

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 it). 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 whom 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 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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