
- A.^A.^ -

Letter from the Supreme Council of Freemasonry about Crowley's

supposed status in the Masonic Order

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(Seal of the 33rd Degree)

THE SUPREME COUNCIL 33~
of the Ancient & Accepted Rite
For England and Wales
and all provinces in the
United Kingdoms

10 Duke Street
St. James
London
SWN 668

Telephone - (omitted)
Telegrams and Cablegrams
should be addressed to:

Our ref:2413

Ill.^ Bro. R. Noone 32~
(address omitted)
U.S.A.

Dear and Illustrious Brother Noone,

I acknowledge your letter regarding Crowley and Yarker.

I can only tell you that John Yarker was expelled from this Order on the 30th November, 1870. From this it would follow that any degrees purported to be conferred by him were clandestine and irregular.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

/S/ _____
Grand Secretary General 33~ A.^A.^.

* Additional Material and Notes *

1. Meaning of the Masonic terms "clandestine" and "irregular." :

Dictionary Definitions from the American Heritage Dictionary

a. clandestine adj. Done secretly or kept secret. from
the latin *clandestinus*.

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A CLEAR DEFINITION OF CLANDESTINE MASONRY

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A few of the many words used to describe clandestine Masonry
are: secret; illegal; unauthorized; irregular; false; bastard; bogus;
and spurious!

Therefore, based on historical research, any Grand Lodge and/or
all of its subordinate bodies that cannot trace their Masonic origin of
authority to the Grand Lodge of England [the Masonic revival group of
1717-Modern] IS CLANDESTINE.

Further, because of the ago-old custom of racial segregation,
there are only two legal Masonic Bodies in the United States of America:

1. The Grand Lodges that can prove authority from
the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts organized by
Henry Price in July 1733 [White Masons];

2. All Grand Lodges tracing their lineage to African
Lodge No.459 organized by Prince Hall from March 1775
[Afro-American Masons].

In this regard, all Bodies of Masons, Black or White, that
cannot show lineage to one of these two Lodges of Masonic Origin
are clearly CLANDESTINE.

b.irregular adj. 1.not according to accepted rules, practice, or order. 2.not straight, uniform, or symmetrical. 3.of uneven rate, occurrence, or duration. 4.asymmetrically arranged or atypical. 5.not up to standard because of imperfections.
noun - 1.one that is irregular. 2.a guerrilla

Special meanings of the words when used as Masonic terms.

a. clandestine. This term refers to the charters, certificates, authorization papers, initiation documents or "traveling papers" ie. The documents issued by a Grand Lodge or by a subordinate lodge or appendant body that depends upon a higher Masonic authority for the right to issue such documents or authorizations.

Clandestine operations can range from a simple "degree mill" where impressive looking but worthless Masonic-looking documents are sold for usually exorbitant fees, to clandestine bodies complete with a so-called "Grand Lodge." In some cities where this type of activities persist, there have been cases where rival phony "Grand Lodges" have been located across the street from each other.

True Masons are under penalty of obligation not to Masonically associate, or even to speak about Masonry in the presence of clandestinely made "Masons."

b. irregular. This term refers to whether some person is in actuality a Mason or not. This concerns the accepting or holding sacred certain injunctives known as *LANDMARKS* OF Masonry. Different jurisdictions accept anywhere from 25 to about 30 Landmarks, but they all agree on the most important or basic,ie. The Three Degrees, The Legend of Hiram The Three Great Lights, The Volume of Sacred Law, etc. etc.

Technically speaking, if the landmarks or tests of what Masonry IS or IS NOT, are changed or omitted or ignored, then that person may be "something-other-than-Masonic" but can no longer be what anyone could call, "A MASON". Whatever it is, for example the rituals and practices of the "Grand Orient of France" ie.No Three Great Lights surround their Altar,so they may like to think of themselves as Masons however they are not accepted as such by *THE MASONIC ORDER* or *THE CRAFT* or *THE FRATERNITY*. (all of these terms refer to the same body or

organization.)It is made up of more than 200 different jurisdictions or Grand Lodges,plus Prince Hall Masonry, a respected and unique body, originating in America, under Grand Lodge of England authority.REGULAR MASONRY is not only TRUE MASONRY but it is the ONLY MASONRY. Anything else, is just that,"something else",but you couldn't call it"MASONRY".

Irregular bodies or "Psudo-Masonic" groups have been found to be engaging (in some cases) in practices that are not only Un-Masonic but immoral, unlawful, and sometime illegal or just plain unhealthy. The Term - "IRREGULAR MASONRY" in itself, an oxymoronic phrase, ie. a deliberate contradiction in terms, something that just couldn't possible exist or make any sense. Notwithstanding this, I have seen this term being used, by satanic-propaganda-mongers, to confuse the issues, & to try and hide their criminal activities behind the Masonic Fraternity. One article in an East Bay weekley paper, (refering to a satanic cult that had been raided by police in 1989) said "they practice a rather vigorous form of Irregular Freemasonry". The writer had obviously been duped into believing that this group of "Crowleyite" drug-cultists, had a legitimate connection with Masonry. To most people however, "irregular" is a condition that can best be remedied with a dose of Ex-lax.

2. Text of Clandestine "33rd Degree Patent" which Crowley purchased in 1910, from JOHN YARKER's Degree Mill.

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|      T. T. G. O. T. S. A. O. T. U.      |
|      -----                          |
|
|    DEUS MEUMQUE JUS          SPES MEA IN DEO EST    |
|
|      ( Great Seal )
|
|    SUPREME GRAND COUNCIL
|
|    OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS      PRINCE OF THE ROYAL SECRET  |
|
|    POST PUISSANT SOVEREIGN  GRAND INSPECTORS GENERAL
|
|
|      of the
|
|    33rd AND LAST DEGREE
|
|    ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE OF MASONRY
|
|    H.R.D.M.      R.M.S.H.
|
|    SITTING IN THE VALLEY OF
|
|      MANCHESTER
|
|    PEACE - TOLERANCE - TRUTH
|
|
|    From the East of the SUPREME GRAND COUNCIL of the SOVEREIGN
|    GRAND INSPECTORS GENERAL of the 33rd and last degree of the Ancient and
|    Accepted Rite of Freemasonry in and for Great Britan and Ireland under
|    G.L. near the D.B. corresponding to 53', 25" N. Latitude 2', 3" West
|    Meridian of Greenwich.
|
|
|    To all Illustrious, Ineffable and Sublime Freemasons of every
|    degree Around and [unclear] over the surface of the Globe, Greetings:
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HEALTH - PROSPERITY - FRATERNITY

KNOW YE - That the undersigned Sovereign Grand Inspectors General do hereby certify and proclaim, our Illustrious Brother ALEISTER CROWLEY of *London*, to be an Excellent Master Mason, Secret Master, Royal Master, Intimate Secretary, Provost and Judge, Intendant of the Building, Elect of Nine, Elect of Fifteen, Sublime Knight Elected, Grand Master Architect, Ancient Master of the Royal Arch, Grand Elect Perfect and Sublime Mason, Knight of the Temple, Prince of Jerusalem, Knight of the East and West, Knight Rose Croix of Heredom, Grand Pontiff, Master ad Vitam, Patriarch Noachite, Prince of Libanus, Chief of the Tabernacle, Prince of the Tabernacle, Knight of the Brazen Serpant, Prince of Mercy, Commander of the Temple, Knight of the Sun, Knight of Saint Andrew, Grand Elect Knight Kadosh, Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commander, Prince of the Royal Secret, Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the 33rd and Last Degree.

WE ALSO COMMAND: All the Knights, Princes and Sublime Masons under our Jurisdiction and we pray all other MASONS over the Surface Of The Globe, to Welcome and Honor Him as a SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL,

and to give credit to these LETTERS PATENT, we have caused to be signed in the margin by our said Illustrious Bro. ALEISTER CROWLEY, that they admit no other than himself.

Signed and Delivered by us SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTORS GENERAL of

The 33rd and Last Degree with the Seal of our said SUPREME COUNCIL affixed in the Valley of Manchester this 29th day of the 11th month A.M. 5071 corresponding to the 29th November, A.D. 1910.

+-----+ +-----+
| /S/ _____ | Ancient &
| (SEAL) | {*} John Yarker 33~ | Accepted
| | M.P.S. Gr. Comm. of England | Scottish
| | | Rite (SEAL)|

+-----+ +-----+
(Foil Embossed) (Rubber Stamp)

/S/ _____ /S/ _____
{*} Rich Higham 33~ {*} Edward Yarker 33~
M.W. Chancellor of England W.^Gr.^ Secretary of England

RATIFIED AND CONFIRMED

/S/ _____

| | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| | {*} John Yarker 33~ | |
| | M.^P.^S.^Gr.^of Gt. Britan & Ireland | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | /S/ _____ | /S/ _____ |
| | | |
| | {*} Rich Higham 33~ | {*} Edward Yarker 33~ |
| | M.W. Chancellor of G.^B.^& I.^ | W.^Gr.^ Secretary of G.^B.^& I.^ |
| | | |
| | | |
| | +-----+ | |
| | | |
| | {*} = Cross of Salem - Aleister Crowley - | |
| | (Signature on lower margin) | |
| | | |
| | +=====+ | |
| | =====+ | |

3. Notes and Commentary on preceeding document

The preceeding Masonic patent (called erroneously a diploma, in the illustrations to Crowley's "Confessions" ed. by Symonds & Grant) can be found in the aforesaid book, now out of print.

Bear in mind that document #1 (letter to Ill.^Bro. Noone) the Grand Lodge of England's records show that John Yarker was thrown out of the Masonic Fraternity in 1870.

Fourty years later, (1910) we find that he is selling copies of HIS 33rd Degree Patent to anyone he can collect a fee from.

This is one reason for the laborious and sloppy printing that can be seen in the original document.

*** NOTES & such ***

We should take note of the following unusual factors:

a. The document has been obviously altered, in several ways. Upon examination of a reproduction of the original it will be immediately obvious where these alteration occurs, due to the fact that where the original was done in beautiful calligraphic script, the copy which John Yarker altered has the altered sections done in rather sloppy laborious hand printing.

The major altered section is in the middle of the body of text, wherein it is impossible to tell what was originally there, but it was obviously altered to list each and every one of the 32 degrees of the "Scottish Rite" of Freemasonry.

The obvious reason for this, is that John Yarker's "degree mill" sold the 33rd degree "patents" to men who did not possess any of the legitimate degrees of Freemasonry. So to confer the 33rd (supposed) degree on some unqualified individual, it was first necessary to make some rationalization for the problem that the supposed "Mason" didn't possess the necessary 32nd degree, as well as the preceding degrees, including the basic qualification of being a Master Mason.

So it was a simple matter to alter the certificate to give the individual all of the necessary qualifying degrees at one time. We can only guess that John Yarker added an extra fee for this service.

b. The next thing that a qualified expert on Masonry would notice is that the "patent" has been signed and the 33rd degree "Cross of Salem" caligraphed NO LESS THAN six times. However upon closer examination it is seen that only three individuals signed the paper, each of them signing it in TWO different places, with TWO different titles. MOREOVER, one of the individual signers is one EDWARD YARKER who was, I believe, a brother of John Yarker. (Or son, this is unclear)

So it becomes more obvious with examination, that the supposed "SUPREME COUNCIL" was in reality a cottage industry, wherein the aforementioned John Yarker and his whole family was involved in the pretended "Masonic Body" which really was a "Degree Mill" ie., a money-making scheme of the lowest and most base effort imaginable.

c. Crowley devoted a whole chapter in "THE CONFESSIONS" his so-called "Autohagiography" to Freemasonry, especially the story of his relationship with John Yarker. This may be reproduced as a separate text-file. But the gist of it revolves around Crowley's ideas as to how Freemasonry should be changed in order to make him happy. It is obvious that Crowley had in mind that he would be the best person qualified to be sort of a "Supreme-International-Grand-Master" and since he fancied himself to be "a god" that Masonry as well as every body else should worship him.

This should have all quietly fell into obscurity in the cellars of the occult, however, there has been an unfortunate almost accidental revival of "Crowleyism" and there exists a handfull of meat-headed followers that have tried to revive Crowley's horrible plans for world-domination.

Certain rituals, loosely plagerised from the York Rite degrees, with occultism replacing the Hiramic Legend, are once again being palmed off on an unsuspecting public as "genuine" Masonry.

More than that they have adapted Crowley's hodge-potch of bits of Masonic Ritual & traditions from different Rites, producing a thoroughly revolting, nasty mess.

Further, they have adapted a "mythology" that they seem to take literally, that they are the "true" descendants of the Knight's Templar, and they number all of the Great Men of History, the Philosphers, Great Saints, etc. etc. among the Elect of THEIR order, which is the only "true" Order ad infinitum.

Crowley joined or took over the OTO in 1912, claiming to Head so-called "Masonic Academy" which claimed to teach to its members all the SECRETS of the 33 degree of Freemasonry, and the Secrets of ALL OTHER ORDERS.

Crowley claims to have taken the original degrees, obtaining them from Karl Kelner, the founder, and "extensively reworked them into Sublime Perfection". This is not true, as examination shows them rituals to be the more or less "standard" YORK Rite rituals, used in most Masonic Lodges. (This is one of Two types of Ritual, used in the Grand Jurisdictions) To be perfectly clear, I refer to what is commonly known as "Duncan's" Ritual.

Crowley has done a characteristic, "Crowelyized" hack job, still complete recognizable as to the original. That is evidently his intent, as if to revenge himself on the Ritual of the Fraternity that rejected his "bought" 33rd degree.

These rituals were published in 1973 by occult writer Francis King in a book titled *The Secret Rituals of the O.T.O.* A computer text-file version of these rituals will be forthcoming.

It is our sincere hope that by making THE CRAFT aware of this deplorable situation, that individual jurisdictions will seek to obtain writs of AMECUS CURIAE to halt the performance of these bastardized York Rite rituals, and expose the whole operation of this degree-mill scheme as unwholesome, un-Masonic, an insult to Masonry, and a money-making scheme which is a product of Crowley's deranged mental-illness and black-magic.

*** LEGAL BATTLES ***

A case was tried in Connecticut and some testimony was given in the early 1980's. In the course of the trial, the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut Inc., filed its Petition to Intervene as Amicus Curiae and in its petition made the following assertions:

"After careful inquiry and investigation the applicant verily believes and therefore alledges that the defendant body and the defendants as purported Freemasons are illegitimate, spurious and irregular with no legal right or authority to use the name, signs, symbols, emblems, badges, insignia, and other indicia of Freemasonry; and that they are knowingly making false and fraudulent claims and representations as to their legitimacy and regularity in order to defraud the public, and also to

the injury and detriment of the petitioner and of the plaintiff in this action.

"The petitioner further believes and after due inquiry therefore alleges that despite the pretensions of the defendants to be furthering charitable and worthy objects, they are in fact promoting their illegitimate and irregular organization for the purpose of personal profit.

"Wherefore the petitioner prays that it may be permitted to intervene in the trial of this case as **amecus curiae** in the public interest and also for the purpose of protecting its property in its names, signs, symbols, emblems, badges, insignia, and other indicia of Freemasonry from the unwarranted, illegal, fraudulent use of the same by the defendant."

There is no place in Freemasonry for placidity, nonchalance, and complacency. Legitimate Masons the world over must join in the fight to be rid of these pests as long as there is one bogus group operating anywhere, under whatever name, or in whatever manner.

But -- the fight against these pests is not our work alone. It will take more than the determination and the will-to-do of one body of Masons alone. It must be done through the unified efforts of every legitimate Mason wherever found!