

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING or A TREATY'S IN STORE

by Liveryman Paul Campion

ONE PARTICULARLY EXCITING ASPECT of the harmonious Maastricht agreement and the recent successful inauguration of the Single European Market is the way in which the good things of life – the culturally good things of life, that is – will be available to so many more hundreds of millions of us at the flick of a switch.

No-one can be in any doubt that for the last thousand years or so Britain has benefited immeasurably from the single – direction Flow of Culture that has wafted over us from Europe. Somehow, we have always been more fond of Brahms, say, than the French have been of Orlando Gibbons, A.E. Housman and George and Gilbert (or is it Gilbert and George?) put together. No, of course Brahms wasn't French, but that's not quite the point.

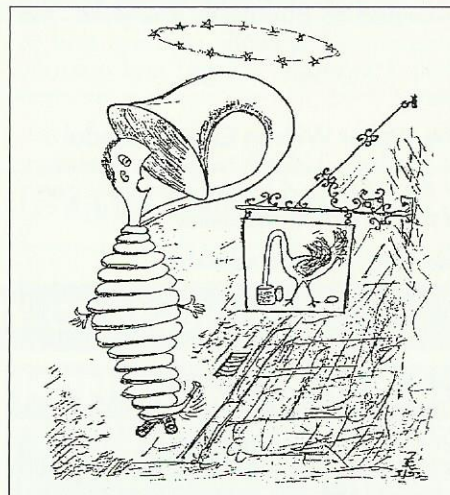
From now on all of this will cease and each of the twelve countries in the Common Market will gladly share and share alike its cultural heritage. We shall all be encouraged (and, depending on European Parliamentary legislation still to be ratified, probably forced) to enjoy the fruits of at least ten centuries of other peoples' Arts Council grants. The possibilities are endless, although the prospect of real pleasure at this amazing opportunity seems rather remote. But as this is one of the penalties...er, benefits of being a willing member of the European

Community, we shall all, from Denmark in the north to Greece in the south stiffen our upper lips and put our best feet forward (but not both of them together) and determinedly enjoy.

Surely these two wonderful British qualities – stiff lips and best feet – will be foremost among our cultural exports. Maybe The Arts Council hasn't yet sponsored them, but no matter, it can't be long before it does. After all, it's only a few years since some very lovely bricks were on show at the Tate Gallery which The Arts Council could probably see were oozing with culture, and a selection of lorry tyres at the South Bank Centre likewise. It's not so far from bricks to lips or from tyres to feet.

What, though, will we in Britain be able to enjoy that we have not yet experienced? Current affairs programmes broadcast in Portuguese? *The 64 Million Peseta Question* from Madrid? A new television comedy serial from Berlin entitled *See yer soon, Liebchen?* Or a sports programme beamed directly from Rome on the history and rewards of being able to run backwards?

Perhaps France will offer a theatrical tribute to the late Sir Terence Rattigan and call it *English without Smirking*, although, as we all know, **NO SMIRKING** is the rule on nearly all public transport these days, so the title will have lost much of its impact before we see it in Britain. The Irish may offer



'The Maastricht Instrument?'

a lecture tour by a prominent academic, with a choice of subjects depending on the weather. As it's very often raining in Ireland, the most popular of these lectures may be either *Logic as I Understand It* or *What Ireland has done for the Non Sequitur*. As for The Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium, well... they may export an attractive singing trio – probably identical triplets, all with cute 50s blonde hairdos, *The Benelux Sisters*.

Vocal Refrain from next year's Eurovision Song Contest.

"Maastricht, Maastricht, together we'll commit ourselves to Maastricht..."

THE LIVERY CLUB

FOLLOWING THE COURT ACCEPTANCE of the proposal adopted unanimously at the AGM in September 1992 that all new Liverymen should automatically become Club Members with a life subscription added to their entry fees, I circulated the Club Membership and Non Club Liverymen with this decision and the methods of paying subscriptions with the principal objective of gaining non club members' support and harmonising the position within the Livery.

The response was a most heartwarming one principally from Club members some 19 of whom sent Life Membership cheques many of whom because of age were probably making a donation to the Club. A further 7 Club Members changed to Bankers Orders so greatly helping the Club Treasurer. Many of these responding Club Members sent kind and cordial messages in support of the Club.

Two non Club Liverymen responded with Life Membership cheques and

completed Directory Questionnaires and a further 5 non club Liveryman responded either with Bankers Orders or a first annual subscription.

According to the 1993 Livery List there are 307 Liverymen of whom, correcting for the responses reported above, 178 are Club members. At least some 50 non Club members by reason of their age, roughly deduced from their Livery numbers, and their residence in or near London could be expected to support the Club with its fraternal objectives in keeping with their belonging to a Livery. Would such Liverymen consider supporting the Club? Club members who still pay annual subscriptions at the call of the Treasurer are earnestly asked to consider Bankers Orders.

The Club Membership Directory complements, with additional information volunteered by members, the Livery List. The range of interests of members is most inspiring and can be a valuable source of reference for help to other members.

Regrettably the Directory has come to a halt with regard to amendments and additions from the completed Questionnaire of new members because the Assistant Secretary Ken Golightly, who assumed responsibility for the Directory, advises that the cost of the work involved has become impossible for him to support and too expensive he believes for the Club to bear. The Club Committee will have to consider this latter observation because the value of the Directory would seem to justify Club support.

The work involved would seem to be very simple if office facilities for it are available, namely the printing by duplication on loose leaf pages of the information from members' completed Directory Questionnaires and the gathering together in an inexpensive loose leaf binder for the necessary number of Directories.

Are there any members with such facilities able and willing to help the Club?

A.S.D. Barrett Honorary Secretary