

# Trades unions provide another link in history of mayoral chain

A NEW gold medallion was added to the city's famous mayoral chain by the trade union movement last night.

This follows centuries of tradition.

In a special ceremony at City Hall, Mayor Kemmy, completing his last week in office, was honoured in a double celebration; the completion of his Treaty 300 mayoral year and his 32 years of service as branch secretary of the Brick and Stone Layers' trade union.

Union chairman, John

Flynn made the presentation to the mayor.

The medallion was designed and made by goldsmith Martin O'Driscoll, at his Matthew Bridge workshop.

It depicts scenes from the history of the city.

The event was attended by members of the Trades Council, the delegate board of the Mechanic's Institute, and building trades groups and other trade unions.

The city's chains and

other symbols of office were first purchased about 1802.

Together with a portrait of Lord Gort, costing 200 guineas, boxes of honorary freedoms of the city and the gilding of some pictures, they cost a total of £337 — a fortune at the time.

The principal mayoral chain has 81 links.

By 1882 it had become customary, but not obligatory for the mayor in office to add a flat ring, engraved with his name and year of office.

Over time, inscriptions were added on the reverse of the ring recording various local, national and even international events.

To make room for the inscriptions the rings became larger, eventually becoming medallions.

To date 68 additional links have been added.

A secondary mayoral chain of 51 plain gold links, is the one sometimes worn by the mayor, the principal chain, on account of its weight and value, being retained for major events.