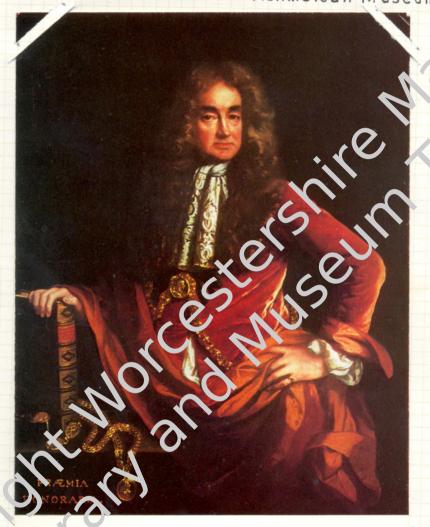
ONE OF THE FIRST FREEMASONS

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)

Minimary 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 Ash mole was a Royalist Mainwaring was a Parliamentarian.

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

Nota single operative mason was present on that occasion. It was exclusively a speculative loage