



The Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland

Charles Iain R. Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont Grand Master Mason

David M Begg CA Grand Secretary

Dear Sir and Brother,

TO BE READ IN OPEN LODGE

30 September 2014

Grand Lodge regularly receives requests for information regarding various aspects of Scottish Freemasonry in particular the "meaning" to be ascribed to various Masonic symbols. Many of you will be aware that the Grand Lodge of Scotland declines to do so and this is demonstrated by the absence of any opinion regarding Masonic landmarks, rituals, symbols, words, signs etc. within the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The reason for this is that the Grand Lodge of Scotland has always held the view that Scottish Freemasonry provides a 'framework' through which an individual undertakes a personal journey and therefore no group of Freemasons, including Grand Lodge, has the power to impose a rigid view of the meaning of the various elements of Scottish Freemasonry.

However, Grand Lodge has not in the past ever explained why it, as a body, does not provide members with such explanations and therefore the attached paper '*The Essence of Scottish Freemasonry*' has been prepared with the explicit intention of detailing why a Scottish Freemason (or group of Freemasons) cannot, and should not, provide unequivocal interpretations of any aspect of Scottish Freemasonry. Brethren may hold their own opinions regarding the meaning of various symbols used or attached to Scottish Freemasonry, and there are various interpretations found throughout Masonic literature, however it must be emphasised that they are only that – an opinion by the author. Brethren are of course perfectly entitled to articulate their opinions however, Brethren should also exercise a good deal of caution and should not assume that any opinion, regardless of the source, has the authority or approval of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Attached is a copy of a paper entitled '*The Essence of Scottish Freemasonry*', by Brother Robert L. D. Cooper, which I would be obliged if you could draw to the attention of the Brethren of the Lodge. Copies may also be downloaded from the Grand Lodge of Scotland web site under the News Section headed 'Essence of Scottish Freemasonry'.

Should you have any queries regarding the contents of this email or the '*The Essence of Scottish Freemasonry*' please do not hesitate to contact, in the first instance, Brother Robert L. D. Cooper, Curator, at: curator@grandlodgescotland.org Brother Cooper will also be able to provide copies of the paper on request.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

David M Begg, CA
Grand Secretary

