

I am not interested in the Royal Arch !

This is probably the most difficult objection to deal with.

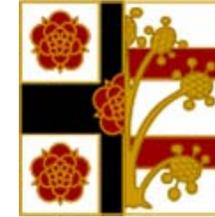
Ask if the individual would mind telling you why he has no interest.

If his lack of interest is due to the fact that he has the wrong idea of what the RA is about, try to gently explain the basic facts.

If the individual still says that he is not interested, or that at present he does not have the time or money to invest, tell him that you understand and that he is entitled to make his own decision.

Tell him that if he ever does feel inclined to reconsider the matter in the future, you will always be pleased to discuss it further with him.

(With acknowledgement to the Supreme Grand Chapter of England Working Group Review dated 9th November 2007).



Province of Cumberland and Westmorland

The Craft Lodge

Royal Arch

Contact



ready to progress through the Chairs of the Chapter with enjoyment and satisfaction.

The Royal Arch is “Spiritual” - Does that mean that it is Religious or Solemn ?

The relationship of the Royal Arch to religion is no different to that of the Craft. The RA is open to all MM's regardless of their personal religion. The teachings of the RA are distinct from material or physical values and explore what the MM has previously been exhorted to contemplate. Far from being solemn or gloomy, the RA unites its Companions in an enhanced and personal enjoyment and sense of fulfilment in their Freemasonry, which in turn may enable them to better develop their personal ability.

If I have not been Exalted in the Royal Arch, will it affect my promotion in Craft ?

There is nothing in the Constitution which requires a Brother to be a member of the RA as a qualification for promotion in the Craft although by becoming a member of it does indicate that the individual concerned has completed his Craft knowledge and it would, most certainly, be a factor in selecting Acting Officers in the Province.

There are no actual minus points for not being a member of the RA but if there were two or more candidates of otherwise equal merit and ability for a single appointment, membership of the RA could well be the deciding factor. The experience, commitment and knowledge emanating from membership of the RA may also be of increasing importance when a candidate is being considered for promotion to a more senior rank.

The Royal Arch offers its own opportunities for members of merit and ability to progress in Office. To cater for this and its special needs, the RA has its own system of administration and management at Provincial level. The symbiosis of the RA and Craft Masonry is illustrated by the fact that, at provincial and the highest levels of Freemasonry, there may be the same Ruler in both the RA and Craft Masonry.

At what stage in my Masonic career should I seek Exaltation ?

The Royal Arch Regulations state that no candidate shall be exalted until he has been a Master Mason for four weeks at least.

There are differing opinions as to the optimum point in time at which a MM should be exalted. In this Province our view is that it should be as early as possible after being raised to the Third Degree which will allow the candidate time to sit back and learn the workings of the RA before achieving the Masters Chair in his Craft Lodge. The teachings of the RA will also be of benefit to him in his appreciation and understanding of his Craft Masonry.

The most sensible answer, given all the facts, is that it depends upon the time which the individual has to allocate to his Masonry, and his personal inclination for further Masonic knowledge.

The key factor is, of course, to avoid incurring undue stress. However, it can be properly and reasonably pointed out that Exaltation when one is still a junior member of his Craft Lodge does not incur additional stress in Chapter and that, when he eventually achieves the Mastership of his Lodge, the way will be open for him and he will have been fully prepared and

THE CRAFT LODGE ROYAL ARCH CONTACT

INTRODUCTION: The Preliminary Declaration made at the Union of the two Grand Loges in 1813 states:

“By the solemn Act of Union between the two Grand Lodges of Free-masons of England in December 1813, it was ‘declared and pronounced that pure Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz., those of Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.”

Any Master Mason who has not been exalted into the Royal Arch is missing a vital part of his Craft Masonry as defined by the above declaration. Yes, he has completed the Three Degrees but without the final part, the Royal Arch, he is not in possession of the full story of the Craft.

He might well have heard about the Royal Arch but he will, naturally, want to know more about it before he makes the decision to join or not.

These guidelines are intended to assist you to:

Promote membership of the Royal Arch in an honest and confident manner.

Answer questions about the Royal Arch which are likely to be asked.

The Aims and Objectives

The Aim is to have a designated Brother in the Lodge who is a competent source of information with regard to Royal Arch Masonry:

The Objectives are:

1. To promote and maintain awareness of the existence of the Royal Arch amongst those Brethren who are not members of the Order.
2. To be able to give the correct information in response to questions and enquiries about the Royal Arch.
3. To be able to promote the Royal Arch in such a manner that newly raised Master Masons will seriously consider joining the Order.
4. To be able to direct a Master Mason who is considering applying for exaltation into a suitable Chapter (eg: a Chapter which is most suitable to his personal situation and can offer him suitable Companionship).
5. To encourage those who, for whatever reason, have left the Order to consider re-joining.

While a proactive approach to achieving these aims and objectives is essential, tact and diplomacy are required. A Craft Lodge cannot reasonably be expected to devote an undue amount of time in Open Lodge towards achieving these Objectives.

Destiny and to contemplate what comes afterwards, fortified by his belief in a divine Creator who has endowed his perishable body with an inner immortal principle that should give him confidence that death is not the end of existence. The greater understanding which the RA offers is to draw back further the veil which exists on the prospect of futurity and eternity.

Note: Avoid being drawn into what could become an involved philosophical discussion. The important thing is to make it clear that the genuine secrets do not solely consist of some more signs and words of recognition.

Why is the Royal Arch Ceremony not worked in a Craft Lodge ?

The answer is simple—expediency. The beautiful RA Ceremony requires an entirely different setting to that which a Craft Lodge can conveniently provide with its Officers, furniture and regalia. The setting is required to illustrate by allegory and symbolism the beautiful ceremony of Exaltation and its teachings. The progress of a Brother to Exaltation in the RA is marked in a Craft Lodge by the wearing in Lodge of the Royal Arch breast jewel. The full Royal Arch regalia is only worn at a Royal Arch meeting.

Why is the organisation, management and Administration of the Royal Arch separate to the Craft ?

The Royal Arch, as part of Pure Antient Masonry, is ruled by the United Grand Lodge of England. This is why the MW The Grand Master and certain other Rulers of the Craft, provided they are Royal Arch Masons, are also appointed as Rulers of the Royal Arch.

by joining the Royal Arch. Obviously, if a Brother does not go on to complete his Second and Third Degrees, he is not qualified to participate when the Lodge is working in those degrees and, without the Third Degree, he is not qualified to become Master of a Craft Lodge or to progress further in Craft Masonry. However, a MM who does not choose to be exalted in the RA has not yet attained all that Pure Antient Masonry has to offer. He may well go forth to practice and progress in his Craft Masonry, but he will do so without the benefit of further knowledge and understanding of the whole system of Pure Antient Masonry which membership of the RA can give him and his understanding and appreciation of Craft Masonry is unlikely to be as great as it would have been if he had been Exalted. In fact, several other Degrees and Orders are only open to those who come with the further knowledge of the Royal Arch.

What is this greater understanding of Freemasonry which is to be found in the Royal Arch ?

If you think about the Third Degree, the Lodge is opened with the stated intention of seeking the genuine secrets of a Master Mason. Having worked the Degree, the Lodge is closed with an acknowledgement that only substituted secrets have been found, until time and circumstances shall restore the genuine.

Exaltation into the RA is the circumstance. Time is that of being a MM of 4 weeks and upwards whereby the MM, now a Companion, is assisted to continue his research into the mystery brought to his attention in the Third Degree.

The mystery which a MM was invited to contemplate in the Third Degree was: To be aware of his inevitable Human

Suggested approach:

1. Ask the Lodge to include the name of its Royal Arch Contact as a standard feature on its Summons.
2. Obtain agreement that, following the presentation of a Grand Lodge Certificate in Open Lodge, you may hand the recipient a personal letter from the PGM with a few words as suggested below:

“Bro. A.B.—I have much pleasure in presenting you with this personal letter from the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master—Bro. Norman James Thompson, who is also the Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Cumberland and Westmorland. He congratulates you on having attained your Third Degree in Freemasonry and invites you to consider the next step towards the completion of Pure Antient Masonry, by joining the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch. When you have read his letter, I will be pleased to discuss the matter with you and answer any questions which might arise.”

Add your personal congratulations.

Ensure that you always have a stock of two or three copies of the leaflet 'Complete your Craft Journey by Joining the Royal Arch.' These can be printed off the RA Contacts C.D.

Ensure that every new Master Mason knows that membership of the Royal Arch is the next and final step in completing the Craft story.

Show an interest in his future progress which could encourage him to ask you more about the Royal Arch.

- 3, Do not see yourself as a recruiter solely for your own Chapter(s). Obviously, your own Chapter(s) will have priority, but consider also which Chapter(s) may best suit the candidate (dates, places of meeting, Candidates friends etc.). Consider also which have a special need for Candidates. Notify any Chapter in which the Candidate expresses an interest so that the Scribe E can deal promptly with any application.

Keep a stock of Application for Exaltation forms. Help the Candidate to complete them if necessary. Assist him to find a Proposer and Secunder. Have the Provincial Year Book handy to provide dates and place of meetings and the Chapter Scribes address to whom the completed form should be sent.

Bear in mind that you will be covering many of the things which a Proposer would normally do. You may even end up being 'the Proposer' yourself.

4. Promoting the Royal Arch generally in your Lodge is something which you alone can best decide to do. A regular report at each Lodge Meeting is not really practical and may well be counterproductive. Decide how often and what you want to say. Don't say too much at one time. Select a suitable piece of information. Arrange with the Lodge Committee when and at what point in the Agenda of Business you are going to do it. Ask for it to be inserted as an item on the Summons.

If there are PZ's in the Lodge who are not members of an Installed Principals Chapter, consider including a mention of this in one of your reports.

Dealing with Objections:

There are a variety of reasons which may be given for not wishing to be exalted in the Royal Arch. You should listen sympathetically to all such reasons to show that you are not just brushing the reason aside. You should then attempt, in a considerate way, to deal with the objection.

The most common objections you are likely to encounter are:

What is the difference between the Royal Arch and the other Degrees and Orders which I am now eligible to join ?

With the union of the two rival Grand Lodges (the Antients and the Moderns), it was necessary to take into account the sincere but different views held regarding the origin of the RA and its place in Pure Antient Masonry.

By a solemn Act of Union between the two Grand Lodges of England in December 1813, it was declared and pronounced that Pure Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz., those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.

The Royal Arch is the final step and the completion of Craft Masonry, which should be taken before contemplating joining any of the other Orders beyond the Craft.

Masonry is free and requires a perfect freedom of inclination in every candidate for its mysteries. This is why there is no Regulation that every Brother will go on to take the final step