PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY

We are very pleased to announce that Ralph Merrifield BA FSA FMA was elected as our new President at the Annual General Meeting last July. Mr Merrifield, who has recently retired as Deputy Director of the Museum of London, is well known to all who work in the field of Roman London, on which he has written the definitive work, and to many others. He has been a member of the London Topographical Society since 1967 and we look forward to the help he can give us with his great knowledge of London and his wide acquaintance.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, COVENANTS AND MEMBERSHIP

There has I think been fair warning of the increase in subscription to £5 next year. Will those of you who pay by Banker's Order kindly fill in one of the new forms enclosed and send it to me. This also seems to me the right moment to introduce covenants for United Kingdom members and I hope anyone who feels able to sign one of these will let me have it as well: this will increase the value of your subscription by nearly half without costing you any extra.

We are preparing a list of members to be published in next year’s Record and I would be grateful if those who receive subscription reminders with this newsletter will try to let me have payment not later than December 31st so that their names can be included in the list. Payment for 1980 (£5) can be added as well if you wish to save writing another cheque, or I should be pleased to receive a Banker’s Order.

Anthony Cooper, Hon Treasurer

THE A – Z OF ELIZABETHAN LONDON, alias INDEX TO ‘AGAS’

We are now receiving copies of the much-delayed publication for 1979 and apologize to all those members who wondered what had happened to their copies which we had expected to send out after the last AGM.

In order to avoid the Christmas rush we shall send out copies after Christmas, but postage will be very expensive, so we are arranging to have copies at the Bishopsgate Institute from December 12th and earnestly ask as many members as possible to collect their copies or arrange for friends who work in the City to do so for them.

If you cannot collect but have an address in central London (EC and WC districts, W1 and SW1) to which copies can be delivered by hand (again to save postage) please tell our Publications Secretary, Patrick Frazer, 36 Old Deer Park Gardens, Richmond, Surrey (tel. 01-940 5419) before Christmas.

Only paid-up members can receive subscription copies, so if you have a reminder for your subscription with this newsletter you know what to do to be entitled to your copy.

The price of the volume has been fixed at £8, with the usual 25% reduction for members. We are paying a large sum for the production of this valuable book and must sell a lot of copies to meet our next expenses. When you have seen your own copy please buy another, perhaps to give to your local school or institution.

If you can, please collect your copy from the Reference Library at the Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate (almost opposite Liverpool Street Station) on or after December 12th, Monday to Friday, 9.30 to 5.30, before Friday 21st.

THE PARCEL YOU TAKE GETS HOME FIRST

9.1
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD

The Society celebrates its centenary in 1980. A bumper number of London Topographical Record will be issued to all members for their subscription. In addition we are planning an extra publication and an exhibition.

The publication will be a facsimile of a view of London from the north by J Swertner, printed in 1789 and reproduced from a copy in the Guildhall Library. The full title is A View of the Cities of London and Westminster with the Suburbs and Circumjacent Country. Shewing the steeples of all the Churches and as many of the Public Buildings as are seen from the gallery of the steeple of Islington which Town appears in the foreground. Members will be able to purchase their own copy at a greatly reduced price during 1980.

An exhibition of the Society’s past publications will be held during part of September and October at Papercourt, 63 Poland Street by courtesy of Wiggins Teape Ltd. who are also giving us the paper for the Swertner view. Early next year we shall get down to the organisation and those who have already volunteered to help will be approached then. Details of the exhibition will appear in the next newsletter.

Our subscription goes up to £5 in 1980. When the Society was founded in 1880 the annual subscription was one guinea: this was more than the weekly wage of a workman and you could buy a metal bedstead for 11s 6d, a diamond ring for 21/-, and a Super Paris Silk Hat for 8/6 to 21/-, so you will realize that the new subscription is far short of the original in real terms. We intend to ensure that you get as good value for it as you have had in the past.

HONORARY TREASURER’S NEW ADDRESS

Our Honorary Treasurer, Anthony Cooper, has moved to

6 Waterside Place, Princess Road, London NW1 8JT

His telephone number (01-722 7063) is unchanged.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1980

The Annual General Meeting next year will be held on Wednesday July 9th at 5.30 at Coutts Bank in their new building within the restored facades in the Strand behind St Martin-in-the-Fields. Please make a note now in your diaries. More information about the meeting will be given with the formal notice in the next newsletter.

SHOPPING IN STYLE

Shopping in Style, London from the Restoration to Edwardian elegance, by Alison Adburgham, 192 pages and copious illustration, Thames and Hudson, 1979. £6.50.

This delightfully entertaining book analyses the relationship between shop and well-to-do shopper in London from the Restoration to the beginning of the nineteenth century. Primarily a social history, it contains much of topographical interest as it charts the drift westwards of fashionable London — Pepys lays out £4 on goods from ‘the great laceman in Cheapside’ — ‘more by 20s than I intended’ — while Jane Austen goes shopping in April 1811 at Grafton House in New Bond Street and writes afterwards to her sister Cassandra: ‘I am sorry to tell you I am getting very extravagant and spending all my Money’.

Mrs. Adburgham traces the development of the department store from Harding, Howell and Company who took over Dyce and Scribe’s soft furnishings warehouse in the east wing of Schomberg House in Pall Mall and expanded their business till it filled the whole mansion, to William Whiteley’s establishment in Westbourne Grove. In choosing this first site for his emporium, the ‘Universal Provider’, as he came to be known, was influenced by the opening of London’s first underground railway with its station at Bishop’s Road, only a short walk away from his shop.

Shopping in Style is exceptionally well illustrated and produced; with book prices as high as they are, it must be considered a bargain at £6.50. We can only hope that it may meet with such success that Messrs. Allen and Unwin may be persuaded to re-issue Mrs Adburgham’s seminal work, Shops and Shopping, in paperback — that is a volume which should never be allowed to go out of print.

Ann Saunders

SAMUEL PEPYS’S LONDON

The tempting portfolio of prints and drawings to which one of the accompanying leaflets relates is expected by the publisher to be ready early in February. The price will be £21.56 and includes VAT and delivery.

Issued by Stephen Marks, Hon Secretary of the London Topographical Society, Hamilton’s, Kilmersdon, near Bath, Somerset

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