

THE KEYSTONE



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Grand First Principal's Easter Message

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Companions,

It seems no time at all since we were celebrating Christmas and the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Now, here we are approaching the other main event in our Christian calendar, that of Easter time. For Christians, Easter is a mixed time of evil and good, firstly with the betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus at Calvary, a period of mourning of those who were near and dear to him, and then his arising from the dead a few short days later. The stories in the Bible very well relate the surprise and bewilderment of those who found the large rock placed to guard the entrance to the cave in which his body rested moved, and his body gone. Bewilderment soon turned to joy when he was seen seemingly alive and heard to enjoin "Fear not".

Several times in our Masonic journeys, when we have been in a state of darkness, we too have been admonished to "Fear not" and have realized that our trust in God is well founded. I am nearing the end of the special journey of having served as your Grand First Principal for this Masonic year, one which I will have wonderful memories of for the rest of my life. I was buoyed by the tremendous support and good wishes that were extended to me from far and wide after my set back. I knew of many others who had been ill in some way, often quite seriously, I now understood much better how that same support had been so beneficial and important to them all.

Keep that up, please. I better understand the religious faith and beliefs that had been with them through the bad days. They did not have to loudly proclaim this: It was with them and in their lives, as my faith was with me.

We belong to a wonderful Order, we are saddened by the apathy of some who do not attend or participate with us. It is not all ritual, paying the bills, etc.; there are the friendships we enjoy, the sharing of our lives, the comfort in our troubled times, and the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe, who is always with us. Roll away any rocks of Apathy, be born again in your Royal Arch Masonry, "Fear not" trust in



God: The friends you made when you joined are still there, and will welcome you. I thank everyone who made my year the joy that it has been.

God bless you all.

M.E.C.

Alastair Ross

Grand First Principal

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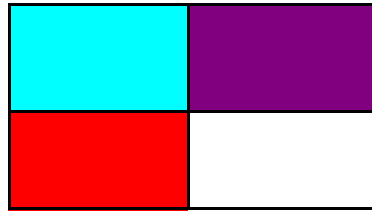
The Royal Arch Veils

All Companions recognize the Veils from the ceremony of the Holy Royal Arch Degree, and we learn the significance of their colours in the course of the installation of the Masters of the 4 Veils. But how did the veils come to be a part of our work?

According to Bernard Jones, the ceremony of passing the first 3 veils (Light Blue, Purple and Scarlet) was a part of English Masonry prior to the union of Grand Chapters in 1817 and the subsequent de-Christianization of the Royal Arch Degree. For the Passing of the Veils likely holds a Christian origin.

In Exodus xxvii, 31-33, the Lord commanded Moses to make three veils of fine linen in blue and purple and scarlet and to hang

those upon pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold and having hooks of gold and sockets of silver, all for the purpose of dividing the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. The rood screen found in some old churches is symbolic of that same division.



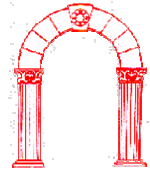
Masonically, the veils represent a progression towards enlightenment, as is so much of our Masonic path. The fourth, white veil, was added only in later years in Ireland and in North America as an emblem of innocence. As Albert Mackey noted, the four veil colours also have special Judaic significance, both astro-

nomically and as emblems of the four elements; the blue of the sky being air, the purple of the special marine shellfish that was used to dye royal cloth being the sea, scarlet being the natural symbol of fire, and the white of fine linen being the earth from which its fibre, flax, came.

Other popular allusions to the four colours of the veils ascribe the following symbolism: blue for universal friendship and benevolence, purple for union, scarlet for fervency and zeal, and white for purity. Even the ceremony of the Passing of the Veils finds its place in rites of other Concordant bodies, such as the Scottish Excellent Master's degree.

Sources:
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90th Annual Grand Convocation September 17, 18, 19, 2009 - Penticton, B.C.

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Sir Edward Victor Appleton, Freemason



Born on 6 September, 1892 in Bradford, West Yorkshire, England, the son of Mary and Peter Appleton, Edward Appleton took his BA in Natural Sciences at St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1914, studying under another famous physicist, Lord Rutherford. Serving in the Royal Engineers during WW I, he returned to

Cambridge to take up research on radio waves. From 1919 on, he has concentrated on problems in atmospheric physics.

The year 1922 saw him becoming Sub-Rector of Trinity College. In that same year, he was initiated into Isaac Newton Lodge at Cambridge.

Appleton was appointed Professor of Physics at London University in 1924, returning to Cambridge in 1936 to take up the Chair of Natural Philosophy.

His scientific contributions to the war effort in WW II saw him being inducted as a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath

in 1941

It is for his experiments and revelations about the nature of the upper atmosphere that Appleton is best known, and it is that work which earned him the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1947.

From 1949 until his death in 1964, Sir Edward was Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh University

Sources:

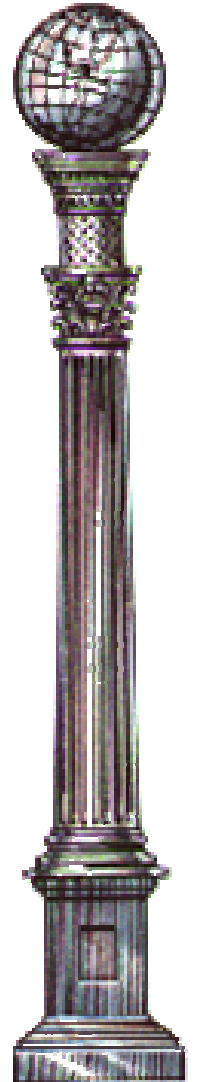
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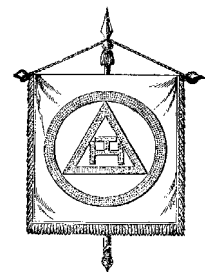


The Appleton Layer

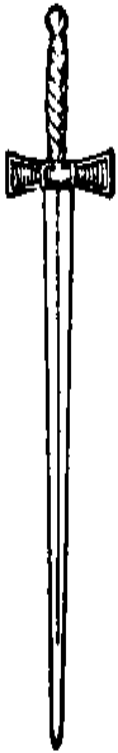
The discovery of the Appleton Layer of the F Region of the ionosphere (150-800 km above sea level) confirmed the existence of a fixed layer of charged particles capable of reflecting radio waves.

That discovery had significant importance for the delivery of long-range radio messages. As well, it led to the development of radar during WW II.

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Fraternal Order of Eagles



This article is the seventh in a series describing some of the fraternal bodies and other groups which are often mistaken by the public for concordant bodies within the Masonic Fraternity.

The FOE had its beginnings in April, 1898 as "The Order of Good Things" in Seattle, Washington, the brain child of 6 theatre owners who had come together to discuss a musician's strike. Originally a social club, as numbers grew and they selected a bald eagle for their emblem, the FOE was born in April, 1898, adopting the principles of: Liberty, Truth, Justice and equality. The many ac-

tors, stagehands and playwrights forming the core of the early organization carried their story all across the United States and Canada.

Eagle Aeries are governed by a Worthy President . A Grand Worthy President is selected from members throughout North America. Women were admitted to the Order in 1951 with the formation of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary.

Active in both the US and Canada , the BPOE supports veterans, seniors and children's programs through the Fra-



ternal Order of Eagles Charitable Foundation. They also have some 15 dedicated charitable funds.

Campaigns launched by the FOE were instrumental in establishing Mother's Day and in promoting the advent of Social Security in the United States.

Sources:

www.foe.com
<http://en.wikipedia.org>

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