

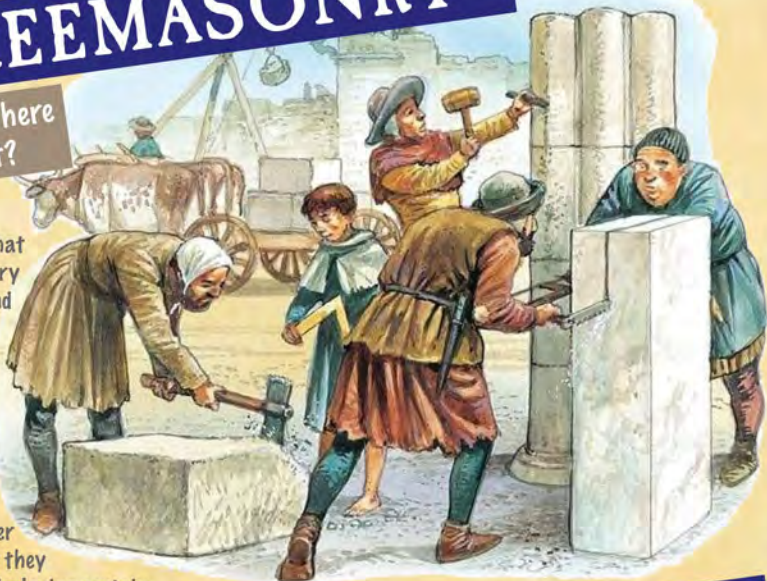


FREEMASONRY

How, when and where did it all start?

It is generally agreed that the birth of Freemasonry goes back to the 900s and particularly when the Normans built the great castles and cathedrals.

Stonemasons eager to protect their craft from non-skilled men, formed themselves into lodges. Men who wanted to enter a lodge had to prove that they were skilled craftsmen displaying certain signs of recognition.



Freemasonry makes a good man even better

As the years progressed, skilled masons formed themselves into Guilds. The Mason's Guild was sometimes referred to as the Free Masons as 'free' stone was the name of stone that was commonly used by masons because it was soft and allowed the masons to complete intricate carvings.



The early masons took their inspiration from the story of King Solomon and the building of the great temple at Jerusalem.

Moral lessons and a code of conduct were practiced which are still adhered to today and have been handed-down from generations of Freemasons using architectural symbols to illustrate good morals. The Square and Compasses at the top of the page, typifies the use of these symbols.

Today, Freemasons act-out these moralistic lessons in the form of 'plays' which they call their 'ritual' or



'ceremonies'. Freemasons learn how they can become better and more useful to themselves, their families, and to the communities in which they live.

Men of all types whatever their background, religion, or ethnicity, come together in peaceful harmony by not discussing religion and politics. Their aim is to become better men by promoting their core values of:

HONESTY, RESPECT,
FAIRNESS, KINDNESS, INTEGRITY,
TRUTHFULNESS AND FRIENDSHIP.