

A message from the
1st Grand Master Mason



"I welcome you to look through this brief outline of the working of the Worshipful Society of Free Masons.

Its basic tenets trace the work of our great stone mason forebears who accomplished such wondrous achievements with their bare-hand skills and precision.

Our ceremonies treat each candidate as a living stone wrought to refinement in the series of staged degrees, and at the same time illustrate the actual methods of working stone to perfection before it can be used in a building.

I look forward very much to the pleasure of meeting you as a member."

P Mycock

M.W.Bro. Paul Mycock, VII^o

The Worshipful Society of Free Masons

Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters,
Paviors, Plaisterers and Bricklayers

(The Operatives)



**Additional information
is also available from
THE GRAND CLERK**

Kerry J Parkes
Yew Tree Cottage
56 Bournheath Road
Fairfield
Bromsgrove
B61 9HW

Email: grandclerk@theoperatives.org

"Speculative masons are happy to trace their origins to the practices of the ancient stone masons, but many then tend to forget all about them"

(An Introduction to The Society)

LEST WE FORGET

OUR RAISON D'ETRE

The Society exists to perpetuate or preserve a memorial of the practices of operative Free Masons existing prior to, or continuing independently of, modern speculative Freemasonry.

For more information please ask for a copy of our booklet:

"An Introduction to The Society"

OUR STRUCTURE

The Society is administered by Grand Assemblage, headed by The Three Grand Master Masons who rule as a triumvirate. They are assisted by a number of Officers with responsibility for administration, ceremonial, finance etc.

Current membership is in excess of 2,700 (*as at 2020*) and is spread throughout the world, with representation in England and Wales, USA and Canada, South America, Europe, Australasia, South Africa, India, Asia and the Far East. Areas are divided into Regions (*similar to Provinces*) which are overseen by a Deputy Grand Master Mason assisted by a small team of Officers.

There are a number of Assemblages within each Region. Assemblage is the title of an individual unit and is, in reality, four separate Lodges, although for ease of administration it operates as a single unit like any other Masonic unit.

OUR CEREMONIES

There are seven degrees in the Society, which are:

- I° Indentured Apprentice
- II° Fellow of the Craft
- III° Fitter and Marker
- IV° Setter Erector
- V° Intendent, Overseer, Super Intendent and Warden
- VI° Passed Master
(*NB: not Past Master*)
- VII° Master Mason, of whom three are The Grand Master Masons

The first four degrees are worked in a local Assemblage, the fifth and sixth are worked by the Region and the working of the seventh degree is the sole prerogative of the Three Grand Master Masons.

These seven-degree ceremonies expand on and add to, the ceremonies of Craft, Mark and the Royal Arch. In the I°, the candidate is not made "a Mason" but following the traditions of the stone masons of old, he is given an apprenticeship. Subject to regular attendance and hard work, he then is able to progress through the other degrees.

Because all the ceremonies and much of the furnishings of the Lodge are based on olden practices, one might sometimes imagine you have gone back in time.

OUR CEREMONIES

Each year, at the meeting of Grand Assemblage, the murder of Hiram Abif is enacted. This is a very interesting drama and all members are encouraged to attend, at least once, to witness this unique piece of Masonic ritual.

A new Assemblage is brought into being by another unique ceremony called a Constitution (*NB: not Consecration*). This ceremony bears no resemblance to any type of consecration carried out in other Masonic Orders. It is a major piece of ceremonial, which involves the planning and initial construction of King Solomon's Temple.

REGALIA

Regalia is minimal and consists simply of a blue cord or collarette from which is suspended the jewel of one's rank. Jewels are exchanged as progression is made.

WHO CAN JOIN

Qualification for membership is Master Mason, Mark Master Mason and Royal Arch Companion in good standing.

FURTHER INFORMATION

You can learn more about The Society at our website: www.theoperatives.org