



Industria Cambrensis Lodge No.6700

Warranted : 2 June 1948

Consecrated : 4 October 1948

Meeting at the Town Hall, Cowbridge.



The historical account of Industria Cambrensis Lodge must necessarily start some years prior to its Consecration.

The Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF), Bridgend, or the 'Bridgend Arsenal', as it was known locally, functioned successfully until the end of WWII, when it became surplus to requirements. As it had its own water, gas and electricity producing plants, telephone, drainage systems and sixteen miles of rail track connected to the main lines, it was decided to establish a Trading Estate, to help provide employment for ex-service personnel and redundant war-workers. To this end, from early 1946, the ROF buildings were being converted for light industrial manufacturing use. South Wales Trading Estates Ltd, Treforest, established in 1937, had experience in converting buildings and inducing firms to occupy them, was appointed by the Government to implement the scheme. For this project to be successful, and to get a rapid start in providing employment, existing operating companies were required to occupy these buildings. This was achieved largely, though not entirely, by negotiating with going concerns functioning outside Wales.

Every company agreeing to transfer part, or all of its business to Bridgend, and other selected sites in Wales, had of necessity, to bring with it certain key personnel with the necessary professional and technical qualifications, as well as managerial experience. Many were Freemasons, and in some cases they had to spend at least two days away from business in order to attend their Mother Lodges.

A number of these Freemasons conferred together and decided to form their own local Lodge. The assistance of some prominent local Freemasons was solicited, resulting in the new Lodge being Sponsored by St Quentin's Lodge No.4778. A team of Founders was established, consisting of ten Subscribing Members from St Quentin's Lodge and 10 Brethren having industrial connections with Bridgend and district. It was decided to give the new Lodge the Latin name 'Industria Cambrensis', meaning 'Industry of Wales', and that the Lodge should meet in the Town Hall, Cowbridge. The Crest was designed to depict the then basic industries of South Wales, namely, coal, steel and tinplate. The Motto allied to the Crest '*Crescit, Fortuna, Merendo*', was also appropriate, as its literal meaning is '*Grow, Enrich, Deserve*'.

Official application was made to Grand Lodge; the Warrant, dated 2 June 1948, was issued; and the Lodge was Consecrated

at the Town Hall, Cowbridge, on Monday, 4 October 1948, by RWBro R P St John Charles, JP, PAGReg, ProvGM. The Installing Master was VWBro Edgar J Rutter, OSM, PGD, DepProvGM. Also present, was WBro Harry F Stockwell, PAGDC, ProvGSec. WBro Cyril James Oswald Evans, WM of St Quentin's Lodge in 1947, was Installed as Primus Master. Bro Eugene Brunning, CBE, Chairman of Wales and Monmouthshire Trading Estates Ltd, of The Cottage, St Hilary, Cowbridge, was Invested as SW. He was honoured with the CBE in January 1946, being the Regional Controller, Board of Trade for Wales. Bro George Inwood Payne, Owner/Managing Director Tuscan Motors Ltd, of The Rowans, Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend, was Invested as JW.

Among the Founders named on the Warrant are Sir Lewis Lougher, PGD, and Gilbert David Shepherd, MBE, PGD. Sir Lewis Lougher had been Initiated in Loyal Commercial Lodge No.2720, in December 1898, and was Installed WM of St Quentin's Lodge in 1926. His biographical details may be found in the history of Loyal Commercial Lodge. Gilbert D Shepherd was a Chartered Accountant, of Gilbert Shepherd, Owen & Co. In 1946, he was Vice-President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales, and was President 1947-1948. Also named are WBro Edgar William Lewis, PAGDC, Installed as WM of St Quentin's Lodge in 1934, who acted as the first IPM; and WBro Col Arthur Baraf Walters, PDepGSwdB, the first Lodge Chaplain. To commemorate his year as Founder Chaplain, he presented the Lodge with an alms dish, made of oak from Guildhall, London, which was destroyed by enemy action on 29 December 1940.

WBro Cyril James Oswald Evans, first WM, was well versed in the Ritual. He presented excellent ceremonies and ensured that every Candidate, on becoming a MM, would borrow his Ritual book to complete their own book, with initials only of missing words, thereby ensuring uniformity. He was also an historian and keen researcher in local history, and published in 1938, 'Glamorgan - Its History and Topography', which has been reprinted several times. His collection of Glamorgan Deeds, 1591-1857, is now in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. WBro Edgar Lewis, first IPM, always brought Members back into line whenever they strayed from Masonic convention. Founder Member, WBro Wyndham Jones, first DC, was outstanding in conducting floor-work in the Temple, and also at the Festive Board, with his Toasts, quips and stories. He became WM in 1953, and was Lodge Secretary for many years. No Masonic work was too much for WBro Windsor Taylor Roper to tackle. He would undertake any Office at a moment's notice. One of the Joining Members at the first Regular Lodge Meeting, in January 1949, he immediately took Office as SD. He became WM in 1951 and rose to the Rank of PPrGW. He was DC for many years, and he left a distinctive mark on the quality of the Ceremonies, and on the procedure at the Festive Board.

Immediately following the Installation Ceremony, a Committee of Founders was formed, charged with drawing up the By-



Alms Dish presented by WBro Col Arthur B Walters

laws of the Lodge. It is interesting to note the following extracts from the first By-laws of 1948: '*Initiation fee - £25.00; Joining and re-Joining fee - £7.00; Lodge shall meet eight times per annum; Annual subscription - £4.00 (to include all dinners except the Installation Festival).*' These By-laws were approved by Grand Lodge on 25 March 1949. At the Regular Meeting in May 1949 they were amended, so that the Lodge met five times per annum as at present. Grand Lodge approval of the amendment is dated 5 October 1949. The salient points of the By-laws were unaltered and remained in force until a proposal to increase the fees to £5.00 per annum was approved on 26 October 1959. That was an increase of 25% after a period of 10 years. In 1968, fees rose to £6.00 pa, to include meals except at Installation.

The early Members made every effort to Initiate into the Lodge those Candidates who had attained success in their trade, profession or calling, either in or allied to, industry. This was necessary, not only to maintain industrial connections but also, as a young Lodge, every Candidate had to be deemed capable of progressing through all Lodge Offices to the best of his ability. The first Regular Lodge Meeting following the Consecration was held in January 1949, when five Joining Members were admitted, while during the first year, four Candidates were Initiated.

While every Member brings his own character to bear on the Lodge, the three Northway brothers, Samuel, William and Percy should certainly be mentioned. WBro Sam Northway, PSGD, was Initiated in Bute Lodge No.960 in 1953. In 1958, he became a Joining Member of Industria Cambrensis Lodge and was Installed as Master in 1964. He served as Secretary, 1968-1984. In 1973, he was the Organising Secretary and a Founder Member of Y Bont Faen Lodge No.8533. Appointed AProvGM, 1982-1993; he was WM of Hendre Lodge No.3250 in 1987. He was also appointed PAGSoj in Supreme Grand Chapter and was a Member of many other Orders. WBro William Job Northway, PJGD, was Initiated in Industria Cambrensis Lodge in 1959, and Installed as Master in 1968. He was the Charity Steward, 1976-1997. He is a Founder Member of Kenfig Lodge No.8289 and Y Bont Faen Lodge No.8533. He was appointed ProvAGDC in 1987. In Supreme Grand Chapter he was appointed GStB at the 1987 Investiture, and was ProvGDC, 1985-1995. He, like his Bro Sam, was a Member of many other Orders. WBro Percy Northway was Initiated in Kenfig Lodge. He became a Joining Member of Industria Cambrensis Lodge and was Installed WM in 1990. While Percy was not a Masonic giant like his brothers, he was an artist of local repute, specialising in landscapes and scenes derived from his own private thoughts.

WBro H Hedgecox, as Secretary for many years, went out of his way to ensure the success of Industria Cambrensis Lodge. He became WM in 1956. He was also a Member of St Quentin's Lodge and was Installed WM of that Lodge in 1965.

The annual Church Service was always a well-attended family occasion in those earlier days. Bro Leo Gill, a Lodge Member and landlord of the Duke of Wellington Hotel, Cowbridge, always provided 'never-to-be-forgotten' strawberry/cream teas after the Service. Although well provided for at the 'Duke' on these occasions, the Lodge Festive Board always took place at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

Compiled by WBro Martyn Wake, PPrGSwdB, mainly from
the 50th Anniversary history by WBro Vivian Charles Warwick, PPrJGW.