

COMPANY COMMENT

The Honourable Company of Freemen of the City of London of North America

www.freemenlondon.org

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From the Master

I have been a member of the Honourable Company for well over a decade and served on the Court for a year as the Honorary Treasurer, four years as the Honorary Clerk, two years as Deputy Master and now culminating in this last year as your Master. I leave the Company affairs in the very capable hands of an enthusiastic Court and Master.

It has been good fun working with the diverse personalities and backgrounds of the Court members over the years, all united in a common purpose to promote the objectives of the Honourable Company. I see the Company growing stronger and richer in nature over time and this is the result of the dedicated hard work of the Court and the other volunteers, and our ability to attract a broader group of individuals interested in the City of London and the Freedom and formed and the experience gained.

The year has seen great success in attracting new Members, raising funds of our Charity, introducing an updated constitution and a grace for the Company (see articles in this newsletter on these two items), and most important of all, the wide variety of well-attended social and charity events. In particular, I recognize the particular contribution of a few individuals: John Smith, not only the Honorary Treasurer but also the organizer of most of the Charity events; Neil Purcell, the Membership Secretary and for his contribution to the revised Constitution and Company Grace; Martin Walmsley, our Honorary Secretary and for his largesse in hosting the Court Meetings and his process improvements in Company operations; Peter Leach, the editor of Company Comment with support from Sylvia Davis; and David Moorecroft, the facilitator of the Royal Bank Charity reception, the Company's most successful charity event ever

It is your support of these activities and events, however, that is so crucial in creating the vibrancy of, and value in our Company. I thank you all for your support throughout my year. It will be a delight to see you so many of you again at the AGM and to share our fellowship together.

Hugh Oddie

A Brief History of a City Livery Company – The Worshipful Company Pewterers

Is pewter the metal of the Millennium? The Members of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers certainly think so and make that claim. There are others that would claim it to be steel, aluminum, copper or even gold, but pewter has some really interesting attributes that make its claim tenable. More of this later, but first lets look at the Worshipful Company and its history.

The Worshipful Company doesn't quite make it into the 12 Great Companies, but it is close – Number 16 – and it has an impressive heritage.

History

The earliest references to its existence go back to 1348 when the “goodfolk, makers of vessels of pewter” came before the Mayor and Aldermen asking for approval of Articles that had been drawn up for the regulation of their trade. While there are no records of the actual formation of the Guild, there are a lot of details that give information about its recognition and Charter. It is assumed that the Craft Guild was formed around a religious “Fraternity” of craftspeople in the production of pewter and pewter objects before 1348, but it was almost a century before a Royal Charter was sought.

The early attempts to secure legal rights clearly didn't proceed too smoothly. In 1432, the Guild paid a clerk of Chancery 5s. to assist in a search "for statute and other things to the intent to labour to the parliament for a charter for the craft to have search through England." Unfortunately the civil war again stopped these early efforts.

In the 1450's, a bill was prepared for Parliament, the cost of which amounted to 10s.8d. "A deputation was entrusted with 8d. to bestow in drinks went to Cutlers Hall to ask the advice of the officials there and another person of experience was interviewed at the Mitre in Cheap at a cost of 16d. in bread and wine" However, even with such advice, they realized that they had insufficient funds to proceed.

By 1467, a sum of £80 had been accumulated and, in 1471 and 1472, payments of a total of £9 7s. 4p. for legal fees were incurred and in 1473 the final sum of £41 18s. 8d. was paid for the remaining cost. The Royal Charter of the Company was granted in January 1474. As in most crafts of the time, one of the key roles of the Guild was to control the quality of the production of pewter. While many Guilds only had rights and control in London itself, the Pewterers received the right of search throughout all England.

The current Royal Charter was granted by Queen Anne in 1702.

From its earliest discovery in Roman times, pewter – an alloy principally made from tin, and including antimony, copper, bismuth and, in the past, other metals, were added in small amounts to make it harder – was the preferred material for plates, dishes, drinking vessels and other wares. Until early in the 18th Century other metals, such as silver, competed for these wares. However, silver was not so abundant as tin, was more expensive, and all other alternatives corroded or otherwise changed detrimentally. Also unlike a number of other possible metals, tin is non-toxic even though its mining in Cornwall and other places took its toll on the mining communities. It is very fortuitous that this material was chosen, as the concept of toxicity and its effects were only understood in the 20th Century.

The control over Pewter quality was exercised in a manner very similar to the assay process for Gold and Silver. Every Master Pewterer, before setting up in business, was required to record his or her 'touch' or trade mark on a pewter sheet retained by the Company. While the early touch marks were lost in the Great Fire in 1666, there are over 1000 individual marks of makers that are 'on record' today.

At the beginning of the 19th Century, the Company ceased the control of quality and its search activities, as prescribed in its Royal Charter. As with so many other Guilds, the relationship with the pewter industry became very tenuous.

Current Activities

In 1970, faced with increasing international competition and poorly defined and unenforced quality standards, the Company sponsored British pewter manufacturers in setting up the Association of British Pewter Craftsmen, with the

object of improving the quality and standards and stimulating the growth of the British pewter industry. New marks were introduced to provide visual assurance of quality and of manufacturing origin.

Based on this success, the Association formed a relationship with the European Pewter Union. This has allowed the development of trans-European standards. The Worshipful Company continues to support the popularization of pewter, and encourages new uses and modern designs. One of the ways it achieves this is an annual design competition "Pewter Live" for students in selected art colleges in the UK. Also, in February 2000, as part of the Millennium celebration, the Prince of Wales launched the Millennium Pewter Collection. The Company sponsors scholarships at the City of London Schools, has a number of charitable trusts, including one that supports a school for underprivileged children in Islington.

Pewter

While the precise composition of pewter has varied over time, the current requirement is for a minimum tin purity of 91.5%, with a maximum level of 8% antimony, of 2.5% copper and of 0.5% bismuth. Pewter can be fashioned by gravity casting, centrifugal casting, spinning, pressing, rolling or hand forming. There are a variety of finishing techniques and hammering, etching, painting and enameling are common. The fact that pewter is relatively soft allows it to be quickly and highly polished. Pewter that has developed a patina, due to infrequent polishing, can be easily restored.

The Pewterers' Hall

After the grant of charter and securing a seal together with a great book, and the start of enforcement, the priority of the new Guild was to acquire land and build a hall – not an insubstantial investment. The first hall was completed in 1496 in Lime Street and survived until the Great Fire. The second hall was built on the same site, eventually being demolished in 1932, before any German bombers could destroy it. The Pewterers still own this site, but a new Hall was completed in 1961 in Oat Lane, close to London Wall.

Article prepared using information from the website of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers (www.Pewterers.org.uk) and "The Guilds of the City of London" by Sir Ernest Pooley, published by William Collins of London in 1945

Upcoming events

Annual General Meeting and Dinner 9th May 2003
 The Albany Club Black Tie
 91 King Street East Reception 6.30 pm
 Toronto, ON Dinner 7.30 pm
 \$75.00

Summer Party 5th July 2003
 Master’s Country Home Casual
 Gloucester Pool 12 noon
 Port Severn Coach may be arranged
 Price to be confirmed

Events Report

Theatre Night – Last Romantics

On February 26th, members of the Honourable Company and their friends attended a new play of the Necessary Angel Theatre Company entitled “Last Romantics” by Michael Lewis MacLennon.

This play is distinguished by being the first play commissioned by the Shaw Festival after it expanded its mandate in 1999 to include new plays written about Shaw’s time (1856-1950). “Last Romantics” explores the notion of memory – how and what we remember – and is the central theme of the play. The two main characters, artists Charles Ricketts and George Shannon, lived during Shaw’s lifetime and were both members of the Aesthetic Movement. This movement believed in “art for art’s sake”, which was a theme made famous by Oscar Wilde and Aubrey Beardsley, who are both portrayed in the play and were contemporaries of Ricketts and Shannon.

Before the play, the Honourable Company group gathered in a private room for wine and excellent finger food. Through the good graces of the Master, Hugh Oddie, the author, Michael MacLennon joined us for this reception and Michael gave us a brief synopsis of the play and its staging.

Despite the winters cold outside, we had an interesting, entertaining and warm evening. These events are always interesting and provide lots of camaraderie between Members. Those that are able to take advantage of these special events are encouraged to join us whenever we make such arrangements.

Photos can be seen on the Website at www.freemenlondon.org.

Company Grace

The grace of the Honourable Company has been approved by the Court:

“For these and all God’s gifts to us
 For our Fellowship with each other
 For the good name of the Honourable Company
 For the caring which comes from love
 We give our thanks and praise. Amen”

New Constitution

The proposed new Constitution of the Honourable Company has been sent to all Regular, Life and Honorary Members of the Honourable Company requesting a vote in favour of the full redraft.

The Constitution has been redrafted to reflect the current practices of the Hon. Co, and fully reflects the new rules that apply to individuals seeking the Freedom of the City. As these rules no longer require British parentage, there is no reason to continue to have a Membership Class “Friends of the Honourable Company”, as no one is prohibited from seeking the Freedom due to their lineage.

The opportunity has been taken to remove some anomalies in the original by-law, and to add practices that improve the effective and efficient running of the Honourable Company. Additions include the establishment of the London Clerk, a Membership Secretary, and anomalies included differences between Court Quorum and Chair requirements at Court Meetings.

The objectives of the Honourable Company are more clearly laid out in the pre-amble to the By-Law. These are:

- To maintain a continuous link with the City of London
- To strengthen the linkages – commercial, social and personal – between the Company, the City and North America
- To reflect the traditions of all Freemen of the City, including the code contained in the oath of allegiance, the ceremonies and rituals to be found within the Guilds and Livery Companies, and in the history of the City itself
- To be committed to observing the highest code of personal and professional ethics that occurs between Freemen, and
- To support our charity and each other through meetings and social events, and to foster growth between ourselves and for our Company.

Any Member or prospective Member may obtain a copy of the new Constitution and By-law by requesting this from the Honorary Clerk. When approved, the new Constitution will also be found on the website of the Honourable Company – www.freemenlondon.org.

Guild of Freemen – Events open to Members

As you will be aware, our reciprocal arrangements with the Guild of Freemen allow Members of the Honourable Company to apply for and attend events of the Guild, and for their Members to attend our events. The events for the Guild are included in the 2003-2004 program and are:

Day visit to Leeds Castle Wed 11th Jun 2003
Depart from Guildhall 10 am, return by 6 pm
Dress: Jacket and Tie
Tickets £63 per person; Coach £20 per person
Ticket allocation date 1st May 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14th Apr 2003

Day at Sandown Races Sat 14th Jun 2003
Depart from Guildhall 10.15 am, return 6 pm
Dress: Suit
Tickets £120 per person inclusive of luncheon and tea; Coach £15 per person; Parking in Members' Car Park £5
Ticket allocation date 1st May 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14th Apr 2003

Coventry Banquet Sat 20th Sep 2003
Guildhall of St Mary's, Coventry at 6.30 pm to 10.30 pm
Dress: Black Tie
Tickets £65 per person
Ticket allocation date 1st Jul 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14th Jun 2003

Hilton in the Community Foundation Ball
London Hilton, Park Lane Sat 20th Sep 2003
Dress: Black Tie 6.30 pm - 1 am
Ticket £120 per person
Ticket allocation date 1st Aug 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14th Jul 2003

Mansion House Art Tour Thu 2nd Oct 2003
Mansion House - Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal
Dress: Suit 10.30 am to 12 noon
Tickets £25 per person
Ticket allocation date 1st Aug 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14th Jul 2003

Mansion House Tour Thu 2nd Oct 2003
Mansion House - Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal
Dress: Suit 2 pm to 3.30 pm
Tickets £25 per person
Ticket allocation date 1st Aug 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14th Jul 2003

Reception and Dinner Wed 8th Oct 2003
Ironmongers' Hall 7 pm to 10 pm
Dress: Black Tie
Tickets £78 per person
Ticket allocation date 15th Aug 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1st Aug 2003

Visit and Supper – College of Arms Wed 15th Oct
Maximum 20 people 6.15 pm to 10 pm
Dress: Suit or Blazer
Tickets £35 per person

Ticket allocation date 15th Aug 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1st Aug 2003

Tour and Dinner – House of Commons Fri 24th Oct 2003
Host: Rt. Hon. Virginia Bottomley 6.45 pm to 10 pm
Dress: Suit
Tickets £74 per person
Ticket allocation date 15th Aug 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1st Aug 2003

Visit and Supper – College of Arms Wed 29th Oct 2003
Maximum 20 people 6.15 pm to 9 pm
Dress: Suit or Blazer
Tickets £35 per person
Ticket allocation date 15th Aug 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1st Aug 2003

Day visit to RAF Museum and Lunch Wed 5th Nov 2003
Depart from the Guildhall 10 am, return by 4.30 pm
Dress: Jacket and Tie
Tickets £74 per person; Coach £12 per person
Ticket allocation date 1st Sep 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14th Aug 2003

Lord Mayor's Show Sat 8th Nov 2003
St. Paul's Cathedral stands (south) 10.30 am to 12 noon
Lunch at City Pipe, Foster Lane 12.15 pm to 2 pm
Dress: Jacket and Tie
Ticket (Show) £22 per person
Ticket (Lunch) £28 per person
Ticket allocation date 1st Sep 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14th Aug 2003

Wine Tasting Wed 19th Nov 2003
Tallow Chandlers' Hall – joint with Society of Young Freemen
Dress: Jacket and Tie
Tickets £25 per person
Ticket allocation date 1st Oct 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14th Sep 2003

Annual Banquet Mon 8th Dec 2003
Guildhall 6.30 pm to 10.30 pm
Dress: White Tie
Tickets £89 per person
Ticket allocation date 1st Oct 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14th Sep 2003

Carol Service Wed 11th Dec 2003
St Martin's-within-Ludgate 6 pm to 8 pm
Dress: Suit
Tickets £20 per person
Ticket allocation date 1st Nov 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 14th Oct 2003

Reception and Dinner Fri 9th Jan 2004
House of Lords – Peers Dining Room 6.45 pm to 10 pm
Host: Field Marshal The Lord Vincent
Dress: Black Tie
Tickets £79 per person
Ticket allocation date 17th Nov 2003
Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1st Nov 2003

Visit and Supper – Old Bailey Wed 4th Feb 2004
 Old Bailey 5.45 pm to 9.30 pm
 Dress: Suit or Blazer
 Tickets £39 per person
 Ticket allocation date 15th Dec 2003
 Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1st Dec 2003

Reception and Dinner Wed 18th Feb 2004
 Painters' Hall 7 pm to 10.30 pm
 Dress: Black Tie
 Tickets £83 per person
 Ticket allocation date 15th Dec 2003
 Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1st Dec 2003

Port Tasting Wed 25th Feb 2004
 Tallow Chandlers' Hall 6.30 pm to 9 pm

New Members

Mr. Kenneth C. A. Brown

Ken is a retired police officer and now runs his own private investigation firm that specializes in providing security and investigation solutions to business and individuals.

He joined the Toronto Police Service from high school and has spent more than 30 years in all aspects of law enforcement from fraud to drugs and from morality to criminal. He was involved in the planning and security operations for many foreign dignitaries, including The Queen and members of the British Royal Family, Pope John Paul II, Presidents, Prime Ministers. He is the recipient of the "Exemplary Service Medal", the "Long Service Medal, a "District Service Award" and 15 letters of Commendation and Recognition.

The Honourable welcomes him into Membership and we look forward to enjoyable times with his Wife, Anna

Ms. Lynn Doyle

Lynn Doyle is co-owner and partner in any executive recruitment firm specializing in marketing and communications. She first became an executive recruiter in 1987, and with her background in the advertising industry, her focus on marketing and communications executive recruitment became a natural course.

Lynn remembers little of her life in Birmingham England as Her Parents immigrated to Canada in 1959 when she was 4. Her husband, Stewart Hood, is also a London, England born immigrant, who was 7 when his Parents crossed the "pond".

Mr. Geoffrey Keith Johnson

A brief biography will be included in the next issue.

Ms. Penny McGill

For more than 20 years, Penny has helped large corporations to set strategy, formulate approaches, implement solutions and achieve results across multiple companies, subsidiaries,

Dress: Suit of Blazer
 Tickets £25 per person
 Ticket allocation date 15th Dec 2003
 Hon Co. Members booking date with cheque 1st Dec 2003

Anyone wishing to take advantage of these opportunities should advise the Hon Clerk, or in his absence, the editor of Company Comment, as soon as possible. A sterling cheque or equivalent, payable to the Guild of Freemen in the amount indicated, together with the name of the Member and his or her Guest (only one can be permitted), must be in the hands of the Hon Clerk, or the editor, before the Hon. Co members booking date. No reimbursement is possible after the Ticket Allocation date.

~~divisions and business units.~~ Generally, her most difficult challenges have been building the collaborative working relationships to achieve the desired results. Penny's successful track record speaks to her key strengths in boundary definition, process effectiveness, measurement processes, relationship performance and project management.

She has held leadership positions in many corporations including the Bank of Montreal, Accenture, Ernst & Young and General Foods. She has consulted in the financial sector, and with business services corporations, consumer products companies and government organizations.

To the Honourable Company, she brings a great sense of humour, a ton of energy, and lots of enthusiasm for everything she does. The Company welcomes her as a new Member

Mr. Robert Thomas

A brief biography will be included in the next issue.

Mr. Paul J. S. Wilson

A brief biography will be included in the next issue.

Obituary*David Chilton*

It is with great sadness that we report to you the death of Simon David Stainton Chilton on 22nd October 2002 after a courageous fight with pancreatic cancer. David was a relatively new member of the Honourable Company, but he was a great supporter of charitable efforts especially those linked to the City of London. In a note received from his wife, Meredith, she commented that one of his proudest moments was when he became a Freeman of the City of London in June 2002.

David's volunteer and charitable activities were recognized by many. In 2002, he was the recipient of Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee Medal. He was an Officer of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem and a Knight Commander of Grace of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller. He served as Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee of the St. John Ambulance for the Province of Ontario and as a Director of the National Club, where he served as vice-chair of the house committee.

While a great leader for Bowne of Canada, he was also a much-appreciated friend of all the employees of the Company.

Regardless of his other activities, David always had time for his family and friends. He was known for a great sense of humour, profound honour, unflinching courage, great charm, boundless optimism and deep love. Clearly his family and friends sorely miss him, and the condolences of the Company have been conveyed to them. He is also a loss to our community as a Freeman and a Member of the Honourable Company.