

## **Grand Lodge Certificate.**

At a meeting soon after you have been raised to the Third Degree, you will be presented with your Grand Lodge Certificate and asked to sign it. As a Master Mason, you are entitled to receive from Grand Lodge such a Certificate, stating that you have been regularly Initiated, Passed and Raised. The presentation may be made by the Worshipful Master, a learned Brother designated by him, a visiting Representative of the Provincial Grand Master, or indeed a visiting Ruler.

The Certificate is a sort of 'passport' to regular Freemasonry and may be used within the Craft as documentary proof of your membership. Nevertheless, it is clearly stated on the Certificate that it does not, in itself, entitle you to gain admission to a Lodge, other than one to which you belong, without due examination. In effect, this means you may well be called upon to 'prove' yourself should you visit a Lodge where you are not known, and you would normally do this by answering questions on Freemasonry.

You should keep the Certificate with your regalia. It should not be framed and must not be displayed either privately or publicly.

There is no formal ritual for the presentation of a Grand Lodge Certificate. Indeed, you may well hear it done differently on every occasion you witness one being presented. However, a presentation that follows an outline of the Lecture on the First Degree Tracing Board is very appropriate, as it identifies and explains the meaning of the many symbols on the Certificate.