
The Fencers, Dancers, and Bearbaiters Quarterly

The Newsletter of the Traynd Bandes in North America

Vol. XI, No. 1

“Ever But In Times Of Need At Hand”

January 2003

Greetings from the Trayn'd Bandes of London, a federation of living history groups for the period 1585-1645, distinguished by their pursuit of both civilian and military activities, cultivation of first-person interpretation, and fanatical devotion to historically accurate mayhem.

The constituent groups are Gardener's Companie (centered in Virginia-Maryland), the Tabard Inn Society (centered in Ontario), and the Westminster Trayn'd Bandes) centered in Texas.

The FDBQ at present time is published bi-annually by Gardiner's Companie.

CALENDAR

March

15-16 March 2003 – Military Through the Ages, Jamestown, VA. We need folks to support this effort. We've been helping out with MTA for a few years, but several of the group is going to England on this particular weekend. Any help would be appreciated.

15-29 March 2003 – England Trip

April

25-27 April 2003 – Mousehole, at the Farm in Arvon. Contact Laura Mellin, elsworth@erols.com (301) 617-0843 and Vic Dye purrball8@ntelos.net, (434) 977-5966.

May

10 May 2003 – Landing Day at Jamestown. I would really like to support this, particularly if no one makes it to MTA. Contact Greg Glewwe, glewweg@adelphia.net, (301) 698-1269.

July

4 July 2003 – Armada ??? The fourth is on a Friday this year. Any plans?

August

2-17 August 2003 – Pennsic. Contact Sandy Toscano, (410) 515-9230, jimandsandytoscano@comcast.net

October

18-20(?) October 2003 Fall skirmishing.

January 2004

Yule - Anyone interested in hosting? Need to find a site. Dates will probably be the 17th of January.

Life in the London Livery Companies

By Tom Rettie

If you were a craftsman in Elizabethan London, you were probably a member of one of the livery companies. A livery company was in many ways comparable to a modern labor union, with elements of a religious order, the Federal Trade Commission, an employment office, a political action committee, and a social club. For tradesmen, membership in the right company was key to professional, political, and social advancement.

Descended from the medieval guild system, the livery companies controlled most of the crafts and trades practiced by the working classes, and had a major hand in the governance and politics of London and the surrounding area. The first 12 were (and still are) known as the "Great Livery Companies." They are, in order of precedence:

- Mercers
- Grocers
- Drapers
- Fishmongers
- Goldsmiths
- Merchant Taylors (or Skinners)
- Skinners (or Merchant Taylors)
- Haberdashers
- Salters
- Ironmongers
- Vintners
- Clothworkers

(The Merchant Tailors and Skinners had an ongoing dispute over precedence, and eventually agreed to alternate each year, which they do to this day.)

Dozens of other professions had companies, including armorers, pewterers, turners, bottlemakers, horners, weavers, and minstrels. Profitable or new professions would be incorporated into existing companies until they developed the clout to incorporate on their own. For example, the Society of Apothecaries was established by Royal Charter in 1617; before that, they were part of the Grocers' Company. Many English guilds had lost their charters under Henry VIII and Edward VI, but reincorporated under Elizabeth I and James I.

If you were a child in an Elizabethan working class family, you would be expected to be doing something productive by age 14 (any boy aged 12 or older could be compelled to work). Chances were good you would go into some form of service. Service was common; between the ages of 20 and 24, 80 percent of men and 50 percent of women were servants of some variety. Even among the wealthy, service to a great lord or powerful family could help later in life. For the working classes, a good apprenticeship was probably your best opportunity to rise economically and socially.

An apprenticeship is a contract: labor and a fee in exchange for education, food, and board. The term used at the time was *indenture*. In a typical apprentice's indenture, the apprentice's family would pay a fee, and in exchange the master would feed, clothe, house, and educate the boy (or sometimes girl) in the "misterie" of the craft. You might live above the shop or workshop, though living at home might cut the price of your apprenticeship.

In 1563 the Great Statute of Artificers proclaimed that apprenticeships would last 7 years, and would be completed by age 24. Not all apprentices completed their apprenticeship: some died; some left their masters early; some ran away. Apprentices occasionally were released from a master because of ill-treatment. Some were *turned over* to a new master if the master retired or died, or the apprentice wished to join a company other than the master's.

After completing his indenture, the apprentice was examined, and if successful, admitted to the *freedom of the company*. Being free of a company allowed you to work as a journeyman. The distinction at this time between a master and a journeyman was more economic than a measure of skill. To move up from journeyman to master of a shop was an expensive proposition: over half of a master craftsman's assets might be tied up in tools and materials. Masters had to be free, so had to be at least 21 years old. In practice they were only allowed to take apprentices after a period of freedom, so they would tend to be older, and were restricted in the number of apprentices they could take.

Company charters and government acts regulated the tools, materials, and techniques that members of a company could use. Each company appointed "viewers and searchers" who would visit the shops of members to inspect their raw materials, finished articles, and methods of production. If these did not meet the required standards, the tradesman could be reported to the court and his goods confiscated. He might get a fine, but habitual offenders might be expelled from the company.

Particularly in London, trades jealously protected their privileges. For example, turners were often at odds with other trades; squabbling with joiners who employed turners and "assume unto themselves the art of turning." A joiner might be fined 10s. per week for employing a turner in his own shop rather than contracting out the work. This wasn't necessarily the case outside London; in Chester, for example, the joiners, carvers, and turners were in a common company. Outside London (in Southwark, for example), men might practice two or more trades, such as:

Valentine Danyell, hosier and brewer

John Casy, hosier and woollen draper

Thomas Myddelton, woollen draper, merchant tailor, and owner of the White Lion Inn.

If you were not a native Englishman, you could not simply wander into town looking for work. The *Doche* (Dutch, Flemish, or German craftsmen) were of great concern to the livery companies, who made sure they were closely regulated. For example, Flemish

glaziers set up in Southwark to avoid the London Glazier's Company, and were so successful that they ended up monopolizing glazing contracts, causing bitter disputes. In retaliation, onerous laws were established to control them (though Southwark continued to have a thriving population of foreign-born tradesmen despite the laws):

- By law, foreign-born tradesmen could not take any but English-born apprentices, or keep more than two alien journeymen.
- They had to swear an oath of allegiance to the crown in the guild hall in the presence of the master and wardens.
- They were forbidden to assemble except in the common hall of their company.
- They had to obtain a "patent of denization." (something like a green card).
- They were forced to join London livery companies even if they lived outside the city.

The Elizabethan period was one of high inflation: prices in this period rose 100 to 150 percent, which was good for land owners but bad for wage earners. Wages and prices were highly regulated (though not always enforced). *The Statute Regulating London Wages* (Westminster, 1 July 1588, 30 Elizabeth I. Reissued 1589 and 1590) dictated the following wages (with meat and drink):

To the best and most skilled workmen Journeymen and hired servants of any the companyes hereunder names:

<i>Brewers</i>	<i>10 pounds</i>
<i>Goldsmiths</i>	<i>8 pounds</i>
<i>Dyers</i>	<i>6 pounds, 8 shillings, 4 pence</i>
<i>Blacksmiths, Cooks</i>	<i>6 pounds</i>
<i>Clothworkers, Fullers, Shearmen, Joiners</i>	<i>5 pounds</i>
<i>Tailors, Drapers, Shoemakers, Skinners</i>	<i>4 pounds</i>

With wages restricted and prices rising, you might ask, "How do I get ahead?" Despite the many restrictions, or perhaps because of them, many tradesmen emerged as what we would characterize as entrepreneurs.

One example is Philip Henslowe, famous as owner of one of London's early playhouses, the Rose. Henslowe was a dyer by trade, eventually marrying his master's widow. As a dyer, Henslowe could by law expect to make 6 pounds, 8 shillings and 4 pence per year (including meat and drink). But Henslowe also had quite a number of money-making schemes, such as trading in starch and goat skins, running a pawn brokerage for his neighbors, and renting out nearly 30 properties, including taverns, tenements, an ordinary (public eating house) and a brothel. Henslowe achieved some minor royal appointments, such as Groom of the Chamber to Queen Elizabeth and Gentleman Sewer to James I (an office he attempted to sell for 200 pounds). Seeing the success of Burbage in building The Theatre, in 1587 Henslowe built The Rose in Southwark (outside the jurisdiction of the Mayor of London, but not the Privy Council). His ownership of The Rose was very profitable. From an investment of 500 pounds and an additional 100 pounds every 5 years or so, Henslowe would make 250 pounds in a moderately successful year, 400 pounds in a really good one (over 60 times his income as a dyer). Other notable persons of the time had common roots: James Burbage was a joiner and John Hemminges was a grocer. One

did not easily assume or switch professions that were regulated, but one might pick up unregulated professions and enterprises.

Aside from professional success, membership in a livery company also opened the door to political power. London's local government was organized in the Corporation of the City of London, comprising the Lord Mayor of London and the Court of Aldermen. Twenty-six Aldermen were elected from the livery companies (nearly always from the Twelve Great Companies), and the Lord Mayor was elected from among them. The Corporation of London was under nominal jurisdiction of the Privy Council, but the Corporation enjoyed liberties that even the Privy Council could not revoke.

Sources

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Statute Regulating London Wages
 Westminster, 1 July 1588, 30 Elizabeth I. Reissued 1589 & 1590
By Tom Rettie

To the best and most skilled workmen Journeymen and hired servants of any the companies herevnder named:

Clothworkers by the yeare with meate and drinke	v li
ffullers by the yeare with meate and drinke	v li
Sheremen by the yeare with meate and drinke	v li
Diers by the yeare with meate and drinke	j li xiiij s iiij d
Taylours hosiers by the yeare with meate and drinke	iiij li
Drapers being hosiers by the yeare with meate and drinke	iiij li
Shoemakers by the yeare with meate and drinke	iiij li
Pewterers by the yeare with meate and drinke	iin li vj s viij d
Whitebakers by the yeare with meate and drinke	iiij li xiiij s iiij d
Brewers by the yeare with meate and drinke	x li
Blacksmithes by the yeare with meate and drinke	vj li
ffletchers by the yeare with meate and drinke	iiij li
Glouers by the yeare with meate and drinke	ij li vj s viij d
Cookes by the yeare with meate and drinke	vi li

To the workmen Journeymen and hired servantes of any the companies herevnder named:

Gouldsmythes by the yeare with meate and drinke viiiij li
 by the weeke iij s iiij d by the day vij d without meate and drinke by the weeke vjs
 by the day xij d

Skinneres by the yeare with meate and drinke iiij li by the weeke iij s iiij d by the
 day viij d without meate and drinke by the weeke vs by the day xiiij d

Plumbers by the yeare with meate and drinke iij li vj s viij d by the weeke iij s iiij d
 by the day viij d without meate and drinke by the weeke vjs by the day x d

Joyners by the yeare with meate and drinke v li by the weeke iiij s vi d by the
 day ix d without meate and drinke by the weeke vii s by the day xiiij d

His servant by the yeare with meate and drinke iiij li by the weeke ij s by the
 day iiij d without meate and drinke by the weeke iiij s by the day xd

Carmen by the weeke with meate and drinke iis vj d
 Watermen by the yeare with meate and drinke xls by the weeke xij d by the day
 iiij d without meate and drinke by the weeke iij s by the day vij d

Common laborers with meate and drinke by the day v d without meate and drinke by the day ix d

"The names of the craftes with in london" ca. 1600

(Folger MS. Z. e. 28, Part I, fol. 85)

compiled by Tom Rettie

From a survey of London, included with other legal documents and poems dating from the reign of Henry VIII to 1604.

The names of the craftes with in London

- 1 Mercers
- 2 Grocers
- 3 Drapers
- 4 ffishmongers
- 5 Goldsmithes.
- 6 Skyners
- 7 Merchautaylours
- 8haberdashers.
- 9 Salters.
- 10 Iremongers.
- 11 Vynteners
- 2 Clothworkers

diers

Brewers

Leathersellers

pewterers

barbersurgeons

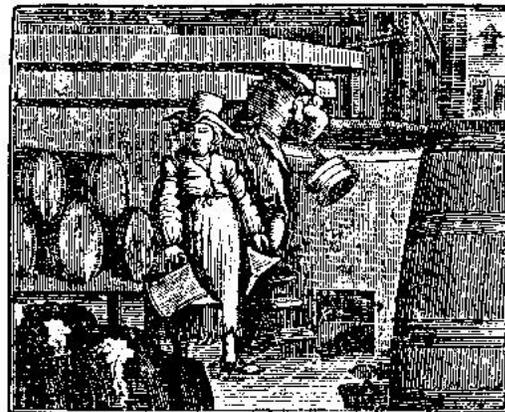
Cutlers

whitebakers

brownbakers

waxchaundelours

talllowchaunderlours



5 Brewer

Who do you consult when you get sick?

By Victoria Dye

Tudor England, what a fine time period, excellent clothes, interesting food, great politics and deadly disease. It is not a good time period to get sick. 'To cure the plague, hold a live chicken against the plague sores until the bird dies'. No one knew what a microbe was and the sanitation, well there wasn't much in the line of sanitation at all. The Romans did far better than medieval Europe. So you end up with a short life span and lots of sickness, death and despair.

So what to do when you finally did get sick? Well if you were wealthy you could pay a lot of money and have a Physician from the Royal College of Physicians (founded in 1518 to supervise and license practicing physicians in the City of London and within a 7 mile radius) come and tend to you. These fellows studied all the Greek practices. Very up to date they were. And by 1589 there were a whole 38 members to help a population well over 120,000. Barber-surgeons were another option and were a little more abundant. Seventy-two surgeons were licensed to practice in London in 1514. King Henry VIII allowed them to dissect 4 criminals a year for study! Queen Elizabeth was much more open-minded and allowed them to practice regular dissections. So you could have your hair and your leg cut off in one visit. Did I mention they did dentistry as well?

Due to the high costs of hiring a learned doctor, the general population usually looked to the local apothecary and lay people. The apothecaries were often grocers that sold medicines. Their licensing most likely came under the Company of Grocers. Since physicians and surgeons were far too expensive, the apothecary began to diagnose problems and prescribe medicines, as well as dispensing them. They would only charge for the medication, much cheaper that way. It wasn't until 1704 that the physicians won a long legal battle preventing them from diagnosing disease and limiting them to selling medications properly prescribed by the licensed physician.

Even though the apothecaries were more reasonably priced, many sought out the local village wizard or wise man (the term is the same as in the three 'Wise men', or Magi, from the East). Other popular names in the 16th & 17th centuries are 'cunning men', 'wise women', 'charmners', 'blessers', 'conjurers', 'sorcerers', and 'witches'. They offered a variety of services, which ranged from healing the sick and finding lost goods to fortune-telling and divination of all kinds.

Closer to home, every good housewife had her repertoire of remedies. And midwives were in abundance as well. Regardless of licensing, they had very rudimentary skills. The forceps weren't invented until the early 17th century (The inventor Peter Chamberlen kept it secret for years.) and usual obstetric tools were cruel and inefficient. One midwife in 1687 estimated that 2/3's of abortions, stillbirths and deaths in childbed were due to the lack of skill of the midwife.

Regardless of licensing, the medical knowledge of the day was slim in facts and large in superstition. Medical remedies consisted of a variety of herbs, critters, and lots of praying. Even though the current monarchy is Protestant, many still use Latin prayers and sayings from Catholicism. Some remedies had a basis in fact, found by accident more often than not, which did help the problem. Some turned out to be worse than the disease, but most were simple placebo's that offered some comfort in hope. Many times a person will overcome a disease despite all that you do. Thus some preparations

appeared to work! Regardless, the people took what they could afford and hoped for the best.

Below I've offered a few helpful remedies from Mistress Pickering, based on the most up to date information of the day! Good Luck!

To cure whooping cough, find a ferret, give it milk to drink and then feed what is left to the sick child.

To cure warts, lay half a mouse on the wart for half an hour and then bury it in the ground. As the mouse rots the wart will disappear.

For headache and madness open veins in the back of the neck.

For ailment of the mouth or toothache open two veins below the tongue.

To cure gout, boil a red-haired dog alive in oil until it falls apart. Then add worms, hog's marrow and herbs. Apply the mixture to the affected parts.

For the pain in the ears, take three live spiders, boil them with oil upon the fire, then distil or drop a little of this oil into the pained ear.

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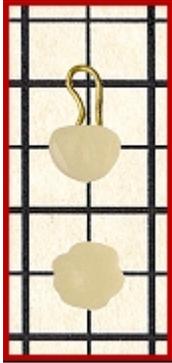


Glass Buttons

By Cathy Snell

I once heard that glass buttons are period, but it has taken me several years to find any documentation to back this up.

On the Military Artifacts of Spanish Florida, 1650-1821 web page (www.artifacts.org), several finds from Spanish expeditions to Florida are pictured and described. Many cast buttons and buckles from as early as 1565 are pictured in scale. Among these is one glass button recovered from St. Augustine, c. 1565-1585. The glass button is described as follows: "Diminutive and delicately fashioned, this button consists of a cast glass body with an embedded brass wire shank. The glass is semispherical in shape with rounded shoulders and seven indented flutes or grooves cast into its lateral edges." Buttons of this sort were likely made by melting ground glass in a mold of graphite or fired ceramic with the wire shank inserted at the back.



While not made by the same method as the button described above, I have experimented with making glass buttons with a basic lampworking kit by wrapping the glass around a pre-formed shank. It is surprisingly easy and fun.

Grid is ¼"



7 Shirt Buttons

Street Crier/Plate 178 1800 Woodcuts by Thomas Bewick and his School, Dover Publications, New York, NY 1962

Yule 2003

It was a lovely January day on the eighteenth day of January when the Companie turned out to celebrate the Yule season. With regrets the good Captain Gardiner was not in attendance. There were a good many others to celebrate the day. Mistress Beddingfield played upon the harp and Master Sharpe delivered the grace. Those who could not attend missed a fine beef, savory ham and flavorful fish. There was a spinach tart and apples and onions and food enough for all. Tasty gingerbread topped off the meal. Decorating the table was a splendid boars head that oversaw the spontaneous frolicking and gaming after a most delicious feast. Thoughts of those who were with us in spirit were acknowledged and a grand toast was made to Her Majesty. Many gentles presented Yule gifts during the evening. Before the night ended a few of the Companies favorite songs were sung. The use of the Hayes House again this year was greatly appreciated. A call goes out now for members to locate a more central sight for Yule 2004. If you are interested in being the point of contact for Yule 2004, inform Mistress Hamilton.

MOUSEHOLE 2003 Skirmishing, Trades, and Crafts

Skirmishing is the order of the day, but the theme of the event is to display your trade or craft. Soap-making, brewing, cheese-making, candle-making, book-binding, fabric dying, and coopering are just a few ideas that can be displayed in a workshop setting or informal class. Mistress Hamilton is willing to coordinate this effort. Brush up on your trade or craft even if it's for the sake of conversation.

Mark the date as 25-27 April 2003, at the Farm in Arvon. Point of Contact is Mistress Isobel Bedingfield (Laura Mellin, elsworth@erols.com, (301) 617-0843) and Mistress Anna Collins (Vic Dye, purrball8@ntelos.net, (434) 977-5966)
