



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

It is with great sadness that I have to report to you the passing of Godfrey Jacobs our long serving and diligent Honorary London Clerk.

Godfrey was a great friend to many this side of the Atlantic. He was a very special man for whom nothing was too much in advancing the works and reputation of the City, the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers and Honourable Company in North America.

He was well known to all incumbents of the Mansion House and we owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude for his assistance in having the then Lord Mayor of London grace us with his presence on the occasion of our 25th Anniversary in April.

Godfrey will be greatly missed by those who knew him and we are all richer for the way he touched our lives and poorer now that he is no longer with us. On behalf of all members of the Honourable Company I have expressed our condolences and deepest sympathy to his widow Hazell in her great loss. A more formal obituary is provided in this issue

I am at the halfway point of my term as your Master and am excited by what is happening to enable me to meet as many of you as possible in my year of office.

In September, we gave our members the opportunity to learn more of the noble game of cricket with a presentation at the Toronto Cricket, Skating & Curling Club and, in early October, we were invited to the Ontario Legislature where we were entertained by the Speaker and toured this historic Parliamentary building in the heart of the City of Toronto.

Both events are reported more fully elsewhere and our thanks go to David

Moorcroft and his team in their enthusiasm for organizing interesting and successful events for us.

By the time you receive this newsletter, a group from the Court will be preparing to travel to New York City where we will join several of our American members in pre Christmas celebrations. The occasion is the annual St. George's Society of New York's Christmas luncheon at the Yale Club. I have been asked to briefly address the luncheon on the history of the Honourable Company. I hope this will be the first of many such meetings with our cross border friends and it will do much to strengthen the ties that bind us. Maybe a visit to the West Coast is next?

Your Court is very busy. Deputy Master Martin had his baptism of fire when he deputised for me at the Reception at the Legislature during my absence in South Africa. Our hard working Clerk Gail Moorcroft is keeping me on my toes and Michael Charles is doing a sterling job as our new Treasurer.

We are still looking to increase our membership. The privileges and benefits will be fully explained with a simple call to Past Master Neil Purcell whose address and phone numbers are given at the back of this newsletter.

Looking to the future, we are working on a full schedule of events for the new year. You can find details and get regular updates by logging on to our website www.freemenlondon.org. Please check it out.

Sally joins me in extending to you and your families our very best wishes for the Holiday Season and the hope that 2005 will be a year filled with good health, an abundance of wealth and all the happiness you wish for.

John S. Smith

Master

Company Profile – The Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers



At our 25th Anniversary Banquet, not only was the Honourable Company pleased to welcome the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress and the Mayor's entourage, but we were also honoured by the visit of the Master of the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers, Mr. Cliff Rust and his wife, Anita. As a

result, in this issue we are going to have a look at one of the Worshipful Companies that one would have thought would have been one of the older Livery Companies. However, this is not the case, being number 83 in the Order of Precedence, and only the sixth new City Livery Company to be formed since the reign of Queen Anne. The Guild was formed in 1952 and became the Worshipful Company with the Grant of Livery in 1963. Since then another 23 Companies have been Granted Letters Patent and conferred with the Grant of Livery. In fact, 2 of these have been granted this year, making the total number of Livery Companies now 106.

The mystery of no early Furniture Maker's "mysterie"

In early medieval times, the furniture industry, such as case furniture was mainly a construction of nailed board and iron strapping. This technique was essentially shared between the Carpenters and Blacksmiths. Where turning was involved, for furniture such as chairs, this became the responsibility of the Worshipful Company of Turners. Coffers were also part of the furniture making community, building traveling chests, coffers and chairs. Material coverings were also common so that brought Clothworkers, Cordwainers, Curriers, Weavers, Woolmen and Broderers into contention for involvement in the furniture industry. In early times, chairs were often made in wickerwork and therefore the Basketmakers were also players. With all the competition and rivalry between trades, there was little room for a discrete craft of Furniture Making. One must remember that, in these earlier times, furniture was principally chairs, benches and tables. Chests, commodes and wardrobes were inventions of later times.

From the 15th Century until the Restoration, furniture was a specialized branch of joinery, but the Turners and Basketmakers continued to be influential. In addition, as comfort became an issue for quality furniture, the Upholders also became highly influential.

At the time of the Restoration, the returning nobility brought back items and ideas from Europe for lighter furniture, commonly using veneers in place of oak paneling. While away from the centre of style, joiner-made furniture continued, cabinet-makers became the principal furniture makers using glued joints and glued veneers, with matched, cross-banded and inlaid surfaces. Two events were important in making the change: immigrant cabinet-makers

from Europe who moved to escape persecution; and the Great Fire. The immigrants provided the new skills at the time of the need to undertake massive rebuilding and reequipping of London buildings. As the merging of the woodworking crafts and other trades occurred, experimentation and the quest for new style created the highly satisfying English "Queen Anne" style. This would have been an opportune time for the creation of a Furniture Makers Guild, but so dominant were the Upholders, that there was no will to try to create a new Guild or Company.

Finding the right time

Industrialization of the Furniture Industry in 18th 19th and early 20th centuries effectively prevented the formation of any coordinating trade association in the face of the continuing pre-eminence of the Upholders. It wasn't until after the Second World War that the Unions and regional trade associations, which had come into being in the early 20th century, saw the opportunity to form a Guild that would help to sustain the quality of furniture making, bring focus to quality skills education and training and build a charitable infrastructure

From the original proposal for the formation of a Furniture Makers Guild by George Hensher in 1949, there was intensive activity by a group of key supporters. By winning over the then City Chamberlain, they were able to move quickly to form the Guild. In 1952, their efforts were successful.

The Guild always had the aspiration to receive the Grant of Livery, and when a former Master (1955-56), Mr. Alderman Ralph Perring became Lord Mayor in 1962 (the 635th Lord Mayor), everything came into place. On 29th March 1963, the Guild received Letter Patent that created the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers.

One might ask whether there was any concern about loss of influence as a result of this new Institution but other Livery Companies, especially the Upholders, the Carpenters, the Joiners and Ceilers, and the Turners, all encouraged the formation and grant of Livery.

The Objectives

Similar to many Livery Companies, The Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers have the objectives:

- To aid and promote the design, manufacture and retail of British furniture
- To offer awards, bursaries and prizes and arrange conferences that will promote craftsmanship and training, advance technical knowledge and enhance standards of design and quality of furniture
- To provide for needy members of the Trade and of the Company, or their dependants.

The Shield in the Coat of Arms displays dovetail cuts on an inverted red chevron with three drill braces and bits on a cream background. Surmounting the shield is a knight's helmet out of which rises an arm and hand holding a wooden block plane. The motto reads "Straight and Strong".



The heraldic description for those that understand this special language is:

Crest: A Cubit Arm the Hand grasping a Handplane proper

Arms: Argent a Chevron dovetailed couter dovetailed Gules between Three Braces and Bits each palewise with the bit downwards Sable.

Company Guild Marks, Scholarships and Awards

The Guild Mark Scheme was launched in 1958. Its purpose is to assay and recognize the very finest furniture made in the United Kingdom. The Mark is granted for pieces designed and made as single items or in very small numbers (as a set). The Mark is widely accepted as a mark of distinction and provides assurance that the item meets the most stringent criteria of design and manufacturing excellence. The jury for this scheme is drawn from the Company, the Society of Industrial Artists and the Council of Industrial Design.

The Company Mark Scheme is a much more recent innovation and is granted to a limited number of manufacturers who meet the Company's very high standard of excellence in furniture design and quality

Scholarships include: Sir Ralph Perring Scholarship for retail distribution; Sir Ambrose Heal Memorial Scholarship for the study of furniture and design; Radford Design Scholarship; and Anthony Lebus Scholarship.

Prizes include the Claxton Stevens Prize for the most outstanding Craft Guild Mark pieces. This prize has been give since 1989 and is the pinnacle of excellence in UK Furniture.

The donation of charitable funds has already allowed the Company to distribute some £50,000 per annum to its charitable activities, including courses design competitions, visits and bursaries.

Conclusion

This young Livery Company has come a very long way in a very short time, and is a clear indication of the vibrancy of the City Livery and its continuing relevance in the globalised world of trade. There is a clear need for the affirmation of excellence and an active infrastructure to help craftspeople

continue to learn and aspire to reach the highest standards of excellence.

The Worshipful Company operates from the offices of the Painter-Stainers at Painters Hall.

This article was constructed with the generous help of the Clerk of the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers, Mrs. Jan Wright who provided the editor with a copy of the "Origins and History of the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers" 2nd edition 1974, a recent copy of "News" the newsletter of the Company and their website at www.furnituremkr.co.uk.

Godfrey F. Jacobs

It is with great sadness that the Honourable Company learnt of the passing of our London Clerk, Godfrey Jacobs.

Godfrey was one of the stalwarts of the Honourable Company and served as Master in 1985. Since returning to the UK, he served as the Honorary London Clerk from 1986 to 1995 and from 2001 to 2004. He was a very dedicated promoter of the Honourable Company and was instrumental in arranging the attendance of the Lord Mayor at events of the Honourable Company over many years. He has personally intervened in the application for the Freedom of many members of the Honourable Company to ensure success of these applications, and he organized many of the events attended by the Members who made the 20th Anniversary Visit to London in November 1999.

Obituary

Godfrey Frederick Jacobs, our good friend and great supporter of The Honourable Company, passed away at his home in Richmond, Surrey, England on November 4, 2004 in the arms of his loving wife Hazell.

He was a very special man, and had a gift to make others feel special. He performed the many roles in his life with his own characteristic flair: husband, father, grandfather, dog lover, businessman, Freeman, Liveryman, man of great charity, colleague, great friend and mentor. Outgoing and omnipresent and, at the same time, private and shy, he talked little of himself and found it hard to accept compliments and praise, preferring to go at life in his own special way, giving fully of himself to everything he cared for. He was, for so many, something of a living legend, always involved, always willing to be of help and support, guiding by example, going out of his way to make a difference in the world, and yet he was something of an enigma. I can truly say that I have never met anyone else in my life who was like Godfrey. He was an inspiration.

Personal History

Godfrey was born in East London and I have been told his father died when he was young. When thirteen, he was boxing for prize money and giving it to his mother towards family expenses. At the same time, he was a choirboy at All Saints, Church of England, Woodford Green in Essex. He left home at fourteen and took evening classes to become a

surveyor, eventually becoming a Chartered Surveyor. Godfrey was called up for National Service and served in the Royal Air Force. After completing his National Service, he used the money he had saved and his real estate knowledge as a surveyor to buy a cottage, which he fixed up and sold for a profit. With the prevailing conditions in Britain at the time, after he paid all the expenses and income taxes owing he had very little left over and decided to seek his fortune elsewhere, arriving in Hong Kong with 24 pounds sterling in his pocket.

While still in England, Godfrey had the good fortune to meet Hazell on a double date. Godfrey and Hazell were attracted to each other and fortunately their companions were in agreement and so started the most important relationship of their lives. He proposed three weeks later and they were very happily married for over forty-nine years.

In Hong Kong, Godfrey got a job working for the Hong Kong Railways as a surveyor. He met Li Ka Shing, a young Chinese businessman. This resulted in a partnership that, among other things, built 5,000 homes above the tracks of the Hong Kong Railway and he was on his way. After a number of years, Godfrey and Hazell returned to England, but later returned to Hong Kong to work again with Mr. Li, primarily in real estate.

A decision was made to get involved in North American real estate, and in 1979 Godfrey and Hazell were off to the USA to establish an office in San Francisco and a home in Sausalito. Godfrey was in charge of North American affairs for Mr. Li, traveling extensively all over the US and Canada and becoming very well known in real estate and financial circles everywhere he went, such as the nature and magnitude of their company's interests. In the late 1980's, Godfrey retired, and he and Hazell returned to England taking up residence in Richmond, Surrey, and becoming personally active in real estate ventures.

Godfrey had become a Liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers in 1964, and upon his retirement, he became very involved in the Worshipful Company's activities and its charities. He was elected to the Court in 1991 and almost immediately ascended the ranks of the Wardens to become Master in 1996. Godfrey was also a Liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators. For many years Godfrey was a great benefactor and tireless worker for the Painter-Stainers charities. Through his many activities as a Freeman and Liveryman, he became very well known, highly regarded and well respected in the City.

While living in North America, he became one of the original members of The Honourable Company of Freeman of The City of London of North America. He joined the Court in 1980 and became Master in 1985. On his return to England, he was appointed Honorary London Clerk until his responsibilities on the Court and as Master of the Painter-Stainers consumed all his time and energies. He was reappointed to this role in 2001 and acted as our liaison with the Chamberlain's Court presenting applications for the Freedom and attending Freedom ceremonies with our

members whenever possible, and taking the time to entertain at lunch afterwards and meeting socially with members when they were in London. He had a great affection for The Honourable Company and attended many functions in The City in our name, constantly seeking to increase our profile and gain us recognition. The Honourable Company is becoming increasingly well known in The City because of his constant efforts.

The Funeral

On November 4, a private family service of committal was held for Godfrey at The Mortlake Crematorium, Richmond. This was followed by a service and celebration of his life at The Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Church of England, Richmond and with many of his family, friends present, this was a wonderfully emotional and uplifting occasion with memories of Godfrey particularly from an old friend from San Francisco and his brother-in-law. Laughter and tears were very much in evidence. Tony Kemp and I attended the Service on behalf of The Honourable Company, in his honour and in loving memory of our long friendship.

The Service was followed by a reception at Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club, Richmond. This provided an opportunity for everyone to share memories of Godfrey. By any measure, it was a wonderful occasion, and family and friends alike were uplifted and supported by it, ending a sad and difficult day with many good memories.

Godfrey enriched our lives with his presence and with his passing his memory will live on through our words and deeds. He will be missed in his own special way. Goodbye old friend and God Bless You.

After his passing, Hazell wrote a poem for Godfrey that I would like to share with you.

Crippled, fettered, hearing hooves pounding,
He ran free . . .
Blind and colourless, eyes saw the white lilies,
Painted in bright scent.
Deaf ears, caressed by soft moss,
Felt the circles as his cast pebble
Silently entered the lake.

Cradled in caring arms,
He sensed her warm heartbeat
And the lasting peace of God's hand.

H.J.

This obituary was written by Neil Purcell, Past Master, Membership Secretary, fellow Painter-Stainer, and close friend of Godfrey from the records of the Honourable Company and from the personal recollections of some of Godfrey's close friends.

Events Report

Reception and Lecture – The Venerable Game of Cricket

It was a beautiful late summer's evening on Wednesday 15th September with a temperature of 25°C as 43 members and guests gathered on the balcony of the Club house of the Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling Club. It is really a misnomer to describe it as a Club House as the building contains skating rinks squash and tennis courts, dining and meeting rooms and lounges.

As we stood there it was difficult to believe that we were in the middle of Toronto and a matter of a few yards from a 16 lane highway, the 401.

The cricket pitch was surrounded by fully-grown trees that provided seclusion as well as beauty. We could hear the "plop, plop" of tennis balls as we watched the closing overs of the cricket match below us. With drinks in our hands and canapés being brought around we wondered, "Is this really Toronto"

Some of us had to explain the game to those who were seeing it for the first time. There were quite a few bewildering faces around.

The game was interesting. Not only were the teams reflecting the cultural diversity of Toronto, but were mixed – ladies and gentlemen.

As twilight ended the game we all repaired to a large lounge were, with plates full of more delicacies and seated in comfortable armchairs, we were treated to a talk on Cricket in Toronto by Club member Ed Bracht.

It seems that in the early nineteenth century there are records of games being played between local regiments, but it was not until the establishment of the Grammar School (later to be called Upper Canada College) in what is now the heart of the financial district that cricket began to be played on a regular basis. To prepare the ground it was of course necessary to clear the forest first! At about the same time the York Cricket Club, later to be called the Toronto Cricket Club was established.

In 1844 a cricket team from New York came to Toronto to play the Toronto Cricket Club. This is the first recorded international sporting event anywhere in the world.

Eventually the Toronto Club moved to play on University of Toronto playing fields were it remained until moving to its present location in the 1920s

Until fairly recently, cricket was only played in private schools. However there has recently been a resurgence of the game in Toronto as the children of parents who immigrated from countries where cricket is played became interested in the game. The Canadian Cricket Association currently

supports 42 schools where cricket is played in Toronto. This number is expected to reach 100 in the near future.

In conclusion, Master John Smith proposed a vote of thanks to Ed Bracht for his illuminating talk and David Moorcroft outlined the events planned for the rest of the year.

Contributed by Dr. Martin Walmsley, Deputy Master

An Evening at the Ontario Legislature

On October 6th 2004, 36 Members and their guests assembled in the impressive entrance hall of the Ontario Legislature in Toronto.

We were met by The Honourable Monte Kwinter, Minister of Public Safety and Security – himself a Freeman. After describing some of the history of the building that took six years to build and was opened in 1893, the Minister also outlined some of the features we should not miss after which we were taken around the public parts of the building by one of the Legislature guides.

Recent restoration revealed charred beams under the floor outside the Legislative Chamber itself that leant credence to the story that the great fire of 1909 that destroyed the entire west wing of the building lapped at the doors of the Chamber itself. The beams could be viewed through thick clear glass inserted into the floor.

Inside the Chamber, members and guests were able to see close-up the beautiful woodcarvings that characterize the room and give it its warmth. Everywhere we could see stylized bats, centaurs with human faces, masks with tongues hanging out and some decidedly non-angelic figures with wings.

We wandered the vast hallways, past the Premier's office and the Cabinet Office, past portraits of past Premiers, past marble walls that detailed the names of all members of the Legislature starting with the 1st Legislature to the present one.

The tour ended on the ground floor of the west wing. Here, because of the great fire, wood had been replaced with marble. In two of the great columns it was possible to discern what appeared to be the vertebrae of a dinosaur.

We then proceeded to the Members dining room where we met the Speaker of the House, The Hon. Alvin Curling who was our host for the remainder of the evening. In introducing our host, Deputy Master Martin Walmsley remarked on the appropriateness of the occasion given that the parliamentary system in England emerged at about the same time in the early middle ages as the Freemen and Guilds did in London.

In reply, The Speaker described some of his duties as Presiding Officer of the House. He presides over proceedings in the Assembly, enforces and interprets the rules, decides matters of order, delivers rulings and

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maintains order and decorum. As Speaker he does not vote, his rulings are not subject to appeal.

In conclusion, Events Coordinator David Moorcroft thanked the Speaker for hosting this event and to Linda LeBourdais, a former member of the Legislature for making it all possible. Finally, David reminded members about the Christmas Lunch with the St George's Society of New York on December 11 at the Yale Club in New York City and outlined events currently being considered for 2005.

Contributed by Dr. Martin Walmsley, Deputy Master

Upcoming Events

New York Lunch – Freemen Visit the Big Apple

Christmas Lunch with the St. George's Society of New York

Location Yale Club, 50 Vanderbilt Ave, New York City
Date and Time Saturday 11th December 2004 at 12:00 noon
Dress Informal
Price \$75 US or \$100 Cdn

Burns Night

Location tba
Date and Time 26th January 2005
Dress Scottish
Price tba

Reception with the British Consul General

Location 123 Dunvegan Road, Toronto
Date and Time 6.30 pm (tba), 7th April 2005
Dress Business Suit
Price tba

Annual Banquet and AGM

Location The National Club, Toronto, is to be confirmed
Date and Time 6:30 pm for 7:00, 6th May 2005
Dress Dinner Jacket and Medals
Price tba

Other events are being planned and the best way to keep in touch with these plans is to visit the Honourable Company's website at www.freemenlondon.org

New Members of the Honourable Company

O. Kingsley Hawes III

Kingsley was born in 1933 in Fall River, Massachusetts into a "medical" family – his father was a general surgeon and his mother was a teaching RN. Unlike his family forebears who all attended Harvard, Kingsley went to Kenyon College in Ohio. His studies were interrupted by service with the US Marines in Korea.

Now retired, Kingsley can look back on a very successful and rewarding career and a very happy family life. Unfortunately, his wife passed on five years ago and he has been adapting to the single life again. He continues to enjoy

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sports but admits that his golf game is not as good as it used to be – occasionally his club has traveled further than the ball! He also enjoys travel, history and music, and his love of travel, history and genealogy have combined to make the UK very special. His forebears were all émigrés during 17th and 18th Centuries, coming from the Manchester area, while his wife's forebears were from Glasgow. In North Yorkshire, there is the village of Hawes, but the village connections with his family appear to end in the 15th Century.

Kingsley's fascination with English history now allows him to "hold his own" with many amateur historians. It is this love of England and its heritage that have encouraged him to seek Membership in the Honourable Company and strengthened his desire to become a Freeman of the City. He has formed a strong relationship with David Moorcroft, our Events Chairman and Gail Moorcroft our Honorary Clerk.

His family is now comprised of three children and six grandchildren. He lives in Little Compton, Rhode Island

Geoffrey K. Johnson

Although a bit late, we would like to introduce Geoffrey Johnson. In fact with his culinary qualifications, I am sure that many will enjoy meeting him and appreciate his talents.

Geoffrey was born in London and, in his early career, he was a culinary apprentice to Eugene Koefler at the Dorchester Hotel, so clearly he was set on a course for culinary greatness. He came to Canada in 1977, and joined the Four Seasons Hotel Group in the position of Executive Chef. He undertook appointments in Belleville, Toronto and Texas.

Leaving the Four Seasons Group, he moved to the Sutton Place Hotel in Toronto as Executive Sous-Chef. Eventually in 1980, this led to the formation of En Ville Event Design and Catering. En Ville is top of the line in the business of bringing excellence and flawlessness to any event that anyone can conceive.

He also publishes a wine newsletter – Wine Loop – in which he recommends a small number of wines that are available from the LCBO, which he has both sampled and which have impressed him as having exceptional value.

In addition to his business, Geoffrey assisted in the creation of the Ontario Red Seal Culinary Apprenticeship, and he is a member of leading culinary associations including: Confrère de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs; Ordre Mondial des Gourmets Dégustateurs; Cookery and Food Association; The Escoffier Society; and the Canadian Federation of Chefs de Cuisine.

In addition to his culinary interests, he joined the Rotary Club of Toronto in 1993 and currently serves as its President.

He is married to Linda and has 2 Children and 3 Grandchildren.

William G. Whittaker Q.C.

Bill and Carolyn live in the Beaches area of Toronto and have a daughter who lives in London, England and a son who is in Vancouver. Both their children are married with children.

Bill has a long history of contribution to the legal profession. He practices corporate commercial, real estate and trusts and estates law with Lette et associates which has offices in Toronto; Montreal; Paris, France; Geneva, Switzerland and Munich, Germany. He was awarded the designation of Queen's Counsel in 1984. In addition, he is a trustee of the Toronto Lawyer's Association and a member of the Canadian Tax Foundation. His connections with the UK include being a past director of the British-Canadian Chamber of Trade and Commerce and a member of the Law Society of England and Wales. He is also a member of the Danish-Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Swedish-Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Australian-Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

In his work he has been recognized by numerous organizations. He is a recipient of the Medal of Service from the City of Toronto for Community Service and is currently the First Vice President and President Elect of the Empire Club of Canada. He is also Honorary Solicitor to the Good Neighbours Club of Toronto.

Edward F. P. Moroney KLLJ, MMLJ

Edward is a well-known musician living in Toronto. Born in Ontario, he received his early musical education at St. Michael's Cathedral Schola Cantorum in Toronto and then at the University of Toronto, graduating in Music (Composition) and Education. Since that time, he has become a recognized organist and choirmaster and has achieved notable success as an accompanist for choral music and for opera. He was the founding accompanist of the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus and is now the organist and choirmaster of St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Toronto. In addition, Edward has become a noted arranger and composer with compositions sung at the Ottawa Diocesan Choral Festival in 2002 and at Churches in Canada.

Edward has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for Canada in 2002, Fellow of the Institute of Arts and Letters (London), Fellow of the Guild of Musicians and Singers, and Fellow of the Academy of St. Cecilia. He is a diploma holder of the Royal College of Organists, the Royal Canadian College of Organists and of six other musical colleges. He also serves as an executive member of the Toronto Branch of the Royal School of Church Music and is a vocal music teacher in the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

He is a recent Freeman of the City of London, and the Honourable Company hopes to be able to enjoy his music when the opportunity presents itself.

News of Members

Dr. Martin Walmsley

Martin has further developed his links to the Institutions of the City of London. During 2004, he applied to and gained membership in the Guild of Freeman. He is now planning to visit London in February 2005 and on the 23rd, he will attend the Welcoming Ceremony. This is possibly not the best time to visit the City, but the warmth and appreciation of the Ceremony will compensate for the usual damp and bitter cold of England at that time of year.

Errata and omissions in Issue 2, 2004

Following input from the Archivist for the Worshipful Company of Mercers, the editor would like to make the following corrections to the article on the History of that Company.

In the Article in Company Comment Issue2/2004, I stated that, after the Hospital of St Thomas of Acre was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1538, the Mercers' Company bought all the Monastery and Hospital Buildings, later returning the Hospital buildings to the reformed Hospital. Archivist and Curator Ursula S. Carlyle of the Mercers' Company Archives and Art Collection, advises that this is not correct. Records show that the Hospital was dissolved entirely in 1538 – it was never 'reformed' and the former property of the monastery came into Company ownership in 1542 for good.

I also stated that The Worshipful Company was no longer responsible for the administration of the Mercer's and St. Paul's Schools, the archivist reports that "whilst the Company closed Mercers' School, it most certainly is responsible for the administration of St Paul's School, of which the Company is sole trustee."

I apologize for these inaccuracies.

The editor

Communications with your Company

Honorary Clerk

Most matters concerning the Honourable Company (except membership) should be addressed to the Honorary Clerk.

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E-mail: gailinthebeach@aol.com
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Honorary London Clerk

With the very recent passing of Godfrey F. Jacobs, the post of Honorary London Clerk is currently not filled. All issues that relate to applications for the Freedom are temporarily being handled by the Membership Secretary.

Membership Secretary

For membership, the main point of contact with the Honourable Company is through the Membership Secretary. Information about membership is also available on the Honourable Company's website: **www.freemenlondon.org**.

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West Coast Chapter:

This position is currently unfilled. Anyone who would like to volunteer should contact the Clerk for information.

Finding Information about the Honourable Company

The Honourable Company has a substantial website that includes information about the organization, its activities including photographs, membership requirements and application forms and an archive of issues of Company Comment since 2001.

This site can be found at **www.freemenlondon.org**.

Finding Information about the City of London and the Livery Companies and Guilds

The City of London has an excellent website covering almost all aspects of life in the City. This can be found at **www.cityoflondon.gov.uk**

In the Leisure & Heritage section of this site, there is a listing of all the Livery Companies and Guilds and links to the websites of all the Companies that have their own sites. This list can be found at :

http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/leisure_heritage/livery/

At present, 83 of the 106 Livery Companies, 2 of 4 Companies without Livery and 3 of 3 Guilds have websites. These can be accessed by links from this webpage or by a search with any one of the major search engines. The main contact addresses for all the Companies and Guilds are also provided.

In addition there is a section on the Freedom, which includes all the information about application, eligibility and benefits, as well as a brief history. This can be found at:

http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/leisure_heritage/freedom_of_city/

The website for the Guild of Freemen of the City of London is now open. This Guild is not part of the Livery Companies and Guilds of the City, but is an organization that provides Freemen, who are not associated with these Companies to share in the Freedom together with others who are members of Companies and Guilds. There are more than 3000 Freemen who are members of the Guild. The web address is: **<http://www.guild-freemen-london.co.uk/>**

The Honourable Company has a special relationship with the Guild of Freemen that provide reciprocal events' attendance rights to each other's members. Anyone wanting to take advantage of these arrangements should contact the Clerk, Gail Moorcroft or the Editor of Company Comment, Peter Leach