



The Guild of Educators in The City of London

PURPOSE OF THE GUILD

The traditional concerns of the City Livery Companies have always included education and training, first and foremost, in the development of apprenticeships and similar schemes pursuing professional competence and excellence in trade.

There was however, no Company dedicated exclusively to those who teach and train.

The Guild of Educators was founded within the philanthropic tradition of the City of London livery companies:

- to provide a forum for representatives of all sectors of education and training to meet professionally and socially to promote discussion and the exchange of views
- to recognise and support those engaged in education and training by means of appropriate grants, awards and medals and particularly by operating a separate charitable fund
- to encourage those engaged in education and training to play a part in the civic life of the City of London

Those who founded the Guild of Educators did so in the belief that educators, who organise the learning and developing process, were such an intrinsic part of the national and international community that they should be fully represented within the City of London - itself a city with universities, schools and business training departments of international reputation. The teachers, lecturers, trainers - those who open doors to any new knowledge or skill or understanding - command respect and gratitude but they are only part of a larger education team that includes, amongst others, administrators, examiners, governors, librarians, publishers, and researchers. Furthermore, 'Education' is lifelong learning - from cradle to grave - which is a dynamic process needing investment of money, time, energy and enthusiasm.

In pursuit of its aims the Guild seeks to be inclusive in its membership and activities, transcending the traditional boundaries between the different sectors, and particularly between academe and business insofar as the latter concerns itself with education, training and development. It believes that it is unique in providing this cross sector forum.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATORS

Nowadays, as this country moves away from manufacturing into the new knowledge-based economy, there is an ever-increasing need for a conduit linking industry and government to academe. The Guild has an important part to play to help define the skills that will be needed to innovate in the future. These skills, once recognised, will lead to suitably qualified educators with appropriate training that will be essential if we are to compete effectively in the future.

The founders of what is now a thriving City institution wish not only to recognise the worth of education but also to contribute to its development.

ORGANISATION

The Guild is governed by its Ordinances, and is managed by a Court of Assistants under the chairmanship of the Master. The Master and Wardens (the Wardens being the senior members of the Court elected to undertake special responsibilities and to become Master in turn) meet regularly to lead the Court. The Court has established subcommittees concerned with specialist activities, and a Guild Liaison Group concerned with the organisation of activities for the Freedom other than the statutory meetings. In addition, the charity trustees meet as required to decide and implement the fund-raising strategy and the disbursement of the Trust Fund. The Ordinances provide for a membership (entitled

the Freedom) and an affiliateship (entitled the Associate Freedom).

The Guild provides its Freemen (a dual-gender term) with a regular newsletter giving details of its activities and its professional and social programme.

ACTIVITIES

The Guild arranges formal lectures such as the Franklin Lecture and informal seminars on topical subjects, as well as visits to places of educational interest. The main social events are the receptions and dinners held at Bakers' Hall in the City of London. They usually follow Declarant ceremonies, and provide an excellent opportunity for social interchange.

There is an annual service of Commemoration of Benefactors and a schools public speaking contest. The Guild also participates in the annual United Guilds Service in St. Paul's Cathedral

LIVERY SCHOOLS LINK

City of London Guilds and Livery Companies have a huge potential for assisting in the work of schools and, in particular, in raising aspirations in pupils from areas of deprivation across the UK. This potential propelled the Guild of Educators to take up the challenge of administering Livery Schools Link in its role of promoting the support of Inner London schools by City Livery Companies and Guilds.

So far, The Corporation of London and more than 30 Companies are subscribing members. The education services of a number of London Boroughs together with the Specialist Schools Trust are co-operating.

HISTORY OF THE GUILD

The medieval craft guilds in London developed into the great livery companies, forerunners of the present professional institutions and trade associations. Each, within its own industry, set and regulated standards of the professional competence that customers might expect to receive when trading with their members. Competence and common standards were achieved by the development of systems of training through master and apprentice relationships: successful apprentices could themselves become masters of the craft and therefore members of their guild of which the badge of office was a livery - an identifiable gown - hence the title of livery company. In addition to this professional self-regulation, the guilds also operated a system of financial support (or insurance) for those of their members falling upon hard times.

There are now over one hundred livery companies within the City of London, of which thirty or more have been founded in the second half of the Twentieth Century. The professional self-regulating function of most companies has been ceded to the appropriate professional institutions and trade associations but involvement with beneficial giving to their trades and other charities and with the annual election of the Lord Mayor of London are still valued roles for all companies.

In the early 1990s two separate initiatives to establish a Company for educators were undertaken. Both recognised that, while all livery companies were concerned with education and training within their trades or professions, none was concerned with the profession of education and training itself. One of these initiatives was pursued and registration was sought from The Corporation of London in 1997. That registration was granted in 2000 and the Guild of Educators was founded on 24 May 2001.

PROGRESSION TO FULL LIVERY STATUS

The Guild is registered with the Corporation of London in the first of a three-stage process that will ultimately result in full Livery Status. The second stage of the process is to become a Company without Livery and the final stage is to be a Company with full Livery. These stages take several years and are dependent on membership (Freedom) growth and financial stability together with the growth and demonstrated use of the charitable fund

For more information about The Guild and details of application to the Freedom please contact:

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