

1987
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



A.D. 1987 / A.L. 5987

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



given at
CALGARY, ALBERTA - CANADA
February 18, 1987



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 now present to you the thirty-fifth annual report of the Commission on Information for Recognition. It has been a great privilege and an honor for me to serve on the Commission for the past six years and to preside as Chairman this year.

Membership in the Commission has given me an interest and understanding of Freemasonry as it exists in Grand Lodges throughout the world, that would not otherwise have developed. I hope that I have been able to communicate some of this to my own Grand Lodge through the Committee on External Relations, to the Grand Lodges in Canada through the All Canada Conference, and to the Grand Lodges in North America through this Conference.

It is fitting that I as a Canadian and a representative of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, should present this report on the first occasion that the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America has been held in Canada.

The Committee is most fortunate to have R.W. Brother Robert L. Dillard Jr., P.G.M. Texas as Secretary-Treasurer, a position he has held with distinction for 20 years. He is most knowledgeable in the field of recognition and keeps on top of events in Masonry throughout the globe by maintaining correspondence with Masonic leaders in all parts of the world. He travels widely to other jurisdictions and is thus able to keep in touch through personal communication both at home and abroad. In this way, he is able to keep this Commission and through it the constituent Grand Lodges of this Conference, fully informed of the Masonic situation in every Grand Lodge. His work in continuity is absolutely invaluable and of the utmost importance to Masonry, and he does it thoroughly, intelligently, and so diplomatically that it is indeed beautiful.

May I present to you, R.W. Robert L. Dillard, Jr., P.G.M. Texas.

The other members of the Commission, in order of seniority of service, are as follows, and I would ask each to rise as his name is called to be presented to the Conference:

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, Past Grand Master of Virginia
M.W. Bro. Lawrence D. Inglis, Grand Master of Illinois
M.W. Bro. L. Robert Baker, Grand Master of District of Columbia

My brethren, it has been a stimulating and rewarding experience to have worked with you over the years and one that I will continue to cherish.

Since the delegates to this Conference change greatly from year to year, I would like to repeat the standards for recognition laid down for our guidance from the time of origin of this Commission in 1952. These are the guidelines which indicate whether or not a Grand Lodge is Regular, and therefore if it is worthy of recognition. When the Commission has come to a decision in this regard, it advises the constituent Grand Lodges of this Conference, but does not attempt to dictate to any Grand Lodge what its individual action should be. The Commission therefore serves this Conference purely in an advisory capacity.

These standards for recognition are as follows:

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.

The Grand Jurisdictions that have come before the scrutiny of the Commission are as follows:

BRAZIL

Brazil now has 25 State Grand Lodges, all of which are considered regular by the Commission. They are located in the following States of Brazil:

Acre	Alagoas	Amazonas
Bahia	Brasília	Ceará
Espirito Santo	Goiás	Maranhão
Mato Grosso	Mato Grosso do Sul	Minas Gerais
Pará	Paraíba	Paraná
Pernambuco	Piauí	Rio Grande do Norte
Rio Grande do Sul	Rio de Janeiro	Rondonia
Roraima	Santa Catarina	São Paulo
Sergipe		

The Grand Lodge of the State of Rondonia is the latest of the Brazilian State Grand Lodges to be organized. Several inquiries have been made to the Secretary of the Commission about the regularity of the Grand Lodge of the State of Alagoas. This Grand Lodge is considered regular by the Commission as are all of the State Grand Lodges in Brazil.

The Confederation of Symbolic Grand Lodges in Brazil (State Grand Lodges) will meet in Sao Paul in July 1987 for the 17th Congress of the Confederation.

GREECE

A number of Grand Lodges represented in the Conference received a request for recognition from an organization styled "National Grand Lodge of Greece." It claims to have acquired under its jurisdiction a number of the Constituent Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Greece although this is denied by the Grand Lodge. Apparently this schism arose out of a conflict between the Grand Lodge of Greece and the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Greece.

The Grand Lodge of Greece is recognized by all the Grand Lodges in the United States and all but one of the Grand Lodges in Canada as well as by England, Ireland, Scotland, and nearly all of the other regular Grand Lodges in the world.

The Commission in its book "Information For Recognition" states that the Grand Lodge of Greece "is worthy of recognition." The Commission at the present time sees no reason to change its opinion that the Grand Lodge of Greece is regular and entitled to continued recognition.

HAITI

Haiti occupies one-half of the Island of Hispaniola. The other half of the island is occupied by the Dominican Republic. Masonic Lodges were chartered in Haiti as early as 1749 by France, and in 1786 by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. In 1793 the Grand Lodge of New York granted a dispensation to a Lodge to meet in Haiti, and subsequently granted a regular charter in 1797. According to Gould's "*History Of Freemasonry In The World*," the premier Grand Lodge of England in 1809 granted warrants for two lodges, and subsequently appointed a Provincial Grand Master. On May 23, 1823 the English Provincial Grand Lodge was transformed into an independent Grand Lodge of Haiti. Ultimately the name was changed to the Grand Orient of Haiti. The late George Draffen of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in his *Register of Grand Lodges Active and Extinct*, states that the Grand Orient in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, was "formed by English Lodges in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Haiti" and gives the date of May 23, 1823. The situation in Haitian Freemasonry was somewhat confused and at times chaotic from this date until the late 1920s when the situation seems to have somewhat stabilized.

The Commission first reported on the Grand Orient of Haiti in 1972 when it stated that it was a French speaking Grand Lodge and a member of the InterAmerican Masonic Confederation. It has long been recognized by the Grand Lodge of New York with whom it has had intervisitations in Haiti. New York is the only Grand Lodge of the Conference which recognizes the Grand Orient.

The Commission again reported on Haiti in 1975, and pointed out that one of the difficulties with recognition in the past had been the fact that the Grand Orient had never officially terminated its recognition of the Grand Orient of France which had been considered irregular since 1877. The 1972 Report of the Commission pointed out that the then Grand Secretary of the Grand Orient of Haiti stated that Haiti did not recognize the Grand Orient of France as a regular Masonic obedience.

During 1986 the Grand Orient of Haiti asked for recognition from a number of

Grand Lodges in the Conference, and in a letter attached to the requests for recognition, the Grand Orient set out its guiding principles. Based on these principles, the Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Orient meets all of the standards for recognition set by the Commission. Undergirding this conclusion are the statements of the officers of the Grand Lodge of New York that their personal experiences with intervisitations with the Grand Orient have demonstrated to them that it is a regular Grand Lodge entitled to recognition.

ITALY

The Masonic situation in Italy has received a great deal of attention from the Commission since its Report to this Conference in 1986, both during the year and at this session of the Conference. During this session of the Conference the Commission has listened to everyone who has asked to be heard on the subject. It has received statements from, and engaged in conversation with, a number of Masons who have special knowledge of Masonry in Italy and in particular the Grand Orient of Italy.

It is the opinion of the Commission that the Grand Orient has not offered sufficient concrete evidence that the conclusion of the Commission in the 1986 Report is incorrect, and the Commission therefore affirms its previous action as set out in the Report of 1986, namely that the Grand Orient is not entitled to recognition as a regular Grand Lodge.

Another organization in Italy claiming to be Masonic, the Grande Loggia Generale D'Italia, has sought recognition from several Grand Lodges of the Conference. The Commission expresses no opinion on the regularity of this organization and will defer any consideration of the question until its meeting in 1988.

JORDAN

The only regular Lodge in Jordan is Jordan Lodge No. 1339 in Amman, a constituent Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

There are a number of irregular organizations in Jordan claiming to be Masonic, but none of them are recognized by the regular Grand Lodges of the World.

LEBANON

The Commission has previously advised Grand Lodges making inquiry 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.

My brethren, it is my pleasure to call on R.W. Brother Robert L. Dillard, Jr., to present the Treasurer's Report:

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dallas, Texas

February 18, 1987

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, 1986. Since January 1, 1986, 58 Grand Lodges have contributed \$3,330.71.

Balance from Report dated February 17, 1986 \$11,235.05

Receipts from Grand Lodges between 1-1-86 and 12-31-86:

Alabama	\$ 100.00
Alaska	15.00
Alberta	15.00
American-Canadian Grand Lodge	25.00
Arizona	15.00
British Columbia	50.00
California	100.00
Canada, Province of Ontario	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
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	15.00
Ohio	100.00
Oklahoma	100.00
Oregon	50.00
Pennsylvania	100.00
Puerto Rico	15.00
Quebec	10.71
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
	\$3,330.71

Expenses between 1-1-86 and 12-31-86:

Dallas Scottish Rite Bodies-	
(supplies, copying, file space,	
miscellaneous)	\$ 610.27
Entertaining-Italian Situation	66.67
Postage	213.12
Printing	1,018.50
Secretarial	1,000.00
Travel and hotel for Secretary Treasurer	790.56
	\$3,699.12

Balance as of 12-31-86

\$10,866.64

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Dillard, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer

This concludes the Thirty-Fifth Annual Report of the Commission on Information for Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters in North America.

The foregoing report was submitted to and approved by the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America at its Annual Meeting in Calgary, Alberta on February 18, 1987.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Lewis Beckstead, Chairman
Curtis N. Lancaster, Vice Chairman
Richard A. Porter
John B. Obenchain
Lawrence D. Inglis
L. Robert Baker
Robert L. Dillard, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer

ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION FOR 1987

At a meeting of the Commission on February 18, 1987, the following organization was voted for the ensuing year:

Chairman

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

Vice Chairman

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

Secretary-Treasurer

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

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

- 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 - M:W: John B. Obenchain, Past Grand Master of Virginia,
29 Laurel Drive, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060.
- 1991 - M:W: Lawrence D. Inglis, Grand Master of Illinois,
42707 N. Crawford Road, Antioch, Illinois 60002.
- 1992 - M:W: L. Robert Baker, Deputy Grand Master of District of Columbia,
1417 Mayflower Drive, McLean, Virginia 22101.
- 1993 - R:W: W. R. Pellow, D.D.S., Deputy Grand Master of Ontario,
240 Wharncliffe Road North, London, Ontario N6H 2B8 Canada

Secretary-Treasurer

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

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