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the people of France and the United States of America.

In 2020, he was inducted into the prestigious Society of Blue Friars as its 110th member. The organization was created in 1932 to recognize authors for their innovative contributions to Masonic literature.

Kamel has worked as a volunteer at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library in Lexington, Massachusetts since 2003. His books are a contribution to the study of the genesis of the rituals of the Higher Degrees of Freemasonry. Previously published are *The Book of Wisdom*, *The Spirit of Freemasonry*, *Saint Edouard, a 1748 Masonic Lodge, during the French Enlightenment*, and *Freemasonry by Questions & Answers*, including a Ritual in Three Degrees for a Women's Masonic Lodge. All are annotated translations from the collection of rare French Masonic manuscripts at the Museum.

A novel entitled, *A Freemason's Journey through Space and Time* is soon to be published by the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library in Lexington and is sponsored by the AASR Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. The novel is written in collaboration with Jacques G. Ruelland, PhD, 33°, an AASR Deputy for the Province of Quebec, Canada.

The book makes us witness the peregrination of a man going through his first to the 33rd Degree of Freemasonry in a space of time ranging from long before the Middle-Ages to the 21st century. At each degree, our candidate sheds his earthly and spiritual shell to transform into a different human being at various stages of knowledge, wisdom, tolerance, physical and spiritual development. He always adapts readily to the new location where the hazard places him. This book can be enjoyed as a history novel, science fiction, or serve the general public and especially students of Craft as a reference manual of Freemasonry.

Kamel and his wife, Mary Park Lenox, live in Winchester, Massachusetts.

ON THE COVER: Scottish Rite 32nd Degree Apron ca.1861. Massachusetts. Gift of James H. Freeland, Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, 78.57.3. photograph by David Bohl.

FREEMASONRY

from the 1st to the 33rd Degree

The manuscript transcription of the document contained in this book was done during the reunion of several so-called "confederated Supreme Councils" of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. The meeting took place in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1875.

The goal of this annotated translation as well as the previous ones that the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum in Lexington, Massachusetts has published is to help us, students, scholars, and historians of Freemasonry, to understand the evolution of the rituals. It will also guide the leaders of Freemasonry in the necessary reforms that will help them and us adapt to the future without losing the integrity of our teaching and the cardinal virtues of our conduct.

The rituals committees of all the Scottish Rite Supreme Councils around the world are guided by a deep study and evaluation of the founding texts. Annotated translations such as this one show that the present form of our ritual is a direct result of the scholarly research done in the past.

Be assured that this book does not overtly reveal anything to the public because Freemasonry is like a culture, it has its own vocabulary, its written and spoken language, its civic and spiritual habits. Its integrity is firmly protected by bodyguards of intentional innuendoes.

The goal of translating and studying ancient rituals is to bring them out of the darkness of the "vaults" where they are kept to enlighten the generations to come. As the proverb says, "Today's light always springs from the past to enlighten the future."

The original manuscript meticulously describes the candidate attire, the jewels and the decors of the lodge or the location where the degree takes place as well as the raps, signs and passwords used.

At the end of the manuscript, all the Degrees from the 1st to the 33rd are summarized and their symbolisms fully explained. The document ends with a synopsis progressively stating the true goal of Freemasonry. Whatever the goal, we are however, urged to remember that "sentiments are inclined to unconscious exaltations, and nothing is easier than becoming a fanatic against fanaticism, a tyrant against tyranny and intolerant against intolerance."

If necessary, the passwords or difficult foreign words and quotes are explained in footnotes placed at the bottom of each page, for easy access.



The camp of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is a nonagon enclosing a heptagon, within whose line is a pentagon, which encloses a triangle in the center of which is a circle. Thus do we find the mystic numbers, 3, 5, 7, and 9, all emanating from the circle of infinity. As these numbers symbolize Divine attributes and Masonic principles, so should Masonic labor emanate from Divine love, be directed by Divine wisdom, and be exercised in Divine power for the good of mankind and the glory of God.



FREEMASONRY FROM THE 1ST TO THE 33RD DEGREE

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FREEMASONRY

from the 1st to the 33rd Degree

(ACCORDING TO AN 1875 FRENCH MANUSCRIPT WRITTEN IN LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND)



Annotated translation by
Kamel Oussayef, 33°



KAMEL OUSSAYEF, 33°, is a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite (AASR) in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America. He was born in Sétif, Algeria, schooled during his teenage years in Sceaux, near Paris, and resided, studied, and worked in France for many years.

He holds an MA from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and an MS from the School of Public Communications at Boston University.

Kamel is associated with several Masonic organizations. In Symbolic Blue Lodge Freemasonry, he is a Past Master of Converse Lodge and William Parkman Lodge. He was awarded the prestigious Henry Price and Joseph Warren medals for distinguished service to Freemasonry.

In the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, he is the proud recipient of the Meritorious Service Award as well as the Sovereign Grand Commander Distinguished Service Award "for outstanding, distinguished and exemplary service to the Masonic fraternity at large and for having demonstrated such service to the Scottish Rite not often witnessed among the general membership." He has also worked very successfully for more than 18 years in membership development for the Scottish Rite, the Shriners, and Blue Lodges using innovative methods of recruitment.

Kamel has been a Knight of the Order of Lafayette since 2016. This international institution recognizes individuals in all fields of endeavors who have worked at fostering the friendly relationship between

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