

Reference to City & Guilds acting as the 'agent'
for the Government in arranging the Glasgow
1965 Competition

From: City & Guilds of London Institute
Centenary 1878-1978

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Designed and published by City & Guilds 1978
ISBN 0 85193 007 7

In 1965 Britain was the host country for the International Apprentices Competition which was held in Glasgow and the Institute acted as agent for the Government in arranging it. Some 240 apprentices from a dozen different countries competed in a total of 25 different trades. Surprisingly enough Britain won the most medals — 9 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze. Japan came second with Spain just beating Germany into third place. This was not really surprising because apprenticeship had always been the cornerstone of British technical education. It was of course adapted to modern conditions and usually included a period — either on day or block release — at a technical college. From his master the apprentice learnt the various skills which gave him the command of his craft, and from his college or night school the theory behind these skills. Apprenticeship was not confined to traditional crafts like weaving and joinery but included engineers, pharmaceutical chemists, dental technicians and electricians. The principle was, however, just the same as in the Middle Ages, or for that matter the nineteenth century. A young lad bound himself to a master craftsman for a fixed duration and promised to serve his master faithfully, 'his secrets keep, his lawful commands