

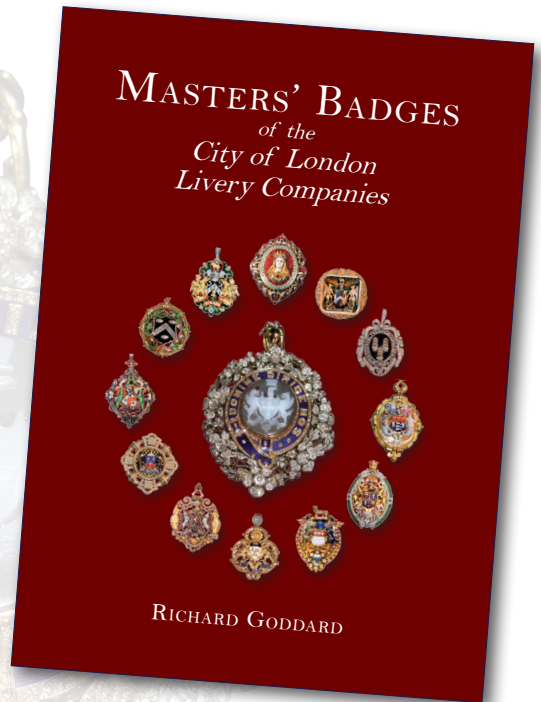
MASTERS' BADGES

*of the
City of London
Livery Companies*

Among all the many and varied displays of pomp and heraldry which infuse the pageantry and ceremonies of the City of London, none offers a finer example of skilled craftsmanship, beauty of design and richness of execution than the Badges of Office worn by the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff of the City's Livery Companies.

This work endeavours to trace their history and seeks to establish when and why they were introduced – their genesis proves to be something of a mystery but their development in the second half of the nineteenth century is charted in detail.

110 Badges are described – those of the 108 Livery Companies together with the Parish Clerks and the Company of Watermen & Lightermen of the River Thames – and there are tales galore of lost and stolen Badges, of Badges destroyed in the Blitz and of those so precious that they never leave their Hall. There is discussion of the silversmiths who created these jewels and analysis of how heraldic changes necessitated the creation of new Badges.



The body of the work comprises a complete photographic record of every Badge – accompanied by a detailed description – providing a unique catalogue of this remarkable collection of miniature works of art that embody the pride and heritage of the Livery.

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