

Charles Rodriguez 32°
Doric Lodge No. 140
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
April 3, 2009

Ancient Egyptian Symbol & Freemasonry

My Brothers:

Masonic as well as non-Masonic scholars have long speculated on the origin of our Sublime Order and the symbols we currently use. Many have proven through archaeological documentation that many ancient builders practiced religious rituals in secret using the tools of their craft as associative symbols of their faith and belief. Lack of understanding by those outside the realm of their belief and practices compelled these builders to monitor those that attended their meetings by ensuring that they has some mode of recognition. In addition, they closely wanted to guard the secret they had learned of raising an edifice of stone and wood not only for strength and duration, but also for a reflected beauty. That secret was the use of Geometry.

Among the ancient builders that followed the above mentioned thinking were the Dionysian Artificers, Roman Collegia, Comacine Masters, Goths, etc. and also the ancient Indian and Chinese builders of the Far East. In the West, we had the Olmecs, Toltecs, Maya and the Aztecs who also mastered the use of Geometry and made great contributions on arts and sciences. These master builders of the east and west had one thing in common when it came to building structures of such tremendous proportions. They developed, made and used a square (among other instruments) in order to shape stones in quarries the better to fit them individually resulting in edifices which to this day remain an enigma to archaeologists and engineers in our present day especially when said structures were built without mortar.

The one thing that set apart the Ancient Egyptian Builders from all others was the meaning assigned to the builders square which was deciphered by Sir E.A. Wallis Budge in London (1889) and who published a book that year titled "Easy lessons in Egyptian hieroglyphics with sign list". This book is still published and sold today in most book stores.

I wish to note here that the Ancient Egyptian Builders followed the same protocols for accomplishing the objective for building a temple or a pyramid. They planned, organized, staffed, directed and controlled any and all projects which included strategy for combat in war. However, we can only speculate as to how stone and granite blocks were transported to a build site and hoisted into position for placement in their respective locations. The following are three hieroglyphs which clearly reveal the square and




whose meaning at that time was not related to the function of the instrument. Instead, it implied a symbolic meaning which can only be assigned to a group or organization whose function was that of maintaining itself hidden or secret from the profane. This interpretation is one explanation. I relate the meanings shown of these hieroglyphs to the phrase "I say this on the square". It is astonishing that the meanings here deciphered were from hieroglyphs chiseled and cut into limestone or granite and later on a papyrus scroll on or about 2350 B.C.

Phonetic value

Meaning as ideograph or determinative

48.  *hap* to hide

100.  *amen, hab* man hiding himself, to hide, hidden

     
amen em arit nek neb
 secretly in [their] work against thee all.