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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:-  
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PHONE:  
01-405 3633

FREEMASONS' HALL,  
GREAT QUEEN STREET,  
LONDON, WC2B 5AZ.

3rd January 1978

Dear Brother Matthews,

Hathaway MS.

Such a long time has elapsed since we corresponded about this manuscript roll of the Old Charges that I am afraid you and Bro. Harris must be wondering what has become of it, but I can assure you that it is still here in my custody.

I have not myself been able, as I hoped, to make a detailed study of the manuscript but this has been done, with help from me in the way of transcripts etc., by a brother in Toronto, Canada, who is a specialist in the study of Old Charges. A paper by him, with supplementary notes by myself, on the Hathaway MS should appear in the volume of Transactions of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge due to be published in November 1978. I hope when you see it you will think that it has been worth the long wait, for which please accept many apologies.

In the meantime I should be pleased to know whether any decision has been made on the future of the manuscript, whether, for example, we may retain it here on (permanent?) loan. Looking back on our previous correspondence I see that this question was rather left undecided. If it was agreed that we should have the custody of the roll it would be properly repaired and then cared for along with the many other treasures housed in the Grand Lodge Library; what is more, it would always be available for inspection by properly qualified masonic students. I hope to hear from you in due course about this.

With hearty good wishes for the New Year,

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

*J. D. Fauch*  
Librarian and Curator.

W. Bro. H. R. Matthews,  
46 Whitehall Road,  
Pedmore,  
Stourbridge, Worcs.



Pro. No. 107  
Sheet



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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS :-  
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LONDON WC2B 5AZ."

PHONE:  
01-405 2632

FREEMASONS' HALL,  
GREAT QUEEN STREET,  
LONDON, WC2B 5AZ

17th July 1973.

Dear Brother Harris,

Further to my letter of the 2nd July I have now had an opportunity to make a closer examination of the copy of the Old Charges and my preliminary conclusions are that it dates from the first half of the 18th century - although it could possibly be rather earlier. It is an interesting and important find for, according to the information at my disposal, there are only a few other copies (some seven in all out of a total of over a hundred existing copies) that have a similar heading "The beginning and first foundation ... [etc.]" and only one with identical wording. This is the Hughan MS. the text of which is transcribed in Poole and Worts Yorkshire Old Charges (Leeds, 1935), a copy of which you should find available in the Worcestershire Prov. G.L. Library, furthermore, the text of your copy is virtually the same as that of the Hughan MS. (I am afraid that the transcript you kindly supplied is somewhat inaccurate in places). It appears therefore that one may be a copy of the other, or that both may be copies of a common (missing) original: I incline to think that yours is earlier than the Hughan MS. but in order to confirm this (or otherwise) and to establish a little closer dating, I should like to consult the MSS. Department of the British Museum. Would the owner of the MS. be prepared to consent to this, please? It may be necessary to leave the MS. at the Museum but I might mention that I would also at the same time be leaving there for comparison with it the original of the Hughan MS. (which is deposited in the G.L. Library). I should in any case like to retain the MS. for some time longer in order to complete a detailed textual analysis and comparison of it with the Hughan MS.

For convenience in reference it is necessary that we should give this newly discovered MS. a name. In the past such documents have been variously named - after the finder or owner (eg. lodge, person, library etc.) or the place of provenance, and so on. The use of the lodge name Stability would, I think, tend to lead to some confusion with the ritual working of that name. If I am correct in thinking that Bro. H.R. Matthews is the brother referred to in your letter I suggest that it might well be called the Matthews MS. after the finder and owner.

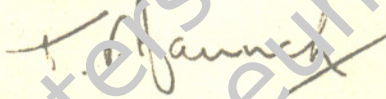
It is also of the utmost importance that at this stage the fullest details possible about the provenance of the MS. should be set down on

record whilst memories of the circumstances are fresh - i.e. the date and place of its discovery, its then owner and any details whatsoever that can be ascertained of its previous history and owners etc. etc.

Finally may I suggest that the proper place for this MS. is in a masonic library where it could be properly preserved and made available for students. On no account should it be framed and hung on display since it would rapidly fade and become illegible if exposed continuously to light. Unless the owner feels that the Worcestershire Library and Museum has prior claim upon the MS. I should be more than pleased to have it for the Grand Lodge collection and would arrange for the fragile sections to be properly restored.

I should be grateful if you would consult Bro. Matthews - if he is indeed the owner - on the above points and shall look forward to hearing from you, or direct from him in due course.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

  
Librarian and Curator.

W. Bro. G. F. Harris,  
16, Bridgworth Road,  
Wollaston,  
Stourbridge,  
Worcs.

P.S. Since writing the above I have had photocopies made of the Hughan MS. to provide a working copy for annotation, and I have had an extra set taken off for you, which I enclose.

T.J.F.

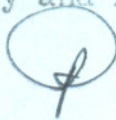
W. Brother J. Edwards,  
Lyndina,  
Sytechampton,  
Stourport on Severn, Worcs.

19th. January, 1961

Dear Brother John,

I enclose a copy of a letter I have received today from Brother Haunch which is self explanatory. If you agree, I suggest that you might now write to him and ask him to send the Manuscript to W. Brother T. W. Grounsell at this address - or of course, if you wish, direct to you.

With kindest regards,  
Yours sincerely and fraternally,



Provincial Grand Secretary.

2 FEB 1981

J. Edwards,  
The New House,  
Sytchampton,  
Nr. Stourport-on-Severn,  
Wores.

30 Jan 1981

W. Bro C. Perks,  
Provincial Grand Secretary,  
Masonic Hall,  
Rainbow Hill,  
Worcester WR 3 8LY.

Dear Bro. Charles,

Hathaway Manuscript.

Thank you for copies of your correspondence with Bro Haunch in respect of the above manuscript. I enclose a copy of my letter to Bro. Haunch and no doubt when you receive the document you will contact me in order that I can inform Mrs. Hathaway.

kindest regards  
Yours sincerely and fraternally,

J. Edwards.

J. Edwards,  
The New House,  
Sytchampton,  
Nr. Stourport-on-Sever  
Worce.

30 Jan 1991

W. Bro. T. O. Haunch,  
Librarian & Curator,  
United Grand Lodge of England,  
Great Queen Street,  
London WC 2B 5AZ.

Dear Bro Haunch,

Hathaway Manuscript

I am writing on behalf of my mother-in-law, Mrs Hathaway (not Hathaway incidentally) with reference to your correspondence with Bro C. Perks regarding the above manuscript.

I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Hathaway would like to loan the manuscript to the Provincial Grand Lodge in Worcester. If you would therefore send the document to Bro. T. W. Grouse I will then make arrangements with him and Mrs Hathaway for it to be officially handed to the Provincial Museum.

Yours sincerely and Fraternally,

J. Edwards.



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FREEMASONS' HALL,  
GREAT QUEEN STREET,  
LONDON, WC2B 5AZ

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:-  
"LETCHWORTH,  
LONDON WC2B 5AZ."

PHONE:  
01-405 3683

21st February 1978

Dear Brother Matthews,

Thank you for your letter of the 12th February and thank you too for passing on to Mrs. Hathaway and Bro. John Edwards the one from me.

You will no doubt be interested to know that the manuscript has now been most beautifully repaired by an expert repairer at the Guildhall Library of the City of London and one can now hardly tell that it was so badly damaged at one point. There is a possibility that we may illustrate it in the forthcoming article in AQC, but this rather depends on the Editor.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Librarian and Curator.

W. Bro. C.R. Matthews,  
46 Whitehall Road,  
Pedmore,  
Stourbridge, W. Midland.

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10 NOV 1980

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:-  
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LONDON WC2B 5AZ."

PHONE:  
01-405 3633

FREEMASONS' HALL,  
GREAT QUEEN STREET,  
LONDON, WC2B 5AZ

7th November 1980.

Dear Brother Perks,

The enclosed enveloped arrived here unsealed  
and without contents. Can you throw any light on it  
please?

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Librarian and Curator

W. Bro. Chas. H. Perks,  
Provincial Grand Secretary,  
Masonic Hall,  
Rainbow Hill,  
WORCESTER. WR3 8LY.

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Be properly

addressed



T.O. Haunch Esq.,  
Librarian & Curator,  
United Grand Lodge of England,  
Freemasons' Hall,  
Great Queen Street,  
London,  
WC2B 5AZ

IF UNDELIVERED RETURN TO  
MASONIC HALL, WORCESTER.

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15 JAN 1981

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LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.



TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:-  
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LONDON WC2B 5AZ."

PHONE:  
01-405 3633

FREEMASONS' HALL,  
GREAT QUEEN STREET,  
LONDON, WC2B 5AZ.

13th January 1981

Dear Brother Perks,

Hathaway Manuscript

Following our telephone conversation yesterday, I thought it would be as well just to drop you a line to place on record what was said.

In my correspondence in 1973 with Bros. G. F. Harris and H. R. Matthews, I tried several times to get a decision about the disposal of the Hathaway manuscript of Old Charges. I enclose a copy of the last letter I received from Bro. Matthews on the subject, from which you will see that it was again referred to Bro. Edwards and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Hathaway, but I never heard anything from them.

As I confessed to you on the 'phone, I then rather hoped that it had been quietly forgotten about and that the manuscript would be allowed to remain here for the reasons which I stated in my letter to Bro. Matthews of the 3rd January 1978, a copy of which you have.

If Bro. Edwards now wishes to reclaim the manuscript on behalf of his mother-in-law we cannot, of course, do otherwise than return it to them, but may I suggest that you invite them to consider very seriously leaving it on loan in a masonic museum, that of your own Province being eminently suitable, if they wish it to remain in the locality.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Librarian and Curator

W. Bro. Charles Perks,  
Prov. Grand Secretary, Worcestershire,  
Masonic Hall,  
Rainbow Hill,  
WORCESTER. WR3 8LY.

C O P Y

46 Whitehall Road  
Pedmore  
Stourbridge  
West Midlands 7DY9

12th Feb. 1978

Dear Bro. Haunch,

Hathaway MS.

Thank you for letter re the above. I have given photostat copies of it to Bro. John Edwards and Mrs. Hathaway, the son-in-law and widow of Mr. Hathaway for, of course, they must instruct you as to its disposal.

Bro. Harris and I are looking forward with great interest to Quatuor Coronati report in November.

Yours sincerely '& fraternally,

H. R. Matthews,  
Stability Lodge 564.

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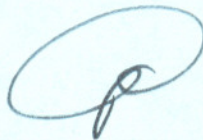
W. Brother T.O. Haunch, P.A.G. Supt. Wks.,  
Librarian & Curator,  
United Grand Lodge of England.

7th. January, 1981

Dear Brother Haunch,

I enclose a copy of a letter addressed to you last  
November to which I have not received a reply and as I feel sure that  
it must have gone astray I am writing again.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital letter 'P' with a loop at the top and a tail that curves back to the left.

Provincial Grand Secretary.

1 JAN 1981

W. Brother T.O. Haunch, P.A.G. Supt. Wks.,  
Librarian & Curator,  
United Grand Lodge of England.

3rd. November, 1980

Dear Brother Haunch,

Hathaway MS.

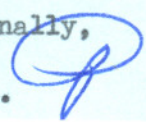
You will no doubt recall correspondence about this manuscript roll of the Old Charges, dating back to 1973, with a Brother H.R. Matthews of Pedmore, Stourbridge.

I have now been approached by a Brother John Edwards who is Mrs. Hathaway's son in law, asking me if I can assist in securing the return of the manuscript to her. I gather that she is now elderly and is anxious to have it back in her possession.

From the correspondence I have seen, it is not at all clear to me just where the title to the document now lies, and I shall be glad to have your observations.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Provincial Grand Secretary.



46, Whitehall Road,  
Fedmre,  
Stourbridge,  
Worcs.

26th July 1973.

W. Bro. T. O. Haunch,  
Librarian & Curator,  
United Grand Lodge of England,  
Freemasons' Hall,  
Great Queen Street,  
London, WC2B 5AZ

Dear W. Brother Haunch,

Your letter to W. Bro. G. F. Harris of the 17th Instant has been forwarded to me to answer regarding the old scroll.

So that you may understand the circumstances in which I am placed I feel that I must explain the odd way in which this MS came on loan to me.

Some long time ago, a personal friend of Mr. M. P. S. Hathaway, a local solicitor, who was not a Masco, hearing that I was about to become Master of my Lodge said that he had an old Masonic Document that I would find interesting. He later handed me the MS saying that I could keep it for the time being. Unfortunately, Mr. Hathaway was taken ill while the document was in my possession and later died. It was obviously incumbent on me to inform his widow and I did this through her son-in-law, who I had known for many years, and I found to be a member of another Stourbridge Lodge. Sometime later it was re-loaned to me to complete an attempted translation so that I could read it as a paper to my Lodge. W. Bro. Harris great efforts enabled us to complete a transcript (we apologise for the inaccuracies but have done nothing like this before). You will therefore appreciate that I can give you no instructions as to it's final disposal, this, obviously, must rest with Mrs. Hathaway.

However, I have spoken to Bro. John Edwards, her son-in-law, and he has agreed that you may retain the MS for the time being and he has confirmed that there is no objection to the scroll being taken to the British Museum for the purposes required. Bro. Edwards has taken a copy of your letter and will endeavour to find from Mrs. Hathaway such details of its previous history as may be known to her or her family.

/// cont...

We shall await with great interest your findings and will write to you again as soon as possible with such information as Mrs. Hathaway may have.

Yours sincerely & fraternally,

H. R. MATHEWS

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