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Digitally (Re)Publishing Franklin's 1734 Edition of James Anderson's Constitutions of the Free-Masons: Typographical Challenges and Unexpected Rewards

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Digitally (Re)Publishing Franklin's 1734 Edition of James Anderson's *Constitutions of the Free-Masons*:



Typographical Challenges and Unexpected Rewards

Presented at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Convention,
Richmond, Virginia, March 28, 2009

Paul Royster
University of Nebraska–Lincoln



In 1721, James Anderson, a Scottish clergyman living in London was commissioned by the Duke of Montagu to write a history and handbook for the London grand lodge of the Order of Free-Masons. In January 1723, this work was published as seen here, under the title *The Constitutions of the Free-Masons*.

100c

THE
CONSTITUTIONS
OF THE
FREE-MASONS.

CONTAINING THE

History, Charges, Regulations, &c.
of that most Ancient and Right
Worshipful FRATERNITY.

For the Use of the LODGES.



L O N D O N:

Printed by WILLIAM HUNTER, for JOHN SENEX at the *Globe*,
and JOHN HOOKE at the *Flower-de-luce* over-against *St. Dunstan's*
Church, in *Fleet-street*.

In the Year of Mafonry ——— 5723
Anno Domini ——— 1723

1st edition
London, 1723
title page

Anderson (1679–1739) was educated at Marischal College in Aberdeen and received a Master of Arts degree in 1698. He was for a time chaplain to an English nobleman, and then minister to Presbyterian congregations in Glasshouse Street, London, 1709-1710, Swallow Street, Westminster, 1710-1734, and finally Lisle Street, 1734-1739. His father was a leading member of the Mason's lodge in Aberdeen, and Anderson probably brought some knowledge of the Scottish Rite to the London Grand Lodge, which he helped form in 1717 as a union of four previously existing separate lodges.



James Anderson



Engraved by Joha. Pine in Alderfgate Street London

1st edition
London, 1723
frontispiece
(showing the Duke of
Montagu presenting the
new constitutions to the
incoming Grand Master,
the Duke of Wharton)

1723 was also the year that 17-year-old Benjamin Franklin arrived in Philadelphia, with a knowledge of printing and publishing learned during his apprenticeship with his brother James Franklin, publisher of the *New England Courant*, with whom he had quarreled and from whom he was seeking escape. By 1728, Benjamin had formed his own printing business, and by 1730 was its sole owner and proprietor. In January of 1731, Franklin was admitted to the St. John's Lodge of Free-Masons; he became a junior grand warden of the lodge in June of 1732, and Grand Master of Masons of Pennsylvania in June of 1734.

In the May 16, 1734, edition of Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette*, there appeared an advertisement for the work we shall examine at greater length here, advertised as "just published" and at a price of 2 *shillings and* 6 pence, unbound, or bound at a price of 4 *shillings*.

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LONDON Printed; Anno 5723.
Re-printed in *Philadelphia* by special Order, for the Use
of the Brethren in *NORTH-AMERICA*.
In the Year of Masonry 5734, Anno Domini 1734.

Franklin's edition
Philadelphia, 1734
title page



In 2005, I came across the work while looking in the Charles Evans bibliography for works to include in a series of digital editions I had started publishing, called “Electronic Texts in American Studies.”

In 2006, I published a new digital edition, as shown here:

THE
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LONDON Printed; Anno 5723.
Re-printed in *Philadelphia* by special Order, for the Use
of the Brethren in *NORTH-AMERICA*.
In the Year of Masonry 5734, *Anno Domini* 1734.

Digital edition
Lincoln, NE, 2006
title page

You may notice that the title page of the digital edition (and indeed, all the pages) bears a certain graphic resemblance to Franklin's edition. This is no accident, and let me digress to explain why.

I had previously prepared and published a digital edition of John Eliot's *Christian Commonwealth*, which had a 20-page preface set in all italic type. I was frustrated by the typographical options available because, compared to the original edition of 1659, the modern italic fonts were 1) wimpy, and 2) rather more oblique than truly italic.

For example, look at a rather important phrase, occurring often in Eliot's introduction:

Modern vs. period fonts

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ

Times New Roman

Palatino

Caslon

Garamond

The modern faces lacked the crossed “J” and other features, and they paled in comparison to the 17th-century versions. The modern fonts simply lacked the impact; they whispered and apologized rather than coming out bold and proud.

I spent many hours over several days online searching for fonts that would carry the weight and impact, without being fussy, ornate, or artificially roughed-up. Then, at last, I found this site: Igino Marini's Fell Types. John Fell was the late 17th-century Bishop of Oxford and early proprietor of what eventually became Oxford University Press. Marini (an Italian engineer and typophile) had selected and digitized a number of typefaces from printed samples, and had posted them on his website, free to the world to download and use.

Jesus Christ

IM Fell Pica

Jesus Christ

IM Fell English

Jesus Christ

IM Fell Great Primer

THE FELL TYPES



Home



The Fell Types took their name from John Fell, a Bishop of Oxford in the seventeenth-century. Not only he created an unique collection of printing types but he started one of the most important adventures in the history of typography. You will find here a non-exhaustive history and a modern digitalization of some of them.

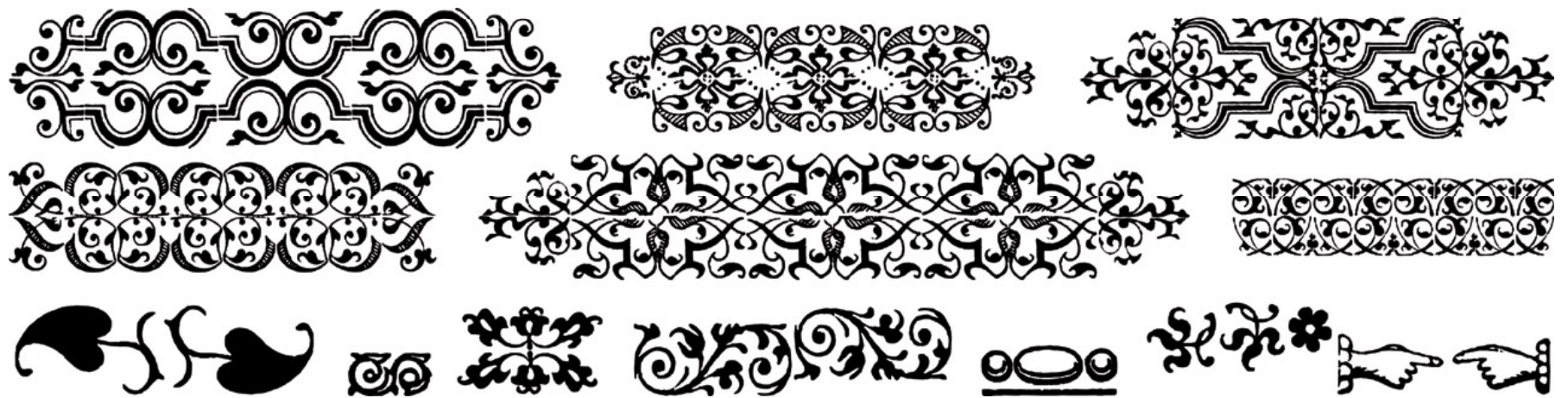


<http://iginomarini.com/fell/>

Igino Marini's digitization of the 17th-century Fell typefaces

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W
X Y Z Æ Œ a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z A
B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z ſ ſſ fi fl ffi ffll st
& m m m th ſſfi fl ✠ A B C D E F G H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r
s t u v w x y z ſſſ fi fl ffi ffll st & ſſi ſſl ſſſi ſſl 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
A M Æ k A D G K ě ö Ü A fr sp k

"Pica," cut by Peter de Walpergen, acquired by Bishop Fell in 1692
(digital TrueType and Open Type fonts created by Iginio Marini)

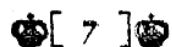


Ornaments, cut by Robert Granjon, late 17th century.

An additional advantage to the Marini-Fell types was their relative weight or “color.” Most modern typefaces were designed for phototypesetting, in which the letters are printed on reproduction-quality paper, photographed to make negatives, which are used to make printing plates, which collect ink, transfer it to the offset “blanket”, and then to paper. At each of these stages the letterforms swell slightly, so the original letters are cut especially light and thin, to allow for the growth through the process. However, when these same fonts are used for digital editions, seen onscreen against a backlit background, and without all the intervening growth stages, they are relatively light or wimpy, and lack the proper weight or heft to give the page its proper “color.” Marini’s Fell types, having been digitized from printed examples, have the necessary thickness to stand out in an onscreen setting.

Digital edition: Layout & Design

- Not a facsimile edition
- Adjust original size (5.75" x 8") to half-letter (5.5" x 8.5")
- Set to produce 92 pages, as in original, but not to match exact line or page breaks
- PDF'ed as spreads to preserve recto/verso layouts
- Preserve marginal notes, display capitalization
- Reproduce or recreate ornaments, headpieces, and decorations



THE
CONSTITUTION,
History, Laws, Charges, Orders,
Regulations, and Usages,

OF THE
Right Worshipful FRATERNITY
OF ACCEPTED

Free-Masons;

Collected from their general RECORDS, and
their faithful TRADITIONS of many
Ages.

TO BE READ

*At the Admission of a NEW BROTHER, when
the Master or Warden shall begin, or order some other
Brother to read as follows :*

DAM, our first Parent, created after the
Image of God, the great Architect of the
Universe, must have had the Liberal
Sciences, particularly Geometry, written
on his Heart; for even since the Fall,
we find the Principles of it in the Hearts of his Off-
spring, and which, in process of time, have been
drawn

Year of
the World
1.
4003 be-
fore Christ



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CONSTITUTION,
History, Laws, Charges, Orders,
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Brother to read as follows :*

DAM, our first Parent, created after the
Image of God, the great Architect of the Uni-
verse, must have had the Liberal Sciences,
particularly Geometry, written on his Heart;
for even since the Fall, we find the Principles
of it in the Hearts of his Offspring, and which, in process
of time, have been drawn forth into a convenient Method
of Propositions, by observing the Laws of Proportion taken


Year of
the World
1.
4003 be-
fore Christ



GENERAL REGULATIONS,

Compiled first by Mr. GEORGE PAYNE, Anno 1720, when he was *GRAND-MASTER*, and approv'd by the *GRAND-LODGE* on *St. John Baptist's Day*, Anno 1721, at *Stationer's-Hall*, LONDON; when the *most noble PRINCE John Duke of MONTAGU* was unanimously chosen our *GRAND-MASTER* for the Year ensuing; who chose JOHN BEAL, M.D. his *Deputy Grand-Master*; and { Mr. *Josiah Villeneau* } were chosen by the Lodge
{ Mr. *Tho. Morris, jun.* } *GRAND-WARDENS*.

And now, by the Command of our said *Right Worshipful GRAND-MASTER MONTAGU*, the *Author* of this Book has compar'd them with, and reduc'd them to the ancient *Records* and immemorial *Usages* of the Fraternity, and digested them into this new Method, with several proper Explications, for the Use of the Lodges in and about *London* and *Westminster*.


I.  HE *GRAND-MASTER*, or his *DEPUTY*, hath Authority and Right, not only to be present in any true *Lodge*, but also to preside where-ever he is, with the *Master* of the *Lodge* on his Left-hand, and to order



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olution, Anno 1688, KING WILLIAM, though a warlike Prince, having a good Taste of Architecture, carried on the aforesaid two famous Hospitals of *Greenwich* and *Chel-sea*, built the fine part of his royal Palace of HAMPTON COURT, and founded and finish'd his incomparable Palace

City of LONDON erected the famous Monument, where the Great Fire began, all of solid Stone, 202 foot high from the Ground, a Pillar of the Dorick Order, 15 Foot diameter, with a curious Stair Case in the Middle of black Marble, and an iron Balcony on the Top (not unlike those of Trajan and Antoninus at ROME) from whence the City and Suburbs may be view'd; and it is the highest Column we know upon Earth. Its Pedestal is 21 Foot square, and 40 Foot high, the Front of which is adorn'd with most ingenious Emblems in Basso Relievo, wrought by that famous Sculptor, Mr. Gabriel Cibber, with large Latin Inscriptions on the Sides of it; founded Anno 1671, and finish'd Anno 1677.

In his Time also the Society of MERCHANT ADVENTURERS rebuilt the ROYAL EXCHANGE of London (the old one being destroy'd by the Fire) all of Stone, after the Roman Style, the finest Structure of that use in Europe, with the King's Statue to the Life, of white Marble, in the Middle of the Square (wrought by the famous Master-Carver and Statuary, Mr. GRINLIN GIBBONS, who was justly admir'd all over Europe, for his rivalling, if not surpassing, the most fam'd Italian Masters) on the Pedestal of which is the following Inscription, viz.

CAROLO II. CÆSARI BRITANNICO
PATRIÆ PATRI
REGUM OPTIMO CLEMENTISSIMO AUGUSTISSIMO
GENERIS HUMANI DELICIIIS
UTRIUSQUE FORTUNÆ VICTORI
PACIS EUROPÆ ARBITRO.
MARIUM DOMINO AC VINDICI
SOCIETAS MERCATORUM ADVENTUR. ANGLIÆ
QUÆ PER CCC JAM PROPE ANNOS
REGIA BENIGNITATE FLORET
FIDEI INTEMERATÆ ET GRATITUDINIS ÆTERNÆ

at LOO in HOLLAND, &c. And the bright Example of that glorious Prince, (who by most is reckon'd a *Free-Mason*) did influence the Nobility, the Gentry, the Wealthy and the Learned of GREAT-BRITAIN, to affect much the *Augustan Style*; as appears by a vast Number of most curious Edi-

HOC TESTIMONIUM
VENERABUNDA POSUIT
ANNO SALUTIS HUMANÆ MDCLXXXIV.

TO CHARLES II. EMPEROR OF BRITAIN
FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY
BEST MOST MERCIFUL AND AUGUST OF KINGS
DELIGHT OF MANKIND
IN ADVERSITY AND PROSPERITY UNMOV'D
UMPIRE OF EUROPE'S PEACE
COMMANDER AND SOVEREIGN OF THE SEAS
THE SOCIETY OF MERCHANT ADVENTURERS
OF ENGLAND
WHICH FOR NEAR CCC TEARS
BY ROYAL FAVOUR FLOURISHETH
OF UNSHAKEN LOYALTY AND
ETERNAL GRATITUDE
THIS TESTIMONY
HAS IN VENERATION ERECTED
IN THE YEAR OF SALVATION MDCLXXXIV.

Nor should we forget the famous THEATER of OXFORD, built by Archbishop SHELDON, at his sole Cost, in that King's Time, which, among his other fine Works, was design'd and conducted also by Sir Christopher Wren the King's Architect; for it is justly admir'd by the curious; and the MUSÆUM adjoining to it, a fine Building rais'd at the Charge of that illustrious UNIVERSITY, where there have been since erected several more Roman Buildings, as Trinity-College Chappel, Alhallows Church in High-street, Peck-water-Square in Christ-Church College, the new Printing-House, and the whole of Queen's-College rebuilt, &c. by the liberal Donations of some eminent Benefactors, and by the publick Spirit, Vigilancy,

And the *Masters* and *Wardens* of particular *Lodges*, viz.

- | | |
|--|---|
| I. THOMAS MORRIS, sen. <i>Master</i> . | XI. FRANCIS Earl of <i>Dalkeith</i> , Mr. |
| John Bristow } <i>Wardens</i> . | Capt. Andrew Robinson † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| Abraham Abbot } | Col. Thomas Inwood † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| II. RICHARD HALL, <i>Master</i> . | XII. JOHN BEAL, M. D. and |
| Philip Wolverston } <i>Wardens</i> . | F. R. S. <i>Master</i> . |
| John Doyer } | Edward Pawlet † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| III. JOHN TURNER, <i>Master</i> . | Charles More, Esq; † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| Anthony Sayer } <i>Wardens</i> . | XIII. THO. MORRIS, jun. <i>Master</i> . |
| Edward Cale } | Joseph Kidler † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| IV. Mr. GEORGE PAYNE, <i>Master</i> . | John Clark † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| Stephen Hall, M.D. } <i>Wardens</i> . | XIV. THO. ROBBE, Esq; <i>Master</i> . |
| Francis Sorell, Esq; } | Thomas Grave † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| V. Mr. M. BIRKHEAD, <i>Master</i> . | Bray Lane † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| Francis Bayly } <i>Wardens</i> . | XV. JOHN SHEPHERD, <i>Master</i> . |
| Nicholas Abraham } | John Senex † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| VI. WILLIAM READ, <i>Master</i> . | John Bucler † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| John Glover } <i>Wardens</i> . | XVI. J. GEORGES, Esq; <i>Master</i> . |
| Robert Cordell } | Robert Gray, Esq; † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| VII. HENRY BRANSON, <i>Master</i> . | Charles Grymes, Esq; † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| Henry Lug } <i>Wardens</i> . | XVII. JA. ANDERSON, A.M. and |
| John Townsend } | Author of this Book, <i>Master</i> . |
| VIII. Master. | Gwin Vaughan, Esq; † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| Jonathan Sisson } <i>Wardens</i> . | Walter Greenwood, Esq; † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| John Shipton } | XVIII. THO. HARBIN, <i>Master</i> . |
| IX. GEO. OWEN, M. D. <i>Master</i> . | William Atley † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| Eman Bowen } <i>Wardens</i> . | John Saxon † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| John Heath } | XIX. ROBERT CAPELL, <i>Master</i> . |
| X. Master. | Isaac Mansfield † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| John Lubton } <i>Wardens</i> . | William Bly † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| Richard Smith } | XX. JOHN GORMAN, <i>Master</i> . |
| | Charles Garey † † <i>Wardens</i> . |
| | Edward Morphey † † <i>Wardens</i> . |



THE Master's SONG. OR THE HISTORY of MASONRY.

To be sung with a *Chorus*, when the *MASTER* shall give Leave (*no Brother being present to whom Singing is disagreeable*) either one Part only, or all together, as he pleases.

PART I.

I.
ADAM, the first of humane Kind,
Created with GEOMETRY
Imprinted on his *Royal Mind*,
Instructed soon his *Progeny*
CAIN & SETH, who then improv'd
The lib'ral *Science* in the *Art*
Of *Architecture*, which they lov'd,
And to their Offspring did impart.

II.
CAIN a City fair and strong
First built, and call'd it *Consecrate*,
From *Enoch's* Name, his eldest Son,
Which all his Race did imitate :
But godly ENOCH, of *Seth's* Loins,
Two Columns rais'd with mighty Skill:
And all his Family enjoins
True *Colonading* to fulfill.

III.
Our Father NOAH next appear'd
A *Mason* too divinely taught ;
And by divine Command uprear'd
The ARK, that held a goodly Fraught:
'Twas built by true *Geometry*,
A Piece of *Architecture* fine ;
Help'd by his Sons, in number THREE,
Concurring in the *grand Design*.

IV.
So from the gen'ral *Deluge* none
Were sav'd, but *Masons* and their *Wives*;
And all Mankind from them alone
Descending, *Architecture* thrives ;
For they, when multiply'd amain,
Fit to disperse and fill the Earth,
In SHINAR's large & lovely Plain
To MASONRY gave second Birth.

V.
For most of *Mankind* were employ'd,
To build the *City* and the *Tow'r*;
The *Gen'ral Lodge* was overjoy'd,
In such Effects of *Masons* Pow'r ;
'Till vain Ambition did provoke
Their Maker to confound their *Plot*;
Yet tho' with Tongues confus'd they spoke,
The learned *Art* they ne'er forgot.

CHORUS.
*Who can unfold the Royal Art ?
Or sing its Secrets in a Song ?
They're safely kept in Masons HEART
And to the ancient Lodge belong.*

[*Stop here to drink the present GRAND
MASTER's Health.*]

This is the only place that James Anderson is credited as the author of the work (in item XVII). Note also that Franklin apparently ran out of brackets here, and used trios of double daggers to indicate the groupings in the second column.

Digital edition: Textual policy

- Copy text = 1734 printed Philadelphia edition
- Use 1723 London edition for comparison
- Do not regularize or standardize spelling, grammar, punctuation, orthography, usage, etc.
- Correct obvious typographical errors
- List all emendations
- Do not use ligatures or long “s” in main body text — to allow for more accurate searching and excerpting
- Discuss policy & history in “Note on the Text”

This edition retains the spelling, capitalization, italics, and punctuation of the 1734 Philadelphia edition. No attempt has been made to standardize spellings or orthography. Some typographical errors have been corrected, and a list of emendations is given below, keyed to page and line number of the present edition (the line count includes chapter headings, but not running heads or hairlines):

<i>Page.line</i>	<i>1734 reading</i>	<i>emended to</i>
10.29	perpendciular	perpendicular
20.20	which	(which
22.5	PYTAHGORAS	PYTHAGORAS
24.31	exellent	excellent
33.25	Conjurnation	Conjuration
40.30*	TRINITY COLLEGE	TRINITY-COLLEGE
41.37	Fief	Fife
43.10*	<i>County</i>	<i>County,</i>
43.12*	Drumlanrig Castle	Drumlanrig-Castle
43.18	Clydsdaleshire	Clydsdaleshire
43.19*	Wanstead House	Wanstead-House
43.21*	Mereworth Castle	Mereworth-Castle
43.26	<i>Earle</i>	<i>Earl</i>
48.16	may distinguish'd	may be distinguish'd
80.9b	THO	THO.
80.28b	Master	Master.
83.38	belov'd	belov'd.
83.29b	Art	Art.
85.29	thriv'd	thriv'd.
87.6b	King	King ;
88.5b	compleat ?	compleat ;
90.22b	T'each each	T'each
91.14b	are	are !

The five emendations indicated with asterisks represent occasions where the text of the Philadelphia edition departs from its London source-document within a list or context where it is otherwise faithful to that source. In these five cases, the reading of the London text has been adopted (*i.e.*, four hyphens and a comma have been restored). In all other cases, other than the correction of typographical errors, the Philadelphia edition has been followed.

The following bibliographies and webliographies may be helpful to those seeking further sources for research on Masonry:

"Masonry and the Printed Word," National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA 02421 <http://www.monh.org/Default.aspx?tabid=359>

Brandy Farese, "Freemasonry in the Eighteenth-Century," <http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/english/subcultures/colors/black/bljettot/farebiblio.html>

"DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF PHILANTHROPY AND VOLUNTARISM IN THE UNITED STATES, 1600-1900," <http://ksghome.harvard.edu/~phall/dochistcontents.html>

"Freemasonry," <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freemasonry>

Walgren, Kent Logan, *Freemasonry, Anti-Masonry, and Illuminism in the United States, 1734-1850, A Bibliography*. Worcester, MA: American Antiquarian Society, 2003.

Paul Royster
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
February 14, 2006

Digital edition publication history

- Published online February 2006
- 15,381 downloads in 3 years (avg. 14/day)
- Users in 68 countries, including:

Kazakhstan	Peru
Nigeria	Sri Lanka
Egypt	Namibia
Kenya	Turkey
Vietnam	Latvia
Moldova	Jordan
Bahrain	Uruguay
Malta	Pakistan
Slovenia	...

The Platform

University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Institutional Repository:

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu>

- Open access, Google-searched, full-text, PDF format
- 3rd largest IR in the United States
- Contains over 32,000 documents
- Digital edition of Anderson's *Constitutions* is the most popular

The Series:

Electronic Texts in American Studies

- Full-text digital editions of primary works
- Includes 70 works, from 1588 (Hariot's *Virginia*) to 1891 (Melville's *Timoleon*)

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Electronic Texts in American Studies

The following materials are electronic texts of documents, primary texts, and literature associated with the history and culture of the United States. All materials are open-access, full-text PDF editions, and are presented for the use of teachers, students, and researchers. Users are invited to browse, download, save, print, and link to any of these documents, but are asked not to re-post or re-publish them elsewhere without permission of the depositor.

This series is administered by Paul Royster [proyster@unl.edu]. Persons wishing to deposit additional materials are encouraged to contact him.

Browse by Year

Author Last Name

2008

- [The Widdow Ranter, or, The History of Bacon in Virginia \(1690\)](#), Aphra Behn and Paul Royster, editor

[A Discourse concerning Unlimited Submission and Non-Resistance to the Higher Powers: With some Reflections on the Resistance made to King Charles I. And on the Anniversary of his Death: In which the Mysterious Doctrine of that](#)

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The Constitutions of the Free-Masons (1734). An Online Electronic Edition.

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An electronic text version of the 1734 Philadelphia edition of the work first published in London in 1723.

A paperback edition of this work is available for purchase (\$15) at <http://www.lulu.com/content/1720027>

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Abstract

This is an online electronic edition of the the first Masonic book printed in America, which was produced in Philadelphia by Benjamin Franklin in 1734, and was a reprint of a work by James Anderson (who is identified as the author in an appendix) printed in London in 1723.

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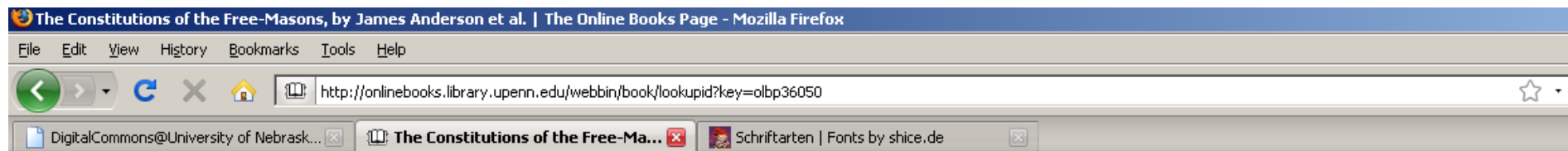
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- A Declaration of the Sad and Great Persecution and Martyrdom of the People of God, called Quakers, in New-England, for the Worshipping of God (1661), Edward Burrough and Paul Royster, editor
- Appeal to the Wealthy of the Land, Ladies as Well as Gentlemen, on the Character, Conduct, Situation, and Prospects of Those Whose Sole Dependence for Subsistence Is on the Labour of Their Hands (1833), Mathew Carey and Paul Royster (transcriber & depositor)
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- A Lecture on the Railroad to the Pacific [1850], Calvin Colton and Paul Royster (editor)
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The Constitutions of the Moderns

[edit]

The **Constitutions of the Free-Masons** was a constitution written for the [Premier Grand Lodge of England](#), to standardize the rituals and practices of [Freemasonry](#) among lodges of London and Westminster operating under that Grand Lodge. Obviously, it was not meant to apply to other lodges in other parts of England, Scotland and Ireland. The constitution laid the foundation of the legend of [Hiram Abiff](#), King Solomon's Master Builder, along with the pyramid style organizational model of Freemasonry. The first and second edition were written by Rev. [James Anderson](#) in 1723 and 1738.

History

[edit]

Anderson's Constitutions were based on the Old [Masonic Manuscripts](#) (also called "Gothic Constitutions") and on the *General Regulations* which had been compiled first by [George Payne](#) in 1720^[7]. The full title of the 1723 edition was *The Constitutions of the Free-Masons, Containing the History, Charges, Regulations, &c. of that most Ancient and Right Worshipful Fraternity, For the Use of the Lodges.*^[8].

When in 1738, the Grand Lodge changed its name from *Grand Lodge of London and Westminster* into the *Grand Lodge of England*, the Constitution was rewritten by Anderson. The title of the second, rewritten, edition of 1738 was *The New Book of Constitutions of the Antient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, Containing Their History, Charges, Regulations, &c. Collected and Digested By Order of the Grand Lodge from their old Records, faithful Traditions and Lodge-Books, For the Use of the Lodges.*^[9].

The 1723 edition of the *Constitutions* was edited and reprinted by [Benjamin Franklin](#) in [Philadelphia](#) in 1734 ([online pdf edition](#))^[4], becoming the first Masonic book printed in [America](#).

A new edition of the *Constitutions* was published in 1754, by John Entick. He reverted to the Charges as drawn up in 1723 into which, especially in the first Charge, Anderson had introduced various modifications in the 1738 edition. It is this edition of the Charges which forms the basis of the Ancient Charges to be found today in the *Constitutions* of the [United Grand Lodge of England](#), with only small verbal modifications, except with regards to the first Charge on God and religion^[10].

The Constitutions of 1723

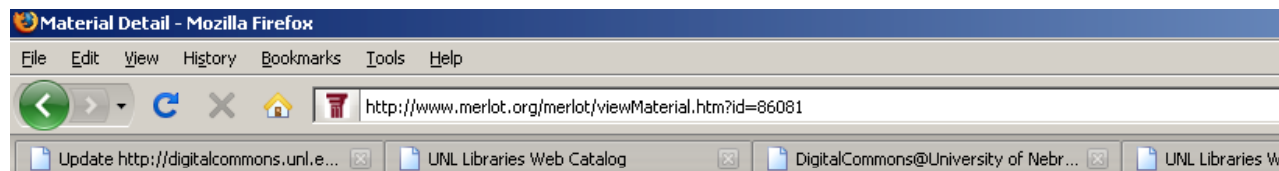
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The first section of the Constitution, on religion, stating that Masons can be of any faith and that they need only adhere to *the Religion in which all Men agree*, comes very close to the concept of a [Natural Religion](#), a popular idea during the [Enlightenment](#).

- I - Of GOD and RELIGION.
 - *A Mason is obliged by his Tenure, to obey the moral law; and if he rightly understands the Art, he will never be a stupid [Atheist](#) nor an irreligious [Libertine](#). But though in ancient times Masons were charged in every country to be of the religion of that country or nation, whatever it was, yet it is now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular Opinions to themselves: that is, to be Good men and True, or Men of Honor and Honesty, by whatever Denomination or Persuasion they may be distinguished; whereby Masonry becomes the Centre of Union and the Means of conciliating true Friendship among persons that must have remained at a perpetual distance.*
- II - Of the CIVIL MAGISTRATES, supreme and subordinate.
- III - Of LODGES.
- IV - Of MASTERS, Wardens, Fellows and Apprentices.
- V - Of the Management of the CRAFT in working.
- VI - Of BEHAVIOR, viz.:
 - 1. In the Lodge while constituted.
 - 2. After the Lodge is over and the Brethren not gone.
 - 3. When Brethren meet without Strangers, but not in a Lodge.
 - 4. In Presence of Strangers not Masons.

(also in "Benjamin Franklin" & "James Anderson" entries)

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Description:

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The work contains a 40-page history of Masonry: from Adam to the reign of King George I, including, among others, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Solomon, Hiram Abif, Nebuchadnezzar, Augustus Caesar, Vitruvius, King Athelstan the Saxon, Inigo Jones, and James I of England. There are extended descriptions of the Seven Wonders of the World, viz. 1) the Great Pyramid, 2) Solomon's Temple, 3) the City and Hanging-Gardens of Babylon, 4) the Mausoleum or Tomb of Mausolus, King of Caria, 5) the Lighthouse of Pharos at Alexandria, 6) Phidias's statue of Jupiter Olympius in Achaia, and 7) the Colossus at Rhodes (although some maintain the 5th is the Obelisk of Semiramis). It is a celebration of the science of Geometry and the Royal Art of Architecture, as practiced from ancient times until the then-current revival of the Roman or Augustan Style. "The Charges of a Free- Mason" and the "General Regulations" concern rules of conduct for individuals and of governance for Lodges and their officers. The work also includes five songs to be sung at meetings, one of which—"A New Song"—appears in print for the first time and may have been composed by Franklin.

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Constitutions of the Free-Masons



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Index to Anderson's Constitutions of 1723

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"Yet it would be difficult to estimate its influence on the history of the Craft. Notwithstanding the way in which Grand Lodge received the work after its publication, it took its place as the official manual, so that the fact that it was not official but essentially a private affair was entirely lost sight of. It was taken by the Grand Lodge of Ireland as the model for their

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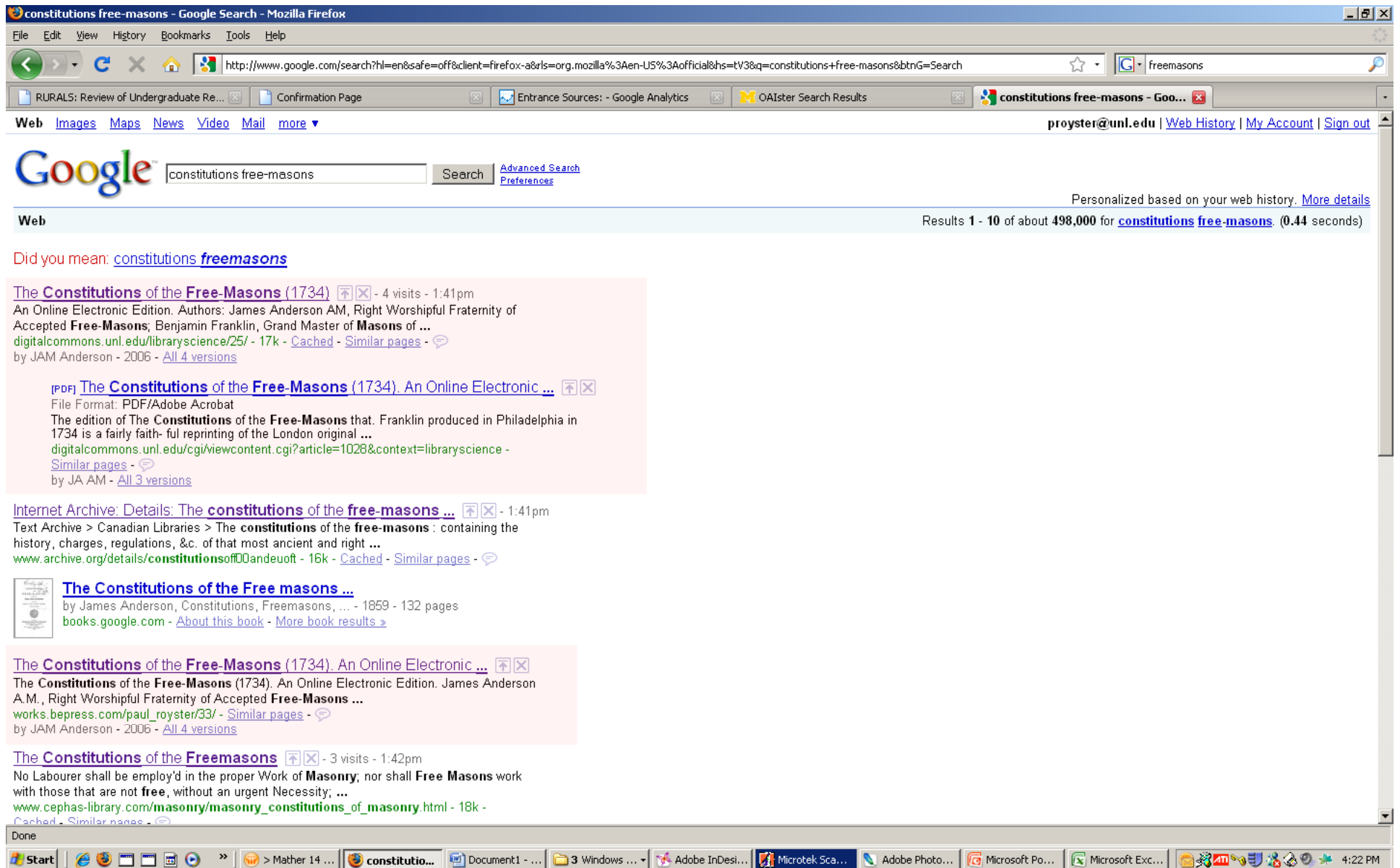
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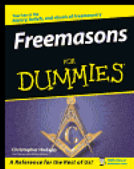
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SUNDAY, MARCH 01, 2009

Anderson's Constitutions of 1729 Online

The complete text is [now available online](#) of Benjamin Franklin's reprint of James Anderson's Constitutions of 1723. This was the first Masonic book known to have been published in the American colonies, printed in Philadelphia in 1734.

Thanks to the [National Heritage Museum's blog](#) for the heads up. The Museum, owned by the Scottish Rite Northern Jurisdiction in Lexington, Massachusetts, has an original copy of the book. And, of course, thanks to the [University of Nebraska](#) for making the book available online.

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Constitutions of the Free-Masons

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN 1706 - 1790

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Benjamin Franklin (January 17 1706) was one of the most prominent Founding Fathers of the United States. He was a leading printer, scientist, inventor, civic activist and diplomat. As a scientist he was a major figure in the history of physics for his discoveries and theories regarding electricity. As a political writer and activist he, more than anyone, developed the idea of an American nation, and as a diplomat during the [American Revolution](#) secured the French alliance that made independence possible.



Benjamin Franklin

One of the oldest Founders, Franklin was noted for his curiosity, his writings (popular, political and scientific), and his diversity of interests. His wise and scintillating writings are proverbial to this day. He shaped the American Revolution. As a leader of the Enlightenment, he gained the recognition of scientists and intellectuals across Europe. An agent in [London](#) before the Revolution, and Minister to [France](#) during, he more than anyone defined the new nation in the minds of Europe. His success in securing French military and financial aid was the turning point for American victory over [Britain](#). He invented the lightning rod; he was an early proponent of colonial unity; historians hail him

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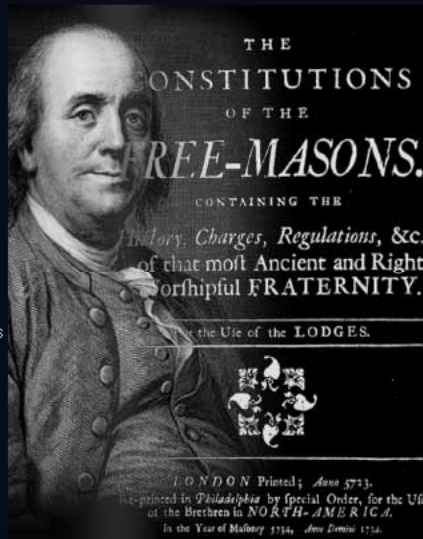
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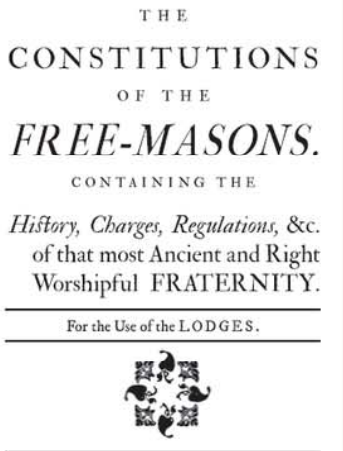
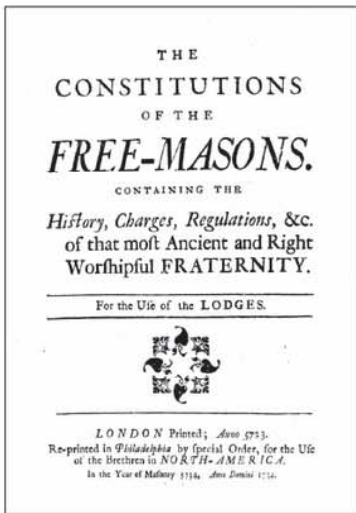
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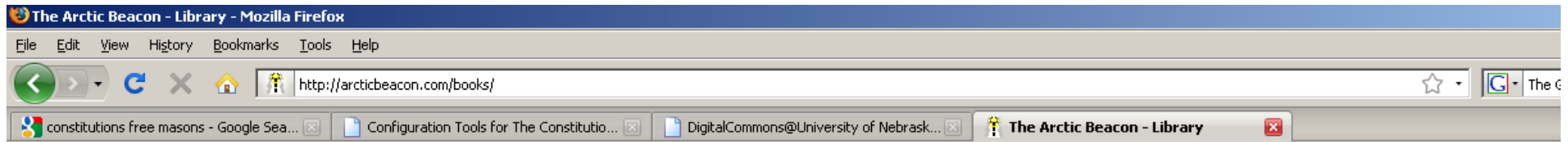
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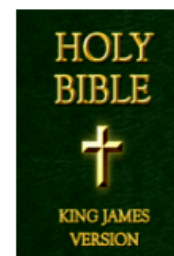
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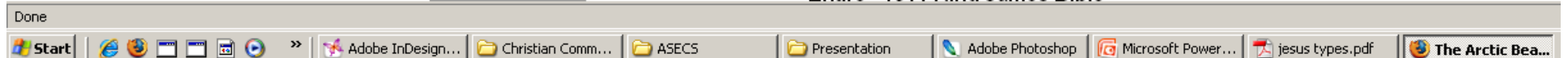
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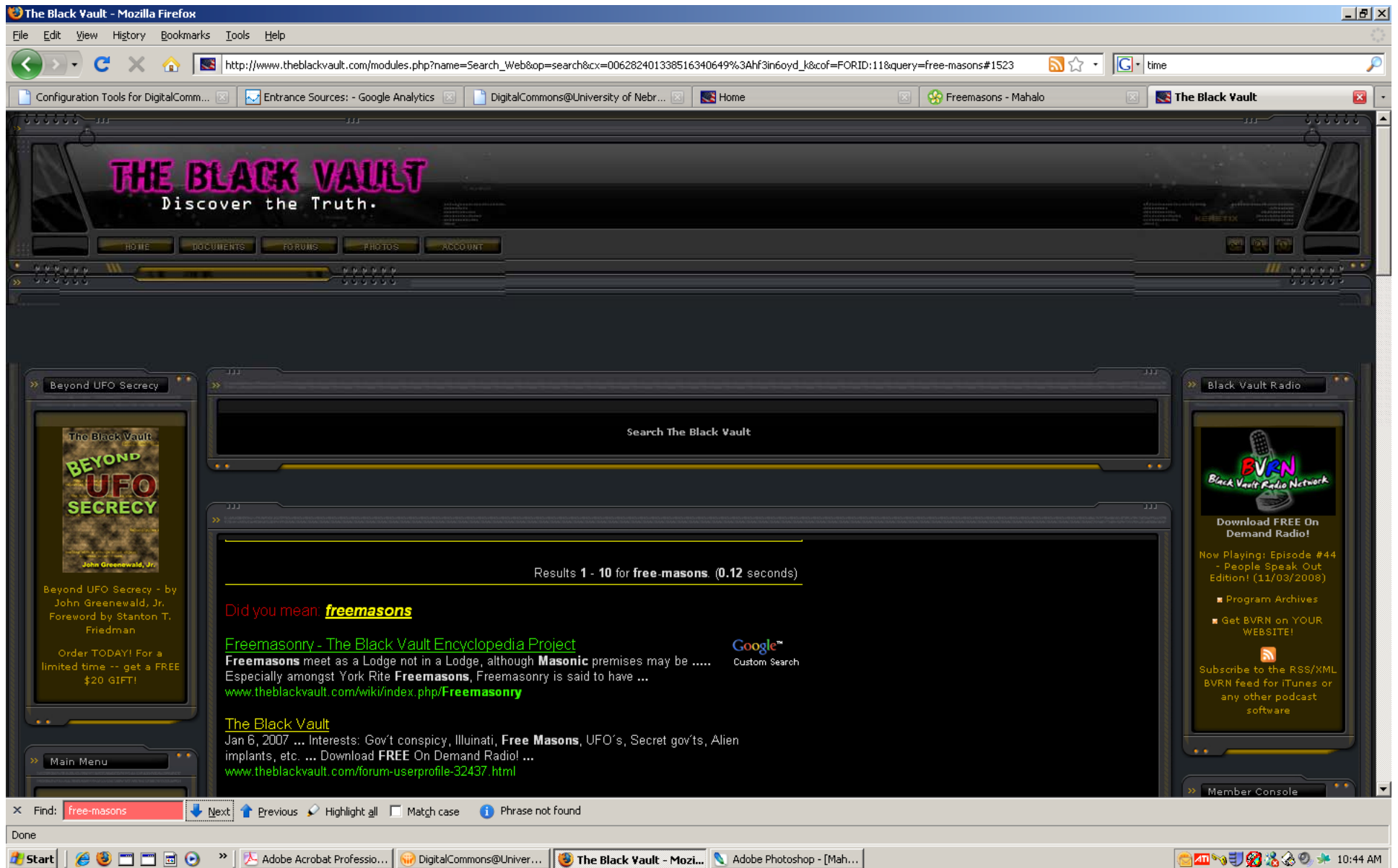
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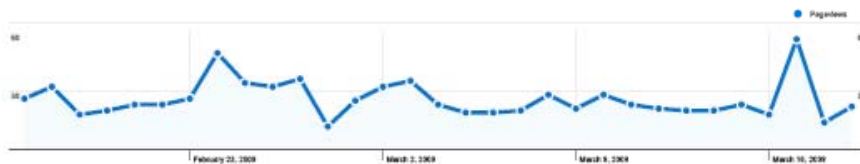
Website featuring info on UFOs, cryptozoology, Kennedy assassination, and other conspiracies (including the Freemasons).

Entrance Sources:

/libraryscience/25/

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Source	Pageviews	Unique Pageviews	Avg. Time on Page	Bounce Rate	% Exit	\$ Index
en.wikipedia.org	414	324	00:01:06	83.40%	64.01%	\$0.00
google	110	85	00:02:31	72.86%	65.45%	\$0.00
(direct)	68	60	00:01:45	77.27%	64.71%	\$0.00
phoenixmasonry.org	40	30	00:02:18	82.14%	70.00%	\$0.00
pt.wikipedia.org	22	21	00:00:16	95.00%	90.91%	\$0.00
freemasonry.bcy.ca	21	17	00:02:32	75.00%	71.43%	\$0.00
onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu	19	15	00:00:50	66.67%	63.16%	\$0.00
ar.wikipedia.org	16	15	00:00:27	92.86%	87.50%	\$0.00
nationalheritagemuseum.typepad.co m	11	9	00:04:10	66.67%	72.73%	\$0.00
absoluteastronomy.com	10	4	00:00:32	0.00%	10.00%	\$0.00
af.wikipedia.org	9	7	00:00:17	80.00%	55.56%	\$0.00
mk.wikipedia.org	7	7	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
by104w.bay104.mail.live.com	5	4	00:00:33	66.67%	60.00%	\$0.00
answers.com	4	2	00:06:14	50.00%	50.00%	\$0.00
wolnoularstwo.eu	4	2	00:00:16	0.00%	25.00%	\$0.00
aol	3	2	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
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freemasonsfordummies.blogspot.co m	3	3	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
nationmaster.com	3	2	00:00:27	0.00%	33.33%	\$0.00
live	2	2	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00

ar.wikipedia = Arabic (16)
 pt.wikipedia = Portuguese (22)
 mk.wikipedia = Macedonian (7)
 af.wikipedia = Afrikans (9)
 el.wikipedia = Greek (3)

mahalo.com	2	2	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
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freemasonrysaust.org.au	1	1	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
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search	1	1	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
solamavigator.net	1	1	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
theblackvault.com	1	1	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
theopedia.com	1	1	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
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1 - 40 of 40

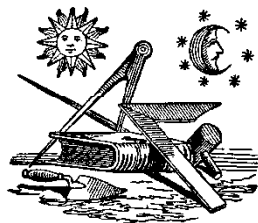
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In the Year of Masonry - 6007
Anno Domini - 2007

THE
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OF THE
FREE-MASONS.

CONTAINING THE

History, Charges, Regulations, &c.
of that most Ancient and Right
Worshipful FRATERNITY.

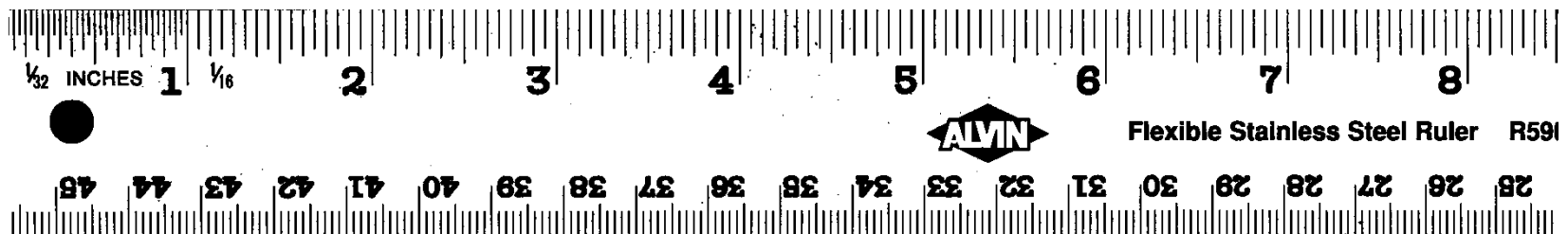
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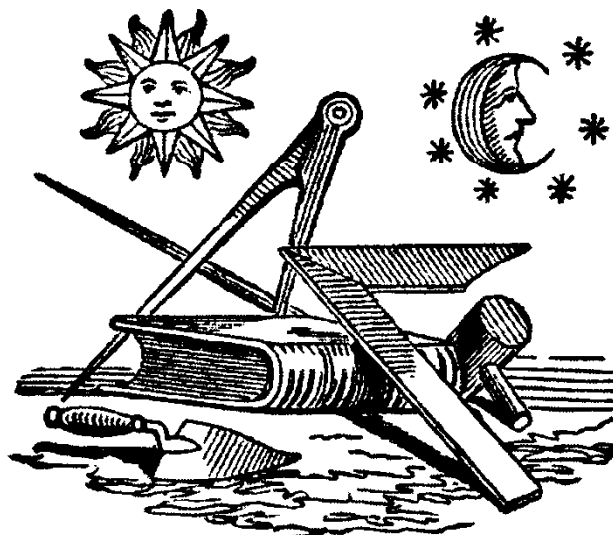


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In the Year of Masonry - 6007
Anno Domini - 2007

Email from Romania

"Mihai Popescu" <mihai.dpopescu@gmail.com> 07/16/2008 08:08 AM

To proyster@unl.edu

Subject: Regarding the online electronic edition of "The Constitutions of the Free-Masons (1734)"

Dear Sir,

While browsing the Net for Masonry-related old texts, I have found the beautiful online electronic edition of "The Constitutions of the Free-Masons (1734)."

As you, sir, are the editor and depositor of the e-book mentioned above, I should like to ask you which might be the steps I have to take in order to print this marvelous work.

I dare ask you these as I intend to somehow mark a special milestone in the history of the Romanian Free Masonry—that is the formal approval of recognition provided by the United Grand Lodge of England to the National Grand Lodge of Romania, in March 2008.

My name is Mihai D. Popescu, I am from Bucharest—Romania and I am a Past Grand Master of Ceremonies of the National Grand Lodge of Romania.

Sincerely yours,

Mihai D. Popescu

www.romania-report.ro, <http://romania-rep.blogspot.com/> (Romania Report Blog)

Print-on-demand edition (Lulu.com, 2008)

The Constitutions of the Free-Masons by James Anderson, Benjamin Franklin (Book) in History - Mozilla Firefox

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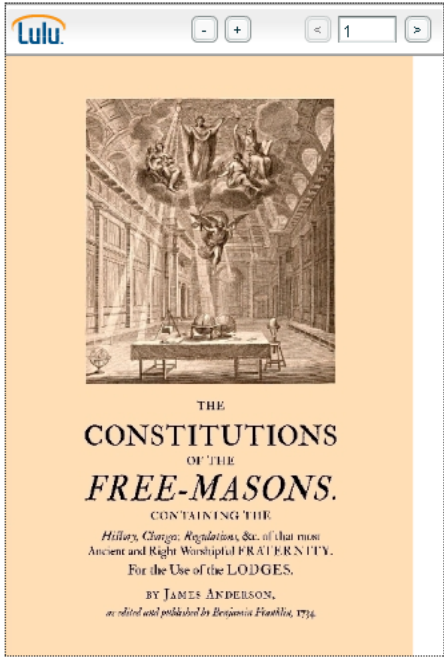
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Benjamin Franklin



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