CITY LIVERY BADGES.

BY S. ALAN GARNETT.

The City Companies, or Guilds, are a familiar feature of London life. The badges issued by the Companies since the last quarter of the eighteenth century, which form the subject of this paper, are less familiar. Collectors of Company badges are not numerous; it may be that the difficulty of identification renders the subject uncongenial, for it is unusual to find the Company’s name upon the badge and recourse must be had to the shield of arms for attribution to the Company that issued it.

A brief attempt to illustrate, wherever possible, and to describe the badges that survive at the present day may serve to make the subject more accessible; the intrinsic interest of the subject justifies the hope that its introduction may some day lead to the fuller and more exhaustive treatment which it deserves.

The matter obviously demands a preliminary sketch of the history of the several Companies; unfortunately many valuable records were destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, and the Companies are able to furnish little information of their past history and less still of the history of their badges.

The important part played in the Middle Ages by the London Guilds is familiar to all. Some of the present Companies allege a continuous existence from the corresponding guild of the twelfth century or even earlier, but whether such an unbroken pedigree can be satisfactorily established I am not in a position to determine. “From time immemorial” is a favourite term in this context. The function of the early guilds as combinations of men and women protecting their trade or industry is analogous to that performed now by modern Trade Unions; the original activities of the Guilds have, since the industrial revolution of the eighteenth century, been considerably diminished in the surviving Companies. Of the original Guilds, which numbered 127, there are 78 Companies which still survive, if only in name; the remainder have been absorbed in other bodies.

These seventy-eight survivors are divided into two classes, the Great Companies and the Minor Companies, and these
observe a very strict order of precedence. The Great Companies are twelve in number, of which the Mercers rank first and the Clothworkers last. Of the Minor Companies the Dyers hold first rank, and the Master Mariners are last. It is the liverymen of the combined Companies who yearly elect the Lord Mayor. The normal constitution of a Livery Company embraces a Master, Wardens, Court of Assistants, Livery, and the general body of Freemen & Freewomen; to these must be added the Apprentices, making six grades in all.

Wardens vary in number. The Fishmongers have, I believe, six. The Vintners have four, namely, Upper, Junior, Renter, and Swan. Some have three and some only two, Upper and Under, or some other name, being attached to distinguish them.

Entry to a Guild was obtained by the following four methods: Apprenticeship, Patrimony, Redemption or Purchase, and Gift. The last is in most cases purely honorary. A few of the Guilds were associated with some religious foundation, such as the Guild of Haberdashers of St. Katherine the Virgin and St. Nicholas, which was absorbed later by the Haberdashers.

Certain Companies are very wealthy; the Mercers, for example, have an income of £100,000 a year; others, such as the Distillers, return no income. The wealthy Guilds spend large sums on Charity, Schools, Pensions, Almshouses, etc.

The Badges which I describe first are those of the eighteenth century; I had expected to find about seventy-eight of these, but I can only discover twelve or thirteen at the most. These were all issued between the years 1770 and 1775. It will be noticed that the date on some of the Badges is anterior to the date of issue. The reason for this is that the Badge when issued was distributed to the then living Liverymen, and it was engraved with the date at which the recipient joined the Livery, which in some cases was thirty years, or more, prior to that of issue. No doubt some Guild set the fashion, so to speak, for the issue of badges and was followed by others. I have an extract from the minutes of the Pattenmakers that reads as follows:—“A motion being made and seconded was carried nem. con. N.B.: The Medals to be after the manner of the Vintners, which was produced as thus, viz., The Court of Assistants to be silver gilt, the Livery plain silver, all to be stamped at the Goldsmiths’ Hall with their mark.” I may add I have seen three of these Badges and none are Hall marked.
Badges were either circular or oval in form, and were of silver, with the Arms of the Guild on the obverse, the reverse being left plain for the name of the recipient. The explanation of some badges being gilt is that when the holder took a higher rank than Liveryman, his badge being withdrawn was gilded and then returned to him.

The badges and medals described below are all in my collection. The Companies are placed in order of precedence.

**EIGHTEENTH CENTURY BADGES.**

**FISHMONGERS.**—A circular silver badge (Pl. I, 2).

*Obverse.*—Arms of the Company.

*Reverse.*—John David Tawse. April 5th, 1782.

Members of this family were Clerks to the Fishmongers from 1792 to 1922.

**VINTNERS.**—A circular silver gilt badge (Pl. I, 6).

*Obverse.*—Arms of the Company.

*Reverse.*—Richard King.

King obtained Freedom by Patrimony; he died about 1799.

Badges are still issued by the Vintners Company.

**CUTLERS.**—An oval silver gilt badge (Pl. II, 2).

*Obverse.*—Arms of the Company.

*Reverse.*—Edward Wigan. Livery 1791.

Wigan was Steward in 1793, Renter Warden 1810, Court 1812.

Badges were first issued 13 June, 1772, and are still issued.

**CARPENTERS.**—An oval silver badge (Pl. I, 5).

*Obverse.*—Arms of the Company.

*Reverse.*—William Braffett 1770.

**COOKS.**—A circular silver gilt badge (Pl. I, 4).

*Obverse.*—Arms of the Company.

*Reverse.*—William Stiles.

Stiles obtained Freedom by Servitude 1757, Livery 1762, Steward 1764, Court 1767, Second Master 1774, Master 1775.

Badges are still issued by the Cooks Company.

**COOPERS.**—A silver circular badge (Pl. I, 1).

*Obverse.*—Arms of the Company.
City Livery Badges

Reverse.—Daniel Gallopine 1741.
Badges of the Coopers Company were first issued in 1773.

TYLERS AND BRICKLAYERS.—A circular silver badge (Pl. I, 10).

Obverse.—Arms of the City of London. John Gorham.
Reverse.—Arms of the Company 1743.

Extracts from the minute book:

John Goreham, son of Thomas Goreham Citizen & Tyler & Bricklayer of London, was made free by Patrimony, who desired to fine for Livery & Court of Assistants, which was ordered accordingly on his paying £24 0s. 0d. which he then paid 29 Oct. 1743. Upper Warden 1754. Master 1755.

FARRIERS.—Circular silver badge (Pl. I, 3).

Reverse.—Plain.

NEEDLEMAKERS.—1st Type. Oval silver gilt badge (Pl. I, 8).

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.
Reverse.—William Cordy 1772.
Cordy was a Pawnbroker of Snow Hill; Steward 1778, Assistant 1781, Under Warden 1784, Upper Warden 1785, Master 1786.

2nd Type.—Circular silver badge with snake border (Pl. I, 9).

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.
Reverse.—William Travis 1795.
Travis was a Surgeon of East Bergholt, Suffolk; Freedom Jany. 14th, 1795; Livery 1795.

DISTILLERS.—Circular silver gilt badge (Pl. I, 7).

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.
Reverse.—Cornelious Van Mildert.
Badges are still issued by the Distillers Company.

PATTERNMAKERS.—Circular silver gilt badge (Pl. II, 4).

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.
Reverse.—Anthony Abbott 1777.
Abbott was admitted 11 Sept., 1777, Master 1795, and died during term of Office.
NINETEENTH CENTURY BADGES.

Livery badges of the 19th century are rare; most of those of the 18th died out. The Vintners, Cooks, Cutlers and Distillers continue to issue them up to the present time. The Tinplate Workers now issue them, but that is quite a modern practice.

Of these 19th century badges, the Cooks have changed the die twice, the Vintners' vary in small details.

Cutlers.—The first issue of the Cutlers was an oval badge, replaced in 1834 by a large circular badge. The example in my collection is silver gilt (the arms are similar to those on (Pl. II, 3).

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.
Reverse.—Arms of the City of London within an ornamental border and engraved.

Edward Stammers, Livery 20th Oct., 1804, Assistant 1839, Fined for Master 1845, Master 1846.

Some years ago the Company reverted to the old type of oval badge. This Company in 1801 issued a very fine oval badge for ladies of which I illustrate a rough obverse (Pl. II, 3). These were withdrawn in 1809.

PAST MASTER BADGES.

(a) Gold.

Salters.—A circular gold badge with loop (Pl. II, 5).

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.
Reverse.—Robert Golding elected Master 1850.

Saddlers.—Circular gold medal with loop (Pl. II, 6).

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.
Reverse.—George Bishop Master 1823.

Butchers.—Circular gold medal with loop (Pl. II, 7).

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.
Reverse.—George Hill Master 1856–7.

Hill was a banker of West Smithfield; Freedom and Livery Feb. 3rd, 1831, Assistant 1849.
In 1687 Daniel Foe (=Defoe) was admitted by Patrimony.

Poulters.—An oval gold medal (Pl. II, 1).

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.
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Reverse.—Henry Anselm de Colyar Esq., K.C.; Master 1916.

(b) Gold and Enamel.

Plaisterers or Pargettors.
Obverse.—Arms of the Company. Let brotherly love continue.
The Worshipful Company of Plaisterers.

Shipwrights.
Obverse.—Arms of the Company (an Ark sailing). within the ark safe for ever.
Reverse.—James Saunders, Esq., J.P.; Master 1885-6.

Gold and Silver Wyredrawers.
The Arms of the Company with supporters and Motto.
The name and date having been removed, this badge has little interest.

(c) Silver Gilt.

Fruiterers.—Oval gilt badge. Hall mark 1878-9.
Obverse.—Arms of the Company (Adam and Eve under the apple-tree).
Reverse.—No name.

Gardeners.—Circular badge (Pl. II, 8).
Obverse.—Arms of the Company.
Reverse.—William Thomas Crosweller, Master 1906-7.

Innholders.—Circular badge (Pl. II, 9).
Obverse.—Arms of the Company.
Reverse.—T. A. Woodbridge, Livery 1883, Court 1892, Master 1900-1.

Tallow-Chandlers.—A large circular badge and bar (Pl. III, 1).
Obverse.—Arms of the Company.
Reverse.—William Wright, Esq., Master 1873.

Warden's Badge.

Clothworkers.—Large circular silver badge and bar (Pl. III, 2).
City Livery Badges

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.

Reverse.—Thomas Leachman, Warden 1845.

Wardens' badges were issued from 1841 to 1846 inclusive, then withdrawn. This, as far as I know, is the only Company that has issued Wardens' badges.

ASSISTANTS' BADGES.

Cutlers.—Oval gold badge (Pl. III, 6).

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.

Reverse.—William Hallet Hughes, Livery 7 Oct., 1813, Assistant 21 Aug., 1845, Master 7th July, 1849.

Gardeners.—Oval silver gilt badge and ribbon.

Obverse.—Arms of the Company (man digging).


Carpenters.—Circular silver gilt badge with ribbon.

Obverse.—Arms of the Company (arms as on Pl. I, 5).

Reverse.—Howard John Kennard 3 Feb., 1852, Master 1886.

This was formerly the badge of the Court of Assistants.

Bakers.—Oval silver badge. Hall mark 1892 (Pl. III, 7).

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.

Reverse.—Paul Aspinall, Livery 1873, elected on Court 1899.

Turners.—Large oval silver gilt badge.

Obverse.—Arms of the Company (arms as on Pl. III, 5).

Reverse.—William James Richmond Cotton, Alderman and M.P. Admitted to the Freedom and Livery of the Turners Company of London 9th July, 1873, elected on the Court April 2nd, 1874.

VARIOUS MEDALS.

Many Companies issue no Court, or Livery, Badge. For a specimen bearing their Arms recourse must be had to Exhibition, or to Prize medals.

Weavers.—Oval silver badge with ribbon (Pl. III, 3).

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.
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Reverse.—Awarded to Philip Godin for excellence in Weaving.

Painters and Stainers.—Circular silver medal (Pl. III, 8).

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.

Reverse.—To J. Wimbush for natural foliage 1873.

Poulters.—Circular silver medal.

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.

Reverse.—Prize given by the Worshipful Company of Poulters, London. Won by Lady A. de Rothschild.

Turners.—Circular silver medal with ring (Pl. III, 5).

Obverse.—Arms of the Company.

Reverse.—Presented by the Turners Company of London to George W. H. Schacht of the City of London School, as the prize for Drawing.

Fellowship Porters.—Leather strap with brass point.

Obverse.—(1) Arms of the City of London.

Henry George Lloyd, Fellowship Porter 3rd June, 1802. W.N. 1814.

(2) A shield-shaped lead badge.

Obverse.—Arms of the City of London. Feb., 1831, Apr., 1832; Apr., 1836; Apr., 1838.

Reverse.—Thomas Burton a Freeman St. Lawrances Bench 1831.

Joiners.—Circular silver medal (Pl. III, 4).

Obverse.—A figure of Christ as first Joiner.

Worshipful Company of Joiners London.


Edge.—William Thomas Bedford Esq., W.M. 1850.

Free Watermen.—A large circular badge in Iron for wearing on the arm. This specimen is silver plated. Free Waterman at command of our superiors. Number 6568. Arms of the City of London above; below, Arms of the Free Watermen.

Carpenters and Joiners.—Large silver medal and loop.

Obverse.—United Arms of the Carpenters and Joiners.

JOIN TRUTH WITH TRUST.
Reverse.—As a reward to Mr. M. King late Secretary for his Distinguished Merit in serving the 2nd Society of Carpenters and Joiners. Merit, Genius and Worth combined. Presented January 31st, 1826.

TINPLATE WORKERS.

The concluding item consists of a small oval copper plate, engraved.

Obverse.—Arms of the Tinplate Workers.

Reverse.—Thom's Cooke, Bound May 14th in the year 1747. This I take to be a type of Apprentice badge. The Company has no particulars of this badge.