

# Domine Dirige Nos

## An Introduction to the City of London

### by Jenifer Andersen

with Foreword by The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of the City of London,  
Alderman William Russell

**HISTORY** - from Roman Londinium to the modern-day city

**GEOGRAPHY** - buildings, livery halls, churches, rivers and bridges that make up the Square Mile

**WARDS** - the subdivisions of the City and their unique system of voting

**PEOPLE** – who does what in the City, the colourful civic processions and how to spot the personalities

**LIVERY COMPANIES** - the history, Order of Precedence, groupings, Common Hall, fashion and traditions

**CITY DIARIES** - a year in the life of the civic city

#### MANSION HOUSE

Georgian town palace official residence of the Lord Mayor of London since 1752

Location: Mansion House, London EC4A 3DF  
Guided tours Tuesdays 14.00, pre-booked tickets only  
[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk)

#### Historical background

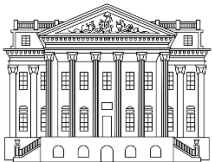
Lord Mayors used their own houses or livery halls for their work until Mansion House was built.

#### Architectural notes

- Grade I listed
- first stone laid 1739, Lord Mayor moved in 1752, works completed 1758
- Palladian style
- built by George Dance the Elder
- built of Portland stone
- entrance facade facing Bank of England
- rusticated ground storey
- Corinthian columns

#### FUN FACT

The Mansion House has been used as a film location for *The Golden Rule* (2000), *Woman in Gold* (2015), *Death of Stalin* (2017), and the TV series *The Crown*.



pilasters through two main storeys plus attic above entablature  
- altered roof storey behind crowning balustrade/parapet  
- balustraded steps at either side of portico  
richly carved tympanum by Sir Robert Taylor to pediment  
(figures representing the City: Livery, Chapel, a Tower God and Plenty)

- Basement: used to have holding cells
- 1st Floor: entertaining rooms
- 2nd Floor: ballroom and private apartments of the Lord Mayor and family
- 3rd-4th Floor: meeting rooms and staff rooms

#### What is it used for?

- City official functions (e.g. entertaining visiting dignitaries)
- civic and livery activity
- charitable activities
- official residence of the Lord Mayor
- 50,000 people visit the Mansion House every year

#### What is inside?

**Largest gold and silver plate collection in the world**  
Gifts given or acquired by the Mayoralty and the City of London Corporation are kept here. Some are in constant use for ceremonial occasions (e.g. as table decorations).

#### Ceremonial swords

##### Peart Sword

- scabbard contains over 2500 pearls
- sewn on both sides
- used when the sovereign comes in state to the City (see Square Mile Boundaries)

##### State Sword and Mace

- sword dates from mid-17th century
- mace dates from mid-18th century
- symbols of the Lord Mayor and the City of London Corporation's authority granted by the monarch

#### FUN FACT

The City has 6 swords:  
1. Peart Sword  
2. State Sword  
3. Mourning Sword  
4. Old Bailey Sword  
5. Mansion House Justice Moon Sword  
6. Travelling Sword



"This book, a wonderful combination of directory, reference, and guide to the City of London, refutes the 1957 Royal Commission On Local Government conclusion that logic has its limits and the position of the City lies outside them. If anything, this work reaffirms how local community spirit and traditions within the world's oldest continuous democracy have created prosperity and a wonderful public realm at the heart of the nation."  
*Alderman & Sheriff Professor Michael Mainelli*

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