

Testing instruments.

You will notice that the Working Tools of this degree have moved on from the labourers tools of the Entered Apprentice and are now testing instruments. With them we try, square and prove. With them we learn to develop the faculty of judgment: what is valuable, what is true, what is real. They also symbolise that you are at the halfway point in your Masonic journey, superior to what you previously were but inferior to that which it is hoped you will achieve.

We have, in fact progressed to the science of Geometry and we stress the importance of Geometry in the Charge after passing, which is very rarely presented in Lodges. In this Charge the candidate is informed: *“The study of the liberal Arts, which tends so effectively to polish and adorn the mind, is earnestly recommended to your consideration, especially the Science of Geometry, which is established as the basis of our Art”*.

Moveable Jewels.

The importance of the Working Tools of a Fellow Craft Freemason is shown by the jewels worn on the collars of the three Principal Officers of the Lodge. The Worshipful Master wears the Square; the Senior Warden wears the Level and the Junior Warden wears the Plumb Rule. The tools are also usually shown on their pedestals. These three Officers must have demonstrated each of the moral qualities of the relevant tool before taking office.

The three jewels are called the ‘Moveable’ Jewels of the Lodge as they are passed on to their successors on an Installation night.



District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

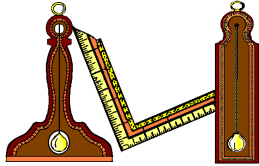
A series of Fact Sheets for a Fellow Craft



Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

The Working Tools of a Fellow Craft

In the First Degree you were introduced to the Working Tools of an Entered Apprentice; tools used to hew the rough stone and make it fit for the more expert workman. As a Fellow Craft Freemason you are introduced to the Working Tools of the more expert workman, which are the Square, Level and Plumb Rule,



and you will remember being told:

“The Square is to try and adjust rectangular corners of buildings, and assist in bringing rude matter into due form. The Level is to lay levels and prove horizontals. The Plumb Rule is to try, and adjust uprights while fixing them on their proper bases. But, as we are not operative but Free and Accepted or Speculative Masons, we apply these tools to our morals. In this sense the Square teaches morality, the Level, equality and the Plumb Rule justness and uprightness of life and actions. Thus by square conduct, level steps and upright intentions we may hope to ascend to those Immortal mansions whence all goodness emanates”

Everyday sayings. Let us now look at these Working Tools a little closer. Many Masonic symbols and sayings have found their way into our everyday vocabulary.

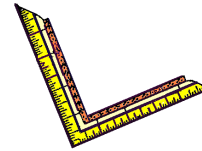
‘Acting on the Square with someone’

‘That man’s on the level’

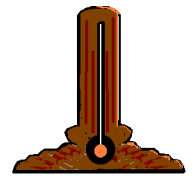
‘He’s an upright citizen’

All these originate from the Second Degree Working Tools and it’s not surprising that they denote good qualities in the person being referred to, because Freemasons attaining their Fellow Craft Degree are taught the moral lessons contained in these tools, which are :

The Square is the symbol of morality, truthfulness and honesty. The direction of the two sides of the Square form an angle of 90°, or a right angle, so called because this is the angle which stones must have if they are to be used to build a stable and upright wall. It symbolises accuracy, not even varying by a single degree. When we part upon the Square, we go in different directions, but in full knowledge that our courses in life will be going according to the angle of the Square (which means in the right direction), until we meet again.



The Level is a symbol of equality. We do not mean equality in wealth, social distinction, civic office, or service to mankind; but, rather, we refer to the internal, and not the external, qualifications. Each person is endowed with a worth and dignity which is spiritual, and should not be subject to man-made distinctions. Masonry recognises that one man may have greater potential in life, service, or reward than another; but, we also believe that any man can aspire to any height, no matter how great. Thus, the Level dignifies labour and the man who performs it. It also acknowledges that all men are equal without regard to station. The Level also symbolises the passage of time.



The Plumb Rule is a symbol of uprightness of conduct. In Freemasonry, it is associated with the plumb line which the Lord promised Amos he would set in the midst of His people, Israel, symbolising God's standard of divine righteousness. The plumb line in the midst of people should mean that they will be judged by their own sense of right and wrong, and not by the standards of others. By understanding the Plumb Rule, a Mason is to judge his Brothers by their own standards and not those of someone else. When the plumb line is thought of in this way, it becomes a symbol of an upright life and of the conscience by which each person must live. This idea is closely tied to the concept of Justice. For, in truth, Justice is giving another man his due.

