

1996
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



A.D. 1996 / A.L. 5996

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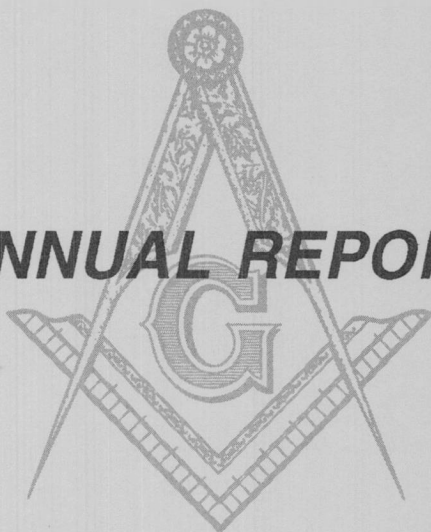
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COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MASONS IN NORTH
AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT



given at
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA
February 20, 1996



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.



Front Row (left to right): Leopold L. Otway, G. Ray Marsh, Robert L. Dillard, Jr.
Back Row (left to right): Harald R.K. Weiland, Dale C. Edwards, Neil M. Smalley, David J. Morgan.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON INFORMATION FOR RECOGNITION

February 20, 1996

To the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America:
Most Worshipful Brother Chairman:
Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brethren:

It has been and is my honor to have the privilege to serve on this most important committee of this Conference for the last six years. It is now my duty to present to you the 44th Annual Report of the Commission on Information for Recognition.

It is my privilege to introduce to you the other members of this Commission:

M:W: Leopold L. Otway, P.G.M. of New Jersey, Vice-Chairman

M:W: Harald R.K. Weiland, P.G.M. of Nova Scotia

M:W: David J. Morgan, P.G.M. of Nevada

M:W: Dale C. Edwards, Grant Master of Michigan

M:W: Neil M. Smalley, Grand Master of Ohio

R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr., P.G.M. of Texas and Secretary-Treasurer
of the Commission

and I am G. Ray Marsh, P.G.M. of South Carolina, Chairman.

Forty-four years ago in 1952 this Conference established the Commission on Information for Recognition for the purpose of gathering, studying and then passing on to the members of this Conference any data pertinent to the recognition and legitimacy of any Grand Lodge.

We have been very fortunate that for the last 29 years we have had the services of R:W: Robert L. Dillard to serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of this Commission. Brother Dillard's knowledge in the field of recognition certainly adds to the continual confidence in this Commission's ability to do its job well. I might also add that his presence and leadership certainly make our job much easier.

Last year my predecessor M:W: Brother Gallmeister, P.G.M. of Indiana, in his remarks, stated that each year the delegates to this Conference change and therefore he felt it necessary to repeat the Standards of Recognition laid down for our guidance. I too feel that we should revisit these each year so at this time I would like to read to you these standards.

They 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 the prohibition of politics and religion.

These are the guidelines by which this Commission determines if a Grand Lodge is regular or not and therefore is worthy of recognition.

When the Commission has come to a decision in this regard, it advises the constituent Grand Lodges of that decision. This Commission in no way tries to influence any Grand Lodge on what its individual action should be. This Commission serves in an advisory capacity only.

The deliberations of this Commission during the past year involved several Grand Lodge Jurisdictions and the summary of these deliberations is as follows:

BENIN

The Commission reported last year that the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise had consecrated a new Grand Lodge on January 14, 1995 in Benin, West Africa. The Commission made no comment on the regularity of this new Grand Lodge although it has a regular origin since it was consecrated by the GLNF, a universally recognized Grand Lodge. Current reports from France state that it is well established and working regularly. Benin is a French speaking country lying between Nigeria and Togo.

The Commission has not received any information from this Grand Lodge about the number of its Lodges or the number of its members.

The Grand Master is Vincent Nique` and the Grand Secretary is Claude Dohou. The address of the Grand Lodge is B.P. 1095, Cotonou, Benin, West Africa.

INDIA

A number of Grand Lodges represented in the Conference have received requests for recognition from two groups in India called the Grand Lodge of Upper India and the Grand Lodge of South India.

In 1993 the Commission reported that the Grand Lodge of England withdrew recognition from the Grand Lodge of India on the grounds that India had breached the Concordat between them which was entered into when the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland constituted the Grand Lodge

of India in 1961. Ireland and Scotland also withdrew recognition for the same reason. This controversy resulted in litigation which the Commission understands is still pending.

The Commission does not believe this situation affects the regularity of the Grand Lodge of India which is recognized by all but two of the Grand Lodges represented in this Conference. The Commission therefore concludes that the organization of the Grand Lodges of Upper India and South India did not have the consent of the Grand Lodge of India, was schismatic and violates the standard of the Commission with reference to territorial sovereignty.

IRAN

The Commission in its report for 1986 gave an extensive history of the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Iran in Iran, the subsequent closing of this Grand Lodge in Iran and the organization of a Grand Lodge of Iran in exile in Massachusetts.

Please see the Annual Report of the Commission for February 17, 1986, pages 7-9.

The Grand Lodge of Iran (in exile) has requested the Commission "to submit a proposal for recognition of the Grand Lodge of Iran in exile".

The Commission in its Report for 1993 in a paragraph dealing with Iran stated: "Your Commission feels obligated to advise that it has never sanctioned recognition of any Grand Lodge in exile and is of the opinion that such recognition should not be granted."

The Commission adheres to this statement and denies the request of the Grand Lodge of Iran in exile.

MADAGASCAR

The Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) has chartered three Lodges in Madagascar, a former French Colony with the ultimate purpose of constituting a new Grand Lodge on this island in the Indian Ocean. The Lodges are French speaking.

ROMANIA

In its report for 1993, the Commission expressed the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Romania had been regularly established in Bucharest on January

24, 1993. The Commission stated that the new Grand Lodge met the standards of the Commission for Recognition.

The National Grand Lodge of Romania presently has 19 constituent Lodges with a total membership of approximately 410. The Grand Lodge has faced some difficulties in part because of a tragic accident that took the life of its Grand Master, Brother Adrian Dohotaru, in August of 1995. On January 20, 1996 the Grand Lodge held a special communication for the election of new Grand Lodge officers. The new Grand Master is Sever Frentiu. The Grand Secretary is Mihail Totoescu. There are also three Deputy Grand Secretaries. The Grand Lodge has also adopted a very specific and ambitious agenda for strengthening the Grand Lodge which if carried out should greatly help the advancement of Freemasonry in Romania.

The Deputy Grand Secretary for Foreign Affairs is Cristian Dumitrescu and the address of the Grand Lodge is:

Str. Sighisoara nr. 17,
Sector 2, Bucharest,
Romania, 73297

Tel. (40)-1-653-8286
(40)-1-250-9579

Fax (40) 1 250 9489

RUSSIA

On June 24, 1995, the Grand Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) consecrated the Grand Lodge of Russia in Moscow. Previously the GLNF had chartered four Lodges in Russia, two in Moscow, one in St. Petersburg and one in VORONEZH.

The four Lodges as of November, 1995 had a total membership of 102, the majority in the two Lodges in Moscow. With the sponsorship of the GLNF there is no question of the legitimacy of origin of this Grand Lodge nor of the fact that the GLNF has required this Grand Lodge to subscribe to the standards of this Commission. Other visitors to the constituent Lodges affirm that they work regularly.

The chaotic economic and political conditions in Russia create concern for the stability and survival of this Grand Lodge. The Commission expresses the hope that within a reasonable time the creation of this Grand Lodge will succeed in establishing Freemasonry in Russia.

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Russia is GEORGIY DERGACHOV and the Grand Secretary is VLADIMIR DJANGUIRIAN.

The address of the Grand Master is:

109377 MOSCOW, BOX 18
RUSSIAN-FEDERATION
TELEPHONE & FAX 7.095.3796506

The Grand Lodge address is:

103055 MOSCOW, BOX 935
TELEPHONE (095) 9730807
(095) 9732010

SENEGAL

The Grand Lodge of Senegal was constituted by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise in January, 1993 and this Commission in its report in 1994 expressed the opinion that it was regular and entitled to recognition. Current reports from the GLNF are that this Grand lodge is operating regularly and attracting a number of the leading men of the country as members of its Lodges.

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Senegal is Armand Agbogda. The Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge is Massambaya Diop. The address of the Grand Lodge is:

B.P. 442, Dakar, Senegal,
West Africa

YUGOSLAVIA

The Commission in its 1993 Report stated that the Grand Lodge "Yugoslavia" had incurred internal disruption because of the actions of its then Grand master Zoran D. Nenezic resulting in his expulsion and the election of the new Grand Lodge officers. In the Commission Report of 1994 it was reported that the name of the Grand Lodge was changed to the Regular Grand Lodge "Yugoslavia" under the leadership of Grand Master Dragan Tanasic.

Some of the partizans of Zoran Nenezic are asserting that the organization under his leadership should be considered the only regular Grand Lodge.

This Commission does not agree and is of the opinion that the Regular Grand Lodge "Yugoslavia" under Grand Master Tanasic is the only regular Grand Lodge in Yugoslavia.

**TREASURER'S REPORT
DALLAS, TEXAS**

February 20, 1996

**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, 1995. Since January 1, 1995, 62 Grand Lodges have contributed \$3,075.

Balance from Report dated February 21, 1995	\$7,139.47
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Receipts from Grand Lodges between
January 1, 1995 and December 31, 1995:

Alabama	\$ 50.00
Alberta, Canada	15.00
Alaska	15.00
American-Canadian, Germany	15.00
Arizona	15.00
Arkansas	50.00
British Columbia, Canada	15.00
California	100.00
Colorado	50.00
Connecticut	50.00
Delaware	15.00
District of Columbia	15.00
Florida	100.00
Georgia	100.00
Hawaii	25.00
Idaho	15.00
Illinois	100.00
Indiana	100.00
Iowa	50.00
Japan	15.00
Kansas	50.00
Kentucky	100.00
Louisiana	50.00
Maine	50.00
Manitoba, Canada	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, Canada	15.00
New Hampshire	15.00
New Jersey	50.00
New Mexico	15.00
New York	100.00
North Carolina	100.00
North Dakota	15.00
Nova Scotia, Canada	15.00
Ohio	100.00
Oklahoma	50.00
Ontario, Canada	100.00
Pennsylvania	100.00
Prince Edward Island, Canada	15.00
Puerto Rico	15.00
Rhode Island	15.00
Saskatchewan, Canada	15.00
South Carolina	100.00
South Dakota	15.00
Tennessee	100.00
Texas	100.00
Utah	15.00
Vermont	15.00
Virginia	100.00
Washington	50.00
West Virginia	50.00
Wisconsin	50.00
Wyoming	15.00

Total Contributions	\$3,075.00
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EXPENSES between January 1, 1995 and December 31, 1995:

Travel Expense	\$ 904.82
Typesetting of 1995 Commission Report	300.00
Supplies, telephone, fax and miscellaneous services	500.00
Secretarial Expense	1,500.00
Printing of Commission Report	250.00
Miscellaneous postage for 1995	436.60
500 Mailing Envelopes printed	25.00
Copy Work at Conference of Grand Masters Meeting	10.80
Lost Check	15.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,942.22

BALANCE as of December 31, 1995 \$6,272.25

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT L. DILLARD, JR., P.G.M.
Secretary-Treasurer

Before concluding this report I would be remiss if I did not recognize a brother whose guiding influence has meant so much to this Commission for so many years. He is a storehouse of knowledge regarding Freemasonry in foreign jurisdictions and is one of the main forces in the resurgence of Freemasonry in Eastern Europe. His friendship and his willingness to share this knowledge with this Commission has certainly had an influence on me during my term on this Commission. It is my privilege to present to you R:W: Brother Nat Granstein, Assistant Grand Master of the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise. Brother Nat would you please stand.

This concludes the 44th Annual Report of this Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

G. Ray Marsh, P.G.M.

Chairman

Leopold L. Otway, P.G.M.

Vice-Chairman

Harald R.K. Weiland, P.G.M.

David J. Morgan, P.G.M.

Dale C. Edwards, G.M.

Neil M. Smalley, G.M.

Robert L. Dillard, Jr., P.G.M.

Secretary-Treasurer

ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION FOR 1996

At a meeting of the Commission on February 20, 1996, the following organization was voted for the ensuing year:

Chairman

M:W: Leopold L. Otway

Past Grand Master

of New Jersey

Vice-Chairman

M:W: Harald R.K. Weiland

Past Grand Master of

Nova Scotia, Canada

Secretary-Treasurer

R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr.

Past Grand Master of Texas

**NAMES, ADDRESSES AND YEAR OF RETIREMENT
OF COMMISSION MEMBERS
INSTALLED FEBRUARY 20, 1996**

- 1997 - M:W: Leopold L. Otway, Chairman
Past Grand Master, New Jersey
RD # 4
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
- 1998 - M:W: Harald R.K. Weiland, Vice-Chairman
Past Grand Master, Nova Scotia, Canada
P.O. Box 91
New Germany, Nova Scotia, Canada - BOR 1EO
- 1999 - M:W: David J. Morgan
Past Grand Master, Nevada
1475 Coronet Drive
Reno, Nevada 89509
- 2000 - M:W: Dale C. Edwards
Grand Master, Michigan
20235 Woodbend Drive
Northville, Michigan 48167
- 2001 - M:W: Neil M. Smalley
Grand Master, Ohio
3400 Wilmington Pike
Kettering, Ohio 45429
- 2002 - R:W: John L. Palmer
Senior Grand Warden, Tennessee
1113 Oak Creek Drive
Nolensville, Tennessee 37135
- R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr.
Past Grand Master, Texas
P.O. Box 1850
Dallas, Texas 75221
Secretary-Treasurer

