

## Solomons Builders Freemasons Founding Fathers And The Secrets Of Washington Dc Christopher Hodapp

With over four million members worldwide, and two million in the U.S., Freemasonry is the largest fraternal organization in the world. Published in conjunction with the National Heritage Museum, this extravagantly illustrated volume offers an overview of Freemasonry's origins in seventeenth-century Scotland and England before exploring its evolving role in American history, from the Revolution through the labor and civil rights movements, and into the twenty-first century. American Freemasons explores some of the causes for the rise and fall of membership in the fraternity and why it has attracted men in such large numbers for centuries. American Freemasons is the perfect introduction to understanding a society that, while shrouded in mystery, has played an integral role in the lives and communities of millions of Americans. Copublished with the National Heritage Museum

Written by an expert on "the craft," this classic traces Freemasonry's origins from biblical times to its practice among America's founding fathers. It also explores philosophical, symbolic, and ritual traditions.

The history of black Freemasonry from Boston and Philadelphia in the late 1700s through the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement • Examines the letters of Prince Hall, legendary founder of the first black lodge • Reveals how many of the most influential jazz musicians of the 20th century were also Masons, including Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Nat King Cole • Explores the origins of the Civil Rights Movement within black Freemasonry and the roles played by Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois

When the first Masonic lodges opened in Paris in the early 18th century their membership included traders, merchants, musketeers, clergymen, and women--both white and black. This was not the case in the United States where black Freemasons were not eligible for membership in existing lodges. For this reason the first official charter for an exclusively black lodge--the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts--was granted by the Grand Lodge of England rather than any American chapter. Through privileged access to archives kept by Grand Lodges, Masonic libraries, and museums in both the United States and Europe, respected Freemasonry historian Cécile Révauger traces the history of black Freemasonry from Boston and Philadelphia in the late 1700s through the Abolition Movement and the Civil War to the genesis of the Civil Rights Movement in the early 1900s up through the 1960s. She opens with a look at Prince Hall, legendary founder and the chosen namesake when black American lodges changed from "African Lodges" to "Prince Hall Lodges" in the early 1800s. She reveals how the Masonic principles of mutual aid and charity were more heavily emphasized in the black lodges and especially during the reconstruction period following the Civil War. She explores the origins of the Civil Rights Movement within black Freemasonry and the roles played by Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois, founder of the NAACP, among others. Looking at the deep connections between jazz and Freemasonry, the author reveals how many of the most influential jazz musicians of the 20th century were also Masons, including Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Nat King Cole, Eubie Blake, Cab Calloway, and Paul Robeson. Unveiling the deeply social role at the heart of black Freemasonry, Révauger shows how the black lodges were instrumental in helping American blacks transcend the horrors of slavery

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and prejudice, achieve higher social status, and create their own solid spiritually based social structure, which in some cities arose prior to the establishment of black churches. Shows how the true teachings of Jesus were passed down through the centuries and shaped the vision of the Founding Fathers • Reveals for the first time the hidden link that connects James the Brother, Islam, the Cathars, the Knights Templar, and Freemasonry • Shows how the Founding Fathers used these teachings enshrined in Masonic principles to build a new nation With the success of Paul's desire to impose his vision for the Church, the true teachings of Jesus--as preserved by his family and disciples--were forced into hiding. This clandestine movement was evidenced by such early groups as the Nazarenes, Ebionites, and Elkesaites but is generally thought to have died out when the Church of Paul branded these groups as heretics. However, despite the ongoing persecution by the Roman Catholic orthodoxy, this underground Jewish strain of Christianity was able to survive and resist incorporation into its more powerful rival. Jeffrey Bütz, author of *The Brother of Jesus and the Lost Teachings of Christianity*, reveals for the first time the hidden theological link that connects James the Brother of Jesus and the Ebionites with the religion of Islam, the Cathars, the Knights Templar, and Freemasonry. In *The Secret Legacy of Jesus*, Bütz demonstrates how this centuries-old underground stream of Christ's original teachings remained alive and how it surfaced again in Colonial America, where the Founding Fathers used Masonic principles rooted in Jewish Christian teachings to establish what they believed would be a "New Jerusalem." With the rise of a fundamentalist Christianity, this potent spiritual vision was lost, but Bütz contends it can be recovered and used to bring about the reconciliation of Christians, Jews, and Muslims throughout the world.

'Convincingly researched and thoroughly entertaining' - Wall Street Journal THE TIMES BEST BOOKS OF 2020 'This book shows that, despite rumours of demon dwarfs, piano-playing crocodiles and world domination, the real story of the Freemasons is one of male eccentricity.' 'The Craft is a superb book that often reads like an adventure novel. It's informative, fascinating and often very funny. The depth of research is awe-inspiring, but what really makes this book is the author's visceral understanding of what constitutes a good story.' - The Times Book of the Week '[John Dickie] takes on this sensational subject with a wry turn of phrase and the cool judgment of a fine historian... I enjoyed this book enormously. Dickie's gaze is both wide and penetrating. He makes a persuasive case for masonry's historic importance.' - Dominic Sandbrook, Sunday Times 'The Craft is a shadow history of modernity. Though more sober than most lodge meetings, it is, like its subject, ingenious and frequently bizarre... The Craft is well-crafted and sensible, making good use of English archives which have only recently been opened.' - Spectator \*\*\* Insiders call it 'the Craft'. To the rest of us, Freemasonry is mysterious and suspect. Yet its story is peopled by some of the most distinguished men of the last three centuries: Winston Churchill and Walt Disney; Wolfgang Mozart and Shaquille O'Neal; Benjamin Franklin and Buzz Aldrin; Rudyard Kipling and 'Buffalo Bill' Cody; Duke Ellington and the Duke of Wellington. Founded in London in 1717 as a set of character-forming ideals and a way of binding men in fellowship, Freemasonry proved so addictive that within two decades it had spread across the globe. Masonic influence became pervasive. Under George Washington, the Craft became a creed for the new American nation. Masonic networks held the British empire together. Under Napoleon, the Craft became a tool of authoritarianism and then a cover for

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revolutionary conspiracy. Both the Mormon Church and the Sicilian mafia owe their origins to Freemasonry. The Masons were as feared as they were influential. In the eyes of the Catholic Church, Freemasonry has always been a den of devil-worshippers. For Hitler, Mussolini and Franco the Lodges spread the diseases of pacifism, socialism and Jewish influence, so had to be crushed. Professor Dickie's *The Craft* is a surprising and enthralling exploration of a movement that not only helped to forge modern society, but still has substantial contemporary influence. With 400,000 members in Britain, over a million in the USA, and around six million across the world, understanding the role of Freemasonry is as important now as it has ever been.

"Adam Parfrey is one of the nation's most provocative publishers."—Seattle Weekly  
"Secret society historian Craig Heimbichner follows the Middle Path to wisdom. He works the graveyard shift in the secret lodge."—Joan d'Arc, Paranoia magazine  
Secret societies—now a staple of bestseller novels—are pictured as sinister cults that use hooded albinos to menace truth-seekers. Some conspiracy books claim that fraternal orders are the work of serpentine aliens and interbred humans who wish to supplant earth of its energy, and later, its very existence. On the other side of the aisle, books by high-ranked Freemasons—skeptical in tone but no less partisan in approach—protect their organization's public image by denying the existence of its most contentious ideas. *Ritual America* reveals the biggest secret of them all: that the influence of fraternal brotherhoods on this country is vast, fundamental, and hidden in plain view. In the early twentieth century, as many as one-third of America belonged to a secret society. And though fezzes and tiny car parades are almost a thing of the past, the Gnostic beliefs of Masonic orders are now so much a part of the American mind that the surrounding pomp and circumstance has become faintly unnecessary. The authors of *Ritual America* contextualize hundreds of rare and many never-before printed images with entertaining and far-reaching commentary, making an esoteric subject provocative, exciting, and approachable. Adam Parfrey is the author of *Cult Rapture: Revelations of the Apocalyptic Mind* and *It's a Man's World: Men's Adventure Magazines, the Postwar Pulps*. He is editor of the influential *Apocalypse Culture* series *Love, Sex, Fear Death: The Inside Story of the Process Church of the Final Judgment*. Craig Heimbichner has recently appeared on a National Geographic documentary about the Bohemian Grove, contributed to the *Feral House* compilation *Secret and Suppressed II*, and wrote about the famous occult order the O.T.O. in *Blood and Altar*.

Take the mystery out of the Freemasons  
**Fascinated by Freemasons? Freemasons For Dummies** is the internationally bestselling introduction to the Masons, the oldest and largest "secret society" in the world. This balanced, eye-opening guide demystifies Freemasonry, explaining everything from its elaborate rituals and cryptic rites, to its curious symbols and their meanings. With new and improved content, including updated examples and references throughout, this new edition of *Freemasons For Dummies* provides the most straightforward, non-intimidating guide to the subject on the market. Updated expert coverage of the basic beliefs and philosophy behind Freemasonry  
Revised information on the history of the society, including updates concerning its founding, famous historical members, and pivotal events  
New coverage devoted to the recent influx of younger membership  
The latest and ongoing controversies and myths surrounding Freemasonry  
The role of women in a Masonic organization, including opportunities for women to participate in Freemasonry  
The effects cultural and

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political changes and worldwide events are having on the organization. If you're intrigued by the mystery that surrounds the Masons, get ready to learn the facts about this ancient order in *Freemasons For Dummies*.

An experienced Freemason and award-winning psychologist provides a precise and engaging exploration of the core meaning and practices of Freemasonry for the new generation of people interested in joining the order, and those who are simply curious in the wake of recent media coverage. Entertaining books and movies often depict Freemasonry as a shadowy, mysterious, and possibly sinister organization, and the TV and magazine specials on Freemasonry that inevitably follow often leave us with more questions than answers. Mark E. Koltko-Rivera, a practicing thirty-second-degree Mason, has created a simple, authoritative, and easy-to-understand introduction to the history, rites, and meaning of Freemasonry. It may be the single most reliable short guide to Masonry, written by a widely recognized psychologist and scholar of esoteric history. Koltko-Rivera's trustworthy handbook explores all the basic issues around Masonry, like: \*What is Freemasonry, and what is its history? \*How does one become a Freemason? \*What are some of the most important Masonic symbols? \*What do Masons get from their involvement in Freemasonry? What changes does it make in their inner and outer lives? \*What is it like to participate in the initiatory rituals of Freemasonry? \*What are some of the great historical controversies and myths surrounding Freemasonry? \*How is Masonry relevant today?

A survey of the world's most famous unsolved secret codes documents their stories and the monumental efforts that have been applied to their solutions, from the sobering tale of the Zodiac serial killings to the Beale Papers' promise about a lucrative treasure in Virginia's Bedford County. Original.

This book shares the author's step-by-step search for the honest answers that freed her from the mental slavery of extreme religion and allowed her to find a true happiness. Can the ancestry of freemasonry really be traced back to the Knights Templar? Is the image of the eye in a triangle on the back of the dollar bill one of its cryptic signs? Is there a conspiracy that stretches through centuries and generations to align this shadow organization and its secret rituals to world governments and religions? Myths persist and abound about the freemasons, Margaret C. Jacob notes. But what are their origins? How has an early modern organization of bricklayers and stonemasons aroused so much public interest? In *The Origins of Freemasonry*, Jacob throws back the veil from a secret society that turns out not to have been very secret at all. What factors contributed to the extraordinarily rapid spread of freemasonry over the course of the eighteenth century, and why were so many of the era's most influential figures drawn to it? Using material from the archives of leading masonic libraries in Europe, Jacob examines masonic almanacs and pocket diaries to get closer to what living as a freemason might have meant on a daily basis. She explores the persistent connections between masons and nascent democratic movements, as each lodge set up a polity where an individual's standing was meant to be based on merit, rather than on birth or wealth, and she demonstrates, beyond any doubt, how active a role women played in the masonic movement.

Esoteric symbols abound in Washington D.C. This illustrated guidebook provides a walking tour of the Masonic sites and symbols of the national capital and will be welcomed by students of esoteric symbolism as well as fans of Dan Brown's novels and

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the National Treasure movies.

An exploration of Freemasonry and its history, philosophy, symbols and practices. New in Paperback! The Masonic secrets of our founding fathers. Turning the Solomon Key is an exhilarating quest to discover the Masonic influences which George Washington brought to bear on the layout of Washington D.C. In this second book of his Key trilogy, Robert Lomas has used Masonic rituals and Washington's own diaries to uncover the symbolic reasoning behind the positioning of the White House and the Capitol, and in the process he dispels of many anti-Masonic urban myths. This exciting, and authoritative, detective story then investigates the sources of creative behavior, to reveal a hitherto unsuspected Secret Science of Masonic Astrology which underpinned Washington's actions. The builders of Washington DC knew a great secret about the human condition. In Turning the Solomon Key, scientist and Masonic expert Robert Lomas explains exactly what it was. Turning the Solomon Key, at its heart, explains why high-achieving individuals share certain astrological characteristics, and why the Freemasons who founded our nation planned Washington, D.C., the way they did.

Prominent masonic scholars explore the history, myth and symbolism behind Freemasonry's greatest edifice, the Temple of Solomon the King. Included here are: The Symbolism of Solomon's Temple, Solomon's Temple, The Middle Chamber of Solomon's Temple, Esoteric Symbolism of King Solomon's Temple, A Short Explanation of the Seal of Solomon and King Solomon's Temple and the Story of the Third Degree.

DISCOVER THE SECRETIVE BROTHERHOOD BEHIND DAN BROWN'S THE LOST SYMBOL Freemason influence on the founding of Washington, D.C., is evident throughout the city's buildings, statues and monuments--but it's written in coded symbols that few people understand. Dan Brown's new thriller sends symbologist detective Robert Langdon through the capital to unravel its Masonic secrets. Now in Deciphering The Lost Symbol, Freemason expert Christopher L. Hodapp compares each clue and plot twist in Brown's story to the true facts. \*Discover the meaning of "The Lost Word" \*Decode Masonic and alchemical symbolism \*Explore the innermost rooms of Masonic lodges and temples \*Visit the restricted area of the U.S. Capitol and other landmarks \*Uncover secret patterns in Washington, D.C.'s maps and monuments \*Crack the codes buried in The Lost Symbol's artwork and puzzles

For those who are captivated by the Freemasons, Freemason Symbols & Ceremonies For Dummies takes you into the world of this secret Fraternal organization, explaining all things mysterious from its elaborate rituals and cryptic rites, to its curious symbols and their meanings. Brought to you by the author of Freemasons For Dummies, readers will get the inside scoop on what goes on in a Masonic meeting, what's behind that secret hand shake, and why Masons wear aprons. You'll understand the true purposes of Masonic "secrecy" and philosophy and discover related organizations like the Knights Templar, the Scottish Rite, and other York Rite Bodies. Explore the controversies and conspiracy theories that swirl around this organization and discover the cool Masonic sites at the center of Dan Brown's bestselling novel The Lost Symbol.

The Truth Revealed Freemasons have been connected to the all-seeing eye on the dollar bill, the French Revolution, the Knights Templar, and the pyramids of Egypt. They have been rumored to be everything from a cabal of elite power brokers ruling the world to a covert network of occultists and pagans intent on creating a new world order, to a millennia-old

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brotherhood perpetuating ancient wisdom through esoteric teachings. Their secret symbols, rituals, and organization have remained shrouded for centuries and spawned theory after theory. The Masonic Myth sets the record straight about the Freemasons and reveals a truth that is far more compelling than the myths.

The shadow of death hovers over many of the rites and rituals of Freemasonry. In *Letters on the Masonic Institution* by John Quincy Adams we learn of an ancient Masonic ritual known as The Fifth Libation, which involves drinking wine from a human skull. Every Mason takes death oaths and several Masonic executions have taken place throughout history. Author Tom McKenney exposes the deadly secrets of this fraternity, which has more than three million members around the world. In a careful and objective manner, he reveals the connection between Freemasonry and the New Age Movement, and he delves into the occult roots of this secret society. *33 Degrees of Deception* is a very comprehensive book that tells the personal story of one completely dedicated Mason—Jim Shaw, who became a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor, Worshipful Master of the Blue Lodge, and Master of all Scottish Rite bodies. You will want to know why Jim Shaw left Masonry—and the price he paid for leaving. This book sheds light on the darkness of Freemasonry as the author gives penetrating answers to the questions many people ask about this secret society. Is there a connection between Masonry and the Illuminati? Why is Masonry opposed to Christian schools? Is Freemasonry a religion? Can a man be both a Christian and a Mason?

A Scottish Freemason presents an insider's guide to Society mysteries that discusses its inter-culture, connections to covert organizations, and famous members, in a reference that reveals the actual role of Freemasonry throughout history while addressing popular controversies. Original.

Entering the world of conspiracy theories and secret societies is like stepping into a distant, parallel universe where the laws of physics have completely changed: black means white, up is down, and if you want to understand what's really going on, you need a good reference book. That's where *Conspiracy Theories & Secret Societies For Dummies* comes in. Whether you're a skeptic or a true believer, this fascinating guide, packed with the latest information, walks you through some of the most infamous conspiracy theories — such as Area 51 and the assassination of JFK — and introduces you to such mysterious organizations as the Freemasons, the Ninjas, the Mafia, and Rosicrucians. This behind-the-curtain guide helps you separate fact from fiction and helps you the global impact of these mysterious events and groups on our modern world. Discover how to: Test a conspiracy theory Spot a sinister secret society Assess the Internet's role in fueling conspiracy theories Explore world domination schemes Evaluate 9/11 conspiracy theories Figure out who "they" are Grasp the model on which conspiracy theories are built Figure out whether what "everybody knows" is true Distinguish on assassination brotherhood from another Understand why there's no such thing as a "lone assassin" Why do hot dogs come in packages of ten, while buns come in eight-packs? Everybody knows its a conspiracy, right? Find out in *Conspiracy Theories & Secret Societies For Dummies*.

A captivating look into the society of the Knights Templar Brought to you by the author of *Freemasons For Dummies*, *The Templar Code* is more than an intriguing cipher or a mysterious symbol – it is the Code by which the Knights Templar lived and died, the Code that bound them together in secrecy, and the Code that inspired them to nearly superhuman feats of courage and endurance. *The Templar Code for Dummies* reveals the meaning behind the cryptic codes and secret rituals of the medieval brotherhood of warrior monks known as the Knights Templar. This intriguing guide will cover such topics as who the Knights Templar were, how they rose so high and fell so far, and most importantly why there is so much interest in them today. *The Templar Code For Dummies* will explore myths and theories of Christian history that appear in the *Da Vinci Code* such as the quest for the Holy Grail, the Catholic

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Church's relationship with women that are hotly debated now with special emphasis on the Templar connection. It also explores the surprising part the Templars have played in some of the most important historic events of these past seven centuries, including the French Revolution, the birth of groups such as the Freemasons, and even the American Civil War. Solomon's Builders transports the reader back to the birth of a radical new nation and tells how a secretive society influenced and inspired the formation of what would become the most powerful nation on earth. A history that reads like a thriller, it follows George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and the other Founding Fathers who transformed the lessons of their Masonic lodge rooms into models for a new democracy. In the process, it pieces together the still-visible clues of the Freemasons as it uncovers the mystical Masonic symbolism hidden in the design of the city and in its monuments, statues and buildings. From "all-seeing eyes," pentagrams, and Egyptian-inspired obelisks to the imposing and mysterious Masonic temples of the "Widow's Sons," Solomon's Builders guides readers on a Freemason's tour of Washington, D.C. as it separates fact from myth and reveals the background of the sequel to The Da Vinci Code.

Book includes many full page color illustrations and explanations of the important Masonic symbols. Some of the symbols identified include Builder's tools, three columns, rose, double headed eagle and more.

The widely accepted story of the founding of America is that The Mayflower delivered the first settlers from Plymouth to the New World in 1620. Yet in reality, the Jamestown settlers had already become the first English-speaking outpost thirteen years earlier in 1607. The Secret Founding of America introduces these two groups of founders - the Planting Fathers, who established the earliest settlements along essentially Christian lines, and the Founding Fathers, who unified the colonies with the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution - and it argues that the new nation, conceived in liberty, was the Freemasons' first step towards a new world order. Drawing on original findings and an in-depth understanding of the political and philosophical realities of the time, historian Nicholas Hagger charts the connections between Gosnold and Smith, Templars and Jacobites, and secret societies and libertarian ideals. He also explains how the influence of German Illuminati worked on the constructors of the new republic, and shows the hand of Freemasonry at work at every turning point in America's history, from Civil War to today's global struggles for democracy.

Laudable Pursuit is an examination of the state of Freemasonry in the United States, and a plan of action for rejuvenating lodges in the 21st century. Based on topics raised in the 1960's by renowned Masonic author, Indiana Past Grand Master Dwight L. Smith - and then promptly ignored by the fraternity ' this new work is intended as a starting point for the future direction of Freemasonry. Written by the Knights of the North, a Masonic "think tank" of new and veteran Freemasons, and edited by Christopher L. Hodapp (bestselling author of Freemasons For Dummies), Laudable Pursuit is presented as a possible course of both progressive and traditional action for those interested in returning Freemasonry to its once noble stature in U.S. society, as well as equipping the fraternity to suit the new century. First presented as a paper before Lodge Vitruvian No.767 in Indianapolis, Indiana in 2005, Masons everywhere have found it to be a thought provoking signpost to the future.

This is a unique history of Masonry written from the perspective of an educated outsider. The author is sympathetic to Masonic goals, a historian of secret societies and political conspiracies, and an exhaustive researcher. He looks back to the earliest roots

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of the Craft, and then traces its influence into modern times. From the Bible's Temple of Solomon through the Knights Templars, to the Rosicrucians and Illuminati, we learn of Masonry's roots and early history. Enlightenment philosophy and the revolutionary currents of eighteenth-century Europe opened an opportunity for the American experiment. Sacred geometry and architecture combined to create Washington, DC, and the rest, as they say, is history. This second revised and enlarged edition includes a new chapter on Freemasonry in South America - from the revolution of Simón Bolívar to the capture and execution of Che Guevara.

This book is a new edition of David Stevenson's classic account of the origins of Freemasonry, a brotherhood of men bound together by secret initiatives, rituals and modes of identification with ideals of fraternity, equality, toleration and reason. Beginning in Britain, Freemasonry swept across Europe in the mid-eighteenth century in astonishing fashion--yet its origins are still hotly debated today. The prevailing assumption has been that it emerged in England around 1700, but David Stevenson demonstrates that the real origins of modern Freemasonry lie in Scotland around 1600, when the system of lodges was created by stonemasons with rituals and secrets blending medieval mythology with Renaissance and seventeenth-century history. This fascinating work of historical detection will be essential reading for anyone interested in Renaissance and seventeenth-century history, for freemasons themselves, and for those readers captivated by the secret societies at the heart of the bestselling *The Da Vinci Code*. David Stevenson is Emeritus Professor of Scottish History at the University of St. Andrews. His many previous publications include *The Scottish Revolution, 1637-1644*; *Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Scotland, 1644-1651*; and *The First Freemasons; Scotland, Early Lodges and their Members*. His most recent book is the *The Hunt for Rob Roy* (2004). Previous edition Hb (1988) 0-521-35326-2 Previous edition Pb (1990) 0-521-39654-9

Today, there are more than twenty complete zodiacs in Washington, D.C., each one pointing to an extraordinary mystery. David Ovason, who has studied these astrological devices for ten years, now reveals why they have been placed in such abundance in the center of our nation's capital and explains their interconnections. His richly illustrated text tells the story of how Washington, from its foundation in 1791, was linked with the zodiac, with the meaning of certain stars, and with a hidden cosmological symbolism that he uncovers here for the first time. Fascinating and thoroughly researched, *The Secret Architecture of Our Nation's Capital* is an engrossing book that raises provocative questions and offers complex insights into the meanings behind the mysterious symbols in Washington.

Peek behind the door of your local Mason Lodge Freemasonry has been around for three centuries, serving as a fraternal organization seemingly wrapped in secrets and mysteries known only to those inside the organization. This book gives you a peek at what really goes on at your local Masonic Lodge. Written by a 33rd Degree Freemason in the Scottish Rite, this book reveals the tenants of Freemasonry, how Lodges are organized, and what those secret ceremonies and symbols really mean. It's an ideal guide for anyone interested in joining a Lodge or those simply curious about what Freemasonry is all about. Inside... How Freemasonry came about What Freemasons talk about ... and what they don't A guide to the organization of a Lodge Insight into the symbols and ceremonies An explanation of what a Shriner is and why they wear those

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hats A look at the future of Freemasonry Discussion of the myths and conspiracy theories of Freemasonry

A former preacher tell why he abandoned the guidance of the Bible to follow the dictates of own conscience.

The discovery of a mysterious object in the U.S. Capitol building and a subsequent kidnapping lead Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon into a web of mysterious codes, secret locations, and hidden knowledge.

Provides an in-depth history of freemasonry, exploring the inner workings of the powerful secret society, refuting many of the myths about the order, and shedding new light on the contributions of the freemasons to world history.

An exploration of the influence of secret societies on the formative documents and symbols of the United States • Reveals the Founding Fathers' spiritual vision for America as encoded in the Great Seal • Traces the influence of the Iroquois League of Nations upon the Constitution • Exposes the deep connections the Founding Fathers had with the Freemasons and other secret societies All children growing up in America learn who the Founding Fathers were. Most, however, never learn of the founders' connections to the Freemasons, the Rosicrucians, and other esoteric orders. In *Founding Fathers, Secret Societies* Robert Hieronimus investigates these important connections and how their influence can be traced throughout our most significant national documents and symbols, especially the Great Seal. He reveals in detail how the reverse of the Great Seal--which appears on the back of the one-dollar bill--is a blueprint that conveys the secret destiny of America. By understanding the kabbalistic meaning of the Great Seal's reverse, he shows how our current era presents unique opportunities for the fulfillment of our Founding Fathers' spiritual vision.

Fascinated by Freemasons? *Freemasons For Dummies* is the internationally best-selling introduction to the Masons, the oldest and largest "secret society" in the world. This balanced, eye-opening guide demystifies Freemasonry, explaining everything from its elaborate rituals and cryptic rites, to its curious symbols and their meanings. Find out what goes on in a Masonic meeting. You'll understand the true purposes of Masonic "secrecy" and philosophy, meet famous Masons throughout history, and discover related organizations like the Knights Templar, the Scottish Rite, Order of the Eastern Star, and the Shriners. Explore the controversies and conspiracy theories that swirl around this organization at the center of Dan Brown's novel *The Lost Symbol*, and discover the changes coming to the Craft.

"This remarkable exploration of intriguing people and events in Freemasonry sheds new light on how this brotherhood's practices, symbols and rituals took shape. An extraordinary wealth of documents is found in this pursuit, including parchment manuscripts dating to the 1300s. The roots of Freemasonry are traced to the building of Solomon's Temple, the rise of Christianity, and the Crusades in Europe. Masonry's controversial relationship with the Knights Templar and Vatican also takes on new and significant meaning. The emergence of this secretive society in Britain had a strong influence on George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and other Masons who helped create a new country in America. All those struggles are seen through the experiences of people who lived through these events--often told in their own words and drawn from remarkable collections of records dating from those times. They reveal Freemasonry to be well-grounded in recognizable events, and show how its members influenced the

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world around them. Those influences are still felt in our lives today. Forty-five illustrations help bring to life this memorable journey of discovery."--Publisher description.

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