



**Province of Oxfordshire
Provincial Grand Master
RW. Bro. James Robert Guy Hilditch**

Provincial Grand Orator

W. Bro. Stephen P Quant

As part of Masonic developments that occurred in 2007 under the direction of the Pro-Grand Master RW. Bro. The Marquis of Northampton the Oration Scheme was introduced. There were 59 official Orations published under the authority of the United Grand Lodge of England. All these Orations are available and they each consist of a talk of between 750 and 1250 words (c10mins) followed by a led discussion among the brethren. Though, these orations are not offered anymore, as they have been supplanted by Solomon, one can be arranged if required. (See Annex A for a full list.)

Regarding Solomon any of the individual nuggets can be given; consisting of a brief presentation followed by a led discussion. These can be delivered as a supplement to a ceremony or as standalone presentation where if that is required it is recommended that at least three or four nuggets be chosen. Alternately a "Paper" can be presented again with a led discussion lasting about thirty minutes.

To supplement the initial scheme further presentations have been designed which can be used when it is not possible to have a ceremony. Each can last for between 30 minutes and an hour (decided by the Lodge) and consists of a PowerPoint presentation with a commentary. Below please find a description of the twenty-three currently available. If on the other hand you would like me to make a presentation on an alternative subject, I am more than willing to attempt to do so.

Fortunately, I have gained the excellent assistance of our Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master Alan Knowles. His presentations together with synopses and timings are on the penultimate page.



Stephen Quant



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1. The Temples at Jerusalem.



An history from 1200BCE to the Present. This includes details of the Temple of Solomon, the second Temple of Zerubbabel, the Temple of Herod the Great, the Christian Basilicas of Jerusalem and the Mosques on Temple Mount.

2. The Flood: Myth and History



Noah's flood and other tales of floods from the ancient Middle East.

To the left a modern recreation of the Ark now in the Netherlands.

3. The End of Roman Britain



The series of events that led to withdrawal (expulsion?) of the Roman administration in the period 405-411CE.

Left is Coin of the Last Roman Emperor in Britain Constantine III

4. Legion

The Roman Army 50CE to 275CE. The structure of both Legions and Auxiliaries with reference to the garrison of the Province of *Britannia* in the reign of the emperor Hadrian. This was the time of the Height of the Roman Empire. Hadrian is best known as the builder of "Hadrian's Wall" in northern England.

To the right Roman Legionaries.



5. The Knights Templars.

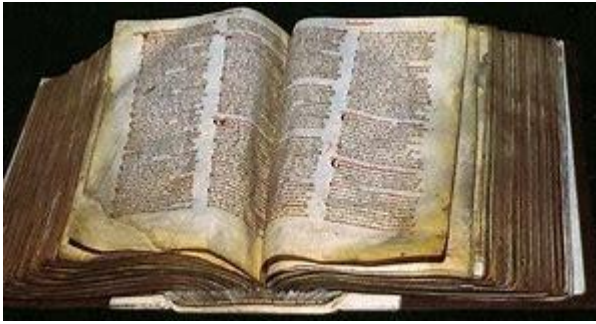


An historic summary of the order from its mysterious foundation shortly after the conquest of Jerusalem in 1099CE, its rise to power and its eventual destruction in the early fourteenth century.

Also discussed are modern orders who claim decent from the Templars.

To the left fourteenth century picture of the execution of Jacque Molay in 1314CE

6. The Domesday Book.



In 1085CE William the Conqueror commissioned the greatest medieval survey of any European country which was completed in about 18 months. This presentation shows the general outline of the changes in society from before the Norman Conquest to 1086 and the move from Saxon to Norman rule.

(The presentation will be tailored to the town or village where the Lodge/Order meets.)

7. Hiram King of Tyre

The life and times of Hiram King of Tyre, Solomon colleague, at the building of the Temple. The presentation includes both historical and biblical accounts of Hiram. Also included in the presentation is the rise of the Phoenician trading regime, under Hiram, from Tyre via Cartage, Cadiz and on to Cornwall.



To the right Hiram's alleged tomb in modern Syria.

8. The Great Heathen Army



The first major Viking raid was at the monastery at Lindisfarne in 793CE eventually cumulating in the arrival of the **Mical Hæðen Here** (the Great Heathen Army) in 865CE. This presentation explores the events around its campaigns and their eventual defeat by Alfred and his successors. Also discussed is early medieval warfare.

9. The Rifles



The Rifles are the current county infantry regiment of Oxfordshire. This presentation traces their history from their founding as the 43rd and 52nd regiments of foot in the eighteenth via the Ox and Bucks LI to the Green Jackets and on to the present. An history of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars is also included who were from the late eighteenth century until 1967CE the county yeomanry regiment.

10. Royal and Select Masters.

An introduction to this interesting Order in Freemasonry which consists of four degrees which connect the Craft and Mark to the Royal Arch.



11. The Passing of the Veils Ceremony



In early Royal Arch Chapter ceremonies there was a piece of ritual that preceded the Exaltation of a companion called the Passing of the Veils.



(Suitable for Chapters only.)

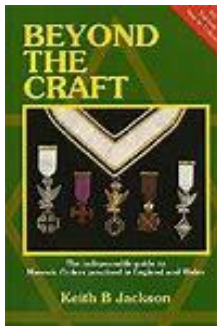
12. Early Saxon Kings.



The Bretwaldas of England and other dominant rulers in England between c490 and 750CE

From 627CE onwards, Edwin of Deira was the most powerful king among the Anglo-Saxons, ruling Bernicia, Deira and much of eastern Mercia, the Isle of Man, and Anglesey. The imperium, as Bede calls it, that Edwin possessed was later equated with the idea of a Bretwalda.

13. Beyond the Craft. †



Based on Keith Jackson's well-known book of the same name this a presentation of those Degrees and Orders of which it is requisite to be a member of the Craft. For each further degree the qualification for membership are included.

Also included is a outline of the structure and the relationship of the other masonic degrees to both the Craft and Royal Arch.

†I acknowledge W. Bro. Allan Dishington's material.

14. The Miraculous Pillar of Cloud and Fire. *

Exodus 13:21-22. By day, the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them



light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.



*I acknowledge W. Bro. Alan Knowle's material

15. Arthur and the Matter of Britain

What allegedly happened in Britain after the Romans left. Including an explanation of Myth of King Arthur.

".....at this stage of the enquiry, one can only say that there may well have been an historical Arthur, but the historian can as yet say nothing of value about him."

Charles-Edwards, Thomas M. (1991), "The Arthur of History", in *The Arthur of the Welsh*, Cardiff: University of Wales Press.



16. The History of the Mark Degree.



An introduction to the origins of the order and its development. Earliest evidence of order dated back to 1599 in Scotland. Widely worked in the late eighteenth century. Rejected as part of "Regular Freemasonry" by the Edict of 1817. Continued working until a second application to UGLE in 1855 which was initially accepted but three months later again rejected leading to the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons in 1856.

17. When Joshua Fought the Battle of the Lord. *



In some rituals the expression when Joshua fought the battle of the lord is part of the communication of one of the signs of the second degree. This presentation deals with the biblical account that after the death of Moses Joshua led the Israelites in their conquest of Judea.

To the left is an early twentieth watercolour of Moses blessing Joshua.

***I acknowledge W. Bro. Alan Knowle's material**

18. The Return of the Exiles.

"Thus, saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him and let him go up."

The story of the return to Jerusalem of Jews after their Babylonish Captivity



19. Masonic Aprons and Tracing Boards



Masonic Aprons and Tracing Boards date back from before the founding of the Premier Grand Lodge and are of great variety in both craft masonry and across several other orders. This brief presentation explains origins and development of both items.

20. Major Valentine Fleming DSO MP



Valentine Fleming the father of Ian Fleming the author of the James Bond books was elected MP for Henley in 1910. As an active member of the community he became a Freemason. A friend of Winston Churchill, he in 1914 opted to be mobilised with Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars and served in France until his death in action in 1917.

21. A Community Apart.



The gypsy community are an often-misunderstood community who have been present in the British Isles since the early sixteenth century. Not to be confused with the Irish Traveller Community, this presentation seeks to throw some light on this highly marginalised community

22. A presentation on the 2022 Oxfordshire Festival in support of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.



23. A presentation on the Oxfordshire Mark 2025 Festival in support of the Masonic Benevolent Fund.





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Alan Knowles



- 1 **Freemasonry and the Great War**
Mainly a potted history of the Great War 1914-1918 concentrating on the British Army's efforts which defeated the German Army and giving a more accurate appraisal of the conduct of the war. With a brief link to Freemasonry of that era. Suitable for all degrees and other non-Masonic functions. 75 mins
- 2 **The Siege of Malta 1565**
Aimed at the Knights Templar Preceptories but suitable for Royal Arch and Craft as an advert for the Knights Templars. 55 mins
- 3 **The Road To The Siege of Malta 1565**
Aimed at the Knights Templar Preceptories but suitable for Royal Arch and Craft as an advert for the Knights Templars and for non-masons. 40 mins
This describes the events from the decline of the Christian presence in the Holy land up to the eve of the actual siege of Malta, the subject of a separate talk.
- 4 **When Joshua fought the Battles of the Lord**
Nothing given away to entered apprentices or even non masons 40 mins
- 5 **The Destruction of the Temples**
The destruction of the temple at Jerusalem by the Babylonians and later the Romans as referred to in The Royal Arch but suitable for Craft or non-masons 40 mins
- 6 **Enjoyment**
An opinion on how we should enjoy our masonry 12 mins
- 7 **Brotherly Love**
An expansion on one of the grand principles of Craft Masonry 15 mins
- 8 **An Introduction To Freemasonry**
A basic explanation of the basics of Freemasonry, layout of the lodge and duties of the officers. 40 mins
Suitable for White Table meetings with non-masons present

Annex A

<p>To Seek For That Which Was Lost Preamble for the Initiate - A Welcome to the Initiate. (Suitable for use at The Festive Board) The Knowledge of Yourself Extend Your Researches The Primacy of the East Enjoy! 'Freemasonry should be Fun' Nature and Science The First Grand Principle Free and of Mature Age Building the Temple The Middle Chamber The Journey Progresses With The Centre The Light From Above Darkness Visible Whence Come You? The Pillar of Beauty Obligations – The Ties That Bind Why Still Bother With the Ritual The Temple</p>	<p>The Master The History of Tracing Boards The Skirret From Helpless Indigence to Holy Confidence. (Journey through the 3 degrees) It's Not Rocket Science After All. (To Discover the Hidden Mysteries of the 2nd Degree) Jacob's Ladder The Letter 'G' The Great Lights The Colours of the Craft It Makes Me Think – Third Degree It Makes Me Think – Second Degree It Makes Me Think – First Degree Frere Jacques – Do We Know You? In Whom Do You Put Your Trust? The Cable The Tower The Working Tools King Solomon – A Man of Wisdom or Folly?</p>	<p>This Sublunary Abode The God Delusion Aspects of Freedom The Masonic Apron Music & Masonry The Initiates Preparation The Journey Begins The Master and the Gavel The Master's Jewel What Happened to the Trowel The Past Master's Jewel A Christmas Oration Landmarks of the Order The Hand of Friendship The Foundation Stone Five Points of Fellowship That The World May Know Pillars, Stairs and the Middle Chamber Masonic Fire Meek, Humble & Resigned Questions & Answers</p>
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