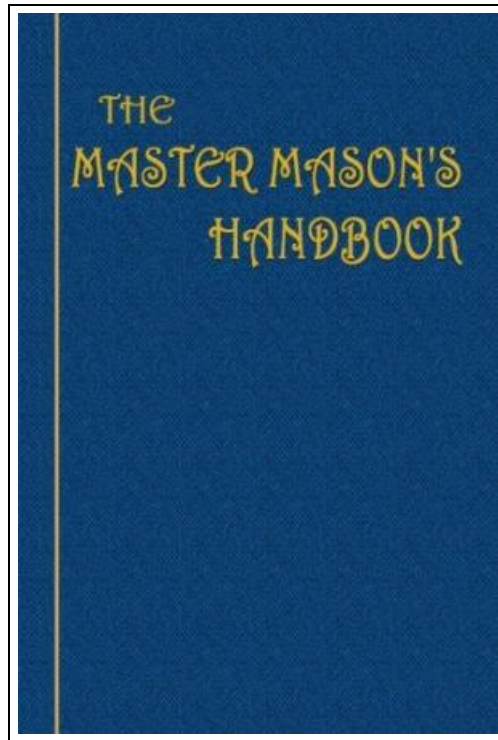


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THE MASTER MASON S HANDBOOK



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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.From the beginning of Chapter I: THE origin of Freemasonry is lost in the mists of antiquity, and its history, until comparatively recent times, is uncertain; but still we consider that there is sufficient evidence to prove that our Brotherhood is the most ancient Society in the world. Doubtless, the Craft at present varies considerably in its forms and ceremonies from that in vogue centuries ago, but it has ever presented certain characteristics, which have been faithfully handed down to the present day, such as a secret initiation, signs and tokens of recognition, and inculcation of the principles of morality and loyalty. The most probable descent of our Order appears to us to be this: - Originating in the Greek, Hebrew, and Egyptian mysteries (which, in turn, were no doubt derived from similar institutions in still older and forgotten nations), they became grafted to some extent on the Roman building guilds, the speculative character thus becoming somewhat lessened. The mediaeval building fraternities were an operative continuation of the older guilds, until about the sixteenth century, when the purely speculative system entirely replaced those grand old builders to whom we are indebted for all the magnificent cathedrals and religious edifices which are the glory of Europe, and the undying memorials of a skill which modern builders and architects appear only indifferently to imitate. In the course of our ceremonies we are informed that the usages and customs of Freemasonry have ever borne a near affinity to those of the ancient Egyptians, and that the system of Pythagoras was founded on a similar principle, as well as many others of more recent date; and Bro. the Rev. A. F....



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