



# THE TURNER



NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TURNERS OF LONDON May 2008

Dear Fellow Turners

Little did I realise that my initial contact with the Worshipful Company of Turners at Exercise Southern Craftsman in 1989 would see me 19 years later being given the honour and privilege of becoming Master of this ancient Guild.

As the senior REME officer in the South East of England, it was my responsibility to run a large REME TA exercise, a weekend of feverish activity for our TA officers and soldiers, all competing for the Turners' Shield. I met four Masters during my time in command, Edward Field, Barry Johnston, Michael Simmonds and Edward Sawney, all of whom took a great interest in what we were doing and were keen to support the links between the Company and the Corps. I asked Barry Johnston "How easy or difficult is it to join the Company?" He replied "If I sponsor you, it's dead easy!" and so began my membership of the Livery.

I believe the Livery has made great strides over the past ten years in becoming a more relevant and energetic Company. As you know, we associate ourselves with supporting the City, the Company, the Craft, Charity and as Past Master Penrose Halson put it, we must add "Communication".

As far as the City is concerned, our effectiveness has grown through our whole-hearted support of the Lord Mayor and the Corporation of London and through our Learned Clerk, who is now a member of the City Livery Committee.

The Company is also becoming more focused on its work. A Court Manual has been produced recently to detail our Committee structures and Livery procedures. This will help to make our administration more effective and reduce overlaps in organising our Committee work.

The support for our Craft has improved immeasurably and this year already we have held an Exhibition and Demonstration of Turning at LINLEY Mayfair and in June we will be holding our biennial Turning Competition and another Wizardry in Wood exhibition at Carpenters' Hall. I would like to feel that all Liverymen and Freemen will make a real effort to visit the Exhibition and to invite their friends and business colleagues to see what will be an outstanding collection of turned work.

Last year a formal Charity Committee was set up to carry forward our charitable work, particularly in support of our Craft. You will have heard or read Past Master Mayer's eloquent and compelling message on the need for charitable giving. I do hope you will all take this to heart.

All the above cannot move forward without communication between the Court and its Liverymen and Freemen. We have excellent and experienced Chairmen of our Committees; do communicate with them and myself on any issue that you think we should consider for the good of the Company.

Finally, rest assured I will do my utmost to serve the Company to the best of my ability over the coming year and to look after its interests.

With best wishes

*Rob Lucas*



The Master with Upper Warden Christopher Roberts and Renter Warden Peter Ellis in Apothecaries' Hall.

## Issue 31

- How to become ... The Master
- Alan Mitchell awarded AWGB Honorary Membership at its 20th Anniversary Seminar
- Nehemiah Wallington builds his business but gets taken for a ride by journeyman Roberts
- Livery Dinner with the Mayor included a Guard of Honour from REME Cadets
- The Master sleuths an historic painting of Apothecaries' Hall
- Back Page news on Wizardry in Wood 2008. All Members of the Company are asked to visit the exhibition and to help promote this important event

## Historical Notes



Between 1610 and 1620 the Turners' Company of London bound some 265 apprentices. What is surprising is that during that period, only one in twelve were London born. Of those born outside the City, fifteen came from Scotland, Ireland, or Wales - more than from any single English county save for those from London itself.

Nehemiah Wallington, a key figure in the Company's history, kept nine apprentices between 1621 and 1655. General members of the Turners' Company were allowed to have only one apprentice. Liverymen could have two upon payment of a 5 pound fine (fee) and, with the approval of the Guild, Court officers could have three apprentices upon payment of a 2 pound fine.

Wallington estimated the cost of keeping an apprentice was about 6 pounds a year. A shop also could have only one journeyman at a time. Wages for a journeyman were around 8 pounds a year plus meat and drink. Sadly, Wallington does not seem to have been much of a businessman for, in 1630, he discovered Roberts, his journeyman, had been skimming the profits.

This had gone on for a couple of years before Wallington realized his employee was cheating him. When Roberts left to set up his own shop he asked for his back wages, claiming he had not been paid in two years, Wallington couldn't argue and even wrote "he had scarce asked me before, neither did I offer him any till now".

It was only on the suggestion of his father and a friend who pointed out that Roberts had been supporting a wife, a sister and his sister-in-law and had a furnished house that he must have had some source of income during the previous year and a half. When his Puritan "guilt" finally got the better of him, Roberts finally confessed that he had taken no more than 18 pounds. In the end Wallington seems to have figured he was out about 100 pounds over the course of two years.

**Peter Ellis**

## The Master Turner

Is it your ambition to become Master of our Company? If so, read on.

Our Masters are elected from the Court of Assistants, usually in chronological sequence from entry to the Court. Presently the composition of the Court is twenty-one Turners, nine before the chair, nine after the chair (Past Masters) and the three officers, the Renter Warden, the Upper Warden and the Master.

So, once elected to the Court of Assistants, the time taken to attain the Mastership will be a maximum of nine years. In exceptional circumstances, the period may be reduced by resignation from the Court or other reason (e.g. moving away, death or, in an extreme case, by expulsion).

Election to the Court of Assistants is made on the recommendation of the Assistant Selection Committee. Each year this Committee will nominate two candidates for each Assistant vacancy and will provide such further guidance to the Master and The Court, as they believe may be helpful as a result of their work. Assistants will be active in all Company matters and, before becoming Master, will be members of one or more of our various committees, probably chairing at least one, in order to gain a full understanding as to how the Company operates. Alternatively, they could become involved in other activities that enhance the Company's standing among all Livery Companies.

Nominations for new Court Assistants are based on the skills and experience that the Committee's nominee could bring to the Court. Account is taken of seniority on our membership list, and how well he or she has supported the Company in recent years.

An upper age limit of 60 for selection will be maintained (unless circumstances reveal an exceptional older candidate), as it is the Court's decision that all Masters, apart from exceptional circumstances, should not be more than seventy years of age. Nominations will only be made of those Liverymen able to serve the necessary period to become Master of the Company. Candidates will have contributed to the Company's charity fund. Some Liverymen will have had the opportunity to serve on one of the Company's committees, although this option, because of the need to keep committees small, will not have been enjoyed by all.

When potential Assistants have been identified, they will be expected to join a committee, or to participate in the activities of the Company in some other way (e.g. by producing the Newsletter) in order to assist the Court to decide which will prove the most suitable as Court Assistants. Naturally the potential Assistants are not advised that they are under consideration, as not every Committee member would wish to join the Court.

**Tony Sherred** Chairman of the Assistant Selection and Membership Committee



## Alan Mitchell honoured at AWGB 20<sup>th</sup> Seminar

Liveryman Alan Mitchell was invited by the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain to be their Honoured Guest at their 20th Anniversary Biennial Seminar, which took place from Friday 10th to Sunday 12th August last year.

This invitation was a break with tradition, in as much as previous guests had all been wood turners who had contributed to the cause over the years. They took the view that Alan's contribution had been considerable through his magazine editorship, exhibition organisation and on-going work with the Worshipful Company of Turners.

The location of the Seminar was Loughborough University. On the first evening, after demonstrations by well-known turners, Alan made a speech harking back to the First Seminar which he attended twenty years before. He then officially opened the "Inspirational" Instant Gallery which was a magnificent display of the turners' art. For the next two days there were fascinating demonstrations by internationally famous turners from the USA, Canada, Norway, France and Japan, together with those from the UK.

On the Saturday evening there was a Banquet attended by the Master George Kieffer and the Chairman of the Howe Committee Peter Gibson. At this, Alan Mitchell was presented with a plaque granting him Honorary Membership of the Association of Wood Turners of Great Britain for his contribution in promoting wood turning, an honour of which we are sure he is very proud.

The evening was completed with an amazing auction of turned pieces conducted by Liveryman Nicholas Somers, with all proceeds going to the AWGB development fund.

## The 2007 Livery Dinner

These photographs were taken at the Company's Livery Dinner on 18th December 2007.

The Lord Mayor, Alderman David Lewis, is shown with the Master, George Kieffer.

Since handing over to the new Master, Colonel Rob Lucas, on 1st May, far from relaxing, George has been taking on new commitments.

He writes: "I enjoyed my Mastership very much, The City is indeed a small world and I made many connections with my other interests, as well as things like visiting the City of London office in Mumbai.

"I am due to step up to Vice Chairman of a major housing association in September, with a view to becoming Chairman in 2009.



"Having heard that I have a couple of spare hours a week now, another Chairmanship starting next month is under discussion. Relaxation is clearly for wimps!" George will report on his year as Master in the next Newsletter.

The young soldiers, who formed a guard of honour at the dinner, are from 91 Cadet Detachment (REME).

Distinguished Past Master Barrie Johnston OBE is pictured wearing his Past Master's badge, shown in close-up with our motto, *By faith I obteigne*.



Liveryman Nicholas Somers recently bought an 18th-century Livery badge on which the motto was written as *By faith I obtain*.

Perhaps in the 19th-century revival of the then ailing Company the spelling was "medievalized?"

## A Master Picture Detective locates an historic picture of Apothecaries' Hall

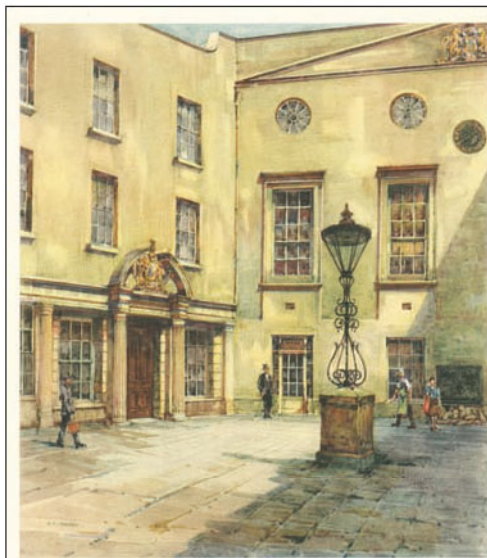
My wife's great uncle, J C Moody, was an artist who worked mainly in water colours and he loved to paint buildings and landscapes. We knew that he had carried out many commissions for Glaxo during his life-time.

Over his working life he would send prints of his paintings to relatives and friends as Christmas cards and my mother-in-law had kept many of them as a collage. Sadly, she died two years ago and when sorting out her affairs my wife noticed one card was a print of the courtyard at Apothecaries' Hall.

As a Liveryman of the Turners, I thought it would be nice to find out what had happened to the original painting. Through the Internet we discovered a fascinating piece on Professor Henry James Drew-Smythe, who specialised in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Bristol Area.

He was a Liveryman of the Society of Apothecaries and there were two prints amongst his papers which he had kept very carefully and obviously treasured: one of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and one of Apothecaries' Hall. A description of the latter said it was executed for a special Glaxo volume in 1954. This whetted my appetite to continue my search.

I contacted the archivist at GlaxoSmithKline, but he had no records from the Glaxo era. I then tried the Apothecaries' Clerk and Beadle, but they also had no records of any print being made of the painting, although the Beadle showed me their book on the history of the Apothecaries and its front cover was a copy of the painting, proving that some prints had been made in the past.



COURTYARD OF APOTHECARIES' HALL, LONDON  
by J. C. Moody, R.E., R.I.

What to do now? Fortunately, I had a golfing friend who used to work for Glaxo. I explained my quest and he said that a number of old Glaxo directors and senior managers met for lunch annually and he would ask if anyone could remember the painting and what had happened to it. By a great stroke of luck, one director said, "Yes, I know that painting. It used to hang in the R & D directors office at Greenford and I think I know who has it".

Several weeks later, my ex-Glaxo friend received a large envelope just after Christmas. In it was a letter which said "I believe you are interested in the J C Moody painting. I have it hanging in my hall!"

Also enclosed was a print of the painting on the back of which was a short description about the Apothecaries and in ink, handwritten on the top, it had "Please return to the Society of

Apothecaries"!! It did not say how long this print had been kept from the Apothecaries, but I had great pleasure in returning it to its rightful abode at the Apothecaries' lunch after the United Guilds Service.

Finally, my wife and I have been to see the painting. It is in excellent condition, is owned by a former Pharmacist and Liveryman of the Apothecaries, and he was delighted to hear our story and our connection with the Apothecaries. You never know, but with a bit of luck, this story may have an even happier ending.

**Rob Lucas**

# Wizardry in Wood

Art • Beauty • Skill • Mystery



The Company's 2008 Wizardry in Wood exhibition is taking place from Wednesday 4th to Friday 6th June.

In addition to the public exhibition times (see panel top right) there will also be a Reception for the Members of the Company and their guests on the Wednesday evening, from 6pm to 8pm. Tickets are only £15 each and may be ordered from the Clerk using the form sent out in April or directly by email or telephone.

Wizardry in Wood 2008 is the UK's biggest exhibition of contemporary and historic wood turning, with 24 individual exhibitors and 14 stands of special exhibits and guest collections.

The exhibition is free to the public, although tickets must be ordered in advance through contacting the Clerk by email or telephone. Tickets can be posted, emailed or collected at the door by prior arrangement.

A special website has also been set up to promote the exhibition (see panel) and provide more information to potential visitors.

A huge amount of work has gone into organising Wizardry in Wood. We hope that every member of the Company will also encourage friends and colleagues to visit the exhibition and see for themselves the wonderful and extraordinary works that will be on display - and for sale by many of the individual exhibitors.

## Stop Press

Splendid late additions to the exhibition are two pieces made by Binh Pho, the celebrated American turner who taught Bursary-winner Joey Richardson, and who made the piece, *Midnight Sun*, shown on the Wizardry in Wood flyer. Also two works from the Crafts Council's collection of turned pieces.

Company Reception:  
Open to the public:

Wednesday 4th June: 6-8pm  
Wednesday 4th June: 2-6pm  
Thursday 5th June: 10am – 6pm  
Friday 6th June: 10am – 2pm

Website: [www.wizardryinwood.com](http://www.wizardryinwood.com)



The Angels' Lathe will be one of the star exhibits at Wizardry in Wood. This exceptional machine is based on an allegorical drawing dating from 1627. The Lathe is a collaboration between the library of the faculty of Theology of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium) and members of the Guild of Flemish Woodturners. Taking the drawing as their plan, three members of the Guild built from seasoned oak the beautifully constructed pole lathe complete with its allegorical symbols, which form part of every component of the lathe.

## Individual Exhibitors

Katie Abbott  
Nick Agar  
John Berkeley  
Paul Coker  
Stephen Cooper  
Mark Hancock  
Julie Heryet  
Ray Key  
Stuart King  
Tim Lawson  
Carlyn Lindsay  
Bert Marsh  
Gregory Moreton  
Stuart Mortimer  
Tom Pockley  
Gary Rance  
David Reeks  
Joey Richardson

## Bursary Stand

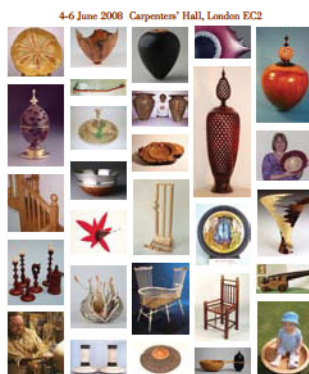
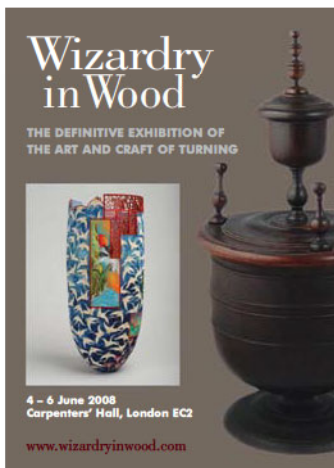
Stephen Copestake  
Margaret Garrard  
Sue Harker  
Louise Hibbert  
Les Thorne  
Robin Wood

## Special Exhibits

- The Daniel Collection
- Theo & Sarah Fabergé:  
The St Petersburg Collection
- Exhibits from the Pinto Collection of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery
- The Smouha Collection
- The work of George White & Roy Wood
- The Angels' Lathe: Special Guest Exhibit from the University of Leuven, Belgium
- Presents, prizes & trophies

## Society Stands

- Guild of Art Scholars, Dealers & Collectors
- Association of Woodturners of Great Britain
- Register of Professional Turners
- Society of Ornamental Turners
- The Turners' Company Collection
- Winners of the Company's 2008 Turning Competitions
- Worshipful Company of Musicians



The printing of this page is kindly sponsored by the Antique Trade Gazette. Tel: +44 (0) 20 7312 6188  
Photographs: Kate Abbott, Nick Agar, John Berkeley, Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, Hildisheim Gold, Paul Coker, Stephen Cooper, Stephen Coombe, David Colclough, Peter Whitting, Margaret Dorend, Mark Hancock, Sue Harker, John Harker, Louise Hibbert, Ray Key, Stuart King, Tim Lawson, Carlyn Lindsay, Les Thorne, Carlyn Lindsay, Gary Rance, Joey Richardson, David Reeks, Carlyn Lindsay, Stephen & Thorne Antiques, Caroline Colclough, Paul Coker, John Thorne, Robin Wood

Wizardry in Wood will be held in the splendid Hall of the Worshipful Company of Carpenters in Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2 in the heart of the City of London. Carpenters' Hall is readily accessible by public transport from many parts of London and by taxi. Liverpool Street main line station is a few minutes' walk away.



Three tube stations (Liverpool Street, Moorgate and Bank) are nearby. Driving is generally not recommended as there is limited parking in the area. The nearest street car parking is in Finsbury Circus (meters) and the nearest Car Park is in Finsbury Square. Carpenters' Hall is in the London Congestion Zone.

Please contact the Editor of the Newsletter, Matthew Gaved, if you would like to suggest a contribution to a future issue: email: [gaved@btconnect.com](mailto:gaved@btconnect.com).

© 2008 The Worshipful Company of Turners. Except where specifically stated none of the material in this issue is to be taken as expressing the opinion of the Company.  
182 Temple Chambers, Temple Avenue, London EC4Y 0HP Tel: 020 7353 9595 email: [clerk@turnersco.com](mailto:clerk@turnersco.com) website: [www.turnersco.com](http://www.turnersco.com)