



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

In the last copy of "Company Comment" I expressed my appreciation of the support given by the longer serving members of my Court and went on to welcome several new members. I am pleased to say that already the contribution of these new members is evident, not only at our meetings but especially in events that are taking place or being arranged now for future months.

Geoffrey Wright has to be congratulated on organizing a very successful wine tasting evening at the Innocenti Restaurant, I regret I was unable to attend this function but from all accounts it was a great success.

David Moorcroft has organized a prestigious event at the Royal Ontario Museum Art Deco Exhibition, which, at the time of going to press, appears to be very well supported also. They both have other attractive events up their sleeves that may be reported elsewhere in this issue.

We also congratulate David's wife Gail Moorcroft on becoming the newest member of the Court - Welcome Gail!

On a rather disappointing note, I have to report that, despite considerable efforts on the part of Peter Leach and myself, who were prepared to organize and attend, the East Coast Chapter dinner had to be cancelled due to lack of support. This is normally held in Halifax at the end of September and follows the demise a few years ago of the West Coast Chapter dinner in Vancouver.

The overall membership situation in North America shows that, while membership in the Toronto area has flourished, the small groups of loyal members in the East coast, West coast and United States have declined in numbers to the point where it is difficult

for them to maintain a separate identity or centre of activity.

The influx of British immigrants has vastly declined in the 25 years since the Honourable Company was formed, and now numbers can only be maintained by recruiting new members who wish to become Freemen. The strong concentration of members in the Toronto area and their determination to survive by encouraging others to join has been responsible for the success in this area. Helping this, recent changes in the rules for becoming a Freeman have widened the scope for recruitment of new members, who no longer need to be British citizens and the idea of furthering trade opportunities between Toronto and London has also become an important motive for joining. Long may this situation prevail.

It is hard to realize that the end of the year will be upon us before the next issue of this publication. We are arranging events for early 2004 and that includes the AGM Dinner. This date is currently under review as I am presently in correspondence with the Lord Mayor of London's office regarding the possibility that the Lord Mayor may be able to attend our 25th AGM. He is visiting Toronto at the end of April and we are trying to arrive at a mutually convenient date. This will be a week earlier than previously scheduled but the final date will be announced in the next publication of this newsletter.

That publication will be in January, so I have to take this opportunity to wish all those who I may not see in person at our next couple of events, all the very best for 2004 and to everyone – have an enjoyable Christmas holiday.

Geoffrey Mayo Master

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

History

The Worshipful Company was incorporated by prescription in 1325 and it was originally known as “The Fraternity of St. Loie”. It appears that the earliest records of the Company have never been fully researched and are distributed in archives in the City. The Company itself has no documentary records until 1496 being an inventory of furniture, much of which had been in the possession of the Company for some time. The Company had been granted a lease for a Hall in 1494, but this was an older building and may have been the Hall of the Company for some time previous to this. In 1571, the Company was incorporated by Charter under Queen Elizabeth I

At this time the principal focus of the Company appears to have been religious.

The Company’s special saint is St. Dunstan. Born in 910 A.D. near Glastonbury, St. Dunstan, was educated at the Abbey and built himself a cell nearby where he practiced harp-playing and blacksmithing. The story goes that whenever he started to play his harp or to work at his anvil, the Devil would appear to tempt and jeer at him. One day, when his pincers were red hot, he seized the devil by the nose or as the rhyme has it:

“St. Dunstan so the story goes
Seized his sable majesty by the nose,
And made him loudly roar;
So loud indeed, from North to South
From East to West,
Like from thunder’s mouth
It echoed a thousand miles and more.”

This, however, was only one part; for St. Dunstan pulled out a parchment and made the devil sign a declaration that he would henceforth never molest The Holy Church or Holy men and keep aloof from all buildings in which hung a horseshoe. In some versions of the story, St. Dunstan also shoes the Devil.

The records of the Company are in very good condition and those of the Apprentices are complete and give the names and villages of their fathers. It is noted that few apprentices actually came from London.

The titles of the City Guilds in the Middle Ages did not always convey the same breadth of activities we associate with them today. The Blacksmith Company was also the Tooth-Drawers. The Spurriers Company was incorporated in 1571 and practiced in the “Art and Mystery de lez Backsmiths-Spurriers”. Clockmakers and Gunsmiths were also Blacksmiths and there was constant strife between the Blacksmiths and other related crafts such as the Armourers and Farriers. The battles between the Companies that controlled the various aspects of the art of fashioning metals

continued for several centuries as each attempted to assert authority over the competing trade areas.

In the early times, the Blacksmiths were not one of the well-endowed and financed Companies, and it was not until the Elizabethan times that the Company gained in wealth. Unfortunately, the Great Fire was a major setback as it was for the whole City. The Company lost its Hall and all the leasehold property was burned. The Company never regained its prosperity and was heavily indebted for years.

In the reign of James II, the Mayor dismissed all members from office who belonged to the “Established Church” as they were all deemed to be unfavourable to the King and his policies. As a result of the “Quo Warranto” order, all Wardens, Assistants and Liverymen were dismissed, causing and challenging dislocation in the administration of the Company just as it was recovering from the heavy expense of building a new Hall.

In 1785, earlier attempts to enforce the rules and by-laws of the Company on those practicing the trade in London failed when Parliament would entertain no proposals nor confirm any ancient statutes that would allow the Blacksmiths to control the trade. As a result the lease for the Hall was terminated, the plate sold and the funds turned over for the institution of pensions. It is clear that the Industrial Revolution and the industrial specialization of areas of England, especially Iron and Steel in the Midlands and Sheffield, was the death-knell of the Blacksmiths as Craft controlling organization.

Current Activities

The Company has seen a resurgence of its fortunes. Realizing that the Company still carried high respect, its members set about promoting excellence and creativity in the art and science of working with iron and other metals. The Company promotes both traditional and contemporary techniques of Blacksmithing through the process of awards that recognize superior workmanship and expertise. These run from Apprentice Certification, through Journeyman, Merit, Associate of the WCB, Fellow of the WCB, at the Bronze (Master Blacksmith), Silver (Eminent Master Blacksmith) and Gold (Supreme Master Blacksmith) levels. There is an Industrial Diploma of Excellence that recognises Industrial teams for their Excellence and a Licentiate for teachers holding appointments for blacksmithing and related subjects.

The Company also runs several blacksmithing competitions awarding the Tonypandy Cup and the National Champion Blacksmith Cup and cash prizes to encourage innovation, excellence and artistry.

Location

The Company operates from offices in 48 Upwood Road, SE12 8AN. It has no Livery Hall, but its Hall location in 1754 was just off Lambeth Hill, between Thames Street

(now Upper Thames Street) and Queen Victoria Street (formerly Old Fish Street). The Headquarters of the Salvation Army now occupies the site.

The Coat of Arms

The Company's Coat of Arms carries an heraldic shield at its centre depicting three hammers surmounted by crowns. Surrounding the Shield is a Dexter Support in the form of a Lion Rampant holding a Crosier and a Hammer, being the traditional attributes of St. Loye, (the vernacular form of St. Eligius, the Patron Saint of the Blacksmiths). The Sinister Supporter is a Swan, symbolizing grace and elegance. Suspended from the Swan's neck is an anchor – the traditional symbol of St. Clement, who was thrown into the sea with an anchor tied around his neck. Above the shield is a jousting helmet on which stands a bird. The motto is "By hammer and hand, all arts do stand"

Links to the Honourable Company

The Blacksmiths is the Livery Company of Ian Cumming, who lives in Katonah, NY

Information about the Company

The Prime Warden is currently Rodney Bole. The Clerk is Christopher Jeal, and the Honorary Archivist is Peter Rayner. The first two of these individuals can be contacted by writing to the Company offices or by e-mail: prime.warden@blacksmithscompany.org.uk or clerk@blacksmithscompany.org.uk.

This article was created from the website of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths (www.blacksmithscompany.org.uk) and supplemented with material taken from their Newsletters.

Upcoming Events

There are a number of events that are being planned including a reception with the Globe and Mail, a charity event and a theatre night, but none have confirmed dates or locations at this time. Announcements will be posted on our website and mailed as soon as the arrangements are confirmed.

Annual Dinner 2004

Location	The Albany Club 51 King Street East, Toronto
Date and Time	30 th April or 1 st May 2004, 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm
Dress	Dinner Jacket or Dark Business Suit
Cost	TBD

Events Report

Wine Tasting at Innocenti Restaurant

Nineteen Members and friends met at Innocenti Restaurant to enjoy the opportunity of tasting some fine and interesting wines. This was an enjoyable gathering, adding to

everyone's understanding about wine as well as meeting colleagues and friends in delightful surroundings

Visit to Art Deco Exhibition

Over 50 members and guests spent an enjoyable Art Deco evening at the Royal Ontario Museum on October 29th

The ROM has been honoured to be the first of only three North American venues for the Victoria and Albert Museum's Art Deco Exhibit, following its record breaking success at home in London. The Honourable Company was also privileged to have the opportunity of a tour of the exhibition with a reception and lecture afterwards.

An informal tour of the exhibits took place between 4 and 6 pm after which the group moved to the Canada Court reception room for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. The Master then introduced the speaker Peter Kaellgren, the exhibit's lead curator, who delivered a delightful talk on the movements and personalities responsible for the growth and flourishing of the of the Art Deco movement between the first and the second World wars and the typical changes in style, colour, materials and design that characterised the period.

After thanking the speaker, the Master then thanked Court member David Moorcroft who had organized this prestigious, well attended and enjoyable event.

Upcoming Visit of the Lord Mayor to Canada and US

As reported in the "From the Master" Column, the Master has been in touch with the Office of the Lord Mayor following the receipt of information that he is planning a trip to Canada and the US between 28th April and 4th May. The Court is planning to change the date of the Company's Annual Meeting and Dinner so that the Lord Mayor can attend and speak. As 2004 will be our 25th Anniversary, the timing of the Lord Mayor's visit is very opportune. As the Master is still attempting to coordinate the timing of the Dinner and the Lord Mayor's other commitments, we encourage all members to keep the following dates open for the Annual Dinner and Meeting: Friday 30th April 2004, and Saturday 1st May 2004. The Court will advise you of the final date once this has been decided and confirmed with the Lord Mayor's Office and this date and other relevant information about the visit will be in our next Company Comment, which is due out in January 2004.

Recent New Member Biographies

In the previous issue, some of the new Members' brief biographies were not included. The Court is pleased to bring them to you now:

Robin Hart

Robin has a long history of association with the City of London. He was a student at the City of London Freemen's School from 1945 to 1951 and went on to become a Freeman in 1954. Insurance

Scott Stennett and Christina Fung

The Court is pleased to welcome a professional couple into membership. Scott was born in Belleville, Ontario, spending most of his formative years in the farming community of Blenheim, while Christina was born in Hong Kong and came to Canada when she was 16. Scott studied for his degree in Finance at the University of Windsor and Christina studied engineering at Queen's University. They both now work in the finance industry; Scott formerly with Fidelity Canada overseeing their project administration; and Christina with the TD bank as an IT Project Manager. Scott is actively involved in start-up ventures. He is forming a brokerage firm targeting high net worth clients. The brokerage itself is being funded by the Richardson family.

Scott's interest in the Honourable Company is stimulated by his desire to meet and interact with interesting people while supporting worth causes. As Canada has developed its political and cultural framework from its British, French and Aboriginal heritage, he wants to participate in the traditions of the City from which so many of our institutions' practices and customs are derived.

Christina has now attended a number of Freemen events and has enjoyed meeting such a "respectable and interesting crowd". She has learnt a lot already as a result of the interactions and friendship that she has developed

Both Scott and Christina enjoy the outdoor life and are keen campers, and skiers, and they add roller-blading, golfing and swimming to this list.

New Members

Colin E.G. Reigate

Colin was born and educated in London, England, and spent a short time working in the City before joining the British Army. After 4 years of service, much of which was spent overseas, Colin became a Police Officer in Hong Kong. He served for 31 years before taking retirement in 1984. Like many members of the Honourable Company, he found the attraction of Canada very powerful and immigrated here to find the space that was so difficult to find in Hong Kong.

Colin is a good friend of our Founding Master, Captain G. Ray Gibson, and he has already enjoyed the hospitality of the Company on several occasions as Ray's guest.

John A. Clarke

John has recently been admitted as one of our British members, his interest being sparked by a love of the City of London and business interests in the US. After conversations in London with your Editor, John, who is already very active in the City, saw value in membership, as

he is a frequent visitor to North America as a venture capital company "doctor" and consultant.

The Clarke Consulting Partnership was created by John in 1982. As the company expanded, it developed the need to manage corporate financings and John span-out City Venture Brokers in 1987. John's and CCP's interests in North America now centre on Enigma Data Systems Ltd. He is Chairman of the Company and this brings him to Houston, TX as a regular visitor, Houston being the company's North American HQ

John has a long list of accomplishments. He is a Fellow of the British Institute of Directors and the Institute of Financial Accountants. He is a Liveryman and a member of the Court of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers and a member of the Guild of Freemen.

He is happily married to Lucja (Lucy) and hopes to be able to join in a few events of the Honourable Company wherever his travels synchronize with our events and an extra stopover can be arranged.

Members in the News

Godfrey Jacobs

As all Freemen are aware, new rules have been introduced concerning the grant of the Freedom of the City of London. They now permit the City to honour people from many different nations with the Freedom. Our London Clerk, Godfrey Jacobs, is one of the leaders in promoting this opportunity, especially in assisting young leaders to become affiliated with the City and to seek the Freedom. On 25th July, "La Dépêche de Tahiti" reported the first Polynesian to be granted the Freedom. Godfrey Jacobs sponsored this young Polynesian, Jonathan K. Gowan and he was invested on 7th June 2003. Jonathan currently works in the City where he is a senior executive in the world's third largest private bank – JP Morgan Private Bank. Like Godfrey, the Honourable Company has also sponsored people who do not have the traditional links to the City and the United Kingdom and we wish to encourage people with a love for the City to take this opportunity and to follow the example set by Jonathan with the support of the Honourable Company and Godfrey.

John Clarke

Having welcomed John Clarke as a new Member of the Honourable Company, his business history has recently been reported in the Institute of Directors "City Director Magazine". The type of recognition is rare indeed but one can possibly see why. He has been either the managing director, chairman, international vice-president or non-executive director of a host of UK, European and US companies. He is quoted as "believing that their (US) business grounding is stronger than ours (British)" but "I also think that the directors here in the UK are better overall than their counterparts across the Atlantic". He has recently stepped down from an all ladies spa group – Sanctuary Spa

Group – where he had been chairman for 4 years. Concerning his future, he says that “I’ve no interest in being with a company past my own sell-by date and I know when it is time to move on.

In terms of his involvement in the City, he is also a committed Lord’s Taverner.

Canada /UK Trade

As all our members will be aware, Canada / UK trade is substantial. Recent figures produced by the Canadian Association of Importers and Exporters show that the total value of merchandise traded at just over \$14B in 2002. The UK ranks third in the world for Canadian exports and fifth for Canadian imports. Overall trade value in the first 6 month of 2003 increased by 4.6% compared to the previous year. Amongst products exported to the UK, CAIE reports that diamonds, gold, aluminum and nickel and machined parts have increased dramatically. Notable increases in imports to Canada from the UK include airplane and helicopter parts, medications and tractors. It is interesting that import reductions were seen in crude oil, gas turbine and computer parts.

It is easy to understand why the UK is Canada’s most important market in Europe – history, culture, language, laws, location and banking – and results in more than one third of all EU exports being sold there.

Of course, visible trade, while very important, is only part of the picture. The City of London is the World’s second largest financial centre as the non-visible trade is also very large.

Welcome to the New British High Commissioner

The Honourable Company would like to welcome David Reddaway, CMG MBE, as the British High Commissioner to Canada and his wife, Roshan Firouz. There is an excellent resume of David on the High Commission’s website at www.britainincanada.org. He is, in fact, returning to his place of birth, but it appears he has been almost everywhere in the world since – from Ethiopia, to Tehran, the Falkland Islands to New Delhi and Argentina to Afganistan.

He is well acquainted with the Guild and Livery Companies of the City, having attended Oundle School, a Grocers’ Company School, and another member of his broader family (uncle or first cousin) wrote the official history of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.

We look forward to his attendance at our events whenever this proves possible

Obituaries

Ian Ferrar

Ian joined the Honourable Company in 2000 and it is with great sadness that we report his untimely death on 21st September 2003. Ian had a long and successful career as an aeronautical engineer, becoming a senior staff engineer with Hawker Siddeley Aviation. Since his retirement, he had worked enthusiastically in developing the Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Canada. At the time of his death, Ian was the National President of the Foundation. He will leave a significant void in the leadership of the Foundation and in aviation heritage in Canada.

Over the years, Ian had become a close friend of our Founding Master, Captain G. Ray Gibson, who had introduced Ian to the Honourable Company. Membership in the Company clearly appealed to Ian as a means of building relationships with like-minded people who love British Heritage and who respect the traditions and honour obligations of Freemen.

Ian was born in Bradford, England and had a life-long love for aviation. He leaves his wife and family with years of happy memories

Article written with information provided by Captain Ray Gibson, Founding Master.

Communications with your Company

Honorary Clerk

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

His address is:

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250 Heath Street West, Suite 1205
Toronto, ON M5P 3L4
Phone: 416 482 0095
Fax: 416 488 8578
E-mail: martin22@sympatico.ca

Membership Secretary

For membership, the main point of contact with the Honourable Company is through the Membership Secretary. A lot of information about membership is also available on the Honourable Company's website:

www.freemenlondon.org

The Membership Secretary's address is:

Neil S. Purcell
8 Carman Court
Barrie, ON L4N 5E8
E-mail: neilivia@rogers.com
Phone (home): 705 721 0307
Fax (home): 705 721 1230
Phone (office): 905 738 6785
Fax (office): 905 738 2441

Local Representatives:

East Coast Chapter

The East Coast Chapter Clerk is:

Kenneth E. Wood
589 Young Avenue
Halifax, NS B3H 2V6
Phone: 902 425 8013
Fax: 902 425 8013

West Coast Chapter:

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

London Clerk

Our London Clerk, Godfrey Jacobs, represents the Company in the City.

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Company Website

The Honourable Company refers members and friends to the Company Website, which carries information about the Company and its activities. Our calendar of events and this newsletter, together with membership information, our history and other useful links are provided for your convenience. The Membership Form for the Honourable Company can be downloaded in Adobe Acrobat format under "How to become a Member".

The site address is www.freemenlondon.org. We welcome your comments and your ideas for the addition of useful information, and hope that we can generate a valuable dialogue between Freemen, especially amongst our members, through this site.

Information on the Livery Companies and Guilds

The easiest way of finding out about the City Livery Companies, City Companies without Livery and City Guilds is to visit their websites. With 66 of 103 Livery Companies, 2 of 6 City Companies without Livery and all three Guilds having websites, this is now much easier. The easiest way to find these sites is via the City of London site at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/leisure_heritage/livery/linklist.htm. Not all of the site addresses are self evident, some being under the ".co.uk" subgroup and others under the ".org.uk" address subgroup. "Google.co.uk" search engine returns these addresses effectively.