

Our Provincial Library and Museum.

An appreciation.

Given at Royds Lodge No. 1204. Thursday Nov 20th 1924 .

Wor. Master Bro. Wardens and Brethren.

Wor. Bro. Campbell having given you his address on the Books contained in our Library, the department in which we are strongest containing as he has told you many unique items which are our glory and pride it now falls to me to give you some idea of what we may call the Museum side. 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 more strictly Masonic items such as Aprons Lodge and Private Jewels through a variety of forms of Glass China Furniture Paintings Engravings Medals down to such forms as Snuff Boxes Watch Cocks and Swords and in order that after they had ascended to the Grand Lodge above Brethren passing by might think of them many of them caused Masonic Emblems to be carved on their tomb stones some of a most elaborate nature. Our Museum contains examples of many of these sections some of which from their nature we have been unable to bring with us tonight but from such as are more easily portable I have selected a number of Medals and Jewels and a few of the more interesting Aprons. Our cases contain upwards of 675 Medals and Jewels amongst them many items as rare in their way even if their appeal is less general than the unique editions Bro. Campbell has described. The Science of Numismatics defines a medal very strictly as limited to embossed or indented metal pieces struck or cast for particular purposes and on extraordinary occasions in commemoration of important events or in honour of remarkable persons. The vast majority are struck from engraved steel dies but owing to the great pressure needed to communicate the fine detail to a piece of gold metal they very often cracked in use with the result that the editions of a particular piece are very seldom numerous. Applying this definition the first Medal I have to introduce to you is the Martin Folkes No. 324 in our Catalogue. This is the second oldest Masonic Medal known its having been struck in 1742. Its only predecessor the Sackville Medal struck in 1735 is not in our collection. Obv. Naked bust of Martin Folkes to right. Legend Martinus Folkes. Rev. In the foreground a Sphinx to the right on a pedestal, on her side is a crescent. In the distance are walls partly in ruins with the pyramid of Cestius on the left showing a door in the North front, at the two northern corners are two Corinthian pillars above to the right is the Radiant Sun. Legend. Sua Sidera Norunt. They know their own stars. Romae A. L. 5742. Martin Folkes was a distinguished English Antiquary and Numismatist. He was a friend of Sir Christopher Wren and Dr. Desaguliers and is thought to have been one of those distinguished Masons to whom the revival of Grand Lodge in 1717 was due. He was Deputy Grand Master in 1724-5 when the Duke of Richmond was Grand Master. The scene depicted is in Rome close to the gate through which St Paul passed to his martyrdom. though what connection the Sphinx and the two pillars have with the rest of the picture is unknown. The only definitely Masonic clues are the pillars possibly and the date certainly. A. L. 5742.

The next Medal is the King Alfred .No1.of our Collection. Obv.Bust of King Alfred the Great to left wearing a Coronet with alternate strawberry leaves and fleurs de lis on the shoulders an ermine collar Legend Dominus Illuminatio Mea the Lord is My Light . The die shows a crack running in front of the face .Rev. The Arms of the University of Oxford with the Legend Sit Lux et Lux fuit.Pierced for a ring.This Medal has an interesting history .It was struck for the Royal Alfred Lodge warrented in 1769 as No 455 meeting at Oxford , it lapsed in 1792 . Its Minute Book is in possession of the present University Lodge the Apollo No 377 and under date of Oct 22nd 1772 is the following entry . Bro.Treasurer laid before the Lodge a copy of the Dye of a Medal which was approved of and ordered that forty be struck for the use of the Lodge .After this appear several entries of Brethren applying and paying for their Medals at 10/6 each .It is one of the oldest English Masonic Medals and very rare .

Our next piece is one of the handsomest in our cases . It is the Medal of the Country Stewards Lodge No 540 . It is circular in form of plain and frosted silver set in glass . The outside edge is an ornamental rim of silver set with a double row of brilliants back and front , it was worn pendant from a green collar and weighing four ounces it must have needed a Brother of ample proportions to have worn it with becoming dignity . The Obv. a winged female draped to her left in the distance rocks a waterfall and a row of trees .At her feet a cornucopia and a pither . In her left hand a staff and in her right a collar to which is attached a representation in miniature of the same jewel .Rev.On a plain frosted ground . Granted by Grand Lodge in Quarty Communication ~~wt~~ 25th Nov.1789 to the Members of the Country Stewards Lodge. Samuel Clanfeild ~~Nov~~ 1790. The Country Stewards Lodge had only a short existence of ~~2~~ 10 years , it was probably only worked as a Masters Lodge and composed of the Stewards of Grand Lodge who once a year held a feast in the Country hence the name .It would appear that they once a least penetrated as far into the country as Hampstead as witness the following record on Grand Lodge Minutes "under the date of May 4th 1772" The Deputy Grand Master acquainted the Brethren that the Country Feast was to be held in the long room at Hampstead on the 25th day of June next.The Medal is very rare.

The Freemasons Hall Medal I introduce as having a topical interest . It was issued by Grand Lodge to Brethren and Lodges subscribing \$25 or more to the liquidation of the Hall Debt 82 Brethren 15 Metropolitan Lodges and 11 from the Provinces qualified . This Medal bears the name of Hugh Dixon Esq. and is stated by Bro.Marvin the great American authority to have been once in the possession of the Pythagoras Lodge Brooklyn New York . Surely an almost unique instance of the recovery from our .Its description is Obv.A doric Column on the right of which stands a winged female in her left hand she holds a trumpet and plan showing the elevation of a Temple ,with her right hand she writes on the column In Honour of the Subscri- bers.In the distane on the left a building nearly completed surrounded by scaffolding The date 1780 . Rev 8n grateful testimony of a liberal subscript

towards completing their Hall .This also is very rare .
 The next item on my list shows one of the very rare instances
 in which the functions of a medal are combined with the uses of
 a coin . In the latter part of the 18th and early 19th centuries
 there was such a shortage of copper coins that many tradesmen
 had special coins struck bearing their own designs and undertaking
 to redeem on presentation at certain places . There are many
 varieties of the Masonic Half penny but curiously enough only
 one Penny . The Penny bears the following Obv. Within a triangle
 a winged cherub resting his left hand on a plumb rule and point
 ing with his right to and irradiated letter G in the apex. on
 the base line of the triangle are the square and compasses gavel
 trowel ashlar and a book open around the triangle the legend
 Masonic penny 1795 .Rev Crest a dove on asphere. on a shield
 a pair of compasses extended on a chevron .Supporters a pair of
 beavers proper .Motto Amor Honor et Justitia Legend Pro Bono
 Publico. Incused in the edge Manufactured by W. Lutwyche Birmingham
 The Arms are those used the Moderns Grand Lodge prior to the Union
 The Halfpenny is much the same except that it shows the three
 castles and bears the legend 24 Nov 1790 Prince of Wales elected
 G.M.

So far we have dealt only with English pieces and before
 passing to those struck in foriegn countries which time will only
 allow me to refer very briefly I should just like to refer to the
 circumstances in which Bro. George Taylor the founder of our
 collection acquired the 15 Swedish Medals . Finding great diffi
 culty in obtaing any specimens of this Country he wrote to the
 Chief Engraver of the Swedish Mint at Stockholm Madame Lea
 Ahlborn doubtless the only Lady Engraver of any note ever known .
 She courteously replied informing him of the improbability of
 his finding any of the old Medals of Swedish Freemasonry . But
 as the result of further correspondance she discovered the old
 dies stored in the Royal Mint and offered to secure the permission
 of King Oscar to strike a further set . This the King was pleased
 to permit and at the cost of the weight of Silver used Bro. Taylor
 was able to secure this unique addition to his collection.
 Of these I show one which was struck to record the assassinin
 of King Gustavus 3rd a Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Sweden
 He disregarded a Masonic warning of the danger he was running and
 on the evening of March 16th 1792 attended a masquerade at the
 Opera House Stockholm where he was shot in the side ~~xxxx~~ and died
 a few days later.

Our American Brethren are responsible for a large number of
 Medals struck on any and every conceivable occasion many of them
 bearing the counterfeit presentments of the National heroes and
 Patriots of these I show one of Bro. Benjamin Franklin born Jan 17
 1706 and a very interesting one commemorating the funeral of
 George Washington who was initiated in the Fredericksburg Lodge
 Nov 4th 1752 and died Dec 14th 1799 . This Medalx was worn at the
 Civic Funeral procession 11 days after his actual interment.

Of Continental Meadls ~~ixshw~~ time will only permit of the
 mention of two . One of the Lodge Absalom chartered at Hamburg
 germany by the Earl of Strathmore Grand Master of England in 1733

The Senate of Hamburg prohibited its members from attending meetings to commemorate which this medal was struck in 1740 The Lodge still continues to meet .

No 1#6 was struck by the Grand Lodge of Bavaria in honour of the wedding of their Grand Master Frederic Margrave of Brandenburg 1759. A Wor.Master clothed with apron and jewel and wearing a chapeau places a lady's glove on a circular altar which is entwined with a garland . Legend Dignissima To a most worthy lady . I show it as bearing the indubitable garb of a Mason of that date . The apron is circular both round the bottom edge and the fall on which there is one rosette . The square hangs by a collar from his neck . The custom of the Wor.Master wearing his hat in Lodge was a very old one and may be seen on many old engravings . It persisted until comparatively recent date indeed I believe one Lodge still works with its Wor.Master crowned with a top hat . I can imagine that the sight of some brethren I can think of seated in Lodge with a top hat would not conduce to the dignity of our ceremonies .

Turning now from the Medals to those items more properly described as Jewels I present our No 28 . This is a striking piece of work struck in a die with what would have been the field cut out leaving the objects showing on both sides but of course reversed . Within a circle Amor Honor et Justitia Love honour and Justice . divided by the letters N E S W E at top . A pair of pillars resting on the base a level above the square and compasses on a book . on the right of these the sun a gavel and crossed pens on the left the crescent moon a plumb and a scroll on which the 47th Prop of Euclid diagonally the 24 inch gauge . On the reverse the objects are the same while the rim bears Sit Lux et Lux tuit . And at the top the ALL SEEING Eye between the letters A.M. and 5763 . it is pierced for a loop by which it hung round the neck from a ribbon. It was used as a members jewel and is to be traced in many quarters One brother of ancient days states that it was given to every initiate in his Lodge on the night of his initiation . It is included amongst the very few Irish jewels . One belonged to Henry Price the first Provincial Grand Master of North America. and stimulated the interest of Bro.Marvin the American Numismatist which resulted in his famous catalogue of Masonic Medals and Jewels the first attempt at a comprehensive description and for 24 years the standard work on the subject and still indispensable to students . The portrait of Bro. John Severn Ballard hanging in the Lodge Room at Worcester initiated 1805 shows a similar medal .

I next show one of the handsomest pieces in our collection The Jewel of the Grand Stewards Lodge . This exceedingly rare jewel was designed by Bro.William Hogarth the famous painter and engraver a member of the Grand Stewards Lodge in 1735 the year in which it was founded and to which date this jewel is ascribed . Membership of the Lodge was confined to those who had served the Office of Grand Steward of England . The design is unique and most effective . The outer rim or circle is of silver set with white brilliants within which are the irradiated

beams of the sun in gold set within an inner rim of red brilliants
The three movable jewels form an elaborate design in the middle.
The level hangs from the top . The plumb ~~xxxxx~~ is suspended below
and is crossed by the ~~angle~~ of the square which is inverted .

The ornamental jewel No 278 which fellows has no particular
history but from the beauty of its workmanship and from the
masterly skill displayed in its execution I was unwilling to
leave it out . Most of ~~these~~ type of pinchbeck jewels are of
French origin and many were made by the French prisoners of war
in England during the Napoleonic wars .Amongst a large number
of Masonic emblems it has a pair of pillars ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~
on the one the letter J and on the other the letter B. and a
delicate little painting of Faith Hope and Charity in enamel.

Lastly I show a Rose Croix jewel of a somewhat unusual
pattern but a splendid example of the craftsmans art .

I have been able to show you but a tithe of the treasures
contained in our cases but I cannot conclude without referring
to the latest addition to the Museum . It is the set of Centenary
Jewels presented by Wor.Bro.C.D.Eaton . Since 1868 Grand Lodge
has laid it down that Centenary Jewels shall be of a standard
pattern such as the one I am waering which is the Cent Jewel
of the Worcester Lodge 280 . 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 authorised and the odd one has been
promised there are also in existence four unauthorised jewels
of which we have three and if any Brother present has a copy of
the Centenary Jewel of the Strong Man Lodge No 45 I can assure
him of a very hearty welcome at Worcester .

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