

NOTES ON LODGE AND CHAPTER BADGES AND BANNERS

1. The following notes are intended to help Lodges and Chapters in preparing designs for their badges before submitting them to the Grand Secretary or Grand Scribe E (via the Provincial Grand Secretary or Scribe E) for the approval of the MW The Grand Master or the ME The First Grand Principal.
2. The Principles explained in the notes apply equally to designs – which also require approval – for Founders' Jewels, Past Masters' Jewels and Banners, etc.
3. However, it is not possible to foresee every problem that might arise, and it should therefore be noted that adherence to every point in the notes does not guarantee that the design will be approved.
4. The notes contain a depressing number of negatives, but design is possible. If extreme difficulty is encountered, the Grand Secretary's office (Secretariat Department) will almost certainly be able to help further.

Lodge Badges

Arms or Armorial Bearings, and Badges

5. Lodges are recommended to adopt Badges in preference to Arms. Arms are heraldic devices borne on a shield. A Badge consists of some object or objects combined to form a design without the use of a shield.
6. The grant of Arms, which carries the right to bear them, is a Royal Prerogative. Lodges, which wish to design and assume Arms, must consult the College of Heralds. Grand Lodge will not approve 'pseudo-arms', however ingenious or 'realistic'.
7. No part of the Royal Coat of Arms may be assumed by a Lodge without the express consent of the Sovereign, or other Royal Person whose Arms are concerned.
8. No private Lodge is permitted to use the Arms of the United Grand Lodge of England.
9. No Arms of an individual or Corporation may be adopted without the written consent of such individual or Corporation, and in the case of consent being given the Arms must be used in their entirety. *N.B.* Even when such consent is obtained, it may not be appropriate for the Lodge to use Arms, which have been designed to represent an individual or public body, and therefore approval may be withheld.
10. No Lodge may adopt as Arms a portion of an existing Coat of Arms, even if permission be given by the holder, since such adoption would amount to the assumption of a new Coat of Arms.
11. Designs may not be approved if they are heraldic in character or attempt to avoid the Laws of Arms by using a corruption of a shield outline.
12. Arms that have become extinct cannot be used.
13. A small shield carried by a knight as part of the design of a badge is permitted, since this is only coincidental to his accoutrements; in most cases the shield is seen in perspective, and thus cannot be regarded as Arms in the ordinary sense.

General

14. Designs for Lodge Badges are sometimes submitted with the Petition for a new Lodge, but they cannot be approved until a Warrant has been granted. However, if the matter is urgent, the design may sometimes be approved subject to the grant of a Warrant.
15. Symbols foreign to the Craft, for example interlaced triangles (which are Royal Arch) should not occur. Most Craft badges have a (or the) square and compass incorporated, but these are not essential. The square and compasses containing the letter 'G' are not permitted in the English Constitution.

Religious Symbols

16. Symbols associated with one particular religion or religious denomination, for example the Cross, must not be included as a predominant part of the design. If the Lodge is named after a Saint who is depicted in the badge, then a small cross may be carried by the Saint.

Imperial Crown

17. The Imperial Crown is the one shown on Government documents and publications (e.g. British Passports, United Kingdom Driving Licences and top right corner on obverse of £5 Sterling bank notes). These vary slightly but are intended to be the same Crown, and will not be approved as part of a badge. A Saxon crown or a nondescript one (such as is shown in Plate 31 of the Royal Arch Regulations) may be allowed.

Corn and Acacia

18. A wreath composed of corn and acacia (as shown in the jewels of Grand Officers) is not allowed, since these emblems are symbolic of Grand Rank.

Chapter Badges

19. Rules on Lodge badges apply identically to Chapter badges. Most Chapter badges are based on those of the Lodge to which they are attached, with some Royal Arch allusion in place of the square and compasses, e.g. interlaced triangles, the triple tau, etc. The Lodge's title must be changed to the Chapter's.