

The Trowel

In the charge you've just heard, you were told that "Monarchs themselves have not considered it derogatory to their dignity to exchange the sceptre for the trowel". This may seem a strange comment but it has particular significance to you as a newly initiated Entered Apprentice.

In times past there was no Inner Guard, the person who presented the sword to your naked left breast. The door of the Lodge was secured by the newest Entered Apprentice. In those days a common man was not able to own a dagger or poignard let alone a sword. The "sharp implement" used by the Entered Apprentice was a trowel, the point of which was presented to someone seeking entrance to the Lodge.

Thus Monarchs, especially the last King, George VI, on becoming a Mason exchanged the Sceptre, the symbol of the highest power in the land, for the trowel, the implement of the most junior member of a Lodge.

The trowel is also significant in that it was often held out to a new Initiate when asked to contribute to Charity and is one of the reasons the collar jewel of the Lodge Charity Steward is a trowel.

So, as the newest Entered Apprentice, take this trowel as your badge of office. Bring it to each Lodge meeting and pass it on to your successor with this explanation.