

**Researching British Freemasonry
1717-2017**

Andreas Önnersfors
Róbert Péter (eds.)

*Sheffield Lectures on the
History of Freemasonry and Fraternalism*

Volume Three

The University of Sheffield

Sheffield, 2010

Cover Illustration: Eleven Design

Sheffield Lectures on the History of Freemasonry and Fraternalism is a title published by the Centre for Research into Freemasonry and Fraternalism (CRFF), The University of Sheffield

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Editors: Dr. Andreas Önerfors, Dr. Róbert Péter

Layout: Eleven Design

Vol. III Researching British Freemasonry 1717-2017

ISBN: 978-0-9562096-2-7

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Printed by The University Print Service, Sheffield

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List of Contributors

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John Acaster, a retired bank manager and school inspector, entered freemasonry in 1970 in London. He has been a founder of several lodges, a governor and trustee of several charities, president of the Manchester Statistical Society and a member of the Council of Manchester Cathedral. A past president of the Manchester Association for Masonic Research, he is now treasurer of *Quatuor Coronati Lodge* No 2076 and chairman of Q.C. Correspondence Circle Limited.

John Richard Astbury has a B.Sc. in Polymer Chemistry from Manchester University and an MA in Management from the Manchester Metropolitan University. He is a Civil Servant specializing in Police Performance Management. He was initiated into the Robert Burns Lodge No. 999 in Salford near Manchester in 1999, of which he is a Past Master. He is a member of the Manchester Lodge for Masonic Research. His main research interest is freemasonry and the social history of Manchester in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

John Belton is a scientist by training (Liverpool University), marketing by profession (Salford University), freemason by hobby, independent researcher by interest and retired by occupation. A prime interest over the past decade is in the variations in masonic joining and membership especially since the

1900 and this has led to an interest in joining trends and in the shaping of society by freemasonry and vice versa. Papers on these subjects can be found in *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum* in England and *Heredom* in the USA and in reprint and on other subjects elsewhere. He also writes extensively in the masonic press particularly on subjects of current interest and controversy.

David Harrison has written many articles and papers on the history of freemasonry for a number of magazines and journals. His paper “Freemasonry, Industry and Charity: The Local Community and the Working Man” appeared in *The Journal of the Institute of Volunteering Research*, Volume 5, Number 1, and his articles on Freemasonry have appeared in many international history magazines. He has worked as a history lecturer for over ten years appearing at numerous conferences on the history of freemasonry, and he researched the history of English freemasonry for his PhD at the University of Liverpool, which he successfully defended in March 2008, and was recently published as a book by Lewis Masonic titled “The Genesis of Freemasonry.”

Robert L. D. Cooper is the Curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland’s Museum and Library. He has lectured across the world in the capacity of Anson Jones Lecturer (Austin, Texas, USA), Peter Verille Lecturer (Waikato, New Zealand) and Henry Wilson Coil Lecturer (San Francisco, California, USA). Cooper's latest written or edited books are *Cracking the Freemason's Code*, *The Voyages of the Venetian Brothers Nicolo and Antonio Zeno*, *History and Origins of the Order of Free Gardeners* and *The Genealogy of the Saintclair's of Rosslyn*. In addition, Cooper has written numerous articles and papers, which have been published in journals, year books and magazines.

Róbert Péter is a senior assistant professor in the Institute of English and American Studies at the University of Szeged, where he teaches modern British history. He holds master degrees in Mathematics and English Studies and defended his Ph.D. thesis on the history of eighteenth-century English freemasonry in 2006. As a British Academy Visiting Fellow at the University of Sheffield he is currently completing a book on the religious aspects of eighteenth-century English freemasonry and investigating the masonic references in eighteenth-century newspaper articles of the Burney Collection.

Andreas Önnerfors is Director of the CRFF and Senior lecturer at the Department of History at the University of Sheffield. His main areas of research are the intellectual and cultural history of the eighteenth century in general, press history and the history of associational life (freemasonry) in particular. He is editor of the *Journal for Research into Freemasonry and Fraternalism*. His current research project is a comparative study between two masonic periodicals *Journal für Freymaurer* (Vienna, 1784-1786) and the *Freemasons' Magazine* (London, 1793-1799).

Since qualifying as an archivist, *Susan Snell* has worked in local government, a bank and a national museum, before joining the Library and Museum of Freemasonry in 2005. Committed to enhancing access to the archives of the Grand Lodge of England, Susan curated an exhibition on Freemasonry and Anti-Slavery at the Museum in 2007, which stimulated her interest in poetical contributions to the *Freemasons' Magazine*.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks are due to Dr. Robert Collis who has assisted us in proofreading and language polishing.