

1988
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



A.D. 1988 / A.L. 5988

This volume digitized by



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC
NATIONAL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

MASONIC DIGITAL ARCHIVES PROJECT

∞

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
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA
February 24, 1988



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, and Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful
Brethren:

It is my honor and privilege as Chairman to present to you the 36th annual report of the Commission on Information for Recognition. During these past six years it has been an education and a pleasure to serve with some of the most distinguished Masonic leaders in North America, as well as having the opportunity to meet many of the outstanding Freemasons from throughout the world. I know my appreciation and understanding of the universality of Freemasonry is certainly more profound as a result of my participation in the work of this Commission.

It is my pleasure at this time to recognize the most valuable and indispensable asset of the Commission, that being R:W: Brother Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of Texas, who has faithfully and efficiently served this Commission as Secretary-Treasurer for the past 21 years. He has become the single point of reference for matters concerning recognition and maintains communication with Masonic leaders and jurisdictions throughout the world. His dedication to the purposes of this Commission is total, and the Conference of Grand Masters of North America is fortunate to have his talent and knowledge at their service.

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

M.W. Bro. John B. Obenchain, Past Grand Master of Virginia
M.W. Bro. Lawrence D. Inglis, Past Grand Master of Illinois
M.W. Bro. L. Robert Baker, Past Grand Master of the District of Columbia
M.W. Bro. W. R. Pellow, Grand Master of Ontario

We mourn the death of M. W. Bro. Richard A. Porter, Past Grand Master of Kansas, during this past year. He was in his fifth year of service to the Commission and would have been elected to succeed me as Chairman for the ensuing year.

Since the delegates to this Conference change each year, I will take a moment to remind you of the purpose of this Commission and the standards for recognition that were established at its origin in 1952. The Commission serves only in an advisory capacity to this Conference, and its function is to investigate and report on all matters pertaining to a jurisdiction's qualifications for recognition by members of this Conference. Our report is therefore to be used by member Grand Lodges of this Conference to act upon as they deem proper.

The established standards for recognition that must be met to receive a favorable recommendation by this Commission are:

1. Legitimacy of origin
2. Exclusive territorial jurisdiction
3. Adherence to the ancient landmarks; specifically an unalterable and continuing 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 religion and politics.

The deliberations of this Commission during the past year involved several Grand Lodge Jurisdictions, and are summarized in the following report.

BRAZIL

The newest Grand Lodge in Brazil is Grande Loja Masonica Do Estado De Rondonia.

The Grand Secretary for foreign relations is R:W: Lhugo Tanaka whose address is Caixa Postal 1331, CEP 78,900, Porto Velho, Rondonia, Brazil.

The Grand Master is Cyrillo L. C. Silva Neves and the General Grand Secretary is Eymard Osanam De Oliveira.

CENTRAL AMERICA

The Grand Lodges of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Panama met a year or two ago, and organized the Central American Masonic Fund for the purpose of engaging in charitable and educational work in their countries with the goal of raising \$2,500,000 for the Fund. The organization of these Grand Lodges is called "Central American Masonic Confederation." The Federation agreed that education would have the greatest impact on their countries. A pilot program is being developed for both students and teachers.

With regard to Freemasonry M:W: Rodolfo-Endaba, Grand Master of Panama, in reporting the Fund made this statement:

"The state of Freemasonry in the Cental American countries of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Panama is, at best, precarious. In Nicaragua, Masonry is practically non-existent, since the Sandinistas have taken it upon themselves to harass Masons by forbidding meetings without a government representative present. This type of repression is not new to Masonry, as we have seen it before in other totalitarian regimes."

CONFEDERATION MASONICA INTERAMERICANA (C.M.I.)

The first meeting of the C.M.I. (the Interamerican Masonic Confederation) was held in 1947 sponsored by the Grand Lodges of Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina. Most of the Grand Lodges in Central and South America, as well as Puerto Rico were invited. The second Conference was held in 1952 in Mexico City hosted by the Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico. In addition to the Latin American Grand Lodges, the Grand Lodges in the United States and Canada were invited.

This Conference adopted a resolution establishing a Committee to investigate the standing of foreign Grand Lodges and furnishing the information to the members of the Conference. The Committee asked Ray V. Denslow, Past Grand Master of Missouri and a noted Masonic scholar and writer, and Walter S. Turnpugh, a Past Grand Master of the York Grand Lodge of Mexico to attend the meeting of the Interamerican Confederation and report their observations to the Committee of this Conference. The report of 28 pages was very comprehensive and in essence suggested that there should be greater cooperation and more intervisitation between the C.M.I. and this Conference. Subsequently the Masonic Service Association at the request of this Conference asked Brother Denslow to make available information regarding the recognitions which foreign Grand Lodges accord each other. The Association in 1956 published Brother Denslow's work under the title "Regular, Irregular and Clandestine Grand Lodges, A Study in Foreign Recognitions." Brother Denslow incorporated in this booklet many of his observations at the second meeting at the C.M.I. including a report headed "The Interamerican Confederation" in which he 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."

Two of the members of this Conference, the Grand Masters of Puerto Rico and Cuba, also belong to the C.M.I. Over the years since 1952, various Grand Masters of this Conference have occasionally attended the meetings of the C.M.I., but there has not been a consistent pattern of attendance.

The Commission recently received a special invitation extended to all Grand Masters of this Conference or their designated representatives to attend the next meeting of the C.M.I. in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from April 11 through April 15, 1988. The invitation comes from a special committee appointed by the C.M.I. consisting of M:W: Hipolito Marcano, Past Grand Master of Puerto Rico and M:W: Carlos M. Pineiro y del Cueto, Past Grand Master of Cuba (who lives in Puerto Rico). Both are Past Presidents of the C.M.I. The President of C.M.I. is M:W: Carlos A Bolana, whose Executive Aide in the United States is R:W: Victor Valverde, Vice President of the Chase Manhattan Bank, 350 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10002, business telephone (212) 966-7605. Brother Pineiro advises that further information on the C.M.I. meeting may be obtained from him.

The same invitation has also been extended by the Executive Secretary of the C.M.I., Brother Ricardo Noriega, the Grand Master-elect of the Grand Lodge of Peru. His address is Apartado Postal 3722, Lima 100, Peru, telephones 462447 or 484533.

ITALY

The Commission in 1987 affirmed its action of 1986 with reference to the regularity of the Grand Orient of Italy, namely, that it was not entitled to recognition as a regular Grand Lodge. Following the meeting of the Conference in Calgary, the Grand Orient, at its Annual Communication in March, adopted a resolution which has been denominated in English "The Identity of the Grand Orient of Italy" and "The Basic Principles for Grand Lodge Recognition."

The Commission understands that the Resolution has been widely distributed among the members of this Conference.

In substance, this Resolution states the basic philosophy of Freemasonry and the standards for regularity adopted by this Conference for use by the Commission. The Grand Orient, in its principles for Grand Lodge recognition, affirms the following:

1. Regularity of origin.
2. Independence and exclusive jurisdiction over the first three degrees of a Grand Lodge.
3. No inter-visitation with irregular Masonic Associations.
4. Initiation of only good men who express a belief in the Supreme Being.
5. Candidates required to be obligated on the Book of Sacred Law.
6. Display of the V.S.L. with the Square and Compass in the Lodge.
7. No discussion of politics or religion in the Lodge.
8. No members who adhere to Associations which are against the peace and good order of society or destruction of Freemasonry, and all members must obey the law of the state.
9. All landmarks, customs, and usages of the Craft shall be strictly obeyed in all Lodges.
10. The Grand Orient considers these principles, the "Identity of the Grand Orient of Italy" and the "Charges of a Freemason" to be an integral part of the Book of Constitutions and Regulations."

The Commission has spent several hours in discussions with Grand Master Armando Corona and others representing the Grand Orient and has also held extensive discussions with other Italian Masons who assert that, while the Grand Orient has adopted these basic Masonic principles, it has not adhered to them in practice.

After a review of all the information before it, the Commission reaffirms its opinions reached in 1986 and 1987, namely, that the Grand Orient is not now entitled to recognition.

The Commission is not prepared at the present time to express an opinion on the regularity of the Grande Loggia Generale l'Italia, referred to in the report of 1987.

MEXICO

During 1987 several State Grand Lodges in Mexico have sought recognition from members of this Conference through the Confederation of Mexico Grand Lodges and its Secretary of Fraternal Relations, Jaime Krock whose English Language Address is P.O. Box 6312, Laredo, Texas 78042. A well-regarded Texas Mason, David O. L. Louie, whose address is 9711 Airline, Houston, Texas 77037, has been asked to assist some of these Grand Lodges in requesting recognition from regular Grand Lodges which do not already recognize them.

The President of the Confederation is M:W: Jose Valdemar Portillo Lopez, Apdo. Post. 419, Tampico, Tamps, and the Executive Secretary is M:W: Pablo Valdez Romero, Apdo, Post. 1-9, Guadalajara, Jalisco. There are 24 State Grand Lodges in Mexico, all of which are considered regular by the Commission.

I will now call on R.W. Bro. Robert L. Dillard, Jr. to present the Treasurer's report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dallas, Texas

February 24, 1988

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, 1987. Since January 1, 1987, 58 Grand Lodges have contributed \$3,266.74.

Balance from Report dated February 15, 1987

\$10,866.64

Receipts from Grand Lodges between January 1, 1987 and December 31, 1987:

Alabama	\$100.00
Alberta	15.00
Alaska	15.00

American-Canadian Grand Lodge	\$ 15.00
Arizona	15.00
British Columbia	50.00
California	100.00
Colorado	50.00
Delaware	15.00
District of Columbia	15.00
Florida	100.00
Georgia	100.00
Idaho	15.00
Illinois	100.00
Indiana	100.00
Iowa	100.00
Japan	25.00
Kansas	100.00
Kentucky	100.00
Louisiana	50.00
Maine	50.00
Manitoba	15.00
Maryland	50.00
Massachusetts	100.00
Mexico	15.00
Michigan	100.00
Minnesota	50.00
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	10.87
Ohio	100.00
Oklahoma	100.00
Oregon	50.00
Pennsylvania	100.00
Puerto Rico	15.00
Quebec	10.87
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
Total Contributions	<u>\$3,266.74</u>

Expenses between 1-1-87 and 12-31-87:

Dallas Scottish Rite Bodies - (supplies, copying, miscellaneous)	\$ 89.42	
Postage	210.01	
Printing Commission Report 1987	500.00	
Secretarial	1,000.00	
Travel & Hotel for Secretary-Treasurer	<u>893.27</u>	
Total Expenses	\$2,692.70	
Balance as of December 31, 1987		\$11,440.68

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Dillard, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer

This concludes the 36th Annual Report of the Commission. It is hoped that the efforts of this Commission will continue to assist in striving for international understanding and maintaining the basic precepts that bind us together into a society of regular Freemasons.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtis N. Lancaster, P.G.M.,
Chairman

John B. Obenchain, P.G.M., Vice
Chairman

Lawrence D. Inglis, P.G.M.

L. Robert Baker, P.G.M.

W. R. Pellow, M.W.G.M.

Robert L. Dillard, Jr., P.G.M.
Secretary-Treasurer

ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION FOR 1988

At a meeting of the Commission on February 24, 1988, the following organization was voted for the ensuing year:

Chairman

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

Vice Chairman

M:W: John B. Obenchain
Past Grand Master of Virginia

Secretary-Treasurer

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

**NAMES, ADDRESSES AND YEAR OF RETIREMENT
OF COMMISSION BOARD MEMBERS**

- 1989 - M:W: Curtis N. Lancaster, Past Grand Master of Utah,
688 South 6th West, Brigham City, Utah 84302
- 1990 - M:W: John B. Obenchain, Past Grand Master of Virginia,
29 Laurel Drive, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060.
- 1991 - M:W: Lawrence D. Inglis, Past Grand Master of Illinois,
42707 N. Crawford Road, Antioch, Illinois 60002.
- 1992 - M:W: L. Robert Baker, Past Grand Master of District of Columbia,
1417 Mayflower Drive, McLean, Virginia 22101.
- 1993 - R:W: William R. Pellow, Grand Master of Ontario,
240 Warncliffe Road N., Suite 300
London, Ontario N6H 4P2 Canada
- 1994 - R:W: Earl L. Wunder, Deputy Grand Master of Arizona
506 N. Verde Heights Drive, Cottonwood, Arizona 86326

Secretary-Treasurer

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





