



Master Mason Trestle Board

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North Central District's Winter Workshop



Setting Maul, Spade, Coffin, and Sprig of Acacia

- Setting Maul – instrument used to murder GMHA. Symbolic of death by violence.
- Spade – used to open GMHA grave, before long a similar instrument may be used to open our own
- Coffin – that which housed GMHA remains
- Sprig of Acacia – Represents the immortality of the soul



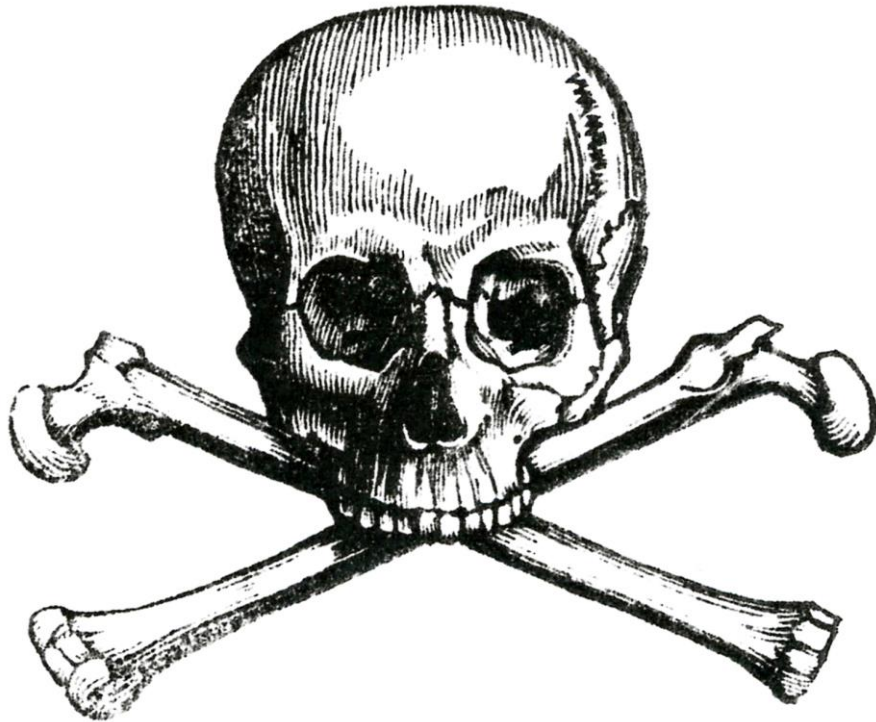
Death of Hiram Abiff

- Plumb Rule (J_A)
- Level (J_O)
- Setting Maul (J_M)



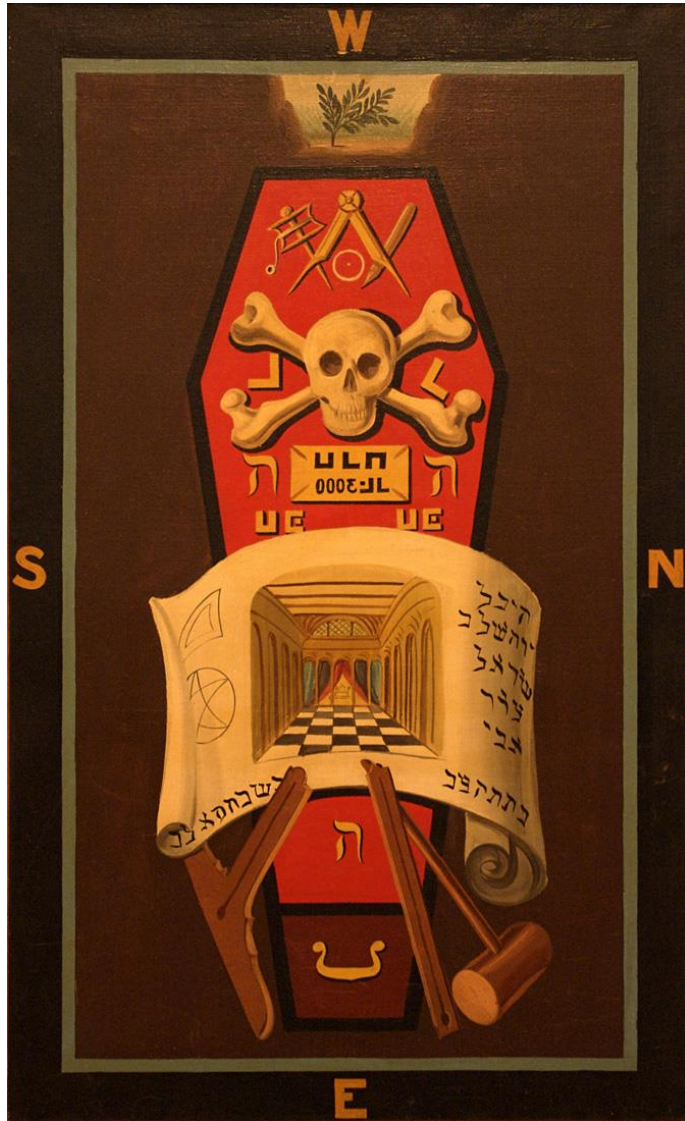
Working Tool

- Trowel an instrument used for the purpose of spreading the cement of brotherly love
- Skirret an instrument used to chalk the ground for the foundation of the intended structure.
- Compasses is emblematic of that even tenor of deportment (integrity), that true standard of rectitude which can bestow happiness here and felicity hereafter.
- Pencil reminds us that our words and actions are observed and recorded by God, to whom we must give an account of our conduct through life.



Skull & Crossbones

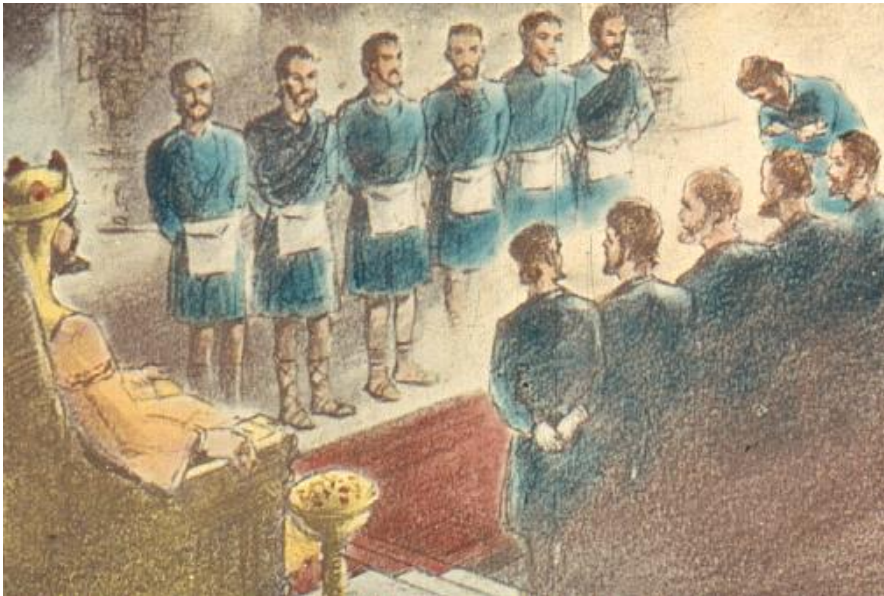
- Emblems of mortality
- Teaches the MM to contemplate death as the end of his afflictions and entrance to another yet better life.



Masonic Cypher

- This trestle-board reads from right to left
- TC
- MB
- HAB
- AL = Anno Lucis 3000

5 repeated 3 times



- 15 fellowcraft masons conspired
- 15 is a sacred number that is symbolic of the name of God in the Hebrew mode of numeration by the letters of the alphabet



Pot of Incense

- A symbol of the sacrifice which should be offered up to Deity
- Emblematic of a pure heart, always an acceptable offering to God
- Reminds us that we should be grateful for his many blessings
- Our hearts should glow with gratitude the same way the pot of incense glows with heat

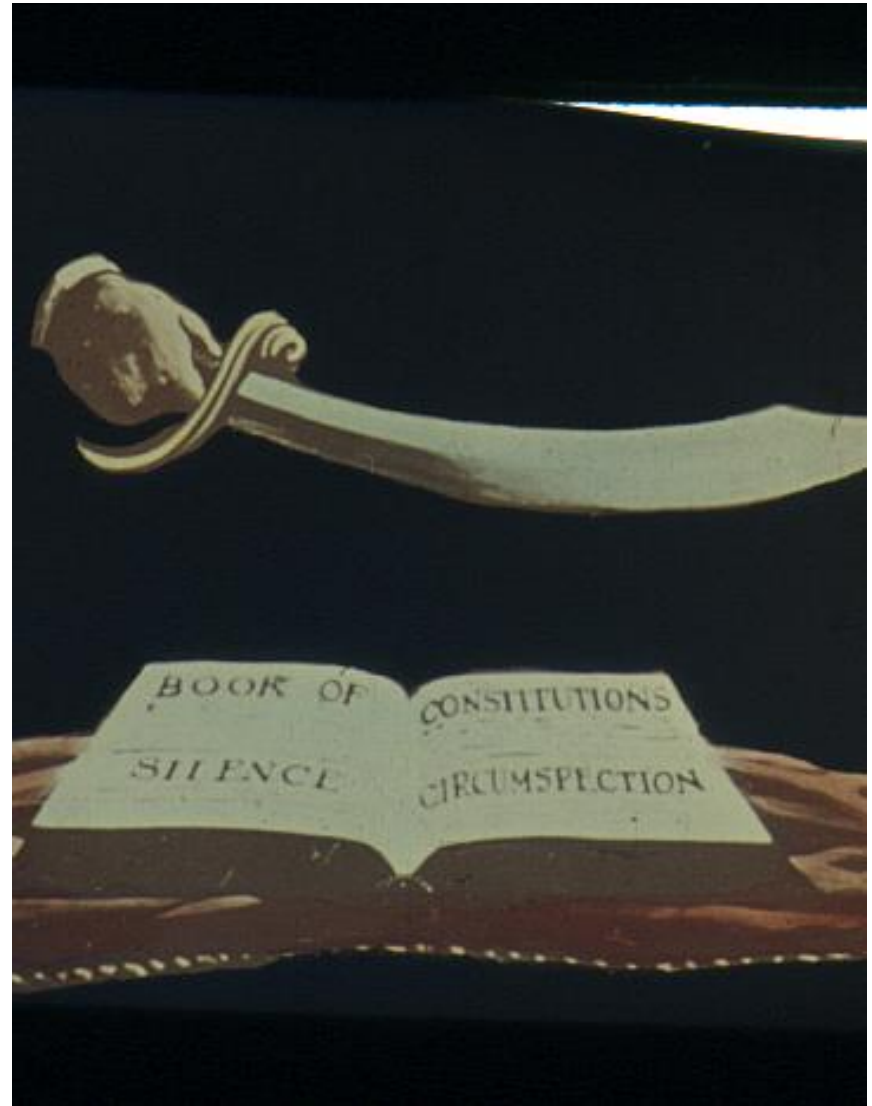


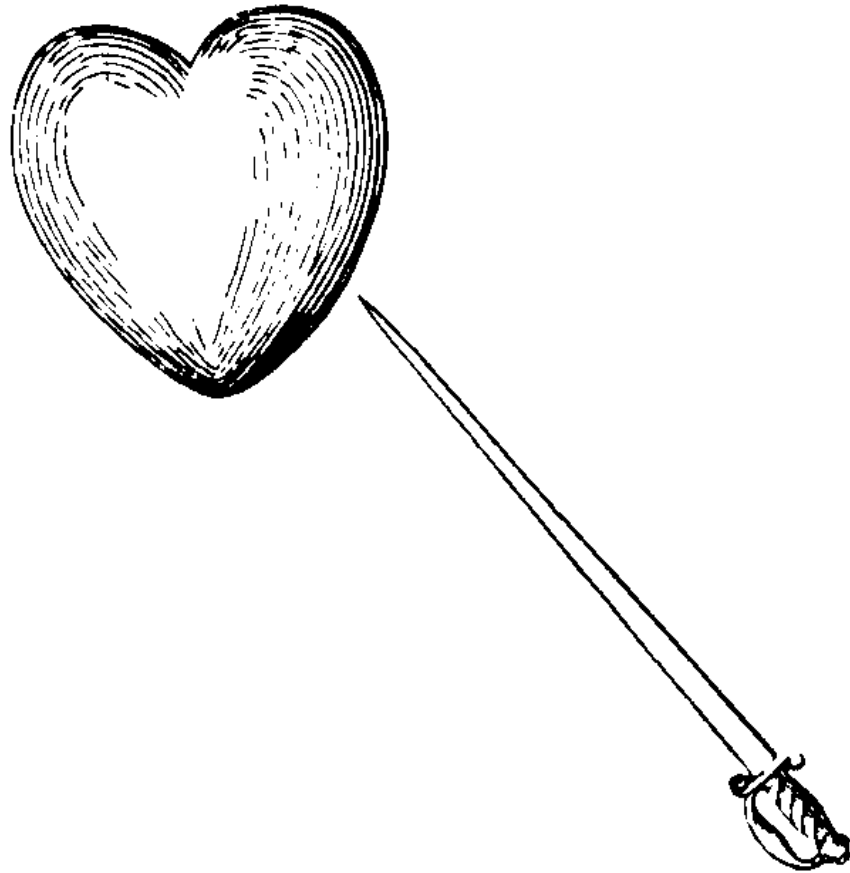
Beehive

- Emblematic of industry
- Reminds us to not sit idle, but work hard to do what's in our power to provide relief while our fellows around us are in want

Book of Constitutions

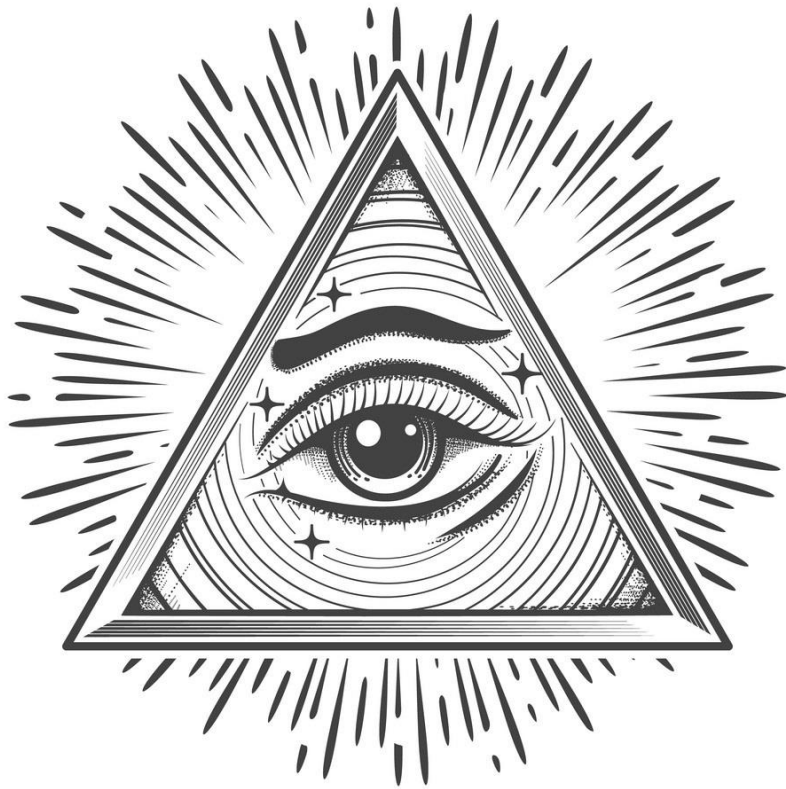
- In the 18th Century a society was required to have a sponsor, the more exalted in the rank the better.
- The sponsor was named as its Patron; it was also expected to have authorization in the form of a charter; each charter had a copy of the Old Charges. (A precursor for constitution and bylaws used today).
- When the Book of Constitutions is guarded by the tiler's sword, it reminds us to remember the virtues of Silence and Circumspection when in the presence of the enemies of Masonry.





Sword Pointing to the Naked Heart

- Justice will eventually overtake us
- Although our thoughts, words, and actions are hidden from others, God sees all



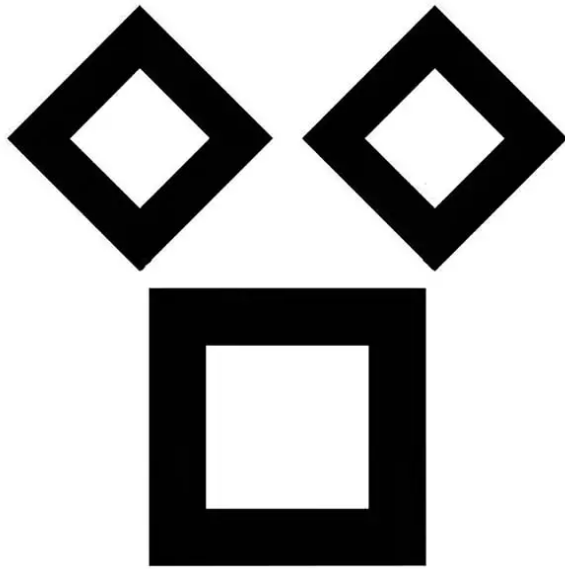
All Seeing Eye & Delta

- Alludes to God's omniscience
- God will reward us according to our merits
- Delta
 - Represents God's Omnipotence, Omnipresence, and Omniscience
 - Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit
 - Man: Body, Soul, Spirit
 - 3 Primes of Alchemy: Salt, Sulfur, Mercury



Ark & Anchor

- Early Christians looked upon life as a stormy voyage and thus, the Ark was adopted as a symbol of the journey of life
- Anchor as a symbol of hope was specific to Christianity.
- Symbols of well-grounded hope and a life well spent
- Emblematic of that Divine Ark which bears us over this tempestuous sea of troubles, and that Anchor which shall safely moor us in a peaceful harbor where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.



47th Problem of Euclid

- Also known as Pythagorean Theorem $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$.
- 3:4:5 Right Triangle
- Used in laying a geometrically correct cornerstone for a new foundation.
- Teaches us to be general lovers of the arts and science

Monument Erected over GMHA grave



- Broken Column denotes that a chief supporter of the craft has fallen
- Scythe is an emblem of time, which cuts the brittle thread of life, and launches us into eternity
- Hourglass is an emblem of human life. At the end of a man's short hour, death strikes the blow, and hurries him off the stage to his long and darksome resting place.
- Weeping Virgin holds a sprig of acacia in her right hand and an urn (symbol of death) in her left hand to collect her tears.
- Time denotes that although the secret word of MM is lost, time, patience, and perseverance will accomplish all things.

Works Cited

- The Masonic Ritual, published by Robert Nizzardini
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- Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia by Henry Wilson Coil, 33
- The Illustrated Signs & Symbols Sourcebook by Adele Nozedar