

Role of the Company Today:

Given the decline in manufacturing of playing cards, the principal activities of the Company now are Charitable, Social and Civic. It does, however, support the original craft through the production of the Master's annual commemorative pack, craft lectures and contacts with playing card manufacturers, societies and museums both in the UK and abroad. The Company maintains and expands its world famous collection of playing cards kept by the City of London at the London Metropolitan Archives.

Civic Tradition:

The Company maintains the historic right, and duty, of Liverymen to attend Common Hall at Guildhall to vote in elections for the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs. It also observes the ordinances for the appointment of the Master, Wardens and Court Assistants and holds an Installation ceremony and Thanksgiving Service for the new Master. The Company maintains affiliation links with the Royal Navy and an Army Cadet Force Company.

Modern Trade Affiliations:

The Company is actively pursuing affiliations with modern successors to our ancient trade, notably the computer games industry but also the broader entertainment business. We are also embracing technology by digitising our unique collection of beautiful and historic playing cards and ultimately making it available to explore online in a compelling, permanent virtual exhibition which can be searched by historians, students and collectors. We are actively seeking new Members who have skills in these areas to help in bringing this multi-year initiative to fruition.



Charitable: The Company's charitable arm, The Cutler Trust was formed in 1943 and has grown significantly by donations from Liverymen. It meets the educational and charitable aims of the Livery by giving bursaries and grants to schools and colleges, and providing financial assistance to deserving students for their education, by making grants to children's charities and to other charities that overcome need, hardship and distress.

Social: The main social activities of the Company are the formal quarterly dinners, held at the fine and splendid Livery Halls in the City of London, and a supper following the installation of the Master and Wardens on St. Andrew's Day. The annual Banquet is held at Mansion House in the presence of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs. Other events include a Summer Outing, the Craft event, Company Golf and various inter-Livery sports events. Every March the Company organizes and sponsors an Inter-Livery Bridge Competition in a Livery Hall under the auspices of the English Bridge Union.



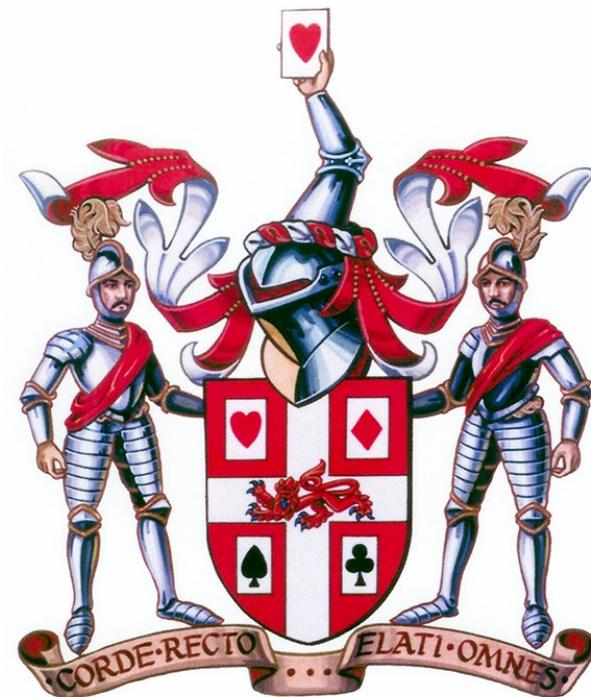
CONTACT

Further information about the Company is available from our website (front cover) or by contacting The Clerk:

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The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards

A Livery Company of the City of London

One of the early trade Guilds of the City of London. The Company was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1628 by Charles I to regulate the playing cards trade, exclude foreign imports and collect duty on sealed packs on behalf of the Crown. This practice did not cease until 1960

www.makersofplayingcards.co.uk

Membership:

Gaining membership of any Livery Company is not easy and is regarded as a privilege and a recognition of achievement in and of itself. Once gained however, membership offers a unique blend of professional and social contact and interaction, with the opportunity to take part in the pageantry and ancient customs of the City of London.

Eligibility:

Whilst not a requirement for membership, the Company does encourage applicants who are playing card makers, game makers, playing card collectors, dealers, bridge players, persons engaged in the gaming industry and indeed other branches of the entertainment industry deemed appropriate. Members also come from other professions and walks of life. Ladies are welcome to apply and overseas applicants are also eligible.

Becoming a Freeman:

All prospective Freeman are required to be proposed by a Liveryman of the company and to complete an application form. Another Liveryman must also second the application, frequently the proposer will arrange this once the applicant has attended at least two events as a guest. Once interviewed and recommended the Court must give approval. Freeman may attend most of the company's events except the Livery dinners. Freeman must apply for the Freedom of the City of London. Once approved this private ceremony is conducted at the Guildhall to which relations and friends may be invited. Obtaining the City Freedom is a necessary step in applying to be clothed in the Livery.



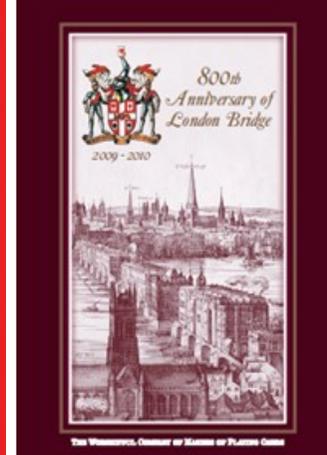
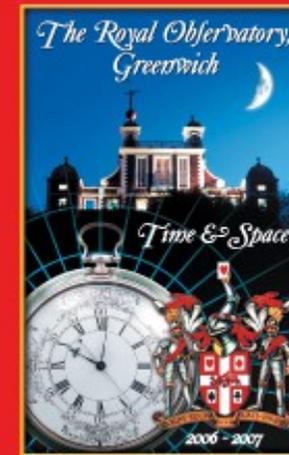
Becoming a Liveryman:

Because the Company is limited by the Court of Aldermen to 150 liverymen, progression to the livery is subject to selection and vacancies. Freeman must first gain the recommendation of the Membership Committee, showing that they have played an active part in the company. Selected Freeman are asked to attend a further Court ceremonial to be 'clothed in the livery'. Once clothed Liverymen are entitled to a full role in the activities of the company, and after a period, to vote in Civic elections for the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs.



Role of the Livery Companies in the City:

The Livery Companies developed out of the medieval Guilds in the City of London. These guilds originally evolved from a local base, as craftsmen from specific trades congregated in parishes. From their congregations voluntary associations were formed for mutual aid and protection for their members. Gradually taken over by trade considerations, the Guilds main role became regulation of their trades or crafts within the City. They exercised control over standards and training of Apprentices.



The Makers of Playing Cards Company:

The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards was founded by a Royal Charter granted by King Charles I on 22 October 1628. Some 164 years later in 1792 the Court of Aldermen granted the Company its Livery. Accordingly, though 75th in precedence, it is one of the older of the City Livery Companies. The Livery continues to grow in number and over 100 Livery Companies are now in existence.

Since 1882 the Company has produced and presented to each Liveryman of the Company, at the installation Banquet of the Master and Wardens of that year, a specially designed and printed Pack of Cards created by the new Master. This practice has continued annually since that time, and some recent designs are shown inside this brochure. This tradition ensures that each Master of the Company is truly a 'Maker of Playing Cards'. The origin of the Company coat of arms is unknown, however Grant of Arms was presented in 1982