NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The eighty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the London Topographical Society will be held on Wednesday July 17th 1985 at the Institute of Actuaries, Staple Inn Hall, London WC1 at 6 o'clock. The meeting will follow refreshments which will be available from 5.30. Please inform the Hon Secretary if you wish to nominate anyone under item 5 or to raise any matter under item 6 of the agenda.

Members attending the meeting will be issued with this year’s publication, which is volume 25 of the London Topographical Record. They will also have the chance to purchase our extra publication, The A to Z of Regency London (see below). Last year we had a very successful raffle, with an old edition of Stow’s Survey as the prize. There will be another raffle at this year’s AGM (see separate entry).

Paul Laxton, who wrote the introduction to The A to Z of Regency London, has kindly agreed to give a talk about Richard Horwood and his map of London.

We shall be distributing publications before the business part of the meeting, since we have to vacate the hall rather earlier than usual. Members are therefore encouraged to arrive before 5.30 if they conveniently can.

Please let the Hon Secretary know by July 5th if you and any guests will be attending.

AGENDA

1. To approve the minutes of the 84th Annual General Meeting in 1984
2. To receive the 85th Annual Report of the Council for 1984 (herewith)
3. To receive the Accounts for 1984 (herewith)
4. To receive the Hon Editor’s report
5. To elect officers and members of Council
6. To discuss any proposals by members
7. Any other business

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

THE A TO Z OF REGENCY LONDON

Based on the 1813 edition of Horwood’s map, this is a companion to the previous A to Zs of Elizabethan and Georgian London, which we published in 1979 and 1982 respectively. No doubt many members will wish to complete their sets at the special price of £12: it is £16 to the general public. Members who cannot collect their copies in person at the AGM can order them by post, adding £1.50 to cover the extra costs, from the Publications Secretary

Simon Morris
13 Alma Square
St John’s Wood
London NW8 9QA.

Members who had ordered their copies in advance should have received them by now, except possibly those living in distant countries. If you have not received your order, please let the Publications Secretary know.

AGM RAFFLE

The prize in this year’s raffle is an original copy of the rare St Paul’s Cathedral, Measured Drawn and Described by Arthur Poley. This fine book, which has been generously donated by the Chairman, was printed in 1927. It is a folio volume, measuring 23 by 15½ inches, bound in half calf and comprises 29 pages of text and 32 plates.

Tickets, which are priced at 50 pence each, will be available to members at the AGM. The Publications Secretary will enter tickets for any member who cannot attend the AGM. If you would like this, please send 50 pence per ticket required (plus a stamped self-addressed envelope) to Simon Morris, 13 Alma Square, London NW8.

PAST PUBLICATIONS

Copies of past publications will be on sale at the AGM and members will, of course, be entitled to the normal 25% discount.

HONORARY TREASURER

As members will know, Anthony Cooper retired at the end of 1984, after many years service as Hon Treasurer. We are very fortunate that Roger Cline volunteered to take over this job, following the appeal in the last Newsletter. His address is 34 Kingstown Street, London NW1 8JP (telephone 01-722 6421).
The publication issued to members during 1984 was Charles Booth's Descriptive Map of London Poverty 1889, reproduced in colour on four sheets, with an introduction by David A Reeder. As usual, copies of the publication were distributed to members who attended the AGM. Work has been in hand on the Society's publications for 1985: Volume 25 of The London Topographical Record and an extra publication, The A to Z of Regency London. Two newsletters were issued during 1984, in May and November.

The eighty-fourth Annual General Meeting was held at the London School of Economics on July 4th. About 160 members and guests were present. The Society's officers were re-elected, as were the members of Council, with the exception of Miss Betty Masters who had resigned. Mr Anthony Cooper, Honorary Treasurer, expressed his wish to retire from office at the end of 1984. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the subscription should remain at £5 for 1985, but be increased to £10 for 1986. Following the business meeting, members heard Dr David Reeder give an account of Charles Booth and his survey. Members were also able to inspect a small exhibition of notebooks, maps and other material from the Charles Booth Collection, kindly arranged by Angela Raspin of the LSE.

At the end of 1984 the Society's membership comprised 5 honorary and 681 paid-up members; during the year 47 new members had joined and 21 had been written off. Sales for the year totalled £4586.

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**'GILDED SCENES AND SHINING PROSPECTS'**

Prospects, profile views, perspective views, birds-eye views, long views, balloon views, and panoramas form a distinct and fascinating print genre. Initially substitutes for town plans, by the eighteenth century town prospects had become records of Britain's often ancient urban topography, the market for them being the nation's growing band of enthusiastic antiquaries. Later they would become related to the great show panoramas, the vast 360° paintings and moving canvases that delighted and instructed our forefathers. In the Victorian period seaside stationers published panoramas to attract visitors; illustrated magazines distributed them gratis to attract subscribers. Artists employed to produce panoramas included Wenceslaus Hollar, the brothers Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, Michael Angelo Rooker, Robert Havell Junior, and W I Wylie.

North America's rich panorama heritage has long been the subject of critical investigation. Britain's, in sharp contrast, has been woefully neglected - and this despite the abundance of material. Over 500 different large prospects and panoramas of British towns have been traced in recent years, and of these 100 will be featuring in the Yale Center for British Art's exhibition, 'Gilded Scenes and Shining Prospects' (9 Oct - 15 Dec 1985). Exhibits will include the unique 'View of the City of London from the North Towards the Southwark', c 1596, from the University of Utrecht; the only complete copy of John Norden's 'Civitas Londini', 1600, from the Royal Library, Stockholm; and three examples from a previously unidentified series of large two-sheet prospects of Wakefield, Leeds, and Lincoln, executed by Samuel Buck, from the Bodleian Library and the Society of Antiquaries. Most striking of all will be the celebrated 'Rhinebeck' Panorama of London - the original drawing for Havel's 'Aeronautical View', 1831 - found inside a barrel when an attic was being cleared in Rhinebeck, NY, and published in facsimile by the Society in 1981. The Yale exhibition provides the first occasion for the display of that panorama since its rediscovery.

'Gilded Scenes...' has been organized by Ralph Hyde, Keeper of Prints and Maps at the Guildhall Library, City of London. It will be accompanied by a substantial illustrated catalogue.

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**BOOKS**


The London Record Society will be publishing in the summer not, as is usual, the text of a document on London history, but a guide to source material which all interested in the topography of London will want to possess. The volume will be distributed to London Record Society members for 1985.

The material is so organised and indexed that the reader may trace what records are available on a particular parish or street, which institution holds them today, and, often, who held the property before 1666 and when. For instance, the royal property called 'Coldharbour' was occupied by Lady Margaret, countess of Richmond, from 1485 to 1509. An account of repairs there in 1485 is in the PRO and an account book of Lady Margaret's clerk of works, 1505-7, is at St John's College, Cambridge. References are given for these documents and other material on Coldharbour held by Lambeth Palace Library and the owner of the Goodwyn Papers. What makes the entries even more useful is the inclusion of secondary sources (in this case the reader is referred to one of C L Kingsford's articles) as well as printed and typescript calendars and indexes and informative notes.

The detail and range of this invaluable guide and the number of purposes for which it may be used is only partly illustrated by this small example. But those who have laboured on London history and topography will fall with delight on the Survey and thank its compilers; it will quickly become indispensable to them and all interested in the subject.

The annual subscription to the London Record Society for individuals is £7 from January 1985. Details are available from the Secretary, London Record Society, Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London, WC1E 7HU, or cheques may be sent direct. **Elspeth Veale**


Gavin Stamp points out that there have been several books of old London photographs, but none which has concen-
trated exclusively on the very oldest. So he has scoured museums, libraries and photographic collections to dig out their unrecognised treasures. Some of these are very old indeed. The first, a splendid daguerreotype of Whitehall from Trafalgar Square, dates from 1839, the year in which the invention of photography was first announced to the world. In all there are 211 plates, each allocated a whole page to itself. Short topographical descriptions accompanying each photograph give information about the buildings and their subsequent fate.

The views become particularly interesting with the introduction in the 1850s of instantaneous photographs, which allowed short enough exposures to capture movement. Cabs, carriages and individual horsemen appear in what previously appeared to be empty streets. Even earlier are two remarkable photographs of the Chartist meeting on Kennington Common on 10 April 1848, taken by the police for their records. Plus ça change . . . !

The subjects of the photographs include individual buildings, both old and new, street views, bridges and river scenes, covering a wide range of locations and dates. Some of the most interesting show London in the act of being changed, with series showing the construction of Holborn Viaduct, the Metropolitan Line and St Pancras Station. The photographs provide the absolute proof that is always lacking in an artist's view of London topography. St Paul's really did float head and shoulders above its surroundings, people really did wear those extraordinary clothes, and the poster really did say that the Wondrous Leatard is reappearing at Highbury Barn.

In a book like this the quality of reproduction is obviously of paramount importance. Although quite reasonable, the definition could manifestly have been improved, though no doubt at a price. This is clear from the dust jacket, where the wonderfully detailed picture of Bell Yard totally outclasses the smaller, muddy reproduction of the same photograph inside. One is made painfully aware of what has been lost in the printing process.

Still, the book does provide a fascinating insight into the streets and buildings of early Victorian London and the photographs are well supported by its index, bibliography and an introduction describing the first photographers and the processes that they used. After looking at this book it is easy to agree with the author that architectural historians should make more use of early photographs. As he says, photographs of old buildings when they were new are so much more informative than modern photographs or the coarse woodcuts published in the Builder. **Patrick Frazer**


It is quite ludicrous to claim, as the blurb to this book does, that the London we know and see is only the tip of the iceberg. Quite the reverse in fact, but there is certainly a lot going on there below ground level. The book describes underground rivers, sewers, pipes for gas, water and hydraulic power, tunnels under the Thames, cables and, finally, there is a round-up of other interesting odds and ends. There are also two chapters on the defensive aspects of subterranean London—during the second world war and afterwards.

**London Under London** is in part a history book, describing the development of London’s underground infrastructure. There are brilliant and far-sighted men struggling to realise their dreams, men like Sir Joseph Bazalgette, the Brunels and Charles Pearson (who conceived and created the Metropolitan Railway). There are ruthless commercial battles as the great gas, electricity, water and railway companies fight for position and power.

The book is partly a topographical description of what is under London. For example, the courses of the many buried rivers are individually traced. There is also a gazetteer of underground places open to the public, which is, not surprisingly, rather short.

Finally, there is also an element of social survey, describing the toshers who inhabited the nineteenth-century sewers, the work of London’s sewermen today, and the horrific (but subsequently romanticised) conditions in underground shelters during the Blitz.

Much of the material in **London Under London** is available elsewhere, often in much greater detail, so a bibliography would have been useful. The book’s strength is that it brings together in one place all the underground services, giving a vivid sense of the confused tangle of tubes, pipes, wires and holes below our feet. Its weakness is a rather disjointed and sensation-seeking style, in which accuracy sometimes suffers in the interest of effect.

Thus the authors report that 600 people were killed in the war at Balham Underground station, when the true number was 68, and they make a similar error about the Bank station bomb. Among the many scientific howlers—and this is quite substantially a scientific book—we are told that electricity travels faster than light and that superconductivity is the immense heat generated in cables by high voltages!

**London Under London** is profusely illustrated with several hundred drawings, prints and photographs. In fact, at one point the same view appears twice: first as a Samuel Scott painting, then as what appears to be an engraving of the very same painting. There are maps too, but not as many or as detailed as the subject really deserves. **P Frazer**


Seven years after his first studious foray into the history of Blackheath, Neil Rhind has spread his net even wider to produce a book of great interest and painstaking topographical research. A third and final volume is, as they say, in active preparation.

Particularly valuable are the detailed descriptions of the Sir John Vanbrugh Estate on the north side of the heath and the Cator Estate near the village. Vanbrugh Castle, overlooking the Thames and Greenwich Hospital, of which the architect was appointed Surveyor in 1716, is a familiar London folly. Less known are Vanbrugh’s other Gothic conceits such as Vanbrugh House, the White Towers and the Nunnery all of which have disappeared under modern suburban houses.

Explanations and pictures of these antiquarian losses are welcome as is the photograph of the quasi-medieval gatehouse, spanning a road now called Vanbrugh Fields, that was the entrance from the south to this little world of domestic follies. It was pulled down after 1905 as an impediment to a wider road, which is lamentable as it could easily have been converted into a highly original house. I wish Mr Rhind had nailed the culprit.

Of more social consequence is the estate first developed early in the nineteenth century by John Cator who lived much of his life in Bromley, owned Beckenham Place (now
a golf club), was a rich timber merchant, and also a friend of Dr Johnson. He bought 282 acres between Blackheath and Lee, the history of which is an almost copybook example of urban growth.

Originally named Wricklemarsh, ownership can be traced back perhaps to Domesday, certainly to the eleventh century. There was a manor here in the seventeenth century, and in 1724 an extremely rich City merchant, Sir Gregory Page, spent about £90,000 on building a sumptuous mansion in the fashionable classical style. When Page died 50 years later the era of landed gentry gave way to the speculator. Cator bought the property, leased part of the estate for the building of the Paragon (1793) and demolished Page's great house with its columned portico to build (1819) a number of pleasant Regency houses.

Another burst of building followed in 1830 and Blackheath Park (road and estate), privately owned and guarded by lodge gates, remained inviolate until 1945. Then, given compulsory purchase powers, the LCC and Lewisham Council, made a limited invasion with flats. Next came Span houses in well-landscaped surroundings at the sacrifice of a few distinctive older houses. Sleeping policemen now guard the peace of the Cator Estate, an architectural microcosm that deserves Osbert Lancaster.

Mr Rhind has made it his business to list as many tenants and occupiers of as many houses as he can and adds notes on their social and professional positions. The result is a definitive and uncommonly interesting source book. Only the maps, by contrast, are glaringly inadequate. Felix Barker


Mr Pickwick, it is recorded, once delivered a paper containing Speculations on the Source of the Hampstead Ponds. His conclusions are, sadly, unknown but as his research took him to Hornsey, Brixton and Camberwell one cannot but help feeling he would have got the answer rather badly wrong. A modern Pickwick, however, need now look no further than Alan Farmer's fine new book on the Heath, which discloses the prosaic answer: they, like the Highgate Ponds, are reservoirs constructed by the Hampstead Water Company.

This book is packed with random gleanings about the Heath and its lore, and one difficulty Mr Farmer has evidently encountered is that of determining what actually constitutes the history of an open space. While rightly concentrating on the Heath rather than the village, the first part of this book, which covers the period to 1820, is anecdotal and discursive in the extreme, chronicling a pot-pourri of historical data without extracting pattern or establishing significance.

The second half, in contrast, has a theme and offers a valuable contribution to the study of the Heath's topography. It concentrates on the struggle which lasted a century from 1830 to preserve the Heath from the speculative builder, and around this topic the author sets out with admirable clarity the endless machinations of the lord of the manor, Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson, to circumvent legal and political obstacles to build on his land, including no fewer than thirteen attempts to obtain a private act of parliament to permit this.

The author relates this legal struggle to the continuing expansion of the Heath and illustrates the narrative with a series of maps showing the extent of the Heath at various times. These illustrate the growth from the original common with the later additions of East Park (which still has a viaduct built to carry a carriage road through to twenty-eight fine villas, never to be built), Parliament Hill Fields and finally, Kenwood.

This is a scholarly and well researched book, handsomely produced and illustrated with nearly one hundred pictures, many in colour. While it has three detailed maps of suggested walks on the Heath, it would have been improved by the inclusion of a single large-scale map showing the relief of the Heath and featuring all the locations contained in the text.

Simon Morris


This book was originally published by the Religious Tract Society and is based on a series of visits made, apparently only on Sundays, to the East End of London. Not surprisingly, it is largely devoted to a fairly rose-tinted description of the benefits that Christianity was bringing to the teeming masses of the poor. For example, one quite loses count of the number of ecstatic descriptions of the beauty of St Mary's Whitechapel, its spire, garden, bells, roof, walls, windows and sculptures.

Nevertheless, a vivid picture of the real East End comes through clearly enough. Here are the great Sunday markets of Petticoat Lane, Watney Street and Brick Lane, with their extraordinary sights and smells, the crowded streets of Whitechapel, the lack of open spaces, the common lodging houses, and Shoreditch with its empty churches but 300 public houses to the square mile.

There is also an interesting picture of the local economy. The author bemoans the almost total absence of permanent skilled work available, with the notable exceptions of the local breweries. The whole population was getting poorer at this time, as Jewish immigrants moved in and the middle classes moved out. In fact the Jews are a dominant feature of the book, although its subject is Christianity. The author cannot hide his astonishment that the native Christians are excelled in civilisation and morals by these desperately poor and entirely alien heathens.

East London is illustrated with maps and a large number of views, including some quite attractive wood engravings. They add greatly to the appeal of this nicely reprinted book.

Patrick Frazer

A walk from London to Fulham, by Thomas Crofton Croker, revised and edited by T F Dillen Croker, illustrated by F W Fairholt (1860). 256 pages including a memoir of T Crofton Croker. Reprinted under the direction of Leslie Hewitt for the Boethius Press. £14.80, including postage and packing.

Mr Thomas Crofton Croker's book originated in a series of articles published in Fraser's Magazine during the 1830s and 40s. His son collected the articles, edited them and augmented them with additional illustrations by Fairholt, an exercise which works very successfully. The book does not read like a patchwork and the Fairholt vignettes add considerably to its charm.

The author's inspiration lay in his daily walk from his cottage called Rosamond's Bower in Fulham to Knightsbridge and back. He enjoyed this 'life of a pendulum, vibrating between a certain spot distant four miles from London, and a certain spot just out of the smoke of the metropolis.' Far from finding the repeated journey dull,
Crofton Croker found that the more familiar he became with his route, the more interesting it was, so he resolved to communicate his observations to the readers of Fraser’s. He used Lockie’s Topography of London (1810) and James Elmes’s Topographical Dictionary of London and its environs (1831) for his research, but he confesses that he was greatly assisted by an aptitude for personal recollection and local gossip. It is not irrelevant to mention here that the author’s reputation rested upon a collection of Irish fairy tales, Fairy Legends (1825). When it came to topography, Crofton Croker adopted a methodical approach, dealing with his subject street by street, house by house, not to mention the churches, public houses, museums and even the trees that he encountered on his walk. Unfortunately, topographical and architectural information has been rather swallowed up by the gossip, anecdotes and Irish blarney which pervades every page.

The book would make an amusing present for anybody living between Knightsbridge and Fulham. Reference to the index could reveal stories about the former residents and the romantic associations of any house between ‘snug Hans Place’ and the North End Road. But whether such revelations are worth the cost of the book and the effort of obtaining it from The Boethius Press, Clarabricken, Clifden, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland, is doubtful. Penelope Hunting

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Architectural History, the journal of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain, contains many articles of specifically London interest; most are profusely illustrated. These are listed below with brief comments where appropriate. Other articles, of course, touch incidentally on London subjects. Most volumes can be purchased from the Society for £8 each to non-members (Honorary Secretary, Frank Kelsall, GLC Historic Buildings Division, 2nd Floor, Chesham House, 30 Warwick Street, London W1), and an index has been published for Volumes 1-25 at £2.50. Volume 27 (Essays in honour of Howard Colvin), a bumper issue of 600 pages, is available to non-members from A Zwemmer, 24 Lichfield Street, London WC2, at a cost of £25. There are reduced rates for members.


‘All Saints’ Church, Margaret Street, Reconsidered’, by Paul Thompson, pp 73-94


‘The new Law Courts Competition, 1866-67’, by M H Port, pp 75-93 (cf ‘From Carey Street to the Embankment—and Back Again!’ by the same author, in London Topographical Record 24 (1980), pp 167-190)


‘Newgate Prison’, by Harold D Kalman, pp 50-61


Volume 14 (1971): ‘C R Cockerell’s “Ichnographica Domestica”’, by John Harris, pp 5-29 (includes references to drawings and comments on a number of London buildings)


‘Samuel Wyatt and the Albion Mill’, by A W Skempton, pp 53-73


‘A Westminster Cathedral episode’, by Norbert Wibral and Nikolaus Pevsner, pp 63-64


Volume 24 (1981): ‘The church of St Mary Aldermary and its rebuilding after the Great Fire of London’, by Howard Colvin, pp 24-31


‘Strayed from the Queen’s House’, by John Newman, pp 33-35 (a fireplace now at Charlton House, Greenwich)

‘New Light on William Kent at Hampton Court Palace’, by Juliet Allan, pp 50-58

‘The throne of the House of Lords and its setting’, by Alexandra Wedgwood, pp 59-73

‘An early sixteenth-century London tomb design’, by Bridget Cherry, pp 86-95 (at St John’s, Hackney)

‘Living over the shop in the City of London’, by Priscilla Metcalf, pp 96-103


‘Bubo’s house’, by T P Connor, pp 111-117 (Melcombe House, Pall Mall)

‘The Giltspur Street Compter’, by Dorothy Stroud, pp 127-134


‘Mount Clare, Roehampton’, by Anne Riches, pp 255-262

‘The seventeenth-century church towers of Battersea (1639), Staines (1631), . . . .’, by Arnold Taylor, pp 281-298

‘Some royal and other great houses in England: Extracts from the journal of Abram Booth’, by H J Louw, pp 503-509 (1629, all in or near London)