

**The Worshipful Company of Plumbers.
Ordinances**

These have been copied from the leather bound book held in the Clerk's Office. This Office Copy is inscribed:

"The Leather Binding containing this copy of the Charter & Ordinances of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers was presented by Past master Alderman George John Wetton E.C.C at a meeting of the Court of Assistants held at Butchers Hall on Wednesday the 28th July 1943

The Charter has been copied as a separate document.

Introductory comments

The spellings as far as can be ascertained are those used in the Office Copy. It should be noted that some words are spelt in a number of different ways that may be due to transcription errors in the preparation of the office copy. A few Latin words in the text are shown with a translation in italics and in parentheses. The word “Item” is at the beginning of each Ordinance and is a Latin adverb meaning ‘also’ or ‘likewise’

Explanations of other words or phrases are also in italics and parentheses. It was not possible to decipher accurately all of the words. Some words are abbreviated and there is usually a horizontal line above part of such words. Where doubt exists the word has been highlighted together with a copy of the script. It should be noted that the letter ‘j’ is frequently shown as ‘i’. The letter ‘l’ often appears

Note that in the script there are very few punctuation marks. An upper case letter usually denotes the start of what we would regard as a sentence. This does not necessarily apply if the upper case letter is at the beginning of a name etc.

In order to better understand the Ordinances as spelt it is helpful to read them fairly quickly as written. The “olde” spellings then tend to be more comprehensible.

A glossary is appended that may be of some help.

In the Index the numbers in () after the title of the Ordinances refer to the page in the office book. The right hand number is the page in the typescript.

It is probable that original Ordinances or the Office Copy may be the work of more than one person as the spellings of some words may be consistent within an Ordinance but change in a subsequent one, reverting again at a later stage.

It is recognized that some words may have been transcribed incorrectly in producing this typescript and Liverymen are encouraged to look at the script in the Office Copy and try to clarify the areas of doubt. A DVD of the Office Copy is also available from the Clerk.

The Worshipful Company of Plumber Oaths and Ordinances

9th James 1st

11th November 1612

These Ordinances weare confirmed in the tyme of

John Randoll

(Maister)

Richard Greene &

Gilbert Mintam

(Wardens)

As followeth

A Table declaring in what page to fynde every Ordinance vidett (Latin 'see')

The Ordinance

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To all People to whome these presents shall come Thomas Lorde Ellesmere Lorde Chancellor of England Robert Earle of Salisbury Lorde Treasurer of England Sir Thomas Flemynge Chief Justice of the Pleas before his Majestye to be holden and Sir Edward Coke Knight Chief Justice of His Highness Court of Common Pleas send greetings in our Lorde God everlasting Whereas in a certaine Act or Statute of the Parliament holden at Westmynster the ffive and twentieth day of Januarye in the nyneteenth yeare of the reigne of the late Kinge of famous memorye Henry after the Conquest the Seaventh made and ordained for the weale and profit of his Subjects It was amongst other things ordeyned established and enacted That no Maister Wardens and Fellowshipes of Craftes or Mysteryes nor any of them nor any rulers of Guilds or fraternities should take upon them to make any Actes or Ordynances nor to execut any Actes or Ordenances by them heretofore made in disinheritance or diminution of the prerogative of the Kinge nor of other nor against the common profit of the people But of the same Actes or ordinances were examined and approved by the Chancellor Treasurer of England or Cheife of other Benches or three of them or before both the Justices of Assizes in their circuyte or progresse in the Sheire where such Actes or Ordinances be made uppon payne of fforfeiture of ffortye poundes for everye tyme that they doe the contrarye as by the saide Actes of parliament more plainly doth and maye appeare Knowe ye that the Maister Wardens and Comynaltye of the ffreemen of the Act and mystery of the Plommye of the Citty of London this twoe and twentieth daye of October in the yeare of the reigne of our Sovereigne Lord Kinge James by the grace of God Kinge of England Scotland France and Ireland defender of the fayth and (that is to saye) of England Ffrance and Ireland the nynthe and of Scotland the ffive and ffortyeth have exhibited a certaine petition to us with a booke contayninge dyvers Articles Actes and Ordinances for the better rule and government of the Guilde or ffraternitye of Plommers and their successors and such others nowe usinge or which hereafter shall use the saide Misterye of Plommers within the Citty of London the suburbs or precints of the same or within seaven myles of the same Citty as well within places exempt as not exempt And for the comon weale and conservation of the saide Misterye of Plommers And have humblye and instantlye desired us That wee all and every these Actes and Ordinances hereafter menconed and by them

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to us exhibited would examyne and approve and those and evrye of them correct and amend in dues and convenient manner and forme as the saide recyted Acte of Parliament requyreth we will perceavinge and considering their saide Supplicacion to be good and reasonable accordinge to their desires and by the authoritye of the said Acte of Parliament to us given all and every the saide Actes and Ordinances so to us exhibited have seene read and well understood and all and every of them examined corrected and reformed The tenor whereof hereafter followeth.

The Ordinance for the imposing of ffynes upon such person or persons as shalbe by vertue of their Charter and according to the tenor of the same chosen to be Maister warden or wardens of the saide Arte or Misterye and shall refuse the same

Imprimus yt ys ordeyned and established that what person or persons soever he or they be beinge a plommer within the saide Cittye of London or within seaven myles of the same Cittye or a ffreeman of the saide Companye that shall at any tyme or tymes hereafter be elected or chosen by force and vertue of the saide Choice to be Maister Warden or Wardens of the saide Arte or Misterye doe or shall refuse to take upon him or them the said Office or Offices or to be sworne or take his or their oathe or oaths for the due execution thereof accordinge to the meaninge of the saide Charter (not just cause or reasonable lett or impediment appearinge to the saide Maister and Wardens and such as have bene Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge or the greater parte of them for his or their excuse and discharge in that behalf) and which said Oathe or Oathes wee hereby order shalbe ministred unto him or them within twentye dayes next ensuing everye daye of such eleccion shall forfeit and paye to the Maister and Wardens of the saide Arte or Misterye for the tyme beinge the somme of ffyve pounds of lawful English money at everye tyme so refusing the saide fforfeytur and monney to be converted bestowed and employed for it to the uses and maynetenance and reliefe of this Companye of the saide Arte or Misterye at the discrecon of the saide Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge

An Ordinance For choosing Auditors for the old Maister and Wardens Account and also Stewards for the Lord Maiors ffeast

Item it is ordained that the Maister or Wardens and such as have bene Maister or Wardens of the Companye of the saide Arte or Misterye or the more part of them for the tyme being and such persons of the Liverye of the saide Companye as they shall call unto them shall yearly forever choose (according to their old and accustomed order) ffour persons of the said Companye of the saide Arte or Misterye such as they shall thinck fitt, who shalbe and be called Auditors and they or any three of them shall have full power and authoritye by vertue of this Ordinance to peruse and examine the accompt of the ould Maister and Wardens after the exhibiting thereof as is hereafter in these present (*psent is shortened present*) mencioned and expressed And shall also choose two of the saide Companye who shalbe called the Stewards for the Companye at the tyme of the Lord Maiors ffeast which Steards shall provide for the Maister and Wardens and such as have bene Maister or Wardens and the liverye and such of the Companye as by the Maister and Wardens for the tyme being shalbe thereunto called a convenyent Dynner at their Hall called the Plommers hall and whosoever shall refuse the execucion of the said Office of Stewardshippe beinge thereunto chosen as aforesaid or taking the execucion therof uppon him or them shall not provide such dynner as a foresaid shall forfeyt and paye to the Maister and Wardens of the Companye of the saide Arte or Misterye for the tyme being to such uses as aforesaide the somme of ffyve pounds of lawfull money of England for every tyme so refusing or for not provydinge as aforesaid.

An ordinance about the giving upp the old Maister and Wardens account

Item it is ordained that at all tymes hereafter on or before the twentieth daye of November at the furthest next after the new Maister and Wardens have taken their Oathes and chardge the old Maister and Wardens in their Common Hall in the presence of the newe Maister and Wardens and such ffour Auditors chosen as is before lymitted or mencioned shall present exhibit make and deliver a just true and faithfull accompt in wrytynge to the said Maister and Wardens and to the said four Auditors and the same to be examined and allowed by the saide four Auditors or three of them for and concerning all his and their receipts and payements as apperteyninge or belonginge unto the said Companye of the

saide Arte or Misterye for all and every matter cause duety and thinge whatsoever and the saide old Maister and Wardens shalbe allowed uppon the determination of his and their accompts of all and every such reasonable costs chardges and expenses as he or they or any of them shall have disbursed or expended for or about the necessarye affaires occasions or businesses of the said Art or Misterye and then and there in the presence of thaforesaide newe Maister and Wardens and the said four Auditors or the greater part of them whereof the new Maister and one of the Wardens to be two shall not only delyver their saide booke or books of accomptes unto the saide newe Maister and Wardens but also such portions of money jewells and plate together with all keys then in their custodies belonginge unto the said Companye saide Arte or Misterye and all other thinges whatsoever then being or remayninge in his or their handes custodie or possessions or which they or any of them shall or maye be duelye or lawfullye chardged to have recived to the use of the saide Companye of the said Arte or Misterye And the said Accompt so delivered upp shall after be written by the Clarck of the said Companye in a Leger booke remayninge in the said common hall for the same purpose

And if it does or shall so happen that any of the said Maister or Wardens shall at any tyme or tymes hereafter wilfullye refuse or denye to make his or their Accomptes or not deliver the saide money jewells plates and other thinges as aforesaide that then the person or persons so

An Ordinance for chosinge the Liverye

Item it is ordeyned that at all tymes hereafter the Maister and Wardens and such as have bene Maister or Wardens of the Company of the said Arte or Mistery of Plommetry or the greater part of them for the tyme beinge (whereof the Maister and one of the Wardens to be two) as they shall neede and finde cause shall and may from tyme to tyme call choose elect and admytt into the Liverye or Clothinge of the said Companye such person or persons free of the said Art or Misterye as they shall think fitt meete and hable thereunto and that every person and persons that shalbe so in forme aforesaid called or chosen into the said Lyverye or Clothinge shall immediatlye uppon notice and knowledge thereof given by the saide Maister and Wardens or any of them or by their beadle or other officer for the tyme being prepare himself to serve the same place at the then next Meetinge of the saide Master & Wardens in such seemely and decent manner & in such sort as formerly by such person of that place and sort hath bene used And moreover that everye person so called

or chosen into the same Lyverye or Clothing and accepting the same upon him shall use weare and keepe the same lyverye or clothinge according to the usage and custome amongst the same ffellowshipp used and also according unto warninge or somons given unto him from the Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge for that purpose And further also the same person and persons so called and chosen into the same Lyverye or Clothinge as aforesaide and acceptinge the same shall severallye bringe in and paye at the saide next Meetinge unto the saide Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge to the use maintenance and relief of the Company of the said Arte or Mistery and to the Officers of the saide Companye for entering the same into their bookes of remembrances and for the warninge given such fees and duetyes as formerlye in the said Companye or ffellowshippe and hath bene payed in like cases And which of them soever so called and chosen into the same Lyverye or Clothinge refuseth to paye the said ffees or duetyes or any of them Or what person or persons called or chosen to be of or in the same Lyverye or Clothinge and refuseth the same shall forfeyte and pay to the same Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge for every such a default to such uses as aforesaide the somme of ffyve poundes of lawful monney of England or less at the pleasure and direcction of the said Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge So it be not under ffortye shillinges

An Ordinance to attend at Burialls in their Lyveryes

Item it is ordeyned that everye person being of the better sorte of the Companye of the saide Arte or Mistery and such as now are or hereafter shalbe of he Lyverye at all tymes hereafter when and as often as any the Maister or Wardens or any such as have bene Maister or Wardens or any of the Lyverye or any their wyves shall dye or decease shall in according as hath bene used and accustomed make his and their repair to and with the said Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge in decent and comely manner and in their Liveryes to and for the bringing of the corps to the grave wheresoever he or they shalbe thereunto summoned or required by order from the saide Maister or Wardens except he or they have license of the saide Maister and Wardens or such excuse for their absence as to the saide Maister and Wardens and such as have bene Maister and Wardens being present or the greater parte of them shalbe thought reasonable Uppon payne forfeyte and paye for every such default to the Maister and Wardens for the tyme being three shillings

four pence to be levyed and employed to such uses as aforesaid And likewise none to depart before the Maister and Wardens without licence of the Maister and Wardens upon like payne and forfeiture to be levyed and employed as aforesaid

An Ordinance for keeping of Courtes

Item it is ordained that from tyme to tyme at all tymes hereafter when & as often as to the Maister & Wardens then for the tyme being or two of them (whereof the Maister be one) it shall seeme needful and convenient there shalbe houlden a Court or Session of and for the assemblye of all such free of the said Companye of the said Art or Misterye and all others usinge the Art trade or misterye of plommarye within the Cittye of London the suburbs & precints of the same and within seaven miles of the same Cittye aswell within places exempt as not exempt which shall kept by the Maister and Wardens of the said Company for the time being or two of them (whereof the Maister to be one) together with four or more such as have being Maister or Wardens of the same Companye of the saide Art or Misterye and such of the Liverye of the same Company as the saide Maister and Wardens or two of them (whereof the Maister to be one) shall call unto them by due Sumons or otherwise at their Common Hall for the hearinge & orderinge by all lawfull ways and meanes or by consent of the partyes of all controversyes and debates of for or concerning the said Arte trade or Misterye between any persons being free of the saide Company And for the good continuance and execution of the lawful and good ordinances and rules of the same Company or ffellowship and for the punishment and correction of misdoers offenders and breakes of the same rules and ordinances.

An Ordinance for holding of Quarterdayes

Item it is ordained that ffoure tymes in the yeare yearlye from tyme to tyme at all tymes hereafter (that is to saye) on the ffeast day of St Michael the Archangell on the nyne and twentieth daye of December on the ffeast daye of St Marke the Evangelist and on the ffeast daye of St Peter the Apostle there shalbe holden for the saide Companye of the saide Art trade or Misterye generall assemblyes of Courts commonlye called Quarterdayes of Assemblyes unto which shalbe summoned by Order from the said Maister and Wardens for the tyme being the whole bodye of the said Art or Misterye At which tyme all the

Ordinances of the said Companye of the said Art or Misterye if neede soe require shall then and there distinctlye & openlye be read unto them there assembled to the intent that they maye the better learne to observe and keepe the same And whosoever being so warned shall make default in appearance at any of the said Quarter dayes at the houres appointed him according to warninge thereof given him or having made his appearance shall depart without license not having a reasonable or lawful excuse in that behalfe to be discerned by the saide Maister and Wardens shall forfeit and paye to the saide Master and Wardens for the tyme beinge to the uses aforesaide for everye such default or offence twelve pence.

An Ordinance for payement of Quarterage

Item it is ordained and established that all and every person and persons beinge or which shallbe free of the said Companye shall pay to the saide Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge to the use aforesaide from hencefourth yearlye forever from Quarter to Quarter on everye of the aforesaid Quarter dayes one consequentye ensuing an other in the name of Quarteridge as followeth (that is to saye) everye one being an householder or everye of the aforesaide Quarterdayes Twenty pence which maketh six shilling eight pence in the yeare And everye one called a Journeyman on everye of the said Quarterdayes twelve pence which maketh in the yeare foure shillings and towards the maintenance of the saide Company And further also that everye person shall bringe into the Common Hall of the saide Companye of the saide Art or Mistery at such dayes commonly called Quarterdayes appointed or kept as aforesaide all that and such portion of money as he is or ought to paye for quarteridge by reson of this sordinace And whosoever shall wilfullye refuse denye or fayle to make payement thereof shall forfeit and paye to the Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge for everye such default refusal denying or faylinge to be made therein the somme of ffive shillings eight pence of lafull money of England to be levyed received and ymployed to such uses as aforesaid

An Ordinance against supplanting one another from any staffe worke or bargaine

Item it is ordained that no person of the same Companye of the saide Art or Misterye nowe beinge or which hereafter shalbe do or shall at any time hereafter by craft covyn or by any other ways or means directly or indirectly supplant prole take or get or labour goe about or practice to supplant prole take or gett any worke stuffe or bargaine out or from the hands of any other person or persons of the same ffellowshippe or Company if the same other person or persons have first bargained or agreed to the same worke stuff or bargaines or be entred into or dealinge in the same except the said other person or persons do first leave the same upon paine to everye person companye contrarye to this ordinance to forfeit and paye to the Maister and Wardens of the same Company of the said Art or Mistery for every such offence at everyr tyme twentye shillings or less after the discretion of the Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge

An Ordinance that the Clarck shall make the Indentures

Item it is ordained that the Clarcke of the said Companye of Plombers for the tyme beinge shall forever hereafter have the making of all Indentures of and for any Apprentice or Apprentices that hereafter shalbe bound to any ffreeman or any other person of the saide Company of the saide Art or Mistery or usinge or exercysinge the saide Art or Mistery within the precincts lymitts or places aforesaide and the same not to be made elsewhere or by any other person For every parte of which Indentures it shalbe lawfull for the Clarck to have and take of the Maister of such Apprentice such reasonable fees as shalbe thought fit by the Maister and Wardens And if any of the said person or persons shall make or cause to be made any Indentures elsewhere or otherwyse he shall forfyte and paye Tenne shillings to the saide Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge The one moyity thereof to be to the use of the saide Companye or ffellowshippe as aforesaide and the other moyity to be the use of the saide Clarcke

An Ordinance that none shall take or entice away an others Apprentice or Journey

Item it is ordained that no person or persons of the Company or ffellowshippe of the said Art or Mistery shall entice procure persuade receive hire or take into his or their sevice or house any mans or womans apprentice covenant servant or Journeyman of the said Art or Mistery or usinge the same within the precincts lymitts or places aforesaid until the terme of every such Apprentice Covenant Servant or Journeyman be ended unles it be otherwise ordered bt the Maister and Wardens of the same Companye of the saide Art or Mistery or any two of them for the tyme beinge together with two or more of the saide Companye such as have bene Maister or Warden And that every person that doth contrarye this Ordinance shall forfyte and paye ffive markes of lawfull English money to the said Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge so be levyed and ymployed to the use of the saide Companye as aforesaide

An Ordinance that none shall sell or contracte for the years of his Apprentice nor non shall take him without licence

Item it is ordained that no person beinge free or which shalbe free of the said Companye of the saide Arte or Mistery at any tyme hereafter shall sell contract or bargaine for the years or teme of his Apprentice or any part thereof nor yield or extende the yeares or terme of his or their Apprentice or any part thereof to any person or persons whatsoever without the license of the said Maister and Wardens for the tyme being To the intent that by the discretion of the said Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge an Apprentice shall not be deceived of his lerninge in that occupation And further that no person or persons beinge free or which shalbe free of the said Company of the said Art or Mistery shall at any tyme hereafter accept take receive or have any Apprenticiform any other person or persons whatsoever or bargain or contract for any such with any such Maister of such Apprentice or any other for that purpose without the consent of the Maister and Wardens of the saide Companye of the said Art or Misterye for the tyme beinge upon payne that everye person or offending contrarye to any thinge in this Ordinance contained shall forfeyte and paye to the said Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge to the uses

aforesaide of the said Company of Plommery ffortye shillings at everye tyme he offendeth more or lesse after the discretion of the Maister and Wardens to take all and everye such Apprentice so bought sold contarcted for accepted taken or received And him or them to dispose of and place as in theirre discretion and shalbe thought fitting

An Ordinance against stubborn and unruly behavior of Apprentices

Item it is ordained and established that if at any tyme hereafter any Apprentice or Apprentices bound or belonging to any person or persons free or which shalbe free of the saide Company of the saide Art or Mistery shalbe unruly stubberne or disobedient to any Maister or Wardens or government of the Company of which the saide Art or Misterye of Plommery or their Maister or Mistres to whom they are bound Or shall haunt Alehouses Tavernes Playes unlawfull games or such like and the same so confessed or testified before the Maister and Wardens for the tyme being or two of them by the Maister or Mistres of such Apprentice or Apprentices or one or more witnesses that then all and every Apprentice and Apprentices so offending shall receive and have such reasonable and lawful punishment and chastisement as the said Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge shall thincke meete and appoint to the example of others in like case offending And it is further Ordered that from henceforth every householder and all others usinge the said Art or Mistery within the precincts lymitts or places aforesaid shall have and use diligent care and heede to see his Apprentices on Sundayes and hollidayes to goe to the Church to hear divine service or to some other lawfull place wheare God's word is and shall be preached at due tymes of the daye And also to expend the rest of the same Sundayes and Hollidayes in seemely sort with their said Maister his lycence uppon payne that every such householder or maister offending contarary hereunto shall forfeit and paye to the Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge the somme of three shillings four pence for every tyme so offending to the use of the said Companye as aforesaid.

An Ordinance that no Journeyman or hyred Servant shall depart without licence

Item it is ordained that if any person or persons retained or hyred to worke in the Art Trade or Mistery of Plommerage or to serve as a Journeyman or hyred Servant or otherwise with any of the said Companye of the said Art or Misterye for wages by the daye yere or otherwise That every such person and persons so retained and hyred shall not depart nor

absent himself from his said service during the tyme of his retayner without lycence Except it be for non payment of his wages or for want of meat drincke washinge or lodginge (if his composition weare made to have meat drinck washinge or lodginge) but shall well and honestlye beare and behave himself and truly performe the trust put in him without loytering or giving evill example unto other Servants or Apprentices either by word or deedes or disobeying any good order or government or his said Maister that so retained him upon payne to every one for every offence done contrary herunto to forfeit and paye unto the Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge the somme of ffyve shillings to be employed to the use of the said Company as aforesaid

An ordinance to pay scott lott assessments and other charges

Item it is ordered and ordeyned that everye person and persons inhabiting and dwelling within the Citty of London the suburbs and precintes of the same and within seaven myles of the said Citty that be free of the said Company of the said Company of the Art or Misterye though they use not that trade shall contribute beare and paye unto the said Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge all such reasonable charges lotts scotts and sommes of money for the taxes tallages and other impositions as well ordinary as extraordinary touchingly or concerninge the said Companye as shalbe reasonably assessed and imposed upon him or them by the said Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge and two or more such as have been Maister or Warden of the said Company aswell for the necessarye service of our Sovereigne lord the King's Majestye his heire and successors as also for all and everye other affaires causes and things whatsoever of and for the common state and wealth of the said Citty and good of the said Company of the said Art or Mistery according to their liabilityes And everye one that shall refuse or delaye to paye and discharge the same portions of money which shalbe so assessed rated or taxed upon him shall forfeit and paye to the saide Maister and Wardens the somme of fforty shillings of lawfull money or England or less at the discretion of the Maister and Wardens for everye tyme that he or they shall so refuse or delaye contrarye to the meaning of this provision to be levyed and disposed to the use of the said Company in such manner aforesaid

An Ordinance for good workmanship and usinge of true weights

Item it is ordeyned that all and every person or persons whatsoever of the said Companye of the said art or mistery of Plommerye and all others usinge or exercising the said Art or Mistery within the precincts places and lymitts aforesaid and everye of them nowe beinge or which hereafter shalbe for ever hereafter shall well and truly make and do his and their works and shall workemanlye and sufficientlye performe and finish such works belonging to the Art or Misterye of Plommerye as he or they or any of them shall undertake work or deale in for any person or persons whatsoever And shall also use true weightes aswell in selling as in buying without any deceit or crafte to be used to any man uppon payne to forfeyte and paye yo the Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge to the use of the same Company such a reasonable somme of money as shalbe assessed upon him or them by the saide Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge or any two of them with the advice of two or more such as have bene Maister or Wardens of the said Company after the quantity and quality of the offence to be ymployed to the use of the said Company as aforesaid

An Ordinance against buying lead of suspected persons or such like

Item it is ordeyned that it shall not be lawfull to or for any person or persons of the said company or ffellowshipp of the said Art or Mistery now beinge or which hereafter shall at any tyme hereafter to buy any lead of Tylers Laborers Masons Boys or of of any such as shall seem to be suspect except they can find their warrantes for the saide lead Or shall buy any deceived or stollen lead And if any person or persons as aforesaid shall offend contrary to this Ordinance either by himself or by his servants then such person or persons so offending upon due and iust proofes thereof shalbe dismissed from the said Art or Mistery of Plommerye or forr dealing any more in the same

An ordinance what weights every one shall keepe in their houses for the trial of other weights

Item it is ordained and established that all and every person or persons of the said Company of the Art or Mistery of Plommerye nose beinge or which hereafter shalbe shall have in his house an hundred, an half hundred, a quarter of a hundred, a ffoureteene

pounde and seaven pound weight and a pyle of small weight sealed with the Seale of the Guildhall London keeping the iust weight To the intent that the said Maister and Wardens or two of them for the tyme beings may thereby prove all other weighted bringing the same house whether the said other weightes keep the oust weight as every of them ought to doe, or no uppon payne that every such person at every tyme lackinge and not having in his house all such weights Sealed as is aforesaid shall forfeyt and paye to the Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge the Somme of Three shillings four pence to the use of the said Company as aforesaid.

An Ordinance for search foure tymes at least or oftener

Item it is ordained and established that the Maister and Wardens of the said Company of the said Art or Mistery or two of them for the tyme being with such other persons skilfull in the said Mistery as they shall call unto them or appoint shall fouer tymes in the yearle at least form henceforth yearly forevever (or oftener if need shall require) at all and every convenient tyme according to the tenor and true meaning of their charter viewe search and survey all manner of persons usinge or exercising or that shall use exercise or occupye the said Art or Misterye of Plommerye or any thinge thereunto belonging within the said Cittye of London or any other place or places whatsoever aswell exempt as not exempt within seaven myles of the same Cittye and all and every Journeyman Servants and Apprentices And also at convenient tyme and in convenient manner to enter into and search all houses shopps wharfes warehouses sellers rooms yards backsydes workhouses or other places of Plommers or any other usinge or exercising this Art or Misterye of Plommerye or any thginge thereto appertayninge and to viewe search and see all works workmanship weightes beames and scales lead soulder stuff wares matters merchandizes and all other thinges whatsoever any manner or sort touching or concerning the said Art or Misterye nowe or at any tyme here after made or to be made wrought or to be wrought putt or to be putt to sale within the precincts lymitts or places in the Ordinance mencioned That there be deceit falsehood defect or default used either in workmanship or any other the aforesaid wares thinges or premises to the preiudice and hinderance of his Maiesties lovinge subiects And also to viewe serch and see whether the said houses rooms and places where the said Art or Misterye is or shalbe used be fittinge or convenient for the use of the said Art or Mistery or not And yf upon any such view and search made any such abuses shalbe found contrary to the laws and statutes of the

Realme or the true meaning of the Ordynances the same Offender shall upon due prooffe thereof for every such offence forfeit and paye to the Maister and Wardens of the Company of the said Art or Mistery such a reasonable somme of money as by the said Maister and Wardens with the advice of foure or more such as have bene Maister or Wardens of the said Company for the tyme being shalbe assed upon him after the quantitye or qualitye of the offence the same ffyne or assessment to be ymployed to the use of the said company as aforesaid.

An Ordinance against Reviinge Rebukinge misusing or threatening the Mst Wardens or othere, or rehearsinge olde matters formerlye ended

Item it is ordeyned that any person of the said Fellowship which nowe are or which at any tyme hereafter shalbe so advised to revile rebuke menace threaten strike misuse or abuse the Maister and Wardens of the said Companye of the saide Arte or Mistery for the tyme beinge or any of them or any other person of the said ffellowshipp either privatly or publiclye by wordes speeches or otherwise or shall rehearse any old matters the which the Maister and Wardens of the said Art or Mistery have before that tyme made an end of betweene the partyes grieved which may growe to any shame or rebuke or preiudiciall to those partyes or any of them That then every person beinge so misadvised and so testified by one or more witnesses or confessed by the said persons before the Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge or two of them shall forfeit and paye to the said Maister and Wardens to the use of the ffellowshipp such a reasonable somme of money as shalbe so assessed upon him by the said Maister and Wardens with the counsel and advise of two or more such as have bene Maister or Wardens to the use of the said Company as aforesaid

An Ordinance for swearing the Freemen

Item yt ys ordeyned that when any person shalbe made free or admitted of the said Company of the saide Art or Misterye that then and ymediately in the presence of the Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge in the Common Hall of the said Company the saide person so to be made free or admitted shall take his corporal oathe uppon a booke before the Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge or some of them in their Common

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Hall in such manner and forme as by the Oathe or Oathes hereafter appointed for that pupose is expressed to be obedient and to observe and keepe all the good and lawfull ordenances rules and statutes made for the governance and pollitique guiding of the ffellowshippe and further as in the said Oathe or Oathes is more at large mencioned And yf any person so to be made free or admitted do refuse or delaye to take the same Oathe that then he shall forfeyt and paye to the same Mstr and Wardens at everye tyme so refusing or delaying ffortye shillings to the use of the same ffellowshippe or more or less after the discretion of the Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge And further to be reiected expulsed and put of from beinge of the same Company or ffellowshippe and shalbe reported as a mere stranger or fforener amongst the said Companye

An Ordinance what the Maister and Upper Warden must paye upon taking their Oathe

Item yt ys ordeyned that every person free of the said Company of the said Art or misterye which shall hereafter be chosen and take upon him to be Maister of the said Company shall paye fforty shillings of lawfull English money upon the taking of his Oath And the Upper Warden Thirtye shillings upon taking his Oathe which severall sommes are to be levyed and ymployed to the use of the Nether Warden towards the chardges of his great Dynner

An Ordinance for Summons and for ffynes for default of appearance

Item it is ordeined that at all times hereafter it shall and maye be lawfull to and for the Maister and Wardens of the said Company of the said Art or Misterye of Plommyerye then for the tyme beinge or any two of them by their Beadle or any other Officer to summon and warne in the name of the said Maister and Wardens all and everye person and persons being free of the aid Companye of the said Art or Misterye of Plommyerye wheresoever resident or which shall use or exercise the said Art or Misterye or any thinge thereto belonging within the Cittye of London the suburbes or precintes of the same or within seaven myles of the same Cittye to come before the said Maister and Wardens or any of them or to other lawfull assemblyes when occasion shalbe offered And that every person that shalbe summoned and warned to appear and come before the said Maister and Wardens or any of them as aforesaid for what causes save it be concerning the said

Art or Misterye or any thinge therin pertaining or for the execution of any the said Ordinances made for the better rule and guidance of the said Company or ffellowshipp and doth not come at the day tyme and place to him assigned and appointed according to the Summons shall forfeit and paye to the Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge to the use of the same Companye for the first offence three shillings four pence and for the second offence six shillings eight pence and for everyr offence after that in not comminge as aforesaid thirteen shillings four pence and if he be a ffreeman for the fourth offence he shalbe disfranchised forever The same fynes to be levyed and ymployed to the use of the said Company as aforesaid

**An Ordinance that everyone shalbe tractable and obedient to the Mstr and Wardens
And also to the Odenances and what ffyne they shall paye for the contrarye**

Item it is ordained that every person free of the said Company of the said Art or Misterye of Plommerye which nowe are or hereafter shalbe free of the said Companye shall at all tymes hereafter be and shew themselves to be of good and honest behavior aswell in their words as deedes towards the said Maister and Wardens as such as have bene Mstr or Wardens of the said Companye of the said Art or Misterye for the tyme beinge and be and shewe themselves to be tractable conformable and obedient touching all and everyone their lawfull constitucions and ordinances in these present mencioned And yf any person or persons free of the said Companye of the said Art or Misterye or any that now are or hereafter shalbe free of the said Companye be a willful breaker or disobeyer of the good and lawfull Ordinances statutes and oaths or any of them made for the good government and pollitique guydinge of the same Companye or ffellowshippe or shall at any tyme or tyme hereafter be found wilfull obstinate and disobedient against the said Maister and Wardens or any of them to the lett hinderance or disturbance of the due execution of any their Offices or will denye to be ruled being obstinate against the said Maister and Wardens or do or shall take upon him or them to make any Assemblie Councell Convention or attempt against the said Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge or any of them or for or to the violacion or breach of any the lawfull rule and ordenance or order now beinge or hereafter to be by the Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge and such as them have bene Maister or Wardens of the said Companye or the more part of them had

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made and devised for the good government of the said Company of the said Art or Misterye or uniuistly or wrongfully practice or attempt anything which maye be in anywise preiudiciall or hurtfull to the good government of the said Maister andr Wardens and such as have bene Maister and Wardens or the rest of the said Companye of the saide Art or Mistery of Plommerye and the same so proved against him or them by the testimony of two or more honest and credible witnesses before the said Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge and foure or more such as have bene Maister or Wardens of the said Company That then every such offender shall forfeit and paye to the Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge the somme of ffortye shillings for everye tyme so offending The same to be levyed and ymployed to the use of the said Compnay as aforesaid

An Ordinance against partialitye or negligence in the Maister or Wardens

Item yt ys ordained that if the Maister and Wardens or any of them for the tyme beinge be found partiall remisse or negligent and not indifferent in executing the aforesaid Acts and Ordinances upon every person indifferentlye That upon a due prooffe thereof had before the Maister and Wardens then beinge likewise in Office with the advise of foure or more that have been Maister or Wardens every person so found partiall or negligent and not indifferent as is aforesaid shall forfeit and paye to the use of the same ffellowshipp at every tyme fforty shilinges or less after the discrecion of the said Maister and CoWardens with the same foure persons or more as abovesaid

An Ordinance for mittigatinge or pardoning ffynes

Item it is further ordered That the Maister and Wardens for the tyme beinge shall have full power and authoritye from tyme to tyme their good discrecion to mitigate dymynishe forgive or pardon any of the fine or fynes penalty or penaltyes payements taxes or assessments in their presents mentioned Any thinge or matter in their presents specified to the contrary notwithstandinge

An Ordinance for levying dutyes ffynes and other assessments

Item it is ordeyned that if any person that nowe is or hereafter shalbe of the said Art or Misterye or usinge or exercising within the precincts lymitts or places aforesaid of his froward or evill disposition will delay defer refuse or denye to paye any Quarteridge penalty forfeiture or averages of any ffynes or any amerciamentes or any somme or sommes of money sett and assessed upon him or forfeited and due to be payed by him for offending breaking or disobeying and Ordenaunce herein expressed and comprised That then it shalbe lawfull to the said Maister and Wardens then for the tyme beinge or any of them taking with them a Constable Bayliffe or Head Borough or any other of the King's Maiestiyes Officers meet for that purpose at their will and pleasure from tyme to tyme at all convenient tymes to enter into the dwellinghouse or houses shoppes wharfes yards warehouses workhouses and sellers or any of them of every person or persons so refusing or delaying to pay as is above said And there to take a distresse or distresses convenient and to deteyne the same distresses until due payment be made unto them of the said forfeitures and penaltyes and the averages thereof and other the premises and every parcell thereof

And for that the forme of the Oathes that are to be ministered to the Maister and Wardens and other Officers and Freeman of the saide Companye are not in their said Charter sett downe in forme wee therefore do order and ordeyne that these Oathes shalbe ministered in manner and forme following

The Oath of the Maister

You shall sweare to be true to our Sovereigne lord the kings Majestye his heirs and successors and you shall indeavour your self the best you can justly lawfully and indifferentlye to execute and cause to be executed your Office in every respect so farr forth as yu lawfully maye and in like manner shall observe and cause to be observed all the good and lawfull ordenances herin expressed without sparinge any person for affection

meed dread or promise of reward duringe the tyme you shall remaine and be in the said Office of Maister And of all every such plate jewells somme and sommes of money or any other thinge or thinges that by reason of your said Office shall come to your hands or possession you shall according to the lawfull ordenances herein specified make a good true and playne accompt in writing or els paye such ffynes as you shalbe ordered or ought to pay by the said Ordinances for your not so doing you shall not for malice nor for love or affection assess any person or persons in a greater or lesse somme then after the quantitye and qualytye of his offence according to your discrecion and according to the Ordenances of this Act or Mistery So helpe you God

The Oath of the Wardens

You shall sweare to be true to our Soveraigne lord the kings Majestye his heirs and successors and you shall indeavour your selves the best you can iustly lawfully and indifferentlye to execute and cause to be executed your Offices in every respect so farr forth as you lawfully maye and in like manner shall observe and cause to be observed all the good and lawfull ordenances herein expressed without sparinge any person for affecion rewarde meed dread or promise of reward duringe the tyme you shall remayne and be in the said Office of Wardens And of all every such goodes plate jewells somme and sommes of money or any other thinge or thinges that by reason of your said Office shall come to your hands or possession you shall according to the lawfull ordenances herein specified make a true good and plain accompt in writing or ells paye such ffynes as you shalbe ordered or ought to pay by the said Ordenances for your not so doing you shall not for malice nor for love or affection assess any person or persons in a greater or lesse somme then after the quantitye and qualytye of his offence according to your discretions and according to the Ordenances of this Act or Misterye So helpe you God

The Oath of the Freemen of the said Companye

You shall sweare to be true to our Soveriegn Lod the Kinge his heirs and successors you shall in all matters lawfull and honest be obeydent to the Maister and Wardens of the Art or Misterye of Plommerye for the tyme being in that Office and obeydent and readye to come to all the lawfull warnings given to you by the Beadle or others on behalf of the said Maister and Wardens without you have a reasonable excuse without fayneinge or delays

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you shall observe and keep and to the best of your power cause to be observed and kept all the lawfull ordenances and Statutes made for the good rule and pollitique guydinge of the said ffellowshipp or els paye such somme or sommes of money as you shall owe to paye by the breach or offending of the same Articles or Ordinances You shall also keep all the lawfull secret of the same ffellowship and all such things as by waye of counsell lawfully shalbe in communication at any tyme of Assemblye of the Maister and Wardens at their Common Hall and not to disclose the same to any such person whome the same matter doth or in anywise maye touche So helpe you God

The Oath of the Clarcke or Beadle

You shall be true to our Sovâigne Lord the Kings Maiesty his heires and successors you shalbe obedient to the Maister and Wardens of the Art or Misterye of Plommerye for the tyme beinge And you shall doe and performe all other matters iustly and truly which to your Office apperteyneth soe farr as your habilytye will extend and you lawfully maye doe So helpe you God

Authority for Ordinances

All which Actes orders and Constitutions and Oathes in manner and forme aforesaid at the request of the Maister Wardens and Companye of the Freemen of the Misterye of Plommerye of the Cittye of London by the authority and virtue of the same Acte of Parliament made in the saide nynteenthe year of the Reigne of Kinge Henrye the Seaventh (wee the said Lord Chancelloer Lord Treasurer and Justices aforesaid have seene perused read examined and approved and for good laudable and lawfull Ordinances Constitutions and Oathes as wee lawfully maye wee do allow and approve In witness whereof to these present wee the said Lord Chancellor Lord Trasurer and Justices have hereunto subscribed our names and sett to our Seales the eleaventh day of November in the yeare of the reign of our Soveraigne Lord Kinge James of England Ffrance and Ireland the ninth and of Scotland the ffive and fortieth

Henry VII (1485 -1509) Nineteenth Year = 1504

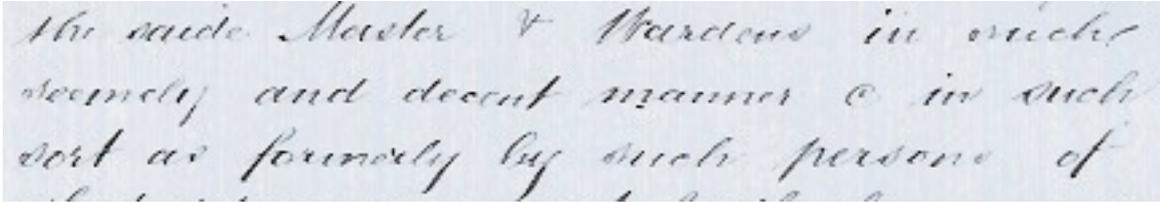
James I (1603-1625) Ninth year = 1612

Glossary

Every Ordinance	Item	
		Latin adverb meaning ‘also’ or ‘likewise’
6	imprimus	Latin ‘specifically’
12	prole	Latin ‘offspring’
15	tallage	An occasional tax levied by the Anglo-Norman kings on crown lands and royal towns
15	scott	Money assessed or paid. [Middle English, tax, partly from Old Norse skot and partly from Old French escot
16	Iueomen	Common misspelling of Yeoman
19	Nether	Lower i.e. Today’s Renter Warden
20	tractable	Adjective (of a person) easy to control or influence: e.g. she has always been tractable and obedient, even as a child
22	froward	Adjective willfully contrary; not easily managed:
23	meed	<i>Archaic</i> : an earned reward or wage

Page 8 Line 3 Word 3

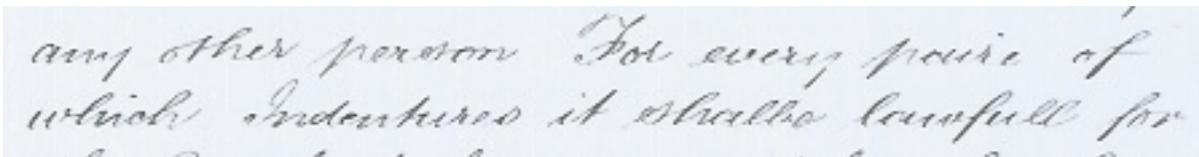
as **formerly** by such



The said Master & Wardens in such
seemly and decent manner & in such
sort as formerly by such persons of

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For every **parte** of which Indentures



any other person For every parte of
which Indentures it shall be lawfull for