

Lecture – From WB Neil Horsman (2025)

PRESENTATION OF THE MASTER MASON DRESS APRON

Brother, during the Entered Apprentice Degree you were presented with a lambskin or white leather apron, and you were told that it was more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle; more honorable than the Star and Garter when worthily worn. You were also told that never again from mortal hands would any honour so distinguished be conferred upon you. Therefore, you may well have wondered why so many of your brethren wore aprons which were much decorated. I will explain to you the symbolism of those decorations.

THE BLUE BORDER is the blue of the heavens, symbolic of the universality of the order.

THE FIVE POINTS of the apron are to remind us of five points of fellowship, F to F, K to K, Br to Br, H to B, M to E.

THE BELT OR CORD in addition to holding the apron in place, signifying the cable tow which was used to bind you in each degree until you had taken the Obligation which bound you closer to the Fraternity than any man-made binding could.

THE TWO RIBBONS which carry solid, or chain drops symbolize the two great pillars which were found before the porch of King Solomon's Temple and which were introduced to you during the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees.

THE SEVEN TASSELS refer to the seven steps and the seven liberal arts and sciences. They also remind us of the three steps taken which refer to the three precious jewels and to the wages of a Master Mason. These tassels also remind us of the five orders of architecture as well as the five senses of man.

THE THREE ROSETTES or their alternates symbolize in turn, the Great Lights and the three indispensable officers required to open a Lodge.

From this you can see that the apron has a story to tell if we have the eyes to see and the knowledge to understand, and that the embellishments of the apron are not just ornamentations.