

Cryptic Degrees

On many questions discussed by the guild, he has something to say and says it with point. Pausing to have a word with the West Virginia man on the subject of the Cryptic degrees he makes a reference to the methods of the great American ritual reformer which is in harmony with the views of other writers. It sheds a ray on the origin and raison d'être of the Capitular P. M. and M. E. M. degrees.

"We believe, and always have believed, they should have been preserved in the Chapter and conferred before the Royal Arch; but when Thomas Smith Webb and his co-laborers elaborated the American system of Royal Arch Masonry and set it going, they were apparently lost sight of, the Past Master being incorporated and the Most Excellent Master invented to make up the necessary four to complete the mystic seven. Why he did not take them from the Scottish Rite system we never could imagine, as he did not hesitate to take from that system in fixing up the American system of Templary."

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1906, report on Foreign Correspondence - OREGON