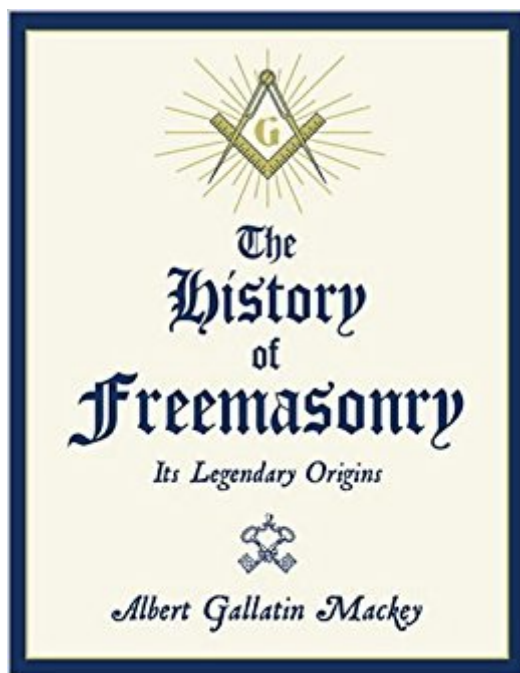


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The History Of Freemasonry: Its Legendary Origins



Synopsis

The fraternal order of Freemasons has been a mysterious organization since its origins centuries ago. Many historical figures such as Voltaire, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin were Freemasons and made the society all the more intriguing. This classic text illuminates the society's origins as well as the philosophical and ritual foundations on which it is built. Readers can explore the mythical tales about Freemasonry and learn how they relate to the historical truth. Included are excerpts from rare sacred documents along with explanations of their significance, plus black and white illustrations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Definitely one of the classics of Masonic philosophy by one of the greatest minds on the subject. I've found information I have been searching for and new topics that fuel my desire for knowledge. Albert G Mackey rivals with Albert Pike and Manly P Hall

I ordered this book for my husband who has an interest in this topic. He read the whole book and seemed to take an interest in it.

Great purchase

Mackey was a doctor, the son of a wealthy family in Charleston, SC in the nineteenth century. He practiced medicine briefly, then dedicated himself to Masonic research. This work is only somewhat

dated, given that Freemasonry is a relatively stable cultural and sociological phenomenon. Still, some historiographical, archival and archeological work accomplished since his day has corrected some of his views (these defects are less found in his Encyclopedia). The value of his work lies in the fact that he explores, in forty-four chapters, numerous myths about the origins of Freemasonry, concluding at the end of each chapter that no single theory is sufficient to explain the history of the Royal Art or that many of the theories are pure fabrications. He does not make any definite conclusions about its ultimate origins, leaving the reader to agree with professor Frances Yates who stated in her book *The Rosicrucian Enlightenment* (Routledge Classics) that Freemasonry's origins are a "mystery wrapped in an enigma".

It is true that this book delves into every single known legend concerning the origin of Freemasonry and concludes that each and every one is unprovable. It is also true that the author's style of writing is victorian and dated. The binding is also eye catching and makes the book look bizarre. But, this book does have a useful value to those interested in Freemasonry. While it does say that no evidence can be found to support any of the legends of the origins of "The Craft", it does manage to list all the known legends and recount them in detail. Consequently, the book is useful as a compilation of legends, which were created by individuals at different places and times to suit different purposes. "The History of Freemasonry" is a misnomer. It should be entitled, "Legends of the Origins of Freemasonry." As a compilation of all known legends, it is a reasonable reference. But, it certainly has nothing to do with the true origins of Freemasonry now accepted by scholars.

This book looks GREAT on the outside -- the covers and the binding are truly beautiful... Unfortunately, that's just about its strongest point. The title of this book should be: "What Freemasonry is NOT"

The History of Freemasonry is clouded with time, personal prejudice, suppression and many other factors. Yet, men like Mackey lay the paver-stones for the path of self-discovery amongst Masons. He gave many years of his life to this research and the book is well-worth every year he spent in dusty libraries, to produce this work. The beginnings of this book contain very archaic language, but the struggle is worth the time given to study. It seems that most books are a variation of this material, or refer to this material. Whether it is "the definitive history of Freemasonry," or not, is up to debate.... However, it is hard to appreciate NEW findings, without referring to books such as this one, to understand how much of the mass-market material is "accurate" or, at-least, Inspired-by

well-documented research. I would expect to see this one on every Mason's bookshelf, but Anyone can appreciate the complex "History of Freemasonry."

The book is quite thorough in citing the various theories regarding the origin and history of freemasonry, however, it leaves you hanging on what the author thinks is the correct one(if there is a correct one). For the newly raised master mason this book will orient you on the mythology regarding our craft. It will also impress upon you that the rituals are only symbolic and as such are only partially based on history. The sad thing is that books like this tend to give out too much of our secrets(check out Wilmhurst's book and see the word). The good thing is we brothers are enlightened as to the nature of our science. Besides only true masons can understand the allegory and symbolism.

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