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ARMS OF THE DYERS' COMPANY.

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF DYERS,
LONDON.

By EDWARD COOKWORTHY ROBINS, F.S.A., late Prime Warden of
the Company.

Read February 9th, 1880.

IN response to the invitation of the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Birch, I have consented to put together a few facts connected with the History of the Dyers' Company, with which I have become familiar during my passage through the offices of Renter and of Prime Warden for the years 1878 and 1879.

I do not propose to give a complete account of the Company and all its affairs, because it is no part of the business of this Society to discuss the burning questions of to-day, but rather to rekindle interest in the expiring embers of an ever-receding past.

Remembering, as we must, that, with the exception of Stowe, we had not until the publication, in 1834, of Herbert's History of the Twelve Great Companies, any authentic account of the City Guilds; and that, although the Report of the Commission for the inquiry into Municipal Corporations, published in 1837, led to the deposit in the Public Records of the leading facts with reference to the antiquity of each Company, and the special charities for which they were trustees, yet it is only by separate application to each Company, and personal influence therein, that the interesting historical and archæological treasures locked up in each Company's archives can be made available for the student of ancient lore and contemporary art.

Remembering this, therefore, I thought it might not be without interest and value to this Society, that a few notes should be contributed on the subject of the present paper; following the example (though

at a great distance) of Mr. Wadmore, Mr. Overall, F.S.A., and Mr. Coote, F.S.A., each of whom have written valuable essays on kindred subjects which have found an honourable place in the Transactions of the Society.

The art of Dyeing is as old as the hills—as ancient as the love of personal adornment. Joseph's coat of many colours, the dyed skins that covered the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, Solomon's purple robes of Tyrian dye, a thousand years before the Christian era—all attest the early use of colour dyes and adds an interest to their history and development by trade confederations.

With regard to the important part played by the London Guilds in the drama of mediæval life, Mr. Herbert in the preface to the first volume of his history makes the following remarks:—

“To the reader unacquainted with the subject, it may be observed, that the Livery Companies hold a high rank in history—their wealth, the important trusts reposed in them, the noble charities they support, and their connection with the civic constitution of the metropolis, make them of primary consequence to every liveryman and freeman; but when it is considered that they had the earliest share in laying the foundations of British commerce; that all trade originally concentrated in their fraternities; that their records are, for the most part, of remote antiquity, and afford pictures of the government, religion, customs, habits, and expenses of former times; it will be seen that few subjects are more important in a national point of view, or admit of more entertaining illustration.”

Many of the Companies favoured Mr. Herbert with an inspection of their archives, some of them detailing as far back as the reign of Edward III. the manner in which they first formed themselves into societies, the places they met at before they built their halls, the curious custom that obtained amongst them of admitting sisters or females as associates in their fraternities—their feasts, set modes of dress or livery, from which they derive their name, their religious ceremonies, amazing pageants, and numerous other amusing particulars.

It may be well to remark, in passing, that the title Livery Company dates from the glorious reign of Edward III., by whom all trading fraternities were reconstituted as crafts and mysteries, and permitted to assume a distinctive dress or livery, which at this period of pageantry was held in high estimation. (I exhibit the Prime Warden's robe and badge, and the livery dress of this Company.)

The old title of alderman fell into disuse at the same time, and that of master or warden was substituted, but is still maintained in the City Corporation.

At the present time there are seventy-three masters of livery companies, and three prime wardens, viz. : the Goldsmiths, Fishmongers, and Dyers. Twelve of the old Companies have become extinct.

Except in the case of the Weavers, the charters of incorporation of Edward III. are the earliest enrolled. Compulsory enrolment of the Companies' charters was required by Richard II., in his twelfth year, by letters mandatory to the Lord Mayor of the day.

But the antiquity of many of the Companies dates far beyond their first incorporation or enrolment, and Granville speaks of English guilds in the reign of Henry II. as common institutions.

It is certain that the Woollen Cloth Weavers' Company received a charter from Henry II. confirming that given by his grandfather Henry I.

There is one Company, however, the Saddlers', which is more ancient still, being a veritable Anglo-Saxon gild, and consequently the oldest of the present Livery Companies. The *Gilda Sellariorum* was coeval with the *Gilda Theutonicorum*, or the Steel Yard Merchants of London, otherwise called the Easterlings, the leading branch of the celebrated Hanseatic League, who settled in London before Ethelred's time.

Their ancient house, called the German Gild Hall, was situated upon the site of the present railway terminus in Cannon Street. They were plundered by the Londoners, jealous of their wonderful prosperity, in 1493, and were finally dissolved in 1552.

But to return to the particular subject of the present paper. The Dyers' Company is thus introduced to us in Strype's *Stowe* :—

“ Henry VI., by letters patent, or charter of incorporation, dated 16th February, in the forty-ninth year from the beginning of his reign, and in the first year of the redemption of his royal power, did incorporate the Company of Dyers, London. Henry VI. reigned but thirty-nine years. They were made a brotherhood or guild in the fourth year of Henry VI., and appointed to comprise a guardian or warden and commonalty in the twelfth year of Edward IV.”

“ In the *Heralds' Visitation Book*,” says *Stowe*, “ the chevron in the Dyers' arms is engrailed, and there are added supporters, viz. : two lions rampant guardant azure, with roundlets of divers colours, as gules, azure, vert, and sable. Coronets on their heads, and flames

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issuing out of their mouths and ears. The creast, on a wreath, several leaves with flowers and berries, seeming to be holly berries."

The arms, as given at the Heralds' College, are as follow :—

Arms—Sable, a chevron engrailed argent, between three bags of madder of the last, corded or.

Crest—On a wreath of the colours, three sprigs of the graintree, erect vert, fructed gules.

Supporters—Two leopards rampant guardant, argent, spotted with various colours. Fire issuing from their ears and mouths proper, both ducally crowned, or.

Motto—DA GLORIAM DEO.

That the existence of the Dyers' Company was long anterior to the date of their charter of incorporation is testified by the following notice which occurs in Strype's Stowe, and in the rolls of parliament.

The Fullers, as also the Dyers, he says, were complained of as early as the reign of Edward I. by some of their own fraternities—"for that certain of them, viz. John de Oxon, Henry at Watergate, and Elias le Sherman, sent cloths to be fulled, and which ought only to be fulled in the city, to the mill at Stratford, and elsewhere without the city, in deceit and to the great damage of the men who owned those cloths, as well as of the men using such trade in the cittie, and to the depression of the trade itself. And, the parties being summoned before the custos and sheriffs of London, pursuant to writ of the sixteenth of that king, the persons named confessed themselves to be in fault ; and the dyers, tailors, burrillers, weavers, and fullers, giving evidence as to the business at the same time, regulations were adopted for the better conducting of the fulling in future ; the principal whereof was, that for the common profit of the city, no fullers, dyers, or thessaranes, should thenceforth carry cloths from the city to be fulled under heavy penalties."

The son of the Clerk to the Company, E. W. Watson, Esq. writes me thus, "I believe the exact date of the first mention of dyers as a corporate body in London was 1188."

Herbert tells us that the shearmen and the dyers, whilst minor companies or gilds, had many contests for superiority ; and when in 1527 the shearmen and the fullers were merged in the single title of "cloth-workers," by charter from Henry VIII. and made one of the superior Companies, the dyers still disputed precedence with them, and only yielded on being made to rank next after them, by special appointment

of the Lord Mayor, that is to say, as the thirteenth, or first of the minor gilds, which rank they now hold.

The precedency of the Companies was a point of etiquette very scrupulously adhered to in all the pageantries, and was regulated by the Lord Mayor and aldermen. The Dyers' Company appears as one of the twelve in the orders for setting out the watch made on the Vigil of St. Peter and St. Paul the Apostle, in the sixth of Edward IV. Also in the list of Companies having liveries in 1483. And on the 31st August, in the first year of Henry VII., when the common council directed a certain number, in all 435, to ride, on the King entering the city, and on other occasions.

In 1483 they took part with "severall fealoeships of this citie in granting a sum of money towards the bilyding of houses of office at the Gyldhall."

In 1545 there was a great arrival of foreign wheat, and the dyers joined the other great Companies who were called upon to assist in purchasing it.

By the Act of Parliament of the thirty-seventh of Henry VIII. and the first of Edward VI. entitled "An Act for the Dissolution of Colleges, Chauntries, and free Chapelles at the King's Majestie's pleasure," "a great blow was given," says Strype, "to the Corporation of London, nor was there anything for them but to purchase and buy off these rent-charges, and get as good pennyworths as they could from the King, and this they did in the third Edward VI. by selling other of their lands to enable them to repurchase them. This cost the Companies 18,700*l*. (in present money about ten times that amount), which possessions, when they had thus cleared again, they employed to good uses according to the first intent of them, abating the superstition."

The Dyers' Company figure in the list of the purchasers, and continued to pay yearly out of the rents pensions to decayed brethren and other almsmen.

This Company, as we have seen, was incorporated by Henry VI. upon his restoration to the throne by the Earl of Warwick, February 16th, 1471, and who died a few days after the battle of Tewkesbury, fought May 4th, 1471.

Edward IV. on regaining the throne, regranted the Company's charter, on December 2nd, 1472. Their rights were confirmed by Henry VIII. Edward VI. Philip and Mary, Elizabeth, James I. and

James II. They were reincorporated by charter of Queen Anne, April 26th, 1704, which charter recites that of James I. and Edward IV. and in the latter part of the fourth clause goes on to say—"And because the Art of Dyeing brings much gain to our subjects that exercise the woollen manufactory, and the art of dyeing requires knowledge and experience, and by frauds is often abused to the great damage of our subjects: Therefore, as much as in us lies, we are willing to put a stop to such things for the future, do hereby declare, that no person whatsoever shall hereafter presume to exercise the industry aforesaid in the City of London and suburbs thereof, or in any other place within ten miles of the sames, unless such person be a brother or member and freeman of the said society or Company of Dyers, qualified by law to exercise the same."

And in the sixteenth clause thus :—"And further out of our great favour, we have granted to the said Wardens and Commonalty, and their successors for ever, that they shall have the inspection, search, and government of all and every of the workers in goods and merchandise belonging to the same trade in the City aforesaid, or within ten miles of the same, and such delinquent to be prosecuted in due form of laws for such defects in the working of such goods or merchandise. And we do hereby command all mayors, sheriffs, bailiffs, stewards, and other officers whatsoever, as well within the City as without other places, when such search shall happen to be aiding and assisting to them in the execution of the aforesaid premises."

During my wardenship I instituted a search among the papers in the strong room, and was rewarded by the discovery of the following important illuminated documents, which had long been overlooked, and were thickly coated with many years' dust, viz. :—

Copy Inspeimus Charter of James I. 1606, reciting in full the original charter of Henry VI. 1471.

Original Ordinances of Elizabeth 1578, with Burleigh's autograph.

Original Charter of King James II. of 1686, with Judge Jeffery's autograph signature.

Original Charter and ordinances of Queen Anne, 1704.

The first Prime Warden of the Dyers' Company, in the year 1471, was Thomas Danyell.

The first Renter Warden was William Helmet, in the same year In parliamentary language these were the first prime minister and chancellor of the exchequer of the Company.

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J. SACHS

ANCIENT STRONG BOX IN THE POSSESSION OF THE DYERS' COMPANY.

The list of Prime and Renter Wardens now in the possession of the Company extends back from the present time to the year 1650 in unbroken sequence, but between that year and 1471 the names of twelve Prime and Renter Wardens are all that can be traced, owing doubtless to the great losses sustained by this Company at the time of the great fires in 1666 and in 1681.

The following is a list of some of the chief benefactors of the Company:—

1. Thos. Danyell, the first Prime Warden of the Company, 1471.
2. Wm. Helmet, the first Renter Warden.
3. Sir Robt. Tyrrwhit, Benefactor of the Company in 1545.
4. Henry West, Benefactor 1551.
5. Sir Wm. Glover, Alderman, Sheriff in 1601.
6. Sir Roger Jones, Alderman, Sheriff in 1604.
7. Henry Trevillian, Benefactor 1636.

Mem.—This name in the early books of the Company is usually spelt "Trevelian." Thomas Trevillian gave the Company a silver cup weighing 22 oz.

8. Saml. Goldsmith, Benefactor 1647.
9. John Wynne, Benefactor 1650.
10. Sir Robert Bannister, father of Eliz. Bannister, Benefactor 1652.
11. John Mayor, Alderman, Upper Warden 1654. Gave 100*l.* to re-build the hall after the fire of 1681.
12. — Serle, Alderman, P.W. 1655.
13. John Smith, Alderman, P.W. 1663. Gave 20*l.* after the fire of 1681.
14. Humphrey Cliffe, P.W. 1664. Gave 100*l.* on same occasion.
15. Sir Thos. Boufoy, Alderman, P.W. 1665.
16. Richard Stocke, Benefactor 1665.
17. Silvester Dennis, Alderman, R.W. 1654; P.W. 1666. He wainscoted the hall at his own expense, and the Company put up his arms in it with an inscription of thanks. He was re-elected P.W. in 1687, but was excused service as he was then 90 years of age. He also gave 100*l.* after the fire.
18. Peter Ducane, Alderman, R.W. 1659; P.W. 1668. Gave the Company a silver cup, weighing 36 oz. with his arms thereon.
19. Anthony Stanlake, Alderman, R.W. 1656. Fined for not serving; P.W. 1669.

20. Colonel Peter Houlblon, R.W. 1660 ; P.W. 1670. Gave 10*l.* to restore hall.

21. Sir Philip Dakins, R.W. 1662 ; P.W. 1671.

22. Anthony Rawlins, R.W. 1681; High Sheriff of Surrey in 1683.

23. Samuel *Shute*,* Sheriff of London, Prime Warden in 1681, 1682, and 1683.

24. Captain Wm. Woodroffe, P.W. for part of 1687. He, with Owen Larton, was appointed Warden of the Company in place of Wm. Cleeve and Edwd. Aston who were deposed by James II.

25. Christopher Lethicullier, Alderman, fined 1688.

Abraham Lethicullier, also fined for his Wardenship about the same time.

In 1676 Sir John Lethicullier was Master of the Barbers' Company.

In 1742 Benjn. Lethicullier was an Assistant of the Dyers' Company. Died 1760. Gave 10*l.* after the fire. Besides those mentioned as subscribing, many others gave sums varying from 100*l.* to 3*l.*—twenty-six in all, the total subscription being £710 13*s.* 8*d.*

26. Captain (afterwards Colonel) Anthony Hannolt, R.W. 1710 ; P.W. 1713.

27. Wm. Lee, Benefactor, R.W. 1714 ; P.W. 1714, 1715, 1716, and part of 1717 ; again P.W. in 1720, 1721, in which year he died in office.

28. Wm. Mead, P.W. 1718. Left the Company by will 500*l.* to build them a hall, having previously promised that sum in his lifetime.

29. Sir Richd. Gough, elected Assistant 1720.

30. Jonathan Marcroft, R.W. 1757 ; P.W. 1738. Left by will 10*l.* for Company's poor.

31. John Pack, Benefactor ; R.W. 1740 ; P.W. 1741.

32. Wm. Mills, R.W. 1749 ; P.W. 1751. His portrait hung in the Clerk's office.

33. Geo. Roodley, R.W. 1772 ; P.W. 1773. His portrait voted July, 1805 ; re-elected P.W. in 1794, instead of John Gandall (deceased) ; again elected P.W. in 1798 instead of William Barfoot (deceased).

* At page 661 of Timbs's *Curiosities of London* it is said :—" One of the oldest shrievalty customs was that of the Lord Mayor drinking to persons for nomination to that office ; it was revived in 1682 at the request of Charles II., with a factious object ; when Sheriffs *Shute* and Pilkington were committed by the King to the Tower upon a false charge of riot."

34. Robert Burch, Benefactor, died 1789.
35. Daniel Pinder, R.W. 1792 ; P.W. 1793. His portrait, dated 1807, in Court-room.
36. Wm. Kinder, Benefactor ; R.W. 1797 ; P.W. 1798.
37. Sir James Branscombe, R.W. 1803 ; P.W. 1854 ; Sheriff of London, 1806.
38. Thos. Chambers, R.W. 1809 ; P.W. 1810 ; Benefactor. His portrait in Court-room.
39. Sir Francis des Anges, physician to George IV. ; Sheriff of London, 1817 ; R.W. 1830 ; P.W. 1831.
40. John Tillidge, Sheriff of London, 1834 ; R.W. 1841 ; P.W. 1842.
41. George Maquire, R.W. 1855 ; P.W. 1856 ; Benefactor. Portrait in ante-room.

Mr. Serjeant Sargood, Mr. Merriman, Mr. Burder, and Mr. E. C. Robins, have each made presentations to the Company of plate and other things during their years of office.

At a Court held 20th October, 1682, at Fishmongers' Hall, a memorandum was made,—“That ye oathe formerly taken by ye Wardens was not administered, but was now read to the new Wardens, Mr. Sheriff Shute and Mr. Walter Clemens, for 1683, which they promised to perform. Ye words of the oathe are, viz. :—

“You shall well and truly govern ye mistery of Dyers enfranchised within ye Citie of London according to ye laws, orders, and ordinances already made and ordained, or hereafter for ye common avayle to be made and ordained, doing always right as well to ye poore as to ye rich. So help you, God.”

The following oath, to be first sworn and subscribed by all persons before their admission into the freedom and brotherhood of the Company of Dyers, of the City of London, under the charter of James II. :

“You shall be true unto our Sovereign Lord the King, and to his heires, Kings of England; you shall also be true and faithful to the Mistery and Company of Dyers enfranchised within the City of London, keeping as much as in you is Love and Charity amongst them, not stirring or moving any occasion of *strife or debate* through which the said Mistery, Company, or Fraternity, or any person of the sune, might be hindered or hurt. Also you shall be in all things lawfull obedient allways to the Wardens of the said Mistery, Company, and Fraternity for the time being, and all the lawfull Rules, Statutes,

Orders, and Ordinances made and ordained for the good ordering of the same Company or Mistery, or hereafter to the same intent to be made truly and duly, you shall maintain, performe, obey, and sup-
 porte to your power. Also you shall pay or cause to be paid the
 duties of quarteridge, search, sealing, and all other duties, yearly or
 otherwise, lawfully belonging to the said Fellowship, and be contributory
 to all manner of lawfull and reasonable charges belonging and neces-
 sarily appertaining, as other Brethren do, to your power.

“Also you shall obey all manner of lawful summons done in the
 said Warden's name by the Clerk or Beadle for anything concerning
 the honour and welfare and service of this City of London, and of this
 Company and Mistery of Dyers. And for not observing this oath
 you shall submit to such fines or penalties as shall be reasonably
 imposed according to the orders and ordinances, or known usage and
 customs of this Company. So help you, God. God save the King.”

Besides the “Charter and Bye-laws” there are the “Standing
 Orders” of the Company, but the most curious and interesting are the
“Ordinances.” The original ordinances of Queen Elizabeth, dated
 15th November, in the twentieth year of the Queen, are addressed,
 “To all Trewe Christian people to whom this writinge shall come.
 Nicholas Bacon, Knight, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of Englande;
 William Lord Burghley, High Treasurer of England; Christopher
 Wray, Knight, Chief Justice of the King's Bench; and James Dyer,
 Knight, Chief Justice of the Common Bench, send greeting in our
 Lord God everlasting,” &c.

Of the thirty-four clauses the—

1. Provides for the election of Wardens.
2. That “Every person occupying ye Arte of Dyinge of any manner
 of clothe, woollen or lynnyn, olde or newe, silke or fustyan, lether,
 woole, hatts, felts or cappes, or any other thing dyed or colored, be
 under the rule and government of ye Wardens of ye Dyers of London,”
 under penalty of 10*l.* for default.
3. The Authoritie of the Wardens of the Company to make search
 in every house, shop, and warehouse, charging fourpence a quarter.
 Penalty for resistance 5*l.*
4. The Wardens may seize and forfeit all false wares and workman-
 ship found in their search, “And of all such false and naughtie wares
 and workmanship so falsely and deceitfully dyed, one moytie shall be
 to the Queen and the other to the Wardens.”

5. That every person "occupyinge, dyinge, and free of ye same Company, do pay quarterage for the maintenance of the said Company, and for the reliefe of their poore, 12 pence." Journeymen, 6*d*. 20*s*. penalty for default.

6. That "No man sett up and occupie any of the said artes of dyinge unless he be allowed a skilled workman by the saide Wardens and Assistants," paying a fee of 10*s*. under penalty of 5*l*.

7. The Wardens to have authority to convene Courts, &c.

8. The penalty for disobeying summons, 5*l*.

9. The Acte for bringing every apprentice before the Wardens before they are bound.

10. The Acte for taking apprentices : Liverymen may have three apprentices, non-liverymen two, dyers of small things one, under penalty for breach of, 10*l*.

11. The Acte for Journeymen. 10*l*. penalty for trading without a license.

12. The Acte for Journeymen to come before the Wardens to know the good rules, under penalty of 40*s*. for default.

13. "The Acte for Almaner of somoning to attende at the Hall for the weale of ye said crafte, or the death of any of their brethren." Fine 12 pence each default.

14. The Acte for default in dyinge. Penalty to be fixed by Wardens.

15. The Acte for "mysdyinge" on complaint to the Wardens, "he so making default shall satisfie the owner of his dutye for his grief and hurt, and make his fyne to the said craft;" for a "grayned" cloth 6*s*. 8*d*., for a "mathende" cloth 20 pence, for a "kars-eye" six-pence.

16. The Acte for absenting at quarter-day, fine 3*s*.

17. The Acte for "noyling or rebuking" one another of the same Company, fine 10*s*.

18. The Acte that none of the said Company or crafte, dwelling without the franchise of London, shall teache his crafte to strangers.

19. The Acte that no stranger shall learn the counsel of the said crafte. Penalty 5*l*.

20. The Acte that no Warden shall choose other Wardens without the assent of the whole livery, under penalty of 5*l*.

21. The Acte to keep the rules of the said crafte.

22. That no brother of the same craft to be against another.

23. That every person bear charge under penalty of 40s.

24. Rule for apprentices to be bound, and serve a brother of another craft.

25. That a Renter Warden's account be rendered to his successor within two months of his election.

26. The Acte for taking any person of the same Company into the livery—penalty for refusal, 5*l*. On admission "The Wardens to take of him a sylver spone all gylte, weighing one ounce at the least;" 2*s*. 6*d*. for patterns of cloth, and 12*d*. for the Beadle.

27. The Acte for such as shall be taken into the livery, and have not borne the office of one of the masters of Yeomanry, fine 40s.

28. That the Wardens and Assistants may appoint dealers for the said Company, "who by virtue of their office shall have full power and authoritie to survey all manner of clothe, dyed or colored in ye custody of any person usinge ye arte of dyinge within ye citie of London and suburbs and liberties, or within one mile of ye same citie (afterwards extended to ten miles, see Anne's Charter), with any manner of color hereafter expressed, that is to say, woddid blacke, mathrid blacke, russatte, asshe color, tawnye, greene, as well French greene as grasse-greene, popymayes, purples, blews, murraies, vyoletts, sylver coullers and watchetts, or such other colors as ye Wardens and Assistants may appoynte." Unsealed broad cloth to pay a fine of 3*l*. 6*s*. 6*d*. per piece, narrow cloth 20*s*., fee for sealing broad cloth, 2*d*., narrow cloth 1*d*.

If Wardens omit to appoint scalers, they are liable to a fine of 5*l*. each time. Sealers refusing to serve also liable to be fined 5*l*.

29. The Acte for woodinge.

30. The Acte for mending roses or woodspots ; penalty for so doing 10*s*. and 5 shillings a piece.

31. That no man "that dyeth any whole clothe shall dye any manner of garment or other things" of lesser value to its damage.

32. That any dyer occupyinge the arte of dyinge to take his money that he shall earne for dyinge quarterly.

33. The Acte for buying wolde—to be bought by the Wardens and sold at first cost to all freemen—"Riche or poore"—without distinction, under penalty of 5*l*.

34. The Acte for the recovery of the penalties selt and addressed for not performing the aforesaid ordinances.

As illustrative of the application of these ordinances it may be interesting to quote a representative case from the minutes:—

“Dyers *v.* Worrell.

At a Court held in April, 1683, “the discourse of Mr. Worrell’s business was reassumed and debated at large, and as an expedient Ordered that whereas Mr. Worrell has for a considerable time discontinued sealing his goods as ye ordinance of ye Company directs, and has driven a great trade, it is ordered that for such neglect of sealing his goods he be fined 100*l.* pursuant to ye powers by ye Company’s ordinances; and ye clerk is to acquaint Mr. Worrell yt ye Master desires to speak with him, after which, if he comply not, ye committee for that business are to consider what is fit to be done.”

At a Court held on 12th April, 1683, a report was made, “That if ye Company do not prosecute in ye business ye first day of ye next terme, that then ye Court of King’s Bench would enter judgment for Mr. Worrell.”

“Upon debate of it, Ordered that Mr. Warden Clemens, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Hiller, and Mr. Clay, be added to ye committee in being for this business; and ye counsel yt are already in it, viz : Sir George Jefferys, Sir Geo. Treby, and Mr. Medlycott, are to be continued to defend it, ye first day of ye terme, and the committee to meet to ascertain ye fees and what is to be done about it.”

The committee met on 17th April, 1683, at the Clerk’s house, Dowgate Hill.

“Discourse about Mr. Worrell’s business, and ye committee in pursuance of ye order last court day do resolve to prosecute accordingly the first day of next terme, and to take ye counsel mentioned in ye said order, to give ye same as ye last time, and to meet at Mr. Brown’s Coffee House, Queen’s Street, Soper Lane, near Cheapside, at 4 in ye afternoon ye day before ye terme to go up and retain ye counsel, and care to be taken that ye Renter Warden have notice to be there to pay ye fees.”

At a Court held on 1st July, 1683, “Mr. Lenthall, ye sealer, acquaint ye court that Mr. Worrell had denyed him to seal at his house. Mr. Richard Davis, partner with Mr. Worrell, appeared, and was told of it. He said it was his desire that the sealer should be admitted and suffered to seal, but if Mr. Worrell would not suffer it he could not

help that. Mr. Renter Warden Mr. Meakin and Mr. Taylor were desired to speak with him about it.

Memo.—This fine was agreed to be remitted on condition of Mr. Worrell's submitting to the Company's government in his trade and to their right of search and sealing, &c.

As to the counsel employed in this case—concerning Sir George Jeffery (afterwards the infamous judge), Macaulay tells us that in the early part of his career he had looked for professional advancement to the Corporation of London. Through this influence he became, while yet young, Common Sergeant, and afterwards Recorder of London. At the time of his employment by the Dyers' Company he must have been nearly at the head of his profession, for he was soon raised to the Bench by King James II. and within two years (in 1685) was made Lord Chief Justice and a peer; and in the same year, for his services in the "Bloody Assizes" after Monmouth's rebellion, he was made Lord Chancellor, and as such his signature appears on the charter granted by King James to the Dyers' Company in 1686.

Sir George Treby also is mentioned several times by Macaulay in his History, and highly praised by him.

The privilege of sealing brought in an income of between two and three hundred pounds per annum, or from fifty to eighty pounds per quarter.

There are many entries in the Company's minutes on the subject of sealing, and many defaulters and complaints.

Take one example of the latter :—

At a Court held 11th March, 1683, "Mr. Lock acquainted ye court that upon comparing his own books with ye sealer's acct. of ye last year, he found he was overcharged 560 *clothes*. The sealer to be summoned to next court."

At this next Court, "Hy. Barnes, the sealer, appeared about overcharging Mr. Lock in settling ye sealer's acct. for a year to Xmas last.

The Sealer's charge	-	-	-	£32	18	8
Mr. Lock's account	-	-	-	26	12	10
Which is an overcharge of				£06	05	10

The sealer is very sorry for it and promises to be very careful hereafter, upon which Mr. Lock is to be abated that overcharge."

The following extracts from the Clerk's minute-book indicate the close relationship which existed between the Corporation and the City Companies, and the assistance commonly given by the latter to the former on state occasions.

4th May, 1660.

A precept from the Lord Mayor for payment of 168*l.* this afternoon into the Chamber of London towards 10,000*l.* for a present to the King's most excellent Majesty, and 2000*l.* for charges.

29 May, 1660.

To acquaint the court with the payment of 168*l.* into the Chamber of London towards the present to his Majesty according to the Lord Mayor's precept.

About the precept for the reception of his Majesty, choice of sixteen to ride on horseback in procession with footmen, and to provide the Company's rayles, stremers, &c. with his Majestie's armes.

26 June.

A precept from the Lord Mayor for taking the oaths of allegiance and supremacy.

A precept from the Lord Mayor for lending 42*l.* upon the Citie's seal, for six months at interest, for the entertainment of his Majesty.

19 February, 1661.

A precept from the Lord Mayor for 84*l.* towards the coronacon.

To acquaint the court with a precept from the Lord Mayor for 42*l.* more for the pageants.

To acquaint the Court with a precept from the Lord Mayor to certify the number of the livery and length of the Company's standing.

7 April, 1658.

To acquaint the Court that the Acte of Common Council is passed for all Dyers to be bound and made free at the Dyers' Hall.

The following are the charitable trusts managed and distributed by the Company, a list of which is given in Strype's *Stowe* down to his time :—

Sir R. Tyrwhitt's Charity, 1545.

Part of Dyers' Hall, Upper Thames Street Estate, to erect and maintain seven almshouses for four men and three women, and pay 8*s.* 8*d.* each, quarterly, and 16*s.* at Christmas in lieu of charcoal.

In 1777 the Company built sixteen rooms in City Road (eight for Tyrwhitt's people and eight for West's).

In 1833 the Court of Chancery consolidated Tyrwhitt's and West's Charities, and ordered that sixteen persons in all should be received, also payments of 20*l.* a year each, and ordered one quarter of D. II. Upper Thames Street Estate to be held in trust for Tyrwhitt's Charity.

In 1850 the Company built sixteen rooms in King Henry's Walk, Ball's Pond Road, after selling the site and building in City Road.

1551. *Henry West's Charity.*

Part of Dyers' Buildings, Holborn Estate, to erect almshouses for eight poor persons and maintain same and pay each 2*s.* 2*d.* quarterly and 6*s.* 6*d.* at Christmas in lieu of charcoal, and 3*s.* 4*d.* yearly to Chamberlain of London.

In 1777 the Company built sixteen rooms in City Road (eight for West's people and eight for Tyrwhitt's).

In August, 1833, the Court of Chancery consolidated Tyrwhitt's and West's Charities, and ordered that sixteen persons in all should be received, also payment of 20*l.* a year to each, and ordered half of Dyer's Buildings, Holborn Estate, to be held in trust for West's Charity.

In 1850 the Company built sixteen rooms in King Henry's Walk, Ball's Pond Road, after selling the site and buildings in City Road, the new almshouses being designed by Mr. Teulon in the Tudor style.

1636. *Henry Trevillian's Charity.*

100*l.* sterling to dispose of to best advantage, and out of proceeds pay every second year 4*l.* 10*s.* thus : 40*s.* on Good Friday to discharge two poor prisoners in Poultry or Wood Street Compter, and 5*s.* each when set at liberty. Every other year 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* thus : 2nd February, 10*s.* each to four poor persons, four men and four women of St. Martin-in-Vintry, 3*s.* 4*d.* each to four poor men and four women of Little Allhallows.

5 Dec. Charity Commissioners approved transfer 75*l.* consols in redemption.

1650. *John Wynn's Charity.*

100*l.* sterling. To pay 5*s.* quarterly each to five poor journeymen Dyers or their widows.

1647. *Samuel Goldsmith's Charity.*

120*l.* sterling. To lend 30*l.* each to four young men, free men, at 5 per cent. and apply the 6*l.* thus :

5*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.* to poor of Little Allhallows.

4*s.* 0*d.* to parish clerk.

2*s.* 0*d.* to sexton.

10*s.* 0*d.* to clerk of Dyers' Company.

1552. *Elizabeth Bannister's Charity.*

15*l.* a year charged on three-fourths Dyers' Hall Upper Thames Street Estate by decree in Chancery, August, 1833.

To pay 5*l.* a year by half-yearly payments on 25th March and 29th September to Allhallows-the-Less.

To pay 5*l.* in same manner to Christ Church, Newgate Street, also 6*s.* 8*d.* each Christmas to fifteen poor members of Company.

1665. *Richard Stocke's Charity.*

120*l.* sterling. To pay five shillings each quarterly to six poor decayed journeymen.

1719. *William Lee's Charity.*

Six almshouses at Ballspond, erected in 1840, for six poor persons, who receive this gift. 20*l.* per annum, charged on Paul's Wharf Estate, *i.e.* 10*l.* per annum to Parminter's Charity, and 10*l.* others.

6*s.* each quarter to six poor members of Company or their widows, and 12*s.* at Xmas., and also at Xmas 15*s.* to warden and clerk.

5*s.* to beadle.

1739. *John Peek's Charity.*

Four almshouses at Ballspond, erected in 1840, for four poor widows of freemen, and 16*l.* per annum, charged on Leytonstone estate, by quarterly instalments (on usual days of paying poor) to the four poor widows elected to his almshouses.

1789. *Robert Burell's Charity.*

60*l.*, amount now 391*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*

To pay income amongst the poor in City Road and Spitalfields

half-yearly, as Master, Wardens, and Court think proper, now paid to poor in Lee and Peck's Almshouses, Ballspend.

1799. *William Kinder's Charity.*

40*l.* Amount now 261*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*

To pay income amongst the poor in City Road and Bethnal Green, at the discretion of the wardens, now paid to the Lee and Peck Almshouses, Ballspend.

1820. *Thomas Chambers' Charity.*

500*l.* Apply income on first Wednesday in December amongst five liverymen or widows, or five freemen or widows, at discretion of Court.

1845. *George Maguire's First Donation.*

100*l.* Apply income on first Wednesday in May, at discretion of Court, for the benefit of one poor liveryman or widow, or between three poor liverymen or widows, preference to almshouse poor.

1841. 100*l.* Apply income on first Wednesday in October to same class of persons, being George Maguire's second donation.

1850. *George Maguire's Third Donation.*

491*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* Apply income on first Wednesday in September at discretion of Court to two poor liverymen and one widow of liveryman, and in default add to next year.

The spirit in which many of these charities were bequeathed is well expressed in the will of William Lee, from which the following is an extract:—

Extracted from the Registry of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

“ In the name of God, Amen. I, William Lee, Citizen and Dyer of London, being through God's mercy in health of mind and body, but sensible of mortality, do make this day my last Will and Testament, revoking all others whatsoever. First, I commend myself, spirit, soul, and body, into the hands of God, humbly beseeching him, through Jesus Christ our Blessed Redeemer, to be merciful to me at the hour of death, and in the day of judgment. My body I commit to the earth, to be buried in a decent manner at the discretion of my executor

hereafter named ; as to the worldly estate it has pleased God to bless me with I dispose of as followeth.

* * * * *

“ Item, I give unto my nephew, John Ham, one hundred pounds in trust to build a schoolroom for Mr. Parmeteer’s Charity.

“ Item, I give unto my said nephew, and Treasurer and Trustees for the time being of Mr. Parmeteer’s Charity School, to be erected and set up in the hamlet of Bethnall Green, in the parish of Stepney, for the benefit and use of the poor children to be educated in the said school, the yearly sum of ten pounds for ever, to be paid by the Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Dyers, London, they being obliged to pay the said sum of ten pounds yearly for ever, as it shall be declared and given in my last Will, as will more fully appear by a deed sealed with the common seal of the Company, dated June the 25th, 1719.

* * * * *

“ Item, I give unto my nephew, John Ham, three hundred pounds in trust for the building six Alms-rooms for those six poor persons that receive my gift from the Worshipful Company of Dyers, London.”

Many of these charities are largely supplemented from the private income of the Company.

It seems to be taken for granted in some quarters that the City Companies enrich themselves by misapplying the charitable bequests of which they are trustees ; there may be exceptional cases of this sort, but as a rule not only are they very scrupulously distributed but often they are considerably augmented from the private income of the Company, as in the case of the almshouses belonging to the Dyers, the inmates of which receive nearly double the sum originally provided. A resident nurse is in constant attendance on the aged, in addition to the doctor, whose salary is three times that which the Charity Commissioners require. But it must not be supposed that the Companies only administer trusts. Their income is largely devoted to paying pensions to decayed members of the Company to enable them to live peacefully with their friends. The Dyers’ Company have a long list of such pensioners, and it is not too much to say that there is not a single poor person who can claim relationship to any of the members of the Company who has not been relieved by them when required.

By the 112th Standing Order the following is a list of allowances or donations made by the Company out of their funds, other than chari-

table funds, held in trust, to any of the under-mentioned persons, which sums are not to exceed in any one year the following amounts :—

To a poor member of the Court	£100
To the poor widow of a deceased member of the Court	80
To the poor daughter of a deceased member of the Court	20
To a poor liveryman (not having been Clerk of the Company)	50
To the poor widow of a deceased liveryman	40
To a poor daughter of a deceased liveryman	15
To a poor freeman of the Company	15
To the poor widow of a deceased freeman	10
To any poor person who shall have served the office of Clerk to the Company, whether a liveryman or not, except the present Clerk	80
To the poor widow of any person who shall have served the office of Clerk	50
To any poor person, not being a liveryman, who shall have served the office of Beadle of the Company	30
To the poor widow of any person, not having been a liveryman, who shall have served the office of Beadle	20

And the above being the maximum sums the allowance made shall depend upon the merits and necessities of the applicant.

The quiet, unobtrusive action of the Companies as benevolent institutions is commonly lost sight of in discussing their merits or demerits.

Subsequently to the "Great Fire" the Court and Committee met at various places, thus:—

1682. 11th and 20th October.—Fishmongers' Hall, Court.
 16th October.—Clarke's House, Dowgate Hill, Committee; and several other times.
 1st November.—Master's house in Cornhill, and on various occasions.
1683. 7th March.—"The Crowne" in Cornhill.
 30th April.—Beadle's House, Committee.
 2nd May.—Joyners' Hall, Great Court.

11th July.—Mr. Clay's house, "Three Cranes," in Thames Street.

14th August.—"Sun Tavern," in Threadneedle Street, and so on.

With reference to the above the following entry occurs in the Clerk's rough minutes of 1682 :—

At a Court held 1682, at the Fishmongers' Hall, it was ordered, "To pay ye servant of ye Fishmongers' Company that makes clean ye Court-room and passage, 17s. 6d., to make up which he has already had 20d."

At the same Court it was ordered that the plate do be carried to Mr. Letheculliers, to be signed, which was done the same day after the Court, and left at his house. The particulars of it are, viz.—

Silver plate belonging to the Company,—

	oz.	dwt.
One salt weight	35	17
One cup and cover „	34	17
One other cup and cover „	36	07
A tankard „	22	18
A sugar ditto „	06	14
18 spoons, guilt „	35	04
<hr/>		
Total	171	17
<hr/>		

This seems to be all the plate that survived the two conflagrations, but none of it has remained to this day, and the Company possesses none but what is too modern to be of any particular interest to you.

The old armour which existed in the old hall is referred to in the minutes, where alone any record of it is to be found now.

The hall was in bad repair, and in 1658 the minutes show that it was contemplated to pull it down and rebuild it—even if it had not been subsequently destroyed by fire.

THE HALL.

The present hall of the Company is situated on Dowgate Hill at the corner of College Street.

The old hall was built on a part of the waterside premises in Upper Thames Street, now known as the Rotherham Iron Foundry and

Monument Warehouse, and, with the exception of the Bull public-house at the north-east corner, the Dyers' Hall Wharf Estate comprises the whole of the property between Upper Thames Street and the river, and between Angel Passage and George Alley.

Ancient Site of Hall.

The first portion of this estate was conveyed to the Company by Sir Robert Tyrwhitt, the younger, by indenture dated 4th March, 1545, and comprised "All that great messuage called the 3 Stars and all houses, buildings, wharfs, stairs, draft and post gallery to the same, and a little house and tenement belonging thereto, all situate in Thames Street, in the parish of All Hallows.

It was charged with the erection and maintenance of seven alms-houses—for 4 poor men and 3 poor women, all single and unmarried for ever, who should receive 8s. 8d. quarterly and 16s. at Christmas in lieu of charcoal, for ever.

On this site the Company erected their first hall of which any record exists, it was destroyed in the Great Fire, was rebuilt, and again destroyed by fire in 1681.

In 1586 the Dyers' Company added to the property the messuage (then a dye-house) called the White Cock (whence came the name White Cock Alley, since changed to Angel Passage).

In 1795 the Company still further largely increased the property by purchasing a number of buildings lying between the site of the old Dyers' Hall and the east side of Cock and George Alley, and by further minor purchases in 1804, 1805, and 1819, extended the property to its present dimensions. This estate is charged with the payment of 5*l.* per year to the poor of the parish of All Hallows-the-Less, Thames Street. Also the Company pays annually at Christmas 6*s.* 8*d.* each to 15 poor members of the Company.

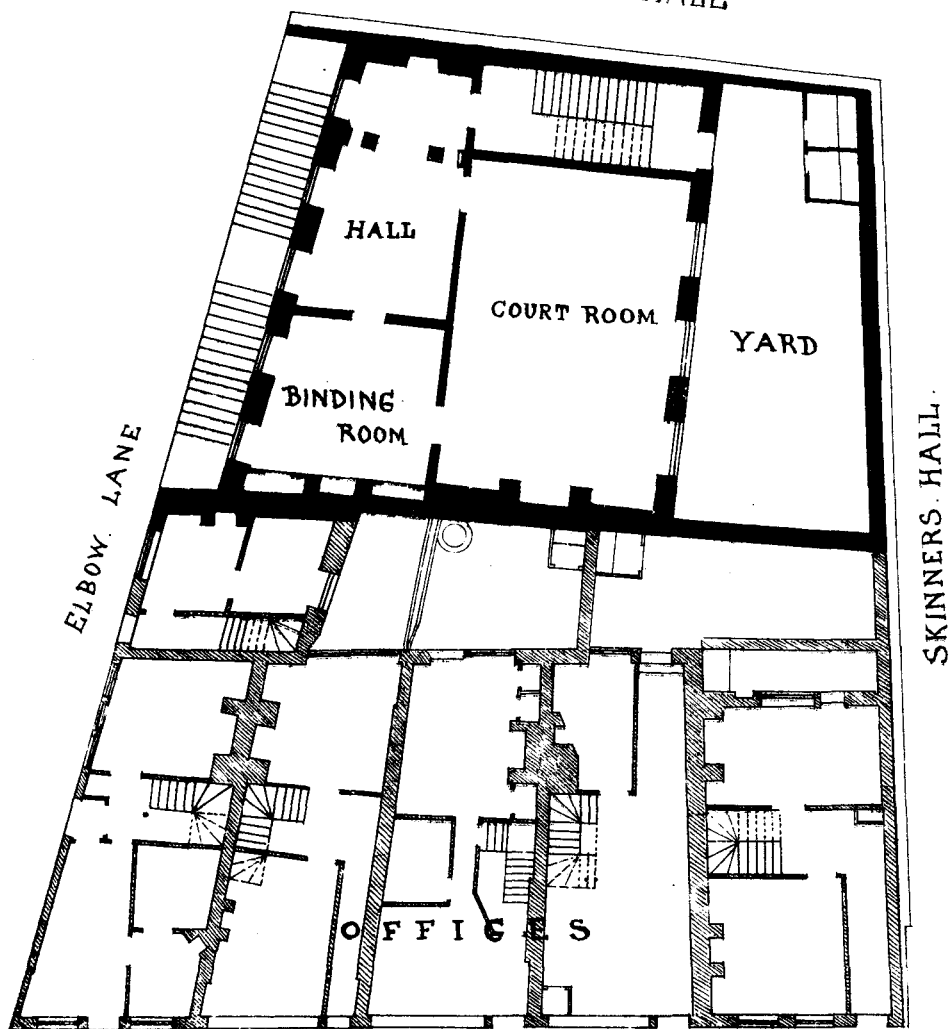
Modern Site of Hall.

The Dowgate Hill Estate, upon which the present hall is built, was originally the site of a college for priests, called Jesus Commons, which order was, in the reign of King Henry VIII., dissolved, and the building turned into tenements.

On the 24th September, 1544, the King in consideration of

PLAN OF THE FORMER
HALL OF THE DYERS COMPANY
REMOVED 1838

SKINNER'S HALL



DOWGATE HILL

George H. Bird del

912*l.* 4*s.* 8½*d.* paid into the Treasury for increasing the revenue of the crown, granted the land and houses to Roger Higham and William Green, of London, for ever.

About the year 1657 the Dyers' Company acquired a possessory title to the property. Prior to the Great Fire the whole was let on lease, but on its entire destruction by the Fire several lessees surrendered their leases, and the rest were ejected for breach of covenant.

The property was then re-leased, part of it being occupied from 1679 to 1731 by the Skinners' Company, whose hall adjoined these premises.

On the expiry of this lease to the Skinners' Company, the Dyers' Company turned two houses of the property before held by the Skinners into a court-room for the transaction of their business.

This was the first hall of the Company erected upon this site, but it fell down in 1768.

Next year the Company began to build a new hall upon the same site ; this was finished in 1770.

But sixty years after it became so insecure that in 1831 the court had to meet at the King's Head Tavern in the Poultry.

It was, however, shored up, and otherwise supported, till 1838, when it was taken down, and in the year 1840 the present elegant hall, substantially built in the Grecian style, was erected from the designs of the late Mr. Charles Dyer.

Between 1840 and 1856 the whole of the buildings, not removed to make space for the hall, were taken down, and at an expenditure of upwards of 12,000*l.* the office buildings and Grapes public-house, facing Dowgate Hill, were erected, surmounted by a pediment, the tympanum of which was filled with the arms of the Company.

At this period the road was widened and the line of frontage set back, and subsequently the entrance to the hall from College Street was closed, and the present entrance and covered way from Dowgate Hill arranged, and the vestibule enclosed with ornamental iron gates emblazoned with the arms of the Company.

The hall has recently been decorated under the superintendence of the late Prime Warden, the author of the present paper.

During the works the curiosity of the Prime Warden was aroused by the contemplation of an old iron chest, which had not been opened within the memory of the oldest member of the Company. He caused it to be forced, and though he found nothing within it he discovered

enough to cause him to make the following communication to the Royal Institute of British Architects :—

Muniment Chest belonging to the Dyers' Company.

Prior to the rebuilding of the hall of the Dyers' Company after the Great Fire, this chest was deposited at Salters' Hall, and contained such of their treasure as escaped destruction. It is formed of sheet-iron, cross-banded with iron plates, with heavy iron ring handles, and an ornamental escutcheon in the usual place of a lock in front, giving the impression that the lock is behind, but such is not the case; the real lock is an elaborately ornamented and ingeniously contrived apparatus, covering the whole surface of the interior of the lid, which measures 3 feet 9 inches long by 2 feet wide. In the centre of this lid is the keyhole covered with a small rose, similar to others fixed at the intersection of the cross-bands or braces strengthening the sheet-iron of which the chest is formed. This central rose is made moveable, and when turned round reveals the keyhole, otherwise unobservable. The heavy and elaborately-warded key is turned by an iron rod, and at once no less than sixteen bolts are shot in every direction beneath a rebate formed around the upper edge of the chest itself, and which securely fastens it, much in the same way as an ordinary modern safe.

The works set in motion by the key are connected with the spring bolts by rectangular metal rods with ornamentally engraved and outlined terminations, disposed with great ingenuity, and the whole is encased like a watch in thin perforated steel plates, beautifully engraved in a firm, bold style of ornamentation; the interlacing and foliated pierced scroll-work terminates or starts from helmeted figure-heads of men in armour or masks of animals.

There are upwards of twenty-four men's faces, and ten animals, including the fishes and two admirably designed and vigorously executed unicorns.

Considerable difference of opinion has been expressed as to the probable country of its manufacture, since there is no date upon it, or name of its maker.

By some the work is considered to be Italian or French, by others German or Flemish, but all agree that it belongs to the sixteenth century. A similar and larger, but not so beautiful a chest, is in the

possession of the Clothworkers' Company, which was figured in the Catalogue of the Exhibition of Metal Work at the Ironmongers' Hall. I exhibit a sketch.

A very elegant chest is in the Bodleian Library, of which the Curator has sent me a photograph.

I have taken rubbings of two locks in the Bethnal Green Museum, marked French, one of which is precisely similar in design, with pierced scroll ornament, beautifully engraved and terminating in figure-heads, with helmets of the same pattern; consequently, if the Museum specimen be a genuine French lock of the year 1600 the presumption is that the date and parentage of the chest belonging to the Dyers' Company is the same.

Mr. Stannus has, however, lent me lithographed illustrations of German work, also nearly identical in design and workmanship.

In conclusion it may be useful to add that the Bethnal Green Museum of metal work is very rich in chests of this description. There are two large ones, and four small, all of them singularly beautiful, remarkably interesting, and considered to be German origin.

There is one of plain character in the Guildhall Library Museum also.

The author has presented to the Company an oak brass-mounted chest, which is placed within the iron chest, and forms a plan-safe for preserving drawings.

The Dyers' Deductus Cygnorum.

One of the most ancient and interesting privileges of this Company is that of keeping swans upon the River Thames.

There are about six hundred birds between London and Henley; five hundred of these belong to the Crown, the remainder are owned by the Dyers' and Vintners' Companies, and have done so for so long a time that the record of their first grant of this "game of swans," as it is called, is not traceable.

The following memorandum, given in the History of the Waterman's Company, and dated 1509, is about as much as is known:—

"In England the swan was considered a royal bird, in which no subject could have property when at large in a public river except by grant from the Crown. This privilege seems to have extended as far back as 1483, as appears from the royal orders made in that year, and

in the year 1496. In creating this privilege the Crown grants a swan mark (*Cygninota*) for a game of swans.

The Dyers' and the Vintners' Companies of London have had games of swans on the river Thames, in addition to those belonging to the Crown. How long they have exercised that right is uncertain.

Mr. Overall, in his *History of the Vintners' Company*, tells us that in the records of that Company the following entry occurs, dated A.D. 1509 :

"Item. Payd, in the grete frost, to James the under swanherd, for upping the maister's swannes iiij s.

"Item. For bote hyr iiij d."

And in the first Court-book of the Vintners' Company is this entry:

"10th July, 1609. Swan-uppers for this yeare, elected &c. &c., the care of the birds confided to them.

"The swanherd of the Company, with His Majesty's swanherd, and the swanherd of the Dyers' Company, assemble at Lambeth in August, and proceed up the river to mark swans."

In the Clerk's minutes of the Dyers' Company, April 1658, is the memorandum :

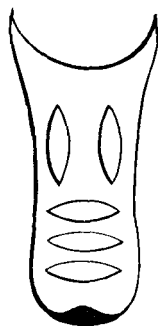
"To acquaint the Court of the moneys expended about swan-upping, being 17*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, of which were received 4*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.* of several persons."

The *cygninota* or swan-mark employed by the Crown, the Vintners, and the Dyers were cut on the upper mandible of the bill.

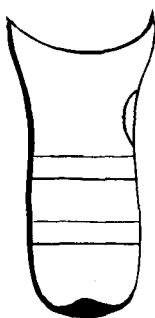
River Thames "*Cygninota*."

Ancient marks.

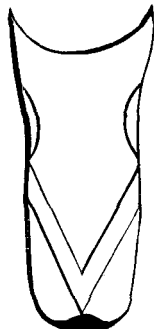
CROWN.



DYERS.



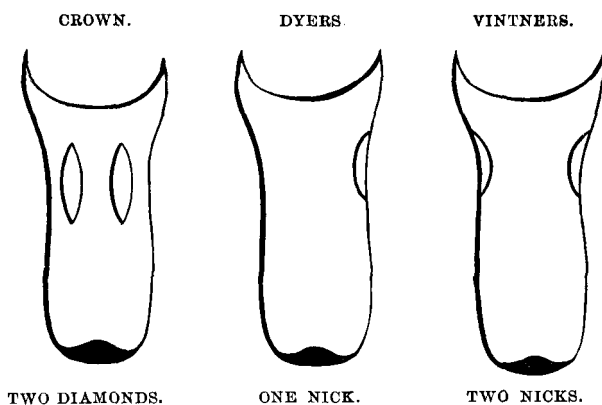
VINTNERS.



Crown birds, 5 diamonds. Dyers, 4 bars and 1 nick. Vintners, letter V and 2 nicks.

During my Wardenship an action was brought by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals against the swanherds of the Crown, the Vintners and Dyers, for cruelty in thus marking the birds. The action was fought at Slough, and the Society failed to establish their case, but the evidence proved that needless pain was given by complicated marking, and therefore, at my suggestion, the Lord Chamberlain with the consent of the law officers of the Crown changed the marking thus—

Modern Marks.



And since August 1878 the birds have been so marked.

The nicking requires to be done once only on first marking the cygnets, the cuts for the diamonds require renewal every three years.

The last pinion of one wing of all cygnets is dexterously cut off and pitched to stay bleeding.

The last week in July is now devoted to marking the swans and cygnets instead of the first week in August, and the Dyers' Company are accustomed to hold a Swan Upping Banquet at the Star and Garter at Richmond during the week, to which ladies are invited. They also provide a shallop, in which on one of the days the Wardens and Members of the Court of Assistants and their friends who please to go have a day on the river at their own charges.

On the occasion of the royal opening of the Coal Exchange, the Dyers' Company joined in the river pageantry, and their barge was distinguished by five white swans, one at each corner of the saloon, and one in the middle on the top, all seated in mossy nests.

A picture painted at the time representing the scene was presented to the Company, and now hangs in the Court-room.

The dress of the swanherd or barge-master is very quaint, a richly embroidered blue frock-coat with *répoussé* brass shoulder-plate twelve inches in diameter, exhibiting the arms of the Company; scarlet waistcoat and pantaloons, with brass buttons and white stockings; he precedes the master on all state occasions, swan-hook in hand.

I have pleasure in exhibiting it.

The importance attached to the conservatism of the swans in old times was great, and through the kindness of Mr. Hertslet of the Lord Chamberlain's office I am enabled to give you in an appendix to the paper, "The orders, laws, and ancient custom of swans," by John Witherings, Esq. master and governor of the royal game of swans and cygnetts throughout England. Printed 1664."

Also under the title of "Lord Chamberlain's Records—Warrants 1680-1682. Laws for Swans." "The articles, lawes, and orders for swans both by the statutes and ancient custome used within ye realm of England."

Also under the title of "Lord Chamberlain's Records, precedents No. 13. 1697-1733." "The ancient laws, orders, and customes for observation of the royall game of swanns throughout the realm of England"—but this being almost a fac-simile of the last is unnecessary to print.

The Manor of Sal, Londonderry.

The death of Queen Elizabeth, and the subjugation of the Irish chiefs, whose estates were forfeited, were simultaneous events, occurring at the opening of the seventeenth century.

On the accession of James I. in 1603 the whole province of Ulster was at the disposal of the King, and he embraced the opportunity thus presented to attempt to promote the arts of peace in Ireland, and to civilize its people by the establishment of a colony of English and Scotch Protestants. The King's plan of the plantation of such settlers was brought before the Corporation of London, and was set out in a public declaration issued by the Privy Council in 1608.

In 1613 the Irish Society was incorporated by King James I. The lands undertaken by the city are situated in the county of Londonderry, and the Society was entrusted to make the division of the said lands between the twelve leading Companies, with whom were associated so many of the minor Companies as chose to join in the subscription, amounting to 60,000*l*. The charter is dated 29th March, 1613, and recites the intention of the King to establish religion, to strengthen and cultivate by art and industry lands uncultivated and almost desert, to plant the same with honest citizens, and to strengthen them with good statutes.

I exhibit an Ordnance map of the county of Londonderry to a large scale—showing the boundaries of the estates of the twelve Companies, and the freeholds, and the Church lands, abstracted at nominal rents by King Charles out of each Company's estate.

I have compiled this plan from maps in the possession of the Irish Society and other sources, and I am not aware that any so complete a map of the property of the City Companies in Ireland exists elsewhere.

The manor of Sal, eight miles long and five miles wide, having a frontage of four miles on Lough Neagh, and comprising some 23,000 acres, fell to the share of the Salters' Company and the Companies associated with them, viz. the Dyers, Saddlers, Cutlers, Joiners, and Woolmen. The Dyers' Company gave the largest subscription of any of the minor Companies except the Leathersellers.

The Salters managed the estate and bought the interest of the Woolmen first, then the Saddlers, and lastly, at my persuasion, the Dyers.

It was my duty as Renter Warden to accompany the Prime Warden and Clerk to visit the estate in Ireland in August, 1877, and in the early part of 1879 the negotiations for the disposal of our interest were completed, and it was my proud pleasure as Prime Warden to propose to the Company, and to successfully carry, that the increase of the income of the Company arising from this sale should be mainly devoted to technical education, on the motion of Mr. Jewsbury, seconded by Mr. Allen.

In connection, therefore, with the City and Guilds Technical Institute, the Dyers' Company hope to continue to influence the trade of this country to its permanent advantage, and, though its carefully constructed ordinances have come to be obsolete, and its never withdrawn powers of searching and sealing, a dead letter, it may yet be influential

in raising the character of the modern workman by the educational advantages it may help to realise for his benefit.

Salters' Castle.

The only piece of antiquity remaining on the manor of Sal, so far as my brief survey enabled me to judge, is the ruins of Salters' Castle.

Two miles from Ballyronan is Salters' Town, which was one of the fortified places, and is described in Nicholas Pynnar's survey in 1618. It was destroyed at the time of the Great Rebellion in 1641. In 1677 Salter's Castle and Bawn were again erected and made strong as a place of defence for Protestants to fly to.

After the famous siege of Londonderry, in the time of James II. the estate was again laid waste by the retreating army, and with it were destroyed the newly erected Castle and Bawn at Salters' Town. These are the ruins, now to be seen incorporated with a farm-house, a sketch of which I made at the time.

The Castle and Bawn at Magherafelt is entirely destroyed ; its site even is not known.

In concluding this rapid sketch of one of our most ancient and honourable institutions I have to thank you for your patient attention and to regret that limits prescribed by the circumstances of the case has necessitated my abstention from more detailed description or general amplification, but I hope I am not mistaken in supposing that you would share with me in deploring any hasty legislation which might rob us of the few remaining landmarks which yet remain to remind us of an interesting past.

You will also desire with me that the spirit which animated the founders of these industrial safeguards and commercial confederations will long continue to stimulate us with honest rivalry and lead us to extend our charities, to improve our system of apprenticeship, to foster technical education, and by every means in our power to anticipate the wishes of every true lover of his country.

APPENDIX.

THE ORDERS, LAWS, AND ANCIENT CUSTOM OF SWANS.

By JOHN WITHERINGS, Esq.

Master and Governor of the Royal Game of Swans and Cygnets throughout England. London. Printed 1664.

If any persons having swans, either within franchises or without, be attained, his swans are forfeited to the King only, and not to any other person whatsoever. Also all swans that are clean of bill, without mark or sign-mark, are the King's only, whether they be pinioned or flying swans.

Also all stray swans which no man can challenge by his mark, those are the King's only, and they are to be seized for the King and marked.

In all common streams and private waters, when cygnets are taken up, the owner of the cob must chuse the first cygnett and pen the next, and so on in order.

If an airy be led with one swan only, the half of those cygnetts shall be seized for the King till proof be made whose the swan was that is away, but are not to be carried away that year.

The usual days for upping the swans are not to be altered without consent of the greater number of gamesters of that stream, and that by proclamation made in all markett towns near the said stream.

No person shall go on marking without the master of the game or his deputy be present, upon pain to forfeit forty shillings.

But if by sickness or other occasion he be absent at the usual upping days, the Company may go on so that some sworn gamester keep the register book, and receive all the dues and deliver them to him at his coming.

If any person do embezzle, rase, or alter the mark of any swan to the loss or hindering of any man's game he shall suffer one year's imprisonment, and be find three pounds six shillings and eightpence, and for ever be disabled to be a gamester.

No swan other than clear billed is to be marked for the King on the beak, but only on the leg, for two marks on the beak are unlawfull.

And yet neither the master of the game, nor any other gamester,

may take away any swan which is in brood with any other swans, or which is coupled and hath a walk, without the other's consent for marking the brood.

If any person be found carrying a swan-hook within forty lugs of any stream, saving on the upping day, and not accompanied with two swanherds, he shall forfeit one pound six shillings and fourpence.

But upon the upping day every gamester that carrieth not a hook, except such gentlemen as go for pleasure to see their own game, shall forfeit eightpence a day. The one-half for the master of the game, the other half for the Company.

No person shall take up any swan or cygnette, marked or unmarked, unless it be done in presence of two other swanherds, and that by the allowance of the master of the game or his deputy.

If any person shall take away the egg or eggs of any swan, every such offender shall be imprisoned a year and a day, and shall pay thirteen shillings and fourpence for every egg so taken away, whereof half to the King and half to the owner of the swan.

If any person do drive away any swan breeding or providing to breed, be it on his own ground, or on any other man's, he shall be fined thirteen shillings and fourpence, and shall suffer one year's imprisonment.

If any dog shall drive any swan away from her nest, the owner of such dog shall forfeit thirty shillings and fourpence, but if any dog shall kill any old swan the owner of such dog shall forfeit to the King forty shillings, whether he be there or not.

With best respects to

Mr. MARTIN THOS. ALEXR. ROBERTS,
Keeper of the Royal Swans.

LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S RECORDS, WARRANTS, 1680—1682.

LAWS FOR SWANS.

The Articles, Lawes, and Orders for Swannes both by the statutes and ancient customs used within ye Realme of England.

1. You shall enquire if there be any person that doth possess any swann and hath not compounded with the King's Ma^{te} for his marke. That is to say, six shillings eightpence for his marke during his life.

If you know any such you shall pr'sent them : that all such swans and signetts may be seized on for the King.

2. Also if any person or persons doe possess any swann or signett that may not dispend the cleare yearly value of five markes of freehold except heire apparent to ye crowne then you shall pr'sent him.

3. Also if any person or persons doe drive any swann or swannes breeding or provideing to breede, be it upon his owne ground or any other man's grounds, he or they soe offending shall suffer one yeares imprisonment and fine at ye King's pleasure 13s. 04*d.*, 11 Henry 7.

4. If there be found any weares upon the rivers not having grates before them, it is lawfull for every swanherd or swanheards to pull up or cutt downe the birchett, nett, or ginn of the said weare or weares.

5. If any person or persons be found carrying any swannhooke, and the same person not being swanherd, nor accompanied with two swanherds, every such person shall pay to the King 13s. 04*d.* (vizt.) 3s. 4*d.* to him that will informe and the rest to the King.

6. The ancient custome of this realme hath and doth allow to every owner of such ground where any swan shall heyrie to take one land bird, and for the same the King's Ma^{te} must have that hath the land bird 1s.

7. It is ordained that if any person or persons doe convey or strale away any egg or eggs of any swan or swanns, and the same be duly proved by two sufficient witnesses, every such offender shall pay to the King 13s. 04*d.* for every egg soe taken out of ye nest of any swann.

8. Also it is ordained that every owner that hath any swanns shall pay every yeare yearly for every swann marke 4*d.* to the master of the game for his fee, and his dinner and supper free for ye upping days. And if ye master fayle of the said sums, then he shall distreyn the game of such owner that soe doth fayle of such payment.

9. If there be any person or persons that have swanns that do heyrie upon any of the severall waters and after come to the comon river, they shall pay a land bird to the King, and be obedient to all swanne lawes; for divers such persons use collusions to defraud the King of his right.

10. Item. It is ordered that every persons having any swanns shall begin yearly to marke upon the first day of August, and noe person before butt after as couveniently as may bee soe that ye master of ye

King's game or his deputy be p'sent. And if any have taken upon them to marke any swann or signett in other manner to forfeit to the King's Ma^{te} for every swann soe marked 40s.

11. It is ordered, that noe person or persons being owners, or deputy or servants to them or other, shall goe a markeing without the master of the game or his deputy be p'sent with other swanherds next adjoyninge, upon paine to forfeite to the King's Ma^{te} 43s.

12. It is ordered, that noe person shall hunt any ducks or any other chase in the water or nere the haunt of swanns in fenceing tyme with any dogg or spannell (vizt.) from the feast of Easter to Lamas, upon paine of every time, soe found hunting, to forfeite 6s. 8d.

13. It is ordered, that if any person sett any snares or any manner of netts, line, or engine, to take bitterns or swans from ye feast of Easter to the Sunday after Lamas day, he or they to forfeite to the King's Ma^{te} for every tyme soe settinge vis. viii d.

14. It is ordered, that noe person take up any signett unmarked, or make any sale of them, but the King's swanherd or his deputy be p'sent with other swanherds next adjoyninge or have knowledge of the same, upon paine to forfeite to the King's Ma^{te} xls.

15. It is ordained, that the swannherds of the Dutchey of Lancaster shall up noe swanns or make any sale of them without ye master of ye swans or his deputy be present, upon paine to forfeite to the King's Ma^{te} xls.

16. And in like manner the King's swanherd shall not enter into the Liberty of the Dutchey without the Dutchey swanherd be then p'sent, upon ye paine to forfeit xls.

17. It is ordained that if any swan or signett be found double marked they shal be seized for the King's user till it be proved to whome the said swans or signetts doe belong. And if it cannot be proved to whome they belong that then they be seized for the King and his grace to be answered for ye value of them.

18. It is ordained that noe person make sale of any white swann, nor make delivery of them without ye master of ye game be present or his deputy, upon pain to forfeite 40s., whereof 6s. 8d. to him that will informe and the rest to the King's Ma^{te}.

19. It is ordained that noe person shall lay any trapes, sett any netts or draggs within the comon streames or rivers on the day tyme from the Feast of ye Invencon of the Cross unto the Feast of Lamas, upon paine soe often as they shal be found soe offending 20s.

20. It is ordained that if the master of the swans or his deputy seize or take up any swans as strairs for ye King's Ma^{ty}, that he thall keepe them in a pitt within twenty foot of the King's streames or within twenty foot of ye comon highway, that ye King's subjects may have a sight of the swannes so seized upon paine of 40s.

21. It is ordained that if any person doe rase, counterfeit, or alter the marks of any swann to the hindrance or losse of any Thame games, and any such offender duly proved before ye King's Master Comrs. of swanns, shall suffer one year's imprisonment, and pay one pound three shillings eightpence to the King.

22. It is ordained that ye comons, that is to say dinner and supper, shall not excede above 12*d.* a man at ye most. If there be any game found when the dinner or supper is holden upon that river, the owner being absent, and none there for him, the master of the game is to lay out 8*d.* for him, and is to distraine the game of him that fayleth ye payment of it.

It is ordained that there shalbe noe failure of white swanns or signets, but only to the King's grace as well within the franchizes and liberties as without. If any one doe deliver the swan or signett soe seized to any person but only to ye master of ye King's game or to his deputy to the King's use, he is to forfeit vi s. viii *d.* and the swans to be restored to the master of the King's game.

24. It is ordained, That no person shall take any gray swann or sygnett, or white swan flyinge, but that he shall in fortie dayes next after deliver it or them to the Master of the King's game, and the taker to have for his paines 8*d.*, and if he fayle and bring it not he forfeits 4s. to the King.

25. It is ordained, That noe person having any game of his owne shall swanherd for himself or keeper of any other man's swanns upon paine of forfeiting to ye King 40s.

26. It is ordained, That no swanherd, fisher, or fowler shall vex any other swanherd, fisher, or fowler by way of acc'on, but only before the King's justices of sessions for swanns, upon pain of forfeiting to ye King's Grace 40s.

27. The Master of the King's game shall not take away any unmarked swann coupled with any other man's swann for breaking of the brood; and when heyrie the one part of the sygnetts to the King and the other to the owner of ye marked swann.

28. Also any man, whatsoever he bee, that killeth any swann with

a dogg or spannell shall forfeit to ye King 40s., the owner of the dogg to pay whether he bee there or not; also the master of the swanns is to have for every white and gray swann upinge 1*d.*, and for every signett 2*d.*

29. It is ordained, That if any heyrie be lead with one swann, the swanns and the sygnetts shall be seized for the King till due prooffe be had whose they are, and whose was the swann that was away, be it cob or pen.

Lastly, 30. If there be any other misdemeanour or offence com'itted or done by any owner of any game, swanherd, or other person whatsoever contrary to any law, ancient custome, or usuage heretofore used and allowed, and not before herein particularly menc'oned or expressed, you shall p'sente the same offence that reformation may be had, and the offender punished according to the quantity and quality of their several offences.
