

## APPENDIX III

### Ceremonial

The link with the City of London, with the Lord Mayor *for the time being* installed as Chancellor annually and the availability of the superb setting of the medieval guildhall together provided the possibility for the University to be able to establish impressive, meaningful, ceremonial. Geoffrey Branston, the first Ceremonial Officer, adopted three guiding principles in laying down procedures for ceremonial occasions. These were, firstly, that in a new university one either opted for no ceremonial at all or one staged it very well indeed; secondly, that relatives and friends should have something worth travelling long distances to take part in, and, thirdly, that team work was essential for success. Two congregations per annum for the award of degrees were decided on at the outset in order to ensure that each degree was awarded person to person.

The same desire to make the receipt of a degree a personal matter led to the procedure being laid down whereby those to be admitted are on the platform at Guildhall one at a time, whereas at Cambridge five at a time go forward. Dignified members of academic staff, not beadles, are stave bearers to emphasize the importance of the occasion. The need to ensure that all relatives who so wished could attend the church service led to St. Bartholomew the Great, the City of London's oldest church, replacing the smaller St. Lawrence Jewry and subsequently a move was made to St. Giles Cripplegate for the Foundation Day services of thanksgiving. Foundation Day is celebrated in May, normally on the third Wednesday. The December Graduation Day service has, from the first, been held in St. Paul's Cathedral which can seat 2,500 worshippers. It is normally held on the first Monday in December and the new Lord Mayor is then installed as Chancellor, in the Guildhall.

In the matter of ceremonial there is an interesting link with Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. The first Principal of The City University's forerunner, the Northampton Polytechnic Institute, R. Mullineux Walmsley came to Clerkenwell from Heriot-Watt and the velvet cushion that was used to carry the charter of the new Heriot-Watt University into St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh for consecration, served the same purpose for City University's charter in St. Paul's Cathedral. The capping ceremony was based on the Scots method of patting the graduate on the head with a masters' cap — a "Scotticism" in Sir James Tait's words.

The good sense and fortune that ensured getting things right at the first ceremonial occasions meant that instruction cards and detailed procedural programmes were available and have always been used since, amended as necessary. The effective organisation is unobtrusive. Like all acceptable ceremonial it is based on pragmatically formulated decisions which when made are adhered to, as for example wearing academic caps when standing and removing them when seated. Sir James Tait, after attending the graduation ceremony of another university, asked why the Chancellor remained seated whilst presenting degrees, and, on being told that the Chancellor was too old to stand, decided that as The City University had the benefit of a new Lord Mayor as Chancellor each year, however old, the risk could be taken of getting him to stand!

Geoffrey Branston was appointed as Ceremonial Officer after a distinguished career in Shell International and war service as a staff officer. His successors have been C.J. Powell and J.N. Forshaw.

I should not like to imply that there was no ceremonial before 1966. However, as the degrees awarded were those of London University, the College played no meaningful role in the large impersonal congregations in the Royal Albert Hall where degrees gained by students in all the constituent Colleges of London University were presented. In the early sixties, however, a need arose to provide a suitable occasion for the award of *Northampton* College Diplomas and Diplomas in Technology and these ceremonies evolved naturally into the grand affairs now staged at the Guildhall.

### **The Conversazione**

In 1898, the first *Conversazione* achieved two columns in the *Islington Gazette*. Clearly a great success, destined to become an annual event (except during the war years). It was "a very enjoyable meeting over which Mr. Charles Dorman, Chairman of the Governing Body, presided, and at which there were few speeches and plenty of good music. Madam Sophie Davies' Mandoline Band gave pleasing selections; Mr. H. Davan Wetton, Mus. Bac. played the organ and conducted a concert in the large hall; there were gymnastic displays under Mr. R. Oberholzer; and a display by the swimming club attached to the Institute . . . There was also an exhibition of the microscope, mutascope and gramophone; telephones connected with theatres; "lecturettes" by Dr. Walmsley (Wireless telegraphy); by Mr. John Ashford (modern war vessels); by Mr. C.V. Drysdale (Colour photography). . ."

Over the years the number of persons attending has commonly been between four and five thousand! On the very first occasion, Charles Dorman, Chairman of the Governing Body, presented the prizes, and subsequently, among the noted personages performing this function have been the Marquis of Northampton (1901), the Earl of Halsbury (the Lord High Chancellor), (1902), Lord Kelvin, (1903), the Duke of Connaught, (1907), and Frederick Handley Page, (1933). In the 1960's the *Presentation Days*, to which reference has been made, were chaired by Sir John Cockcroft, Dr. Walter Oakeshott, Quintin Hogg and Sir John Wolfenden, among others. Sadler's Wells Theatre was the venue when the Great Hall was not used. Most of the College rooms were opened to visitors and displays and demonstrations were mounted.

### Prizes

Prizes, although now listed on the graduation programme, are distributed at different times. The University, (taken with its predecessors) has benefited from the generosity of private, Livery Company and commercial donors since the beginning. The Worshipful Company of Skinners, benefactors from the original *Scheme* of 1891 to date, also offered prizes from 1900, the Worshipful Company of Saddlers likewise founder benefactors, via income from Kitchin's Charity, additionally commenced providing up to six bursaries per annum from 1908 for the purpose of assisting day engineering students during the industrial periods of their courses. The Worshipful Company of Clockmakers and the Brewers' Company were regular donors during the earlier years and the Spectacle Makers' Company gave funds for scholarships in the 1930's.

From 1902 James Aitchison encouraged *Northampton* Optics students by an annual donation of field glasses. On his death friends and colleagues established the Aitchison Memorial Scholarship "in consideration of the many and valuable services rendered by him to . . . the development of optical education . . ." This covered the course fees over two years in the early days. Later, income was used to assist students during their clinical training periods. The Walmsley Memorial Fund, to which reference has been made, was invested to provide income for two annual prizes for all round proficiency.

The Sir John Dewrance Prizes go to the two best mechanical engineering students, annually. Dewrance, who was for 38 years Chairman of Babcock and Wilcox, Ltd., died before he could receive a presentation from his staff and the money was used to endow this fund. There is, additionally, a Babcock and Wilcox annual prize. J. Cameron Rennie, an

early student of the College, endowed a prize fund in November 1944. There are now two prizes for deserving students in the earlier years of their courses. F.D. Edwards, Managing Director of Messrs. W. Edwards and Co. Ltd., and formerly a member of the staff at the *Northampton*, established a trust in 1956 to assist students suffering hardship. On his death the Edwards Foundation endowed the Edwards Memorial Lecture.

Albert Pidgen, a machine tool merchant of Helmet Row, E.C.1, for many years gave money for a prize for the most meritorious student in production or instrument technology and in 1941 established a fund that now provides for two prizes each year in this area. The F.H. Russell Memorial Prize in Mechanical Engineering was generously funded by Miss A. Russell in memory of her brother, formerly Senior Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering. There is a growing number of other prizes including the Stafford Prize for aeronautics, noted earlier, the Bradfield Prize for Telecommunications, the John Fry Prize for Metallurgy, the Bateman, Berenblut, Clarke, Kenchington, Swaine, Tokaty and Wilcox prizes and those of R. Travers Morgan, the British Steel Corporation, the *Banker* and the Midland Bank.

### **The Armorial Bearings and University Colours**

The Day Students' Union had, in 1922, devised for its own use a maroon and gold shield bearing in the top half a lion passant guardant and the beacon fired, in the bottom, taken, with approval from the crest of the Marquess of Northampton, the two divided by a chevron. By about 1948, not only the Union Society and the Old N'lons, but also the College was using the arms — which then appeared on notepaper and prospectuses. The colours of the Union were maroon and gold and by 1930 the *Members Club* adopted maroon with silver and gold stripes. In 1962 the Northampton College of Advanced Technology, London had a grant of arms that was described as:-

The Shield: Murrey a Chevron between in chief a Lion passant guardant and in base a Beacon fired all Or.

The Crest: In front of a chaplet of Laurel Or a dexter Hand couped below the wrist proper habited Murrey holding a Torch fired Or.

The Motto: *Naturam ad Usum Tractamus.*

The armorial bearings of The City University are the City of London Cross and Sword and the Northampton cresset, by permission in each case.

During a discussion to select the motto, it was observed that the Latin scholars present were proposing mottoes in English. On being challenged on this one of them, A.N. Gilkes, ex High Master of St. Paul's, remarked that Latin featuring in mottoes was usually such shockingly bad Latin that he was predisposed to put forward mottoes in English. "To serve mankind" was the simple, yet meaningful choice. The motto of the London Borough of Islington, within which the major part of the University buildings lie, has a similar motto "We serve".

### **The Common Seal**

On May 23rd, 1966, the Governing Body resolved that the Common Seal of the University be a two inch seal circumscribed with *The City University* and showing in the centre the full arms of the University.

### **Academic Dress**

Academic dress is traditional in style and, in the main, features the University colours, maroon and gold, and, of course, black. Full details appear in the University Regulations.

### **Gifts**

Over the years gifts of equipment, books and pictures have been made to the College and University and space has not been found in this book to give them all mention. Earlier donations of general interest include the portrait in oils of Lewis Boyd Sebastian, Skinner and Chairman of the Governing Body, 1901-26, presented by his son G.N.B. Sebastian in 1935 and the portrait in oils of J.J. Lambert, formerly Clerk of the Skinner's Company and (acting) first secretary to the *Northampton*, given by his son. Mr. E.W. Herrington, a student of 1923 commissioned F. Harmer to paint a water colour of the College as at the turn of the century. Oliver Thompson, the first Pro-Chancellor, presented six framed pictures of Lord Mayor's and City Companies' barges. Staff and students past and present subscribed for the Ruskin Spear portrait of Sir James Tait.

Following the award of the University Charter gifts of commemorative silver were received. Prominent among them was the work of Stuart Devlin, an Australian born silversmith with a studio in St. John Street, which was selected by more than one donor. A list of this plate etc. follows:-

- 1966 Silver rosewater dish presented by the Corporation of London.
- 1966 State chair presented by the Corporation of London.

- 1966 University mace (Andrew Bray) presented by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.
- 1966 Silver gilt table candelabrum with snuffer and stand (Stuart Devlin) presented by present and past students.
- 1967 Silver Monteith bowl presented by the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper-Makers.
- 1967 Silver gilt cruet set (Stuart Devlin) presented by Mr. A.E. Laxton.
- 1967 Set of three silver gilt goblets (Stuart Devlin) presented by the Worshipful Company of Dyers.
- 1967 Silver gilt salver and four bowls (Stuart Devlin) presented by the family of the late Dr. Mullineux Walmsley.
- 1967 Two silver gilt ashtrays (Stuart Devlin) presented in memory of Howard Robins.
- 1967 The Mace of the Borough of Finsbury on loan from the London Borough of Islington.
- 1968 Silver gilt cigar box (Stuart Devlin) presented by the Worshipful Company of Carmen.
- 1968 Two silver gilt steeple cups (Stuart Devlin) presented by the Worshipful Company of Skinners.
- 1969 Set of two each silver jugs and basins (Stuart Devlin) presented by the Company of Launderers.
- 1969 Silver gilt nut bowl (Stuart Devlin) presented by Dr. G.A. Garreau.
- 1969 Two crystal silver decanters, two crystal decanters, four silver rosewood coasters, one silver salver, presented by James Walker, Ltd.
- 1969 Silver kingwood ceremonial gavel (Gerald Benney) presented by the Northampton College Masonic Lodge.
- 1970 Four silver gilt candlesticks (Stuart Devlin) presented by the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers.
- 1970 Silver loving cup presented by the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers.
- 1971 Two rosewood silver gilt ceremonial staves (Stuart Devlin) presented by Mr. G.H. Branston.
- 1971 One engraved crystal bowl presented by the Worshipful Company of Glaziers.

- 1972 Silver gilt cruet set (Stuart Devlin) presented by Dr. C.W. Trow.
- 1973 Two silver crystal claret jugs presented by the Institute of Measurement and Control (London Section).
- 1974 Four rosewood silver gilt ceremonial staves (Stuart Devlin) presented by Sir James Tait.
- 1976 Rosewood gilt Marshals sceptre presented by Mr. C.J. Powell.