On Reading Masonic Books

When a brother reaches the point in his Masonic study where he desires to read Masonic literature, he not only sells to his own knowledge, he is then in position to enlighten others. Thousands of books and pamphlets have been written on the philosophy, history, and symbolism of Freemasonry. However, the brother who purchases some eight or ten basic books and reads them over and over again, can acquire a working knowledge of Masonry.

Some of the finest examples of the English language are found in Masonic writings. By reading such books, one can improve in the art of reading and writing.

One is never alone with Masonic books. They serve as do good friends.

Masonic Temple, Philadelphia
Has Guided Tours for Public

Guided tours are conducted through the Masonic Temple Philadelphia, headquarters of the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Pennsylvania, on weekdays at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. On Saturdays there are guided tours at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

The Temple is closed on legal holidays and on Saturdays during July and August.

There is security in Freemasonry. In the privacy of the inner fellowship of the fraternity, a Brother will often find rest for his heart and protection from the stresses of the world. That man is no true Freemason in whose nature the weary is not felt and the weak find protection.

Earliest Use Of The Term Free Mason

The term Goban Baor was in common usage among the ancient pre-Roman Gaelic-speaking peoples who occupied not only England, Scotland and Ireland, but also large tracts of pre-historic Tuatha de Danann and the weak land protection.

One hundred that braved the snow-covered grounds to witness the Tercentenary, a Brother will often find rest for his weary heart and protection from the stress of the world. That man is no true Freemason in whose nature the weary is not felt and the weak find protection.

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Bro. Ackerman was a dedicated Mason, holding various positions within the Masonic lodge and contributing significantly to the community. He was particularly involved in charitable activities, such as donating $315,419 to support the Masonic Homes in Pennsylvania.

In addition to his financial contributions, Ackerman also supported the Masonic Homes through efforts to improve their facilities. For instance, he was involved in the expansion of the Masonic Homes on a Feasibility Study, which was recommended by the Committee on Masonic Culture.

Ackerman's dedication to the Masonic cause was recognized, and he was appointed as a Most Worshipful Master in 1929. His contributions to the Masonic world were significant and lasting, leaving a legacy that continues to inspire others.
Need for Additional Accommodations at Homes - Hospital Prompts Guidelines For Admission of Approved Applicants

The limited number of available hospital beds at the Masonic Homes has caused a day in hotel beds at the Masonic Homes at the Masonic Homes at the hospital to care for permanent hospital guests. Bro. Orville Kimmel, W. W. Senior Hospital Committee of the Committee, explained: "For the greater part of the past ten years, the hospital has been occupied 100 per cent capacity. The present legal capacity of the hospital is 205. We must reserve 27 beds for temporary care in the Cottage Guests. This leaves 238 beds for the permanent hospital guests." He pointed out that preliminary drawings were made for a possible additional hospital. He added: "When estimated costs, not only of building, but also the additional cost of maintenance, were considered, it was deemed wise and prudent to have a feasibility study made by a competent firm."

"The firm of Wood and Tower was employed to make the study. We have now reviewed the results of the study with the firm."

"The study revealed considerable change in the age and length of stay of the guests. It showed, that in the future the following guidelines will be considered by the Committee on Masonic Homes in administrating the admission policy:

1. Cottage Guests be maintained at present capacity.
2. Direct admissions to the Hospital be limited at all times.
3. Quotas be established for each type (Cottage and Hospital), these quotas being adjusted monthly in advance, taking into account the advice of the Executive Director of the Masonic Homes, the space expected to be available and approved admissions not yet in residence.
4. Requirements for medical screening be amplified and enforced by refusing to admit Cottage Guests whose physical condition will not permit them to live in the Cottage on admission. To become a Cottage Guest, it is essential that an applicant be able to dress, use knife and fork, take care of his own needs, walk and use the stairs.
5. To be seriously considering an applicant, it should be established whether he or she will be a Cottage or Hospital Guest.

The approximate $230,000 needed to make the changes to the Nexus House and the Brown Cottage has been approved by the Committee on Finance and Grand Lodge.

The money will be taken from the Current Funds of Grant Lodge.

Bro. J. M. Allern, Past Master, former Treasurer for the years, and present Secretary of Cotswolds Lodge, No. 67, since February 1946, in his opening prayer, prayed: "It is with a sense of pride and gratitude that I am privileged to serve as your Secretary of Cotswolds Lodge, No. 67, during the year 1968."

"During the past 17 years, the period covered by the study, the total number of guests has increased from an average of 515 to 590 in 1967." Bro. Kimmel said the Committee on Masonic Homes gave serious consideration to building a new wing onto the hospital. He added: "This, or any other major addition, would necessitate a capital fund drive."

He reported the Committee decided to convert the present Nurses Home to provide for fifty-eight additional guests, at a cost of $125,000. There are now four hundred hospital guests, he stated, and it will cost an estimated $105,000 for renovation.

Bro. Kimmel also pointed out that in the future the following guidelines will be considered by the Committee on Masonic Homes, and will be

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Bro. John R. Young, R. W. Grand Master, has urged Masons to make a special effort to attend the Communication, as he pointed out: "It is not necessary to be a Lodge Officer or Past Master to attend. Every Mason should devote a special effort to attend as many Communications of Grand Lodge as possible."

"I personally urge Brethren to arrive at the Homes in the morning or early afternoon. In this way, you will have an opportunity to tour the facilities of the Patton Masonic Home.

"This is a beautiful time of the year. I will be looking for a large attendance.

"The Grand Master reported that Brethren arriving in the morning or afternoon can find ample eating facilities in the Elizabethan area.

"The Communication will be held in the George H. Deike Auditorium, which has seating facilities for approximately 600.

Masonic Blood Donor Club Providing Blood for Homes

The Masonic Blood Donor Club of Southeastern Pennsylvania is now providing blood that is needed by guests at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown.

Bro. Wayne W. Thompson, Chairman of the Blood Donor Club, recently wrote the following to the Operations Committee of the Club:

"Kindly notify the University of Pennsylvania Blood Bank to send us our credit supply twenty-six pints to the Lancaster General Hospital.

"Information in the future may include other hospitals, details of which are being worked out by our Elizabethan Friends with several other hospitals they have made use of since January, 1968.

"There are now more than 1,200 Members in the Masonic Blood Donor Club. Bro. Thompson said that Masons may obtain information concerning the Club by dropping him a card: Wayne W. Thompson, 630 Washington Lane, Jenkintown, Pa. 19046, or by calling (Area 215) MA 7-6676. Just dial the Area Code and then 6676."

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Three-month Itinerary of
GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

Visitation of Grand Lodge Officers will slow down during the next three months. They include:

June 4 — Grand Lodge Officers, Quarterly Communication, Masonic Home, Elizabeth-

ba, Pa.

June 16-18 — Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, and Junior Grand Warden, to visit the

Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons in the Diocese of Philadelphia, Free and Accepted

as the Order of the Rainbow for Girls, University Park, Pa.

August 14 — Grand Lodge Officers, Meeting, Committee of Masonic Homes, Elizabeth-

ba, Pa.

August 23 — Grand Lodge Officers, Meeting, Committee on Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown,

pa.

August 26 — Grand Lodge Officers, Grand Order of Eclipses, Charity Club, Allentown, Ocean

Cty., N.J.

Bro. Paul S. Shank

Grand Master is Speaker
At Patton Commencement; Openings in New Classes

Bro. John K. Young, R. W. Grand Master, will give the Commencement Address at the Patton Masonic School graduation at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 31, 1959, in the Oukie Auditorium of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown.

There are 12 students in the graduating class; seven of them to plan to go to college next fall.

Masons and friends are invited to attend.

It was announced that Dale Krasley, a sophomore at Patton, has been elected to the Order of the Rainbow for Girls, by the District of the State Library Association.

It was also announced that Michael Kitingler, a graduating senior, has been awarded a $200 yearly scholarship for advanced education in the American Society of Tool Manufacturing and Engineers. He will attend the Pennsylvania State University's Center at York, Pa.

Dr. W. Kopp, Superintendent of Patton, said applications are now being accepted for the September term, with openings for 18 in the freshman class and a limited number of openings in the upper grades.

Further information on Patton School may be obtained by writing to Dr. Kopp, Patton Masonic School for Boys, Elizabethtown, Pa. 17022.

Bro. Paul S. Shank, Superintendent of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, Penna., retired on March 31, 1959, after many years of service.

Bro. and Mrs. Shank and their families were guests at a testimonial dinner on March 28 at the Masonic Homes. Guests, Grand Lodge Officers and Members of the Committee on Masonic Homes extended their best wishes to the Shanks.

In 1913, as a boy of 13, Bro. Shank started to work at the Homes on a part-time basis. After those early years of summer employment he served on a full-time basis on the farms, landscape and Home Departments. He was appointed Chief Steward at the Homes and served in this capacity for many years until 1941 when he left to go into Superintendency.

The retiring Superintendent and his wife, Dora Kaylor Shank, have moved to their new home at 30 School Lodges, Elizabethtown.

Bro. Shank is Member of Abraham C. Treichler Lodge, No. 682, Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Lancaster and Zembo Temple.

When asked about his retirement plans, Bro. Shank said he planned to "just loaf" for a while and probably travel to Florida for the winter.

The duties of Bro. Shank have been taken over by the office of the Executive Director.

The Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons is the oldest, largest, and most widely recognized organization in the world.

The symbol is written about it. Yet, to many, Freemasonry remains a mystery.

A new footer is an attempt to relate a few facts that will be informative to all and to correct a few misconceptions.

History

Some historians trace Freemasonry to the Tenth Century, B.C., during the building of King Solomon’s Temple.

It seems that Freemasonry was introduced into Scotland by W. J. D. Denny. Freemasonry is directly descended from associations of operative masons, the cathedral builders of the Middle Ages, who traveled throughout Europe employing the skills of their crafts.

In the 17th Century, when cathedral building was on the decline, many guilds of stonemasons, known as "operative Masons" or "Free Masons," started to accept as members those who were not members of the masons' craft, calling them "sacramental Masons" or "adopted Masons."

It was from those who were accepted mostly of "Adopted or Accepted Masons," that Symbolic Masonry or Freemasonry, as we know it today, had its beginning.

Grades

In 1717, four Lodge freemasons meeting in London, England, formed the first Grand Lodge.

This first Grand Lodge chartered Symbolic Lodges and Provincial Grand Lodges in many countries, including the United States.

Today, there are more than 150 Grand Lodges in free countries throughout the world with a membership of more than 6,000,000.

The Grand Lodge is the administrative authority in its territory, known as its Jurisdiction.

In the United States, there are 49 Grand Lodges. They include 48 states and the District of Columbia. Hawaii is under the Grand Lodge of California, and Alaska, the Grand Lodge of Washington.

Symbolic Lodges

The basic unit of all Grand Lodges is the "Blue Lodge," as it is commonly known.

It is the Symbolic Lodge that issues perfections and certificates of qualifications and confers the three Symbolic Degrees, freedom as Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees.

The symbol is written about it. Yet, to many, Freemasonry remains a mystery.

A new footer is an attempt to relate a few facts that will be informative to all and to correct a few misconceptions.

The following are more than 600 Symbolic Lodges in the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, as a membership of approximately 250,000.

Membership

Membership is limited to adult males who can meet the recognized qualifications and standards of character and religion.

A man becomes a Freemason through his own volition. No one is asked to join his ranks. When he seeks admission to a Symbolic Lodge, it is his own free will and accord. The choice is his.

One of the customs of Freemasonry is not to solicit members. One seeks admission must have a desire and must request a petition form from one whom he believes to be a Mason.

The petitioner must be recommend ed by two members of a Masonic Lodge and pass a unanimous ballot.

The petition must be 21 years of age, mentally and physically competent, of good moral character, and believe in the existence of a Supreme Being.

Masonic Secretary

Contrary to what many believe, Freemasonry is not a secret society. It does not hide its existence or its membership.

There has been no attempt to conceal the purpose, aims and principles of Freemasonry. It is an organization formed and existing on the broad basis of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Freemasonry is not a religion even though it is religious in character. It does not pretend to take the place of religion nor serve as a substitute for the religious beliefs of its members.

Freemasonry accepts men who are to be worthy, regardless of religious convictions. An essential requirement is the belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.

Tenets of Freemasonry

The Tenets of Freemasonry are ethical principles that are acceptable to all good men. It teaches tolerance toward all denominations.

It is known throughout the world, even behind the Iron Curtain where Masonic Lodges are denied registration.

Freemasonry proudly proclaims that it consists of men bound together by bonds of Brotherly Love and Charity.

It dictates to no man as to his beliefs, either religious or secular. It seeks to make good men better through its firm belief in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man and the Immateriality of the Soul.

Freemasonry is not an insurance or beneficial society. It is not organized for profit. However, the charity and services rendered are beyond measure.

It teaches patriotism. It seeks to make good men better through its firm belief in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man and the Immateriality of the Soul.

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