



The Grand Imperial Conclave for England and Wales
and its Divisions and Conclaves Overseas
of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the
Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St. John the Evangelist

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**To: Intendants-General
Divisional Recorders
Recorders of Unattached Conclaves**

Dear Sir and Worthy Knight

Correct form of abbreviation of Grand Ranks and Divisional Ranks

It has been some considerable time since we last issued any guidance on the adopted practice of official abbreviations and rank designations. It is a distinguishing feature of the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall that all rank abbreviations are punctuated – a practice which differs from the Craft.

Grand Ranks

The Second Schedule on pages 218 and 219 of the current edition of the Statutes and Yearbook of the Order sets out the table of precedence of Grand Officers together with the abbreviated Rank designation in each case. These are the only Rank abbreviations to be used and should always be punctuated as shown.

It should also be noted, that when a Grand Officer is promoted, his previous rank is no longer shown.

Divisional Ranks

The Order of Precedence of Divisional Officers can be found in the Sixth Schedule of the Statutes (page 223). As above, these are the only Rank abbreviations to be used and must always be punctuated as shown.

Displaying Divisional Ranks follows the same convention as in Grand Imperial Conclave save that the word 'Divisional' should precede the equivalent Grand Rank.

The correct form of abbreviation for Divisional Ranks also follows the same convention as in Grand Imperial Conclave save that 'Div.' should be added first and for a Past Rank should appear as 'P.Div.'

In some Divisions, it has become commonplace to adopt a form of abbreviation which distinguishes between those Worthy Knights who held their rank initially as an active appointment. This is unnecessary and should be discouraged.

The common practice of quoting all Divisional Ranks held by a Worthy Knight does not conform to the established protocol. For example:

Ill.Kt. T F Bailey, P.G.Vice-Chamb., P.Div.J.Gen. (Metropolitan), Div.Swd.B.(Surrey)

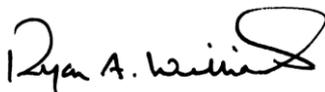
The correct form would be to quote only the Worthy Knight's Grand Rank followed by any Active Divisional Rank(s) he holds (in order of seniority), as follows:

Ill.Kt. T F Bailey, P.G.Vice-Chamb, Div.Swd.B.(Surrey)

I do hope that you will find this note useful and that I can rely on your co-operation in ensuring that the above protocols are adopted on summonses, lists of members, letterheads and all other documents on which the names and designations of Grand Officers and Divisional Officers appear.

With fraternal regards and best wishes.

Yours in Faith, Unity and Zeal.

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R.Ill.Kt. Ryan A Williams, K.C.C.
Grand Recorder