



The Worshipful Company of Fruiterers

HANDBOOK



The Master's Badge

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LIVERY COMPANIES

In mediaeval times craftsmen and traders formed themselves into guilds, societies and brotherhoods in order to govern their trade, maintain quality, train apprentices and care for their members.

In due course the Crown, recognizing their increasing power and importance, granted charters of incorporation. They adopted a common hierarchy headed by the Master or Warden (for one year) and his Court of Assistants and also took to wearing distinctive dress known as the Livery.

As the influence of the London Companies grew they demanded a louder voice in the government of the City obtaining electoral rights for the Mayoralty and the Sheriffs.

For more than five hundred years the Livery Companies were at the heart of the commercial, social and religious life of the merchants and manufacturers of London. Largely through them the City achieved its eminence as the greatest trading metropolis in the world.

By late Victorian times the connection most Companies had with their craft had atrophied, nevertheless they continued to flourish as City institutions. There are now over 100 such companies in the City of London.

THE FRUITERERS COMPANY, in existence before 1300 AD, is among the oldest and stands 45th in order of precedence of the Livery Companies.

During this century the fruiterers have returned to the company. Now, well over half the members are involved in the fresh produce industry.

Companionship and conviviality have been the golden thread that has sustained the company over the centuries and through many changes.

THE FRUITERERS' COMPANY OBJECTIVES

- a) To promote excellence across all sectors of the fruit industry.
- b) To support education and research within the fruit industry.
- c) To be active in raising funds and giving to charity.
- d) To support and promote the City of London.
- e) To foster a spirit of good fellowship and encourage new membership.

STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATION

Membership of the Livery comprises some 250 Liverymen (both men and women), a number of distinguished Honorary Liverymen and some Honorary Freemen.

Ultimate authority of the Company rests with the Master supported by the Upper Warden and the Renter Warden. They take office annually at the start of the Company's year in January on St Paul's Day.

OFFICERS

There are seven permanent officers :-

- The Honorary Chaplain
- The Learned Clerk, who has overall administrative responsibility.
- The Honorary Accountant
- The Honorary Archivist
- The Remembrancer
- The Fruit Porter who prepares the fruit for presentation to the Lord Mayor
- The Beadle who attends on the Court

COURT OF ASSISTANTS

The Company is governed by the Court, comprising Assistants and is chaired by the Master.

Election as an Assistant is normally restricted to those who have served the office of Renter Warden. All Past Masters remain members of the Court for life, unless the statutory maximum of 20 is exceeded in which case some may have restricted voting rights. Each year the Court elects up to four members of the Livery to serve for two years as Honorary Assistants to the Court. The annual appointment of Renter Warden is made from liverymen who have served or are serving as Honorary Assistants.

THE MASTER'S COMMITTEE

The Master is assisted by a Master's Committee which advises and supports the Master and puts forward ideas and plans for final approval by the Court.

It also interviews potential Renter Wardens and candidates either for election to the Livery or to serve as Apprentices.

SUB-COMMITTEES

Three Sub-Committees make recommendations and report to the Master's Committee on Finance, Membership and Communications (also responsible for the Company Newsletter), Charity and Fund Raising and Presentation of Fruit.

These offer the opportunity for Liverymen to participate further in Company affairs.

FRUITERERS' AWARDS COUNCIL

Responsibility for the Company's support for the fruit industry is vested in the Fruiterers Awards Council. The Council grants awards for excellence and supports education and research into fruit culture and marketing. It administers the major triennial awards – the Lewis Award for Marketing, the Ridley Medal for distinguished services to fruit growing and the Matthew Mack Award for distinguished achievements for training within the fruit industry.

It acts as a catalyst for a variety of educational programmes such as the six month sandwich, Strategic Management and Grower courses. It also promotes the Company's annual Environmental Awards.

The Council is also involved in the Tree Planting programme at the Garden of the Year and other prestigious venues.

The Council consists of the Master and Wardens, a Chairman and ten other members to include representatives of the technical, marketing, educational and promotional sectors of the industry.

FINANCE

ADMISSION FINES, FEES AND ANNUAL QUARTERAGE

Upon admission to the Freedom of the Company a 'Fee' is payable, and upon election to the Livery a 'Fine' must be paid.

All members are required to pay in February of each year an annual payment of 'Quarterage'.

Liverymen, who have attained the age of 70, and paid Quarterage for a minimum of 15 years, are not obliged to pay Quarterage, but are encouraged to make donations of the same, or similar amount. Liverymen, below the age of 35, pay only half the annual Quarterage until reaching that age.

Apprentices serve a four year apprenticeship and pay only a quarter of the fine upon grant of the livery.

Payment of Quarterage by Direct Debit is mandatory for newly joining Freemen who are encouraged to use it also for the payment of attendance at any Company event.

CHARITABLE FUNDS

All liverymen are expected to contribute to the fund raising and charitable activities, a principal objective of the Company. This they do through the following trusts:

THE FRUIT CULTURE TRUST

This charitable Trust provides the funds for the projects and awards supported by the Fruiterers Awards Council. These funds are specifically for disbursement within the fruit industry. Without continuing donations from the Livery the Company's furtherance of research, education and the promotion of excellence would diminish.

THE CHARITABLE TRUST

This charitable fund enables the Company to support worthwhile projects of a general nature and which are not necessarily associated with the fruit industry.

FRANKLAND'S GIFT FUND

This charitable fund enables the Company to provide support to those in need within the Company, their widows and families.

THE FRUITERERS' YEAR

The Company's year commences on St Paul's Day (January 25th) which is the Feast-Day of the Conversion of St Paul, the patron saint of the Company. On this day the new Master and Wardens take office.

A **Livery Service** is held at St Mary Abchurch in Abchurch Lane off Cannon Street in the City, at noon. The Company enjoys a long association with St Mary Abchurch, a Wren Church in which the Company is commemorated by a stained glass window designed by Lawrence Lee A.R.C.A., installed in 1976.

The Company's **Annual Banquet** takes place some days later to which the Lord Mayor and other dignitaries are invited, along with distinguished guests from the Church, the Diplomatic Corps, the Services, the Judiciary and Business. This is the Company's main function of the year and Liverymen are encouraged to bring guests.

Further opportunities for the Company to entertain, and for its liverymen to mix, are provided at the Court Dinners which follow Court meetings. These are in May after the **Audit Court**, at which the annual accounts are adopted, in July after the **Summer Court** and in November at the **Master & Wardens Dinner** so named because members of the Court are guests of those office holders on that occasion.

All Liverymen are encouraged to attend, where capacity permits.

The Company does not own its own hall but enjoys the rich variety afforded by using City Livery halls.

The November event is traditionally held at the Innholders Hall, also the venue for the St Paul's Day lunch and Court.

In addition, a number of informal lunches are held and the Master arranges one or two mixed social events, usually outside London.

There is also an active golf society which enjoys an annual meeting in May and participation in inter livery golf matches.

There is a continuing programme of planting fruit trees in prominent and important gardens to encourage further planting of species appropriate to the character of the garden. These occasions also provide opportunities for liverymen to meet their fellow liverymen and also those at the top of the horticultural profession.

Each October the Company makes a formal **Presentation of Fruit** to the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House (most of which is later distributed to charity). This ceremony derives from the days when the fruit trade in London was in the hands of the Fruiterers Mystery (Company). Tolls on the fruit brought into the City were levied by the Lord Mayor who appointed four Fruit Meters or Measurers to decide the charges. Disputes arose from time to time and after one such in 1748 settlement was agreed on condition of an annual presentation of not more than twelve bushels of fruit to the Lord Mayor, by the Company.

In addition there are certain events in the City calendar which the Livery is expected to support.

The election of the Sheriffs takes place on Midsummer Day (24 June), and that of the Lord Mayor on Michaelmas Day (29 September) at the Guildhall. Known as Common Hall, all Liverymen have a commitment to attend and vote. Every Liveryman (after he or she has been admitted to the Livery for a period of twelve calendar months prior to the 31st May in any year) is qualified to attend and should vote at any Common Hall.

The Company also holds its own Common Hall providing an opportunity for a general meeting of the Livery usually on a day when liverymen are gathered for one of the City events described above.

Each March the Annual Livery Service takes place at St Paul's Cathedral - the United Guilds Service.

Each Company is allocated a certain number of seats.

PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION TO THE LIVERY

Those first joining the Livery Company become Freemen of the Company, and there are three means by which this can be obtained, apart from election as Honorary Freemen.

The most common is by Redemption. Having attained the age of 21 the applicant must be sponsored by two Liverymen of the Company who have known him/her for at least five years, and who are satisfied that the standing of the candidate is compatible with the image and objectives of the Company's general and social activities.

Admission by Parentage (patrimony) applies to candidates born after the admission of the parent to the Freedom of the Company. The candidate can claim the Freedom as of right on attaining the age of 21.

Admission by Servitude, requires a period of apprenticeship with the applicant indentured to a Liveryman for four years before Freedom of the Company is granted.

The Apprenticeship scheme, re-introduced in 2000, allows for younger people to learn about the Company, without the full cost of membership, through their being 'mentored' by longer standing liverymen. It also keeps the Company in touch with younger members of the fruit industry and such other professions as are represented within the Company and thus broaden its relevance. Apprentices must be aged between 21 and 35 at the start of their apprenticeship, which will last from four years from the date of sealing of the indenture by the Court.

The 'mentor' or 'master' must be a Liveryman of at least three years standing and should be in the same branch of the industry or profession as the apprentice. His/her duty is to guide and instruct the apprentice about the Company.

This entails attending the Company's main functions as well as the City of London Briefing.

At the conclusion of the four years the apprentice master reports to the Court and, with its approval, the apprentice is elected a Freeman of the Company.

After successful interview by the Master's Committee a recommendation is made to the Court that the candidate be elected to the Freedom. Following election the person attends the Court and takes the oath:

THE OATH OF EVERY FREE MEMBER OF THE MYSTERY OF FRUITERERS

" You shall swear to be true to our Sovereign Lady, the Queen's Majesty that now is and her Heirs and Successors / Kings and Queens of England / and also to be true and faithful to the Company of the Trade or Mystery of the Fruiterers of the City of London / whereof you are now made free / keeping as much as in you lies / Love Concord and Unity among them without stirring or moving any occasion of strife or discord through which the said Trade or Mystery / or any person of the same may or might be hurt or hindered / And also you shall in all lawful things and causes be obedient and obeysant always to the Master and Wardens of this Mystery for their time being and all the Lawful Rules Statutes and Ordinances made and ordained / or to be made and ordained / for the weale of the said Mystery / well and truly you shall maintain and support to the best of your power / and also you shall duly and truly pay or cause to be paid the Quarterages and such other Taxes and Duties as shall be yearly lawfully and reasonably rated and set upon you to pay to the Fellowship / and to be contributory to all manner of Lawful and reasonable charges belonging and necessarily appertaining to you to pay and bear as other Brethren do / to the best of your power / Also you shall obey all manner of summons done in the said Master and Wardens names by their Beadle or other Officer therefore assigned / All these Articles you shall well and truly perform and maintain without fraud or maligne to the best of your power. So God you help and by the Contents of this Book."

To become a Liveryman of the Company, Freemen must first gain the Freedom of the City of London and are then entitled to apply for the Livery of the Fruiterers' Company.

In recognition of distinguished service, the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants may appoint Honorary Freemen and Honorary Liverymen. Such a person is granted the Freedom of the Company, *Honoris Causa* and may then proceed to the Livery.

SYMBOLS OF OFFICE

THE COMPANY'S ARMS (Illustrated on cover)

Azure on a mount base vert the Tree of Paradise environed with the Serpent between Adam and Eve all proper.

First Motto: *Arbor vitae Cristus, fructus per fidem gustamus* – “Christ is the Tree of Life whose fruit we taste through faith”.

Second Motto: *Deus dat incrementum* - “God gives the Increase”

The Company has used these arms since before 1476. They were confirmed by Letters Patent from the College of Arms in 1979.

THE MASTER'S BADGE (Illustrated inside front cover)

The Master's badge is the symbol of authority by which the Company is governed. It hangs from a loop formed from the Coat of Arms of the City of London, signifying the allegiance to the Lord Mayor and the Corporation. The centre panel shows the Company Arms below which is the date of the Charter, above a panel depicting St Paul preaching in Athens.

Badges of Office are also worn by the Upper Warden, the Renter Warden, Past Masters, Honorary Assistants and the Clerk. All badges are worn around the neck, except Honorary Assistants' which are worn on the breast pocket.

THE BEADLE'S STAFF (Illustrated inside back cover)

The staff is the symbol of office of the Beadle. The staff which is of rosewood, silver and gilt, was designed by an apprentice of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths and replaced that which had been in use by the Company since 1768, but which was stolen in 1979.

LIVERY TIES

Each Liveryman is presented with the Company tie, in azure and green, on the day he is clothed and ladies receive the Company scarf. These can be considered as representing the livery of earlier times. A second tie, in dark blue patterned with the Company's Coat of Arms, may be purchased from the Clerk. Either may be worn at the Liveryman's discretion.

The Master and Past Masters are permitted to wear these ties embroidered with a representation of the Master's Badge.

COMPANY HONOURS

(Up to date of publication)

HONORARY LIVERYMEN

H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, KG, KT, GCB.

The company's links with HRH. The Prince of Wales, commenced with its gift, as a wedding present in 1979, of fruit trees to stock the walled garden at Highgrove. After His Royal Highness attended and spoke at the Annual Banquet in 1989 he accepted an invitation to become an Honorary Liveryman of the Company.

Sir Peter Studd, GBE, KCVO, MA, DSc, DL

Dame Mary Donaldson, GBE

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Plumb, DL MEP

Sir Peter Gadsden, GBE, AC, FREng

His Honour Judge Michael Hyam, The Recorder of London

HONORARY LIVERYMEN REPRESENTING THE ARMED FORCES

Shortly after the conclusion of the second World War the Court of the Company considered it appropriate to invite a distinguished Officer from each Service to become an Honorary Freeman of the Company. It was decided that the rank of such Officers should not be less than that of Admiral: General: Air Chief Marshal.

In 1956, the 'Three Musketeers', as they had affectionately become known, were raised to full Honorary Liverymen of the Company.

In 1977 the late Assistant C.H.A. Matthey gave to the Company three silver gilt goblets for use by these Honorary Liverymen at Company functions. Each goblet has upon it the Company's Arms and those of the respective Service together with the names of the successive representatives.

It is interesting to note that all representatives have been members of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath and have enjoyed their common Livery background within the Order whose motto is *Tria juncta in uno* (Three joined in one).

The following Honorary Liverymen have represented their Service:

The Royal Navy

1956 - 1957	Admiral Sir Arthur Power, GCB, CBE, CVO
1966 - 1967	Admiral of the Fleet Sir Casper John, GCB
1977 - 1999	Admiral Sir David Williams, GCB, DL
1999 -	Admiral of the Fleet Sir Benjamin Bathurst, GCB

The Army

1956 - 1974	General Sir William Platt, GBE, KCB, DSO.
1974 - 1991	General Sir John Mogg, GCB, CBE, DSO, DL
1991 -	General Sir Robert Pascoe KCB, MBE

The Royal Air Force

1956 - 1969	Air Chief Marshal Sir James Robb, GCB, KBE, DSO, DFC, AFC
1969 - 1986	Air Chief Marshal Sir Augustus Walker, GCB, CBE, DSO, DFC, AFC
1986 -	Air Chief Marshal Sir Thomas Kennedy, GCB, AFC, DL

HONORARY FREEMEN

Dr. A.F. Posnette, CBE, ScD, FRS.

H.A. Baker

E.H. Worraker

B. Self

R. Parker

THE ROLL OF THE MASTERS

(From 1900)

1900	Joseph Charles Dawson
1901	Sir John Pound, Bart (Alderman) (Lord Mayor 1904-5)
1902	John Lea-Smith
1903	Lear James Drew
1904	Sir Rowland E. Whitehead, Bart., KC
1905	John Colette Thomas
1906	George Bunyard, VMH
1907	Alfred Bull
1908	Alfred Wigelsworth Orwin, MD
1910	Arthur John Hough
1911	Col. Vickers Dunfee, VD, CC
1912	Major William Henry Thomas
1913	John Cooke Hewlett
1914	Robert Williamson
1915	Sir James Duncan
1916	Sir James Duncan
1917	Robert McKenzie Reid
1918	Sir Edward Cecil Moore, Bart. (Alderman) (Lord Mayor 1922-3)
1919	Sir Stanley Machin, JP
1920	Frank Robert Ridley, JP
1921	John Quiller Rowlett, LLD
1922	Frederick Edward Eiloart
1923	Thomas Guy Macaulay Hine, OBE
1924	Vivian Charles Hewlett
1925	John Sullivan
1926	Sir J.E. Kynaston Studd, Bart., OBE, (Alderman) (Lord Mayor 1928-9)
1927	Major E. C. P. Monson
1928	Percy Kelham Langdale
1929	Henry Thomas Cart de Lafontaine, MA
1930	Sir Stanley Machin, JP (second time)
1931	Noel Walter Richardson
1932	George Monro, CBE, VMH
1933	Sir Frederick W. Keeble, CBE, DSc, FRS
1934	Sir Harry Finlayson Methven, KBE
1935	Henry Alderson Lewis
1936	Henry Leslie Hendriks, OBE.
1937	Archibald William Shillan
1938	Henry Joseph Mash
1939	George Swift JP
1940	Ferdinand Robert Eiloart

1941	Ferdinand Robert Eiloart (second time)
1942	Cuthbert Grasemann, MA
1943	Charles James Pratt
1944	Alex. Colin Eiloart
1945	John Edward Charles Stubbs
1946	Charles G. L. Du Cann
1947	John Chapman
1948	Thomas Knox-Wright
1949	Joseph Patrick Rochford VMH, JP
1950	Arthur Mortimer, OBE
1951	Leslie Doubleday, JP
1952	Ernest E. Taylor, CBE
1953	Harold Arthur George Dix
1954	Edgar Hosken
1955	Alec William Poupart
1956	Basil Unite, OBE.
1957	Sir Clayton Russon, OBE
1958	Percy Frederick Cranmer
1959	Donald Arthur Ridley
1960	Ernest Hickling, OBE
1961	Leonard Ernest Wuille, OBE
1962	Gilbert Thomas Nunn
1963	Leslie Middleton Turnbull, FCA
1964	Brigadier Ferdinand Shaw Eiloart, OBE
1965	Stanley Robert Coster
1966	Frank Gray Healey
1967	Henry Ross Lewis, OBE
1968	Garth Leslie Doubleday, TD, DL
1969	Frederick John Hughes Brackett, MBE
1970	Walter Charles Withecombe Brice, OBE, TD, DL
1971	James William Stead
1972	Robert William Manners
1973	James Robert Webster
1974	Donald Mack, OBE
1975	Robert Arthur Sice
1976	Michael Richard Barton
1977	Sir John Julius Wells, MA, MP
1978	John Matthews Squires, JP
1979	Gordon Nisbett Hope-Mason
1980	Frederick John Hughes Brackett, MBE (second time)
1981	William James, CBE Brigadier Ferdinand Shaw Eiloart, OBE (second time)
1982	Dr. Richard Sherwin Gothard
1983	Luis Ethelbert Francis Hector Fulford
1984	Harold Milward Arthur
1985	Ronald Edward Starns

1986	Matthew William Mack
1987	Norman Gerald Sheldon, BSc
1988	Anthony Graham Coster
1989	David Gordon Hope-Mason
1990	The Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Du Cann, KBE, MA
1991	David Leslie Hohnen
1992	Alan Francis Todd, MBE
1993	Michael Burrans Sykes
1994	Michael Charles Wallis
1995	Sir Rowland Whitehead, Bt
1996	Michael John Tanguy
1997	Derek Tullett, CBE
1998	Anthony Edward Redsell
1999	His Honour Judge Donald Cryan
2000	Laurence Stephen Olins JP

THE CLERKS

1605 -	Richard Colson
1686 -	John Bell
1701 - 1711	John Bushnell
1712	Joseph Knapp
1713 - 1721	D. Williams
1722 - 1756	John Harwood
1756 - 1769	Charles Lesure
1769 - 1774	William Poell
1774 - 1812	William Brent
1812 - 1838	Charles Martin
1839 - 1861	Nathaniel Martin
1861 - 1890	O.C.T. Eagleton
1890 - 1931	John Eagleton
1933 - 1948	Guy T. Eagleton
1948 - 1960	Donald J. Methven
1960 - 1967	J. Jeremy Moreton
1967 - 1980	David L. Hohnen
1980 - 1981	Roger A. Hutchinson
1981 - 1985	John C. Airey
1985	Pauline Halliday
1986 - 1988	Brigadier Ronald Eccles, DSO
1989 - 1996	Commander Michael Styles RN
1996 -	Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Lionel G. French

FRUIT PORTERS

1974 - 1979	P.F. Girdler
1979 - 1981	M.J.C. Waltham
1982 - 1988	C.T. Lawrence
1988 -	L.G. Price

AWARD WINNERS

THE RIDLEY MEDAL

The Company's records prior to this date were destroyed.

1950	Morley Benjamin Crane (Honorary Freeman)
1957	Dr. A.M. Massee
1960	Donald Arthur Ridley (Liveryman and Past Master)
1963	Ralph Vivian Harris
1966	Frederick Alkmund Roach
1969	Dr. Francis Ralph Tubbs, CBE, and Dr. W.S. Rogers (joint award)
1972	John Meiklejohn Saunders Potter, OBE, VMH
1975	Pamela Salvage
1978	Dr. Adrian Frank Posnette, DSc, PhD, FIBiol
1981	Dr. L.C. Luckwill, BSc, PhD, FIBiol
1984	Dr. J.E. Crosse
1987	H.J.M. Darby, BSc (Agric.)
1990	Dr. R. O. Sharples
1993	Dennis Butt BSc. DPP, FIBiol
1996	Dr Jim Quinlan
1999	Peter Wheldon

THE LEWIS AWARD FOR MARKETING

1968	J.A. Le Garff (Guernsey Tomato Marketing Board)
1971	Sir Richard Boughey, Bart. JP, (Apple and Pear Dev. Council)
1974	Sir J. W. S. Mount, CBE, (Home Grown Fruits Ltd)
1977	Florian Brann (South African Co-operative Citrus Exchange)
1980	H.W. Strange MBE. (Land Settlement Association)
1983	N.G. Sheldon (South African Deciduous Fruit Board)
1986	Douglas S. Kemp (Kentish Garden)
1989	Matthew Mack (Fresh Fruit and Veg Information Bureau)
1992	Peter Briggs (Sinclair International Ltd)
1995	Marks & Spencer plc
1998	Ian Mitchell

MATTHEW MACK AWARD

1991	John Hewitt
1994	Linda Allen
1997	Rodger Worraker
2000	Don Findlay

FRUIT CULTURE AWARD

1993	Rodger Worraker
1994	John Turnbull
1995	Mike Banwell
1996	Eric Gunn
1997	Geoff Emp
1998	Peter Barwick
1999	Don Vaughan
2000	Tom Browne

SKILLED ARTISAN AWARD

1971	D.F. Carey (East Kent Fruit Society)
1972	F. Holmes (East Kent Fruit Society)
1973	A.A. Percival (East Kent Fruit Society)
1974	F.C. Wilkinson (East Kent Fruit Society)
1975	Charles Frank Brown (Hadlow College)
1977	Charles George Kilhams (Framptons Nurseries Ltd.)
1978	Mede Goodger (East Malling Research Station)
1979	Mrs D. Brown & Mr C. Heath
1980	Peter G. Neave
1981	Christopher G. Thomas
1982	Haden Williams
1983	Mrs G. May
1984	Ronald H. Coveney
1985	Charles T. Jay
1986	A. G. Patterson
1987	D.J. Pilcher

Became FRUIT CULTURE AWARD

CRAFTSMAN'S AWARD

1997	Stan Hadlow
1998	Alec Thompsett
1999	Leslie Smith
2000	Chris Godden

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

1999	H.E.Hall & Son Ltd
2000	Horticulture Research International, East Malling

A HISTORY OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FRUITERERS

Early records show that the Mystery, Fellowship or Brotherhood of the Worshipful Company of Fruiterers existed before 1300. In 1292 there was reference to certain 'Free Fruiterers' among them Gesin le Fruter, Richard le Frutter and William le Freuter.

The first actual mention of the Fruiterers as a corporate body occurred in 1416, when John Gaunt and Geoffrey Whyt were sworn as Wardens of the Mysteries 'to rule the Mystery well and truly, sparing none for love, nor molesting any from hate, and to present to the Mayor and Aldermen and the Chamberlain any defects they may find'.

The first known official grant of Ordinances was made during the reign of King Edward IV in 1463, which contains references governing the conditions under which fruit might be sold, and rules for the metage or measuring the quantities of fruit sold in the City upon which tolls were levied.

The office of official Fruit Meter or Measurer was highly prized and obtained by purchase of the City, in one instance as much as £3,960 being paid. The office of Fruit Meter was only abolished as late as April 1902.

The annual presentation of fruit to the Lord Mayor appears to have originated in 1577, when there was a dispute regarding the tolls levied by the City's Meterers, which was most amicably settled by the Company agreeing to give to the Lord Mayor not more than twelve bushels of fruit each year.

In the first half of the sixteenth century, one Richard Harris, already Fruiterer to Henry VIII, became a Liveryman of the Fruiterers Company. Richard Harris was a pioneer of commercial fruit growing in Britain. He laid out orchards of cherries, pears and apples (including the first Pippins) on land near Faversham in Kent, hard by Brogdale, the current home of the National Fruit Collection. Some of the varieties he planted are still grown at Brogdale.

The Charter incorporating the Company by the title of "The Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mystery of Fruiterers of London" was granted by James I in the year 1606.

James II having compelled the Company to surrender to him the Charter of James I, granted a new Charter to the Company in the year 1686, but this surrender was annulled later by an Act of William and Mary which Act revived and restored the Charter of James I.

The following extract from Stow's Survey of 1754 shows that the Company was an active working Company in the middle of the XVIIIth century. "At the lower end of the street next to the Thames is a pair of stairs, the usual place for the Lord Mayor and Aldermen to take water and go to Westminster Hall for the new Lord Mayor to be sworn before the Barons of the Exchequer. This place, with the Three Cranes, is now of some account for the Fruiterers, where they have their warehouses for their fruit. "The trade centred at this time near the Hall used by the Company in Worcester House, Thames Street and close to the Three Cranes. In the early part of the XIXth century the fruit trade was situated in Upper Thames Street and Botolph Lane. In January 2000 the Lord Mayor unveiled a plaque and named "FRUITERERS PASSAGE" which runs beneath Southwark Bridge on the North bank.

It is believed that the Company rented Worcester House for their Hall in the latter part of the Sixteenth century. At a ceremony in 1979 a commemorative plaque was installed by the Company at the site. This Hall was given up about the year 1623 and after that date the Company's Meetings were held at the Parish Clerk's Hall, Broad Lane, Vintry, until about 1634, when the Company occupied premises at Old Swan, Thames Street. Some time prior to 1660 the Company returned to its old quarters at Parish Clerk's Hall until this Hall was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666.

In 1671, the Company again occupied the Parish Clerk's New Hall in Silver Street, off Wood Street, Cheapside, at a yearly rent of £8 for their public meetings. In 1682 a further lease at the same rental was signed. The Court minutes of the Parish Clerk's Company dated 8th August 1682 record the presentation of a

large solid silver tankard by the Fruiterers Company, and the payment of 6s 6d to the Fruiterers' Beadle for two quarts of Canary to fill it. This valuable tankard is now in the Pepys Cabinet in the Museum of London. Beneath the arms of the Parish Clerks' Company is an inscription 'The GIFT of ye Company of Frewterers 1682'.

The above tenancy was surrendered in 1751 since when the company has held its Meetings and Dinners in a variety of places, among which are The George and Vulture, Cornhill (1778), The Stock Exchange Coffee House (1800), The Ship, Greenwich (1874) and The Crystal Palace (1886) until more recent times when the more important Meetings and Dinners have been held in the Halls of other City Livery Companies.

For many years until the outbreak of World War II, the Company, owing to the association of the Eagleton family with the Haberdashers' Company, enjoyed the hospitality of that Company.

Six previous Masters of the Company, since 1850, served the office of Lord Mayor of the City of London: Sir Henry Edmund (1882), Sir James Whitehead (1888), Sir Joseph Renals (1894), Sir John Pound (1904), Sir Edward Moore (1922) and Sir J. E. Kynaston Studd (1928). Sir Peter Studd and Lady Donaldson, both Honorary Liverymen, were Lord Mayor in 1971 and 1985 respectively.

Today, the Company holds some of its Court Meetings in the Innholders' Hall, by kind permission of the Master and Wardens of that Company.

A HISTORY OF THE GUILDS AND LIVERY COMPANIES OF LONDON

The Livery Companies of the City of London may be a far cry today from the Anglo-Saxon guilds in which they had their origins; but their very survival as successors to the civic institutions of medieval times is in itself remarkable.

For more than five hundred years the Companies were at the heart of the commercial, social and religious life of the merchants and manufacturers of London; largely through them, the City achieved its eminence as indisputably the greatest trading metropolis in the world. It is three centuries and more since they have been able to lay claim to that sort of power. Yet they have endured, in the face of many vicissitudes, to occupy a position of consequence and pride within the rich traditions of the City of London.

The Companies evolved from the trade guilds whose generation in England can be traced with certainty to Anglo-Saxon times. There are records of associations, of knights in particular, both inside and outside the capital, in the tenth and eleventh centuries. But it was in the years following the Norman Conquest of 1066 that the guilds began to take firm root as an important and increasingly influential part of feudal Britain. The importance of the place they came to occupy in the social fabric of the early Middle Ages can hardly be overstated; they dominated civil and religious life in town and country.

In essence, the guilds were voluntary associations, formed for the benefit of the profession or trade with which their members were especially concerned. There would often be a strong religious element, with the guilds attaching themselves to churches or monasteries and adopting patron saints to watch over their crafts. Their activities took a number of forms. The maintenance of high standards of workmanship and ethical behavior was given a high priority. Those guilty of shoddy products or sharp practice might be fined or even expelled from the guild, and this was a powerful sanction, since each guild held a local monopoly in its own trade. No one could start a business within that trade until he had

joined the guild and sworn obedience to it. An artisan cut out was therefore effectively deprived of his livelihood, and would have to move to another area to find work.

A system indentures and apprenticeships was developed, again with the aim of keeping standards high and of regulating numbers. Guilds also acted as arbiter in cases of professional disputes within their trades. By this independent judicial framework they hoped to avoid litigation and animosity, and to promote the pursuit of excellence.

The guilds were also early examples of friendly or benefit societies. Members would meet regularly for business and social discussions, and would hold religious services. Each would contribute to the funds of the guild, and could expect to receive relief from it in sickness or old age. Masses and prayers would be said for members when they died; funerals would be attended by every member of the guild.

From these associations were born the City Companies, often with elaborate business rituals and a clearly defined hierarchy, at the top of which sat the Master, or Alderman, and his Court of Assistants. Coffers were frequently swelled by generous contributions or bequests from wealthier members. Social obligations were taken seriously, with money provided for the building of almshouses and the endowment of schools.

In 1180, a survey of the guilds was carried out. By then there were nineteen of them, covering all the major trading professions of the day. The extent of their growing wealth and power began to alert the suspicions of the Crown. These were times of frequent civil unrest, so it is perhaps not surprising that the King should look askance at such strong and independent bodies whose rituals smacked of the secret and possibly the subversive. It was not until the time of Edward the Third (1327-1377) that this disposition to regard the Companies with suspicion and ill-favour was removed.

Edward was not slow to realise that the guilds were the main-spring of all the trade in his realm, and that it would be better to have them as friends than enemies. Accordingly he began granti-

ng charters to the guilds, recognising them and incorporating them into the body politic. He sought to raise their status, and himself became a member of one guild, the Merchant Taylors. There were advantages for both sides in this practice: for the first time the Companies were legitimised, and held a formal position conferring rights to the holding of lands, property and funds; the King was ensuring the loyalty of a potentially formidable foe, as well as securing welcome funds for the national exchequer.

Their new eminence and prestige occasioned a change in the character of the guilds. They began to adopt distinctive gowns and hoods known as Livery, and to be known generally as the Livery Companies. The gowns owed something to their religious associations, the Livery being based on the habits of various monastic orders, although it would usually be brightly coloured. Now, too, from the mass of associations and fraternities emerged the Twelve Great Companies, the senior bodies with a strict order of precedence, headed by the Mercers. Acting together, they began to seek a louder voice in the government of the City, winning the right to elect Mayor and Sheriffs, and to choose from their own ranks the members of the Court of Common Council, a deliberative body which worked with the Aldermen in the running of the City.

Although now established as a power in the land, the Companies did not enjoy continuous growth and prosperity. Squabbles among them selves were commonplace, and disputes usually over precedence, or the demarcation of trades, could be acrimonious. One of the most celebrated was that between the Skinners and the Merchant Taylors which, after festering for many years, came to a head in 1483. Each Company insisted on its right to be regarded as sixth in order of precedence among the Twelve Great Companies. The argument was settled by a compromise, the Mayor resolving that the Skinners should be ranked sixth for the following year and the Merchant Taylors seventh; but that in the succeeding year they were to change places, and were to continue to change every year. In a further attempt to restore amity he ordered the two Companies to entertain each other at their respective halls every year. The arrangement holds good to this day, and is said by some to have been the origin of the phrase 'at sixes and sevens'.

Be that as it may, there are some expressions now in everyday parlance which can certainly be traced back to the Companies and their dealings, hardly surprising given the unique position they occupied at the very hub of social and commercial life. For example, the Companies enforced rigorous standards of quality, and would carry out searches for articles which displayed slipshod workmanship. It was the fear of being accused of producing low-weight bread that prompted bakers to put thirteen loaves into the 'Baker's Dozen'. If a trader found himself expelled, he would, under the monopoly system, have to head for a town or borough where free crafts- men were permitted to operate. One such was Coventry, and it is suggested that those so ostracised for their shortcomings were said to be 'sent to Coventry'. Under this same monopoly, articles manufactured for sale, particularly in precious metals, would be inspected and stamped at the hall of the Company, with what we still know as 'Hall marks'. And to make sure that standards were kept up in the next generation, an apprentice seeking at the age of twenty-one to be admitted as a Freeman of his Company, would be required to submit a specimen of his skill, which came to be known as his 'master piece'.

The first real check to the power of the City Companies came in the sixteenth century, and when the attack came it was on their money rather than their commercial preeminence. Henry the Eighth (1509-1547), forever embattled by financial problems and always on the alert for new sources of revenue, introduced the concept of the forced loan. Over the next hundred and fifty years it was to reduce some of the Companies to near penury.

Henry himself demanded the then enormous sum of twenty-one thousand pounds to help pay for his war in Scotland; later his daughter, Queen Mary (1553-1558) took more than a hundred thousand pounds for the war with France; and after the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, the Mercers Company alone poured some four thousand pounds into the national account.

Nor were these loans restricted to times of emergency. Queen Elizabeth (1558-1603) came to look on them as a regular source of revenue, and pursued a policy of forced loans with increasing rapacity. Money was demanded to help build the Royal Exchange; for the cleaning of the City ditches; for projects such

as the colonising of Ulster and the state of Virginia; for coal and corn; for pageantry, indeed everything for which the Crown felt the need of ready cash. Precious little of this money ever found its way back into the coffers of the Companies; and they found themselves further required to meet regular obligations, such as providing men for the Watch and Ward, to patrol and keep watch in the City. In times of trouble they had to raise Trained Bands to stand by for defence against attacks from home or abroad.

The Stuart Kings persisted with this policy of bleeding the Companies at every opportunity. But by the early 1600s there were more insidious, though no less menacing, threats to their primacy.

At this time, in spite of the harassment of the Crown, the City of London and its Companies were at the height of their prestige, power and influence, dependent on each other and with mutual interests. London remained the greatest city in the world, as well as being ten times the size of the next largest English town. The City and its Companies had been instrumental in this expansion, and had grown rich on the fruits of it, but in this prosperity and growth lay the seeds of their eventual decline.

London was growing more populous by the year, and it became evident that the walls surrounding the square mile of the City could no longer cope with the teeming thousands. People sought pastures new in what were later to be the suburbs, and although the City remained the centre of commerce, the restrictions and disciplines exercised by the Companies did not spread to these new settlements. In the 1630s the City Fathers were asked to extend their jurisdiction to the whole of London, including the new pockets of population outside the old walls. To them the suburbs were places of lawlessness and racketeering, and they saw no reason to devote their energies and resources to the administration of such unpromising developments. This decision became known as The Great Refusal, and from it historians have traced the slow decline of the City as a force of real power. The Companies suffered too. The suburbs grew and spread, new trades and businesses sprang up, and the Companies found themselves unable to exert the kind of control over their professions that they had for so long taken for granted. They began to lose touch with

the skills of their trades and with innovation, and they dissipated their energies in disputes with one another. These were the first small steps along a halting but irreversible path which transformed the Companies from vigorous and influential trading fraternities into charitable clubs.

A more immediate calamity lay just ahead. The Great Fire of London in 1666 swept through the City, destroying in its path the halls of forty-four Companies and much of their valuable plate and irreplaceable records. Already further enfeebled by payments to the Crown and to Parliament during and after the Civil War, the City threw itself on the mercy of Parliament. Financial help was forthcoming, and all but three of the halls rose again from the ashes. But there were still major problems. After the destruction and devastation of the Great Fire, many traders and tenants had moved out of the City, and were now reluctant to return. They had to be wooed with long and generous leases which tied the income of the Companies for many years to come. In addition, the Companies were forced to mortgage much of their property and plate.

The once all-powerful Companies were now extremely vulnerable, and the King, Charles the Second (1660-1685) was not averse to taking advantage of the fact. He declared that all the charters granted to the Companies were null and void, and must be forfeited to the Crown. For a while, the threat of total extinction seemed very great. The City was submissive to the point of obsequiousness, and new charters were duly granted, but on terms that placed the City and the Companies in a position of complete subservience to the King. Then, greater events took a hand. Under the threat of invasion, Charles' successor James the Second (1685-1688) restored the old charters. It was not enough to save his Crown, and the new rulers, William and Mary (1688-1702) proved eager to endear themselves to their subjects. All previous legislation was repealed, and five years of anxiety and uncertainty were ended by the restoration of the status quo.

That those powerful and august bodies of Tudor and Stuart England were now things of the past, was made evident in the report of a Royal Commission on London, published in 1837. Its verdict on the Companies which had been the source of so much

of London's greatness was that they were at best charitable trusts, at worst self-regarding clubs.

The existence of the Companies may never have come under direct threat from Parliament; even so, these were once again difficult times. Many disappeared altogether. Of the eighty-nine Companies listed by the Royal Commission, thirteen became extinct during the next fifty years. In less than twenty-five years from 1832, the numbers on the overall Livery roll fell by more than half, to five and a half thousand.

Then, quite suddenly, in the 1870s things began to change. Under the spur of attacks in the press and the shadow of the new Royal Commission, the Companies began to exert themselves. They discovered an awakened interest in their traditional crafts, and having no direct administrative link with them, began to encourage specific technical education.

In 1877-8 the City and Guilds Institute was founded. Some of those Companies which had fallen into desuetude were revived and expanded. Businessmen who had shown little or no interest in the Livery, began to join in large numbers. When the Royal Commission published its findings in 1884, it showed that the Companies enjoyed a total annual income of more than £750,000 and that the value of their property stood at £15 million. The Commission was unable to make up its mind about the status of the Companies and their properties and was divided as to whether they should be treated as friendly societies or municipal bodies. In the event, the debate was never resolved, since changes of government and the pressing calls of other business again meant the shelving of any reforms. But the Companies took note of the Commission report, and redoubled their activities.

The establishment of London's Metropolitan Boroughs removed at last the threat of any widespread and dramatic reforms of City or its institutions. Although the debate about the government of City continued, as it does to this day, the Companies were able to continue their modest recovery in an atmosphere of greater security. New Companies continued to come into being, and by the outbreak of the Second World War numbers were again approaching ten thousand. The Blitz proved almost as devastating as the

Great Fire had been three centuries earlier, eighteen Company Halls were destroyed, fifteen others were damaged. But this did nothing to check the postwar expansion of the Livery, with more new Companies and thirteen thousand Liverymen by the mid-1950s. The report of another Royal Commission, in 1960, spoke of "the unfillable gap" that would be left in our national life if the ancient traditions and ceremonial of the City were to be lost.

Based on 'The First Quarter Century', by courtesy of the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company of Launderers.

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The Beadle's Staff