BACKGROUND

The purpose of this talking paper is to discuss a new idea and further develop the concept into a realistic instructional training for the Cryptic Masons of Colorado. The title of the proposed program is **C2IT**, which stands for Cryptic College Instructional Training. The concept is to create a college within the Cryptic body of masonry to qualify new ritualists to perform the degree work as Royal Master, Select Master, or Super Excellent Master. It is becoming all too apparent that Companions are starting to either age-out, move away from Colorado, or in some cases, sad to say, pass away. All these exits take valuable knowledge and memory work with them. So, to overcome this problem, it is proposed that a college be developed as described below.

STRUCTURE

DEAN – The Dean will be the Illustrious Grand Lecturer, who will oversee the College and report to the Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of Colorado on the status of students and their progression in the college. His responsibilities will also include oversight of the Professors and Mentor teams within each of the Degree curriculums. The Dean will also set the Tasks, Conditions and Standards which the students are to follow while undertaking their degree roles.

PROFESSORS – The team of Professors will be the Cryptic Officers assigned as District Lecturers. Their responsibilities are to provide a report to the **C2IT** Dean as requested. Professors will encourage a desire among students to complete their memorization work within the recommended timeframe. Furthermore, they will be responsible for training the students on required floor work for their character.

MENTORS – The team of Mentors are responsible for assisting students while they learn the memory work of the character they have chosen to portray. During the first year of this college, the Mentors are extremely influential in locating and recommending a Council Companion to become a "student" to help populate the database. Once the student has proficiently memorized their part, the Mentor will sign off on their character. Mentors will furthermore assist Professors by helping students become proficient in the floor work for their character. After the student has graduated from a character, he can then start any other part within the Cryptic College as he wishes.

STUDENTS – The students are recommended by any member of **C2IT** or any Cryptic Grand Line Officer. Students will enroll by filling out all necessary paperwork from the College Secretary which includes selecting a character they wish to study. The Secretary, in consultation with the Dean, will assign a Professor and Mentor to the student. Progression within the program is at the student's own pace; however, three months is the target date from start to finish. There is no restriction on the number of characters or lectures a student learns at **C2IT**. However, the college rallying cry will be "*Get it Done!*"

SECRETARY – The Secretary will be appointed to the college for administrative support in maintaining Student records -- who has enrolled, which characters are represented, and who has graduated. The Secretary will provide graduation completion certificates that will be signed by the Dean and awarded at the General York Rite Grand Session each September. The Secretary and the Dean will coordinate with the Grand Master to ensure the completion certificates are issued during the grand session as these are major achievements in memorization work.

COURSE BOOKS – The current Cryptic ritual book will be the student's "college" textbook on all the degrees offered to him. Later, it is proposed the Dean develop a workbook with three chapters, each focusing on just the text specific to each character. The workbook could also include an area where the Mentor can sign-off when the student masters each character (graduates).