

Academia No. 847, Mario Palestini JS, Introduction to Rev. Geo. Oliver lecture 19, from Freemason's Treasury. Delivered March 14, 2012.

The paper I will read tonight was written by Rev. George Oliver and comes from his work entitled *The Freemason's Treasury*. *The Freemason's Treasury* was published in 1863 as a compendium of 52 Masonic lectures meant to be read in Lodge; this lecture is entitled "The Reception".

Brother Oliver was one of the most prolific Masonic scholars of his day. He wrote countless books on both ecclesiastical and Masonic topics and set the standard for Masonic literature in England. He was born in Papplewick, Nottinghamshire on November 5, 1782 and was initiated by his father, (a long time Lodge Chaplin) in St. Peter's Lodge in Peterborough in 1801, at the age of 19. By 1805 he was married and had 5 children. He received a liberal education and in 1814 he was ordained a priest by the Church of England. His Masonic ambitions got him elected Provincial Deputy Grand Master of Lincolnshire in 1832. In 1836 he graduated from Trinity College with a Doctorate of Divinity. When Brother Oliver wasn't at Lodge or at Church he devoted much of his time to writing. When he died on March 3, 1867 Brother Oliver had written over 17 substantial works on Masonic history, philosophy, jurisprudence and ritual.¹

While I read this paper, imagine yourself being transported back 150 years to provincial England and visualize the social and intellectual milieu of that time. Brother Oliver's point-of-view is subjective and inundated with religious overtones however; it is a useful tool in discovering our not so distant past. You do not have to accept his vantage but understand that we were not his intended audience.

¹ Albert Mackey; *Mackey's National Freemason: Vol. III, No. 1 October 1873*; Pages 2-6. Borrowed exclusively from the aforementioned text however, not verbatim.