

GOAT RIDER SERIES

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THE HALLSTONE JEWEL



WARNING

This compilation of information is an unofficial publication. It does not represent the views of any Masonic body, just those of one freemason.

It is designed to offer one Mason's plausible explanations of issues and matters that are not freely available for discussion and which clearly ought to be understood. We are guilty of acting without knowing and we ought to know.

These thoughts are not the definitive explanation of the subject matter but simply serve to arouse the interest and to provide food for thought.

In life and Freemasonry the learned brother knows:-

- What has to be done,
- Where to do it
- When to do it
- How to do it
- Who to do it to

BUT

Does he know WHY he is doing it?

The Goat Rider Series of mini books seeks to give the reader something to think about if nothing else.

If you can accept this booklet as it is intended, as one mason's perspective and nothing more, if you can accept it as that, then read on, if not, **put it down**, it is not for you.

THE HALLSTONE JEWEL



I will bet you have visited a Lodge and seen many of the visiting masters wearing a medal around their necks. In many cases it may be suspended by a simple blue or tartan ribbon, in other cases it may be suspended from a more elaborate collar or chain.

I will also make a bet that many brethren have no idea what that “medal” signifies or have any idea about its origin, development or history.

So let's begin with a few details that you might be interested in.

NAMEHALLSTONE JEWEL
YEAR MADE.....1925
COST.....4 GUINEAS PER MEMBER..THEN
MADE OF.....9KT GOLD
WHY WAS IT MADE.....AS A FUND-RAISER
WHAT FOR.....A MASONIC CENTRE
WHERE.....133 ANN STREET
WHOSE IDEA WAS IT.....RW BRO CHARLES STUMM
WHO BACKED HIM.....RW BRO CHAS. H. HARLEY
DID IT WORK.....YES IT DID

The United Grand Lodge of Queensland had not long been in operation when they decided to build a magnificent new premises as headquarters for the Craft.

Most Wor. Bro Alexander Gorrie was Grand Master in 1921-1922. (when they selected the site) but the driving force behind the “Hallstone Jewels” was, Rt.Wor. Bro. Charles Stumm, who became Grand Master in 1922 until his death in 1929,

The Grand Secretary of the day, Rt. Wor. Bro C. H. Harley kept the project running and was “Gorries” man on the ground so to speak.

Of course the new Masonic Centre had to be paid for. How did they do it...why the easy way of course, then “levied” the Craft...all the many brethren of the jurisdiction.

Everyone in the Craft was levied some 4 Guineas (Approx. \$9.00)

Yes, they levied the members of the ninety-three (93) Craft Lodges they had in those days. Those were the halcyon days of Freemasonry. It was strong and it was vibrant.

Given the nature of the project the word also spread through the Masonic World.

The District Grand Lodge of England in Queensland, The District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria (U.G.L.Q.) The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Queensland, and the District Grand Lodge of Mark Masons E.C. went ahead and levied themselves an additional two (2) Guineas (Approx. \$4.50) and they added this to the kitty as well.

Lodges and Chapters that met the UGLQ levy are entitled to the Hallstone Jewel.

In 1925 two lodges, Prince of Wales No. 3 and Jubilee No 107 received their Hallstone Jewels. All others were presented before the dedication of the Centre in 1930 when the fund was closed.

HOW WAS IT MADE

It is believed that a brother (un-named) from John F Shale Lodge (*meeting at the now defunct Petrie Terrace centre*) may have created the die for the jewel, but information about that is sketchy to say the least.

What is known is that R.W.Bro John Dacey of Enogerra Lodge was caretaker at the Mitchelton Masonic Centre for many years. John was an apprenticed jeweller with Wallace Bishop, Jeweller of Albert Street Brisbane, where the Jewels were made and he often spoke about their manufacture.

The actual craftsman who constructed them was Bro. Eric Faux, and Rt. Wor. Bro. F. J. Wilkes created the design.

Rt Wor Bro. Wilkes was initiated into North Australia Lodge No 1 in 1910, and it was he who designed the Grand Lodge Standard, The Grand Lodge Crest, as well as the magnificent Clock in Grand Hal.

Eric Faux and C.W. Bishop were both members of Brisbane Lodge No 279.

The Jewels were made from actual Gold Sovereigns which had just been withdrawn for Australian currency.

The gold sovereigns were composed of 22 Carat gold alloyed to 9 Carat, Melted and Rolled to 16 Gauge roughly in the form of a square. These were placed in a lathe and recessed leaving two rims, the letters "HALLSTONE JEWEL U.G.L.Q." were stamped on the die (A block of steel) and soldered into position.

The Jewels are composed of 22 Carat gold alloyed to 9 Carat.

The gold was melted and then rolled to 16 Gauge roughly in the form of a square.

The squares were placed in a lathe and recessed leaving two distinct rims.

"HALLSTONE JEWEL U.G.L.Q." was now stamped on the die (which was a solid block of steel) and soldered into position.

The wreath at the base was cut out by hand. A task in itself.

The silver disc enamelled blue and surmounted by the U.G.L.Q. Coat-of Arms, and silver lined, was stamped on the die and fixed in the centre of the medallion or jewel.

The Square, Compasses and the letter "G" mounted on a cube were made by hand.

The cube being shaped from a block. The frame above this section was cast in "Cuttlefish". Cuttlefish casting is a quick and fairly accurate casting method. Its applications are limited only by the thickness and overall dimensions of the shell. It is difficult to achieve fine details on the surface of the casting, but this is offset by the richly complex texture that is a natural by-product of this method.

The back plate or cuttlebone of the ordinary squid (genus: sepia) serves as the mould material. The elliptical shell is a bright white, porous material that can be easily indented by pressing a model into it.

One side of this material is covered with a thin, hard crust that resembles plastic. Cuttlefish bones for casting were easily purchased through jewellery suppliers and pet stores, where they are sold for use in birdcages.

(I.E. two Halves), one with the template impressed and the other plain and the two sections wired together for the molten gold to be poured in.

Inside the frame the Lodge Name is enamelled in dark blue.

All the "jump" rings (wire rings made by bringing the two ends together without soldering or welding), as well as a fastener for a ribbon that would go around the neck, are 9 Carat gold.

On the reverse side, at the bottom of the Jewel, they stamped W.B.9CT, which stands for Wallace Bishop (remember C.A. Bishop MM who was a well-known Jeweller of the day) and of course the quality of the gold.

One thing you must remember.....during the time the Hallstone jewel was being made (1925 to 1930) it was the Great Depression. If you had a job you were a lucky man. If you had a good job then you were luckier still.

In those days the average weekly wage around \$12. Not like today when we see average wages of around \$1200 plus.

Think back and consider what those early Freemasons gave up to honour the levy set by the UGLQ. Would you have done that? Would you do it today?

In essence those men sacrificed more than one third of their week's wage so that magnificent centre at Ann Street could be built.

Ann Street masonic centre is still there but the run of the mill freemasons don't own it now...at least I don't think they do...so why bother contributing to its upkeep

Someone sold the place for far less than it was worth...oh well! (personal opinion, not held by all)

WHY DON'T WE SEE ALL MASTERS WEARING THE HALLSTONE JEWEL ?

Well that's an easy one.

Not every Lodge had the where-with-all to obtain a Hallstone Jewel...I suppose a good term would be "cash-strapped" and we all know that feeling.

The lodges that did obtain a Hallstone Jewel were given an invitation to the dedication of the Masonic Temple on 9th December 1930.

It was decided that no additional Hallstone Jewels would be struck after this date.

Next time you see the Master of a Lodge wearing a Hallstone Jewel you will now know that in reality it is irreplaceable, due to its significance, and it is quite significant as a Masonic memento.

The financial cost of having one replaced today? Who would know, but this writer believes that the cost would be prohibitive.

If your Lodge owns a Hallstone jewel then make sure that it is properly insured for replacement value.

Don't be stingy..adequate insurance is the **only** way to go.

If you see a Lodge number written as 224**H** or 262**H** you will know that such lodges are the owners of a Hallstone jewel.

Why do you know this...because of the "**H**"

How many jewels were struck...sorry, I do not know...maybe we can find out together.

You now know what I know...scary isn't it?

