



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

May, 2018

Fellow Freemen:

We thought you might like to read the comments presented at our recent Annual Dinner from both our Immediate Past Master, Ishrani Jaikaran and our newly installed Master, Norman Morris.

Ishrani Jaikaran:

Before I begin my report, I thought I'd give you a little history, on the Master's Chain, prepared by Past Master, Neill Purcell.

The Master's chain was presented to the Honourable Company by the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers on the 30th September 1982.

The chain belongs to the period 1585-1625 and belonged to King William III of England who was also King William II of Scotland. King William and his wife Queen Mary II are unique in that they were the only co-regents in British history and reigned as joint Sovereigns of England, Scotland and Ireland.

Prior to becoming King, William who was Dutch, was the Prince of the Principality of Orange, a title passed down to him by his father.

The largest medallion on the chain is the coat of arms of the King's inherited title of Prince William of Orange.

The ten badges represent the Coats of Arms of the ten counties of Holland at the time when William became Prince William of Orange.

The Dutch college of heralds, to whom this chain was sent, advised that the Prince's Coat of Arms and the Coat of Arms of the ten counties are correct to the time when William inherited the title Prince William of Orange and are not hallmarked which is consistent with the practice in Holland at the time.

I feel very privileged to have been able to wear this magnificent chain for the past year.



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It is hard to believe that it has been a year since I and the current Court were installed. The time has passed quickly during which time the Court has been hard at work achieving many new initiatives in moving the Honourable Company forward.

I will keep my remarks brief as my final report can be found in the minutes of the AGM that was held at the RCMI on April 18th 2018, which will be on the website next week.

I can report that the affairs of the Court are in good order, due, in great part, to the wonderful Court who have been there for me and the Company.

We have had many great events at various locations which gave us the chance to meet members and their guests and also to speak with potential new members. This year we had six new members.

Our charitable trust under the chairmanship, of John Welch and the trustees, has formed an association with George Brown College, faculty of fashion Arts and has created a scholarship for a qualifying student to study towards a degree in fashion Arts at the University of Arts, London, England. This speaks to the historic connections with the Worshipful Livery Companies in the City of London dating back to medieval times. We look forward to cultivating relationships with both staff and scholars, to introduce scholars to the Honourable Company, and more importantly, utilize our resources and contacts to assist them beyond their education.

I must add here, that John Welch, was this year admitted to the Worshipful Company of Patten Makers by redemption. Congratulations John.

Following on the initiative started by Past Master Tom O'Carroll I have this year decided to present two Meritorious awards to Mr. Peter Leach, Past Master and Mr. Brian Lechem, Past Master for their contribution, leadership and continued support of the Honourable Company.

Peter, who is a member of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers was Master of the Honourable Company in 1997 and 1998. He was editor of the Company Comment and wrote many articles on Livery Companies. Peter also donated a



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beautiful plate with crests of several senior Livery Companies which is displayed on the centre table.

Unfortunately, Brian Lechem could not be with us tonight for personal reasons. Brian is a member of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers and Master of the Honourable Company in 1990. He is a strong supporter of the Honourable Company and always present at our dinners.

I would like to thank all Company members listed in your program for their very generous contribution to making this evening an enjoyable and cost-effective occasion.

On your behalf, I would like to thank Hans Bathija, Events Chair, for organizing tonight's event and all at the National Club who contributed towards an excellent evening.

Once again, I would like to thank members of the outgoing Court for their efforts and support during the past year and for giving so generously of their time to carry out the functions and activities of the Company.

In closing, let me say how very honoured I feel to have been chosen to be Master of the Honourable Company. This has definitely been one of the highlights of my life and one that I will treasure. I am confident that the Company will be safe in the hands of your new Master, Mr. Norman Morris.

I will be happy and honoured to assist 'The Honourable Company' going forward.



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Norman Morris:

Good Evening to my Fellow Freemen and our honoured guests!

I am aware of the contribution of those who have stood here before me, all of whom have helped make the Court what it is today.

I will endeavour to apply the same level of stewardship as my predecessors.

I am very lucky to inherit such an active Court, one that has achieved so much in the past year.

For anyone who is interested, the full details of last year's activities are available in the reports posted on our website, I would like to highlight a few details of our progress.

We have ratified an updated Vision & Mission Statement. This will enable us to move forward with a clarity of purpose. I would like to particularly give thanks to our Treasurer & Membership Chair who have helped us develop a new financial structure that put us on an even firmer footing.

I consider these two important activities as the "the Base of our Pyramid"

What is left?

The top part of any pyramid is the hardest to build. For us, it is imperative to spread the word and increase our Membership. Therefore, I am asking for your help, and that of the rest of the Court to continue shining a light on our unique organization and specifically focussing on that which separates us from other organizations. In my mind this can be summed up as "London Traditions in the New World."

I read in the Sunday Times the other week that The Lord Mayor of the City of London, Charles Bowman, was in China acting in his role as Ambassador for the UK's Financial & Professional Services sector. He was trying to promote a role for London in China's infrastructure investment drive. Given that the City of London is under pressure from the EU and other markets, due to the potential fallout from Brexit, I feel that WE should be Ambassadors for the City of London here in N. America.



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With this in mind I look forward to your support.

Thank you for bestowing this honour on me and I look forward to meeting the challenge!!!

I hope the guests who have joined us have enjoyed the evening and hopefully we might have encouraged you to join our Company.

Ladies and Gentlemen this concludes our Annual dinner. A good night to you all and a safe journey home.