

The Foundation Stone by W.Bro. Ron Selby

Did you know that this last surviving link with the Operative Mason has such a fascinating history? A history that can be traced back nearly 4000 years to the time of Nebuchadnezzar.

This paper is a study of how and why the Charge in the North East Corner took its rise and whether there is any basis for this Ritual. It looks at some of the customs and superstitions of builders and masons through the ages and the role that the Church played in the development of this particular piece of our Masonic Ritual.

Customs of the Laying of Foundation Stones for ancient buildings and in particular of early Lodge buildings are examined up to and including our own Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street.

How do we compare with our American Brethren with these customs? When did we drop the Foundation Stone Ritual from our books?

These questions and others are answered in this fascinating paper.