

We in this Province are indeed fortunate in the fact that we have one of the finest Masonic Library and Museums outside London. It is also unique in the fact that our Library is a lending Library, from which brethren may ^{Borrow} loan books for a period of 1 month, or longer at the discretion of the Chief Librarian.

Our thanks are due to those brethren before us in having the foresight to build up and leave this wonderful collection which we have inherited.

The inception of this Provincial Museum was largely due to W. Bro. George Taylor P.M. of Letchmere Volunteer Lodge No. 1874, who organised a Masonic Exhibition, which was held in the Guild Hall, Worcester in August 1884 under the auspices of the then G.M. R.W.Bro. Sir Edmund Letchmere Bart. and the Mayor of Worcester W. Bro. William. B. Williamson, to which brethren from all over the county loaned books, medals, jewels and curios.

Of Over a thousand items in the Exhibition W. Bro. Taylor contributed nearly 1000. There were other prominent helpers, and the list in fact included the name of every prominent student and collector of the time. The Worcester Lodge No. 280 exhibited an interesting series of Prints and a few books.

The Exhibition, the first of its kind in this part of the country, must have lead many local brethren to appreciate as they never had before, the ~~was~~ wealth of interesting material available, and so much of it came from the Province itself, that the Provincial Authorities realised the possibilities of forming their own Library and Museum. Bro. Taylor had been for long an ardent collector and all his Masonic treasures were then acquire (at cost) by the Provincial Grand Lodge. A catalogue of items was compiled in 1891, the bibliographical section of that catalogue contained 600 items.

With the object of bringing this most interesting collection more prominently before the Province, a Committee was formed in 1912, and on this representatives were elected Annually by the Lodges and Chapters etc. The formation of this committee was due in no small measure to W. Bro. Charlie D. Eaton P.G.D. of Letchmere Volunteer Lodge. (You will see brethren that one of the oldest Lodges meeting in this building has been connected very closely with our Library and Museum since the early days.

We have come a long way since those early days when the list of items was relatively small, today we have alone in the Library 4000 ~~book~~ books and pamphlets, and one collection of ~~Mason~~ Medals alone totals 1700. Many of these books being very rare and relate to Masonry from the early days to the present time.

It is only possible in this paper to talk to you about a small selection of the many items we have in our possession, but I hope that it will interest you and encourage you to pay us a visit and stimulate you into further Masonic study. Every item we possess has some historical background be it one of the very old medals or one of the present Craft Lodge Past Masters Jewels.

To take first the Manuscript versions of the Old Charges. Here we have ~~three~~, the Lechmere, Wood, Inigo Jones and the Woodcock, a number surpassed, among libraries in the Provinces only by West Yorks and York.

The Letchmere M.S. A.D. (Late 17th Century) is not a complete text, and does not present us with any noteworthy variations from the text of the Sloan Family to which it belongs. Its interest lies in the fact that it was purchased in London by Sir Edmund Letchmere, whose name was appropriately given to it, and by him exhibited at Worcester in 1884. He subsequently presented it to the Library, it being the first original manuscript version of the Old Charges to come into our possession.

refer to Catalogue.

The Wood M.S. A.D. 1610

The Inigo Jones Manuscript, M.M. Circa 1720

The Woodcock M.S. Circa 1715.

There are numerous others (in the Library and Museum of Grand Lodge and else where) many of which appear to have been copied from similar documents some of which have been lost. Two of them date to about the 14th Century and throw much light upon the traditions, usages and customs of the medieval operative masons.

It is known for example, that the London Company of Freemasons had in its records of 1676 the item - "Book of Constitutions of the Accepted Masons" but, unhappily this book has disappeared.

Engraved Lists. These engraved Lists were actually a list of Lodges done up in book form and were the forerunner of our Grand Lodge Year Book.

The engraved List sold by Benj. Cole for 1763 is very rare, only two are known to exist, one copy is in Grand Lodge and the other is in our own Library.

The earliest reference to a Lodge in Worcester is that which was held at the Talbot Hotel in Stourbridge. It was constituted not consecrated in 1733, numbered 119, became No.62 in 1755, and was finally erased in 1769.

Books of Constitution. We have a great number of these books dating back to the first book of Constitution published in 1723 and written by Dr. James Anderson D.D. a copy of which I have brought with me tonight. This was followed *(All 18th Century)* additions, including the new appendix of 1776 to the 1764 edition.

by the revised edition in 1756 by the Rev. John Entick, M.A. which was approved by Grand Lodge. It being generally thought that the first book of Constitutions written by Dr. Anderson had not the Full approval of Grand Lodge. Never the less, Andersons book of Constitutions formed the basis of the Irish 1730 and the American 1735 Constitutions and exerted immense influence throughout the world in the transmission of the Principals and Tenets of the Craft.

In talking about Constitutions some reference must be made to Ahiman Rezon, copies of all additions of which repose in the Library at Worcester.

This was the name the Antients or Atholl Masons gave to their version of the Constitutions.

In July 17th 1751, the Antients Grand Lodge was formed and styled itself "The Most Antient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons." In opposition to the Premier Grand Lodge (who were styled the Moderns)

This Grand Lodge came into being for a variety of reasons.

In 1723 there appeared in three additions of the Flying Postman "A Masons Examination." and in 1730 Samuel Pritchards Book "Masonry Dissected" appeared.

There was also at this time unaffiliated Masons of, Ireland, Scotland and France claiming admission in to Lodge in England. The Premier Grand Lodge

Panicked and Changed round the words of the two degrees. at the same period

Members of the break away Grand Lodge accused the Premier Grand Lodge of De. Christianising Freemasonry. For this and other reasons the Antients

formed their own Grand Lodge, and the well known Irish Mason Lawrence

Dermott who led the Antients, retained the old marks of recognition. The

two Lodges ran side by side for a period of some 60 years 1751 to 1813,

when the Lodge of Reconcilliation was formed prior to the Union of the

Two Grand Lodges.

Exposures: Between I have already mentioned the two exposures which had some bearing on the break up of the Craft, there followed over a period, and as we know today of a series of exposures, Many of the copies repose on the shelf of the Library. One copy we do have is very rare and includes the exposure of the Royal Arch Degree. However it must be remembered that had it not been for these exposures, we should not have had any idea of the form of ritual in those days which was quite different to that we work today, which came out of the Lodge of Reconcilliation. ~~None was written~~ As in those bygone days and even at the Lodge of Reconcilliation there was not written ritual, it was handed down by word of mouth.

China: We have in the Museum a wonderful selection of China, and earthenware pieces, all of which for various reasons claim the attention of the expert and inexpert alike. Most of this China dates from Late 18th to late 19th Century, and includes China of all makes of this period. There is a great deal of Sunderland China which shows a design of the Iron Bridge at Sunderland. There is Delft China, Worcester China in the form of the Worcester Cabbage Leaf Jug, bearing the arms of the Grand Lodge of the Moderns. There is also Staffordshire China, and many others, and items range from jugs, and mugs to domestic utensils of the time one of which we see in the Hogarth ~~sketches of~~ Sketch of Night. We are told that at the period of the making of these utensils they were used by the Wardens etc, as the Lodges used to sit for quite long periods, we have however seen no authorised source for this information. We do know however from research made by the York Masonic Museum that these pieces were sold at the travelling fares at this time in our history. There is among our china a Mug with Masonic symbols on, and a portrait of Lord Nelson, you may or may not know that Nelson was not a Mason. These mugs along with medals were made to commemorate his death, and belong to the Nelsonic Crimson Oaks Society, which was a benefit society, and it is known that at this period one section held a meeting in a ~~sketch~~ hostelry in Stourbridge. We have also two pairs of Figures, they represent male and female characters in 18th Century Dress, and at the foot of each figure is a German Pug Dog. They are relics of the society named "The Mopses" of which little is known except that it was formed soon after the the Papal Bull was issued by Pope Clement XII in 1738 which excommunicated Freemasons. In all probability it was directed with the sanction of Roman Catholics, against the order of Freemasons, and was to be a travesty on the Aims and Ceremonies of the Society. It admitted women as members - the rule for the exclusion of women having been strictly observed by all true Freemasons since the very beginning of the order up to the present time. It is known that a women would rule or preside for six months and a man for the next six months. The figs are marked Meissen, but we are in some doubt as to their being the age we would like them to have been from a point of value. It was the ~~large~~ dog (Mopse or Pug Dog) which give the the name to the society.

Glass: Our collection of Glass in the Museum has to be seen to be appreciated, here again like the China the items date from late 18th century to our present period. There is some very fine glass showing the arms of the Moderns and the

Antients Grand Lodge, that of the Moderns being the Chevrons and Castles, this was the original arms of the London Company of Masons. The Antients being the Lion, Eagle Ox and Man, these symbols being very familiar to those members in another degree in Freemasonry. If you look at the present arms of the United Grand Lodge you will see that these are combined into one. In the center of the glass exhibition stands the Loving cup on loan from Vernon Lodge which has on it the verse of the Entered Apprentice Song, Brethren this song has been song among masons before the year 1723, as a copy is printed in Andersons books of Constitutions. ~~There are~~ There are various sized goblets, and firing glasses of different types and designs, some of which have Dice sealed in the base, in such a way that you can actually play with them. The two latest ~~additions~~ additions to this range are the cut Glass bowl of Stourbridge Crystal presented by the Ben Marsh Lodge, and the paper weight formed in the form of a perfect Ashlar presented by the Earl of Scarborough to our Provincial Grand Master to mark the 250th Anniversary of Grand Lodge, in which is sealed a medal showing the arms of the United Grand Lodge.

Aprons. We have in the Museum a good selection of Aprons, brethren an apron is a distinguishing badge of most societies, of which members are either bound by obligation or secrets to one another, and it is found as a sacred token in most countries throughout the world.

Early prints show aprons which resemble those of the operative Masons, reaching down to the ground, an example of this is in Hogarths print "Night", and many other examples could be given.

The next change was when they trimmed to make them less cumbersome, yet so they retained a slight resemblance to skin. then they became oblong, but still large, and at this period they ~~were made of linen~~ were also made of linen. Soon however the size was reduced and ornamental decorations allowed, which for about 10 years either side of 1800 enabled Masons to have their aprons adorned, seemingly at their own will, either by drawing, painting, gold or embroidery. Then the professional decorator stepped in with the engraved plates to print designs in leather and so get a more general picture of the Craft. This was also done to distinguish the Members of the Rival Grand Lodges, We have a number of these types in our showcases in Worcester. Among the printed type is the Moira Apron, worn by the Bristol Masons, and aprons of other Constitutions and societies.

One apron of interest which lies in our Museum is that of the Willem Van Orange Lodge which was formed in 1918 by members of the English, Scottish and Irish Const. who were interned during the ~~First~~ First World War in Holland. It was consecrated in 1918, and in 1919 returned to England. It was No. 118 Netherlands Constitution and No. 3976 English Constitution. It meets in London, and their apron is made of Linen and the ribbon both on the Collar, Jewel and round the apron is Yellow with a Blue Stripe.

You will find that Aprons of the Antients G.L. had in the prints several items relating to other degrees, as under their G.L. they allowed Seven degrees to be given under the craft warrant. At the Union in 1814 this was intended to be stopped, it was however continued (illegally) in a few Lodges, even to a later date. After the Union the colours we know today were the official colours for aprons e.i. Garter Blue, Light Blue., and in the case of Stewards and R.A. Scarlet.

Medals and Jewels Here in this paper of necessity this subject can only be slightly touched up on. We have as I have already informed you one collection of over 1700 medals, another of 146 jewels, and several show cases of jewels associated with all the Masonic Degrees. Our Catalogue which was issued in the 1934 shows over 1400 medals, so you can imagine our collection now, as there is very rarely a moth goes by but what we receive jewels or medals donated to the Museum. the Main collection of Medals is the Shackles collection, which numbers over 1700 medals from all over the world, it is recognised as the finest collection of Masonic medals and was purchased from Shackles by the Province. ^{for the sum of £1500} The earliest English Masonic Medal struck was ~~that~~ the Sackville Medal 1733. We have a Collection of Swedish Medals, purchased by G. Taylor. ^{story of medals} W. Bo. Charlie Eaton presented to the Museum a Collection of Centenary Jewels, Brethren may not know but up to 1886 a Lodge could design their own Centenary Jewel but it had to be authorised by G. L. There were 142 authorised and 4 unauthorised, we have all the authorised jewels and three of the four unauthorised in this collection. There is also in this collection a Centenary Jewel which is now authorised by Grand Lodge, one of which I have on show, this belongs to No.4. Lodge, and hereby hangs a tale. [↗] In 1884 the Secretary and one of the Wardens requested Grand Lodge to allow them to wear the Centenary Jewel (This Lodge was a Time Immemorial Lodge) The warrant was issued and the standard jewel worn. Today Brethren this is an embarrassment to the Lodge, who I believe according to one of their P.M. R.W. Bro

Erskine Simes. Q.C. Grand Registrar, Member of the Board of General Purposes, have thrown the warrant into the waste Paper basket and none of its members wear the jewel.

I have brought with me this evening several of the jewels out of our Musuem which carry a great deal of history of the craft, and in fact some of them are very rare, outside their respective Lodges or the Library and Museum in Grand Lodge.

Nine Worthies Jewel: This jewel was one authorised by the ~~Antient~~ Antient Grand Lodge, and was issued as a jewel of Office to the Nine Select Masters, who were appointed Annually. Their work was to go round the Lodges under the Constitution of the Antients Grand Lodge, to see that the ritual etc. worked was in accordance with their Constitution, and would not wear any deviation. The jewel would hang on a Silver Chain. The Jewel was instituted in 1729. The jewels cost £2.12.6d each, and were recalled on November 5th, 1817. Out of the nine Grand Lodge have 7 we have one.

Grand Stewards Jewel: This Grand Stewards Jewel is reputed to have been designed by Hogarth who was a member of the Lodge. ^{appointed Feb. 1734} It is 2½" in dia., there is a peculiar open arrangement of the Square, Level, and Plum Rule, behind them a circle of red stones closely encircled by twenty-four tongues of flame which touch an outer circle of brilliants. This Lodge was formed in 1735. ^{1835 replaced by Cornucopia}

Contry Stewards Jewel: This is a very rare jewel and came from a Lodge which only existed for approx 12 years. The Jewel was Granted in 1789, and was pendant to a green collar. It has a garden scene with tress, water, and a figure of "Fame" holding a medal and a wand, while close to her feet is an Ewer and an overflowing Cornucopia. On the reverse "Granted by Grand Lodge Quarty. Commun. 25th Nov. 1789. ^{1815: Eighteen bodies rebelled to form the Antients. only a Hall body. No. 1.} It is said that this Lodge was formed by the Members of Grand Stewards Lodge who had difficulty in finding accommodation in London on St. John the Baptist Day. It was arranged that they should meet at the Masters Home in Hamstead. They were allowed to wear Green ribbon on their aprons instead of the Red.

Collar Jewel Lst Prov. G.M. Worcestershire: This jewel of the first Prov. Grand Master over the Prov. of Worcestershire, was found three years ago in a jewellers in Bath, and the Museum purchased it for £14. It belong to R.W. Bro. J. Dent, he was Prov. G.M. 1792 - 1826. The jewels was however not made until 1821, we had thought that he had had it made prior to a visit to Worcester, however this is not the case as he never appeared in the Province. It was a form of rank which certain members of Grand Lodge took in those days, very few of

left London.

The Royal Jewel: This jewel is vary rare outside the Lodge of Antiquity No.2. This Lodge "Antiquity" should probably be considered the most celebrated, as it certainly is really the senior No.1. of the Lodges under the English Constitution.

Though by fate No.2. is a Time Immemorial Lodge, and the first of the Four Old lodges. In 1117 it was held at the Goose an Gridiron Tavern in St. Pauls

Church Yard, and there preliminary meetings of the Grand Lodge took place.

It was a Masters Lodge from 1760-69, and in 1761 was called "The West India and American Lodge, and was numbered 1. until it lost its precedence in 1814 (at the Union) to the Grand Masters Lodge. In 1770 it united with the Harmonim Lodge No. 467 1794. As a Red Apron Lodge it is allowed to use gold jewels.

This medal The Sussex Jewel was given by H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex himself while Master of this Lodge to those members of the Lodge whom he specially selected as Master Masons raised in the Lodge, or as joining Members who were noted to be well skilled in the craft. The Royal Medal was instituted in 1802, and all those issued after the death of the Duke of Sussex have the date of his death engraved on the ~~back~~ bottom. During the time that the Earl of Zetland was Master a regulation was made that the reigning Master may bestow this Medal at his discretion on brethren of the lodge, but it had to be returned to the Lodge on the Death or resignation of the brother. Today it is presented to all Master Masons of the Lodge. The original cost to a brother was £3.5 Od and a receipt was put in the back, on the return of the jewel the dependant was returned this sum of money. Early this century the cost of the jewel was £5 5.Od. We in Worcester had 5 of these jewels but have retained three to ~~be~~ London

The Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge: This Lodge No.4 was a Time immemorial Lodge, and the fourth of the four Old Lodges. It was called the Old Horn in 1767, The Somerset House in 1774, and its present in 1828. This is also a Red Apron Lodge. It met at the Rummer and Grapes at Westminster. It united with the Somerset House Lodge No.219 in 1774, and with the Royal Inverness Lodge No.248 in 1828, while it was numbered 3,2, and in 1814 No.4. The Hunting Horn refers to the the Ancient Tavern in which it met, underneath is a band inscribed Immemorial Constitution and round the rim United with the Old Horn Lodge, No.2, 10th January 1774. On the other side is the coat of arms of the Duke of Sussex, as Earl of Inverness, surmounted by a Royal Coronet with thistles interwind below, and on the rim, "Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge". The outside edge carries the words "Royal Inverness Lodge" No.648. The first Lodge consecrated

under the United Grand Lodge of England by the M.W. the G.M. H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, 1814.

The Grand Masters Lodge No. 1. This Lodge was No. 1 in the Antients of Atholl

Grand Lodge, it met at the "Shakespeare's Head", Covent Garden, it was warranted on August 13th, 1759, and Proclaimed on September 5th. It was also named in that year, and obtained a Centenary Warrant on 31st May, 1869, While its special medal dates from 1832.

Its number has always been 1, since it took its place at the head of the "Antients", or Atholl List, and it also drew at the Union the first place in the combined list, thus relegating the "Antiquity", a far older and a time Memorial Lodge, to second Place. It is also a Red Apron Lodge. The Jewel normally has a Royal Blue Ribbon fastened to a Gold Crown with five points; This supports a circular Jewel of a Garter Blue Centre with a White enamel band and Gold Edge on the band are the words, "Grand Masters Lodge No 1. and overlaying the Blue Centre is a figure of the Sun in its splendour - the Special Badge of a Grand Master.

Plate Jewels:

During the period late 18th Century to 1820, a great many plate jewels were made, they took the form of thin silver plate engraved with masonic marks etc, and were worn by members of the craft, some were either made privately, or presented on special occasions to brethren. The one I have brought with me today is that presented to a member of the Waterford Lodge No. V Irish Constitution. We have others in the Museum one of which we have traced to a member of the Worcester Lodge, but then we came to the end of the trail, as it would appear that this brother did not go on in the Lodge. Like many other jewels after the Communication of Grand Lodge regulating the jewels that could be worn, these jewels were no longer made, but like the aprons, many brethren continued to purchase and wear them for a few years after the regulation was communicated.

Many of these specimens which were possessed by members who owed allegiance to the Grand Lodge of the Antients, have a special Coat of Arms of that Grand Lodge, in compliance with the custom of placing such a blazon on jewels, Aprons and Papers, as a difference. There may also be seen on them figures relating to the degrees which the Antient Lodges claimed they had a right to give under their ordinary warrants.

Royal Arch Jewels: We have many different types of Royal Arch Jewels, in our Collection, ranging from late 18th Century to present time, but the time available does not allow me time to describe these and many other types of jewels of different degrees, and several visits to the Museum is necessary in order to absorb a little of what we have.

In addition to those jewels I have talked about I have brought several for exhibition and brethren are free to look at these items for a few minutes after the meeting. I would ask you to look at the Pinch Back Jewel, this type of jewel was made by the French Prisoners of War after the Napoleonic Wars.

Books.
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The work of the Museum staff is very great and varied, what with Cataloguing of books which has been going on for three years, and re-arranging displays, we still find time to carry on the research for Lodges, Brethren, both in this Province and else where. We do carry on a great deal of research for the Waterford Lodge in Eire, with whom we have a very close relationship. When we do come to the end of the trail at Worcester, then of course we do refer to Grand Lodge, who at times can do no better than ourselves. Later I shall pass a jewel round to you, and I ask you what you make of it, this jewel has been with us for years, but we have now taken up the research on it to ascertain how it came into being and why. All the Museum staff are volunteers, and carry out this work for the interest that it gives them, and as we do this in addition to our normal daily duties, our time to a certain extent is limited. However it is our Pleasuer to serve you brethren, as this library and Museum is yours, and I hope that this lecture ~~tax~~ this evening will stimulate your interest in the craft, to look further than the printed ritual, and come and visit, or take out books, both from the Provincial Museum and your own Library here at Kings heath, in order to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

W. M. Brethren, I do thank you for this opportunity to talk to you about our Library and Museum, and hope that in due course we may have the pleasure of a visit by your members or a party of your members and their ladies in the near future.

I am most grateful to B. Bro. Abbott for offering me this great privilege of addressing this Lodge. Thank you Brethren for the patient way in which you have listened to me.

Royal Alpa Lodge: No. 16, Founded in May 1722, it holds a confirmation warrant of Jan 1st.181. It was named Ionic in 1768, and United Lodge of Ionic and Prudence in 1800 and Royal Alpha in 1824. Since 1823 it has been been composed exclusively of Grand Officers, each approved by the M.W. Grand Master, and obtained its Royal Jewel in 1884.

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