

Society Rosicruciana in Anglia

Province of the Home Counties

Thomas à Beckett College's 30th Anniversary of Service

Awareness Day

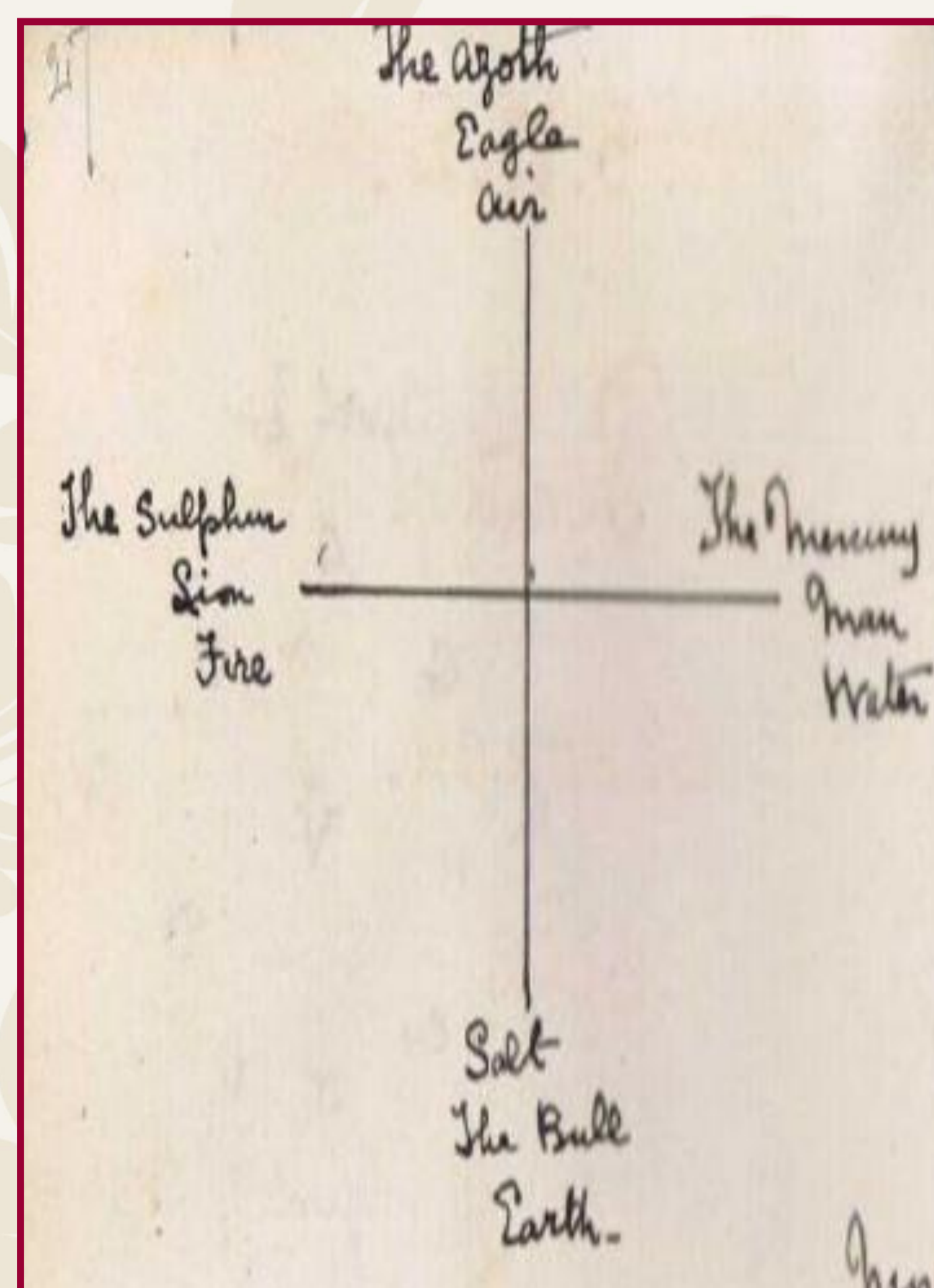
To be held at Wokingham Masonic Centre

The Musings of a Past Celebrant No 18

Christian Symbols:



William Wynn Westcott
17th December 1848 to 30th July 1925



From William Wynn Westcott's personal scrap book, volume XVI, dated 1902. Left to the SRIA High Council library upon his death in 1925.

This drawing is exciting. Almost everyone who looks on a drawing of a Lodge is surprised that the East is always on the Left, as seen from the Secretary's table.

Thus the Fire, Lion and the Master sit in the East or Left side of the drawing. It then follows that the Right side represents the West: the Water and the Bull Ox and the Senior Warden. (Note Westcott has the Man in this position).

Logically the North side should be recorded at the base of the picture. However, the North, Eagle and Air are the values that I would have attributed to this area.

Finally, the South side, the Junior Warden, Salt, Earth and Man should be drawn at the top of the paper. Westcott's drawing has the MAN and the BULL transposed. Notwithstanding we are definitely walking in the shadow of the great man.

The Masonic Carpet has borders. The four corners were enlivened with the symbols of the four beasts mentioned by St John the Divine in Revelations: The Bull Ox, The Lion, Man (*should be the Camel*) and The Eagle: Representing the Hebrew values of Water, Fire, Earth and Air, which in Masonic terms translate to West, East, South and North.

Running around the outside border are the Planets and Orbs, representing the ruling Archangels. Within this band lies the symbol of the Royal Arch sash, depicting descending radiant light (*light is the Masonic term for education and knowledge*).

The Master and Wardens own the Wands. The Director of Ceremonies and Deacons are entrusted to carry the wands of the Master and Wardens by delegation of authority.

The Master and Wardens sit outside the square.

It is the Candidate encouraged by the Deacons who walks the sacred square carpet, representing the chequered path of life. All other members 'square' the lodge to avoid contaminating the sacred space.

The Master and Wardens represent the presence of the Archangels. The Royal Arch ceremony actually says that the newly exalted 'Ruler' may hold the wand, unless all the 72 elders (Archangels) are present.