

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TURNERS OF LONDON

Newsletter Summer 1999 Issue 14



Dear Fellow Turners

Previous Masters have spoken of change. The start of this year has been no exception with a new Clerk and new office accommodation. While I look forward to a period of stability on the administrative side, I am determined that the Company should continue to look forward. A Millennium Gift to St Bride's of a moveable font is being turned by Philip Holden and it is hoped that this will be on display at the Gardner Williams dinner. A Millennium Turning Competition is under way and we are planning for the 400-year anniversary of the signing of the Turners' Charter in 2004. At the same time, the Howe Committee is considering how the Company can support the Craft over the longer term.

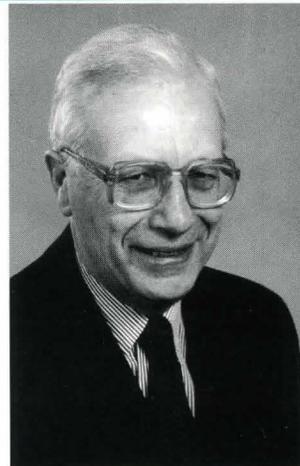
Changes are taking place in the City of London too and we must ensure that the Company plays its part in enabling the City to progress while maintaining its traditions. A Bill is before Parliament which will alter the voting franchise in the City and next year will see a Mayor of London. This year, a Liveryman of the Company, Hugh Harris, stood for the office of Sheriff. Although unsuccessful, Hugh received considerable support.

The first months in office have provided a new insight into the work of the Livery Companies. Visits to the Black Country and Ironbridge Museums served to highlight the support that is being given to preserving our

heritage. The Lord Mayor's Mid-Summer Banquet at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, which raised £50,000 for his LEUKA 2000 Appeal, was an example of contributions to charity. Susan and I also attended the Prize Giving at the City of London Freemen's

School. We were delighted to meet the winners of the two Turners' prizes, Jeremy Moss, who gave an excellent Head Boy's report, and James Bridgewood, whose design technology project was of a high standard.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible, with your guests, at our Livery Dinner in the Mansion House on December 21st. In the meantime, do get in touch if you would like to discuss the work and direction of the Company.



John Slater, photographed in 1997, before he retired from MAFF. His wife Susan says he looks younger since retirement!

COMING EVENTS

- * Court Meeting (11.00 a.m.) & Livery Luncheon
Wednesday 15th September 1999
- * Election of Lord Mayor in Guildhall
Wednesday 29th September 1999
- * Golfing Society at Highgate
Friday 1st October 1999
- * Court Meeting (4.00 p.m.)
Monday 8th November 1999
- * Lord Mayor's Day
Saturday 13th November 1999
- * Patronal Service & Buffet Luncheon
Thursday 25th November 1999
- * Livery Dinner (Mansion House)
Tuesday 21st December 1999
- * Court Ladies' Dinner
Wednesday 19th January 2000
- * Gardner Williams Banquet
Thursday 24th February 2000
- * Court Meeting & Court Luncheon
Wednesday 1st March 2000
- * United Guilds Service
Friday 31st March 2000
- * Craft Meeting - Register of Professional Turners
Wednesday 12th April 2000
- * Ladies' Dinner
Thursday 27th April 2000

The Turner

The Turner

THE MASTER'S YEAR

Past Master Colin Field reports on his eventful year.

I have been asked to look back upon the year and pick out the highlights, all in 500 words. Such are the instructions received from Assistant Penrose Halson!

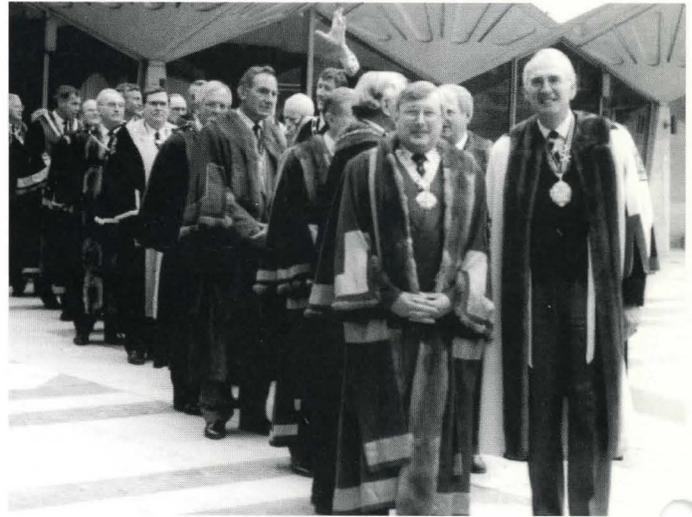
Where though to begin, and what to give special mention, which may by accident or omission demean others?

The year in its entirety was of course a wonderful privilege and opportunity. I was able to learn even more about our great Company than I had anticipated, and added to my knowledge of other organisations and Companies with whom I came into contact. REME, be it Regular or Volunteer, plays an important part in the life of the Company, as do the Royal Navy at their School of Engineering at HMS *Sultan*. The visits, of which there have been many, are a wonderful opportunity to see at first hand where all our taxes are going. REME Bordon and HMS *Sultan*, if my memory serves me well, each command just over or around 30% of the Military and Naval Budgets and Personnel. Such are the values of Technical and Engineering services in the modern military world. As I look up from my desk I see my brass paperweight, a constant reminder of a day's visit to SEME at Bordon, a day in which I and others on the Court quite literally "Turned" theory to practice.

Never having been Services-oriented nor motivated, it took the breath away to see enthusiastic young men and women, the latter of whom were doing all the greasy jobs and swearing with the best (or is it *rest*?!). They were stripping and assembling starter motors on "ten tonners" in the middle of a march and shoot competition, and had given up their weekend, being all volunteers - even the band - to take part in Operation Southern Craftsman.

From the dirt of the training ground to the polish of City Civic and its ceremonials, be they at Livery Company level or in the company of our Lord Mayor at Guildhall or Mansion House, no one can do it better. I am a self-confessed traditionalist and enjoyed the participation right down to the goose bumps and hair-standing-on-end syndrome of participation.

To participate in services at St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey as well as our own Patronal Service at St Bride's, must be a delight for anyone with a committed faith. So to our own Company functions, each with its own version of the Ceremony of the Loving Cup (had you noticed they are different?). Each function - Livery Dinner, Gardner Williams Banquet, lunch or Ladies' Dinner - has its own special flavour. Each has its own differing guest list and members' attendance. Can I pick out a highlight? No I don't think so, Penrose, unless it was the Court meeting at which both you and George Kieffer were elected. You were both put on the Court, where all the Freemen and Liverymen can see you, so that in time, with others elected to the Court, you may have your chance to experience such a wonderful privilege as I have done this year.



Past Master Colin Field with Ian Bond, Master Glazier, in the Lord Mayor's procession from Guildhall to St Lawrence Jewry.

THE NEW MASTER

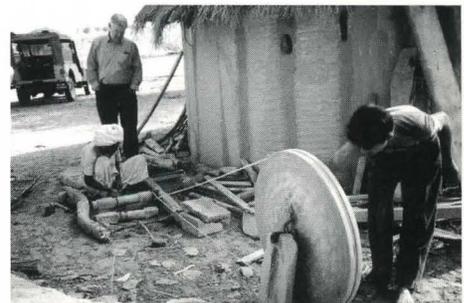
John Morton Slater, who was born in County Durham, is the nephew of the late Henry Morton, Master of the Turners' Company in 1975. Like his Uncle, he has spent most of his working career in London, although in Westminster rather than the City.

Following a BSc in Agricultural Science at Nottingham University, he spent four years in North America, receiving an MSA from Toronto University and a PhD in econometrics from Illinois University. He lectured at Manchester University and was head-hunted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), which was planning for entry into the European Community. Ministers of Agriculture (he cannot recall how many) came and went but the Common Agricultural Policy, which he describes as an economic nonsense, has survived. John retired as Director of Economics and Statistics in August 1998. He now works part-time as a consultant with OECD, as an assessor for the Civil Service Selection Board, as lecturer at the Economics University in Budapest, and as Special Advisor to the House of Lords Committee on Science and Technology.

John played squash for Durham County and village club cricket, captaining Guelph CC (Canada). He continues his interest in sport as a member of the MCC and on the golf course at Highgate. He is a member of the City Livery Club and the Royal Institution.

TURNING IN RAJASTHAN

In February this year Past Master Hugh Lindley-Jones went to the Thar Desert in Western Rajasthan. There he saw a primitive lathe, powered by hand, being used to produce wooden balusters.



The Turner

CHIEF COMMONER & TURNER

Barbara Newman talked to Penrose Halson about being Chief Commoner and a Liveryman.

How did you come to be Chief Commoner of the City?

I'm Chairman of the Corporation's senior committee, the City Lands and Bridge House Estates Committee, which looks after all the Corporation's property. It elects a chairman for only one year, and for the last 100 years or so he or she has been called the Chief Commoner. It goes with the post. I was fairly disappointed when I was elected because I had thought that being called Chief Commoner went back very much further - a hundred years is not really very far in Corporation terms!

What is the Chief Commoner's job?

As well as all the things for which the Committee is responsible, I have a role to play on the Court of Common Council, which meets every month. I make announcements, for instance a very pleasant one was when several officers of the Court and one member were given awards in the Birthday Honours. When the Lord Mayor makes a report on a tour, I thank him on the Court's behalf. So it's ceremonial things to do with the running of the Court of Common Council, and all sorts of others, like speaking after a dinner - I stand in for the Lord Mayor. Most of my speaking engagements are in my own right as Chief Commoner, but for example I recently went to Plymouth for the decommissioning of a ship, HMS *London*, because the Lord Mayor couldn't do it. It was a most impressive ceremony. There are quite a lot of openings of things - tomorrow I'm opening the summer school of the Guildhall University, and I'll tell the mainly foreign students how the City works.

Is it more or less a full-time occupation?

Yes, it is really. I think it's a good idea to do it for only a year, you'd get a bit fraught if it were longer. I'm on ten committees, including the City Lands and Bridge House Estates, and the Chief Commoner gets other invitations: tomorrow I'm going to West Ham Park - the Corporation's responsible for 10,000 acres of estates around London - and the Lord Mayor (or I think the Lady Mayoress this time) is going to plant a tree. The Chief Commoner is always invited too, so life gets pretty busy.

What were you doing before?

I've been on the Planning and Transportation Committee for ten years, of which four as Chairman. Before you stand for the most senior committee, you've usually done a chairmanship of another senior committee. I'm not a planner by training - I was a trust manager in the City for twenty-five years. I live in the City too. You can truly call me a City person.

How did the Turners come in?

I met Hugh Harris - who's just been standing for Sheriff - at a Corporation dinner in the Barbican. We talked about the Livery and I said I wasn't a Liveryman and would rather like to be, and he said he was a Turner. To cut a long story short, he introduced me to Peter Venn and to other Turners, and eventually they put me up and I was admitted to the Livery in October 1997.

Do you have time to get to Turners' events?

Most of them. Once I couldn't get to the Patronal Service in St Bride's because I had meetings I couldn't get out of. But I try to come to all functions - I don't think there's any point in belonging otherwise. I don't know much about turning, I've never come across it. But do you remember when we went to the Globe, there was a lady turning the theatre's balusters on a pole lathe? It was fascinating watching her. One or two Turners had a go, and found it a lot harder than it looked! And do you remember those lovely little turned wooden 'acorn' boxes we were given at the Ladies' Dinner? They were marvellous, so lovely to touch. Turned wood is very tactile. I love to see all our treasures on the tables at dinners - you want to reach out and touch them all.

Maybe when you're no longer Chief Commoner you'll learn to turn!

Maybe! My year is up next January, but. I'm not thinking beyond this December, when there will be the elections to the Court of Common Council.

And on December 21st are you coming to the Livery Dinner in the Mansion House?

Oh yes, certainly - I might even buy a new dress!



Barbara Newman with Past Master Colin Field and his wife Christine at the Ladies' Dinner.

The Turner

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TURNERS' GOLFING SOCIETY

Past Master Michael Simmonds, who is reviving the Golfing Society, writes.

In late 1935 a Turners' Golfing Society was formed under the auspices of the Master, CHJ Day, assisted by F Lindley-Jones and the Clerk, Roland Champness. A team was entered for the Inter-Livery Event - the Prince Arthur of Connaught Cup - in May 1936. The Turners' team were GW Potter, F Lindley-Jones, JBF Cowper and FA Morris, who had all competed at St George's Hill golf club on 4th May and had returned the best results. Records do not relate how our first entry to the Prince Arthur turned out! However, JBF Cowper was a clear winner at St George's Hill with a net 74.

Regular meetings were held in Spring and Autumn until the outbreak of World War II. Average attendance over this period exceeded fifteen Liverymen and Freemen. Trophies had been generously donated by Messrs Day, Newson-Smith, EH Mundy, CV Jacobs and Sir Stanley Woodwork. Naturally no Society golf took place from 1939 until 1948, when there was a revival with a meeting at Gants Hill, when fourteen participated. Messrs Potter and Harvey Barton donated more trophies, which from 1956 normally were presented to the winner at the Gardner Williams Dinner the following year.

In 1943 a winter knock-out competition was instigated, and was won by Ian Cowper at Royal Mid Surrey. Ian was clearly head and shoulders above the normal Turner golfer, with a handicap of one and a talent for winning. Meetings, post-War, were held at Addington, Porters Park, RAC Country Club, Mill Hill, Royal Wimbledon and Denham. At the first weekend meeting, at Ham Manor in 1957, JBF Cowper, Ian Cowper and F Lindley-Jones received trophies. Records of the Society terminated in 1962 when four Turners took part in the Spring meeting. Economic factors probably played a large part in the demise of the Society, and did so again in the early 90's when days off for golf were both a luxury and detrimental to job security. Hopefully we are in a more stable climate and two or three days off to support Turners' golf is not too much to ask.

It was decided early on that if the Master is a golfer he should be offered the captaincy of the Society for that year - a nice touch which we should reinstate, and I feel sure we would welcome John Slater as Captain for this year. We suggest that reconstitution of the Society with a committee of four or five will ensure that it moves forward. Ladies were welcome at the weekend meetings in the 1950's, and for 1999 we are very pleased to welcome ladies to Highgate on October 1st to mark the latest revival of the Turners' Golfing Society.

The Society is grateful to its Secretaries - F Lindley-Jones from 1936 until 1952, then Ian Cowper, Denis Castell, David Smithers, yours truly, Peter Ellis and Alan Godfrey. Let us hope the Society will prosper again, as we have on paper some forty golfers not including wives; and I with your Captain welcome you to Highgate on October 1st 1999 for a memorable day.

MILLENNIUM AT THE MANSION HOUSE



To celebrate the Millennium, the Lord Mayor has invited the Company to hold our Livery Dinner at the Mansion House.

For this splendid celebratory occasion, members of the Company may bring their wife/husband/partner, and as many guests as they liked.

The Company is investigating reasonable hotel accommodation in London. If any Turner can offer a bed to Turners coming from far away, please contact the Clerk.



More details from the Clerk in October. But now write your diary * **TUESDAY DECEMBER 21st** *

THE COMPANY'S NEW CLERK

Edward Windsor Clive is now in the chair as Clerk. He was brought up in Gloucestershire, educated at Ampleforth College, and commissioned from Sandhurst into the Coldstream Guards. His father's family has four generations in the Regiment while his maternal grandfather commanded a battalion in the First World War, aged 23. He did Ceremonial duties in London, and served in Germany, Cyprus and Northern Ireland. He was lucky enough to serve with the Australian Army, to be with the UN forces in Korea and Cyprus, and to be sent to fifteen different countries during his service.

In 1985 he decided to settle down and joined Sedgwick on their Members' agency side. He became Director of an independent firm, RF Kershaw Limited, which survived the Lloyd's troubles though eventually merged with three other agencies to form Greenwich Lloyd's Underwriting. He still has a non-executive directorship.

He married Grania in 1982, and they have a teenage girl and boy. He lives in Fulham and every day cycles part of the way to work. His interests are reading and history.



Edward Windsor Clive with his wife Grania. He has set up the Company's new office, where he will be happy to see Turners. Contact him by telephone, letter or E-mail: clerk@turnerscompany.demon.co.uk