

# EMESSAY NOTES

December, 2016

## WHAT ARE THE TOP MASONIC BOOKS OF ALL TIME? HERE ARE SURVEY'S RESULTS

The Southern California Research Lodge was looking to create a definitive list of the "Top Ten Masonic Books Every Mason Should Read," and solicited opinions from Masons around the nation.

Results, including description and commentary, were published in the September, 2016, issue of the Fraternal Review, the monthly journal of the Research Lodge. Actually published were the top 25 books discovered by the survey. Here they are, from Number 25 to Number 1:

25. *The Way of the Craftsman*, by W. Kirk McNulty
24. *The Secret Teachings of All Ages*, by Manley Palmer Hall
23. *The Temple and The Lodge*, by Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh
22. *Freemasons' Guide and Compendium*, by Bernard Jones
21. *Freemasonry: A Journey Through Ritual and Symbol*, W. Kirk McNulty
20. *Sworn in Secret: Freemasonry and the Knights Templar*, Sanford Holst
19. *The Freemasons*, Jasper Ridley
18. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry*, S. Brent Morris
17. *Dungeon, Fire, and Sword: The Knights Templar in the Crusades*, John J. Robinson
16. *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia*, Henry Wilson Coil
15. *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*, Manley Palmer Hall
14. *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Freemasonry and the American Civil War*, Michael A. Halleran
13. *Esoterika: The Symbolism of the Blue Degrees of Freemasonry*, Albert Pike
12. *American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities*, Mark A. Tabbert
11. *A Bridge to Light: A Study in Masonic Ritual & Philosophy*, Rex R. Hutchens
10. *The Origins of Freemasonry: Scotland's Century*, David Stevenson
9. *The Mason's Words*, Robert G. Davis
8. *A Pilgrim's Path: Freemasonry and the Religious Right*, John J. Robinson
7. *The Meaning of Masonry*, Walter Leslie Wilmshurst
6. *The Builders: A Story and Study of Masonry*, Joseph Fort Newton
5. *Observing The Craft*, Andrew Hammer
4. *The Craft and Its Symbols*, Allen E. Roberts
3. *Morals and Dogma*, Albert Pike, annotated by Arturo De Hoyos
2. *Freemasonry for Dummies*, Christopher Hodapp
1. *Born In Blood: The Lost Secrets of Freemasonry*, John J. Robinson

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## COULD YOU PASS THIS MASONIC TEST?

This is a story, whose author is unknown and which may have been told in different ways over the years, but has a strong Masonic message:

A Mason, who always wore his Masonic ring and lapel pin in public, on some occasions rode the bus from his home to the downtown area. On one such trip, when he sat down, he discovered that the driver had mistakenly given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "It's just a quarter, no one would bother with this small amount. Anyway, the company gets enough fare and they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and stay quiet."

When his stop came, he paused at the door and then handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver smiled and said, "I noticed your Masonic ring and lapel pin. I have been thinking lately about asking a Mason how to join. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. You passed the test. Can you tell me how to become a Mason?"

When the Mason stepped off the bus, he said a silent prayer, "O Grand Architect of the Universe, I almost sold you and my beloved Masons for a mere quarter."

Our actions are the only Masonic creed some will ever see. This story is an example of how people watch us as Masons and may put us to the test without us realizing it.

Remember, whenever you carry the name or a symbol of Masonry in public, you can never tell who might be watching.

*(Taken from the Defiance (Ohio) York Rite Bulletin, November-December issue, 2016)*

## HALLOWEEN POSTAGE STAMP ISSUED BY MINNESOTA LODGE

Anoka, Minnesota, is considered the Halloween Capital of the World having held an organized celebration for Halloween since 1920.

Anoka Lodge #30 has issued a "first day cover," commemorating the unveiling of the first ever Halloween-themed, Jack-O-Lanterns "Forever" stamp, issued by the United States Postal Service.

The new stamp is being offered in four different versions.

The first day cover may be ordered through Anoka Lodge at its website, [www.anokalodge.com/stamps](http://www.anokalodge.com/stamps) at a price of \$6 for a single stamped cover, or \$10 for all four different stamps on the same cover. Supplies are limited.



## WHY IS A STATUE OF A CONFEDERATE GENERAL MEMORIALIZED IN WASHINGTON, DC?

This was the question referred by a reader to a columnist in the *Washington Post* newspaper, and which led to a column on October 22, 2016 about Albert Pike.

The statue, located near the Judiciary Square Metro stop in D.C., contains these words, "Author, Poet, Soldier, Jurist, Orator, Philanthropist, and Philosopher."

The columnist, John Kelly, then proceeded to tell many of the details of Brother Pike's life, some of which were controversial. The fact that "Pike is the only Confederate Civil War general honored with a statue in the capital of the side that won," has led to numerous local protests over the years.

Kelly wrote: "After the war - and a pardon from President Andrew Johnson - Pike returned to work as a lawyer and writer. He moved to Washington in 1868 and threw himself wholeheartedly into the minutiae of Freemasonry, an organization he had been involved with since 1850."

The column noted that it was Pike's Masonic activities - "he wrote frequently on the topic and served as Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction" - that prompted the construction of the statue in 1901. The statue was paid for by Masons.