



Our Toastmasters Emblem

The official emblem of Toastmasters International, that familiar design in blue and gold worn and displayed with pride by so many members, is something that grew up with the movement. Like so many other features of Toastmasters, it had a beginning long ago, and it has been subjected to repeated revisions for improvement.

The first attempt at producing such a mark of distinction came in 1928, before we had any formally organized federation. I published a mimeographed “manual” to provide information for many inquirers. For the frontispiece, I used a design consisting of a gavel standing erect, with the letters “T-C” twined around it. This was a very simple design; made simple intentionally so that it could be reproduced on the mimeograph stencil without great trouble or artistic ability. It served its purpose.

In 1931, when we were in the process of developing our formal organization, some Toastmasters felt the need for a distinctive emblem. At an executive meeting on January 24 of that year, Clarence Marshall of Pasadena and George Hedstrom of Anaheim presented for consideration a sketch of a design for use on printed matter, and intended to reflect our purposes. This had for a background a circle filled with a map of continents with the letters “T-M” upon it. Crossed gavels were behind this circle, with the gavel heads showing at the margins. Around the edge was a strip of blue bearing at the top the words *Oratores Omnes*, and at the bottom the word, “International.”

This emblem, in blue and gold, was adopted, and a little later, a lapel button was created and readily accepted for use by members.

In 1941, there was another revision. Instead of the “T-M” there was substituted the single “T” on the face of the globe. The Latin words for “all orators” were dropped, and in their place was the word “Toastmasters.” This is the emblem used today by a multitude of members who are proud to be known as Toastmasters. The pin should remind each of them of his or her obligation to conduct themselves as a Toastmaster should, whenever he speaks or she conducts a meeting, and even when conversing casually.

According to the dictionary, an emblem is “a visible sign of an idea; a symbol or typical representative.” For the member, the TI emblem is a constant reminder of the ideals and principles of the organization. For others who observe it, the emblem suggests skill and fluency in speech. Let every man and woman who wears it be reminded of their obligation to be worthy of displaying it.