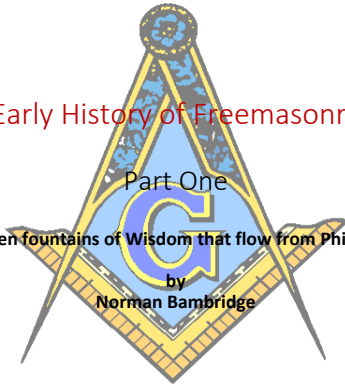


## Early History of Freemasonry

### Part One

"The seven fountains of Wisdom that flow from Philosophy."

by  
Norman Bambridge



### 2: Early History of Freemasonry - Euclid of Alexandria 325BC – 283BC



Euclid (325 BC - 270 BC), sometimes called Euclid of Alexandria to distinguish him from Euclid of Megara. He was a Greek mathematician, often referred to as the "founder of geometry".

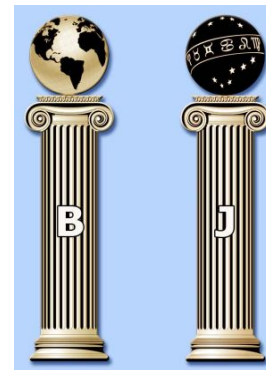
### 3: Early History of Freemasonry - Geometry



Geometry is a branch of mathematics concerned with questions of shape, size, relative position of figures, and the properties of space'

Geometry is said to be the basis on which the superstructure of Freemasonry is erected.

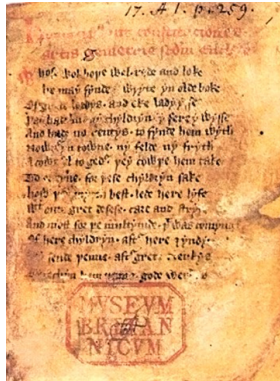
### 4: Early History of Freemasonry – The Two Great Pillars of Boaz and Jachin.



Passing through these pillars represents a chance for a new beginning.

The fact that these pillars were hollow made an opportune vehicle to store one's baggage of the past.

5: Early History of Freemasonry - The Regis Manuscript



The manuscript dates between 1390 and 1425

**The Regius Manuscript**  
"A Poem of Moral Duties"

The oldest known Masonic Document in Poetic Meter  
Written about 1390  
(in the original text)

Hic incipit constituciones artis  
gemetrie secundum Euclydem.  
Whose wol bothe wel rede and loke,  
He may fynde wryte yn olde boke  
Of grete lordys and elke ladysses,  
That had many chylidyn y-fere, y-wisses;  
And hadde no rentys to fynde hem wyth,  
Nowther yn towne, ny felde, ny fryth;  
A counsel togeder they cowthe hem take;

To ordeyne for these chylidyn sake,  
How they myght best lere here lyfe  
Withoute fret, dreme, care and dryge;  
And most for the multitude that was  
comynge

Of here chylidyn after here zyndynge,  
(They) sende thenne after grete clerkys,  
To techyn hem thenne gode werkys;  
And pray we hem, for our Lordys sake,  
To oure chylidyn sum werke to make;

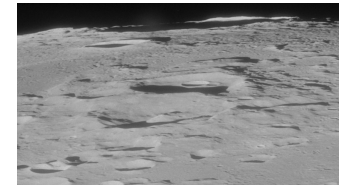
6: Early History of Freemasonry - Martianus Minneus Felix Capella (360AD – 428AD)



Martianus Minneus Felix Capella was a Latin prose writer of Late Antiquity.

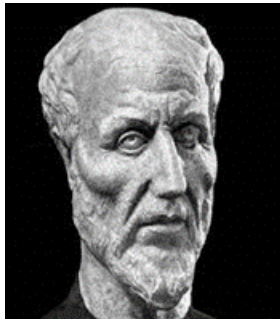
One of the earliest developers of the system of the seven liberal arts that structured early medieval education.

The lunar crater Capella is named after him.



This shot was taken from the Apollo 11 Lunar Module Eagle.

7: Early History of Freemasonry - Proclus Diadochus (412AD – 485AD)



The Greek philosopher and writer of ancient Greek philosophy, leaving behind extensive commentaries on Plato, Aristotle, Porphyry and Plotinus, books and treatises on Neoplatonic theology, epigrams and hymns.

Proclus stands at the end of ancient Greek philosophy and at the beginning of medieval philosophy and is historically significant because he is a major connection between those two Ages of philosophy.

8: Early History of Freemasonry – The Seven fountains of Wisdom that flow from Philosophy.

**Grammar**  
**Rhetoric**  
**Dialectic or Logic**  
**+**  
**Music**  
**Arithmetic**  
**Geometry**  
**Astronomy**

9: Early History of Freemasonry – Saint Alban (died circa 305AD)



Venerated as the first-recorded British Christian Martyr.

Along with British fellow Saints Julius and Aaron, Alban is one of three named martyrs recorded at an early date from Roman Britain.

He is traditionally believed to have been beheaded in Verulamium (modern St. Albans) sometime during the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> century.

10: Early History of Freemasonry – King Athelstan (894AD – 939AD)



King of the Anglo-Saxons from 924 to 927 and King of the English from 927 to his death in 939.

He was the son of King Edward the Elder.

Modern historians regard him as the first King of England and one of the "greatest Anglo-Saxon kings".

11: Early History of Freemasonry – Origin of the term "Freemason"



When Egyptians ruled Kemet (Egypt) for 33 Dynasties, when the pale ones (Romans) conquered Kemet, our 33<sup>rd</sup> Dynasty eventually became their 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree in Freemasonry.

12: Early History of Freemasonry – Herrad of Landsberg 1130AD – 1195AD



She was a 12th-century Alsatian Nun and Abbess of Hohenburg Abbey in the Vosges mountains of France.

She was known as the author of the pictorial encyclopaedia Hortus Deliciarum (The Garden of Delights).

### 13: Early History of Freemasonry – The Worshipful Company of Masons



In 1472 a Grant of Arms was received under Letters Patent but it was not until 1677 that the Company was formally incorporated by Royal Charter under the seal of King Charles II which gave it authority to control the work of masons in the Cities of London and Westminster and seven miles around.

This was a necessary power in order to control the influx of provincial stonemasons assisting in the rebuilding of the capital following the Great Fire in 1666 and to enable the maintenance of strict standards.

### 14: Early History of Freemasonry – Robert Benson 1676 -1731 (Baron Bingley)



Robert Benson went to school in London before studying at Christ College Cambridge.

He served as an alderman of the city of York and elected Lord Mayor for 1707.

He was elected MP for Thetford in Norfolk from 1702 to 1705 then York from 1705 to 1713.

In 1711, he was sworn of the Privy Council and became Chancellor of the Exchequer until 1713.

He was ennobled as Baron Bingley, and became the British Ambassador to Spain.

When he died in 1731 he was buried in Westminster Abbey.

### 15: Early History of Freemasonry – Operative Freemasonry

In this Part One...we have covered the first two thousand years ...to be continued in Part Two with the Tri-centenary to modern times.