

2000
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



A.D. 2000 / A.L. 6000

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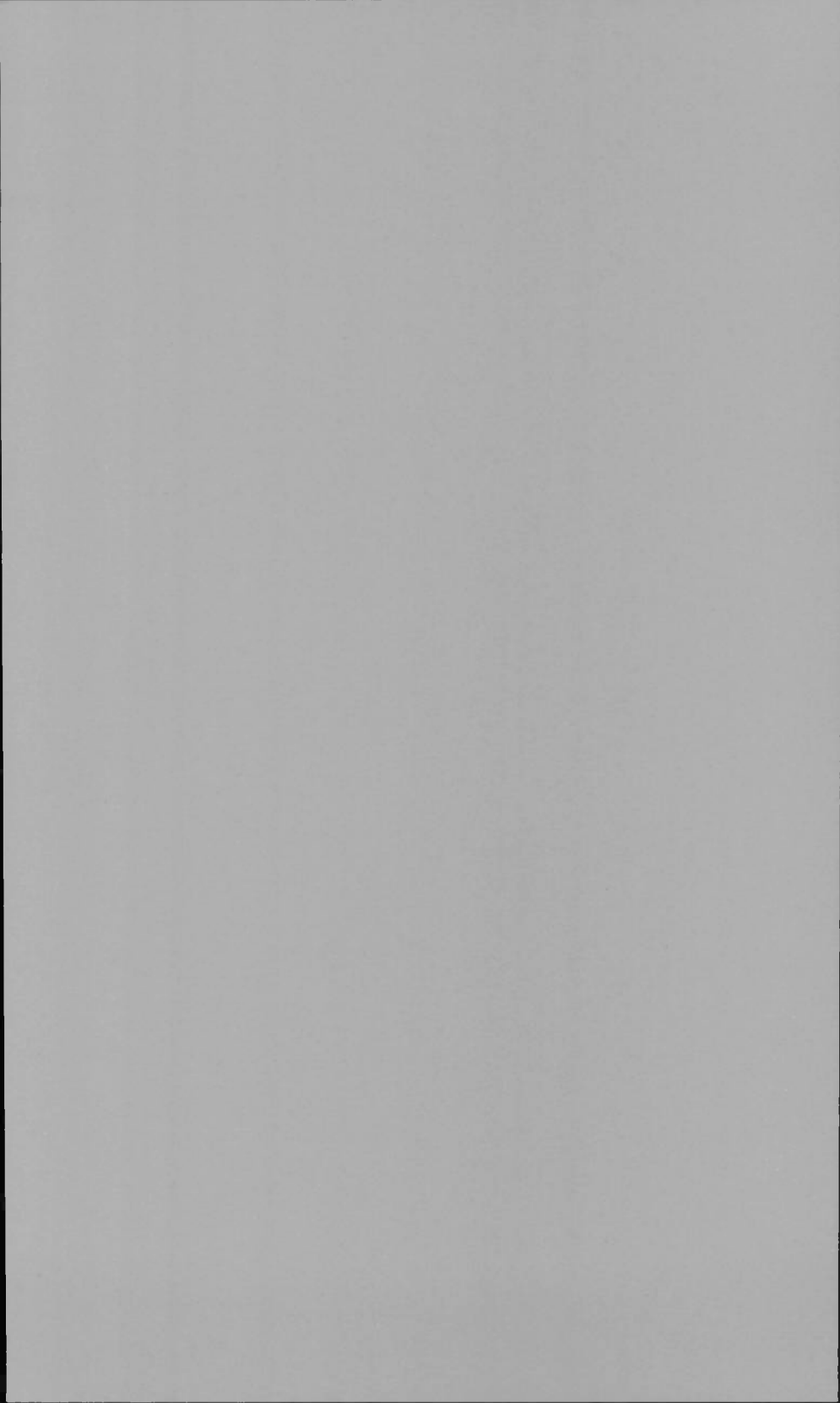
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A.D. 2022 / A.L. 6022

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

ANNUAL REPORT

**given at
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
February 19, 2000**



PREFACE

The Commission on Information for Recognition was organized in 1951 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., Post Office Box 1850, Dallas, Texas 75221-1850. Telephone Number 214-748-9196, Fax Number 214-748-5155, E-Mail rld@dallasscottishrite.org.



L. to R. – Robert L. McKibbon, Neil M. Smalley, Aaron W. Harvey, Dale C. Edwards, Ross Van Ness Bayer, John L. Palmer. Robert L. Dillard, Jr. was unable to be present at the conference.

**REPORT OF THE
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION**

February 20, 2000

**TO THE CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA:**

MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER CHAIRMAN:

**MOST WORSHIPFUL AND RIGHT WORSHIPFUL
BRETHREN:**

Allow me to introduce to you members of the team who have worked diligently at the Conference to make the report of this Commission a success:

M.:W.:Neil M. Smalley, Vice-Chairman and P.G.M. of Ohio,
M.:W.:John L. Palmer, P.G.M. of Tennessee,
M.:W.:Ross Van Ness Bayer, P.G.M. of New Jersey,
M.:W.:Robert J. McKibbin, Grand Master of Canada in the Province of Ontario,
M.:W.:Aaron Harvey, Grand Master of Oregon
M.:W.:Curtis Lancaster, P.G.M., Utah and Past Chairman of this Commission, who is substituting for
R.:W.:Robert L. Dillard, Jr., P.G.M. of Texas and Secretary-Treasurer of the Commission and,
I am M.:W.:Dale C. Edwards, P.G.M., Grand Treasurer of Michigan, Chairman.

Right Worshipful Brother Bob Dillard has served this Commission for thirty-three years as the Secretary-Treasurer of this Commission. His knowledge of worldwide Masonic relations is well known, and has added to the stability of this Commission. His presence at the Conference has been missed. He is absent this year because of his recuperation from recent cancer surgery. He completed a series of thirty radiation treatments in his throat area which have left him quite weak and with a loss of appetite. His doctors have reassured him his recovery will be complete and take another thirty days for his appetite and strength to return. I ask you to pray for his continued improvement.

For six years it has been an honor to serve the Conference as a member of this Commission. Today I will present to you the 47th report of the Commission on Information for Recognition.

As a Commission, we hear of recognition granted by a Grand Jurisdiction in North America before we have reviewed the request and applied the Standards of Recognition. It is easier to develop meaningful relationships with other Jurisdictions that have been recommended by the Commission than to be in the embarrassing position of dissolving an agreement of recognition that does not meet our standards.

Each year, many new Grand Masters are seated at the Conference and we feel it necessary to present the Standards of Recognition established as a measurement for rendering the decision of the Commission. Our Commission was established in 1952 to serve the Conference, and I quote from the Foreword of our book, Information For Recognition: "The Commission on Information for Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America was created to gather, collate, and from time to time revise information on Grand Lodges in Other Lands..." The Commission continues to apply the same basic standards of recognition, which provide credence to other jurisdictions applying for recognition. Those standards which we hope you find useful are:

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.

Applying these standards to the requests of several Grand Lodge Jurisdictions during our deliberations we have arrived at the following recommended conclusions:

BRAZIL

This Commission has for many years used its best efforts to advance harmony between the Grand Orient of Brazil and the state Grand Lodges of Brazil. The 1980 Commission Report “expresses the hope that eventually unity in Brazilian Masonry may be achieved and repeats the suggestion in its 1975 Report ‘that recognition of the Grand Orient of Brazil and of those State Grand Lodges that qualify would seem to be in order’.”

The Commission is pleased to see that on October 15, 1999, a treaty was signed between the Grand Orient of Brazil and the state Grand Lodge of Sao Paulo, Brazil in which these Grand Lodges have recognized each other and asked all jurisdictions that recognize one to recognize the other. As a result of the treaty and the endorsement of the Grand Orient, the United Grand Lodge of England, which heretofore only recognized the Grand Orient in Brazil, granted recognition to the state Grand Lodge of Sao Paulo at its Communication on December 8, 1999.

On December 11, 1999, the state Grand Lodge of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil signed a treaty with the Grand Orient of Brazil. As additional states ratify the treaty with the Grand Orient, they will be reported to this conference. Hopefully, treaties

between the Grand Orient and other regular Grand Lodges in Brazil will follow.

CROATIA

The Republic of Croatia became independent from Yugoslavia in 1991. It lies on the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea and is bordered on the north by Slovenia and Hungary and on the east by Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its capital is Zagreb.

The Grand Lodge of Austria chartered Lodges in Croatia which served as the founding Lodges for the Grand Lodge of Croatia when it was set to work by the Grand Master of Austria on November 7, 1997. The Grand Lodge of Croatia adopted the regulations, constitution and ritual of the Grand Lodge of Austria.

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Croatia is M.:W.:Igor Francetic, M.D., Ph.D., and the Grand Secretary is R.:W.:Milan Gelb. The address of the Grand Lodge of Croatia (Veliha Loza Hrvatski) is:

Vidosiceva 7
10090 Zagreb
Croatia
Telephone: 00385-14843222
E-mail: gelb@zg.tel.hr

The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Croatia is regular and entitled to recognition.

ESTONIA

The Grand Lodge of Finland chartered four constituent Lodges in Estonia after Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia broke away from Russia. On May 18, 1999, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Finland, M.:W.:Brother Ilkka Runokangus, consecrated the Grand Lodge of Estonia in the capital city of Estonia, Tallinn. There were one-hundred and eight Masons

in attendance including representatives from Grand Lodges of New York, Colorado, Germany, British Columbia, Denmark, Ireland and Israel.

The address of the Grand Lodge of Estonia is:

P. O. Box 3992
10509 Tallinn
ESTONIA
Telephone/fax: 372 6616083
E-Mail: esl@hot.cc

The name and address of the Grand Master is:

M.: W.: Bro. Raido Ruutel
Ranna tee 18
12111 Tallinn
ESTONIA

The name and address of the Grand Secretary is:

R.: W.: Bro. Jaak Ratassepp
Narva mint 6 – 12
10117 Tallinn
ESTONIA

The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Estonia is regular and entitled to recognition.

FRANCE

The Commission met with the Grande Loge de France, and after deliberation, have concluded that they do not meet the criteria for recognition of this Commission.

The Commission confirms the findings of the 1992 Commission that only the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) meets the criteria for recognition.

LEBANON

The Commission has advised Grand Lodges of the Conference making inquiry that the only regular Masonry in Lebanon is represented by the constituent Lodges of the Grand Lodge of New York, the Grand Lodge of Scotland and one Lodge of the Grand Orient of Italy.

We have been advised by the Grand Lodge of New York that, as of November 3, 1999, it has temporarily suspended the charters of the ten Lodges in its District Grand Lodge of Syria/Lebanon. The members of the Conference should be sensitive to any attempts of irregular organizations claiming to be Masonic to take advantage of this situation.

The Grand Lodge of New York will keep the Commission and other jurisdictions up to date on future developments and resolutions.

MALI

Last year the Commission reported that it had "been advised that the Grand Lodge of the Ivory Coast and The Grand Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) will consecrate a new Grand Lodge in the western African country of Mali, a former French colony. The ceremony is scheduled to take place in Bamako, the capital of Mali, on March 13, 1999."

We are pleased to report that the consecration did take place and that the Grand Master of Mali is:

M.:W.:Mory Kanté
B.P.4-300 Bamako

The Grand Secretary is: R.:W.:Bonbakar Keita
Telephone & Fax: 223. 22 .45. 45

The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Mali is regular and entitled to recognition.

PRINCE HALL

Prince Hall recognition has been adopted by many Grand Jurisdictions within this conference. While other Grand Jurisdictions remain sensitive to adoption or implementation, this is of no concern to the Commission. Where jurisdictions are recognizing "Prince Hall Masons", we have not reviewed nor been asked to apply the standards of recognition. Those acts of recognition have been, and continue to be, considered jurisdictional rights. As a Commission, we hope that the procedure of recognition would be to apply the standard of Mutual Consent and/or treaty that permit multiple Grand Masonic Jurisdictions to share territory.

When Prince Hall Grand Lodges request recognition from other jurisdictions, we expect good counsel be given to request recognition from those jurisdictions where mutual consent has already been established, and not carte blanche to all in the North American Jurisdictions. The reverse application also holds true, that Members of this Conference should be sensitive to jurisdictions who do not share a mutual consent treaty with Prince Hall within their own jurisdiction.

Please apply a broad umbrella of sensitivity to our sister jurisdictions concerning this issue. This Commission stands ready to assist in whatever capacity may be beneficial.

SLOVENIA

Following World War II, the country of Slovenia became a part of Yugoslavia. In 1991, it became independent. It is located in the westernmost part of former Yugoslavia and is bordered by Austria, Italy, Hungary and Croatia. The capital is Ljubljana.

Freemasonry was sponsored in Yugoslavia, including Slovenia by the Grand Lodge of Austria. When Yugoslavia as a country was dissolved in 1991, the Grand Lodge of Austria continued its sponsorship of the Lodges in Slovenia and Croatia.

On October 16, 1999, the Deputy Grand Master of Austria, M.:W.:Brother Gunther Hodl, consecrated the Grand Lodge of Slovenia in a small town near Ljubljana. In attendance were one-hundred and seventy-six Masons from eight countries. The new Grand Master is Dr. Nenad Funduk, a professor on the faculty of the University of Ljubljana. His address is:

Professor Dr. Nenad Funduk
Restljeva 33
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Telephone and Fax: 386.61.329.284

The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Slovenia is regular and entitled to recognition.

That concludes the recommendation portion of our report.

We are grateful for the services of R.:W.:Brother Robert L. Dillard, Jr. who in spite of his illness took the time to prepare his report for fiscal year 1999. We extend our sincere thanks for his unceasing efforts and dedication as Secretary-Treasurer. We have been fortunate to have present on the Commission at this Conference a Past Chairman of the Commission M.:W.:Curtis Lancaster to present the report of the Secretary-Treasurer:

TREASURER'S REPORT DALLAS, TEXAS

February 19, 2000

**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,

1999. Since January 1, 1999, fifty-eight Grand Lodges have contributed \$3,010.00.

BALANCE FROM REPORT DATED FEBRUARY 23, 1999
\$ 6,604.43

Receipts from Grand Lodges received between
January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999:

Alaska	\$	15.00
Arizona		15.00
Arkansas		50.00
California		100.00
Canada – Alberta		15.00
Canada – Manitoba		15.00
Canada – New Brunswick		15.00
Canada – Nova Scotia		15.00
Canada – Prince Edward Island		15.00
Canada – Saskatchewan		15.00
Colorado		50.00
Connecticut		50.00
Delaware		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		100.00
Kansas		50.00
Kentucky		100.00
Louisiana		50.00
Maine		50.00
Maryland		50.00
Massachusetts		100.00
Mexico		15.00
Michigan		100.00
Minnesota		50.00

Mississippi	50.00
Missouri	100.00
Montana	15.00
Nevada	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
Ohio	100.00
Oklahoma	100.00
Oregon	50.00
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	\$ 3,010.00
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Expenses between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999:

Secretarial Expense	\$ 750.00
Travel Expense	2,511.20
Supplies	29.91
Printing and postage expense for 1999 Report	538.49
Photographs from Conference of Grand Masters	105.00

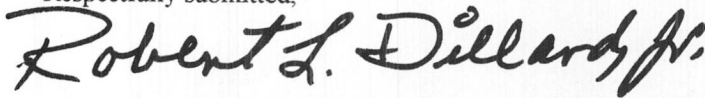
TOTAL EXPENSES

\$ 3,934.60

BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1999

\$ 5,679.83

Respectfully submitted,



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

Thank you, M.: W.: Brother Lancaster for your service to this Commission again this year. We are grateful that you could accommodate the Commission for this Conference. Brother Lancaster was present at our meetings to keep abreast of the workings of the Commission and as one of the understudies to assist in the position of Secretary-Treasurer.

Brethren, this concludes the 47th Annual Report by this Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale C. Edwards, P.G.M. – Chairman
Neil M. Smalley, P.G.M. Vice-Chairman
John L. Palmer, P.G.M.
Ross Van Ness Bayer, P.G.M.
Robert J. McKibbin, G.M.
Aaron W. Harvey, G.M.
Robert L. Dillard Jr., P.G.M.-
Secretary/Treasurer

The Conference elected R.: W.: Roger J. Taylor, Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, as the new member of the Commission.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION FOR 2000

On February 22, 2000 the Conference of Grand Masters approved the Commission recommendation electing the following organization for the year 2001:

CHAIRMAN

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

VICE-CHAIRMAN

M.: W.: John L. Palmer
Past Grand Master of Tennessee

SECRETARY/TREASURER

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

**NAMES, ADDRESSES AND YEAR OF RETIREMENT
OF COMMISSION MEMBERS INSTALLED
FEBRUARY 22, 2000**

- 2001 — M.:W.: Neil Smalley, Chairman
Past Grand Master - Ohio
3400 Wilmington Pike
Kettering, OH 45429-4206
E-mail – NMSmalley@aol.com
- 2002 — M.:W.: John L. Palmer
Past Grand Master – Tennessee
1113 Oak Creek Drive
Nolensville, TN 37135
E-mail – thepalmers2@juno.com
- 2003 — M.:W.: Ross Van Ness Bayer
Past Grand Master – New Jersey
2 Pardoe Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
- 2004 — M.:W.: Robert J. McKibbon
Grand Master – Ontario, Canada
1200 Kaladar Drive
London, Ontario N5V 2R5
E-mail – BobMcKibbon@aol.com
- 2005 — M.:W.: Aaron W. Harvey
Grand Master – Oregon
3824 N.E. Skidmore Street
Portland, OR 97211
E-mail – aharvey@prodigy.net
- 2006 — R.:W.: Roger J. Taylor
Senior Grand Warden – Minnesota
1212 Riverside Drive. SE
St. Cloud, MN 56304-1655
E-mail – taylfisc@cloudnet.com

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