

A LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OF FREEMASONRY INFORMATION LEAFLET

ENGLISH ROYAL FREEMASONS

1. *The information in this leaflet has been compiled from the Registers, Proceedings and Year Books of the United Grand Lodge of England and of the Supreme Grand Chapter of England, and the Calendars, Proceedings, etc., of the additional Degrees in England.*
2. *In addition to their connections with English Freemasonry many of these Royal brethren have been Members (Active or Honorary), or have received Honorary Ranks in other Constitutions, particularly those of Ireland and Scotland.*
3. *On his being appointed Prince Regent on 5 February 1811 the Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV) set the precedent by which the Monarch (in his case as Prince Regent, the acting Monarch) retires from active participation in Freemasonry on his accession to the Throne. This has been followed by all his successors with the exception of H.M. King George VI, who on four occasions after his accession took an active part in Grand Lodge meetings.*
4. *H.R.H. George, Prince of Wales, set another precedent when in 1787 he accepted the office of Permanent Master of the Prince of Wales's Lodge (now No. 259). The appointment of a Permanent Master of a Lodge later became a custom reserved to the Grand Master when a Prince of the Blood Royal and in these circumstances it was usual for the Lodge so honoured to elect and install a Deputy Master.*

1. FREDERICK LEWIS, Prince of Wales (1707-1751). Eldest son of George II. Initiated 5 November 1737 at an 'occasional' lodge at the Prince of Wales Palace, Kew.
2. WILLIAM AUGUSTUS, Duke of Cumberland (1721-1765). 3rd son of George II. Reputed to have been initiated in Germany.
3. EDWARD AUGUSTUS, Duke of York (1739-1767). 2nd son of Frederick Lewis, Prince of Wales, and brother to George III. Initiated in Lodge of Friendship, Berlin in 1765, the Lodge then taking the name Royal York Lodge of Friendship. Elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge of England on 15 April 1767.
4. WILLIAM HENRY, Duke of Gloucester (1743-1805). 3rd son of Frederick Lewis, Prince of Wales, and brother to George III. Initiated 16 February 1766 in the New Horn Lodge (later the Royal Lodge, uniting with the Alpha Lodge in 1824 to form the present Royal Alpha Lodge No. 16). Elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge on 15 April 1767.
5. HENRY FREDERICK, Duke of Cumberland (1745-1790). 4th son of Frederick Lewis, Prince of Wales, and brother to George III. Initiated 9 February 1767 at an 'occasional' lodge at the Thatched House Tavern, St. James' St., being installed Master of the New Horn Lodge two months later. Elected Grand Master 1782 and remained so until his death in 1790. Exalted in Grand Chapter in 1772 and was Grand Patron of the Royal Arch 1774-90.

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6. GEORGE IV (George, Prince of Wales, later Prince Regent; 1762-1830). Eldest son of George III whom he succeeded in 1820. Initiated by his uncle, the Duke of Cumberland, on 6 February 1787 at a special lodge at the Star and Garter, Pall Mall. Founded the Prince of Wales's Lodge (now) No. 259 and was its permanent Master 1787-1820. He was elected Grand Master in succession to his uncle in 1790 and held that office until May 1813 when he accepted the title of Grand Patron of the Order.
7. FREDERICK AUGUSTUS, Duke of York (1763-1827). 2nd son of George III. Initiated 21 November 1787 in the Britannic Lodge (now) No.33 and on 28 November was elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge. He was also a member of the Prince of Wales's Lodge (now) No.259 and was its permanent Master 1823-27.
8. WILLIAM IV (William Henry, Duke of Clarence; 1765-1837). 3rd son of George III; succeeded his brother, George IV, in 1830. Initiated 9 March 1786 in the Prince George Lodge No 86 at Plymouth. Elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge in May 1787. Member of the Prince of Wales's Lodge (now) No.259 from 30 May 1789 and was its permanent Master 1827-30.
9. EDWARD AUGUSTUS, Duke of Kent (1767-1820). 4th son of George III and father of Queen Victoria. Initiated 5 August 1789 in the Loge l'Union des Coeurs, Geneva. Elected a Provincial Grand Master for Lower Canada under the Antients Grand Lodge 1792-97 and elected their Grand Master in 1813. With his brother, the Duke of Sussex (q.v.) he was actively concerned in the Union of the premier and Antients Grand Lodges and proposed Sussex as the Grand Master of the resulting United Grand Lodge. Grand Master of the Knights Templar 1804-07 and their Grand Patron 1807-12.
10. ERNEST AUGUSTUS, Duke of Cumberland (1771-1851). 5th son of George III. Succeeded to the throne of Hanover on the accession of Queen Victoria, 1837. Initiated 11 May 1796 by Francis, Earl of Moira (1st Marquess of Hastings) at a special meeting at the latter's house. Elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge on the same date. Joined the Lodge Friedrich of the White Horse, Hanover, in 1813. Declared Hanover a separate Grand Lodge in 1828, with himself as Grand Master.
11. AUGUSTUS FREDERICK, Duke of Sussex (1773-1843). 6th son of George III. Initiated 20 December 1798 in the Lodge Victorious Truth at Berlin and became its Master. Joined: Prince of Wales's Lodge (now) No.259 in 1800, permanent Master 1831-43; Lodge of Friendship (now) No.6 in 1806, permanent Master 1806-43; Lodge of Antiquity No.2 in 1808, permanent Master 1809-43. Was responsible in 1814 for the resuscitation and later amalgamation of certain lodges to form the present Royal Alpha Lodge No.16 as his personal lodge and was its permanent Master 1818-43. Elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge in 1805, Deputy Grand Master in 1812 and Grand Master in 1813. With his brother, the Duke of Kent (q.v.) he worked actively for the Union of the two former Grand Lodges and was elected Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge in 1813 holding that office until his death. He had been 'introduced' into the Royal Arch in 1810 and became First Grand Principal of the Grand and Royal Chapter (Moderns) at the same meeting. On the formation of Supreme Grand Chapter in 1817 he

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became its First Grand Principal and held that office until his death. He was Grand Master of the Knights Templar from 1812-43 and controlled all the other Orders extant during that period.

12. WILLIAM FREDERICK, Duke of Gloucester (1776-1834). Son of William Henry, Duke of Gloucester (No. 4 above q.v.) and son-in-law of George III. Initiated 12 May 1795 in Britannic Lodge (now) No.33. Elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge on 13 April 1796. Exalted at a special Chapter held for that purpose by a Committee of the Grand and Royal Arch Chapter, 5 January 1797.

13. EDWARD VII (Albert Edward, Prince of Wales; 1841-1910). Eldest son of Queen Victoria, whom he succeeded in 1901. Initiated, passed and raised on 20 December 1868 in the Swedish Grand Master's Lodge, in the Royal Palace at Stockholm, by Charles XV, King of Sweden and Norway when he took the first six degrees of the Swedish Rite, the remaining four of the ten degrees being conferred the following day and also the eleventh and highest degree, known as the Knight Commander of the Red Cross, becoming a Knight Commander of the Order of Charles XIII of Sweden. In England he became a member of: Royal Alpha Lodge No.16 in 1870 being Master in 1871-2, 1877 and 1882-6; Apollo University Lodge No. 357 in 1872, Master 1873; Prince of Wales's Lodge No. 259 in 1872, permanent Master 1874-1901; Grand Master's Lodge No. 1 in 1880; Founder and first Master of the Household Brigade Lodge No.2614 and Navy Lodge No.2612 in 1896 and permanent Master of both until 1901; First Master Sancta Maria Lodge No. 2682 (1897). He had been elected a Past Grand Master in 1869 and was elected Grand Master in 1874, serving until his accession in 1901 when he became Protector of the Craft. He was also First Grand Principal, Royal Arch 1874-1901; Grand Master, Mark, 1886-1901; Grand Master, Knights Templar, 1873-1901; and 33° (1874) and Grand Patron of the Ancient and Accepted Rite.

14. ARTHUR, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn (1850-1942). 3rd son of Queen Victoria. Initiated Prince of Wales's Lodge No. 259 24 March 1874, permanent Master 1903-42. Member: Royal Alpha Lodge No.16, Master 1880; London Irish Rifles Lodge No.2312, Master 1889-1942; Aldershot Army and Navy Lodge No.1971, Master 1897-1942; Household Brigade Lodge No.2614, Master 1908-1942; Jubilee Masters Lodge No. 2712, Master 1917-42; Old Wellingtonian Lodge No. 3404, Master 1909-42; Royal Colonial Institute Lodge No.3556, Master 1911-42; Nil Sine Labore Lodge No.2736, Master 1904-42. Hon. Member Grand Master's Lodge No.1 and numerous others. Senior Grand Warden 1877; Prov.G.M. Sussex 1886-1901; Dist. G.M. Bombay 1887-1901; Past G.M. 1891; Grand Master 1901-39. Exalted 23 April 1877 Meridian Chapter No.12 (IC), Dublin. Member Prinsep Chapter No. 413, Meerut and Keystone Chapter No. 757, Bombay. G. Supt. Bombay 1888-1901. First Grand Principal 1901-39. Grand Master, Mark, 1901-39. Grand Master, Knights Templar, 1901-38. 33° (1878) and Grand Patron (1911-42) of Ancient & Accepted Rite.

15. LEOPOLD, Duke of Albany (1853-1884). 4th son of Queen Victoria. Initiated Apollo University Lodge No. 357, 1 May 1874, Master 1876. Member: Lodge of Antiquity No.2, Master 1876-80; Westminster & Keystone Lodge No.10, Master 1881; Longleat Lodge No. 1478; Royal Alpha Lodge No.16; Royal Clarence Lodge No. 1823. Prov. G.M. Oxfordshire, 1876-84. Junior Grand Warden 1877. Exalted 17 June 1876 in Apollo University Chapter No.357. First Principal 1881. G. Supt., Oxfordshire 1881-84. Third Grand Principal 1883-4. Past Grand Master, Mark,

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1881. Knight Grand Cross and Great Constable 1880-83, Knights Templar. 33° (1878) Ancient & Accepted Rite.

16. ALBERT VICTOR, Duke of Clarence and Avondale (1864-1892). Eldest son of Edward VII. Initiated 17 March 1885 in Royal Alpha Lodge No. 16 (Master 1888); Passed Lodge of Friendship No.100; raised Isaac Newton University Lodge No.859. Member Aldershot Army and Navy Lodge No.1971. Founder Albert Victor Lodge No 2328, Yor; Master 1888. Senior Grand Warden 1887. Prov. G.M. Berkshire 1890-92. Grand Senior Warden(Mark) 1887. Perfected 18° in the Europa Chapter Rose Croix No 14 (later Royal Europa Chapter) on 31 May 1887 and elected Honorary member thereof in 1890.

17. EDWARD VIII (Edward, Prince of Wales, later Duke of Windsor: 1894-1972) Eldest son of George V. Initiated 2 May 1919 Household Brigade Lodge No.2614, Master 1921. Member: St. Mary Magdalene Lodge No.1523 (Master 1925); Lodge of Friendship and Harmony No. 1616 (Master 1935); Royal Alpha Lodge No.16. Senior Grand Warden 1922. Prov. G.M. Surrey 1924-36. Past G.M. 1936. Exalted United Chapter No. 1629 (now United Studholme Chapter No.1591), First Principal 1927. Member Grove Chapter No.410. G. Supt. Surrey 1930-36. 33° (1932) Ancient & Accepted Rite. Deputy G.M. and Governor, Royal Order of Scotland.

18. GEORGE VI (Albert, Duke of York: 1895-1952). 2nd son of George V. Succeeded on his brother's abdication in 1936. Initiated 2 December 1919 Navy Lodge No.2612, Master 1921. Member: Bard of Avon Lodge No.778 (Master 1925); Prince of Wales's Lodge No.259; Royal Alpha Lodge No.16; Middlesex Masters' Lodge No.3420 (Master 1934); Household Brigade Lodge No. 2614. Senior Grand Warden 1923; Prov.G.M. Middlesex 1924-37; Past G.M. 1937. Personally installed the following Grand Masters: Duke of Kent (1939); Earl of Harewood (1943); Duke of Devonshire (1948). Exalted United Chapter No. 1629 (now United Studholme Chapter No. 1591), First Principal 1928. Mark: Grand Senior Warden 1929; Prov. G.M.Middlesex 1931-37; Past G.M. 1937. Knights Templar: Past G.M. and Knight Grand Cross of the Temple, 1937. 33° Ancient and Accepted Rite.

19. GEORGE, Duke of Kent (1902-1942). 4th son of George V. Initiated 12 April 1928 Navy Lodge No.2612.(Master 1931). Member Prince of Wales's Lodge No.259; Royal Alpha Lodge No.16, (Master 1940). Senior Grand Warden 1933; Prov. G.M. Wiltshire 1934-39; Grand Master 1939-42. Exalted Westminster and Keystone Chapter No.10. First Grand Principal 1939-42. Grand Master (Mark) 1939-42.

20. ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT (H.R.H. The Prince; 1883-1938). Son of the Duke of Connaught (q.v.). Initiated 25 May 1911, Royal Alpha Lodge No.16, Master 1919. Member Wellesley Lodge No. 1899. Founder Member Old Etonian Lodge No. 4500. Past Senior Grand Warden 1914. Prov. G.M. Berkshire 1924-38.

21. PHILIP, Duke of Edinburgh (1921 -). Son of Prince Andrew of Greece. Initiated Navy Lodge No.2612, 1952.

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22. EDWARD, Duke of Kent (1935 -). Elder son of George, Duke of Kent (q.v.). Initiated 16 December 1963, Royal Alpha Lodge No. 16, Master 1965-6. Senior Grand Warden 1966. Grand Master since 1967. Exalted Westminster and Keystone Chapter No.10, First Principal 1966. First Grand Principal since 1967.

23. MICHAEL OF KENT (H.R.H. Prince; 1942 -). Younger son of George, Duke of Kent (q.v.). Initiated 13 June 1974, Royal Alpha Lodge No.16, Master 1977. Joined Prince of Wales's Lodge No. 259 21 October 1975; Grand Steward, 1982. Senior Grand Warden 1979; Prov. G.M. Middlesex, 1982 - . Exalted 5 June 1979, Prince of Wales's Chapter, No.259. Advanced 28 June 1979, Milestone Lodge of M.M.Ms. No.1000. Elevated 25 October 1979, Milestone Lodge of R.A.Ms. No.1000. Grand Master (Mark) 1982 - .

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