Notice of the
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, 29th June 1994

The ninety-fourth Annual General Meeting of the London Topographical Society will be held on Wednesday, 29th June 1994 at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden. As usual, the meeting will start at 6.30pm, following refreshments which will be available from 6.00.

Inigo Jones designed St Paul's for the fourth Earl of Bedford, promising him "the handsomest barn in England". It was consecrated in 1638 but was largely rebuilt after a disastrous fire in 1795, to much the same pattern as the original. The church is well served by public transport. Covent Garden is the nearest station; Leicester Square, Charing Cross and Embankment are all conveniently close.

Members attending the meeting will be issued with this year's publication, a collection of drawings of Westminster by Sir George Scharf. The Chairman, who has been responsible for selecting the drawings and writing the introductory text, will give a talk about this publication. Marie Draper, a member of the LTS Council and the former archivist to the Bedford estate, will talk about the church.

Please write to the Hon Secretary if you would like to nominate anyone as an officer of the Society or as a member of Council, or if you wish to raise any matter under item 6 of the agenda. We hope that as many people as possible will come to the AGM. There is no need to inform the Secretary if you are going to attend. The annual publication will be sent to other members, although this will not be until several weeks after the meeting.

AGENDA
1. To approve the Minutes of the 93rd Annual General Meeting in 1993
2. To receive the 94th Annual Report of the Council for 1993 (herewith)
3. To receive the Accounts for 1993 (herewith)
4. To receive the Hon Editor's report
5. To elect officers and members of Council
6. To discuss any proposals by members
7. Any other business

Patrick Frazer, Hon Secretary, 36 Old Deer Park Gardens, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2TL (telephone 081 940 5419)
"The Old House on the Corner"
by Mike Gray

Sutton House, Hackney, traditionally known as "the old house on the corner" is a listed Grade 2* building, owned by The National Trust. It is a brick-built merchant class house dating from the early sixteenth century which makes it a rare, if not unique, survivor in the London area.

It was somewhat surprising, therefore, that in April 1987 it stood derelict and forlorn. Squatters had occupied it for two years and after they had been evicted, thieves stole the beautiful oak linenfold panelling and other artefacts. It posed a problem for The National Trust who were unable to find suitable new tenants and, concerned to prevent further deterioration, were discussing with a property developer a plan to convert the building into leasehold flats for sale.

A campaign, initiated by local residents, sought on the other hand to retain the house as an integrated whole, to repair it and make it accessible to the public. It was, however, hard to make a case for such a scheme as very little was known about the structural, or social, history of the house. The need for research was, therefore, apparent.

The fact that seven years later the house has been magnificently restored and is fully open to the public has come about because of the success of that research and through a remarkable example of co-operation between a local amenity group, the Save Sutton House Campaign (later renamed the Sutton House Society) and The National Trust.

The research, initially only into documentary evidence, was complemented in 1988 by English Heritage historic buildings surveyors, Andy Witrick and Richard Bond, who, with the advantage of exposure of many areas of the internal walls due to vandalism and theft, were able to carry out a detailed survey of the above ground structure. Just prior to the start of the restoration work, in January 1991, an opportunity arose for a limited archaeological excavation in areas where new drains were to be dug. This work was carried out by staff of the Museum of London under the direction of Dr Christopher Philpotts. This article, however, largely confines itself to the evidence from documentary sources. A full reconciliation of the evidence from all areas of research is still awaited.¹

Sutton House is named after Thomas Sutton, the founder of Charterhouse School and Hospital in Clerkenwell. He made a fortune out of coal mines in Durham and money-lending in the City of London. It was widely believed that he lived in the house in the first decade of the seventeenth century. Certainly in 1611, on his death, he bequeathed his house in Hackney and its 1 acre garden to the Governors of the new Charterhouse. It seemed reasonable therefore to start the search for the story of Sutton House in the Charterhouse archives, which are kept at the Greater London Record Office. There, thanks to permission from the Master of Charterhouse, it was possible to consult unpublished documents relating to Sutton's property in Hackney which date from the late fifteenth century to the 1930s when

¹The research was completed in 2000.
Charterhouse finally sold off those holdings. Amongst these documents is an almost complete series of deeds relating to Sutton's house from 1488, over a hundred years before he bought it, to long after he died. It soon became frustratingly clear that Sutton's house was not what we now call Sutton House but was, in fact, a house adjacent to it, to the west. A house that was eventually demolished in 1805 to make way for the present fine Georgian terrace known as Sutton Place.

The clearest evidence for this is a map of the Charterhouse estate in Hackney dated 1740 which shows a building, apparently divided into three households, at the east end of a plot of land about 1 acre in area. The outline of the east side of the estate shows a shallow rectangular indentation which proved to be the space occupied by the chimney of the house next door. The modern boundary of Sutton House, in fact, fits almost perfectly, like a jig-saw piece, into the eastern boundary of Sutton's estate. In 1605, Sutton's Hackney property was described as "a messuage, formerly a TANHOUSE with garden, orchard and a ditch" so to avoid further confusion this house will be called, from now on, "the old tanhouse". The relationship between the old tanhouse and Sutton House is also apparent in John Rocque's 1745 map of the Parish of Hackney.

After Sutton's death, an inventory of the contents of his house was taken. From this we can deduce that the house, which was probably timber framed with brick foundations, was two storeys high with a garret and consisted of the following rooms - Sutton's Chamber, a wainscott chamber, a great chamber with a closet, a wardrobe containing among other items "olde hangynges of ymagery", a chamber at the stairhead next to Sutton's chamber, a little garret chamber, a chamber over the larder, a chamber for Richard Derse, a garret near the turret, a great hall, a parlour, kitchen, wet and dry larders, a wash-house, stable and bakehouse and a house next to the stable. Clearly, a substantial property.

In 1605, Sutton's first year in the old tanhouse, the Charterhouse archive informs us that he was given a piece of land by his next door neighbour on which to build a brick wall between the two properties. His neighbour was a man called John Machell and his house must have been Sutton House. John Machel, we know from Hackney Vestry minutes, was a Justice of the Peace in Middlesex (the County into which Hackney then fell) and the likely occupier as well as owner of Sutton House in the second half of the sixteenth century. John inherited the property from his father when he came of age in 1565. His brother Mathew came into possession at that time of the old tanhouse. An interesting exchange of letters concerning this property has been preserved in the Charterhouse archives.

Apparently Mathew, whose own house was at Shacklewells, to the north of Hackney village, let the old tanhouse to a member of the Grocers'
purchased the house from Sir Ralph Sadleir. This transaction is also recorded in an indenture dated 20th May 1550, found in the Guildhall Library, where the property is described as a "coppelhold-capital messuage with th'appertainties of old tyme called a Breuhouse and afterwards a dwelling house and now called the byrk place with almaner of lands, ten'ts, medowes, pastures, and buildings – of the southside of Humberstonestrete."¹⁰ The John Machell here referred to was the father of the earlier mentioned J.P. He was a Master of the Clothworkers' Company and Sheriff of London who died in 1558, the year before he was due to become Lord Mayor of London.¹¹

The deed describes a large but undefined area of land with the Hackney Brook on the south side and possibly what is now called Ponsford Street in the east. This appears to be the land associated with Sutton House from medieval times to the end of the eighteenth century when Sutton House, along with houses built later to the east along Homerton High Street all belonged to one copyholder, John Ball.¹²

The information from these and other sources enables us to make a reasonable guess at the field and property boundaries of the area around Sutton House then known as the "byrk place".

The Sir Ralph Sadleir referred to in the Court Roll was a very important statesman in the service of Henry VIII, at various times Ambassador to Scotland, Principal Secretary of State and Master of the Great Wardrobe. Sadleir's career started when he became secretary to Thomas Cromwell during the period of the dissolution of the monasteries but he outlasted his master, who was beheaded for treason in 1540.

Ralph's association with Cromwell goes back at least to 1521. At that time, the young Ralph Sadleir was being educated by tutors with Cromwell's son, Gregory, at his house in Fenchurch Street. In that year, Sadleir's father Henry (who helped in organising the Field of the Cloth of Gold 1520) wrote to Cromwell asking for assistance in recovering a debt to enable him to buy a house in Hackney.

"Rygght worshipfull and my syngler good master Cromwell....I shoyed your mastreship howe I have boughte a howse in Haceney. It is 40s yer to be lett, and the quyntret is 8d by the year. And I thanke almyghty God I have payde for hit with yn 8l 2s. That payde I trust I my wyle and our childryn shall enioye the said howse with the appurtenances to godly pleasure."¹³

It seems likely that the house bought by Henry was the brewhouse referred to in the Rolls and the indenture, perhaps already converted into a dwelling house but later to be rebuilt as byrk place. Tree ring analysis (dendrochronology), by the Museum of London, on timbers from Sutton House indicate a probable building date of 1535. Recent discoveries during building work suggest that the cellars might in fact predate the building of byrk place (Sutton House) and could have formed part of the brewhouse. The presence in these cellars of niches in brickwork believed to provide housing for barrels of ale seems to support this suggestion.

An interesting document in the British Library, which provides additional evidence of the topography of the area, is an estate accounts book dated 1540 of Sadleir's property in Hackney. It describes a mansion house, a house on the southside of Humberton Street in the tenure of Henry Sadleir, (the old tanhouse) rent 26s 8d, a house behind the latter in the tenure of Suddian Brekenam rent 13s 4d, and a house on the northside of Humberton Street in the tenure of Gabriel Abraham as well as the two fields Alfordscroft and Churchfelde.¹⁴

Sadleir had come into possession of these fields and the old tanhouse around 1535.¹⁵ It seems that by then he might have moved into the old tanhouse, (which he later let to his father) and carried out the building work necessary to convert the old brewhouse into the byrk place. The best evidence of the relationship between byrk place and the old tanhouse comes in the form of a lease dated 1552 between John Machell (senior) and Thomas Knotte (a master of the Company of the Barber-Surgeons). Knotte was leasing a messuage with garden and orchard i.e. the old tanhouse "next adjoyning ... the mansion house of the said John Machell....And the said John Machell covenanteth and graunteth......to and with the said Thomas Knotte that if he shall at any time hereafter during the said termere bargain alien sell or demise his said mansion howse at Hackney aforesaid which he now occupieth to any person or persons that then it shalbe lawful to the said Thomas Knotte... to stoppe up the doore of the said mansion house now next adjoyning unto the said messuage or tenement demised or letten unto the said Thomas Knotte..."¹⁶ The doorway between the two properties probably originated when Sadleir owned both properties and leased the old tanhouse to his father.

To summarise, it seems that in the late fifteenth/early sixteenth century there were two properties – one a tanhouse and one a brewhouse – on the south side of a sharp bend in Humberton Street (corner of Urswick Road and Homerton High Street). The buildings were joined through a range of outbuildings but straddled the boundary between the manors of Grumbolds and Stebbenhuth. The tanhouse was a dwelling house by 1488, the brewhouse probably before 1521. Both houses and several others in the vicinity, as well as land, were owned by Sir Ralph Sadleir between 1535 and 1550 when they were sold to John Machell. Thomas Sutton eventually bought the old tanhouse in 1605, bequeathing it and its 1 acre of land to Charterhouse in 1611.

It is not possible here to describe fully the changes to the house and area after the early seventeenth century but, in brief, evidence from rates records in Hackney Archives, Vestry minutes, hearth tax records in the Public Records Office,
News and Notes

Cakes and Ale
Once again, let all good cooks in the Society come forward brandishing baking trays. 29th June at St Paul’s Church, Covent Garden, is the venue for the high spot of the year and home-made comestibles will be in demand. This time, our redoubtable provider, Joyce Cumming, will not be available to mistress-mind the refreshments, since she will be in France, celebrating her grandson’s first birthday. Our good wishes go to her on this very special occasion, but it does mean that the rest of us must look to our rolling pins and mixing bowls. Offers of contributions to Ann Saunders – or just arrive, bearing the goodies. See you in Covent Garden!

P.S. Topographers should not need telling that the entrance to St Paul’s is from Inigo (who else) Place, off Bedford Street, and not from the Piazza.

- Ann Saunders

Raffle at the AGM
Tallis – London Street Views. A copy of this elegant book, issued in 1969 as the Society’s publication number 110, will be raffled at the Annual General Meeting. The draw will take place at the AGM and the name of the winner will be published in the next Newsletter.

John Tallis published a series of accurately drawn elevations of both sides of London’s principal streets in 1838 – 1840, taking in the City, Holborn and the West End. This publication includes all eighty-eight views together with the corresponding street directory and a full index. Originally issued to all members it is now quite rare and commands a high price from any secondhand bookseller.

Raffle tickets of £1 each will be available at the Annual General Meeting or in advance by post from Simon Morris. Cheques should be made payable to the “London Topographical Society”. If you wish to receive an acknowledgement then please enclose a self addressed envelope or give your fax number. An overseas member who wishes to take part in the raffle should fax a request to reserve a ticket to Simon Morris on 071 488 7421 and should promptly post payment of $2 bills (or equivalent) for each £1. Bank charges for foreign drafts mean that they cannot be accepted for this purpose.

The Hon Editor regrets...
In the last Newsletter, I joyfully promised you two publications for 1994 – The Social Atlas of London, 1690, and The Westminster Drawings of Sir George Scharf. The latter is in preparation with an extended commentary and maps by Peter Jackson, but the sheer volume of research material, to be incorporated in the Atlas, means that it will not be ready in time for the AGM. Sooner than hurry the research and writing – never a satisfactory method...
we shall publish in 1995, with the London Topographical Record. The authors and your Hon Editor are as disappointed as you, but it is no use lowering our standards and then regretting it afterwards as I am sure you will agree.

Our plans for the future include the Wyngaerde panorama of London issued in book form with a commentary by the distinguished historian, Howard Colvin, who wrote much of, and edited the whole of, The History of the King’s Works. The volume will include the other drawings in the Ashmolean, showing among them Greenwich and Richmond Palaces. This is planned for 1996. Also in the pipeline are Joel Gascoyne’s maps of the Docklands area (likely to be in folder-form with an introduction) and a study of the Royal Exchange written by a dozen or more contributors and planned for 1997, the fourth centenary of the establishment of Gresham College which draws its funds from the Exchange. In the meantime, it is just one attractive book this year with the promise of another, but there are lots more on the way.

— Ann Saunders

Gleanings from Gollin

Geoffrey Gollin was last seen at our meetings when he brought his History of Ashstead to sell at the 1991 AGM. He died the following year, well into his nineties, and his extensive library came up for auction at Sotheby’s on 18th November 1993.

Members of the Society were well to the fore, both in the viewing days before the sale and at the auction itself. The library, in some 250 lots, constituted the whole of one afternoon’s sale. Your Chairman Peter Jackson was there, but of course he had got everything anyway (or almost everything). Plenty of dealers, both members of the Society and those who manage to survive without the benefits of membership. Your correspondent took his place a little nervously, having had words with his bank manager beforehand. Although we all knew each other, and the auctioneer knew most of the dealers by name, it was all fearfully anonymous and we waved numbered paddles when we bought a lot, except for Jarndyce who insisted on being anurnate (if that is the word).

The sale started off with a few Ackermanns of which I got my first lot, a practical treatise on Gaslight from 1815. Things went at much the estimated prices until a set of four eighteenth century books on the Bills of Mortality estimated at £200-250 went for £1,300. Another battle for Robson’s south-west view of St Paul’s and Blackfriars Bridge at the same estimate took the price to £1,600. E. Beresford Chancellor’s copy of Parton’s St Giles was in an otherwise dull Bloomsbury lot, and when the bidding went above the association value I dropped out, but I held out for John Britton’s book on John Soane’s house and galleries. The standard London histories (Maitland, etc.) went for low prices, reflecting the condition of the paper and binding and then things started getting expensive again with lots on clean air, climbing boys, disorderly conduct and foreign visitors’ accounts of the City.

I went mad and bid over double the estimate for a nice book on the Buckingham Palace garden pavilion (no longer there to delight members who get invited to the garden parties); a member dealer did the same for some guides and histories and a non-member lady dealer went right over the top and bid twenty times the estimate for a group of reports on Metropolitan Improvements. There was a nice group of juvenile book lots but I got cold feet and only secured one lot. Of the maps, a Kensington map similar to the Society’s Marylebone reproduction went too high for me, but I got some small lots cheaply (although it is worrying why the dealers were not interested!), but then things went mad again with lots on London Life. I got back to wave my paddle for the two lots of Society publications and also made my major purchase of a sepsa aquatint of the Albion Mills panorama. Several of the panorama lots were withdrawn – the rumour being that the Guildhall had done a deal beforehand – but at least this means they have gone to a good home. The 1756

Notes from the Treasurer

Balancing the Accounts is a bit of an effort and is best done away from the interruptions of normal life. Last year they finally balanced in mid-Atlantic on a flight to Bermuda; this year they did so on retreat in a Cistercian Monastery in deepest Kent. What suggestions for the 1994 accounts?

The 1993 Accounts appearing elsewhere in the Newsletter confirm the continued good fortunes of the Society; our membership numbers are a little down on last year, but that is the expected result of drop-outs following the surge of membership after good publicity in 1991 and write-offs following the subscription increase in 1992. I expect things to resume their normal trend from now on and we have plenty of assets in hand. Our major expense is the printing and distribution of the annual publication but although we can expect some higher expenses with the publication of the next volume of the London Topographical Record in 1995 and the possibility of lots of illustrations in the Wyngaerde book which is being planned, they are both books which are cheaper to distribute than large folders and I hope we can survive on the present subscription rate for some years to come.

Perhaps I can put in my occasional plea that if you do not already do so and if you pay UK tax it would benefit the Society by one third of your actual payment if you would covenant to pay a regular sum to the Society; the new form of covenant approved by the Inland Revenue now allows the covenant to continue (after the minimum of four years) for as long as you wish, so there will be no need to keep on renewing them as there has been before. New covenant forms should be available at the AGM or on request from Trevor Ford or myself.
Stow/Strype went for the current usual price of over £2,000, but I was luckier with the earlier 1720 edition; I was not so lucky with a Regent's Park Improvements book which I lost to the over-the-top lady who was buying it for her own customer, so no chance of an after-hours deal.

All in all a very exciting afternoon. Without any special plan in mind, I spent roughly what I had planned to and look forward to enjoying my share of the books, maps and prints which had given so much pleasure to our late lamented member Geoffrey Gollin.

Anon

P.S. One of the books bought from the Gollin Sale had this report pasted in the front pages:-

"City Press 4 February 1882
Topographical Society of London
Yesterday afternoon the first annual meeting of the Topographical Society of London was held at Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Street. The Lord Mayor, who has been elected President, took the chair, and amongst those present were: Mr G. Godwin, FRS FSA (Vice-President) Major General J. Bailie (Treasurer) Mr H.B. Wheatley FSA (Director), Mr T.F. Ordish (Honorary Secretary) Mr E.W. Ashbee FSA, Mr W.E. Baxter FGS, Mr A. Cates FRIBA, Mr C.E.H. Chadwick-Healey, Mr F.J. Furnivall MA, Mr G.L. Gomme FSA, Mr Alderman and Sheriff Hanson, Mr R.B. Prosser, Mr W. Rendle, Mr O. Roberts MA, Mr E. Solly FRS, Mr J. Tolhurst FSA and Mr E. Walford MA.

The report of the committee was presented, of which the following is an abstract: the organising committee having completed their work, submit to the members a report on the present condition of the Society, as well as a draft series of rules for confirmation by the meeting, and a proposed list of officers and council for election. They wish in the first place to congratulate the Society on the consent of the Lord Mayor to accept the office of President; and also that they are able to announce that the Earl Beauchamp, the Earl of Rosebery, Sir Joseph Bazalgette CB and Mr G. Godwin FRS have agreed to act as Vice-Presidents. They consider that the interest exhibited by the Lord Mayor in presiding at the meeting is a good augury for the future success of the Society, and they trust that a large number of those in authority, both in the City and in Westminster, and in the boroughs that go to form the capital of this country, will come forward as supporters of the institution. Already many have added their names to the list of members but still more are required.

The committee regret that there has been so much delay in the issue of the publications to members, but they believe that all the publications for the first two years of the Society will be in the hands of members before the completion of the present year. The preparation of the view of London, by Van den Wyngaerde, the first part of which has already been issued, has required great care, and necessarily occupied much time; but the remaining portion is now in a very forward state, and will be ready for publication in a few months. This is a work of such great interest, as being the earliest view or map of London In existence, that the committee feel sure the members will agree with them that if nothing else was issued in the first two years, they would receive a remarkably good return for their subscriptions. It was generally felt that the possession of such large sheets would be irksome to many unless some proper arrangement were made for their preservation, and therefore the committee thought it well to incur the expense of plain portfolios to receive the whole of the sheets. It is proposed that when several maps of a particular period have been produced a volume descriptive of all of them shall be issued. By this means the repetition, which would be unavoidable in several descriptions, will be saved, and the further advantage of compari son of details will be obtained. When some of the most important old maps have been reproduced, the committee hope it will be possible to work backwards, so that members of the Society may be supplied with maps of earlier periods than those of which we have at present any representation. Another branch of the Society's work which is of paramount importance is that of registering the various changes that are continually taking place in London. For this Mr Emslie, a member of the Society, has prepared a view of the excavations at Leadenhall, showing the relics of the old buildings; and Mr Milliken, another member of the Society, has made several drawings on wood of houses that have been pulled down within the last year or so. These will be engraved and form an appendix to this report. Another appendix will consist of a notice of the articles in newspapers and magazines on London published in the year 1881. By the publication of an annual volume with these features, and others which may subsequently be added, the committee hope that a series of the greatest value in elucidation of the history of London may gradually be formed.

This system of registration of changes is one, however, of too vast a character for one or two persons to deal with adequately. The committee look upon this task as one of the greatest importance, more especially as no organisation exists at present for carrying it out, and they therefore hope that it will be possible to arrange a system of local committees which was proposed in the statement made at the inaugural meeting of the Society. If this could be done at once, it would be possible to give the results of the various committees in the report published at the next annual meeting. The first step will be the division of the 'Greater London' into sections. How this shall be carried out, whether according to such divisions as the City, the East End, Southwark, Westminster, Lambeth, Marylebone, Finsbury, etc., or in accordance with the postal divisions, will be a matter for future discussion. A district crowded with associations such as Kensington would require a stronger committee than one like Notting
Hill. Still even those districts with few historical associations would require careful watching, as some notice should be taken of the fields that are continually being covered over with houses. The committee hope that those members who are willing to act on these local committees will send in their names to the Hon Secretary at once, with any suggestions as to the districts they would be prepared to take charge of. Of work in hand special mention may be made of the extracts from the calendars of State papers which are being proceeded with, and will probably be printed soon after the completion of Wyngaerde’s view. The importance of these volumes is known to all who have frequent reason to consult them, but the many valuable local allusions have never been used as they deserve to be by the historians of London, so that a series of these extracts, combined with extracts of the Deputy Keeper of the Rolls and the Historical Mss Commission, cannot fail to throw a flood of light upon the history of London. In addition to those extracts Mr H.B. Wheatley has proposed to compile a handbook of London topography, which should contain a rapid sketch of what has been done in the subject, and what is still left for a London Topographical Society to do.

The Lord Mayor, in moving the adoption of the report, said he knew nothing more important in the history of the country than that impressions should be retained of its surface. (Hear). Literature dealt mainly with the manners, habits, and customs of men, and except in some historical novels, or in works purely topographical, this matter of the surface of the country was rarely touched upon. It would be seen therefore that the work of a society of this kind was invaluable. (Hear).

Mr J.G. Crace seconded the resolution, observing that the proceedings of the Society was regarded with interest not only in England but in America.

The report was unanimously adopted.

On the motion of Mr Wheatley, seconded by Mr Miliken, it was resolved, 'That the thanks of the Topographical Society of London be given to the curators of the Bodleian Library for their kindness in lending the original drawing of London, by Ant. Van den Wyngaerde, for the purposes of reproduction by the Society'.

Mr F.J. Furnivall moved the adoption of the rules, copies of which were distributed amongst the members, and in the course of a few general observations expressed a hope that London would before long set up a bust or a statue of Chaucer, who was a member of the Corporation, renting one of their rooms.

This was seconded by Mr Harrison, who thought that the annual subscription had scarcely been fixed at a sufficiently high figure.

The Lord Mayor moved the election of the council, all of whose names have already been given, and the motion was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr C. Markham, seconded by Mr Prosser, a vote of thanks was given to the Drapers’ Company for the use of their Hall. A vote of thanks was given to the Lord Mayor on the motion of Mr O. Roberts, seconded by Mr Stephens, and his Lordship having acknowledged the compliment, the proceedings terminated”.

Note.

The Emslie drawings constitute publications 3, 6 and 9 but I am not aware of the issue of the Miliken drawings, the 1881 London cuttings or the descriptive volume of maps of a period. The annual volume stopped being such after the first volume (much to the confusion of present librarians of corporate members) and became volume 1 of the London Topographical Record. The calendars of letter books were published in eleven volumes by the Corporation of London in 1898-1912. Mr Wheatley produced his three volume handbook, London Past and Present in 1891, still a standard work.

– Anon

Pugin: A Gothic Passion

From 15th June to 11th September the Victoria and Albert Museum is holding the first exhibition to look at the life, work and influence of one of the most important designers of the nineteenth century – A.W.N. Pugin. Probably best known for his collaboration with Charles Barry on the New Palace of Westminster, Pugin also contributed to over 100 buildings in Britain, Ireland, France and even Australia, and his talent for design embraced textiles, jewellery and books as well as architecture. The exhibition will include over 400 examples of Pugin's work – furniture from Windsor Castle, church plate, tiles, a screen from a Norfolk church, wallpaper etc., reflecting Pugin's prodigious energy. The variety and conviction of his work make him an ideal subject for an exhibition and it is to be hoped that the V and A, with sponsorship from Pearson plc, will do him proud.

A two day conference on Pugin and the Gothic Revival will be held on 24th-25th June (details from 071 938 8407), and a book of essays, Pugin: A Gothic Passion will accompany the exhibition. Further details from the V and A Press office 071 938 8361.

Pre-fire City churches

If this Newsletter reaches you in time you may like to attend the Bannister-Fletcher memorial lecture on Wednesday 4th May at 6.00 for 6.30pm at The Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly. Our Hon Editor, Dr Ann Saunders, will give the lecture on "Pre-fire churches of the City of London". Ticket enquiries (£3.00 to include wine and refreshments) to The London Society tel. 071 580 5537.
Back to Baker Street
The Sherlock Holmes Society of London is holding a festival from 20th-30th May, which is open to all. Events include a visit to the City of London Police Museum, a launch party at the Criterion Restaurant and the international Sherlock Holmes symposium at New Scotland Yard. Details and application form from The Sherlock Holmes Society, 64 Graham Road, London SW19 3SS, tel. 081 540 7657.

Livery Companies’ Exhibition
Eighty-seven of the 100 City livery companies are contributing to an exhibition at Guildhall from 12th-14th July. This will highlight the companies’ support for traditional crafts and trades, and explain the important role they play in charity, education and training. There should be plenty of variety, from the Glaziers (showing glass painting) to the Air Pilots and Navigators (showing flight simulation) and, incredibly, Woolmen shearing sheep. A visit to this exhibition could be combined with one to Guildhall Library Prints and Drawings where a smaller exhibition, “Seal of Approval” is to be mounted between May and September, by the Department of Manuscripts. This will feature some of the finest examples of the charters and grants of arms of the livery companies. And while you are there, the bookshop near the entrance has the latest books on London, its history and architecture.

London buildings open up
Some 300 London buildings of contemporary or historical architectural interest, which are normally closed to or difficult of public access, will be opened up on Saturday 12th September as part of Britain’s contribution to European Architectural Heritage Week. The opening up programme is being run by Open House, of which LTS member David Crawford is co-organiser.

Last year, as reported in Newsletter No 37, (November 1993), Open House ran a pilot programme in four Inner London boroughs with the aid of funding from the Arts Council’s Architecture Unit. As a result of its success, at least half the London boroughs are likely to be participating this year.

Open House is now officially co-ordinating the London contribution to European Architectural Heritage Week on behalf of the Department of National Heritage. It is working closely with the Civic Trust and the Trust’s member societies in Greater London.

Further information is available from: Victoria Thornton, Open House, 6 Swains Lane, London N6 6QU, tel. 081 341 1371.

Mural painting in Britain 1840-1940
Dr Clare A.P. Willson of the University of Glasgow is currently preparing a book to be published by Oxford University Press on this subject. In addition to the substantial national archive she has compiled, she has carried out an extensive amount of work on a number of London mural schemes including the Royal Exchange, livery companies’ halls, the Palace of Westminster, Chelsea Town Hall and various churches. She is concerned to ensure that the book is as comprehensive and representative as possible and would welcome any information which readers may have about mural work executed between 1840 and 1940 known to them, and whether or not it is still extant. The book deals only with figurative/pictorial work and does not include purely decorative designs, pattern, scrolls, etc. Work which falls immediately outside the time span is of contextual interest and details would also be welcomed on it.

Readers who may have information are invited to contact Dr Willson at 6 Cefn Coed Avenue, Cyncoed, Cardiff CF2 6HE.

Survey of London centenary
Walks, lectures and an exhibition at the Museum of London are planned to celebrate the centenary of The Survey of London. The lectures, scheduled for October and November, will be held at the Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly. The first, on 10th October is entitled “Recording London 1894-1994: 100 years of The Survey of London. The series of evening walks begins at 6-6.30pm on 25th July with Hyde Park and Kensington (the archaeology and monuments). Further details from Tara Draper, tel. 071 631 5065.

London panorama
The London panorama published by the Amsterdam publisher Frederik de Wit in 1667 showing the City after the Great Fire has been reproduced by the Academic Press, Leiden, in four sheets complete with the woodcut caption “Loendinium Florentissima Britanniae Urbis, Emporiumque Toto Orbe Celeberrimum” and a letter-press description of the City. This facsimile reproduction is taken from the de Wit panorama preserved in the Bodle Nijenhuis collection in Leiden. It is accompanied by an introduction written by Professor P.G. Hofstijzer of the University of Amsterdam which discusses the first panoramas of London, and those by Norden, Visscher and Hollar as well as de Wit’s work. The whole is available for £25 which includes post and packing. Cheques payable to Christy de Back at the Academic Press, PO Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, Netherlands.

A bedtime story for college librarians and archivists
Once upon a time there was a college librarian who was polishing her London Topographical Records. “Here is volume 26”, she said, “published in 1990. That was some time ago, and we have been paying our subscription every year since then. Where can volumes 27 onwards have got to? Some wicked witch must have stolen them. I must write off to the Society and claim my missing copies”. And she
did. And the Treasurer had to write back and explain that the Records are only published at about five-yearly intervals (vol 27 being due in 1985) and that although the subscription entitles members to a publication each year, it is not necessarily a volume of the Record.

Once upon another time the college librarian was polishing her London Topographical publications. “Here is number 142 and here is number 144, but where can number 143 have got to? The big bad wolf must have eaten it. I must claim my missing copy”. And she did. And the Treasurer had to write back to explain that although paid up members get a members’ publication each year, the publication series also includes extra publications which are not covered by the subscription and unless those extra publications are ordered and paid for in addition to the subscription, the college library will not contain a complete series of publications.

There once was an archivist who had a standing order for extra publications and was proud of his complete set, only to find that number 141 was missing, and so was number 132 and number 123. Alarm and consternation reigned. And he wrote off to the Treasurer, and the Treasurer had to write back and explain that Records, besides having volume numbers also have publication numbers, so that if you keep your Records separately, you will have gaps in your run of publications corresponding to the publication numbers of the Record volumes.

Then the college librarian and the archivist read this story and realised how the system worked. And the Treasurer lived happily ever after. Several Post Office workers were however made redundant.

— Roger Cline

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Book Reviews and Notices

English Heritage Book of the Tower of London

Geoff Parnell is the Inspector of Ancient Monuments with particular responsibility for the Tower of London, and has himself added greatly to our knowledge of the Tower by his excavations there. Nobody is better qualified to write a definitive history of the Tower, and this book is likely to remain the standard work on the subject for many years. It is a complex story here very succinctly expressed, with a density of factual information that demands concentration from the reader. In spite of its compactness, it is a book to read at home, not to take with you on a visit to the Tower. As with this series generally, the complex story of the building and rebuilding operations is told chronologically, from the Roman defensive and other works antedating the Norman castle, through the later medieval developments of the castle and royal residence to the Tudor, Stuart and Hanoverian additions to meet a multiplicity of needs, followed by the misguided Victorian efforts to remedievalise the castle, which too often resulted in destruction of genuine medieval survivals. With buildings so much altered by later usage and with the predominance of Victorian pastiche, it is perhaps surprising that the Tower retains its glamour — as will not be denied by anyone whose neck has tingled and eyes watered at the sounding of the Last Post there. Surviving topography, with buildings at least in their original position, may be more important for preserving the spirit of the place than unaltered architecture or ancient masonry.

The complex story, based on archaeology above and below the ground and a wealth of documentary evidence, is clearly told and clarified by photographs, drawings and early illustrations. The explanatory reconstructions by Terry Ball are particularly helpful. Several of these are reproduced as colour plates, which also include a well-preserved detail from the fourteenth century mural painting found in the Byward Tower, the old fifteenth century favourite showing the Duke of Orleans in the White Tower, and an interesting group of finds from the Tudor Mint in Legges’ Mount.

The declining use of the Tower as a royal residence led to increasing competition by various government services for accommodation there. The principal among these was the Office of Ordnance, which continued to use the Tower for military stores for more than three centuries. The lower part of the White Tower, alarmingly, was used as a powder-magazine while the upper part was occupied by the Record Office! It is sad that we have no pictorial record of the rococo displays of weapons arranged in the Small Armoury by John Harris in the early eighteenth century, in which a curving snake’s body was composed of pistols, the waves of the sea represented by bayonets, and the “back bones of a whale” by carbines. How unenterprising by comparison is modern museum display!

This book has one small defect, which should be remedied in the inevitable reprinting. Misprints are somewhat numerous — probably due to the pressure under which the staff of English Heritage now works.

— Ralph Merrifield

The Royal Palaces of Tudor England: Architecture and Court Life 1460-1547

In assessing the scope of this sumptuous book, it is important to note the dates given in the sub-title
1460–1547. Simon Thurley is not aiming to cover the entire Tudor period which ended in 1603 with the death of Elizabeth I; he is really writing about the building achievements of Henry VIII’s reign (1509–47) with a steady and perceptive backwards glance at the reigns of Edward IV and Henry VII. He shows this to have been as significant a period in royal architecture as it was in political and social development.

Earlier monarchs had made do with a handful of residences in London and about the country; at his death, Henry possessed sixty mansions, many of which he had altered time and again at considerable cost, and some eighty-five parks.

This book provides us with useful maps though no complete list is given; what it concentrates on are the palaces of Whitehall and Hampton Court. This is understandable enough; Dr Thurley, who in company with Dr Gervase Rosser wrote so well in the London Topographical Record vol xxvi, on the destruction of King Street Westminster to make way for the creation of Whitehall in 1530–40, is now Curator of Historic Royal Palaces. It is he who was responsible for the restoration of the kitchens at Hampton Court and for the re-adorning of the King’s apartments there after the tragic fire on 1986. More recently, he has undertaken the restoring and opening of Edward I’s lodgings in the Tower of London.

This book should be read as social history at least as much as architectural. Dr Thurley reminds us of the immense labourousness of the endless royal progresses about the country. During his reign, Henry moved no less than 1,150 times; as many as 800 courtiers and servants might be travelling with him; the problems of food supplies and stabling were those of a small army. The Clerk of the Market would ride ahead “before the kynges commynge to warn the people to bake, to brewe and to make redy othyr vytyale and stuff in to theire loggynge”. These progresses were part of the royal duty; there was no other way by which a monarch might be known to his people except by travelling among them. And there was a second reason—a few weeks of the Court’s in being in residence in any one palace necessitated a thorough cleaning and fumigating of that palace. The sheer organisation required is breath-taking and fascinating.

As Henry grew older and less active, palaces had to be adapted to suit his needs. It was an expensive business—between 1540 and 1547, some £28,676 was laid out on Whitehall alone. We see the emphasis of Court life shifting from the Great Hall to the private apartments; by the end of the reign royal Great Halls were obsolete and were no longer built; the King’s secret chamber was so much a world of its own that for three days after Henry’s death, food was still carried in and out to the sound of trumpets, and the mass of courtiers were unaware of the monarch’s passing. The political consequences were as important as their architectural manifestation.

The author rightly acknowledges his debt to the six volumes of The History of the King’s Works, edited and in good part written by Howard Colvin between 1963 and 1982. They are something to which we all need access. David Starkey’s The English Court (1987), David Loades’ The Tudor Court (1986) and Janet Arnold’s Queen Elizabeth’s Wardrobe Unlock’d (1988) are all essential reading.

Dr Thurley has set out to combine the architectural with the social; I think that he succeeds in his aim. Yale University Press has served him well with the marrying of the text with the illustrations, the majority of which are in colour, though the reader sometimes needs to have his wits about him in order to match up the captions with the pictures. The book is remarkable value at the price and is a delight to contemplate and handle.

—Ann Saunders

London’s Teeming Streets 1830 – 1914

A street, as we know, is easily defined; it is a route running from one part of a town to another. It is what a land owner builds to enable his estate to be developed, and what a government may construct to ease congestion. In other words, it is a means to an end. The literature of streets to an extent reflects this. The buildings along the street may be described in an architectural tome but the street itself, a mere passageway, is barely worthy of notice. The circumstances of its construction may be stated, but little beyond that. It is strange that a street, the essence of city life, has so rarely been studied.

London’s Teeming Streets, which may fairly be described as a pioneering work, is a rich and intriguing book. Rich because of the way it draws upon the available subject matter, and intriguing as a result of its approach. The observation that hardly any street in London was exclusively or even predominantly a passageway leads us to ten chapters each covering some different aspect of the streets.

First, we start with a theory. Taking the nineteenth century view that the city can be likened to a human body, with circulatory and respiratory problems, the author suggests a connection between this organic view and the contemporary attitude to street improvements. If the streets are arteries and choked by traffic, then this unhealthy circulation will lead to morbid development which only surgery can cure. When linked to the prevalent concern over respiratory illness— it was then believed that cholera was airborne—we come some way towards understanding the Victorian desire to drive wide straight carriageways through the slums to enable fresh air to penetrate. The street, furthermore, was the antithesis of all that was elegant and fashionable in a city. The word “street” was a modifier with connotations of debasement: for
example street woman, or street language. Street life itself was déclassé: the respectable classes in London have always preferred to disport themselves in private rather than in public.

A chapter entitled “Smoothing and Regulating” walks us over the different types of road surface. Unlike today there was no uniform surface; granite was hard but expensive, wood quiet but slippery for horses, and ultimately asphalt gained favour.

“Policing” describes how the Metropolitan Police gained control of London’s streets, maintaining a delicate balance between inertia and over zealousness. Commissioner Mayne was aware of the sensitive position, and was reluctant to use powers against street vendors and street musicians, successfully resisting the blandishments of moral crusaders.

“What use is a street?” is a question that looms large when the author focuses on street entertainment. On the one hand the strict view was that “the streets are for traffic and communication .... and not for orchestras ... an abuse permitted in no capital in Europe but unhappy London”.

This view was certainly supported by the celebrated mathematician Charles Babbage who endured countless persecutions from German bands in Manchester Square, and whose antics in attempting to suppress them earned him widespread enmity and derision. The opposing view, raised in a parliamentary debate on street bands, was that “the streets must be free for all legitimate occasions” including the innocent recreation of street music. This view prevailed and the police powers over street musicians were all but unworkable. Street music has respectable advocates too; John Ruskin believed it was the most effective instrument of moral instruction.

The border of the street is a zone of particular interest. As increasing traffic staked a claim to the centre carriageway, so pedestrians congregated in the remaining area, the footway. Between the two the costermonger plied his trade. The carriage, with high social prestige, had use of the roadway; the walker, who could afford not even the bus or the tram, had use of the pavement. The verge, curb or gutter – the very words indicative of marginality and the last redolent of vileness – were where Mayhew’s vagabonds dwell. James Winter points out that to view street traders as a single homogeneous group is to oversimplify the position. Calling on the witness of the lesser known Olive Malvery, who wrote in the early 1900s, we are alerted to the subtle stratification of the costermonger with a donkey: the costermonger without one; the hawker; the street musician and, lowest of all, the beggar.

What of the increasing traffic that thrust both pedestrian and barrow boy to the side? Concern over traffic congestion mounted throughout this period, but while numerous enquiries sat and gave forth opinions, significantly fewer new roads were built. Although what Smirke termed the “plough of civic improvement” created the furrows of New Oxford Street and Kingsway, these achievements bore little comparison to those of Baron Haussman in Paris. Rather than to cite each enquiry, the author concentrates on giving an overview, and makes two points. The first is that traffic congestion never seriously interfered with London’s position as the world’s greatest metropolis. The second is that it was recognised as early as the 1860s that “the facility of locomotion stimulates traffic of itself”; in other words, that traffic improvements are ultimately self defeating.

If Babbage was the antihero of the streets, then Charles Cochrane, briefly a Marylebone vestryman and self styled “Agitator of the Metropolis” was an unsung hero. His earliest proposal was to pave Oxford Street with wooden blocks, making a surface that was both quiet and safe. The corollary, though, was that the street would be slippery, and a brigade of street sweepers should be recruited to keep it clear. Cochrane therefore formed a Street Orderly Brigade from the ranks of the poor, paid them a salary, housed them in barracks and dressed them in naval uniform. This worked well; too well, in fact, as the ratepayers found them expensive and the Vestry found they interfered with their right of patronage in awarding scavenging contracts, although a similar corps survived in the City for a number of years.

With this brigade competed the Ragged School Shoe Black Society, whose red uniforms were to be seen in many central London streets. All were boys; while the idea of female Brassers (to polish door plates) or Steppers (to whiten door steps) was canvassed, it was felt that they could not be protected from the “dangers of the street”.

What was this danger? This, it seems, was vice, but we soon discover that this was a more pervasive and complex problem than we might expect. First, there was vice simple – the prostitute on the street. She was, of course, female. There were male prostitutes but they were more discrete. Originally concentrated around Haymarket, the “market” moved east until in 1900 Bishopsgate was “in a terrible state” and Aldgate “as bad as it can be”.

This had a knock on effect. The obvious presence of prostitutes, it seems, entitled some men to treat any woman as fair game, and we are given examples of the constant harassment to which women were subject in public places, at a level which today would be intolerable. Around Swan & Edgar, for example, no sooner would a woman stop to look in the window, than men would brush against her, make apologies, and try to strike up a conversation. To walk down Regent Street at night on your own was tantamount to indicating that you were on the game or fair game, and you were liable to be followed or accosted. A woman writing in the 1880s said that there was scarcely a day when she was not accosted while waiting for the omnibus and she could only defend herself by staring blankly through the ill mannered attentions of certain men.
It was notorious that women were daily subjected to this treatment, but the lesson to be drawn was not that men should mend their manners, but women their ways. In a cause célèbre a London magistrate rebuked a French woman that: "When she had been in London a little longer she would find out that no respectable married women would walk and wait about Regent Street alone at that time of night."

In other words, men and women inhabited the streets on different terms, and any women who declined to abide by the conventions would be held liable for the legal consequences. A woman should not walk the streets at night on her own. She should also not hire a cab and contemporary books on etiquette warned young women against entering onto London's streets without a chaperone for fear of seduction or worse.

The streets are now a duller place, but when did street life cease? James Winter sagely notes that this was proclaimed "usually by elderly men, for at least two centuries" but considers that claims of this nature usually marked a shift in character. What did put paid to street life in a "Victorian" sense was a contribution of factors in the inter-war years – the advent of the motor car, of commercial entertainment in the form of cinema, a reduction in inner city densities and in the need for casual labourers to make daily street purchases.

So where does this leave us? With an overwhelming feeling of regret that we were never as much as spectators at the feast of Victorian street life. The fare was poor and the diners were ragged, but as the author comments, what a shame that we were not invited to attend.

- Simon Morris

The Streets of London. Evocative Watercolours by H.E. Tidmarsh

In 1992, Ralph Hyde, Keeper of Prints and Maps in the Corporation of London's Guildhall Library, organised "The Streets of London", an exhibition devoted to the London watercolours of H.E. Tidmarsh. Now he has produced a volume with the same title, the first in a series of books to be published by Red Scorpion celebrating the work of English painters. It includes a monograph on the life and work of this respected artist as well as 154 examples of his work, facing succinct descriptions of the pictures with details from early twentieth century Ordnance Survey maps.

Over a period of about fifty years, Harry Edward Tidmarsh's sublime and detailed watercolours recorded the changing face and spirit of London's streets, as horse-drawn cabs, drays and carriages gave ground to the motor car and omnibus, and the mantles and flower-laden hats of Edwardian ladies were replaced by the cloche hats and elegant legs of their daughters.

Tidmarsh was a graphic artist and most of his work was done under the pressure of commissions, but his London churches and street scenes were painted or drawn for their own sake, and for himself. Perhaps this is one source of their appeal. He has an eye for the whole, and for the smallest detail, which he makes important, in buildings, in people and in nature. "Staffage" seems a poor word to apply to the individuals we see in Tidmarsh's work, so full of life as they go about their own urgent mysterious business and yet so poignant in their distance from us. Our streets and buildings once belonged to them. A view looking east down Fleet Street includes a warmly dressed lady carrying a fur muff as she follows a railway porter who has rolled up his shirt sleeves to carry her luggage, a street orderly scooping up horse manure, a rosy-cheeked boy carrying a sack over his shoulder, a girl selling violets who seems to have just caught sight of a customer and is darting across the street (Ralph Hyde tells us that the flowers are lavender, but the season depicted is too early for that). Tidmarsh's buildings, particularly his churches, have the same feeling of moments at once rescued from time and gone for ever. He uses the quality of light to convey the season, the weather, the time of day or, in his townscapes, to show the configuration of light and wind on the waters of the Thames.

In his own day at any rate, Tidmarsh seems to have been discerningly appreciated. In 1934 The Times review of his first exhibition remarked on the accuracy of his draughtsmanship, the beauty of his colouring, and his mastery of atmospheric effect; also his sensitivity to the relationship between bricks and stone and the effects of light and shade. Tidmarsh's work, said the reviewer, revealed beauties that could elude the eye when one looked at the actual objects.

The visionary nature of some of his work seems to come from his qualities as a man as well as a painter. Tidmarsh was a methodist, a socialist and a pacifist. His obituary described him as "a man of real piety and utter conscientiousness, gentle, retiring and yet firm as a rock in his convictions: He was a thoroughly good man. He showed no pride in his work: He just enjoyed doing it". We seem to see something of this, in the serious and appreciating gaze with which he looks out from a photograph taken when he was about twenty years old.

It is astonishing to think that until now, Tidmarsh's work has been generally unknown. This book should set that right. It is a luxury to handle, a delight to look at, and fascinating to read. Its publication is an exciting event.

- Judith Cox-Johnson
Such Goodly Company: A Glimpse of the life of the Bowyers of London 1300-1600
by Barbara Megson with a Foreword by Robert Hardy. The Worshipful Company of Bowyers 1994. 100 pages, 7 black and white illustrations, 5 colour plates. £19.50 + £2.50 post and packing from Delworth Group Ltd, Delworth House, Colnbrook, Slough, Berks SL3 ONE.

The bowyers made the longbows that played a vital role in famous medieval battles. Without archers the Normans would not have won at Hastings, and the triumphs at Crécy, Poitiers and Agincourt were achieved largely because the closed ranks of archers who fought with the Black Prince and Henry V were superior to the undisciplined French. The English yeoman’s expertise with a bow and arrow was the result of a law which required the practice of archery on the village green every Sunday morning – a law, incidentally, which has never been repealed!

Today, five hundred years after hand guns made military archers redundant, the livery company to which the makers of the longbows belonged, thrives, which says a great deal about the present membership’s atavistic pride in its medieval ancestors. The Company’s decision to publish an account – wisely subtitled “A Glimpse” – of the bowmakers of London is to be commended, though one wonders if the author’s scholarly research has wide appeal.

Barbara Megson, a retired H.M. Inspector of Schools, has scoured the City of London’s ancient calendars of deeds, rolls and state papers for details about the fourteenth and fifteenth century bowyers. She has scanned wills, delved into archival material, and meticulously recorded her sources in copious notes. The trawl has netted some interesting information about London but not a great deal about bowyers.

Bows were made from yew wood imported from Italy, Prussia and Spain rather than English yew, and brazil wood from India was used for less expensive bows. But ask why English woods were unsuitable (the Welsh favoured wych-elm) and you will find no answer. Information has to be filtered from several chapters to discover who made longbows in Bowyer Row, on Ludgate Hill, and why. Two of the bowyers who lived in the street, Adam Haket and Tom Coton (the second known Keeper of the King’s Bows at the Tower of London), worshipped at St Martin Ludgate and had as neighbours members of other trades. Their wills reveal their wealth, the whereabouts of their country cousins but little about their trade. One longs to know more about the bows used at Crécy and Poitiers and less about the Sumptuary Laws’ dictates about clothes (“Wives were not to wear veils of silk, nor fur trimmings “but only Lamb, Cony, Cat and Fox.””). Nor has the fascinating fact that in 1406 the king (Henry IV) ordered the Sheriff of Kent to assist the Mayor of London “in the duty of preserving salmon and other fish in the Thames” got much to do with the bowyers.

The dustjacket, introduction and a short preface by the actor Robert Hardy give a more concise picture of the craft. Hardy, the most memorable Prince Hal of this century, is a Past Master of the Bowyers’ Company and an authority on the longbow. It is he who tells us that Harold’s archers did not reach Hastings in time for the fatal battle in 1066 and he also records that in 1356, the year of Poitiers, when the Black Prince needed 1,000 bows, there were none in England because the King had taken them all to France. As consultant to the Mary Rose Trust, Hardy and his team helped to determine the efficacy of the bows recovered from Henry VIII’s flagship. He devotes an informative paragraph to this remarkable archaeological detective work; Miss Megson dismisses the sinking in a sentence.

Appendices listing the names of bowyers and important dates in the history of the military weapon and the livery company give some indication of what bowyers were about until they were put out of business in the fifteenth century. One wishes the erratic main text had been written in the same logical historical context.

-Denise Silvester-Carr

The Mansion House
by Sally Jeffery. Phillimore and Co Ltd 1993. 352 pages, 275 illustrations including 50 in colour. £75.00.

This is the book written and published for the Corporation of London to celebrate the completed refurbishment of the Mansion House. It has, it seems, everything: good quality paper, impressive dustjacket, excellent illustrations and plans, thoroughly researched text, fulsome captions, five appendices, footnotes, a chronology of building work 1737-58, subtle end-paper, comprehensive index, sources and abbreviations, two forms of acknowledgements, a Foreword, an Introduction and even a note on the typeface. There are twenty-three pages of preliminaries before the beginning of chapter one, which could strain the patience of the eager reader who might also be bewildered by the unnecessary Foreword plugging the Corporation, its work for City people, the Arts and the environment, and featuring inappropriate illustrations of a speeding police car and fireworks at the Barbican. This three page section is more fitting to one of the Corporation’s public relations brochures and does not sit easily as the Foreword to a beautiful and scholarly book on the architectural history of the Mansion House.

At last – chapter one (the first of fifteen) with the background to the decision to build the Mansion House. We might have had the Mansion House on the site of Gresham College or Leadenhall Market rather than on the site of the Stocks Market. Likewise, we might have had a building designed by James Gibbs, Giacomo Leoni, John James, Batty Langley, Isaac Ware or the obscure Captain
de Berlaim, rather than one designed by George Dance the Elder, Clerk of the City's Works. The choice of site and architect lay in the hands of a committee appointed by Common Council "to erect a Mansion House for the Lord Mayors of this City" – the Mansion House.

The unexecuted designs by Gibbs, James, Ware and Langley survive to fuel speculation of what might have been – Batty Langley's double domed fantasy stands out as different. As it was, George Dance the Elder's design for a large Palladian town house, complete with two tall attics known as Noah's Ark and the Mayor's Nest (since removed) won the day.

Returning to the theme of what might have been, Dance envisaged a wide (80 feet), straight new street from the Mansion House to London Wall which would have done justice to the façade of his building and altogether improved its setting by placing the Mansion House at the climax of a ceremonial approach and vista. Dance's plans for this approach road survive (in poor condition), complete with elevations of dignified terraces of houses which would have lined the street.

Be that as it may, the building of the Mansion House began with a dispute over the masons' contract which delayed the completion of the foundations until winter 1739. The Lord Mayor finally took up residence thirteen years later and work in the Egyptian Hall was not completed until 1758.

The author follows the story of building the house in depth. She was fortunate to have had a wealth of material available to her and she commands it admirably. Knotty details such as hidden structural ironwork and floor construction are explained with the help of freshly commissioned drawings, while original drawings, documents and contemporary descriptions survive to tell the tale – notably the Mansion House committee minutes and papers, and later the minutes and journals of the General Purposes committee. Sadly, what is missing is the wooden model for the Mansion House (measuring about 8 feet by 18 feet); it was on view at the Royal Exchange from 1738, inspiring drawings and prints which now represent the earliest designs for the building. Last heard of in Dance the Younger's garden shed, the Mansion House model was clearly a work of art comparable to the Great Model of St Paul's cathedral.

Following some pedestrian sections about "Boarded Flooring", "The Water Supply, the Engine and Related plumbing", the chapters entitled "Finishing the Interior", "Interior Design", "Furniture and Furnishings" come as a relief, and here the illustrations of ceiling designs, plasterwork, fittings and furniture are mouth-watering.

The book does not end with the completion of the eighteenth century house but continues with chapters on "The Building in Use", "Later Changes: The 19th Century", "The saloon, the Egyptian Hall and the ballroom in the 19th Century", "The 20th Century 1900-80" and finally "The Refurbishment Work of 1991-3". The latter posed difficult decisions, particularly in the sphere of interior decoration and furnishing. Of three options considered it was decided to undertake "an economically conceived scheme for a working house... The Corporation's brief was that the house should be furnished as a high quality working house rather than as an 18th-century museum-like building...The proposals took as their point of departure the character of the house in Regency times, because of the important suites of Regency furniture which survived". Thus compromises were made which may dismay the purist. For instance, the furnishing of the North and South Drawing Rooms follows a mid-nineteenth century description of the rooms; the Lady Mayoress's boudoir is early nineteenth century in style, whereas the Long Parlour is intended to recall the mid-eighteenth century but with chandeliers, side tables and chairs of 1931. The Egyptian Hall is fitted with a new carpet modified from a design of 1810, curtains and cornices based on a Chippendale design, light fittings modelled on early nineteenth century examples and an oak canopy of 1879 (painted and gilded). Those who are fortunate enough to be invited to the Lord Mayor's London home must judge for themselves the success/historical integrity of the recent refurbishment. It has certainly served us well in providing the opportunity for an authoritative record of the architectural history of the Mansion House in a luscious publication.

– Penelope Hunting

Greenwich and Blackheath Past

Westminster and Pimlico Past

Here we have two books from the same stable. Same design, format, price and even the same number of pages. They are part of the series which already includes Islington Past, Twickenham Past, Richmond Past etc., and there are more to come.

To begin with Greenwich and Blackheath Past, the author lived in the area for some thirty years and treats his subject affectionately. He regards Greenwich and Blackheath as twins but not identical twins, and deals with them in tandem, from "Earliest Times" to "Post-war Blackheath". The opening chapter relies substantially on William Lambarde's Perambulation of Kent (1576) – the first county history. With chapter two, "Tudor and Stuart Greenwich", the author comes into his own, apparently more at ease with this period than with "Earliest Times". Here we have the well-known Wyngaerde view of Greenwich Palace or Placentia,
and a helpful aerial view of the present Royal Naval College and the Queen's House behind, overlaid with a conjectural plan of Placentia (the work of our Chairman).

Following three chapters about Greenwich, it is the turn of Blackheath, a place that is something of an enigma, being partly in Greenwich, partly in Lewisham and lacking any particular definition. Leaving such problems behind, we are initiated into the mystery of the cavern, a cave cut 160 feet deep into the chalk of Blackheath, a dark pit with passages and a well and a place that has excited popular imagination for centuries. In the nineteenth century shows and balls were staged in the cavern until at one such occasion the lights were extinguished and panic ensued. The curious will be disappointed to learn that the cave and its secrets are no longer explorable, having been closed to the public.

Another intriguing vignette concerns Queen Caroline's hideaway - the Pagoda in Elit Vale, Blackheath, supposedly a nursery school and a refuge for the Queen, but evidently a house of ill repute after school hours.

The reader is brought up to the twentieth century by chapters on "Great Blackheath Landlord and Estates", "Greenwich in the 19th Century", "Art, Music and Entertainment", and "Fun and Games on Blackheath". Thus various topics are covered as well as the historical development of the two places which ends with the invasion of the Span dwellers i.e. those who live in the modern houses erected by Span Developments. These open-plan homes now cover thirty acres of Blackheath, replacing many Regency houses with 487 Span dwellings. What an epitaph for the twentieth century.

Isobel Watson is known for her books on Hackney and Stoke Newington. With Westminster and Pimlico Past she enlarges her field. The inclusion of Pimlico is particularly welcome but I am unconvincing that we really need another book on Westminster. Similarly, although the publisher claims that "many of the illustrations are published for the first time" I think that most of them will be familiar to members of this Society. An exception is the page from the Army and Navy Store's catalogue for 1907, but I am not sure what this is meant to tell us about Westminster and Pimlico Past.

The text runs along smoothly as the author reminds us of the important part played by Thomas Cubitt in the development of Five Fields, as the area between Kings Road and Belgrave Square was known (now Belgravia). Our attention is also drawn to the several important Victorian churches of Westminster and Pimlico - such as St James the Less by G.E. Street (1861), St Barnabas Pimlico by Thomas Cundy (1846-9), St Matthew's, Great Peter Street by Sir George Gilbert Scott (1849-51) [even without its proposed spire], and St Michael's, Chester Square, also by Cundy (1846), recently restored on the outside but converted to resemble a cinema inside). The stunning Westminster Cathedral surely deserves more than fifty words and a scrappy drawing?

Westminster and Pimlico suffered badly in the Blitz of 1941 and in the Little Blitz of 1944 when the Guards Chapel was hit by a flying bomb in the middle of a service, killing 119 worshippers. In the post-war development of the area, Victoria Street is conspicuous for its ugliness but residential Pimlico has emerged with fresh charm, confirming the author's point that Westminster and Pimlico always have been, and remain, full of contrasts.

This reader found the Greenwich and Blackheath book the more interesting of the two, mainly because it is less familiar territory. For that reason, a map or maps showing clearly the location of the places under discussion would have been helpful - of course there are some maps, but not enough and not always legible.

Penelope Hunting


Over the last twenty-five years the production of substantial, well-researched, definitive histories of boroughs within the Greater London area has not merely slowed down - it has virtually disappeared. The successors to Blanch's Camberwell, Feret's Fulham, Fink's Clerkenwell and Barrett's Hampstead are conspicuous by their absence; their place has been usurped by the ubiquitous "illustrated history", usually just an excuse for a collection of photographs with minimal captions. It is said that this is what publishers want nowadays - and what readers can just about tolerate. Consequently, it is a real cause for celebration when a borough finds itself a local historian, positively picked in the records, who can write at one and the same time a coherent and gripping account of one of London's northern suburbs.

David Pam is that man, and the second volume of his magisterial history of Enfield is the achievement of a lifetime. Those who have already read the first volume will need no further recommendation - and David now promises a third volume to bring the history down to 1939. Whitaker's eighty year old history will then be completely superseded. And surely one day, David will be persuaded to cover the history of the last fifty years, already fast moving into oblivion.

David's history is solidly based on his work in the local newspapers which give an unrivalled coverage of the rapid development of this typically Victorian suburb from the mid-century onwards. He divides his material into broad subjects - employment, transport, local government, education, religion etc. - ending with a fascinating chapter on leisure pursuits, from cycling to
cinema. The facts and statistics are fleshed out with details on the people affected – the people who lived and worked in Victorian Enfield. The illustrations are equally well chosen – I loved the Enfield Bonfire Boys, as well as the crape factory.

The impressive subscribers’ list at the back provides an excellent indication of the regard in which David’s work is held, and I feel sure that after you have read this volume, you will want to put your own name down for the next!

David Webb

Bedford Park
Anyone living in Bedford Park might be curious to trace the names of those who occupied his house, street or neighbourhood in the past. Lawrence Duttson has compiled Mainly About Bedford Park People, an alphabetical list with the names, details and sometimes brief biographies of past residents (it was the developer’s intention to attract artistic people to the estate and he largely succeeded). A conversion index takes into account changes in street numbering and there is a houses to persons index. Available from L. Duttson, 80 Esmond Road, London W4 1JF for £8.50.

We welcome the following new members:

Mr F.J. Boden, 52 Moorgate Avenue, Birstall, Leicestershire LE4 3HH.
Dr C. Broad, 36 Wakefield Gardens, London SE19 2NR.
Mr C.A. Brook, 27 Ormsby Lodge, The Avenue, London W4 1HS.
Mr S.H. Brittain, 82 Chapel Street, Billericay, Essex CM12 9LS.
Mr J.A. Bruce, 1C5 Grove Park Road, London W4 3GD.
Mr C.N. Cornes, 80 Coombe Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 5RA.
Covent Garden Area Trust, 7-9 Bedford Chambers, The Piazza, London WC2E 8HA.
Mr T.E. Davies, 20 St Johns Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent BR5 1HY.
Dr I.G. Doolitle, Bunch Lane Lodge, Bunch Lane, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1ET.
Mr T.N. Dunmore, 19 Cornwallis Grove, Edmonton, London N9 0JR.
Mr F.B. Harris, 8 Meadoway Close, London NW11 7BA.
Mr G.A. Higham, 32 East St Helen Street, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 5EB.
Professor H Hisada, Minamigoaka-Airisu 412, 10-62, Minamigaoka 1, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya-shi 464, Japan.
Mr C.A. Kehaya, 6 Holne Cross, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7GU.

Mr C.J. Martin-Ross, 109 Messina Avenue, London NW6 4LG.
Mrs M. Miller, 2 Whiston Close, Somersham, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE17 3YF.
Mr A.L. Poole, The Lodge, California Lane, Bushey Heath, Herts WD2 1ES.
Dr P. Renton, 52 Ossulton Way, London N2 0LB.
Miss T. Scranney, 1 Oakmead House, 1c Oakmead Road, London SW12 8SN.
Mr D.C. Searle, 400 Skokie Boulevard, Northbrook, Illinois 60062, U.S. A.
Mr M. Sellers, 68a Drayton Park, London N5 1ND.
Dr M.E. Shipley, 65 Friary Road, London SE15 1QS.
Dr R. Shoemaker, History Department, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN.
Mr D.C. Smith, 3 Bowgrave Copse, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 2NL.
Mrs L.J. Sullivan, 5a Zangwill Road, London SE3 8EH.
Mr D.J. Turner, 21 Evesham Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 9DL.
Ms M.E. vander Meulen, Gorzen 22, 3831 GD Leusden, Netherlands.
Mr M.U.L. Williams, 75 Clapham Common Northside, London SW4 9SD.

And we regret the news of the death of Leslie Ginsburg, architect and planner.
**LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1993**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1992</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions paid by members</td>
<td>16266</td>
<td>17472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions from earlier years</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income Tax from Covenants</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>1775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total subscription income</strong></td>
<td>17896</td>
<td>19407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit from sales of Publications (1)</td>
<td>4105</td>
<td>5474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>2326</td>
<td>3023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and donations received (2)</td>
<td>778</td>
<td>818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income for the year</strong></td>
<td>25190</td>
<td>28802</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members subscription publications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Printing</td>
<td>12442</td>
<td>9506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Distribution</td>
<td>2677</td>
<td>1300</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total cost of members publications</strong></td>
<td>15119</td>
<td>10806</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletters</td>
<td>2942</td>
<td>2979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGM</td>
<td>1043</td>
<td>825</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications Storage and Service</td>
<td>1260</td>
<td>1390</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Administration Costs</strong></td>
<td>5850</td>
<td>6160</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure for the year</strong></td>
<td>20969</td>
<td>16966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus for the year</strong></td>
<td>4220</td>
<td>11836</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**

(1) Sales £8408 includes £180 sold at cost and £18 royalty, leaving £8210 at say 50% profit = £4105. Thus, cost of publications sold = £180 plus £4105 = £4285.

(2) 27 Foundation £400, others £378.
# LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

## BALANCE SHEET 31 December 1993

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1992</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money in bank and National savings</td>
<td>43300</td>
<td>37780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax due to be repaid</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>2675</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total liquid assets</strong></td>
<td>44550</td>
<td>40455</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value of Society's stock of publications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock at end of previous year</td>
<td>25893</td>
<td>25934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions to stock</td>
<td>3782</td>
<td>6967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of publications sold (1)</td>
<td>(4285)</td>
<td>(7008)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Value of stock at year end</strong></td>
<td>25390</td>
<td>25893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993 AGM Expense</td>
<td></td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>69940</td>
<td>66438</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1992</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions paid in advance</td>
<td>4630</td>
<td>5348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Worth of the Society</strong></td>
<td>65310</td>
<td>61090</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Change in net worth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1992</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Previous year's net worth</td>
<td>61090</td>
<td>49353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year</td>
<td>4220</td>
<td>11837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>End-year net worth</strong></td>
<td>65310</td>
<td>61090</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The audit is in progress at the time of going to Press, but is not yet completed.

Roger Cline
Hon. Treasurer
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