great Chan Shan Road circa 1935 and in 1998).

Weihaiwei



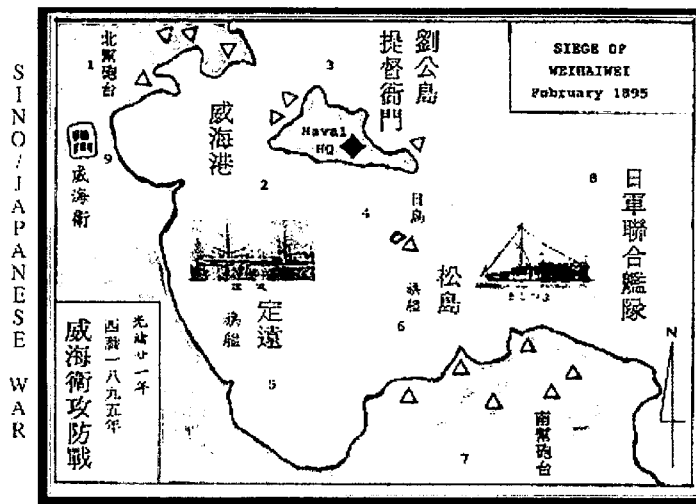
The city situated on the eastern coast of Shandong Province faces South Korea to the northeast and Japan to the east. The deep bay forms an extensive safe anchorage due to the location of Liu Gong Dao or Liu Gong Island, which dissipates the force of the northeast winds. Neolithic remains have been found but today it is a resort town.



Japan attacked the China Fleet at Weihaiwei 1895

Perhaps a nodal point of China's history occurred at Weihaiwei with an attack on the Chinese fleet by Japan in January 1895. This event altered the political geography of China today. It is worth dwelling on the siege of Weihaiwei between January and February 1895 due to its consequences. The 23-day siege of Weihaiwei on the north shore began with the landing of the Japanese 2nd Army on 20 January 1895 in bitter weather. Despite 161 guns strategically placed around the bay, protected by sea mines and booms, the town was captured by 2 February. On 12 February, the Admiralty of the Peiyang (North Waters) Fleet located on Liu Gong Island surrendered.





MAP LEGEND

Fort with cannons, total 161 guns, mostly of Krupp or Armstrong make (triangles)

1. North group of forts, with 43 guns, 7-24 cm calibre. Captured on 2 February 1895
2. Weihaiwei Harbour, harbouring 15 Chinese warships and 13 torpedo boats, and protected at its entrances by 248 sea-mines and by booms of timber and steel
3. Liugongdao Island, Admiralty of the Peiyang (North Waters) Fleet. With 61 guns. Under total siege by 8 February
4. Ridao Island, with 8 guns. Forts destroyed on 7 February
5. *Ting Yuan*, 7430-ton steel-hull battleship, flagship of the Peiyang Fleet of China
6. *Matsushima*, 4278-ton protected cruiser, flagship of the Combined Squadrons of Japan
7. South group of forts, with 49 guns, 7-28 cm calibre. Captured on 30 January
8. Position of the Combined Squadrons of Japan: 25 warships and 16 torpedo boats, commanded by Vice-Admiral ITO Sukeyuki
9. Town of Weihaiwei. Taken on 2 February

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The German fleet then obtained a lease at Qingdao to the south and the Russians occupied Port Arthur in the north. The Americans had a similar concession in Chefoo. Weihaiwei was then leased to Great Britain in July 1898 from China on a 32-year lease. Thus, the political and military chessboard on the peninsula opened.

Port Edward became the seat of administration near the town while the British Navy staff took over Liu Gong Dao, stock and barrel. To all and purposes the island became the 'Portsmouth' of Shandong Province. After April of each year the fleet moved from Hong Kong to Liu Gong Dao, as the Navy lads were not enamoured with the hot and humid Hong Kong sticky climate during the summer months.

By 1902, W.Bro. Commander J.D.Daintree R.N. was in charge of the base on Liu Gong Dao. As there were a relatively large number of members in the Craft serving with the fleet, Petitions were made to form two lodges to operate on Liu Gong Dao. One was King Edward VIII Lodge No.2937. The other was Daintree Lodge No. 2938 EC named after the Base Commander.

Milestones of Daintree Lodge No. 2938 EC

- **1.9.1901** – Date of issue of the Warrant of Daintree Lodge No. 2938 EC
- **9.9.1902** – The first meeting of Lodge No. 2938 (before the Warrant was received).
- **10.9.1902** – The first meeting of Lodge No. 2937 and No. 2938 met in an old rented Chinese house in ‘Drake Street’.
- **29.1.1903** – The Consecration of Lodge No. 2937 & 2938 performed by W.Bro. T.W. Kingsmill, P.D.D.G.M. and first Installation of officers.
- **1908** – The Warrant of Lodge No. 2937 was returned to Grand Lodge and struck off from the Roll due to low numbers.
- **June 1909** – A decision to erect a new Masonic building on the island.
- **22.9.1909** – The Ceremony of Laying the Foundation Stone officiated by W.Bro. H.B. Ching and regalia was not worn.

The stone bore the following inscription

“ This stone was laid by Brother Harry Bryant Ching
Wor. Master of Daintree Lodge No. 2938, EC
On the twenty-second day of September,
One thousand nine hundred and nine.”

- **May 1910** – The new Masonic Hall was completed.
- **6.6.1910** – R.W. Bro. R.S. Ivy, D.G.M. consecrated the Hall.
- **1910** – A Royal Arch Chapter failed, as the Petition was lost on board a gunboat.
- **1914** – Outbreak of war necessitated the withdrawal of the fleet from Weihaiwei.
- **1917** – Return to peace and with it the fleet but 15 members were lost in action.
- **1920** –Dates of meetings were dependant on fleet movements.
- **August 1929** – Formation of the China Fleet Lodge of Instruction.
- **1930** – The retrocession of Weihaiwei to the Chinese Government and reduction of resident personnel so meetings were held mainly from May to September.
- **1931** – W.Bro. P.D. Crawley posted to Hong Kong (interned in Stanley in 1941 – also a member of Cathy Lodge No. 4373).
- **End 1937** – 149 members on the roll but many brethren dispersed to the European theatre.
- **1939** – The Masonic Hall and Daintree Lodge was closed and the Warrant left in the keeping of Bro. R.H. Lackey and the Hall with Mr. C.P. Sai the caretaker. The Warrant was taken from Singapore by submarine to Hong Kong.
- **22.10.1940** – It was reported that arrangements in Tientsin were made for Lodge No.2938 to work in Hong Kong during the war under dispensation.
- **1941** – The last Installation of Daintree before the occupation (Hong Kong?)
- **1.1.1942** – Hong Kong occupied by the Japanese and Lodge No. 2938 and all others went into recession.

- **December 1945** – Warrant of Lodge No. 2938 and others were saved and returned by Bro. Nemazee in Hong Kong.
- **25.2.1947** – Application to transfer the Warrant to the Province of Hampshire initiated by Bro. J.H. Bolton Jr.
- **10.6.1947** – The first meeting of the Lodge held in the Fareham Masonic Centre.
- **8.7.1947** - W. Bro. R.E. Merritt was Installed as Master.
- **April 1970** – The first meeting of the Lodge at the new Masonic Centre at Botley.
- **Post 1970** – The Lodge continues to hold a ‘Chinese Night’ meeting.

Weihaiwei Masonic Hall Visit

On Saturday 10 October 1998 (‘the Double Tenth’), the party boarded a ferry from the town pier to go to the famous island of Liu Gong Dao. Our ferryboat looked as if it had been converted from one of the Japanese gunboats that survived the Weihaiwei naval battle in 1895. Packed to the gunnels with weekend trippers eager to taste and gamble with the local seafood hygiene, we chugged our way towards Liu Gong Dao. Fortunately, the sea was calm but the sky was extremely hazy. As we came closer to the island and past the old iron pier, one could see blocks of low buildings, which could only have been the navy barracks. The first impressions were that nothing has changed. Disembarking from the stone pier, we went ashore and started to wend our way upward to the foothills. Turning left at the top of the street above the former R.N. Centre then along a lane, we came upon our destination.

In reading Bro. Ronald Child’s illuminating 1996 paper on Weihaiwei, the Daintree Lodge Archivist, he quoted in his paper an entry from the ‘China Sea Pilot’:

“...Among the buildings on the northern side of Liu-Kung-Tao is the former Masonic Hall, a prominent drab coloured building with a dark roof...’

On first sight, looking at the Hall from the lane rather elevated and to the right, one could not entirely agree with that description. To me, in the afternoon warm and hazy sunlight, it looked like a large lemon cream cake with icing sugar dripping down one side on which a red cherry had been thrust. The walls of the Hall had now been painted yellow. The pillars supporting the balcony had once been painted white, as did the window frames. In fact, the building looked quite appealing. One could easily imagine our former naval brethren in their white shorts and long socks sitting down on the balcony at sunset sipping a glass of pink gin and onions sucking on gnarled pipes. The roof though was dark like marzipan gone wrong but that helped to set off the rest of the building. The first thing that one looked for was the Square and Compasses. But no, they could not be seen. However, a red star had been prominently emblazoned just above the porch.

The Crown Lease of the site on which the Masonic Hall stands was granted on 18 June 1909 for fifty years and was later exchanged for a Chinese Deed in similar terms and duly registered at the British Consulate. To all accounts, the members did not intend to erect a superb edifice but a practical building as a focus for resident and visiting brethren. The Hall below Centurion Hill must have been within easy walking from the barracks proper. (*See 1948 Survey Chart at Fig. 13*). The two-storey structure through the main door led to the Clubrooms on the left with the Dining Hall on the right. One entered the hallway via the staircase to the temple and

robing rooms above. From the 1930 Zetland Hall photograph, at rooftop level was a kind of balustrade and a frontispiece on which the Square and Compasses had been displayed. At the rear of the building were the kitchens and possibly staff quarters.

Facing the front of the building today, the first thing to notice is that the roofline balustrade has been demolished together with the Square and Compasses. It looks as if the roof had been repaired at some time to affect the repairs it might have been necessary to take away the balustrade. The windows had been changed to a more modern form. (*See figures 3 & 4 the Hall from the front*).

When we attempted to enter the porchway, some very young lads wearing sailor suits accosted us. After seeking permission to go in, we were met with the retort that this place was 'verboden'. However, W.Bro. Quincy Quang came to the rescue after finding the person in charge. He was then found to be friendly and in we went.

On the ground floor to the left were obviously the Clubrooms. The front room was deserted but for a pair of shoes and slippers. However, the original carved, wooden panel work around the sides of the walls were still in place. As the late sunlight streamed in, the red coloured panels and the yellow painted doors gave the room a comfortable look. One could well imagine the peacetime conversation in those bygone days. Talk of five pounders, torpedoes and regattas. To the right was the spacious dining room now filled with iron and wooden bunk beds. The Hall is now used for Navy Cadets, probably in the summer. To the rear were doors leading to the kitchen. (*See figures 5 & 6 being the Club Room and the Dining Hall respectively*).

Ascending the red painted wooden staircase one came upon the temple and the robing rooms. (*See figure 6 A – the staircase*). The temple was a handy size and according to 1930 photographs in Bro. Child's paper, it was well furnished. Today, the Temple is used by the cadets as a recreation room. Adorning the East, where the Master used to sit, is a television set. A ping-pong table and a pool table in the West have replaced the tracing board and the Senior Warden's pedestal. What is still standing is the dais in the East! Also can be discerned is the ceiling lamp moldings on which fans and lights were suspended. Christmas chains now hung across the room. Either the denizens of the building had forgotten to take them down last year or they are gearing up early for this year.

However, it was a solemn moment when we sat in the East for a collective photograph. One attempted to imagine the thoughts of the brethren of Daintree Lodge sitting in this temple for the last time. That must have been a very sad moment for all. Fifty-nine years ago the Hall was left into the hands of the caretaker as the brethren dispersed to the theatres of war. What we can say is now that Masons have returned to these hallowed halls in peace. Each reflected one's own silent, respectful thoughts for those who have gone before. (*See figures 7 & 8 the temple circa 1930 and in 1998 and figure 8 A, the Hong Kong brethren sitting in the East*).

From the Junior Warden's side, one can go onto the balcony that had quite a good view to the sea and the barracks below.

The rear of the Hall must be approached from the east. There is a lane between the Hall and the kitchen and possibly small rooms for staff and storage. On the west of the lane has been filled in with a wall. The former kitchens look rather dilapidated but appear to be intact and the original doors still hung on their hinges. The stone building has not been painted leaving the natural stone colouring.

The rear of the Hall can be entered through three doors. Two of them set together. The faced stone at the rear does look rather grey under the fading white paint. One can well believe that the Hall must have looked rather drab and sullen, especially during the winter months if the Hall was operating. The drainage to the rear would not probably pass inspection by the hygiene sleuths today. (*See figures 9& 10 being the kitchen and the rear of the Hall*).

When the Hall was constructed there was a wide footpath approaching the entrance from the lane. The path and sides have now been laid with stone. The garden remains on either side and has been used as a playground. Some iron primitive swings and a basketball backboard have been erected. Some fir and other deciduous mature trees and bushes grace the garden but a little unkept.

But before leaving and taking a last look at the building, one had to smile in satisfaction. Although there is no outward vestige of apparent Masonic presence anymore, the brethren of Daintree Lodge left behind an unseen memorial. At the laying of the Foundation Stone at noon on 22 September 1909 and after the Secretary read the inscription on the stone, the stone was lowered about nine inches and various silver and copper coins, both English and Chinese, were deposited in the cavity. The stone was lowered another nine inches and a sealed bottle containing a parchment with an account of the undertaking, the names of the principal officers taking part in the ceremony, and a local paper, was placed in the cavity. The cavity was cemented over and the stone was finally lowered into position.

In the fading sunlight, we returned to the pier via one of two chapels, now a school, and the Naval Museum. Originally, there was a church and two chapels one of which one was an R.C. chapel. It was unfortunate that time did not permit further exploration of the island and to absorb its fascinating history. After embarking our ancient tub and as we said goodbye to Liu Gong Dao, one last glance enabled us to see the top of the Masonic Hall among the trees in the haze. No one waved back from the balcony but one can definitely say the spirit of Daintree Lodge remains. (*See figure 11 & 12 the chapel and the top of the Hall as seen from the ferry*).

“Study the past, if you would divine the future.”

Confucius (K'ung Fu-tse) 551–479 BC)
Chinese Philosopher



December 1998 Hong Kong

Appendix 1

ATTENDEES

R.W. P.H.Y. Wong
Mrs. W. Wong
Mrs. W.K. Hsu
Mrs. L. Sheenan
Ms. L.S. Chung
Ms. S.P. Leung
W.Bro. P.J. Nunn
W.Bro. Y.W. Tsang
W.Bro. Q.K.L. Chuang
W.Bro. R.J. Mason
W.Bro. E.H. Evans
W.Bro. B.L. Wong
Mrs. C.L. Wong
R.W.Bro. B.L. Coak
Bro. R.N. Murby
Bro. M.J. White
W.Bro. P.H.T. Fok
Mrs. A.M.S. Fok
W.Bro. N.J. Gillanders
Mrs. F.I. Gillanders
Bro. J.D. Berry
Mrs. N.S.H. Berry

Figure 1 & 2



Figure 3 & 4



Figure 5 & 6



Figure 6A



Figure 7 & 8 & 8A



Figure 9 & 10



Figure 11 & 12



Farewell To Liu Gung Dao

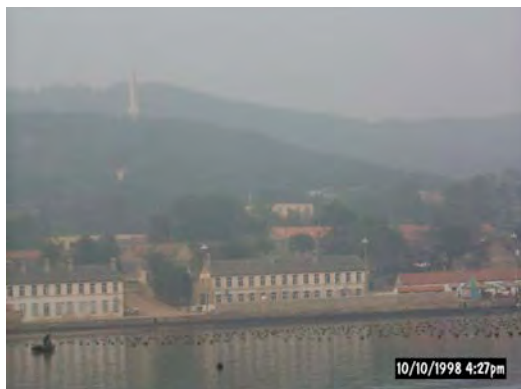


Fig. 13



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Liu Gung Dao Flag



Weihaiwei Flag



British Fleet at Weihaiwei 1902

