

LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL NEWS

The newsletter of the London Topographical Society

NUMBER 25

JANUARY 1988

THE LONDON SURVEYS OF RALPH TRESWELL

Our publication for 1987, edited by John Schofield, was one of the Society's more ambitious, and therefore more expensive, undertakings. We record, with much gratitude, that the Museum of London has contributed £500 towards the costs: the Society's Council, and its entire membership, would like to express thanks to the Museum for such generous support.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – ADVANCE NOTICE

The 1988 Annual General Meeting has been provisionally booked for Wednesday July 6th at the Honourable Artillery Company, City Road, London EC1. To cater for those who find it difficult to get to the AGM on time, the business meeting will take place half an hour later than usual, at 6.30.

NEW LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

The latest list of the Society's publications is enclosed with this Newsletter. For the first time we are including detailed contents of those volumes of the *London Topographical Record* which are still in print. Members are reminded that they are entitled to a 25 per cent discount on all items on the list.

THE A TO Z OF VICTORIAN LONDON

A binding fault has been found in a few copies of this new publication. Please check your copy to see that all pages are present and let the Publications Secretary (Simon Morris, 13 Alma Square, St John's Wood, London NW8) know if it is faulty, so that you can have a replacement. The faults found so far have been in the first two gatherings. Intending purchasers can rest assured that the latest delivery of this publication has been checked by the printer.

CENTRE FOR METROPOLITAN HISTORY

The new Centre for Metropolitan History is being set up at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, in collaboration with the Museum of London and other institutions. It is seeking funds for a programme of research into aspects of the history of London and other metropolises from the beginning of the twentieth century and for the support of its information services. It aims to provide a forum for the interchange of ideas on metropolitan history, to undertake original research, to provide a practical service through bibliography and other work on London, and to promote research into the history of other metropolises. The Social and Economic Study of Medieval London will form part of the Centre's activities. A comprehensive bibliography of printed sources for London to 1939 is already being compiled. Research seminars have begun, and a register of research in progress on London history is being compiled.

The Director is Dr Derek Keene, Museum of

London, and the Deputy Director Miss Heather Creaton, Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1.

Researchers are invited to contribute to the register of work in progress on London history by completing a questionnaire available from Miss Creaton.

LONDON IN A DAY

A little sixpenny 48-page pocket booklet came my way some time ago entitled *How to "Do" London in a Day*, 'by one who has done it and can do it again', published in the 20s or 30s. Its author, WE Hambley, says he frequently made day trips from Sheffield. The centre pages have a small map of central London 'although no map is really necessary, the various streets being linked together in a clear and straightforward manner'!

You are enjoined to arrive in London between 6 and 7 am, take a bus to the monument, then proceed (sometimes by bus) to Billingsgate, London Bridge, Southwark Cathedral, Tooley Street, Tower Bridge, Tower of London, Minories, The Mint, Aldgate, Whitechapel Road, Middlesex Street, Wentworth Street, Leadenhall Street, Cornhill, Royal Exchange, Bank of England, Mansion House, Poultry, King Street, Guildhall, Gog and Magog, Cheapside, Bow Church, St Paul's Churchyard, Paternoster Row, Amen Corner, St Paul's, Ludgate Hill, Old Bailey, Central Criminal Courts, Church of St Bartholomew, St Bartholomew's Hospital, City Temple, Farringdon, Ludgate Circus, Fleet Street, Strand, Temple Bar, Temple Church and Gardens, Law Courts, St Clement Dane's, Covent Garden Market, Drury Lane Theatre, Leicester Square, Trafalgar Square, National Gallery (half an hour permitted), Admiralty Arch, The Mall, Buckingham Palace, Marlborough House, St James's Palace, Queen Victoria memorial, St James's Park, Whitehall, Cenotaph ('Take off your hat when passing – you'll feel better for doing so.'), Great Scotland Yard, 10 Downing Street, Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Westminster Bridge, St Thomas's Hospital, County Hall, Lambeth Palace, Victoria Embankment, Cleopatra's

Needle, Charing Cross Bridge, Waterloo Bridge, Somerset House, New Bridge Street, Oxford Street, Marble Arch, Park Lane, Hyde Park Corner, Green Park, Apsley House, St George's Hospital, Albert Memorial (ten minutes), Rotten Row, Knightsbridge Barracks, Royal Albert Hall, Exhibition Road, South Kensington Museum, where 'you can get luncheon and tea', and then 'take a bus to one of the big Exhibitions usually held yearly in London', and then you can go to your station to reach home; if there isn't an exhibition, 'take a bus from Cromwell Road to Liverpool Street', from which 'you will not only appreciate the rest, but be greatly interested in the varied sights and scenes...'

My goodness! What would you recommend for a day's visit?

NOTES AND QUERIES

STAMFORD BRIDGE FOOTBALL GROUND

Richard Humphreys of the Tate Gallery is helping the Chelsea Football Club write a history of their ground at Stamford Bridge on Fulham Road, and asks if any member has any interesting images or information about the ground or immediate surrounding area. Please get in touch with Mr Humphreys directly.

BOOK NOTES

George Scharf's London; Sketches and Watercolours of a Changing City, 1820-50, by Peter Jackson. John Murray, 1987. 154 pages, copious illustrations, 4to. £14.95.

George Scharf (1788-1860) came to London from his native Bavaria in 1816 and remained in England until his death. Trained in the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences in Munich, he specialised in lithography, engraving his own drawings with meticulous exactitude. He filled sketchbook after sketchbook after sketchbook with preliminary studies taken from the life; his eager pencil was as quick, and a good deal more lively, than the early plate cameras which took several minutes to register a frozen image. London was expanding, re-developing; Scharf's pencil recorded it all, the rebuilding of London Bridge, banquets at the Guildhall, the shops and houses in St Martin's Lane, Charing Cross, the Strand, Regent Street, the coming of the railway to Camden Town: where there was movement, George Scharf was there also, with his sketchbook.

After his death, his widow sold the bulk of his work to the British Museum; later, other drawings were given by his son, who became the first Director of the National Portrait Gallery. Our Chairman, Peter Jackson, is the first person to recognise the importance of Scharf's drawings as a source for London's appearance and topography in the mid-nineteenth century. I can think of no-one else who could have edited this selection of them with such skill, such learning and such perception. On page 118, he points out to us that the shadow across the foreground of the drawing is thrown by the Monument out of sight to the left. It takes one Londoner to appreciate and interpret another; George Scharf would rejoice at the sympathy with which his work has been given to a later generation.

Ann Saunders

Londoners, by Celina Fox. Thames and Hudson, 1987. 272 pages, 257 illustrations, 20 in colour, 4to. Hardback £20; paperback £9.95 only at the Museum of London.

During the summer of 1987, Celina Fox organised a remarkable exhibition, *Londoners*, at the Museum of London; as a result of it, she has produced an even more remarkable volume. With both exhibition and book, she attempted the impossible, to pin down the ever-shifting, ever-changing population of London, and she has succeeded quite magnificently. Topographers, such as the members of this Society, should rejoice and salute her; we go around, concentrating on the precise detail of buildings, our attention fixed on London's ever-broadening map; Dr Fox has added a new dimension to our studies: she has tenanted the buildings, populated the streets.

She begins with a description of the London crowd, and goes on to analyse the strata of society, the aristocracy, merchants, craftsmen, servants, market-folk, street traders, labourers, the poor, criminals, children, the aged, with a postscript for strangers and foreigners. The range of her research is extraordinary: we turn from Gillis van Tilborch's detailed canvas showing the Prince de Ligne, resplendent in scarlet, presenting his son to Charles II, sombre in deep mourning for the death of his young brother, to tiny engraved trade cards demonstrating the minutiae of technical work; the pomp of William Lonsdale's Lord Mayor's procession gives way to the ghastly, fixed features of Géricault's criminals as the hangmen settle the nooses around their necks.

My only criticisms of the volume are editorial. The author describes more paintings and engravings than can be reproduced, even with 257 illustrations; this is understandable but tantalising. And it would help to follow her argument, often complex and subtle, about the different groups that made up London's volatile, shifting population, if text references to the illustrations could have been given for every one that is reproduced. Perhaps these points could be born in mind if there is a reprinting? Certainly Dr Fox's book should have a much longer life than that of an exhibition catalogue. The paperback edition, on sale only at the Museum of London, is a bargain which should not be missed.

Ann Saunders

Kensington & Chelsea, by Annabel Walker with Peter Jackson. John Murray, 1987. Hardback, 192 pages, illustrated. £15.

There is an illustration on every page of this book, and many pages have two or more, mostly from our Chairman's own collection. As well as the straightforward illustrations there are all sorts of unexpected treats like Bartolozzi admission tickets to Ranelagh, Hannah Snell (the female soldier), and the pioneering escalators at Harrods and Earl's Court Station.

The book itself does not set out to be a comprehensive history of the area, but instead attempts to trace the development of the two villages in a series of short self-contained chapters. Altogether there are 44 of these, split evenly between Kensington and Chelsea, mostly describing places rather than people. Chapters on the Crystal Palace, Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Palace, Cremorne and the Chelsea Physic Garden are expected, but other subjects to receive attention include Peter Jones, Chelsea's Victorian artists and writers, and the potteries, piggeries and burial grounds in Kensington.

The writing is crisp and concise and is competently researched without offering any particularly new insights. A very detailed bibliography is unfortunately

organised in a remarkably unhelpful way, and both this and the directory of illustrations are printed in miniscule type. Altogether, however, the book provides an easy-to-read introduction to the subject which can be dipped into or skimmed through with considerable enjoyment.

Patrick Frazer

St Paul's Cathedral, by Peter Burman. The New Bell's Cathedral Guides, Unwin Hyman Ltd, 1987. 192 pages, including copious illustrations. Hardback £10.95, paperback £5.95.

Books and guides on St Paul's are so numerous that one might wonder why there should be another. Perusal of this one, however, and a glance at other volumes in the series, show that they have a freshness and directness which make them valuable additions to the available literature.

Peter Burman's volume gives a brief account of St Paul's and its site up to the Great Fire, a longer account of Sir Christopher Wren and the process by which the Cathedral was designed and built, and, as well as the expected descriptions of the building, a high proportion of space devoted to furnishings, works of art, and the monuments. These last are comprehensively treated, showing their importance to the full. A final briefer chapter deals with the Cathedral's life and work, complemented by lists of Deans, Bishops and Surveyors to the Fabric, Bibliography, Glossary and Index.

The original Bell's Cathedral Series, published some ninety years ago, including a volume on St Paul's in 1900, became a well-established and convenient collection of handbooks, running through several editions. The new series, to judge by those so far issued (Canterbury, Coventry, Salisbury, Wells, and Westminster Abbey), will provide a new, up-to-date, concise and knowledgeable, well illustrated and equally convenient companion for today's visitor. Further volumes announced as forthcoming are those on the cathedrals of Durham and Lincoln and on York Minster. The series is confidently recommended.

Lloyd's at Home, by Vanessa Harding and Priscilla Metcalf. Published for the Corporation of Lloyd's by Lloyd's of London Press Ltd, Sheepen Place, Colchester, Essex. 168 pages, including copious illustrations. £19.75, including postage.

This book has to do that awkward job of pulling together the different threads of the history of a site, which is now the site of the newest home of Lloyd's, and the history of the various homes that that institution has had. The book is, therefore, divided into two parts, 'The Background', which sets the scene of commercial London from its very beginnings, runs through the vicissitudes of ownership of the present site, and gives a brief account of the emergence of Lloyd's itself, and 'The Buildings', respectively by the two authors.

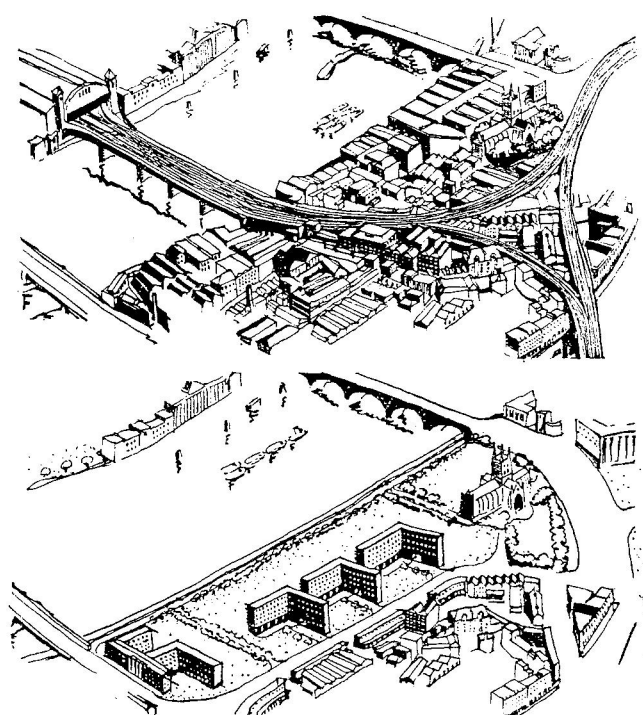
We can be sure that the work of these two scholars has given us an accurate account in their respective spheres; there is much new material, the result of recent research and investigation by authors well known to the Society. It reads well and easily. The book itself, however, is not, and presumably is not intended to be, a scholarly volume: it is, rather, like those television programmes which, at the drop of a name, give us a picture without too much concern for the need for it, or the balance of the whole. One wonders, for instance, why the portrait of Robert Adam, who designed an un-

executed interior for Lloyd's, should have a whole page, while the five architects whose buildings Lloyd's has actually occupied have between them only two miniscule portraits (Tite and Cooper). Many, perhaps most, of the reproductions lack their artist or other attribution. Colour seems to have been used at random, with most of the plates printed in blue, or hot pink, or lime yellow, or some other colour, and it is a relief to reach black and white near the end, which show up so well, whether you like it or not, Richard Rogers' new building in sketch and photograph. The only proper use of colour is in the reproduction of part of the 'Rhinebeck' panorama (published by this Society in 1981), for which no acknowledgment is given. Several chapters seem to start twice, and the chapter titles are not always helpful: we have one headed 'Lloyd's before Lime Street I', but no second such chapter, and two chapters in the contents list (itself not easy to grasp quickly) headed 'Lime Street before Lloyd's' without any indication of the actual distribution, of period, between them.

But enough! This reviewer found *Lloyd's of London* an interesting book and an irritating piece of book-making, real scholarship submerged within a package of entertainment, and would recommend members of the London Topographical Society, who are by and large not members of Lloyd's, to put up with the irritation to get at the meat, and enjoy the illustrations.

Macaulay School, The Story of a Church School, 1648-1987, by Eric E F Smith. The Clapham Press, 58 Crescent Lane, London SW4 9PU, 1987. A5, 36 pages, including 7 illustrations and map, paperback. £3.30, including p&p.

Eric Smith, who must know more about Clapham than



The postwar vision: 'Southwark Cathedral, now encircled by railways, would be freed by the removal of the viaducts and the completion of the South Bank scheme.' from a sixpenny pamphlet, *Your London has a Plan*, published in about 1944 by the Association of Building Technicians, to summarise the County of London Plan 1943, with a foreword by Lewis Silkin.

all other historians put together ever have or ever will, has written with his customary clarity and authority about a school which in nearly three and a half centuries, with a variety of names, has occupied a central place in Clapham education and three different locations. In the current debate over the core curriculum, it is perhaps salutary to learn that the third rule drawn up in 1788 was that the Master and Mistress should 'make it their Chief Business to instruct the said Children in the Principles of the Christian Religion, . . . to Use some good Expositions as may be approved by the Minister of the Parish, to Pronounce distinctly, make them mind their Stops, to Spell correctly, and to read Slowly.' The subjects taught to the boys were, we are told, Reading, Writing and Accounts, and to the girls, Reading, Writing and Plain Sewing. If the price seems a little high, you should know that all proceeds will go to the Macaulay School Association.

William Twopenny in Kent, by Eric R Swain. Winston Publications (Chaquers Hill, Doddington, Sittingbourne, Kent), 1986. 4to, 122 pp, 77 illustrations. £9.97, p&p £1.

Eric Swain is to be congratulated on having researched, written, photographed and published this remarkable little volume. William Twopenny, lawyer, antiquary and architectural draughtsman, died in December 1873; he bequeathed thirty-eight bound volumes of drawings and notebooks to the British Museum and the treasure was duly deposited there. Very little of it has been published and Mr Swain has had the happy idea of reproducing the best of the Kentish drawings, comparing them 'where possible with modern photographs showing the current condition of the buildings and features that he drew, and [providing] a complementary text'.

The results are fascinating and, though the area covered lies outside even the GLC boundaries, members of this Society will not begrudge time spent studying these pages. The illustrations are cheering: time and again it has been possible to photograph a building from the same angle as Twopenny drew it; more often than not, the building remains, unaltered. Lympne Castle, the residence of Harry Margary with whose publications this Society so often and so happily co-operates, is here; particularly enchanting are the drawings and photographs of Old Bell Farm, Harrietsham (1828/1985), and of St Mary's Abbey, West Malling (1827/1986).

Mr Swain's notes on each building are informative, well-written and succinct; the layout and production of the volume are exemplary.

Ann Saunders

Ben's Limehouse, Recollections by Ben Thomas. Ragged School Books, 1987. A5, 108 pages, photographs and map, paperback. From East End Books (Whitechapel), Museum of London, Docklands Light Railway Shop (Island Gardens), St Katharine's Bookshop, Tower Hamlets Libraries, and Ragged School Museum Trust, 46-48 Copperfield Road, Bow, London E3 4RR, £3.50, by post £4 from the last.

These recollections cover mainly the years before, during and shortly after the First World War, in the tight area of a few streets in Limehouse, when Ben Thomas, born in 1907, was a child and teenager. We are given a series of vivid, if matter-of-fact, wide-ranging, and convincing glimpses of a wholly vanished way of life in the teeming riverside streets and alleyways, with their very small houses which had little or no private space

of their own, interspersed with all kinds of commercial activity. We need these personal accounts if we want to know about distant times and places altered out of all recognition, and they are valuable counters to the more lurid portrayals of fiction. Numerous photographs from public and private sources and a map of 1914 closely illustrate the text, to which is appended several pages of useful historical notes by Tom Ridge, Chairman of the Ragged School Museum Trust.

The Country House Described: An Index to the Country Houses of Great Britain and Ireland, compiled by Michael Holmes. St Paul's Bibliographies in association with the Victoria & Albert Museum, 1986. viii+328 pages, illustrated, 4to. £30.

Members of this Society may be interested to know of the publication of this bibliography. Its purpose – and limitations – are best defined in the compiler's own words:

The aim of this index is to provide a quick reference to the literature on individual country houses in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, held in the National Art Library at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The compiler's zeal and industry are remarkable. He gives entries for over 4,000 country houses; to provide them, he has indexed some 135 general books on architecture, as well as guides to individual houses, sale catalogues, and the full run of *Country Life* from 1897. The 135 general books are given in a preliminary bibliography, and the volume ends with a select list of books on the country house and allied subjects which we should all study and use regularly.

Nevertheless, if we are to be fair to this book, we should be aware of what it does *not* attempt to do, lest we ask it to do something beyond its scope. It confines itself to *country* houses, so it is no use asking it to give you a list of works on London town houses, though it does include mansions in Middlesex, Essex, Surrey and Kent which are now in the Greater London area, such as Kenwood, Osterley, Ham and Eastbury. It is based on the library at the Victoria and Albert Museum and therefore does not attempt to be comprehensive; for example, we get an entry for Albury but no mention of those Hollar engravings which show it in the 1640s. What Michael Holmes has given us is a starting point, and he is to be congratulated on the quite extraordinary effort he has put into it. St Paul's Bibliographies are to be congratulated too; the volume is well-printed and well-bound, easy to the eye and a pleasure to handle. So it should be at £30.00, but a high price does not necessarily mean a superior article. This is a worthwhile book, and if you find the price too high, then urge your public library to buy it for the reference collection. I think that, before long, they will find their copy well-thumbed.

Ann Saunders

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 (telephone: 01-940 5419).