

Editor's Note

Welcome to Volume 3 of the Transactions of A. Douglas Smith, Jr. Lodge of Research No. 1949! It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as Editor and Publisher of these Transactions since their inception.

The lodge published Volume 1 of its Transactions in 1988, covering the papers presented during the period from 1983 (when the lodge was chartered) through 1987, a period of five years. This 5-year period was chosen simply because that was the point at which we felt we had enough papers to warrant publication. We continued that tradition with Volume 2 (covering the period from 1988 through 1992) and now with Volume 3, which covers the period from 1993 through 1997. However, it may be necessary (or desirable) to publish more frequently (if there are a sufficient number of papers available) and future volumes may not continue to adhere to this 5-year coverage.

This volume of the Transactions is long overdue; it should have been published sometime in 1998 (fully 5 years ago), and I take complete responsibility for the delay. Please accept my profound apologies. I hope it has been worth the wait. As Right Worshipful Dick Baldwin said in the Preface to Volume 1, "... for those parts which fulfill your hopes and needs, the various authors deserve, far and away, the credit and your praise." We also plan to publish Volume 4 (covering the period from 1998 through 2002) later this year.

There were 19 papers presented in the lodge during the period covered by this Volume. Of those, we are publishing 15. Of the remaining 4 papers that are not being published, 2 were never submitted to the lodge after presentation and 1 has been lost.

One of the major tasks of the Editor is to try to ensure that all the papers adhere to the same style when they are published. All of the papers

(except perhaps one) have been reformatted into the 2-column layout we use, the fonts have been changed to our standard font, and minor obvious spelling errors have been corrected. But none of the content has been changed. I hope you find the style we are using satisfactory; if not, please let us know what changes you would like to see and we will consider them.

The lodge explicitly waived any copyright protection for Volume 1 of its Transactions. Beginning with this volume, we are asserting our copyright claim with respect to the format in which the papers are published (the style), and to the compilation of the papers. Several of the papers have also been copyrighted by the author; in every case, they have been kind enough to give us permission to publish their work in our Transactions.

For the first time, we are making the Transactions available on CD-ROM for those members who desire it. Not only is this much cheaper for the lodge to publish and mail in this media, it is also more portable for the user and any reader who still desires a printed copy of a particular paper can produce one at his leisure. We hope this will also pave the way in future volumes to allow us to publish presentations that have been video-taped on DVD instead of having to resort to having them transcribed. We have received many requests for back copies of Volumes 1 and 2 of the Transactions. We printed several extra copies at the time they were each originally published, but we have finally exhausted that supply. In order to meet the requests (that are still coming in) for those back copies, we have created a compilation (an anthology, if you will) of all of the papers that were published in Volumes 1 and 2, which we intend to make available on a single CD (at a cost yet to be determined by the Lodge) for those who would like to have them in an electronic format. Alas, it simply is not economical to try to print a handful of additional copies of those Volumes.

We also hope, beginning with Volume 5, to be able to include a brief Masonic biography (and perhaps a photograph with the electronic version) of the author of each paper. Some of our authors are very renowned while others are making their first forays in Masonic research. Regardless of how long they have been publishing, each of them has something to contribute to our knowledge of the background and history of the Fraternity.

I wish to acknowledge the help and assistance of several brethren, without which this Volume would be even later than it is. Worshipful Don McAndrews helped immensely by scanning several of the papers into an electronic version so they could be reformatted. Worshipful John Shroeder helped us track down some of the papers that had escaped our grasp at the time of presentation. And finally, Right Worshipful Mickey Ander is a rock we simply couldn't do without. He made sure we had an accurate list of the presentations that had been made in Lodge from the Minutes of each meeting, so we were sure we knew the papers we should be publishing. Without his help, I fear we would have been seriously adrift. "Thank you" to all these brethren and to the others whose advice and counsel have gone into the production of this Volume.

Good reading!

G. William Miller, PM

20 December 2003
Springfield, VA