



## The Mark of the Red Dragon A History of Mark Masonry in South Wales

An important book has been published this year to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of South Wales – which is the oldest Mark Provincial Grand Lodge in Wales and one of the oldest in Britain.

This is the first time that a book has been published which brings together in a single volume a detailed description of the birth and development of every Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodge that has ever existed within the Province of South Wales.

Like all good stories, the early history of the Mark Province of South Wales reveals a number of interesting if not - at first sight - puzzling situations which are explained in the book.

The first of those puzzles is that, although, in 2020, we are celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of South Wales, the Mark Degree was being practised in this part of Britain long before that date.

Although the Mark Degree was being conferred in Wales in Craft Lodges from the early 1800s, it was not until 1859 that the first Mark Lodge was Consecrated in the Principality. However, that particular Lodge, based in Cardiff, was initially not part of the Mark Grand Lodge for England and Wales, having been Consecrated under the Scottish Constitution.

The second - at first sight – puzzling fact is the fact that South Wales had a Provincial Grand Master, appointed in 1857, before it had any Mark Lodges, let alone a Provincial Grand Lodge.

Things changed in 1870 when the Province came into existence (albeit with just one Mark Lodge).

The next fifty years were difficult ones but the province overcame those challenges and today it numbers 33 Mark and 23 RAM Lodges and it continues to grow. In addition, along the way, the Province gave birth to 9 Mark and 5 RAM Lodges which later formed the nucleus of what is now the neighbouring Mark Province of Dyfed.

Make sure that you obtain your copy of this fascinating hardback publication, edited by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. Dr. Paul R. Calderwood, P.G.S.D. which features some 340 pages and over 200 illustrations as a valuable source of information and a souvenir of this historic occasion.

**Copies are available at a cost of £22-00 including p & p to UK addresses and can be paid by cheque (payable to PGLMMM) or by bank transfer. The sort code is 30-95-46, ac/no is 02590700 and account name is Provincial Grand Lodge of M M M South Wales. Please use your name as the reference.**

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