A Reading and Film Guide For Freemasons

“The object however, of meeting in the lodge is ………..moral instruction and social intercourse, our meetings are intended to cultivate and enlighten the mind” -- The General Charge

The following books and materials are suggested as an initial guide to knowledge of Freemasonry and the Masonic search for self-enlightenment and truth. They are available via the internet (www.alibris.com) or as otherwise noted.

Freemasonry Today
Secrets of the Code. Dan Burstein, Editor. A compilation of historical, religious and philosophical topics by respected authors.

DVD’s (Documentaries):
The Freemasons, Mystery, Myth and Truth. Trailer: You Tube. Purchase at Amazon or eBay. (Note alternate name: "Unseen Journey: The Mystery, Myth and Truth of Freemasonry".

Freemasonry and History
David and Solomon. 2006. I. Finklestein and N. Silberman. An archeologist and an archeology author examine and interpret the myths surrounding these biblical figures in the context of archeological finds and historical conclusions.

Encyclopedic Outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Qabbalistic and Rosicrucian Symbolical Philosophy. Manly P. Hall. 1928. A comprehensive account of symbolical philosophy. GL library.
Freemasonry Of The Ancient Egyptians. Manly P. Hall. 1980. An explanation of the relevance of Isis and Osiris and Osiris; initiation rites (Crata Repoa) and the 'Initiation of Plato'. GL library.


History, Myth and Philosophy


Our Oriental Heritage. Will Durant. 1935. A comprehensive ancient history providing a foundation for understanding development of civilization to the present.


Caesar and Christ. Will Durant. 1944. A good account of the Roman Empire and the rise of Christianity.


Ideas – A History From Fire To Freud. Peter Watson. 2005. An excellent presentation of the links among philosophers, astronomers, religious leaders, scientists, poets and others.


Discourses. Epictetus. Practical ethics from the 1st century CE.

Meditations. Marcus Aurelius. Ethical reflections from the famous Roman emperor and philosopher.


From Socrates To Sartre: The Philosphic Quest. T.Z. Levine.

Know Yourself


A good treatment of basic topics in psychology including maturation, emotional development, learning, motivation, stress, personality, attitudes, neurosis.

B. Leadership Self-Assessment: See Bow River Lodge Handbook


Speak Up With Confidence. Jack Valenti.

How The Best Leaders Lead. Brian Tracy.


Understanding Society
Politics. Aristotle. The classic work on governance of the state.
The Republic. Plato. The classic exposition on the ideal society.
Political Order and Political Decay. Francis Fukuyama. 2014.

Religion and Spirituality
The Jesus Mysteries. Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy. 1999. An exceptional and scholarly history of the mystery religions, initiation, Gnosticism, the development of Christianity from the foundations of ancient faith and the destruction of several of the ancient great religions by Christianity. Important reading for the informed Mason.
How To Know God. Deepak Chopra. 2000. A comprehensive introduction to developing and practicing spirituality.

The Bible
Jesus For The Non-Religious. (Bishop) John Shelby Spong. 2007. One of many books by a former bishop. Shows how bible stories are not to be accepted in a literal sense.

Initiations
Egyptian Mysteries: An account Of An Initiation. Weiser Samuel. An account of an initiate’s experience as attributed to Iamblichus.

Freemasonry – The Degrees
A Basic Masonic Education Course – EA, FC & MM. A concise education program for Masonic candidates and all Masons. It contains clear, Masonic educational content in a self-study format. The EA module is suitable reference material for prospective candidates. Available from lodge secretary or WM.
Entered Apprentice Degree: Meaning and Symbolism. Narrated slides. Available from lodge secretary or WM.
Lodge and Craft Management
  Laudable Pursuit 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B. YouTube. A good survey of the development and state of North American Freemasonry in recent decades.
Strategic Planning For Dummies. Eric Olsen. 2007.

Understanding The Universe and Humankind’s Place In It

DVD’s and Documentaries:
Nova - Origins. 2004 (www.amazon.com) 29.95
The Elegant Universe. Nova. 2003 (www.amazon.com) 19.95
Stargaze – Hubble’s View of the Universe 1995 (www.amazon.com) 24.95)
Journey To The Edge Of The Universe
Hubble’s Final Frontier National Geographic
Death Of The Universe National Geographic
Known Universe – ‘Star Gates’ The role of astronomy in early human civilizations.

Reading and Films For Entertainment
Born In Blood. John Robinson. GL office and library
The Hiram Key. C. Knight and R. Lomas.
The Da Vinci Code. Dan Brown

Films:  The Man Who Would Be King. 1975
        The Da Vinci Code. 2006
        Angels and Demons. 2009

The Second Messiah. Knight & Lomas.
The Lost Symbol. Dan Brown.
From Hell. 2001
National Treasure 1 2004
National Treasure 2 2007