

The Annual General Meeting held on 6th July 1992

The ninety-second Annual General Meeting of the London Topographical Society was held on 6th July 1992 at the Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1. Following tea in an elegant drawing room hung with fine portraits, just over 200 members and their guests adjourned to the modern lecture theatre for the AGM. The official business having been conducted with customary good humour, the Hon Editor, Ann Saunders, gave a talk about this year's publication, *The A to Z of Restoration London*, the fifth in the series of A to Zs. This was followed by a lecture given by Dr Peter Warren, Executive Secretary of the Royal Society, on the history and homes of the Royal Society. Dr Warren also answered questions and indicated the wide range of educational and research activities pursued by the Royal Society.

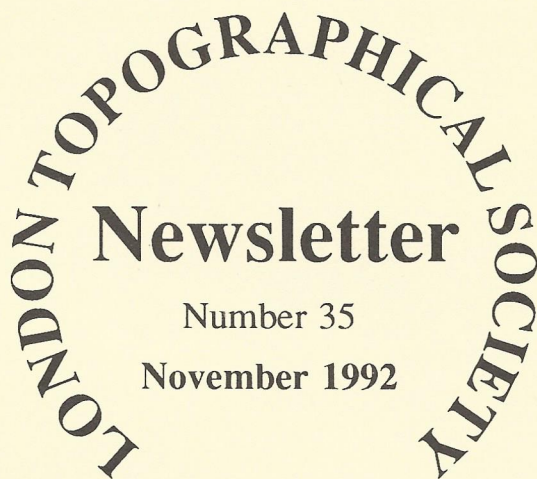
Annual publication - an apology

As most members know, we normally send out the annual publication a few weeks after the AGM. This gives us time to prepare the mailing labels, sorting out those who have collected their copies in person at the AGM and those who have not yet paid their subscriptions.

Unfortunately this year the process took much longer than usual. Our attempt to keep distribution costs to a minimum backfired when the address labels mysteriously disappeared. After a prolonged but unavailing search, we had to contact a large number of members to ask if they had their copies or not. We apologize to all those members who were affected by the delay and will take steps to make sure that it does not happen again.

Mylne's geological map

In 1993, the Society hopes to issue Robert William Mylne's *Map of the Geology and Contours of London and its Environs* (1856) as the annual publication. This large map will be printed in four sheets and in full and subtle colour. It will be in a folder, about the size of the ever-popular "Rhinebeck" panorama, and will have a scholarly introduction. Your Editor predicts that this will become one of our most popular publications, and will prove of considerable use to surveyors, architects and engineers; it should also find a place within any school classroom within the Greater London area.



Support needed for the Victoria County History

The Victoria County History series which covers Middlesex is in danger of financial collapse. This has come about because some of the London boroughs which undertook to contribute a share of the cost of the three researchers and one part-time secretary have reneged on their promise, pleading poverty. But much still needs to be done. Although the outer ring of Middlesex areas has been dealt with in detail, inner London areas such as Fulham, Hammersmith, Kensington, Chelsea, Westminster, Marylebone, St Pancras, Holborn, Clerkenwell, Shoreditch, Bow, Bromley, Poplar and Millwall still remain unpublished. It will be appreciated that this kind of project is not one that can be switched off and on. The researchers are specialists and once stood down through lack of funds will not necessarily be available when money is available again. It is therefore very important to keep the project going in some form, even if slightly truncated. In the absence of replacement money from either local or national authorities, the circumstances are right for local history groups, perhaps with some money in the balances, to help out. Local historians all over the Greater London area are, after all, the first beneficiaries of the work of the VCH team. Or else some members of the LTS might well have friends in bodies which can be persuaded to donate. Those who think they can help should contact Christopher Elrington, General Editor, Victoria County History, Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London WC1E 7HU, tel. 071 636 0272.

- John Richardson

Museum of London Archaeology Service

Members of the London Topographical Society will have read last year of the debate surrounding proposed new arrangements for London archaeology.

After extensive discussions, the Museum of London and English Heritage reached agreement about the way forward. This resulted in the restructuring of the Museum's archaeological departments to form the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS), and the creation of the English Heritage Planning Advisory Service. Both bodies seek to ensure the best practicable protection, recording, study and interpretation of the capital's internationally important prehistoric and historic remains. While English Heritage principally provides archaeological advice to London's planning authorities, MoLAS offers a range of archaeological services to developers and clients (including local planning authorities and English Heritage). These services include desk-based assessments of threats to archaeological remains; field evaluations of the extent of buried evidence; excavation; research and publication of site records, excavated finds and evidence of past environments; and advice on a wide range of archaeological matters.

The recession in London's property industry has resulted in a substantial fall in the number of construction sites, reducing the need – and opportunities – for excavations. Nevertheless archaeological fieldwork continues to take place, most notably on the site of the Roman amphitheatre and the thirteenth century chapel at Guildhall Yard. For the time being, the bulk of archaeological research in London is based on the analysis of results from earlier fieldwork. Excavation reports in preparation include an Upper Palaeolithic/Mesolithic site in Uxbridge, a Bronze Age lake at Bricklayers Arms, the pre-Basilican buildings at Leadenhall Court, the Roman town in North Southwark, medieval Cheapside, the Palace of the Bishops of Winchester, the Abbey of St Mary Graces (the Royal Mint), Holy Trinity Priory, the Priory and Hospital of St Mary Spital and the medieval bridge at Kingston. Other publications in the pipeline include studies of the City of London waterfronts and defences, Roman pottery from the City of London, Roman and medieval boats from London, medieval pilgrim badges, and post-medieval pottery from the City and from production sites on the Albert Embankment. At the same time, research is being conducted on several other projects which will eventually produce published reports. Further information about MoLAS can be obtained from Museum of London Archaeology Service, Number One London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA, tel. 071 972 9111.

– Peter Hinton

Hislop's time-gun map of Edinburgh and Leith

A letter from Ralph Hyde, Keeper of Prints and Maps, Guildhall Library, London.

"Dear Editor,

I was most intrigued by Simon Morris's 'The Westminster Time Map' (LTS Newsletter May 1992), a map I overlooked when compiling my cartobibliography of Victorian London maps. Members may be interested to learn of a town plan for another British city that does much the same thing. This is Hislop's *Time-Gun Map of Edinburgh and Leith*. The time-gun referred to is, of course, the cannon in the Half-Moon Battery at the Castle, fired each day at one o'clock 'through the agency of an electric influence from the Royal Observatory on Calton Hill', as the map nicely puts it. Since the observatory clock is adjusted according to astronomical observation, the gun provides the citizens of Edinburgh with an extremely accurate time-check. Provided, that is, that allowance is made for the time it takes for sound to travel. Hence the map.

Hislop's map, like the London one, consists of concentric circles, but the central point is the Half-Moon Battery. Each circle represents one second. On hearing the gun fire, the map user simply subtracts one second for each circle between himself or herself and the Castle.

Hislop's map must have been pretty popular. Editions of it appeared in 1861, 1862 and 1863. Another version of it was published by W. & A.K. Johnston in 1879.

Yours sincerely,
Ralph Hyde."

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The Topography of the Metropolitan Police District

Bernard Brown

It is a generally accepted fact that the Metropolitan Police Force was established in September 1829. However, the seventeen original divisions were in fact formed over an eight month period. The first half dozen companies of the "New Police" were indeed formed on the 29th September 1829 and were each given a letter of the alphabet together with a local name.

The A or Whitehall Division took in parts of the parishes of St Martin-in-the-Fields and St Margaret Westminster. From the latter commenced the B or Westminster Division which extended as far west as St Luke's parish Chelsea, embracing St John the Evangelist and part of the parish of St George Hanover Square. From the latter parish ran the C or St James Division taking in St Anne Soho, St James Piccadilly and part of St Martin-in-the-Fields. The D or Marylebone Division as its name implies, patrolled the greater part of St Mary-le-Bow parish, the eastern portion being placed under the E or Holborn Division which had responsibility for parts of St Pancras, St Andrew and St George the Martyr, and St Giles and St George Bloomsbury. The F or Covent Garden Division took in the remainder of St Martin-in-the-Fields, St Giles-in-the-Fields, St Clement Dane, St Andrew Holborn (above the Bars), St Mary le Strand, St Paul Covent Garden and St John the Baptist Savoy.

These six divisions comprised the first Metropolitan Police District (MPD) and stretched from the City boundary to Chelsea, all within the county of Middlesex.

The Metropolitan Police District was extended north-east of the City in February 1830 upon the creation of a further seven companies of "New Police". The G or Finsbury Division became responsible for the parishes of St James and St John Clerkenwell, the parishes of St Andrew Holborn and St George the Martyr, and parts of St Pancras and St Leonard Shoreditch. Adjoining the latter parish was the H or Whitechapel Division which took in St Botolph Aldgate, St Mary Whitechapel, St Katharine by the Tower, Christchurch Spitalfields, Mile End New Town, St George in the East and St Matthew Bethnal Green. Parts of the latter parish were shared with the K or Stepney Division which policed the parishes of Bow, Poplar, Bromley, St John Wapping, and Stepney, forming the eastern boundary of the Metropolitan Police District at the River Lea, where ended the County of Middlesex. Further parts of the county were placed under the letter N or Islington Division, which had responsibility for St Luke, St Mary Stoke Newington, St Mary Islington, Hackney and the remainder of St Leonard Shoreditch. Also for the first time, the "New Police" marched into the county of Surrey (the Surrey Constabulary Force was not raised until 1851). Three divisions covered what is today south London suburbia.

The L or Lambeth Division took over St Mary

Lambeth, St Mary Newington, St George and part of Christchurch parish Blackfriars (Surrey), which adjoined the M or Southwark Division, which had responsibility for the parishes of St Saviour, St Thomas, St Olave, St John Horselydown, and St Mary Magdalen Bermondsey. The P or Camberwell Division took in the remaining parts of St Mary Newington, Lambeth, St George the Martyr, Clapham, Streatham and the hamlets of Penge and Hatcham.

The final four companies were established in May 1830, covering Middlesex, Surrey and Kent. The S or Hampstead Division covered parts of St Marylebone and St Pancras parishes and the whole of St John Hampstead; this left one side of the Edgware Road within the Metropolitan Police District while the other side was beyond the jurisdiction of the "New Police".

The T or Kensington Division commenced at Paddington and ran westward to New Brentford, taking in the Middlesex parishes of Ealing, Acton, Chiswick, Fulham (including part of Hammersmith), Kensington and Chelsea. The remainder of Fulham and Hammersmith and St Luke's Chelsea came under the V or Wandsworth Division, the last to be formed, which took in the parishes of Putney, Barnes, Wandsworth, Tooting, Clapham, Battersea and South Lambeth. Kent became another county to be taken over by the "New Police", this role passing to the R or Greenwich Division which took in the parishes of Greenwich, St Paul's and St Nicholas Deptford as well as Rotherhithe and the remainder of Bermondsey, both in Surrey. With the completion of the seventeen divisions, the Metropolitan Police District stretched from the River Colne in the west and to the Lea in the east, and from Streatham in the south to Childs Hill in the north.

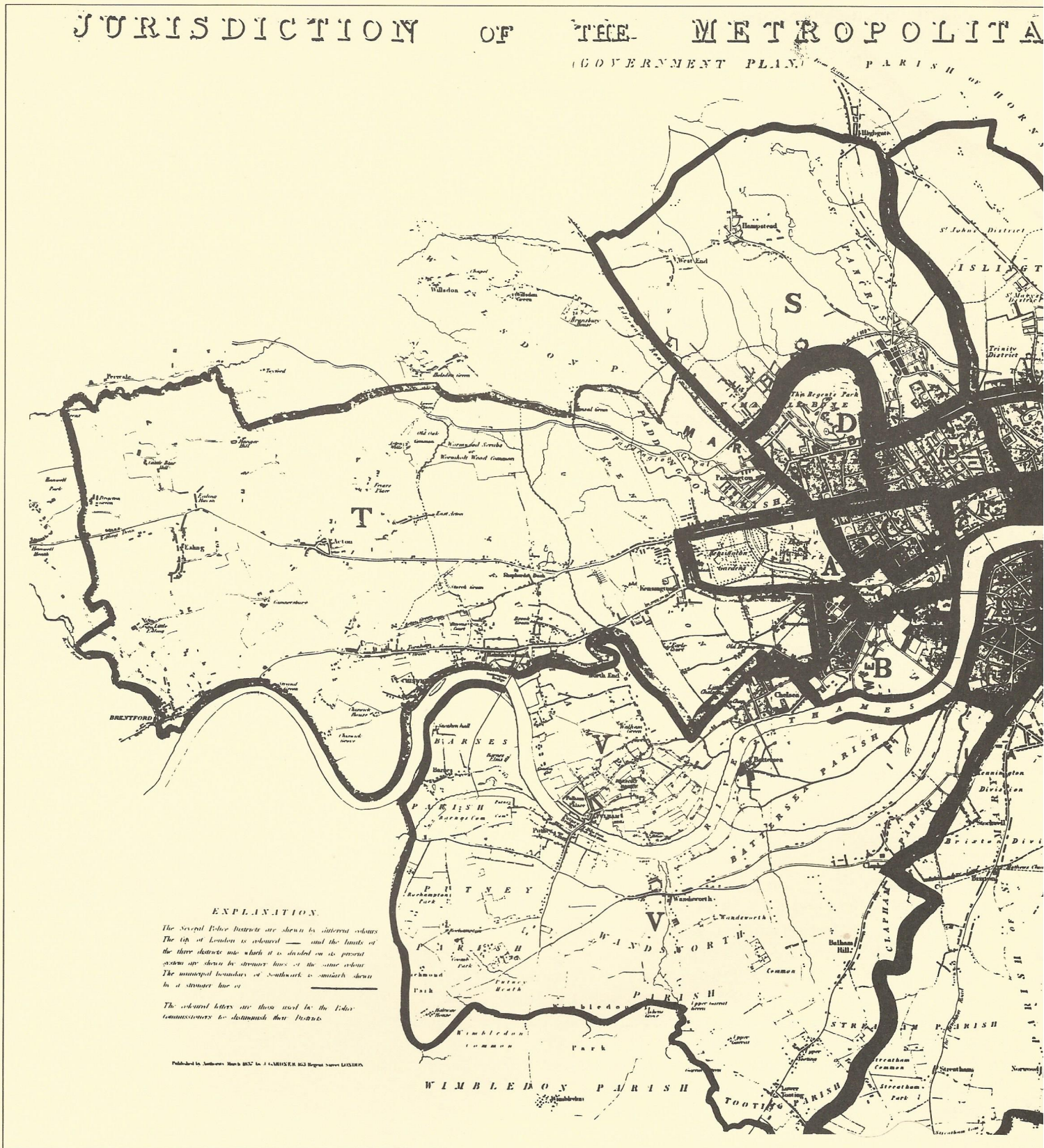
This boundary was to remain unchanged until the Metropolitan Police District was extended to roughly its present limits in January 1840, when, for the first time, the Metropolitan Police entered Essex and Hertfordshire. In Essex the "New Police" crossed the Lea and established themselves in ten parishes (the Essex County Constabulary was formed later in the same year). The police stations were set up at Walthamstow and Waltham Abbey under the N (Islington) Division and at Woodford, Great Ilford, Barking and Dagenham as part of the K (Stepney) Division – this included a small portion of Kent at North Woolwich. Ten parishes in Hertfordshire were also taken over by the "New Police" (Hertfordshire County Constabulary was formed in 1841) and station houses were occupied by the S or Hampstead Division at Bushey and Chipping Barnet, while the N (Islington) Division established a station at Cheshunt. The Metropolitan Police District was further extended into twenty-four Surrey parishes, with stations at Croydon (as part of the P or Camberwell Division) and at Richmond, Kingston and Epsom under V or (Wandsworth) Division.

The R (Greenwich) Division took over no fewer than twenty-five further parishes within the county of Kent and established station houses at Woolwich, Lee, Rushey Green, Bromley, Bexley New Town, Foots Cray and Farnborough.

The remaining parts of Middlesex also became part

JURISDICTION OF THE METROPOLITAN

(GOVERNMENT PLAN) PARISH OF HORNSEY



1. Map of the Metropolitan Police District, 1837.

of the Metropolitan Police District at this time, comprising a further thirty-six parishes. The N or Islington Division set up station houses at Tottenham, Hornsey, Edmonton and Enfield, while Highgate, Stone-Bridge, Edgware Road (by 8th Milestone) and South Mimms were placed under the S or Hampstead Division. Additional station houses were placed under T or Kensington Division at Hanwell, Hillingdon, Harrow and Staines, while Sudbury and Hampton came under the jurisdiction of the V or Wandsworth Division. The new, enlarged Metropolitan Police Dis-

trict stretching from Staines in the west to Dagenham in the east and from Shenley in the north to Woodmansterne in the south was to remain unaltered for nearly 150 years except for internal divisional changes. One of these created three new exterior divisions in October 1865 – W or Wandsworth Division, X or Paddington Division, Y or Highgate Division. In October 1869 the F (Covent Garden) Division was amalgamated with the E (Holborn) Division but a new F (Paddington) Division was created in 1886 along with a new J (Bethnal Green) Division. The Z or Croydon

N POLICE.



Police and the Home Counties forces. The Kent County Constabulary handed over the remainder of Orpington parish, the Surrey Joint Police Force gave up the parishes of Esher, Stoke D'Abernon and Cobham, the borough of Epsom and Ewell, and the parishes of Walton-on-the-Hill, Kingswood, and Chipstead and the parish of Coulsdon, acquiring the parish of Warlingham in return. In Hertfordshire, the County Constabulary handed over Aldenham parish. These changes did not affect the Essex police area, however with the advent of the G.L.C. in April 1965 the Romford Division which included Hornchurch Urban District became the new London Borough of Havering and as a result became part of the Metropolitan Police District within K Division. At the same time the entire County of Middlesex ceased to exist and a new Q Division was formed to police the new London Borough of Brent and Harrow. Several anomalies arose due to the fact that some parts of the former county lay beyond the G.L.C. area, which resulted in Potters Bar Urban District being ceded to Herts and the Staines and Sunbury-on-Thames Urban Districts being ceded to Surrey yet still remaining within the Metropolitan Police District. Each Police Division was then realigned to conform with the new G.L.C. boroughs.

Metropolitan Police Divisions G.L.C. Boroughs

A, C, D	City of Westminster
B	Kensington and Chelsea
E	Camden
F	Hammersmith and Fulham
G	Hackney
H	Tower Hamlets
J	Redbridge, Waltham Forest
K	Havering, Newham, Barking, Dagenham
L	Lambeth
M	Southwark
N	Islington
P	Bromley, Lewisham
Q	Brent, Harrow
R	Greenwich, Bexley
S	Barnet
T	Richmond, Hounslow
V	Merton, Kingston
W	Wandsworth
X	Ealing, Hillingdon
Y	Haringey, Enfield
Z	Croydon, Sutton

Division was not formed until February 1921.

In 1889 the original 1829-30 police divisions formerly in Middlesex, Surrey and Kent suddenly found themselves part of the new County of London (L.C.C.) with the exception of Penge Hamlet, which included the detached part of Kent on the north bank of the Thames at North Woolwich.

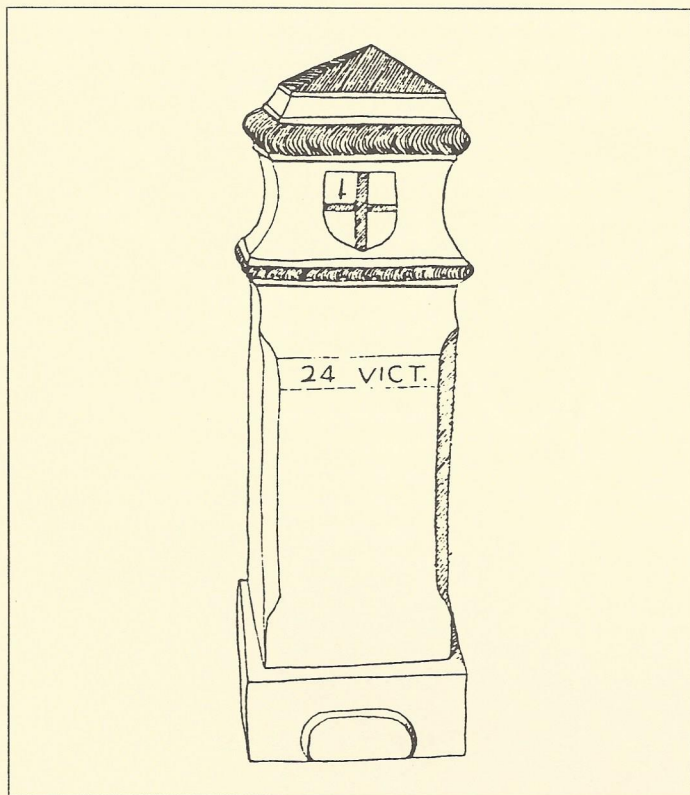
The first alteration in the size of the Metropolitan Police District since 1840 took place on 1st April 1947 when by virtue of the Police Act (1946) an exchange of territory took place between the Metropolitan

Knockholt which had been part of the London Borough of Bromley in 1965, passed back to the County of Kent which meant that the parish was no longer part of the Metropolitan Police District after a life of only twenty-one years.

Outside the G.L.C. area the remaining urban districts within the Metropolitan Police District were re-organized under the Local Government Act of 1974. A decade ago, in 1982, the Metropolitan Police District

was extended into yet another county to take over part of the parish of Denham in South Bucks from the Thames Valley Police, becoming part of X Division.

With the abolition of the G.L.C. in 1986 all the original Metropolitan Police Divisions ceased to exist and the Metropolitan Police District has since been divided into eight areas. The most recent change to the boundary of the Metropolitan Police District, albeit miniscule, took place in May 1988 when a rather strange anomaly was resolved. Many years ago when the course of the Thames was straightened at Shepperton, the River Ash Estate in Felix Lane found that part of the Surrey police area was left stranded one mile within the Metropolitan Police District (T Division). This oddity has since been resolved by extending the Metropolitan Police District by about a mile, to the relief of the Surrey force. Relics of the original 1840 Metropolitan Police Boundary can be found all around the metropolis in the form of white City of London coal posts.



2. City of London coal post showing the limit of the Metropolitan Police District.



Hugh Patrick Attwood Chapman

22nd December 1945 – 2nd June 1992

It came as a terrible shock to a host of friends to hear that Hugh Chapman had died as the result of a fall in Piccadilly. His was a career of achievement, with the promise of much more to come. But it has been cut short by a miserable accident.

Hugh read ancient and medieval history at London and then developed excavating skills at Lincoln, in the Pyrenees, in Iran, Libya and Italy. He was awarded his PhD for a thesis on the Roman imperial postal service. He joined the Guildhall Museum in 1969 and became Keeper of the prehistoric and Roman department of the Museum of London, and then its Deputy Director. He edited the Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society and was the Society's President at the time of his death.

Hugh became General Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries in 1988. That appointment, central in British archaeology, gave him exactly the opportunity for which his experience had fitted him. He was well versed in the practices of field archaeology, and beyond that he had a lively sympathy for all the various disciplines contributing to a wider and deeper knowledge of man's past as revealed by study of its material remains, in art history, architecture, coins and medals, topographical investigation, and all the other related areas of study. He was approachable and open-minded, while being rigorous in his judgments. He contributed, beside these academic qualities, a firm management style, which he applied with relish at the Antiquaries to their programme of development, in the re-equipment of the premises at Burlington House, their publications, which he edited, and new methods in the administration and the library. Now a wretched accident has deprived his family and his crowd of friends of the prospect of an extended career which promised very considerable achievement. The bodies that he served so faithfully and his wide circle of friends must feel that his death has been a serious blow and a grievous personal loss.

– Michael Robbins

Geoffrey Gollin

1901-1992

Geoffrey Joseph Gollin was an engineer with wide interests, including rockets, genealogy, architecture, local history and the London Topographical Society. In the engineering world, Gollin was one of the team which developed the British liquid-fuel rocket (1940-45), affectionately known as *Lizzy*. This project involved hair-raising war-time adventures in Poland, which Gollin, a modest man, would recount only when pressed. As well as his work on rockets Gollin worked during the war period on the development of combustion systems for the Whittle jet engine and his book, *Fuel Oil and Oil Firing* (1947) was translated into many languages.

Gollin joined the LTS in 1968 and made an appearance at the AGM in 1991 bringing copies of *A History*

News and Notes

of *Ashtead*, to which he had contributed, for members to purchase. His own library, the envy of many, was particularly strong on the history and development of London. Gollin was always delighted to show his treasured books (often stuffed with notes and cross-references) to fellow enthusiasts, who enjoyed tea and marmite sandwiches while their host sought out his latest acquisition. Geoffrey Gollin was generous with his knowledge and remained enthusiastic to the last, travelling to book fairs and antiquarian book shops in the pursuit of a gem he did not already possess.

Irene Scouloudi

1907-1992

Irene Scouloudi, who died this summer, was the longest serving member on the Council of this Society. She joined the LTS in 1939, was elected to Council in 1947, and became Vice-President in 1989. She was a historian, the devoted and long-serving Editor of the Huguenot Society and the British Archaeological Association, and a generous benefactress to the world of scholarship. Steady, determined, indomitable, with an odd, quirky sense of humour – they don't come like Miss Scouloudi any more. A proper obituary and a bibliography will be given in the 1995 *London Topographical Record*, which will be dedicated to her memory, and those of Dr de Beer and Philip Whitting. Within little more than two years, the Society has lost three of its wisest and most loyal councillors – we have all got to work harder in order to be worthy of their memories.

– Ann Saunders

Irene Scouloudi's other great love, the Huguenot Society, plans to arrange an evening of music in her memory. Details are not settled as yet, but if members of the LTS who are interested would care to write in with a stamped addressed envelope for reply, they will be informed as soon as possible. The concert is likely to take place in June 1993. The address to which to write is: the Hon Secretary, the Huguenot Society, c/o the Huguenot Library, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.

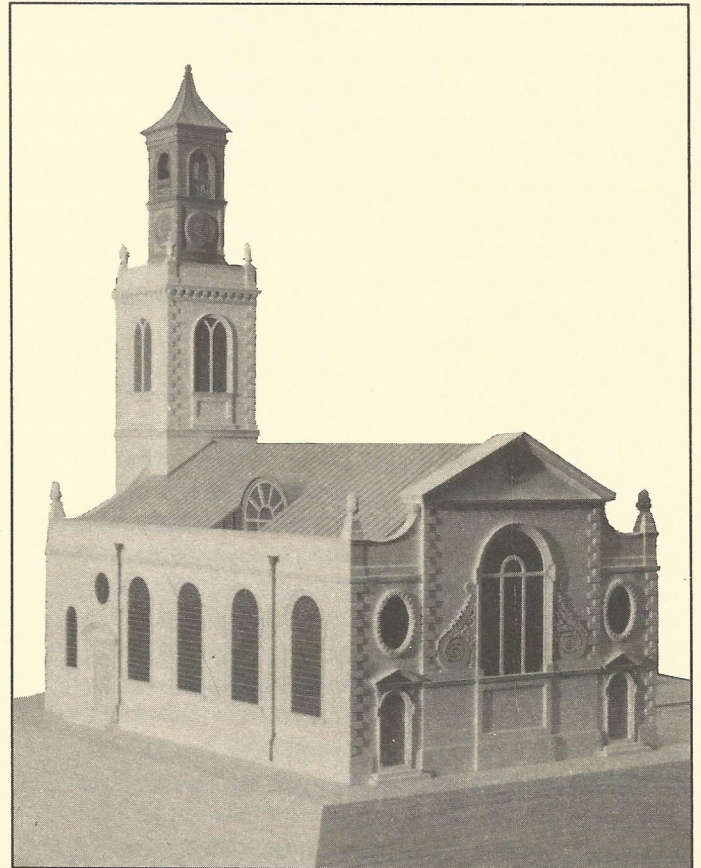
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Model of St Mary Aldermanbury

St Mary Aldermanbury, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, isn't in the City. It's on the campus of a Presbyterian college in the American mid west, where it has been since it was dismantled and exported in 1969. The re-erected church now serves as the college chapel upstairs and as the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in the crypt.

A magnificent scale model of the church, commissioned by the Environic Foundation International Inc, Indiana, has been constructed by the London specialists, Thorp Modelmakers, using white sycamore. This model, built to a scale of a quarter of an inch to a foot is on view in the Print Room of Guildhall Library until November 1993.

It is hoped that others may be inspired by the model to finance matching models of other Wren churches, whether surviving or dismantled. The creation of models will call for a great amount of diligent research, establishing precisely how Wren intended each to be: the completed models would then constitute a valuable source for historians.



3. Model of St Mary Aldermanbury on view at the Guildhall Print Room.

Remaindered in New York

A member writes to say that she spotted Ann Saunders' book, *The Art and Architecture of London: An Illustrated Guide* (1988) on sale at a bargain price in one of New York's largest second-hand bookshops. Previously \$40.00, now \$12.95. U.S. postage and handling \$3.50, abroad \$4.25 from Strand Book Store, 828 Broadway (at 12th Street) N.Y.C. 10003, U.S.A. Fax: 212 473 2591, quote catalogue S8.

Thorney Island Society

The Thorney Island Society, named after the island on which Westminster Abbey was built, was formed in 1985 as a conservation and amenity group concerned primarily with Westminster. The Society's founder, June Stubbs, fought hard to save the Great Smith Street Library from destruction, she succeeded and she continues to keep a close eye on development proposals in Westminster. Now under the Chairmanship of Lord Rees-Mogg, the Thorney Island Society organizes dinners, visits, a newsletter and is amassing an archive. The membership fee is a modest £5 annually. Details from the Thorney Island Society, 39 Westminster Mansions, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BP.

Publicity for the LTS

Our recent publication, *The A to Z of Restoration London*, received a whole page review in *The Illustrated London News*, summer issue 1992, thanks to Denise Sylvester-Carr, one of our members. Similarly, *The London Journal* vol 17 no 1 1992 contained a good review of the *Facsimile of the Ordnance Surveyors' Drawings of the London Area 1799-1808*, the main LTS publication for 1991. The reviewer, Ian Mumford, found it a "somewhat unhandy production" but praised "this modestly priced publication" as "a valuable contribution to the continuing study of the histories of both London and the Ordnance Survey".

A member pointed out an article on the Ogilby and Morgan map (as in our recent publication) in *The Times*, 23rd January 1965, when it was reported that the Guildhall Library had just purchased a copy for £250.

A Footman's Diary, 1837

Did you hear the extracts from *The Diary of William Taylor, Footman, 1837* which were broadcast on Radio 4 in July? The full version, published by the St Marylebone Society in 1987, is available for only £3.50 inclusive of postage from Mrs Gwyneth Hampson, the Society's Secretary, at 3 Wyndham Yard, London W1H 1AR (cheques payable to the St Marylebone Society please), or if you call in person at the Marylebone Library for only £3.00.

Christmas is coming - hasten to Southwark

While making a reasonably serious visit to Southwark Cathedral the other day, I could not help noticing the shop in the nave and admiring the quality, variety and unusualness of the wares on sale. I bought several attractive cards for special occasions and some very decorative paper serviettes, and intend returning with my Christmas list to see what problems can be solved before the festivities are on us. I suppose if I were sensible, I would not tell anyone about my discovery, but the LTS membership is special, so I am passing on the hint. Happy shopping!

- Ann Saunders

The Purple, White and Green: suffragettes in London 1906-14

Purple (symbolizing freedom and dignity), white (for purity) and green (hope and rebirth) were the colours chosen by the Suffragettes to give their movement what today would be called a corporate image. The image of the Suffragettes and the way they organized their campaign are examined in an exhibition at the Museum of London (until June 1993). The exhibition includes a reconstruction of the shop front of The Women's Press at 156 Charing Cross Road, the Suffragettes' own publishing house and the distribution centre for their weekly newspaper *Votes For Women*, their books and propaganda. Posters, banners and papers testify to the energy and determination of these women, who organized processions, rallies and meetings all over London and beyond, with considerable success - just imagine Women's Sunday in Hyde Park on 21st June 1908, attended by some 40,000 women. At the centre of the exhibition is an excellent video narrated by Glenda Jackson (an inspired choice), featuring Pathe News clips and the terrifying incident when a Suffragette threw herself at the King's horse in the Derby. A tiny shop is selling purple, white and green umbrellas, tea-towels, pens, mugs, even velvet hair bands in the Suffragette colours, along with the exhibition catalogue. The exhibition is free; you don't even have to pay the Museum's admission charge.

The Jewish Historical Society

The Jewish Historical Society of England has organized a series of lectures at 8.30pm on Thursday evenings at the St John's Wood Synagogue, Grove End Road, London NW8. In particular, LTS members might be interested in Joe Hillaby's lecture on 11th February 1993, "The origins of the English medieval Jewry; the London community in the twelfth century". Visitors are welcome and refreshments are available afterwards. Further details about the Society from the Hon Secretary, 33 Seymour Place, London W1H 5AP.

Tales from the Map Room

Watch out for a series about maps on BBC television next spring. Six half-hour programmes will feature several of the LTS publications and a book, *Tales from the Map Room*, is planned to accompany the series.

Feeding London

This year's Local History Conference, organized by the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, will take place on Saturday 21st November, 10.10am to 5pm, at the Museum of London lecture theatre. The lectures are on the theme of feeding London: the supply of food to the medieval capital, food markets, market gardening, the import of food, and retailing in London. There will be displays of recent works and publications by local history societies and the LTS. Tickets are £3.50 to include tea and coffee. Apply with s.a.e please to Local History Conference, 3 Cedar Drive, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4DD, cheques payable to the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society.

LAMAS lecture meetings

LTS members are entitled to attend LAMAS meetings, which are held at the Museum of London. Tea, coffee and sherry are served from 6.00pm and the meetings start at 6.30.

11th November: "London's Early Docks 1800-1855" by R.R. Aspinall (Librarian of the Museum of London's Docklands collections).

2nd December: "The Story of the 'Mary Rose' 1510-1545" by John H. Fisher (member of the Mary Rose Information Group).

13th January: "With Disastrous Results - Accidents and Explosions in and around London" by Wendy Neal (author of a recent book on the subject).

24th February: Annual General Meeting with Presidential address (starts at 6.00pm).

10th March: "A Warrior Burial from Folly Lane, St Albans" by Rosalind Niblett (Verulamium Museum).

7th April: "A Pilgrimage to Canterbury" by Helen Paterson (Field Warden of English Heritage).

12th May: to be announced. Further details of lecture meetings can be obtained from Marsden Anderson, 69 Monkham Lane, Woodford Wells, Essex IG8 ONN, tel. 081 504 5985.



Book reviews and notices

Building Capitalism: Historical Change and the Labour Process in the Production of the Built Environment

by Linda Clarke. Routledge 1991. £16.99. 316 pages including references, bibliography and index. Plans and plates.

The simple topographer might well be put off by the sub-title of this book (a PhD thesis?) so I must reassure you that it contains much material, very meaty material, on the development of a landed estate, Somers Town in Camden. But this account serves as an exemplar of the thesis that the capitalist mode of building houses can be seen at the end of the eighteenth century superseding the traditional one-house-one-building-craftsman lessee, and much else beside.

The subject springs, says the author, from the thirst of her generation for the theoretical discussion which "formed the original impetus for our work" and which is now for the most part stifled in our universities. Inspired by Marx, Engels and others she explores the nature of urbanization and capitalism and the transition from artisan to industrial (building) production with particular reference to London. This exploration forms the first part of the book and includes a review of the trends in urban studies from the twenties and the functionalist school, through the systems theories to the more sociologically biased views of recent times.

I am in no way qualified to pass judgement on the content of this section of the book, save as an average reader, and I must confess that I found most of it incomprehensible, chiefly I think because of the language. I was particularly irritated by words like

"discussants" and "fetishizes", by the use of the terms "feudal" and "feudalism" to describe seventeenth and eighteenth century contexts and by such phrases as - "when the stage from the last third of the eighteenth century is conceived not as structure but as transition the key to defining it lies in the historical specificity of social relations of production". Even when the text is clear I still find fault. How can we see the Earl of St Albans and Nicholas Barbon as "merchant" developers or recognize their activities as methods of farming rural estates transferred to suburban development? Nor were either of them innovators in this sphere.

Let not my peevish carping, however, deflect you from purchasing or borrowing Miss Clarke's book; she has done a prodigious amount of reading and research (her Middlesex Land Register references must be admired) and with her special interests she has thrown a penetrating light on a period of London's building history. Thus in the second part of the book we are on more familiar territory. Somers Town in the parish of St Pancras was developed on about 50 acres known as Brill Farm at the end of the eighteenth century into the early nineteenth (it is shown on Rocque's map as Bruel). The owner was Baron Somers of Evesham whose forebear, Charles Cocks, had purchased the land in the seventeenth century. The Cocks family had figured in the negotiations for the course of the New Road which bounded the Farm on the south.

What Somers decided to do was to let the land in four lots to a developer, Jacob Leroux, and leave him to undertake the building on a ninety-nine year lease. This was the practice of the Bedford Estate but a tighter control and a more favourable climate resulted there in a better rate of housing. The majority of Leroux's houses in Somers Town were of the fourth rate, about half built by contract builders (as on the Bedford Estate) and half by "artisan" builders (building tradesmen) many of whom occupied the houses they built. The area became predominantly occupied by builders and labourers and a great number of traders and shopkeepers who opened on Sundays for the benefit of the workmen who got paid late on Saturday nights. Refugees from the French Revolution, including some of noble birth, were attracted to the area and among the intelligentsia and professional group was William Godwin.

I found Miss Clarke's concentration on the brick making industry quite riveting. At the time of the development of Somers Town, St Pancras had long been a centre of brick making and Leroux was one of the chief operators. His leases permitted him to exploit the brick earth on the sites so that his houses rose literally from the fields. The excavations were partly filled in before building but provided the means to furnish the houses with basements and vaults below the raised road levels. Leroux was not allowed to sell the bricks he made so they were all used on site. The author calculates that Brill Farm had a potential yield of 120 million bricks and contemporary calculations reckon that the cost was about £1 per thousand bricks.

A rich source of information which Miss Clarke has explored are the various paving commissioners'

archives. The Somers Town Commission included Lord Somers himself and several brickmaker-developers including Jacob Leroux who usually took the chair. Another commissioner was John Johnson, a paving contractor for Westminster, among other things, who in 1802 purchased Leroux's undeveloped leasehold on Brill Farm and inherited his brick making concessions. Johnson carried out the overall jobs of development like roads and leased out quite large parts of his holding to big builders, securing funding by mortgaging houses built in carcass. Johnson's biography forms an entertaining conclusion to the book.

The illustrations are well chosen but some of the old photographs have not reproduced very well; the maps have.

– Marie P.G. Draper

The Streets of West Hampstead

edited by Christopher Wade. Camden History Society 1992. 91 pages, illustrations, maps. £5.95 plus 45p post and packing. Available from Camden History Society Publications, 28 Willoughby Road, London NW3 ISA.

The Street History Group of the Camden History Society are to be congratulated on this new and much enlarged edition of *The Streets of West Hampstead*, first issued in 1975. It covers the western section of what was once the Borough of Hampstead and is now a part of Camden; the area described is clearly marked out on the map printed across the last two pages of the book. The team of nine compilers and their Editor, Christopher Wade, have set out to describe every street in the area, to relate each to the fields which were once there and to the buildings which have vanished but which have shaped the present topography, to record distinguished inhabitants, past and present, and to draw our attention to architectural features which may delight or fascinate our eyes. On this, they are particularly strong – those using the book will all walk around like Johnny-Head-In-Air as they seek out “the riot of bird-life and foliage” on 87-9 Messina Avenue (p.54), the pine-apples at 28 West End Lane (p.61), the fleur-de-lys on 78 Priory Road (p.71), the terracotta sunflowers on 38-44 Fortune Green Road (p.87) and the “notable plaster figures” perched on top of 22-4 Lymington Road (p.91).

The authors invite us to consider aspects of social history both past – why were there so many drapery shops in Victorian West Hampstead? – and present – Beckford Primary School in Dornfell Street has 450 pupils containing some forty-three ethnic minority groups, and the fact that the “secret orchard” off Medley Road with its walnut and cherry trees is now protected by the Ancient Orchards Association. They are strong on recent industrial archaeology – at No. 1 Blackburn Road they have identified the recently vacated premises of Joseph Sloper and Co., makers of perforating machines since 1872 – the name lingers on the buildings at the back of the terrace – while “No. 3 was occupied in turn by a builder's yard, a sawmill, a bicycle maker, a pill maker, and finally,

from c. 1939, by the Alliance Plating Works”. The bicycle maker gave lessons in how to ride the machines he sold.

The pages are crammed with facts so that this is not a book to be read at a sitting without being stricken with mental indigestion as one strives to retain so much information. Better, during the week, to study one of the five main sections into which the area is divided (or even just one of the fourteen sub-sections) and then, given a fine weekend, to stroll at leisure around the streets, book in hand – its size is convenient, its map is clear – and to enjoy the delights of West Hampstead which the Camden History Society have so diligently and devotedly laid before us.

– Ann Saunders

London

An Aerofilms Guide by Iain Thomson. Ian Allan 1992. £5.99. 64 pages, illustrated throughout in colour.

This latest in a recent crop of books of aerial photographs of London is far smaller and less bulky than its predecessors and it does have one advantage over the others. Although it has the usual oblique photographs with which we have grown familiar, showing the views in perspective, it also has vertical photos in which the view becomes a map. And herein lies its strength. For whereas the oblique photos are of a very high standard they lose their impact by being reproduced so small, and it is the vertical photo-maps which really capture our interest.

These are the sort of photographs which Aerofilms have been taking since the company was founded in 1919 so technically they are impeccable and because they are reproduced so clearly they can be looked at with a magnifying glass without losing too much detail. I am sure that the more technically minded topographers will have great fun with the scale in relation to the height (explained in some detail at the beginning of the book) but those of us who are numerically dyslexic, particularly as the measurements are metric, will find more entertainment in comparing these photos with a conventional map. For they are startling illustrations of the fact that in most maps accuracy has been sacrificed by artificially widening all the thoroughfares so that the lettering of the street names can be of legible size.

The text is competently informative and by identifying as many landmarks as possible and indicating every underground station it is clearly aimed at the tourist market. In a way this is a pity, for it would have been a more interesting book for the serious topographer if it had consisted solely of the photo-maps in larger format and scale.

– Peter Jackson

Home Fires. A North London Suburb at War

Hornsey Historical Society Bulletin No. 33, 1992. 48 pages, black and white illustrations. £4.10 including post and packing from The Hornsey Historical Society, The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, London N8 7EL.

This bulletin from the energetic Hornsey History Society takes as its theme Hornsey during the Second

World War and it includes a fold-out map showing bomb damage in the area. The second half of the bulletin, four essays under the title of "Community in the Front Line", is fascinating. These essays are first-hand accounts of the war years in Hornsey, written by people who were there - schoolboys enjoying the adventure of evacuation and young adults working in the emergency services. The memories are vivid, recalling a boy's preparations for the crisis (a visit to Woolworth's to collect iron rations), a young wife's efforts to cope with clothes rationing (unpicking and re-knitting jumpers) and the fatigue of a fireman on watch. This is not nostalgic waffle. The authors clothe the details and descriptions with the authority of personal experience - this is the very stuff of history.

- Penelope Hunting

Aspects of Saxo-Norman London

The final volume of the London and Middlesex Society's trilogy, *Aspects of Saxo-Norman London* has just appeared and all those concerned with this important study are to be congratulated. The first volume, on *Building and Street Development*, was by Valerie Horsman, Christine Milne and Gustav Milne; the second, dealing with *Finds and Environmental Evidence*, was edited by Alan Vince with contributions by thirteen other experts; the third, *The Bridgehead and Billingsgate to 1200* is the work of Ken Steedman, Tony Dyson and John Schofield. The volumes are as scholarly as one would expect them to be, and will repay careful reading as the major reference works they were intended to be. They are available from the Museum of London Bookshop.

- Ann Saunders

An East London Album

This new collection of unusual picture material compiled by Peter Marcan, is issued as No. 5 (and probably the last) in the publisher's East End Reprint Series. It brings together a profusion of images, together with supporting text and historical notes, relating to life and architecture mainly in Tower Hamlets, but also in Hackney and Newham, over the last 150 years. The material has been traced in contemporary newspapers and magazines such as the *Graphic*, *The Penny Illustrated Paper* and *The Builder*. Arranged chronologically, the album has sections on markets, lodging houses, shelters, taverns, missions, public buildings, parks and open spaces, churches, street scenes. The book is A4 size, 99 pages with a laminated cover and costs £6.95 plus 85p post and packing, from Peter Marcan, 31 Rowloff Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3LD. Cheques payable to Peter Marcan.



We welcome the following new members:

- Mrs M.P. Ashley, 16 Charles Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex IG2 6QU.
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The 1993 Annual General Meeting of the LTS will be held at King's College, in the Strand, London WC2 on Wednesday 7th July, 1993. Full details to follow.

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Subscription reminder

The Hon Treasurer would like to remind members who pay the £20 annual subscription, as opposed to a banker's order, that subscriptions for next year are due on 1st January 1993.

The Newsletter is published by the London Topographical Society and issued by the Hon Secretary, Patrick Frazer, 36 Old Deer Park Gardens, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2TL.

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