

SECTION 20

GRAND LODGE PUBLICATIONS



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SECTION 20 – GRAND LODGE PUBLICATIONS

20.1 Historical/Reference Publications

- ***Whence Come We? Freemasonry in Ontario 1764-1980:*** Editor: Wallace McLeod, Distributor: The Special Committee on History: December 27, 1979.

The sub-title Freemasonry in Ontario 1764-1980 is a trifle misleading. A true History of Freemasonry would have to discuss each lodge and each district, as well as recounting the progress of the central administration. This book is written principally from the perspective of the governing body. For the early period it deals with constituent lodges, but thereafter the emphasis shifts to the Provincial Grand Lodges and the Grand Lodge

The book includes many quotations from the various editions of the Book of Constitution and the successive volumes of the Proceedings. It must be emphasized that nothing here has any independent constitutional authority.

- ***BEYOND THE PILLARS. More Light on Masonry:*** Editor: Wallace McLeod,

Distributor: The Special Committee on Publications: First published in Ontario in 1973.

In the writing of this book a team of brethren had worked together. The contributors were given a free hand in approaching their topics, and were encouraged to express their individual view-points. No two brethren would treat the same subject in exactly the same way, and no doubt a different group would have produced a totally different book.

Topics discussed include Let there be Light, Privileges and Responsibilities, Masonry and You, The Origin of Freemasonry and the Early Years of the British Grand Lodges, The Origin of Our Grand Lodge and Highlights in its History, Monarchs themselves have been Promoters of the Art, The Landmarks, The Credibility Gap in Masonic Ritual, Origin of the Ritual and of the Three Degrees, The Three Degrees A Progressive Science, The Entered Apprentice Degree, The Fellow Craft Degree, The Master Mason Degree, Signs Grips and Words, Masonic Clothing and Other Symbols not Mentioned in the Work, The Organization and Operation of Grand Lodge, and The Challenge of Freemasonry.

- ***MEETING THE CHALLENGE. The Lodge Officer at Work:*** Editor: The Special Committee on Publications: June 24, 1976

Grand Lodge has produced this book in an attempt to fill a need which has often been expressed - the need for a practical handbook of lodge management. Running a lodge is a complex task, and warrants many skills. A brother who progresses through the chairs on his way to the East will by observation acquire some of the knowledge he

needs. Certain of his duties are set out in the lodge bylaws, others in the Book of Constitution.

This book looks at a number of topics such as protocol and etiquette. The advice it offers has no independent constitutional authority. It contains suggestions which can be helpful, practical and comfortable to accepted Masonic usage. If you never had a newsletter, or never taken part in a public speaking course, or never been sure how to seat guests at a banquet, here you may find some of the answers.

- ***TOWARDS THE SQUARE. A Programme for the Instruction of Lodge Officers:*** Editor: David C. Bradley, Distributor: The Special Committee on Masonic Education, James A.J. Hughes, Chairman

By the time a brother becomes Master of his lodge he is expected to be able to rule it and direct it. He must understand how to work with his officers and members. He must know how to go about such tasks as writing the summons, setting up committees, arranging degree teams, originating social events and special nights and clarifying the financial situation. He must be able to preside at the banquet hour, to invite a guest speaker, to seat the head table in proper order.

Towards the Square was published with the intent to educate and assist the junior officers in the organizational procedures, government and understanding of our Masonic meetings. A knowledgeable officer will generate excitement, furnish motivation, rekindle enthusiasm and create positive attitudes in the membership.

The current results will be an increase in lodge attendance and undoubtedly a future growth in membership.

Towards the Square outlines five themes. A suggestion with this program would be to organize a workshop into five evenings, each evening with a different theme. The acquisition of an interesting, enthusiastic and knowledgeable course leader is essential to ensure paramount success. The structure of the workshop should be informal and conversational. The brethren should be allowed to participate and discuss the several topics. The text, Towards the Square, should be presented to the brethren after the completion of the course to achieve its greatest effort.

- ***THE MASONIC MANUAL. Guidelines for Freemasonry:*** Editor: David C. Bradley, Distributor: The Special Committee on Publications, First published in Ontario in 1989.

"The Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M. of Canada, in The Province of Ontario has in the past produced excellent texts, pamphlets and papers for Masonic Education. A challenge and a request was put forth by this Grand Master to R.W. Brother David C. Bradley then Deputy Grand Master to strike a committee of skilled and talented writers, to produce an overall 'leadership' text for Masons in this jurisdiction in Ontario.

The desired result was to have a ready reference, updated text that could be used as a guide and source of information by administrative and organizational personnel at all levels, lodge, district and Grand Lodge. The text was to have an enthusiastic and motivational appeal for the Worshipful Masters, the Past Masters, line officers and ultimately to maintain a genuine interest for the Master Mason.

The book was to instruct in a clear and comprehensive manner, be free flowing, easy to read and be well indexed. After several long and exhaustive organizational meetings and the tireless efforts of many devoted, dedicated and loyal Masons, we are proud to pronounce this labour in the quarry is now complete. We commend the authors and our editor for a task well done."

The manual has been produced to be a reference work rather than a book to read as a novel.

- ***A History of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario 1855 - 1955:***

A compilation consisting of three parts. A description of the chaotic condition of Freemasonry in Upper Canada prior to 1855. A section of 25 chapters originally published in 1930 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Grand Lodge and 13 chapters covering Freemasonry in the Great Depression with highlights of the terms of the Grand Masters from 1931 to 1955.

- ***A PILGRIM'S PATH. Freemasonry and the Religious Right:*** Author: John J. Robinson, Publisher: M. Evans and Company, Inc. New York 1993.

Freemasonry has never lacked for detractors. Enemies of the organization have included the Roman Catholic Church, the Communist Party, and the Nazis. It has been denounced by popes and kings, by the ignorant and by those who felt threatened by the fraternity's reputation for secrecy.

Unfortunately, because it has a long history of never answering critics, Freemasonry makes a wonderful target for bigotry. Now, a group of religious fundamentalists has managed, after years of struggle, to take a controlling position in the largest Protestant denomination in the United States. It has launched what is potentially the most damaging assault on Masonry in the past century.

In *A Pilgrim's Path*, John J. Robinson relates the history of the attacks against the organization and the motives behind the attacks. In doing so he discusses the origins of Freemasonry, its tenets, and its goals. Then he takes on the anti-Masonic evangelists who currently seek to destroy Freemasonry. Defusing and refuting fabrications and misstatements of Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, and Dr. James Holly, Robinson makes an eloquent plea for an end to their kind of hatred.

- ***PENETRATING THE VEIL:*** Author: David C. Bradley, Published by the authority of the Grand Master, 1997.

The ritual is of course fundamental to Freemasonry; and, if it is to have any permanent influence, clearly it “must contain some essential truth”. But sometimes the truth is veiled from our eyes. “To draw aside this veil.... Or more properly speaking, to penetrate throughout it”, is one of our stated objectives. That is what this book is trying to do.

Often the new Mason is a bit overwhelmed and puzzled by the amount of unfamiliar material in the ritual. But here he will find the answers to many of his questions, about the origin and significance of the cabletow, Jacob’s Ladder, the tassels, the ashlar, the lights, the pillars, about Egyptian philosophers, the Golden Fleece and Roman Eagle, the Star and Garter, and Pythagoras. In fact M.W. Bro. David Bradley discusses virtually all the symbols in the Craft – not in the order in which they occur in the degrees, but grouped together in a logical sense – the Working Tools all together, and so on. Some students have tried to interpret them in an involved and intricate way, and give them bizarre meanings. But as M.W. Bro. Bradley notes, quite rightly, for Masonic symbols, simplest is the best.

It is all very clear and persuasive. It is also compact and thoughtful, and requires a bit of concentration. But the careful reader will learn a lot from it. It will stimulate his interest, and it may induce him to carry out further research on his own. It would be a useful gift for every new Mason, as soon as he is raised to the Sublime Degree.

- ***At the Lectern, A Guide to Speaking in Masonry:*** David Ross Dainard, 1997

Most people go through their entire lives without ever having to speak publicly in front of a group of others. Many of them would be horrified if called upon to do so and as a result never feel comfortable with the prospect of being asked to speak. This manual has been put together in such an easy to read and understandable manner, that it is a tool for not only the novice speaker, but to those who presently do so with no reluctance.

Overall a well presented summary of information that reads very much like public speaking course offered at most educational institutions. Mostly common sense, but sometimes even common sense needs to be reinforced. Good reading for the novice speaker.

- ***The Ontario Masonic Blue Book:*** Published Annually: Publisher: Print Master

A "must have" reference guide for any mason involved in the administrative side of Masonry. Listings include meeting dates, location, Secretary's name/address and phone number. Craft lodges are sorted alphabetically, by District, by location, and by day-of-meeting. Contact information is also supplied for all concordant bodies of masonry.

20.2 Grand Lodge Publications

- ***Constitution of the Grand Lodge***: sets out the rules, conventions and protocol governing the conduct and duties of the members of the Craft.
- ***2007 Book of "The Work"***: contains the Ritual of the three Degrees used in this Grand Jurisdiction, and is meant only as a tool to assist brethren required to learn all or portions of the Ritual for participation in Degree work within a lodge.
- ***A Functional Pronouncing Glossary of the Work***: provides an easily readable pronouncing guide to the various words used in "The Work". It is not intended to rule out other equally correct usages, but simply to establish acceptable correct forms where sincere doubt exists.
- ***Annual Proceedings of Grand Lodge***: covers the occurrences during the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, including: the Grand Master's Address, the financial statement of Grand Lodge, statistics on membership and data on each lodge, including registered delegates, the reports and recommendations of the Grand Lodge committees, the Address of the guest speaker at the Grand Master's Banquet and a review of the Fraternal Correspondence received from other Grand Lodges.
- ***2007 Ceremony of Installation & Investiture of Officers of a Lodge***: contains the work that is to be performed for the installation of the Worshipful Master and the investiture of the other Lodge Officers, including the various obligations and charges.
- ***Guidelines for Lodge Officers in the Mechanics of the Work***: guidelines and reminders serve as ready references for Lodge Officers in the performance of the openings and closings of the lodge and in the conferring of Degrees. They are meant to amplify and reinforce the directions as given in the *rubrics*.
- ***"Friend to Friend" Programme and Manual***: a handbook on suggestions for conducting a "Friend to Friend Night", including helpful hints for the program's content and the viewing of the 16-minute video "Friend to Friend - Freemasonry in Ontario", guidelines for presenting an overview of Masonry, and Possible Questions, with Suggested Answers.
- ***Booklets "0", "1", "2" and "3"***: provides information for the man who has expressed an interest in Masonry, and explanations and guidance to candidates following the first, second and third Degrees respectively. The purpose of these booklets is to clarify many questions that may arise in the candidate's mind, both before applying for membership and following the receipt of each Degree.
- ***Guidelines and Instructions for the Lodge Mentor conducting the Mentor Programme***: used in conjunction with Booklets "0" through "3" to provide mentorship to potential and actual candidates. They include the role of the Mentor, guidelines and lectures for each of the four meetings between the Mentor and the candidate, covering

"The Applicant", "The Entered Apprentice Mason", "The Fellowcraft Mason" and "The Master Mason".

- ***Guide to Masonic Benevolence:*** provides guidance to members who are responsible for carrying out the work of Masonic benevolence. It sets out the Regulations governing grants of benevolence, how benevolence is administered, the role the Lodge plays and outlines the various social service programs available.
- ***For the Cause of Good:*** provides a history of the first 25 years of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario (1964-1989), setting out its development and achievements.
- ***The Ontario Mason:*** a magazine published semi-annually by Grand Lodge and mailed directly to each member. It contains articles of general interest to the members, including articles dealing with Masonry in particular sections of the province and "Around the Jurisdiction", which covers items of general interest and special occurrences, with photographs, submitted by individual Lodges.
- ***The College of Freemasonry:*** a correspondence course open to all Master Masons, consisting of four programs titled Masonry at Work, The History and Origin of Masonry, Administration and Organization, and Preparing for Leadership. The successful completion of all four courses leads to the designation of "Fellow of the College of Freemasonry".

20.3 Other Available Aids

- **Think Tank 96 Report:** held on January 31, 1996, to develop a recommendation to the Grand Master regarding ideas, initiatives and programs that will assist lodges in retaining, revitalizing and renewing their membership. Participants assessed their likes and dislikes about Freemasonry and ways of making the negatives positives, including what was necessary to retain/revitalize/renew members, sub-divided into members for less than one year, over one year, Officers, Past Masters and inactive members. The outcome of the Think Tank is the "Brother to Brother" Program.

- **Focus 2000 - Revitalize the Lodge, Rejuvenate its Members:** one of the three Grand Lodge Seminars presented at various locations across the province during 1996. It concentrated on Lodge Management Styles, looking at the need for technical skills, human resource skills and administrative skills and the responsibilities of the various players in making a lodge function effectively, and coping with change. Two handouts cover the management of change and planning a successful lodge meeting.