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**NOTES ON IRISH FREEMASONRY  
[No. V.]  
“THE SACKVILLE MEDAL”**

**THE EARL OF MIDDLESEX & IRISH FREEMASONRY  
1733**

**BY**

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

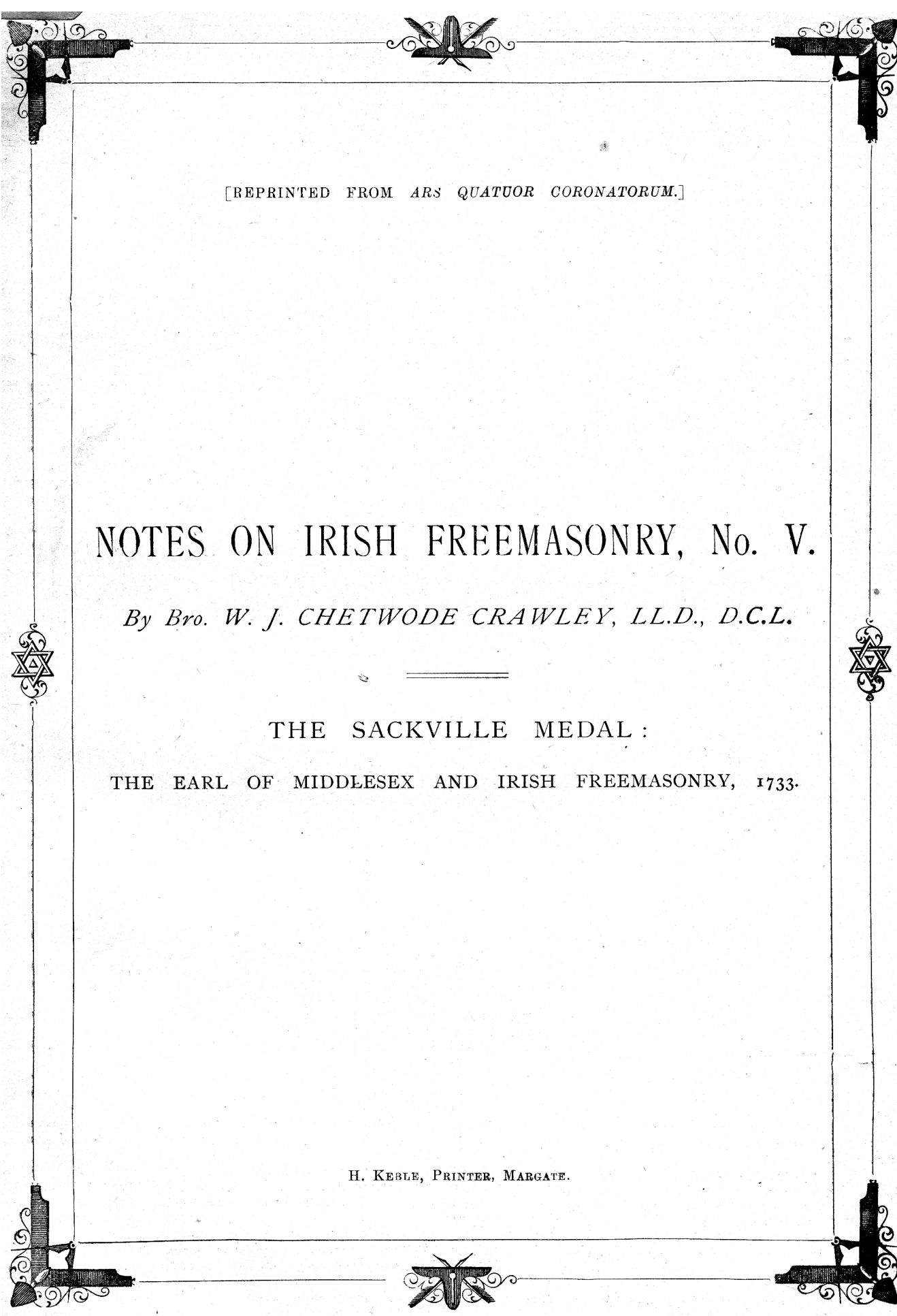
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# NOTES ON IRISH FREEMASONRY, No. V.

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

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### THE SACKVILLE MEDAL:

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**T**HE Sackville Medal holds a place, among Masonic Medals, so conspicuous that it may be fairly called unique. Apart from the usual considerations of intrinsic value or artistic merit, the historical associations of this famous Medal have been such as to cause its claims to be examined with unusual care. The interest in the Medal has been renewed and strengthened by the important item of news, derived from a source previously unknown, and communicated by Dr. W. Begemann to the last part of our *Transactions* (vol. XII., p. 204). Our learned Brother has helped to dispose of one of the two main questions, affecting the authenticity of the Medal, that stood over from the previous controversies on the subject.<sup>1</sup>

Until the advent of the new school of Masonic students who applied to the History of Freemasonry the methods of scientific investigation, the Sackville Medal stood unchallenged at the head of all our Numismatical Catalogues. Then the point of view was altered. The obscure origin and mysterious disappearance of the medal: its slender connection with the nobleman after whom it was called: its alleged execution by one adherent of the Strict Observance, and its opportune citation by another; all tended to arouse suspicion.

The controversy thus belongs to our own time. But so fast does the world, even the world of Freemasonry, revolve, that it may be doubted whether many of the younger generation of students, born and bred under the tutelage of the QUATUOR CORONATI Lodge, know precisely why such manifest importance is attached to Dr. Begemann's unpretentious article, or why anyone should take the trouble to note the discovery that Charles Sackville was connected with Irish Freemasonry.

The story of the Sackville Medal is worth the telling, inasmuch as it means the reinstatement of the Medal in its pride of place, and the reversal of a hasty condemnation of its claims. The best way of beginning the story is to quote the words, in which Bro. William T. R. Marvin, a standard authority, introduces the medal in his work on the subject.

"I. Probably the oldest Masonic Medal extant, is that struck in commemoration of the foundation of a Lodge in Florence by Lord Charles Sackville, Duke of Middlesex, in the year 1733. He was 'the great grandson of Thomas Sackville, who in 1561 was Grand Master of the Masons acknowledging the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of York.' Engravings of this Medal are given in the 'Numotheca' of Zacharias: No. I. in Kohler's 'Münz-Belustigungen,' part 8, p. 129; in Bode's 'Pocket Book' (1777 No. I.); and an impression in silver formerly existed in the valuable collection of Masonic Medals in possession of the Lodge Minerva of the Three Palms, at Leipsic; but is said to have disappeared. Obverse—Bust of Lord Sackville, to right, Legend CAROLVS. SACKVILLE. MAGISTER. FL. Under the bust L. NATTER 1733. Reverse—(figure 3)—Harpocrates, the god of silence, leaning upon a broken column, on his head a crown of lotus, in his left hand he holds a cornucopia. At his feet are the cubic stone, square and compasses on the right, and on the left the mystic chest, with a serpent and thyrsus, and other Masonic emblems. Legend, AB. ORIGINE. In exergue, L. NATTER. F. FLORENT in two lines. Struck in silver; some casts have been taken in lead. This Medal is extremely rare. Merzdorf says but one specimen is known, which was in the Hammerstein collection."

*The Medals of the Masonic Fraternity,*

By Wm. T. R. Marvin, M.A.; Boston, 1880, (p. 14.)

The Continental authorities whom Bro. Wm. T. R. Marvin follows are hopelessly at sea as to the titles borne by Charles Sackville. He is mentioned four times in the foregoing extract, and each time with a brand-new incorrectness of style. He was never Duke of Middlesex; nor was he ever known as Lord Charles Sackville; nor as Lord Sackville; and his relationship to Sir Thomas Sackville of 1561 was not that of great-grandson.

<sup>1</sup> An elaborate examination into the authenticity of the Sackville Medal was conducted in the columns of the *Freemason*, 1883, by two writers who signed themselves respectively G.B.A. and Dryasdust. The information collected by G.B.A., whose method of argument showed to great advantage, all tended to connect the medal with the visit of Charles Sackville, Earl of Middlesex, to Florence, in 1733. But some points were necessarily left to the future to determine.

To put it plainly: Charles Sackville, eldest son of Lionel-Cranfield Sackville, 7th Earl and 1st Duke of Dorset, was known as Lord Buckhurst from his birth in February, 1710-11, till his ninth year, when his father was created a Duke in 1720; thenceforward he was known as Earl of Middlesex till he succeeded his father as 2nd Duke of Dorset in 1765, a title he enjoyed till his death in 1769.

This extract from Bro. Marvin's standard work comprises all that was known about the Medal in 1880. It will be gathered that there was then no specimen of the Medal known to be actually in existence, and that the earliest assertion of its former existence was to be found in Bode's *Pocket-Book*, 1777. Now, Johann Bode, editor of the *Almanach für die Br. Freimaurer.*, from 1776 to 1793, was in 1777 an ardent supporter of the Rite of the Strict Observance founded by Von Hund. So was the engraver Lorenz Natter. And the Medal was headed with the motto *Ab Origine*, words well known in Von Hund's Rite.

These circumstances, enough in themselves to beget doubts of the authenticity of the Sackville Medal, were reinforced by more than one side-issue that seemed to tend in the same direction.<sup>1</sup>

Leaving the side-issues out of view, the main grounds on which the authenticity of the Sackville Medal was contested may be thus presented.

First, it was contended that there was insufficient evidence of the existence of the Medal. No example of it was known to collectors; no living person claimed ever to have seen one. But this line of argument, or, rather, of negation, was rendered untenable by the presence of a specimen in the British Museum, where it is to be seen to this day.<sup>2</sup>

Secondly, it was contended that there was no evidence to show that the Earl of Middlesex was in Florence in 1733, while the improbability was increased by our knowledge that every day spent by him at Florence diminished by a day his possible stay at Paris, then as now the magnet of youth bent on pleasure. This objection was overset by the testimony of an eminent Oxford scholar, the Rev. Joseph Spence, who accompanied the young nobleman on the Grand Tour. It had to be admitted that the Charles Sackville who visited Florence in 1733 was the Earl of Middlesex.

In the third place, an argument against the authenticity was drawn from the antecedents of the engraver. It was contended that the known circumstances of Lorenz Natter's career were such that, though the real existence of the Medal, and the presence of Charles Sackville at Florence in 1733, could no longer be impugned, yet the Medal might be a pious fraud, an *ex postfacto* forgery of a latter date. Completely shifting their ground, the objectors now put forward the theory that the Medal had, in truth, been executed at St. Petersburg in 1761, by Natter, who drew on his memory for a place and a name to suit his purpose. In support of this argument, it was pointed out that though the execution of the Medal could no longer be denied, yet that no mention of it occurred before the time of Johann Bode, 1777, and that both he and Natter were at the time ardent partisans of Von Hund's Rite of Strict Observance, which the Medal was then forged to serve. This is the argument which Dr. W. Begemann has helped to demolish in his recent note contributed to *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum* (vol. xii., p. 204). He there showed that the Sackville Medal was known, figured, and described in print as early as 1738. Indeed, if the learned doctor had pushed his researches a little further back, he would have found that the copy of 1738 was derived from the original engraving in Köhler, 1736.

Thus far the arguments against the authenticity of the Sackville Medal have been fairly met. There remain two arguments, or rather one argument with two heads, to which the disputants attached great weight.

<sup>1</sup> For instance, we have seen that the Continental authorities cited by Bro. Marvin are at variance with themselves and with the British Peerage as to the titles of courtesy borne by Charles Sackville. Nor does it conduce to credibility to find the Medal associated with the fable of a Grand Master and a Grand Lodge at York in Elizabethan times. On the other hand, the confirmation of Charles Sackville's sojourn at Florence in 1732-3, thought to be obtained from his poem, *Arno's Vale*, falls to the ground, because the poem is inspired by the death of John Gaston, last of the Medici, which did not occur until 1737. (Cf. J. Ritson, quoted in Thomas Park's edition of Walpole's *Royal and Noble Authors*, London, 1806; vol. iv., p. 281.) The same chronological difficulty does away with the supposition that this Florentine Lodge of 1733 was favoured by "Brother Lorrain," as Dr. Anderson styles him. For Francis of Lorraine had no dynastic connection with Florence before the extinction of the male line of the Medici in 1737, when he was pitchforked into the Ducal Throne of Tuscany.

<sup>2</sup> As a matter of fact, there are two specimens of the Sackville Medal in the British Museum, and two in the collection attached to Bodley's Library at Oxford. Both the examples in the British Museum are in silver: one of those at Oxford is in gold, and the other in silver. See *Addendum* by Bro. G. W. Speth. A fifth example is in the renowned collection of W. Bro. George W. Bain, of Sunderland, our Local Secretary for the Province of Durham, who has, with characteristic courtesy, permitted his specimen of this rare medal to be exhibited in illustration of this paper. A sixth specimen is in the collection of the Lodge Archimedes in Altenburg, an electro reproduction of which will be shown at Lodge by Bro. C. Kupferschmidt. These six are all that are known to be in existence.

It was contended that Charles Sackville, Earl of Middlesex, could not have been a Freemason in 1733, because he was then under the proper Masonic age. Charles Sackville, son and heir of Lionel, first Duke of Dorset, was born, as we have seen, 6th Feb., 1710-11, and consequently had attained only his 22nd year in 1733, whereas the limit of age laid down by the Grand Lodge of England was twenty-five. The fourth of the *General Regulations* "approv'd by the Grand Lodge on St. John Baptist's Day, Anno 1721" (Dr. Anderson's *Constitutions* 1723, p. 59) enacts that no Lodge shall make a Mason of "any man under the age of twenty-five." Following the same train of reasoning under a second head, it was maintained that if the Earl of Middlesex had been admitted by Dispensation, he must have left his mark somehow on the Grand Lodge that had so favoured him. Yet no trace of the Earl of Middlesex could be found in the records of the Grand Lodge of England.

Both these arguments assume that Charles Sackville, if he was a Freemason at all, must have been a Freemason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England. The existence of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the intimate connection of the Sackville family with Dublin, and the consequent probability of the Earl of Middlesex hailing from the Grand Lodge of Ireland were overlooked. Very excusably overlooked, for attention had not yet been directed to the history of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The next generation will, it is to be hoped, have more plentiful materials at command, and a more adequate conception of the function discharged by the Grand Lodge of Ireland in the development of eighteenth-century Freemasonry.

The matter seems natural enough to those who are acquainted with the prominent part in Irish affairs played by the Sackville family of that day. The head of the family, Lionel-Cranfield, seventh Earl, and first Duke of Dorset, father of Charles Sackville, Earl of Middlesex, served continuously for more than fifty years in high offices of State. He was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, 19th June, 1730, though he did not cross the Channel till the following year. It will help to give an idea of the difficulties of transport in those days, to learn that his Grace and his household took three weeks on the journey from London to Dublin, where he entered on formal residence as Viceroy in September, 1731. He held office till September, 1737, when he was succeeded by the Duke of Devonshire. The Duke of Dorset as Viceroy was not less splendid in outward show than successful in public administration, and contracted an attachment to the Irish Metropolis that showed itself in a score of ways. He took his full share in the public institutions of the country. He gave his name to Sackville Street, still the broadest thoroughfare in any European Capital, and to Dorset Street, which corresponded to the Oxford Street of London. He entered his son at Trinity College, Dublin; Lord George Sackville, the inglorious hero of Minden, was a graduate of the University of Dublin. So favourable an impression was left on him by his sojourn in Dublin that in June, 1751, his Grace resigned the post of Lord President of the Council in order to take up again the government of Ireland. He continued Lord Lieutenant till May, 1755, when he was again succeeded by a Duke of Devonshire. It was during this second Viceroyalty that his son, Lord George Sackville, M.P., Chief Secretary, was installed Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, 1751-2.<sup>1</sup>

In the controversy about the Medal, great stress was laid on the uncertain information we possessed about Charles Sackville's movements. He was returned to the Parliament of England, for East Grinstead, and made Governor of Walmer Castle in 1734. It was argued that this made it very probable that the candidate had been present in England, for electioneering purposes, during the previous year, or that, at any rate, it made his residence at Florence improbable. All presumptions of this sort were swept away by the testimony of the Rev. Joseph Spence, to which we have previously referred. This amiable and cultured divine was Professor of Poetry at Oxford, and was a friend of Pope, which latter circumstance might, in the opinion of many, give him a better claim on the Muses than could be derived from Academic status. A posthumous work of his, suppressed during his lifetime, and neglected for fifty years after his death, was suddenly issued in two competing editions by two rival publishers on the same day in 1820. The correspondence of Spence, detailed in the Introduction to this volume, shows that the Earl of Middlesex was domiciled at Florence in the first week of October, 1732. He found the place so much to his liking that he remained there till June, 1733.<sup>2</sup> He made himself agreeable to a social environment, refined

<sup>1</sup> In the interval between the two Viceroyalties, our Charles Sackville had drawn closer the ties between himself and Ireland, by making a love-match with the heiress of "Lord Viscount Shannon, of the Kingdom of Ireland." Readers of Bubb Dodington's *Diary* will remember how the cynics of the day resented the capture of the *Dilettante* by the swarthy little Irish lady, "full of Greek and Latin, and Music and Painting." (Horace Walpole's *Reign of George II.*, edited by Lord Holland; London, 1840: vol. 1., p. 76.)

<sup>2</sup> *Anecdotes, Observations and Characters of Men and Books*, by Rev. Joseph Spence. Edited, with Introduction by Samuel Weller Singer; London, 1820. The other edition, published on the same day, though based on a careful transcript by Edmund Malone, is of comparatively little value for our purpose. In fact, it is to the scholarly Introduction by Mr. S. W. Singer, that we are principally indebted for the information bearing on Charles Sackville's stay at Florence.

though finikin, and was conspicuous as a Dilettante among Dilettanti. *Fanatico per la Musica*, his infatuation for Italian Opera led him into extravagances that in after years estranged him from political affairs, embroiled him with his father, and impoverished his princely estate.

There can be no doubt of the sincerity of Charles Sackville's liking for Florence and its society, judging by the prolongation of his stay there. He left himself barely time enough to stop a few days in Paris on his hurried return journey to England, or, rather, to Ireland. Leaving Florence in June, the Earl of Middlesex reached the family mansion "adjoining to Whitehall" at the end of July, in time to accompany his father, "with a very great retinue," to Ireland. The Viceregal party arrived at Dublin on 17th September, after a transit of thirteen days, with better luck than had characterised the Viceroy's previous "very dangerous passage." In those days Dublin was farther from London than New York is to-day.<sup>1</sup>

The Earl of Middlesex had not been in Dublin many weeks before we find him attending a "Grand Meeting" of Freemasons, in very good company.

1733. Dublin Saturday Novr. 24.—On Thursday last, being the 22nd Inst: there was a Grand Meeting of the Right Worshipful Society of Free Masons at the Hoop Tavern on Cork Hill, where was present the Rt. Worshipful the Lord Viscount Kingsland, Grand Master, the Lord Viscount Tyrone, Deputy Grand Master, the Right Hon: the Lord Kingston, the Earl of Middlesex, the Lord Viscount Mountjoy, Sir Seymour Pyle, Bart., Robert Nugent, John Pigot, Charles White, William Champnies, Dillon Pollard Hamson, William Taylor, Col. Blighe, the Hon: John Allen, John Leigh, John Baldwin, Col. Ivers, Esqrs. Mr. Thomas Griffith, and Mr. John Pennell, Secretary to the Grand Lodge. The Grand Master then gave orders to Mr. Pennell Sect: to issue summons's to the Registered Lodges to meet him in their proper Cloathing, at the said Hoop Tavern, on Thursday next the 29th Inst: at five o'clock in the afternoon, to attend his Lordship at a Play for the Benefit of their Brother Mr. Thomas Griffith.

(*Faulkner's Dublin Journal*, Tues: Nov. 20 to Sat: Nov. 24, 1733.)<sup>2</sup>

The names of this very good company of Free and Accepted Masons have lain unregarded for the better part of two centuries. The odds are that the paragraph has not been read through in the interval since the day of its publication in 1733. Some information about these forgotten Freemasons is, therefore, due to the reader of *Notes on Irish Freemasonry*, who must bear in mind the difficulty of brushing off the dust that lies so deeply over the old-time worthies. For instance, the loss of our early registers makes it doubly difficult to ascertain when and where the brethren at the Hoop Tavern had been first admitted to Freemasonry. Out of the score, or so, then present, only four or five can have their dates of initiation fixed with certainty, and the best known of them, Lord Kingston, has been traced to a London Lodge by that indefatigable enquirer, Bro. W. J. Hughan.<sup>3</sup>

But the initiation of such as we do know to have been admitted in Dublin Lodges, took place before the date laid down by Edward Spratt for the erection of the Grand Lodge, whose early records he so faultily presents. The time and place of the initiation of the others, including the Earl of Middlesex, are merely matters of inference, and cannot be held to have been satisfactorily determined.

The Right Hon. Henry Benedict Barnewall, 4th VISCOUNT KINGSLAND, was the Representative of an old Catholic family of the Pale, and adhered to his religion all through those troublous times. The Pope's ban against Freemasonry had not been officially published in Ireland, and like the Duke of Norfolk, in England, Viscount Kingsland was a staunch son of the Church, and a zealous Freemason at the same time.

Lord Kingsland had been appointed Deputy Grand Master by his immediate predecessor in office, Viscount Netterville, or Nettirvill, as he himself spelled the name. Lord Kingsland served as Grand Master in 1733 and again in 1734, in accordance with the Irish custom that the Grand Master should serve two years.<sup>4</sup> He appointed as Deputy Grand

<sup>1</sup> *The Peerage of England*, by Arthur Collins, Esq.; London, 1756. Vol. i., part ii., p. 791.

<sup>2</sup> The early sets of *Faulkner's Dublin Journal* in the Public Libraries are, one and all, imperfect. So numerous and diverse are the gaps that it is doubtful whether a single complete set could be made up from all known to exist. The only known copy of the number containing the foregoing extract is to be found in the private Library of the Privy Council of Ireland, Dublin Castle. The present writer takes this opportunity to return thanks to the authorities for permission to use the Library.

<sup>3</sup> *The Three Degrees of Freemasonry*, by W. J. Hughan, A.Q.C., vol. x., p. 134; *Caementaria Hibernica*, Fasc. III.

<sup>4</sup> The story of the Kingsland Peerage is one of the most romantic in the annals of the British nobility. The last representative of this ancient stock was a Dublin waiter, whose family was compelled by poverty to emigrate. See Burke's *Vicissitudes of Families*, London, 1869, vol. ii., p. 74.

Master, Sir Marcus Beresford, VISCOUNT TYRONE, who was afterwards created Earl of Tyrone, progenitor of the Marquess of Waterford of to-day. Lord Tyrone served as Grand Master in 1736 and 1737.

The only Grand Master of Ireland during the last century, whose name is likely to be familiar to the reader of *A.Q.C.*, is the Rt. Hon. LORD KINGSTON, whose services to the Grand Lodge of England have been recorded by Dr. Anderson.<sup>1</sup> This enthusiastic Freemason, fitly called the International Grand Master, served as Grand Master of England in 1729, and in 1731 was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. A little later in the same year, his Lordship was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Munster, which thenceforward merged into the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Lord Kingston was again Grand Master of Ireland in 1735, in 1745 and in 1746, and took a prominent part in Irish Freemasonry, till his death in 1761.<sup>2</sup> Lord Kingston's accession to the Chair of the Grand Lodge of Ireland marked a memorable epoch in its history; so memorable, that the date of his Grand Mastership has been commonly given as that of the creation of the Grand Lodge. We now know, however, that, in 1731, Lord Kingston succeeded the Earl of Rosse as Grand Master of a Grand Lodge which had been in full swing since 1725, if not from an earlier date. Much misconception on this and similar points has been caused by the singular omission of all reference to our Grand Lodge before Lord Kingston's accession, in the narrative compiled by Edward Spratt, the official Historian.<sup>3</sup> This omission has thrown us on outside sources for information, and has introduced much gratuitous confusion into our early history. It may be alleged in extenuation that Edward Spratt did but follow Dr. Anderson in thus passing over the course of events before 1731, but what might be pardonable in the case of an English writer treating of events across the Channel, becomes inexcusable in the case of an official compiling a history of his own Grand Lodge.<sup>4</sup>

The VISCOUNT MOUNTJOY present at this Lodge was a wealthy young peer, the third Viscount of that creation. He had but just taken his seat in the Irish House of Lords, being much of the same age as his friend, the Earl of Middlesex. He served as Grand Master of Ireland in 1738 and in 1739. His Lordship was the representative, through his mother, of the extinct peerage of Blesinton, and in 1745 he was created Earl of Blesinton. Under this title he may be known to English Masonic students as the "first noble Grand Master" of the Grand Lodge of the Antients, over which he presided from 1756 to 1760. This Grand Lodge is now generally admitted to be of Irish origin, and not due to a secession from the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns), or to a devolution of authority from the Grand Lodge of All England at York. This consideration explains why the Antients had recourse, at the beginning of their career, to noblemen connected with Irish Freemasonry, such as the Earl of Blesinton and Lord George Sackville.

SIR SEYMOUR PILE, the sixth and last of his line was a young Hampshire Baronet, who had recently succeeded to the title. He seems to have taken much interest in Freemasonry, and to have been present at more than one meeting of Dublin Lodges; notably at that meeting of Grand Lodge, 7th December, 1731, when "Rules and Orders for the better Regulation thereof" were adopted. The Baronetcy became extinct on his death in 1761.

The HON. JOHN ALLEN was another young spark of fashion, son and heir of Joshua, 2nd Viscount Allen, of Stillorgan. At the time of this Lodge he was a member of the House of Commons, but was called to the Upper House on the death of his father, in 1743. He was elected Grand Master in the following year, but he did not complete his term of office, as he had the ill luck to get wounded in a street fight, and died of the wound. The event made a great noise at the time, and our historian, Edward Spratt, makes a great to-do over the difficulty of securing another nobleman as Grand Master, but gives never a hint of the mode in which the vacancy fell out.

<sup>1</sup> See also, Gould's *History of Freemasonry*, vol. ii., p. 384.

<sup>2</sup> Many interesting details of the career of Lord Kingston (often incorrectly styled Viscount Kingston) will be found in *A.Q.C.* vol. x., p. 143. The attentive student will note that Lord Kingston confined his zeal to Irish Freemasonry after 1730, the year in which the Grand Lodge of England adopted certain "alterations."

<sup>3</sup> In this connection, reference should be made to an ingenious article by Dr. W. Begemann, *A.Q.C.*, Vol. xii., p. 164. The actual evidence published in *Caementaria Hibernica*, showing the Earl of Rosse to have been Grand Master of Ireland in 1730, was not before Dr. Begemann when he wrote, but his acute analysis of the evidence at his disposal enabled him to show that, whoever might have been Grand Master in 1730, it certainly was not Lord Kingston; notwithstanding Spratt's direct statement to the contrary.

<sup>4</sup> See *Caementaria Hibernica*, Fasciculi I. & III., Introduction to Spratt's *Constitutions*.



DILLON POLLARD HAMSON served as Junior Grand Warden in 1731, and his name appears on the first Warrant ever granted by a Grand Lodge. ROBERT NUGENT succeeded him as Junior Grand Warden in 1732.

JOHN LEIGH, of Rose Garland, co. Wexford, and COL. HENRY IVERS (or Ievers) were present 17th December, 1731, when "Sir William Burdit, Bart, and Charles Pulteney, Esq.," were initiated in the Lodge at the Yellow Lion, "Warborough's St," when Lord Netterville acted as Master and Thomas Griffith as Secretary. COL. THOMAS BLIGH, M.P., was the brother of the 1st. Earl of Darnley of the Irish creation. He, too, was present at the making of Sir Wm. Burdit.

JOHN BALDWIN, Esq., was Grand Secretary from 1738 to 1742. He was the first to have a Deputy or Clerk to discharge the duties of the office, and was evidently of higher social standing than either of his predecessors, Thomas Griffith or John Pennell, whose fortunes we shall trace presently. CHARLES WHITE of Leixlip, was present with "Thomas Griffith, Secretary to the Grand Lodge," at the Lodge "held at the Yellow Lyon in Warborough's St., by the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Ross, Grand Master of Ireland," 6th March, 1730-1, when Lord Tyrone, Lord Netterville, Hon. Col. Bligh, and Hon. Henry Southwell were admitted members of the Craft. JOHN PIGOT owned large estates in co. Limerick, and WILLIAM TAYLOR was a Herefordshire squire, connected with the Tyrconnel family.

These Brethren were of high social standing, noblemen and county magnates. There remain two worthy Brethren, THOMAS GRIFFITH and JOHN PENNELL, who successively filled the post of Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

THOMAS GRIFFITH, the Comedian, was a man of mark in his profession, and his name cannot even now be omitted from the History of the British Stage. Born of Welsh parents in Dublin, in 1680, he is said to have been apprenticed to a Mathematical Instrument-maker, whose workshop he speedily deserted for the Stage. His reputation stood high as a representative of the lighter comedy, and his powers as a vocalist added to his success as an actor. His popularity induced the first Lord Southwell, in 1710, to obtain for him a post in the Revenue, which he enjoyed till his death, discharging his duties by deputy. The earliest recorded meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, 24th June, 1725, ended in a visit to the Play, for the benefit of Bro. Thomas Griffith. He was at this time Secretary to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, as Hitchcock, the Historian of the Irish Stage, informs us, and his connection with the Craft is repeatedly mentioned in the contemporary paragraphs. His name is appended as Secretary to the famous Warrant of the "First Lodge of Ireland," the oldest Lodge Charter in existence. He ceased to be Secretary immediately afterwards, for his name is erased from the Warrant of Lodge No. 2, and that of his successor, JOHN PENNELL, substituted. Pennell compiled the earliest Irish *Book of Constitutions*, making such alterations in Dr. Anderson's pioneer *Book of Constitutions* as were thought likely to fit it for use in the Irish Lodges. He makes no allusion to Griffith's previous tenure of office, and seems to make a point of throwing no light on the history of the Irish Grand Lodge. Pennell was a bookseller by trade, and published his *Book of Constitutions* about Midsummer, 1730. He then carried on business at the "Three Blue Bonnets in St. Patrick's St.," and had not yet been compelled by "a dismal accident" to change his residence to the neighbouring Plunket St.

The story of this accident chimes in so exactly with the visit of the Earl of Middlesex to Dublin, and is so quaintly told by Peter Paragraph, the Father of Penny-a-liners and Interviewers, that we cannot but quote it.

The first notice in *Faulkner's Dublin Journal* runs thus :

Tuesday, Augt. 14, [1733.] On Sunday Morning, the 12th inst., a very melancholy Accident happened in St. Patrick's St., viz: between 7 and 8 o'clock in the Morning, three old Houses fell down. Several persons were buried in the Ruins, five of whom were taken up dead, and several very much hurt.

(*Faulkner's Dublin Journal*, Sat : Augt. 11th to Tuesday, Augt. 14th, 1733.)

Returning to the charge at the end of the week, Peter Paragraph adds the graphic touches that speak the practised reporter.

Saturday, Augt. 18 [1733]. The dismal Accident that happen'd on Sunday last in St. Patrick St., and has put the Town in so great a Consternation, having been told so many ways, that it is hard to guess what is true or false, we have endeavour'd to get the best Account we can of it, in order to satisfy the Publick : which is as follows : 17 Persons were buried under the Ruins, 8 of whom were taken out Dead, and 9 alive. Those taken out dead were Mary Clark, Francis Hussey, son to Mr. Hussey in Mill St., and his wife, both killed in one Bed, having been married about six weeks ; Mr. Lowrey Evans, Clerk to the Rolls Office, Elias Crispin ; Walter Salmon ; Sarah Darbyshire and her Daughter.

Those taken out alive were: William Gallagher, James Clark, John Hobbs, Mr. Evans's Wife, Margaret Crispin, Mother to the above Elias, Jane Hayman, John Delap and Mother, and Mary Evans, *alias* Lee, who lay at the Bottom of the Rubbish 32 hours, viz: from the hour of 7 on Sunday Morning until 3 o'clock the Day following, in the afternoon of Monday. Mr. John Pennell, with his Family miraculously escaped the Ruins, and now live at the Sign of Hurcules, near the end of Plunkett St.

(*Faulkner's Dublin Journal*, Tuesday, Augt. 14th to Saturday, Augt. 18, 1733.)

John Pennell emerged from the Ruins in time to be present at the reception of the Earl of Middlesex and his father the Viceroy. He retained the office of Secretary to Grand Lodge till his death in 1739. Thomas Griffith survived him by four years, dying 23rd January, 1743 [O.S.], more than twelve months after Edward Spratt had been appointed Deputy Grand Secretary. It is very odd that though we find Griffith and Pennell sitting side by side in Lodge, and though we know that Edward Spratt must have had personal acquaintance with Thomas Griffith, neither one nor the other makes the faintest allusion to the Comedian who had preceded them in office.<sup>1</sup>

The benefit of Bro. Thomas Griffith, the Comedian, was duly honoured by the Brethren. The play was "*The Twin Rivals*, with a Free Mason's Song between every Act, and a Prologue and Epilogue proper for the Occasion." The announcement that the Freemasons were to appear "in their proper cloathing" drew an overflowing audience. "The House was so full before the Society came, that Seats were erected round the Stage, whereon sat the Nobility and Gentleman Free Masons, who made a most beautiful and magnificent Appearance."<sup>2</sup>

A few weeks later, we learn from the same source that the Earl of Middlesex had returned to England, shortly after Christmas, to contest the county of Kent.<sup>3</sup>

The bitter quarrel between father and son had not yet broken out. In 1743, the Duke and his son were still ostensibly of the same political party, and by the Duke's influence the Earl of Middlesex was appointed a Lord of the Treasury. But in 1747 the breach widened, and the Earl of Middlesex openly broke with his father's friends, by throwing himself into the arms of the Prince of Wales' party. He resigned the Lordship of the Treasury, and was "constituted Master of the Horse to His Royal Highness."<sup>4</sup> The point is of some importance in this controversy, as it was thought that if the Earl of Middlesex was a Freemason and a friend of the Prince of Wales, he ought to have been present at the initiation of His Royal Highness in the "Occasional Lodge" at Kew, 5th November, 1737. But the Earl of Middlesex does not appear to have been on intimate terms with the Prince till 1747.

No further argument against the authenticity of the Sackville Medal, derived from the career of Charles Sackville, Earl of Middlesex, remains to be examined. The movements of Charles Sackville from the day he left Oxford with his M.A. degree in the autumn of 1730 to the day of his election for East Grinstead in the spring of 1734 have been tolerably well ascertained. He made a prolonged stay at Florence, and hurried thence to Ireland, where he is at once found prominent among Irish Freemasons. The objection that he was under the Masonic limit of age, prescribed by the Grand Lodge of England, breaks down, inasmuch as the limit under the Grand Lodge of Ireland was twenty-one, not twenty-five years, and it is in connection with this Grand Lodge that we find him.<sup>5</sup>

Another usage in which the Grand Lodge of Ireland differed from the Grand Lodge of England, suggests an odd possibility. The use of Lodge Charters, or as they are now styled, Warrants, had been introduced into Freemasonry by the Grand Lodge of Ireland immediately after its reorganization in 1730. If, then, the Sackville Medal was struck in commemoration of the foundation of a Lodge, at Florence, as is asserted by the Continental authorities whom Bro. Wm. T. R. Marvin follows, it is quite possible that the connection of the Earl of Middlesex with Irish Freemasonry indicates the source from which a Warrant was obtained. The fact that the destination of some of the Warrants of that day has yet to be traced falls in with the possibility, but fails to change it into a probability.

At this time of day, it is hard to say what basis the Continental Numismatologists had for thus stating that Charles Sackville founded a Lodge at Florence in 1733. The probabilities lie all the other way. The Earl of Middlesex did not bring Freemasonry to Florence: he found it there when he came. The Florentine Lodge was sufficiently alive to earn the Pope's reprobation, while Charles Sackville was still in residence at Christ Church,

<sup>1</sup> For details and authorities see *Caementaria Hibernica*.

<sup>2</sup> *Faulkner's Dublin Journal*, 1st December, 1733.

<sup>3</sup> *Faulkner's Dublin Journal*, 12th February, 1733-4.

<sup>4</sup> *Collins's Peerage of England*, by Sir Egerton Brydges; London, 1812; vol. ii., p. 179.

<sup>5</sup> *Caementaria Hibernica*, Fasciculus I. *The First Irish Book of Constitutions*.

Oxford. We come to learn it in this way. A curious pamphlet, called *Masonry Farther Dissected*, was published in London in the year 1738. As its name proclaims, it was an attempt to catch the breeze which Prichard's *Masonry Dissected* had excited, though its contents were quite inconsistent with the Spurious Ritual compiled by that notorious impostor.

Some extracts from contemporary periodicals are given as a sort of appendix to the text of the pamphlet, and one of these chronicles the existence of a Lodge of Freemasons at Florence at an earlier date than has hitherto been supposed. As far as is known, the pamphlet has never been cited by any of the authorities who have discussed the Sackville Medal.

"From ROME, July 18, 1730.

The Society of FREE MASONS, lately detected at Florence, makes a great Noise: They pass there for *Quietists*; but here it is said they are of the Epicurean Sect, and that there are no Laws too severe to deal with them. The Pope sent the Father Inquisitor of that Office, Post to Florence, in order to persecute them, at the Request of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, who was absolutely resolv'd to extirpate the whole Sect."

"As his Highness is since dead, and the Duke of LORRAIN, who was made a Free Mason in ENGLAND, is to succeed, this Persecution may not go far."

*Masonry Farther Dissected*, London, 1738, p. 22.<sup>1</sup>

The foregoing extract from this extremely rare pamphlet seems conclusive as regards the existence of Freemasonry at Florence before the Earl of Middlesex and his Mentor had started from Christ Church, Oxford, to make the Grand Tour. Of course, a new Lodge, with or without a Warrant, may have been erected in 1733, or the previously existing Lodge may have thought it prudent to provide itself, in that year, with a legal Charter. But there is no need of these suppositions. The evidence goes to show that the Medal was struck to commemorate the connection of Charles Sackville with a Lodge of Freemasons at Florence in 1733, and we have found that such a Lodge was at work as early as 1730, and sufficiently active to attract public attention. The final clause, added in italics by the compiler of *Masonry Farther Dissected*, shows fair ground for supposing Freemasonry still alive in Florence at the accession of Francis of Lorraine in 1738, the year in which the pamphlet was printed.

#### ADDENDUM.

By Bro. G. W. SPETH, F.R.Hist.S.

The Sackville Medal has hitherto been figured in the following works only:—

- (1.) Prof. J. D. Köhler, *Historische Muenzbelustigung*, Nuremburg, 1729 and following years.
- (2.) *Gruendliche Nachricht von den Frey-Maurern*, Frankfort, 1738. See the note by Dr. Begemann, in *A.Q.C.*, xii., 204.
- (3.) J. J. Bode, *Almanach oder Taschenbuch fuer die Brueder Freymaeurer* for 1777.
- (4.) Ernest Zacharias, *Numotheca Numismatica Latamorum*, Dresden, 1840.
- (5.) W. T. R. Marvin, *The Medals of the Masonic Fraternity*, Boston, Mass., 1880. Marvin gives the reverse only.

(1.) Professor John David Köhler was a celebrated antiquary and historian, he was born at Leipsic in 1614, spent his life chiefly as a professor at Altdorf and Göttingen, and died at the latter city in 1755. In 1729 he began to issue, in weekly numbers, his well-known *Historische Muenzbelustigung*, each number containing a wood cut of one or more coins or medals, with a description, and a full, learned, and often humorous disquisition on the personage commemorated. The separate parts collectively formed annual volumes. Volume VIII. is for the year 1736, and at page 129, being the part for the 25th April of that year, Köhler gives a cut of the Sackville Medal, and an unusually long commentary, which, however, has very little to do with the medal. But, as it reproduces the views then held by several prominent German literary men about Freemasonry in general, at a time when the Craft was barely established there—Hamburg, 1733, being the earliest possible date—a few extracts and a short summary will prove interesting. I fear, however, that much of the quaintness of Köhler's old-fashioned and ponderous German must evaporate in the translation.

<sup>1</sup> This curious pamphlet is discussed, from another point of view, in an article entitled *The Ordeal of the Poker*, *A.Q.C.* 1896, vol. ix., p. 83.

He writes: "Two years ago [i.e., in 1734, or very shortly after its issue] an illustrious patron sent me this medal from Florence, and promised me to supply the needful information....The war troubles which broke out in Italy prevented him from doing so....I wrote to my highly esteemed friend Solinus to make enquiries respecting the Freemasons of our mutual patron Antonius Musa, who is so well acquainted with English affairs." Musa wrote to Solinus, who showed the letter to Köhler, who quotes from it as follows:

"Concerning the Freemasons nothing has been published except a wretched piece which has also been translated into German and is presumably known to you. I know not whether the contents be correct, but they may be so. Workmen everywhere have their tomfooleries. There are two members here, but nothing trustworthy is to be got out of them. They say that however resolved a man might be to obtain initiation with the firm intention of subsequently breaking his promise of secrecy, he would nevertheless, once admitted, preserve inviolable silence thereon. Such cases, they say, are well-known. They say: Once a quarrel broke out in company between two men, and seemed likely to become serious, but in the thick of it they discovered by certain signs that they were Freemasons, whereon the quarrel at once subsided and they embraced, because no Freemason will ever hurt another. They also say that a needy Freemason, wherever he finds a fellow, may rely upon assistance or support. They also state that all real masons in England belong to the society. In Holland their conventicles have been suppressed for fear of political plots. But they aver that to discuss *Negotia publica* in their meetings is, *per Leges Societatis*, forbidden. I can make nothing of it, but believe that there is nothing special behind all this, and that the secrets are not worth the trouble of finding out: otherwise silence could not so long have been preserved among so many, so various, and in many cases, such common, people. Do not, even in Germany, a few quite common workmen rejoice in their childish ceremonies or Arcana? Important matters, if known to many people, do not long remain secret."

Köhler then relates that shortly after this Antonius Musa sent him Anderson's 1723 Book of Constitutions, the title of which he proceeds to give in English and makes long extracts from it in German. He regrets that all this does not enable him to find out who Carolus Sackville was, and treats us instead to a long commentary on the book and on Masonry in general. He cannot imagine why so worthy a brotherhood should adopt a connection with the "dirty" trade of a mason. It cannot be the mere antiquity of the Craft, because the "worshipful and cleanly tailors' craft" is undoubtedly much earlier. Clothes came before houses. Besides the first builder of houses was a wicked Cainite, whereas the Semitic Patriarchs dwelt in tents. But they were clothed. "Even to this day great Lords and Ladies look more to fine clothes than grand palaces." "Therefore the English, so given to party and association, would have done better to choose the tailor-craft instead of the masons' for elevation to so distinguished a fraternity. Did not Queen Christina ennoble her body tailor, and even grant him the Gothic Lion for a coat of arms?" Finally, he does not so much marvel at the successful secrecy of the Masons as at the assumption that among so many thousands of Masons of all sorts, they should all be honourable, honest, intelligent, moral, peaceful and benevolent. "Our Saviour only chose 12 disciples, and among these few one was a devil!"

Köhler's illustration is a fine one, and was taken from the medal direct, as he possessed a specimen. There are, however, one or two slight defects, which it were hyper-criticism to notice but for the fact that these very defects are perpetuated in all subsequent representations which I have seen. One of these is peculiar to the engraver employed by Köhler. Throughout his book he shades the centre of all his medals and coins by horizontal lines, leaving the outer circle, on which the legends are modelled, with a white ground. The reason was probably merely to throw the legends as well as the central figures into higher relief, but it has the effect of suggesting a sunken centre to the medals. Then our Sackville medal shows various minute tools lying about, and close inspection will reveal that several of these are not drawn with absolute accuracy. It may only be a slight variation in their position or direction, almost too slight to notice, but it exists. And to the extreme right of the medal, lying on the ground, will be found what I take to be a tiny chisel and maul crossed saltirewise, which Köhler shows as a gavel. Trifling defects enough, but they all reappear in other cuts, as we shall see, a fact which is not without its importance. The legends in Köhler's drawing are, however, represented by open letters, indicating relief, as is usual. Subsequent engravers have replaced these open letters by black ones with thin cross lines, like printed characters, which are far from suggesting the work of a die-cutter.

(2.) *Gruendliche Nachricht*. The wood-cut of the medal is undoubtedly copied from Köhler, whose publication had only predated the *Gruendliche Nachricht* by two years, and

not from a specimen before the engraver; and it is very roughly executed, so much so that Bro. Begemann was unable to identify some of the objects enumerated.

It is important to note, as illustrating the inveterate Masonic habit of repetition without independent investigation, that two of the four errors of misdescription, commented on by Dr. Chetwode Crawley, are to be found in this book (*cf.* Dr. Begemann's note, vol. XII., 204). We find both of the expressions "Lord" Charles Sackville, and "Duke" of Middlesex. We do not find the allegation that Sackville was the great-grandson of the Sir Thomas Sackville of 1561, for a very obvious reason. The tradition was not yet known in Germany, having been only published by Dr. Anderson in the 1738 Book of Constitutions. It is true that he alludes to the incident in his first, 1723, edition, but without giving any names. Had he only mentioned Sir Thomas in 1723, Prof. Köhler would not have been so utterly at a loss to guess who Carolus Sackville was.

(3). Bode's 1777 *Almanach or Taschenbuch*. Judging from the peculiarities, already mentioned, in the drawing of the tools, and from the fact that the shaded centre is retained, Bode's illustration is, in all probability, a copy of Köhler's. It is scarcely a successful effort, however. The open letters are retained, but the basket is now shut instead of slightly open, and the serpent might be anything except a snake. Harpocrates has lost his godlike elegance of contour and resembles an effeminate Hercules suffering from fatty degeneration of the muscles. In one matter the artist has been grossly careless. Under the bust stands simply L.N. 1733 instead of L. NATTER 1733.

Bode does not say whether he has ever seen the medal, and his description furnishes some particulars peculiar to himself. "Lord Sackville, Duke and Earl of Middlesex" [the titles are given in English] "founded a Lodge at Florence, for which reason the Brethren there struck this medal in his honour in 1733. . . . He expressly ordered all his titles to be omitted, and would only be called Magister Florentinus." The authority for this act of abnegation on Sackville's part is not quoted, but of the three titles given, at least one, Earl of Middlesex, has the unwonted merit of accuracy.

(4). Zacharias. The illustration of the medal given by this writer, as will be seen by reference to our reproduction, is once more copied from Köhler. The tools are represented with the same slight inaccuracy, and the shaded centre is retained. The basket and snake are badly drawn, but better than in Bode. The great difference is in the lettering, which is here an imitation of printer's type, instead of being shown in relief.

Zacharias is the first to call Charles Sackville a "great grandson of Thomas Sackville, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge at York in 1561," and he rightly describes him as son of "Lionell Cranfield Sackville, Duke of Dorset" although he wrongly calls him "*Lord* Charles Sackville, *Duke* of Middlesex." He refers to previous illustrations in Köhler and Bode, and mentions the existence of a specimen in the Minerva Lodge, Leipsic.

*Die Denkmuenzen der Freimaurerbruederschaft*, by Dr. J. F. L. Th. Merzdorf, was published at Oldenburg in 1851. It gives no illustration of this medal, but describes it minutely. Merzdorf avoids all errors of title by refraining from any historical remarks. Among his authorities he also quotes Köhler, *Gruendliche Nachricht*, and Bode, with several others. He himself owned a galvano-plastic copy of the medal, but states that the silver specimen formerly in the Lodge at Leipsic was no longer there, and that a specimen had once formed part of the Hammerstein collection.

(5.) Marvin. Dr. Chetwode Crawley has given the text of this brother's remarks. They simply follow Zacharias. I think he has gone to the same authority for his drawing. He gives the reverse only. We have the same inaccuracies in the tools, the same use of printer's type for the legend. The shaded centre is omitted, but in order to retain the suggestion of a sunk centre which is really non-existent, an inner circle is drawn where in previous illustrations the edge of the circular shading was found. The basket and serpent are now no longer recognisable as such, but appear to be a coil of rope with a loose end. And finally, the L. NATTER F. /FLORENT, beneath the figure of Harpocrates is altogether omitted. Marvin's artist, has, moreover, with delightful modesty, girded the previously nude god with a loin cloth.

Is it not a curious and somewhat instructive fact that, although Zacharias, Merzdorf and Marvin all refer explicitly to Köhler, even giving the number of the page on which the medal will be found, no participant in the discussion, which has raged with more or less activity since 1883 ever bethought himself of referring to this, the first writer to mention the medal? And yet, every beginner in the study of numismatics is aware that the *Muenzbelustigung* at once assumed a foremost place and has ever since been considered a standard work. Half an hour in the British Museum or other good public library would have settled the existence of the medal in 1734 at least.

Whilst comparing the two silver specimens of the medal in the British Museum with Zacharias and Marvin, the Keeper informed me that, according to his notes, the Bodleian owned a bronze copy. This is a mistake; Bodley does not own a bronze specimen, but does

possess one in silver and one in gold or unusually heavily gilt. Subsequently a good photograph of the gold one was furnished to us through the kindness of Mr. E. W. B. Nicholson, M.A., Bodley's Librarian. All are struck from the same die at about the same date. Not only are the imperfections due to the die cutter identical, but the subsequent faults arising from usage, as for instance the chip in the die over the M of MAGISTER, agree perfectly. Either the die was injured very early in its career or these particular specimens are not among the first struck. In one respect only was the gold medal slightly the better, viz., the date 1733 under the bust is a shade less indistinct. The medal is curiously unequal in artistic execution, the bust and Harpocrates being each excellent, boldly cut in good relief, and full of life: while the lettering throughout is very poor. The O in CAROLVS, and the FL after MAGISTER are in such wretchedly low relief that they can only be seen in a good light, and I was doubtful whether they would appear in the photograph at all. And, as will be seen, the medal is not struck centrally on the disc.

For purposes of comparison I reproduce herewith the illustration in Zacharias and give a photograph from a cast, kindly supplied by the British Museum authorities, from one of the silver specimens in their custody.

The portrait of Charles Sackville, second Duke of Dorset, is from the only print of that brother in the print room of the British Museum.

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Bro. T. B. WHYTEHEAD, P.G.S.B., W.M., desired to express his high appreciation of the interesting paper to which they had just listened. It was, of course, a most welcome achievement to have run Charles Sackville to earth, and to have dissipated the last lingering doubt as to the genuineness of all connected with the medal, but he ventured to think that the part of the paper not immediately concerned with the medal exceeded it, if possible, in interest. He alluded to the biographical sketches of those ancient brethren who were present in Lodge with the Earl of Middlesex. Bro. Chetwode Crawley simply revelled in every fresh occasion of furnishing us with these welcome details; one had but to glance back at his former communications to this Lodge to grasp how much he had persistently done to make us acquainted with the career of many an old brother. When Bro. Crawley introduces a new brother to us, he takes care that he shall cease to be a mere name and nothing more, but presents him to us as a living creature with whom we can henceforth claim a speaking acquaintance. He begged to move a vote of thanks to Bro. Chetwode Crawley.

Bro. T. H. GOLDNEY, P.G.D., rose to second the vote. He endorsed the remarks which had fallen from the W.M. He thought it a great pity that no systematic attempt had been made, so far as he knew, to compile a biographical dictionary of Freemasonry. Encyclopedias gave, of course, biographies of some few prominent masons; but the names cited were far too few. The German *Handbuch der Freimaurerei* had gone much further than any English work of a similar nature, especially as regards German Masons. But even in that excellent book few English masons found a place. Surely it would be worth the while of our Lodge to keep this fact in view, and place on record details of the career of their ancient brothers whenever opportunity offered, and perhaps at some future time these might be collected and reprinted in alphabetical order, so as to form a book of reference. In the same way he suggested that another great want was a list of published portraits of prominent men who had been connected with the Craft in by-gone days.

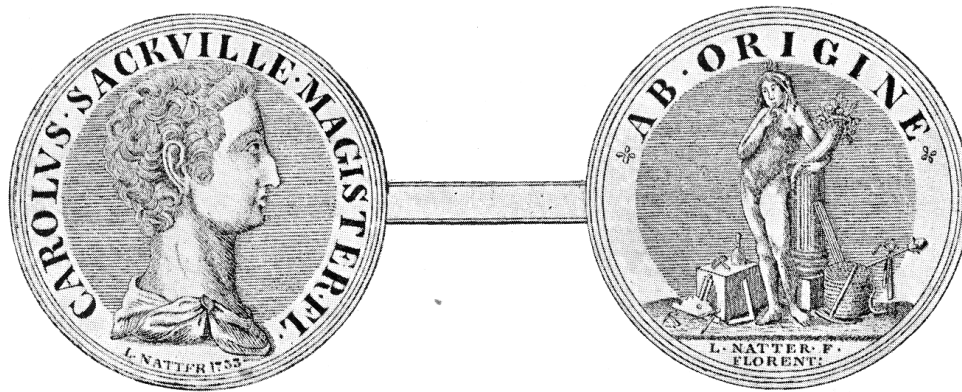
Bro. C. KUPFERSCHMIDT, A.G.S.G.C., said:—In supporting the vote of thanks I have nothing to add about the excellence of the paper, which could scarcely have been more detailed, complete or satisfactory.

The fact that the medal was illustrated in *Gründliche Nachricht* has always been known to German students, including myself. There never has been any doubt in Germany about the actual existence of the medal or of the genuineness of its alleged date. The only questions have been whether Sackville ever founded a Lodge in Florence, and who Sackville was? Dr. Chetwode Crawley has thoroughly solved the last question for us.

I have brought with me this evening a copy of that exceedingly scarce book *Gründliche Nachricht*, of which even Bro. Speth has hitherto been unable to obtain a sight. He now agrees with me that the illustration of the medal therein is undoubtedly taken from *Köhler*, sharing all its peculiarities and slight defects in a somewhat increased degree.

Besides the other writers quoted by Bro. Speth, Netteblatt in his *Geschichte der F.M. Systeme* also alludes to *Gründliche Nachricht* on page 670, as does the *Hamburg Zirkel-Correspondenz* in January, 1898, on page 86.

*Ars Quatuor Coronatorum.*



From Zacharias: "Numotheca Numismatica Latomorum."



From a Silver specimen in the British Museum.

**THE SACKVILLE MEDAL.**



Ars Quatuor Coronatorum.



CHARLES SACKVILLE.

*DUKE of DORSET*

*from a fine Miniature by O Humphrey Esq<sup>r</sup> R.A.*

*Published 6 April 1799 by S Harding 127 Pall Mall & P Brown, Crown St Soko.*



The Lodge "Archimedes zu den drei Reissbrettern" in Altenburg possesses a very good and rich collection of medals, the largest in Germany. It formerly belonged to the late Bro. Horst von Baerenstein, who acquired the greater part of it from Merzdorf. This collection contains an original specimen of the Sackville medal in bronze, and through the kindness of Bro. Rudolph Hase, keeper of the collection, I have been furnished with an electro-galvanic copy in white metal, which I have brought with me for the inspection of the brethren this evening, and have much pleasure in handing over to the Lodge Museum.

Our thanks are due to Bro. Speth for giving us the extracts from Köhler's *Münzbelustigungen* in reference to Freemasonry, which were not known to me, as I was under the impression that the first printed allusion to Masonry in Germany was the *Gründliche Nachricht* so often referred to. Even Kloss, *Bibliographie* (No. 1327) only mentions Köhler in connection with a part translation of Anderson's 1723 Constitutions, and does not allude to the interesting comments of which Bro. Speth has given us portions.

BRO. E. CONDER, JUN., S.W., thought that there was an oil portrait of Charles Sackville at Knowle Park.

BRO. SPETH, P.A.G.D.C., Sec., supposed that there would now be little danger in assuming that Sackville was really a mason at the time of his sojourn in Florence, but the assumption was not without a slight difficulty still. Sackville was not 21 years of age until the 6th February, 1732. In the first week of October of the same year we find him in Florence. When did he leave England for the Continent? Probably in August at latest. This left him a bare six months in which to get initiated. Did the ceremony take place in Ireland, as was assumed? If so, was he there between February and August of 1732, or did he leave for the Continent direct from Oxford? But perhaps he was initiated under age; in the case of the eldest son of the Viceroy there would be nothing surprising in such an occurrence. It would be more satisfactory if Dr. Chetwode Crawley could follow Sackville's movements from, say 1731 to October, 1732.

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Bro. W. J. Hughan, P.G.D., wrote as follows:

Dr. Chetwode Crawley's paper on the *Sackville Medal* is most interesting and valuable, and I feel quite certain that this, his fifth "Note on Irish Freemasonry," will be duly acknowledged and appreciated by Collectors and Students of the Craft throughout the world; the subject being one that has hitherto evaded complete recognition and authentication. Thanks to the Irish Masonic Historian, the presumed oldest Craft Medal is now proved to be genuine in every respect, and has thus become one more "feather in the cap" of "ould Ireland," as well as another triumph for our esteemed friend, whose success in unravelling intricate puzzles practically admitted to be impossible of solution has been almost phenomenal.

Bro. Speth's Addendum is also an important addition to our precise information as to this remarkable piece, and the illustrations supplied, with such particular description, add much to the value of the supplement to Dr. Chetwode Crawley's able brochure. Neither should we forget Dr. Begemann's previous communication, which, so far as it went was wholly satisfactory.

I consider that the fortunate discovery of such precise information, which has resulted in this piece being placed, beyond question, in the position of the *premier masonic medal*, furnishes another proof of the utility and value of the researches conducted by the members of our Lodge, on scientific principles, and, of course, without bias from predilections, fancies, or theories of the brotherhood.

It seems to me too, that the newspapers of early last century have not yielded all their testimony to the activity and transactions of the British Craft, 1717—1740.

W. J. HUGHAN.

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The vote of thanks was then carried unanimously.