

Émigré Weavers working in London 1558-1619

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Key references are to E.F. Kirk and R.E.G. Kirk, eds. *Returns of Aliens dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London from the Reign of Henry VIII to that of James I*, 10, 4 parts, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 1900-08)

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Amote, Adrian, worker of tapestry, 1568, Kirk and Kirk, iii, 336, Great Hallows, Dowgate, wife and daughter; shares with five families, tenant to John Wode, berebruer. Possibly A Vermote dead by 1571, Jelsma 573

Appart, Happart, Adrian

Adrain Appart is one of the few émigré tapestry weavers known in continental records, one of those who claimed compensation for the tapestries he lost in the siege of his home town, Oudenarde, in 1567.¹ He arrived between Christmas 1566 and Easter 1567, when he is first listed as a member of the Dutch church; in 1568 he is found living in St Gregory's parish, Castle Baynard ward together with Mary his wife and three children, Neske, Margaret and Abraham.²

It is not clear whether he is the same man as the Adrian Aperthe, also from Oudenarde, but listed in 1571 as a turner living in Vintry Ward in the house of a Flanders-born silkweaver, Tobias de Bie, together with three other silkweavers.³ Adrian the weaver was not, apparently, amongst those arrested after the rebellion of 1576 in the Low Countries, leaving open the possibility that he remained in London and is the man of the same name, but not identified by his trade, in 1576 in the parish of St James, Vintry Ward where he shared a house with Peter de Drossaert, a tallow chandler. For the second payment of the subsidy in October 1576 the goods of one of the two Apparts were assessed at 40s; he paid 4s. and 8d poll for Mary his wife and Oren his maid.⁴ Almost immediately after his arrival an Adrian Appart was appointed a consistory member and thereafter took an active part in church matters, often in association with de Bie.⁵ Nevertheless, he was involved in an unsavoury dispute with one Adrian de Post, possibly the ropemaker from Oudenarde,⁶ in September 1573 when Happart accused Post of murdering his children because he had failed to take them away soon enough from a house where there was the plague. Happart agreed to withdraw the charges because he had been using the death of the children against the father, which, he admitted, was 'not right'.⁷ Happart must have died c.1582 because his widow, Mayken van der Velde, remarried in August 1583.⁸

NOTES

1. A. Pinchart, *Histoire Generale de la Tapisserie dans les Flandres*, II, (1878-85) 100-101; first identified by W. Hefford, 'Flemish tapestry weavers in England: 1550-

1775', *Flemish Tapestry Weavers Abroad*, ed. Guy Delmarcel, (2002), 47. For his double, see Forman 1971.

2. Kirk and Kirk, *Aliens*, i, 375; iii, 387.

3. Kirk and Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 124.

4. Kirk and Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 163.

5. A.J. Jelsma, and O. Boersma, eds. *Acta von het Consistorie van de Nederlandse gemeente te London 1569–1585*, (1993), nos 2254, 2259, (hereon Jelsma), 614, 894, 1333, 1335, 1468.

6. Kirk and Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 88, 89.

7. Jelsma, 1512, 1525.

8. Jelsma, 3080; W.J.C. Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884), 3 September 1583; to Jan Beele van Sulsijken, possibly the Jan Beel orris worker. By October 1594 she seems to have been again a widow, living without Algate, Kirk and Kirk, *Aliens*, ii, 471.

Aredowese (?recte Ardewijus), **Peter**, arrisworecker, May 1571, in St Sepulchres without Newgate, in Mr Sylver's House in Chicklane, sojourner, born in Flanders and doth live by making of arres work in England 3 yeares (= 1568) & this ward since Christmas last past (ie 1570) and hath a son that came into England at Christmas in the same house, a silk lase weaver, Kirk and Kirk, i, 424.

Cerman, Henrick, bachiler, a man of 29 years, borne in Bruxells, came into England in June 1564 to serve Mr Sheldon, where he hath dwelled vi yeares, and the rest here; he ys an arras worker, he dwells with Erasmus Abbot a clothweaver, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 86, W. Hefford, 'Flemish tapestry weavers in England: 1550-1775', *Flemish Tapestry Weavers Abroad*, ed. Guy Delmarcel, (2002), 45

Defludd, Giles, maker of tapestry, 1568, Kirk and Kirk, iii, 348, living with Molleney (perhaps Molyneux in Great Wardrobe list) in house of the clothworker John Bayworth, parish St Mary Fanchurche, 1568.

Delole, Harman and Elizabeth his wife, lodging with Godfrey Masone of Cleves; tapestry worker; no children; no stranger man or woman servant; 15 years in England; no denizon; of Dutch church; keeps and sets no English person to work; 1593, I. Scouloudi, *Returns of Strangers in the Metropolis 1593, 1627, 1635, 1639*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 85, (1985), no. 313.

de Brier, Philip, arrived around 1583, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 318, W. Hefford, 'Flemish tapestry weavers in England: 1550-1775', *Flemish Tapestry Weavers Abroad*, ed. Guy Delmarcel, (2002), 48.

de Hante, Jacob, tapistre worker 1583, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 332, in St Thomas the Apostle, Southwark; 1599, lay subsidy, Kirk and Kirk, iii, 39, 373. Possibly John Campenhoute of the Wardrobe (q.v.), amongst the Strangers in the Whyte Friars, John Champenhant servant of John Tandy 1582, R.G. Lang, *Two Tudor Tax Assessments Rolls for the City of London, 1541 and 1582*, London Record Society vol. 29 for 1992 (1993), 241, servant with John Tandy, poll 4d. Perhaps the Jacobe de Hont sent to Maidstone, Hessels II, 1080. Possibly the man for whose children van der Meulen held money.

de Pentione, John, first listed 1583 in Brode Street, ii, 318; W. Hefford, 'Flemish tapestry weavers in England: 1550-1775', *Flemish Tapestry Weavers Abroad*, ed. Guy Delmarcel, (2002), 48.

de Puilly, (?von Pamele), Cornelius, first listed in Brode Street, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 318. Admitted with his wife to Dutch Church in 1585, ii, 388 and listed again in 1588, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 412 as Cornelis van den Hemele. Two children were born to him, Catherine on 2 June 1588 and Cornelis on 16 November 1589, Moens, *Marriages*, 1884.

Fremaker, John, Easter 1567, of Antwerp, arrismaker, of 8 years continuance and have Jacob, Abraham and Sara their children born in Antwerp; living in St Andrews, Castle Baynard, Kirk and Kirk, i, 319.

Fryman, Derick, living in the liberty of ChristChurch within Aldgate, 1568, tapestry weaver and his wyfe, go to Doche Church; pays rent to Symon Mawe, fishmonger, sharing with three other families, Kirk and Kirk, iii, 405.

Frumbilo, Harman, arrisworker, 1583, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 299, Castle Baynard ward with Tanneken his wife; but also ii, 316, as Harman Frombels, feltmaker, Castle Bayard. This might be Harman van Bell see

<http://www.tapestriescalledsheldon.info/pdfs/NEWPP39Emigre1GtWardrobe.pdf>

Gebott, Harman, admitted to Dutch Church 1585, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 387. Possibly also appears as Gillett, Gelot, see below, and possibly also as Slotes/Selot.

Gelott, Gillett, Gebot, Harman, listed in Brode Street, 1583, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 318; possibly confused with or the same as Harman Slotes (q.v.below) said, in the same

list, to be in Algate ward, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 320, tapestre worker; as Herman Gebot, admitted to the Dutch Church 1585, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 387. The possibility that the Elizabethan scribe who copied Gelott's will, despite neat writing, confused the names Gebot, Gelott and Soillot should not be dismissed; legatees in Gelott's will seem to have links to the Soillot/Slotes family.

When Harman Gelott made his will in 1603 he described himself as an arrisworker born at Brussels, LMA 9051, Archeaconry Court Register 5.441. Other than his will, nothing is known of him, but it is more than possible that he had a small workshop. At his death he was in a position to give £10 to the poor of the Dutch congregation in London. If his wife were not alive, half his goods were to go to his sister Perenkyn Gelott and his niece Clara, daughter of the late Henry Gelott lately dwelling in London, the other half to the children of his wife's sister married to a brewer living in Brussels. One of his executors was 'honest Severin Moestincke arrisworker'(q.v.below), the other his 'cosen' John Johnson. He also took the precaution of appointing two executors to deal with his interests overseas, one of whom was a Geraerd van der Linden, (q.v.

<http://www.tapestriescaledsheldon.info/pdfs/NEWPP39Emigre1GtWardrobe.pdf>

The will was written on 30 October and proved, in St Katherine Coleman parish, on the last day of December 1603; probate value was given as £14.13s 8d., LMA Mss 9050, Archdeaconry Court Act Book, 6.31, indicating that he was successful.

Whether van der Linden (q.v.) was the former Wardrobe employee, or the man listed by H. Goebel, *Die Niederlande*, I, ii, (1923), I, i, 602 as having a weaver's mark, and whether either is identical with F. Donnet, 'Documents pour servir a l'histoire des ateliers des tapisseries de Bruxelles, Audenarde, Anvers jusqu'a la fin du XVIIe siecle', *Annales de la Societe Royale d'Archeologie de Bruxelles*, 11, 1897, p. 80, or another man bearing the same name is unknown.

Hautes, Pieter, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 411.

Knodd, Knode, Knodde, Gnudde, John, see Knutte below

Knutte, Margaret, widow, described in 1593 as a tapestry worker born in Ghent, who had only been in England for eight years (i.e.1585), but yet had a family of five, all born in England. Their ages ranged from 19 to 1, so that three must have been step-children, Scouloudi 1985, no. 646. Now widowed, she may have been trying, with the help of one stranger and two English servants, to keep her husband's

workshop, possibly in existence from 1568, going for the benefit of his son, then aged 15. The marriage is unrecorded, but it is possible that her husband should be identified with the John Knodd recorded in 1568 living with two others, Giles Defludd and Adrian Molyneux, all of them from Oudenarde, in the house of John Bayworth, a clothworker, Kirk and Kirk, iii, 348. Knodd should possibly be equated with the John Knotte alias Freveryke who paid 40s for his denization in 1564 and the Jan Knode of 1576 paying tax not only for himself, but also for three servants in the parish of AllHallowes Steyning, Aldgate ward, *CPR 1563-66*, no. 826, 26 Aug.1564; Kirk and Kirk, ii, 165, 4d for himself and 12d for three named Dutch servants. He might also be, as Gnudde, the man who married Mayken van Middeldoncke from Antwerp in October 1573, mother of the 19 year old, Jelsma, 1559. Or does the brief record of 1593 reveal a previously unknown workshop ?

Laen, Lens, Lince, James, arrismaker 1618 when he acknowledged King James as his sovereign, born in Bruges, here 8 years, so he must have come around 1610, iii, 210; husband of Mostincke's niece, see below. Almost certainly Lince of the Wardrobe of the Prince of Wales 1622-25, TNA E101/434/9, 434/14, 435/4; later in the Great Wardrobe, 1630/31-1635/36, TNA AO 3/1120, 1121, W. Hefford, 'Flemish tapestry weavers in England: 1550-1775', *Flemish Tapestry Weavers Abroad*, ed. Guy Delmarcel, (2002), 50.

Lizhe, John, 1568, in the Mynneries, a maker of arras, a Duchman, his wife Leuena: Elizabeth his mother, John and Vrion his brethren; Trian, Barbore and Joren his children. Tenant to John Hide, Kirk and Kirk, iii, 423.

Luffe, Lusse, Adrian, worker of tapestry, 1568, dwelling in Garrett de Cattes house, parish of St George & St Margaret Pudding Lane, Billingsgate, no wife, Kirk and Kirk, iii, 356. So can this be the Adrian Luffe whose widow marries A.van der Muelen (q.v.) in 1578, W.J.C. Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884), 122.

Maryce, see Morrens below

Moestincke, Severin, admitted to the Dutch church late in 1585, listed again in 1588 and, with his wife Elizabeth, noted in 1593 and again amongst the Dutch congregation of 31 October 1594 when they were resident in 'Long Southworck'.¹ In 1598 John Soillot (q.v.

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left him 'half his book of patrens'. The other half went to Harman Gelott(q.v. see above); possibly the men were partners. In December 1600 Moestincke was named as a possible witness on behalf of Jan Berents, who had returned to Dordrecht from London. Berents sought to remarry but needed an attestation from the London Dutch Church that his first wife had died before he could do so; those who knew of the death, he said, were 'Severrin von Brussel, tappessery wereker' and two others, one living in Aldgate, the other in Bishopsgate where Berents himself had resided.² This suggests that Moestincke had been resident somewhere close by at the time. Moestincke's will gave his birthplace as Engen (Enghien) in Henego, but this does not seem to be how most people knew him.

Moestincke and his wife were still in the same area in 1617-18 when they were said to be poor people living in Aldersgate without.³ By 1625 he had moved again, to Stepney where his will was proved by his executor, the merchant Joos de Neve, in November of that year.⁴ By then his wife was dead and his goods and chattels passed to his niece, Elizabeth Lennaert, married to John Laen (q.v.) and then to their children or, if there were none, to the poor of the Dutch church.

NOTES

1. I. Scouloudi, *Returns of Strangers in the Metropolis 1593, 1627, 1635, 1639*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 85, (1985), no. 805; Kirk, ii, 387, 414, 474.
2. J. H. Hessels, *Ecclesiae Londino-Batavae Archivum, Epistulae et Tractatus cum Reformationis tum Ecclesiae Londino-Batavae Historiarum illustrantes*, 4, 1889-97 III, i, 1486, 6.12.1600.
3. Kirk, ii, 163, 171.
4. LMA, Mss 9171, Commissary Court Register 24.627v; LMA, Mss 9168, Act Book 17.245.

Molleney (?Molyneux), Adrian, maker of tapestry, 1568, from Oldnar, in house of John Bayworth, St Mary Fanchurch Langbourne Ward, Kirk and Kirk, iii, 348; by Nov 1571, in the house of A van der Poste, St Swithin's Vintry, aged 42, a twister of threads, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 89.

Morrens, Morrells, Maryce, Nicholas, tapistre worker 1583, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 325, Tower Ward and 1583 in Brode Street, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 318, 320. Possibly the N. Morrells in the Dutch Church congregation of 1588, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 414.

Mustayn, Peter, arris worker, 1568, Castel Baynarde, St Gregory's parish, a Fleming, born in Bruxelles and Janikin his wife and are of the Doche Church, Kirk and Kirk, iii, 388.

Offeild, Offeilde, Jois, described in 1583 as a maker of arras cloth, born in Bruges.¹ Information in the returns of 1593 show that he came in 1572.² Nevertheless, it was not until December 1583, when he was recorded in Aldersgate Ward, that he took out denization papers, perhaps the start of his own independent venture.³ In 1593 he was specifically recorded as living in St Botolph in Aldersgate Ward without in Algate Street, an address at which he was assessed for the minimum poll tax again and again until 1604 when it was noted that he had departed.⁴ He was still alive in 1619 when he entered into a bond in the name VandenRizen, perhaps his birth name.⁵ His wife, also Joice, gave him at least four children, all of them born in England; Edward in 1583, Elizabeth in 1587, Agnes in 1588/89 and John in 1590.⁶ Their father must have been moderately successful for by 1593 he 'kept' one Englishman and 'set to work' three others, meaning that he employed one journeyman and three apprentices. He was one of only four tapestry weavers known to employ Englishmen. Yet despite this moderately large enterprise, his son Edward went into service in the Wardrobe in 1606, aged 22, remaining there at least until 1633,⁷ one of the few weavers to have an heir who lived until of age.

NOTES

1. Kirk and Kirk, ii, 284, 334.
2. I. Scouloudi, *Returns of Strangers in the Metropolis 1593, 1627, 1635, 1639*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 85, (1985), no. 826.
3. Page, W *Aliens in England 1509-1603. Letters of denization and acts of naturalization*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 8, (1893), 182.
4. Scouloudi, op.cit., no.826; Kirk, iii, 25, 60, 97, 121.
5. LMA, Mss 9050, Archdeaconry Court, Registers 5.101.
6. Deduced from ages in the Returns of 1593, but not recorded in W.J.C. Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884).
7. <http://www.tapestriescalledsheldon.info/pdfs/NEWPP39Emigre1GtWardrobe.pdf>

Shelnies, Shillantes, Joste, first listed in Brode Street in 1583, ii, 318; admitted to the Dutch Church in 1585 as Shillantes, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 387-89.

Slotes, Harman, 1583, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 320, tapestre worker in Algate; in 1594, perhaps as H. Sellus in Bear Lane or as Hans Salle 'by the Glas House', Kirk and Kirk, ii, 467. See also Gelott above

Snyffey John and Fynekin his wife Dutch born at Oudenarde under dominion of King of Spain, tapestry worker; 2 daughters born in Flanders, 21 & 15; in England 7 years; no denizon, Dutch church; Scouloudi 1985, no. 962.

Staffeney, Staffewe, John, came in 1585 with his father, both from Brussels, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 387. On December 24 1588 Staffeney married Janneken Minnarte, also from Brussels; they baptised their daughter Janneken in January 1590 and their son Joannes on 6.1.1594/95, Moens, *Marriages*, 1884, Staffenij. When, in August 1593, he paid double poll, for himself and his wife, they were living in St Saviour's parish, Southwark; in the *Returns* of the same year they were listed as 'howseholders', Kirk and Kirk, ii, 448, Scouloudi 1985, no.974, Staffewe.

Stiegelbont, Gilleis, in whom we should probably recognize Gilleis Stiegelbaut who, together with Adrian Happart, lost tapestries in the 1567 troubles at Oudenarde and instigated compensation proceedings.¹ He was recorded in 1568, in St Swithin's Walbroke Ward, as born in Aldernard (Oudenarde), and with Katherine his wife, Haunce and Joas his sons and Simkin his daughter; he is a worker of tapestry and goeth to the Dutch church as he sayeth and paith rent to Thomas Tisdall for a roome he hath in his tenement.² He seems to have returned, to re-establish himself successfully since his sales to an Antwerp negociant are recorded.³ With him may have come, and with him may have returned, other members of his workshop, represented by names listed once only, many in this list.

NOTES

1. A. Pinchart, *Histoire Generale de la Tapisserie dans les Flandres*, II, (1878-85), 100-101.

2. Kirk and Kirk, iii, 380.

3. F. Donnet, 'Documents pour servir a l'histoire des ateliers des tapisseries de Bruxelles, Audenarde, Anvers jusqu'a la fin du XVIIe siecle', *Annales de la Societe Royale d'Archeologie de Bruxelles*, 9, p.450, 10 1896, 301-02.

Vadevest, van der Veyst, Jacques, listed 1583 in Brode Street, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 318; ii, 387.

Vadevest, John, listed 1583 in Broade Street, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 318, possibly the same man as above; W. Hefford, 'Flemish tapestry weavers in England: 1550-1775', *Flemish Tapestry Weavers Abroad*, ed. Guy Delmarcel, (2002), 48.

van der Beste, Crispin, arrismaker, 1568, Bridge Without, St Olave's parish, no wife, 1 child, goes to Duche Church; lodging with Peter Mones joyner, sharing with 15 others including three children; the house was noted as 'pestered' meaning crowded, Kirk and Kirk, iii, 370.

van der Brugghe, Anthony, first listed 1583 in Brode Street, Kirk and Kirk, ii, 318, W. Hefford, 'Flemish tapestry weavers in England: 1550-1775', *Flemish Tapestry Weavers Abroad*, ed. Guy Delmarcel, (2002), 48.

van der Hove, Morysius, born in Diest, arrived in 1568 with his wife and his servant (= apprentice) and was probably already a Master weaver. He took lodgings with a carpenter in St Mary Somerset parish.¹ His cantankerous behaviour is revealed in the records illuminating the role of the consistory court as peace keeper and the problems within the community.² In 1572 Morysius was accused by his wife of drunkenness, of staying out at night and of holding meetings with Anabaptists at the house. Morysius was unworried by the charges, clearly uplifted by religious fervour though sufficiently clear headed to levy counter accusations against his wife. When first faced with the accusations he denied them, despite the claims of witnesses, amongst them John Davelieu who said that Morysius was known many times to have been drunk and that he had not been seen in Church for a long time. A second summons ended when Morysius abused the elders, departing 'in a bad temper amidst a stream of invective'. A third summons drew from him an admission of guilt and a promise, made before the congregation, that he would reform his private life and would shun the company of the Anabaptists. Since in spring 1575 the Privy Council rounded up a group of five Anabaptists, two of them Dutch, who were subsequently executed at Smithfield the danger to the community's relations and reputation with its host country, let alone the integrity of its religious convictions, were at stake.³

NOTES

1. Kirk and Kirk, iii, 382; ii, 93.

2. A.J. Jelsma, and O. Boersma, eds. *Acta von het Consistorie van de Nederlandse gemeente te London 1569–1585*, (1993), nos 2254, 2259, (hereon Jelsma).

999,1004,1071,1081,1115,1117,1123.

3. J. H. Hessels, *Ecclesiae Londino-Batavae Archivum, Epistulae et Tractatus cum Reformationis tum Ecclesiae Londino-Batavae Historiarum illustrantes*, 4, 1889-97, II, 141,191 and III, 344, 420, 636.

Vercord, John, tapestry maker, 1568, Kirk and Kirk, iii,379, Bridge Ward within, St Magnus Parish, Elizabeth his wife, Jacob his sonne and Anne his daughter, all born in Oldenor (Oudenarde), Flanders, go to the Duche Church and pay xls rent a yere to Michell Griffin, merchant denison, born Rostar, Flanders. ‘His house very much pestered’

Vitans, Lawrence, Dutch, of Oudenarde, tapestry worker, no children; no stranger man or woman servant; dwelt 26 years in England, (so he must have come in 1567), no denison; of Dutch Church; keeps and sets no persons to work (ie came 1567); 1593, I. Scouloudi, *Returns of Strangers in the Metropolis 1593, 1627, 1635, 1639*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 85, (1985), no. 1116.

von Busbanck, Gabriell, arrismaker, 1568, Ward of Bridge without, St George's parish, Southwark, wife, 1 child, goes to the Duche Church, Kirk and Kirk, iii, 374.

Wallys, Walley, Walloe, Peter In 1575 Christ's Hospital, the City's refuge for its orphaned or abandoned children as also for those whose parents could not afford to bring them up decided to engage a ‘stranger’ to teach the tapestry trade to certain boys; surprisingly, it was neither the Hospital's or the City's first venture of the sort.¹ On January 15 1575 the Court of Christ's Hospital (ie its governors, all of them City officials) assigned to Peter Wallys, ‘tapestrie maker noe denison’, a room, rent free, in this hospital to exercise his facultie and take two of the children to order them thereunto during one yeaere from this presente’.² In fact the agreement was not reviewed until 28 November 1577 when Peter and the governors signed a new and much more adventurous contract. For sixteen years Peter was to take two boys every four years, maintain them in his house and ‘perfectly and expertly to teach them all his science of tappestrie makeinge and all manner of knowledges and thinges thereunto apparent’. He was to bear all the cost of their maintenance and, when the term was completed, they were to serve him for a further eight years. If one of the pair died, another was to take his place. Peter undertook to live within three miles of the City;

he was to receive his rent of 10s. and the costs of enlarging his house 'for his more ease'. The contract was ratified the same day before the Council of Aldermen.³

Little is known of the man they chose. He is first heard of in 1568,⁴ when he is recorded as Peter Wall, silkweaver, living with 23 other people, all 'Dochemen and all of the Doche Church', as tenants of Michiaell Towerson at the White Hart in St Botolph's parish, Bishopsgate, a house that the collectors noted as 'pestered' (ie crowded). How he fared in his first years is unknown; he may have secured lodgings of his own by September 1574 when a Pieter Walle was living in the house of a widow; he later moved to ChristChurch, Newgate.⁵

From the point of view of the history of tapestry weaving in England, the interest of the scheme is enhanced because the Childrens' Admission Books tell us both the names and the background of his apprentices. Hospital practice was to keep a record of each child's whereabouts from the date of his admission, his age and parentage or of the circumstances of his finding, his nurse, his return to the Hospital (presumably for his education), and his final departure to apprenticeship, service or, more rarely, to higher education sponsored by a City Company. Peter trained a total of seven boys; Samuel Boorne, aged 19, son of a fletcher, started on 28 March 1579 and was apparently taken on his own;⁶ John Mawde, aged 18, parentage not given, and William Heath, aged 18, son of the late porter of Bridewell whose living costs had been defrayed by the prison Governors, started together on 4 May 1583; Jasper Brewer, aged 18, son of Martin Brewer profession not given, and Thomas Awsten, aged 18, son of a grocer, starting on 28 September 1587; lastly he accepted William Clay, aged 14, son of a merchaunt taylor resident in St Andrew in Wardrobe parish and Peter Robinson, aged 16, son of a haberdasher whose widow could not afford the upkeep of either of her boys, on 8 February 1591.⁷ None of the Hospital boys was apprenticed to Wallys directly; presumably his stranger status excluded the signing of the articles which instead seem to have been drawn up with an Englishman. William Elkyn, a mercer, responsible for William Heath, was also a Governor of the Hospital between 1578 and 1593;⁸ the other masters were William Ebben (for Mawde), William Sothern, mercer (for Robinson and Clay) and Ralph Orne, mercer, (for Thomas Austen). The registers did not record the information for Boorne or Brewer.

The success of the workshop, for that is what must have resulted, is uncharted. Its existence is not obvious from the entry on the 1593 survey of Aliens when Walley was described as householder, Dutchwoman (*sic*) born in Ieper (Ypres), two sons

born in England, dwelling in England 18 years, no denison and one English maid servant,⁹ another man not admitting to more than his legitimate length of stay. A Peter Wallis was recorded at Mile End in the tax lists for September 1600 and May 1601, paying only the minimum poll tax, then 8d per head.¹⁰ He would not have been breaking the terms of his contract if this is where his workshop were sited and it was clearly still in existence in October 1603 when Wallys made a nuncupative will, proved in the parish of Christchurch, Newgate, apparently translated from the French.¹¹ The chief beneficiary was Thomas Awsten who received ‘a bed two paire of shetes and all other furniture belonging to the bed’; as executor with Jasper Wootton (is he the Jasper Brewer apprenticed in 1583 ?) he received a further £5.00 as did the overseers, Mr Browne and Mr Smyth who, Wallys seems to have assumed, would look after his wife. There is no provision for the two sons recorded in the 1593 survey (their ages then, three years and 6 months suggest that they are the Pieter baptised 12 October 1589 and Charles 19 September 1592), or of Theophilus born in 1595 and Ann, baptised 1600.¹² Probate value was given as £6.17.5d.

Wallys thus secured himself a workshop in rent-free premises and a succession of assistants, in a project not unlike William Sheldon’s at Barcheston. Of the Englishmen he trained, two went to work in the royal Wardrobe, Thomas Awsten(q.v.) and William Clay (q.v.).

NOTES

1. An unsubstantiated reference in L. Picard, *Elizabeth’s London*, (2003),128, suggesting that this move was ordered by William Cecil does not seem to be correct. It may have been confused with A.Pettegree, *Foreign Protestant Communities in London*, (1986), 278, when a stranger was appointed to the Bridewell to teach the making of ‘fetherbeddes’.
2. Court Minute Books, Christ’s Hospital, Guildhall Library Mss, Ms 12,806/2, fol 118v.
3. London, Guildhall Mss, 12,806/2, fol 194; LMA, Repertories of the Court of Aldermen, vol. 19, fol 268.
4. Kirk and Kirk, iii, 351; Towerson married a Flemish lady (IGI London 1566) and was almost certainly related to the family of the cloth and tapestry importing William Towerson, Dietz, B *The Port and Trade of Elizabethan London, Port Book 1567-68*, London Record Society, 8, (1972), passim. Walle is not to be confused with the Pieter

van der Walle said to be of the Italian church, factor of the Lowbells,(Kirk and Kirk i, 276, 1561; i, 283); i, 387-88; ii, 155 Merchant and Stranger; ii, 191 in 1576 Subsidy assessed on £50 and for the same in 1582, when said to be born in Antwerp, ii, 232 + 3 servants; in Tower Ward 1583, ii, 325, 341 as 'Duch', Merchant; contributes to a student 1576 30s. for 3 years, ii, 203 and ii, 204 20s. for three years of which he paid only one ! Granted various tax exemptions in 1590s. He was buried on 21 February 1597 in St Stephen Colman Street,Registers, LMA Mss 4448/1, fo 97v.

5. A.J. Jelsma, and O. Boersma, eds. *Acta von het Consistorie van de Nederlandse gemeente te London 1569–1585*, (1993), nos 2254, 2259, (hereon Jelsma). App. ii, p. 786; *Harleian Society* 1895, 201, 274.

6. G.A.T.Allan, *Christ's Hospital Admissions 1544-1599*, (1937), 76; a John Boorne, leatherseller, became a Governor 1578-85; did he perhaps have some hand in this ? Manzione 1995, 167.

7. Allan, *op.cit.*, 114,131,138,149,152,167,212.

8. C. Manzione, *Christ's Hospital of London 1552-1598*, (1995), 171.

9. I. Scouloudi, *Returns of Strangers in the Metropolis 1593, 1627, 1635, 1639*, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 85, (1985), no.1126.

10. Kirk and Kirk, iii, 81, 111.

11. LMA Mss 9171, Commissary Court Registers, 15.281.

12. W.J.C. Moens, *The marriage, baptismal and burial registers 1571-1874 of the Dutch Church of London*, (1884).