

Our Ancient Brethren displayed great  
ingenuity in finding opportunities of displaying  
in visible form their love of the craft and  
Masonic emblems may be found on an almost  
endless series of articles from the most  
strictly Masonic items such as aprons  
badges and Private jewels through a variety  
of forms of glass China Furniture Pottery  
Engravings Medals down to such forms as  
snuff Boxes Watch Cases and swords and in  
that order after they had ascended to  
the Grand Lodge above Brethren passing by  
might think of them many of them  
carved Masonic Emblems to be carved on  
their tomb stones and of most  
elaborate nature. Our Museum contains  
many examples of many of these sections,  
Our cases contain upwards of Medals  
and jewels, amongst them many items  
as rare in their way even if their appeal  
is less general than the many unique  
articles the library holds on its shelves.

1. The Sackville medal, struck in Florence in 1733  
very earliest known piece relating to British Freemasonry  
places on record the probability, a thesis unassailable,  
that Charles Sackville, later Duke of Dorset, became  
the Master of a Lodge during his stay in Florence  
that year.



The foundation of the Museum  
was laid by Bro. George Taylor of Kiddleminster  
who between 1880-1890 managed to get  
together a library and Museum which for the  
period could have few equals. <sup>His catalog of 1891 showed</sup> Many of <sup>383 medals</sup>  
his the items collected by him still remain  
among the treasures of the ~~the~~ library.  
His medals with the exception of the  
Swedish series may be <sup>fairly</sup> described as a somewhat  
random gathering.

There must be much interest and  
excitement for ever locked up in the collection  
pieces lying in boxes in the case. But it is  
in acquisition of the Swedish series <sup>in 1881</sup> that  
Bro. Taylor has preserved a letter of it.  
<sup>August</sup> In 1884. W. Bro. George Taylor organizes  
a Masonic Exhibition.

A fair number of miscellaneous pieces were  
acquired for the museum from time to time, but  
the most significant acquisition was  
made by Bro. Charles D. Eaton who in 1924  
presented a complete set of Centenary Jewels  
of the individual types authorized by Grand  
Lodge, besides several unauthorized examples.  
These jewels are pre 1876 as in that year  
Grand Lodge has laid it down that Centenary  
jewels shall be of a standard pattern. Prior  
to that time a lodge might select its own  
pattern provided it was approved by Grand  
Lodge. We possess 41 out of the 42 approved,  
there are also in existence four unauthorized  
jewels of which we have 3.



The next most important collection after  
for the library was the Shaelles collection,  
which was built up by Bro. George L. Shaelles  
of Hull. He with the help of various  
correspondents in various European Countries  
and America, succeeded in amassing  
some 1700 medals, nearly all of them in  
superb condition; while in the case of some  
pieces he was able to fill the gaps in his  
draws with electrotypes.

The result of his efforts must have  
been what was the finest private collection  
ever gathered together, and this collection was  
secured for the Worcester Museum ~~in 1889~~  
shortly after his death in 1891.

Sketchy series

We have in the Worcester Museum what is  
probably the largest collection of Masonic medals  
in the world. Though of the long series of  
Founders and Masters' badges in the Museum  
at Freetown Hall are taken into account, that  
collection is probably numerically larger.



Sackville Medal. 1733.

Symbolic medal 1763.

New Worthis jewel 1792

Regal jewel 1813.

Grand Stewards jewel. 1735

Present Stewards jewel from 1835

Country Stewards jewel

Masonic jewel Socy of Antiquity 1810

Grand Lodge jewel. 1820

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The Earliest known piece relating to ~~British~~ Freemasonry - The Sackville Medal - was struck in Florence in 1733, and has been the subject of a note and a paper in A. Q. C. (Dr. W. Regemann, vol 12; The two Brawley, vol. 13). The medal designed by Lorenz Natter, was struck, it is believed, to commemorate the founding of a lodge in Florence by Charles Sackville, later Duke of Dorset, whose Masonic origin is unknown but he is thought to have been an Irish Mason. At one time the existence of this medal was thought to be a myth but by 1900 at least six examples were known to be extant. In addition, there are to date this example in the Worcester and Worcester Provincial Museum and another two in the Grand Lodge Museum.

We have also in our collection a number of pieces that are unique, these belong to the class of medal which may be termed the Lodge or "Symbalike Medal" of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Long before the days of the Founders jewel, long previous before the days when the Mason delighted to have his wife embroidered



his apron with beehives and ladders -  
long, possibly, even before the days of the  
painted - "Floor cloth" - it must have been no  
uncommon thing for a brother to adorn his  
breast with a bow of ribbon supporting an  
enriched silver medalion, perhaps presented to  
him by his lodge at the close of a happy term of  
office as master, bearing, usually grouped to taste,  
those emblems and implements which were once  
chalked on the floor of the lodge, and are now  
embodied in our tracing boards, such as the  
silver jewel on show this evening. (Waterford jewel)

Only rarely, as in the case of the Kendall  
lodge in 1788 were a number of medals made to  
the same design for the members in general. Of  
the Kendall Medal some six or seven specimens  
survive - two are in the Museum at Greenesons  
Hall: - and it has a special interest as it may  
very likely have served as a model for the  
jewel of the Nine Worthies of 1792, which  
it closely resembles.

Nine Worthies jewel. of which the only one known to  
be outside the Museum resides here at Worcester.  
The jewel belonged to the Ancients or Athol  
Grand Lodge, and were worn by the nine worthies  
or Select Masters.

Brothers may or may not know that for a period  
prior to 1813, there was more than one Grand Lodge,  
The premier Grand Lodge was formed in 1717 by  
4 lodges, but in 1752 there was another Grand  
Lodge formed who styled themselves the Antients  
and these two Grand Lodges carried on in opposition  
until 1811, when the Lodge of Formulation was



formed in an attempt to find agreement  
to unite the two Grand Lodges. There were  
many reasons for the original breakaway in  
1752, two reasons were etc.

The rest of the story would form another talk,  
however in order to make sure that the Ancient  
Lodges were adhering to the correct ritual and  
ceremonies, the Duke was chosen or select masters  
were appointed annually to travel round the  
Lodges to see that this was done. The jewel  
which was the badge of their office was worn  
suspended by a silver chain round their necks.

At the formation of the Grand Lodge in 1717  
the Lodge which met at the fore, Guild-st. St. Pauls,  
Church-yard and became N<sup>o</sup>. 1. It took the  
name of the Lodge of Antiquity, a name it still  
holds today. But on the Union of the two Grand  
Lodges in 1813, it took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in remembering  
to the Grand Master's Lodge N<sup>o</sup>. 1, and is now  
known as the Lodge of Antiquity N<sup>o</sup>. 2. William Preston  
was a master of this Lodge for several years, as was  
the Duke of Sussex, the 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Master of the  
United Grand Lodge of England, who was master of  
the Lodge from 1812 - 1844. In 1812 he instituted  
the Royal Jewel, which was presented to members of the  
Lodge who showed proficiency in the Craft. The  
Brethren awarded the Medal had to pay £3.5.0  
and a receipt was put in the medal on the back of  
the brother the jewel had to be returned to the  
Lodge when on receipt the dependants received the  
£3.5. All jewels issued after 1843, bear the  
date of the death of the Duke of Sussex. In the  
late 1880's the cost for the jewel was £5.



Today the jewel is worn by Master Masons of the lodge of 12 months standing. None of these jewels should be outside Grand Lodge, we had five but returned three several years ago.

The earliest mention of a Steward in Grand Lodge is dated 1721. In 1727 Dr. Desoguliers, P.G.M. proposed that a certain number of stewards should be chosen, who should have the entire care and direction of the feast (together with the Grand Masters).

From this date 12 stewards were appointed annually until the Festival in 1815, when eighteen stewards were nominated by the Grand Master. Although under the old practice the 12 stewards had the right of nominating their successors, for several years prior to the Union the privilege was restricted to nine lodges - Somerset House, Friendship, Corner Stone, Emulation, Globe, Old King's Arms, St. Alban, Regularity and Shakespeare.

In 1816, the Grand Master - as prescribed by the book of Constitutions - selected the stewards from eighteen different lodges, each of which thereafter possesses the right of recommending one of its subscribing members (being a Master Mason), to be presented, by the former Steward of that lodge, for the approbation and appointment of the Grand Master.

The beautiful jewel you will see on the table was Christ's jewel of Office, and it is supposed to have been designed by Hogarth who was reputed to have been a member of the Grand Stewards Lodge.

The lodge was formed in 1735, as a Master Masons lodge, and that such as had been



stewards might be indulged with wearing a particular jewel by way of distinction suspended on their proper ribbons whenever they appear as Masons.

In 1792 by order of grand lodge, it was placed head of the list of lodges without a number, when it became known as the grand Stewards lodge. Being constituted as a H. M. lodge it has no power to make, pass or raise Masons.

Every grand Steward ranks as a grand Officer during his year of Office, but, unlike acting grand Officers generally he does not rank as a past grand Officer when his year of Office has expired.

This jewel was replaced by the stewards jewel we know today in 1835.

In 1789 as the story goes the members of the grand Stewards lodge finding it difficult on the Feast of St. John the Baptist to obtain accommodation in London, met in the Country at Hamptonstead and formed the Country Stewards lodge. In the Quarterly Communication of Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 1789 authority was given to the beautiful jewel here on display, and also have their regalia trimmed with green silk ribbons instead of red. This lodge was in being for only a short time.