

New Companion Packet

Companion _____

_____ Council No. _____

Exalted _____ Day of _____, _____

From the Most Illustrious Grand Master

Welcome to Cryptic Masonry!

Companion _____,

Congratulations on your preferment into Cryptic Masonry. This is a whole new venture into your Masonic experience. The Cryptic Degrees have long been used to teach the lessons of how the deposit was made and then brought to light in the Holy Royal Arch Degree of the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. This is an important part of Masonic tradition and history, and we hope you will enjoy your Cryptic Rite experience as much as many of us have and continue to do today.

This packet is intended to assist you in your journey throughout the York Rite of Kansas, but specifically within the Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas. This is intended to be a continuance of your York Rite experience here in Kansas. There is still one other body which, by virtue of your membership within the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and the Council of Cryptic Masons, you may desire to join. This is the Commandery of Knights Templar. This body of the York Rite is available to those who profess belief in the Christian faith, and if this pertains to you, will be available to you in time. Until that time, please enjoy all the benefits your Cryptic membership enjoins upon you.

We hope you find your journey through the Council of Cryptic Masons to be enjoyable, full of fellowship, and educational. We have several resources for education, and those will be further explained within the pages of this membership packet.

Fraternally,

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas
Membership Committee

For the New Cryptic Mason

Your Council is _____, No. _____
located at _____, in _____ Lodge No. _____
with meetings held on the _____ (Day) _____ of each month
at _____ PM.

Your mentor will assist you in filling out the information above for your Council. A Council is a gathering of Cryptic Masons for the purpose of business. You will soon discover a Council meeting is much like a meeting within many of your Blue Lodges. The exception is the inclusion of other items of business, such as education. Education is a central part and one of the cornerstones of Cryptic Masonry. With education, we can more effectively polish and adorn the mind to be prepared for the further ceremonies and wisdom within capitular masonry.

Our Council is set up in a slightly different manner than a Blue Lodge. The officers are the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Captain of the Guard, Recorder, Treasurer, Conductor of the Council, Steward, Chaplain, and Sentinel. You will soon discover the manner in which the Council is opened and closed, and how the room is set differently with its officers in place than what you may have been accustomed.

Dress for most meetings would be a white shirt, black pants, black shoes, black socks, a purple tie, and a purple jacket. If you do not have these items, please do not skip the meetings of your Council. We find your attendance to be more important than your mode of dress. Some Council have purple polo shirts which they wear instead of white shirt and purple jacket. You will soon discover your Council's usual expectations of attendance.

We refer to each other as Companions, and not Brothers. This is a continuance of the manner in which we recognized our membership in the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. We continue that tradition within the Council of Cryptic masons.

The Illustrious Master, who presides in the East with the Companion Deputy Master and Companion Principal Conductor of the Work, is address is "Illustrious" during the meetings.

During the prayers of the Council, we end with the traditional "So Mote It Be" which you are no doubt accustomed to within your Blue Lodge.

Another distinction you will soon discover within Cryptic Masonry is how we pray. If there is a prayer given when the Council is opened or closed by either the Illustrious Master of the Chaplain, and the Lord's Prayer is used, please substitute the words "debt" and "debtors" within the prayers at the appropriate time and place.

Traditional Grand Honors are given in the same manner as within the Blue Lodge. The only ones receiving Grand Honors will be the Most Illustrious Grand Master, a Past Most Illustrious Grand Master, or one of the General Grand Officers of the General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons International.



The General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons International, is the governing body for Cryptic Masonry. We are a member of the General Grand Council, and our officers are delegates to their Triennial Sessions. The sessions meet every three years, in a different location, and all Cryptic Masons are invited to attend. The voting delegates only consist of those who are sitting officers (Illustrious Grand Master, Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master, and Right Illustrious Grand Principal of the Work) within the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons within their state, or are a Past Most Illustrious Grand Master of a Grand Council of Cryptic Masons.

The honorific title of any sitting or Past Illustrious Grand Master is "Most Illustrious." The title reserved for the Arch Master, or the elected officers of the Grand Council (Deputy Grand Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer), is "Right Excellent." The title of a sitting or past Illustrious Master of a Council is "Illustrious." All others are addressed as "Companion."

Education Resources

Because education is so important to the Cryptic Mason, there are several publications you should make yourself aware of and, in your leisure time, read. The Grand York Rite website (www.kansasyorkrite.org) contains a link at the top for a page of Masonic and Cryptic Education. This is one good source of education for you to seek further light outside of your Council meetings. There are many other areas of interest on the web where you can seek more information on Cryptic Masonry and in areas of the York Rite which you may have a more specific interest in understanding.

Other books which are earnestly suggested to you for reading include:

- *History of the Cryptic Rite*, by Eugene E. Hinman, Ray V. Denslow, & Charles C. Hunt
- *Cryptic Masonry: A Manual of the Council*, Albert G. Mackey
- *The Textbook of Cryptic Masonry*, Jackson H. Chase

These books are by no means meant to be the final or the most definitive texts on the subject of Cryptic Masonry, but they are a start as you begin your journey through the Council meetings and start to understand more of the significance behind the rituals, lessons, and degrees.

Links of Interest

There are several websites where you can obtain more information, or become more active within your Chapter. These include areas where you can discover the different schedules of the Chapters in Kansas and of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas.

- www.kansasyorkrite.org is the link for the Grand York Rite of Kansas and the information on the website will allow you to stay current on York Rite activities within the jurisdiction.
- www.crypticmasons.org is the link for the General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons International and includes education links, awards, and further education concerning each of the degrees you have taken.
- www.yorkrite.org contains information on other York Rite Appendant Bodies within the United States.

Special Events

You will soon discover there are many different special events which you as a Cryptic Masons are eligible to attend. Our Grand Council hosts special degree conferrals. At these conferrals, we confer the degrees of Cryptic Masonry. You are invited to not only attend, but to participate within these degrees. These degrees include the conferral of the Super Excellent Master Degree.

Festive Boards are held in conjunction with special events. These are a great opportunity for fellowship and to enjoy a good meal with the Companions, and sometimes their Ladies.

Special conferrals, such as the Great Plains Rendezvous, which is an annual gathering and conferral of the three Cryptic Degrees by visiting Companions from the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Wyoming and Colorado, provide further opportunities to meet with, and get to know, Cryptic Masons from across the world.

The annual Pike's Peak Inspection is another excellent opportunity to learn more about the history and importance of the Cryptic Rite here in Kansas. This is an annual event to inspect the Cryptic Deposit on Pike's Peak which was placed by the Companions of Ellsworth Council No. 9 in 1899.



There are opportunities to attend the regional meetings of the various Grand Councils within the South Central Region. Our region consists of Grand Councils from Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. With your dues card, you are now able to attend these meetings and to travel into other jurisdictions to enjoy all the benefits of Cryptic Masonry.

Your attendance at the meetings of your Council, and at the Annual Communication of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas, is requested. These meetings will assist you in learning more about Cryptic Masonry and how your Council functions. The rituals are beautiful, and the meanings held within each of the degrees, and the opening and closing of your Council, are remarkable and contain much wisdom and knowledge. By being an active participant in your Council's affairs you will be better enabled to understand and enjoy the experience Cryptic Masonry provides for you.

Our Charity:

Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation



The charity chosen by the General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons International is Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation. Our charity conducts research in pursuit of curing and/or alleviating medical conditions stemming from Vascular Diseases.

The Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation, (CMMRF), was incorporated in the state of Oklahoma, March 6, 1986. The driving force behind this new corporation was Most Puissant General Grand Master Ben Mandlebaum, of the General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons International. Companion Joe Lewis, Attorney at Law, was instrumental in quickly getting the Foundation a tax-exempt status. CMMRF also had a tax attorney, James A. Hogue, PMIGM in Oklahoma. These men generously donated their time to the initial start-up of the Foundation. Earlier, at the meeting of the “General Grand Council Benevolent Foundation, Inc. held on November 11, 1985, Marion Keith Crum, Past Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council, Cryptic Masons of Indiana, was elected Executive Secretary of the Foundation. Most Illustrious Companion Crum continued to faithfully serve in this position until his retirement in October 2012, a period of almost twenty-seven years.

CMMRF funds research at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Indiana. Initial research focused on the cause(s) and eventually a cure for atherosclerosis and its complications. In later years, the research has implemented adult stem cell therapies to address a variety of mature health issues but not necessarily restricted to the adult population. This research was previously funded by an Indiana corporation, which ceased to do business upon the death of Dr. Owen L. Shanteau, October 17, 1985. While CMMRF is not a part of that preceding organization and the General Grand Council was not its governing body, CMMRF is continuing the good work that it started. Dr. Shanteau met with Dr. Nils Bang at the Indiana University Medical Center in 1978

and discussed this new venture. Dr. Shanteau was able to give a grant of \$12,000.00 a year to this project, which was being done on a part time basis. The former Foundation gave the Medical Center grants totaling \$96,000.00.

Dr. Nils Bang, one of the founding researchers connected with the program, suggested that the most efficient way of investing the money donated by The Cryptic Masons International was to invest it in the salaries of young, talented investigators. Many of these investigators had papers summarizing their work accepted for presentation at the prestigious national conference of the American Federation for Clinical Research. All of these Doctors have moved on to more substantial positions and are no longer at Indiana University.

At the February 1996 Board of Trustees meeting in Washington D.C. The Board agreed to fund a Chair at the Indiana University Medical Center at the cost of one million dollars. CMMRF contributed two hundred thousand dollars a year for five years to endow the chair. The final payment was made in December of 2000. The University offered as an incentive to guarantee a five per cent income on the endowment plus matching it with a five percent payout from the endowment.

In 2001-2002 the CMMRF-sponsored laboratory became the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine, (ICVBM). After a 3-year search for the best person to fill this newly created Chair, Dr. Keith March was selected. The creation of an endowed chair and this new Center attracted more than \$2,000,000 from non-Masonic sources. Dr. March served in this position until his resignation September 30, 2017. After an in-depth search, Dr. Jay Hess, Dean of the Indiana University School of Medicine, announced on July 17, 2018, that Dr. Michael P. Murphy had been selected as the next holder of the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation Chair.

CMMRF Giving Recognitions

There are several ways we as Cryptic Masons contribute to CMMRF. One way is through your local Council, which gives an annual sum to the charity directly from the Council. This sum usually ranges from \$1.00 to \$5.00 per member of each Council. The Council receives an annual emblem for their plaque which is intended to show how much the Council has given throughout the year on behalf of its membership.

In recognition of donations to CMMRF, there are six lapel pins presented to contributors for donations totaling \$50.00, \$100.00, \$150.00, \$300.00, \$500.00 and \$750.00. A plaque is presented to the Council or individual for a \$1,000.00 donation. An individual receives a gold filled 9 Arch Pin with a diamond chip for each additional \$1,000.00. After the first \$1,000.00 a Council is presented with an extender bar for its plaque for each additional \$1,000.00. These donations may be a one-time gift or an accumulation over the years since 1986.



Royal Arch Publications

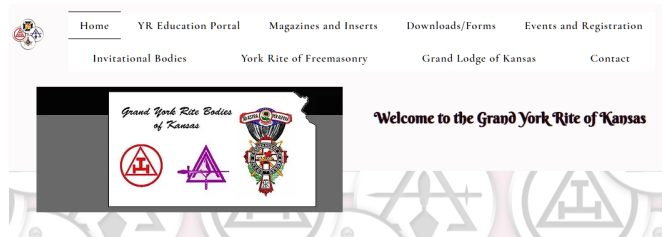
Each quarter of the year, the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International produces a fine magazine, **The Royal Arch Mason**, which will be sent to your postal address. The General Grand Council has several pages of the magazine dedicated to their work and articles. There is a four-page insert within the magazine you receive which will include information strictly from Kansas. The current, and many previous inserts, can be found at the Kansas Grand York Rite website.



The Grand York Rite quarterly newsletter, Letters from York, is produced quarterly and is emailed to members of the Council who desire to receive it by email. This magazine includes information relative to each of the many York Rite bodies within Kansas, including the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Kansas, AF&AM. Each publication, and several of the back issues, are available on the Kansas Grand York Rite website as well.

Kansas Grand York Rite Website

The website contains a wealth of information for the new Cryptic Mason. It includes dates of upcoming York Rite events article and papers on education, newsletters and inserts for magazines, the bylaws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas, information on the Grand Council Officers, and locations of subordinate Council within the jurisdiction of Kansas. Visit the website for more information or to keep updated on current events in Kansas and the region.



The Cryptic Degrees



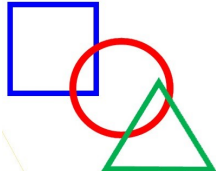
The Royal Master Degree is the first degree of the Cryptic Rite as conferred in the United States of America. Candidates who receive the degree are impressed with its dignified ritual and relevant teachings. It contains one section which is generally regarded as an outstanding display of symbolism and content of philosophy. The ritualistic presentations in the degree explain the articles contained in the Holy of Holies of King Solomon's Temple, including the Ark of the Covenant. A knowledge of which is essential to those who would fully understand the preceding degrees.

In this degree Hiram Abiff is alive and speaks, imparting to the candidate the sublime teachings of useful labor on earth and a worthy end of life. The tragedy of his untimely death is again brought forth with the great loss suffered by the Craft. This is one of the most beautiful degrees in all Masonry, with lessons so impressive that they are never forgotten. It is especially illustrative of the third and seventh degrees.



The Select Master Degree has not always been associated with that of Royal Master. Jeremy Cross, a traveling Masonic lecturer, author, and educator of the early 1800's, is given credit by most writers for having combined the two degrees into one rite. There is strong evidence to support the theory that the degree came from a similar degree in the Scottish Rite called Intimate Secretary or Grand Tiler of King Solomon. Regardless of its origin, the legend of this degree is old. The scene of this degree is laid in the underground vault of King Solomon's Temple. The events which characterize the degree are stirring enough to make it one of intense interest. The principal characters in this degree are King Solomon and a particular friend.

In this degree we have dramatized one of the incidents that occurred during the building of the Temple. It is closely connected with the Royal Arch degree, and in fact it affords the explanation needed for its perfect understanding. The place of meeting represents a "Secret Vault" or crypt beneath the Temple. Our ancient Grand Masters appear in charge of a very important work connected with the Temple. One of King Solomon's most particular friends is promoted to the work, in which only a limited number are employed. The historical object of the degree is to commemorate the deposits of an important secret or treasure. Certain secrets are imparted to the candidate, which make clear to him the preceding degrees. It is highly dramatic and of the greatest interest.



The Super Excellent Master Degree has no connection either in history or symbolism with the Royal and Select Master degrees. It refers to circumstances that occurred during the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuzaradan, commander of the army of the King of Babylon. The ceremonies are intended to represent the final

destruction of the Temple and the carrying away of the captive Jews to Babylon as exemplified in the Royal Arch degree. The Super-Excellent Master degree is divided into three striking scenes. The first scene represents the Jewish captives at Babylon under the direction of Haggai, the Prophet. In the second scene King Zedekiah, of Judah listens to his false counselors and despises the warnings of the Prophet Jeremiah, and the vengeance of the Lord is poured upon him. Jerusalem is captured and its wicked King is taken with his sons before King Nebuchadnezzar, who causes the sons to be put to death before their father's face, after which he deprives the wretched parent of his eyesight and carries him in chains to Babylon. In colorful and spectacular manner, this degree portrays the fatal effects that follow the violation of sacred obligations.

As we have stated, the degree of Super Excellent Master is not a degree of the Crypt. But, it relates events that lead to the recovery of the lost Word. This degree beautifully tells of a period in history in which all Freemasons are interested, that period following the destruction of the First Temple. The essence of the degree is foretold in the presentation by the Principal Sojourner in the Royal Arch Degree when he makes the following reference: "Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign and he reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem, and he did which was evil in the sight of the Lord his God," etc. The degree of Super Excellent Master is one of the best devised, most impressive, and beautiful degrees. It is most enlightening and relevant to one's daily life. In a display of exciting events, Biblical characters come to life exemplifying this historic event. Here Nebuchadnezzar rules again, Zedekiah proves the results of his wicked life, and Ezekiel and Jeremiah prophesize the promises of Almighty God.

Resources

There are many resources available for you, the new Cryptic Mason, to purchase various items from. Below are just a sampling of locations where you can purchase clothing, aprons, and other items, if you so desire. These are not the entire listing of those who offer Cryptic themed items. Be sure to purchase items which are intended for the American York Rite bodies, and not the British Council items. You will soon discover there is a difference in the appearance of these items between the two jurisdictions.

The Purple Jacket is available at a variety of locations. One which several of the members in Kansas has purchased from, is Blazer Depot (blazerdepot.com). The Classic Blazer, in the color purple, is the typical one purchased by many of the Companions. Please realize the colors may change if a different vendor is used. Be sure the color you select matches the one offered by Blazer Depot.

The Council Tie is available from many different resources, and there is not specific tie for the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas or any particular subordinate Council in Kansas. Masonic Revival (www.masonicrevival.com) has several ties, both long and self-tie or pre-tied bowties, available for purchase.

The Craftsman's Apron (www.craftsmansapron.com) offers a variety of unique bowties and long ties with the imagery of the Council.

The General Grand Council's website (www.crypticmasons.org) offers a variety of Council-themed and oriented ties, shirts, kilts, and other items of interest for the Cryptic Mason.

