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 The Jewels of Freemasonry

Operative Masons always thought that a Cowan was an ignorant builder. One, that put stones together without the use of mortar. They would pile the rough stones onto a wall without squaring them, with the result of walls that were not proven. These cowans would masquerade as Masons, but they never had the word.

One would think that this would pass with the conversion to speculative Masonry. But, today we find a modern equivalent of the operative imposter. We could best describe him as a Mason who takes a station in the lodge and only exerts enough of his abilities needed for that particular station. And then continues to maintain his position in the line. He continues that until he finally arrives to the highest office of the lodge, that of Worshipful Master.

Once Master, he realizes that he has little knowledge of the opportunities before him. He fails to address the opportunity of continued fellowship and brotherly love or the development of his leadership skills. But, most of all he misses for service to God, his community and his fellowman. These are the true jewels of masonry which are offered to each of us.

So, our contemporary builder of today misses them and like the operative cowan of early Masonry, he never had the word.

Fraternally,

Bob