

Evidence of R.A.M. 3° On The Tracing Board

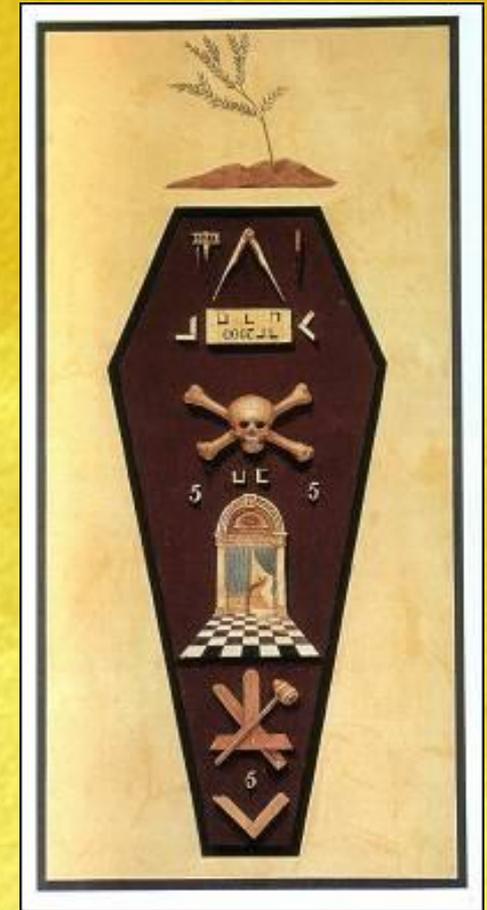
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The First & Second Degree Tracing Boards

- are fully explained by the Junior & Senior Wardens by their lectures, but the Third Degree Tracing Board is only touched on very lightly.



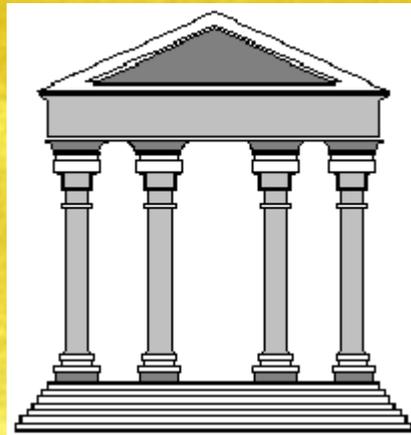
The Sprig of Acacia

● is mentioned & that is about all.



The Porch, the Dormer & the Square Pavement.

○ are referred to but with little explanation



The Sprig of Acacia

● is, perhaps, the oldest symbol of Immortality that we have.





Mythology of Egypt

- Typhon, determined to destroy his brother Osiris,
 - He prepared a beautiful gold coffin, or casket, & offered it to the one that it would fit.
 - Presenting it before his brother, he invited him to step inside & try it for size..
- 

When his brother Osiris stepped into the coffin,

- Typhon closed & sealed the cover & had the coffin cast into the sea.
- The coffin floated on the sea, finally coming to rest at Byblos at the foot of a Tamarind tree



The Tamarind tree

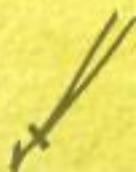


- is of the same botanical family as the Acacia & so its antiquity as an emblem of immortality is well established.
- You will note the four branches on the Sprig of Acacia, three of them together & one separate, but all on the same branch..



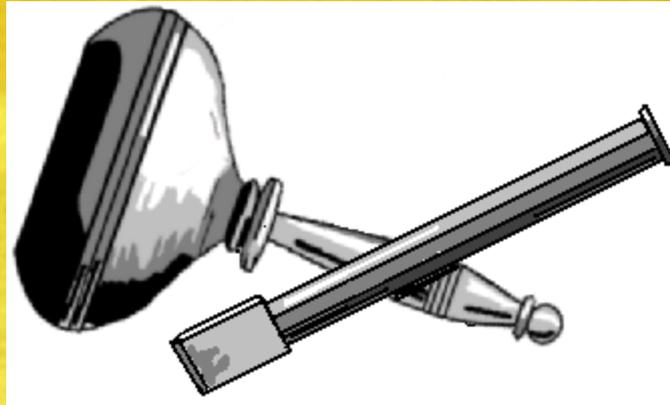


This refers to the three divisions of Craft Masonry,

- the E. A.,
 - the F. C.
 - the M. M.
 - The other branch referring to the Holy Royal Arch as laid down by the Articles of Union of 1813
- 

Next we see the Working Tools of a Master Mason.

- There is no point in going over them as you are all quite familiar with them.



Now we come to the oblong Square or a Double Square

● which is a symbol of the earth.



You will probably recall Mercator's Projection

- how the earth was spread out showing all the surface on a flat plane.
- This Double Square is also a Symbol of the Lodge Room.



At the ends of the Double Square are two semicircles

- when joined together form a circle which is a symbol of the Universe.
- These semi-circles being situated on the North & South indicate that we are ever in contact with the Spiritual realms of Darkness & of light.





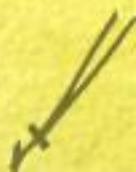
The characters which appear in the Oblong Square

● reading from right to left,

(HAB., A.F. 3000.)

(Hiram Abiff, the year of light, 3000)

● or in other words, the date of the building of
King Solomon's Temple, BC, 1000.

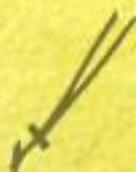




In the semi-circles,
reading from right to left,

- we have the initials T.C. which are the initials of the pass word of the Third Degree.
- The Emblems of Mortality are an emblem of death & refer to the slain Master Hiram.

T.C.





These emblems date back to the time of Jacob,

- when, on his death bed, Joseph brought his two sons, Ephraim & Manasseh to his father to receive a blessing.
 - Manasseh, being the older, was taken on the left side so as to, receive the right hand or major blessing, & Ephraim was on the right side of his father.
 - “And Israel stretched out his right hand & laid it upon Ephraim’s head & his left hand on Manasseh’s head.” Gen. 48, 14.
- 

The next two figures, when translated,

- answer to the letters M. B., or Master Builder.



They are also the initials of

- the two syllables of the second word given on the five points of Fellowship.
- First Chron., Ch 2 v.49, the name of **Macbenah** is given.
- He was of the family of Judah, being five or six generations removed.



The name Macbenah, in Hebrew,



- means covered with or clad with a cloak.
- Our Master Hiram, at this point in the story was covered with the cloak of death,
- the word “Macbenah” fits into the work very nicely.

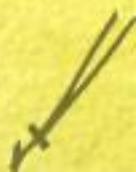


The three fives (5s) appearing on the tracing board

- refer to the five points of fellowship,
- the five syllables of the words given on the five points of fellowship &
- the five signs of a M. M.

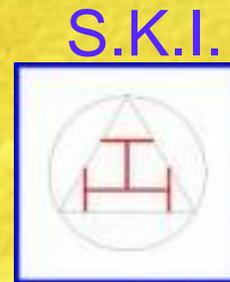
5 5

5



Five being the number of men

- & that there are three of them,
- it is not hard to imagine that they might refer to our three original Grand Masters,
- S. K. I., H. K. T., & H, A. B.



H.K.T.

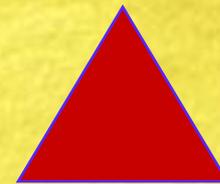
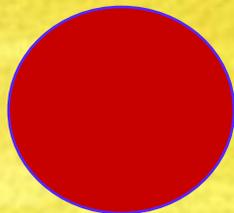
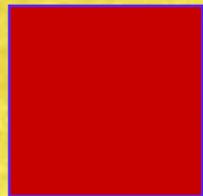
H.A.B.

You will note that these three 5s

- are placed in the form of a triangle
- with its apex pointing downward to signify that the possessor of this knowledge of the meaning of this symbol will receive added blessings
- when the practical application of the Five Points of Fellowship is practised by him.

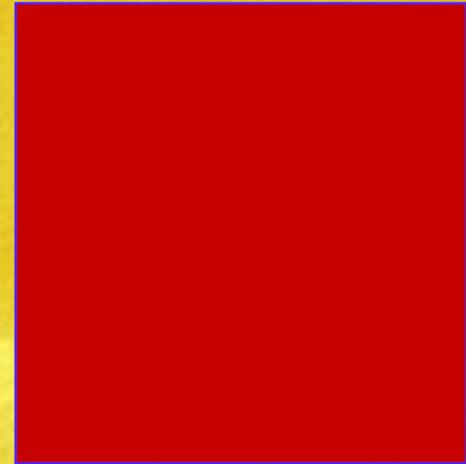
We have now had reference to
three geometrical figures on this
Tracing Board,

- namely the Square, the Circle & the Triangle;
- all of which have an important part in Masonic Symbolism.



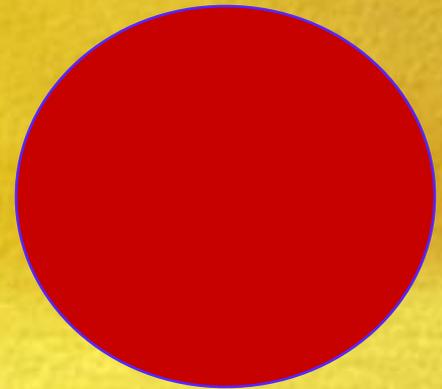
The Square represents

- the material realm,
- the earth &
- the body of man.



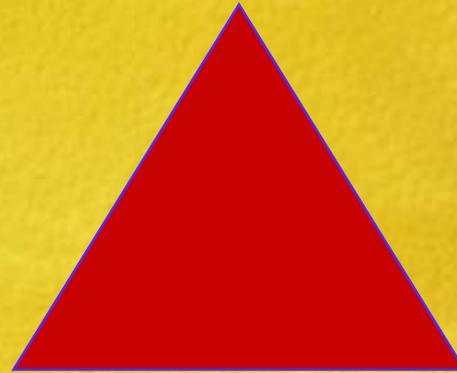
The Circle represents

- the Universe,
- the Heavens or the ethereal state,
- the Soul.



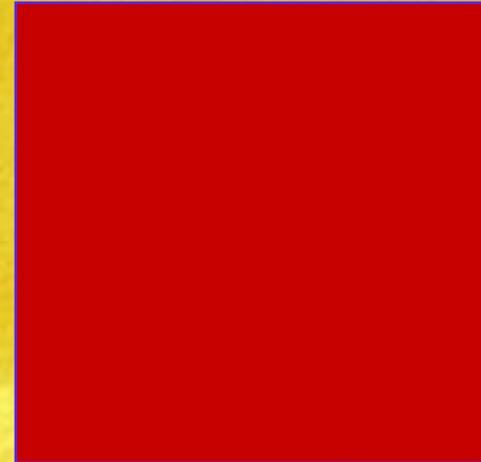
The triangle represents

- the spiritual or
- divine manifestations.



The Square represents

- the Craft Lodge



The Circle & Triangle

● represents the Royal Arch.



The Porch, the Dormer & the Square pavement.

- At first glance, one calls to mind the Most Excellent Master Degree, with the pillars, the Arch & the Holy of Holies, containing the Ark of the Covenant.



The inscription is the same as in the M.E.M. Degree, “Holiness to the Lord”

- is in Aramaic a Hebrew dialect.
- Exodus, Chapter 39, tells us that this was to be placed on the Mitre of the High Priest, Aaron.



The Aleph, the Beth & the
Lamed also appear on the Arch.



ALEPH



BETH



LAMED

There are six sets of pillars to the Most Holy place

- which recalls to our mind the words of the Principal Sojourner's lecture, after the first discovery;



“We discovered a pair of pillars
of exquisite workmanship;
proceeding onward, we
discovered five other pairs of
equal beauty ... etc.”





On the DORMER or window of the chart or Tracing Board

- in some countries such as France & Ireland,
 - there is evidence of some characters having been defaced on the cut from which the chart was printed,
 - but the Beth has not been completely obliterated.
- 

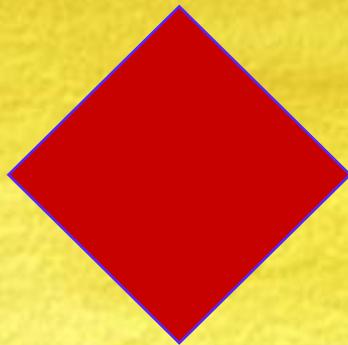
These words could have referred

- to the three words on the Triangle of the Pedestal of the Royal Arch,
- one prominent Masonic scholar has seen Third Degree Tracing Boards with the words on it.



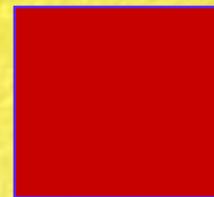
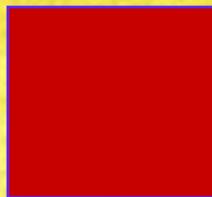
Next the Working Tools used in the conspiracy,

- the Square below the bottom figure 5,
placed on an angle,
- is the symbol of the letter S
- refers to the Five Signs of the Master
Mason.



The “three squares” on the foot of the coffin,

- are the key to the interpretation of the symbolism of this Tracing Board & come from Royal Arch Masonry.
- Not the Royal Arch that most of us are familiar with, but from the Royal Arch as practised in the United States & Nova Scotia.





My impressions are, that the
three squares were adopted to
the Royal Arch from the
Operative Masons of England.

- In an Operative Lodge,
three Masters sit
together in the West that
they might observe the
rising sun.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.



During the opening ceremonies of an Operative Lodge,

- the three Masters approach the ALTAR,
each carrying a Square,
- & place their Squares, with the one of the
Volume of the Sacred Law to form a
Swastika.



The Swastika is one form of the Tetragrammaton

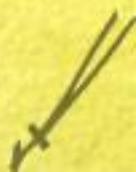
- or four letter word referring to the IHUH of the Hebrews,

י ה ו ה

- of which our word JEHOVAH is an approximation.

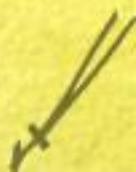


In closing, I would remind you

- that the First & Second TRACING Boards are not without some markings to connect them with the Royal Arch.
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The First Degree Tracing Board

- has its border of Royal Arch design & colour,
 - the second Degree Board has the intersecting Triangles.
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