

2002
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
of the
CONFERENCE OF
THE GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



A.D. 2002 / A.L. 6002

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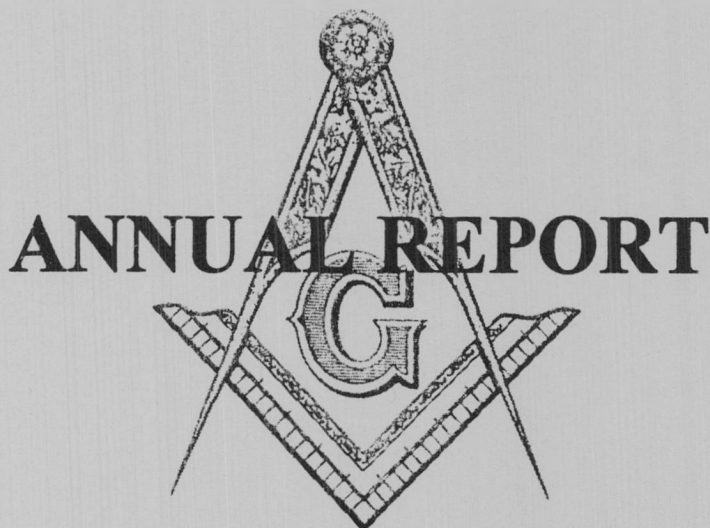
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC
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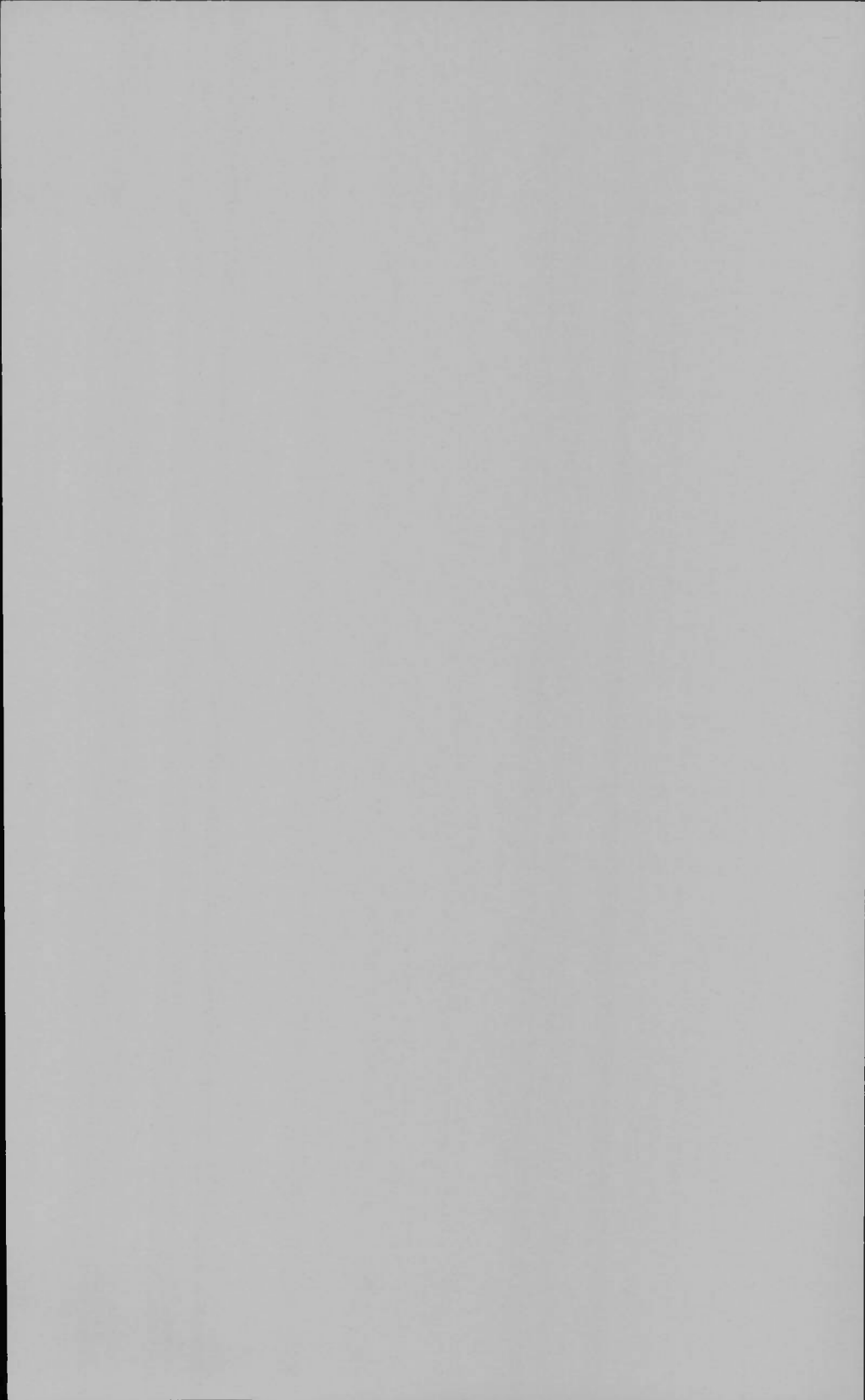
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A.D. 2022 / A.L. 6022

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



given at
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
February 19, 2002



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. McKibbin, Roger J. Taylor, James E. Durbin.
Front Row, L. to R. – Curtis N. Lancaster, John L. Palmer, Ross Van Ness Bayer, Aaron W. Harvey.

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

February 19, 2002

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

MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER CHAIRMAN:

MOST WORSHIPFUL AND RIGHT WORSHIPFUL
BRETHREN:

I wish to express my personal appreciation to the Conference for the opportunity to serve the Commission these past six years. It has been a most interesting and enlightening experience. I also want to express my special appreciation to M.:W.: Bro. Curtis Lancaster, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Commission, for the countless hours he has spent in preparing and coordinating information for the Commission members.

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

M.:W.: Ross Van Ness Bayer, P.G.M. of New Jersey;

M.:W.: Robert J. McKibbin, P.G.M. of the Province of
Ontario, Canada;

M.:W.: Aaron W. Harvey, P.G.M. of Oregon;

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

M.:W.: James E. Durbin, Grand Master of Illinois;

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

and I am M.:W.: John L. Palmer, P.G.M. of Tennessee.

This Commission was established in 1952 by the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America to gather, collate, report, and when appropriate, revise information on Grand Lodges in other countries. It serves purely in an advisory capacity and does not attempt to dictate to any Grand Lodge what individual action it should take. The standards for recognition adopted by the Conference of Grand Masters from the time of origin of this Commission 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 Lodges during our deliberations, we now share the following information:

ANDORRA

The Gran Logia D'Andorra submitted documentation supporting their claim of regularity, and requested a review by the Commission. The Grand Lodge of Andorra was regularly consecrated by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) on September 5, 2000, and consists of four lodges; three of which were created by the GLNF, and one was created by the Grand Lodge of Spain. The Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Andorra encompasses the Rule of Twelve Points, which covers the basic tenets of regular Masonry. The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Andorra is regular and satisfies the standards for recognition. The Grand Master is M.:W.: Bro. Antonio d' ORTADO, and the Grand Secretary is R.:W.: Bro. Alain PICART. The address of this Grand Lodge is: Boite Postale 202, Poste Francaise, Andorra la vella, Principat d' Andorra.

CAMEROON

The Grande Loge du Cameroun has provided documentation attesting to their regularity, and requested a review by the Commission. The Grand Lodge of Cameroon was consecrated by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise on September 15, 2001, and consists of four lodges that had previously been created by the GLNF. Documentation includes the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Cameroon, the Rule of Twelve Points, and a declaration of their commitment to enforce the Regulations, Ways, and Customs of Regular and Universal Freemasonry. The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Cameroon is regular and satisfies the criteria for recognition. The Grand Master is M.:W.: Bro. Pierre MOUKOKO MBONJO. The address of this Grand Lodge is: P.O. Box 12263, Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon

DJIBOUTI

The Grande Loge Nationale de Djibouti was consecrated on October 21, 2000 by the Grand Loge Nationale Francaise, and consists of five lodges originally created by the GLNF. The very extensive constitution of the Grande Loge Nationale de Djibouti, and the Rule of Twelve Points were submitted as proof of their regularity. The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Djibouti practices regular Masonry, and satisfies the standards for recognition. The Grand Master is M.:W.:Bro. Barkat Gourad HAMADOU, and the Grand Secretary is Joseph CASANO. The address of the Grand Lodge is: Djibouti B.P. 4467, Republique De Djibouti.

INDIA

The Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of India reports that in 1995 a splinter group from the Grand Lodge proclaimed themselves as the Grand Lodge of Upper India. This group then constituted a Grand Lodge of South India, then constituted a Grand Lodge of Western India, followed by a

Grand Lodge of Eastern India. These four irregular Grand Lodges have now formed a confederation called "United Grand Lodges of India." He warns that these Grand Lodges, which have very few members located in small pockets in India, are misleading people wanting to join Masonry in India, and are likely to approach Grand Lodges outside India seeking recognition. It is the opinion of the Commission that the member Grand Lodges of the United Grand Lodges of India do not meet the criteria of legitimacy of origin.

RUSSIA

The legal status of the Grand Lodge of Russia is still being challenged by the breakaway group of lodges which formed the Russian Regular Grand Lodge. Information furnished to the Commission from a number of sources indicate the Grand Lodge of Russia has met the legal requirements of that country, and that they continue to practice regular Masonry. It is the opinion of the Commission that the Grand Lodge of Russia is still the only one that meets the standards for recognition in that country.

PORTUGAL

The Grande Loja Legal de Portugal reports that a so called Grand Lodge Regular de Portugal is sending letters to Grand Lodges around the world informing them about a change of address. This organization has no relationship to the Grand Lodge Legal of Portugal, and is a small group that remained after the successive splits inside the original splinter group of 1996. The proper address of the Grande Loja Legal de Portugal is: Travessa do Pereira a Graca, 16 A - antilier C, 1170 Lisboa, Portugal.

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF EUROPE

An organization calling itself the United Grand Lodge of Europe is creating concerns among the regular Grand Lodges in Europe. This organization is composed of the Grand Lodge of France, the Symbolic and Traditional Grand Lodge Opera

(France), the Grand Lodge of Yugoslavia, the Grand Lodge AASR of Greece, the Grand Lodge of the Canaries, the National Grand Lodge of Portugal, the United Grand Lodge of Lebanon, and the Sun Grand Lodge of Lebanon. None of these Grand Lodges have been recognized by regular Grand Lodges in Europe.

BULGARIA

The Grand Lodge of Bulgaria continues to experience confusion and unrest. Elections held in November 2000, resulted in Borislav SARENDEV being elected Grand Master. Grand Master Ivan STAVREV declared the elections void and in conflict with their constitution. He called for new elections, and in March 2001, Peter GORNOVSKI was elected Grand Master.

PERU

Due to alleged fraud and misuse of assets by then Grand Master Ricardo Noriega, the Grand Lodge of Peru was placed under control of the government of Peru, and was governed by an appointed trustee for the past several years. On April 24, 2001, the Peruvian judicial system returned the control of the Grand Lodge of Peru to regular Masons. Deputy Grand Master Juan Mendoza received the assets and properties of the Grand Lodge of Peru. The restoration of this Grand Lodge will be monitored.

VALLE DE MEXICO

The Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico has issued charters for two lodges located in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge Baja California. This has resulted in the Grand Lodge Baja California withdrawing fraternal relations from the Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico. In addition, some other members of the Confederation of Regular Grand Lodges of the United Mexican States have severed relations with them. The Grand Lodge of Arizona has also withdrawn recognition from the

Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico. It should be noted that the Grand Lodge Baja California originally received their charter from the Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico in 1933.

I will now call on M.:W.: Bro. Curtis N. Lancaster for 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, 2001. Since January 1, 2001, fifty-eight Grand Lodges have contributed \$3,285.00.

BALANCE FROM REPORT DATED FEBRUARY 19, 2001

\$ 6,127.82

**Receipts from Grand Lodges received between
January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2001:**

Alabama	\$ 50.00
Alaska	15.00
Arizona	15.00
Arkansas	50.00
California	200.00
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		25.00
Idaho		15.00
Illinois		100.00
Indiana		100.00
Iowa		50.00
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		100.00
Oregon		50.00
Pennsylvania		100.00
Puerto Rico		15.00
Rhode Island		15.00
South Carolina		200.00
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	\$	3,285.00
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Expenses between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2001:

1/22/01	Travel Expense to Dallas to transfer records	\$	981.66
1/22/01	Secretarial Expense (2000)		750.00
1/23/01	Shipping Expense (records)		312.64
1/23/01	Stamps & Stationery		134.74
3/26/01	Travel and Conference Expense		637.53
4/26/01	Printing Report		189.22
4/30/01	Envelopes, labels, postage		394.78
5/08/01	Secretarial Expense (2001)		324.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$	3,724.57

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 ensuing year:

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

Vice-Chairman: M.: W.: Robert J. McKibbon, P.G.M. of the Province of Ontario, Canada

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

As the last item of business, we recommend R.: W.: Joe C. Harrison, Deputy Grand Master of Tennessee, for a six year term on the Commission. I call on M.: W.: Roger J. Taylor for the nominations.

M.: W.: Roger J. Taylor: "I move the acceptance of this report, and election of the names just presented."

M.: W.: John Palmer: "Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brethren, my sincere thanks for your attention and for the opportunity to serve this Conference. This concludes the 49th Annual Report by this Commission."

Respectfully submitted,

John L. Palmer, P.G.M., Chairman
Ross Van Ness Bayer, P.G.M., Vice-Chairman
Robert J. McKibbon, P.G.M.
Aaron W. Harvey, P.G.M.
Roger J. Taylor, G.M.
James E. Durbin, G.M.
Curtis N. Lancaster, P.G.M., Sec./Treas.

The Conference elected R.: W.: Joe C. Harrison, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, as the new member of the Commission.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION FOR 2002

On February 19, 2002, the Conference of Grand Masters approved the Commission recommendation electing the following organization for the year 2003:

CHAIRMAN

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

VICE-CHAIRMAN

M.: W.: Robert J. McKibbin
Past Grand Master of Ontario

SECRETARY/TREASURER

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

**NAMES, ADDRESSES AND YEAR OF RETIREMENT
OF COMMISSION MEMBERS INSTALLED
FEBRUARY 19, 2002**

- 2003 — M.: W.: Ross Van Ness Bayer
Past Grand Master – New Jersey
2 Pardoe Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
- 2004 — M.: W.: Robert J. McKibbon
Past 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 — M.: W.: Roger J. Taylor
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
- 2008 — R.: W.: Joe C. Harrison
Deputy Grand Master – Tennessee
6262 Garden Cove
Memphis, TN 38134
E-mail – jharrison@uu.edu

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