

The Masonic Blue Slipper



Are you familiar with the Masonic Blue Slipper? Female relatives of masons often wear a small lapel pin in the shape of a blue slipper

when travelling alone or away from home

To find out the true meaning of the pin, we have to go back in history to the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament. Naomi returns

home after the death of her husband and their two sons. She urges her daughters-in-law



to return to their respective mothers' homes, but Ruth, the younger, refuses to leave Naomi alone in widowhood. Boaz, an ancestor of King Solomon and a man of wealth offers to look after both Naomi and Ruth. In accordance with the custom of the day, one of the kinsmen handed over a slipper to Boaz in the presence of the elders as a token to seal their arrangement. Boaz held up this slipper for all to see, asking them to bear witnesses that he was henceforth Naomi's protector and Ruth's husband.

Thus, the little blue slipper serves to identify loved ones of Masons to other members of the Craft, and has become an emblem of the protective influence of Masons for their wives, widows and daughters.