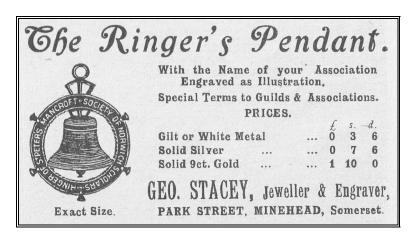
'THE RINGER'S PENDANT' and 'THE RINGER'S BADGE' (GEORGE STACEY)





George Stacey was a member of the Minehead band in 1898 and later became an unattached member of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, serving as Secretary of the Dunster Deanery for fifty years. He rang twenty-four peals for the Association, of which he conducted one. He was also a jeweller and engraver, and on 21st September 1923 he first advertised 'The Ringer's Pendant'. This was 25mm in diameter and available in gold, silver and gilt or white metal. The design is often described as a ship's wheel, but in fact the 'handles' are tiny bell shapes.



'The Ringing World', 21.ix.1923, page 604

Each of the badges was inscribed with a tower or association name and many were used for presentations, with additional inscriptions on the reverse.



'The Ringing World', 13.xii.1929, page 779

The advertisement changed in 1929, with item no longer just available as a pendant, but also with a brooch fastening and a 'horseshoe' fitting for use in a buttonhole. The advertisement appeared in this form for the last time on October 29th 1943, by which time the price of the gold badge had risen to 45/- although the cost of the other badges had remained the same. The 'sample' engraving had been changed from 'Ringer of St Peter's Mancroft Society of Norwich Scholars' to 'The name of your own Association engraved around here'.



'The Ringing World', 29.x.1943, page 470

The next time the advertisement appeared, on November 5th, 1943, the badge was only available in gilt or white metal.



'The Ringing World', 5.xi.1943, page 488

The final version of the advertisement was published on May 19th 1944 and June 23rd 1944.



George Stacey died on 28th April 1953 and an obituary appeared on page 270 of 'The Ringing World' for that year.

Stacey used a number of different patterns for these badges. Some of the variations in the design of the bell are shown below. It appears that the one on the left predates his earliest advertisement in *'The Ringing World'*. It is hallmarked for Birmingham with the date letter V. This is either 1920 or 1945, and since the latter is after Stacey announced that he was unable to take further orders, 1920 is the more likely date, particularly in view of the rather crude design. Stacey registered his maker's mark at Birmingham on 12th July 1916 and it remained unchanged throughout his working life.









The 'Stacey' design was also copied by other manufacturers. The example on the left below is by Dowlers of Birmingham and that on the right by Andrew Gordon.





The following example, in nine carat gold with a pendant ring, is typical of those used for presentation purposes. It carries the inscription 'S^t Nicholas Guild of Change Ringers Harwich' with 'C. J. ELLIS' on the reverse, together with '9C^{T'} and Stacey's mark - 'G' and 'S' within overlapping circles.



'The North-Eastern District has suffered a grievous loss by the death of its Master, Mr C J Ellis, of Harwich, on December 12th; he had held office for three years, and had led the Harwich band for a great many years.'

Essex Association Report 1948



This example, in hallmarked silver (1929) is engraved on the reverse: 'Member of the Cumberland Association of Change Ringers' and engraved on the reverse: 'Competition 1930. Won by Bridekirk. 2nd J. H. Hayes'



