



# The Foundation Stone

Presentation compiled by W.Bro. Andy Green



## North-East corner

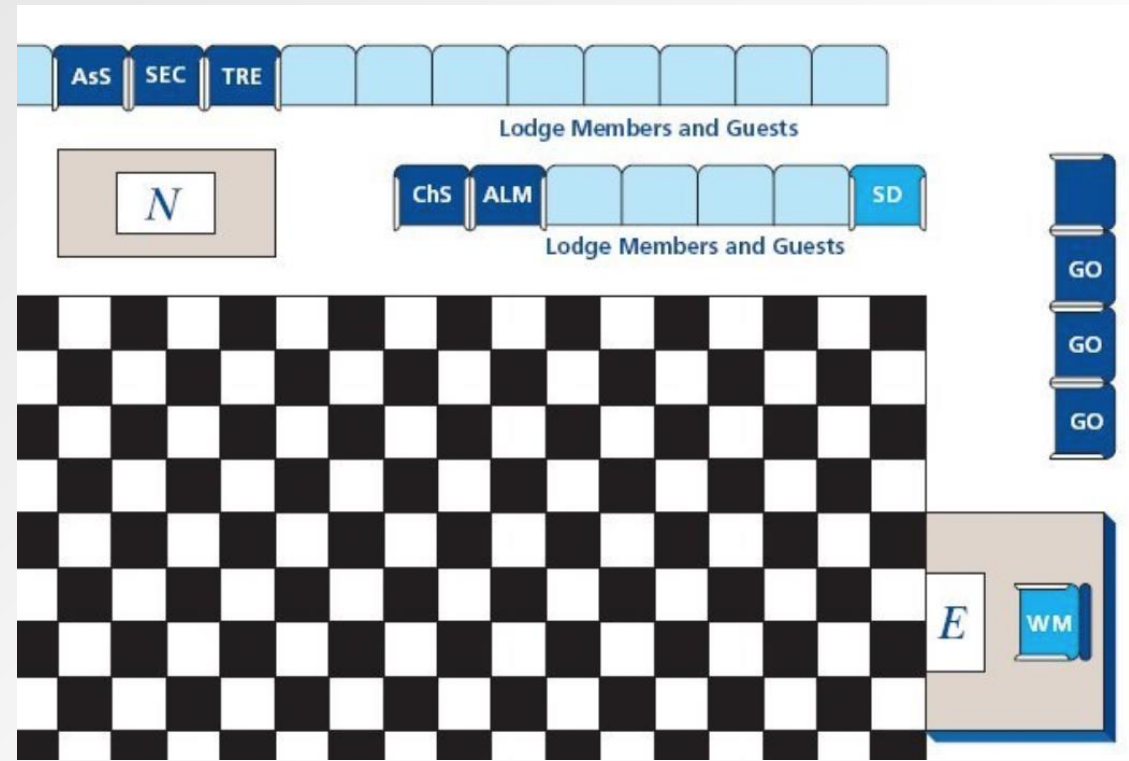
The newly initiate is placed in a certain position but not, as one might expect, in front of the Worshipful Master who is about to address him:

'... it is customary at the erection of all stately and superb edifices, to lay the first, or foundation stone at the NE corner of the building ..



# North-East corner

- Why is the candidate in the NE corner?
- Why not just anywhere in the Lodge that happens to be convenient?



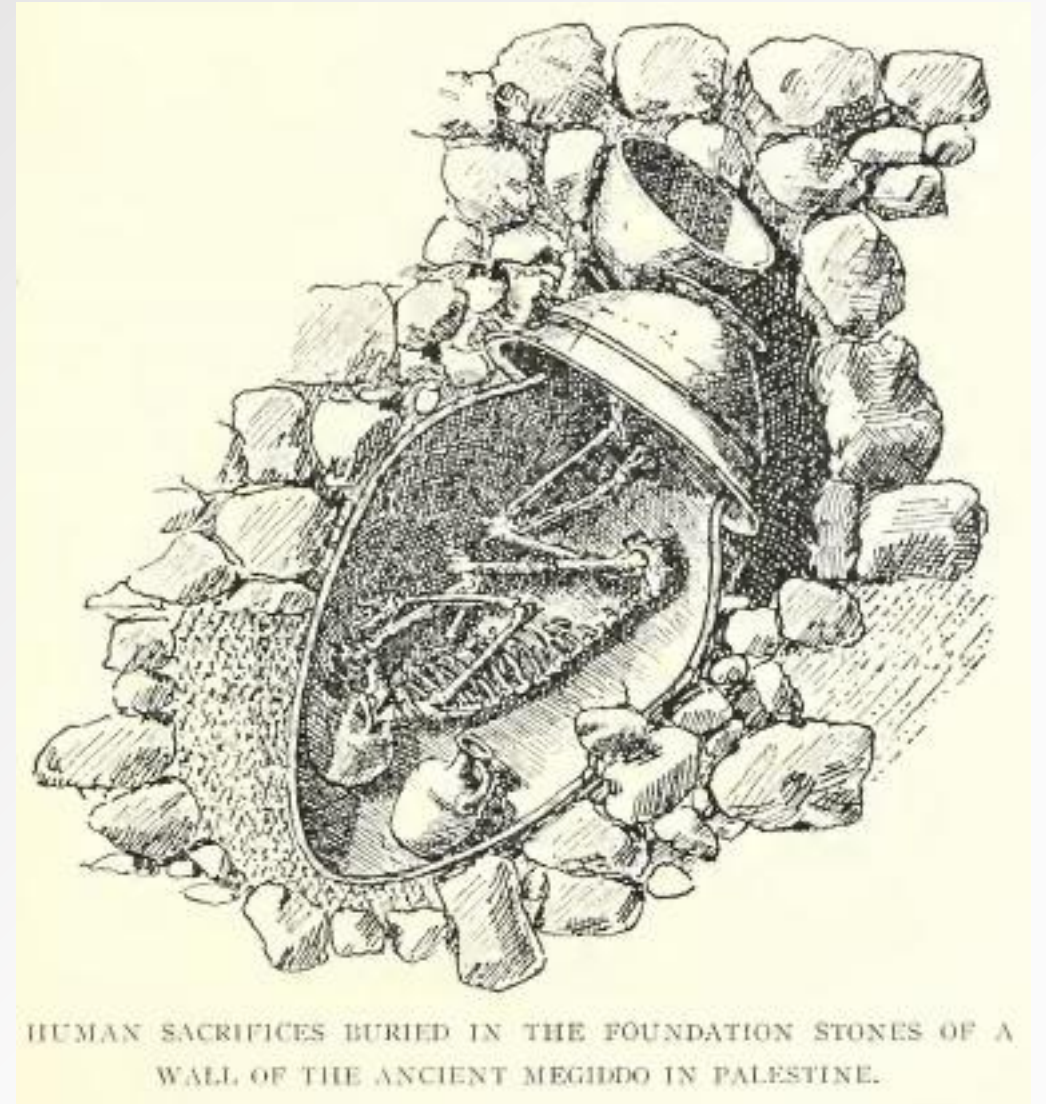
## North-East corner

- NE point of the heavens was sacred among Hindus.
- In Egyptian mythology, the sun rose in the NE on the day of its creation.
- Thus, the NE corner in ancient times acquired peculiar sanctity and significance.



# Foundation stone

- At the erection of an ancient building, a human sacrifice was offered by building a workman into the NE corner.
- Hoped that the building might become identified with his strength and spirit.



# Foundation stone

- The candidate is placed in the NE corner of the Lodge, figuratively to represent the foundation stone.
- Symbolises the EA beginning his Masonic Journey.
- Turning the corner from the darkness of ignorance and facing the dawning light of the East.
  - North - Outer or profane world
  - East - Inner world of Masonry
  - North-East - part in darkness and part in light.



# Cornerstones

- Builders of ancient times were highly skilled in constructing walls.
- Economise without compromising the integrity of the buildings by constructing corners of carefully dressed stone.
- Cornerstones guaranteed strength and stability.
- Became a colloquial term to describe prominent men.



# Foundation stones

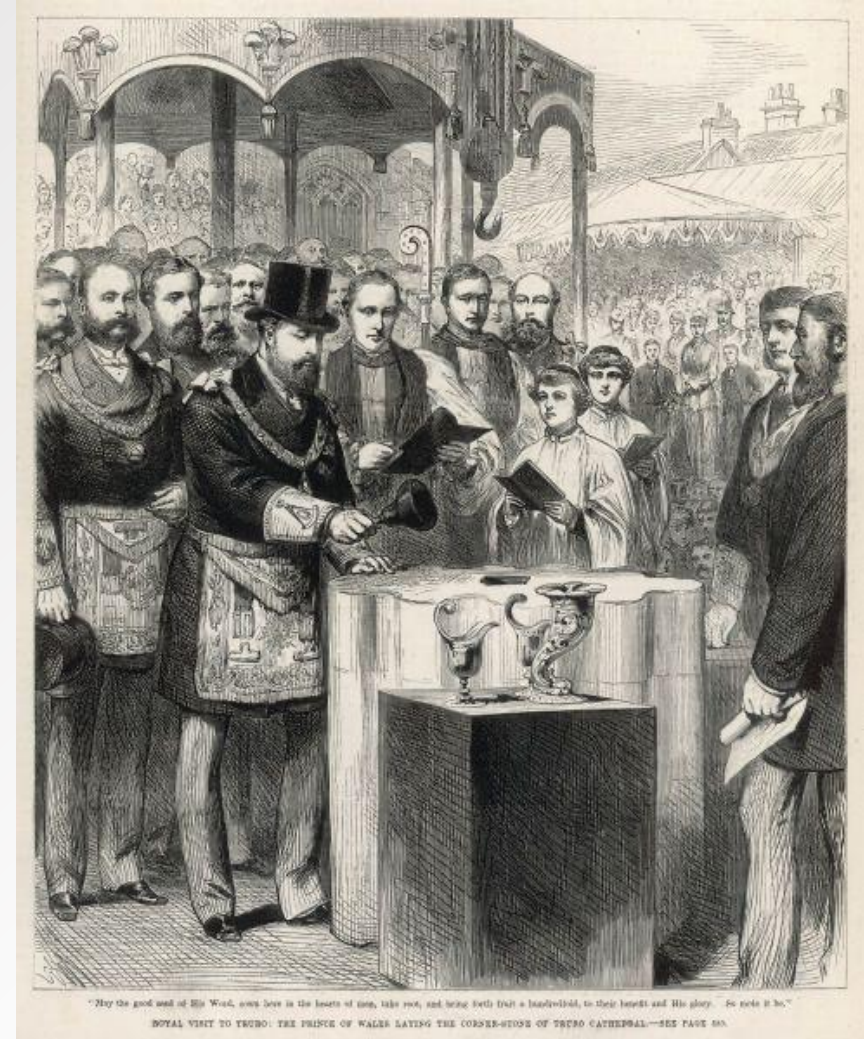
- The Foundation Stone is the first stone set in the construction of a new edifice, it is very important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure.
- Many old records show the stone as having been set at the NE corner.





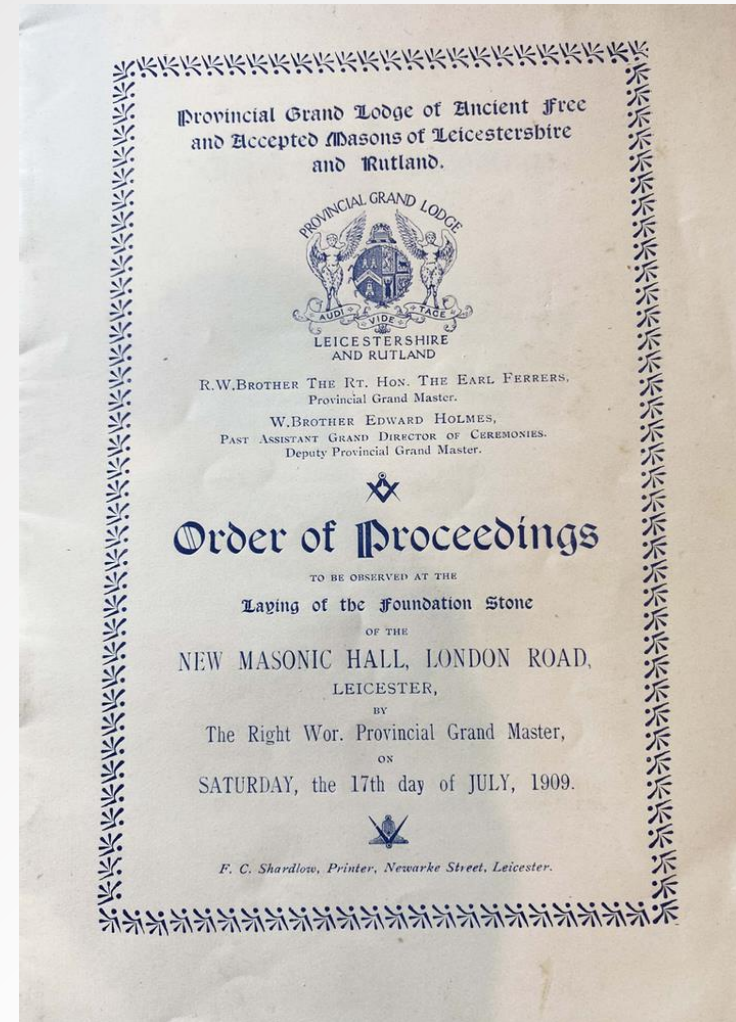
# Truro Cathedral

- On 20 May 1880, the Grand Master, HRH the Prince of Wales laid the Foundation Stone of Truro Cathedral.
- This was the only time that a foundation stone of a Cathedral has been laid by a Grand Master in full Masonic splendour.



# Procedure for the laying of a foundation stone

- Until 1919, procedure for the laying of a foundation stone was prescribed in the Book of Constitutions.
- One of the few surviving links between Operative and Speculative Masonry
- For some unknown reason it was dropped at that date.



# The Foundation Stone

- Each of us can ask ourselves ‘Have I moved from the North East corner and, from the foundation laid, made an attempt to raise a superstructure perfect in its parts and honourable to the Builder?’





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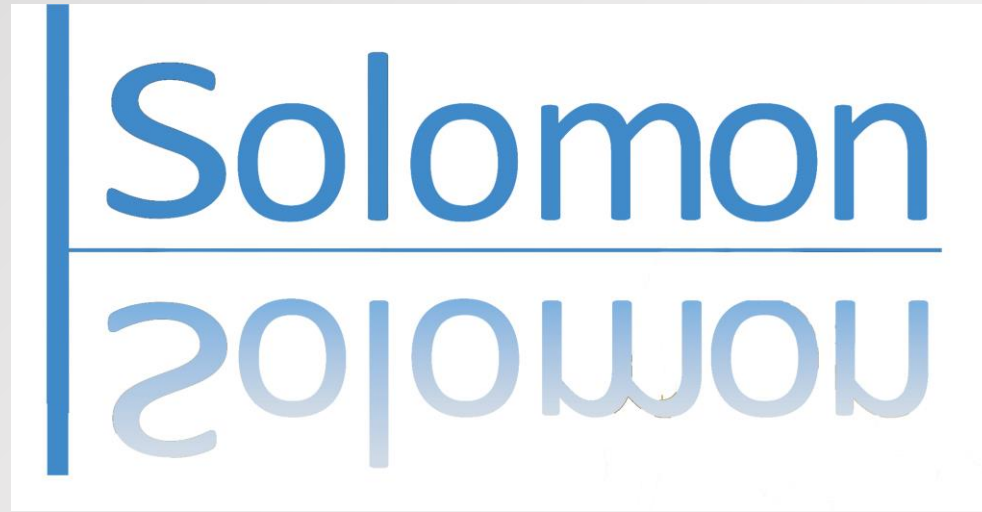
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