

# London Topographical Society

LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL NEWS 3

October 1976

## MILNE'S LAND USE MAP 1800

At last, the Land Use Map is about to be sent out: it is always tiresome when the printer says he has had to revise his schedule, and we apologise for the long delay, especially as several people have, quite reasonably, wondered if their copies have gone astray. Those who are paid-up for 1975 and 1976 (which is nearly everyone) will be receiving their copies without further payment, of course; unfortunately the wording in the last newsletter was a little ambiguous and some members thought they were going to have to pay as well as subscribe! Those who said they would collect their copies will be hearing directly from the Hon Secretary.

Well, it's a very handsome and satisfying publication. It has involved not only specialist photographer's work but also several visits to the British Museum by the printers, Cook Hammond and Kell, so that they could prepare each colour overlay by hand, because the colours in the original have faded in places and would not have come out with photographic colour separation; in addition the original colourist was not always accurate and the colouring of each field had to be checked against the engraved key letter. The Society has Mr Iain Bain, a member of our Council, to thank for the considerable work involved in seeing the map through the press.

We feel we have been most fortunate in being able to procure a first-rate article by Dr G B G Bull to accompany the reproduction of this very important map.

Some people may want to use the map for their own working and marking-up, so we have had a small number of copies printed without colour; the key letters convey the same information but not so graphically. There is, however, no saving in cost, so we shall have to charge the same price for both editions.

A leaflet is enclosed with a sample of the map: please pass this on to someone else as it will help the Society to sell a lot of copies, and there is, as you will see, a special price for six months or so.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1977

The Annual General Meeting for 1977 will be held at Home House, no 20 Portman Square, at our usual time of 5.30 on July 13th. The date is a little later than usual as the building is too busy to let a hundred of us in during university term-time. Full details and the formal announcement will be given in the next newsletter.

## THE MUSEUM OF LONDON

The new Museum of London, presenting a three-dimensional biography of London with galleries arranged chronologically, will be formally opened by Her Majesty The Queen on December 2nd. It will be open to the public from December 3rd. The entrance is off the high-level walkway at the corner of Aldersgate and London Wall; nearest tube stations are Barbican (not on Sunday), St Paul's, and Moorgate. Opening times: Tuesday to Saturday 10 till 6, Sunday 2 till 6.

## OUR PUBLICATION PROGRAMME

Work is well in hand on three more publications.

For 1977 we shall issue reproductions of two plans from the Corporation of London Record Office showing the grounds of the Honourable Artillery Company and surrounding property, with an article by J R Sewell who is Assistant Deputy Keeper at the Record Office. The publication will be uniform with the folder of Cooke's London Bridge drawings which was issued in 1970.

The 1978 publication will be another volume in our monograph series. Miss Priscilla Metcalf has recently completed an account of the development of the area between Clapham Common and Battersea Park during the years 1863 to 1872, under the title *The Park Town Estate and the Battersea*

*Tangle*. It will be illustrated with estate maps, elevations and plans from the estate office and from Battersea Reference Library, photographs, and a contemporary Ordnance Survey map. We had hoped to be able to issue a sheet map of Battersea to complement the book, but nothing suitable has come to light; the Tithe Map, which we have looked at, would need very extensive preparation which we do not feel is justified.

1980 is our centenary year which we shall celebrate with a bumper number of the *London Topographical Record*. The Hon Editor is well on in her pursuit of authors and articles among which will be a special article in memory of Miss Marjorie B Honeybourne.

It has not yet been decided what will be published for 1979, but we are considering the publication, probably as an extra item, of a facsimile of the copper-engraved map (c 1550) which has only in recent years come to light. Both the Agas woodcut map on eight sheets and the single-sheet map from Braun and Hogenberg's *Civitates Orbis Terrarum* are derived from it, but, in fact, no prints of the map are known to exist and it is only known through the survival of two out of fifteen of the original copper plates. Harry Margary, whose leaflet about a new series of London maps is enclosed with this newsletter, intends to include the copper-engraved map in his set and, working with him, we hope to issue it separately in our series of publications.

Suggestions for publications are always welcomed and investigated, and should be sent to the Hon Secretary to submit to Council.

## LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL RECORD

Enclosed you will find a leaflet setting out the principal contents of our journal, the *London Topographical Record*, of which twenty-three volumes have been published since 1900. The list may help you to select volumes of special interest or encourage you to fill gaps in your collection.

The following are still in print:

6 7 10 12-17 20 21 £3 each 22 £4 23 £4.40 all plus postage and packing

Instructions for ordering are given in the leaflet - don't forget that members are entitled to a 25% discount off these prices.

The other volumes are, unfortunately, out of print and not likely to be reprinted, but we do occasionally buy second-hand copies for stock. At the moment we have one or two copies of volumes 1 3 4 5 8 9 10 and 19 at £4 and £4.50 plus p&p (no discount): if these interest you please write to the Hon Secretary.

## REGISTER OF RESEARCH

*As a result of the announcement in our last newsletter Frank Kelsall, a research historian in the Historic Buildings Division of the Greater London Council, has undertaken the task of compiling and maintaining our register of research. He is getting in touch with all those who gave their names to the Hon Secretary.*

Two sorts of unpublished research might usefully be included in the proposed register. Research in progress could be listed so that work is not duplicated, and completed projects could be listed in a bibliography of unprinted material. Existing sources of information include the list published in the *Urban History Yearbook* and that issued by the Society of Architectural Historians. The Institute of Historical Research has also listed history theses up to 1970, which can be kept up-to-date by the annual lists of theses. But it is likely that there is work of interest to members of the Society which does not find its way into any of these lists, while it may be of value to members occasionally to collect together entries from these other lists. Entries in the register should probably be arranged either topographically (by London borough) or by subject for entries not confined to one place. I put in specimen entries based on my own work, and ask for others to send entries or suggestions to me.

GREENWICH: The development of the Corbett Estate at Eltham Park

BARBON, Nicholas: An investigation into the building activities of Nicholas Barbon at the end of the 17th century

We hope to issue the first list in Autumn 1977 or Spring 1978

Frank Kelsall 32 Beechhill Road, London SE9 1HH

The yellow leaflet with this newsletter announces a facsimile reprint of the standard history of Peckham, Camberwell, and Dulwich, by W H Blanch, published by your Hon Secretary (in another capacity).

William Harnett Blanch was Assistant Overseer of the Camberwell Vestry, with access to all kinds of documents and numerous contacts. He intended to write a brief shilling history, but it grew to some 700 pages by the time it was published for subscribers in May or June 1875. To help those for whom the subscription of a guinea was too much the book was reissued in eighteen monthly parts beginning in January 1876. Early advertisements for the issue in parts refer to several new chapters and numerous additional illustrations, but in the event the only differences from the original edition were the omission of ten plates, three new illustrations, and a much shorter preface. A second edition was issued in 1877 with the same contents as the issue in parts.

Copies of the original editions of the book are to be found in libraries and private collections but are becoming increasingly difficult and expensive to buy (nearly £40 is the latest price heard of). There are bound sets of the issue in parts in the Minet Library, Knatchbull Road, London SE5, and the Newington District Library, Walworth Road, London SE17; the Minet Library also possesses a copy which was extended by W F Noble into sixteen fat folio volumes with an enormous collection of cuttings, documents, and illustrations.

This reprint, produced by The Scholar Press, is taken from a copy of the 1875 edition. Eleven plates have been added: three are the extra plates of the 1877 edition and eight, matching the style of those in Blanch and perhaps some of the 'numerous additional illustrations' which were promised in the advertisement for the parts issue, come from an expanded copy of an earlier book on Camberwell, Allport's *Collections for the History of Camberwell* (1841).

The funds for the reprint have been raised in a novel way. Some thirty individual residents of Camberwell have agreed to lend the necessary cash to pay the printer and will be paid off as sales proceed. Their help will be acknowledged in the book in the manner of the subscribers' lists of an earlier age.

Having undertaken this ambitious venture (720 pages of hardback book) the publisher is anxious to make quick sales: **if you purchase before November 30th, the book will be sent postfree for £9, saving you 75 pence** (UK only).

Orders and payment direct to Stephen Marks, 50 Grove Lane, London SE5 8ST, please.

## BLUE PLAQUE GUIDES

Publications official and commercial emerge at irregular intervals about the ever-popular blue plaques and other commemorative tablets which have been erected in London during more than a century. The Royal Society of Arts began to erect plaques in the 1860s and eventually their scheme was taken over by the London County Council in 1901. In the City of London the responsibility for commemorative plaques belongs to the Corporation which erected its first in 1923.

The London County Council for a long time issued detailed historical notes about each building marked with a tablet; these were published both as pamphlets, covering one, two, or three houses, and as books entitled *Indication of houses of Historical Interest in London*; six volumes were published between 1907 and 1938 relating to tablets erected between 1903 and 1936. These were followed by a *New Series* of 4-page leaflets each dealing with one house; of these only seven appear to have been published, relating to tablets erected between 1937 and 1940.

Since the war the LCC and the GLC have published new lists in 1947, 1952, 1960, and 1971, and various supplements; the Corporation of London has also published occasional lists of its own plaques. Two small books appeared in 1953, *The Blue Plaque Guide to historic London houses and the lives of their famous residents*, edited by Victor Burrows with drawings by E W Fenton (publ Newman Neame), and *History on London Walls, A guide to the past as remembered by the present*, by Elenor May Day (publ J L Workman & Co). The first of these is confined to LCC and Royal Society of Arts plaques, but the second includes plaques of other bodies, official and unofficial, and in the City.

This year, which began with 365 GLC, LCC, and RSA plaques on buildings in Greater London, sees a completely new edition of the GLC's list<sup>1</sup> and the handsomest book yet to be devoted to the subject of blue plaques<sup>2</sup>. The former is a narrow booklet convenient for the pocket with an excellent fold-out map of central London (Kensington to Holborn); for the first time the main list is in a single alphabetical order, supplemented by lists by borough and vocation and a street index.

Martin Hall's book, by contrast, 'aims to be entertaining, lively and informative reading, as well as a service'. Although it covers the same ground as the GLC list, it reflects, by its varied treatment of the subjects, a very personal enthusiasm: Millais, Charles Lamb, Keats, Leslie Stephen, for example, rate a page or more of text each, while others, equally well known, are given but a line or two in the paragraph, at the end of each borough, headed 'Further names commemorated in ...'; literary and artistic figures get the lion's share. The book is well produced and copiously illustrated with a rich variety of old and new photographs, paintings, drawings, and engravings. It is indeed entertaining and lively, but disappointing if, using it as a *guide*, you want information about those who did not stimulate Mr Hall to give them more than a mention, occasionally less indeed than in the GLC list.

If you want a handy list with brief notes, good cross references, and a map, the new GLC list is first-rate. If you prefer to be amused with anecdotes and delighted with pictures and want to bring to life a selection of London's blue-plaque homes, then Mr Hall has indeed done you a service.

<sup>1</sup> *Blue Plaques on houses of historical interest*, 52pp and map Greater London Council 45p

<sup>2</sup> *The Blue Plaque Guide to London Homes*, by Martin Hall 159pp Queen Anne Press £5.95

## NOTES AND QUERIES

*Space is available in our twice-yearly newsletter for you to ask any questions you want answered on London topography, or if you have short items of interest to members or information about research in progress. Please write to the Hon Secretary, 50 Grove Lane, London SE5 8ST.*

### 4 THE GREEN EAGLE & THE HORN AND CROWN

Mr McKelvie is anxious to have details about two eighteenth-century London coffee-houses or taverns, called "The Green Eagle" and "The Horn and Crown". He cannot tell from his present data whether they were definitely taverns or definitely coffee-houses, but his reference is to the period 1700-1727. Were either or both of these hostelrys used for the exhibition of freaks and curiosities, as was often the case in contemporary London?

*Please write to Mr C L McKelvie, The Rectory, 11 Bladon Drive, Belfast BT9 5JL*

### 5 EXETER COURT

*Eric Ward of 14 The Avenue, Walton St Mary, Clevedon, Somerset BS21 7ED, writes*

My interest is in the 17/18th c English social history and I am collecting biographical information concerning a writer of the period who until 1739 lived in the now-demolished **Exeter Court** off the Strand. This court is clearly indicated on John Rocque's 1746 street map and there are several 19th c book illustrations shewing the entrance to the court, but as yet I have been unable to find a representation of the court itself. I am therefore writing to ask whether you are aware of the existence of a drawing or engraving.

### 6 SIR ROBERT CLAYTON'S PROPERTY FILES

Sir Robert Clayton was a wealthy London scrivener at the end of the 17th century. Some of his banking ledgers survive at the Guildhall Library. A considerable part of his business was what would now be described as estate agency. Among Clayton's papers were files of particulars of property, often giving valuable topographical information; the files covering London, Middlesex, Essex, and Kent, were the most numerous. In 1928 a large collection of Clayton's papers was offered for sale by George Sherwood, a dealer of 210 Strand, and a catalogue was prepared. The files on Kent properties have since been deposited in the Kent Archives Offices at Maidstone, but I do not know the whereabouts of the London and Middlesex files; nor have I been able to trace a copy of Mr Sherwood's catalogue. Any help on this would be much appreciated.

*Frank Kelsall 32 Beechhill Road, London SE9 1HH*

## SHEPHERD'S LONDON

A free four-page supplement to this recent book on T H Shepherd and his family, containing important new information received since publication, is available (stamped addressed envelope, please) from the author: J F C Phillips 61 Haverhill Road, London SW12.

*Issued by Stephen Marks, Hon Secretary of the London Topographical Society, 50 Grove Lane, London SE5 8ST*