

Masonic Engravings

REVERE'S engravings of Masonic notifications and certificates, or diplomas as they were frequently called, constituted an important feature of his work. They are rare, perhaps because they were destroyed by the families of their owners, or because local Lodges were not careful in preserving their records. Of the seven Masonic engraved designs known, the American Antiquarian Society has six. Occasional copies are in Masonic libraries, especially the Massachusetts Grand Lodge Library in Boston.

Revere was the most prominent Mason in New England during his period. The chapter on Masonic History in E. H. Goss's *Life of Paul Revere*, 1891, Volume 2, pages 465-495, gives the best account of the subject. Revere became a member of Saint Andrew's Lodge of Boston in 1760, its Secretary in 1769, and Master from 1770 to 1771, and 1777 to 1782. When the Massachusetts Grand Lodge was formed in 1769, Revere was made Senior Grand Deacon. In 1783 when the question of allegiance arose as to whether Saint Andrew's Lodge should be under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge or of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Revere, losing his preference for adhering to the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, withdrew from Saint Andrew's and organized a separate Saint Andrew's Lodge in February 1784 which in September 1784 changed its name to Rising States Lodge, of which Revere became the first treasurer. In 1792 all differences of opinion were settled, Saint John's Grand Lodge, which had been formed in 1733, and the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, were united, taking the title of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Revere was Grand Master of the united body from 1794 to 1797.

Revere, as a goldsmith and engraver, was constantly employed in making Masonic jewels and engravings on parchment and paper, and in 1800 he made the gold urn designed to preserve a lock of Washington's hair. Undoubtedly Revere copied the general designs and ornamental frames of his Masonic engravings from English sources. The earlier English Lodges used engraved notifications and certificates, and many of them are shown in J. Ramsden Riley's monograph on "Masonic Certificates" in the *Quatuor Coronatorum Antigrapha*, Masonic Reprints, Volume 8, 1895. Although in this volume most of the reproductions are of

engravings after 1780, the frontispiece shows an engraved certificate called the "Three Graces" which was apparently the model that Revere used for his small certificate which in the American Antiquarian Society collection is filled in for Samuel Welch of Rising States Lodge of Boston. Before engraved certificates were procurable from Revere in Boston, many Lodges made out such diplomas by hand. The Massachusetts Grand Lodge Library has examples in manuscript made for John Pulling in 1761, Winthrop Sargent in 1776, and John Stacey in 1777.

Revere in his Day Book enters several charges for Masonic engravings, some of which cannot be located. He had for sale a stock of notifications and certificates, to be filled in for various Lodges, and entered the record of the names of the purchasers. He also engraved Masonic prints which were not entered in his Day Book. The following record of his Masonic engravings is in the main chronological.

Under date of March 22, 1762, Revere entered in his Day Book the following charge: "Mr John Pulling Junr Dr/ To Cutting a Copper Plate for Notifications 1-4-0/ To 2 Hundred Notifications at 6s P Hundd 0-12-0." The plate may have been simple in style, as the charge was smaller than usual for similar work. On June 7, 1762, Revere charged "Capt. John Pullings" for making a coffee-pot and a child's porringer with spoon £20-1-0. Revere's friend, John Pulling, Jr., was generally called Captain Pulling. He was born in 1737, married Annis Lee of Marblehead, January 14, 1768, and died in 1787. John Pulling was a member of the Lodge at Marblehead chartered in 1760 and received an elaborate certificate from that Lodge on June 9, 1761. The certificate, written by hand, was long owned by Alfred Pratt of Weston (see reproduction in *Proceedings* of Massachusetts Grand Lodge for 1909, page 26), and after his death was presented to the Grand Lodge Library by Mrs. Pratt. Although Pulling was made a Mason in Marblehead Lodge, he was soon a member of the Lodge of Saint Andrew in Boston, as is shown by the record of his presence at the meetings of that Lodge in 1761 and 1762. If the copper-plate for the notification cut for him by Paul Revere was a Masonic notification, it could have been for the use of either Marblehead or Saint Andrew. It might have been made for some other form of notification, such as the call for the meetings of a social organization. It should be noted, moreover, that the Lodge of Saint Andrew engaged Paul Revere to cut a plate for a "summons" in March, 1784.

On November 14, 1766, Revere in his Day Book entered the following charge: "Capt Caleb Hopkins Dr/ To Engraving a Copper Plate for Notifications for a Masons Lodge in Surinam 3-6-8/ To 500 Prints from it at $\frac{1}{8}$ pr Hudd 1-13-4." Although this entry is specific, no such print has been discovered. Revere worked often for Captain Caleb Hopkins from 1763 to 1767 and entered charges for shoe buckles, gold buttons, and spectacles. Caleb Hopkins was a leading patriot, a Son of Liberty in 1769, and had his name inscribed on the famous Liberty Bowl of 1768. In a Loyalist list of Boston "rebels" of 1775 he is described as "Caleb Hopkins. Mariner, a Northern politician, talks on both sides the question occasionally" (Massachusetts Historical Society *Proceedings*, Series 2, Volume 12, page 141). The Lodge at Surinam was listed as one of the Lodges in the jurisdiction of Saint John's Grand Lodge from 1761 to 1767, although at no time was it represented at the meetings. The *Freemason's Calendar* for 1776 lists the following Dutch Lodges in Surinam—La Vertieuse 1769, La Fidèle Sincérité 1771, Concordia 1762, La Zelée 1767, and La Croissant des Trois Clefs 1768 (article by C. M. Stow in *Transactions of American Lodge of Research* for 1947-49, Volume 5, page 18). Surinam, or Dutch Guiana, had considerable trade with New England, exporting sugar and cocoa to the colonies. One of the most interesting of eighteenth-century colonial paintings, presumably by John Greenwood in the late 1750's, was a scene in Surinam, showing a score of New England masters of ships, mostly from Rhode Island, carousing in a tavern. This large painting, long owned by the Cushing family in North Providence, is now in the St. Louis Art Museum. It is reproduced in Edward Field's *Esek Hopkins*, 1898, page 28, and in M. B. Davidson's *Life in America*, 1951, Volume 1, page 116. The Surinam Masonic notification, engraved by Revere, will some day be discovered, but unfortunately not in time for the present volume.

A summons for the meeting of Lodge No. 169 Antient York Masons of Boston was engraved and signed by Revere. This was probably done in the late 1760's, but no charge for it appears in his Day Books. Lodge No. 169 was chartered prior to 1772 by the Atholl Grand Lodge of England. It had but a brief existence.

In his Day Book, under date of September 15, 1772, Revere enters the following charge: "Mr. Simon Greenleaf Newbury-port Dr/ To Engraving a plate

for Notifications 2-8-0/ To 300 Prints 0-18-0." Greenleaf was a charter member of Saint Peter's Lodge of Newburyport, March 23, 1772, and served the Lodge as Treasurer and Secretary. He was born in 1752 and died in 1776. The American Antiquarian Society has a fine, clear copy of this notification made out to Enoch Pike, by order of Mr. Greenough, Master, and signed by Mr. Nichols as Secretary, dated Nov. 4, 1777. It is set in a Chippendale frame, 7 inches high by $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide to the edges of the printing, and is signed "Paul Revere Scp." It has the water-mark of the figure of Britannia, surmounted by a crown, and underneath the initials of "I.B.," James Boies, who operated the paper-mill in Milton. This copy is reproduced, Plate no. 59. Essex Institute has the same engraving made out to J. Lock, February 24, 1797, by order of Jona. Gage, Master, and signed by A. Perkins as Secretary. The Pennsylvania Grand Lodge Library in Philadelphia has the same made out to N. Long, by order of Jona. Gage, Master, and signed by A. Perkins as Secretary, June 24, 1797. The American Antiquarian Society has a second copy made out to P. Brown, by order of Jona. Gage, Master, and signed by A. Perkins as Secretary, October 28, 1798. In these later copies the plate was much worn. The Saint Peter's Lodge notification, so far as the mantled border was concerned, was almost identical with the Joseph Webb trade card. See reproduction in chapter concerning Trade Cards.

Revere, under date of June 15, 1773, entered the following charge: "The Tyrian Lodge Dr/ To Engraving a Plate for summons 3-0-0/ To 400 Impressions 1-4-0/ To P Cross Keys 0-18-0/ To two Stewards Jewils 0-18-0." Summons in this charge was the equivalent of notifications, used to notify members of a meeting, although the word summons was generally used for a meeting held for some special purpose. The print is $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches high by $5\frac{1}{4}$ wide, to the extreme borders of the printing. The notice is set in an elaborate Chippendale border, and is signed "P Revere," or possibly it is "Revere" with only an ornament instead of a first initial. The earliest example of the Tyrian Lodge notification is dated May 18, 1795, with Nathaniel Warner in the Chair and signed by John G. Rogers as Secretary. It is reproduced in E. H. Goss's *Life of Paul Revere*, 1891, Volume 2, page 481, at that time owned by George W. White of Melrose, but now unlocated. Tyrian Lodge has a reproduction of a copy dated March 4, 1811, with John

Tucker in the Chair, signed by John Rogers as Secretary, this copy formerly owned by Edgar S. Taft of Gloucester. The American Antiquarian Society owns an original print dated April 2, 1811, with John Tucker in the Chair, signed by John Rogers as Secretary. This copy is reproduced, Plate no. 60. Essex Institute has an example dated September 2, 1811, addressed to Jacob Smith, and signed by John Tucker as Master and John Rogers as Secretary. The 1811 copies show the plate somewhat worn. The Massachusetts Historical Society has copies dated October 6, 1806, October 8, 1811, and June 22, 1822.

About 1773, or earlier, Revere engraved a large copper-plate as a certificate, or diploma, with blank spaces for the name of the recipient, the nature of his degree, the date, the name of the Lodge and the signatures of the officers granting the degree. The print measures $12\frac{1}{4}$ inches high by $9\frac{5}{8}$ wide, to the extreme borders of the print. It is signed "Engraved Printed & sold by Paul Revere. Boston." The print shows tall columns at the left and right, surmounted by statues, an angel blowing a trumpet above, a mother with three infants in lower left corner, and a large tablet for names of officers in lower right center. Evidently Revere carried this print in stock and sold it over the counter to Masonic buyers. One of the earliest dated copies is owned by the Grand Lodge Library in Boston, dated December 21, 1774, and made out for Joseph Coffin, of Union Lodge in Nantucket, who was granted his third degree. A slightly earlier copy on parchment is owned by the Grand Lodge, dated February 3, 1774, and made out for Shubal Downes of Saint Andrew's Lodge in Boston. The Lodge also has a photograph of a certificate, dated in 1778, made out for Jacob Oliver of Saint Andrew's Lodge. The American Antiquarian Society has another example, dated January 4, 1779, made out for William Peirce of Saint Andrew's Lodge. This copy is here-with reproduced, Plate no. 61. All of these certificates were impressions from what might be called the first state of the plate. Apparently Revere used this same copper in 1796, engraving a few additional symbols, and sold the plate to Elias Perkins of New London. (See description of plate below, under 1796.)

Under date of April 27, 1782, Revere entered in his Day Book the following charge: "Doc John Blanchard Dr/ To engraving a Copper plate for/ Certificates 4-10-0/ To printing 2 hr impressions 0-16-0." Captain John Blanchard was a member of Washington Lodge Number 10, an Army Lodge chartered by the

Massachusetts Grand Lodge October 6, 1779, and active during the American Revolution. John Blanchard served as a surgeon's mate in the Hospital Department in 1776. Captain John Blanchard was listed among the officers retiring from the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment, December 29, 1783 (Pickering Papers in Massachusetts Historical Society). If this was a certificate engraved especially for Washington Lodge, no copy of it has been located.

In the small book of charge accounts kept by Paul Revere and owned by the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, under date of March, 1784, Revere enters the following charge against Saint Andrew's Lodge: "To Engraving Copper plate for summons 4-10-0/ To printing 400 Impressions @ 8s 1-12-0." In the records of Saint Andrew's Lodge, December 12, 1783, is found the following vote: "Voted . . . that the Secy' supply the Lodge with blank summonses as many as he shall think necessary for the two following years." The American Antiquarian Society has an original of this print, not filled in, measuring 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches high by 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ wide, to the edges of the printing. It is a graceful design, almost identical with his engraving of the notification for Saint Peter's Lodge in 1772. It is signed "Engrav'd, Printed, & Sold, by Paul Revere, Boston," and is here reproduced, Plate no. 63.

Revere frequently entered charges in his Day Book for the sale of blank Masonic certificates. Under date of June 26, 1784, he made the following charge: "Mr. James Avery Dr/ To 5 Masons Jewels for Warren Lodge 9-0-0/ To printing 5 Certificates @ 1s 0-5-0." These were presumably blank certificates to be filled in for the recipient. James Avery was a member of Machias Lodge, later Warren Lodge, in 1778.

Another charge for the sale of blank certificates entered by Revere in his Day Book was dated June 1, 1792, as follows: "Mr. Eveleth Dr/ To printing 12 paper & 12 parchment Certificates 1-2-0." These were for James Eveleth, who obtained the charter for Lincoln Lodge of Wiscasset, Maine, June 1, 1792, and was its first Master.

Again, on May 18, 1796, was entered this charge: "Mr David How Dr/ To 12 Certificates 0-12-0." David Howe was Master of Hancock Lodge in Penobscot, Maine (later Castine) in 1796. The small certificates which Revere kept

in stock and sold to James Avery were undoubtedly often used. At least four of them, identical in design, have been preserved. Essex Institute has an example, filled in for Hale Hilton, of Amity Lodge of Beverly, dated May 30, 1780; the Massachusetts Grand Lodge Library in Boston has one, on parchment, filled in for Joseph Wallis, Jr., of Warren Lodge of Machias, June 25, 1785; the American Antiquarian Society has another, also on parchment, filled in for Samuel Welch of Rising States Lodge of Boston, July 25, 1790; a fourth copy is owned by Lincoln Lodge of Wiscasset, Maine, made out on parchment for John Haupt, September 21, 1792. All have the engraved imprint "Printed & Sold opposite Liberty Stump, Boston." They measure 7 inches high by 6 inches wide, to the border lines which enclose the print, although the wrinkling of parchment in some of the copies seen causes variation in the measurements. The American Antiquarian Society copy, which is signed by Paul Revere as Master, is the one which is reproduced, Plate no. 62.

"Liberty Stump" for many years was a familiar site at the corner of Essex and Washington (then Newbury) Streets in Boston, marking the location of the famous Liberty Tree which the British had cut down late in August, 1775. Although unsigned by Revere, the "Liberty Stump" engraving was unquestionably by him. It is characteristically his work, and is almost identical, although smaller, with the large certificate which he engraved and signed in about 1773, previously described. This smaller engraving, judging from the use of the location of the "Liberty Stump," must have been engraved certainly before 1780, since one copy of the certificate is signed in that year. Revere owned the land at the corner of Newbury (Washington) and Boylston Streets, opposite "Liberty Stump," from early in the Revolution. He sold part of the land to David Moseley, silversmith, in 1784, and again in 1797. Moseley in the early Boston Directories was located on Frog Lane, later Boylston Street. Paul Revere's brother, Thomas Revere, is listed in the first Boston Directory of 1789 as "silversmith" on Newbury Street. Revere's Day Book shows that he resumed engraving and the sale of merchandise in December, 1778. He removed from the "Liberty Stump" shop in 1786, as is shown by an advertisement in the *Independent Chronicle* of January 26, 1786, as follows: "Paul Revere, would respectfully inform his customers, and the public,

that he has removed from the south part of the town, opposite Liberty-Pole, to Dock-Square, in the store adjoining Mr. Joseph Bush, near the Market."

Revere used the same copper, described in the preceding paragraph, for his small stock certificate. But he erased the imprint of "Printed & sold opposite Liberty Stump, Boston," and left the lower margin clear. This new version of the same copper he must have produced soon after 1790. The example owned by the American Antiquarian Society is dated September 7, 1794, and is filled in for Theophilus Bradbury, Jr., who received his third degree from Saint Peter's Lodge of Newburyport. The certificate, or diploma, is on parchment, reproduced, Plate no. 64. It measures $7\frac{1}{8}$ inches high by $5\frac{3}{4}$ wide. It bears a ribbon and a seal, which is omitted in the reproduction since it covers a portion of the print. The Library of the Supreme Council in Washington has a parchment certificate made out for John Howland of Rising States Lodge, December 6, 1794, signed on the tablet by Paul Revere as Junior Warden, with other officers. This also omits the engraver's line on the lower right margin. The Massachusetts Grand Lodge Library has a photostat of another copy of this certificate, made out for Nathan G. Doak of Rising States Lodge, March 8, 1796.

In 1796 Revere took the large copper-plate which he had cut for certificates, or diplomas, about 1773 (described above), engraved a few additional symbols, and sold it to Elias Perkins of New London. The additions consisted of the insertion of a line at the top, under the figure of the angel with the trumpet, reading "And the Darkness comprehended it not; In the East a place of light," the insertion of a circular moon at the upper left and a sun at the upper right, and seven stars at the extreme upper left between the clouds. Otherwise the two plates seem to be identical. They are both signed "Engraved Printed & sold by Paul Revere. Boston." The original bill, formerly owned by Ernest L. Gay, and now in the Harvard College Library, reads: "Elias Perkins Bot of Paul Revere Boston Jany 4, 1796/ One Engravd Copper-plate for Mason Certificates 6-0-0/ Receivd pay Paul Revere." Elias Perkins was Junior Warden and later Master of Union Lodge of New London in 1796 (see E. G. Storer's *Records of Freemasonry in Connecticut*, 1859, pages 73, 76, 404).

There are at least three original impressions from this plate. The American

Antiquarian Society has an example for Daniel Huntington receiving his Master degree, not dated, signed by Joseph Huntington, Master, Jabez R. Packard, Senior Warden, and Benjamin Collier, Secretary. (Plate no. 65.) It is $12\frac{1}{4}$ by $9\frac{5}{8}$ inches. Daniel Huntington belonged to Somerset Lodge, Norwich, Connecticut, and the date of the certificate was probably 1799. The Iowa Masonic Library, Cedar Rapids, has a copy for Walter Burdick of Union Lodge, December 19, 1799. Forest H. Sweet, Battle Creek, Michigan, has a copy for Benjamin Stark of Union Lodge, December 17, 1812.

The original copper-plate still exists; on the obverse Revere had engraved his famous "Obelisk print," later using the reverse for the Masonic diploma. The plate was owned successively by Thomas S. Collier, R. B. Jacobs, A. S. W. Rosenbach, and Lessing J. Rosenwald. When Jacobs owned it in 1921, he had a few restrikes made of the Masonic diploma, of which the American Antiquarian Society has a copy. The Society also has the restrike made by Rosenwald in 1943, before he gave the copper to the National Gallery in Washington.

Paul Revere ceased making Masonic copper-plates in the late 1790's. Others were making Masonic engravings then — Samuel Hill in Boston, Amos Doolittle in Connecticut, Andrew Billings and William Rollinson in New York, and Joseph Bowes in Philadelphia. A monograph on early Masonic engravings would supply a neglected phase of Masonic history and would provide material for the study of American engraving.

RELIEF FIRE SOCIETY

A hitherto unlocated Revere print, discovered in 1957, is the notice for meetings of the Boston Relief Society, dated March 4, 1782, and signed "P. Revere sculp." It was given to the American Antiquarian Society by the late Mark Bortman. The Relief Fire Society was founded in 1773. The Boston Public Library has the minutes of the Society from 1773 to 1807. From these it appears that Revere cut a plate for membership tickets, a plate for the head of the printed articles of the Society, and a plate for notices — all after June 2, 1773. The Public Library also has *Rules and Orders for the Relief Society*, with a list of members in manuscript, and a cut, presumably by Revere, in type metal, of an ornamental design at the head of the broadside.