

**1997**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**COMMISSION ON INFORMATION**  
**FOR RECOGNITION**  
of the  
CONFERENCE OF  
THE GRAND MASTERS OF  
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



**A.D. 1997 / A.L. 5997**

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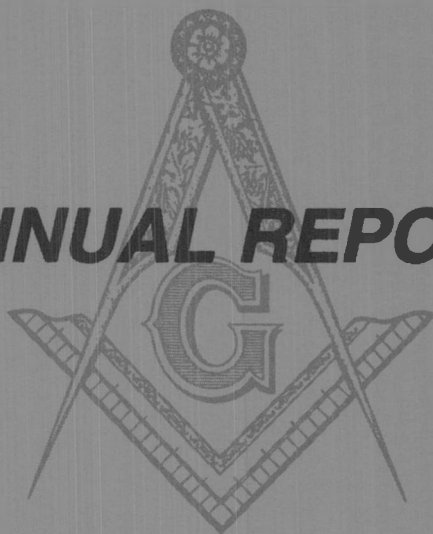
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A.D. 2022 / A.L. 6022

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

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***ANNUAL REPORT***



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given at  
TULSA, OKLAHOMA  
February 19, 1997



## 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 • Robert L. Dillard, Jr. • Harald R. K. Weiland  
Back Row (left to right): Dale C. Edwards • Neil M. Smalley • John L. Palmer  
(David J. Morgan was not available for photograph.)

# REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON INFORMATION FOR RECOGNITION

February 18, 1997

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

Just as Blue Lodges demand investigation into the character and eligibility of all who seek membership into our Fraternity so must Grand Lodges impose similar demands upon those Grand Lodges in foreign lands who seek recognition from you, the individual members of this conference.

The purpose of this Commission was to establish those demands, which they did in 1952, and thereafter to determine whether or not a Grand Lodge seeking recognition conforms to them.

These demands are known as Standards of Recognition and 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.

A typical investigation requires the gathering of information from a variety of sources, including proceedings, verbal and written information from knowledgeable individuals, other Grand Lodges, and face-to-face discussions with representatives from foreign Grand Lodges.

Throughout each year, for the last thirty years, the gathering of this needed information has been performed by our most able Secretary and deliberated upon by the many members of this Commission.

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

## ANDORRA

This is a state in the Pyrenees Mountains between France and Spain. It has an area of about 175 square miles and a population of more than 60,000. Three languages, Catalan, Spanish and French, are spoken.

The Commission has received a request for recognition from the Grand Master of the "Gran Logia Regular Del Principat D'Andorra" stating that this Grand Lodge was constituted with seven Lodges, naming them, and that the Grand Lodge had adopted the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of California.

M. W. Brother H. Douglas Lemons, Past Grand Master of California, was authorized by the Grand Master of California to be present at the consecration of this Grand Lodge, which the Commission understands was held in Monaco.

The Commission advised the Grand Master of Andorra that it required, under the Standards of Recognition, legitimacy of origin for the Lodges on which the Grand Lodge was founded. He was furnished a copy of the Commission book "Grand Lodge Recognition".

The Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) has two constituent lodges in Andorra and the Grand Lodge of Spain has one lodge in Andorra. None of these Lodges are involved in this Grand Lodge.

While the Commission is sympathetic to a nationalistic desire to form a Grand Lodge in Andorra, the Commission is of the opinion that the "Gran Logia Regular Del Principat D'Andorra" does not meet the standards of the Commission, in that the Commission has concerns about one, the legitimacy of origin and two, that it does not "share territorial jurisdiction by mutual consent or treaty".

## BENIN

The Grande Loge du Benin (GLB) was consecrated on January 13, 1995 in Cotonou, Benin by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF). The ten constituent Lodges were all chartered by the GLNF with the oldest lodge having been chartered in 1973. Since this Grand Lodge was consecrated by the GLNF, there can be no question as to its

legitimacy of origin and it has furnished the Commission with full information about its Lodges and its Constitution and Laws. It meets fully the Standards of the Commission adopted by this Conference. The Commission is of the opinion it is entitled to recognition as a regular Grand Lodge. It has been recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England, the GLNF and other regular Grand Lodges.

The Grand Master of the GLB is M.<sup>r</sup> W.<sup>r</sup> Vincent Nicoue and the Grand Secretary is Marcel Galiba. The address of the GLB is B.P. 03-4352, Cotonou, Republic of Benin. Telephone 300312, Fax 3022218.

## MADAGASCAR

The Commission reported in 1996 that the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) had chartered three Lodges in Madagascar with the ultimate purpose of constituting a new Grand Lodge on this Island which was formerly a French colony but is now independent.

The Lodge of Malgache (Madagascar) was consecrated by the GLNF on March 6, 1996 with the following Lodges:

Hazavana No. 857, now No. 1  
Tsataranana No. 852, now No. 2  
Fahendren No. 858, now No. 3

On January 10, 1997 two new Lodges were set to work – Vatogantsika No. 4 and Nymasina Graal No. 5.

The Grand Master is Marital Rahaririaka. His address is B.P. 4197, Antninarivo 101, Madagascar. The Grand Secretary is George de Saint Hirst, B.P. 7569, Antninarivo 101, Madagascar.

This Grand Lodge has furnished full information to the Commission with reference to its regularity showing that it meets the Standards for Recognition adopted by the Conference.

## PORTUGAL

According to the information the Commission has received, the Regular Grand Lodge continues its regularity with Brother Luis Nandin de Carvalho as Grand Master.

The present address of the Grand Lodge is Grande Loja Legal de Portugal-GLRP, AV.5 de Outubro, 204-8 A, 1050 Lisboa-Portugal.

The Grand Master's address is AV. Tomas Ribeiro, 45-7 1050 Lisboa-Portugal.

## ROMANIA

The Commission last year reported on the National Grand Lodge of Romania headed by Grand Master Frentiu which we consider the regular Grand Lodge. There had existed for some time another Grand Lodge with the same name headed by Vladimir Boanta as Grand Master. Through the efforts of a Romanian Mason in France these two Grand Lodges were merged on May 26, 1996 in Bucharest, making Frentiu the Grand Master and Vladimir Boanta the Grand Master of Honor — Ad Vitam.

The Commission is aware of a "United Grand Lodge of Romania" organized on March 9, 1996 in Alba Iulia, Romania with Dr. Titus Nicoara said to be Grand Master. The Commission considers this to be an irregular Grand Lodge.

## RUSSIA

This Grand Lodge has made excellent progress under the leadership of its Grand Master Georgiy Dergachov in spite of the still chaotic political and economic situation in Russia. The Commission reported in 1996 that under the sponsorship of the Grand Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) there was no question of its legitimate origin. A new Lodge was chartered in Moscow by the Grand Lodge of Russia in June 1996 and will work in English.

There are now five constituent Lodges under this Grand Lodge — three in Moscow, one in St. Petersburg and one in Voronezh. This Grand Lodge has been recognized by four Grand Lodges in the United States, five in Canada, six in Europe and a number of regular Grand Lodges elsewhere in the world.

The Commission would encourage further recognition by other members of the Conference when it is sought by the Grand Lodge of Russia.

## SPAIN

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Spain, Luis Salat died in 1996 and the Deputy Grand Master, Tomas Sarobe, who had been appointed Deputy Grand Master by Salat, was elected and installed Grand Master on June 8, 1996. The District Grand Master of the Canary Islands, a defeated candidate for the Grand Mastership, withdrew from the Grand Lodge of Spain accusing Sarobe of improper conduct and organized a "Federal Grand Lodge of Spain".

The Commission has questions on its legitimacy of origin in that it was formed by withdrawal and transfer of charters from the Grand Lodge of Spain to federal Grand Lodge of Spain, an organization formed by the schismatic lodges. The Commission also notes that they do not "share territorial jurisdiction by mutual consent or treaty" as required by our Standards.

The Commission considers the "Federal Grand Lodge of Spain" irregular and not entitled to recognition because it does not meet the Standards for Recognition.



It is now my distinct honor and pleasure to present Right Worshipful Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas and Secretary/Treasurer of this Commission, who will deliver the Treasurer's Report.

## TREASURER'S REPORT DALLAS, TEXAS

February 18, 1997

### 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, 1996. Since January 1, 1996, 60 Grand Lodges have contributed \$3,045.

Balance from Report dated February 20, 1996 ..... \$6,272.25

Receipts from Grand Lodges between  
January 1, 1996 and December 31, 1996:

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Alabama .....                  | \$ 50.00 |
| Alberta, Canada .....          | 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

\$ 3,045.00

EXPENSES between January 1, 1996 and December 31, 1996:

|                                                        |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Travel Expense .....                                   | \$ 1,123.30 |
| Secretarial Expense .....                              | 1,500.00    |
| Typesetting, Printing and<br>Mailing 1996 Report ..... | 860.25      |
| Photographs of Commission Members .....                | 140.00      |
| Miscellaneous Postage .....                            | 94.00       |

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$ 3,717.55

BALANCE as of December 31, 1996

\$ 5,599.70

Respectfully submitted,

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

Thank you, Right Worshipful Brother Dillard. Brethren, these are the findings of this Commission. We serve only in an advisory capacity and make no recommendations. Each Grand Lodge has the sovereign right to make its own decision. Govern yourselves accordingly.

Before concluding, I will now exercise the privilege of introducing the other members of this Commission, in reverse order of seniority:

Right Worshipful John L. Palmer, Deputy Grand Master - Tennessee  
Most Worshipful Neil M. Smalley, Past Grand Master - Ohio  
Most Worshipful Dale C. Edwards, Past Grand Master - Michigan  
Most Worshipful David J. Morgan, Past Grand Master - Nevada  
Most Worshipful Harald R. K. Weiland, Past Grand Master of the  
Province of Nova Scotia who has been selected to chair this  
Commission for the next year.

Thank you Brother Weiland, and all the members of this Commission, for you valuable input and assistance.

This concludes the 45th Annual Report by this Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Leopold L. Otway, P.G.M. - Chairman  
Harald R. K. Weiland, P.G.M.

Vice Chairman

David J. Morgan, P.G.M.

Dale C. Edwards, P.G.M.

Neil M. Smalley, P.G.M.

John L. Palmer, Deputy Grand Master

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

Secretary-Treasurer

## ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION FOR 1997

At a meeting of the Commission on February 18, 1997, the following organization was voted for the ensuing year:

Chairman — M.°. W.°. Harald R. K. Weiland  
Past Grand Master of Nova Scotia, Canada

Vice-Chairman — M.°. W.°. David J. Morgan  
Past Grand Master of Nevada

Secretary/Treasurer — R.°. W.°. Robert L. Dillard, Jr.  
Past Grand Master of Texas

**NAMES, ADDRESSES AND YEAR OF RETIREMENT  
OF COMMISSION MEMBERS  
INSTALLED FEBRUARY 18, 1997**

- 1998 — M.: W.: Harald R. K. Weiland, Chairman  
Past Grand Master - Nova Scotia, Canada  
P. O. Box 91  
New Germany, Nova Scotia, Canada — BOE IEO
- 1999 — M.: W.: David J. Morgan, Vice Chairman  
Past Grand Master, Nevada  
1475 Coronet Drive  
Reno, Nevada 89509
- 2000 — M.: W.: Dale C. Edwards  
Past Grand Master, Michigan  
20235 Woodbend Drive  
Northville, Michigan 48667
- 2001 — M.: W.: Neil M. Smalley  
Past Grand Master, Ohio  
3400 Wilmington Pike  
Kettering, Ohio 45429
- 2002 — R.: W.: John L. Palmer  
Deputy Grand Master, Tennessee  
1113 Oak Creek Drive  
Nolensville, Tennessee 37135
- 2003 — R.: W.: Ross Van Ness Bayer  
Senior Grand Warden, New Jersey  
2 Pardoe Road  
Princeton, New Jersey 08540



