

LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL NEWS

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NEXT YEAR'S PUBLICATIONS

In 1983, the Society hopes to publish full-scale colour reproductions of two late seventeenth-century surveys. Work is already well advanced on the Survey of Hatton Garden made in 1694 by Abraham Arlidge. John Evelyn saw the foundations being laid for this 'little town' in June 1659, and over the next thirty-five years Hatton Garden was developed along similar lines to the Covent Garden and Bloomsbury estates. Arlidge's detailed and colourful map marks the completion of the Hatton Garden development. A brief description of the Survey will accompany the facsimile; written by Dr Penelope Hunting, it gives us a foretaste of the longer account she is preparing for the next volume of the *Record*, due in 1985.

The second survey is of the Tower of London. A detailed plan was prepared in 1682 to accompany a report on the state of the Tower defences. It was made on a scale of 50 feet to the inch and covers 29 inches square. Though primarily concerned with the fortifications and the buildings used by the Office of Ordnance, the plan shows the entire fortress in considerable detail. Included are the English and Irish Mints, numerous private lodgings and apartments, inns, coach-houses and stables. Geoffrey Parnell, who brought the map to the attention of the Society, is writing a short note as accompaniment; this too anticipates a longer essay, also intended for 1985.

COVENANTS

Will members who find a buff Inland Revenue form enclosed kindly fill it in where marked and return it to me. This has to be done at the start of each Covenant.

If any new members would like to sign a Deed of Covenant, I should be pleased to send them a form. The covenant can be undertaken for four years instead of seven if preferred.

Since April 1981 people who pay tax at higher rate can claim relief at the higher rate, and they can either keep the extra or pass it on to the Society by increasing their subscription though paying the same net amount. To achieve this it would be advisable to confirm with your tax consultant what is applicable to your own tax situation.

Anthony Cooper, 6 Waterside Place, Princess Road, London NW1 8JT.

A MUSEUM IN DOCKLANDS

Early in the year the Museum of London published a 12-page pamphlet, *A Museum in Docklands*. The Museum of London wishes to promote the idea of such a museum in partnership with others, both museum and local authorities, the London Docklands Development Corporation, the Port of London Authority, the Museums and Galleries Commission, and the Government.

In adding to its collections over the past ten years, material relating to industry, the docks and the river has been enhanced to the point where it now forms the most rapidly growing sector of the Museum's non-archaeological activities; together with the Port of London Authority's collection, managed by the Museum of London, these could form the basis for a new museum of London's industry and commerce. Although such a museum needs to look at London's industrial and commercial history in its broadest social context, the vital role played by the trading river and the docks suggests that the most suitable location would be in Docklands. Successive moves of the working port downstream have left empty docks and warehouses and vast areas of derelict land: with the official closure of the Royal Group of Docks to shipping at the end of 1981, there are no longer any docks in the Greater London Council area

handling general cargoes.

In the past two years the Museum of London has begun to look seriously at possible sites. So far three have been suggested: the Skin Floor at London Dock, Wapping; warehouses along Shad Thames/St Saviour's Dock, Bermondsey; and the north-western corner of the West India Docks, Poplar. Although no professional surveys of these sites or feasibility studies of developing a museum complex on them have been made, the last of these, the West India Docks site, is considered by the Museum of London to offer the best combination of historic buildings, water, quayside, public access and visitor appeal.

With the official closure of the West India and Millwall Docks in 1980 the whole complex has become available for redevelopment. Significantly, it now houses the headquarters of the London Docklands Development Corporation and will shortly become London's first Enterprise Zone aimed at spearheading the economic revival of Docklands.

The West India Docks, opened in 1802, are of unrivalled historic importance, being the very first of London's new trading docks built in the first decade of the nineteenth century. Of those docks they alone now survive as a reminder of the entrepreneurial skill and engineering achievement that made them possible. Quite remarkably, after 180 years of use, a number of buildings from the earliest phase of the dock's working life are still to be found. Together they now comprise a sample of the features of an enclosed dock unique in London: boundary wall and fence, warehouses, dock office, constables' cottages, guard house, excise office, maintenance workshops and stores. With the demolition of early dock warehouses at the London Docks in 1979 and at St Katherine's Docks in 1976 and 1981, the magnificent range of Warehouses 1 and 2 at the West India Dock are now the only surviving multi-storey warehouses of London's first docks. In particular, No 2 Warehouse (1802) was one of the very first to be built. The great importance of these buildings, many of which are individually listed, suggests that they should be retained and cherished at all costs. The use of some of them, together with parts of the dock itself, as part of a possible museum complex would provide for their conservation and long-term retention for the enjoyment and

enlightenment of our own and future generations.

The pamphlet, from which the foregoing material is selected, also deals with the existing museum provision in and around Docklands, communications, suggested administration, and visitor potential. It is illustrated with sketch plans and a generous selection of dockland photographs.

BEFORE SUBURBIA

PHOTOGRAPHS OF HORNSEY IN THE 1850s and 60s

BY GEORGE SHADBOLT

An important collection of early photographs, on loan from Bruce Castle Museum, is being shown to the public, for what is believed to be the first time, at the Museum of London from November 2nd 1982 until January 9th 1983.

Taken between 1855 and 1864, these photographs of Hornsey form an unique record of a former part of rural England that is now a densely populated suburb of London. Photographs depicting landscapes of open fields and country lanes are highlighted by modern photographs alongside them taken from the same viewpoints.

George Shadbolt was an important figure in the history of photography and contributed much to its technical development. He was a founder of the Photographic Society of London and editor of the British Journal of Photography from 1857 to 1864.

Museum of London opening hours

Tuesday-Saturday 10-6, Sunday 2-6 (closed on Mondays)

BOOK NOTES

Catalogue of the Pepys Library at Magdalene College, Cambridge, vol III Prints and Drawings, pt i: General, compiled by A W Aspital, with an introduction by P H Hulton. Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer 1980 [1981] 357 pages. £45

On 22 November 1666 Pepys was shown a new print by Wenceslaus Hollar depicting the ravages of the Great Fire, 'a pretty representation... very fine indeed'. Predictably he acquired his own copy of it and in this catalogue of his remarkable collection it appears as No 32-3. Three years before his death most of Pepys prints and drawings were pasted into a series of large albums. These, together with his 3,000 books and manuscripts, were inherited by his nephew, John Jackson. On Jackson's death the collection passed, as Pepys had ordered that it should be, to Magdalene College, Cambridge.

The albums in the Pepys Collection which will interest LTS members most will be the first two, entitled in manuscript, 'My Collection of Prints and Drawings... relating to London and Westminster, &c...' In them are mounted over 500 items. Considering the restrictions on printing till then and how few home-grown artists we had that score is astonishing. A good proportion of the items are excessively rare; some of them indeed are unique. Not only did Pepys collect the obvious - views of St Paul's, the Royal Exchange, the Banqueting House, and long prospects - he also collected items that other people would soon have disposed of - trade cards, funeral tickets, playing card wrappers, and invitations. If Samuel Pepys were alive today he would be President of the Ephemera Society. Original drawings in the Pepys Collection include a fascinating series by Marcellus Laroon of City officers, an execution

at Tyburn, and 'The Manner of Upping Swans upon Thame-Stream'.

In 1978 the first volume of the printed catalogue of the entire Pepys Collection, listing Pepys' printed books appeared. Six more volumes are promised, to cover music, maps, manuscripts, and bindings. Pepys' collection of prints was so extensive it was decided to divide it into two. Portraits will therefore be taken care of in a future part. The volume under review has a useful introduction contributed by P H Hulton, formerly of the British Museum Print Room. The standard of A W Aspital's cataloguing is very high. Though many of Pepys' prints were trimmed of their artists, engravers, titles, and imprints this information is generally provided and one is constantly referred to other sources and collections where the prints are represented. From now on, quite clearly, whenever we need to know what sixteenth- and seventeenth-century London topographical prints exist we shall turn to this volume - and we may do so with confidence.

Ralph Hyde, Guildhall Library

An historical walk through Clerkenwell (1980), *An historical walk along the New River* (1982), *An historical walk through Barnsbury* (1981), by Mary Cosh, Nos 1, 2 and 3 in a series of historical walks arranged by the Islington Archaeology and History Society. Nos 1 and 2 published by Islington Libraries, No 3 by the Society, available from Islington Central Library, 2 Fieldway Crescent, London N5. 32-40 pages A5, including maps and illustrations. 85p, 70p and 95p respectively, postage extra.

These three convenient, pocketable booklets show how historical detail can be attached to a topographical framework. Each covers a relatively small area of an inner London borough, each also very different in character, one including the medieval and monastic St John Square area, one covering largely nineteenth-century expansion north of the New Road (London's first by-pass), while the third takes us along a relatively open route and out into the neighbouring borough of Hackney. Each booklet has an introduction with brief historical notes, followed by observations on the route, and the routes are short enough to be followed in one visit, even with hints about places of refreshment on the New River walk.

Although the same format has been followed, it is perhaps unfortunate that there is a noticeable difference between the booklets in the quality of layout. That on Barnsbury has illustrations clearly and consistently reproduced and well related to the appearance of the page: it is to be hoped that this, rather than the New River booklet will be the model for further Islington walks which the author hopes to write. Publications of this kind, produced by local societies and public libraries, are always to be welcomed.

NEWSLETTERS BY AIR

Overseas members who would like to receive their newsletters by air (and who have not already arranged this) should let the Hon Treasurer, Anthony Cooper, know with their next subscription and include the appropriate sum. The extra cost is £1.25 or 3 dollars for each year's issue of two newsletters, making a total of £6.25 or 15.50 dollars US or Canadian. The Treasurer's address is 6 Waterside Place, Princess Road, London NW1 8JT.

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