



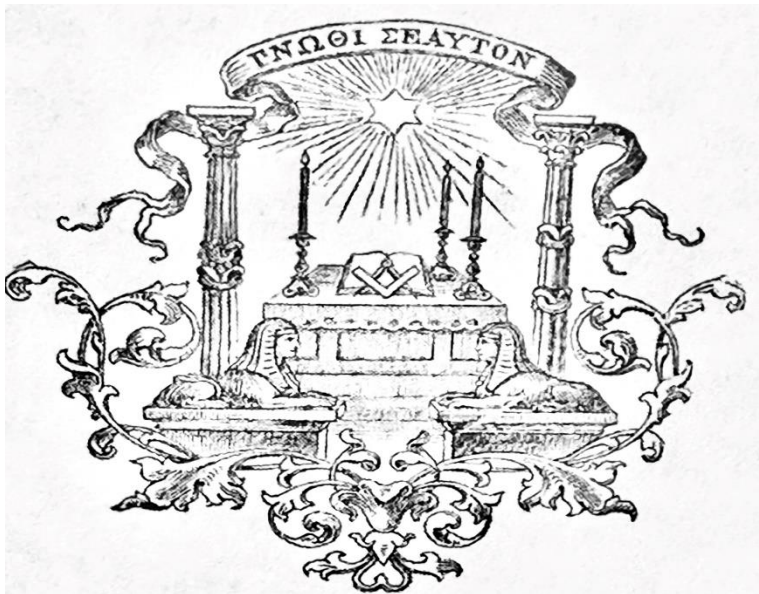
THE HOUSTON VALLEY HERALD

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The Scottish Rite Craft degrees



By Jason D. Rees 32° KCCH

The first thing that usually stands out to Freemasons about the Scottish Rite Craft degrees is how the degrees are more dramatic and esoteric than they are used to. The Scottish Rite Craft rituals share many familiar features such as working tools, regalia, and props within the degrees. Just as much as they share familiarities, they also have major differences. Within the Scottish Rite Craft degrees there is purposeful dedication to exploring and expounding on symbolisms within the degree such as the elements of earth, air, water, and fire, and the planetary system as it relates to Masonic teachings. The Craft degrees within the Scottish Rite have gone through some changes since their creation in 1804 but still hold true to their original stories.

The candidate is on a journey to find virtue through allegory and drama. Through this journey, the candidate is taught how to discover these signs, which are a bit different than those learned in the Texas Blue Lodge degrees. As he progresses in the Scottish Rite Craft degrees, the candidate is looking to increase his wages and is shown how, through hard work and the use of the symbolic tools in his life, his goals can be obtained.

The lessons he learns are very in-depth: the five senses, orders of architecture, liberal arts and sciences, the use of geometry for building, and then he is caused to reflect upon his own creation and symbols within the lodge room. The candidate is thrust into the heart of symbolism where he will begin to form more in-depth knowledge of the craft and deeper meanings of the makeup of the lodge and his internal building. Therein he will build and shape a better life and world, learning too that light should always come from God and through that light he can improve himself.

As the candidate moves through the degrees, he again tries to increase his wages but learns that a great calamity has happened and that the lodge is in deep mourning. The candidate learns of a pursuit and is asked if he has any knowledge of the situation. Symbols of mortality and justice are everywhere. He uses his knowledge that he gained previously to move forward. He learns that the construction on the Temple has stopped and the lodge is now dark, but soon light and truth will be restored and he must use that light and truth throughout his life and in the world.

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History of Honors "Part 1"



By Jason D. Rees 32° KCCH

During our meetings and in pictures we see brothers wearing red and white caps. You would be hard pressed to find a brother who did not know what each cap stood for. But do you know how they came to be and when and what they mean?

On May 5, 1870 the Supreme Council, at the insistence of then Grand Commander Albert Pike, to create the Knight Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH). A Master of the Royal Secret who has distinguished himself by zeal, devotion, and active services to humanity and/or the Fraternity, may be elected to receive the rank and decoration of KCCH. The number of those that can be admitted into the Court of Honor at any session of the Supreme Council is limited in accordance with the rule laid down in the Statues, which expressly provide that not more than twice the number of those receiving 33rd degree may be elected to KCCH. The KCCH is **not** a degree: the ceremony is an investiture, not an initiation.

The apparel of the KCCH is very distinctive: a red cap and jewel, each with a passion cross of gold; on the cross is a raised plate of gold with white gold beads around its base. In the center is a trefoil of green, with "Kt .: Comm .: C.: of Hon .:" in gold letters around it. The Gold beads are a symbol of that prayerful devotion to the interests of our brothers; the cross, a symbol of the higher life which we hope to deserve by good deeds, within the three level-leaved green plant symbol of that trinity in unity which Zarathustra said shines throughout the universe.

Another piece of regalia that goes unnoticed by some brothers is the synthetic badge of the KCCH:



The synthetic badge is a rectangle of gold or yellow metal, one inch long and one-half an inch wide, forming an oblong square. In it are imbedded three white sparkling jewels, in the form of an

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We are told that the Scottish Rite is an appendant body, but this is not quite true. Let me explain: in Texas our first three degrees, Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master, are all York Rite degrees. The Scottish Rite craft degrees are not conferred here in Texas without special permission and are not conferred on an actual candidate. However, in New Orleans there are lodges that work in the first three degrees of the Scottish Rite. So, while they are not used or allowed inside of Texas, you can find them elsewhere!

Something to Think About:

V.I.T.R.I.O.L.
"Visita Interiora Terrae
rectificando invenies occultum lapidem"
(visit the interior of the earth and by
rectification you will find the hidden
stone)

"Journey Passport" Program

The Houston Valley is participating in the "Journey Passport" program which includes 33 challenges that allow participants to earn six unique Scottish Rite challenge coins. The passport program is designed to take brothers throughout the Valley of Houston and the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite. To learn more and get a passport, contact Brother Jason Rees 32° KCCH at: acompass@yahoo.com

The Houston Valley Herald Email List

This publication is printed monthly and distributed at stated meetings of the Valley of Houston for the benefit of the brethren assembled. *The Houston Valley Herald* is also available online at www.HoustonScottishRite.org (Click the "Newsletter" tab). Anyone is welcome to receive this publication via email as well. To join our mailing list, email acompass@yahoo.com

Attention Brothers check this out!!

THE HOUSTON VALLEY SCOTTISH RITE
Christmas Toy Lodge Challenge
 September 1 - December 1, 2024



TEXAS
SCOTTISH RITE HOSPITAL
FOR CHILDREN
www.tsrhc.org

Attention to all Houston Valley area Masonic Lodges
 Donate toys to win a Christmas Dinner provided and served by
 the Houston Valley Scottish Rite at your lodge's stated meeting.
 The Rules are simple!!
 The Lodge who donates the most toys wins.
 Toys can be dropped off at the Houston Valley Scottish Rite building
 starting September 1, 2024
 Please call and coordinate before delivery
 713-432-1980
 Any and All Questions please email acompass@yahoo.com

Cont'd from front, "History of Honors"

equilateral triangle, with the apex pointing upwards. It should always be worn on the right lapel of the coat and serves as a reminder of the days and nights of toil and service to Masonry. Its form reminds us of the first steps in Masonry. Its metallic base is the color of the sun, itself a symbol of intellectual light and knowledge. This suggests a continuing duty to spread the blessings of education and to perform charitable deeds. The triangle of reflected light reminds us that the highest teachings of the Fraternity are symbolized by the triangle.

Did you know that all ranks within the Scottish Rite have their own signature? The KCCH should sign his name using red ink in the following fashion:

† John Q. Doe 32°
Kt ∴ Comm ∴ C ∴ of Hon ∴

To be continued in the next issue of the Houston Valley Herald...

In closing, a bit of Texas history:



Brother Alfred C Finn, Architect of the San Jacinto monument, pictured above inspecting the construction of the monument.

Brother Finn was a member of Gray Lodge 329 the Houston Scottish Rite and Arabia Shrine.



The Cornerstone of the Monument went into place on April 21, 1937 and was dedicated by the lodges of Masonic District 30 of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

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