This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

This is a program for the Assembly of Zabud Council No. 25, Royal and Select Masters, held at the Masonic Temple in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri, on 30 October 1945.

The Royal Masters and Select Masters degrees are optional paths of advancement in the York Rite of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons. Now more popularly known as “Cryptic Masons,” the Royal and Select Masters are drawn from the ranks of Royal Arch Masonry, which is the basic organization of the York Rite.

Zabud Council No. 25 was chartered on 25 April 1894. In 1945 it had 462 members, with John D. Schaeffer serving as Illustrious Master. This Assembly was held at the Masonic Temple on East Walnut Street in Springfield on Tuesday, 30 October 1945. The major function of the Assembly was to elevate candidates to the degrees of Royal Masters, Select Masters, and Super-Excellent Masters.

The degrees were awarded as part of allegorical plays set in Biblical times. The Royal and Select Masters were elevated in the afternoon, followed by a banquet. The evening was devoted to a three-scene production, including the “Court of Jedekiah at Jerusalem,” for the recognition of the Super-Excellent Masters. Illustrious Master John D. Schaeffer served as “Marshall of Ceremonies,” Dorsey B. Reynolds was the Toastmaster, and Joseph V. Gaddy delivered the after-dinner address.