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Classification

OF THE

LITERATURE OF FREEMASONRY

AND

Related Societies

BY

WILLIAM L. BOYDEN, 33° Hon.:

**Librarian of the Snpreme Council of the 33rd Degree of the Aocient and Accepted
Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, for the Southern Jurisdiction
of the United States of America.**

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1915

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Classification

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PREFACE

The Masonic Classification herewith presented is the result of some twenty-two years of practical experience in the largest masonic library in the world—the Library of the Supreme Council, 33rd Degree at Washington. This Library, in addition to its thousands of items on Freemasonry and related societies, contains also thousands upon thousands of general works in all branches of literature. These latter works are classified according to the well-known Dewey Decimal System, but this system provides no classification of freemasonry, assigning one class only to the subject, which class is practically incapable of subdivision. The scheme which I have devised and which is in successful practical operation, provides for nearly four hundred classes and sub-classes.

Practically all masonic libraries contain much general literature, but as they specialize on freemasonry, it becomes necessary to provide some system which will allow of their classification independently of the general library. Many libraries use the Dewey Decimal System, and I have devised the present scheme to prevent confusion, not only in the classification, but also in the catalogue card number, the book label number, the shelf guide number, and in various other ways, the letter “M” (Masonry) arbitrarily prefixed to the digits, always indicating the card, the book, its label, and the shelf-guide, as of masonic import.

The entire range of masonic literature is divided into ten great classes, somewhat similar to Dewey’s ten great classes of general literature. These ten classes are subdivided again and again to suit the requirements of the literature on a given subject. For example, if we have a general history of freemasonry, it goes in class M10. If it is a history of Freemasonry in Europe, it goes in class M17.940, the M17, indicating that it is a geographical division of masonic history, and the 940, indicating that it is a history of Freemasonry in Europe, the 940 being Dewey’s notation for Europe. Again, take the class M20, which is Customs and Paraphernalia. Any general work on the subject would go in this class, but if the library possessed literature on the Obituary Rites of freemasonry, it would go in class M20.01; if it had works on Paraphernalia, they would go in class M21; Jewels and Medals would go in M22, and so on.

I am familiar with several schemes of masonic classification, made by interested masons, but they utterly fail to be of any practical value. Several public libraries have attempted classifications, but the lack of knowledge of the subject, has been the cause of some grave errors. For instance, the Library of Congress, in its treatment of Scottish Rite Literature has placed everything of this nature under the caption "Cerneau Organizations", whereas every intelligent mason knowing that "Cerneaism" is regarded throughout the masonic world as spurious and clandestine, would never look for the extensive literature of the Scottish Rite under this heading; and as this same library in its classification provides for "Non-recognized, Clandestine Masonry", Cerneaism would be properly looked for here. This is simply *one* of the errors of the Library of Congress classification.

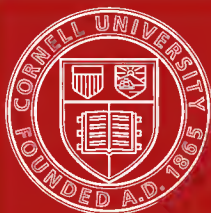
The Subject Index following the classification, is a most important and useful feature, giving to the reader when in doubt the exact location of a given subject, and aiding the librarian in cataloguing his books, showing him to what class the books should be assigned and familiarizing him with a knowledge of the system.

WILLIAM L. BOYDEN, 33° Hon.°.

CLASSIFICATION

CLASSES

| | |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| M00 | GENERAL WORKS |
| M10 | HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY |
| M20 | CUSTOMS AND PARAPHERNALIA |
| M30 | JURISPRUDENCE |
| M40 | CHARITY AND EDUCATION |
| M50 | ART AND ARCHITECTURE |
| M60 | LITERATURE AND MUSIC |
| M70 | SOCIETIES ADMITTING ONLY MASONS |
| M80 | WOMAN IN MASONRY, CO-MASONRY |
| M90 | NEGRO FREEMASONRY |



Cornell University
Library

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DIVISIONS

M00 General Works

- M01 Annuals, Year Books
- M02 Societies, Transactions
- M03 Study (Schools of Instruction)
- M04 Bibliography
- M05 Libraries
- M06 Book Rareties

M10 History

- M11 Philosophy and Symbolism
- M12 Church and State
- M13 Special Subjects
- M14 Rites, Degrees, Manuals
- M16 Biography
- M17 Geographical Divisions of History
- M19 Antimasonry

M20 Customs and Paraphernalia

- M21 Paraphernalia
- M22 Jewels, Medals, Badges
- M25 Blank Forms
- M26 Completed Forms

M30 Jurisprudence

- M31 Constitutions, general
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- M33 By-Laws
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M40 Charity and Education

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- M43 Boards of Relief
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- M46 Cemeteries
- M47 Other Masonic Benevolence
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M50 Art and Architecture

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M70 Societies admitting only Masons

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- M73 Masonic Veteran Associations
- M74 Clubs
- M75 Acacia Fraternity
- M76 Mystic Shrine
- M77 Veiled Prophets
- M79 Other Orders

M80 Woman in Masonry

- M81 Adoptive Masonry
- M82 Order Eastern Star
- M84 White Shrine
- M85 Co-Masonry

M90 Negro Freemasonry (Subdivided)

GENERAL WORKS

- M00** **Encyclopaedias, general reference works**
- M01** **Annals, Year Books, Statistical Information, general**
 (Put Local under Geographical Divisions M17 to M17.997)
- M02** **Societies, Transactions**
 (When of a general nature. Put others under their special subjects)
- M03** **Study**
 (Schools of Instruction, Lecture Bureaus, etc.)
- M04** **Bibliography, general works**
- M04.1 Catalogues, general
- M04.2 Private
- M04.3 Sale
- M04.4 Special Subjects
- M05** **Libraries, general works**
 (Includes anything on the Library as a means of Education)
- M05.1 Library Classification
- M05.2 Library Reports
- M05.3 Other Library Work
- M05.4 Book Plates
- M06** **Book Rareties**
- M06.1 Albums, Scrap Books
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- M06.3 Other works and curios

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M10.11 Mysteries

M10.12 Rosicrucians

M10.13 Guilds

M10.14 Illuminati

M10.15 Other Societies

M10.4 Addresses, Lectures, Essays

M11 Philosophy and Symbolism, general

(Put philosophy of any particular degrees or Rites under classes
M14 to M14.9)

M12 Church and State

M13 Special Subjects

(e. g. Jew in Freemasonry)

Rites, Degrees, Manuals

(Classes M14 to M14.9 are intended for everything relating to
the subject, including the history, philosophy, etc., exclusive
of the class Related Societies, above.)

M14 General Works

M14.1 York Rite, general

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M14.2 American

M14.21 English

M14.22 French

M14.23 Other

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M14.3 American

M14.31 English

M14.32 Other

M14.4 Councils (Cryptic)

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M14.51 Manuals

M14.52 Tactics

M14.55 Related Orders

Scottish Rite

M14.6 History and Philosophy

(Put anything local under classes M17 to M17.997)

M14.61 International Congresses and Alliances

- M14.62 Controversial Literature
 (See also Cernescuism M19.73)
- M14.7 Manuals, Monitors
- M14.8 Constitutions, Laws (general)
 (Put others under the Bodies concerned)
- M14.9 Other Rites
 (e. g. Rites of Memphis and Mizrsim)
 (See also Societies Admitting only Mssons)
- M16 Biography, general and collective**
 (More than one person. By authors)
- M16.1 American
- M16.2 English
- M16.3 Other
- Individual
 (By subject of the Biography)
- M16.5 American
- M16.6 English
- M16.7 French
- M16.8 Other
- M17 History, geographical divisions**
 (Put everything of a local nature in this class, including, calendars, directories, almanacs, statistics, By-laws, programs, local periodicals, Proceedings of Grand Bodies, etc., Charity and Education, Mystic Shrines and other Orders admitting only Masons, Woman in Masonry, etc. of a local nature go in their own class.)
- M17.940 Europe, general**
- M17.941 Scotland, general
- M17.9413 Local, or by Counties
- M17.9415 Ireland
- M17.942 England and Wales, general
- M17.9421 By counties
- M17.9423 By cities
- M17.9425 Wales
- M17.943 Germany and Austria, general
- M17.9431 By cities or counties
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- M17.9443 Local
- M17.945 Italy
- M17.946 Spain and Portugal
- M17.947 Russia
- M17.948 Norway, Sweden, Denmark
- M17.9492 Netherlands
- M17.9493 Belgium
- M17.9494 Switzerland

- M17.9495 Greece
 M17.9496 Other European countries

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- M17.951 China
 M17.952 Japan
 M17.954 India
 M17.955 Other Asiatic countries

M17.960 Africa

- M17.962 Egypt
 M17.966 Other African countries

M17.970 North America

- M17.971 Canada, general and provinces
 M17.9712 Local
 M17.972 Mexico
 M17.9728 Central America
 M17.9729 West Indies
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 M17.9742 Alaska
 M17.9743 Arizona, general
 M17.97431 Local
 M17.9744 Arkansas, general
 M17.97441 Local
 M17.9745 California, general
 M17.97451 Local
 M17.9746 Colorado, general
 M17.97461 Local
 M17.9747 Connecticut, general
 M17.97471 Local
 M17.9748 Delaware, general
 M17.97481 Local
 M17.9749 District of Columbia, general
 M17.97491 Local
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 M17.9751 Local
 M17.9752 Georgia, general
 M17.97521 Local

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| M17.97721 | Local |
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| M17.97851 | Local |
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| M17.97861 | Local |
| M17.9787 | Texas, general |
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- M19.55 Scottish Rite
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M31 Constitutions, Ahiman Recons, Old Charges, Codes

(When a constitution or similar work relates to a particular body, put under that body. This class is for general works only.)

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- M48 Impositions on Charity**

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