The Master, Peter Linstead-Smith and Joe Buxton, the Clerk, recently travelled to Saffron Walden where the Museum hosted a special exhibition of Industrial Clocks, entitled Clockworks sponsored by A. James (Jewellers) Ltd whose Managing Director is Liveryman Brian Newman.

The exhibition was on display for 14 weeks after being opened at a private reception by Past Master Dr Colin Lattimore for members of the Museum Society.

Designed to show examples of the Scientific and Technological uses of Horology, promote the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers, The British Horological Institute, The Antiquarian Horological Society their Museums and Libraries, the exhibition included unusual watchmen or tell-tale clocks, chronometers, electric clocks, water-depth and water-flow clocks along with barometers and horological tools. Some of the exhibits had been associated with A. James Ltd whose history was established by 1863 when William Rickman Jeffrey had a house and shop in the town.

By 1871 Jeffrey had been succeeded by John James and his son Arthur Francis James eventually took over in 1911 until his death in 1932. The name was retained and is now a family run retail jewellery business specialising in the repair and conservation of antique clocks, watches and barometers along with maintaining many cathedral,
A PINCH OF SALT

The Clockmakers were well represented at the recent prestigious exhibition, held at Goldsmiths’ Hall, “Silver with a Pinch of Salt”. The exhibition had exhibits of Salts through the ages, the complexity and size of the early designs showing the importance salt enjoyed in mediaeval life. Salts became more streamlined in succeeding centuries.

The Clockmakers’ Salt was prominently displayed in the modern silver case. It was made to reflect the fact that the Clockmakers’ now have an office in Salters’ Hall, who themselves have a distinguished collection of salts; the Clockmakers’ had no salts. The Salt was designed and made by Barry Thomas, a Derbyshire silversmith, and draws on themes related to the measurement of time. It is in the form of a globe, marked with the lines of latitude and longitude, angled at 23.5 degrees (the angle at which the earth tilts relative to the sun). The globe sits on a plinth, in the manner of a sundial.

The globe-shaped salt with spoon that resembles the scythe of Old Father Time: a motif also found in the Master’s badge

The spoon is made as Old Father Time’s scythe, based on the Company’s arms and the Master’s badge. The Company’s crest and those of Past Master Diana Uff, the donor (photographed left), are on opposing sides of the plinth. The longitude markings also refer to the John Harrison memorial which was unveiled by the Duke of Edinburgh in Westminster Abbey. The Salt is used regularly at Company dinners.
David Higgon at West Dean

I joined the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers in 2005 and was raised to the Livery in 2007 and at the various functions kept hearing about the course at West Dean (The Edward James Foundation near Chichester). Following an interview and practical test later, I was offered a place starting in September 2008.

The course started with an exercise piece to gain necessary skills. I had the desire to use latched pillars rather than the pinned ones specified, to which the tutor agreed, but little did I realise the rod I had just made for my own back! I then found out I’d have to do the rest of the piece in the same style so I had hours of hand turning to produce matching baluster pillars and tiny ball headed screws for the back cock. To complete the effect I then spent a weekend engraving the back plate with a design from one of Joseph Knibb’s clocks.

My first proper repair was a brass dialled long case by Wilkinson of Leicester c.1800 which had a bent dial and spandrels, and broken seconds hand after suffering a fall. Next was a lantern clock by Asselin c.1720 which had been converted to live in a wooden case and so had lost its iron hoop and spurs at the rear, its side frets and doors, and had had its top finial sawn through to get it to fit!

My third clock, and the one that is likely to take me through to the end of the year, is a musical clock by Du Chesne c.1720. The musical train and quarter repeat work had been removed and the task now is to reinstate the music. Much of the basic wheel work has already been done by previous students, but that still leaves making and mounting 24 hammers for the 12 bells, pinning the barrel with 2 tunes, and the design and manufacture of under dial work to set the music off at set intervals and on demand. There are also some other anomalies to sort out, such as the date ring which seems to be currently indexed round on the 29th of each month rather than the 31st!

So what else do I do in my spare time? I’ve joined in with the book students to learn book binding and have started a spring back ledger that I’ll have as my book of repairs when I leave West Dean. I made a Franklin clock movement with the BHI a few years ago and so recently did a short course on fine furniture making in which I made a dovetailed wall case for it. I’ve also done a short course on oil and water gilding, so maybe my next clock will have a chinoiserie case! The keen eyed among you will have spotted my name in the credits of a pendulum article in the February issue of the Horological Journal and in the same issue I am Dr Malin’s “younger colleague” who will be making his solar-sidereal mantel clock.

So what’s next? I’m currently doing my dissertation on the Equation of Time and how this has been displayed on clocks – everything from paper tables to differential gearing – so if you’ve got a clock with something unusual, do get in touch! My interests seem to be taking me towards specialising in astronomical longcase clocks and possibly musical clocks – certainly the more complicated end of the spectrum anyway. I’ve already worked out gear trains for the Galilean moons of Jupiter which are accurate to about 1 degree a year and I’m looking at modelling rise and set times for our own moon.

I plan to do a second year at West Dean and am hoping that they may be able to find me an astronomical clock to work on – again if you know of one needing work then please let me know. Failing that, maybe I’ll make my own with the astronomical features I’ve designed so far.

BHI Celebrate 150 Years

The British Horological Institute celebrated its 150th anniversary at Upton Hall during the weekend 13th – 15th June 2008. The anniversary was on time but this information missed the last ‘Clockmaker’. It must now be the 151st Anniversary!

At Upton Hall there was a display of clocks made by members. The Company arranged a competition for those who wished their timekeepers to be judged by considering originality and quality of workmanship. Fourteen clocks were in the competition, both mechanical and “electronic” – regulators, dial clocks, even a miniature clock.

The prizewinners were announced at the BHI Anniversary Dinner on Saturday 14th June 2008. Prizes were awarded to each prizewinner. The opportunity to become a Freeman of the Company was graciously accepted by Doug Bateman; Ian Ford became a Freeman in 2007.

First Prize
Ian Ford (Solar sidereal timepiece)

Second Prize
Doug Bateman (Electronically maintained precision regulator)

Third Prize
Colin Ferguson (Regulator Clock)
Of all the ships in the Navy HMS Endurance is the one that is regularly thousands of miles from home operating in Antarctica in remote extreme environments where the weather can change and deteriorate very quickly. In the western Magellan Strait at 4 p.m. on December 16th 2008, water poured in to the engine room of the survey ship and with all her major machinery in one compartment, it wasn’t long before the ship lost power and propulsion.

Lt Cdr Tom Sharpe, Endurance’s Executive Officer and in temporary command of the ship at the time, reported that “the engine room flooded so quickly we had to evacuate it and then it was a case of trying to contain the spread. The water was forcing its way out of the engine room into unexpected places but most significantly through the deckhead and on to the accommodation deck. We had two major floods making us unstable.” For the next eight hours the ship’s company fought to bail her out, but she was drifting in a 40-50 knot wind perilously close to the rocks...and rolling 30 degrees either side.

Two vessels came to her aid, a pilot cutter which was too small to help, and a large cruise liner with 3000 passengers on board. Endurance had seen her earlier in the day and given her name to the Northwood team who had contacted the Captain to stand by to help. Cdr Sharpe continued, “The situation was not without a certain grim humour as the cruise liner requested help from Endurance – a critically ill passenger on board urgently needed a doctor and could the ship fly hers across?”

To stem the drifting ship the starboard anchor was let out to its fullest extent catching a rocky pinnacle resulting in a change of drift of about 10 degrees. The port anchor was then released and when that held, the violent rolling was replaced by a much less disruptive pitching. It was deemed too dangerous for the cruise liner to come within 100 metres of the rocks at night and in high winds and Endurance remained on her perilous anchorage until the following morning when a Chilean salvage tug arrived. The tug’s captain spoke no English, and with the weather worsening, it was decided not to wait for a second tug. The anchor chains were severed with a gas axe as the hydraulics were out of action and within two hours Endurance had been towed into calm water. She was returned to Portsmouth over Easter and is now being repaired and refitted.

Lt Cdr Sharpe has since been promoted Commander and will remain in command of the ship whilst undergoing repairs.

Extracts taken from “Navy News” and reproduced by kind permission of the Editor.
Tempus edax rerum”, wrote Ovid, and it has certainly been the case throughout the entire history of the Company, that the regular turn-over of Masters, Wardens, Assistants and Clerks, has devoured knowledge. Entries in the Court Minutes, which were clear to those who approved them, have become opaque to later generations. The origin, purpose and sometimes even the existence of objects in the Company’s ownership, which were once familiar to everyone, have become forgotten.

Fortunately, from time to time, unexpected events occur which cause the fog to lift. So it was a month or so ago, when Goldsmiths’ Hall telephoned the Clerk to say that they had found a gold and enamelled badge and chain of office in their vault, which they had established was the property of the Clockmakers’ Company (Fig. 1). The badge is inscribed “Gilbert H. Edgar C.B.E, Presented by the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers and his friends on his election as Queen’s Sheriff 1963-4”. The sudden appearance of such a magnificent object was a considerable surprise and the Keeper was asked to research its history.

A fascinating story has emerged.

In 1924, disaster struck the Company. The original Master’s pendant badge (Fig 2), which had been commissioned from William Parker in 1873, was carelessly left on a bus, on London Bridge. The then Master fined himself heavily for his negligence and the insurers paid £125, so a committee consisting of Henry Gayden, Percy Webster and Sir David Salomons 2nd Bart., was set up to recommend designs for a replacement. The outcome was the beautiful pendant which is worn by the Master today (Fig 3).

The badge left on the bus had been suspended from a modest blue ribbon, so in an act of great generosity, Sir David Salomons presented a heavy three-strand gold chain to enhance the new pendant. It had been made for his uncle (Sir David Salomons 1st Baronet, 1797 – 1873), when he was elected as Sheriff of London in 1835. This was an election of great significance as he was the first member of the Jewish faith ever to serve in that office. The chain was of exceptional quality, made up of engraved rectangles of gold, held together by intricately knotted links. It can be seen in Fig. 4, around the neck of Percy Webster, when he became Master in 1926. It continued to be worn by each Master in succession.

In June 1963 however, Gilbert Edgar, benefactor of the Clockmakers’ Company and member of the Court of Assistants, was also elected Sheriff of London. The Court at once voted to contribute £250 towards a chain of office for his use. In July however, it decided to go a step further and it invited him to accept the Sir David Salomons’ chain as a gift, in recognition of his services to horology. Gilbert Edgar accepted the gift, but only on the condition that he could reciprocate and present the Company with a chain more suitable for the Master’s use. He proposed that some of the links of the Salomons chain should be incorporated in the new Master’s chain, the rest he would wear as Sheriff.

The return of Gilbert Edgar’s shrieval badge and his part of the Salomons chain, means that all the links of original 1835 chain are re-united in the Company’s possession. But this is not all. In the Company’s safe for many years, has been a very fine gold clip, bearing a beautifully chased coat of arms and engraved with Sir David Salomon’s name (Fig. 5). No-one has ever known exactly what this was and so it has been one of the very few Museum links to the Past
The Clockmaker  •  June 2009

The Master together with a large group of guests was invited by the British Museum to the winding ceremony of the year-going clock by Thomas Tompion. It was also a fine opportunity to visit the new Djanogly Gallery which was opened by Sir Harry and Lady Djanogly at a magnificent reception in November.

The Tompion, ostensibly his finest work, was made for William and Mary and on the death of King William in 1702 passed to the Earl of Romney, Gentleman of the Bedchamber and Groom of the Stole. On his death it was inherited by the Earl of Leicester, and thence by descent to Lord Mostyn, from whom the British Museum acquired it in 1982.

David Thomson gave a short speech welcoming the guests, and The Master, Peter Linstead-Smith, was invited to give the clock the first wind. The reception also gave the guests time to go round the Museum’s magnificent collection of clocks and watches now beautifully displayed in The Djanogly Gallery.

ANNUAL WINding of the Mostyn Tompion

objects which have not been on public display. While researching the Edgar badge however, the Keeper discovered an engraving, which was first published in 1837 (Fig 6.) It shows Sir David Salomons, as Sheriff, wearing his chain. The fine gold clip, a little exaggerated in size, is clearly visible in its centre.

Members of the Company will have read in these pages before how a gold replica of the present Masters pendant, made for the Company in 1926 and mislaid soon after, was recovered in 2003. They will also have read how the badge lost on the bus in 1924 was recovered (extraordinarily, through the good offices of Gilbert Edgar) in the 1960’s. So at last all the mysteries are solved and all the Company’s badges are in their proper places. The Edgar badge and chain, together with the Salomons gold clip, will be put on display in the Company’s Museum as soon as space can be made for them.

continued from page 5
Past Stewards gathered at Bakers’ Hall for the Past Stewards’ Dinner at the end of April. This event is always a special occasion - a gathering of chosen few - and it was particularly so for the Master, himself a Past Steward. The Master is photographed here with Liveryman Kenneth Lloyd-Jones (centre) and the Senior Warden, Howard Newman (on the right).

STEWARDS’ DINNER

Visit to the Newham Night Shelter

Dr Michael Sanderson, Master at the time, and the Clerk, are photographed with the Master Chartered Secretary and his Clerk presenting a cheque to The Reverend Canon Ann Easter, Chaplain to the Queen, and Chief Executive Officer of the Renewal Programme in Newham. They joined the evening visitors at the Newham Night Shelter for supper in January. The cheque was the £2000 proceeds of our Carol Service at St Sepulchre-without-Newgate, shared with the Poulterers’ Company, Chartered Secretaries, Gold Silver Wire Drawers, and Guild of Educators.

Turnaround, a project of The Renewal Programme, is a large voluntary organisation based in Newham, East London. Over 500 single homeless people and those at risk of homelessness use Turnaround’s day centre and night-shelter facilities every year, accessing food and shelter as well as advice and support around issues such as mental health, substance misuse and healthy living.

THE CLOCKMAKERS’ CHARITY COLLECTION BOXES

David Thompson Receives The Freedom Of The City

David Thompson, Curator of the Horological Collections at the British Museum, is pictured with the Master and the Clerk receiving his Freedom of The City in February. He was promoted to the Livery at Lady Day Court in April, and is to receive the Harrison Medal from the Master at the Livery Dinner in October for his significant contribution to, in the words of the Company’s Charter, ‘the art and mystery’ of clock and watch making, and in particular to the scholarship and understanding of the technology of watch making in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Liveryman Julia Clarke at Hester Clarke is pictured emptying the Clockmakers’ charity collection box and counting the money. Julia is a Steward this year.

Past Master Simon Thornton, during his year as Master in 1995, arranged for Charity Collection boxes marked with the Clockmakers’ Company Coat of Arms and “The Worshipful Company of Clockmakers’ Charitable Fund… for those in need” to be produced and distributed to any members of the Company prepared to display them. Many members had access to the public, having retail shops / workshops etc. that he thought could be a good source of income, as so often one does little jobs that are not really chargeable but will ease the conscience of the recipient if they can make some financial donation. It seemed an ideal opportunity for the Company’s Charities. Past Master Christopher Clarke’s company Hester Clarke Ltd, the Jewellers in Aylesbury, have done this since the outset. Christopher says “It brings in a modest reward. We always open the box on Charter Day, an easy date to remember”. The Clerk has spare boxes in the office.
WE MUCH REGRET TO RECORD THE FOLLOWING DEATHS

Liveryman Hubert Henry Newman .........................................................1961
Liveryman John Peter Boneham ...........................................................1969
Liveryman John Peter Barratt ...............................................................1985
Liveryman Peter Ralph Corfield ............................................................1990

Thank you!

The Master wishes to take this opportunity to thank Tina Millar, the Editor, for her outstanding work on yet another splendid edition of “The Clockmaker” - as you will all appreciate a lot more time and effort is involved than meets the eye and in addition to this task Tina still finds time to be a Trustee of the Museum and the Friends of the Museum. Most important though is to wish her well in her recovery following an unpleasant skiing accident.

“The Clockmaker” Newsletter is both appreciated and admired within the Company and externally – but to maintain these high standards of production is expensive. We thank Freeman Professor John Cave and Adam Bernard at Middlesex University Teaching Resources for their great generosity in designing and publishing this edition at considerably lower cost than normal. Other individuals have, in the past, generously helped by sponsoring the cost of an edition. Please consider if you might be able to help in this way in the future? A suitable note of thanks and recognition of such generosity having agreed the wording with the donor is included, unless requested not to do so. Please enquire of the Clerk for further information or contact the Editor, Liveryman Tina Millar on tmillar@freeuk.com or in a note care of the office.

Time, Time & Time Again

The author, Liveryman Geoffrey Evans was Chief Design Engineer in the mechanical watch volume production plant of Smiths Industries (now Smiths Group) producing a watch every 6 seconds of the working day. He subsequently became National Secretary of the British Horological Institute, and finally Secretary General of the British Horological Federation (the trade association). The book outlines with anecdotes, the work of all three roles and costs £17.99. It is available from the publisher, Quinto Press (quintopress@hotmail.co.uk), ghadfield@dial.pipex.com, the Welsh Books Council (www.gwales.com) and www.amazon.co.uk.

TIMELESS: Masterpiece American Brass Dial Clocks

Frank Hohmann III, Liveryman of the Clockmakers’ Company, will shortly be publishing his new book.

“Timeless: Masterpiece American Brass Dial Clocks” which will include approximately 100 of the finest American brass dial clocks by over 50 makers, including those from both major museums and private collections. Publication is expected in the Autumn of 2009. The production run on this book will be limited.

Members of the Clockmakers’ Company based in the UK, who wish to reserve a copy, can do so by informing the Clerk by e-mail or post as soon as possible, but do not send any money at this stage. The price is £60 per copy which includes post & packing and a contribution to the Clockmakers’ Charitable Fund.

We welcome the following new Freemen

Arabella Banks
Hugh William Bearn
Charles Edward Carey
Robert Paulin Clinton
Clifford Coggin
Simon Cresey Davidson
Sasha Johnston
Richard Graves Newton
Judith Pleasance
Oliver Rapport
Matthew Adam Rapport

We congratulate the following Freemen on being raised to the Livery

Robert Andrew Ball
Geoffrey Edward Heywood
Michael Charles Holford
Philip Stuart Hygate
Keith Andrew Scobie-Youngs
David Robert Thompson