

Chapter of Rose Croix

17th Degree - Knight of the East and West

KNIGHT OF THE EAST AND WEST
SEVENTEENTH DEGREE



The apron is of yellow silk, lined and edged with crimson; the colors are emblematic of the dawn. Its triangular shape is symbolic of the Deity in His first three emanations. In the center is a gold Tetractys formed of 10 Hebrew *Yods*. They represent the ten Sephiroth (or manifestations of Deity) on the Tree of Life in the Kabbalah.

The order is a broad, white watered ribbon, worn from the right to the left. It is crossed by a black one of equal width, worn from left to right. The jewel is suspended from the latter. The two colors are symbolic of the two principles of good and evil as explained in the dualist doctrines of Zoroaster and Manes.

The jewel is a heptagonal (seven-sided) medal, half gold and half silver or mother of pearl. These two colors are emblems of the sun and moon, themselves symbols of the Egyptian deities Osiris and Isis, who represent the generative and productive powers of nature, illustrated in Masonic Symbolism by the columns Jachin and Boaz as the active and passive forces manifested in nature (*Morals and Dogma*, p. 202). On one side are engraved, at the angles, the same letters as are on the capitals of the columns in the ceremony and possessing the same meaning, that of the last seven of the Sephiroth of the Kabbalah. A star is over each. In the center, on the same side, is a lamb, lying on a book with seven seals, on which seals are,

respectively, the same letters, though shown in this representation as the Roman equivalents. On the reverse side are two crossed swords, points upward; their hilts rest on an even balance. In the corners are the initials in Greek of the names of the Seven Churches (Revelation 2 and 3).

DUTIES

To work, to reflect and to pray.

To hope, to trust and to believe.

To teach the truths that are hidden in allegories and concealed in the symbols of Freemasonry.

LESSONS

An army of martyrs have offered up their lives to prove their faith or benefit mankind.

FOR REFLECTION

Can Masonry teach religion without being a religion?

What is the meaning of the vacant chair in the ceremony?

IMPORTANT SYMBOLS

The East, the West, John the Baptist, the colors of the rainbow, the candidate, the number seven, the vacant chair.

The regalia pictures and excerpts from the degree descriptions are from the book,
" A Bridge to Light" by Ill. Rex R. Hutchens, 33°.
Copyright 1988, 1995, 2006 by the
Supreme Council of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry,
Southern Jurisdiction of the USA.