

Royal Arch Freemasonry in Korea

History of the Rose of Sharon Chapter



In the mid 1990s a number of Brethren felt strongly that a Chapter should be formed in Korea under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland.

After much discussion and the assistance of many Companions in and outside of Korea, the Rose of Sharon was consecrated by MEC Tom Davies in Seoul on the 27th of November, 1998 and took the national flower of Korea, The Rose of Sharon, as its symbol.

During the next 7 years the Chapter moved several times, first to Pusan, then to Anyang Ri and eventually back to Seoul in the spring of 2005.

The Rose of Sharon



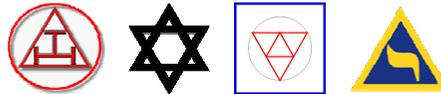
The Rose of Sharon is known for its strength, fertility and its ability to survive and flourish in harsh environments.

In Korean the flower is known as Mugunghwa, meaning flower with endless life. In Latin the name is Hibiscus and is named after the beautiful Egyptian goddess Hibis. The English name, the Rose of Sharon, comes from the Bible referring to the "most blessed land" in Canaan (the land of honey and milk) and can be translated as the beautiful flower growing in the blessed land of Sharon.

The Goal of the Royal Arch in Korea



The Chapter endeavors to bring together and develop the forward thinking leaders (present and future) of Korea's Craft Lodges. Meetings are both formal (Convocations for business and Degree conferal) and informal (Salon Discussion Groups/ Training Seminars/ Practices) and emphasis is placed on the exoteric (public/external) and esoteric (hidden/internal) Mysteries of the Craft.



RECOMMENDED LINKS

**Pietre Stones Review of
Freemasonry**

www.freemasons-freemasonry.com

Radio Freemasonry

www.radiofreemason.com

**Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of
Scotland**

www.sgrac.org.uk/

**Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of
Queensland**

www.royalarch.org.au

**Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons: British
Columbia and Yukon**

www.grandchapter-bc-yukon.ca

Grand York Rite of California

www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org

York Rite Freemasonry USA

www.yorkriteusa.org

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

The Way of the Craftsman

By Kirk MacNulty

The Royal Arch: Its Hidden Meaning

By George H. Steinmetz

Fifty Royal Arch Questions & Answers

By Harry A. Mendoza

Some Royal Arch Terms Explained

By Roy A. Wells

**The Rose of Sharon
No. 878 on the Roll of the Supreme
Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland**

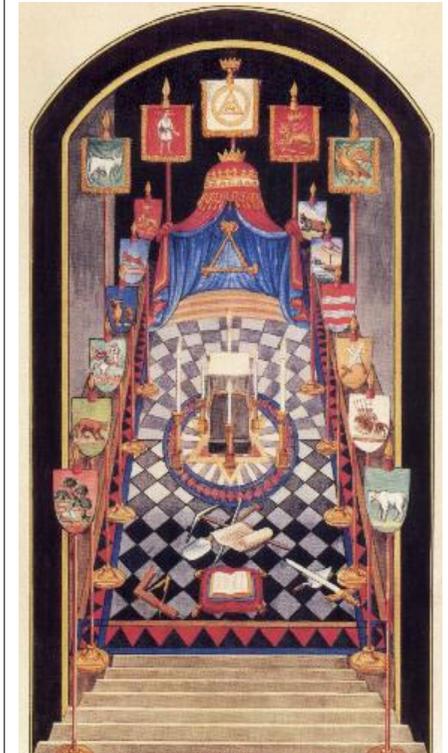


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Arch Chapter of Scotland

A Royal Arch Introduction



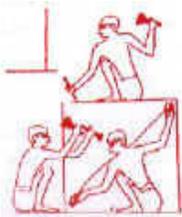
**"We deem the lowest service in the
work of the Lord to be to us an honor,
and therefore only beg employment."**

- The First Sojourner RA Degree

**Supreme Grand Royal
Arch Chapter of Scotland
www.sgrac.org.uk**



Information About Freemasonry



The Structure of Freemasonry

The Craft or Symbolic Lodge constitutes the foundation and framework of Freemasonry. The degrees of Freemasonry, namely Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason contain the basis and essentials of Masonic teachings. They are the equivalent of the

three "R's", (reading, riting and `rithmectic), without which there could be no further education.

As many people find it desirable to obtain further education beyond the fundamentals, many have availed themselves of the additional light found in the degrees of the Royal Arch Chapter, and other avenues in Masonic related progression.

Do not be misled by the term 'Higher Degrees'. Those who use it are often misinformed. There are no higher degrees than those of the Craft of Symbolic Lodge.

These additional degrees do however, supplement and amplify the Craft or Symbolic degrees. They fill in the gaps and afford the historical background needed to complete the whole picture of Freemasonry. They add to the moral and spiritual lessons taught in the Lodge as well as open up whole new vistas of Masonry. Of all these additional degrees, the most closely related and most logical successor to the Master Mason degree is the Royal Arch. It is conferred under the authority of the Grand Lodge and obtains its recognition from the fact that the Supreme Grand Chapter is an integral part of the Grand Lodge.

The Royal Arch degree is conferred in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons as the summit or climax of a series of three degrees. In this series are the degrees of Mark Master Mason and Excellent Master, which precede the Royal Arch in that order. Each has its own story to tell, its lessons to teach and moral truth to illustrate. All are colorful and rich in historical interest.



"Pure Ancient Freemasonry consists of but three degrees, viz., that of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason. including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch."

What are the Mark Master, Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees?



The Mark Master Degree—Chronologically this should follow that of Fellowcraft. Many Masonic students believe this degree to be far old than any other Craft degree, with good reason to support this belief.

It was customary for our operative ancestors to cut their "mark" or signature into each piece of stone they hewed for the building, so that their work could be identified. These marks may be seen today on many of the stones of the old cathedrals of Europe. From this custom grew the present day registration of 'Trade Marks'.

In the Mark Master Mason degree the candidate selects his own Masonic signature for all time. In this degree he will learn the significance and symbolic meaning of the Keystone, the Chisel and the Mallet. In it he receives his symbolic wage for good work, true work and square work.

"Laborare est orare"
'To labor is to pray'

The Excellent Master Degree—Chronologically this should follow the Master Mason degree. It has for its theme the journey of those released by Cyrus, King of Persia, from Babylon to Jerusalem to assist in the rebuilding of the Temple and symbolically 'passing the veils'.



"Noli foras ire, in interiori homine habitat veritas"
'Don't go outside, truth lies within yourself'



The Royal Arch Degree—In conjunction with the Excellent Master degree the Royal Arch can also be termed the 'Pilgrim's Progress of Freemasonry'. After the death of King Solomon, his people drifted into idolatry. They were defeated

in battle by the Chaldeans, their magnificent Temple destroyed and the Israelites carried away into captivity. There they remained for 70 years until liberated. Many of them returned to Jerusalem and began the task of rebuilding the city and Temple. While this was going on and the rubbish of the old Temple was being cleared away, interesting and valuable discoveries were made.

The Royal Arch degree is considered the Keystone of Ancient Craft Masonry without which the building is incomplete. It is a "must" for the brother who would complete what he has begun.

"Si talia jungere possis sit tibi scire satis"
'If you can comprehend these things, you know enough'

How often does the Chapter meet?

Four Convocations are held each year with other meetings scheduled by the First Principal (equivalent to the RWM) to provide leadership training opportunities, discussion on the Craft and practices.

What is the Cost to Join and what do Companions Receive?

Degree Fee—\$200 US (or Won Equivalent) which pays for the 3 degree ceremonies, the candidates first year Annual Fee, diplomas and jewels for each degree.

Regalia Fee (Optional)—An additional \$110 US (or Won Equivalent) which provides the candidate with a Royal Arch lamb skin apron and Sash.

Annual Test Fee— \$30 US (or Won Equivalent).

What are the Qualifications for Membership?

Petitioners should be a Master Masons or Mark Master Masons in good standing who seek to be exalted into the mysteries of the Royal Arch. They should be prompted to solicit that privilege by a favorable opinion of the Order, a general desire for knowledge, and a sincere wish to delve further into themselves in order to become more useful to their faith, family, community and society. The petitioner should be sponsored by two Companions who agree to mentor and assist them in their journey.

A Royal Arch Mason is a true leader and a true Brother. He is a Companion who not only studies the hidden mysteries but uses what he has learned to serve his Family, Faith and Humanity.



How does one become a Royal Arch Freemason?

Usually by asking a Royal Arch Freemason. Please feel free to contact a Companion at the numbers on this brochure or via the email provided.

"Nil nisi clavis deest"
'Nothing but the key is wanting'