

VOLUME VIII ~ 1895

**NOTES ON IRISH FREEMASONRY
[No. III.]**

“SOME IRISH MASONIC MEDALS”

BY

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D.C.L**

SENIOR GRAND DEACON, IRELAND.

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W.BRO. DR. W.J. CHETWODE CRAWLEY

NOVEMBER 15, 1843 - MARCH 13, 1916

WILLIAM JOHN CHETWODE CRAWLEY, FOR MANY YEARS HEAD MASTER OF THE QUEEN'S SERVICE ACADEMY, DUBLIN, WAS, AFTER A LENGTHY UNIVERSITY CAREER, ELECTED A LIFE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN IN 1881. AUTHOR OF VARIOUS TEXTBOOKS AND MANUALS, HE SAT ON THE COUNCIL OF DUBLIN UNIVERSITY, WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE DUBLIN COUNCIL OF TEACHERS' GUILDS AND WAS A MEMBER OF SEVERAL ROYAL SOCIETIES.

COMPILER OF THREE VOLUMES OF *CAEMENTARIA HIBERNICA* (1895, 1896, 1900) AND AUTHOR OF TWENTY-ONE PAPERS PUBLISHED IN *ARS QUATUOR CORONATORUM*, HIS STUDIES INTO THE EARLY HISTORY OF ENGLISH SPEAKING FREEMASONRY HAVE PROVIDED MASONIC STUDENTS WITH A WEALTH OF VALUABLE RESEARCH AND ESTABLISHED HIS REPUTATION AS A LEADING PROPONENT OF WHAT HAS BEEN TERMED THE AUTHENTIC SCHOOL OF MASONIC WRITERS.

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GRAND STEWARD : 1887
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*GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND***



Notes on Irish Freemasonry,

BY

Bro. W. J. CHETWODE CRAWLEY, LL.D., D.C.L.,

Senior Grand Deacon, Ireland.


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[Reprinted from "Ars Quatuor Coronatorum."]

Margate:

PRINTED AT "KEBLE'S GAZETTE" OFFICE
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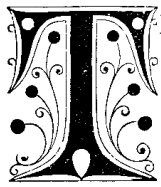
NOTES ON IRISH FREEMASONRY.

BY BRO. W. J. CHETWODE CRAWLEY, LL.D., D.C.L.

Senior Grand Deacon, Ireland.

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SOME IRISH MASONIC MEDALS.

HE subject of Irish Masonic Medals has not yet attracted the attention of our antiquarian brethren. Indeed, the materials for treating it, with any attempt at completeness, are not yet at their disposal. No systematic collection of these medals has been made, and such examples as exist are to be found scattered among the private cabinets of *virtuosi*, who regard them only as accidental adjuncts to general collections of coins and medals. Our English brethren must take into account, too, that the use of Masonic medals or distinctive Badges has never obtained in the Irish Jurisdiction as widely as under other Grand Lodges. For instance, during the last quarter of a century only one jewel or decoration (other than jewels of office) has been sanctioned by the Grand Lodge of Ireland. We allude to the jewel prescribed for the constituent members of the Grand Lodge of Instruction, to whom the Grand Lodge of Ireland has entrusted the guardianship of the esoteric ritual. As these constituent members, including the Grand Master and the Grand

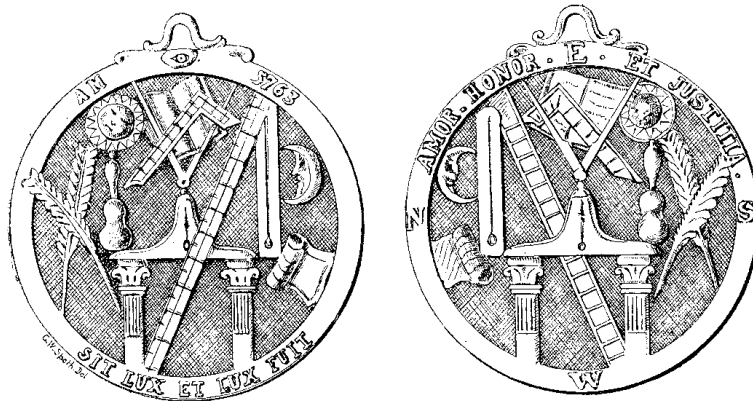
Wardens, amount to only twenty-one in number, the jewel must be ranked among the rarest and the most highly prized of Masonic distinctions. Again, many of our readers will be surprised to learn that the Grand Lodge of Ireland has authorized only one centenary jewel, that of the Grand Master's Lodge. This Lodge, founded in 1749, was originally designed for the Grand Master's personal friends, and at one time the Grand Officers were recruited exclusively from its ranks. It was, in origin, distinctively an Irish production, or rather an Irish creation, for nothing of the kind had previously existed. As a matter of course, it was faithfully copied by our Irish Brother, Laurence Dermott, in the organization of the Grand Lodge of the Antients. The centenary medals of the Grand Master's Lodge are very rare, though some five specimens are to be met with in England, notably in the collection of Bro. G. E. Shackles, of Hull.

The Masonic Medals, or Badges, worn in Ireland during the last century divide themselves into two classes, quite distinct in the methods of manufacture. One class consists of enamelled Jewels, bearing inlaid representations of our Symbols. These are often of great beauty, and show that artistic workmanship of a high order has been employed in their manufacture. Some of our brethren may remember the duplicate of the Lady Freemason's Jewel which was exhibited in illustration of papers recently read before the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, and which was an admirable specimen of the enameller's art.

The other class consists of circular or oval discs, usually of silver, with Masonic emblems moulded or engraved on both sides. The oval shape is the more common, and recourse was naturally had to engraving as a much handier process than moulding or embossing. The emblems were selected so as to indicate the degrees which had been conferred on the wearer. In most instances, when the owner had proceeded beyond the degree of Master Mason, the obverse was devoted to Craft symbols, and on the reverse were depicted the emblems of the Royal Arch and the Excellent and Super-excellent Degrees that were embodied in our Chapter ritual. These are frequently intermingled among Templar emblems, when the wearer had attained the dignity of H.K.T., the culmination of the Irish Rite in the last century.

Most of the Irish Medals are without dates, and we can arrive at their periods only by external evidence. The instances in which we can determine the dates are of double value, because, in addition to their own evidential importance, they form a basis of comparison by which we can approximate to the dates of the other specimens. The following examples have been selected as possessing sufficient general interest to warrant their introduction into our *Transactions*.

I.—CRAFT MEDAL, 1763.



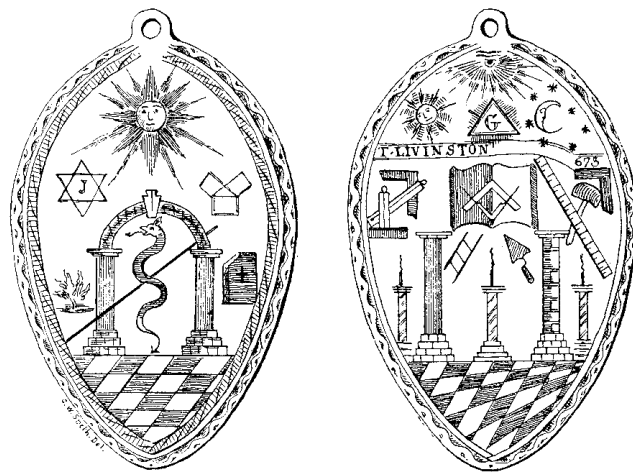
This medal is an embossed silver-gilt circular disc, bearing on both sides Craft emblems almost identical in design. The inscription on the rim on one side, presumably the obverse, is *Amor, Honor, et Justitia*, together with the cardinal Points. On the other side is the versicle, *Sit Lux et Lux fuit*, with the date *A.M. 5763*. This meagre information we can supplement by tradition. The Medal came into the present writer's possession from that of Bro. D. Milson, P.M. Lodge No. 126, I.C., who stated that it was known in his family as "Lord Muskerry's Jewel." It had originally come from the collection of the uncle of the present Lord Muskerry (who is himself a Mason), and was reputed to have been the property of the Rt. Hon. Robert Deane, who was created Baron Muskerry in 1781, and who was elected Grand Master of Ireland in 1783. Certainly, the fact that a jewel, known to have been originally designed in silver, should have been subsequently gilt, looks as if the wearer had been raised to Grand office after he had first become its owner.

Another specimen of this Medal in silver has been presented to the Museum of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge by Bro. W. E. Larter, of Glasgow Kilwinning No. 4, S.C., and one side will be found figured on page 145, vol. vii., *A.Q.C.* But the specimen has suffered a good deal

from wear and tear, and the date was so illegible as to have been read 1768 instead of 1763. This specimen differs from the present in having the Pythagorean proposition incised upon it. This did not stand part of the original design, and shows that the addition was necessary to fit the jewel for use in a Jurisdiction where that symbol was current. As we have elsewhere pointed out the Pythagorean proposition rarely occurs among Craft symbols in Ireland.

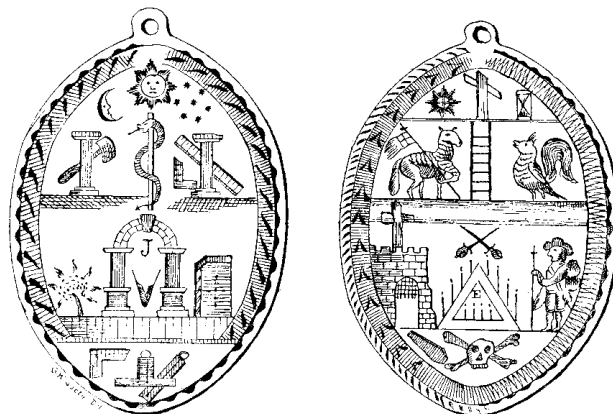
Nor are the foregoing the only circumstances of interest relating to this Jewel. In a paper recently laid before this Lodge,¹ the present writer had occasion to point out that the Masonry taught to the Inverness Lodge, No. 6, S.C., by Capt. John Grigor, was Irish Masonry he had learned in an Irish Military Lodge, prior to his retirement from the Army in 1764. When the Inverness Lodge presented him with a jewel in acknowledgment of "his great ability and strength in Masonry," it naturally selected a design current under the Irish Jurisdiction. Capt. Grigor's jewel is figured by that most accurate of Antiquaries, Bro. W. H. Rylands, F.S.A., on page 89, vol. vii., *A.Q.C.* It will be found to be a reproduction in gold of the jewel we have been describing, with just sufficient variation in detail to show that the design had been carefully considered.

II.—CRAFT AND ROYAL ARCH MEDAL, *circa* 1800.



This Medal is silver in material and oval in shape. On the obverse are engraved the usual Craft symbols, and on the reverse those of the Royal Arch, and it is amongst these latter that the Pythagorean proposition occurs. The owner's name and lodge are fortunately added, so that a close approximation to the date of the jewel can be obtained. Bro. Thomas Livingston was admitted to Lodge No. 673 on 23rd June, 1799, evidently so as to be in time for the Annual Feast on St. John the Baptist's Day. This Lodge had been Warranted 14th June, 1787, to work at Rockcorry, an insignificant village in Co. Monaghan. The warrant was among those cancelled by Grand Lodge on 1st July, 1815, and the Lodge seems to have ceased working some years before.

III.—CRAFT, R.A., AND H.K.T. MEDAL, *circa* 1805.



¹ *A.Q.C.* "Three Lost Lodges," *ante*, p. 79.

In process of time, Bro. Thomas Livingston was dubbed H.K.T., presumably in his own Lodge, for the Royal Arch and Templar Degrees were then worked throughout Ireland as appendages to the Craft Warrant. As a consequence, Bro. Livingston purchased another Jewel or Badge, embodying the Templar emblems in addition to those on the former badge. It will be observed that the space for the owner's name is a blank; another name had been there, but it is so thoroughly burnished out that it has left a groove. There is no date on the Medal, but as it must have been procured by Bro. Livingston subsequently to the previous jewel, and while the Lodge was still at work, we may take 1805 as the approximate date of his wearing it. In point of manufacture, the jewel is probably from ten to twenty years earlier.

Another specimen of these Irish Jewels will be found figured as No. 3, on the plate facing page 86, vol. vii., of our *Transactions*. Bro. J. MacNaught Campbell, in whose collection it occurs, is evidently unaware of the type to which it belongs, but shows the acuteness of the true antiquary in rejecting as insufficient the evidence for its Scottish origin. None of the emblems on Bro. MacNaught Campbell's Jewel are Rosicrucian; they are confined to Craft, R.A., and H.K.T., as in the case of other Irish Jewels of the period. As we have intimated above, the Irish Rite, prior to 1807, contemplated no degrees beyond the Templar.¹

I take a great interest in Masonic Medals of all kinds, particularly those of last century, pierced, engraved, or struck from dies.

The No. I. referred to by Dr. Chetwode Crawley is an old friend, the design being often used, but never, I believe, *before* 1763, the date of his choice specimen. This one would seem to be a *bona fide* Medal, being struck from a die. Sometimes the field is cut out, as Bro. Marvin's LXI. of "A.M., 5763," which once belonged to the celebrated Henry Price, of Boston, U.S.A. Another is preserved at Leeds, a sketch of which was sent me lately by Bro. A. Scarth. It is dated "A.M., 5766," and my lamented friend, T. Lamb Smith, of Worcester, had also one in his possession. There are excellent specimens of 5763, in the famous Masonic collection at Worcester, and in the Museum of the Grand Lodge; and of later date there is a fine example in Grand Lodge of "A.M., 5796," the legends of which are most interesting. Occasionally, the emblems vary a little, but of whatever date, they may all be traced back to 1763, of which there are several extant in England, Ireland, and America.

Dr. Crawley's No. II. and No. III. belong to the same class, which originated in the latter half of last century; the Craft portion, however, being an arrangement of an earlier period. I have drawings of the *obverse* of No. II., and the *reverse* of No. III., representing a jewel which belonged—with others of the series—to the late Bro. Michael Furnell, Provincial Grand Master of North Munster. Bro. M. C. Peck, of Hull, in his extensive collection of prints and drawings of medals, and likewise of actual medals, has a beautiful specimen of the No. II., which is almost alike throughout. A curved band on each side reads "LENOX LODGE, No. 165," and "— 5801." The Lodge is now No. 123, and was warranted in 1763 at Richmond, Yorkshire. This accords with the period suggested by Dr. Crawley.

Bro. Peck has a little gem, which agrees with Dr. Crawley's *reverse* of No. III., and mainly with the *obverse*. Bro. Larter's, also, duly noted by my friend, is another instance of a similar design.

I have sketches or particulars of considerably over a thousand medals, but even now the number is nothing like exhausted. Bro. G. L. Shackles should bring out a work on British and Irish Masonic Medals, based upon his magnificent cabinets of invaluable curios, and add illustrations of the chief pieces.—W. J. HUGHAN.

¹ We desire to convey our thanks to Bro. G. W. Speth for the skill with which he has drawn the Medals in question; without his kindly aid the paper could not have been laid before the Lodge.