

[Book review by Tony Pope, published in the *Gleanings* of South Australian Lodge of Research, July 1994]

THE GRAND DESIGN

Selected Masonic Addresses and Papers of Wallace McLeod

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Wallace McLeod, *PhD*, is Professor of Classics at Victoria College, University of Toronto, and Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. He has been a full member of Quatuor Coronati Lodge since 1979 and was Master in 1982 (the only North American to be so honoured). He is a Prestonian Lecturer, a Fellow and Past President of the Philalethes Society, and Grand Abbot of the Blue Friars, a society of Masonic authors. He has written or edited 10 books, published many articles and reviews in his professional field and in Freemasonry, and spoken extensively in Canada, Britain and the United States. Among his particular areas of study are the Old Charges, John Coustos and Prince Hall Freemasonry.

This book, *The Grand Design*, is a selection of RWBro McLeod's papers previously printed in a wide variety of publications (some of them inaccessible to Australian Masons), including the *Proceedings* or *Transactions* of The Heritage Lodge (GRC), Walter F Meier Lodge of Research (Washington), Virginia Lodge of Research and various publications of the Grand Lodge of Canada (Ontario), as well as from *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum* and the *Philalethes*.

The subjects of the 21 papers are diverse—three 'DIYs' for researchers (how to write a short talk, a research paper and a book), seven 'biographies' (St Alban, John Coustos, Batty Langley, Wellins Calcott, Simon McGillivray, 'Loyalist Masons' and 'McLeod Moore and Pike') and nine 'broad spectrum' historical papers (including the *oral* version of his Prestonian Lecture on the Old Charges and 'Why I still believe in the Transition Theory: Operative to Speculative'). The other two defy classification—'The effect of Victorian Obscenity Laws on Masonic Historians: an allegedly obscene poem of 1723', which includes the full, unexpurgated text of 'The Free Masons: an hudibrastick poem', and the final, delightful contribution, 'Hiramic Monologue'.

This is a book for every Mason whose interest in the Craft extends beyond the next meeting of his own lodge, as it surely must if he is to be united in the Grand Design of being happy and communicating happiness. Wallace McLeod writes simply, without condescension, yet with authority; seriously, but with a touch of humour. His style is a model for every researcher who wishes the result of his labour to be read and appreciated beyond the narrow circle of his peers.