

The

# Phylaxis

## COLLECTION ONE

January 1974 to September 1976

THE  
PHYLAXIS



JANUARY 1  
Volume I

THE  
PHYLAXIS



A SOCIETY FOR  
FREEMASONS WHO  
LIGHT AND WHOM IMPART

THE  
PHYLAXIS



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SEPTEMBER  
Volume I

THE  
PHYLAXIS



MARCH 1974  
Volume II  
No.

"SPECIAL ISSUE"  
IN COMMEMORATION  
OF THE 200th  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
INITIATION OF  
PRINCE HALL —  
MARCH 6th, 1775."

THE  
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SEPTEMBER  
Volume II

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Vol

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MARCH 1974  
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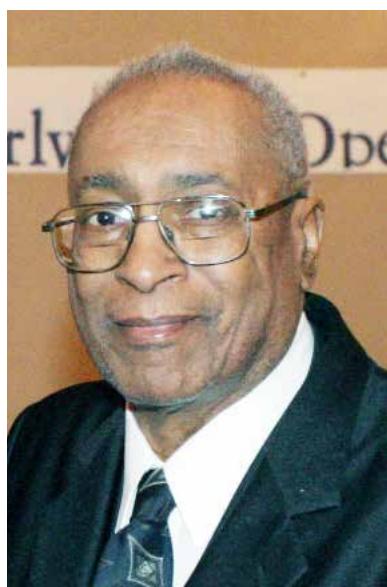
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# *Dedication*

**We dedicate this volume to Joseph A. Walkes, Jr.,  
founder and first president of The Phylaxis Society,  
and to John G. Lewis, patron of the Society.**



**Walkes**



**Lewis**

# *From the President*



**Why do we need this collection? It has been said that The Phylaxis magazines are a gold mine of masonic information. Having put this first collection together, we say it is a gold mine with streaks of silver and platinum sprinkled with diamonds. We are a little biased, but we have come to believe that these magazines are awesome; we have to share them. We owe it to our masonic brothers to do it.**

The information in The Phylaxis magazine is too valuable to remain scattered around the world in periodicals waiting to be tossed. Of course, I know members of the Phylaxis Society who claim they never toss their copies of The Phylaxis, an attitude that speaks to the quality of the magazine. This collection gives the wealth of information in our magazine new life and makes it available to a new generation of researchers.

Alex Smith  
President

**A gold mine with streaks of silver and  
platinum sprinkled with diamonds**

# Preface

This volume contains the first ten issues of *The Phylaxis* magazine—magazines that set the tone for a research, historical, and educational society that, at this writing, is in its fifth decade of research, history, and education. I have said publicly that freemasonry made me a better man, and I can now say that the Phylaxis Society made me a better mason. I wonder even now what the world would be if every man could be a mason, and how much better still if every mason could reap the benefits of a society such as this.

This compilation encapsulates the spirit upon which the Phylaxis Society was built and it should serve as encouragement and inspiration to any Prince Hall mason who studies it well. Take your time. This is not a task to be rushed. This compilation has the power to transform, and when you are transformed, as I think you

will be, you owe it to those masons you love to help them with their transformation. This volume should be required reading for Prince Hall masons, but because this is no trivial task, your insistent encouragement will be needed to motivate your brothers to the effort.

We say we are seeking light, but more to the point we are seeking *truth*—that fundamental tenant of Freemasonry we call a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. Join with us. “You will know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.”

Several articles in this collection justify the cost of this publication. The arti-

cles by Alexander Clark (volume 2, number 5, page 135) and Martin Delaney (volume 2, number 6, page 160) show why they are considered giants in Prince Hall masonry. The Delaney article is a

**Freemasonry made me  
a better man ... the  
Phylaxis Society made  
me a better mason...**

**We say we are seeking  
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true work of art. One might take issue with details of its historical narrative, but for those inclined toward his point of view, Delaney makes a strong case for the African origin of Freemasonry (volume 2, number 6, page 160). The poetic voice of Alexander Clark shines brightly in the Masonic classic published in volume 2, number 5, page 135. The silver tongue of Alexander Clark might just be strong enough to convert a hostile audience to his point of view. Ira Holder became the first fellow of the Society, and his papers, featured frequently in early editions, prove him worthy of the honor. Then there are the papers of Joseph A. Walkes, Jr., the Society's second fellow, founder, and first president, who has an incredible sense of history. It is clearly his tireless investigation, examination, and exploration that allows him to discover the pearls of wisdom we find in this volume and to craft masterpieces of his own as he does time and time again. I call your attention to his address to the Conference of Grand Masters (volume 2, number 7, page 171), not for its artistry or historical significance, but because it sets out the way Prince Hall masons can benefit from an active association with the Phylaxis Society and the reason that Prince Hall masons should be strong supporters of the Society and its goals.

Please take your time with the collection. Get to know Prince Hall from his charges to African Lodge and from his letter book, all of which you will find within these pages. Get to know the early giants of masonic thought from their words. The more you study this volume, the more rewarding the experience will become. Then consider, there are a dozen more collections to come covering the period from 1977 to the present.

John B. Williams, FPS, Life  
Editor

**This volume should be required reading  
for Prince Hall masons**

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- 3 Prince Hall Masonry** Discusses the three degrees of Masonry and attendant duties.
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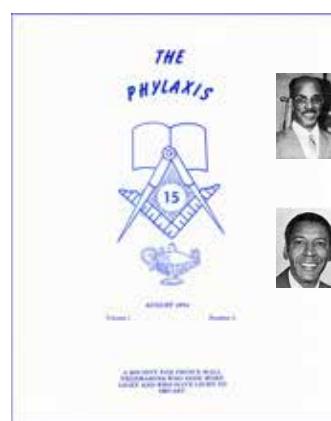
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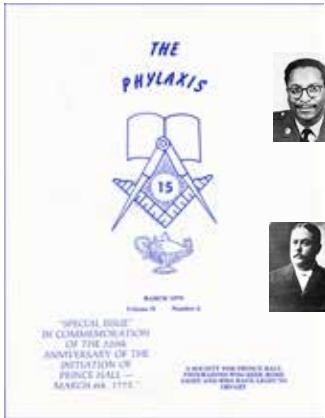


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**69 The Storm that Produced Light on a Dark Subject** In 1897 Gideon S. Bailey and Con A. Rideout, two Prince Hall masons, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Washington to engage in fraternal communication. The fraternal storm then ensued.

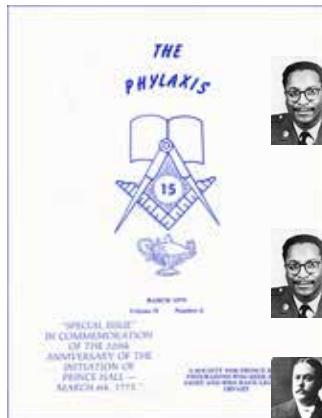


**71 Recognized, Unrecognized, Clandestine** I have read hundreds of discussions and opinions in Grand Lodge proceedings on this subject—among which are some of the most vitriolic attacks on Negroes and Negro Freemasonry. The white brethren have not added to their stature by their actions.

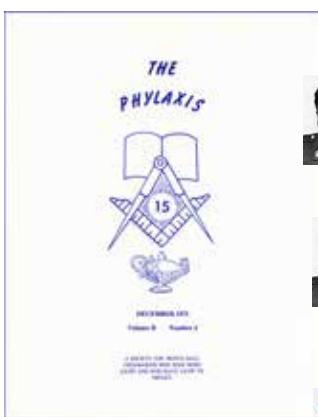


**72 Whence Come You and Whither Are You Traveling?** The first fellow of the Society (Holder) traces the origin of these terms through various masonic lecturers including Preston and Webb.

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- 78 A Word from the President** My aim is to preserve the memory of the things I love, to be truthful to them and therefore to write as well about them as I can. We plan to continue issuing special editions in March of each year in tribute to the Master, Prince Hall. Ira Holder has been made the first fellow of the Society.
- 79 Prince Hall Masonry and the Civil War, Part Three** The second Prince Hall military masonic lodge to serve in the Civil War was Phoenix Lodge No. 1. One can see the workings of Prince Hall masonry and the African Methodist Episcopal Church, both having played a major role in sustaining Black America.
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- 90 The Phylaxis, Phylalettes, and M.P.S.** The Phylalettes objected to use of "MPS" by the Phylaxis Society and suggested the society use PSM instead.
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- 99 A Bright Mason** A term usually applied to one who is well posted in the lectures of the various degrees, but the whole heart must be in whatever we do.



## Volume 2 Number 4 December 1975

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**103 Those Magnificent Masonic Buffalo Soldiers Part One** Little is known of Prince Hall military lodges because they failed to maintain minutes or report to their grand lodges. The first of the lodges was chartered by Texas and attached to the Tenth Cavalry: Baldwin Lodge No. 16.



**106 Stormy is the Road, A Masterpiece, Ira S. Holder, Sr.** Follows Gideon S. Bailey and Con A. Rideout as they seek fraternal communication in the State of Washington.



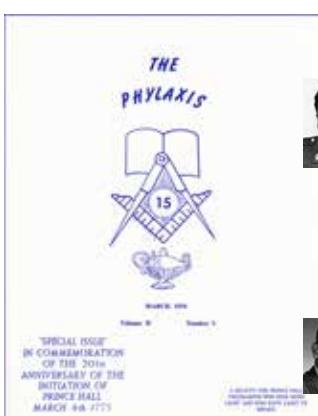
**111 Welcome to New Members**

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**120 Should Prince Hall Masons Celebrate the Bi-Centennial- Yes Jerry Marsen-gill, FPS (Philalethes Society), argues that, though the country is far from perfect, we do not need any group disassociation itself.**



**121 Should Prince Hall Masons Celebrate the Bi-Centennial - No President Walkes suggests that some consider it a celebration of slavery.**



**122 How Long is Your Cable Tow?** FPS Holder traces the historical origin of the cable tow. He observes that the Masonic cable tow symbolically binds the candidate to darkness and ignorance.



**126 Joseph G. Findel, Honorary Prince Hall Grand Master** Findel was a German masonic writer and scholar, who believed the lodges of colored people were legally constituted.

**131 Prince Hall: A Great Negro American** In the proceedings of the 91<sup>st</sup> Congress, Hon Phillip Philbin says “Prince Hall stood in his great day and spoke out militantly for truth, humanity and freedom.”

**132 A Charge Delivered to African Lodge, June 24, 1792** A charge delivered by Prince Hall.



**134 The Master's Sign** A description of a Masonic token in flowery prose.

**135 A Prince Hall Masonic Classic** This well-crafted address by Alexander Clark, PGM of Iowa and Missouri, is rightly identified as an Masonic classic.

**138 Welcome New Members**

**139 Notes, Queries and Information on Items of Masonic Research:** Pine's famous frontispiece, Dr. Charles Wesley, John W. Davis, Non-Prince Hall organizations.

**140 Report from Wisconsin** This distinguished committee headed by State Supreme Court Judge George Currie recommended that the Prince Hall Grand Lodge be recognized.

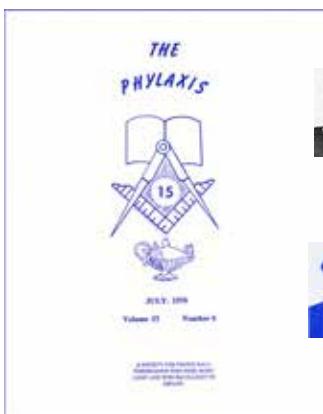
**140 Masonic Duty** A well-read mason is a rare thing.

**141 The Phylaxis Society and the Prince Hall Confession of Masonic Faith** A masonic credo.

**142 Phylaxis Profile** William E. Allen, Jr., MPS, was the first black radiologist to receive a gold medal from the American College of Radiology.

**143 The Lady Freemason** The lady was Miss Elizabeth St. Leger. A decision had to be made: put her to death, or make her a mason in due form.

## Volume 2 Number 6 July 1976



**146 A Word from the President** President Walkes refers to the society as *international*. The annual executive meeting was held in Seattle, Washington. Grand Master Jno. G. Lewis is acknowledged for his constant support and encouragement. This issue is dedicated to Martin Delaney.



**147 The Power of Togetherness** FPS Holder refers to the operative masons of medieval times and to the formation of the Grand Lodge of 1717 to make his point.

**149 Notes, Queries and Information on Items of Masonic Research** William E. Allan, Prince Hall masonic postage stamp, Alphonse Cerza, Philadelphia street named for Prince Hall mason (Richard Allen), Schomburg Center, Transactions of the Phylaxis Society, John W. Davis, Asa B. Sampson, Prince Hall Masonic Yearbook, *Prince Hall Life and Legacy*.



**150 Martin R. Delaney Militant Master Mason** This short, stocky black militant attended Harvard until prejudice forced him out. His hatred of racism led him to consider use of force and resettlement in Africa as solutions.



**154 Executive Meeting Held** James Herndon was named a fellow. Two Caucasian masons, Keith Arrington and Jerry Marsengill, were named honorary fellow.

**154 The Real Mason** A poem.



**155 Planning for Spiritual Growth** This is the keynote address given by the Executive Secretary of the Masonic Services Association, Conrad Hahn, at the Grand Lodge of Michigan.



**158 L. Sherman Brooks, Masonic Calligrapher** A professional scribe, he did the back cover for this issue.



**158 The Lady Freemason, How She Came to be Initiated** Continues from the previous issue.

**159 Welcome New Members**

**160 The Origin and Objects of Ancient Freemasonry: Its Introduction into the United States, and Legitimacy Among Colored Men.** A treatise delivered before St. Cyprian Lodge No. 13, June 24, 1853 by Martin R. Delaney.



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**166 A Word from the President** Increasing the membership of the Phylaxis Society must be a result of the effort of all the members.



**166 Herndon and Holder Retire** Charter members step down.

**167 Two Blacks Inadvertently Disrupt White America** FPS Holden addresses the disruptions in the State of Washington resulting from the activity of Gideon S. Bailey and Con A. Rideout in 1897.



**170 57<sup>th</sup> Conference of Grand Masters** Group photograph.

**171 A Speech by Joseph A. Walkes, F.P.S.** Presented to the Conference of Grand Masters in 1976. My purpose is to attempt to explain the role of a small body of Prince Hall Freemasons who have organized themselves into a research society and their relationship to you.

**173 Notes, Queries and Information on Items of Masonic Research** Drew Sales, Jno. G. Lewis Testimonial, Deceased members honored in New Orleans, Middle Class Blacks in a White Society, Conference of Grand Master's schedule, Back Issues of magazines, Prince Hall Masonic yearbook, GM Lewis listed in *Who's Who*,

**174 Report of the Caucasian Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of Wisconsin** The final report concerning the question whether the Grand Lodge of Prince Hall Masons of Wisconsin shall be recognized by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.



**176 The Origin and Objects of Ancient Freemasonry** Continued from previous issue. Delaney creates an intricate theory showing how Freemasonry evolved from mysteries of African origin.

**179 Welcome New Members**

# *Introduction*

**T**he Phylaxis Society was organized by Prince Hall Freemasons for those who seek Masonic light and those who have light to share. It has since opened membership to all regular Freemasons and has become international in its support.

**Our Magazine.** The Phylaxis magazine has been its principle means of communicating with its members. It has become the most respected publication in Prince Hall masonry and one of the most important publications, we think, in all of Freemasonry. A close review of this first collection of magazines will give the reader an idea of why this is and how it came about.

**Our Patron.** A turning point in the growth of the Society occurred when it attracted the attention of John G. Lewis, one of the most influential black masons of his day, being grand master in Louisiana, Chairman of the Conference of Grand Masters, and Sovereign Grand Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. The importance of his support was recognized by the Phylaxis Society when it named its highest honor, the Jno G. Lewis Medal of Honor, in his memory. The Society also attracted the support of important masonic historians, men like Charles Wesley, an early fellow of the Society and Harry Williamson, whose writings are featured in the magazine. Ira Holder, who became the first fellow of the Society is featured prominently in this collection of magazines, and the reader will see why he was selected for this honor.

**Our Dedication.** The Phylaxis Society is an international historical, literary research organization dedicated to perpetuating the memory of Prince Hall who became the first African-American Freemason in Colonial America, the founder of the first black Masonic lodge and the leader of the first black interstate organization in America.

**Our Goals.** The Society is incorporated under the laws of the State of Kansas and is a not-for-profit corporation the nature of whose business is for charitable and educational purposes. The goals of the Society are: To advance the knowledge of the history, culture, and ethical standards of Prince Hall Freemasonry by publishing a magazine, holding seminars, conducting research, and providing other educational activities; To provide a fraternity-wide center for the collection of Masonic news, arranging for

educational speakers, and for the dissemination of information about Prince Hall Freemasonry; To provide periodic meetings to allow Masonic authors to share their findings with the members of the Society; To promote the social services available to members and disseminate information on programs available to the widows and orphans of deceased members of the Prince Hall Masonic fraternity; To encourage the development of books, papers, art and other cultural heritage that will increase the knowledge about black people in general in American society; and to do all additional things necessary to support the above goals of the Society. The motto of the Society is, "A Society for Prince Hall Freemasons who seek more light and who have light to impart."

**Our Members.** If you are a Prince Hall Freemason (PHA), if you are a Freemason in a grand lodge in amity with a Prince Hall grand lodge, or if you are a Freemason in a grand lodge in amity with the United Grand Lodge of England, you may participate in the annual membership meeting (March 6<sup>th</sup>) by asking to become a member. You must subscribe to the magazine to become a member, but you can subscribe to the magazine without becoming a member if you want to. The easiest way to join or to subscribe is to do so on our website, but you can also mail in a membership form downloaded from the website.

Visit our web site to learn more about the Society:

**<http://thephylaxis.org>**



Many articles in this collection justify the cost of this publication. The articles by Alexander Clark (volume 2, edition 5, page 135) and Martin Delaney (volume 2, edition 6, page 160) show why they are considered giants in Prince Hall masonry. The Delaney article is a true work of art. One might take issue with details of its historical narrative, but for those inclined toward his point of view, Delaney makes a strong case for the African origin of Freemasonry (volume 2, edition 6, page 160). The poetic voice of Alexander Clark shines brightly in the Masonic classic published in Volume 2, edition 5, page 135. The silver tongue of Alexander Clark might just be strong enough to convert a hostile audience to his point of view. Ira Holder became the first fellow of the Society, and his papers, featured frequently in early editions, prove him worthy of the honor. Then there are the papers of Joseph A. Walkes, Jr., the Society's second fellow, founder, and first president, who has an incredible sense of history. It is clearly his tireless investigation, examination, and exploration that allows him to discover the pearls of wisdom we find in this volume and to craft masterpieces of his own as he does time and time again. I call your attention to his address to the Conference of Grand Masters (volume 2, edition 7, page 171), not for its artistry or historical significance, but because it sets out the way Prince Hall masons can benefit from an active association with the Phylaxis Society and the reason that Prince Hall masons should be strong supporters of the Society and its goals.



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