

AMICUS ILLUMINISMI

THE SEMIANNUAL BULLETIN OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF HISTORY, HERITAGE, AND EDUCATION.

Wing to Wing:

THE STORY OF THE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

BY LARISSA P. WATKINS, LIBRARIAN

Towards the end of the periodicals age of the nineteenth-century, Freemasons experienced a flowering in the field of Masonic information, knowledge, and inspiration. Its variety and depth knew no boundaries, starting from local lodge newsletters and culminating in a deeply respected national publication. At that time, the Supreme Council, 33°, S.J., proved the exception. As it had no periodical yet, the single source of information about the history and progress of the Scottish Rite in the Southern Jurisdiction remained the *Transactions*.

The newly appointed Assistant Librarian for the Library of the House of the Temple, William L. Boyden (pictured), former stenographer to the Grand Commander, decided to close this gap at least partially. Well prepared for this position by self-education and his practice and love of library lore, Brother Boyden, 32°, via *Transactions* of the Supreme Council for 1897, submitted his recommendations regarding the future development of the Library to the Supreme Council. Among them was the following proposal:

[A] bulletin or circular [to] be published annually or biennially, to be known as the Library Bulletin, which shall contain interesting facts as to the progress of the Library, new additions of the books, names of donors, &c., which bulletin shall be sent to the various bodies of the Rite and to prominent libraries, thereby creating a general interest regarding the Library, and which I have no doubt will be instrumental in still further increasing the literature of the Library.

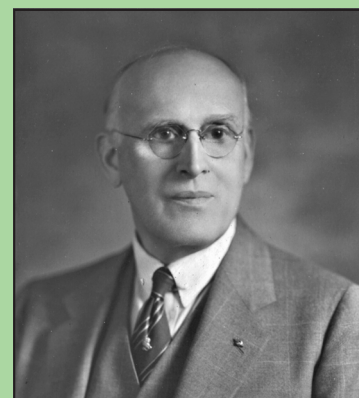
In these words, one can see Br. Boyden's cherished dream to make the Library of the House of the Temple as visible, and as well known, as the Library of the Grand Lodge of Iowa. When Br. Boyden made his proposal, the Grand Lodge of Iowa Library—the best U.S. Masonic library both then

and now—already had an *Occasional Bulletin*, which one year after Br. Boyden's proposal in 1898 became published on a quarterly basis under the more permanent name of the *Quarterly Bulletin of the Iowa Masonic Library*. The Editor of the *Bulletin* was Ill. Theodore S. Parvin, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General for Iowa and Grand Secretary and Librarian of the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

Alas, the leading role the Iowa Masonic Library had assumed and the readiness of Assistant Librarian Boyden to uplift the visibility of the Library of the House of the Temple did not capture the attention of the Supreme Council. During the tenure of William L. Boyden as the Librarian of the Supreme Council, the Library Bulletin was never published, but the seeds were planted, awaiting the right moment to take root, grow, and blossom.

It was not until a century later, in April 1999, that the first issue of the quarterly newsletter of the Library of the Supreme Council, 33°, S.J., saw the light of day, and it was not accidentally that this happened under the watch of Sovereign Grand Commander C. Fred Kleinknecht, 33°.

Since his election by the Supreme Council to the office of Grand Commander, SGC Kleinknecht was looking for the most brilliant Masonic scholars in the country who might work for the Supreme Council and gradually polish its image as an intellectual branch of the philosophical Degrees in Freemasonry. In due course, the Grand Commander's dream was realized as Brothers Dr. S. Brent Morris and Arturo de Hoyos, both well-known nationally and internationally, ultimately joined the staff of the House of the Temple. They brought with them a plethora of ideas, proposals, and recommendations. Indeed, it was Arturo de Hoyos's suggestion to start



William L. Boyden, Assistant Librarian for the
Library of the House of the Temple.
Source: House of the Temple Archives

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Friends Of The Library



A quarterly newsletter for
friends of the Library of the
Supreme Council, 33°

~ THANK YOU! ~

I would like to thank all of the "Friends of the Library" who have helped with the much-needed restoration program at the Supreme Council Library. There are still hundreds of books that need to be restored and with your support the job will get done. The restoration of books is an expensive, slow, precise process. Recently, we have used the Townsend Bindery, which is located in New Market, Virginia. The Townsend Bindery does a fairly good job, but I feel the job could be done better. Our next shipment of books will be sent to Preservation Hall. This company was highly recommended by Bro. Art deHoyos, 32°, K. C. C. H. Since the inception of the "Friends of the Library," we have had 90 books restored. Some of the titles include:

- *Columbian Songster and Freemasons' Pocket Companion*—1798
- *Jachin and Boaz*—1794, 1799, 1802, 1803
- *Hiram or, The Grand Master-Key to the door of both Ancient and Modern Free-Masonry*—1773
- *Illustrations of Masonry* by William Preston—1812
- *Light on Masonry* by David Bernard, 1st ed., 3rd state
- *The Works of Plato* by Thomas Taylor, 5 volumes—1804.

Sincerely,
Joan K. Sansbury

The Laughter Of Children, The Glory Of Words

Joan K. Sansbury, Librarian/Curator
Library of the Supreme Council, 33°

Books and children. Most of us can recall happy hours in childhood spent with books either curled up in a big chair with Alice and the Mad Hatter, or the Hardy Boys, or Tom Sawyer, or listening as some adult read to us and made pictures come alive in our minds. Those books opened new worlds to us and gave us a grounding in our culture.

For many children, now the only book in the home is the telephone directory. No one has time to read to them, and their own

reading skills are undeveloped.

Books do no good if they are not read. Locked away, like the gold of a dragon's hoard, they lose their life and luster.

A library is intended to be a maternity ward, helping to bring new life into being, not a mausoleum for revered interment of the honored dead. That is the goal and driving force behind the Library of the House of the Temple.

To accomplish that goal, the Library of the House of the Temple

(Continued on the following page)



Children sit mesmerized in the George Washington Memorial Banquet Hall at the House of the Temple while listening to the puppeteer tell a story about sharing.

Welcome... Dear "Friends of the Library," Welcome to the second issue of the Friends of the Library newsletter. In this forum we will keep you informed of the various activities and programs of the library, honor patrons, and highlight special items from our collection.

• Vol. 1, No. 2—July 1999 •

more than two decades to mold the intellectual profile of the Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction.

This first issue was distributed to a long list of the first Friends of the Library. Among these august Friends were: the Sovereign Grand Commander; the Supreme Council's Sovereign Grand Inspectors General and Deputies; the Personal Representatives and Secretaries of the Valleys; 33°, Inspectors General Honorary; 32°, Knight Commanders of the Court of Honor; and 32°, Masters of the Royal Secret. All were united in the belief that the Library of the House of the Temple is an essential part of Masonic history, philosophy, and teaching and should be supported accordingly.

The title of the newsletter *Friends of the Library* had a short life span. Its "big brother" *The New Age* changed its own title to *The Scottish Rite Journal* in 1990 and later its size and format. The same happened with the *Friends of the Library* in 2003, as it changed its title to *Amicus Quarterly* and became a colorful companion to the *Scottish Rite Journal*. Along with a new title, the newsletter took on its first editor-in-chief, Heather K. Calloway, who at that time was Coordinator of Library and Museum Services. Also, for the first time, it was announced that *Amicus Quarterly* was published by the Library and Museum of the Supreme Council, 33°, SJ, USA and made available to all members of the Friends of the Library. Heather Calloway's contribution to the appearance and content of the newsletter was significant. Working on her doctoral dissertation, Heather managed to expand the topics and quality of the articles for *Amicus Quarterly*, in order to render it more attractive and appealing for the Friends of the Library. She indeed left behind a stellar track record in the history of the Library and Museum of the Supreme Council. Dr. Heather K. Calloway now serves as Executive Director of University Collections at Indiana University.

the Friends of the Library program and publish a newsletter for it.

Shortly, after some preparations, the Librarian-Curator Joan Kleinknecht and the publication team released its first issue under the same moniker as the program—*Friends of the Library*. The newsletter was intended to be published quarterly for Friends of the Library of the Supreme Council, 33°, and inform them "of the various activities and programs of the library, honor patrons, and highlight special items from the collection." The first issue featured Dr. S. Brent Morris and his discovery of the *Post-Boy*, printed in 1723 the earliest Masonic "expose." This issue also featured Arturo de Hoyos, who was named as Grand Archivist and Grand Historian of the Supreme Council by Grand Commander C. Fred Kleinknecht, 33°, in February 1999. At that time, no one envisioned that these two Brothers would work together for

Along with Heather's name, that of Ill. Dean Alban, 33°, Director of Information Systems, appeared among the members of the staff of the House of the Temple who were involved in the preparation of the newsletter. Dean was engaged in many projects, but the most important of all was the creation of the website for the Library and Museum. According to Dean, this step helped to "establish the tremendous growth of our web presence." Within a few years, Dean along with Heather Calloway and Elizabeth McCarthy would help the Library to email a digital newsletter to the Scottish Rite Brothers in our Jurisdiction and maintain back issues starting from winter 2011-2012 on the Scottish Rite, SJ's website.

At this juncture, it is worth noting that *Amicus* had a high profile in four installments in the *Scottish Rite Journal* from 2007 - 2009. The *Journal's* January/February 2009 issue, for instance, presented a page called *Amicus: A*

Friends of the Library, July 1999. The issue contained a look at a rare 1701 illustrated book then in the Library's collection: *The Most Delectable History of Reynard the Fox*. "Reynard," the article tells us, "was condemned in abstentia by a council of animals for his crimes."

Amicus Quarterly

A NEWSLETTER BY THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°, S.J., U.S.A.
www.srmason-sj.org/amicus.htm

SUMMER/FALL 2003 | Volume 5, No. 1

June 1928 15 Cents

The New York MASONIC OUTLOOK

147th ANNUAL COMMUNICATION GRAND LODGE of NEW YORK

In This Issue

- Albert Pike Museum Update
- Periodical Information
- Uncovered in the Archives

Amicus Quarterly, Summer/Fall 2003. The lead article explained how great Masonic periodicals of the past were being made available for research.

Report for *Friends of the Library*, which featured the Library's extensive Robert Burns Collection, the Albert Pike Collection, and *String of Pearls—A Daybook*, a collection of Albert Pike quotes compiled by Larissa P. Watkins. This special run of Amicus in its "big brother" the *Scottish Rite Journal* also included a "Children's Hour" report. The "Children's Hour," a monthly Saturday community-outreach program for children sponsored by the library, would continue for several years to come as a regular update in both the *Amicus* newsletter and in the *Scottish Rite Journal*.

The next transformation with the title and format of the library newsletter happened in the middle of the term of the Sovereign Grand Commander Ronald A. Seale, 33°. The issue of the newsletter for winter 2011-2012, started with a new numeration (Vol. I, No. 1) and designated an appearance of *Amicus Librarium* dominated by two members on the Editorial Board—Ronald A. Seale, Sovereign Grand Commander, and Joan Kleinknecht, Librarian. Joan greeted the readers of the newsletter with a personal approach in her announcement: "Hello, Friends of the Library! *Amicus Quarterly* is back with a new name and different format. With a nod to 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 e-mail, so you can be added to the list to receive the next quarterly newsletter e-mail."

Six issues of the newsletter were run without an editor named and consisted of two pages of the short miscellaneous information. The name of the Editor of *Amicus Librarium* for the first time appeared in the Editorial Board in Vol. 2, No. 3, for Fall 2013. The Editor was Ill. S. Brent Morris, 33°, GC. Since that time, the newsletter ran smoothly as a quarterly until the end of 2016, then

gradually became an occasional newsletter, not unlike the *Occasional Bulletin of the Iowa Masonic Library of the 1890s*, but nonetheless with the enthusiastic support of the staff of the *Scottish Rite Journal*, such as the current Managing Editor of the *Scottish Rite Journal*, Mark Dreisonstok, 32°, KCCH. Several of the *Amicus Librarium* articles from this period would appear in the *Journal*.

The last issue of *Amicus Librarium* appeared in Fall 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic, the change to a new librarian, and the reorganization of the structure of some departments of the House of the Temple (including the Department of History, Heritage, and Education, which embraced the Archive, Library, and Museum) obliged *Amicus Librarium* in its 2010's incarnation to "demit."

In Spring 2021, the proposal to reinstate the former Library newsletter under a new name and auspices was submitted to Sovereign Grand Commander James D. Cole, 33°. The Grand Commander approved the new vision and offered some fine recommendations for efficient management of the periodical. Some contemplation, negotiations, and reorganization took place, and here we are—you are reading *Amicus Illuminism*, a follow-up to *Friends of the Library*, *Amicus Quarterly*, and *Amicus Librarium* and a worthy descendant of Assistant Librarian William L. Boyden's 1897 dream for a periodical to promote the interests, collections, and literature of the House of the Temple Library. We cherish high hopes and wishes for our rejuvenated newsletter to win the hearts of the Scottish Rite brethren across our Jurisdiction and beyond!

Vol. 2, No. 1 Winter 2013

☐ Forward to a Friend

Amicus Librarium Brings in Book Donations and Adopt-A-Book Sponsors

Since the last issue of *Amicus Librarium*, the Library of the Supreme Council, 33°, has received some notable book donations:

Mr. George O. Siekkinen, Jr., has donated two beautifully bound books (pictured right) written by Jeremy Ladd Cross, the first American author to compile such an illustrated monitor in 1819. These are *The Templars' Chart, or Hieroglyphic Monitor* (1854) and *The True Masonic Chart, or Hieroglyphic Monitor* (1855).

Bro. Robert B. Mohny, 32°, KCCH, has donated *Freemasonry Its Symbolism, Religious Nature, and Law of Perfection* (1873) by Brother Chalmers I. Paton.

We constantly are working to expand the Library's Masonic Collection, and these donations are both welcome additions to the Library and invaluable resources for its researchers. Thank you, gentlemen!

Editorial Board:
Ronald A. Seale, 33°
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

Amicus Librarium, Winter 2013. Topics covered included still relevant concerns such as book donations and Adopt-a-Book sponsors.

GÖTZ AND ADELHEID:

MORE LITERARY GEMS FROM THE HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE'S GOETHE COLLECTION

BY MARK DREISONSTOK, 32°, KCCH

In both the September/October 2021 *Scottish Rite Journal* and May 2019 *Arminius Bulletin*, we wrote of the House of the Temple's Goethe Collection. In those pieces, we focused on illustrations to *Faust*, Goethe's two-part *magnum opus*. Here we would like to explore another gem in the House of the Temple's Goethe Collection.

The Goethe Collection, an impressive assemblage of books focusing on the writings of Br. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (Amalia Lodge at Weimar), was donated to the House of the Temple Library in 1935 by Carl H. Claudy (Grand Master, Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, 1943). Freemasonry influenced several of Goethe's works, including his poem "Symbolum" and his novel *Elective Affinities*. Here, however, our attention is drawn to the ethics of Goethe's non-Masonic play *Götz von Berlichingen* (1773).

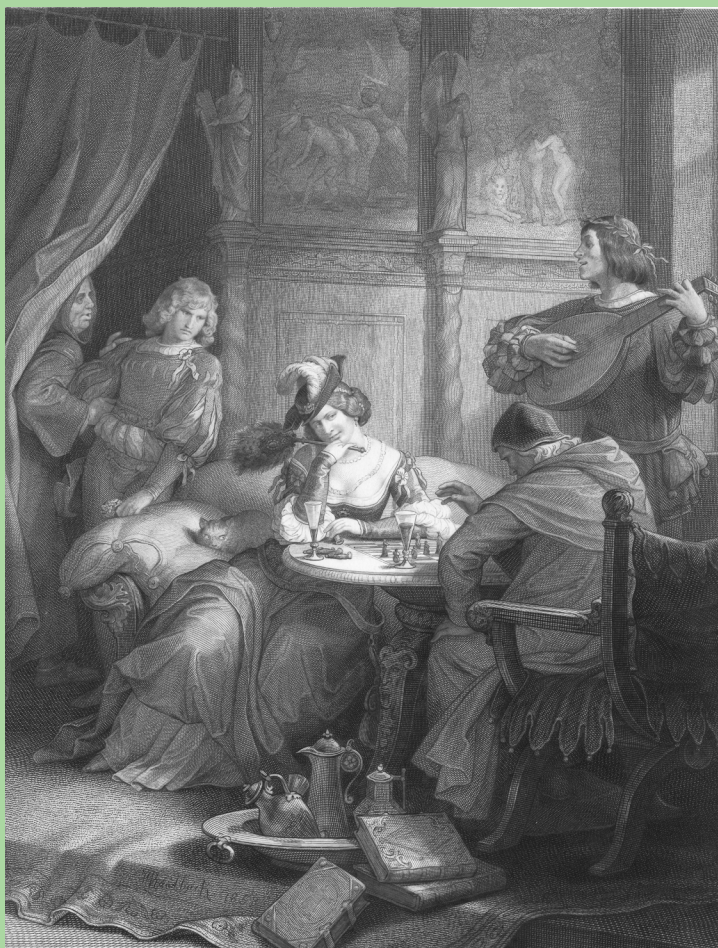
This drama relates a romanticized version of the life of a real adventurer, poet, and legendary leader from German history. Goethe's presentation of the hero Götz von Berlichingen is so compelling that Freemason Sir Walter Scott penned a free-style translation of the play, attesting to his high regard for the work. In his preface to his translation, Br. Scott describes Götz as "a zealous champion for the privileges of the free knights" and a personage of "high reputation for gallantry and generosity." These are fine words of praise indeed from the author known the world over for the chivalric romance *Ivanhoe*!

Now we come to a unique moral illustration from *Götz von Berlichingen*, which stems from an exceedingly rare book in the House of the Temple's Goethe Collection, *Female Characters of Goethe from the Original Drawings of William Kaulbach*, by G.H. Lewes (New York: Stroefor and Kirchner). This book is an English translation of an 1867 German edition, with the addition of Lewes's explanatory text. The drawing by William Kaulbach (anglicized from Wilhelm von Kaulbach) depicts the Bishop of Bamberg drinking wine while playing a game of chess with the flirtatious noblewoman Adelheid von Walldorf. These two are surrounded by a musician playing a lute, two persons watching the chess game from the left, and a cat who is watching carefully, suspecting (accurately) that Adelheid may not be trustworthy.

Lewes points out that Adelheid, in contrast to Goethe's many positive female characters in his plays, is "voluptuous and unscrupulous" (p. 13). While the primary focus of the picture is clearly on the luminous Adelheid, much subtle commentary lies in the darker areas of the illustration. Lewes points out that the Bishop's Bible has been tossed disrespectfully beside him on the floor among used silver tea kettles and that the bishop has only just started drinking his wine, while "Adelheid has nearly emptied her's [sic]" (p. 14). Other elements throughout the image suggest the Bishop's dereliction

of his station, including a devilish face carved in the table leg below him, figurines atop pedestals with Moses carrying the tablet of commandments of moral laws on the left pedestal, and an angel weeping on the pedestal to the right. There are also wall paintings of Adam and Eve in the state of Paradise before giving in to Sin—a snake-like human surrounding the tree of knowledge—and then an angel driving out Adam, Eve, and the Tempter after the Fall. Perhaps the Bishop is losing not only at a game of chess but also in a competition between good and evil.

Götz von Berlichingen, along with this fabulous illustration of Adelheid and the bishop, are two more examples of the many artistic and literary gems rich in moral symbolism to be explored in the Goethe Collection, the House of the Temple Library's "library-within-a-library!"



Adelheid, an illustration from the Goethe Collection's rare *Female Characters of Goethe* at the House of the Temple Library.

A NEW CHAPTER:

LIBRARY DISPLAYS RECEIVE AN UPDATE

BY MAX CLOSE, LIBRARY INTERN

The curatorial staff is pleased to announce, in tandem with the librarians, the introduction of new exhibits in the "stacks" section of the House of the Temple Library. Developed during the summer of 2021, the new displays breathe fresh life into the long-running exhibits. Fitting with

their location, the new focus has been shifted to the Library's collections as well as texts central to Scottish Rite Freemasonry and the Southern Jurisdiction.

A blend of artifacts and works on paper offer the visitor an experience that combines both past and present: the Bible used at George Wash-

ington's funeral lies prominently alongside vintage copies of *Morals and Dogma*; the original handwritten catalog for Albert Pike's personal library (this 200-year-old volume still is consulted by Templelibrarians with regard to the collection) lies nearby a retrospective on *The New Age/Scottish Rite Journal*, showing the evolution of the Southern Jurisdiction's main periodical establish in 1904.



The intention of the new exhibits is to weave a tapestry which pulls together several threads: the written works of Freemasons and those from the Rite itself, information on the House of the Temple (constructed from 1911—1915 by John Russell Pope with its magnificent Library), and the historical texts in the Library's holdings in a multi-part narrative.

Despite the new additions, not everything has received a “makeover:” the Library still proudly displays collector's edition reproductions of Vatican Library texts, artwork, and artifacts on American and global Masonry. Now reopened following the pandemic, the Library is eager to welcome visitors and researchers.

Images of new and holdover exhibit cases featuring (clockwise from top left) Masonic Constitutions printed by Benjamin Franklin and letters from Frederick the Great, Vatican Library reproductions of *Processus Contra Templarios*, and more-recent Masonic texts, including *A Bridge to Light* and *Cornerstones of Freedom*.



OUR TANGIBLE LINK WITH THE PAST – OUR PRICELESS GIFT TO THE FUTURE

BY ARTURO DE HOYOS, 33°, GC, GRAND ARCHIVIST AND GRAND HISTORIAN

INTRODUCTION

In 2012-13, the Department of History, Heritage, and Education was created with Ill. Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, G.C.—author of the following article—as its director. This new department brings together the education-based aspects of the fraternity—the Archives, Library, Museum, Master Craftsman Program, and the Scottish Rite Research Society. The tactical advantage of doing so optimizes the synergy among them and assists in achieving the common goal of providing increased support for membership.

—Larissa P. Watkins, Librarian

It might surprise some to learn just how fortunate we are to know as much as we do about our Supreme Council's journey. During the Scottish Rite's first quarter-century, a series of misfortunes seemed to conspire to deprive us of our history, our rituals, and perhaps our existence. Soon after the death of our First Grand Commander John Mitchell in 1816, a representative of the irregular Cerneau bodies removed “two large trunks full” of Mitchell's Masonic papers from his home; they were never recovered. Next, the Charleston fire of July 6, 1819, destroyed a large portion of our Archives, including an early copy of the *Secret Constitutions of the 33d*. In 1821, following the death of Supreme Council member Emanuel De La Motta, several of his Masonic papers were somehow scattered about Charleston, and it is believed that when Frederick Dalco retired the Grand Commandership in 1822, he retained several papers belonging to the Council.



At one time, Pike lamented that the Supreme Council's Archives were haphazardly stored in a few boxes. How surprised he would be to see our present collection. The items in the Archives are our most valuable collections of records. In many regards, they are comparable (as far as the Scottish Rite is concerned) to the documents in the National Archives and Smithsonian Museums. Our Scottish Rite Archives now comprise some three-million items contained within two main areas. The first area is known as the General Archives. This is the area where the many file boxes with the official correspondence of the Supreme Council's officers are kept, along with Orient reports

This trend fortunately reversed itself, and many missing items were restored. Joseph M'Cosh was able to recover the missing De La Motta papers, and, in 1821, he became a member of the Supreme Council. During the dark days of the 1820s and 1830s, when the bigotry and fanaticism of anti-Masonry prevailed, Grand Commander Dr. Moses Holbrook worked with J. J. J. Gourgass of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction to secure copies of many, if not most, of our missing documents. The Archives soon passed under the control of Dr. Albert G. Mackey, who, as Grand Secretary General, also acted as our unofficial Archivist and Historian.

Addressing the Supreme Council on March 29, 1860, Albert Pike stated that, with Mackey's help, he personally had made a thorough examination of the Registers, Letters, and other documents in our Archives. Pike's steps resulted in the formation of our current Archives. Although some records were lost about the time of the Civil War, the Supreme Council continued to add to and improve its handling and preservation of this valuable collection.

and files relative to the many Supreme Councils worldwide. Shelves line the walls, and these are filled from floor to ceiling. There are also several large fireproof filing cabinets in this room which contain the correspondence of early Scottish Rite leaders, including Frederick Dalcho, Moses Holbrook, J.J.J. Gourgass, and others, as well as the voluminous Masonic letters of Albert Pike and those with whom he corresponded. The second main area is a large bank-style Archives Vault, where we store and preserve our rituals and ritual-related documents, whether manuscript or printed.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, I, as Grand Archivist and Grand Historian, contacted every Supreme Council worldwide with whom we are in amity and solicited copies of rituals and other valuable documents we did not possess. A generous response added dozens of items to our collection. I was also able to recover several copies of Pike's rituals, which somehow escaped our control and were being offered for public sale over the internet. Finally, I contributed copies of several hundred documents, including scores of early rituals, from my own extensive personal collection. I continue to add scores of documents to our ritual collection, which is one of the best in the Masonic world.

The preservation and conservation of our most valuable and rare documents is the primary purpose of the Archives. Unlike a library, the Archives are not generally open to the public. The Archives are the repository of the official records of the Scottish Rite. They house the original documents dealing with our founding, rituals, and current domestic and international affairs. Many of the items in our collection are one- to two-hundred years old and require special handling, treatment, and storage. To ensure preservation, only limited access to the Archives is permitted.

All on-going changes and improvements are intended to ensure that the Supreme Council's Archives not only remain intact, but also grow. Our hope is to pass on our precious Masonic heritage by our actions, our charities, and our rituals to posterity. By being faithful custodians of the rich history preserved in our Archives, we form a tangible link with the past and offer a priceless gift to the future.



One of the many rare books in the Archives is *Formulas and Rituals*, transcribed by Albert Pike in 1854 and 1856. It contains the Scottish Rite rituals as Pike received them from Albert G. Mackey.

Museum Spotlight:

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE MASONIC APRON

BY B. CHRIS RULI, 32°, K.C.C.H., HISTORIAN AND ARCHIVIST, SCOTTISH RITE VALLEY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTRODUCTION

Over the last 106 years, the collections at the House of the Temple have amassed an overflowing number of books and pamphlets, once only able to be seen by patrons in our library. Thanks to an ongoing scanning and digitization project, members will soon be able to access Masonic texts more than ever before through an online catalog. Br. B. Chris Ruli, 32°, KCCH, came across a pamphlet by Isaac P. Noyes, a name he recognized as a fellow member of the Valley of Washington, D.C. This article, written about this intriguing pamphlet, is a testament to the continuation of Masonic education and scholarship that will come of projects such as these.

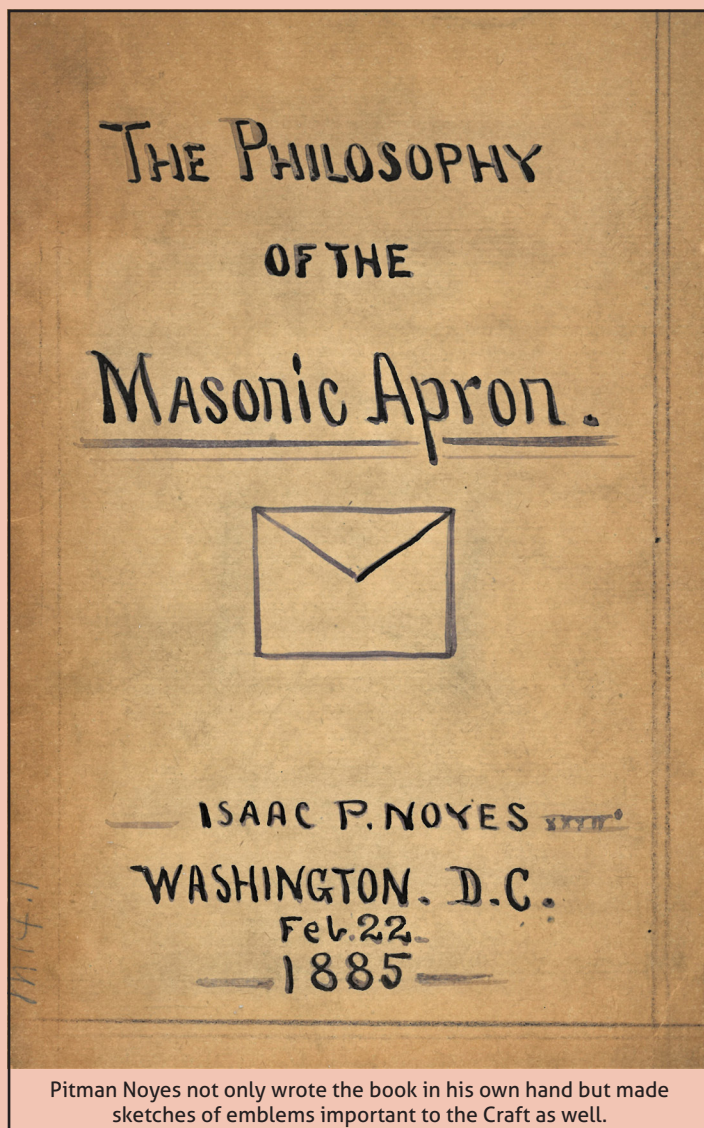
—Olivia Curcio, House of the Temple Museum Curator

On March 20, 1885, Isaac Pitman Noyes, 32°, a member of the Valley of Washington, D.C., presented Grand Commander Albert Pike, 33°, with a special handmade gift. The item is a small pamphlet entitled *The Philosophy of the Masonic Apron* and contains Noyes's handwritten remarks on ancient Craft Masonry and symbology. This special relic provides an interesting perspective on the author, his beliefs, and his relationship with one of the Supreme Council's most famous Grand Commanders. Following Pike's death in 1891, the gift was transferred to the House of the Temple's Museum and archives for preservation and can now be exhibited in its Library.

Born in New York City on April 13, 1840, Noyes spent his early life in Providence, Rhode Island. He later attended Brown University with a study focus on architecture. He secured a clerkship through the U.S. Surgeon General's office in Washington, D.C., in 1870. He would remain with the office until his retirement in 1908.¹ While in Washington, Noyes became interested in Freemasonry and joined Harmony Lodge No. 17 in October 1876. He received his Master Mason degree three months later on January 11, 1877, and subsequently submitted his petition for the Scottish Rite degrees through the Valley of Washington the same year. He completed the degree process, attaining the 4° through 32° in 1879.²

Aside from his professional and Masonic pursuits, Noyes published an impressive number of books, pamphlets, speeches, and poems on an astonishing variety of topics including: *How to be Weatherwise* (1882), *Suggestions for Constructing Fire-Proof Buildings* (1882), *The Army Medical School* (1897), *The Peruvian Mummy* (1898), *The War of the Union, 1861-1865: Facts vs. the Misrepresentations and Boastful Claims of the South* (1902),³ *Trust: Spiritually, Financially and Politically* (1906), and *Ode to Celestial Spirits* (1907).⁴

In *The Philosophy of the Masonic Apron*, his first work on Freemasonry (according to Supreme Council records), Noyes ruminates on the nature of change and the language of symbolism. "One of the most prominent features of Masonry," he writes, "is its language or symbolism [...] We often hear it said that symbols are mere arbitrary signs—very true. But what is our language, the languages we speak and write everyday, but a combination of arbitrary signs?" He wrote the pamphlet on February 22,



Pitman Noyes not only wrote the book in his own hand but made sketches of emblems important to the Craft as well.

1885, and it is of interest that this notion about the arbitrary nature of signs in language bears a strong resemblance to that of the foundational Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure decades later in the early twentieth century.⁵

While the title suggests a focus on the Masonic apron, Noyes's work is quite broad in scope, as he examines how our ancient predecessors understood the world and their surroundings, the significance of certain signs (including the square and circle), and the evolution or cultivation of certain symbols.

At times, Noyes's remarks appear contradictory. He refers to the "great wisdom" of ancient brethren who advanced science and "works of nature" into the lodge room but hesitates to support further changes. In fact, Noyes suggests candidates return to ancient customs which may have been lost in contemporary times:

In place of the present practice, I would respectfully suggest that...we return to the spirit of the time philosophy of the craft; and not hold to mere present usage, for that may not have always been. Of course, we desire to preserve the ancient order of

our symbols and work, but the mere long usage of a thing does not move its antiquity, for the very manner in which it is done may be proof against it. The antiquity of the spirit is greater and far more important than any mere long usage continued in the present.

Towards the pamphlet's second half, Noyes weaves lessons inculcated through the Masonic degrees while commenting on contemporary attempts to innovate the Craft. Noyes completes the gift by attaching a small envelope on the pamphlet's back fold. "Within this envelope," he writes, "is a miniature apron and two triangles to illustrate the subject."

Noyes would remain Pike's close confidant throughout the Grand Commander's life and, on several occasions, join him during official Masonic visitations. A year before presenting this gift to Pike, in October 1884, the Supreme Council invested him with the Knight Commander of the Court of Honour. His official Scottish Rite record at the House of the Temple includes a rather remarkable note, which speaks to his close bond with Pike: "Attended General Albert Pike during his last sickness and was present at his deathbed when he died." About a year after Pike's death, Noyes was coroneted a 33°, Inspector General Honorary. He remained an active member in the Valley of Washington until his death on September 20, 1910.⁶ As is clear from this brief overview, Noyes' *Philosophy of the Masonic Apron* is deserving of much more scholarly attention.

ENDNOTES

1. *Genealogical Record of some of the Noyes Descendants of James, Nicholas, and Peter Noyes*. Boston: F.A.A.M., Archives and Transactions of the Supreme Council, 33°, 1904.
2. *Proceedings*. rand Lodge of the District of Columbia F.A.A.M.: Archives and Transactions of the Supreme Council, 33°, 1911. P. 316.
3. "Isaac Pitman Noyes," Records of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, SJ.
4. Harris Broadside Collection, Brown University Digital Repository. https://repository.library.brown.edu/studio/collections/id_618/?per_page=100&selected_facets=mods_role_creator_ssim%3ANoyes%2C+Isaac+Pitman
5. Ferdinand de Saussure, *Cours de linguistique générale*. Lausanne/Paris: Payot, 1916.
6. Issac Pitman Noyes, *Records of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, SJ*.

A SECOND "SPHINX" IN THE NEW AGE: MARCH 1922

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Primary construction of the House of the Temple began in 1911 and was completed in 1915. The main entrance is guarded by a pair of sphinxes, one with eyes closed, representing the power of introspection, and one with eyes open, symbolizing the power of observation and watchfulness.

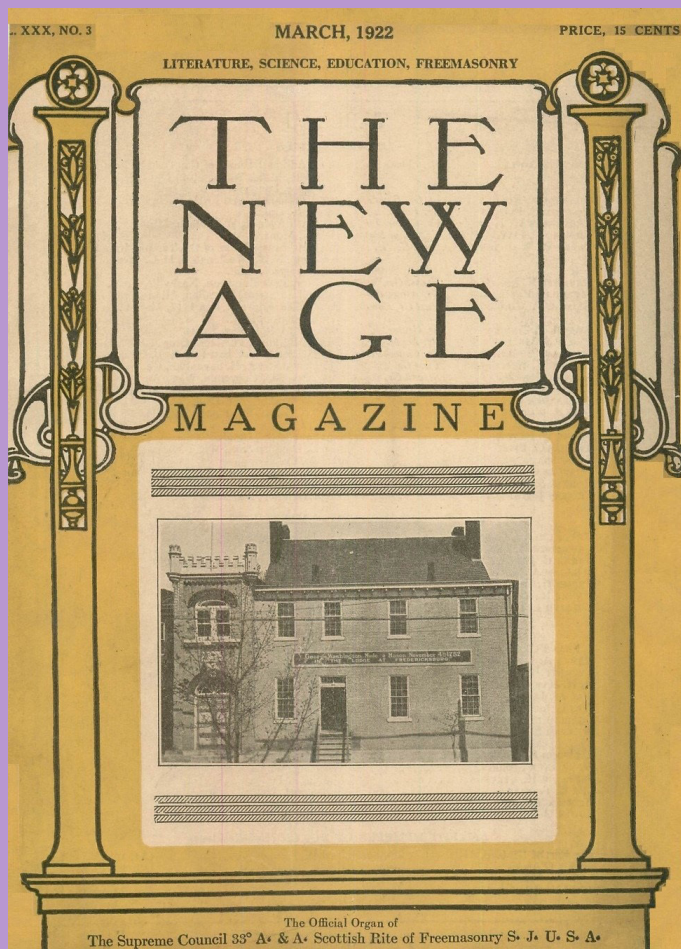
In the last issue of *Amicus*, we discussed Br. Clarence H. Urner's poem, "The Sphinx," which appeared in the November 1904 *New Age Magazine* (today known as the *Scottish Rite Journal*); we hinted that the vision of the sphinx described aligns well with the introspective sphinx, especially given that at the time the poem was written, the sphinxes guarding the House of the Temple had not yet come into physical existence! For symmetry, we now turn to a second poem, by F. W. Dibble and similarly called "The Sphinx," which appeared in the March 1922 edition of *The New Age Magazine*. This poem might be seen as a parallel to the second, watchful, sphinx



The sphinx with open eyes in front of the House of the Temple, representing power and watchfulness.
(Photography: Mark Dreisonstok).

that at the time of the second poem's publication had been guarding the temple for roughly a decade.

While Br. Urner's poem dwelt entirely on the Sphinx in the ancient Egyptian world, this one by F.W. Dibble only begins in such a manner:



The *New Age* cover from March 1922 in which "The Sphinx" by F. W. Dibble appeared had on its cover Fredericksburg Lodge, Fredericksburg, Virginia, which the magazine notes is the Lodge "where [George] Washington took his Masonic degrees. The building is the same, has been continuously in use, and is still sufficient for the purpose of Masonry in that locality." *New Age* covers of this period featured noteworthy Masonic buildings in the US and its overseas territories.

The Egyptian stands with dreamy look

Gazing 'cross centuries past, so still to come,

Peering into the future. In those eyes

What seest thou? O Sphinx, what secret lies

Deep hidden from our little course of years

Threescore and ten? Thine eyes have looked upon

Millenia, as human minds revolve

The seven decades of Existence's round . . .

The poet then exclaims: "Tell me, O deep, mysterious Sphinx, life's truths . . ." The author then opines that these truths include being spiritually aware in order to seek out the divine meaning of life:

I see in all a longing as for that

Too splendid for the world to give — a God

Of power, wisdom, love and holiness —

Of justice stern, demanding settlement

For all the sins of life, and yet withal

Offering a pardon and forgiveness free.

The poem ends on the note that

The mystery of Life cannot be solved

By human heart and mind . . .

Have faith in God; go forth through Life to find

Beyond thy life its hidden mysteries

Unraveled by the heart and mind of God.

Whereas the sphinx of the 1904 poem seemed to reflect inwardly, pondering the mysteries of the past, the sphinx of the 1922 poem saw truth in terms of witnessing, and witnessing to, divine revelation and divine mercy. So may it be for all of us, as the spirit of Masonry guides us towards the ultimate by way of each path: through inward contemplation and inward faith, but also through the enlightenment brought through revealed scriptures and the divine patterns embedded within the natural world. Similarly, with the eyes of both Faith and of Reason, we celebrate the revised title of this publication—*Amicus Illuminismi*, or *Friend of the Enlightenment!*

IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING TO BUY
BOOKS IF ONE COULD ALSO BUY THE
TIME TO READ THEM; BUT ONE USUALLY
CONFUSES THE PURCHASE OF BOOKS WITH
THE ACQUISITION OF THEIR CONTENTS.

—Arthur Schopenhauer, "On Reading and Books" (Mrs. Rudolf Dircks, trans.)

