

Trestleboard

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2005

The purpose of the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education is to foster the education of the Craft at large through prepared research and open discussion of the topics concerning Masonic history, symbolism, philosophy, and current events.

Next Communication

The New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education meets on the fourth Saturday in January, March, May and September.

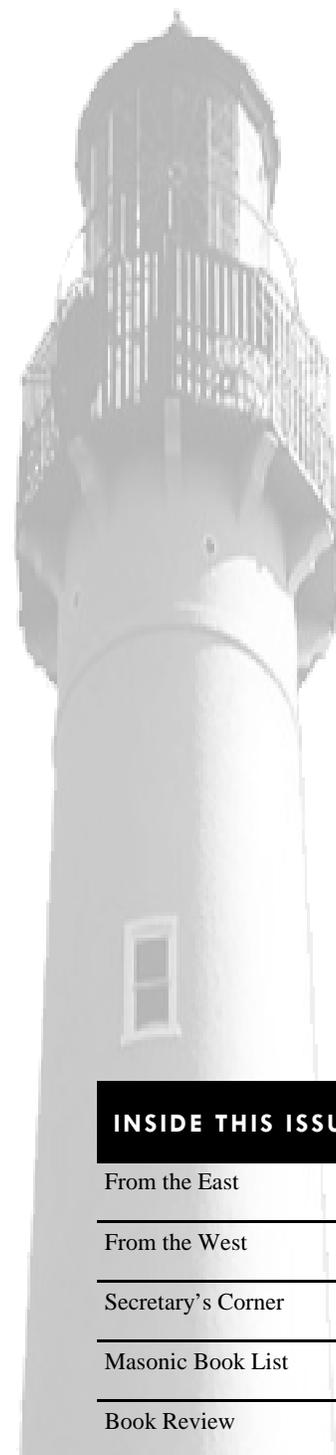
Our next communication will be held on
Saturday, January 22, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at:

Trenton Masonic Temple
100 Barracks Street
Trenton, New Jersey

ALL MASTER MASONS ARE WELCOME!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the East	2
From the West	3
Secretary's Corner	3
Masonic Book List	7-8
Book Review	10



From the East

WB Tom Thornton, Worshipful Master

My Brothers,

Our January meeting will provide us with some really detailed insight to another Masonic mystery; that of the 'Hermetically Sealed' secrets. WB Ben Hoff barely out of the master's chair at Highland Park has done an excellent job of wording, as only he can, the meaning and connection Masons have to the hermetic school of ancient yore.

You can either come and hear it for yourself or you'll have to wait 18 months to be able to read it in our proceedings.

I am finishing my current paper, "Assisted Living" a strange subject for a research lodge of Masons but in keeping with this year's theme of researching the future, there will be a time, and the wisest knows not when, each of us will face a decision of where we spend the rest of our lives. Keeping with my policy of brevity it is not long and only serves as a pointer to the things we may need to know.

We have room for one more paper and I certainly want to encourage any of you to contribute your thoughts about life today Freemasonry as you understand it.

A number of the local papers have carried reports of the grant received toward restoring our lodge home in Trenton. We owe a vote of thanks to those at Grand Lodge who had the guts and wisdom to move forward toward saving our Lodge building.

Hope you all can join us on Saturday January 22nd for the meeting.

Fraternally,

Tom Thornton

Worshipful Master

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

With this Trestleboard you will have received your 2005 Dues Card. Sorry for the delay, I was waiting on approval from Grand Lodge on the new design. The elected line of NJ LORE felt, since we are a little different from the regular Blue Lodge, our Dues Card should be a little different also.

Grand Lodge never did get back with an approval so I decided to send them out. If need be, that is the Grand Lodge does not approve of the new design down the road, I will reprint them in the old fashion and send everyone a new card. If you did not receive a Dues card and feel you should have, please contact me asap.

At this time, we have 78 regular members. 18 have yet to pay their 2004-2005 dues. Second notices are included with this Trestleboard. If you have not yet, please pay your dues so we can keep up our good works.

Everyone should have received their copy of our Transactions of NJ LORE for 2002-2003. If you did not receive it, please let me know. If you think someone or your Lodge would like to purchase one, see the add on the next page. We have several copies available for purchase. Special thanks to Bro. Joe Ohlandt for publishing our Transactions. He has provided an invaluable service to our Lodge.

From The West

Bro. Jay Hochberg, Senior Warden

Many revealing facts were shared by the Prestonian Lecturer during his appearance at the Scottish Rite of Northern New Jersey on Dec. 17. In researching his paper, titled "English Speculative Freemasonry: Some Possible Origins, Themes and Developments," W. Bro. Trevor Stewart delved into centuries-old minutes books and personal diaries. He uncovered some highly unusual facts.

In a two-year period at the dawn of the Grand Lodge era, some 30 lodges in London had collectively increased their ranks by total of 19 Masons. At a time when Freemasonry was becoming familiar to the public, and when the most notable, influential and respected men of England were taking an interest in the fraternity, there had been a net gain of only 19 members among 30 lodges? If they weren't making Masons, then just what were all these lodges doing?

It's not possible to distill the entire 2004 Prestonian Lecture to a few sentences, but to answer that question, those lodges were practicing what our ritual today preaches. Those Masons were investigating the arts and sciences. Lodges did not need guest speakers for programs; they cultivated memberships that included almost limitless talent in a wide range of fields and disciplines. Later records show that lodge meetings were not called "meetings" or even "communications." There were called conferences.

The brethren contemplated the speed of sound by trying to determine if the victim of a firing squad could hear the fatal shots. They studied anatomy and biology not just with books and drawings, but by dissecting cadavers. In lodge.

And so, and without hoping to find a corpse in my lodge, I wonder what Masons today can and should do to whet that appetite for inquiry. What are the activities that will challenge the minds of Masons and that will cause educated men to want to join us?

These are immediate concerns because our jurisdiction is poised to increase its numbers by the hundreds on March 19. While it's safe to say that most newcomers expect a fraternity dedicated to sociable and community service pursuits, it would be wise to make a place for the thinking man as well. It is my hope that our Lodge of Masonic Research and Education will become not only a lodge for them, but also a source where all our mother lodges may find inspiration and direction in their labors to make good on Masonry's promise of enlightenment.

Let's give the historian of 300 years from now a reason to read *our* lodges' minutes.

The Transactions of the New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research & Education No. 1786 Volume I – 2002-2004

The Transactions of the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research & Education No 1786 are provided to every member of the NJ LORE. They can also be purchased directly from the Secretary.

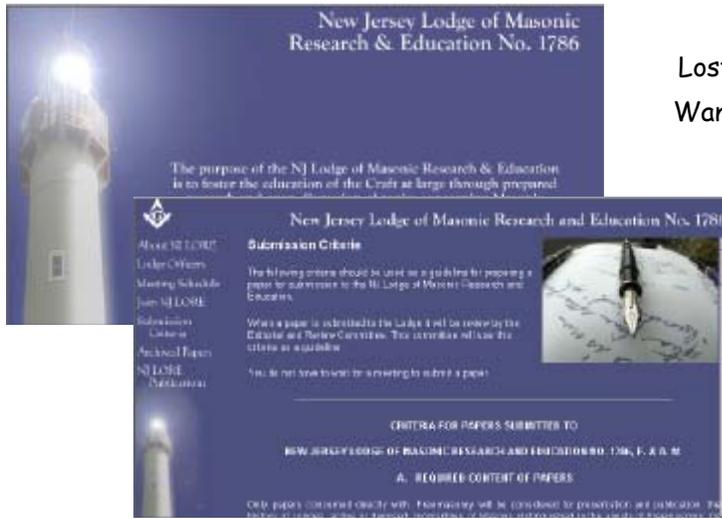
Our first volume contains all of the papers presented to the Lodge in our first two years. It also contains all of the minutes from all of the meetings held during this period.

Our first Volume is available for purchase for \$15.00 per copy. It is a perfect gift for a friend you wish to introduce the Lodge of Research to or to your Lodge as an addition to its library.

For a copy send a check payable to NJ Lodge No. 1786
along with your return address to:

WB Matthew Korang / 344 East Union St. / Burlington, NJ 08016





Missed the last meeting??
 Lost your most recent NJ LORE Trestleboard?
 Want a copy of a paper presented at a meeting?

Take a look at the NJ LORE website at
<http://njlore1786.com>

At our website, you will find all of the latest information from copies of Trestleboards and papers to important contact information and meeting dates. Be sure to check it out!!

NJ LORE NO. 1786 — MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Initial Membership Fee is \$ 25.00 and the Annual Dues are \$25.00. A personal check, bank check or money order made out to **“NJ Lodge No. 1786”** in the amount of \$50.00 must accompany this application.

Mail to our Secretary: WB Matthew Korang / 344 East Union St. / Burlington, NJ 08016

Please clearly print or type the following information

Brother Dist. Brother WB RWB MWB

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Telephone (home) _____ (business) _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Lodge Affiliation (Mother Lodge or Lodge currently attending)

Your Lodge Secretary must sign and seal this section of the application indicating that you are in good standing.

Name _____ Number _____

Address _____

Grand Lodge of New Jersey _____ Grand Lodge of _____

Signature of Lodge Secretary _____

“I respectfully represent that I am a Master Mason in good standing in a Lodge of Master Masons in the State of New Jersey or in a Grand Jurisdiction with which New Jersey maintains fraternal relations and do hereby make application for membership.”



Your Signature _____

Tall Cedars Began in New Jersey

J. Edward Bullen, Past Grand Tall Cedar

Whence Came We ?

Before going into the history of Tall Cedarism. I would like to quote the Preamble of our Constitution, which is not only adequate, but sometimes fills a need for those men who are our brothers through the great Masonic fraternity in which we progressed from the apprentice, fellow craft, and Master Mason Degrees.

It is to promote wider acquaintances and friendship among men already bound together by fraternal vows: To perpetuate itself as a fraternal and social organization, and to provide for its orderly government," In the good book it states. " in the beginning." And thus it is with the Tall Cedars of Lebanon- there was a beginning, just how and where is a moot question and a lot of it is conjecture, but some facts do come out of the wood (Cedar wood, i.e.).

Apparently it all started in 1843 with some very energetic and imaginative Master Masons who dreamed up the idea of a Tall Cedar Degree, and in those days the degree was called " The Ancient and Honorable Rite of Humility." The name "Tall Cedar Degree" does not reveal itself other than the possibility of a somewhat shorter title than the aforementioned, and this was to remain as such until we adopted the title of " Tall Cedars of Lebanon of the United States of America" upon incorporation in 1902.

It was some time around 1846, after the meetings of the Grand Lodge and some of the Blue Lodges in the Pennsylvania and New Jersey area that they would have the Tall Cedar Degree performed., and from what I can gather, it was a form of hazing in which the candidates for the degree were gotten from those willing to receive it, and it was put on by those who had already received the degree. However, there was a great lapse of time and nothing was heard about this degree until the early 1850's when a Dr. Thomas J. Corson from the New Jersey area started conferring the degree as he had received it in Philadelphia.

As you well know, around that time your only means of travel was the horse and buggy, and the train, so this degree was not performed often, but rest assure, whenever they had a good gathering of Master Masons, the Tall Cedar Degree was put on. It was always so much clean fun to see someone get the works, even as it is today. Some " Old Timer" spoke of a jury of men being housed in the hotel in a town in New Jersey, that heard the Tall Cedar Degree was to be performed. The Deputy Sheriff being a Mason took those that were also Masons to see it performed and after it was over brought them back to the hotel. It must have been really something to go to all that trouble.

Upon the death of Dr. Corson in 1879 the Tall Cedar Degree was continued by Dr. Stevens , who organized the first regular degree team and went to several cities and towns throughout the New Jersey area performing the work.

It seems that Glassboro, New Jersey, was the focal point for the performance of the Tall Cedars Degree, for whenever that they had enough candidates the work was put on. In 1887 Dr. Stevens and his degree team came to the town and conferred the degree on Frank W. Bowen and Orlando M. Bowen, and thirteen other candidates. I mention the names of these brethren because they were part of the charter group that formed the Tall Cedars of Lebanon. Even today, The Pitman Masonic Club in Pitman, New Jersey is where the 34th degree is performed, and perhaps is the aftermath of the Tall Cedar Degree.

In similar manner as the 34th degree is now conferred, at Pitman Masonic Club on May 24, 1901, fifty-four Master masons who had received the Tall Cedar Degree met in Glassboro, New Jersey, to watch and confer the degree on 53 candidates from Glassboro, Clayton, Williamstown, Manuta, Woodbury and Philadelphia, with the following as officers. They were Grand Mogul Frank W. Bowen, Vice-Mogul Jacob Bibo, Treasurer T.C. Allen, Secretary Dr. F.A. Stanger, Conductor S. Stanger Iszard, Assistant Conductor Charles W. Wood, Inside Announcer W.H. Jones, Outside Announcer B.T. Ferrell, Preparer of the Forest Bresier Westcoat, Jr. Chaplain Rev. John H. Algar.

I mentioned above officers' titles to give you an idea of what comprised Tall Cedar Degree Team,. It seems that the library of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has a manuscript in its archives written in 1864 by Brother William H. Adams, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, recording the secret work, and a

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

description of the degree.

Four Master Masons who received the Tall Cedar Degree later became Supreme Tall Cedars, They were Frank W. Bowen, and Orlando M. Bowen in 1887, David H. Lukens in 1888, and Johns S. Broughton in 1889. The above brethren along with several others (fifteen in all, charter members of our organization) assembled in the State Capitol of New Jersey, in the City of Trenton, on March 18, 1902 for the purpose of establishing a fraternal order to be know as the Tall Cedars of Lebanon of America for fun, frolic, and fellowship. These brethren felt that since this form of friendship and sociability occurred so infrequently and had little form, that by incorporating they could eliminate the haphazard, disorganized methods of conferring the Tall cedar Degree and thus stabilize and preserve a worthwhile ceremony.

I honestly believe that in the Prologue and Royal Court we have one of the most beautiful ritualistic works and we are indeed thankful to Rev. George S. Gassner who was instrumental in making up the ritual. It comes directly from the first book of Kings Chapter 5 verses 1 though 10, and the second book of Chronicles, Chapter 2 verses 8 and 9. Of the two passages, the first book of Kings, Chapter 5 is more specific. It revolves around the building of the Temple of Jerusalem, and that King Solomon had to rely in the help of King Hiram of Tyre who send his Hewers of Wood into the forest of Lebanon to strike down and shape all the tall cedars for use in the Temple. Thus the Tall Cedars of Lebanon have a biblical background and performance of the Tall Cedar Degree in the Blue Lodges at the conclusion of their meetings brings us closer to our Masonic forbearance.

From March 18, 1902 to 1971, we are known as the Tall Cedars of Lebanon of the United States of America. However, on November 13 1971 in our 70th year of existence we instituted a Forest in Canada, and be came known as the Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America. While our strength of membership lies in the eastern section of the United States were are slowly expanding westward.

All down through the years the Tall Cedars of Lebanon had in one way or another, on occasion contributed to worthy causes, However they really became of age when they decided that "no organization could continue to prosper unless it had a definite uplifting objective for the benefit of humanity." These were the remarks of the Most Worshipful Grand Master Harry Campbell of Washington, DC in 1933. After years of investigation and research in 1951 they found not only a worthy cause but one which desperately needed support -- muscular dystrophy. Up until 1972, we supported the Metabolism Unity on the tenth floor of the Research Center in New York City through our Contributions and Life Fund Memberships in the National Charitable Objective.

When the Metabolism Unity of the Research Center was closed in 1972 the Supreme Forest was advised that the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Muscular Dystrophy Association of America were going to submit monies in the form of research grants to various universities and colleges in the search and cure for muscular dystrophy, and they would welcome our support in this endeavor. It was decided that the Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America would become a part of this project with the Jerry Lewis Tall Cedar Day Camp in the summertime. Thus while one aspect of our National Charitable Objective fades away another on come into the forefront with the possible finding of a cure for the dreaded disease through the project and to provide for a little bit of fun for these children in the summertime.

Before I close I would like to leave this thought with you. Should you meet a Cedar wearing a pyramid upon his head, greet him for he is always glad to extend to you the hand of friendship for he carries in his heart compassion, friendship and love for his fellow man -- that is why he is a Tall Cedar.

*The above article was taken from the Supreme Forest Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America website (<http://www.mastermason.com/tcl/>)
Written by the late J. Edward Bullen, Past Grand Tall Cedar – Baltimore no. 45, Supreme Historian 1970-1975.*

On the Agenda – January 22, 2005 Meeting

- Hermetic Influences in Masonic Ritual
- Assisted Living
- Honorable Albert W. Hawkes' Address to Crescent Shrine 1967

Required Reading

Bro. Matthew Korang, Secretary

Below is a continuation of a list of recommended reading from the website – www.workingtools.com. This website contains some of the most prevalent authors in England at this time. Many of the writers of *Freemasonry Today*, an English Freemasonic Magazine, are regular contributors to the website. Noted author and editor of *Freemasonry Today*, Michael Baigent is a regular contributor.

Anyway, the website editor, Matthew Scanlon, posted his quite extensive listing of what he considers “required reading” for today’s Freemason. The website lists the books in three parts. I will reprint them for you with Bro. Scanlon’s commentary. If you get a chance take an Internet trip to this webpage, you will not be sorry. The rest of the list will be reprinted in future editions of the Trestleboard. Even though this is a list for English Freemasons, it is still interesting.

Recommended Reading

Knoop, D, G.P. Jones & D. Hamer

The Early Masonic Catechisms (Manchester University Press, 1943, & re-printed by Coronati Lodge, 1963, ed. H. Carr)
A collection of the earliest Masonic ritual catechisms in the British Isles with introductory remarks. Currently out-of-print.

Knoop, D, G.P. Jones & D. Hamer

Early Masonic Pamphlets
(Manchester University Press, 1945, reprinted 1978)
A collection of the earliest printed references to Freemasonry and the Masons' word, from 1638 to 1736.
Still available in hard back.

Knoop, D, & G.P. Jones

The Genesis of Freemasonry Manchester University Press, 1947)
Offers an account of the origins of Freemasonry, which the authors claim, emerged from a transition from the working stone masons guilds and lodges. It is one of the few scholarly attempts to answer the question of where the modern craft came from, and as such, deserves to be read. Out of print, but second hand copies can be found.

Back to Top

Lane, John

Masonic Records, 1717 - 1894
(Re-released, Lewis Masonic, 2000)
Originally published in the 1880s, this comprehensive list of Masonic lodges, contains details of when they were warranted, their numbers, and where they met. It has never been bettered, and is an invaluable tool for the study of English and Welsh Freemasonry. It has recently been re-produced, although a revised edition awaits. Available from QCCC Ltd.

Lantoine, Albert

Histoire de la Franc-Maconnerie Francaise
(Paris, 1925)
This two-volume study is still regarded as a good work on French Freemasonry.

Le Forestier, Rene

La Franc-Maconnerie Templiere et Occultiste aux XVIIIe et XIXe siecles
(1st edition, Paris, 1970. 2nd edition, Paris, 1987. Preface by Antoine Faivre, now Professor at the Sorbonne)
An excellent study of the esoteric offshoots of Freemasonry in the side degrees in the eighteenth century, however it needs updating. The work looks in detail of the emergence and development of chivalric degrees and their legends, including the Strict Observance, the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and the Scottish Rectified Rite. Sadly there is no English translation. Available in hardback.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Lemay, Leo

Deism, Masonry and the Enlightenment
(1987)

Various essays concerning Freemasonry, Latitudinarianism, Deism and Natural Religion. Valuable for anyone interested in the relationship between Religion and Freemasonry.

Lennhoff, Eugene

The Freemasons
(Revised, Ian Allen, 1992)

A classic over view of Freemasonry's involvement in European history. Originally published in Germany in 1930 as Die Friemaurer, Lennhoff was awarded a prize by the Grand Orient of Belguim for this work. He offers a fascinating general view of Masonic history set in a wider social context. There are ominous warnings about the imminent dangers of National Socialism and how the Fascists under Mussolini had already suppressed the Order in Italy.

Lennhoff, Eugene

Internationales Freimaurerlexikon
Posner, Oskar (Zurich, 1932)

An excellent and reliable reference work on Freemasonry in German. Out of print.

Lepper & Crossle

History of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland
(Volume 1, Dublin, Lodge of Research, CC, 1925)

Though old, the best account to date of Freemasonry in Ireland during the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century.

Ligou, Daniel

Dictionnaire de la Franc-Maconnerie
(Presses Universitaires de France, 1987)

A large tome that is certainly useful as a reference tool for the serious historian. However, as with most Masonic reference works, it is not definitive and there are innacuracies. Available in French.

Lindsay, Robert, S

The Scottish Rite for Scotland
(Edinburgh, 1958)

A good general overview and introduction to the Scottish or Ancient and Accepted Rite for Scotland.

Lipscombe Duncan, Robert

Reluctant General: The Life and Times of Albert Pike
(New York, 1961)

MacKenzie, Kenneth

The Royal Masonic Cyclopaedia
(Northants, 1987)

An fascinating tome, particularly for those interested in the more esoteric aspects of the craft.

Mackey, Albert G

Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry and kindred societies
(Chicago, 1929)

MacLeod, Wallace

The Old Gothic Constitutions

Continued in March 2005 Edition

NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education

Important Information

Brethren,

You are cordially and fraternally invited to the next Regular Communication of the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education No. 1786 to meet on Saturday, October 2, 2004 at the Trenton Masonic Temple, 100 Barracks St. Trenton, NJ at 10:00 a.m.

Order of Business

- Continental Breakfast (served 9:00 a.m.)
- Opening Lodge (9:30 a.m.)
- Presentation of Papers
- Lunch Break
- Short Business meeting
- Closing

Officer's Dress – Business Attire

Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey

Most Worshipful Daniel M. Wilson
16 Bemath Drive
Hamilton, NJ 08690
609-587-9092
dmwgmj2004@optonline.net

Like to Write?

Interested in Masonic History or Theory?

Why not consider submitting a paper to the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education?

The NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education is looking for individuals interested in the history and activities of Freemasonry in both New Jersey and the world.

Only papers concerned directly with Freemasonry will be considered for presentation and publication: The history of Lodges, active or demised; biographies of Masons distinguished in the annals of Freemasonry; its ceremonies, usage, and practices; the speculative or philosophical aspects of Freemasonry; and any other Masonic subject of general interest to the Fraternity.

Interested? If you have a paper you would like to submit or would like more information concerning writing and submitting papers, please feel free to contact : **Bro. Jay Hochberg at 973-256-0374**

Officers for 2004-2006

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From the Editor's Desk.....

Next Trestleboard will be published by March 1, 2005. We are always looking for articles. All articles must be submitted by February 15, 2005.

Matthew Korang, PM, Secretary
mkorang@comcast.net



New Jersey Lodge of Masonic
Research and Education No. 1786

Trenton Masonic Temple
100 Barracks St.
Trenton, NJ 08608

*Bringing Light to New
Jersey Freemasonry!*

We're On the Web!!
njlore1786.org

Back Page Book Review

Bro. Jay Hochberg, Peninsula Lodge No. 99

"Lexicon of Freemasonry" by Albert G. Mackey, 33°
Barnes & Noble Books, 2004, 524 pages

Someday I must ask them why, but Barnes & Noble Books continues to publish legitimate Masonic titles [another, published in September, will be reviewed in this space in March] worthy of any thinking Mason's attention. In "Lexicon of Freemasonry," we hear from one of the most prolific authors and active leaders of 19th century American Freemasonry: Albert Gallatin Mackey (1807-81), Grand Secretary and Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina; Secretary General of the Supreme Council, A&ASR; Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons & Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of South Carolina; etc., etc. This is the guy who made Albert Pike a Scottish Rite Mason and enumerated the Landmarks that many jurisdictions obey today. His impact on Freemasonry cannot be overstated.

So, how to describe this dictionary? First the reader must accept that Masonry and its rituals during this era were in what our very own Bro. Ben Hoff calls the "moralizing period." For example, the definition of charity makes no mention of the Latin etymology that should interest Masons; instead it goes straight to St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Secondly, and maybe ironically, we must be open to the Ancient Mysteries, because it is with them that our author wants to contextualize the Craft. Eleusis, Mithras and Osiris aren't discussed in lodge often, but they and others frequent these pages. Thirdly, the reader should be prepared to be impressed with the scope of scholarship on Masonic symbols, history, terms, rites and more. From "Abbreviations" to "Zinnendorf, Rite of" we have here a very useful dictionary.

So you already have Mackey's "Encyclopædia of Freemasonry" and wonder why you need his "Lexicon" too. Well, both texts contain much of the same information, so I don't know if I have an answer for you, except to say this dictionary costs only \$10 and higher sales may spur more books for us from the publisher.

LEXICON OF
FREEMASONRY

