

1984
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



A.D. 1984 / A.L. 5984

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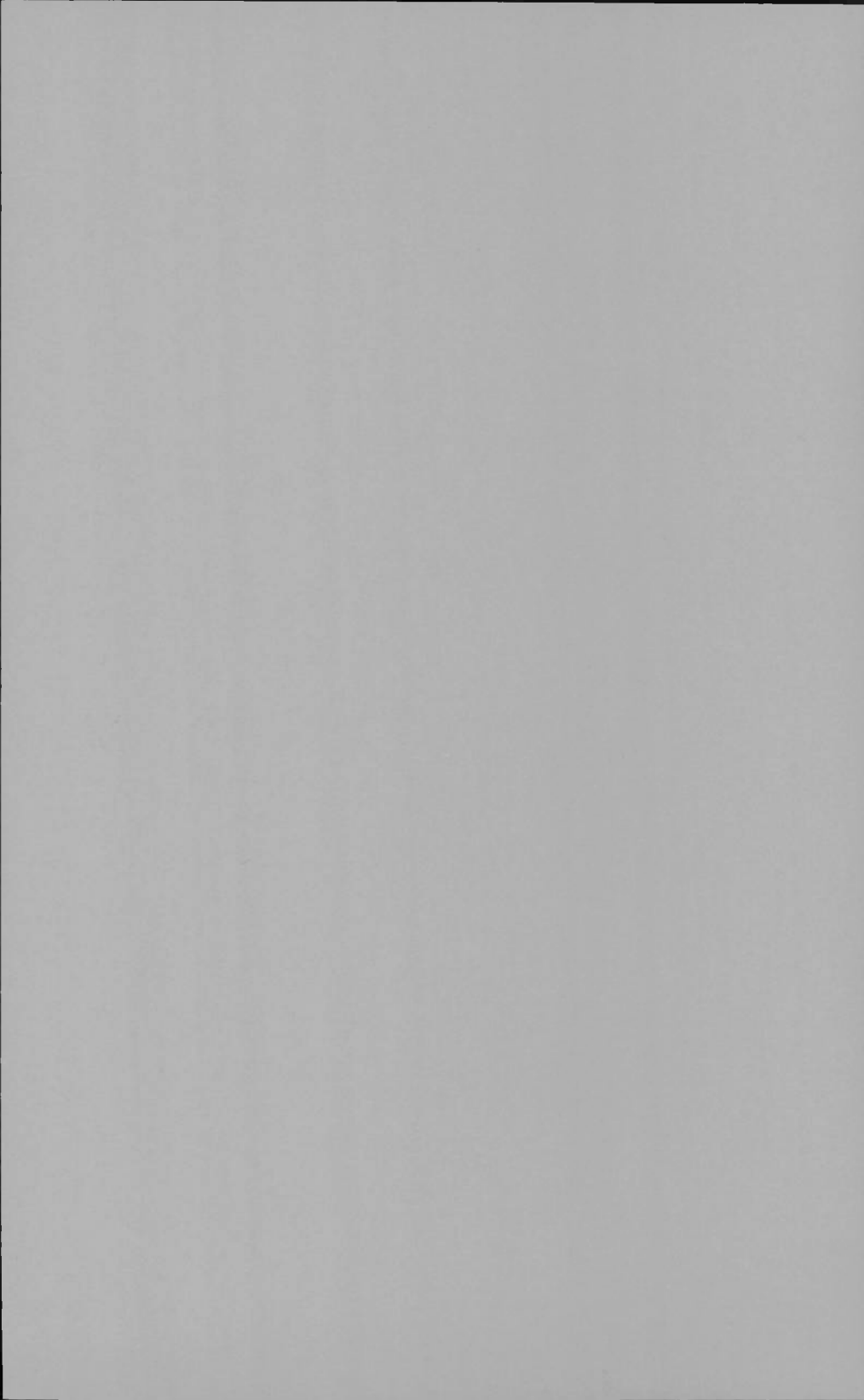
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A.D. 2022 / A.L. 6022

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



given at
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
February 21, 1984



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.

I am honored as Chairman to present this 32nd Annual Report of the Commission on Information for Recognition. During the past six years it has been my pleasure to serve with some of the most distinguished Masonic leaders in North America as well as to meet many of the outstanding Freemasons from throughout the world.

I would like to pay a special tribute to the man and Mason who has been this Commission's mentor by serving as its Secretary for the past seventeen years. During the year he maintains correspondence with the global leaders of our Craft and has traveled throughout the world in an effort to establish that Union and Harmony which truly marks Freemasonry as a Universal Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God. May I now present to you R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of Texas, our esteemed Secretary-Treasurer.

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

M:W: Charles A. Brigham, Jr., Past Grand Master of Ohio

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

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

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

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

This has proven to be another busy year as the Commission has reviewed the increased Iranian Masonic activity in the United States as well as the continuing efforts of a purported Grand Lodge of Cuba to operate in Florida while a regular Grand Lodge remains active in Havana.

Our Secretary traveled to the country of Gabon to be a guest at the consecration of their Grand Lodge in this former French African country. Since the constituent lodges were all chartered by the GLNF which also sponsored the new Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge of Gabon appears to be regular in nature and warrants recognition.

Despite the opposition by a dissident group to some of the actions taken by the Grand Orient of Italy and although some contention remains regarding the new regular Grand Lodge of Belgium, there appears to be no reason for this Commission to alter its previously established position concerning them.

While some confusion still exists regarding the various Grand Orients and State Grand Lodges in South America, the situation seems unchanged in Brazil. The Grand Lodge of Spain finally appears to be emerging as it continues to gain additional recognition by an ever increasing number of the various Grand Jurisdictions.

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 the discussion of politics and religion in the Lodge.

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

CUBA

The Grand Lodge of Cuba in Havana continues to operate as it has in the past with correspondence between its Grand Secretary, Brother Juan Varela Alvarez, and Grand Secretaries in the United States and Canada. Although the Commission has no current information on the activities of the Grand Lodge of Cuba, it has no reason to believe that anything has taken place in 1983 which would affect the regularity of that Grand Lodge.

In November, 1983, many Grand Lodges of this Conference received letters inviting them to attend the "inaugurational ceremonies" of a "Grand Masonic Temple" in Miami, Florida of the self-styled "Gran Logia De Cuba" in January, 1984.

The Commission is of the opinion that this organization is clandestine and irregular. It obviously is an attempted encroachment on the exclusive territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Florida.

GABON

In June of 1977 Grand Lodge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) consecrated two constituent lodges in Libreville, the Capital of Gabon. Both lodges worked in French using the English Emulation ritual. Subsequently four additional Lodges were chartered and in 1980 the GLNF established a District Grand Lodge in Gabon with the President of the Republic of Gabon as the District Grand Master. At the request of the District Grand Master and after due consideration the GLNF decided to sponsor the establishment of a Grand Lodge of Gabon. On November 12, 1983 Grand Master Jean Mons of the GLNF consecrated the new Grand Lodge of Gabon and installed its Grand Lodge officers with the President of Gabon, Brother Omar Bongo as M:W: Grand Master.

Brother R. L. Dillard, Jr., Secretary of the Commission, at the invitation of Grand Master Mons attended the ceremonies as an observer. Brother Dillard reports a very cordial reception by the officers of the Grand Lodge of Gabon with impressive ceremonies of consecration and installation by Brother Mons and the other officers of GLNF. There were about 300 Masons present with a number from other jurisdictions. Gabon is a politically stable country and is pro-western in its foreign relations.

The six Lodges in Gabon are:

Dialogue No. 1

Libreville

Tolerance No. 2

Libreville

Paix No. 3

Libreville

St. Jean De L'Estuaire No. 4

Libreville

Compagnons Du Cap Lopez No. 5

Port Gentil

Savorgnan De Brazza No. 6

Franceville

It is anticipated that a Lodge will be chartered shortly in Lambarene where Dr. Albert Schweitzer, noted medical missionary and theologian, lived and established his hospital.

The Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Gabon is R:W: Brother Andre' Laroche whose address is BP 233, Libreville, Gabon, Africa.

The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Gabon having been established in accordance with the Standards of the Commission is regular and entitled to recognition.

SPAIN

The Commission in 1983 reported in detail the Consecration of the Grand Lodge of Spain, A.F. & A.M. by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise in November of 1982. This Grand Lodge has made excellent progress under the leadership of Grand Master Luis Salat Gusils and his Grand Lodge officers. Presently the Grand Lodge has 20 constituent lodges in 11 of the cities of Spain. It has been recognized by 20 or more members of this Conference and a number of other regular Grand Lodges in various parts of the World.

The Commission restates its 1983 opinion that this Grand Lodge meets the Standards for Recognition of this Conference and is therefore entitled to recognition by the regular Grand Lodges of the World.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR RECOGNITION

The Grand Masters of Germany (VGLvD), Austalia and Switzerland (Alpina) met in Geneva in September, 1983 and signed a formal agreement establishing a "European Commission for Information" to be composed of two members from each of the three Grand Lodges. The members were to be nominated by December 31. The interim Secretary to the Commission is the Grand Master of Austria, M:W: Brother Alexander Giese. Other regular European Grand Lodges have been invited to participate in the Commission.

BELGIUM

The Grande Loge Reguliere De Belgique (The Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium) has been recognized by 46 of the Grand Lodges in the United States and the majority of the other Regular Grand Lodges in the World. Applications for Recognition are pending in the remaining four of the Grand Lodges in the United States and in several other Grand Lodges in the World.

This Grand Lodge now has 21 constituent lodges and has more than doubled its membership since it was founded in 1979.

ITALY

Although there have been some difficulties in some parts of Italian Freemasonry during 1983, the Commission finds no reason to change its opinion that the Grand Orient is regular and entitled to continued recognition.

IRAN

Following the revolution in Iran, most of the Iranian Masons left Iran. The majority of them now live in the United States and Canada with a large number in California. Many Iranian Masons have affiliated with Lodges in the United States and Canada by verifying their membership through this Commission.

M:W: Brother Sharif Emami served as Grand Master of Iran until December 10, 1983, when a group of Iranian Masons met in New York and elected the former Grand Secretary, Brother Hossein Daftarian as Grand Master and Brother Nematollah Raeen as Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master lives part of the year in Houston, Texas and part of the year in Nice, France. Brother Raeen lives in New York. His address is P.O. Box 7194, F.D.R. Station, New York, N.Y. 10150. He has offered to verify membership of Iranian Masons desiring to affiliate with Lodges of members of this Conference. Brothers Daftarian and Raeen have been advised that the Grand Lodges of this Conference adhere to the American doctrine of exclusive territorial jurisdiction and no Grand Lodge would want to share its Masonic jurisdiction with the Grand Lodge of Iran in the constituting of Lodges, the conferring of degrees and similar Masonic activities. Both brothers have assured the Commission that they understand the position of Grand Lodges of the Conference and have stated that they have no intention of taking any such actions.

BRAZIL

The Commission has received a report from M:W: Kurt Max Hauser, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Rio Grande do Sul that a new Grand Lodge has been formed in the State of Sergipe through the sponsorship of the Grand Lodge of the State of Alagoas, one of the State Grand Lodges in Brazil, considered by the Commission as regular under Commission standards. The address of the new Grand Lodge is:

Grande Loja do Estado de Sergipe
Rua Gararu No. 321
49000 Aracaju
Estado de Sergipe
Brazil, South America

The Commission, in August, 1983, received a Guide showing the 851 Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Orient of Brazil from the Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations, Brother Ricardo Bath Crespo.

The State Grand Lodge of Brazilia distributed a booklet listing all of the members of the Confederation of Brazilian Symbolic Lodges, i.e. all of the State Grand Lodges of Brazil. All of the officers and mailing addresses of the State Grand Lodges are shown.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dallas, Texas
February 21, 1984

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, 1983. Since January 1, 1983, 56 Grand Lodges have contributed \$3,070.00.

Balance from Report dated February 22, 1983 \$8,892.10

Receipts from Grand Lodges between 1-1-83 and 12-31-83:

California	\$25.00
Washington	100.00
Florida	100.00
Alabama	100.00
Pennsylvania	100.00
Saskatchewan	15.00
New Hampshire	15.00
South Dakota	25.00
Rhode Island	15.00
Oklahoma	100.00
Missouri	100.00
Indiana	100.00
South Carolina	100.00
Arizona	15.00
Maryland	50.00
North Dakota	15.00
Quebec	15.00
New Jersey	100.00
Wisconsin	50.00
Manitoba	15.00
New Brunswick	15.00
Iowa	100.00
Alaska	15.00
New York	100.00
Louisiana	50.00
Massachusetts	100.00
Mississippi	50.00
New Mexico	50.00
Tennessee	100.00
Virginia	100.00

Delaware	15.00
Minnesota	50.00
District of Columbia	15.00
Colorado	50.00
Oregon	50.00
British Columbia	50.00
Nebraska	50.00
Japan	25.00
West Virginia	50.00
Ontario	100.00
Texas	100.00
Vermont	15.00
Michigan	100.00
Wyoming	15.00
Montana	15.00
Alberta	15.00
California	75.00
North Carolina	100.00
American Canadian-West Germany	50.00
Georgia	100.00
Idaho	25.00
Nevada	25.00
Mexico (York)	15.00
Kentucky	100.00
Kentucky	100.00
Nova Scotia	15.00
Puerto Rico	15.00

\$3,070.00

Expenses between 1-1-83 and 12-31-83

Postage	\$190.85
Printing	533.25
Secretarial	1,000.00
Publications	58.64
Travel and Hotel for Secretary-Treasurer	220.67

(2,003.41)

Balance as of

12-31-83\$9,958.69

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

CONCLUSION

In concluding this 32nd annual report to the Conference of Grand Masters, I realize it brings to an end my six-year tenure as a member of this Commission. These have been some of the most rewarding and enlightening years any Brother could experience, rewarding in the associations made and enlightening in the knowledge gained.

On behalf of the Grand Lodge of Delaware, I express my appreciation for the recognition accorded it in having one of its members become the first to serve on this distinguished Commission from the "First State" - Delaware.

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

ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION FOR 1984

At a meeting of the Commission on February 21, 1984, the following organization was voted for the ensuing year:

Chairman-M:W: Charles A. Brigham, Jr.
Past Grand Master of Ohio
Vice-Chairman-M:W: Morris I. Budkofsky
Past Grand Master of Connecticut
Secretary-Treasurer-R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr.
Past Grand Master of Texas

NAMES, ADDRESSES AND YEAR OF RETIREMENT OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

- 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 -- M:W: Richard A. Porter, Grand Master of Kansas
208 Lochinvar, Wichita, Kansas 67207
- 1989 -- R:W: John B. Obenchain, Deputy Grand Master of Virginia
29 Laurel Drive, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060.

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

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