

HALL STONE JEWEL

At a special meeting of Grand Lodge in June 1919, the Grand Master, the Duke of Connaught, expressed a wish that a memorial be established to commemorate those brethren who had made the supreme sacrifice during the 1914-1918 war. It was agreed that this memorial would be a building that would also serve as a central home for Freemasonry in London.

The Masonic Million Memorial Fund was launched in September that year and brethren both at home and overseas were invited to contribute to raise the £1m needed to finance the work. The contributions from individuals and Lodges were to be recognised by the award of a commemorative jewel. An open competition to design the jewel was won by Cyril Saunders Spackman.

The jewel is in the form of a cross, symbolising Sacrifice, with a perfect square at the four ends, on the left and right squares being the dates 1914-1918, the years in which the supreme sacrifice was made. Between these is a winged figure of Peace presenting the representation of a Temple with special Masonic allusion in the Pillars, Porch and Steps. The medal is suspended by the Square and Compasses, attached to a ribbon, the whole thus symbolising the Craft's gift of a Temple in memory of those brethren who gave all for King and Country, Peace and Victory, Liberty and Brotherhood.

The first of these was a personal breast jewel to be worn by any member of a Lodge under the English Constitution who contributed ten guineas (£10.50) A second jewel, a gold medal on a light blue collarette, was presented to those Lodges contributing an average of ten

guineas per member, to be worn by successive Masters; such Lodges to be known as Hall Stone Lodges, thus giving the jewel its name. 1,321 Lodges were thus qualified and their names and numbers are inscribed on the walls and staircases leading to the memorial.

Additionally, the Province of Buckinghamshire and the Districts of Japan (now defunct) and Burma (in abeyance) had the distinction that every one of their Lodges contributed an average in excess of five hundred guineas (£525.00). In recognition of this achievement, a third jewel, a gold and coloured enamel jewel on a dark blue collarette, was presented to be worn by successive Provincial and District Grand Masters. The Provincial Grand Master of Buckinghamshire can boast the unique distinction of now being the sole and proud wearer of such a Jewel. In further recognition, Lodge Room No. 17 at Freemasons' Hall, London, was named the Buckinghamshire Room.



The Hall Stone is a feature above the great West doors of Freemasons' Hall as well as the central panel of the stained glass window above and behind the shrine on the first floor vestibule, with one interesting difference. The jewel was designed prior to the architectural competition for the new building. When the window was designed several years later, the façade was now known, so the winged figure of Peace, instead of holding a model of a classic temple – as in the jewel itself – is actually holding a model of the Tower façade for the building.

The Jewel is worn at all Craft Meetings and is a permanent reminder of the supreme sacrifice made by fellow Masons during the 1914 - 1918 war.