

**Chancellor Robert R Livingston
Masonic Library of Grand Lodge
Annual Report for the year 2007**

Mission Statement

The mission of the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library of Grand Lodge is to collect, preserve, interpret, and make available for education and research, to both members of the Fraternity and others, such materials as relate to the history, philosophy, culture, and organization of Freemasonry, in its social and historical contexts, with a special emphasis on Freemasonry in New York State.

Strategic Plan

The Board of Trustees of the Library completed its 2-5-10 Year Strategic Plan, which was approved in November 2007. The Plan includes components which evaluate our progress in several areas, and set goals and objectives for development in securing financial stability; establishing institutional integrity; codifying policies and procedures of operation and Board functioning; collections development; personnel development; patron service delivery; and identifying logical and necessary areas of growth.

The development of the Strategic Plan took several stages. Beginning in the summer of 2003, the Board has met annually to review ongoing projects and plan new areas of growth. The Board's regular planning was assisted by input from the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) report, developed through a grant obtained from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. The CAP provided a roadmap for the development of immediate, short term and long term goals. Staff and patron input assisted in fleshing out concerns identified in the CAP report.

The first area of development involves institutional integrity. An immediate effort was made to produce a documented institutional history for the Library, which included review of the existing library collection policy, operating procedures, and emergency response plans. Research began on the creation of an artifact collection policy, a vital component at this point in the Library's progress with its artifact collection. The existing library collection development policy was reviewed, revised and approved. An institutional Code of Ethics was devised, adopted and signed by staff and Board members. (The Code of Ethics is posted at our website, www.nymasoniclibrary.org.)

The second area of immediate development involved Board outreach to current and potential Library supporters. The Board voted to acquire equipment that would assist in the presentation of programs and speeches describing the Library, its resources and its services. Trustees William Thomas and Richard Vang developed PowerPoint presentations to be used during presentations. Board President Barry Mallah met with documentary film makers Ari Roussimoff and Vivian Friedlander, who together developed a ten minute video highlighting the Library's book and artifact collections. Board First Vice President Michael Rosson and the Library staff collaborated on the development of the booklet *Pathways to More Masonic Light*, which details the Library's newly-revised Reading Course program. These tools are now in the hands of the Library's Board of Trustees, and will be presented across the state to increase awareness and support of the Library and its mission.

Other sections of the Strategic Plan include quantifiable goals for the book collection; artifact collection; archival collection; Utica branch; exhibits, both on site and off site; and board development. We will post the completed Plan on our website, and we welcome input from our patrons and supporters. Future editions of this Annual Report will focus on specific areas of development mapped out in the Strategic Plan.

Reading Courses

Another immediate goal of the Strategic Plan was the review and revision of the existing Reading Course program. The Courses last received a minor revision in the mid 1990s. The time since then has seen the publication of many important titles which study the history, philosophy, symbolism, and other important factors relating to Freemasonry. Trustee William Thomas and Director Thomas M. Savini spent the summer of 2007 revising the Reading Course program. The revision saw the addition of several Courses focusing on topic areas requested by existing Library patrons. The average number of titles on each Course was reduced to 5, and titles were selected to represent a cross section of thought and study relating to each topic.

The revised Reading Course program is described in detail in the booklet *Pathways to More Masonic Light*, which was distributed to each Brother in an issue of the *Empire State Mason*. The revision has received a tremendously positive response, in terms of numbers signing up, and feedback regarding the content.

The Ground Floor

1. **Who Comes Here?** First course, featuring what we believe are the “read first”, most expository books available on vital Masonic topics.

The Middle Chamber, part 1

2. **Through a Porch**, the course comprising classic works of Masonic writers.
3. **Between Two Pillars**, a more in-depth look at Masonic origins and history.
4. **Up Three Steps**, a course crafted around Freemasonry in the State of New York.
5. **Up Five Steps**, a course featuring an in-depth study of Masonic symbolism.

The Middle Chamber, part 2

6. **Up Seven Steps**, Freemasonry in American History.
7. **Through an Outer Door**, Biographies of Prominent Freemasons.
8. **Through an Inner Door**, the Esoteric Course.
9. **Into the Middle Chamber**, the Comparative Religions Course.

The Sanctum Sanctorum

10. **From Labor to Refreshment**, the Warden’s Course.
11. **From the East**, the Master’s Course.

Beyond The Blue Lodge

12. **The Tabernacle Near the Ruins**, the Royal Arch Course.
13. **The Secret Vault Under the Tabernacle**, the Cryptic Mason Course.
14. **The Commandery**, the Knights Templar course.
15. **The Valley**, the Scottish Rite Course.

Grand Lodge Development

16. **Follow Your Conductor**, the District Staff Officer’s Course.
17. **Worthy and Well-Qualified**, the District Deputy Grand Master’s Course.

Brothers in good standing may also enroll by visiting our website at www.nymasoniclibrary.org, and following the instructions posted there.

The Reading Courses serve as initial steps in Masonic education. Brothers are encouraged to use the books in the Courses to help them to focus their areas of interest, and to review the Library’s selection of books outside the Courses to expand their knowledge and take their interests in further directions. The staff of the Library is always willing to assist brothers in taking the next steps on the path of Masonic education.

Website

The Library’s website, www.nymasoniclibrary.org serves as the primary means of displaying the strides made in the

integration of digital technology into our service delivery at our Manhattan branch. These advances have improved our levels of operation, resulting in a 50% increase in the number of visiting patrons, and the same percentage increase in patrons accessing book circulation through our online catalogue. The number of "unique" visitors to our website in 2007 numbered 42,594, with a monthly average of 3,550 unique hits.

Anecdotal evidence provided by the staff tell of an increase in patrons accessing our online library catalogue, as requests to borrow books outside the listings available on the Reading Course program increased by large numbers in the year 2007. Additionally, an influx of non-Masonic scholars has passed through the doors of the Library's Manhattan branch, arriving with call numbers in hand, searching for books they found on the Library's online catalogue.

On-Line Library Catalogue. The online library catalogue is a project long in development. It began with the retrospective conversion of the Library's card catalogue, using the Athena© software system from Sagebrush, Inc., conducted in the summer of 2001. The conversion took our written catalogue information and entered it into a computer database, which was available to staff and visitors to our Manhattan site. The expansion of access facilitated by electronic retrospective conversion has the positive result of allowing every single Freemason in the state of New York to make use of the Grand Lodge's library collection. Brothers who have limited their Masonic reading to the Library's Reading Course list can now expand their knowledge by selecting titles that reflect their own fields of interest, perhaps by finding books they never realized were available at our Library. Circulating books can then be borrowed by sending an email or contacting the Library by telephone, signing up as a borrowing Brother, and waiting a day or two for the book to arrive by mail.

Beyond this achievement, that same library collection is now available for research to every interested person around the world who has access to the internet. Greater access to non-Masons is an important factor in the further growth of Masonic research. Many works dealing with Freemasonry include a well-meaning yet obvious bias toward the Craft, which sometimes loses site of historical accuracy or objectivity. This favorable bias can be as harmful to accurate study of Freemasonry as anti-Masonic sentiment fueled by misrepresentations or misstatements about the Craft and its history. Research conducted by non-Masons represents an important component of a fuller understanding of Freemasonry and its impact on the world. It also invites scholars with different viewpoints and areas of expertise to contribute their observations and conclusions to the corpus of Masonic research.

Many patrons have inquired as to when we will make entire books from the Library's collection available on-line. Many libraries and patrons are asking that same question, and several public and university libraries are taking steps toward digitizing non-copyrighted material. However, the application of "fair use" guidelines in relation to electronic media is an issue still under consideration by the courts. Until some definite clarity is established with regard to digital books, conversion of full texts will remain a long-term goal in our digitization project. We expect to work closely with the Grand Lodge Education Committee and the Grand Lodge for the conversion of selected texts to be used in Masonic educational programs, making use of material without active copyright, or conversion of material copyrighted by the Grand Lodge of New York.

We have had great interest in our library collection among our out-of-state Brothers and non-Masonic patrons as well. Not a week goes by in the Library when the staff does not gather over a book of particular beauty or rarity from our collection. We have found that non-Masons, who may be unfamiliar with the Craft and its literary heritage, are amazed at the depth and richness of the books in our care. Although our circulation policy limits borrowing to Brothers under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, we know that non-borrowing patrons will benefit from the information available in the catalogue, and from knowing that they can visit the Library and see the books that catch their interest.

On-Line Museum. In Spring 2005, the Library launched its on-line virtual museum, accessible through a link at www.nymasoniclibrary.org. The virtual museum opened with an initial selection of artifacts from the Library's collection, including the Cassoul-Watson letter written by Brother George Washington; a demit dated 1762 signed by Brother Paul Revere; a letter written by composer Brother Johannes Brahms; and the 1723 first edition of Anderson's Constitutions, which established the Grand Lodge of England, and codified Masonic practices and philosophies. These artifacts are examples of Masonic history, which are normally available to be viewed by an audience limited to visitors to the Library's Manhattan branch. Even then, access is limited because the artifacts cannot be exhibited without concern for the detrimental effects of sunlight, artificial light, and temperature within the Library. Now, through the virtual museum, patrons may view digital images of these artifacts whenever they like, and learn more about the artifacts by reading the data included with each posting.

The Library's virtual museum makes use of the ContentDM© software contracted through the Online Computer Library Center, and continually funded by a donation from the Fifth Manhattan Masonic District Association Endowment Fund, Inc. This software allows us to post a selection of images of an artifact, so that visitors can enjoy several different views of an object, and gain an accurate impression of the artifact. ContentDM© allows us to establish data fields and enter information relating to the composition of the artifact, biographical information of its creator, the artifact's importance in Masonic history, and donor information. The system functions as a search engine with cross references, allowing viewers to search out artifacts relating to subject, medium, or key word entries. Additionally, non-public fields allow us to use ContentDM© as a cataloging

and inventory system, providing more accurate tracking of items in our care.

Visitors to the Library's website will, over time, be able to view more items from our collections than even visitors to our Manhattan and Utica sites are able to see on display. The virtual museum allows browsers to select single items, categories of artifacts (for example, Masonic aprons or artwork), and artifacts associated with particular Masons. The data fields provide more information than is practical to display in our museum exhibit cases, providing researchers with abundant resources for their own use. The images enable viewers to enjoy the beauty of our artifacts whenever they care to see them, not limited by our open hours or visitors' schedules.

In 2007, curator Catherine Walter added a significant number of items relating to Cleopatra's Needle, the obelisk in New York City's Central Park, along with a complete collection of Mackey's *the Book of the Lodge*, which includes beautiful engravings and analyses of the three Symbolic degrees. Nearly one hundred additional items were added to the virtual museum in 2007.

Public Programs and Institutional Cooperation

We were pleased to lend to the New-York Historical Society one of the 19th century tracing boards from our collection, for inclusion in the exhibition *French Founding Father: Lafayette's Return to Washington's America*. The staff of the NYHS felt that the tracing board best represented Lafayette's Masonic activities during his visit to America in 1824-1825. We commend the NYHS for including the Masonic aspect of Lafayette's life in this comprehensive and fascinating exhibit. The exhibition opened in Autumn 2007 and will run for a year.

The Trustees hosted the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and several visiting members from Quatuor Coronati Lodge no. 2076, London, England, at a December 10th dinner/lecture at La Petite Auberge on Manhattan's east side. The lecture focused on the present state of Masonic education, and included presentations by S. Brent Morris, the first American to sit as Master of Quatuor Coronati; Peter Currie, editor of the Lodge's Transactions; and Trevor Stewart, past Prestonian Lecturer. The program included a probing discussion session which included insights from the audience.

The Library continues its association as a member of the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO); the Masonic Library and Museum Association; the Special Librarians Association; the American Association of State and Local History; and the American Association of Museums. These organizations provide opportunities for the Library staff to continue to develop ideas and strategies that keep pace with similar institutions, and to serve as a resource for other Masonic libraries across the world. We also maintain membership in more than ten domestic and foreign research lodges.

Dinner Dance

On March 25, 2007, the Trustees of the Library honored M.:W.: Bruce Widger, Past Grand Master, for his longstanding commitment to Masonic education, at the Library's second biannual dinner dance. The event took place at Leonard's of Great Neck, Great Neck, NY, where one hundred fifty friends, family members and Brothers of M.:W.: Widger gathered to thank him for the support he shows toward expanding the development of individual Brothers and the Craft itself.

Other Ongoing Projects

Lodge Historical Files: The Library's Lodge Historical Files collection provides a compilation of primary source material from Masonic Lodges, past and present, from across the Grand Jurisdiction. Each Lodge has a series of file folders, organized by Lodge number, which hold meeting notices, Lodge by-laws, member biographies, photographs, and other memorabilia sent to the Library by the Lodge. Brothers visiting Masonic Hall, particularly during the Annual Communication, spend time reviewing the contents of their Lodges' files, and familiarizing themselves with the activities of Lodges over the past two hundred twenty three years.

The organization of the information in the files is not often conducive to easy review. In 2003, the Library began the project of subdividing each Lodge's folder into three subject areas, and organizing the material within each subject area by chronological or other logical order. The end result will provide researchers with meeting notices filed and stored by decade; biographies and photographs filed in a folder separate from Lodge histories and by-laws; and a clearer, more orderly look at the material which describes the lives of our Masonic Lodges. We anticipate this project will take several years to complete.

Subject Files: The Library's collection includes thousands of folders arranged alphabetically by subjects relating to Freemasonry. These folders contain essays, articles, speeches, clippings and other entries made over the century by Library staff and contributing researchers. The subject files are great sources of information for Brethren researching a wide range of Masonic topics, as they include information which is often omitted from published works.

The Library's subject files have produced some excess duplication over the years, and include documents printed on paper that is showing signs of deterioration. In the Fall of 2002, the Library staff began the process of sorting through each folder in the subject files, removing excess copies of duplicated documents, re-copying documents in need of preservation, and adjusting the subject headings of the folders. This project will continue into the coming years.

Biographical Files: The Library maintains vertical files on individuals of significance to Masonic history and general history. These files typically contain clippings, speeches, essays, eulogies and illustrations/photographs of the historical figure. We currently have an index listing of the biographical files, but plan to reorganize and refine the file collection and enter the subjects' names into a database, which will include life dates, Masonic titles, and other pertinent information. We are also adding data from the biographical files to the entries relating to historically prominent Masons displayed in our online museum.

Special Collections

The Library continues to receive many research requests for material from the Edward Cusick Collection of documents relating to the history of Prince Hall Masonry and the Charles Looney Engraving Collection. Finding aides for these collections have been posted on the Library's website (www.nymasoniclibrary.org), and the results of the posting have been outstanding. Many researchers have visited the Library to study the Cusick Collection, which offers a first-hand account of events in Prince Hall Masonry in the early to mid-20th century. This collection provides an opportunity for perspective on a controversial area of Masonic history.

The Charles Looney Engraving Collection includes images of historical figures with direct connections to Freemasonry. The Looney Collection literally matches faces with historical accounts, and reminds patrons that historical figures were real people, not legendary beings. The Library receives several requests each month for scans or reproductions of images from the Looney Collection.

Preservation/Conservation

The Library used recommendations from the 2005 Conservation Assessment Program report to apply for a Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and received notice in late 2005 that we were awarded funding for an environmental monitoring and collection stabilization project. Our application allowed us to partner with Conservator Barbara Moore, who participated in our CAP study. Ms. Moore installed three environmental monitors in our collection storage, or "stacks" area. These monitors record temperature, humidity levels, radiant light, ambient light, and other environmental factors which react with the books, artifacts and other materials in storage. After a period of one year, Ms. Moore analyzed the data using software developed by scientists at the Rochester Institute of Technology. This software charted each environmental factor in isolation and in unison with other factors, and predicted the expected shelf-life of the different materials (paper, ceramic, textile, wood, etc.) under the existing conditions.

Ms. Moore's report provides us with scientific, documented information which can be used as we apply for federal, state and private conservation grants. Ms. Moore's report also provides us with further guidelines for improving our conservation and exhibition practices.

The Library continues its mission of preserving our Masonic heritage by providing appropriate storage conditions to books, pamphlets, documents and other ephemera in its collection. The staff re-shelves many fragile works in acid-free archival binders, a process that extends the life of documents printed on brittle, flaking, or ancient paper. Uncatalogued documents are stored in acid-free vertical folders or archival boxes. The supplies necessary for preservation are costly.

Research Questions

One medium for increasing the scope of Masonic education is in the Library's participation in answering research questions from its patrons. The answers to research questions help to expand the awareness of the querents by familiarizing them with Masonry, its philosophies, its history, and the people who have been, and are, members of the Craft. Families who have a vague notion that a great grandfather was a Mason learn more about their ancestor, and about Masonry, when they write the Library and track down a Mason's history. Newly-made brothers find out about the men who belonged to their own Lodges decades or centuries ago. People who are unclear about the participation of Freemasonry in American history learn about the contributions made by the Founders of the country who belonged to the fraternity. And skeptics who believe that Freemasonry is a secret society or a cult find their misconceptions clarified when they learn about Masonic history and our contemporary actions. The Library's work with research questions is a valuable contribution to Masonic public relations and education.

In 2007, the Library answered approximately 1,600 research questions from Masonic and non-Masonic patrons. The majority of these questions arrived at the Library through e-mail, although many questions are forwarded through the Grand

Lodge Registry or the office of the Grand Secretary. A tremendous percentage of the research questions dealt with genealogy; querents often ask for the Masonic records or history of an ancestor.

The Library staff answers research questions by utilizing a number of sources. Files from the Grand Lodge Registry prior to 1900 are kept at the Library, and provide some data about members of early eras. Lodge archives often contain lists of officers or complete membership rosters, as well as publications that describe the activities and events associated with lodges. Biography files of famous Masons provide data for a percentage of querents. The archive collection which contains charters, returns, and other documents from lodges dating back to the late 1700s also provide valuable clues as to the membership, standing, and actions of New York's earliest Masons.

The research staff also uses our subject files, proceedings collections, and the Library's book collection to answer questions relating to the history and philosophy of Freemasonry. While the Library cannot perform complete research duties for querents, we can provide them with lists of possible sources for their own use, or furnish abstracts or outlines of research topics, giving querents a sense of direction or focus for their own research efforts.

We also receive a steady stream of non-Masonic researchers, who are investigating family history, and seeking access to information on the Masonic activities of ancestors. Many genealogical researchers have little familiarity with Freemasonry or the history of Masons in the State of New York. Our time spent with genealogical researchers helps to open the doors of Freemasonry to the public, and helps us to reconnect people with their family heritage by introducing them to the Masonic family.

Personnel

The Library operates under the direction of R.:W.:Thomas M. Savini. Brother Savini oversees the day to day operations of the Library, develops and oversees the implementation of the digital conversion, coordinates purchase of new titles and acquisitions, processes incoming additions to the Library's archival and historical files, answers reference and genealogy questions from Masonic and non-Masonic patrons, and assists electronic patrons and visiting researchers and tourists at the Library's Manhattan site. Additionally, Brother Savini coordinates the Library's ongoing efforts to organize its files, archives, and artifacts collection, so that Masonic history is accessible to researchers.

Georgia Hershfeld completes her thirteenth year as Library Cataloguer. Ms. Hershfeld continues to perform exceptional work in the creation and refinement of the MARC records that comprise the library catalogue. Ms. Hershfeld's hours of research, refinement and data entry have made the Library's catalogue an invaluable tool for the Masonic researcher. Scholars studying non-Masonic subjects have also used the catalogue to gain access to books in our collection which coincide with their areas of research, notably architecture, general history, and design studies. It is a testament to Ms. Hershfeld's skill and expertise that our patrons are able to use the subject headings and other information included in the catalogue to find books that fulfill their research needs. We have received overwhelming positive feedback regarding the Library's online catalogue from other Masonic and non-Masonic librarians; Masonic librarians in particular rave about our catalogue, and we humbly accept their praises, giving the lion's share of the credit to Ms. Hershfeld.

Mrs. Roseann Huschle continues her position as Library Receptionist. She coordinates the circulation of loaned books, processes newly acquired and catalogued material for shelving, and welcomes and assists visitors to the Library's Manhattan site. Mrs. Huschle has developed a strong familiarity with the circulation functions of the Athena system, which now allows the tracking of circulating books through the use of a laser-scanning barcode reader. Her welcoming smile and knowledgeable assistance make visitors to our Manhattan branch feel at home.

Catherine Walter completes her fourth year as full-time curator. Ms. Walter has dedicated many hours to the research, planning and installation of exhibits in the Library's Manhattan branch, and at points throughout Masonic Hall. Her curatorial skills are also well-applied to work that the regular patron cannot see, namely, the stabilization and housing of artifacts in storage. Ms. Walter has developed a logical, stable system for the thousands of artifacts in our care, ranging from two-ton stone commemorative markers to miniscule button pins. Of equal importance, and much more visible to the public, is her work involving the photographing and cataloging of artifacts in the Library's virtual museum. Her talent as a photographer and her skill as a curator show in the beautiful images and detailed information available to our online visitors. Her daily additions to the online museum ensure that frequent visitors to the Library's website always have new artifacts to view and appreciate.

The Library is also grateful to our volunteers. Barbara Shelley volunteers hours each week in assisting Catherine Walter in the cataloging of artifacts, and in placing larger numbers of artifacts into the online Virtual Museum. Ms. Shelley's design background and high level of interest in the artifact collection have brought new insight to our development of the Virtual Museum, and we are grateful for her continued work with us.

Scott Jobson completed an internship with us in the autumn/early winter of 2007, culminating in his earning a Master in Library Science degree from Rutgers University. We are grateful to Scott for the work he performed with our archival holdings, and wish him continued success and congratulations.

Daniel Jeon began volunteering several hours each week in the late autumn of 2007. He continues to provide us with

his meticulous data-entry talents, assisting in the completion of a New York State lodge history spreadsheet.

Utica Branch

The Utica branch of the Library continues to thrive under the care of Trustee R.: W.: Charles J. Haskin. Brother Haskin reports a steady stream of visitors to the Library, particularly brothers and their families who are visiting the Masonic Care Community in Utica. The Utica branch houses several beautifully restored Masonic tracing boards, and a large collection of Masonic regalia and memorabilia. Brother Haskin and the Utica volunteers maintain regular cleaning and rotation schedules for the artifacts at Utica.

R.: W.: Edward Gille continues in his role as Assistant Curator at Utica, and we are grateful for the time and effort he devotes to maintaining the exhibits and coordinating visitors and tours of the facility.

Our thanks go forth to our volunteers at Utica:

D. Ardelle Tuckerman, Branch Secretary
Beverly White, Hostess
Dr. Hermine Williams
R.: W.: Richard Eades
R.: W.: Frederick DeLaFleur
V.: W.: Michael Berardino
R.: W.: Norman M. McKnight
W.: Richard Hadley
Bro. Paul D' Ambrosio
Bro. Lyman Christensen

Board of Trustees

The Library Board of Trustees mourns the passing of R.: W.: Kenneth Gibbons, for many years the Treasurer of our Board. Ken was deeply involved in the development of the Library both at Manhattan and in Utica, and his wisdom and guidance placed the Library on a solid financial foundation.

R.: W.: Fred Hickein, another "founding father," accepted appointment as Trustee Emeritus after years of dedicated, active service to the Board. We expect Fred to continue as a familiar face and welcome voice at Board events.

The Board welcomed R.: W.: Aldo Ghirarduzzi and R.: W.: Richard Katz, both of whom have already made strong impressions on the Board, and brought important perspectives and opinions to the ongoing development of the Board and the Library.

Acquisitions

The Library received donation of artifacts from: Neal Bidnick; John E. Bukoski; William Morris Brown; Robert C. Carmen; Jean-Louis Domergue; Jacques Feinsod; Louis R. Fish; John Fitzpatrick; Graham Flynn; David S. Friedberg; Joanne Gavin (via Apollo-King Solomon Lodge No. 13); Bill Gibbons; William H. Ash, IV (via John Jay Gochman); the Grand Lodge of New York; Theodore "Ted" Jacobsen; Franklin Johnson; Barry Mallah, in honor of Robert W. Courtney; Sven Mossberg, in honor of William T. Slocum; Flavius I. Panait (via Georgia Hershfeld); Bernard M. Pederson, in memory of O.B. Pederson (via Kurt Ott); Gerd Peffgen; Robert I. Praties (via Edward Gilbert); Thomas M. Savini; Gilbert Savitzky; Service City Geba Lodge No. 1009; Robert Stack; Trevor Stewart; William P. Stris; James Sullivan; Michael A. Sutton; William J. Thomas; Unity Lodge No. 9 (via Florence and Bill Hyatt); Ivan Wojnikow; Evan Wolf, in honor of Byron R. Hartenstine.

Acknowledgements

The Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home provide regular, ongoing and generous support to the Library, and allow us to continue to develop our mission and expand our services to Brothers across the state, and to researchers across the world. We are deeply grateful to the Trustees for their dedication to Masonic education and to the Library. We applaud their longstanding mission toward the care of Brothers and their families and to the health and well-being of so many others at the Masonic Care Community.

We are grateful for the continuing support shown to us by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York and the Office of the Grand Secretary.

The Fifth Manhattan Masonic District Association Endowment Fund, Inc. continues to promote educational endeavors by providing generous support to ongoing Library projects, particularly making possible the hosting of our online catalogue and virtual museum. We salute the Endowment Fund and express our deepest gratitude for their commitment to Masonic education and the Library's mission.

St. George's Lodge 6, Schenectady, NY, has become a steadfast supporter of the Library, donating generously toward our development of facility and services at the Utica branch.

Generous support was provided by the Paul Schoeck Trust, and we are grateful for their confidence in the work we do.

Additional support was received from: Richard W. Bateman; Arthur S. and Faye Billings; Edward Braun; George Brooks; Charles J. Haskin; Fred G. and Eleanor Hickein; John Mauk Hilliard, in memory of R.:W.:Richard Oppenheimer; John Mauk Hilliard, in memory of R.:W.:William Orr; William G. Hillman; Claude Horstmann; Janet Jaquay; Kenneth Kohlhagen; Carl Levine; Manfred Liehs; Michael Loweth; Sven R. and Vivian Mossberg; Thad Peterson; Ralph Rosenthal; 2004-2006 Metropolitan District Deputy Grand Masters Association; Bunting Charity Lodge 727, New York, NY; Franklin Lodge 195, New York, NY; George Washington Lodge 285, New York, NY; Hamilton Lodge 120, Hamilton, NY; Harry S Truman Lodge 1066, New York, NY; Queens Masonic Association, Inc.; Shakespeare Lodge 750, New York, NY; Sixth Masonic District Association of Manhattan; Utica Lodge 47, Utica, NY.

The Trustees and staff extend deepest gratitude to all the Brethren who supported the Library through contributions to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund. These contributions go directly to the Library's operating budget, and help us to continue our efforts to make Masonry's history and physical heritage accessible to Masons across the State of New York.

Light the Lamp of Knowledge Program

In Spring 2005, the Trustees of the Library announced the Light the Lamp of Knowledge Program, a fundraising effort to ensure the establishment of an endowment which will allow the Library to operate independently from the interest generated. The program allows patrons to support the Library and leave a long-lasting memorial of themselves or another on the very shelves of the Library. Patrons who donate \$100.00 or more will select a book from among the 60,000 volumes in the Library's collection. That book will be adorned with a customized "Light the Lamp of Knowledge" bookplate, bearing an image customized from an old Masonic engraving, and noting the donor's name or an "In Memory of" or "In Celebration of" dedication. When all 60,000 volumes in the Library's care have received bookplates, the Library will have reached its goal of a Six Million Dollar endowment.

Donors receive acknowledgement letters; patrons donating more than \$100.00 may select additional books, in increments of \$100.00 per book. We have received generous support from donors, who are acknowledged on our website. The Library is working with the Masonic Brotherhood Foundation for the implementation of this project. Interested patrons may contact the Library by telephone for more information, or can visit our website to download a Light the Lamp of Knowledge form.

We are grateful to the directors of the Paul Schoeck Trust and to R.:W.:Manfred Liehs, who have made generous donations to the campaign.

We acknowledge the support of: 1989-1990 Metropolitan DDGMs Association; 2004-2006 Metropolitan DDGMs Association; Laurence Benson; Neal & Joyce Bidnick; Sharon & John Brandon, Bryan Mills and Debra Troell; Bunting Charity Lodge 727; David Allen Chapman; William L. & Ann DuPree; Richard H. Eberle; Eighth Masonic District Association of Manhattan; Carl H. Faust; Alfred Fick; Mark Fink; Michael Gold; Michael R. Gammans; Guttenberg Lodge 737; Hamilton Lodge 120; Charles Haskin; Stephen S. King; Stephen J. Kofert; Manfred Liehs; Michael Loweth; Barry & Sheryl Mallah; Medford Square Club; Richard C. Mills; Otsego Lodge 138; Louis R. Rosenthal; Michael L. Rosson; Ralph M. Savage; Paul Schoeck; Stanley H. Schumacher Jr.; Philip S. Schwartzman; Charlotte Shutts; Melvin Silverman; Ronnie S. Smith; Robert Stack and Janice Weitman; Joseph Tedeschi; Michael K. Todd; Richard M. Torrey; Harold J. Van Buren; Richard Vang; Richard W. Ward; Matthew B. Webb.

What Can Lodges Do?

Lodges can assist the Livingston Library in several ways. We rely heavily on the financial support of the Brethren through their donations to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund. The Library is one of the designees of donations on Brotherhood Fund return forms, and we ask that each Brother and Lodge in the Jurisdiction consider allocating their donations to the Library and its mission. These donations help to offset the cost of the Library's operating expenses, which include staff salaries, the purchase of new books for circulation, the acquisition of new artifact for display, and the expansion of the catalogue onto the

Internet. We are aware of the difficulty facing upstate Brethren in attempting to access the Library's book collection, and the limitations distance places upon utilizing the Library's museum artifacts. We hope to end that difficulty by offering the catalogue on line, which would allow upstate Brethren the same search capacity available to visitors at the Manhattan site. The creation of the Library's on-line virtual museum will help eliminate the limitation of access created by distance. Any contributions made to the Library toward this goal will help us to close the geographic distance separating upstate Brothers from the books.

The financial realities of the time present challenges to the Library's ability to operate. We are pursuing all possible options for securing dedicated funding so that we may continue our mission and expand our services. But we need the assistance of the Brethren to continue our work as the source of Masonic information and education in this Grand Jurisdiction.

There are other ways of supporting the Library's mission. The Library has files or archives from every Lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction. Some of these files are filled with trestle boards, programs, returns, rosters, directories, photographs, and other items, which preserve the memory of events and happenings at each individual Lodge. Other files have occasional notices, and reflect little of the life of the lodge. By including the Livingston Library on your Lodge's mailing list, you ensure that the documents which track the history of your Lodge will be preserved and available for future Masons to view. Many Lodges keep archives within their own buildings; think of the Library as a "back-up" archive, where your lodge's heritage is maintained. These records also assist us in answering research questions, and help us to spread the word about the activities of your Lodge.

Volunteers are always welcome at the Library. If your Lodge is interested in spending time in assisting us in special projects, we would be grateful to accept your help. Many projects require many hands and creative ideas, and there is no better place to find these attributes than in a Masonic Lodge. Contact the director or one of the Trustees if your Lodge is interested in participating in a Library project.

Lodges can also help the Library through financial contributions. You may the Library or one of our Trustees with questions as to how your donation to the Library will be put to use. We welcome donations toward special purchases or restoration projects. We have many volumes and works of art that are in desperate need of restoration, and Lodges are welcome to contribute to these efforts. The Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library of Grand Lodge is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation, which means that all donations are tax deductible.

Bequests

If you wish to make a gift to the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library of Grand Lodge in your Will, the following texts are suitable.

1. For a gift of money:

"I give and bequeath the sum of Dollars to the CHANCELLOR ROBERT R LIVINGSTON MASONIC LIBRARY OF GRAND LODGE, a State-chartered, non-profit corporation, having its principal office at 71 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010-4171, for any of the purposes for which it was established."

2. For a gift of Land or Real Property:

"I give and devise to the CHANCELLOR ROBERT R LIVINGSTON MASONIC LIBRARY OF GRAND LODGE, a State-chartered, non-profit corporation, having its principal office at 71 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010-4171, all that certain plot or parcel of land, (with the building thereon erected), situate at And being particularly described as follows:"

3. For a gift of the Testator's Estate:

"I give, devise and bequeath all the rest, residue and remainder of my property, both real and personal, of whatever kind and nature and wherever situate, to the CHANCELLOR ROBERT R LIVINGSTON MASONIC LIBRARY OF GRAND LODGE, a State-chartered, non-profit corporation, having its principal office at 71 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010-4171, for any of the purposes for which it was established."

These are examples of gifts to the Library upon the death of the donor or testator. If a person wishes to make a gift during his or her lifetime, a "non-revocable trust agreement" is a suitable document for that purpose. At the time the trust agreement is entered into, the assets comprising the principal of the trust are transferred to the Library, but the donor continues to receive all the income from assets during his or her lifetime. For more information, please contact the Director of the Library.

While the above language is suitable and proper for most situations, we strongly recommend that you consult an attorney for

assistance in drafting a Will or Trust Agreement.

Respectfully submitted,
Barry Mallah, *President*

Michael L. Rosson, *1st V.P.*

Aldo Ghirarduzzi, *Treasurer*

John Patrick Deveney

Manfred Liehs

Richard W. Ward

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Charles J. Haskin, *2nd V.P.*

Richard C. Mills, *Secretary*

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W. Bruce Renner

Ronald W. White Henry Altman (Emeritus)

Gerald Showalter (Emeritus)

Richard H. Eberle

William Thomas

Richard Katz

Richard Vang

Edward Fagan Jr (Emeritus)

GRAND MASTER, DEPUTY GRAND MASTER,

GRAND SECRETARY (*ex-officio*)

Thomas M. Savini, *Director*