

Ask Hiram!

From the Editor: *There use to be an article titled "Ask Hiram!" in the Virginia Masonic Herald. The purpose or intent of the column was to answer questions the Brethren might have of a Masonic educational or ritual type of question. If you have any questions you would like to ask Hiram, please send them to the Editor via heraldeditor@cox.net To answer these questions, Hiram consulted with the Grand Provost and the Grand Lecturer.*

When not in use, where should our Lodge store the Pillars "Jachin" and "Boaz?"

The Pillars would normally be stored in the South near the Junior Warden's Station. They can be placed in the Northwest Corner of the Lodge, to either side of the West Gate, but only if this does not hinder traffic through the West Gate. It is noted that there is no standardized place for the Pillars. Some Lodges keep them in the West, as it is difficult to see around the Pillars when stored in the South. Some Lodges also feel it becomes too cluttered with the Pillars stored in the South (with the Deacons Chairs and Rods.) Other Lodges give consideration to the other organizations that routinely use the Lodge Room, and store them elsewhere such as the Preparation Room.

What is the proper location for the Rough Ashlar and Perfect Ashlar in the Lodge?

*First, it should be noted that not all Lodges have the Rough and Perfect Ashlars displayed within the Lodge Room. For those Lodges that do have the Ashlars, the Rough Ashlar would be in the Northeast corner of the Lodge, to the front of and to the right of the Worshipful Master. The Perfect Ashlar would be in the Southeast corner of the Lodge to the left and in front of the Worshipful Master. Most are placed on the first step up from the Lodge floor.
See page number 68 of the Presentation Volume.

Is the use of "Warden's Columns" allowed in a Virginia Lodge? If so, how are they to be used?

They are not required, but may be used. If used they would be on the pedestal in front of each Warden. When the Lodge is "At Labor," the Warden's Column in front of the Senior Warden would be situated in a vertical position, and the Warden's Column in front of the Junior Warden would be laid down in a horizontal position or "At Rest." When the Lodge or Craft is "At Refreshment," the position of the Warden's Columns would be reversed. For those who are unfamiliar with what a Warden's Column is, they look like miniature Pillars, Jachin and Boaz.

When did Lodges first start "Draping the Charter" when a Brother passed away?

This is not singular to the Masonic Fraternity. Other fraternal organizations also follow this practice. Presumably it is a means for a Brother who has been traveling to recognize by visual means that a Brother has passed from our circle. It may be an extension of the

tradition of wearing armbands, ribbons, or badge covers - by groups attending funeral services for a deceased associate. It is a means of remembrance and has come to be interpreted as a show of respect for a "fellow traveler." As to when it first started, nobody really knows.

Article: ask hiram.txt