



Amicus Librarium



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Editorial Board:

RONALD A. SEALE
Sovereign Grand Commander

JOAN KLEINKNECHT
Librarian

Hello, Friend of the Library! Amicus Quarterly is back with a new name and different format. With a nod to the economy, we will keep you current on all Library events via the Amicus Librarium web page. To assist in implementing this new project, at your earliest convenience, please drop me an email at Jkleinknecht@scottishrite.org, so you can be added to the list to receive the next quarterly newsletter via email.

~ Joan Kleinknecht

View this newsletter online
at ScottishRite.org

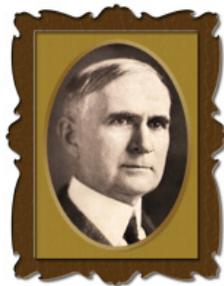


MAURICE THATCHER COLLECTION RETURNS HOME

A delegation of Masons and their families from Panama visited the House of the Temple on August 9, 2012, to view the Maurice Thatcher Collection on the Panama Canal. Since 1968, the Supreme Council Library has housed the Maurice Thatcher Collection. The collection includes seventy-five indexed volumes of clippings of his career in public service and thirty-four volumes of Panama Canal Records, including minutes of the Isthmian Canal Commission from 1904-1914. Since the collection is rarely used here at the House of the Temple, it was decided that the collection be returned to the Grand Lodge of Panama where Brothers and researchers can easily access information.



The group came to the United States to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of their annual visit to the Alexandria Washington Lodge 22. Along with a visit to the House of the Temple, the trip also included attending the Grand Master of Virginia's picnic. The delegation was very excited about the plans to return the collection to Panama.



Maurice Thatcher served five terms as Congressman from Kentucky and practiced law in Washington, DC, until he was 100 years old. Thatcher was a member of the Isthmian Canal Commission and governor of the Canal Zone from 1910 to 1913. He was the Commission's longest-lived and last surviving member. Brother Thatcher was also a member of Falls City Lodge, No. 376, in Louisville, KY, and was coroneted an Inspector General Honorary of the Thirty-third Degree in 1940. Thatcher passed away on January 6, 1973 at the age of 102.

QUESTIONS TO THE LIBRARIAN

Thank you all for your wonderful questions to the Librarian. I had an overwhelming response, please keep them coming. They ranged from any topic imaginable. Here are a couple:

Question – Any discussion on a digital Library?

Answer – Yes, but the equipment needed to accomplish this is very costly. To do this efficiently the library would need a specialized scanner used for digitizing. This scanner cradles the books so there is no damage to the spine of the books. These can range from \$15,000 - \$45,000 dollars. If and when the library gets one of these scanners my first job will be to digitize the Transactions of the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction, USA.

Question – What is the historical origin of the cable-tow?

Answer – In Masonry, it is purely symbolic and means “scope of a man's reasonable ability” as decided by the Baltimore Convention of 1843.



Amicus Librarianium



QUESTIONS FOR THE LIBRARIAN?

Please feel free to ask me a Masonic question. It can be anything that you have ever wondered about in reference to Freemasonry, the Scottish Rite, symbolism, etc. If your question is chosen, it will be answered in the next issue of *Amicus Librarianium*. If not I will email you the answer in a timely manner. Please contact me with your questions at: jkleinknecht@scottishrite.org



NOTE: If you have a current interest item or story that pertains to the Masonic Fraternity, please submit it to me for possible inclusion in the next issue of *Amicus Librarianium*.

Amicus Librarianium is a publication of the Supreme Council, 33° Washington, D.C.

PROCEEDINGS DUPLICATE PROJECT

OVER THE YEARS, the Supreme Council Library has accumulated duplicates of many states' Grand Lodge Proceedings. Due to limited archival storage space the Supreme Council Library will retain one copy of each Proceeding and will make all other copies available to the states for their collections. The process of sending extra copies back to the states' Grand Lodges has begun. The first batch of Grand Lodge Proceedings will be sent to the Grand Lodge of Kansas.



ADOPT-A-BOOK DONOR RECOGNITION RUNNING TOTAL = \$21,800.00

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING DONORS who have adopted a book in our Library. By doing so, you help us preserve and restore our wonderful collections. We will continue to recognize our Adopt-a-Book donors, alphabetically, in each issue of the *Amicus Librarianium*. If you are interested in adopting a book, please view the Library's online catalog at www.scottishrite.org and adopt your favorite Masonic book.

- Bro. John Greene, 32° — *Masonic Organizations an Allied Orders and Degrees*, by Harold V.B. Voorhis, 1952.
- Mr. and Mrs. Brad Groff — *Restorations of Masonic Geometry and Symbolry*, by H.P.H. Bromwell, 1905.
- Ill. Gary J. Hanson, 33° — *The Masonic Directory and Cyclopedia of History*, by Robert Macoy, 1885.
- Ill. Michael R. Jugan, 33° — *General History, Cyclopedia and Dictionary of Freemasonry*, by Robert Macoy, 33°, 1869.
- Bro. Michael J. Kastle, 32° — *A Lexicon of Freemasonry*, by Albert G. Mackey, M.D., 1855.
- Bro. Robert Katz, 32° — *The History of Freemasonry from it Origin Down to the Present Day*, by J.G. Findel, 1869.
- Bro. Alvin L. Kessler, 32° — *The History of Freemasonry and Masonic Digest*, by J.W.S. Mitchell, M.D., 1858.

To adopt a book in the Supreme Council's Library, contact Robert Heffelfinger at (202) 777-3111 or at rheffelfinger@scottishrite.org. For more information about the Adopt-a-Book program, visit ScottishRite.org.

RARE BOOK VAULT

THIS ISSUE OF AMICUS LIBRARIUM I will be highlighting the Masonic Addresses that we have in our Special Collections.

The Supreme Council Library houses thirty-five volumes of Masonic Miscellanea dating from 1730 – 1985. This collection includes sermons, orations, addresses, etc., that were delivered by Masons who were prominent in their time. One such author was Thaddeus M. Harris (1768-1842). He was a clergyman and Masonic writer. Through the influence of friends, he was invited to become private secretary to General Washington but was prevented from accepting by an attack of smallpox. He was the first Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts from 1797-98 and drafted the "Harris Constitutions" for his Grand Lodge. During 1800, Harris became the junior warden of his lodge and was soon appointed Grand Secretary, a position he held from 1800-10.

The first of Mr. Harris's Sermons is from July, 1796, entitled, *Masonic Emblems Explained in a Sermon, preached before the members of King Solomon's Lodge*. We have sixteen articles written by Mr. Harris from the time period of 1796 – 1836.

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"Trouble may drive you to prayer but prayer will drive away trouble."
The Kleinknecht Gems of Thought Encyclopedia, Volume XIII
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