

The Order has recently taken on responsibility for administering two further degrees, both of which are restricted to Past Masters and are only conferred on members who have had their application approved by the Grand Master.



These degrees are:

The Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master or Order of the Silver Trowel which deals with period immediately preceding the death of King David.

The Degree of Excellent Master which is worked in Scotland and often referred to as The Passing of the Veils.

For more information contact the District Grand Recorder:

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Advanced in the Mark.



Exalted in the Royal Arch.



Meetings in your area

Council	Location	Meetings
Royal Kent	Hexham Rd Throckley	4 th Tue. Feb, Apr & Sept (Inst)
Northumbria	Hartford Rd East, Bedlington	1 st Thu. Mar, May & Dec (Inst)
Priors Haven	Albion Rd, North Shields	3 rd Wed. Jan (Inst), Mar & Sep.
Wudcestre	John Street Ashington	4 th Thu Jan, May & Oct (Inst)
Hexhamshire	Westfield Ter Hexham	1 st Wed Feb, May & Dec (Inst)



Did I mention the triangular apron, the only one on Freemasonry?

Now what?

Being advanced as a Mark Master Mason and exalted as a Companion of the Holy Royal Arch of Jerusalem are the two qualifications required to join two further Orders, both of which will help improve your Masonic knowledge and understanding.

This brochure is aimed at providing some in depth information regarding are the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and Districts Overseas.

This Order consists of four degrees, each of which must be taken prior to the next. They are:

- Select Master
- Royal Master
- Most Excellent Master
- Super-Excellent Master

All of these degrees involve to some extent the building of King Solomon's Temple and the Ark of the Covenant placed within it. For this reason the Order is often referred to as Cryptic Masonry.

The Cryptic degrees are based on various Jewish legends. In one such it is stated that while the building of the Temple was in its early stages, King Solomon, realising the danger of attack by heathen powers, determined to take steps to safeguard the more important Temple treasures.

To this end he ordered the construction of a Vault into which the said treasures could be removed from the Sanctuary. A subterranean passage from the King's palace to a spot beneath the Sanctuary was made. It was supported by nine arches and ended in a chamber or Vault. Those who worked on the vault were sworn to secrecy.

After the death of Hiram Abif, certain treasures together with a copy of the Word and the key to its pronunciation, were placed in the Vault. This operation was carried out in utmost secrecy, known only to a very limited number of persons. As a consequence, knowledge of the Vault gradually faded and became, in time, no more than a vague legend. In the Royal Arch Degree we learn of the recovery of the Word.

Those who, realising that the Solomonic degrees are important links in the allegorical search for the Lost Word, will see that these degrees, perhaps, should be studied in chronological order:

Degree	Date (BC)	Phase
Mark	974-967	Preparation of the material and start of building
SM	969-968	Building in hand and construction of S. V.
RM	968	Death of H. A.; Deposition of the Word.
MEM	967	Dedication of KST.
SEM	586	Destruction of KST and loss of the Word.
RA	534	Recovery of the Word

Taken in the above order the student can hardly fail to note that the Cryptic Degrees are the main steps in the allegory of the Lost Word.