

# A Reading and Film Guide For Freemasons

Prepared By RW Bro Glenn McConnell 2004. Rev July, 2016, Jan, 2019.

*“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](http://www.alibris.com)) or as otherwise noted.

## **Freemasonry Today**

**Freemasonry – A Celebration Of The Craft.** Editors: John Hamill, Robert Gilbert and Andree Buisine. 1993. An interesting look at selected aspects of Freemasonry since 1717. Includes many attractive photographs and plates.

**The Meaning Of Masonry.** W. L. Wilmshurst. 1920. Google: *Pietre-Stones Review of Freemasonry.*

**The Freemasons.** Jasper Ridley. 1999. An excellent history of the Masonic Order by a non-Mason.

**The Brotherhood.** Tim Dedopulos. 2006. An excellent introduction to Freemasonry by a non-Mason.

**Freemasons For Dummies.** Christopher Hodapp. 2005. A modern, comprehensive description of the Craft.

**Secrets of the Widow’s Son.** David A. Schugarts. 2005. Selected, informative topics related to Freemasonry.

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

## **DVD’s (Documentaries):**

**Freemasonry Today.** Google YouTube – “Freemasonry Today”. 9 min. An excellent short introduction.

**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**

**The Origins of Freemasonry - Facts and Fictions.** Margaret Jacob. 2005.

**The Radical Enlightenment: Pantheists, Freemasons and Republicans.** Margaret Jacob. 2001.

**Secret Ritual and Manhood in Victorian America.** Mark Carnes. 1989.

**Living The Enlightenment: Freemasonry and Politics In Eighteenth century Europe.** Margaret Jacob.1991.

**Builders of Empire: Freemasons and Imperialism, 1717 – 1927.** Jessica Harland-Jacobs. 2007.

**The Builders.** Joseph Fort Newton. 1914. The classic examination of Masonry’s origins, development, philosophy, mission and ideals. Historically accurate. GL office.

**The Meaning Of Masonry – Chapter Five – Freemasonry In Relation To The Ancient Mysteries.** W. L. Wilmshurst. Available on Google.

**The Secret History of Freemasons.** Paul Naudon. 1991. English translation: 2005. A scholarly re-examination of the origins of Freemasonry with new research on Craft connections to monastic associations and the Knights Templar.

**The Templars.** Piers Paul Reid. 1999. A serious history of the Knights Templar by a respected author.

**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.

**Secret Ritual and Manhood in Victorian America.** Mark Carnes. 1989.

- Freemasonry and the Ancient Gods.** J. S. M. Ward. 1921. An examination of the origins and universality of Masonic symbols and the development of the Masonic Order. GL library.
- Symbolism Of The Gods Of The Egyptians.** T. M. Stewart. 1978. An explanation of 'The Book Of The Dead' and its relevance to Freemasonry. Also, an explanation of symbolism of the primary Egyptian gods. GL library.
- The Hermetica - The Lost Wisdom Of The Pharaohs.** T. Freke and P. Gandy. 1999. An introduction to 'The Hermetica' with translated excerpts from 5000 year old texts on man, initiation, God and cosmos.
- Iamblichus' Life of Pythagoras.** Thomas Taylor trans. Pythagoras' memoirs from ancient sources.
- Stellar Theology and Masonic Astronomy.** Robert Hewitt Brown. Circa 1890? GL library and Kessinger Publishing. Relates ancient astronomy to masonic symbolism.

### **History, Myth and Philosophy**

- The New Penguin History of the World.** J. M. Roberts. 2002.
- Fifty Things You Need To Know About World History.** Hugh Williams. 2010.
- The Columbia History Of The World.** Editors: John Garraty & Peter Gay. 1972. A comprehensive history of the world.
- Our Oriental Heritage.** Will Durant. 1935. A comprehensive ancient history providing a foundation for understanding development of civilization to the present.
- The Life of Greece.** Will Durant. 1939. An excellent survey of the history of ancient Greece.
- Caesar and Christ.** Will Durant. 1944. A good account of the Roman Empire and the rise of Christianity.
- A Short History Of Myth.** Karen Armstrong. 2005. A revealing account of mythology and its connections to religion.
- Primitive Mythology.** Joseph Campbell. 1991. The origin and role of mythology and its impact on religion and culture.
- Occidental Mythology.** Joseph Campbell. 1991. Explores the connections between mythology and the development of the ancient religions.
- 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.
- The Philosopher's Handbook – Readings From Plato To Kant.** Stanley Rosen, Editor. 2000.
- Philosophy.** Stephen Law. 2007. Short introductions to philosophical ideas and philosophers.
- The Story Of Philosophy.** Will Durant. 1961. A popular presentation of major philosophers.
- Discourses.** Epictetus. Practical ethics from the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE.
- Meditations.** Marcus Aurelius. Ethical reflections from the famous Roman emperor and philosopher.
- On The Shortness of Life.** Seneca. On how to live life well.
- Basic Teachings of the Great Philosophers.** Frost.
- From Socrates To Sartre: The Philosophic Quest.** T.Z. Levine.

### **Know Yourself**

- A. Psychology.** Lefton, Brannon, Boyes and Ogden. Pearson Canada, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 2008  
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
- Leadership.** Andrew T. Dubrin. 6<sup>th</sup> edition, 2010.
- Developing Management Skills.** David Whettters and Kim Cameron. 8<sup>th</sup> edition, 2011.
- Leadership Secrets of the Salvation Army.** Watson & Brown.
- Speak Up With Confidence.** Jack Valenti.
- How The Best Leaders Lead.** Brian Tracy.

- C. Economics:** Economics For Dummies. Sean Flynn. 2011.  
 Economic Literacy. Jacob de Rooy. 1995.  
 The Everything Economics Book. David Mayer. 2010.  
 Profit Over People: Neoliberalism and Global Order. Noam Chomsky. 1999.
- Finance:** The Successful Investor. O'Neil .

### *Understanding Society*

- New Society – Sociology For The 21<sup>st</sup> Century.** Robert Brym. 1998. A modern explanation of socialization, families, work, education, sexuality, media, religion, inequality, race, crime and politics.
- Politics.** Aristotle. The classic work on governance of the state.
- The Republic.** Plato. The classic exposition on the ideal society.
- Civilization And Its Discontents.** Sigmund Freud. A modern analysis of the causes of conflicts in society.
- The Denial of Death.** Ernest Becker. 1981.
- The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism.** Daniel Bell. 1976.
- Political Order and Political Decay.** Francis Fukuyama. 2014.

### *Religion and Spirituality*

- The Pagan Christ.** Tom Harpur. 2004. Explores the Christian transformation of ancient religious, philosophical and mystical truths into dogma and liturgy. Explains the connections between biblical teachings and the 'eternal truths' of the old religions. Introduces the reader to the modern re-examination of the origins and meaning of the Christian bible. One of many volumes which critiques a literal interpretation of the bible and presents an older, deeper meaning for biblical teachings. A Canadian best seller by an Anglican minister and respected author.
- 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.
- A History Of God.** Karen Armstrong. 1993. A scholarly examination of the historical origins and development of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
- How To Know God.** Deepak Chopra. 2000. A comprehensive introduction to developing and practicing spirituality.
- The Horrors and Absurdities of Religion.** Arthur Schopenhauer. On ethics, psychology, religion and more.

### *The Bible*

- Water Into Wine.** Tom Harper. 2007. Explains bible teachings in their mythological and symbolical meaning.
- 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*

- Rites and Symbols of Initiations.** Mircea Eliade. 1958.
- Egyptian Mysteries: An account Of An Initiation.** Weiser Samuel. An account of an initiate's experience as attributed to Iamblichus.
- The Golden Ass.** Apuleius. 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. A classic tale with a rare description of an ancient temple initiation ceremony.

### *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.
- Beyond The Pillars: More Light On Freemasonry.** GL of Canada In Ontario. 1973. Contains chapters on symbolism of the Degrees. [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com). Used from \$14.00.
- The Ceremony of Initiation.** W. L. Wilmshurst. A superior explanation of symbolism. Available On Google.
- Introduction To Freemasonry – I, II, III.** Carl Claudy. 1931. Good explanations of the three Degrees. Available from the GL office.
- Entered Apprentice Degree: Meaning and Symbolism.** Narrated slides. Available from lodge secretary or WM.

### ***Lodge and Craft Management***

**Successful Masonic Lodges and Grand Lodges - Learning To Thrive.** Martin Glenn McConnell.  
**Lodge Programming For Excellence.** [www.bowriverlodge.ab.ca](http://www.bowriverlodge.ab.ca). Handbook.  
**Officer Preparation For Advancement.** [www.bowriverlodge.ab.ca](http://www.bowriverlodge.ab.ca). Handbook.  
**The Master's Book.** Carl Claudy. An excellent discussion of the WM's duties. Very important reading for WM's and wardens. Google.  
**Laudable Pursuit: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Response To Dwight Smith.** Knights of the North.  
**Laudable Pursuit 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B.** YouTube. A good survey of the development and state of North American Freemasonry in recent decades.  
**Managing Motions.** [www.bowriverlodge.ab.ca](http://www.bowriverlodge.ab.ca) Handbook  
**Strategic Planning For Dummies.** Eric Olsen. 2007.  
**Managing For Dummies.** Bob Nelson. 2010.  
**Strategy For 2014 through 2019.** Grand Lodge of Washington. [www.freemason-wa.org](http://www.freemason-wa.org). Strategy.

### ***Understanding The Universe and Humankind's Place In It***

**Origins.** Neil Tyson and Donald Goldsmith. 2004. A valuable explanation of the origin and structure of the universe and the origin of life. By an astrophysicist.  
**Why Does E=mc<sup>2</sup>?** Brian Cox & Jeff Foushaw. 2009.  
**The Elegant Universe.** Brian Greene. 2003.  
**The Grand Design.** Stephen Hawking. 2010.  
**The Fabric of the Cosmos.** Brian Greene. 2004.

### **DVD's and Documentaries:**

**Cosmic Voyage. 1997** ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) 14.99  
**Nova - Origins. 2004** ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) 29.95  
**The Elegant Universe. Nova. 2003** ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) 19.95  
**Stargaze – Hubble's View of the Universe 1995** ([www.amazon.com](http://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.  
**Ancient Discoveries – 'Machines of the Gods'** Ancient technology used in temples.  
**Building the Great Cathedrals.** Nova. 2010.

### ***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.

**The Second Messiah.** Knight & Lomas.  
**Uriel's Machine.** Knight & Lomas.  
**The Lost Symbol.** Dan Brown

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

From Hell. 2001  
 National Treasure 1 2004  
 National Treasure 2 2007