

Orators Report
on the 29th degree
Scottish Knight of
Saint Andrew
April 4, 2012



The X-shaped cross is the primary symbol of this Degree.
The jewel is a large St. Andrew's gold cross, with a Knight's
helmet above and a thistle below it.

Bremerton Valley of the Scottish Rite

The Legend: Hungus, who in the ninth century reigned over the Picts in Scotland, is said to have seen in a vision, on the night before a battle, the Apostle Saint Andrew, who promised him the victory over Athelstane, King of England, and for an assured token thereof, he told him that there should appear over the Pictish host, in the air, such a fashioned cross as he had suffered upon. Hungus, awakened, looking up at the sky, saw the promised cross, as did all of both armies; and Hungus and the Picts, after rendering thanks to the Apostle for their victory, and making their offerings with humble devotion, vowed that from thenceforth, as well they as their posterity, in time of war, would wear a cross of St. Andrew for their badge and cognizance.

The 29th Degree transitions from the 28th Degree, Knight Commander of the Temple, to the 30th Degree, Knight Kadosh. Within this transition are found many lessons, teaching us reverence and obedience to the Deity, the service of Truth, the practice of Virtue and Innocence; and also to battle for Truth and Right, Free Speech, and Free Thought; and in this to defend the people against tyranny. The 27th, 29th, and 30th degrees combine chivalric ideals, reminding us that Masonry involves the pursuit of knowledge and the practice of virtue.

The Setting: Bodies of this Degree are styled Chapters. In a reception there are two apartments. For a reception, the first apartment is chiefly used. It is without furniture, and dimly lighted, representing the open and roofless court of an old ruined castle, in which the knights are encamped. The second is the Hall of the Chapter. Its hangings are crimson, supported by white columns. The seats of the first three Officers are draped with crimson, and ornamented with gilding. Those of the other knights are blue.

The major roles are: the Venerable Master; the Senior Warden, who is styled Prior; the Junior Warden, styled Preceptor; and the Orator, who is styled Chancellor. The Master sits in the east.

The Ritual: The Candidate is taught three lessons. The first concerns the virtues of humility, patience, and self-denial. The Candidate is charged with the safety of the Order's banner with only virtue as his armor. Successfully passing this test, his second lesson teaches that three more essential qualities of a Scottish Knight of Saint Andrew are charity, clemency, and generosity. The Prior teaches all nine virtues in the third lesson: humility, patience, self-denial, charity, clemency, generosity, virtue, truth, and honor. The Master of Ceremonies invests the new knight with the sword, robe, cordon, sash, scarf, and jewel of the Order.

The Lecture: Every cross of Knighthood is a symbol of the nine qualities of a Knight of St. Andrew of Scotland; for every order of chivalry required of its votaries the same virtues and the same excellencies.

The History: The Traditional History of the Order gives the history of the Knights Templar from their formation in the year 1118, through their betrayal in 1307, and the trial and martyrdom of their Grand Master in 1314. It further preserves the legend of their alliance with King Robert the Bruce of Scotland at the Battle of Bannockburn, St. John's Day, 1314, where was defeated the English army of King Edward II.

To commemorate their service, King Robert Bruce created, and received these knights into, the Scottish Order of St. Andrew du Chardon, meaning "of the Thistle". The History of the Order states that the hereditary Grand Mastership of the Order passed down from King Robert the Bruce in succession through the Stuart Royal family to Prince Charles Edward Stuart, the last Grand Master in Scotland, who, after his defeat by the English in 1745, escaped into exile in France and established there a Chapter of Rosé Croix of Heredom which encompassed the Order of St. Andrew. The Order was in the possession of the founders of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry at its formation in 1801, at which time the legend of the Degree was still combined with the Rosé Croix as a part of the 18th Degree. It was subsequently separated from the 18th Degree and moved to its present position as the 29th Degree.

In this degree, the Mason learns that there is no contradiction between religion and science; that religion can be better understood through science and science can be better understood by religion. He who denies science is as fanatical as he who denies religion. Freemasonry is thus the continual effort to exalt the divine in man over the human so that we may come to better understand the nature of God in our time.

DUTIES:

- Reverence and obey the Deity.
- Serve the truth.
- Protect virtue and innocence.
- Defend the people against tyranny.

LESSONS:

- Ideas and institutions wax and wane in the great cycle of time which is but change.

FOR REFLECTION:

- Is virtue an armor stronger than the strongest metal?

IMPORTANT SYMBOLS:

- St. Andrew's Cross, castle in ruins, armorless knight.

The jewel is a St. Andrew's Cross, of gold, with a large emerald in the center, surmounted by the helmet of a knight, and with a thistle of gold between the arms at the bottom. It is worn suspended from the collar. The emerald signifies the manliness and uprightness of chivalry, its color that of the renewal of virtue, always bright and sparkling. The thistle is the national emblem of Scotland and recalls a tradition that: *"the Danes invaded Scotland and stealthily surrounded Slaines Castle. They took off their shoes to wade the moat, only to find it dry and filled with thistles. The resultant yells and curses roused the garrison, and the Danes were soundly defeated."*

The banner of the Order is a green St. Andrew's Cross on a white field fringed with gold. At the end of each arm of the cross is one of the four Hebrew letters that form the Ineffable Name of Deity. Above the cross is a circle of five stars with a thistle.

A Knight of St. Andrew wears a green collar edged with crimson, over the neck, and a white silk scarf, fringed with gold, and worn from left to right.

Adapted from Rex R. Hutchen's book A Bridge to Light