

# Degrees once practiced in this Lodge

Harodim, Passage of the Bridge, Passing the Chair and other degrees which have not been practised in this lodge for a great number of years.

## Comment

The quotes below are taken from John Yarker's "The Arcane Schools Part 6 of 7(Chapters X1)"

"At Sunderland Bro. Hudson (an Initiate of Palatine Lodge and ProvGSec of Durham Province) states that the Harodim was conferred from the first establishment of the Phoenix Lodge, and that between 1755 and 1811 they received 150 members. In 1787 R. Markham "Passed the Bridge," and a month later was made a Royal Arch Mason.

Bro. Logan has shown that Palatine Lodge, 97, had the Harodim. In each case members visited from neighbouring towns."

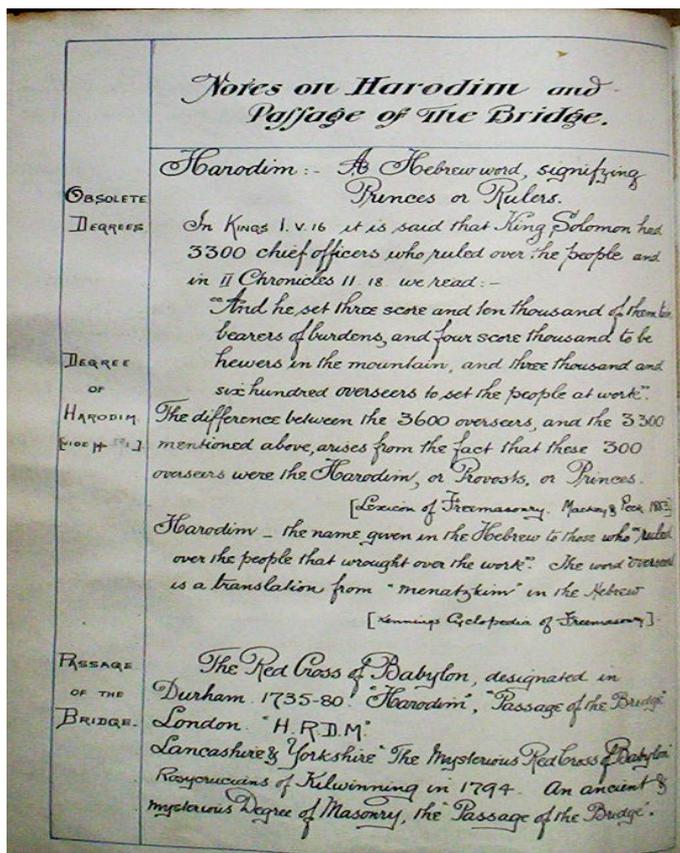
A minute of the Swalwell Lodge {439} reads as follows: "July 1st 1746. Enacted at a Grand Lodge held this evening that no brother mason shall be admitted into the dignity of a Highrodiam under less than a charge of 2s. 6d.; or as Domaskin or Forin as John Thomson of Gateside paid at the same night 5s. Memorandum: Highrodiam to pay for making in that order only 1s. 6d." (8 names follow and 9th line closes) Paid 2s 6d. English, William Ogden. N.B. The English Masters to pay for entering into the said Master-ship 2s. 6d., per Major

"To sum up this chapter, it advances that prior to Grand Lodges there were Masters of Masters and duly Passed Masters or Harods, who had controlling power over the ordinary Craftsmen, and that the chief Rites of the speculative system of which there is evidence may be thus summarised: --

1. The Guild Rite of four working and three official degrees -- Judaic.
2. The Craft and their ruling Harods in the Co. of Durham.
3. Three Craft degrees, and the Red and Rosy Cross, Judaic and Christian.
4. Ancient Masonry of the Moderns, three Craft, and the higher degrees of Holy Royal Arch, Knight Templar, Priest."

A magnification of 125/150% is suggested for the pages below.

4 pages extracted from Volume 1



There was 3 degrees or Chapters worked in the Lodge about which nothing now seems to be known. They were called: -

**OBSCLETE DEGREES**

- (1) The Exalted Degree of the Herodim. [ ]
- (2) The Passage of the Bridges.
- (3) Passing the Chair. [ ]

Concerning the "Herodim", the Transactions of the Quaker Council Lodge, N° 2076, state: -

The Herodim decayed through no fault of its own, because

- (1) The Civil Law deprived it of its Judicial Functions.
- (2) The Grand Lodge of its Ruling Power.
- (3) The Craft of its Symbolic Instruction.
- (4) Its SECOND POINT became the Army's "Knight of the Sword", and the Civilian's "Royal Arch".
- (5) Its "Cabinet of Wisdom" became the Rose Croix of Herodim.
- (6) Its "Knighthood" was assumed by the Temple Knights.

**SPECIMEN MINUTES.** The following minutes give the only information obtainable: -

APRIL 25. 1773 "The Master's Lodge was opened when Bro. Johnson was passed & raised, by the consent of the Lodge it was opened in the Herodim when Bro. Hutchinson was raised into that Order, & then closed again to the Third Degree."

It is evident that "9" [NINE] constituted this Chapter, as on SEP. 21. 1807 The Lodge was opened in due form, when 3 Brethren were raised to this Excellent Order. On the list of Brethren present the names of Bros Hardy and Artot are bracketed, with the following words added, "called in to make up 9".

JULY 23. 1807. "The Lodge was then closed and reopened in the Degree of Herodim, or that of Princes."

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**"9"**

This number has always been mixed up with the mystical numeration of Cabalists & hermetics though in ancient times it seems to have been looked upon as the unlucky number, whether in itself, or with compound formation - specially of its own self multiplication - it has also been made use of in high grade numerology.

We find in the French high grades of Herodim Kilwinning, the "Handbuch" tells us the following passage.

Q. How many Cherubims do constitute a Chapter of the Royal Order of Herodim?

R. "NINE"

Q. Wherefore?

R. For 3 reasons.

Q. Tell me the first?

R. Because there are 3 divisions in the numbers we learn to calculate our days so that we may apply ourselves to wisdom.

Q. Give me the second?

R. Since there are 9 MOUSES in Harmony which order the Human Race.

Q. Name them?

R. Calliope, Clio, Euterpe, Melpomene, Terpsichore, Erato, Polymnia, Urania, Thalia.

Q. Give me the third reason?

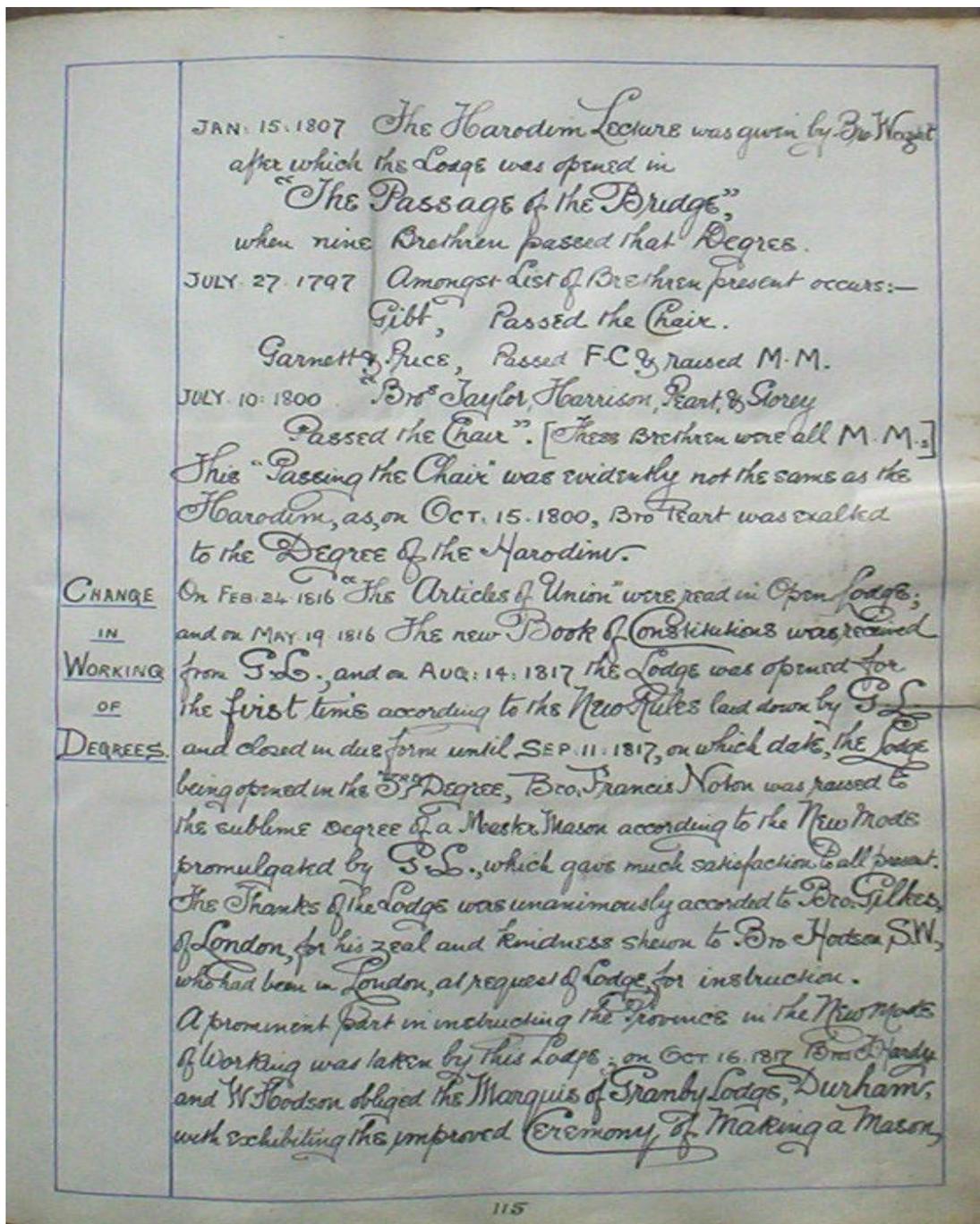
R. Because there are 9 orders of Angels in the Celestial hierarchy.

Q. Name them.

R. Cherubims & Seraphims, Thrones, Dominions, Principalities, Arcues, Archangels & Angels.

[Pennington's Glossary of Freemasonry edited by the late Rev. A. F. Woodford.]

THE NUMBER "9."



This page chronicles instances of members joining the various degrees under consideration just prior to the introduction of the new Book of Constitutions.

Bro Peter Gilkes of London is generously thanked for his zeal and kindness to Bro Hudson, SW of the Lodge who had received instruction in the new mode of working from him.

#### Comment

On Page 115 above the observation is made that "Passing the Chair was evidently not the same as Harodim etc." and that these brethren were all Master Masons and obviously and importantly they had not occupied the Master's Chair!!

Passing the Chair may have been a device to allow suitable MMs into the Royal Arch to build membership quickly in this popular and important degree without having to wait lengthy periods before actually occupying the Master's Chair of the lodge.

#### An echo from the past?

#### Further Research

A magnification of 150% is suggested for the pages below

From rough Minute/Account Book (earliest Lodge records)

1762		Dr		1763		Cr			
July	13	To by third making	0	15	0	To the Tylor	0	1	0
		To the Tylor for do	0	3	0	To Bro. Shaw passed in Distress	0	11	6
		To do for two Lodge nights	0	2	0	June 15 Bro. D. Turners Bill	1	8	0
		To Bro. Collins in part of an Accont	1	5	0	June 28 Bro. Davies Bill for a Mopp	1	0	0
Aug	10	To the Tylor	0	7	0	28 Bro. Henderson for harodim	1	10	11
Sept	9	To Bro. Thorald in part of an acct	0	10	0	Aug 9 To Cash paid to M <sup>r</sup> Thorald	5	0	0
		To the Tylor for one making	0	1	0	9 To do to the Tylor	1	0	0
	13	To the Tylor	0	1	0	Sept 13 To the Tylor two nights Crp <sup>r</sup>	3	17	5
Nov	18	To the Tylor	0	3	0	Gummings Funerals	0	2	0
Dec	14	Cash to Wm Collins, being the remaining part of an Accont. in full	3	1	6	16 Tylor	0	1	0
		To be paid this night	0	13	0	Octob <sup>r</sup> Tylor	0	1	0
		Reckoning 10 <sup>th</sup> Aprons Tylor 2	0	1	0	To Bro. Tylor	0	1	0
26		To the Tylor	0	1	0	To Bro. Tylor	0	1	0
Jan	10	To the Tylor	0	1	0	To Bro. Tylor	0	1	0
Feb	15	To do	0	1	0	To Bro. Tylor	0	1	0

June 28<sup>th</sup> 1763 Bro Henderson paid £1-10-11d for Harodim.  
This price to be compared to £0-16-0d for Making and £0-2-6d for Passing and Raising.

Special Minutes 1791 to 1794

At a Masters Lodge held 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1793. — 45

Present

- B. Scarth — No.
- B. Stout — S. M.
- B. Barber — S. M.
- B. A. Young — S. D.
- B. Hewitt — S. D.
- B. Wright — Lecturer
- B. W. Halls — Secy
- B. Wilson
- B. Stanfield
- B. L. Young
- B. Friend
- B. Russell
- B. Robinson passed to F. L. & raised to a. — No.
- B. Hutchinson raised into the Harodim. —

N.B. This Lodge was opened in the Fellow-craft, afterwards closed, then opened in the Masters — when B. Robinson was raised to a. — by the Consent of the Lodge it was opened in the Harodim, when B. Hutchinson was raised into that rank, then closed again to the third degree.

Attest — W. Halls, m.

(W. Halls, Secy)

Bro Hutchinson raised into the Harodim

At a Royal Arch Lodge held 25<sup>th</sup> July 1793. <sup>51</sup>

B. Spurr — Master  
 B. Hewitt — S. M.  
 B. Shields — S. M.  
 B. Horsley — Treas.  
 B. Wright — Lecturer  
 B. W. Hills — Secy  
 B. W. Hutchinson — Rain'do —

Attest *W. Hills*  
 W. Hills Secy

At a General Lodge held 8<sup>th</sup> Aug: 1793

B. Scarth — Master  
 B. Carver — S. M.  
 B. Hewitt — S. M.  
 B. Burnyan — S. D.  
 B. Towell — S. D.  
 B. Wright — Lecturer  
 B. W. Hills — Secy  
 B. Trott —  
 B. Hutchinson  
 B. Russell  
 B. R. Young  
 B. Jas. Young  
 B. D. Baxter  
 B. Kilvington  
 B. Bailey Visitor

B. Trott is proposed by  
 B. Hewitt to be a member of  
 this Lodge. —

Attest *W. Hills*  
 W. Hills Secy

Bro Hutchinson raised into the Royal Arch Chapter!