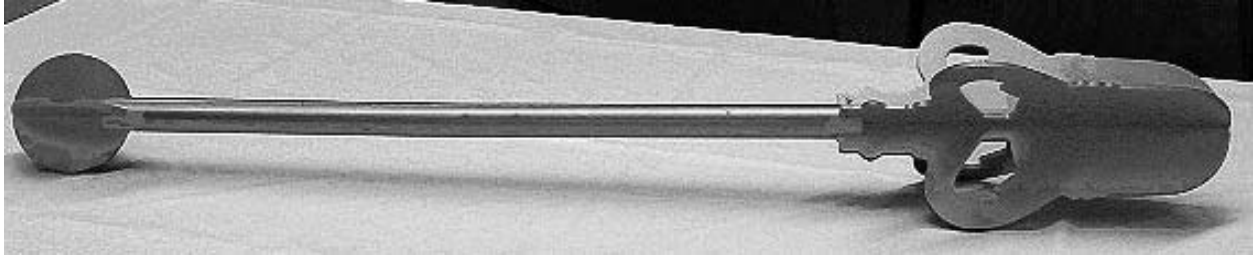


MAKE A MACE!

Make a Mace for your school parliament or for your study of parliament

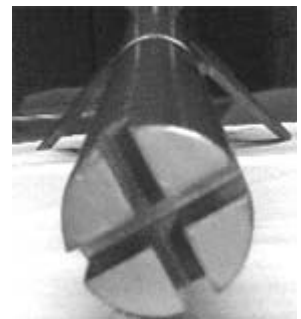


You will need:

- A sheet of MDF, plywood or thick cardboard at least 60cm x 45cm (or two sheets at least the size of A3 sheets of paper). (Or you could make a 'mini-Mace' - the A4 version!)
- A thick dowel or curtain rod – approx 30-35mm in diameter and 70-80cm long (half that if you're making the mini-Mace).
- Tools to work with – including a jigsaw or fret saw (or stanley knife if cardboard is being used)
- Gold paint (a spray can would be best) and some primer for undercoat.

Now you can start:

1. Enlarge the two template diagrams (following pages) on a photocopier from A4 size to A3 (a 141% enlargement). (No need to do this if you are making the mini-Mace).
2. Cut out Make A Mace Templates A and B for both parts of the Mace Head and Tail and then trace them onto the MDF, Ply or cardboard you are using for them.
3. Note that the slots in both the head and tail should be the same width as the thickness of the MDF, ply or cardboard so that they can slot into each other.
4. Cut out the shapes, and sand or finish them. Slot both parts of the Head together and both parts of the Tail to ensure they fit properly.
5. Cut the dowel or rod to length if necessary to be used as the stem of the Mace.
6. Using the profile and section diagrams shown on Template A, cut cross shaped slots 25cm deep into each end of the stem. The width of each slot should be the same as the thickness of the MDF, etc, used.
7. The assembled Head and Tail should be slid into the slots on the stem.



Slots in stem end (see 6)



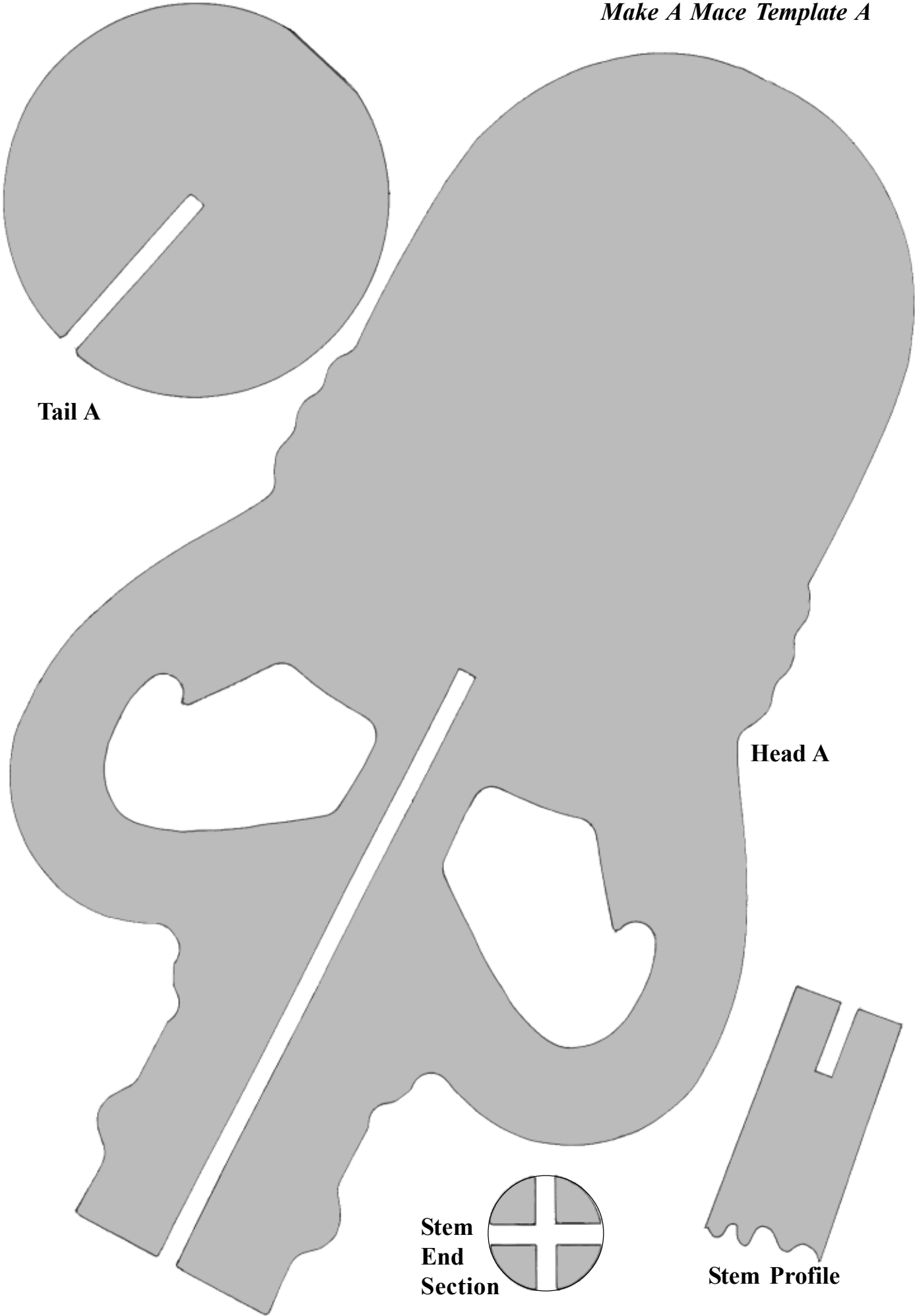
Assembling the Head



Fitting Head onto Stem

8. Once all sections are fitting smoothly together, the various parts can be glued in place, then primed or undercoated and painted. You can leave it plain gold - or BE CREATIVE: add your own designs or the school crest or other appropriate artwork!

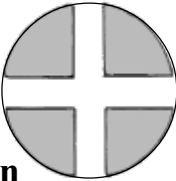
Make A Mace Template A



Tail A

Head A

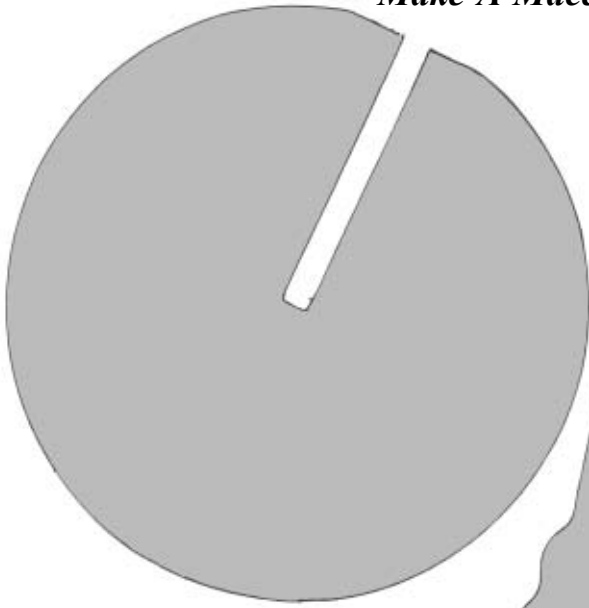
**Stem
End
Section**



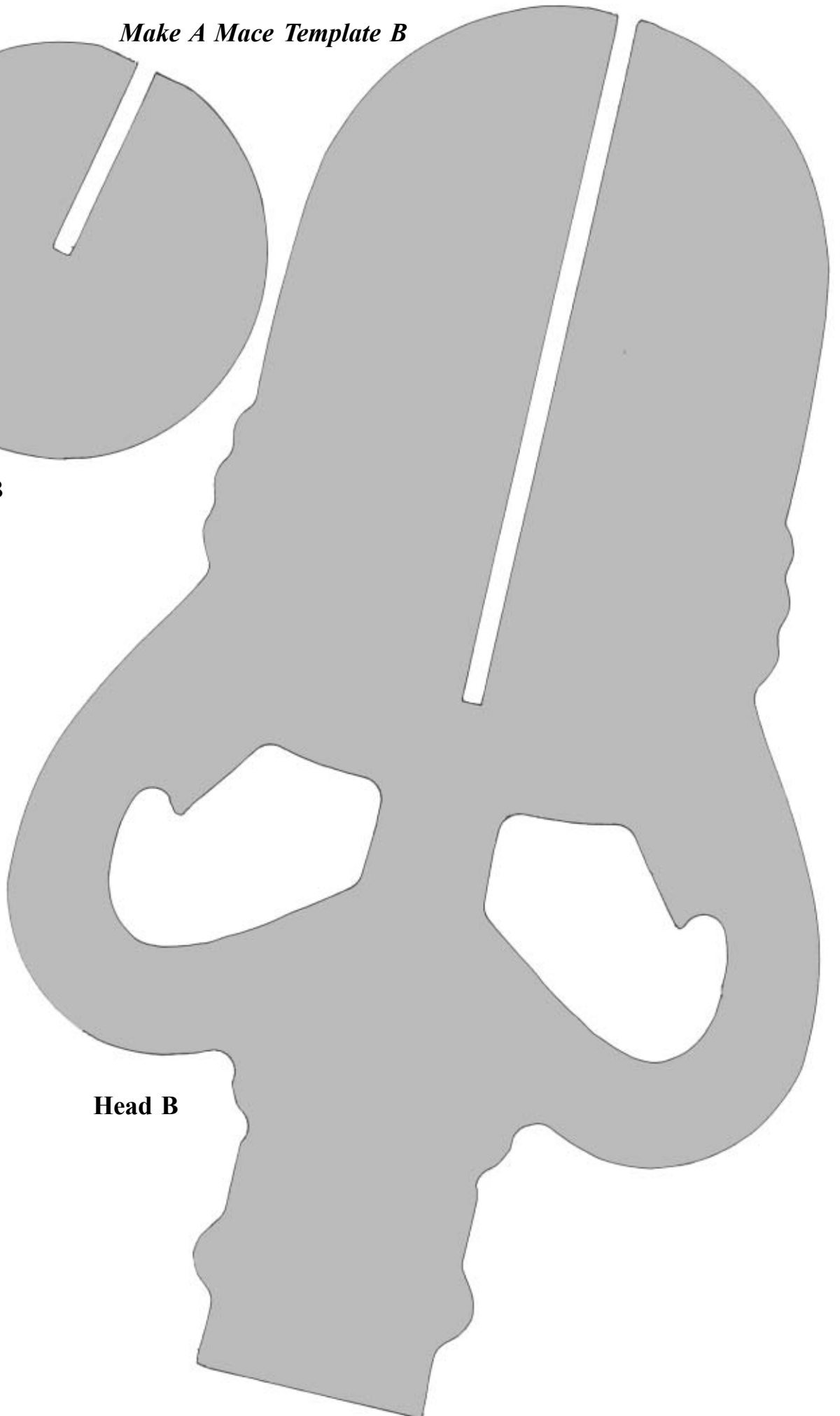
Stem Profile



Make A Mace Template B



Tail B



Head B

THE MACE AND PARLIAMENT

The Mace plays a significant ceremonial role in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. Ceremonies and traditions associated with the Mace, developed over centuries in the British Parliament have, with modifications, been adopted by all Australian Lower Houses of Parliament.

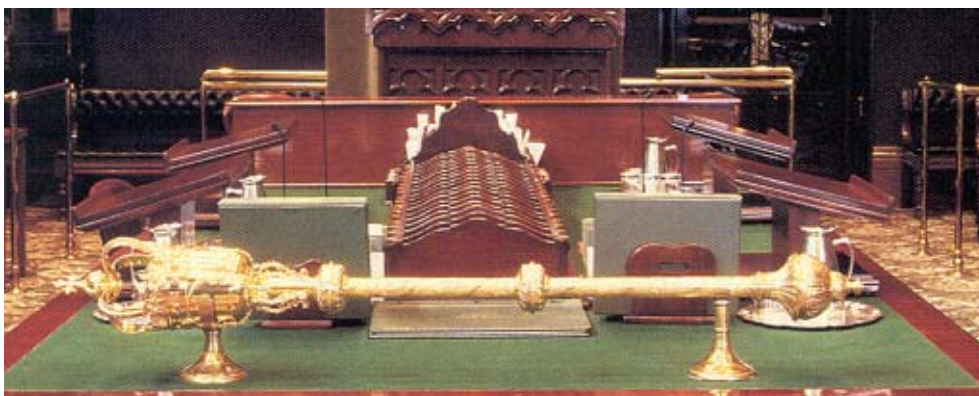
In the Parliament of New South Wales the Mace symbolises the authority of the Speaker of the House. It is carried into the Chamber by the Serjeant-at-Arms ahead of the Speaker as he or she enters, and then is placed on a rack at the end of the central table, its head facing the Government benches. It remains there while the House is sitting and the Speaker is in the chair. During the passage of a bill, however, the House sometimes moves into 'Committee of the Whole'. This occurs after the second reading debate and allows the Members to consider each part of the bill in great detail, clause by clause. During the Committee of the Whole, the Speaker leaves the chair and the Chairman of Committees takes over. The Mace is removed from its table brackets and placed on lower brackets below the level of the table. When the Committee has concluded and the Speaker resumes the chair, the Mace returns to the higher brackets. The Mace is also carried by the Serjeant-at-Arms on other ceremonial occasions such as a Governor's Opening of Parliament.

Maces have a long history and tradition, as weapons originally, and then as symbols of authority, and are used in many parliaments around the world. The mace derives from an ancient club-like weapon which by 700 BC the Babylonian and Assyrians were also using as a ceremonial symbol of authority. In the Middle Ages, maces regained popularity as weapons against armoured knights. Maces were supposedly also used by Bishops, who sometimes took part in battles but could not use sharp-edged weapons since canonical law prevented them from shedding blood. At the same time, maces came to be used as symbols to represent the authority of institutions such as cities or corporations as well as the power of rulers.

The ceremonial maces first used in Parliament were quite similar to the military versions, but by the seventeenth century they were purely ceremonial and ornamental, the mace head being topped with a Royal Crown with orb and cross. The British Houses of Parliament have had many different maces, the House of Commons' current one, made the seventeenth century, has been in regular use since 1825. Since at least the seventeenth century, it has been held that the British House of Commons cannot sit unless the Mace is present.

The Mace used by the New South Wales Legislative Assembly is much more recent than the House itself. There is no tradition that the House cannot sit unless the Mace is present (since it did actually sit for 120 years without one!). The Legislative Assembly was created in 1856 and sits in a Chamber dating back to 1843. However, the Mace was only presented to the House by the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies in 1974 as part of the celebration of 150 years of parliamentary institutions in Australia.

The New South Wales Mace was made by Garrard & Co Ltd, of London, the Crown Jewellers, at a cost of £3,500 sterling (probably about \$A10,000 then but now worth many times that), of silver with an applied surface of gold (the completed electro-gilding technique is known as 'silver-gilt'). It is 1.5m in length, traditional in form, with the Royal Arms on the cushion at the head, the Arms of New South Wales on the front and an inscription on the back recording the donors and presentation. Below the head are the caryatid brackets found on the British maces and on the stem the Tudor rose is entwined with the floral symbol of the State, the waratah.



The Mace on the Table in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly