



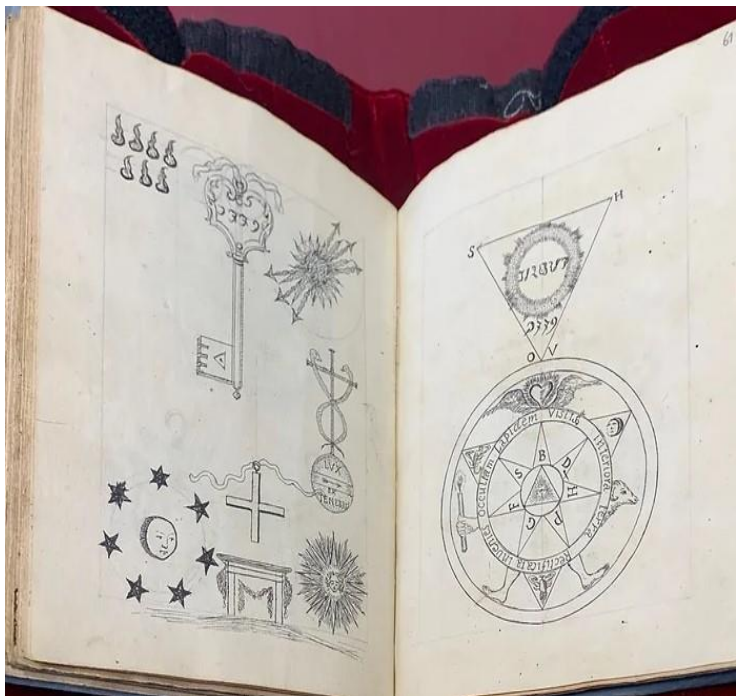
THE HOUSTON VALLEY HERALD

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Evolution of the Scottish Rite Rituals Part 2



By Jason D. Rees 32° KCCH

The high degrees of Scots Masters were picking up momentum in Europe and spreading fast. In 1743 Bordeaux France, an article (No. 20) of the General regulations adopted by the Grand Lodge meeting in Paris France reads, “As we learn that some brothers recently announce themselves as Maîtres Ecossois/Scots Masters”. As we follow the journey of the Scots Masters from London, England to Bordeaux, France we start to see more restructuring.

When The Grand Lodge of England was forming in 1717, Stephen Morin was born in Cahors, France, southeast of Bordeaux. The inquiry into Brother Stephen Morin is ongoing, but what is known is that he was a merchant and Catholic. It is not known when or where he was made a Mason, however according to a May 1750 letter he was “initiated into the mysteries of the Scots Perfection” he received his initiation in 1744 into the Scots Perfection by Governor William Mathew at The Great Lodge in St John, Antigua. In the same year, *Le Parfait Macon* was published. In this publication it describes Scottish Masonry and the revelation that Scottish Masonry is the early ancestor of ensuing degrees such as the Holy Royal Arch and what would be the Scottish Rite’s 15° Knight of the East and West and 16° Prince of Jerusalem.

The embracing of Scots Masonry had even reached Berlin, Germany. Ecossois lodge De l’Union was founded on November 30, 1742, St Andrew’s Day. What is most exciting is we have a certificate of a Danish gentleman, Frederic Dahle, who was created a Knight of Saint Andrew on October 2, 1747 in that very same lodge. With Paris and Bordeaux in 1750 having the highest concertation of high degrees now being referred to as “Lodges of Perfection” it is no surprise that the genesis of high degrees in the new world would get their start.

On August 27, 1761, the French Grand Lodge in Paris would act upon spreading the high degrees to the new world. By 1763 Brother Stephen Morin had traveled from France to St.

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Troubled Waters: Have the Ruffians Returned?



By Jason D. Rees 32° KCCH

Compromise, good judgment, and patience are all elusive and hard to see through the darkness of incomprehension. How do we push through this and make our way to the Light?

It seems that our Masonic world is going through rough seas lately. There seems to be a major disconnect from Masonic teachings and a departure from our personal religious tenants. In social media, podcasts, and blogs, the storm clouds have managed to reach inside of our own Grand Lodges and Blue Lodges. Brothers, who have sworn with their sacred oaths to fly to the relief of a brother in need, have instead resorted to anger and resentment against one another.

We must remember first and foremost that we are Brothers and should treat one another as such, even if we disagree. If a brother gives offense, seek him out and speak to him. Perhaps the offense was not intended or was simply misinterpreted. The whispering of wise council is our priority. We do not know what is going on in another brother’s life and the circumstances that brought him into our presence.

We must also be fair and just. If a brother falls, do not come down harshly and seek to destroy them. Keep in mind that we ourselves may one day fall and need mercy and forgiveness.

Social media can sometimes feel like a gladiator blood sport. Do you watch as a fellow brother is destroyed via words or actions or pictures? Even if we do not agree with these actions, what right do we have to gain delight and become the mob with torches and pitchforks? To quote the movie *Gladiator*, “Are you not entertained?” What if that was your father, son, grandfather or best friend?

Our words should never be the rule, square, and mallet in which to strike down a brother. Should we not hear what is in his heart? The heart is the seat of convictions of faith and of conscience. How can we judge as a mob when the very lessons

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Cont'd from front, "Whence came you"

Domingue back to France and thence to St Marc. Brother Morin was not a "degree peddler" but a founding father of a Masonic rite, who dedicated his life to his work for the craft. Through happenstance, while traveling back and forth from France, his ship was assaulted and he was taken prisoner on two separate occasions, once by the English in 1745, the other in 1762, and he was eventually sent to Jamaica. Unwittingly fanning the flames of Scottish masonry with use of the constitution he received from London, Morin was declared their Inspector in Saint Domingue in 1747. He was deputy of the Elus Parfaits in Caribbean from 1747-1753 and was Inspector of all degrees for the Grand Lodge of France. By 1763 Brother Morin had his "Order of the Royal Secret" a twenty five degree system. In short period of time on April 12, 1764 Lodge de Parfaits d Ecosse was chartered in New Orleans.

Look for Part 3 in the February issue of the Houston Valley Herald

Something to Think About:

The walk of life is hard. But the hardest walks lead to the greatest destinations. The toughest climbs always lead to the best views. Lean into the wind, and never give up!

"Journey Passport" Program

The Houston Valley is participating in the "Journey Passport" program which includes 33 challenges that allow participants to earn six unique Scottish Rite challenge coins. The passport program is designed to take brothers throughout the Valley of Houston and the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite. To learn more and get a passport, contact Brother Jason Rees 32° KCCH at: acompass@yahoo.com

The Houston Valley Herald Email List

This publication is printed monthly and distributed at stated meetings of the Valley of Houston for the benefit of the brethren assembled. *The Houston Valley Herald* is also available online at www.HoustonScottishRite.org (Click the "Newsletter" tab). Anyone is welcome to receive this publication via email as well. To join our mailing list, email acompass@yahoo.com

The Houston Valley Podcast & YouTube channel

Please like and subscribe to our channel, it helps promote the Scottish Rite and allows us to continue this great work.

<https://www.youtube.com/@HoustonValleyScottishRite>

Check out our latest episode of the Houston Valley Podcast the interview of the Lieutenant Grand Commander Joe Manning Jr.



Scan for the Houston Valley Podcast!

Cont'd from front, "Troubled Waters"

gathered from our rituals are laid out before us to learn from? Can we say we would be any different or make better choices?

Perhaps the memorization of our rituals is like an egg laid by a hen: the egg (memory work) is vital. It is essential and the life of our fraternity. Next, what use is the egg if it is not cared for and incubated? The incubation of the egg is the study and comprehension of the rituals/symbolisms, before we are hatched into master masons. Anyone can lay an egg, but to understand what to do after the egg is laid is equally important.

My solemn wish for our fraternity is that we focus not just on the memory work but the life lessons contained within them that each and every one of us needs. Treat one another as brothers, all on the level.

"After The Midnight Cometh Morn" by Albert Pike

The Years come, and the Years go,
And the leaves of life keep falling,
Queridita!

And across the sunless river's flow,
With accents soft and whisper's low,
The friends long lost are calling,
Queridita!

While Autumn his red glory wears,
And clouds oppress the sky, like cares:—
But the old griefs die, and new joys are born,
And always after Midnight cometh Morn.

The Years wake, and the Years sleep,
And the Past is full of sorrow,
Queridita!

The thoughtless laughs and the thoughtful weeps,
And each the fruit of his follies reaps,
For To-day is the Fate of To-morrow,
Queridita!

But new loves tempt us to forget
The old, and old friends love us yet:—
So the old griefs die, and new joys are born,
And always after Midnight cometh Morn.

The Years laugh, and the Years sigh,
But the flowers for you are blowing,
Queridita!

As Girlhood's days go dancing by,
And Womanhood's blithe May is nigh,
With hopes and fancies glowing,
Queridita!

While Love his nets for you prepares,
And lurks to catch you unawares;—
And the old griefs die, and new joys are born,
And always after Midnight cometh Morn.

The Years live, and the Years die,
And all they touch they sadden,
Queridita!

But still the heart can Time defy,
Hope still with purple flush our sky,
And sober friendship gladden,
Queridita!

And well as we have loved before,
In Autumn we can love once more:—
For the old griefs die, and new joys are born,
And always after Midnight cometh Morn.
Querida raia!

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