

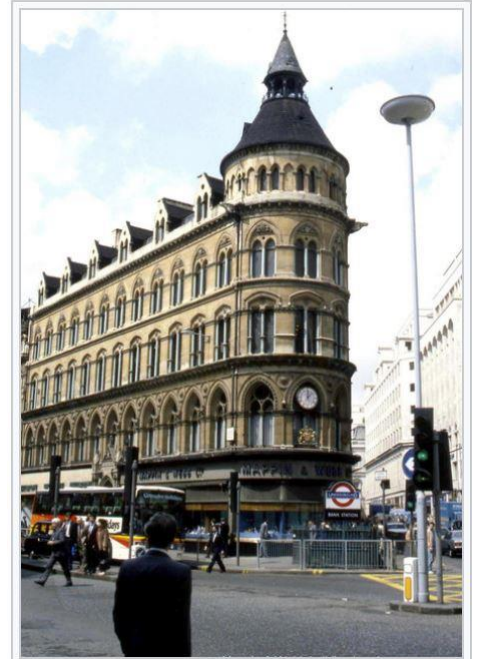
## From the Archives

### Quality Hallmark at Roehampton Club – Herbert Mappin

Herbert Mappin was elected to Roehampton Club in April 1902 in the same month as the Club opened its doors for the first time. Looking at his application form, there was nothing to indicate his status among the many sought after individuals in the military, or the aristocracy closely associated with the founders of the Club.

His name, however, had the faint ring of being associated with a luxury brand. It turned out to be the address on his application form that confirmed these suspicions. 2 Queen Victoria Street, London EC was the city location for Mappin & Webb although it was not clear at this time as to his role within the company. This particular branch of the Mappin & Webb empire used by Herbert Mappin as his office, once occupied a prominent position in the City of London at the junction of Poultry and Queen Victoria Street adjacent to Bank Junction.

It was designed in the neo gothic style by John Belcher in 1870, the listed building was demolished in 1994 to make way for the construction of a modern-day office block and retail development despite a fiercely fought campaign to save the 19<sup>th</sup> century building.



Further investigation into the Census records revealed that Herbert was twenty-nine years old at the time he was elected to the Club and there was nothing to suggest the importance of his role in the Company. It was the 1939 register of the UK civilian population that uncovered the significance of his role as Chairman of the Company. Herbert had made his way through the ranks of Mappin & Webb and was now at the pinnacle of this luxury brand with a well-earned reputation for quality and style.



The history of the Company is well documented in Wikipedia and on the Company website. The company can trace its origins as far back as 1775 when Jonathan Mappin opened a silver workshop in Sheffield for the City to establish itself as a major centre in the

silver trade which is still the case today. It was one of Jonathan's great grandsons John Mappin that started his own business in London called Mappin & Company in 1860 which became Mappin & Webb & Co in 1862 after John Mappin was joined by his brother-in-law, George Webb. The first Mappin & Webb store opened in 1860 at 77-78 Oxford Street

London. The company's fine silverware, vanity products and candelabras swiftly gained renown.

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As a natural progression from silverware, Mappin & Webb began designing jewellery and in 1903, Mappin & Webb & Co acquired Mappin Brothers. It was in the late 1890's and early 1900's that Mappin & Webb expanded internationally with its first overseas store established in Johannesburg. Other stores were also opened during this period in Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, Biarritz, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Cairo and Bombay. Herbert Mappin was at the forefront of this activity travelling extensively to different parts of the world to promote the brand and secure the premises of new outlets. Their reputation also grew with the design and creation of exquisite jewellery for royalty and high society both in the UK and internationally which included the Queen of France, Marie Antoinette, the Empress of Russia and the Princess of Monaco. The company historically held Royal Warrants to both the Russian Empire and the Japanese

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Royal Household. Queen Victoria was the first British Monarch to commission Mappin & Webb resulting in Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee Necklace which they created in 1888 and was designated by the Queen as an heirloom of the Crown.

Mappin & Webb has held Royal Warrants since 1897 and to this day they hold Warrants to both Elizabeth II and the Prince of Wales. With these commissions and a reputation for the highest quality, it would seem entirely appropriate that someone like Herbert Mappin who was responsible for the successful expansion of the business should be accepted into the Roehampton Club where he would find a rich concentration of potential clients.

Steve Riedlinger, Club Archivist