

# Captain Cook Lodge 4636



## Fiji Gavels

In 1969 the Lodges of Fiji wished to mark the first visit of a Grand Master to their Island;

The Duke of Kent's visit to the island was not in connection with any Masonic occasion and not in the course of his duties as Grand Master; however the Freemasons in Fiji felt that the presence of the Grand Master in their midst was worthy of recognition, they therefore offered to Grand Lodge a set of gavels to mark the occasion, Grand Lodge felt that it would be more appropriate to hand these gavels to Captain Cook Lodge which met in the Captain Cook Memorial School just a few yards away from his birthplace view of the Great Circumnavigators connection between them and Fiji.

The gavels and their casket are inlaid with seven different woods; all native to Fiji, and a statement naming these woods accompanies the casket.

Bro. Justin Lewis, SW of the Lodge of Fiji, made the presentation to Captain Cook Lodge on behalf of the Grand Inspectorate of the Fiji Islands Group of Lodges at the installation of W. Bro. E. J. Adams, and were used in that ceremony for the first time and are still used at our Installations with an explanation of their history given to the Master and Wardens during the ceremony.

A few years ago the Gavels were loaned to the Grand Lodge Museum in Queen Street London to be part of their displays but have now been returned to the care of the Lodge.

The Captain Cook Lodge felt that they should make a reciprocating presentation to the Lodges of Fiji and finally it was decided that nothing would be more suitable than to present them with a Ships Bell, cast in a form similar to that used at our after meetings when we drink the "Ten O'clock Toast" to "Absent Brethren", that is to say, in a fashion similar to that which prevailed in the days of Captain Cook when four bells were rung to mark ten o'clock, and the man on "look out" would reply, "All's well sir, lights are burning bright" this response is made by the Tyler in our Lodge.

The bell is presently in the care of Lodge of Fiji 1931