



The original Charter, dated 12 June 1604, is in Latin and is kept in Guildhall Library. The following is a 17th century translation of the original.

JAMES BY THE GRACE OF GOD

Of England Scotland France and Ireland

King Defender of the Faith &c.

TO ALL to whom these present Letters shall come Greeting

KNOW YE that we of our Speciall Grace and of our certain Science and Free Will And also at the humble Petition of the Freemen of the Society of the Turners of London HAVE Willed Ordained Constituted Declared and Granted and by these presents for us Our Heirs and Successors DO Will ordain constitute declare and grant That They the said Freemen of the Society aforesaid or by whatsoever other Name or Names the said Society is called or named and their Successors for ever May and shall by Virtue of these presents a Body Corporate and politick in Being Fact and Name By the Name of the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London for us our Heirs and Successors by these presents Do Erect Make Ordain Constitute and Declare a Body Corporate and politick in being fact and name really and fully And that they shall have perpetual succession by the same Name of the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London May and shall for ever hereafter Persons fit and capable in Law to Have Purchase Receive and Possess Mannors Messuages Lands Tenements Liberties Priviledges Jurisdictions Franchises and Heriditaments of whatsoever kind Nature or Species they shall be to them and their Successors in Fee and perpetuity or for a Term of a Year or Years Or in any other manner whatsoever And also Goods and Chattells and all other things of whatsoever Name Nature Quality or kind they shall be and also to Give Grant Sell Demise Assign and Dispose of Mannors Lands Tenements and Hereditaments and all and singular other matters and things to Do and execute by the Name aforesaid And that they the said Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London Shall and may be able to Plead and be Impleaded Answer and be Answered Defend and be Defended in whatsoever Courts and places and before whatsoever Judges and Justices and other persons and Officers of us and our Heirs and Successors in all and all manner of Actions Pleas Suits Complaints Causes Matters and Demands of whatsoever kind Quality or sort they shall and may be in the same manner and Form as any other Liege Subject of this Our Kingdom of England being persons able and capable by Law or any other Body Corporate and politick within this our Kingdom of England Shall and may have power to Have Purchase Receive Possess Enjoy Retain Give Grant Sell Aliene Assign and Dispose Plead and be Impleaded Answer and be Answered Defend and be Defended Do Suffer or Execute And that the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mistery or Art of the Turners aforesaid may for ever hereafter have a Common Seal to serve for the doing of all their or their Successors Causes and Businesses whatsoever And that it shall and may be lawfull for the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London aforesaid from time to time at their Wills and pleasures to break Change and New-make the said Seal as to them shall seem meet to be done AND FURTHER We Will and by these presents for us and our Heirs and Successors Grant to the said

Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London and their Successors That for ever hereafter there be and shall be One of the Commonalty of the Mistery or Art aforesaid to be Chosen in manner in these presents hereafter mentioned who shall be and be named Master of the said Mistery or Art of the Turners of London And also that there be and shall be two of the Commonalty of the said Mistery or Art of the Turners of London to be named and Chosen in manner hereafter in these presents mentioned who shall be and shall be named wardens of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London aforesaid And also likewise that there be and shall be thirteen or more not exceeding the number of Twenty four to be Chosen out of the Commonalty aforesaid in manner in these presents hereafter mentioned who shall be and shall be named Assistants and Aiders to the said Master and Wardens for the time being in all Causes matters and business touching or concerning the said Master Wardens and Commonalty And that it shall and may be lawfull to and for the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London aforesaid and their Successors to have Retain and Appoint a Certain House or Councill Hall within the City of London aforesaid or Libertyes thereof And that the said Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mistery or Art aforesaid or the Major part of them for the time being Shall and may have power at all times hereafter as often as they shall think fit and necessary to Call together and hold within the said House or Hall a certain Court or Meeting of them the said Master Wardens and Assistants and Common Councill or the Major part of them And in the same Court or Meeting Shall and may have power to treat of Conferr Consult Advise and Determine concerning the Statutes Articles and Ordinances touching or concerning the Commonalty aforesaid and the good Ordering State and Government of the same according to their wise Discretions AND FURTHER We will and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do Grant to the said Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London aforesaid and their Successors That the said Master Wardens and Assistants of the Mistery Or Art aforesaid for the time being pr the Major part of them (of whom the Master and one Warden for the time being We Will shall be two) upon publick Summons given for their Assembling may and shall have full power and Authority from time to time to Constitute Ordain and make reasonable Laws Statutes Ordinances Decrees and Constitutions in writing which to them or the Major part of them (of whom the said Master and One Warden of the Mistery or Art aforesaid for the time being We Will shall be two) Shall think good Wholesome Usefull Honest and necessary according to their wise Discretions for the Good Ordering and Government of the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the said Mistery or Art of Turners and of all the other Turners and of all other persons for the time being Exercising the said Mistery or Art of Turners within the said City of London and within five Miles of the said City and following the same Mistery and Art and for Declareing in what manner and Order the same Master Wardens and Assistants and all and every person of the said Commonalty in their Offices of the said Mistery and Art Shall use Carry and behave themselves for the further publick Good and Common profit of them the said Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mistery or Art aforesaid And for all other matters and things whatsoever touching or in any manner concerning the Mistery or Art aforesaid And also the said Master Wardens and Assistants of the Mistery or Art aforesaid for the time being or the greater part of them (of whom the Master and One Warden of the Mistery or Art aforesaid for the time being We Will shall be two) as Often as they shall have made Constituted Ordained or Established such Laws Orders Statutes Justitutions Ordinances and Constitutions in manner aforesaid and such pains and punishments and penalyes by Imprisonment of the Bodyes or Fines and Amercements or by both of them against and upon all Delinquents against the said Laws Orders Statutes Institutions Ordinances and Constitutions or any of them or any other which to the said Master Wardens and Assistants for the time being or the Major part of them (of whom the said Master and one Warden of the Mistery or Art aforesaid for the time being We Will shall be two) shall seem necessary fitt and Convenient to make Limitt and provide for the Observation of the Laws Rules and Ordinances aforesaid and that the said Master Wardens and

Commonalty of the Turners of London aforesaid and their Successors shall and may have the same Fines and ameracements to the use of them the said Master Wardens and Commonalty and their Successors without the Hindrance of us our Heirs and Successors or of any of Our Officers or Ministers or of our Heirs or Successors and without any account thereof to be given to us our Heirs or Successors All and singular which Rules Orders Laws Statutes and Ordinances as aforesaid to be made We Will to be observed under the penalties in the same Contained so that nevertheless such Laws Orders Ordinances Constitutions Imprisonments Fines and Ameracements be reasonable and not repugnant or Contrary to the Laws Statutes Customs or Rights of the Kingdome of England And for the better Execution of our Will and Grant in this Behalf We have Assigned nominated Created Constituted and Made and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do Assign Nominate Create Constitute and Make Our beloved John Turnor Citizen and Turner of London to be the first and present Master of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London to be Continued in the same Office of Master of the Mistery or Art aforesaid from the date of these presents untill the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord next following after the Date of these presents and from thence untill One other Shall have been in due form Elected and Chosen into the Office of Master of the Mistery or Art aforesaid According to the Orders and provisions hereafter in these presents Expressed and Declared, if the same John Turnor shall so long live WE HAVE ALSO Assigned Nominated and Appointed and by these presents for us Our Heirs and Successors DO Assign Nominate and Appoint our beloved John Wallington and John Peares Citizens and Turners of London to be the first and present Wardens of the said Mistery or Art of the Turners of London to be Continued in the said Office of Wardens of the said Mistery or Art from the date of these presents untill the said Feast of the Ascension of our Lord then next and from thence untill two others shall be elected and Chosen into the Office of Wardens of the Mistery or Art aforesaid According to the Orders and provisions in these presents expressed and declared If the same John Wallington and John Peares shall so long live And we have Assigned Nominated Created and made And by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do Assign nominate Create and make our beloved High Ireland Barnaby Bostow James Dagger James Reynolds Thomas Gurnett Nicholas Beane John Rabowld Robert Ratcliffe Jeremiah Benton William Whitehart Richard Weaver Philip Bingham and John Butt to be the first and now Assistants of the said Master Wardens and Commonalty of the same Mistery or Art of the Turners of London during their naturall lives Unless in the meantime for ill Government or badd Carriage in that behalf or for reasonable cause they or any of them shall be Removed And that it shall and may be lawfull for the said Master Wardens and Assistants for the time being or the greater part of them for the being (whereof the Master and One Warden of the Mistery or Art aforesaid from time to time We Will shall be two) at their Will to Choose nominate and admitt from time to time so many and such of the Antientest and most worthy Freemen of the said Commonalty for the time being as to them shall seem best into the Assistants of them the said Master and Wardens and their Successors And that he or they after (as aforesaid) shall take his or their Corporall Oath before the Master and Wardens for the time being touching their truely well faithfully and Honestly executing the said Office in all things so that nevertheless the number of the said Assistants Do not exceed the number of Twenty four persons And that it shall and may be lawfull for the said Master Wardens and greater number of the Assistants for the time being to remove any One or more of the said Assistants for the time being (or who shall be hereafter) for any reasonable Cause and to make a new Election Institution or Admission of one other or others AND FURTHER We Will and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do Grant to the said Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London aforesaid and their Successors that the said Master and Wardens and Assistants of the Mistery or Art aforesaid for the time being or the greater part of them from time to time at all times hereafter have and shall have power and Authority in every year for ever upon the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord of Choosing and naming and Shall and may Choose and name One of the Freemen of the

Commonalty aforesaid who shall be Master of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London for One whole year then next following And that he who shall be Elected and named Master of the Mistery or Art aforesaid before he shall be admitted to take the said Office shall take his Corporall Oath before the late Master his predecessor and Wardens of the Mistery or Art aforesaid for the time being in that Office touching his truly well and faithfully executing the said Office in all things and two others of the Commonalty of the Mistery or Art aforesaid who shall be Wardens of the same Mistery or Art for One whole year then next following And that he who shall be Elected chosen and Sworn as aforesaid into the Office of Master of the Mistery or Art aforesaid Shall and may Execute the Office of Master of the Mistery or Art aforesaid for One whole year then next following And that they who Shall as aforesaid be elected into the Office of Wardens of the Mistery or Art aforesaid Shall and may and each of them shall and may Execute and Exercise the Office of Wardens of the Mistery or Art aforesaid for One whole year then next following having taken their Corporall Oaths before the Master of the Mistery or Art aforesaid and the late Wardens their late predecessors and so many of the Assistants who shall be then present touching their truly well and faithfully executing the said Office of Wardens of the Mistery or Art aforesaid in all Things AND MOREOVER We Will and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to the said Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London and their Successors and That if it shall happen the Master and Wardens of the Mistery or Art aforesaid or any of them at any time within One year next after they shall as aforesaid have been elected and chosen into the Office of Master or into the Office of Wardens of the Mistery or Art aforesaid or any of them shall Dye or be Removed from the said Office which said Master and Wardens and every of them for ill Government or any other reasonable cause We will shall from time to time be removed by the major part of them the said Master Wardens and Assistants of the Mistery or Art aforesaid That then and so often it shall and may be lawfull for such and so many of the said Master Wardens and Assistants who shall be surviving or remaining of the greater part of them at their pleasure to Elect and Choose One other for Master and one or two others for Warden or Wardens of the Mistery or Art aforesaid according to the Orders and provisions above by these presents Declared to Execute and Exercise the said Office of Master or the said Office or Offices of Warden and Wardens of the Mistery or Art aforesaid untill the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord having first taken their Corporall Oath in form aforesaid And so as often as Occasion shall happene AND FURTHER of our more Abundant Grace and certain Knowledge and Free Will for the better ruling and Government of all of them who now use or hereafter shall Exercise the Mistery or Art of the Turners within the said City of London and Suburbs thereof and within five Miles of the same City WE HAVE Given and Granted and by these presents for our Heirs and Successors DO Give and Grant to the said Master Wardens and Assistants of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London aforesaid and their Successors That the said Master Wardens and Assistants and their Successors for the time being at all times hereafter for ever shall have the Overlooking Examining Correcting and Government of All and singular the Mistery or Art of the Turners and of all other persons whatsoever using or exercising the Mistery or Art aforesaid or in any manner Occupying the same or and any thing concerning the same within our said City of London and Suburbs thereof and within five Miles of the said City and within all Libertyes Franchises Jurisdictions as well exempt as not exempt Scituate and being within the City of London aforesaid and within five Miles of the same City and Authority to punish all Offenders for their Offences according to their wise Discretions and Orders by them or their Successors to be made as aforesaid WE BEING WILLING And by these presents for us and our Heirs and Successors firmly Enjoining our precepts and Commands to all and singular Mayors Justices Bailiffs Constables and other our Officers Ministers and Subjects that they be aiding and assisting and helping to the said Master Wardens and Assistants of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London aforesaid and to every of them to make possess have and execute All and singular those things by us to the said Master Wardens and Commonalty by these our Letters patent before

Granted and every parcell thereof AND FURTHER of our more abundant Grace and certain knowledge and Free Will We have given and Granted and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do Give and Grant to the said Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London and their Successors speciall Lycence and leave and lawfull power Faculty and Authority of having requiring receiving and possessing to them and their Successors for ever the Messuages Lands Tenements Meadows Feedings Pastures Woods Underwoods Rectoryes Tythes Rents Reversions and other Hereditements whatsoever within our Kingdome of England and other our Dominions as well from us our Heirs and Successors as from any other person or persons which are not held from us our Heirs and Successors in Capite nor by Knights Service so long as the same Messuages lands Tenements Meadows Feedings Pastures Woods Underwoods Rectoryes Tythes Rents Reversions and other Hereditements in the whole do not exceed the clear yearly value of Twenty pounds beyond all Charges and Reprises the Statute of Lands and Tenements in Mortmain or any other Stature Act order or provision heretofore had made ordered or provided or any other thing or matter whatsoever to the Contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding AND ALSO We Give Grant for us our Heirs and Successors by these presents to every our Subject and Subjects and of us our Heirs and Successors Speciall Lycence and leave and lawfull power faculty and Authority that they or any of them shall and may Give Grant Sell Bequeath or Alienate Messuages Lands Tenements Meadows Feedings Pastures Woods Underwoods Rectoryes Tythes Rents Reversions and other Hereditaments whatsoever which are not held of us our Heirs and Successors in Capite or otherwise by Knights Service to the said Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mistery or Art of the Turners of London and their Successors so that all the said Messuages Lands Tenements Meadows Feedings Pastures Woods Underwoods Rectoryes Tythes Rents Reversions and other Hereditaments so Given Granted Bequeathed or aliened to the said Master Wardens and Commonalty and their Successors by vertue of these presents Do not in the whole exceed the clear yearly value of Twenty pounds beyond all Charges and reprises the Statute of Lands and Tenements in Mortmain or any other thing cause or matter whatsoever heretofore had done made Ordered or provided to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding We Will Also and by these presents Grant to the said Master Wardens and Commonalty that they shall and may have these our Letters patent under our great Seal of England in due form made and sealed without any large or small fine or fee to be given or paid to us in our Hamper of Chancery or to any other for our use HOWBEIT the Express mention of the true yearly value or of any other value or certainty of the premisses or of any part thereof or of any other Gifts or grants by any of our ancestors or predecessors heretofore made to the said master Wardens and Commonalty be not made in these Presents or any Statute Act Order provision proclamation or Restriction to the Contrary thereof heretofore had done made ordered or provided or other thing cause or matter whatsoever in any wise notwithstanding

IN TESTIMONY whereof we have Caused these our Letters to be made patent. WITNESS our self at Westminster the twelfth day of June in the second year of our Reign of England France and Ireland and of Scotland the thirty seventh

(Signed) **T. RAVENSCROFT**

By Writ of Privy Seal

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