

# The Museum Collection

No.13

## R.A.O.B. Mystic Ring



The symbolic explanation of the  
R.A.O.B. Mystic Ring

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Royal Antedivian Order of Buffaloes, Grand Lodge of England

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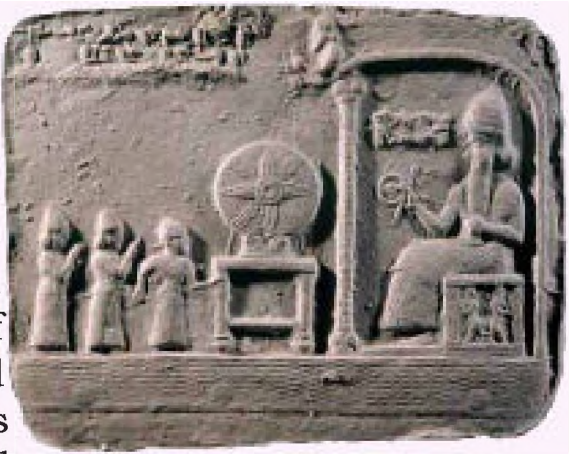
## ***Introduction***

**T**his publication is the latest in the series of the Museum Collections and is a copy of the original booklet I have in my rather large collection of RAOB history.

The original booklet has drawings that are old and faded so I have re-drawn the images and re-arranged the text to make it more readable.

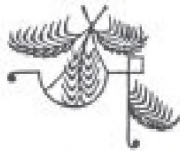
To fully understand this work, other books in the series must be read in conjunction with this booklet including the “Royal Lights”.

Although the author is Bro. William Edmonds he has all the characteristics of that great writer Bro. J. P. Dowling who’s theories on the origins of buffaloism are legendary and steeped in Egypt’s history. Much of this book is based on Edmond’s version of Sun Worship, the God of which was Shamash. Pictured right is the sun god Shamash receiving homage, his emblem, the solar disk, appears on the altar.



The “winged sun-disk” is a symbol originating in Assyria and Egypt and has been used by a variety of groups such as Freemasonry, Spiritists, Theosophy and the Rosicrucians. This symbol has been called by numerous names such as the winged globe, winged-solar-disk, sun’s disc, etc. This symbol was placed on numerous Bible Student material including editions of Russell’s *Studies in the Scriptures* from about 1911 to 1920. Under Rutherford’s leadership this symbol was eliminated from JW literature as it was viewed as being like the Pyramid; it was Satanic, they said.

But as the title explains, this is about symbolism, which the teachings of Dowling, Edmonds and a few other writers were very proficient in.



*Mick Walker ROH, Grand Primo 2006*

*September 2008*

FIRST IMPRESSION 1955

THE SYMBOLIC EXPLANATION  
OF THE  
R.A.O.B.  
“MYSTIC RING”

BY BRO. WM. W. EDMONDS, R.O.H.  
GRAND PRESIDENT 1936  
GAZETTE EDITOR

2/-

6 or more 1s 9d. each post free

THE WINGED DISK  
RA THE GREAT ORB

‘ALL IN ONE’

Flight ends when divested of its  
‘Wing’ revealing.

‘THE GERM WITHIN’

‘THE FIRST CAUSE’

In Geometry it means a Circle

In Astronomy — the Sun

In Chemistry — Gold

In Botany — MONOCARPUS:-

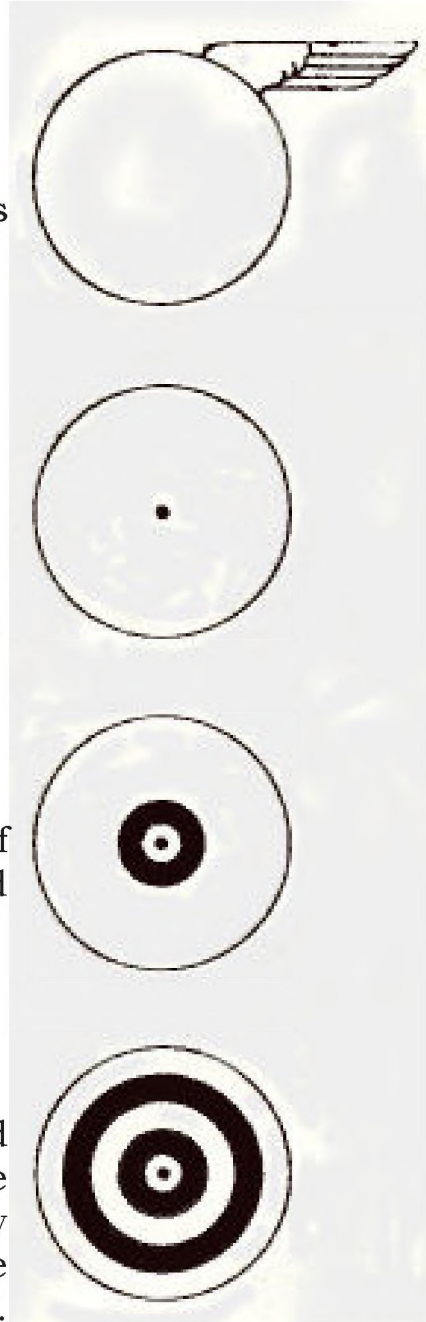
“bearing fruit but once and  
dying after fruitification”.

‘LIFE IN MOTION’

The Point’s manifestation of  
awakening to expansion and  
progress.

‘PASSING THROUGH THE  
BARRIER’

into the fields of ‘reality and  
knowledge’ until the Point or Life  
in Motion, ends its multiplicity  
and becomes absorbed in the  
final glory of the Great Beyond.



## **“THE MYSTIC RING”**

### **THE BIRTH OF SYMBOLISM.**

**F**rom the pages of history right down to our present day we learn that whenever a body of people, being of serious intent, gather together to uphold or perpetuate a belief, creed or doctrine they agree to some form of protection from intruders, non-believers and possible destruction.

Whilst yet in their infancy and small in numbers their secrets were reasonably safe from encroachment, but as soon as they expand and increase in numbers and ‘camps’ their simplified form of administration breaks down, with the result that the despoiler and intruder possesses an easy access to their sacred records and teachings, thus compelling the need of a more complicated form of control, combined with the urge to guard and defend their particular secrets, knowledge and formulas.

This form of protection may formulate into complex words of salutation, gestures, distinctive signs in writings, certain actions of the body, a peculiar system of sounds by voice, knocks or special colours, etc., and as they progress in numbers and knowledge sections are formed for graduation and advancement.



So commenced the dawn of the “Birth of Buffaloism” by the chosen wise and learned ones to “hide in open secret” what a certain mark, colour, figure or number means according to their beliefs and ritual. Many of these beliefs developed into a religion or cult possessing set forms of ceremony and ritual, the creating of images, feasts and ceremonial rites; each in turn adding their quota of offshoot rituals and symbols along with their deities. With the passing of years the inevitable joining or the amalgamation of ideals of similar local cults become an accomplished fact and the identification of the principal or chief deities of the country became centred in the idea of a Sun God; thus commenced the cult of Sun Worship.

### **THE RING OF BULLISM.**

**S**un worship in Egypt was very ancient and they associated it with creation. They had the conception that their Sun-god was “Lord of the vault of Heaven” presiding over all manifestations of growth. The sun rays of heat stirs the life germ within. He was the lord of wealth, because his yellow beams was liken to gold. He was the God of travelling because “he walks the heavens”.

One can really understand their acceptance of the sun as a god because agriculture was the

backbone of their wealth and the intense heat assisted speedy growth of grain, making cultivation possible all the year round. The symbol of the sun was the “Winged Disk” (Fig 1).

The average person has little inclination, time or desire to study the accepted symbolic chronicles of nations that existed many thousands of years ago; but to the seeker or student there unfolds unlimited opportunity “to bathe in the wisdom of the ancient ones”. A close examination of the apparent crudities of “our elders” one cannot but record appreciation to the artist, or recorder for such minute and distinctive craftsmanship. A visit to the British Museum will clearly prove to the most sceptical such art really existed. An examination of the ancient Egyptian Papyrus “the Book of the Dead” and the “Presentation of Ani to Osiris” are commended exemplary exhibits and of profound help to the student of symbolism.

Egypt and Chaldea are the two sources of all learned historical symbolism: but each with a distinct difference. The Chaldean beliefs were founded on the basis of a belief in the Spirits of Nature whilst the Egyptians possessed a refined doctrine of a Theological Philosophy, having the grand idea of a Divine Unity who recognised a single god who had no beginning and was to have no end of days: this is recorded in the sacred texts in



hieroglyphic characters and it reads “that he is the sole progenitor in heaven and earth, and he himself is not begotten, that he is the sole god existing in truth, begotten of himself, who exists from the beginning, who has made all things and was not himself created”.

The Egyptians were deeply interested in the fate which awaits man in another life. They could see in many natural phenomena images and symbols of this future existence; they considered the daily course of the sun (Ra) passed alternately from the region of ‘darkness’ or death in to the region of ‘light’ or life, Its beneficent fires gave birth to and nourished existence; this symbolism once accepted, is increased more and more to indicate the divers phases of human existence.

The ancient Chinese had the sun (Ra) and moon (Isis) emblazoned upon their national flag; the sun represented the emperor’s elder brother and the moon his sister.

In 1859 Japan adopted the sun banner pure and simple; but a plain orb (sun) without rays was not sufficient, eventually a more elaborate design was executed to include the 16 petalled chrysanthemum.

The ancient Mexican and central American peoples regarded the sun as “the symbol of life” known as Ipalnemohuani “he by whom men live”.

## **THE MYSTIC RING.**

**T**he student has searched all possible available records and is left with the one conclusion that our forefathers is Buffaloism claimed the ancients Sun Symbol with its teachings as “The Ring of Bullism’ when divested of its ‘wing’ and presented it as our “Mystic Ring” being a symbol proper to the R.A.O.B. and that its markings should be TWO WHITE and TWO BLACK RINGS surrounding a BLACK DOT, or point within a WHITE CIRCLE, alternating from the centre point Black and White, ending with the outer ring White (Fig. 4). Each ring to be one inch wide and the Black dot, or point centred within a ONE INCH CIRCLE making the diameter of the ring NINE INCHES and placed to the right of the S.P. in conjunction with the Red (Osiris) Royal Light and its counterpart to be SIX INCHES in diameter affixed to the left of the C. Mar. in union with the Red Royal Light (see explanation of the Royal Lights).

## **THE SYBOLISM OF COLOUR.**

**E**verything we say or do during the ceremonies of the various degrees and ritual procedure has a symbolic meaning; therefore it is very important that our symbols are correctly portrayed and positioned in lodge and that each participating officer is fully conversant with his duties. The interpretation of all

symbols is based on the knowledge of what is known as “Symbolic Number, Colour and Sound”. In every instance a symbol proper can be classified under any one, two or all of the three headings. The dominant features of the Mystic Ring are the colours Black and White; therefore it is associated with the symbol Colour.

BLACK AND WHITE are the “Paired Opposites” and symbolise light and darkness, day and night, the forces of good and evil and the higher and lower mind. They direct our attention to the joys and sorrows of our continual changing existence and clearly point out to us that state of peculiar darkness we were enveloped before our minds were enlightened, which should provide an inspiration to every brother “to put service before self”. They are set as a beacon light to remind us of the good and evil forces within us and that man’s emotions are divided into two parts; the Lower Mind (Black) and the Higher Mind (White).

BLACK represents the Lower Mind and is indicative of the errors and irregularities brethren are prone to do. Black is emblematical of man’s Lower Self, or matter, which is determined by our bodily senses and made known through our actions, words and deeds, and by the exercise of the Higher Mind our duty is clearly defined to guard against a breach of fidelity.

WHITE symbolises Higher Mind, or the finer points of our desires wherein the dictates of our heart are stirred to know more of the Orders objects and projects by urging us to set in motion and manifest that force of goodwill and faithfulness whereby we remember our obligations and Lodge of initiation.

WHITE is a “clean colour” reminding us to “live clean” in our daily walks of life and to guard against intemperance and excess, to avoid quarrels and endeavour to be “a messenger of peace and goodwill”, to respect genuine and true brethren and to discountenance impostors or dissenters.

WHITE represents Light and a symbol of knowledge which should be the ultimate desire of every brother to be well informed on the tenets of Buffaloism and strive constantly for light. He who introduces Light into the lodge and Order is worthy of note.

WITHIN THE POINT slumbers the infinite multiplicity, and on its awakening our passions and emotions are determined by the Higher and Lower Mind of self on our life’s journey.

THE POINT or CENTRE (Fig 2) symbolises the “First Cause” or “Life in Motion” it teaches us that man must tune himself to his five senses and that the spirit of man can only express itself through the soul because our bodily senses are enveloped in multitudinous base impressions and desires.

THE RINGS are indicative of the “Points Manifestation” of expansion and progress. They are symbolical of the degree of advancement in the Order and as we progress we envelop a wider field of Reality and Knowledge until the Point, or Life in Motion ends its multiplicity and becomes absorbed in the final glory of “The Great Beyond”.

THE CIRCULAR FORMATION of the symbol represents the Spiritual Sun, or Great Light in the centre of our Buffalo Universe portraying the never ending application of Universal Benevolence. It emblematically represents “Eternity without beginning and without end” and a constant reminder to keep the Circle intact with the “Unbroken Link of Worldwide Fellowship” and by its continual practice it affords the best example for the benefit of others and impresses upon us those means which will give the greatest good to the greatest number.

### **CABALISTIC NUMEROLOGY.**

**3**60 degrees equal a circle. In the “Science of Numbers” all the numerals are reduced to a single digit by simple addition: that is: 3 and 6 total 9. The symbolic number of Higher Mind is number three, for Emotion number six, and number nine for Passion; thus the happy blending of the numbers three and six becomes “Controlled Passions”. This

control helps us to exercise the virtues of Patience and Resignation which develops that strength of mind within to promulgate the principles of our Order. Our emotions so controlled and inspired incite us to give that much needed helping hand cheerfully to the best of our ability and pay proper respect to our Laws and Customs. That we are strengthened to work diligently, live creditably and honourably by all men and act in every way consistent with the Constitution of the Order.

THE SYMBOL AS A WHOLE represents 'Eternal Invisible Unity' and constitutes the recognition of One Supreme Grand Architect. It is a continual reminder that we are to preserve sacred and never suffer an infringement of our Rites or deviate from our established usages and customs. It emblematically binds us to our duty as brother to brother and to be faithful in every trust, thereby With becoming dignity we ultimately develop a noble character by example and precept to our younger members.

## **CONCLUSION.**

**W**e can confidently accept the belief that the use of symbols enables our thoughts to bridge the gulf which separates us from the Higher Spheres; they act as a constant reminder to our invisible



thought forms. Symbolism performs the double mission of transmitting and of concealing certain Truths. It is a method whereby these truths may be hidden from the unenlightened and only revealed to the Wise. Symbolism is like unto a casket in which priceless jewels are enclosed in order to remain safe and sheltered from the non initiated, and the Mystic Keys needed to unlock it are never entrusted in unworthy hands. Thoughts embodied in symbolic form can be expressed in such a way as to convey nothing to those who would profane them, while they reveal a world of beauty and knowledge to the enlightened one. The unenlightened hears but fails to understand, they see but do not discern.

Symbolism constitutes a secret code or cipher enabling us to express a multitude of thoughts through a few geometrical figures and simple diagrams. Symbolism is a Universal Language.

The past may be forgotten, but it never dies. The elements which in the most remote times have entered into an Order's composition endure through all its history, and help to mould that history and to stamp out the character and genius of its members. Therefore the examination of these elements and the recognition of the part they have actually contributed to prevent the twisting out of shape, or turning aside the original and true intentions of their symbols must be a matter of no small interest and importance to

those who realise that the Present is the child of the Past, and the Future of the Present and decline to be hurried from darkness to darkness, but rather seek to dispel that darkness and the prejudices emanating therefrom, by a closer and more commonsense study of our Order's Symbols by ejecting all un-substantiated theories that never bear fruit but only distract the original meaning and detract the student from 'Right Thinking'.

Buffaloism is full of symbolic teachings and can be known, understood and appreciated only by those who study its symbolism and make themselves acquainted with its meanings; to such, Buffaloism has a grand and sublime significance. Its symbols are moral, philosophical and pregnant with great thoughts.



BY THE SAME AUTHOR

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