

## **Report to the Protocol Committee**

### **Chains of Office**

#### **The Lord Mayor's Great Chain of Office**

The Lord Mayor's Great Chain of Office dates from 1698 and was provided by King William III following a petition from Lord Mayor of Dublin Bartholomew Van Homrigh, who was the first Lord Mayor to wear the Chain. This Chain replaced the previous Lord Mayor's Chain, provided by King Charles II, which was taken to France by Lord Mayor Terence McDermott following the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. It was never found leading to the belief that it was melted down and used as a form of money by the Wild Geese in exile.

The Lord Mayor's Great Chain is a 22ct. gold chain of office composing of links representing the Tudor rose (12), trefoil-shaped knot (12) and links in the shape of the letter S (26) hence the alternative name of the Chain – the Collar of SS. The design is repeated throughout the length of the collar. At each shoulder is a harp and at the lowest point is a link in the shape of a portcullis which is repeated at the front. From the front is suspended a circular 3.25" gold medal with a bust of William III in relief.

The Maker of the Chain is not known and the medal was made by James Roettier of London.

The Lord Mayor's Chain is only worn at important Civic events including the election of the Lord Mayor, Civic Receptions and Freedom of the City ceremonies. It is currently held in City Archives having previously been on display in City Hall Exhibition.

A 9 ct gold replica is worn by the Lord Mayor on a day to day basis and a silver plated replica is used by the Lord Mayor when travelling abroad.



## The Clancy Chain

Dating from 1913, this is an 18ct gold chain with a medallion in the centre and commemorates the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Clontarf with a medallion with 1014-1914 inscribed on the front. The total length of the chain is 26" and it is composed of two types of links, cushion-shaped with the cruciform motifs from Book of Kells and elongated ribbon matter. The pattern is broken with two Brian Borumha harps. At the base is a circular centre-piece in the form of a gorgette from which is suspended a pierced interlaced design pendant bearing the Dublin arms and motto in blue and red enamel. The maker is William Stokes.

The chain was commissioned by the friends and supporters of Alderman John Clancy in anticipation of his election as Lord Mayor of Dublin for him to wear when he took office. It was presented to John Clancy in 1914. He was elected as Lord Mayor of Dublin on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1915 with his formal inauguration scheduled to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1915. Tragically, on his way home from the City Council meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, he was caught in a rainstorm and quickly developed pneumonia from which he died six days later on 29<sup>th</sup> January. As a result he never took office as Lord Mayor of Dublin. In 1951 Dublin City Council purchased the chain from his daughter, Mrs. Clancy-Tighe. Before the making of a replica Lord Mayor's Chain it was often worn by the Lord Mayor. More recently it was worn by the Deputy Lord Mayor while carrying out their duties.

In 2018 replica Clancy Chains were made to be used by the Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillors representing the Lord Mayor. The original Clancy Chain is kept in the Mansion House and is worn by the Deputy Lord Mayor at official functions in the Mansion House or at important Civic occasions.



## The High Sherriff's Chain

Dating from 1792 this is a 22ct gold chain comprising 141 links many of which are of recent origin. Each High Sheriff was supposed to add a link with his name for his term of office. The earliest name on the chain is that of James Moore for the year 1826. The Office of High Sheriff was abolished in 1926.

The Medal is gold, dates from 1882 and was made by John Waterhouse. It is 2 inches in diameter and is attached to the swivel ends and bears an inscription "August 16, 1882. E. Dwyer Gray, Esquire, M.P. High Sheriff of Dublin City, committed to Richmond Prison by Mr. Justice Lawson for three months, fined £500 and ordered to find bail in £10,000 or be imprisoned for a further three months of 'contempt of Court'. September 30, Mr. Gray without solicitation liberated by the same Judge on payment of the find which had been provided by Public Subscription." On the other side "October 24th, 1882. Righ Hon. W.E. Gladstone, Prime Minister, declared in the House of Commons, in reference to Mr. Gray's case, the intention of Government to introduce a bill in the coming session to amend the law regarding 'contempt of Court; Presented to the High Sheriff in commemoration of these events by the Gray Indemnity Committee, Decr., 1882". Edward Dwyer Gray was Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1880.



## The Chain of the Court of Conscience

This is a 22ct gold chain of office which is approximately 108 inches in length, consisting of 179 fold over links. It was originally worn by the President of the Court of Conscience, for the settlement of small debts. Upon her election in 1939, Lord Mayor Kathleen Clarke refused to wear the Lord Mayor's Chain of Office as it included a bust of King William III on the medal. She wore the Chain of the Court of Conscience as her Mayoral Chain during her two years in office. In 2016 Lord Mayor Críona Ní Dhálaigh wore the Chain at two 1916 commemoration events which focused on the women of 1916 in memory of her predecessor Kathleen Clarke.



### **The Modern Deputy Lord Mayor's Chain**

Made in 1990 by Michael D. Hillier this is a silver chain of office consisting of 26 hinged plates with applied motifs tracing the history of Dublin. A 4.5" circular medallion with extended angles is looped on, in the centre of which is a parcel-gilt casting of a ship of the Dublin City Seal. It was presented to the City by Arthur Guinness & Company to mark Dublin's term as European City of Culture in 1991.



### **The Lady Mayoress' Suite**

This suite consists of two separate chains, which may be worn together, along with a Tara Brooch, which may be worn with the chains or on its own.

All three elements were made by Jack McDowell in 1961 and all are 18ct gold.

The first chain is made of triple close links with double bolt rings. To this is attached a medallion having three castles imposed on a background of blue enamel and a pierced intertwined border with the motto of the city engraved. On reverse is engraved "Semper Eadem. Presented to Isobel Dockrell Lady Mayoress of Dublin by Mr JJ. McDowell on behalf of McDowell's Jewellers and Associated companies."

The second chain has interlinking links joined to the first chain by two bolt rings. This chain has a small shield in blue enamel bearing the three castles of Dublin.

The Lady Mayoress wears the two Chains together and may wear the Tara Brooch, depending on personal choice.

