

The Mark Grand Stewards' Lecture for 2023

THE ROYAL FAMILY AND FREEMASONRY: BEYOND THE ENGLISH CRAFT

by Dr John W. Hawkins



The Twenty-Second
Grand Stewards' Lecture

delivered by

W. Bro. Dr. John W. Hawkins,
Past Grand Junior Deacon

to the

Grand Stewards'
Lodge of Mark Master Masons

at

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In the 209 years since the Union of the Premier and Antient Grand Lodges to form the United Grand Lodge of England, a member of the Royal Family has been Grand Master of the Craft for more than 150. The Union itself in 1813 was facilitated by the heads of the two constituent Grand Lodges both being Royal Princes – the brothers the Dukes of Sussex and Kent. Prior to the Union, members of the Royal Family had already been Grand Masters of the Premier Grand Lodge for over 30 years. The royal connection goes back even further than this, with Frederick Lewis, Prince of Wales and eldest son of King George II, having been initiated in 1737. The present Duke of Kent has been Grand Master of the Craft since 1967 and Prince Michael of Kent Grand Master of the Mark since 1982.

In the author's 2022 Prestonian Lecture, the involvement of many of these members of the Royal Family with English Craft freemasonry was described. In the 2023 Mark Grand Stewards' Lecture their involvement, often as Grand Master, is described not only with degrees beyond the Craft, including the Mark and Royal Ark Mariners, the Knights Templar, the Ancient and Accepted Rite and the Royal Order of Scotland, but also with their memberships of Craft Grand Lodges beyond England. The latter have included Scotland and Ireland, and also more distant jurisdictions such as Sweden, Germany, Canada, India and even Egypt.

As with the Prestonian Lecture for 2022, the Mark Grand Stewards' Lecture for 2023 is profusely illustrated and includes four appendices (dealing with the 'Clarence Warrant', the Rite of Seven Degrees, the Swedish Rite and 'Royal' lodges in Ireland) and, as a supplement, an updated

version of the Museum of Freemasonry, London's 'Information Leaflet No. 1', listing the principal masonic offices and lodge memberships of all members of the Royal Family who have been freemasons, not only in respect of their English Craft lodges, but also for their memberships of higher degree units and Craft lodges under other jurisdictions.

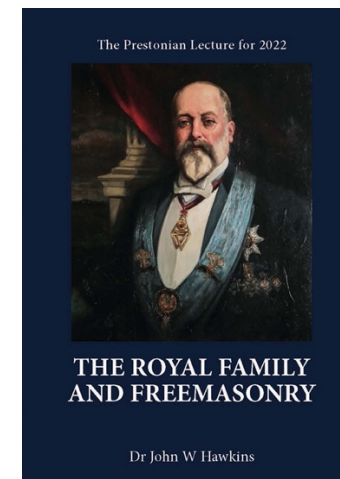
John Hawkins is an independent researcher and author with interests in art, family, local, masonic, military and social history, having published in most of these areas and others.

Copies of the Mark Grand Stewards' Lecture for 2023 are available from the author:

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Also by John Hawkins:

The Royal Family and Freemasonry
(The Prestonian Lecture for 2022)



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24 plates (8 in colour)

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