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978-1-108-04406-6 - The Royal Masonic Cyclopaedia of History, Rites, Symbolism, and Biography

Edited by Kenneth R.H. Mackenzie

Excerpt

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THE ROYAL MASONIC CYCLOPÆDIA.

A.

A.—The letter א, Aleph, signifying *α*, is first in the alphabets of all languages except the Æthiopian, Japanese, Mongolian, and Tibetan, but is not given this position in the Runic system. In the Hebrew and Armenian numerical systems its value is 1. From the peculiar sanctity it has acquired in the Hebrew and Greek, in which the Sacred Scriptures are written, certain mysterious qualities and mystical values have been assigned to it. It is emphatically the sacred Aleph, and has even been held to typify the Trinity in Unity, being composed of two Jods, upright and reversed, with a transverse bar or nexus; thus—

Λ' The St Andrew's Cross is occultly connected therewith; and as the latter enters largely into Masonic combinations and signs, it is fitly to be placed at the commencement of this work. The name of God in Hebrew, corresponding with Aleph, is אֱהִיָּה, AëHeIëH.

AARON.—The name signifies *the illuminated*. Elder brother of Moses, and first High Priest of the Hebrew Church; the dignity of the priesthood being hereditary in his family. He died on Mount Hor, aged 123, and was buried in a cavern on the mountain. He was succeeded by Eleazar, his son, in the office of High Priest.

AARON'S BAND.—A degree fabricated by Joseph Cerneau at New York, and conferred by an independent body. It was censured and suppressed by the Royal Arch Chapter of New York State in 1825.

AARON'S ROD.—This symbol was introduced into Royal Arch Masonry because it was one of the three holy things preserved in the most holy place of the Tabernacle. It refers to the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

AB.—אב. 1. The eleventh month of the Hebrew civil year, corresponding to July and August. In 1875, Ab begins on the 4th of July, and in 1876 on the 23d of July. 2. A Hebrew word,

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signifying *father*, and a component of the designation, *Hiram Abif*.

ABACISCUS.—In ancient architecture, the chequered or square divisions of the Mosaic pavement; the material of which the ground floor of the First Temple was supposed to have been made.

ABACUS.—1. An instrument for facilitating arithmetical computations. 2. In architecture, a table forming the upper or crowning member of a column and its capital. 3. In the Masonic system of Knights Templar, the term has been wrongly considered the name of the Grand Master's staff of office. (See *Baculus*.)

ABADDON (Hebr. אַבְדּוֹן, *exterminans, vel perditio, destruction*).—The name of the Angel of the Abyss. Used in the 17th degree of the Scottish Rite. The Greek word is Ἀπολλών, the destroyer. (Rev. ix. 11.)

ABAMARUS.—A buttress, or second wall built to strengthen another.

ABANO, PETRUS DE. (See *Magic*.)

ABAZAR.—Grand Master of Ceremonies in the 6th degree of the Modern French Rite. The father of Mithridates.

ABBA.—The Hebrew word אב, father, in the Chaldee idiom. As it is used in some simple and compound forms in Masonic and other occult mysteries, it is given here. The Talmudical writers employ אבא to express Rabbi or Master. (Matthew xxiii. 9.)

ABBREVIATIONS, MASONIC.—So many and diverse are the degrees and orders of Freemasonry, and the rites and ceremonies since connected with the Royal Art proper, that a necessity for Masonic abbreviations has arisen. To give a complete list of a series of contractions, to which additions are constantly being made, is all but impossible; but the following series of contractions may be considered as full as can be made. Masonic abbreviations are commonly indicated by the use of three points (as thus ∴ or ∴), placed after the letter. As to ∴, it would seem to refer to the officers and their work on all points of the triangle. It has been thought that they refer to the three lesser lights in the Lodge, or the situation of the Master and Wardens in Continental Lodges. It more probably refers to the triune nature of the Deity, thus alluding to the initial name of God, as represented in the original of the Hebrew forming the *triune circles of eternity*;

thus, ∴ ∴ ∴ ; hence, ∴ ∴ ∴, the Hebrew Yod.

Ragon says these points were first used on the 12th of August, 1774, by the Grand Orient of France, in an address to the subordinate Lodges.

A.∴ Auditor. A degree in the Order of Apex and Sāt B'hai.

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- A.: C.: (*Anno Cædio*.) Year of destruction; referring to 1314, and the catastrophe of the Knights Templar.
- A.: C.: K.: York year of Christian Knighthood (A.D. 32.)
- A.: C.: M.: or A.: Y.: M. Ancient Craft, or York Masonry.
- A.: and A.: O.: D.: Antient and Archæological Order of Druids.
- A.: and A.: S.: R.: Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.
- A.: and P.: R.: Antient and Primitive Rite.
- A. D. (*Anno Domini*.) Year of Our Lord.
- A.: Dep. (*Anno Depositionis*.) In the Year of the Deposit. The date used by Royal and Select Masters in Cryptic Masonry.
- A.: F.: M.: Ancient Freemasons.
- A.: F.: and A.: M.: Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.
- A. G. M. Acting Grand Master.
- A. H. (*Anno Hebraico*.) Hebrew Year. Used in the A. and A. Rite. The Hebrew Year begins in September, on the 1st of Tisri, being the 1st of September, 1875, the 20th of September, 1876.
- A.: Inv. (*Anno Inventionis*.) In the Year of the Discovery. Used in Royal Arch Masonry and in other rites.
- A. L. (*Anno Lucis*.) In the Year of Light, 4000. The date used in Craft Freemasonry. The A. and A. R. use 4004, added to the common style, or A. D.
- A.: L.: G.: D.: G.: A.: D.: L.: U. (*À la gloire du Grand Architecte de l'Univers*.) To the glory of the Grand Architect of the Universe. Used at the head of all French Masonic documents.
- A. L' Or.: (*À l'Orient*.) At the East. The seat of the Lodge.
- A. M. (*Anno Mundi*.) Year of the World. Used by the A. and A. R. in conjunction with A. H.
- A.: O.: (*Anno Ordinis*.) In the Year of the Order. The date used by Knights Templar and other Chivalric Orders in accordance with the year of their several institutions.
- A. O. O. I. Ancient Oriental Order of Ishmael.
- A.: R.: Year of Revival (1686), used by the K. T. priests.
- A.: U.: T.: O.: A.: G. (*Ad universi terrarum orbis summi Architecti gloriam*.) To the glory of the Grand Architect of the Universe. Used at the head of the documents of the A. and A. R.
- A.: V.: L.: (*An du Vrai Lumière*.) Year of True Light. The A. and P. Rite uses the Indian 000,000,000.
- B.: A.: (*Buisson Ardente*.) Burning Bush.
- B.: B.: Burning Bush. Used in documents of the A. and A. R.

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- B. L. R. T. Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.
 Br. or Bro. Brother (German, *Bruder* or *Brüder*; French, *Frère*.)
 C.: Censor; Courier.
 C.: C.: Celestial Canopy. Used in documents of the A. and A. R.
 C.: F.: C.: Committee on Foreign Correspondence.
 C.: G.: Captain General; Captain of the Guard.
 C. H. Captain of the Host.
 C. N. Conductor of Novices; an officer in the Rosicrucian Fraternity.
 Comp. Companion. Designation of a member of the Royal Arch.
 D.: A.: F. Due and Ancient Form.
 D. C. Director of Ceremonies.
 D. D. G. M. District Deputy Grand Master.
 Deg. Degree or Degrees. Also designated thus: *e.g.*, 18°.
 D.: G.: B.: A.: W.: (German, *Der Grosse Baumeister aller Welten*.) To the glory of the Grand Architect of all Worlds.
 D. G. H. P. Deputy Grand High Priest.
 D. G. M. Deputy Grand Master; District Grand Master.
 D.: M.: J.: (*Deus Meumque Jus*.) God and my Right. Motto of 33° of the A. and A. R.
 E.: East; the place or emblem of Light; also Eminent, Excellent.
 E. A. or E. A. P. Entered Apprentice.
 Ec.: (French, *Ecosais*.) Scottish.
 E.: G.: C.: Eminent Grand Commander.
 E.: O.: L.: (*Ex Oriente Lux*.) From the East cometh Light.
 E. V. (*Era Vulgus*.) Common Era.
 E.: V.: (*Ere Vulgaire*.) Vulgar Era.
 F.: or FF.: (*Frère* or *Frères*.) Brother or Brethren.
 F. A. M. Free and Accepted Mason.
 F. C. Fellow Craft.
 F.: F.: Z.: Freedom, Fervency, and Zeal.
 F. H. C. Faith, Hope, and Charity.
 Fra. Frater (used to denote a Brother of the Rosicrucian Order and Knight Templar).
 F.: U.: A.: M. (*Freie und Angenommene Maurer*.) Free and Accepted Masons.
 F.: U.: Z.: Faith, Unity, and Zeal.
 F. Y. Fraternally yours.
 G. God; Grand; Geometry; Guardian; Generalissimo.
 G. A. Grand Architect; Grand Almoner.

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- G. A. C. Grand Arch-Chancellor.
 G. C. Grand Chaplain; Grand Chapter; Grand Council; Grand Conductor; Grand Conclave; Grand Chancellor; Grand Clerk.
 G. C. G. Grand Captain General; Grand Captain of the Guard.
 G. C. H. Grand Captain of the Host; Grand Chapter of Heredom.
 G. Com. Grand Commander; Grand Commandery.
 G. D. C. Grand Director of Ceremonies.
 G. E. Grand East; Grand Encampment.
 G. G. Grand Geometrician; Grand Generalissimo; Grand Guardian.
 G. G. C. General Grand Chapter.
 G. H. P. Grand High Priest; Grand High Patriarch.
 G. J. W. Grand Junior Warden.
 G. K. Grand King. Peculiar to the Royal Arch in the U. S. A. and in the Irish Rite.
 G. K. S. Grand Keeper of the Seals.
 G. L. Grand Lodge; *Grande Loge*; *Grosse Loge*.
 G. M. Grand Master; Grand Marshal.
 G. M. V. Grand Master of the Veils.
 G. O. Grand Orient; Grand Orator; Grand Organist; Grand Overseer.
 G. P. Grand Prelate; Grand Patriarch; Grand Prior; Grand Preceptor; Grand Preceptory; Grand Pursuivant; Grand Patron; Grand Priory; Grand Principal.
 G. P. K. T. Grand Priory of the Knights of the Temple—the supreme body in Scotland.
 G. P. S. Grand Principal Sojourner.
 G. R. Grand Recorder; Grand Registrar.
 G. R. A. C. Grand Royal Arch Captain. Grand Royal Arch Chapter.
 G. S. Grand Secretary; Grand Scribe; Grand Sentinel; Grand Steward; Grand Sojourner.
 G. S. B. Grand Sword Bearer.
 G. S. E. Grand Scribe Ezra,—in Royal Arch Masonry.
 G. S. N. Grand Scribe Nehemiah,—in Royal Arch Masonry.
 G. S. V. Guardian of the Sacred Vault.
 G. S. W. Grand Senior Warden.
 G. STD. Grand Steward.
 G. STD. B. Grand Standard Bearer.
 G. T. Grand Treasurer; Grand Tyler.
 G. W. Grand Warden.
 H. Herald; Harbinger.
 H. A. B. Hiram Abif.

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- H.: J.: (German, *Heilige Johannes*.) Holy Saint Johns.
H. K. T. Hiram, King of Tyre.
H. P. High Priest.
H. R. A. C. Holy Royal Arch Chapter.
H-R-M. Herodom, Rite of.
I. G. Inner Guard; Intendant General.
ILL.: Illustrious.
INS.: GEN.: Inspector General. One who has received the 33°.
I.: H.: S.: V.: (*In hoc signo vinces*.) By this thou shalt prevail.
I.: N.: R.: I.: (*Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudæorum*.) Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. Motto of the Knights of Malta, of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, and of the Rosicrucian Society.
I. S. Inside Sentinel.
I.: T.: N.: O.: T.: G.: A.: O.: T.: U.: In the name of the Grand Architect of the Universe. Initials sometimes used on Warrants and Certificates in the English language.
J. D. Junior Deacon.
J. G. Junior General.
J. G. D. Junior Grand Deacon.
J. G. W. Junior Grand Warden.
J.: V.: S.: P.: L.: N.: M.: Q.: N.: S.: C.: (French, *Je vous salue par les noms Maçonniques que nous seul connoissons*.) I salute you by the Masonic names which we only know.
J. O. Junior Overseer.
J. W. Junior Warden.
K. C. S. Knight of the Order of Charles XIII. of Sweden.
K. K-D-H. Knight Kadosch.
K. E. P. Knight of the Eagle and Pelican.
K. H. S. Knight of the Holy Sepulchre.
K. M. Knight of Malta.
K. R. C. Knight of the Red Cross; Knight of the Rose-Croix.
K. S. King Solomon.
K. St. J. Knight of St John.
Kt. or KNT. Knight.
K. T. Knight Templar.
L. Lieutenant.
L. LL. Lodge, Lodges. (German, *Lehrling*, Apprentice.)
L.: E.: T. (*Lux e tenebris*.) Light out of darkness.
Lt. G. C. Lieutenant Grand Commander.
L. P. D. Labour, Prudence, Duty; Love, Patience, Devotion.
L.: V. Lord of the Valley. An officer in the Order of Ishmael.

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- L.: V.: X.: (*Lux.*) Light. A mystical word among the Rosicrucians and other orders.
- M.: (French, *Maître*; German, *Meister*; Spanish, *Maestro*.) Master; Marshal; Mark; Minister; Mute.
- M. C. Master of the Ceremonies; Mark of the Craft; Mystic Circle.
- M. E. C. Most Enlightened Commander.
- M. E. G. H. P. Most Excellent Grand High Priest.
- M. E. M. Most Excellent Master.
- M. E. Z. Most Excellent Zerubbabel.
- M. G. Master General.
- M.: K.: G.: (German, *Maurer Kunst Geselle*.) Fellowcraft.
- M.: L.: (German, *Maurer Lehrling*.) Entered Apprentice.
- M.: M.: Master Mason; Mark Master; *Mois Maçonique*: Masonic Month. The French begin the Masonic year in March. (German, *Meister Maurer*; Spanish, *Maestro Mason*.)
- M. P. S. Most Puissant Sovereign. President in a conclave of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine.
- M. T. Master of the Temple. An officer in a Rosicrucian College.
- M. W. G. M. Most Worshipful Grand Master.
- M. W. S. Most Wise Sovereign of a Rose-Croix Chapter.
- N.: Novice.
- N. E. C. North-east Corner.
- N'o.: P.: V.: D.: M.: (French, *N'oubliez pas vos décorations Maçoniques*.) Used in France at the left-hand corner of the summons, meaning: Do not forget your Masonic regalia.
- O.: A. Order of Apex (which see.)
- O.: A.: C.: (*Ordo ab Chao*.) Order out of Chaos. Motto of the 33°.
- O. C. S. Oriental Chair of Solomon.
- O. G. Outside Guardian.
- OR.: Orient—the East, the station of the Master; Orator.
- P.: Prefect; Prelate; Prior.
- P. C. W. Principal Conductor of the Works.
- P. G. M. Past Grand Master.
- PRO G. M. Pro Grand Master.
- PROV. G. M. Provincial Grand Master.
- P. J. Prince of Jerusalem; Provost and Judge.
- P.: K.: Past King, in the Irish Rite.
- P.: M.: (French, *Maître Passé, Ex-Vénérable*; German, *Alt Meister, Passirt Meister*.) Past Master; Perfect Master.
- R. Registrar.
- R. A. Royal Arch; Royal Art.

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- R. A. C. Royal Arch Captain, or Chapter.
 R. A. M. Royal Ark Mariner; Royal Arch Mason.
 R. +, or R. C. Rose Cross. The signature of a Prince Rose-Croix.
 R.: E.: A.: et A.: (*Rite Écossais Ancien et Accepté.*) Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.
 R. E. G. C. Right Eminent Grand Commander.
 R. L. (*Respectable Loge.*) Worshipful Lodge.
 R. O. S. Royal Order of Scotland.
 R. O. O. S. B.H. Royal Oriental Order of Sāt B'hai.
 R. R. P. Right Reverend Prelate.
 R-S-Y-C-S. Rosy Cross. The Royal Order of Scotland.
 R. W. Right Worshipful.
 R. W. M. Right Worshipful Master. The title of a Provincial Grand Master in England, and of the Master of a Lodge in Scotland.
 S.: Sponsor; Sentinel; Seneschal.
 S. B. Standard Bearer.
 S.: B.H. Order of Sāt B'hai (which see.)
 S.: C.: S.: G.: I.: G. Supreme Council Sovereign Grand Inspector General. A member of the 33°.
 SEC. Secretary.
 SEC. GEN. Secretary General.
 S. G. D. Senior Grand Deacon.
 S. G. W. Senior Grand Warden.
 S. M. Secret Master; Substitute Master; Select Master; Secret Monitor; Sovereign Master; Speculative Master; Supreme Magus (in Rosicrucianism.)
 S. O. Senior Overseer.
 S.: P.: R.: S. Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret.
 S. S. (*Sanctum Sanctorum.*) Holy of Holies.
 S. S. S. (French, *Trois fois salut.*) Thrice greeting.
 SS.: GG.: II.: Sovereign Grand Inspectors.
 SS. JOHN. Saints John.
 SURV. 1^{er}. (French, *Premier Surveillant.*) Senior Warden.
 SURV. 2^e. (French, *Second Surveillant.*) Junior Warden.
 S. W. Senior Warden.
 T. Tyler; Treasurer.
 T. B. Torch Bearer.
 T.: C.: or V.: F. (French, *Très cher ou Vénérable Frère.*) Very dear or Venerable (Worshipful) Brother.
 T. G. A. O. T. U. The Grand Architect of the Universe.
 TREAS. Treasurer. A necessary officer in a Lodge.
 T.: S.: (*Très Sage.*) Wisest. The presiding officer in the French Rite.

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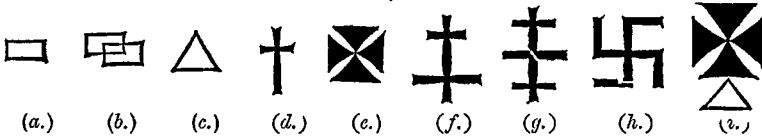
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- V. (*Vénérable.*) Worshipful. The title of the Master in France. Verger.
 V. D. B. Very dear Brother.
 V. D. S. A. (Used by the Knights Templar.)
 V. E. Viceroy Eusebius.
 V. G. C. Vice Grand Chancellor.
 V.: L.: (*Vraie Lumière.*) True Light.
 V. W. Very Worshipful.
 W. Warden.
 W. M. Worshipful Master; *Würdiger Meister.*
 Y.: I.: F. Yours in Fraternity.



- (a.) and (b.) Lodge, Lodges.
 (c.) The Delta is the Emblem of the Chapter in Royal Arch Masonry; Overseer's mark of approval in Mark Master's Degree; Emblem of the Trinity.
 (d.) Passion Cross. The prefix to the signature of a Knight Templar.
 (e.) Templar Cross, used before the signature of a Grand Commander.
 (f.) Patriarchal Cross, used before official signature of Grand Officers.
 (g.) Cross of Salem, used before the signature of the Grand Master of Knights Templar. All these Crosses should be made in red ink.
 (h.) Hermetic Cross, used by members of the Governing Body of the Order of Ishmael, Esau, Reconciliation, and Expiation. The position of the Cross in relation to the signature is varied, according to instructions issued from time to time, and marks the rank of the signatory; the colour of the ink is also varied.
 (i.) The sign of a Knight Rose-Croix; also used in 1725 to signify the Lodge of St John (Johannite Masonry.)

ABCHAL.—The father of King Hiram of Tyre. (1 Chron. xiv. 1.)

ABDA.—A word used in some of the high degrees, especially in the degree Provost and Judge. He is stated to have been the father of Adoniram. (1 Kings iv. 6.)

ABDAMON.—Orator in the 14th degree of the Rite of Perfection (Sacred Vault of James VI.); corrupted from *abad*, to serve, in Hebrew.

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ABDEVEUM.—In Astrology, the 12th house in a scheme of the heavens.

ABDITORIUM.—A secret place for the preservation of important documents and records. Tradition asserts that the two columns of the First Temple porch were constructed hollow to serve for this purpose.

ABELITES.—So called from Abel, the second son of Adam, whose name was properly Hebel, and primarily signified *weakness or vanity*, and secondarily, *grief or lamentation*. His murder by Cain (the possessor), the first city builder on earth, was considered to have laid the first foundation-stone of the City of God in the heavens; Abel was revered as the prototype of the Saviour, Sotor or Healer. 1. The name of a sect in Northern Africa, professing a sort of Gnosticism. 2. It was also the name of a secret or *quasi*-Masonic society existing in Germany about 1746. A pamphlet setting forth the nature of the Order was published in that year at Leipzig, under the title of "The Abelite." Its principles were Christian, moral, and philanthropic; and it possessed secret signs, ceremonies, and passwords. It was, however, confined to Germany, and is now extinct. Its motto was: "Sincerity, Friendship, and Hope."

ABIB.—The name given to green ears of corn by the Jews, and adopted as that of the first month of their ecclesiastical year,—our March,—because at that time corn was in the ear. This month was afterwards called Nisan.

ABIBALA.—A name of the first assassin in the Elu of the French Rite. From Hebrew *abi* and *balah*, אֲבִי and בָּלַע, father of destruction. It is sometimes erroneously given as Abibalk.

ABIF.—The Hebrew word הִירָם־אֲבִי, signifying *Hiram, his father*. The word was often used as a title of honour (see *Abba*), and included the signification of master, inventor, or chief operator. In 2 Chron. iv. 16, Hiram, his father, is represented to have made "the pots also, and the shovels, and the flesh-hooks, and all these instruments." This reference to the great Tyrian architect as a potter is significant in connection with Egyptian mysteries, in which Kneph, the potter god, played a part. He was also the creator of the mundane egg. As a title of honour it was very probably given by Solomon to Hiram. (See under *Hiram, the Builder*.) Abif is, however, incorrect.

ABIRAM.—In the higher degrees, one of the assassins received the name of Abiram Akirop. The last word is not Hebrew, nor of any known language. It may be thus construed from אֲבִי־רָמָה, *abi-ramah*, destroyer of the father.

ABLUTION.—In some of the higher degrees of Masonry, purification