

# LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL NEWS

The newsletter of the London Topographical Society

NUMBER 28

MAY 1989

## NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday July 5th 1989

The eighty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the London Topographical Society will be held on Wednesday July 5th 1989 at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, London SW7. (Members should use the side entrance in Exhibition Road). The meeting will start at 6.30, following refreshments which will be available from 6.00.

Members attending the meeting will be issued with this year's publication, *Good and Proper Materials*. This is a collection of papers given at a conference, organised by the Survey of London, on the subject of London's building materials since the Great Fire. We will be selling copies of other publications, including Barker's *Panorama of London from the Roof of the Albion Mills*, one of last year's extra publications.

After the formal business of the AGM, we hope to have a talk about the Royal Geographical Society and its building, Lowther Lodge, which was designed by Norman Shaw in 1873.

Members should write to the Hon Secretary if they wish to nominate anyone as an officer of the Society or as a member of Council, or if they wish to raise any matter under item 6 of the agenda. This year we are abandoning the traditional request that members should inform the Hon Secretary of their intention to attend the AGM. Last year the number of replies was so low that we could not use it to make a reliable prediction of the number of people attending. Our thanks to all those who responded in the past.

## AGENDA

- 1 To approve the minutes of the 88th Annual General Meeting in 1988
- 2 To receive the 89th Annual Report of the Council for 1988 (herewith)
- 3 To receive the Accounts for 1988 (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)

## VICE-PRESIDENTS

Members will be grieved to learn that two of the Society's Vice-Presidents, Professor Grimes and Dr Philip Whitting, died in December. Both had served in senior positions for some 30 years and their contributions were much appreciated by those who worked with them. Before they became Vice-Presidents, Professor Grimes was Chairman of the Society from 1961 to 1974, while Dr Whitting was Hon Secretary between 1958 and 1966. Full obituaries, together with lists of their publications, will be printed in the next volume of the *Record*.

The Society's rules require that we have at least two Vice-Presidents. The Council is very pleased that Stephen Marks, who was Hon Secretary between 1966 and 1983, has accepted the appointment to join Dr de Beer in this position.

## EDITORIAL FAREWELL

This is the last newsletter which I shall produce for the Society. In fourteen years it hasn't changed very much really and it is time for new ideas. Our new Editor is Dr Penelope Hunting, professional writer and researcher, who will be known to members, if not personally, then as the author of several books and articles on London subjects. I will only mention, as examples to draw attention to their quality, the book published for the exhibition *Royal Westminster* in 1981 and her article for the *Record* on 'The Survey of Hatton Garden in 1694 by Abraham Arlidge' to illuminate the Society's publication for 1983. She has been an active member of Council since 1982. I am sure she will have many interesting thoughts for the development of the newsletter, and I wish her well.

*London Topographical News* arose out of a succession

of circular letters to members in 1974 and 1975, around the time of Marjorie Honeybourne's death in November 1974. Having taken over from Philip Whitting as Hon Secretary in 1966, I had worked with her for several years, and she had been carrying a very large burden for the Society, as Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and Editor rolled into one. Strange as it may seem, it was quite a battle to get her to accept that there was even any point in, let alone need for, better communication with members than the notice of the AGM and the arrival, not invariably on time, of the publication for the year.

When our newsletter got going in 1975, I had been responsible for producing a local society's newsletter for about four years. In 1973 I had just made the acquaintance of a Southwark councillor in Peckham who recently had acquired an IBM typesetter and an off-set printing machine; these she put at the disposal of local groups, principally, but not solely, political. It was largely by chance that I got in on this, because I had been using a rather unsatisfactory duplicating machine for the first eleven issues, and when it broke down at a crucial moment I was directed to Peckham. I was allowed to type away to produce copy for pasting up and she herself printed the first two or three numbers that came off her machine before putting it on a more organised basis with a paid printer. I was thus able to do the actual typesetting work on this Society's newsletter from the outset, preparing the artwork and getting it printed. When I moved away from London in 1978, I found someone in Bath to do the typesetting on a more sophisticated IBM machine, and this continued until the last three or four numbers which have been prepared by up-to-date modern computer setting.

As I said at the beginning, the newsletter hasn't changed very much, though there have been numerous refinements on the formula; I had already had the benefit of working out the Camberwell Society newsletter. This could mean either that I haven't had much imagination to envisage improvements or that it was so good that there could be no improvement. Well, obviously it isn't the latter, yet I still think, and believe others think, that it has been a good formula for keeping it going, especially while one has so many other commitments. There have, however, been virtually no illustrations, and I am sure that in this there is great scope for our new Editor.

When I left London in 1978, I carried on for some time as Secretary, and it was very satisfactory for the Secretary to have charge of the newsletter, because several of the items are administrative, but when I gave up that post, I kept on with the newsletter. I have enjoyed it all, though sometimes I have been hard-pressed to get it to print; I should say that since Patrick Frazer took over as Secretary, he has dealt with the printing from my artwork and with the distribution. Now, fourteen years is long enough to have done this service, and I look forward to the new version from the hand of another.

## **89th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1988**

The publication issued to members for 1988 was *Hugh Alley's Caveat - The Markets of London in 1598*, edited by Ian Archer, Caroline Barron and Vanessa Harding. This book reproduces the illustrated manuscript held in the Folger Shakespeare Library. In addition there were two extra publications, both panoramas of London issued

to coincide with the *Panoramania!* exhibition held at the Barbican Art Gallery. Hollar's *Prospect of London and Westminster taken from Lambeth* shows the view before the Fire of London in about 1665 and also the updated version of about 1707. *London from the Roof of the Albion Mills* (1792) reproduces the aquatint of Barker's great show panorama. It is printed in colour on 6 sheets, with an introduction by Ralph Hyde and keys by Peter Jackson.

During the year progress was made in preparing the publications for 1989 and 1990 which are, respectively, the edited papers from a conference organised by the Survey of London on London building materials and the twenty-sixth volume of the Society's *Record*. Three newsletters were issued during the year.

The eighty-eighth Annual General Meeting was held in the Long Room of the Honourable Artillery Company on July 6th. It was attended by about 200 members and their guests. The Society's officers were re-elected, with the exception of Mr Allan Tribe, the Hon Auditor, who had indicated his wish to stand down at the end of 1988. The members of Council were also re-elected.

After the business meeting, the editors of the year's publication gave a talk about Hugh Alley and his *Caveat*. Mrs Jean Tsushima, the honorary archivist of the HAC, then described the history of the Company. Members also had the opportunity to look at the HAC's regimental museum.

Two of the Society's Vice-Presidents died during the year. Professor Grimes was Chairman from 1961 to 1974 and Dr Philip Whitting was Honorary Secretary between 1958 and 1966. At the end of 1988 the Society had 7 honorary members and 731 paid up members. Sales of publications totalled £10,458 during the year.

## **SERVICE AS USUAL**

This year's AGM will take place at the Royal Geographical Society; details are given elsewhere in this Newsletter. Your Editor's only duty is to say that, once again, it will be a home-made tea and that, while Mrs Joyce Cumming will undertake most of the responsibility (with a little help from the Committee), YOU TOO can make a contribution by bringing along cakes, scones, pancakes, biscuits — whatever takes your fancy and suits your skills — to the feast. The more who join in the effort, the greater the variety of delicacy — and the more fun it is for everyone. Your Editor looks forward to learning some new recipes.

## **CATCH IT IF YOU CAN**

I hope that this Newsletter will appear in time for you to catch a very unusual photographic exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery. The exhibits are the work of Brian Griffiths who was sponsored by Rosehaugh Stanhope Developers to take a series of photographs of the Broadgate office scheme. They are *not* topographically precise studies, but they are exciting and unusual. Go and see what you think for yourselves; the show is on till 25 June.

## LAMAS PRIVILEGES FOR LTS MEMBERS

The LTS is a corporate member of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, which means that our members will be welcome to attend LAMAS lectures and go on LAMAS visits. Lectures are free of charge and are held once a month at the Museum of London, on Wednesdays, starting at 6.30 after refreshments in the foyer from 6.00. The lecture programme normally runs from September to May. Visits are concentrated mostly in the spring and summer, usually on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The next two visits are on Wednesday June 14th — an energy-consuming tour of four historic churches in Oxfordshire, starting at 8.30am and costing about £13 — and on Saturday July 15th — to Dorchester and Maiden Castle for about £12.

Visits should be booked in advance with Mr Marsden Anderson, 69 Monkham Lane, Woodford Wells, Essex IG8 0NN (01-504 5985) from whom full details can be obtained. The visits leave from the river side of Thames Embankment, opposite Embankment Underground station. Members are advised to be there in good time and take a packed lunch to eat in transit.

We will try to let members know about LAMAS events in advance, although this may not always be possible with the long interval between our newsletters. Details can be obtained directly from LAMAS at the Museum of London, on 01-600 3699.

## THE MUSEUM OF LONDON

The Museum of London has recently sent out to the members of several societies a leaflet advertising publications on the archaeology and early history of London. The leaflet itself is attractive and invites perusal, as it should, but much more important, of course, is the contents. Listed are publications both of the Museum itself and by others, most notably the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. Having been a life member since 1963, this reviewer has had the opportunity to admire at a very advantageous rate the steady output of Special Papers from that Society as they turned up (until the last on *Aspects of Saxo-Norman London: I*) within the subscription, always in the greatest detail and impeccably produced. There are books on more general subjects such as *The Port of Roman London* by Gustav Milne, demonstrating what an amazing amount can be deduced from concentrated fragments and scholarly investigation, and our own publication, *The London Surveys of Ralph Treswell*, by John Schofield. There are numerous offprints published by the Department of Urban Archaeology, and guides and manuals.

If you haven't been favoured with one of these leaflets, you should write for one or pick one up, or, best of all, visit the Museum Shop, which gets more and more comprehensive in its stock, not only of books, but also of cards, posters, maps, items for children and souvenirs. The address is The Museum Shop, Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN.

## A NEW LONDON MUSEUM

There is now a museum at the Bank of England. It offers the chance to get inside a normally impenetrable building. The museum is housed mainly in two striking rooms: a faithful reproduction of Sir John Soane's original Bank Stock Office, demolished in the 1920s, and Sir Herbert Baker's Rotunda, which dates from the 1930s.

The exhibits trace the foundation and the history of the Bank, as well as its role, particularly in banknote design and production. There are piles of gold bars (mostly fake), cases of coins, the world's largest collection of Bank of England notes and a room full of interactive video machines to explain what the Bank does and test the visitor's knowledge of monetary economics. Backing this up are the Bank archive and historical collections, which are available to researchers by appointment.

Appropriately reflecting the institution it portrays, the museum conveys a certain smugness and self-satisfaction. The cost to the nation in terms of real estate and uniformed flunkies must be terrific, and it is rather a come-down to find a little shop selling the usual tourist souvenirs. Clearly the Bank wants to be understood and valued, but will it simply lose its dignity as it panders to the tourist and the school outing?

Admission to the museum is free of charge. Access is by the side entrance in Bartholomew Lane. During the winter it is open on Mondays to Fridays from 10.00am to 6.00pm. From Easter to the end of September it is also open at the same times on Saturdays and public holidays, and on Sundays from 2.00 to 6.00. Further information on 01-601 5793.

## VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY EXHIBITION AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY

To celebrate the 200th volume of the Victoria History of the Counties of England, there will be a special exhibition at the British Library from April 21st to September 13th 1989. Established in 1899, the VCH's aim is to provide an authoritative account of the history of every place in England. The exhibition, entitled *Particular Places: English Local History and the Victoria County History*, will focus mainly on places in counties currently being researched by the VCH.

## LONDON: THE UNIQUE CITY

This is, of course, the title of a famous book, but I do not mean to say anything about it here. I have consciously appropriated the title to say something myself about the uniqueness of London for every person. Not such an original thought perhaps, nor, naturally, confined to London, but I have been more and more struck by the unique personal map that each one of us has of London. Each has lived in a particular part or several, gone different ways to and from it, to different schools, jobs, and entertainments, made up their own network of social, domestic and business contacts, flown over, driven across, and ridden under different areas. What so often brings this home to one is the discovery of a new *link* between familiar parts: known to one's mind's eye from maps, the newly discovered road or railway route pulls then together in one's own real experience, physically, visually, dimensioned by the time for the journey as well as by its distance.

It would be a fascinating exercise to compile a map which contained only those roads, rivers, buildings, parks, bridges, underground and overground routes, which had really been part of one's own experience. This doesn't mean merely those that one remembers now, but anything which could have had some impact, though slight, on one's personal experience of London. You could, I suppose, include everything you had ever read about or seen photographs of but I think this would diminish the unique quality of the experience you would be mapping, of *your* London.

I would have to start with my first two years which were spent in Clifton Hill in St John's Wood and pram journeys to Regent's Park, no doubt certain regular routes with occasional diversions, then periodic train journeys for most of my childhood up to London from south of the Downs (the names East Croydon, Clapham Junction, London Bridge, Victoria were almost an incantation, attended by those tangled railways that thread their ways through so much of South London). There were journeys to my father's office in the City to watch the Lord Mayor's Show (once at least from a vantage point over Mappin and Webb in Queen Victoria Street) or to join his staff for a Christmas lunch, visits to galleries and museums, shopping trips to Oxford Street and Gorringes, hasty scrambles across London to catch trains to school from Paddington.

When I had finished school journeys, I lived with my mother off Westbourne Grove (was that Paddington or Bayswater?) for several years, having spent six months in a flat on Chiswick Mall: regular journeys again to Paddington for Oxford, to University College in Gower Street and also to Kingston to study, to, and on, the Thames at Putney, Hammersmith, Chiswick and points west, and occasionally east, to row, to Hampstead to visit my father, to the Ministry of Works near Westminster Hospital and later from Camberwell to Westminster City Hall to work, by train, bus, tube, and above all by bike, which gives one enormous scope to divert and explore. Making my rounds as part of my job to nearly every corner of the City of Westminster, which by then included the old boroughs of Paddington and St Marylebone

(making a new and professional acquaintance with Clifton Hill), usually on my bike, 'pedalling protection' for historic buildings and the new conservation areas.

First married home in Notting Hill, then back to Newton Road, off Westbourne Grove, then the search for our first house in innumerable salubrious and not so salubrious places, landing us in Camberwell for thirteen years (and working there for two), exploring that area and Peckham and Walworth even more thoroughly, and in a more haphazard fashion parts of Dulwich, Greenwich (where we had nearly bought a house instead of Camberwell), Deptford, Kennington, Lambeth. Two boat trips especially stand out as those important links between places hitherto unconnected on one's personal map, one downstream to Beckton, one upstream to Teddington. Tours and excursions too innumerable not only to mention but also to remember. Libraries from Minet to Colindale, galleries ..., far-flung historic houses to report on for LAMAS ..., concerts from Alexandra Palace to Albert Hall, zoos, but no football grounds.

In the last thirteen years, random and quite extraordinarily varied locations for site visits and inquiries into planning appeals and the like in the City, Wimbledon, Camden, Kensington, Islington, Hackney, Barking, Croydon, Bromley, Ealing, and elsewhere have taken me to all sorts of new territory as well as familiar ground. Discovering cross-country railway routes from Gospel Oak to Barking via Leytonstone, from Wimbledon to Camberwell via Streatham, from Denmark Hill out to Sevenoaks, from Reading via Old Oak Common and Barnes Bridge to Clapham Junction (though this was simply one of the ways to avoid changing in London on my way to Brighton). Staying with friends and relations in Camberwell, Kentish Town, Holland Park, Hampstead Garden Suburb. Journeys from every main-line station except Blackfriars.

I don't mean, by this parade of names, which can only be a small selection (if only one could remember them all!), that there is anything unusual about them, either in variety or distribution, but that each of us has a unique personal map, unique in a very distinct way. Thus for each of us, however well we know its printed maps and its written topography, 'London' means something wholly personal: common experiences, however much seeming the same, have different significance to each of us.

It would be a strange map, will all sorts of gaps, but rather exciting if you could start your map soon enough to watch the gaps diminish, sometimes gradually, sometimes at a stroke, or be divided up by one of those links. The ground rules (rather literally) would be difficult to establish: how far into the view would one include buildings? What about the views from high buildings such as St Paul's, the Monument, Tower Bridge, and National Westminster Bank (all of which I visited in quick succession for the Mansion House Square inquiry)? Clearly you can't include it all, yet it has become part of the personal map of London. I would love to draw my map of London, but I know that I could not do it to my own satisfaction or convincingly.

*Stephen Marks*



## BOOK NOTES

*London's Lost Riverscape, a photographic panorama*, by Chris Elmers and Alex Werner, with an introduction by Gavin Stamp. London: Penguin Group 1988. 124 pages, A4 landscape. £14.95, cheaper through BCA book clubs.

1988 is Panorama Year, and this book is the result of a 1937 PLA record of the riverside from London Bridge to Greenwich. The book is solid photographs, with captions across the top to give a potted history of sites of interest. After a section of full-page and double-page selections from the panorama, there is a small-scale strip view of the entire work. An essential addition to your Thames library.

Roger Cline

*The London Quiz Book*, by Hunter Davies and Ylva French. London: Forster Davies, 1988. 96 pages, illus, paperback. £2.50.

*Mud, Straw and Insults, a further collection of Roy Brooks' property advertisements*, compiled by Tony Halstead, illustrated by Diana Durrant. London: Roy Brooks Ltd, 359 King's Road, Chelsea, 1988. 80 pages, paperback. £2.95.

*How to get Lost and Found in London*, by John and Bobbye McDermott. Honolulu: ORAFA, 1988. 332 pages, maps, paperback. £9.95

*Exitwise*, by Edgar W Kemp. London: John-Florence, 134 Stepney Green Court, Stepney Green, London E1, 1988. 29 pages. 55 pence.

*London von A-Z (Compact-Ministadtführer)*, by Christiane Brown. Munich: Compact Verlag, 1986. 251 pages, paperback.

*Mysterious Kings Cross*, by Chesca Potter. Oxford: Golden Dawn Publishing, PO Box 250, Oxford, 1988. 27 pages, illus, maps, paperback. £1.95.

This brief round-up covers some of the recent odds and ends of London topographical publications. Davies & French's quiz book will appeal to the Trivial Pursuit freaks, and carries the London Tourist Board's seal of approval. The questions, in subject order, are often flip, the picture captions even more so, reflecting Davies' *Punch* paragraphs. He cannot claim, incidentally, that this is the first such book of its kind: London quiz books go back well over forty years, the *News Chronicle* having issued one of the most popular at the end of World War II.

From quiz to quips: the late Roy Brooks' adverts for the properties which his estate agency sold in the 1950s and 1960s have already been mined in a previous collection (*Brothel in Pimlico* (1985), also available at the same price). Now in a further collection of potted gems from the world

of des-res, we can re-read some of the hype behind the headlines — 'Rich bingo barrister sells family home'; 'Musical rubber man and Nat Health wife's Hampstead'; 'Cosy garconniere of the Tarzan of Gladstone Park' — with occasional comments from the would-be sellers. The prices quoted will cause total disbelief.

Funny foreigners are always good for a laugh, none more so than John and Bobbye's blow-by-blow account of two innocents in the big city, and how they swallowed wholesale everything which was fed to them: by guides, by shops, by museums. The style is the sort of breathless *Time Magazine-cum-Sun*: 'Natural History Museum?' 'Yuck in spades', said the young lady. 'Things pickled and stuffed. Pinned to the wall. Not for me'. 'Too bad'. The back cover picture shows the authors to bear an uncanny resemblance to Fanny and Johnnie Cradock, of blessed memory. 'Don't ask for whom the bell tolls,' remarks the blurb, 'if you read this book about London, Big Ben will toll for thee.'

Edgar Kemp's amusing little booklet is designed to enable you to get off the underground as close to the exit as possible. This can, of course, get complicated on lines which interchange: there are twelve different versions at Kings Cross/St Pancras, and twenty-six at Baker Street. Mr Kemp would probably be amazed to learn that a very similar publication was issued almost forty years ago, and was even more complicated.

Christiane Brown's guidebook only qualifies here by virtue of its size, or rather lack of it. It is clearly bidding for the record of smallest book on London: it measures  $2\frac{1}{8} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, thus comfortably beating the previous record-holder, *The midget London* (London: Wells, Gardner Darton, 1901) which ran out at  $2\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$  inches. This 'super-mini' guide even manages a tiny coloured cover (a bit fuzzy, it must be admitted) for its 250-odd pages.

It seems appropriate to end this round-up of curiosities with an item for the post-Halloween period. For most embittered commuters, the only mysterious thing about Kings Cross is why the 5.30 never runs on time. Ms Potter, however, finds horned gods, black madonnas, Frankenstein and ritual magic lurking in the undergrowth of St Pancras. Did you know that Pan was worshipped at the Penton? or that the personification of the Fleet River appeared as the Goddess Nell? I have always thought that those oranges were suspect! At least we have William Blake's verses to guide us:

*The fields from Islington to Marylebone  
To Primrose Hill and St John's Wood  
Were builded over the pillars of gold  
And there Jerusalem's pillars stood.*

David Webb

# ACCOUNTS FOR 1988

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1988

<i>expenditure</i>			<i>income</i>		
1987			1987		
577	storage and service	588.65	6,821	subscriptions for 1988	7,265.00
74	insurance	74.21	295	subscriptions for earlier years	295.00
	newsletter (3)	1,413.49	7,091		7,560.00
1,571	general print/stationery	501.25			
	general postage	65.17			
397	AGM	685.00			
2,619		3,327.77	11,660	profit from publications:	
20,775	publications in 1987	—	5,830	sales	10,458.53
1,064	distribution in 1987	—	5,830	less cost or valuation of	
	publication 137	9,773.67		publications sold	5,229.27
	less grant	750.00			5,229.26
	publication 138	4962.00	347	interest: \$ account	19.16
	publication 139	109.03	1,357	deposit account	200.69
	publication 139 reserve	4,000.00	1,704	National Savings	1,319.03
	other publications	290.56	290		1,538.88
	distribution of 137	952.86	293	grant: Twenty Seven Foundation	290.00
31	royalties on 125	30.60	110	donations	76.85
13	other expenses	12.50	12,540	miscellaneous income	159.00
4,384	income less expenditure	3,019.65	1,028	publications to stock	9,901.48
28,886		25,728.64	28,886	income tax on covenants	973.17
					25,728.64

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 1988

<i>accumulated fund</i>			<i>current assets</i>		
45,284	balance brought forward	49,668.37		stock of publications as valued	
4,384	income less expenditure	3,019.65		by Council:	
49,668		52,688.02	26,493	balance brought forward	33,206.45
	<i>current liabilities</i>			add	
			12,543	publications added to stock	9,901.48
			39,037		43,107.93
			5,830	less estimated cost of	
			33,206	publications sold	5,229.27
					37,878.66
			1,097	bank and cash balances	
			—	current account	188.09
			10,597	dollar account (2\$ = £)	622.19
			4,976	bank deposit account	9,297.32
			659	National Savings	9,295.01
			17,239	cash with officers	246.75
50,536		57,528.02	50,536		19,649.36
					57,528.02

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

Hugh Cleaver, Chartered Accountant, 91 Malford Grove, South Woodford, London E18 April 17th 1989