



THE ARTS SCHOLAR

Issue No 21 Winter 2015



Our 100th Liveryman See back cover



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF ARTS SCHOLARS

FURNITURE MAKERS' HALL, 12 AUSTIN FRIARS, EC2N 2HE

MASTER

Alastair Leslie TD

UPPER WARDEN

Tom Christopherson
Chairman Education Committee

MIDDLE WARDEN

Dr Loyd Grossman CBE, FSA, DPhil
Chairman Events Committee

RENTER WARDEN

Paul Viney ASFAV
Chairman Charity Committee

DEPUTY MASTER

Alderman Ian Luder

PAST MASTERS

Nicholas Somers FNAVA, FRSA
Christopher Claxton Stevens
Philippa Glanville OBE FSA
Mark Bridge Trustee
The late Dr Geoff Egan FSA
The late Jonathan Horne MBE, OStJ, FSA
Geoffrey Bond OBE, DL, FSA Trustee
The Rt Hon. Lord Brooke
of Sutton Mandeville CH, FSA

Court of Assistants

Graham Barker Hon Treasurer
Robert Butler FRSA, FIOD
Roderick Caxton-Spencer
Peter Clayton FSA, FRNS
Alan Cook
Miriam Kramer
Chairman Membership Committee
Maureen Mellor FSA
Guy Schooling
Colin Sewell-Rutter FRSA
John Spanner TD Trustee
Roy Sully Chairman Finance Committee

CLERK – Georgina Gough

BEADLE – Geoff Fairfax MBE

CHAPLAIN – The Rev Canon Roger Hall MBE

ALMONER – John Hudson MRICS

NEWS

Anthology of Skills 2016 – save the date

On the evening of February 4th 2016 in the Art Deco splendour of Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street, we will be holding the second of our 'Anthology of Skills' events – Spectacle and Status: A Grand Tour.

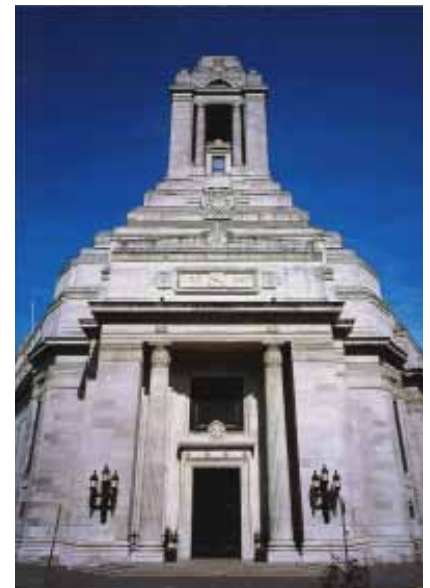
With a keynote speech, five speakers presenting objects of importance to them and the opportunity for all to contribute, the focus will be on an informal evening for members and their guests.

It will be a chance for the speakers to enthuse about the pieces and their stories, and for us all to join them and celebrate the breadth of knowledge and passion in the Company.

We hope this will become an annual event alongside the Eva Weininger and Mithras Lectures, and this year's evening will also be open to members' guests who can experience the conviviality of our Company.

Wine and canapés will be served and there will be an opportunity during the reception to see the main ceremonial rooms of this iconic building.

Thanks once again to the generous support of art insurers Berkeley Asset Protection, we will be able to provide this evening for a modest charge of £15 per head. Further details and a booking form will be available in the new year.



Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street

The Geoff Egan intern...

Since his untimely death at Christmas 2010, our much-missed Past Master Geoff Egan has been remembered each year with a December lecture at the Society for Post Medieval Archaeology.

His name is now being further remembered by an internship with the Portable Antiquities Scheme, funded by the Arts Scholars.

Based at the Museum of London, the intern will work for 60 days full-time on a collection of finds from an archaeologically significant stretch of Thames shoreline which is eroding very quickly to reveal a diverse range of Roman and Medieval artefacts.

These finds need to be recorded, researched and published to extend the available data on historic riverside activity in London and to interpret the impact of sediment movement along the Thames foreshore.

It is hoped that the intern will be able to record in the region of 500 finds and significantly reduce the backlog that has developed.

The intern will receive in-house training on the PAS database and digital photography as well as on the identification, handling, packaging and storage of small finds.

On a wider scale they will have the chance to experience working in a large museum while liaising closely with the London Archaeological Archive, Museum of London Archaeology and the Thames Mudlarks. They will be expected to attend at least one metal detecting club and to meet individual finders.

At the end of the internship it is hoped that there will be a chance for Arts Scholars to attend a presentation on the finds and their importance to London.

We must continue to build on what we have achieved

To be at the centre of such a rapidly advancing Company is both stimulating and exciting and I am very fortunate to be here.

Last year we achieved our major objective of receiving Livery. This year the pace continues with great work being done largely by our indefatigable Upper Warden Tom Christopherson towards our Royal Charter.

We are enjoying some splendid events, a record 250 people attended our fascinating Mithras Lecture, while further trips abroad are being researched and I am particularly looking forward to the Anthology of Skills on February 4th.

Our charitable funds

Long-established Livery Companies have built their charitable funds mainly through generous legacies over the centuries from their members. Thanks to Eva Weininger, who was not even a member, we too have a good start down this road and I do urge you to consider the generous tax concessions available for charitable legacies when next revising your Will. I have just done so myself.

Our annual give will soon be reaching £50,000 but must continue to grow and it can never be too big. So please be aware that legacies to most charities are spent in the year of receipt, whereas those building our charitable capital are investing to create benefits, in theory, annually forever.

Education is a major theme of our charitable objectives. Incidentally, a reason for my joining the Company was to learn from our experts and I am humbled by the level of knowledge I find within the Company. We must use this to educate ourselves as well as others.

Membership is progressing well, the total Freedom today is 173 which amounts to a 16% increase since the start of our year in May. The Livery is up to 109 which amounts to a 12% increase with more of both in the pipeline. The high standard and quality of candidates coming forward is most impressive.

...the Geoff Egan Lecture

This year's Geoff Egan Lecture was given to a packed house at the Society of Antiquities on December 14th by Jacqui Pearce. Her subject was Down at the old Ship and Ball – taverns, trade and daily life in the London Borough of Southwark, all derived from the analysis of a remarkably rich and varied assemblage of 17th and 18th century artefacts recovered from a single muddy drainage ditch in Tanner Street. Among them was an engraved pewter tankard belonging to a regular at the local inn – the Ship and Ball.

It would have been a site and a subject very much to Geoff's taste.



The Livery

While there is no limit to those joining the Freedom and these are of course always welcome if they choose to remain there, the real heart of the Company is the Livery. It is they who can stand for Election to the Court to run the Company and influence its direction and they have the opportunity to progress to be Master. They have additional privileges including being able to attend and vote for the Lord Mayor. Indeed, joining a Livery is one of the first steps on the ladder to be Lord Mayor. As a Company we have been fortunate to have one Lord Mayor in the shape of my predecessor Alderman Ian Luder, so I hope one of you will become our first home-grown one.

Within the Company there are special Livery events as well as occasions where numbers are limited and Livery will have priority for booking. Most importantly, Liverymen form the committees which I, as Master, am attending and witnessing the interesting hard work which achieves our sound forward progress.

Court Elections

Elections are upon us for three places on the Court. The encouraging number of twelve Liverymen came forward, from whom the Court have nominated the seven who best meet our current needs to be on the ballot paper that all you Liverymen will shortly receive.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Annual Dinner on January 25th at Clothworkers' Hall where the speaker will be Lord Chris Smith, who is currently Chairman of the Art Fund and whom many of you will recall from his days as Minister of Culture.

Happy Christmas!

Alastair Leslie – Master

MEMBER NEWS



The Arts Scholars clay pigeon team at Holland & Holland: Selene Obolensky, Alan Cook, Mark Bridge, Robert Stones.

Feat of clay...

Having made a mark as rifle shots in competition in recent years, the Arts Scholars turned to their shotguns and entered the long-established InterLivery charity clay pigeon shoot for the first time in 2015. This has become one of the Livery events of the year with hundreds of shooters of all standards flocking to Holland & Holland's shooting ground in Northwood. On a cold May morning we met old friends and made new ones, ate a gargantuan roast lunch in the marquee and shot at a few clay pigeons along the way. How did we fare? Well, we came second ...to last! We hope for greater things in 2016.

On the Inca trail



Deborah Charles at the Inca archeological site at Puka Pukara during her three-and-a-half-week visit to Peru earlier this year. Her tour covered many locations in the southern half of the country including the Inca capital of Cusco, the Colca Canyon and a flight over the mysterious Nazca Lines in a tiny aeroplane with 2 pilots and just 2 passengers.

She also completed the 4-day Inca Trail, a seriously challenging trek, with steps up to 4,200m and then a descent to the awe-inspiring sight of Machu Picchu.

Philippa Glanville OBE



Our congratulations go to Past Master Philippa Glanville who was awarded the OBE in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List for her services to the Decorative Arts and Arts Heritage.

Congratulations also to Middle Warden Loyd Grossman who was created CBE for his services to heritage in the same list.

Built for speed



Robert Stones at the wheel of his ex-works Morgan 4x4 Competition in which he has raced for the past three seasons, finishing second in his class this year.

If you have news or pictures of interest to fellow Arts Scholars, please send them to the editor – markbridge@atgmedia.com – for inclusion in a future newsletter.

EVENTS

Common Hall

With a Tube strike causing chaos on the streets of London, Arts Scholars made huge efforts to reach the sanctuary of the beautifully cloistered Charterhouse which was the venue for our very first Common Hall on July 9th.

A formal review of reports from the Master and the chairmen of the Court Committees was followed by drinks in glorious sunshine in the Norfolk Garden, below, and an exceptionally good lunch in the Great Chamber.

Whatever ASLEF may be planning, by popular demand the Arts Scholars will be back at Charterhouse for Common Hall next July 7th.



Two sides of Southwark

On a cloudy Tuesday in August the steady rain failed to discourage the Tudor-costumed actors as they processed around Shakespeare's Globe or indeed the Arts Scholars observing them at the mid-point of a fascinating evening walk through Southwark. This had already featured celebrity boxers, 18th century alms houses, women's rights and modern art installations among other surprises.

Deborah Charles guided a substantial party from Southwark tube station along the back streets to beyond Tate Modern showing the many survivals of the area's past and the modern architecture emerging around them in the spaces left by destruction in the World War Two Blitz.

On the way we also glanced in the windows of the architects who are filling some of the derelict spaces with shining towers which, alas, remain almost as empty as the sites they replace as a result of being purchased as investments.

All of which also provided rich material for the conversations that followed in the Anchor tavern afterwards!

Mark Dennis



Courtesy of our Hon Treasurer Graham Barker, a privileged group of Arts Scholars enjoyed a full backstage tour of the National Theatre on November 5th. Starting front of house we plunged into the engine room of Sir Denys Lasdun's iconic building to see the props, scenery, wigs and make-up and the costume department, above, where we witnessed preparations for their Christmas show Wonder.Land.



The Mithras Lecture

The darker side of the art market was brought to the fore at the 2015 Mithras Lecture when Detective Sergeant Claire Hutcheon, head of the Scotland Yard Art and Antiques Unit, spoke to a packed house about the ways that police combat art thieves and art forgers. She brought with her a range of cunningly faked works that had been seized by her unit, including the 'Armarna Princess', right, which was sold to Bolton Museum in 2003 for £400,000 by the now notorious Greenhalgh family. It later emerged that this was not a 3000-year-old work of art but a fake created in a garden shed. Thanks to our sponsors Plowden & Smith and the generosity of Goldsmiths' Prime Warden Timothy Schroder, the talk was held in the magnificently spacious Goldsmiths' Hall and a record 231 attended the lecture, our largest total to date. Of these 66 were Masters and/or Clerks.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2016

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Wednesday January 6th | Membership meeting |
| Monday January 11th | Events meeting |
| Monday January 25th | 11th Annual dinner Clothworkers' Hall |
| Thursday February 4th | An Anthology of Skills |
| Wednesday February 10th | Finance meeting |
| Wednesday February 10th | Charity meeting |
| Thursday February 11th | Education meeting |
| Thursday February 18th | Private tour of Elgin marbles in the British Museum |
| Wednesday March 2nd | Election Court meeting |
| Wednesday March 2nd | Admissions ceremony and Livery dinner at Painters' Hall |
| Friday March 11th | United Guilds Service and lunch |
| Monday March 14th | Pocket Lunch at Ironmongers' Hall |
| Wednesday April 6th | Membership meeting |
| Thursday April 14th | The Eva Weininger Spring Lecture |
| Thursday May 12th | Education meeting |
| Thursday May 19th | Court meeting |
| Thursday May 17th | Installation of new Master & Wardens |
| Colour coding: | |
| Company Events | Committee meetings Court meetings City Events |

EVENTS



Arts Scholars celebrating Agincourt600 at the Guildhall.

Why Agincourt became a triumph for the King and the City

A very happy, but not insignificant band of Arts Scholars was among the 650 who filled Guildhall on September 22nd to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt.

In a year that was not short of major anniversaries (many had celebrated Magna Carta and feasted in memory of victory at Waterloo200 earlier in the year), the Agincourt milestone was one of particular significance to the Livery Companies, Aldermen and Lord Mayor of London. Few institutions have memories that long, but the City has no trouble looking back 600 years to remember that it was they who made it possible for Henry V to embark on his campaign to regain lost French possessions, raising 10,000 marks or £6666. 13s 4d.

When he had successfully captured Harfleur in September 1415, Henry made a point of writing to inform his backers in London before abandoning his greater plans to capture Normandy and heading for home via Calais. He was intercepted by a much stronger French army at what is now known as Azincourt on October 25th, and history was made.

In Shakespeare's version of the Agincourt story, when the king delivers his "little touch of Harry in the night", he speaks of "gentlemen in England now a-bed" who "shall think themselves accursed they were not here." However there is evidence enough that the gentlemen of London may not have been sleeping all that soundly. Having been forced to invest heavily in the campaign, they had worries of their own.

When news of Henry's victory against all the odds reached London on October 29th, the new Lord Mayor, Nicholas Wotton was due to ride in pomp to be sworn in at the Palace of Westminster, but he was ready to forego his moment of glory. Instead he and the Aldermen "walked on foot like pilgrims" to offer thanks in Westminster Abbey.

But Londoners were not to be cheated of all their pomp and pageantry

that year. When Henry finally reached London on November 23rd, the Livery Companies had had nearly a month to prepare and were clearly ready to work with their monarch to create an event to remember, an event carefully conceived to recall the martial triumphs of Ancient Rome while emphasising Henry's role as God's anointed, returning to a London portrayed as the New Jerusalem.

Having met the Aldermen and the Clergy outside the City, Henry rode to Southwark and crossed London Bridge.

This is the moment recorded in David Agget's wonderful model of the 15th century London Bridge, now preserved in the Church of St Magnus Martyr in Lower Thames Street, and well worth a look.

There were seven stationary pageants* awaiting the King as he rode over the Thames, up Gracechurch Street and then left along Cornhill and Cheapside to St Paul's. Each was full of symbolic meaning.

At the Stonegate on the Southwark side of the bridge, two huge giants offered him the keys to the City. Halfway across, at the drawbridge gate, there were wooden towers with arms and heraldic beasts that honoured Henry while introducing symbols of the New Jerusalem.

St George crowned with laurels awaited him in a niche at the north end of the bridge, accompanied by a choir of boys dressed as angels, while in the fourth set piece, built around the conduit in Cornhill, George was joined by St Edmund and St Edward the Confessor and figures of prophets. Flocks of sparrows and other small birds were released as the King passed.

When he reached the Great Conduit in Cheapside he found a tableau representing the City itself. The conduit flowed with wine.

The largest and most elaborate pageant awaited him at the Eleanor

Continued on facing page

The archaeology of Nazareth

Most people have probably heard of Nazareth, but it was surprisingly neglected by archaeologists until my research team began work there in 2004. Our initial aim was to trace the impact on its hinterland of Nazareth's development as a Christian pilgrimage centre in the Roman and immediately post-Roman (Byzantine) periods, but it soon became clear that to do so would require reconsideration of the archaeology of Nazareth itself.

So, while one part of my team surveyed the surrounding farmland, finding evidence for many previously-unknown Roman and Byzantine farms and quarries, another worked at the Sisters of Nazareth convent in the centre of the modern city.

Although never studied by a professional archaeologist, it had long been known that this small convent was built on a complex series of structures and underground spaces. These were found when the convent was being built in the 19th century, and are preserved today in a large purpose-built cellar. They include a cave-church and, below Crusader vaults, what we have been able to demonstrate are the walls of an unusually well-preserved first century house.

When this house fell into disuse, small-scale quarrying took place, digging part of it away. Then a rock-cut tomb – again dating to the first century – was built into the hill-slope adjacent to the house, its sunken courtyard cutting through both the quarry and the house. Thereafter, the site was deserted prior to the construction of the cave-church, probably in the fourth century. In the Byzantine period, a larger church was built above both the first-century features and cave-church, encapsulating them in its crypt. This church may be identified on the basis of a seventh century pilgrimage account as the 'Church of the Nutrition', said to have been built above the house where it was believed that Jesus Christ was brought up.



The first century house excavated by Ken Dark and his team in Nazareth.

Although it is a fascinating site, my preliminary academic publications (pending the full, book-length, report) attracted only scholarly interest. However, an article in the March 2015 issue of the American archaeology magazine *Biblical Archaeology*, opened the floodgates of media interest. Immediately, requests for interviews and photographs started pouring in from across the world.

Since then, in addition to Britain, my work at the Sisters of Nazareth site has been reported in over 40 countries across Europe, Africa, the Americas, Asia and Australasia, and is still receiving media attention from around the world!

Perhaps unsurprisingly, some of these reports stray rather far from my own interpretation of the site. So it may be worth saying that my view is that, although we found the 'lost' Byzantine Church of the Nutrition, and preserved in its crypt there was a first century house that the Byzantines believed was where Jesus was brought up, the question of whether it really was Jesus's childhood home is one that archaeology is unable to answer.

Ken Dark

Continued from facing page

Cross in Cheapside, which was completely hidden by a three-storey castle in wood and linen, representing New Jerusalem, with a chorus of singing and dancing girls at ground level and boy choristers dressed as winged angels on all the towers, pillars and battlements above.

Once he had been showered with golden laurels and coins by these little angels, he went on to Heaven itself at the little conduit by St Paul's Churchyard where he glimpsed an enthroned Sun in Majesty, surrounded by psalm-singing angels and archangels.

Within a short time all this symbolic pageantry had disappeared but the City still possesses one tangible reminder of its delicate relationship with the monarchy in the form of the beautiful crystal sceptre that was Henry's gift to London (see Clerk's Report on page 11).

For our own pageant in the Guildhall 600 years on, we were treated to some wonderful fanfares from the trumpets of the Household Cavalry, some rousing speeches from Shakespeare's Henry V and a memorable feast.

I am reliably informed that an organising committee sat for two years before coming to the conclusion that Beef Wellington really was the only

dish to serve at the Waterloo banquet in June.

Choices for the Agincourt menu were less obvious. The organisers did toy with serving a thin stew accompanied by turnips and watery beer followed by suet pudding: a realistic approximation to what Henry and his army might have subsisted on in October 2015.

Happily they settled on a sophisticated starter of haddock and halibut to represent England as a seafaring nation, followed by traditional rosbif and Yorkshire pudding: a source of pride to les anglais and a term of derision to the French.

For dessert we were firmly back over the Channel with a selection of 'foraged' fruits from the Pas de Calais and a goat's cheese savoury made from the milk of a herd that now grazes upon the battlefield itself.

The sense of pride remains, but happily the ancient enmities are dead. As the menu notes revealed: "...it is worth stating that the Chef is French, but he bears no grudge."

Mark Bridge

*For details of the pageants I am indebted to Nicola Coldstream's 'Pavilion'd in Splendour...' - *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* vol. 165 pp153-171

A POINT OF VIEW

Sharing and caring: some thoughts on scholars, collectors... and access

Those of us who have collected for decades know how addictive the practice can become. Collecting is an addiction which rarely finds an antidote, perish the thought of no longer experiencing the thrill of acquiring that one elusive piece to complete the set, of becoming simply an owner rather than an active collector.

The heart-pounding thrill of that one final, successful bid at an auction, the search for information and gaining clues to the whereabouts or maker of something so obscure within the genre, the acquisition of a rare example at a price we can afford, this is the stuff of dreams.

My own humble collection of tea paraphernalia followed my mother's love of china and porcelain. In my teens I discovered that Regency tea bowls and saucers by Caughley or Coalport were within the reach of my pocket money. I started with a few fairly simple examples. The collection soon grew to 30 or more pieces and my attention shifted to early teapots, trays, linen tea cloths, tea tables, silver strainers and caddy spoons. Georgian tea caddies followed, until finally there was no space to display any more. Antique silver flatware was an offshoot of my small collection of early caddy spoons and teaspoons. The Bateman family marks became a "must-have"; silver sugar tongs and cream jugs joined the catalogue of items in my rapidly growing collection.

I have tried to analyse what gives the most enduring pleasure: the hunt, the acquisition, research, or simply marvelling at fine craftsmanship?

It was then that two particularly revealing thoughts occurred to me. High on my list is the research, the pleasure of spending an hour or two in a museum searching for similar pieces and trying to learn more about the makers. Yet perhaps the greatest pleasure is sharing the knowledge and the display of the collection, particularly when visitors show an interest or declare a mutual passion. Indeed that is what makes collecting so addictive, the joy of discussions with visitors and desire to share and compare with other enthusiasts.

We open our house several times a year for visitors and community groups. Most of these groups include older and some disabled people and over the years we have made great efforts to ensure ease of access.

On many occasions we have welcomed people with varying levels of physical disability and through making provision for their inclusion, I have been able to recognise many more issues for access.

These range from the difficulty for wheelchair user in coming across gravel on the garden paths and driveway, to the major issue of lack of properly adapted public transport to accommodate disabled people.

A much-lamented lack of awareness to the needs of such groups, many of whom may not be formally designated as "disabled" but simply suffering some of the restrictions which come with age, needs to be addressed.

Whilst we are all well aware of the difficulties in overcoming the limitations of listed planning consent in historic houses such as ours, a ramp for front steps, the position, font and legibility of interpretative text, the need for protecting items from sunlight and yet allowing adequate lighting, thoughtful placement and provision of seating, are all things which we can overcome.



Caro Lyle Skyrme is a collector, lecturer and access advisor.

"It's finished. There isn't a stamp, or an error that I haven't collected. Not one. What shall I do now?"

"I think I am beginning to understand" said Moomintroll slowly. "You aren't a collector anymore, you're only an owner, and that isn't nearly so much fun."

Tove Jansson,
Finn Family Moomintroll
(1948)

increase diversity, inclusivity and increase visitor numbers.

Considering that there are 22.7 million people aged 50 and over in the UK and some 9.4 million disabled people in England alone, this represents good practice and financial sense.

Caro Lyle Skyrme

How the Livery has survived, and thrived

Fraternities and guilds (or 'mysteries') flourished throughout Europe as well as in the larger towns in Britain in medieval times. There are still guilds operating in Chester, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle, Sheffield and York, but it was in London that they had most power and concentration. This was because of their unique rôle here in the governance of the City by voting for the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, and the fact that their privileges were usually enshrined in royal charters. The oldest remaining one is for the Guild of Weavers, dating from 1155.

The origin of these guilds went back to Saxon times, the word 'guild' deriving from the Saxon 'gildan' to pay (for membership). Tradesmen or craftsmen in a particular field tended to live and work in the same area and set up mutual associations or friendly societies to protect themselves and their customers by regulating competition, controlling quality of work, trading standards, wages and prices, and looking after the working conditions and welfare of their members. This entailed a close spiritual connection, with a patron saint and a guild church.

Entry to a guild was usually by apprenticeship, generally for seven years, after which the freedom of the company could be claimed, and later the livery if they had their own business. The term 'livery' began to be used from the mid-14th century to refer to the distinctive ceremonial gowns and badges which were used. There were also journeymen who were craftsmen who had served their apprenticeships but had not yet obtained the freedom of the City.

There is evidence too that some companies had female members as sisters or 'freemaids'. It seems that women were never actually banned but their involvement died out in Victorian times until the modern resurgence.

Each guild was governed by a Court which was presided over by a Master and Wardens, with (from the 16th century) a Clerk to keep records and organise meetings. Most acquired halls as meeting places as they had the right to hold land and property in perpetuity, but nearly all these were lost in the Great Fire in 1666, only some of them being rebuilt thereafter.

In 1423 as many as one hundred and eleven guilds are recorded, a level which is only now being equalled again. After that there was a good deal of rationalisation and in 1515 an Order of Precedence based on wealth was set for the 48 which then existed, headed by the Great Twelve. This has been adhered to and added to ever since.

As the population of London grew rapidly from some 50,000 to 250,000 during the 16th century, the traditional rôle of the companies was challenged, particularly with the influx of foreign tradesmen and

merchants, and a broader view began to prevail amongst them. The membership of many guilds moved away from being strictly related to single crafts and their tight control, as major families who were not necessarily practising their particular craft became involved. The Reformation also reduced the guilds' religious functions.

While the Industrial Revolution was forging ahead in the Midlands and North during the 18th and 19th centuries, London became something of a backwater for new crafts and trades and no new livery companies were founded between the Carmen being accepted in 1746 and the Master Mariners in 1932. Indeed such was the concern that they were becoming little more than dining clubs, that a Royal Commission was set up in 1880 with a view to winding them up. It was only the influence

of the Great Twelve that prevented this from happening – a decision that has clearly been well vindicated by subsequent history. While 77 'ancient' companies, as they are known, survive, no fewer than 33 'modern' ones have been founded in the 20th and 21st centuries. The Livery concept is thriving.

As companies have developed differently, there are all sorts of charming anomalies to be discovered, such as the Merchant Taylors and Skinners who alternate positions six and seven, and the two ancient companies, the Parish Clerks and the Watermen and Lightermen who, of their own volition, have never taken up full livery status.

For various political reasons the Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders has had to be re-founded three times. There are currently 43 livery halls, two in shared occupation, seventeen having been destroyed in the Blitz of 1940-1.

The Modern Companies are still closely linked to their professions (only a few are craft related), while many of

the ancient ones might appear not too relevant to modern life – what of the Loriners, Curriers and Armourers & Braziers? But a number have developed new relevant associations, such as the Fanmakers with aircraft engines and air conditioning, and the Horners with the modern plastics industry.

All are working hard towards their charitable objectives, including links with schools and colleges, scholarships, grants and trusts. An impressive £50 million is collectively distributed each year. A large proportion of this comes from the wealthiest few, but the Arts Scholars are already lucky enough to be able to play a good part, and hopefully this will grow further in future years.

Christopher Claxton Stevens



In April 1884 Punch had aldermen and beadles weeping bitterly over the anticipated results of the Royal Commission enquiry into the Livery Companies and the governance of the City of London. The system survived, but the report served as a wake-up call and in the early 21st century the Livery movement is thriving as never before.

PUBLICATIONS

A remarkable account of Elizabethan London

The Singularities of London, 1578
L. Grenade (edited by Derek Keene and Ian W. Archer). London Topographical Society, 2014. viii + 288pp, 61 col. and b/w illus. Hardback, £25.

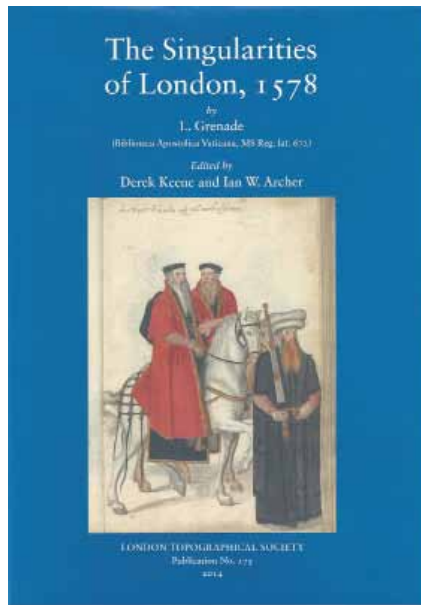
This book, emanating from Vatican Ms Reg. lat. 672, is a truly remarkable account and view of Elizabethan London, even more so in that it was written in French in praise of and in gratitude for the City's welcoming reception of religious refugees, and with a distinctly Protestant outlook. In 1581 there were 4,141 aliens listed as resident in London.

Grenade dedicates his account of the City, its immediate suburbs (i.e. outside the City wall) and all the details of its ceremonies, major buildings, markets and people, to the Lord Mayor, Sir Thomas Ramsey, and Aldermen of the City which "has on many occasions opened her breast to harbour close to her most noble bowels of the Church of the Lord Jesus, at those times when rope, sword and fire were pursuing it on all sides" – the terror of Mary's reign was still fresh in many minds.

It is not known exactly who Grenade was, but there are clues in the text that associate him with the complex family of the Granados who had fingers in many London pies in the 1570s. The family connections also spread widely through the Low Countries, France and the Rhineland.

Grenade appears to have visited London in 1577-78. He possibly stayed with Magdalen Lady Chester (widow of Sir James Granado) at her house in Mincing Lane as he shows a distinct interest in the areas close to her house.

The 13 chapters, descriptive perambulations through the City and "the singularities that are in it", are largely concerned with the areas around the City gates, Southwark, St Katherine's, the Tower, Thames Street, and



close by, but they also dwell on the privileges, the laws and policies, the election of the Lord Mayor, and the governing bodies that make the City what it is.

Grenade has a sense of the highlights (as do some earlier writers) but he has greater interest in the history of the City, its customs, laws, etc, and also civic philanthropy. He particularly notes with regard to the latter how if a man belongs to one of the 'Halls', i.e. a Livery Company, and is poor he is given a house free, a reasonable pension and money to set him back on his feet, and he is buried with honour and an excellent sermon.

The infrastructure, the water supplies, the number of households served by conduits, and the markets, especially Billingsgate, is particularly noted and explained.

The text, as may be expected from an overwhelmed foreigner, is a panegyric, piling on superlatives about a 'noble and triumphant city ... so ordered that nothing better is possible', but this is no bad thing (although perhaps a little misunderstood or erroneous at times) as he gives us such a brilliant and lively overall picture.

The copious notes are incredibly full and informative and backed by a fine selection of very pertinent illustrations, particularly strong in the details from contemporary maps and engravings of building and officials.

This is one of the most important descriptions of 16th century London and is presented here in a very readable translation by the editors, and the full original French text is also reproduced. It is remarkably good value for an interesting and exceptionally well-produced book.

Peter A. Clayton

NEW FREEMEN

Dr Adrian Ailes. Principal record specialist, Medieval and Early Modern at the National Archives. Member of the Heraldry Society.

Hillary Bauer. Independent adviser on culture and heritage.

The Hon Mrs Caroline Best. Sculptor and collector of 20th century art. Owner of Rossie Priory (Kinnaird Estate) with historic contents and works of art.

Patrick Boyd-Carpenter. Art consultant specialising in works of art from 15th to 20th centuries.

Toby Bull. Senior Inspector of Hong Kong police force. Art risk consultant.

Mrs Mo Cerrone. Jewellery historian, auctioneer and valuer.

Dr Charlie Changchen Fu. An eclectic collector of Chinese and other Asian maps, porcelain, mechanical machines and 1920s-50s radios. Associate Professor of Architecture at University of West London.

Rebecca Davies. CEO of LAPADA, The Association of Art and Antiques Dealers.

Jeremy Delmar-Morgan. Collector of watercolours inter alia. Formerly Director of Teather & Greenwood (brokers) dealing with the art market and conducted recognised research into dealers and auctioneers.

Dr Pat Hardy. Curator of paintings and prints and drawings at the Museum of London.

Emma Hawkins. Dealer, based in Edinburgh, specialising in unusual objects and taxidermy.

William Hiscocks. Formerly with Lombard Odier bank and a collector of watercolours, furniture, silver and Fabergé.

Roderick Jellicoe. Dealer in 18th century porcelain now dealing from home by appointment. BADA member.

Dr Michael Lewis. Archaeologist with the Portable Antiquities Scheme based at the British Museum.

Jill Makepeace-Warne. Recent chairman of NADFAS and currently Salisbury Cathedral guide.

Felicity Marno. Dealer in porcelain (Stockspring Antiques). Much published, with many exhibitions to her credit, e.g. Sir Hans Sloan's Plants.

Cynthia Sparke. Russian specialist and lecturer.

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

We are a happy and multi-talented band

I have this very day been to an early morning private viewing of "Bejewelled Treasures"(closes March 28th, 2016) from the Al-Thani collection at the V & A. They are magnificent and there are a few pieces that could happily have found their way into my handbag. However, earlier this year Murray Craig alerted me to the fact that the Henry V rock crystal sceptre would be on public display in the Guildhall Art Gallery. At the first opportunity I went to gaze at it and I would prefer that for Christmas please! The sceptre was given to the City as a thank you for funding the King's battles against the French, culminating with Agincourt, the 600th anniversary of which was celebrated this year.

At the lunch that followed Common Hall at Charterhouse on July 9th, Mark Bridge sat next to Brian McElney whose museum of East Asian Art in Bath is formed from his own collection of over 2,000 objects. During the lunch, Brian produced a beautiful Chinese Imperial cane handle from his pocket and started to tell Mark about the piece. Soon the whole table was deep in discussion about it. As a result, we have decided to hold a "Pocket Lunch" on March 14th next year at the Ironmongers' Hall where each Arts Scholar may bring along an object to show those attending. A great idea and full details will be sent in due course.

I know I tend to bang on about it, but we Arts Scholars are such an interesting bunch. The brief biographies of the new Freeman listed here are a testament to that, but it really came home to me at our admissions ceremony on November 24th at Bakers' Hall. This is the occasion when we officially welcome new members and issue certificates. Once they have sworn their allegiance to the Company and the City of London, each Freeman is asked to say a little more about themselves. What an interesting mix of experience and expertise this reveals. On this occasion we admitted 13 Freeman and 7 Liverymen. Perhaps on future occasions



The Crystal Sceptre

we might think about asking the newly-gowned Liverymen to say a few words too, as a reminder of all that they too have brought to the Company.

Our Regalia committee has been working hard to finalise the Deputy Master's gown in time to be worn at our dinner. This has generously been funded by Toby Parker. If any of you would like to make a contribution towards the Company's regalia – for example, we need a Beadle's Staff – do please let me know. We may have charitable funds at our disposal but the Company itself does not, so any donations in this respect would be most welcome.

I have mentioned in the past that I am on the Advisory Board for the Antique Dealers' project being run by Dr Mark Westgarth of Leeds University and I am pleased to say this is developing very well. In

essence, the plan is to record all dealers within the UK during the 20th century. If you look at their website (www.antiquesdealers.leeds.ac.uk) you will see they are also recording the oral histories of some members of the trade. Mark will be my guest at our annual dinner at the Clothworkers' Hall in January.

For those of you who did not manage to see the Henry V sceptre (illustrated) when it was on display in the Guildhall, it is

possible to catch a fleeting glimpse of it annually during its presentation at the Silent Ceremony when the outgoing Lord Mayor passes his authority to the incoming mayor. Each places a hand on the sceptre to mark the link back 600 years to 1415 and the Battle of Agincourt.

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers."



NEW FREEMEN

David Barry Sugarman. Former investment banker and a serious collector of 16th and 17th century jewellery.

Dr Hamed bin Mohammed al Suwaidi. Collector of ancient art, silver and English furniture. Senior Executive at the National Bank of Abu Dhabi.

Philip Taylor. Senior partner at Gorrings auctioneers in Lewes and has undertaken valuations at British embassies all over the world.

Rodrigo Titian. Furniture maker and conservator as a partner of Titian Studios. Clients include Historic Royal Palaces, Spencer House and the Queen's House, Greenwich.

John Turquand TD. Collector of military watercolours. Former curator of a Regimental Museum. Part of the HAC Light Cavalry.

David Ward. Chairman of Chinasearch, a company replacing odd items from a set, such as a plate from a dinner service.

Stephen Whittaker. Auctioneer – MD of Fellows & Sons auction house. Specialises in jewellery, watches and silver.

Bakers' Hall

On November 24th the Master admitted 7 more Freemen to the Livery, including our 100th Liveryman – Kent furniture dealer Lennox Cato.

Twelve new freemen were admitted the same evening, watched by a capacity crowd of friends, family and sponsors.

With so many in attendance the drinks reception afterwards was both crowded and lively.

For the new Liverymen the evening concluded with a supper hosted by the Master and Upper Warden.



The Master with our seven new Liverymen: Charles Dawson, Christopher Marinello, Diana Uff, Sonya Zuckerman, David Garnett, Lennox Cato, Mark Dennis



The Master with our new Freemen.

Left to right:
 Caroline Best,
 Rodrigo Titian,
 Jeremy Delmar-Morgan,
 Mo Cerrone,
 William Hiscocks,
 Felicity Marno,
 Jill Makepeace-Warne,
 Stephen Whittaker,
 Roderick Jellicoe,
 Cynthia Sparke,
 Hamed bin Mohammed
 al Suwaidi,
 Philip Taylor



Sonya and Michael Zuckerman



Timothy Schroder, Christopher Claxton Stephens, William Hiscocks



David Needham, Wynard Wilkinson



John Turquand, Cynthia Sparke, Anthony Willenbruch



Richard Aydon, Felicity Marno



Mary Foster, Alan Cook, Deborah Black