



The Secret Architecture of Our Nation's Capital: The Masons and the Building of Washington, D.C.

By David Ovason

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Today, there are more than twenty complete zodiacs in Washington, D.C., each one pointing to an extraordinary mystery. David Ovason, who has studied these astrological devices for ten years, now reveals why they have been placed in such abundance in the center of our nation's capital and explains their interconnections. His richly illustrated text tells the story of how Washington, from its foundation in 1791, was linked with the zodiac, with the meaning of certain stars, and with a hidden cosmological symbolism that he uncovers here for the first time.

Fascinating and thoroughly researched, *The Secret Architecture of Our Nation's Capital* is an engrossing book that raises provocative questions and offers complex insights into the meanings behind the mysterious symbols in Washington.

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By David Ovason Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #245319 in Books
- Published on: 2002-03-26
- Released on: 2002-03-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x 1.19" w x 5.31" l, .88 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 528 pages



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this audacious, erudite study, Ovason (*The Secrets of Nostradamus*) sets out to prove that Washington, D.C., was designed and built largely by Masonic architects and that they imprinted the beliefs of their brotherhood on the city's layout. Benjamin Franklin, architect James Hoban (who designed the White House), Presidents Garfield and Polk and Statue of Liberty sculptor Frederic Bartholdi were all Masons. Indeed, when President George Washington laid the cornerstone of the Capitol building in 1793, he wore a Masonic apron adorned with occult Masonic symbols and an image of the zodiac. And although textbooks teach that the federal city was the brainchild of French engineer Pierre-Charles L'Enfant, Ovason argues that Washington, Jefferson, U.S. Surveyor General Andrew Ellicott and others—many of them Masons—substantially modified L'Enfant's original blueprint. As a result, Masonic symbolism appears in the marble, plaster, concrete, glass and paint facades of the Federal Reserve, the Library of Congress and other landmarks. This book, the result of a decade of thought and research, establishes the plausibility of Ovason's theory. However, the volume—a labyrinthine, illustrated tome—also contains a good deal of wild speculation. Ovason posits, for example, that the "earthly triangle" formed by Capitol/White House/Washington Monument mirrors a triangle of stars in the constellation Virgo, an astrological sign important to the Masons. This, he contends, proves that Masons secretly consecrated the nation's capital to the celestial Virgo. It's an interesting, if dubious, suggestion. But Ovason never establishes the significance of the link between the capital and the occult. (July)

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From Library Journal

Ovason, an astrology teacher, analyzes the symbols in the architecture of Washington, DC, and connects them to the influences of the arcane traditions of Masonry. This ambitious work looks at the Capitol, the Washington Monument, city planning, and the numerous zodiacs located throughout the city. A major theme is the importance of the Virgo sign of the zodiac and how it is reflected in the sculpture, design, and ceremony involved in the construction of the capital. In general, the work contains thorough research and brilliant analysis, but the reader may find that Ovason reads too much into some symbols, especially when locating ties to Virgo. A minor problem is the overuse of substantive endnotes, which displaces some important information that could have been incorporated into the text. Recommended for academic libraries with collections of architectural history, Masonic, or esoteric literature. By contrast, *The United States Capitol* is a collection of specialists' papers offering numerous points of view on a single building in the nation's capital. The first section, on architecture, traces the design and construction of the building from its beginnings in 1790 through the present Office of the Architect. Much emphasis is placed on the conflicts of personality and philosophy that have burdened the building's development. The second section, on painting and sculpture, focuses more on the objects than the artists, giving considerable attention to techniques and hidden meanings within the works. Altogether, the book is well researched and appropriately illustrated with photographs and architectural drawings. Recommended for both academic and larger public libraries. Deric Linderman, Ida Rupp P.L., Port Clinton, OH

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About the Author

David Ovason has spent more than a decade researching the architecture and zodiacs of Washington, D.C.

He teaches astrology and has studied the life and writings of Nostradamus for more than forty years. He is the author of several books, including *The Secrets of Nostradamus* and *Nostradamus: Prophecies for America*. Mr. Ovason lives and works in England.

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