



The North Carolina Mason

Official Publication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina

VOL CXVII — NO. 6

Oxford, North Carolina

November/December, 1992

R & D Seminars Headed Your Way

The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Research and Development will hold the Grand Lodge Seminars again this year. These seminars are an important vehicle in achieving an open line of communications to members of the blue lodges in North Carolina. The Committee would like to extend an open invitation to have as many brethren as possible to attend these most informative meetings. It is not only for the officers, but for all brethren who are interested in the future development of our craft. A lot of planning has gone into these meetings by the Research and Development Committee to make them as enjoyable and informative as possible. For your convenience, the meetings will be conducted in sixteen locations across the state on the following dates:

January 16, 1993
North Wilkesboro 407
Franklin — Junaluskee 145
Goldsboro — Wayne 112
Charlotte Scottish Rite Temple

January 30, 1993
Asheville Scottish Rite Temple
Burgaw — King Solomon 138
Edenton — Unanimity 7
Enfield Lodge 447

January 23, 1993
Winston-Salem Temple
Forest City 381
Albemarle — Stanly 348
Spruce Pines — Vesper 554

February 6, 1993
Hickory Lodge 343
Durham — Eno 210
New Bern — St. John's 3
Fayetteville — Phoenix 8

The topics being discussed this year are: (1) Grand Lodge — Blue Lodge Relationship, (2) Budget, (3) Organization and Leadership, and (4) Charity.

"The Grand Lodge — Blue Lodge Relationship" will discuss the structure of the relationship between the Grand Lodge and Blue Lodges, the exercise of the power of blue lodges at Grand Lodge, the Code, Constitution, and Regulations.

"The Budget" will provide information for blue lodges concerning budgetary processes, managing your money, cash flow analysis, setting budget goals, allocating resources, and how to set up a system of receipts and disbursements.

"Organization and Leadership" will discuss the qualities needed for approaching masters, and how to establish goals and execute plans during their year as master. Planning, organization, staffing, development, record keeping, and budgeting will be discussed.

The "Masonic Charity" program will discuss our Masonic obligations, local lodge support in the community, time/talent participation, current lodge programs, a breakdown of the current charities, and contrast of expenses/budget.

The meetings will last approximately four hours. Each topic will have an interesting speaker to deliver the program which will last approximately twenty minutes, with a fifteen minute question-and-answer session following. The meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 1:00 p.m., with a fifteen minute break in between. Ninety minutes will be devoted to Grand Lodge business. In the past, the hosts for these meetings have produced some excellent refreshments. We are sure this tradition will continue for this year's seminars.

The Committee is requesting all district officers in the state to promote these seminars in their respective districts and lodges. Communication is the vital key to all worthwhile projects. These programs are essential to the future development of our craft, and the dissolution of the "We/They" syndrome.

— The Committee on Masonic Research and Development.

The Better Read Mason

A New Source of Masonic Writings

They just don't publish a lot of books about Masonry. Ask any new Mason.

There he is, hungry to know more about the Craft, searching for more and more light. He's urged to talk with other Masons to gain knowledge. But, he's already spent a lot of time out of the house studying his catechisms and needs to get to know his family again. Where can he find something to peruse while he's at home?

They just don't publish a lot of books about Masonry. Ask any Masonic scholar.

He's visited the local collections of Masonic works. He's gotten lucky and stumbled across a volume or two at yard sales and used book shops. Mostly, he's seen the same old tomes in many different editions. He's seen references to obscure works, but they're hard to impossible to find. What can he do to gain access to these rare volumes other than traveling across the country?

A new answer has recently entered the picture.

Kessinger Publishing Company in Montana is now printing facsimile editions of classic Masonic works. Founded by Roger A. Kessinger, member of York Rite, Scottish Rite, and Shrine, the company specializes in reprinting rare and out-of-print titles.

They've got dozens of interesting books to choose from. In addition to Masonry, the available topics include alchemy, Hermeticism, religion, metaphysics, mysticism, theosophy, and other subjects. In the past few months we've looked over a few of the many available titles.

We'll briefly examine these volumes. More importantly, we'll talk about this new source of study material.

Albert Pike, A Biography is a 1928 life history of that Masonic champion by Fred W. Allsopp. This account begins when, at age 22, Pike left Harvard because he was unable to come up with the necessary two years' tuition. His

life is then followed through his adventures in the American west to his settling in Arkansas and his later military career in the Mexican War and as a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army. Many of the details of his Masonic life are included along with the complete texts of several speeches.

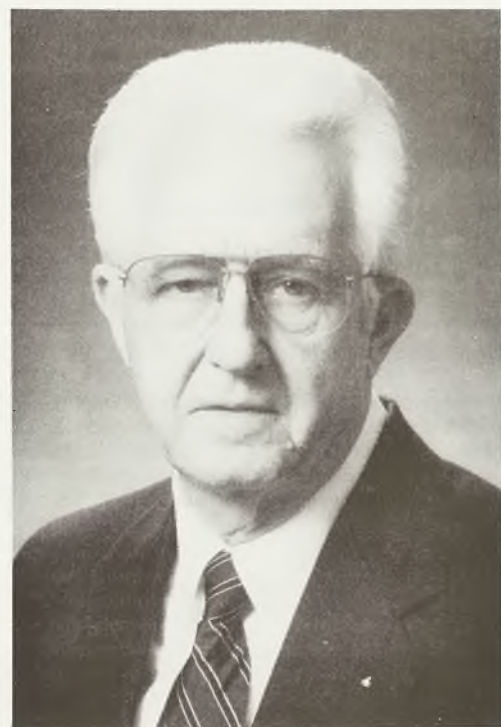
A list of his descendants is included. A son, Albert Pike II, and several of his grandchildren lived in Tarboro, NC at the time the book was written.

The Book of the Words by Albert Pike was once limited to 100 copies. By examining the meanings and origins of the words used in our ritual, Pike hoped to lend more meaning, through deepened symbolism, to the work.

For the philologist or academic there is much "meat." For the average Mason its interest may now be limited. Its frequent usage of Latin language and Hebrew and other alphabets makes the going tedious at times. There are still many thoughts and facts worth the search.

Lecture on Masonic Symbolism is another "very rare" volume by Pike. Also limited to 100 copies in its first

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A Message From the Grand Master Hiram Abif Lives

I use this space each month to bring to your attention topics that I think are important to Freemasonry. That fact has not changed this month, but the author has.

When we hosted the Southeast Masonic Conference in August, Past Grand Master I. Boyd Hopkins delivered the keynote address. That body of distinguished Masons from around our region were so moved by that speech that they offered one of their two standing ovations of the conference. I felt that speech was important enough to bring it to you in this space.

Before I offer the floor to Brother Hopkins, I want to take this opportunity to offer each of you my prayers and wishes for the best of all possible holidays. May this season bring you as many blessings as this time as your grand master has brought me.

Ray Norris
Grand Master

The following is the talk presented on August 7, 1992 by I. Boyd Hopkins, 1984 Grand Master of North Carolina. It was the keynote address for the Southeastern Masonic Conference. In it Brother Hopkins expressed his own feelings about each of the topics to be presented at the meeting.

"Hiram Abif Lives"

Freemasonry is a beautiful story, a beautiful system of morality, a beautiful way of life that gives meaning to life.

Every good story includes a hero and a villain. That the story is mythical, mystical, legendary, or true hardly matters. What matters is the lesson it teaches, the meaning it has for those who hear it or read it or experience it. The question is, "Are we a better person because of the story?" Who the hero or the villain is not important. The importance lies in these questions: what was the motivating energy of the hero, and what was the inner conflict of the villain that created his dilemma?

In the beautiful story of Freemasonry, Hiram Abif is the hero. A man of unusual talent and expertise, of sterling character and courage. Having drawn designs on the trestle-board, he summoned the craft, gave them proper instructions, and set them to work. With a beehive of activity underway, he retired to the sanctum sanctorum, or Holy of Holies, where he offered his devotions to Deity, giving thanks for harmony among the workers and for construction of a magnificent temple. Then tragedy struck. At the

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You're Never Too Old for a Little Courting

Call it spreading a little sunshine, if you like. Think of it as looking for conversation, if you will. The truth of the matter is that Masonic and Eastern Star Home resident Bill Eaton heads over to the Care Center every afternoon to do a little courting. The young lady who was the object of his attentions the afternoon this photo was taken didn't wish to reveal her identity. Another suitor perhaps? Tune in next...