

## By Laws

*Recital of the Statute of Henry 7<sup>th</sup> whereby no Master Wardens or Fellowship or Crafts or Mistries nor Rulers of Guilds or Fraternities should make any Ordinance or execute any Acts by them before made unless examined and approved of by ye Chancellor on forfeiture of 40 pounds.*

**To all** true Christian people to whom this present Writing shall come Thomas Lord Coventry Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England Sir Nicholas Hide Knight Chief Justice of all pleas before his Majesty to be holden and Sir Thomas Richardson Knight Chief Justice of his High Court of Common pleas send Greeting in our Lord God everlasting Whereas in a certain Act in ye Parliament holden at Westminster the five and twentieth Day of January in the nineteenth year of the Reign of the late King of famous Memory Henry after the Conquest the seventh made and ordained for the Weal and profit of his Subjects It was amongst other Things ordained established and enacted that no Master Wardens or Fellowships of Crafts or Misteries or any of them nor any Ruler of Guilds or Fraternities should take upon them to make any Act or Ordinances, nor to execute or use any Acts or Ordinances by them heretofore made in Disinheritance or Diminution of the Kings Prerogative or any other, or against the Common Weal and Profit of the Kings Subjects and Leige people But that the same Acts and Ordinances be first examined approved and admitted by the Chancellor Treasurer of England and the Chief Justices of either Bench or three of them, or also before both the Justices of Assize in their Circuit or progress in the Shire where such Acts and Ordinances be made upon Pain of

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forfeiture of forty Pounds for every Time they do there unto Contrary as by the said Act of Parliament more plainly doth and may appear **Know ye** that the Master Wardens Assistants and Comonalty of the Company or Society of the Spectacle-Makers of the City of London willing and desireing the said Act of Parliament in all and every Things to be duly observed and kept. The three and twentieth Day of January in the year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King Charles by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith & c the fifth **Have** exhibited and presented their Petition thereupon made with a Book containing divers Statutes Acts and Ordinances heretofore devised ordained and made for the better Rule and Government of the said Company or Fellowship of Spectacle-Makers and their Successors and of all others that now are or hereafter shall be of that Society or Fellowship and for the Common Weal and Conservation of the good Estate of the same And thereupon have instantly desired us that we all and every of the said Acts Statutes and Ordinances and Oaths hereafter set down and by them to us exhibited would examine and approve, and those and every of them correct and amend in due and convenient Manner and Form as the said recited Act of Parliament requireth **We** well perceiving and considering their Supplication to be good and reasonable according to their Petition and Desires by the

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Authority of the said Act of Parliament to us in that Behalf given All and every the said Acts and Ordinances and Oaths so to us exhibited have seen read and well understood and them all and every of them examined corrected reformed and approved The Tenors whereof hereinafter ensue and be these

*Recital of the Charter of Incorpora<sup>3</sup>*

**First Whereas** there hath been of long Time a great Number of Spectacle-Makers which have wrought within the City of London the Liberties and Suburbs thereof and have used the Art Mistry and Trade of Spectacle-Makers **And Whereas** it hath pleased his Royal Majesty of his especial Grace by his Highnesses Letters Patents bearing Date at Westminster the sixteenth Day of May in the fifth year of his Majesties Reign to make them a Body Corporate, and to consist of a Master two Wardens and eight Assistants and Comonalty with power to make Choice from Time to Time of a Master Wardens and Assistants in such sort as in the said Letters patents are set downe.

N<sup>o</sup>: (1)

*Power to choose a Livery who shall take Oath*

**Now** for the better Order Rule and Government of the said Company and of the several Members thereof **It is** hereby ordained that they of the said Society Company or Fellowship so incorporated by his Majesties said Letters

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Patents as aforesaid shall and may of and amongst themselves make choose and have a Livery for the better Service of his Majesty and of the said City and Company And that every Person chosen into the said Livery shall take such Oath as by these Ordinances shall be appointed for him upon like pain as shall be imposed upon such persons as being chosen into the Assistants of the said Company shall refuse the Oath hereby appointed for them.

N<sup>o</sup>: (2)

*Ordinary Court Days to be on the first Fryday in every Month or oftner if Occasion General Courts of Assembly of Livery and Fellowships as often as Master and Wardens think fit*

*Quarter Courts to be on the first Thursday after Lady Day, First Thursday after Midsummer, First Thursday after Michaelmas, First Thursday after Christmas*  
**Item<sup>4</sup>** it is ordained that upon the first Fryday of every Month and that day Fortnight after shall be the usual and ordinary Court Days for the Master Wardens and Assistants of this Company And upon every of these said days a Court to be held at the Hall of the said Company And if Occasion do require then such Court or Assembly to be oftner and at such Times as by the Master and Wardens of the said Company shall be thought fit and raised to be summoned. And also there shall be an Assembly or general Court or Courts for the Livery and general Fellowship of the said Company The same general Court or Courts to be kept from Time to Time when and as often as the Master and Wardens shall summon and appoint the same And further that there shall be yearly four general Courts of the said whole Fellowship which shall

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<sup>3</sup> Incorporation.

<sup>4</sup> Meaning likewise, also. Used to introduce a new article.

be called Quarter Days the same to be held yearly one of them upon the first Thursday after the Annunciation of our Blessed Lady Saint Mary the Virgin. The second Quarter Day

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upon the first Thursday next and immediately after the feast of the Nativity of Saint John Baptist. The third Quarter Day upon the first Thursday next and immediately after the Feast of Saint Michael the Arch Angell. And the fourth Quarter Day upon the first Thursday next and immediately ensuing the Feast of the Birth of our Lord God All the Courts to be kept at their Comon Hall within the City of London called Spectacle-Makers Hall.

Nº: (3)

*Twelve Pence Quarterage to be paid by every Person using of Trade and to perform Orders under a penalty of 10s*

**Item** that on every of the said Quarter Days or Quarter Courts every person of the said Fellowship or Incorporation and every person using the Trade Art or Mistery of a Spectacle-Maker or that shall trade in Buying Spectacles to sell the same again within the Circuit limited in the said Letters patents, other than Servants shall then and there satisfy and pay for Quarterage twelve pence in Money every Quarter to the Master or one of the Wardens of the said Company for the Time being for the Use of the said Fellowship, And shall perform all such other Orders Rights and Duties to the said Fellowship as by every Fellow Brother or other person of the said Company ought to be done upon Pain of every Time denying or offending in that kind to forfeit the sum of ten Shillings.

Nº: (4)

*Master and Wardens not coming by the Hour or at all 2s 6d*

*Departing the Court without Licence 2s 6d*

*Every other Member not appearing by the Hour 6d and not coming at all or departing Court without Licence 1s 0d*

*Master Wardens Assistants or Livery appearing at any Court or Meeting without their Gown 1s*

*Refusal to pay Quarterage or other Duties 10s*

**Item** that every Person of the said Fellowship making

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Default of Appearance after reasonable Summons and Warning to him or them given to be at the said Courts and Meetings at any Time shall forfeit as ensueth viz:

The Master and either of the Wardens not appearing there by the Hour appointed (having no lawfull Excuse) twelve pence and not coming at all to the said Court (having no lawfull Excuse) or departing without Licence before the Court be ended two Shillings and six Pence, every other Member of the said Company or Fellowship or person under their Government as aforesaid so summoned or warned according to the Nature of the Courts or Meetings and not appearing there by the Hour appointed (except he can show some lawfull Impediment such as the Master Wardens and Assistants of the Court or most of them shall allow) shall forfeit six pence, and not coming at all to the said Court or departing thence without Licence before the Court be ended shall forfeit twelve Pence, And if the Master or either of the Wardens or any of the Assistants or Livery shall repair to any of the said Courts or Meetings without

his Gown or shall be otherwise indecently attired he shall forfeit twelve pence for every such Time, And every Person denying refusing or neglecting to pay his Quarterage or any other Rights and Duties to be as aforesaid paid and answered at any the said Quarter Days or Quarter Courts or at any other Court whatsoever shall loose and forfeit ten shillings for every such Default (except the same be moderated or dispensed with by a Court of Assistants

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of the said Company<sup>5</sup>

Nº: (5)

*For refusing to be of the Livery or not preparing with Livery Habit within 6 Months after Notis<sup>6</sup> of Election 20s and every month after 10s*

**Item** that if any Person or Persons Members of the said Company shall by the Master Wardens and Assistants or the greater Part of them (whereof the Master and one of the Wardens to be two) be chosen and elected into the Livery of the said Company and shall refuse to be of the Livery or not take the same upon him, or shall not within the space of three Months next after Notice given to him of such Election prepare himself with Habits and Livery and Garmonts fitting thereunto, as shall be appointed by the Master Wardens and Assistants, Such Person and Persons shall forfeit for such his Offence twenty shillings and so forward for every Month after the said three Months, ten Shillings Monthly untill he shall obediently confirm himself and take the said Livery upon him and prepare himself according to such Order as shall so be appointed by the said Master Wardens and Assistants

Nº: (6)

*For not attending to meet the King upon Sumons 20s*

**Item** if for Attendance upon the Kings Majesty his Heirs or Successors at his or their repair to or towards the City of London, or for other reasonable and just Occasion or Consideration any of the Assistants or Livery of the said Company or other of the said Company

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or Fellowship shall be by the Master and Wardens appointed to any reasonable and convenient Service or Attendance in Livery or otherwise by Horse or Foot and upon Warning thereof shall not attend, and sort provide and attire and furnish himself, and perform and do accordingly what he shall be so appointed he shall for every such Default or Neglect forfeit the sum of twenty Shillings (except he shall have some reasonable Matter of Excuse and that be allowed by a Court of Assistants as aforesaid<sup>7</sup>

Nº: (7)

*Livery's not attending (upon Warning) dead Corps to the Grave 10s*

**Item** that if Request at any Time shall be made to the Master and Wardens of the said Company to have the Livery of the said Company to accompany to the Grave within the Circuit of London Liberties and Suburbs thereof or within three Miles compass the Dead Corps of any of the Livery deceased or of his Wife at the Time of the

<sup>5</sup> No close of brackets in original text.

<sup>6</sup> Notice.

<sup>7</sup> No close of brackets in original text.

Funeral Then the Master and Wardens if they shall think it fit shall cause a warning of the whole said Livery accordingly and every of the said Livery shall upon reasonable warning attend with his Livery at the Time and place appointed upon Pain and Forfeiture of ten shillings by every particular Person of the said Livery who shall make Default upon any such Warning (except he shall have some reasonable Excuse for his Absence and that be allowed by a Court of Assistants as aforesaid<sup>8</sup>

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N<sup>o</sup>: (8)

*New Master and Wardens to give bond in the Penalty of 100 pounds before they be admitted into their Office*

*The form of the Bond*

**Item** that at such yearly Court of Assistants which shall be held for the New Choice of Master and Wardens for the Year next ensuing there shall be chosen at the Court before the Election of the new Master and Wardens three other fit Persons of the said Assistants to take Bonds of the said Master and Wardens who at that Court shall be newly chosen And that none nominated or agreed upon to be the new Master or any of the new Wardens for the year following shall be admitted fully elected or be established in his place until he shall have entred<sup>9</sup> Bond of the Sum of one Hundred Pounds unto the said three of the said Assistants with two sufficient Sureties who shall then be none of the Assistants of the said Company which Bond shall be to the Effect contained and provided in and by the Articles hereafter ensuing (that is to say) That the Master and Wardens shall use imploy and dispose of all every and any such Sum and Sums of Money Rents Plate and other Things which he shall receive or be possessed of, or shall anyways come to his Hands or Custody of the said Companies in the Time of his being Master or Warden as shall be ordered and directed and appointed by the Court of Assistants from Time to Time and not otherwise and that after the Expiration of his Mastership or Wardenship he shall make and deliver to the Assistants of the said Company at the next Court of Assistants a perfect full and true Accompt and after such Accompt so made what Remainder shall be found in his Hands or custody

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belonging to the Company he shall without Diminution Covin or Delay deliver over the same at such Time and Place and to such Person and Persons to the Use of the said Company as by the said Court of Assistants shall be appointed And after such Accompt and Delivery made and approved of by the said Court of Assistants the Bonds to be redelivered to them that shall be so bound respectively to be cancelled.

N<sup>o</sup>: (9)

*Master or Wardens refusing or neglecting to hold their Place or enter into Bond or take Oath forfeits 10 pounds*

*Power upon refusal or neglect to proceed to a new Choice*

*Assistants refusing or neglecting to hold their Place or take Oath forfeits 10 pounds*

*The like Power upon refusal or neglect to proceed to the Choice of a new Assistant*

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<sup>8</sup> No close of brackets in original text.

<sup>9</sup> Entered.

**Item** it is further ordered that if any Person Freeman of the said Company which shall be aforesaid chosen Master or Warden of the said Company shall upon Notice thereof deny refuse or neglect to take the same upon him or to enter Bond or to take such Corporal Oath as by these Ordinances is hereafter appointed approved and allowed Then he shall forfeit the sum of ten Pounds and then after there shall be proceeding to a new Nomination and Choice of any other in his place in like sort as shall be done when any Master or Warden shall decease in the Time of his said Office or as if such as a Person had never been so elected and chosen And that like forfeiture and proceedings shall run and be upon every such Person of the said Fellowship which shall be chosen of the said Assistants and shall refuse or not take upon him to be of the said Assistants after he is so chosen or to take such Oath as by these Ordinances or any other

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hereafter shall be fully appointed approved and allowed

N<sup>o</sup>: (10)

*Power to make Taxations and Assessments*

*Forfeiture for refusing or omitting to pay Assessment 10 pounds*

**Item** that if for Service of the Kings Majesty his Heirs and Successors or of the City of London or of the proper Affairs of this Company or for other reasonable and just Considerations any Taxations or Assessments shall by the Master and Wardens for the Time being or two of them whereof the Master to be one and the Assistants of the Company or the greater part of them be reasonably assessed or rated upon particular Person or Persons Members of the said Corporation, Then the same shall be in all Things obeyed and performed according to such Orders as shall be by them set down for the collection of the same And that every person refusing denying or omitting to satisfy and pay such or so much of the said Assessment or Taxation as shall so at any Time be rated and assessed upon him shall forfeit the sum of ten pounds for such Denial<sup>10</sup> or Refusal

N<sup>o</sup>: (11)

*Every Member using reviling Words, Blows to pay what's allotted by the Company forfeits 5 pounds*

**Item** that no person Member of this Company or Fellowship shall at any Time revile or give any Blows opprobrious or unseemly Speech or Words or other unlawfull or unseemly Act to of or towards the Master or any of the Wardens or other person Member of the said Fellowship whereby the Kings Peace or brotherly love may be broken

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or impaired And if upon complaint of such Misbehaviour any such Person shall at a Court of Assistants of the said Company or Fellowship be found to have so offended he shall obey undergo and perform such reasonable Order and Sentence as by the said Court shall be set down containing the same And if he shall refuse or neglect so to do then he shall forfeit the sum of five pounds

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<sup>10</sup> Denial.

Nº: (12)

*No Person using the Trade of Spectacle Making to entertain or imploy any Person therein without presenting*

*Clerks Fee on entring<sup>11</sup> every Presentment 1 s*

*None to entertain or to take into Service any Person formerly Apprentice or Servant without Consent of his former Master and making Presentment*

*Forfeiture 5 Marks*

**Item** for that many Persons of ill Behaviour and so known in places where they have dwelt in the Country do much resort to the City of London and Places near thereabouts to use or exercise the aforesaid Trade For the better discovery of such Persons as for other good Purposes It is ordained that none useing or which shall use or occupy within the said City Suburbs or Limits aforesaid the Art or Trade of Spectacle Making in any kind whatsoever shall receive entertain imploy or use in the Art of Spectacle Making any Person or Persons whatsoever except he shall first truly present every such Person personally with the certainty of his Name and Place of his Birth and that the said Person so entertaining imploying or useing him shall present the same over unto the said Court of Assistants expressing also the Time and Purpose of his Retainer To the End the same Court may examine take View and Notice of him And if they shall find him fit to be allowed then to enter his or their Names with other Certainties

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into their Books And the Clerk of the Said Company or Fellowship to have for such Entrances twelve pence. And that no Person or Persons using the said Art or Trade of Spectaclemaking within the said City Suburbs or Limits aforesaid shall hire receive take or entertain to apprentice or into Service any Person whatsoever formerly apprentice unto or serving to the Trade of Spectaclemaking within any the Limits aforesaid without the consent of his next former Master if any such be and to the End the Entertainment Departure and Setting over of such Apprentice Servant or Servants may be truly known He that receives or takes such Servant or Apprentice shall give Notice thereof at a Court of Assistants. And the Clerk for such Fee as aforesaid shall make Entrance thereof upon Pain of every persons offending contrary to the true Meaning of this Article in any Thing shall for every such Offence forfeit five marks.

Nº: (13)

*No Person to take an Apprentice without leave of a Court of Assistants and then to have but one till bear Office, and then to have but two on Forfeiture for every month 5 pounds*

**Item** for the avoiding of Confusion and Disorder in the said Society which may grow or arise by taking of Apprentices as many as they please and to the End that Journeymen freemen having truly served forth their Time of Apprenticeship may be the better imployed and provided for It is hereby ordained that no Person or Persons whatsoever hereafter shall take to himself any Apprentice or Apprentices but first to have leave and licence by and at a Court of Assistants of this Fellowship and then to have

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<sup>11</sup> Entering.

but one untill he shall bear Office in the said Company, And after he shall so bear Office, not to exceed the Number of two at any one Time whatsoever upon Pain of forfeiting for every Month so offending five pounds.

Nº: (14)

*No Person using the Trade departing the City but still to be subject to the Government of the Company Office excepted*

*Power for the Master and Wardens to proceed against such person for Misdemeanors and to impose a Fine*

**Item** for the better ordering of dissolute and ill disposed persons such as will hardly be brought under the Rules of any good Government and for as much as there is at this Time none that now professteth the Act and Mistry of Spectacle-Making within the Realm of England but such as are Freemen of the City of London or otherwise live within the Limited compass of three Miles of the said City It is therefore ordained and established that what person or persons soever now or hereafter using the same Trade or Mistry shall upon any Ground or pretence whatsoever depart this City and Liberties as aforesaid into any other remote place within the realm of England shall notwithstanding observe the same Rules and be subject to live under the same order and Government (Office only excepted) And if Default be made by any such Person or Persons whatsoever hereafter That then it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Master and Wardens according to the Tenor of his Majesties Grant of Incorporation to proceed against them for Misdemeanors

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in themselves or in the deceitfull Working of or in their Trade to be found and discovered by due search and oversight by way of Fine or otherwise as if they yet lived within the said City of London or Liberties aforesaid which Fine is likewise to be imposed by the Discretion of the Master Wardens and Court of Assistants according to the Qualities of their Offence

Nº: (15)

*No Person to make Spectacles working them only on the one side on Forfeiture for every Pair found in his Custody 20s*

**Item** for the better avoiding of all deceitfull Practices in Making of bad and hurtfull Wares It is ordained that no person or persons hereafter whatsoever using the Trade or Mistry of Spectacle-Making shall at any Time make any Spectacles working them only on the one Side the other being wrought by Looking Glass Makers or otherwise after that forme but that every Person free of the said Company for every such pair so wrought or found in his Custody shall forfeit twenty Shillings.

Nº: (16)

*None to buy Glass either whole or broken in Parcels till it be first brought to a Place to be appointed where it may be converted to the Use of the whole Society Except it be a small Quantity fit for six pair of Spectacles and no more on Forfeiture for every Time 10 pounds*

**Item** where there is much Glass made for the Use of Spectacle-Makers as well within his Majesties Dominions as in parts Beyond the Seas and imported into this Kingdom which is not of any sufficient goodness to be imploied for the use of Spectacle Making, yet



many evil disposed persons seeking rather their own Private Ends and benefit than the publick good in having it at a very cheap Rate, do convert it to that Use whereby many Inconveniencies do happen, and is a very great Danger to the Sight of all such as do or shall use them and is a very great discredit to honest and good Workmen, for the better prevention whereof It is ordained that no Person or Persons which shall use the Trade or Mistery of Spectacle-Making shall at any Time hereafter buy any Glass either whole or broken in greater or lesser parcells from any person or persons whatsoever untill such parcell be before the same shall be so bought as aforesaid brought to some Place appointed for that purpose where it may be converted to the use of the whole Society (except it be in such small parcells as may not exceed in all the Quantity fit for making of five Pair or six Pair at the most of Spectacles, upon pain of every Time so offending in doing the Contrary the Sum of ten Pounds<sup>12</sup>

Nº: (17)

*None to sell any Wares till first viewd<sup>13</sup> by the Master and Wardens or their Deputy and seald<sup>14</sup> and allowed merchantable on Forfeiture for every Pair 10 s*

**Item** to the End that all Person and Persons whatsoever both free and Foreign that shall hereafter buy any Spectacles of any free Brother or otherwise whereby the same may be found both good sufficient and warrantable and which may hereafter tend both to the proper Good of the Buyer

and Seller, Be it thereby ordained that no Person or Persons within the City of London Liberty and Suburbs thereof or within three Miles Compass shall sell or utter or cause to be sold or uttered any such Wares at all, either by wholesale or otherwise before it be first presented to the Views and Oversight of the then Master and Wardens of this Society for the Time being or their Deputy or Deputies by them lawfully appointed and their sealed and allowed to be merchantable as aforesaid upon pain to forfeit for every Pair of Spectacles which shall be so sold or offered to sale not being viewed sealed and allowed as aforesaid the Sum of ten Shillings.

Nº: (18)

*None to use the Trade of Spectaclemaking unless served an Apprenticeship and been allowed by ye Company on Forfeiture of 40 pounds*

**Item** where the meanest Arts and Trade as well as others and particularly this Trade of Spectacle-Making are found to be very much abused by stragling Interlopers such as either never served at all or else but a short space to the Trade of Spectacle-Making whereby the said Trade is much blemished by imperfect Work and the good and honest Workmen much disheartened and many other Inconveniencies as daily ensue It is therefore ordained that no Person or Persons whatsoever either Foreign or Free of what Trade or Condition soever that shall hereafter intermeddle or practice to make any Spectacles or any Part thereof or any Thing also peculiarly<sup>15</sup> belonging to the same Trade or Mistery of

<sup>12</sup> No close of brackets in the original text.

<sup>13</sup> Viewed.

<sup>14</sup> Sealed.

<sup>15</sup> Peculiarly.

Spectacle-Making unless he or they have first served seven years at the least as an Apprentice to some professed Master or Workman of the same Trade and likewise be approved of by and at a full Court of Assistants upon Pain of forty Pounds for every such Offence.

Nº: (19)

*Persons hawking Spectacles forfeits five pounds*

**Item** where there are divers ill-disposed persons commonly termed Hawkers which do go from Place to Place both privily and publickly offering the Sale of very bad Spectacles and will not abide in their Shops which should be to them a Markett Place as it is to the Rest Be it therefore ordained that if any Person or Persons whatsoever hereafter shall in such Manner jett about and put to sale any Spectacles at any Time or Times hereafter as aforesaid that then the same Parties and every of them so offending in the like Kind shall forfeit five pounds For Prevention of which Be it further ordained that if it shall happen that any person or persons whatsoever having no Apprentice shall at any Time hereafter have above the Quantity of thirty Dozen pair of Spectacles in his Hands at any one Time and be so found by the Master and Wardens or their sufficient Deputy or

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Deputies by them appointed in their Places and stead for the View Search and Oversight of their Government Then be it further ordained that they or any of them may have power by Virtue hereof to bring the same at any Time to such Place or Places as for that purpose shall be appointed And if any other person or persons using the said Art or Mistery of Spectacle-Making that shall hereafter by the Allowance of a Court of Assistants have one Apprentice or more as he or they shall bear Place and Office in the said Government then he or they to have the like Allowance which being found to be good and sufficient in the Materials and Workmanship he shall receive such Present ready Money for Satisfaction thereof from Time to Time as by a Court of Assistants shall be thought fit and adjudged upon Refusal of which and due proof had to the Contrary he shall forfeit and pay the sum of five pounds for every such Offence.

Nº: (20)

*None to sell imperfect Ware to any but those free of the City and Company viz Frames without Glass and Glass without Frames on forfeiture of 20 pounds*

**Item** Whereas there hath of late Time happened a great Decay of Employment in the aforesaid Trade by Reason that much imperfect Wares have been transported into France and other parts beyond the Seas whereby Strangers have been set at Work while the true professed Artists have suffered much want and scarcity for lacke of

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Employment It is therefore ordained that from henceforth no Man sell or cause to be sold any Ware imperfected to any Stranger whatsoever (that is to say) to one that is not a Freeman of this Honourable City and of the Society of Spectacle-Makers as Frames without the Glass and Glass without the Frames but both together compleately made up which being for Sale or found sold to the Company shall forfeit every Time so offending the Sum of Twenty Pounds

Nº: (21)

*Every Apprentice after the End of his Apprenticeship to serve as a Journeyman two years and then to bring his pieces to be approved and admitted a Workmaster. The Apprentice to pay to the Company for such admission 40s*

**Item** to the End that every Apprentice shall not set up to work as a Master so soon as he is out of his Apprenticeship It is ordained that every Apprentice having truly served his Apprenticeship and being admitted to be a Freeman of the said Society shall according to the Custom of other Companies serve his said Master two Years as a covenant Journeyman or if his said Master have no Employment for him then he shall serve in like Manner with some other of the same Society And at the End of the said two years it shall be by Virtue hereof lawfull for him to bring in his or their Master pieces which being by the said Master and Wardens allowed and approved of from then soforth shall be admitted to be a Workmaster of the said Society

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and not before upon which said Admittance he shall yield and pay to the Use of the said Company the sum of forty Shillings.

Nº: (22)

*Every Person Selling bad Wares upon Proof to forfeit for every Offence double of Value*

**Item** if upon search hereafter made by the Master Wardens and Assistants at any Time by Virtue of his Majesties Charter of Incorporation there shall be found any bad and deceitfull Ware belonging to the said Trade of Spectacle Making in any Shop Warehouse or other place or places whatsoever upon Sale made by any Spectacle Maker or free Brother of this Society or any Person or Persons whatsoever It is hereby ordained that upon due proof had and made of the same Sale of the said bad and counterfeit Ware as aforesaid That every Delinquent and Offender in that kind shall forfeit for every such Offence the double value which was received by the Offender for such counterfeit Wares.

Nº: (23)

*Apprentice to be 14 Days upon trial and then to be presented*

*To be bound by the Clerk of ye Company*

*The Master to pay for the apprentices admittance 2s 6d to the Company*

*To the Clerk for the Indentures 2s 6d*

*For presentation 1s*

*To the Beadle 6d*

*or forfeit 5 pounds*

**Item** that no Person Member of this Corporation Fellowship or Society or under the Government thereof by his Majesties aforesaid Letters patent or using

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the Trade of Spectacle Making within the City of London and Suburbs thereof and Circuit limited by his Majesties Letters Patents shall take or entertain to be his Apprentice any person or persons but in sort hereafter ensuing viz: That he shall first make trial of such Person by the Space of fourteen Days next after the Receiving of him and then shall present him for his Apprentice at the next Court of Assistants of this Company Fellowship or Society and being there allowed of by the Master Wardens and Assistants shall cause and have the Indentures of Apprenticeship to be made by the Clerk of the said Company Fellowship and Society and shall pay for and

at the Admittance or Allowance of the said Apprentice to the Use of the said Fellowship Two Shillings six Pence and to the Clerk for Making of the said Indentures Two Shillings six pence and for the Entrance of the said presentment as aforesaid Twelve Pence and to the Beadle or Beadles of the Society six pence And if any Person shall offend in any Things contrary to the true Meaning of this Article he shall forfeit for every Month wherein he shall have or use any Person as Apprentice or keep him in his Service and Trade not being so presented and bound as aforesaid the Sum of five pounds.

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N<sup>o</sup>: (24)

*Apprentices misbehaving themselves upon Proof before a Court of Assistants to be whipped*

*Power for ye Court of Assistants to debarr him from his Freedom*

*Journeyman misbehaving themselves upon Proof to be find<sup>16</sup> any Sum not exceeding 6s 8d*

*Power upon Non payment of Penalty for Court of Assistants to debarr them from working at ye Trade*

*Any Person (having Notice of Dismissment) seting them at Work forfeit 40s*

**Item** that if any Apprentice shall Misbehave himself towards his Master or Mistress or that he shall be of so rude Behaviour that the Persuasion or lawfull Correction of his Master or Mistress will not cause him to reform his Misbehaviour Or if he shall be any Drunkard haunter of Taverns Ale Houses Bowling Alleys or other lewd and suspected Places of evil Company Gamester Dicer runner away or shall lye out of his Master or Mistress House without his or her Privity or shall be an Inticer of other Mens Servants or the like and shall be brought to the Hall of the said Company by his said Master or Mistress and there these or such like notorious Faults justly proved against him or before a Court of Assistants The Party so offending shall for the first Offence be stripped from the Middle upwards and be there whipped by Persons to be appointed for that Purpose in Presence of the Master or some of the Wardens and six of the Assistants of the Company at the least And for any his second Offence or Oftner offending being proved as aforesaid he shall be punished in like sort as aforesaid And it shall be and rest in the Power of the Master Wardens and Assistants to order and publish him disabled and he shall from thenceforward stand and be disabled and barred to demand enjoy or have his Freedom of this Society Or if any Journeyman

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or hired Servant shall offend in any of the Kindes or Degrees aforesaid and the same being proved against him at a Court of Assistants in like sort as aforesaid he shall undergo and satisfy such reasonable Pecuniary Penalties as by a Court of Assistants shall be imposed upon him not exceeding the Sum of six Shillings and eight Pence And if he shall refuse or omit to satisfy the same he shall be and stand (if by a Court of Assistants he shall be so ordered) for ever after dismissed and debarred from using or Working at the Trade of Spectacle Making or other Trade exercised by his then Master or Mistress And if Any Person Brother of this Fellowship or any other having Notice of his said Dismissment as aforesaid shall contrary to the Meaning of this

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<sup>16</sup> Fined.

Ordinance set any such Person at Work in anysort whatsoever That then he shall by Vertue<sup>17</sup> hereof forfeit forty shillings.

Nº: (25)

*Stewards to be chosen yearly on ye Feast of St Michael out of the Livery or Yeomanry Forfeiture for refusal 5 pounds*

*None to be Assistants unless served Steward or paid his Fine*

*Not to extend to ye Master Wardens or Assistants*

*None to serve twice Steward*

**Item** that ye Master and Wardens or one of the Wardens and the Assistants or the most part of them shall yearly in the Feast of St Michael the Arch Angell nominate and publish two of the Livery or others of the said Company who shall take

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the Place and be called Stewards for the Assistants Dinner for this Fellowship to be kept on the Feast Day of Saint Luke the Evangelist at the Costs and Charges of the said Stewards at which Dinner for Maintenance of Brotherly love and familiarity the Master Wardens and Assistants and all or any of their Wives may be present as also the full Livery of the said Society And if any so nominated or appointed to be Stewards shall refuse or omit to perform the same in convenient seemly or decent sort he shall forfeit the sum of five Pounds of lawfull Money of this Realm And if the Master and Assistants shall so think fitting shall be dismissed of and from his said place of Livery of the said Fellowship And none shall be taken to be Assistants of this Fellowship except he have first been one of the Stewards of the said Assistants Dinner or paid his Fines therefore But it is provided and the true Meaning of these Articles are that they shall not therein extend to any Person already nominated and in place of Master Warden or Assistants of this Fellowship by the Kings Majesties Letters patents of Incorporation and no one Man shall be twice called or assigned to that Charge of Stewardship.

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Nº: (26)

*Persons chosen into ye Livery to pay to the Company 2 pounds*

*To the Clerk 5s*

*Beadle 2s*

*Everyone admitted a Freeman to pay to the Company 13s 4d*

*To the Clerk 4s*

*To the Beadle 1s 6d*

**Item** that every Person that shall be called into the Livery of this Fellowship before he take his Place of or in the said Livery give and deliver unto the Master and one of the Wardens to the Use of the said Fellowship the sum of forty Shillings And for the Clerk five Shillings and for the Beadle two Shillings And that every Person to be admitted or made free of this Society shall before he be admitted Brother or Freeman of this Society give and deliver also to the Master or one of the Wardens of this Society thirteen Shillings four Pence To the Clerk four Shillings and to the Beadle one Shilling six Pence

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<sup>17</sup> Virtue.

Nº: (27)

*Fines and Taxations to be of ye use of the Company for the Relief of their Poor*

**Item** that all Sums of Money limited assessed or appointed to be paid by these Ordinances or by Virtue and Force of these Ordinances by way of Forfeitures Fines or Penalties at any Time or Times for any Offences or Transactions contrary to any of these Ordinances or any Ordinances hereafter to be made by this Society and which shall be approved and confirmed according to the Laws and Statutes of this

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Realm shall be and contain forever to the U<sup>18</sup> of this Fellowship to be employed to the Relief<sup>19</sup> of the Poor of this Fellowship and to be paid unto the Master and Wardens or one of the Wardens from Time to Time for the Time being.

Nº: (28)

*Power for the Master and Wardens to distrain for Fines or sell the Offenders Goods if not paid ni<sup>20</sup> 14 days after Distress*

*Every person to be admitted to make his Submission in writing  
The Form of the Submission*

**Item** that for the better Obedience and Observance of these Ordinances to the End that all Forfeitures and pecuniary Sums or Penalties so taxed assessed or appointed as aforesaid by these Ordinances may be levied and obtained to the use aforesaid It shall and may be lawfull and justifiable to and for the Master and Wardens of this Fellowship Company or Society or any of them for the Time being to take a sufficient Distress of the Goods and Chattles of every Person so Delinquent and offending as aforesaid for all and every or any of the Penalties Forfeitures Fines and Sums of Money taxed assessed or appointed to be paid by or upon him or them for any his or their Offences and the Distress and Distresses so from Time to Time taken to load drive carry or bear away and the same to keep and detain to the

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Use of the said Master Wardens and Fellowship of this Company until the said Penalties Forfeitures Fines or Sums or Money for which the said Distress shall be so taken shall be fully satisfied and paid with Caution and Provision notwithstanding that if the Party Owner of these Goods and Chattles so taken or distrained shall within fourteen Days next after such taking and Distress satisfy and pay to the Master or one of the Wardens of the said Society to the Use of the said Fellowship such Duties Rights and Sums of Money for which the said Distress was so taken Then he and they shall have to him and them restored all the Goods and Chattles so taken and distrained And it is further ordered that every Person that shall be admitted to be of the said Company or that shall subject themselves to be under the Government of the said Company shall make his Submission in Writing under his Hand and Mark without paying any Thing theretofore in such Form or to such Effort as followeth (that is to say) That he do fully and wholly submit himself and doth promise sincerely to observe perform fullfill and keep all the good and lawfull Ordinances which are made or shall be made by the said Master Wardens and Company of

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<sup>18</sup> Should read "Use".

<sup>19</sup> Relief.

<sup>20</sup> Should read "in".

Spectacle-Makers and shall well and truly satisfy and pay and willingly undergo all such Punishments Duties Pains and Forfeitures which shall be due or payable or ought to be undergone by him by Force any Ordinances made or to be made according to the true Intent and Meaning of the Charter of the said Company.

Nº: (29)

*The Oath of Allegiance and supremacy to be taken*

**Item** to the End it shall appear what Oath and Oaths every Person or Persons which shall become Master or Wardens or of the Assistants or Livery or a Freeman of this Company Fellowship or Fraternity or the Clerk Beadle or Beadles of this Fellowship and every Person at any Time to be allowed to work as Servants to any of this Fellowship or within their Government shall take or enter into It is ordained and ordered that they shall severally and respectively take the several Oaths here ensuing (viz) every one of them severally the Oath of Allegiance and supremacy to and of the Kings Majesty his Heirs and Successors according to the Law of this

Realm as they now be or hereafter shall be provided.

*Master and Wardens Oath*

**Item** every Master and Warden agreed upon in Sort as aforesaid to be Master and Wardens for the succeeding year to take Oath before the antient<sup>21</sup> Master and both or one of the Wardens and Court of Assistants in these Words following viz:

**You** shall swear that you shall be true to our Sovereign Lord the King and to his Heirs and Successors, you shall endeavour yourselves the best you can, whilst you continue in the Office whereunto you are now chosen, justly and indifferently to execute and cause to be executed your Offices in every Respect, and to put in due Execution all the good and lawfull Laws and ordinances in ye Book of Ordinances expressed and contained without assessing or punishing any Person for Envy Hatred or Malice or sparing any person for Reward Mood dread Favour or Affection. And of all and every such Goods Plate Jewells Sums of

Money or any other Thing or Things whatsoever that by Reason of your said Office shall come to your Hands Charge or Custody, you shall according to the Ordinances made touching the same, yield and make a good, true and plain Accompt within convenient Time after you shall be thereunto required by the Master and Wardens of this Company and Fellowship for the Time being, or else you shall pay your Fines according to the said Ordinances,  
So help you God.

Nº: (31)

*Assistants Oath*

**Item** the Oath of every one chosen from Time to Time of the Assistants to be taken before the Master and both or one of the Wardens and Court of Assistants in these Words ensuing viz:

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<sup>21</sup> Ancient.

**You** shall swear to be true to our Sovereign Lord the King his Heirs and Successors, you shall assist the Master and Wardens of this Fellowship of Spectacle-

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Makers for the Time being, in their Oversight, Rule and Government of the said Fellowship so long as you shall continue one of the Assistants with your best and soundest Advice, and shall endeavour yourselves to the uttermost of your Skill and Knowledge justly and indifferently to execute your said Place and Office in every respect and to put in due Execution all the good and lawfull Ordinances of this Society in the Charter or Bookes of Ordinances expressed and contained on which shall be expressed and contained without punishing or assessing for Envy, Hatred or Malice or sparing any Person for love, dread Favour or Affection or for hope or promise of Reward,  
So help you God

N<sup>o</sup>: (32)

*The Livery Oath*

**Item** the Oath of every one of the Livery to be taken in Sort aforesaid as to the Effect ensuing viz:

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**You** shall swear to be true to our Sovereign Lord the King his Heirs and Successors and that you shall perform and obey all that to you appertaineth to be done by the true Meaning of the Book of Ordinances of this Society, being honest for you to perform and approved or warranted by the Laws of this Realm  
So help you God

N<sup>o</sup>: (33)

*Auditors Oath*

**Item** when any of the said Livery of this Society shall be at any Time chosen or appointed according to the said Book of Ordinances to be Auditor for any Accompts or Reckonings touching this Fellowship to be passed or taken by or for any Master Wardens or others he shall take Oath in sort aforesaid in these Words ensuing viz:

**You** shall faithfully and to the best of your Skill and Knowledge hear and examine all such Accompts and Reckonings which by such Person or Persons

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shall be made or effected in anywise touching or concerning the Affairs of this Fellowship or Company and the same Accompts or Reckonings so by you heard and examined shall deliver up in Writing under your Hands to the Master Wardens and Assistants of this Society or Fellowship for the Time being and upon reasonable Request to you made and at such Time as the Master and Wardens for the Time being shall appoint with your Allowance and Disallowance of the said Accompt, you shall not allow any Thing for love or favour, nor disallow any Thing for hatred or malice but shall justly and indifferently hear and examine the same Accompts to the best of your Judgment and Understanding.  
So help you God



Nº: (34)

*Clerks Oath*

**Item** that the Clerk of this Fellowship

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Shall take his Oath in Manner aforesaid and in these words ensuing viz:

**You** shall swear to be true to our Sovereign Lord the Kings Majesty<sup>22</sup> his Heirs and Successors and to the Master Wardens and Fellowship of this Society, and all the Commandments of the said Master and Wardens of the said Fellowship being lawful and honest and touching or concerning the Affairs and Business of this Fellowship belonging to your Office, to your Power willingly you shall do and execute. True Entries of all Things belonging to your Office you shall make without any partiality for Favour or Affection Lucre or Gain Envy hatred or Malice whatsoever. You shall not wittingly or willingly do and commit any Thing that may be hurtfull or prejudicial to the said Master Wardens and Fellowship but shall honesty justly and truly execute your Office of Clerkship in all Things appertaining to the same as the Clerk of the said

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Master Wardens and Fellowship of this Society ought to do so long as you shall continue and be in the same Office according to your best Skill Power and Ability without any Partiality.  
So help you God.

Nº: (35)

*Beadle's Oath*

**Item** that every one that shall be at a Court of Assistants chosen and allowed to be a Beadle of this Company Fellowship or Society shall take his oath in Manner aforesaid and in these Words ensuing viz:

**You** shall be true to our Sovereign Lord the Kings Majesty his Heirs and Successors and obedient shall be to the Master and Wardens of this Fellowship for the Time being, their Commandments lawfull and honest touching the Affairs and Businesses of this Fellowship to the uttermost of your Power willingly you shall do, and generally you shall honestly and

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truly do and execute all and every Thing and Things appertaining to the said Office as the Beadle of the said Master Wardens and Fellowship ought to do to the uttermost of your Skill Power and Ability as long as you shall continue in the said Office without all Partiality whatsoever.  
So help you God

Nº: (36)

*Freeman's Oath*

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<sup>22</sup> This has been amended in pencil to read "You do solemnly and sincerely declare that you will be true to our Sovereign Lady Queen's Majesty".

**Item** every one who shall hereafter be received to be a Freeman of this Fellowship shall take his Oath in Manner aforesaid and in these words here ensuing viz:

**You** shall swear to be true to our Sovereign Lord the Kings Majesty his Heirs and Successors, and at all Times obedient to the Master and Wardens of this Fellowship and Society, and their Successors after them, in all honest and lawfull Things touching the Affairs and Business of

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this Fellowship, you shall be ready at all Manner of Sumons and bear Scot and Lott in all Manner of reasonable Contributions of and to this Fellowship and Company of Spectacle-Makers of the City of London; You shall to the best of your Skill Power and Ability uphold and maintain the Weal of this Company; You shall not know or suspect any Manner of Meetings Conspiracies Plot or Devices against the Kings Majesty his Heirs or Successors or the Government of this Fellowship, but you shall the same to the utmost of your Power let and hinder and speedily disclose to the Master or one of the Wardens of this Society, and this City of London and Fellowship of Spectacle Makers you shall keep harmless as much as in you lyes. Also you shall be ready at all Times to be at the Quarter Days and every other Assembly Matter or Cause that you shall be warned or called unto for the Affairs of this Fellowship unless you shall have lawfull and reasonable Excuse in

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that Behalf And all the Ordinances of this Fellowship or Society ratified according to the Laws of this Realm or otherwise lawfull for this Fellowship or Society to make and ordain you shall to the uttermost of your Power well and truly submit yourself unto and keep.  
So help you God

Nº: (37)

*Master or Wardens (by Order of Court of Assistants) have power to make a Deputy*  
**Item** that for as much it may often happen by Reason of Sickness or other necessities that the Master or Wardens of this Fellowship or Society may be absent It is ordained that the Master or Wardens of this Company by Order of Court of Assistants shall have power to make a Deputy in any of their Places for such Time as shall be allowed at the said Court And that all Things touching the Affairs or Ordinances of this Company which shall be done to or before such Deputy of any Master or Warden so as such Deputy shall have taken such Oath as is here before in this Book of Ordinances

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appointed for the Master or Wardens to take the same Oath being taken before the Master and Wardens or any two of them and before the whole Court of Assistants or the greater Part of them shall be held in Case and State as if the same were in the Presence of or done or executed by to or before the Master or Warden himself who shall have made or assigned such Deputy without any Quarrell Question or Exception to be made or moved of to or upon the same. **All** which Articles Ordinances and Oaths in Form aforesaid specified at the Request of the said Master and Wardens of the Company of Spectacle Makers of the City of London by Authority of the said Act of Parliament **We** the said Thomas Lord Coventry Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of

England Sir Nicholas Hyde Knight Chief Justice for all Pleas before his Majesty to be holden and Sir Thomas Richardson Knight Chief Justice of his Highness Court of Comon Pleas, for good laudable and lawfull Acts Ordinances and Oaths do accept and admit and as much as in us Ratify confirm and approve by these

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Presents **In Witness** whereof to these Presents we have subscribed our Names and set to our Seals the thirtieth Day of October in the sixth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith Anno 1630.

Thomas Coventry  
Nicholas Hyde  
Thomas Richardson

Examined

