



Freemasons: A History and Exploration of the World's Oldest Secret Society: Inside the World's Oldest Secret Society

H. Paul Jeffers

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From Back Cover:

Freemasons have been accused of everything from conducting clandestine satanic rituals to masterminding a worldwide conspiracy for planetary domination. The order's members --- which have included Sir Isaac Newton, John Wayne, Bill Gates, some of America's most popular entertainers, and 25 U.S. presidents --- insist they merely share a bond of brotherhood, service, and charity. It's the oldest and largest fraternal organization in the world and even figures prominently in such modern bestsellers as *The Da Vinci Code*, yet Freemasonry is still terribly and consistently misunderstood.

In *Freemasons*, H. Paul Jeffers delves into Masonic history to reveal the surprising and controversial truths behind this ancient and secretive order, from its mystery-shrouded origins in medieval Europe through its rise in America, where Benjamin Franklin founded the first lodge. Today, some four to five million Freemasons worldwide pledge to live their lives in accordance with principles of morality, charity, and loyalty --- both to fellow Masons and to the order itself. But what exactly does Freemasonry entail, and what happens behind the lodges' closed doors? Discover the truth about:

Masonic Symbols - architectural symbolism, rings, pins, and other subtle indicators of membership

Rites and Rituals - "Rite of Investiture" initiation ceremonies, the Apron Lecture, the Rite of Destitution, and others

Hierarchy and organizational structure - including rules for advancement

Freemasonry's ancient and ongoing conflict with major religious institutions worldwide

Women and Freemasonry - including such groups as Eastern Star, Job's Daughters, and Amaranth

"Anti-Masons" - opposition groups, from the Catholic Church to conspiracy theorists

African-American Masonry - the "Prince Hall" Masonry alumni, which included Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, author Alex Haley, and musician Nat "King" Cole

Myths and conspiracies - Why is a Masonic symbol on American currency? Do Masons really control the world?

Now, in this fascinating guide that explores the myths and reality of Freemasonry, the veil of secrecy is finally lifted...

Freemasons: A History and Exploration of the World's Oldest Secret Society: Inside the World's Oldest Secret Society Details

Date : Published March 1st 2005 by Citadel

ISBN : 9780806526621

Author : H. Paul Jeffers

Format : Paperback 256 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, Religion



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From Reader Review Freemasons: A History and Exploration of the World's Oldest Secret Society: Inside the World's Oldest Secret Society for online ebook

Raine Mclellan says

I appreciate the way Jeffers does not go too deeply into the "behind the scenes" of masonry. This book is better for an overview of Masonic history in a short and readable series of chapters with a good flow.

Richard Robertson says

This is a great book if you want to know the basics surrounding Freemasonry. The book reads more like a textbook than anything else, but the history is very detailed. You will learn just how involved Freemasons have been and continue to be in shaping our nation.

M.F. Soriano says

A decent, but not inspired, survey of Masons. The author is a workhorse, having published more than 60 books on a panoply of (mostly non-masonic) subjects. I've never read any other book by him, nor heard of him prior to reading this book, but I get the feeling his strength lies more in his research and productivity, and less in his clarity or eloquence. This book gave me a good, basic understanding of The Craft and its rituals, and it maintained an objective approach, which I am grateful for (since so many other books on Masonry follow sensational conspiracy tack), but it muddled certain areas badly. Masonic history, and history in general, don't come through clearly in Jeffers words. He tends to jumble multiple figures together in single sentences without clear connection between them, and he's also guilty of tacking non-sequitur clauses on to the end of otherwise logical sentences. Plus he'll digress into a completely different subject for several sentences in the middle of a paragraph that purports to be about something else.

Still, if you want to learn about Masons, there are worse places to start.

Stacy Curro says

I love finding out more about secret societies. This book is well written researched and presented.

Gillian Saltz says

His writing is so all over the place it was hard to concentrate on the topic at hand. His use of quotes was almost lazy.

Chuck says

The book is worthy enough to scan through, since it has good tidbits of knowledge. But it sorely needed a good editor to improve its readability. There are huge leaps of topic, confusing sentences, redundancies and errors.
