

LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL NEWS

The newsletter of the London Topographical Society

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INCREASED SUBSCRIPTION – STANDING ORDERS – COVENANTS

Members are reminded that the subscription to the Society increases to £10 on 1st January 1986. At the same time, the Society is moving its bank account to the National Girobank and the old Midland Bank account has been closed. Personal members will find a standing order form, including details of the new account, enclosed with this Newsletter and it would greatly assist the Society if as many members as possible were to pay their subscription by this method. Existing standing orders at the old subscription rate should be cancelled although this will be done automatically by your bank when the new form is submitted.

Personal members who pay UK income tax are also invited to covenant their subscriptions. The Society can recover £4.30 from the Inland Revenue for every covenanted subscription and there is no additional cost to the individual member. Members who have already completed covenants at the old rate should also complete the enclosed form to ensure that the Society receives the full tax credit.

The new rate for overseas members who wish to pay in US dollars is \$20. This amount allows for bank charges incurred by the Society; additionally newsletters and other correspondence, but not publications, will be despatched by airmail in future for no extra charge. Overseas members paying in sterling should pay the standard subscription rate.

At the time of publication of the May 1985 newsletter, almost a quarter of the Society's members had not paid the 1985 subscription. Bearing in mind that many members already pay by standing order, this indicates that an extremely high percentage of members who prefer to pay by cheque need to be reminded at least once before their subscription is received. The officers of the Society are, at the moment, unpaid and give a considerable amount of their free time to keep things running: as the number of members approaches 800 we near the time when paid assistance will become necessary. The production and despatch of subscription reminders is a long and tedious job, and if more members were to pay by the due date it would free the officers to spend time on more productive matters. Additionally, the loss to the Society in interest during the months preceding production of the annual publication is considerable. We hope that the subscription rate will not need to be increased again for some years, but this can only be guaranteed if subscriptions are paid when due in future.

THE CITY COPPER PLATE

A recent acquisition by the Museum of London

On July 23rd 1985 the Museum was fortunate in acquiring at Sotheby's the mid-sixteenth-century engraved copper-plate plan of part of the City of London. The price, £50,000, was considerably lower than expected, and the Museum was assisted in the purchase by a generous grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

The copper plate, which is part of the oldest known plan of London, and which abuts south on the map of Moorfields already in the Museum's collections, has on the reverse an oil painting showing the Assumption and Coronation of the Virgin, attributed to the circle of Frans Franken (c 1620). The plate first came to light in 1955 and was the subject of considerable research and publication, notably by Stephen Marks in the Society's publication No 100 (1964).

Viewed from an imaginary point above the south bank of the Thames, the map covers an area of the City of London extending from Thames Street in the vicinity of Watergate in the south-east and Holy Trinity Priory near Aldgate in the north-east, and from Queenhithe at the south-western extremity with Worcester House immediately adjacent, to Aldermanbury and Guildhall at the north-

western corner. Along the lower portion of the plate part of the north bank of the Thames is shown, including the northern end of London Bridge.

Although some of the details on the map suggest it is based on information obtained during the period 1553-59, and the influence of mixed Flemish, English and Italian spellings in the place and feature names is reminiscent of the work of other contemporary map-makers, we still have no real clues as to its authorship or indeed who would have commissioned such a detailed survey. Neither do we know of a printed copy of the complete plan or of the two surviving plates, so a number of exciting discoveries may yet be made.

Rosemary Weinstein

APOLOGY

The Editor and Committee apologise for the delay in sending out the *Record*. It was due to industrial circumstances beyond their control. They respectfully beg all members who live or work within range of London to come to the Annual General Meeting, thereby saving on postage (which is expensive) and ensuring prompt receipt of the year's offering.

A MATTER OF PROTECTION

At the last Council meeting Dr Whitting raised the matter of portfolios to keep our publications in, because some members had told him about their problems of storage; he said that he recommended them to buy a printed portfolio which had been issued by the Society itself, if they could, as he had done some time ago.

Unfortunately, our own portfolios turn up extremely rarely. All is not lost, however, because stout portfolios, plain of course, can be bought at artists' materials shops and elsewhere, in a wide range of sizes. These usually consist of stout paper-covered card sides with a cloth hinge or spine, three flaps and some means of tying. A more sophisticated type of portfolio is like a giant document wallet, in stiff plastic, with a zip round three sides, handle, and transparent plastic envelopes for the contents; these are much more expensive but ideal for carrying things round rather than simply for storage.

The Society itself has issued five different printed portfolios, but none since 1914, although they continued to be available for a long time after that date. With one exception, all have pale blue paper-covered boards with dark blue cloth spines, and three flaps and ties.

The first of these was in fact produced by the Topographical Society of London, our previous incarnation, for the Wyngaerde View of London in seven sheets (No. 1, 1881-2), suitably titled. It measures 33 x 24 inches (spine measurement first), with $\frac{3}{8}$ inch between boards. In the minutes of a Council meeting in 1881 the Secretary was authorised to issue Wyngaerde portfolios at a cost not exceeding 4/- each. From the *General Report* of the Topographical Society of London, reprinted in the LTS's *Annual Report 1899*, we learn that in 1896 the old society had various stocks, including '54 Portfolios, for Wyngaerde View, valued at cost price, £10 2s 6d', which is just under 4/- each. There were rather larger quantities of sheets of Wyngaerde and also the intaglio plates from which more could be, and, I think, were taken, so I suspect that stocks of this portfolio were taken up quite rapidly when the new society was formed in 1898; in 1899 the set of seven sheets in the portfolio was available for 2 guineas, the subscription for two years. There is no mention of the Wyngaerde portfolio in any of the publication lists in the *Record*, although the view itself was available for a long time.

Next came the first general portfolio, 33½ x 24¼ x 1 inches, and printed with the legend PUBLICATIONS OF THE /LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL/ SOCIETY / VIEWS, MAPS AND PLANS // ISSUED BY THE LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL / SOCIETY / 16 CLIFFORD'S INN, FLEET STREET, LONDON. The minutes of the Council meeting of November 1898; in 1899 the set of new offices at 16 Clifford's Inn, and in 1899 the minutes record that portfolios were to be issued only to members subscribing for complete sets and to be available for 7/6 otherwise. We do indeed find in the prospectus printed in the first *Record* (1901) that 'Members subscribing for a complete set of back publications receive a portfolio for containing the Views, Maps, and Plans, including descriptive title-pages.' These title-pages are, elsewhere in the volume, said to be 'especially for the convenience of librarians in cataloguing', and portfolios are on offer for 7/6. There is a reference in the minutes of 1910 to the purchase of 25 large portfolios for £7.10.-, ie 6/- each.

Some copies of this portfolio had the address struck through and '12, 13 & 14 Long Acre, London, W.C.'

printed underneath. This is the address of Stanfords, who from 1909, at the latest, were holding stock to show to members and to sell to non-members.

Portfolios, though not necessarily of this size, continued to be offered to subscribers for complete sets at least as late as 1936, as indicated in the list of publications in *LTR* XVII.

The first five publications in sheets, Wyngaerde (1), Braun & Hogenberg (2), Visscher (4), Porter (5), and Norden's London & Westminster (7), were issued in printed white-paper wrappers, in a uniform size which fits the first general portfolio. However, the Kensington Turnpike Trust Plans by Salway (8) were too large for the portfolio, and special portfolios, printed with the same 13-line legend as the title sheet, were produced; they measure 24¾ x 27½ inches, with brown paper-covered sides and red-brown spines and corners. This reproduction, in 30 sheets, was issued in five lots during 1899-1903; towards the end members were invited to ask for portfolios and 'should the number required enable the Council to make an advantageous arrangement the order will be given for making the portfolios'. Copies of Salway in portfolios were still being advertised as available in the 1936 *Record*.

Then comes a small portfolio, 16 x 12 inches, ½ inch between boards, printed with the Society's name only. It was issued in 1911 to contain Seven London Views by Deceased Artists (27), the publication for 1910, 'forming the nucleus of a collection which it is proposed to continue from time to time'. Seven More London Views, numbered 8-14 (29), and Seven Drawings of London Bridge by E W Cooke, numbered 15-21 (33), were also to be put in this portfolio. Others of the same size are Seven Unpublished Drawings by Hollar (50), Capon's Views of Westminster (52,53), Drawings of Buildings in the [Piccadilly] Area (56), Seven Views of the Inns of Court and Chancery (59), and Eight Views of Kensington (68); curiously, of these only No. 59, on its wrapper, makes reference to the portfolio, and indeed it would need two or three to contain all these sets of drawings. No 27 is still listed in 1936 as 'issued in a portfolio'. Also of this size are the two sets of drawings by Philip Norman (70,71), but they had their own pale buff wallet with string and button ties, 16 x 11¼ inches. Nos. 29, 52/53, 56, 59 and 68 were issued in printed brown-paper wrappers; one would expect 33 and 50 to have been similarly issued, but I have not seen their wrappers.

Finally, there is a middle-size portfolio, 25¼ x 19¼ x 1¼ inches; this is the one which Philip Whitting had found. Its wording is similar to that of the large portfolio, but with the address '7 Upper Baker Street, N.W.' This gives it a date of 1912-14. Volumes VII (1912) and VIII (1913) of the *Record* were published from this address, which was that of the Secretary, Harold G Head, who had been appointed in 1912; a Council meeting was held there in February 1914, but by the time of the Annual General Meeting in March 1914 it was being announced that the address had changed to 17 Baker Street. The Council minutes for July 21st 1915 refer to a prime cost of 4/6 and selling price of 6/- for these portfolios. I assume that these were the portfolios issued to subscribers for complete sets of publications from this date, as only 25 of the large ones had been produced in 1910.

After the list of publications in *LTR* XVII there is no mention of portfolios. The list in Volume XVIII (1942), a war-time issue, was extremely brief, with a note 'For prices apply to the Secretary'. However, a very small

number of the middle-size portfolios was still available when I joined the Society and started to take an interest in its affairs in 1962. Whether portfolios still accompanied Salway or Seven London Drawings, which were still listed as in print in 1952 and 1958, is not indicated.

The Council has not, to the best of my knowledge, seriously considered producing new printed portfolios, which would be expensive, especially as plain portfolios can easily be obtained.

It is interesting to note that in the Annual Report in 1940 it was suggested that 'Members who find the larger publications of the Society difficult to store can have them cut to quarto or other convenient size, and the Secretary can arrange for this to be done at a small charge.' I doubt whether anyone would want to pursue this idea now, though folding to a more convenient size might not be so inappropriate.

This article is based on information in the *Record*, in Council minutes, and in the *Annual Report 1899*, and on my own complete collection of the Society's publications, which includes all the portfolios and wrappers mentioned. Apart from the description of the Phillip Norman 'folder', the notes relating to folders and accompanying texts in the list in Volume XXV appear to be correct, and to be complete from No 72; the only item not so far mentioned is a small leaflet accompanying the London Plan of 1585 (54). If anyone can add to this information on the presentation and protection of the Society's publications, I should very much like to hear.

Stephen Marks

ANCIENT MONUMENTS SOCIETY

The *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society, New Series* has been issued almost every year since 1953, and contains quite a number of articles of specifically London interest, usually illustrated. These are listed below; reviews are not included. Other articles, of course, touch incidentally on London subjects. Many of the volumes and some offprints are available from the Society (St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4; telephone 01-236 3934). A list of the principal contents of volumes 1-26 is printed in Volume 27.

- Volume 2 (1954): 'The Abbot's House and Deanery of Westminster Abbey', by Lawrence Tanner and Lord Mottistone, pp 71-86
- Volume 4 (1956): 'Henry, Ninth Earl of Northumberland and Syon House, Middlesex, 1594-1632', by G R Batho, pp 95-109
- Volume 6 (1958): 'A Short History of the Old Hall, Highgate Village, London', by C R Osborn, pp 73-90
'The Grange, Fulham, and its Neighbourhood, 1713-1957', by W A Eden and Marie P G Draper, pp 91-109
- Volume 8 (1960): 'The Dispersion of Furniture and Fittings formerly belonging to the Churches in the City of London', by R H Harrison, pp 53-74
- Volume 11 (1963): 'Westminster School', anniversary address by John Carleton, pp 11-22
'The Architecture of William Butterfield 1814-1900', by J P H House, pp 109-130
- Volume 16 (1969): 'Restorations in the Temple Church, London, with Notes on Middle Temple Hall', anniversary address by D Lewer, pp 23-31
'The Temple Precinct in the Days of the Knights

- Templars', by Marjorie B Honeybourne, pp 33-36
- Volume 18 (1971): 'The City of London's Historic Streets', by Marjorie B Honeybourne, pp 77-93
- Volume 19 (1972): 'H M Tower of London', anniversary address by W D M Raeburn, pp 21-26
- Volume 20 (1975): 'Greenwich: Palace, Park and Town', anniversary address by V D Lipman, pp 25-47
'The Early History of the Ancient Monuments Society', by L M Angus-Butterworth, pp 49-84
- Volume 21 (1976): 'Canonbury Tower, Islington', by P J Broomhall, pp 110-114
- Volume 22 (1977): 'Nunhead Cemetery, London. A history of the planning, architecture, landscaping and fortunes of a great nineteenth-century cemetery', by James Stevens Curl, pp 28-89
- Volume 23 (1978): 'The Guildhall', anniversary address by Caroline M Barron, pp 9-28
- Volume 25 (1981): 'The Building of Syon Abbey', by R W Dunning, pp 16-26
'Marble Hill House', by Ashley Barker, pp 113-122
- Volume 26 (1982): 'St Bartholomew's Priory and Hospital, Smithfield, and their Founder', anniversary address by John H Harvey, pp 10-20
'Crosby Hall and its Re-erection', anniversary address by W E Godfrey in 1976, pp 227-243
- Volume 28 (1984): 'The Old Hall of Lincoln's Inn', anniversary address by John Summerson, pp 8-22
'The Reredos which slipped through the net', by Susan Gold, pp 93-113 (reredos carved for the German Lutheran church, Little Trinity Lane, London, in 1673, and removed to Dalston in 1876)

BOOKS

Non-commercial publications (ie those issued privately by firms or organisations) tend to be overlooked or ignored by local historians. Their lack of publicity, controlled circulation, and frequent omission from copyright libraries have tended to obscure their considerable wealth of local information, often the subject of detailed research. The days of such publications being edited by some dodo from the board of directors, or put together by the office boy in tea breaks, is happily a thing of the past; modern practice is to commission competent historians to produce something at once readable and informative.

Among recent examples, the following may be cited: *The Union Discount, a centenary album*, by George and Pamela Cleaver (Union Discount Company, 1985); much material on the Cornhill area.

The History of Freshfields, by Judy Slinn (Freshfields, 1984); a firm of solicitors.

Number One. The history of Gregory, Rowcliffe & Co 1784-1984, by Patrick Davis (Gregory, Rowcliffe, 1984); another firm of solicitors; much detail on the Bedford Row area.

History of Wilde Sapte 1785-1985, by A G Salmon (Wilde Sapte, 1985); yet another firm of solicitors.

The Sun Life story 1810-1985, by Jack Minnitt (Sun Life Assurance Co, 1985); this very attractive volume has a wealth of illustrated material in both black & white and colour.

Precious heritage. Three hundred years of Mocatta & Goldsmid, by Timothy Green (Mocatta & Goldsmid, 1983); gold bullion dealers.

Wine for sale. Victoria Wine and the liquor trade 1860-1984, by Asa Briggs (Batsford, 1985, £14.95); a well-

written piece of London social history.

By far the best of recently-published non-commercial works is that compiled by a member of the Society's Council, Penelope Hunting. This book, *Cutlers Gardens*, was commissioned by the Standard Life Assurance Company, the developers of the site which occupies the former warehouses of the Port of London Authority (earlier the East India Company). Mrs Hunting, whose catalogue of the Royal Westminster exhibition of 1981, will have been enjoyed by many members of the Society, has extended her original brief to include almost the whole of the area between Petticoat Lane, Houndsditch and Bishopsgate, with substantial detail on the site of the two railway stations, Liverpool Street and Broad Street. In six chapters Mrs Hunting details the history of the area from Roman times, illustrated with a magnificent collection of black & white and coloured pictures, maps and plans. It must surely be accounted one of the best-written histories of a section of the City of London for many years, one which is not covered by the *Survey of London*, and only in passing by Pevsner. For this reason, if no other, it seems a real shame that its circulation will be so meagre, and its contribution to the history of London will not receive the merit it so richly deserves.

Of the publications listed above, Lord Briggs' volume is available through usual booksellers. The others may be obtained by writing to the companies mentioned; usually, no charge is made, though some may ask for postage refunds. Mrs Hunting's book is available at Cutlers Gardens itself, or from the Bishopsgate Institute, at £3 plus £1 for postage.

David Webb

A Survey of Documentary Sources for Property Holding in London before the Great Fire, by Derek Keene and Vanessa Harding. London Record Society, 1985. Price to non-members £12.

The London Record Society apologises to those who ordered copies of this volume after the advance notice in the June Newsletter. Publication has unfortunately been delayed: copies will be sent as soon as available.

Elsbeth Veale

St Paul's and the City, by Frank Atkinson. London: Michael Joseph, Park Lane Press, 1985. 92 pp, copious illustrations, 4to. £4.95.

This short but meaty account of the history and fabric of St Paul's Cathedral is something much weightier than the usual illustrated offering designed for the tourist traffic. Written by the Cathedral's own Librarian, Frank Atkinson, it relates St Paul's to the City within which it stands; in a manner agreeable to the eye, it gives information about the Cathedral in black print, while the entries for the City are in red — an interesting use of rubrication. The illustrations, taken specially by Angelo Hornak, contrive to provide fresh and unexpected prospects and corners of a familiar and beloved building. The book is light enough to be sent overseas as a Christmas present, and is not too large but that it could be stuffed into an enthusiast's stocking.

Ann Saunders

Cheapside before the Great Fire, by Derek Keene. Environment and Planning Committee of the Economic and Social Research Council, 1985. 26 pp, illus, 4to. £2.00.

The mass of official records and other documents which survives for medieval London is probably greater than that of any other European city. From these archives, Dr Keene,

supported by a small team of dedicated and enthusiastic scholars, is reconstructing the City's development, almost house by house from the twelfth century until the Great Fire of 1666. This fascinating booklet describes some of the results for a sample area around Cheapside. The LTS has given verbal and, in a small way, financial support to the project; articles by two of Dr Keene's team, Dr Vanessa Harding and Dr Martha Carlin, appeared in the *Record* for 1985. We hope that one day we may be privileged to present more of their findings to the membership of the Society. In the meantime, this pamphlet is available from School Government Publishing Company, Darby House, Bletchingly Road, Merstham, Redhill, Surrey, and also from the Museum of London.

Ann Saunders

The Local Historian, published by the British Association for Local History, The Mill Manager's House, Cromford Mill, Cromford, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3RQ. Subscription in UK from 1 January 1985, £7.50 for four issues.

Members who do not see regularly the periodical *The Local Historian* may like to be reminded of its existence. The issue for November 1984, Vol 16 No 4, in which the Society's publication of Charles Booth's map is reviewed — 'a magnificent edition of one of the most important maps in British social history' — includes an invaluable article by D M Palliser on 'What to read on Population History'. Also included are two brief notes of interest to historians of London: one on the records of the British and Foreign School Society, available at the West London Institute of Higher Education, Borough Road, Isleworth; the other, an analysis of the wills of parishioners of St Dunstan in the West, 1620-1629, as part of an investigation into the extent of puritan sentiment.

Elsbeth Veale

A Catalogue of Pictures of Surrey and Elsewhere by John Hassell (1767-1825) and his son Edward (1811-1852), by James C Batley and Gerard P Moss. Offprint from *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 75 (1984), pp 3-55 plus 2 microfiches. Available from Surrey Archeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 3SX. £4 plus p & p.

DIRECTORIES

Quadrant Picture Library, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey, (telephone 01-661 3434) have asked us to mention that they hold an extremely comprehensive collection of Kelly's directories for London, supplemented by Kent's and Holden's, dating back to the early part of the nineteenth-century, with a few for the 1700s and one facsimile of the 1677 directory for London. They also have many small Kelly's 'buff' books for the London boroughs. Many of the directories have maps which can be photocopied.

The minimum search fee is £5. Photocopies of appropriate pages are 20p each.

They also wonder whether there would be any demand for photocopies of entire directories for the years 1677, 1774, 1783, 1787 and 1790. Anyone who is interested should get in touch with Quadrant Picture Library.

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.