

1983
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



A.D. 1983 / A.L. 5983

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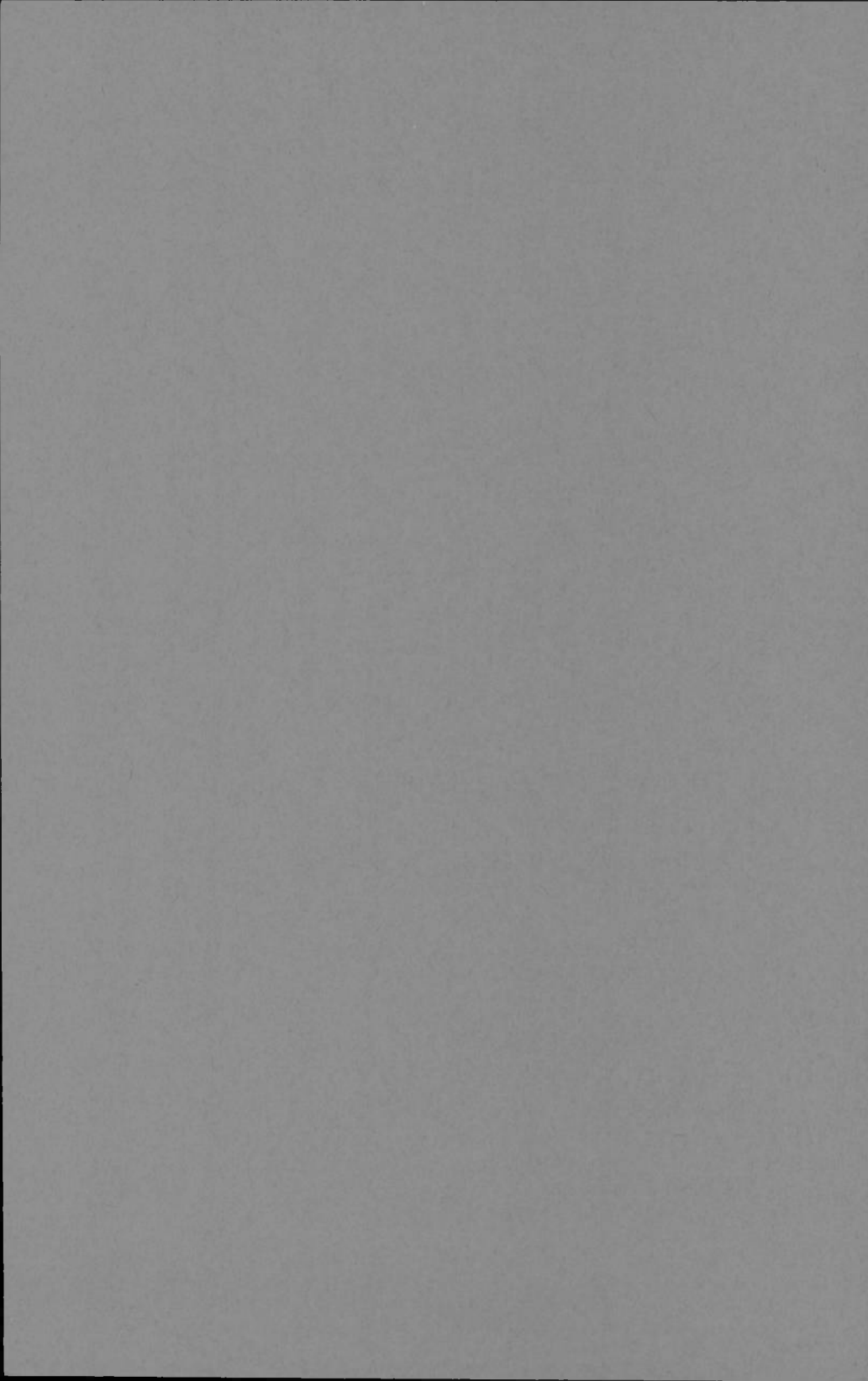


A.D. 2022 / A.L. 6022

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

ANNUAL REPORT

given at
DALLAS, TEXAS
February 22, 1983



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

To the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America:

Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brethren

In the years that I have served on this Commission, the true universality of Masonry slowly unfolded for me; I'm sure that the brethren on this Commission share the same feeling.

It is felt that this universality is what makes this Commission an important part of this meeting. In evaluating the legality of all the Grand Lodges of the World, we are able to recognize not only our brethren in North America, but throughout the entire world. Fortunately, we have our most learned brother, Right Worshipful Robert L. Dillard, Jr., not only as our Secretary, but as our mentor. He has, and I must say, led this Commission from darkness into light and from ignorance into knowledge.

To my brothers of this Commission, it has been a privilege and an honor to have been one of you. Most Worshipful Chairman and brethren, may I have the pleasure of introducing this Commission prior to the report.

M:W: James H. Hutchins, of Delaware

M:W: Charles A. Brigham, Jr., of Ohio

M:W: Morris I. Budkofsky, of Connecticut

(Through oversight, Brother Budkofsky's name was omitted from the 1982 Report of the Commission).

M:W: J. Lewis Beckstead, M.D., of Manitoba

M:W: Curtis N. Lancaster, of Utah

R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer, of Texas

BELGIUM

Grande Loge Reguliere de Belgique, Rue Royale 265, B-1030 Bruxelles (**Regular** Grand Lodge of Belgium, Rue Royale 265, B-1030 Brussels), Belgium, has now been recognized by 82 regular Grand Lodges around the world. All but 6 of the Grand Lodges in the United States, all the Canadian Grand Lodges, and the York Grand Lodge of Mexico have recognized the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium. It has been recognized by England, Scotland, Ireland, and nearly all of the other regular Grand Lodges of Europe, as well as all of the Grand Lodges in the British Commonwealth except 1.

The principal officers for the period 1981-1984 are:

Grand Master	-	Rene Constant
Deputy Grand Masters	-	Piet Van Brabant Georges Brogniez

Senior Grand Warden - Jan Corbet
Junior Grand Warden - Joseph Haesendonck
Grand Secretary - Edgard Spehl

Mail to the Grand Secretary, Dr. Edgard Spehl, should be addressed as follows:

Dr. Edgard Spehl
Clos des Faisans 6
1338 Couture St. Germain
(Lasne)
BELGIUM

BRAZIL

Last year the Commission reported that the Grand Lodge of Guanabara had been excluded from the Confederation of Brazilian Grand Lodges. In 1980 the Commission on page 6 of its Report noted that:

"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."

We are now advised by M:W: Brother Kurt Max Hauser, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Rio Grande do Sul, that the problems with these two Grand Lodges have been resolved and they are now merged with the surviving Grand Lodge, being the United Lodge of the State of Rio de Janeiro (Grande Loja Unida do Estado Rio de Janeiro).

Brother Hauser says that two new state Grand Lodges will probably be formed in the State of Rondonia and the State of Sergipe either this year or in 1984.

The Commission is pleased to note that Brother Ronaldo Jayme has again become Grand Secretary for External Relations for the Grand Lodge of the State of Goias (Grande Loja do Estado de Goias). His mailing address is:

Rua Antonio Pinto Pontes, 115-B. Jundiai
77.100 Anapolis-Goias-Brazil

The address of the United Grand Lodge will be the same as the former Grand Lodge of Rio de Janeiro: Caixa Postal 2612, 20000 Rio de Janeiro-RJ.

CUBA

Information about the Masonic situation in Cuba for 1981 was not received in time to be included in the 1982 Report of the Commission, but we are of the opinion that this information is still useful.

According to the 1981 reports furnished to the Commission by M:W: Brother Carlos M. Pineiro, the Grand Lodge of Cuba continues to work as it has in previous years "free from government control" and has conformed to the "strictest Masonic rules". Grand Lodge met in Havana in March 1981, and elected new officers for 1981-1983. The Semi-Annual Communication was held in September 1981. The Grand Lodge officers attended a meeting of the Interamerican Masonic Confederation (C.M.I.) in Santo Domingo in May 1981, the first they have been able to attend since 1959.

Brother Pineiro, a lawyer who lives in Puerto Rico, states that the present Grand Master, M:W: Brother Facundo Diaz, was his District Deputy Grand Master and is a good friend of his. The Grand Secretary, R:W: Brother Juan Varela Alvarez, a lawyer, is also a friend of Brother Pineiro.

The principal Grand Lodge officers elected in 1981 are as follows:

Grand Master	-	M:W: Facundo Diaz
Deputy Grand Master	-	R:W: Raciél Martinez Andreu
Grand Senior Warden	-	R:W: Jose Miguel Garvey
Grand Junior Warden	-	R:W: Agustin Hernandez
Grand Secretary	-	R:W: Juan Varela Alvarez

Brother Alvarez advised the Secretary of the Commission under date of March 10, 1982 that the Chairman of Cuba's Committee on Foreign Relations is:

R:W: Orestes Bernall Carbonel
The Grand Lodge of Cuba
Ave. de Salvador Allende 508
C. Habana, Cuba

The Grand Lodge of Cuba still occupies and controls five floors of its building in Havana (3rd, 4th, 5th, 11th, and 12th). The assembly room, the museum, the library, lodge rooms and offices are on these floors.

We again express our appreciation of the dedication to the principles of Masonry of our Cuban brothers.

IRAN

As previously reported, this Grand Lodge was completely destroyed. Many of its members have fled to the United States, Canada, and other countries. The Grand Secretary of Iran is R:W: Brother Hossein Daftarian, who resides part of the year in Texas and part of the year in France. Brother Daftarian is compiling a list of Iranian Masons and has furnished the Secretary of the Commission with a copy. Where available, the list will include the current address of the Iranian brother. Upon request the Secretary of the Commission will be glad to verify the membership of an Iranian Mason either from the list or by direct correspondence with Brother Daftarian.

ITALY

The Grand Orient of Italy (Grande Oriente D'Italia) appears to have recovered in a measure from the P-2 scandal which nearly destroyed it in 1981 although the problems had arisen as early as 1974.

The Annual Meeting of the Grand Orient was held in Rome on March 27 and 28, 1982, and new Grand Orient officers were elected and installed. The principal officers who were elected for a 3-year term are as follows:

Grand Master	-	Armando Corona
Deputy Grand Master	-	Lodovico Tomaseo
Deputy Grand Master	-	Massimo Maggiore
Senior Grand Warden	-	Delfo Del Bino
Junior Grand Warden	-	Orazio Catarsini
Grand Secretary	-	Antonio De Stefano

M:W: Brother Corona, a native Sardinian, is a 61-year old physician. He stated in newspaper interviews that Italian Masons needed to continue their "battle" against the "deviations of some secret lodges" and to maintain a clear division between Italian politics and Masonry. The reports from regular Masonic sources in Europe indicate that the Grand Orient is again operating normally and regularly.

The address of the Grand Orient is still "Grande Oriente D'Italia, Palazzo Giustiniani, Via Giustiniani, 5, 00186 Roma, Italy."

NIGERIA

The Commission has no further information on the progress being made on the formation of a Grand Lodge of Nigeria, although it was understood that balloting on the question by the English and Irish Lodges was to begin early last year.

SPAIN

The Grand Lodge of Spain (Gran Logia De Espana) was consecrated in Madrid on November 6, 1982 by M:W: Jean Mons, Grand Master of Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (French National Grand Lodge), which is recognized by all the regular Grand Lodges in the world. The Grand Lodge of Spain, as consecrated, was composed of ten Constituent Lodges chartered by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (G.L.N.F.) between 1978 and 1982. These Lodges are:

- No. 1 - Sant Joan De Catalunya (= "Saint John of Catalonia", in Catalan), Barcelona
- No. 2 - Sant Jordi (= "Saint George", in Catalan), Gerona
- No. 3 - Perseverenca (= Perseverence, in Catalan), Barcelona
- No. 4 - Concordia (= Concord, in Spanish), Madrid
- No. 5 - Fraternidad Universal (= Universal Brotherhood, in Spanish), Madrid
- No. 6 - Guillem De Montrodon (= middle-ages most famous area ruler), Zaragoza
- No. 7 - Matritense (= of Madrid, in Latin), Madrid

- No. 8 - Germanies (= Brotherhood, in Catalan), Valencia
- No. 9 - Ramon Llull (= Catalan middle-ages theologian and philosopher), Palma de Mallorca, Balearic Islands
- No. 10 - Fidelitas (= Fidelity, in Latin), Barcelona

Since November 1982, the Grand Lodge of Spain has chartered six additional Lodges -- No. 11 - Tau (= T-shaped cross, in Catalan), Barcelona; No. 12 - Canigo (= highest peak of the Catalan; Pyrenees chain, in Catalan), Figueras; Herme, No. 13, Madrid; Andamana, No. 14, Las Palmas (Canarias); G. E. Lessing, No. 15, Malaga; and Tolerancia, No. 16, Bilbao.

The Commission in its Reports for 1980, 1981 and 1982, discussed the claims for recognition of the Grande Oriente Espanol Unido (the United Grand Orient of Spain) asserted by its Grand Master, Francisco Espinar Lafuente, and reached the conclusion that this Grand Orient did not meet the standards for recognition adopted by this Commission in 1952 and printed in Appendix I, page 69, of the Commission's book entitled "Grand Lodge Recognition". It now appears that the Lodges of the United Grand Orient with one exception (Malaga will be coming into the Grand Lodge of Spain with the members of these Lodges being regularized by appropriate obligations required by the Grand Lodge of Spain. Brother Espinar Lafuente, Grand Master of the United Grand Orient, announced "Unification with the Gran Logia De Espana" by a circular letter addressed "To all Grand Lodges" and dated December 31, 1982.

The principal officers of the new Grand Lodge of Spain who were installed in a very impressive ceremony by M:W: Jean Mons, Grand Master of G.L.N.F., on November 6, 1982, are as follows:

Grand Master	-	Luis Salat-Gusils
Deputy Grand Master	-	Manuel Guzman Cavadid
Assistant Grand Master	-	Miguel Cabra Massana
Assistant Grand Master	-	Jose Torrente Duran
Assistant Grand Master	-	Joan Gonzalez Masso
Grand Secretary	-	Josep Munte Rodriguez

The ceremony was attended by not only the officers of the G.L.N.F. but by Grand Lodge officers from the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium and the United Grand Lodges of Germany. Many Masons from other jurisdictions were also present. The Commission was furnished with a complete transcript of the proceedings and copies of the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Spain, which Grand Master Salat advises were patterned on the Constitution and Laws of the United Grand Lodge of England. They include the Ancient Charges of a Freemason as well as the charges given to a Master-elect upon his installation.

The Commission has reviewed the many documents furnished, and is of the opinion that the new Grand Lodge of Spain was constituted in accordance with the standards above mentioned, and that the Grand Lodge of Spain is therefore entitled to recognition by the regular Grand Lodges of the world.

The mailing address of the Grand Master is:

Luis Salat Gusils, Grand Master
Gran Logia De Espana
Amigo 68
Barcelona 21, Spain

The mailing address of the Grand Secretary is:

Josep Munte Rodriguez
Gran Logia De Espana
Apartado Corres num. 5119
Barcelona, Spain

URUGUAY

The Grand Master of this Grand Lodge is Carlos A. Bolana, and the address of the Grand Lodge is:

Calle Duvimioso Terra No. 1481,
Montevideo, Uruguay.

The Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations is Augusto Cesar Montesdeoca G., and his private address is:

Bulevar Artigas No. 1128,
Montevideo, Uruguay.

(For a complete report on this Grand Lodge and the opinion of the Commission, see page 8 of the 1980 Report of the Commission.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dallas, Texas
February 22, 1983

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, 1982. Since January 1, 1982, 52 Grand Lodges have contributed \$3,031.25.

Balance from Report dated February 23, 1982 \$8,138.70

Receipts from Grand Lodges between 1-1-82 and 12-31-82:

Florida	\$100.00
Kentucky	100.00
Tennessee	100.00
Alabama	100.00
Pennsylvania	100.00
Japan.....	15.00
South Dakota	25.00
Washington	100.00
New Mexico	50.00
Kansas	100.00
Wisconsin	50.00
Iowa	100.00
Missouri	100.00
South Carolina.....	100.00
Alaska	15.00
Rhode Island	15.00
Virginia	100.00
Maryland	50.00
New Brunswick	15.00
Texas	100.00
Oklahoma.....	100.00
Mississippi	50.00
Indiana	100.00
New York	100.00
Massachusetts	100.00
Saskatchewan, Canada	15.00
Louisiana	50.00
British Columbia, Canada	50.00
Maine	50.00
Quebec, Canada	15.00
West Virginia	50.00
New Hampshire	15.00
Ontario, Canada	100.00
District of Columbia	15.00

North Dakota	15.00
Vermont	15.00
Manitoba, Canada	15.00
Arizona	15.00
Colorado	50.00
New Jersey	100.00
Nova Scotia	11.25
Alberta, Canada	15.00
Wyoming	30.00
Montana	15.00
North Carolina	100.00
California	100.00
Oregon	50.00
Nevada	25.00
Mexico	15.00
Michigan	100.00
Georgia	100.00
Puerto Rico	15.00

\$3,031.25

Expenses between 1-1-82 and 12-31-82:

Printing	\$480.00
Secretarial	750.00
Travel and hotel for	
Secretary-Treasurer	736.64
Postage	249.46
Lodges Masonic	61.75

- \$2,277.85

Balance as of

12-31-82 \$8,892.10

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

CONCLUSION

In conclusion may I express a personal concern about the importance of the Grand Lodges in this Conference maintaining harmonious relations with each other. It is a generally accepted Masonic principle that a Mason is subject to the laws of the jurisdiction in which he is sojourning. We should therefore always be sensitive to the concerns of other Grand Lodges in matters involving the enforcement of judgments rendered against sojourning Masons for violations of Masonic law.

In my view, the principal function of this Commission is to promote and preserve unity and good will among all regular Grand Lodges in the world.

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

ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION FOR 1983

At a meeting of the Commission on February 22, 1983, the following organization was voted for the ensuing year:

Chairman -- M:W: James H. Hutchins
Past Grand Master of Delaware
Vice-Chairman -- M:W: Charles A. Brigham, Jr.
Past Grand Master of Ohio
Secretary-Treasurer -- R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr.
Past Grand Master of Texas

NAMES, ADDRESSES AND YEAR OF RETIREMENT OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

- 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, 2909 Ebenezer Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45238.
- 1985 -- M:W: Morris I. Budkofsky, Past Grand Master of Connecticut, 45 Brightview Drive, West Hartford, Connecticut 06117.
- 1986 -- M:W: J. Lewis Beckstead, M.D., Past Grand Master of Manitoba, 543 Waverley Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3M 3K7.

- 1987 -- M:W: Curtis N. Lancaster, Grand Master of Utah, 688 South 6th West
Brigham City, Utah 84302.
- 1988 -- R:W: Richard A. Porter, Deputy Grand Master of Kansas, 208 Lochin-
var, Wichita, Kansas 67207

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

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