

1976
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



A.D. 1976 / A.L. 5976

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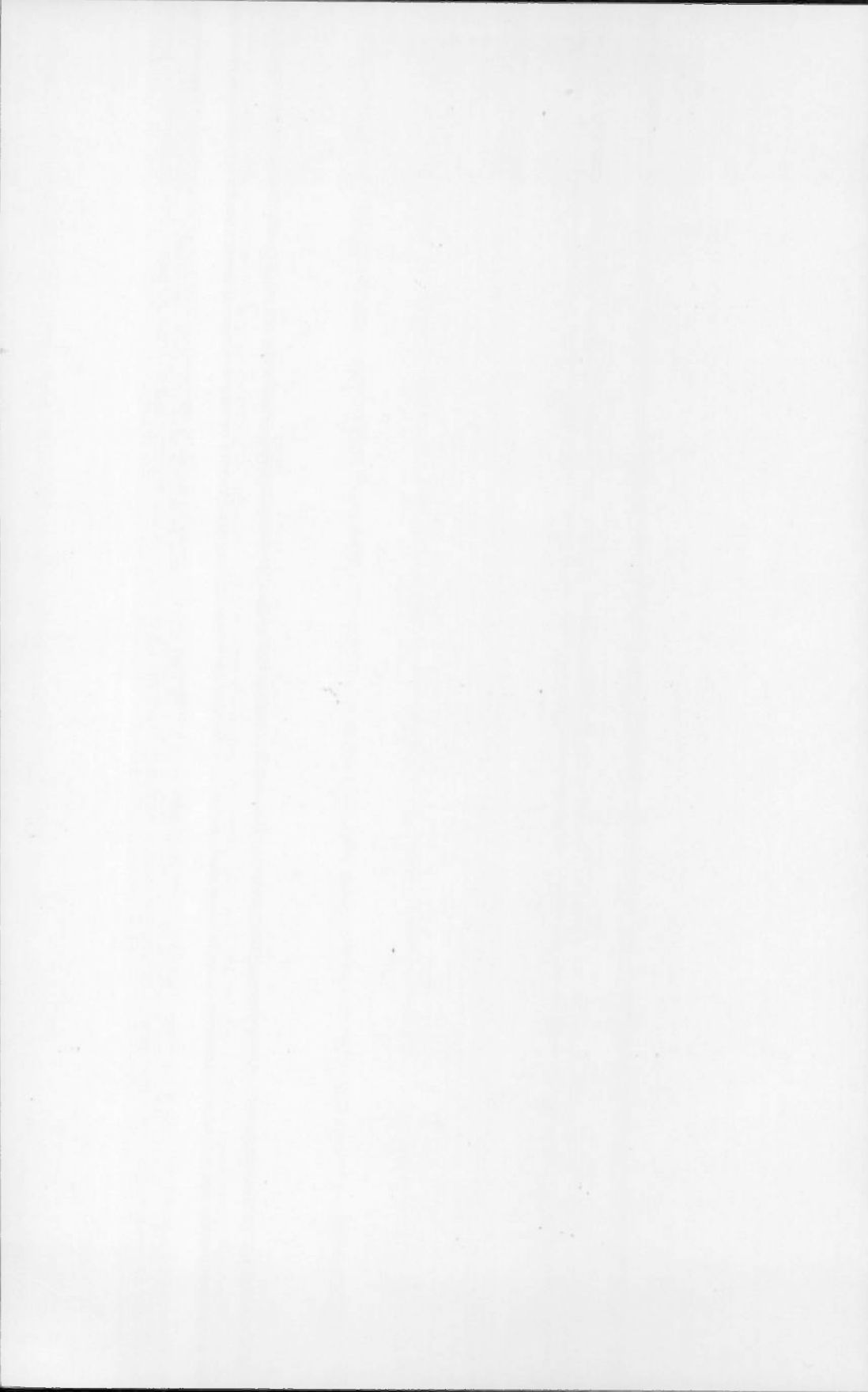


A.D. 2022 / A.L. 6022

COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



given at
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
February 17, 1976





PREFACE

The Commission on Information for Recognition was organized in 1952 as a facility to gather, collate, and from time to time revise information on Grand Lodges in other lands, as a service to the Grand Lodges of this Conference.

The Commission neither advises nor recommends that recognition be given to any Grand Lodges, but merely indicates whether or not it considers that a Grand Lodge in question satisfies the conditions of regularity.

The Commission consists of six members of wide geographical distribution. One new member, usually a Deputy Grand Master, is elected each year, and serves for six years.

After each Annual Meeting of the Conference of Grand Masters, the report, given to and adopted by the Conference, is printed and copies mailed to the Grand Secretaries, and to the Chairmen of the Committees on Fraternal Relations of the Grand Lodges of the Conference. Copies are mailed to many interested brethren who are not members of the Conference.

This report is based upon the most recent information available, and in some cases after a conference with members of some of the Grand Lodges mentioned in the report.

All comments on this report, and all inquiries on other matters of information on Grand Lodges throughout the world, may be addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Commission, Mr. Robert L. Dillard, Jr., 1105 Southland Center, Dallas, Texas 75201.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON INFORMATION FOR RECOGNITION

To the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America:
Most Worshipful Brother Chairman:
Most Worshipful Brethren:

The Commission on Information for Recognition now presents to you its 24th annual report.

There comes a time when we near the end of a journey, that we instinctively look back on the days gone by to appraise the value of the effort. For me, that time is now.

Did we accomplish our goal? Will the results be truly meaningful?

The hope of your Commission is that the information gleaned and presented will be of lasting benefit to the Fraternity in guiding the choice as to which Grand bodies merit recognition.

During the six years I have served on this Commission, I have had opportunity to learn much about the structure and operation of many Grand Lodges. Such information is sometimes surprising, but it is always enlightening. This experience has been very valuable. It has made me a more informed Mason and, I hope, a somewhat better one. I am confident that I have gained much more than I have given, and I do appreciate the opportunity you have given me to be a member of this Commission.

This year's report covers remarks about several Masonic areas, viz: Brazil, France, Mexico, Chile and Mexico, Cuba, and also one other subject.

Before reading the report, I should like to present the members of the Commission. They are:

Most Worshipful Brother Walter L. Smith, P.G.M. of Masons in Mississippi, Vice Chairman;
Most Worshipful Brother Robert H. Danelson, P.G.M. and Grand Secretary of Masons in New Hampshire;
Most Worshipful Brother A.D. Anderson, P.G.M. of Masons in Wisconsin;
Right Worshipful Brother John L. McCain, Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania;
Most Worshipful Brother Eric W. Nancekivell, Grand Master of Masons in Ontario, Canada;
and last, but definitely not least,
Right Worshipful Brother Robert L. Dillard, Jr., P.G.M. of Masons in Texas, and our Secretary since 1968.

Without his dedicated effort and help, truly little would have been accomplished.

BRAZIL

The Commission last year made an extensive report on the situation in Brazil with reference to State Grand Lodges, the Grand Orient, and the State Grand Orients, and concluded with the suggestion that the recognition of the Grand Orient and of those State Grand Lodges that would qualify would seem to be in order. The hope was expressed that some form of mutual recognition agreement could be consummated between the Grand Orient and the State Grand Lodges. Pursuant to this suggestion, Brother Kurt Prober, Assistant Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations of the Grand Orient of Brazil and a dual member of Eureka Lodge No. 5557 of the United Grand Lodge of England, under date of June 13, 1975, submitted a letter to the 22 State Grand Lodges requesting mutual treaties of recognition. In addition, the Grand Orient amended its constitution and included a provision that it would not affiliate any constituent lodge coming from another Masonic authority with which it maintained fraternal relations. This was done in an effort to assure the State Grand Lodges that the Grand Orient would not proselyte any of the constituent lodges of a State Grand Lodge. It would appear that because of the influence of the Confederation of Symbolical Lodges in Brazil, an organization to which all of the State Grand Lodges belong and which met in July of 1975, none of the State Grand Lodges would reply to the invitation for amity extended by the Grand Orient. It is understood, however, that a number of the State Grand Lodges expressed privately a willingness to restore amity with the Grand Orient. It is the understanding of the Commission that the Confederation officially took no action on the proposal of the Grand Orient.

For a number of years the Commission had correspondence with the Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations of the State Grand Lodge of Sao Paulo, Brother Erwin Seignemartin, who subsequently resigned from his office but has now resumed his position and his correspondence with the Commission. He advises that his Grand Lodge is well satisfied with the 1975 Annual Report of the Commission and expresses the hope that amity can be restored between the State Grand Lodges and the Grand Orient and its State Grand Orients. Unfortunately, the State Grand Lodge of Sao Paulo has also had difficulty within its own ranks during 1974 and 1975 and apparently has not worked out its problems.

The Commission would reaffirm its suggestion made last year that recognition of the Grand Orient of Brazil and of those State Grand Lodges that qualify would seem to be in order, and at the same time expresses the hope that such action would in due course aid our Brazilian brothers who seek to cement the relationships between the two systems.

FRANCE

A communication was received by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, a member of this Conference, from a person styling himself as "Worshipful Master" announcing the formation of a Loge Benjamin Franklin of Toulon, France, but making no reference to any Grand Lodge. Upon investigation with the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise, it was determined that this was not a regular lodge of its constitution, the only Grand Lodge in France considered regular by this Commission.

MEXICO

Recent inquiry was made as to the regularity of Grand Lodge Jose Maria Morelos y Pavon in Mexico. This is a Grand Lodge working under an irregular organization known as Rito Nacional Mexicano, which is not recognized either by the State Grand Lodges in Mexico or the York Grand Lodge of Mexico, a member of this Conference. See Denslow, "Regular, Irregular and Clandestine Grand Lodges", The Masonic Service Association, 1956, p. 63. For many reasons, none of the lodges of this organization can be considered regular, including the fact that the V.S.L. is not required to be opened on the altar, the Mexican Constitution being substituted, and the lodges admit women.

CHILE AND MEXICO

The Confederation of Mexican Grand Lodges is an organization of the State Grand Lodges in Mexico, and in 1973 the President of the Confederation, Jorge A. Hernandez Montes, was the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico. After the death of Salvadore Allende, President of the Republic of Chile, Grand Master Montes issued a message of protest with reference to the circumstances surrounding the death of Allende. This message was sent to the President of the Republic of Mexico, but was also released to the Latin American press and received widespread distribution in Mexico and Central and South America. The message of protest prompted a strong rebuttal from the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Chile, who communicated his displeasure to the President of the Interamerican Masonic Conference, which is composed of most of the Grand Lodges in Mexico and Central and South America. After various communications between the Grand Lodge of Chile and several State Grand Lodges, as well as the Confederation of Mexican Grand Lodges, the Grand Lodge of Chile suspended relations with the Confederation and its members. Although efforts were made to persuade the Grand Master of Chile to withdraw his actions, the breach remains and the Grand Master's position was affirmed by his Grand Lodge. As far as the Commission is advised, there has been no change in this situation.

CUBA

The report ordinarily received from Past Grand Master Carlos Pineiro of Cuba was not received in time to be included in the 1975 Report of the Commission due to the illness of Brother Pineiro at the beginning of the year. In substance, Brother Pineiro states that the Grand Lodge of Cuba continues working in its regular form as in previous years, generally free of government control and in spite of the unfavorable political situation in that country. During 1974 the Grand Lodge held its two regular communications, the Annual Communication in March in Havana in the Grand Lodge Temple, and likewise the Semi-Annual Communication was held in Havana in spite of problems sustained by the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Junior Warden. The Grand Lodge still occupies a portion of its Grand Lodge Temple, including its museum, library, offices of the Grand Lodge, and various Lodge rooms on five floors. The Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts reports that he is in regular communication with the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Cuba and he has furnished the Commission with a photocopy of the announcement of the regular Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Cuba held in the Grand Lodge Temple in Havana on March 23, 1975, which includes a list of the Grand Officers for the period from 1975 to 1977. The M: W: Grand

Master is Brother Mario Oliva Rubio and the Grand Secretary is R: W: Juan Varela Alvarez. The Grand Lodge of Mississippi reports that it has received a request for recognition from the Grand Lodge of Cuba under date of October 17, 1975. The Chairman of their Fraternal Relations Committee has furnished the Commission with a photocopy of the letter. With the letter the Grand Secretary, Brother Alvarez, furnished a copy of the Proceedings of March 15, 1975. It is difficult to over-emphasize the courage of Cuban Masons, and particularly the officers of the Grand Lodge of Cuba. The Commission is firmly of the opinion that the Masonic world should stand by the Grand Lodge of Cuba in its time of trial.

A communication just received at this Conference from M: W: Brother Pineiro as to the March 1975 Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge of Cuba reflects further harassment of the Grand Lodge and its constituent lodges by the government of Cuba, including threats to confiscate its charity funds, the closing of one of its constituent lodges, the exiling of its Deputy Grand Master, and the prohibition of its semi-annual meeting in September. In spite of all of this, the Cuban brothers continue their courageous adherence to Freemasonry and its principles.

WORLD ORGANIZATION OF MASONIC THOUGHT AND ASSISTANCE

Information has come to the Commission that an individual in Italy is promoting something which he calls the "World Organization of Masonic Thought and Assistance". There is no indication that such an organization has any support from the Grand Orient of Italy, which is the recognized Masonic authority in that country. Any Grand Lodge approached for participation in such an organization should refer the communication to the Secretary of this Commission and make careful inquiry before taking any action on any proposal made.

It is the opinion of the Commission that the promoters of this organization are not members of regular and recognized Masonic Grand Lodges.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Philadelphia, PA
February 17, 1976

TO THE CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF MASONS OF NORTH AMERICA:

This report is an accounting of the funds of the Commission on Information for the year just passed. Since 3-1-75, 46 Grand Lodges have contributed \$2,705.00. Only six Grand Lodges did not respond to the reminders mailed by the Commission.

Balance from Report 3-1-75	\$2,928.63
Plus Interest to 3-7-75	38.56
	\$2,967.19

Receipts from Grand Lodges since 2-19-75:

New York	\$100.00
New Mexico	50.00
Massachusetts	200.00
Indiana	100.00
Alabama	100.00
Vermont	15.00
Illinois	100.00
Tennessee	100.00
Colorado	50.00
Texas	100.00
York of Mexico	15.00
New Jersey	100.00
British Columbia	50.00
West Virginia	50.00
Rhode Island	15.00
Minnesota	100.00
Louisiana	50.00
District of Columbia	15.00
Delaware	15.00
Puerto Rico	15.00
Manitoba	15.00
Alberta	15.00
Saskatchewan	15.00
Nova Scotia	15.00
Quebec	15.00
Iowa	100.00
Utah	15.00
Maryland	50.00
California	100.00
Oklahoma	50.00
Michigan	75.00
Georgia	50.00
Idaho	25.00
Nevada	15.00
North Carolina	100.00

North Dakota	15.00
Connecticut	50.00
Maine	50.00
South Carolina	100.00
Kentucky	100.00
Wyoming	15.00
Ohio	100.00
Arizona	65.00
Montana	15.00
Missouri	100.00
Florida	100.00

\$2,705.00

5,672.19

Reimbursement of Postage Expense

on Book Order 4.00

5,676.19

Expenses:

American Graphics Press	495.45
Royal Bank of Canada (exchange charge)	2.00
Postage	20.00

517.45*

Current Balance

5,158.74

*NOTE: The expenses for attending the 1975 Conference and printing of and mailing the 1975 Annual Report were:

Printing of Report	875.00
Secretarial	300.00
Travel & hotel for Secretary to Annual Conference	764.05
Postage and miscellaneous	78.40

2,017.45

Less amount paid Secretary-Treasurer

1,500.00

Total

\$ 517.45*

Respectfully submitted,
R. L. DILLARD, JR., Treasurer

CONCLUSION

We recommend that you read carefully the annual reports of this Commission so that you may have the benefit of the research and inquiries made by it and especially by R:W: Brother Robert L. Dillard, Jr., its tireless and very competent Secretary-Treasurer.

I happen to know that Brother Dillard keeps a file on many of the world's Grand Lodges, with information available to you for the asking. Further, let me say that in my opinion, his records contain more information about the World's Grand Lodges and their operation than is available from any other source. Use it. The voluntary contributions of your Grand Lodges are the source of the costs.

Respectfully submitted,

Dot Dotson, Chairman
Walter L. Smith, Vice Chairman
Robert H. Danelson
A. D. Anderson
John L. McCain
Eric W. Nancekivell

ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION FOR 1976

At a meeting of the Commission the following organization was voted for the ensuing year:

Chairman — M: W: Walter L. Smith, Past Grand Master of Mississippi.

Vice-Chairman — M: W: Robert H. Danelson, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary of New Hampshire.

Secretary-Treasurer — R: W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of Texas.

NAMES, ADDRESSES AND YEAR OF RETIREMENT OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

1977 — M: W: Walter L. Smith, Past Grand Master of Mississippi, Station WPMP, 5115 Telephone Rd., Pascagoula, Mississippi 39567.

1978 — M: W: Robert H. Danelson, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary of New Hampshire, 60 Moulton Road, Hampton, New Hampshire 03842.

1979 — M: W: A. D Anderson, M.D., Past Grand Master of Wisconsin, 2665 Marshall Parkway, Madison, Wisconsin 53713.

1980 — R: W: John L. McCain, Grand Master of Pennsylvania, 254 Parker Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15216.

1981 — M: W: Eric W. Nancekivell, M.D., Grand Master of Ontario, Canada, 43 Knyvet Ave., Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L9A3J6.

1982 — R: W: Kermit A. Jacobson, Deputy Grand Master of California, 417 Ninita Parkway, Pasadena, California 91106.

Secretary-Treasurer — R: W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of Texas, 1105 Southland Center, Dallas, Texas 75201.

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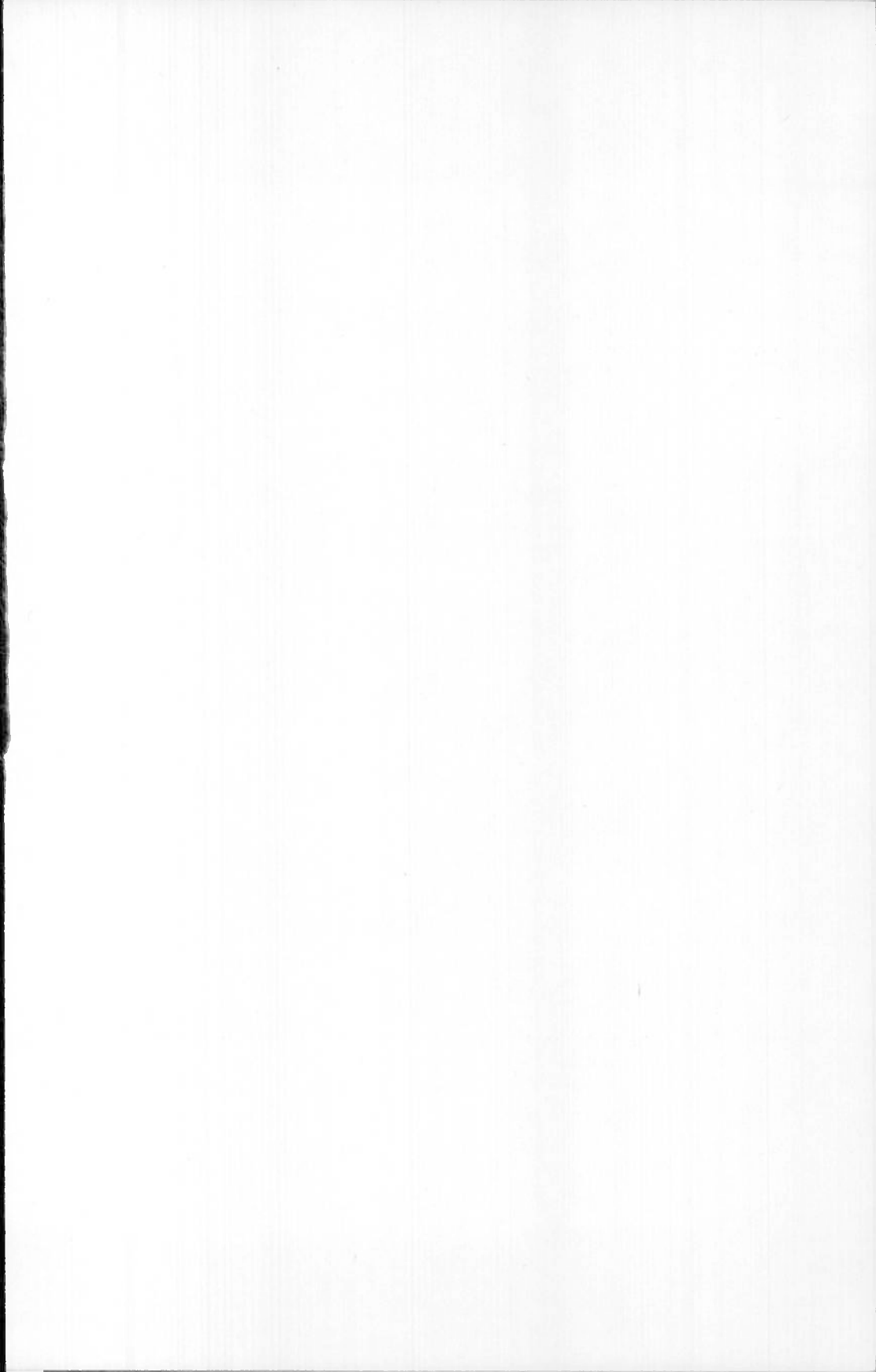
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