

Masonic Symbols & Emblems

By

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What does it mean? What does it stand for?

I doubt if any Mason in this Country has not heard the argument over and over as to the establishment of the Fraternity of Masonry in 1717 by the Grand Lodge of England. Yet Masons in other Countries have their own story.

However, as to the Emblem or Symbol of the Square & Compasses, it has been the Symbol of builders and constructors since the beginning of time, or when man first began to build and construct.

You say, "Prove it." Long before the Temple of Solomon on which this Symbol was cut or inscribed, also said to be the beginning of Masonry, in the old classic of China, The Book of History, dating back to 200() B.C., we read. "Ye Officers of the government, apply the compasses, square yourselves. Ye who would have others serve you uprightly, Ye must be willing to serve upon the level,"

Confucius, in the sixth book of his philosophy, said, "A Master Mason, in teaching apprentices, makes use of the Compass and Square." Also, "Ye, who are engaged in the pursuit of wisdom, must make use of the Compass and square".

If further proof is required, you may see it upon the famous obelisk known as Cleopatra's Needle. This obelisk, which was created some eighteen hundred years before Christ, now stands in Central Park, New York City. On it you may see carved the square & compasses, and almost all the other ancient signs and emblems.

The letter (G) was never a part of the emblem until after the Webb Ritual was accepted in the United States between 1808 and 1812. In this ritual, it stands for geometry.

May I reiterate, the Square & Compasses is one of the oldest symbols. It can be traced far back in antiquity. It may be found in ancient picture writing

and has always had the same meaning. However, we have used it as a Masonic emblem so long the true meaning has been almost forgotten.

In the ancient picture writing, "It was a prayer to the Creator of all things." (When man placed this mark or symbol on his work, he was asking GOD for his blessing and approval on what he had built.)

It was originally used much like the cornerstone of today, yet, because of time and ignorance, it has been forgotten. Most cornerstones have this mark upon it.

It has never been infringed upon. I correct myself, yes, the Junior Order of American Mechanics displayed it with the Arm and Hammer in the center, but it was ordered removed.

Most everyone is satisfied just to look at it and say, "The Masonic Emblem."

The Symbol may be found in the ancient hieroglyphics, prior to the Pyramids on which they were carved. At that time, they belonged to the "Sons of Light."

Most Masons today don't appear to know the true meaning or care to ask what it meant 5000 years ago. They just pin it on their coat and when asked, just say, "The Masonic pin."

They seem to think it a great Masonic secret. It is no Masonic secret. It means the same today as it did 5000 years ago. It was a prayer to GOD, asking for his blessing.

Let me explain to you the true meaning and what it has always meant. The Square is the working tool of man. The Compasses is the working tool of GOD the Creator. They should always be displayed with the working tool of GOD resting upon the working tool of man, symbolizing man working under GOD at all times, may it be a monument or his home.

You are not satisfied; you say, “Prove it.” Have you ever seen or know of anything which GOD has ever created which has a straight line? Can you give me one illustration of any one item which GOD has created or constructed in the many wonders upon this earth which has a straight line? Every thing in the wonders of the universe was constructed with the Compasses or Protractor.

On the other hand, man builds everything with the Square, assisted by the Plumb and Level. The only time man uses the compasses is when he wishes to add beauty and strength to his construction. Have you ever seen the Compasses in a carpenter’s tool box’!

To keep this short, I am always amused when I hear someone quote the following:

“GOD has created everything square, upright and perfect.” I just leave you to reflect on that piece of information. You might like to look up the word. PERFECT.

That reminds me of something I don’t want you to forget: Of the working tools of man, should any one of them be bent, broken or damaged in any way, you have to toss them away.

But, if the working tool of GOD be bent, broken or damaged in any way, it will continue to draw a perfect circle.