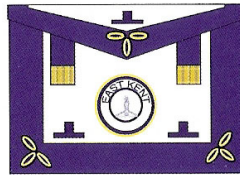
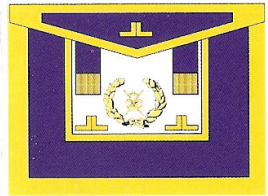


The “dress” apron of a District of Provincial Grand Lodge Officer. This honour is usually awarded to a Brother who has passed through the Master’s Chair of his Lodge and continues to serve Freemasonry for several years afterwards. You will sometimes see a Brother wearing District or Provincial Lodge regalia with rosettes instead of levels indicating that he has yet to “go through the Chair”. He has been awarded the honour for exceptional service to Freemasonry.

The “undress” apron of a District or Provincial Grand Officer is worn ordinarily in the Lodge whereas the “dress” apron is usually worn on special occasions.

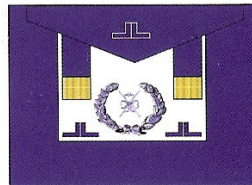


The Badges of a Mason conferred upon him by the Grand Master.



The most coveted of all the aprons is that of a Grand Officer, who also has an embroidered or “dress” apron and an “undress” or plain apron. This is the dress apron which is worn at Grand Lodge, District or Provincial Grand Lodge and other occasions.

When you see an Officer of the United Grand Lodge of England at an ordinary Lodge meeting he will invariably be wearing this plain apron.



District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

A series of Fact Sheets for a
Fellow Craft



Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

The Masonic Apron

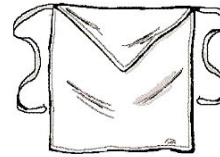
“The badge of innocence and the bond of friendship”

Having been initiated into Freemasonry one of the many bewildering aspects which quickly comes to your notice is the variety of aprons and collars with which the Brethren around you are bedecked.

From the earliest times operative masons have worn protective clothing in the form of leather aprons. When free and accepted or speculative masons joined their ranks and later held their own Lodges they also wore aprons, but saw them as ‘a mark of the Master’s favour’, it being ‘the distinguishing badge of a Mason, the badge of innocence and the bond of friendship’. Originally it was a simple elongated skin apron. In 1731 Grand Lodge approved a blue silk lining to the white aprons of Masters and Wardens of Lodges (red silk in Stewards’ Lodges). However, during the second half of the 18th century Masonic aprons became more ornately decorated. After the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813 Masonic regalia was standardised to the pattern used today, each one indicating the individual’s Masonic rank.

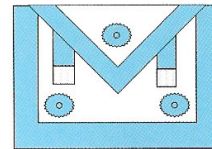
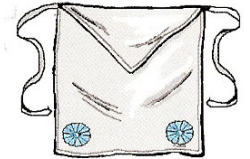
The United Grand Lodge of England is assisted in the administration of its Lodges by a ‘middle tier of management’ in the form of District and Provincial Grand Lodges (Cyprus being a District). Each Lodge - Private, District or Provincial, as well as the Grand Lodge have members and Officers, and it is the Officers and past Officers of District and Provincial Lodges and of the United Grand Lodge of England who wear the red and darker blue aprons. This is a selection of the designs you will most commonly see. However, you may also see other types of regalia worn by Brethren from other Constitutions other than the United Grand Lodge of England.

The badges of a Mason conferred upon him in his Lodge



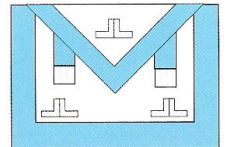
When you were Initiated into Freemasonry you were invested with the apron of an Entered Apprentice.

The apron of a Fellow Craft Freemason shows that he has taken the Second Degree.

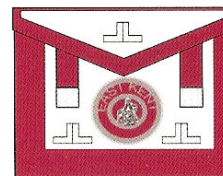


The completion of a Mason’s Third Degree is indicated by the apron of a Master Mason. You will find that this is worn by the majority of the Brethren.

On being installed in the Master’s Chair of his Lodge the Master changes the rosettes on his apron for the levels. He also becomes known as “Worshipful Master”. All Past Masters also wear this apron; notice the collar of a Past Master has a silver stripe running through the middle of it whereas the Worshipful Master and the Officers of the Lodge have plain collars.



The Badges of a Mason conferred upon him by the District or Provincial Grand Master.



The red apron is the badge of a District or Provincial Grand Steward. In many Provinces it is considered a very special rank. Often no “past” appointments are made to this rank, nor is it awarded after a Brother has already received another District or Provincial appointment. Some Provinces have a Stewards

Lodge, membership of which is restricted to those who have previously received an appointment to Provincial Grand Steward. At their Lodge meetings all Brethren wear the Stewards’ red regalia, even those who are Grand Officers.