

The Wardens Columns

These are miniature Columns and stand on the Senior and Junior Warden's pedestals, and are fully explained in Fact Sheet FC 02.

The Warrant

The Warrant of the Lodge is granted to the Lodge by the M.W. Grand Master at its Consecration. This Warrant must be in the Lodge Room when a Lodge is opened. It will always be displayed at the Initiation of a new member and when a new Master is installed. In some Lodges it may be on display throughout the ceremony. If it is framed you will find it hanging on the wall or on an easel in the East of the Lodge.

Lodge Banners

Many Lodges have a Banner, though it is not a necessity. Some Banners date back to the Consecration of the Lodge, some are more recent. A Banner Dedication Ceremony is performed when a Banner is presented to a Lodge.

The Ballot Box

The Ballot Box will always sit on the Secretary's table and is explained in Fact Sheet EA 09.

Wands

The Director of Ceremonies and his Assistant, and the Senior and Junior Deacons each have a Wand of Office which they carry when conducting business in the Lodge.

The letter 'G' within the Blazing Star

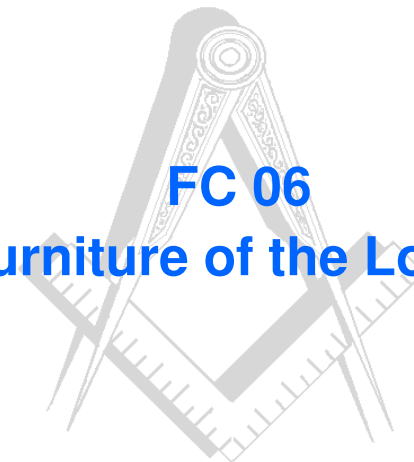
This will either be suspended over the centre of the Lodge Room or above the Worshipful Master's position. In bygone days it was laid on the centre of the floor. There are differing views about whether the letter G represents God or Geometry.



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FC 06 Furniture of the Lodge



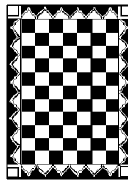
Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

The Furniture of the Lodge

The Masonic definitions of the Furniture, Ornaments and Jewels of the Lodge are briefly explained in Fact Sheet EA 02. A more detailed explanation is given in the fifth Section of the First Lecture of the Three Degrees in Freemasonry, which you will find in the back of the First and Second Degree Ritual Books. This Fact Sheet will only identify the items that you will see as you enter and walk round the Lodge Room, or will direct you to another Fact Sheet where necessary.

Carpet or Masonic Pavement

In most Lodge Rooms you will see a black and white squared carpet or chequered floor. These denote our chequered existence—happiness and sorrow, light and dark, good and evil.



Chairs and Pedestals



There are chairs or benches for all those attending our meetings, which are situated around the squared carpet. But three of these chairs are large and quite grand, and stand behind pedestals or small tables. In many cases these chairs and pedestals will be marked with the Jewel of the occupant - the square for the Worshipful Master situated in the East, the level for the Senior Warden situated in the West and the Plumb Rule for the Junior Warden situated in the South.

Gavels

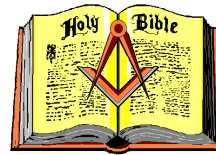
On each of the three pedestals will be a gavel. The gavel is used by the Worshipful Master to gain the brethrens attention when he is about to speak. He will sound his gavel, which is followed by the Senior Warden and then the Junior Warden. The same procedure is followed at the Festive Board when the Worshipful Master is about to propose a toast or take wine.



The Volume of the Sacred Law

On the Master's pedestal, or on a small table in front of the pedestal, will be placed the Bible, which we call the 'Volume of the Sacred Law (VSL)'. In the English Constitution (EC), the VSL is the Holy Bible. It is always open when a Lodge is conducting business or one of its Ceremonies. If a sacred volume is required for brethren of a faith other than Christian, then the volume will be placed in front of or beside the bible, but never on top.

The Great and Lesser Lights



On top of the VSL are placed the Square and Compasses and these three items are known as the 'Three Great Lights' in Freemasonry - the sacred writings to govern our faith, the Square to regulate our actions and the Compasses to keep us in bounds with all mankind, more particularly our brethren in Freemasonry. On each of the pedestals or adjacent to them will be a light within an ornate candle holder, usually in the shape of a column. These are called the 'Three Lesser Lights' and represent the sun to rule the day (the JW), the moon to govern the night (the SW) and the Master to rule and direct his Lodge.

The Rough and Perfect Ashlars

On or close to the Junior Warden's pedestal is a block of stone which is called the 'Rough Ashlar'. It is thought of as the stone on which the apprentice could learn the art of stonemasonry. On or close to the Senior Warden's pedestal is another block of stone, which is called the 'Perfect Ashlar', and this was used by the more experienced stone mason to hone and perfect his skills. The Perfect Ashlar is usually suspended from a 'Lewis', which is inserted into the stone and then suspended from a tripod assembly. The Lewis, combined with a mechanical system of pulleys, allows the heavy stone to be lifted with very little effort and to easily fix it on its proper base. Masonically a Lewis is the uninitiated son of a Mason and it matters not whether the son was born before or after his father became a Mason. His only privilege is that when he is one of two Candidates being initiated on the same day he would be senior for the purpose of the Ceremony only.