

Justification of the Correspondence Report

That zealous Companion of the Royal Arch, Rev. H. W. Rugg, is again the reviewer. He invariably gives his readers something to ponder and dwell upon, and the thoughtful perusal of which must, and doubtless does, prove of lasting benefit. In justification of the Correspondence report, for instance, he has this to say:

“Excepting the reviewers themselves, asks a sensitive member of the Guild, 'who is there that reads reports on Correspondence?'. There are a few others. There are certain brethren in every jurisdiction who read Proceedings, having a purpose to keep thoroughly posted in the movements of the Craft in all its departments; these gladly turn the pages of reports on Correspondence to note the evidences of progress in the Fraternity, and also to trace the views expressed by intelligent reviewers touching questions of Masonic law and procedure. Writers of reports when they are doing their work may well keep in mind such a class. They are sufficiently numerous to animate us to do our best — to give the assurance that our labor will be appreciated, at least by a faithful few, according to its deserving.

“The usefulness of Correspondence reports does not, however, mainly depend upon their present reading. It is well to have such reports prepared and preserved for future reference. Thought, study, reading, are called for in the summarizing of information, the setting forth of timely statements, and the furnishing of appropriate suggestions, that so constant additions may be made to Masonic history, and numerous sign posts be placed to mark the progress of the organic life of our great Fraternity. Correspondence reports are not without value in such a line of service.”

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1904, report on Foreign Correspondence - Rhode Island.