



The Jewel of the Royal Arch

The Jewel of the Royal Arch deserves a longer explanation. It is, after all, the most visible jewel in Freemasonry today and is worn in Craft Lodges. It symbolises, in a condensed form, exactly what Masonry teaches. It is extraordinarily detailed and complex. The symbolism was largely mentioned in the Lectures delivered during the Exaltation ceremony, but it will take a long time before you will fully appreciate the significance of the explanations.



The basic features of the jewel are its interlaced triangles, the circles that surround them and the fact, often overlooked, that it is double-sided. There are many explanations of the triangles and here they represent the two-fold nature of man, spiritual and material, and form a six pointed star. At the centre of this star is a sun sitting within another triangle. This sun is regarded as an emblem of the deity.

The triangles are within two concentric circles representing, on the inside, the Omnipresence of the Deity and, the outer, Eternity.

At the bottom of the jewel, outside the two concentric circles, is another small circle. This is an additional emblem of Eternity and contains another important emblem to Royal Arch Masons, the Triple Tau - every Royal Arch Mason has the Triple Tau on each part of their Royal Arch clothing: jewel, sash and apron. At the bottom of the jewel is a scroll.

The Jewel is heavily inscribed. On the front, between the two circles, is '*Si talia jungere possis sit tibi scire satis*' which translates from the Latin as '*If you can understand that which follows, you know enough.*'



There are two sets of inscriptions on the interlaced triangles on the front of the jewel. The upward pointing triangle is considered the spiritual triangle and the inscription on the base is, in English, 'We Have Found' and this is repeated in Latin and Greek on the other two sides.

The other triangle has a blank space on the base. This is designed for the engraving of the Companion's name to be engraved as on the other sides are, again in Latin, '*Cultor Dei*' and '*Civis Mundi*' indicating that the wearer is a '*worshipper of God*' and a '*citizen of the world*'.

The scroll beneath the circles has the words '*Nil nisi clavis deest*' meaning '*Nothing is wanting but the key*'.

On the reverse of the jewel, the scroll only has the word '*Exalted*' on it, leaving a gap for the date of the Companion's exaltation and the Chapter number to be inserted. When it was common for Companions to retain the same jewel throughout their Chapter lifetime, there was a desire for this engraving. Nowadays, these spaces are rarely completed – it is certainly not essential.

Between the two concentric circles on the reverse, there are two groups of three words, inscribed in Latin '*Deo, Regi, Fratribus*' and '*Honor, Fidelitas, Benevolentia*.' These should be read together as '*Deo Honor; Regi Fidelitas; Fratribus Benevolentia*' or '*To God, Honour; To the King, Fidelity; To the Brethren, Love.*'

The remaining inscriptions can be found on the interleaved triangles. They have upon them '*Concord, Truth, Peace*' and '*Wisdom, Strength, Beauty*'. As well as their Craft Masonry links, these actually refer to the Omniscience, Omnipotence and Omnipresence of TTAGMH as stated at the opening of every Royal Arch Chapter.

This is only a brief introduction to the Jewel of the Royal Arch and much more can be found in Masonic Literature and various Ritual books. Certainly this small object can be the subject of much research for those interested in exploring the meanings and history of Royal Arch Masonry.