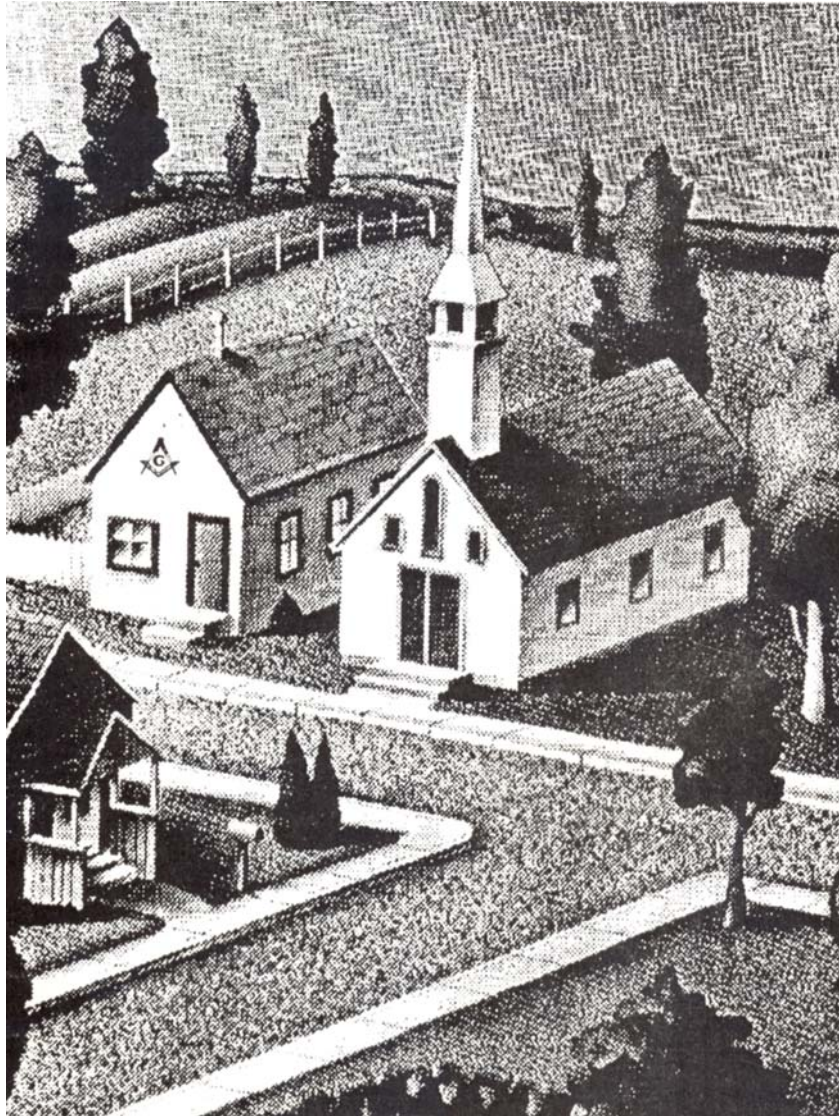


**Inventory of the  
Southern Baptist Convention. Mason Study Collection**

**AR 825**



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Prepared by Michelle Herr  
October 2011

# **Inventory of the Southern Baptist Convention. Mason Study Collection**

## **AR 825**

### **Summary**

Main Entry: Southern Baptist Convention. Mason Study Collection

Date Span: 1992 – 1993

Abstract: Collection includes correspondence, articles, pamphlets and books related to the Southern Baptist Convention's study of Freemasonry. The study focused on Freemasonry's compatibility with the Southern Baptist faith and the acceptability of members of Baptist churches to be Masons.

Size: 3 linear ft. (7 document boxes)

Collection #: AR 825

### **Historical Sketch**

At 1992 annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention, James L. Holly proposed a resolution recommending a study of Freemasonry. Holly believed that the principles and rituals of Freemasonry made it incompatible with the Southern Baptist faith. The messengers of the convention approved an amended version of the resolution, which directed the Interfaith Witness Department of the Home Mission Board to "study the compatibility with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine of the organization known variously as the Masonic Lodge, Masonry, Freemasonry, and or Ancient and Accepted Right of Freemasonry."

In addition to consulting numerous articles, books and publications regarding Freemasonry, the Interfaith Witness Department received hundreds of letters from Masons from across the country and across numerous faiths. At the conclusion of the study, the Interfaith Witness Department concluded that membership in Masonic Lodges should be an individual choice, in concurrence with Baptist principles.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Mason Study Collection (3 linear ft.) consists of correspondence, articles, pamphlets and books related to the study of Freemasonry conducted by the Southern Baptist Convention from 1992 – 1993.

The major topics and issues included in the papers are: Freemasonry, its relation and compatibility to the Southern Baptist faith, religious liberty, and masonry's compatibility

to other Christian faiths.

### **Arrangement**

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title.

### **Provenance**

Donated by Mark Coppenger, 2000.

### **Preferred Citation**

Southern Baptist Convention. Mason Study Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

### **Access Restrictions**

None

### **Subject Terms**

Coppenger, Mark T.

Freemasonry.

Freemasonry – Controversial literature.

Freemasonry – Moral and ethical aspects.

Freemasonry – Religious aspects – Christianity.

Freemasons.

Holly, James L.

Secret societies.

### **Related Materials**

Leazer, Gary H. *A closer look at Freemasonry and religion*. Pam 6621

Leazer, Gary H. *Fundamentalism & Freemasonry : the Southern Baptist investigation of the fraternal order*. BX6462.3 .L43 1995

Southern Baptist Convention Proceedings [videorecording], R60vt SBC 1991 – 1993

Morris Chapman Papers, AR 780

H. Edwin Young Papers, AR 798

### **Container List**

Box 1

- 1.1 American Masons
- 1.2 Anglican – Catholic Relations
- 1.3 Articles – Allen, Fred E. – Learning to Read: Second Chances
- 1.4 Articles – Another Word on the Baptist vs. Masonry Controversy
- 1.5 Articles – Brotherhood Commission Report on the Book *What You Need to Know About Masons*
- 1.6 Articles – Clausen, Henry C. – Your Amazing Mystic Powers
- 1.7 Articles – Commentary on the February 1993 Special Issue of the Scottish Rite Journal
- 1.8 Articles – Critique of “A Study of Freemasonry”

- 1.9 Articles – Curtis, Richard H. – Can a Southern Baptist Be a Mason?
- 1.10 Articles – Davies, Paul – Do Miracles Exist : A Debate between Science and Religion
- 1.11 Articles – Dodson, Pierce – Convention (SBC) Held Hostage: Day 366 and Counting
- 1.12 Articles – Doyle, Brian – Do Catholics Have a Built-In Fear of the Masons?
- 1.13 Articles – Paul, Francis G. – Masonry in this Country Is the Bedrock
- 1.14 Articles – Ellmore, Edwin – Keeping the Promise of America
- 1.15 Articles – Genius of Freemasonry, The
- 1.16 Articles – I Broke Family
- 1.17 Articles – Johns, John E. – Is Freemasonry Compatible with Christianity?
- 1.18 Articles – Lavender, Don – Brain Imaging Benefits Alzheimer’s Victims
- 1.19 Articles – McPeake, Fred W. – Southern Baptist Convention
- 1.20 Articles – The Penalties and the Ritual: Fact Not Fiction
- 1.21 Articles – Reply of Free-Masonry in Behalf of Humanity to the Encyclical Letter “Humanum Genus” of the Pope Leo XIII
- 1.22 Articles – Requirements of Discipleship in the Kingdom: The Seven Great Renunciations in View of the Cross
- 1.23 Articles – Response to Northern Light
- 1.24 Articles – Riddle of Joseph Warren, The
- 1.25 Articles – Robinson, John J. – Southern Baptist Controversy: Texas Physician Wants Convention to Ban Freemasons from Church
- 1.26 Articles – Robinson, John J. – Masons, Slavery and Coca-Cola
- 1.27 Articles – Wakefield, Sherman D. – God in the Declaration of Independence
- 1.28 Articles – Weldon, John – Masonic Lodge and the Christian Conscience, The
- 1.29 Articles – Wenz, Leonard – Voltaire, Crusader for Liberty
- 1.30 Articles – What Is a Mason?
- 1.31 Articles – Wilder, Ellwood C. – Masonic Bibles: Address to Candidate on Receiving the Third Degree
- 1.32 Book Reviews
- 1.33 Books – Ankerberg, John – Christianity and the Secret Teachings of the Masonic Lodge
- 1.34 Books – Berry, Walter V. – Great Light of Masonry, The
- 1.35 Books – Exemplar, The: A Guide to a Mason’s Actions
- 1.36 Books – Holly, James L. – Southern Baptist Convention and Freemasonry, The
- 1.37 Books – Masonic Philanthropies: A Tradition of Caring

## Box 2

- 2.1 British Masons
- 2.2 Broadman Press – Titles on Masonry
- 2.3 Clippings regarding Masons
- 2.4 Correspondence – A
- 2.5 Correspondence – B
- 2.6 Correspondence – C
- 2.7 Correspondence – Coppenger to Masonic Correspondence

- 2.8 Correspondence – D
- 2.9 Correspondence – E

Box 3

- 3.1 Correspondence – F
- 3.2 Correspondence – G
- 3.3 Correspondence – H
- 3.4 Correspondence – Holly, James L.
- 3.5 Correspondence – I – J
- 3.6 Correspondence – K

Box 4

- 4.1 Correspondence – L
- 4.2 Correspondence – M
- 4.3 Correspondence – N – O
- 4.4 Correspondence – P
- 4.5 Correspondence – R

Box 5

- 5.1 Correspondence – Sa – Sl
- 5.2 Correspondence – Sm
- 5.3 Correspondence – Sn – Sw
- 5.4 Correspondence – T
- 5.5 Correspondence – V
- 5.6 Correspondence – W
- 5.7 Correspondence – Y – Z
- 5.8 Masonic Views – Atheists
- 5.9 Masonic Views – Baptist Union of Scotland
- 5.10 Masonic Views – Catholic Church

Box 6

- 6.1 Masonic Views – Christian Reformed Church in America
- 6.2 Masonic Views – Church of England
- 6.3 Masonic Views – Church of the Assemblies of God
- 6.4 Masonic Views – Church of the Nazarene
- 6.5 Masonic Views – Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches
- 6.6 Masonic Views – General Association of Regular Baptist Churches
- 6.7 Masonic Views – Judaism
- 6.8 Masonic Views – Lutheran Church
- 6.9 Masonic Views – Methodist Church
- 6.10 Masonic Views – Orthodox Presbyterian Church
- 6.11 Masonic Views – Presbyterian Church in America

- 6.12 Masonic Views – Reformed Presbyterian Church
- 6.13 Masonic Views – Russian Orthodox Church
- 6.14 Masonic Views – Seventh Day Adventists
- 6.15 Newspaper Clippings
- 6.16 Pamphlets (1)
- 6.17 Pamphlets (2)
- 6.18 Publications – Baptist Press
- 6.19 Publications – Dallas Scottish Right Herald
- 6.20 Publications – Freemasonry: A Way of Life

Box 7

- 7.1 Publications – Indiana Masonic Monitor
- 7.2 Publications – Light
- 7.3 Publications – North Carolina Mason, The
- 7.4 Publications – Northern Light
- 7.5 Publications – Orient Express, The
- 7.6 Publications – Pennsylvania Freemason, The
- 7.7 Publications - Phylaxis
- 7.8 Publications – Remnant Review
- 7.9 Publications – SBC Life
- 7.10 Publications – Scottish Rite
- 7.11 Publications – Scottish Rite News
- 7.12 Religious Liberty
- 7.13 Reports – Home Mission Board – Report on Masonry, A
- 7.14 Reports – Study of Freemasonry, A
- 7.15 Southern Baptist Convention – Resolutions