

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TURNERS OF LONDON



Newsletter Summer 1993 Issue 2

Dear Fellow Turner,

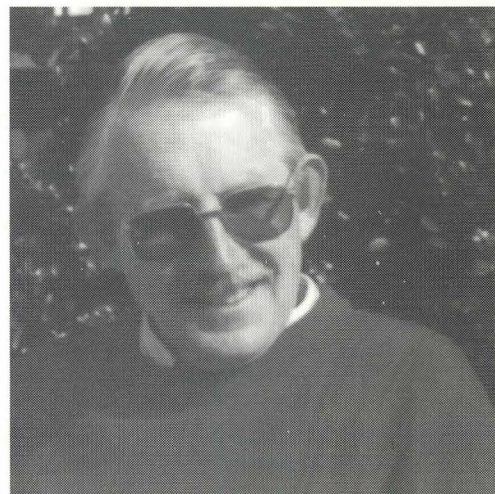
Without doubt, it is a great privilege to have been elected Master of the Worshipful Company of Turners on Ascension Day. I am very conscious of the honour afforded me and, with your support I am looking forward to serving the Company.

The Turners' Company is on the move. We have all been particularly fortunate during recent years in having a succession of Masters who have gradually raised the profile of the Company and the level of activity within it – but much remains to be done. I shall try to play my part in keeping the Company moving forward.

During my year as your Master, a good deal of time will be spent on the regular affairs of the Company, as well as representing it both in the City and beyond. In addition to these commitments however, I would like to focus on three matters in particular.

First, I would like the Company to develop a clear understanding of its objectives and growing aspirations and ensure that they are in balance with our financial resources.

Second, I want to find further ways of using the enormous range of talent within the Company, including our lady Liverymen and young Liverymen, for the benefit of the Company.



Third, I shall try to ensure that the purpose of the Howe Committee and the essential authenticity it gives to the Turners is more widely understood.

I hope that we all have a very happy and enjoyable year together and look forward to meeting you all at the first opportunity.

Sincerely,

COMING EVENTS

- Court Meeting p.m. – Thursday 22nd July 1993
- Bank of England Museum Visit – Monday 20th September 1993
- Election of Lord Mayor in Guildhall – Wednesday 29th September 1993
- Court Meeting a.m. & Livery Luncheon – Friday 8th October 1993
- Patronal Service, Buffet Lunch & Court Meeting p.m. – Thursday 25th November 1993
- Lord Mayor's Show (from HQS Wellington) – Saturday 13th November 1993
- Livery Dinner – Tuesday 21st December 1993
- Awards Court – Tuesday 15th February 1994
- Gardner Williams Banquet – Friday 25th February 1994
- Court Meeting a.m. & Court Luncheon – Thursday 17th March 1994
- United Guilds Service – Friday 18th March 1994
- Craft Meeting – Friday 25th March 1994
- Ladies' Dinner – Thursday 28th April 1994
- Election Court & Dinner – Thursday 12th May 1994
- Election of Sheriffs in Guildhall – Friday 24th June 1994
- Court Meeting p.m. – Thursday 21st July 1994

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EDWARD SAWNEY'S YEAR

The whole year has been tremendous fun and very rewarding. The more I learn about the City, with its history and character, the more I realise how much there is to learn and see. I hope my small part adds to the furtherance and continuity of the City, the Livery Companies in general and the Mystery or Art of the Worshipful Company of Turners in particular.

Every event that I have been to has been memorable in its own right and most enjoyable – scenes and phrases come constantly to mind, such as the Permanent Master of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators, the Duke of Edinburgh, telling us we should be U-Turners to keep up with the modern world! I have been to receptions and luncheons, elections and craft meetings, church services, prize givings, exhibitions – it is impossible to tell you about all of them. Here are a few highlights.

Gardner Williams Dinner at which Liveryman Paul Kyle donated a most splendid pair of candlesticks to the Company; and the Ladies' Dinner, which was enlivened not only by ladies but also by the Haileybury College madrigal group who, while we ate guinea fowl, sang charmingly about two amorous goslings who ended up side by side – cooked, on a plate.

Sir Lionel Denny Lecture which was about London and the Civil War, most of which my history studies never revealed.

Visit to the Old Bailey including the ornate and imposing No. 1 Court Room and the stark cells where prisoners are kept while the courts are sitting; followed by a most convivial pub supper.

Building Crafts School prize-giving in Carpenters' Hall. The educational work of the Livery Companies is so worthwhile and I hope that we can do a lot more for education in all forms, but particularly turning.

United Guilds Service in Saint Paul's at which the Bishop of London preached "In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity, consider."

FACTS ABOUT THE MASTER

Peter Francis William Venn, born Chelsea 1940. Joint Senior Partner, Robinson Low, Chartered Quantity Surveyors, London & Glasgow. His father, Turner George Venn, was Senior Partner.

Educated at King's School, Canterbury (Captain of Boats); Emmanuel College, Cambridge (degree in Economics, rowed College 1st VIII); College of Estate Management.

Wife Heather (met 1961, reading Economics at Girton); teacher at James Allen's Girls' School; children, Paul, James, Nicola. Lives in Dulwich, enjoys travel, golf, sailing, music.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

It's high summer but Christmas will suddenly appear; so note in your diary November 23rd-24th, Christmas market in Guildhall, organised by the City Red Cross. The Lady Mayoress urges all Liverymen to support it. Ideal source of Christmas presents.

GOVERNOR OF THE TOWER OF LONDON

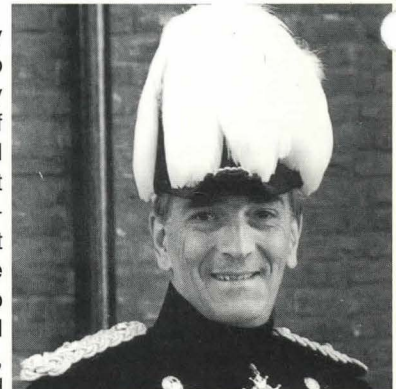
Major-General Christopher Tyler, CB, MA, CEng, FIMechE, FRAes, Governor of the Tower of London and Liveryman of the Turners' Company, talked to Penrose Halson:

Did you know the Tower before you got the job as Governor?

I had been here as a small boy, like most people. Parents think it's a good thing to take their children to the Tower when they're about eight – that's too young, actually. You really need to be doing GCSE History to appreciate it. I myself didn't know very much – I failed 'O' level history – and I have a lot of catching up to do!

Were you thrilled when you came here?

Oh, yes. It was very strange, because the job used to be a military appointment in the gift of the Chief of the General Staff and usually it went to a Guards' Major-General, though not exclusively so, there have been other cap badges. In 1989, just as I was leaving the Army, the rules were changed and the job was advertised – I spotted it in the appointments supplement of the *Sunday Times*. Applications were invited through the Civil Service Commission late entry system. I wrote off, but thought that this must be a token gesture to democracy and it would of course still go to a Guardsman – and surprise, surprise, here I am!



What had you wanted to be?

I always wanted to be an engineer from a very early age and I also loved ceremonial. At Sandhurst, I was one of those extraordinary people who enjoyed ceremonial drill. During my apprenticeship and early training in the Army, my prime interest was in the use of machinery in various forms – I actually used a lathe for a few weeks! But I think there was an underlying interest in history and I liked its connection to ceremonial. The tradition, going back centuries, is part of what attracted me to the job – as indeed to the Turners too.

How did you come to join the Turners?

Through my father, who died last year. The Corps of REME was formed in 1942, predominantly from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. It didn't of course have City connections like other older regiments and Corps did. We think of ourselves as weapons repairers more than anything else so the Armourers and Brasiers were the Livery Companies that sprang to mind. But they've got other military affiliations with the Gunners and some of the Infantry. So somebody had the bright idea that although we're military and deal with weapons, we actually deal with everything that involves machinery. We are the Corps that may have to manufacture spare parts, or machine existing parts to

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keep them going; so the Turners seemed the natural Company and in fact they were closer to what we were doing than the Armourers and Brasiers. I don't know who took the main initiative but, after discussions, the Turners adopted the Corps as its affiliate and my father was one of the first from REME to join. When I was leaving university in 1958, he issued a simple instruction about Corporate and filial support and, of course, in went my application for the Livery.

Was your father instrumental in reviving the Awards scheme?

Yes, and he ran it for quite some time. Then Atco – Sir Leonard Atkinson – took it on, then Gordon Sloan was persuaded into it. Gordon hoicked me into it by the ear, saying "Your old man started this, his son can carry on!" For years, I couldn't attend the Awards committee because I was travelling but, from the Tower, I can just hop on the tube at Blackfriars – on a fine night, I'll even walk home from a livery dinner.

What to you are the advantages or pleasures of being a Turner?

Oh, that's quite difficult. There's the tradition which I love and the charitable connection with engineering. I think it's a very good thing that the Turners revived the connection with turning. At the risk of putting my foot in it, I think the Livery Companies which are sort of superior dining clubs rather miss the point. At the other end of the scale, Livery Companies which are exclusively trade-oriented I personally don't find such fun either. As part of this job, I enjoy generous hospitality from a wide range of Companies, I go whenever I can, and I do think the Turners have now got the balance right. When I was new to the Company, one of the great strengths I found is that at a gathering, even if you find yourself sitting between two people you have never met before, you very quickly establish what feels like a long-standing friendship.

Are you a member of other Livery Companies?

No, I'm not. I've resisted, even though people have been very kind and I've been invited to join others. But I haven't enough time to be able to contribute. The Tower has a very strong connection with the Bowyers and the Fletchers. They have an annual archery contest in the moat, which is fairly light-hearted, and I presented them with a trophy which they now compete for – so we've put a little edge into the contest! And, being on the river, I've made chums with the Watermen.

Was getting the job as Governor straightforward?

No! There were about 120 applicants and I was serving in Norway which I thought would be a disadvantage for attending interviews. But somehow I found myself at the final interview with a very daunting panel: the Lord Chamberlain, leading executives of the museums and tourist industries and senior civil servants. And a couple of months later came this surprise telephone call!

The panel were looking for someone to run the Tower as a successful tourist business?

Yes. It is primarily a business; and I was fortunate to be available

at the right time with a logistics and financial background.

You'd been in the Army the whole time up until then?

Oh, yes, apart from taking my degree at Cambridge. However much of my time was dealing with contracts of all sorts. One was the maintenance of helicopters at the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop; another was a contract with Cranfield Institute of Technology for taking over all the academic training at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham; and the budget at NATO headquarters in Oslo. So I had some understanding of what was required at the Tower. Incidentally, the Tower more than pays for itself and helps subsidise other royal palaces like Hampton Court.

What do you want to do after the Tower?

I've got a year of my contract left, then I'll go and do something else. Here, let's use these columns as my first advertisement: Ex-Governor of Tower of London looking for challenging third career!

What as? The Tower is a hard act to follow, isn't it?

Yes. I can still contribute something to the engineering profession, or in tourism. I could also contribute something in the City administration, perhaps as a Clerk to a Livery Company, but there's usually a long list of applicants for those vacancies. The ideal solution is a bunch of non-executive directorships, but we would all like that!

But whatever you do, you'll still have time for Turners?

Oh, yes, I hope so. The only thing which kept me away before was geography. I'm very confident that Gordon Sloan can go on running the Awards, he's very expert and I'm delighted to try to help him!

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

City Livery Club at Sion College, Victoria Embankment, EC4Y 0DN, founded in 1914 as a luncheon club for Liverymen, has 2,300 members. It provides a Club luncheon, special Luncheons and Banquets, holidays, parking and sections for bridge, cricket, golf, aero, motoring, tennis, yachting and music. For further details and/or a visit contact the Clerk, John Battersby on 071 353 2431.

Society of Young Freemen for Freemen aged 21 to 36. Recent visits have included the Bank of England's Museum, Old Bailey, the Oval, Henley Royal Regatta, Queen's Club (dinner), and carol singing for the Lord Mayor's charity. Annual New Members' evening, prospective members welcome. Information from the Membership Secretary, Stephen Plumb, 2 Northcote Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6PW.

Turners' Golf Society welcomes all interested Turners and guests to the late Autumn Meeting, October 28th 1993, at the East Berkshire Golf Club. Put it in your diary and ring Peter Ellis on 071 486 4477.

St. Catherine's Lodge, formed 1914 by the then Master, F.C.C. Figiera, meets quarterly in Innholders' Hall. Masons and others interested contact Malcolm Slaughter on 0483 715573.

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DESIGN AWARDS FOR 1992

In the splendid setting of the Apothecaries' Hall, Ivor Owen, CBE, CEng, FIMechE, Director General of the Design Council, presented our awards at the Awards Court on February 4th.

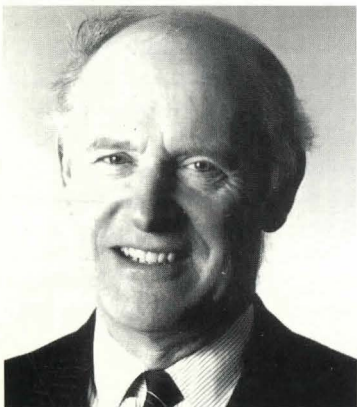
There were sadly few entries and the judges could not award our gold medal; but they awarded a silver medal (and £1,000) to James Smith, 24, a student of South Bank University. He designed a car seat which folds to expose safety anchor points in its frame which hold an infant carrier in a rigid and integrated manner. The judges found Mr Smith's design to be well researched, radical, capable of both factory and retro-fitting, and a significant contribution to passenger protection.

A semi-automatic machine for making surgical dressings, designed by Chris Ellwood, 27, a Huddersfield University graduate, won a bronze medal and £500. Hospital ENT departments use a surgical dressing of ribbon gauze strip impregnated with ointment and rolled manually. Mr Ellwood's machine speeds up production considerably and applies the ointment evenly at a controlled rate. A practical and significant improvement to the product with the bonus of increased hygiene.

Another bronze medal and £500 went to Mr D. Ainley, a retired jig and tool designer, whose "Diametrix" range of self-built designs gives model-makers increased and/or cheaper facilities to extend the capabilities of a small lathe by making more use of the faceplate for milling operations. The judges praised the clear statement of objectives and excellent drawings. It is most satisfying that a design related to our own craft was rewarded.

Martin Lumby and the Smallpeice Trust are helping us to improve the performance of our Design Awards Competition and we had over 35 entries for 1993. Through the Competition we shall add to the Company's prestige, raise our profile and enhance awareness of the City Liveries' contribution to the community. Do you know of any potential entrant? Please ask for details from either the Clerk or Gordon Sloan (081 947 0767).

TOP SURVEYOR MADE VISITING PROFESSOR



Liveryman Alan Gillett, MA, FRICS, has been appointed Visiting Professor to Kingston University's School of Surveying in recognition of his contribution to the School and to the profession of surveying. He is also an Honorary Fellow and visiting lecturer at the College of Estate Management and a visiting lecturer at Oxford Brookes University.

KNOW YOUR CITY

The City Managers' Course is for all who want to know more about the Corporation of London and its role as a local authority. It takes place on ten Wednesday evenings in the Autumn and again in the Spring. It is highly recommended by Edward Sawney (and others). Soon there will also be a short course of one evening only. For further information, contact the Public Relations Office of the Corporation on 071 332 3099.

TURNERS TRIUMPH AT GOLF

The Turners' Golf Society, the Tallow Chandlers, the Basket Makers and the Innholders were invited by the Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators to compete for the Newsom-Smith Cup, donated by Sir Frank Newsom-Smith to the Company in 1936. The competition took place at the West Byfleet Golf Club on Tuesday, May 11th. The glorious weather probably helped produce the highest turnout for years. The Turners' team was victorious with 108 points, the Air Pilots and Navigators second with 101 points.

First Prize was awarded to Past Master Ian Cowper, who scored a superb 40 points. Second prize went to Freeman Alan Godfrey with 37 and third prize was won by our Clerk, Richard Woodwork, with 36. This victory means that the Turners have won the Cup for two consecutive years and four times in the last six years. The Captain, Peter Ellis, would like to thank all those who gave their time in support of the Turners' Golf Society.

THE LADIES' DINNER



The Master, Wardens, Clerk and their Ladies – Friday 30 April 1993

CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE!

Please send ideas and photographs for future issues of The Turner to: Anthony Crookes-Meredith, Fieldways, Bagshot Road, West End, Woking, Surrey GU24 9QR. If you would like material returned, please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope

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