

Trestleboard

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

MAY 2004

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.

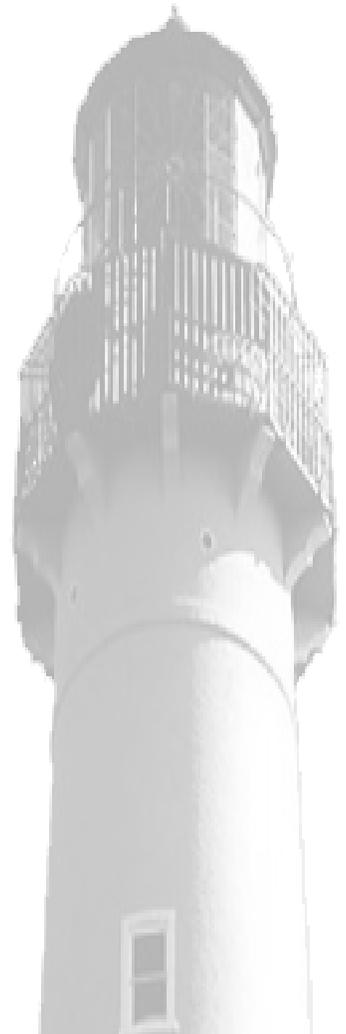
Next Communication

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, May 22, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at:

**Trenton Masonic Temple
100 Barracks Street
Trenton, New Jersey**

ALL MASTER MASONS ARE WELCOME!



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From the East

RW George A. Olsen, Worshipful Master

My Brother,

RESEARCH

During the last two years, in my message from the East I have attempted to direct your attention to the notion that research, as formidable as it may sound is in reality simple and direct. In most cases it is easy and should always be fun because it is something in which you have an abiding interest. I learned many years ago when introducing college students to the concept of research that the word alone "research" sounds formidable to almost everyone until you begin to equate it to other words not as overwhelming.

Rogert's Thesaurus provides one with a number of other words which describe research, they being exploration, investigation, inquiry, study, examination, and exploration. These words are much less intimidating for the initial researcher to consider.

Research, when looked at through these words, can be easily understood. For example my car stops running for no reason at all. Whether we like it or not, we begin an inquiry (research) as to why it happened. We establish a list of possibilities (the research term would be hypothesis), we next establish the possible causes (the research term would be parameters), we next begin to eliminate the possibilities in each cause (the research term would be study), and finally we reach a conclusion (the research term would be a conclusion as well). This is a highly simplified example of research, but it nevertheless teaches that research when approached simply, without adding massive constraints or attempting to cover all aspects of a topic can be accomplished by anyone willing to put a little time and effort into something in which he may have a personal interest.

Research is the basis for the Research Lodge's existence. If you as an individual have nothing you personally might be interested in, as the Worshipful Master I have a number which may be of service to our individual Masonic Lodges or to our Grand Lodge. Why not come out to our next meeting and discuss with me some of these possibilities.

Fraternally,

George A. Olsen, P.D.D.G.M.

Worshipful Master

MASTER'S NOTES

Well, brethren, my two year term as the first Worshipful Master of the New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education (LORE) is fast drawing to a close. We have seen the membership grow (not as fast as most of us would like it to have), we have had many great papers presented, we selected two of the papers for the "David A. Chase Honors Paper" award and there has always been good fellowship. Very soon the Lodge will be in the capable hands of our Senior Warden, Brother Tom Thornton. I trust each of us will continue to support him as he takes our Lodge forward for the next two years. Due to circumstances the election of the new slate of Lodge Officers will be held at our next meeting on the 22nd of May, but the Installation will be held at a later date. There will be some By-law work to be done at the next meeting. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 22nd.

From The West

Bro. Tom Thorton, Senior Warden

I just completed two days standing behind our display at Grand Lodge. Most of my activity was from those members of LORE who also attend Grand Lodge. It was a successful Grand Lodge, as are most Grand Lodges. We as Masons seem to understand where we fit into today's society and govern ourselves according . That is really what were all about. Teaching men to become good and useful members of society.

I do note with interest the displays, the Battleship New Jersey which was a successful effort well supported by us. But I also recall the cry for volunteer help in its daily tasks.

Our home at Burlington had a table manned by a number of the more mobile Ladies and some dedicated members of the staff. I noted several brothers in wheelchairs and assume they also were transported from Burlington to enjoy the activities.

I heard the call for blood donors and certainly hope they have enough. As we age, many who were consistent donors have peaked off the high age end and are no longer able to donate. I sure hope were getting enough younger to take our place.

As the lodge of research representative, sadly I got more excuses about why not. It appears most of those in attendance are, in their minds, 'peaked out' at Masonic work. So I think were going to have to try and get our new members from other sources.

I really hope we can somehow contact white apron brothers who have stopped attending and lost interest in their local lodges. Perhaps they still might have interest in Masonry and would be able to take part in our Saturday meetings in mid state, and really want to be part of Freemasonry.

It would also appear we should have some who will be able to contribute via the Internet. Nothing stops a learned brother in Florida or Arizona from doing a article, sending it up and getting it presented at a regular meeting. Really the Internet may be the next piece of 'progress tool' we can use to enable interested folks to make a lasting contribution to Masonry via the writing skill.

Please remember were open to any ideas as to how we can make LORE's mission known to those Masons who are presently simple uninterested.

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

I wish to congratulate our two Paper of the year award winners. For those of you not in attendance at our last meeting, Bro. Ben Hoff and Bro. Howard Kanowitz were both selected to receive the first David A. Chase Award for best paper presented to the New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research & Education.

Bro. Kanowitz was awarded for his paper "Redemption at Gettysburg" and Bro. Hoff for his paper "Preston's Stairway". Both will be recognized at our next meeting in May.

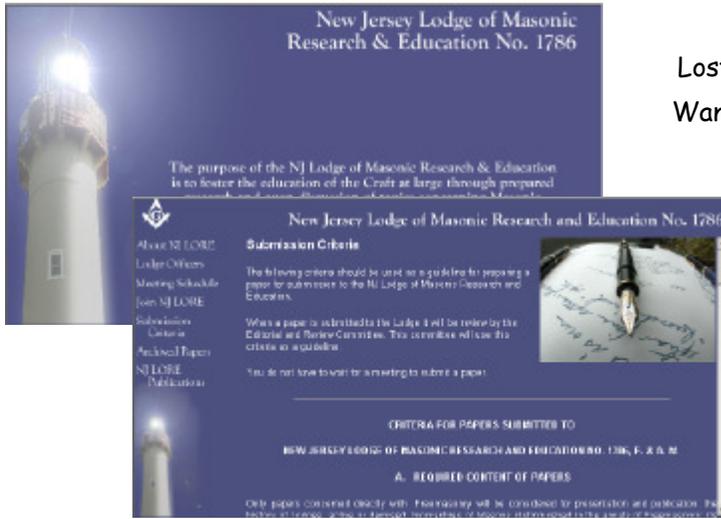
Bro. Hoff will also be recognized for being our first brother to present five papers. The title of Laureate member will be bestowed on him at May meeting.

Please come out in May to congratulate these brothers for the efforts they have put forth in the last two years.

DUES CARDS

I am awaiting to hear from the Grand Secretary as to whether our new Dues Cards are approved for use or not. Hopefully I will hear something by the time we have our next Communication in May.

Matthew Korang, Secretary, NJ LORE No. 1786



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 _____

Geometry: One “G” in Masonry

Bro. Edgar M. Coster, Madison Lodge No. 93

By the time a man is raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason he has heard the “G” explained several times in our ritual and lectures. One sometimes wonders if the message is not lost in the virtual flood of information with which we inundate our candidates. Even those of us who perform the ritual may not have paused to reflect on the significance of geometry in every day life, and why it represents such a central role in our traditions and symbolism.

One of the core elements that we understand about Freemasonry is that it evolved in some way from the guilds of operative masons. Volumes have been written about our connections to the temple builders of the Bible and to their professional descendants who erected the great castles and cathedrals that so define the landscape and the culture of Europe. We believe that the founders of our fraternity saw in the builders’ secrets, a useful and informative device for passing along the “secrets” of our fraternity.

Geometry’s origins lie in the earliest efforts of man to control his environment. Herodotus, the fifth century Roman historian, credits the Egyptians with inventing geometry for two practical necessities. After the periodic flooding of the Nile it was necessary to survey lands and establish boundaries. The pharaohs also needed to measure volumes, as it was essential to account for tribute paid in grain, oil and other commodities. Especially since round vessels were often used to store commodities, it was not a simple matter to calculate their volumes.

As early as 3100 B.C. there is evidence that geometry was used to survey land, construct buildings and measure storage vessels. According to historians, the Greeks eventually expanded the science to astronomy and to the field of optics.

Daniel Coxe – Father of New Jersey Freemasonry

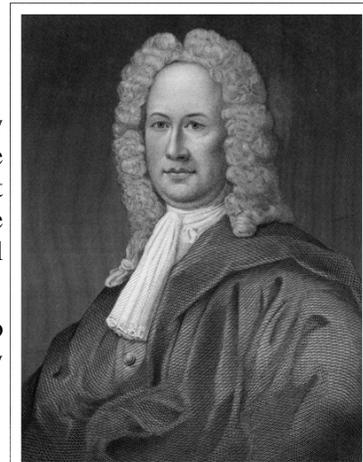
Bro. Matthew Korang, Beverly-Riverside Lodge No. 107

Next time you go to Lodge, walk up to any Brother and ask him, “Do you know who Daniel Coxe was?” The answers you receive will vary great depending on the age of the Brother. A learned veteran Brother may answer “He was our first Provincial Grand Master in New Jersey”. He would be right, but what else does he know? From a new Brother you will probably get a response similar to “Daniel Who???”

It is a shame that very few people, let alone Brothers in Freemasonry know who Daniel Coxe was. They have little idea of what an important figure he was in early New Jersey History.

For example, did you know:

- Daniel Coxe was at one time the single largest land owner in New Jersey.
- He was named first Provincial Grand Master of the United States in 1730, serving for two years and was probably responsible for constituting St. John’s No. 1 in Philadelphia, the first Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.
- He served two terms as Supreme Court Justice for the Colony of New Jersey.
- His father was titled to all of the land south of Virginia, from the Atlantic Coast all the way to the Pacific.
- Daniel commissioned the first detailed map of the Mississippi River including its Delta.
- He was instrumental in establishing the Episcopal Church of England here in New Jersey.
- Eloped with a well know Quaker girl from Philadelphia even though he led the Anti-Quaker party.
- Was one of the most hated persons in the colony of New Jersey by the end of his life.



Log on to the NJ LORE website and download my paper on Daniel Coxe. I am sure you will come away enlightened about this shadowy figure in the history of our state and Freemasonry.

(The above articles are synopsis of papers submitted to the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education at its March 2004 Meeting. The papers are available, in their entirety, on our website – <http://www.njlore1786.org>)

Preparation, Reception & Obligation

Bro. Bernard Hoff, Highland Park Lodge No. 240

This paper was originally supposed to be a straightforward examination of the practices and symbolism of candidate preparation, but grew into something that surprised even the author. As I more closely examined the few available sources of antique Masonic ritual for clues to preparation practices, it quickly became apparent that these practices were intimately connected to other aspects of the first section degree work and could not be adequately discussed in isolation. In a sense preparation is not something that occurs only outside the lodge room. All practices leading up to the administration of the obligation can be considered aspects of preparation since our obligation is what makes us Masons. One source even discloses a ritual where the physical preparation itself occurred entirely inside the room where the degree took place rather than prior to entry.

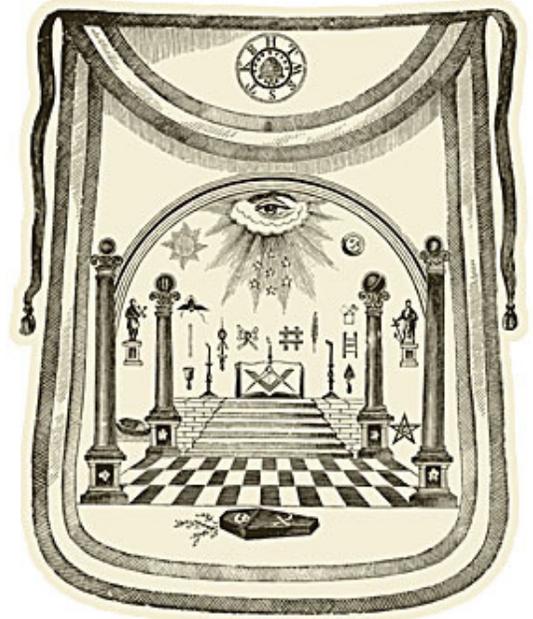
All aspects of candidate preparation are mentioned in our earliest documentation of ritual, some even from before the first grand lodge was formed, but no single source lists them all together as we know them today until the publication of *Three Distinct Knocks* (TDK) in 1760. Moreover, the ritual exposed in TDK was something of a departure from the ceremonies described in earlier sources. Not only was preparation somewhat different, but the method of receiving the candidate, obligating him, and bringing him to light were all distinctly different from the general run of procedures recorded in other English and French sources up until that point. These earlier sources laid out the ritual of the so-called “Moderns”, the first Grand Lodge of England, formed in 1717, and now referred to in Masonic literature as the “Premier Grand Lodge”. The ritual laid out in TDK, however, was explicitly the ritual of the so-called “Antients”, which followed the ritual practices of Scotland and Ireland rather than the English and those continental ritual systems derived from the English Moderns.

A Grand Lodge of the Antients was established in England in 1752, formed primarily by Irish Masons sojourning in the London area who were excluded from attending lodges of the Moderns. Rather than adopting English practices as they might have done if they were allowed to join Modern lodges, they continued the ritual practices of their homeland. The Moderns understandably took affront at this separate establishment on what they thought of as their turf, and thereafter followed a sixty-year period of ill will between the two English

Grand Lodges. Each considered the other to be irregular or clandestine. The Antients defended their legitimacy by asserting that they preserved the true and ancient Masonic ritual, and that the Premier Grand Lodge had made numerous modern innovations. This assertion gave rise to the common names by which we know them today: the Moderns and the Antients. It also gave rise to the notion adopted in this country that ritual purity is the touchstone of Masonic legitimacy, hence any differences in ritual should be eliminated both to ensure further changes do not occur (although they always do), and to prevent discord from argument over who has the right ritual (we all do).

The English Antients and Moderns ultimately merged in 1812 to form the United Grand Lodge of England of today. As part of this merger a model ritual was developed containing elements from both systems although its use was never mandatory. What is particularly relevant for us today in the United States is that our typical ritual is all the ritual of the Antients. The ritual laid out in TDK of 1760 is, with some minor exceptions, identical to the first section ceremonies used throughout the United States today. While there have been some changes over time, the basics of preparation, reception, and obligation (not to mention signs and words, which I will not discuss here) in use today ultimately derive from Scotland by way of Ireland, and not from England.

(This article is a synopsis of a paper submitted to the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education at its March 2004 Meeting. The paper is available, in its entirety, on our website – <http://www.njlore1786.org>)



Required Reading

Bro. Matthew Korang, Secretary (Protem)

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

Curl, James Stevens

The Art & Architecture of Freemasonry
(Batsford, 1992)

The author is currently Professor of Architecture at Queens' University, Belfast, and Professor Emeritus from the University of Leicester. This work is beautifully illustrated, and takes a broad look at Freemasonry, from the possible theories of origin, to the ideas contained within the movement and its subsequent influence on the world of artistic design, garden layouts and Architecture. An enjoyable work. Available in hard back.

Di Bernardo, Giuliano

Freemasonry and its image of Man - A philosophical investigation
(Freestone, 1989)

Formerly the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Trento from 1985 - 87, and Grand Master of the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy, the author puts forward a personal interpretation of the philosophical and symbolic ideas that underpin Freemasonry. This study touches on Masonic origins, symbolism, morality, science, religion, the and State. Out-of-print, though second hand copies can be found.

Dyer, Colin

Symbolism of Craft Freemasonry
(London, 1976)

A study of the symbols connected with the three degrees of craft Freemasonry. Available in paperback.

Dyer, Colin

Grand Stewards and their Lodge, 1735 - 1985
(John Westerham Ltd, 1985)

A concise factual account of the Grand Stewards' Lodge through 250 years. A sound reference work.

Dyer, Colin

Preston and his work
(Shepperton, 1987)

An interesting and informative account of William Preston, an important eighteenth century Freemason.

Ferrer Benimeli, J. A

Los Archivos Secretos Vaticanos y la Masoneria
(Caracas, 1976)

Professor Jose Antonio Ferrer Benimeli is a giant of Masonic research. He has been professionally researching, writing and lecturing on the subject for over 35 years. He is the author and editor of numerous books and publications on the history of the craft, and is the Founder/Director of the Centro Estudios Historicos de la Masoneria Espanola (CEHME), based at Zaragoza University, Spain, where he teaches modern history. This particular work is most certainly one of his most important works, and explores European Freemasonry in the eighteenth century, from the collections of numerous libraries, including the Secret Archives of the Vatican. Sadly, there is no English translation. Available in both Spanish and French.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Ferrer Benimeli, J.A

La Masoneria Espanola en el siglo XVIII

(Madrid, 1974)

This work is possibly the best introduction to Freemasonry in Spain in the Eighteenth Century. In Spanish.

Freemasonry Today

Freemasonry Today

English Quarterly Masonic magazine launched in the Summer of 1997, which has been hailed as 'the best Masonic magazine ever'. Issues on-going.

<http://www.freemasonrytoday.co.uk/>

G.O.D.F.

Freemasonry Museum - Collections of the Grand Orient of France

(Beaux Arts Magazine, 2000)

A beautifully illustrated A4 brochure of the Museum of the Grand Orient of France in Paris. The book reproduces in full-colour many jewels, aprons and other Masonic exhibits and ephemera.

Gould, R, F

History and Antiquities of Freemasonry

(3rd revised edn., vols., 1951)

The third edition of Gould's Masonic classic history. Despite being out of date it is still a must for the serious researcher.

Grand Lodge of Scotland

Historical Sketch of the Grand Lodge, 1736 - 1986

(Grand Lodge of Scotland)

As the title states, a synopsis of the history of one of this fascinating Grand Lodge since its formation on St. Andrew's day, 30 November, 1736.

Grand Lodge of Scotland

Grand Lodge of Scotland Year Book

(Grand Lodge of Scotland)

Informative annual year book, with news, and a roll of lodges.

Haffner, Christopher

The Craft in the East

(Hong Kong, 1977)

Haffner, Christopher

Workman Unashamed: The testimony of a Christian

(Shepperton, 1989)

Hamill, John

The Craft

(Wellingborough, 1986)

A general overview of the English craft throughout its development, from the various theories of origin to the involvement with the British Royal House.

Haunch, T.O. & Sir James Stubbs

Freemasons' Hall, the House and Heritage of the Craft (1983)

An elegant hard back colour guide-book of Freemasons Hall, London, displaying some of the treasures of the Library and Museum.

Continued in September 2004 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, May 22, 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
- Short Business meeting
- Presentation of Papers
- Presentation of Awards
- Lunch Break
- Election and Installation of Officers
- 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 : **RW Thomas Thorton at 973-887-8772**

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From the Editor's Desk.....

Next Trestleboard will be published by September 1, 2004. All articles must be submitted by July 15, 2004.



Matthew Korang, PM, Secretary

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

"The Lost Keys of Freemasonry" by Manly Palmer Hall
Philosophical Research Society, 1923, 110 pages.

This intriguing book was written about three decades before its author was made a Mason, but those who appreciate the work of Manly P. Hall know he puts into prose the most intensely spiritual truths, resulting in dozens of enlightening books about the Craft and other esoteric schools, not the least of which is his encyclopedic "The Secret Teachings of All Ages." Those impatient with the direction Masonry has taken in recent years can read this 80-year-old book and come to understand that the trends we've been seeing commenced well before the massive flow and ebb in membership of the past half century.

There are many huge ideas on these pages, but if there can be one passage to serve as an entrance, it may be this: "The Masonic order is not a mere social organization, but is composed of all those who have banded themselves together to learn and apply the principles of mysticism and the occult rites. They are (or should be) philosophers, sages and sober-minded individuals who have dedicated themselves upon the Masonic altar and vowed all they hold dear that the world shall be better, wiser and happier because they have lived."

Heady stuff coming from a non-Mason? Perhaps. But if you've ever asked how Freemasonry "makes good men better," this book answers you by explaining that Operative Masonry is not the art of constructing in stone and mortar, but is the putting into practice of the "beautiful system of morality" that we call Speculative Masonry.

"Masonic ritual is not a ceremony," writes Manly Palmer Hall, "but a life to be lived."

So mote it be.

