

Symbolically, it is also his duty to make certain that the Brethren do not convert their refreshment into intemperance or excess! This is a holdover from earlier days, which still remains as part of the Junior Warden's job description.

Antient duties

You will soon become familiar with the Masonic term 'Antient usages and customs'. In relation to the three Principal Officers the history of Freemasonry symbolically goes all the way back to the building of King Solomon's Temple, with Solomon, King of Israel as Master and Hiram, King of Tyre and Hiram Abif as his Wardens. Modern Freemasonry, however, finds its roots in the Medieval operative Stone Mason Guilds. Some of the Antient Charges still used today originated there, including Charge No. V

Excerpt from Antient Charge No. V

"The most expert of the Fellow Craftsmen shall be chosen or appointed Master or overseer of the Lord's work who is to be called Master by those who work under him. The Master, knowing himself to be cunning, shall undertake the Lord's work as reasonably as possible and only dispense his goods as if they were his own, not to give more wages to any Brother or Apprentice than he really may deserve.

Both the Master and Masons receiving their wages justly shall be faithful to the Lord and honestly finish their work whether a task or a journey, nor put the work to task that has been accustomed to journies - for no man can finish another man's work so much to the Lord's profit unless he be thoroughly acquainted with the designs and draughts of him that began it.

When a Fellow Craftsman is chosen Warden of the work under the Master, he shall be true both to Master and his Fellows, shall carefully oversee the work in the Master's absence, to the Lord's profit and the Brethren shall obey him."

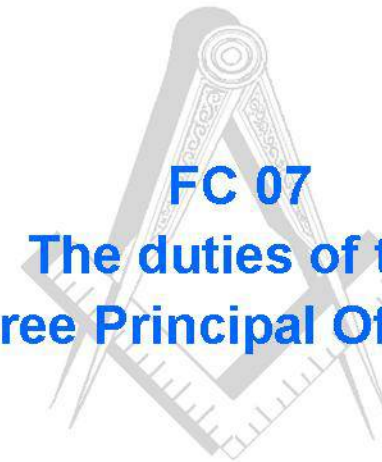
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District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

A series of Fact Sheets for a
Fellow Craft

FC 07
**The duties of the
three Principal Officers**



Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

The duties of the three Principal Officers

The three Principal Officers of the Lodge are:

The Worshipful Master

The Senior Warden

The Junior Warden

They are called the Principal Officers as 'three rule a Lodge', and it is their combined duties to ensure the Lodge is ruled and directed in accordance with the Book of Constitutions. They are 'progressive' Officers of the Lodge. The Senior Warden of the Lodge is usually elected 'Master Elect' at the meeting prior to his Installation as Master. He then appoints the current Junior Warden to the office of Senior Warden and appoints the Senior Deacon to the office of Junior Warden. The Worshipful Master holds office for one year only; in exceptional circumstances this may be extended to two years. Also it is permissible for the Junior Warden to be elected to the office of Master if he has served a year in that office and if the Senior Warden is unable to progress.

The Worshipful Master



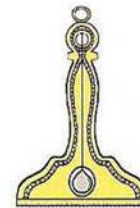
The Worshipful Master is the highest ranking of all the Lodge Officers which the members may elect. His Jewel is the **Square**, which is a stonemason's tool to ascertain true and correct angles of the cut and smoothed stone; thus his Jewel symbolises **virtue**. The

Worshipful Master sits in the East of the Lodge Room (symbolic of the rising Sun in the East) and directs the business of the Lodge. Note: even if the building faces a different direction, the Master is said to be 'in the East'. He also presides over ritual and ceremonies. His position is similar to a President of any other organisation. As Master, his word is final over any and all actions pertaining to his Lodge.

His first duty is: *"To open the Lodge and employ and instruct the Brethren in Freemasonry"*. He also has to see that the provisions as set out in the Book of Constitutions and the Lodge By-laws are strictly observed.

Whilst the Worshipful Master's rank is the highest of all members, the duties of his office are the easiest to remember. He is responsible for every single thing within his Lodge during his year as Master. He is ultimately responsible for every other Lodge Officer and their duties. It is his duty to preside over business meetings, the conferral of Degrees, and delegation of duties to all other Lodge Officers and Brethren.

The Senior Warden



The Senior Warden's Jewel is the **Level**, symbolising that all Masons 'meet on the level', without regard to social, political or religious beliefs or status. The Senior Warden is the second in command within the Lodge. In the absence of the Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden assumes the Master's duties. The Senior Warden sits in the West (symbolic of the setting sun) and assists the Worshipful Master in opening and closing the Lodge. The Senior Warden is in charge of the Lodge when it is at labour. His position is similar to a Vice-President of any organisation.

His ancient duties were to pay the Craft (the members of the guild) their wages and to handle disputes among the workers. It is his duty to support the Master and to prepare himself for that office during the following year.

The Junior Warden



The Junior Warden's Jewel is the **Plumb Rule**, which is a stonemason's instrument used for ascertaining the alignment of a vertical surface. It symbolises **upright behaviour** among Masons.

The Junior Warden is third in command of the Lodge. He sits in the South (symbolic of the position of the sun at midday). He calls the Brethren from labour to refreshment and from refreshment to labour that profit and pleasure may be the result, and is responsible for the Brethren while the Lodge is at ease or refreshment. His position is similar to a Second Vice-President.

It is the Junior Warden's duty to arrange meals for the Lodge, and, typically the Stewards act as his assistants in this responsibility.