

My Lord Mayor

It gives me the greatest possible pleasure to lay before you as Worshipful Master of the Musicians Company the first completed copy of the Illustrated Catalogue of the Exhibition organised and held by the Company in 1904

The time occupied in producing this Catalogue must appear to you all extraordinarily long. I can only excuse this by saying that the production of the work at all has been most extraordinarily difficult

The Worshipful Master could tell you that the mere material result which you see on the table represents a very large amount of labour trouble and expense

But this material part is not equal to one tenth of the expenditure of time and thought in preparing and putting together the contents of the volume

The difficulties in obtaining accuracy in a catalogue of this kind can only be appreciated by those who have had experience of similar work

How far we have succeeded in securing any thing like accuracy we shall probably very soon learn from our kind friends the critics both public and private

We have to acknowledge with many thanks very valuable help from Members of the Livery, from Members of this Court and more than all from my friend Mr Arthur Hill. The volume must now speak for itself and should it be the means of adding a fraction to the honour and glory of the Worshipful Company of Musicians those concerned in its production will feel themselves amply repaid

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