

MARKED FOR ETERNITY

In our allegorical rituals it is said that it was necessary to ensure completeness and accuracy in all departments of work to establish a system of grades among the immense number of workmen employed. Under this system each member of each grade marks his work with some peculiar Mark or Symbol, thereby enabling overseers to recognise the hands from which the work came and to reward them accordingly. Thus, it can be said that a Mason's Mark is a monogram, chiselled on the surface of a stone for the purpose of identifying his own work and distinguishing it from that of other workmen, so that he might be made responsible for its imperfection or receive due credit for its merit.

Although only used in the Mark degree today, where Marks are chosen by each member at his advancement into the degree. The persistence of this practice must lead it to be considered as an act of great symbolic importance to all Masons. Though not all Masons get to choose a Mark, it must necessarily follow that we, who consider ourselves as Living Stones, should Mark ourselves out as a physical, earthly representation of God's great work, and demonstrate that proof to others by displaying the Marks of our great institutions. The powerful symbols of the Square and Compasses, the Triangle and the Keystone mark us out from our fellow man, but above all we are marked out by showing our benevolence and concern for all mankind. As our ancient brethren took great pride in their work and proudly Marked it as perfect, so must we continue to labour in our daily advancement of Masonic knowledge by "Marking well" in our lives and actions and seek to receive the ultimate Mark, the approving Mark of the Great Overseer of the Universe.

