



The Rubicon Masonic Society

Masonic Book Reviews
and Summaries

2021
Third Edition

INTRODUCTION

In our technology-driven world, we find untold multiple thousands of documents, papers, books, essays, commentaries, and articles about Freemasonry. Distinguishing the worthy from their opposite is difficult, especially for men new to the fraternity.

This work is not intended to be an exhaustive collection, but one that offers interested and serious-minded members a reference, or at least a starting point, that may assist them in finding materials and information to constructively supplement their journey.

This document was first prepared in 2013 for the Rubicon Masonic Society. Since then, the document has expanded and provided to over two-thousand Masons in hardcopy and electronic format.



Edition III Compiled and Edited by John W. Bizzack and Dan M. Kemble

February 2021

The Rubicon Masonic Society

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John W. Bizzack, Vice Chair
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ABOUT THE RUBICON MASONIC SOCIETY

Founded in 2013, The Rubicon Masonic Society is an invitation-only Masonic interest group of Master Masons in Lexington, Kentucky.

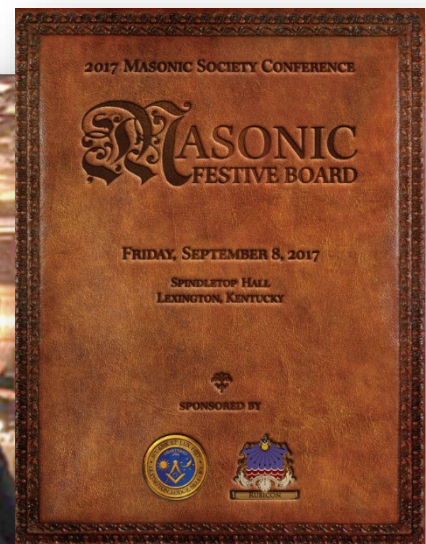
The purpose of the group is to study the historical aim and purpose of the fraternity and promote the understanding of Freemasonry through education and Masonic events.

Members of the Society are dedicated to the preservation of expressive fellowship as a means of transmitting wisdom, improving themselves, and the world around them. Meetings are held in Lexington where brothers enjoy a meal, fellowship, and Masonic education presentations along with purposeful discussions about our fraternity and, of course, Freemasonry.

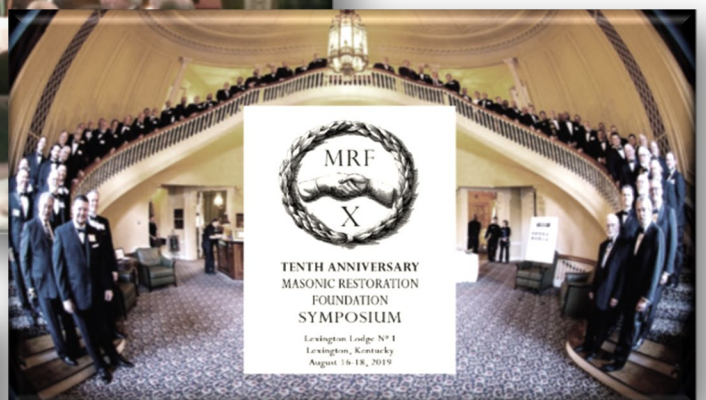


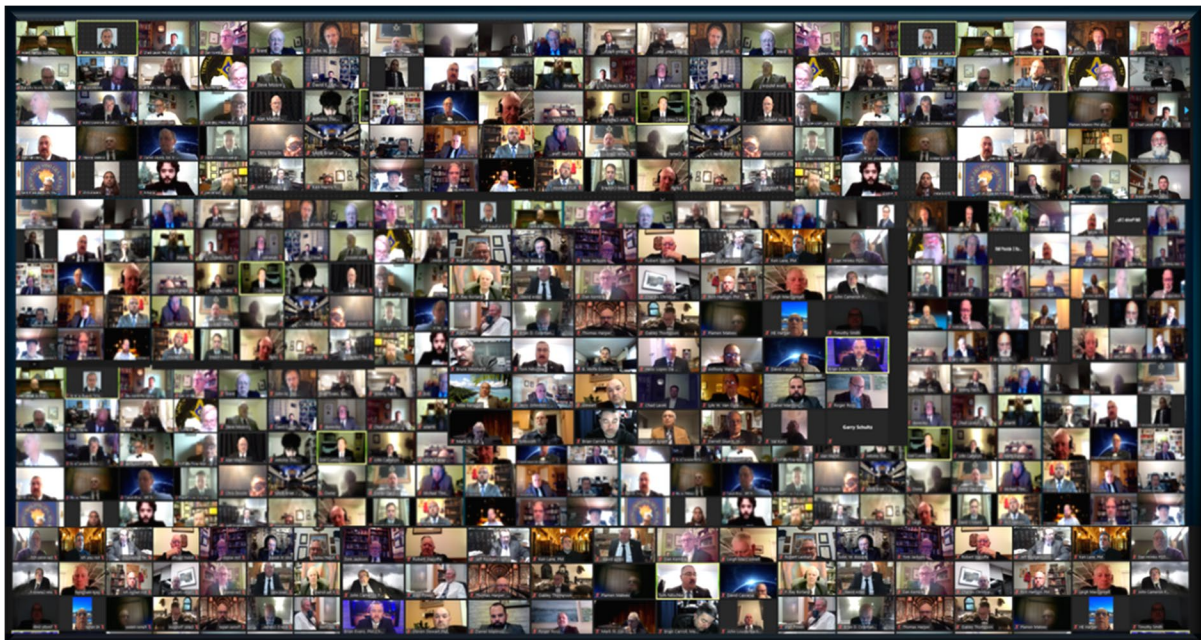
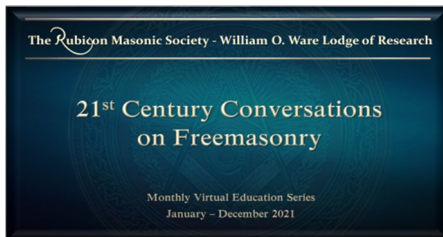
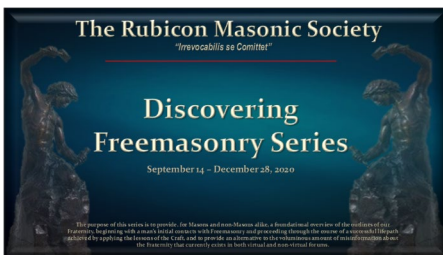
Member status in the Society requires these men remain actively engaged and involved with their respective lodges in offering their time and services for the benefit of the Craft. Furthermore, Member status is not considered a

substitute for involvement in regular Freemasonry.



Since 2013, Rubicon has sponsored and coordinated annual, formal Masonic Festive Boards, conferences in Lexington for the Masonic Restoration Foundation (MRF) and The Masonic Society, published papers and essays, and co-sponsored research programs and initiatives with the William O. Ware Lodge of Research in Kentucky. Since May 2020, Rubicon has been central in coordinating and delivering a thirty-two-part virtual education series scheduled through 2021. The series has drawn attendees from twenty American jurisdictions and five countries.





The Rubicon Masonic Society

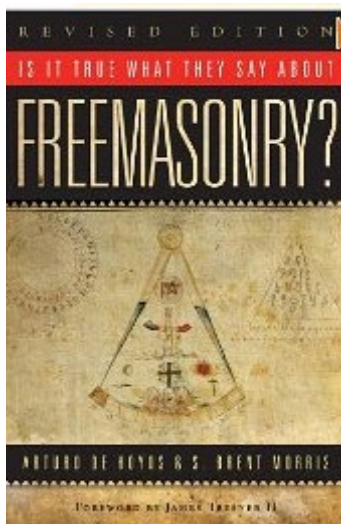
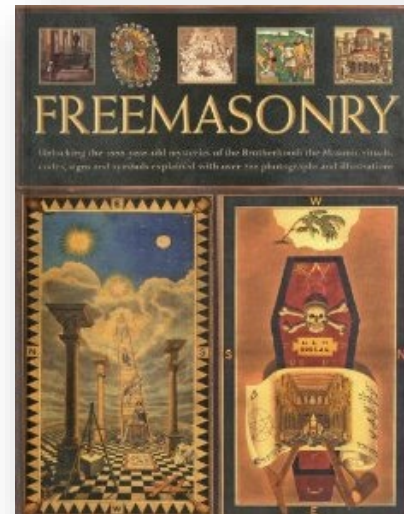
Masonic Books, Summaries & Reviews

The Secret History of Freemasonry:

Unlocking the 1000-year-old mysteries of the brotherhood: Masonic rituals, codes, signs, and symbols explained with over 300 photographs and illustrations

Jeremy Harwood

This timely book begins with the history and legends of Freemasonry, from its medieval origins, through the age of Enlightenment and the Founding Fathers of the USA, to the Victorians and up to the present day. The importance of three-dimensional symbolism, Solomon's Temple, Egyptian influences, Classical architecture, and the Lodge are all explored and illustrated with fabulous fine art images.



Is it True What They Say about Freemasonry?

Arturo de Hoyos and S. Brent Morris

For as long as there have been Freemasons, there has been a calculated effort to disparage and discredit them as well as their practices. But why does this incessant attack exist, and from where does it originate? In this insightful text, Masons Arturo de Hoyos and S. Brent Morris explore the origins of the anti-Masonic mind-set and delve into the falsehoods on which critics have based these perennial sentiments. Confronting opponents one at a time, the authors methodically debunk the myths that have surrounded Freemasonry since its establishment, investigating the motives and misconceptions that drive these antagonists to spread deceit about Masonic traditions. With close readings and thorough research, they uncover a history of fallacies that have been handed down through the generations, and ultimately expose anti-Masonic prejudices that reach almost three hundred years into the past.

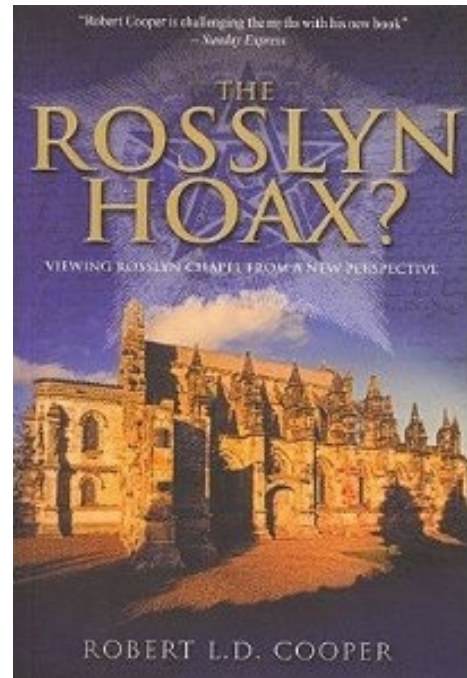
The Rosslyn Hoax?

Viewing the Rosslyn Chapel from a New Perspective

Robert L.D. Cooper.

Much has been written over the years about Rosslyn Chapel and its connection with Scottish Freemasonry, as well the St. Clair family, the Knights Templar, and a variety of "lost treasures." The author looks in depth at the validity of the published material and the legends associated with the Rosslyn Chapel exposing major differences between Scottish Freemasons' view of their history and heritage and that described by those who are not Freemasons.

Robert L. D. Cooper's book "The Rosslyn Hoax" is perhaps the most important book yet published about Rosslyn Chapel, the Templars, Scotland, and the Freemasons. What makes it so important is that he actually has physically investigated the many claims made about the enigmatic little church over the centuries, especially that made in the last few decades. He has laid his eye on so many artifacts described by others, and tracked them to their likely, provable meanings or sources. And he has traced the origins of so many legendary claims to their originators, instead of parroting the work of other "speculators."

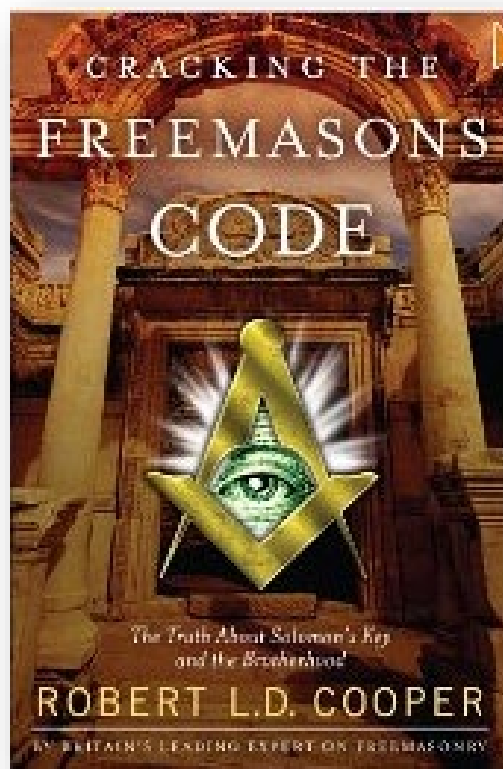


Although it is an important book, say it will not make everyone happy. And the reason why is because he slaughters an entire herd of sacred cattle with his investigations of the many claims of Templar involvement in Freemasonry's formation and the building of Rosslyn. Or to put it another way, if you believe *Born in Blood: The Lost Secrets of Freemasonry, The Temple and the Lodge*, and *Rosslyn: Guardian of the Secrets of the Holy Grail* to be the truth, Robert Cooper is your blasphemer.

Cooper is the curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland's library and museum, which possesses much original material that other authors have written about, but never actually gone to look at and study in person. Moreover, Cooper takes claims of Templar sites, burial markers and supposed influence and subjects them to the historical record or compares them to provable, authentic Templar sites. Most important of all, he places the origins of the in initial claims made (often by 17th and 18th century Scottish Masons) into their proper historical and social context, exploring just why Scottish Freemasons might have desired an older, more glorious heritage for their fraternity than those uppity English Masons down in London who were claiming it as their own. Cooper makes an outstanding case for forgeries, Victorian alterations, and a lot of wishful thinking.

Certainly, there is a place for mythology in this world, and it would be a pretty barren life indeed if we didn't have our share of story tellers who, with a gleam in their eye and a wink to the knowing, began by speaking the words, "Once upon a time..." Freemasonry is no different. Just as long as we understand what is myth and what is history, and the difference between them.

As I said, if you believe the Knights Templars saved the day at Bannockburn, built Rosslyn Chapel, and then morphed into the Freemasons, you should undoubtedly already be collecting logs and kindling for Robert Cooper's pyre. But if you are a seeker of the truth behind this curious and beautiful place, start with *The Rosslyn Hoax*. - *Review by Christopher L. Hodapp*



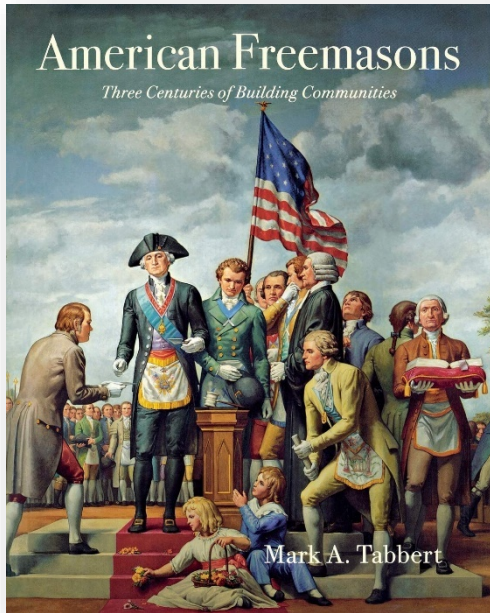
Cracking the Freemason's Code

Robert L.D. Cooper

Prompted by mounting public interest and provoked by controversial stories on the Freemason Society, respected historian and Scottish Freemason Robert L.D. Cooper offers a rare inside look at this secret brotherhood. As curator of the Scottish Masonic Museum and Library, the author has unparalleled access to material dictating the history and function of the Masons.

In *Cracking the Freemasons Code* Cooper explains the structure of the Masonic interculture, its connections to covert organizations, the identities of historical Masonic members (who include George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle), the locations of famous Masonic sites, and much more.

Readers will discover the true role Freemasonry has played throughout history, its purposes, the functions of its many members, and the way in which it has helped shape our modern society. Laying out the symbolism, beliefs, and ethos of a Mason, Cooper addresses the considerable amounts of controversy surrounding those practices. His book includes never-before-published images and seldom-seen documents to give readers a privileged view of this elect brotherhood.



American Freemasons A Century of Building Communities

Mark A. Tabbert

The real history of Freemasonry is arguably more interesting than all the tales woven about it. From colonial times to the present, Masons have always been central to community life in America. Mark Tabbert tells their story in a fresh and arresting way. This informative and visually delightful book introduces us to a vital aspect of our nation's civic history.

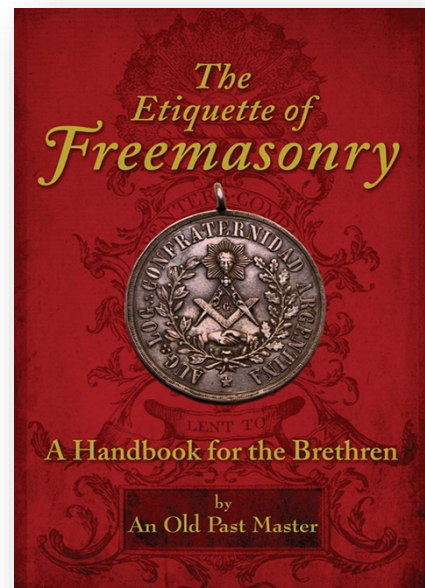
Published in conjunction with the National Heritage Museum, this extravagantly illustrated volume offers an overview of Freemasonry's origins in seventeenth-century Scotland and England before exploring its evolving role in American history, from

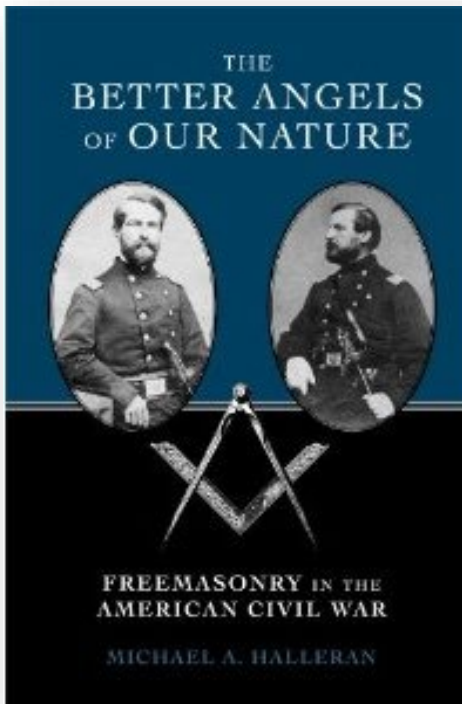
the Revolution through the labor and civil rights movements, and into the twenty-first century. American Freemasons explores some of the causes for the rise and fall of membership in the fraternity and why it has attracted men in such large numbers for centuries. American Freemasons is the perfect introduction to understanding a society that, while shrouded in mystery, has played an integral role in the lives and communities of millions of Americans. Tabbert's thorough history is particularly useful to those seeking understanding how this 300-year-old fraternity continues today. - *Reviewed by John W. Bizzack*

Rules of Masonic Etiquette

A Handbook for the Brethren

Unfortunately, Masonic Etiquette ...or Blue Lodge Etiquette, is largely unpublished as well as unspoken, therefore, up until now, it has been more difficult to learn its rules and nuances. You may study ritual work, degree work, floor work and know all Masonry's glorious history, Masonic symbols, jewels, etc. but there is very little written about how to comport yourself so they do not look foolish or be regarded as disrespectful. Some are small things, and some are not, but your Lodge conduct is continually on display. Few Masonic mentors include a list of proper Lodge behavior, as they have learned it, themselves, incident-by-incident, and usually learned by them after their having made an error and being kindly informed by another member as to the correct Masonic etiquette of the situation. - *Reviewed by John W. Bizzack*





The Better Nature of Our Angels *Freemasonry in the American Civil War*

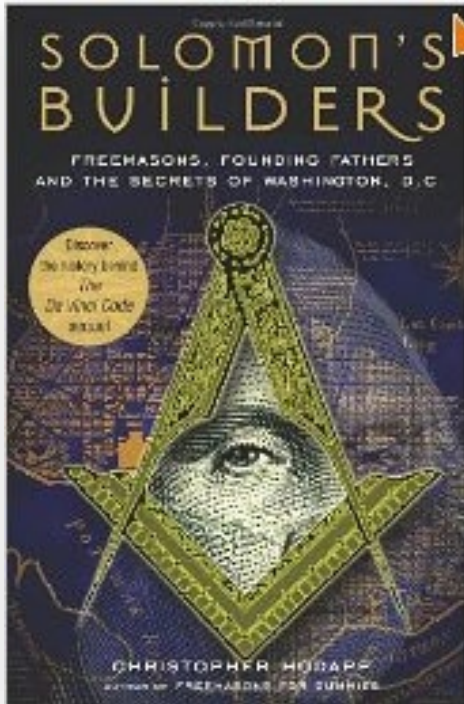
Michael A. Halleran

Kansas Past Grand Master, Mike Halleran has written the first in-depth study of the Freemasons during the Civil War.

One of the enduring, yet little examined, themes in Civil War lore is the widespread belief that on the field of battle, and afterward, members of Masonic lodges gave aid and comfort to wounded or captured enemy Masons, often at great personal sacrifice and danger. This work is a deeply researched examination of the recorded, practical effects of Freemasonry among Civil War participants on both sides.

From first-person accounts culled from regimental histories, diaries, and letters, Michael A. Halleran has constructed an overview of 19th-century American Freemasonry in general and Masonry in the armies of both North and South in particular, and provided telling examples of how Masonic brotherhood worked in practice. Halleran details the response of the fraternity to the crisis of secession and war and examines acts of assistance to enemies on the battlefield and in POW camps.

The author examines carefully the major Masonic stories from the Civil War, in particular the myth that Confederate Lewis A. Armistead made the Masonic sign of distress as he lay dying at the high-water mark of Pickett's charge at Gettysburg. *Review by Dan Kemble*



Solomon's Builders *Freemasons, Founding Fathers and the Secrets of Washington, D.C.*

Christopher L. Hodapp

***DID THE FREEMASONS CREATE THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA?***

Step back in time to the birth of a revolutionary new republic and discover how the utopian ideals of a visionary secret society laid the foundation for the most powerful nation on earth. Follow George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, and other Founding Fathers as they transform the democratic principles of their Masonic lodges into a radical new nation.

Solomon's Builders unravels history from myth as it takes you on a Freemason's tour of Washington, D.C. It reveals the evidence of Masonic influence during the construction of America and its new capital, including clues hidden in plain sight:

- Masonic connections to national monuments;
- Puzzling pentagrams and symbolism in city streets; and
- Washington's temples of the "Widow's Sons."

Solomon's Builders relates the true stories of our visionary Founders, and the fascinating meaning behind the cryptic codes, enigmatic symbols and intriguing architecture that was the basis for the sequel to *The Lost Symbol*, Dan Brown's sequel to the *Da Vinci Code*.

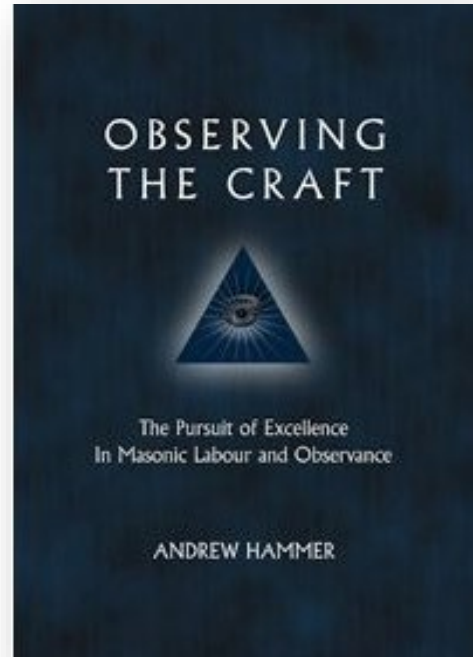
Observing the Craft

The Pursuit of Excellence in Masonic Labour and Observance

Andrew Hammer

Written by Andrew Hammer, Past Master of one of the world's most historic Masonic lodges (Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22), *Observing the Craft* is a manifesto of sorts for the observant Mason, who seeks quality over quantity in every aspect of Freemasonry. It is a stringent argument for the Symbolic Lodge as being the whole of Masonry, calling for nothing but the utmost effort and commitment to be put into the operation of a Masonic lodge and its meetings.

REVIEW: There are many books about the history of Freemasonry, but *Observing the Craft*, by WB. Andrew Hammer falls within the much rarer category of books about the future of our Ancient Institution. Hammer explicitly affirms Masonry's role as "a philosophical society," a sacred initiatic process focused on the internal and diligent labor of each Brother to attain personal perfection. He points to the loss of this focus as the cause of the Craft's falling numbers and its inability to provide a truly enlightening experience for our contemporary Brethren.



Brother Hammer does not mince words; the first chapter states, "[If] for you Masonry is about simple brotherhood, good times and philanthropy, and should not be bothered with contemplating anything beyond what can be easily and completely understood by all... you have gone through all of Masonry in as much darkness as when you started... And this is the greatest danger facing the Craft today."

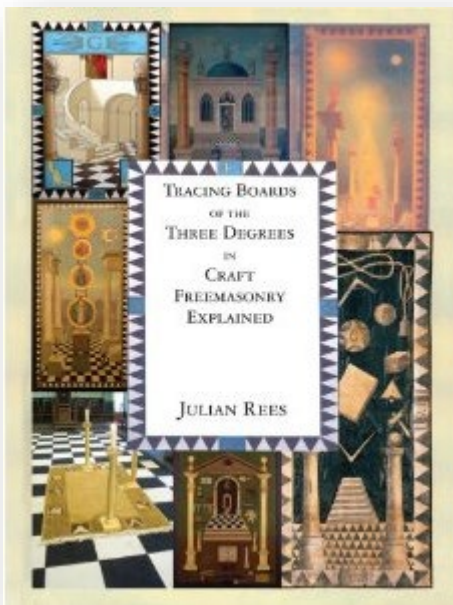
What Hammer does, however, is remind each of us that our Fraternity is a labor of which we are all blessed and privileged to be a part, and one that should be protected from lazy members and unworthy potential members. He advises that every attempt to make our Order more appealing to the profane world, every time we advance a man through the Degrees prior to him demonstrating that he has committed his mind and energies to self-improvement, every time we engage in any activity that diminishes the sacred confines of our Lodge room, we are doing a disservice to ourselves and abdicating the responsibility we adopted upon being Raised as Master Masons.

This book is not some tough-love pap; it is not a series of lectures telling contemporary Freemasons what they have done wrong. Instead, as the book states that Masonry "demands of its members the highest standards in all areas of its labours," *Observing the Craft* spells out a clearly defined series of steps wherein a Lodge can maintain "the insistence on observing and maintaining those standards." From Investigations, to Candidate preparation, to decorum within the Lodge room, to striving for excellence in Ritual, to sensory stimulation, to the Festive Board, Hammer's work provides an attainable vision of how to surpass the limitations of the common man in order to meet the mandate for

excellence implicit in Freemasonry. There is no room for laziness, nor is there berth given to Brothers who make excuses for sloppy Masonry. Instead, this book provides inspiration to the youngest Master Mason and the most seasoned Grand Lodge Officer alike, on how we as a Brotherhood can--and indeed, should--utilize the principles of Masonry to elevate man from his station in life, and usher in true and enduring Light.

There are elements of Hammer's book that are likely to cause offense. But with each potential affront comes nuanced and well-reasoned arguments why none of us who would call ourselves Masons should do anything but strive for excellence in our Masonic labors.

Observing the Craft is the single most important book on contemporary Masonry that this Brother has ever had the pleasure to read. - *Review: An Attainable Vision for Excellence, 2011, Christopher E. Murphy.*



Tracing Boards of the Three Degrees

Julian Rees

Although all Freemasons will be familiar with the Tracing Boards - painted or printed boards developed in the early years of Freemasonry which are used in Lodges to illustrate Masonic symbols during lectures - little has been published on them. Haunch's book, "Tracing Boards: Their Development and their Designers," has been in print for over 40 years but is primarily an historical treatise. There is no publication which adequately explains the Tracing Boards, their use and the meaning of their symbolism, and this book fills that gap in the market. The first part of the book will give

a history of the development and use of Tracing Boards; the book then concentrates on explaining the role of the Tracing Boards in the First, Second and Third Degrees, and the specific symbolism of the Board used for each. Detailed descriptions of the Boards are given, particularly those used in the three degrees by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, known as the Harris Boards, which contain the elements of most of the Tracing Boards used in lodges throughout Britain. - *Reviewed by John W. Bizzack*

Freemasonry: A Journey Through Ritual and Symbol

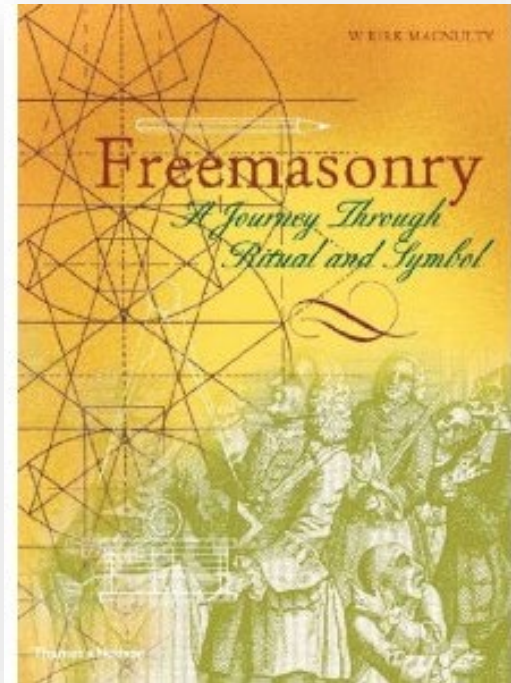
W. Kirk MacNulty

If you read this book you will have more understanding of the original MEANING of Freemasonry and Masonic ritual than 90% of actual modern Freemasons.

It is well explained in this short, well written, and beautifully illustrated book what all the symbolism of the First, Second, and Third degrees were actually intended to mean. This is because the author is as well versed in the mystery religions and sacred architecture of classical times as were the founders of the Craft. Indeed, you come to realize that there is a comprehensive and satisfying overview of universal spiritual wisdom in these rituals, of the self, soul, and spirit (the three Principle Officers.) This is not trivial stuff. Indeed, it is pointed out that the ultimate goal of the Third Degree is to actually die to one's self and be reborn. This was also the end goal of the old Mystery Religions- and of any spiritual path worthy of the name.

There are no "secrets" revealed here. The only secrets are those found in your own soul after deep introspection. But these rituals do point the way, and this booklet does prepare your mind for the proper path.

If you would contemplate profound, mind-expanding truths that will move you closer to the universal architect and his creation, then this is your book. If you are primarily interested in fancy rings, funny hats, and go-carts, then perhaps you should look elsewhere.

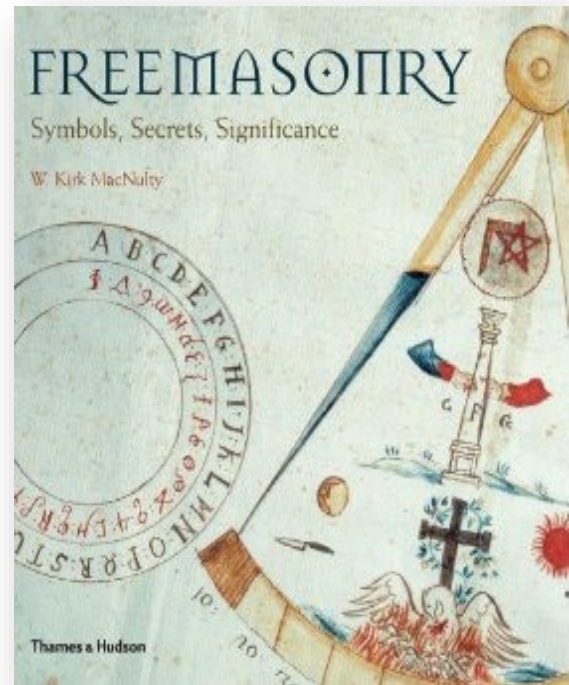


Freemasonry: Symbols, Secrets and Significance

W. Kirk MacNulty

The ultimate book on Freemasonry, with a rich collection of symbols and lore that illuminate the famous fraternal society.

"The Craft," with an estimated four million Freemasons worldwide, remains the largest fraternal organization in the world. Written by an active Freemason, this book comprehensively explains Freemasonry through its fascinating visual culture, rich in mysterious and arcane symbols of life, death, and morality that have evolved over centuries of secrecy and that have profound philosophical meaning.



Ceremonial regalia, paintings, manuscripts, tracing boards, ritual swords, furniture, prints, ephemera, and architecture: the book is copiously illustrated with many specially researched items from Freemasonry archives. This unrivaled compendium will appeal both to Freemasons wishing to learn the full story of their order and to a general audience that is intensely curious about this traditionally secretive and closed movement.

The coverage includes:

- The historical and philosophical background of the order, including the Knights Templar, the medieval stonemasons' guilds, and esoteric traditions such as Kabbalah and Hermeticism.
- Its history from the earliest Masons to the present day, including famous members and scandals.
- Its geographical spread from Japan to California, Sweden to South Africa.

300 illustrations, 200 in color

Discovering Freemasonry in Context

The Laboratory of Moral Science

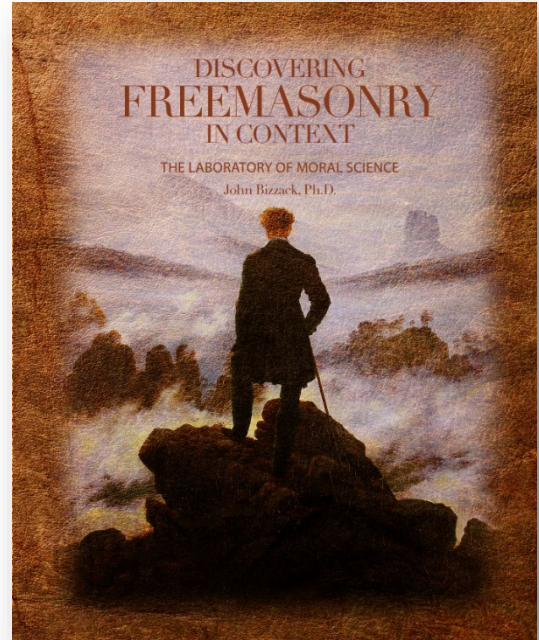
John W. Bizzack

This book provides a welcome and enjoyable reminder of the importance of thinking in context and especially doing so when researching Freemasonry and history in general. Written with an eye-opening and balanced style, it encourages us with many examples to put things in context and look with clear vision to validate our thinking – and not fall prey to evidence-troubled theories and the thinking they typically cause. Jam-packed with detailed information about all sorts of high-lights and sidelights of the Masonic fraternity's passage through time, from the earliest presumed roots on through the most recent times.

Encyclopedic in coverage, the book offers something for Masons as well as non-Mason – straightforward, direct, and informative. An important contribution to Masonic literature.

- *Review by: Jim Tresner, Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, Scottish Rite Journal*

From the book: *"The greatest ignorance conceivable is when we reject something we know nothing about or know so little for certain about that we instantly adopt conclusions based on personal bias based on little or no valid evidence. Wrongheadedness about Freemasonry stems from ignorance, a lack of distinction between what is known and not known, and an inability to put legends in context."*



The Secrets of Masonic Washington

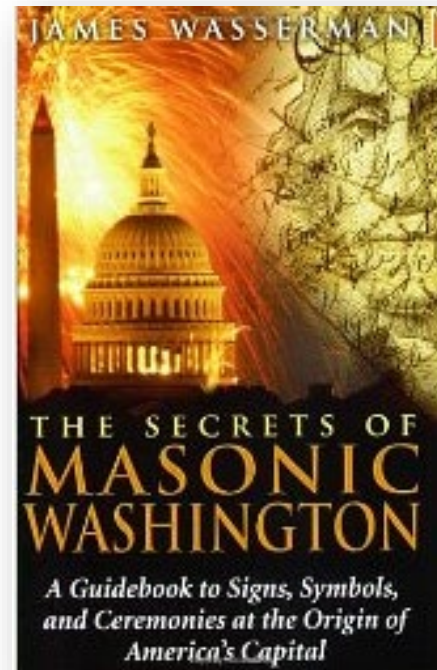
James Wasserman

A fully illustrated guide to the Masonic origins and present-day Masonic sites of Washington, D.C.

- Provides a walking tour of the Masonic sites and symbols of the city
- Explores the critical role of Freemasonry in the founding of the United States

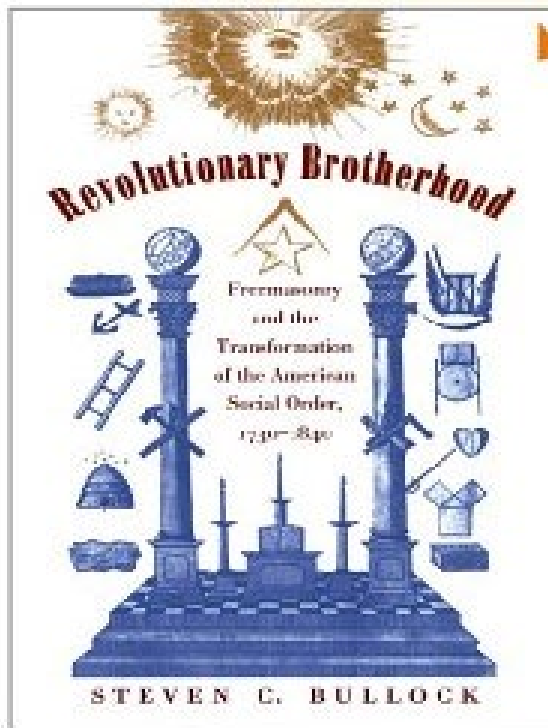
In this guide to the Masonic underpinnings of America's capital, James Wasserman addresses the esoteric symbols and the spiritual and visionary ideas that he believes lie hidden in the buildings, monuments, and physical layout of Washington, D.C. His walking tour of these Masonic sites includes both the expected and unexpected--from the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol Building to the Federal Reserve complex, National Academy of Sciences, and the Library of Congress. Each location includes descriptions, interpretations, and explanations of the Masonic symbols and ritualistic meanings hidden within its structure, all illustrated with contemporary color and historic black-and-white photographs.

Wasserman offers his explanation for the purpose behind these symbols and Masonic designs and how all these monuments fit into the spiritual vision held by the founding fathers. He addresses the role that Freemasonry played in the 18th-century Enlightenment movement and shows how in the New World of America, free of monarchy and aristocracy, the ideas of the Enlightenment were in a position to flourish. The book will be welcomed by students of esoteric art and symbolism, admirers of American history, and devotees of Dan Brown novels and *National Treasure* movies.



Revolutionary Brotherhood

Steven C. Bullock



Revolutionary Brotherhood is a major work of historical scholarship. In the first comprehensive history of a fraternity known to outsiders primarily for its secrecy and rituals, Bullock traces Freemasonry through its first century in America. He follows the order from its origins in Britain and its introduction into North America in the 1730s to its near-destruction by a massive anti-Masonic movement almost a century later and its subsequent reconfiguration into the brotherhood we know today.

With a membership that included Franklin, Washington, Paul Revere, and Andrew Jackson, Freemasonry is, of course, fascinating in its own right, but Bullock also places the movement at the center of the transformation of American society and culture from the colonial era to the rise of Jacksonian democracy.

This thoroughly researched account of the influence of Freemasonry on America's early development and the changes that were occurring in the fraternity during that time shows how the ideals of the Revolution became closely related to the transformed fraternity in America.

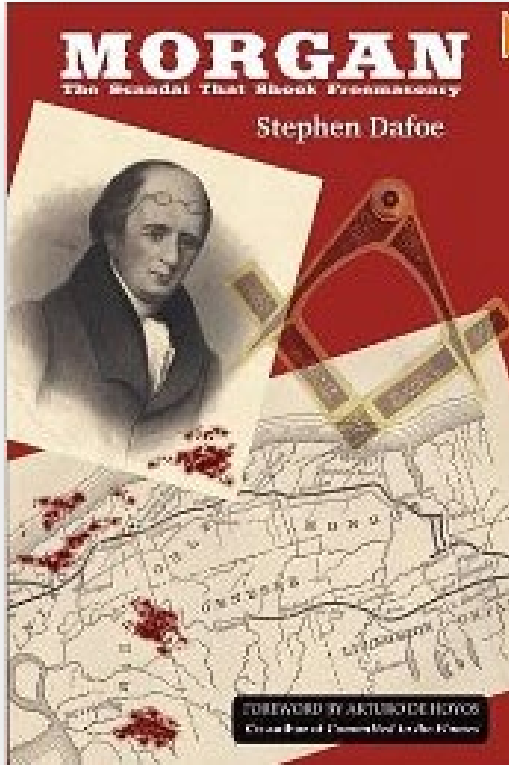
Using lodge records, members' reminiscences and correspondence, and local and Masonic histories, Bullock links Freemasonry with the changing ideals of early American society. His research is exhaustive, his argument learned and subtle, his prose clear, and his insights numerous.

As a non-Mason, Bullock's approach to the Craft is very objective. The book is both fair and respectful. - *Reviewed by John W. Bizzack*

Morgan

The Scandal that Shook Freemasonry

Stephen Dafoe



For more than a century, Freemasons have held fast to the belief that Masons did not murder William Morgan; rather they deported him to Canada. In "Morgan: The Scandal That Shook Freemasonry," author, journalist and Freemason Stephen Dafoe disassembles that myth while reassembling the trail of evidence that remains to uncover the facts behind this 183-year-old Masonic cold case.

Stephen Dafoe produces an honest and engaging look at the disappearance of William Morgan, an event that haunted Freemasons for years to come and perhaps continues to do so today. His excellent narrative style offers a readable and intriguing mystery. The book is, however, not a work of fiction. It is backed profusely with factual documentation given in the book, yet in a fashion so as not to disrupt the enjoyment of the story. Dafoe's suppositions are rare. His conclusions on what possibly occurred to Morgan are well-reasoned in light of the facts and face up to

possibilities some may find uncomfortable.

Truth is more important than comfort for Dafoe, which makes this a very readable and enjoyable examination of the available facts. A great treatment of this controversial subject. -
Reviewed by John W. Bizzack

NOTE: See page 44 for John W. Bizzack's, *Age of Unreason: Dissecting the Infancy of the Morgan Affair and Its Aftermath* another work that explores the Morgan Affair from a different perspective.

Albert Pike

The Man Behind the Monument

James Tresner

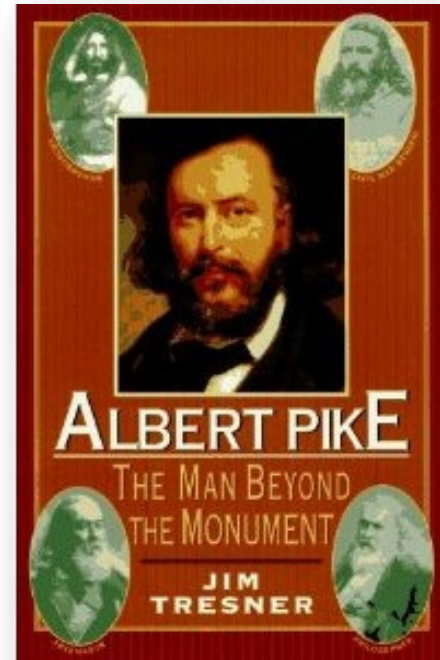
As the author points out, most Scottish Rite Masons are almost afraid to approach the subject of Albert Pike. Many find that his writings, written in the verbose Victorian style of the 19th century, are beyond their comprehension. And the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry hasn't helped matters any by turning Pike into an almost mythological figure. As a result, most of us have been overwhelmed by him and have not felt worthy enough to approach the subject of so much awe and mystery.

Tresner does an amazing job in showing us all that Pike is indeed approachable. He peels away the mythology and shows us that, while worthy of our respect and admiration, Pike was as human as any of us. Tresner fleshes out this character that has been cast in stone for the last hundred years, thus making both the man and his writings more accessible to us today. Even if you are not a Mason and don't know anything about the Scottish Rite, you will still enjoy this look at one of the most amazing figures of the 19th century. He was a lawyer, a civil war general, an author, an explorer, a musician and an early advocate of Native American rights and wrote about philosophy and religion and updated the rituals of the Scottish Rite.

It is a shame that more attention hasn't been paid to the amazing life of this individual. This book is very readable, as it is written in down to earth language. The author is not out to impress anybody with multi-syllabic language. He is not a scholar trying to impress other scholars. Neither does he insult your intelligence by writing underneath you.

Unlike most biographies, which start at the subject's birth and chronologically list his achievements until death, Tresner devotes each chapter to a separate aspect of Pike's life. There is a chapter devoted to his relationship with the American Indians, one devoted to his lifelong pursuit of knowledge in Freemasonry, even one about his collection of pipes. Thus, we can truly appreciate not only Pike's incredible achievements but those small character traits and quirks which made him so likable to those who knew him. By learning more about Pike, we learn about ourselves and about the infinite possibilities that life has to offer.

- Reviewed by John W. Bizzack



A Pilgrim's Path

John J. Robinson

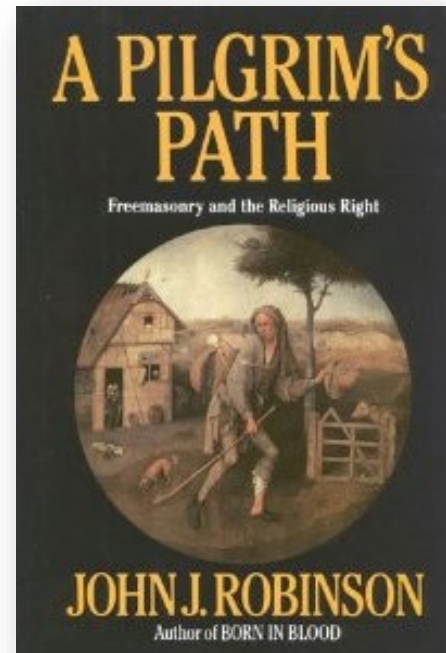
There are other works which are much longer and go into much more detail, but page for page this is probably one of the best books written, about or for, Masons.

Furthermore, it would be a perfect read for any man about to join the Brotherhood; and his family, especially his wife, should read it as soon as he is finished. John Robinson writes in a style that not only can be understood by someone who has never been exposed to Masonry but it also holds the total interest of someone who has been a Mason for years and who grew up going to Lodge functions.

Robinson spends the first section of the book taking on the Anti-Masons of the world. He has, without a doubt spent a lot of time making a study of Anti-Masonic writings for he is able to take their arguments one at a time and expose the deception and outright lies on which they make a living. For example, Pat Robertson, James Holly, and others like them take a document credited to Albert Pike which makes it appear like Pike, if not all Masons do indeed worship Lucifer. This document was in fact written by a man named Leo Taxil, who would later freely admit he made the whole thing up and that Pike had nothing to do with it. Taxil, in fact, took great delight in telling people how he had pulled the wool over their eyes and had made a fortune in so doing. Robertson, in his book, *A New World Order*, attributes this document to Pike. Either he didn't research his work too well or he simply didn't care about the truth.

Finally, Robinson delivers several great ideas to help Masonry not only survive but grow. Several of the mistaken ideas he mentions that he has heard from Masons themselves I have heard also. As he points out, to exclude your family from your Masonic life is to invite problems. Masons everywhere should listen to his advice and Masonry can't help but benefit.

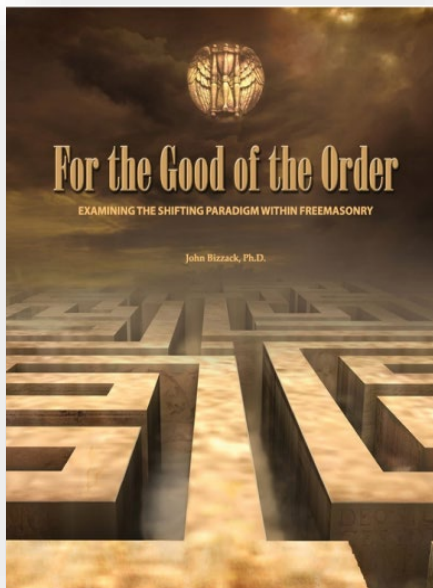
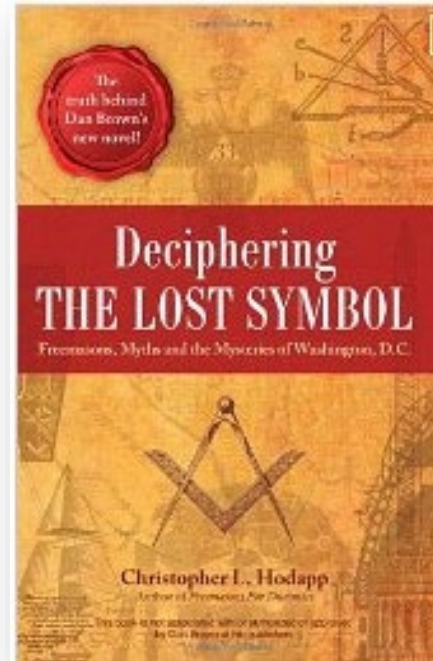
In short, if you are curious about Masonry or have already been given a bad impression of Masonry but still have an open mind, read this book. - *Reviewed by John W. Bizzack*



Deciphering the Lost Symbol – Discover the Secretive Brotherhood Behind Dan Brown's The Lost Symbol

Christopher Hodapp

The influence of Freemasons on the founding of Washington, D.C., is evident throughout the city's buildings, statues, and monuments--but it's written in coded symbols that few people understand. Dan Brown's new thriller sends symbologist detective Robert Langdon through the capital to unravel its Masonic secrets. Now in *Deciphering The Lost Symbol*, Freemason expert Chris Hodapp compares each clue and plot twist in Brown's story to the true facts.



For the Good of the Order *Examining the Shifting Paradigm within Freemasonry*

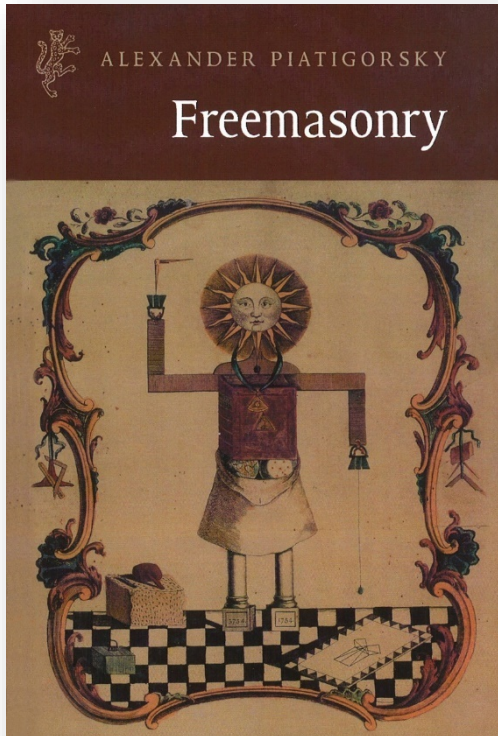
John W. Bizzack

What has transpired in North American Freemasonry since the 1960s has been influenced by not only factors external to the institution, but less obvious internal ones as well. To better understand where the Craft has been, and where it will likely be in the future, requires a balanced examination in context, a context wherein Freemasonry is viewed as a whole, not in fragments.

For the Good of the Order examines long-standing attitude regarding membership decline and lack of engagement by men who enter the West Gate with initial enthusiasm, but soon find their zeal for active involvement in the Fraternity waning. This panoramic view and examination illustrates that much of what the institution faces today, and in the future, regarding membership decline, is much more likely to be effectively addressed by what can be seen slowly emerging in Masonry today around the country: a return to past traditions and practicing traditional Freemasonry in our lodges.

Freemasonry

Alexander Piatigorsky



Cited as "a man who was widely considered to be one of the more significant thinkers of the age," Piatigorsky offers this study considering the institution of Freemasonry from the point of view of both Masons and their critics, as well as from the author's own.¹

Piatigorsky looks at Freemasonry as a phenomenon: on the one hand he analyzes it as an object of thought (what do Masons think of Masonry and themselves and what do others think); and on the other hand, he examines Masonry as an object in itself, the Lodges, rituals, signs, and symbols, their habits, language, and speeches. He also offers his personal point of view.

While Piatigorsky's thesis demands a more sustained analysis in various parts, it remains interesting to learn how scholars who are not Freemasons research and perceive its long history and impact on society.

In the first section, it gives an outline of Masonic history, from the foundation of the Grand Lodge in 1717 through its major role in Enlightenment Europe and the American War of Independence, its many tribulations, and schisms in the 19th century to the present day.

Piatigorsky also looks at one of the main sources of Masonic history, Anderson's Constitutions, which documents Masonic practice and the Masons' mythical history back to Hiram Abiff, and the reign of King Solomon.

Freemasonry, he argues, is a survivor, whose defining characteristics – "political non-involvement, social abstractedness, religious vagueness and ideological unseriousness" – have existed *almost* unchanged since the beginning of the 18th century, quietly defying history and the march of time". *Review by John W. Bizzack*

¹ Parfitt, Tudor (5 January 2010). "Alexander Piatigorsky obituary". *The Guardian*.

Island Freemasonry

The Final Bastion of the Observance Lodge

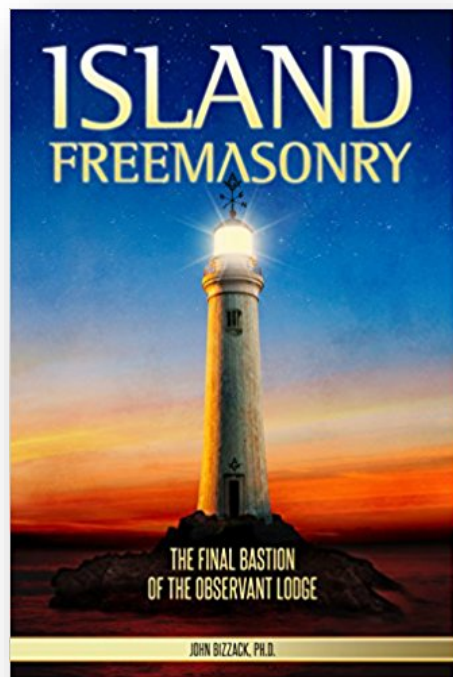
John W. Bizzack

Once a cornerstone of civil society, in the last one hundred years American Freemasonry subsided in influence, popularity, and relevance. Membership numbers steadily declined for the last sixty-years, resulting in nearly empty lodge rooms and shuttered temples across the nation.

Why? What changed?

The rush to expand Freemasonry without the essential infrastructure to support and pass on its aim, purpose and heritage is found at the root of the reason mainstream American Masonry continues to decline. From Anderson's Constitutions to the Morgan Affair to the Post-War Boom in membership, John Bizzack's latest book *Island Freemasonry: The Final Bastion of the Observant Lodge* examine the evolution of American Freemasonry from its arrival in colonial times to the twenty-first century. In this groundbreaking new study, Bizzack traces the roots of Masonry's decline by charting how the American mainstream Freemasonry lost its way, departing from the original design and blueprint in a never-ending quest for numbers.

Through meticulous and thoroughly documented scholarship, the author documents the formation and spread of the Order in North America and charts its early successes until the cataclysm: the Morgan Affair, after which everything changed. In the period that follows, nothing escapes Bizzack's gaze as he explores social evolution, grand lodge policies and local lodge practices which contributed to the fraternity's reversals. But beyond documenting the ills suffered by the American Freemasonry, Bizzack reveals the prescription for its recovery: a return to the core values of the order emphasizing proper instruction, education, and preparation of leadership. *Review by Michael A. Halleran, Editor, PGM, Kansas*



The Mason's Words

The History & Evolution of the American Masonic Ritual

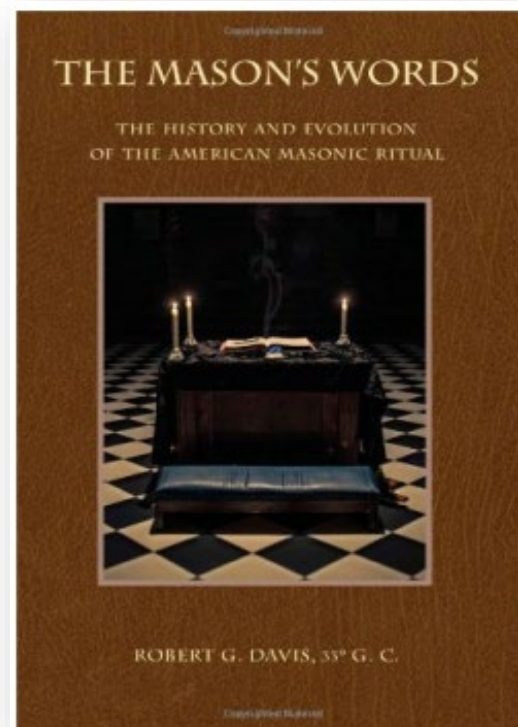
Robert G. Davis

Freemasonry is entirely built around traditions. From time immemorial, those who have belonged to the world's oldest and largest fraternal order have metaphorically passed between the pillars of Solomon's Temple to nurture within themselves a harmonious bond between tradition and modernity.

This is the story of the Masonic ritual, the language and ceremonial forms that have evolved into the present structure of American Freemasonry, defined its lodge space, and offered its members the same stabilizing influence of instruction that has prevailed on every continent for nearly 400 years.

The reader will discover that the language of the world's oldest fraternal society has also made its own interesting journey and been tested by the most powerful and the most humbling of men. The result is that, in Masonic lodges across America, and, indeed, the world, men from every walk of life, of all ages, every social category and every spiritual and philosophical conviction are able to find a basis for reflection on who they are, why they are here, and what has meaning to them.

By its common language delivered in a common culture of fraternal relationship, Freemasonry is enabled to exemplify a universal brotherhood of man. This is the story of the Mason's words, the history and evolution of the American Masonic ritual. It is an interesting bit of history that is perhaps all the more fascinating because it is so rarely known. Davis's book is one of the more important books of the past several decades.



Operative Freemasonry

A Manual for Restoring Light and Vitality to the Fraternity

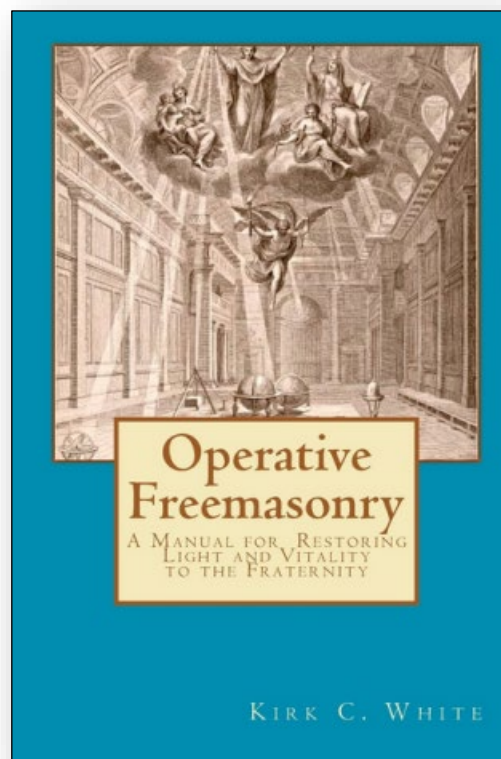
Kirk C. White

Every new Mason learns that "operative masonry" refers to the art and practice of stone working while "speculative masonry" refers to Freemasonry. "Operative Freemasonry" is a manual on the art and practice of Freemasonry.

By providing detailed information and advice often overlooked or forgotten on how Freemasonry "works," this book explores how the fraternity can actually "make good men better" and keep them active in our lodges and chapters.

Areas covered include: - Light Defined - Secrets and Mysteries - Prospective Freemasons: how to find them - Framing the Sacred: Preparation for Lodge - Openings and Closings - Initiation: what it is and how it works - Mentorship: how to keep our brothers active - Daily Freemasonry.

This book is indeed a resource for every Mason who seeks to bring Light and Vitality back to his lodge and the fraternity. *Review by Dan M. Kemble*



The Renaissance of Freemasonry

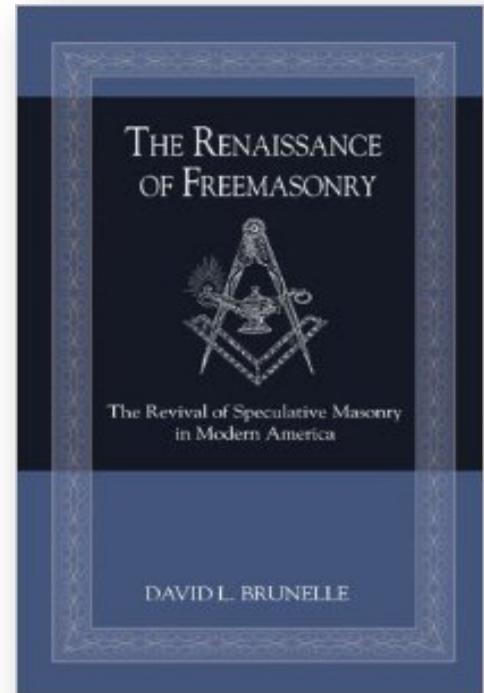
The Revival of Speculative Masonry in Modern America

David L. Brunelle

Books like this will change Freemasonry permanently for the better. When it comes to Masonic books, bigger isn't always better. The Renaissance of Freemasonry packs a lot of "thought" into a pocket-sized volume suitable for mass distribution to Masonic candidates, new Master Masons and Lodge Officers alike. This book should be mandatory reading for all Masons.

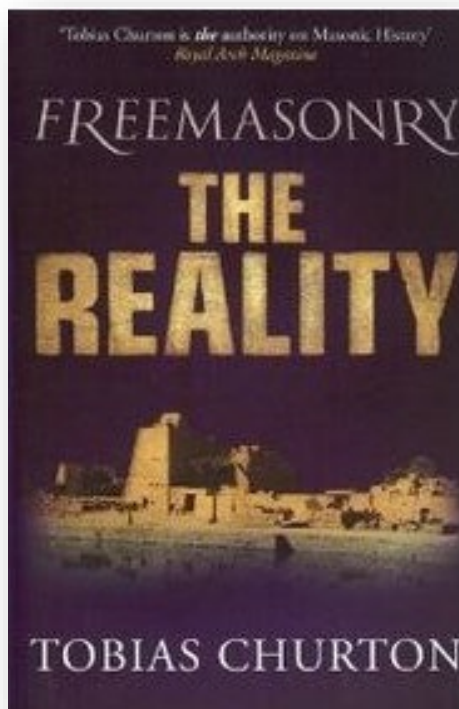
The topics covered are clearly presented and cause immediate reflection. This book allows the individual Mason to decipher how he might be a part of the current Masonic "renaissance" of which the author speaks. The content even spills over into practical application in one's personal life. Leaders of other fraternal groups will also find value in reading this book.

I get approached by a lot of young men interested in learning more about Masonry; I will give copies of this digestible reference to each person that approaches me. Rather than a historical dialog about what Masonry has been, this is an insightful and introspective work on what Masonry is now, and is becoming. Aspiring seekers that are coming to Masonry's door express desire for meaning, and that is what the symbolism and allegory of Masonry's teaching is meant to provide. Mr. Brunelle does a good job addressing that desire; his work is a beneficial for current Masons, line officers, and those who are looking to petition a Lodge alike. - **Review by Andrew Hammer**



Freemasonry - The Reality

Tobias Churton



Churton is not just a Freemason writing on the fraternity; he is also a scholar and professor at Exeter University, and Lecturer in Freemasonry and Rosicrucians at the Center for the Study of Western Esotericism. Churton's published works span the breadth of western mystery traditions, encompassing the early Gnostics, Rosicrucian's, and Freemasons, which pull together many of the offshoots and ideas that went into the composition of the groups today. Churton's work however is less about dazzling aggrandizement of a mysterious past, focusing instead on the known and with a meticulous hand, reconstructing the holes of the fraternity's formation.

In *Freemasonry – The Reality*, Churton leaves no stone unturned, and with his meticulous hand reconstructs the modern-day mystery tradition from its most extreme foundational stories buried in the footnotes of history. He follows each loose thread back into the whole garment of the present-day craft. In this work he refuses to hold back any punches in his analysis that our

present manifestation of the craft is every bit a result of our manufactured past, from the clever arrangement of James Anderson and the constitutions of 1723 and the marrying of the “Speculative” with the “Operative” tracing back the foundation of Masonry's earliest of ideas to the early Renaissance work of author Pico Mirandola and the Oration on the Dignity of Man.

One aspect that stood out to me in crisp detail was the way in which Churton pulls together several seemingly unrelated bits of history, and finds their common connection that brings them into a coherent theme. From early meeting notes, names on a register, royal archives on the guilds, and diary mentions, each of these fragments become the framework by which he assembles the whole work. By digging deep into symbols that, at one time, held great significance, he re-illuminates them so as to demystify and put them back into a proper perspective. Case in point, the pentagram, reminding the reader of the earlier Masonic appellation (under Robert Moray) to represent AGAPA (or the Greek word *agapein*), or love, a geometric perfection. – *Review by John W. Bizzack*

Laudable Pursuit:

A 21st Century Response to Dwight Smith.

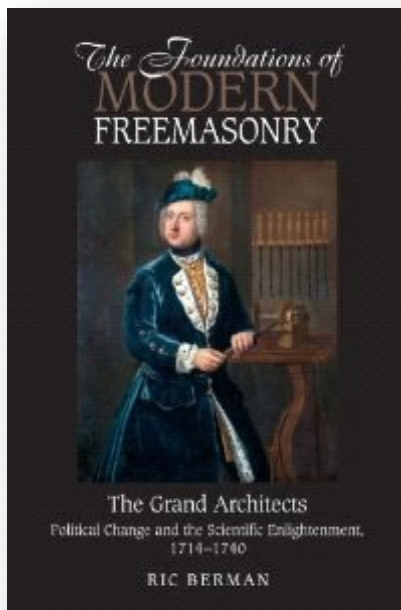
Knights of the North

Laudable Pursuit is paper written in 2005 and distributed in booklet format by a group known as The Knights of the North. The document is 38 pages in length and is a response to two books written by Dwight Smith, past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Indiana. Smith's two books, written in the early 1960s warned the Masonic fraternity of the direction it was headed - few heeded Smith's words. Laudable Pursuit has caught the hearts of many Masons today; however, there are those that find it too harsh in its criticisms. Few Masonic books speak with such directness.

– *Review by John W. Bizzack*



NOTE: See *Whither Are We Traveling?* and *Why This Confusion At The Temple* on page 47 of this booklet.



The Foundations of Modern Freemasonry

Ric Berman

The transformation of English Freemasonry after the foundation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717 was especially marked by the (largely nominal) leadership of young aristocrats who transformed Freemasonry into an important component of the economic, scientific, social, and political changes of the 18th century.

Freemasonry rapidly became an important facet of the upper reaches of English society, and Berman traces the role these aristocratic architects played in the formation of what quickly became the most prominent and socially elite fraternal order of the modern era.

There were important connections between Freemasonry and the judiciary, the Royal Society, and other learned and professional societies. Berman provides a useful introduction to these key figures, as well as a series of valuable appendixes, giving readers the Grand Officers of the

Grand Lodge of England, excerpts from the Masonic 1723 Constitutions, a list of the various military lodges, and an inventory of the Masonic membership of selected professional societies. A valuable work for serious Masonic historians. – *Review by John W. Bizzack*

Taking Issue

John W. Bizzack

Taking Issue is a collection of refreshingly candid commentaries examining many issues relative to the state and practices of Freemasonry in North America today. The author presents clear and convincing arguments genuinely advancing the discussion of these issues in context, characterizing the voice of those Masons who seek the fraternity to be more than ordinary. These timely commentaries and observations cut to the heart of various topics validating with clarity how Freemasonry is intended for practice as a complete system. Collectively, these essays affirm in no uncertain terms, that Freemasonry is meant to be an



educational institution with the purpose of improving the minds and effectiveness of its members through its practices. This compendium of straightforward and introspective writings not only considered the causes for today’s trends, but offers solid evidence in preparation to act on remedies. Commentaries, particularly those offering critical thinking and rhetorical reasoning can often validate what we have thought or are thinking. Sometimes they provoke us to face our views and weigh them against those presented. In essence: they cause us to think beyond what we sometimes just accept. – *Review by Dan M. Kemble*

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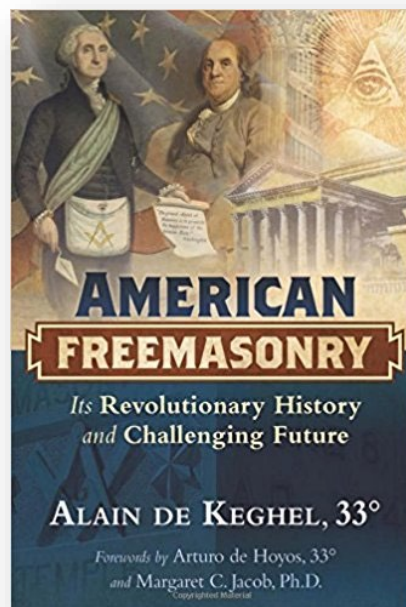
American Freemasonry

It's Revolutionary History and Challenging Future

Alaine De Keghel

Freemasonry bears the imprint of the society in which it exists, and Freemasonry in North America is no exception. While keeping close ties to French lodges until 1913, American Freemasonry was also deeply influenced by the experiences of many early American political leaders, leading to distinctive differences from European lodges.

Offering an unobstructed view of the American system and its strengths and failings, Alain de Keghel, an elder of the Grand Orient de France and, since 1999, a lifetime member of the Scottish Rite Research Society (Southern Jurisdiction), examines the history of Freemasonry in the United States from the colonial era to the Revolutionary War to the rise of the Scottish branch onward. He reveals the special relationship between the French Masonic hero, the Marquis de Lafayette, and the Founding Fathers, especially George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, including French Freemasonry's role in the American Revolution. He also explores Franklin's Masonic membership, including how he was elder of the lodge of the Nine Sisters in Paris.



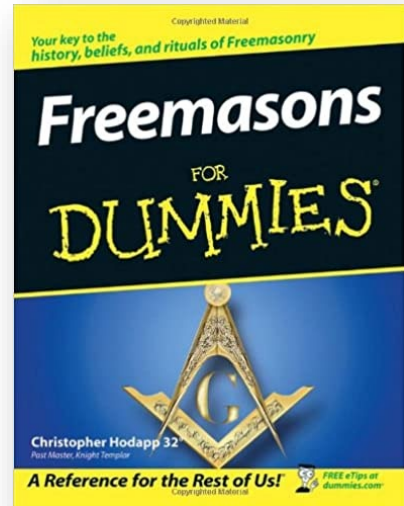
The author investigates the racial split in American Freemasonry between black lodges and white, and how, unlike French lodges, women are ineligible to become Masons in the U.S. He examines how American Freemasonry has remained deeply religious across the centuries and forbids discussion of religious or social issues in its lodges, unlike some branches of French Freemasonry, which removed belief in God as a prerequisite for membership in 1877 and whose lodges operate in some respects as philosophical debating societies. Revealing the factors that have resulted in shrinking Masonic enrollment in America, the author explores the revitalization work done by the Grand Lodge of California and sounds the call to make Freemasonry and its principles relevant to America once again.

Freemasons for Dummies

Christopher L. Hodapp

Do not allow the title of the book dissuade you from reading. Considered by many to be the best general contemporary book on Freemasonry for any Mason or non-Mason, *Freemasons For Dummies* is the internationally best-selling introduction to the Masons, the oldest and largest "secret society" in the world. Written in typical "For Dummies" format, this book is full of information, is easy to follow and, as you read, you simply want to read more, which makes it an excellent primer.

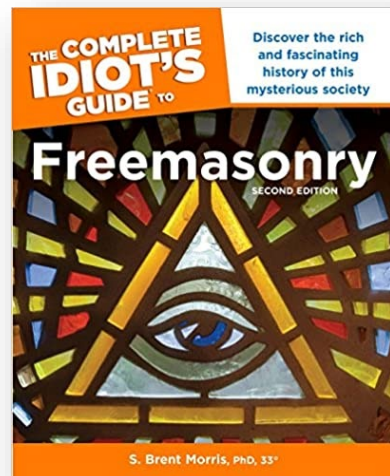
Chris Hodapp's balanced, eye-opening guide demystifies Freemasonry, explaining everything from its elaborate rituals and cryptic rites, to its curious symbols and their meanings as you learn what goes on in a Masonic meeting. You will understand the true purposes of Masonic "secrecy" and philosophy and read about notable men throughout history who were also Masons, and discover related organizations like the Knights Templar, the Scottish Rite, Order of the Eastern Star, and the Shriners. Explore the controversies and conspiracy theories that swirl around Freemasonry and changes coming to the Craft. – **Review by John W. Bizzack**



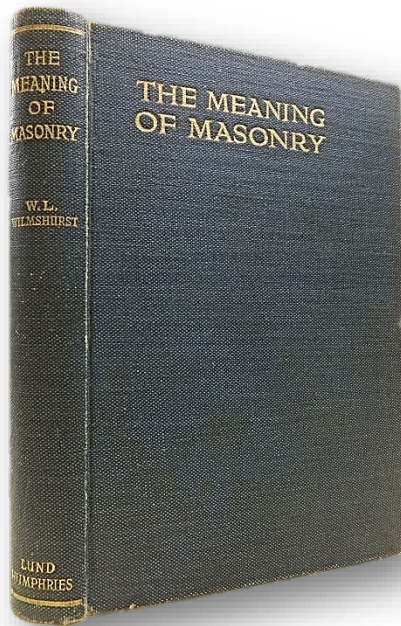
The Complete Idiots Guide to Freemasonry: *Discover the Rich and Fascinating History of This Mysterious Society*

S. Brent Morris

Dr. Morris outlines many details about the fraternity in very clear and concise terms. New members will find a better understanding of the organization. Veteran members can still benefit from this book by seeing information provided in a new light. The book includes a field guide to Masonic symbols and regalia, with photos and explanations of significance, the history behind Masonic philanthropic efforts and youth groups, a history of African American Freemasonry and the role of women in Masonic organizations, to name only a few areas.



As with Hodapp's *Freemasons for Dummies*, this is a fact-fill book. Morris's work is well-written, thorough, and comprehensive book by an author who, like Hodapp, knows what he is talking about. – **Review by John W. Bizzack**



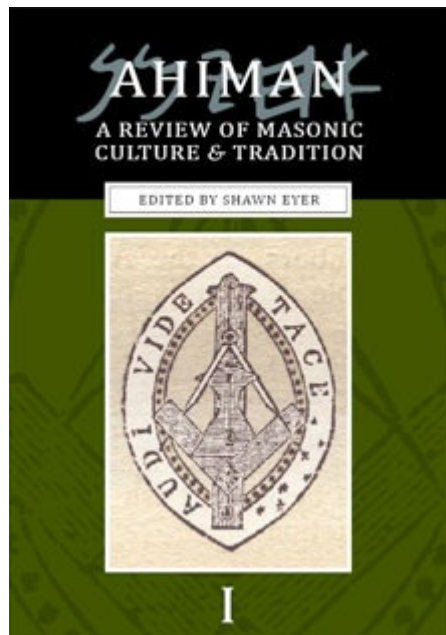
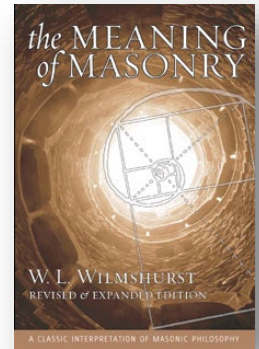
The Meaning of Masonry

W.L. Wilmshurst

Walter Leslie Wilmshurst was a prominent British Freemason and esoteric philosopher. A masterful lecturer, he spoke and wrote frequently on the inner meaning of Masonic ritual and symbolism. An early pioneer of Masonic restoration, he outlines not only a style of personal contemplation of Freemasonry, but also ways in which lodges can become more attuned to the speculative tradition of the Craft.

Numerous reprints of this work is available.

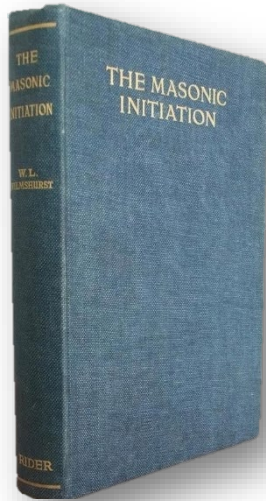
-Review by John W. Bizzack



Ahiman: A Review of Masonic Culture & Tradition, Volume I

Shawn Eyer

Ahiman is an anthology of Masonic writing, offering a serious exploration of the rich initiatic traditions of Freemasonry. Edited by Masonic scholar Shawn Eyer, Ahiman is dedicated to stimulating scholarship, penetrating interpretation and inspiring creative expressions focused upon the history, rituals, symbolism, iconography, and philosophy of Freemasonry. Carefully researched and lavishly produced, each edition of Ahiman offers important material of interest to Freemasons and other students of Western esoteric traditions.



The Masonic Initiation

W.L. Wilmshurst

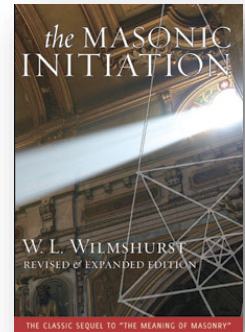
Annotated by Shawn Eyer

In this powerful sequel to his most enduring classic, *The Meaning of Masonry*, W.L. Wilmshurst explores the profound depths of Masonic ritual as a contemplative art and offers his vision of the future of the Order. This new edition, revised and re-set in clear, modern type, has been enriched with extensive notes expanding on Wilmshurst's points, elucidating his sources, and explaining the differences between American and British Freemasonry.

Masonic researcher Tony Baker calls

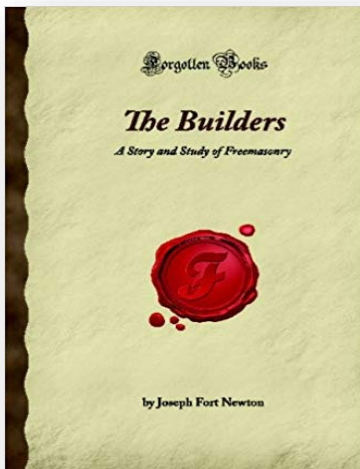
Wilmshurst's work "a constant source of

instruction and assistance to those who are seeking for that which was lost." *The Masonic Initiation* is his most advanced expression, and one that will continue to delight students of Freemasonry. "A new look at a timeless classic which has induced many generations of Masons to feel that, when they are in the sacred space of lodge, they are in the presence of a mystery that goes to the root of their own being."—Robert G. Davis. Numerous reprints of this work is available—
Review by John W. Bizzack

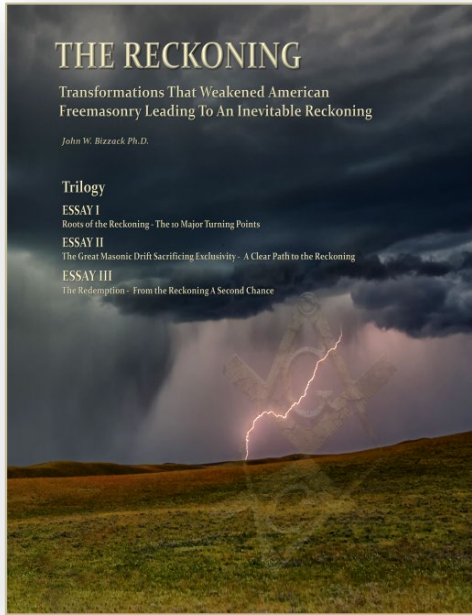


The Builders: A Story and Study of Freemasonry

Joseph Fort Newton



The Builders: The outstanding classic in Masonic literature of all times. Many Grand Lodges present a copy to each newly raised Mason. The first part covers the early history of Freemasonry: Its tradition, mythology, and symbolism. The second is the story of the Order of builders through the centuries from the building of King Solomon's Temple. The final part is a statement and exposition of the faith of Masonry. Bibliography, Index, Illustrated Table of Contents: Publisher's Preface; The Anteroom; Prophecy; The Foundations; The Working Tools; The Drama Of Faith; The Secret Doctrine; The Collegia; History; Free-masons; Fellowcrafts; Accepted Masons; Grand Lodge Of England; Universal Masonry; Interpretation; What Is Masonry; The Masonic Philosophy; The Spirit Of Masonry; Bibliography; Endnotes. Numerous reprints of this work is available. - *Reviewed by John W. Bizzack*



The Reckoning

Transformation that Weakened American Freemasonry Leading to an Inevitable Reckoning

John W. Bizzack

In this series of three essays titled *The Reckoning*, Dr. Bizzack has identified ten turning points in the history of American Freemasonry where the Fraternity had the opportunity to evaluate its own processes, but declined or otherwise failed to do so. The current era of plummeting membership in Lodges across the country has Freemasonry approaching a reckoning at break-neck speed. This reckoning, or

point at which

Institutional Freemasonry will no longer be able to operate in its current form, will occur when the consequences arising from its several failures to act bring the Fraternity to the point of exhaustion, both fiscally and spiritually. As American Freemasonry shrinks to more manageable levels, what will be the response from Grand Lodges, subordinate Lodges and individual Masons? The ten turning points that Bizzack identifies map the path that has brought us to what may be the defining point for Freemasonry as we have heretofore experienced it. Will the Fraternity summon the courage to decide whether to return to its true aim and purpose – that of equipping men with the self-discipline necessary to lead pleasurable and profitable lives – or will it decide to shed itself of its philosophical underpinnings and merely continue to exist as another community service club? How those questions are answered will be the next turning point (or turning points) in American Freemasonry.

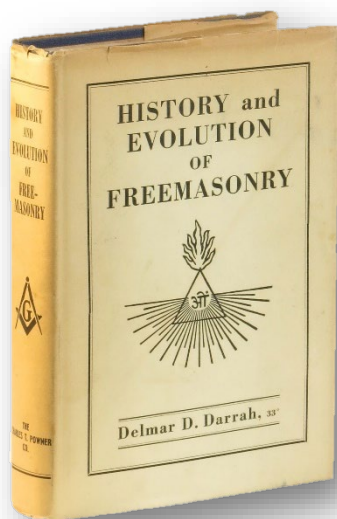
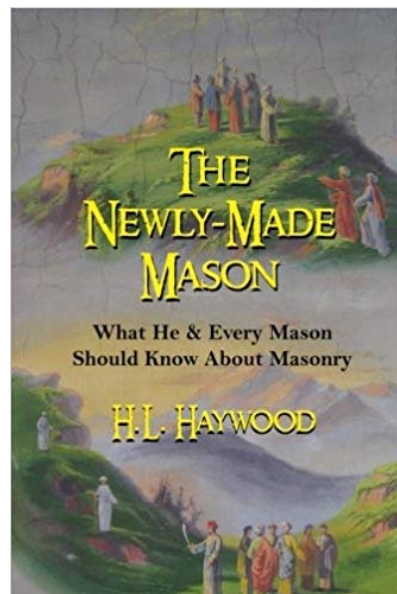
The essays three additional essays set the stage for the reckoning that is to come. That Freemasonry is on a collision course with such a reckoning should be without debate. The variables are time and the nature of our response to the reckoning. For American Freemasonry, those consequences are now present and inescapable. The Reckoning is also available in audio format. - *Reviewed by Dan M. Kemble*



The Newly-Made Mason

H.L. Haywood

This is an outstanding Masonic book for the new or experienced Mason. Haywood's work is chock full of Masonic facts for all, and covers the origin, history, philosophy, symbolism, organization, and operation of the Order. This book is divided into 5 parts: Operative Freemasonry: Beginning from 1330 to 1717 A.D. Transition from Operative to Speculative Masonry. The First Grand Lodge of "Ancient" Freemasonry. The Petition: The Origin of Petition, Ceremonies and Rites. How Masons are made. The Great Symbols: The Lodge, The Working Tools, The Master, The Lights, The Letter "G", The Ruffians, The Search, and many more Masonic symbols. Freemasonry Symbols are explained in detail in this chapter. Religion and Masonry: Masonic Philosophy, Masonic Relief, Masonic Etiquette, Masonic Penalties (symbolic), Masonic Clothing. Visiting Masons: Books, Records, Monitors - early and present day, Famous Masons and What Masonry Meant to Them, The Individual Masonic Lodge, The Masonic community, Freemasonry's Place in the World, and more. - *Reviewed by John W. Bizzack*

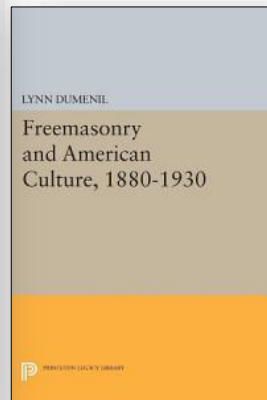
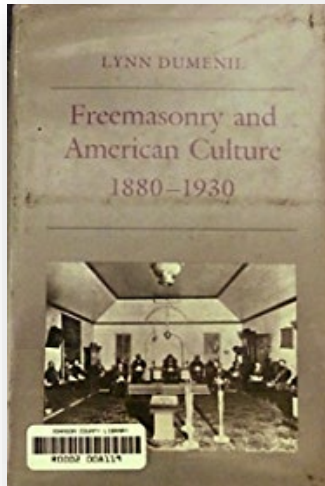


The History and Evolution of American Freemasonry

Delmar D. Darrah

Written in 1915, *The History and Evolution of Freemasonry* traces the development of the Craft from its earliest emergence through the early years of the Twentieth Century. Darrah uses a fact-based approach to the history of the Fraternity seldom found among Masonic historians, particularly those of his era. He served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois in 1912-1913. Perhaps one of the most significant aspects of Darrah's work

is his consistent theme regarding the evolution of Freemasonry over the centuries. He painstakingly points out the incongruities between common practices in the 18th Century, and those present in the early years of the 20th Century. As WB Dan M. Kemble writes in his review appearing on the William O. Ware Lodge of Research website, "Delmar D. Darrah's *The History and Evolution of Freemasonry* is a gem that should be much better known than it is."



Freemasonry and American Culture 1880-1930

Lynn Dumenil

The fraternity has been institutionally disinclined to engage in any deep introspection as to the path it has taken over its nearly three centuries on the American Continent. If you want evidence about how, during the period known as “The Golden Years of Fraternalism,”

American Freemasonry all but completely shed its spiritual and contemplative nature

and adopted an activist persona intent on performing community improvement projects and “having fun,” then Dumenil, a professor of American history will provide you that proof in her 1984 research. Her writing is among the first instances of academia taking notice of Freemasonry and making it the subject of serious study. Echoing Albert Pike, Dr. Dumenil asserts that Freemasonry is, in part, a victim of its own success. As its membership grew, its ability to claim to be an exclusive organization declined. No longer being perceived as exclusive, membership in its ranks became less attractive. Her analysis reveals a fraternal society that, in its effort to adapt to a changing society, became unmoored from its founding principles. American Freemasonry has no hope of addressing its future successfully until it comes to a thorough understanding of its past. Lynn Dumenil’s *Freemasonry and American Culture 1880 to 1930* is an important key to gaining such an understanding.

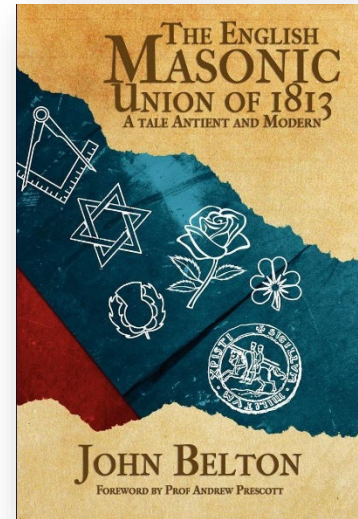
Freemasonry and American Culture 1880 –1930, although out of print, remains available from online booksellers, both in its original version and in print-on-demand editions. - **Review by Dan. M. Kemble**

The English Masonic Union of 1813

a Tale of Ancients and Moderns

John Bolton

The bringing together of the Antients and Moderns to form the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813 was a tricky matter. How all this came about is not just an English tale but an Irish and Scots one as well. Complexities concerning “union” included what to do about other Masonic orders, especially the Royal Arch and the Knights Templar. For the first time ever, this account provides a birds-eye view of the issues and personalities behind one of the big events of Masonic history still affecting us today. "In this pioneering and stimulating book, Bolton tells with verve and enthusiasm the story behind the events which led up to the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813. Providing completely new perspectives on this key event in the history of British Freemasonry. **Review by Prof Andrew Prescott, Kings College London**



Macoy's Worshipful Master's Assistant

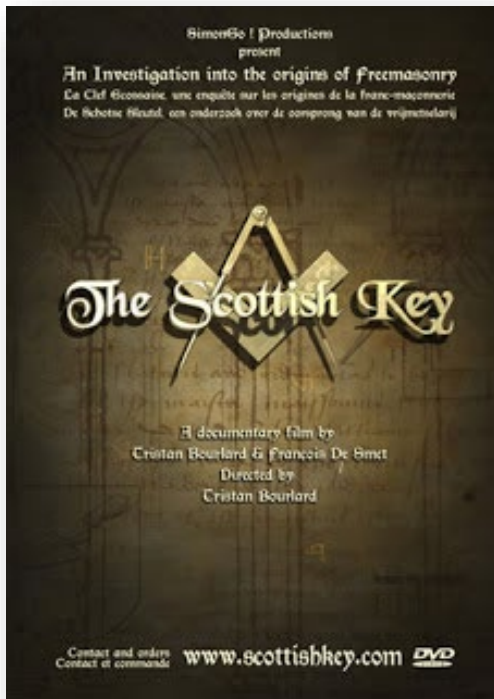
Edited by Michael A. Halleran



In 1885, Robert Macoy wrote the *Worshipful Master's Assistant*, the first-ever handbook for Masonic lodge officers, and it has remained continuously in print since its original release.

Michael Halleran retains the organizational and editorial style of Macoy's classic while presenting the twenty-first century lodge officer with practical and useful advice on lodge administration, the powers, prerogatives and responsibilities of the Master, subordinate officers' duties, lodge bylaws and committees, and Masonic law, all explained through comparative examples from grand jurisdictions across North America.

This handbook is an important study and exceptional resource for members ascending to the East. - **Reviewed by John W. Bizzack**



The Scottish Key (DVD)

A DVD on the origins of Freemasonry. Written by Belgian researchers Tristan Bourlard and François De Smet, *The Scottish Key* assembles quite a lineup of Masonic scholars in its interviews: Andrew Prescott, Keith Moore, Roger Dachez, Jessica Harland-Jacobs, David Stevenson, Ewan Rutherford, John Hamill and Robert L.D. Cooper all appear in the film.

A glance through the Gallery section of the site shows a tantalizing selection of period reenactments and attention to detail, with images about the Craft you haven't seen a thousand times.

- *Review by Christopher L. Hodapp*

The Scottish Key. An Investigation into the Origins of Freemasonry.

An enigmatic and mysterious topic, subject to allegations and fantasies of all sorts. Spread across the globe, this discrete and mysterious association has been a source of curiosity, fascination and suspicion for over 300 years. Today Freemasonry gathers several millions of people throughout the world.

Protected from the outside world, from which they isolate themselves for the length of an evening, freemasons meet in lodges and there develop a peculiar spirituality. How was this movement born? Are its origins veiled in secrecy? Even amidst its own members, few know the actual beginnings of Freemasonry. The lodges themselves have forgotten from whence they came.

For the first time, based on the most recent findings, a critical documentary investigates the question of the origins of Freemasonry. What are its links with the Knights Templar? Are they the descendants of stone masons from the Middle Ages? How did the first lodges come to be? Take an esoteric road of unsolved mysteries, starting in England in the 18th century.

Discover the events that led to the creation of the Grand Lodge of London in 1717. Ascertain the true ambitions of the men who launched this incredible adventure, and how the most intriguing fraternal society of modern times was born. Explore the centuries old stone mason lodges and their ties to the birth of Freemasonry in London.

See how these men were inspired by their secular rites such as the mason's word and the art of memory. Find out the roots of Freemasonry in Scotland, and the real influence of the Middle Ages.

Review from Pietre Stone http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/DVD_scottishkey.html

Sins of Our Masonic Fathers

The Lost Strength of Fewness in American Freemasonry

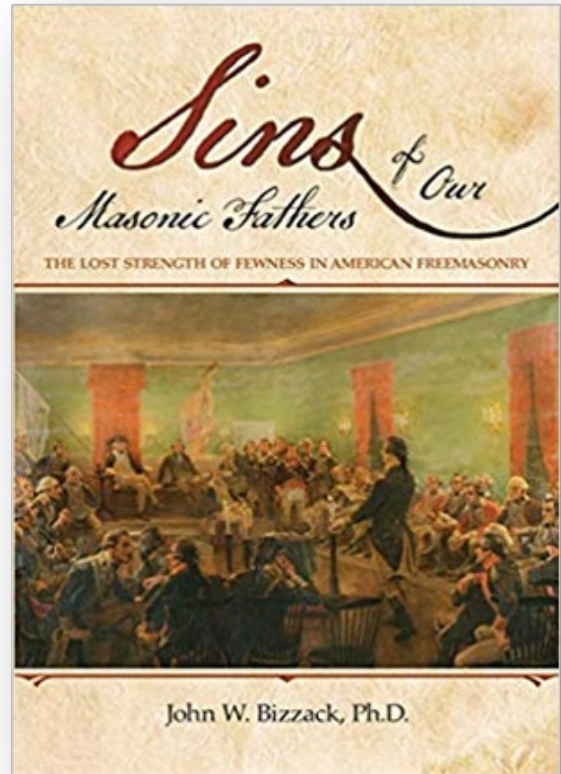
John W. Bizzack

American Freemasonry expanded so rapidly that it gave birth to a flawed, long-standing, counterfactual and false standard: the belief that Freemasonry in America can be found and measured by the number of names on its membership rosters. As a result, the fraternity abandoned the source of its real strength: fewness.

Sins of Our Masonic Fathers offers a broad, but thorough, analysis of various historical aspects of Freemasonry as it unfolded in the United States. This look at the evolution of American Freemasonry identifies the misplaced, misdirected, and misspent energy in the past that challenges today the essential labors required to successfully deliver the understanding of the real aim and purpose of the Fraternity to its members.

This book does not merely list what are called “sins” of our Masonic Fathers, but undertakes the difficult task of examining and framing the reasons why and how these errors in action and miscalculations occurred. Insight into why the Fraternity today is where it finds itself is illustrated in a persuasive manner and makes clear how its perpetuity will now, more than ever, depend on the quality of its leadership, administration, and practices in the delivery of its intended promise.

The question for this and future generations is whether the fraternity will stop playing host to the miscalculations and errors in action deeply embedded in its history. -*Review by Dan M. Kemble*



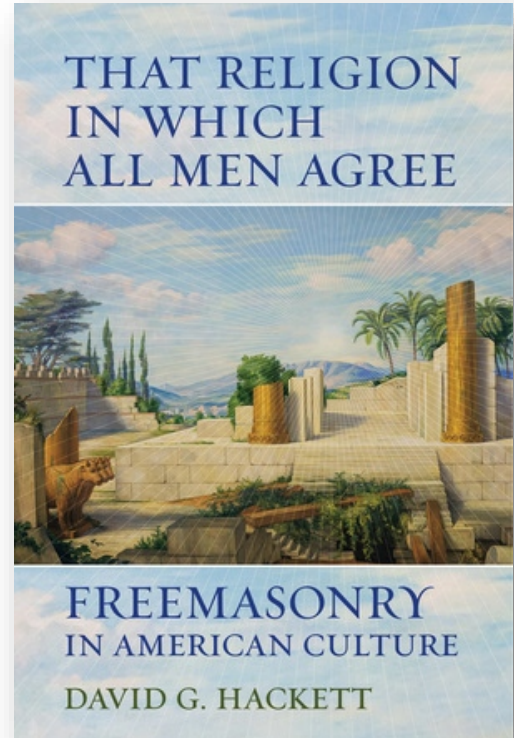
That Religion In Which All Men Agree

Freemasonry in American Culture

David G. Hackett

This powerful study weaves the story of Freemasonry into the narrative of American religious history. Freighted with the mythical legacies of stonemasons' guilds and the Newtonian revolution, English Freemasonry arrived in colonial America with a vast array of cultural baggage, which was drawn on, added to, and transformed during its sojourn through American culture.

David G. Hackett argues that from the 1730s through the early twentieth century the religious worlds of an evolving American social order broadly appropriated the beliefs and initiatory practices of this all-male society. For much of American history, Freemasonry was both counter and complement to Protestant churches, as well as a forum for collective action among racial and ethnic groups outside the European American Protestant mainstream. Moreover, the cultural template of Freemasonry gave shape and content to the American "public sphere." By including a group not usually seen as a carrier of religious beliefs and rituals, Hackett expands and complicates the terrain of American religious history by showing how Freemasonry has contributed to a broader understanding of the multiple influences that have shaped religion in American culture.



Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, Conversations on Freemasonry, and A Comprehensive View of Freemasonry

Henry W. Coil

Henry Coil, a distinguished California attorney, Masonic student, scholar, and author left the fraternity a wealth of extensive research and insight.

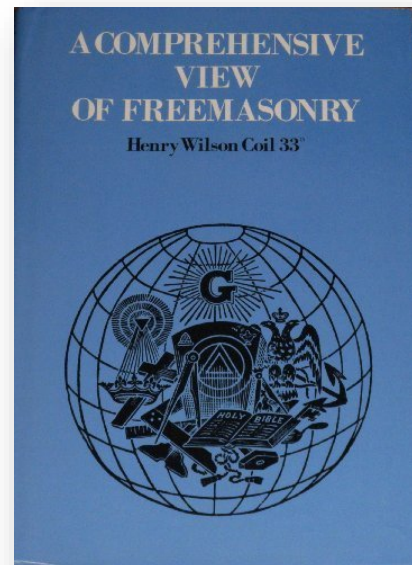
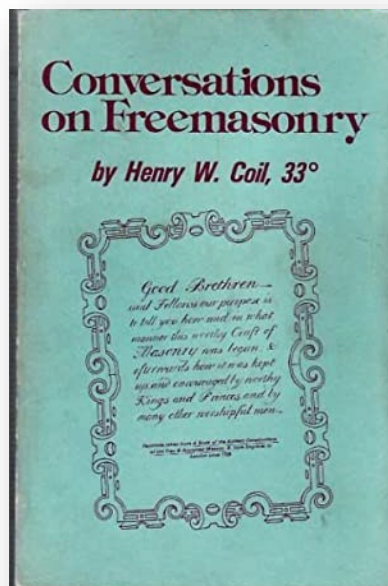
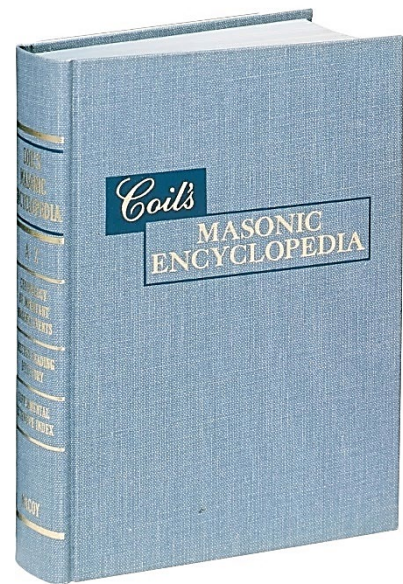
His work is firm, confident, seasoned with common sense, and urges members to discover the realities of Freemasonry, its challenge, and its promise by absorbing and advancing knowledge and enlightenment.

More objective than other Masonic cyclopedias, but without detracting from earlier cyclopedists, Coil's 700-page compilation is written without infusing his own personal beliefs, likes, and dislikes, stating facts, some of which we may not like either from prejudice or because of wishful thinking. Coil's

Masonic Encyclopedia was the first Masonic Encyclopedia published in 1961 and updated in 1996. The previous Masonic encyclopedia in America was published 1867 (*Macoy's*

Cyclopedia of Freemasonry) and Coil's

version, incorporating the changing conditions of Masonry was sorely needed and stands today as the best Masonic Cyclopedias available. The Henry Wilson Coil Library & Museum of Freemasonry is named in his honor. – **Review** by **John W. Bizzack**



The Age of Unreason

Dissecting the Infamy of the Morgan Affair and Its Aftermath

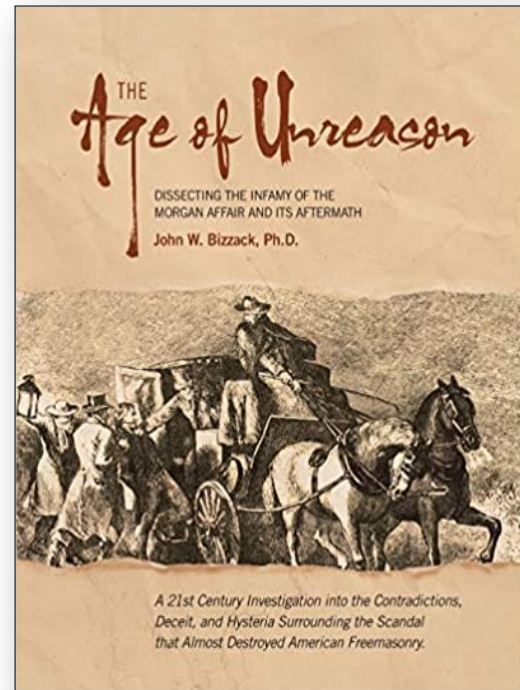
John W. Bizzack

In Batavia, New York, the few people who knew for sure where William Morgan was on the morning of September 12, 1826 were all Freemasons.

The previous night Morgan had been abducted. His abductors were Freemasons. Months prior to his abduction, Morgan was writing an exposé of Freemasonry. Despite his disappearance, the book was published three months later. The abduction and disappearance of Morgan fueled the flame of anti-Masonic sentiments of the era, creating a firestorm and scandal that tarnished and has haunted American Freemasonry for almost two centuries. That firestorm and its aftermath, at least for a brief period, also put an end to one of the reasons the event occurred in the first place: the unbridled rapid expansion of members and lodges that resulted in the fraternity losing sight of what historically the Institution of Freemasonry was designed to be. Too many lodges were created to be properly supported. Likewise, as a result, unworthy candidates were admitted. The excitement surrounding this chapter of American history was a momentous catalyst changing the course of Freemasonry in the United States and led to the creation of a short-lived third national political party.

The Age of Unreason provides a reappraisal of the hasty actions, injudicious reactions, politics, deceit, incautious behavior, loss of trust and reputation, and the lasting effects of the Morgan Affair, in context with the era, that were taken by accusers and defenders of Freemasonry and illustrates how fitting the saying is that, “lies and rumor can travel halfway around the world while the truth is still putting on its boots.” -**Review by Dan M. Kemble**

NOTE: See page 20 for Stephen Dafoe’s, *Morgan, The Scandal That Shook Freemasonry* for another detailed account of the Morgan Affair.



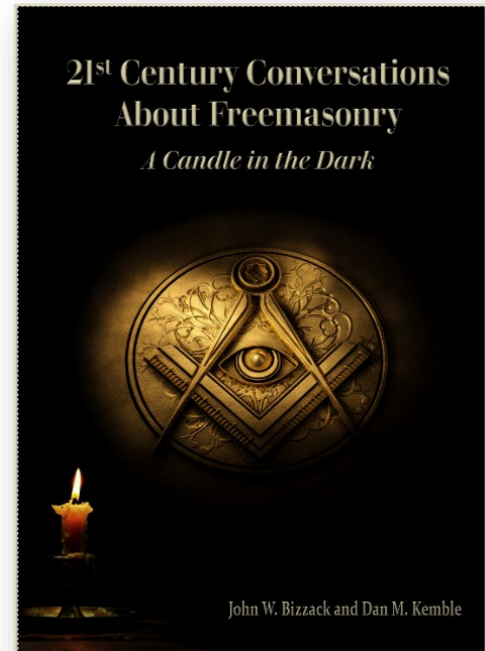
21st Century Conversations About Freemasonry *A Candle in the Dark*

John W. Bizzack and Dan M. Kemble

In *21st Century Conversations About Freemasonry: A Candle in the Dark*, authors John W. Bizzack and Dan M. Kemble have used a fictional series of virtual meetings to identify and address how the Masonic Fraternity has lost its sense of identity as an Enlightenment Era institution. As contemporary society has moved away from Enlightenment Era thinking and precepts, so too has Freemasonry.

The imagined Brothers use 21st century technology to stay connected, while pinpointing their several concerns about the current state of the Craft. Tracing an historical (albeit winding) path from the Age of Enlightenment to the modern era, two separate strains of practicing Freemasonry emerge. One strain, referred to as the Mainstream Masonic Community, prefers a less intellectually rigorous approach and is essentially a community service club. The other strain, while much smaller, identified as Heritage Seekers, looks to re-connect the Fraternity with its Enlightenment Era roots.

The discussion that unfolds in the book is the same discussion being held Masonic groups across the United States at this time. It is a discussion that addresses the very essence of Freemasonry. – *Review by Brian T. Evans*



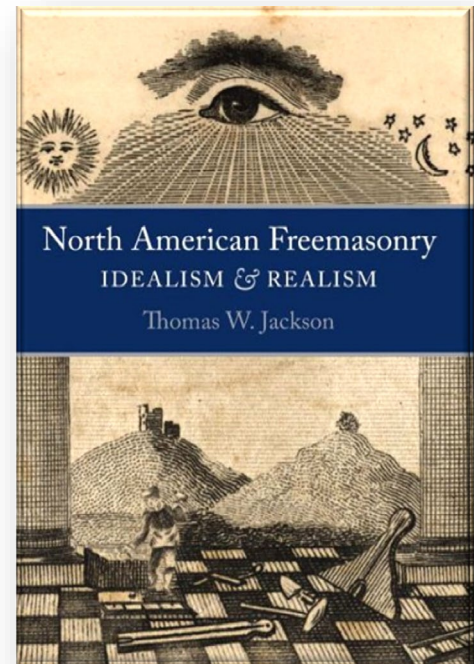
North American Freemasonry

Idealism and Realism

Thomas W. Jackson

In this thought-provoking selection of forty-four essays, eminent Freemason Thomas W. Jackson, Past Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, shares his viewpoints on many key issues within and without the Masonic fraternity.

His comments in these essays are based on first-hand experience, and his opinions carry the weight of hard-won knowledge. He is particularly concerned with the decline of quality in all of Masonry, and he offers his ideas and solutions to this problem. Jackson's words are a powerful call to action. - *Review by John W. Bizzack*



Making Good Men Better

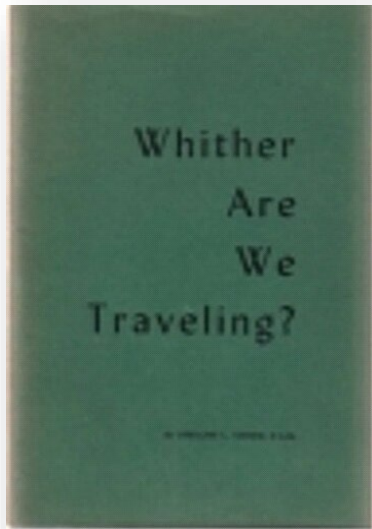
Carl W. Davis (Author), Theodore S. Jackson (Editor)



Making Good Men Better is an accessible and succinct devotional for Freemasons and those who are curious about the Craft. Each week Davis invites the reader to explore a new symbolic lesson taken directly from the teachings of masonic ritual through his down-to-earth explanations, anecdotes, and reflections. Part devotional and part journal, each week's section includes space for the reader to note his or her own thoughts about the topic at hand, making this an immensely practical tool for the new or seasoned speculative Mason who wants to delve deeper into the teachings of this ancient fraternity. A helpful resource for the seasoned and new Freemason alike that helps with self-examination, understanding, and taking to heart the lessons exemplified in Freemasonry in order to take action and become a better man and Mason. - *Review by John W. Bizzack*

Whither Are We Traveling? and Why This Confusion at the Temple?

Dwight L. Smith



In the early 1960's, Dwight Smith, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Indiana and, at that time, its Grand Secretary, wrote a series of articles for the *Indiana Freemason Magazine* that eventually were collected in two classic booklets:

Whither Are We Traveling? and ***Why This Confusion In The Temple?***²

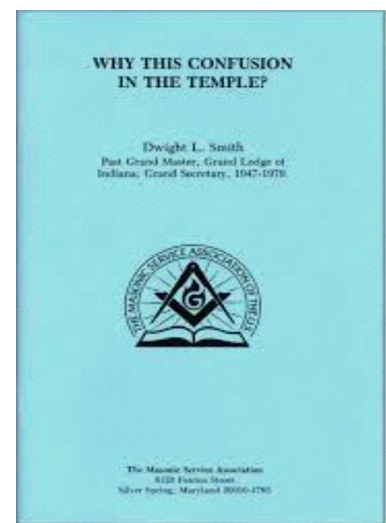
Whither Are We Traveling?

(1963) Smith's paper on the decline of Freemasonry in America and how to rebuild it reads as if you are reading it today. His questions and observations are as valid today as they were when he wrote them, perhaps more so, given the current

atmosphere within Freemasonry

concerning declining membership numbers. Smith's universal answer to the problems of Freemasonry as an institution was to "Try Freemasonry." That is, return the fraternity to its most basic tenets, strip it of its innovations, and get back to the business of concentrating on making men better, one man and Mason at a time.

It has been nearly sixty years since Smith presented these ideas to the fraternity, where they were promptly ignored by members and leaders alike. By failing to answer his questions, we have fallen prey to the very pitfalls he predicted. – ***Reviewed by John W. Bizzack***



Both publications may be read by visiting the three sites noted below.

ARS QUATUOR CORONATORUM Volume LXXVI FOR THE YEAR 1963

https://www.freemasonry.bcy.ca/aqc/whither_are_we_travelling_aqc.pdf

https://www.masonicrestorationfoundation.org/documents/DLS_WhyThisConfusion.pdf

<http://pictoumasons.org/library/Smith,%20Dwight%20L%20~%20WhitherAreWeTraveling%20%5Bpdf%5D.pdf>

² See *Laudable Pursuit* on page 25 of this booklet.

Exploring Early Grand Lodge Freemasonry

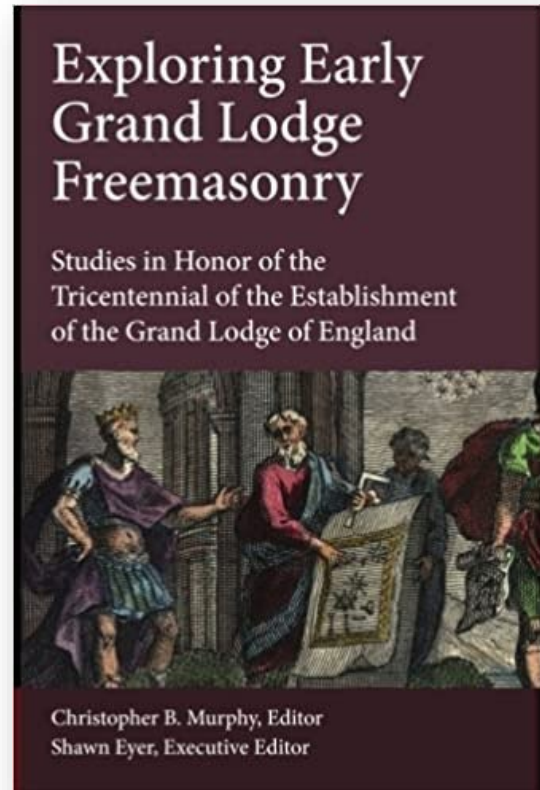
Studies in Honor of the Tricentennial of the Establishment of the Grand Lodge of England

Christopher E. Murphy and Shawn Eyer

Soon after the Grand Lodge of England was established on June 24, 1717, Freemasonry, and its obscure origins and antiquity, began to spread rapidly throughout and beyond the British Empire.

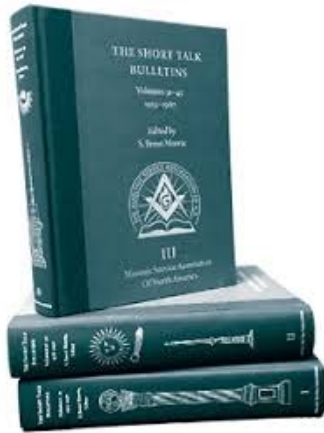
This volume of intriguing essays by eminent and emerging Masonic scholars explores the history and culture of Freemasonry during that period of expansion. What did Masons of the early Grand Lodge era actually do in their lodges? How did these brethren think of themselves and their Craft? What were their motivations and ideals? What was their experience with Freemasonry? By posing such questions, our contributors have been able to study not just an institutional beginning, but the cultural realities of Masonic life in the first decades of the Grand Lodge's history.

– *Reviewed by John W. Bizzack*

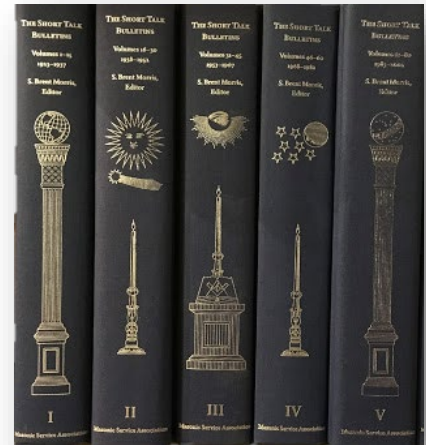


Short Talk Bulletins

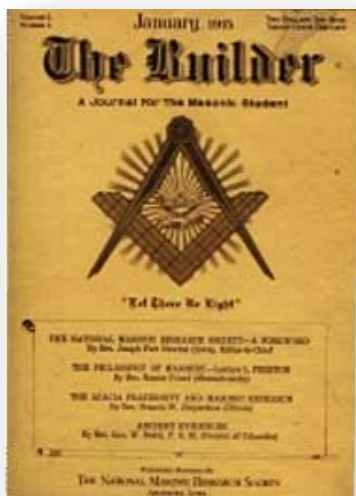
S. Brent Morris, Editor



The Masonic Service Association of North America (MSNA) has published a Short Talk Bulletin virtually every month since 1923. It is now possible to own complete bound sets on subjects that range from Masonic history to symbolism, philosophy, and biographies. There are hundreds of education materials, historical tales, ritual information, symbolism explanations and exploration, and scores of other sorts of topics to be



found in these 700 plus page volumes. Every Short Talk Bulletin from 1923 through 2017 has been edited, re-typeset and indexed for these books by S. Brent Morris of the Scottish Rite Research Society. It would take years of lodge meetings to read one Short Talk Bulletin at each meeting. msaoffice@msana.com - Reviewed by John W. Bizzack

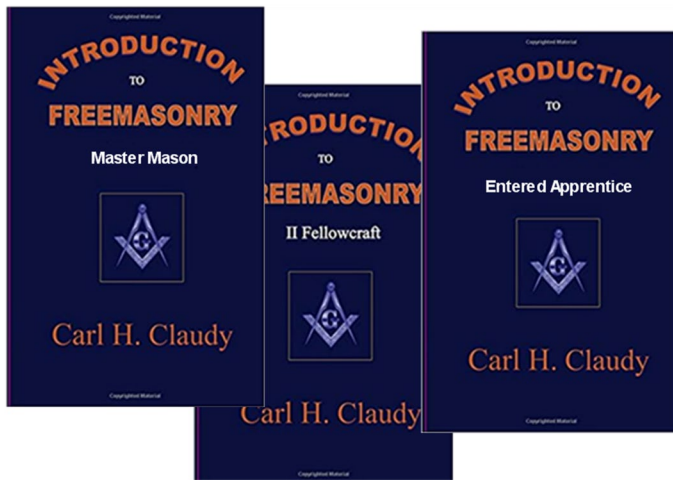


The Builder

Joseph Fort Newton, Editor (1915-1930)

The Builder Magazine was published from 1915 through 1930 by the National Masonic Research Society. Many Masonic Librarians and scholars believe that *The Builder Magazine* was the best American Masonic magazine ever published. Nearly a century later, it has yet to be surpassed in terms of quality of content. The publication did not rely on grip and grin photos to fill its pages; it relied on the research work of the leading Masonic writers of the day. The fifteen-year collection (185 monthly issues) include thousands of excellent articles on Masonic history, philosophy, jurisprudence, poetry, landmarks, and symbolism. The builder is available on-line. At the below link. - Reviewed by John W. Bizzack

<https://archive.org/details/TheBuilderMagazine1930VolXVINo01/The%20Builder%20Magazine%201915%20Vol%20no%2001/mode/2up>



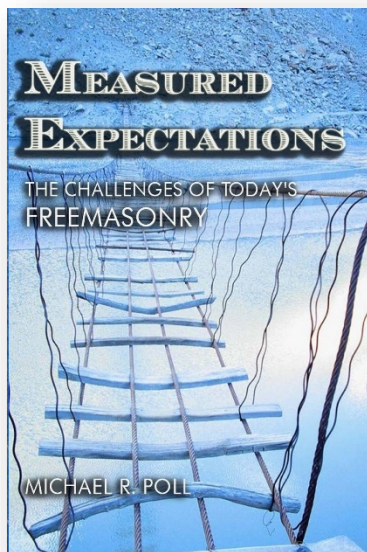
Introduction to Freemasonry

Carl H. Claudy

These three volumes are different than most Masonic books. Written by a brother with long experience as a Masonic speaker and writer, they have a simple manner of presentation, a plain statement of facts, a spiritual interpretation of Masonic teachings and visualize the vital reality behind the allegory and the symbol. These books answer the simple elementary inquiries of the new brother

to whom all the Craft is strange. They will make many an older Mason sit up in astonishment that what he thought obvious and uninteresting is so vividly alive. For the brother old in the Craft who will read them, a revelation awaits. For the initiate, here is wisdom, strength, and beauty. For all, the Ancient Craft is here set forth in an unforgettable trilogy of books which not only tell the facts but forget not the vision, which not only describe the form but also reveal the spirit of Freemasonry. Carl H. Claudy was the author 32 books and a galaxy of essays and short stories numbering more than 1,600, and author of approximately 350 Short Talk Bulletins.

- Reviewed by John W. Bizzack



Measured Expectations

The Challenge of Today's Freemasonry

Michael R. Poll

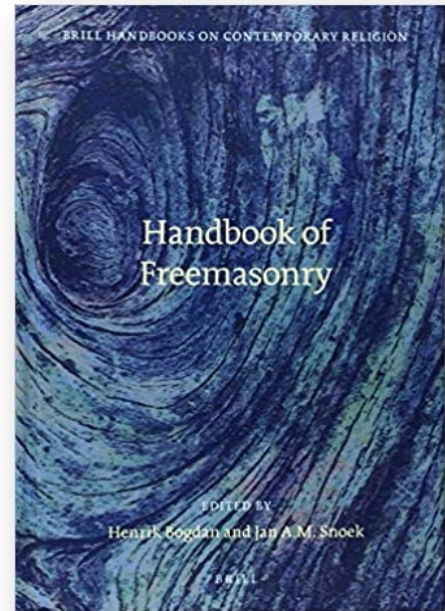
In this collection of papers, Poll again demonstrates his thought-provoking style of down-to-earth and easy-to-read commentaries. He provides suggestions and advice on dealing with Lodge and Scottish Rite issues, such as Masonic law, Lodge operation, visitors, poor degree work, meals, officer roles, poor attendance, Masonic philosophy & history, the future of Freemasonry, and so much more. The topics in this work provide the new or seasoned Mason with useful information to help make their Lodge experience of greater value. - Reviewed by John W. Bizzack

Handbook of Freemasonry

Henrick Bogdan and Jan A.M. Snoek

The Brill *Handbook of Freemasonry* is a pioneering work that brings together, for the first time, leading scholars on Freemasonry.

The first section covers historical perspectives, such as the origins and early history of Freemasonry. The second deals with the relationship between Freemasonry and specific religious traditions such as the Catholic Church, Judaism, and Islam. In the third section, organizational themes, such as the use of rituals, are explored, while the fourth section deals with issues related to society and politics - women, blacks, colonialism, nationalism, and war. The fifth and final section is devoted to Freemasonry and culture, including music, literature, modern art, architecture, and material culture. - *Reviewed by John W. Bizzack*



Why Thirty-Three?

Searching for Masonic Origins

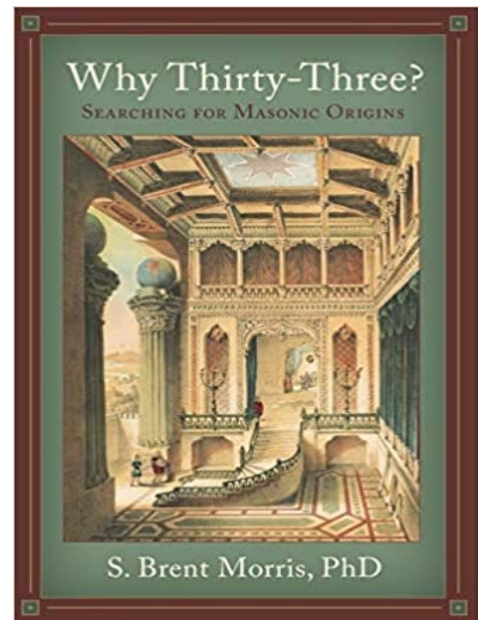
S. Brent Morris

The papers presented here represent over twenty-five years of publications by S. Brent Morris. They explore his many questions about Freemasonry, usually dealing with origins of the Craft.

What “high degrees” were in the United States before 1830? What were the activities in the United States before 1801 of the Order of the Royal Secret, the precursor of the Scottish Rite? How did American grand lodges form as they broke away from England? Who were the Gormogons; how did they get started; what happened to them? Why does the Scottish Rite have thirty-three degrees?

A complex organization with a lengthy pedigree like Freemasonry has many basic foundational questions waiting to be answered, and that is what this book does: *answers questions*.

- *Reviewed by John W. Bizzack*



The Craft

How Freemasons Made the Modern World

John Dickie

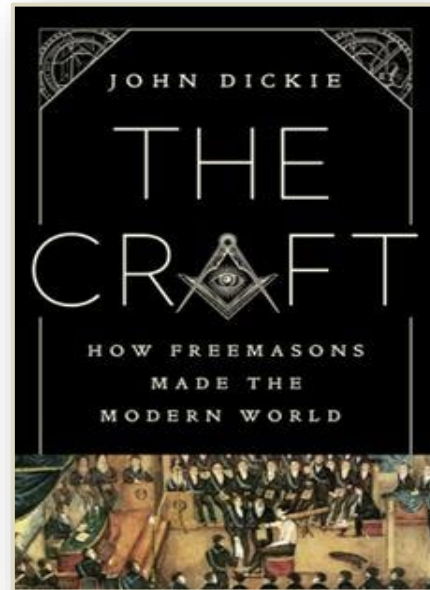
Since its release in 2020, *The Craft* has often been referred to as *a fascinating tale that turns legend into history* and lauded as one of the best general histories of Freemasonry ever written for non-Masons. It has been recommended around the world by numerous grand lodges, including the United Grand Lodge of England, and featured in a Time Magazine piece on Freemasonry.³

With an abundance of books on Freemasonry written by Freemasons, occasionally something different emerges that appeal not only to Masons but non-Masons who do not find other works on the subject compelling enough to read.

Some scholars who are also Freemasons will argue that like Alexander Piatigorsky's 1997, *Freemasonry* (see page 24 of this publication), parts of Dickie's work need more sustained analysis. Nonetheless, *The Craft* offers an interesting story-telling approach that reads like an adventure novel that will attract many Masons.

Dickie is not critical of Freemasonry and does not use his work to promote it in ways beyond the interesting history that surrounds it. His persuasive narrative style compliments an important story and makes *The Craft* a refreshing and thought-provoking read.

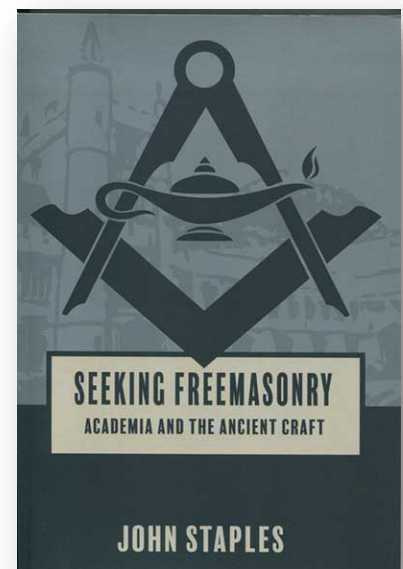
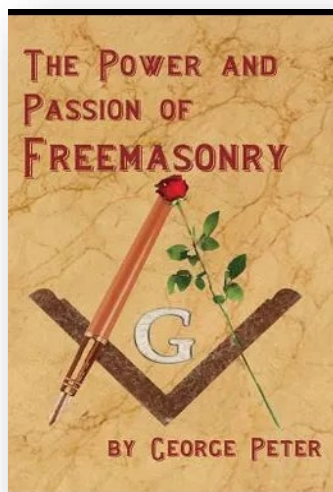
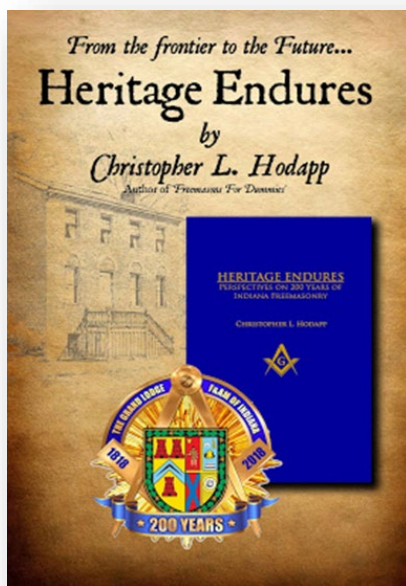
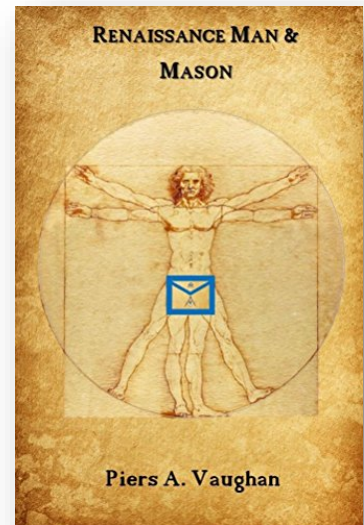
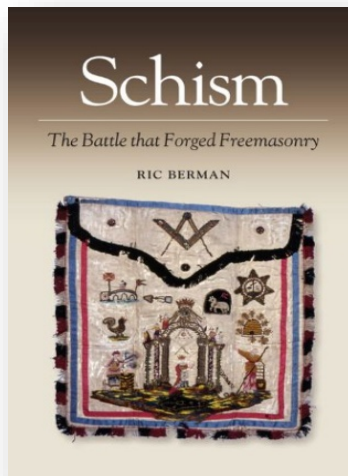
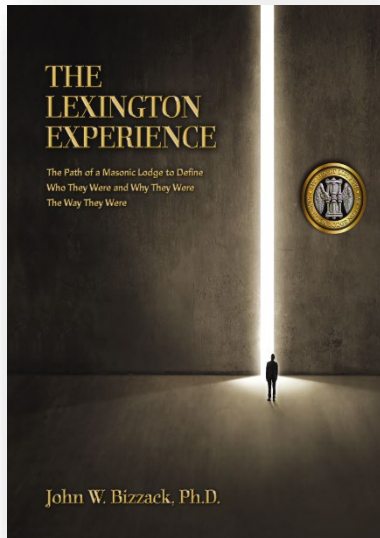
John Dickie is a professor of Italian studies at University College London, broadcaster, author, and historian. - *Reviewed by John W. Bizzack*

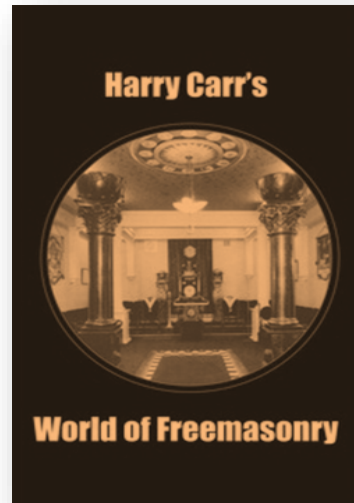
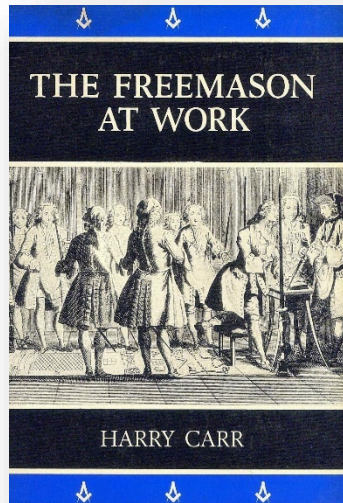
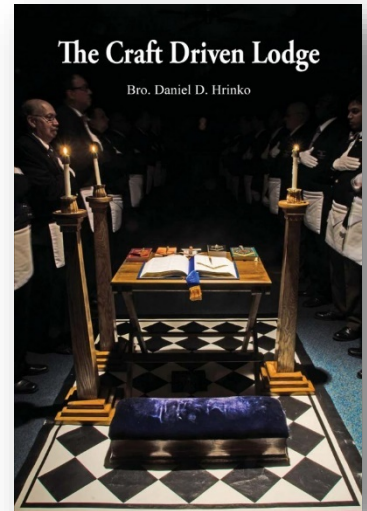
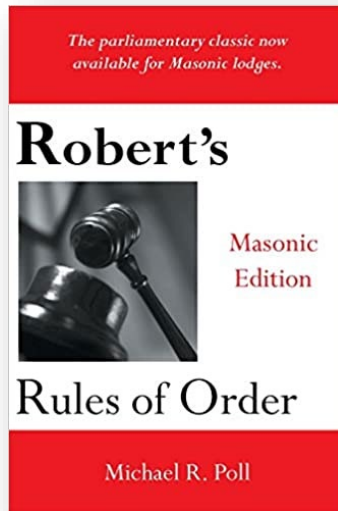
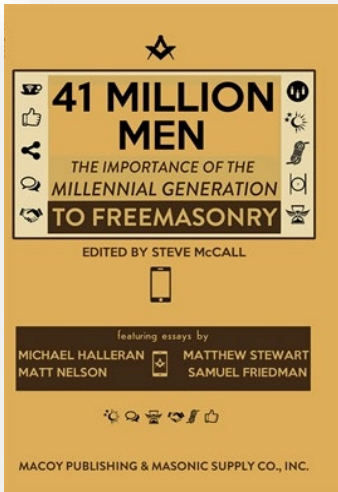


³Maynard Edwards, Interview with John Dickie, *Scottish Rite Journal*, November-December 2020.

The Rubicon Masonic Society

Additional Reading Not Reviewed In This Edition





The Rubicon Masonic Society

Masonic Journals – Magazines

Journal of the Masonic Society



The quarterly *Journal of The Masonic Society* contains articles that enlighten our past and explore solutions to the challenges facing Freemasonry today. The Masonic Society was conceived with an eye on the thousands of dedicated Masons who read and write about Masonic history, symbolism, philosophy and more, but are never heard from outside of their local area. The Society wanted publications and programs that featured the best from the world's numerous Masonic research lodges and groups that would otherwise vanish into obscurity after being read at one of their too infrequent meetings, or possibly printed in some collection of papers no one would ever open again. Too much great, interesting, insightful, inspirational work is done locally that deserves a larger audience.

Additionally, the Society wanted to create a magazine that had at least three articles or features in every issue that interested all levels of leadership as well as new and

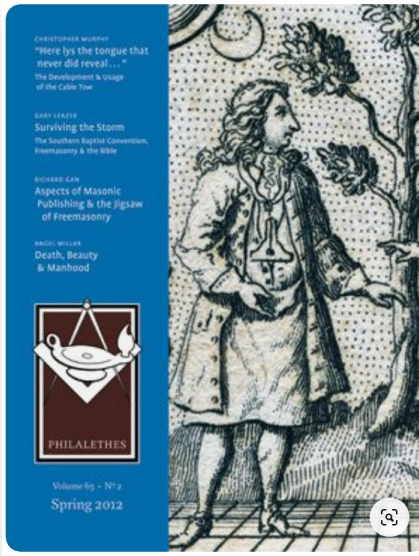
veteran Masons. <https://themasonicsociety.com/content/the-journal-of-the-masonic-society/>



The Scottish Rite Journal

The Scottish Rite Journal is the bimonthly magazine for members of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction. It is published by the Supreme Council, 33°, Southern Jurisdiction in Washington, DC.

<https://scottishrite.org/media-publications/scottish-rite-journal/the-scottish-rite-journal/>



Philaethes: The Journal of Masonic Research & Letters

Since 1946, Philaethes has provided Masonic light to generations of Freemasons presenting thought-provoking articles on Masonic symbolism, ritual, history, art and philosophy, as well as careful book reviews and insightful editorial content. This scholarly, independent journal of Masonic studies is devoted to exploring the history, ritual, art, symbolism and the enduring practice and application of Freemasonry. Each quarterly edition features the latest research and ideas, presented in contemporary and colorful design. <https://philaethes.myshopify.com/pages/journal>



Northern Light: The Magazine of the Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction

Published since 1970, The Northern Light is a premier magazine of the Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. The magazine is delivered quarterly to every member of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and distributed across the country and worldwide to other Supreme Councils and subscribers. Archives dating back to our inaugural issue in January 1970 are available.

<https://scottishritenmj.org/the-northern-light>



The Southern California Research Lodge Fraternal Review

The Southern California Research Lodge is dedicated to Masonic education and information, offering enlightenment to Masons and Lodges with their monthly publication, the *Fraternal Review* magazine. Each issue is dedicated to a specific topic such as Masonic symbols, lore, and history. You do not need to be a Mason to subscribe. The Southern California Research Lodge has published the *Fraternal Review* for over six decades.

<https://www.theresearchlodge.com/store>



Freemasonry Today

The Official Journal of the United Grand Lodge of England

Quarterly *magazine* of the United Grand Lodge of England, featuring *Freemasons'* news, interviews, and features. Free to view online.

<https://www.freemasonrytoday.com/magazine>



The Square

Published independently of all Grand Lodges, *The Square* Magazine offers in-depth and thought-provoking articles on all aspects of Freemasonry written by the leading Masonic writers from around the world.

<https://www.thesquaremagazine.com/>

The Rubicon Masonic Society

Along with The William O. Ware Lodge of Research and Lexington Lodge No. 1

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

21st Century Conversations on Freemasonry

Following the success of the previous thirteen virtual education series initiated by Lexington Lodge No.1 in May 2020, and the subsequent success of the Rubicon Masonic Society's extension of the series with eight additional episodes, Rubicon, along with William O. Ware Lodge of Research and Lexington Lodge No. 1 will be presenting twelve additional episodes in 2021. Each episode is scheduled for the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. EST. All previous episodes of the series may be found on YouTube.


Open to Masons of all Degrees who are interested in thoughtful, structured, Masonic education, discussion, lively Q & A, and conviviality. Preferred Attire is Coat and Tie. Gentlemanly Manners Expected.

An RSVP is required to attend. To Register and RSVP: <https://rubiconmasonicsociety.com/rsvp/>

The Rubicon Masonic Society
Co-Sponsored by William O. Ware Lodge of Research & Lexington Lodge No. 1

Invite You to Attend the 2021 Monthly Virtual Series
Monday, January 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. EST

21ST CENTURY CONVERSATIONS
ON FREEMASONRY



Dissecting the Infamy of the Morgan Affair and its Aftermath
A 21st Century Investigation into the Scandal that Almost Destroyed American Freemasonry
With Author of Age of Unreason, John W. Bizzack

The Rubicon Masonic Society
Along with Co-Sponsors William O. Ware Lodge of Research and Lexington Lodge No. 1

Invite You to Attend the 2021 Monthly Virtual Series

21ST CENTURY CONVERSATIONS
ON FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry's
Future

Thomas W. Jackson
RPM Past Grand Secretary of Pennsylvania

Monday, February 22, 2021
7:00 p.m. EST

Open to Masons of all Degrees who are interested in thoughtful, structured, Masonic education, discussion, lively Q & A, and conviviality. Preferred Attire: Coat and Tie - Gentlemanly Manners Expected. An RSVP is required to attend: <https://rubiconmasonicsociety.com/rsvp/>
-To Register and RSVP, click on the link noted in the box above this announcement.

The Rubicon Masonic Society
Along with Co-Sponsors William O. Ware Lodge of Research and Lexington Lodge No. 1

Invite You to Attend the 2021 Monthly Virtual Series

21ST CENTURY CONVERSATIONS
ON FREEMASONRY

Thoughts of an Accidental
Book Publisher

5. Brent Morris, Ph.D., is managing editor of the Scottish Rite Journal, the largest circulation Masonic magazine in the world, and was the first American to be elected Worshipful Master of Quaker Coronado Lodge No. 276, London, the world's premier Masonic research lodge. He is the author or co-author dozens of essays, papers, and of over 40 books on Freemasonry, including *Masonic Philanthropics*, *Orders of American Freemasonry*, *Concordances of Freedom*, *Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?*, *The Complete Lodge's Guide to Freemasonry*, and *Why? Why? Why? Searching for Masonic Origins*. Dr. Morris is also the editor of *Heredom* and former editor of the *Plumbline*. He is responsible for assembling and editing the 2003-2010 NSA collection of Short Talk bulletins.

Monday, March 22, 2021
7:00 p.m. EST

Open to Masons of all Degrees who are interested in thoughtful, structured, Masonic education, discussion, lively Q & A, and conviviality. Preferred Attire: Coat and Tie - Gentlemanly Manners Expected. An RSVP is required to attend: <https://rubiconmasonicsociety.com/rsvp/>
-To Register and RSVP, click on the link below this announcement.

The Rubicon Masonic Society
Along with Co-Sponsors William O. Ware Lodge of Research and Lexington Lodge No. 1

Invite You to Attend the 2021 Monthly Virtual Series

21ST CENTURY CONVERSATIONS
ON FREEMASONRY

Observant
Masonry

Jeriel Smith presents the often-misunderstood topic of Observant Masonry. As a member of three such Blue Lodges, Past Master of The Southern California Research Lodge, Honorary Member of The Rubicon Masonic Society, and regular attendee of the annual gatherings of the Masonic Restoration Foundation, Brother Smith is well-qualified to explain the essentials of the growing movement to restore the best traditions of Freemasonry through the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of our Craft.

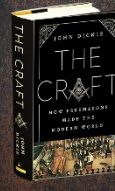
Monday, May 24, 2021
7:00 p.m. EST

Open to Masons of all Degrees who are interested in thoughtful, structured, Masonic education, discussion, lively Q & A, and conviviality. Preferred Attire: Coat and Tie - Gentlemanly Manners Expected. An RSVP is required to attend: <https://rubiconmasonicsociety.com/rsvp/>
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The Rubicon Masonic Society
Along with Co-Sponsors William O. Ware Lodge of Research and Lexington Lodge No. 1

Invite You to Attend the 2021 Monthly Virtual Series

21ST CENTURY CONVERSATIONS
ON FREEMASONRY



John Dickie, a professor of Italian studies at University College London, is an actor, author, and historian, recounts the history of Freemasonry by breaking it down into splendidly written stories. The Craft offers readers like an adventure novel and unfolds as an enthralling exploration of a movement that helped to forge modern society.

Dickie's gaze is both wide and penetrating. He makes a persuasive case for Masonry's historic importance. The depth of research is obvious, but what really makes this book is the author's visceral understanding of what constitutes a very important story, an enlightening read for Masons and non-Masons alike.

Monday, May 24, 2021
7:00 p.m. EST

Open to Masons of all Degrees who are interested in thoughtful, structured, Masonic education, discussion, lively Q & A, and conviviality. Preferred Attire: Coat and Tie - Gentlemanly Manners Expected. An RSVP is required to attend: <https://rubiconmasonicsociety.com/rsvp/>
-To Register and RSVP, click on the link noted in the box above this announcement.


The Rubicon Masonic Society
Along with Co-Sponsors William O. Ware Lodge of Research and Lexington Lodge No. 1

Invite You to Attend the 2021 Monthly Virtual Series

21ST CENTURY CONVERSATIONS
ON FREEMASONRY

Innovations in the Body of Masonry

Michael A. Halleran - PGM-Kansas



Open to Masons of all Degrees who are interested in thoughtful, structured, Masonic education, discussion, and lively Q & A. Preferred Attire: Coat and Tie - Gentlemanly Manners Expected. An RSVP is required to attend: <https://rubiconmasonicsociety.com/rsvp/>
-To Register and RSVP, click on the link noted in the box above this announcement.