

Grand Council of
Royal and Select Masters
Of Iowa



Fourth Edition

GRAND COUNCIL RITUAL

FOURTH EDITION
February 2015

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RITUAL (2015)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROLOGUE	1
APRONS, DRESS AND PARAPHERNALIA	2
APRONS.....	2
DRESS.....	2
PARAPHERNALIA.....	2
OFFICERS	3
INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS	5
CHARGE TO THE DEPUTY MASTER.....	7
CHARGE TO THE PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK.....	7
CHARGE TO THE TREASURER.....	7
CHARGE TO THE RECORDER.....	7
CHARGE TO THE CHAPLAIN.....	7
CHARGE TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD.....	8
CHARGE TO THE CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL.....	8
CHARGE TO THE STEWARD.....	8
CHARGE TO THE ORGANIST.....	8
CHARGE TO THE SENTINEL.....	8
ADDRESS TO THE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER.....	8
PROCLAMATION.....	9

PROLOGUE

After several years of Councils and Companions lacking a written version of the rituals of Cryptic Masonry in Iowa (the third edition was released in 1985, and supplies had been exhausted about 2011), it was determined that a closer look at the Cryptic work in Iowa needed to be done prior to again releasing the work for printing.

With changes to the manner in which the work was communicated, the number of Companions proficient in the work, and technology, much work needed to be done to keep Cryptic Masonry relevant.

On December 9, 2014, Most Illustrious Companion Kurt Hoffmann, Grand Master released a poll to the membership to gain further opinion on the subject of moving the ritual toward plain-English. The results of this survey indicated that 60% of the membership favored plain-English, rather than encoding. However, the obligation, and any 'secret work' should remain encoded.

On December 20, 2014 M.I.Comp. Hoffmann formed a Special Committee on the Ritual. This committee consisted of: M.I.Comp. Norman Rank, Chairman of the Board of Custodians, M.I.Comp. Don Mosier, and I.Comp. W. Charles Smithson. They were charged to review the work, see that it was properly converted to plain-English, and that digital versions of the work would be made available. This committee had a deadline of January 15, 2015 in which to complete these tasks.

The committee consulted with several sources to ensure accuracy in the ritual, including the first three editions of the Iowa ritual, the 24th edition of the rituals of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, and rituals from other Cryptic jurisdictions.

Then on January 10, 2015, the Committee announced to M.I.Comp. Hoffmann that they had completed their work. However, the Committee asked that their draft be pre-released to the membership for their review and comment. Thus, the work was distributed electronically for 30 days for the membership to review. After considering numerous comments and suggestions from the membership, the committee made changes as they saw necessary. Finally, on February 15, 2015, the Special Committee on the Ritual released their final work, which you now hold in your hands.

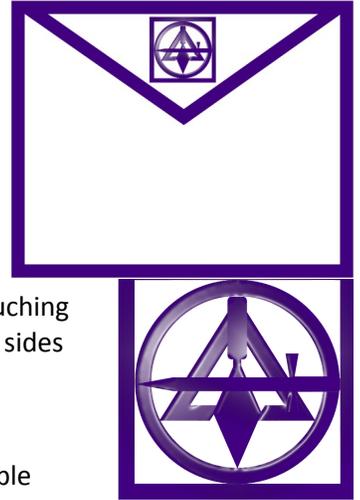
APRONS, DRESS AND PARAPHERNALIA

Councils must be equipped with the following aprons, robes and paraphernalia:

APRONS

The aprons are white bordered on the sides and bottom and on the flap with a band of purple, and are provided with purple strings. The emblem of the Council is to be on the flap.

The emblem of the Council shall be as follows: In the center is a trowel in an erect position with the handle up and the blade or bowl down; outside of the trowel is a broken equilateral triangle with the missing or broken side on the lower or horizontal side; across and on top of the trowel and broken triangle in a horizontal position with hilt at right is laid a sword; around all of the above and touching the outer points is a circle; and outside of the whole touching the top, bottom and sides of the circle, is a square.



DRESS

Robes, if used, should be in good condition, with appropriate footwear and no visible jewelry. The dress of the first three officers of subordinate Councils should be as follows:

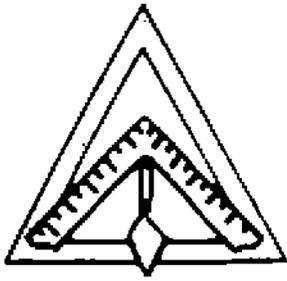
- The Illustrious Master is dressed in a royal robe of purple.
- The Deputy Master is dressed in a royal robe of red or scarlet.
- The Principal Conductor of the work is dressed in a royal robe of blue.
- The Captain of the Guard, the Steward and the Sentinel may be clothed in ancient military costume with a helmet on the head and a sword in the hand.
- The Conductor of the Council is dressed in a robe of scarlet.
- Use robes or dusters for craftsmen in the Select Master degree.

PARAPHERNALIA

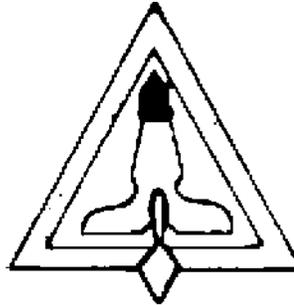
- A representation of the nine arches.
- Three small tables for stations in the East.
- One seven branched candelabra. One Royal Arch Ark, with Triangular bronze plate containing the Royal Arch cryptogram, Aaron's Rod, Pot of Manna, Book of the Law and three ancient squares.
- Trowels, swords, and shackles.

The above-mentioned equipment, with, possibly, the exception of the furnishings of the Sanctum Sanctorum, is essential for the proper presentation of the degrees.

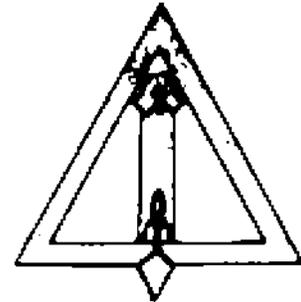
OFFICERS



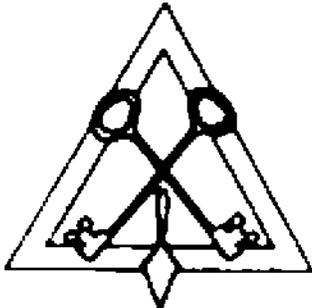
Illustrious Master



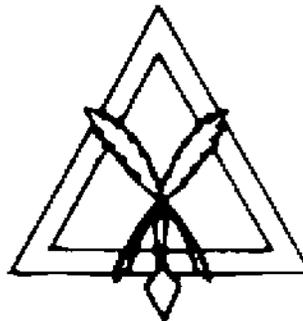
Deputy Master



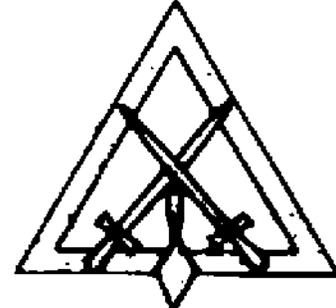
Principal Conductor
of the Work



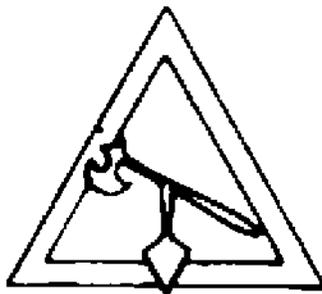
Treasurer



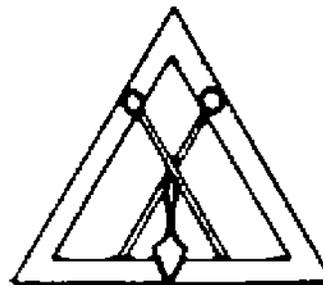
Recorder



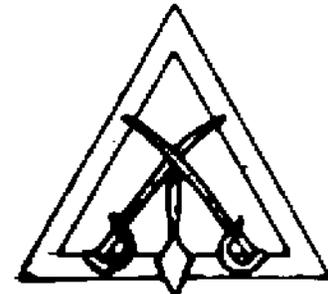
Captain of the
Guard



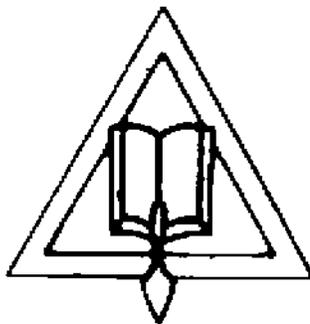
Conductor of the
Council



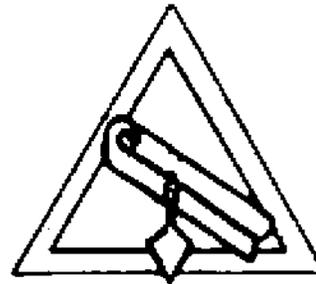
Steward



Sentinel



Chaplain



Marshal



Illustrious Master



Deputy Master



Principal Conductor of the Work



Treasurer



Recorder



Captain of the Guard



Conductor of the Council



Steward



Sentinel



Chaplain



Marshal

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companions, the installation of officers in a Council marks the completion of one year's work and the beginning of the next. It impresses upon us the democratic nature of our institution and teaches the peculiar art of laying aside the insignia of rank with willingness and gracefulness and of assuming the honors and responsibilities of office with humility. As the present officers have relinquished their stations in token of the completion of the past year's duties, we are once more reminded of the equality that should always exist among the members. Companion Recorder, you will announce the names of the officers elected and appointed for the ensuing year. Companion Marshal, as the names are called you will place the officers in position.

(After all are in position, with Illustrious Master on right of line west of Altar, Marshal says:)

MARSHAL: Illustrious Master, I present these worthy Companions who have been selected as officers of this Council for the ensuing year and are now ready to be installed.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companions of _____ Council Number _____, you see before you the Companions who have been selected to serve as officers of this Council during the ensuing year. If any Companion knows of any just cause why they, or any of them, should not be installed, let him now make it known or forever hold his peace. That we may have the needed strength and guidance to accomplish the task before us, let us invoke the blessing of Deity. *(Gives knocks ***, all rise)* Companion Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN: *(The following prayer is optional. Any suitable prayer may be used.)* Oh, Thou Grand Master of Heaven and Earth, we approach Thee with reverence and implore Thy blessing upon these Companions who are about to assume the duties of their important offices. Grant them firmness of mind and kindness of disposition, that they may govern the affairs of this Council with justice and moderation. Bless them, O Lord, and bless those whom Thou hast placed under them. May Thy richest blessing rest upon all our Companions wherever dispersed throughout the world. Amen. *(Audience is seated)*

INSTALLING OFFICER: My Companions, before proceeding to officially install you, it is necessary for you to take upon yourselves a solemn obligation. You will, therefore, each of you, place your right hand over your heart, say "I", your name, and repeat after me:

"do solemnly promise on my honor as a Royal and Select Master, that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Iowa, the By-Laws of this Council, and all ancient Masonic usages; that I will, to the best of my knowledge and ability, perform the duties of the office with which I am now to be invested."

(Officers drop hands and are seated)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion Marshal, you will present the Illustrious Master elect for installation.

(Marshal, on the left, conducts officer elect to the East, directly in front of, and facing Installing Officer)

MARSHAL: Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____ who has been elected to serve as Illustrious Master of this Council and is now ready to be installed.

INSTALLING OFFICER: My Companion, I feel great satisfaction in installing you into the office of Illustrious Master of this Council. It is a station highly honorable to him who diligently and faithfully performs the important duties connected therewith; but before investing you with the honors and responsibilities of your office, it is mandatory that I propound to you certain questions to which, at the close, I must require your unequivocal answers.

1. Do you solemnly promise that you will use your utmost endeavors to correct the vices, purify the morals, and promote the happiness of your Companions?
2. That you will never suffer your Council to be opened unless there shall be present at least nine Select Masters?
3. That you will not suffer any person to receive the degrees in your Council in whose integrity, fervency and zeal you have not entire confidence?
4. That you will not acknowledge or hold communication with any Council that does not work under some regular and constitutional authority?
5. That you will admit no visitor into your Council who has not been regularly and lawfully invested with the Council degrees?
6. That you will faithfully observe the By-Laws of your Council and the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Council?
7. That in the government of your Council you will administer justice tempered with mercy?
8. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the Grand Officers when duly installed and will sustain them in the discharge of their duties?
9. That you will faithfully attend all assemblies of the Grand Council upon receiving proper notice thereof?

Do you submit to all these requirements and do you promise to observe them faithfully?

ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER-ELECT: I do.

INSTALLING OFFICER: With entire confidence in the purity of your intentions, and in the integrity of your character as a Select Master, I now declare you duly installed as Illustrious Master of this Council. You will now be invested with the apron and jewel of your office.

(Marshal invests him with apron and jewel)

Having been elevated by the voice of your Companions to the highest station in their gift, you are now to assume the functions of that office. It is your duty to set an example of diligence, industry and fidelity; to see that the officers associated with you faithfully perform their respective duties, and that the interests and reputation of your Council are not endangered by imprudence or neglect. The important trust committed to your care will call for your utmost exertions and the exercise of your best faculties. As the representative of Solomon, King of Israel, it will be your duty to recite the secret tradition, illustrate the moral principles of our order, cherish the worthy and hold in due veneration the ancient landmarks.

I now present you with the Charter under which your Council will work; you will receive it as a sacred deposit and never permit it to be used for any other purpose than those expressed therein; and at the expiration of your term you shall duly transmit it to your successor in office.

Receive also the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Iowa, together with the By-Laws of this Council. Familiarize yourself with them and keep them handy at all times for ready reference.

Receive in charge the Holy Bible, Square and Compass, the three great lights of Masonry. May they guide you through your year as Illustrious Master and remind you of the whole duty of man. You will now assume your station in the East.

(Installing officer conducts the new Illustrious Master to his station) (removes hat)

I cover you with that mark of distinction, which agreeably to an ancient custom, you are to wear while presiding over your Council.

*(Installing officer will call up Council (***) and say:)*

Illustrious Master, behold your Companions. Companions, behold your Illustrious Master. Let us salute him with the Public Grand Honors of Masonry by three times three. *(Done)*

Finally, my Illustrious Companion, I place in your hand this gavel, the emblem of your authority. Wield it, my Companion, with prudence and discretion.

(New Illustrious Master seats Council () and may proceed to install the remaining officers or he may invite the Installing Officer to continue. In the latter case he will uncover and surrender the gavel until the completion of the installation ceremonies)*

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion Marshal, you will present the remaining officers in the order of their rank.

CHARGE TO THE DEPUTY MASTER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, the duties of your office will require your constant and earnest attention. As the representative of Hiram King of Tyre with the Illustrious Master in Council you are to occupy the second seat in this Council, and it will be your duty to aid and support your chief in all the requirements of his office. In his absence you are to preside and perform his duties; in his presence you are to assist him. In this important trust it will be your duty and should be your pleasure to justify the confidence of your Companions. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, as the third officer in the Council, it is your duty to sound the silver trumpet at early dawn and eve of day, when the sun's first and last rays gild the mountain tops, to announce high twelve and proclaim the time for labor and refreshment. In the absence of both your superiors you will be called upon to preside. As the interests of the Council should never be permitted to suffer through the lack of preparation by its officers, you will allow me to urge upon you the necessity of being always prepared and qualified to meet such an emergency. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE TREASURER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, you have been elected to the very important and responsible office of Treasurer of this Council and the qualities which should distinguish you are accuracy and fidelity in carefully preserving the property and funds of the Council and in rendering a just account when required. Your interest in this Council, your attachment to the Craft and your known integrity of character are a sufficient assurance that the duties of your office will be faithfully performed. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE RECORDER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, you have been elected to an important office in this Council, which will require your discriminating judgment as to what is proper to be written. The possession of the requisite qualities has designated you as a suitable Companion for this office, and I doubt not that you will discharge its duties with diligence and fidelity. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE CHAPLAIN

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, to you is committed the devotional exercises of our assemblies and to perform the sacred functions of your office at our public ceremonies. I do not doubt that

you will discharge the duties of your present appointment with steadfastness and perseverance in well doing. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, guard well your post and suffer none to pass it but the select, the faithful, and the worthy. Obey the commands of your chief and be near at hand to see them duly executed. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, in the discharge of the duties of your office, and with which you are doubtless familiar, be fervent and zealous. You will thus merit the respect and esteem of your Companions and the approbation of your own conscience. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE STEWARD

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, your duty is to guard the entrance to the Secret Vault with sleepless vigilance and suffer none to pass it without permission of the Illustrious Master. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE ORGANIST

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, you have been appointed Organist of this Council. As harmony is the strength and support of all institutions, so may the harmony furnished by you strengthen and support every gentle and ennobling emotion of the soul and be an inspiration to your Companions. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE SENTINEL

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, as the first application from visitors is usually made to the Sentinel, it is therefore essentially necessary that you exemplify that spirit of friendliness, which is manifest in the Council. It is your particular duty to prepare the Council Chambers for the Assemblies and to care for its paraphernalia. You will be invested with the jewel, apron and instrument of your office and be conducted to your station.

ADDRESS TO THE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Illustrious Master, you now occupy the highest office in the power of your Companions to bestow. You have accepted a trust to which is attached a responsibility that will require your best efforts to discharge with honor to yourself and satisfaction to your companions. You are to keep a watchful eye over the general conduct of the Council, see that the members are properly instructed and that due solemnity be observed in the practice of our rites. Moreover, you should be an example to your officers and members, which they need not hesitate to follow, thus securing for yourself the favor of Heaven and the approval of your Companions.

*(Installing officer calls up Companions***)*

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companions, from the very nature of the constitution of every society, some must rule and others obey. While justice and moderation are required of the officers in the discharge of their official duties, subordination and respect are equally demanded of the members. The relation is reciprocal. The interests of both are inseparable. Without mutual cooperation the labors of neither can succeed. A house divided against itself cannot stand. Let brotherly love, therefore, prevail among you. Let each be emulous of the others in promoting peace and unity and in striving to see who can best rule and best obey. And may He whose watchful care is over all who put their trust in Him ever keep and preserve this Council to the glory of His name.

PROCLAMATION

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion Marshall, you will make the proclamation.

(Marshal goes to west of Altar, raises right hand and says:)

MARSHAL: In the name of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Iowa, I proclaim the officers of _____ Council Number _____ duly installed. All interested will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.

(Marshal drops hand to side and returns to place on sidelines)

(Installing officer presents gavel to IM who puts on hat and seats the Council ())*

-End of installation-