



# The Feltmaker

The Newsletter of the  
Worshipful Company of Feltmakers

Late Summer 2000

Master: Commander Ian Wellesley-Harding R.N.

Issue No. 22

## OUR CLASSIC ROOTS

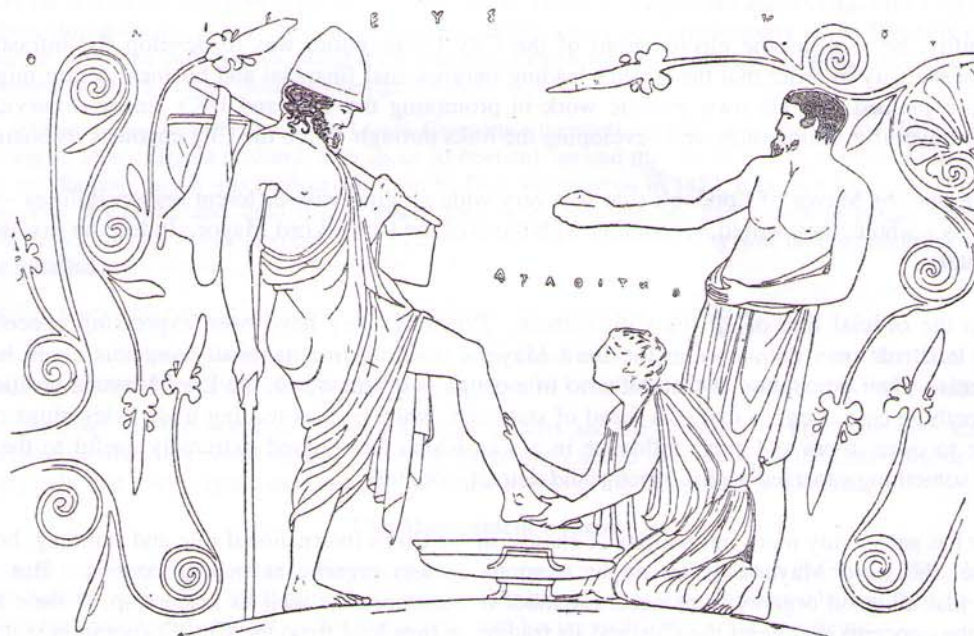


Fig 1 Vase painting of the foot-washing of Odysseus - who is wearing the Pilos.

If we think of head coverings in the classical era, what we probably first recall is the crown of wild olives, or the victor's crown of laurels. But in Ancient Greece a covering for the head for men of very general use was the "Petasos" (πέτασος), or flat felt hat with flaps at the front and back and over the ears, these flaps being sometimes tied on the crown or under the chin in the fashion of the modern "fore-and-aft" cap. Fig 2 gives some of the various ways of wearing the Petasos. In later times ladies seem to have occasionally donned it as it occurs on some of the figurines from Tanagra. With the chlamys the Petasos is worn in Greek art by all travellers and hunters, and therefore, by Hermes, the travelling messenger of the gods.

Artisans and fishermen wear the "Pilos" (πίλος) a conical cap of felt or leather. Odysseus as a wanderer and seafarer, Charon as ferryman of the dead, and the Pilos undergoing the foot-washing at the hands of the aged attendant, Eurycleia. In Fig. 3 some sailors wear it. The Pilos seems to have taken the place now filled by the skull-cap as a head covering for invalids and hypochondriacal patients. Plato thus amusingly refers to the custom: "When a carpenter is ill he expects to receive a draught from this doctor that will expel the disease and get rid of it, but if anyone were to prescribe to him a long course of diet, and to order him to put little caps (πυλίδια) upon his head with other treatment to correspond, he would soon tell such a doctor that he had no time to be ill, and wishing his physician a good morning he would enter on his usual course of life, or, should his constitution prove unable to bear up, death puts an end to his troubles. (From "Chapters on Greek Dress": Lady Evans. Published by Macmillan KC 1893).

**Wardens:** Jonathan Rowley; William Horsman; David Bentata; Patrick Burgess

**Immediate Past Master:** His Honour Keith Devlin LL.B., M.Phil., Ph.D.

**Clerk:** Lieutenant Colonel John Holroyd, Providence Cottage, Chute Cadley, Andover, Hampshire, SP11 9EB

**Registered at Stationers' Hall Editor:** Patrick Burgess



## **Museum of Hatting at Stockport**

As noted elsewhere, our Company has given a grant of £6,000 to the Museum of Hatting at Stockport - "Hat Works" - and loaned to it a number of items for display. It is the first museum in the UK dedicated to the world of hats and hatmaking. At the end of the nineteenth century over 4,500 people were employed in the industry in Stockport and you can marvel at the machines restored to full working order, get a glimpse into a hatter's cottage and watch the hatting demonstrations as they reveal the art and mystery of hat-making. There is a stunning display of hats through the centuries, from the early 1800's to catwalk fashion of the twenty-first century. You can explore the journey of feltmaking from Central Asia to England's hatting industry, visit the museum's own Yurt (a felt tent from the Steppes) and listen to traditional stories. Children can dress up, test their knowledge at the interactive media kiosk and persuade their parents to visit the café and giftshop. You can find the museum at Wellington Mills, Wellington Road South, Stockport SK3 0EU (phone: 0161 355 7770).

## **The Lord Mayor and the Mayoralty**

At the Ladies Banquet at the Mansion House, in June, the Lord Mayor Alderman Clive Martin devoted part of his speech to the question of the Mayoralty in the City and contrasted his role with that of the new Mayor of London.

His responsibility, he said, as the elected head of the City Corporation, was to develop the infrastructure and environment of the City in order that the world's leading international financial and business centre might continue to thrive. He explained that his own specific work in promoting the City and UK's financial services industry involves much travelling, maintaining and developing the links through which the City conducts its business.

He pointed out that the Mayor of London's role was very wide ranging with different responsibilities - which were for the capital as a whole; they would not conflict with those of the City's Lord Mayor. Indeed he saw the two posts as complementary.

This has been the official line of all the City Fathers. Privately, they have been expressing concern that Ken Livingstone's lead role may detract from the Lord Mayor's standing internationally and this could have serious knock-on effects. Their perception is that, hitherto in most parts of the world, the Lord Mayor's position has been treated as something equivalent to that of a head of state and, when he was leading trade delegations overseas, he had been able to open doors and exert influence in a way which had proved extremely useful to the City. The emergence of something superseding his office could detract from this.

This past year has seen many more intimations of change in the City's international role and standing, however, and concerns about the Lord Mayor's office might seem to be less significant in that context. But it is worth remembering that all good organisations need a symbol of substance, as well as leadership, at their head and to emerge from the concerns that beset the City and its trading, a firm lead from the City Corporation is desirable and could be decisive.

In this context it was interesting to see the London Chamber of Commerce and London First Centre urging Ken Livingstone in mid-July to become an 'ambassador for London' including lobbying to persuade foreign businesses to relocate here and representing the city [sic] on trips abroad."

This was the voice of more than just the financial services industry. A better omen is that Ken Livingstone has appointed Judith Mayhew (whose choice was welcomed by the City) as his adviser on City and Business Affairs. She is the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee of the Corporation, and will be a guest at our Installation Dinner in October 2000.

There are mixed perceptions around - and if here, probably overseas as well; there are hopes and ambitions at stake; there is the danger of a vacuum in leadership (not of the City's making) if these are not sorted out. It does not need spin, it needs sensible suggestions of substance and workmanlike solutions. A lot will hang on the work of Judith Mayhew and the approach of the next two or three Lords Mayor.



### **What's Happening in The City Livery Companies?**

Recently, this City's Court of Aldermen has granted livery status to two bodies of business people. They have now become Livery Companies and entitled to call themselves respectively the Worshipful Company of World Traders and the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators.

"Livery" has more than a dozen meanings but in the City the word has come to mean an approved trade and charitable association.

The two newcomers bring to 102 the number of City livery companies.

The hundredth, the Information Technologists, joined eight years ago. The first is generally reckoned as the Mercers, officially founded in 1428, although they go back to at least 1150.

Nowadays the "livery" is worn only by the Master, the Wardens and the Stewards and by new liverymen on their admission. (Our own gowns have been renovated this summer.) Only on rare occasions - for instance at the United Guilds Service (of which a notice appears later in these pages) - can you now see the Livery of the City, represented by the officers of each of the Companies, in all its civic finery.

It takes a minimum of 14 years before the City Aldermen will admit a new livery company, and it goes in three stages: guild, company, and then Worshipful Company status and an applicant must have at least £100,000 available for charitable purposes. It is estimated that the City Livery as a whole donates between £30 million and £40 million a year for schools, scholarships, training and almshouses.

Doing what you say you do is a requirement of entry to livery status, but a company is not asked to leave the City's club of clubs' once its members stop doing it. It must be a long time since there were many arrowmakers in the Fletchers (established by 1371), for example. Our own trade is diminishing at this moment, though we have continuing responsibilities for pensioners and continuing involvements such as the Feltmakers Design Awards.

They come in different sizes: between them, the Livery Companies themselves own a good part of the City. The Grocers are said to be the Square Mile's biggest landlord, with about 30 freeholds around their palatial H.Q. in Princes Street. The Mercers own the Blossom's Inn site, which was entrusted to them by Dick Whittington in 1423; they own land outside of the City too. We have a property at Consett and, until it was wasted away a century ago, we had a farm in Essex: Sullens Farm near Upminster, which the Company held in copyhold. Nowadays our toehold in the City will be constituted by the Feltmakers Window, to be installed in the newly - rebuilt Haberdashers' Hall.

The livery tradition is ancient, yet nearly a quarter of the 102 have been admitted since 1945.

The Fishermen long ago stopped swapping stories. Some have faded away: as someone said, the Hat Bank Makers rolled themselves up; the Coatmakers succumbed to the moths of history; the Long Bow String Makers shot their last bolt.

But new ones spring up: the Fellowship of Hackney Carriage Drivers and the Company of Firefighters are standing in line. Meanwhile, as history and current events reported in this edition presage, and as the preacher at the United Guilds Service gently but compellingly indicated, every organisation needs to recognise its role in life, if its life is to continue.

#### **City Management Courses**

For those who wish to have an introduction to the role of the Corporation and its importance to the Square Mile, the Corporation of London each Autumn runs a City Management Course. Participants are generally active members of their Livery Company who either have a high profile responsibility at present or anticipate having such a role in the near future.

The courses are always very popular and usually have a waiting list. Each course is limited to fifty people and accordingly places have to be allocated on a first come first served basis. Applicants need the nomination of their Livery Company.

Usually there are nine sessions beginning in late September. Most sessions will begin with registration between 4.30 and 5.00pm and finish at 7.00pm although there are some occasions when the start and finish times will be a little later. There is a registration fee (currently £25.00) payable at commencement but this is refunded if most sessions are attended.

The Corporation also runs one session evening briefings for newcomers which we generally urge new members of the Livery to attend. For those who have missed the opportunity previously but who would like to attend, the Clerk would be happy to provide details.

#### **Feltmaker in New Livery Company**

Past Master Charles Simeons, together with one hundred and two other Freemen from the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators, made history on 15 March by all being inducted, as Liverymen, at a Clothing Ceremony, which took place at the Guildhall. Afterwards, the Very Reverend John Moses, also a Feltmaker, was inducted as an Honorary Freeman of the Company. The Members and guests then processed to St Lawrence Jewry, for Divine Service at which a cross bearing "waterdrops", the badge worn by Members of the Livery, was dedicated.

The Company was granted Livery Status on 1 January 2000 and is No 102 in order of precedence among the Livery Companies in the City of London. The Master, Mr Ted Jackson, was a guest at our Installation Dinner last October.



## LIVERY FUNCTIONS

### Plough Monday Dinner, 10th January 2000

The Leathersellers' Company accommodated us this year for the Master's Plough Monday dinner when the City Sheriffs were our principal guests. The Livery Hall is at the end of St Helens Place, a cul-de-sac; sadly, the turntable at the end of St Helens Place allowing cars to be turned safely has long since gone. The well scrubbed refectory tables of the nunnery previously on this site 500 years ago have now given way to rather more lavish surroundings, their gilding still bright from refurbishment in the early 1990's, after the Leatherseller's Hall had suffered bomb blast damage along with other buildings in the area.

For Plough Monday, the Master had gathered many friends drawn from both City and military circles as his guests. Can there have been anybody on the Army Board or Navy Board who had been left out? An added bonus was the presence of Madam Speaker; no hint yet from her that this was the year in which she would hang up her hat and retire from the House.

Scallops, Game Pie (the Pomerol 1992, a delicious accompaniment) and Crepes Suzette prepared us well for the traditional toasts that followed. Past-Master Geoffrey Farr, then High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, proposed the Civic Toast with wit and elegance. There is nothing quite like one Sheriff flattering another Sheriff and as an horticulturist Past-Master Farr is perhaps the closest of all of us to the Plough, in real life. Alderman and Sheriff Robert Finch responded, quickly followed by Sheriff Mrs Pauline Halliday whose presence evoked such happy memories of Dame Mary Donaldson in the 1980's when she was Sheriff before being elected Lord Mayor. Sheriff Halliday thanked us, flattered us, charmed us. Her end-of-year Shrieval Report must surely comment "This Sheriff will go far". The applause was genuine and appreciative for a fine Shrieval team.

The Master in his toast to the guests mentioned many who were gathered there and his connection with them while he was serving both on land and sea. There were four visiting Masters from other Companies whom he had met in his Master's year. (One wondered whether the presence of the Master of the Tobacco Pipe-makers and Tobacco Blenders was to enable the Master to indulge in the old naval habit of chewing tobacco).

Field Marshall Lord Brammall responded on behalf of the Guests and toasted the Master. As a former Chief of the General Staff and former Lord Lieutenant for Greater London he amusingly and energetically summed up life on a number of fronts leaving us with his own defence review for the year 2000. In short, he said, the lesson of history was clear, "Do not make the mistake of dropping your guard for you do so at your own peril, even in the year 2000."

The port flowed generously and then a stirrup cup drew the first Plough Monday of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to a close. As good and as unique as ever.

Later, musing upon the event, one was interested to discover that the original name for a plough was 'Landship'. Somehow, for this year with the Naval and Army presence, 'landship' was singularly appropriate: We in Civvy street had been dining with 'Combined Operations'.

**B.D.S.B.**

### The Luton Lunch

The Master, Renter Warden, four Past Masters and the Clerk attended the thirteenth annual luncheon at the catering department of Barnfield College, Luton, on 27th January. Including the thirteen Liverymen who also came, over half of the third six people present belonged to the Livery. Eleven had connections with the hat industry, including Bill Horsman, Chairman of the Hat Guild.

The Master, in welcoming everyone, congratulated the Hat Industry upon its magnificent achievements, despite a falling-off in the wearing of hats.

The Luton hat industry is special to the Feltmakers and I hope that the Feltmakers are special to the hat industry," he said. Some fourteen Masters have come from the area over the past thirty years. Also present were Peter Flawn and his wife, who were married on 19 November last.

This year's event was preceded by a display of ladies' hats arranged by Viviane Yaysieres covering the past five decades, and also the entries for the Feltmakers Annual Hat Design competition from thirteen different colleges of design. The competition is organised by Bill Horsman.

After lunch, Marion Nicholls, Keeper of Costume and Textiles at Wardown Museum, gave a short talk. Straw Hats were first seen in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and later mentioned in Shakespeare's plays. Local mention occurred in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, but by 1832 there were eighteen hat factories in St Albans, mainly owned by the Waller family, and thirteen in Luton. Luton became the favourite town because of the cheapness of land, there was no local authority



and, when formed, a health authority reported poor working conditions. Luton became known as Straw- Opolis. Felt hats came later.

In thanking Marion Nicholls, the Master presented her, for exhibition at the Wardown Museum on loan, one of the opera hats until recently used by MPs in the House of Commons when making a point of order during a Division following a debate, which was presented to the Company through the good offices of Liveryman Dame Betty Boothroyd.

The occasion which was much enjoyed by all attending was organised by Peter Simeons.

### United Guilds Service

In February 1943 the Masters and Prime Wardens of the Twelve Great Companies met at Goldsmiths Hall and, to help lift the spirits of the City following the Blitz, decided to hold a service in St Paul's for the Livery Companies and Guilds of the City of London. Having regard to the religious origins of the Companies, 25 March 1943 - Lady Day - was selected as the date for the service, being the first day of the year according to the old Julian Calendar.

Since then it has become an annual event and on 31 March 2000, shortly before noon, you would have seen, had you been there, a considerable crowd milling around the statue of Queen Anne by the steps in front of St. Paul's. At their foot, the Beadles and Clerks of various companies were trying to gather together their Masters and Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff, and other Wardens, to exchange their overcoats for gowns, hats, badges. Colours were breaking out across this slice of the grey London morning as robes of crimson, some various blues, several greens, black and even white, finished off with furs and silks and tassels and gold braid, all began to converge in a bustle towards the door of the cathedral. Inside, its vast dimness was enlivened by the buzz of a congregation two thousand souls strong, the glistening mosaics and candles in the Quire, the embroidered banners on the pillars - and still more robes, enlivened with twinkling glints of light from the silver tops of Beadles' staves and Vergers' rods. A procession of the Masters of the principal Companies (the Great Twelve) together with twelve other Masters (who are invited to take a more public part every so often) was forming near the West Door. The choir, 40 strong, glided down the South Aisle to join them, headed by the Cathedral's processional cross and acolytes. Behind them, in copes of cloth of gold, white surplices, red rochets, came the clergy and the Bishop of London. The buzz had risen in expectancy as everyone awaited the Lord Mayor.

His arrival was greeted by a fanfare of trumpets and, to the pealing of the organ, the long procession began to unwind itself and proceed up the Nave: the Masters of Livery Companies, the choristers, clergy, high Officers of the City in their varied robes and uniforms, Aldermen, Sheriffs and, finally, the Lord Mayor, preceded by the Sword and the Mace, moved slowly up the Nave. Then the congregation burst into song, and the service was under way. The Bishop who preached was also the Master of the Glass Sellers; but even from his point of vantage in the pulpit he eschewed the opportunity of explaining to us the similarity between being a Bishop and being Master Glass Seller (being, one supposes, that, in one sense at least, what both have to offer is both precious and fragile).

It cannot be easy to tell people they could do better when they are obviously feeling pretty good and dressed up to the nines, but the Right Reverend John Waine succeeded. The Lesson had been the story of the Good Samaritan. He pointed out that of the three passers-by in the tale, two were pre-occupied: the excuse of all of us for our neglects is that we are pre-occupied. We can become too concerned in the intricacies of our organisations; we can be dominated by the din and spin of political fashion and votes at any price. Within our Companies we spend too much time on minutiae and we do not spend enough time on our primary task. Our younger successors and those who come into the Livery in the future will be left wondering why they did. The Livery needed to re-invent *what* it was without losing sight of *who* it was. It was a question of leadership and integrity: what we stood for and what we believed in. The answers to the many questions being raised, in society and all around us, about life must begin with Faith and should lead to action. The charitable concerns of the Livery Companies were central and some of the places where their efforts should be felt were on our doorstep: 14 out of 20 of the country's most deprived wards ring the Square Mile and there, the child mortality rate is at twice the national average and a third of the children live below the poverty line. The Lord Mayor's Appeal this year had as its catch phrase "A world away but close at hand". This was how the Livery could re-invent itself: in recognising what it stood for and in how it reached out to help and support the community as a whole.

Then: more music, more solemnity, more colour, more trumpets ... and it was over.

The members of the Court able to attend the service subsequently repaired to the Savoy Hotel for the traditional lunch kindly provided there now renamed the Hugh Wontner Memorial Lunch after our late Past Master who instituted it and who was affectionately and respectfully remembered there. Among the chatter and laughter, the preacher's words could be heard being repeated, here and there: it is to be hoped that they will bear fruit in the Livery of the City, and in our own Company, in the coming years.

*The United Guilds Service has not often taken much space in our pages although in many ways it is at the apogee of the City Livery's communal life. We have devoted more space to it in this issue partly because of that consideration and partly because what the preacher said must be at the back of the minds of many members of many of the Companies. With our four hundredth year approaching we need to be clear about, and to hold in common, what it is we stand for and what that predicates in terms of what we should begin doing as a Livery Company.*



## FELTMAKERS' DESIGN AWARD 2000

This annual award is made by our Company to the winning designer of a lady's hat.

The competition is open to trainees and apprentices, under 30 years of age, working in headwear manufacturing and also fashion students from approved colleges. Felt has to be used, although it need not be the major component, and the hat must be capable of mass-production at a reasonable price.

First Prize of £500 was won by Claire Rolstone, of Kensington and Chelsea College, with a cherry red felt hat with no crown and upward point at front, brim studded with beads.

Second prize of £300 was won by Sonia Melton, of Northampton College, with a taupe felt skullcap, representing a fossil, with gold and brown sequins.

Third prize of £150 was won by Clare Spender of The London College of Fashion, who produced a cream hand-made felt hat with conical tipped crown and pointed brim.

Other prizes of £75 each, were awarded for the following categories.

Artwork & Presentation: Hannah Percival of Northampton College

Craftsmanship: Kate Mason of Northampton College.

Commercial Appeal: Fe-Fe Huang of London College of Fashion.

Innovative use of Felt: Doris Schmitz of The Royal College of Art.

The following entrants were highly Commended: Laura Cassidy - Royal College of Art

Sharifa Patel - Huddersfield Technical College.

Inga Stamer - Kensington & Chelsea College.

Charlotte Alten - Bedgebury School.

Lolita Aguado - Kensington & Chelsea College.

Jessica Lamb - London College of Fashion.

The judging took place at the factory of W. Wright & Son in Luton and this year's judging panel were:

Liveryman Eda Rose - Milliner; Carole Denford, - Fashion Editor - The Hat Magazine; Viviane Vayssieres - Sales Director - W Wright & Son; and the millinery buyer from a North London Department Store, who has asked to remain nameless.





## Spring Livery Dinner

The façade of Trinity House is such that if it were planted among fields in an English garden, it would rank as one of our finer country houses. The reputation of the Institution which bears its name would leave one prepared for grandeur. In fact, while it has a remarkable 18th Century elegance, it also has a charming intimacy and is among the favourite venues which we, as a perambulatory Company, are privileged to have the opportunity to frequent.

There it was that we found ourselves on 3rd April 2000 for a Livery Dinner so well attended that our Clerk had the unusual experience of having to turn away those who came late to apply for the feast. Our guests, who included a munificent murmur of Masters of other companies, including the Upper Bailiff of the Weavers, were led by The Lord Glenarthur D.L., Major General J.M.P.C. Hall, C.B., O.B.E., Commandant S.V.A. McBride C.B., W.R.N.S., Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison K.C.M.G., T.D., and Captain Michael Clifford Dobson C.V.O., J.P., R.N., the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset.

It was also good to have among their number Mr Michael Wheldon, Master of the Haberdashers, the Company from which the Feltmakers broke away in the middle of the 16th Century but which has, of recent times, been more than hospitable to our Livery as well as being very generous in allocating part of their charitable funds for us as Feltmakers to disburse along with our own, particularly among the pensioners of the hatting trade.

During the reception before dinner, we were overseen by a number of monarchs, gazing down from their gilded frames, the mariners among them looking particularly beady-eyed. Our dinner, by contrast, was watched over by Winston Churchill, Earl Mountbatten, and a combative-looking Lord Fisher. Conservatism in naval matters in the first part of the last century has always been a matter of controversy but (and your reporter was watching alertly) nary a muscle twitched when the Master, replying to the toast to himself and the Company, turned serious for a moment. He reminded us of the words of the present Lord Mayor who has said that it is important that the Livery Companies of the City must not be - and must certainly not be perceived just as - dining clubs, and that we should hang our HATS on the hook of charitable giving. But this injunction went down well in the midst of what was a happy, almost family-like, occasion, despite its ceremonies. William Mellstrom, in an amusing maiden speech which was very well received by those present, welcomed our guests. Lord Glenarthur, while confessing some difficulty in finding a common bond other than friendship in his own experience as a soldier, pilot and politician, with the art and mystery of feltmaking reminded us that Sikorsky in his prototype helicopters, which were open to the sky (and to the blades!), always wore a felt fedora which, miraculously, never blew off.

As we left, April seemed intent on venting its reputation upon us. But walking back through the damp, glistening streets, I found myself thinking of those Feltmaker apprentices at the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's reign who fought with those of the Haberdashers in these same alleys and who might later have found themselves the sedate and prosperous members of our Court when we were given our first Royal Charter in 1604 - and wondering how many of our young members now who are wrestling with the problems of e-commerce and the internet will be sitting on our Court in the Company's 450th year, still taking pleasure as well as pride in our fellowship, still holding to standards which have been passed from father to son, and still striving to be successful in commerce and generous in spirit in a city which, taken all in all, has made a fair fist of doing both over the last four centuries.

P.B.





## The Millennium Ladies' Banquet

Evening sunshine had banished summer rain as Feltmakers and their ladies and other guests converged on the Mansion House on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> June for the Company's Ladies' Banquet, with the Lord Mayor. Inside the Mansion House, everything was a-buzz. As those attending reached the ante-rooms to the Egyptian Hall, at the top of the staircase, they were greeted by a Guard of Honour formed by the Royal Rifle Volunteers. There, as they waited to be announced by the Beadle, they could inspect the best entries for the Feltmakers' Award. The arrival of the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, and the Sheriffs and their escorts, together with the City Marshal, was announced by a fanfare from buglers of the Royal Rifle Volunteers. The Lord Mayor had only the day before returned from a gruelling overseas visit to southern and eastern Europe, was about to fly off again in two days' time, and had already had a full day of engagements, but he spent a considerable amount of time talking to many more guests than usual, before a further fanfare heralded the time for the banquet to begin. The Civic Party with the Master and Wardens and the Master's principal guest, The Lord Campbell of Croy M.C., P.C., D.L., and Lady Campbell, processed into the Egyptian Hall to the strains of Handel's Grand March in 'Scipio'. The Chaplain pronounced a Tudor grace taken from a new book of graces published by Madam Speaker, of our Livery, and then, to a varied musical selection played by Mr Philip Shannon (including Lennon & Macartney and Simon and Garfunkle but, alas, nothing from the twenty-first century) the assembled Company fell to, well victualled with ogen melon served with smoked duck, roast sirloin of beef in a red wine sauce with yorkshire pudding and horse-radish, and summer pudding. At the end of the meal all those assembled sang the Grace, and then, at the Loyal Toast, the National Anthem. Your reporter was very struck by the unusually melodious rendering the Company provided on this occasion. Assistant Mrs Susan Wood proposed the health of the Lord Mayor, the Corporation of London and Sheriffs with a clarity and wit upon which many of those attending later commented and the Lord Mayor replied, countering her quotations from Macbeth and from St John (variously) with the legend of St Clement's discovery of felt. He also quoted St Bede's succinct assessment the City: a trading emporium to which all people come by land and sea. The Lord Mayor also took a short time to explain the distinction between his role and office, and that of the Mayor of London [see page 2]. The Master during his response to the Lord Mayor presented him with a gift for his charity (Barnado's) from The Feltmakers Charitable Foundation, and invited the Lady Mayoress to present the Feltmakers' Award to Claire Rolstone [see page 4]. No doubt after many years at sea, sailors are more careful that most not to tempt the Fates, and the Master pointed out to our lady guests that in giving a purse to each of them, he had been careful to avoid the shadow of bad luck by leaving £1 coin in each - appropriate as he pointed out, since the Company's product has always shared with a sovereign the tag, "decus et tutamen". After welcoming the Civic Party and his many personal guests, the Master gave a particularly warm greeting to Lord Campbell of Croy who gave us all a series of insights into the last 80 years of the century just past, in the course of which he had served as a soldier (being decorated twice with the MC), a diplomat, a politician and more latterly a businessman, besides fulfilling many public duties in Scotland and the United Kingdom. At the end of our formal proceedings the Master, his principal guest and the Civic Party and their escorts processed out to the strains of "A Life on the Ocean Wave". Our proceedings were also graced by the presence of Vice Admiral the Honourable Sir Nicholas Hill-Norton, K.C.B., R S Whitmore Esq (Master, the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers) and the Hon. M H Richards (Master, the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipemakers and Tobacco Blenders). Despite the lateness of the hour, it took some time for the many conversations which were in progress to finish and the guests to disperse.

Outside, the night was balmy ..... anyone for a sail?

D.P.H.B.

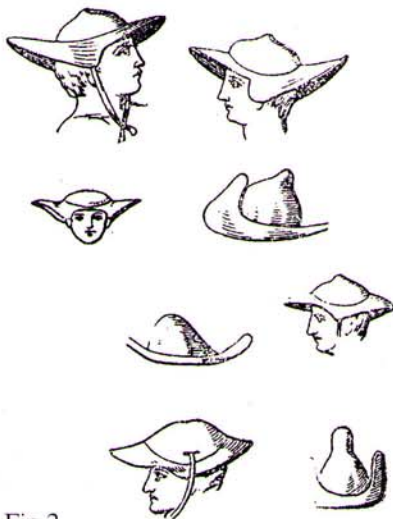


Fig 2



Fig 3



## **July Court Dinner**

A Meeting of the Court, followed by Dinner, was held at the Wax Chandlers' Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2000.

## **"GAMES AND PASTIMES"**

### **Life Members' Luncheon**

An almost full complement of Life Members sat down together for the annual Luncheon in the Canada Room of the East India Club in St James' Square on 10 March 2000. This fraternal occasion was, as usual, quietly but elegantly organised by Past Master Derek Hilton and was much enjoyed by all who attended.

New admissions to life memberships are not being considered for the time being. Changing market circumstances, as evidenced by Mr Paul Myner's review of the Minimum Funding Requirement Criteria for Pension Funds, may mean actuarial considerations will change and, possibly, new criteria may require the Court's consideration before further Life Memberships are introduced. If you think your genes are up to it, watch this space!

### **Hat Works: The Museum of Hatting, Stockport**

In Easter Week, on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2000, a representative party of our Company attended the opening of Hat Works, the Museum of Hatting at Stockport (that part of Cheshire which is one of the four traditional hat making centers in England). Readers will recall that the Company has provided a number of exhibits and a display facility to the Museum.

The Museum was officially opened by the Mayor of Stockport Cllr. Mrs I Shaw. She was accompanied by the famous hat milliner, David Shilling, and steeplejack and television personality, Fred Dibnah.

The Company was represented by Past Master W. P. Wright, Past Master J. L. Wallworth, the Third Warden, D. Bentata, and Liverymen K. Parker and L. Crampton.

Hat Works is the first museum in the country dedicated to the hatting industry and millinery. Visitors will see original working machinery, hat making demonstrations and a range of hats both historical and contemporary from around the world. Hatting as a cottage industry has a special place in the museum.

The Museum occupies three floors of a six storey building in the town centre which many years ago was a hat factory.

With the aid of a grant of £1.3 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund and donations from a number of sponsors including the Feltmakers the Museum has been well laid out and will become a major attraction for tourists.

On 13 September 2000, Past Master Wallworth led a further party from the Company to appreciate the remarkable range of exhibits which the Museum has to offer - a most convivial occasion the history of which will be recounted in our next edition.

**J.L.W.**

### **The Livery Swimathon**

On 15<sup>th</sup> May the Feltmakers enjoyed their regular annual participation in the Inter-Livery Charity Swimathon organised by the Company of Chartered Surveyors and held at The Royal Automobile Club's country facilities at Woodcote Park, Epsom.

This year's team of five, which covered 5 kms., comprised Liverymen Alex Flower, Richard Nobbs and Robert Wallbank, together with Chris Ray and Zoë Spector.

Unusually fine weather enabled our post-exercise liberations to be in the lovely grounds. Dinner followed, attended by the Master as a guest of the organisers.

In all, some £3,478 (including Gift Aid reclaims) was raised, for equal distribution between the Lord Mayor's Charity, Barnardo's, and the Feltmakers' own charity fund.

Our thanks to all who contributed.

*We would also like to thank Liveryman Paul Spector for his contribution to the organisation of this event.*



### Annual Golf Day 2000

The Annual Golf Day was held at Harpenden Golf Club on Wednesday 10 May. Sixteen brave souls - men and ladies - put their various levels of skill on display. A further twenty four joined for the dinner in the evening.

The winners (with certain 1999 winners also indicated) were

Best Gentleman's Score	Jeremy Brassington (!!)
Best Ladies' Score	Daphne Higginson (!!)
Gentleman's Runner Up	Nicholas Harding
Best Front 9	Gerry Higginson
Longest Drive	Nick Mellstrom (!!)
Nearest the Pin	Peter Grant
Master's Special Prize	Geoffrey Vero

Nick Mellstrom claims to pride himself on hitting at least one long drive every year. This was the occasion. Jeremy Brassington (guest of David Bentata) is clearly due for a handicap review of significant proportions. Peter Grant is still celebrating his wonderful display of skill ("It was nothing, dear boy") and Geoffrey Vero is keeping to himself the reason why he qualified for his prize!!

Special thanks are due to Geoffrey Farr, who has been running the Feltmakers' Annual Golf Day since 1994, for his excellent organisation. Our thanks also to our Master for joining us for dinner and for providing and presenting the prizes. And where would we have been without the splendid and medicinally necessary on-course champagne provided by Nick Heal and served with aplomb by Nick and his band of two, Jonathan Rowley and Alex Flower, to those who clearly needed sustenance after having played an exhausting five holes.

Past Master Geoffrey Farr is now researching venues for 2001. We need somewhere which is convenient for golfers and for those coming for the evening: a good course (challenging but not too difficult); a pleasant venue for drinks and dinner - and all at a knockdown price! Simple really!! Ideas and suggestions to Geoffrey Farr or to Gerry Higginson please.

Gerry A. Higginson

### Prince Arthur Cup - Livery Companies Golf Tournament Walton Heath Golf Club 18 May 2000

Following the Feltmakers' success of 1999 (when we came eighth), the Captain - Past Master Geoffrey Farr DL - selected the same team to tackle the Old and New Courses at Walton Heath in the Prince Arthur Cup this May.

Having been given strict instructions to be on parade at the Club by 7.30am latest, we all negotiated the M25 early to arrive on a bright and breezy day at Walton - which was the venue for the 1981 Ryder Cup Match played over an amalgam of the two courses.

Walton is famed for its tough heather and anything just off quite narrow fairways is punished mercilessly. Regrettably we were all granted little mercy!

Andy Criddle and Geoffrey Vero played off first on the New Course, initially from the 6<sup>th</sup> Tee, at 8am and played the first 13 holes in 1 hour 50 minutes setting a good pace for the day. The last 5 holes took 90 minutes. A feature of the round was Andy's excellent holing out from 6 foot. Past Masters Geoffrey Farr and Peter Cobb RN (having just returned from a livery yacht race at Cowes with Past Master Derek Hilton) played behind and it was reported by a third party that their game plan bore many resemblances to a regatta. However at lunch time the team stood at -8 which was fairly respectable.

The format of play is unforgiving. A net par is a half, a birdie is +1 and a bogey (or worse) is -1. 56 Livery Companies participate in the foursome bogey competition with two pairs each.

In the afternoon Farr and Cobb (suitably fortified) prospered much better on the more challenging Old Course. Andy Criddle having failed to reinforce his performance sufficiently at lunch amused the bystanders with his tee shot at the 1<sup>st</sup>.

With the exception of two short cloud bursts, the weather was delightful and the courses, and the greens especially, were in excellent condition. A great day was had by all with good companionship and the opportunity to meet up with a good number of old friends from different clubs and Livery Companies.

We finished up at - 22 for the day which put us well down the field and we await to hear whether we have qualified for next year. Keep your fingers crossed. The Captain mumbled something about pre qualifying selection procedures in future....

G.V. aka Naughty Rabbit.

### Cricket Activities-June 2000

#### Single Wicket competition

The Single Wicket Competition was held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2000 at Knotty Green Cricket Club, near Beaconsfield.

This year the weather was much improved, and there were 35 attendees in total, including 14 players and a scorer. All players contributed fully to the sporting element of the evening. Highlights included four wickets for Nick Heal, a "hatrick" for Peter Simeons, several lusty blows from Richard Farmer, and an excellent catch by Alex Flower which deprived Geoffrey Farr's pair of crucial points.

The final results were:

1<sup>st</sup> Peter Simeons and Roger Cook      2<sup>nd</sup> Geoffrey Farr and Jeremy Dodd      3<sup>rd</sup> Richard Farmer and Alex Flower

Prizes were presented to the winners by Past Master Peter Grant and everyone enjoyed an excellent two course buffet supper and bar.

Our thanks go to Past Master Derek Hilton to whom we are indebted for arranging the availability of the ground.

#### Match against Amersham Cricket Club

On 25<sup>th</sup> June, 11 players represented the Feltmakers against Amersham Cricket Club. The weather was again more generous than the previous year, and Amersham put out a strong side including several players with Thames Valley League experience.

Despite being reduced to nine men for a period, due to injury, the Feltmakers bowled and fielded with great enthusiasm and restricted Amersham to a reasonable total during their innings. Simon Curtis bowled tirelessly, picking up crucial wickets.

Adrian Salmon, having unfortunately injured his shoulder making a valiant dive whilst fielding, was unable to bat. Regrettably, the rest of the Feltmakers' batting failed to live up to expectations, which resulted in a comfortable victory for Amersham.

Everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed the day, including the families of players who also came to the match. The support of various Feltmaker spectators during the course of the afternoon was much appreciated and it was a privilege to play on one of Buckinghamshire's most beautiful grounds.

Peter Simeons organised both events with the support of Simon Curtis.



### **The Livery Prom**

Three boxes at the Royal Albert Hall were taken on the 17 August 2000 for members of the Livery and their ladies and guests to hear the London Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Mark Wigglesworth, with Janice Watson as the soloist, perform Mahler's Fourth Symphony.

The evening began with a performance of Pierre Boulez' Rituel, In Memoriam Bruno Maderna, including eight separate sections of instrumentalists pursuing a reflection with many resonances (and two arrays of a dozen gongs) hovering, conceptually, between plainsong, a Tibetan monastery and the sound of a distant hunt. Gustav Mahler's symphony, though written in G major, made, by contrast, a voluptuous noise with waves of emotion carried by the string section through occasional intimations of the bucolic and the celestial to a grand finale.

Our thanks are due to the Master for undertaking yet again the task of organising an occasion which left us all with a sense of pleasure - as well as a sense of future goals to be achieved.

### **The Feltmakers' Inter-Livery Tennis Tournament**

Due to be held towards the end of September, a full account of the Tournament will be carried in the next edition of the Feltmakers. At the April Meeting of the Court, the view of the Livery Society that the organisation of the tournament should be kept in-house and that the competition should continue to be associated primarily with our Company, on whose initiation it was started, was confirmed. We all remain indebted to the Society's officers and to the (apparently but deceptively, effortless) application of energy by Anthony Phillips and the members of the Committee for an occasion which has provided each year not only great enjoyment but a platform for the Company among our fellow Livery Companies.

### **IN BRIEF**

#### **The Feltmaker Window**

At the April meeting of the Court a donation of £10,000 to the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers, to defray the costs of installing in its new Hall a Feltmakers' Window, bearing the Feltmaker's arms and the tools and symbols both of the hatting trade and the Company's history - to be twinned with a similar window about the Haberdashers Company itself - was approved. The Hall will be ready in a year or so, after which we will have an opportunity of renewing our old custom of dining there from time to time.

#### **Visit to HMS Lancaster**

On 28 June the Master, Commander Ian Wellesley-Harding, Upper Warden Jonathan Rowley and Renter Warren, Bill Horsman visited our affiliated ship HMS Lancaster, newly gone a-roamin' after a refit (as foreshadowed in our last edition) and were entertained by a number of diversions including an air attack simulated in the control room and in the Ward Room. The Captain served with the Master in 1985-6 so the occasion was warmed by personal friendship. The Master assures us that the relationship between our Company and the ship is also flourishing, and fed and watered appropriately by the Company's hospitality to the ship's officers which is much appreciated.

#### **Our 400th**

We have begun to think about what the Company should do to mark the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the granting of our Charter. If you have any ideas, please write to Patrick Burgess, 10, Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7NG.

#### **The Clerkship**

OUR CLERK, Lt. Col. John Holroyd is soon to retire. This post will be advertised in the New Year with interviews scheduled in April and May. John Holroyd has kindly agreed to continue for a transitional period while his successor learns the ropes. The Master and Wardens have spent a good deal of time, with our Clerk's help, refining the job description for the new clerk; it is clear from that exercise that the role can make considerable demands upon the incumbent and we thank John Holroyd for his work for our Company over the years.



### Livery Accounts

The Accounts for 1999 have been audited, and approved by the Court. In summary, they show the following:

<b>The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers of London</b>			
	<b>1988</b>		<b>1997</b>
	£		£
General Fund	186,062		157,325
Unrealised Investment Appreciation	142,877		105,897
Life Quaterage Fund	<u>18,198</u>		<u>21,990</u>
Net Assets at Market Value	<u>347,137</u>		<u>285,212</u>

<b>Income and Expenditure Account</b>			
	<b>1999</b>		<b>1998</b>
	£		£
Income	26,571	23,294	
Expenditure	22,804	21,172	
Taxation	<u>667</u>	<u>269</u>	
Surplus for the year after Taxation	<u>3,100</u>		<u>1,853</u>

*Note: Our quaterage remains in the bottom quartile among Livery Companies. The cost of dinners will be held steady until April 2001 (inclusive). The tax charge has increased because the rent from our Consett property has increased.*

<b>Charitable Foundation (including the A.E. Hemens Bequest Fund)</b>				
	<b>1999</b>			<b>1998</b>
	£			£
Income from Investments	10,728		10,776	
Donations Received	<u>10,000</u>	20,728	<u>10,000</u>	20,776
Payments:				
Grants to Pensioner Hatters	9,960		9,280	
Other Donations (including Feltmakers' Awards)	9,922		7,819	
Grant to Stockport Museum				
Administration Costs	6,000		-	
Surplus for the year	<u>2,111</u>	<u>27,993</u>	<u>2,111</u>	<u>19,301</u>
		<u>(7,265)</u>		<u>1,475</u>

Among the gifts this year were £1,000 to the Lord Mayor's Appeal, £1,000 to the Master's charities, £500 and £750 respectively to Centre Point Soho and Providence House (where our Steward, David Bartley has a close involvement), a further £2,250 to London related charities (including St Paul's, the Sheriffs' and Recorders' Fund, Lord Mayor Treloare School, St Ethelburga's, and the London Federation of Clubs for Young People).

Past Master Mellstrom succeeded Past Master Peter Keens as a trustee in the course of this year. Our thanks to Post Master Keens for a most successful stewardship.

### Livery Notices

#### Elections

As we go to press it is expected that at the October Court Mr Jonathan Rowley will be elected as a Master for the ensuing year and Mr Derek Bedford will be elected as Fourth Warden.

#### Admissions to the Livery

In April 2000:	Mr. C.B. Roffe Mr. M.R. Hobbs
In October 2000:	Mr. A.J.N. Bedford Mr. S.E. Wilkinson T.D.

#### The Livery Society

Three new members of the Livery Society Committee have been appointed: Liverymen Neil Edwards, Ralph Harding and Robert Wallbank.

### Notable Dates

6 October	Installation Dinner: Mr Jonathan Rowley takes the Chair as our new Master
11 November	Lord Mayor's Show (On 14 <sup>th</sup> November the Master and Wardens will formally present the new Lord Mayor with his hat)
19 December (Tuesday)	Livery Carol Service St Martins within Ludgate, followed by a substantial finger buffet at 10 Old Bailey.