

IRISH CRAFT JEWELS AND MEDALS

BY

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Irish Craft Jewels and Medals

*Very Worshipful Brother Robert Bashford
Molesworth Street, Dublin, 12th February 2000*

I must begin my remarks today by thanking you all for entrusting me to fill the office of Master in this, the only Research Lodge in the Irish Constitution. I am conscious of the many great Masons who have served this Lodge in the past, and can but aspire to try and emulate their excellent work. It is my intention in this short address to place on record my thoughts on the collection and classification of Irish Craft jewels and to provide examples of the many attractive and interesting jewels that can be seen on the Masonic circuit today. I will attempt to put these in context of the evolution, history and development of Irish Freemasonry and provide some examples of our many early jewels and medals.

Next I must thank the Grand Secretary, Rt. Wor. Bro. Michael Walker, and his staff, for making the Grand Lodge Museum available as a venue for a part of today's meeting. Very Wor. Bro. Barry Lyons and Ms Alex Ward have given me great assistance in my research and in the varied selection of exhibits here today. I am greatly indebted to both of them.

Finally I must thank Very Wor. Bro. Michael Ward, Grand Secretary for Instruction, for his permission to call the Lodge from Labour to Refreshment and back again to Labour. In this way we were enabled to open the meeting in the Grand Lodge Room, recess down to the Museum for presentation of the Paper before processing back up the Grand Staircase to the Grand Lodge Room to complete the closing ceremonies. Very Wor. Bro. Ward provided the necessary ritual which enabled those present to revive, for a short time, a very old Masonic tradition, another first for the Lodge of Research.

What Do We Mean by Masonic Jewels?

In the context of this Paper, I shall be dealing with the classification and description of a wide range of medallic awards presented to Irish Craft Masons by their Lodges, Provinces or indeed the Grand Lodge of Ireland. We are fortunate indeed Brethren that, even within the confines of Blue or Craft Masonry in Ireland, there is a plethora of medals, jewels or awards in regular use. To date the only paper on jewels in the Transactions of CC was the excellent illustrated work by the late Bro. Fergie McKeown, the avid Masonic collector, whose opus was published in 1986. It was only thanks to the encouragement and assistance of Fergus that I initially became aware of the existence of the Lodge of Research and indeed became involved in the collection of Masonic artefacts. And what a treasure trove I've found. It may surprise many to learn that over the past 275 years there has been a total of some 2,389 separate Lodges working under 1,020 different Warrants in the Irish Constitution. Potentially all of these Lodges could have presented jewels, although, in fact, very few appear to have done so.

It is true to say that Lodge jewels were not commonly presented until the start of the 19th century. However some of the finest examples of Masonic jewels emanate from the 18th century, when personal plate jewels were all the vogue. The main common thread to this genre of jewels is the trend to illustrate Craft symbols on one side and symbols relating to the Higher Degrees on the other. Plate 1, (page 102) illustrates some examples of the three main types of plate jewel which are Cast, Plate and Incised Plate. Sadly, these jewels are extremely rare today and will normally only be seen in Museum collections. This class of jewel was not a true award, as it was usually the recipient himself who procured the piece and had it engraved with the symbols relating to the degrees that he personally had received. I shall come back to the examples on

plate 1 later in the Paper, once I set out the framework of my classification system. But firstly I will explain some of the terms that we will use throughout the paper:—

Medal: A piece of metal, usually in the form of a coin, struck or cast with an inscription, armorial illustration or device to commemorate an anniversary or event. Produced to order, by many companies, including The Royal Mint, they cannot be used as coin of the realm. Larger medals go under the name of Medallions. In Craft Lodges we normally see medals used to show membership of a particular Lodge, commemorate the foundation of a Lodge, a special event in its history or the achievement of a significant anniversary. Medals are also issued to commemorate the opening of new buildings and occasionally personalities.

Jewel: An ornament in base metal, silver or gold, sometimes containing precious or semi-precious stones, brilliants, enamels, engravings and other form of decoration. In the Masonic context, a jewel is normally presented to a Brother as a mark of esteem for the completion of a period of service to either his Lodge, Province or Constitution. This is the section where we will find most of our Past Master's jewels.

Token: A piece of metal, similar to a coin, originally issued by tradesmen and banks in lieu of legal tender. In Masonry Tokens are normally only encountered in Mark Lodges where they are issued to all qualified Mark Master Masons. There are two types; the Mark Penny and Halfpenny. The Mark Penny is about the size of a two pound coin and has the peculiar keystone of the order complete with the inscription H.T.W.S.S.T.K.S. On the reverse is a crossed maul / chisel complete with a spray of shamrocks.

The Halfpenny differs in that it is smaller, the size of a two pence piece, and the reverse will normally have the name of a specific Mark Master's Lodge on it instead of the spray of shamrock. Thanks to the efforts of Excellent Companion Frank Elliott of Holywood, there are now quite a number of different Irish Mark Lodge Halfpennies available to the collector.

And whilst we are on the question of classification, I will now highlight the different types of enamel work that can be found on Masonic jewels.

Type 1 Enamel: When the underlying shape to be enamelled is first made, the manufacturer sub-divides his pattern into a number of segments by means of raised metal lips. This enables the enameller to apply different colours in each segment, which can then all be fired together in the one operation.

Type 2 Enamel: In the second type of enamel each colour is applied and fired separately, resulting in a build-up of ten to twenty separate colours in each piece. This is a slow and skilled task, which needs careful quality control to ensure that the enamels don't crack after each firing. However on the upside it allows the artist to produce a much finer piece with a greater depth of colour, in effect a miniature painting of the object required.

More modern, mass produced jewels tend to be made in base metal and where decorated, are given their decoration using transfer printed stickers. These are certainly more cost effective, but are unlikely to survive in the longer term. The other modern alternative, although slightly more expensive, is to use one colour only to contrast with the simulated silver or gold effect of the base metal.

As will be seen in the following Paper, the quality of jewel encountered can vary from the crude, locally made piece to some of the finest examples of the goldsmith's craft. How-

ever monetary value should not be the main criterion used to classify these pieces as each and every jewel inspected represents years of labour and dedication by a particular Brother to a particular Lodge.

Classification of Categories:

Craft jewels fall into eleven main categories and each will be discussed in turn, complete with examples. These categories are:

1. Plate & Incised Plate Jewels.
2. Membership Medals.
3. Past Masters Jewels.
4. Lodge of Research Medals & Jewels.
5. Founder Jewels.
6. Centenary & Commemorative Medals.
7. Provincial Grand Lodge Jewels.
8. Grand Lodge of Instruction Jewels.
9. Grand Lodge Jewels.
10. Jewels for Representatives of Foreign Grand Lodges.
11. Special Jewels.

However, before we get too immersed in jewel classification, we will start with a brief overview of our early records, and see what references, if any, still survive on the topic of jewels. We will delve further into the form and development of our early plate jewels and record a few notes on the various symbols commonly found inscribed on these jewels.

Jewels in the Early Days:

The first references to Masonic jewels in the Irish Constitution date from the earliest surviving records of Irish Craft Masonry, which are to be found in the columns of *The Dublin Weekly Journal* for the 26th June 1725. Most of you will know



that this is the first written record (so far found) of the existence of The Grand Lodge of Ireland and details the Installation of The Earl of Rosse as Grand Master for the ensuing year. Our interest in this event stems from one part of the newspaper report which reads as follows: “The Brothers of one Lodge wore fine badges painted full of crosses and squares, with this motto – *Spes Mea in Deo Est.*”

I wonder how many of you recognise the motto – “My Hope is in God”. However this written report is indisputably the first record of jewels being worn at a Masonic meeting. Many of you will know that this event was commemorated by Grand Lodge with the issue of a medal in the year 2000 to commemorate the 275th anniversary of the investiture of our first recorded Grand Master.

This medal comprises the portrait of the Earl of Rosse, Grand Master, on the obverse with the dates 1725 – 2000, and on the reverse, the coat of arms of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The medal was manufactured in silver or with an antique bronze finish and was suspended on a white ribbon with a red St. Patrick’s Cross emblazoned thereon, or alternatively it could be purchased as a medalet in an antique bronze finish. The silver jewels, 500 in total, were individually numbered and

have the millennium assay stamp from Dublin for the year 2000. I was fortunate to acquire No. 280, the number of my Mother Lodge.

Sadly, our next piece, The Sackville medal, is not so plentiful. Struck in 1733, the Sackville medal has been the cause of much debate over the years as to its authenticity. However independent research carried out at the end of the 19th century by Bro. W. Begemann for his Paper published in AQC (Volume 12 page 204) and Rt. Wor. Bro. Chetwode Crawley, LLD (*Notes on Irish Freemasonry Vol 5*) both clearly confirm that this is the earliest known Irish Masonic medal.

The medal has a bust of Charles Sackville, Earl of Middlesex, with his head to the right. Hair short. Mantel fastened on right shoulder with a brooch. Legend "*CAROLVS SACKVILLE MAGISTER.FL*" (Charles Sackville Master Florence). Under the bust is the signature "*L.N. 1733*" which stands for L.Natter a medallist born at Biberach, Suabia in 1705, and eventually died in St. Petersburg in 1767. Natter is said to have taken the Rite of Strict Observance from the city of Stockholm to St. Petersburg.

On the reverse of the medal is the figure of Hippocrates, the God of Silence, leaning upon a broken fluted column; on his head are some lotus or laurel leaves; in his left hand is a cornucopia : at his feet to the left, is a perfect ashlar on which a hammer and gavel are lying : against its side a plumb, rule and square are resting: on the ground are a pair of compasses, the 24 inch gauge and some chisels crossed saltireways: to his left a coil of rope, and leaning against it, a pick and serpent: in the rear are some tools, which are difficult to decipher. In exergue, in two lines "*L. NATTER. F./FLORENT*" (L. Natter Fecit (made) Florence). "*AB ORIGINE*" (In the Beginning).

This is a fascinating medal struck to commemorate the foundation of an Irish Lodge in Florence by Charles Sackville. We know that Charles Sackville was born in 1711, the eldest

son of Lionel Cranfield Sackville 7th Earl and 1st Duke of Dorset. Charles held the title of Lord Buckhurst until 1720, when as a result of his father's Dukedom, he became Earl of Middlesex. On the death of his father in 1765 he became the 2nd Duke of Dorset.

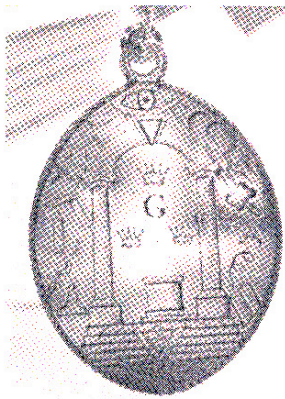
It is a matter of record that Charles Sackville was too young to be an English Mason in 1733, as the minimum age for entry in England at that time was 25. Extensive checks of English Grand Lodge records can find no mention of the Earl of Middlesex.

The story in Ireland is somewhat different. One only had to be 21 to become an Irish Mason. The Sackville family have had a long involvement with Ireland over the years. In 1731 his father, Cranfield, was appointed Viceroy and it took his Grace three weeks to travel from London to Dublin with his father. Charles was entered into Trinity College, Dublin, where he studied for a short time before going on to Christ Church in Oxford. It is a matter of record that Charles went to Florence in October 1732. He found the place so pleasant that he extended his visit until June 1733, before rushing home to accompany his father back to Dublin. This time round they made the trip in 13 days. In those days Dublin was further from London than Australia is today.

Finally we can show that the Earl of Middlesex was a keen Irish Mason in that he had no sooner returned to Dublin than he attended a Meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and his visit was recorded in *Faulkner's Dublin Journal* for Saturday the 24th November 1733. On that occasion the Lord Viscount Kingsland, Grand Master was in the chair. Others present on that occasion included Thomas Griffith, the comic actor and past Grand Secretary, and John Pennell, Grand Secretary and author of our first book of Irish Constitutions.

In more common usage at this period were the silver plate jewels that are sometimes found in local sale rooms. These

were usually made from flat sheets of silver, usually in circular or oval form and each is unique as the symbols thereon represent the various Masonic degrees of their owners. In most cases when the owner has passed the third degree the symbols were segregated, with Craft symbols on the obverse or front



face and the symbols for the Higher degrees on the reverse. Our first example is circular with the symbols slightly raised from the silver backing plate. Both faces have a number of similar Craft symbols such as the maul, crossed quills (usually suggesting the office of Secretary) open compasses, level, plumb, sun, moon, and the two columns supporting the Lodge (indicative of the Junior and Senior Wardens).

One example has on one face the latin motto *AMOR HONOR ET JUSTICA* (Love, Honor and Justice) together with the four cardinal points – North, South, East and West. On the other face is that famous phrase *SIT LUX ET LUX FUIT* (Let there be Light and there was Light) with the Masonic date 5763 (1763). This type of medal is known as a “Muskerry Medal” as one was reputed to have been owned by the Rt. Hon. Robert Deane, Esq., who was created Baron Muskerry in 1781 and who then went on to become Grand Master of Ireland in 1783.

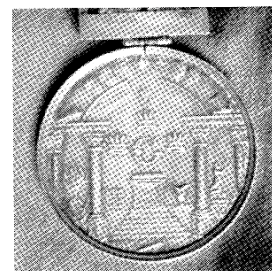
Another example is oval in shape and has the more usual mix of Craft and Royal Arch symbols that we would expect at this period. It is however interesting to see the 47th problem of Euclid, more commonly known as the Pythagorean Proposition used on this jewel, as this symbol is more usually associated with English Constitution jewels. However this is in fact an Irish Constitution jewel belonging to a Bro. T. Livingstone of Lodge No. 673 in the townland of Rockcorry,

Co. Monaghan. We know from Grand Lodge records that a Bro. Thomas Livingstone joined Lodge No. 673 on the 23rd June 1799. Rockcorry is not that far from Dundalk where, in 1848, Eureka Lodge No. 47 was Constituted. They too used the same Pythagorean symbolism.

Bro. James Brush, Sen. (1774-1812), a Dublin jeweller and engraver, was one of the first Masonic manufacturers. His premises were located at 7 St. Andrews Street and he was treasurer of Royal Arch Lodge No. 190. In 1792 he played a leading part in the establishment of a society for the relief and support of the orphan children of distressed Masons, formed by the members of Lodge No. 190. This society was adopted by Grand Lodge in 1798 and went on to become the Masonic Female Orphans' School. As a result of his earlier work, Bro Brush was appointed first Treasurer of the new Grand Lodge School.

Bro. Brush developed a standard medal which had Craft symbols on one face and could have either Royal Arch or High Knight Templar symbolism on the other. These medals became quite popular at the time and a number of them survive to this day.

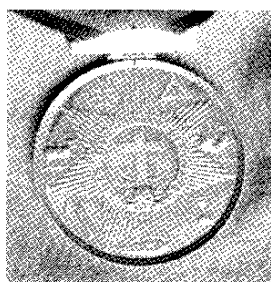
The Craft face has two Corinthian columns adorned with pomegranates, the blazing sun with 16 flames, an open book bearing the square and compasses, standing on a dais of three steps: above a crescent moon and a group of seven stars, surmounted by an irradiated eye. On the left are a maul, trowel, gauge and a sprig of acacia: and on the right three candlesticks a hand holding a poniard and a ladder of three rungs leaning against one of the columns. Below in exergue the square, level and plumb rule with the signature "*BRUSH*".



The Royal Arch face has an arch lacking a keystone supported by an arcade of Corinthian columns. Within the arch is

an altar of six steps with a breastplate and ewer at the sides, and above the letter “G” between three crowns: through the broken arch a hand appears and above it the blazing sun among clouds. Within the arcading, on the left is a burning bush, rod and serpent: on the right a kneeling figure holding up the tables of the law, interlaced triangles below. At the base a scroll is lying: and near the edge is the signature “BRUSH”.

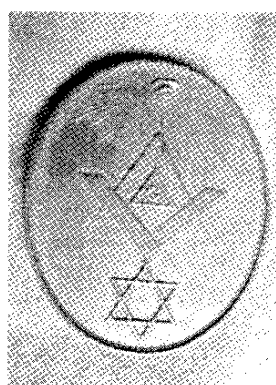
The High Knight Templar face has a seven pointed star thereon having a Christian cross in the centre, with the motto “*IN HOC SIGNO VINCES*” (In this sign we conquer) within



two concentric circles around. Mounted on the circles is a skull resting on crossed bones. In the spaces between the arms of the star are a series of symbols such as the paschal lamb, the cross pattee, triangle with twelve burning tapers, the cockerel, the hourglass, the coffin and the scythe. Below the whole is the signature “BRUSH”.

The next Irish medallist that we shall consider in this paper is William Mossop, Sen. (1751 -1805) who made one outstanding medal for Irish Freemasonry This medal, known as “The Prince Masons Medal” was originally produced as a prize medal by the Masonic Female Orphans’ School in Dublin in the year 1799.

The obverse has a female figure surrounded by three children seated on a cross and anchor representing Faith, Hope &



Charity. In exergue, on the left in very small writing the name “*MOSSOP.F*”

On the reverse are the square and compasses, crossed enclosing an equilateral triangle on which is the letter “G”; to the lower angle of the square is suspended an interlaced double triangle forming a six pointed star :

above is a radiant All Seeing Eye. The medal is oval shaped, size 64mm x 52mm and is usually found in bronze. Occasionally it is found with a loop for a ring which was attached to the planchet of some.

This medal was designed by the celebrated Irish sculptor Smyth. The original wax impression was once in the possession of a Doctor William Frazer of Dublin, who presented it to The Royal Dublin Society in the early 1900's.

Other unusual Irish jewels on show in the museum include the Ozier medal dating from the year 1763. This medal, in gold was presented to Francis Ozier and has the number 2, referring to Lodge No. 2 Dublin. The obverse of the medal shows the figure of a Master holding a drawing or plan, standing on a mosaic pavement, between two pillars, each capped with a globe (terrestrial & celestial), above is the "All Seeing Eye" and the legend "*Sapientia*". On the left, outside of the column are the compasses, plumb rule and level. On the right outside the column is the outline of a Temple.

The reverse of the medal has as a centrepiece the Volume of the Sacred Law resting on the 24 inch gauge with the level and plumb rule on either side. On the top of the volume of the sacred law is a set of compasses resting on a square and the whole has the All Seeing Eye on top with the legend "*Sit Lux Et Lux Fuit*" (Let there be Light and there was Light). Below the 24 inch gauge are a ladder with three rungs and the Pythagorean proposition. This jewel is illustrated in the 1927 Transactions of the Lodge of Research along with similar examples presented to Bro. John Campbell in 1773 by the Members of Lodge No. 489, Dublin and to Bro. David Colhoun in 1802 by the Members of Lodge No. 547, Newtownstewart. These fine jewels can all be seen in the Grand Lodge collections in Molesworth Street.

Another uniquely Irish medal is the Minden medal struck in 1848 by the Members of The Minden Lodge, an Irish

travelling warrant attached to the 26th Regiment of Foot (Cameronians) sometimes known as the Scottish Rifles. This Lodge decided to strike a centenary medal to commemorate the issue of their original Irish Warrant (No. 309) which was issued to Lord George Sackville, Colonel Edward Cornwallis and a Captain Milbourne on the 7th December 1748. Lord George Sackville was a younger brother to Charles, the Earl of Middlesex, whose medal was previously described.

So the Brethren of Minden determined that their medal should be given to all 20 members of the Lodge, and after much consideration they decided to adopt a wooden wheel as their background with the name of one of their members on all sixteen of the staves. The centrepiece of the design was an “All Seeing Eye” with a circular hub around and on this hub was the legend “*C. South. PM and WM Elect*”. From this hub emanated 16 separate staves and on each staff was the name of a Lodge member :- “*M. Kane, D. Bilham, P. Gerachtys, T. McMullan, T. Peden, J. Clarke, J. Matherson, J.D.G. Kilhourn, J Balme, H. Gibson, T.J. Waring, I.G.T. Higgins, W. Harris, J. Shaddock, R. Perkins and J. McGee.*” On the outer band of the wheel were the three final Lodge Officers :- “*F. Oliver WM*” at the top, “*W. Robertson JW*” on the right and “*J. Clarke SW*” on the left.

This medal can claim to be the first Centenary Medal in the Irish Constitution. It was issued just one year ahead of The Grand Master’s Lodge, which was not issued until 1849. Over the preceding 100 years the Minden Lodge had survived many tribulations in postings across the British Empire of the day. All of its Lodge records up until the year 1802 have been lost as a result of these travails. In 1823, Lodge No. 309 applied to Grand Lodge to change its Warrant for a higher number, and was issued No 26, tying in with its honourable position on the roll of foot regiments within the British Army. The Lodge continued to work right up to the start of the First World War in

1914. However on the bloody fields of France the regiment was decimated, losing most of its Officers, NCO's and men. The Lodge never recovered and the Warrant was returned to Grand Lodge in 1922.

As previously mentioned, The Grand Master's Lodge celebrated its Centenary in 1849, when it too issued a centenary medal. The Lodge was first Warranted in 1749 by Lord Kingsborough as a personal Lodge for his Lordship and his Grand Lodge officers. It was a Lodge unique to the Irish Constitution and for many years up to the 1820's it had the sole right to nominate the officers of The Grand Lodge of Ireland. It was not until 1780 that Lawrence Dermott, as Grand Secretary of The Grand Lodge of the Antients and a past Master of Lodge No.26 Dublin, introduced a similar Lodge into the English Constitutions. The medal itself comprises:

Obverse: A man standing full face, holding in his right hand a pair of extended compasses and in his left a trowel; he wears the hat, collar, jewel and gauntlets of a Master, and an apron bearing the letters G.M.L. on the fall. At the right is a pedestal having on the front a panel, on which is a pentalpha; on the ground to the left are a gavel and chisel, in front a sword with the hilt to the left and to the right a plumb, level, square 24 inch gauge and protractor leaning against a rough ashler. Near the edge, to the right is a sprig of acacia, and ruins in the distance. Below the tools are the small letters *H.E.F.* To the left is part of a Temple. Over all is a radiant "All Seeing Eye". Above the legend "*GRAND MASTER'S LODGE*" and below "*CENTENARY 3D JANUARY 5849*".

Reverse: Legend in seven lines "*THE MOST NOBLE / AUGUSTUS FREDERICK / DUKE OF LEINSTER / GRAND MASTER OF THE / ORDER OF FREE AND / ACCEPTED MASONS / OF IRELAND*".

Finally Brethren, before we return to our classification system for Irish Craft jewels, I will make passing reference to

that exciting period of Irish history when Freemasonry became entwined with the politics of the day and was seen as an important aspect of the 1770-1796 Volunteer Movement. It was at the famous Dungannon Volunteer Convention we first hear the phrase that every Volunteer Battalion should have its own Masonic Lodge and that every Masonic Lodge should set up its own Volunteer Battalion. The whole story of the Volunteer Movement in Ireland covers a fascinating period of Irish history from the latter part of the 18th century. It is the story of a struggle for economic and political freedom from repres-



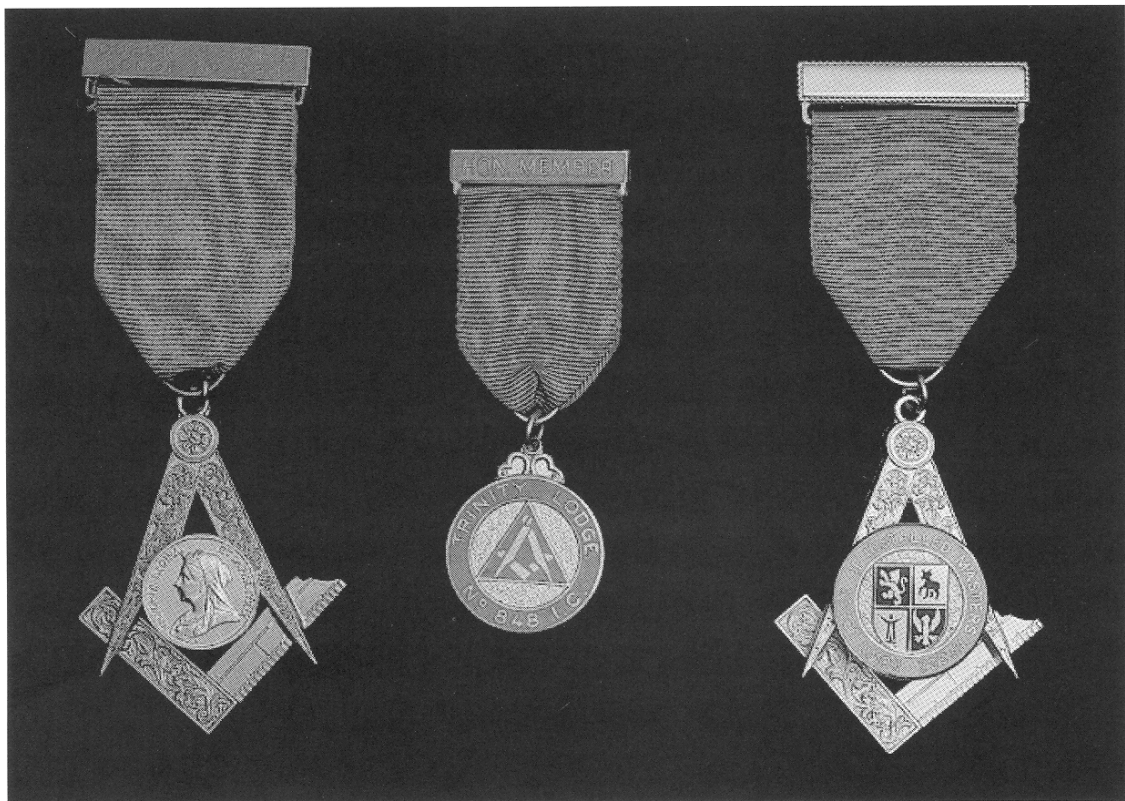
sive government and the Masonic Order was seen to be in the vanguard of this struggle.

From the Irish medallion point of view there are a number of Masonic artefacts with strong links to this period in history. Probably the best known example is the copper belt-plate buckle worn by the serving members of the Lowtherstown Masonick Volunteers which couples the usual volunteer symbol of Hibernia and her harp with a number of Masonic symbols including the Holy Royal Arch complete with keystone, the sacred letter "G", the third degree compasses and square, the three steps up to (in this case Hibernia stands in lieu of the Altar), the plumb line, the cockerel and a representation of the Sun in splendour, representative of (in this instance) the light of Freedom. Lowtherstown was of course the old name for Irvinestown, in Co. Fermanagh and the main man in this Battalion was William Irvine, who at that time had the title of Provincial Grand Master of Ulster, which would have made him the senior Freemason in the Province of Ulster at that time. A fine (silvered) example of this belt plate is preserved in the Grand Lodge museum in Molesworth Street.

The late Robert Day, a past Provincial Grand Master of

Munster, and an enthusiastic collector has written extensively on the Volunteer movement, its medals and symbolism in the *Ulster Journal of Archeology* in the early years of the 20th century. His personal collection was sold after his death and the majority of pieces can now be seen in the collections of both the Ulster Museum in Belfast and The National Museum of Ireland in Dublin.

And now we are ready to look in more detail at the classification of Irish jewels, with an opportunity to consider their role in promoting the Craft and giving the members a strong sense of identity and belonging.



Member Jewels:

Member jewels are a relatively recent addition to the family of Masonic Craft jewels. These are, in effect, badges which Lodge members can purchase, usually bearing the Lodge name and crest suspended from a sky blue ribbon. In recent years there has been an encouraging trend amongst Lodge

Members to seek means by which they can become more closely associated with their Lodge.

In years past, this was done by means of embroidered apron patches containing the Lodge name and crest, but nowadays it is more usual to commission a Lodge tie with the same details or commission their own special jewels.

Plate 3 illustrates three examples of Members jewels, which are as follows:

A silver and gilt Member jewel of Queen Victoria Lodge No. 294 which sits in Arthur Square, Belfast. This attractive jewel comprises a silvered miniature of a florin showing Victoria's head mounted on a gilt set of compasses and square.

A silver and enamel Honorary Member jewel of Trinity Lodge No. 848 which sits in Freetown, Sierra Leone. This simple jewel comprises a blue enamel equilateral triangle containing a silver compass and square. Around the whole, in silver letters within a blue enamel background, is the inscription "*Trinity Lodge No. 848 IC*".

A Member jewel belonging to the Down Lodge of Installed Masters No. 382 which sits at Hamilton Road, Bangor. This jewel consists of a circular plaque with the coat of arms of the Masonic Province of Down mounted on a silver compass and square with a suspended "G". The "G" is an interesting addition on this jewel as it confirms to all that this Lodge is in fact an association of Past Masters.

Past Master Jewels:

These are probably the most frequently encountered of all Irish Masonic jewels. They are normally presented annually to the outgoing Worshipful Master, on completion of his year of office, and are a token of gratitude from the rest of the Lodge members. Plate 4 illustrates the variety of different types of Past Master jewels most frequently found. The basic components for any Past Master jewel is a silver compass and



square in the third degree position, with a “G” suspended between.

The symbolism of these three elements is explained to every Worshipful Master at his installation, and is well enough known not to require restatement. In many cases, the only jewel that a Brother will ever acquire will be a Past Master jewel. Plate 4 illustrates a diverse group of seven fairly common patterns of Irish PM jewels which include the following:

A plain silver PM jewel presented to Wor. Bro. William Ryan PM, by the members of Ashler Lodge No. 528, Rosetta, Belfast. This jewel comprises a silver compass, square and a “G” suspended from a sky blue ribbon by two silver bars having the Lodge name and number engraved upon them. This particular pattern of jewel is probably the most common type found within the Constitution.

An example of more ornate fret cut PM jewel. This example was presented by the members of St. Helen’s Lodge No. 641, Rosetta, Belfast to Wor. Bro. Sam McAfee in 1932. This jewel comprises a silver compass, square and “G”, mounted on a silver disc made from silver rods. The whole is surrounded with raised fret cut letters to read “*St. Helens Masonic Lodge No. 641*”.

A standard silver 1929 pattern Irish PM jewel as supplied by Messrs George Kenning & Sons of London. This jewel comprises the normal compass and square surmounted with the letter "G" and the whole is decorated with engraved shamrocks. This jewel was manufactured in silver, silver gilt and 9ct gold by Kennings.

A plain silver PM jewel presented to Bro. G. E. Potter, WM in 1935, by the members of Royal Larne Lodge No. 615 Larne. This jewel is notable, in as much as, the details of the presentation are inscribed on a shield on the ribbon, rather than on the reverse of the jewel. This pattern is also quite frequently encountered.

A plain silver PM jewel comprising compass, square and "G" suspended, with the whole surmounted on a plain rebated silver disc.

This particular jewel was presented to Wor. Bro. James Patterson, WM in 1938, by the members of Civitas Lodge No. 483, Rosetta, Belfast. This type of design is most frequently encountered on PM jewels manufactured by R. A. Browne & Co. of Belfast.

This is a very nice example of a high Victorian PM jewel, comprising silver compass and square mounted on a piece of St. Patrick's blue ribbon backing, set in brilliants and glass, within a silver gilt surround and mount. This pattern was very popular in late Victorian times, but is rarely encountered today. This particular example was presented to Wor. Bro. George Tate, Past Master and Past Secretary by the Brethren of Excelsior Lodge No. 109, now in Rosemary Street, Belfast, in the year 1895

An unusual little PM jewel cut out of a silver disc presented by the members of Wright Memorial Lodge No. 448, Newtownards, to Wor. Bro. Davis Lavery, WM in February 1936. This particular design seems to have been a speciality of the watch-maker James White of Newtownards. A number

of other similar examples can be seen in the collections of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim which were also made by James White for other Lodges in the North Down area.

Having now spoken about some of the commoner designs of PM jewels, Plates 5 and 6 indicate how these designs can be enhanced by the addition of Lodge crests, mottos or other devices. PM jewels come in two main types – pinback or brooch type normally worn on a lapel, and the neck type, suspended from a blue cord, usually worn in conjunction with a dinner suit. Strangely, the neck type is more usually found in the city or military Lodges, whereas the pinback is found in rural areas. Plate 5 shows four examples of neck-suspender PM jewels with various Lodge crests.



A fine example of a PM's suspended neck jewel presented by the members of Pyramid Lodge No. 507 to Wor. Bro. Robert Stewart, WM in 1934. This Warrant has now been returned to Grand Lodge but used to meet in the Molesworth Street Hall in Dublin. The jewel comprises a fine Type 2 enamel of a pyramid on a silver gilt plaque with an inscription in silver, on

blue enamel, reading “*Pyramid Lodge No. 507*”. Suspended below is a silver compass, square and “G”. This jewel and plaque were both made by the famous Dublin goldsmiths, Messrs West & Sons of Dublin.

2.5.2 The second jewel on plate 5 is a PM jewel of Leswarree Lodge No. 646, one of the famous Irish military travelling Warrants attached to the 8th King’s Royal Irish Hussars. The jewel itself is made up with white sapphires mounted in silver for the compass and square with a suspended silver “G” in the centre. Above it all is a silver and enamel copy of the regimental cap-badge with the regimental motto “*PRISTINA VIRTUTIS MEMORES*” which translates as “*Mindful of Former Glory*”. This particular example was presented to the third Master of the Lodge, a Wor. Bro. W. J. Sheridan, in the year 1934.

The Lodge name “Leswarree” comes from one of the battle honours of the 8th King’s Royal Irish Hussars during the Indian Mutiny. Possibly one of the reasons for my particular fondness for this jewel is the fact that in the late 1700’s this regiment, under the name 8th King’s Royal Irish Light Dragoons, worked under Irish Constitution Warrant No. 280, which now sits in Moyarget, Co. Antrim, my mother Lodge.

2.5.3 The third jewel on Plate 5 is a silver compass, square and “G” with an silver oak tree surmounted on the square. This jewel belongs to Ardath Lodge No. 573, Arthur Square, Belfast, which was constituted in 1924.

It seems that when Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic came into existence, a number of Dublin civil servants and their families moved up to Belfast to live and work. Being Freemasons and active members of Garrison Lodge No. 730, Dublin, they decided to meet in the Ormeau

Park in Belfast one summer evening to discuss the possibility of forming a new Lodge.

The meeting was duly held, and midway it started to rain so all the Brethren took shelter under an adjacent oak tree until the rain ceased. They decided to form a Lodge and, after some discussion they agreed to call it “Ardath”, the name given by their first Master to his house on the Malone Road. The Oak Tree was selected as the crest of the Lodge and the fitting motto “*QUIS SEPRABIT*” (Who Shall Separate) was adopted at this time.

The final jewel on Plate 5 comprises a plain silver PM set suspended from a silver and blue enamel plaque bearing the Lodge name “*Down Century Masonic Lodge No. 436*”. This fine jewel was presented by the Lodge to Wor. Bro. Joe Coleman in 1955. Down Century Lodge was founded in 1918 and currently sits in the New Mount Masonic Hall in East Belfast.



Plate 6 illustrates a number of pinback PM jewels and these use a variety of colourful mottos and devices to illustrate the Lodge crests. I enclose a representative sample of nine jewels, to give some idea of the breadth and scope of

jewels which may be seen in our Masonic museums or indeed worn at our meetings.

A silver compass, square and suspended “G” on two bar ribbon. Both bars are in silver with enamel finish bearing the date “1915” on the top bar and “*Lodge No. 257*” on the bottom. This particular jewel was presented by the Brethren of The Belfast Lodge No. 257 to Wor. Bro. William Allen, their WM in the year 1915.

The magnificent type 2 enamel crest is the coat of arms of the city of Belfast complete with the Latin motto “*PRO TANTO QUID RETRIBUAMUS*” which translates as “*What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me*” (taken from Psalm CXVI verse 12). There is now great confusion as to the origins of this crest, which has been explained to me as possibly representing many of the symbols and signs used by Belfast merchants from the earliest times. The sea horse as the crest was chosen to represent the maritime importance of the city, as was the ship located at the bottom of the shield. The bell reminds us of the reputed monastic beginnings of the settlement and the figure of the wolf, as the dexter supporter of the shield, may well refer to Sir Arthur Chichester, who gave so much help and support to founding the city in its earliest days.

A finely executed PM jewel in 15ct gold, comprising circular gold disc bearing the legend “*Provincial Grand Master’s Lodge No. 5*”, with a gold plaque superimposed thereon bearing a beautiful type 2 enamel of the coat of arms of the city of Londonderry. Underneath the Latin inscription “*VITA VERITAS VICTORIA*”, which translates as “*Life, Truth & Victory*” and suspended below the whole, a fine 15ct gold set of compass, square and “G”. The surface of the compass and

square are covered with finely engraved shamrocks, 15 in number. This jewel is suspended on two gold bars also covered with exfoliate shamrock decoration on a blue ribbon. This fine jewel was made locally in Londonderry by J. Deane & Co. and was presented to Wor. Bro. D. C. Jones, PM in 1910. This Lodge is still in existence and meets in the old Bishop's Palace, located in Bishop Street, Londonderry.

An unusual 15ct gold English pattern PM jewel presented to Bro. Charles Bashford for his services as Wor. Master of The Duke of Leinster Lodge No. 259, Belfast for the year 1894. Sadly this Lodge, which used to meet in the Arthur Square Masonic Hall, Belfast between the years 1883 and 1978, is no longer in existence.

The jewel has the English 47th Proposition of Euclid suspended under an inverted square on a blue enamel background, surrounded by a circular gold disc bearing the legend "*Duke of Leinster Lodge No. 259*". Underneath in gold is a five pointed Pentalpha Star. On the ribbon is another very beautiful enamel of the crest and motto of the Leinster sept, bearing the crest of arms supported by two monkeys, chained and the motto "*CROM A BOO*" the battle cry of the clan which translates as "Crom to Victory".

An ornate silver and type 2 enamel PM jewel presented by St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 39, Armagh to Bro. L .H. Mahaffey, WM in the year 1925-6. This is a classic example of silver, gilt and enamel jewel by Spencer of London. It comprises a silver gilt PM set suspended under a colourful enamel of St. John complete with raven and halo surrounded by the Lodge title and number in enamels suspended from a blue ribbon, having bar with the legend *WM 1925-6*. At the top of the bar is a single shamrock. On the ribbon is a small silver shield bearing the initials of the recipient (*L.H.M.*).

A fret cut silver example of PM jewel presented by the members of Excelsior Lodge No. 109, Belfast to Wor. Bro. R. H. Rea, WM in 1937. This jewel comprises a silver compass and square complete with “G” set on a blue enamel plaque surrounded by a raised and fielded inscription reading “*Excelsior Lodge CIX*”, the whole is suspended by a three bar single hanger from a sky blue ribbon. The top bar of the ribbon has a fine set of fret cut initials of the recipient whilst the central bar is a fine type 2 enamel of a runner going up a mountain holding a pennant with the legend “*Excelsior CIX*” thereon.

This Lodge was formed in 1867 when a number of erudite Brethren under Very Illustrious Bro. W. Redfern Kelly, decided to form a Lodge to exemplify Irish Craft ritual. In the event this Lodge took over an existing Warrant of a Lodge which sat at Loughaughery in Co. Down, and under the name “Excelsior” have continued to work ever since. In many ways this Lodge could be considered the forerunner of today’s Lodges of Installed Masters. In any event, their crest “Excelsior” was well chosen in as much as they laboured long and hard to raise their standards “*Higher Still.*”

2.6.6. Plain silver PM set, un-named, bearing fine type 2 enamel on silver type 7 crest of Victory Masonic Lodge No. 478, Molesworth Street, Dublin. The crest comprises a fine enamel of the “Angel of Victory” surrounded by the Lodge name and number in blue enamel.

A nice example of a silver PM set decorated with 15 shamrocks and having a silver and enamel crest of the Royal Dublin Volunteers surmounted thereon. This jewel was presented by the Brethren of the First Volunteer Lodge No. 620 to Wor. Bro. J. C. Biggar, WM in 1951. It is interesting to note that the Molesworth Street Museum in Dublin has a fine

collection of artefacts associated with the The Royal Dublin Volunteers.

The First Volunteer Lodge No. 620 was formed in the year 1783 by some of the officers of the First Regiment of Independent Dublin Volunteers. The First Regiment was raised on the 6th October 1778 under the command of the Duke of Leinster, their colonel in chief. The membership of the Lodge was limited to 40, being the number of Officers then in the Regiment, and this restriction in numbers has continued right up to the present day.

2.6.8 Past Master's jewel presented by the members of Unity Lodge No. 706, Larne to Wor. Bro. Fergus R. Potter in 1950. The jewel itself appears to be cast in silver. On the ribbon is a fine type 2 enamel showing two Brethren hand in hand symbolic of that respect between Brethren who are found worthy. In Latin, it has been described as "Jungere dextras" – to join right hands – or give a mutual pledge to be faithful. The second emblem illustrated is the "Beehive", a symbol of industry, reminding us all that only by industry may we enjoy the necessities of life, leading on to those little luxuries that make all the difference.

A fret cut silver example of a PM jewel, presented by the Brethren of Dunleith Lodge No. 654, The Mount, Belfast to Wor. Bro. William McClelland, WM in 1962. On the ribbon is a curious type 2 crest in colourful enamels. The crest comprises the coat of arms of the Dunleith family, supported on either sides with stags' heads, each with a chain bearing the compass and square around their necks. The family motto "*SEMPER PRAECINCTUS*" – *Always Girt* – can be seen under the crest.

I believe that this is one of the more exotic representations of a crest that I have seen to date. On the top bar are a fine set of fret cut silver initials (*W.Mc.C*).

As can be seen illustrated on plates 4 to 6 there is an endless variety of PM jewels. When exhibiting my own collection, I am often asked if Grand Lodge have any particular rules or regulations controlling the designs of Past Master's jewels. Other than specifying that PM jewels must be made in silver, as laid down in Grand Lodge Law No. 12, and detailed in the Grand Lodge Resolutions, page 66, (2003 Edition) there are no specific design requirements for PM jewels, other than those laid out on page 145 of our Laws and Constitutions, (2003 Edition) viz:- *"The square and compasses enclosing the letter "G". The Past Master's jewel may be worn from a sky blue ribbon or cord around the neck"*.

A typical illustration of this jewel is given on page 193 (2000 Edition) of Laws and Constitutions under the sub-heading of Clothing and Insignia. Although not strictly speaking pertinent to this Paper, there is an extensive section in Laws and Constitutions relating to Masonic Clothing and Insignia, pages 139-146 (2003 Edition). The insignia discussed are by and large jewels of office and, with the exception of PM jewels, are not personal jewels. In other words, the jewel of office complete with collar is used by all the occupants of a particular office.

Grand Lodge appear to have taken a fairly relaxed view on the 6th June 1918 regulations in respect of silver only PM jewels. There are a number of fine examples where a silver compass, square and "G" are mounted onto 9ct and 15ct gold mounts which, strictly speaking, break the spirit, if not the letter of the law.

Over the years there have been a number of theories expressed as to why certain design elements have appeared on PM jewels. In the Laws and Constitutions the illustration of a PM jewel includes a Mason's Square on the design to show the importance of establishing proper corners and perpendiculars. Yet when one studies actual jewels, they mostly

include a carpenter's square, which has a handle on one side and is marked out in units of measurement on the other. There would appear to be no symbolic reason for this, although this design is encountered frequently.

An interesting derivative of this feature is that some jewels have the leg of the square on the left whilst others have the leg on the right. Most jewels with the leg on the left emanate from the southern part of Ireland whilst those with the leg to the right come from the North. Could this be where the saying "Right or Left Footer" originated?

The second, and most interesting design element on some of the better Irish PM jewels is the presence of 15 shamrocks. Where shamrocks are an integral part of the design, they are nearly always encountered in groups of 15. The number 15 does have great significance in Craft Masonry as the following examples will illustrate.

It takes a Candidate three steps in his first degree, five steps in his second degree and seven steps over the grave in his third degree. Fifteen workmen were sent out by King Solomon to look for Hiram Abiff. It takes three Members to rule a Lodge, five to make a Lodge and seven to make a Lodge perfect. In olden times the Winding Staircase rose by three steps, five steps and finally by seven steps.

Lodge of Research Jewels:

Within the Irish Constitution there are a number of special Lodges formed entirely of Past Masters. These Lodges have all been established by groups of Brethren with a common interest who wish to band together and develop their common cause. Amongst these groups the best known, and most distinctive Lodge, is the Irish Lodge of Research, a dedicated band of Brethren keen to research our history, symbolism and contribution to the world at large.



This Lodge, known widely by it's number CC (200) is probably the largest Lodge in the Irish Constitution with a current total membership in excess of 700 Brethren. This number can be split into Serving and Past Masters who qualify as full members of the Lodge and Master Masons who can only join the Outer or Correspondence circle of the Lodge. Both classes of Membership enjoy all the privileges of attending meetings, receiving circulars and the free issue of Lodge Transactions. However it is only full members that can go forward for office in the Lodge. These various grades of membership are recognised by different jewels as can be seen in plate 7 and are as follows:—

Founders jewel for Lodge CC. Suspended from a sky blue ribbon by a blue enamel bar having the year 1914 in gold numerals. The jewel itself comprises the lamp of knowledge in high relief on an irradiated background all in gold. The lamp rests on the open volume of the Sacred Law which is highlighted in white enamel with the text lines in gold thereon. Around the whole are two concentric circles infilled in blue

enamel with the inscription in gold "*Lodge of Research CC*". Surmounted on the whole is a small golden PM jewel comprising Compass, Square and "G". This Founders jewel was manufactured by Kennings of London.

3.7.2 Correspondence Circle jewel, original pattern manufactured by Spencer's of London and available between the years 1923 and 1940. Jewel comprises of deep silver bar formed by crossed quills with the words "*Correspondence Circle*" in silver letters on a mid blue enamel circle surmounted thereon, suspended by a sky blue ribbon above two concentric circles infilled with blue enamel having the legend "*Lodge of Research Ireland CC*" in silver surrounding a lamp of knowledge in high relief on an irradiated background all in silver.

3.7.3 Model Two Lodge of Research Correspondence Circle membership jewel, comprising the lamp of knowledge in high relief, on an irradiated background all in gold surrounded by two concentric circles infilled in white enamel, bearing the legend "*Lodge of Research*" in gold. At the bottom of the jewel is "CC" complete with golden shamrock and the whole is suspended from a golden bar decorated with ivy leaves (the sign of fidelity), which can be affixed by a brooch fastener. This jewel was not nearly as impressive as the old pattern Correspondence Circle jewel.

Finally in 1995, the Lodge decided to update all of its Members and Correspondence Circle Members jewels. After much discussion it was decided to reissue the crossed quills pattern in gold to all full Members of the Lodge and to reissue the same jewel without quills to the members of the Correspondence circle.

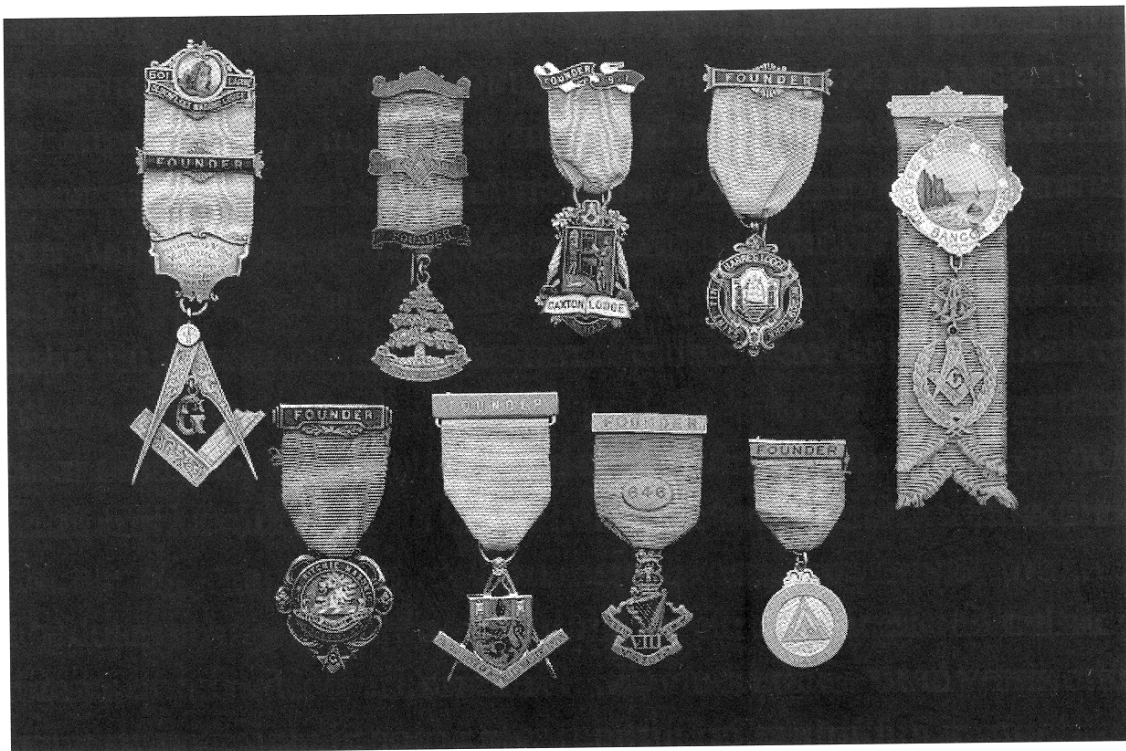
Before leaving the jewels of the Lodge of Research, mention should be made of the very rare "Jewel of Merit" presented by the Lodge on four occasions; to Rt. Wor. Bros. Bill

O'Brien, George Powers, William White and Keith Cochrane. These are the only four Lodge members to receive this jewel (to date). The criteria for award is outstanding service to the Lodge over an extended period. The jewel is usually presented with no details of name and service, and the intention is that a register of same will be published in the Transactions.

The jewel itself was fret cut from a disc of silver suspended from a sky blue ribbon. It comprised the fret cut symbols of compasses, square and "G" set in the third degree position and surrounded with a concentric silver band, on which was engraved the legend "*Lodge of Research CC – For Merit*".

Founders Jewels:

When Brethren band together to form new Lodges, it has been the tradition to issue Founders jewels for all Foundation Members. A Foundation Member is defined by the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes (Ireland), as a Brother who signs the new memorial for a new Warrant and does not withdraw his name before the Constitution of the Lodge.



Usually Founders jewels offer the Lodge an opportunity to have a jewel slightly different from the more normal and recognised Masonic patterns. Leswarree Lodge No. 646 adopted an enamel version of the cap badge of the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars as their Founders jewel. Plate 8 illustrates some examples of Founders jewels which are described below:-

Fine 9ct gold and enamel Founder Master's jewel presented by the members of Olderfleet Masonic Lodge No. 501, Larne, Co. Antrim to Wor. Bro. W. J. Driscoll, WM in 1923. This jewel comprises a type 2 enamel of Olderfleet Castle, Larne surrounded by the legend in gold letters on a dark blue enamel background reading "*501 LARNE OLDERFLEET MASONIC LODGE*". On the central bar in gold and blue enamel is the word "*Founder*" and on a shield at the bottom, in gold, are the details about Bro. Driscoll. The PM jewel itself is totally in 9ct gold and contravenes the ruling of Grand Lodge in 1918 in respect of PM jewels.

At the other end of the scale Ardrath Lodge Belfast, has the oak tree as its Founders crest. The story of this jewel has already been told under item 2.5.3. This particular jewel made in silver has the oak tree and Lodge motto "*Quis Seprabit*" – Who Shall Separate, which is suspended from a blue ribbon with three bars reading – "*Ardrath*" – "*Jany 1924*" – "*Founder*". On the reverse of the Oak Tree is the name of Rt. Wor. Bro. W. Martin Whittaker, who was the Foundation Master of the Lodge.

Good un-named example of a type 2 enamel Founders jewel to Caxton Lodge No. 511, Dublin. This Lodge was Constituted on the 9th June 1921 by a number of Brethren involved in the printing trade. The jewel itself is suspended from a blue ribbon by an enamel and silver bar bearing the legend "*Founder 1921*". The body of the jewel is a multi colour enamel plaque of Caxton at work beside his printing press.

This plaque is set on a background comprising compass, square and “G” on a green shamrock, which is part of a similar golden group above, A quill pen at either side and below the name “*Caxton Lodge*” and number “*CXI*”.

A Silver and type 1 Founders jewel for St. Fin Barre’s Lodge No. 209 Cork, which was Constituted in 1918. On the reverse is the name “*T.W. Carter Sept 4th 1918*”. This jewel comprises a crest with a view of a three masted sailing ship passing between two pillars into harbour. Underneath this view is a silver five pointed star, two sets of compasses and squares and a shamrock. Around the whole is the legend in silver on blue enamel “*Saint Fin Barre’s Lodge No. 209 Cork*”. The crest is the arms of the city of Cork which usually has the city motto “*STATIO BENE FIDA CARINIS*” – “*Life with Freedom or Death with Slavery*” attached.

The raised lips to the sides of the silver design made it possible to apply the different enamel colours in the one operation, which meant that the jewel only required one firing to harden the enamel.

Sadly, this Lodge is no longer in existence. However there are a number of examples of this jewel to be seen in their museum, on the ground floor at Tuckey Street, Cork.

A Nice 9ct gold and type 2 enamel Founder and PM jewel issued by Redcliffe Masonic Lodge No. 564, Bangor, Co. Down. This jewel is quite unusual in form, consisting of a blue ribbon with a gold and enamel plaque affixed thereon, having as its centrepiece an enamel seascape surrounded in blue enamel writing “*Redcliffe Masonic Lodge No. 564 Bangor*”. On a bar above in gold is the word “*Founder*” and suspended below by an ornate set of fret cut Gold initials “*JAS*” is a PM set in gold surrounded by an ivy wreath. The ivy is there to be emblematic of Fidelity. On the rear is the inscription “

Presented to Bro. James A. Savage PM by the Brethren of

Redcliffe Lodge No. 564 Bangor in Jany 1927". It is interesting to note that the Lodge itself was Constituted on the 8th June 1923, so Bro. Savage was both a Founder Member to qualify for the jewel, and the Master for the year 1926.

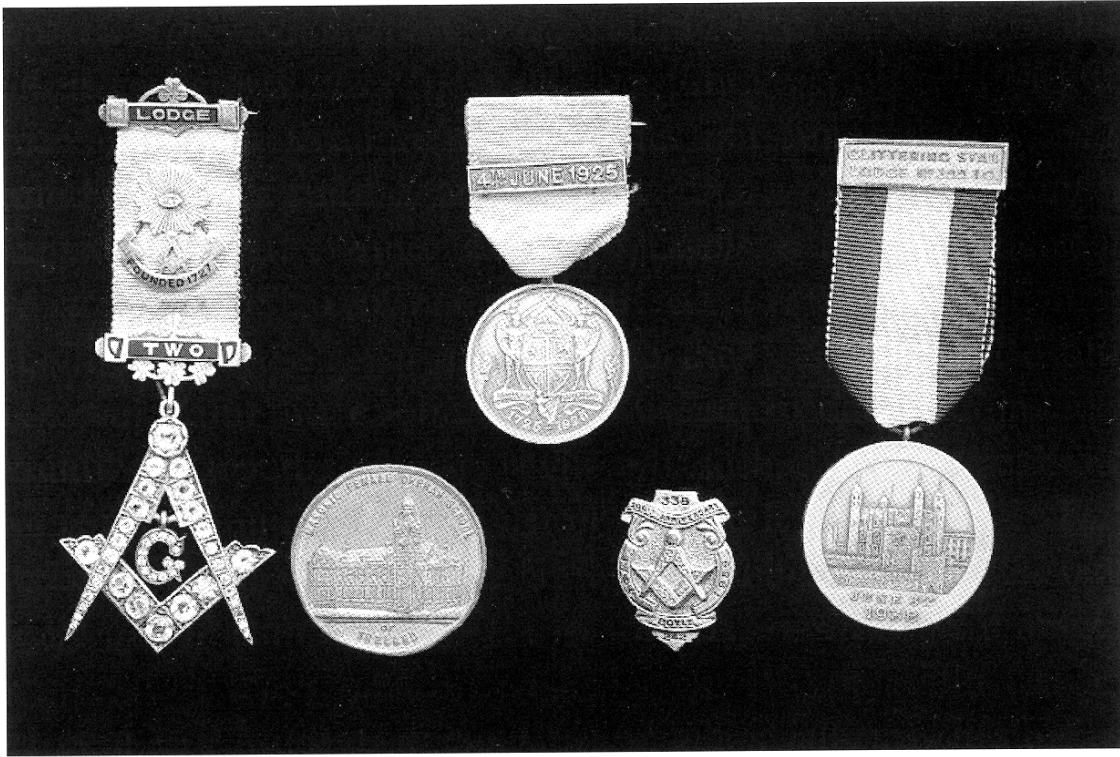
A curious oval shaped silver and enamel Founders jewel for the J.W. Ritchie Masonic Lodge No. 677, Crumlin Road, Belfast. This is a jewel which I have not yet fully researched but it has the name "*J Gilmour*" on the reverse with "*1942*" – the year that the Warrant was issued.

The jewel itself has a fine enamel head of a prancing stallion and around it details of the Lodge name "*J.W. Ritchie*" and the Lodge No. "*677*".

Many other examples of Founders jewels can be seen in the Grand Lodge collection in Molesworth Street, Dublin, Provincial Grand Lodge museum of Antrim in Rosemary Street, Belfast or indeed in the collections of the Ulster Folk & Transport museum at Cultra, outside Holywood in Co. Down.

Centenary and Commemorative Medals:

Not only do Lodges celebrate their foundation with the issue of special jewels, but increasingly they mark significant events or celebrations with the issue of a commemorative medal. One such interesting medal issued in recent years was the centenary medal issued by the Victoria Jubilee Masonic Annuity Fund to mark its 100th year of endeavour in the collection and distribution of funds to support the widows of deceased Brethren. This particular medal comprises the head of Queen Victoria (representing one of the coins of her reign, the golden guinea) surmounted on a silver set of Compasses and Square, suspended off a blue enamelled bar bearing the legend "*Victoria Jubilee Masonic Annuity Fund*". The medal itself is very similar to the Members jewel issued by Victoria Lodge No. 294 and described under item 1.3.1 previously.



Probably the best known Centenary medal was the medal issued on the 4th June 1925 to commemorate the bi-centenary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, 1725-1925. This medal consisted of the coat of arms of the Grand Lodge of Ireland on the obverse and the coat of arms of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Donoughmore KP, Most Wor. Grand Master of the Most Wor. the Grand Lodge of Ireland on the reverse. The medal has a silver bar giving the date 4th June 1925 and Brethren who attended the bi-centenary service in Christchurch Cathedral on the day were entitled to wear the bar. Indeed, a special commemorative silver and enamel brooch bearing the date 4th June 1925 was struck and issued to all 20 Brethren who acted as stewards within the Cathedral precincts on the 4th June 1925.

In 1975 the jeweller's West & Sons of Dublin, who struck the original dies for the 1925 jewel, produced at their own expense a restrike version of the 1725-1925 jewel with the 2 in 1925 changed to a 7 to read 1975 and issued these jewels, in silver to all serving Grand Lodge Officers in the year 1975. So Brethren, if you happen to see an Irish bi-centenary jewel

in an auction or a dealer's cabinet, check the dates very carefully, as you may be fortunate enough to find a very rare Irish medal indeed.

In this the millennium year, the Grand Lodge of Ireland is celebrating its 275th anniversary and to mark the occasion another medal has been struck in bronze and silver to mark the occasion. This medal is suspended off a bar on a St. Patrick's blue ribbon. On the obverse this time is a portrait of the Earl of Rosse, who served as Grand Master in 1725 and on the reverse is the coat of arms of The Grand Lodge of Ireland. The silver version was a limited striking of 500 numbered pieces and each carries its registration number and the impress of the special silver date stamp for the millennium. On this occasion it is also possible to buy bronze versions, un-mounted in token form.

Lodges, too, celebrate their centenaries and bi-centenaries in a number of ways. Back in the year 1958 Abbey Lodge, Boyle celebrated its bi-centenary and issued a silver gilt brooch to mark the event. On the brooch are a Compass and Square surrounded by four shields recording "*200th Anniversary*", the dates "*1758-1958*" and the location of the Lodge "*Boyle*". Freemasonry began in Boyle under Warrant No. 338 in 1758. The Lodge applied in 1808 for a higher number, was issued No. 242, and has worked continuously ever since.

Other Lodges handled their bi-centenary celebrations differently and one of those was Lodge No. 2 in Dublin. They authorised the manufacture of a special crest which was issued to Lodge members who usually kept them and mounted them on their PM jewels as they became eligible.

The particular jewel illustrated, consisting of silver and brilliants, was presented to Wor. Bro. George Bannister, PM in 1937. The bi-centenary crest comprises a compass and square suspended below a Glory with a banner reading "*Founded 1727*" suspended below.

However this particular design was struck in 9ct gold and enamel and issued to the Wor. Master who was in the chair in the year 1927. This jewel is illustrated at the rear of the bi-centenary history issued by the Lodge in 1927.

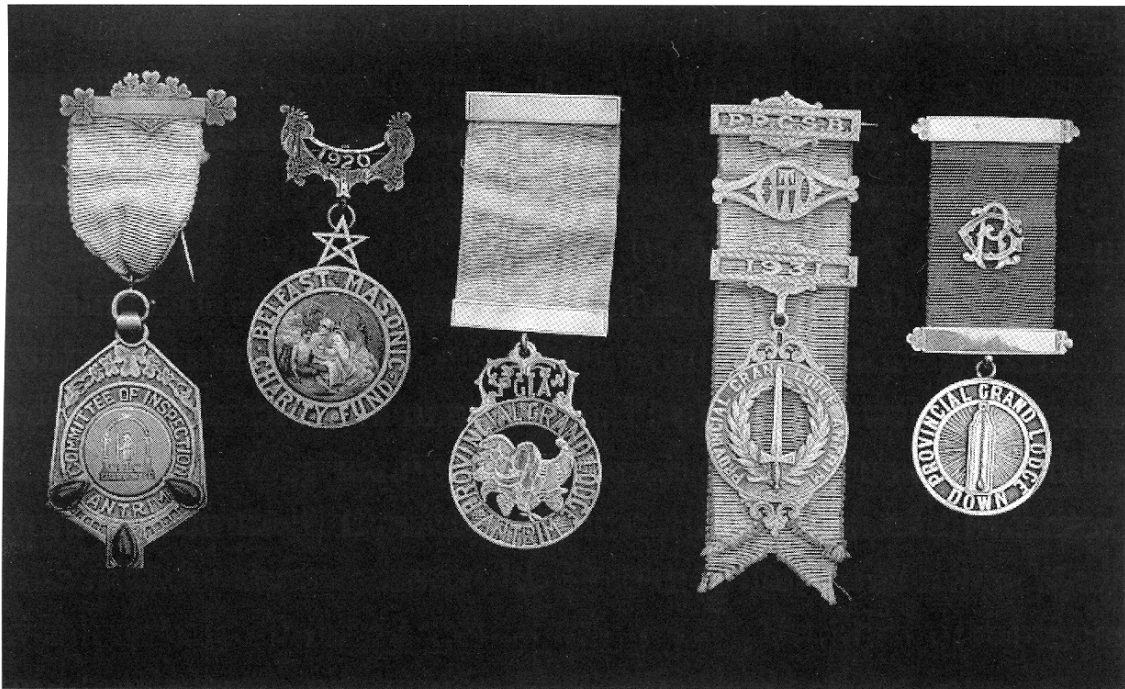
Another type of commemorative piece occasionally encountered on the dealer's stall is the commemorative medal. This example is of the medal struck to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone of the Female Orphan's school in 1880. On the obverse of the medal is a fine impression of the school buildings and on the reverse is an eight line inscription detailing the occasion.

A fine example of a commemorative piece is the medal struck by Glittering Star Lodge No. 322 to celebrate the holding of an emergency meeting of the Lodge in the Tower of London. On the obverse is a fine striking of the white tower and on the reverse is a five line inscription to commemorate the event. It is interesting to note that Glittering Star Lodge No. 322, attached to the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, is one of only two remaining travelling military Warrants. The other similar Lodge is St. Patrick's Lodge No. 295 attached to the 4th / 7th Royal Dragoon Guards.

Provincial Grand Lodge Jewels:

When a Brother enters a Lodge and plays his part in the work of the Lodge, he will progress through the various Offices until he eventually becomes Worshipful Master. After that achievement, he has to complete a further five years in his Lodge before he may be considered for promotion into Provincial Grand Lodge. During this five year period he may involve himself in various aspects of Provincial Masonry, for example, as:—

Lodge Charity Steward – involving himself in fund raising for the Lodge Charities and involvement in the work of the local district Masonic Charity committee.



Lodge Treasurer or Secretary – playing a key role in the administration and smooth running of his mother Lodge.

Representing the Lodge on the Local Inspection Committee, a very important role in vetting potential members and ensuring that our usual high standards of membership are maintained.

Lodge Almoner – the man who acts as the focus of caring within the Lodge, who takes an interest in the well being of our membership and acts as a point of contact in times of difficulty and distress. He will, through his district Charity Committee, be well versed in the various forms of assistance that are available to support Brethren and their families in times of loss or illness. This is one of the most satisfying jobs in any Lodge and usually attracts a high calibre of Brother who wants to play his part.

And finally there is the position of Lodge representative on the Provincial Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes – the parliament of the Provincial Grand Lodge. In any given Masonic Province, each Lodge is entitled to appoint one representative who can attend the Provincial Grand Lodge Board and represent the views of his mother Lodge. He also has the

important role of bringing back and reporting in Lodge on the many matters brought under notice of the Provincial Grand Lodge Board.

By these means the enthusiastic Brother will continue to play an important part in the life of his Lodge and will become better known to Brethren in adjacent Lodges within his Province. In due time his name may be submitted by his Lodge to Provincial Grand Lodge as a candidate for Provincial Office, and this proposal will be considered by the Board of Purposes when said Brother may be considered for one of the following offices – Stewards, P.G.L. Standard Bearer, Inner Guard, Junior and Senior Deacons, Junior Warden or Senior Warden.

The Provincial Grand Master is selected by The Most Wor. Grand Master, and appointed by letters patent. He in turn will select and appoint his Provincial Deputy and Assistant Grand Masters. He can also make a small number of appointments on a yearly basis which include the P.G.M.'s Standard Bearer, Almoner, Stewards of Charity, Directors of Ceremony, etc. The Provincial Grand Master will also be permitted to make a small number of discretionary awards of honorary Past Provincial Grand Lodge ranks to those long serving and deserving Brethren who, for whatever reason are unable to take an active part in Provincial Grand Lodge. Finally, under the Irish Constitution, each Province will have a number of Lodge Inspectors, appointed by the P.G.M. to inspect a specific number of Lodges within the Province on a yearly basis and report back to the P.G.M. or his nominee on the state of the Lodges, standards of administration and ritual and in the general condition of the order in their district of responsibility.

All the above officials and officers may wear gold jewels comprising the emblem of their office within a broad circle on which is to be inscribed the name of the Province.

Plate 10 illustrates five examples of different types of Provincial Grand Lodge jewels which are detailed as follows:—

Committee of Inspection jewel, normally presented by the Committee of Inspection to a Brother who has served as Chairman to that Committee. This particular example is from the Rosemary Street Museum and belongs to the Antrim Committee of Inspection. It was presented in 1950 to a Wor. Bro. W. H. Wilson and is in silver gilt.

Fine silver and enamel jewel presented by the Brethren of Thomas Valentine Lodge No. 21 to Wor. Bro. J. M. Logan in 1920 to mark his year in office as Chairman of the Belfast Masonic Charity Fund. The enamel centrepiece is a fine rendition of the “Good Samaritan” surrounded by the inscription in silver of the “*Belfast Masonic Charity Fund*”. On a silver bar above the jewel is the inscription “*Chairman*”.

A 9ct gold example of a Provincial Grand Steward’s jewel presented by the members of the Thomas S. Dixon Lodge No. 218 to Wor. Bro. J. Davidson in 1934. The jewel comprises a cornucopia of fruit set within a broad circle bearing the inscription “*Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim*”.

A 9ct gold example of Provincial Grand Sword Bearer’s jewel presented by the Brethren of Queen’s University Lodge No. 533 and Duncairn Lodge No. 545 to Wor. Bro. T. Hepworth in 1931. Again this jewel is true to type and comprises a sword set within a broad circle bearing the inscription “*Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim*”.

The final example in this section is of a Provincial Junior Grand Warden’s jewel, in 9ct gold presented by the Brethren of Victoria Lodge No. 254 Holywood to Very Wor. Bro. R. Geddis in 1932. This jewel consists of a plumb set within a raised and fielded band reading “*Provincial Grand Lodge of Down*”.

As has been noted above, gold jewels are normally associated with actual offices in the Provincial Grand Lodge,

whereas involvement in the various Committees of Charity and Inspection are usually marked with a silver jewel.

Jewels of The Grand Lodge of Instruction:

The Grand Lodge of Instruction is a unique institution found only under the auspices of The Grand Lodge of Ireland. It is a body comprising our Most Wor. Grand Master, the Rt. Wor. Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Assistant Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and the Very Wor. Grand Directors of Ceremonies, together with such other elected Members who are of proven skill and ability in the working of degrees. This body has a total membership of 50 and is the final authority and repository of ritual in Irish Craft Masonry. The Grand Master appoints one qualified Brother to act as Very Wor. Grand Secretary for Instruction, and he is usually assisted by at least one assistant Secretary.

The Grand Lodge of Instruction hold a number of meetings during the year. These fall into two types which are Open, in the sense that any Brother can attend and Closed, at which only appointed and elected Members can be present. At these



meetings questions of Ritual are considered and discussed and Lodges can be invited to attend and exemplify their ritual in Opening and Closing the Lodge or in giving the various degrees. These presentations are then analysed by the Elected Members and a commentary on the presentation and any faults or differences is then made by the Grand Secretary of Instruction or his Assistant.

Each Provincial Grand Lodge may elect a number of representatives who are entitled to vote on questions of ritual and who act as Provincial Representatives at the Grand Lodge of Instruction. There are two main jewels associated with the Grand Lodge of Instruction and these are shown on plate 11 with descriptions below:—

The jewel of an Elected Member of the Grand Lodge of Instruction is quatre-foil in shape in silver and enamel and comprises a PM set surrounded by quatre foil banner in dark blue enamel bearing the inscription in silver “*Grand Lodge of Instruction Ireland*”. This jewel has four bunches of three shamrocks surrounded around the PM set and is suspended by an enamel bar from a dark blue ribbon.

This part jewel is merely enclosed for interest as it is a section of the jewel belonging to the Grand Secretary for the Grand Lodge of Instruction. The complete jewel should include this centrepiece mounted on a pair of crossed quills and suspended by an enamel bar from a dark blue ribbon.

A circular jewel for a Provincial Representative to the Grand Lodge of Instruction. The centrepiece again consists of a PM set mounted on an open volume of the Sacred Law. Around the whole is a broad circular band in dark blue enamel with the following inscription in silver “*Provincial Instructor*” with the name of the Province (in this case “*Antrim*”).

Grand Lodge Jewels:

Being invited to become a Grand Lodge Officer remains the ambition of many Freemasons. At Grand Lodge level, many of the different strands of Provincial Masonry are drawn together and an overall cohesive policy for the Irish Constitution is drawn out, prepared, debated and finally implemented. All discourse with other Constitutions is dealt with at Grand Lodge level and indeed, all public or press releases on domestic matters are handled from Dublin as well.

Having said all that, Brethren who are honoured with a Grand Lodge appointment and serve their due and lawful time, will be entitled to wear a gold jewel in recognition of their rank. In many respects, the jewels are the same as the Provincial Jewels discussed earlier without the surrounding band to indicate the Province. Unfortunately this type of jewel does not often appear in collections and will normally only be spotted on the sash of the recipient.

Representatives from Foreign Grand Lodges:

At Grand Lodge there are a number of Brethren who are Past Masters and have been appointed by Foreign Grand Lodges to be their Representatives at The Grand Lodge of Ireland. These Brethren have been selected by nomination and ballot by the Board of General Purposes and then their names are sent off to the foreign Grand Lodge for approval. On appointment these Brethren are often invested with the peculiar jewel and regalia presented by the foreign Grand Lodges for these purposes. Plate 12 illustrates some examples of the jewels concerned.

A Representative's jewel from The Grand Lodge of Mexico. This silver gilt jewel comprises a PM set in the third degree position within a circular band bearing the legend "*York Grand Lodge of Mexico*". The last recipient of this jewel was Rt .Wor. Bro. George Powers MA, a past Secretary and Editor

of The Irish Lodge of Research, who served as Representative from the York Grand Lodge of Mexico to the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

A Representative's jewel from The Grand Lodge of Maryland. This is a very elaborate silver and enamel jewel, comprising the coat of arms of The Grand Lodge of Maryland, complete with latin inscription beneath. This particular jewel was worn by the late Rt. Wor. Bro. William Overend, a Past Master of Lodge No. 57 and a great source of Masonic knowledge in the North Antrim area.

Finally a Representative's jewel from The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. This is an unusual star-burst type jewel in silver and blue enamel, comprising an equilateral triangle surrounded by rays of light in blue enamel.

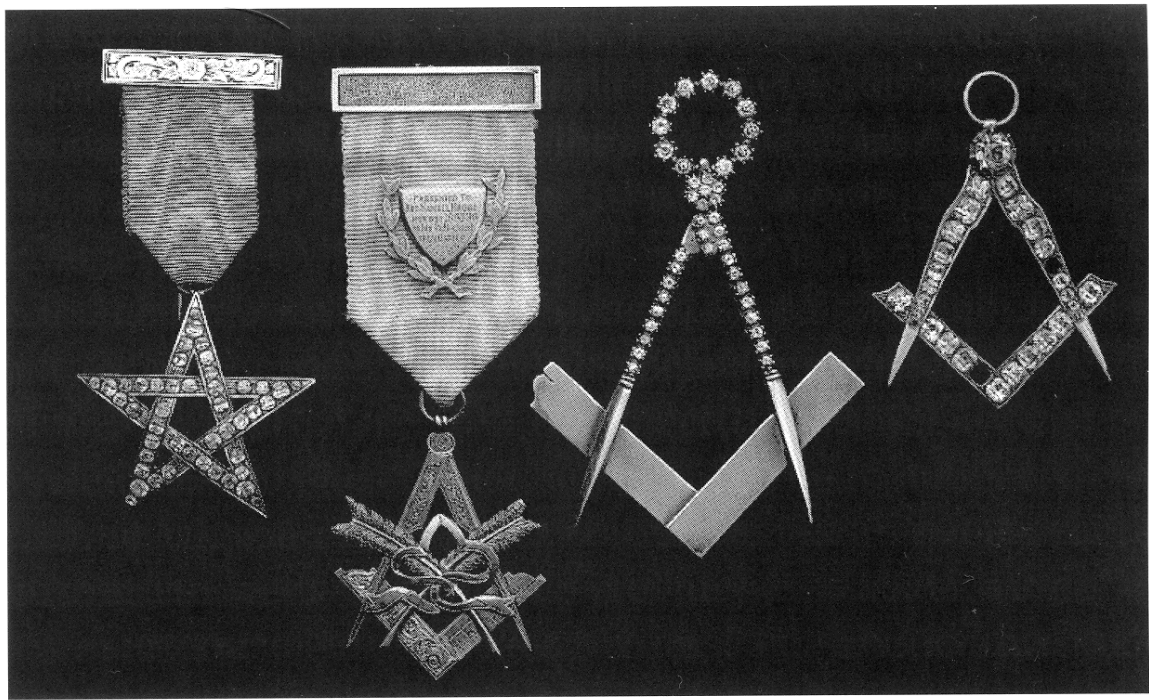
It is interesting to note that of all the jewels discussed in this Paper, these and the Grand Lodge of Instruction jewels are the only jewels which do not belong to their recipients. On the completion of their term of Office the regalia and jewels should be returned to Dublin for the use of the next recipient.

Special Jewels:

A small number of jewels and medals occasionally encountered in the Craft do not really fall into any of the previous nine categories. Plate 13 illustrates some rare examples of these:—

A Master Mason's silver and paste star. This five pointed star was once used in the Province of Munster as a Master Mason's jewel, that was originally presented to the Candidate on completion of his Master Mason's degree. It was said that the five points of the Star allude to the Five Points of Fellowship, and are there to remind our candidates of The Morning Star.

Sadly this lovely tradition has now died out, and I am very grateful to the late Rt. Wor. Bro. Bill O'Brien for giving



me this fine paste example. Today, however, the five pointed star in Masonry is normally found in the form of a silver star with a blue enamel centre bearing the number 50. In this condition, it is usually presented to a Brother to mark the completion of 50 years membership in the Craft. Indeed we occasional find some recipients with this jewel and a 10 or (very rarely) a 20 year bar.

Very occasionally Lodges feel that a particular Brother has given long and faithful service to a particular office. This service can sometimes be rewarded with a personal jewel to mark that contribution. This particular example is a Secretary's jewel presented to Wor. Bro. Sam McGill, Lodge Secretary of Royal Larne Lodge No. 615, for 29 years service as Secretary between the years 1869-96.

The jewel comprises a pair of crossed quills mounted on a set of Compasses and Square. I have seen a similar fret cut jewel presented by the Brethren of Ballintoy Lodge No. 38 to Wor. Bro. David McCallum comprising two crossed keys in recognition of his services as Treasurer in the years 1936-50.

Conclusions:

In conclusion, I hope this preliminary study has helped to clear away some of the confusion over what jewels represent and give some sense as to the scale of work and commitment required to acquire some of these awards.

Although not a strong ritualist myself, I can certainly appreciate the work and dedication required to become one of the four Provincial Instructors within the Province of Antrim. To put that figure in context, our membership in the Province is in the region of 15,000 (year 2000). So you can quite clearly see the level of commitment required.

Whether in gold, silver, paste or base metal, each of these awards represent the culmination of service to the Lodge, Province or Constitution. They should continue to hold our interest, as so many of them have great stories to tell.

