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Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649460281

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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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

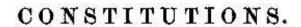
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JAMES ANDERSON

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CONSTITUTIONS

OF THE

FREE-MASONS;

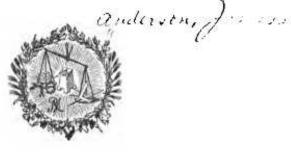
CONTAINING THE

Bistory, Charges and Begulations

OF THAT MOST

ANCIENT AND RIGHT WORSHIPFUL FRATERNITY.

FOR THE USE OF THE LOUDES.



LONDON:

Printed by Wm. Husten, for John Sener, at the Globe, and John Hoome at the Flower-de-Luce, over-against St. Dunstan's Church, in Fleet st.

In the Year of Hasseny, 5723 - Arms Domini, 1723.

NEW YORK:

ROBT. MACOY, 29 BEEKMAN STREET. CLARK, AUSTIN & SMITE, 3 PARE ROW. 1859.

Y

AMERICAN PUBLISHER'S PREFACE.

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 industrice—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.

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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.

TO

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MONTAGU.

MY LORD,

Y Order of his Grade the DUKE OF WHARTON, the present Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Free-Masons; and, as his Deputy, I humbly dedicate this Book of the Constitutions of our ancient Fraternity to your Grade, in testimony of your honourable, prudent, and

vigilant discharge of the office of our GRAND-

Ma-TER 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 Masoney 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 DR READ

At the Admission of a New Brother, when the Master or Warden shall begin, or order some other Brother to read as follows:

DAM, our first parent, created after the image of God, the great Architect 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-