

## Biographies of London Mercers contributed by Dr. Anne F. Sutton

**Sutton's Bios:** Anne F. Sutton, "Biographies of the London Mercers," Typescript. MLD has electronically harvested from a Microsoft Word document c. 3500 'biographies' of members of the Mercers Company in medieval London, compiled by Dr Sutton as chronological lists of references. The biographies are placed in the Activity field of MLD, although relevant data are also placed in such MLD fields as Identifier (distinguishing apprentices and masters), Citizen, Craft, Year (the year of the first reference to the individual) and Year\_Range. Each line in the Activity field starts with a date, followed by the event (primarily the payment of fines and fees as apprentices, members, and liverymen), and ends with an abbreviation indicating the source of the information.

For her source abbreviations, see pp. 9-10 of A. F. Sutton, *The Mercery of London: Trade, Goods and People, 1130-1578* (2009); other author names may be found in her bibliography. But note the following: **AC** = Acts of Courts of the Mercers; see *Acts of Court of the Mercers' Company 1453-1527*, introduced by Laetitia Lyell and Frank D. Watney (1936); **MC** = Mercers' Company archival material; **Register** = John Coke, "The Names of the Brethren of the Mercery," (1528); **Rep.** = Repertories (proceedings of the Court of Aldermen, in manuscript at the LMA); **Thrupp** = S. Thrupp, *The Merchant Class of Medieval London, c. 1300-c. 1500* (1948); **WA** = Wardens' Accounts—now printed as *The Medieval Account Books of the Mercers of London: An Edition and Translation*, ed. Lisa Jefferson, 2 vols. (2009).

**Sutton's Editorial Practice:** Following MLD guidelines, we replicated the information in the Sutton bios as closely as possible. Below are notes offered by Dr Sutton on her editorial practice in compiling the biographies.

Mercer= member of the Mercers' Company

[merc] = a member of the company but not so described in the record recited.

merc = so called in the record but not necessarily in the company; in most cases this means someone living before the company's records begin.

Spelling of the Christian names have been modernized where possible. Surnames have been standardized; place names are modernized. There are one or two famous exceptions to this rule e.g., Richer de Refham. Variant spellings are given at the beginning of a biography.

For the period 1390-1527 the entries are largely based on the cards compiled by Jean Imray using WA and AC; research done by A. F. Sutton has been added, but there may be additional material and conclusions in her printed work. We have left as is questions or uncertainties noted by Sutton (in capital letters). The inclusion in square brackets of dates of admission to the freedom is taken each time from Coke's register (Names of all Freemen of the Company from the 22 year of King Edward the Third, anno 1347). This was started by John Coke, clerk to the Company, in 1528, and has been continued into the twentieth century. one may note that there are a number of problems over names and dates of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries given in this source.

## Select Bibliography of Publications by A. F. Sutton on the London Mercers

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- “Some Aspects of the Linen Trade, c.1130s to 1500, and the Part Played by the Mercers of London.” *Textile History* 30, no. 2 (1999): 155–75.
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- “The Shop-Floor of the London Mercery Trade, c.1200-c.1500: The Marginalisation of the Artisan, the Itinerant Mercer and the Shopholder.” *Nottingham Medieval Studies* 45 (2001): 12–50.
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