

JOINING MEMBERS AND EXALTEES FROM OTHER CONSTITUTIONS

Lodges and Chapters have recently fallen foul of Grand Lodge as a result of a failure to observe the Rules governing the admission, as joining members, of brethren and companions from other constitutions. In this Province this usually means Scotland and Ireland, but by no means exclusively. There have been examples of fraudulent applications by means of fake documentation.

The following is the procedure which MUST be observed before a candidate for joining is balloted for, *however well known he may be to those proposing him.*

IN THE CRAFT

Before the ballot is proceeded with, the Secretary of the lodge must ascertain that the documentation of the candidate is authentic by contacting the **PROVINCIAL OFFICE** and providing the Grand Lodge Certificate of the candidate. This will be referred to The Grand Secretary who will indicate by letter whether the Grand Lodge concerned is recognised, and the certificate is in order. A copy of this letter must subsequently accompany the Registration Form 'P'.

IN THE ROYAL ARCH

There are two different scenarios:

1. A candidate for **exaltation** who is not a member of a LODGE in our constitution.
2. A candidate for **joining** who is not a member of a CHAPTER in our constitution.

In BOTH cases the Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter Certificate of his constitution must be sent to the **PROVINCIAL OFFICE**, who will make the appropriate enquiries in London and report back to the chapter.

Grand Lodge and Chapter keep a record of such inquiries and therefore can always tell whether a lodge or chapter has complied with these Rules. There has been embarrassment recently for those failing to comply.

Certificates must always be sent by secure post because of their importance and value.