

**THE DEAR-BOOK OF THE ODD
VOLUMES: AN ANNUAL RECORD
OF THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE
SETTE. TWENTY-SECOND YEAR,
1899-1900**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649081301

The Dear-Book of the Odd Volumes: An Annual Record of the Transactions of the Sette.
Twenty-Second Year, 1899-1900 by Conrad W. Cooke

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Cover @ 2017

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CONRAD W. COOKE

**THE DEAR-BOOK OF THE ODD
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SETTE. TWENTY-SECOND YEAR,
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The Year-Book of the Odd Volumes:

AN ANNUAL RECORD OF THE TRANSACTIONS
OF THE SETTE.

Twenty-Second Year, 1899-1900.

PRESIDENT:

BROTHER CONRAD W. COOKE, M. INST. E.E.,
Mechanic to the SETTE.



Edited by Brother JOHN TODHUNTER, *Playwright*
to the Sette, and printed for private
circulation only.

Imprinted for the SETTE OF ODD VOLUMES, at the Bedford
Press, 20 & 21, Bedfordbury, London, W.C.

MCMIII.



From a photo. by L. E. Cooke.]



C. W. C. photo.]

THE PRESIDENTIAL BADGE OF V^e MÉCANIQUE.



Presidential Address

OF HIS ODDSHIP, BROTHER CONRAD W. COOKE,
MECHANICK TO THE SETTE, DELIVERED
AT LIMMER'S HOTEL ON THURSDAY, MAY
25TH, 1899.

BRETHREN AND GUESTS,—

WE are celebrating to-day the Coming of
Age of the *Sette of Odd Volumes*
as well as the birthday of our beloved Queen ;
and it is an eminently appropriate fact, as
bearing upon the essential loyalty of the *Sette*
of *Odd Volumes* on the one hand, and our
natural pride in our Brotherhood on the other,
that we can keep the two anniversaries on the
same day.

Twenty-one years have passed since, in the
Spring of 1878, in the quaint old Gate of

2 *Odd Volumes' Year-Book, 1899-1900.*

St. John of Jerusalem at Clerkenwell, where David Garrick spoke his first dramatic lines, and where Samuel Johnson used to sit *with* Reynolds, *to* Boswell, and *on* Goldsmith; in that room, twenty-one years ago, the first Meeting of the *Sette of Odd Volumes* was held, and my first predecessor in this honourable and honoured chair, our revered *Librarian*, Brother QUARITCH (who I deeply regret is not with us to-night), delivered the first Inaugural Address to the *Sette*. In that interesting speech the *Librarian* described how the *Sette of Odd Volumes* originated: how he, with our late lamented *Historiographer* and the *Herald*, used to take their mid-day meal together at Bertolini's, near Leicester Square, and were soon after joined by the Brothers Wyman.

In 1879 the little coterie migrated to Stone's eating-house in Panton Street, and there they were joined by the late George Jennings,

Henry Bickers, and Edward Lang. Meeting almost daily for some four years in the same compartment (which they christened "the Odd Volume Box"), acquaintanceship ripened into Friendship, and Friendship brought in its train Conviviality and Mutual Admiration; and, at the suggestion of our *Typographer*, Brother WYMAN (who has been kept by illness from our gatherings for many years), they determined to form themselves into a club, to be called "The Sette of Odd Volumes, united once a month to form a perfect Sette." Brother QUARITCH was chosen for the first President, and after a preliminary meeting at Kettner's on the 22nd of March, its first dinner was held, as I have reminded you, in St. John's Gate, just twenty-one years ago.

Time has made terrible ravages in our Membership, but the constitution and objects of the *Sette* have changed but little, and we *Odd Volumes* are happy and proud that we

4 *Odd Volumes' Year-Book, 1899-1900.*

can still reckon among our Brethren three who were present at the inauguration of the *Sette*, Brothers BERNARD QUARITCH, CHARLES WYMAN, and ALFRED DAVIES.

The little Fraternity met but once at Clerkenwell, and from 1878 to 1882 they practised Conviviality and Mutual Admiration at Simpson's in the Strand, at the Albion, Covent Garden, and at other places in the neighbourhood, having no special home until 1883, when they settled down at the Freemasons' Tavern.

In the year 1879 the *Sette* was again presided over by Brother QUARITCH, and, during that year, Brothers VENABLES and ROBERTS BROWN were added to the list. It was at a banquet given during that year by the President at the Freemasons' Tavern that the Brethren wore for the first time the outward and visible sign of Membership, the mystic *G. T.* monogram, which remains our distinctive badge to-day.