

## *Lodges of Instruction*

**The Preceptor.** You will often hear reference to the Lodge of Instruction or something which sounds similar - a Lodge of Improvement for example. This informal, but official meeting is the place where 'progressive' officers practice the ritual they are learning. They also rehearse where to stand, at what pace to walk, how to guide a Candidate during the three Degrees of craft Masonry, etc. Each such Lodge of Instruction has a **Preceptor**, often the Director of Ceremonies, but quite often another experienced Past Master. It also has a Secretary to take the Minutes. As already mentioned, this is an informal meeting. No regalia is worn, no dark suits, etc. - just ordinary, everyday dress.

You may say that you do not want to progress through the Chair so there is no point in attending. You may feel this because you believe that you could never cope with learning the ritual. Every Freemason, however eminent, has had the same thoughts and most Past Masters will at some time tell you that they have been quite amazed at their own abilities when put to the test. Of course, home and work commitments must all come first and your individual circumstance may preclude you from making that commitment. Nevertheless you should still consider attending the Lodge of Instruction as it is in this informal gathering that you can really get to know your fellow Brethren and, above all, *have fun!*



## District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

A series of Fact Sheets for an  
**Entered Apprentice**

**EA 03**  
**Ceremonial Officers**

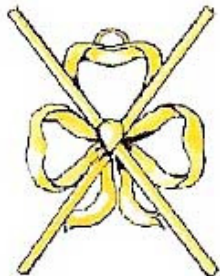
# Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

## Ceremonial Officers

### What is meant by 'ceremonial'?

The Officers of the Lodge can be divided into three different categories; those who are progressing to the Master's Chair, those who administer the affairs of the Lodge and those who look after the ceremonial of the Lodge.

In this fact sheet we look at those Officers who are responsible for, or contribute to, the ceremonial of the Lodge. They do not have to be Past Masters of a Lodge, but you will often find these Officers to be such. Indeed, it would be most unusual to find a Director of Ceremonies who is not a Past Master. His progression through the Chair will be invaluable to him in this highly conspicuous office. He will need all the experience of Freemasonry he has gained from occupying the 'progressive' offices and the Master's Chair.



**The Director of Ceremonies (DC).** The jewel of the Director of Ceremonies is two rods in saltire tied by a ribbon. His duty is to see that the ceremonies of the Lodge are carried out with propriety and decorum, the visitors and brethren are placed according to their rank and the Officers are placed in their respective station. In addition to the jewel, the Director of Ceremonies has a wand of office, usually topped by a copy of the jewel of his office.



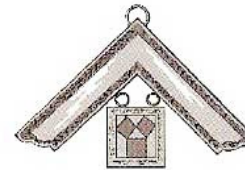
**The Assistant Director of Ceremonies (ADC).** His jewel is two rods in saltire, surmounted by a bar bearing the word 'Assistant'. As would perhaps appear obvious, his duties are to assist the Director of Ceremonies in his duties. You will often find that the ADC will have set duties in a Lodge. For example, when a Brother has arrived late and seeks admission the ADC will often be the one to receive him, and conduct him to an appropriate seat in the Lodge.

Look out for the way the DC and the ADC work together in a Lodge.



**The Tyler.** The Tyler's jewel is a sword. He is elected annually by the members of the Lodge. His place is outside the door of the Lodge and, understandably, it is an office that does not appeal to all Brethren. Others, however, relish it and a Tyler may often seek re-election and so serve the Lodge for many years in that office. His symbolic duty is, being armed with a drawn sword, to keep off all intruders and cowans to Masonry, and suffer none to pass but such as are duly qualified.

From a practical point of view his duty is to see that the Candidates are properly prepared and to give proper reports on the door of the Lodge when Candidates, members or visitors require admission.



**The Immediate Past Master (IPM).** The IPM's jewel (and that of all Past Masters) is the square and the diagram of the 47<sup>th</sup> proposition of the 1<sup>st</sup> Book of Euclid engraven on a silver plate. His position is not one of appointment but of progression. He was Worshipful Master immediately before the current Master and thereby occupies the position as a result.

His place is to the immediate left of the Master and his duty is to give advice and help to the Master whenever he is called for that assistance. From a practical point of view you will see him give the occasional prompt to the Worshipful Master when his memory temporarily fails him during his delivery of the ritual.



**The Organist.** The jewel of the Organist is a lyre. His duty is to provide the music which enriches our ceremonies. In recent times the learning of musical instruments has seen instruments such as the piano and the organ replaced by the guitar and drums. Lodge Organists are, therefore, becoming harder and harder to find. You will find some Lodges sing unaccompanied, some have electronic music provided from a CD or tape whilst others have dispensed with music altogether. Music has played an important part in Masonic ceremonial for nearly three hundred years and you will

find that when an Organist is present our ceremonies are greatly enriched.