THE LODGE,

LUDLOW.

RILEY'S MASONIC CERTIFICATES.

This remarkable work, by a most enthusiastic Craftsman, affords reliable and most interesting information respecting Masonic certificates issued by the Grand Lodges and United Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of England "from the earliest to the present time." The beautiful volume is both technical and elementary, as required, and abounds in valuable particulars concerning the character of all the certificates issued by the "Ancients" and "Moderns" during the last one hundred and fifty years or so. It has been not only written by my esteemed friend, Bro. J. Ramsden Riley (with whom I have often been associated in the past in relation to Masonic studies), but | all the artistic illustrations have also been drawn by him, with considerable skill and dexterity, the reproductions of his accurate facsimiles being simply perfection.

The frontispiece is appropriately devoted to the "Three Graces" certificate, which at the south-east corner contains the order of the Grand Lodge of 1755. None, however, have been traced until several years later, but it is hoped that Bro. Riley's expectation may soon be realised by a *Revis* signed certificate being discovered. Brethren should examine the old boxes and pedestals owned by lodges dating from early last century, and duly report the result of their examination, if at all satisfactory. "St. Paul's" certificate, issued by the "Moderns," is a very fine design, and "came into general use in January, 1810." The illustration of this

and "came into general use in January, 1810." The industration of this handsome document is a conspicuous success. The "Ancient" certificates are duly represented, after the period that ordinary written forms were discarded for the more ornate and dignified engraved documents. The "Universis" issue began about 1766, followed by the "1st" and "2nd Angel" forms of about the year 1790 and later, which continued until the "Union" of December, 1813; the "3 Pillars" certificate (of various issues) being the design favoured by the United Grand L odge of England more or less familiar to all of us.

Grand Lodge of England, more or less familiar to all of us. The Grand Lodge of Ireland was early in the field, and its usage was followed by the "Ancients," the "Moderns" really coming after these bodies had published official intimations of registration. A plate of two specimens of Irish origin, and many particulars as to that organisation and also of Scotland, are welcome additions to a volume mainly intended for English readers.

Royal Arch certificates have had justice done them as never before; the beautiful "Dermott Certificate," of uncertain date as to origin, being the first plate for that chapter. The "Trinity" issue of the "Modern" Grand Chapter makes an imposing picture, and "is the largest of any kind ever used in England." The "tst Gloria"—and the 21d—are noted in due course, being those adopted by the United Grand Chapter, and make two very striking illustration

The various plates of seals, "Moderns," "Ancients," and others, add much to the value and usefulness of this fine volume, and the information afforded in the body of the work cannot fail to be a means of instruction to

afforded in the body of the work cannot fail to be a means of instruction to most Craftsmen who have not hitherto studied this absorbing subject, and even for experts, the particulars must prove to be a boon, and the illustra-tions, "things of beauty and joys for ever." I am very pleased that this admirable book, which supplies a long-felt want, has been published under the auspices of our "Quatuor Coronati Lodge," at the low cost of half a guinea each, copies of which may be had from the indefatigable Secretary, Bro. G. W. Speth (if any are left), and I trust the purchaser will not neglect to thank Bro. J. Ramsden Riley for his well directed researches extending over many years (some of which he was alone in his systematic study of these documents, as a Provincial Craftsman).

alone in his systematic study of these documents, as a Provincial Craftsman). Brethren interested in the subject should see the collection in the museum of the Grand Lodge of England, so carefully looked after and fostered by the respected Sub-Librarian, Bro. Henry Sadler. Bro. F. J. W. Crowe has also an enormous number of certificates, England being well represented, and his catalogue of some of his numerous Treasures is a most opportune publication. Another friend and most successful collector is Bro. G. W. Bain, whose Masonic library generally, surpasses all others of the kind in this country.

I have been looking out for a review of Bro. Riley's "Masonic Certifi-cates" by the editor of the Freemason, who doubtless much appreciates the splendid volume, but I want him to say so, and give us his valued opinion thereon. There are personal reasons why I value the publication beyond ordinary, and these add much to my pleasure in perusing the artistic publication.

W. J. HUGHAN.



"3 Graces" Certificate.







Rependbles.

Masonic Certificates;

BEING NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

(The latter chiefly from the Author's well-known Collection)

DESCRIPTIVE OF THOSE ENGRAVED DOCUMENTS

OF THE

GRAND LODGE & GRAND CHAPTER

OF

ENGLAND,

FROM THE EARLIEST TO THE PRESENT TIME.

BY

J. RAMSDEN RILEY, P.M. & P.Z.,

P.P.G.D.C., West Yorkshire,

Member of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, London, No. 2076; Author of "Yorkshire Lodges—A Century of Yorkshire Freemasonry"; History of Airedale Lodge, 387, and the Duke of York's Lodge, 438; History of the Royal Yorkshire Lodge, 265, Keighley, &c., &c.

Published for the Author by Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076.



My DEAR OLD FRIEND AND BROTHER,

WILLIAM J. HUGHAN,

÷

P.G.D. OF ENGLAND,

This book is dedicated with fraternal affection. Notwithstanding that it has had to be built up for the most part with old and now nearly obsolete materials, the fabric has acquired solidity, like our mutual esteem, after the vicissitudes of many years.

Having been commenced within a few years of our first acquaintance through the pages of the old "Freemason's Magazine and Masonic Mirror," — at a period which may be styled the Renaissance of Masonic literature,—it is an offering placed with no little pride on the sacred altar of Friendship.

To

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ILLUSTRATIONS.

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SEALS USED ON ROYAL ARCH CERTIFICATES.







HE publication of my classification of Certificates, which may be said to be the first and therefore the only account of those important documents, was contemplated in 1889. But before making any arrangements for the printing, I felt it my duty, in a letter to the late Grand Secretary, for whom I had a profound respect, to offer to classify the then existing

Certificates in the Grand Lodge Library, and to fill up gaps from my own collection where possible, free of expense. At that time I had many more than now.

Anyone who follows up for a great number of years a study and research peculiarly beset with difficulties, and which for all the time has been by everybody but himself believed to be an ignis-fatuus—a straining after the impossible,—may be pardoned, if, on attaining the goal of his ambition, Masonic zeal slightly outruns discretion. However, at that time, and ever since, I have regarded the offer as one which, under any circumstances, it was right to make; so that when

"declined with thanks" as a busy Editor might say, I was not dissatisfied; there being nothing to gain by such an offer beyond the Grand Secretary's approval, some little interest on his part was obviously essential.

The preface of 1889 contained a good deal that the altered circumstances compelled me to withdraw; and as a matter of fact portions of the work throughout had to be expunged, and the MS. re-written. In the meantime other matters claimed my attention, and thus the long delay which has resulted is explained.

With regard to the Grand Lodge collection, my feelings have never undergone the slightest change. My ardent desire to see a complete set of Certificates *there at any rate*, has been well known for many years; and since 1875 I have had no other aim in view as a collector. Need it be suggested therefore, that I still hope, during my life, to find that wish realized ?

Brother collectors will, I know, give me credit for ready assistance at all times. One or two have zealously worked on in the same difficult quarry, with the disadvantage of being late in it. Their progress has been slow and uncertain as mine was,—their prospects apparently hopeless; but the day is not far distant when they, and the Craft also, will properly estimate the value of their labours. To shorten that period, my MS. has been taken up again; and I believe, with classification, and consequently the means of identification given, (without which progress was not possible) a difficulty pronounced to be insurmountable twenty years ago has been removed.

I cordially thank Bro. H. A. E. de Pinna, P.M. Saye and Sele Lodge London, for his fraternal interest, kindness and courtesy in

allowing me to inspect the Certificate of his ancestor from which my frontispiece is taken, also for procuring me photographs of it. The latter were most kindly undertaken by Bro. A. H. Bateman, P.M. of the same Lodge, whose personal acquaintance I subsequently made, and to whom my thanks are due for that service as well as for other voluntary but no less valued promises of assistance. But I feel that I owe to these two brethren, and especially to my good friend Bro. Hughan, some further apology for the length of time my MS. has been lying idle, which is sincerely offered.

I gladly avail of this opportunity to express my thanks also to Bro. H. Sadler, Sub-Librarian of Grand Lodge, for his kindness in permitting me to inspect the Certificates under his care in the Grand Lodge Library. Since I first saw them, their condition generally has vastly improved; and satisfied that these documents were never in better hands, I hope my testimony may be sufficient recommendation to induce Brethren, instead of hoarding up Certificates with no definite purpose, to send them to the Grand Secretary. I have known Lodges at one period very particular in refusing to dispose of Certificates in their possession, (which is quite as it should be), but later, under other officers, allow them to dwindle down one by one out of their care, apparently without the slightest compunction or regret. The same foolishness exists with regard to those falling into the private custody of both Masons and Non-Masons, in which cases it commonly happens that there is a feeling of responsibility attached to such possession. By sending them to the Grand Secretary the latter difficulty is effectually removed, as they are certain to be preserved; and (which may be of some consideration), should they ever be wanted, can be referred to. In the one case they are too often made a means of imposition

on the Craft; while in the other they may actually benefit it. I believe it to be unnecessary to make a stronger appeal to the common sense of Worshipful Masters of Lodges or to the discrimination of those who, having come into the possession of old Certificates of little interest and no value to them, hesitate as to the course they should pursue with a view to their preservation.

I have only to add, that one result of the delay in publication has been, that it has permitted me to read the MS. over again very carefully; and in doing so to divest the work of much superfluous detail, and thereby I trust, improve it.

Walton, Near Liverpool.

J. RAMSDEN RILEY.

Vide. A.Q.C. Vor, Vill: 168:



GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND.

No. 1. 1792.

No. 2. 1820.







HE Certificates granted to Members of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of England, during the last 138 years, form a feature of Masonic history all the more valuable, inasmuch as their evidence is tangible and indisputable. The esoteric character of Freemasonry to begin with, and, at different times up to a comparatively recent period

individual horror of anything appertaining to it appearing before the profane eye, have naturally done their part in blotting out a great deal of the remote past. To-day, varied reasons are assigned for Dr. Anderson's statement in the first book of Constitutions with regard to destruction of documents by scrupulous brethren in 1720. Without expressing an opinion thereon, which would be out of place here, there is abundant evidence to shew that during the first twenty years' existence of the Grand Lodge of England, a great outcry was raised, as to the antiquity of Freemasonry. It is a matter of some importance, that the feeling began, and may be said to have ended, whilst there was but one Grand Lodge, the Mother of all others, (*Moderns*, as they were later on styled by rivals). These emotions were not confined

either to Grand Officers or enthusiasts, but stirred the whole Craft; and it would appear that at last it came to be tacitly acknowledged that, chiefly owing to the love of secrecy to which reference has been made, in all probability what *had* existed was then destroyed.

But we cannot so easily account for another state of things which, notwithstanding all this evident yearning after antiquity and a history, prevailed for nearly forty years, viz. :—a serious want of system in Grand Lodge business, which must have been all along apparent, and for which it yet took all that time to mature a remedy.

It is still more surprising that later on the rival Grand Lodge ("Ancients" as they styled themselves) was just as apathetic on this particular point. As to that in the North (All England) neither absolutely dead nor living, but fitfully waking up to play at Grand Lodge;—whether these displays were organised for the gratification of personal vanity, the amusement of the good people of York, or it be true that they really met to transact some kind of Masonic business,—it would have been in vain to direct our gaze thitherward for improvement, much less for any systematic government.

But to return to the Moderns. Of the persons admitted into the Fraternity during that space of nearly forty years, it might truly have been said that wives knew the date of their husbands' admission better than the Grand Secretary, who practically had no reference to, or information about them. So far therefore as identification of Masons generally was concerned, the Grand Secretary's office could furnish no clue; it was indeed in a state of languid semi-conscious lethargy, if not of actual chaos, only arousing suddenly on the recurrence of the Annual Festival.

At last an awakening took place in Grand Lodge owing to the want of knowledge concerning the increase, number, and in fact the *personality* of the Society. Consequently, in 1755, during the Grand Mastership of Brydges, Marquess of Carnarvon, the premier Grand Lodge (Moderns) first really contemplated and ordered the issue of engraved Certificates of membership signed by the Grand Secretary. *En passant*, it may be mentioned that Grand Lodge also instituted in 1768 a still more important system of Registration; both this and the former resolution have materially aided the Masonic historian, and contributed in no small degree, though of course gradually, to our present almost perfect organization at head-quarters.

Certificates of various kinds must have been much more necessary to Freemasons "in the olden time" than at present. Everything tends to shew that they were in use at a very remote date, primitive evidence, "under hand and seal," of reception into the craft, and serving ends and purposes which the development of Speculative Masonry gradually abolished. As Freemasonry extended in power and influence, the style of its Certificates improved, while such forms as were of doubtful utility passed into oblivion; not, be it said, by any edict of Grand Lodge, but by the silent unexpressed assent of the Lodges.

Several Certificates in common use during last century are now obsolete, or very nearly so, chiefly owing to perfected systems of Craft government; but Clearance and similar Certificates would be more used to-day, if so many of the leading Lodges, having experienced little or no call for them, did not very properly decline to furnish any, unless specially moved for in open Lodge. The former however are still necessary, a member whose resignation has been formally accepted being, on application, entitled to a Clearance Certificate, whether the

intention to join another Lodge has been expressed or not. Twenty or thirty years ago, resignation usually meant permanent withdrawal from active Masonic life. Now, the case is different; for we find that during the past decade many who were for years non-subscribers to any Lodge have rejoined the Craft, generally entering new Lodges founded on special lines, and offering other inducements such as Scientific, Musical, Artistic, or Professional society in conjunction with orthodox Masonry. Therefore, without taking up the championship of such Lodges, whatever may be urged against them it must be patent that by their means a most desirable class of *matured* Masons returns to the fold, which cannot do otherwise than benefit the Craft in a most wholesome direction.

Formerly, and especially in seaport towns, Certificates for travelling purposes were issued by Private Lodges. For such there is clearly now no need whatever; the present Grand Lodge Certificate, answering every legitimate purpose, *except clearance*, being far preferable.

The Merchant's Lodge, Liverpool (then No. 442) issued beautiful parchment Certificates of the kind referred to between 1814 and 1823, and it may be much later. They were in everything but the wording very similar to a "Three Graces" Grand Lodge Certificate (see Frontispiece) but smaller. Strange as it may appear, these Lodge Certificates bore the wording of a Certificate of the Grand Lodge of Ireland : excepting the foreground, which was a mosaic pavement, and the Liver (the Liverpool City crest) in place of the Irish "Crown and Harp," they were little different from a Grand Lodge of Ireland Certificate of 1792, (see Plate III., No. 1). The adoption of this form was doubtless owing to the wording of an Irish Certificate being more

comprehensive than our own, and perhaps it was considered on that account better adapted for both identity and clearance purposes.

Although foreign to the general intention of this book, some allusion to the earliest forms of certificate with which we are acquainted would appear not only desirable, but almost necessary. Of those still earlier, there seems to be nothing very remarkable in the fact of their disappearance, inasmuch as but thirty years ago there were Masons living who had always regarded their Grand Lodge Certificate as belonging to their Lodge, to be returned to it at death; unless, as for instance during a lingering illness, the owner chose to destroy it, or cause someone, (generally a Mason) to burn it in his presence. This practice, wide-spread at one time, was of course nothing but a remnant of the times when Lodges were all governed more or less by many unwritten laws. Generations had handed down the custom referred to as a sacred duty, and notwithstanding that those brethren so recently as thirty years back knew well enough then that no constitutional obligation rested with them either to return to their Lodge or Grand Lodge, or to destroy their Certificates, the belief had been implanted when they were young in Masonry, and they preferred to follow what they still considered to be "the better laws" observed by their fathers and grandfathers. Consequently, if we expect to find in any quantity the Certificates of that period when the duty was almost universally held to be binding, verily we may well be disappointed !---in this fact lies the necessity of securing and preserving all that turn up; because Grand Lodge has never been the selected custodian (like private lodges) of those documents, and draws its "returns" chiefly from cases of assumed responsibility as to their possession, which cases occur equally to individuals and in Lodges.

Clearance Lodge Certificates, and those intended for identification of Masons, were in use long before Grand Lodge Certificates engraved on parchment. These were issued some on paper, others on parchment slips, varying considerably in size even in the same Lodge, the voucher being wholly written. One very bad practice frequently followed was to tear a half-leaf, or as much more or less as was thought necessary, on which to write them, from the Minute-book !

Later on, Lodges vied with each other in the production of really artistic Clearance Certificates, most of them engraved on parchment. They were signed by the Worshipful Master, both Wardens, and the Lodge Secretary; and some handsome specimens still in existence give a full description, including height, build, color of hair, complexion, age, and other particulars applicable to the possessor, more amusing than really requisite, filled in at the bottom margin. The "Harper" *Provincial* Certificate is one of this kind, and now very rare.

Whilst Lodges were *compelled* to grant the earlier "slip" documents, it is remarkable that nearly forty years should elapse before Grand Lodge awoke to the necessity of issuing its own uniform Certificates engraved on parchment. The latter were first given late in 1756, or, (no document is yet known of that year) more likely in 1757, following upon a resolution carried in Grand Lodge (Moderns) on the 24th February, 1755,

> "That every Certificate granted to a Brother of his "being a Mason, shall for the future be sealed with the "seal of Masonry signed by the Grand Secretary, for "which five shillings shall be paid to the use of the "General Fund of Charity."

This extract (referred to hereafter as Extract No. 1) appears on the earliest, and a slight modification of it on later Grand Lodge Certificates of the Moderns to 1809, and after then in a further modified form, as a footnote, to 1818; at the Union in 1813 the mention of the fee was expunged, and the extract was altogether dispensed with when the new Certificate (F) of 1819 appeared.

Unfortunately, registration by Grand Lodge did not begin until 1768; still, it may be assumed the loss of a Certificate at that time was a very different matter to what it is now, or even soon after that necessary law came into operation. Hence, more care would probably be taken of Certificates issued prior to 1768; so that, were it not for the still prevalent practice of burning such as turn up amongst old family papers, etc., we should now possess a very good collection of those dated from 1757 to 1768. As it is, we have very few, and these are in private hands, the earliest we have seen in Grand Lodge being one of 1778.¹

In the Craft Certificates will be found six, and in the Royal Arch four great Classes, which will be briefly described in their order. In giving the *wording* of Certificates, inasmuch as all these may be referred to by turning to the representative Plate of each class, it has not been considered necessary to produce them in fac-simile. They are, indeed, given merely as a convenient assistance to the student, for the purpose of comparison with each other as to changes made at various times by the engraver. It would have been easier to give facsimiles of original Certificates, but such, crowded as they necessarily must be with the written portion, would hardly have answered the intended purpose satisfactorily to the general reader.

¹ Since this was written my old friend, the late Bro. Brackstone Baker, presented to Grand Lodge a most valuable "Ancient" Certificate of 1767.-J.R.R.

SEALS USED ON CRAFT CERTIFICATES.











CRAFT CERTIFICATES.





HIS Class includes the Certificates of the "Moderns" Grand Lodge from 1756-7 to 1809. The frontispiece represents the first issued, for although John Revis was Secretary during the time when this document was resolved upon, we find the following Report in Grand Lodge minutes under date August 13th, 1756:

"Ordered that a copper-plate be engraved, for printing "the Certificate to be granted to a brother of his "being a Mason: and that a dye be cut, and an "engine made, wherewith to seal the same; in con-"sequence of the order of the quarterly communication "the 24th of July, 1755, so that the whole expence "thereof do not exceed twelve guineas: and that the "treasurer do pay the same."

Therefore, as Brother Revis was appointed Deputy Grand Master May 18th following, it is likely that he never signed any; and even if Certificates were ready before, that the incoming Grand Secretary (Samuel Spencer) was the first to do so. This is not quite satisfactory in either case; because, if we have the first *type* of Certificate, it is only

Thefe are to Certify

That_

was made a Mason and admitted to the _____ Degree of Masonry as appears by the Register of the Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons regularly constituted and meeting at the _____

Signed by the Master Wardens & Secretary of the said Lodge hereunto annex'd and you are desir'd to receive him as a Brother after due examination. Seal No. 1,

Plate IV.

Given under the Seal of the Grand Lodge.



See the New Edition of the Book of Constitutions page 268 Printed in the Year 1756.

by good luck; had the name of the Grand Master, for instance, been a feature of the first Certificate, so far as is known at present we should have been entirely short of several! Two of 1759 should be still in existence, similar to the De Pinna document, (see Frontispiece) but no earlier date has yet been discovered. It is to be hoped that the publication of this book may be the means of bringing to the light a Revis signed Certificate, if there be one, and many hitherto unknown parchments.

As already stated, the De Pinna Certificate represents the first issued so far as the original plate is concerned, but there were two later varieties which will be referred to in their order of sequence. For the purpose of distinction, the three may be styled, respectively, A1, A2, and A3. These are sufficiently interesting, as indicative of the development of the first engraved Certificate, to warrant special mention.

A1 (see Frontispiece) is remarkable for referring to FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, (afterwards discarded, though why is a mystery) and for no mention being made of the *number* of the Lodge for which it was granted. There is also another and somewhat extraordinary omission, viz :—that of the word "BROTHER," which in all subsequent Certificates of this and every class, immediately preceded the written name, being always engraved on the plate.

Notwithstanding the delay which occurred at the outset, of over twelve months before anything was done, (we can however understand some of the difficulties which would naturally arise, such as the desirability of adopting a suitable design; but the responsibility of providing a document of such a nature, not for themselves but for generations,

These are to Certify

See the New Edition of the Book of Constitutions page 265 Printed in the Year 1784.

A2

would probably be by no means the least) this Certificate seems, even when actively taken up, to have been hastily decided upon, because, besides the omissions referred to, the Grand Secretary had to fill-in "LONDON" and the date following *in writing*, which could never have been intended, and was afterwards always supplied by the engraver. Had the Grand Lodge met, or contemplated holding the Quarterly Communications elsewhere than in the Metropolis, there would have been an excuse for it.

Note the line at the bottom margin referring to the 1756 Constitutions, (another argument in favor of Spencer's signing the first Certificates issued) and also the Grand Lodge resolution of 24th July, 1755, on a reclining stone in the foreground.

It is noteworthy that A1 is the only Grand Lodge Certificate, either of Moderns or Ancients, in which the old typography was not avoided; here it is very prominent in the heading,—"THEFE" being engraved in German text for "THESE" etc. Although general at the time, and indeed long after, "f" is not so used in any other place excepting the quoted Grand Lodge resolution; the remark applies also to the two later varieties of this class.

During about ten years of the period covered by this first form of Certificate, the Ancients were without any engraved ones. This of the Moderns (A1) was in use up to 1784-5, when the same engraver (Cartwright) executed a new plate. By substituting the wording given on page 22 this new Certificate will be fairly represented by Plate 1 (frontispiece) as the pictorial features of the latter underwent no change.

These are to Certify

Signed by the Master, Wardens and Secretary of the said Lodge and you are desired to receive him as a Brother after due examination.

Seal No. 1, Plate IV.

Given under the Seal of the Grand Lodge at London______ A.L. 580___ A.D. 180____

Grand Secretary.



In A2 the same wording on the reclining stone is given, and a footnote similar to A1, but referring to the 1784 Constitutions, whilst the Certificate reads a little different: "S" is engraved in "THESE" in lieu of "f" as before, and one or two little corrections are made, besides the addition to the plate of LONDON, A.D. etc.

It will be noticed on examination of an A2 Certificate, that in future the number of the Lodge on the Grand Lodge register was intended to be filled in. No mention is made of FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS; and the word "BROTHER," was engraved after "THAT" in the first line. These are the peculiarities of A2, whilst the engraver had evidently strict injunctions to depart as little as possible from its predecessor, as to design and style, even all the flourishes in the former heading being closely copied. See page 22.

The omission of "FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS" would appear to have been premeditated; and when the 1787 edition of AHIMON REZON came out with the vanity of its author advertised so glaringly by Swift's lines on the title-page, we find Laurence Dermott's lynx-eyes had noticed it. A foot-note on page 39 of that edition reads as follows :—

> "Nor did the Accepted Masons of old ever assume such "a title;¹ all they assumed was that of Free and "Accepted Masons; but the present Moderns have been "hardy enough to assume the title of Free-Masons of "England, and got their Lodge room foisted into "Harrison's new History of London under the name of "Free Masons' Hall, etc. etc."

> > ¹Freemasons.

Whether Dermott's conceit led him to regard the removal of the term "FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS" from the new Certificate as a concession of the "Moderns" to his restless satire, or he considered it as a renunciation of the right to use the title assumed by the "Ancients," is immaterial. The attack itself is a very fair specimen of the means resorted to by Dermott to impose upon the ignorant, and at the same time unburden himself of his spleen against the premier Grand Lodge. He might also have forgotten that in the first edition of the same work (1756) he frequently made use of the same term of FREEMASONS, (Ahimon Rezon 1756, pp. 56, 70, 75, 77, 87, and elsewhere; but stranger than all, see the B Certificate, Plate V., which he signed) so that it looks like a mere quibble for the sake of fault finding.

In 1799 another plate was engraved by I. Cole. This might mean J. Cole, but he must not be confounded with the two Coles, artists of the Engraved lists discontinued twenty-one years before. This new plate (A3), the wording of which is given on page 24, is a close copy of A2, the general features of the latter having been rigidly adhered to. Excepting the different wording on the reclining stone, the other departures are so very trivial as to call for no special mention. This latter wording, referred to elsewhere as Extract No. 2, reads as follows :—

> "Ordered by the Grand Lodge that every Certificate "granted to a Brother of his being a Mason shall be "sealed with the Seal of Masonry and signed by the "Grand Secretary, for which six shillings and six pence "shall be paid to the use of the General Fund of "Charity."

There is no footnote on the lowest margin of this Certificate as in the two preceding ones. The Seal, (known as Releif from the mis-spelling of the word) was the same on the three varieties of this Class up to 1809; but it was not discontinued at the latter date, as will be seen. It is No. 1 on Plate IV.

Class A will ever be of absorbing interest to the Craft as the precursor of all others; and it cannot but be satisfactory that the initiative, so far as the issue of parchment engraved documents is concerned, was taken by the premier Grand Lodge (Moderns). It represents a period of trial and partially successful (at one time powerful) opposition; and, inasmuch as it cannot be denied that many brethren were induced to leave "Moderns" Lodges to join the "Ancients," besides infecting long-existing Lodges with more or less of disloyalty to the powers that were, of active schism also. The document is at least equal to any of its successors, certainly a very remarkable thing to be able to say in a progressive age like ours; the Grand Lodge of Ireland approved of and made it still more beautiful by the substitution of the Harp of Erin surmounted by a Crown, in place of the reclining stone and its Extract from Grand Lodge resolution in the foreground. The latter appropriate local improvement is the only marked difference, if we except the wording of the Certificate, which follows the practice, though not the phraseology of the "Ancients," in being given both in English and Latin. The Irish Seal however was placed amid the clouds at the right of the flying figure, dispensing with the long pointer of Class A. on that account.

As will be seen on reference to a Grand Lodge of Ireland Certificate of 1792 (Plate III. No. 1,) a banner hangs from the angel's

trumpet bearing the words "GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND," but even to the position of the figure, the pillars, and other chief features, we have in this an almost exact copy of Class A.

As the Grand Lodge Certificates of Scotland and Ireland do not come within the scope of this present work, we will merely add that the "HARP AND CROWN" Certificate was in use by the Grand Lodge of Ireland very late last century; but at any rate *after* 1814 it had adopted a different type, (compare one of 1820, Plate III. No. 2,) the nearest to our present one, and like it in having three pillars separated, without female figures, on a plain mosaic pavement.

These Irish Certificates had no particularly anxious care bestowed on them, and the name of the recipient was generally written on the left margin, along with the name, number and locality of the Lodge, although there was no special place assigned for the signature. This type bears no resemblance whatever to an Athol or Ancients' Certificate, whilst the wording of it in both English and Latin is very similar to the earlier document already described.

All the Certificates under Class A bear what is known as the "RELEIF" Seal, (Plate IV No. I) so called from the mis-spelled word in the motto "RELEIF AND TRUTH" at the bottom. It was the first Seal of the premier Grand Lodge, having been used also on Warrants. We have no intention to refer specially to Seals, nor to such as were not used for engraved Certificates; but each of the latter will be mentioned in connection with the document on which it appears, and may also be readily referred to by consulting Plates II and IV., which seems to be all that is necessary. Me word is so musipplied in G.L. 2nd Minute Book Monghows the period 28 April 1737-31 OK 1757 (Jung Minute Seal with the seal we Jungt ordered?)

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There are but few possible varieties of the A Certificate. Three have been described; the names of the nine Grand Masters from 1756 to 1809 do not appear on any of them, or of course there would be so many more. The other varieties are not *plate* alterations, but simply the different Grand Secretaries' signatures. The Grand Masters were as under, viz :—

1	Marquess of Carnarvon	1755
2	Lord Aberdour	1757
3	Earl Ferrers	1762
4	Lord Blayney	1764
5	Duke of Beaufort	1767
6	Lord Petre	1772
7	Duke of Manchester	1777
8	Duke of Cumberland	1782
9	H.R.H. the Prince of Wales	1792

As before intimated, it is probable that the first issued no Certificates, although the resolution to have such documents was passed under his rule. Grand Secretary Revis was a very capable and energetic Brother, and it is very likely, from what we know of him during his long experience, both as Grand Secretary, and Deputy Grand Master afterwards, that to him we owe in a great measure both Certificates and Registration: as to the former, there can be no doubt whatever that he exercised all the powerful influence of his position and reputation. From 1757 to 1768 the A or "3 GRACES" Certificates were signed by Samuel Spencer; then to 1769 by Thomas
CRAFT CERTIFICATES.-CLASS A.

French; after to 1784 by James Heseltine; and to 1809 by William White. The latter was Assistant Secretary to Heseltine from 1780 to 1784, but does not appear to have signed Certificates during those years, that is, until his own actual appointment as Grand Secretary.

We have seen four varieties of Class A or "3 Graces" Certificate. The possible other two, Revis and French, we have neither seen nor heard of. As previously explained, it is very doubtful if a Revis document ever existed; but both it and the French Certificate would be (signature only excepted), exactly like the frontispiece.

It is as well to explain that the dislocated appearance of the Irish Certificate No. 2 of Plate III., referred to on page 28, is due to the condition of the document. This *fac-simile* was made under difficulties; and in so short a time that the stretched portions (caused by thick parchment carelessly folded while in a dry state, and later, after being kept in a damp place, refolded without regard to the unequal distension) were drawn as they appeared. Of course a direct photograph would have re-produced the same effect, and hence the peculiar instability of the pillars was not rectified afterwards. This unequal straining of the parchment, though not uncommon in longneglected Certificates, is rarely met with quite as marked as this.



"Universis" Certificate.

P. F.8. VERSIS quorum Interest Attestamuis fuilge Societate dictio Malfonra Secundum regulas Fratrem Initiatum in Catu Numi Et sicut Decet unum exnostris ut mihi ca Testimonio Catus ad quem pertinebat probatum est Cum omni mo. rum honestate de Gelsit Datum Landini Sigillo Catus nostre Majores et dul scrip time sute Et a primitus. anno Domini tione nostra munitum die chrietatis. To all whom it may concern I do hereby Cortify That -Brother is a regular Registered Freemafon in the Lodge No In the and has during his stay amongst them behaved humself as became an honeft and worthy Brother as appears by the Lodge Certificate to me Given under my hand and the SEAL of the Grand Lodge in London the day of In the Pice of our Low One thougand Seven hundred Wind in the Picer of Maformer live thougand Seven hundred





BOUT 1766, Class B or what is known as the UNIVERSIS Certificate—so named from the word so prominent at the top in Roman capitals—came into use by the "Ancients." It is represented by Plate V. This Certificate was engraved as shewn, the Seal excepted of course, the names, date and other necessary particulars being filled in by the Grand

Secretary in writing at the time. Class B represents the first engraved Certificate of the Ancients, and was a modest document, the most that can be said for it is, that it was an improvement upon its wholly written predecessor.

From the very commencement of their existence as a separate body, Certificates were in general use by the Ancients, but of quite a different character to that originated by the Moderns in 1756. We have seen Certificates bearing Laurence Dermott's remarkable signature on parchment slips of about eight inches by four, (all of which was written) as late as 1764, and such vouchers were continued probably two years later. The entries in the Ancients Grand Lodge

CRAFT CERTIFICATES.—CLASS B.

minutes with regard to Seals and Certificates are a little confusing, if not to some extent, untrustworthy; and in the absence of the very earliest B documents, the actual date of the first UNIVERSIS Certificate is doubtful. It must however have been between 1765 and 1767.

The Seal used on Class B and the preceding MS. documents will be found in Plate IV, No. 2, and dates from 1760. It is known as the "FELLOW CRAFT" Seal, from the position of the square and compasses, and was used on many early Warrants. This Seal is not the only one to be found on B Certificates, as later on new Seals were ordered both for Craft and Royal Arch purposes, the former being the "IN LONDON" (Plate IV, No. 3), and the latter the "KIRK" Seal, (Plate II, No. 6).

The UNIVERSIS is the smallest engraved English Grand Lodge Certificate, and was a plain business-like parchment, indicative of intended use rather than ornament; that is to say, these documents were not expected to be seen at home in a gilt frame, but were generally carried about in the owner's pocket! No doubt this practice brought about to a considerable extent their present scarcity; but of course the fewer issued, and shorter period of usage, the scarcer will that particular Certificate be after a lapse of years, as a rule. Both causes have certainly operated, in addition to their present age, to make Class B extremely rare, and the exact year is not yet positively known when the FELLOW CRAFT Seal was discontinued, chiefly on account of a common practice of tearing Seals off a deceased brother's Certificate.

Out of a number of UNIVERSIS Certificates outside Grand Lodge, not one of them had a really perfect Seal; and most of them

CRAFT CERTIFICATES.-CLASS B.

had not, apparently, been purposely removed, but were gradually chafed off the parchment and at length lost. From the crowded legend of one on a Certificate of 1777, indicating that the "IN LONDON" Seal had been attached, it is quite possible that there is little difference in the respective dates of the "KIRK" and "IN LONDON" Seals. We may well regard the "KIRK" as neither more nor less than an improved "IN LONDON" Seal, and it can hardly be said that the latter, (which it should be remembered is precisely similar excepting the legend and the word "KIRK" from which the former is named) was any improvement on the other, as surely might have been expected. However, with regard to Certificates our duty is plain-we have to deal with them as they are found-and fortunately it is of little consequence which Seal was made or used the first on the diplomas of the Ancients; only, one or both these two Seals superseded the "FELLOW CRAFT" and was used on UNIVERSIS Certificates. At present, Certificates do not exist-or at any rate are not known to exist-which would settle this matter.

All "KIRK" Seals on paper should have a circular but scallopped edge, and this is particularly noticeable in the fact of all "Ancients" Royal Arch Certificates bearing it up to 1813. Such a fraud as a scallopped "IN LONDON" is unknown; whereas several glaring manipulations of the "KIRK" Seal are in existence.

evite

Owing to the unsatisfactory condition of B and H Certificates, "Plate" fac-similes of those two are given as being preferable to originals.¹ The UNIVERSIS was too ordinary a document to inspire

¹ Plate V is my own reduced fac-simile of a Certificate of 1769.

CRAFT CERTIFICATES.-CLASS B.

much reverence, and it would probably have been less scarce but for that drawback and the custom of carrying them about the person. Fortunately those known are all of different dates, thus covering the period of its existence fairly well. The very earliest, 1766-77, and also the Ancients Craft Certificates from 1788-95 are extremely rare.





PLATE VI.

"1st Angel" Certificate.



Bestmile by J.Ramsdon Roley July 1141883





HE last described Certificate (Universis) was followed by one, the production of which was no doubt • actively stimulated by the decidedly superior document then in use by the Moderns. This new Certificate of the Ancients was the "1st ANGEL" Certificate (Plate VI) representative of Class C;

and (owing to the rivalry referred to), when the latter superseded the UNIVERSIS document, an important advance had been made.

It is not positively known when this change actually took place, but in all probability it was in 1791 to 1792; and as the doubt only applies to a very narrow space of time, like the preceding Class B, the discovery of an earlier C, or a later B, than those now known, might settle the question at any moment. It happens, however, that Ancients Certificates from 1790 to 1792 are extremely difficult to meet with; should one of them turn up, as is quite possible, we should be very glad to see it.

There is a Certificate of Class C in the Grand Lodge Collection, dated June 7th, 1786, in the name of Richard Hall, but it

CRAFT CERTIFICATES.-CLASS C.

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Edwals Ha-per

signed

see Mins. J Stowards Lo. 17 Dece 1798 when this was ordered 36

see Mins. of Rensande 15 Feb 1813 Wite in puisson ; his cent to be detailed is considerably ante-dated. In 1786 there was no such Certificate, and that referred to must have been written after 1799 (we do not like to be too dictatorial about the exact date, which might have been a little later, but certainly not earlier), and, like the next in point of seeming age of this kind in the same Collection, bears the "IN LONDON" Seal. The latter document, in the name of Isaac Wise, and dated June 15th, 1798, is really the oldest of Class C we have seen there. It bears the unmistakeable features of an engraved Ancients Certificate of any date after 1795; in fact, until 1810 the heading and engraving generally remained precisely the same; very slight alterations in the phraseology of these Certificates only occurring, which will be pointed out. Only one of such variations, made in 1795-6, is of very much importance, but it is as well to explain three of them in a first work of this kind. As in Class A, for the sake of distinction, consecutive numbers will be adopted, viz. :--

C1, C2, and C3.

C1 (Plate VI) represents the form of the "1st ANGEL" Certificate as still in use in 1794, being from an original document of that year, one of the scarcest of the C series, and not in Grand Lodge.

There were comparatively few C1 Certificates issued, consequently they are now extremely rare; although the first of its kind it is not necessary to go fully into a separate description of it, especially as the two later varieties are described; the bulk of the C Certificates now existing, it should be noted, are of these two later varieties, and *not* like Plate VI, except in the general features common to this Class.

CRAFT CERTIFICATES.-CLASS C.

The wording of C1 will be found on the next page, to be followed by that of the other two (C2 and C3) in their order.

C2, the full text of which is given on page 39, was issued in 1795-96, and the change consists solely in the latter part of the wording, where "OUR LORD" is substituted for "MASONRY" in the English, and "ANNO DOMINI" for "ARTIS ARCHI-TECTONICÆ" in the Latin, of the bottom lines respectively on each side. Compare the wording with Plate VI.

Up to 1800, these Certificates continued to bear the signatures of Robert Leslie and Thomas Harper; the former as Grand Secretary, and the latter as Deputy Grand Secretary. This proves what has been stated with respect to the 1786 Certificate referred to on page 35, and which is signed by Leslie and *Edwards* Harper, indisputable evidence of its irregularity.

early 1801

For the convenience of easy reference the wording of the next variation (C3) is given on page 40, and it will be seen that excepting a slight addition on the plate of figures in the bottom line, it only differs from C2 in having Edwards Harper's signature as Deputy Grand Secretary in place of that of Thomas Harper. Leslie's name as Grand Secretary is on all the C and D Certificates; and a large number of the former he also wrote out himself. That for instance from which Plate VI is taken is in his handwriting. Edwards Harper's name replaced Thomas Harper's in 1801, and C3 continued in use up to 1810. There seems to have been a rush for Certificates from 1810 to 1813 by those who had misplaced or lost them, it being no doubt supposed that in the event of Union of the two Grand Lodges they would be required. It may here be noted

GRAND LODGE

OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF ENGLAND according to the Old Constitutions.

To all whom it may concern These are to Certify that our Brother

who hath signed his name in the Margin hereof is a regular MASTER MASON of Lodge Number ______ on the registery of ENGLAND as appears to us by the Certificate of the said Lodge and registered on the books of the GRAND LODGE in London the _____ day of ______ in the year of MASONRY 57 ______

In testimony whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed the Seal of the GRAND LODGE this _____ day of _____ in the year of MASONRY 57 _____ Omnes quorum intererit Hæ Literæ certiores faciunt fratrem nostrum_____

suum in qui nomem margine scripsit esse regularem PRINCIPEM ARCHITECTUM Cætûs numerati____ in archivo ANGLIE uti nobis consat ex literis certificatorus dicti cœtús et in Archiva CETUS MAJORIS relatum LONDINI_____die___ ARCHITECTONICÆ ARTIS anno 57 ____ In cujus rei testimonium nomina nostra singuli subscripsimus et sigillum Cœtûs MAJORIS apposuimus____ die____ anno ARTIS ARCHITECTONICÆ 57____

> Robt. Leslie, G. Sec. Thos. Harper, D.G.Sec.



GRAND LODGE

C2

OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF ENGLAND according to the Old Constitutions.

To all whom it may concern These are to certify that our Brother

who hath signed his name in the Margin hereof is a regular MASTER MASON of Lodge Number _____ on the registery of ENGLAND as appears to us by the Certificate of the said Lodge and registered on the books of the GRAND LODGE in London the____ day of ______ in the year of MASONRY 57_____

In testimony whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed the Seal of the GRAND LODGE this ______ day of ______ in the year of OUR LORD ______ Omnes quorum intererit Hœ Literœ certiores faciunt fratrem nostrum_____

qui nomen suum in margine scripsit esse regularem PRINCIPEM ARCHITECTUM Cœtus numerati____ in archivo ANGLIE uti nobis consat ex literis certificatoriis dicti cætûs et in Archiva CETUS MAJORIS relatum LONDINI____die ___ ARTIS ARCHITECTONICÆ anno 57____In cujus rei testimonium nomina nostra singuli subscripsimus et sigillum CETUS MAJORIS apposuimus____ die___

ANNO DOMINI

Robt. Leslie, G.Sec. Thos. Harper, D.G.Sec.



GRAND LODGE

OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF ENGLAND. According to the Old Constitutions.

To all whom it may concern These are to Certijy that our Brother

who hath signed his name in the Margin hereof is a regular MASTER MASON of Lodge Number ______on the registery of ENGLAND as appears to us by the Certificate of the said Lodge and registered on the books of the GRAND LODGE in London the _____day of ______in the year of Masonry 580____

In testimony whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed the Seal of the GRAND LODGE this ______ day of ______ in the year of OUR LORD 180____ Omnes quorum intererit Hœ Literœ certiores faciunt fratrem nostrum_____

qui nomen suum in margine scripsit esse regularem PRINCIPEM ARCHITECTUM Cætus numerati in archivo ANGLIE uti nobis consat ex literis certificatoriis dicti Cœtus et in Archiva CETUS MAJORIS relatum LONDINI ____ die __ ARCHITECTONICÆ ARTIS anno 580 In cujus rei testimonium nomina nostra singuli subscripsimus et sigillum CETUS MAJORIS apposuimus_____die ____

ANNO DOMINI 180 _____

Robt. Leslie, G.Sec. Edw. Harper, D.G.Sec.



CRAFT CERTIFICATES.-CLASS C.

that on Class C no engraver's name is given, possibly because Thomas Harper put out the work to be done; but that brother's name is always to be found on the left hand side below the two pillars, in all Ancients Certificates after the "UNIVERSIS" Series, *i.e.*, Classes C and D.

Reviewing the three varieties of Class C, it will be seen that the figures of FAITH and HOPE on two of the pillars are but indifferently representative; but that of CHARITY is if anything superior to the design on the Moderns contemporary certificate. The Ancients evidently attached more importance to these documents however, with regard to appearance, than their rivals, and altogether they were a success as such. Perhaps there was an advantage in *following the lead* of the Moderns, but so carefully were they designed, that it was never necessary to amend the original idea.

The English and Latin wording of Certificates was originated by the Ancients, and their first (B Plate V) gave it, though not, as in Class C, side by side. If this be remembered, it will later on appear, that if the Ancients copied the Moderns Certificate generally in appearance, they varied theirs specially; and in their turn the Moderns adopted in 1819 an English and Latin wording very similar, and according to their rival's practice, side by side, which is now in use.

CRAFT CERTIFICATES.-CLASS C.

This heading, which was maintained up to the Union, gives the last word in the plural; and we think it may be assumed, that whilst unwilling to change the Seal then in use for Craft purposes (and which has the word "CONSTITUTION," see plate IV No. 3) the Ancients adopted and maintained the plural word, as a correction, on the Certificate.

It may be mentioned that before their engraved Certificates the Ancients granted written ones on parchment in both English and Latin. When in English only, a shilling was charged; but if in Latin, two shillings. These fees were perquisites of the Grand Secretary, without which probably our friend Dermott's energies were not too liberally remunerated. Anyhow, he certainly well earned his shilling or florin every time his pompous signature was attached to one of those documents.

The Seal used for the Craft Certificates of the Ancients included in Classes C and D was that known as the "IN LONDON," and unless in cases of irregularity, inadvertence or subsequent attachment, no other will be found on either of those Classes. On Class C it is impressed on a lozenge-shaped paper as shewn by Plate IV No. 3,—the same paper, differently placed, but bearing the same impression, is a distinguishing characteristic of the next Class (D), but a number of the last C Certificates issued shewed the change, proving that it was a welcome one. For several years odd cases occurred, but the custom was not generally adopted until 1810.

see Antient a.c. jour Minute Bosh pp. 253-271 Table of the grand Secretary's Fees.



"2nd Angel" Certificate.







N the middle of 1810 the best certificate of the Athol series had been executed by Kennerley, whose name appears on it at the base of the pillar on the right side, Thomas Harper's as usual being on the left. In this the engraver's Art was well exemplified, the work being very good. It appears to have been intended

that the plate should be an improvement without making radical changes; so that, while the picturesque features of the earlier Certificate (C) are preserved, the effect has been to cause the two certificates to be very often regarded as the same. The alterations, however, are more important than appear at first sight, and may be briefly described as follows:—

1. The heading under the Angel is, as regards style, quite different; and on both sides of the lower portion of the Certificate, similar changes occur; also in the capitals, &c., after the two Grand Secretaries' signatures.

CRAFT CERTIFICATES.-CLASS D.

2. The Corinthian pillar on the right is *fluted*, having in the "1st ANGEL" Certificate been always plain; and the square and compasses at its base are better placed.

combines CI and C:

3. The lower portion of the Latin wording goes back again, with an addition, to that of C1 (see page 38) which compare with Plate VII, or D page 45.

Besides these variations, sufficient to require distinction as a separate Class, this plate also originated a deviation in attaching the Seal, the paper to which it is wafered being placed in a square (instead of the former (>) position. It was the fashion at the time to employ many flourishes in official signatures, and therefore the old practice of affixing the Seal on a lozenge-shaped ground must have been troublesome to the Grand Secretaries, more especially the Deputy, whose name was in some instances nearly hidden by the upper angle of the paper.

signed before Class D is represented by Plate VII, and is known as the "2nd ANGEL" Certificate, the Seal used being the "IN LONDON" (same as No. 3 Plate IV, but on differently placed paper.) The wording is given on page 45, and should be carefully compared with C1 on page 38.

> It may have been observed, that whereas in the A Certificate the Moderns adopted a male flying figure (intended doubtless like that on Classes C and D to represent an angel) the Ancients chose a female one with much better effect. The latter body no doubt had a manifest advantage in following instead of leading in this matter.

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GRAND LODGE

OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

OF ENGLAND

according to the Old Constitutions.

To all whom it may concern These are to Certify that our Brother

who hath signed his name in the Margin hereof is a regular MASTER MASON of Lodge Number ______on the registery of ENGLAND as appears to us by the Certificate of the said Lodge and registered on the books of the GRAND LODGE in LONDON the_____ day of ______in the year of MASONRY 5______

In testimony whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed the Seal of the GRAND LODGE this ______ day of ______ in the year of MASONRY 5______ and in the year of Our Lord 1____ Omnes quorum intererit Hœ Literœ certiores faciunt fratrem nostrum_____

in margine nomen suum qui scripsit esse regularem PRINCIPEM ARCHITECTUM Cœtus numerati____ in archivo ANGLIE uti nobis consat ex literis certificatorus dicti Cœtus et in Archiva CETUS MAJORIS relatum LONDINI _____ die__ ARCHITECTONICÆ ARTIS anno 5_____ In cujus rei testimonium nomina nostra singuli subscripsimus et sigillum CETUS MAJORIS apposuimus_____die_____anno ARTIS ARCHITECTONICE 5____ et anno Domini 1_

> Robt. Leslie, G.Sec. Edw. Harper, D.G.Sec.

> > Seal No. 3, Plate IV.

CRAFT CERTIFICATES.-CLASS D.

As irregular Certificates of this Class are not uncommon, chiefly owing to the anxiety displayed as referred to on page 37, it is as well to give a few examples of them, because they often cause much trouble to those unacquainted with the general peculiarities of Certificates. The selection is made from documents in the Grand Lodge Collection, as being more easily referred to by any student :-

October 4th, 1802, James Macartney, Lodge 240, D Certificate. 19 june 1817 March 5th, 1803, Robert Reed, Lodge 316, D Certificate. July 4th, 1804, Thomas Newman, Lodge 289, D Certificate. June 25th, 1809, Michael Clarke, Lodge 295, D Certificate. July 27th, 1809, Peter Mock Lodge 306, " 21 March 1810

Now, as the D plate did not come into use until 1810, if it was desired to give a duplicate, these should have been made out on a C form. There is not a doubt of course that the above were granted in 1810 or later; but there is an endorsement on the fourth, in the handwriting of Edwards Harper, which proves that the Michael Clarke Certificate was made out *after the Union* !





"St. Paul's" Certificate.







OING back to the Moderns, whose Certificates have been described up to 1809 in Class A, a new one (Plate VIII) which it may be noted was continued *after the Union*, came into general use in January, 1810. It differs, as will be at once perceived, from any previous Certificate, either of Moderns or

Ancients.

Known as St. PAUL'S, it is now a rather scarce one, there being five varieties of it all of very short duration, and its use altogether only covers a period of about nine years.

The wording is very similar to that of its predecessor the "3 GRACES," but other characteristics are distinctly different, the principal changes being as follows :—

The name of the Grand Master for the time being occupies the top portion in place of the former flying figure, and a view of London Old Blackfriars Bridge and St. Paul's Cathedral stands out prominently from the lower

CRAFT CERTIFICATES.—CLASS E.

part, instead of the women and children, reclining stone, &c., of Class A: the pillars are better engraved, and differently placed and surmounted, FAITH being represented on the Doric, HOPE on the Ionic, and CHARITY on the Corinthian. In the former, FAITH surmounted the Ionic, and HOPE the Corinthian; whilst the Doric pillar, being represented as standing behind the Ionic, was consequently but partially visible. Other variations in this Class will be pointed out, as it is a most interesting one; it may however be noticed at present that the Grand Master's name did not, before this, appear on any Certificate granted by either Grand Lodge.

Plate VIII gives the essential features of the E or St. Paul's Certificate; but in order to be as complete in information as possible, the wording of the several forms of it will be given in their order.

The first has for heading "GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES GRAND MASTER," is signed by William White, Grand Secretary, and there are four lines at the bottom of the parchment referring to the old Grand Lodge resolution (then however a little altered). See page 49.

The second form differs from the preceding in the heading, which reads "GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT GRAND MASTER," and in being signed by William Henry White (son of William White) who had been appointed Junior or Joint Grand Secretary with his father, May 9th, 1810, and sole Grand Secretary on the death of the latter. See page 50.

GRAND LODGE OF ENGL. GRAND His Royal Highness GL. GRAND HIS Royal Highness GL. GRAND MASTER AND MASTER These are to Certify	A.N.D.
That Brother was made a Mason and admitted to the appears by the Certificate hereunto annexed of	
signed by the Master Wardens and Secretary of he is therefore recommended to all Lodges and received as a Brother after due Examination. Given under the Seal of the Grand Lodge at LONDON the	

1E

49

Ordered by the Grand Lodge

That every Certificate granted to a Brother of his being a Mason shall be sealed with the Seal of Masonry and signed by the Grand Secretary, for which six Shillings & sixpence shall be paid to the use of the General Fund of Charity.

	GRAND His Royal Highness GRAND His Royal Highness GRAND HIS Regent RAND MASTER.	
	These are to Certify Brother nade a Mason and admitted to the	Degree a
	s by the Certificate hereunto annexed of	
appears signed he is	s by the Certificate hereunto annexed of by the Master Wardens and Secretary of the sai therefore recommended to all Lodges and Brethren d as a Brother after due Examination.	

Ordered by the Grand Lodge

That every Certificate granted to a Brothen of his being a Mason shall be sealed with the Seal of Masonry and signed by the Grand Secretary, for which six Shillings & sixpence shall be paid to the use of the General Fund of Charity.

GRAND His Royal Highness GLAND GRAND MASTER.

3E

These are to Certify

William H. White, Grand Secretary.

Ordered by the Grand Lodge

That every Certificate granted to a Brother of his being a Mason shall be sealed with the Seal of Masonry and Signed by the Grand Secretary, for which six Shillings & sixpence shall be paid to the use of the General Fund of Charity.

CRAFT CERTIFICATES.—CLASS E.

The third form has for heading "GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SUSSEX GRAND MASTER," William H. White signing as Grand Secretary like the second. This form continued up to the Union on December 27th, 1813, and all three bore the "Releif" Seal (Plate IV No. 1) as used for Class A. See page 51 for the wording of the third variety of this Certificate.

The three preceding varieties of Class E carry us to an important epoch in the history of Freemasonry; for we have now covered all the Craft Certificates of both Grand Lodges issued up to the UNION, when the Moderns and Ancients amalgamated, becoming one body as the

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

It may be open to consideration 80 years after such amalgamation whether the word "UNITED" in that title is now retained with any advantage.

It has often been asserted of late years with some appearance at least of authority, that the present Grand Lodge Certificate (Class F, see plate IX) was instituted at the Union, but this is not correct; indeed it will be necessary to follow up this St. Paul's document as far as 1818, or four to five years later. Hence, the St. Paul's Certificate

has an additional interest to us, as being representative of the first type in use by the United Grand Lodge.

The Seal given below now replaced that so long in use (RELEIF, Plate IV No. 1) and distinguishes the next or fourth form of Class E Certificates. It is known as the "SUSSEX" Seal,



being the arms of H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, M.W. Grand Master.

No doubt this Seal was only intended to be used temporarily, though it may be assumed diplomatically also, in order to allow the still dissatisfied feelings of many "Ancients" Lodges to subside, and give opportunities for discussing the design of a new Grand Lodge Seal, then necessary. This "Grand Master's" Seal was in fact only used in 1814 and part of 1815, about eighteen months at the outside, so that Certificates bearing it are very scarce, and now it is unexpected luck to meet with one, those from 1817-18 being much more likely to turn

4E 54 United GRAND MASTER. These are to Certify, That Brother___ was made a Mason and admitted to the_____ _Degree as appears by the Certificate hereunto annexed of_ signed by the Master Wardens and Secretary of the said Lodge he is therefore recommended to all Lodges and Brethren to be received as a Brother after due Examination. Seal Given under the Seal of the Grand Master at No. 4, LONDON the______A.L. 58_____A.D. 18_____ Plate IV. William H. White] Grand Secretaries.

Ordered by the Grand Lodge

That every Certificate granted to a Brother of his being a Mason shall be sealed with the Seal of Masonry, and signed by the Grand Secretaries.

United

GRAND His Royal Highness GLAND GRAND MASTER.

These are to Certify

he is therefore recommended to all Lodges and Brethren to be received as a Brother after due Examination.

Given under the Seal of the United Grand Lodge at London the______A.L. 58_____A.D. 18_____

William H. White Edw. Harper Srand Secretaries. Seal No. 5, Plate IV.

Ordered by the Grand Lodge

That every Certificate granted to a Brother of his being a Mason shall be sealed with the Seal of Masonry and signed by the Grand Secretaries.

CRAFT CERTIFICATES.-CLASS E.

up. In the preceding three forms of the St. Paul's Certificate the last line but one reads

"GIVEN UNDER THE SEAL OF THE GRAND LODGE AT," &c., now in this under notice, the first after the Union, it is "GIVEN UNDER THE SEAL OF THE GRAND MASTER."

The other alterations are in the heading, which however only differs from the third variety in having the word "UNITED" added at the top, over GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND; the signatures of the new joint Grand Secretaries, William Henry White and Edwards Harper, in place of the former alone; and there are but *three* lines instead of four as before, at the bottom. One slight addition however is important—a special place on the left hand side margin of the Certificate being provided for the owner's signature. Neither the A nor E Certificates appear to have been drawn up in contemplation of the signature of the owner appearing on the documents, and it is not *mentioned* in these later E Certificates, nor until the F Certificate of 1819. The wording of the fourth and fifth forms of the E Certificate are given on pages 54 and 55.

Endorsements are very common on this Class, as might well be expected, on account of the critical period, and the many duplicates asked for. But some of these endorsements are very peculiar, both on

CRAFT CERTIFICATES.-CLASS E.

this and Class A. There is an E Certificate in the Grand Lodge Collection bearing a pencil endorsement in the handwriting of William H. White, Grand Secretary, unique in its way, viz :—" D. O'Connor being unable to write, this Certificate was refused to be delivered to him." A very proper reason most Masons will think.

But all the Certificates of A and E beginning with 1784-5, appear to have been printed on parchment not properly prepared. Unless great care was taken of these, they were liable to the attacks of a microscopic insect, and many years ago we had the good fortune to arrest the destruction of a valuable certificate so attacked, and preserve it. There are secretarial endorsements too shewing that new Certificates were granted to replace originals "destroyed by insects." These insects were visible to the naked eye only as brown patches or stains, but a good microscope reveals a living mass, composed entirely of ant-like workers, and extreme care is necessary in removing them. Arsenic and acids are generally recommended; but these must not be resorted to, or the Certificate may easily be ruined. What is commonly known as soft soap, made into a lather with warm water, and applied with a sponge, is by far the best remedy, and certainly the safest, next to a preparation of our own for the purpose.

The new and present seal (Plate IV No. 5) was first used in 1815 on the fifth and last form of the E Certificate as given on page
CRAFT CERTIFICATES.-CLASS E.

55. In the escutcheon or field are marshalled the Arms as adopted previously by both Moderns and Ancients; but the supporters are those of the latter, as in use on the "IN LONDON" Seal, so that to the ordinary reader, or at first sight, the new Seal would seem to be that of the Ancients with merely a new legend. Its selection is certainly significant; but we adopted other features of the Athol Certificate when this Class was discontinued at the end of 1818, as will presently appear.





"3 Pillars" Certificate.



PLATE IX.





HIS is our present form of Craft Certificate, dating from the year 1819, and is known as the "3 PILLARS." Its chief peculiarities consist in the permanent adoption of two distinctive features of the Ancients Craft Certificate, viz :—

An English and Latin wording side by side.
 A special position for the owner's signature.

Both these features may have been observed in Classes C and D and the second in the fourth variety of Class E. With regard to the latter, no mention is made of the marginal signature as is found in Class C or D, and in this new Certificate (F) the Ancients' custom is perpetuated.

Plate IX (No. 1) exhibits the *first* form of "3 PILLARS" Certificate, and No. 2 on the same plate the *second*, of the following year. The latter practically represents the document now in use, being very nearly the same in all respects.

It is unnecessary to enter at length upon a description of the variations in this Class up to the present time, and of which there are

CRAFT CERTIFICATES.-CLASS F.

no fewer than sixteen, some of them of a trivial nature; but it will be noticed that in the first, the chief characteristics of our present Certificate are very prominent, but the heading is not the same, and the positions assigned to the Seal and the owner's signature are on the top of the DORIC and CORINTHIAN pillars respectively. This peculiar placing of signature and Seal is different from any other Certificate, no doubt with an artistic view to the filling up of the space left on each side of the adopted heading. The base of the Certificate is occupied for the first time by the various Working-tools, Globes, and the open Volume of the Sacred Law, as at present.

In the second will be observed the first adoption of all the features of our present document, in which the signature is placed to the right of the Corinthian pillar, and the Seal to the left of the Doric, a practice which has been continued to this day. The "2nd 3 PILLARS" also originated the Royal Arms as a heading. (See Plate IX., No. 2)

Figures representative of Faith, Hope, and Charity, seem to have been previously essentials of both Ancients and Moderns Craft Certificates, but in the Class we are reviewing the three pillars from which its name is derived occupy a different position, the two single figures surmounting pillars with the group at the foot (collectively emblemmatical of the three Graces, Faith, Hope, and Charity) being left out altogether.

The "UNITED CRAFT" Seal (plate IV, No. 5) adopted in 1815, is still in use; in fact the only material alteration or variations

HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE IV. HIS HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SUSSEX, GRAND MASTER.

numero_

To All

Whom it may concern These are to certify that our Brother

who hath signed his name in the Margin hereof was regularly received into Free Masonry on the _____day of _____A.L. _\$ was admitted to the _____Degree on the _____day of ______in the

§ that he is duly registered in the Books of this Grand Lodge accordingly.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto subscribed our Names & affixed the Seal of the Grand Lodge At London the_____day of______ A.L._____A.D._____

This Certificate shall not entitle a Brother to admission into any Lodge without due Examination. _ Sciant omnes quibus advenerint hæ Lit+ræ

qui Nomen suum in margine scripsit, in illo cœtu nostro nomine

_____die_____A.L.____habito fratrem in primo gradu occultæ scientiæ Latomorum vel artis ædificatorice inauguratum esse; necnon debito tempore ad secundum, et tum denique ad tertium gradum admissum; nomenque ejus in actis summi nostri concilii rite recensitum esse. In cujus rei testimonium nomina nostra singuli subscripsimus sigillumque supradicti summi concillii apposuimus. Londini datum hoc____die____A.L.___A.D.__ Notandum est, ut nemini nisi examinato prius approbato quod vis concilium visendi facultas detur.

F2

CRAFT CERTIFICATES.-CLASS F.

since the use of No. 2 in 1820 have been in the names of the several Grand Masters who have successively ruled the Craft, viz :--

The Duke of Sussex. The Earl of Zetland. The Earl de Grey & Ripon, afterwards The Marquis of Ripon; and H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, present M.W. Grand Master.

These of course affected the heading¹ in every case; and in one instance, on the death of the Duke of Sussex, the Earl of Zetland's name appeared as PRO GRAND MASTER fully twelve months before his installation as Grand Master.

Further variations were caused by the signatures of the different Grand Secretaries (which however did not affect the plates), and, during the long rule of the Duke of Sussex, the PRINCE REGENT, their Majesties King GEORGE IV. and King WILLIAM IV. figure in the heading successively as Grand Patrons, as shewn in Plate IX, No. 2; but to enumerate and fully describe all such changes would answer no useful purpose.

The wording of No. 2, Plate IX, given on page 61 may however be profitably compared with a recent Certificate. The extra line in the latter was an addition made for the King William Certificates, 1830-1, to allow more space for the name of the Lodge.

¹ The Ancients never gave the Grand Master's name on the top of Certificates, nor did the Moderns until after 1809.

CRAFT CERTIFICATES .--- CLASS F.

There have been since the Geo. IV. Certificate (Plate IX, No. 2), two or three slight alterations in the plates in respect of the wording itself so that it is not exactly like a recent document. A change of Grand Master or Grand Secretary did not necessarily involve the engraving of a new plate. When this occurred it was the exception and not the rule. Whether it was this economical spirit of altering the plate or a remarkable oversight we cannot say, but although after the resignation of Edwards Harper in December, 1838, there was but one Grand Secretary, the Certificates until 1844 continued to read "In testimony whereof we have hereunto subscribed our Names," etc. During the period named two separate alterations occurred, at either of which the correction might have been made.

Having now covered the whole of the Craft Certificates, before proceeding with a description of those of the Royal Arch a few special remarks may be made concerning them collectively, as a means of inducing brethren to make known the discovery of scarce specimens. Of these, *all* the A and B documents are most valuable. Of Classes C and D (generally believed to be the scarcest) a goodly number found their lucky way to Grand Lodge, presumably in exchange, at the Union. Although these are composed of too many of the same kind, and hardly any early issues, there need be no anxiety about these two Classes, which are completely represented elsewhere. The earliest dates notwithstanding are very scarce.

Class E being so diversified during its short usage, there is scarcely one of any date prior to 1817 which is not difficult to find now; although specimens of every year are known.

CRAFT CERTIFICATES.-CLASS F.

Of Class F the years 1819 to 1827-1830-1837-1839-1843 to '54 and 1857 are all scarce; and we should be glad to hear of the safe custody of any Certificates of those years. As a matter of fact, all, whether of Moderns or Ancients dated before 1858, are now more or less difficult to procure, and as of course they *cannot increase*, it is entirely a piece of luck when they get into good hands on turning up. If Lodges would make known the dates and character of the Certificates in their possession, they would at present do a real service to the Craft, and be better able to keep them. However, we still think Grand Lodge is the safest and best custodian.





" DERMOTT " CERTIFICATE.



ROYAL ARCH OR CHAPTER CERTIFICATES.





RAND Chapter Certificates were also preceded by similar written documents to those of the Craft, but they continued longer in use.

This, the first and only engraved Certificate of the Ancients' Grand Chapter, is called the *Dermott*

No!

Impint

v. et delt

Certificate, because designed by him. His original drawing, however, according to Bro. Henry Sadler (see frontispiece, "Facts and Fictions"), had a Pentalpha instead of Hexalpha at the top, as adopted.

Dermott certainly deserves credit for the creation of this beautiful Certificate, which was in use to the end of the Ancients' Royal Arch regime. The alterations in it from time to time were merely those of date figures, otherwise a G or DERMOTT Certificate (Plate X) exhibits the features of an Ancients' Arch Certificate of any

ROYAL ARCH OR CHAPTER CERTIFICATES.-CLASS G.

66

date after the introduction of engraved documents, although two plates, one a copy of the other, were actually used. As in the Craft, they seem to have been most conservative in these matters. It is from this DERMOTT diploma that our present Royal Arch Certificate is derived, which, if of a more mysterious appearance, is certainly very much inferior in an artistic sense to that of the Ancients. (Compare Plate X and Plate XIII).

It will be understood that the names of the three Grand Principals and two Scribes are written in places assigned for them at the bottom, so that however much these varied (and they certainly did, as both Certificates and Warrants shew that it was customary on occasion to sign for the proper officer), such signatures did not affect the plate.

The wording of the DERMOTT Certificate may be referred to on page 67. It is from an original of 1799, that is, from the first plate. Plate X is from an original Certificate of the *second* dated 1810. The difference however between them is in the engraver's work, in fact the latter one is a copy of the other to all intents and purposes. Wm. Dickey signed as Z up to 1800 inclusive, with Robt. Leslie and Thos. Harper as Grand Scribes: the second and third Principals varied, but Robt. Gill signed most of these Certificates as H. In 1801 Thos. Harper signed as first Principal up to 1817, with Robt. Leslie and Edwards Harper as Grand Scribes. In these documents To all whom it may concern These are to certify That our Excellent Brother_____

who hath in the Margin signed his Name is a regular ROYAL ARCH MASON registered in our Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch in LONDON on the____Day of_____in the Year of Masonry 57_____In testimony whereof we have subscribed our Names and affixed the Seal of our Grand Chapter this____Day of____in the Year of our Lord 17 __and of Masonry 57___ Omnes quorum intererit. Hæ literæ certiores faciunt Eximium Fratrem nostram_____ 67

_____qui nomen suum in Margine scripsit esse regularem ARCUS REGALIS ARCHITECTUM in archiva Grandis nostri Capituli relatum LONDINI ______Die ______Anno Artis Architectonicæ 57 _____In cujus rei testimonium nomina nostra singuli subscripsimus et sigillum Grandis Nostri Capituli apposuimus _____Die ______Anno Domini 17 _____ Artis Architectonicæ 57 _____

H

Robert Gill Robt. Leslie Z

Wm. Dickey Thos. Harper

J

Thos. Hanscomb { Grand { Scribes.

ROYAL ARCH OR CHAPTER CERTIFICATES .--- CLASS G.

also, the signatures of the second and third Principals varied. Up to 1808 inclusive every G Certificate had a number and letter (as 135c) on the left at the bottom of the document, and letters (as *Coo*) on the opposite (right) side, but after then this practice was discontinued. The numbers appear to have run consecutively to 1807 inclusive, and therefore were probably Register numbers, but towards the end of the last-named year, whether owing to the commencement of a new book or for some other reason, they began afresh, but were soon discontinued altogether.

Class G is fairly well represented after 1796, which date however is the earliest we have actually seen. The Dermott Certificate is very widely scattered, although we have seen nearly every year's issue after 1795. We have heard of others representing several years between 1790 and 1795, and it is to be hoped these will now be in safe custody, and by Catalogues or other means their whereabouts known.

See ADC XIX p.63 for correction for This by T.T. THORP The Seal used on this Class is known as the "KIRK" Seal, and we have never seen any other on an Ancients' Royal Arch Certificate up to 1813. (Plate II, No. 6). It is difficult to understand with what object the Ancients had a new Royal Arch Seal engraved so late as 1813, but such was the case; and although this was apparently of little service, their Chapter Certificates from about the middle of that year to 1817 bore that new Seal. It only differs from the other in the

ROYAL ARCH OR CHAPTER CERTIFICATES .--- CLASS G.

legend, by which it is known as "HOLY ROYAL ARCH" Seal—the "KIRK" Seal having "GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF ENGLAND ACCORDING TO THE OLD INSTITUTIONS," and the new one "HOLY ROYAL ARCH GRAND CHAPTER OF ANCIENT FREEMASONS, LONDON." (See Plate II, No. 7).

The Seal on G Certificates is attached by three narrow ribbons neatly threaded through the parchment on the right-hand-side margin, the six ends being united by the impressed Seal. The ribbons were Cambridge blue, crimson, and purple, though few now have been sufficiently cared for and preserved to fairly answer that description as to colors, many we have seen having faded into a curious sea-green.

It may here be incidentally stated that Royal Arch Seals are invariably impressed on *scallopped* paper, the custom having been generally followed by both Moderns and Ancients. The latter embossed on circular scalloped white paper, and a background was not necessary with the ribbons arrangement; but the former, fixing their Seal flat on the parchment, had in addition an *octagonal* dark steel-blue background. This dark background is a peculiarity of all "Moderns" Seals, that on the Craft Certificates being either oblong as shewn by the "RELEIF" Seal (Plate IV, No. 1). or square as the "SUSSEX" Seal (Plate IV, No. 4); that on Royal Arch documents is shewn on Plate II, Nos. 8 and 9. The background of Craft Seals up to the

ROYAL ARCH OR CHAPTER CERTIFICATES .--- CLASS G.

Union was nearly always *Cambridge blue*; but although the same color appears on odd Certificates after then, a *dark steel-blue* similar to that of the Royal Arch background came to be adopted, and has been since in use. The "Sussex" Seal is generally on the lighter blue ground. There seems to have been no variation in the ground of Royal Arch Seals.

In the North of England, since the Union, several Chapters have adopted the design of the G Certificate, both for "Summons" circulars and vouchers of exaltation. One of these, discovered by Bro. G. W. Bain, issued by the De Swinburne Chapter, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and bearing the name T. BEWICK and SON as engravers, is beautifully executed, but the work is, of course, totally different to that which one is accustomed to associate with Bewick's name.





"TRINITY" CERTIFICATE.

Offe moft en lightened E) all the Enlightened. Entered St Raised and Exalted under the Canopy of Heaven? About Seatlent Grand Officers of the Grand and Royal Chapter of Jernialen, alled Est Worss Nicht an due Som gloembled at Free Masons Hall Sonstation, where recon Silerice Union and Peace this Day of _____ A 59_ Dos __ word greeting ______ Ritigtor Fe and WII De freedy sectify soid oslass that Our beloved Brokher hath been received and admitted into Our faces Mytheries after having past through all those Proofs which are requested from those who discus Admittenes, among Britheren of this Stabiline Order WWW Larse's STAB STAB to Stim, all those Bonefit Dignitus Creignes and Recognives. Success and Protections which for Some immemore a have belonged and now of Right to apportune to those exalted to this Nost Excellent Degree 1337 Stability but that Ho will be permitted to resp and myor the same with and from all STAB Diese and Callent Constrained returns returnes only the forsed over the two Kenschlards for the the wind the Constrained and now Privet to ad-the same with and from all STAB Diese and Callent Constrained the the companions of Our Juliane Vices who toward on may towing and theose Privelege is to ad-ings US for their Rights Kenows Progetives and Success, whenever they may have Cause to require the same to require the sas The HIN Winder Our Hands and the Great Seal of Our Stands BURGE Shats the Day and your above worden and the better to identify Our and Ther and Comparison, he hash by Our Durschion hereward subscribed his proper Rame 而 Resorder 2 Trugh Ter simile by J. Remoden Roley town Via Covernal, 1879. Timer one - Michon the body 15/4 17 - Tarchon (Considerate of 1801 - Class H





COME now to a document which is very scarce. This Class is represented by the "TRINITY" Certificate (Plate XI), and it was the first issued by the Moderns Grand Chapter. Those Certificates now existing are nearly all very dirty and much worn, owing to their bulk even when twice folded; and as

it seems to have been customary to carry them about in the pocket, the practice operated in making them scarcer than they might otherwise have been. One in our own Collection is by far the most complete, and generally in the best preservation of any we have seen, or are now likely to see, of this pompous document. The few known Certificates are widely scattered, and a small collection in Grand Lodge is representative of late dates only, so that this Class is probably the only one which it is to be feared may never be completed there.

The TRINITY Certificate is the largest of any kind ever used in England, and indeed is unnecessarily large and therefore inconvenient for its purpose. The autographs on it are valuable, and of special interest, including those of the Duke of Sussex, Earl Moira,

ROYAL ARCH OR CHAPTER CERTIFICATES .--- CLASS H.

and many other distinguished noblemen who held high office in the Grand Chapter.

The bombastic inflated style adopted in the wording on this Certificate will at once arrest attention; but note the *two* Seals at the top, one on each side. That on the left is impressed by a die and wafered on the octagonal dark background common to Moderns Royal Arch Certificates, and is known as the HEXAPLA Seal (Plate II No. 8). The other, on the right, is printed on the parchment off the plate (therefore not, strictly speaking, a Seal), and represents the triple tau depending from it. The intention seems to have been to represent, by these two, both sides of the Royal Arch *jewel*.

There are two interesting Certificates of this Class in the Grand Lodge Library,—those of Sir Robert Peel, and William White. Both bear the signatures most commonly met with, viz. :—Augustus Frederick Z, Moira H, and Waller Rodwell Wright J; but neither is signed by the Grand Recorder, no doubt because never claimed.

The wording of the Trinity Certificate is not given separately, as being unnecessary. It may be found on reference to Plate XI, which gives it in full as printed off the plate.









THIS Class belongs the "1st. GLORIA" Certificate the first of the United Grand Chapter, dating of course from 1817. The document is totally different from that previously in use, and the several alterations in it, including a reduction in size, would appear to have been well considered.

The changes made are briefly as follows :----

Instead of a Grand Recorder, William H. White, E. and Edwards Harper, N. appear as Grand Scribes up to 1838. Afterwards, on the resignation of the last-named in December of that year, A. Dobie signed in his place as N.

Augustus Frederick (Duke of Sussex) Z. Ramsbottom J. and William H. White, S.E. signed nearly all of them; but the second Principal's signature varied.

ROYAL ARCH OR CHAPTER CERTIFICATES.-CLASS I.

The wording of the Certificates in this Class is entirely changed, as is the general appearance of the document; and, as in the Craft diploma after the Union, the Ancients' English and Latin system is here adopted. (See the wording on the next page). There can be no doubt that the DERMOTT Certificate is the foundation upon which Class I is based, as will at once be apparent on comparing it with Plate X.

The Seal (Plate II No. 9) is known as the "UNITED ARCH" Seal, having been designed specially for future Certificates, and is similar to that at present in use.

Sylvester's engraving appears to have been of a peculiar character, and Class I Certificates are easily recognised by their dark appearance, which is quite different to any other; and as they were all his work, this peculiarity is often sufficient to distinguish the Class at sight.

It will have been noticed that on Moderns Royal Arch Certificates there has always been an engraved Hexapla or Hexalpha in addition to the embossed Seal, the positions however being altered in this I Certificate. The design of the engraved Hexapla was also changed, the medallic appearance of that appearing on H Certificates being now absent. The radiated Triangle and capital letters forming the heading are new features originated by this Class.

We the most Excellent GRAND MASTER of the Grand and Royal Chapter of the ROYAL ARCH in due form assembled AT FREE MASONS HALL, LONDON.

Z

1.

To all whom it may Concern These are to certify That our Excellent Brother_____

who hath in the Margin signed his Name is a regular ROYAL ARCH MASON admitted into our mysteries on the ______ day of _______A.L. 58_____ by the Chapter of Lodge No. ______ Meeting at ______

and is registered in our Grand Chapter of Royal Arch in LONDON on the _____ day of ______ in the year of Masonry 5_____

In Testimony whereof we have subscribed our Names and affixed the Seal of our Grand Chapter this ______day of ______ in the Year of our Lord 18_____ and of Masonry 58 _____. Omnes Quorum Intererit. Hœ Literæ certiores faciunt Eximium Fratrem nostrum

quinomensuuminMarginescripsitesseregularemARCUSREGALISARCHITECTUMadmissuminMysteriisnotrisdie________A.L.58CapituloNumerato_______Convenienti

et in archiva Grandis nostri Capituli relatum Londini _____die_____

Anno Artis Ædificatoriæ 5_____ In cujus rei testimonium nomina nostra singuli subscripsimus et sigillum Grandis Nostri Capituli apposuimus ______die_____Anno Domini 18_____ Artis Ædificatoriæ 58_____

N

J

H

E

ROYAL ARCH OR CHAPTER CERTIFICATES .--- CLASS I.

The wording is given on page 75, the heading reading "WE the most Excellent GRAND MASTER of the Grand and Royal Chapter of the ROYAL ARCH in due form assembled at FREE MASONS HALL, LONDON," which however was changed in 1843-4. This wording is taken from an original Certificate of 1818, but the only change made in the plate at any time was in the year figures, so that as a Class this stands distinctly by itself, notwithstanding the later document was based on it.





"2nd Gloria" Certificate.

.







HE Royal Arch diploma now issued is that represented by Class J, known as the "2nd. GLORIA" Certificate, coming into use 50 years ago.

Compared with the preceding Class, the heading is different, and no Grand Principals signed them as in Class I, besides which, only one scribe (at first

William H. White) has continued up to the present to sign Royal Arch Certificates. As already intimated, it is the same as that now in use. It originated *numbering*, which in these documents is on one of the squares of the mosaic pavement, (in the Craft Certificates the perfect ashlar is made use of for the same purpose) whilst the form of the Certificate itself, though similar to Class I, will on comparison be found different in some important respects.

For instance, in the latter, the Grand Principal's names were signed on the plinth of the pedestal, and a space was specially provided for the signatures of the Scribes, below the mosaic pavement. In the present document, the Grand Scribe E. alone signs on the plinth, and the other space is dispensed with. The heading of Class J reads,

THE SUPREME GRAND AND ROYAL CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF ENGLAND

The capital letters, (I.T.N.O. &c) at the top, are common to both classes; however, the wording on the next page will at once explain the difference between the two, as pointed out above, especially if compared with Plate XII and its wording. It may be mentioned the first J Certificates were of the dark engraving of Sylvester, all up to about 1855-1856 having the peculiarly sombre appearance of his work. For a few years this work continued with Warrington's name attached to it, the lighter style of the last named engraver appearing in 1856 or 1857.

The chief varieties of the "2nd. GLORIA" Certificate are to be found in the signatures of the successive Grand Scribes E viz :---

William H. White	from 18 43
William Gray Clarke	from 1857
John Hervey	from 1868
Col. Shadwell H. Clerke	from 1880
Edward Letchworth	from 1892

The Seal is the same as used on Class I (see Plate II No. 9). This J Certificate is represented by Plate XIII, and naturally is so well known as to need no further description.

The Supreme Grand and Royal Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

J

To all whom it may Concern These are to certify That the Excellent Brother _____

who hath in the Margin signed his Name is a regular ROYAL ARCH MASON admitted into the mysteries of the Order on the _____day of _____A.L. 58_____ by the Chapter attached to the Lodge No.______Meeting at

and is registered in the Books of the Supreme Grand Chapter on the_____day of _____ A.L. 58____.

In testimony whereof 1 have subscribed my Name and affixed the Seal of the Supreme Grand Chapter at London this _____day of______ A.D. 18_____. A.L. 58_____. Omnes Quorum Intererit. Hæliteræcertiores faciant Fratrem eximium_____

cujus chirographum in margine conspicuum est ad mysteria Arcus Regalis legitime admissum esse die_______ Anno Lucis 58_______in capitulo numerato_______ ______conveniente

et nomen ejus in codices summi Capituli relatum esse Londini die______ Anno Lucis 58_____

Quod attestor nomine meo subscripto et sigillo summi Capituli apposito die_____

A.D. 18_____A.L. 58____

G.S.E.

ROYAL ARCH OR CHAPTER CERTIFICATES.-CLASS J.

In the Chapter documents, all G and H Certificates should be carefully preserved. Class H is the scarcest of any,—either Craft or Royal Arch,—there being fewer known of it than of the A Craft Certificates. Of Class G only those before 1796, and after 1811, are really scarce; but what are known are in many hands, and hence gives a different impression to owners.

Of Class J the years 1844 to 1853 inclusive also 1856 are wanted, but cannot be said (excepting the last named) to be scarce. All the remainder are common enough, although, like Masonic Certificates of any kind, they are, and always will be, *difficult to purchase*. We shall be glad to hear of any of those above-named.







AVING walked nearly seven miles of limestone road on a July afternoon, in order to secure a Certificate I had heard of, the owner, (an old Masonic veteran who has since passed over to the great majority) asked, with reference to that particular document, "What do you want it for ?"

"I find there is no such thing as a record of the actual Certificates issued before the present one," I replied, "and I intend to make one." This was in 1870.

"What! gather up a specimen of each kind you mean?"

"Yes," I assented.

After an undisguised stare of surprise, he went on,—"Well, if you have made up your mind to do it, I've no doubt you will try, but it should have been taken up fifty years since,—besides, too many are burned now-a-days. Brother P. M. — tried to collect them as

curiosities, and only managed to get three,—that must be five and twenty years ago,—so I am afraid the thing is about as impossible as anything you could attempt. But for all that, I wish it could be done. You can have this, and welcome," said he, handing the parchment I had come for, " and I'll try to find you a few more. If anybody can accomplish such a feat, you can, and that's as much as I can say for the trial."

"Had I not better go and see Brother P. M. — to try and get the three he has ?" I asked.

"What!" he fairly shouted, "walk another four miles in a broiling sun for three old certificates?" I smiled. "You see I want them," I responded, "and it is only fair that I should take some trouble, or I may as well give it up now as in a few years."

"Just so, but let me see how the land lies first. He will give them to you before me or anybody; but they may after these years be in other hands, and it is better to know before you mention the matter to him, and I can easily find this out for you." Then, in an hesitating manner he went on, "Don't you think any other hobby would be better than this? If you tell others what you have said to me, they'll say you won't be long without a bee in your bonnet!"

"Nonsense !" I cried, "I mean to do it, and you will see I shall succeed." "Not in my time, my lad—not in my time," he repeated, more gravely,—" but it'll not be for the want of fair trying."

We shook hands, and parted. A few days after I received from him two Certificates by post, and his reiterated promise to hunt up others. From that day to 1885, although I possessed a much

larger Collection in that year than at any time, little visible progress was made towards *Classification*; but at the end of the year, a lucky discovery made while on a Lodge visit, quite changed the aspect of affairs, and it became practically a *fait accompli* in 1888, my knowledge then merely requiring confirmation to a very limited extent. Previous to the finding of two connecting Certificates my Collection was of no use !

Perhaps the reader knows, that the year of a Brother's rule as W.M. for the first time proves always a great enlightener; (to him I mean, whether it be to others or not), and it is not unusual to find that enlightenment brings forth a real desire to serve the Craft in some additional manner. Give this aspiration but encouragement, and we know not what it may produce; on the other hand allow this opportunity to pass by, and one may as well try to awake the dead, as the stifled energies of the man who has played his part in the longcoveted chair, and already feels on the decline. It is common enough to find some natures positively tyrannical and even pugnacious as they realize the necessity of soon vacating the seat, which as they say, just begins to fit them, in favour of another ! To such, a Masonic hobby is said to be a prime consoler; however, I strongly doubt the efficacy of Certificate collecting, unless a fair start can be made by purchase or otherwise.

In the preceding pages will be found all the information a Collector or Lodge Librarian may need in order to identify at once and Class any Certificate issued by the Grand Lodges and Grand Chapters of England. Having endeavoured to be as clear as possible, little remains to be added, although, as many of those documents have a

history, and some of them a very instructive as well as interesting one, much might have been written bearing on that pleasing oasis in the desert of a Certificate Student's experiences. The intention of the book, however, is rather to help than amuse the Collector of those documents.

Some idea may be conceived of the cleared pathway now open, and its extent be better understood, when it is stated that over 2900 Certificates of various kinds have passed through my hands, nearly 1300 of them being strictly Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter Engraved Documents; and I must say that since 1885 I have been quite as much indebted to the luck and perseverance of others as to my own researches. My position as an authority was even then acknowledged; and standing alone, it was quite natural that most of the newlydiscovered documents should be sent to me for report upon them or sale, generally the former. Most of these were forwarded from Lodges asking for information concerning them, and I have good reason to believe still remain in the same custody. The question then arises, Why not send these to the Grand Lodge Collection?

I had very nearly made this last plea the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and ending of my book. However, it is necessary to explain that at the suggestion of my good friend Brother Speth, the size and style of the Quatuor Coronati publications have been adopted for this book instead of Cloth Svo. as originally intended. I trust Brother Speth's arguments for uniformity of size in Masonic works will commend themselves as much to Brethren generally as they did to me when I decided upon the change. Although old works vary much in this respect, there is no reason why new publications should

not as far as possible follow a standard already established in favor, and which admits of uniformity in binding when preferred.

Although there are really 68 known varieties, the Certificates of the Grand Lodges and Chapters may be very well represented by 50 documents of the right kind. I found such a reduced list very useful myself, and in fact know nearly every Certificate by the number it bears in my own.

Such a list, supplied by me, will be found in Volume VIII of Ars Quatuor Coronatorum, and follows here.

ERRATA.

Page 13, 4th line—Henry Brydges, read James Brydges.
,, 74, 8th ,, —in known, read is known.
,, 78—for William H. White 1839, read 1843.

CLASS.	NO.	NAME.	DISTINCTIVE SIGNATURES.	
A	1	3 Graces	Revis	
	2		Spencer	
"	3	"	French	
"	4	"	Heseltine	
"	5	"	Wm. White	
"	6	"	Do.	
["] B	7	," Universis	Dermott	
	8	The second second second	Dickey	
" "	9	,, ,,	Jones	
"	10	"	Bearblock	
,,	11	,,	Leslie	
"	12	"	McCormick	
	13		Leslie	
č	14	1st Angel	Leslie and Thos. Harper	
,,	15	,,	,,	
;;	16	"	"	Year 1800.
,,,	17	"	Leslie and Edw. Harper	
,,	18		"	Year 1810.
Ď	19	2nd Angel		
Е	20	St. Paul's	Wm. White	Prince of Wales
,,	21	"	W. H. White	Prince Regent
"	22	,,	Do.	Duke of Sussex
"	23	"	White and Harper	,, United, years 1814-15
	24	,,	"	,, ,, years 1815-18
Ϋ́F	25	3 Pillars	,,	Sussex, Prince Regent
,,	26	"	. ,,	" Geo. 1V.
"	27	,,	, ,,	" Wm. IV.
"	28	,,	"	Duke of Sussex
"	28a	>>	Grand Officers year 1839	"
"	29	,,	Wm. H. White	"
"	30	,,	"	Zetland Pro-G.M.
"	31	,,	"	Zetland
"	31a	,,	Farnfield, year 1856	17
• • •	32	,,	W. G. Clarke	"
"	33	"	"	,,
,,	34	"	Hervey	
"	35	"	"	De Grey and Ripon
"	36	"	"	Marquis Ripon
"	37	"	· · · · ·	Prince of Wales
,,	38	,,	S. H. Clerke	>>
	39	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	E. Letchworth	
Ĝ	40	Dermott	Various	Various
"	40a	,,	***	"
"	40b		"	"
"H	41	Trinity		"
Ι	42	1st Gloria	White and Harper	
"	43	2 1 22 1	White and Dobie	
J	44	2nd Gloria	Wm. H. White	
,,	45	"	W. G. Clarke	
,,	46	"	W. G. Clarke	
,,	47	,,	"	
"	48	"	Hervey	
"	49	,,	S. H. Clerke	
,,	50	"	E. Letchworth	

