

THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON

Issued Quarterly By

The Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of The Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdiction Thereunto Belonging, through its

COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY AND MUSEUM—William E. Yeager, Past Grand Master, Chairman; William E. Montgomery, G. Edward Elwell, Jr., Frank R. Leech, William A. Carpenter and Charles A. Young.

APPROVED AND AUTHORIZED TO BE PRINTED BY

RALPH M. LEHR

Right Worshipful Grand Master

WILLIAM A. CARPENTER, Editor

Mailing Address: The Masonic Temple,
Broad and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia 7, Pa.

Vol. I November, 1954 No. 1

Thanksgiving . . . 1954

Autumn, with its colors so beautiful, its harvest and its homecoming atmosphere, now surrounds us. With it comes the season of Thanksgiving when we should extend our thanks to an all-wise and all-powerful Lord God for all His loving mercy and kindness. Yet, as we read our newspapers, listen to our radios, watch our television sets and look around us we see so much of vice and crime, juvenile and adult delinquency, graft, greed and corruption, that it may sometime cause wonderment as to what we have to be proud of and to be thankful for.

While, as Freemasons, we should not, for one moment, relax our efforts in behalf of moral and upright living, honesty and integrity in private and public affairs, let us not fail to pause and offer thanks to Him for the blessings we enjoy. Let us thank Him for the privilege of living in a land where we can meet as Freemasons, secure from spying and persecution of a secret police dominated by a pagan dictator. Let us be thankful for the bounteous harvest from the fertile soil of America, which insures us against want and hunger.

May we ever be mindful of the opportunities which are ours in a free country, with liberty for private enterprise which provides for all who are able and willing to work at employment whereby they may earn their daily bread. Thankful that we live in a country where we can exercise our abilities and become the masters of our own destinies.

Let us be thankful also for the right to worship our God in the church of our choice and according to the dictates of our own conscience, free from domination by a state-controlled church. May we always keep in mind the blessings of close fellowship with our Brethren, and the opportunity presented within our Fraternity for the understanding and good will among Members. With charity

in our hearts, let us ever be mindful of a Brother's welfare, that none may be in need of that which is in our power to supply.

Let us be thankful and grateful for a Fraternity, a way of living, wherein liberty, freedom and opportunity are granted to all. Let us be grateful for a Fraternity where we have access to philosophy which includes God in our lives and recognizes our sonship to Him. And through that sonship we are permitted to realize the blessings of a Brotherhood that is big enough to include all men. And which gives a promise of eternal life after death and a glorious hereafter in that house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.

So, Brethren, at this Thanksgiving—1954, while we continue our ceaseless battle with eternal vigilance against the evils of an imperfect world, let us not forget to express our thanks to an all-wise and all-powerful Lord God, The Great Architect of The Universe, for His loving mercy and kindness and extend to Him all honor, glory and praise from sincere and thankful hearts.

W. A. C.

New Souvenir Album

Have you seen the new souvenir album entitled "The Masonic Temple, Philadelphia" where the R. W. Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Pennsylvania holds its Quarterly and Annual meetings? If not, you should secure a copy.

This album was published by the Committee on Library and Museum, and prepared by William J. Paterson, Librarian and Curator. The information contained therein was collated after a continuous search among old historic records, in order to obtain a true and accurate biblical account of the various rooms and corridors throughout the Temple.

On October 22, 1887, "The Art Association of the Masonic Temple" was organized with the object of decorating and embellishing the various halls, of giving them artistic, historic and Masonic beauty, and also of decorating with statuary, paintings and other works of art.

From 1908 to 1926, there were a number of issues of a souvenir album showing the various places of meeting of The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania from its inception, together with exterior and interior views of the present Temple, in color, which are now out of print.

How The Grand Lodge gradually evolved from its humble meeting places in the extreme eastern part of Philadelphia in the early years of the eighteenth century to its magnificent home at Broad and Filbert Streets after the lapse of over two centuries, is an interesting study, and is vividly brought step by step before the Brethren of the present day by the series of illustrations shown in this album.

Illustrations in color of the present Masonic Temple are only in this album. However, additional information has been furnished regarding the Museum, Renaissance Hall, Gothic Hall, and the numerous murals throughout the building. This album is submitted to the members of the Fraternity and to the public in the hope that it will be interesting to both.

One of the theories of the origin of the Fraternity is, that it sprang from a line of Master Builders or Architects. The Masonic Temple from pavement to turret and all through its numerous halls, speaks in the language of architecture. Our mystic ancestors in Scotland, France, England, Egypt, Greece, Italy and Germany, are all suggested to us by the typical styles of designs which distinguish the various Lodge rooms. They are the most delightful of studies because they minister simultaneously to the love of art. Art, you know, is akin to Freemasonry.

The Masonic Temple is an outstanding structure and is worthy of the adornment which has been bestowed upon it, architecturally in both exterior and interior.

The corner-stone of the Temple was laid on Saint John the Baptist's Day, June 24, 1868, and the building was dedicated September 26, 1873.

The beautifully bound souvenir albums are now available at the price of \$2.00 each, and may be had by contacting Brother William J. Paterson, Librarian, Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia 7, Pa., or by contacting any member of the Committee on Library and Museum.

John Lowry Ruth

The Committee on Library and Museum sadly mourn the passing of Brother John Lowry Ruth of Lodge No. 266, whose sudden death interrupted an assignment he was performing so well and enjoying so much. Brother Ruth, a most competent secretary of the committee, had played a great part in the planning and designing of this publication. He was, indeed, a great man and Master Mason.

Pledge of Allegiance

By virtue of a joint Congressional resolution approved by President Eisenhower June 14, this year, the words "under God" have been inserted following the word *nation* in the Pledge of Allegiance to The Flag. By this official action, the proper wording should be:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

"Therefore, when we build let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight nor for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for. And let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when these stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say, as they look upon the labor and the wrought substance of them, 'See! This our fathers did for us.'"

—JOHN RUSKIN



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A Message from Our Grand Master

IT IS NOW over two and one-quarter centuries that Freemasonry first appeared in the Province which was destined to become the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Beyond the City of Brotherly Love (Philadelphia), to the west and north were frontiers still to be conquered by the slowly increasing tides of peoples of Europe who sought asylum from political oppression as well as to worship God according to the dictates of their creed or religious opinion. With this freedom assured, the wilderness was no obstacle. Many faced dangers and privations with courageous hearts, knowing that patience, industry and thrift would procure the economic security which was naturally a part of their quest.

The colonization and development of this new world of the fifteenth century is one of the whole world's greatest epics.

In the early period of colonization of Pennsylvania, here and there brethren of the Craft met and recognized one another as such; in the growing settlement which was to become a great city on the Delaware, in the interior along the routes of commerce, the forts of the military and in the depths of the forest on the frontier.

Unorganized they may have been, but they had the spirit of Freemasonry in them and it was not long until small groups devised ways and means to meet at some favorable place and time and there open a Lodge.

It was within these Lodges they could commune with one another and discuss their mutual problems and aspirations and renew their faith in one another as brethren of the Craft, and the choice they made for themselves as pioneers. They were men who put their trust in God; the forerunners of those who have followed in their steps and all creating and building the Masonic heritage which is now in our care and keeping.

This heritage comes down to our day because of the worth of Freemasonry. The moral and spiritual influence of it becomes more noticeable in the decade before the struggle of the American colonies for their independence; and, later, the evidences are not lacking in the words of men and their documents upon which rest the foundation of our national life, with liberty and justice for all.

Through the years, then, the ancient usages, customs and landmarks stand unchanged in the vast social and economic changes which naturally follow growth and development and invention, because of human resourcefulness and effort. We are a free people.

Having withstood the test of time and the changes which it brings, we must be impressed that our future grows out of the past. We believe, too, that our existence has been a useful one or else we would not have survived the test which came to challenge both worth and usefulness within the first century of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania.

In whatever manner or way we look to the future, it is only by

informing ourselves on the structure, purpose, and deeper meaning of our fraternity that we can perceive, in the rapidly changing social and economic order, the necessity for assuming a greater usefulness than ever before.

Brethren, you and I have our duties; religious, civil and fraternal. It is these duties we owe to ourselves and to our fraternal descendants that should concern us in the present.

Within recent years, considerable thought has been given and trial efforts inaugurated to ascertain an agreeable and effective method of providing our membership with a medium which would be devoted to presenting the "State of the Craft." This is an all-inclusive term and excepts only the Ritualistic Work, for which there is the authorized School of Instruction.

In our inaugural address at the last Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge we presented a program of development, designed to fulfill a need as well as a responsibility to the Craft.

As one of the results of our recommendations, this publication comes to you from our Grand Lodge through the function of the present Committee on Library and Museum. You are no doubt informed that by amendment to the Ahiman Rezon it is proposed to create a Committee on Masonic Culture which will replace the Committee on Library and Museum and the Committee on Lectures.

It shall be the purpose of this committee, through the columns of this publication, to provide you with information that will not only be of interest but also of usefulness to you. To be well and accurately informed is to increase one's knowledge; and this is a rich storehouse for the glory of the Creator, and the betterment of man's estate.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania wants you to feel and know that it is interested in you as an individual member of the Lodge which it has warranted and constituted. Its interest, even as yours, goes beyond the boundaries of those to whom membership is already a privilege.

We, the present membership, are the custodians of the moral, religious and philosophical doctrines of our institution, and upon us depends its future. We reflect its virtues in our daily lives and associations and thereby create the desire in the hearts of youth and adult to become Freemasons.

It is therefore one part of our Masonic duty to review and ponder the past. This will give us inspiration and direction; and thus ensure the fulfillment of our moral obligation to the Brethren in succeeding generations.

RALPH M. LEHR, Grand Master

The Grand Lodge of the State of Israel

WILLIAM E. YEAGER,
R. W. Past Grand Master

In 1950 The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania received a request for recognition from the Grand Lodge of Israel. Action was deferred as this Grand Lodge did not fully meet all the requirements of our standards for recognition. Since then the situation in Israel has been most happily solved—not only most happily, but in a most charitable and truly Masonic manner.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland had chartered ten Lodges in Palestine, the oldest of which had received its charter in 1910. Some three years ago, five of these Lodges in Israel requested permission to return their charters to the Grand Lodge of Scotland for the purpose of erecting the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel.

In 1932, under the sponsorship of the Grand Lodge of Egypt, there was erected in Israel the Grand Lodge of Israel. By July, 1953, this Grand Lodge of Israel had been recognized in the United States by the Grand Lodges of Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, and Oklahoma; but not by the Grand Lodges of England or Scotland.

When the petition from their five Lodges in Palestine was under consideration by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the presence of this Grand Lodge of Israel presented the problem of territorial rights. The committee investigating the matter, taking into consideration that the Grand Lodge of Scotland had jurisdiction over Palestine as it then was mandated country under British Sovereignty, came to the conclusion that when the Grand Lodge of Israel established itself in 1932, without reference to, or recognition by, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, it had infringed existing territorial rights. Consequently, the Grand Lodge of Scotland approved the request of the petitioning daughter Lodges in Israel to establish the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel.

When it became known that a new Grand Lodge was being erected in Israel, Brethren of the existing Grand Lodge, whose Grand Master was Brother Dr. Shaoni, entered into negotiations with the Brethren of the organizing committee of the new Grand Lodge, as it was felt desirable, indeed essential, to have Masonic unification in Israel.

These negotiations were successful, and, on October 20, 1953, a Communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland was opened in Jerusalem by its R. W. Past Grand Master, The Right Honorable, The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine; the surrendered charters of the five Founder Lodges were received and the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel was erected.

After the Grand Lodge of Scotland had been closed, the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel was opened, and Brother Shabetai Levy installed as Grand Master. After the constitution

had been adopted and charters issued to the Founder Lodges, a touching and momentous incident occurred—a resolution was adopted whereby the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel could issue charters to the Lodges comprising the Grand Lodge of Israel, providing an assurance be given and an obligation taken that the Brethren of these Lodges would adhere to the Ancient Landmarks of the Order, and would maintain and support the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel.

Immediately after the passing of that resolution, the Masters of the fourteen Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Israel were admitted, took the obligation, and received their new charters. Then Brother Dr. Shaoni, and the Most Worshipful Brethren who accompanied him, were ushered into the Grand Lodge and invited to the East. As a token of the goodwill which had been established, Brother Shaoni was placed on the left of the Most Worshipful Grand Master and invested as Immediate Past Grand Master.

When the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel held its election on November 29, 1953, Brother Shabetai Levy, being very sick, declined to continue as Grand Master. Accordingly, Brother Shaoni, who was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Israel at the time of its dissolution, was elected Grand Master, and Brother Jacob Caspi, who had been a member of one of the Scottish Lodges, was elected Deputy Grand Master. Of the sixteen officers elected or appointed that day, seven were from the old Grand Lodge of Israel and nine from the former Scottish Lodges.

It being evident that the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel is a responsible, self-governing group, having been lawfully formed and subscribing to the Ancient Landmarks, Customs and Usages of the Craft, and having exclusive authority in its jurisdiction, The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, at the Quarterly Communication on March 3, 1954, adopted a resolution granting the request of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel for recognition. Thus there was added one more Grand Lodge to those with whom Our Grand Lodge has established fraternal relations.

Circulating Library

A plan of "Masonic Education" has been given a great deal of thought by the Committee on Library and Museum for quite some time.

Following the printing of the four booklets by The Grand Lodge, namely: "On the Threshold," "The Entered Apprentice," "The Fellow-Craft," and "The Master Mason," the committee considered the idea of creating a Circulating Library, whereby the Brethren of the Masonic fraternity may borrow certain books on Freemasonry to take home and read. The committee also realized that the members in Philadelphia who are interested in reading "Masonic Literature" are unable to spare the time during the day to visit the Library for the purpose of reading, and for our Brethren

living in other localities of our Grand Jurisdiction it was utterly impossible.

In order to get properly organized it was necessary for our Librarian to visit other Grand Lodge libraries that maintained Circulating Libraries, to learn how they operated and to find out if the Brethren really were interested in reading books on Freemasonry. He soon learned that Masonic books are in demand by the Brethren, and the Circulating Libraries now in existence have proved a success.

Reporting his findings to the committee at their meeting held on March 17, 1951, the Librarian was then instructed to make up an overall plan program that would be workable for a Circulating Library for The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

On June 6, 1951, the Librarian reported to the committee the proposed planned program, after which a resolution was presented and acted upon favorably by the committee, to be read before Grand Lodge in September.

The following Resolution was on motion approved and adopted in Grand Lodge, September 5, 1951:

"Be it Resolved: That the Committee on Library and Museum be directed and authorized to create a Circulating Library and be permitted to loan to the members of the Masonic Fraternity in Pennsylvania such books as they may deem advisable for general reading purposes; such Circulating Library to be operated under rules which the Committee may from time to time adopt."

Two brochures were then prepared and printed—one consisting of the rules and regulations for the loaning of books, with a form of application attached, and the other giving a list of Masonic books which may be borrowed. A number of these brochures were sent to the secretaries of the subordinate Lodges, including a package of colored printed slips, one to be inserted in each Lodge notice, advising the Brethren they could now borrow books from the Circulating Library, together with other instructions.

In addition to the above brochures, another pamphlet has been written by our Librarian, Brother Paterson, entitled "A Suggested List of Books on Freemasonry for Readers of Masonic Literature"; and while this list of books has no connection with the Circulating Library, it was prepared solely to enlighten the Brethren regarding some of the interesting Masonic books and pamphlets that have been printed on Freemasonry.

The Librarian is pleased to announce that requests are constantly coming in for books and the Library has loaned to the members twelve hundred and fifty volumes up to the present time.

To join the Circulating Library, simply write to William J. Paterson, Librarian, Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia 7, Pa., and copies of the rules and regulations and a list of the books you may borrow will be mailed to you. No fee will be required.

From Our Grand Secretary's Office

FOR MANY YEARS, with the exception of the period of the depression, there has been a steady growth in the membership of The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. During the last fifty years the average yearly increase has been in excess of 3500, and for the last five years over 5000. It is expected that our general returns for 1954 will show a total membership of approximately 250,000, or more than four times that of fifty years ago.

Just as steadily, although not in the same proportion, the number of our Lodges has increased. Fifty years ago there were 447 Lodges in the Jurisdiction. On December 27, 1953 there were 579, an average yearly increase of between two and three. With four new Lodges already constituted during 1954, and a fifth scheduled for November 1st, the total number of Lodges in our Grand Lodge at the close of the present Masonic year will be 584.

The five new Lodges of 1954 are:
Brotherhood Lodge, No. 773, Philadelphia, 61 warrant members.

Mt. Zion Lodge, No. 774, McConnellsburg, 27 warrant members. This is the first Lodge we have had in Fulton County since 1832.

Steelton-Swataara Lodge, No. 775, Steelton, 128 warrant members.

Fairless Hills Lodge, No. 776, Fairless Hills, 190 warrant members, the largest Lodge ever constituted by The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Suburban Lodge, No. 777, Upper Darby, to be constituted November 1, 1954. It has to date 30 warrant members.

The need of a Lodge in Steelton and also in McConnellsburg has been apparent for many years. Only the lack of suitable meeting places has delayed their constitution until the present time. Fairless Hills Lodge and Suburban Lodge will serve two of the most rapidly growing suburban areas of Philadelphia. The constitution of Brotherhood Lodge, to meet in the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, is justified by the fact that almost 100 petitions for initiation and membership have been received by this Lodge since its first meeting in April of this year.

In view of the foregoing facts it is apparent that in respect to both its total membership and the number of its Lodges, The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania today is in the strongest position it has ever occupied during all of its history.

However, it must be admitted, that growth in numbers alone, no matter how rapidly or consistently, is not necessarily a true measure of strength. There are other factors that must be considered before a fair appraisal of the present position of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania can be reached.

What of the 250,000 Masons in our Jurisdiction? Are they merely members? Or are they Masons—Masons in the sense of all that the name implies?

What of our 584 Lodges? Are they merely social groups? Or are they playing their part in the mission of Freemasonry, the spreading of the principle of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God?

What of the Grand Lodge? Is it content merely to govern the Craft; to drift with the tide? Or is it looking forward, always a step or two to the front, and leading the Brethren toward a fuller realization of the high principles for which we stand?

These are pertinent questions, and must be answered if we are correctly to appraise Freemasonry in this Jurisdiction today. To answer them fully would require far more than our allotted space, but there are some things that can and must be said.

As the result of meeting thousands of Pennsylvania Masons and of visiting hundreds of our Lodges during the past few years we are impressed with the sincerity of the Brethren, and are convinced that we are, indeed, making Masons, and not members only.

Our Lodges, too, are of the highest character, and a great force for the advancement of the ideals of Freemasonry.

Of The Grand Lodge, it can be said with deep pride and satisfaction that we are in the midst of a most impressive and many sided program of advancement, which involves such matters as Masonic culture; greatly extended charitable activities, particularly in the realm of child care; the expansion of The Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, involving the expenditure of more than \$2,750,000, and the establishment of a great "Masonic Center" in Philadelphia, the first step of which was the purchase, for the sum of \$825,000 of the Bulletin Annex just across Cuthbert Street from the present Masonic Temple.

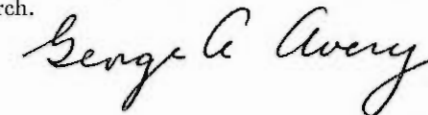
In 1865 there were only 190 Lodges in Pennsylvania with 20,256 members, but Grand Lodge was even then discussing the need of a new Masonic Temple in Philadelphia.

In 1867, when by resolution it was decided to build the present Temple, there were only 26,140 members of the Craft in this Jurisdiction. Yet Grand Lodge obligated itself to build a Temple, the cost of which, was to run in excess of \$1,750,000. Surely they built not only for their day, but for ours, as well!

Are we not obligated to do as much for those who will come after us as our fathers have done for us? There can be but one answer, "We are, indeed, so obligated!"

It is an ambitious program in which we are involved; and with the help of God we will see it through!

Freemasonry in Pennsylvania is on the march.



GEORGE A. AVERY, Grand Secretary

Christmas at the Homes

Attention is once again directed to the annual appeal made to Members of the Masonic Fraternity of Pennsylvania for a personal contribution to the Christmas, Entertainment and Recreational Fund for our Guests at The Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, Pa.

This fund provides for expenses of Christmas and other holiday entertainments, chapel and all religious services, moving pictures, picnics and other social functions, and other recreational equipment and spending money for those without funds, etc.

Your concern of the Guests at The Homes and your generosity in their behalf will be greatly appreciated and you will be greatly rewarded.

Make your checks, postal orders or express money orders payable to Arthur E. Myers, Superintendent of The Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, Pa. Your remittance will be cheerfully acknowledged.

The Masonic Press

Time was when the principles and ideals of Freemasonry were spread by word of mouth, but the great progress and growth of the Craft has required more than this. Masonic literary gems have contributed much to the expansion and advancement Freemasonry has enjoyed for over two centuries.

Few organizations have withstood the test of time as has Freemasonry, steeped as it is in the ancient legends of the Operative Craft whose traditions and fundamentals we have had the good fortune to inherit.

Freemasonry can well count among its members great leaders in science, art, industry, church and state. All have contributed to the sum total of Masonic culture and knowledge, but without the medium of the Masonic press, the teachings and philosophies of our learned Brethren would have remained unknown, save to a few of their close associates.

The Masonic press, beyond all doubt, provides a wonderful means by which the wealth of cultural material may be broadcast and absorbed by Freemasons seeking more Light in Our Great Fraternity.

What Do You Think?

This being the first issue of "The Pennsylvania Freemason," we are naturally concerned and curious as to how it has been received by the Brethren. The Committee on Library and Museum, therefore, welcomes your individual comments or suggestions which we trust will guide us in making this great undertaking both worthwhile and a credit to our Jurisdiction. Kindly address your communications to: The Pennsylvania Freemason, Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia 7, Pa., in care of the editor.