

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PRINCE HALL COUNCILS OF ROYAL & SELECT MASTERS

The Cryptic degrees were slow to take root amongst the Prince Hall Fraternity. The first Councils of Royal and Select Masters were not established until August 14, 1916 in the State of Ohio. They are: Adoniram Council No. 1 in Cleveland, Zabud Council No. 2 in Toledo, and Herald Council No. 3 in Columbus. On August 13, 1917, a convention of delegates from these three councils organized a Grand Council in Cincinnati, and it was incorporated under the laws of Ohio on December 21, 1920. Councils of Royal & Select Masters were soon organized in Dayton, Oberlin, Boston, Zanesville, Chicago, Newark, Portsmouth, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh and Springfield. Deputies were appointed for Pennsylvania, Indiana, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. It was not until after the Great Depression of 1929 that Councils spread to other Prince Hall Jurisdictions.

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