

## IN THE TOWER OF LONDON

### American Mason Discovers Emblems in Pavement of the Parade

When W. Bro. John H. Meyer of Metropolitan Lodge No. 273 of this city was visiting London in 1911 he visited the Tower of London, as all good Americans do. Before going he was told by a Masonic acquaintance to "look for the square and compasses in the gutter." Accordingly Bro. Meyer looked. He made inquiry of a number of the "Beef-eaters," as the guards in the Tower are called, and none of them had ever heard of such a thing. In that portion of the Court known as the Parade, he inquired of T.G. Iright, a Guard who had been stationed there ten years and is a Mason. Bro. Iright had never seen or heard of the sign, but went to inquire of his superior officer.

While he was gone Dr. Meyer caught a glimpse of square and compasses formed in stone in a slight depression of the pavement called a gutter. The formation was very clear, after it was once located. When he returned, Bro. Iright was greatly interested, and marveled that the symbols had never revealed themselves to him during the years that he had been stationed there. The pavement is not ancient, having been laid under Queen Victoria's reign. We give herewith a picture of the square and compasses in the pavement, reproduced from a photograph.



The *Authorized Guide to the Tower of London* gives this description of the portion of the Parade where the square and compasses appear:

“ The space in front of the chapel is called Tower Green, and was used as a burial ground. In the middle is a small square plot, paved with granite, showing the site on which stood at rare intervals the scaffold on which private executions took place. It has been specially paved by the orders of the late Queen Victoria. The following persons are known to have been executed on this spot:

- “1. Lord Hastings, by order of the Duke of Gloucester, in 1483.
- “2. Queen Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII, 19th May, 1536.

- “3. Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, the last of the old Angevin or Plantagenet family, 27th May, 1541.
  - “4. Queen Katharine Howard, fifth wife of Henry VIII, 13th February, 1542.
  - “5. Jane, Viscountess Rochford, 13th February, 1542.
  - “6. Lady Jane (Grey), wife of Lord Guildford Dudley, 12th February, 1554.
  - “7. Robert Devereaux, Earl of Essex, 25th February, 1601.
- “ They were all beheaded with an axe, except Queen Anne Boleyn, whose head was cut off with a sword by the executioner of St. Omer, brought over for that purpose. The executioner of the Earl of Essex was not able to do his work with less than three strokes, and was mobbed and beaten by the populace on his way home. The bodies of all seven were buried in the Chapel of St. Peter.”

On his return home, Dr. Meyer informed the brethren of Metropolitan Lodge of the courteous treatment he had received at the hands of Bro. Iright in the Tower of London, and the Lodge sent a letter of acknowledgement to him. In response, the following letter was received:

“ 4 PARADE, TOWER OF LONDON, Nov. 12, 1911.

“ J.B. RUSSELL, Esq.

“*Secretary, Metropolitan Lodge No. 273.*

“ DEAR SIR AND BROTHER—It was with pleasure I received your letter conveying to me the vote of thanks of your Lodge for service rendered to W. Bro. Dr. John H. Meyer. The service in question was very slight, my regret being that I was not able to do more. Anyhow, in compliance with promise that I would send word should I come across any more signs pertaining to the Craft, I have much pleasure in forwarding photographs of two. No. 1 is near the spot where Queens Anne Boleyn and Katherine Howard, also Lady Jane Grey and several others were beheaded. No. 2 is near the King’s Mouse [*sic*]. W. Bro. Meyer will no doubt recognize the places referred to.

“ Besides the two mentioned, I have found other three [*sic*]. ‘links with the past’ connected with Masonry. It is a carving over fireplace in Beachamp Tower. Beachamp Tower was built in the reign of Edward III and was used as a state prison from 1460 to 1795. The walls are clustered with names, family badges and designs of all descriptions, Unfortunately, the Masonic sign, like many of the other carvings, is without name or date. Otherwise it could be traced by entry in state papers.

“ As opportunity offers I am going to have these three Masonic carvings photographed, and will send you copies for the Lodge with any information I can scrape together.

“ Hearty good wishes to Metropolitan Lodge No. 273, and thanks for kind invitation. Will you also please convey my kindest regards to W. Bro. John H. Meyer and accept the same yourself? Yours fraternally,

“T. G. IRIGHT.”

Photograph mentioned in the letter as “No. 1” is the one reproduced herewith.