

**A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY
OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY
OF TIN PLATE WORKERS ALIAS
WIRE WORKERS**

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A Chronological History of the Worshipful Company of Tin Plate Workers Alias Wire Workers
by Ernest Arthur Ebblewhite

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ERNEST ARTHUR EBBLEWHITE

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A Chronological History
OF
THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF
TIN PLATE WORKERS
ALIAS WIRE WORKERS
OF THE
CITY OF LONDON

FROM THE DATE OF ITS INCORPORATION TO THE
PRESENT TIME.

BY
ERNEST ARTHUR EBBLEWHITE, F.S.A.,
Clerk of the Company.

PRIVATELY PRINTED
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE.

1896.

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Phillips gift

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*COMMITTEE for the Celebration of the 225th Anniversary
of the Company's Incorporation, appointed by Order of
Court, 1st February, 1895.*

THE MASTER.

THE UPPER WARDEN.

THE UNDER WARDEN.

THE PAST MASTERS.

Mr. ARTHUR BIRD.

Mr. CHARLES JAMES WILKINSON-PIMBURY.

THE CLERK.



PREFACE.

THE Company's Charter establishes the fact that nearly two and a half centuries ago the manufacture of articles of various kinds from tinned iron plates and iron wire was an important industry in the City of London. The master men were of course free of the City, and until they resolved to petition the Crown for a Charter, were content to remain members of the Ironmongers' and other Guilds. The leader of the movement for a separate Company was Thomas Aris, a Citizen and Ironmonger, though by craft a tin-plate worker, who had been taught his work by William Tompkins, another Freeman of the Ironmongers' Company, between the years 1639 and 1647. Of the fifteen other craftsmen who petitioned for the Charter, the majority seem also to have been free of the Ironmongers' Company, and it is clear that tin-plate working and wire working had been a regular branch of the ironmongers' trade.

The Mother Company evidently approved of, if they did not assist in, the formation of the new Company, and when Thomas Aris (who had been of their Livery for ten years) was appointed our first Master, the Charter of the Tin Plate Workers was read in open Court at Ironmongers' Hall. Ten years later he was elected Master of that Worshipful Company while serving on the Court of the new Company.

The general supervision and regulation of the trade in and around London was, until a comparatively recent date, entirely in the hands of the Company, and although without Corporate funds, and depending on the subscriptions of its Members for its existence, our Guild still endeavours, by the holding of public Exhibitions, to foster the trade which it represents.

Mr. George Offor, a Past Master of this Company, and my worthy friend and predecessor, Mr. James Curtis, F.S.A., are each entitled to the credit of having advised the publication of a History of the Company. I understand that Mr. Offor's notes were put together in 1879, but, except in an article in "The Lightning Album" of January, 1893, they were, unfortunately, never published; while Mr. Curtis's work was suddenly interrupted by his appointment as Registrar of the Marylebone County Court. Our esteemed Master (Lieutenant-Colonel Lambert) in the early part of this year compiled a treatise entitled "The Tin Plate Workers' Company" (London: T. Brettell & Co. 8vo. 1895), to which the reader is referred for an interesting account of the discovery and manufacture of tin, as well as for particulars of our constitution and the administration of the Company.

I have been somewhat hampered in my work by the loss many years since of the earliest Minute Book of the Company, and have been obliged to depend, for the first part of my History, on notes which I have taken from original sources. If this little book, to which I have devoted much care and attention, should create a greater interest in the Company and induce its future Members to continue to extend its sphere of usefulness, it will have served the purpose I had in view, and justify the action of the Committee in commemorating this Anniversary by its publication.

ERNEST ARTHUR EBBLEWHITE.

29th December, 1895.

