



A mystery within a mystery

[No doubt once this reaches other eyes in the lodge maybe someone can shed a little more light on our Past Master Collar and jewel ...]

W Bro. Ron Pemberton March 2009
The Prince Of Wales Lodge 1338 EC
Auckland, New Zealand

A couple of years ago I was charged with looking into the mystery of who was Mark Mendoza, a name that is inscribed on one of our Past Masters collars. Our history stretches back to 1871 and while we have a good record of many of our past masters some of our members are a mystery.



For many years the Past Master's of the lodge have worn a past Masters collar and jewel with the name on the reverse of Mark Mendoza. The full inscription states: W.Bro. Mark Mendoza P.M. Dalston Lodge 1923-1924.

From the list of Past masters that appear on the memorial board outside of the lodge room there is no mention of a Mark Mendoza ever having been a master or for that matter a member of the Prince of Wales Lodge. Now that is not unusual as in the early days of the lodge many were joining members that came from other lodges. One of our very early secretaries W. Bro Heaphy V.C. came from the Waitemata lodge and was never recorded as being a past master of the Prince. So who was Mark Mendoza and how did we get his Past Masters collar and jewel?



My next step was to investigate the collar and jewel itself. On the face of the jewel it is engraved with flowers and Celtic swirls while the reverse is engraved as previously stated. The Jewel is solid silver as marked with the stamps from the jewelers register. The marks indicate where and by whom and when it was made. The first mark on the square is presumably the maker's mark, according to W. Bro. Bill Palmer a brother from another lodge, who is a jeweler in his profession.

There are two misleading parts to this puzzle. The first, is that on the Euclid there is a name of 'Sweden and sons, London' stamped on it, whereas the first part of the silver marks on the square show initials that state, according to the Hall Marks for Silver smiths that 'GW' is for



The next mark on the square shows that the silver quality is 0.925%, the next stamp tells us that it was manufactured in London and the final mark that it was made in 1922. This final mark

was possibly when the square was made but then engraved in 1924 for W. Bro. Mark Mendoza. For those wishing to look at this web site,



go to: Online Encyclopedia of Silver Marks at www.925-1000.com then, look at British Hall Marks.

Many lodges celebrate their past masters achievements in different ways. In the Prince he is awarded with a Past Masters jewel, which is his to keep until he passes to the Grand Lodge above. Others give them a collar and jewel such as the one the P.M. now wears for the two years after he comes out of the chair.

Not having a lodge number or constitution mark on the jewel meant that we had no idea if this was an English, Scottish, Irish, New Zealand, or from anywhere else in the world of masonry. I then looked at Google, where else do you go for information?

Dalston I found was in England but the lodge I found wasn't founded until 1952, which was too young for this brother to have been a past master. Finally, I went to the UGLE web site and sent an email off to the museum in Great Queen Street www.freemasonry.london.museum.

Their first reply didn't give me enough information so I dug a little deeper. The museum in London then came back with more information.

Mark Mendoza was initiated on the 8th of March 1910 in the Dalston Lodge 3008, passed on the 10th of May, and raised on the 13th of September 1910. Age: 34

Address: Stoke Newington Road
Occupation: Licensed Victualler
Master of the lodge in 1923-1924
Resigned: 8th of November 1929



Hackney Manor Lodge No 4592, London

One of the founder members of this lodge in October 1923

Remained a member until his death, which is recorded as 7th of October 1936

Comrades Chapter No 2740 London

Joined Royal Arch in this chapter on the 24th of October 1913
Resigned 27th of March 1925

Dalston Chapter No 3008, London

One of the founder members of this chapter in August 1917
Resigned 11th of April 1927

The mystery now is how did our Past Master Collar and Jewel get to the Prince of Wales Lodge in New Zealand?



On a wet and windy night whilst standing outside of the Tironui Lodge, as you do, I told the story to a group of the Prince of Wales Brethren that were also visiting the lodge. W.

Bro Peter Hobson remarked that he thought that W. Bro. Henry Grocock had purchased it from a second hand shop. Unfortunately, our brother Henry passed away to the Grand Lodge above in 2008 so unless I invoke his spirit through a séance the mystery sits where it is.

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