

1981
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



A.D. 1981 / A.L. 5981

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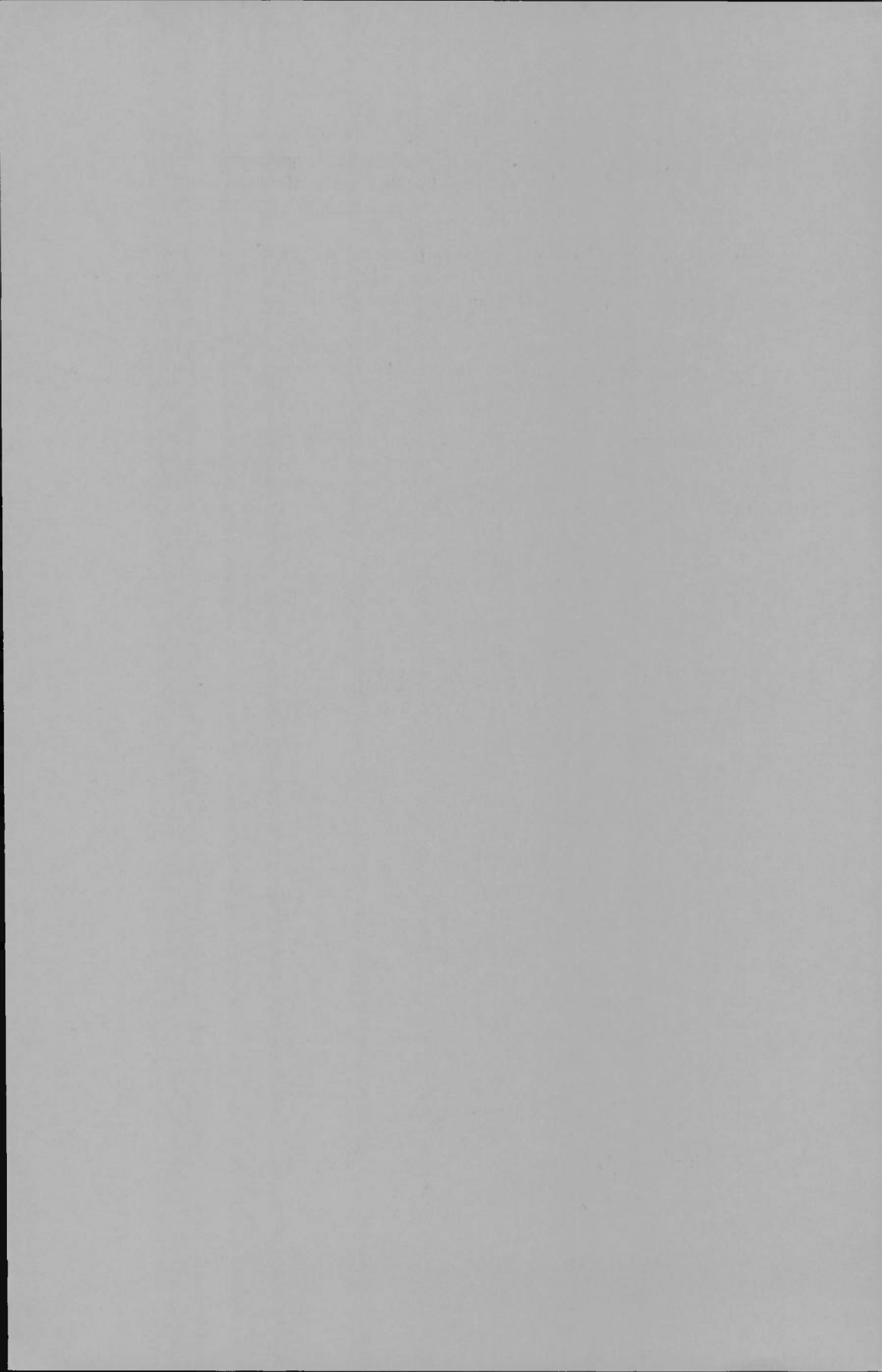


A.D. 2022 / A.L. 6022

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



given at
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
February 17, 1981



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, R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr., P.O. Box 1850, Dallas, Texas 75221.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON INFORMATION FOR RECOGNITION

Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brethren of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America:

I now present to you what must be the 29th annual report of the Commission on Information for Recognition, as it was first formed in 1952. It has been a great privilege and an honour for me as a Canadian and a representative of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario to serve on the Commission on Information for Recognition for the past six years and to be the Chairman this year. It has been an outstanding Masonic experience to work with our diligent and most efficient Secretary-Treasurer, Rt. Wor. Bro. Robert L. Dillard, Jr., P.G.M. of Texas, and with each individual member of the Commission. Rt. Wor. Bro. Dillard is most knowledgeable in the field of recognition and corresponds with prominent Masons in all parts of the world to keep the Commission and, through this Commission, the constituent Grand Lodges of this Conference fully informed of the Masonic situation in every country. His work in continuity is absolutely invaluable and of the utmost importance to Masonry, and he does it thoroughly, intelligently and indeed beautifully. May I present him to you – Rt. Wor. Bro. Dillard, our Secretary-Treasurer.

The other members of the Commission in order of seniority of service are as follows, and I would ask each to rise as his name is called and be presented to the Conference:

Most Wor. Kermit A. Jacobson, Past Grand Master of California

Most Wor. Gus J. Vlasis, Past Grand Master of Tennessee

Most Wor. James H. Hutchins, Past Grand Master of Delaware

Most Wor. Charles A. Brigham, Jr., Past Grand Master of Ohio

Most Wor. Morris J. Budkofsky, Grand Master of Connecticut

It has been a stimulating and rewarding experience to work with each of these distinguished brethren.

Since the delegates to this Conference change greatly from year to year, I should like to repeat this year the Standards of Recognition laid down for our guidance from the time of origin of this Commission. These are the guidelines which indicate whether a Grand Lodge is regular or not, and therefore whether or not it is worthy of recognition. When the Commission has come to a decision in this regard, it advises the constituent Grand Lodges of this Conference of this decision, but in no way attempts to dictate to any Grand Lodge what its individual action should be. The Commission therefore serves this Conference purely in an advisory capacity.

These Standards of Recognition are as follows:

1. Legitimacy of origin
2. Exclusive territorial jurisdiction
3. Adherence to the Ancient Landmarks, specifically a belief in God, the Volume of the Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the furniture of the lodge, and the prohibition of politics and religion.

The Grand Jurisdictions that have come before the scrutiny of the Commission this year are:

SOUTH AFRICA

The Grand Lodge of Southern Africa recently changed its name to the Grand Lodge of South Africa. The address of the Grand Lodge remains the same; i.e., P.O. Box 61336, Marshalltown, 2107, T.v.1., South Africa.

IRAN

It appears that Freemasonry in Iran may have been completely destroyed. The information which comes to the Commission is that all of the Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Iran have been closed, and the Masons who were not able to escape from the country have been persecuted and some of them executed. Until there is a change in the revolutionary government ruled by the Ayatollah Khomeini, there does not seem to be any possibility for the revival of Freemasonry in Iran.

The Commission is advised that a number of lodges in the United States have been approached by Iranians to affiliate with such lodges or in some cases to receive the Fellowcraft and Master's Degrees. The Commission is now in the process of trying to determine sources of information to verify the membership of such persons in constituent lodges of the Grand Lodge of Iran .

SPAIN

The first Standard adopted for use by the Commission on Information for Recognition was, "That the Grand Lodge requesting recognition has been lawfully formed by at least three just and duly constituted Lodges, or that it has been legally recognized by a Grand Lodge in fraternal relation with the Grand Lodge from whom recognition has been requested." The Commission amplified this Standard by stating, "That such Grand Lodge must be 'under the tongue of good repute' for an adequate number of years before such fraternal recognition is extended." (See *Grand Lodge Recognition*, pp. 69)

This Standard is the same as that adopted by the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland and by many Grand Lodges in the United States and elsewhere.(See *Grand Lodge Recognition*, pp. 71, et seq)

The United Grand Orient of Spain (Grande Oriente Espanol Unido) through its Master, Francisco Espinar Lafuente, and its Grand Secretary, Pascual Paricio Perez, have asked many Grand Lodges in the United States for recognition, declaring that the United Grand Orient meets all of the Standards of Recognition, but failing to show any legitimacy of origin. The Grande Loge Nationale Francaise, a regular, recognized Grand Lodge, has chartered a number of lodges in Spain within recent years, the latest being Arthur T. Weed Lodge No. 59, chartered and set to work in Madrid in January of this year. The United Grand Orient has issued a circular letter to various Grand Lodges in which it is asserted that the National Grand Lodge of France has invaded the exclusive jurisdiction in Spain of the United Grand Orient, claiming that

Spain was not "open territory." Since the old Grand Orient of Spain, prior to the time it went into exile in Mexico, was never recognized as a regular Grand Lodge by the Grand Lodges of the United States nor by the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland, Spain would be considered open territory. The National Grand Lodge of France, therefore, acted properly in chartering lodges in Spain.

It would appear that the most-likely possibility for the recognizing of a regular Grand Lodge in Spain would be through the lodges chartered by the National Grand Lodge of France. It is the understanding of the Commission that the name, "Grand Lodge of Spain," has already been reserved through the efforts of officers of the National Grand Lodge of France. The Commission cannot consider the United Grand Lodge of Spain to be regular under the legitimacy of origin Standards referred to above.

PORTUGAL

The history of Freemasonry in Portugal has been as chaotic as it has been in Spain. As Freemasonry was revived in 1833, the various organizations called Masonic were merged in a United Lusitanian Grand Orient in 1869. The name "Lusitanian" was adopted because the Grand Orient was located on Lusitano Street in Lisbon. In 1935 it was prohibited by the dictator, Salazar. At one time this Grand Orient had one hundred twenty lodges of nearly ten thousand members. With the re-establishment of a democratic government in Portugal, it would appear that the United Lusitanian Grand Orient may be revived. The Commission understands that it is still located at the same address, Gremio Lus 25 in Lisbon. The officers of this Grand Orient have been reluctant to indicate what course of action they intend to take in reviving the Grand Orient. Unfortunately, it has maintained fraternal relations with the Grand Orient of France and other irregular Grand Lodges which would prevent it from meeting the Standards of this Commission.

The Commission is hopeful that regular Masonry will be established in Portugal in the not too distant future.

ALASKA

The Commission has been advised by the Grand Secretary of the State of Washington that twelve of the nineteen lodges chartered by the Grand Lodge of Washington in the State of Alaska have decided to organize a new Grand Lodge of Alaska. The other seven lodges have chosen to remain as constituent lodges of the Grand Lodge of Washington. The Commission understands that the Grand Lodge of Alaska has been formed with the consent of the Grand Lodge of Washington which had no objection thereto. The first grand communication of the new Grand Lodge was held on February 7, 1981.

The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Alaska was organized in accordance with regular Masonic procedure and is therefore entitled to and worthy of recognition.

BELGIUM

There has been no substantial change in the situation in Belgium. The Gran Lodge Reguliere de Belgique as of December 2, 1980, has received recognition from the following Grand Lodges:

England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Greece, Turkey, South Africa, Israel, India, Brazil, Colombia, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Connecticut, Washington, D.C., Tennessee, Texas, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Vermont, Florida, West Virginia, Ohio, Nevada, Arizona, Virginia, South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, Nova Scotia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, New Brunswick and Manitoba, South Dakota, Rhode Island, Maine, North Dakota, Georgia, Michigan, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Kentucky.

Since December 2, the Commission has information that the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands (Holland) has withdrawn recognition from the old Grand Lodge of Belgium and granted recognition to the new Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium. Some Grand Lodges on the European continent have declined to withdraw recognition from the old Grand Lodge and suggested the possibility of recognizing both. Among the Grand Lodges not taking action to withdraw recognition from the old Grand Lodge are Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria, and the Grand Orient of Italy.

ECUADOR

In December of 1979 a letter was directed to many of the Grand Lodges in this Conference from an organization called Gran Logia Equinoccial of Quito, Ecuador. The letter was signed by Dr. Pablo Guerrero Torres, "Worshipful Grand Master." The address given in the letter was Calle San Salvador 140, Urbanizacion La Pradera, Quito, Ecuador. This letter stated that the Grand Lodge of Ecuador in Guayaquil had agreed to the establishment of the Grand Equinoccial Lodge in Quito. Shortly thereafter, under date of January 22, 1980, the Grand Lodge of Ecuador advised the Grand Lodges of the Conference that its Constitution had not been changed so as to allow the formation of a Grand Lodge in Quito and that the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ecuador continued over the entire Republic of Ecuador. The Commission has not been advised of any further developments.

NIGERIA

Preliminary action was begun on the formation of a "Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Nigeria" in May of 1978. Subsequently, the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland voted to sponsor a United Grand Lodge of Nigeria. There are forty-six Scottish Lodges, twenty-six English Lodges, and six Irish Lodges in Nigeria eligible to join a United Grand Lodge of Nigeria. It is the understanding of the Commission that the English Lodges in Nigeria are still in the process of voting whether to join the new Grand Lodge of Nigeria or remain with the United Grand Lodge of England. The six lodges of the Grand Lodge of Ireland are also in the process of voting on the same question.

CUBA

The Grand Lodge of Cuba sent several documents to the Grand Lodges of this Conference and to the Grand Lodges of the Inter-American Confederation with reference to a Grand Lodge of Cuba in exile in Miami, Florida. The organization in Florida ap-

parently requested recognition from some of the Grand Lodges in South America. The communication from the Grand Lodge of Cuba in Havana requested that no recognition be given to the organization in Florida. The Grand Secretary of Cuba is Brother Juan Varela Alvarez who has served as Grand Secretary for a number of years, and the present Grand Master is Brother Basilio A. Barreta Martinez. The communications state that the Grand Lodge of Cuba has 326 lodges in Cuba and continues to operate in accordance with its original Masonic law. As this Commission has repeatedly said, the Masons of Cuba have continued to operate regularly and courageously in spite of various difficulties.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Orlando, Florida
February 15, 1981

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 past, ending at December 31, 1980. Since January 1, 1980, 48 Grand Lodges have contributed \$2,625.00.

Balance from Report dated February 17, 1980\$7,719.62

Receipts from Grand Lodges between 1-1-80 and 12-31-80:

Florida	\$100.00
New York	100.00
Washington	100.00
South Dakota	25.00
Missouri	100.00
Oregon	50.00
New Mexico	50.00
Massachusetts	100.00
Mississippi	50.00
Maine	50.00
Texas	100.00
Arizona	15.00
New Brunswick	15.00
Virginia	100.00
District of Columbia	15.00
New Hampshire	15.00
Illinois	100.00
Rhode Island	15.00
Kentucky	100.00
Saskatchewan	15.00
Utah	15.00
South Carolina	100.00

Alberta	15.00
New Jersey	100.00
Maryland	50.00
Louisiana	50.00
Minnesota	50.00
Indiana	100.00
Wyoming	15.00
Wisconsin	50.00
Puerto Rico	15.00
Oklahoma	100.00
Arkansas	20.00
York, Mexico	15.00
West Virginia	50.00
Manitoba	15.00
Quebec	15.00
North Dakota	15.00
Nova Scotia	15.00
Michigan	100.00
Vermont	15.00
Alabama	100.00
Iowa	100.00
Kansas	100.00
British Columbia	50.00
North Carolina	100.00
Montana	15.00
Nevada	25.00

\$2,625.00
\$10,344.62

Expenses between 1-1-80 and 12-31-80:

Printing & mailing of 1980 Report	\$271.76
Secretarial	1,000.00
Travel & hotel for Secretary-Treasurer to Conference	1,110.61
Postage, printing & miscellaneous	100.81

\$2,483.18

CURRENT BALANCE \$7,861.44

Respectfully submitted,
Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer

CONCLUSION

This concludes the 29th Annual Report of the Commission to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric W. Nancekivell, Chairman
Kermit A. Jacobson, Vice-Chairman
Gus J. Vlasis
James H. Hutchins
Charles A. Brigham, Jr.
Morris I. Budkofsky
Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer

ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION FOR 1981

At a meeting of the Commission on February 15, 1981, the following organization was voted for the ensuing year:

Chairman -- M:W: Kermit A. Jacobson
Past Grand Master of California
Vice-Chairman -- M:W: Gus J. Vlasis
Past Grand Master of Tennessee
Secretary-Treasurer -- R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr.
Past Grand Master of Texas

NAMES, ADDRESSES AND YEAR OF RETIREMENT OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

- 1981 -- M:W: Kermit A. Jacobson, Past Grand Master of California, 417 Ninita Parkway, Pasadena, California 91106.
- 1982 -- Gus J. Vlasis, M.D., Past Grand Master of Tennessee, 115 Provident Building, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402.
- 1983 -- M:W: James H. Hutchins, Past Grand Master of Delaware, 623 North Bradford Street, Dover, Delaware 19901.
- 1984 -- M:W: Charles A. Brigham, Jr., Past Grand Master of Ohio, 511 Walnut Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.
- 1985 -- M:W: Morris I. Budkofsky, Grand Master of Connecticut, 45 Brightview Drive, West Hartford, Connecticut 06117.
- 1986 -- R:W: J. Lewis Beckstead, M.D., Deputy Grand Master of Manitoba, 543 Waverly Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3M 3K7.

Secretary-Treasurer -- R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of Texas, P.O. Box 1850, Dallas, Texas 75221.

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