

**Proposals and Thoughts for Consideration  
by the Companions of the Stone  
And Emerald Lodge, #3**

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This is a series of proposals and thoughts based on personal reflection and discussion with various members of the lodge and order over the last year. The ideas expressed here are specifically my own thoughts on matters and should not be construed as being those of any other.

**Proposal 1:** Lecture notes handed out since the founding of the lodge should be collected, indexed, and put into a binder to be added to the lodge library as an official lodge resource.

Having the lecture notes of the past few years available would allow new lodge members or those who have misplaced their personal copies of lecture papers to access them. Before being added to the library, these papers should be dated and a master index recorded in both the binder and with the Secretary. This would be made a library resource for in-lodge use only (not to be let out of the building). An additional set of these papers should be made available by the Secretary of the lodge on request for copying. This would allow members who find something of interest in the binder to receive personal copies of these papers as needed.

The effect of the implementation of this proposal would be to circulate information to newer members that may not otherwise be available to them. We have had lectures on a regular basis since the founding of the lodge but no official moves have been made to track and collect the notes and handouts for these lectures. This information is not necessarily available to members who were not present at the time of the lectures but much of it would be of interest to all members of the lodge. Without an index, newer members do not even know what information is available.

**Proposal 2:** Any existing "official" papers in draft format than have existed in this state for longer than six months should be finalized and accepted by the lodge or the order. If not accepted, they should be discarded. On the order level, this would not be a voting issue but would be up to the Council.

An example of such a paper is the draft General Letter *On Wine and Strange Drugs* which was distributed at least two years ago and which has never been finalized or distributed to new members.

**Proposal 3:** A copy of the final version of the order's original correspondence course, which was removed from use several years ago, should be added in a binder to the lodge library and, at future dates, made available to any libraries of new lodges. This course contains exercises and examples at an introductory level that would be possible interest and use to recently admitted members of a lodge and should be made available as supplementary material for in-lodge use. The secretary should have a second copy available for copying purposes.

**Proposal 4:** Currently, there exist two categories of documents within the order outside of the by-laws and lodge books. These are the *General Letters*, which are given to all order members,

and the *Instructional Letters*, which are broken up by degree and given to members as they work through the curriculum of the order to progress. A third category, as of yet unnamed, should be created that is the equivalent to that of the *Flying Rolls* within the Golden Dawn.

This category would contain papers, some limited to members who have progressed to specific degrees, written by members of the order to illustrate certain points or develop certain lines of thought in the work of the order or the degrees. An example of such a paper would be a detailed look at the history, form and use of the Middle Pillar or a paper examining the work of the Grade of Earth. Such materials are not part of the official curriculum of any of the degrees of the order but could be used as subsidiary materials to the work of the various degrees or as part of an effort to arrange for members of the order to share knowledge with each other. Lecture notes, if detailed enough, could be added as papers in this category or, following a lecture, further refined into a more detailed form and submitted.

A copy of these papers that are open to all members of the order should be indexed and put in a binder to be added to the library (sensing a theme here, folks?). Additional papers, broken up by the degree required to view them (assuming they deal with matters specific to the various degrees, their rituals or curriculum) should be put into binders, indexed, and kept under the administration of an Adept member of a lodge (who, having passed through all of the degrees, would have access to all of the material). Copies of these papers should be made available upon request to order members interested in them.

**Proposal 5:** Working groups organized around possible interests of lodge members should be encouraged and made available to **all** members of the lodge, not just adepts. This would require a change in by-laws at the order level. Otherwise, such groups could only exist unofficially.

Currently, only adepts can form working groups or be members of them. Examples of such have been the briefly living working group focussed around Odd Fellow symbolism for lodge members who were also Odd Fellows or Rebekahs. Possible groups could be as various as a group to investigate the connection between the Hermetic tradition and Earth-oriented magic, a group to investigate possible alternate additions (in costuming and presentation) to the rituals of the order (more specifically, Companion Thomas and I discussed the interesting possibilities for masks and similar items), or a group to investigate and discuss applications of the formulas of various order rituals to personal or group ritual work, etc. etc.. The main thing here is to encourage people to follow possible interests if they have time and energy to do so and to not be limited to doing so within the confines of a normal lodge meeting.