

## **WHAT A CANDIDATE FOR THE 'ROSE CROIX' DEGREE SHOULD KNOW**

The purpose of this leaflet is to advise prospective members of the Order what the Supreme Council believes a member of the Craft should know before his name is submitted to a Rose Croix Chapter for consideration as a candidate for Perfection in this Christian Order.

The Rose Croix degree is one of the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, an Order of Freemasonry as old as the Craft itself. The Rose Croix degree is, in fact, the 18° of the 33 degrees of the Rite. In the ceremony of joining a Rose Croix Chapter, a Brother is 'perfected' as a Prince Rose Croix of Heredom. In this Country, the degree is specifically a Christian degree.

The main requirements for membership of the Order are as follows:

1. A candidate must have been a Master Mason for at least one full year and be in good standing with the Craft before he can be elected to the Order.
2. He must have received his three degrees in a Lodge or Lodges under the United Grand Lodge of England unless authorised in the Rules of the Supreme Council.
3. He must profess the Trinitarian Christian Faith; he will be required to sign a declaration to the effect.
4. Candidates should normally apply for membership of a Chapter near to their home address or their place of work.

5. As in other Masonic Orders, a member of the Chapter will be invited to progress through a number of offices in succession before attaining the Chair of the Most Wise Sovereign.
6. The learning requirements of these offices are minimal. The ritual of the Chair requires more work but is usually shared throughout the year.
7. It is not necessary to have been the Worshipful Master of a Craft lodge before becoming a Sovereign. Some of the names of the officers in a Chapter, for example, Captain of the Guard, are reminders of former times when the Rose Croix degree was worked by the Knights Templar.

### **The Degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Rite**

The first three degrees are deemed to be equivalent to the first three degrees in the Craft. The Intermediate degrees from the 4° to the 17° are conferred on a Candidate by name before the ceremony of the 18°. These degrees continue the stories of the Hiramic period.

The 18° of the Rose Croix of Heredom is the last of the degrees of the Rite that can be conferred by a Chapter. Subsequent degrees are conferred by the Supreme Council.

The 30° is conferred on a Most Wise Sovereign providing he completes certain criteria and has been a member of the Order for at least three years. The 19° to 29° degrees are conferred by name. Promotion to

the Higher Degrees, 31°, 32° and 33° is under the direction of the Supreme Council.

### **The Ceremony**

The Volume of the Sacred Law used in the ceremony is the Bible. The ritual is based on the first verse of St. John's Gospel (at which the Bible is opened for most of the time) extolling the principles of Christianity. Almost every line of the ritual is either taken as a direct quotation of a Masonic allusion to verses of the New Testament, culminating in Christ's words to the disciples in St. John 13.34.

The scripture references tend to be tantalisingly brief. Forever offering new insight for Christian Freemasonry. The last part of the ceremony incorporates a 'secular feast of fraternal rejoicing' the origins of which pre-date even Christianity.

### **Regalia**

The regalia required initially would be the collar and jewel. The significance of the symbols used in the design are explained during the ceremony. Many years ago, members also wore a colourful apron, examples of which can still be seen in some Chapters.

Dress worn is usually a dark suit and sober tie with white collar. Some Princes wear Masonic Morning dress, but the wearing of a black tie is forbidden. This is a degree of rejoicing rather than mourning. The Higher Degrees have different collars and sashes.

### **The Supreme Council 33°**

It is claimed that the Grand Constitutions of 1786

under which every Supreme Council throughout the world is formed, were promulgated under the titular direction of Frederick the Great of Prussia, who ruled there from 1740 to 1786. The Supreme Council for England and Wales and its Districts and Chapters overseas is no exception. It was formed under a patent issued by the Northern Jurisdiction of the USA on 26 October 1845. The patent was issued to Dr. Robert Thomas Crucefix, our first Sovereign Grand Commander, who was responsible for setting in train a movement in favour of a charity for aged Freemasons which we know now as the RMBI.

### District of South West Lancashire

On 1 June 2000, the District of West Lancashire was split into two Districts: North West and South West Lancashire. Each District is controlled by its own Inspector General, assisted administratively by a District Recorder. South West Lancashire has 19 Chapters located at eleven different Masonic venues. All meetings follow with a festive board comprised of a meal of celebration and enjoyment.

The District holds an annual Ladies to Dine event, a Higher Degrees Dinner and seminars for Recorders and Directors of Ceremony.

For further information contact:  
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### 18° Regalia



Liverpool	19	Artists' Club, Eberle Street
Crawford	114	Pemberton
Col. J.D. Murray	196	Pemberton
Bootle	270	Litherland
Lancastrian	271	Litherland
Widnes	318	Widnes
Allen Pooley	339	Hope Street, Liverpool
Corinthian	385	Hope Street, Liverpool
Warrington	390	Warrington
St. Helens	391	St. Helens
Albany	462	Hope Street, Liverpool
Queensway	552	Widnes
Ascension	746	Warrington
Atherleigh	769	Leigh
Sephton	805	Hope Street, Liverpool
Fidelium	971	Westhoughton
Benedicta	1062	Bryn
South Liverpool	1175	Garston
Mount of Olives	1192	Bryn

### South West Lancashire Chapters

### Ancient and Accepted Rite



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Rose Croix Degree should  
know**

**District of South West Lancashire**  
<https://rosecroixswlancs.org.uk>

**Inspector General**  
**V.:Ill.:Bro. Ian Clark 33°**