

THE WITCH HUNTER

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Freemasonry has had its share of “witch hunters” over the centuries, but one emerges as the most notorious and infamous. Unfortunately, he was “one of our own.” Like the early real witch hunters of Salem, Massachusetts, he went hunting for “witches” except in Masonic ritual, and naturally found them—essentially the same as hunting innocent little old ladies, somewhat disfigured by time, and unable to defend themselves.



Our witch hunter was Edmond Ronayne (c.1800–c.1890), a Past Master. He raked through our Craft Masonry (Blue Lodge) ritual and found the long-known fact that much in Freemasonry dates back to what are termed the “Ancient Mysteries.” Some of this material is not connected in any way to “God” as we now believe Him to be. Freemasonry simply used such material to illustrate a moral point associated with Masonic dogma (belief system).

Unfortunately, “Brother” Ronayne was unable to sort this out. As a result, he wrote a book stating that the Masonic Order was a “pagan” institution, and urged men not to join the Order. He went so far as to say that the secret of a Master Mason was paganism (pagan worship). Remarkably, he attacked the Roman Catholic Church on the same grounds, stating that it was even worse than Freemasonry.

Of course, the book gathered dust for over 100 years, but has now emerged on the Internet. Beyond doubt it is being used by modern-day witch hunters and has brought about the absurdities you might see on websites and in television documentaries.

As to the name of the book and so forth, I am not going to get into this, as I am sure witch hunters will be looking at this material and I don’t wish to give them a free ride to the next little “village.”

With what we term “social media,” witch hunting has become a dark passion in all aspects of society. It provides a world-wide platform for the “hunter” to display his “trophies” without any common sense analysis or review by others.



**There are no “witches” in
Masonic philosophy.
The Masonic Order professes
fundamental truths that are
the foundation of democracy.**