

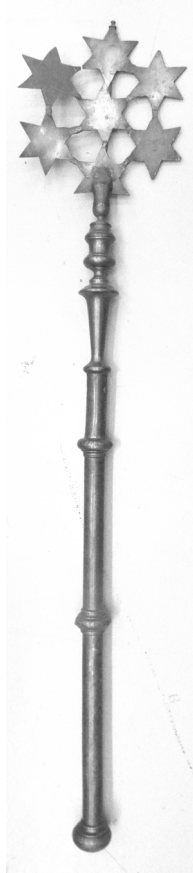
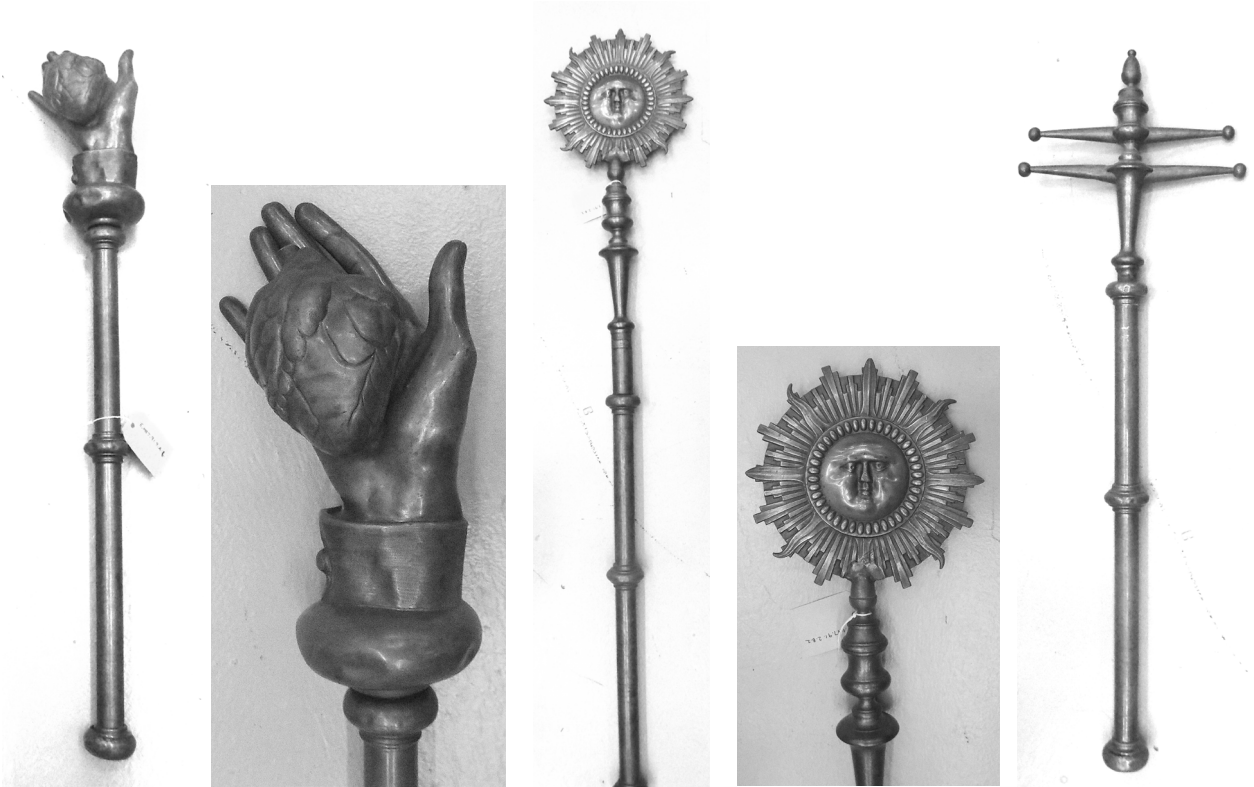
CEREMONIAL MACES



Maces as used by working men's organisations in Victorian and later times when on parade. Such as the "ODDFELLOWS"

As used and carried, they would look like silver. The more senior members parading used the shorter maces (as in this illustration). The dove is not pewter but made to look as though it was.

Below Maces for the Manchester Oddfellows. Shown here with thanks to Leeds Museums and Galleries. Above by courtesy of a Pewter Society member.



Wooden inserts strengthen stems These ceremonial maces vary in size though most are 118cms those first illustrated are 92cms in length. Some were made by James Dixon & Sons of Sheffield (1826-1864)

THE ODDFELLOWS – a little information

For many years, Friendly Societies and co-operative movements had their aim to improve the lives of working people. Workers through such a Society had some protections in illness, injury and death. (King William IV became a member (and lifelong) of the Oddfellows in his early 20s at the Feather's Pub, Pimlico).

Thought of as secret societies they were persecuted (at times such as the French revolution) and also like the Church groups broke away to form slightly different organizations. The Independent Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity was such a breakaway in 1810 from the Manchester District Grand United Order. Like others they met in pubs (as for the Manchester Unity at the Ropemakers Pub Chapel Street Salford) giving such trade, that some pubs renamed themselves – Oddfellow Arms.

By 1815 one third of the (working?) population belonged to a Friendly Society, by 1870 – a half. The first American Oddfellows branch was formed in 1820 in Baltimore, Maryland. They were illegal in 1834. The

Tolpuddle Martyrs from another Society were sent to an Australian Prison. Popularity peaked in 1820 to 1850. (James Dixon & Sons traded in that name from 1845). The emblems and maces were important parading symbols especially to those members who were illiterate and thus helped

unify them. A short handle mace indicated rank to the holder. Brass was more commonly used than Pewter and was likely mostly made in Birmingham.

Made legal in 1851 the Oddfellows had become the largest and richest friendly society in the world. Female branches were formed in 1893 and made of equal status in 1898. In 1912 the Government approved Oddfellows and other societies to administer National Insurance.