

PRESENTATION OF A MACE TO THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

To Commemorate the Centenary of Responsible Government in South Australia

Parliament House, Adelaide, Wednesday 24 April, 1957.

THE MACE

ITS HISTORY AND SYMBOLISM

The Mace was a weapon of war and is without doubt the most primitive of all weapons produced by Man, and the ceremonial Mace of today is but the highly ornamental descendant of the prehistoric club or bludgeon.

With the introduction of armour among fighting men the wooden club or bludgeon came to be bound with iron and, later, fashioned of iron and steel alone, about 2ft long, and by the eleventh and twelfth centuries had developed into a stylized weapon of a formidable nature, and a detailed description of this weapon is necessary, for this was the direct ancestor of our ceremonial mace.

The flange-headed or laminated mace had no suitable place upon which to display the Royal Arms; one such was provided by swelling out the lower part of the bole into a small bell or bowl, and the arms were placed on the flat surface at the base of the bell. Three such maces of iron, 17in. in length, belong to the Corporation of Carlisle. On the base of the bell-shaped end is a silver escutcheon with the Arms of King Henry VII engraved thereon, the other end being flanged or laminated. This is the form that had been assumed by the Maces of the Serjeants-at-Arms in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. It is in consequence of the provision in a London Charter of 1354 that the mace should be adorned with the "ensign of our arms," that the maces of that century have at the base of the bole a flat surface upon which are engraved or enamelled the Royal Arms.

When the mace was of the form of those at Carlisle, it had a double use; when the Serjeant-at-Arms served process he showed the bell-end with the Royal Arms as proof of his authority. If the party concerned was contumacious he reversed his mace and knocked down the contumacious one with the military flanged or laminated end. The Mace went out of use in England as a military weapon in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603).

As the civic use of the mace (as an emblem of authority) gradually predominated over its military one, so did the bell with the Royal Arms swell and grow in size, becoming more and more elaborate – presumably to honour such Arms – while the flanges or laminae dwindles and survived along in meaningless but decorative scroll work and indeed this became a mere grooved knop and finally disappeared in a small button.

The next step in the Mace's evolution was the addition of a cresting or coronetted rim surrounding the Royal Arms. Thus the original base of the Mace, honoured by its adornment of these Arms surrounded by a coronet, came to be regarded as the more

important end and in consequence of this, a reversal of the Mace occurred and from thenceforth it was carried with the crested end uppermost. This practice having been generally adopted we find in the Mace of the sixteenth century a gradual disappearance of the flanges and in lieu thereof brackets or scroll work ornamentation of a flange-like nature. And about this time the Maces became entirely covered with, and were eventually made wholly of, precious metal.

Now we see the Mace no longer a weapon of offence but a symbol of authority solely; for the pattern of Mace most commonly seen today was standardized by Royal Decree of King Charles I. This was confirmed under the Commonwealth (but without the Royal emblems) but the original pattern was restored under King Charles II. The bell end attained still higher honour for now the coronet expanded into a full-sized noble crown with important arches surmounted by an orb and cross; the sharp hitting flanges dropped off and the whole weapon swelled to proportions too large to be wielded to strike and thus by the end of the Tudor dynasty the ceremonial Mace was fully fledged.

Great Maces which will be seen to have come into being early in the seventeenth century are but small Maces exaggerated and they have the same history except that the military part survives in the large knob at the bottom which makes the Mace balance better. These great Maces generally have in their interior a stout oaken pole securely fixed into the bottom piece of the Mace; at the top of this pole is a metal screw which screws into the throat in the under side of the arms-plate (the bell base) upon which are the Royal Arms. The several pieces of the Mace having been assembled upon the pole attached to the upper plate, the whole is thus securely held together.

The best known Mace-worker was Thomas Maundy who worked at the sign of the Grasshopper in Foster Lane, Cheapside, near Goldsmiths' Hall. He was granted the monopoly of making Maces by Oliver Cromwell who ordered the substitution of an acorn for the orb and cross. Cromwell, it will be remembered, when forcibly dissolving the Long Parliament in April, 1653, said pointing to the symbol of the Speaker's authority, "Remove that fool's bauble!"

At the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, the boroughs, with enthusiastic zeal and influenced by the House of Commons, who, on 21st May, 1660, ordered that a new Mace be provided for the House, "with the Crowne and King's Maties, Armes and such other Ornaments as have bin usuall," proceeded to refashion their great Maces by cutting out the Commonwealth badges and emblems and substituting the Stuart Arms and replacing the peculiar quasi-crown by a Royal crown. In making these alternations the boroughs again followed the precedent of the House of Commons who, despite the Order, instead of having a new Mace made, appropriately altered the Maundy Mace so as to constitute it an emblem of Royal authority.

King Charles II presented a Mace to the Royal Society, 3rd August, 1663, to be placed before the President. This is still in the possession of the Royal Society, the Warrant for which is dated 23rd May, 1663. It is of silvery richly gilded and weighs 190 ozs. Troy. The legend that this Mace was the actual "Bauble" turned out of the House of Commons by Cromwell cannot, however, be accepted, because the "Bauble" was melted down and the metal sold by Order of the House, 9th August, 1649, and another provided at the Restoration.

The most prominent maker of Maces at the latter end of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth centuries was Benjamin Pyne. The mace of the City of London was made by John White in 1735, but it is probable that it is to Pyne that the honour of fashioning the design really belongs.

The Mace of the House of Commons is the symbol of the Speaker's Authority from the crown and is lent to him by the Sovereign, who resumes possession of it when Parliament is prorogued. It plays an important part in the daily life of the House, for without it the House cannot be properly constituted. It is carried by the Serjeant-at-Arms before the Speaker in the procession to Prayers, which opens each sitting of the House; it is carried out by the Serjeant before the Speaker when the House rises each night. When the House is constituted with the Speaker (or Deputy Speaker) in the Chair, the Mace lies on two rests on the Table of the House; when the House goes into Committee, the Mace is placed on two supports below the table to show that the House is not properly constituted as a House. It is of interest to note that the American House of Representatives retains a Mace surmounted by an Eagle which, as in the House of Commons, is removed from its place when the House goes into Committee.

Until a Speaker has been elected the Mace is kept under the Table, and is placed on the Table as soon as the election is over to show that the House is now properly constituted for its proceedings. The Mace precedes the Speaker when he goes up to the House of Lords; and should he attend any official function such as presenting an Address to the Sovereign, or attending Divine Service at St. Margarets (the Official Church of the House of Commons) he is accompanied by the Mace.

The Mace of the Commons is of silver richly gilded, and is 4ft 10 ½ inches in length. The shaft consists of one short and two long sections which are chased throughout with longitudinal branches from which spring rose and thistle flowers. The head is divided into four panels containing respectively – a crowned rose, a thistle, a harp, and a fleur-de-lys. The whole is surmounted by a Royal Crown with orb and cross. On the cap is the entire Royal Achievement and the King's cypher, C.R. It is not hall-marked, and bears no date or maker's mark, and there is no inscription.

(Adapted from "The Manual of the Mace", by Commander John R. Poland, R.N. (Ret.)

THE MACE AS A GIFT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

It was considered that the commemoration of the centenary of Responsible Government in South Australia called for a confirmation and demonstration of an abiding faith in Parliament. The House of Assembly, with practically 100 years of inspiring achievement behind it, still lacked the traditional symbol of authority – a Mace – and it was felt that the centenary of responsible government in April, 1957, would provide a propitious occasion to remedy this defect and bring our Parliament into line with most other Parliaments in the British Commonwealth.

The Government of the State of south Australia generously approved of the fabrication and gift of an ornate Mace to the House of Assembly. The Mace as fashioned by London craftsmen and presented on behalf of the South Australian Government bears witness in a tangible and beautiful form to a continuing belief in the institution of

Parliament and serves as a constant reminder of our heritage from the Mother of Parliaments at Westminster.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MACE TO BE PRESENTED

The Mace of the house of Assembly in the Parliament of South Australia was made by a famous London firm of goldsmiths, Garrard & Co. Ltd. It is fashioned in sterling silver gilt, and it has an overall length of 4ft., and weights 14 lb.

It is conventional in form, and follows the style of English Maces made over hundreds of years, including that of the House of Commons and those of the Sergeants-at-Arms displayed at the Tower of London. In the beautiful ornamentation on the mace is to be found a harmonious blend of traditional British symbols and devices of a South Australian character.

The head of the Mace bears a Royal Crown in which superb specimens of South Australian opal are used with fine effect in the cross surmounting the orb and in the band at the base of the Crown. On the cushion is a finely chased representation of the Royal Arms.

Beneath the Crown, the head of the Mace is divided into four panels by applied straps of wheat ornament. On opposite panels, chased in relief are the Crown and Royal Cipher E II R of our present Sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and, on the reverse appears the Royal Cipher V R of Queen Victoria, the reigning Sovereign when responsible government was inaugurated in South Australia in 1857. This use of the Royal monograms was graciously authorized by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and symbolizes the beginning and end of the first century of responsible government in this State.

On the remaining two panels of the head the Coat of Arms of the State of South Australia is chased in relief. To emphasize the allegiance of the State to the British Crown there are finely-chased scrolled brackets with lion head terminals to support the head on the upper part of the shaft or stem.

The shaft is flat chased with an incised wheat ornament; and the knops which divide the shaft into sections are beautified with traditional Tudor roses and flat chased scroll work. On the heel of the Mace is reproduced a motif of vine and wattle which form an integral part of the State's Coat of Arms.

The Mace is an outstanding example of the art of true craftsmen, and provides a fitting Parliamentary memorial to a century of progress in South Australia.

THE RT. HON. LORD CARRINGTON, M.C.

The Right Hon. Lord Carrington, M.C., High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Australia, has kindly consented to present the Mace to the House of Assembly on behalf of the Government of South Australia.

Lord Carrington was born on 6th June, 1919, only son of the fifth Lord Carrington, and was educated at Eton and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was commissioned in the Grenadier Guards and served during the Second World War, reaching the rank of Major and winning the Military Cross in the course of the campaign in north-western Europe.

In 1946 he retired from the army to take up farming at his home in Buckinghamshire where he specialized in rearing crossbred Herefords as beef store cattle. His family have been closely connected with the County of Buckinghamshire for several generations, and the present Lord Carrington followed family tradition in becoming a Deputy Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace.

In December, 1946, he made his maiden speech in the house of Lords. In both the 1945-50 and 1950-51 parliaments he was a Conservative Whip in the House of Lords. He was a member of the British Government from 1951 until his appointment as United Kingdom High Commissioner in Australia in May, 1956. Until 1954 he was Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and thereafter he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Defence. In the course of his Ministerial and Parliamentary duties, he has visited Rome, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and Yugoslavia.

Lord Carrington married in 1942 Iona, younger daughter of the late Sir Francis McClean, who was one of the pioneers of flying in the United Kingdom; and Lady Carrington have a son and two daughters.

Lord Carrington has many family links with Australia. His great uncle, the Marquess of Lincolnshire, was Governor of New South Wales from 1885 to 1890, and was accompanied to Australia by Lord Carrington's grandfather, who married Edith, daughter of John Horsfall, of Wedgiewa, New South Wales. His father was born in Australia and was educated at Melbourne Grammar School.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE FOR THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY IN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

1. By 2.00 pm all guests will be seated in allocated positions in the House of Assembly.
2. At 2.10 pm the bells will ring and Members of the Assembly will take seats in the Chamber in places especially allocated for the ceremony.
3. At 2.15 pm the Speaker will enter the Chamber, **whereupon all present will rise.**
4. The President, Officers, and Members of the Legislative Council will then enter the House of Assembly Chamber and take their seats.
5. The Speaker will notice beyond the bar a distinguished visitor, His Excellency the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Australia (The Rt. Hon. Lord Carrington) and will ask the Premier (The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. M. R. O'Halloran) to conduct Lord Carrington to a seat on the floor of the House.
6. Lord Carrington having been introduced to the Speaker and having taken a seat, the Premier will be called on to ask Lord Carrington to present the Mace to the Speaker.
7. Lord Carrington will speak and then present the Mace to the Speaker who will hand it to the Sergeant-at-Arms.
8. The Speaker will respond to Lord Carrington's speech.
9. The Sergeant-at-Arms will proceed to the table of the House and place the Mace thereon.
10. The Speaker will then call on the Premier, who will tender thanks to Lord Carrington and be supported therein by the Leader of the Opposition.
11. Lord Carrington, escorted by the Sergeant-at-Arms bearing the Mace, will leave the Chamber by the southern doors.
12. The Mace will be again placed on the Table by the Sergeant-at-Arms.
13. The President, Officers, and Members of the Legislative Council will then retire from the Chamber.
14. On question being put and passed the sitting of the House will be suspended until the ringing of the bells, and **all present will stand while the Speaker leaves the Chamber.**