

1985
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



A.D. 1985 / A.L. 5985

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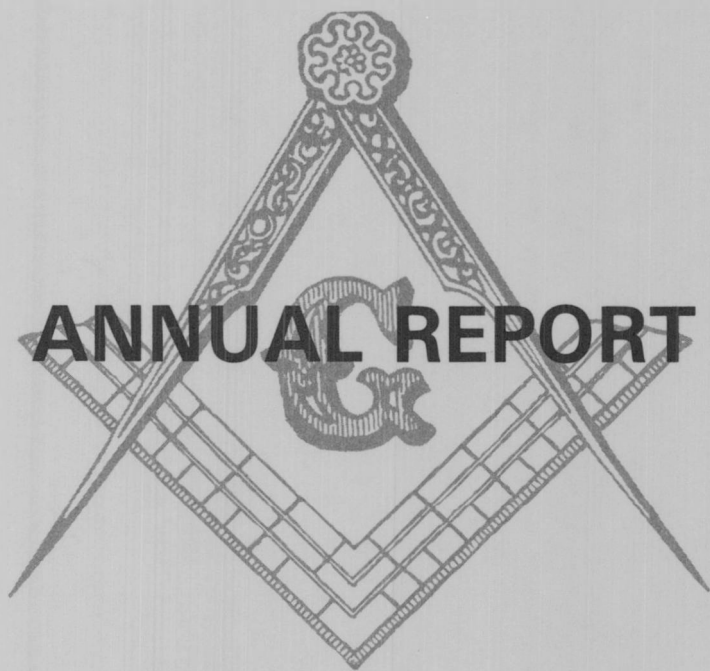
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC
NATIONAL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

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



given at
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
February 18, 1985



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:

It has been an education for me to have had the privilege of serving these past six years on this the only continuing Commission of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America. I am grateful for having been given this opportunity. How much keener is my understanding of the universality of our fraternity through the insights gained in the deliberations of the Commission!

It is an honor to introduce the esteemed Secretary-Treasurer of the Commission, Right Worshipful Brother Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of Texas. He coordinates the workings of the Commission. For eighteen years he has served the Commission and the Conference with tireless energy, effectively and with understanding. Brother Dillard is always available to each Grand Lodge and each Grand Master for information, advice and good counsel on any question within the scope of the the responsibility of this Commission.

The other members of the Commission, in order of seniority, are:

M:W: Bro. Morris I. Budkofsky, Past Grand Master of Connecticut

M:W: Bro. J. Lewis Beckstead, M.D., Past Grand Master of Manitoba

M:W: Bro. Curtis N. Lancaster, Past Grand Master of Utah

M:W: Bro. Richard A. Porter, Past Grand Master of Kansas

M:W: Bro. John B. Obenchain, Grand Master of Virginia

My brethren, it has been a rewarding experience to work with you.

The function of the Commission is to investigate matters concerning recognition and to make report to this Conference; so that the several Grand Lodges will be better enabled to make their own, considered decisions. The standards for recognition, established in 1952, are:

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 a prohibition of the discussion of politics and religion in the Lodge.

The Commission makes report as follows:

BELGIUM

The Grande Loge Reguliere De Belgique, Rue Royale 265, 1030 Brussels, has now been recognized by all of the Grand Lodges in the United States except one and by a total of 96 Grand Lodges in the world. Although it is still small in membership, it continues to grow with careful selection of its candidates.

BRAZIL

Grand Lodges of this Conference occasionally report that they are not able to get a response to correspondence with some of the small State Grand Lodges in Brazil. Not only are these Grand Lodges small but some of them are located in remote areas of Brazil which are accessible only by air which hampers mail delivery. None of them have a paid Grand Secretary. Probably the greatest difficulty, however, is the language barrier.

Not many of the Grand Officers speak, write or understand English and by the same token our Grand Officers do not understand Portuguese. Fortunately, the Commission has at least three Brazilian Freemasons who write and speak English and who are glad to assist the members of this Conference in correspondence with any of the Brazilian Grand Lodges.

They are:

1. Erwin Seignemartin, P.G.M.
Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations
Grand Lodge of the State of Sao Paulo
Alameda Santos, 285
Apartamento 142
01419 - Sao Paulo, Brazil
SOUTH AMERICA
2. Ronaldo Jayme
Grand Lodge of the State of Goias
Caixa Postal 666
77.100 Anapolis, Goias, Brazil
SOUTH AMERICA
3. Kurt Max Hauser, G.M.
Grand Lodge of the State of Rio Grand do Sul
Avenida Praia de Belas No. 560/568
Caixa Postal No. 683
Porto Alegre
Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
SOUTH AMERICA

Anyone of these brothers will be glad to be of assistance to the Grand Lodges of this Conference. On the other hand, if you prefer, you can write the Secretary of the Commission who will be glad to make inquiries for you.

CHILE

Dr. Rene Garcia Valenzuela, P.G.M., is Chairman of the Fraternal Relations Department of the Grand Lodge of Chile and many years ago had attended this Conference. He has lately been in correspondence with the Masonic Service Association and the Secretary of the Commission seeking to re-establish communications with the Conference on matters of information for recognition, especially in connection with the Inter American Confederation. The Grand Lodge of Chile is recognized by all members of this Conference. The Commission welcomes the opportunity to again establish communications with Dr. Valenzuela and the Grand Lodge of Chile.

CUBA

The Commission notes that Brother Juan Varela Alvarez, long time Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Cuba, has been elected Grand Master. Brother Alvarez advises us that he attended a meeting of Zone II (Caribbean Countries) of the Confederation Masonica Interamericana in Puerto Rico in March of 1984. This Grand Lodge has shown a small gain in membership the last few years. The Grand Secretary is Brother Raciél Martinez Andrew and the address is Apartado 72, La Habana 3, Cuba.

GABON

The Grand Lodge of Gabon, consecrated in November, 1983 by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise now has seven constituent Lodges and has been recognized by at least nine Grand Lodges in the United States and two Grand Lodges in Canada as well as a number of Grand Lodges in Europe and elsewhere.

HAITIAN FEDERATION OF MASONS, USA

For several years various Grand Lodges in the United States and elsewhere in the world have received communications from one John R. Bullock in Seattle, Washington as "Grand Commander" of the Haitian Federation of Masons, U.S.A. and Sons of Haiti Lodge No. 1, Inc. The Commission has advised those Grand Lodge Officers making inquiry that this organization is, in its opinion, totally irregular and non-Masonic. Although this organization claims to have some kind of charter from the Grand Orient of Haiti, the Commission does not believe there is any connection between the Grand Orient of Haiti and this organization.

INTER AMERICAN MASONIC CONFEDERATION (C.M.I.)

In recent months several Grand Lodges of this Conference have received correspondence from officers of this Confederation. It was founded in 1947 in Montevideo, Uruguay and meets triennially in various cities in Central and South

America and the Caribbean. In a booklet published by the Masonic Service Association of the United States in 1956 and written by a distinguished Masonic scholar and Past Grand Master of Missouri, Ray V. Denslow commented:

"We, therefore, believe it to be for the best interests of Freemasonry to look favorably on this Confederation as a means of stabilizing Freemasonry, of securing regularity and uniformity, and international unity."

The Constitution of the Confederation requires that all member Grand Lodges meet the usual standards for regularity including all those adopted by this Conference. The member Grand Lodges of the Confederation are all recognized by one or more Grand Lodges in this Conference and in some cases by all of the members of the Conference. Two members of the Conference, Puerto Rico and Cuba are also members of the Inter American Masonic Confederation (CMI).

The Grand Executive Secretary of the C.M.I. is Brother Jaime Manuel Fernandez G., Past Grand Master of the Dominican Republic, who has attended a number of meetings of this Conference in past years. His mailing address is Apartado Postal No. 586, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

C.M.I. publishes a bulletin periodically in Spanish which is distributed to the member Grand Lodges. C.M.I. has invited a number of Grand Lodges to attend its Triennial Meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay in April.

ITALY

The Commission in its 1957 publication entitled "Information For Recognition" pointed out that Freemasonry in Italy was difficult for the Anglo-Saxon mind to comprehend because of the succession of Masonic and political intrigues that have resulted in schisms and at times suppression and virtual destruction of Masonry by the Italian government as in the case of Mussolini and his Fascists.

Following World War II and by the time of the creation of this Commission by the Conference, the Grand Orient of Italy located at Palazzo Giustiniani in Rome was accepted as regular and entitled to recognition by nearly all of the regular Grand Lodges in the world.

The Lodge P-2 situation and the resulting Italian Parliamentary Commission inquiry has again placed Italian Freemasonry in the political arena. The result has been the organization of two new groups, both claiming to be regular and seeking recognition from many of the Grand Lodges of the Conference. One is a group styled "Grande Loggia Generale D'Italia" located in Rome. The correspondence is signed by "Comiano Mazzola" as Proposed Grand Secretary. It claims that 210 of the constituent Lodges of the Grand Orient asked for affiliation with it, but that only 37 were accepted. The Grand Orient has 562 Lodges of which 8 are English speaking using in most cases an American ritual. Representatives of this group had a lengthy visit with the Secretary of the Commission at the end of December and presented him

with a complete transcript of the proceedings of the Italian Parliamentary Commission on the P-2 Lodge. The transcript consists of some 12 volumes, all in Italian and measuring over a foot in thickness, posing an all but impossible task for translation into English. This group, however, summarized its interpretation of this material in its letter to "all Grand Masters in the world" dated July 30, 1984.

The Grand Orient distributed to most Grand Lodges a lengthy refutation of the charges contained in the July 30, 1984 letter over the signature of the Grand Master Armando Corona.

In addition to the above mentioned material, the Commission was furnished with a list of "Duly Constituted Lodges" which had "gathered together in General Assembly" on June 30, 1984 to organize the "Grande Loggia Generale D'Italia." Of the 35 Lodges listed, it appears that only five are now listed on the rolls of the Grand Orient and none of these are English speaking Lodges of the Grand Orient.

Another group has organized the "Gran Loggia Di Calabria" in Catanzaro. It claims to have 11 Lodges of which six appear on the published lists of the Grand Orient. None of these are English speaking Lodges of the Grand Orient.

After careful consideration of the situation, the Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Orient continues to be regular and meets the standards for recognition of the Commission.

The Commission has no reason to be of the opinion that either of the other two groups is entitled to recognition.

LEBANON

During the last year several inquiries have been made about various organizations in Lebanon claiming to be Masonic. The Commission has advised those inquiring that the only regular Masonry in Lebanon is represented by the Constituent Lodges of the Grand Lodge of New York and the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

SPAIN

The Grand Lodge of Spain was consecrated by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise in November, 1982, (See the Commission Report for 1983). It has now been recognized by 46 Grand Lodges represented in this Conference. It has 22 constituent Lodges.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dallas, Texas
February 18, 1985

TO THE CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA

This report is an accounting of the funds of the Commission on Information for the year just past, ending at December 31, 1984. Since January 1, 1984, 56 Grand Lodges have contributed \$3,079.43.

Balance from Report dated February 21, 1984.....\$9,958.69

Receipts from Grand Lodges between 1-1-84 and 12-31-84:

Alabama.....	\$100.00
Alaska.....	15.00
Alberta.....	15.00
American Canadian Grossloge.....	15.00
Australia.....	23.32
Arizona.....	15.00
British Columbia.....	50.00
California.....	50.00
Canada.....	100.00
Colorado.....	50.00
Delaware.....	15.00
District of Columbia.....	15.00
Florida.....	100.00
Georgia.....	100.00
Idaho.....	15.00
Indiana.....	100.00
Iowa.....	100.00
Iran.....	100.00
Japan.....	25.00
Kentucky.....	100.00
Louisiana.....	50.00
Maine.....	50.00
Manitoba.....	15.00
Maryland.....	50.00
Massachusetts.....	100.00
Michigan.....	100.00
Mississippi.....	50.00
Missouri.....	100.00
Montana.....	15.00
Nebraska.....	50.00
Nevada.....	25.00
New Brunswick.....	15.00

New Hampshire	15.00
New Jersey	100.00
New Mexico	50.00
New York	100.00
North Carolina	100.00
North Dakota	15.00
Nova Scotia	11.11
Oklahoma	100.00
Oregon	50.00
Pennsylvania	100.00
Puerto Rico	15.00
Quebec	15.00
Rhode Island	15.00
Saskatchewan	15.00
South Carolina	100.00
South Dakota	25.00
Tennessee	100.00
Texas	100.00
Vermont	15.00
Virginia	100.00
Washington	100.00
West Virginia	50.00
Wisconsin	50.00
Wyoming	15.00
	\$3,079.43

Expenses between 1-1-84 and 12-31-84

Postage	\$227.74
Printing	504.75
Part-time secretarial	1,000.00
Travel and Hotel for	
Secretary-Treasurer	738.35
Supplies	69.69
	2,540.53

Balance as of	
12-31-84	\$10,497.59

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

CONCLUSION

It is our hope and prayer that this Commission may continue, for many years to come, the vital function of helping to provide continuity in the recognition and development of international fraternal unity and uniformity in the basic precepts held by all regular Masons.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles A. Brigham, Jr., Chairman
Morris I. Budkofsky
J. Lewis Beckstead, M.D.
Curtis N. Lancaster
Richard A. Porter
John B. Obenchain
Robert L. Dillard, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer

ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION FOR 1985

At a meeting of the Commission on February 18, 1985, the following organization was voted for the ensuing year:

Chairman

M:W: Morris I. Budkofsky
Past Grand Master of Connecticut

Vice-Chairman

M:W: J. Lewis Beckstead, M.D.
Past Grand Master of Manitoba

Secretary-Treasurer

R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr.
Past Grand Master of Texas

NAMES, ADDRESSES AND YEAR OF RETIREMENT OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

- 1986 -- M:W: Morris I. Budkofsky, Past Grand Master of Connecticut,
45 Brightview Drive, West Hartford, Connecticut 06117.
- 1987 -- M:W: J. Lewis Beckstead, M.D., Past Grand Master of Manitoba,
543 Waverley Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba,
Canada R3M 3K7.
- 1988 -- M:W: Curtis N. Lancaster, Past Grand Master of Utah,
688 South 6th West, Brigham City, Utah 84302.
- 1989 -- M:W: Richard A. Porter, Past Grand Master of Kansas
208 Lochinvar, Wichita, Kansas 67207.
- 1990 -- R:W: John B. Obenchain, Grand Master of Virginia
29 Laurel Drive, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060.
- 1991 -- R:W: Lawrence D. Inglis, Deputy Grand Master of Illinois,
42707 N. Crawford Road, Anitoch, Illinois 60002.

Secretary-Treasurer

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

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