

Editor's Note

Welcome to Volume 4 of the Transactions of A. Douglas Smith, Jr. Lodge of Research No. 1949! It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as Editor and Publisher of these Transactions since their inception.

The lodge published Volume 1 of its Transactions in 1988, covering the papers presented during the period from 1983 (when the lodge was chartered) through 1987, a period of five years. This 5-year period was chosen simply because that was the point at which we felt we had enough papers to warrant publication. We continued that tradition with Volume 2 (covering the period from 1988 through 1992) and with Volume 3, which covered the period from 1993 through 1997. However, it has become desirable for this volume to cover fewer years in this volume since the papers are more plentiful and we have determined that 200 pages approaches the ideal length for a volume of the Transactions.

This volume of the Transactions has been published very quickly on the heels of Volume 3. I hope you still find the papers informative and in some cases even inspirational. As Right Worshipful Dick Baldwin said in the Preface to Volume 1, "...for those parts which fulfill your hopes and needs, the various authors deserve, far and away, the credit and your praise."

There were 27 papers presented in the lodge during the period covered by this Volume. Of those, we are publishing 24. Of the remaining 3 papers that are not being published, 2 were never submitted to the lodge after presentation and 1 was a video-taped presentation which we have thus far been unable to transcribe. It was a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the year in which the lodge's namesake, Doug Smith, served as Grand Master of Masons in Virginia. We are still hopeful that we can get the presentations transcribed or be able to publish the video-taped sessions on DVD at some point in the future. If so, we plan to release a special

commemorative volume of the Transactions containing those particular presentations.

One of the major tasks of the Editor is to try to ensure that all the papers adhere to the same style when they are published. All of the papers (except perhaps one) have been reformatted into the 2-column layout we use, the fonts have been changed to our standard font, and minor obvious spelling errors have been corrected. But none of the content has been changed. I hope you find the style we are using satisfactory; if not, please let us know what changes you would like to see and we will consider them.

The lodge explicitly waived any copyright protection for Volume 1 of its Transactions and was silent on the matter in Volume 2. Beginning with Volume 3, we have asserted our copyright claim with respect to the format in which the papers are published (the style), and to the compilation of the papers and we continue to do so with the current Volume. Several of the papers have also been copyrighted by the author; in every case, they have been kind enough to give us permission to publish their work in our Transactions. However, should you wish to use any of the papers contained in these Transactions, you should contact the respective author directly and obtain their permission.

Once again, we are making the Transactions available on CD-ROM for those members who desire it. Not only is this much cheaper for the lodge to publish and mail in this media, it is also more portable for the user and any reader who still desires a printed copy of a particular paper can produce one at his leisure. We hope this will also pave the way in future volumes to allow us to publish presentations that have been video-taped on DVD instead of having to resort to having them transcribed. We have received many requests for back copies of Volumes 1 and 2 of the Transactions. We printed several extra copies at the time they were each originally published, but we have finally exhausted that

supply. In order to meet the requests (that are still coming in) for those back copies, we have created a compilation (an anthology, if you will) of all of the papers that were published in Volumes 1 and 2, which we will make available on a single CD, along with Volume 3 (at a cost of \$10 as determined by the Lodge) for those who would like to have them in an electronic format. Alas, it simply is not economical to try to print a handful of additional copies of those Volumes.

We have begun to assemble the papers for Volume 5, which will begin with the year 2002 and thus far we have been very successful in obtaining a brief Masonic biography of the author of each paper, which we intend to include at the back of the volume. Our hope is that this will not only establish the author's credibility with respect to the particular subject they are writing about, but that it will also provide you, the reader, with some special insight as to the author's background and experience and how it may have shaped the views they present.

I wish to acknowledge the help and assistance of two brethren, without which the publication of this Volume would have been much more difficult. Worshipful Don McAndrews again helped immensely by assisting in the preparation of the various papers for publication. Right Worshipful Mickey Ander is an indispensable asset in making sure we not only have an accurate list of the presentations that had been made in Lodge (from the Minutes of each meeting), so we knew the papers we should be publishing, but also in providing advice and good counsel for which I am most humbly and deeply grateful. "Thank you" to these brethren and to all the others whose assistance has gone into the production of this Volume.

Good reading!

G. William Miller, PM
2 September 2004
Springfield, VA