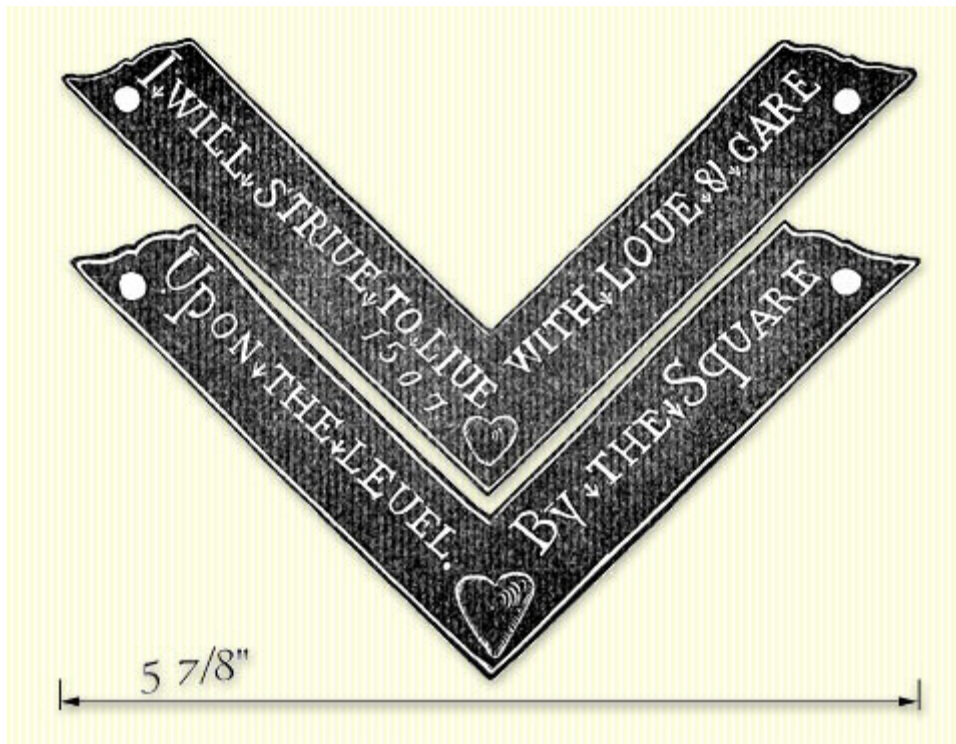


Baal's Bridge Square

Everything points to the fact that the Craft was flourishing in Ireland in the sixteenth century. It is impossible, however, to be dogmatic about the point of whether or not it possessed any esoteric ceremonies. Yet if we may trust the testimony of a certain old relic of antiquity, we find some convincing evidence of moral philosophy illustrated by symbols (Speculative Masonry), as is shown by what is usually known as the “Baal’s Bridge Square,” carefully preserved by Union Lodge No. 13, Limerick, warranted November, 1732.



This ancient brass square was discovered in excavating the foundations of Baal’s Bridge, in the City of Limerick, in November, 1830. It was dug out of the *eastern* corner of the foundation of the *northern* land pier on the King’s Island or English Town side of the river Shannon, where the abutment of the new bridge [1850] now stands. The position in which the square was found indicates that one of our Masonic customs, still in vogue, was practiced in Ireland over 400 years ago. The sketch hereunder of the square is an exact facsimile (full size) reproduced from a rubbing, a matter of some difficulty owing to the metal being much corroded, made for us by Brother James Le Gear, the courteous Secretary of Triune Masonic Lodge, No. 333, Limerick.



This Square dated 1507 is reputed to be one of the earliest Masonic artefacts in the world.

Inscription: Side 1 **“I will strive to live with love & care”**
Inscription: Side 2 **“Upon the Level by the Square”**