

1998
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



A.D. 1998 / A.L. 5998

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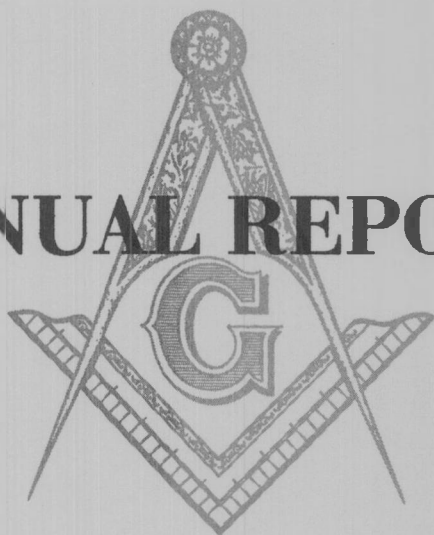
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**COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF MASONS
IN NORTH AMERICA**

ANNUAL REPORT



**given at
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
February 24, 1998**



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.



Seated (left to right): • David J. Morgan • Harald R. K. Weiland • Robert L. Dillard, Jr.
Standing (left to right) • Neil Smalley • Ross Van Ness Bayer • Dale C. Edwards • John L. Palmer

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON INFORMATION FOR RECOGNITION

February 24, 1998

To the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America:

Most Worshipful Brother Chairman:

Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brethren:

To serve on this most important Commission For Information On Recognition is an honor and a privilege and offers its members a rare opportunity to learn of the Masonic history and of problems of perception and interpretation of many aspects of Freemasonry practiced in different parts of the world.

For the last number of years, the Commission has been approached by delegations from jurisdictions which encountered major internal difficulties arising from misunderstandings or misinterpretation of questions of constitutional or procedural Masonic tradition causing members of the fraternity to seek, as a last resort, assistance by appealing to some external authority.

It may come as a disappointment to many that this Commission is not such an authority.

This Commission has been in existence since 1952 to determine whether or not a Grand Lodge seeking recognition conforms to the established standards which are usually reviewed for the benefit of new delegates to this conference:

1. Legitimacy of origin
2. Exclusive territorial jurisdiction, except by mutual consent and /or treaty
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.

An investigation usually requires the gathering of information from sources such as proceedings, written or oral information from knowledgeable individuals, other Grand Lodges, and discussions at meetings with representatives from foreign Grand Lodges.

The Commission reports on the following Grand Lodges:

BULGARIA

The Commission in its 1995 Report to the Conference, stated that the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Germany, one of the five Grand Lodges constituting the United Grand Lodges of Germany, had constituted three Lodges in Sofia, Bulgaria, but had delayed the formation of a Grand Lodge in Bulgaria until such time as the Lodges had gained experience and were stable. This was done with approval and assistance of the United Grand Lodges of Germany, which granted charters to these Lodges.

In the meantime, the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Germany constituted two other Lodges in Bulgaria.

These five Lodges, in 1997, requested the United Grand Lodges of Germany to institute them as the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Bulgaria. Germany reviewed and approved its constitution as conforming to "regularly working and recognized Grand Lodges" and stated that among the provisions of the Constitution was the "Basic Principles for Grand Lodge Recognition" as adopted by the United Grand Lodge of England. Officers of the United Grand Lodges of Germany, the Grand Master, M.°. W.°. Brother Rainier J. Schicke, and others, instituted the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Bulgaria on September 20, 1997 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

In view of the foregoing information and the assurances of the United Grand Lodges of Germany as to the regularity of the Grand Lodge, the Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Bulgaria meets the standards of the Commission and is entitled to recognition.

The Grand Master is M.°. W.°. Brother Ivan Stavrev
The Grand Secretary is V.°. W.°. Brother Alexander Witanov whose address is:

Dabnitza Str. 3 a
Sofia 1756
BULGARIA

BURKINA FASO

This is a western African country, formally known as Upper Volta, located north of the Ivory Coast and Ghana. It is a French-speaking country, having formerly been a French colony.

The Grand Lodge of Senegal, with the assistance of the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) consecrated on September 17, 1997 the "Grande Loge du Burkina Faso" in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso. The Grand Lodge of Senegal was consecrated by the GLNF in 1993 and is recognized by thirty members of this conference and by England, Ireland, Scotland and most other European Grand Lodges.

The ceremony of consecration was conducted by the Grand Master of the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise, M.° W.° Brother Claude Charbonniaud.

Based on the endorsement of its regularity by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise and its Constitution and Laws, the Commission is of the Opinion that the Grande Loge du Burkina Faso is regular and entitled to recognition.

The Grand Master is M.° W.° Brother Djibril Y. Bassole. The Grand Chancellor is R.° W.° Brother Alain Roger Coefe. The address of the Grand Lodge is:

01 B.P. 3377, Ouagadougou 01
BURKINA FASO

•Telephone (226) 30-45-45 •Telecopier (226) 30-22-22

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Early in 1997, the twenty-seven Lodges of the United Grand Lodge of England comprising the District Grand Lodge of Newfoundland, voted to form an independent Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador. This action was presented to the United Grand Lodge of England, which agreed that a delegation led by the M.° W.° Pro Grand Master, Lord Farnham, would go to Newfoundland and establish the new Grand Lodge. A delegation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, led by the Grand Master Mason, Lord Burton, also agreed to be present.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland has a District Grand Lodge of Newfoundland with sixteen Lodges and both the Grand Lodge of Scotland and its District Grand Lodge agreed to the formation of a

new Grand Lodge, although only three Lodges of the Scottish constitution joined the new Grand Lodge.

Consequently, on November 1, 1997, the new Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador was consecrated by Lord Farnham and the English delegation in St. John's, Newfoundland, in the presence of Lord Burton of the Scottish Masons and representatives of eighteen Grand Lodges of Canada and the United States. Among the representatives were eight Grand Masters and one member of this Commission, R. W. Brother Ross Van Ness Bayer, Deputy Grand Master of New Jersey.

The United Grand Lodge of England recognized the new Grand Lodge at its Quarterly Communication on September 10, 1997 in advance of and conditioned on its consecration on November 1, 1997.

In view of its sponsorship there can be no question of the regularity of this new Grand Lodge. It meets all the Standards of the Commission and is entitled to recognition.

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador is M. W. Brother Herman W. Starkes and the Grand Secretary is R. W. Brother George Cull. The mailing address is:

Post Office Box 23018
St. John's, Newfoundland — Canada A1B 4J9
the telephone and fax number is 709-754-6520
and the Internet is dginfid@nf.sympatico.ca.

PORTUGAL

According to the information the Commission has received, the Regular Grand Lodge continues its regularity with Most Worshipful Luis Nandin de Carvalho as Grand Master. His address is:

Rua Thomas Ribeiro, 45-7, 1050 Lisboa — Portugal
T:531-1-354 86 36 F:351-1-354-85 40
Email: dosdin@mail.Telepac.pt — Web page: www.glrp.org

To conform to civil law in Portugal, the Grand Lodge modified its name in 1997 to:

GRANDE LOJA LEGAL DE PORTUGAL/GLRP
GRANDE LOJA REGULAR DE PORTUGAL

The commission is aware of, and cautions the members of this conference about an organization in Portugal which calls itself simply "Grande Loja Regular de Portugal".

The commission considers this last organization irregular and not entitled to recognition.

SPAIN

Delegations from the Grand Lodge of Spain and Federal Grand Lodge of Spain were heard by the commission.

After deliberation, the commission is of the opinion that the Federal Grand Lodge of Spain does not meet the standards of recognition established for guidance by the conference as they do not "share territorial jurisdictions by mutual consent and/or treaty".

The members of the commission appreciate the great contributions made by R. . W. . Brother Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of Texas, during the past 31 years, and more recently that of M. . W. . Brother James A Wilson, P.G.M. from Florida who assisted him in his work.

The members of this Commission for the 1997/98 term were given with the dates of their expected chairmanship.

2003 — R. . W. . Brother Ross Van Ness Bayer, D.G.M., New Jersey

2002 — M. . W. . Brother John L. Palmer, Grand Master, Tennessee

2001 — M. . W. . Brother Neil Smalley, P.G.M., Ohio

2000 — M. . W. . Brother Dale C. Edwards, P.G.M., Michigan

1999 — M. . W. . Brother David J. Morgan, P.G.M., Nevada,

Vice Chairman:

and I had the privilege to Chair the Commission this year:

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

The Secretary-Treasurer will now give his report:

TREASURER'S REPORT
DALLAS, TEXAS
February 24, 1998

**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 December 31, 1997. Since January 1, 1997, sixty-one Grand Lodges have contributed \$3,035.

Balance from Report dated February 19, 1997 \$5,599.70

Receipts from Grand Lodges received between January 1, 1997 and December 31, 1997:

Alabama	\$ 50.00
Alaska	30.00
Arizona	15.00
Arkansas	50.00
California	100.00
Canada — Alberta	15.00
Canada — British Columbia	15.00
Canada — Manitoba	15.00
Canada — New Brunswick	15.00
Canada — Nova Scotia	15.00
Canada — Ontario	100.00
Canada — Prince Edward Island	15.00
Canada — Saskatchewan	15.00
Connecticut	50.00
Delaware	15.00
District of Columbia	15.00
Florida	100.00
Georgia	100.00
Germany	15.00
Hawaii	15.00
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
Maryland	50.00
Massachusetts	100.00
Michigan	100.00
Minnesota	50.00
Mississippi	50.00
Missouri	100.00
Montana	15.00
Nebraska	50.00
Nevada	25.00
New Hampshire	15.00
New Jersey	50.00
New Mexico	15.00
New York	100.00
North Carolina	100.00
North Dakota	15.00
Ohio	100.00
Oklahoma	50.00
Oregon	20.00
Pennsylvania	100.00
Puerto Rico	15.00
Rhode Island	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

\$ 3,035.00

EXPENSES between January 1, 1997 and December 31, 1997:

Travel Expense	\$ 597.51
Secretarial Expense	750.00
Printing, Postage for 1997 Report	431.28
Miscellaneous Postage	32.00
Supplies, Telephone, Fax & Miscellaneous Services	500.00
 TOTAL EXPENSES	 \$ 2,310.79

BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1997	\$ 6,323.91
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Respectfully submitted,

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

At this time we are pleased to present our newest member on the Commission who will be expected to assume the chairmanship in the year 2004 — R. W. Brother Robert J. McKibbon, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario.

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

Right Worshipful Ross Van Ness Bayer, Deputy Grand Master – New Jersey

Most Worshipful John L. Palmer, 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

who has been selected to chair this Commission for the next year.

This concludes the 45th Annual Report by this Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold R. K. Weiland, P.G.M. – Chairman

David J. Morgan, P.G.M.

Vice Chairman

Dale C. Edwards, P.G.M.

Neil M. Smalley, P.G.M.

John L. Palmer, P.G.M.

Ross Van Ness Bayer, D.G.M.

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

Secretary–Treasurer

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

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION FOR 1998

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

Chairman	M. W. David J. Morgan
	Past Grand Master of Nevada
Vice–Chairman	M. W. Dale C. Edwards
	Past Grand Master of Michigan
Secretary/Treasurer	R. W. Robert L. Dillard, Jr.
	Past Grand Master of Texas

**NAMES, ADDRESSES AND YEAR OF RETIREMENT
OF COMMISSION MEMBERS
INSTALLED FEBRUARY 24, 1998**

- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| 1999 | — | <p>M.: W.: David J. Morgan, Chairman
 Past Grand Master – Nevada
 1475 Coronet Drive
 Reno, Nevada 89509</p> |
| 2000 | — | <p>M.: W.: Dale C. Edwards – Vice Chairman
 Past Grand Master – Michigan
 20235 Woodbend Drive
 Northville, Michigan 48167</p> |
| 2001 | — | <p>M.: W.: Neil M. Smalley
 Past Grand Master – Ohio
 3400 Wilmington Pike
 Kettering, Ohio 45429</p> |
| 2002 | — | <p>M.: W.: John L. Palmer
 Grand Master – Tennessee
 1113 Oak Creek Drive
 Nolensville, Tennessee 37135</p> |
| 2003 | — | <p>R.: W.: Ross Van Ness Bayer
 Deputy Grand Master – New Jersey
 2 Pardoe Road
 Princeton, New Jersey 08540</p> |
| 2004 | — | <p>R.: W.: Robert L. McKibbin
 Deputy Grand Master – Ontario, Canada
 1200 Kaladar Drive
 London, Ontario N5V 2R5</p> |

