

AHIMAN REZON
or, A help to a brother (1783)
First Ed London 1756.

by *Yasha Beresiner*

Author: Corporate Author: Antients Grand Lodge. (Dermott, Laurence, Grand Secretary)

Title: *Ahiman Rezon, or, A help to a brother : shewing the excellency of secrecy, and the first cause, or motive, of the institution of free-masonry : the principles of the craft, and the benefits arising from a strict observance thereof : what sort of men ought to be initiated into the mystery, and what sort of masons are fit to govern lodges, with their behaviour in and out of the lodge : likewise the prayers used in Jewish and Christian lodges, the ancient manner of constituting new lodges, with all the charges, etc. : also the old and new regulations, the manner of chusing and installing grand-master and officers, and other useful particulars too numerous to mention here : to which is added, the greatest collection of masons songs ever presented to public view, with many entertaining prologues, and epilogues : together with Solomon's Temple and oratorio, as it was performed for the benefit of free-masons / by Brother Laurence Dermott, Sec.*

Published & Date: London : Printed for the Editor and sold by Brother James Bedford, at the Crown in St. Paul's Church-Yard, 1756.

Description: xvi, [209] p.; 205mm x 130 mm. Page 99 titled A Choice Collection of Masons Songs Etc as per title page.

Collated complete lacks ill frontis. Foxed and soiled title page with soiled edges otherwise content in excellent state. Leather rebound title gilt on spine. Rare first edition.

NOTES: Ahiman Rezon is the Book of Constitutions of the **Antient Grand Lodge of England** founded 1751 first published in A.D. 1756 or the year of Masonry A.L. 5756. This edition. (a second edition was published 1764 and by the time of the union between the Ancients and Moderns in 1813, eight editions had been published). This original edition, written by Laurence Dermott, Grand Secretary of the Ancient Grand Lodge, contains a parody of the histories of Freemasonry ridiculing Anderson's 'Constitutions'. Dermott resolves to write a history of the Craft by purchasing all the previous histories and then throwing them 'under the table'. He describes a fabled meeting with four 'sojourners from Jerusalem' who were present at the building of Solomon's temple, making them at least two thousand years old, whose 'memories' were possibly failing them! etc etc .

The title Ahiman Rezon is from the Hebrew language and variously mean "to help a brother", etc

2. Ahiman Rezon, 1st Ed American Constitutions Philadelphia 1783

Author: Corporate Author: Pennsylvania, Grand Lodge,
William Smith DD

Title: Ahiman Rezon abridged and digested : as a help to all that are, or would be, free and accepted masons : to which is added a sermon preached in Christ-Church, Philadelphia, at a general communication, celebrated, agreeable to the constitutions, on Monday, December 28, 1778, as the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist / by William Smith

Published and Date: Philadelphia, Pa. : Printed by Hall and

Sellers, 1783.

Description: xvi, 166 p. : illustrated frontis printed by Kinnan and Leacock, 195mm x 120mm. Rebound cover detached, general even foxing throughout. Complete collated.

NOTES: Rare First edition of the American Constitutions.

Kent Walgren's Bibliography

Lists copies known only in the following Institutions:

CsMh - California, Huntington, San Marino
CtY - Yale University
DLC - US Library of Congress
DSC* - House of the Temple
IaCrM* - GL of Iowa Library
MB - Boston Public Library
MBFM - Grand Lodge of Mass. Library
MH - Harvard Univ. Library
MLexSC* - Scottish Rite NMJ, Library Lexington MA
MWA -- American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA
MiU-C -- William Clements Library Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
NBurG - Grosvenor Reference Division, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, Buffalo, NY
NIC - Cornell Univ. Library
NNFM (t) - Grand Lodge of NY, NYC
NjP - Princeton Univ. Library
PAtFM (t) - Trexler Masonic Library, Allentown, PA
PHi - Historical Society of PA, Philadelphia, PA
PPL - Library Company, Philadelphia, PA
PPPFM* - Grand Lodge of Penn, Philadelphia, PA
PU - University of Penn, Philadelphia
PWW - Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, PA
RHi - Rhode Island Historical Society
RPB - - - Brown University

USIFM - Grand Lodge of Utah Library, Salt Lake City