The Annual General Meeting held on 7th July 1993

The ninety-third Annual General Meeting of the London Topographical Society was held on 7th July 1993 at King’s College in the Strand. Following tea and an inspection of the bargains available, the Chairman opened the proceedings. After some hilarity with the microphone we were able to hear our Hon Editor’s report and an introduction to the 1993 publication, Robert William Myln’s Map of the Geology and Contours of London and its Environs (1856). Dr Eric Robinson gave a talk which stressed that as a statement of London’s geology the Myln map has not been bettered. Simon Morris, who wrote topographical notes to accompany the map, then told us of the significance of it as the first properly surveyed geological map of London. Lastly, and on a different theme, the archivist of King’s College, Patricia Methven, enlightened us with a short history of the college and its buildings.

AGM 1994

The Annual General Meeting for 1994 will be held at St Paul’s church, Covent Garden on 29th June at the usual time. Details will follow in the May Newsletter, meanwhile enter the date in next year’s diary and hope for a fine evening so that the church garden can be enjoyed.

Publications for 1994

1994 is going to be bumper year for the LTS. We are hoping for two publications and one of them will be Something a Little Bit Different. Earlier this year (1993), your Council was approached by Dr Derek Keene, Director of the Centre for Metropolitan History, who told us that two of his staff had been working on the scarcely-used records, in the Corporation of London Record Office, of William III’s own personal version of the poll tax, that there was a book to come out of their delving, and that it would need computer-generated maps. Your Editor flinched, but decided it was her duty to boldly go into the twenty-first century, so the authors, Janet Barnes and Craig Spence, tell you more about the project over the page – it looks exciting and likely to yield unexpected perspectives on London in the late seventeenth century.

Just in case this all sounds too difficult, our Chairman, Peter Jackson, has come across some enchanting pencil and ink drawings by the younger George Scharf, of now vanished streets and interiors around where he lived in Westminster in the middle of Queen Victoria’s reign. They are crammed with enthralling detail, and we believe they have never been reproduced before. A selection will be published in book form, with an introduction and commentary by Peter himself. Get ready for 1994.

- Ann Saunders

Subscriptions 1994

Members are reminded that the subscription for 1994 is due on 1st January 1994. Please send the Treasurer (address at the end of this Newsletter) your cheque for £20 (VAT permitting – see below) now unless you have already signed a banker’s order. The 1993 publication was sent out to paid-up members during July and August. If you have not received your copy and believe you are paid up, please contact the Treasurer. Those who paid after the AGM may well experience a corresponding delay in the despatch of their publication, since we have to make special despatch arrangements in such cases.

The cost of paying US dollar cheques into our sterling bank account has risen alarmingly during 1993. No cheaper alternative method has been found. Thus for 1994, although the sterling payment rate of £20 (ex VAT) is maintained, the US dollar rate must be increased to $50. We can make a concession to US members who wish to take the risk of sending dollar bills, since we can negotiate the bills at less cost. Dollar bills to the value of $40 are acceptable as an alternative to a cheque for $50. Payment through the Postgiro system involves us in a charge of £5, so payment by this method should be of £25. Of course, if you have a British bank account or can buy a sterling money order, then a payment of £20 will be mutually convenient.
Value Added Tax

At the time of going to press there are rumours that Value Added Tax will be payable on books and publications. This may mean VAT will be payable on our subscription, or perhaps on all the books we sell, and it seems inevitable that it will be payable on printing bills which make up the major part of our expenses. It is possible therefore that you may receive a VAT invoice for your subscription, or that the subscription rates will have to be raised in the near future, just when we thought we were on a level stretch for a few years.

If VAT should be imposed, your Treasurer would welcome help in dealing with the inevitable form filling and interpretation of regulations. Any member with practical knowledge and who can offer help in this field should contact the Treasurer if the need arises.

Meanwhile in the spirit of Marjorie Honeybourne and Anthony Cooper, we battle on.

– Roger Cline

A Social Atlas of London in the 1690s

The Something a Little Bit Different referred to on page 1 is A Social Atlas of London in the 1690s, to be published by the LTS in co-operation with Scolar Press. Here is the background.

The 1690s was a period of great change and development in London's history. Physically the two cities of London and Westminster were becoming merged into one immense metropolis and as the new suburbs rapidly developed the socal and economic structure of London's inhabitants underwent a comparable transformation. Since 1991 a research project at the Institute of Historical Research's Centre for Metropolitan History has been studying this important episode in the capital's history.

The two researchers and authors of the forthcoming volume, Janet Barnes and Craig Spence, have been funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the main focus of their work has been the compilation of a database of London's inhabitants in the years 1692-4. This contains details of some 80,000 heads of households for virtually the entire metropolitan area north of the Thames. Included is such information as the value of property and stock, numbers and whereabouts of non-residential buildings, and the names of wealthy lodgers, all obtained from the 4 shilling aid assessments held by the Corporation of London. Some further information concerning occupations and household structure for the City has been gleaned from the 1692 poll tax assessments.

William III, as Stadholder of the Dutch Republic, had been at war with France on and off since the 1670s, and when he became King of England in 1689 he was eager to employ English resources to augment those of the Dutch Republic which had been committed to a French war in February of that year. War was declared on France on 7th May 1698 on the grounds that the French were supporting and maintaining James II who had deserted England in 1688 and was now preparing a French-backed armed invasion from Ireland to regain his throne. By 23rd May there was a bill in the House of Commons for a 1 shilling aid to finance it.

Aids were taxes to raise money from the value of an individual's real and personal property and any salary received from public office. They were either intended to collect a stipulated sum of money for the Exchequer or were raised at a fixed rate on property. The 1694 aid was one of the latter. The tax operated by charging 4 shillings in the £ on annual rental value, charged at market prices, on all property unless its yearly value was less than £1. The value of each property was officially estimated by a local assessor who also calculated the relevant tax charge. In London the basic unit charged was the household, and the tax was payable by the householders, whether they were property owners or tenants. The latter were permitted to reduce rent payments by the amounts collected in respect of tax.

Tax was also assessed on personal estate. The basic rate of interest given in the 1690s was 6% and so the tax payable was calculated as 24 shillings on every £100 worth of goods, that is as if it were yielding an actual income at the "going rate". This element of the tax was by its nature far more debatable than the tax on real property.
There must have been plenty of animated discussion of what exactly composed a householder's personal stock in trade or investments and what they were truly worth. The third element of the tax was charged on the salaries of public officials. Out of 61,000 assessed records for the 1694 aid only 1,209 relate to official salaries. They cannot really tell us much about the real value of the posts to the incumbents as all the little perks which go with office were completely outside the ambit of legislation.

Taxes were also collected in the form of polls, which were levied at fixed rates on individuals according to their personal wealth. In William and Mary's first regnal year alone, fiscal legislation included four aids and two polls and, by 1693, aids and polls were virtually regular annual taxes. The 1694 4 shilling tax act set the rate of assessment at 4 shillings in the £ for a second successive year: nevertheless, on-going hostilities once more obliged Parliament to sanction a poll a few months later.

Seventeenth century wars were decided not so much by military brilliance as by numbers and resources. France had plenty of both. William had made an alliance with Austria and Spain, but the demand on English resources was nevertheless considerable throughout what became a long war of attrition. The 4 shilling aid of 1694 was only one element of a recurrent and intensifying aggregation of public money to support this.

The authors are compiling an atlas based on the data but delineating the vital historical and geographical context which the project results demand. The atlas will contain numerous computer generated maps providing novel information of many aspects of London at this time. Household density, property values and the social rank of householders are some of the facets of London life that the chapters of the atlas will explore. The information from the tax assessments will be used to throw new light upon the wealth holding patterns and economic interests of the metropolis at a time of financial revolution.

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Problems with Croydon's airport museum

by David Crawford

Imaginative plans to locate a museum of civil aviation in part of the world's first purpose-built airport terminal, at Croydon, have proved difficult to realize. The parties involved include Westmead Business Centres, whose headquarters are at what is now called Airport House, the Croydon Airport Society (CAS), which wants to run the museum, and the London Borough of Croydon.

All are committed in principle to the idea of a museum in the building, now converted to offices, which includes the original control tower. But it had not, as the Newsletter went to press, proved...
possible to reach agreement on such key issues as the need for adequate public access without prejudicing the security of Westmead and their other tenants.

In April 1992 Westmead applied to the London Borough of Croydon for retrospective consent to use the building, previously in mixed commercial/light industrial occupation, as offices and a museum of civil aviation. In September 1992 the borough resolved to give consent, subject to prior conclusion of an agreement on the museum with the Croydon Airport Society, but has since had to consider how far it can use its planning powers as a lever to secure agreement.

The terminal is a landmark in the history of civil aviation which, unlike the railways in the previous century, was slow to acquire purpose-designed buildings. When the world’s first regular scheduled international air service left London for Paris on 25th August 1919, sixteen years after Orville Wright had made his pioneering flight at Kitty Hawk, it carried a single passenger (but several brace of grouse) and took off from a grass field on a military aerodrome at Hounslow Heath - the future Heathrow - where former hangars were used as the terminal.

The following year the War Office reclaimed Hounslow Heath and Croydon Aerodrome, a similar distance south of London, was adopted as Britain’s first official civil airport. Five years earlier, before the outbreak of World War I, the site had been New Barn Farm, a stretch of good wheat-growing Surrey farmland.

Croydon was better equipped for civilian use than Hounslow Heath although for its first seven years of operation, from 1920 to 1927, the airline companies were obliged to make do with the temporary timber buildings put up for the Royal Flying Corps (the ancestor of the RAF). The airport hotel - the first in the country to provide air travellers with meals and accommodation - could only open for business in its original bungalow-like premises after a prolonged battle with the local licensing magistrates and aggrieved hoteliers, who wanted to know why the previous military canteen was inadequate.

Air travel developed steadily in peacetime conditions and in 1926 work began on replacing Croydon’s inherited buildings with a purpose-built international airport. Designed by anonymous Air Ministry architects, it opened in 1928.

The centre-piece was the two-storey terminal building facing the London-Brighton road. At its rear rose a 50ft high control tower with its control room surrounded by a continuous observation balcony over three storeys of offices - a design which became standard.

The internal planning was a microcosm of future airport development. Passengers entered a spacious (and now stripped-out) concourse surrounded by airline offices beyond which lay passport controls, the customs hall and a corridor leading to the departure gate; while the upper floor was devoted to airline and airport administration.

As a gateway to a new dimension in travel, Croydon Airport was surprisingly stolid in architectural treatment. Its functional structure was dressed up with heavy motifs - rustication, arched windows and pilasters in a cement aggregate material.

The result betrays its bureaucratic origins, in revealing contrast with the nineteenth century treatment of the great rail termini by the entrepreneurial railway companies and their designers. Subsequent airports built over the next decade reflected the modernistic 1930s idiom in smooth concrete finishes.

But Croydon enjoyed both prestige and drama. It was from here in 1930 that Amy Johnson took off on her solo flight to Australia.

With a break for military service during World War II, Croydon continued to function as a civil airport until the operational requirements of larger, more powerful passenger aircraft made closure inevitable in 1959. London had spread too tightly round suburban Croydon to allow room for expansion and Gatwick, 31 miles away, had now been developed to the point where it could meet the need for an airport to the south of London.

The airfield where planes once manoeuvred and took off - without the benefit of paved runways - is
now the Roundshaw housing estate, designed by Clifford Culpin & Partners in the 1960s and lying across an administratively boundary in what is now the London Borough of Sutton. The streets enshrine the role played by the area in the history of civil aviation with names commemorating aircraft makes and manufacturers (Roe Way, Brabazon Avenue, De Havilland Road), aviators (Alcock Close, Lindbergh Road) and the early carriers (Instone Close, Daimler Way).

The surviving terminal building, which is listed Grade II, has had a chequered history since the closure of the airport. Surrounded by a subsequently-developed industrial estate, it was by the early 1990s in the ownership of GRE, whom the CAS hoped would implement an imaginative restoration scheme, but who in the event sold it to Westmead.

Westmead have proposed removing a filling station on Purley Way, which has long blocked views of the front of the building, and applied to extend the building in ways that are generally thought acceptable. A further complication arises, however, from the fact that an October 1992 site inspection revealed that Westmead had infringed the building's listed status by colour washing the interior and replacing many of the original Crittall metal windows.

Despite pressure from English Heritage, Croydon has resolved to take no action on these breaches. Officially, however, it remains committed to the idea of a museum.

Editor's note: David Crawford is the author of British Building Firsts published by David and Charles, (ISBN 0 7153 9271 9).

News and Notes

The Peopling of London

This is the Museum of London's major exhibition for the winter 1993-4. It represents a new departure for the Museum in the promotion of more community-focused activities, and it is unusual. "The Peopling of London: 15,000 years of settlement from overseas" opens with "The World in a City" (London since 1945), then the story of 15,000 years of settlement from overseas unfolds under the headings "Before London", "Roman Londoners" "The Age of Migrations", "Medieval Europeans", "London and the Wider World", "The Heart of Empire", "In search of a better life" and "After the Empire". A lecture series on Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes follows the theme, and among others, LTS Council member Rosemary Weinstein will give a talk on "The Hanse to the Huguenots: overseas settlers in Tudor and Stuart London" on 24th November at 1.10 p.m. (she has recently written a book, Tudor London, published by H.M.S.O. for the Museum of London at £6.95, and is of course on the Museum staff).

Shapurji Saklatvala pictured with his daughter on her birthday. Saklatvala was elected as Communist MP for North Battersea in 1922, and campaigned for India's liberation from British rule.

There is a book of essays to accompany The Peopling of London exhibition (paperback £9.95). The exhibition opens on 16th November, with a World Music Festival on 20-21st November).
St Mary Graces
Public interest in the archaeological excavations on the Royal Mint site between 1986 and 1988 was completely overshadowed by the discovery of the Rose Theatre early in 1989 with the result that, as far as I know, very little press coverage* was given to the news that the result of those excavations can now be seen, despite the fact that an office block has been built over them. What has been revealed is nothing less than the foundations of Eastminster, the Abbey of St Mary Graces, which was built in 1350, on the site of a burial ground for victims of the Black Death. The skeletons of no fewer than 762 bodies were recovered and are now in store awaiting detailed examination by the Museum of London.

The excavated ground plan of the Cistercian Abbey, however, remains in situ beneath the Royal Mint Court development which was built on stilts above it, and although it is not yet completely accessible, it can clearly be seen from the garden which opens up on the left as you walk along East Smithfield from Tower Hill. Not as exciting, perhaps, as the Rose, but well worth seeing.

*The Royal Mint site excavations featured, with plans and photographs, in the London Archaeologist vol 5 no.16 autumn 1988.

– Peter Jackson

City of London model

The largest and most up to date model of the City can be seen on the seventh floor of 1, Fleet Place, London EC4 (a new building on the south side of Holborn Viaduct between Farringdon Street and Old Bailey). Members may remember the model was included in an exhibition at the Royal Exchange in 1992 – it is 6 by 4 metres in size and the scale is 1:500. The model-makers, Pipers International, have also developed a computer display – at the touch of a button individual buildings can be illuminated. Alongside the model, in a huge and airy space, the exhibition “City of London. Capital for Business” displays the work, services and buildings of some of the City’s leading companies. Open Monday to Fridays 12 noon – 2 p.m., the exhibition is free and the views from the seventh floor of the domes of St Paul’s and the Old Bailey are a bonus. Furthermore, there is a wine bar in Fleet Place, also lunchtime entertainments such as music and boules. All in all a good expedition for those working in the Ludgate/Fleet Street/St Paul’s area.

The Mansion House

A forthcoming exhibition about the Mansion House sounds promising. It will be at the Heinz Gallery, 21 Portman Square, WC1 from 13th January to 19th February 1994, open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., admission free. The curators of the exhibition are Sally Jeffery and John Claire for the Corporation of London.

Westminster Abbey exploded

A member, Hubert Pragnell, who wrote the monograph on the London panoramas by Robert Barker and Thomas Girtin (LTS publication no 109, 1968), informs us of his recent project. “I have recently produced a large architectural drawing in the form of an exploded diagram of Westminster Abbey, accompanied by notes on its architectural development and royal history. The approximate size of the drawing which is printed in full colour is about 32 by 22 inches. The viewpoint is from the south-east so as to show the chapter house, cloister, and Henry VII chapel. The drawing was made with the help of the Surveyor of the Fabric and was published through the financial help of the Dean and Chapter. As a result I was allowed into many parts of the Abbey unknown to all but a few historians and Abbey staff. It should be of interest to art and architectural historians and indeed to any involved in teaching history in a visual way”. It is on sale at the Abbey Bookshop, at approximately £7.

The Open Museum

The National Maritime Museum and Goldsmiths’ College are running a programme of short courses under the title “The Open Museum” this autumn, and in spring and summer 1994, to be held on weekday mornings at the Maritime Museum, Greenwich. They cost £6 a session or you can pay £30 for an eight week course. Subjects include “Art Treasures of the National Maritime Museum” (from 2nd February) and “Development of the Port of London” (from 27th April). Details from the Course Administrator, tel. 081 312 6747.

“Open House” reveals borough treasures

On Saturday 18th September, as part of European Heritage Week 1993, hundreds of Londoners set out on guided coach tours on voyages of discovery of four Inner London boroughs, the free tours were part of “Open House” – an Arts Council-funded pilot scheme run by Highgate architect Ken Allinson and LTS member David Crawford. The aim was to explore ways of increasing public awareness of architecture and the urban environment by opening up buildings of interest which are not usually freely accessible to the public, and revealing their urban and developmental contexts. “Open House” attracted backing, in the form of financial and/or administrative support from the guinea-pig boroughs of Camden, Greenwich, Hackney and Lambeth. Buildings visited included the Royal Arsenal complex at Woolwich, the Jacobean Charlton House, the Tudor Sutton House in Homerton and Frank Matcham’s Hackney Empire, as well as more contemporary work such as architects’ own houses in Camden, the recently renovated 1960s Lea View Estate, Nick Grimshaw’s
Waterloo International Terminal and Ted Cullinan’s Lambeth Community Centre. "Open House" is now working on a more ambitious programme of events for 1994. LTS members with suggestions, contacts with the owners of buildings which it would be interesting to open up, or other offers of help are most welcome to contact David Crawford at 22 The Avenue, Bickley, Bromley, Kent BR1 2BT, tel. 081 464 4708. Meanwhile, the well-established Architectural Dialogue organization is running half day and full day tours of London architecture on Saturdays throughout the autumn and winter. Prices are reasonable and a leaflet is available from Architectural Dialogue, West Hill House, 6 Swains Lane, London N6 6QU, tel. 081 341 1371.

City of London walks and lectures

Paul Taylor, RIBA FRSA, and a City of London registered guide, can arrange walks and lectures for groups (minimum of six) at dates and times to suit their requirements. Subjects include “Guildhall”, “New architecture in the City” and “Livery Companies”. Contact Paul Taylor, fax/answerphone 071 625 9163.

Hornsey History Society

The Hornsey History Society’s programme of talks 1993-4 include lectures by two LTS Council members: Roger Cline on “Keeping the Peace in Regent’s Park. Three Royal Societies” on 9th February, and Peter Barber will talk about “Hornsey and Maps” on 13th April. Visitors may attend the lectures for £1 admission charge which is deductible from the membership fee, should they decide to join the Society. The rendezvous is at the Union Church Hall, Ferme Park Road, Weston Park, London N8 at 8 p.m. Further details about the Hornsey History Society can be obtained by telephoning 081 348 8429.

Seizing the moment

Half a century has passed since the publication of the Greater London Plan by Patrick Abercrombie and his team in 1944. The International Planning History Society is marking the anniversary with a two day conference on plans, planners and planning in postwar London. Speakers will include Victor Belcher (formerly G.L.C., English Heritage and an LTS Council member), Robert Thorne, Patricia Garside (editor of The London Journal). The conference will take place between 7th-9th April 1994. Papers are invited (deadline for submission 28th February 1994), and registration details for the conference may be obtained from Dr Robert Home, Department of Estate Management, University of East London, Duncan House, Stratford, London E1 2JB.

Down among the dead men

If you’ve drained the depths of degradation at the London Dungeon (particularly with the new added ingredient, Jack The Ripper); if you’ve cringed into a corner at the Clink on Bankside: if your appetite for bloodlust remains unsated in the Chamber of Horrors at Madame Tussaud’s – then you are a prime candidate for the House of Detention, London’s latest attempt to scare the living daylight out of its paying punters. Located under the sober facade of Kingsway Princeton College, in Clerkenwell Close, is a labyrinth of sordid cells –176 of them, last used in 1877. The prison was supposedly demolished in 1890, after 275 years of grim usage, but much of it survived to be incorporated into the basement of what was formerly the Hugh Myddleton School, later taken over by the Evening Class Institute. From here Jack Sheppard escaped in 1724; here were confined the Fenian terrorists whose attempted rescue in 1867 resulted in the incident known as the Clerkenwell Outrage, when the wall was blown down and six people killed in the houses opposite. With such a pedigree, it was hardly surprising that the London Dungeon management saw the possibility of a further dose of horror, spiced up with the very latest state-of-the-art audio animatronics – now you can experience the last moments of the condemned from the person of no less than Albert Pierrepoint, Britain’s last hangman. Beyond the array of waxwork models lies a survey of the various lethal methods of execution, based it would seem, on a similar museum in Amsterdam. The gore quotient is absolutely guaranteed.

For those with strong stomachs, the Clerkenwell House of Detention is open daily from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., price £3 (children £2 – you wouldn’t want to leave out the children, would you?). Further information on 071 253 9494.

– David Webb

A comparison of plate 13 in the Society’s A to Z of Regency London with plate 15 in The A to Z of Victorian London shows the considerable amount of new road building carried out in the early and mid Victorian periods. A great part of its planning was the responsibility of a somewhat obscure government official, James Pennethorne, of whose personal life almost nothing is recorded. If known to the general reader, Pennethorne is probably thought of as Nash’s assistant, reputed offspring of a liaison between Nash’s second wife and George, Prince of Wales. Dr Tyack’s book however redeems for posterity one of the most interesting of Victorian architects, who not only profoundly influenced the topography of London, but also designed a series of buildings highly esteemed by his fellow architects (winning him the RIBA gold medal in 1856) and made major contributions to the ever-fascinating “London as it might have been”.

Like Summerson, Dr Tyack finds no basis in fact for the legend, believed of auctioneers’ catalogues, about Pennethorne’s royal origins; at the height of his success the childless John Nash was happy to lend a helping hand to an over-large family of his wife’s relations, training first Thomas, and then on his death, his younger brother James, in his own profession and ultimately resigning his practice to James. But the discredited old entrepreneur of 1834 was a different man from the confident royal architect of 1820. Pennethorne’s early architectural practice was small, though he was employed by the Office of Woods as a surveyor for maintenance work in Nash’s Regent Street and the Regent’s Park terraces. In 1839 he was appointed joint architect and surveyor for the metropolitan improvements envisaged by the Act of that year; and shortly afterwards succeeded William Rhodes as joint architect and surveyor of houses to the Office of Woods, becoming sole architect and surveyor on the retirement of Thomas Chawner in 1845. Thus practically he had succeeded to Nash’s position as government architect; but whereas Nash had shared a monopoly with Soane and Robert Smirke, Pennethorne was supreme in the office though liable to be blown off course by winds of competition puffed by parliamentary radicals.

His first significant role was as a town planner (a profession then unrecognized), drawing up proposals to improve both the health and moral standards of London, and also solve its worst traffic problems, by constructing new streets. There was desperate need for an inner east-west communication to relieve pressure on the Strand, and more convenient than the northern “New Road” (Marylebone-Euston-City Roads). Pennethorne’s bold proposals for linking Piccadilly to the City, set out in 1838, and revised on a rather more southerly route incorporating Carey Street, were too expensive for an era of reform and cheap government. The prevailing view in Parliament was that Londoners should pay for their own improvements, but there was no local government authority to represent, or tax, Londoners. Thus Pennethorne’s comprehensive plans were abandoned in favour of piecemeal adjustments that in the long run proved just as expensive without providing equal benefits. His ambitious proposals for New Oxford Street were cut down, the street narrowed, cognate proposals omitted, slums left standing; the crucial widening of Cranborne Street as the key to linking Piccadilly with the City travestied. Only receipts from selling the lease of York (now Lancaster) House enabled Pennethorne’s plans for a royal park for the East End to be implemented in some degree.

Despite the creation in 1845 of a royal commission to oversee further improvements, works remained essentially small scale. Nevertheless, Pennethorne’s contribution here was a significant one. He determined the lines of such long-deferred routes as Victoria and Garrick Streets, extended his earlier Commercial Street northwards to Shoreditch, and laid out Battersea Park as a recreational resort for South London – to be partly financed by forming a middle-class suburb adjacent, a concept destroyed by the eruption of a rash of railway lines (for which see Priscilla Metcalfe’s The Park Town Estate and the Battersea Tangle LTS, 1978). He also planned a new home for the nation’s legal records on the line of the proposed east-west street.

The Public Record Office was not the first of Pennethorne’s public buildings, but it is probably the best known. Like Soane, Pennethorne was unlucky in that many of his public building designs were never executed, and of those that were, most have been destroyed. Dr Tyack calls the still surviving (much enlarged) Public Record Office “one of the most forward-looking buildings of its age”. It was designed to satisfy functional criteria laid down by the client, “Pennethorne’s task being to plan the building and style it so as to evoke its purpose and fit into its surroundings”. Its character was largely determined by fears of fire (not unreasonably a preoccupation of a flame-illuminated age), and security against mob violence (men still then living being able to recall the destruction of terriers in the French Revolution). The result was a unique design, little admired by parliamentary pursersstrings-holders. More acceptable had been Pennethorne’s employment of Florentine palazzo style in Piccadilly for the government’s Museum of Economic Geology, designed for the harnessing of science to practical purposes (1846) – replaced in 1936 by another innovatory structure, Simpson’s (Piccadilly) Ltd. Two decades on from the museum, Pennethorne designed another educational building, that for the University of London, in Burlington Gardens. The university, as distinct from the associated colleges, was an administrative concept largely under government control. When the Conservative
minister, Lord John Manners, chose an Italo-Gothic design, a parliamentary storm broke over his head; Pennethorne was compelled to rethink his elevations, though his clear axial planning was untouched. The lively, polychromatic facade, adorned with sculptures of carefully selected men of learning, survives as the Museum of Mankind. Admired by Fergusson for its successful expression of contemporary needs in classical language, Pennethorne’s last building is seen by Tyack as a “reassertion of classical values in an unsympathetic age”; though quite how unsympathetic that age was to classical forms is a nice subject for debate.

Between those accomplished works just referred to, however, there lay for Pennethorne a period of great excitement and ultimate disillusion. Called in to design a new state ballroom and supper-room for Buckingham Palace, he found the interior decoration for which he had produced rich Italianate designs taken out of his hands by Prince Albert. Invited to design new Foreign and War Offices in 1855-6, he was robbed of the commission by an unsympathetic new minister. The New Government Offices saga of the years 1855-7, and its intricate coda, the National Gallery-Burlington House tale, is recounted by Dr Tyack with admirable clarity and neat, succinct pen-portraits of the principal personalities involved. Pennethorne clashed with the radical landowner Sir Benjamin Hall, who as minister responsible for public works in 1856-8 saw him as part of the old lumber of an inefficient department dominated by jobbery that he was determined to sweep away. Hall’s obsession with competition as the solution to the problem of obtaining good architectural design cost England a “monumental...very impressive building”, influenced by recent French and German essays in the classical style, of which, in Tyack’s judgement “the effect would have been superb, even if a little overpowering” – undeniably overpowering, its four storey mass crowned with long attics and bulky towers stretching from Downing Street to Parliament Square.

Although avowedly “meant primarily for professional historians of architecture and their students”, the subject of this early volume in Cambridge University Press’s new “Studies in the History of Architecture” will appeal to many members of the London Topographical Society. It is attractively produced (though the margins are perhaps unnecessarily wide), and amply illustrated; but the price is high. But so too is the standard; its pages are pleasingly free of typographical errors, the few factual errors trivial. Dr Tyack displays an easy mastery of his highly complex sources, and weaves his somewhat diverse materials into a volume that should re-establish Pennethorne’s submerged position as one of the most interesting of Victorian architects; and undoubtedly one who in London terms must count as a major figure.

— M.H. Port

Walks in Old London


Our Chairman is a prolific author. On the heels of The History of London in maps (with Felix Barker, 1990), George Scharf’s London (1987) and Kensington and Chelsea (with Annabel Walker 1987), we have Walks in Old London. Each walk (there are seven) begins with an introduction and a simple map marking the route. There follow sections on the particular streets, landmarks or areas, consisting of a few succinct paragraphs of text, ample illustrations and captions, and maps showing the viewpoint of the illustrations (as in George Scharf’s London). I like the way every illustration is clearly dated although in order to find out the artist/publisher and other details it is necessary to consult “Picture sources” at the end of the book.

The straightforward text gives the reader the impression that the author is walking beside him in a companionable way, instructing and entertaining gently and accurately. The reader can be assured that he is in the hands of an expert, someone who misses nothing and who has checked whether or not a building or monument still stands or when it was replaced or whence it was removed; there are no loose ends here.

Thus the reader will learn a lot, and have his fancy tickled by the thought of Jay’s Mourning House in Oxford Circus (an emporium for the bereaved), and his credulity stretched by the men’s public lavatory in High Holborn where the attendant kept goldfish, swimming interminably around the glass cisterns. Such details arm the book with a wealth of material for a quiz about London of the “Did you know where and when?” variety, a point the publishers have picked up in their handout.

Our Chairman is not afraid to present personal opinions: a dislike of the “tatty boutiques” which have superseded the great Edwardian department stores of Oxford Street, the “blare of entertainment” which assaults the ear in Piccadilly Circus, while his admiration for Waterhouse’s “huge terracotta masterpiece”, (the Prudential building in High Holborn) is blatant.

Most of the illustrations are from Peter Jackson’s own collection; there is an abundance of rather similar Victorian street scenes, and Tallis’s street views appear on nine pages – inevitable perhaps.

As the author’s introduction points out, this is a book which could either accompany the reader on a walk or be enjoyed from an armchair. The size and weight of the hardback version might be difficult to handle on a walk – a paperback version would be more manageable. If you are planning to walk, you will need stamina to complete the Embankment to London Bridge marathon (from
Westminster Bridge to Borough High Street via Cannon Street, and the Kensington and Chelsea walk really needs two sorties.

It is a shame the proof reader failed to remove the hyphen from “sur-vives” on the first page of text (p. 9), and I wonder if our Chairman is amused, or not, by the publisher’s blurb awarding him a Fellowship of the Society of Antiquities (sic)?

— Penelope Hunting

**Tales from the Map Room. Fact and fiction about Maps and their makers**

by Peter Barber and Christopher Board. BBC Books 1993. 192 pages, numerous illustrations. £16.99.

**Detail from Charles Booth's Descriptive Map of London Poverty 1889. LTS Publication no. 130 (1984).**

This book was published to accompany the very successful BBC television series produced by Julian Stenhouse, first broadcast in spring 1993. The chapter headings alert the reader that this book is not a conventional history of map-making. “A Tissue of Lies”, “The Plumb Pudding in danger”, and “The Fog of War” are the most striking of the six general themes illustrating the point that maps are about people and life at large. As the authors explain, there is as much about symbolism, faith, spying, deception, and vanity, as about measurement and science.

Peter Barber, Deputy Map Librarian of the British Library, and Christopher Board, senior lecturer at the London School of Economics and President of the British Cartographic Society, display wide-ranging knowledge of mapping, early and modern. They recruited as additional consultants thirty other authorities. The chapters comprise an anthology of short essays, each illustrated by one or several maps. Many come from the British Library, one of the world’s richest treasure houses of maps and topographical material. Some are from publications of the London Topographical Society.

London has prominence as the subject of chapter five “The Metropolis mapped”. Braun and Hogenberg’s “Londinium”, Cologne 1572, and Ralph Treswell’s manuscript plan of Fleet Lane, 1612, open on the theme of a “City for merchants”. These two types of map, one depicting the City in all its splendour, the other recording tenements and even privies, are found today (Barber writes) separated only by a corridor, in the environmental sections of a town hall and its public relations department. Sir Christopher Wren’s plan for rebuilding the City after the Great Fire, 1666, and Holden and Holford’s plan for the reconstruction of London following the Second World War are juxtaposed as “the Ideal City”. Thomas Milne’s Plan of the Cities of London and Westminster, 1800, the first land-use map, and Dr John Snow’s cholera map of Soho, 1852, reflect the growing concern for the quality of life in cities and their regions, and also illustrate the development of thematic mapping. Charles Booth’s Poverty Map, 1889, is compared to the Greater London Deprivation map produced by the Census Unit of the Department of the Environment, 1983. Satellite London, 1986, in false colour, is contrasted to the black and white close-ups presented in the Ordnance Survey Five Foot Plans, 1871, published 1874, and the Ordnance Survey Superplan, 1992.

The final chapter, “On the Rocks”, treats matters of life and death in a fascinating variety of ways. The well-known poster with its map, “If London flooded tomorrow what would you do?”, 1964, has its place here between a map of east coast flood defences, 1954, and the alarming depictions of “Potential effects of climatic change in the United Kingdom”, 1991, with all its indications of extensive coastal and river inundation. Another disturbing map is “London’s Badlands: where the burglars are most likely to strike”, from the Evening Standard 7th July 1992. This shows the percentage of claims against burglary insurance with one company, grouped by London postal districts. It is paired with a map of violent robbery in Belgium, 1984-8, published in 1990. The question raised here is making “false claims” and turns on cartographic techniques in the handling of statistical data.

**Tales from the Map Room** is beautifully produced. It should appeal to the scholar,
student and the layman alike. It well deserves its
place this summer high up on the best seller non-
fiction list.

– Helen Wallis

Map published in 1680 by John Seller, engraved by John
Oliver, with a superimposed line to show the division of
metropolitan Middlesex from rural Middlesex, proposed by
Philip Greenall.

Dividing seventeenth century Tokens between
London and Middlesex

by Philip D. Greenall. Reprinted from the British
plates, illustrations of 29 tokens.

The topographical evidence of seventeenth century
tokens has been difficult to extract from the
London and Middlesex series in Williamson’s
catalogue. The late Philip Greenall shows, for
example, that the sequence downstream of
Wapping, Shadwell, Ratcliffe, Limehouse, and
Blackwell are listed by Williamson as London,
Middlesex, London, Middlesex, and London
respectively. Instead of this haphazard
arrangement the author proposes to divide
Middlesex (outside the City) into an inner urban
and an outer rural area, the boundary between
which would be a “green belt” free of dwellings, or
of token issuers at least, which had a minimum
width of one third of a mile.

One disadvantage in this proposal is that parts of
St Pancras, Shoreditch, Stepney and Westminster are to be found in each of the
divisions of Middlesex. While parish boundaries
may also be arbitrary to some extent, they do have
the sanction of custom, they mark out jurisdictions
within which records were created, and they are
supported by a reference apparatus. However,
some such division of seventeenth century
Middlesex is surely helpful. Although it proved
impossible to print a map, Stella Greenall has
added a long appendix listing place names in four
divisions, referring to Williamson but with proper
identifications, refinements, corrections and
additions. Division I, the City, adds for example a
grammar school at Fleet Ditch (is the Bridewell?),
and notes that the supposed name “Paulin’s
church” for St Paul’s Cathedral is likely to have
been Maudlin’s church. Division II, Metropolitan
Middlesex, appears to contribute to London
topography the name Gibbons Street for the site of
the first Theatre Royal. Division III, Rural
Middlesex, publishes a Palmer’s Green token
bearing a fox (the sign of the Fox is still there).
Division IV lists such names as St Martin’s Lane
which could belong in more than one division, and
street names which have not been identified.

The Greenall paper is now the most reliable key
to the tokens of London and Middlesex, and should
be the first work to consult for the fullest listing of
known tokens. These, uniting in a single document
locality, sign, and trader, come nearer than
anything else to a trade directory for the third
quarter of the seventeenth century.

– Robert Thompson

Editor’s note: A few copies of the above offprint are
available at £3 including postage. Please apply to
the Newsletter Editor tel. 071 352 8057.

A Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Album

compiled by Peter Marcan. Peter Marcan
Publications 1992. 106 pages, numerous black
and white illustrations. £8.95 + 85p post and
packing from Peter Marcan Publications, PO Box
3158, London SE1 4RA. Cheques payable to Peter
Marcan.

This A4 size book is sub-titled “a collection of
nineteenth and twentieth century picture material,
photographed by Lesley McDonald, historical notes
and descriptive, imaginative writing” compiled by
Peter Marcan. It is a lively publication prefaced by
Marcan’s “Impressions of Bermondsey” (a good
example of the “descriptive, imaginative writing
which comprises the main text). There follows an
article by Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat
M.P. for Southwark and Bermondsey, reproduced
from the Evening Standard series “Why I live in...”
(1990). Then you have the streets, gardens,
playgrounds, open spaces, docks and the Surrey
quays area of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe.
The illustrations, alas, often lack adequate reference – the Bermondsey leather and skin market, for instance – date? Source? And some of the captions have not been set straight, which is disconcerting. Notwithstanding, the pub signs are enjoyable: "Simon the Tanner" and "The Tanner's Arms" commemorating the Bermondsey leather industry and the "Southwark Park Tavern" sign remembering Sir William Gomm (the Gommes were Lords of the Manor of Rotherhithe in the nineteenth century). The inclusion of the 1813 edition of Horwood's map (LTS publication no. 131), showing Bermondsey and Rotherhithe would have been an asset.

- Penelope Hunting

P.S. Peter Marcan Publications have also brought out a second edition (1993) of the Greater London Local History Directory. This is not just a list of addresses but a handbook containing information and comments about local societies, associations, museums and publishers as well as local history libraries. The LTS is given an ample entry. £15 + £1.50 post and packing from the address above.

Lauderdale Revealed

by Peter Barber, Oliver Cox and Michael Curwen has just been published by the Lauderdale House Society. It provides an authoritative account of the chequered history of Lauderdale House, a Grade I listed building dating back to the 1580s which stands in the grounds of Waterlow Park, Highgate, and has links with Blickling Hall, Ham House, Sutton House and Cromwell House. With its wealth of new information and unknown or little-known images, the book replaces the account to be found in the Survey of London volume on Highgate Village of 1936.

The physical structure was analysed to reveal the house's probable original appearance and the numerous changes it underwent before assuming its present appearance in about 1760. The account of the house's external and internal development, its furnishings, occupants and owners is accompanied by a visitor's guide and a brief history of the grounds of Waterlow Park. For the first time there is an account of the surroundings in which the Duke of Lauderdale lived (for far longer than he ever occupied Ham House) and evidence suggesting that, as legend would have it, Nell Gwynn did live there. The recently-discovered plan of the grounds of 1763 is a document of primary importance for both the house and for Waterlow Park. Across this local background stride historical and literary figures as varied as Francis Drake, Arabella Stuart, William Harvey, Charles II, Samuel Pepys, George Fox (and William Penn), Judge Jeffreys, the Duke of Marlborough, John Wesley and Edward Lear, not to mention the creator of Bond Street, the Bond after whom it is named, and Edward Pauncfort, the would-be squire of Highgate and founder of the still-surviving Highgate almshouses.

The lavishly illustrated book costs £8 and is available only from Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, London N6 5HG. Profits will go towards the restoration of the handsome long gallery on the first floor, work on which has just started.

- Peter Barber

Glossier yet and glossier

The publishing war between firms issuing London guide books seems to have heated up recently, writes David Webb. Forget those dog-eared, age-browned paperbacks put out by Penguin or the little red dodécimos from Ward Lock. The newest London guide books come dripping colour, clad in washable plastic, and clearly refugees from some yuppie's filofax. Everyman Guide's London (London, DavidCambell 1993 £16.99 with 476 pages) and Eyewitness Travel Guide's London (London, Dorling Kindersley, 1993, £16.99 with 432 pages) are hoping that the all colour approach will score over the usual acres of text. Everyman Guides are originated in France, and translated all over Europe; our Chairman has contributed many of the teeming illustrations. Eyewitness Guides are resolutely British, also translated into most major European languages. Both suffer from excessive cramp – pictures are reduced to microscopic proportions, particularly in the tiny columns which constitute the Eyewitness format. Everyman is better balanced, and not so hurtful on the eyes; I like their surveys of natural history, London as seen by painters and writers, and the area and subject arrangement of the tours. There is the usual section of information for naïve foreigners, and some unexpected curiosities – the London as shown in films, from "Blackmail" to "My Beautiful Launderette"; a selection of street signs; London in a day – a week – in two weeks. The bibliography is comprehensive, but, no doubt because it was compiled abroad, suffers from a surfeit of spelling errors. The Everyman Guide is the same price as the Eyewitness, which concentrates more on the area guides – nicely done, often with bird's-eye view panoramic maps. It too caters for dumb tourists – how to use a Mercury phone, how to use a superloo – but does not go in for Everyman's exercises in space-filling e.g. how to make a Christmas pudding! In the crunch choice, Eyewitness just beats Everyman for me – physically a few centimetres smaller all round, more user-friendly (dread word!), more hard-wearing. The main contributor is Michael Leapman, who has a good pedigree on guide books; Everyman is a committee volume. In fact, I would even go so far as to say that Eyewitness is one of the best London Guide books we have seen for a long time.

- David Webb
Pepys and the Booksellers

by Charles A. Rivington. The Ebor Press, Huntington Road, York Y03 9HS 1993. 79 pages, 6 illustrations. £13 including postage.

This gives historical data about the London booksellers, bookbinders, stationers, printers and printsmen with whom Pepys came into contact, including William Faithorne and John Ogilby.

The Squares of Islington Part II: Islington Parish

by Mary Cosh. Islington Archaeology and History Society 1993. 180 pages, sketch map, 55 illustrations. £7.50 + 60p post and packing.

This completes the study begun with the squares of Finsbury and Clerkenwell by the same author (reviewed in the LTS Newsletter, November 1990). Part II covers the old village of Islington with the adjoining areas of Highbury, Canonbury, Barnsbury and the Clothworkers' estate. Essential reading if you live in this part of the world. Available from local bookshops, the Guildhall Library Bookshop, Museum of London Bookshop or by post from Islington Archaeology and History Society, 8 Wynyard Street, London EC1V 7HU.

The Building of London Zoo


The publication of this survey of the buildings of the Zoological Gardens in the Regent's Park was prompted by the announcement in 1991 of the forthcoming closure of the gardens, fortunately at least postponed, since it would be difficult to find an alternative use in the event of closure, for the many listed buildings. Most buildings are illustrated by clear black and white photographs, both recent and archive, but the final gathering includes coloured plans of the gardens at various stages of developments and the cover has coloured pictures. There are some reproductions of architectural drawings, but on so small a scale as to make them difficult to read.

The description of each structure gives details of the architect and dates of construction and modification, but is tantalisingly short. Even the Grade I listed Penguin Pool only gets 350 words, three photographs and a plan. The term structure is taken to include not only the animal houses, but service structures including the refreshment rooms and sculptures. There are details of the National Building Record references, to facilitate further study. A twenty page introduction sets the scene.

This is a scholarly book and the detail of the research questions which came my way was most impressive. It forms a marvellous incentive to visit the zoo to see the architecture which as always is constantly changing. In 1994 there should be a new children's area and a Macaw Aviary and the Lubetkin Gorilla House is due for restoration. This book and the emphasis by the lively new zoo management on the breeding and conservation of endangered species should complete the attraction for your next trip to Regent's Park.

– Roger Cline

Dr Barnado and the Copperfield Road Ragged Schools

by T.S. Ridge. Ragged Schools Museum Trust 1993. 39 pages, black and white illustrations, maps, card covers. £3.60 including post and packing from the Trust at 46-8 Copperfield Road, London E3 4RR.

Dr Barnardo set up this school in a converted warehouse in 1877 and it operated until the L.C.C. provided an alternative school in 1908. The buildings reverted to warehouse use until the 1980s when they narrowly escaped demolition, being listed in view of their Barnardo connection.

The book is well written and illustrated by contemporary photographs and, of course, maps. It contrasts the Ragged School with the up-market Board School which charged for attendance, insisted its children were properly washed and did not offer free clothing and boots to deserving cases.

The Museum is worth a visit – by the Regent's Canal in Copperfield Road, E3 – it's free, and has interesting evening lectures.

– Roger Cline

Muswell Hill. The History of an Edwardian Suburb


A local estate agent showed initiative by commissioning Ken Gay to write a brief history of Muswell Hill for the benefit of clients and those wanting to know something about the area. If you are really dedicated to the history, and pre-history, of Muswell Hill, there is a booklet, The Glacial Drifts of Muswell Hill and Finchley by Henry Walker (1874), reprinted by Jack Whitehead. 26 pages. £1.50 post free from J. Whitehead, 55 Parliament Hill, London NW3 2TB. This is about the finds made in Coldfall Woods circa 1835 (fossils and rocks) which established that Muswell Hill had once been covered by glaciers. The reprinted version has a postscript by Dr Eric Robinson, President of the Geologists' Association, who wrote about Mylné's geological map for this Society's 1993 publication.
Kentish Town: Its past in pictures

by Lesley Marshall, Camden Local Studies Centre 1993. 82 pages, 84 black and white illustrations. £4.95 + £1 post and packing.

A well presented production containing a brief history of Kentish Town, suggestions for further reading, views dating from 1772 accompanied by intelligent captions. Available from Camden Local Studies Centre, Holborn Library, 32-8 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8PA.

Wandsworth, Earlsfield and Southfields. Portrait in old Picture Postcards

by W.J. Drinkwater and P.J. Loobey, SB Publications 1993. £6.50 + £1 post and packing.

Both authors are collectors of old postcards and here is their collection for Wandsworth, Earlsfield and Southfields circa 1906-28. There is little else.

Archaeology and Planning in the City of London

Corporation of London 1993. 28 pages, maps, illustrations, colour photographs. £7.50 + £2.50 post and packing from the Corporation’s Planning Department, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ.

The Corporation has produced a guide to explain, hopefully, how planning and archaeology can work together. The booklet also gives an archaeological summary of the City’s 2,000 year development.

Oliver’s Map

A member, Bernard Kaukas, writes to recommend Oliver’s Map of the City of London published by AP Information Services, Roman House, 296 Golders Green Road, London NW11 9TZ at a price of £4.50.

“The map (with index) is drawn to a scale of 100 yards to one inch. I use that particular scale to indicate what a satisfying amount of detail is shown. The map covers an area from Victoria Embankment in the west to St Katherine’s Dock in the east, and from Waterloo East Station in the south to the junction of Old Street and City Road in the north.

The publishers say ‘The map has been compiled and fully redrawn by FWT cartography from the latest available unpublished information supplied by the Ordnance Survey. Additional updating has been carried out from other private sources: the cartographer can accept no liability for the absolute accuracy of any detail included’.

The map was published in 1990. Every grassed open space is shown an green, and water in blue. An enormous number of non-public buildings are named within the confines of each building. The
LAMAS lecture meetings

This winter's LAMAS lecture programme should be of more than usual interest to LTS members, who are entitled to attend as members of an affiliated society. Meetings are held on Tuesdays in the Education Department at the Museum of London, starting at 6.30 p.m. Tea, coffee and sherry with biscuits are served from 6.00 p.m.
9th November: "The Royal Exchange" by Ann Saunders.
11th January: "Roman Metalwork from the Walbrook – Rubbish, Ritual or Redundancy!" by Ralph Merrifield.
8th February: AGM and Presidential Address: "The Saxon Shore in London?" by Harvey Sheldon (starts at 6.15 p.m., refreshments from 5.30 p.m.).
8th March: "Current Issues in the Conservation of Historic Buildings and Structures" by Oliver Pearcy.
12th April: "Tree Rings from the London Area: what they can tell us" by Ian Tyers.
10th May: "Building Stones in the London Area: recent findings" by Eric Robinson.

LAMAS conferences

Saturday 20th November: 28th Local History Conference: "London in Sickness and Health". Lecture Theatre, Museum of London, 10.10a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Saturday 19th March: 31st Annual Conference of London Archaeologists: "Recent Work and Monuments in London". Lecture Theatre, Museum of London, 11.00 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.

Ivor Bulmer Thomas

Ivor Bulmer Thomas died on 7th October 1993. He had been a member since 1961 and was probably best known for his work as Chairman of the Friends of Friendless Churches. A memorial service will be held at St Andrew by the Wardrobe and details can be obtained in November from the Ancient Monuments Society, 071 236 3934.
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