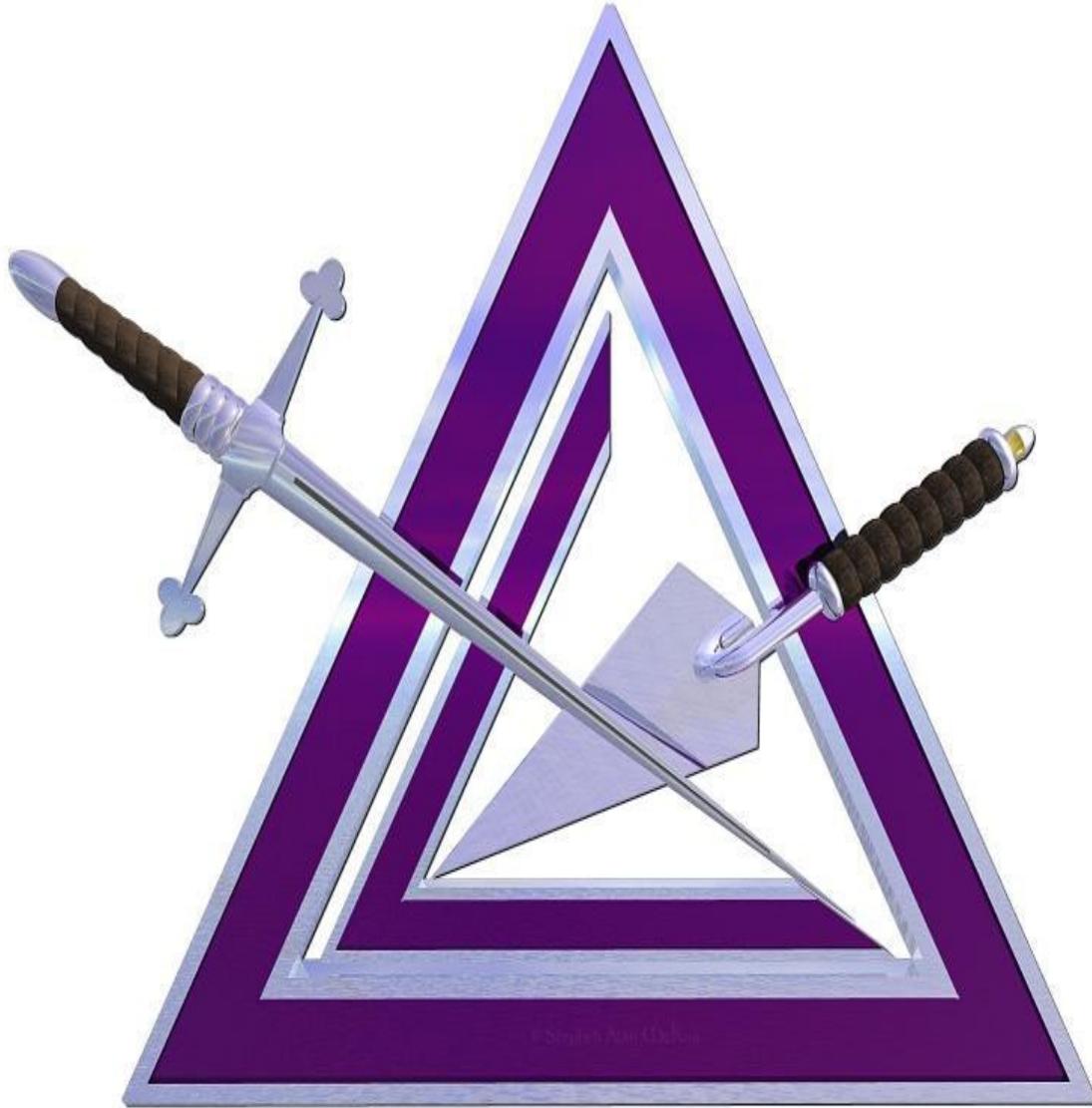


Grand Council of Kentucky
Royal and Select Masters



MENTORS MANUAL

Mentor's Manual

FORWARD

This manual is provided for the use of Mentors appointed by the Illustrious Master to work with candidates – both before and after they receive the Cryptic degrees. Its purpose is to give guidance and assistance to mentors in the performance of their important duties of helping our new members acquire knowledge of Cryptic Masonry in general and our council in particular to help them fully enjoy and appreciate their membership.

You have been selected by the Illustrious Master to serve as a Mentor due to your demonstrated proficiency in our Rite, your zeal for our institution, and your enthusiastic and faithful service to the council. Your task is a very important one since the new member represents the future of your council and of Cryptic Masonry in your Arch.

We must actively promote an interest in Masonic knowledge at all levels of membership in our Order. Toward that purpose, we need to create a sincere desire in all our companions – but most especially in our newer members – to learn the timeless lessons taught by our degrees. Our goal is to develop enthusiastic Cryptic Masons who will become active, participating Council members.

Experience has clearly shown that we must wisely use the first several months of our association with candidates and new members. If we fail to capture their interests early in their tenure as Cryptic Masons, our newly advanced Select Masters may lose interest and become statistics, showing up on a list of members suspended for non-payment of dues. We must not let this happen! Our future depends on getting these members involved.

Each candidate is entitled to Masonic education and each new member deserves the best orientation we can provide, including the individualized and personalized mentoring you must give him. Your job, in this regard, is among the most important of any in the Council and this manual is intended to assist you in the performance of your duties.

THE MENTORING PROGRAM

The mentoring program begins when a petition for membership is accepted. The Recorder or the Illustrious Master will provide you with the name and contact information of a candidate with whom you will be assigned to work. You should call the candidate and inform him that you will be working with him. Let him know that you will be present in Council when he receives the Royal and Select Masters Degree and that you would like to meet with him prior to the degree, either at dinner or just over a cup of coffee. Ask the candidate to arrive at the Temple at an hour that will allow you to sit down with him prior to the start of the degree.

ROYAL MASTER DEGREE

On the evening the candidate is to receive the Degrees, you should be ready to give him a brief preview. Use the Council Ritual to explain to him the meaning of the degrees. Ask him to pay special attention to the soliloquy of Grand Master Hiram Abiff in the first section and, as he does, to think back to the Master Mason Degree in Blue Lodge.

Explain that the cherubim in this degree remind us again of the solemn nature of the degree and of his obligation.

Ask the candidate to also watch the explanation of the broken triangle, with the officers illustrating it for the candidate, since it has great importance for Cryptic Masons. Refer them to the Royal Arch Degree in the Chapter that used three to form the arch, and the significance of using two in the Council. Other items to point out to him are:

The beautiful piece of work he presented to Grand Master Hiram Abiff was a symbol of a complete life offered to the Grand Architect of the Universe, Grand Master Hiram Abiff's answer was an indication that we are to await our spiritual reward in the next life.

The items on the table of Holy Vessels in the South East corner symbolize our debt to God and our hope that He will accept our sacrifices.

Grand Master Hiram Abiff's talk on death expands significantly on the themes of the Master Mason Degree, especially regarding portions of the Master Mason Lecture dealing with death and the afterlife.

Grand Master Hiram Abiff's tapping on the floor alluded to where the Master's Word was to be preserved for future generations to discover it.

The cherubim surrounding the candidate during the obligation symbolized the fact that he was under the protection of the Grand Architect of the Universe as he bound himself to Cryptic Masonry at this point in the degree.

The broken triangle, as used in this degree represents, among other things, "that which was lost." It also serves as a constant reminder of the legend of Grand Master Hiram Abiff and the Legend of the Lost Word.

It is also important to highlight for the new member how the Royal Master Degree teaches us to constantly strive to use our time on earth wisely as none of us knows when he will be called by the Grand Architect of the Universe to the Celestial Council above. We must also keep our part of the covenant taught in the Great Book of the Law. The Temple being built here below represents this mortal life, which will be destroyed by death. Thus, we must constantly build our individual "second" Temple which we will inhabit in the spiritual house, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, as was beautifully illustrated for the candidate by Grand Master Hiram Abiff in this degree.

THE SELECT MASTER DEGREE

Explain that this degree historically occurs prior to the Third Degree of the Symbolic Lodge and deals with incidents that occurred at the building of the first temple. In this degree, he will witness events closely connected with the Royal Arch Degree, which this degree will help him to better understand.

You should set the stage for the candidate to receive the Select Master degree by relating to him the story of the Masonic legend of the vault beneath King Solomon's Temple, and tell him that the events he will witness refer to the arches of that vault. During this degree, the candidate will see the items King Solomon ordered to be deposited in the Ninth Arch, that the Work might be preserved for future times (and discovered in the Royal Arch degree).

Suggest to the candidate that he pay special attention to the items, which are deposited in the substitute ark. He should recall these from the Royal Arch Degree in Chapter. Here he will learn more about those deposits.

When you meet with the newly advanced Select Master after the two Degrees, there are several aspects of the degree, which should be discussed with him to help him to better understand what he has witnessed.

First, explain the legend of the Patriarch Enoch and how the legend of the vault is based on biblical history. This lays the groundwork for the Masonic legend by which workers excavating beneath Solomon's Temple discovered the vault and the items contained in the Ninth Arch. Show him how this degree explains the manner in which the treasures deposited under the Temple were subsequently found in the Substitute Ark by some of the workmen of Zerubbabel, at the building of the second temple.

It is important that the new member understand that what was found by the workmen in the Royal Arch Degree, was the “substitute” ark. This is also the ark into which the deposits were made in the Ninth Arch in the Select Master Degree. This ark is a substitute for the Ark of the Covenant, which was lost after the destruction of the Temple of Solomon. In the Masonic legend, what the workmen found inside this ark symbolizes the culmination of man’s search for “that which was lost”. The conclusion of this legend, i.e. the discovery of the lost work in the Royal Arch Degree, would not have been possible were it not for the description of the manner of deposit in the select Master Degree in Council.

FOLLOWING UP ON THE DEGREES

After working with the new member following the Royal Master and Select Master degree conferrals, it is important to continue following up on the degrees with him since they are the “root and marrow” of Cryptic Masonry. The more times the new member can witness the degrees, the better. We must provide sufficient opportunities for him to do so. Attendance at degree conferrals will help our new members better understand them. This, in turn, will make our new companions more knowledgeable and thus more comfortable in encouraging their fellow Royal Arch masons to become Council Masons.

We should also encourage each new member to receive the Super Excellent Master Degree. Although not a “degree of the crypt” since it does not refer to the Legend of the Crypt, and while the Super Excellent Master is not mandatory, each new Select Master should want to receive this dramatic and impressive degree, as it depicts circumstances and incidents during the siege of Jerusalem, and the final destruction of the first temple. In this way, it adds to our understanding and appreciation of the Royal Arch Degree. The Super Excellent Master is one of the most impressive degrees in all of Freemasonry and each Council Mason should be made aware of the importance of receiving it.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNCIL

After becoming a Select Master, the new member should begin attending assemblies. You should facilitate his involvement by inviting him to join you for Council each month. As the new member begins attending, he will notice that the layout and organization of the Council differ from what he has seen in Lodge and Chapter. By referring to the familiar (i.e. the Blue Lodge and the Royal Arch Chapter), we can highlight the similarities and differences for the new member, better facilitation his understanding of how we are organized and how we work. The orientation of the new member should include the following:

1) **The layout of the Council chamber and the principal officers:** The new member will notice that the overall layout of Council is similar to that of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, with some important differences. He knows that the three principal officers in Chapter sit in the East. Point out to him that in Council, these officers comprise the Illustrious Council (similar to the Grand Chapter of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons). In the middle of the Illustrious Council in the East is the presiding officer – The Illustrious Master who, in the degree work, represents King Solomon. To his right is the Deputy Master (representing Hiram King of Tyre) and to the left of the Master is the Principal Conductor of the Work (representing Grand Master Hiram Abiff). These three officers correspond to the High Priest, King, and Scribe of a Royal Arch Chapter and to the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden in a Blue Lodge.

2) **Other officers:** While the Symbolic Lodge and Chapter have a Secretary, a Council of Royal and Select Masters has a Recorder who sits at a desk in the Southeast Corner of the Council chamber. In council, we also have a Treasurer who may sit in the Northeast corner. As with the Blue Lodge, we also have a Chaplain, whose station is on the level .

In the West sits the Captain of the Guard who recites the traditions of Cryptic Masonry during the opening and closing ceremonies of the Council. In the South sits the Conductor of Council who attends at the altar during the opening and closing and also performs formal introductions at the altar. At the right of the Captain of the Guard is the Steward who carries instructions from the Captain of the Guard to the Sentinel and also attends to refreshments and other accommodations of the Companions.

Outside the door sits the Sentinel, whose duties correspond to those of the Tyler of a Blue Lodge and the Guard of a Royal Arch Chapter.

3) **Committees**: As with Blue Lodge and Chapter, each Council is staffed with various committees. These companions assist the officers in the operation of the Council in a number of ways. The Recorder can provide you with a list of the council's committees and you should discuss their work with the new member, encouraging him to contact the Illustrious Master and offer his services. The more committeemen a Council has working on the various tasks of the council, the better. The officers can't do all the work alone, and this is a good way for a new member to become active in Council. Regular attendance and participation in the council by its new members is the mark of a successful Council.

4) **Opening and Closing**: After explaining the officer positions of a Council of Royal and Select Masters, highlight for the new member the opening and closing Council ritual. By listening carefully to the officers recite their parts in the opening ritual of each Council assembly, the new member can become familiar not only with the various officers and their duties, but also with many traditions, especially in the dialog between the Illustrious master and the Captain of the Guard during the opening.

5) **Rituals**: You should endeavor to secure for the new member a Ritual of the Council Degrees, and after he receives the degrees, a Super Excellent Master Ritual. An excellent way for a new Select Master to acquire knowledge about Council is for him to follow along in the ritual as the officers open and close Council and during degree conferrals. As his mentor, you should sit with him in council, point out the various aspects of our ritual to him as it unfolds, and answer his questions. Be sure to help him with the signs during the opening as this is very confusing for most new members.

THE ARCH AND THE GRAND COUNCIL

Once the new member becomes comfortable with the organization, layout and functions of the Council, we should help him understand the organization of the Arch and the Grand Council; again this is best done by referring to those schemes with which the new member is already familiar. Explain to him that Kentucky Lodges are organized into Districts; Chapters into Areas; and Councils are organized into Arches. As there are nine arches in the Select Master Degree, so the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Kentucky is organized into nine Arches. You should obtain from the Recorder a list of all Councils in this arch and provide a copy to each new member.

The new member may also want to know that as Lodges and Chapters are inspected by “deputies” (District Deputy Grand Masters and District Deputy Grand High Priests), so Councils are inspected by Arch Deputies.

Point out to the new member that the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Kentucky holds an annual Grand Assembly during each year at a place determined by the Most Illustrious Grand Master. The Grand Council conducts business similar in nature to that of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky and the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, Royal Arch Masons at their annual sessions.

Be sure the new member understands the dues structure and also that the Council’s Cryptic Year is July 1st through June 30th. Each Council in Kentucky must conduct at least 4 full form openings each year.

CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

This is the philanthropy of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, which Kentucky has adopted as our Council philanthropy. Researchers are funded by a Chair at Indiana University to research in the field of Vascular Biology. Dr. Keith March heads the Center, which targets Atherosclerosis, or heart diseases. Stem Cell research also is part of the

studies, looking for possible cures for diabetes and other blood related diseases.

SUMMARY

Hopefully the information provided in this manual will assist you in the performance of your highly important duties. If our Councils are to grow and prosper in the future, it will be due to proper education and mentorship of our new members, assisting them to become active, participating Select Masters. Thank you for accepting the responsibility of helping our new members become and continue to be knowledgeable Cryptic Masons. Your labors will help our Council remain a “resort of the just and the merciful” where we strive to “exercise charity, cherish hope, and walk in faith,” to the end that our Council will ever be a “home of the Select.”

CONTACT SOURCE

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NOTES

APPENDIX A: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE COUNCIL DEGREES

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