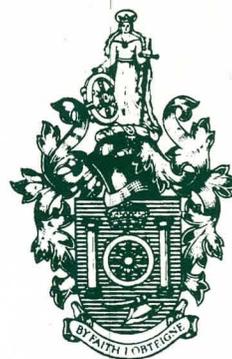


THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TURNERS OF LONDON



Newsletter Winter 1994 Issue 3

Dear Fellow Turner,

I believe the Turners have four main objectives. These are the Company itself, the Craft, the City and Charity. In recent years we have become more dynamic both in the pursuit of our objectives as a modern City Livery Company and in the greater involvement of our members in Company activities. There is every indication that this growth in activity will continue.

As far as the Company is concerned, I believe - and the Court shares this view - not only that the present standards now established for our functions and activities should be maintained but also that it may gradually be necessary for us to "professionalize" the ever-increasing need to "manage" the Company's affairs.

On Craft matters, the Howe Committee is actively seeking to put these on a sounder, wider and more professionally organized footing, including recognition of both educational and craft achievements.

As to connections with the City, our involvement with a wider number of Livery Companies, commitment to the Craft Exhibition, visits organized by the Livery Committee to City institutions and related activities are increasing our presence. The possibility of a float at a future Lord Mayor's Show would be an exciting prospect.

Finally Charity. The Company has raised its goal of charitable contributions somewhat during recent years. However, at a time when

Livery Companies are being encouraged in this area by the City and successive Lord Mayors, the level of charitable activity within the Company generally and the support from covenants in particular are both quite modest. We could do more.

I believe that these modest but gradually rising ambitions should not be curtailed but rather encouraged, and I hope therefore that we shall be able to implement the necessary measures, financial and otherwise, to secure progress and promote our future well-being.

Sincerely,

COME TO THE GARDNER WILLIAMS DINNER

One of the most important forthcoming occasions is the Gardner Williams Dinner, in Apothecaries' Hall on Friday 25th February. This wonderful banquet is a marvellous celebration of the gift of a most generous benefactor, and it is FREE to Liverymen and Freemen. The Master looks forward to seeing as many Turners as possible, to honour our benefactor and enjoy each other's company. To plagiarize Nick Ross when promoting his Radio 4 phone-in programme, PLEASE COME!

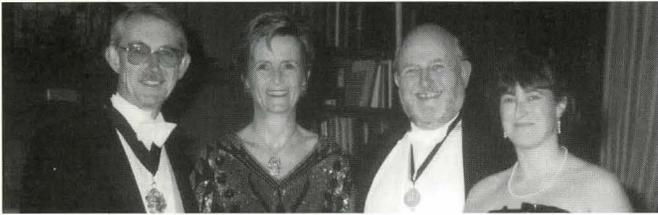
COMING EVENTS

- Awards Court (Prize-giving) - Tuesday 15th February 1994
- Gardner Williams Banquet - Friday 25th February 1994
- Court Meeting and Court Luncheon - Thursday 17th March 1994
- United Guilds Service - Friday 18th March 1994
- Craft Meeting of Register of Professional Turners - Friday 25th March 1994
- Ladies' Dinner - Thursday 28th April 1994
- Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition,
Holland & Holland Shooting Grounds, Northwood - Thursday 5th May 1994
- Inter-Livery Swimathon, RAC, Woodcote Park, Epsom - Tuesday 10th May 1994
- Election Court & Dinner - Thursday 12th May 1994
- Golf with Air Pilots and Navigators - Tuesday 24th May 1994
- Election of Sheriffs in Guildhall - Friday 24th June 1994
- Court Meeting (afternoon) - Thursday 21st July 1994
- Golf Society Day - September 2nd 1994

The Turner

The Turner

THE MASTER'S DIARY



Peter Venn, seen above with his wife Heather, hosted by the Horners, reports on his crowded social diary

It is a great bonus for the Master of a Livery Company to receive a number of social invitations during his year in office. If the past seven months are anything to go by the Master of the Turners' Company can be a very full participant of this part of Livery life. Let me tell you about a few of the occasions.

My first, just five days after installation, was a visit to the 357th Cutlers' Feast as a guest of the Cutlers of Hallamshire in their splendid Hall in Sheffield. You travel up by train in carriages reserved for you and the many Livery Company Masters and Clerks who also attend, you are wined and dined sumptuously, and you meet some very interesting people, such as the Financial Editor of *The Sunday Times* and Kate Adie.

A double bonus is that my wife Heather has often been included in the invitations. We have spent some very enjoyable evenings together at the Spectacle Makers' Livery Dinner at Lincoln's Inn (where we were joined in the reception queue by our own optician and his wife), with the Wheelwrights at their Midsummer Evening at the Museum of London, at the Lord Mayor's Dinner to celebrate the re-opening of the Mansion House, and with the Horners' Company, as guests at their Annual Banquet. In some of our reciprocal hospitality in future the Company will include partners - there are at least two current Lady Masters - where appropriate.

The inclusion of both Heather and our daughter Nicola in the invitation to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party made both the privilege of being introduced to the Duke of Kent and the fun of watching the Royals at work, particularly the Queen, Princess Diana and the Duchess of Kent, all the more memorable.

While many invitations may not include one's partner, happily they frequently include the Clerk, and Richard and I have spent most agreeable evenings together with the Apothecaries, the Innholders and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

A number of the invitations from charitable organisations have both an informative and persuasive element and I have learnt much from visits to functions organised by the Sheriffs and Recorders' Fund, and the Royal Wandstead School Foundation 150th Anniversary Dinner. Two others which deserve a special mention are the Lord Mayor Treloar College, a boarding school for 300 disabled children, and the Reedham Trust, which educates children in special need and with which we are connected through Past Master Anthony Reed.

I have tried to accept all the invitations I have received, but inevitably there have been diary clashes, and it has been reassuring to know that Deputy Master Edward Sawney has been willing to stand in, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking him for his support.

THE TWENTYMAN TURNERS

While in Vancouver last year Michael Simmonds met a Mr Twentyman, and it emerged that he was descended from various Twentyman Turners. His great-great-uncle, Henry Llewellyn Howell, was Master of the Company (in 1910), and so too was his great-uncle, Harold Edward Twentyman, in 1925.

H.E. Twentyman gave the Company money to provide a medal for the competition open to the Society of Ornamental Turners (won this year by Paul Coker); and he donated our magnificent Wassail Bowl.

The descendant now living in Canada, David Llewellyn Twentyman, was very interested in the Company, and in the possibility of joining, so Michael put him in touch with the Clerk. The Court decided that although he may never visit us, it would be a nice gesture to make him a Freeman by presentation. He has now received his certificate.

David Twentyman was born in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and went to Shrewsbury School. He worked in the London tea trade, moved to Calcutta as a tea exporter and then to Vancouver as a tea buyer. After four years as a coffee buyer in Germany he returned to Vancouver, where he is a Vice President in commodity purchasing. One of his interests is wood turning. If he ever comes to London he will be most welcome.

EVENTS OF THE YEAR

There have been some outstanding highlights: the Lord Mayor's Show which we were again privileged to see from HQS Wellington. On a chilly wet day we were warm and well fed before going on deck to watch the spectacular procession.

We had a fascinating evening at the Bank of England, followed by supper and socializing; and enjoyed a different but equally friendly occasion, our Patronal Service in St Bride's Fleet Street, followed by lunch in Apothecaries' Hall.

Just before Christmas the Lord Mayor, Paul Newall, attended our Livery Dinner (photograph below), at which the speeches, food and wine were all excellent. Finally, Assistant Barrie Johnston was awarded the OBE in the New Year Honours list.



The Turner

WHAT IS THE HOWE COMMITTEE ?

Gordon Sloan reports on the Committee behind the highly successful craft competitions last June.

One of the Company's highest priorities is to encourage the craft of turning and related technical education. The success of our latest craft competitions shows the high level of interest in fine turning, and the potential we have to encourage the highest standards of craftsmanship. As a Founder Member Company of City & Guilds Institute we have for many years rewarded their best students of woodworking and engineering technology. Our Annual Design Awards Competition has had an excellent response this year. These and related activities are managed on your behalf by the Howe Committee.

But first - our name. It was chosen when the committee was first assembled to take all the Company's awards under a single administration. Fred Howe was a master of ornamental turning who became a Freeman Prizeman in the mid-fifties, then Liveryman by presentation in 1978. He was founder and past president of the Society of Ornamental Turners, with which the Company has long enjoyed a close liaison. We own a small collection of his fine work which is displayed at our events in Apothecaries' Hall and elsewhere. As your committee seeks to reward excellence, it seemed appropriate that we adopt his name.

To encourage practical turning, the Company has for some time run a triennial competition for members of the Society of Ornamental Turners. Entries are invited for the design and production of a set piece, often something useful and ornamental with which to decorate our dining tables. Last year the Committee decided to go further and launch parallel competitions for the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain (a body of 'plain' turners) and for our own members. So much work of the highest quality was submitted that we are considering making this a biennial event.

At the Awards Court every February medals and cash awards are presented to top City & Guilds students of mechanical production competence, mechanical engineering craft studies, machine woodworking craft and technology. We also present trophies to the colleges at which winners received their tuition. These 'civilian' awards are complemented by others to outstanding Army, Navy and Air Force trainee craftsmen.

At the Awards Court our Design Awards are also presented: gold, silver and bronze medals, each accompanied by a substantial cash sum, for entrants judged to have advanced British mechanical and production engineering by producing well worked, useful and, above all, innovative engineering designs. The judges are three highly eminent engineers each, it is a delight to report, a Liveryman of this Company.

The present committee comprises the Master, the Deputy Master, Past Masters Farmer and Field, Assistant Christopher Tyler and Liveryman Geoffrey Brandon. As current chairman, I count myself lucky to enjoy their ideas, enthusiasm and support.

Should ideas to further the Company's aspirations and lying within the Howe Committee's areas of activity occur to the reader, please tell us. We shall be grateful for your interest.

LEARN TO TURN

Have you ever turned a piece of wood? Would you know one end of a lathe from another? If your answers are "no", but you would like to try, contact a professional turner who teaches his craft. Two from the Company's Register of Professional Turners are: Mike Cripps, The Middlesex Woodcrafts Centre, 70 Wood End Green Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 2SL (0895 675070) or day: 081 561 5885, fax 081 561 5770, who gives a demonstration every Saturday afternoon; and Oliver Plant (in photograph below), Devon Woodcrafts, Hartford Barton, Gittisham, Honiton, Devon EX14 0AW (0404 44155).



GOLF FLOURISHES

Peter Ellis gives the latest golfing news

The 1993 Turners' Golf Society Day was held at East Berkshire Golf Club on Thursday 28th October. This is the first recorded visit of our Society to this club, which was founded in 1905, and members of the Company and their guests expressed delight and enjoyment of both the facilities and the excellent quality of the course.

A field of twelve Turners and nine guests competed for the prizes and our Clerk, Richard Woodwark, won the main competitions in the morning for the Harvey Barton Cup after a countback with Peter Ellis, who came second, with Peter Worlidge placed third. Richard received a miniature Cup as a memento of the occasion and an additional prize of a Turners tankard which was generously donated, on the day, by Ian Cowper. We are told that Ian has six of these goblets, which he won at Society events over many years as a golfing Turner, and he has kindly decided to make them available at competitions in future years, with the aim of re-distributing them among the Turners golfing fraternity.

The winning guest in the morning Stableford was Michael Holloway, who was hosted by Michael Simmonds. In the afternoon foursome, Nigel Woodwark and his guest Graham Turner won for the second year running, narrowly beating Dennis Shaw and David Evans into second place.

As ever the Woodwarks had a splendid day, winning morning and afternoon, so the rest of the Society are resolved to practise harder and ring the changes next year.

I should like to thank all those who entered for their support and help in making the day so enjoyable. We shall hold the 1994 Society Day at East Berks on September 2nd 1994 and I look forward to maximum support.

The Turner

TURNING COMPETITIONS: SPLENDOUR ABOUNDS

Penrose Halson was dazzled by the Design Awards Competition

On a mild June day the atmosphere inside the Apothecaries' Hall was busy and excited as the Hall became transformed into an Aladdin's cave of treasures. Members of the Company, of the Society of Ornamental Turners and of the Association of Woodworkers of Great Britain - mostly of middle-ish age and respectable appearance - struggled in carrying odd-looking lumpy cartons which they unpacked, scattering layers of tissue paper to reveal turnery of rare and astonishingly beautiful quality.

When the rows of display tables running the length of the Hall were filled, judges, turners and members of the Company could wander round and admire - a slow process as there was so much to bring one to a halt: bowls large and small, exquisite goblets ornamented with carving, inlay and gold leaf, puzzles of wonderful intricacy, tables, music stands, trophies of wood, brass and ivory, all polished and gleaming.

The virtuosity of some pieces was breath-taking: a black and white ivory chess set whose 3-inch high castles contained a carved internal spiral staircase of the opposite colour; a lamp made in elm by Malcolm Cobb, decorated with paterae - round medallions often put at the corners of windows and doors - of eight different woods; and a coaster of padouk wood with feet of macassar ebony, gilded ornamental roundels and the Company's coat of arms and motto *By faith I obteigne* inscribed in the centre. This was one of many coasters, ranging from the elegantly simple to the highly complex and elaborately ornamented, entered in the competition for a decanter coaster made to the Company's specifications for use on the Master's table.

There were pieces of personal and historical significance too, notably wood and brass holders for pens and pencils made by Richard Woodwark competing, he said, for the 'antiques' prize. He made them in 1943 from pom-pom shell cases which he belled out on HMS Illustrious, in the Mediterranean - the first and last time he used a lathe! There was also a christening stool made by Edward Field for one of his grandchildren. He has made twelve to date, each with a coin of the year of the child's birth in the centre (there are 17 grandchildren but it is difficult to get stools to the five in New Zealand).

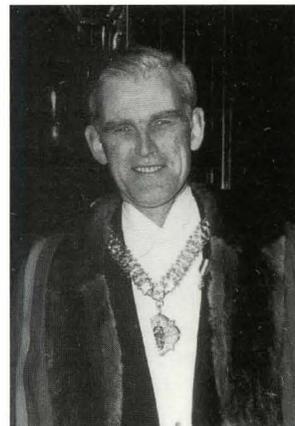
There was on display such beauty, originality and diversity that it is impossible to mention everything. Just a few more: Geoffrey Brandon's ivory propelling pen (a magnificent present), Roger Davies' bracelet for a little girl who likes daisies made of partridge wood delicately decorated with daisies of ivory and boxwood, Theodore Fabergé's candlesticks of extraordinary fineness. As one turner said: "When I look at this and imagine the stress and trauma, when you're doing something so finicky and something shifts . . . it beggars description. Words like splendid come to mind, but they just don't do it justice."

It was an exhibition to be proud of.

WHO'S WHO: THE CLERK

"You will have to be very short of copy before you use this," wrote Richard Woodwark on his c.v. A typically modest understatement, belied even by the bare facts.

Being born at number 4 Harley Street on April 11th 1921, son of Past Master Sir Stanley Woodwark, is an interesting fact. Being Captain of Tennis and in the 1st football XI at Westminster School, taking an Honours degree in Engineering at St John's College Cambridge and winning a Blue for Association Football are impressive ones.



Richard Woodwark when Master in 1972

Then came the War. Richard was commissioned in 1941 as Temporary Probationary Acting Sub-Lieutenant (Special Branch) RNVR, As a radar specialist he went on Atlantic convoys, and convoys to Russia and Malta. He was in HMS Cairo, an anti-aircraft cruiser in the famous Pedestal convoy to Malta, sunk in 1942, and was awarded the DSC. "In what circumstances?" "We had a very cooperative radar team, and Fighter Direction Officer (RAF) asked me to assist control of fighters sent out from Malta. The DSC rewarded a good team effort."

Later he served in the aircraft carriers HMS Activity, HMS Illustrious and HMS Campania, and then in the Admiralty. After the war he married Topsy Glendinning and has a son, Nigel (now an Assistant) and daughters Anne, Julia and Catherine. He worked for the British Iron & Steel Research Association, then spent seven years with MI6. "Doing what?" "Setting up specialised technical department - enough said!"

He went back into business, becoming Managing Director of J L Eve Construction Co (now known as Eve Group plc), and on retirement in 1984 became Clerk of the Turners' Company. He had been a Liveryman since 1944, became an Assistant in 1955 and served as Master in 1961 and again in 1972, on the untimely death of George Millson. He has served and continues to serve the Company in the widest roles and ways imaginable.

CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE !

Please send ideas and photographs for future issues of the Newsletter to: Tony Crooks-Meredith, 'Silverwood', Blackdown Avenue, Pyrford, Woking GU22 8QG. If you would like material returned, please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope.

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