

Explanation of Grand Lodge Certificate

Bro. — you having now taken the three degrees of Craft Masonry, I have much pleasure in presenting to you in open Lodge your Certificate from the United Grand Lodge of England.

This Certificate which is known as the "Pillars Certificate" was first issued in the year 1819, six years after the solemn act of Union between the two Gr. Lodges of Freemasons of England in December 1813, by which the United Gr. L. of England was formed.

Please examine it while I explain the symbols and wording ~~it contains~~.

The document is always ^{surmounted} by the Arms of the Most ^{Wor.} Gr. Master, ~~the~~ ~~of this~~ Certificate bears the Arms of His Grace the Duke of Devonshire H. G. or present M. Geo. Gr. M.

you will observe that the main design is dominated by three Pillars, (hence the name Pillars Certificate). The Central pillar is of the Ionic Order symbolising wisdom and alludes to the wisdom of S. H. of I. in building, completing and dedicating the Temple at Jerusalem to the service of the G. A. O. T. U. That on the Left is of the Doric Order denoting strength and alludes to the strength of H. H. of T. in supporting K. S. with men and materials, That on the Right is of the Corinthian Order signifying Beauty and refers to H. A. B. whose exquisite skill and Craftsmanship in adorning the Temple was the wonder of all beholders.

These three Pillars rest on the White and Black flooring of the Lodge symbolising light and darkness or the joys and sorrows of ~~the~~ ^{our} chequered existence.

you will notice on the floor of the Lodge the three great emblematical lights in Freemasonry —

the V. of the S. L., the S., and the C., also the three
W. T. S. which play such an important part in the
Ceremony of the 3rd Degree, the Rough and Perfect A. S.
representing the unskilled Entered Apprentice and the
skilled M. M. and the Celestial and Terrestrial
globes pointing out Masonry Universal.

With regard to the wording on the document
you will notice in the left hand panel a
declaration in English and in the right hand panel
a translation of the same into Latin:—

To all Whom It May Concern That the Bro.
whose name ~~is~~ ^{is} mentioned in the text has been
regularly ~~received~~ ^{initiated} into our Order, the date of that
initiation you will note is not given Anno Domini
but Anno ^{Lucis} Lucis, or the year of Masonic Light
which preceded the Christian Era by four millenaries,
it further states that the Bro. has been regularly
advanced to the second and third degrees and has
been duly registered in the Books of Gr. Lodge.
In testimony whereof our ~~V. W. M.~~ ^{R. W. M.} Gr. Sec. Bro.
Sidney A. White has subscribed his name and
impressed the seal of Gr. L., the date on which
the document was signed and sealed, you will note,
is given Anno Lucis and ^{also} Anno Domini. If you
examine that seal closely you will find on it
the Latin Words Audi, Vides, Tace. that excellent
maxim of the Craft which exhorts a Bro. to hear, to
see and remain silent.

A final clause states that the possession
of this Certificate does not entitle a Bro. to
admission into any Lodge without examination, neither
it should be stated does examination alone ^{entitle} a Bro.
to admission without the production of this Voucher
should it be demanded.

To the Bro. to whom this Certificate is granted, it is, therefore, of unique value.

It testifies that Gr. L. considers that the foundation stone laid in the N.E. part of the Lodge a few months ago was well and truly laid; it is a means of Masonic identification, a proof of membership in the case of unforeseen calamity or misfortune; it is a passport when visiting a Lodge in a Foreign Country where the signs differ somewhat from our own, and even as no Lodge is regular without the production of the Warrant entrusted to its Master, so every individual Mason should be able to produce his Gr. L. Certificate for examination, if demanded, when visiting any special Masonic function.

But Bro. [] your Certificate at present is incomplete; it is necessary that you sign the document in the margin provided, and from that signature there must be no subsequent deviation.

You will therefore proceed to the Secretary's table and sign your Certificate in the presence of the Brethren here in open Lodge assembled.

6. Explanation of the Certificate when presenting.

For more than a century and a half certificates have been given to English Freemasons, and on attaining to the degree of a Master Mason, you are entitled to receive a certificate issued by the Grand Master of the U. G. L. of England.

Such certificates have varied in size and style. The design of this parchment dates from 1819. It is known as the "Pillars Certificate." I have now much pleasure in presenting your certificate to you in open Lodge (hands up). Please examine it while I explain its meaning.

Our M.W.G.M. being a Prince of the Royal Blood, the document is surmounted by the Royal Arms. You will observe that the main space of this design is divided by a column. This is of the Ionic Order, and signifies Wisdom, since it alludes to the wisdom of S.K. of I in building, completing and dedicating the Temple at Jerusalem to the service of the G.A. of T.U.

Flanking this central pillar are two others. That on the L is of the Doric Order, which denotes strength, and alludes to the strength of H.K.O.T. in supporting K.S. with men and materials.

That on the R is of the Corinthian Order, meaning Beauty. It refers to H.A. whose beautiful work in adorning the Temple was the admiration of all beholders.

The three pillars rest on the b & w flooring of the L, symbolising the light and darkness and the joys and sorrows of our chequered existence.

On the floor are the three great emblematical lights in Freemasonry - the V.S.L. the S. and the C. You will observe, also, the W.T.'s of the three degrees, the Tracing B. the r and p ashlar and the celestial and terrestrial globes pointing out M.U.

As regards the wording of the document, you will observe, in the left panel, a declaration in English, and in the right panel, a translation of it into Latin, to which it may concern, that the Brother referred to in the Text has been regularly received into our Order. Not only is the date of his initiation and raising recorded Anno Domini, but also Anno Lucis, or the year of Masonic Light, which preceded the Christian Era by four millenaries.

In testimony that the Brother's name has been registered in the Books of G.L., our V.W. Bro. the G. Sec. Sir Philip Colville Smith has subscribed his name and affixed the Seal of G.L. On this seal, if you examine it closely, you will see ^{The Latin words Audi, Veda, Tace. To hear, to see + remain silent.} certain Hebrew characters. They are "Kodesh Lo Adonai," meaning "Holiness to the Lord."

A final clause states that possession of this certificate does not entitle a Brother to admission into any Lodge without due examination. Neither, it should be noted, does examination alone give entrance without production of this Voucher - should it be demanded. To the Brother to whom it is issued, this parchment therefore, is of unique value. It testifies that G.L. considers the foundation stone, placed in the N.E. corner of the L (not many months ago) was well and

truly laid; it is a means of Masonic identification, a proof of membership in case of accident or unforeseen calamity, a passport when visiting a foreign Lodge, where the signs differ from our own, and even as no L is "regular" without the production of the Warrant entrusted to its Master, so should no individual Mason omit to take his certificate with him when attending any special Masonic assembly.

Bro. ----- your certificate, at present, is incomplete. You are required to add your usual autograph in the margin, and from that signature there must be no subsequent deviation. This you will now do in the N of the L at our W. Bro. Sec's table.

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Chain.

The brethren should come out and stand round the room as far as numbers and space permit.

They should stand with opened arms ,(you know).

Standing thus the W.M. should say the following.

(1),Brethren,we form a living chain & circle and we now receive our Bro Initiate into the living circle of our hearts & Freemasonry. Our arms are opened symbolically to receive him into our hearts.

(2)Our arms are extended to the brother on either side of us, We thus show that we are to protect our brother in every lawful and possible way.

(3)Our arms and hands go beyond our immediate brothersto those further away, symbolically that our Masonry should not only benefit and keep our brothers in Masonry but those outside in the popular world. That is, that we are to let the world benefit and see by our conduct that we are acting as Masons and gentlemen.

(4)The chain formed is as you will see is a double chain, If one brother drops out ,resigns,or dies the chain is still unbroken, and another steps in to take the place of the missing brother. Note, here it is rather effective to have someone handy to step into the ~~place~~ place vacated.

(5)Chains and ropes of all kinds are tested before use to show that they are fit for service. This chain is tested by the brethren swinging very slightly & gently (not at all roughly) to symbolise the testing of the chain, and its elastic behaviour. Whilst this is being done the chain should ~~be~~ never be broken, nor should the brethren consider this merely a bit of rough play.

Bro. you having now taken the three degrees of Craft Masonry, I have much pleasure in presenting to you in open Lodge your Certificate from the United Grand Lodge of England.

This Certificate which is known as the "Pillars Certificate" was first issued in the year 1819, six years after the solemn act of Union between the two Gr. Lodges of Free Masons of England in December 1813 by which the United Gr. Lodge of England was formed.

Please examine it while I explain the symbols and wording it contains.

This document is always surmounted by the "Arms" of the Most Wor. Gr. Master, this Certificate bears the "Arms" of His Grace the ^{The Honourable} Duke of Devonshire-K.G. our present M. Wor. Gr. M. You will observe that the main design is dominated by three Pillars, (hence the name Pillars Certificate). The central Pillar is of the Ionic Order symbolising Wisdom and alludes to the Wisdom of S.K. of I. in building, completing and dedicating the Temple of Jerusalem to the service of the G.A.O.T.U. That on the left is the Doric Order denoting "Strength" and alludes to the Strength of H.K. of T. in supporting K.S. with men and materials. That on the right is of the Corinthian Order signifying "Beauty" and refers to H. A.B. whose exquisite skill and Craftmanship in adorning the Temple was the wonder of all beholders.

These three Pillars rest on the White and Black flooring of the Lodge, symbolising light and darkness on the joys and sorrows of our chequered existence.

You will notice on the floor of the Lodge the three great emblematical lights in Free Masonry the V. of the S.L, the S, and the C, also the three W.Ts. which play such an important part in the Ceremony of the 3rd Degree, the Rough and Perfect As. representing the unskilled Entered Apprentice and the skilled M.M. also the Celestial and Terrestrial globes pointing out Masonry Universal.

With regard to the wording on the document you will notice in

Left Hand panel a declaration

translation of the same into Latin:- "To All Whom It May Concern" that the Bro. whose name is mentioned in the text has been regularly initiated into our Order, the date of that initiation you will note is not given Anno Domini but Anno Lucius, or the year of Masonic Light which preceded the Christian ~~year~~^{era} by four ~~millennaries~~^{centuries}, it further states that the Bro. has been regularly advanced to the second and third Degrees, and has been duly registered in the Books of Gr. Lodge. In testimony thereof our ~~Gr. Sec.~~^{V. R. Wor. Willred J. Stubbs} Bro. Sidney A. White has subscribed his name and impressed the seal of Gr. Lodge, the date on which the document was signed and sealed, you will note, is given Anno Lucius and also Anno Domini. If you ^A examine that seal closely you will find on it the Latin words Audi, Vide, Tace that excellent maxim of the Craft which exhorts a Bro. to hear, to see and remain silent.

A final clause states that the possession of this Certificate does not entitle a Bro. to admission into any Lodge without examination, neither, it should be stated, does examination alone entitle a Bro. to admission without the production of this voucher should it be demanded.

To the Bro. to whom this Certificate is granted, it is therefore of unique value.

It testifies that Gr. Lodge considers that the foundation stone^{laid} in the N.E. part of the Lodge a few months ago was well and truly laid, it is a means of Masonic identification; a proof of membership in the case of unforeseen calamity or misfortune; it is a passport when visiting a Lodge in a Foreign Country where the signs differ somewhat from our own, and even as no Lodge is regular without the production of the Warrant entrusted to its Master, so every individual Mason should be able to produce his Gr. Lodge Certificate for examination, if demanded, when visiting any special Masonic Function.

But Bro. your Certificate at present is incomplete, it is necessary that you sign the document in the margin provided, and from that signature there must be no subsequent deviation.

You will therefore proceed to the Secretary's table and sign your Certificate in the present of the Brethren here in open Lodge Assembled.

Address on Presentation of Grand Lodge Certificates.

BrotherHaving passed through the three degrees of Craft Masonry, I have much pleasure in presenting you in open Lodge, the Certificate which is granted by Grand Lodge to a Brother who has been made a Mason.

The first systematic granting of these diplomas dates back to the reign of George II. By order of the Quarterly Communication, 24th July 1755, a copper plate was ordered to be engraved for printing the certificate to be granted to a Brother on his being made a Mason. The die was cut and the engine made for setting same.

For upwards of half a century, these certificates vary in size and style. The present Parchment dates from the year 1819, and is known as the "Pillars" Certificate - please examine it whilst I explain its meaning. - Because our M.W. Grand Master is a Prince of the - "Blood Royal" - the document is surmounted with the "Royal Arms".

You will notice that the central panel in the design is divided by a column which is of the Ionic order, which signifies "Wisdom the Wisdom of S.K. of I., in building, completing and dedicating the Temple at Jerusalem to the service of the G.A. Flanking the central column are two others, that on the left is of the Doric order which denotes "Strength"; the Strength of H.K. of T., in supporting K.S., with men and material. That on the right is of the Corinthian order, which means "Beauty", referring as it does to H.A.F. and his exquisite skill and workmanship in adorning the Temple.

I
These three pillars rest on the white and black floor of the Lodge symbolising light and darkness, the joys and sorrows of our chequered existence.

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~~There will also be found on the floor of L. the three great emblematic lights in Freemasonry - the V. of S.L., the S., and the C. The V.L. - a guide to our faith; the S. - to regulate our life and actions; the C. - to keep us within due bounds with all mankind, particularly our Brethren in F. There will also be found the W.Ts of the three degrees, the Traffic board, the Rough and Perfect A's, representing the ignorant and skilled M.M., the celestial and Terrestrial globes, pointing on Masonry universal. also~~

~~unskilled and unskilled~~
With regard to the wording, in the left panel, there is a declaration in English and in the panel on the right a translation into Latin: "To All Whom It May Concern." The Brother referred to in the text has been regularly received in our order; not only is the date of his admission and his entry into the Third degree recorded Anno Domini, but also anno lusius the year of Maxonic light which preceded the Christian era by four millenarities. In testimony thereof that the Brother's name has been recorded in the annals of Grand Lodge, our Very Worshipful Grand Secretary, Bro. Sir Colville Smith, has subscribed his name and affixed the seal of Grand Lodge.

x Four thousand years
pertaining to the Millenium.

Sidney A. White M.V.O.

If you examine that seal you will find that it contains in Latin, that excellent maxim of the craft which exhorts a Brother to see, to hear and remain silent.

A final clause states that the possession of this Certificate does not give a Brother admission into any Lodge without due examination, Neither, it should be added, does examination alone give entry without the production of this voucher should it be demanded. To the Brother to whom this Certificate is granted. It is, therefore, of unique value. xFound-
It testifies that Grand Lodge considers that ^{the} F.-S. laid in the ation
N.E. part of the Lodge a few months ago, has been well and truly Stone
laid; it is a means of Masonic identification; a proof of
membership in the case of ~~an~~ unforeseen calamity or misfortune;
it is a passport when visiting a Foreign Lodge where the
signs differ somewhat from our own; and even as no L. is regular
without the Warrant entrusted to its Master, so ought no individual
Mason neglect to take with him his Certificate when attending any
Special Masonry Function.

But Brother.....your Certificate as it is, is incomplete. Grand Lodge requires you to affix your usual autograph in the margin, from which there must be no subsequent deviation.

You will, therefore, proceed to the N.E. part of the Lodge to our ~~Worshipful~~ Bro. Secretary, table and sign your name in the presence of the Brethren.

~~Brother.....I congratulate you.~~

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