

*Preface to first Edition*

important to its welfare than the favour of the Stuart Kings. The validity of the Charter had, moreover, been publicly challenged by an eminent authority on Music and Musicians, as well as by the writer of an earlier article in a Musical periodical, and it was (in my opinion) essential to collect and collate the facts about it as a matter of historical accuracy. These facts I have now set down exactly as I have found them. I trust that it will not be thought that in so doing I have in any way detracted from the Company's dignity.

The collation of Mr. Hill's papers and the few researches which, with the limited time at my disposal, I have been able to make myself, have been of absorbing interest. Throughout I have had to resist the temptation to branch off into the history of the Minstrels on the one hand and of the City Guilds on the other. Neither avenue could be traversed within the compass of this Book. I hope that, if a second edition is ever required; I, or some successor of mine, may be able to include some notes upon these fascinating subjects.

I should like to acknowledge the courteous and eager assistance which I have received at the British Museum, the Public Record Office, the Guildhall Library and the Guildhall Records Office.

Most of all I am indebted to the work of the late Mr. Arthur Hill. I knew during his lifetime that he was devoting a great deal of time and a considerable amount of money to having searches made in all the possible sources of information about the Company. But it was not until the treasury of his papers became accessible to me that I realised how thorough those searches had been. I am more than grateful to Mrs. Hill and her daughters for placing these papers in my hands after his death. These records are now the property of the Company.

Among all the many debts which the Company owes to its late Pastmaster and Treasurer this seems to me to be one of the most considerable.

It would be a privilege, if I might dedicate these pages to his Memory.

I NEW COURT,  
LINCOLNS INN, W.C.2

H. A. F. CREWDSON

November 1949

*Preface to Second Edition*

OVER twenty years have elapsed since the Short History was written. Now, in consequence of the original distribution of the book and the Company's custom that a copy of it is handed to each new member on admission to the Freedom, an insufficient number of copies remains in stock and I have willingly assented to the suggestion made by the Court that I should prepare a new Edition. I have not attempted to go beyond adding an introductory essay on the early days of the Guild and bringing the actual history of the Company down to date. I have, however, re-written the section upon the Company's activities and made certain necessary adjustments to the Appendices.

An important new item is, of course, the copy of the Company's Charter of December, 1950.

The history of the Company prior to modern times remains untouched, except in respect of a few small revisions. No new source material has come to light and I think it highly improbable that anything of importance remains to be discovered, unless it be one of the lost Minute Books of the XVIIIth Century or the Wardens accounts of that period, which might be reposing unrecognised in some corner of an attic. Fortunately, the main lines of the Company's history are known, thanks principally to the industry of the late Pastmaster A. F. Hill and though the beginnings are obscure, the subsequent development of the Guild has been substantially traced.

I am pleased to acknowledge with sincere thanks the advice afforded to me upon the introductory essay by Professor Thurston Dart, King Edward Professor of Music in the University of London, whom we number amongst the Livery of the Company, and Pastmaster W. Graham Wallace who