



# COMPANY COMMENT

Honourable Company of Freemen of the  
City of London of North America  
www.freemenlondon.org

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## From the Masters

### **From Dr. Martin Walmsley, Immediate Past Master.**

It has been an honour and a pleasure to lead our Honourable Company over the last year. I am very pleased with what has been accomplished by so many people but recognize that there is much more to be done as the Company continues to grow. I am so pleased to leave the organisation in such good shape and under the competent leadership of Master David Moorcroft. I have extracted liberally from my Annual Meeting speech to provide my final comments:

“...After the flurry of activity in the two previous years, the past year could be described as a year of consolidation....

...We have, for example, designed and issued a membership certificate that is being presented to all new members, and over time, to all existing members. We have also started the process of assessing how best to preserve our archival material for the benefit of future generations....

...After last year’s dinner, the year started well, with, what is becoming a regular event, - the “meet the new Master evening”, at the home of Past Master Hugh Oddie....

...Then, on a hot day in June, twenty or so members and guests, ate their way through the gigantic buffet brunch, at the Toronto Board of Trade Country Club....

...In July, however, I had the sad duty to write to the Lord Mayor of London, to express our condolences following the tragic attacks to the transit system in London. A copy of my letter was reproduced in the April/June edition of “Company Comment”..

...After enjoying one of the warmest summers on record, we reassembled for an evening with the editorial staff of the National Post, hosted at the Royal Bank of Canada by Deputy Master David Moorcroft.

Not only was this a pleasant, interesting and informative evening, but it also raised over seventeen hundred dollars for the charity account....

...In October, we heard that the Lord Mayor of London would be in Toronto for a day of meetings. Hastily, your Court was able to organize an informal reception for the Lord Mayor and his party at the home of Past Master Geoffrey Mayo, before the Lord Mayor had to leave for the airport....

...At the reception, we were all pleased to be able to congratulate him, the City and Greater London, on winning the competition to host the 2012 Olympic Games ....

...After this, I temporarily handed over the affairs of the Honourable Company to John Smith and David Moorcroft for a couple of months, as I recovered from knee replacement surgery. Unfortunately, this meant that I missed the beer tasting put on in November for over 50 members and guests by John Sleeman and his company. The excellent snacks were provided by Court Warden, Agnes Chaitas. Not only was this evening very enjoyable, so I was told, but it also raised over five hundred and fifty dollars for the charity account....

.....Michael Charles and I are looking at ways and means of collecting, organizing, and preserving the Honourable Company’s archives, so don’t be surprised if some of you get a letter in the not too distant future, asking if we could borrow any archival material pertaining to the activities of the Honourable Company such as letters, menus, meeting minutes or things like that..

...In closing, ladies and gentleman, it has been a pleasure and an honour to serve you as Master for the past year. But one is only as good as the colleagues who surround you, and in that, I have been truly blessed...”

Martin Walmsley

It is an honour to communicate with members of the Company as your newly elected Master. It's also a pleasure to report that we have installed a very capable and dedicated Court that I know will do its best to build on the work of previous Masters and wardens to ensure our Company remains true to its roots while evolving to remain relevant in today's society.

What will it take to accomplish this goal? In talking with members and potential recruits about the benefits of belonging to The Honourable Company of Freemen of the City of London of North America, there seems to be general agreement that the following things are highly valued by all:

- Providing links with the City and with the great history and traditions of the Livery Companies and Guilds;
- Having an opportunity to network and socialize with fellow members at interesting and exclusive events;
- Raising money for our charitable foundation so we can support worthwhile causes that link North America and the United Kingdom, particularly the City of London;
- Promoting a culture of excellence and integrity in the spirit of the Livery Companies, which set high standards for personal behaviour, craftsmanship and quality.

Our Court will be working hard to deliver all these benefits to members throughout the next year.

With respect to promoting our link with the City of London and its Livery Companies, we have recently appointed a new London Clerk in John White to represent our Company's interest in the City. I had the privilege of hosting a lunch for John when he visited Toronto in May, which was attended by Deputy Master and Treasurer Michael Charles and Past Master and current Membership Secretary Neil Purcell. With John and Neil's help, we will continue to support members in obtaining their "freedom" at the Guildhall in London, or in joining a Livery Company or the Guild of Freemen. In addition, Past Master Peter Leach will continue to publish interesting histories of the various Livery companies, news of events taking place in London, and other items of general interest in our very high quality newsletter, Company Comment.

On the networking front, Past Master John Smith has put together an exciting list of events that will include an evening at the Toronto Cricket Club in September, a reception with the Financial Times newspaper in October, a wine tasting at Bodega restaurant in November with wines from Chateau d'Albas of France, and our annual Christmas luncheon with the St. George's Society of New York in December. In the New Year, John is hoping to line up several great events, including an evening with one of Ontario's leading theatre companies.

By the time you receive this report, I will have also met many of you at our "Meet the Master" event scheduled for June 13 at Past Master Hugh Oddie's house, and some of

you may have enjoyed "An Evening at the Proms" arranged by Past Master Geoff Mayo at Roy Thomson Hall on June 21st.

Please check our Company website, which is maintained by our webmaster and Court Warden Robin Braithwaite, for further details on all upcoming events.

With respect to our charity, I will be asking our trustees (the three most recent past masters) to put in place a long-term strategy to ensure our charitable endeavors become even more important to the Company. We are very fortunate to have a charitable status, we have done a good job in recent years in raising funds, and I think we now have the resources to re-establish a regular giving program that our membership can rally around and support. I think charitable fundraising is a very compelling reason for joining the Company and participating in our events, and I hope to be reporting back to you on some significant achievements this year.

Your Court is also committed to building upon the culture of excellence and integrity that Captains Ray Gibson and John Storey founded our company upon some 27 years ago. This means that, while we plan to grow our membership (our target is 10 new members this year), we need to recruit quality candidates that share our values and principles, and will add value to the Company. If we are to remain a vibrant and growing organization in the future, I believe we also need to recruit more young people, and ensure our membership reflects a healthy blend of age, gender and race. To this end, Neil Purcell brought a student as one of his guests to our recent Annual Meeting, which I thought was a great idea that we may want to make a regular practice in future.

In closing, I want to thank my Court of Michael Charles, Martin Walmsley, Gail Moorcroft, Neil Purcell, John Smith, Robin Braithwaite, John Bishop, Agnes Chaitas, Brian Greasley and Karim Kanji for their support in what I hope will be a terrific year. In particular, I would like to thank Gail Moorcroft, my wonderful and very organized wife for volunteering (!) to return as Honorary Clerk this year to keep our records and correspondence in order. I also want to express my appreciation to Past Master Peter Leach for agreeing to stay on one final year as Editor of the Company Comment – it's a big job and Peter does it so well.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you – the Members of the Company – for your continued interest and participation. I look forward to meeting and talking with every one of you throughout what I hope will be a very enjoyable and successful year.

David Moorcroft

**The London Glass Companies – The Worshipful Companies of Glaziers and Painters of Glass and of Glass-Sellers and Looking Glass Makers**



**Introduction**

In this issue of Company Comment, I am bringing you the history of the two guild companies most involved with the success of the Glass industry in London, the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass and the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers and Looking-Glass Makers. These companies are numbers 53 and 71 respectively in the order of precedence.

The reason for linking them should be self-evident even though their development and histories are independent and their Freemen and apprentices are not reported as having fought or competed over control of rights in the way that it characteristic of the early evolution of so many other guild companies. However, one can imagine that there must have been contention over the practices of glass manufacture and sales, no only between these companies but possibly involving the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers.



**Formation**

The Glaziers have historic evidence that the Guild (or Myserie) of Glaziers existed as early as 1328 and it was clearly a powerful organisation as glass was both a luxury item and important to weatherproofing and wind-proofing buildings while admitting light. Most of the earlier glazier craftsmen were involved in the manufacture of plain leaded windows. At this early stage of manufacturing, impurities in glass made even relatively small panes of glass fragile, difficult to make, and even harder to make flat. This required lead channels to be placed between panes to allow for edge irregularities, differing thicknesses and stress relief so that large windows panels could be assembled.



In comparison, the Glass Sellers and Looking-Glass Makers did not receive its charter until 1664. The Guild was founded to regulate the glass-selling and pot-making industries (glass pots; not pottery pots nor drugs!) of London.

At that time, many glass objects, drinking glasses, hour glasses and vials were imported either from Italy or China and there were seemingly endless concerns over the quality of the glass used in these items, whether manufactured in

London or imported. With the multiple sources, it was evident to the leading glass sellers that they would not be able to control the quality of manufacture from so many remote sources and the next best alternative was to control the sellers. Today, this would look like protectionism, but the protection of the buyer was the excuse used at that time to justify the imposition of controls over the selling industry. The guild was formed from members of other guilds, mostly larger traders who imported china and glass from China and Italy. Undoubtedly, some of the Members of the Glaziers “converted” to the Glass Sellers at this time (although the author has no documentary proof of this).



**The Histories**

The early history of the “Myserie” of Glass-making and Glazing and Glass-painting are lost in time. In the middle ages, the Glaziers and Painters of Glass operated under the jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor of London and its Court of Aldermen. While this offered some protection in respect to their Guild and Craft, the powers only extended to the square mile. This seriously limited the protection offered to Glaziers of London and so the Glaziers sought and received a Charter of Incorporation from King Charles I in 1638. Although, the Guild had been in existence for more than 300 years, it is interesting to note that they only secured their Charter a few years ahead of the Glass-Sellers and Looking-Glass Makers.



The Glass-Sellers Guild petitioned King Charles II for their Incorporation and Charter in 1663 and received this in 1664. It is noted that, previous to this after several years of major quality problems in the London glass-selling community, the Glass-Sellers had also secured a City Charter from the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen in 1635, but this only provided limited powers. There is evidence of a strong association between glass-sellers before 1600.

The Glaziers and Painter of Glass took control of flat glass making, glazing and glass painting and “staining”, while the Spectacle-makers (number 60 in the order of precedence) took over control of the spectacle making and glass instrument businesses (mainly magnifying glasses in the earliest times). This left an opening for the Glass-Sellers to take control over the remainder of the commercial glass industry, especially drinking vessels, tableware, hourglasses, glass trinkets, looking glasses and glass vials and bottles. As a majority of the fine product was imported from the same sources as those of fine china (China and Italy), the Glass-sellers also became very influential in the fine china import and wholesale businesses. There is an excellent monograph “Glass Sellers and Chinamen – The Court in 1790” written by Simon T Gray, Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Glass- Sellers and Glass Painters that illustrates this most eloquently.

The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers was instrumental in helping the development of superior glass-making

processes. In particular, it was instrumental in the development of “English Crystal” through assistance to George Ravenscroft. This high quality crystal finally put to rest the presumption that only Murano in Venice was capable of producing the highest quality glass. English Crystal has since become the global reference of clarity and brilliance.

The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers and Looking-Glass Makers were fortunate in being granted their Charter by Charles II in 1664 for the Charter of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass had their revoked by Charles II in 1683. Partial reinstatement came shortly after James II came to the throne in 1685 but it wasn't until 1689 that their Charter was fully restored. The Glazier's were not alone in this revocation of powers but the City institutions were and remain powerful and even Kings were not able to limit their strengths for very long.

Very shortly after its grant of Charter, the Worshipful Company of Glaziers had very influential members. One John Oliver was not only a noted glass painter but was called upon as surveyor to the City of London after the Great Fire of 1666.



**The Present**

In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, a number of world recognized artists and craftsmen and women have served as Master of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass.

These include: Lawrence Lee in 1973, who is perhaps best known for the windows of Coventry Cathedral; Michael Farrar-Bell in 1974 who created fine windows throughout the country; Brian Thomas in 1976 who made the celebrated windows in the American Chapel in St. Paul's Cathedral and some of the new windows in Westminster Abbey; and Alfred Fisher in 1991 who made windows for the Guildhall and Westminster Abbey.

Over the last 100 years, much of British heritage in stained glass has been destroyed, vandalized or allowed to decline due to lack of interest, funding and knowledge of restoration solutions. In 1966, the Glaziers Trust was established to provide funding and technical assistance to churches and other organizations that hold notable stained glass collections seeking to restore, conserve or repair historic and important stained glass. The Trust also promotes the craft of glazing and stained and painted glass through education and training of young craftsmen and building public appreciation.

During the Victorian period, it has been estimated that as many as 80,000 panels of stained glass were created. It is clear that very substantial restoration, preservation and conservation initiatives are necessary if the important works of all periods, but particularly the Victorian period, are to survive.

To confirm challenges that some churches face, the curator of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York describes

“the two best places to see Neave Flemish glass (16<sup>th</sup> century) is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and in the Llanwenllwyfo church in Anglesea”. The burden on many small parishes to conserve such heritage is overwhelming and the Glaziers Trust has been able to provide substantial help in many such cases.

The Glaziers Trust has recently helped several organizations including: the Bromley and Sheppard's Colleges in Bromley, Kent; the William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow; and Norwich Hospital.

While the resources remain very limited, possibly the greater contribution has been made in the training of young glaziers and stained and painted glass artists.



The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London has been closely associated with the resurgence of UK glass technology. In 1915, the Company sponsored the establishment of the Glass Department at the University of Sheffield. This was the first Glass Department at any university in the world. Its founder, Dr. Turner, was instrumental in the formation of the Society of Glass Technology in 1916.

With the understanding of the risk of lead leeching from lead crystal, the Worshipful Company made a substantial contribution to the research consortium to find an alternative additive that would eliminate this risk without compromising the brilliance of the crystal. Bismuth is now that alternative.

The Worshipful Company's involvement with research continues with the 2001 award of the Glass-Sellers' Award for Science and Technology for the development of a surface coating that makes glass self-cleaning.



**Religious Associations**

The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers enjoys a close association with the church of St. James Garlickhythe in the wards of Vintry and Dowgate. The rather unusual name “Garlickhythe” refers to the hythe or jetty used to unload garlic in the middle ages. At that time, the land that the church stands on was on the bank of the Thames.

The original Wren church was completed in 1682, but the association with the Worshipful Company is of recent origin. In 1954, the church was closed with the discovery of the death-watch beetle in the roof timbers. Glass Seller and Liveryman Ron Copp and his mother lobbied the Bishop for its restoration. Commander Copp working with the Glass Sellers and many others, raised half the funds and the Bishop provided the other half. The church was reconsecrated in 1963 and has had a close association with the Glass Sellers since that time. As part of the rebuilding, a magnificent chandelier was given to the Church by the Glass Sellers. This was placed in the south transept to take

advantage of the brilliant light admitted as a result of the genius of Christopher Wren. Wren's design admits so much natural light that the Church has earned the nickname "Wren's Lantern."

However, this is not the end of this story for, in 1991, a crane on a nearby building site collapsed, sending its counterweight through the roof of the south transept. The chandelier, the rose window and the pews were seriously damaged and the Company had the chandelier reconstructed from the original design.

The Company is not the only one to be associated with this church. Ten livery companies use St. James regularly, and the Joiners and Ceilers and the Vintners have had a long affiliation.



### Halls

Only one of the two Companies has its own Hall. The Glaziers' Hall is situated on the south bank of the Thames alongside and just east of London Bridge. The River Room has a stunning view looking into the heart of the City.

This is a new hall in a new location. The earlier hall of the Glaziers Company was in the Square Mile and destroyed during the Second World War

### Information about the Companies

Information about The Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painter of Glass can be obtained from the Clerk, Colonel David Eking, Glaziers' Hall, 9 Montague Close, London Bridge, London SE1 9DD; email address [info@worshipfulglaziers.com](mailto:info@worshipfulglaziers.com); phone 011 44 (0) 207 403 6652. Information about the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers and Looking-Glass Makers can be obtained from the Clerk, Colonel Audrey Smith, 57 Witley Court, Coram Street, London WC1N 1HD; email address [clerk@glass-sellers.co.uk](mailto:clerk@glass-sellers.co.uk); phone 011 44 (0) 207 837 2231.

The Companies have informative websites which can be found at [www.worshipfulglaziers.com](http://www.worshipfulglaziers.com) and [www.glass-sellers.co.uk](http://www.glass-sellers.co.uk).

**This article was created from information shown on the websites of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and the Worshipful Company of Glass-Sellers of London.**



## A Brief History of Glass

No history of these Livery Companies would be complete without placing them in the perspective of the global development of glass. This is a brief history to provide that context.

Natural glass existed on earth before the evolution of man. It is formed when silica rock and sand melts in the presence of soda ash and other materials. Naturally occurring glass was used by stone-age man as a cutting tool and in bead form for decoration.

While date of the very earliest glass manufacture is unknown, there is archaeological evidence of production in Mesopotamia and Egypt as far back as 3500 BC. These early glasses were principally opaque coloured beads, but techniques emerged to produce glass-based glazes on pots and vases. Early records of glass production come from around 16<sup>th</sup> century BC in Egypt, and glass articles also appear in Mycenae (Greece), China and North Tyrol at the same time. In Egypt, the first time, glass for glazing was also recorded. The earliest examples of Egyptian glassware are three vases of pharaoh Thoutmosis III (1504 –1450 BC).

In these early days of glass, the Phoenician merchants and sailors were responsible for the spread of glass manufacturing along the Mediterranean coast. The first glassmaking manual dates from about 650 BC. This was found in the library of Assyrian King Ashurbanipal (669-626 BC).

The first major technical breakthrough was the discovery of glassblowing, which the Romans perfected when they began blowing glass in moulds. The Romans also were the first to use glass in buildings with the introduction of clear glass (through the addition of manganese oxide) around 100 AD in Alexandria. Cast glass windows then began to appear in important buildings in and around Rome, Herculaneum and Pompeii.

The 11<sup>th</sup> century saw the German development of sheet glass. This was made by blowing a bubble of molten glass at the end of a tube and swinging it vertically to stretch the resulting sphere into a long cylinder. Sheets of glass were then made by cutting off the ends of the cylinder; splitting them, reheating the glass segments and beating them flat with a wooden paddle.

The alternative method was the "crown" process in which a large blob of molten glass was blown onto a disc and rotated at high speed to produce a large reasonably flat disc. The centres of these discs were and still are used for window production, creating the distinctive "crown glass" windows that can be seen in many old and in some modern buildings.

Glass has been used to assist vision since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. While there are examples of spectacles from Roman times,

their commercial production didn't start until the late 1200's.

In the middle ages, Venice and then the island of Murano became the European centre of glass making. As the demand for glass of all types grew, middle-eastern, as well as Venetian craftsman, set up manufacture in other places particularly Altare near Genoa. In the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century Murano craftsmen started using quartz sand and seaweed-based potash to produce a particularly fine clear crystal, that soon became the most desirable glass in Europe.

While the UK had a growing glass industry, it was George Ravenscroft (1618-1681) who patented lead glass under a commission from the Worshipful Company of Glass-Sellers and major glass importers. This glass had a particular brilliance and a high refractive index which made it highly suited to glass cutting. At about the same time, the French developed the plate glass process. This glass was principally used in mirrors. This glass was the first to be polished as a sheet and the addition of silvered metal to the surface produce high quality mirrors.

Technology advances became rapid during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century with German, US, and British innovation. Carl Zeiss, Otto Schott and Ernst Abbe joined up to enable the mass production of glass lenses, while Freidrich Siemens invented the tank furnace, which allowed the continuous production of glass for the first time. Michael Owens invented the automatic bottle-blowing machine.

However, it wasn't until 1914 that techniques were developed in Belgium to draw molten glass into sheets. Flat glass quality and sheet size improved dramatically, especially when it became possible to polish both surfaces automatically.

The final transition was introduced by Pilkington Glass of the UK in 1959 with the introduction of the float glass process in which molten glass is floated on liquid metal and cooled so that it can be lifted out of the metal bath in a continuous process. Over 90% of the global production of flat glass is produced by the float glass process.

The most recent and highly significant breakthrough in glass came with the introduction of low-loss graded and step index glass fibre by Corning Glass in collaboration with Bell Labs who developed the semiconductor laser, which together launched the era of long-distance, very high bandwidth telecommunications.

It has been estimated that 80% of the most important technical advances of the last 50 years have, in some way, depended on glass, whether this be: the lenses in microscopes; test-tubes for chemistry; optical lithography for semiconductor manufacture; laminated safety glass for automobiles, optical fibre for telecommunications, lens systems for television and cameras, or protective glass for containment of all types of chemicals

Information for the creation of this history has been obtained from the following sources:

<http://www.glassonline.com/infoserv/history>;

London Crown Glass Company website –

<http://www.londoncrownnglass.co.uk/history>;

The History of Glass – mirrors – eyeglasses – spectacles by Mary Bellis

<http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/bleyeglass.htm>

British Glass website –

<http://www.britglass.org.uk/AboutGlass/HistoryofGlass.html>



## Upcoming Events

### Venerable Game of Cricket

Location: Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling Club  
141 Wilson Avenue, North York  
Date and Time: Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006, 18:00  
Dress: Informal  
Cost: \$45

### Reception – Evening with the Financial Times of London

Location: Royal Bank Plaza, 40<sup>th</sup> Floor, Toronto  
Date: Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2006, 17:30  
Dress: Business Suit  
Cost: \$30 – All contributions to Hon. Co. Charity  
The Editor of the North American edition from New York City will be attending, with the Canadian Correspondent, Bernard Simon.

### Wine Tasting – French Wines and Food Pairing

Location: Bodega Restaurant, 30 Baldwin Street, Toronto  
Date and Time: Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2006, 18:00  
Dress: Informal  
Cost: TBA

### Lunch – Christmas Lunch and Carols with the St. George's Society of New York

Location: The Yale Club  
50 Vanderbilt Ave, Manhattan, NYC, NY  
Date and Time: Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2006, 12:00  
Dress: Business Suit  
Cost: Approx \$110 Cdn

### Annual Dinner and AGM

Location: The National Club, 303 Bay Street, Toronto  
Date and Time: 4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> May 2007  
18:00 reception for 19:00  
Carriages: 23:00 pm  
Dress: Black Tie with medals or a Dark Business Suit  
Cost: TBA

*Other events are also being planned. Please visit the Hon. Co's website at [www.freemendon.org](http://www.freemendon.org) for up-to-date information on all events.*



## **Events Report**

### **Annual Dinner**

Nicholas Armour, Consul General of the United Kingdom in Toronto, shared his insights into the trials, tribulations and rewards of working as a diplomat in a variety of interesting countries in his keynote speech at the Company's 27th Annual Dinner and Meeting on May 5. During his remarks, which were punctuated with personal recollections of his diplomatic assignments in the Middle East, Mr. Armour recounted with both humour and affection a number of experiences that have helped shape his views of the world.

The Annual Dinner, which took place at the National Club on Bay Street in downtown Toronto, attracted 76 members and guests. Head table guests included Jeannie Butler, President of the St. George's Society of Toronto, Norman Morris, President of the British Canadian Chamber of Trade and Commerce and John Sleeman, CEO of Sleeman Breweries and a member of our Company.

The meeting was presided over by outgoing Master, Martin Walmsley, who was assisted by the eloquent John Smith, Past Master, as Master of Ceremonies. Besides John, other Past Masters in attendance included Tony Kemp, Rex Williams, Brian Lechem, John Lawer, Tim Sheeres, Neil Purcell, and Geoff Mayo. Out of town members present included Geoffrey Wright and Renata Moras of London, England, and O. Kingsley Hawes II of Little Compton, Rhode Island.

The National Club staff provided a delicious meal of Green Asparagus Puree, an entrée of Cornish Hen, Espresso Tiramisu in a Chocolate Cup for desert, all followed by Coffee, Tea and Port.

After dinner, the Honourable Company's members and guests participated in the Ceremony of the Loving Cup, one of the great traditions of our Freeman Dinners that is always enjoyed by members and guests alike. The ceremony was followed by our guest speaker, to whom Court Warden, John Bishop, expressed the Honourable Company's appreciation.

After Nicholas Armour's address, the Annual General Meeting was held. This included a report from Treasurer Michael Charles stating that our finances were in good shape, and a report from Master Martin Walmsley recounting the successful events and progress of the Company over the past year.

The evening concluded with the investiture of the new Master and Court, and an expression of gratitude by the Master to the Staff of the National Club for their excellent work in helping the Company enjoy a very special 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner and Meeting.

**This report was provided by the Master, David Moorcroft.**

01/11/2006

### **Meet the Master**

On June 13, Past Master Hugh Oddie once again hosted the annual "Meet the Master" event at his home in the Annex district of Toronto. New Master David Moorcroft greeted some 40 members and guests, with support from a number of his Court Wardens including Past Masters Martin Walmsley and John Smith, Deputy Master Michael Charles, Honorary Clerk Gail Moorcroft, and Wardens Agnes Chaitas, Karim Kanji and Robin Braithwaite. Other Past Masters in attendance included Rex Williams, Tim Sheeres and Brian Lechem.

The event, which featured a buffet and wines, drew a number of new and potential members, including Nigel Napier-Andrews of Royal Bank of Canada, and Jim Walker, the owner of Arthur Sellers & Company wine importers. Mr. Walker will be hosting a wine tasting event for the Company in November, and will be importing a number of special wines from France for the event. He was accompanied by his wife, H  l  ne Buisson.

The Master and Court wish to thank Mr. Oddie for his generosity and good spirit in hosting another delightful and charming Meet the Master event.

**Report provided by Master, David Moorcroft**



### **The Court for 2006-07**

The following members of the Honourable Company of Freemen of North America were elected at the Annual General Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006 to serve for the year 2006 –2007.

David Moorcroft	Master
Michael Charles	Deputy Master & Honorary Treasurer
Martin Walmsley (PM)	Immediate Past Master
Gail Moorcroft	Honorary Clerk
Neil Purcell (PM)	Membership Secretary
John Smith (PM)	Events Secretary
Robin Braithwaite	Warden and Webmaster
John Bishop	Warden
Agnes Chaitas	Warden
Brian Greasley	Warden
Karim Kanji	Warden

PM indicates Past Masters

**New Members*****Nigel Napier-Andrews.***

Nigel Napier-Andrews was born in England, and spent his early years in Wimbledon, Cairo and Benghazi.

After attending Oundle School<sup>1</sup>, he went to Africa to work at the Kenya Weekly News. Later, returning to England, he worked in public relations and advertising before joining BBC Television. He moved to Canada to work for the BBC at Expo 67 and then switched to CBC-TV. He produced and directed many network television shows, including the successful "This is the Law" game show and the first "Gemini Awards." While continuing to freelance, he ran his own corporate video production business.

For the past 10 years, he has worked in corporate communications at RBC, where he is now Director, Event and Video Production.

He has been Chairman of Visual Arts Mississauga, is President of Performing Arts Lodges, Toronto, and Vice-Commodore of the Harbour City Yacht Club. He owns a 27-foot sloop and paints watercolours. He has written three books and has three adult children.

In 2002, he shared the IABC Silver Leaf Award of Excellence for Interactive Employee Communications for RBC intranet TV. Later, in 2003, he won the International ARC Award gold prize for best annual report cover design and is acclaimed for his photography of 5,000 RBC staff.

***Howard William Berry***

Born in Nova Scotia, Howard came to the Toronto area in the late 50's to work for a manufacturer of pharmaceutical / animal health products in Port Credit. He moved to Cambridge, Ontario, where he also spent four years of night school to complete a CIM diploma from the University of Waterloo. He moved back to Toronto in 1973 when an opportunity arose to become a partner in a pharmaceutical trading company. Following the death of his business partner, he became president of Gurvey & Berry Co. Inc. in 1990 and sole owner in 2005.

Howard was into his 30's before he first visited the UK in 1972 but it was "love at first sight" and he has spent many enjoyable times there since - on business, vacations and visiting friends and family.

When he married Christine in Cheshire in 1973, his conversion to the "Good Life" progressed. He enjoyed the British lifestyle, the comradery of his wife's friends and family, fun at the pubs and happy Sundays at his father-in-law's golf club, especially at the 19th hole, where he fitted in easily. Soon, he knew that he wanted to emulate this lifestyle back in Canada.

Moving to Oakville in 1978 was the next best thing to living in the UK, Oakville having a very high percentage of British immigrants. Howard joined the Rotary Club of Oakville in 1989 and was President in 2001-2002. It was through Rotary that he became friends with John Smith. John took him under his wing and further developed his love of "things British". This now includes Jaguar cars, and malt whisky. He collects wines and malt whisky and loves an opportunity to share them with friends and family.

He enjoys traveling. The UK is still the big favourite, but in Canada he still loves Muskoka and the Trent Canal area. His family has spent many happy summers boating on the lakes.

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<sup>1</sup> The small town of Oundle in Northamptonshire already had a school in 1485 when Joan Wyatt founded a guild to support two priests, one of whom was to be a schoolmaster there. In 1556, Sir William Laxton bequeathed property to the Worshipful Company of Grocers on condition that they support the school at Oundle. The School was and still is supported by a Trust of and governed by the Worshipful Company of Grocers. This year is the 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the relationship between Oundle School and the Grocers' Company. Some ancient records indicate that there may have been a school at Oundle before 709 but there is no evidence that there was continuity until 1485. (Information from the book "Sanderson of Oundle" published by Chatto and Windus, London 1924)