

# The demensions of Dr. Dee's Holy Table, preserved in Dr. John Cotton's Library.<sup>1</sup>

Notes by Elias Ashmole, transcribed with footnotes by Joseph H. Peterson, July 22, 2025.

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- The Table is composed of 3 boards broadwaies, beside the borderings; of a fine grained wood & very heavy; but the scent now lost.<sup>2</sup>
- The length of the top of the table 36 inches  $\frac{1}{4}$ .
- The bottome of the same length.
- Each side in depth 35 inches 3 quarters &  $\frac{1}{2}$ .
- The thicknes of the table 7 tenths of an inch.
- Note, that all the 7 numbers, are placed in Dr. Dee's table, in the order & manner expressed in the [plate set forth by Dr. Causabon](#) [*sic* Casaubon]; soe are also the letters ranged about the table, & those set downe in the middle.
- The space <sup>^border</sup> from the top of the table to the first lyne, which is of blew colour – 4 tenths of an inch.
- The bredth of the upper blue lyne, 1 tenth & an halfe of an inch.
- The depth of the square wherein the letters are (?) placed (which p??? is called the border) – one inch.
- The breadth of each square about the table 2 inch,  $\frac{1}{2}$  & 1 tenth.
- [In marg:] These letters are of reddish colour, like blood, about 8 tenths of a inch deepe. Their heads are all turned toward the center: & to be read from the right hand to the left.
- Each side being cast into 21 equall oblong squares.
- The lower blew lynes breadth – 1 tenth  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an inch.
- Close to to the lower end of which is joyned the uppermost point of the pentagon [\*hexagram].
- From that point of the pentagon to the uppermost lyne of the first square – 7 tenths of an inch.
- This table which is placed on the head of the pentagon, called *Numerus primus*,<sup>3</sup> is 4 inches square within the lyne, the lynes of the square within & without blew, the letters & figures &c. redish, of the colour of the letters about the table.
- From the uppermost point of the pentagon, to the uppermost cross lyne thereof – 4 inches & halfe a quarter.
- The breadth of the lynes of the pentagon 3 of one tenth of an inch, & are of gold.

## [First Ensign]

- From the lower parte of the table (called *Numerus primus*) to the uppermost part of the oblong square placed in the middle of the pentagon is – 6 inches.
- This square is divided by 3 & 4.<sup>4</sup>
- The breadth of this square is 14 inches &  $\frac{1}{4}$ .<sup>5</sup>
- The depth – 11 inches.
- The center of the square is the center of the table.
- The lynes are blew & the letters gold. [55v]

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1 From Oxford, Bodleian, Ashmole ms. 1790, fols. 55-56.

2 In UL marg.

3 See Sl. 3188 33r. This is the first of the seven “ensigns of creation,” and is shown covering the top point of the hexagram in Casaubon’s engraving (12:00).

4 I.e 3 columns and 4 rows.

5 Sl. 3188 94v says this should be “of 6 ynches euery way.”

### **[Second Ensign]**

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> table, which is a circle, is placed from the topp – 7 inches  $\frac{1}{2}$  & from the right side 5 inches &  $\frac{1}{2}$ .
- Its diameter is – 4 inches & 1 tenth, within the circle.
- The lynes & rondlets blew, the figures & letters redish.

### **[Third Ensign]**

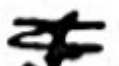
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> table is a square of 4 inches, within the lyne.
- The inward & outward lynes blew, the letters, figures, & characters redish.
- The first angle is 2 inches &  $\frac{1}{2}$  from the right side of the table.
- The second angle is – 3 inches  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

### **[Ensign 4]**

- The 4<sup>th</sup> table is a square of 4 inches within the lyne,
- The lynes both inward & outward blew, & the letters &c red.
- The first angles is from the bottome – 4 inch: 3 quarters; the second 3 inches

### **[Ensign 5]**

- The 5<sup>th</sup> table is a square also of 4 inches, within the lyne.
- The outward & inward lynes of the square, blew; the letters & figures & crosses redish.
- The first angle is 3 inches from the bottom; the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4 inches 3 quarters.



### **[Ensign 6]**

- The sixt table (which is a square within a circle) is from the right side of the table – 2 inches 3 quarters &  $\frac{1}{2}$ , & from the bottome of the table – 13 inches.
- The diameter is within the circle 4 inches.

### **[Ensign 7]**

- The 7<sup>th</sup> table is a square of 4 inches within the lyne,
- The first angle is from the left side 4 inches 3 quarters.
- The second angle is from the top – 6 inches  $\frac{1}{2}$  & halfe quarter.

### **[The center square]**

- The depth of each square (in the oblong square in the center of the pentagon [i.e. hexagram]) is 2 inches & 3 quarters.
- Each letter is about 2 inches deepe.
- [...]
- The bottome of the pentagon [i.e. hexagram] toucheth the inermost lower blew lyne, & thence to the lowermost cross lyne of the pentagon is 4 inches & halfe a quarter, or 4 inches & 1 eighth

**NB:** These 7 Tables of Creation belong to the 7 Kings & Princes according to their order – p. 172.<sup>6</sup>

### **Colours in Dr. Dee's Holy Table.**

- The lynes of the border were blew.
- The letters in the border blood red.
- The ground (?) of the letters of the 4 corner was gold.
- The ☆ was gold.

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6 i.e. Sl. 3188 96v.

- The letters in the middle were gold.
- The squares wherein which they were placed were blew.
- The lynes of the 7 sen??eons were blew.
- The letters & figures within (?) them blood red.
- The frame (pedestall) of the table at Sr. John Cotton's which was Dr. Dee's, hath these demensions:
- It is a 2 foote & 8 inches square every way.
- The height is 2 foot 7 inches & 1/2.
- Each foot of the frame is 4 square, & each side of the foot 3 inches.
- Upon this frame is layd the wooden case which holds the table of practise, the fore side of which is closed with 3 iron hasps, to be locked up with 3 padlocks.
- The pedestall was made at Lasko, in Poland. See Dr. Dee's [\*Actions with Spirits\*, p. 69.](#)