



BOOK REVIEWS

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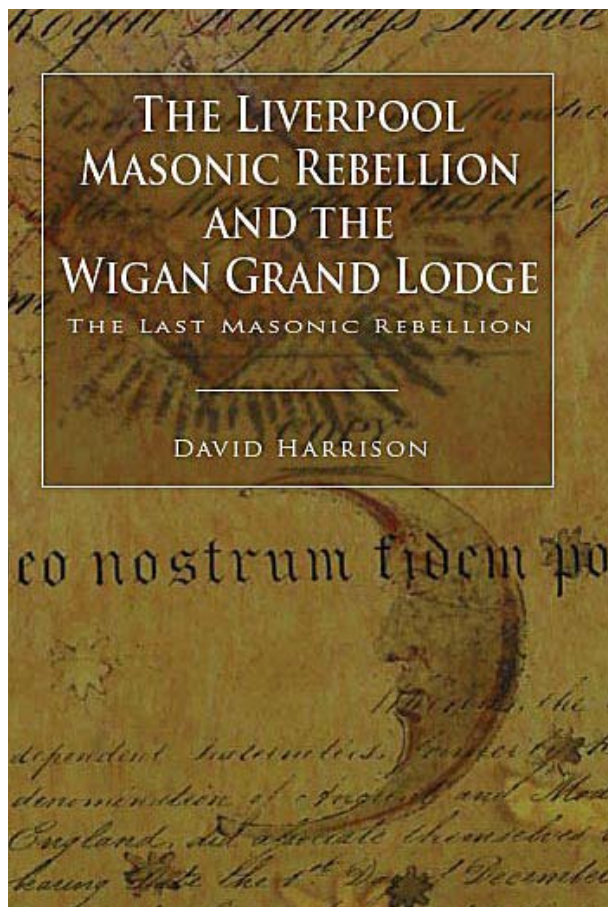
THE LIVERPOOL MASONIC REBELLION AND THE WIGAN GRAND LODGE, THE LAST MASONIC REBELLION

by David Harrison

"The Liverpool Masonic Rebellion and the Wigan Grand Lodge, the Last Masonic Rebellion" by author David Harrison is yet another fantastic and informative book by its author. Harrison's passion for the topic of this work shines brightly in his writing. Within the pages of this book Harrison delves into the topic of the last Masonic rebellion much further in depth than he has in past works on the subject such as in numerous academic journals, as well as this topic being covered in a chapter in his previous book, "The Transformation of Freemasonry".

For a relatively small book, I found this to be one that a person should not read in a hurry and perhaps even read it more than once. This is most certainly not because of the writing style of verbiage used by the author, Harrison in my opinion is very talented and writes in a style that is easy to follow yet not oversimplified. My suggestion for reading the book more than once is quite simple, Harrison did an enormous amount of research and located many important documents related to the topic so when I read this for the second time I found it just as beneficial and enlightening as the first time simply because there was so much going on during the time period and so many characters involved that I noticed on my second reading that I would find more links and

correlations than in the previous reading that helped bring the story together more completely. It was without a doubt a very interesting piece of Masonic history and just because this event happened so many years ago, the occurrence can still be used today as an example for every Freemason to gain insight from and relate it to present day in an attempt to improve our own Lodges as well as gain a deeper appreciation of the past.



To give you a better idea of what this book entails as a whole I have decided to use the author's words as I don't think I could describe it any better than he already has, "*The Masonic rebellion is a story of a clash of ideas; the old and the new coming into conflict, but it can also be seen as a story displaying emerging class distinctions, reflecting the anger and frustrations of men from industrial towns who felt they were not being listened to in a newly united society which was now dominated by a London based aristocracy. The discontent occurred in the*

industrial heartland of the north-west of England against a backdrop of radicalism and social unrest, and this fascinating story of the revolt, can still teach us many valuable lessons today, not just for

Freemasonry, but for social issues as well.” The above quote is what makes the event of the rebellion so interesting as Freemasonry was developed as a place where men of all backgrounds, social standing and religious beliefs could come together as equals, and without a doubt the main reason for the rebellion was that certain persons felt that the common working man was not being treated as an equal when it came to holding Grand Lodge offices and major decisions being made as the main hierarchy of the Grand Lodge was mainly English Royalty. I also fully agree with Harrison that this piece of Masonic history can teach us valuable lessons during our time period and on, history is a fantastic teacher of men and I applaud David Harrison for piecing together and presenting this piece of history for us all to learn from.

Another interesting example of Masonic history from this particular topic was to see just how the relatively young United Grand Lodge of England handled the rebellion as the UGLE was in it's infancy after the Ancients versus Moderns dilemma was resolved. *“The Liverpool Masonic rebellion was the only major event that not only tested the embryonic United Grand Lodge of England, but defined the end of an era- that of the ‘Ancients’. It was the last Masonic rebellion of its kind in England, and the story directly reflects*

certain important themes of the period- themes such as the defining of the class system in the early nineteenth century,”

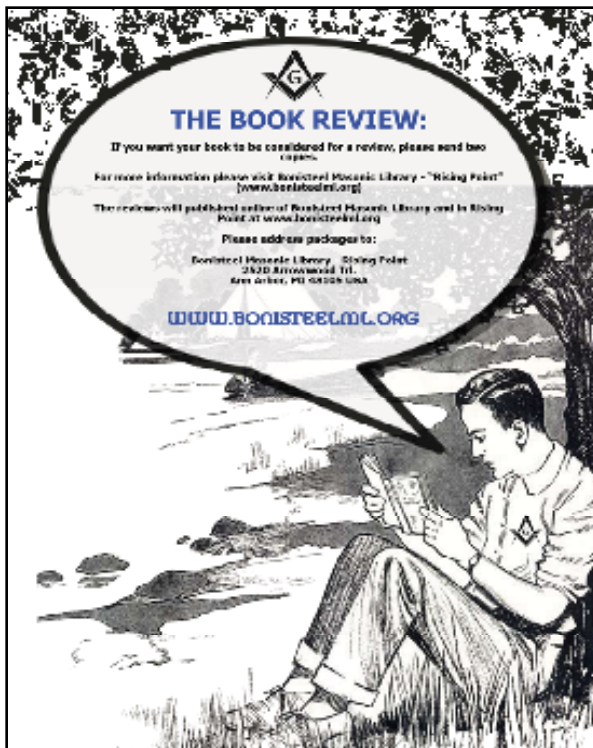
To any Masonic student or even non Mason interested in the trials of not only Lodges but Grand Lodges and struggles within the class system of Freemasonry in England, I am certain that you will find this book to be an invaluable resource in expanding your knowledge and understanding of the instance of the “last Masonic rebellion” and its effects on Freemasonry. I give David Harrison five thumbs up and am looking forward to his future works!



The Liverpool Masonic Rebellion and the Wigan Grand Lodge, the Last Masonic Rebellion. By David Harrison

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The purpose of this publication is to disseminate the writings of Freemasons and to provide contemporary information on Freemasonry.



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