NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  Wednesday July 4th 1984

The eighty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the London Topographical Society will be held on Wednesday July 4th 1984 at the London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, London WC2 at 6 o'clock in Room A45. 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 7 of the agenda.

As members are aware, we normally hold the AGM in a building of historic interest. On this occasion, however, we are hoping to take advantage of the opportunity to see some of the Charles Booth Collection at the LSE, where the British Library of Political and Economic Science holds the original records of Charles Booth’s surveys of London poverty. They include 392 notebooks filled by Booth and his collaborators (Beatrice Webb was one of them) on their house-to-house surveys, 55 additional volumes containing, among other matter, records of interviews, and six boxes of the 25-inch Ordnance Survey maps, hand coloured, to demonstrate the degrees of poverty revealed by the survey. This would complement our publication of Booth’s Poverty and Wealth maps, which will be issued to members who attend the AGM. We are also hoping that a member of the LSE’s staff will give a short talk about the maps.

A selection of the Society’s publications of the past 30 years will be on sale, together with copies of The A to Z of Regency London, an extra publication for this year (£16, to members £12).

Please let the Hon Secretary know by June 27th if you and any guests will be attending.

AGENDA

1 To approve the minutes of the 83rd Annual General Meeting in 1983
2 To receive the 84th Annual Report of the Council for 1983 (herewith)
3 To receive the Accounts for 1983 (herewith)
4 To receive the Hon Editor’s report
5 To elect officers and members of Council
6 To discuss the annual subscription
7 To consider any proposals by members
8 Any other business

Patrick Frazer  Hon Secretary
36 Old Deer Park Gardens, Richmond, Surrey (telephone 01-940 5419)

84th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1983

Two publications were issued to members during 1983, both being reproductions in colour of seventeenth-century plans. The Survey of Hatton Garden, 1694, by Abraham Arldige and a Plan of the Tower of London, 1682, were both accompanied by short notes and both will be written up at greater length in the Record. As usual, copies of the publications were distributed to members who attended the AGM. Work has been in hand on the Society’s publication for 1984, facsimiles in colour of Booth’s Poverty and Wealth Maps 1889-91, accompanied by introductory notes. In addition, members will be able to purchase an extra publication, The A to Z of Regency London, which is the third volume of the A to Z series. Two newsletters were issued during 1983, in May and November.

The eighty-third Annual General Meeting was held at St Etheldreda’s Church, Ely Place on June 29th. Some 150 members and guests were present. Stephen Marks, after 17 years as Hon Secretary, did not stand for re-election. Patrick Frazer, hitherto Publications Secretary, was elected in his place, and Simon Morris was elected as Publications Secretary. The Society’s other officers were re-elected, as were the members of Council with the addition of Stephen Marks. After the business meeting, members heard Mr George Daniel give an account of the Hatton Garden map and its associations with his wife’s family, followed by Dr Penelope Hunting’s explanation of the map’s significance and contents. Members were also given an opportunity to inspect the church.

At the end of 1983 the Society’s membership comprised 5 honorary and 653 paid-up members; during the year 41 new members had joined and 26 had been written off. Sales for the year totalled £4771.
SHOULD WE HAVE HIGHER SUBSCRIPTIONS?

The Council has decided that it is once again time to air the question of subscriptions. Although the Society has money in the bank, there are both practical and philosophical reasons why an increase in the subscription may be desirable.

Philosophically, it would seem proper for the annual subscription to be the Society’s prime source of income and to reflect the benefits enjoyed by members. Recently, however, sales of past publications and the interest earned on surplus funds have come to dominate our income. Current members cannot, and should not, expect to receive publications heavily subsidised by the Society’s past successes. Members who compare their annual subscriptions with the prices paid by outsiders for our publications will be in no doubt of the value for money that they are getting.

The practical consideration is that there are so many interesting projects in the pipeline that we may well need a greater flow of income to realise them all. In the last few years we have been producing ‘double’ publications, either literally two publications, or else publications which would previously have been spread over two years. If members wish the Society’s activities to continue at this level they should be prepared to face an increase in subscription. Alternatively, they may prefer to keep the subscription at the present level in the knowledge that the quality and quantity of publications may well tend to decline.

If members opt for a higher subscription, the most realistic choices are for an increase in either 1985 or 1986, to either £7.50 or £10. With many members paying by standing order there is some merit in choosing the higher figure since this should give a longer interval before the next rise is required.

Members are invited to let Council know their views, either by coming to the AGM and contributing to the discussion under item 6, or else by writing to the Hon Secretary in advance of the AGM.

LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL RECORD

The Society’s own specimen copies of volumes 1 to 21 of the Record have recently been damaged by flood and are in a very poor condition. The Society would, if possible, like to replace them so any member who has one or more of these volumes and would be willing to donate them is requested to contact the Publications Secretary, Simon Morris, 13 Alma Square, St John’s Wood, London NW8 (tel 01-286 3223).

STOW’S SURVEY TO BE RAFFLED

A copy of Stow’s Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster, belonging to the Society, will be raffled at the Annual General Meeting. This copy is the edition of 1753 in two folio volumes of 822 and 918 pages. It includes a folding map and some plates, but lacks ward maps and views of parish churches. The binding is later half morocco, worn but fairly sound.

The price of tickets is 50 pence, and these will be on sale to members at the AGM. Any member who will not be attending but who wishes to enter the draw should send 50 pence to the Publications Secretary (Simon Morris, 13 Alma Square, St John’s Wood, London NW8) for each ticket required together with a stamped self-addressed envelope. All proceeds will go to the Society.

THE ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF LONDON


There is no doubt that this is a very classy book, right from the dramatic photograph on the dust jacket and the foreword by the Duke of Edinburgh, all the way through to the four separate indexes at the end. In between there are over 400 large-format pages of text, simply packed with information in Ann Saunders’ lively and enthusiastic style.

The book is divided into 57 chapters, one for each of the boroughs of Greater London, a dozen each for the Cities of London and Westminster, and a few extra thrown in to deal with items of special interest such as Hampton Court and the Tower of London.

The 240 black and white photographs provide a real addition to the text. Mainly taken from the National Monuments Record, almost all of them are printed on the same page as the text they illustrate, and are a good deal less obvious than those usually chosen for books about London. In addition, there is a generous allocation of 52 maps; these provide a general orientation and help to locate the most important features, but especially in the outer boroughs they are necessarily on rather a small scale.

According to the preface, the author’s intention was to observe and record anything within the Greater London area that might interest an intelligent visitor or inhabitant. Naturally enough, the core of the book is made up of London’s architecture, although the Art in the title is represented by detailed descriptions of the contents of many of the buildings. The author goes further still, putting everything into context with plenty of information about historical and literary associations. In spite of the intention of covering London’s art as well as its architecture, Ann Saunders wisely refrains from tackling the big museums in any detail as these are well covered by their own specialist guides. Instead, rather greater attention is given to some of the less well-known institutions. The book is particularly helpful about those buildings which can be visited only with special permission.

Not everyone will agree with the balance of description given to the interiors of some of the major buildings. Some, like Ham House, with detailed descriptions of individual paintings, run to several pages and seem rather over-rated. Others appear to get less than their just deserts, including Strawberry Hill which is dismissed in a single paragraph.

Particular attention is lavished on London’s churches, including modest parish churches as well as works of famous architects. Through their monuments and brasses we are introduced to many of the previous inhabitants of London.

In fact, one of the four indexes lists about 600 funeral memorials in churches and cathedrals. As well as a general index, there are other specialist indexes covering places of worship and artists and craftsmen. Another useful feature is the very comprehensive listing of institutions open to the public, which gives details of opening hours, prices and indicates whether special permission is required to obtain access.

With its geographical layout and perambulatory narrative, this book cries out to be taken for long exploratory walks. Unfortunately, it is far too large and heavy. But the owner will certainly be inspired to go out and look again at familiar places and visit for the first time places previously thought beneath contempt. For Dr Saunders’ greatest strength is her infectious enthusiasm, which seeks
out and finds artistic and architectural treasures in the most unprepossessing places. Such enthusiasm runs the risk of bathing all London in a uniformly rosy-tinted glow. It is sometimes difficult to pick out the distinction between the very best and the merely good. But that is no bad thing if the reader is thereby encouraged to look for himself and make up his own mind. The author has very occasionally allowed herself to express a dislike for some feature or other but, judging by the verve with which the Barbican Centre's deficiencies are exposed, we could have done with even more in this vein.

The problems of a single-handed work covering all London must be immense. It is clearly next-to-impossible to keep pace with the constant ebb and flow of change and it is no great criticism that there are a few cases where the information is already a year or two out of date. In fact, it has taken more than ten years from the time the author started work to final publication, but for one person to have achieved so much this seems like indecent haste.

One of the hierarchy of books about London, The Art and Architecture of London neatly fills a vacant slot between the heavy scholastic catalogues of buildings and the more general tourist guides. Compared with the new Pesnner, it deals with fewer individual buildings and is rather more difficult to find your way around, but it is more readable, provides more background information, is better illustrated and covers the subject in one volume instead of four. Compared with the Companion or Penguin Guides, it is more comprehensive and much more serious-minded. Readable it certainly is, but also extremely scholarly. The author is at her best when she is fleshing out the art and architecture with all sorts of interesting details about the builders, owners, inhabitants and those commemorated by funeral monuments.

Ann Saunders has set out to open our eyes to the unexpected treasures all around us - and she has succeeded triumphantly. With this book in his hand no-one who lives in London need ever say, "What shall we do today?" The only problem will be to choose which seductive-sounding expedition to go on next.

Patrick Frazer

BOOK NOTES

Organists of the City of London, 1666-1850, by Donovan Dawe. 192 pages, demy octavo, £18. Obtainable from Quill Printing Services Limited, 6 Cross Street, Padstow, Cornwall, PL28 8AT.

To say that an authoritative book on the City organists is overdue is something of an understatement. C W Pearce's Notes on Old London City Churches, which appeared in 1909, did little more than glance at the subject, and since then there has been no real attempt to research this fascinating aspect of London life. Donovan Dawe, formerly Principal Keeper of the Guildhall Library, has produced a book which benefits greatly from his expertise both as an historian and as a writer and suggests that rather more than professional zeal has inspired its writing.

The book is divided into three sections. The first comprises eight short and very readable background essays which serve to whet the appetite of the less intrepid among us. The final essay, entitled 'Rogue Organists', acquaints us with a few of the less than professional aspects of the musicians' careers. The fact that this is one of the longer essays reflects rather badly on the characters of organists as a race!

Part 2 lists, by church or institution, details of organists appointed, together with information about their salaries, vacations and professional duties. Also listed are details of auditions for vacant positions with names of applicants and, on occasion, the comments of the auditioning panel.

The third, and largest, section of the book is an annotated alphabetical list of the organists with biographical notes which include both details of appointments and also unsuccessful applications for positions. This information has been gathered from many sources, mainly the original records of the City parishes and the book concludes with an extensive bibliography which, in itself, could prove to be of considerable value to the researcher wishing to pursue further more specific lines of enquiry.

Trevor Ford


This duplicated typescript is a valiant attempt to catalogue a whole sub-culture of publications about London. These are the books, journals, booklets, leaflets, lists and the like produced by local authorities, libraries, museums, and local history and archaeology societies. It is a monument to the extraordinary effort, ranging from amateur to highly professional, which goes into probing London's local history.

The catalogue is arranged by boroughs, giving information about the local history collections and local societies in each. These are followed by a list of their publications, concentrating on written material, but also noting such things as reproduction maps and postcards. At the end, there is a section dealing with those institutions such as our own Society, which are London-wide in their scope and so do not fit into the borough listings. The catalogue entries give the author, title, publication date and number of pages but not, unfortunately but understandably, the price or availability. Peter Marcan has aimed to cover all non-commercial publications produced over the past 20 years.

It is eye-opening to see just how much has been written about London: the 62 pages are tightly packed with material. It is fascinating to see what obscure and erudite subjects have been researched and reported, from popish recusancy in Elizabethan Edmonton, via seventeenth-century taxation in Hammersmith, up to early aviation in Wandsworth and Battersea. One also gets a good impression of the relative historical richness of the London boroughs, not to speak of the enthusiasm of their present-day inhabitants. No-one has bothered to write much about poor old Havering while, at the other extreme, Twickenham takes pride of place with its History Society's splendid series of over 50 scholarly monographs.

London's Local History is a working document, not a thing of beauty. The close-typed pages could be better laid out, and there is sometimes a slight loss of legibility. There are also occasional quirks and oddities: some of the postcard reproductions have precious little to do with London while all the LTS sheet material is roundly ignored, apart, that is, from those items which appear erroneously as publications of the Guildhall Library! Nevertheless, it
contains a vast store of information in one convenient package and we should be grateful to Peter Marcan for his initiative and the effort that has obviously gone into it.

Patrick Frazer


Although this booklet, profusely illustrated with line drawings and no fewer than 42 maps, was designed as a teacher’s resource, it cannot fail to interest the London topographer. For it is a masterly example of how to show urban development by the use of maps. There is nothing new in this, of course, but where this book scores is that the author has taken a very small part of a very small borough to demonstrate his method. The area is, in fact, little more than a mile in each direction around St Mary’s parish church.

Some of the maps are sketch maps but the bulk of them are enlarged portions, showing his tiny area, taken from all the ‘classic’ maps including Speed, Rocque, Milton, Cruchley, Stanford and Ordnance Surveys from 1863 onwards.

The chronological development of the district is illustrated by simple line drawings of houses typical of each period, many of which are still standing. This is just one of the many incentives designed to encourage children to go exploring. Another is the ingenious device of imposing on each old map symbols showing where their own schools stood in the past.

If this book does not encourage both children and teachers to appreciate their local heritage, then nothing will.

Peter Jackson

A VISIT TO ST PAUL’S IN 1710

This account is taken from London in 1710, from the Travels of Zacharias Conrad von Uffenbach, translated and edited by W H Quarell and Margaret Mare Faber and Faber 1934. His journal, covering travels in North Germany, Holland and England, was originally published in 1753. St Paul’s, as will be noted, was not yet finished at the time of his visit.

On Saturday morning, 14 June, we drove to St Paul’s Church, which is almost in the centre of the city. We first climbed up the tower in order that we might have a prospect of the town from above before the air was full of coal-smoke. One mounts a fine wide stone staircase of a hundred and ten steps to the first gallery and then there is a wooden one, which is not nearly as wide. From the top one can see almost the whole city, especially in the direction of Westminster. The prodigious size and length is amazing, though it is not so very wide. At the bridge called London Bridge it is widest. The tower is certainly very high, though it does not appear to be so from below on account of its thickness and, chiefly, on account of the height of the church itself. It is open inside, so that one can look down from the dome and up into it from the church, which is an extremely fine sight. But a man looking down from above is amazed at the height, for grown men walking about in the church do not appear as tall as an ell. A charming effect is produced by all kinds of carvings in stone round the whole of the interior of the dome. Right at the top of the tower we found countless names written in chalk or scratched on the stone, so we had ours done also by our man. Where the vaulting of the church begins there is a fine wide gallery, going right round, in which three or four persons can walk abreast and look down into the church. The vaulting curves down into this gallery in such a way that the same effect is produced as in so-called acoustic rooms, such as we saw in Weymar: thus when two persons stand with their backs turned exactly opposite to each other and one of them speaks quite quietly, looking towards the wall, the other will hear distinctly everything he says over on the other side, which is here most amazing, because the diameter or space between them is certainly more than twenty paces. If you descend a little from this gallery, you will come out on to the vaulting and roof of the church, which is covered with lead. We went out on to the two small towers which stand above the great door of the church; in one hang the bells and in the other the clock.

The English make a great to-do about both, but the bells are not so extremely big, and their sound is not in proportion, with so a great a ‘corpus’ as this church. The bells of Erfurt, as the Emperor said, have a very different sound, and one could cover all the bells here with the two great ones.

The clock in the other turret is much finer. The turret has plate-glass windows, through which one can observe the works, which are not cased in wood but left quite free; they are enclosed thus so that no harm may be done to them by mischievous or wanton persons. I cannot sufficiently express my admiration for the elegance, care and neatness of the workmanship. Not even a watch can be more elegant and exact than this great clock in wheels and all things, and one hears with amazement how all the springs fit into each other. Nevertheless the clock does not go as well in rough weather as most large clocks generally do, because the wind catches the wheels, now propelling them too fast and then holding them back. It occurred to

GRAND PANORAMA OF LONDON

May we draw members’ attention to a facsimile of the Pictorial Times panorama of the Thames, just published by Harry Margary, in association with Guildhall Library?

In 1845 the Pictorial Times, the rival to the Illustrated London News, published a strip panorama of the Thames, showing the buildings on the north bank from the Houses of Parliament to St Katherine’s Dock. The drawings for this section, by F S Sargent, are now in the Guildhall collection. Initially the print was given to readers but subsequently it was sold to non-subscribers, folded in covers. In 1847 the Pictorial Times published an extension to the view, continuing it down stream to the Isle of Dogs, then crossing over to Greenwich, and then doubling back to Deptford. The drawings for this section were carried out by W H Prior. In 1970 these drawings were in the hands of the London print-dealer, Walter Spencer. Does anyone know where they are today?

As with the original panorama, the extended version was made available folded in covers. Several editions of it are known. The version reprinted by Harry Margary is the 1849 edition, with the Hungerford Bridge section revised to make the bridge appear complete. It measures 18 feet in length.

Copies of the panorama can be obtained either from the Sales Office, Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EJ, or from Harry Margary, Lympne Castle, Kent, for £5.50 each including postage and packing.

18.4
me that it might also be the fault of the exceedingly large hands on the dial, which have been made monstrously big on account of the height of the tower and the church; for the wind can easily catch them, and they may thus harm the works of the clock. . . . When we had again descended we were shown the model both of the former old church and this new one. They are both nicely made but with nowhere near the elegance, art and sumptuousness of that of the Temple of Jerusalem that we saw in Hamburg.

Afterwards we saw the adjacent library of the church. The 'repositoria' or book-shelves are all of oak, very massive and elegantly carved. The room is of moderate size but very high, so that many books can be housed there. For in the upper part there is one shelf above another, which are reached by a gallery. One goes up to this gallery by an elegant and ingenius staircase, made without beams or side-posts. It has one hundred and ten steps that take off from the height of the room. Since it has only been founded and built lately, there are as yet scarcely a thousand volumes here, though these are mostly folios and some are very fine works, notably a copy of Castelle Lexico. The keeper of the library is an Englishman, that is to say a person who concerns himself little about it. In answer to my inquiries he said that there were no manuscripts, because the library was quite new and had only lately been established. If I had such a room, though perhaps somewhat larger, and such shelves for my books, I should be only too delighted to fill them. The place was somewhat dark for a library.

Afterwards we went down into the church, for which no admiration can be too great. It is easier to make it out from the drawings and engravings that we bought than to describe it in words. It is extraordinarily tall and long, and on that account appears somewhat narrow, excepting for the part under the dome. It is also extraordinarily light. The chancel was not yet finished and was full of scaffolding, since they were making mouldings above in the vaulting. It will be quite matchless. It is panelled all round in wood, which is elegantly carved and gilded. The organ stands in front of the chancel. At the main entrance are tremendous oak doors, which open so easily that a child could push them. Outside the doors are some uncommonly fine and large steps, which are as wide as the main façade of the church; the two side doors are not so large. But all this can be seen much better from the engravings. Over the great door is a very fine relief of the story of St Paul. I would indeed maintain that this church is one of the finest buildings in the world for its size, elegance and strength. A man beholding it may well exclaim with Christ's disciples. 'What buildings are here!' Even if one does not weep over it, one must yet lament that it stands here, for it is already so black with coal-smoke that it has lost half its elegance. The great space around the church was still enclosed with planks, so that the men could work undisturbed. Near by was a large hut, in which the sculptors are still actually at work on the statues which are to stand in the space before the church. We knocked at the door there and had everything shown to us; first the small models in plaster and wood, and then we saw the large statues with great admiration. The Queen is done in white marble on a black pedestal, and round her sit the four kingdoms of Britain, including Scotland, (2) Ireland, (3) France, and (4) America. There is still a great deal of work to be done to it. Then we watched the masons sawing in two prodigiously large blocks and doing other such work.

NOTES AND QUERIES

The newsletter is issued twice a year. Space is available for you to ask questions relating to London topography or to communicate items of interest to members or information about research in progress. We would like to print the results of enquiries. Please write to Stephen Marks, Hamilton's, Kilmeradon, near Bath, Somerset.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE

Brayley’s History of Surrey (1850) in five quarto half morocco bound volumes in good condition. Numerous full page plates, some toning throughout. Any member willing to purchase this or exchange for topographical works on London please contact Simon Morris, 13 Alma Square, St John’s Wood, London NW8 (tel 01-286 3223).

EXTRA ILLUSTRATED GOSS

May I add an 'Extra-illustrated Goss' to the list you are compiling?

The work in my possession is John Thomas Smith's A Book for a Rainy Day, the 1905 edition edited by Wilfred Whitten, and extra-illustrated by C W F Goss in 1913.

It is in two volumes handsomely bound in full red leather and bearing the bookplates of Goss and Lord Nathan of Churt. It does not, however, appear in the catalogue of the Lord Nathan sale at Sotheby's in 1962, possibly because it is not strictly a 'London' book.

Volume I opens with a carefully hand-written index of all the extra illustrations which are summarized on the title-page as follows: 'Engraved Portraits 214, Topographical Views 80, Aquatints in colour 16, Drawings in Wash 21, Drawings in ink 6, Total 337.'

Although this all sounds most exciting there is, in fact, nothing of importance to record. The portraits are common, as are the topographical views, while the aquatints are all from Ackermann's Repository. As with all Grangerized books it is to the drawings that we look for something original. Unhappily in this case all the drawings are copies of prints, painted, and not very well, by Horace C Goss who was apparently Charles Goss's son.

Nevertheless, all the additional illustrations are inlaid with meticulous care and the two volumes make a handsome addition to anyone's library.

Peter Jackson
ACCOUNTS FOR 1983

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1983

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BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 1983

Accumulated fund
29,318 balance brought forward | 37,986.58 |
6,669 over expenditure | 3,658.02 | 18,646 |
37,987 | 41,644.60 |

Current liabilities
311 creditors | 300.00 |
135 subscriptions in advance | 207.50 | 2,127 |
446 | 507.50 | 18,285 |

Anthony Cooper
Hon Treasurer
7,417 bank deposit a/c |
11,903 National Savings a/c |
523 bank current a/c |
3 cash with officers |
19,846 |

38,433 | £42,152.10 | 38,433 |

Current assets
stock of publications as valued by Council balance brought forward | 18,285.14 |
add publication nos 92, 128 and 129 | 2,610.00 |
less estimated cost of publications sold | 1,590.33 |
stock of paper (surplus to no 123) | 302.25 |
bank and cash balances bank deposit a/c | 3,633.40 |
National Savings a/c | 18,150.18 |
bank current a/c | 737.72 |
cash with officers | 23.74 |
19,846 | 22,545.04 |

38,433 | £42,152.10 | 38,433 |

I report that the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account have been correctly prepared from the books and records of the London Topographical Society.

Allan Tribe, Chartered Accountant, 13 Christopher Street, London EC2 19 March 1984

Edited by Stephen Marks, Hamilton’s, Kilmersdon, near Bath, Somerset, and issued by Patrick Frazer, Hon Secretary of the London Topographical Society, 36 Old Deer Park Gardens, Richmond, Surrey.