

Scottish Rite Reading List (2015)

1. Blue Lodge Ritual, Symbols, and Meaning

- The Craft and its symbols - by Allen Robert
- But I Digress – By Dr. Jim Tresner
- Esoterika - By Albert Pike
- The Symbolism of Freemasonry - by Albert Mackey
- The Atlas of Secret Societies - by David V. Barrett

2. King Solomon's Temple

- The Hiram Key – Knight & Lomas
- The Secrets of Solomon's Temple - By Kevin Gest

3. Initiation and Masonry

- The Mason's words, The history and evolution of the American Masonic ritual - By Robert Davis
- The Initiatic Experience, Ancient pathways that led to your initiation into Freemasonry - By Robert Herd

4. Templars and Masonry

- Born in Blood, The lost secrets of Freemasonry - By Jon J. Robinson
- Robert the Bruce, King of Scots - By Ronald McNair Scott
- The Hooked X

5. Introduction to Esoteric principles and theory

- The Kybalion - By the Three initiates (1912)
- The Corpus Hermeticum – Translated by G.R.S. Mead
- The Emerald Tablet – By Hermes the Tricegreat
- The Secret Teachings of all the ages, An encyclopedic outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Qubbalistic and Rosicrucian and symbolic Philosophy - By Manly P. Hall

6. The Kabbalah in Masonic context

- The 32 paths of Solomon, Qabbalah in Masonry – By Timothy Hogan
- The Holy Kabballah, Waite
- Sefer Yetzirah (The Book of Formation)
- Sefer Ha-Bahir (The book of Illumination)

7. Alchemy in Masonic context

- Alchemical Keys to Masonic ritual - By Timothy Hogan
- The Alchemist Handbook - By Farter Albertus
- The way of the Crucible - Bartlett

8. The Esoteric Journey

- The Rubayyat of Omar Khayyam
- Johnathan Livingston Seagull

9. Scottish Rite Studies

- The Scottish Rite Ritual and Guide – By Arturo De Hoyos
- The Bridge Builder's Guide – By Kyle G. Ferlemann
- A Bridge to Light – By Dr. Rex Hutchens

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10. The Rosicrucian Order

- The Brotherhood of the Rosy Cross - By Arthur Edward Waite

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The Craft and its Symbols

By Allen Robert

If you seek to better understand the lessons of the Blue Lodge read this book first. This book is Masonry 101. It explains the meanings and significance of symbols which were introduced to the Brother in the first three degrees. This elegant and concise manuscript provides the perfect reference upon which a new Mason or a seasoned Brother can refine his understanding of the craft. If you are a mentor, consider providing this staple of knowledge as a gift upon a Brother's becoming a Master Mason.

The next two books are general knowledge and recommended for brothers who want to have a deeper understanding of Masonry.

Esoterika, The symbolism of the Blue Lodge degrees of freemasonry

By Albert Pike

This book is a must for any Blue Lodge Mason who seeks a deeper understanding of the Lodge. It addresses the history and scope of the Blue Lodge degrees and asks many challenging questions about the Blue Lodge. Some of these questions are answered in full but a few are left for the Mason to answer on his own and in his own way. The path is laid out for the new Mason to discover the truth about his own Masonic experience. This book should be one of the first books a new Mason reads if he wants to explore beyond the ritual and furniture of the Lodge.

But I digress, a collection of masonic musings and writings from Dr. Jim Tresner

By Dr. Jim Tresner

The richness and depth of this book cannot be understated. The short offerings are easy to read and full of insight. A new Mason can gain years of Masonic experience in the course of a few pleasant evenings spent with this book. It covers a wide range of subjects both specific to the Lodge room, which is very educational, and generally about Masonry and its attitudes, which helps for an appropriate set of expectations of what Masonry really has to offer. It is as worthy

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of a read as a Mason will find and should be offered to each new member upon the completion of the Master Mason degree.

The Symbolism of Freemasonry by Albert Mackey

This book is a standard for anyone wanting to study Masonic symbols in depth. It is an older book that provides an excellent reference to symbols in Masonry but it is not light reading. It requires a disciplined approach and some dedication to reading the text to get the benefit of the knowledge within.

The Atlas of Secret Societies by David V. Barrett

This is the book to use to get a basic knowledge of secret societies. Most of this Time Life styled book is about Masonry. It gives a basic feel for how Masons got to where they are today. The glossary is worth the price of the book. This is not for someone wanting an in depth overview of all secret societies but is good at giving a beginning understanding of the many groups it discusses.

2. King Solomon's Temple

- The Hiram Key – Knight & Lomas
- The Secrets of Solomon's Temple - By Kevin Gest

3. Initiation and Masonry

The Mason's words, The history and evolution of the American Masonic ritual

By Robert Davis

This book offers the most concise history of American Masonry I have found, not only in historical context but also in a traditional context. The explanations of the rationale behind the development of our ritual are especially insightful and provide depth to the rituals and traditions that can seem out of place with the modern world. They are in fact those aspects of manhood that have been lost to modern teaching. This is a worthy read for any Mason.

The Initiatic Experience, Ancient pathways that led to your initiation into Freemasonry

By Robert Herd

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This is an excellent book for those who want to know more about the history of initiation and how it relates to modern Masonry. It is an easy reading text that provides valuable insight to the effects of initiation on the man and why these effects are important to the quest for knowledge.

4. Templars and Masonry

- Born in Blood, The lost secrets of Freemasonry - By Jon J. Robinson
- Robert the Bruce, King of Scots - By Ronald McNair Scott
- The Hooked X

This category of reading has many books, some better than others and all with a particular slant on history based on the ideas of the individual author. The best way to get a really good grip on the subject is to read several books and make your own conclusions from the synthesis of thoughts and ideas put forward. This is an area where independent thought is a must.

Born in Blood, The lost secrets of Freemasonry

By Jon J. Robinson

This book is a staple of Templar/Freemasonry connection theory. It is as good of a place to start as any if you desire to know more about the Templars and their connection to Freemasonry. It is well researched and a worthy read. As with any book on this subject it is peppered with both fact and speculation. Of all the books I have read on the subject this book provides the best framework from which to continue your studies on the subject.

Robert the Bruce, King of Scots

By Ronald McNair Scott

This book is an excellent narrative of the politics and social divisions that framed the British Isles in the 1300's. To understand the forces that lead to the convergence of thought on social freedom, individual liberty and the growing resistance to the power of the church and religious based government it is important to look outside of Templar speculation. This well written book provide an excellent narrative on the subject.

Any study of the Templars after Friday the 13th, 1307 and the subsequent disbanding of the Order of the poor fellow soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon in 1312 must include some study of excommunicated Scotland and its king, Robert the Bruce. Although Templars moved to many different places after they disbanded it is with Robert the Bruce that the discredited Templars and other "heretics" formed the genesis of freemasonry. This book explains King Robert and although Templars are not mentioned in the book it goes a long way to explaining why Templars and others escaping the suppression of the church would be welcome in Scotland.

The Hooked X, Key to the secret history of North America

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By Scott F. Wolter

Quite simply, Christopher Columbus was not the first European to discover the America's. This book examines real evidence, that can still be seen by the general public today, that indicates Norse and even specifically Templar activity in North America in the 1300's. Although not recognized in most histories this well researched and short read provides compelling evidence of the truth behind early exploration by Europeans in what is now the middle United States.

5. Introduction to Esoteric principles and theory

- The Kybalion - By the Three initiates (1912)
- The Corpus Hermeticum – Translated by G.R.S. Mead
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- The Secret Teachings of all the ages, An encyclopedic outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Qubbalistic and Rosicrucian and symbolic Philosophy - By Manly P. Hall

The Secret Teachings of all the ages, An encyclopedic outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Qubbalistic and Rosicrucian and symbolic Philosophy

By Manly P. Hall

This much talked about book comes in a variety of forms, from large tome to coffee table paperback. If you want to buy this book be careful to look at what you are getting before you buy it. The book itself is a worthy read if you want general knowledge about the world's ancient religions. The book's real value comes from its ability to introduce you to a wide range of thoughts and the properly annotated versions of the text (not all have this feature) provide an excellent reference for other works to further your studies.

This book is a scholarly endeavor. It was designed to be an introduction, a gateway, for the serious student of antiquity. It has, unfortunately, become a book that is often purchased and rarely read with any serious intent. If you approach this book as the end all of your studies it will give you enough information to participate in light esoteric conversation and appear well studied. Should you instead decide to receive this book as it was intended it will become a valued reference and a dog eared companion to years of esoteric discovery.

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- A Bridge to Light - Hutchens
- The Bridge Builder's Guide – Ferlemann

10. The Rosicrucian Order

Be warned. There is no light reading on this subject and if you choose to study this order be ready to sift through many volumes of both fiction that fact. You will need to be able to tell the difference yourself because there are no guides to this study outside of the order itself.

The Brotherhood of the Rosy Cross

By Arthur Edward Waite

Although Waite's writing style takes a little getting used to; this is without a doubt one of the best books on the Rosicrucian Order available to the general public. Waite is extensive and exacting in his research without the usual mystic speculations that encumbers many books on this subject. This is not a light read but rather a scholastic work, as are most of Waite's endeavors. The work is thorough and well referenced. The references alone make this book worth owning. Should you choose to delve deeper into this subject Waite's introduction to the sources that will be quoted and misquoted by every other author; both legitimate and would-be, will be a must for navigating the nonsense that makes up most of the writing on this subject.