

1982
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



A.D. 1982 / A.L. 5982

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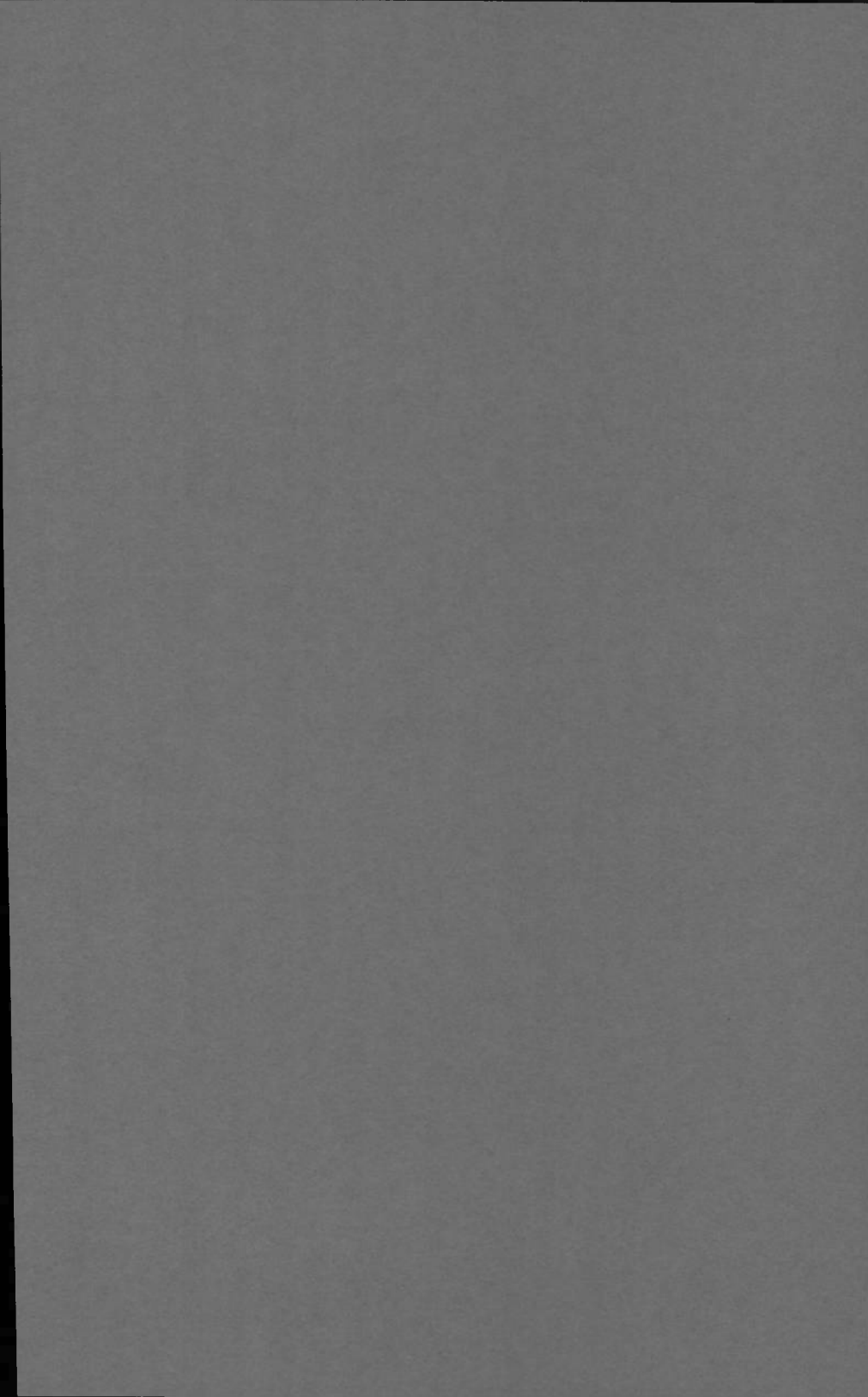
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A.D. 2022 / A.L. 6022

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



given at
WASHINGTON, D.C.
February 23, 1982



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 OF 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 am honored to present the 30th Annual Report of the Commission on Information for Recognition.

I have observed closely over the past six years the operations of the Commission and recognize a continuing respect for the judgment and recommendations of the Commission.

It is clear that these decisions have helped to establish the standards necessary for compliance with the general rules of our order.

There is a good probability that the monitoring process has tended to improve the harmony and understanding between Grand Bodies who have somewhat different philosophies.

The firm position and influence exerted by the Commission against infractions of our Masonic laws and principles have resulted in clearing up situations which have been uncomplimentary of our Craft.

Also, such pressure and influence have assisted in protecting and preserving regular Masonry throughout the world.

It has been an honor and truly an outstanding Masonic experience to serve on the Commission on Information for Recognition for the past six years and to be the Chairman in this my final year.

Those who are presently serving and those who have served as members of the Commission have greatly appreciated the dedicated service of our Secretary-Treasurer. He 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 the Commission, the constituent Grand Lodges of this Conference fully informed of the Masonic situation in every country. May I present to you--Rt. Wor. Bro. Robert L. Dillard, Jr., P.G.M. of Texas, our Secretary-Treasurer.

I am pleased to present the members of the Commission in order of seniority of service as follows:

Most Wor. Gus J. Vlasis, M.D. 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. J. Lewis Beckstead, M.D., Grand Master of Manitoba

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

Since the delegates to this Conference change from year to year, I should repeat that the Standards of Recognition laid down for our guidance are those adapted at the origin of this Commission in 1952. These are 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 so advises the Grand Lodges of this Conference, but in no way attempts to dictate to the constituent Grand Lodges concerning their individual actions. The Commission serves this Conference in an advisory capacity only.

The 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 the discussion of politics and religion in the lodge.

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

ALASKA

This newest of Grand Lodges has been well received by the other regular Grand Lodges in the world. Most of the Grand Lodges in the United States and several in Canada have granted recognition to the Grand Lodge of Alaska. The Commission is advised that the Grand Lodge of Scotland granted recognition in November, 1981.

It is anticipated that other regular Grand Lodges will eventually grant recognition to this Grand Lodge. It meets annually on the first Thursday in February each year.

Brother Gunnar Flygenring is the Grand Secretary and his mailing address is Post Office Box 6668, Anchorage, Alaska 99502.

BELGIUM

Early in 1979, the Commission in a Special Communique stated that it did not consider the former Grand Lodge of Belgium regular. The Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium (Grande Loge Reguliere de Belgique) was organized in 1979, and the Commission in its 1980 Report expressed the opinion that this new Grand Lodge was regular and entitled to recognition. Since 1979, a majority of the Grand Lodges in the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, and most of the other Grand Lodges in the world have recognized the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium and withdrawn recognition from the former Grand Lodge of Belgium. The Regular Grand Lodge has printed its Constitution, General Regulations and Decrees in English so that any English-speaking Grand Lodge may easily determine that this Grand Lodge adheres to the Standards of the Commission for regularity.

The present Grand Secretary is Dr. Edgard Spehl, and the address of the Grand Lodge is Koningsstraat 265, B-1030, Brussels, Belgium.

The Commission reaffirms its belief that Grande Loge Reguliere Belgique is the only regular Grand Lodge in Belgium.

BRAZIL

The Commission is unable to report any progress in the efforts to unify Masonry in Brazil. The Grand Orient continues to insist that it be recognized as the only regular Masonry in that country in spite of the fact that the size of Brazil makes it extremely difficult for one Grand Lodge to govern the entire country. Masonry is divided into the

State Grand Lodges, the State Grand Orients which relate to the Grand Orient, and the State Grand Orients which are independent of the Grand Orient. At this point in time, it appears highly improbable that there will be any agreement between these various Masonic groups. The position of the Commission is best explained on page 3 of the 1974 Report of the Commission.

Last year the Commission was advised by the Grand Master of Rio Grande do Sul, Kurt Max Hauser, that the former territory of Roraima in North Central Brazil had become a state and that as a consequence the Grand Lodge of Amazonas had agreed to the establishment of a new Grand Lodge in that state. The new Grand Lodge is "Grand Loja de Roraima." This state is bordered on the north and west by Venezuela and on the south by Guyana. It appears from the information furnished the Commission from Brother Hauser that this is a regular State Grand Lodge of Brazil.

Brother Hauser also advises the Commission that it is contemplated that a new Grand Lodge will be founded through the Grand Lodge of Amazonas in the State of Rondonia about the middle of 1982. Rondonia is bordered on the south and west by Bolivia and on the east by the State of Mato Grosso in Brazil.

The State Grand Lodge of Guanabara in Brazil was excluded from the Confederation of Brazilian Grand Lodges and the other State Grand Lodges have withdrawn their recognition of the Grand Lodge of Guanabara. According to information received by the Commission, the last two Grand Masters of Guanabara as well as the present Grand Master were involved in the Italian Lodge "P-2." At least, their names were included in the lists discovered by the Italian police in the residence of Licio Gelli. In addition, one of the Past Grand Masters of Guanabara was shown as president of the mysterious entity "OMPAM" of which Licio Gelli was secretary. Since the parties involved refused to give any explanation of their connection with Gelli, the Brazilian State Grand Lodges withdrew recognition from the Grand Lodge of Guanabara.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Information has been requested from time to time about this Grand Lodge.

Masonry came to this area as early as 1762; however, it was not until December, 1858, that the Grand Lodge of the Dominican Republic was organized. The early history of this Grand lodge is recited in the Commission book, "Information for Recognition," page 63, et seq. This Grand Lodge is recognized by the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland as well as by all of the Grand Lodges of the United States with the exception of six.

There is a comment on this Grand Lodge in the Reports of the Commission for 1972 and 1975.

IRAN

Many Iranian Masons have fled their country because of the persecution of Masons by the Revolutionary Party in control of that country. A number of firsthand reports to the Commission state that Freemasonry in Iran has been completely destroyed as an organization.

The Commission is now in a position to verify the membership of Iranian Masons who have left Iran and desire to affiliate with constituent lodges of Grand Lodges which are members of this Conference of Grand Masters, even though the Iranian

Mason may have no documentary proof of his membership. Upon request, the Secretary of the Commission will be glad to assist any Grand Secretary to verify such membership.

ITALY

The Commission has continued to carefully monitor the situation in the Grand Orient relative to Lodge "P-2." The Commission dealt with this problem in its Reports of 1977 and 1978, and although P-2 was suspended by the Grand Orient in July, 1976, appropriate action was not taken by the officers of the Grand Orient to carry out the order of suspension and prevent the improper use of the records of P-2 by Licio Gelli. The necessary action was not taken until 1981 to carry out this order, and Gelli has now been suspended and charges filed against him. It is unfortunate for Italian Masonry (and, indeed, for Freemasonry throughout the world) that the Grand Orient did not take more timely and effective action on its own resolve with reference to P-2.

The officers of the Grand Orient have given their assurance that they adhere to the Standards set by this Commission, and the Commission believes that the activities of Gelli are not directly chargeable to the Grand Orient or its Grand Master, Brother Ennio Battelli. The Commission will continue to review the situation, but does not recommend that any other action be taken at this time.

LEBANON

In recent months several requests have been received by the Commission for Information on the Masonic situation in Lebanon. In modern times there has not been a regular indigenous Grand Lodge in Lebanon. The only regular Masonic lodges in that country since its independence have been the lodges chartered by the Grand Lodge of New York and the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The Grand Lodge of New York has had a District Grand Lodge in Lebanon for many years, and it presently lists nine constituent lodges in Lebanon and one in Syria under its District Grand Lodge of Syria-Lebanon. The Commission is advised that the lodge in Syria is dormant, and the nine lodges in Lebanon are not meeting regularly. The Grand Lodge of Scotland lists 4 lodges in Lebanon but its Yearbook notes that these lodges are not working at the present time. During the last twenty-five years, a number of irregular organizations calling themselves Masonic have sought recognition from Grand Lodges in the United States. Among these are: the "National Grand Lodge of Syria-Lebanon," the "Lebanese Grand Lodge for Arab countries," and the "Arab Grand Lodge," the Ideale Grand Lodge," the "Grand Lodge de la Sagesse, " and the "Grand Orient of Lebanon" (Grand Orient du Leban). All of these organizations have been considered irregular and clandestine by the Commission and by all of the regular Grand Lodges of the world.

NIGERIA

The Commission reported in 1981 that preliminary action had begun on the formation of a "Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nigeria." The

Report stated incorrectly that the United Grand Lodge of England had voted to sponsor a United Grand Lodge of Nigeria. We regret the error and are pleased to correct it. It was called to our attention too late for a correction in the 1981 Report of the Commission.

It is the understanding of the Commission that there is no change in the situation as reported in 1981.

SPAIN

There has been no substantial change in the situation in Spain. The District Grand Lodge of Spain under the Grand Lodge National of France has continued its establishment of constituent lodges in Spain. It now has eight lodges there, with two in Barcelona, three in Madrid, and one each in Zaragoza, Valencia, and Gerona. In addition to these lodges, the GLNF has four or more military lodges in Spain. It is anticipated by the GLNF that three more lodges will be chartered in 1982 in Palma de Mallorca, Santander, and Malaga. The Commission is advised that in Madrid the entire membership of a lodge of the United Grand Orient of Spain has joined a new lodge chartered by GLNF and that a large number of members of the United Grand Orient have also left that Grand Orient and joined lodges of the GLNF. It has been reported to the Commission that the United Grand Orient now has only about sixty members in its constituent lodges.

The Commission in its 1981 Report pointed out the first Standard adopted by it was "Legitimacy of Origin," which was defined as, "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 Report further stated that 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." It has been pointed out that this statement needs clarification. Although the Commission standard and the Grand Lodge of England Standard both require "regularity (or legitimacy) of origin," the methods by which regularity of origin is determined are not the same. The English Standard reads: "Regularity of origin; That is, each Grand Lodge shall have been established lawfully by a duly recongized Grand Lodge or by three or more regularly constituted Lodges."

The Commission restates the opinions expressed in the 1981 Report, namely, that the Commission cannot consider the United Grand Orient to be regular under the Legitimacy of Origin Standard of the Commission.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Washington, D.C.
February 23, 1982

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, 1981. Since January 1, 1981, 50 Grand Lodges have contributed \$2,905.00.

Balance from Report dated February 15, 1981 \$7,861.44

Receipts from Grand Lodges between 1-1-81 and 12-31-81:

Florida	\$100.00
Wisconsin	50.00
New York	100.00
Washington	100.00
West Virginia	50.00
Missouri	100.00
Oklahoma	100.00
South Dakota	25.00
Arizona	15.00
South Carolina	100.00
New Brunswick	15.00
Louisiana	50.00
Kansas	100.00
Maine	50.00
Maryland	50.00
Massachusetts	100.00
Virginia	100.00
New Mexico	50.00
Utah	15.00
Saskatchewan	15.00
Rhode Island	15.00
Alabama	100.00
District of Columbia	15.00
Oregon	50.00
Mississippi	50.00
North Dakota	15.00
Texas	100.00
New Jersey	100.00
Quebec	15.00
Alberta	15.00

Minnesota	50.00
Kentucky	100.00
York of Mexico	15.00
Indiana	100.00
British Columbia	50.00
New Hampshire	15.00
Vermont	30.00
Nebraska	50.00
Ontario	100.00
Iowa	100.00
Michigan	100.00
Puerto Rico	15.00
Japan	15.00
Pennsylvania	100.00
North Carolina	100.00
Montana	15.00
Nevada	25.00
Nova Scotia	15.00
Georgia	50.00
California	100.00

\$2,905.00

Sale of Publications	25.00	\$2,930.00
Total Income		\$10,791.44

Expenses between 1-1-81 and 12-31-81:

Printing & mailing of 1980 Report	\$599.97
Secretarial	750.00
Travel & hotel for Secretary-Treasurer	
to Conference	1,200.00
Postage, printing & miscellaneous	102.77

\$2,652.74

Balance as of	
12-31-81	\$8,138.70

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

CONCLUSION

This concludes the 30th Annual Report of the Commission to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America.

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

ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION FOR 1982

At a meeting of the Commission on February 23, 1982, the following organization was voted for the ensuing year:

Chairman -- M:W: Gus J. Vlasis
Past Grand Master of Tennessee
Vice-Chairman -- M:W: James H. Hutchins
Past Grand Master of Delaware
Secretary-Treasurer -- R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr.
Past Grand Master of Texas

NAMES, ADDRESSES AND YEAR OF RETIREMENT OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

- 1982 -- M:W: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 -- M:W: J. Lewis Beckstead, M.D., Grand Master of Manitoba, 543 Waverly Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3M 3K7.
- 1987 -- M:W: Curtis, N. Lancaster, Deputy Grand-Master, 688, South 6th West, Brigham City, Utah 84302.
Secretary-Treasurer -- R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of Texas, P.O. Box 1850, Dallas, Texas 75221.

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