



## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

### **YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022**

2022 was a busy year for the Association as we sought to move on from the pandemic, returning to in-person courses and more events.

The objectives of the Association, as set out in the Constitution of November 2017, are to work towards the continuation and protection of the craft of hand engraving for the benefit of the public through education and training. To this end, the Association Director, Sally Dodson and Administration Manager, Lucinda Rowe supported by the board of trustees, organised a number of events, training courses and activities during 2022.

#### **Courses**

One of the key aims of the Hand Engravers Association is to provide education and training in the craft. During 2022 we ran courses on the basic principles of hand engraving, both online and in person, and in person courses in Lettering and Tools Preparation. All have been well attended and received very positive feedback. Our online courses continue to attract an international audience, with attendees from Australia, Canada, USA, Japan and Malaysia.

#### **Apprenticeships and Training**

In 2022 the Association applied for and received funding to support two trainees:

Megan Rigby at Rebus Signet Rings, London with financial support from The Portal Trust

Anna Olafsson with Dr Malcolm Appleby MBE, Perthshire with financial support from The Clockmakers' Company

Our thanks go to the Masters, Emmet Smith and Malcolm Appleby, the funders and the dedicated trainees for enabling hand engraving skills to be passed on to the next generation.

## It's About Time – Demonstrating Engraving in April

The Hand Engravers Association were invited to exhibit at this popular public event organised by the South London Branch of the British Horological Institute. With thanks to Dudley Withers for volunteering his time to demonstrate engraving on behalf of the Association.



## Seal Engraving Course

In April we ran an intensive course on seal engraving, the first of its kind in the UK. Master Engraver, Wayne Parrott, who was unable to teach the course face-to-face due to Covid restrictions, developed written learning resources and three step-by-step projects in seal engraving as a basis for the training. The workshop was led by Anastasia Young and Andrew Ashcroft, with live demonstrations given by Megan Rigby of Rebus Signet Rings and pre-recorded video demonstrations by Wayne. After the workshop Wayne assessed and gave individual feedback to each of the seven students.

We are hugely grateful to The Goldsmiths' Centre for financial support and for the use of their workshops and specialist equipment, and to the Radcliffe Trust. Without the support from both these organisations this unique project would not have been possible.



*Photos above (from left) – seal engraving students with Anastasia Young (course leader) and Sally Dodson (Association Director), a seal being tested, Noriko with her seal.*

## Members Drinks in May

At our New Years Drinks Get-together (which was delayed until May) we were delighted to welcome special guests, Tamara Gomez and Banita Mistry. Tamara gave an insight into what it was like taking part in the first series of BBC2's "All That Glitters: Britain's Next Jewellery Star" series, in which she was a finalist. Banita talked about the Goldsmiths Craft and Design Council Awards. As a consultant to GCDC she is part of the organising team for the awards, and we enjoyed hearing about what is involved in pulling everything together and it inspired many members to enter the 2022/23 competition.

## AGM and Tessa Murdoch at the Royal Academy of Arts in June

We were privileged to be able to hold our AGM for 2022 in the prestigious surroundings of the Royal Academy in Piccadilly. More than 60 members and guests joined us and were treated to a fascinating talk by Dr Tessa Murdoch on "Huguenots, Horology and Engravers in London 1680-1760". The evening also featured demonstrations from professional engravers Dudley Withers and Colin Mabey and pop-up displays of engraved clocks and watches by David Wood-Heath and Richard Stuart.

At the AGM Tim Roberts, Chair and Acting Treasurer of the Association, announced his intention to step down from the Board at the end of the year in order to devote more time to his other charitable commitments. Tim has been an invaluable member of the Board for many years and is very much missed. We wish him well for the future.

Our thanks go to our Trustee and Patron, Chris Rowley and Carl Hitchcock at the Royal Academy of Arts for organising this amazing venue for our AGM and event.



*Photos clockwise from top left: Dr Tessa Murdoch speaking at the AGM; the room set up for demonstrations and displays; the audience at the talk in the grand surrounds of the Royal Academy.*

## International Symposium

One of the highlights of our year was the International Hand Engraving Symposium hosted by Dr Malcolm Appleby MBE at his workshop in Perthshire, Scotland. Around 30 members of the Association attended and enjoyed three days of engraving in the beautiful and convivial environment. It was an action packed few days with opportunities to try bronze casting and tour the gunmakers, John Dickson and Son.



*Photos above (from left) – Malcolm Appleby (credit Andrew Ashcroft), bronze casting (credit Andrew Ashcroft), engraving (credit Kyle Howie), Vikkii Chen (credit Kyle Howie)*

## Visits to Clockmakers Museums and Clockworks

In the Autumn we organised a couple of trips for our members. The first was to the Clockmakers Museum at the Science Museum where we were given a tour led by the curator, Anna Rolls. Our second members only day out was to The Clockworks in West Norwood where Dr James Nye, then Master of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers, showed us around his fascinating museum and workshop. After lunch six engravers stayed on in the workshop to try their hands at engraving a watch dial.



*Photos above (from left) – Dr James Nye at Clockworks, in the workshop at Clockworks, the Paperweight Collection at the Clockmakers Museum, Anna Rolls – curator of the Clockmakers Museum.*

## Greeting card competition with Baddeley Brothers

In the summer we were excited to be able to hold, once again, a Greeting Card Design Competition in conjunction with specialist printers, [Baddeley Brothers](#).

The winner of the competition was Megan Rigby, who visited the Baddeley Brothers print workshop in November to see her design being printed. John Cook and Anna Olafsson were commended for their designs.

We are very grateful to Charles Pertwee and everyone at Baddeley Brothers for their support of this competition.



*Photos above (from left) – Charles Pertwee, Director of Baddeley Brothers, and Megan Rigby, Megan’s winning design, the cards being printed, the workshop floor at Baddeley Brothers*

## Clock and Watch Engraving Competition

2022 saw the first Clock and Watch engraving competition, organised by the Hand Engravers Association, in partnership with the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers and with a prize sponsored by [HS Walsh](#).

The winner was Ibrahim Batchelder, with finalists John Farman and John Cook.



*Photos above (from left) – the entries from Ibrahim Batchelder, John Farman, John Cook*

## Patrons

The Association is supported by a small number of wonderful and generous Patrons, and we would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Sir George and Lady White, Chris and Anna Rowley, John Dickson & Son and the ACH Crisford Charitable Trust for their support.



As a token of our appreciation, each year our Patrons are presented with a "Patron Pin", a very limited edition piece only available to our Patrons. Every year has a different design by a different engraver; the 2022 pins were designed and engraved by Megan Rigby.

*(photo left – one of the pins engraved by Megan Rigby)*

We really are extremely grateful to all our Patrons. Without their support the Association would not be able to operate.

## Funding and Support

Once again, we have been very generously supported through the year. Megan Rigby's three-year apprenticeship to Rebus Signet Rings is coming to an end and we are all very grateful to the Portal Trust who have provided the funding. The Goldsmiths Centre and the Radcliffe Trust kindly supported the Seal Engraving Course; without their support it would not have been possible.

## Trustees

Tim Roberts stepped down from trustee duties in 2022 as well as trustee (and former Chair) Angus McFadyen. A huge thank you to them both for their support of the Association over the years. Member and supporter John Andrew became a trustee in 2022 but had to step down shortly afterwards due to unexpected increase in other charitable commitments. John remains a keen supporter of the Association and is working closely with us to organise an exhibition of hand engraving in Yorkshire this summer. In 2022 we were delighted to welcome J-P Daeschler as trustee and in 2023 we are delighted to welcome another two new trustees to the Board, Jeffrey Lassaline and Jo Price.

## Looking forward

2023 is promising to be another exciting year for the Association. We are thrilled to be able to hold our AGM in Birmingham, and we are looking forward to our upcoming exhibition at Tennants in Leyburn, Yorkshire in the Summer, members visit to John Rigby and members visit to a private engine turning collection in September. We are also thrilled that Baddeley Brothers have agreed to partner another Greeting Card Competition to support and promote copperplate engraving.