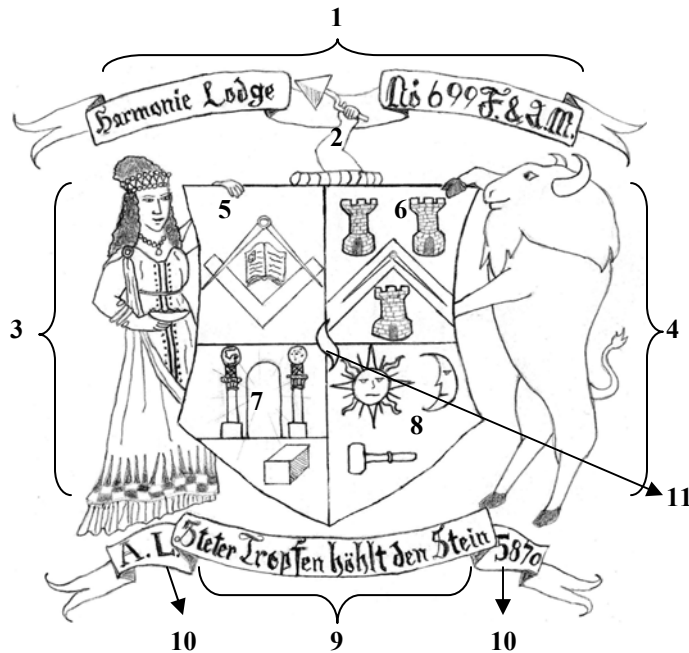


Harmonie Lodge No. 699 – Coat of Arms



Artwork: Bro. Nathan Alexander Shoff

Concept/Design: W.: J. C. Litwin & Bro. Nathan A. Shoff

1. The superior banner shows the name of our Lodge, “Harmonie Lodge” – as well as its number “699” – indicating the order it was established under the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons (F. & A. M.) of the State of New York. “Harmonie” is the German spelling of harmony, one of the principle tenets of Freemasonry.

2. The Arm with Trowel is a symbol of our operative brethren, who built the great castles and cathedrals of Europe during the Middle Ages. The Trowel was used “to spread the cement which unites the several parts of the building into one common mass.” Speculatively, it is the most significant working tool of a Master Mason and is used to “spread the cement of brotherly love & affection, that cement which unites us into one sacred band or society of friends and Brothers.”

3. This image, adapted from a 4th Century B.C. Greek vase, is a depiction of the Greek Goddess Harmonia (Harmony), from whom we derive the word “harmony”. The Latinized version of Her name is “Concordia,” which is also the name of the first German Lodge in Buffalo, NY. More than half of Harmonie’s charter members, including our first master, were from Concordia Lodge. It is fascinating to note that in early Greek pictures of Harmonia, she is clothed in a robe bordered by a mosaic design and tessellated.

4. The stylized bison pictured here is a representation of the original location of Harmonie Lodge in Buffalo, NY, as well as her current location in suburban Buffalo.

5. In the upper-left quadrant of the herald, we find the Three Great Lights of Masonry: the open Volume of Sacred Law, Square and Compasses.

6. The upper-right quadrant of the herald shows three rooks separated by an outstretched pair of compasses overlaying a square. This image comes from one of the original coats of arms of a lodge, or guild, of operative Free Masons in England and Scotland. Such represents the origin of the Craft, and ultimately the forebears of our Lodge; Operative Masons in medieval Great Britain.

7. This lower-left quadrant shows light emanating from the entrance to the porch of King Solomon's Temple, flanked by those famous pillars, emblematical of the light of knowledge which issues from the Lodge. Below, a perfect ashlar is depicted, squared and smoothed by the Craftsman. The perfect ashlar represents the innate potential of each individual Mason. We enter the Craft as rough ashlar and strive to chip away our spiritual imperfections until our true potential is realized. Together, these images represent the Speculative work of modern Freemasons.

8. Just like the upper-left quadrant illustrated the Three Great Lights of Masonry, this lower-right quadrant depicts the three lesser lights; the Sun, the Moon, and the Master of the Lodge (here represented by a gavel).

9. The inferior banner depicts the motto of Harmonie Lodge No. 699, in German, "*Steter Tropfen höhlt den Stein.*" This translates as "a steady drop will carve the stone." It is an old German proverb, which signifies that great results are accomplished little by little through constant effort. Our Lodge was founded by German immigrants in 1870. All of our ritual work was performed in the German language until 1914.

10. Also on the inferior banner, we find "A.L. 5870". This is the year in which our Lodge received its charter from the Grand Lodge of New York. It is written pursuant to the Masonic calendar as Anno Lucis (Year of Light) 5870, which corresponds to the Gregorian calendar of Anno Domini (Year of our Lord) 1870.

11. Finally, in the center of the herald we find a Hebrew letter י (Yod). This letter is in the shape of a flame, indicating the Light of knowledge, and is also considered the first letter of the Hebrew name of God "YHVH" (yod corresponds to the English letter Y). Therefore, we find that the light of God touches upon all aspects of the Fraternity, and should always be at the center of our workings.