

*The Freemasons A History Of Worlds Most Powerful Secret Society Jasper Ridley*

**Robert Langdon, while at the U.S. Capital Building, finds an object encoded with five symbols, which is an ancient invitation to usher its recipient into a long-lost world of esoteric wisdom. When Langdon's belived mentor, Peter Solomon, is kidnapped, he realizes his only hope of saving Peter is to accept this mystical invitation and follow wherever it leads him. Langdon is instantly plunged into a clandestine world of Masonic secrets, hidden history, and never-before-seen locations - all of which seem to be dragging him toward a single, inconceivable truth. This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1898 edition. Excerpt: ... CHAPTER XXI THE SECRETS OF THE MEDIEVAL MASONS IHAT the Stonemasons of the Middle Ages had in their possession certain very important secrets, which they religiously abstained from communicating to any other Masons who were not of the fraternity, is a fact of which there cannot be a doubt. But to discover what these secrets were is a task that has puzzled the brains of more than one investigator. We have seen that there were passwords, signs, and other methods of recognition which were established to enable the members of the Craft to make themselves known in strange places and to strange brethren, and which were simply matters of convenience forming the part of a system not peculiar to the Masons, but which has, in all ages, been practiced by every association of men who desired to preserve an exclusive organization. But these modes of recognition did not constitute the secrets of the Freemasons, which bound them together as a united sodality having in every country the same aims and objects. Such secrets were of far more value and importance than any arbitrary code of signals adopted as a means of communication and mutual recognition. The evidence is very patent, in all the old Constitutions and Regulations, that the Freemasons were in possession of secrets which the members of the fraternity were strictly forbidden to communicate to outsiders. Thus the Strasburg Constitution forbid any Master or Fellow Craft to instruct anyone who is not of the Craft in any part belong-ing to Masonry. There was in the lodge a certain book which was kept by the Master under an oath that he would permit no part of it to be copied. It is evident that this book must have contained something besides the Statutes, because a book of mere regulations would...**

**This book separates myth from truth and describes the development of the society from its origins amongst the masons working upon the great cathedrals of the Middle Ages.**

**A history of the Freemasons from the Knights Templar to America’s founding fathers, by the authors of the international bestseller Holy Blood, Holy Grail. In The Temple and the Lodge, Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh reveal the survival and evolution of a world-changing order through the birth of the Masonic lodge. Recounting the brutal events in the fourteenth century that led to the sudden disappearance of the Knights Templar—a powerful military and banking order founded in 1119 and active in the Crusades—the authors document the Templars’ reappearance in the court of excommunicate Scottish king Robert the Bruce. Tracing the survival of certain Templar traditions in the birth of the Masonic lodge, they chart the history of Freemasonry from its medieval roots into the modern era, and from Europe to colonial America and the young United States. Baigent and Leigh marshal the evidence that the order’s contribution to fostering tolerance, progressive values, and cohesion in English society helped preempt a French-style revolution in England. Freemasonry was an essential keystone in the formation of the United States, and the authors argue that America itself is an embodiment of the ideal “Masonic Republic.” Their groundbreaking analysis challenged the accepted history of the influence of Freemasonry on America’s framers and revolutionists, which most mainstream historians ignored until recently. Thirty years since its original publication, The Temple and the Lodge remains a trenchant and essential work on the influence of esoteric thought and beliefs in Western history... This edition includes a new foreword by Mitch Horowitz, the PEN Award-winning historian of alternative spirituality and author of Occult America and Awakened Mind. “In this riveting and careful study, Baigent and Leigh . . . suggest that Freemasonic lodges served America’s Founding Fathers as a working model for our federal system. . . . This jigsaw’s pieces include Grail romances; the Scots Guard, personal bodyguard to the French king; Scottish freedom-fighter Robert Bruce; Rosicrucians; and the British Royal Society.” —Publishers Weekly “Convincing.” —Kirkus Reviews “A worthy conclusion to their investigations into secret societies ancient and modern.” —Sunday Times (London)**

**The Free-Masons Pocket-Companion. Containing the history of Masonry from the Creation to the present time; the institution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland; lists of the officers of the Grand Lodges in England and Scotland ... With ... charges, constitutions, ... Songs, &c. The second edition. (New edition of the Pocket-Companion and History of Free-Masons originally compiled by John Entick .)**

**The Freemasons**

**The Mason's Words**

**Is it True What They Say About Freemasonry?**

**The Strange and Fascinating History of the Knights Templar and the Freemasons**

**This book, a product of collaboration and cooperation between two non-Masonic historians and the Grand Lodge of Virginia, is an objective, comprehensive study of the history of Freemasonry in the state of Virginia. The authors relate a fascinating chronicle of Freemasonry, from its British origins two hundred years ago to today. Along the way, they describe the colorful figures who populate this history and debunk many myths about Freemasonry.**

**Written by an expert on "the craft," this classic traces Freemasonry’s origins from biblical times to its practice among America’s founding fathers. It also explores philosophical, symbolic, and ritual traditions.**

**This book is a new edition of David Stevenson's classic account of the origins of Freemasonry, a brotherhood of men bound together by secret initiatives, rituals and modes of identification with ideals of fraternity, equality, toleration and reason. Beginning in Britain, Freemasonry swept across Europe in the mid-eighteenth century in astonishing fashion--yet its origins are still hotly debated today. The prevailing assumption has been that it emerged in England around 1700, but David Stevenson demonstrates that the real origins of modern Freemasonry lie in Scotland around 1600, when the system of lodges was created by stonemasons with rituals and secrets blending medieval mythology with Renaissance and seventeenth-century history. This fascinating work of historical detection will be essential reading for anyone interested in Renaissance and seventeenth-century history, for freemasons themselves, and for those readers captivated by the secret societies at the heart of the bestselling The Da Vinci Code. David Stevenson is Emeritus Professor of Scottish History at the University of St. Andrews. His many previous publications include The Scottish Revolution, 1637-1644; Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Scotland, 1644-1651; and The First Freemasons; Scotland, Early Lodges and their Members. His most recent book is the The Hunt for Rob Roy (2004). Previous edition Hb (1988) 0-521-35326-2 Previous edition Pb (1990) 0-521-39654-9**

**Jeffers delves into Masonic history to reveal the surprising and controversial truths behind this ancient and secretive order, from its mystery-shrouded origins in medieval Europe through its rise in America, where Benjamin Franklin founded the first lodge.**

**Brotherly Love**

**Scotland's Century, 1590-1710**

**Freemasons**

**A Dictionary of Arts, Sciences, Literature and General Information**

**Its Origins and Connection to the Knights Templar**

Peek behind the door of your local Mason Lodge Freemasonry has been around for three centuries, serving as a fraternal organization seemingly wrapped in secrets and mysteries known only to those inside the organization. This book gives you a peek at what really goes on at your local Masonic Lodge. Written by a 33rd Degree Freemason in the Scottish Rite, this book reveals the tenants of Freemasonry, how Lodges are organized, and what those secret ceremonies and symbols really mean. It's an ideal guide for anyone interested in joining a Lodge or those simply curious about what Freemasonry is all about. Inside... How Freemasonry came about What Freemasons talk about ... and what they don't A guide to the organization of a Lodge Insight into the symbols and ceremonies An explanation of what a Shriner is and why they wear those hats A look at the future of Freemasonry Discussion of the myths and conspiracy theories of Freemasonry This authoritative survey by a Masonic historian traces the development of "the Craft" from ancient to modern times, chronicling its spread throughout Europe, the Far East, Africa, and the Americas.

Over the past 200 years, many thousands of undergraduates have been initiated into membership of 'Apollo' - the Masonic lodge of the University of Oxford. These have included such diverse figures as Oscar Wilde, Osbert Lancaster, Samuel Reynolds Hole, Cecil Rhodes, Edward, Prince of Wales and his brother Leopold, Charles Canning, Hugh Trevor-Roper, Godfrey Elton and Roger Makins.ODrawing on archives held in the Bodeleian Library, this book is the first serious attempt to set the story of Apollo in the context of Oxford life and learning as well as its wider social and political diaspora. From the devastating numbers lost in the First and Second World Wars, as well as those decorated for bravery, to the significant number of Olympians who were members of the lodge, it also charts the lodge's charitable work, its changes of location, social events and adaptation to twenty-first-century life in Oxford.Ollustrated with archival material, portraits and Masonic treasures, this is history in a minor key, but a minor narrative with major implications, documenting the remarkable numbers of Oxford freemasons with distinguished careers in government, law, the army and the Church.

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Essays on the History of African American Freemasonry

The History of Freemasonry

Containing the History, Charges, Regulations, &c. of that Most Ancient and Right Worshipful Fraternity. For the Use of the Lodges

The Truth About Solomon’s Key and the Brotherhood

The history of freemasonry

Provides an in-depth history of freemasonry, exploring the inner workings of the powerful secret society, refuting many of the myths about the order, and shedding new light on the contributions of the freemasons to world history.

A full and intriguing account of the influence, rituals, key signs and symbols of Freemasonry; a fully illustrated history of the Masonic movement from its links with the Knights Templar, alchemy and the hermetic tradition, through the age of Enlightenment and the founding fathers of the USA, to the present day.

The enduring fascination of secret societies and their customs assures lasting interest in this classic of Masonic lore.

Many people have heard of Freemasonry, but few have any idea what it is, what it does, or why it exists. Freemasonry is not a religion, but rather a spiritual self-help society whose declared purpose is to help members become better citizens, and it has a strong track record of doing just that since it began in Scotland in the 15th century. Freemasonry For Beginners explores the objectives and society in the past, present, and future. It recounts the origins of the movement in Scotland and its spread to North America and the rest of the world. Not least of all, it shows how Masonic teachings have helped so many members over the centuries learn the skills to become leaders in society, science, and the arts.

The Secrets of the Freemasons

The Temple and the Lodge

The Encyclopaedia Britannica

The Origins of Freemasonry

The Hidden History of Freemasonry in the Last 100 Years

Insiders call it the Craft. Discover the fascinating true story of one of the most influential and misunderstood secret brotherhoods in modern society. Founded in London in 1717 as a way of binding men in fellowship, Freemasonry proved so addictive that within two decades it had spread across the globe. Masonic influence became pervasive. Under George Washington, the Craft became a creed for the new American nation. Masonic networks held the British empire together. Under Napoleon, the Craft became a tool of authoritarianism and then a cover for revolutionary conspiracy. Both the Mormon Church and the Sicilian mafia owe their origins to Freemasonry. Yet the Masons were as feared as they were influential. In the eyes of the Catholic Church, Freemasonry has always been a den of devil-worshippers. For Hitler, Mussolini and Franco, the Lodges spread the diseases of pacifism, socialism and Jewish influence, so had to be crushed. Freemasonry's story yokes together Winston Churchill and Walt Disney; Wolfgang Mozart and Shaquille O'Neal; Benjamin Franklin and Buzz Aldrin; Rudyard Kipling and 'Buffalo Bill' Cody; Duke Ellington and the Duke of Wellington. John Dickie's The Craft is an enthralling exploration of a the world's most famous and misunderstood secret brotherhood, a movement that not only helped to forge modern society, but has substantial contemporary influence, with 400,000 members in Britain, over a million in the USA, and around six million across the world.

For as long as there have been Freemasons, there has been a calculated effort to disparage and their practices. In this insightful text, masons de Hoyos and Morris explore the origins of the anti-Masonic mindset and delve into the falsehoods on which critics have based these perennial sentiments. Confronting opponents one at a time, the authors methodically debunk the myths that have surrounded Freemasonry since its establishment, investigating the motives and misconceptions that derive antagonists to spread deceit about Masonic traditions.

Can the ancestry of freemasonry really be traced back to the Knights Templar? Is the image of the eye in a triangle on the back of the dollar bill one of its cryptic signs? Is there a conspiracy that stretches through centuries and generations to align this shadow organization and its secret rituals to world governments and religions? Myths persist and abound about the freemasons, Margaret C. Jacob notes. But what are their origins? How has an early modern organization of bricklayers and stonemasons aroused so much public interest? In The Origins of Freemasonry, Jacob throws back the veil from a secret society that turns out not to have been very secret at all. What factors contributed to the extraordinarily rapid spread of freemasonry over the course of the eighteenth century, and why were so many of the era's most influential figures drawn to it? Using material from the archives of leading masonic libraries in Europe, Jacob examines masonic almanacs and pocket diaries to get closer to what living as a freemason might have meant on a daily basis. She explores the persistent connections between masons and nascent democratic movements, as each lodge set up a polity where an individual's standing was meant to be based on merit, rather than on birth or wealth, and she demonstrates, beyond any doubt, how active a role women played in the masonic movement.

This attempts to anchor its analysis of the Freemasonry Craft by shining a spotlight on several key historical and political events, exploring the darker side of the Masonic conspiracies, murder, and world manipulations.

The lost symbol

Freemasons For Dummies

Cracking the Freemasons Code

Mackey's History of Freemasonry

All Men Free and Brethren

*Freemasons have in many ways shaped the World's as we know it today. Discover the hidden history of the secret society of Freemasonry in the last 100 years and the conspiracy theories that followed. In their three centuries of official existence, Freemasons have been routinely praised and despised, regularly cheered and derided. Some believe that they are a fraternal organization that promotes leadership and good character, while others are convinced that they are a secretive cabal hell-bent on world domination. Mason-backed organizations such as the Shriners are praised for their charitable giving, while other lodges are held in contempt for their secretiveness. When it comes to stark dichotomies such as this, the argument to moderation would indicate that the truth lies somewhere in between. Well, fallacious as that argument is, Freemasonry would still be a riveting tale even if it did fall neatly between both sides of the equation! In this book we will explore the last 100 years of Freemasonry, as well as the larger implications of Masonic influences and practices. We will also discuss Masonry's latest trends and probable future trajectory. So, if you don't know already-read this book to learn the full story of what really goes on in that quiet, nondescript little lodge on the corner! Because despite what your grandfather may have told you, there is more going on than card games, pancakes and fish fries! Here, in one concise chronological timeline, we uncover the last 100 years of Freemasonry! Ready to discover the hidden history of the Freemasons? Scroll back up and order your copy today!*

*The FreemasonsA History of the World's Most Powerful Secret SocietySkyhorse Publishing, Inc.*

*Freemasonry is entirely built around traditions. From time immemorial, those who have belonged to the world's oldest and largest fraternal order have metaphorically passed between the pillars of Solomon's Temple to nurture within themselves a harmonious bond between tradition and modernity. This is the story of the Masonic ritual, the language and ceremonial forms that have evolved into the present structure of American Freemasonry, defined its lodge space, and offered its members the same stabilizing influence of instruction that has prevailed on every continent for nearly 400 years. The reader will discover that the language of the world's oldest fraternal society has also made its own interesting journey, and been tested by the most powerful and the most humbling of men. The result is, that, in Masonic lodges across America, and, indeed, the world, men from every walk of life, of all ages, every social category and every spiritual and philosophical conviction are able to find a basis for reflection on who they are, why they are here, and what has meaning to them. By its common language delivered in a common culture of fraternal relationship, Freemasonry is enabled to exemplify a univeral brotherhood of man. This is the story of the Mason's words; the history and evolution of the American Masonic ritual. It is an interesting bit of history that is perhaps all the more fascinating because it is so rarely known.*

*A Scottish Freemason presents an insider's guide to Society mysteries that discusses its inter-culture, connections to covert organizations, and famous members, in a reference that reveals the actual role of Freemasonry throughout history while addressing popular controversies. Original.*

*Freemasonry For Beginners*

*The Craft*

*Unlocking the Truth About the Symbols, the Secret Rites, and the History of Freemasonry*

*The Constitutions of the Free-masons*

The first in-depth account of an African American institution that spans the history of the American Republic.

Friendship, an acquired relationship primarily based on choice rather than birth, lay at the heart of Enlightenment preoccupations with sociability and the formation of the private sphere. In *Brotherly Love*, Kenneth Loisele argues that Freemasonry is an ideal arena in which to explore the changing nature of male friendship in Enlightenment voluntary organization in the decades before the French Revolution. At least fifty thousand Frenchmen joined lodges, the memberships of which ranged across the social spectrum from skilled artisans to the highest ranks of the nobility. Loisele argues that men were attracted to Freemasonry because it enabled them to cultivate enduring friendships on scores of archives, including private letters, rituals, the minutes of lodge meetings, and the speeches of many Freemasons. Loisele reveals the thought processes of the visionaries who founded this movement, the ways in which its members maintained friendships both within and beyond the lodge, and the seemingly paradoxical place of friendship as it endured into the tumultuous revolutionary era, although the revolutionary leadership suppressed most of the lodges by 1794. Loisele not only examines the place of friendship in eighteenth-century society and culture but also contributes to the history of emotions and masculinity, and the essential debate over the relationship between friendship and love.

“Captures the organization’s fundamental outlook, and its morality. . . . Ridley is an enchanting storyteller.”—The Wall Street Journal

Explores the hidden history of Freemasonry from ancient Rome, through the Middle Ages, to the present • Shows the close connection between medieval masons and the Knights Templar • Illustrates the sacred nature of Roman and medieval trade associations • Reveals the missing link that connects the lodges of modern Freemasonry to the distinction between the operative Masonry of the Middle Ages and the speculative Masonry of modern times, emphasizing that there is no direct bridge connecting the two. Modern historians also have scoffed at Masonic claims concerning the close relationship between the Lodge and the Temple. Using medieval archives housed throughout Europe, the author uncovers the very intimate connection between the Masons and the Knights Templar. Church records of medieval Paris show that most, if not all, the Masons of that time were residents of the Templar censive, which allowed them to enjoy great exemptions and liberties from both church and state as a result of the protection afforded them by this arrangement. The author traces the lineage of the order back to the collegia of ancient Rome. He traces the evolution of organizations such as the Comacine Masters, the Arab *turuqs*, and the brotherhoods of builders created under the aegis of the Benedictines and the Knights Templar, all of which provide the vehicle for the transmission of a sacred tradition from pre-Christian times to the present. The author traces the evolution of organizations such as the Comacine Masters, the Arab *turuqs*, and the brotherhoods of builders created under the aegis of the Benedictines and the Knights Templar, all of which provide the vehicle for the transmission of a sacred tradition from pre-Christian times to the present. Symbolism, and it provides the missing link in the transformation of the operative Masonry of the medieval cathedral builders to the spiritual principles of modern speculative Masonry.

The Masonic Myth

A Social History of Apollo University Lodge

The Concise History of Freemasonry

A Complete Illustrated Reference to the Brotherhood of Masons, Covering 1000 Years of Ritual and Rites, Signs and Symbols, from Ancient Foundation to the Modern Day

How the Freemasons Made the Modern World

**Take the mystery out of the Freemasons** Fascinated by Freemasons? **Freemasons For Dummies** is the internationally bestselling introduction to the Masons, the oldest and largest "secret society" in the world. This balanced, eye-opening guide demystifies Freemasonry, explaining everything from its elaborate rituals and cryptic rites, to its curious symbols and their meanings. With new and improved content, including updated examples and references throughout, this new edition of **Freemasons For Dummies** provides the most straightforward, non-intimidating guide to the subject on the market. Updated expert coverage of the basic beliefs and philosophy behind Freemasonry Revised information on the history of the society, including updates concerning its founding, famous historical members, and pivotal events New coverage devoted to the recent influx of younger membership The latest and ongoing controversies and myths surrounding Freemasonry The role of women in a Masonic organization, including opportunities for women to participate in Freemasonry The effects cultural and political changes and worldwide events are having on the organization If you're intrigued by the mystery that surrounds the Masons, get ready to learn the facts about this ancient order in **Freemasons For Dummies**.

There is confusion in many minds as to what Freemasons do and what they represent, largely because of the mystery and secrecy surrounding many of their practices. This book hopes to re-orientate the reader towards an appreciation of the essentially altruistic aims of Freemasonry.

Explores the American Masonic system and its strengths and failings • Examines the history of Freemasonry in the United States from the colonial era and the Revolutionary War to the rise of the Scottish branch onward • Investigates the racial split in American Freemasonry between black lodges and white and how, unlike French lodges, women are ineligible to become Masons in the U.S. • Reveals the factors that have resulted in shrinking Masonic enrollment in America and explores the revitalization work done by the Grand Lodge of California Freemasonry bears the imprint of the society in which it exists, and Freemasonry in North America is no exception. While keeping close ties to French lodges until 1913, American Freemasonry was also deeply influenced by the experiences of many early American political leaders, leading to distinctive differences from European lodges. Offering an unobstructed view of the American system and its strengths and failings, Alain de Keghel, an elder of the Grand Orient de France and, since 1999, a lifetime member of the Scottish Rite Research Society (Southern U.S. jurisdiction), examines the history of Freemasonry in the United States from the colonial era to the Revolutionary War to the rise of the Scottish branch onward. He reveals the special relationship between the French Masonic hero, the Marquis de Lafayette, and the Founding Fathers, especially George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, including French Freemasonry’s role in the American Revolution. He also explores Franklin’s Masonic membership, including how he was Elder of the lodge of the Nine Sisters in Paris. The author investigates the racial split in American Freemasonry between black lodges and white and how, unlike French lodges, women are ineligible to become Masons in the U.S. He examines how American Freemasonry has remained deeply religious across the centuries and forbids discussion of religious or social issues in its lodges, unlike some branches of French Freemasonry, which removed belief in God as a prerequisite for membership in 1877 and whose lodges operate in some respects as philosophical debating societies. Revealing the factors that have resulted in shrinking Masonic enrollment in America, the author explores the revitalization work done by the Grand Lodge of California and sounds the call to make Freemasonry and its principles relevant to America once again.

The Truth Revealed Freemasons have been connected to the all-seeing eye on the dollar bill, the French Revolution, the Knights Templar, and the pyramids of Egypt. They have been rumored to be everything from a cabal of elite power brokers ruling the world to a covert network of occultists and pagans intent on creating a new world order, to a millennia-old brotherhood perpetuating ancient wisdom through esoteric teachings. Their secret symbols, rituals, and organization have remained shrouded for centuries and spawned theory after theory. The Masonic Myth sets the record straight about the Freemasons and reveals a truth that is far more compelling than the myths.

The Illustrated Book of an Ancient Brotherhood

Facts and Fictions

The History Of Freemasonry

A History of English Freemasonry

The History of Freemasonry in Virginia