



WISCONSIN MASONIC HANDBOOK

CHAPTER 13

EDUCATIONAL REFERENCES

A. INTRODUCTION

All members can receive a "Masonic education." It simply requires the desire for knowledge, be it Masonic or related history, of the Masonic tenets, Masonic symbolism, or the ritual, and an application of the mind to concentrate on information at hand. This process will lead one to recognize the wise and serious truths contained in Masonic philosophy.

Realistically though, one cannot expect the average brother to be a deep and profound student of the various phases of Freemasonry; but... we may be able to present such elementary material as will help to broaden a comprehension of its aims and purposes, its methods and usages.

This chapter, therefore, has been prepared as a method to recognize the resources available for a "Masonic education." The material is not all-inclusive, but serves as a good guide to those who seek more.

B. COMMITTEE ON MASONIC EDUCATION

The Committee on Masonic Education is one of the Standing Committees of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin. Section 29.08 of the Masonic Code of Wisconsin charges this committee with the following duties:

- (a) To teach those things which are needful in the building of stronger lodges.
- (b) To emphasize the responsibilities as well as the privileges of Masonic membership.
- (c) To assist the lodges to make real Masons, rather than to merely increase lodge memberships.
- (d) To instruct Masons in civic responsibilities such as love of country,

duty to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and defend it against all enemies, both foreign and domestic.

- (e) To properly interpret spiritual and moral values as a fundamental need of man.
- (f) To guide Masons to knowledge of how man may properly live with man.
- (g) To imbue all mankind, but more especially brother Masons, with the doctrine of the fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

New programs are presently being developed to be available to lodges for their continuing Masonic education. For up-to-date information regarding which programs are available, review the "Tool Box" or contact your Area Administrator for further assistance.

C. MIDWEST CONFERENCE ON MASONIC EDUCATION

Each year, during the second week of May, delegates from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Manitoba Canada, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin meet to discuss and exchange ideas that pertain to Masonic education.

The delegates from Wisconsin are selected by the Grand Master usually from members of the Grand Lodge Education Committee. At this Conference, a number of papers are presented on a variety of subjects in the area of Masonic education. A question and comment period is provided after each presentation. Presenters are requested to provide the Conference Secretary with a written copy of their prepared remarks. A report is published at the conclusion of the Conference including all the papers presented and is furnished to all delegates. A copy of prior Conferences are on file in the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation Library.

In addition to the presentation, delegates from the various Grand Lodges distribute current Masonic educational material from their jurisdictions. Many good ideas are taken home and later adopted through this exchange.

D. THE MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

1. Introduction

The Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Wisconsin became a member of The Masonic Service Association of the United States in 1938, and has maintained continuous membership ever since. Every Wisconsin lodge and every Wisconsin Mason benefits from this membership.

The ASSOCIATION came into being in 1919 as an "insurance policy" issued to American Freemasonry to make certain that when disaster came, the Fraternity would not be helpless to give from its great heart to those in need and to provide other common interests of American Free-masonry in the form of educational, statistical and informative services.

During World War II, the Masonic Service Association established Masonic Service Centers near major military installations in Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Maine, Georgia, New Jersey and the District of Columbia, as well as the Philippines, London and Paris, which served as a home away from home for Freemasons in the Armed Services, their families and friends.

At the close of World War II, the M.S.A. expanded its Hospital Visitation Program into the VA. Hospitals. Most Worshipful Brother Harry S. Truman wrote to M.S.A., "Surely Freemasonry cannot do enough for those brave men who have sacrificed so much for our beloved country."

2. Scope

The primary function of the M.S.A. is a service to mankind through educational activities such as publishing a variety of educational and informational publications in the form of bulletins, digests, newsletters, films and videos; the distribution of funds for disaster relief to Freemasons and their families; a visitation program to Veteran's homes and hospitals.

3. Short Talk Bulletin

One of the best educational tools that is available through the M.S.A. is the Short Talk Bulletin. Since January 1923, the Masonic Service Association has published the popular Short Talk Bulletin each month. As of today, there are over 800 Short Talk Bulletins in print. They cover a wide spectrum of Masonic topics, written by some of the truly great Masonic scholars of the times. Instructive, inspirational, factual, challenging, historical, and very readable, these capsulated discussions of almost every facet of Masonic culture, philosophy, ethics,

morality, and symbolism, form a veritable Masonic encyclopedia of Masonic knowledge.

The Short Talk Bulletin can be obtained individually or by subscription from: The Masonic Service Association 8120 Fenton Street Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-4785

A list of Masonic Service Association publications, films, charts, digests, videos and Short Talk Bulletins is published annually and is available free for the asking from the above address. It lists all of the above bulletin topics and titles as well as the cost.

4. Hospital Visitation Program

The M.S.A. Hospital Visitation Program now operates in more than 124 VA hospitals, several State Veterans' Homes, and several Military hospitals, including, Tomah, Madison and Milwaukee. The dedicated and devoted service rendered by the M.S.A. Field Agents at these hospitals and their Masonic volunteers is worthy of praise, thanks and support of every Wisconsin Mason.

The Grand Master of Masons in Wisconsin each year serves on one of the advisory committees of the M.S.A. Past Grand Master and Past Grand Secretary serves as an Executive Commissioner of the Masonic Service Association.

E. MASONIC SPEAKERS

There are brothers who have previously displayed to the Craft to be proven, willing and capable Masonic speakers. Contact your District Deputy or the Grand Orator for this support.

F. RESEARCH LODGES

As the name implies, lodges compile almost anything and everything that is Masonic related. They are a wealth of Masonic resources. They also cross-reference one another enabling one to find that one is looking for. Below is a partial listing of Research Lodges in the United States and Great Britain:

1. Silas H. Shepherd Lodge of Research No. 1843, Office of the Secretary, 1025 2nd Street, Kiel, Wisconsin 53042. Silas H. Shepherd Lodge of Research meets quarterly and is open to all Wisconsin Master Masons as a plural membership. The meetings are tiled and open to all Master Masons even if they are not members of this Research Lodge. Dues are \$20 yearly.

2. Illinois Lodge of Research % Robin L. Carr, Editor, 1811 Hoover Drive, Normal, Illinois 61761.
3. IowaResearchLodgeNo.2, A.F.&A.M., P.O. Box 3643, Des Moines, Iowa 50322.
4. Missouri Lodge of Research, P.O. Box 605, Fulton, Missouri 65251. A hard cover book of Masonic interest is published yearly.
5. Texas Lodge of Research, P.O. Box 1850, Dallas, Texas 75211.
6. Southern California Research Lodge, P.O. Box 6587, Buena Park, California 90622-6587.
7. Ouatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, London, England. Contact Lodge Secretary, 3998 Greenwood Court, Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081.

G. MASONIC LIBRARIES

Every lodge should have a library of Masonic books so the material may be available to those officers and members who may desire to enjoy the adventure of Masonic reading. If the lodge does not have a Masonic library and feels it cannot afford to purchase books, it may be suggested that individual members purchase books from a list and donate them to the lodge. An other way of having Masonic reading materials available is to donate books to the local library where the materials would be available to everyone in the community.

The Masonic Service Association of the United States published a Short Talk Bulletin in November 1956, VOL XXXIV, No. 11 (reprinted 1978), titled, "Five Great Libraries." This bulletin details each library's history, contents and activities.

H. THE WISCONSIN MASONIC FOUNDATION LIBRARY

The library has on inventory in excess of 2,000 Masonic books, pamphlets and digests. This includes a complete set of the Proceedings of the Wisconsin Grand Lodge, a complete set of "The Masonic Tidings" (a Wisconsin Masonic magazine) published between 1886-1967, a complete set of "The Wisconsin Freemason" (official publication of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin) published between 1944-1964, a complete set of the "Wisconsin Masonic Journal" (the official publication of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin) published from 1966 to the

present time, "Philalethes" magazine, 1946-1987, "The Builders," a publication by the Masonic Research Society of Iowa, forerunner of the Philalethes Magazine, and the "Master Mason" a publication by the Masonic Service Association. These magazine publications are excellent sources of Masonic knowledge. Other books such as Albert Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, Albert Mackey's History of Freemasonry, Gould's History of Freemasonry, Short Talk Bulletins, numerous digests from the Masonic Service Association, some volumes of the Transactions of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, and more can be found in the library. This library, though small, in comparison to the "five great Masonic libraries" in the United States, still offers to the membership an excellent resource for research and reading pleasure.

The library is located in the Grand Lodge Office. The library is open during normal Grand Lodge business hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

The library offers a book-lending program to the members of the Craft. This offers an opportunity to borrow Masonic books from the library at no charge for up to three weeks. The only cost involved is return postage.

The process for borrowing a book is simple: Print your name, address, zip code and telephone number on your request along with a first and second choice. The requested book will then be sent to you, if available. A return address label will be enclosed so you may return the book in the same container in which it was sent. Availability of some books is limited, but most readers get their first choice upon application.

The following books are available to borrow from the library:

BORN IN BLOOD, by John J. Robinson

BLACK SQUARE AND COMPASSES, by Joseph A. Walkes, Jr.

THE BUILDERS, by Rev. Joseph Fort Newton

COLONIAL FREEMASONRY, Edited by: Lewis C. Wes Cook

THE CRAFT AND ITS SYMBOLS, by Allen E. Roberts

DUNGEON, FIRE AND SWORD, by John J. Robinson

FREEMASONRY, by W. Kirk MacNulty

FREEMASONRY & AMERICAN CULTURE- 1880-1930, by Lynn Dumenil

FREEMASONRY IN AMERICA, by Allen E. Roberts

THE FREEMASON AT WORK, by Harry Carr

FREEMASONRY & ITS IMAGE OF MAN, by Giuliano di Bernardo

THE GRAND DESIGN, by Wallace McLeod

HOUSE UNDIVIDED, by Allen E. Roberts

KING SOLOMAN'S TEMPLE IN THE MASONIC TRADITION, by Alex Horne

LIGHT FROM THE SANCTUARY OF THE ROYAL ARCH, by Charles Albert Snodgrass

SEEKERS OF TRUTH, by Allen B. Roberts

THE TEMPLE AND THE LODGE, by Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh

WORKMAN UNASHAMED, by Christopher Haffner

I. MASONIC BOOKS RECOMMENDED FOR READING

In addition to the above list, the following books are recommended to those Freemasons who are interested in increasing their knowledge and understanding of the Craft:

COIL'S MASONIC ENCYCLOPEDIA, by Henry Wilson Coil

THE LITTLE MASONIC LIBRARY, Edited by Carl H. Claudy

10,000 FAMOUS FREEMASONS, by William R. Denslow

THE MEN'S HOUSE, by Joseph Fort Newton

THE MYSTIC TIE, by Allen E. Roberts

COLLECTED PRESTON IAN LECTURES, Vol. I, II, III, edited by Harry Carr

THE LOST KEYS OF FREEMASONRY, by Manly P. Hall

THE SECRET TEACHINGS OF ALL AGES, by Manly P. Hall

The lists of books can also be purchased from Masonic book vendors; two of which are listed:

Macoy Publishing & Masonic Supply Co., Inc.

P.O. Box 9759/3011 Old Dumbarton Road Richmond, VA 23228-0759

Telephone number: (804) -262-6551

or

J. P. Luther Company

I 73 South Pearl Street

P.O. Box 344

Berlin, WI 54923

Telephone Toll Free 1-800-558-8292

The following soft cover books are available from the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar: MASONIC AMERICANA, Vol. I & II

Write to:

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

5097 N. Elston Avenue

Suite 101

Chicago, Illinois 60630-2460

Brother Allen E. Roberts and the Masonic Service Association have combined efforts in publishing a guide to Masonic leadership and education titled, "Masonic Lifeline". Written and edited by Brother Roberts, the guide contains ten lessons in a 160-page wire bound manual.

The ten lessons cover topics that should concern every active Freemason: * More Light in Masonry: Who needs it? * A Plan for Action * Working with Goals * Teamwork Makes the Difference * Growing the Leader * Communication - A Road to Success * Planning for Progress * Dedication Through Education * Masonry's Important Ingredient: The Individual * Tying it Together * Plus charts, guides and cartoons. The question (and suggested answer) sections enhance the lessons and expand the manual into a comprehensive study guide on Masonic leadership and education.

To obtain a copy, contact:

Masonic Service Association 8120 Fenton Street
Silver Spring, MD 20910

or

Anchor Communications P.O. Box 70
Highland Springs, VA 23075

POCKET DIGESTS

The following pocket digests and pamphlets are available to purchase from the Grand Lodge office:

WHITHER ARE WE TRAVELING, by Dwight L. Smith

WHY THIS CONFUSION IN THE TEMPLE, by Dwight L. Smith

MASONRY UNDER TWO FLAGS, by Allen E. Roberts

THE MASTER'S BOOK, by Carl Claudy

PAMPHLETS

STORY OF FREEMASONRY, by Grand Lodge A.F.& A.M. of Iowa

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT FREEMASONRY, by Grand Lodge A.F.& A.M. of Iowa

101 QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY, by The Masonic Service Association

POCKET MASONIC DICTIONARY, by The Masonic Service Association

J. MASONIC PERIODICALS

It is recommended that every officer subscribe to at least one of the periodicals from other Masonic bodies. Prices are subject to periodic change.

- * **THE NORTHERN LIGHT; A WINDOW FOR FREEMASONRY.** Official Publication of the Supreme Council, 33°, A.A.S.R., NMJ USA. Write: The Northern Light, P.O. Box 519, Lexington, MA 02173.
- * **THE ROYAL ARCH MASON.** Official Publication of the General Grand Chapter, R.A.M., International. Published Quarterly. Non-members may subscribe Write: The Royal Arch Mason, Box 529, Trenton, Missouri 64683.
- * **THE PHILALETHES:** Published by the Philalethes Society. Membership is open to all Master Masons belonging to Grand Lodges noted in Pantagraph's List of Lodges - Masonic. Write: Philalethes Society, Drawer 70, 110 Quince Avenue, Highland Springs, VA 23075-0070.
- * **THE SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL:** Official monthly publication of the Supreme Council 33°, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction. This magazine could be called the "Masonic Reader's Digest." Write: Supreme Council, 33°, 1733 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009-3199.
- * **THE PHYLAXIS:** Published by the Phylaxis Society. A journal published for Prince Hall Masons. Membership in the society is restricted to Prince Hall Masons. Subscriptions are available to non-members. Write: The Phylaxis Society P.O. Box 42005, Tacoma, Washington 98442-0005

K. OTHER SOURCES OF MASONIC INFORMATION

Educational Bureau of R.A.M.

P.O. Box 489

Danville, KY 40423_0489

Will furnish a free list of books and pamphlets upon request; purchaser need not be a Royal Arch Mason to buy materials.

Masonic Book Club

P.O. Box 1563

Bloomington, Illinois 61702

Republishes books that are currently out of print.

Iowa Masonic Library
P.O. Box 279
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 62406

Anchor Communication
110 Quince Avenue, Drawer 70
Highland Springs, Virginia 23075-0070
Will furnish a free list of books they publish upon request.

The Indiana Freemason Gift Shop
P.O. Box 38
Franklin, Indiana 46131
Vendor will furnish a free list with a limited selection upon request.

L. CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

1. Masonic Education Correspondence Course (MECC)

The Masonic Education Correspondence Course was developed to encourage the utilization of the Wisconsin Masonic HANDBOOK. The course (currently under revision) is an, open book examination based on the Wisconsin Masonic HANDBOOK.

This comprehensive course of study is available to all Master Masons. Ideally, every Senior Deacon will have this course completed before assuming the duties of the next station in his lodge.

Upon successful completion of the course, the brother receives an attractive gold certificate and a lapel pin.

2. Masonic Code Correspondence Course (MCCC)

The Masonic Code Correspondence Course was developed to encourage lodge officers to familiarize themselves with Masonic Law in Wisconsin. The course consists of one hundred thirty true and false questions from the Masonic Code Textbook.

This course is designed for all Master Masons. It is especially important that the Junior Warden of the lodge have this completed before advancing in the line.

Upon successful completion of the course, the brother receives an attractive silver certificate and a lapel pin.

3. William's Lodge

This course is designed primarily for Senior Wardens who are about to assume the responsibilities and duties of Worshipful Master. Further details and an outline of the course will be given at the time the course is administered. This course is generally administered at District Meetings.

NOTE: Completion of the courses entitles the lodge to qualify for points toward the Grand Master's Achievement Award.