

## THE GOLD CHASER: The Life and Legacy of Master Craftsman Edmund Kavanagh

—By Joyce Sidey Brogdon

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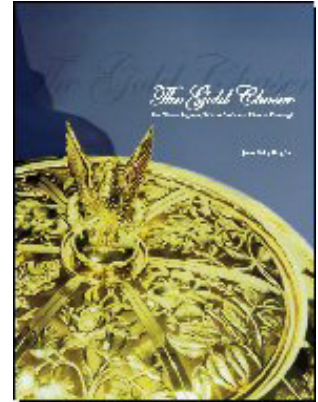
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*Like the precious metals in which he worked his art, Edmund Kavanagh's life story is a rare and precious gift to those who value the lessons of faith, determination, hard work, good humor, and the willingness to take great risks to pursue great dreams.*

—James P. Gannon, Publisher of Blackwater Publications. Former writer and editor for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Des Moines Register*, and the *Detroit News*

### About the Book

This is the story of a remarkably talented Irishman whose works are so distinctive they need no signature. Master craftsman, “repoussé” chaser Edmund Kavanagh's art carries his inimitable style in every piece, a style he has been painstakingly and lovingly developing over the last fifty years. The skill of repoussé, which began in antiquity and flourished from medieval times to the middle of the twentieth century, is a metalworking technique in which soft precious metal is shaped by hammering from the underside. Chasing is done on the front of the piece to finish or refine the raised repoussé. It is tedious, laborious work that in the twenty-first century is considered a dying art. Edmund is among the handful of chasers around the world who continue to ply this ancient craft.



His name is well known among the United States military bandmasters, both academies and the active duty services. He has designed and crafted numerous Maces, Baldrices and Tabards for the Marines, the Coast Guard, the Army, the Air Force, the Merchant Marine and other military bands.

Of the hundreds of chalices, tea services, maces, and trophies that have passed through his competent hands, his flagship piece is the 18-carat gold rose bowl for the 50th wedding anniversary for President and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower. The sheer volume and variety of his work is incredible, as the photographs in this book show. His custom crafted chalices, menorahs, band maces, sports trophies and specialized jewelry are prized as collectors' items by their owners. His legendary reproductions of museum pieces are numerous.

### About the Author

Joyce Sidey Brogdon was born in London and lived for several years in the suburb of Wembley. A few years after she had emigrated to America, her family sold the house in Wembley to Edmund and Bridie Kavanagh. Her brother Eric lived with this delightful couple until he married. When the author made a trip home to England in 1966, Eric introduced her to them. A wonderful friendship began at that first meeting that has developed over the years and continues to the present.

Joyce received her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Texas and her master's degree from the University of Southern Maine. Her first book, *Majuba House*, is an autobiography of growing up in England during World War II.

### Ordering Information

*THE GOLD CHASER: The Life and Legacy of Master Craftsman Edmund Kavanagh*, by Joyce Sidey Brogdon. Hardback w/dust jacket, 8.5" × 11.0", 144 pages, numerous illustrations, ISBN-13: 978-0-9778545-2-3. U.S. orders: \$39.95 per copy, plus \$4.50 S&H; International orders: \$39.95 per copy, plus \$14.50 S&H. See our pressroom for a 300 dpi TIF of the cover. Contact Borrego Publishing: [www.borregopublishing.com](http://www.borregopublishing.com).