



# **COMPANY COMMENT**

**The Honourable Company of Freemen of the  
City of London of North America**  
[www.freemenlondon.org](http://www.freemenlondon.org)

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### **From the Master**

As this issue of the Company Comment goes to press, the aftermath of the terrible events of September 11th continues to unfold. We extend our deepest sympathy to all who suffered and are still suffering from these acts. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all of those touched by this tragedy.

Life as we knew it changed on that fateful day and the consensus is that things will never be the same again.

As terrible as these events are, one saving grace has been the outpouring of support, which has manifested itself in so many ways: caring for others; a new appreciation for family, friends, colleagues and associates; a reassessment of our lives and what is really important to us; a new appreciation for life's values and the traditions and institutions that enrich our way of life and hold it together; Charity; courage; faith; family; heroism; hope; joy; love; and peace. These are the things that the Honourable Company, the Freemen, the Livery Companies and numerous other organizations stand for and contribute to our way of life.

Let us all remember as we live our daily lives that who we are and what we do as individuals makes a difference and makes the world a better place.

On a very happy note, I am pleased to give you all the good news that Amber attended the November 7th Court Meeting. She looks good and is in good spirits and we were all delighted to see her. Amber is very special to us all, and her return to active participation in the Court means a great deal to us all. In response to our hearty welcome Amber told us how much the support of the Honourable Company has meant to her and of the calls, cards, flowers and letters which have helped her so much in this trying time. She still needs our support and I encourage you all

to keep her in your thoughts and prayers and to let her know that you are thinking of her.

I hope that by now you have all visited our web site at [www.freemenlondon.org](http://www.freemenlondon.org). It is proving to be a valuable resource when inviting guests to events and to inform them as potential new members as to our history and purpose. Additionally, it is a very useful source of information to our members regarding upcoming events, directions, etc. The Freemen Discussion Board is available for you to give us your input by way of comments, questions and observations and I encourage you to take advantage of it.

In the area of events, while attendance has fallen short of what we would like to see, particularly by Freemen, the events have all been of high quality and value and have been enjoyable for and appreciated by our members and guests in attendance.

The Summer Picnic/Brunch on Sunday July 15th at the Toronto Board of Trade Country Club was very special with a beautiful sunny summer day and an excellent buffet brunch for our very happy and vocal group to enjoy.

My wife, Livia and I traveled to Halifax by Via Rail to attend the East Coast Chapter Annual Dinner on Saturday September 15th at the Saraguay Club. Peter Leach also made the trek to Halifax and as usual it was a great pleasure to have him with us. Ken Wood again organized and arranged everything and we thank him for his devotion to the Honourable Company and the excellence of this event. All of our guests were delighted and we have received many compliments and much praise to express their appreciation.

Unfortunately, for a number of reasons, we were unable to hold the West Coast Annual Dinner in Vancouver; however, we look forward to next year to continue this event.

**The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths**

The Charity Wine Tasting on Wednesday September 26th at the home of Peter Agar, the British Consul General while a little short on attendance, especially by members, was greatly enjoyed by all who had the good fortune to be there. This event was held as a fund-raiser for the Honourable Company's Charity to support education scholarships. The quality of the wine and the experts and our surroundings ensured a successful evening to the benefit of the Charity and we are grateful to Peter for his support and to Maxium for the wines and the experts.

Your attendance, especially with guests, is critical ingredients in the ongoing life of the Honourable Company. Please make a special effort to attend events and where possible to bring guests, our principal source of new members. Where planned events do not meet your needs please let us know and give us your suggestions.

Since 1997 Alan Kinsey, has represented the Honourable Company in London as London Clerk. While being our link with the Chamberlain's Court in the processing of Applications for the Freedom, Alan was also a major organizer of the arrangements for our 20th Anniversary visit to the City in 1999. Due to pressures of business and time constraints Alan has advised that, regrettably, he must relinquish his position as our London Clerk. We deeply appreciate all that he has done for the Honourable Company and extend to him our sincere thanks and best wishes.

We are pleased to report that Past Master (1985) and former Honorary London Clerk Godfrey Jacobs will be assuming the duties of London Clerk. Godfrey has been an untiring supporter of the Honourable Company in many ways and we appreciate his assuming these duties, which are important in enabling the processing of Applications for the Freedom.

I have had meetings with Susan Poaps, National Executive Director of the British Canadian Chamber of Trade and Commerce and with Frances Sommerville, Executive Director of the St. George's Society of Toronto with a view to working together to forward our common interests to the greater benefit of all. Web site links, events promotion and joint events will lead to benefits for us all in terms of awareness, common goals and membership possibilities. The St. George's Society is jointly promoted our Charity Beer Night on November 14th.

I recommend that you consider joining these organizations as they provide valuable service to the community and hold many interesting and worthwhile events.

In these trying times I wish all of you and your families the best of what life has to give and from Livia and I best wishes for a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**New Members****Hugh Pauwels**

The company is proud to welcome Hugh Pauwels as a member. Hugh is an engineer and architect. Until very recently, he was General Administrator of the Oakville Hospital

In this October issue, we relate a brief history and current roles and activities of Company number 5 in the order of Precedence. The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths or Goldsmiths Company, as it is more frequently known, received its first charter in 1327. It is one of the Great Companies whose role today remains the same as in earlier times - that of promotion of excellence across the industry including design and craftsmanship of gold silver and jewellery, quality control through assay, and professional training.

The history of the Company goes back into the 13<sup>th</sup> Century and it has been responsible for the marking of English Gold and Silver articles since 1300. The word "hallmark" or "hallmarked" comes specifically from the quality mark that was stamped on assayed items. The original term used was "marked at the Goldsmiths' Hall" but it was subsequently used by some other Guilds who marked their products that met defined high standards of excellence. Later the term became a more general used to indicate verified quality. In the case of Gold and Silver, the company and remains the sole English authority entrusted with statutory quality responsibility.

Everyone that purchases gold and silver articles made in Britain (and in some other places that have copied the British system) will know that the hallmark indicates four and sometimes five key elements of information – who made the article; the quality of the materials used or fineness; where the article was assayed and the year of the assay. This system has allowed valuable items to retain and increase in value as the authenticity is essentially confirmed, and can be independently verified. The current authority for hallmarking comes from the 1973 Hallmarking Act. In the UK, articles made of precious metals may now be described as being made of gold, silver or platinum unless they are hallmarked (or are specifically exempt). In 1999 the Act was amended to reflect requirements of the European Union. This made the fineness symbol and date letter voluntary marks. Some believe that this is a retrograde step as it removes two critical pieces of information that ensured knowledge of metal purity and age. Both can be determined by other means but are not as readily accessible as these marks.

The Company carries another statutory responsibility. Under the British Coinage Act, the Goldsmiths' Company undertakes the annual examination of coins manufactured by the Royal Mint. This examination is known as the Trial of the Pyx. The Pyx refers to the large chests in which coin samples were placed following minting. These chests were housed in the Pyx Chamber in Westminster Abbey when the original "Trial" was held. The Trial is actually a judicial process undertaken by a senior Judge of the High Court and he is responsible for affirmation of all aspects of quality, weight, composition and size of the coins of the realm.

The Goldsmiths' Library is one of the most complete historic records of a London Livery Company as its archives have survived the catastrophes of other Companies, especially the Great Fire of 1666 and the Blitz of the Second World War. The archive dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and includes over 7000

books and many journals on the subjects relating to gold and silversmithing, jewellery, hallmarking and London guild history. In addition, there is an extensive photographic collection, which includes foreign gold, silver and jewellery. Unfortunately for your editor, none of this material is yet available on the Goldsmiths' website.

#### Current Day Activities

Today the Worshipful Company is still a major player in the British precious metals industry. It's principal activities include the operation of the London Assay Office, Antique Silver Plate mark verification Trade Training and Education, Charities, and Exhibitions.

#### The London Assay Office

The operation of London Assay Office is substantial, processing several million articles every year. It uses the most up-to-date technologies, including atomic absorption, X-ray Fluorescence, potentiometric titration and Cupellation (fire assay). Metal fineness is expressed in parts per thousand and gold standards include 375 (37.5% Gold), 585,750, 916, 990 and 999, while silver standards are 800, 925, 958 and 999. Platinum again has different levels, being 850, 900, 950 and 999. Due to recent legislation, the Lion Passant and Britannia for silver (925 and 958 respectively), and the Orb for 950 Platinum are now voluntary hallmarks.

The UK has been a signatory to the International Hallmarking Convention since 1972 and allows the London Assay Office to strike the Convention Hallmark. This convention has been signed by Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland.

The Assay Office's other services include assay certification of bullion bars and quality certification for most key precious metals (including palladium). Electro-plated metals can also be verified. The Office also has capabilities for the determination of copper, nickel, zinc and other base metals both as alloys of precious metals or as pure metals.

#### Antique Plate Committee

As an extension to the London Assay Office, the Antique Plate Committee, consisting of experts drawn from the Company and the antique silver trade, advises on matter of doubtful pieces of silver and antique silver plate. Seminars are run to increase awareness and knowledge among traders

#### Trade Training and Education

The Goldsmiths' Company continues to be active in promoting high standards of quality in design and craftsmanship through education and trade training. The Company continues to bind apprentices as a vital form of training to maintain the British pre-eminence in the art. It also provides university bursaries, competitions, master classes and technical assistance. However, the Company does not support any private or public sector schools.

#### Charitable Activities

The Goldsmiths' Company charities comprise three major and 6 lesser charitable trusts. The objectives of these trusts have three foci: Support of the Goldsmiths' Craft, which are heavily focused on helping young people develop their potential to

secure jobs in the precious metal and jewellery industries; general education targeting individuals in primary and secondary education who are connected to the Goldsmiths' Company; and general charitable activities considered only on behalf of the residents of Inner London boroughs.

#### Exhibitions

To promote the art and beauty of gold, silver and jewellery, the Company mounts a series of exhibitions. The summer exhibition usually themed to demonstrate one or more of the aspects of the craft, while the fall "Fair" is principally a selling exhibition where some of the most notable creations are put on display. To permit these exhibitions to be mounted, the Hall contains an Exhibition Room.

#### The Hall

The site of all the known historic Halls has been the junction of Foster Lane and Gresham Street. Little is known of the original Hall that occupied the site from 1339 or what precipitated the construction of the second one. This was constructed in 1634-36 and, fortunately, it was only slightly damaged in the Great Fire of London in 1666. Following restoration, the Hall served as the home of the Goldsmiths for nearly 200 years. During this period it remained the gathering place for Gold and Silversmiths, as well as being an armoury and vault for precious antiquities and protection of the marks. This Hall was demolished to make way for a new grand design by Philip Hardwick. This third design, which is the current Hall, was very much in keeping with the wealth and stature of the Goldsmiths' Company – a place of elegance and circumstance. It is modestly described as one on London's hidden treasures. Six columns surround the grand front entrance and can be truly described as having the grandeur and charm of an "urban palazzo".

One of the unique features of the Goldsmiths' Hall is its exhibition room, which houses its frequent exhibitions of the capabilities of the craftspeople in Britain and their true works of art. Occasionally of some of the many 'treasures' of the Goldsmiths' Company are put on display.

Not only did the second Hall avoid the worst of the ravages of the Great Fire, but the third Hall survived the London Blitz and bombing attacks of the Second World War. In 1941, it was damaged when a bomb exploded in the southwest corner of the building but the main structure remained sound and the building was faithfully restored.

*This article was edited from information available on the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths' website <http://www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk/>*

### **Members News**

During a spring visit to London, Tim Sheeres and his Brother attended the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual United Service of the Guilds of the City of London. In the order of service, there was a brief background on the origin of the event that is held at St. Paul's Cathedral. It is worthy of inclusion to encourage Members who may be able to include the service in future planned trips to London in Late March.

“At a meeting of the Masters and Prime Wardens of the Twelve Great Companies, held at the Goldsmiths’ Hall on February 1<sup>st</sup> 1943, it was decided to hold a Service in St. Paul’s Cathedral for the Livery Companies and the Guilds of the City of London. The idea behind the Service was to help lift the spirits of the City following the blitz during the Second World War.

Having regard to the religious original of the Companies, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 1943, Lady Day, was selected as the date for the Service, being the first day of the year according to the Julian calendar. The Right Honourable The Lord Major, Sir Samuel Joseph, attended along with the Sheriffs and the Court Aldermen and the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of London, Dr. G. F. Fisher, preached the sermon.

As far as records show, this was the first occasion on which all the Livery Companies and Guilds of the City combined to hold a religious Service. Since then, it has become an annual event and remains one of the few occasions in the calendar at which Livery Companies and Guilds of the City can gather together as a whole.”

### An Englishman becomes a Canadian Citizen

From time to time, we report when our members achieve the honour of election as Freemen or become Liverymen of one of its Companies or guilds. This time, we report the difficulties faced with becoming Canadian

Our Hon Clerk Geoffrey Mayo, a Freeman and Engineer of London, who came here to retire five years ago, has just received notice to appear to take the oath of Canadian Citizenship. Becoming a Canadian citizen has not been straight forward in Geoffrey’s case.

He first came to Canada in 1981 to start up a branch of his UK company as part of an Entrepreneur scheme sponsored by the Canadian Government. A condition was that the entire family immigrate. This was approved in days, rather than in months or years. They bought a home, rented a factory in Oakville, his daughters went to University in Toronto and Hamilton and the business did well.

In due course Elaine and his daughters became Canadian Citizens. Geoffrey, however, travelled back to the UK quite frequently and then moved to Chicago. Moving back to the UK in 1985, he was the only family member who had not properly qualified for Citizenship.

Ten years later when Geoffrey retired, he and Elaine moved back to Canada for a number of good reasons, not the least of which was their many friends, two daughters and grandchildren. But alas, Geoffrey’s immigration status had expired - he was now an alien!

An attorney was engaged. He thought the whole thing was a huge but strange joke. The only ways he could see to resolve the problem was for Elaine, who was a Canadian citizen now sponsor her husband, or that Geoffrey get himself employed

again by the company in Oakville, which he had been responsible for starting. The first option was chosen.

However, official suspicions arise when wives sponsor husbands or husbands sponsor wives – a marriage certificate is not enough. Among the numerous documents required were not only copies of the register etc., but photographs of the wedding showing the couple and all the guests (in genuine black and white!) In due course, the papers were submitted.

Another wait – and another snag! For a retired senior, there is another question – a liability to the social and health care system. As we have no private medicine, an extensive medical examination was required.

Finally, the immigration papers arrived. Elaine and Geoffrey drove over the Rainbow bridge at Niagara Falls in December 1996 and asked the US customs to refuse them entry so that they could make a u-turn and present the papers to Canada Customs on the other side of the building on the way back. Geoffrey was now a landed immigrant for the second time!

Four years later, the number of qualifying days had been exceeded and the Citizenship application papers were filed. Again, at his age, approval is at the Judge’s discretion, so it was with some relief when, seven months later, the Notice to Appear finally arrived.

*The story was provided by Geoffrey Mayo*

### Upcoming events

The Hon. Company’s upcoming events represent the increasing range of activities that the Court and other members are planning. Specific invitations will be sent with registration and payment information closer to the time. However, please get these dates into your diaries.

<u>Musical Evening with Tafelmusik</u>	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2002
<b>The Glory of Mozart</b>	
Trinity St. Pauls’ Church	8.00 pm
427 Bloor Street West	
Toronto, ON.	<b>SOLD OUT but:</b>

We have 4 tickets in the centre of the Balcony for auction to this event. This year, Tafelmusik’s entire season is sold out and we are fortunate to have been on the inside to acquire these tickets for you. The auction will to raise funds for the Hon Company’s Charity with the excess over the minimum bid price of \$110 for two tickets to go to the Charity. The two highest bidders will get the tickets. Please submit your bids to The Master, Neil Purcell before Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2001. Bids under \$110 will not be accepted.

### Burns Night

An event is being planned for Robbie Burns Night on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2002. This will be in Greater Toronto and you are invited to reserve the evening. Details will follow in an invitation to Toronto area members. If you will be in Toronto on 25<sup>th</sup>, visit the Company website for details which should be mounted by mid December.

Charity Scotch Tasting 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2002  
Toronto, Location to be determined Informal

Company Dinner Dance 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2002  
The Old Mill Black Tie or Business Suit  
Toronto, ON Reception 6.30 pm  
Dinner 7.00 pm

Company Annual Meeting and Dinner 10<sup>th</sup> May 2002  
The Albany Club Black Tie  
91 King Street East Reception 6.30 pm  
Toronto, ON Dinner 7.30 pm  
Speaker: **Jeanne Lamont, Leader and Artistic Director of Taffelmusik**

## Company Website

The Honourable Company refers it members and friends to its web-site which carries information about the Company and its activities. Included is our calendar of events and a Discussion Board.

The site address is [www.freemenlondon.org](http://www.freemenlondon.org). We welcome your comments and your ideas for the addition of useful information and hope that we can generate a valuable dialogue between Freeman, especially amongst our members, through this site and by e-mail. Use the "Freemen Discussion Board" for such a dialog so your peers can contribute.

## Events Report

### The Annual East Coast Meeting and Dinner at the Saraguay Club, Halifax

Once again, an energetic and enthusiastic group of Members and Guests came together at the Saraguay Club for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual East Coast Chapter Dinner. We chose a great day for the weather – gorgeous sunshine, but our timing for travel could hardly have been worse – a mere 4 days after the horrors of the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York. Incredibly, everyone who had indicated they would come, was there.

This was the largest East Coast Chapter Dinner to date with 15 people in attendance. As has become our custom, the Master presided at the Dinner. Neil Purcell and Livia had arrived by train and welcomed both Members and their Guests. We were especially honoured with the presence of some very esteemed guests, the Honourable Alan Abraham, the former Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, and the Chairman of the Tall Ships 2000 celebration. Alan was joined by his Wife, Rose Marie, and both attended as guests of the Honourable Company. Also attending as guests of the Company were Dr. Colin Dodds and his Wife, Carol. Colin is the President of St. Mary's University.

We were very pleased to welcome back Captain Tom Sellers and his Wife June, and David and Phyllis Redman. David is a former President of the St. George's Society of Halifax. We hope to welcome a number of these guests as Members in the near future.

Other members present included Ken and Wood and his Wife Alice, Ken being our East Coast Clerk; Commander Michael Goble and his Wife Betty; and the editor of Company Comment, Peter Leach. Peter was probably the luckiest to be there as he flew in on one of the first flights after the 11th September World Trade Centre terrorist attack.

It was a most enjoyable evening for all.

### Charity Wine Tasting

The Company organized a Charity Wine Tasting Evening at the home of the British Consul-General, the Hon. Peter Agar.

With more than 40 members and their guests present, Maxxium, Canada's largest importer of wines and among the largest beverage alcohol distributors in the world, gave us a great opportunity to taste some of their interesting current offerings. These included 5 wines from Robert Mondavi, two whites and three reds including their Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon and Stags Leap Cabernet Sauvignon at \$85 and \$80 per bottle respectively; 4 wines from Wolf Blass, with 3 reds and 1 white. Here the Wolf Blass Black Label Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz was the star by price at \$70 a bottle, but the Saltram No.1 Shiraz was spectacular. We were also treated to two white wines from Louis Latour, the Chassagne Montrachet 'Morgeot' 1er cru, and the Meursault "Goutte d'Or" 1er cru. Geyser Peak's Reserve Merlot was also offered. All of the wines were superb, but the price was enough to scare many who are not wine connoisseurs from the more expensive ones offered.

The Maxxium team did a superb job at explaining each of the wines and helping those not so knowledgeable to appreciate the refinements and intricacies of the each of the varieties and vinification techniques that prove each with their distinctive character.

Not only did everyone there really enjoy the experience of tasting so many exceptional wines, but the Charity gained nearly \$1500.

We must thank John Smith of the Royal Bank for organizing such a superb and beneficial event, as well as the Consul-General, Peter Agar, for his tremendous hospitality in opening his home to us. Unfortunately, Peter's Wife was not able to join us but a few samples were put aside for her to try when she returned from her appointment.

### Beer Tasting

On 14<sup>th</sup> November a group of member and their friends met with a group from the St. George's Society at Oland's Brewery for a Charity Beer Tasting. The group reached the maximum number that could be accommodated - 75 - with more than 40 being Members and their guests. This event raised more than \$1000 for the Charity of the Hon.

Co. Again, John Smith was the organizer of the event, and again the guests of the Hon. Co. exceeded the number of members substantially.

It was a very successful evening, and the first to have been held in conjunction with the Members of the St. George's Society.

### Want to keep in touch with the City?

As a reminder, all Freemen can get the quarterly City of London Magazine "CITYVIEW" and its insert for Freemen "LIVERYLIVE". If you do not receive these colorful and informative twin magazines and would like to, write to the Public Relations Office, Corporation of London, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London, EC2P 2EJ.

Alternatively, for those who are hooked on the web or want to get the very latest information on the City visit the Corporation's website: [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk). Currently 34 Livery Companies have websites linked from the City's site (<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/history/origins/livery>) and most of these are very informative.

### Pictures of the Honourable Company

Attached to this Company Comment are the pictures taken at the Annual Dinner. The editor apologizes for the technical difficulties that prevented these being circulated with the last Company Comment

### Communications with your Company

The main point of contact with the Honourable Company is through the Honorary Clerk, and through our website:

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The East Coast Chapter's local Clerk:  
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The Company is represented in London by our London Clerk, Godfrey Jacobs. . Godfrey has been an enthusiastic and fervent of the Hon. Co. since it inception as well as being one of the leading lights of the Livery Companies and the Freedom. The efforts of those that support us in London go unrecognized too frequently.

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