



**Internet Lodge 9659**  
**United Grand Lodge of England**  
**Province of East Lancashire**  
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**Short Papers Competition 2007**

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**Paper 06/2007**

**Title**  
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**Masonic Treasure**  
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I would like to share with the Craft what I have noticed about the greatest benefit of our Masonic Associations. It is the issue of 'Masonic Treasure'. There are two recent examples of what many of us and especially non-Masons consider 'treasure': *National Treasure*, and *The Da Vinci Code*.

The story of *National Treasure* is one of the origins of a great treasure of riches. This story starts with a grandfather embellishing a story of Masons and Knights Templar to his grandson. This starts, and continues, as a journey that tests not only the grandson's resolve to uncover a mystery, but the strength of a family and of even Masonry to find what is a great 'treasure'. The grandson has obviously received a wonderful education as an historian and possibly archaeologist and has to use this knowledge to uncover/find the 'treasure', one of riches.

Our next example of 'treasure' is the *Da Vinci Code*. This story revolves around the guarding of a treasure so great that it will destroy the foundation of the Western World. As we follow this 'treasure' it focuses on a secret order of men that have many dubious practices and frightful examples of cruelty in their maintaining the guarded secret of 'treasure' and a very educated man that discovers it. My mentioning this story is to merely relate the concept of 'treasure' as it is seen for a popular value. This whole story is based on a 'conspiracy theory' and secrets hidden from humanity and the world. It treats 'treasure' as something guarded and dangerous, a secret, of revelation that can be used for destruction.

Here is where I start to link the two stories. All of us have seen some common threads in the previous 'treasures'. The one constant link is that of knowledge and education, or for Masons, 'Light'. This is the link of the two stories and that it is knowledge/'Light' is true treasure, not the only treasure, but a bonafide treasure all the same.

As Masons we are constantly taught to improve ourselves in Masonry and seek 'Light'. The question that we as Masons have is where do we receive 'Light'? Is it just from the Blue Lodge? Is it from the extended rites of Freemasonry? Is it from our religion, our schools? I do not want to question anyones education, nor do I want to challenge any of the ways to seek 'Light'. I do want us, especially as Masons, to realize that there are many ways to find 'Light' and some of the beauty of Masonry is this knowledge.

Next turn.... 'Light' and knowledge are NOT the only 'treasures' that we as Masons have. Here is another and possibly the most important part of what I consider worthy and Masonic 'Treasure'. It is the 'treasure' of Brotherhood that touches our lives as True Treasure. Meeting Brothers, all Brothers, on the Level, acting on the Plumb, and parting on the Square.

*Short papers are intended to be read aloud in lodge meetings as a form of Masonic Education.  
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