

History of the Freemason's Apron

There can be no doubt that the Masonic apron has been developed from the apron worn by operative masons in the middle ages. The few examples surviving show that the operative apron was fashioned from the skin of an animal, most probably a sheep. It was large enough to cover the wearer from chest to ankles, and its fall was held by a leathern thong which passed round the neck. From each side a thong, firmly stitched, enabled the mason to tie the apron round his waist, and the tied bow tended to fall as end-strings. The use of this rough apron continued for many centuries ; the woven apron used by modern masons is comparatively late; it came into use in the eighteenth century.

The Masonic Apron is the badge of honorable labor. The right to wear it is given only to tried and tested men. Traditionally, the apron is white and is considered not only an emblem of innocence and purity of heart, but also a Mason's badge of distinction.

