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CONSTITUTIONS OF THE FREE-MASONS:  
CONTAINING THE HISTORY, CHARGES  
AND REGULATIONS OF THAT MOST  
ANCIENT AND RIGHT WORSHIPFUL  
FRATERNITY. FOR THE USE OF THE LODGES**

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Household Masonic Library. The Constitutions of the Free-Masons: Containing the History, Charges and Regulations of That Most Ancient and Right Worshipful Fraternity. For the Use of the Lodges by James Anderson

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**JAMES ANDERSON**

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**CONSTITUTIONS.**

*Anderson's*  
THE  
CONSTITUTIONS  
OF THE *1784/1785*  
FREE-MASONS;

CONTAINING THE

**History, Charges and Regulations**

OF THAT MOST

ANCIENT AND RIGHT WORSHIPFUL FRATERNITY.

FOR THE USE OF THE LODGES.



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### AMERICAN PUBLISHER'S PREFACE.

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THE year 1723 forms an important epoch in the history of the Order, and among the Masonic writers of that period there are few more deserving of notice than the author of the "Constitutions of Freemasonry." The Masonic world have already dignified him with the reputation of a classic, and enrolled his name among that select number whose works belong alike to every nation, and are destined to float down the stream of time, untouched by the flood of oblivion, which soon overtakes the mass of authors, as it does the mass of other men.

"*Incredibili industria*—*diligentia singulari*," said the ancients in their descriptions of individuals eminent for merit; and, indeed, it must be owned that, in his laborious compilations, "extracted from the ancient records of lodges beyond sea"—a work characterized by industry and the love of truth—no writer is more eminently entitled to the encomium than JAMES ANDERSON. His varied acquirements, deep research, wonderful industry, great experience and boundless resources of knowledge, both practical and theoretical, have done much to advance the cause of Masonry.

M510949

Dr. ANDERSON'S work made its appearance at a most seasonable time; for he himself says, "It is highly probable that many valuable documents relative to the Society were destroyed, at the revival of the Order in 1717." No pains were spared—no labor lost—in examining the old records for Masonic information. Six years afterwards the work which has done so much honor to its author, appeared as a vehicle of valuable intelligence to the craft, and without which no Masonic library is now complete.

In presenting an American edition of "Anderson's Constitutions" to the Masonic Fraternity, the Publisher feels confident that there are but few readers in the Order who have not dwelt with interest and delight on the pages of this most popular work—popular at least with Masons, and esteemed by them as the *written Landmarks of Masonry*.

The orthography of the original London edition of 1723, of which this work is a reprint, is scrupulously followed and retained. The typographical execution of the present edition will render it, no doubt, an ornament to the library, so that by this means the Publisher is able to include in a *neat, economical and substantial form*, a large amount of instruction on the most important principles of the Order.



## DEDICATION.

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TO

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MONTAGU.

MY LORD,



Y Order of his GRACE the DUKE OF WHARFON, the present Right Worshipful GRAND MASTER of the FREEMASONS; and, as his Deputy, I humbly dedicate this BOOK OF THE CONSTITUTIONS of our ancient FRATERNITY to your GRACE, in testimony of your honourable, prudent, and vigilant discharge of the office of our GRAND-MASTER last year.

I need not tell your GRACE what pains our learned AUTHOR has taken in compiling and digesting this book from the OLD RECORDS, and how accurately he has compared and made every thing agreeable to HISTORY and CHRONOLOGY, so as to render these NEW CONSTITUTIONS a just and exact account of MASONRY from the beginning of the World to your GRACE'S MASTERSHIP, still preserv-

ing all that was truly ancient and authentick in the old ones : For every Brother will be pleased with the performance, that knows it had your GRACE'S perusal and approbation, and that it is now printed for the use of the LODGES, after it was approved by the GRAND-LODGE, when your GRACE was GRAND MASTER. All the BROTHERHOOD will ever remember the honour your GRACE has done them, and your care for their Peace, Harmony, and lasting Friendship : Which none is more duly sensible of than,

My LORD,

YOUR GRACE'S

Most oblig'd, and

Most obedient Servant,

And Faithful Brother,

J. T. DESAGULIERS,

Deputy Grand-Master.

THE  
CONSTITUTION,  
HISTORY, LAWS, CHARGES, ORDERS, REGULATIONS,  
AND USAGES,  
OF THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL FRATERNITY OF  
ACCEPTED FREE MASONS;  
COLLECTED  
From their General Records, and the faithful  
Traditions of many Ages.

TO BE READ

At the Admission of a NEW BROTHER, when the MASTER  
or WARDEN shall begin, or order some other Brother  
to read as follows :



**A**DAM, our first parent, created after  
the image of God, the great Archi-  
tect of the Universe, must have had  
the Liberal Sciences, particularly  
GEOMETRY, written on his heart ; for, even  
since the fall we find the principles of it in  
the hearts of his offspring, and which, in  
process of time, have been drawn forth into  
a convenient method of propositions, by observing  
the LAWS of PROPORTION, taken from Mechanism ;  
so that, as the Mechanical Arts gave occasion to the  
learned to reduce the elements of Geometry into  
method, this noble science, thus reduced, is the  
foundation of all those arts, (particularly of MA-