

The cover features a highly decorative border with intricate scrollwork and various Masonic symbols. At the top, there is a large triangle containing a compass and square. On the left and right sides, there are crossed tools including a pickaxe and a hammer. At the bottom, there are crossed scythes. The entire design is rendered in a detailed, engraved style.

Coeur d'Alene Lodge 20

Murray, Idaho EST 1886

Monthly Trestleboard

Seat of Knowledge

NOVEMBER

ISSUE 11

2019

Publisher & Editor

Bro. DB Jordan

CDA20.org





The Seat of Knowledge Trestleboard is an education based newsletter extracting articles and knowledge of interest from the past. Freemasonry is a rich and diversified field with world renown scholars who have contributed their knowledge to enhance ours, therein lies the reason for this particular Trestleboard. We are however happy to receive any articles or news including pictures from brothers of CDA 20 as well as recommendations and or suggestions. Please email submissions to: Bro. DB Jordan: CDA20.org@gmail.com

"Employ your time in improving yourself by other men's writings so that you shall come easily by what others have labored hard for."
 ~Socrates



**CDA 20 Stated Communication
 2nd Mon. @ 1900 Hrs**

**One Day Reunion Scottish Rite
 January 25 2020—0800 (Candidates 0730)**

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Precepts of Freemasonry.

1. Be just ; because equity sustains the human race.
2. Be good ; because goodness enchains all hearts.
3. Be indulgent ; because, feeble thyself, thou shouldst bear with the feebleness of others.
4. Be kind ; because kindness secures affection.
5. Be grateful ; because gratitude is the food that nourisheth liberality.
6. Be modest ; because pride is offensive to your fellow-beings.
7. Pardon injuries ; because vengeance perpetuates hate.
8. Render good for evil ; because in this way you will rise superior to the evil-doer and make him your friend.
9. Be forbearing, temperate, chaste; because voluptuousness, intemperance and sensuality are destructive of the existence and will render it miserable.
10. Be a citizen ; because thy country is necessary for thy security, thy happiness and well-being.
11. Defend thy country with thy life ; because it is her who secures thee in thy property and in the possession of all those beings dear to thy heart ; but never forget that humanity has rights.
12. If thy country wrong thee—if she refuse thee happiness and suffer thee to be oppressed—leave her in silence ; but never trouble her. Support adversity with resignation.

REBOLD.

Bro. DB Jordan 32°
 Publisher - Editor & Chief





NEWS



In Memory of Brother Ben Benninghoff

2019 officers for CDA 20 are as follows:

WM — Taylor Marlow, SW — John Hull 32°

JW — B. Becker 33° — Treas. — Bill Needham

Sec. — DB Jordan 32°

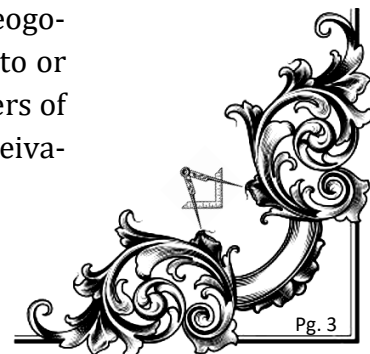
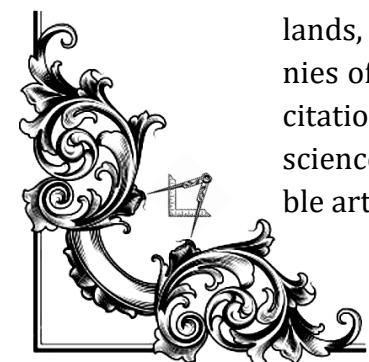
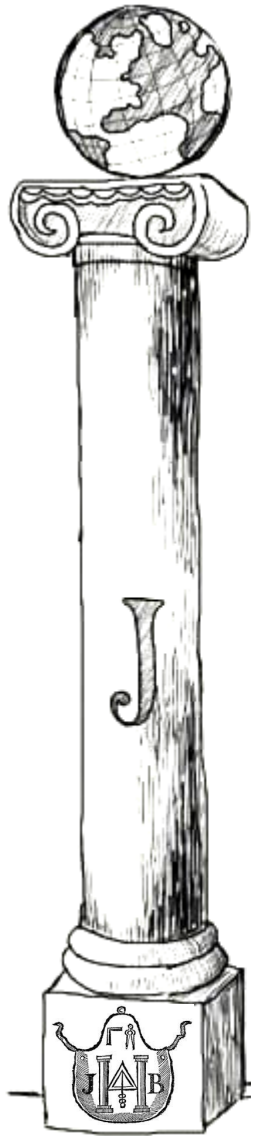




FREEMASONRY and the OCCULT

Frank C. Higgins 32°

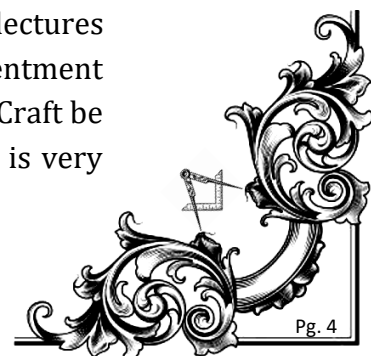
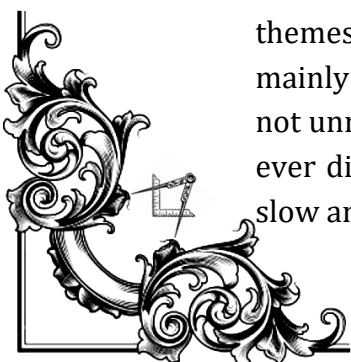
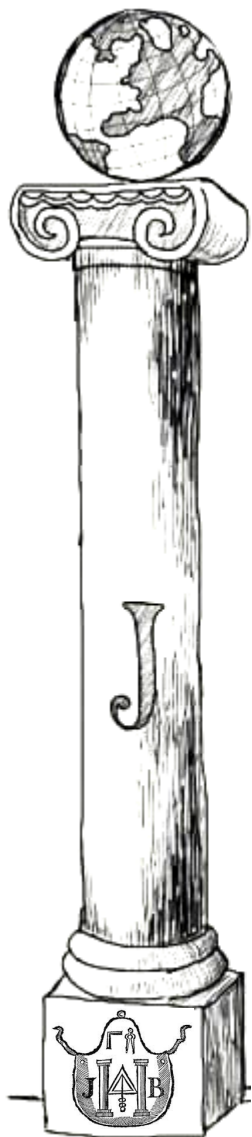
“A system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols” is the description of Freemasonry which has achieved the widest currency among its modern votaries. Naturally enough the strict letter of Masonic law reserves all discussion of its mysteries to the Lodge and the initiate, but there exist all sorts of interpretations of how strictly this reticence should be observed. There are many liberal-minded Masons who hold that the only reasonable reservations are those details which would permit of an impostor intruding his presence unlawfully into a Masonic gathering or describing its procedure. The experience of the writer is that a large number of laymen have a fairly accurate notion of the Masonic legend and its applications, obtained from sources of information which are not difficult of access, but he has never known even a casual possessor of the information to treat it with irreverence or boast of it. It is a curious fact that a so-called Masonic “secret” is practically as safe from vulgar indiscretion in the breast of a non-Mason as in that of one of the elect. The old notion that Masonry is something to be whispered about with bated breath, as in the days of the Morgan excitement, has died away, and in addition to the fact that it is permitted to the brethren to say enough concerning the beauties of Masonry to those who have manifested a reverent desire to make inquiry, to aid their decisions as to soliciting membership, a number of fine Masonic Encyclopedias and several important essays, notably the volume called “Morals and Dogma,” by the venerable Albert Pike, exist to gratify more “profane” curiosity than most non-reading Masons imagine possible. As the latter books are readily accessible and their subject matter open to the student, shorn only of its specific connection with the ritual, the latter will quickly note a host of more or less detailed references to the “Ancient Mysteries” of many lands, to the ancient religions of the Orient, to the philosophies and theogonies of India, Egypt, Palestine, Greece, Rome and the Druids, allusions to or citations from the ancient seers from Manu to Pythagoras and the fathers of science from Hermes to Euclid. It will be found that almost every conceivable art and science has been touched upon under various vital aspects





while there is accorded equal consideration to the subjects of astrology, the "Number Philosophy" and the hidden properties of words and letters.

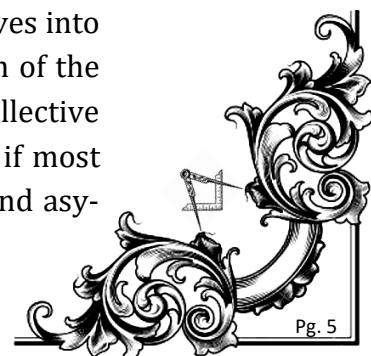
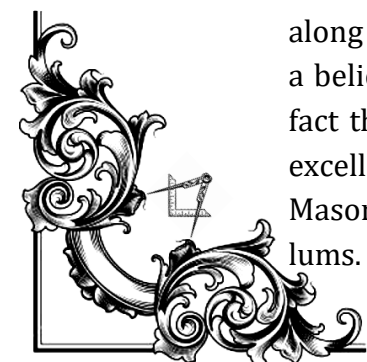
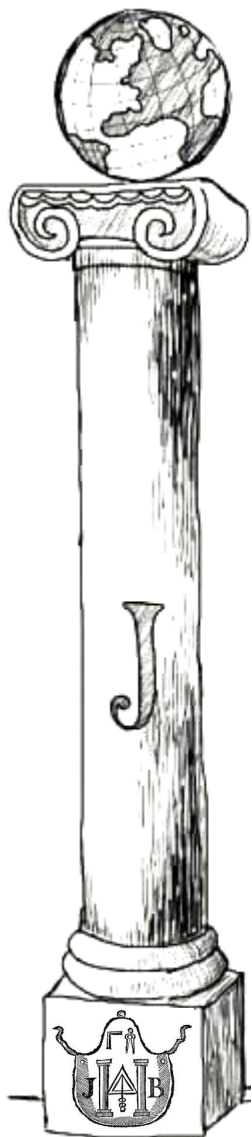
Architecture is the motif and sacred history the alleged theme of a simple but imposing ritualistic development of degrees which never fails to touch the sensitive fibres and raise the spiritual level of even the most illy equipped participant. It is no secret to the student that every one of the details enumerated has its proper place in which it can be recognized by the Adept, but Masonic initiation no more makes an Adept than the possession of a hurdy-gurdy a Lizst or a Chopin. There are more non-Masons fitted to understand and profit by what Masonry contains than there are brethren so instructed actually affiliated with the craft. By this I mean that there are very few Occultists within the ranks of the fraternity, for the majority of Occultists are non-Masons. The practical Occultist who has been found worthy of admission to Masonic circles on the ground of his otherwise good conduct and repute, will find himself in the same relation to the average Mason as a man of keen-sight, wandering through a wondrous garden in the company of the blind. There is an excuse for ignorance in the fact that whatever the individual man has never heard of, thought of, seen or felt is practically non-existent to him, and the overwhelming majority of our Masonic brethren have the same conception of Masonry which men had of electricity before Franklin's experiment with the key. Therefore, they are prone to regard the Occultist in Masonry very much as we feel about the erring brother who insists upon calling our attention to green mice and pink spiders. The most vehement objectors to an Occultist's view of Masonry are those who can readily be made to admit that they have never read or studied a line on the subject. They simply don't believe it because they are not even dimly conscious of anything deeper than superficial significances. Furthermore, the brother who has achieved distinction on a reputation for eloquent handling of such themes as "Faith, Hope and Charity," "Our Duty to Contribute" or lectures mainly compilations of Biblical texts and narratives, feels a certain resentment not unmixed with fear that he is "about done for" if the attention of the Craft be ever diverted into scientific channels. So the infusion of true research is very slow and the students' life very lonely in the Masonic garden.





He may ride a goat or a camel, but he must not read a book which is over his neighbor's head.

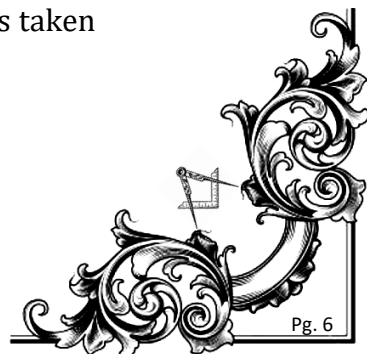
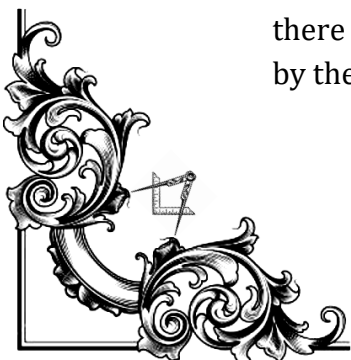
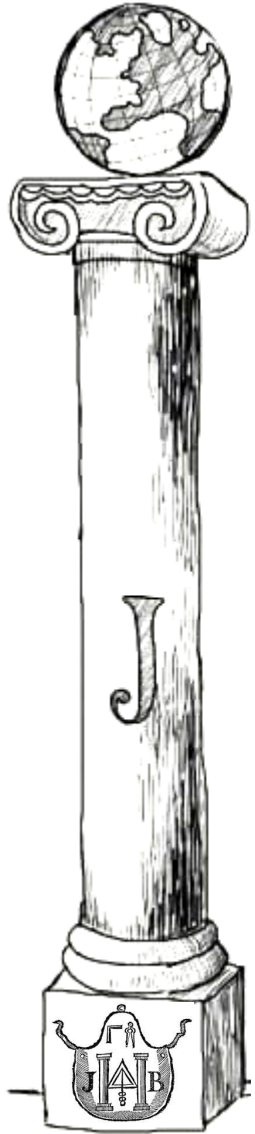
There are two essential factors to Masonic initiation, the ritual employed and the lectures which explain to the neophyte the meaning of what he sees, hears and experiences. Therefore, the spiritual benefit to the candidate must be largely bound up in the lecture. The comparison by one who has the right to examine into such things and the requisite knowledge to appreciate, shows that the European continental and Oriental lectures contain precise application to and direct the candidate to Occult science for deeper penetration into Masonic mysteries. Our American and Anglo-Saxon Masonry in general has been totally and undoubtedly purposely bereft of all such allusions and indications. This is at strange variance with the language of the ritual and the ceremonial grips, words and postures, all of which are of surpassing antiquity, fraught with intelligent significance and in full keeping with Masonic pretensions for which they are, in fact, the sole excuse. They are, however, rendered meaningless and inept to all but the Occultist by the loss of all popular conception of their purport. This emasculation of Masonic virility, has, I am convinced, been the intentional profanation of emissaries of an institution which cannot live where the light of Freemasonry dispels the mists of ignorance and superstition. They have drawn the lion's claws and no longer feel afraid of the stroke of its massive paw. The writer is prepared to assert from his vantage as both Occultist and Freemason that there is a vast special science concealed within the seemingly simple terminology of the craft and that this science is a key to all other sciences, teaching, through readily recognized analogies, the same ultimate properties of matter and the reality of spirit generated energies, which mankind is now groping for, in the realms of effect rather than those of cause. Freemasons of today are worthily exerting their strength along social and philanthropic lines, and actually hypnotising themselves into a belief that this is the sole end and aim of Masonry, in utter oblivion of the fact that while these activities may represent both individual and collective excellences they are no more "Masonry" than would be card-playing if most Masonic initiates elected to play cards instead of building hospitals and asylums.





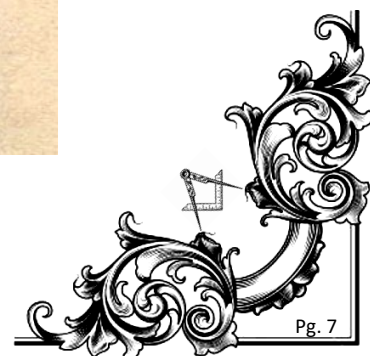
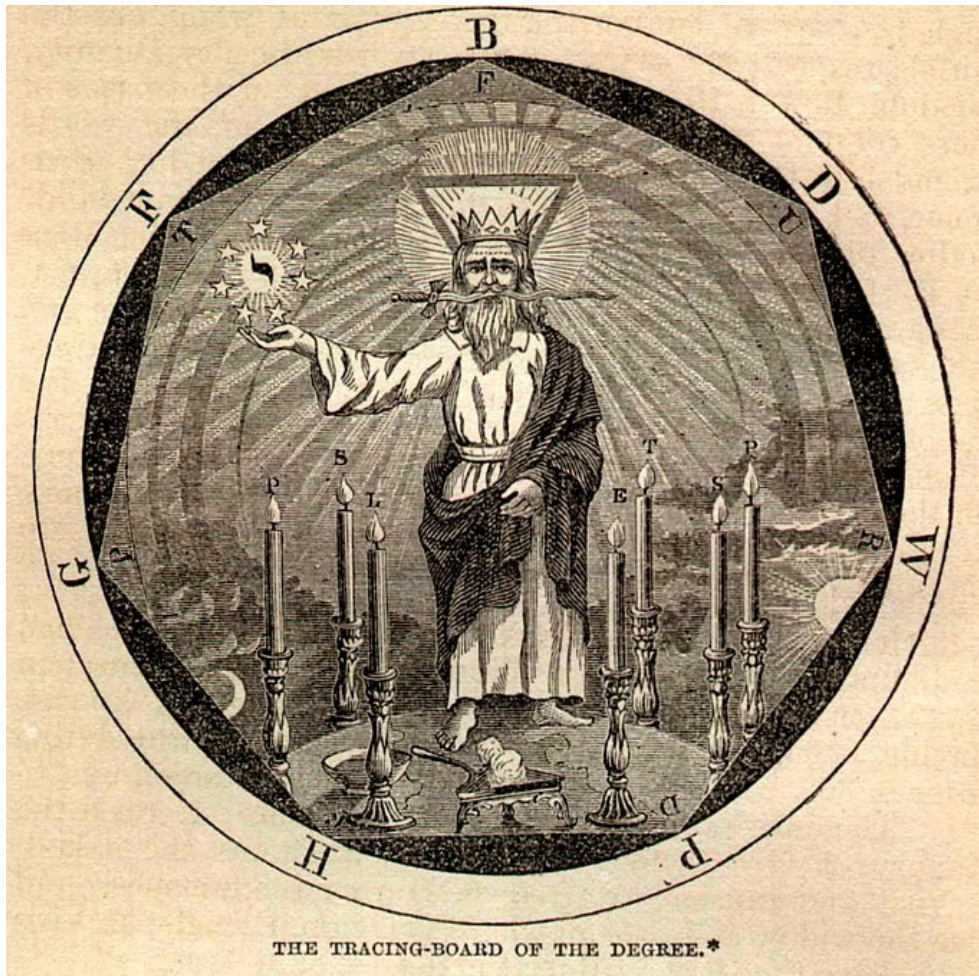
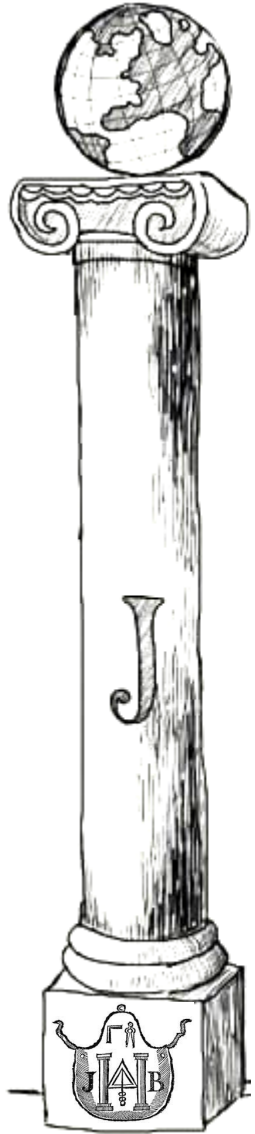
Ministers of religion are endeavoring in every possible manner to direct the great soul force of Masonry into the channels of particular creeds and quite often draw appealing pictures of the likeness of figures found in our ritual to the founders of their respective sects, exclaiming that the true teaching of the Masonic initiation must be that of a specific dogma.

This is one of the uncharted secrets of the craft and the true, the great underlying reason for the implacable animosity of Masonry's arch enemy. Men of all manner of apparently varying and antagonistic religious conditions may stand around the mystic altar of the craft and see unfolded the life drama and transcendent teachings of the great white forerunner of his faith, the Hind his Krishna, the Buddhist his Gautama, the Jew his Prophet and the Christian his Christ, as the Greek would have seen his Orpheus and the Egyptian his Horus. The adept is already in the presence of the great synthesis for which all nations yearn, but, alas, the veil is yet too dense for untutored vision. The average Mason thinks that the signs, grips and passwords which are communicated to him, together with the working formulas which enable him to pass an examination for admission into strange lodges, constitute the secrets of Masonry, which he is sworn to guard. They are secrets, as the "combination" of a safe, entrusted to a guardian is a secret, but the "combination" is not the treasure within, and is valueless except as a bar to unlawful approach to the latter. The modern Mason, who neglects, refuses or is unable to study, may certainly secure a higher type of social intercourse as the fruit of his initiation, but, however agreeable and elevating this may be, or however association with many good and benevolent brethren may shape his life and mould his character for material good, he receives none of the secrets of ancient craft Masonry as a perquisite. In fact, he usually dies without ever having had an idea of what they could have been. Yet they are there and they have been there through all the changing ages and all the protean external shapes taken by the fraternities which have perpetuated them.





It is Something to actually see and sense God at work in His character of Grand Architect, in the temple of the Universe, to view the intricacies of Creation, not as mysteries or marvels, but as part of one's greater Self, to discover the great inner arcanum of the World's religious past and present, unmask the sacerdotal impostor and enthrone the brotherhood of man on a basis of knowledge and power. All these and much more are the prizes of Masonic initiation to him who mistakes not the porch for the edifice and presses forward into the sanctuary.





MASONIC TRIVIA

By Ancient custom, the King was always covered while his subjects were never covered in his presence. The American custom of the Master of the Lodge wearing a hat as a symbol of his authority is apparently a result of that ancient custom.

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