

Preserve Harmony



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NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MUSICIANS

EDITORIAL

Education...

WHEN THIS journal was launched a year ago, our opening editorial theme dwelt on the need for "a little more knowledge." The Master Elect has made this one of his priorities for the year.

In addition, Livery Members may be interested to know that the Livery Committee of the City of London has decided that a need exists to ensure that all Liverymen should be better informed about their Company, their rights and responsibilities and the part they can play in the traditions and life of the City.

One may wonder how many of our members have sufficient knowledge of our history, organisation, duties and responsibilities before becoming a Liveryman - let alone becoming a member of the Court of Assistants!

Amongst some suggested questions to applicants for the Livery was "How can you serve your Company?" It is worth noting that in this respect alone only fifteen members felt able to respond to the present Master's letter.

This is a matter that should concern us all to which we hope that the Court may be able to give it some additional thought and direction in due course.

...and Enlightenment

In our first edition we stated that one of the main objectives was to improve communication within the Company and to include features which reflect our associations in the broader world of Music.

We have been encouraged by the support of contributors from the Livery. We also welcome - as we hope you do - news of other less publicised Musical activities which benefit sections of the Community whose needs are often overlooked.

CLERK'S OFFICE

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Please note: Liverymen wishing to raise a matter for consideration at a Court Meeting are asked to write to the Clerk not less than three weeks beforehand.

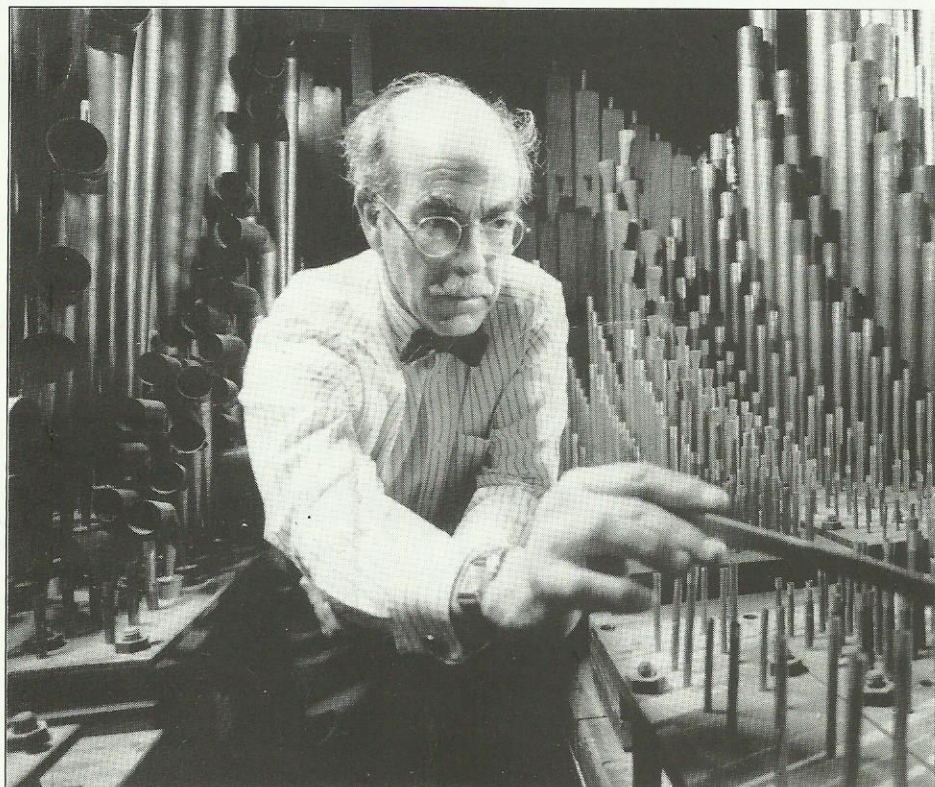


Photo: Dragon News Picture Agency, Swansea

The Master Elect

HENRY WILLIS 4 comes to office sixty years after his father, Henry Willis 3, joined the Company and thirty years after he became Master. However, his father's election in 1931 was four years too late for Henry Willis 4 to join by Patrimony. His livery medal is engraved 12 April 1949, shortly after he returned from the Far East as a young subaltern.

He has the distinction of being christened, married and of celebrating his ruby wedding in St Paul's Cathedral. His wife, Barbara, is also involved in the business which was originally established in 1845. One son, John Sinclair Willis, is an organbuilder and became a Liveryman in 1981. His daughter, Rosemary Ann Willis, is a practising musician and teacher. She was elected to the Livery this year.

Each master has his theme. He has chosen "Information and Participation" to which this Newsletter is also committed. Already the Organists in the Company have been informed of his intention to install a small organ for the Livery Dinner on 13 November 1991. Several have agreed to Participate by playing short pieces which we are assured "the suspicious will not find stuffy."

The Ladies Night next Midsummer will also be one of Participation by all diners who are willing to join in soirée songs of yesteryear.

With an enquiring mind and plenty of energy, his year of office promises to be one of ingenuity and interest.