

2001
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



A.D. 2001 / A.L. 6001

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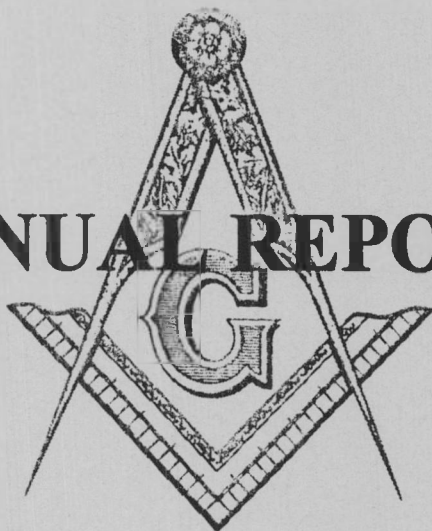
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A.D. 2022 / A.L. 6022

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

ANNUAL REPORT



**given at
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
February 20, 2001**



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, M.:W.: Curtis N. Lancaster, 555 West 2525 South, Syracuse, Utah 84075-8570. Telephone Number: 801-525-0589; Fax Number: 801-525-0590. E-Mail: sgig4ut@aol.com



Back Row, L. to R. – Robert L. McKibbon, Ross Van Ness Bayer, Aaron W. Harvey, Robert J. Taylor.
Front Row, L. to R. – Curtis N. Lancaster, Neil M. Smalley, John L. Palmer.

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

February 20, 2001

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

MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER CHAIRMAN:

MOST WORSHIPFUL AND RIGHT WORSHIPFUL
BRETHREN:

It is with great sadness that I begin this Annual Report of the Commission on Information for Recognition as we mourn the loss of our esteemed colleague, R.:W.: Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, who was serving in his 34th year as Secretary-Treasurer of this Commission. We pay tribute to his memory and celebrate his meaningful life, filled with activities of service to his family, church, community and Freemasonry. With his passing a library of knowledge is gone from our midst, and his talent and devotion to the work of this Commission will serve as our guide for years to come. Congenial, even-tempered, a kindly spirit, and always humble, he will be remembered as a true gentleman, friend and Brother. No longer may we grasp his hand in friendship, seek his companionship, or be the recipient of his friendly smile and humor. Brother Dillard will be missed by all who knew and worked with him, but his memory will remain fondly impressed in our hearts for eternity. May he rest from his labors.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I address this Conference at the conclusion of my six-year term as a member of this Commission. It has been a most rewarding and enjoyable Masonic educational experience, and I truly appreciate the opportunity to serve.

To fulfill the duties of Secretary-Treasurer, I appointed M.:W.: Curtis N. Lancaster, Past Grand Master of Utah, and Chairman of this Commission in 1987 and 1988. He accepted most graciously and has been an invaluable asset in this year's deliberations.

The members of this Commission have labored diligently to bring you this report, and it is my privilege to introduce them:

M.:W.: John L. Palmer, Vice Chairman; 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 W. Harvey, P.G.M. of Oregon;

M.:W.: Curtis N. Lancaster, Secretary-Treasurer; P.G.M. of Utah;

R.:W.: Roger J. Taylor, Deputy Grand Master of Minnesota;

and I am M.:W.: Neil M. Smalley, Chairman; P.G.M. of Ohio.

To those who are new to this Conference, the function of this Commission is to investigate matters concerning recognition and to make a report to this Conference whether a Grand Lodge is considered Regular and worthy of recognition. It serves purely in an advisory capacity and does not attempt to dictate to any Grand Lodge what its individual action should be. The standards of recognition laid down for our guidance from the time of origin of this Commission in 1952 are as follows:

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:

GRAND LODGE OF GUERRERO STATE, MEXICO

Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Veracruz in 1999, the Gran Logia del Estado de Guerrero satisfies the requirements for recognition. The Grand Lodge of Guerrero State is a member of the Federation of Regular Grand Lodges of Mexico, which requires strict adherence to the standards for recognition. Twelve Lodges in the State of Guerrero, which were once under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico, now comprise the Grand Lodge of Guerrero. The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Guerrero State is regular and meets the criteria for recognition. The Grand Master is:

M. W. Mario Alfredo Salazar Almenara
Laurel No. 506
Depto. 201-B
Condominio Laurel
C.P.39640 FRACC.El Roble
Acapulco, Gro. Mexico

STATE GRAND LODGE OF PUEBLA, MEXICO

The Grand Lodge "Benemerito Ejercito de Oriente" del Estado de Puebla, Mexico was established by the Grand Lodge "Benito Juarez Garcia" of the state of Oaxaca in 1996, which is considered to be regular. The State Grand Lodge of Puebla fulfills the requirements for recognition, as evidenced by its membership in the Confederation of Regular Grand Lodges of Mexico, which requires adherence to the standards for recognition. The Commission is of the opinion the State Grand Lodge of Puebla is regular and meets the criteria for recognition. The Grand Master is:

M.W. Jose Valderrama Marquez
Av. 11 Poniente No. 1088
Centro Historico C.P. 72000
Puebla, Pue., Mexico

MOROCCO

The Grande Loge Du Royaume Du Maroc (Grand Lodge of Kingdom of Morocco) was consecrated by the Grand Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) on June 15, 2000, and consists of three Lodges that were created by the GLNF in 1997. This Grand Lodge satisfies all the requirements for regularity in that they have a legitimate origin, they have exclusive territorial jurisdiction in the Kingdom of Morocco, and they observe strict adherence to the ancient landmarks. The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of the Kingdom of Morocco is regular and satisfies the criteria for recognition. The Grand Master is:

M.W. Bro. Emile Ouakinine
Boite Postale 66 88 Madinat Al Irfane
RABAT, Morocco 10101.

DJIBOUTI

The Grand Lodge of Djibouti was regularly consecrated by the Grand Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) on October 22, 2000, and consists of five constituent Lodges. This Grand Lodge has not submitted a request, along with supporting data, to the Commission for an opinion as to their regularity. The Grand Master is:

M.W. Bro. D. Berny
Boite Postale 1044, Djibouti.

ANDORRA

The Commission received information that the Grand Lodge of Andorra was regularly consecrated by the Grand Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) on September 5, 2000, and consists of four Lodges. A request for an opinion as to their regularity, along with supporting data, has not been submitted to the Commission. The Grand Master is M.W. Bro. Antonio Ortado, and the Grand Secretary is R.W. Bro. Gerard Andre. The address is:

Boite Postale 202,
Poste Francaise
Andora La Vella, Principaute d' Andorre.

CONGO

The Grand Lodge of Congo was constituted in Brazzaville by the Grand Lodge of Senegal. Congo (not the Democratic Republic of the Congo) is located in equatorial Africa and on the Atlantic Ocean. Additional information must be obtained by the Commission before an opinion is offered concerning this Grand Lodge.

YUGOSLAVIA

The original Grand Lodge of Yugoslavia was organized in 1919, and then dissolved in 1940 as a result of the pressures of World War II. The Grand Lodge was formally reconstituted on June 23, 1990 by the United Grand Lodge of Germany. In February of 1992, This Commission determined the Grand Lodge of Yugoslavia was regular and met the criteria for recognition. In the following years, schisms in the Grand Lodge resulted in the Grand Lodge being split into two organizations, which adopted new names and are now known as the Grand National Lodge of Yugoslavia, and the Regular Grand Lodge Yugoslavia. After reviewing recently submitted data, the Commission is still of the opinion that the Regular Grand Lodge Yugoslavia is the only Grand Lodge in that country that currently meets the standards for recognition. The address of this Grand Lodge is:

Regular Grand Lodge Yugoslavia
Svetozara Markovica 81A
11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

RUSSIA

Grand Lodges who have fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Russia received a notice this past December that the powers of the Grand Master had been suspended, and the Grand Secretary had been replaced. There apparently existed

some question about the use of Grand Lodge resources. The Grand State Committee of that Grand Lodge appointed the Deputy Grand Master to serve as Grand Master until the next Annual Assembly in June, 2001; however a Special Assembly was held on January 27, 2001, and the Grand Master and Grand Secretary were reconfirmed in office, and peace and harmony again prevails.

FRANCE

The Grand Loge de France again requested a meeting with the Commission to present their case for regularity. A review of the data presented revealed nothing had changed since their presentation last year. Therefore, the Commission is of the opinion that the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) is still the only Grand Lodge in France that is regular and meets the criteria for recognition.

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF EUROPE

An organization named "The United Grand Lodge of Europe" was formed on June 18, 2000. The three founding Grand Lodges of this organization were the Grande Loge de France, the Grande Loge Traditionnelle and Symbolique (Opera), and the Grand National Lodge of Yugoslavia, none of which are considered regular by this Commission, and none of which are recognized by any Grand Lodges in this Conference. It is very unlikely that any regular Grand Lodges in Europe will join this organization.

UKRAINE

In 1998, the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy, headed by Prof. Guiliano di Bernardo consecrated the Grand Lodge of Ukraine. The Regular Grand Lodge of Italy is considered to be irregular by this Commission; there the Grand Lodge of the Ukraine does meet the requirement for legitimacy of origin. To add to this confusion, there also exists in the Ukraine, four regular lodges consecrated by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise, several created by the Grand Lodge of Hungary,

and one by the Grand Lodge of Austria. Some attempts have been made to negotiate and establish one Grand Lodge of the Ukraine that practices regular Freemasonry, but those attempts have failed. The Commission is therefore of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of the Ukraine is to be considered irregular and not eligible for recognition at this time.

I would be remiss if I did not express the sincere appreciation of the members of this Commission to M.:W.: Curtis N. Lancaster, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Utah, for agreeing to step forward in a time of need to assume the duties of Secretary-Treasurer. Through his efforts a smooth transition of the files and records from R.:W.: Robert L. Dillard's office was assured. He will now present the Treasurer's Report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

**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, 2000. Since January 1, 2000, fifty-nine Grand Lodges have contributed \$2,875.00.

**BALANCE FROM REPORT DATED FEBRUARY 19, 2000
\$ 5,679.83**

**Receipts from Grand Lodges received between
January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2000:**

Alabama	\$	50.00
Alaska		15.00
Arizona		15.00
Arkansas		50.00
Canada - Alberta		15.00
Canada - British Columbia		15.00
Canada - Manitoba		15.00

Canada – New Brunswick	\$ 15.00
Canada – Nova Scotia	15.00
Canada – Prince Edward Island	15.00
Canada – Saskatchewan	15.00
Colorado	50.00
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	100.00
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	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	50.00
Oregon	50.00
Pennsylvania	100.00

Puerto Rico	\$	15.00
Rhode Island		15.00
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	\$	2,875.00
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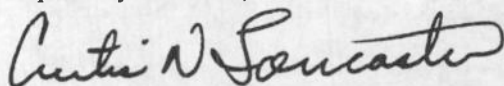
Expenses between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2000:

1/12/00	Travel Expense	\$	501.20
3/6/00	Photographs from Conference of Grand Masters		160.00
4/5/00	Secretarial Expense (1999)	\$	1,000.00
4/5/00	Refund of Unused Travel Expense		(501.20)
4/5/00	Dallas Scottish Rite Bodies (1999 supplies, telephone, fax and misc services)		500.00
4/5/00	Printing and postage expense for 1999 Report		767.01

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	2,427.01
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BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2000	\$	6,127.82
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Respectfully submitted,



CURTIS N. LANCASTER, P.G.M.
Secretary/Treasurer

M.: W.: Bro. Lancaster, thank you for the report.

Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, members of the Conference, the Commission recommends the following organization for the year 2002:

Chairman: M.: W.: John L. Palmer, P.G.M. of Tennessee

Vice-Chairman: M.: W.: Ross Van Ness Bayer, P.G.M. of New Jersey

Secretary-Treasurer: M.: W.: Curtis N. Lancaster, P.G.M. of Utah

As the last item of business, we recommend M.: W.: James E. Durbin, Grand Master of Illinois, for a six year term on the Commission. I call on M.: W.: Robert J. McKibbon for the nominations.

M.: W.: Robert J. McKibbon: I move the acceptance of this report, and election of the names just presented.

M.: W.: Smalley: Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brethren, my sincere thanks for your attention and for the opportunity to serve this Conference.

Brethren, this concludes the 48th Annual Report by this Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil M. Smalley, P.G.M. – Chairman
John L. Palmer, P.G.M. Vice-Chairman
Ross Van Ness Bayer, P.G.M.
Robert J. McKibbon, G.M.
Aaron W. Harvey, G.M.
Robert J. Taylor, D.G.M.
Curtis N. Lancaster, P.G.M., Sec./Treas.

The Conference elected M.: W.: James E. Durbin, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, as the new member of the Commission.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION FOR 2001

On February 20, 2001, the Conference of Grand Masters approved the Commission recommendation electing the following organization for the year 2002:

CHAIRMAN

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

VICE-CHAIRMAN

M.: W.: Ross Van Ness Bayer
Past Grand Master of New Jersey

SECRETARY/TREASURER

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

**NAMES, ADDRESSES AND YEAR OF RETIREMENT
OF COMMISSION MEMBERS INSTALLED
FEBRUARY 20, 2001**

- 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
Past Grand Master – Oregon
3824 N.E. Skidmore Street
Portland, OR 97211
E-mail – aharvey@prodigy.net
- 2006 — R.: W.: Roger J. Taylor
Deputy Grand Master – Minnesota
1212 Riverside Drive. SE
St. Cloud, MN 56304-1655
E-mail – taylfisc@cloudnet.com
- 2007 — M.: W.: James E. Durbin
Grand Master – Illinois
P.O. Box 1250
Homewood, IL 60430
E-mail – GMILL2000@aol.com

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