

The three oldest known Masonic Catechisms in existence

The Airlie MS 1705

SOME QUESTIONS THAT MASONS USE TO PUT TO THOSE WHO PRETEND TO HAVE THE WORD BEFORE [E] THEY WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THEM

- Que first Are you a mason or not Answer yes
Que 2. How shall I know it
you shall answer in time and place convenient [convenient] you shall know it
Remarke The foresaid answer is only to be made when there is company
present who shall not [be] masons but the be no such company by
you should answer signs tokens and other points of my entrie
Que 3. What is the first point? Answer: tell me the first point and I'll
tell you the second.
The first is to heill and conceill: the second under no less pain which is
the cutting of your throat for you must make that signe when you say
this.
Que 4. Where [e] was you entered? (An: The Honourable Lodge)
Que 5. What makes a true and perfect Lodge? (An: seven masters and five
entered prentices a days jouerney [journey] from a burghs town without barke
of doge or crow of coke [cock])
Que 6. does no less make a true and perfect [perfect] Lodge. (An: yes five
masters thre[e]
entered apprentices &C.
Que 7. What is the nam[e] of your Lodge? A: The lodge of Killwinin
Que 8. How stands your Lodge. An: e[ast] and west of the temple of Jerusalem
Que 9. Where [e] was the first Lodge. An: In the porch of Solomons Temple
Que 10. Are there any light[s] in your Lodge. An: yes, three The north west:
S:W: and the Eastern passage. The on[e] denotes the master mason. The other
the warden The third The fellowcraft
Que 11. Are there any [blank] in your Lodge. yes: the perpend Essler a square
pavement and a brobid ormal
Que 12. Where [will] I find key of your Lodge: yes three foot and half from the
Lodge dore under a perpend Essler and [sic] a green divot [divot]
Que 13. What mean you by a perpend Essler and a grein divot. An: I mean not
only under a perpend Essler a green divot but under the lap of my Liver
where [e] all the secrets of my heart ly
Que 14. Which is the key [of your] Lodge. An: A weill hunge tongie
Que 15. Where lyes the key An In the bone box

After the massions have Examined you by all or some of thes thes [these] [sic]
questions and yt [that] you have Answered them Exactly and mad[e] the signe
the will acknowledg[e] you but [not] as master masson or fellowcraft but
but [sic] only as prentice so they will say I see you have been in [the] kitchen
but I know not if you have been in the hall. An: I have been in the
hall as well as in the kitchen

[END OF FIRST PAGE]

The Edinburgh Register House MS. 1696

SOME QUESTIONES THAT MASONS USE TO PUT TO THOSE WHO HAVE Y^E WORD BEFORE THEY WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THEM

- Quest. 1 Are you a mason. Answer yes
Q: 2. How shall I know it? Ans: you shall know it in time
and place convenient. Remark the fors^d answer is only
to be made when there is company present who are not
masons But if there be no such company by, you should
answere by signes tokens and other points of my entrie
Q: 3. What is the first point? Ans: Tell me the first point ile
tell you the second. The first is to heill and conceal, second,
under no less pain, which is then cutting of your throat.
Q: 4. Where was you entered? An: At the honourable lodge.
Q: 5. What makes a true and perfect lodge? An: seven masters,
five entered apprentices, A dayes Journey from a bur-
roughs town without bark of dog or crow of cock
Q: 6. Does no less make a true and perfect lodge, An: yes five
masters and three entered apprentices &c.
Q: 7. Does no less. An: The more the merrier the fewer the
better chear
Q: 8. What is the name of your lodge An: Kilwinning
Q: 9. How stands your lodge An east and west as the temple
of Jerusalem
Q: 10. Where was the first lodge. An: in the porch of Solomons
Temple
Q: 11. Are there any lights in your lodge An yes three the north
east, s w, and eastern passage The one denotes the maste'
mason, the other the warden The third the setter croft.
Q: 12. Are there any jewels in your lodge An Yes three, Perpend
Esler a Square pavement and a broad oval.
Q: 13. Where shall I find the key of your lodge, yes [?] = Ans]
Three foot and an half from the lodge door under a
perpend esler, and a green divot. But under the lap of
my liver where all my secrets of my heart lie.
Q: 14. Which is the key of your lodge. An: a weel hung tongue.
Q: 15. where lies the key. Ans: In the bone box.

After the masons have examined you by all or some of
these Questions and that you have answered them
exactly and mad the signes, they will acknowledge
you, but not a master mason or fellow croft but only as
as [?] = an] apprentice, soe they will say I see you have
been in the Kitchine but I know not if you have been in
the hall, Ans I have been in the hall as well as in the
kitchine.

The Chetwode Crawley MS. c.1700

SOME QUESTIONS THAT MASONS USE TO PUT TO THESE WHO PROFESS TO HAVE THE MASON WORD, BEFORE THEY WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THEM.

- Quest. 1. Are you a Mason? Ans^d. Yes indeed that I am
Q. 2^d. How shall I know it? Ans^d. You shall know it in time
& place Convenient
Nota. The foresaid Ans^d is only to be made where there is a Company present
who are not Masons: But if there be no such Company by you, you should ans^d
by Signs & other Tokens of Entry.
Q. 3^d. What is the first point? Ans^d. Tell me the first and I'll tell you the Second.
The first is, Hear & Conceal; The 2^d, Under no less pain then the Cutting of the
throat: But you must make the Sign when you Say this.
Q. 4th. Where was you entered? Ans^d. At the Hon^{ble} Lodge.
Q. 5th. What makes a true perfect Lodge? Ans^d. Seven Masters, five
Apprentices, a days Journey from a Borrowes-Towne, without bark of a Dog, or
Crow of a Cock.
Q. 6th. Does not less make a true perfect Lodge? Ans^d. 4 Masters, 3 Entred
prentices, & the rest as formerly.
Q. 7th. Does no less? Ans^d. The moe the Murrier, and the fewer the better cheer.
Q. 8th. Whats the name of your Lodge? Ans^d. The Lodge of Killwinning.
Q. 9th. How stands your Lodge? Ans^d. East & Westy, as the Temple
of Jerusalem.
Q. 10th. Where was the first Lodge? Ans^d. In the porch of Solomons Temple.
Q. 11th. Are there Lights in your Lodge? Ans^d. Three, The Northeast, the
Southwest, & the Eastern passage. The one Denotes the Master mason, The other
the Words and the Third the fellow Craft.
Q. 12th. Are there any Jewells in yo' Lodge? Ans^d. Three, Perpendester, a
Square pavement and an Broked-mall.
Q. 13th. Where shall I find the key of your Lodge? Ans^d. Three and an half
foots from the Lodge under the perpendester & a Green divot.
Q. 14. What mean you by a Perpendester and Green-Divott? Ans^d. I mean not
only under a perpendester and Green divot, but under the lap of my Liver, where
all the Secrets of my heart ly hid.
Q. 15. Which is the Key of your Lodge? Ans^d. A well hung tongue.
Q. 16. Where lyes the Key of yo' Lodge? Ans^d. In the Bone Box.

After the Masons have Examined you by all or Some of these Questions, and
that you have answered the Same exactly & made the Sign, they will
acknowledge you, Not as a Master-Mason or fellow-Craft, but only as a prentice.
So they will furder say.

Q. 17. I see you have been in the Kitchin, but I know not if
you have been in the Hall? Ans^d. I have been in the Hall as well as the Kitchin.

The Airlie MS 1705

- Que 16. Ar[e] you a fellow craft. An: yes How many points of the fellowship
Ar[e] ther[e] An: five. viz foot to foot, knee to knee, heart to heart, hand to
hand
and care to care then make the signe of fellowshp and shake hands and
you will be Acknowledged a tre masson the words are in the first kings chp: 7:
21 verse and in the second Chorn: chp: 3 last verse:

The form of giving The mason word

Impris you ar[e] to put the person who is to get the word upon his knees and
after a great many cerimonies to frighten [him] you make him take up the
Bible And laying his right hand on it you ar[e] to conjure him to secrie by
threatening that if [he] shall break his oath that sun of the firmament will be a
witness
gainst him and him all the companie there present which will be an enasion
[occasion]
of his damnation and lykways the masons will be sure to murder him then
after hes promised secrasie they give the oath as follows.

By God himself And as you shall Answer to God when
you shall stand naked before [e] him at the great day you shall not reveal
any part of what shall you shall [sic] hear or see at this tiem [sic] nother by
word or
wreit no put in writ at any teim or draw it with the point of a sword
or any other anie [any] other instrument on the snow or sand nor shall you
speak of it But with ane entered mason so help me God.

After he has taken the oath heis removed out of the companie with
[the] youngest mason where [e] after he [is] sufficiently frightened with a 1000
Ridiculous postures and Grimancies he is to learn from the said
masson the maner of making his deu [due] gard which is the signe
and the words & postions of his entrie of making his deu gard which
which are as follow[s] first when he enters again to the companie he must
[make] a Ridiculous Bow and then the sign and say god bless the honourable
company then putting off [his] hatt after a verry foolish mainer [manner] only to be
demonstrated then as the rest of the signs only ar[e] lykways he says the
words of his entrie which ar[e] as follows her[e] com[e] I the youngest and last
entered apprentice as I am sworn by god and St: John by the square and
compass and comone judge to mend my masters servis at the honourable
lodge from munday morning till Saturdays night and to kepe [keep] the keys
ther[e]of under no less pain [than] having my tongie cut out under my chin and
of being buried within the flood mark where [e] no man shall know then
he mak[e]s the signe againe which is drawing his hand under his chin alongs
his throat which denoats that it is to be cut out in case he break his
word then all the masons present whisper amongst themselves the
word begining at the youngest till it com[e] to the master mason who giv[es]
the word to the entered prentice Now it is to be yt [that] remarked that all the
signes and words yet spoken of ar[e] only what belonge to the entered prentices
but to be a master mason or fellow craft there is more [e] to be don[e] which
after follows first all the prentices ar[e] to be removed out of the companie
and non[e] suffered to stay but masters.

[END OF SECOND PAGE]

The Edinburgh Register House MS 1696

- Quest 1 Are you a fellow craft Ans yes.
Quest 2 How many points of the fellowship are ther Ans five
viz foot to foot Knee to Kn[e] Heart to Heart, Hand to
Hand and ear to ear. Then make the sign of fellowship
and shake hand and you will be acknowledged a true
mason. The words are in the 1 of the Kings Ch 7, v, 21,
and in 2 chr: ch 3 verse last.

THE FORME OF GIVING THE MASON WORD

Impris you are to take the person to take the word upon his knees
and after a great many ceremonies to frighten him you make him take
up the bible and laying his right hand on it you are to conjure him, to
se[cr]ecie. By threatening that if [he] shall break his oath the sun in the
firmament will be a witness agst him and all the companie then present,
which will be an occasion of his damnation and that likewise the
masons will be sure to murder him. Then after he hes promised
secrecie They give him the oath a[s] follows

By god himself and you shall answer to god when you shall stand
naked before him, at the great day, you shall not reveal any part of
what you shall hear or see at this time whither by word nor write nor
put it in wryte at any time nor draw it with the point of a sword, or any
other instrument upon the snow or sand, nor shall you speak of it but
with an entered mason, so help you god.

After he has taken the oath he is removed out of the company, with
the youngest mason, where after he is sufficiently frighten with 1000
ridiculous postures and grimaces. He is to learn from the sd mason the
manner of making his due guard whis [?] = which] is the signe and the
postures and words of his entrie which are as follows

First when he enters again into the companie he must make a
ridiculous bow, then the signe and say God bless the honourable com-
pany. Then putting off his hat after a verry foolish manner only to be
demonstrated then (as the rest of the signes are likewise) he sayes the
words of his entrie which are as follows

Here come I the youngest and last entered apprentice As I am sworn
by God and S' Jhon by the Square and compass, and common judge to
attend my masters service at the honourable lodge, from munday in the
morning till Saturday at night and to keep the Keyes therof, under no
less pain than having my tongue cut out under my chin and of being
buried, within the flood mark where no man shall know, then he makes
the sign again with drawing his hand under his chin alongst his throat
which denoats that it be cut out in case he break his word.

Then all the mason present whisper amongst themselves the word
beginning at the youngest till it come to the master mason who gives
the word to the entered apprentice.

Now it is to be remarked that all the signes and words as yet spoken
of are only what belonge to the entered apprentice, But to be a master
mason or fellow craft there is more to be done which after follows.

First all the prentices are to be removed out of the companie and
none suffered to stay but masters.

The Chetwode Crawley MS c. 1700

- Q. 18th. Are you a fellow-Craft? Ans^d. Yes.
Q. 19. How many Points of fellowship are there? Ans^d. Five, viz/ 1st. ffoot to
ffoot, 2nd Knee to Kneec, 3rd Heart to Heart, 4th. Hand to Hand, 5th Ear to Ear.
These make the Signs of fellow-shp; And Shaking hands, you will be
acknowledge a very Mason.
Q. 20th. Where are the words to be found? Ans^d. in 1 King. Chap. 7th verse 21.
And 2 Chron: 3 Chapter Last verse.

THE GRAND SECRET OF THE FORME OF GIVING THE MASON-WORD

Imp^d you are to put the person, who is to get the word, upon his knees: And
after a great many Ceremonies, to frighten him, you make him to take up the
Bible; and, laying his right hand upon it, you are to Conjure him to Secrecy,
by threatenting, that, if he shall break his Oath; The Sun in the firmament &
all the Company there present, will be witnesses against him, which will be an
occasion of his damnation; And that likewise they will be sure to Murder him.
Then after hes promised Secrecy, they] give him the Oath as ffollowes.

The words are Jachin and Boaz

By God himself, As you Shall answer to God, when you shall stand before
him naked at the great day, you Shall not reveal any part of what you hear or
see at this time, Neither by word nor write, nor put it into write at any time,
Nor draw with the point of a Sword or any Instrument, upon the Snow or
Sand, Nor shall you Speak of it, but with an entered Mason, So help, God.

After hes taken that Oath, he is removed out of the Company with the
youngest Mason; where, after he is, Sufficiently frightened with a Thousand
ridiculous postures & Gramaces, he is to learn from the Said Mason, the
manner of making Guard, which is the Sign, Word & Postures of his Entry,
and are as follows.

Here am I the youngest & last entered Apprentice, As I am sworn by God and
st John, by the Square & Compass, and Common Judge, to attend my Masters
Service, at the Honourable Lodge, from Munday in the Morning, to Saturday
at Night, and to keep the Kyes therof, under no less pain, Then to have my
Tongue cutt out under my Chin, and of being buried within the flood-Mark,
where no man shall know. Then he makes the Sign again, which is by drawing
his hand under his Chin, alongst his throat; which denoats that it is to be cutt
out, in case he shall break his word.

Then all the Masons present, whisper amongst themselves the word,
beginning at the youngest till it come to the Master-Mason, who gives the
word to the entered prentice

Now it is to be remarked, that all the Signs & words, as yet spoken off, are
only what belongs to the entered prentice: But to a Master-Mason, or fellow-
Craft, there is more to be done, as after follows.

First, All the Apprentices are to be removed out of the Company, and non
Suffered to Stay, but only Mason Masters.

The three oldest known Masonic Catechisms in existence

The Airle MS 1705

The Edinburgh Register House MS 1696

The Chetwode Crawley MS c. 1700

Then he who is to be admitted a member of fellowship is put again to his knees and gets the oath ~~administered~~ ~~a member of fellowship is put~~ [administered] to him of new afterwards he must goe out of the company with the youngest masons to learne the posture and signes of fellowship then coming in again he makes the masters signe and says the sam[e] words of entrie as the prentice bid [did] [(I only leaving out the common judge) then the masons whisper the word among themselves beginning at the youngest as formerly afterwards the young mason must advance and put him self in the posture wher[e]in he is to recave [receive] the word And says to the eldest mason in whispering the worthe master and honorable company that I cam[e] from.

Greet you weill Greet you weill Greet you weill
Then the master maso[n] gives him the word and grips his hand after the masons way which is all that is to be done to make him A perfect

MASON 1705

[END OF THIRD PAGE]

Then he who is to be admitted a member of fellowship is putt again to his knees, and gets the oat[h] administrated to him of new afterwards he must go out of the company with the youngest mason to learn the postures and signes of fellowship, then comeing in again, He makes the masters sign, and sayes the same words of entrie as the app[re]ntice did only leaving out the com[m]on Judge then the masons whisper the word among themselves beginning at the youngest as formerly afterwards the youngest mason must advance and put himself into the posture he is to receive the word and sayes to the eldest mason in whispering

The worthy masters and honourable company greet you weel, greet you weel, greet [sic] you weel.

Then the master gives him the word and gripes his hand after the masons way, which is all that is to be done to make him a perfect mason

[Endorsement]

Some Questiones Anent the mason word 1696

Then, he who is to be admitted a member of the fellowship, is put again to his knees, and gets the Oath administered to him a-new. Afterwards, he must go out of the Company with the youngest Master to learn the words & Signs of Fellowship Then Coming in again, he makes the Master-Sign, and Says the Same words of Entry as the prentice did, only leaving out the Common Judge. Then the Masons whisper the word amongst themselves, beginning at the youngest, as formerly. Afterwards the yowng Master must advance & put himself in the posture wherein he is to receive the word, And says to the Honourable Company, whispering

The Worthy Masons & Honourable Company that I came from, Greet yow well, Greet yow well.

Then the Master Mason gives him the word & grips his hand, and afterwards, all the Masons, which is all to be done to make a perfect Mason.