



THE TURNER



NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TURNERS OF LONDON • 23 • APRIL 2004

Dear Fellow Turners

2004, the year of our Quater-centenary, is now upon us and what an exciting year for the Company it promises to be.

The celebrations commenced in November last year with our float in the Lord Mayor's Show. Many of those who saw it either from the Company's stand by St Paul's or on the pavement along the route or on television remarked on how well it portrayed turning as a modern craft. The design and production of the float was a tremendous feat. These things do not just happen; a considerable amount of work is involved beforehand in all the planning and preparation. I cannot possibly thank everybody involved but I would in particular like to mention Past Master Colin Field, Court Assistants George Kieffer and Rob Lucas, Liveryman Andrea Cenci di Bello and the turner who worked the Pole Lathe, Stuart King. I personally was very proud to be standing on the float inside the largest Wassail Bowl ever turned and my grateful thanks are extended to Hegner UK Limited (lathe manufacturers), the producers of the bowl.
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WIZARDRY IN WOOD - AN EXHIBITION OF TURNING

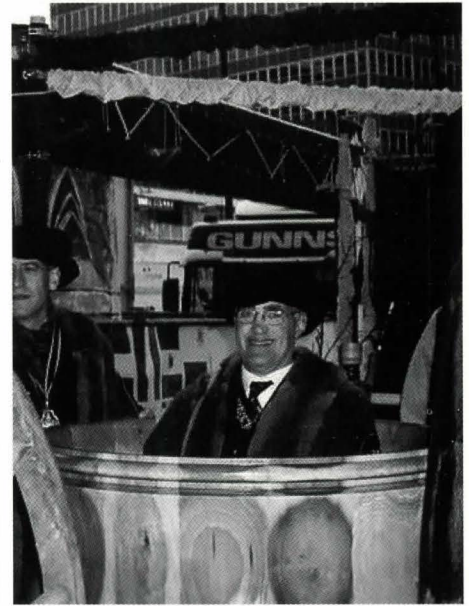
One of the highlights of this year will be the Wizardry in Wood exhibition. Running from Tuesday 15th to Thursday 17th June, this looks set to be a 'must' in the diaries of members of the Company, their family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances.

The exhibition will give you the opportunity to see some of the finest woodturning in Britain, including the winning pieces from this year's Turning Competitions, items from collections such as the Howe Collection, Daniel Collection and that of Honorary Liveryman Theo Fabergé. In addition, a number of professional turners will have stands where pieces may be bought or commissions placed.

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COMING QUATER-CENTENARY YEAR EVENTS

- Ladies' Dinner at the Mansion House - 22nd April
- St Bride's, Beating the Bounds - 19th May at 6pm.
- Turning Competitions - 14th June
- Sheriffs' Election - 24th June
- Wizardry in Wood, Exhibition - 15th, 16th and 17th June
- Wizardry in Wood, Company Reception - 15th June
- Bach Cantata at St Mary's-at-Hill - September (to be confirmed)
- Carol Service with Musicians' Company - December (to be confirmed)



The 2003 Lord Mayor's Show. Master Andrew Mayer tries not to slosh around in the world's largest wassail bowl (produced by Hegner UK Limited) on the Turners float while Upper Warden Richard Levy stands by.



On the back page of this newsletter Assistant George Kieffer, Chairman of the Livery Committee appeals for your help with quater-centenary events and other Company activities.

THE MASTER'S LETTER (continued)

There was an excellent turnout for the first major event of 2004, the Gardner Williams Dinner. The sentiment to Richard Gardner Williams was given by past Master Brian Burnett who has just completed updating and extending the Roland Champness History of the Company. He is to be congratulated on his sterling work. The new book will not only be given to existing members but also presented to future Liverymen and therefore Brian's legacy to the Company will be enjoyed by Turners for many years to come. My thanks are also extended to Past Master Tony Crooks-Meredith who arranged for the printing of the book. Attendees at the Gardner Williams Dinner received not only the new history but also an expertly turned and ornamented box in African blackwood made by Paul Coker, each box involving 144 separate cuts. These boxes were engraved with our Turners' crest and the dates 1604-2004 and are a superb memento of the 400 years since the Royal Charter was granted.

The Ladies' Dinner on 22nd April at the Mansion House also promises to be a grand occasion. The Lord Mayor will be the principal guest and he will be accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, together with the Sheriffs and their wives. When we last dined in the Mansion House to celebrate the Millennium we filled the hall to capacity and I very much hope we shall do so again.

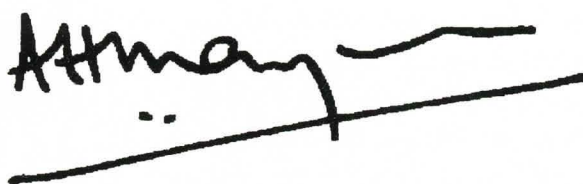
On 14th June we hold our biennial Turning Competitions in Apothecaries' Hall. If past Competitions are anything to go by, the level of entries will be extremely high. The prizes will be presented by the Lord Mayor. This is not a regular feature in the Lord Mayor's diary but Robert Finch attended the Competitions in his year as Aldermanic Sheriff and was so impressed by the entries that he asked if he could be involved in the prizegiving during his mayoralty year.

Immediately following the competition, on the 15th, 16th and 17th June, we will be holding an exhibition in the Pewterers' Hall in the heart of the City. This will be a 'first' for the Company and very much needs the support of us all. Its principal aim is to show that turning is not a dying craft and there are very many skilled turners making objects of great beauty and practicality. I believe that many members of the public, and indeed possibly many members of this Company, will be surprised at the quality of work produced. Not only will the Competitions winners have their works displayed; also on display will be some prize items from various turning collectors. Fifteen or so professional turners with stands will have works for sale and accept new commissions.

On a lawn outside the Hall we intend to erect a marquee with two or three working lathes so that people can actually watch turners in action. One of the turners will be Stuart King who has found the drawings of a lathe designed by Leonardo da Vinci and will be making the first working model in the marquee.

It is of the utmost importance therefore that any of your friends and acquaintances who are interested in turning are made aware of this exhibition and encouraged to attend. You will be pleased to note that one of the evenings will be devoted to a reception for the Company.

Any Company is only as active as its members and we are no exception. These events, organised for the benefit of the Craft and the Company, exemplify what we are all about and they can only be a success if they are well attended. I very much hope that each and every one of you will try and participate in some or all of these events. Ours is a vibrant Livery Company not stuck in the past but moving forward to the future with real impetus and it is vitally important that we all play our part to ensure that this message is promulgated far and wide. I personally shall very much look forward to seeing you at these events.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Mayer', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Andrew Mayer

WIZARDRY IN WOOD - AN EXHIBITION OF TURNING

To make this exhibition a success will require your help in ensuring that it is fully attended. Some fliers have been enclosed with this newsletter; please distribute them to everyone you think might be interested - entry is free! Additional fliers are available from the Clerk.

Some of the highlights of the exhibition are:

- Working pole lathe
- Working modern lathes
- A lathe created from a design by Leonardo da Vinci - the first time a lathe has been constructed from this design
- Fabulous pieces from the St Petersburg, Daniel and Howe Collections
- Prizewinning pieces from the quarter-centenary turning competitions
- An opportunity to talk to a range of professional turners and buy existing work or place commissions. Some ideas for purchases are:

Small gifts such as the exquisite turned box presented to the Company at the Gardner Williams dinner

Presentation pieces for wedding anniversaries, either just wood or embellished with silver or gold

Trophies for sporting or other competitions

Specialist work for restoration such as chair legs or newel posts

Christening stools

Jewelry

- The Royal Charter of the Worshipful Company of Turners

The exhibition will be held in the Pewterers' Hall, Oat Lane, London EC2.

EXHIBITION TIMETABLE

Tuesday 15th June

13:00 - 16:00

Exhibition open to the public

18:00 - 20:00

Private reception for members of the Company (See the Clerk's enclosed letter)

Wednesday 16th June

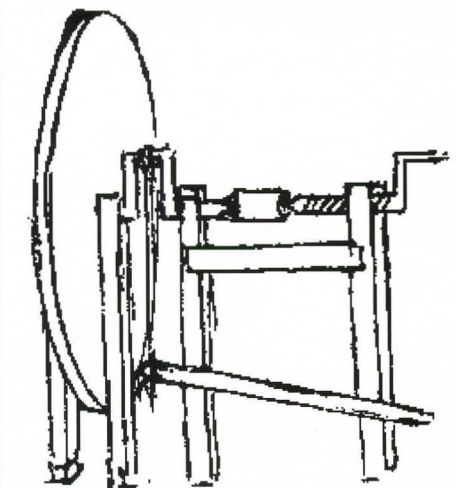
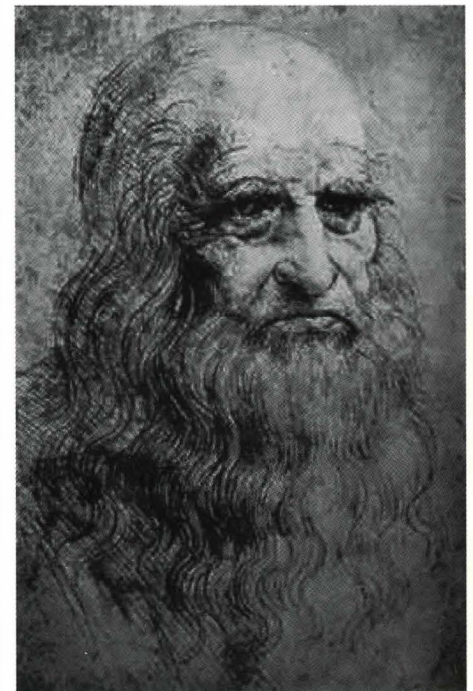
11:00 - 16:00

Exhibition open to the public

Thursday 17th June

11:00 - 16:00

Exhibition open to the public



Leonardo da Vinci and his design for a lathe (circa 1500).

THE TURNERS' HISTORY

Past Master Brian Burnett gives us a taste of his article for the May issue of The Turner.

How did I come to do the updating?

It started from a suggestion at a Court meeting in 1984 that we should setup a library of books relating to the craft. I immediately asked what had happened to the library of over 60 volumes referred to by Roland Champness on pages 222-3 of his History. No one had the least idea. I was invited to answer my own question by finding them.

For the rest of the story see the next issue of the Turner.

Assistant George Kieffer, Chairman of the Livery Committee appeals for your help:

I am sure that you are already enjoying the ambitious programme for this, our quarter-centenary year. Given the breadth of events, especially those open to the public, we need to appeal for your help. Please volunteer, even if you can manage only a few hours - **Your Company Needs You!**

Wizardry in Wood - Stewards

We need volunteers to help with the setting up and running of the exhibition on the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th June. We would hope that you would help with all aspects, ranging from minding cars while they are being unloaded/loaded to marshalling visitors around the exhibition.

Wizardry in Wood – Sponsors

Although we are quite close to the event, we would welcome any further offers of sponsorship for the Wizardry in Wood exhibition.

Wizardry in Wood – Photographer

Position filled.

Part-time assistant to the Clerk

Our Clerk, Edward Windsor Clive, is in need of a part-time assistant. They should be able to type reasonably and have some computer skills. This might well suit someone with children who are growing up.

Company Archivist

The Company needs a volunteer archivist to maintain records and photographs of events and activities, especially those in this, our quarter-centenary year.

For all of you able to help, in the first instance please contact the Clerk by e-mail or telephone as soon as possible. E-mail clerk@turnersco.com Telephone 020 7353 9595.

Contributions to The Turner

We are, as always, more than happy to hear from members of the Company who would like to contribute articles or ideas to The Turner. **This is your newsletter!** Contributions should go to the editor, Michael Steinbeck-Reeves. E-mail editor@turnersco.com Telephone 07785 277413.

New Freeman

The Company has recently welcomed two new Freeman: Charles Field and Linda Newbigging.

New Liverymen

The Company has welcomed five new Liverymen: David Batchelor, Brian Coke, David Eager, Philip Slater and Robert Wieder.

Turning Competitions

Monday 14th June

You are reminded that there are special competitions for members of the Company. The first, for the best piece produced by a member, the second for the best piece produced by a novice member. Please contact me for further details.

Wizardry in Wood fliers

I am holding a stock of additional fliers for the Wizardry in Wood exhibition should you require more. A copy for e-mailing will also be available from me and also on the Company website: www.turnersco.com.

EDITORIAL

The next issue of The Turner will be printed in May. It will be a special 'souvenir' issue commemorating this, our 400th year. Liveryman Martyn Lewis will be joining the editorial team of The Turner to help with that and future issues.

