

ISSUE 27 USE IT AS NOT ABUSING IT

At the closing of the First Degree in Craft Masonry, the Senior Warden says, 'Until every Brother has had his due'. Do those Brethren who have not yet become Mark Masons know exactly what this means? Do you know what it means?

During the Ceremony of Advancement, the candidate, after presenting the sign manual of a Mark Man to the Worshipful Master, is told to proceed to the Senior Wardens wicket to receive the wages due to patient industry and merit. He is told to show the sign manual through the wicket and then the Senior Warden presents him with a Mark Token accompanied by the words 'I acknowledge the correctness of the sign and have pleasure in presenting you with the tribute awarded. Use it as not abusing it and go on your way rejoicing'. He has just received his due or wages. With the Craft there is more that unites us than divides us.

It is appropriate to explain some of the meaning of the token with reference to its origin and to point out that not all tokens are the same.

The Mark Token is many things, not least of which is a Token of Friendship and Brotherly Love. It can be further considered as a 'Tesserae Hospitalis', a token when presented to a Brother, assistance and care is the order of the day.

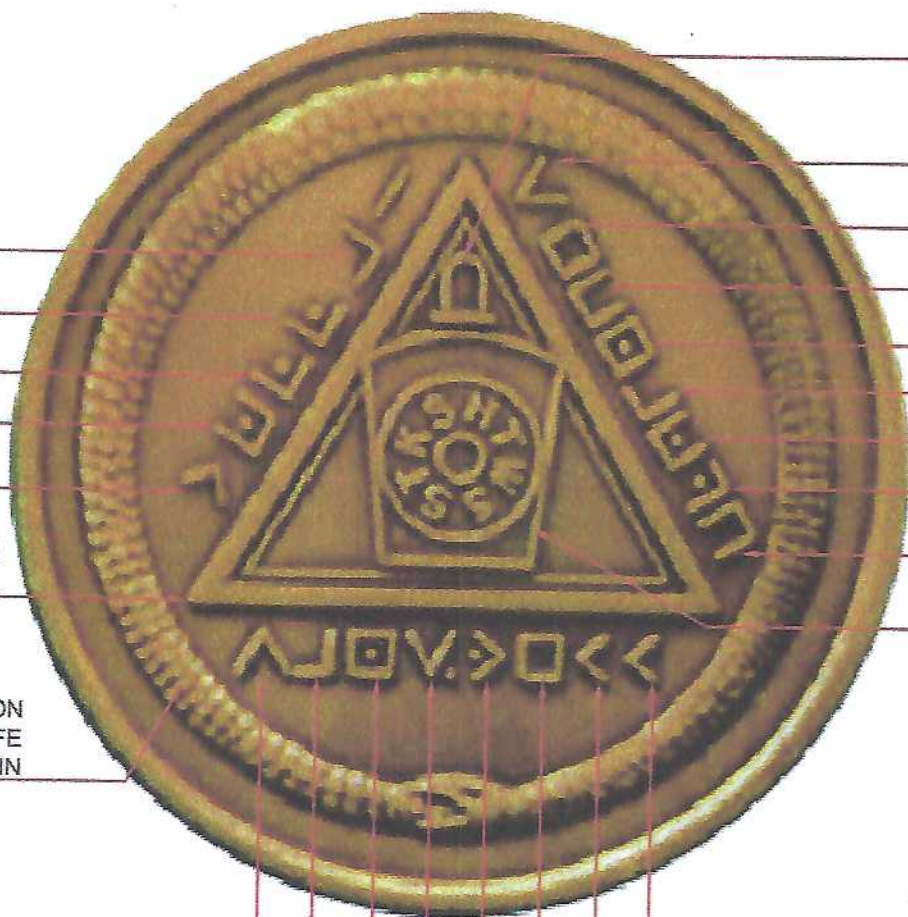
In ancient times amongst the Greeks and Romans a Tesserae was likened to a contract between men of honour who enjoyed a deep friendship for each other. It took the form of a ring or amulet broken in half, each part retained by a particular friend, and when they met, even after many years of not doing so, when they presented their Token or Tesserae to each other, care and hospitality was offered indefinitely. This is one of the purposes of the Mark Token, but please remember the words, 'Use it and not abusing it'. I can recall a couple of Worcestershire Mark Lodges where the custom is, if challenged to show your Token you must have it at all times when attending a Mark meeting. They do try to extract a donation to the Charity fund if you cannot present it.

The design of the Mark Tokens can and does vary from Lodge to Lodge and from Province to Province, albeit there is one that is fairly standard.



The Token shown is a fairly standard one that does not bear the name of Lodge or Province. On the left is what is referred to as the English Standard format and the image on the right shows the mallet and chisel. The English Standard format is not always used by other Lodges and Provinces, but I will provide an explanation of the design. I have included in this document a large-scale picture of it with some markings.

English Standard Token



LEWIS

K

E

B

R

A

O

T

H

KEYSTONE

H

T

W

S

S

T

K

S

A

P

P

O

J

EQUILATERAL TRIANGLE
SACRED DELTA

REGENERATION
NEWNESS OF LIFE
SNAKE SHEDDING IT'S SKIN

MARKWELL

1 - ▽

2 - ▱

3 - ▹

4 - ▻

5 - ◻

6 - ▮

7 - ▸

8 - ▹

9 - ▾

0 - ◻

	K	
J		L
	M	

	X	
W	•	•
	•	•
	Z	

A	B	C
D	E	F
G	H	I

N	•	O	P
Q	•	R	•
•	•	•	•
T	•	U	V

In the centre is a representation of the Keystone of the Sacred Arch of King Solomon's Temple, which you recall was rejected by the overseers during the Ceremony of Advancement. At the top it bears the 'Lewis' or 'Cramp' as before described with the letters within a circle being H.T.W.S.S.T.K.S, which you all know means, Hiram the Widows Son Sent to King Solomon, and is similar to the breast jewel presented to the Candidate by the Senior Warden. The keystone is surrounded by the Sacred Delta or as it is familiarly known, the Equilateral Triangle. Along the edges are certain characters in 'Cipher', and are translated thus:

Right hand side the word Kebraoth, bottom 'Mark Well', left hand side the word 'Joppa'. The whole is encircled by a 'Snake' shedding its skin by pulling on its tail. To us in this Order of Freemasonry it depicts 'Regeneration and Newness of Life'. As you can determine the Token you were presented with is not just a bronze coin, it represents items displayed in the Ceremony of your Advancement together with a guide of your conduct in life as a 'Man and a Mark Mason'.

Personally I have a small collection of Mark Tokens, mainly English but I do have some from Scotland and America, and even France.



This is one from my Mother Mark Lodge Vernon No.923



This one is from the Grand Lodge of MMM



This one shows that Tokens don't have to be round.

Here are some you might recognise



Best Wishes

VW Bro Jeff Whiteley, PGJO, DPGM 