

AND HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASTONS OF ENGLAND

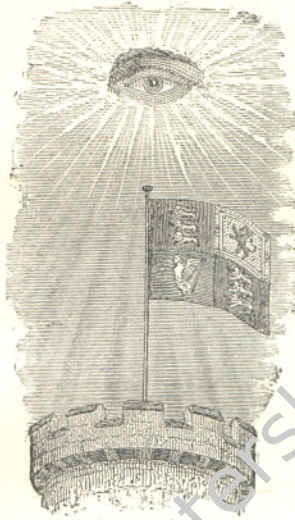
BY-LAWS, CUSTOMS, AND REGULATIONS.

FOR THE
ROYAL STANDARD
LODGE

MDCCLXXX.

AS REVISED SEPTEMBER, MDCCXLVII.

Copyright Worcestershire Masonic Library and Museum Trust



BY-LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

ROYAL STANDARD

LODGE

OF

FREEMASONS,

DCCXXX.

AS REVISED, SEPTEMBER, MDCCCXLVII.

WINDERMERE :

PRINTED BY G. FOWLER, A. B. I. O. N. OFFICE, HIGH-STREET.

MDCCLXVII.

Copyright Worcestershire Masonic
Library and Museum Trust

FIRST OFFICERS,

1844-5.

BROTHER JOHN SIMPSON	W.M.
BROTHER T. C. RODEN	S.W.
BROTHER JAMES HEATON	J.W.
BROTHER REV. C. ECKERSALL, A.M.	CHAPLAIN.
BROTHER CHARLES COLLINS	TREASURER.
BROTHER WILLIAM RODEN, M.D.	SECRETARY.
BROTHER THOMAS E. CRANE	S.D.
BROTHER C. H. SAUNDERS	J.D.
BROTHER W. G. HALLEN	M.C.
BROTHER C. L. LUCY	I.G.
BROTHER W. E. HASEL	STEWARDS.
BROTHER ALLEN BROOKS	TYLER.

OFFICERS,

1845-6.

BROTHER ROBEY, M.D.	W.M. & T.
BROTHER JOHN SIMPSON	P.M.
BROTHER W. G. HALLEN	S.W.
BROTHER JOHN SAUNDERS	J.W.
BROTHER REV. C. ECKERSALL, A.M.	CHAPLAIN.
BROTHER C. H. SAUNDERS	SECRETARY.
BROTHER CRANE	S.D.
BROTHER GREENWOOD	J.D.
BROTHER ALEX	M.C.
BROTHER WILKS	I.G.
BROTHER COLERICK	STEWARDS.
BROTHER CASWELL	TYLER.

OFFICERS,

1846-7.

BROTHER COLERICK, P.M., 523,	W.M.
BROTHER RODEN, M.D.,	P.M.
BROTHER MARSHALL, Mus. D., R.A., S.W.	
BROTHER MICKLEWRIGHT	J.W.
BROTHER ECKERSALL, A.M.,	CHAIRMAN.
BROTHER SIMPSON, P.M.,	TREASURER.
BROTHER CASWELL, P.M., 523,	SECRETARY.
BROTHER YEATES	S.D.
BROTHER GRANGER	J.D.
BROTHER WOOLCOTT	M.C.
BROTHER BOYCOT	I.G.
BROTHER HASELL, R.A.,	STEWARD.
BROTHER TAYLOR	TYLER.

OFFICERS,

1847-8.

BROTHER MARSHALL, Mus. D., R.A., W.M.	
BROTHER COLERICK	P.M.
BROTHER THOMAS HALLEN	S.W.
BROTHER YEATES	J.W.
BROTHER SIMPSON, P.M. & P.G.R., ..	TREASURER.
BROTHER HODGES	SECRETARY.
BROTHER GRANGER	S.D.
BROTHER BOYCOT	J.D.
BROTHER CASWELL, P.M., 523,	M.C.
BROTHER R. P. HUNT	I.G.
BROTHER HASELL, R.A.,	STEWARD.
BROTHER TAYLOR	TYLER.

OFFICERS,

1848-9.

W.M.
 P.M.
 S.W.
 J.W.
 CHAPLAIN.
 TREASURER.
 SECRETARY.
 S.D.
 J.D.
 M.C.
 I.G.
 STEWARD.
 TYLER.

OFFICERS,

1849-50.

W.M.
 P.M.
 S.W.
 J.W.
 CHAPLAIN.
 TREASURER.
 SECRETARY.
 S.D.
 J.D.
 M.C.
 I.G.
 STEWARD.
 TYLER.

OFFICERS,

1850-1.

W.M.
P.M.
S.W.
J.W.
CHAPLAIN.
TREASURER.
SECRETARY.
S.D.
J.D.
M.C.
I.G.
STEWARD.
TYLER.

OFFICERS,

1851-2.

W.M.
P.M.
S.W.
J.W.
CHAPLAIN.
TREASURER.
SECRETARY.
S.D.
J.D.
M.C.
I.G.
STEWARD.
TYLER.

OFFICERS,

1852-3.

W.M.
 P.M.
 S.W.
 J.W.
 CHAPLAIN.
 TREASURER.
 SECRETARY.
 S.D.
 J.D.
 M.C.
 I.G.
 STEWARD.
 TYLER.

OFFICERS,

1853-4.

W.M.
 P.M.
 S.W.
 J.W.
 CHAPLAIN.
 TREASURER.
 SECRETARY.
 S.D.
 J.D.
 M.C.
 I.G.
 STEWARD.
 TYLER.

REFERENCE

TO

BY-LAWS.

	By-Laws.
Former Laws rescinded	I.
Meetings	II.
Special Summons	III.
Election of Master, &c.	IV.
Attendance of Officers	V.
Dress	VI.
Proposition of Candidates	VII.
Joining Members	VIII.
Honorary Members	IX.
Initiation Fee	X.
Annual Contribution	XI.
Returns to Grand Lodges	XII.
Finance Committee	XIII.
Annual Festival	XIV, XV.
Ordinary Lodge Suppers	XVI.
Visiting Fees	XVII.
Voting	XVIII.
Lodge Property Vested	XIX.
Insurance	XX.
Donations	XXI.
Charity	XXII, XXIII, XXIV
Lodge Decorum	XXV, XXVI, XXVI
Masonic Fidelity	XXVIII.
Resignation	XXIX.
Library	XXX.
Fines	XXXI.
By-Laws	XXXII.

BY-LAWS.

1. All by-laws, rules, and regulations, which have been made heretofore, for the government of this lodge, are hereby repealed, annulled, and made void.

2. The regular meetings of this lodge shall be held on the second Wednesday in every month, at such hour in the evening as the master in his discretion may decide. Lodges of emergency may also be convened by the master whenever the interest of the lodge or other circumstances render it necessary.

3. Five brethren in rotation from the secretary's list (exclusive of the master and his wardens) shall be specially summoned to attend every meeting of the lodge, in order to secure the punctual despatch of masonic business. Every brother so summoned failing to be present at the hour named in the summons, or to send another in his stead, unless in the case of brethren unavoidably absent from town, shall be fined five shillings to the funds of the lodge.

4. The master, treasurer, and tyler shall be annually elected by ballot at the lodge meeting previous to the festival of St. John the Baptist, on which festival the master elect shall be regularly installed. He shall then appoint his wardens and the other officers, including, if possible, a chaplain, master of the ceremonies, and steward.

5. The officers shall on all occasions, on their masonic allegiance, punctually attend to their respective duties at the hour named in the summons; and if any or either of them shall fail to be present in lodge (unless prevented by illness or other unavoidable cause of which they shall apprise the master in writing) within half an hour after the time specified therein, they shall be fined to the funds of the lodge as

follows; the master and wardens, two shillings, and the other officers, one shilling each. These fines shall be strictly enforced, and if not immediately paid shall be entered against the brother so fined, and if not discharged in three months from the date of the fine, the brother shall be considered in arrear, and shall forfeit his office.

6. No brother shall be admitted into this lodge unless he appears in evening dress, with white or black neckcloth, white gloves, and full masonic costume according to his rank in craft masonry. The tyler, however, may admit visitors who are not acquainted with this regulation.

7. Every proposal of a candidate for freemasonry shall, as a general rule, be made in open lodge, and on the proposition being seconded, the proposer shall deliver to the secretary in writing, the name, age, addition or profession, and residence of the candidate; and shall at the same time deposit with the master the sum of one guinea as a proposition fee, which shall be considered part of the initiation fee. The ballot shall take place at the next ensuing lodge, when if elected, the candidate may be initiated into the first degree; but if one negative

appear, he shall not be admitted, but the proposition fee shall be immediately returned, and such candidate shall not be eligible to be proposed again before the expiration of six months from the date of such ballot. If the candidate neglect to present himself for initiation within three months after his election, the proposition fee shall be forfeited to the lodge fund, unless cause be shown for the delay satisfactory to the lodge.

NOTE.—In cases of emergency, however, the following mode of proposing a candidate is allowed. Any two members (not in arrear) may propose a gentleman in writing to the master, stating the name, age, &c., as above, and the nature of the emergency; and if the emergency be proper, the master may cause the lodge to be summoned at seven days' notice to ballot for the candidate, when if elected, he may be initiated into the first degree—the candidate's name, &c. having been duly circulated in the summonses convening the meeting.

8. Every proposal for the admission of a brother as a member of this lodge, shall be made in open lodge, and the same proceedings observed as in the proposition of candidates for initiation. The proposer shall pay to the

treasurer a joining fee of one guinea, and three shillings and sixpence to the master, the register fees to the grand and provincial grand lodges. But should the brother have advanced only to the first or second degree, the joining fee shall be two guineas, which shall entitle him to be passed, or raised, or both, without further charge. The mode of admission as laid down in the book of constitutions shall be fully acted upon; but no brother shall be permitted to join or visit this lodge if it be known that he is in arrear with another.

9. This lodge may admit as honorary members, brethren of distinction, or such as may have conferred lasting benefits upon freemasonry. But such members shall not exercise the privilege of voting upon any question or subject whatever.

10. The fee to be paid on initiation into masonry in this lodge shall be four pounds, five shillings, which shall include registering fee and certificate, also the register fee to the provincial grand lodge. Three guineas of the above fee shall be paid at once to the treasurer, to be carried to the lodge fund, and the remaining twenty-two shillings shall be held by the master, and paid over by him in due course

to the grand and provincial grand lodges.

11. The contribution to this lodge shall be twenty shillings per annum, to be paid in advance on the festival of St. John the Baptist, or at latest by the September lodge following; and every newly initiated brother shall pay in the like proportion from the time of his admission, within three months of the date thereof. The annual contribution shall include dues payable to the grand and provincial grand lodges, which dues shall be held by the master, and the remaining portion of the contribution shall be paid to the treasurer to meet the various incidental expenses of the lodge. Should any member fail to pay his annual contribution by the September lodge, or in the case of a newly made brother, his proportion thereof, by the expiration of three months from his initiation, every such member shall be considered in arrear, and shall have notice from the treasurer requesting payment, and in case he do not comply with the demand on or before the December lodge, his name shall be erased from the list of members.

12. The returns and payments to the grand lodge, together with the return of the master, wardens, and past masters claiming to be

entitled to attend in grand lodge, shall be made annually in the month of July, after the installation of the master, who shall on no account hinder the cause of charity by neglecting this important trust. The returns shall be made up to midsummer in each year, and similar returns shall be regularly and punctually made to the provincial grand lodge, in conformity with its by-laws, for which the master shall also be held responsible.

13. A finance committee consisting of the brethren in office and the past masters, any three of whom shall form a quorum, shall meet annually in June between the regular lodge in that month and the day of installation, to investigate the receipts and disbursements, take an inventory of the jewels, furniture, and effects, and generally to consider the affairs of the lodge, making a report thereof in writing to the next regular lodge.

14. This lodge shall annually celebrate the festival of St. John the Baptist, on which occasion the brethren shall meet at four o'clock, (or earlier if necessary) for the installation of the master elect and the appointment of the officers, and dine together at five. Any member absenting himself on this occasion, shall be

fined half-a-crown to the funds of the lodge, unless at the next meeting he can shew cause to the satisfaction of the brethren present, why he should be exempt from the fine.

15. The dinner shall be provided under the direction of the steward, (additional stewards may be appointed if considered necessary) who shall issue invitations to the members at least seven days before the day appointed for holding the festival, to whom for his guidance, the members shall reply in writing, at least four days before the intended festival. Members neglecting to respond to the invitations in accordance with this regulation, to be considered assenting parties and pay their share of the day's expences.

16. A lodge supper may also be provided by the steward, whenever the lodge or master may think it requisite and proper, for which every member present shall pay his share of the cost thereof, according to the steward's bill. When supper is ordered to be provided, the secretary shall give notice thereof in the summonses, and if any brother's engagements prevent him partaking of the same, he shall notify the circumstance in writing to the steward, two days at least before the meeting, otherwise refresh-

ment will be provided for which he will be required to pay his share.

17. The visiting fee to an evening lodge, if the brother partake of refreshment, shall be three shillings, and to a dinner lodge, half a guinea, which shall include a bottle of wine, dessert, and attendance. But members of the craft residing in or near this province may be entertained on a first visit to an evening lodge without payment of the fee. The master also shall have the privilege of introducing one brother each evening without liability to the visiting fee; but no visitor shall be admitted except in conformity with the regulations contained in the book of constitutions, nor shall he interfere with the business of the lodge without special permission from the chair.

18. The majority of the votes of the members present shall decide all motions, except in those cases which are specially provided for by these by-laws or the general laws of the craft. And if on any question the number of votes shall happen to be equal, the master or brother occupying the chair, shall decide by his casting vote, or he may order another ballot or show of hands (as the case may be) at his discretion; but in the event of an equality of

votes appearing on a second show of hands or ballot, it shall be imperative on the master in the chair to give a casting vote. No member shall be qualified to vote on any question or fill any office in the lodge who is in arrear.

19. The warrant of constitution, furniture, jewels, and all other the property of this lodge, shall be at all times vested in the master and wardens for the time being, in trust for themselves and those members who are not in arrear. The occupier of the house in which the lodge is held shall yearly upon the appointment of the master, sign the inventory thereof, declaring the same to be the sole property of the lodge and subject to the control of the master and wardens, who shall attest the said signature.

20. The furniture and other effects of this lodge shall be insured in one of the public offices to the amount of one hundred pounds, by the treasurer for the time being, as trustee for the lodge.

21. Every donation made to this lodge, shall be recorded in the minute book, with the name of the donor from whom such benevolence flowed, as a memento of his esteem

for masonry in general, and of this lodge in particular.

22. A charity box shall be kept in the lodge for the reception of casual donations. The key shall be kept by the master, who shall occasionally announce its contents in open lodge.

23. This lodge shall subscribe one guinea annually to the following charitable institutions; viz.—the Aged and Decayed Freemasons' Asylum, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Annuity Fund, and the Kidderminster Dispensary. The master for the time being shall exercise any privilege there may be of voting in the affairs of the said charities, but the tickets in the case of the Kidderminster Dispensary shall be divided and held for distribution by the wardens.

24. A relieving officer shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to carefully examine such poor and distressed masons as may apply for assistance, and if he find them to the best of his belief to be worthy, he may relieve them in a sum according to the merits of the case, not exceeding three shillings. But he shall be particularly cautious how he

relieves mere itinerant adventurers who it is to be feared frequently apply in the character of distressed masons, and thus abuse masonic benevolence.

25. A profound silence shall be observed at all times on the usual notice given by the master. Any brother introducing immoral discourse, starting religious or political disputes, holding private committees or separate conversations, proposing wagers, interrupting a brother whilst speaking, not standing while he addresses the chair, or committing any other irregularity, shall be fined for a first offence, half-a-crown, and for a second, shall be subject to any censure or punishment the majority of the members present may think fit to impose.

26. When a brother has a proposition to make, he shall rise and with due respect address himself to the chair, in which he shall not be interrupted unless he be wandering from the subject, when he shall be called to order by the master, after which he may again proceed if he observe due order and decorum. Should more than one brother rise at the same time, the master shall declare which he will hear first. No brother shall

speak more than once on the same subject, unless to reply, or in explanation by leave of the chair, and not longer than ten minutes on any occasion.

27. All brethren shall keep their seats during lodge hours, except the deacons, the master of the ceremonies, and the steward, who are allowed to move from place to place in the discharge of their respective duties. No brother, unless by permission of the chair, shall leave the lodge whilst any ceremony, discussion, or other important business is engaging its attention, under a fine of one shilling for each offence; and the inner guard shall be liable to the same fine for admitting brethren under such circumstances, unless by the order of the master.

28. Fidelity being the chief bond of connection among masons, a mutual confidence should be the natural cement to connect and support that bond; any member therefore who shall divulge, *out of the lodge, to any one not a member thereof*, the subject of any discussion or transaction which may have taken place in it shall be liable on proof being adduced, to be excluded; and such exclusion shall be reported to the grand lodge.

29. Any member wishing to withdraw from this lodge, shall give notice of his intention either personally in open lodge, or in writing to the master; and on discharging all arrears to the date of such resignation, he shall cease to be a member. But if a member fails to signify his intention on or before the lodge meeting in June, he shall be considered liable to pay his contribution for the following year.

30. A library shall be established in connection with this lodge for the circulation of such books as shall further the knowledge of the principles of freemasonry, and for the cultivation of the arts and sciences and masonic literature generally. All books to be ordered by a regular vote of the lodge, according as the funds may from time to time allow, and circulated under rules and regulations to be made by the lodge for that purpose.

31. All fines levied in the lodge shall be appropriated to the lodge funds, and if not at once discharged, shall be entered by the treasurer against the brother so fined. The list of fines, if any, shall be read by the treasurer every regular lodge night, and any brother allowing a fine to remain unpaid at the expiration of three months from the date thereof,

shall be held to be in arrear.

32. No alteration of, nor addition to, these by-laws shall be made unless by motion in open lodge. If the motion is seconded, a copy thereof shall be circulated in the next summons, and the question shall be decided at the next lodge by a majority of the members then present.

Copyright Worcestershire Masonic
Library and Museum Trust

RULES AND REGULATIONS

TO BE SPECIALLY OBSERVED

BY THE

OFFICERS.

THE MASTER AND WARDENS

Shall regularly and punctually attend to the duties of this lodge, and those of the provincial grand lodge when summoned thereto, unless prevented by urgent and unavoidable causes; and shall do all in their power to maintain the honour and dignity of freemasonry in general and of this lodge in particular. The master shall also see that the annual returns to the grand and provincial grand lodges be made in strict conformity with the book of constitutions and the by-laws of the provincial grand lodge, and shall be held responsible for the regular and correct transmission of all dues received by him on account thereof.

THE TREASURER

Shall receive the monies of the lodge, and make such payments as shall be voted by the lodge or vouched by the master. He shall keep proper books in which the receipts and disbursements shall be duly entered, and render a statement of account to the members in open lodge, at least once a quarter. He shall attend the finance committee in June with his books properly balanced, pay over the amount in hand to the treasurer elect, and apply to members in arrear for payment of the same. He shall keep a separate account of all fees and contributions received by the W.M. and payable to the grand and provincial grand lodges, the receipt of which shall be acknowledged by the W.M. opposite each entry.

THE SECRETARY

Shall issue a summons to every member at least four days before the regular meetings, in which he shall state the business to be transacted, together with the name, addition or profession, and place of abode of candidates to be ballotted for, initiated, passed or raised. He may convene lodges of emergency at a shorter notice; but if a candidate is to be ballotted for at such lodge of emergency, then

at least seven days' notice must be given. He shall record the proceedings of the lodge in the proper minute book, be punctual in his attendance to read the same at the opening of the lodge, and generally observe the instructions of the master.

THE DEACONS

Shall be regular and punctual in their attendance in order that their duties may nowise be neglected, nor the master and wardens inconvenienced. If either of them should be unavoidably absent, he shall provide the punctual attendance of a brother qualified to perform the duties of the office in his stead.

THE MASTER OF THE CEREMONIES

Shall be punctual in his attendance to give out the jewels, see the brethren properly clothed, and conduct them to their seat in lodge according to their masonic rank. He shall superintend the order and regularity of the ceremonies, collect the jewels after the lodge is closed, and see that the brethren observe the same masonic order at refreshment as during lodge hours.

THE INNER GUARD

Shall be punctual within the entrance of the

lodge, and see that candidates are not admitted unless properly prepared. He shall on no account admit any brother during a ceremony, or whilst the attention of the lodge is engaged by important business, (unless by the express permission of the master) and shall be obedient to the commands of the master and junior warden.

THE STEWARD

Shall be punctual in his attendance to introduce visitors, and see that they are comfortably accommodated, collect the dues and contributions and hand them to the treasurer, and generally assist the deacons and other officers in the performance of their respective duties. He shall see the table properly furnished at refreshment, perform the duties specified in by-laws 15 and 16, be prepared with a correct bill of his expenditure for presentation at every meeting before the brethren depart, and shall regulate his outlay by the instructions of the master.

THE TYLER

Shall carefully deliver the summonses and diligently guard the door and avenues to the lodge during the hours of labour, take care of and keep in good order the furniture of the

lodge, and be punctual in his attendance at every meeting to set out the same before the members assemble. He shall see that every brother before he enters the lodge is clothed in accordance with by-law 6, that he sign his name in the tyling book, and that visitors do the like, adding the number of their lodge. He shall also act as server at refreshment, and be paid two shillings or whatever sum the lodge may agree upon, every time he faithfully performs these duties.

These rules and regulations shall be fairly written in the by-law book, and signed annually by the officers on the day of installation,—the following heading being first written and dated on the occasion of every annual appointment—
 “We, the undersigned officers of the Royal Standard Lodge do agree, each for himself, faithfully to observe the foregoing rules and regulations, as far as they relate to our individual offices, to the best of our skill and ability.”

These by-laws, rules, and regulations, shall be read in open lodge by the secretary, whenever the master shall desire, but not less than twice in every year.