

**Chancellor Robert R Livingston
Masonic Library of Grand Lodge
Annual Report for the year 2010**

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.

The Library follows the lead of M.:W.:Vincent Libone, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, and works for a greater understanding of Freemasonry among New York State Masons and members of the general public around the world.

Strategic Plan

The Board of Trustees of the Library completed and approved its 2-5-10 Year Strategic Plan in November 2007, and continues to work toward the implementation of the various stages of the plan. 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.

In the year 2009, the Library received a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), administered through the American Association of Museums, which facilitated participation in the Museum Assessment Program (MAP). The MAP component chosen for the Library focused on artifact collection development. Following a preliminary self-assessment phase, conducted by a committee comprising Board members, Library staff and other stakeholders, we prepared for a visit by a MAP site reviewer.

AAM consultant Nancy Bryk visited our Manhattan site on January 25-26, 2010. Her visit included interviews with staff, meetings with the Board; and a thorough review of policies and procedures.

Ms. Bryk's review produced a prioritized road map for the development of the collection policy, establishing twelve benchmarks and other steps for development of the museum collection. Her assessment advised the completion of an artifact inventory; a review of policies governing similar institutions; and suggested benchmarks for the development of a comprehensive artifact collection policy. The Board appointed a committee to implement these recommendations.

Participation in MAP is vital to the development and growth of our institution, as we clarify and define our educational mission, our responsibilities as stewards of Masonic culture, and our duties as an educational institution.

Another major component of the Strategic Plan was addressed with the expansion of our staff to include a part-time archivist. Michelle Ooi came aboard midway through 2010 to work with the under-developed archival material, consisting largely of 18th, 19th and early 20th century lodge records, correspondence, and annual returns. The initial phase of development of this collection will involve inventory, storage and physical stabilization: due to the nature of the contents of the collection, decisions relating to access will need to be considered as time progresses.

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. Past Trustee William J. 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. At the close of 2010, over 1140 Brothers across the state had enrolled in or completed a revised Reading Course.

The revised Courses are:

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. Many of our website patrons visit the Library's Manhattan branch, arriving with call numbers in hand, searching for books they found on the Library's online catalogue.

The Library's Virtual Museum makes use of the ContentDM© software contracted through the Online Computer Library Center. 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.

Our website is administered by our volunteer Webmaster, Brother John Branda. Additional web presence is facilitated by Brother Daniel Jeon, who moderates our Facebook fanpage. Our progress in digitization is continually funded by a donation from the Fifth Manhattan Masonic District Association Endowment Fund, Inc.

Public Programs and Institutional Cooperation

The Library continued its partnership with the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, involving the Memorial's Masonic Digital Archives project. In early 2010 the Library moved its Virtual Museum collection to a ContentDM© license hosted by the Memorial. It is our hope that other participants in the Memorial's Digital Archives will catalogue and display their own artifact collections under the same license, allowing researchers and browsers the opportunity to study and compare different examples of Masonic material culture. We also hope that our cataloging system for Masonic artifacts will assist other collectors and institutions in classifying and organizing their Masonic artifacts.

Participation in this project signals the potential for future efforts in Masonic education and study among numerous Masonic institutions. We look forward to ongoing developments in the Digital Archives.

The Library continued to host free lectures at its Manhattan site. Noted author Tim Wallace-Murphy spoke at the Library about his writings, his view of history and his research in May of 2010. September 2010 saw an overview of the history and development of African-American Freemasonry by Brother Oscar Alleyne.

In November 2010, the Library and the WB Yeats Society of New York hosted Marsha Keith Schuchard, who presented the program *Swedenborg, Yeats and Freemasonry* at Masonic Hall, through the courtesy of the Trustees of the Masonic Hall. The program drew an audience of one hundred people.

The Library continues its association as a member of the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO); 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.

Processus Contra Templarios

The *Processus Contra Templarios* is a collection of material relating to the Knights Templar of the Crusades, found in the archives of the Vatican, and published through their cooperation with Scrinium. The collection focuses on over twenty synthetic facsimile of documents written in 1308. The documents represent testimony taken from imprisoned Knights Templar in southern France, transcribed by Papal inquisitors. The original documents were lost within the Vatican archives until their recovery in 2001 and their publication in 2007. The original parchments were handwritten in 14th century Latin.

The *Processus* includes three volumes, two of which were published in 2007. Volume 1 begins with a complete transcription of the contents of the parchments in Latin. In a second section of Volume 1, Vatican archivist Barbara Frale provides an historical overview of the formation and activities of the Knights Templar, followed by an analysis of the events leading to their suppression during the years 1307-1314. She concludes her account with a description of the discovery of the documents comprising the *Processus*. This section is illustrated with three engravings. Frale's commentary is printed in both Italian and English, side by side.

Volume 2 is a portfolio of the facsimile, numbering twenty parchments reproduced on synthetic archival material. Three facsimile measure over five feet in length, and include extensive testimony taken from the Knights Templar by Papal inquisitors. Smaller facsimile record observations and commentary by the Papal tribunal. A final piece represents a facsimile of the *Chinon parchment*, a declaration issued by Pope Clement V absolving the Knights Templar from any charges of heresy. Volume 3 is a translation of the contents of the parchments, published in 2009.

The Livingston Masonic Library was the first Masonic institution to announce acquisition of a copy of the *Processus* when it was published in 2007. The Library made use of funds through the Edward Scheider Endowment to acquire the *Processus*, fulfilling the donor's wish that his gift be used to acquire rare and interesting material relating to Masonic tradition. The Library makes no claim to any historical linkage between the Knights Templar and contemporary Freemasonry, but rather acknowledges the legends and traditions that form inspirational bonds between the Templars of the medieval era and Freemasonry as it is practiced today.

Since its arrival in March 2008, the *Processus* has been displayed both in Manhattan at the Library's main branch, and on exhibitions across New York State at Masonic and other historical gatherings. In 2010, the *Processus* was displayed at Western Star Lodge no. 1185, Buffalo, NY, and at the 'Catch the Wave' program in the Erie districts. At each stop the *Processus* makes audiences of local Masons, historians, antiquarians, history buffs, conspiracy theorists, and other diverse attendees, discuss and debate the issues surrounding the Knights Templar and the claims of links to Freemasonry.

Personnel

The Library operates under the direction of R.:W.:Thomas M. Savini, who marks eleven years of service with us. 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.

We congratulate R.:W.:Savini upon his appointment as a Custodian of the Work.

Georgia Hershfeld, Library Cataloguer, continues to perform exceptional work in the creation and refinement of the MARC records that comprise the library catalogue. This year, Ms. Hershfeld worked with material written by Masonic poet laureate Robert Morris, along with hundreds of day-to-day materials. 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.

Catherine Walter, Curator, has dedicated many hours to the research, planning and installation of exhibits in the Library's Manhattan branch, and at points throughout Masonic Hall, and in the digital exhibits displayed in our 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. Ms. Walter is deeply involved in our ongoing project of artifact collections development facilitated through the MAP process.

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.

We welcome Michelle Ooi to the Library as our Archivist. Ms. Ooi brings her training in art history and her exceptional skill at organization to the formidable task of developing the Library's archival collection. In the short time she has been with us, Ms. Ooi has compiled a spreadsheet of New York State Masonic lodges past and present which serves as a framework for listing and storing data and material relating to each of these lodges. The archival collection will require much time and effort before it is fully developed, but we believe that Ms. Ooi is the right person to take on this project.

Board of Trustees

The Board experienced a number of changes this year. The deepest felt is the tragic loss of R:W:Manfred Liehs, Second Vice President, who entered the Celestial Lodge in October. We mourn the loss of 'Freddie,' our Brother and friend, and one of the hardest working men in Freemasonry. Freddie never met a Mason he didn't want to aide and assist, whether it was through his work in helping lodges restructure, or through the good humor and beaming smile he shared with all around him.

M:W:Vincent Libone, Grand Master, appointed R:W:Walter Hilsenbeck to the Board to complete Freddie's unexpired term.

A happier change came though the election of Past Trustee William J. Thomas as Grand Treasurer in May 2010. Upon his election, R:W:Thomas resigned his post as Library Trustee, in accord with Constitutional requirements. M:W:Libone appointed R:W:W.Bruce Renner, Past Senior Grand Warden and Past Trustee, to fulfill the Grand Treasurer's unexpired term. We congratulate Bill on his election and wish him the best, and we welcome Bruce back to the fold.

A Library mainstay for many years, R:W:Charles J. Haskin, Past Second Vice President, retired his position as Library Trustee and was elected Trustee Emeritus at the Annual Communication in May. R:W:Haskin has been our 'man in Utica' for many years, running a smooth ship, guiding our dedicated volunteers, and providing tours for visitors to our branch on the Masonic Care Community.

New additions to the Board were R:W:Scott D. Peat and R:W:Andrew B. Hengst, who was elected to fill the office of Second Vice President. We welcome our Brothers to the Board and look forward to their continuing contributions to the Library's mission.

Board members old and new continued to visit Lodges across the Grand Jurisdiction, speaking about the Library, its resources and its services. Board members also host tours of the Library's sites in both Manhattan and Utica.

Manhattan Volunteers

The Library had the benefit of two student interns this past summer. Katherine Horton from Long Island College spent several months working with Cataloguer Georgia Hershfeld. Ms. Horton contacted the Library in the spring of 2010, seeking experience in a working library prior to commencing her graduate studies in the Library Sciences. She also worked with Curator Catherine Walter and the artifact collection, thus having the opportunity to compare the processing of books and paper matter versus artifacts.

Miriam Natis of Bard College also spent the summer with us. Ms. Natis provided vital assistance in the opening phase of the artifact inventory, a step suggested by the Consultant's Report in our MAP process. We wish both Ms. Horton and Ms. Natis continued success in their academic endeavors, and extend our deepest thanks for their work with us.

Barbara Shelley volunteers each week in assisting Catherine Walter in the photographing and cataloging of artifacts, and in placing large 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.

William Rohan arrived at our doors with a deep interest in Freemasonry and considerable experience in the field of art handling and stabilization and began assisting Ms. Walter in the ongoing task of re-housing and storing the artifact collection.

R::W::William Stris of Valley Stream, NY, donates hours of time and resources toward the organization and scanning of newspaper clippings from the lodge historical file collection. This work ensures the survival of information on the activities of New York State lodges, which is literally crumbling because it was printed on newsprint. To date, R::W::Stris has preserved the clippings from over three hundred lodges across New York State. His work has propelled a project that might not otherwise receive attention, and we are deeply grateful for his commitment.

Utica Branch

Following the retirement of R::W::Charles J. Haskin and the passing of R::W::Manfred Liehs, the Utica branch of the Library is under the supervision of our newly-elected Second Vice President, R::W::Andrew B. Hengst. R::W::Hengst will work with R::W::Ronald W. White and our Utica volunteers to complete a thorough re-organization of the storage and processing facilities at the site. Our mid-state Brothers report 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. Our midstate Trustees 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. Lyman Christensen

Bi-Annual Dinner

In late 2010, the Board announced the July 9, 2011 Journal Dinner honoring M::W::Edward R. Trosin, Past Grand Master, to be held at the Classics V Banquet Hall in Buffalo, NY.

Acquisitions

The Library received donation of artifacts from: Carol L. Anderson, in honor of Edward Mayers; George Barbour; Richard W. Bateman, GP, AGS; Betty V. Buehler; Cliff Cameron; Dennis Daugherty; Damascus Lodge No. 867;

Eileen DeLucia; William L. Dill, GM, GLNC; Victor Gillen, Sov. Gr, Com, Luxembourg; Grand Lodge of New York; Larry A Hancock, GM, GLAL; Gary A. Henningsen, PGM, GLNY; Abigail Kimball; Vincent Libone, GM, GLNY; Manfred Liehs; Patric A. McGlynn; Mountain Lodge No. 529; Isamay Osborne, in honor of MW Robert N. Osborne, PGM, MI; Barry A. Rickman, GM, GLSC; Walter E. Seifert, Jr.; Robert D. Stack, PGT; Tecumseh Lodge No. 487; William J. Thomas, GT; Edward R. Trosin, PGM, GLNY; Art and Susan Zuckerman.

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 its governing Board, 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.

Additional support was received from: Richard W. Bateman; Charles V. Bunton; Francis G. Dumaurier; the estate of Kenneth T. Gibbons; Charles J. Haskin; Andrew B. Hengst, Jr.; Fred G. and Eleanor Hickein; John Mauk Hilliard,

in memory of M.:W.:Calvin G. Bond and R.:W.:Valerio Chironna; Martin L. Kanter; Charles E. Knapp, Jr.; Manfred Liehs; Sven R. and Vivian Mossberg; Ralph Rosenthal; Thomas E. Santmyer, Jr.; Tanya Shaffer, in memory of Manfred Liehs; Sam Shapiro; 2004-2006 Metropolitan District Deputy Grand Masters Association; Aurora Grata-Day Star Lodge 647, Brooklyn, NY; Bunting Charity Lodge 727, New York, NY; Carpenter Emanuel Lodge 588, New York, NY; E & T Embroidered Specialties, Inc., Hawthorne, NY; Franklin Lodge 195, New York, NY; Fraternal Lodge no. 155, West Chazy, NY; Fraternal & Archival Maintenance, Inc., Latham, NY; George Washington Lodge 285, New York, NY; Holland Lodge no. 8, New York, NY; Independent Royal Arch Lodge no. 2, New York, NY; Mariners Lodge 67, New York, NY; Pleasantville Hiawatha Lodge 434, Pleasantville, NY; Queens Masonic Association, Inc.; Queens Purple Circle; Shakespeare Lodge 750, New York, NY; Sixth Masonic District Association of Manhattan; Springfield Gardens Lodge 1057, Rockville Centre, NY; Square Circle Press LLC, Voorheesville, NY; 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Mallah, *President*

Michael L. Rosson, <i>1st V.P.</i>	Andrew B. Hengst, <i>2nd V.P.</i>
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Richard W. Ward (Emeritus)

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GRAND SECRETARY (*ex-officio*)
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