

ONE OF THE FIRST FREEMASONS

ELIAS ASHMOLE (1617-1692).

One of the most learned antiquarians of his day. He was a Royalist during the Civil War
In 1672 he published an exhaustive history of the Order of the Garter
In 1677 he bequeathed a collection of rareties to Oxford University which became the famous Ashmolean Museum.



Elias Ashmole F.R.S., (1617-1692)

His diary states that he was made a Freemason at 4.30 on Oct 16th 1676 at Warrington with Henry Mainwaring. It is interesting to note that whilst Ashmole was a Royalist Mainwaring was a Parliamentarian.

His diary has therefore earned him the name of "the first Speculative English Freemason"

Not a single operative mason was present on that occasion. It was exclusively a speculative lodge

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