



Provincial Grand Chapter of Cumberland & Westmorland

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The Hexalpha or Six-Pointed Star

The Hexalpha is formed by two interlaced equilateral triangles; it is also has other names including the hexagram, a name which is applicable to any six-line or six-sided figure. It is also represents the six-pointed or 'Blazing Star'.

Solomon is supposed to have found the hexalpha a most potent talisman. There is a story that he confined a genie in a bottle by sealing it with the hexalpha, which is the reason for the device being known as the Seal of Solomon.

It is not known why the Royal Arch adopted the interlaced triangles as the hexalpha, being a Jewish symbol, does not enter into the Irish or Scottish ritual, but it is significant that circles interlaced, the triangles interlaced, and both of them in conjunction are regarded as Christian emblems, and are the possible basis of many things taught in Chapter and at the table.

Whilst the 'Moderns' used the hexalpha, the 'Antients' had a strong tendency to use the pentalpha or five-pointed star. The two devices have always been confused with one another. There are some writers who believe the Seal of Solomon and the Shield of David is the pentalpha.

As a Christian symbol the pentalpha with the point uppermost is supposed to be a reminder of the five wounds of Christ.

However, both figures do have many other meanings. For example: the hexalpha represents the universe; to the Hindus it represents fire and water – the destroyer and creator. The pentalpha was regarded as a magic sign in astrology, alchemy and cabalistic law; in the last of these the five points signify the spirit, air, fire, water, and earth. It has been regarded as a talisman against danger of fire, and the Pythagoreans thought it to be a symbol of health.

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