

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
Convention of Royal and Select Masters
HELD IN THE
CITY OF NEW YORK
June 12 and 13, 1872

TRANSACTIONS

A Convention of Illustrious Companions representing the interests of Cryptic Masonry, was held at the room of Adelpic Council, Royal and Select Masters, No. 7, in Council Hall, Union Square, New York City, at 10 o'clock a. m. on Wednesday, June 12, 1872.

Illustrious Companion Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine, made a statement as to the object of the meeting, and read the following call, which had been sent to the various Grand Councils of the United States:

PORTLAND, ME., May 10, 1871.

Most Illustrious Companion:

At the session of the Grand Council of Maine, held on the third instant, after a conference with Companions from Massachusetts, I was directed to call a convention of Representatives from the several Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters, to meet in New York, in June, 1872, for the purpose of securing uniformity in the ritual, etc., of the Cryptic Rite.

Accordingly, I have fixed upon the second Wednesday in June of that year, and your Grand Council is hereby invited to be represented on that occasion; or if your Grand Council declines or neglects to act in the premises, we shall be happy to meet there any of the Companions in your State.

Massachusetts and Maine will be there prepared to exemplify their ritual, even if they have only themselves to witness it.

Due notice of the place of meeting will be given.

Yours fraternally,

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.

PORTLAND, March 1, 1872.

Most Illustrious Companion:

The Convention referred to in the foregoing call will meet at the Council Hall, No. 8 Union Square, New York, on the day named, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

Yours fraternally,

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.

The Convention was organized by the election of Illustrious Companion William P. Anderson, of Massachusetts, as temporary President, and Illustrious Companion Thomas J. Corson, of New Jersey, temporary Secretary.

The President appointed as a Committee on Credentials:

Marcus Higginbotham, of New Jersey.
 J. Edwin Mason, of District Columbia.
 Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine.

The committee reported the following delegates as present, which report was accepted, and all the Companions named therein were received as members of the Convention:

ALABAMA—	R. D. Webb.
ARKANSAS—	John W. Simons (<i>proxy</i>).
CONNECTICUT—	Joseph K. Wheeler. I. W. Carpenter. Fred H. Walden. W. R. Higby.
ILLINOIS—	Jonathan J. French.
MAINE—	Gordon R. Garden. Josiah H. Drummond.
MASSACHUSETTS—	Charles H. Norris. William P. Anderson. George Tapley. S. W. Fairchild. E. A. Daniels.
MISSOURI—	W. A. Prall. Allen McDowell (<i>proxy</i>).
NEW BRUNSWICK—	G. Fred Wiltsie (<i>proxy</i>).
NEW JERSEY—	Thomas J. Corson. J. Sheville. J. T. Seymour. T. H. R. Redway. M. Higginbotham.

NEW YORK—	G. Fred Wiltsie. Jackson H. Chase. George W. Thorne. P. O. C. Benson.
NORTH CAROLINA—	Thomas B. Carr.
RHODE ISLAND—	Stillman White.
TENNESSEE—	E. Edmundson. G. S. Blackie.
WISCONSIN—	William C. Swain.

The following Companions were duly accredited from Lafayette Council, Washington, D. C.:

Edwin B. McGrotty. Philip S. Craig.
J. Edwin Mason.

The following Companions, not accredited as delegates, were present:

MARYLAND—	Thomas A. Cunningham.
OHIO—	William M. Cunningham.
SOUTH CAROLINA—	Albert G. Mackey.*

MARCUS HIGGINBOTHAM,
JOHN EDWIN MASON,
JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,
Committee.

The President appointed as a Committee on Permanent Organization:

J. T. Seymour, of New Jersey.
William C. Swain, of Wisconsin.
R. D. Webb, of Alabama.

*Companion Mackey stated that he was not present in an official capacity, but merely as a visitor.—Recorder.

The committee reported for permanent officers of the Convention:

For President, Gordon R. Garden, of Maine.

For Secretary, Thomas J. Corson, of New Jersey.

Companion Garden declined to accept the appointment, whereupon Companion Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine, was placed in his stead. The committee subsequently reported for Vice-Presidents:

Thomas B. Carr, of North Carolina.

W. A. Prall, of Missouri.

The Convention unanimously elected the officers as follows:

President, Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine.

First Vice-President, Thomas B. Carr, of North Carolina.

Second Vice-President, W. A. Prall, of Missouri.

Secretary, Thomas J. Corson, of New Jersey.

On motion of Companion Albert G. Mackey, the President (Companion Anderson) appointed the following Committee on Rules:

W. A. Prall, of Missouri.

Gordon R. Garden, of Maine.

E. Edmundson, of Tennessee.

G. Fred Wiltsie, of New York.

T. B. Carr, of North Carolina.

The committee made the following report, which was adopted:

Rule I. In the decision of all questions before the Convention, each State or District shall be entitled to three votes, to be cast by delegates, if such have been chosen, or in the absence of such delegates by their proxies, and in case no delegates have been elected or appointed, the votes may be cast by any past or present officer of such Council or Grand Council, the same having been accepted by the Committee on Credentials and reported to this Convention.

In case of there being two delegates or representatives present, the highest officer shall be entitled to two votes and the other to one.

Rule II. No member shall be allowed to speak on any question more than five minutes, without unanimous consent, nor a second time without permission from the President.

W. A. PRALL,
G. R. GARDEN,
E. EDMUNDSON,
G. F. WILTSIE,
T. B. CARR,

Committee.

On motion of Companion T. H. R. Redway, Companions G. Fred Wiltsie, G. W. Thorne and J. Sheville, of New York, were appointed a committee to procure a room for the meeting of the Convention this evening. The committee reported that a room in this hall would be at the service of this Convention, which report was adopted.

E. Edmundson, of Tennessee, J. E. Mason, of District Columbia, and R. D. Webb, of Alabama, were appointed a committee to report what matters should be brought before the Convention. The committee presented the following, which was adopted:

Your Committee on Business hereby report:

We recommend to the Convention the appointment of committees as follows:

1st. On Nomenclature; to report proper names of officers of the Grand and subordinate bodies, and names of the meetings of the same.

2d. A Committee on the Order and Number of Degrees to be conferred in subordinate Councils; and

3d. A Committee on the Exemplification of the Work.

E. EDMUNDSON,
R. D. WEBB,
JOHN EDWIN MASON,

Committee.

The President (Companion Carr in the chair) appointed the committees, as follows:

On Nomenclature—

Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine.

Thomas J. Corson, of New Jersey.

W. P. Anderson, of Massachusetts.

On Order and Number of Degrees—

W. A. Prall, of Missouri.
John W. Simons, of New York.
G. Fred Wiltsie, of New York.

On Exemplification of Work—

John Sheville, of New Jersey.
Albert G. Mackey, of South Carolina.
C. H. Norris, of Massachusetts.

Companion Anderson, of Massachusetts, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Convention that the Cryptic degrees should be under the exclusive jurisdiction of Grand Councils, and that no one should be recognized as a regular Companion of the Rite, who has not received the degrees under such jurisdiction. *

Which, after discussion, was referred to a special committee, consisting of Companions Carr, of North Carolina, Thorne, of New York, and Wheeler, of Connecticut.

On motion of Companion G. W. Thorne, the Companions of Massachusetts and Maine were invited to exemplify the work of the different degrees this evening.

On motion of Companion G. F. Wiltsie, it was resolved that when this Convention adjourn it adjourn to meet at 8 o'clock this evening.

On motion of Companion William P. Anderson, the Companions of New York were invited to exemplify the work of the degrees at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

On motion of Companion G. F. Wiltsie, Companion J. H. Murray, of Adelpic Council, No. 7, was employed to tyle for this Convention.

It was resolved that the hour for the morning session be 9 o'clock.

During the session Companions J. P. Doremus, M. P. G. M.; Charles Bechtel, P. G. M.; J. W. Pressey, C. W. Chase, Peter Dobbs and George Scott, of New Jersey, Companions J. M. Knapp and Henry R. Sloat, of New York, and other Companions, were present as visitors.

Convention adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, June 12, 1872.

The Convention reassembled at 8 o'clock p. m. on Wednesday, June 12, in the Hall of Adelpic Council, Companion Carr presiding.

The work of the degrees was then exemplified with the following cast of officers:

SELECT DEGREE.

EDWIN B. MCGROTTY, of District of Columbia.....	<i>M. I. Master</i>
PHILIP S. CRAIG, of District of Columbia.....	<i>R. I. Master</i>
GEORGE TAPLEY, of Massachusetts.....	<i>I. M. of Work</i>
WILLIAM P. ANDERSON, of Massachusetts.....	<i>Capt. of Guard</i>
GORDON R. GARDEN, of Maine.....	<i>Conductor</i>
JOHN EDWIN MASON, of Washington.....	<i>Sentinel</i>
J. H. MURRAY, of New York.....	<i>Tylor</i>

ROYAL DEGREE.

WILLIAM P. ANDERSON, of Massachusetts.....	<i>M. I. Master</i>
PHILLIP S. CRAIG, of District of Columbia.....	<i>R. I. Master</i>
GEORGE TAPLEY, of Massachusetts.....	<i>M. of Cer.</i>
E. B. MCGROTTY, of District of Columbia.....	<i>Capt. of Guard</i>
GORDON R. GARDEN, of Maine.....	<i>Conductor</i>
JOHN EDWIN MASON, of District of Columbia.....	<i>Sentinel</i>

SUPER-EXCELLENT DEGREE.

PHILIP S. CRAIG, of District of Columbia.....	<i>M. Ex. King</i>
GORDON R. GARDEN, of Maine.....	<i>Comp. Ged.</i>
WILLIAM P. ANDERSON, of Massachusetts.....	<i>1st K. of T.</i>
GEORGE TAPLEY, of Massachusetts.....	<i>2d K. of T.</i>
JOHN EDWIN MASON, of District of Columbia.....	<i>3d K. of T.</i>

On motion of Companion Wiltsie, of New York, the thanks of the Convention were tendered to the Companions of Maine, Massachusetts and District of Columbia, for the exceedingly interesting and proficient manner in which they have exemplified the work of the several degrees.

Convention adjourned.

TUESDAY, July 13, 1872.

The Convention reassembled in the Hall of Adelphic Council at 9 o'clock a. m., Companion Drummond in the chair.

The minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read and approved.

The work of the Royal and Select degrees was exemplified by the Companions of New York (the work on the Super-Excellent degree being omitted, it being stated that the New York work on that degree was precisely the same as that exemplified the evening before) by—

Jackson H. Chase.....	as <i>T. I. M.</i>
J. J. Martin.....	as <i>R. I. Deputy.</i>
J. Searle.....	as <i>I. P. C. W</i>
H. J. Bogle.....	as <i>O. of G.</i>
W. G. McKnight.....	as <i>O. of O.</i>

On motion of Companion W. P. Anderson, of Massachusetts, the thanks of the Convention were returned to the Companions of New York for the able, efficient and beautiful manner in which they had exemplified the degrees.

On motion of Companion Carr, of North Carolina, the Secretary was authorized to furnish the proceedings of the Convention to the press for publication.

The Special Committee to whom was referred the resolution offered by Companion W. P. Anderson at yesterday's meeting,

reported the following preamble and resolution, which were adopted:

Whereas, In some jurisdictions the question has been mooted of surrendering the Cryptic degrees to the Chapters; and

Whereas, There are many Companions who have received the degrees in Chapters, or from Sovereign Inspectors of the Ancient and Accepted Rite; therefore

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Convention that the Cryptic degrees should be under the exclusive jurisdiction of Grand Councils, and that no one should be recognized as a Companion of this Rite who has not received the degrees in a lawfully constituted Council, or by authority of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, previous to this date, or been lawfully healed.

T. B. CARR,
G. W. THORNE,
J. K. WHEELER,

Committee.

The Committee on Nomenclature made the following report, which was adopted:

The Committee on Nomenclature recommends the following for titles of Grand and subordinate bodies of the Cryptic Rite:

Most Illustrious Grand Master.
Deputy Grand Master.
Grand Principal Conductor of Work.
Grand Treasurer.
Grand Recorder.
Grand Captain of the Guards.
Grand Conductor of the Council.
Grand Steward.
Grand Sentinel.

To which may be added Grand Chaplain, and Grand Marshal or Grand Master of Ceremonies.

For subordinate Councils omit the word "Grand," and in place of the word "Most," for first officer, use the word "Thrice."

They also recommend that meetings of Bodies of this Rite be denominated "Assemblies."

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,
THOMAS J. CORSON,
WILLIAM P. ANDERSON,

Committee.

The Committee on Order and Number of Degrees reported as follows:

To the General Convention of Royal and Select Masters of New York:

Your committee to whom was referred the subject of "Order and Number of Degrees," would respectfully report:

That in the opinion of your committee the degrees of Cryptic Masonry should consist of

- 1st, Royal Master,
- 2d, Select Master.

In regard to the Super-Excellent Master's Degree, your committee can see no good reason why it should be retained in the American Rite, as it inculcates no lessons not better taught elsewhere.

G. FRED WILTSIE,
W. A. PRALL,
JOHN SHEVILLE,

Committee.

On motion of Companion W. P. Anderson, of Massachusetts, the report was received and referred to the Committee on Exemplification of Work.

On motion of Companion Sheville, of New Jersey the title of the "Committee on Exemplification of Work" was changed to "Committee on Work."

On motion of Companion T. B. Carr, of North Carolina, as amended by Companion E. Edmundson, of Tennessee, it was resolved that the Committee on Work be increased from three to nine.

On motion of Companion M. Higginbotham, of New Jersey, the President was granted discretionary powers in the selection of the committee.

The President announced the following as the Committee on Work:

John Sheville, of New Jersey.
Edwin B. McGrotty, of District of Columbia.
Charles H. Norris, of Massachusetts.
Thomas E. Garrett, of Missouri.
Samuel M. Todd, of Louisiana.
William M. Cunningham, of Ohio.
R. D. Webb, of Alabama.
E. Edmundson, of Tennessee.
Gordon R. Garden, of Maine.

On motion of Companion J. Edwin Mason, of District of Columbia, it was

Resolved, That when this Convention adjourn, it adjourn to meet in the city of New York, on the second Wednesday of June, 1873, to receive the report of the Committee on Work. And that the President be authorized to issue circulars to the different Grand Councils, inviting them to send representatives to such meeting.

On motion, the thanks of the Convention were tendered to the Grand Council of New York, Adelpic Council, No. 7, and the Masonic Bodies occupying this hall, for the use of the room and for fraternal attentions bestowed on the members of the Convention.

On motion of Companion Anderson, of Massachusetts, the thanks of the Convention were tendered to the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary, for the satisfactory manner in which they had performed their respective duties.

On motion of Companion P. S. Craig, of District of Columbia, Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine, Jackson H. Chase, of New York, and William P. Anderson, of Massachusetts, were appointed an Advisory Board, to act in conjunction with the Committee on Work.

On motion of Companion T. B. Carr, of North Carolina, the President was authorized to publish officially the proceedings of this Convention in pamphlet form, and with them a circular to the Grand Councils.

The minutes of this day's session having been read and approved, the Convention at 2:30 o'clock p. m. adjourned, to meet again on the second Wednesday of June, 1873.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,
President.

THOMAS J. CORSON,
Secretary.

APPENDIX

CIRCULAR TO THE GRAND COUNCILS.

To the Most Illustrious Grand Masters, Officers and Members of the several Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters.

COMPANIONS:

The Convention of Royal and Select Masters held in New York, June 12, 1872, directed me, as their presiding officer, to issue a circular to you in reference to another session of that Convention, to be held by adjournment, in New York, on the second Wednesday of June, 1873.

From the foregoing official report of its transactions, you will perceive that *fourteen* Grand Councils, and the Council in the District of Columbia, where no Grand Council exists, were represented by duly accredited delegates, and members of two other Grand Councils were present and participated in the proceedings.

Several of the Grand Councils, not represented, had elected delegates, who from accident or other causes failed to attend; indeed, I find that *ten* other Grand Councils acted favorably upon the proposition for the Convention and expected to be represented in it. Of the few others, my circular failed to reach some, and only two acted adversely upon the proposition.

The foregoing report of the transactions shows only what was actually *done*, and omits all the discussions.

The first question presented was in reference to the expediency of cultivating the degrees at all; that was unanimously settled in the affirmative, and such was the decided sentiment of the Convention.

Upon the question of remitting the degrees to the Grand Chapters, which was fully and freely discussed, the Convention was unanimous against the proposition, and in most decided terms favored the system of Grand Councils. In connection with this, it was announced that the Chapters in the District of Columbia had ceased to confer the Council degrees, and that the Companions in Maryland and West Virginia are taking active measures to separate these degrees from the Chapters, and place them under the exclusive jurisdiction of Grand Councils. This would leave the Chapter system prevailing only in

Virginia and Texas. It was also announced that Councils had been formed in England under the authority of the Grand Council of New York, and that a Grand Council would be formed there at an early day.

Upon the exemplification of the work it was found that a serious difference of opinion existed in reference to the number and order of the degrees, and that there are substantial differences between the rituals of different jurisdictions. To settle these, required more time than the Convention could command, and it was determined to remit these matters to a committee, upon which Companions from Grand Councils not represented should also be appointed. This necessarily involved an adjourned session of the Convention, and it was decided to adjourn for a year to give the committee full time to agree upon a report, to afford the Grand Councils an opportunity to act upon the measures recommended, and especially to secure a more full representation.

If the Council system is to be continued, it should be made uniform: it can be made uniform only by united action: we can secure united action only by means of such a Convention. I, therefore, in behalf of the Convention, most earnestly commend to your early and favorable consideration the recommendation it makes to you, and ask, in order to make its future action useful and to accomplish the purposes for which it was created, that you be represented at its adjourned session.

At that time it is expected that there will be presented the question of making the Council degrees pre-requisite to the Orders of Knighthood, in order to make the "American system" continuous and uniform.

By order of the Convention,

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, *President.*