



The Turner

The Worshipful Company of Turners of London

NEWSLETTER MAY 2004

ISSUE 24

Dear Fellow Turners

I am delighted to have been elected as the new Master of the Company on Ascension Day, 20 May 2004. For every new Master it is a great honour and for me the honour is magnified by the fact that this year is the 400th anniversary, the quater-centenary, of the granting of the Company's Royal Charter by James I of England (James VI of Scotland) in 1604, a great event in the Company's history for which a number of special and memorable events are planned.

I am privileged to be following Andrew Mayer, who has been an absolutely outstanding Master in all respects. He inherited a company which was in good heart, but is passing on something even more: a company which is moving forward without losing any sense of continuity or tradition. He has been an active Master, generating initiatives to improve the Company's internal procedures, to enhance its public standing, to strengthen its links to the craft, and to reaffirm its connections to the services and the City. He has been a hugely successful Master and it will be hard to maintain the standard that he has set; we should all be grateful to him for everything that he has done for the Company.

Of the events to celebrate our quater-centenary, some have already passed, including the entry of a marvellous float into the Lord Mayor's Show last November (it was hard work, being on the float, waving to the crowds and telling the Master that he did not look silly sitting in a gigantic wassail bowl) and in April the Ladies' Dinner was made even more magnificent than usual, being held at the Mansion House in the company of the Lord Mayor and his Sheriffs.

Coming events are the Company's biennial Turning Competitions, followed by *Wizardry in Wood*, a three-day exhibition of our time-honoured craft of woodturning.

The Turning Competitions include a number of different classes for turners of varying standards – including one for “novice” turners. If you have a lathe but have never entered one of our competitions before, get working and submit your best piece! The prizes are splendid and great kudos can be gained from having your work recognised by the judges, who are predominantly expert turners – the exception being your Master.

Wizardry in Wood promises to be a magnificent event and a most fitting way to celebrate the Company's achievements in promoting the craft of turning. There will be displays of fine turned objects produced by some of the greatest turners working in Britain today; many pieces will be available for purchase, and some turners will be attending the exhibition and available to discuss their work. There will also be a display of some of the wonderful and historic turned items in the Company's collection, offering a fascinating contrast with the contemporary works on display. All these items, with their marriage of exquisite workmanship, perfection in design and subtle combinations of fine materials, are truly beautiful.

There will also be demonstrations of turning, both on a modern lathe and on a pole lathe, similar to the ones used by our predecessors in the Turners guild in the thirteenth century. In addition, a working version of the lathe designed by Leonardo da Vinci will be on display. We believe that this is the first time that “Leonardo's lathe” has been built.

Later in the year, there are plans for an evening of music in September and a Carol Service in December. Fuller details will be circulated nearer the time.

As will be clear, many members of the Livery – particularly the Livery Committee, under the leadership of Assistant George Keiffer, and the Howe Committee, previously under the leadership of Rob Lucas and now being lead by Penrose Halson – have been labouring hard to ensure that our quater-centenary is suitably celebrated. I am grateful to them for all their efforts.

Finally, a personal plea: my faculties for remembering names and faces are seriously inadequate... so if I ignore you or do not recall your name, please do not take it personally; simply acknowledge that I suffer a serious social incapacity which I hope you will treat with understanding.

With all good wishes

Richard Levy



Upper Warden Richard Levy entertains his guests at the Ladies' Dinner in the Mansion House in April, prior to his being elected Master.

400 years

History in The Making

Past Master and Turners' sleuth Brian Burnett tells how he braved dark crypts and other places in order to update Roland Champness' history of the Company.

How did I come to do the updating?

It started from a suggestion at a Court meeting in 1984 that we should set up 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.



Past Master Brian Burnett.

This was easy. Roland, though retired as Turners' Clerk when he wrote the History, was still Clerk of the Spectacle Makers, with his office at Apothecaries' Hall. I asked his successor at the Spectacle Makers, who confirmed that he had them, all noted as being ours. Now they are housed on shelves in the Apothecaries' Library Room. I then located, in the office of the Turners' recent Clerk, other books of ours on turning, including vols I-V of Holtzapffel's Turning and Mechanical Manipulation. These joined the library.

By that time it seemed that I was regarded as a detective – or even the historian – on matters other than actual turning, of which I can claim no experience or knowledge.

In 1987, as described in Chapter 23 of the updated History, two wooden chests containing some thousands of Turners' documents were discovered in the crypt of St Botolph's, Bishopsgate, a church with which the Turners have had no association. Richard Woodwork, then our Clerk, thought I would be the right person to examine the material and report on it.

The immediate and intriguing question was how these documents had come to be in the crypt of St Botolph's at all. I went to the church and saw a tablet commemorating its refurbishment, with the name of A C Stanley-Stone on it as Churchwarden. He was the Clerk of the Turners' Company from 1925 to 1928, a member of the Court and author of our first History in 1925. He was Churchwarden of St Botolph's from 1920 to 1927. I went straight to a complete set of the Times and found in a few minutes a notice that he had died suddenly on 25th January 1928. It was evidently he who consigned the documents to their hiding-place in the crypt for even safer keeping than he had intended, so that no one else either at St Botolph's or in the Turners became aware of them until they emerged 60 years later, none the worse except for a slight dusting of soot from the central heating boiler.

The documents proved to be the files of five successive Clerks of the Company between 1751 and 1874. They give a further insight into the Company's decline and inertia in the first half of the 19th century and its dramatic upturn and into the 'ginger-group' who revived it, John Jones the most prominent and colourful of them all. We see in the livery Thomas Wilde, 1st Baron Truro, Lord Chancellor 1850-2, a fellow member of the Inner Temple with today's Sir Brian Neill and my humble self; Thomas Broadwood, creator with his half-brother of the well-known piano business and James Hepplewhite, probably related to the famous cabinet-maker George Hepplewhite. Finally we see the origin of the Clerk's Toast, thanks almost certainly to the irrepressible initiator and wordsmith John Jones.

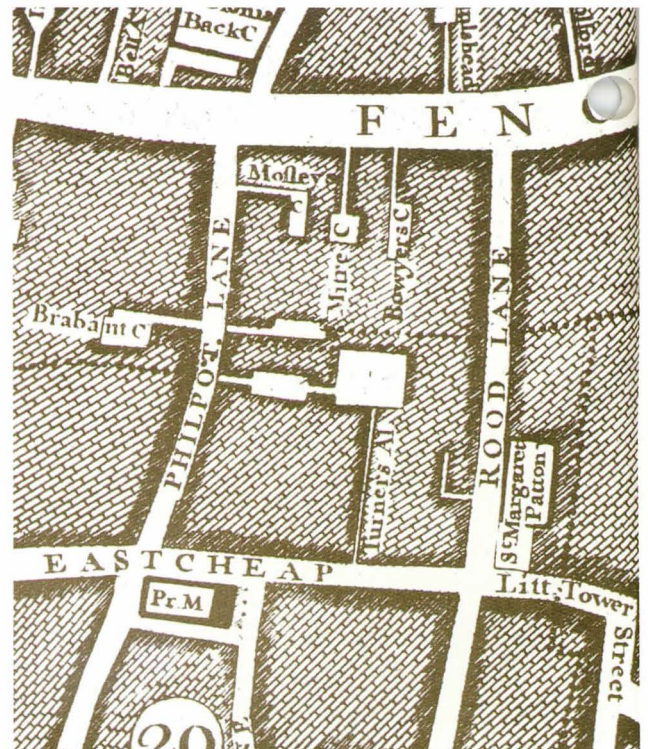
The Court accepted my proposal that the documents be deposited in the Guildhall Library, with our existing archives and I was invited to consider employing them with a view to updating the Champness History. However, an update only 21 years after publication of Champness seemed rather hasty – moreover, I pointed out to the Clerk that the two previous histories had been written by Clerks – what were Clerks for? The invitation proved persistent and the Court gave formal approval in 1996. I found that a reissue was indeed necessary, as the stock of Champness Histories would be exhausted by the time of the 400th anniversary. This date I set as my final deadline.

I much regret that Freeman Prizeman Roger Davies, having written Chapter 24 (Tools of the Turner), died before the update was completed. The expert liverymen who contributed drafts at my invitation were Geoffrey Brandon, for Chapters 26 (Collaboration with the Society of Ornamental Turners) and 27 (Howe Committee for Turners' Awards) and Malcom Cobb for Chapter 28 (Register of Professional Turners).

Roland Champness's Chapter 15, headed 'The Company's Irish Estates', excited my interest, as my father came from Ireland. Roland said nothing about the estates' location and it thought I ought to find out. I found that the Haberdashers' Company, with whom we were 'Associates', had withdrawn from the Ulster Plantation project almost as soon as it was launched and so we took no part in 'planting' with settlers. All we did was pay money and get it back more than a century later.

Regarding Richard Gardner Williams, it occurred to me that certificates from the Register General would solve the mystery of his father's occupation and so it proved. Thomas Williams is shown as a railway accountant. He spent his career with the London and North Western Railway Company and the sequence of Richard's connection with railways is easy to understand.

Please take care. If you ask a question, you may find yourself answering it and lots of others too!



Section from Ogilby & Morgan's Map of London of 1677, showing the situation of the first Turners' Hall in Philpot Lane and Turners Alley.

A Tradition of Charity

Assistant Penrose Halson explores the history of Charity within the Company.

Like many other Livery Companies the Turners inherited a tradition of charity and benevolence, and although never wealthy, have always helped both their own and strangers in need. In his splendidly re-edited History of the Company, Past Master Brian Burnett describes alms-giving: in 1619-20 to Toby Crispe, a poor brother of the Company, being aged, decayed in his sight and past his labour, and having no means for his maintenance, a monthly pension of two shillings during his natural life. To a schoolmaster and his son-in-law, unconnected with the Company, whose house had been consumed by fire, the Company gave 30 shillings.

Needy widows, poor young men wanting to go to university, victims of the *Titanic* disaster, the University of London, reformatory schools have benefited. Lathes and tools have been given: as Master Andrew Mayer recently saw the fine work carried out on the computer-assisted, specially adapted lathes given to Lord Mayor Treloar College for handi-capped children, and to Dorton House School for the blind and semi-blind.

The Howe Committee supports our ancient Craft through substantial prizes at the biennial Turning Competitions, and Bursaries to promising turners who need equipment or time to study. It also gives awards for excellence to students of the City of London Freeman's School, the Building Crafts College and City & Guilds, and to REME; and it funds the inspection and maintenance of lathes and the exhibitions at which the Company is represented by the Register of Professional Turners.

The Company's Charitable Trust supports the Craft and promotes charities related to the City and the Company: charities chosen by the Lord Mayor and by the Master, such City charities as St Bride's church and such Services ones as the REME Charitable Trust.

The Company's total charitable giving averages out to about £25,000 per annum. This is a start, but a drop in the ocean. The Clerk has files full of the requests which arrive every week for financial help for people and institutions in need.

Our charitable giving makes a difference. It results in the excitement of a disabled child finding he can work a lathe and produce a bowl; the pride of a REME soldier receiving a medal and cash prize at Apothecaries' Hall; the enthusiasm of a young Bursary winner who has been to the USA, learned new techniques, and so has been commissioned to make a new turned piece. And as well as such cameos, our charitable giving adds to the larger picture of a world in which things we value can survive.

Charity Going Into The Company's Fifth Century

Almoner, Past Master Colin Field helps the Company looks to the future.

I like many, I suppose, thought that having passed through the Mastership that my years of service to the Company were over. I must be getting old, as I cannot quite recall the thoughts that sprang to mind when Master Andrew Mayer called and told me he had a special task which the Court would like me to take on.

Over very many years, successive Masters, encouraged by the Standing Committee and Court, have been put under pressure by the City Civic, for all the right reasons, to increase the level of Charitable giving and good works that Livery Companies do. We have each tried, in our own way, with limited success and oft has it been repeated that as a Company, which does not charge "Quarterage", we should do more.

As a prelude to inviting me to serve as Almoner, the Court approved a principle whereby all new admissions to the Freedom, as well as being advised that Charitable giving forms part of the commitment on entering the Company, will be expected to do so with the value currently set at £150, with a 50% reduction being given for the younger members we continue to seek to attract up to the age of 30.

It is for this reason that I, through the offices of the Clerk, he being the focal point in all matters administrative, agreed that we should write to all members of the Company to make you aware of what is now being done, and to seek your personal support in the Company's endeavours.

The role I fulfil is, I believe, not only one of encouragement toward planned giving and support of the Company and its charitable objectives to The City, the Craft and the Company, but one also of contact and support for those within the Company, for whilst it is our duty to look out, we must also make sure we look within and to support "our own".

I am sure you will agree with the sentiments and appreciate my telling you what is going on and giving you the opportunity to contribute.

The correctness of that decision has been proven in the number and value of gifts that, so far, have been made and for which I, and those who will ultimately benefit, thank you most sincerely.

I and/or the Clerk will always be pleased to hear from you whether it be in connection with giving, seeking support or promoting a case for giving, that is the role we on behalf of the entire Company seek to fulfil.



Carlyn Lyndsay, 2003 Bursary winner shows some of her striking work to the Master.

"The bursary enabled me to produce a much wider range of pieces, simply because I have fantastic equipment now. It's wonderful to be able to make things I've wanted to but haven't been able to explore. Now the world is my oyster - I'm thrilled to bits! And the bursary's given me the opportunity to meet lots of people. At the Craft Meeting in April I got lots of words of wisdom and guidance, and criticism too, which is very helpful. It was all wonderful."

Supporting The Craft

The Company holds competitions every year, alternating between a Turning Competition and a Bursary Competition. This, our quater-centenary year, is a Turning Competition year, which culminates in the *Wizardry in Wood* exhibition, at which many of the entries will be displayed.

Turning Competition

The Turning Competition is broken down into a number of classes. The classes encourage entries from turners ranging from young novices to some of the finest turners in the country, across a wide variety of techniques. There is even a competition open to members of the Company, with a special novice category.

As well as the trophies and other major prizes, many of the awards are supplemented by vouchers and materials kindly donated by companies with links to turning. Their support and that of Great Britain's turning organisations is key to the success of the Competition.

The Master's Competition

This prestigious competition is open to any turner resident in Great Britain and is for a set exercise: a turned egg in honour of Honorary Liveryman Theo Fabergé.

Prizes (prize-winning entries are retained by the Company):

- 1st - £1,500 and a certificate.
- 2nd - £1,250 and a certificate.
- 3rd - £1,000 and a certificate.
- 4th - £500 (if the quality of entries is outstanding).

Open Set Piece Competition

This competition is open to any Turner resident in Great Britain and is for a set of four lidded boxes with a connecting theme.

Prizes:

- 1st - £200, a certificate and a voucher for £50 worth of tools from Axminster Power Tool Centre.



Winning piece for the 2002 Felix Levy prize by Paul Fletcher

2nd - £150, a certificate a voucher for £50 worth of products from Craft Supplies.

3rd - £100, a certificate and a voucher for £25 from Liberon Waxes.

The Felix Levy Open Competition

This competition is held in honour of the late Past Master Felix Levy (father of the current Master) who did much to promote the craft of turning, helped to consolidate the relations between the Company and the Society of Ornamental Turners and was instrumental in the formation of the Register of Professional Turners (RPT).

This competition is for freestyle turning and is open to any turner resident in Great Britain. There are no restrictions as to subject, size, shape or style.

Prizes:

- 1st - A trophy, £500, a certificate from the Worshipful company of Turners and £50 worth of tools from Axminster Power Tool Centre.
- 2nd - £100 tool voucher from Robert Sorby.
- 3rd - £50 tool voucher from Ashley Iles (Edge Tools) Ltd.

The Lady Gertrude Crawford, Fred Howe and H E Twenty Man Competitions for Ornamental Turning

These competitions are open to all of the members of the Society of Ornamental Turners. The subject they can choose is unrestricted, however, the technique depends on the competition. These are ornamental turning, rose turning and something of a plain form respectively.

Company Gold Medals are awarded for the first two competitions and a Company Medal for the H E Twentyman competition. Rustins Ltd has provided vouchers to the value of £50 for their products to supplement the awards.

Senior Plain Turning Competition in conjunction with the Association of Wood Turners of Great Britain (AWGB)

This competition is for plain turning of a high standard and is open to all members of the AWGB. There are no restrictions as to the subject but each entry must contain visible elements of both faceplate and between-centres turning technique.

Prizes (cash prizes donated by the AWGB): Gold medal, £200 and £100 worth of tools from Record Power.

Silver medal, £150 and £50 worth of products from Craft Supplies.

Bronze medal, £100 and £50 worth of products from Liberon Waxes and an Annual subscription to Wood Turning magazine from GMC Publications.

Three Runners-up will receive £50.

Junior Plain Turning Competition in conjunction with the AWGB

For members of the AWGB who are aged under 18. Each entry must contain visible elements of both face plate and between-centres turning techniques but members may choose their own subject.

Prizes (All cash prizes donated by the AWGB):

1st - Silver Medal, £125 and £50 worth of tools from Ashley Iles (Edge Tools) Ltd.

2nd - Bronze Medal, £75 and £50 voucher from Craft Supplies.

Two runners-up prizes of £50 each.

All winners will receive a certificate from the Worshipful Company of Turners and an annual subscription to Woodturner magazine, provided by Highbury Leisure.



Liveryman Peter Ellis with Bursary Winner, Julie Heryet, holding one of her rather unusual creations.

Bursaries

The next Bursaries will be granted in 2005. There is a total fund of £8,000 which is available to assist talented turners to achieve their professional aspirations and enhance their future career opportunities. Applications are welcomed from all turners resident in the UK of high ability and whose work is well regarded.

Applicants submit proposals to the Bursary Committee. A short list is compiled and those selected are invited to Apothecaries' Hall for interview and adjudication.

A successful candidate will have a mentor appointed to help guide them on matters relating to the bursary and will be expected to submit quarterly progress reports to the Company. After twelve months, the candidate will be expected to organise a display of their work.

Bursaries may be used for research, training, equipment, travel for study, to demonstrate or display work, to set up a turning-related business or other purpose that will help the candidate to achieve recognition as an exceptional turner.

Many of the pieces created by bursary winners will be on display at *Wizardry in Wood*.

Turning Four Hundred Years: The Outside Story

Assistant George Keiffer is bowled over in a big way when he finds out that the Master does indeed float!

What better way to start the quarter-centenary celebrations than by entering a float in the Lord Mayor's Show. Past Master Colin Field masterminded the project with many Company members bringing enthusiasm, supplies, ideas and hard physical labour to the task of creating the entire Float.

The theme *We are Turning Four Hundred Years* was amplified to remind spectators that in the old days, the Company was responsible for enforcing weights and measures of wooden vessels in the subplot *the people who brought you the pint*.

Stuart King came up with the first design which it fell to Liveryman Andrea Cenci di Bello to translate into technical drawings. Clearly the Float had to be big and Assistant Col Rob Lucas led a party to view the Foden GS 6x6 recovery tractor with a 20 tonne Tasker trailer at the Reigate TA Centre. The trailer then disappeared to Iraq! Unfussed, Rob found another; this won the informal "Biggest Float in Show" competition on the day.

Assembly took place at White City TA Centre, where Liveryman Clifford Champion, whose company supplied the wood, could be seen sitting on the middle of the car-park with Stuart King devising and building a last minute support for a Catherine Wheel. D&R Scaffold Group, enlisted by Liveryman David Eager, supplied the frame of scaffolding poles having allowed a couple of hours for erection which turned into a day and more, with many lengths having to be cut to size.

Our time-honoured craft was represented by a treadle lathe operated by Kathleen Abbott RPT, a Hegner Lathe, on which the wassail bowl on the Float had been turned, by Stephen Cooper RPT, a shave horse by Nick Abbott with an original bodger's shelter housing a pole lathe worked with abandon by Stuart King in his flowery hat. During the lunch halt younger family members of the Turners were introduced to the craft by working the lathes.

Liveryman Emily Field representing St Catherine, not unnaturally, refused to be tied to the Wheel and, unlike the Company's Patron Saint, was spared the flogging and the beheading on this occasion!



The Turners' float accompanied by whiffers (top)
Assistant Rob Lucas, Stuart King RPT and Liveryman Andrea Cenci di Bello constructing the float (bottom)



Upper Warden Richard Levy and Renter Warden Andrew Ciclitira support the Master and St Catherine (Liveryman Emily Field) take their places on the Turners' float.

Hegner UK had been persuaded by Liveryman Alan Mitchell to produce probably the largest turned wassail bowl in the world with a capacity of 90 gallons and some 4'6" high as the Float's centrepiece. This was stained with gallons of Rustin's Danish Oil, cadged by Alan. The Master decided to stand in the bowl with The Upper and Renter Wardens, Richard Levy and Andrew Ciclitira in attendance, all resplendent in their robes.

The float, decorated in the Company's blue and gold livery, was accompanied by 40 whiffers clad in blue fleeces. The youngsters soon tired of walking and took the opportunity of a brief halt to jump onto the Float. Turners who had travelled to London were cheering the Company's Float along the route and from the stands. At the Mansion House luncheon, both the past and present Lord Mayors congratulated the Master on the excellence of the Float. All involved, as toilers, sponsors, whiffers or spectators deserve a big thank you for their efforts and support.



Past Master John Slater with a bowl turned in brown burr oak commissioned from Freeman Ray Key, one of the Company's leading wood turners. As Chairman of the Millennium Masters' Association, John presented the bowl to the Lord Mayor, Alderman Robert Finch, on the morning of the Lord Mayor's Show in recognition of his achievement and as Vice President of the Association.

400th anniversary Ladies' Dinner in the Mansion House

This year the Ladies' Dinner was combined with the Company's quater-centenary celebration. It was held in the Mansion House and attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs with their wives and the Sword Bearer, as well as 300 Turners' with their wives and guests. As well as presenting the Turners' Trophy to Lt Col John Power and the gift of a prize winning turned cruet set to the Lord Mayor, the Master was in turn presented with a quater-centenary present of an Armada bowl by Brig Stephen Tetlow, the most senior REME officer in the British Army. Members of the REME regimental band provided music during the course of the evening. It was a truly magnificent occasion.



Lt Col John Power, commanding officer of 5 Bn REME, winners of the Turners Trophy, is flanked by the Master and Lord Mayor (top).

The Egyptian Room of the Mansion House was filled by 300 Turners and their guests (top).

The Lord Mayor, Alderman Robert Finch, has the last word as he responds to the Master's speech (above).

In stark contrast to the Mansion House, 5 Bn REME deployed in Iraq on Operation TELIC (above).

The Turners' Trophy: 5 Battallion REME

5 Bn REME were the winners of the 2003 Turners' Trophy for the REME Battalion that has done the most towards 'improving its ability to achieve its mission and actually achieving it, encouraging the use of REME engineering skills and improving esprit de corps.' A few of the highlights from their submission to the judges are:

The last 12 months were hugely demanding and throughout all ranks have displayed the highest standards of leadership, professional ability, ingenuity and determination. They had to fulfill three distinct missions: support to training, fire fighting and support to operations. They excelled in them all. In barracks and dramatically undermanned they had to expand over the course of only 4-5 weeks to 320 for Operation TELIC 2 in Iraq. In addition to receiving regular personnel, they integrated 100 TA personnel. The Battalion succeeded beyond all expectations and set the benchmark for future TA deployments. Their contribution to developing and testing evolving doctrine paid significant dividends, culminating in their helping to reduce repair times throughout the tour by over 50%. There is real potential for their approach forming the basis for more formal REME doctrine to cover the transition from a fluid warfighting scenario to a more static peace-enforcement operation. Complementing 5 Bn REME's achievements has been the unit's continuous excellence in maintaining *esprit de corps* and drive to develop and promote engineering skills.



The officers of 5 Bn REME in Iraq.

The Master's Year

Deputy Master Andrew Mayer reflects on his year as Master.

My year as Master ended on Ascension Day and I look back over the past 12 months with a sense of humility and pride. It was an honour to be the Master of this illustrious Company, and I was particularly privileged that my year as Master involved the first five months of our 400th anniversary.

For this letter, I was asked to identify the highlight of my year – but quite frankly I cannot think of just one as there have been several.

- The Lord Mayor's Show with our superb float and giant Wassail Bowl in which I stood. Thank goodness it did not rain as I had observed that the bowl no drainage facilities!
- The Carol Service in the superb setting of St Michael's Cornhill as the guests of the Musicians' Company. I do hope that this will become a regular event.
- The Gardner Williams Dinner with the excellent turnout, the gifts of the new version of the Champness History of the Company updated by Past Master Brian Burnett and the superb ornamentally turned screw-top box by Paul Coker.
- My visits to three schools to whom we have presented lathes and instructed the teachers in their use. In each of the schools, The City of London Freeman's School, The Lord Mayor Treloar's School for the severely disabled and Dorton House School for the blind, it was a pleasure to see our lathes in operation and the joy they gave to the children.

• Presiding over our Craft Meeting when I was able to meet some of our Bursary winners and see examples of their work which, in all cases, is of a very high standard. It was very pleasing to see that the money we raise through our charitable donations is put to such good use.

• The Mansion House Banquet in April in the presence of the Lord and Lady Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, their wives and the Sword Bearer in the superb setting of the Mansion House. I was proud to initiate the new Turners' Competition for the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) regiment by presenting one of our superbly-turned Wassail Bowls to the Commanding Officer of the winning battalion, Lt Col John Power, and delighted to receive from Brigadier Stephen Tetlow, the Senior Officer of REME, a silver Armada Dish which we will be proud to display at our future major functions. The Post Horn Gallop by the REME band with part played down a rifle barrel was a *tour de force* and even the Lord Mayor, who has received musical entertainment from many Livery Companies, commented that he had never seen this before and thought the display was excellent.

How can anyone be expected to choose just one highlight from all these superb events? What I can say, however, is that these events do not just happen and I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the entire Company to thank everyone involved for making them the success they undoubtedly were.

Throughout the year I have been most ably supported by my two Wardens, Richard Levy and Andrew Ciclitira, my Master's Steward (or should that be Stewardess!) Penrose Halson and our hard-working Clerk, Edward Windsor Clive. I am indebted to them all, and also to each and every member of the Court, for their support and wise counsel throughout the year. I owe them all a tremendous debt of gratitude.



Master Andrew Mayer accepts an Armada Bowl as a quater-centenary gift from the senior REME officer in the British Army, Brigadier Stephen Tetlow, in recognition of the Company's longstanding links with REME.

Andrew Mayer

400 years

The New Master

Richard Levy was born in 1949 in Hampstead in London, where he still lives during the week; at weekends he can be found in Ickford, near Oxford. He is married to Ruth, who teaches English at a French school in North London. They have two sons, Jacob, who is reading Geography at Cambridge University, and Adam, who is at St Paul's School in Barnes, London.

Richard is the son of the late Felix Levy, who was Master of the Company 25 years ago and is remembered with affection by many members of the Company.

Richard was educated at Clifton College and at Kings College, London, where he took a degree in Physics. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1978 and, since 1988, he has worked for Goldman Sachs, the international investment bank, as their London Compliance Officer†. Richard is now Goldman Sachs' European Compliance Officer and is a Managing Director of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

Goldman Sachs' businesses include all types of investment dealing, investment management, corporate finance and mergers advice, and commodities and foreign exchange dealing; the Firm's London office provides services to clients throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Because of this multiplicity of activities and client types, and because of the frequent changes to financial services regulations, there is more than enough to keep Richard and his staff of about twenty very busy, trying to ensure that their colleagues comply with the numerous rules, regulations, laws and policies that apply to their businesses.

Richard is active in a number of roles in the financial services industry, including being a Director of the International Securities Market Association, and a member of the Regulatory Decisions Committee of the Financial Services Authority; Richard is also the Chairman of the Compliance Committee of the London Investment Banking Association.

Some years ago, Richard took evening classes in antique clock restoration and still occasionally dabbles in horology. But nowadays he spends most of his limited leisure time playing tennis (he is keenly enthusiastic but not very good) and working in the workshop at his house in Ickford, where occasionally – but not nearly often enough – he turns on his lathes. He also strives to preserve the illusion that his garden is under control.

† A Compliance Officer is responsible for trying to ensure that his or her firm complies with applicable rules, regulation, policies and procedures.

Clerk's Notes



New Freemen

The Company is happy to welcome Len Walters, Graham Eustance, Ian Styles and Bjarne Solhaug as Freemen of the Company.

Turners' Makers Marks

You may have seen, from the new History, that Turners' Makers Marks are recorded at the Guildhall, in a Letter Book dated 1347. A check with the Goldsmiths' archives show that first makers marks for silver or gold is dated 1363 and formal hallmarking did not begin at Goldsmith Hall until 1478. Turners' Makers Marks, therefore, predate those of the Goldsmiths.

Etiquette

A letter has been received from the City of London Sheriff's Society and the past titles of "Alderman and Sheriff" and "Lay Sheriff" are to be changed to "Aldermanic Sheriff" or "the Sheriff", when addressing individually, or "Sheriff" when addressing both. This is a piece of etiquette that may not affect too many people!

A New Publication

A new Web magazine has been produced in America on wood turning and carving and has some articles that may interest you. The website address is www.woodezine.com and it does cover items other than US artists.

This came to my notice when I was contacted to ask if the History of Turning on our website, written by John Edwards, might be used by them as the editor found it so good. The magazine is free.

Editorial

The Turner was started by Assistant (then Liveryman) Penrose Halson some twenty-four issues ago. She transformed the Company newsletter from a single typed sheet into the publication that has become so familiar to you all. She succeeded in raising awareness of the Company's aims, objectives and activities, as well as providing a fascinating insight into other matters relating to the craft of turning. This was achieved through a combination of making the Turner a platform for successive Masters to put forward their plans for the Company, writing insightful articles herself and charming the members of the Company into contributing.

This is the first issue of the Turner to which Penrose has solely been a contributor, rather than an editor; her having taken the extremely demanding position of Chairman of the Howe Committee.

For those of you used to hiding behind menus at dinners for fear of inadvertently 'volunteering' to provide an article for the Turner, please relax, the current editorial team would never stoop to such depths!

With the departure of Penrose from the edi-



Assistant Penrose Halson after the 2002 Livery dinner.

torial team, Liveryman Martyn Lewis has generously stepped in to assist. As always, your contributions are essential to this newsletter. We are always delighted to receive unsolicited articles and photographs.

Acknowledgements

Photographs of the Ladies' Dinner in the Mansion house are reproduced with the kind permission of Gerald Sharp Photographers.

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