

TYLERS AND BRICKLAYERS

The Newsletter of The Worshipful



Company of Tylers and Bricklayers

Number 13

Spring 2002



Peter and Sylvia Wallis

Last October Mr Peter Wallis was installed as Master for the year. His installation is described on page 2 in an article by Court Assistant Dr George Bird. Following a routine medical examination earlier this year the Master was advised by his doctor to rest from his duties for the time being. Accordingly the two Deputy Masters, Graham Bateman and Sir Idris Pearce, are maintaining our affairs until Peter is well enough to resume. We all wish him a speedy recovery and send our best wishes to Peter and Sylvia.

The events which were planned by Peter for our enjoyment will continue. We look forward to having Lord Renton as our principal guest at the Ladies Night on 25th April and the Summer Reception at the House of Lords on 27th June. (See diary of events on the back page). It will be a bonus for us if Peter is well enough by then to attend these and a compliment to him if the Livery turns out in force to support Peter.

The Renter Warden

John Wilson-Wright

Born in Liverpool in 1941, John's family moved to Singapore immediately after the war and he can just remember seeing the last of the Japanese leave in 1946. Moving 'up country' in 1948 to the Federated Malay States (remember the stamps?), the Communist terrorist activity was at its height and school journeys to and from the hill station were escorted by Marine Commandos! Returning to England in 1951 for schooling, he grew up in Portsmouth, where he later started his career as an articled quantity surveyor.

In 1964, John joined the London office of a firm of Chartered Surveyors, becoming a Partner in 1974, and Senior Partner in 1995. For almost all of his professional life, he has been involved with the development of 'social' buildings ranging from the voluntary housing sector to prisons, and from laboratories to hospitals, with occasional spells in Europe and the Middle East. An early interest in construction disputes led to 25 years' working as an expert witness and after retiring from the Partnership in 1999, he is still actively involved with lawyers and insurers in this field.

A busy professional life has been balanced by a lifelong interest in sport – mainly tennis and badminton as both player and administrator – and within the past 5 years he has found a new challenge trying to persuade that little white ball to take to the air in a straight line!



John was introduced to the Company by Past Master John Dove in 1978, the year of his Mastership, little expecting then that 24 years in the Company would pass so quickly. One of the varied duties of the Renter Warden is to check the Company's possessions, including the stocks of wine, but he promises not to sample too liberally!

Married in 1964 to Maureen, they have one daughter who last year presented them with their first grandchildren – twin boys Toby and Thomas. For more than 30 years he and Maureen have lived in Sevenoaks where they are both involved with work for the Leukaemia Research Fund and other local charities.

Reports... Installation lunch - Dr G. Bird

INSTALLATION COURT & LUNCH

4th October 2001

The Installation Day is unique in the Company's annual calendar, comprising a court meeting, to which the Livery is summoned, a procession to St Margaret, Lothbury for the annual service and the Installation Lunch itself. The Master-Elect makes two speeches, the Retiring Master one, the rector of St Margaret, Lothbury delivers an address, the principal guest responds to the toasts and even the Junior Liveryman has to contribute by proposing the health of the Company. It is a packed schedule for a few hours over lunch!

At the Court meeting, it was particularly memorable that Master Peter Wallis had the pleasure of welcoming no fewer than five new Freemen to the Company

(Messrs. Martin, Howard, Causer, Hobbs and Bennett). The Court also granted permission for an unusual request - the distinguished banker Mr K C Wu OBE, who is involved in the setting up of the Guild of Bankers, was allowed to sit in on the Court's deliberations.

During the Service at St Margarets Lothbury, the Rector, the Reverend Jeremy Crossley, reminded us of two of the Company's strengths - maintaining standards and charitable work. In particular he mentioned the recent efforts of several individual Liverymen.

A total of eighty-three members of the Company and their Guests sat down for Lunch in the Carpenters' Hall. The expertise of the wine committee soon made itself felt with an excellent Sancerre and a delicious Chateau Cardaillion while the menu had a decidedly Mediterranean feel until the very English pudding - which I suspect was organized by the Master. It was a great pleasure to

welcome a number of guests from the Craft Guilds in particular and the Company's guest list included masters from the Worshipful Companies of Constructors, Masons, Plumbers, Carpenters, Paviours and Furniture Makers. Many of our guests had strong links with the Royal Engineers, although the Principal Guest, Colonel Ian Irvine CBE TD, shared a common background with our own Master as a paratrooper. In his address, Colonel Irvine stressed the vital importance of rules and discipline in allowing society to function satisfactorily.

The Master and Mrs Wallis made one and all feel welcome and relaxed, and made clear that the year ahead will be one in which the Company will undoubtedly continue to grow in size and strengthen its position, both in its duty in supporting the Craft and also in its role encouraging both charity and companionship.

Dr George Bird

PAST MASTER'S REPORT

Annually every Master is asked to write, as his last penance, an obituary on his year as 'there is nothing so past as a Past Master'.

As mine has been the year where the Strategic Review was actioned, I have tried to keep everyone informed by producing a Winter and Summer Master's newsletter. That now leaves me very little to say which is new, but I can reflect on certain key moments marking a memorable year for me.

The most lasting impression was the warm respect and support that I received from everyone in the Company and the City for the ancient office I was privileged to hold. It made my task much easier when I had to introduce the restructuring of the Company's finances and a large increase in Quarterage. Both were debated in great detail with courtesy and good grace and

almost unanimously approved by the Court. The greatest pleasure was eventually to find that we have not lost one Liveryman by our actions.

We are now in a much stronger position and our funds will not continue to gradually haemorrhage but allowed to grow, albeit slowly in the current financial climate.

We have begun to welcome a large intake of new Liverymen, mostly from very responsible positions within the City of London. In recent years we have only inducted two or three new members annually, as basically the health of all our members is remarkably sound - it must be due to our good food and wine! Consequently, our membership was virtually static at around 110 members with only four from our category of 'The City'. Due to Tom Hoffman's good offices and others we are now nearing our self imposed limit of 150 Liverymen, which will mean better support for our functions and our charities.

WINE REPORT

Good fellowship and dining with friends is one of the key activities of the Livery Companies with the objective of meeting other like minded people so that together they get to know each other well enough to carry on the traditions of the Livery and continue the Charitable work which is so central to the objectives of the Company. And what better than to do this over good food and an excellent glass of wine!

Thus the *raison d'être* for the Wine Committee is to find wines suitable for all the occasions when the Court and Livery meet. The wine that we select must bring enjoyment and pride to our members and provoke the admiration of our guests. Many a guest has mentioned that the quality and excellence of the wines produced at our functions far exceed those offered by other Livery Companies as indeed have many Liverymen.

The wine Committee meet generally once a year at the Company's wine merchant Mayor Sworder where Martin Everett, a Master of Wine puts together a tasting to prepare for the events of the following year. This tasting will consist of both red and white wine and will



M. Priou (director) with Nic Carter's wife, Fiona and daughter Nicola, inspecting the year 2000 vintage in the cellars of Chateau Beaumont. Sadly, not all the stock is reserved for The Tylers and Bricklayers Company.

vary considerably depending upon the function. In addition, we will consider buying claret to lay down to drink in the future.

Generally speaking we select wines from the Cru Bourgeois which are produced by smaller Chateaux and are most reasonably priced at the "en primeur" stage. We then keep these wines for a number of years until they reach their best. An example of this was the Chateau Cardaillan 1994 which was served at the Installation lunch. By the time the wine is ready for drinking, it is often no

longer available on the open market thus enabling us to enjoy reasonably aged claret at a reasonable price.

We also lay down a few wines which are from the Bordeaux recognised "Growth" wines which we enjoy on special occasions such as the Leoville Barton which we drank for the Millennium dinner with Guests. One of these the Carruads deChateau Lafitte which may serve for the celebration of the 450th year of our Charter.

For the coming year we thought we would ring the changes a little and for the Court and Livery Dinner we have selected a Crianza which is a full bodied Spanish wine, excellent for winter drinking and we are sure you will enjoy it. For the Livery Dinner with guests we have selected a Chateaneuf du Pape which we tasted last July and we would thoroughly recommend!

Rest assured, the Wine Committee is dedicated to serve the Company in its very best interests and we hope you enjoy the results.

*Past Master N H Carter, Chairman,
The Wine Committee*

So please, if you see a new face when you next attend a company reception, do go up to the person and make them feel welcome. We are indeed fortunate in the remarkable quality of our new Liverymen and I am certain that you will find our warm fellowship will be reciprocated.

My final pleasure is to see a wide range of awards in place to support our crafts. You will see from the list published in this Newsletter that our awards are not now only for London but are beginning to cover the whole of the country. You may think this has been arranged to wear out successive Masters who have to speak at the presentations. In fact they can call on two deputy Masters and the Chairman of the Craft Committee to assist in carrying out this duty, suitably robed for each of the special occasions. At all the events the message will be the same, focusing on the falling number of quality craftsmen in the Construction Industry. The award winners are now in their final year and are beginning their career paths in a market which desperately needs their skills. Our ancient Livery nearly 500

years ago was formed to promote quality and train young apprentices for 7 years. Their present day successors are well trained and skilled and should aim go on to become either Master craftsman or continue their studies to become executives in Construction Companies. It is rare these days in a career to be able to enjoy your finished work which gives great pleasure to you and enables the public to see excellent workmanship. Did you know that a skilled bricklayer in London can earn up to £1000 per week - and he sleeps well at night without any worries! Not many careers can offer that comfort.

May I thank everyone for their support this year, which has been a marvellous and memorable privilege.

Graham Bateman. - Immediate Past Master.

Craft matters...

The Tylers & Bricklayers Company Awards & Prizes

Our Triennial Awards

Awarded for our crafts of roof slating and tiling, brickwork and ceramic tiling on new and renovated buildings, which have been completed during the last 3 years within the boundary of the M25. These awards will be presented for each category in July 2002 to:-

The building owner	- our company plaque fixed to the building.
The Architect	- our engraved Company silver medal.
Main Contractor	- our engraved Company silver medal and scroll.
Specialist Contractor	- our engraved Company silver medal and scroll.
Specialist Foreman	- our engraved Company silver medal and scroll.

The Stokes Royal Engineers Award to the Senior and Junior Sappers with the highest marks for the year in brickwork at the Royal Engineers School of Military Engineering, Chatham. Presented annually at our March Court lunch the following year.

Senior Award	- £250, our engraved Company silver medal and scroll.
Junior Award	- £100, our engraved Company silver medal and scroll.



Stephen Clark, winner of the Skillbuild 2001 Award for Slating and Tiling, being congratulated by the Master from whom he received a cheque for £250, a Company engraved Silver Medal and a Scroll recording his success. The competition was held in Ballymena, Northern Ireland. Stephen is a student at Telford College and works for his father's firm, Clark Slaters of Dunn.

The E & R Fuller Award for the London and Southeast of England Training Colleges brickwork competition for Senior (Level 3 NVQ) and Junior (Level 2 NVQ) apprentices set and judged by the Guild of Bricklayers in February. The Awards presented annually at our June Court meeting.

Senior Winner	- £500, an engraved silver trowel and Company scroll.
Junior Winner	- £100 and our Company scroll.

(NB The senior winner can qualify for an additional £300 grant towards expenses if he attends the next annual UK Skill build competition held in October)

The National Skillbuild Competition

awarded annually to the winner and runner-up in each of our three categories. The Mason-Elliott Awards for Roof Slating & Tiling and also Ceramic Tiling.

Winners of each craft	- £250, our engraved Company silver medal and scroll.
Runners-Up of each craft	- £100 and our Company scroll.

The Montgomery Award for Brickwork

Winner	- £250, our engraved Company silver medal and scroll.
Runners-Up	- £100 and our Company scroll.

The Better Brickwork Alliance

Our Company's 'Best Practice Award' competition for final year apprentices representing their Training Colleges on a regional basis. The prizes sponsored by the Construction Industry and the test piece designed and judged by the Guild of Bricklayers, which must be carried out within 15 hours. This is their first year for this annual Award and is divided this year into two regions, North and South England. This will be extended next year into the nine C.I.T.B. regions for England and then the following year to the 13 regions of the U.K. Each prize giving will be held in a regional Guildhall or a City Livery Hall, if near London.

Winner of each region	- £500, our engraved Company silver medal and scroll.
Runners-Up of each region	- £250 and our Company scroll.

The Ceramic Tile Industry

The Tile Association. Our Company's 'Best Practice Award' is currently being developed and will be sponsored by their Industry's manufacturers using the same criteria as The Better Brickwork Alliance scheme. It is due to commence next year with prizes for their four regions of the U.K.

Winner of each region	- £500, our engraved Company silver medal and scroll.
Runners-Up of each region	- £250 and our Company scroll.

Graham J Bateman.
Chairman of Craft Committee.

CRAIG GREENLEAF - A STORY OF SUCCESS FOR A YOUNG CRAFTSMAN

Craig is in his last year of training as an apprentice bricklayer. He works with his father and trains at Reading School of Art and Technology in their Construction Centre. He is a remarkable young man. Bricklaying is not only Craig's work, it is also his hobby and he is currently building a sculpture of a steam engine in brickwork at his Centre.

On the 24th February last year I attended the final day of the London and South East of England bricklaying competition at his college where eventually he won the award against many other good competitors. This also made him qualify as the senior prize-winner in our Company's E. & R. Fuller Awards. He attended with his parents at our June Court meeting, where he was presented with a cheque for £500, an engraved silver trowel and a Company Scroll.

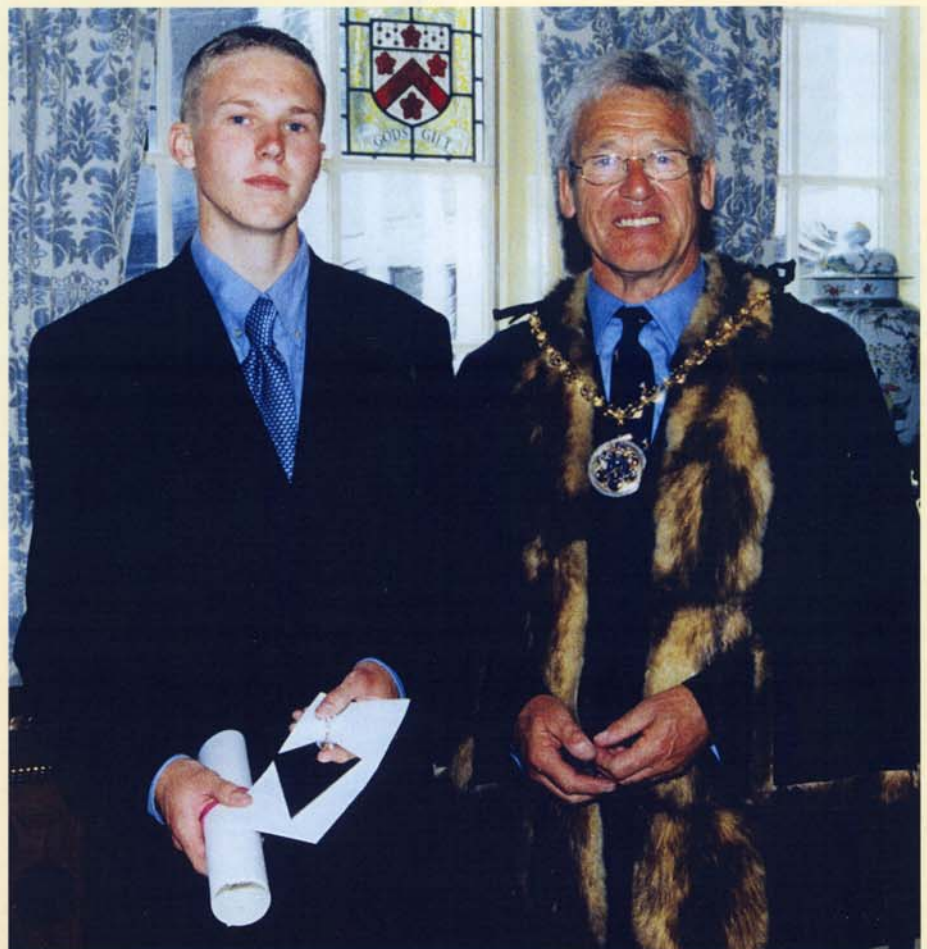
This also entitled him to a further cheque for £300 from the Fuller Awards towards his expenses if he competed in the National Skillbuild craft competition in Ballymena, Northern Ireland. He attended with his family to support him, to compete against the best bricklaying apprentices in the U.K. and won the Skillbuild gold medal together with our own Montgomery Award prize of £250, and Company silver medal.

He now becomes a candidate to be assessed against last years' Skillbuild winning bricklayer, to be considered to

represent the U.K. in the June 2003 Skill Olympics, which will be held in St. Gallen, Switzerland. He not only has to be an outstanding craftsman but he also has to have the personality to represent the U.K.. If he is successful in becoming our representative he will receive six weeks' intensive training on past examples of International test pieces of 2 1/2 days duration in preparation to compete against bricklayers from all over the world. The actual competition test piece is not chosen until a few hours before the event commences.

We all wish him well in his endeavours and if he is chosen I am certain that his family will be there to cheer him on.

*Graham Bateman
Chairman Craft Committee*



Craig Greenleaf with his silver trowel, scroll and cheque for £300

ON YOUR FEET

By Past Master John Dove J.P.

From time to time, most of us have to do it. Get up 'on your feet' and make a speech.

To some people the very thought infuses incipient fear and trepidation; a chore to be side-stepped if possible.

But it need not be as traumatic as it appears. The purpose of this article is to identify and recommend a suggested course of preparation and practice in readiness for giving a good performance on the day. In particular, this feature article is tailored to help speakers who will be addressing a Livery Company function in the City of London.

The function may vary from a "full blooded" Livery and Ladies Dinner which will be attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London, the Sheriffs and their ladies as well as a plethora of distinguished Company guests and their ladies. Or the occasion may be much smaller such as a Court Lunch. Either way a good speech will be expected.

Most of the really successful after dinner speakers down the ages have devoted much time and care to the preparation and delivery of their speeches. For instance, the late F.E. Smith (later Lord Birkenhead) an outstandingly brilliant advocate in the 1930's and 1940's was so sought after as an after dinner speaker that he became fully booked up on the 'top speakers circuit' for up to two years at a time. Much earlier

still, Samuel Pepys in a similar context was recorded as.... "speaking well despite uncertain gait after robust enjoyment of goodly fayre and much fine port"! The occasion was a dinner at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

As this article is of necessity constrained by space limitations, it will only be possible to provide some of the more obvious but essential guide-lines to be followed in preparing a speech for future use at a Tylers' & Bricklayers' city function. Remember your turn will come one day. Start thinking about it now. Cut out this article and keep it readily available for your future use.



John Dove

TIMING

If a speech is to be subsequently admired and remembered, it must be kept short. When your first draft of notes is completed it is sound practice to go through it, dictate it on to a tape and play it back to time it exactly. Then reduce its length by one-third to allow time for applause, laughter, or any unanticipated diversion such as a waiter's sneeze! This does happen sometimes.

For most occasions, ten minutes is the ideal speech time; beyond this, your audience may lose interest and nod off.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION

The first thing a speaker must decide is whether he is going to speak

- a. without notes being visible on the day (although pre-preparation of the speech is still an essential prerequisite); or
- b. with some written notes being visibly used at the function (there's nothing wrong with this); or
- c. by delivering his speech from a full written narrative; in this case, never give the impression that you are reading from it word for word; such a course invites disaster because your audience will cease to listen and will seek relief in the land of nod! This category (c) should only be used if the speaker has to give detailed facts and figures (unlikely at a Livery Lunch or Dinner).

PREPARATION OF SPEECH NOTES

Method (b) above will be the preferred choice for the purposes of this article.

It is important to open if possible with a light touch of easily digested humour but definitely not a joke. To finish with try and say something unusual by which your audience will remember your speech. Do not forget, of course, if you are 'proposing a Toast' to remember to propose it before you finish. It is recommended to leave a slight pause between the end of your speech and the Toast proposal itself.

...On Your Feet - past master John Dove J.P.

A good speech will comprise a Preamble, a Core and a Cadenza, (all in the space of ten minutes!) A little like the structure of an orchestral piece of music or mini symphony. All of it must reflect the purpose of the speech. If the eventual responder is a celebrated person (or if you are required to refer briefly to each of the top table's more important guests), do your research carefully. If necessary seek advice from the Clerk or a Past Master of the Company. Alternatively the Guildhall General Enquiries Office is a useful source of information about City customs and practices. The use of "Who's Who" should be made sparingly and selectively but, nevertheless, it is helpful in that it will usually give full details of the life and achievements of your "Star Guest" at Dinner.

It is good practice to write or type your speech 'guide-line' notes on one or both sides of stiff plain postcards. You can then on the night hold the postcards in your right hand palm and look down occasionally at your cards (which should be held together by a tag in the top left hand corner) and turn them over as you proceed. Keep the cards as hidden as possible in the half-closed palm of your right hand using your left hand to turn the cards over. This method is the least noticeable way of presentation, as you will be standing up while your audience will be sitting down.

A brief word about the inclusion of jokes in speeches. Most speakers like to introduce some humour to retain their audience's attention throughout. Remember always to try to build your joke into the text of your speech; let it suddenly emerge as part of the narrative. Never ever begin your joke with the words "...."by the way, that reminds me of

the joke about the plumber and an actress." (You can't say 'Bishop' because there might be one present as a guest!)

THE OCCASION ITSELF

Take your time and, when you are announced by the toast-master (if there is one), stand up slowly, keep your feet slightly apart (this assists balance), and pause before saying anything at all. Wait for all the clapping (if any), coughing and talking to subside. Remember, try not to look nervous even though you may feel it.

At all major Livery functions in the City of London such as Livery and Ladies Dinners usually held in a Livery Hall, there is a set-piece preliminary opening sentence to be enunciated by the Speech Proposer (with adjustments as necessary). At its most extended it will include the Civic Party (the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs) together with possibly a Peer, an Ambassador, a Bishop, a Dean, a General, the variations are endless. If the afore-mentioned are all present your opening sentence will read - "Master, Wardens, my Lord Mayor, your Excellency, my Lord Bishop, Mr Dean, General (NAME), my Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen." (Quite a mouthful so you can look at your notes for this item). It is most important to check with the Clerk well before the night which distinguished guests are actually coming so that you get it right.

Again, remember 'take your time', do not rush your sentences. Keep your head well up and speak loud enough to be heard in the farthest corner of the Hall. Also remind yourself you have only ten minutes to speak. Give the appearance of being confident and accomplished. Look as if you speak

frequently at functions even if you don't. Arrange for a glass of water to be brought to you by a waiter before you start. Nervousness invariably dries up the mouth and renders speaking more difficult. If necessary, take a sip of water while your audience is laughing or clapping during your speech. A golden rule is never to imbibe too much alcohol before or at dinner if you are one of the after-dinner speakers.

Finally, look around the room while you are speaking. Look at your audience; make eye-contact; do not stare at the back wall or the ceiling.

Over the years I can recall listening to a FEW after-dinner speeches that were really brilliant; MANY that were good; SOME that were adequate; but the VAST MAJORITY that were unutterably dull.

It is not easy to make a good after-dinner speech. Nor is it easy to appear to enjoy listening to a bad one. But courtesy demands *that one must try and the likelihood of it being a bad speech usually emerges in the first few sentences.*

So, good luck with your speech when your turn comes.

People... ..a past master's memories

A Past Master's Memories

Archibald L H Carter, Master 1961

I was elected to the Livery of the Tylers and Bricklayers Company in 1933. At that time I was aged 22 and an articulated clerk with Peake & Co when Arthur Horace Bird, one of my father's partners, was the Clerk of the Company. Mr Bird asked me if I would like to become a member of the Company and, after consulting my father, I accepted his offer and duly became a Freeman of the Company and of the City and a Member of the Livery.

In those days the only contact a Liveryman had with the Company was the annual Livery Dinner at Carpenters' Hall following the installation of the Master and Wardens for the ensuring year. Of course, the dinner was entirely at the Company's expense and the only contribution the Livery made to the Company's finances was the annual quarterage of (I think) 12/6d or 62.5p (which in those days would have bought 250 cigarettes!).

I ate my way up the Livery and eventually was elected to the Court in 1955. In those days the great interest of the Company was the building of Guildford Cathedral of which the architect (Sir Edward Maufe), the builder (Colonel Dove) and the Quantity Surveyor (I can't remember his name) were all members of the Company and the Company contributed a stained glass window to the building.

I greatly enjoyed my year as Master (1961) and hope I carried out duties to the satisfaction of my partner, John Bird, who had become the Clerk in succession to his father. At least, he didn't complain. So much has changed since those days. There has been an enormous increase in the activities of the Company, which has been a great benefit to the Livery. My only regret is that members of the Company do not seem very keen to continue their family's connection with the Company. At least, in that respect, I feel I have done my bit as my son (Nicholas Carter) is a Past Master and one of my grandsons (Max Carter) is a member of the Livery.



Mr A Carter performs one of many duties during his year of office.

ERIC UPTON-KEMP T.D.

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death last year of Past Master Eric Upton-Kemp. Eric joined the Company in 1959 and became Master in 1987.

After an active life in the City when he became senior partner in his firm and practised as a Quantity Surveyor, Eric retired and moved to be closer to his family in Tasmania. His wife Brenda wrote that "Eric was a great Tylers and Bricklayers' man, so much so that he

proudly wore his T & B tie to his grave. His passing was peaceful and painless at home with me, as dignified and with as much style as he had lived his life." She went on to say that there are many photographs, plaques etc in their home which served to remind him of his time in the City and how, in recent years, he enjoyed the sunshine by the sea watching the world sail by.

We extend our sympathy to Brenda and the family and those of us in the Company who knew him look back with pleasure and gratefulness for his contribution.

The Company's Possessions

One of the responsibilities of the Renter Warden in his year of office is to check the Company's stock of silverware and other possessions. This task is made the more interesting because of the wide range of items. The inscriptions on many of them reflect both the history of the Company and the generosity of many former members.

The Oldest Item

The oldest item is undoubtedly a dried lump of mud ! It is a brick from old Jericho and is believed to have been made some 6000 or 7000 years ago. The excavation which revealed the find was described in The London Illustrated News in 1956.



The oldest item

The Oldest Silver

A Staff of Office was presented to the Company by a Peter Mills in 1660. The silver shield surmounting it carries the Arms of the Company surrounded by a helmet and the Company's crest. It is valued at £ 5600.

The Most Valuable Item

This is a blue and white English Delft Bowl with Chinese decoration. Inside the bowl is the motif with the Arms of the Company and dated 1722. It has a diameter of 10.5 inches and is almost 6 inches high. It is valued at £9500



The most valuable item



The oldest silver



COMMON COUNCILMAN

At a Wardmote held on Friday 22nd February 2002 Court Assistant Tom Hoffman was elected to represent Vintry Ward on the Court of Common Council of the Corporation of London.

Tom is currently Chairman of the Vintry and Dowgate Wards' Club. He is the second member of our Company to be elected to the Court of Common Council. The other member is Past Master Bryan

Montgomery who is also a member of the Vintry and Dowgate Wards' Club and is a Common Councilman for Dowgate Ward.

Elsewhere in the City, Tom is Honorary Treasurer of the Cordwainer Ward Club, he is a Court Assistant of the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy and he is our representative on the Court of the City University.

We offer Tom our warmest congratulations on his election.

Last year my brother recommended that I visit a special exhibition of watercolours at the Guildhall Art Gallery. The pictures were superb but as I read the captions my enjoyment was spoilt. A picture of an old ale house was described as an "in" and elsewhere the possessive form of it was written as it's. I wrote to my brother and described the first of these as carelessness and the second as ignorance.

The incident led me to think about the correct possessive form for our own Company. Clearly the safest description is The Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers.

But how should we treat it if the words are turned round? There is no problem if we write, for example, of The Company's possessions. But what is the correct form for the fuller description of The Tylers and Bricklayers Company? There are several possibilities.

One school of thought is that it should carry no apostrophes, as I have just written it.

This is based on the fact that the title is very old and apostrophes were not often used when the title came into being. The snag with this format is that some readers will assume that the writer has been lazy.

The second form is to recognise that The Company (singular) is a unit comprising Tylers and Bricklayers which happen to be plural words. One might illustrate the concept algebraically, thus, The (Ts+Bs)'s Company. In London the Square of St James is written St James's Square and this could lead one into a trap to write The Tylers and Bricklayers's Company. But the essential point here is that James is not a plural - it just happens to end with an "s". So this form is almost certainly wrong for our Company. The third form, based on this concept, is The Tylers and Bricklayers' Company with one apostrophe after the second noun.



This form is well illustrated by the compliment slip of Fortnum and Mason (which one presumes has been carefully prepared). The unit is the partnership of the two singular names. The unit carries the apostrophe and, as the illustration shows, is properly written *With Fortnum and Mason's Compliments*.

However, whilst probably the correct form in modern English, writing about the Company in this way with one apostrophe appears careless and attracts criticism.

The last option is the use of two apostrophes as in The Tylers' and Bricklayers' Company. This form implies that the Company comprises two separate groups being The Company of Tylers and The Company of Bricklayers. So in this case we have two companies and thus the possessive (if this were true for us) would be The Tylers' and Bricklayers' Companies. The remaining form The Tyler's and Bricklayer's Company is obviously so wrong that it can be immediately dismissed (we have more than two members!).

I should be most interested to hear from any member of our Company who can help clarify the matter. Please write to me and perhaps we might continue the debate next year with your letters to the editor.

Oh, by the way, my brother replied to my letter and to my embarrassment pointed out that I had not written carelessness as I had intended, but carlessness. Ops! Pots and kettles came to my mind!

The Editor (Upper Warden)

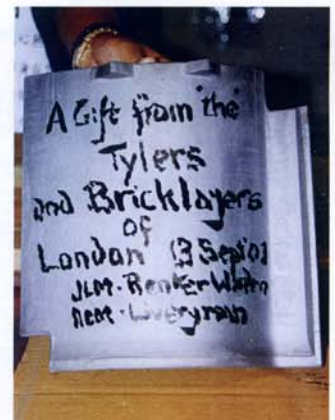


Tiles in Japan

The largest wooden building in the world is believed to be the Todaiji Temple in Japan. As a fund - raising effort the temple guardians were inviting visitors to purchase and dedicate a new roof tile which would, in due course, be used in the restoration work. Accordingly, the Renter Warden (as he then was) John Martin and his daughter, Liveryman Nicola subscribed on behalf of the Company. The photographs show John using a Japanese-style pen painting the dedication:

A Gift from the
Tylers and Bricklayers of London.
13 Sept 01
JLM - Renter Warden
NCM - Liveryman

Two days earlier the family visited the Museum in Hiroshima. On display were clay tiles which had been exposed to the full heat of the radiation from the exploding atomic bomb. Visitors were invited to handle the tiles and observe how the heat had melted the clay, roughening and fusing it, whilst the surfaces which has been covered by the neighbouring tiles were of their original texture. Later that same day the family watched on television the events unfold in New York. The Hiroshima Museum is devoted to peace, with the theme "never again"..... a poignant coincidence.



THE OATH which we all swore as FREEMEN

The installation ceremony for all of us who joined the Company as Freemen may have been a daunting occasion and for many of us a very distant and indistinct memory. We were ushered into the Courtroom by the Beadle or the Clerk who then read The Oath which all Freemen swear to the Company. This was followed by a handshake from the Master and Wardens and an introduction to all the members of the Court who were present. The Oath is no mean instrument. It is reproduced below and may be a useful reminder of the solemn commitment that we all made.

THE OATH which every person is obliged to take on his admission to the FREEDOM OF THE COMPANY

You shall swear to be true and faithful to this Craft of Tylers and Bricklayers of the City of London keeping much as in your power is, Love and Charity amongst them; not moving or stirring any occasion of Strife or Debate, through which the said Craft or Mystery or any person of the same might be injured or hurt.

Also you shall, in all lawful Things, be obedient always unto the Master and Wardens of the said Craft, for the time being, And all the lawful Rules, Statutes, and Ordinances, made and ordained, or hereafter to be made and ordained for the Weal of the said Craft well and truly you shall maintain and support to the best of your Power.

Also you shall duly and truly pay, or cause to be paid, the Quarterage and all other Yearly Duties, and, to the best of your power be contributory as other Brethren to all manner of lawful and reasonable charges belonging and necessarily appertaining to the said Fellowship.

Also you shall obey all manner of lawful Summons done in the Master and Wardens' names, by their Officer therefore assigned. You shall not discover the lawful Counsel of this Mystery which shall be kept secret within yourself. These points, and all other good Rules and Ordinances made to be made, you shall obey, keep, and maintain to your power as God shall give you Grace. So God you help, and the Contents of this Book.



Diary Dates



The Rt Hon Lord Renton of Mount Harry

Will be the principal guest and speaker at the Ladies Night, on Thursday 25th April 6.30 for 7.15pm Carpenters' Hall



The Right Reverend George Cassidy Bishop of Southwell

We are delighted that George Cassidy has agreed to preach at the Installation Service on Thursday 3rd October 11.45 am, St Margaret Lothbury

George is well known to us, being a Liveryman of our Company and was previously our Hon Chaplain



The Rt Hon Sir Edward George GBE The Governor, The Bank of England

Eddie George needs no introduction! He will be guest of honour and speaker at The Installation Luncheon on Thursday, 3rd October at 1 pm, Carpenters' Hall

SUMMER RECEPTION

in the Palace of Westminster

Thursday 27th June 2002

TRIENNIAL AWARDS

Guest Speaker – Sir John Egan

Tuesday 9th July 2002

CAROL SERVICE

at St Margaret Lothbury

Tuesday 17th December 2002

Liverymen are encouraged to bring their personal guests to the Company's open events.

The Newsletter of
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