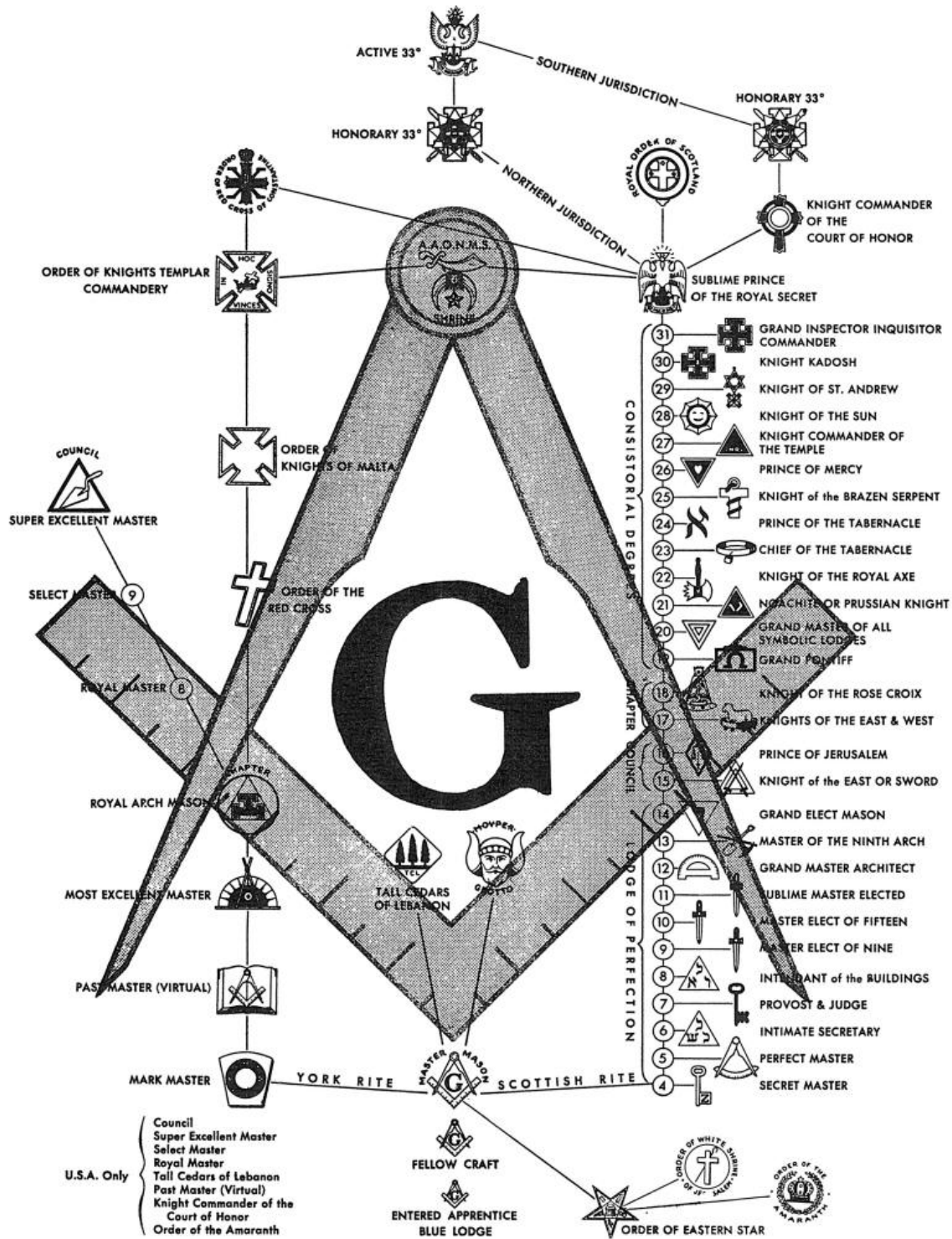
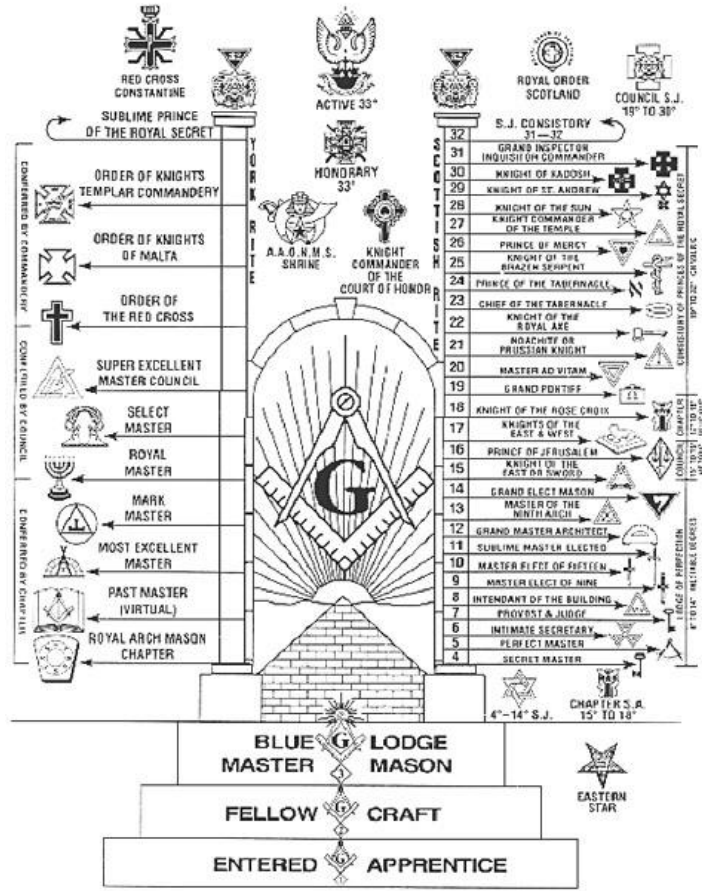


Image of Masonic Bodies and Degrees

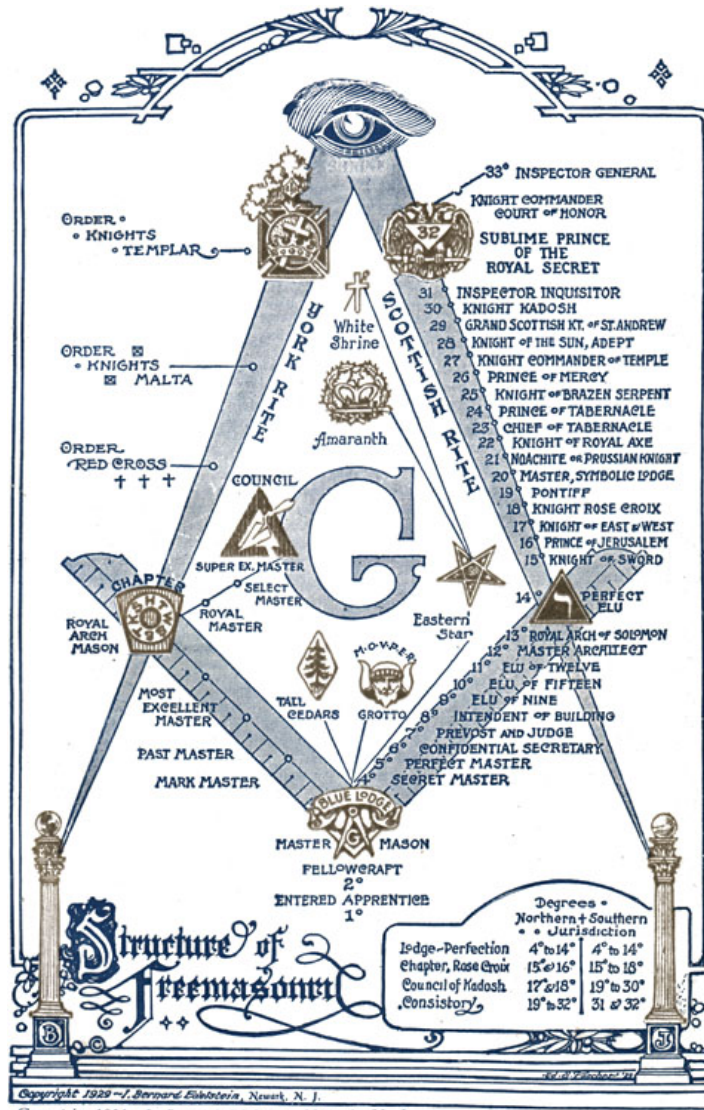


An image of the Emblematic Structure of Freemasonry

EMBLEMATIC STRUCTURE OF FREEMASONRY



A 1931 chart depicting the Masonic Bodies



A Life Magazine Insert from 1939 about the Structure of Masonry

The Structure of Freemasonry

American Freemasonry recognizes two sets of orders that begin and end together, as this chart of Masonic structure shows. A Mason's first step is to become an Entered Apprentice. He climbs to the third step where most Masons stay. If he wants to go on in Masonic hierarchy, he enters either the Scottish or York rites. Many authorities say the Scottish Rite was begun by Scots emigrants in France; the York Rite is named after York, England where, by legend, the first Masonic body was organized.

In the Scottish Rite a Mason climbs 30 steps, or degrees. The name he takes on at each degree is written on each step of chart. Where there are two names the top is used by northern Masons, the italicized one by southern Masons. Some figures in Masonic ceremonies stand on the steps. (From Masons) King Solomon, King Cyrus, scold, George Washington, Sultan. Each degree teaches a moral. To earn degree candidates learn the moral and participate in ceremony dramatizing it. A 32nd is the

highest degree a Mason can earn. The 32nd is awarded by the Supreme Council, ruling body of the Rite.

A Mason in York Rite advances 30 degrees, known by name and not by degree number. On chart are figures he meets at each degree or the degree symbol. Figures are temple workmen, Past Master (Virginal), Israel tribesman, High Priest of Jews, King Hiram of Tyre, Knight of Malta, Knight Templar, equal in passage to 32nd in Scottish Rite.

Under the arch are organizations allied to Freemasonry. Master Masons are eligible for Grotto and Tall Order of Lebanon. Gift with a Mason in the family can join Job's Daughters or Hiram's Girls, women, the Eastern Star, DeMolay. Only 32nd Mason or Knight Templar can join the Shrine. Shrine's wife can be a Daughter of the Nile.

Most important of many Masonic symbols are the open Bible with square and compass on it (left); Solomon's temple (below Bible); and the G with the all-seeing eye inside (upper right). In the U.S. the G stands for God.

