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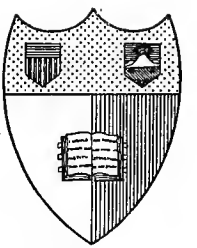

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Freemasons. England. Royal Arch Masons. Grand Chapter.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

ESTABLISHED BY THE SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER

FOR THE

GOVERNMENT OF THE ORDER

OF

ROYAL ARCH MASONS

OF ENGLAND.

Published by the authority of the Supreme Grand Chapter,

By JOHN HERVEY,

AS GRAND SCRIBE E.

LONDON:

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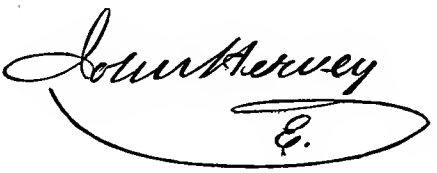
Supreme Grand Chapter

OF

ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF ENGLAND.

THE GRAND CHAPTER HAVING RESOLVED

That the Laws, as recommended by the Committee of Laws, be adopted, and that the same be printed under the direction and superintendence of the Committee of General Purposes, the said Committee have superintended the present publication.



FREEMASONS' HALL,

21*st October*, 1868.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

ESTABLISHED BY THE SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER

FOR THE

GOVERNMENT OF THE ORDER

OF

ROYAL ARCH MASONS

OF ENGLAND.

In all cases which are not specially provided for by the following Laws and Regulations, the Order of Royal Arch Masons of England shall be considered as bound by the Constitutions of the Ancient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, and its proceedings shall be regulated thereby, as nearly as circumstances will permit.

Of the Supreme Grand Chapter.

1. The Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England consists of the following members :—

The Three Grand Principals.
Past Grand Principals.
Grand Superintendents of Provinces.
Grand Scribes.
The Three Sojourners.
Grand Treasurer.
Grand Registrar.
Grand Sword Bearer.
Grand Standard Bearer.
Grand Director of Ceremonies.
Grand Organist.
All Companions, duly qualified, who have passed either of the above named offices.
The three Principals of every subordinate Chapter.
The past First Principals of every subordinate Chapter being duly qualified.

To these are added :—

The associate members, and such illustrious and distinguished Brethren who may, by the regulations, be exalted in the Grand Chapter.

The members of the Supreme Grand Chapter rank in the following order :—

The First Grand Principal.
The Pro First Grand Principal.
Past First Grand Principals.
Past Pro First Grand Principals.
Second Grand Principal.
Past Second Grand Principals.
Third Grand Principal.
Past Third Grand Principals.
Grand Superintendents of Provinces.
Past Grand Superintendents of Provinces.
Grand Scribe, E.
Grand Scribe, N.
Past Grand Scribes, E.
Past Grand Scribes, N.
Grand Principal Sojourner.
First Grand Assistant Sojourner.
Second Grand Assistant Sojourner.
Past Grand Principal Sojourners.
Past Grand Assistant Sojourners.
Grand Treasurer.
Past Grand Treasurers.
Grand Registrar.
Past Grand Registrars.
Grand Sword Bearer.
Past Grand Sword Bearers.
Grand Standard Bearer.
Past Grand Standard Bearers.

Grand Director of Ceremonies.
Past Grand Directors of Ceremonies.
Grand Organist.
Past Grand Organists.
Associate Members.
The three Principals of every subordinate chapter.
Past First Principals of every subordinate chapter.

2. Four grand chapters or quarterly convocations shall be holden in each year, namely, on the first Wednesday in the months of February, May, August, and November.

3. The three grand principals may convene grand chapters of emergency when necessary. The reason for convening a chapter of emergency shall be expressed in the summons; and no other business shall be entered upon at that meeting.

4. The companions acting as grand principals at any meeting of the grand chapter shall respectively take the three chairs provided for the three grand principals.

5. No member of the grand chapter shall be present at the opening thereof, unless he be a principal or past principal of a chapter.

6. The grand janitor and his assistants shall, at every meeting of the grand chapter, attend without the entrance, and act as scrutineers, in order that no unqualified person may be admitted.

7. No person shall be exalted in the grand chapter except princes of the blood royal, peers of the realm, or foreign brethren of distinction, recommended by the first grand principal.

8. Any member of the grand chapter intending to make a motion therein, or to submit any matter to its consideration, must, at least twenty-one days previous to the convocation at which the motion or other matter is to be brought forward, send a notice thereof in writing to the committee of general purposes.

9. An annual report of the transactions of the grand chapter, with an account of the funds and property belonging to it, shall be printed and transmitted to every present and past officer of the grand chapter, and to every subordinate chapter, within one month after the general convocation in May.

10. When the grand lodge, or any other competent authority in the craft, shall suspend or expel any brother who is a royal arch mason, the

grand chapter shall immediately, on such suspension or expulsion being communicated, proceed to declare such companion suspended or expelled from his arch masonic functions for the period while such craft suspension or expulsion continues in force.

REGULATIONS *for the* GOVERNMENT *of the* SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER *during the time of* PUBLIC BUSINESS, *to be read at the Convocation in May.*

1. The grand chapter being opened, the minutes of the last quarterly convocation, and of any intervening grand chapter, are to be read and respectively put for confirmation. Then any communications from the grand principals, or either of them, shall be read and proceeded with; next, reports from any committee; after which, the other business shall be proceeded with in due course.

2. Whenever the presiding officer shall call to order, there shall be general silence.

3. All members shall keep their seats, except the scribes, the assistant sojourners, and the director of ceremonies, who are allowed to move

about from place to place in the discharge of their duties.

4. No companion shall speak twice to the same question, unless in explanation, or the mover of a resolution in reply.

5. Every one who speaks shall rise and remain standing, addressing himself to the presiding officer, and no companion shall interrupt him, except to speak to order, or the presiding officer to call him to order; but after he has been set right, he may proceed, if he observe due order and decorum.

6. If any member shall have been twice called to order by the presiding officer, and shall nevertheless be guilty of a third offence at the same convocation, the presiding officer shall command him forthwith to quit the grand chapter, and he shall not be again admitted to that meeting.

7. Whoever shall be so unmasonic as to hiss at a companion, or at what he has said, shall be forthwith solemnly excluded the convocation, and declared incapable of being a member of the grand chapter, till at another convocation he publicly own his fault, and grace be granted.

8. All matters are to be decided by a majority of votes, each member having one vote, and the presiding officer two votes, unless the grand chapter, for the sake of expedition, shall think proper to leave any particular subject to the determination of the presiding officer. The votes of the members are to be signified by each holding out one of his hands, which the grand scribes are to count, unless the presiding officer shall declare the numbers so unequal as to render the counting unnecessary.

9. No motion on a new subject shall be made, nor any new matter entered upon, after eleven o'clock at night.

Of the GRAND OFFICERS.

1. The grand master of the fraternity of free and accepted masons of England shall be first grand principal, if a royal arch mason. If the grand master be not a royal arch mason, the first grand principal shall be elected annually at the quarterly convocation in May, and forthwith inducted.

2. The office of pro first grand principal only exists when the first grand principal is a member

of the royal family ; in which case, if there be a pro grand master for the time being who is a royal arch mason, he shall be pro first grand principal.

3. The deputy grand master, if a royal arch mason, is to be second grand principal.

4. Each of the grand principals before being inducted to his office shall be installed a principal Z.

5. The grand secretary is to be grand scribe E, if an installed first principal, or past first principal of a regular subordinate chapter : and all ministerial duties and all privileges attached to the office of grand scribe are to be performed and enjoyed exclusively by grand scribe E.

6. The grand treasurer of the craft is to be grand treasurer, if a royal arch mason.

7. The grand registrar of the craft is to be grand registrar, if a royal arch mason.

8. All other officers of the grand chapter are to be annually appointed by the first grand principal, at the quarterly convocation in May.

The grand janitor and his assistants, are to be appointed by the first grand principal only during pleasure.

9. If any officer of the grand lodge, who if otherwise duly qualified, would take office in the grand chapter by virtue of his office in the grand lodge, shall not be qualified to hold such corresponding office in the grand chapter, the first grand principal shall appoint some other companion to fill the vacant office, except in the case of the grand treasurer, who shall be elected by the grand chapter.

10. The grand wardens for the time being shall, if they are royal arch masons, be associate members of the grand chapter.

11. No companion shall be appointed to any subordinate office unless he be a principal or past principal of a chapter, or an associate member of grand chapter.

12. If either of the undermentioned grand officers of the year shall neglect to attend at least two quarterly convocations during the year of office, the officer so neglecting shall forfeit all rank and distinction acquired by his appointment, unless sufficient excuse for his absence be

assigned to the satisfaction of the presiding officer, viz. :—

The Principal Sojourner,
The Assistant Sojourners,
The Grand Sword Bearer,
The Grand Standard Bearer,
The Grand Director of Ceremonies.

13. Every companion appointed to office in the grand chapter shall, during his period of office, be a subscribing member of some regular subordinate chapter; and no future past grand officer (from 1843), who shall for twelve months continuously cease to be a subscribing member of some subordinate chapter, shall be entitled to attend the grand chapter, until he shall again become—and then only whilst continuing to be —a subscribing member of some regular subordinate chapter.

14. Every companion who shall have served in the chair of first principal of a chapter, shall retain his seat in the grand chapter so long as he continue a subscribing member to a chapter; but if such companion shall cease to be a subscribing member for the space of twelve months, he shall cease to have a seat in the grand chapter.

15. The grand janitor shall not, during his period of office, officiate as janitor of any subordinate chapter.

Of Provincial Grand Chapters.

1. For the better government of the chapters held at a distance from the metropolis, grand superintendents may be appointed by the first grand principal over the several provinces in which chapters are or may be held.

2. The grand superintendents must be present or past first principals of a chapter, and must, while they continue in office, be subscribing members of a chapter.

3. The grand superintendents are empowered to appoint the second and third principals (they being past or present installed first principals of a chapter), and other provincial grand officers, except treasurers, and to hold provincial grand chapters whenever and in such place as they shall think expedient. They are also empowered to visit the several subordinate chapters in their district, to see that the laws and regulations of the grand chapter are observed; and are to enquire into irregularities, and hear and determine all complaints; and to this end they may summon

the officers and companions of any chapter in their districts, to attend them, and to produce the charter and books of the chapter; and their decision shall be final, unless an appeal shall be made therefrom to the supreme grand chapter. But no appeal shall be entertained unless transmitted to the grand scribe E. within three calendar months from the date of the decision appealed against.

4. The provincial grand treasurer shall be elected by the provincial grand chapter.

5. The provincial grand chapter shall consist of the present and past officers (all being subscribing members to some chapter in the province, and the present grand officers being resident in the province), and of the principals and past first principals of the several subordinate chapters, so long as they continue subscribing members to their respective chapters.

6. Provincial grand chapters are to be subject to the same laws as are laid down for the government of the supreme grand chapter, so far as the same are applicable, except when a different regulation is expressly declared.

7. Every provincial grand chapter shall have

power to raise such funds from its members and subordinate chapters, as may be requisite for defraying its necessary current expenses.

Of Private Chapters.

1. Every chapter shall be attached to some warranted lodge, and the rank or precedence of the several chapters shall be determined according to the priority of the lodges to which they may be respectively attached. In case of a lodge to which a chapter is attached being suspended or erased, the chapter may be attached to another lodge by the authority of the grand chapter.

2. No lodge can form or hold a chapter, unless it has previously obtained a charter from the grand chapter. The mode of application is to be by petition, signed by nine regular and registered royal arch masons, specifying the place where the lodge meets, and the time when, and the place where, the chapter is proposed to be holden, also the names of the three intended principals, and the names and numbers of the lodges in which they have severally served the office of master. The chapters in which the petitioners were exalted must be stated against their respective signatures. To the petition must be added the consent of the lodge.

3. In a province for which a superintendent is appointed, the petition must first be transmitted to him for his recommendation or opinion.

4. When the general committee has recommended a charter to be granted, and that recommendation has been adopted by the grand chapter, the charter shall be forthwith issued without waiting for the confirmation of the minutes.

5. A fee of five guineas shall be paid for every charter of constitution ; and a fee of two guineas for every charter of confirmation.

6. Every new chapter shall be solemnly consecrated, according to ancient custom, by one of the grand principals, or by some present or past first principal of a subordinate chapter.

7. According to the ancient custom, a complete chapter of this order of free-masonry consists of the three principals, who when in chapter assembled are to be considered conjointly as the master, and each severally as a master, two scribes, three sojourners, and others, making up the number of seventy-two as a council ; and no regular chapter can consist of more ; but any number may be exalted and received as companions, though they are not to hold the staff of

office, or be considered as counsellors, when more than that number are present.

8. All officers are to be elected annually, except the assistant sojourners, who are to be appointed by the principal sojourner. No companion of any subordinate chapter shall be eligible to be elected to either of the principal chairs, who is not at the time of such election the actual master or past master of a craft lodge, nor, except in the colonies, until he shall have served the office of scribe or sojourner of a private chapter for a year.

9. No companion shall be installed in the second chair who has not served in the third chair, nor in the first, unless he has served in the second chair of a regular constituted chapter, for the full period from one annual election to another. But this regulation is not to apply to foreign chapters, nor to any chapter at the time of its original constitution. The first grand principal or the grand superintendent of a province may however grant a dispensation from the observance of this rule.

10. No companion shall be first principal of more than one chapter in the same province or district, at the same time, without a dispensation from the first grand principal.

11. No companion shall fill the first chair of a chapter for more than three years in succession, nor the second or third chair for more than two years in succession.

12. The mode of election shall be by ballot; for the office of first principal in the first instance, and the others in succession; and the officers thus elected and appointed shall be invested and inducted accordingly. If the numbers shall in any case be equal, the first principal shall have the casting vote, or he may order a new ballot, at his discretion. The janitors may be elected by a show of hands.

13. A register shall be kept by each chapter of all companions who shall be installed as principals; and every chapter shall notify to the grand scribe E. the name of every companion so installed, with the date of his installation; and no companion shall take his seat in the grand chapter as a principal until his name shall have been so returned—and such return shall be annually made with that provided for in article 20, page 19.

14. Whenever any companion who has been installed as principal shall, from any cause whatever, cease to be a member of the chapter, the same shall be notified to the grand scribe E.

15. The principals of provincial and foreign chapters may be installed out of their own chapters, upon the production of sufficient certificates of their being at the time actual or duly elected principals of, and contributing members to, their respective chapters.

16. In case of the absence of the actual first principal, his chair shall be taken by his immediate predecessor therein, or in his absence, by the senior present of his predecessors therein; and, in the event of no past first principal of the chapter being present, any past or present first principal of the order may, at the request of the chapter, take that chair and discharge the ceremonial duties of the chapter.

17. If any actual principal shall die or be removed, or be otherwise rendered incapable of discharging the duties of his office, the chapter shall forthwith proceed to elect a new principal in his place, giving due notice of such election.

18. The officers and companions, whilst in chapter, shall wear the insignia of the order according to their rank.

19. The cash or treasurer's account of the chapter shall be kept distinct and separate from that of the lodge to which the chapter is attached.

The accounts of the chapter shall be audited at least once in every year, by a committee to be appointed by the chapter.

20. Every chapter shall, at least once in each year, make a return to the grand scribe E., specifying the names, ages, titles, professions, or vocations and dates of exaltation of the companions exalted, together with the numbers of the lodges to which they belong, and shall at the same time remit the fees for registration and grand chapter certificates. And if any companion exalted in foreign parts (and whose name, therefore, is not previously registered in the books of the grand chapter) shall join a chapter as a member, his name, age, title, profession, or vocation, former chapter, and date of joining, shall be returned, and the same fee shall be paid as if he had been exalted in the chapter which he may join. The names, also, of all companions who may join from any other chapter must be returned, and the chapter in which they were exalted specified.

21. There is no restriction as to the number of companions who may be exalted in a chapter on the same day.

22. Candidates for admission into a chapter

must be duly proposed, approved, and balloted for; and no one shall be admitted, if, on the ballot, there appear more than two negatives.

23. No mason shall be exalted to this sublime degree, unless he have been a master mason for twelve calendar months at least (of which satisfactory proof shall be given,) except as provided for by the following article.

24. Grand superintendents of districts and provinces abroad may grant a dispensation, in case of necessity, for the exaltation of a brother to the royal arch, at the expiration of four weeks from the period of his having received the degree of master mason.

In colonies and foreign parts where no grand superintendent of royal arch masons has been appointed, private chapters may, in cases of real emergency, exalt brethren at the expiration of four weeks from the time they have received the master mason's degree, provided always that the three principals agree to the emergency, and in their next return to grand chapter state the reason thereof.

25. No person shall, under any pretence, be exalted for a less sum than three guineas, which sum may include the fee to the grand chapter for

registering and certificate. But this law is not to extend to brethren exalted as serving companions who may be exalted by the chapter which they are to serve, provided that no fee or reward be taken, and that a dispensation from the first grand principal, or provincial grand superintendent, be first obtained.

26. The registering fee to the grand chapter for brethren exalted shall be fifteen shillings, which includes the fee for the certificate; except for brethren exalted abroad, in which case the fee for registry and certificate shall be seven shillings and sixpence. The fee for a companion joining a chapter, his name being previously registered, two shillings and sixpence. The name and number of his former chapter must be stated in order to the fact being ascertained.

27. When an application shall be made to the M. E. Z. for a dispensation in any case required by the laws, the chapter or party making the application shall pay upon, or prior to the dispensation being delivered, the sum of ten shillings and sixpence, to be applied to the general fund; and, upon an application made to a provincial grand superintendent, a sum of five shillings shall, in like manner be paid, to be applied to the provincial grand chapter fund in cases where such

a fund exists, or otherwise, to the funds of the grand chapter.

28. Every chapter shall be subject to erasure and forfeiture of its charter of constitution in either of the following cases:

Omitting to hold a meeting of the chapter for the space of two years.

Neglecting to make any return required by the foregoing laws.

Neglecting to register annually the names of all companions exalted, and of those who have joined the chapter.

But no chapter shall be erased, until the principals thereof shall have been duly summoned to show cause to the contrary to the grand chapter.

Of Military Chapters.

Military chapters may exist upon the same terms upon which the military lodges are permitted to exist by the constitutions of craft masonry, except that the consent of the commanding officer shall not be requisite for the establishment of a military chapter.

Of CHAPTERS *of* INSTRUCTION.

Chapters of instruction may exist under regulations similar to those which are laid down in the constitutions for the government of lodges of instruction.

Of the COMMITTEE *of* GENERAL PURPOSES.

1. The committee shall consist of the grand principals and pro first grand principal (if any), a president, and two other members to be nominated by the first grand principal annually, at the quarterly convocation in May, and six other members to be elected by the grand chapter, at the same convocation, from among the first principals and past first principals of subordinate chapters, being members of the grand chapter.

2. The committee shall meet on the third Wednesday in the months of January, April, July, and October, at three o'clock in the afternoon precisely; but when business requires other meetings, they shall be called by command of the first grand principal, or by the authority of the president.

3. Three members shall on all occasions constitute a quorum, and proceed to business.

4. In case the president be absent, the member highest in rank in the grand chapter is to preside at all meetings of the committee.

5. The committee shall have the superintendence of the finances of the grand chapter, and shall audit the accounts once a quarter, and make a report thereof to the grand chapter.

6. No motion or other matter, except appeals, shall be brought into discussion or be considered in grand chapter unless the same shall have been communicated to the committee ; and every notice of motion, together with the report of the committee, shall be printed and sent out with the summonses for the ensuing meeting of the grand chapter.

7. The committee shall receive and examine all applications for charters, or for the removal of chapters, and shall report thereon to the grand chapter.

8. In addition to the aforesaid duties imposed upon the committee, the committee shall take upon itself the same duties, and shall have the same powers and privileges in relation to the

order of royal arch masons, which are respectively imposed and conferred upon the board of general purposes in relation to craft masonry by the book of constitutions; and the proceedings of the committee shall be regulated as closely as possible by the rules laid down for the proceedings of that board.

Of the REGALIA.

The following clothing and insignia shall be worn, and no companion shall on any pretence be admitted into the grand chapter, or any other chapter, without his proper clothing.

No companion shall be permitted to wear in a chapter any jewel, medal, device, or decoration belonging or appertaining to any order or degree not recognised by the grand chapter or grand lodge of England as part of ancient free masonry.

The apron is to be of white lamb-skin, or white kid-skin, from fourteen to sixteen inches wide, and from twelve to fourteen inches deep, with an indented crimson and purple border two inches wide, (the crimson part pointing to the middle of the apron,) the border of the flap or lappet to be only one inch wide. In the centre of the flap is to be a triangle of silk or satin, surrounded with

a gold border, and within the triangle three taus united in gold spangled embroidery, and two gold tassels are to be suspended by ribbon two inches wide, coming from under the flap.

The silk or satin ground of the triangle, the lining and strings of the apron, and the ribbon suspending the tassels are to be purple, for present and past grand officers of the supreme grand chapter, and provincial grand superintendents; crimson for principals and past principals of private chapters; and white for all other companions.

The jewel of office worn by past and present officers of the supreme grand chapter is to be suspended by a broad collar of three colours; viz. purple, crimson, and pale blue.

Provincial grand superintendents wear collars similar to those of officers of the supreme grand chapter; other officers of provincial grand chapters wear collars similar to those worn by the officers of the supreme grand chapter; but such collars are not to exceed two inches in width.

The jewel of office worn by the principals and officers, and also by past principals of subordinate chapters, is to be suspended by a broad crimson collar.

The medal of the order is to be worn on the left breast, appended, according to the rank of the companion, by a narrow ribbon, as follows :—

Present and past officers of the grand chapter, tricoloured, corresponding with the collar.

The principals and past principals of all subordinate chapters, crimson, corresponding with the collar.

The other officers of subordinate chapters, and all other companions, white.

All jewels of this order are to be gold or gilt.

All companions are to wear the usual sash of the order, with silk fringe at the ends; except that all present and past officers of the grand chapter, and present and past principals of private chapters, may wear gold fringe or bullion instead of silk.

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APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

DRAWINGS OF THE JEWELS

TO BE WORN BY THE

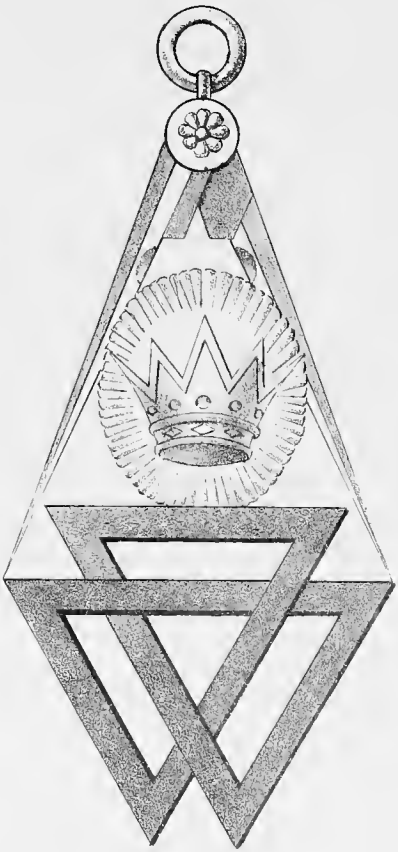
OFFICERS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER

AND ALL

SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS,

AND OF THE

JEWEL AND APRON OF THE ORDER.



First Grand Principal

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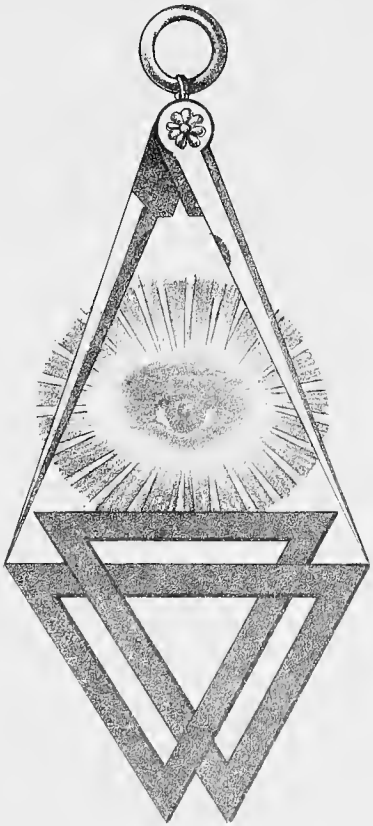

Second Grand Principal

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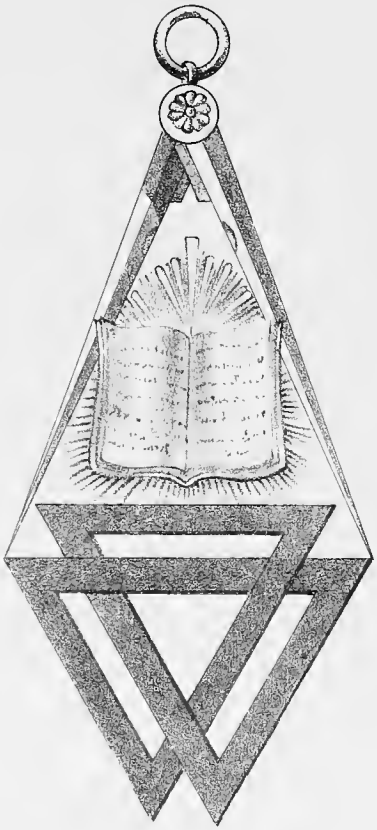

Third Grand Principal

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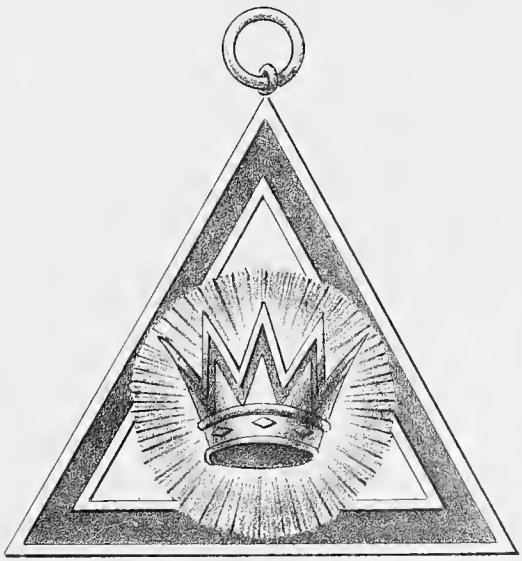
Grand Superintendant.



Prin Z

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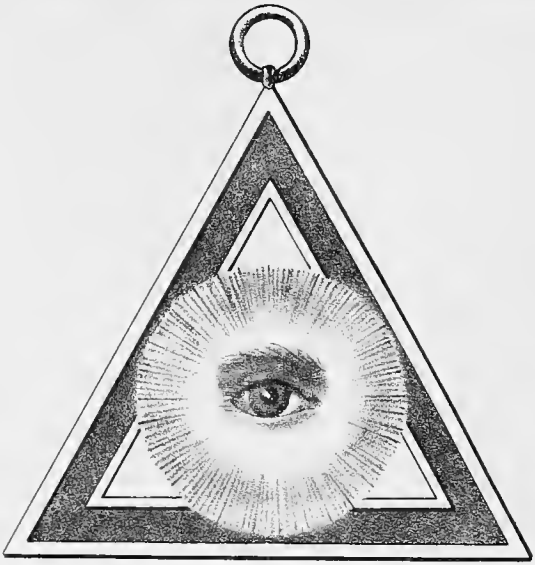

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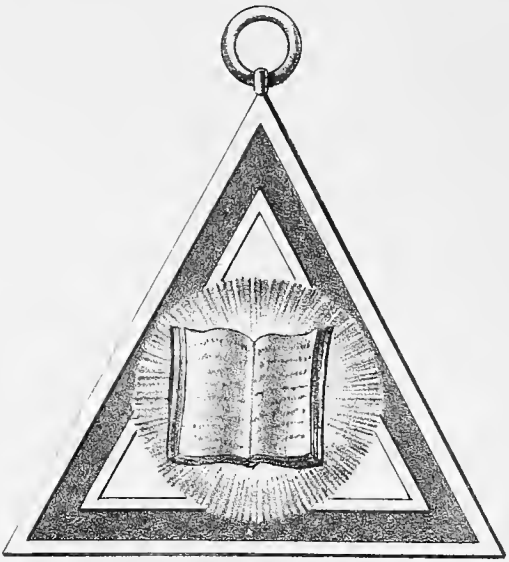

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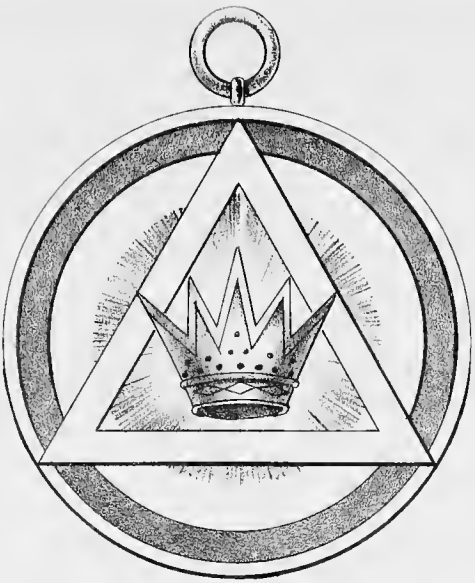

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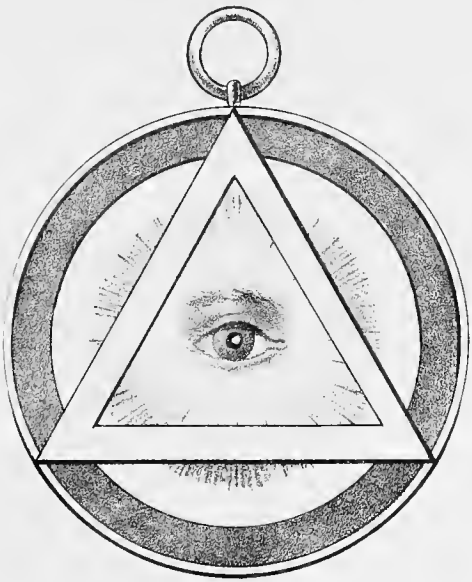

Past H

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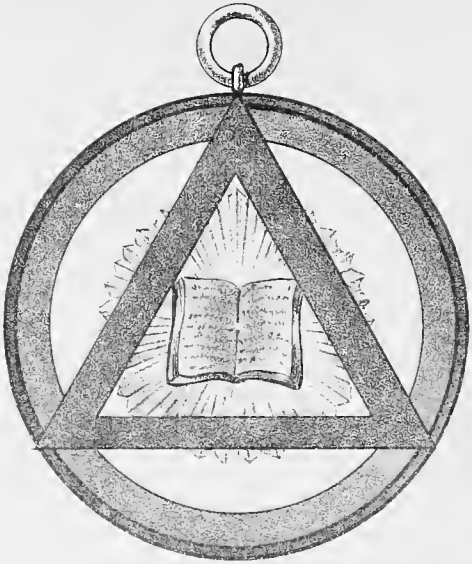

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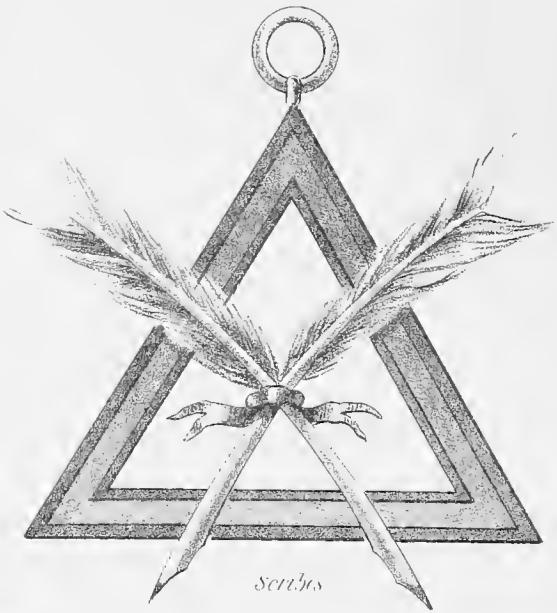

Scribes

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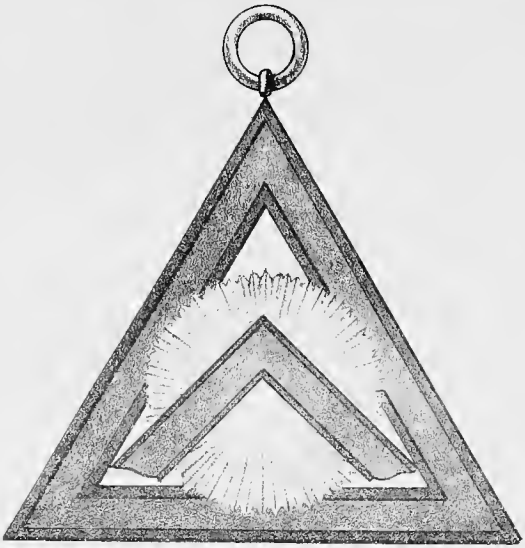
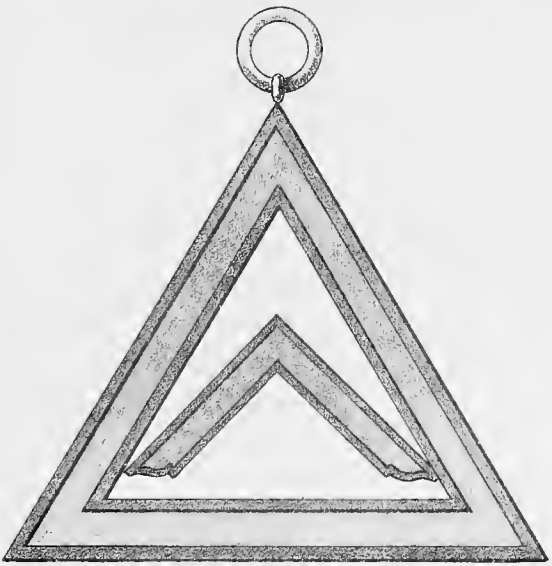


Principal Sojourner



Assistant Sojourner

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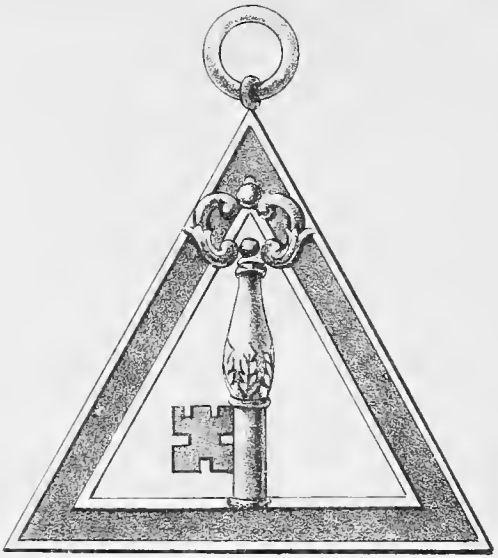
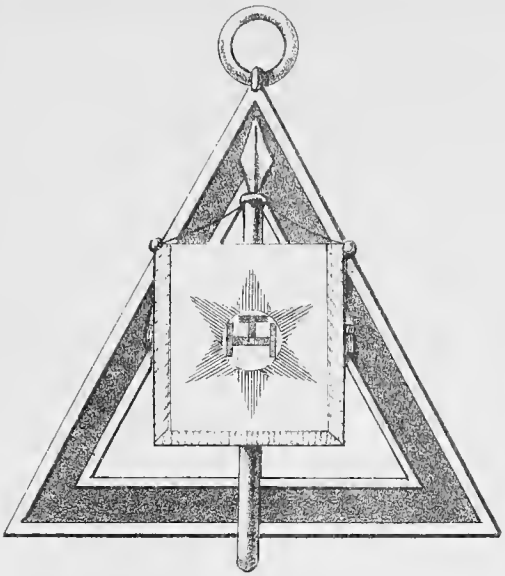


Treasurer

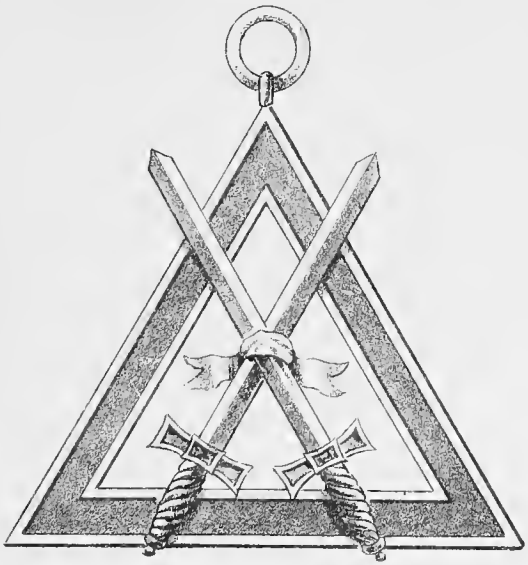


Registrar

Harrison & Sons Lith St Martins Lane WC



Standard Bearer



Sword Bearer

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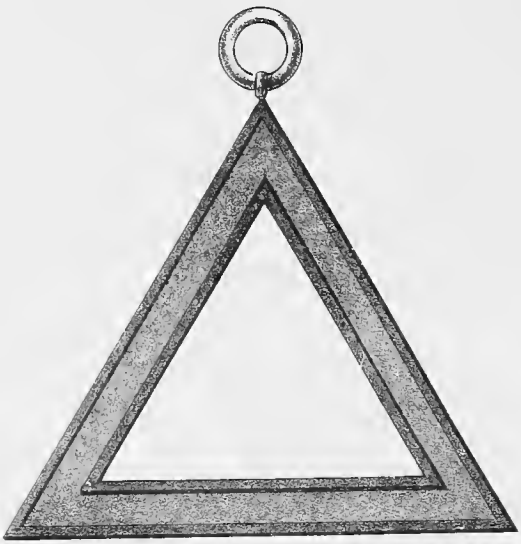
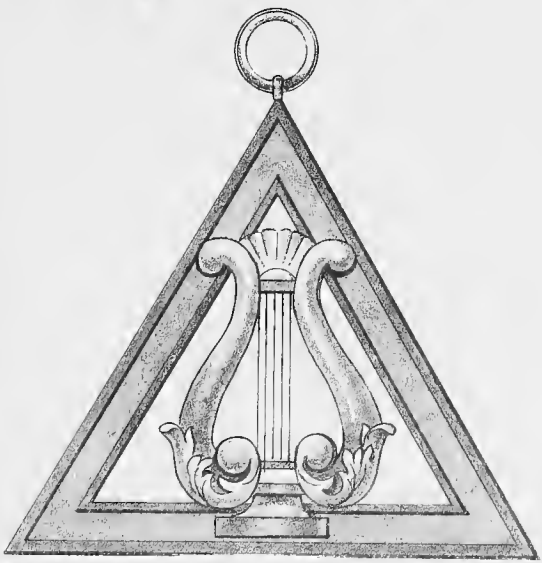


Stewards.

Harrison & Sons, 59th St. James's Lane W.C.

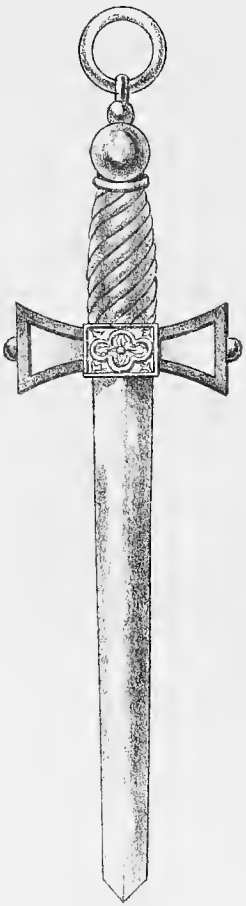


Master of Ceremonies



Organist.

Harrison & Sons Lith. St Martin Lane



Janitor.

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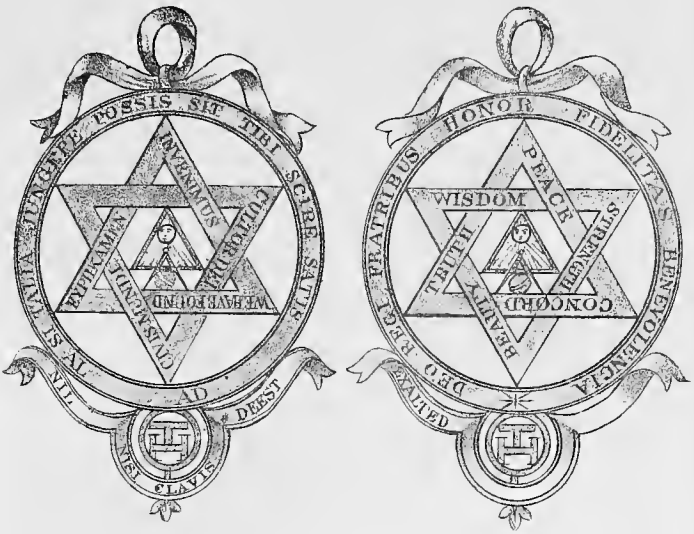

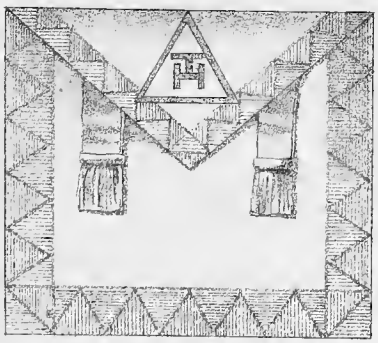

Jewel and Apron

Harrison & Sons Lith. St. Martin's Lane, W.C.

