

Pathways to More Masonic Light

The Chancellor Robert R Livingston
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The Reading Course Program of
The Robert R Livingston
Masonic Library

Section 6: Grand Lodge Development

For many years, the Library has offered books that supplement the training programs offered by the Grand Lodge through the districts.

Courses 16 and 17 include resources to assist the District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Lodge Staff Officers in fulfilling their obligations of education and leadership. The 10 titles listed below can assist the District Officers in answering questions, offering guidance, inspiring lodges, and motivating Brothers.

16. Follow Your Conductor, The Grand Lodge Staff Officer's Course

- *Chips From the Quarries*, by Richard H. Brown (M10.4 B81)
- *600 Years of Craft Ritual*, by Harry Carr (M14 C23)
- *Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?*, by Arturo de Hoyos & S. Brent Morris (M19.2 D361)
- *Beyond The Craft*, by Keith B. Jackson (M70 J12)
- *Seekers of Truth: The Story of the Philalethes Society, 1928-1988*, by Allen E. Roberts (M79 R54)

17. Worthy and Well-Qualified, The District Deputy Grand Master's Course

- *A Masonic Thought for Each Day of The Year*, by Alphonse Cerza (M61.1 C33)
- *The Old Past Master*, by Carl H. Claudy (M61.1 C57)
- *Masonic Addresses*, by Barnard Eberlin (M10.4 Eb3)
- *Mackey's Jurisprudence of Masonry*, by Albert Mackey (M30 M19m)
- *Whither Are We Traveling*, by Dwight L. Smith (M10.4 Sm5)

About The Reading Course

Since its inception, the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library of Grand Lodge has served as an educational resource for Masons across New York State and visitors from around the world. The Library is the repository of information relating to the subject of Freemasonry broadly defined, with a focus on Freemasonry in New York State. Over the years, thousands of scholars, researchers, and inquiring people have made use of the print and artifact collections.

It is easy for patrons to be overwhelmed by the vast amount of material related to Freemasonry, making it difficult for patrons to find a good place to begin their studies of Freemasonry. Our Reading Course can address this problem.

The Reading Course program began in the 1930s, to expand access to Masonic education and introduce Masons to the Library collections. In the summer of 2007, the Library Board of Trustees and staff drew upon feedback and evaluations to revise the Reading Course program. The results of the revisions are described in the pages that follow, together with a series of questions and answers regarding how to participate in the Reading Course

Who can take part in the Reading Course?

The Reading Course is open to all Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Masons in good standing in a lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of New York.

How Many Reading Courses Are There?

The Reading Course program includes 17 courses divided into six (6) subgroups. The courses are numbered and structured to suggest a sequence and natural progression, but Brothers are free to begin and proceed as they choose.

How many books are in each Course?

Each Course averages five (5) books.

Does each Course tell me everything I need to know about a topic?

No. However, the books in each Course provide a cross-section of information that serves as a foundation of knowledge about a topic area.

How do I enroll in the Reading Course?

You may enroll in three ways

Print and Mail

Visit nymasoniclibrary.org/reading-course print and complete the three-page registration form, which includes a borrowing policy to initial and sign.

Note: Be sure to indicate the course number you would like to take.

Return the completed form by mail to the address found on the back of this booklet or e-mail to Info@nymasoniclibrary.org

Phone

Call the Library at (212) 337-6620 and the library staff will take your registration information by phone and provide a borrowing policy. Initial and sign the borrowing policy and return it by mail or e-mail.

In-Person

Visit the Library in person and we will register you for a Course and supply the first book.

How do I check my membership status?

Contact the Librarian at (212) 337-6623 or Library Director at (212) 337-6619

Does the Library offer e-books and audiobooks?

Yes. Registered patrons can access these materials on Odilo by visiting nymasoniclibrary.odilo.us. To log in, enter your Grand Lodge ID # (User ID) and password. To check your membership status, contact the Librarian or Library Director. To learn more about Odilo visit nymasoniclibrary.org/digital-library.

Course 14 proffers a balanced selection of books on the connections and investigations between the Masonic Knights Templar and the Knights Templar of history.

14. The Commandery, The Knights Templar Course

- *History of The Knights Templar*, by Charles G. Addison (M14.5 Ad2)
- *The Temple and The Lodge*, by Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh (M14.5 B14)
- *The Crusades*, by Michael Paine (940.18 P16)
- *The Templars*, by Pier Paul Read (271.79 R22)
- *Dungeon, Fire, Sword*, by John J. Robinson (909.07 R56d)

15. The Valley, The Scottish Rite Course

- *Lodge of the Double-Headed Eagle*, by William L. Fox (M14.6372 F83)
- *History of the Supreme Council 33° N.M.J. U.S.A.*, by George Newbury and Louis Williams (M14.60731 N42h)
- *Morals and Dogma*, by Albert Pike (M14.6 P64)
- *Valley of the Craftsmen: A Pictorial History*, by Supreme Council SMJ (M17.63732 V24f)
- *Albert Pike: The Man Beyond the Monument*, by James Tresner (921 P63t)

Section 5: Beyond The Blue Lodge

Courses 12-15 feature books that explain and study the history of the concordant bodies.

Course 12 features the Royal Arch.

12. The Tabernacle Near The Ruins, The Royal Arch Course.

- *Royal Arch Capstone of Freemasonry*, by Ray Vaughn Denslow (M14.3 D43c)
- *Lessons in Capitular Masonry*, by Charles C. Hunt (M14.3 H91)
- *Thomas Smith Webb, Freemason, Musician Entrepreneur*, by Herbert R. Leyland (921 W38)
- *Light from the Sanctuary*, by Charles Albert Snodgrass (M14.3 Sn5b)
- *The Royal Arch, Its Hidden Meaning*, by George H. Steinmetz (M14.3 St3)

Course 13 features the Cryptic Rite.

13. The Secret Vault Under the Tabernacle, The Cryptic Mason Course

- *An Encyclopedia of Cryptic Masonry*, by Ray Vaughn Denslow (M14.4 D43)
- *One Hundred Years 1823-1923, or the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, State of New York compiled*, by Herbert W. Greenland (M17.4 N48g)
- *A History of The Cryptic Rite Vol. 1*, by Eugene E. Hinman (M14.4 H59 vol.1)
- *A Short Story About Cryptic Masonry*, by A. Thompson Phillips (M14.4P54)

What will happen after I enroll?

If readers receive books by mail, the first book will arrive once registered, and the signed **Borrowing Policy** is on file. Those who register on-site will leave with a book.

How do I know when my book is due?

Books are loaned for a four (4) week period. The due date is written next to the title on the blue Reading Course card, included with each book. To renew a loaned book, contact the Librarian or Library Director.

Will the books arrive in any particular order?

The books listed on your Reading Course Card are in alphabetical order. They will arrive in that order unless a title is unavailable for lending. If you receive a book out of sequence, it means that all copies of the next book in the sequence are on loan and will be sent at the next availability. If you would like to receive a specific book, contact the library staff by e-mail or phone, and we will send that title when it is next available.

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Can I receive all the books at the same time?

Our policy currently limits patrons to one (1) book at a time. At times, the Librarian or Director will make exceptions. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail the Librarian or Library Director.

What do I do when I finish a book?

When you have finished, place the book in a new padded envelope, affix the return mailing label inserted in the back pocket of the book, and send the book to the Library from the post office at the Library Mail shipping rate. You are welcome to return books using another mailing service. Once we receive your book, we will send the next book in the course to you by mail.

If you can visit the Library in person, you can return the book during business hours or drop it off in the book drop, located outside the Library.

What happens when I finish the last book in the course?

Return the book with your Reading Course card (see instructions on the previous page), and include a brief note letting us know which course you would like to start next. We will not automatically enroll you in the next course.

Upon completing each course, you will receive a certificate of completion. The certificate will be formally presented to you by a District Staff Officer during an official visit or another appropriate occasion. Alternatively, certificates can be mailed directly to you. Readers who complete all 17 Courses will be presented with a lapel pin, recognizing their achievement.

What if I disagree with a particular book or author?

Good! It demonstrates that you are being challenged. Challenging scholarship is an important component of the educational process. Some of the books were selected because they challenge preconceived notions. It is up to each patron to read, evaluate, and judge the contents of the books they choose to read.

Section 1 - Tile Ground Floor

The Ground Floor is the place for Brothers to begin.

Course 1 is a survey course. These five (5) books are the foundation of Masonic education as they describe the history, philosophy, symbolism, and traditions of Freemasonry. The books also represent diverse authors, from Masonic traditionalists (e.g., Claudy and Roberts) to non-Masonic historians (e.g., Ridley). Subsequent courses will emphasize and concentrate on individual areas of Masonic study.

1. ***Who Comes Here?*** The first course, featuring what we believe are the most expository books available on viral Masonic topics.

- *Foreign Countries*, by Carl Claudy (M11 C57)
- *The Way of The Craftsman*, by Kirk MacNulty (M11 M23)
- *The Freemasons*, by Jasper Ridley (M10 R34)
- *The Craft and its symbols*, by Allen E. Roberts (M11 R53)
- *American Freemasons*, by Mark A. Tabbert (M10 T11)

Section 4: The Sanctum Sanctorum

This section symbolically finds the Reading Course participants at the thematic end of a long journey to the East, ready to apply their knowledge to leadership roles. The theoretical and philosophical lessons of the first nine (9) courses will assist in the practical application of interpersonal, time-management, and other leadership skill sets.

Course 10 focuses on knowledge important to the role of a Warden of the Lodge.

10. ***From Labor to Refreshment***, the Warden's Course:

- *Freemasonry and its Etiquette*, by William Campbell-Everden (M20 C15k)
- *The Master's Book*, by Carl H. Claudy (M14 C57)
- *How to Become a Masonic Lodge Officer*, by H.L. Haywood (M14 H33a)
- *Designs Upon the Trestleboard*, by Arthur R. Hermann (M14 H43)
- *Our Stations and Places*, by Henry G. Meacham (M20 M46t)

Course 11 expands the practical lessons provided in Course 10 and takes a deeper look at the way the Worshipful Master interacts with the Brethren.

11. ***From the East***, The Master's Course:

- *3-5-7 Minute Talks on Freemasonry*, by Elbert Bede (M10.4 B39)
- *Masonic Lodge Methods*, by L.B. Blakemore (M14 B58)
- *A Treasury of Masonic Thought*, by Carl Glick (M60 G49)
- *Short Talks on Masonry*, by Joseph Fort Newton (M14.2 N48s)
- *One Hundred Short Prayers*, by May Stafford Hilburn (264.13 H54o)

Course 8 proffers five (5) books that highlight the complex and multifaceted side of esoteric Freemasonry. Brothers are encouraged to continue their esoteric journey using the Library's resources.

8. Through and Inner Door, The Esoteric Course:

- *Arcana of Freemasonry*, by Albert Churchward (M11 C47a)
- *The Golden Builders*, by Tobias Churton (135.4 C47)
- *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*, by Manly P. Hall (M11 H14)
- *The Rosicrucians: The History, Mythology, and Rituals of an Esoteric Order*, by Christopher McIntosh (M10.12 M18r)
- *Book of Words*, by Albert Pike (M11 P63b)

Course 9 features the Great Architect of the Universe within Freemasonry. While none of the five (5) books mention Freemasonry, each author addresses concepts and ideas that relate to the Craft.

9. Into the Middle Chamber, The Comparative Religions Course:

- *A History of God*, by Karen Armstrong (291.211 Ar57)
- *Sacred Narratives*, edited by Aleen Dundes (291.13 Sa14d)
- *Best Guide to Eastern Philosophy & Religion*, by Diane Morgan (290 M821)
- *Did the Greeks Believe in Their Myths?*, by Paul Veyne (292.08 V64)
- *God*, by Alexander Waugh (231.4 W35)

Section 2: The Middle Chamber, Part 1

Stepping further along on the Pathway to Masonic Light, Brothers enter the first part of the Middle Chamber, with a quartet of courses that expand on the topics from the Ground Floor.

Course 2 introduces Brothers to five (5) works by traditional Masonic authors. These writers studied and analyzed the Craft, opening the doors of understanding for Masons across the world.

2. Through A Porch, Classic Works of Masonic Writers

- *A Comprehensive View of Freemasonry*, by Henry Wilson Coil (M10 C66)
- *The Newly-Made Mason*, by H.L. Haywood (M10 H33n)
- *The Spirit of Masonry*, by William Hutchinson (M11 H97s)
- *The Builders*, by Joseph Fort Newton (M10 N48b)
- *The Masonic Ladder*, by John Sherer (M14 Sh5)

Course 3 introduces Brothers to the various theories of the origins of Freemasonry.

3. Between Two Pillars, A More In-Depth Look at Masonic Origins and History

- *The Origins of Freemasonry: Facts & Fiction*, by Margaret C. Jacob (M10 J15)
- *Freemasonry: A History*, by Angel Millar (M10 611)
- *The Complete Idiots Guide to Freemasonry*, by S. Brent Morris (M00.1 M83)or
- *Freemasonry For Dummies*, by Christopher Hodapp (M00.1 H66)
- *A Pilgrim's Path*, by John J. Robinson (M10 R56p)
- *Masonic Trivia (and Facts)*, by Allen E. Roberts (M10 R541)

Course 4 focuses on the rich and robust history of Freemasonry in New York State. The Course allows the reader to choose a Lodge history of a New York State Lodge to finish the Course. Brothers may use the opportunity to read the history of their lodge or another lodge under the Grand Lodge of New York. When a Brother reaches the fifth (5th) book, they should contact the Library and discuss the availability of a history of a New York State Lodge.

4. **Up *Three Steps***, History of Freemasonry in New York State

- *The Level Club*, by Bruce Bertuccioli (M52.4 B46L)
- *George Washington in New York*, by Allan Boudreau and Alexander Bleimann (921 W27ab)
- *Along Masonic Trails*, by Wilmer E. Bresee (M17 B75)
- *New York Freemasonry: A Bi-centennial History*, by Osian Lang & Herbert Singer (M17 Si6)
- Random History of a New York State Lodge, selected by the reader or librarian.

Course 5 analyzes Masonic symbolism. Though not comprehensive, Course 5 provides five (5) important studies of the symbols used in the Craft.

5. **Up *Five Steps***, An In-depth study of Masonic Symbolism

- *Sources of Masonic Symbolism*, by Alex Horn (M11 H78a)
- *The Lodge and the Craft*, by Rollin Blackmer (M11 B56 1956)
- *Revelation of a Square*, by George Oliver (M11 O14r2)
- *Freemasonry: Its Hidden Meaning*, by George Harold Steinmetz (M11 St3)
- *The Meaning of Masonry*, by Walter Wilmshurst (M11 W68a)

Section 3: The Middle Chamber, Part 2

Proceeding deeper into the Middle Chamber, Brothers encounter courses designed to emphasize the fundamental concepts of our ability to learn. The four (4) courses in this section build on the information presented in previous sections.

Course 6 examines the history of Freemasonry in the United States. Brothers will read several works about Colonial and Revolutionary-era Masons, within the context of the development of American social history.

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6. **Up *Seven Steps***, Freemasonry in American History:

- *Revolutionary Brotherhood*, by Stephen Bullock (M17.973 B87r)
- *Colonial Freemasonry*, edited by Lewis C. Wes Cook (M17.973 C77)
- *Masonic Membership of the Founding Fathers*, by Ronald F. Heaton (920.H35f)
- *House Undivided*, by Allen E. Roberts (973.7 R54)
- *Out of The Shadows*, by Alton G. Roundtree & Paul M. Bessel (M90 R76)

Course 7 offers four (4) biographies of Masons whose lives placed them at the forefront of public awareness. A fifth (5th) title is selected by the individual Brother, from among hundreds of Masonic biographies in the Library's collection.

7. **Through an Outer Door**, Biographies of Prominent Freemasons

- *T.R. The Story of Theodore Roosevelt and His Influence on Our Time* by Noel F. Busch (921 R67tr)
- *Joseph Warren Physician, Politician, Patriot* by John Henry Cary (921 W25c)
- *Brother Truman* by Allen E. Roberts (921 T77r)
- *Stephen A. Douglas, Freemason* by Wayne c. Temple (921 D73)
- Random biography of a prominent Freemason, chosen by the reader, librarian.