

MASONIC REFERENCE

Abraham - The founder of the Hebrew nation.

Adverse Ballot - In case the ballot on a petition for the degrees or for affiliation is adverse, the Master may, if he so desires, spread the ballot again to make certain no error occurred. In so doing, he should state his reason for the second spreading. The ballot shall not be spread a third time; see Section 2011. Section 2013 should also be consulted. In case a ballot is adverse the Master will do well to read Section 2014 to the brethren.

Affinity - Relationship in spirit or kind.

Alimentary - Pertaining to the digestive tract.

Allegorical - An allegory is a story told through symbols, or an idea so expressed.

Ancient - Old, time-honored.

Anoint - To apply oil to, or pour oil on, particularly holy oil as a sign of elevation to kingship or consecration to priesthood. Hence, "anointed," one accepted by the Lord, as "The Lord's anointed."

Ante-room - Improperly applied to the Tyler's room or to the preparation room. Do not use this term.

Apartments - Rooms; not compartments, a word which is not applied to buildings.

Appurtenances - things, which pertain to a thing or office.

Apron - The badge of a Mason. Originally among priesthoods as a badge of office and a means of ornamentation. The Masonic apron should be white lambskin, fourteen inches wide and twelve inches deep. It should be presented to the candidate at his initiation and not at some subsequent time. No substitute should be used.

Architect - One who designs buildings.

Architecture - The art or science of building.

Archives - A place for the safe keeping of records; the records themselves.

Artificer - A craftsman or skilled laborer.

Arts - Branches of learning, as in the lecture of the F.C. degree. In E.A. degree: skills.

Ashlar - a block of stone from which a column, capital, or other finished product is carved or hewn.

Assiduity - Diligence.

Assiduously - Devotedly, attentively.

Atrocity - Evil nature, revolting character of an act; the act itself.

Avouchment - (see vouching)

August - Majestic, noble, dignified. Applied generally to occasions and positions, occasionally to people, as "an august personage".

Auspicious - Favorable, having a suggestion of happy outcome.

Ballot for degrees or affiliation - When a ballot for the degrees or for affiliation is taken, all members of a Lodge who are in the room must vote, unless excused by the unanimous consent of the brethren. The phraseology in Section 2012 would seem to indicate that members outside the lodge room were not "present at (the) balloting," and cannot be compelled to enter the Lodge and vote. No law exists governing the practice of having the Tyler vote, when he is a member of the Lodge. Some Lodges do not have him vote. Some invite him in to do so, replacing him, for the time being, by some other brother. The practice is at the discretion of the Master and should be in accord with the desires of the Tyler. But in any given year it should be consistent. Good Masonic practice suggests that none be permitted to enter or leave the Lodge during the taking of a ballot. A brother present in the room when the balloting starts, must vote; see W.M.C. After balloting begins, alarms at the door are generally ignored until the result is announced. See *adverse ballot,* *closing ballot.*

Barbarous - Ruthless, having the character of a barbarian or savage.

Beneficent - Doing or producing good.

Benevolence - Well wishing, desire to help.

Brethren - The term is used in speaking of Masons, and in this connection is preferable to "brothers."

Callimachus - A Greek architect of the 5th century B.C. The reputed inventor of the Corinthian column.

Canopy - A tent-like covering. "Canopy of heaven", the sky.

Casualty - Accident, chance event.

Celestial - heavenly.

Chapters - the ornamental tops or capitals of pillars. This form of the word is no longer in common use. Do not confuse with *chapters*.

Charter - A document setting forth a set of granted rights and privileges given by the Grand Lodge to the constituent Lodge at the time of constitution. The Master is its custodian, and must see to its security at all times. The charter must be in the Lodge room during all communications of the Lodge, preferably in the Master's charge, but it may be on the Secretary's desk, or in the archives of the Lodge. It should not be framed to hang on the wall. The request of a visitor to inspect the charter may be granted or refused. Should the charter be lost or destroyed, the Grand Master or Grand Secretary should be notified at once. Pending the issuing of a duplicate charter, a permission or dispensation to continue work should be obtained from the Grand Master.

Chasten - To correct by discipline.

Circumambulation - A walking around. The movement is in imitation of the apparent course of the sun, and so is in the form of an ellipse. After the obligation the Senior Deacon with the candidate should make all turns square.

Circumscribed - Literally encircle; hence limited.

Circumspection - Adaption to place and conditions.

Clandestine - Not regular.

Clefts - Openings, narrow passages, fissures.

Closing Ballot - A ballot on petition or for election of officers cannot be re-opened once inspection or count has begun.

Commemoration - A service in memory of a person or event, or for the purpose of recalling the virtues of a person, or the significance of a person or event.

Compasses - This plural is the form preferred in speaking of the instrument; and is the one we used Masonically.

Competency - Fullness, a sufficient amount of anything, as of wisdom, sometimes applied to material things, as money.

Contemplative - Thoughtful.

Cornice - The ornamented slab placed above the capital of a pillar, and extending beyond it.

Corporeal - Pertaining to the material body. Do not pronounce as *corporal*.

Countenancing - Giving approval to.

Cowans - Profanes, pretenders, intruders, particularly those seeking to obtain the secrets of Masonry unlawfully.

Degree - The lecture of each of the first two degrees must be given immediately after the reinvestiture of the candidate and on his return to the Lodge, that of the third degree immediately after his raising. When, however, two or more candidates are given the same degree at the SAME communication, the lecture may be given to all of them at one time.

Denominate - named, designated.

Dentils - Small rectangular projecting blocks on the capital of a pillar, so called from their resemblance to teeth.

Deputy - A substitute.

Deputed - Appointed as a substitute.

Derogatory - Expressing a low estimation of, or disdain for.

Destined - Decreed.

Destitute - Lacking means, as without money or food.

Dialect - A local or sectional form of a language.

Diameter - A measure from side to side of a circle through the center. A pillar is "seven diameters high" if its height is seven times its thickness.

Discipline - A n imposed system of training.

Discrete - Careful.

Dissimulation - Hypocrisy, false pretense.

Diurnal - Daily.

Divest - To remove from.

Ease - "The Lodge will be at ease." This expression should NOT be used. See *Restraint* and *Refreshment*.

Ecliptic - The imaginary line followed on the earth's surface by the direct ray of the sun during the year. It makes an angle of 23° 27' with the equator. Jerusalem is located in approximately 31° 30' north latitude, that is, approximately 7° 3' north of the ecliptic.

Effluvia - Out-flowings, off-givings.

Emblematical - Symbolical, representing.

Embordered - Having a border.

Endue - To fill with some quality or power.

Entablature - The slab above the cornice on which the roof plate rests.

Ephesus - A city in Asia Minor founded by the Athenians, and famed for its temple to Diana--one of the architectural masterpieces of the ancient world.

Ephramites - A tribe of Hebrews east of the Jordan river.

Equivocation - Saying one thing and secretly meaning another.

Err - To make mistakes.

Esoteric - That secret portion of Masonry, which is known only to the initiates, as distinguished from that which is Monitorial or written out.

Ethiopia - A part of Africa from which tradition says part of the jewels and gold for the Temple came. Not necessarily modern Abyssinia.

Euclid - The first mathematician to systematize the science of geometry.

Exalted - Morally or spiritually uplifted.

Examination - The examination of a brother to determine his genuineness should not aim at displaying the committee's knowledge. It is a test of the visitor. He need not be able to answer questions from the Posting Lecture. He should know the signs, grips, and words.

Exemplary - Worthy of imitation; an example.

Exemplifies - Illustrates.

Exhort - To encourage, to inspire to greater effort.

Existence - Life, being.

Exoteric - Those parts of the ritual which are printed and may be read by anyone. Monitorial.

Expedient - Advantageous; wise from the end to be gained.

Exuberance - Great quantity, exceeding expectation.

Fides - The name of the Roman diety representing fidelity.

Fidelity - Faithfulness.

Fraternity - A brotherhood, in which blood-bonds are replaced by a common devotion to a principle, code, or creed.

Frieze - A border.

Golden Fleece - An honorary order of knighthood instituted by Philip the Good of Burgundy in 1429.

The Grand Honors of Masonry are of two kinds:

1. Public Grand Honors (3x3).
2. Private Grand Honors (the signs of the three degrees).

Except as provided in the installation ceremony, the private grand honors should be reserved as an honor to the Grand Master. The indiscriminate extension of the Grand Honors tends to lessen their significance. Every brother following his raising should be taught to start with the grip of an Entered Apprentice Mason and go through the grips, passes, and words to the Grand Masonic Word.

Harassed - Annoyed, tortured.

Height - The perpendicular measure of a thing.

Hele - Means to "cover up."

Hemisphere - Any half of the earth's surface, as the *western hemisphere*, the *northern hemisphere*.

Hieroglyphics - Literally the symbols in the priestly writings of the Egyptians. Generally, a symbol or sign the meaning of which is known only to the initiated.

Historical - According to history, verifiable, capable of documentary proof. We also speak of traditional and legendary history, meaning popular belief, not upheld by fact.

Holden - Old form of *held*.

Homage - Respect, as applied to men; worship, as applied to diety.

Honors - See *Grand Honors*

Hypocrisy - Insincere pretense.

Idiom - The grammatical form peculiar to a language.

Illustrate - Giving or showing an example.

Illustration - A drawing, picture, or example.

Illustrative - Showing by example or picture.

Imbrue - To stain with blood.

Imminent - Impending.

Implications - inferences.

Inclemencies - Severities.

Inclement - Severe, harsh, painful.

Inculcated - taught.

Incumbent - To obligated. As a noun: one who holds a position.

Indiscriminately - without distinction between.

Inestimable - Incapable of being estimated, counted, or weighed.

Ingenuity - Cleverness.

Insidious - Treacherous.

Institution - Anything established. Used by Masons to refer to their brotherhood.

Intelligible - Capable of being understood.

Inundation - Flood, deluge.

Inviolable - Secure against corruption.

Japheth - The leader of the Israelites against the Ephramites.

Josephus - A Jewish historian once accepted as reliable authority, now somewhat discredited.

Lectures - The term is applied masonically:

- (1) To the opening and closing ceremonies. These should always be given in full;
- (2) To the questions and answers taught the candidate as a review of each degree (the Posting Lectures);
- (3) The statement made to the candidate previous to his initiation (Preparatory Lecture);
- (4) To the lectures following each initiation ceremony. See *Posting, Preparatory, Degree*.

Legendary - According to popular belief or report, but without proof. A legend usually carries with it the idea of the miraculous. See *tradition*.

Legible - Capable of being read.

Lenient - Not strict.

Memorial - Something to refresh one's memory of a person or incident.

Mental Reservation - A secret or unexpressed intention to fulfill only part of an obligation.

Mentally - silently.

meridian - The position of the sun at noon.

Metopes - In the capital of a Doric column, the spaces between the triglyphs, often adorned with carved work.

Modillions - Horizontal brackets or supports under the cornice.

Monitorial - Containing admonition, instruction, or advice. Commonly applied Masonically to those parts of the ritual, especially the lectures, which are not secret and so are printed in the *Monitor*.

Moriah - A hill in Jerusalem on which the Temple of Solomon was built.

Mosaic - An inlay pattern made up of small pieces of colored material.

Oblong Square - A right angle with one side longer than the other. The candidate may well be taught to form this at the time he Learns the Posting Lecture.

Orally - Aloud, spoken.

Order - A society founded by a sovereign for the conferring of honorary distinction, as the Star and Garter, sometimes, but not always, implying brotherhood. While Masonry is sometimes referred to as an Order, it is more properly designated as a Fraternity, because its essence is that of brotherhood. In architecture *order* means a *type* or *style*.

Past - A term applied in Masonry to an officer who has held an office for the term for which he was *elected*, and has then retired, as Past Master, Past Senior Grand Warden.

Penal - Pertaining to punishment.

Penalty - A punishment.

Perfect Ashlar - See *Ashlar*.

Perfect Square - A right angle with the sides equal. The candidate may well be taught to form this at the time he learns the Posting Lecture.

Perpetual - Everlasting.

Pervades - Pierces into.

Pharaoh - The title of the ruler of ancient Egypt.

Phenomena - Any observable fact or event.

Philosophy - The pursuit of knowledge; a system of beliefs, as in morals, politics, etc.

Philosophical - Thoughtful, systematic.

Piety - Unswerving devotion to deity.

Pilasters - Rectangular supporting architectural members, built in as part of the building, but projecting from it. A column is usually round and stands apart from the wall. A pilaster is really a pier.

Pique, Piques - An irritation.

Planetary - Pertaining to the planets.

Plumb - An instrument for erecting perpendiculars. So named because of the lead weight on the end of the line.

Points - Items, details.

Posting lecture - The questions and answers taught a candidate as a review of a degree.

Potentate - A ruler, sovereign, or monarch.

Precept - Law, command, principle, instruction.

Premises - Basic assumptions or truths in an argument.

Preparatory lecture - The explanation of Masonry given a candidate previous to his initiation.

Probationary - Stage or period of preparation.

Progressive - As used in the ritual "a progressive science"--one in which advancement is made only by the mastery of one step, or division, at a time.

Propounded - asked.

Prudentially - Wisely, carefully, regardful of danger.

Putrefaction - Rotting, decay.

Pythagoras - A Greek philosopher interested in mathematics.

Rational - Reasoning, able to think.

Recanted - Renouncing of an oath or pledge.

Recapitulate - Summarize by renaming the headings or main points.

Reception of Worshipful Masters - Masters visiting a Lodge may properly be invited to sit in the East when there are no Grand Lodge Visitors present.

When Grand Lodge Visitors are present, it is well not to overcrowd the East, and visiting Masters may sit in the body of the Lodge, perhaps in a group; and after the reception of the Grand Master, asked to introduce themselves by name and Lodge.

Recess - This is not a proper Masonic term, and should not be used for "free from restraint."

Reciprocations - Mutual congratulations.

Record - A verb meaning to write down.

Records - A noun meaning written proceedings, minutes, et cetera.

Refreshment - On a call to refreshment as provided in the Ritual, the Junior Warden is in charge of the brethren. His column is up; the Senior Warden's down. The Great Lights are closed; the Lesser extinguished. The brethren may enter or leave the Lodge room with out permission. The Lodge should be purged before labor is resumed.

Regularity - Conforming to regulations or laws.

Reptile - Creeping things; commonly used as a synonym for the lowest of created beings.

Repudiate - Reject, renounce, withdraw from.

Respiration - Breathing.

Restraint - "Tile lodge will be free from restraint." This direction is used at those times when the business of tile lodge is interrupted for a short conference or the setting up of paraphernalia. The Master remains in charge of the Lodge. The brethren (to not leave the room without his permission.

Revered - Venerated, revered.

Roman Eagle - The emblem carried at the head of the Roman legions, as a flag in later days.

Rough Ashlar - See Ashlar.

Ruffians - Coarse characters.

Saints John - These words refer to St. John the Baptist, whose festival occurs on June 24, and St. John the Evangelist, whose festival occurs on December 27.

Sanctum Sanctorum - A Latin phrase meaning "holy of holies."

Scepter - A staff or rod carried by a king or emperor as a sign of authority.

Scripture Reading - Tile Scriptural passages are read or recited, some times during the circumambulation, sometimes after the candidate has passed the East for the final time. Any brother may read or recite the passages. In the FC Degree selection from Amos VII is to be preferred

because of its more general use among the Fraternity.

Secrets - Those parts of Masonry revealed only to the initiated.

Sect - A society or group, usually religious.

Significance - Meaning, import.

Sincerity - Without pretense.

Solicitation - Request.

Speculative - Applied to freemasonry as a philosophy which considers the nature of morality, and the values of human conduct.

Spherical - Having the form of a globe.

Star and Garter - The Garter is an honorary order of knighthood instituted by Edward III of England about 1348. Mackey lists a French order of The Star (L'Etoile). See *Golden Fleece*.

Stupendous - Amazing, astonishing, especially as to size or degree.

Subtilty – Of elusive or delicate quality.

Succoth – A former town in the valley of Jordan.

Sundry – Various.

Superficies – Too many; more than enough.

Symmetry – Balanced proportion; beauty arising from harmony in parts or ornaments of a building.

Tabernacle – A shrine, a place of worship; specifically, the tabernacle erected by Moses after the crossing of the Red Sea

Tempestuous – Stormy, dangerous.

Tenets – Principles, beliefs, doctrines.

Terrestrial – Belonging to the earth.

Tessel – A checkerwork or mosaic pavement.

Traditional – According to a belief handed down from generation to generation, but not supported by any sure or exact evidence. A tradition need have nothing of the miraculous in it.

Transition – The passing over from one stage to another.

Triglyph – A projecting rectangular tablet in the frieze of a Doric column.

Tubal Cain - See *Genesis IV :22*.

Unbiased - Not prejudiced, uninfluenced.

Unerring - Making no mistakes or errors, undeviating.

Unfeigned - Real, sincere, genuine.

Vicissitudes - Commonly applied to irregular changes, especially if they are painful.

Volute - A spiral or scroll-like ornament on an Ionic capital.

Votaries - Those devoted or dedicated to a cause or a belief.

Vouching - (see avouchment). A brother cannot vouch for the Masonic standing of a brother unless he has sat with him in a Masonic Lodge. Knowledge of his standing or membership in a body requiring Masonic membership as a prerequisite is not grounds for avouchment.

Void - In the Scriptural passage an adjective meaning *empty*.

Wardens Columns - At the beginning of the opening ceremonies both columns are down. The Senior Warden's column is elevated when the Master declares the Lodge open. It is lowered when the Master declares the Lodge closed from labor to refreshment, or when, in the closing ceremonies, he declares the Lodge closed.

The Junior Warden's column is elevated only when the Lodge is at refreshment. It is raised at the moment when the Master declares the Lodge at refreshment, and is lowered when he calls the Lodge to labor. The Senior Warden's column is lowered and raised at the same times.

Wood and Stone - Three words; enunciate each carefully.

Words - See *grips*.

Zeredatha - A former town in the valley of the Jordan river.

Zion - The mountain or hill in Palestine on which Jerusalem was built. Used symbolically for "heaven."