NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  Wednesday June 30th 1982

The eighty-second Annual General Meeting of the London Topographical Society will be held on Wednesday 30th June 1982 at The Brewery, Chiswell Street, EC1 at 6 o'clock in the Overlord Room. The meeting will follow refreshments which will be available from 5.30. Please inform the Hon Secretary if you wish to nominate under item 5 or to raise any matter under item 6 of the agenda. After the business meeting members will be given a short talk about Whitbread's Brewery and the Overlord Tapestry, which they will have an opportunity to examine.

The Overlord Tapestry, commissioned in 1968 by Lord Dulverton, depicts the Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6th 1944. It consists of 34 panels 3 feet high with a total length of 272 feet, thus exceeding the Bayeux Tapestry, of which in many ways it is a modern counterpart. It was designed by Miss Sandra Lawrence under the direction of a specially formed advisory committee and it took twenty ladies of the Royal School of Needlework five years to complete. Booklets about the tapestry will be on sale.

Please let the Hon Secretary know by June 25th if you and any guests will be attending.

AGENDA

1 To approve the minutes of the 81st Annual General Meeting in 1981
2 To receive the 82nd Annual Report of the Council for 1981 (herewith)
3 To receive the accounts for 1981 (herewith)
4 To receive the Hon Editor's report
5 To elect officers and members of Council
6 To consider any proposals by members
7 Any other business

Stephen Marks  Hon Secretary, Hamilton’s, Kilmersdon, near Bath, Somerset (telephone 0761-35134)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The Society, happy to say, continues to increase its membership, but this has also meant a considerable increase in the Treasurer’s work, so it is thought desirable to split his functions, so that he looks after the Society’s money and accounts, while a Membership Secretary looks after membership records.

We have been fortunate to find someone willing to take on the membership side, Trevor Ford, who is already on the Society’s Council. He will be responsible for keeping the membership record up to date, for issuing subscription reminders with the newsletter, and for seeing that the addressed envelopes and labels are prepared for sending out publications and newsletters. As well as sending subscriptions to the new Membership Secretary members will need to send their orders to him so that he can authorise the Publications Secretary to invoice them at members’ prices, and intending members should also send their forms to him.

This change takes effect straightaway. The new Membership Secretary is:

Trevor Ford, 59 Gladesmore Road, South Tottenham, London N15
(telephone 01-802 0595)

82nd ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1981

During the year the Society lost one of its longest-serving members of Council, Mr A R B Fuller, a former Master of Charterhouse and Librarian of St Paul's Cathedral.

The publication for the year, the 'Rheineck' Panorama of about 1810, was issued to members at and after the Annual General Meeting. It was attended by unprecedented demand following a full-page feature in The Times and had to be reprinted immediately, and it has given the Society considerable publicity, resulting in an increased recruitment of members. Work has been in hand on several other publications including The A to Z of Georgian London, a companion to our earlier volume on Elizabethan London, and a monograph entitled Robert Barker of Piccadilly Hall and His Heirs by Dr Francis Sheppard. Two newsletters
were issued during the year in May and November.

The eighty-first Annual General Meeting was held at Bedford College, Regent's Park, on July 15th 1981. The Society's officers were re-elected without change, and the council was re-elected with the addition of Mr Felix Barker. After the business meeting members heard our Hon Editor, Dr Ann Saunders, talk about Regent's Park and were able to inspect the exhibition 'Villas in Regent's Park' which had just opened as part of the College's appeal events.

The Society's paid-up membership of 608 at the end of the year, with 5 honorary members, showed the greatest annual advance for many years. 20 were written off during the year. Sales, which included the best-selling 'Rhinebeck Panorama', amounted to some £25,000, though the very substantial expenses of printing this work have, of course, absorbed a very large proportion of this income.

THIS YEAR'S PUBLICATIONS

The A to Z of Georgian London, with Rocque's Plan of 1746 as its base, was published at the beginning of the year in conjunction with Harry Margary and Guildhall Library. It was issued in January to all paid-up members and has since been sent out as members' subscriptions have come in. Those who have still not paid (who will find a reminder in this newsletter) will receive their copies when their subscriptions have been paid; in order to save postage they will be sent out, if not collected at the AGM, with the next item.

Paid-up members will also receive without further payment Dr Sheppard's monograph on Robert Barker of Piccadilly Hall and His Heirs. This will be ready in time for distribution at the AGM. Information about this publication was given in the last newsletter.

NEW LEAFLETS

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a copy of our current leaflet and membership forms. The leaflet has been revised to include recent publications and some price changes and to omit items which are now out of print. Because of the substantial difference between the subscription and the price of some recent items, notably the 'Rhinebeck' Panorama and The A to Z of Elizabethan London, we feel that those who join after the issue of a publication should not receive it at less than the members' price; a new note on page 2 of the leaflet explains the choices open to new members.

As we have a new Membership Secretary (see above), appointed since the printing of the leaflet, please observe the amended instructions on the inserted slip.

EXHIBITION OF WATERCOLOURS OF STOKE NEWINGTON BY T.H. and F.N. SHEPHERD

In July, 1843 the beautiful Abney House, Stoke Newington, built in 1700 and connected with Isaac Watts, the hymn writer, was demolished. Fortunately, a local resident had the foresight to commission Thomas Hosmer Shepherd and his son Frederick Napoleon to record, not only the house and its interior, but also the church, chapel, several other eighteenth century houses and, best of all, four pubs, most of them in what is still Church Street. Twenty-eight of these watercolours together with a few prints will be on view at the Hugh Evelyn gallery at 53 Charlbert Street, St John's Wood from 4 June to 26 June. Any member who would like to attend the private view on 3 June should write to Hugh Evelyn for an invitation.

LANGLEY & BELCH

In 1971 the Society published a facsimile of 'Langley & Belch's New Map of London'. The original used for the purpose was a copy in Guildhall Library bearing the imprint, 'Printed & Published May 1st 1812 by Langley & Belch, No. 173 High St, Borough...'. This was the earliest known version. It is described in Darlington & Howgego's Printed Maps of London as No 256(1).

It may be of interest to members to know that an earlier state of the map has now come to light. This has been deposited in Guildhall Library by the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's with other prints and maps formerly housed in the St Paul's Cathedral Library. Though the St Paul's version carries the same imprint as the copy reproduced by the Society it differs in several respects. The nursery in Regent's Park is not shown. Nor is the northern extension of the grove of Grove Road, St John's Wood. The 'nearest road to Barking', shown crossing Abbey Marsh to the east of the River Lea on the reproduction does not feature on it.

Perhaps even more interesting, and certainly more curious, is a handsome ink draught of Langley's & Belch's map that has just been reported. This is currently in the possession of a dealer, Martin Ellis Jones of Duxlestone Mill, Sherborne in Gloucestershire. The map image of Mr Jones's map appears to be identical to the St Paul's state but it lacks the title at top left and top right, the compass star at top centre, and the distances in the border. The panel for the explanation of the map at bottom centre is occupied by intricate decoration and the words, 'Copied by R. ROWLANDSON Kendal'. A note attached to the back of the frame reads: 'Pennmanship. This Map commenced at Kendal in Westmoreland the 13th of November 1828 and finished at Birmingham the 20th June 1836. The whole performed with Pen and Ink By - Richard Rowlandson'. A trade card stuck on to the reverse of the map's very handsome frame states: 'W. Coleman, from Hensman's New St, Cabinet Maker & Upholsterer, 42 Pauls Square, Birmingham... Maps mounted on a superior Principle... Coffins made of the best English Oak'.

Mr Rowlandson's exercise in penmanship which kept him busy for eight years is exceedingly fine but oddly coloured. Parks and open spaces are coloured blue, rivers and lakes green. The intended Southwark Bridge, erected between 1815 and 1819, presented the Kendal penman with a problem. On the published map it had appeared slightly down-stream from where it was actually erected. Rowlandson indicates it both in its 'intended' and correct positions.

Ralph Hyde, Guildhall Library

THE THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK LIBRARY

The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections was established as a separate section of the University of Toronto Library in 1955. Since that time the collection has grown from a few hundred books kept in locked cupboards in an unused storeroom to approximately 200,000 volumes housed in a specially designed building which forms part of the John P. Robarts Research Library complex on St George Street.

The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, officially opened in April 1973, is named in honour of an early settler in the Toronto area. Thomas Fisher (1792–1874) came from Yorkshire to Upper Canada in 1821 and settled on the Humber River where he established a business as a merchant miller and played an active role in the public life
of the community. In 1973 Thomas Fisher’s great-grandsons, Sidney and Charles Fisher of Montreal, through the agency of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, deposited in the Library their fine private collections of Shakespeare, various twentieth century authors, and the etchings of Wenceslaus Hollar.

**English Antiquities and Topography**

Dr Sidney Fisher’s interest in sixteenth and seventeenth century England led him to form a separate collection of works on English topography and antiquities. Included are works by William Camden, William Dugdale, John Norden, Robert Thoroton, Sir Peter Leycester, and other early antiquaries as well as eighteenth and nineteenth century studies. A sizeable part of the collection centres on London, with maps, plans, and engravings which record its development from Stow’s *Survey* of 1618 to the London County Council’s *Survey*, begun in 1900 and still in progress.

**Wenceslaus Hollar**

Any study of seventeenth century London and its environs must include the views of the city etched by Wenceslaus Hollar (1607–1677) and no collection of works on English antiquities and topography could be complete without Hollar’s magnificent illustrations for works by Sir William Dugdale and other seventeenth century antiquaries. Stimulated initially by his interest in reconstructing Shakespeare’s London, portions of which can be documented from Hollar’s London views, Dr Fisher began actively collecting etchings by Hollar in the early 1960’s. His outstanding collection of more than 2500 loose sheets of etchings and over seventy-five books containing an additional 2700 plates is comparable in extent and completeness to the collections at the British Museum and at Windsor Castle. All aspects of Hollar’s work are represented: his careful studies of the details of women’s dress; his painstaking copies of contemporary portraits and other works of art, often from the collection of his patron, the Earl of Arundel; his accurate depictions of cathedrals and other architectural monuments of the period, some like old St Paul’s in London since destroyed; his views of European towns and countryside; his English landscape studies; and his famous bird’s eye views of London. The collection contains various states of many of the etchings, some proofs, a group of nineteenth century forgeries by Peter Thompson, and an original chalk and wash sketch for an etching of John the Baptist. A small selection of etchings from the collection have been framed by Dr Fisher and may be seen in the Library’s Reading Rooms.

An exhibition catalogue entitled *Hollar’s England* was published by the Library in 1978.

Members of the Society will undoubtedly be interested to know that it was Dr Sidney Fisher who was responsible for the erection of a plaque in St Margaret’s Church, Westminster, to commemorate the burial there of Wenceslaus Hollar. An earlier tablet had been damaged in the bombing of 1940; this new memorial, designed and carved by David Kindersley, is of a most satisfying elegance with exquisite lettering.

The newsletter is issued twice a year. Space is available for you to ask any questions relating to London topography or to communicate items of interest to members or information about research in progress. Please write to the Hon Secretary.

**BOOK NOTES**

*Primrose Hill to Euston Road. A Survey of the Streets of West Camden compiled by the Camden History Society’s Street History Group,* edited by Anthony Cooper. Camden History Society, 1982. 89 pages, maps, illustrations, oblong 8vo. £2.70.

This survey of the streets of West Camden, which has been edited by Anthony Cooper who is also the indefatigable Treasurer of the London Topographical Society, is a monograph of exceptionally broad scope. It outlines the history of the various estates which own, or have owned, portions of the area. It describes, often most pertinently, the buildings in each thoroughfare and is particularly strong on details of street furniture, such as railings and street lamps, and on present and former workshops such as the Round House and a whole list of piano manufacturers. Using census reports, directories and other reference works, it lists both those who have stayed briefly and those who have made their homes in this quarter of London, and a varied company they were, ranging from the artists of the Camden Town Group with, in particular, Sickert as their leader, to Dr. Crippen’s unfortunate wife making a professional appearance at the Old Bedford Music Hall. The book also covers literary references, such as the appearance of Primrose Hill Studios in Joseph Hatton’s novel *By Order of the Czar*. There is a generous supply of maps and illustrations, including a splendid photograph on page 46 of ‘The Cows’ Cathedral’, Brown’s Dairies, which stood, in 1903, where Camden Tube Station stands today.

It is remarkable how much information has been gathered into less than a hundred pages of text. There seems to be only one blemish: the ably-drawn maps at the end have their captions transposed, so that south has become north and north south.

Emphasising the intricate pattern of social influences and buildings which have made London what it is, *Primrose Hill to Euston Road* provides a guide to past glories and present joys. Anyone who lives in that part of London will find it indispensable and, as time goes by, future generations of residents will consider it a treasury of information.

*Ann Saunders*


This book, published to coincide with an exhibition of the same title in the summer of 1980, presents handsomely a first-class piece of research on a subject of great importance. It deals with a period of considerable achievement in housing, much admired for its progressive qualities both social and architectural. The principal events which gave rise to this phenomenon were the creation of the London County Council to supplant the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1889 and the Housing of the Working Class Acts of 1890 and 1900.

The author’s research has penetrated the customary anonymity of a local government department and has identified the work of several young architects, still virtually unknown, who were influenced by Webb and Lethaby and who made their contribution to the Arts and Crafts movement. Nearly all the design and detail drawings were found to have survived; several are reproduced.