
Principles and Guidelines

General Paper - *The Historia Illius Itineris*

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Initiations - protecting the dignity of the candidate

1. At all initiation meetings the status and dignity of the candidate must be maintained at all times. There is never to be an exception to this. Thus, tomfoolery, in-jokes, larking about and any behaviour that does not inspire trust must be avoided at all costs. Remember that the candidate may be nervous or anxious and will be asked to be blindfolded and then enter a room and into the unknown.
2. Stay in the positive: avoid all off hand remarks, negative discussion about any other person or things, politics, how awful the weather is and so on. This isn't to say that a controlled cult-like atmosphere is required, just try to stay in the positive.
3. There are to be no jokes at the candidates expense.
4. Please avoid the effects of gravity - i.e. dropping things, allowing things to fall over, trips and falls. When a candidate is blindfolded, allowing something to crash to the floor is not going to inspire much confidence. Secure the room prior to starting.
5. There is to be no nudity in any circumstances and you are expected to be dressed conservatively in this regard.

Initiations - the performance

1. All lodges are encouraged it get creative with regards to the styling of their initiations. This may be varied from occasion to occasion. For example, for whatever reason you may choose, you may want to do the degree initiation dressed and talking like pirates, or in the form of a Shakespearean play, or a pantomime. You are encouraged, where resources allow, to dress in costume and decorate the venue accordingly.
2. If you wish to add music (recorded or live) to the rituals, then you are free to do so according to your preference. You may also like to consider the use of incenses, bells and sound effects.

Initiations - the feast

1. It is recommended that you keep it simple and keep it short (i.e. 20 mins with tea and cake.)
2. Where more than one initiation is performed per session, then each initiated candidate can sit on the stage or elsewhere in the room and observe the subsequent initiations before feasting collectively at the end of all proceedings.

Membership Confidentiality and Identification

1. No one is permitted to identify another member publicly as being a member of *The Historia Illius Itineris*, even if they have already publicly declared themselves to be so. You may not publicly confirm or deny another person's membership even if they are falsely claiming membership.
2. You may publicly declare yourself to be a member without reservation if you should so wish.

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3. There are no secret grips or signs of membership, but this is never to be revealed to those outside of the order.
 4. Upon membership, all participants of *The Historia Illius Itineris* are invited to assign themselves grandiose titles. “Grand Emperor and Sovereign Prince of all Isles of Iona” would be one such example. Each year, on the anniversary of initiation, you are invited to acquire a new title to add to your growing list of titles. It is recommended that you check for unfortunate acronyms prior to going public.
 5. Individuals holding Charters also similarly invited to create grandiose names for their lodges.

Initiation Days

1. Periodically it will be useful to pool resources where there are a number of people seeking admission at the same time, i.e. a centrally booked venue with an initiation “team” who can take turns guiding new candidates through the induction.

“Regular” Meeting Structure

1. There are two types of meetings - those for initiations which will be arranged according to need, and “regular” meetings where The Body of Knowledge is studied.
2. It is suggested that monthly meetings are held, with a break for the summer holidays when attendance may be too low.
3. Meetings may be around 2 hours long and must be structured.
4. The suggested structure would be 45 minutes MoM practice and exploration sessions and 45 minutes discussion and exploration of a degree study paper. This allows for time for social meets/greets and goodbyes, tea making and so on.
5. A rolling 12 session cycle of study is recommended. This can be calendared and sent out regularly to members so that they may see what subjects are available on what dates.

The Hierarchy of The Order

1. There is no hierarchy within the order in the first 6 degrees. Holding a charter only enables you to host and organise meetings, it does not give any authority or rank over any other member in any capacity. The same applies to degrees - a higher degree does not confer any authority in any capacity.
2. That said, as most meetings will be held in houses and homes, house rules always take precedence over Order rules. In your house you get to make any rules you wish without question by *The Historia Illius Itineris*.
3. Expulsion from your house does not equal expulsion from the order.

Pronunciation

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Initiation – a check list

It is important to remember the significance to the candidate of his initiation. He will be seeking instruction into the mysteries of The Movement and given that he has volunteered to undergo a ritual about which he knows little, it must be remembered that he may be more than just a little bit nervous.

It is partly the shared nature of the event that makes it special. So, it is important to tell the nervous candidate that everyone present in the room will have experienced the same feelings, fears and uncertainties that he might be feeling and that for that reason they are all very much on his side.

The following checklist will help you ensure that all goes smoothly:

Punctuality: Considering the amount of effort required by the initiation team, be sure to communicate to the candidate that it is vital he arrives early so that everything may run smoothly. The candidate must arrive at the place of initiation under his own steam, and not be provided with transportation, so he must be cautioned to plan ahead accordingly.

Dress code: For the candidate the dress code is informal/comfortable. All others present must be dressed smartly/professionally or according to the selected theme.

Alcohol: A strict no alcohol and no drug policy applies to all “Movement” events. This includes any drinks beforehand. Any participant arriving intoxicated or smelling of drink must be refused admission in all instances and without exception.

Refreshment for the Initiate: It is probably wise to provide only food and drink that is suitable for everyone. This is the safest course of action. Low sugar and vegetarian options must be available. Ask for dietary requirements on the induction/application form.

Money: Be sure that the candidate knows exactly how much money he must part with on the day for his Initiation fees, and Annual Membership fees. *Payment must be received prior to the initiation starting.*

Disability: You must ensure that the premises used are accessible for people with a disability and that the layout and facilities are suitable for those with mobility issues.

Finishing time: You must finish proceedings no later than the agreed time and not even one minute over. Delaying the closing of the meeting may seriously inconvenience participants in terms of parking limitations, timings of trains and buses home and so forth.