



The Scrivener

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY
OF SCRIVENERS OF THE CITY OF LONDON

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From the Master.

Having been a member of the Company for 24 years, I am truly delighted to have been elected as your Master, although I could perhaps have wished for slightly less challenging times to take on this great office! However, now that I am here, I thought I should explain a little about my background.

My main and perhaps most interesting part of my career was in the Fine Arts world. I was lucky enough to work for Sotheby's Fine Art Auctioneer's, in New Bond Street, Mayfair for 17 years between 1976 and 1993. I then moved to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, working for 5 years as the Senior Museum Assistant at Leighton House, the home of Frederick, Lord Leighton, the pre-Raphaelite Artist and first President of the Royal Academy.

Prior to this I spent 6 years with the Territorial Army from 1969. I joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (City of London Detachment), based at the HAC, where I was trained as a Medic (Field First Aider). Although I never deployed on operations, I was mobilised with the unit to Germany in 1974 and help set up a 200 bed field hospital, where I was part of the Intensive Care Department.



A joyful Master

Throughout this time I was also a member of the St John Ambulance Brigade, from which I recently retired after 46 years' Service; I held various Officer Appointments and I left as the Deputy National Secretary of the St John Fellowship (for retired Uniformed Members).

Having been a member of the Royal British Legion for 26 years, I also retired from active office, after serving three terms as Chairman as well as President. I had the honour and privilege of being invested with the Order of the League of Mercy at the Mansion House in 2019, in recognition of my service to the Royal British Legion. I was dined out in 2018 and am the Honorary Life President and act as Archivist and Branch Historian.

Currently I am still serving with the Light Cavalry HAC, which is a Ceremonial Troop and acts as Escort to the incoming Lady Mayoress during The Lord Mayor's Show.

But, enough about me!

Since David took over the reins of the Company (for the second time) in January, he and our new Clerk have completed an incredible amount of work for the Company. All of which the Officers and Members of the Court are fully aware and it is hoped on another occasion when we are able to meet, we can acknowledge that debt we owe him in a more tangible way. But for now, on behalf of the whole Company, may I thank David so very much for all he has done for us in such a short space of time; may I also add my own personal thanks for his support, guidance, and sound advice.

May I also take this opportunity to also record my sincere thanks to the Officers, Members of the Court, Past Masters and our Clerk, both present and past, who have guided me to this honourable position, not only today but over the past nine years. As we go forward, in what will be a rather curtailed year, I know that we will all try to do our best, within the constraints in which we will have to work; at least I have the knowledge that with the

support of the various Committees, as well as the expertise of our notarial colleagues, we will try to come through to the other side, knowing we did what we could.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge Past Master, the late Hamilton Hamilton-Hopkins who introduced me to the Company; through him I am now able to serve the Company as Master and I am sure he will be looking down with some satisfaction.

Master's Year Plan for 2020-21

The Programme for my Year was constantly updated whilst I was Upper Warden. As you can well imagine, my plans have been somewhat 'scuttled', possibly until November or even beyond to 2021; but I and the Events and Charity Committee will see what can be saved/resurrected or look at alternatives. They included the following (bearing in mind those who can only do day time visits and those who are working and prefer the evenings):

- Dulwich Picture Gallery,
- The HAC Museum & lunch,
- City Church (St Brides),
- Leighton House Museum & Art Gallery with lunch/drinks locally,
- Southwark Cathedral and Borough Market with lunch/drinks locally,
- Guys Hospital Operating Theatre and Chapel,
- Wesley Chapel, Old Street, with lunch/drinks locally,
- The College of Arms, Victoria Street, with lunch/drinks locally,
- Westminster Cathedral, Victoria, with lunch/drinks at the Albert p/h,
- National Army Museum, Sloane Square, with lunch/drinks at the Rose & Crown p/h.
- Shakespeare Globe, London Bridge, with lunch/drinks locally,
- City of London schools. Small party on each visit with lunch/drinks locally.

For the Master's Weekend I am keen to arrange a trip to Belgium/France, to visit the Menin Gate & WW1 Commonwealth War Cemeteries, laying poppy wreaths on behalf of the Company. This could work out at 4 or 5 days in total, staying in local hotels.

Change of Clerk

Having served the Company for over 11 years as Clerk, Giles decided to step down and, at the Court Meeting in January, handed over the reins to Arnold Lustman.

Arnie was born in Kenya but sent to England at the age of 8 to be educated, initially at a Prep School in Sussex and subsequently at Rugby School. On leaving university he spent 27 years in the Royal Navy as a Logistics Officer, serving in nuclear submarines for 8 years, before returning to General Service. After more time at sea in destroyers and finally the aircraft carrier HMS ILLUSTRIOUS, his shore appointments included 7 years in the MOD and 5 years in Navy Command HQ in Portsmouth. Reaching the rank of Captain RN (equivalent to full Colonel in the Army) he chose to leave in 2013. He then spent 2½ years designing and managing the Transformation programme of clinical services in Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust before taking up a role working for a large Risk Management corporation in East Africa. Based back in Kenya, he led the team that designed, introduced and ran the centralised business services and administration for a large organisation of 7000 employees, with offices spread across Kenya, DRC, Tanzania, South Sudan, Zambia, Uganda and Somalia; he returned to England when his role moved to Mauritius. He is also a Trustee and the Treasurer of 2 charities: the Feathers charity, which provides youth and community work to support education and informal activities among less privileged communities in North/Central London, and the Armed Forces Polo Association which supports polo in the Royal Navy, Army and RAF. Married and with a 16 year old daughter, he lives in Fulham.



The new Clerk with the 're-mastered' Master

Giles Coles Retirement

Little did I think when stepping down as Clerk at the end of January that retirement would morph into this lengthy lockdown that we have all endured. I obviously expected to spend more time at home, but not quite in those circumstances. The word 'unprecedented' became the most uttered word in the media and we all watched with mounting dismay as the crisis unfolded week after week. Poor Arnie had only just taken over the Clerkship and settled into our splendid Past-Master-Hett-refurbished office when he had to abandon ship and work remotely – as of course did Dian.

But one thing that retirement, aided by the lockdown, has given me is the chance to reflect on the nine years that I have spent as Clerk of the Company, a position I never expected to achieve, but which came my way fortuitously. The only regret I have is that, as with my Mastership in 2003/04, my father was unable to see me take office in the Company in which he had enrolled me as an apprentice at the age of 14. On the more positive side it has been a joy and a privilege to serve the Company I have known so well for so many years, and my fellow members have been unfailingly kind and supportive as we have attempted to consolidate and enhance our position as one of the ancient companies as best we can. In this the Company has been fortunate to have had a succession of very active and forward-thinking Masters in recent years, who have made their mark in the livery and in the City, especially in terms of the Company's core profession and in supporting the mayoralty.



Giles Cole being invested with the Master's Jewel and Collar by Vic Alden, the Company's Beadle in July 2003

The pandemic has obviously curtailed all activities within the City and every livery company is, in a sense, trading water, but I must record my personal admiration of the way in which Arnie, Dian and the officers have continued to keep Company business ticking along in these precarious times. I am sure we will emerge stronger as a Company in due course.



Liveryman Denis Moriarty (as the Master of Ceremonies) and of course Dian who made sure all the elements ran like clockwork. I don't think the City has seen a Clerk's retirement party quite like it before - and indeed one or two other Clerks were taken aback at the scale of the evening! There must have been people there whom I simply didn't manage to get round to greeting, for which my apologies!

In addition to the nine splendid Masters who have shaped the last nine years, I have also been very fortunate in working with two Assistant Clerks, Dian and Doreen, both of whose quiet efficiency, wisdom and sunny demeanour made each day in the office such a pleasure.



Though now retired to the 'back benches', I remain an Honorary Court Assistant, in addition to which the Court has granted me Honorary Life Membership - another unexpected position to find myself in! I have truly been

showered with riches. And I shall look forward to seeing the Company continue to grow and prosper under Arnie's stewardship. My thanks and very best wishes to him and to all current and future officers of the Company and I hope we may be able to hold a Company event before too long when we can meet in person once again. Fellowship is more difficult to sustain via a computer screen and unreliable bandwidth - on which note I also wish the 'Zoomers' Past Masters' Association every success! But most of all, my grateful thanks and good wishes go to all Scriveners, here and overseas, who have made the last nine years so rewarding an experience.

Quill Pen Reception



Although we did not know it at the time, the last event the Company was able to perform before the UK was put into lockdown was the Quill Pen Reception, on 25 February 2020. With a total of 86 people attending, the event this year was held in the Lower Grand Hall of the Old Bailey which lent itself superbly to the occasion. The Master awarded the handwriting prizes to the students from our 5 affiliated schools, followed by the Peter Esslemont Prize for Calligraphy and Illumination, which was won by Atilio Medda. The Master then presented Quills and Scrivener fountain pens to the two Sheriffs, Professor Michael Mainelli and Chris Hayward.

The Master with the two Sheriffs



Donald Jackson with a very proud Atilio Medda

Livery Life during the Coronavirus Pandemic

In late March, the UK went into lockdown and normal life in the City, and the Livery Companies, effectively was put 'on hold' or dramatically changed. The Scriveners as a company responded magnificently, led by the (then)

Master David Philip, and continued to meet 'virtually' throughout lockdown with the full programme of Committee and Court meetings, held either 'Out of Committee' or on Zoom. We spent a lot of time unpicking arrangements as events were cancelled and we caught up on a myriad of Company administration and governance issues, ensuring that the Company is in as good a position as possible to move forwards once we are allowed. We also managed to install 2 new members of the Company (Jana Derska and Stephan Breu) and, of course, conducted the installation of the new Master and Wardens in July before hosting a social gathering of the wider membership a week later.



Members attending the Zoom Meetings

August was typically quiet although the office was busy, re-establishing itself onboard HQS Wellington whilst preparing the accounts for the year-end examination. HQS Wellington is undertaking an extensive programme of repair and refurbishment work, the first for 30 years; returning to work onboard, against a backdrop of constant drilling, sanding and general building work, presented a challenge!

Focus then shifted to attempting to recover the programme of social events whilst adhering to the national guidance on 'Social Distancing'. With the Autumn Dinner on 13 Oct 2020 being limited to 30 people, in line with the Government's current restrictions on indoor events, it was decided to recast the event as a 'Court and Committees Dinner'. There is a plan to follow this later in that month with an Afternoon Tea for Livery Members onboard Wellington where the restrictions on numbers will be easier.

Notarial Update

It is rather difficult to believe that the last newsletter contribution I made was in Autumn 2019. Where to begin? Like everyone else, Scrivener Notaries have simply been trying to get through the past six months and adapt as best we can to the new landscape we find ourselves in.

As readers are no doubt aware, notaries tend to inhabit the traditional legal world of face-to-face meetings and paper documents. Working from home, conducting Zoom meetings and remote notarization of documents were until recently practically unheard of.

The adjustment to new ways of working has been challenging and given rise to some interesting questions regarding what can and cannot be done through the medium of a video call. Administering oaths and witnessing the execution of deeds, for instance, still need to be performed the old-fashioned way - in the physical presence of the notary.

Naturally, the law takes time to catch up with new working practices but I am pleased to report that notaries are adapting well and continue to be very relevant in today's legal world despite the difficulties presented by the pandemic.

In other developments, the Company successfully held its summer examinations for prospective Scrivener notaries in July, for which there were three candidates. The results will be approved at the next meeting of the Notarial Committee later this month (held via Zoom, of course).

Last but not least, on behalf of the Notarial Committee I would like to offer my congratulations to our new Master and wardens on their recent installation.

My very best wishes to all.

Andrew Claudet – Notarial Deputy

From the Desk of the Archivist

Having taken over the role of the Company's Archivist/Historian from such recent distinguished luminaries and members of our Company, the late Francis Steer, quondam Maltravers Herald of Arms Extraordinary and Cecil Humphrey-Smith, I now wear their mantle with some little trepidation! Apart from keeping an eye on our historic holdings whether held on board HQS Wellington or in the safe keeping of the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) in Clerkenwell, one initial project that I wished to make inroads towards is an examination of the Company's Minute Books, etc, held within the Clerk's office, in order to discover whether any of our members served and fell in both the First and Second World Wars in order to produce a suitable scrivened and illuminated document for display aboard Wellington as a remembrance for their service to the Company, the City and Nation. Sadly, this project is presently on hold due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic but hopefully, once the skies clear again and confidence returns to the City, I will be able to pick up the baton once again in respect of this project. This will also allow me to examine closely our holdings in the Clerk's office in respect of their condition. As I recall, some of the volumes/ledgers are suffering from the dreaded 'red rot' the bane of all archivists and librarians who have an oversight of ancient tomes everywhere. Such an examination will allow remedial action to take place in order to stabilise such volumes/ledgers from further deterioration as well as well checking the bindings of other volumes/ledgers not susceptible to 'red rot' and the condition of other company documents and the like.

Another part of my role as archivist is to field enquiries, academic or not from individuals whose queries land upon the desk of the Clerk or Assistant Clerk concerning the Company. Here I can report that I have received a number of such queries but once again the answers to these are laying dormant until I can safely visit the LMA to undertake a little research on behalf of the enquirers.

Another project looming upon the horizon is the Company's 650th anniversary of the granting of its first ordinances; this will take place in 2023 where, in consultation with the Company's committee organising the celebrations of this important milestone in the history of our Company, I shall have some input as archivist. Hopefully, we be able to put on a good display of Company documents and artifacts at a suitable venue during that celebratory year.

Future reports from 'the Desk of the Archivist' will concentrate on a focussed aspect of the Company's history as well as an insight into our holdings at the LMA.

John J. Tunesi of Liongam – Archivist

Welcome to new members

We are delighted to report that we have managed to gain 2 new members, despite the trauma of Lockdown!

Jana Derska, a newly qualified Scrivener Notary with Saville's, joined on 11 June 2020 and Stephan Breu, a Swiss Company Director, joined on 1 July 2020. Both ceremonies were conducted by Zoom. No doubt we will be doing more of these in the future – at least until the Covid19 restrictions are over.



Stephan Breu standing in front of the Scriveners' Barge Flag in Guildhall

And finally,

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Ken McAllen in April this year. Our thoughts are with his wife Christine and family.