

1978
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



A.D. 1978 / A.L. 5978

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

ANNUAL REPORT

given at
WASHINGTON, D.C.
February 22, 1978





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 Chairman 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 and Right Worshipful Brethren:

The Commission on Information for Recognition is pleased to present its 26th annual report — but first it is my pleasure to introduce the members of the Commission.

M:W: A.D. Anderson, M.D., Past Grand Master of Wisconsin
R:W: John L. McCain, Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania
M:W: Eric W. Nancekivell, M.D. Past Grand Master of Canada, Province of Ontario
M:W: Kermit A. Jacobson, Past Grand Master of California
M:W: Gus J. Vlasis, M.D., Grand Master of Tennessee
R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of Texas

Brethren, as I conclude my term of office today, I thank you for having afforded me the opportunity to serve on this most important Commission. I have learned much. I hope I have contributed something. To the members of the Commission, I say, I have thoroughly enjoyed the many hours spent with you over the past six years.

BRAZIL

The Commission has written extensively in the past on Masonry in Brazil and particularly the problems between the State Grand Lodges of Brazil and the Grand Orient. It is always the purpose of the Commission to encourage and promote Masonic unity. This has been its purpose in Brazil in encouraging collaboration and mutual recognition between the Grand Orient and the State Grand Lodges. The Commission is pleased to note that the State Grand Lodge of Guanabara and the Grand Orient of Brazil, both headquartered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, have entered into a Treaty of Fraternal Collaboration and Mutual Recognition under date of November 9, 1977. The Commission considers this document significant enough to set it out in full in this Report. The official translation of this document reads as follows:

TREATY OF FRATERNAL COLLABORATION AND MUTUAL RECOGNITION

We, the undersigned HEITOR CORREA DE MELLO, Most Serene Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Guanabara, and OSMANE VIEIRA DE RESENDE, Sovereign Grand Master General of the Grand Orient of Brazil, legal representatives of the two MASONIC POWERS mentioned herein, located at numbers 945/953 Rua Mariz e Barros and number 97 Rua do Lavradio, respectively, in this City of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, solemnly agree and stipulate the following Treaty of Fraternal Collaboration and Mutual Recognition as an instrument of concord, understanding and elevation of mind designed to extend the area of Masonic fraternity.

1st — The workmen of the Grand Lodge of Guanabara and of the Grand Orient of Brazil are allowed to attend the works of the Lodges under the jurisdiction of both Powers should there exist recognized ritualistic coincidence.

2nd — Having in their minds the defense of the fundamental principles of the Order and the general progress of Masonry and of the Powers signatory of the present Treaty, the Grand Lodge of Guanabara and the Grand Orient of Brazil shall regularly exchange information on candidates for initiation, affiliation, regularization, as well as other information pertinent to Masonic discipline, as well as bulletins and other official correspondence.

3rd — In any case the disciplinary penalty applied to a workman of a Lodge owing obedience to one of the signatories of the present Treaty shall be considered as valid for all purposes in respect of the other one.

4th — Both Powers mutually recognize and respect the legislation in force in same, but explicitly only commit themselves to the terms of the present Treaty.

5th — Until a way peculiar and common to both Powers may be actuated for identification of the regularity of their workers when they have to attend the works of same, they will be only required to show the CARD OF REGULARITY, duly updated and issued by the respective Grand Secretariats.

6th — In additional protocols signed jointly by the Most Serene Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Guanabara and the Sovereign Grand Master General of the Grand Orient of Brazil cases omitted in the present Treaty shall be settled by mutual agreement, the Treaty to be supplemented as may be convenient to both Powers in particular and to Masonry in general.

7th — The Grand Orient of Brazil and the Grand Lodge of Guanabara shall severally defend before those under their jurisdiction or jointly before the sister Powers, the universal principles of the Institution, mainly as to MASONIC REGULARITY and fraternal solidarity.

8th — The Grand Lodge of Guanabara and the Grand Orient of Brazil shall endeavour their best efforts with a view to complying effectively with the terms of the present Treaty and of those deriving herefrom, with the firm purpose of improving the prestige of Masonry in Brazil as well as throughout the Masonic Universe, and shall settle their internal disputes to their best in accordance with the postulates of the Order.

9th — This Treaty shall last for indefinite time, come into force upon approval by the Legislative Body of the TWO SIGNATORY POWERS, and may be amended fully or in part, as well as terminated according to the interests of the Grand Orient of Brazil or the Grand Lodge of Guanabara.

10th — In any of the events provided for under item 9 the interested party shall notify the other party at least 30 (thirty) days in advance, at which time, if applicable, a Joint Commission composed of 6 (six) workmen, being 3 (three) of each signatory Power, shall be set up and invested with full powers to study, discuss and propose to the respective Grand Masters what should be most convenient to both Powers.

And having considered it to be Masonically just and perfect, the present TREATY OF FRATERNAL COLLABORATION AND MUTUAL RECOGNITION is signed, under the protection of the Grand Architect of the Universe, on behalf of the Grand Orient of Brazil, by the Sovereign Grand Master General, the Grand Secretary General of Foreign Masonic Relations, the Grand Secretary General of Administration and the Grand Secretary General of the Great Seal, and, on behalf to the Grand Lodge of Guanabara, the Most Serene Grand Master, the Grand Secretary of Foreign Relations, the Grand Secretary of Internal Relations and the Grand Speaker, the Treaty to be duly registered and published as required.

Orient of Rio de Janeiro, November ninth nineteen hundred and seventy-seven — V.E.

GRAND ORIENT OF BRAZIL — (signed) Osmane Vieira de Resende, Sovereign Grand Master General.

(Signed) Max Jegge, Grand Secretary General of Foreign Masonic Relations.

(Signed) on behalf of Jose Coelho da Silva, Grand Secretary General of Administration Omerly Torres de Camargo.

(Signed) Nilton Borges da Silva, Grand Secretary of the Great Seal.

GRAND LODGE OF GUANABARA — (signed) Heitor Correa de Mello, Most Serene Grand Master.

(Signed) Valdemiro Liberato Pinto, Grand Secretary of Foreign Relations.

(Signed) Sergio Renato de Almeida Marques, Grand Secretary of Internal Relations.

(Signed) Jose Alves de Alencar, Grand Speaker.

Under the seal of the Grand Orient of Brazil.

The Commission expresses the hope that similar treaties will be entered into between the Grand Orient and the other State Grand Lodges of Brazil.

CUBA

The situation of the Grand Lodge of Cuba and the Masons in Cuba was made much more difficult by the action of the Cuban government in promulgating a new law governing all voluntary associations except religious organizations and agricultural cooperatives. The government set aside the old law of 1888, and prescribed new rules and regulations on November 29, 1976, which were made final on May 2, 1977. Voluntary organizations are required to register with the government and furnish detailed information about membership, officers and property. They are subject to regular inspection by government agents, and in the event of a violation of the regulations, are subject to fines, suspensions and even dissolution. The right of appeal from bureaucratic decisions is severely limited.

In 1977, a number of constituent Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Cuba were found guilty of violating these regulations and were fined by the Cuban government from \$100 to \$1,000, and the Grand Lodge was fined nearly \$95,000.

The reason given by the Communist government was that the Lodges and Grand Lodge had been guilty of maintaining on their membership rolls Masons who had fled Cuba and of giving help to the wives and daughters of Masons who had been imprisoned or executed as enemies of the government.

In spite of this persecution the Grand Lodge of Cuba, its constituent Lodges and the Masons have continued to carry on the work of the Masonic fraternity. The regular annual meeting of the Grand Lodge was held in March, 1977, and the semi-annual meeting was resumed in September, 1977, both in the Grand Lodge Temple in Havana. In March, a new Grand Master, Luis Romero Marques, a medical doctor, was elected. The Grand Secretary, Juan Varela Alvarez, a lawyer, was re-elected. There are still 326 constituent Lodges in the Grand Lodge of Cuba, with a present membership of 23,624, a decline of only 1,208 since 1974, a surprisingly small decline considering the circumstances in Cuba today. The Grand Lodge continues to occupy five floors of its Temple in Havana, including its Grand Lodge offices, meeting rooms, museum and library. Our Masonic brothers in Cuba continue to exhibit extraordinary courage, and the Commission reiterates its recommendation that the Grand Lodges of this Conference continue to recognize the Grand Lodge of Cuba.

The Commission acknowledges with appreciation the help of M:W: Brother Carlos Manuel Pinero y del Cueto, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Cuba, and M:W: Brother Juan L. Matos Cintron, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Puerto Rico, in the preparation of this report.

ITALY

The Commission last year reported to the Conference the seriously disruptive situation in the Grand Orient of Italy, largely occasioned by various actions attributed to Grand Master Lino Salvini in his conduct of the affairs of the Grand Orient. Masonry continued in 1977 to be the subject of derogatory comment in the Italian secular press, most of it revolving around Grand Master Salvini. The situation has caused embarrassment and great concern in several Grand Lodges which are members of this Conference and one Grand Lodge has withdrawn recognition from the Grand Orient. Another Grand Lodge is seriously considering withdrawing recognition unless there is a complete change in the leadership of the Grand Orient in the very near future.

Grand Master Salvini has advised the Commission that under the laws of the Grand Orient he is not eligible for re-election as Grand Master when his term expires in March, 1979. The end of his term, over a year off, may not come in time to forestall the withdrawal of recognition from the Grand Orient by other Grand Lodges of this Conference and elsewhere in the world. It would seem that only Brother Salvini's immediate resignation will solve the problem.

Furthermore, unless the Grand Master who succeeds Brother Salvini is not completely independent and beyond the influence of Brother Salvini, peace and unity will not be restored in Italian Masonry. Another step that seems necessary to the Commission to restore harmony is the reinstatement to good standing by Grand Master Salvini of those brothers who were arbitrarily and without due process expelled by him.

The Commission has very carefully reviewed a great volume of written material from individuals, both Italian and non-Italian Masons, and has interviewed Grand Master Salvini and other Italian Masons. It has also examined many newspaper accounts reporting on the Masonic situation in Italy generally and the Grand Orient in particular. Based on the voluminous information it has, and nearly three years of study, the Commission recommends to the Grand Lodges of this Conference that recognition be withdrawn from the Grand Orient of Italy.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Under date of November 15, 1977, the Grand Lodge of Southern Africa announced that it had agreed to accept into its membership members of the "coloured" community operating under a charter issued to two lodges in Cape Town and Kimberley, South Africa, by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The two Prince Hall Lodges, Southern Cross of Cape Town and St. Patrick of Kimberley, were made constituent lodges of the Grand Lodge of Southern Africa. The Lodges had applied for membership in the Grand Lodge of Southern Africa six years ago. The ceremony included the initiation, passing and raising of the Prince Hall members and the consecration of the two Lodges under the names of Lodge Perseverance No. 126 at Cape Town and Lodge Phoenix No. 127 at Kimberley, both now under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Southern Africa. This event took place at Lodge De Goede Hoop at Cape Town on November 19, 1977. The acceptance of coloured members was approved by the government of South Africa and extensively reported in the South African press. Under the terminology used in South Africa, "coloureds" are persons of mixed blood or "browns" including East Indians and certain Orientals.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Washington, D.C.
February 22, 1978

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 2-23-77, 48 Grand Lodges have contributed \$2,600.00. Only five Grand Lodges did not respond to the reminders mailed by the Commission.

Balance from Report 2-23-77 \$6,425.74

Receipts from Grand Lodges since 2-23-77:

Arizona	65.00
South Dakota	25.00
Georgia	50.00
Texas	100.00
Louisiana	50.00
South Carolina	100.00
Maine	50.00
Indiana	100.00
Washington	100.00
Manitoba	15.00
Quebec	15.00
Rhode Island	15.00
Wyoming	15.00
District of Columbia	15.00
North Dakota	15.00
Utah	15.00
New Jersey	100.00
Illinois	100.00
Virginia	100.00
Nebraska	50.00
New Mexico	50.00
Connecticut	50.00
West Virginia	50.00
Massachusetts	100.00
Alberta	15.00
Iowa	100.00
New Brunswick	15.00
Oregon	50.00
Montana	15.00
British Columbia	50.00
Puerto Rico	15.00
Oklahoma	50.00
California	100.00
Delaware	15.00
Maryland	50.00
York of Mexico	15.00
Mississippi	100.00
Alabama	100.00
Vermont	15.00
Saskatchewan	15.00

Kentucky	100.00	
Michigan	75.00	
Idaho	25.00	
Nevada	15.00	
Missouri	100.00	
North Carolina	100.00	
Florida	100.00	
Arkansas	20.00	
		\$2,600.00
		9,025.74

Expenses:

Printing of 1977 Report	474.92	
Secretarial	500.00	
Travel & hotel for Secretary to Annual Conference	908.47	
Postage and miscellaneous	139.95	
		2,023.34

Current Balance \$7,002.40

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

CONCLUSION

In concluding this 26th annual report to the Conference of Grand Masters, the other members of your Commission join me in expressing our great admiration and gratitude to our Secretary-Treasurer, R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of Texas, who never ceases to amaze us with his wealth of knowledge of Freemasonry throughout the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Danelson, Chairman

A.D. Anderson, Vice Chairman

John L. McCain

Eric W. Nancekivell

Kermit A. Jacobson

Gus J. Vlasis

Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer

ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION FOR 1978

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

Chairman — M:W: A.D. Anderson, M.D.,
Past Grand Master of Wisconsin
Vice-Chairman — R:W: John L. McCain,
Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania
Secretary-Treasurer — R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr.,
Past Grand Master of Texas

NAMES, ADDRESSES AND YEAR OF RETIREMENT OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

1979 — M:W: A.D. Anderson, M.D., Past Grand Master of Wisconsin, 5110 Manitowoc Parkway, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

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

1981 — M:W: Eric W. Nancekivell, M.D., Past Grand Master of Ontario, Canada, 43 Knyvet Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L9A 3J6.

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

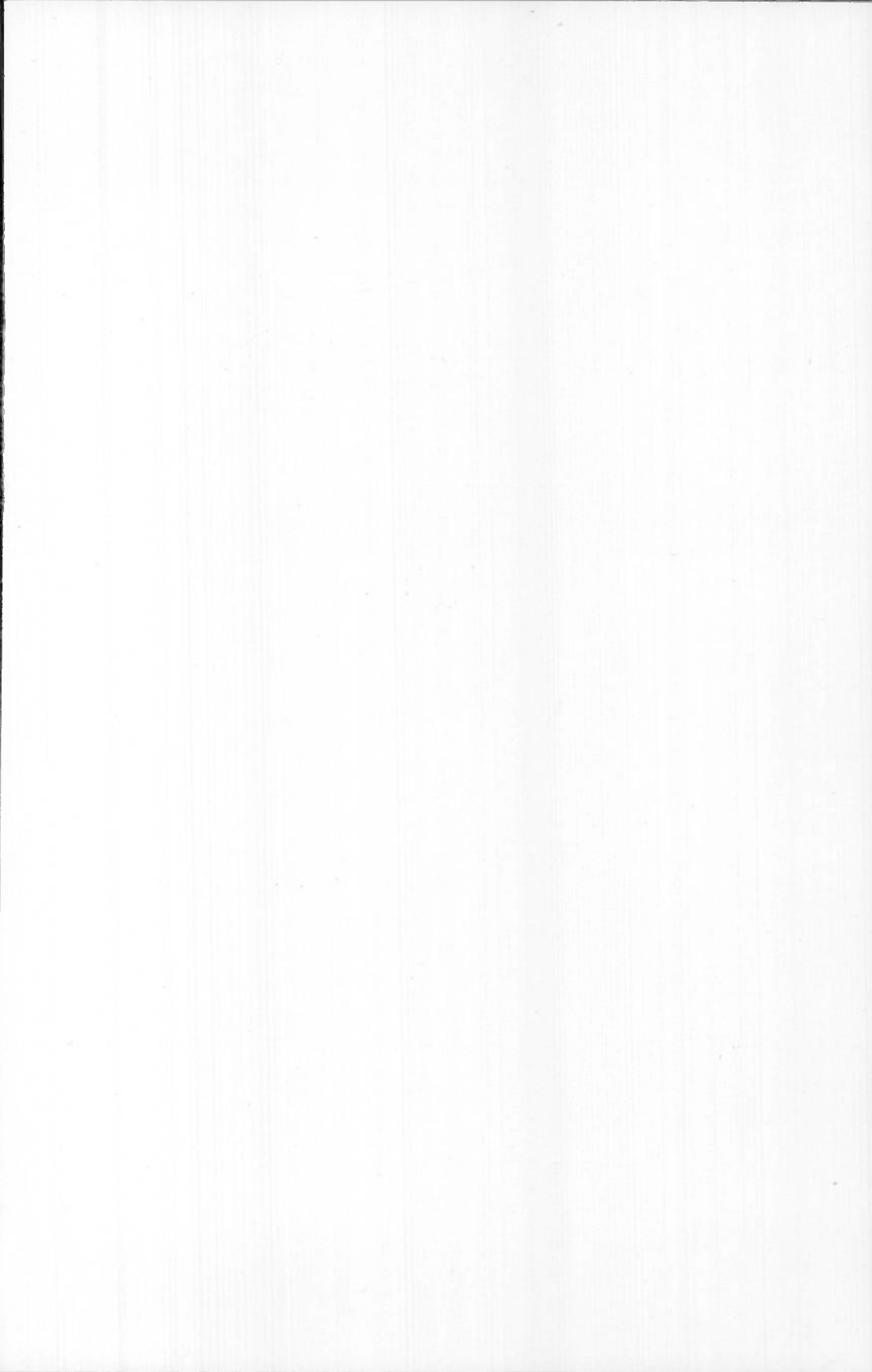
1983 — M:W: Gus J. Vlasits, M.D., Grand Master of Tennessee, 115 Provident Building, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402.

1984 — R:W: James H. Hutchins, Deputy Grand Master of Delaware, 623 N. Bradford Street, Dover, Delaware 19901.

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

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