

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

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.

Audio history of English freemasonry presented on 5 compact discs together with a book. Coauthors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh recount the events that

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led to the strange and sudden disappearance of the Knights Templar in the fourteenth century and their reappearance in the court of excommunicate Scottish king Robert the Bruce. Following the survival of certain unexpected Templar traditions, the authors document the evolution of a world-changing order through the birth of the Masonic lodge. They chart the history of Freemasonry through its medieval roots and into the modern era. The book posits that the order's contribution to the fostering of tolerance, progressive values, and cohesion in English society aided in preempting a French-style revolution in England; that Freemasonry was an essential keystone in the formation of the United States; and that America itself is an embodiment of the ideal "Masonic Republic." This groundbreaking thread of analysis challenges the accepted traditions of Western history as it is currently taught. What is the true source of our most valued traditions? Twenty years since its original publication, *The Temple and the Lodge* remains a trenchant and essential edition to any collection of Western history. 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

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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 Egyptian hieroglyphics, Mayan carvings, and Greek mathematical notations figure prominently in this spellbinding true story of a mysterious order's secret history. A renowned symbolologist offers illustrated explanations of the meanings behind Masonic symbols, revealing the messages hidden — in plain sight — within works of art, architecture, geometry, and literature. Discover the remarkable history of the most widely known secretive fraternal organization in "A Dictionary of Freemasonry." This comprehensive and convenient one-volume text includes a thorough encyclopedia, full dictionary of symbols, and over 300 beautiful nineteenth-century engravings. The 600-year-old brotherhood of Freemasons is based on a tradition over 3,000 years old. Robert Macoy, a member of the order, uses the resources of the Fraternity available to him, to discern the truth from a myriad of half-truths, rumors, superstitions, and interpretations. He presents the rise and evolution of Freemasonry and its kindred association both ancient and modern. The "General History of Freemasonry," which begins this volume, is a fascinating introduction to a very complicated subject often fraught with vagaries. The two A-to-Z reference works that follow (one an encyclopedia with listings of terms, people, places, and events that make up the extensive history of the Freemasons, and the other a dictionary of symbols) contribute to making this a very complete sourcebook on Freemasonry. From Aaron,

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the Abelites, and the All-Seeing Eye to the Year of Masonry, Zenith, and the Rite of Zinnendorf, this is a remarkably accessible book on a subject that runs through the course of human history. Robert Macoy (1815-1895), well known for his role in establishing the Order of the Eastern Star, earned the 33 and held many important positions with the Fraternity, such as past Deputy Grand Master and Grand Secretary of New York, as well as Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of New York. Founder of one of the largest Masonic publishing, regalia, and supply houses, he published extensively on Freemasonry and authored a number of books, including "The Book of the Lodge" and "True Masonic Guide."

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.

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 medieval brotherhoods of builders Historians often make a sharp 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, historian Paul Naudon reveals that there was in fact a very intimate

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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 powerful order. Naudon shows that the origins of Freemasonry can be traced 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 modern era. This tradition is the source of Masonic ritual and 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.

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.

*Includes pictures *Profiles important people and conspiracy theories *Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading For decades, parodies featuring ominous, mysterious cults have been a favorite gag in pop culture. These fraternal brothers are often depicted in some type of underground lair, dressed in extravagant ceremonial robes with their faces hidden in their hoods, seated around a long table brimming with Gothic chalices, skulls, and glittering dark treasure. Flicks on the more

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morbid side might even show choppy, flashing imagery of blood, torture, and sacrifices. Like all art, creativity is sparked by a source of inspiration, and one of the most widely recognized muses of these kinds of scenes is none other than the Freemasons. This ancient society, descended from the ancient culture of stonemasonry, is said to possess the deepest, darkest, and most inexplicable truths of the universe. They are said to possess mystical powers like no other - maybe even magic. But does this stigma against the brotherhood have any merit, or are they simply just severely misunderstood? As many are aware, Freemasons have been around for many centuries. The Renaissance, which came into full bloom between the 14th and 16th centuries, saw a burst in creativity and advancement in an array of art forms throughout Europe. Stonemason guilds rode the changing tides; no longer did incoming apprentices have to be restricted by trade. A great portion of these new apprentices were artists and free thinkers, but still vowed to adhere to traditional stone-cutter culture. This new breed of masons separated from the orthodox "operative" masonry, and began to foster what became known as "speculative" masonry. Like most legends, the origins of Freemasonry are still disputed to this day. The earliest mention of the society traces back to The Halliwell Manuscript, or Regius Poem, which was supposedly authored sometime between the late 14th to the early 15th centuries. The manuscript, penned in exquisite Middle English and calligraphy, consisted of 64 pages and 794 lines of rhyme. It is considered the first of the time-honored Masonic

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manuscripts, and is generally accepted as the "truthful" history of the fraternity's beginnings. The poem in question begins with Euclid, a Greek mathematician from the 4th century BCE, remembered today as the "father of geometry." The math whiz was said to have incorporated geometric sciences into a new field he dubbed "masonry." With this new and refined brand of science, he traveled to Egypt, and imparted his wisdom to the children of Egyptian nobles. Whatever the organization's origins, the budding phenomenon would one day transform into the Society of Freemasonry, the bearers of divine secrets like no other, and one of the most fascinating and controversial brotherhoods in the history of mankind. The Freemasons: The History of Freemasonry and the World's Most Famous Secret Society examines the origins and history of the controversial brotherhood, its expansion across the globe, and some of the most mindboggling conspiracy theories that surround the society to this day. Along with pictures depicting important people, places, and events, you will learn about the Masons like never before.

Gottfried Joseph G. Findel (1828-1905) published his "History of Freemasonry" in in German 1861. The work was translated into English in 1866 by Carl van Dalen and became the foundation for Robert Freke Gould's multi-volume "The History of Freemasonry." This is an extremely important work for any student of Freemasonry. Photographic reproduction of the 1866 edition.

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Schuster

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 univereal 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.

The network of freemasons and Masonic lodges in the Middle East is an opaque and mysterious one, and is all too often seen-within the area-as a vanguard for Western purposes of regional domination. But here, Dorothe Sommer explains how freemasonry in Greater Syria at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century actually developed a life of its own, promoting local and regional identities. She stresses that during the rule of the

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Ottoman Empire, freemasonry was actually one of the first institutions in, what is now, Syria and Lebanon which overcame religious and sectarian divisions. Indeed, the lodges attracted more participants-such as the members of the Trad and Yaziji Family, Khaireddeen Abdulwahab, Hassan Bayhum, Alexander Barroudi, and Jurji Yanni-than any other society or fraternity. Freemasonry in the Ottoman Empire analyzes the social and cultural structures of the Masonic network of lodges and their interconnections at a pivotal juncture in the history of the Ottoman Empire, making it invaluable for researchers of the history of the Middle East. 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.

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

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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*.

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.

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 I HAT 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

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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 belonging 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...

A full and fascinating account of the signs and symbols behind the beliefs and history of the freemasons.

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.

From the illustrious George Washington and the infamous J. Edgar Hoover to brilliant imaginer Walt Disney and bad boy of baseball Ty Cobb, Freemasons have influenced every aspect of American life. Yet this secret society remains as controversial and mysterious as ever. In this book, *Includes pictures *Profiles important people and conspiracy theories *Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading *Includes a table of contents As the largest - and oldest - fraternal organization, the Freemasons will continue to shape the world we live in for the foreseeable future. With this tell-all guide, you'll unravel the mystery of this intriguing society - one secret at a

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time!

For centuries, the enigmatic subject of Freemasonry, the world's oldest secret society, has been shrouded in mystery. This book reveals the true origins of Freemasonry, and shows that the truth is more fascinating than any fiction. This is an essential reference work for anyone interested in Freemasonry. Key topics covered are: Ancient Egyptian origins; The influences of classical Greece and Rome; The medieval Craftmasters; The Holy Grail and the Templars; The missing link between ancient and modern Masonry; Scottish beginnings of the present-day movement; 18th-cent. European developments; Masons in America; Secret ceremonies of Freemasonry; Freemasonry's place and influence in society today. Illustrations.

An order of warrior monks founded to protect pilgrims to Jerusalem, the Templars were among the wealthiest and most powerful bodies in the medieval world. Yet two centuries later, they were arrested, accused of blasphemy, heresy and orgies, and their leaders were burnt at the stake. Part guide, part history, this book investigates the Templar legends and legacy - from the mysteries of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, via nineteenth century development of the Freemasons, through to Templar appearances in Dan Brown and Indiana Jones. This book explains the whole context of Templar history, including the recent evidence discovered by the Vatican that the Templars were not guilty of heresy. It also features a guide to Templar castles and sites.

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What did Mozart and Bach, Oscar Wilde and Anthony Trollope, George Washington and Frederick the Great, Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt have in common? They were all Freemasons, a subject of endless fascination. To the layman, they are a mysterious brotherhood of profound if uncertain influence, a secret society purported in some popular histories to have its roots in the fabled order of the Knights Templar, or in the mysteries of the Egyptian pyramids. They evoke fears of world domination by a select few who enjoy privileged access to wealth and the levers of power. The secrecy of their rites suggests the taint of sacrilege, and their hidden loyalties are sometimes accused of undermining the workings of justice and the integrity of nations. Though not a mason himself, Jasper Ridley nonetheless refutes many of the outrageous allegations made against Freemasonry, while at the same time acknowledging the masons' shortcomings: their clannishness, misogyny, obsession with secrecy, and devotion to arcane ritual. In this much-needed reassessment, he offers a substantial work of history that sifts the truth from the myth as it traces Freemasonry from its origins to the present day.

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. 1906 edition. Excerpt: ... we have first of record, John Hammerton, appointed by the Earl of Loudoun in 1736. A second Provincial Grand Lodge was established by a deputation of the Marquis of Carnarvon to Chief Justice

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Leigh in 1754. Dr. Mackey, in his Encyclopaedia, says upon this subject that, in 1777, this Grand Lodge, deputized by the Marquis of Carnarvon, assumed independence and became the "Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons," Barnard Elliott being the first Grand Master. As early as 1783 the Athol or "Ancient" Masons invaded the jurisdiction of South Carolina, and in 1787 there being then five lodges of the Ancients in the State, they held a convention, and on March 24th organized the "Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons." Between the Moderns and the Ancient Grand Lodges there was always a very hostile feeling until the year 1808, when a union was effected, which was but temporary, for a disruption took place in the following year. However, the Union was permanently established in 1817, when the two Grand Lodges were merged into one, under the name of the "Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons." New York. From the quotations of authorities herein following, it will be evident that Freemasonry must have existed in the Province of New York prior to the year 1737. The advertising notices and newspaper squibs are convincing that secret communications were being held either among the residents or the sojourning soldiery. By what authority these assemblies were held we are not yet able to disclose; whether under powers granted by Daniel Coxe, by reason of the deputation held by him from June 5, 1730, until the expiration of his personal investment, to wit, until June 24, 1732, or those of his successors, who were to be elected every other year on the feast of St...

General History, cyclopedia and dictionary of free massonry.

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