

**A HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF
175 YEARS OF SCOTTISH ROYAL ARCH FREEMASONRY
IN INDIA
UNDER
SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND**

PART I - THE FIRST 125 YEARS : 1838 TO 1963



RELEASED BY

**M. E. COMP. JOHN (IAN) ALEXANDER FRASER
M. E. FIRST GRAND PRINCIPAL**

AND

**M. E. COMP. ASPI KHURSHEDJI BYRAMJI
M. E. GRAND SUPERINTENDENT**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
OF THE
GRAND CHAPTER OF UNITED SCOTTISH ROYAL ARCH
FREEMASONRY IN INDIA & CEYLON**

**AT FREEMASONS' HALL, MUMBAI
ON
SATURDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER 2014**

**M. E. COMP. BOMI S. MEHTA, D.S.M.
HONORARY DEPUTE FIRST GRAND PRINCIPAL (SCOT.)
M. E. PAST GRAND SUPERINTENDENT**

**A HISTORICAL OUTLINE
OF
175 YEARS OF SCOTTISH ROYAL ARCH FREEMASONRY IN INDIA
1838 - 2014**

PART I - THE FIRST 125 YEARS : 1838 TO 1963

PREFACE

After preparing the History of Scottish Craft Masonry in 2004 and uploading it onto the web site of the District Grand Lodge of India, under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, I had wanted to prepare the History of Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India as a natural follow-up, before its 175th Anniversary Celebrations scheduled for November 2014. Very little documentation however is available in Mumbai on Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India during the early days. This effort is therefore not a full-fledged History, but a Historical Outline.

Trying to put down on paper activities covering a period of 175 years in a short period of time has been a difficult task, particularly with very little or no details available for the first one hundred years. Only the first 125 years from 1838 to 1963 is presented now as Part I, so that it can be released by the M. E. First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, M. E. Comp. John (Ian) Alexander Fraser at the Especial 175th Anniversary Convocation of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India & Ceylon at Freemasons' Hall, Mumbai on 8th November 2014.

There can be no greater honour for me than to have this Historical Outline released at the hands of M. E. Comp. Ian Fraser, M. E. First Grand Principal for whom I have the highest respect and regard, as a person and as a Mason, and who has been exceptionally kind to me.

As stated above, it has been a difficult task to cover a period of 175 years in a short period of time with very limited details available for the first one hundred years. Except for the names of a Chapter and the city where they existed, no details are available at present, of Chapters that were consecrated and later became dormant during the early years. Hopefully, I will have time to access the archives in the Royal Arch Chambers of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland in Edinburgh next March at the time of the Annual Installation Convocation. I cannot fail to mention the encouragement and support extended to me by the M. E. Comp. Grahame J. Smith, Grand Scribe E, who even dug out the original Proceedings of Supreme Grand Chapter of 23rd May 1837, which records the authorisation to issue the first Commission to our very first Provincial Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Dr. James Burnes, a copy of which is included here as well in our 175th Anniversary Souvenir.

Due to oversight and the short time available for proof reading, there may be typographical errors, for which I crave the reader's indulgence. These will be corrected in the next expanded version, along with additional details. Readers are requested to convey any errors they may find and also send me any additional information that they may have, including details of Commemorative Jewels issued.

One request, whilst Masons are free to copy or use the contents of this Historical Outline, it is requested that as a Masonic courtesy, due credit be given to the source.

Mumbai, 8th November 2014

Bomi S. Mehta



**COMPANION DR. JAMES BURNES
FIRST PROVINCIAL SUPRINTENDENT OF ROYAL ARCH
FREEMASONRY OF THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY
1836 - 1849**

**175 YEARS
OF
SCOTTISH ROYAL ARCH FREEMASONRY IN INDIA
1838 - 2014**

A BRIEF HISTORICAL OUTLINE

PART I - THE FIRST 125 YEARS : 1838 TO 1963

Introduction

In the absence of old records at present, an attempt has been made to put together as much information is available of the early years of Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India in this Brief Historical Outline.

There was Craft Freemasonry in India before the seed of Scottish Freemasonry was sown in 1838. Recorded history shows that within 12 years of the constitution of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, a Petition was received by the Grand Lodge of England from a few Brethren in India to constitute a Provincial Grand Lodge in Calcutta. In 1729, W. Bro. Capt. Ralph Farwinter was appointed as the Provincial Grand Master 'for East India in Bengal'. The Petition sent from Calcutta being granted, and on 27th December 1728 M. W. Bro. Lord Kingston, M. W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England issued a Patent to Bro. George Pomfret appointing him as Provincial Grand Master, to supervise Masonic activity in India and the Far East and authorising him to "open a new Lodge in Bengal". In 1729, the first Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of England was consecrated in Calcutta, named the 'Fort William Lodge'. A second Lodge was founded in Calcutta in 1735; and a third Lodge named 'Star in the East No. 67' was opened in Calcutta in 1740, which celebrated its Centenary in 1840 and Bi-Centenary in 1940. The Lodge still exists in England, having completed 253 years. Several Lodges under the United Grand Lodge of England existed in India in the 1700s and early 1800s.

Provincial Grand Chapters are reported to have been formed under the English Constitution in Madras in 1806 and in Calcutta in 1812. The Marquis of Hastings, who was the first Grand Superintendent of Bengal (E.C.), was called as the Acting Grand Master, Royal Arch, for All of British India.

The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland was established by representatives of 34 Chapters at a General Convocation of the Order, held in Edinburgh on 28th August 1817. M. E. Comp. Sir William Drummond of Logiealmond, P.C., K.C. was installed as the M. E. First Grand Principal and held that Office till 1818. He was a classical scholar, Tory MP, and was British Ambassador to Naples and the Ottoman Empire in 1803.

At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland held at Edinburgh on 30th November 1836, the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Bro. Lord Ramsay, during his address informed the members that Bro. Dr. James Burnes, K.H., LL.D., of the Honourable East India Company's service was about to return to India, and he thought that the superior information and knowledge of Masonry possessed by Bro. Dr. Burnes would be of the utmost importance in promoting the usefulness of the Craft in that quarter of the globe, and as such be begged to propose Bro. Dr. Burnes to be appointed Provincial Grand Master over the Provinces of Western India and Dependencies with authority to establish Lodges

in those Provinces. This was unanimously approved and Bro. Dr. Burnes was accordingly issued a Commission dated 30th November 1836. Bro. Dr. Burnes arrived in Bombay towards the end of December 1837 and on 1st January 1838 opened and established the Provincial Grand Lodge of Western India and its Dependencies, under Scotland and appointed his Office-Bearers. It may be of interest to know that Bro. Burnes' great grandfather was an uncle of Scotland's famous poet Robert Burns, whose name was also spelt as "Burnes" at that time.

**PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH FREEMASONRY
OF THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY
1837 - 1880**

Minutes of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland record that at a Meeting of a Chapter of Instruction within the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland was held at Hopetown Rooms, British Hotel, Edinburgh on the 23rd of May 1837, with Comp. Captain Boswall, R.N., Grand Chancellor in the Chair. At the Meeting, "it was unanimously agreed to, that **Companion James Burnes**, L.L.D. and F.R.S., Knight of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, a Member of the Canongate Royal Arch Chapter, who is about to proceed to East Indies, should be appointed Provincial Grand Principal of the Royal Arch Degree, under the Grand Chapter, for the Western Provinces of British India, including the Island of Ceylon and all the Territories Subordinate to, or in political and friendly relation with the British Presidency of Bombay -- and the Grand Chapter appointed Companion Burnes accordingly and authorised the necessary Commission to be prepared for him."

As stated above in the Introduction, Bro. Dr. James Burnes arrived in Bombay towards the end of December 1837 and on 1st January 1838 opened and established the Provincial Grand Lodge of Western India and its Dependencies, under Scotland and appointed his Office-Bearers.

No records are available at present to establish the existence of Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India prior to 1837. Complete records are also not available at present of the exact dates and details of Royal Arch Chapters warranted and opened in India during the early years between 1837 and 1925. Interestingly however, our District has had eight different names in the last 175 years!!

The oldest Proceedings available at present in Mumbai are dated 2nd March 1908. Whilst there is no separate List of Chapters in those Proceedings, it has been possible to establish the names of the twenty one Chapters existing in March 1908 by collating the Chapter numbers shown against names of individual Companions. Other available information has also helped.

A complete List of Chapters is given below.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
M. E. Comp.	Dr. James Burnes' Commission	23rd May 1837
No. 71	Perseverance, Bombay	16th September 1843 (lost at sea) 17th December 1851 duplicate Charter issued 1934
No. 60	William George (94th Regiment of Foot) Trichinopoly)	21st March 1844 Charter surrendered in 1855
No. 64	Kilwinning in the East, Calcutta	5th March 1848

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
		dormant, reponed 1856
No. 66	Olive Branch in the East, Poona	5th March 1848 dormant 1860
No. 68	St Andrew in the East, Poona	1st December 1849 (prov. Warrant) 1st November 1850
No. 72	Faith & Charity, Karachi	15th September 1852 dormant 1854, reponed 1862
No. 90	Felix, Aden	17th September 1862. dormant
No. 98	Jerusalem, Cawnpore	16th September 1863 dormant 1867
No. 102	Anchor and Haven, Monorah, Scinde	1st March 1865 dormant 1867
No. 123	Mount Elbaruz, Bombay	18th December 1867
No. 124	Rising Star of Western India, Bombay	18th December 1867
No. 138	Zoroaster, Bombay	12th December 1870 (prov. Warrant) 1st March 1871
No. 139	Malwa, Indore (later Mhow)	20th December 1871 dormant 1901, reponed 1905
No. 154	Caledonia, Bombay	18th May 1874 (prov. Warrant) 16th September 1874
No. 159	Chudderghaut, Hyderabad (Deccan)	3rd March 1875 dormant 1885, reponed 1890 dormant 1890, reponed 1902
No. 169	Victoria Belgaum 1876-1933 Murree, Rawalpindi 1933	20th December 1876
No. 182	Dalhousie, Colombo	16th June 1880 dormant 1884, reponed 1912
No. 183	Independence Lucknow 1880-1900 Bombay 1900 onwards	15th December 1880
No. 186	Kindred Hope Ajmeer 1881-1900 Oorgaum 1900 onwards	2nd March 1881
No. 203	Star of India, Calcutta	17th September 1884 dormant 1912
No. 215	Connaught, Ahmedabad	15th June 1887
No. 228	Ellan Vannin, Quetta	17th June 1891
No. 292	Forman, Rangoon opted to be directly under Scotland in 1937	18th December 1901
No. 297	Level, Kirkee (Poona) 1902 to 1992 Poona 1992 onwards	18th June 1902
No. 330	Equality, Lucknow	21st June 1907
No. 336	Benevolence, Surat	9th November 1907 (prov. Warrant)
No. 340	Excelsior, Bombay Renamed The Scots, Bombay from 18th December 1953	13th February 1908 (prov. Warrant) 19th June 1908

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
No. 341	The Scottish Simla 1908 – 1947 New Delhi from 1947	19th June 1908
No. 346	Crescent, Bombay	15th June 1909 duplicate issued 1953
No. 347	Endeavour, Calcutta	17th September 1909
No. 361	Walker, Hubli	15th November 1911
No. 391	Gibbs, Bangalore	18th September 1914
No. 396	Vizianagram, Vizianagram	18th June 1915
No. 414	Hope, Karachi	15th June 1917
No. 433	Sir Charles Napier, Hyderabad (Sind)	20th September 1918
No. 434	Hormusji Batliwala, Lonauli	20th September 1918
No. 553	The Imperial Scottish, New Delhi	6th January 1926
No. 632	Albyn, Calcutta	13th December 1927
No. 651	Asoka and Madras, Madras	1st June 1929
No. 673	Rising Star, Amritsar	19th June 1933
No. 691	Mother India, Bombay	10th March 1939
No.697	Raja, Meerut	6th April 1942
No. 736	St. David in the East, Calcutta	4th November 1949
No. 751	Beaman, Bombay	29th September 1953
No. 753	Rustomji Boyce, Belgaum	2nd April 1954
No. 762	Fidelity, Ahmedabad	11th February 1955
No. 776	Takht-I-Sulaiman, Lahore	23rd March 1959
No. 784	Kailash, Kanpur	6th April 1960
No. 878	Ganesh Gavankar, Sholapur	23rd September 1960
No. 860	Ratan Contractor, Bombay	21st June 1985
No. 866	Rusi Pavri, Udvada	11th November 1989
No. 871	Camellia, Munnar	23rd February 1991

Chapter Perseverance No. 71, Bombay and Chapter William George No. 60 (94th Regiment of are believed to be the second and third Chapter to be established outside Scotland, the first being Chapter Mount Herodim No. 54 established in St. George, Grenada, West Indies on 19th December 1827 and went dormant in 1858.

It is interesting to note that more than half of the 52 Chapters listed above are still functioning.

The oldest Chapter on record in India, as well as Bombay, is Chapter Perseverance No. 71 which was constituted by M. E. Comp. Dr. James Burnes, K.H., Provincial Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Freemasonry in Western India on 16th September 1843. There were 20 Founders and M. E. Comp. John Mullaby was installed as the first Principal Z. The original Charter is believed to have been lost when the ship on which the Charter was despatched, was lost at sea. This resulted in the two Chapters chartered in 1848 and 1850, Chapter

Kilwinning in the East No. 64, Calcutta and Chapter St. Andrew in the East No. 68, Poona having earlier numbers. The Charter of Chapter Perseverance is dated 17th December 1851. Between 1843 and 1851, this Chapter appears to have been working under a Temporary Charter or Special Dispensation issued by M. E. Comp. Dr. James Burnes, the Provincial Grand Superintendent, (as he is known to have done for Craft Lodges) as 73 Masons were exalted as Royal Arch Masons during 1843 and 1851. Chapter Perseverance No. 71 has today merged with Chapter Independence No. 183.

The next available reference occurs in the Minutes of the Election Meeting of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland held on 21st March 1844, with Companion The Right Honourable F. Glenlyon, M. E. Z. in the Chair. The Grand Scribe E, Companion W. A. Lawrie presented a Petition from a number of Companions of the 94 Regiment. of Foot, which was then stationed at Trichinopoly in south India, for a Chapter to be called the William George Chapter No. 60, from the following Brethren John Shelly, Chas. Jennings, H. C. Cardew, John McIver, John Provan, Joseph Wiggam, James Thomason, Henry Richards, and Hugh McNally. The Petition was recommended by the Most Excellent Principal Z of Chapter No. 1, Comp. H. Gavin, and seconded by Comp. Henry. The Prayer of Petition was granted and a Dispensation ordered to be made out, and sent, 'to enable them to act for the present, and the Charter to be got ready and sent as soon as possible'. The Charter was surrendered in 1885.

Chapter Kilwinning in the East No. 64 was established in Calcutta on 5th March 1848. It went dormant soon thereafter and was reponed in 1856. No details of its consecration are available at present. It went dormant soon thereafter and was reponed in 1856. It was quite active in Calcutta till the late 1980s.

Chapter Olive Branch in the East was established in Poona on 5th March 1848. No details of this Chapter are available; it is reported to have gone dormant in 1860.

Chapter St. Andrew in the East No. 68 was established in Poona (now Pune) on 1st December 1849 under a Provisional Warrant. The Charter is dated 1st November 1850. The Chapter celebrated its 150th Anniversary on 29th October 2002 and is going strong today.

After a distinguished Masonic career in India, both in the Craft and the Royal Arch, spanning a period of eleven years, the well loved and popular District Grand Master and Provincial Grand Superintendent, M. E. Companion Dr. James Burnes left India in December 1849. He died in Manchester in 1862. The highlights of his activities in Scottish Freemasonry are detailed in the website of the District Grand Lodge of India S.C. These included laying the North East Corner Stone, with Masonic Rites, of the Sir J. J. Hospital in Bombay on 3rd January 1843 and later the Foundation Stone of the Victoria Docks in Mumbai.

Between 1847 and 1849 there seems to be a lull in Masonic activities, because the Provincial Grand Lodge was again convened after an interval of two years. Apparently Royal Arch activities also appeared to have slowed down.

Records show that M. E. Comp. **The Hon Justice George Septimus Judge**, who was Exalted in Chapter Perseverance No. 71 on 20th August 1852, was the Provincial Grand Superintendent from 1852 to 1869.

'Ararat' Lodge of Ark Mariners attached to Chapter Perseverance No. 71 was founded on 4th December 1856 at No. 1 Grant Building, Arthur Bunder Road, Colaba, Bombay by M. E. C. George S. Judge, Provincial Grand Superintendent, who acting upon a Dispensation received for that purpose from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, opened the Lodge of R.A.M. by himself and in accordance with the authority vested in him by the Dispensation conferred the R.A.M. degree upon 4 Companions of Chapter Perseverance No. 71 without the assistance of any other W.C.N; he continued as W.C.N. for 12 years till 27th February 1868 when he installed his successor.

'Cyrus' Council of Red Cross Knights of Babylon attached to Chapter Perseverance No. 71 was constituted on 23rd January 1857 at a meeting held at No. 1 Grand Building, Arthur Bunder Road, Colaba, Bombay by M. E. C. George S. Judge, Provincial Grand Superintendent who acting upon a Dispensation received for that purpose from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, opened the Council of Red Cross Knights of Babylon by himself, and in accordance with the authority vested in him by the Dispensation conferred the three degrees of the Babylonian Pass on 6 Companions of Chapter Perseverance No. 71 and one from the Chapter attached to Lodge Hope No. 126 of England without any assistance.

The Petition for Chapter Mount Elbaruz No. 123 was signed by 16 Petitioners and recommended by Chapter Perseverance No. 71. Charter dated 18th December 1867 was issued by the Depute Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland and also for a Lodge & Council. Chapter Mount Elbaruz No. 123 was consecrated in the Masonic Hall, No. 1 Grants Building, Arthur Bunder Road, Colaba, Bombay on 19th February 1868 by M. E. Comp. George L. F. Connell, Ruling Principal of Chapter Perseverance No. 71 in the presence of M. E. Comp. George S. Judge, the first Founder Member of the Chapter and Provincial Grand Superintendent. Chapter Mount Elbaruz was the first Chapter for Indians.

The following 9 Companions residing in Bombay petitioned the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland to form a new Chapter to be named Chapter Rising Star of Western India - Comps. K R Cama, Dosabhoy Ratanji Colah, Merwanjee Maneckji Sethna, Muncherjee Cowasjee Murzban, Jamsetji Furdoonji, Ardesir Jamsetji (Bhajiwalla), Nowroji Manekji Lungrana, Hormusji Pestonji Framji and Rustomji Cowasji Bahadurjee. Comps. K R Cama and A J Bhajiwalla were members of Chapter Perseverance No. 71. All the Companions, with the exception of Comp. Jamsetji Furdunji, were members of Lodge Rising Star of Western India No. 342.

Chapter Rising Star of Western India No. 124 was constituted by Charter dated 18th December 1867 from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland and was consecrated on 29th February 1868 in Mumbai. M. E. Comp. K. R. Cama was the first Z, and M. E. Comp. M. M. Sethna and M. E. Comp. D. R. Colah were the first H & J respectively. A Lodge and Council was attached to the Chapter on 12th October 1872.

Records show that M. E. Comp. **The Hon Justice George Septimus Judge**, who was Exalted in Chapter Perseverance No. 71 on 20th August 1852, was the Provincial Grand Superintendent from 1852 to 1869. He was followed by **M. E. Comp. Lieut. Col. William Lewis Penn**, C.B., R.A. as the Provincial Grand

Superintendent from 1870 to 1873. M. E. Comp. Lieut Col. Penn died at Kirkee, Poona on 14th December 1879 aged 49 years.

Chapter Zoroaster No. 138 was constituted in Mumbai on 12th December 1870 under a Provisional Warrant issued by M. E. Comp. Lieut. Col. William Lewis Penn, the Provincial Grand Superintendent. It was regularly opened on 17th December 1870 at the Masonic Hall, No. 1 Grants Building, Arthur Bunder Road, Colaba, Bombay and M. E. Comp. George L. F. Connell was installed as the first Z. The Warrant was duly confirmed under the Charter dated 1st March 1871 from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, and the Chapter was regularly consecrated at a Special Meeting convened on 8th May 1871. The Charter included authorisation to work R.A.M. and Red Cross Degrees. The Chapter went dormant from January 1872 for 22 years and worked well thereafter.

Up to 1871, meetings in Bombay were held at the Masonic Hall, No. 1 Grants Building, Arthur Bunder Road, Colaba. From 1871 to the end of 1877 meetings were held at the Masonic Hall, Gowalia Tank Road. From 1877 to 1899 meetings were held at the Nawab's Bungalow, Byculla and thereafter at the present Freemasons' Hall on Ravelin Street (now renamed Damodardas Sukhadwala Marg).

Chapter Malwa No. 139 was established in the military garrison town of Mhow on 20th December 1871. It went dormant in 1901 and was reopened in 1905. It worked well until the 1980s, but has not survived due to lack of membership support in recent years.

In 1872, the Chapter Mount Elbaruz No. 123 went into abeyance for 22 years. It worked well thereafter, but is not doing well in recent times.

In 1873, M. E. Comp. Capt. **Sir Henry Morland**, Kt., of the Royal Indian Marines and who was the Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Western India, was appointed as the next Provincial Grand Superintendent. He relinquished both these Offices in 1879 and 1892 respectively.

The foundation stone of Scottish Freemasonry so securely laid by Brother & Companion Dr. James Burnes was successfully strengthened by his successors, and Scottish Freemasonry spread throughout the length and breadth of India by formation of many Lodges and Chapters.

A Special Communication of the Provincial Royal Arch Chapter of the Western Provinces of British India, and all the Territories Subordinate to or in Political and Friendly Relation with British Presidency of Bombay under the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, was held at the Scottish Masonic Hall, 6 Khumballa Hill Road, Bombay on 18th May 1874 by M. E. Comp. Capt. Henry Morland, 30^o, Provincial Grand 'Z'. At the meeting the Commission received from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, appointing **M. E. Comp. Capt. Henry Morland** as Provincial Grand Superintendent for the Province of Bombay, was read.

The above Special Communication continued, and Chapter Caledonia No. 154 was opened and constituted on 18th May 1874 by M. E. Comp. Capt. Henry Morland, Provincial Grand Superintendent under a Provisional Warrant issued by him. M. E. Comp. MacKintosh Balfour was installed as First Principal Z. This was followed by M. E. Comp. Capt. Henry Morland installing M. E. Comp.

MacKintosh Balfour as the Depute Provincial Grand Principal Z for the Province of Western India. The Charter of the Chapter received from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland is dated 16th September 1874.

Chapter Chudderghaut No. 159 was established in Secunderabad on 3rd March 1875. Details of its Consecration are not available. It went dormant in 1885 and was reopened in 1890. It went dormant again immediately thereafter and was reopened in 1902. The Chapter is working well today.

Chapter Victoria No. 169 was opened in Belgaum on 20th December 1876. Some records show that in 1933 it was relocated in Murree/Rawalpindi. However today it is located in Belgaum.

**PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH FREEMASONRY
OF THE PRESIDENCY OF WESTERN INDIA
1880 - 1886**

In 1880, the name of the Province was changed to Provincial Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Freemasonry of the Presidency of Western India, with M. E. Comp. Capt. Sir Henry Morland continuing as the Provincial Grand Superintendent.

Chapter Dalhousie No. 182 was established in Colombo under Charter dated 16th June 1880, with M. E. Comp. Andrew Maxwell installed as Principal Z. The Chapter went into abeyance in 1885, but was revived in 1912. The Chapter is still active and the Chapter will be visited by the M. E. Grand Superintendent for its Anniversary Celebrations on 15th October 2014 at the Victoria Masonic Temple in Colombo.

Chapter Independence No. 183 was opened in Lucknow on 15th December 1880, where it functioned for 20 years. In 1900, the Chapter was relocated in Bombay, where it is flourishing today.

Chapter Kindred Hope No. 186 was opened in Ajmeer, Rajputana on 2nd March 1881, where it functioned for 9 years. In 1900, the Chapter was relocated in Oorgaum, Kolar Gold Fields, where it is flourishing today under the Supreme Grand Chapter of India with No. 100.

Chapter Star of India was opened in Calcutta on 17th September 1884, but went dormant in 1912.

**PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH FREEMASONRY
OF BOMBAY AND ITS DEPENDENCIES
1886 – 1891**

In 1886, the name of the Province was changed to Provincial Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Freemasonry of Bombay and its Dependencies, with M. E. Comp. Capt. Sir Henry Morland continuing as the Provincial Grand Superintendent.

Chapter Connaught No. 215 was opened in Ahmedabad on 15th June 1887 where it continued to function well till a few years ago. It is going through difficult times today.

**PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH FREEMASONRY
OF WESTERN INDIA
1891 - 1895**

In 1891, the name of the Province was changed to Provincial Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Freemasonry of Western India, with M. E. Comp. Capt. Sir Henry Morland still continuing as the Provincial Grand Superintendent, with the fourth name of the Province under him, till he stepped down in 1892.

Chapter Ellan Vannin No. 228 was opened in Quetta on 15th June 1887 where it continued to function till Masonry was extinguished in Pakistan in the 1960s.

In 1892, M. E. Comp. **Khursetji Rustomji Cama** was appointed as the Provincial Grand Superintendent. No details of his Installation are available. M. E. Comp. Cama was the first Indian to hold this high office, which he did with great distinction till 1908. During his term of 16 years as the Provincial Grand Superintendent, the number of Chapters increased from 9 to 22.

Bro. Maharana Shri Ram Singhji, Prince of Rajpipla State was proposed as a Candidate for exaltation in Chapter Caledonia on 11th May 1892 and became the first Indian to become a member of the Chapter.

In 1894, the Three Principals of Mount Elbaruz No. 123 who held office of 1872 when it went into abeyance, along with 18 Companions (14 from Chapter Mount Elbaruz No. 123 and M. E. Comp. Faramjee Dinshaw Petit PZ of Chapter Rising Star of Western India No. 124) petitioned the M. E. Provincial Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Khursetji R. Cama for resuscitation of the Chapter Mount Elbaruz No. 123 and the Charter was returned to the Chapter. The first meeting thereafter was held on 29th August 1924 at Freemasons' Hall, Clare Road, Byculla when M. E. Comp. Faramjee Dinshaw Petit was installed as the First Principal by the M. E. Provincial Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Khursetji R. Cama; 17 Brethren were proposed for exaltation and 15 Companions were proposed for Affiliation. In November 1894, the meeting place was changed to 'Adelphi Hotel' along the same road.

**PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH FREEMASONRY
OF INDIA
1895 - 1910**

In 1895, the name of the Province was once again changed to Provincial Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Freemasonry of India, with M. E. Comp. Khursetji Rustomji Cama continuing as the Provincial Grand Superintendent.

At a meeting of Chapter Zoroaster No. 138 held on 3rd March 1895, a visiting Companion, M. E. Comp. General J. C. Smith of the Grand Chapter (and Grand Lodge) of Illinois, Chicago was elected an Honorary Member of the Chapter.

The records of Chapter Zoroaster No. 138 show that no meetings of the Chapter could be held for six months from June to December 1897 due to the prevalence of bubonic plague in Bombay.

In 1902, Chapter Level No. 297 was consecrated in Kirkee, near Poona. No details of the Consecration are available at present.

Way back in 1903, several Companions of Chapters St. Andrew in the East No. 69 Poona, Chapter Level No. 97 Kirkee and Chapter Victoria No. 169, Belgaum had signed a Petition on 23rd October 1903 in 'Kamptee (near Nagpur), East Indies' and forwarded it to the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland to issue a Warrant for a new Chapter to be named 'Hope, Concord and Fidelity' and 'to be held in His Majesty's Second Battalion The Royal Scots Regiment of Foot at such place the Battalion may for the time being stationed'. This Chapter is numbered 305 and is now under the Provincial Grand Chapter of Mid & East Lothian. As a gesture of appreciation, several Companions of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Mid and East Lothian led by their Provincial Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Douglas C. Stuart. participated in the combined celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of Chapter St. Andrew in the East No. 69 and Centenary of Chapter Level No. 97 at Freemasons' Hall, Poona.

Chapter Equality No. 330 was opened in Lucknow at Freemasons' Hall on The Mall, on 21st June 1907.

Following the efforts of M. E. Comp. P. Muncherji of Surat, Chapter Benevolence No. 336 was opened in Surat on 9th November 1907 under a Provisional Warrant by M. E. Comp. C. B. Robinson, Depute Provincial Grand Superintendent

On 13th February 1908, Chapter Excelsior No. 340 was opened in Bombay by the M. E. Provincial Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Khursetji R. Cama under a Provisional Warrant due to the efforts of the Grand Superintendent-Elect, M. E. Comp. Lt. Col. (later Major General) William Ernest Jennings, I.M.S., Col. R. H. Forman, Hon'ble Justice Frank C. O. Beaman and Arthur W. Wise, Provincial Grand Scribe E. Their Charter is dated 19th June 1908. The Lodge was renamed "The Scots" from 18th December 1953.

The Proceedings of the Quarterly Convocation held on 2nd March 1908 show that there were 61 Exaltations and 17 Affiliations since September 1907; however there were 40 resignations (probably due to transfers to other cities) and 12 exclusions. The largest number of Exaltations was 11 in Chapter Forman No. 292, Rangoon; Chapter Victoria No. 169 in Murree had 10 Exaltations. The total Funds of the Provincial Grand Chapter were Rs. 1,484.

On 17th June 1908, Chapter "The Scottish" No. 341 was opened at the Masonic Hall in Simla by M. E. Comp. Sir A. Henry McMahon, Past Provincial Grand J, who was a Past Z of Chapter Ellan Vannin No. 228, Quetta, and who had travelled from Quetta to Simla for the purpose. It functioned in Simla till 1947, after which it was relocated in New Delhi.

At the Annual Convocation of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland held in Edinburgh on 6th March 1908, M. E. Comp. Lt. Col. (later Major General) William Ernest Jennings, I.M.S. was appointed as the next Provincial Grand Superintendent of the Provincial Grand Chapter. At a Special Convocation held on 17th July 1908, M. E. Comp. **Lt. Col. William Ernest Jennings**, I.M.S. was installed by M. E. Comp. K. R. Cama as the Provincial Grand Superintendent of the Provincial Grand Chapter. He held that Office till 1921. M. E. Comp. Jennings was responsible for controlling the plague that struck Bombay at the end of the eighteenth century around 1898. He was also

the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India from 1919 to early 1924. His grandson and great granddaughter visited us a couple of years ago, and he is still in touch with us.

Chapter Benevolence No. 336, Surat was dedicated by the Provincial Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Lt. Col. William Ernest Jennings at a Special Convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter held on 21st September 1908 at Freemasons' Hall in Surat.

Chapter Equality No. 330, Lucknow was dedicated by the Past Provincial Grand Second Principal, M. E. Comp. Col. R. H. Forman at a Special Convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter held on 30th September 1908 at Freemasons' Hall in Lucknow.

Chapter The Scottish No. 341, Simla was dedicated by the Past Provincial Grand Second Principal, M. E. Comp. Col. R. H. Forman at a Special Convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter held on 6th October 1908 at the Masonic Temple in Simla.

The Proceedings of the Quarterly Convocation held on 1st March 1909 record that there were 161 Exaltations and 91 Affiliations over the last year; however there were 100 resignations (probably due to transfers to other cities) and 21 exclusions. The total number of Members in the Province since July 1908 had increased from 676 to 792. The largest number of Exaltations was 30 in Chapter Kilwinning in the East No. 64, Calcutta, whose strength was now 92 members. Chapter Ellan Vannin No. 228 had 57 members on their Roll. The total Funds of the Provincial Grand Chapter increased by over 50% to Rs. 2,288-10-8.

On 7th April 1909, Chapter Crescent No. 346 was opened in Bombay under a Provisional Warrant, due to the efforts of M. E. Comp. Justice A. M. Kajiji. Its Charter is dated 15th June 1909. A duplicate Charter was issued to the Chapter in 1953.

On 7th April 1909, Chapter Endeavour No. 347 was opened under a Provisional Warrant in Calcutta.

In spite of considerable activity in Daughter Chapters, no Quarterly Convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter was held in July 1909 due to "absence of any business of importance". In subsequent years, the same reason has been recorded for not holding Quarterly Convocations in September and hereafter only two Convocations of the Provincial Grand Chapter were held each year; the Annual Election & Installation Convocation in March close to the Vernal Equinox on the 21st, and a Regular Convocation in September.

At the Quarterly Convocation held on 6th September 1909 a condolence resolution was passed on the death of the Immediate Past Provincial Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Khursetji R. Cama who had passed away on 20th August 1909. At the meeting, M. E. Comp. Col. R. H. Forman, Depute Provincial Grand Superintendent, who was then also the M. W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, proposed that a brass tablet be placed in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay in memory of late M. E. Comp. Khursetji R. Cama. The Proceedings of the meeting also record that the salaries of Rs. 6/- and Rs. 5/- of the two Peons working in the Provincial Office, of were increased by Rs.2/-. The total number of Members in the Province had increased to 814.

The Proceedings of the Quarterly Convocation held on 3rd March 1910 record that benefits of the Scottish Masonic Benevolent Association in India was now extended to Royal Arch Companions and that each Candidate for Exaltation and Affiliation would be levied a fee of Rs. 3/-. A Cama Memorial Fund was started under the Scottish Masonic Benevolent Association in India. The Proceedings also record that the Principal Z of Chapter Forman No. 292 Rangoon had lost his left hand in an accident. In the Proceedings it was clarified that Royal Ark Mariner and Red Cross Degrees were not independent bodies and work under the Charter of the Chapter and therefore subordinate to them. The number of Chapters in the Province was now 24.

In the Proceedings of the Annual Installation Convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter held on 21st March 1910 the names of M. E. Companions Lord Sandhurst and Lord Northcote are shown as Honorary Members of the Provincial Grand Chapter, both of them being Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India.

Chapter Excelsior No. 340, Bombay and Chapter Crescent No.346, Bombay were consecrated and dedicated by the Provincial Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Lt. Col. William Ernest Jennings at a Special Convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter held on 6th April 1910 at Freemasons' Hall, Bombay. In his Address on that occasion, M. E. Comp. Jennings said that there was an "almost absence of Indian Masonic History".

DISTRICT GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH FREEMASONRY OF INDIA 1910 - 1949

1910 - 1920

The Proceedings of the Quarterly Convocation held on 5th September 1910 record that the name of the Province was once again changed to District Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Freemasonry in India, with M. E. Comp. Lt. Col. William Ernest Jennings continuing as the District Grand Superintendent till he stepped down in 1921. This was to distinguish between "Home and Colonial or Foreign Jurisdiction". The District Grand Superintendent hoped that the name would soon be changed to Grand Chapter of All Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India, in line with the Craft nomenclature of Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, but this happened 48 years later in 1949. The Minutes record that the total membership was 911. They also record the death of E. Comp. Capt. W. Hobbs, who had been the Provincial Grand Janitor for many years.

In the absence of the District Grand Superintendent, the Quarterly Convocation held on 6th March 1911 was presided over by M. E. Comp. Col. R. H. Forman, Depute District Grand Superintendent, who bid an emotional farewell to all the Companions as he was shortly returning home to U.K. The Proceedings record that there were 24 Chapters under the District.

At a Special Convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter held on 21st March 1911 at Freemasons' Hall in Calcutta, M. E. Comp. Sir A. H. McMahon, Past District Grand H in the Chair as Acting District Grand Superintendent dedicated Chapter Endeavour No. 347, Calcutta.

The Proceedings of the Quarterly Convocation held on 4th September 1911 record that the District Depute Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Dr. Hormusji L. Batliwala acted as the District Grand Superintendent. The Minutes record that following the efforts of Comp. F. Chand of Hubli, who was the R. W. Master of Lodge Hubli, it was decided to issue a Provisional Warrant to start a Chapter in Hubli. Chapter Walker No. 361 was opened in Hubli on 15th November 1911. It appears to have become dormant before 1925 as it does not appear in Proceedings of 1925.

Chapter Dalhousie No. 182, which had gone into abeyance in 1885, was resuscitated on 25th September 1912 under Dispensation issued by the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Lt. Col. William Ernest Jennings, when M. E. Comp. A. S. West was installed as the First Principal.

Chapter Gibbs No. 391 was consecrated at Freemasons' Hall, Bangalore on 13th May 1914. Its Centenary Celebrations and Rededication Ceremony will be conducted on 11th November 2014 at Freemasons' Hall, Bangalore by the M. E. First Grand Principal, M. E. Comp. John (Ian) Alexander Fraser.

After the Proceedings of the period 1908 to 1911, the next available ones in our Grand Chapter Library in Mumbai are for the period 1925 to 1929. Hence only sketchy details are available at present for the period from 1911 to 1925. During this period, six Chapters were added – Chapter Vizianagram No. 391, Vizianagram; Chapter Gibbs No. 391, Bangalore; Chapter Hope No. 414, Karachi; Chapter Sir Charles Napier No. 433, Hyderabad (Sind); Chapter Hormusji Batliwala No. 434, Lonavla; and Chapter Imperial Scottish No. 553, Delhi.

Some records show that the Charter for Chapter Vizianagram No. 396, Vizianagram was dated 18th June 1915. However, Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of 1925 record that after considerable efforts by M. E. Comp. C. N. Ramalingam, Chapter Vizianagram No. 396 was opened on 28th August 1925 in Vizianagram, who was installed as the first Z. The Chapter went dormant in the late 1980s.

Chapter Hope No. 414, Karachi was consecrated on 15th June 1917 in Karachi.

Chapter Sir Charles Napier No. 433, Hyderabad (Sind) was consecrated on 20th September 1918 in Hyderabad (Sind).

In late 1916, M. E. C. Khan Bahadur Dr. Hormusji L. Batliwala, a Past Master of Lodge Barton No. 475, Lonavla (120 km. south of Mumbai) was summoned to the Grand Lodge above and to perpetuate his memory, the Brethren of Lodge Barton decided to start a new Chapter to be named after him. Chapter Hormusji Batliwala No. 434 was constituted in Lonavla on 13th April 1918. In the true spirit of Freemasonry, his four sons, Bros. Cawasji, Shapurji, Jehangirji and Dinshawji donated a sum of Rs. 8,000, a handsome sum in those days, to build a Masonic Temple in Lonavla in pious memory of their late father. Land was purchased in Ryewoods, Lonavla from the sister of late Bro. Peter Geering, who had been a member of Lodge Barton, and the Khan Bahadur Hormusji Batliwala Masonic Hall was built and completed in 1923. The first meeting was held in the new Temple on 10th November 1923. The Temple was consecrated on 1st March 1924 by M. W. Bro. The Hon'ble Justice Sir Frank O. E. Beaman, Past Grand

Master of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and M. E. Past Depute District Grand Superintendent.

1921 - 1930

In 1921, M. E. Comp. **Harry Parker Gibbs** was appointed as the District Grand Superintendent. He held that Office till 1925. He was later to become the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India from 1924 to 1929.

In 1923, Chapter Imperial Scottish No. 553 was opened in New Delhi, probably under a Provisional Warrant whose exact date is not known. It was consecrated and dedicated on 6th January 1926.

The Cryptic Council attached to Chapter Perseverance No. 71 was founded on 30th March 1925 under a Charter dated 19th September 1924 issued by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, with M. E. Comp. Arthur W. S. Wise, District Grand Scribe E as the T.I.M. At this meeting, M. E. Comps. Harry Mulleneux and Jehangeer C. Mistree, amongst other Past Zs, were conferred all the three Cryptic degrees. This Cryptic Council is believed to be the first Scottish Cryptic Council in India and over the years, from 1925 to 1950, Companions of five other Chapters (Independence No. 183, Gibbs No. 391 Bangalore, Rising Star No. 673 Amritsar, Caledonia No. 154, and Mount Elbaruz No. 123) joined to take the Cryptic Degrees to enable them to start new Cryptic Councils attached to their own Chapters.

At the Election & Installation Convocation held on 29th June 1925, M. E. Comp. The Hon'ble **Justice Abedali Mohamedali Kajiji** of the Bombay High Court was installed as the District Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Freemasonry in India by M. E. Comp. Harry Parker Gibbs. He was the second Indian to hold this high Office and held it till 1936. The Minutes of that meeting record that the M. E. First Grand Principal, M. E. Comp. The Earl of Cassillis had conferred the Rank of Honorary Second Grand Principal on M. E. Comp. Arthur W. Wise, the District Grand Scribe E. The Proceedings show that there were 29 Chapters under the District Grand Chapter. Chapter Caledonia No. 154 had 118 members on their Roll.

After considerable efforts by M. E. Comp. C. N. Ramalingam, Chapter Viziaragam No. 396 was opened on 28th August 1925 in Viziaragam, who was installed as the first Z.

In August 1925, the Freemasons' Joint Hall Committee, Bombay decided to levy an additional charge of Rs. 20/- to Masonic Bodies using Freemasons' Hall from 12.30 am to 1.30 am. The charges up to 12.30 am were Rs. 10/-.

Chapter Imperial Scottish No. 553, Delhi was consecrated and dedicated by M. E. Comp. H. P. Gibbs, Immediate Past District Grand Superintendent at a Special Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 6th January 1926 at Freemasons' Hall, Delhi,

The Proceedings of the Regular Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 6th September 1926 record that a Petition had been received for Chapter Albyn No. 632 to be opened in Calcutta, with M. E. Comp. A. Logan to be its first Z. Surprisingly the Minutes also record that Chapter Endeavour no. 347,

Calcutta was going through difficult times due to paucity of members, (although 35 members are shown to be on its Roll) and was likely to close down. On 13th December 1927, Chapter Albyn No. 632, Calcutta was dedicated and constituted by M. E. Comp. A. D. Long, Hon. Depute District Grand Superintendent. M. E. Comp. A. Logan was installed as the First Principal.

At the Election & Installation Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 17th March 1927, the M. E. District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. The Hon'ble Justice A. M. Kajji stated in his Address that progress of Royal Arch Freemasonry continues to be retarded principally owing to slump in trade and business.

The title of Khan Bahadur was conferred on the acting District Grand Scribe E, M. E. Comp. Jehangeer C. Mistree in the New Year's Honours List of 1929.

The Proceedings of the Election & Installation Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 20th March 1929 record that Chapter Endeavour No. 347, Calcutta, which had become dormant, had been revived due to the efforts of M. E. Comp. A. C. Muirden and Comp. C. E. Hodgetts. The Proceedings also record that due to the efforts of E. Comp. H. Morington, a Petition had been received from Brethren of the two Scottish Lodges in Madras -- Lodge Asoka and Lodge Madras No. 1342 -- to start a Chapter in Madras to be named Chapter Asoka and Madras and a Provisional Warrant had been issued.

On 1st June 1929, Chapter Asoka and Madras No. 651 was constituted in Madras by M. E. Comp. A. S. Andrews of Bangalore, Hon. Past District Grand Second Principal.

After the Proceedings of the period 1925 to 1929, the next available ones in our Grand Chapter Library in Mumbai are for the period 1934 to 1937. Hence only sketchy details are available at present for the period from 1929 to 1934.

M. E. Comp. Arthur A. W. Wise, the energetic and popular District Grand Scribe E passed away in 1930. In 1934, M. E. Comp. Khan Bahadur Jehangeer C. Mistree was appointed as the District Grand Scribe E and he held that Office till he died on 12th April 1952.

1931-1940

In 1933, Chapter Rising Star was No. 673 was consecrated in Amritsar.

It appears from later records that Chapter Victoria No. 169, Belgaum was relocated in Murree in the North West Frontier area sometime in 1933.

The Proceedings of the Election & Installation Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 20th March 1934 record that a request for Dispensation for change of date for the Election Meeting of Chapter Hormusji Batliwala No. 434 was declined because the reason for change of date from 10th to 24th February 1934 was not acceptable. The Minutes record that there were 33 Chapters under the District Grand Chapter.

The Proceedings of the Election & Installation Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 20th March 1934 show for the first time the Rank of Hon. Grand Superintendent (Scot.) against the name of the M. E. Comp. Khan Bahadur

Jehangeer C. Mistree, District Grand Scribe E. The date when this Rank was conferred is not available at present. In his Address at the meeting, the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. The Hon'ble Justice A. M. Kajiji stated that Chapter Endeavour No. 347, Calcutta had ceased to work due to paucity of members; the Chapter's name does not appear in the List of Chapters under the District Grand Chapter.

The Proceedings of the Regular Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 4th September 1935 record that the name of M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee Bomanjee Billimoria, K.T., M.B.E., J.P., Past Deputy District Grand Superintendent had been recommended unanimously by Daughter Chapters to be the next District Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Chapter. In his Address at the meeting, the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. The Hon'ble Justice A. M. Kajiji stated that Chapter Vizianagram No. 396 in Vizianagram had ceased to hold meetings. He also informed Companions that in the recent earthquake in Quetta, the Masonic Hall had suffered severe damage and that Comps. Rai Saheb Kishen Chand Asrani, Homee K. Spencer and Khan Saheb Mohammad Jaffer of Chapter Ellan Vannin No. 228 had lost their lives. In spite of these setbacks, 12 Companions of the Chapter held its next meeting on 24th June 1935 in a tent.

M. E. Comp. D. W. Ditchburn, J.P., the District Second Grand Principal chaired the Election and Installation Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 18th March 1936 acting as the District Grand Superintendent. M. E. Comp. D. W. Ditchburn installed **M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee Bomanjee Billimoria, K.T., M.B.E., J.P.**, Past Sherriff of Bombay, as the District Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Chapter of India at Freemasons' Hall, Bombay. He held that Office till 1951; he was also the M. W, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India & Pakistan from 1950 to 1955. In his Address, M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria proposed that a Portrait of M. E. Comp. The Hon'ble Justice A. M. Kajiji be got prepared for putting up in Freemasons' Hall in Bombay. The Minutes record that there were 32 Chapters and 875 Companions as members of Daughter Chapters.

The Proceedings of the Regular Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 7th September 1936 record that M. E. Comp. Harry Parker Gibbs, Past District Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Chapter was appointed as the Proxy Grand Superintendent in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland.

In the absence of the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria who was overseas, the Depute District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. J. G. Anderson, chaired the Election & Installation Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 19th March 1937 acting as the District Grand Superintendent. A Resolution of Sorrow was passed on the death of the Immediate Past District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. The Hon'ble Justice A. M. Kajiji on 26th November 1936. The Proceedings record that Chapter St. Andrew in the East No. 68, Poona held their meeting on 17th February 1937 after a gap of 18 months. The Proceedings also record that since Companions in the North West Frontier area wanted a Lodge & Council and a Cryptic Council to be attached to Chapter Victoria No. 169 in Murree, M. E. C. Lieut, T. Lonson, Past Z and District Assistant Grand Sword Bearer, was deputed under Special Dispensation to confer degrees to Companions, so that a Petition for a Charter could be made; the Petition was forwarded to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland.

The Charter for a Cryptic Council to be attached to Chapter Victoria No. 169, Murree having been received, the Cryptic Council was constituted and dedicated by Lieut. T. Lonson on 26th June 1937 and the T.I.M. was Installed.

Soon thereafter, following the footsteps of Chapter Victoria No. 169, Murree several other Chapters started requesting for Lodge & Councils and Cryptic Councils to be attached to them.

The Cryptic Council attached to Chapter Caledonia No. 154 which was dormant, was revived on 14th July 1937 by members of the Cryptic Council attached to Chapter Perseverance No. 71.

At the Regular Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 1st September 1937 the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria informed Companions that as Burma had been politically detached from India by the British Parliament, Chapter Forman No. 292 in Rangoon had opted to work either directly under Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland until a new District Grand Chapter of Burma was formed. The District Grand Superintendent also informed Companions that the Lodge & Council attached to Chapter St. Andrew in the East No. 68, Poona having gone dormant, the Regalia and Funds (Rs.1745-7-8) were handed over to the District Grand Chapter.

The Proceedings of the Election & Installation Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 18th March 1938 record that Petitions had been received for a Cryptic Council to be attached to Chapter Ellan Vannin No.228, Murree and a Lodge & Council to be attached to Chapter Rising Star No. 673, Amritsar and both had been forwarded to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland.

The Proceedings of the Regular Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 2nd September 1938 record that at the Annual Convocation of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland held in Edinburgh on 21st March 1938, the M. E. First Grand Principal, M. E. Comp. The Most Hon'ble The Marquess of Ailsa, D.L., J.P. had conferred the Rank of Honorary Depute First Grand Principal on the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria. His earlier Ranks are not known due to lack of old records in Mumbai. This was probably the second time this very high Rank had been conferred on an Indian Companion in India, the first being M. E. Comp. Khursetji Rustomji Cama who was conferred this rank on 1st March 1905.

The Minutes of the above Convocation record that a Petition had been sent to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland to open a new Chapter 'Mother India', the lead for which had been taken by M. E. Comp. Dhunjisha J. Toddiwala. The Minutes also record that Charters received from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland for a Cryptic Council to be attached to Chapter Ellan Vannin No.228, Murree and a Lodge & Council to be attached to Chapter Rising Star No. 673, Amritsar had been forwarded to the respective Chapters and both new Bodies had started meetings.

The Proceedings of the Regular Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 2nd September 1938 further record that M.E. Comp. T. Troy Wyche, Past Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters in North Carolina, USA had requested the District Grand Chapter to send him a stone of any size

and shape picked at random from any spot for being placed in the "Masonic Marker" which the Council was erecting over a spot where it had made a vault for the building of its National Shrine, as a true symbol of the universal message of Freemasonry. Two stones picked up during last Easter at the Kharodi Quarry, 3 miles from Malad Railway Station of the B.B. & C.I. Railway (now Western Railway) had been sent to M. E. Comp. Wyche.

On 10th March 1939, Chapter Mother India No. 691, Mumbai, was consecrated at Freemasons' Hall, Mumbai by the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria under Charter dated 16th September 1938 issued by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland. There were 18 Founder Members and M. E. Comp. Rao Saheb R. R. Nayampalli was installed in the Chair of First Principal.

The Proceedings of the Election & Installation Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 17th March 1939 record that Chapter The Scottish No. 553, New Delhi which had not met for a long time, had resumed working, thanks to the efforts of M. E. Comp. Khan Saheb A. C. Jassawalla, I.S.O.

M. E. Comp. Major General William Ernest Jennings, I.M.S., who was the District Grand Superintendent from 1910 to 1921 passed away in France in January 1940 due to an accident and a Resolution of Sorrow was passed at the Election & Installation Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 18th March 1940.

At the Regular Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 2nd September 1940, the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria announced that at the Annual Convocation of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland held in Edinburgh on 21st March 1940, the M. E. First Grand Principal, M. E. Comp. The Most Hon'ble The Marquess of Ailsa had conferred the following high Honorary Ranks :-

Hon. Third Grand Principal on M. E. Comp. Khan Bahadur
Jehangeer C. Mistree, J.P.

Hon. Grand Superintendent on M. E. Comp. D. W. Ditchburn, J.P.

Hon. Grand Superintendent on M. E. Comp. A. Logan.

1941 - 1949

M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria was re-installed as the District Grand Superintendent for a second term at the Election & Installation Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 19th March 1941 at Freemasons' Hall, Bombay by M. E. Comp. H. Royal, M.B.E., V.D., J.P., Hon. 2nd Grand Sojourner (Scot.), M. E. Depute District Grand Superintendent. The proceedings of the meeting record that Chapter Equality No. 330, Lucknow had started meeting regularly. Also that the Charter for a Lodge & Council to be attached to Chapter Mother India No. 691 had been received.

At the Regular Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 1st September 1941, the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria announced that at the Annual Convocation of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland held in Edinburgh on 21st March 1941, the M. E.

First Grand Principal, M. E. Comp. The Most Hon'ble The Marquess of Ailsa had conferred the following high Honorary Ranks :-

Hon. Grand Superintendent on M. E. Comp. H. Royal, M.B.E., V.D., J.P.

Hon. Grand Superintendent on M. E. Comp. Khan Saheb

A. C. Jassawalla.

At the Regular Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 18th March 1942, the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria announced that Petition signed by 40 Companions had been received to form a new Chapter Raja in Meerut, with Comp. C. Rajagopala, M.B.E. named to be the First Principal-Designate. The proceedings also record that M. E. Comp. T. H. Prisk had prepared a History of Chapter Kindred Hope No. 186, Oorgaum, Kolar Gold Fields and copies were presented to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland District Grand Chapter. There were 32 Chapters under the District Grand Chapter in March 1942.

Although Chapter Victoria No. 169 was relocated from Belgaum to Murree in 1933, the list of Chapters listed in the Proceedings of the Regular Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 18th March 1942, show for the first time that the meets in Murree/Rawalpindi without any reasons given.

Chapter Raja No. 697, Meerut was constituted and dedicated at the Masonic Temple in Meerut on 6th April 1942 by M. E. Comp. Khan Saheb A. C. Jassawalla, Depute District Grand Superintendent, Hon. Grand Superintendent (Scot). There were now 33 Daughter Chapters under the District Grand Chapter.

Over the next few years, Chapter The Scottish No. 341, Simla was permitted to meet in New Delhi from April to September, but not permitted to accept new members from those permanently residing in New Delhi, so as not to affect Chapter Imperial Scottish No. 553 in New Delhi. The Chapter was relocated from Simla to New Delhi in 1947.

No Masonic casualties were reported after enemy air raids over Colombo and places in South India in April 1942 and over Calcutta in December 1942.

The M. E. First Grand Principal, M. E. Comp. The Most Hon'ble The Marquess of Ailsa died in Scotland on 27th February 1943 and a resolution of Sorrow was passed at the Election & Installation Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 18th March 1943.

At the Regular Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 3rd September 1943, the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria announced that at the Annual Convocation of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland held in Edinburgh on 21st March 1943, the M. E. First Grand Principal, M. E. Comp. Sir John Watson, M.B.E., K.C. had conferred the high Ranks of Hon. Grand Superintendent on M. E. Comp. Rao Bahadur Ranchodhbhai B. Patel, C.I.E., J.P. and M. E. Comp. T. H. Prisk, both being Depute District Grand Superintendents.

In a Special Dispensation despatched by cablegram from Supreme Grand Chapter, the M. E. First Grand Principal issuing a 'working order' authorising M. E. Comp. Khan Saheb A. C. Jassawalla, I.S.O., Depute District Grand

Superintendent, Hon. Grand Superintendent (Scot.) to confer the degree of Red Cross Knights in Lodge & Council attached to Chapter The Imperial Scottish No. 553, New Delhi, on 21st August 1943, on brethren who are already R.A.M.s under the English Constitution.

Khan Saheb A. C. Jassawalla, I.S.O., Depute District Grand Superintendent, Hon. Grand Superintendent (Scot.) opened the Lodge & Council attached to Chapter The Imperial Scottish No. 553, New Delhi on 25th October 1943 at Freemasons' Hall, New Delhi. The Charter for the Lodge & Council was granted by the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland at its Quarterly Convocation held in Edinburgh on 17th December 1943.

At the Election & Installation Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 15th March 1944, the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria announced that the death of the M. E. First Grand Principal, M. E. Comp. Sir John Watson, M.B.E., K.C.

M. E. Comp. Capt. E. R. Rutherford, Past Assistant District Grand Director of ceremonies constituted and opened the Lodge & Council attached to Chapter Gibbs No. 391, Bangalore on 12th August 1944 at Freemasons' Hall, Bangalore under a 'working order' issued by the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria.

At the Installation Meeting of Chapter Perseverance No. 71 held on 24th October 1944, Centenary Jewels were presented to the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria and all Companions of the Chapter (the Centenary actually fell a year earlier in September 1943).

At the Regular Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 7th September 1945, the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria thanked Companions for re-nominating him to be the District Grand Superintendent for a third term.

At the Election & Installation Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 18th March 1946 in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay, M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria was re-installed as the District Grand Superintendent by the M.E. Depute District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Sir Ivon Taunton, K.T., C.I.E., J.P., I.C.S. There were 33 Daughter Chapters under the District Grand Chapter.

At the Annual Installation Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland held in Edinburgh in March 1946, M. E. Comp. Khan Bahadur Jehangeer C. Mistree, J.P. was conferred the rank of Hon. Depute First Grand Principal in recognition of over 50 years service to Scottish Freemasonry in India. The Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland also decided to have a portrait in oils of M. E. Comp. Jehangeer C. Mistree hung in the Masonic Hall in Edinburgh.

Several Companions of Chapter Gibbs No. 389, Bangalore having taken the Cryptic Degrees in early 1945 in Cryptic Council attached to Chapter Perseverance No. 71, Bombay, a Petition had been forwarded to Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland to attach a Cryptic Council to Chapter Gibbs No. 391, Bangalore. Cryptic Council to Chapter Gibbs No. 391, Bangalore was constituted and opened in Freemasons' Hall, Bangalore on 16th April 1946 by the Depute

District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. M. E. Comp. Harry J. Mulleneux, O.B.E.

At the Quarterly Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland held in Edinburgh on 20th June 1947, the M. E. Comp. First Grand Principal, M. E. Comp. Major R. H. F. Moncreiff, T.D. intimated that the portrait of M. E. Comp. Khan Bahadur Jehangeer C. Mistree, had been received and hung on the staircase of the Masonic Hall in Edinburgh.

Charters for a Lodge & Council Albyn No. 632, Calcutta, for Cryptic Council The Imperial Scottish No. 553, New Delhi and Cryptic Council Albyn No. 632, Calcutta having been sanctioned by Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, Lodge & Council Albyn No. 632 was started on 2nd July 1947 and Cryptic Albyn No. 632 was started on 6th August 1947.

On 15th August 1947, India became an independent Nation.

At the Regular Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 1st September 1947, the District Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria informed Companions that sanction had been given to Chapter The Scottish No. 341, Simla to hold all their meetings henceforth in New Delhi instead of Simla.

At the beginning of 1948, Cryptic Council The Imperial Scottish No. 553, New Delhi was dedicated and consecrated by M. E. Comp. R. C. W. Hunter, Past Depute District Grand Superintendent; and Lodge & Council Albyn and Cryptic Council Albyn No. 632, Calcutta were dedicated and consecrated by M. E. Comp. A. C. Muirden, Depute District Grand Superintendent.

GRAND CHAPTER OF UNITED SCOTTISH ROYAL ARCH FREEMASONRY IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN 1949 - 1965

With India having gained Independence on 15th August 1947 and Pakistan being formed as a separate country, the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland changed the name of the District Grand Chapter of India to Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan. .

The Proceedings of the Election & Installation Convocation of the District Grand Chapter held on 17th March 1949 in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay record that a cablegram had been received from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland that at the meeting of the Supreme Grand Committee held on 18th February 1949, it was decided that the name of the District Grand Chapter would be changed to Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan. This change was considered and approved by the Supreme Grand Chapter at its Convocation held in Edinburgh on 4th March 1948. This was in line with the Grand Lodge of Scotland renaming the District of India as the Grand Lodge of United Scottish Freemasonry of India and Pakistan. M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee Bomanjee Billimoria, Kt., M.B.E., J.P. continued as the Grand Superintendent.

The hope expressed on 5th September 1910 by M. E. Comp. Lt. Col. William Ernest Jennings, the then District Grand Superintendent that the name of the

District would soon be changed to Grand Chapter of All Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India, in line with the Craft nomenclature of Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, became a reality 49 years later.

The Proceedings of the Regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan held on 5th September 1949 in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay record that a Petition had been forwarded to the Supreme Grand Chapter for a Charter to be issued for a new Chapter to be named 'St. David in the East' in Calcutta.

Chapter St. David in the East No. 736, Calcutta was constituted and dedicated on 4th November 1949 at Freemasons' Hall, Calcutta by M. E. Comp. A. C. Muirden, Depute Grand Superintendent.

M, E, Comp, George A, Howell, J.P., Grand Scribe of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland died in Scotland on 8th March 1950.

A Resolution of Sorrow was passed at the Annual Election & Installation Convocation of the Grand Chapter U.S.R.A.F.I.P. held in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay on 20th March 1950 to mourn the death of M. E. Comp. Harry P. Gibbs who was Grand Superintendent from 1921 to 1925. The Proceedings record that Daughter Chapters had recommended the name of M. E. Comp. Harry Joel Mulleneux, O.B.E., M.L.A., J.P. for appointment as the next Grand Superintendent.

At the Annual Installation Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland held in Edinburgh in March 1950, M. E. Comp. Sir Ivon Taunton, K.C.I.E., was conferred the rank of Hon. Third Grand Principal.

M. E. Comp. **Harry Joel Mulleneux**, O.B.E., M.L.A., J.P. was installed as the Grand Superintendent of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan at Freemasons' Hall, Bombay on 19th March 1951 by M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria, Kt., M.B.E., J.P. M. E. Comp. Harry J. Mulleneux held that Office till 1958. He had become a member of Chapter Perseverance No. 71 on 25th January 1921 and was considered as the leading light of the Chapter. There were 34 Chapters under the Grand Chapter and the funds available were Rs. 9,872-7-8. Chapter Imperial Scottish No. 553, New Delhi had 96 members, followed by Lodge The Scottish No. 341, New Delhi with 85 members.

Lodge & Council St. David in the East No. 736, Calcutta was opened at Freemasons' Hall in Calcutta on 3rd August 1951 by M. E. Comp. D. R. Billimoria, Depute Grand Superintendent.

At the Annual Installation Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland held in Edinburgh on 21st March 1952, the M. E. Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Harry J. Mulleneux was conferred the rank of Hon. Second Grand Principal. At the meeting, the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland sanctioned a Cryptic Council attached to Chapter Kilwinning in the East No. 64, Calcutta.

M. E. Comp. Khan Bahadur Jehangeer C. Mistry, Grand Scribe E died in Bombay on 12th April 1952. He had served the Grand Chapter as Grand Scribe E for 18 years, from 1934 till he died on 12th April 1952. A Resolution of Sorrow was passed at the Regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter U.S.R.A.F.I.P. held in

Freemasons' Hall, Bombay on 1st September 1952 to mourn his death. M. E. Comp. K. J. Mody took over temporary charge in April 1952 as acting Grand Scribe E.

Cryptic Council Kilwinning in the East No. 64, Calcutta was opened and consecrated at Freemasons' Hall, Calcutta on 25th April 1952 by M. E. Comp. D. R. Billimoria, Depute Grand Superintendent.

M. E. Comp. Kaikhushru J. Mody was appointed as the Grand Scribe of the Grand Chapter U.S.R.A.F.I.P. at a Special Meeting of the Grand Committee held on 27th June 1952 and he was obligated in Chapter Independence No. 183 on 21st July 1952. There were 34 Chapters, 21 Lodge and Councils and 8 Cryptic Councils under the Grand Chapter.

Cryptic Council Mount Elbaruz No. 123, Bombay was sanctioned by the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland at its Regular Convocation held in Edinburgh on 20th June 1952. It was opened and consecrated by the Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Harry J. Mulleneux on 16th July 1952 at Freemasons' Hall, Bombay.

The Golden Jubilee of Chapter Level No. 297, Kirkee was celebrated on 25th October 1952 when the Founder and Promoter, M. E. Comp. Hormusji N. Merchant, Hon. Depute Grand Superintendent, Hon. 1st Grand Sojourner (Scot.) was installed as the First Principal in the presence of M. E. Comp. Harry Lyttler, Depute Grand Superintendent.

The Centenary Anniversary Meeting of Chapter Faith & Charity No. 72, Karachi was held on 27th November 1952. The Grand Superintendent was represented by M. E. Comp. A. M. Davison, Hon. Second Principal with his Deputation. A Centenary Jewel was released on the occasion. M. E. Comp. The Earl of Elgin & Kincardine, Grand Superintendent of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Fife and Kinross, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland joined the Companions at the banquet.

In 1953, the Freemasons' Joint Hall Committee banned consumption of liquor in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay to comply with the introduction of Prohibition in the State of Bombay.

A Special Joint Meeting of Chapter Faith & Charity No. 72 and Chapter Hope No. 414, both of Karachi, was held on 8th January 1953 when the Grand Superintendent's representative, M. E. Comp. Sir Ivon Taunton, K.C.I.E. with his deputation visited Karachi with a view to cement Brotherly feelings.

A Special Joint Meeting of Chapter The Scottish No. 341 and Chapter Imperial Scottish No. 553, both of New Delhi, was held on 4th March 1953 when the Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Harry J. Mulleneux visited New Delhi.

At the Annual Election and Installation Convocation of the Grand Chapter U.S.R.A.F.I.P. held on 16th March 1953, Centenary Jewels of Chapter Faith & Charity No. 72, Karachi were handed over by its First Principal, M. E. Comp. B. S. Captain to the Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Harry J. Mulleneux for forwarding to the M. E. First Grand Principal of Scotland and to M. E. Comp. The Earl of Elgin & Kincardine, M. E. Comp. W. A. Laird (Grand Scribe E), and to Past Grand Superintendent M. E. Comp. Sir S. B. Billimoria, Past Depute Grand Superintendents and M. E. Comp. K. J. Mody, Grand Scribe E. The Proceedings

of this meeting, for the first time, give the dates of Installation meetings of Daughter Chapters and the names of the Companion installed as First Principal.

At the Regular Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland held in Edinburgh on 19th June 1953, Charters were sanctioned for a new Chapter Beaman No. 751, Bombay and new Cryptic Council Dalhousie No. 182, Colombo.

At the Regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter U.S.R.A.F.I.P. held on 4th September 1953, the Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Harry J. Mulleneux gave an extremely interesting Lecture on his researches into Royal Arch Symbols found in carvings and ancient monuments preserved in monuments and caves in India.

Chapter Beaman No. 751 was consecrated in Mumbai on 29th September 1953 by the Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Harry J. Mulleneux. M. E. Comp. Faramroz P. Vasunia was installed as the First Principal.

Cryptic Dalhousie No. 182 was consecrated in Colombo on 19th December 1953 by M. E. Comp. Harry Lyttler, Depute Grand Superintendent. 23 Companions were conferred the R. M. and S. M. Degrees that day.

A Resolution of Sorrow was passed at the Annual Election and Installation Convocation of the Grand Chapter U.S.R.A.F.I.P. held on 15th March 1954 to mourn the death of the M. E. Second Grand Principal, M. E. Comp. Merwanji J. Antia, who had died on 15th February 1954. The minutes record that Bye Laws of Chapters were sanctioned by the Provincial/District/Grand Chapter in Bombay, but the Supreme Grand Chapter had now withdrawn this right which had existed since 1896. The Grand Chapter's protest had been sent by M. E. Comp. K. J. Mody, Grand Scribe E to M. E. Comp. W. A. Laird, Grand Scribe E of the Supreme Grand Chapter, at the same time conveying willingness to cooperate and adopt any advice given by Supreme Grand Chapter.

At its Annual Installation Convocation held in Edinburgh in March 1954, the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland conferred the rank of Honorary Grand Superintendent on the following Companions:-

M. E. Comp. P. E. K. Eely, PZ of Chapter Kindred & Hope No. 186, Oorgaum
M. E. Comp. Hadi C. Tyabji, PZ of Chapter Crescent No. 346, Bombay
M. E. Comp. A. C. Muirden PZ in Chapter Albyn No. 632, Calcutta.

The Charter having been received from the Supreme Grand Chapter, Cryptic Council Independence No. 183, Bombay was consecrated at Freemasons' Hall, Bombay on 30th March 1954 by the Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Harry J. Mulleneux.

The Charter having been received from the Supreme Grand Chapter, Chapter Rustomji Boyce No. 753, Belgaum was constituted and dedicated at the Masonic Hall, Belgaum on 2nd April 1954 by the Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Harry J. Mulleneux in the presence of a large number of Companions from Bombay, Poona, Hubli, Gokak, Bangalore and Kanpur.

The Proceedings of the Regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan held on 6th September

1954 in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay record that a Petition had been forwarded to the Supreme Grand Chapter for a Charter to be issued for a new Chapter to be named 'Fidelity' in Ahmedabad. The Petition was supported by Chapter Benevolence No. 336, Surat and Chapter Beaman No. 751, Bombay. The Proceedings also record that the Grand Scribe E of the Supreme Grand Chapter had objected to Companions writing directly to him which is contrary to the Constitution, instead of sending letters through the Grand Scribe E of the Grand Chapter U.S.R.A.F.I.P. in Bombay.

Resolutions of Sorrow were passed at the Annual Election and Installation Convocation of the Grand Chapter U.S.R.A.F.I.P. held on 18th March 1955 to mourn the death of M. E. Comp. Alexander M. Campbell, Depute Grand Superintendent, PZ of Chapter Asoka & Madras No. 651, Madras on 3rd January 1955 and M. E. Comp. Hormusji N. Merchant, Hon. Depute Grand Superintendent, Hon. 1st Grand Sojourner (Scot.), PZ of Chapter Level No. 297, Kirkee on 23rd January 1955. The Minutes also record that a new bank account was opened with the Grindlays Bank in Karachi, in the name of the Grand Chapter U.S.R.A.F.I.P. to meet with currency laws in Pakistan.

Chapter Fidelity No. 762, Ahmedabad was constituted and dedicated at the Masonic Temple, Ahmedabad on 11th February 1955 by the M. E. Comp. D. D. Kapadia, Past Depute Grand Superintendent. M. E. Comp. J. Bracewell was installed in to the Chair of First Principal. The Warrant for the Chapter was issued in 1954.

At the Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland held in Edinburgh on 9th March 1955, a Charter was granted for a new Cryptic Council to be attached to Chapter Zoroaster No. 138, Bombay.

At the Regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan held on 5th September 1955 in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay, M. E. Comp. Harry Joel Mulleneux, O.B.E., M.L.A., J.P. was nominated for a second term the Grand Superintendent. The minutes also record that by letter dated 15th April 1955, the Grand Scribe of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland had advised that after the death of M. E. Comp. Harry P. Gibbs, no Proxy Grand Superintendent had been appointed for India and Pakistan; he recommended that M. E. Comp. The Earl of Eglinton & Winton, D.T., T.D., Depute First Grand Principal be appointed. The recommendation was accepted and carried unanimously.

At the Quarterly Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland held in Edinburgh on 17th June 1955, the Grand Chapter U.S.R.A.F.I.P. was authorised to sanction minor changes in Bye Laws of Chapters, Lodge & Councils and Cryptic Councils in India and Pakistan relating to change of dates, fees etc, and to intimate such changes for amending records.

Cryptic Council attached to Chapter Zoroaster No. 138, Bombay was consecrated in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay on 25th June 1955 by M. E. Comp. Harry Joel Mulleneux, Grand Superintendent of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan. T.I. Comp. Framroze P. Canteenwalla was installed as the first T.I.M. and 19 Companions were honoured as R.Ms. with the Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Harry J. Mulleneux working as P. C. W.

M. E. Comp. Harry Joel Mulleneux, O.B.E., M.L.A., J.P. was re-installed as the Grand Superintendent for a second term by M. E. Comp. W. Mason, Depute Grand Superintendent at the Election & Installation Convocation of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan held on 19th March 1956 at Freemasons' Hall, Bombay. There were 37 Daughter Chapters under the Grand Chapter.

Lodge & Council attached to Chapter Beaman No. 751, Bombay was constituted and dedicated in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay on 30th December 1955 by M. E. Comp. Harry Joel Mulleneux, Grand Superintendent of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan. Bro. Dolly F. Daruwalla was installed as the first W.C.N. & M. E. C.

The Proceedings of the Regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter U.S.R.A.F.I.P. held on 3rd September 1956 in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay record the Grand Chapter's objection to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland raising fees for Diplomas, Registration and Annual Charges. At the Regular Convocation held on 16th December 1955, the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland kept the matter pending, though it was on the Agenda of the meeting to approve the increases. The Proceedings also record that because no Temple was available in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay, it was decided to postpone recommending the Petition for a Cryptic Council to be attached to Chapter Beaman No. 751, Bombay till the proposal to add an additional Temple Room was carried out (it took almost 3 years for that to happen).

In the matter of objection to increases in fees, etc. mentioned above, the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland at its Regular Convocation held on 21st September 1956, passed that the increases would not be applicable to members who were on the Rolls at 31st December 1956; the increases would be applicable only to future members.

At its Annual Installation Convocation held in Edinburgh on March 1957, M. E. Comp. The Earl of Galloway, L.L., J.P., the First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland conferred the rank of Honorary Grand Superintendent on M. E. Comp. William Mason, Depute Grand Superintendent.

Revisions to Honours' Fees and Annual dues payable to the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan were approved at its Annual Election & Installation Convocation held on 29th March 1957.

By letter dated 12th March 1958, the Grand Scribe E of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland had advised that Royal Arch regalia has to be worn in the Mark Lodge and Excellent Masters Lodge.

The death of M. E. Comp. Sir Ivon Taunton, Past Depute Grand Superintendent was recorded in the Proceedings of the Annual Election & Installation Convocation of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan held on 17th March 1958. The Proceedings also record that M. E. Comp. K. J. Mody was conferred the rank of Hon. Depute Grand Superintendent.

The Petition for a Cryptic Council to be attached to Chapter Beaman No. 751, Bombay received in August 1956 was forwarded to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland on 9th January 1958. The Cryptic Council was constituted and

dedicated in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay on 5th July 1958 by M. E. Comp. Harry Joel Mulleneux, Grand Superintendent. T. I. Comp. Dr. Sarosh P. Bhacca was installed as the first T.I.M. and 9 Companions were honoured as R.Ms.

M. E. Comp. Sir Shapoorjee B. Billimoria, Kt., M.B.E., J.P., Past Grand Superintendent died on 27th August 1958 in Bombay and a Resolution of Sorrow was passed at the Regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter U.S.R.A.F.I.P. held on 5th September 1958 in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay. He had been conferred the rank of Hon. Depute First Grand Principal in 1938. He had held the office of Grand Superintendent for 15 years from 1936 to 1951.

The Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. Harry J. Mulleneux, O.B.E., J.P. died on 6th November 1958 and a Resolution of Sorrow was passed at the Annual Election and Installation Convocation of the Grand Chapter U.S.R.A.F.I.P. held on 30th March 1959 in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay. He had been conferred the rank of Hon. Second Grand Principal by the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland when he was installed in 1952 and the rank of Hon. Depute First Grand Principal on his reinstatement in 1957.

Chapter Takht-I-Sulaiman No. 776, Lahore was constituted and dedicated in Lahore on 23rd March 1959 by M. E. Comp. N. J. Patell, Hon. Second Grand Principal. No details of this Chapter are available at present.

At the Regular Convocation of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland held in Edinburgh on 19th June 1959, M. E. Comp. **Rao Bahadur Ranchhodhbhai B. Patel**, C.I.E., J.P., Bar-at-Law, was appointed as the Grand Superintendent of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan and was installed as the Grand Superintendent by M. E. Comp. George L. Anderson, Depute Grand Superintendent-in-Charge on 7th September 1959 at Freemasons' Hall, Mumbai. After many years a Deputation from the District Grand Chapter of Bombay E.C. attended as Visitors, the Deputation being headed by M. E. Comp. Bhogilal C. Shah, its District Grand Superintendent. M. E. Comp. Rao Bahadur Ranchhodhbhai B. Patel held the Office of Grand Superintendent till 1965. There were 38 Chapters under the Grand Chapter.

FORMATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF INDIA

At a meeting held in London on 29th October 1959 between the Pro Grand Master of England, the Grand Master of Ireland, and the Immediate Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland acting for the Grand Master Mason, it was decided that an independent Grand Lodge of India was desirable and that in order to help forward the above objective, it was further decided to waive one of the terms of the Concordat of 1905, which required the assent of two-thirds of the Lodges under each of their jurisdiction to be necessary before recognition could be given to a new Grand Lodge. To promote this decision, a Steering Committee was formed consisting of members from each of the Home Constitutions, and the Irish representative, Rt. Wor. Bro. Lt. Gen. Sir Harold Williams was nominated as its Chairman. The Steering Committee drew up the details for the establishment of the Grand Lodge of India at New Delhi. The Lodges under the English, Irish and Scottish Constitutions were permitted to opt to join the Grand Lodge of India or remain under their existing Constitutions. More or less identical Concordats were drawn up by the three Grand Lodges and signed individually with the Grand

Lodge of India soon after its inauguration in 1961. Out of the 75 daughter Lodges under the Grand Lodge of United Scottish Freemasonry in India & Ceylon, 27 Lodges opted to remain under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the remaining surrendering their Charters and joining the Grand Lodge of India.

The Proceedings of the Annual and Installation Convocation of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan held in Bombay on 18th March 1960 record a dispute in Chapter Faith and Charity No. 72, Karachi. 'Distinguished Service Membership' had been conferred by the Chapter on its Past Z, M. E. Comp. P. D. Cooper, Hon. Depute Grand Superintendent, when no such provision existed in the Constitution & Laws of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland. The award was deferred and a Long Service Membership was conferred on M. E. Comp. P. D. Cooper.

A Petition forwarded to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland on 4th March 1960 being approved, Chapter Kailash No, 784, Kanpur was opened on 6th April 1960.

At the Regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan held in Bombay on 9th September 1960, the Grand Scribe E, M. E. Comp. K. J. Mody delivered an exhaustive Lecture on the Royal Arch Banners.

A Petition being forwarded to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland being approved, Chapter Ganesh Gavankar No. 787, Sholapur was opened at Freemasons' Hall, Sholapur on 23rd September 1960.

Chapter Ganesh Gavankar No. 787, Sholapur which had been opened on 23rd September 1960, was constituted and dedicated on 23rd September 1960 by M. E. Comp. K. S. Sethna, J.P., Depute Grand Superintendent. The Installation ceremonies were carried out by M. E. Comp. K. J. Mody, Grand Scribe E.

The Proceedings of the Annual and Installation Convocation of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan held in Bombay on 20th March 1961 record that Chapter The Scots No. 340, Bombay (formerly named Chapter Excelsior) closed down after it went into abeyance in 1959. Chapter The Scottish No. 341, New Delhi is shown as being dormant from 1959 to 1961. There were 39 Chapters under the Grand Chapter, 24 Lodge & Councils and 11 Cryptic Councils in March 1961.

Chapter Kailash No, 784, Kanpur which had been opened on 6th April 1960, was consecrated on 6th April 1961 by M. E. Comp. H. H. The Nawab of Rampur, Hon. Depute Grand Superintendent, assisted by the Installing Principal, M. E. Comp. Major T. C. Jain, Past Depute Grand Superintendent. Visitors from Bombay, New Delhi, Lucknow and Amritsar attended the meeting.

At the Annual Installation Convocation of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland held in Edinburgh on 21st June 1961, the First Grand Principal, M. E. Comp. The Rt. Hon'ble The Earl of Galloway, L.L., J.P., conferred the rank of Hon. Grand Superintendent on M. E. Comp. Harry Lyttler, P.Z, of Chapter Caledonia No. 154, Mumbai and on M. E. Comp. Brigadier C. P. Jayawardane, C.M.G., C.V.O., O.B.E., E.D., Past Z of Chapter Dalhousie No. 182, Colombo.

At the Regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan held in Bombay on 4th September 1961, 40 Years Diplomas were presented to M. E. Comp. Nusserwanji S. Guzder, J.P., Past Z of Chapter Independence No. 183, Bombay, M. E. Comp. Sorabjee P. Patell, Past Z of Chapter Benevolence No. 336, Surat and M. E. Comp. Hadi C. Tyabjee, Past Z of Chapter Crescent No. 346, Bombay.

The first ever visit to India by a First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland took place 125 years after Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry was established in India. In January 1962, the First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, M. E. Comp. The Rt. Hon'ble The Earl of Galloway visited Bombay accompanied by M. E. Comp. W. A. Laird, Grand Scribe E.

A Special Convocation of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan was held in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay on 12th September 1962 in honour of the first ever visit of the First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland. M. E. Comp. The Rt. Hon'ble The Earl of Galloway presided over the Convocation. M. E. Comp. W. A. Laird, Grand Scribe E acted as the Grand Director of Ceremonies. The First Grand Principal conferred the rank of Hon. Grand Superintendent on M. E. Comp. G. L. Anderson, Past Z of Chapter Perseverance No. 71. A Deputation from the District Grand Lodge of Bombay, E.C., led by M. E. Comp. Bhogilal C. Shah, District Grand Master, attended the Special Convocation.

An exaltation ceremony on two representative candidates, one of whom was M. E. Comp. Hira Lal Narang (Ruling Z of Chapter Elbaruz No. 123) was carried out in Chapter Rising Star of Western India No. 124 on 12th January 1962. The First Grand Principal unveiled portraits of two Past Grand Superintendents, M. E. Comp. Harry J. Mulleneux and M. E. Comp. Rao Bahadur Ranchodhbhai Patel, in Freemasons' Hall, Bombay.

The next day, 13th January 1962, T. I. Comp. The Rt. Hon'ble The Earl of Galloway, Grand T. I. Master of the Supreme Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Scotland, accompanied by T. I. Comp. W. A. Laird, Grand Recorder paid an official visit to Cryptic Council Beaman No. 751 when T. I. M. Jehangir K. Nanavati was in the Chair. Comps. Bomi S. Mehta, Ratan N. Contractor and K. E. Banaji were honoured as Royal Masters.

Prior to reaching Bombay, the First Grand Principal, M. E. Comp. The Rt. Hon'ble The Earl of Galloway visited Pakistan and New Delhi. After his visit to Bombay, he visited Calcutta.

On 19th March 1962, M. E. Comp. Dr. Sorab M. Khambatta, Past Depute Grand Superintendent, assisted in the consecration of Chapter St. Patrick No. 27 in Bombay under the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland.

A Notice of Motion was given at the Regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter of United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India and Pakistan held in Bombay on 3rd September 1962 to start a new fund, to be named as The Grand Chapter Benevolent Fund; 20% of the funds of the Scottish Masonic Fund of Benevolence of the Grand Lodge of United Scottish Freemasonry in India and Ceylon, consisting of Securities of the face value of about Rs. 40,000 would be

transferred to the Grand Chapter Benevolent Fund. The corresponding Resolution was passed at the Annual Election and Installation Convocation on 18th March 1963.

There were 40 Chapters, 22 Lodge and Councils and 13 Cryptic Councils under the Grand Chapter in December 1962.

Details of activities of the Grand Chapter after February 1963 will be incorporated in the proposed Part Two of this Historical Outline.

Names of cities existing at the prevailing time have been used.

**TRANSCRIPT OF ORIGINAL MINUTES OF
SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND
DATED 23RD MAY 1837**

CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION

Hopetown Rooms, British Hotel,
Edinburgh 23rd of May 1837

The Supreme Grand Chapter met this day as agreed upon at the last Annual Meeting.

Present

Comp. Captain Boswall, R.N. Grand Chancellor
" William Stewart of Glenormiston, Grand Chamb.
" Colonel Harvey of Castle Semple Sub. Grand Prin.
" Sir David Milne. K.C.B.E. Past Grand Prin.
" Will^m Crawford of Cartsburn Past Dep Grand Prin.
" Major General George Wright Prin. Grand Sojourner
" Major D. Deuchar a past Grand Sojourner
" James Graham of Leitchtown Grand Scribe
" Jamesd Linning Woodman Grand Treasurer
" Murray Pringle, Grand Recorder
" Alex^r Deuchar, Grand Jeweller
" Thomas Boog, Proxy Z, Mount Heradin Chapter, Grenada
" Will^m C. Dalyell, Captain R.N. } of Naval and
" Arch^d Sinclair, Captain R.N. } Military Chapter
" James Burnes, L.L.D. of Canongate Kilwinning Chapter,
visiting Brethren.

and was opened and constituted in due form.

Companion Alexander Deuchar delivered a very impressive and instructive Lecture on Masonry commencing with the first or Junior Degree of the Craft and following out their connection up to the Royal Arch.

After the Lecture was over, it was proposed and unanimously agreed to, that Companion James Burnes, L.L.D. and F.R.S. Knight of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, a Member of the Canongate Royal Arch Chapter, who is about to proceed to the East Indies, should be appointed Provincial Grand Principal of the Royal Arch Degree, under this Grand Chapter, for the Western Provinces of British India, including the Island of Ceylon, and all the Territories Subordinate to, or in political and friendly relation with the British Presidency of Bombay -- and the Grand Chapter appointed Companion Burnes accordingly and authorised the necessary Commission to be prepared for him.

The Supreme Grand Chapter was closed in due form and the Companions thereafter Dined together and spent the evening with greatest convivial harmony.

Supreme Grand Royal

23rd May 1837

Meeting of Committee

Companion Thomas Boog Proxy Herodion Chapt. Emerald

The Committee appointed the following Members a sub-Committee to prepare a lecture to be rehearsed at a Meeting to be held previous to the 23rd May viz^t Companions Alex^r. Deuchar Patrick Deuchar John Henry W. H. Blackie Comp^r. Alex^r. Deuchar Couwenier

Chapter of Instructions

Hopetown Rooms, British Hotel
Edinburgh 23rd of May 1837.

The Supreme Grand Chapter met this day as agreed upon at the last Annual Meeting
Present

Comp^r. Captain Boswall, P. N. Grand Chancellor
 — " — William Stewart of Glenormiston, Grand Chamberlain
 — " — Colonel Harvey of Castle Semple, Sub. Grand Chamberlain
 — " — Sir David Milne, H. G. B. & Past Grand Master
 — " — Will^m. Crawford of Bartsburn, Past Dep^y Grand Master
 — " — Major General George Wright, Prin^t Grand Sojourner
 — " — Major D. Deuchar, Prin^t Grand Sojourner
 — " — James Graham of Leitchtown, Grand Secretary
 — " — James Linning Woodman, W. S. Grand Treasurer
 — " — Murray Pringle, Grand Recorder &c
 — " — Alex^r. Deuchar, Grand Jeweller
 — " — Thomas Boog Proxy, L. Mount Herodion
 — " — Will^m. b. Dalryell, Captain P. N. } of Hopetown
 — " — Arch^d. Sinclair, Captain P. N. } Chapter
 — " — James Burnes, L. L. D. of Canongate
 Kilwinning Chapter, visiting Brethren

Arch Chapter of Scotland

Chapter of Instruction

and was opened and constituted in due form —

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