

P. M. degree and its relation to the installation of a Master of a craft lodge

"It is one of those Masonic incongruities of which we have many examples, that it should have been thought necessary to introduce a degree into the Royal Arch system, which at best cheapens and degrades the ceremony of installation of a Master of a Lodge. It would have been better to have abolished the regulation, that no person except those who have been duly elected actual Masters of a symbolical Lodge, should be permitted to receive the Royal Arch. However, it is too late now to make any change and we will probably have to go on unto the end conferring a degree in the Chapter called Past Master, but that is no reason why there should be confusion in any intelligent Mason's mind, regarding the real significance of the ceremony of installation of a Master of a Lodge, and the receiving of the so-called Past Master's degree in the Chapter."

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1908 report on Foreign Correspondence – MISSISSIPPI