

1980
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



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



given at
WASHINGTON, D.C.
February 20, 1980

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

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 was established in 1952 and R:W: William E. Yeager - a Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania - served as the first chairman. I am pleased to again represent the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and to have served you as a representative for these past few years. I wish to thank you for giving to me this opportunity.

You should know that this Commission owes a debt of gratitude to the individual who for many years has served as the Secretary-Treasurer. Because of his interest, his knowledge, his guidance and counsel, the Commission has been of great assistance to the various jurisdictions in North America. Those who are presently serving and those who have served as members of the Commission have appreciated greatly his efforts on their behalf. I present to you R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of Texas - Secretary-Treasurer of the Commission.

The members presently serving are: 1. M:W: Eric W. Nancekivell, M.D., Past Grand Master of Canada in the Province of Ontario; 2. M:W: Kermit A. Jacobson, Past Grand Master of California; 3. M:W: Gus J. Vlasis, M.D., Past Grand Master of Tennessee; 4. M:W: James H. Hutchins, Past Grand Master of Delaware; 5. M:W: Charles A. Brigham, Jr., Grand Master of Ohio.

To each of you and particularly to you who are attending the Conference for the first time, I urge that you become aware of this Commission and its workings. I suggest that you read the reports past and present to know that our Secretary-Treasurer has a wealth of information on most of the jurisdictions around the world. Each of us as your representatives will attempt to answer your questions or try to obtain the answer for you.

You must remember that the Commission attempts to obtain the facts, to present them to you for consideration, to make a recommendation as to a suggested avenue of decision or action, and then each jurisdiction must make their own decision regarding their specific action.

Briefly - to refresh your memory - the Commission follows these Standards of Recognition:

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.

During my few years of service there have been interesting problems which have included several areas - Brazil, Italy, Belgium, Uruguay, Portugal, Cuba, and the Arab countries.

This year the report includes Belgium, Brazil, Cuba, Iran, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay, and Baja California Sur (Mexico).

BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR

The State of Baja California in Mexico was divided into two states, one in the north and one in the south, with the capitals in Tijuana and La Paz, respectively. As a consequence of this division a new Grand Lodge was constituted in the State of Baja California Sur (South) under the title "Gran Logia De Baja California Sur" with its offices at Apartado Postal No. 490 in La Paz. The Grand Master is Lic. Ruben A. Arechiga E. and the Grand Secretary is Raul Solorzano Vega.

The formation of this Grand Lodge was sponsored by the Grand Lodge Del Pacifico of the State of Sonora, Mexico which constituted Gran Logia De Baja California Sur on February 24, 1978. The new Grand Lodge now has nine Lodges under its jurisdiction.

All of the State Grand Lodges in Mexico listed in the Report of the Commission for February, 1974, including Del Pacifico and Baja California at Tijuana, have been and are considered regular by the Commission. The new Gran Logia De Baja California Sur is likewise considered regular by the Commission.

BELGIUM

Under date of May 4, 1979, the Commission issued a Special Communique indicating that it did not consider the Grand Lodge of Belgium to be entitled to recognition as a regular Grand Lodge. Since that date twenty-five or thirty Grand Lodges in the United States and Canada and the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and France have withdrawn recognition from the Grand Lodge of Belgium. Subsequently, recognition was granted to the new Grande Loge Reguliere de Belgique, whose Grand Master is Brother Charles Wagemans (a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Belgium) and whose Secretary is Brother Jan Corbet, by the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, France, Pennsylvania, and Texas. The governing body of the Grand Committee of the new Grand Lodge, in order to eliminate any question as to the position of that Grand Lodge with reference to the requirement of a belief in a Supreme Being, adopted a resolution agreeing to the terms of the "Basic Principles for Grand Lodge Recognition" adopted by England, Scotland, and Ireland and also approved the "Aims and Relationships of the Craft" adopted by these Grand Lodges in 1938. The Commission is of the opinion that the Grande Loge Reguliere de Belgique is entitled to recognition as a regular Grand Lodge.

BRAZIL

There have been no new developments in the Masonic situation in Brazil. The unsettled condition there as between the State Grand Lodges and the Grand Orient still exists.

The proposed meeting between the Grand Masters of the State Grand Lodges and the Grand Master of the Grand Orient referred to in the Report of the Commission for 1979 did not occur in April. However, there was such a meeting in July, but unfortunately the meeting did not produce any practical results. The Commission expresses the hope that this may be the first step in the two organizations working out the problems between them.

Information received by the Commission indicates that Freemasonry is progressing and growing with the formation of new lodges and increases in membership. This Commission still expresses the hope that eventually unity in Brazilian Masonry may be achieved and repeats the suggestion in its 1975 Report, "that recognition of the Grand Orient of Brazil and of those State Grand Lodges that qualify would seem to be in order."

For the information of the Grand Lodges of the Conference, we have set out below a list of the names, addresses, and officers of the twenty-two State Grand Lodges, and the Grand Orient.

BRAZILIAN GRAND LODGES

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DO ACRE, Caixa postal 56, 69900 Rio Branco - AC; Ocirodo Oliveira, Grand Master; Pitagoras Gomes Correia, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DE ALAGOAS, Caixa postal 252, 57000 Maceio - AL; Isaac Samuel de Carvalho Nascimento, Grand Master; Pedro Alves de Lima, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DE AMAZONAS E TERRITORIOS LIMITROFES, Caixa postal 162, 69000 Manaus - AM; Afonso Luis Costa Lins, Grand Master; Joao Batista de Vercosa Filho, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA UNIDA DA BAHIA, Rua Carlos Gomes 21/23, 40000 Salvador - BA; Angelo Lyrio Alves de Almeida, Grand Master; Francisco Maria Neiva Pinto, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DE BRASILIA, Caixa postal 11-1128, 70000 Brasilia - DF; Jose Ramos Portilho, Grand Master; Martinho de Souza, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DO CEARA, Caixa postal 76, 60000 Fortaleza - CE; Joao P. de Vasconcelos Cesar, Grand Master; Gutemberg Liberato de Andrade, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DE ESPIRITO SANTO, Rua Alberto Oliveira Santos 59, 29000 Vitoria - ES; Paulino Bonelly, Grand Master; Osmar Ruzzi, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DE GOIAS, Caixa postal 332, 74000 Goiania - GO; Urias de Oliveira Filho, Grand Master; Waldemar Gomes Pereira, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DA GUANABARA, Caixa postal 2215, 20000 Rio de Janeiro - RJ; Walder Amendola, Grand Master; Wilson Queiroga Braga, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DO MARANHÃO, Avenida Joao Pessoa 293, 65000 Sao Luis - MR; Alvimar de Oliveira Brauna, Grand Master; Wilson de Socorro Passos, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO MATO GROSSO DO SUL, Caixa postal 611, 79100 Campo Grande - MS; Isaias Gomes Ferro, Grand Master; Wilson Marques Barbosa, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DE MATO GROSSO, Caixa postal 321, 78000 Cuiaba MT; Antonio Hans, Grand Master; Raul Jose de Carvalho, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DE MINAS GERAIS, Caixa postal 5, 30000 Belo Horizonte - MG; Arlindo dos Santos, Grand Master; Aloisio Magalhaes, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DO PARA, Caixa postal 333, 66000 Belem - PA; Genesio Fernandes Pina, Grand Master; Otavio Blanco Rodrigues, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DA PARAIBA, Caixa postal 3, 58000 Joao Pessoa - PB; Francisco Mariano, Grand Master; Jacy Mendes Leite, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DO PARANA, Caixa postal 1363, 80000 Curitiba - PR; Cicero Marques, Grand Master; Antonio Jose Jasson, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DE PERNAMBUCO, Caixa postal 1415, 50000 Recife - PE; Elias Jorge Hazim, Grand Master; Milton Jorge Pereira, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DO PIAUI, Caixa postal 10, 64000 Terezina - PI; Marinho R. de Sa, Grand Master; Jose Nascimento do Monte, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DO RIO GRANDE DO NORTE, Caixa postal 610, 59000 Natal - RN; Fernando Leitao de Moraes, Grand Master; Humaita de Souza, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DO RIO GRANDE DO SUL, Caixa postal 683, 90000 Porto Alegre - RS, Kurt Max Hauser, Grand Master; Joao Carlos Miranda, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DO RIO DE JANEIRO, Caixa postal 2612, 20000 Rio de Janeiro - RJ; Waldemar Sveiter, Grand Master; Heitor Campos Montenegro, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DE SANTA CATARINA, Caixa postal 247, 88000 Florianopolis - SC; Wilson Filomeno, Grand Master; Claudio Antonio Rauen, Grand Secretary.

GRANDE LOJA DO ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, Caixa postal 8348, 01000 Sao Paulo - SP; Erwin Seignemartin, Grand Master; Alvaro Veiga, Grand Secretary.

NOTES

1. The Grande Loja da Guanabara was formerly the Grande Loja do Estado da Guanabara. The State of Guanabara was annexed to the State of Rio de Janeiro when the Capital was moved to Brasilia. As a result, in the State of Rio de Janeiro there are now two Grand Lodges; namely, Grande Loja do Estado do Rio de Janeiro and Grande Loja da Guanabara. Under the prompting of the Brazilian Confederation of the Symbolic Craft (Confederacao da Maconaria Simbolica do Brasil), the two Grand Lodges have agreed to appoint a joint committee to study a merger.
2. The State of Mato Grosso was recently divided into two States; namely Estado do Mato Grosso do Sul and Estado do Mato Grosso. In the latter a Grand Lodge was recently formed under charter ceded by the Grand Lodge of the State of Mato Grosso do Sul.

GRAND ORIENT OF BRAZIL

Max Jegge, Grand Secretary
of Fraternal Relations
Caixa Postal 510
20000 Rio de Janeiro-ZC-00
RJ - Brazil

CUBA

The Grand Lodge of Cuba and its constituent Lodges continue to operate with nearly 25,000 Masons on the rolls of the Grand Lodge. In 1979 Grand Lodge met in two regular communications, one in March and one in September. In the March meeting, the Grand Lodge officers were elected for a two-year term ending in March, 1981. M:W: Basilio A. Barreto was elected Grand Master and R:W: Juan Varela Alvarez was re-elected Grand Secretary.

Grand Lodge still occupies the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 11th floors of its Temple in Havana. It was reported to the Commission that Cuban Lodges raised 408, lost 402 by death, and "discharged" 776 (including about 400 who left Cuba), showing a net loss of only 370. The Masons of Cuba have shown great courage and persistence under difficult circumstances.

IRAN

The political turmoil in Iran has made it impossible to know much about the Grand Lodge, the constituent Lodges, or the Masons there. A number of Masons, both Iranians and non-Iranians, have left the country and some of them are in the United States. Although one report received by the Commission states that Masons have been persecuted because of their memberships in the fraternity, it seems probable that such persecution was related to political matters.

PORTUGAL

There have been no recent developments in Portugal. As pointed out by the Commission in its Special Communique of May 4, 1979, the so-called "Scottish Rite" in Portugal is irregular and is not recognized by any regular Scottish Rite Supreme Council.

SPAIN

A number of Grand Lodges of the Conference received a document from the Grande Oriente Espanol - the Grand Orient of Spain - entitled "Report of Basic Data on Evolution and Present Situation of the Spanish Masonry." This document stated that in order to obtain approval from the Spanish Government, it was necessary for it to change its name to "Spanish United Grand Orient," because another alleged Masonic organization headed by Jaime Fernandez Gil de Terradillos was using the name "Spanish Grand Orient." This report concluded by making a blanket request for recognition by all regular Freemasonry. The document claimed that the Spanish United Grand Orient was the regular successor to the Grand Orient of Spain founded in 1780. Although traces of Freemasonry in Spain go back to 1728, the history of Freemasonry in that country has been one of turmoil, persecution, and divisiveness. According to Robert F. Gould, noted English Masonic historian of the last century, "the first Lodge warranted in foreign lands by the Grand Lodge of England" was a Lodge sponsored by the Duke of Wharton in Madrid, Spain in 1729. This Lodge (numbered 50) was erased by England from its list of lodges in 1768, "either for having ceased to meet or neglected to conform to the laws of the Society." In the meantime, according to one Don Rafael Sunye, Spanish Freemasonry in 1767 declared itself independent of England, which may have caused the erasure of Lodge 50 by England. Gould does not say whether the resulting Grand Lodge included Lodge 50 or any of its members. In 1780 this Grand Lodge changed its name to the Grand Orient of Spain and adopted the philosophy of the Grand Orient of France and similar irregular organizations claiming to be Masonic.

Periodically since 1740, when King Philip V of Spain approved the Papal Bull of 1738, Freemasonry has been prohibited and its members persecuted. In 1939 when Franco became dictator of Spain, the officers of the Grand Orient fled to Mexico and set up a Grand Lodge in exile. After the death of Franco in 1975 and the establishment of a more democratic government in Spain, the Grand Orient decided to return, but before doing so, the "Assembly" expelled the Grand Master in exile, Terradillos. At another "Assembly" in Madrid on March 18, 1978, Dr. Francisco Espinar LaFuente was elected Grand Master and Pascual Paricio Perez was elected Grand Secretary. Terradillos did not accept his expulsion as Grand Master and organized his own Grand Orient.

In past years the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise constituted lodges on military bases in Spain, and it is the understanding of the Commission that some or all of these lodges are now meeting off of the military bases. In addition, the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise has constituted several lodges along the border between France and Spain. These lodges have initiated, passed, and raised Spaniards. It is the declared intention of Grande Loge

Nationale Francaise to reestablish Freemasonry in Spain on a regular basis so that its lodges in Spain can ultimately organize themselves into a regular Grand Lodge. Since Spain was and still is "open territory," as far as Freemasonry is concerned, the institution of lodges either on military bases or elsewhere in Spain by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise cannot be considered invasion of the exclusive territorial jurisdiction of the Spanish United Grand Orient as charged in the above-mentioned Report.

There are a number of obstacles which this Commission believes will prevent the Grand Lodges of the world from recognizing the Spanish United Grand Orient even though it might be acknowledged that this organization is the legitimate successor to the Spanish Grand Orient organized in 1780. In the first place, the Spanish Grand Orient prior to its exile from Spain in 1939 had never been in fraternal relations with the regular Grand Lodges of the world. In the second place, the "Report of Basic Data on Evolution and Present Situation of the Spanish Masonry" indicates that the Spanish United Grand Orient was self-constituted in that it was not organized by three or more "just and duly constituted lodges," nor by a duly recognized Grand Lodge. In other words, the Spanish United Grand Orient fails to meet Standard No. 1 adopted by the Commission. In the third place, it does not appear from the Report and other information available to the Commission that the Spanish United Grand Orient meets Standard No. 2 of the Commission, which requires that a Grand Lodge be "an independent, self-governing organization, having Masonic authority within the governmental territory over which it assumes jurisdiction." It seems clear from the Report as well as from other facts obtained by the Commission through newspaper sources and other reports that there is a question as to whether this organization is independent, and it is obvious that there are controversies in Spain between various factions as to which organization is the true successor to the Grand Orient of 1780.

Under all the circumstances, the Commission considers the Spanish United Grand Orient to be irregular and not entitled to recognition by the Grand Lodges of this Conference.

URUGUAY

The Commission in its Report for 1979 pointed out that the Grand Lodge of Uruguay had made a number of requests for recognition to the Grand Lodges of this Conference. The Report also gave an explanation of the background of this Grand Lodge and the reason for the Commission considering it irregular. Since the 1979 Report, the Commission has continued its investigation of this Grand Lodge. Most Worshipful Brother Juan L. Matos Cintron, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Puerto Rico, and a member of this Conference, has assured the Commission both orally and in writing that he considers the Grand Lodge of Uruguay to be regular and entitled to recognition. The Holy Bible is required to be on the altar in all constituent lodges, and the obligations of the three degrees are taken upon the Bible. Discussions about religious and political matters are prohibited in constituent lodges and in the Grand Lodge. In all other respects, according to Brother Cintron, the Grand Lodge of Uruguay meets the standards of the Commission. It is recognized by the Grand Lodge of Puerto Rico and nearly all of the Central and South American Grand

Lodges. In addition to the assurances of Brother Cintron as to the regularity of the Grand Lodge of Uruguay, the Commission has received a communication from Most Worshipful Brother Kurt Max Hauser, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Rio Grande do Sol of Brazil, who lives in Porto Alegra, Brazil. The State of Rio Grande do Sol borders on Uruguay, and Brother Hauser and other brethren of his Grand Lodge frequently visit the lodges in Uruguay, and he personally verifies the fact that the Bible is open on the altar of the constituent lodges in Uruguay, and he personally recommends the Grand Lodge of Uruguay as being regular. The Commission is now satisfied that the Grand Lodge is regular and entitled to recognition.

NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK AND MISSISSIPPI

The Commission is pleased to learn that the problems between the Grand Lodges of New Jersey, New York and Mississippi have been amicably resolved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Washington, D.C.
February 20, 1980

**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, 1979. Since January 15, 1979, 48 Grand Lodges have contributed \$2,605.00.

Balance from Report dated February 21, 1979 \$7,319.41

Receipts from Grand Lodges between 1-15-79 and 12-31-79:

Florida	\$100.00
Georgia	50.00
Missouri	100.00
Delaware	15.00
New York	100.00
South Dakota	25.00
Connecticut	50.00
Quebec	15.00
Alabama	100.00
New Mexico	50.00
Puerto Rico	15.00
Maine	50.00
New Hampshire	15.00
Maryland	50.00
Washington	100.00
Saskatchewan	15.00
Virginia	100.00

Mississippi	50.00
Arizona	15.00
Massachusetts	100.00
New Jersey	100.00
Iowa	100.00
Manitoba	15.00
New Brunswick	15.00
Rhode Island	15.00
Alberta	15.00
District of Columbia	15.00
Utah	15.00
Louisiana	50.00
South Carolina	100.00
Nebraska	50.00
Illinois	100.00
West Virginia	50.00
Texas	100.00
Indiana	100.00
Wyoming	15.00
British Columbia	50.00
Kentucky	100.00
York of Mexico	15.00
Michigan	100.00
North Dakota	15.00
North Carolina	100.00
Ohio	100.00
Oregon	50.00
Idaho	25.00
Nevada	15.00
Montana	15.00
Georgia	50.00

\$2,605.00

\$9,924.41

Expenses between 1-15-79 and 12-31-79:

Printing & mailing of 1979 Report	\$554.51
Secretarial	750.00
Travel & hotel for Secretary-Treasurer to Annual Conference	717.45
Postage, printing & miscellaneous	182.83

\$2,204.79

CURRENT BALANCE \$7,719.62

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

CONCLUSION

This concludes the 28th Annual Report of the Commission to the Conference of Grand Masters.

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

ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION FOR 1980

At a meeting of the Commission on February 17, 1980, the following organization was voted for the ensuing year:

Chairman -- M:W: Eric W. Nancekivell, M.D.
Past Grand Master of Ontario, Canada
Vice-Chairman -- M:W: Kermit A. Jacobson
Past Grand Master of California
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: Eric W. Nancekivell, M.D., Past Grand Master of Ontario, Canada, 43 Knyvet Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L9A3J6.
- 1982 -- M:W: Kermit A. Jacobson, Past Grand Master of California, 417 Ninita Parkway, Pasadena, California 91106.
- 1983 -- M:W: Gus J. Vlasis, M.D., Past Grand Master of Tennessee, 115 Provident Building, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402.
- 1984 -- M:W: James H. Hutchins, Past Grand Master of Delaware, 623 North Bradford Street, Dover, Delaware 19901.
- 1985 -- R:W: Charles A. Brigham, Jr., Grand Master of Ohio, 511 Walnut Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.
- 1986 -- R.W.: Morris I. Budkofsky, Deputy Grand Master, 45 Brightview Drive, West Hartford, Connecticut 06117.
- Secretary-Treasurer - R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of Texas, P.O. Box 1850, Dallas, Texas 75221.

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