

Explanation of the Certificate.

For more than a century and a half certificates have been given to English Masons; And on your attaining the Degree of a Master Mason, you are entitled to receive a certificate issued by our G. L. of the United G. L. of England.

Such certificates have varied in size and style, The design of this parchment dates from the year 1819. It is known as the Pillars Certificate.

I have very much pleasure in presenting your certificate to you in open Lodge. (hands it) Please examine it and I will explain its meaning.

Our D. W. G. M. being a Prince of Blood Royal, 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 K. S. in building, completing, and dedicating the Temple of Jerusalem to the service of the G. A. & the Universe.

Flanking the central Pillar, are two others, That on the left is of the Doric Order which denotes Strength, and alludes to the strength of H. K. of I., in supportin K. S., with men and

Materials. That on the right is of the Corinthian order, meaning beauty, it refers us to H-A-, whose beautiful work in adorning the Temple was the admiration of all beholders.

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

On the floor are the three great emblematical lights in Freemasonry, the V. of the S-L-, the Square and the compasses. You will observe also the working Tools of the Degrees, the Tracing board, the rough and perfect Ashlars, and the celestial, and terrestrial, Globes, pointing out Masonry universal.

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 all whom it may concern, that the Brother referred to in the list, has been regularly received into our Order. Not only is the date of his Initiation, and Raising, recorded Anno Domini, but Anno Lucis, or the year of Masonic Light, which preceded the Christian era by four Millenaries.

In testimony that your name has been registered in the books of G-L-, our W Bro the G-Secretary "Solville Smith", has subscribed his name and affixed the Seal of G-L-.

A final clause states that the possession of this certificate, does not entitle a Bro 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 Bro, to whom it is issued, this parchment, therefore is of unique value. It testifies that G-L- considers the foundation stone, placed in N-E-, corner of the Lodge, 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 Lodge 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 A. B.

Your certificate at

present is not complete, you are required to add your usual Autograph in the margin; and from that signature there must be no subsequent deviation.

This you will do in the N. - of the Lodge at the Secretary's table.

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