

Editor's Note

Welcome to Volume 6 (and 7) of the Transactions of A. Douglas Smith, Jr. Lodge of Research No. 1949! It's amazing how fast the years have flown. While looking over the materials for this volume of the Transactions, I realized that this year was the 30th year of the existence of the lodge. It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as Editor and Publisher of these Transactions since their inception, but now it time to pass the torch to someone new so this will be my last volume to preside over as Editor. I hope to retire in the next couple of years and will be leaving the area. A. Douglas Smith, Jr. Lodge of Research will always have a special place in my heart. I was proud to be a charter member of this lodge and the brethren have honored me by allowing me to serve as its Worshipful Master in 1989, but it is now time to step aside and let someone else take on the responsibility of publishing your Transactions.

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 became desirable for Volume 4 to cover fewer years in that volume since the papers were more plentiful.

This volume of the Transactions has taken some time to publish after Volume 5, although it again covers only 4 years in the Lodge's history. I have been somewhat lax in not preparing this volume sooner and as a result the Worshipful Master has decided that we need to publish Volumes 6 and 7 at the same time. 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 23 papers presented in the lodge during the period covered by this Volume. Of those, we are publishing 14. Of the remaining 9 papers that are not being published, one had already been published elsewhere before it was presented in our lodge, one showed only limited evidence of any research and the rest were not available to the lodge at the time of publication. As I stated in my Editor's note to Volume 5, several of the authors indicated they wanted to "tweak" their paper and would submit it later; alas, that didn't happen. This continues to be a major problem as there were several excellent presentations among them. Masters are understandably concerned about having a program for each of their meetings, but we have seen a growing trend in recent years in allowing presentations to be made that have not been reviewed by the Programs Committee. Indeed, the Programs Committee has fallen into disuse, as many of the officers now progressing through the "line" were unfamiliar with its purpose or even its existence. If the Programs Committee was being used as intended when it was established, there would never be a presentation made for which we wouldn't have some version of a paper to publish. I don't claim to have the answer to this problem, but I invite discussion by the members as I feel we are losing papers that would of enormous benefit to the Lodge and to the Fraternity.

The Awards Committee has also fallen into disuse recently. In volume 5 of the Transactions we recognized 2 papers as having received our highest award by being designated as the Werner Herman Morlock Memorial Lecture for their respective years. Unfortunately, there were no awards made for any of the years covered by this volume; in fact, I don't believe the Awards Committee met once during those 4 years and in some years no one was appointed to that committee by the Master.

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 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; none of the content has been changed. I hope you find the style we are using satisfactory; if not, please let the Publications Committee know what changes you would like to see and I am sure they 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 as part of a complete collection of Volumes 1 through 7 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. Members will be receiving this CD/DVD as a benefit of membership. Non-members can purchase it from the lodge at a cost of \$25 (as determined by the Master). Alas, it simply is not economical to try to print a handful of copies of the current (or prior) volumes.

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 Rhey Solomon was an indispensable asset in making sure we had 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.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks and my best wishes to Brother J. David King who has stepped forward to take over the Publications Committee going forward. Brother David has been a big help in getting this volume pulled together and has prepared the contents of Volume 7 virtually on his own. The idea was to have him work with me on one volume so he would know how to prepare the next volume. He has proved more than adept at the task and I know I leave the Publications Committee in good hands. "Thank you" to these brethren and to all the others whose assistance has gone into the production of this Volume.

One of the benefits of serving as the publisher of the Transactions is that you get to read (and in most cases, re-read) all of the papers as you go through and reformat them for publication. There is a wealth of material and I have learned a tremendous amount from the various papers over the years. I trust that the brethren have found them just as educational and I hope Brother David finds them just as instructive in the years ahead as I have over the years.

Good reading!

G. William Miller, PM
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Springfield, VA