

newsletter

No 99
of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY Jan 1987

Capital Gains—our January Talk

Wednesday, January 21st, 7pm
Holborn Central Library, Theobalds Rd WC1

As members will be aware there has been a significant increase in archaeological activity in London in the last decade. The Museum of London has recently mounted an exhibition to give perspective to the finds and conclusions. We are therefore pleased that Dr Hugh Chapman, of the Museum of London, has agreed to give us a talk on the same theme, either to whet our appetites to see the Exhibition or else to enlarge on what we have already seen.

Advance Notice

Please put these dates in your new diaries:

Mar 25, 7.30pm. St Pancras Church House.
Jim Eliot on 'The City in Maps through the ages'

Apr 13, 7.30pm, Swiss Cottage Library.
Dr Donald Hawes on 'Dickens in Camden'.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The winner of our photographic competition was Dr Anton R. Obrist, who lives in Switzerland, and who submitted a photograph, taken in the late 1920s, of a workshop in Fitzrovia. This is reproduced, with a description, in the current CHS Review. Unfortunately the judges felt unjustified in awarding any additional prizes.

Beauty in History

Thursday, Feb 5th, 8pm.
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

Our talk in February has the unusual theme of beauty in history, more particularly the social and political implications of personal appearance in Western society from 1500 to present day. This intriguing talk, to be given by Professor Arthur Marwick, will be, of course, illustrated with slides. Professor Marwick is Head of the Department of History at the Open University and is a frequent broadcaster. He emphasises that his theme is to do with physical beauty and not to do with fashion.

One Hundred Up

Don't forget that the next Newsletter is the one hundredth edition. We want to make it a larger edition than usual so if you have a short contribution do send it in to the editor, John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N7 before February 15th.

PINNING DOWN THE PAST

The Hendon and District Archaeological Society has recently published a booklet detailing the finds made at its dig in Church Row, Hendon. Not only were there traces of Roman occupation but also unique evidence of Saxon use, including a spiral headed pin of that period - only 20 are known in the country. A number of interesting coins were found, including a forged groat, a German jetton, and a 17th century token from Bushey. The author of the booklet is Ted Sammes and it is not the usual dry archaeological report - it is a series of informative vignettes on a number of the more interesting finds.

It is obtainable price £1.80 post free from the Society at 5 Sentinel House, Sentinel Square, NW4 2EN.

The Origins of Lyndhurst Hall

Mrs Margaret Longman writes:

I have discovered what I believe to be an error in the booklet contained in the **Kentish Town Packet** (published by CHS) regarding Lyndhurst Hall in Warden Road, Kentish Town. It is stated in the booklet that the Hall was previously a mission hall belonging to Lyndhurst Chapel in Thurlow Road, Hampstead.

I do not think that can be so. It was the mission hall of the Lyndhurst Road United Reformed Church (formerly Congregational) in Lyndhurst Road, Hampstead.

I was a member of that church and when it closed a booklet was published which contained some of the history.

This states that Lyndhurst Road Church started in a little chapel in Willoughby Road in 1876. In 1883 enough money had been raised to begin building the church in Lyndhurst Road. At about this time members of the chapel began working in Kentish Town and soon decided that a Mission Hall was necessary. Kentish Town required £1000 and 200 workers and 'was the making of Lyndhurst Road' wrote the Rev R.F. Horton, who served the church from 1884 for almost 50 years. His widow wrote the history of the Church.

I also noticed that St Silas Street is not mentioned. Before St Silas church was built it was known as Preston Street. My great-great-grandmother lived there according to the 1881 census.

(John Richardson writes: As editor of the Kentish Town publication I apologise for this error. We had the right church but put it in the wrong road!)

ISLINGTON HAPPENINGS

Our friends the Islington Archaeology and History Society continue their series of talks in 1987. On 21st January, which unfortunately clashes with our own meeting, Anthony Quiney is talking on the Origins of the Terraced House; on 18th Feb Richard Samways is dealing with the Greater London Record Office, and on 18 March Camden's Malcolm Holmes is talking on Hatton Garden. Lectures take place at the Camden Head, Camden Passage, N1 beginning at 8pm. A charge of 50p is made for non-members. Membership is £3 per annum. Further details from Julia Toffolo, Publicity Officer, on 253 6644

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

The University of London celebrated its 150 years (in 1986) with the publication of a book entitled 'The University of London 1836-1986' written by Negley Harte. Its 303 pages are packed with no less than 366 illustrations. Its text inevitably touches on many of the important educational developments of the period and also, of course, relates the activities of the Victorian university and the story of the 1900 reconstruction which began the organic link between the various colleges that eventually formed the federal university.

It is available at £11.95 casebound, and £4.95 paperback from the University of London, 52 Gordon Square, WC1. Callers may obtain a copy during working hours or else by post, adding £1.75 or £1.55 respectively.

THE HENRY GRANT PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

The photographer Henry Grant lived in Chalk Farm from the end of the War until 1958 and then moved to Golders Green. In the early 1950s he was a member of a small group called **Focus on Life** which sought to portray working class life, and all these years he has taken photographs of London and its life. His collection of 75,000 photographs taken between 1950 and 1980 has happily been acquired by the Museum of London and is available to picture researchers at the Historic Photograph Collection at the Museum.

THE TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD MASCOTS

Musing on Tottenham Court Road Anthony Cooper wonders what has happened to the shop mascots which used to decorate two furniture shops. One was the stuffed bear in the window of Wolfe and Hollander and the other was Phineas the Scotsman which stood in Catesby's doorway. Does any member know?

THE SOCIETY

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society, c/o Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, NW3. It is edited by John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N7, to whom all contributions should be sent.

The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, the Treasurer Christopher Sanham, and the Editor of the Review is Dr John Gage, all of whom may be written to at the Swiss Cottage Library.

Anniversaries

Some Camden anniversaries in 1987 are as follows:

50 years

Just over the border, the Gaumont State Cinema, one of the largest in the country, in Kilburn High Road opened. The architect was George Coles

Mudie's Library, the largest circulating library in the country with its headquarters in New Oxford Street, closed its doors finally. It was founded in 1842 and in its heyday, that of the 3-decker novel, was able to make or break a title.

100 Years

Hampstead Vestry opened public baths and washhouses in Palmerston Road and Finchley Road. The site of the latter is now occupied by Sainsbury's.

St Cuthbert's church in Fordwych Road, designed by W.C. Street, was consecrated.

The College of Preceptors built their new headquarters at 2 Bloomsbury Square. This College aimed to set professional standards for teachers in private schools by awarding certificates of competence. The organisation is now at Theydon Bois, Essex.

150 years

Charles Dickens moved into 49 Doughty Street. The rent was £80 per annum and the writer lived here with his wife and baby, His wife's sister Mary, for whom Dickens had a great passion, was a frequent resident and died here

Christ Church, Albany Street, was consecrated. Its designer was Sir James Pennethorne who was responsible for a number of new thoroughfares cut through the slum areas of the capital. This church contains a window depicting The Sermon on the Mount designed by D.G. Rossetti and executed by William Morris.

John Constable, artist and long-term resident of Hampstead, died. This will be marked by events at Burgh House this year and the Society will be having a lecture in July.

A coach carrying the young Queen Victoria travelling down Highgate West Hill went out of control. The day was saved by the innkeeper of the Fox and Crown (now demolished) who pulled up the horses. The innkeeper was presented with a Royal Warrant coat of arms which is now displayed in the premises of the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution.

St Pancras Literary and Scientific Institution was founded in Colosseum House, Euston Road.

The new Hall of the Royal College of Surgeons in Lincolns Inn Fields, designed by Sir Charles Barry, was completed.

The Primrose Hill tunnel of the London to Birmingham line was completed in June and Euston Station opened in July.

Joseph Grimaldi, famous clown, who was born in Stanhope Street, Clare Market (site of the London School of Economics), died.

Canon Ainger, Hampstead cleric and friend of literary lions, was born. He lived at 2 Upper Terrace, Hampstead and is buried in Hampstead churchyard.

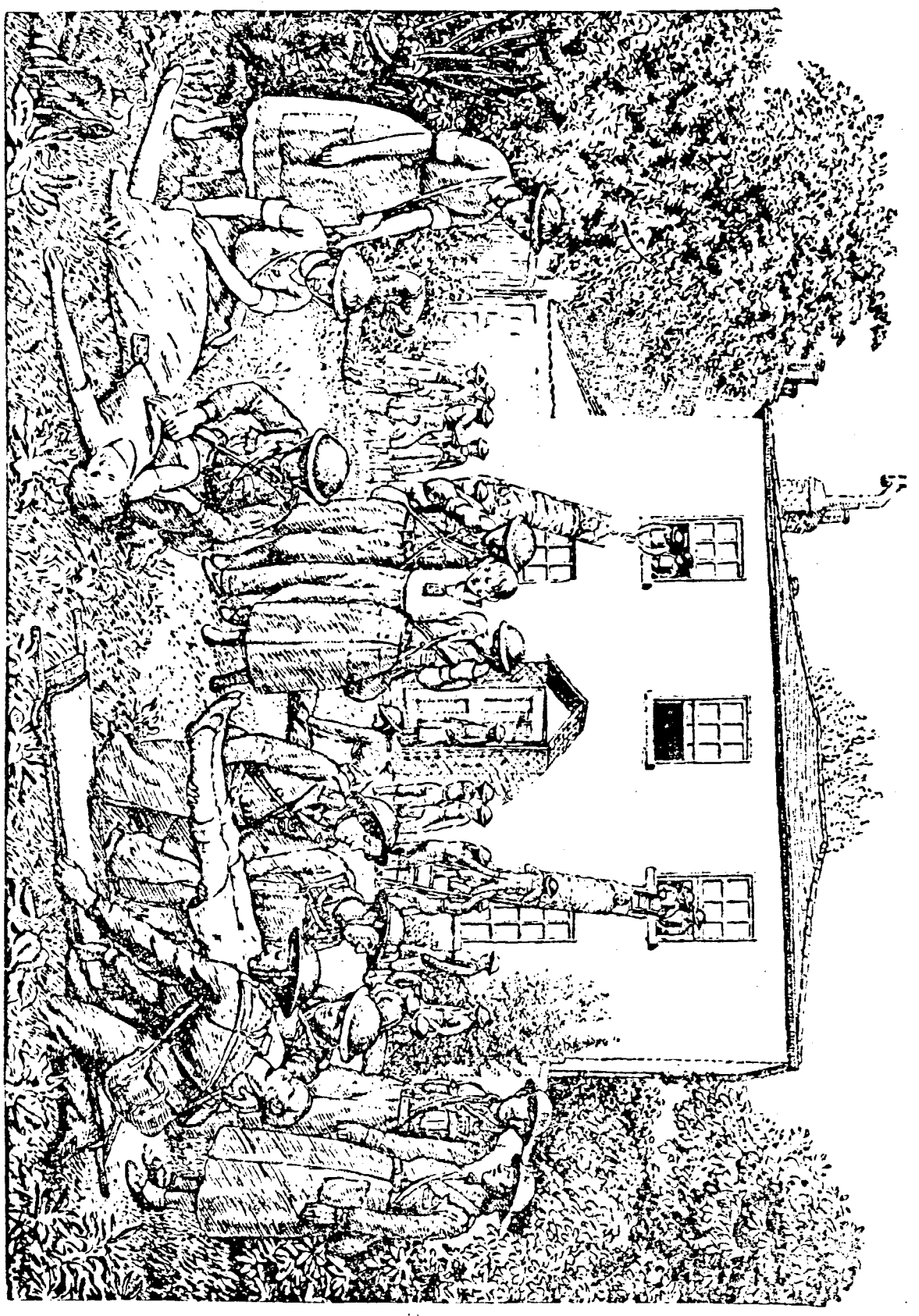
200 years

The Welsh Charity School, which was for some years based in the Grays Inn Road, was established in Clerkenwell Green in the building which is now the Karl Marx Memorial library. The Society that founded the school began in 1715 after a service in Welsh held at St Paul's, Covent Garden. Its principal aim was the education and welfare of poor children of Welsh parents born in or near London. A room was taken in Hatton Garden and a day school begun. The school built the splendid house on Clerkenwell Green and when that became too small for them moved to Grays Inn Road in 1772 and from where it moved to Ashford in 1857. The Grays Inn Road building became Eley's Cartridge factory which the author of St Pancras Past and Present lamented was a centre for making instruments of war.

MARY HILL POSTCARDS

Alan Farmer, a member of the Society and also author of *Hampstead Heath*, is collecting postcards of the paintings of Mary Hill who also lived in Hampstead. The usual signature on these cards is MH. If any members have cards which they would care to sell to him Mr Farmer's telephone number is 794 4830.

A book entitled THE LONDON AIRRAID by Hugh and Faurine Wassington published at an unknown date since the last War, includes a drawing, reproduced on this page, of an ARP demonstration in the garden of a Hampstead house. The artist was William Clausen, a resident of Hampstead. Can anyone identify the house?



Wartime in Hampstead

newsletter

No 100

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

March 1987

Our City in Maps in March

Wednesday, March 25th, 7.30pm
St Pancras Church House,
Lancing Street, NW1.

There surely is not another city in the world which has been mapped so thoroughly and so often as London. The wealth of topographical information contained in maps is almost entirely confined to libraries. Apart from the brave exception of the London Topographical Society, there is not much impetus to reprint early maps and make them available to the public - miniaturised versions contained in books are never really satisfactory.

So, it will be fascinating to hear just what there is available for reference in our national repositories from Jim Eliot, our speaker this evening.

Dickens in Camden

Monday, April 13th, 7.30pm
Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Rd, NW3.

Dickens was no stranger to Camden. From his desperate boyhood in Bayham Street when the family fortunes were at a very low ebb, to his affluent years in Tavistock Square, it could be said that the borough was a backdrop to his activities. Indeed, many of his experiences in and around Camden Town, including his school by Mornington Crescent, are incorporated in his many books.

It will be 150 years in April since Dickens moved into 48 Doughty Street (now a Dickens museum) with his wife Catherine, who he had married in 1836. In this house Dickens worked on *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby*.

Our speaker on the writer's connections with Camden will be Dr Donald Hawes who until the summer of 1986 was Head of Languages and Literature at the Polytechnic of North London

A Walk Round Somers Town

And now for something completely different! For the first time we are having a walk around Somers Town - there is lots to see if you have the right guide. In this instance we are being led by Ruth Hayes and the tour includes Old St Pancras Churchyard and the Camley Street Nature Park. So join us on Wednesday, 27th May, at 6.30pm outside St Pancras Library in Euston Road.

HAMPSTEAD'S VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

David Sullivan writes:

The Victoria County History for Hampstead (coupled with Paddington) will be published soon - probably in the early part of next year. The greater part of the Hampstead section has been researched and written by Diane Bolton; and this includes the manor history (with which I have been able to help in my own small way).

I have also steeled myself to write a further (and perhaps more popular?) book about the manor and church in the middle ages, dealing with aspects as well which the VCH does not aim to present. I hope to show it in its setting as just one of a number of Westminster manors in Middlesex, with something about their interrelation in the economy of the Abbey - as well, of course, as the history of the free and unfree tenants themselves, so far as one can unravel it. Most of this is derived from the Westminster muniments, a few of which appeared in my exhibition last year at Burgh House (and are currently reappearing in a yet more abbreviated form).

One Hundred Up

In May 1970 the first edition of this Newsletter appeared. It reported the destruction of Vane House in Hampstead High Street as well as the inauguration of the Society with Sir John Wolfenden as President and Sir John Betjeman, Sir Colin Anderson and Sir James Brown as Vice-Presidents.

I must say that I find it difficult to believe that I have edited 17 years of Newsletters since. In the old days when I had a rather primitive typewriter the typing was done by Miss Squire, the Borough Librarian's secretary, on her new-fangled golf-ball IBM, and this gave an even impression suitable for the printer to photograph. Her colleague Mr Gregory, who many of you will remember as our former Secretary, compiled many of the items as well. Nowadays the thing is more stream-lined as I type it straight on to a word processor, and if this passage of seventeen years underlines anything, it is the changes on my desktop.

The Newsletter would not be possible without the contributions which have always been sent in by members. They do, after all, make the publication worthwhile and, incidentally, contribute much to the known history of the borough. They also make my job much easier when I sit down with a blank mind every two months to compile it!

You should also be aware of the amount of work done by the members who distribute the Newsletter. Every two months a group of them get together to put it into envelopes, usually with posting date looming heavily, and then organise the distribution by post and hand delivery. I would therefore like to thank Jane and Alan Ramsay, Diana Wade, Horace Shooter, Anthony Cooper, Roger Cline, Dorothy Jones, Margaret Petzsche, Roy Allen and Rosina Figgis for all their work on all these occasions, for by the time they report for duty and have the last-minute panic to deal with I have heaved a great sigh of relief at having got shot of my part of the operation.

Nor should we forget in this list of thanks our printers Gnu City Press who almost always produce it for us in two days, usually because I am late in finishing the artwork for them.

So, on to the next 100 but I would be very surprised if I am writing this in 2004!

John Richardson

Coade Stone Revealed

The composition of the artificial stone constructions and details made by the Coade family has often been said to be a lost secret. Recent work in the British Museum laboratory has - perhaps sadly! - taken away some of the mystique, while adding to the respect one must feel for a remarkable firm. The BM used several different techniques to study the material, as reported recently in the *Transactions of the English Ceramic Circle*, Vol 12, 1986. Mavis Bimson explains that the Laboratory's research techniques included thin sectioning (a form of geological examination) analysis by electron microprobe and by scanning electron microscope, and the refiring of specimens to examine their behaviour.

It was concluded that the secret of the durability of Coade Stone lay not so much in the recipe but in what we might call today 'quality control'. To be sure, they did use an unusually high proportion of 'tempering' material - the ground-up pottery ('grog'), sand and flint that helps clay to hold together during firing - up to 20-30% of this material was used. But in addition it was the skill in forming and shaping the clay, the control of its firing, and the attention to the physical characteristics of the glassy outer layer that ensured the success of Coade Stone. This made a highly vitrified product that was very resistant to weather.

The most familiar item made in Coade Stone is, of course, the Waterloo Station lion. Does anyone know of a Coade production in Camden?

Cherry Lavell

THAT ARP DEMONSTRATION

Apropos the illustration of an ARP exercise in the last Newsletter, Christopher Wade tells us that the location was probably 24 Keats Grove, the home of Elizabeth Divine who was active in the ARP in the last War.

Hampstead's where my art is

The problem of loving local history, as well as the pleasure, is that it follows you everywhere. I was reminded of this forcefully the other day at the Royal Academy, where I was trying to enjoy the British Art exhibition - and I have to try very hard to appreciate the Modern Movement - and kept being distracted by the local interests.

What do I find in the first room? Sickert and the Camden Town Group. What a lovely Ginner! Did he paint it while he was lodging in Hampstead High Street? (Must find out more about his stay there ... How did he like all the bakery smells from below?) Now, there's a lovely screen by Duncan Grant. Let's see: which end of Fellows Road did he live at, when he was larking about with Lytton Strachey in Belsize Park Gardens ('catching 'flu together', according to Strachey)? A whole wall of Gertlers! With the famous roundabout in the centre. Does everyone realise that this is a Hampstead roundabout?

Here come the Vorticists! David Bomberg should really be called the greatest artist of West Hampstead. (Why did he change his lodgings so often?) Oh good! They've got the self-portrait, which looks something like a Spanish omelette. And there's lots of Paul Nash. Pity that his only Hampstead subject was the grotto in his garden in Eldon Grove. (Somebody told me that it was still there, and that it was his dog's grave). And the only Vorticist war artist, Christopher Nevinson? One of the old benevolent family of Nevinsons, which included H.W. Nevinson, the Grand Duke of war correspondents. (Shouldn't there be a plaque to the artist at Steele's Studios and how many have seen our Nevinson at Burgh House?)

At last, Stanley Spencer! That double portrait of himself and Hilda in the nude must have been done at the Vale of Health studio. And so to Ben Nicholson and Henry Moore, the pride of Belsize Park. Why no plaques to them at the Mall Studios? (Must try to get one of Moore's drawings of sleeping shelterers - after all, they were sheltering in local tube stations).

What an enjoyable show! So many familiar names and local celebrities. Must go back and look at the pictures sometime.

Christopher Wade.

News from Hornsey

Ken Gay, Chairman of the Hornsey Historical Society writes:

Camden History Society shares only a short geographical boundary - at Highgate - with that of my own Society, but both organisations share the same wide concern with the development of north London and the urbanisation of Middlesex. So, the Hornsey society is only too pleased to be able to congratulate the CHS on the publication of the 100th edition of its Newsletter and also, of course, the continued publication of the Camden History Review.

The two societies have many links. The Hornsey society, for example, is looking forward to welcoming John Richardson when he comes to speak to us on April 8th, on the History of the St Pancras Vestry. We should be pleased to see members of the CHS there and also at any of our future talks, which include George Bartle on British Nonconformist schools on 13th May, and Richard Trench on London Under London on 10th June.

All meetings are held at Hornsey Library, Haringey Park, Crouch End at 8pm.

With luck we shall have available at our April meeting our new Bulletin which will carry a facsimile of part of an hitherto unpublished letter by John Betjeman. Other articles feature Bruce Castle, Hornsey Vestry and Stump Orators. If you join the HHS you get the Bulletin free!

WILLIAM TAYLER'S DIARY

Twenty-five years ago the St Marylebone Society published a best-seller - *The Diary of William Tayler, Footman*, kept zealously throughout 1837 in order to improve his handwriting. This publication sold out in a few months.

Such a diary is not unique, but it is rare. William wrote it with humour, not unspiced with malice, and with humanity, so that it adds up to a most unexpected human, social and historical document.

The St Marylebone Society intends to publish a photographic reprint of the original edition this summer. It will be on sale at the Regent's Park Festival (see other item) - price to be announced.

Thomas Park, the Poetical Antiquary

Many people know of John James Park's book *The topography and natural history of Hampstead* (rev 1818), a remarkable work for a lad of 18. Perhaps fewer people know about his father, Thomas Park, who is commemorated on a brown plaque at 18 Church Row, Hampstead as 'the poetical antiquary'. Thomas Park, who lived in Hampstead for 30 years and undoubtedly taught his son John most of what went into the *Topography*, is the subject of a substantial entry in the *DNB*, from which most of the following is cribbed. Undoubtedly there is scope for some original research, and this note is contributed in the hope of rousing the interest of someone with the leisure to root about in the Local History collections.

Thomas was born in 1759 in East Acton, went to grammar school in County Durham (presumably through some family connection), and trained as an engraver. However, he became interested in poetry, especially Old English poetry, and abandoned his engraving career in 1799 when he would have been 40. He amassed a large collection of books and was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1802. The citation on his election form says he was 'a Gentleman much attached to the study of antiquities and particularly versed in the literary antiquities of this country'. Unfortunately he resigned his Fellowship in 1815, apparently unable to afford the subscription. He had lived in various places in London before settling in Hampstead where he remained from 1804 until his death 30 years later. He helped administer various local charities, and he published a volume of poetry of his own in 1797 and 1818. William Cowper had thought him likely to become 'one of our best hands in poetry' but the prediction was unfulfilled. In any case Robert Southey, though he liked Park as a person, had not shared Cowper's opinion of his poetic gifts.

Thomas was apparently a very saintly person, enduring with fortitude the loss of his wife and the early death of his son John James in 1833.

The plaque on No 8 Church Row presumably results from the researches of E. Bond whose lecture on Thomas Park is reported in the *Hampstead Antiquarian and Historical Society Transactions*, vol 1, 1898; Bond says that the houses in Church Row were not

numbered when Park moved there, but that there is evidence to suggest No 18 was the one... Bond says that a walk in Thomas Park's company was 'a treat of a high order' because of his knowledge of Hampstead. Indeed Park, who had travelled quite widely on the Continent, is quoted as having said 'Hampstead to me is Italy in many of its views, Switzerland in its diversity of aspects, Montpellier in its salubrious air, Spa in its pure chalybeate, and dear England in all its domestic and amicable associations'. No wonder young Park, John James, was inspired to write the *Topography* if he had imbibed this love of Hampstead from his father.

Cherry Lavell

HACKNEY HAPPENINGS

Some members may be interested in points east of Camden - in Hackney in particular. The Friends of Hackney Archives Department were formed just over a year ago and have a membership of over 150. The aim is to further research and publications on the history of Hackney and members receive a bulletin called 'The Terrier' which is named after the hound that nosed out the mouldering cemetery records in an outhouse at Abney Park! There are talks, walks and visits.

At the AGM on Apr 9th our speaker will be Christine Johnstone, curator of the new Hackney Museum, and on 14th May Isobel Watson will be speaking on estate development in South Hackney. On the 4th July there is a canal boat trip from De Beauvoir Town to Clapton. Talks are held in the Community Centre at the Rose Lipman Library, De Beauvoir Road, N1 at 7.30pm. Membership is £2 and prospective members should ring the Local History Department on 241 1886.

The Department is much in need of friends. It is likely to have to close to the public because the Council has failed to provide adequate outstores for its own records as they mature into archives, and at the end of this month, with the arrival of a lorryload of ex-GLC records, the only available storage is the public search room which will therefore have to close. The staff will be continuing to answer queries by post and telephone, but anyone inconvenienced by all this is encouraged to write to the Leader of the Council and the Chair of Leisure Services at the Town Hall, Mare Street, E8 and protest.

Isobel Watson
Chair, Friends of Hackney Archives Dept

WRITERS AND HAMPSTEAD

Many members will remember with much pleasure an Exhibition held at Burgh House during Hampstead Millennium year devoted to **Writers and Hampstead**, a symposium of what writers had written about the place rather than about writers who lived there.

Not only were the quotations fascinating, showing, as they did, perceptions of Hampstead through the years, but all the text was beautifully hand-written by the calligrapher, George Simpson. Because it represented a valuable piece of research into Hampstead history one felt that it should be somehow preserved. Well, Ian Norrie, who organised the exhibition, has somehow found the energy after the event to publish it in book form.

It is a handsome production in hardback, very reasonably priced at £10 and full of pictures and, you will be pleased to know, with the text entirely in the calligraphy we originally saw. The 101 quotations chosen by Ian Norrie are enhanced with portraits of many of the authors and pictures by Keith Wynn of houses in Hampstead that some of them lived in.

I particularly like one of the quotations from Robert Lynd who lived with his wife, Sylvia, and children in Keats Grove. It is headed '**Hampsteadophobia**' in which Lynd says that this is a disease common among taxi drivers. 'Its symptoms are practically unmistakable, though to a careless eye somewhat resembling those of apoplexy. At mention of the word "Hampstead" the driver affected gives a start, and stares at you with a look of the utmost horror. Slowly the blood begins to mount to his head, swelling first his neck and then distorting his features to twice their natural size. His veins stand out on his temples like bunches of purple grapes....'

'I have often been puzzled as to the explanation of this. Is there some legend among taxi-drivers about a loathsome monster that lurks in the deeps of the Leg of Mutton Pond, and the mere sight of which causes madness in men of this particular calling? Or is their terror the result of some old story of a taxi-driver who once took a fare to Hampstead late at night and was never heard of again?'

The book, which would make a splendid present for yourself or someone else, is obtainable, of course, at the High Hill Bookshop.

John Richardson

A Sorry Tale from Malden Road

Deirdre Le Faye has sent us a story from the Daily Telegraph which was originally printed in that newspaper in January 1887. It concerns an inquest at St Pancras Coroner's Court into the death of Ada Neale, aged 4 months, the daughter of a horseclipper lately living at 9 Cheston Street, Malden Road, Kentish Town.

There was a known history of neglect by the parents of this baby and the other two children in the family. A neighbour noticed one day a child of about four years carrying a baby in her arms. The child had no boots on and the baby had only a frock to cover it. The wind was bitterly cold (it was December). The witness snatched the baby up and suckled it and the poor infant, which had previously been sucking its hand, took the breast ravenously. The witness could not help crying over the poor little neglected infant. The father of the baby came out of a public house and later on his wife came to her and demanded the child exclaiming "How dare you expose my child". The baby was dreadfully emaciated and weighed just over 7lbs.

At the inquest Alice Neale, the mother, a diminutive woman whose face bore the marks of want and ill-treatment, said that she had been literally starved by her husband. Frequently she had to walk all the way to Alexandra Palace to borrow money and food from her father. She had been shockingly ill-treated by her husband and rarely had been without a black eye. On one occasion her husband had rammed a red-hot poker in her mouth.

After consideration the parents were charged with manslaughter.

CAMDEN ARCHIVES BOUGHT BY KENT

In case the headline has alarmed you, it refers to the Camden family archives which have been purchased for £90,000 by Kent County Council. The collection includes a vast amount of manuscripts, maps, account books and title deeds which took three years to catalogue.

The Camden family has lived on the Bayham Estate on the Kent-Sussex border for centuries and their ownership of the Canteloves manor of St Pancras in the late 18th century has resulted in the naming of Camden Town and eventually, of course, the name of the borough.

A Meeting with Angela Burdett-Coutts

Charlecote Old Hall in Warwickshire is a splendid Elizabethan manor house, built for the Lucy family who have inhabited the site since the twelfth century. The memoirs of Mary Elizabeth Lucy (1803-1889) have been edited by her great-grandson's wife Alice Fairfax-Lucy and published under the title *Mistress of Charlecote* (Gollancz 1983, paperback 1985, second impression 1986). Among Mrs Lucy's recollections is an account of her meeting with a famous Highgate resident, Baroness Burdett-Coutts, then aged 67. The two ladies met on 29 June 1881 when they were fellow guests at a reception in Carlton Gardens following a wedding in Westminster Abbey, and when, Mrs Lucy explains,

'meeting Lord Brooke [the bridegroom] at the other end of the room with the Baroness Burdett Coutts I went and wished him every possible happiness. When the Baroness shook hands with me I said, "You must allow me to take this opportunity of wishing you all the happiness this world can bestow (for she was recently become a bride), on which she gave me a most gracious smile and her thanks, evidently pleased, but turning her head she muttered, "Few have wished me happiness!'"

Lord Brooke then left us and she introduced me to her young husband, who I thought looked like an attorney's clerk. She spoke of Charlecote and how she admired it and hoped some day she might be permitted to show it to Mr Bartlett etc. She asked if I ever went to the play. I replied, "Oh, yes, I enjoy a play very much if it is a good one." So she took her ivory out of her pocket and said, "Will you have my box at the Lyceum for the evening?" I thanked her accordingly and put the token into my pocket. It was now six o'clock and we all adjourned downstairs to see the bride off.'

Mrs Lucy then describes her evening in the Burdett-Coutts' box and later on reflects on the disparity of ages of some of the married couples she knew including, of course, the famous union between the Baroness and Mr Bartlett. Mrs Lucy put the attraction down to money and records that the Baroness was nicknamed the Baroness Cheque Book.

Joan Schwitzer.



Angela Burdett-Coutts when young. From a painting in the National Portrait Gallery.

A VISION OF MEDICAL HISTORY

Members may wish to know that an exhibition to mark the 50th anniversary of the Wellcome Trust is at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine at 183 Euston Road. It is there until 10th April, Monday to Friday.

BURGH HOUSE EXHIBITION

Burgh House is staging an exhibition of Hampstead memorabilia collected by the late Hugh Curtis from the 7th March to May 25th. His collection includes ceramics, books, postcards and ephemera

THE SOCIETY

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The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, the Treasurer Christopher Sanham, and the Editor of the Review is Dr John Gage, all of whom may be written to at the Swiss Cottage Library.

The Story of Red Lion Square

The London Borough of Camden in association with the Red Lion Square Residents and Tenants Association has recently published **Red Lion Square 1684-1984**, by T.C. Barker. It is a 12pp illustrated booklet, price £1 which may be obtained from main Camden libraries or else by post from the Local History Library, Swiss Cottage Library, NW3 together with 25p for postage. It will also be on sale at Camden History Society meetings.

T.C. Barker is Professor Emeritus of Economic History at the University of London and a resident of the Square. The booklet charts the history of the square from its laying out by the speculative builder Nicholas Barbon in June 1684, through its many changes until recent years. It is illustrated with views of the square and the surrounding area.

An Exhibition on the same theme will be at High Holborn Library from 2nd to the 27th of March.

THE OPENING OF THE GAUMONT STATE

The mention of the opening of the Gaumont State Cinema, Kilburn in 1937, in the last Newsletter, has prompted Alastair Ross to send us some reminiscences of the event:

The ceremony was a big London occasion, well covered in the press. The guests included the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Hewart, a rather dour and pudding-faced man, not one for jokes, unless they were at someone else's expense and preferably in Latin. On the way in, he was gratified when a small boy asked for his autograph, which he benignly gave. The lad took one look at the signature and burst into tears. 'There, there,' said Hewart, 'I know it's a bit overwhelming to find yourself speaking to such a distinguished public figure.' 'It's not that,' stammered the boy. 'I thought you wuz Will Fyffe.'

The stage show included the stand-up comic Vic Oliver. In his talk he praised the size of the auditorium and the quality of the acoustics. 'Why', he said, 'at this morning's rehearsal I was on stage by myself, running through my act. The place was empty, except for two cleaning ladies at the back of the top gallery, looking down at me from a long distance. One said to the other, 'I do think it's a shame. Place hasn't been open for more than a day, and there are mice on the stage already!'

Lodged in Spirit

Though she left Compton Lodge many years ago, Dame Clara Butt is probably there in spirit. The house, at 7 Harley Road, NW3 is now used by the Hampstead Old People's Housing Trust - she would have approved this use. Apart from the 1969 blue plaque on the front it retains links with her or has done so.

Clara Butt is soon to be the subject of a new biography and some of her recordings have been re-issued, but before we consider the singer something must be said about the house. It was built by William Willett - his son, also called William and a builder, evolved the idea of the daylight saving system which still exists today. The Willetts developed much of the Harley Road/Elsworthy Road area at the turn of the century. Some of it was formerly a cricket ground. Dame Clara is stated to have lived here from 1901 to 1929 but she actually moved in in 1903.

She altered and enlarged the house considerably, providing a music room and facilities for entertaining celebrities, no doubt quite often with her magnificent contralto voice. Her drawing room had black walls, the better to show off her picture collection, while black damask table-cloths were used to display her china and crystal.

Dame Clara was born in 1872 and died in great pain from cancer of the spine in 1936. She did much charitable work especially during the First World War. She married Kennerley Rumford and had three children - Joy who may still be living, and two sons who predeceased her.

When she left Compton Lodge in 1929 she moved to her country house near Oxford and in 1953 the Hampstead Old People's Housing Trust secured her Hampstead house for £6000. One resident was a singer and protege of hers, another worked for the dressmaker who made her famed gowns.

I am indebted for this information to Professor Thompson's **Hampstead: Building a Borough** and to a delightful history of the Hampstead Old People's Housing Trust, and to a biography of the singer by her friend Winifred Pender. I am told that some of Dame Clara's recordings were made at the house after the Columbia Gramophone Co installed special equipment in a spare bedroom.

Joan Barraclough

Reminiscences of Cannon Place

Audrey Nottman (nee Heald) has sent us some reminiscences of what her childhood life was like in a well-to-do family at 3 Cannon Place:

My father was a consultant physician to the Royal Free Hospital (then in Gray's Inn Road), at that time an honorary position. However, the appointment gave him status and contacts enough to run a private practice in physical medicine and rheumatology at 25 Park Crescent W1. The income from this was enough to finance the family home at 3 Cannon Place, NW3. I was the youngest of three daughters and all of us were educated privately, initially at Froggnal School which stood at the corner of Prince Arthur Road and Heath Street.

The household staffing was surprising. It had a full-time cook and her friend who was housemaid. There was also a full-time between-maid - a job which attracted a rapid succession of girls one of whom, alas, drowned herself in the highest Hampstead pond. There was also an occasional charlady who came to do the 'rough stuff' and we children had a nanny.

The amount of food that we got through amazes me. Our parents were woken at 7am and given morning tea with thick cut bread and butter. Breakfast at 8am included cereal, scrambled egg, sausages, bran cakes, kedgeree etc, cold ham or soused herrings. Elevenses included hot drinks and biscuits. Lunch was meat and two veg plus a stodgy pudding. Tea at 4.30 was bread and butter, cake, various types of cookie, and dinner was another hot meal of three courses.

My mother went through the menus and shopping requirements with the cook each morning. Shopping in Hampstead required a hat, gloves and handbag, but no shopping bag unless something was wanted urgently because it was all delivered. Fish was always bought from Mr Knockels in Heath Street, a formidable figure in straw hat, apron and a hook for a hand. At Forster's my mother would sit down to give her order - always two chairs by the counter, while Mr Footit would encourage us to choose what biscuits we'd like from the rows of glass-fronted biscuit tins. Then on to Martin's, the greengrocer in Perrin's Court. If the order was short he would remember it but if it was long he would ask his wife to write it down as he was illiterate. A 'shillingsworth' of potatoes was a full sack.

On laundry day (Monday) the piles of cloths, sheets etc were made up in my parents' bedroom. My mother would sit on a chair (beds were never sat on) with the White Heather Laundry book and make up the list of items. They were then put into a vast wicker laundry basket.

In her spare moments my mother helped to organise fund-raising events for the Royal Free and for the Hampstead Lifeboat, and she played her violin in the St Stephen's orchestra.

My father garaged his car with Taylor's Garage in Branch Hill and it was brought round to Cannon Place each morning by 8.30am and collected in the evenings.

CAMDEN IN THE DORDOGNE

Miss H.M. Garnett writes:

We visited the beautiful small romanesque church of Pujols (a small village 6kms south of Castillon la Bataille on the Dordogne) - a church which, incidentally, stands on a headland at one end of the village and shows ominous signs of cracking as though the north wall may collapse into the valley below.'

Inside the church, standing on the north side of the nave, is a tall, slender pipe organ painted black and decorated with a fine 'border' in gold and red. It had once been hand pumped but this had been replaced by an electric pump.

What most interested us was the inscription: 'Bryceson Brothers, Brook Street, Euston Road, London.'

Does this firm still exist in some form?

THE REGENT'S PARK FESTIVAL

The City of Westminster Arts Council plans to promote a Regent's Park Festival from 7-10 May. The headquarters will be the old Bedford College building, now called the Regent's College. There will be an exhibition, drawn from the Hopkin's Collection, of clothing such as might have been worn in the Park from its inception in 1811 to the turn of the present century. There will also be an electronic cabaret, chamber music, literary readings, and admission to buildings not normally open to the public. Other events include Madame Tussauds, the Zoo, American football and a Chinese Festival, plus a marathon lecture session by the CHS President Dr Ann Saunders

Covent Garden Reborn

Whatever opinion you might hold of the late GLC it has to be said that the transformation of the Covent Garden area was a considerable swan-song. It is unlikely that any area in London has changed so cosmetically while still retaining much of its previous architecture. There are those who carp at the changes, that the area is now full of shops that no-one really wants or can afford, or else of restaurants that only those on expense accounts can use.

The question to be asked, having accepted that these criticisms are partly true, (although the shops must be wanted by someone otherwise they wouldn't flourish and still pay the high rents), is what the carper would have done in place of this. It is all very well to have some useful shops for the local community but Covent Garden, when the market moved out, was a large area, much larger than the Piazza and the immediate vicinity. The premises devoted to storing and trading fruit and veg were in many of the outlying streets and, it has to be said, in disgraceful condition. Not only was there not much spare money in the old businesses but the people who ran them seemed to have had scant appreciation of the architectural or decorative merits of the premises. I worked, until recently, in that jewel of a building, Thomas Archer House in King Street. At some time during its use as offices for a fruit and veg firm they had driven a lorry way through this elegant Palladian house, right through what is now the ground floor reception, to reach a ramshackle warehouse at the back on the site of an old music hall. There were many examples of crass neglect and damage all round the area and people have short memories who sneer at the renovation carried out since by businesses which, on the whole, make their living in the lucrative business of media.

The planners, their egos stimulated by the gift of acres of empty properties, initially wanted to destroy most of the area and fill it with conference and hotel facilities. The battle to prevent this provides little credit for the local authorities involved. It was the much maligned conservationists and community groups who saved the area - the local authorities merely jumped on the bandwagon when it was running and, to be fair, made amends then with much help and money. With justification the GLC can be proud of its work since the decision to save was forced on them by the Government.

All this is inspired by a booklet recently published by the GLC (price £4.50) and compiled by Judy Hillman. It is full of colour pictures depicting its title *The Rebirth of Covent Garden* and is not shy about the political battle which evolved and ended in the defeat of the GLC and its aides Camden and Westminster Councils.

At the time of the plan, 1968, the City of London was pushing on with its rebuilding of the Barbican, and urban renewal schemes on a large scale were still fashionable amongst planners even if they had never caught on amongst the public. The planners had and still have recurring fantasies of walkways, sunken roads and even of late have been talking about a two-tier Oxford Street. What they will never admit is that the general public don't mind particularly being in close proximity to the traffic - or at least they prefer it to the desolation that is the Barbican or the centres of some of our provincial towns.

As opposition from local groups, conservationists and others with axes to grind got noisier the position of the GLC became weaker as many voices inside that organisation expressed doubts about the wisdom of their scheme. The Countess of Dartmouth, who had been appointed chair of the Covent Garden Scheme, resigned in the face of rebellion and lack of support for the scheme from the general public. The government's decision is described by Ms Hillman as 'exceedingly clever'. Personally I call it downright dishonest because it was meant to avoid a perceived clash between Tory Government and Tory GLC. It approved the general principle of comprehensive redevelopment for the area (which would have been anathema in any form to the conservationists) but at the same time made this impossible by the simple step of listing another 250 buildings. No redevelopment, other than in small pockets, was now conceivable.

It is a story of David slaying Goliath that future generations will be grateful for. It is the equivalent in my view of those people who saved the Heath. On the other hand we are told that it was the last real chance to bring a good slice of London into the 21st century. Did I hear you say 'hooray!'?

John Richardson

Mary Stapleton has done many drawings of the Kentish Town area, some of which were published in the CHS publication The Kentish Town Packet. We print below two more, one of Kelly Street and the other of Kentish Town Road, just by the underground station.



newsletter

No 101

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

May 1987

Medical History in Camden

Thursday, 21st May, 6.30pm
Wellcome Institute, Euston Road, NW1

The area of Camden has been in the forefront of medical developments. It has encompassed important hospitals such as the early Smallpox Hospital at Kings Cross, and teaching hospitals such as the Middlesex, Royal Free and University College. Other important establishments were the Hospital for Sick Children, the Homeopathic and the National Temperance Hospital. The latter, incidentally, did not, as many people assume, take only patients who abstained; it derived its name from a move at the time of its foundation to treat patients in hospital without the use of alcohol. In the Euston Road we have the famous Wellcome Institute and many members will remember the fascinating talk we had on that building and its magnificent library.

We are going back to the Institute for our May talk by Janet Foster who is talking about the Sources of Medical History in Camden. We have been invited to go at 6pm if we can when our hosts for the evening are kindly supplying refreshments before the talk, so please turn up early if you are able.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Subscriptions were due on 1st March, and the Treasurer thanks all those who renewed promptly. A letter was sent out with the January Newsletter (except to those who pay by Bankers Order and have signed a Deed of Covenant), but in case you have lost it, may I remind you of the subscription rates:

Ordinary	£5.00
Joint	£5.50
Full-time student	£4.00
Senior citizen	£4.00

Cheques should be made payable to the Camden History Society, and sent to the Hon Treasurer, Mr C.B. Sanham, 44 Mansfield Road, NW3 2HT.

Jane Ramsay.

The Annual Meeting and the history of Kingsway

The Annual Meeting 6.30pm, Tues June 16th
Refreshments after, then the talk at 7.30pm
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1

The construction of Kingsway in the early part of this century changed the face of that area. The new road with the associated Aldwych development and the widening of the Strand obliterated a tightly-packed street pattern which then joined the communities of Drury Lane to the area of Lincoln's Inn Fields in a way which has never been repeated. The wide and busy avenue of Kingsway seems now to separate those two areas psychologically as well as physically. The area razed included the old Clare Market just north of the eastern wing of Aldwych.

In place of what was acknowledged to be a totally unsatisfactory hotch-potch of streets and squalor we gained a development of prestigious, and some would say pompous, buildings. The most prominent is Bush House facing, as it does, up Kingsway. This began life as the project of Irving T. Bush who wanted to build a vast trade centre, and he employed the American architect Harvey Corbett to design it. Bush's dream was not realised and most of the building was later taken up by the BBC for their World Services broadcasting operation.

Roger Cline is our speaker on the development of Kingsway. His talk begins at 7.30. The Annual Meeting is at 6.30pm and refreshments follow.

ADVANCE NOTICE

15th July, 7.30pm, Burgh House:
Christopher Wade on John Constable and Hampstead.

16th August: outing to Stansted Park and Uppark. See this Newsletter.

15th Sept, 7pm, St Magnus the Martyr church, Lower Thames Street, EC3.
Gustav Milne on the Great Fire of London

The Annual Outing

Sunday, August 16th

The Annual Outing this year will be to STANSTED PARK and CHAPEL and UPPARK, West Sussex.

This time we are fortunate to have two Camden connections. It was on 25 January 1819 that John Keats attended a consecration ceremony in the Chapel at Stansted and was inspired by what he saw to produce two stanzas of 'The Eve of St Agnes'. The original glass which inspired Keats so, was destroyed by enemy action in 1940 but has been restored with the help of photographs. Our other visit is to Uppark which also has a Camden connexion - with another writer, this time the novelist Herbert George Wells. Wells's mother was the housekeeper at Uppark and he must have known the house and kitchens in particular very well. Wells lived at various addresses in Camden - Theobalds Road, Mornington Crescent area, Fitzroy Road etc.

A form to book your tickets is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Tina Gee

Nominations for Officers

Members are invited to send in their nominations for the following Society officers. We have found, from past experience, that it is possible to take a nomination at the actual Annual Meeting if it is not possible to write beforehand, but the proposer should ensure that the agreement of the nominee is obtained beforehand.

The present officers are:

PRESIDENT; Dr Ann Saunders
VICE PRESIDENTS: Frank Cole, Anthony Cooper, Professor Henry Loyn, R. Michael Robbins.

CHAIRMAN: John Richardson
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay
TREASURER: Christopher Sanham
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: John Gage
PUBLICATIONS MANAGER: Roger Cline
MEETINGS SECRETARY: Horace Shooter
ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes
PUBLICITY OFFICER: Carmel Egan

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Peter Barber, Eric Brassington, Christina Gee, Philip Greenall, Deirdre Le Faye, Gillian Tindall, Rosemary Weinstein, Ann Winser.

A Hampstead Treasure Trove

I have recently been looking at a copy of *Records of Hampstead*, by F.E. Baines, published in 1890, but with a difference. This is a copy owned by the industrious Hampstead antiquary E.E. Newton who published many items at the beginning of this century relating to the history of Hampstead. He left much of interest which is in the Local History Collection at Swiss Cottage library but this copy of Baines is one that he himself has annotated and added to. Subsequently it became part of the collection of Tottenham Borough library and has since come back into private hands. It is a mystery how it formed part of the holding of a local council, but perhaps it was a gift from his widow. It is a large-folio edition and Newton has had mounted about 120 items of local ephemera within the pages so that it is about twice as thick as a normal edition.

It includes a ward map of Hampstead for 1890 of which only a few copies were printed. It has personal, but not important letters, from Joanna Baillie, C.R. Cockerell the architect, F.E. Baines himself, and Clarkson Stanfield. It has programmes for a garden party to help fund the acquisition of Golders Hill, to open the Belsize Branch library in 1937, and to plant an oak to commemorate the coronation of George V. It has many newspaper cuttings dating back to the 18th century dealing with the sale of houses, the deaths of residents etc. It has coloured advertising postcards issued by the Underground, which I haven't seen before, of Hampstead and the London of Dickens, signed by the artist. It has a postcard from the Bull and Bush addressed to Messrs Twinings asking them to send off 6lbs of coffee the following day. There is also a reference to a playbill for a theatre in Hampstead dated 1807 and I don't think that I have yet come across a theatre functioning in the parish at that time.

Probably a unique item, there is a notice from S. Muddock, plumber in the High Street, acting in his capacity as Collector of Rates for lamps and watch, levying a rate for Lady Day 1807. There is also what appears to be an 18th-century notice for the sale of bleaching grounds and manufactory at Froggnal.

We must be grateful to Mr Newton for his apparent inability to throw anything away.

John Richardson

Index Nos 76-100

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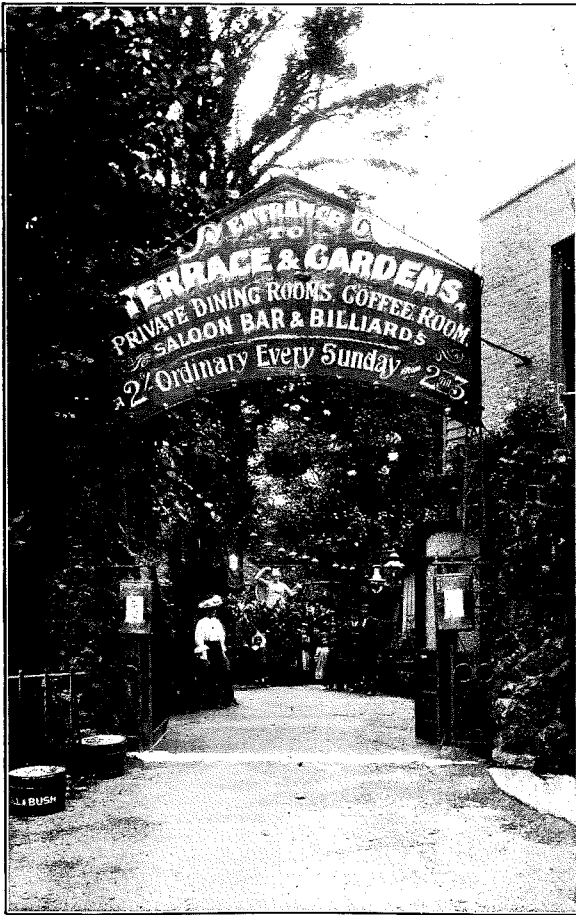
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Coade Stone (Continued)

Roy Allen writes:

Regarding Cherry Lavell's most interesting article on Coade Stone (Newsletter 100), an example in Hampstead used to be the statue of a winged goddess inside the entrance to the garden of the Bull and Bush. This may be glimpsed in the postcard of about 1906, but there does not seem to be a view of the figure itself while intact. The photograph shows it at the back of the car park in September 1980, when vandals had already been at work.

A few months later, after further attacks, the statue was overthrown and broken into pieces, the head being stolen. The Ham and High of 13th February 1981 indicates that the base was inscribed Coade and Sealy, Lambeth 1803.



YE OLDE "BULL & BUSH" [HAMPSTEAD.]
ENTRANCE TO THE GARDENS.

Somers Town Walk

This is to remind you that the Somers Town Walk mentioned in the last Newsletter is now on 3rd June, meeting at 6.30pm outside the St Pancras Library in Euston Road.



TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD MASCOTS

E.W. Wolfe writes:

I was Managing Director of Wolfe and Hollander until Feb 1971 and was interested to see Anthony Cooper's enquiry about the missing mascots in Newsletter 99.

The stuffed bear was not in our window but in the doorway of Davis & Sons further along the road. I have been in touch with Raymond Shard the present Managing Director of Davis's who tells me that the bear was sold at Christie's in 1976 for £480 to a taxidermist. It had originally been bought in 1920 and they were told at some time by a military man that it was a Canadian grisly and was the largest he had ever seen.

I am afraid I have lost touch with Maurice Catesby so am unable to find out what happened to Phineas. I have an idea he was given to London University - they certainly had a duplicate at one time - but I cannot be sure.

DEATH OF HUGH POCOCK

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of a long-standing member of the Society, Hugh Shellshear Pocock. He was aged 92. It was his ancestor, John Thomas Pocock, whose early memoirs were published by the Society as *The Diary of a London Schoolboy 1826-30* in 1980. We were grateful to Hugh Pocock for his co-operation in this venture.

Hugh Pocock was from an artistic family. His father Lexden was a painter and his grandfather Lewis helped to set up the National Gallery. He himself was a radio pioneer and his claims to fame included his role in the first trans-Atlantic broadcasting trials and the use of short-wave transmissions throughout the British Empire in the 1920s.

RALPH TRESWELL'S SURVEYS

For many years Ralph Treswell has been known as one of an important group of Elizabethan and Jacobean land surveyors; but his work has been largely unpublished and never assessed. This is now to be partly rectified by the London Topographical Society in their 1987 publication.

John Schofield, who members may recall spoke to us on the medieval buildings of London, has written this study which has brought together all the known Treswell surveys of properties in London, Southwark and Westminster.

Treswell (c1540-1616) was a Painter-Stainer who began to survey rural estates in the 1580s; he may have known Christopher Saxton and had similar clients among London institutions. Between about 1590 and 1614 he surveyed several hundred London properties belonging to two institutions, the Clothworkers' Company and Christ's Hospital.

Here are mansions, company halls, artisans' houses, almshouses, towers, inns, shops and warehouses.

This publication thus provides a survey of pre-fire houseplans and is a panoramic snap-shot of the London of James I.

It will be published at the AGM of the London Topographical Society at Crosby Hall on July 8th. To non-members the price is £16.00 plus postage and packing. Better still, become a member for £10 and get the publication free! Ring Roger Cline on 722 6421 for details.

Constable and Hampstead

This year is the 150th anniversary of the death of John Constable who lived for years in Hampstead with a studio in Fitzrovia. The Hampstead and Highgate Express has already arranged an event at his graveside in Hampstead churchyard and there will be an exhibition at Burgh House on the Hampstead connections of the artist which runs from 30th May to 27 Sept. On July 15th Christopher Wade will be giving a talk to the Society on the same theme - this will be detailed in the next Newsletter.

FLY-PAST AT THE ZOO

Helen Lefroy sends us an interesting item about her uncle, Professor H.M.Lefroy, the inventor of the Rentokil formula and founder of the company. It seems that there was as great a concern at the danger to public health caused by house-flies in 1915 as there is today about car fumes etc. She reports that in that year a small exhibition was held in the Zoological Gardens to demonstrate the contamination of food by the house-fly. Lectures and demonstrations to the general public, the RAMC and to representatives of public health authorities continued throughout the summer. Flies were common, of course, because of the amount of horse manure on streets and refuse dumps at that time. The exhibition was arranged by Helen Lefroy's uncle who had witnessed the miseries and the poverty caused by insect pests in India.

THE SLINN FAMILY

Mrs Margaret Lee writes:
My family lived in Bloomsbury Court and the Colonnade c1820-1850. My great-grandfather had seven or eight children but I cannot find what happened to any of them. My family name is Slinn. If anyone has any information please contact me at 60 Chantryfield Road, Angemering Village, West Sussex, BN16 4LY.

THE SOCIETY

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society. It is edited by John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N7, to whom all contributions should be sent. The Secretary of the Society is Jane Ramsay, c/o CHS, Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, NW3. The Treasurer is Chris Sanham, 44 Mansfield Road, NW3, and the Editor of the Review is Dr John Gage c/o Swiss Cottage Library as above.

newsletter

No 102

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Jul 1987

Constable and Hampstead

Wednesday, July 15th, 7.30pm
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

As most members will know celebrations are occurring this year to mark the 150th anniversary of John Constable's death.

The Society's contribution is a talk by Christopher Wade on Constable's life in Hampstead, a subject he has made very much his own over the years. Needless to say the talk will be illustrated and presented with the usual Wade panache. Come before the meeting and you will have time to look around the current exhibition there on a similar theme: this runs until September 27th. Constable had a fragile wife and seven children who stayed with him at various Hampstead addresses and finally at 40 Well Walk. Many of his views of or from Hampstead (or at least reproductions of them!) are on show and a topographical interpretation of them provided.

Members may like to know that the Curator of Burgh House (the ubiquitous Christopher Wade) persuaded the powers that be to remove an obstructive tree so that a view to Harrow, from the Pergola Walk on the Heath, which Constable loved, was reinstated.

On July 26th, also at Burgh House, there will be a dramatic reading on the theme of the relationship between Constable and his wife, Maria. For seven years they were unable to marry, mainly through the opposition of Maria's grandfather. When they were eventually wed, it was in the empty church of St Martin's-in-the-Fields, and then they had only 12 years together before Maria succumbed to consumption. The performance begins at 8pm. Tickets are £6 including wine in the interval. Please contact Burgh House (431 0144)

The Annual Outing

Sunday, August 16th

There are still some seats left on the coach for the Annual Outing to Stansted Park and Chapel, and to Uppark in West Sussex. A form to book your seat was enclosed with the last Newsletter and if you would like to come we urge you to send this off to Mrs Gee as fast as possible.

The Annual Meeting

The meeting enjoyed very much a talk by Roger Cline on the prolonged construction of Kingsway and the politics which contributed to this.

The meeting was further enlivened by a discussion on the request of the Church of the Latter Day Saints (the Mormons) to copy the research work done by the Hampstead Graveyard group. As your Council could not agree on this the issue was brought to the members and they voted, by about a two thirds majority, in favour of agreeing to the request.

Officers were appointed as follows:

PRESIDENT: Dr Ann Saunders
VICE PRESIDENTS: Frank Cole, Anthony Cooper, Professor Henry Loyn, R. Michael Robbins

CHAIRMAN: John Richardson
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay
TREASURER: Christopher Sanham
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: John Gage
PUBLICATIONS MANAGER: Roger Cline
MEETINGS SECRETARY: Horace Shooter
ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes
PUBLICITY OFFICER: Carmel Egan

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Peter Barber, Eric Brassington, Christina Gee, Philip Greenall, Deirdre Le Faye, Gillian Tindall, Rosemary Weinstein, Ann Winser.

Early Warning of December

Our Christmas party will be on December 11th at Burgh House, and again with Ten-Minute talks (with slides, if wanted) by our members. All members are invited to propose a contribution to the evening and this is just an early warning to start you thinking about subjects and illustrations. Any vaguely historical subject will suit. When you have got your act together please contact Christopher Wade on 794 2752.

Hampstead House Queries

Christopher Wade has a number of queries about some Hampstead houses - please contact him (794 2752) if you have any answers.

1 Fitzjohn's Avenue

Built in 1883 by J.J. Stevenson, but can anyone confirm that it was altered by Lutyens (as the DOE list claims). If so, when?

And was the Frank Debenham who lived there in the 1890s the store proprietor?

And what was the building used for during World War 2?

Penn House, 13 Rudall Crescent

Next to the more famous Penn Studio where Mark Gertler worked, Penn House was the home of sculptor and painter, William Charles May from about 1885 until his death in 1931. Is May's work now forgotten - he sculpted an Armada Memorial on Plymouth Hoe and painted a fresco in St Peter's, Belsize Park - and has the house any other history?

2 Belsize Lane

At the Haverstock Hill end, on the north side, most of the houses were built in the late 1880s and called Rosslyn Gardens. But No 2 is different from the others, says its owner, and its back wall is curved. Anything known?

ARTICLES WANTED

Members with thoughts of writing an article for the next edition of the Camden History Review should bear in mind that the finished product should be with the editor, John Gage, by the end of the year. His address is 21 Lambolle Road, NW3

Advance Notice

Please put the following meetings in your diary:

Sept 15 (time to be confirmed)
St Magnus the Martyr church, near London Bridge
Gustav Milne on The Great Fire of London

Oct 21 (to be confirmed) at Holborn Library
Celina Fox on Londoners

Nov 11, Swiss Cottage Library
John Hayward on memories of London magistrates' courts

Dec 11, Burgh House
Christmas meeting and party

Jan 21, Holborn Library
Malcolm Holmes on Hatton Garden

Feb 17, St Pancras Church Hall
David Webb on the Bishopsgate and Spitalfields area.

A Discovery in Wimborne Minster

One of the best churches in the west country is that of Wimborne Minster, a town strategically placed for holidays in the area being near the New Forest, Hardy country and the seaside of Dorset.. The Minster has a splendid Norman tower with a decorated ceiling and a very unusual astronomical clock painted in what would now be called pop-art colours. It also contains a wall memorial of Camden interest. It reads:

Sacred to the memory of
Edmund Barnes DL JP

Born at Blandford 19th May 1842

Died in London 8th October 1926

First Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough
of St Pancras, London

This Tablet erected by the
Wimborne Church governors

in grateful recognition of the above
who was a chorister here from 1850 to 1858
and by his will bequeathed a large sum of
money for the benefit of
the choir and organ fund of
Wimborne Minster.

Edmund Barnes was first elected a vestryman for St Pancras in 1885 when, living at 39 Oseney Crescent, Kentish Town, he was returned for Ward Three.

It has also to be remarked that the organ at Wimborne is an unusual structure, containing brass trumpets protruding quite prominently from it. It is unusual enough to warrant a postcard of its own.

John Richardson.

Book Review

The Great Fire of London by Gustav Milne
126pp, 71 illustrations, index. £5.95
paperback. ISBN 09503656 9 6 (Historical
Publications)

Fire exerts a horrible fascination on most of us, and a cataclysmic event like the Great Fire of London, for all that it happened over 300 years ago, has an especial potency. I would guess that most people know Pepys's account of the Fire, and that many also know John Evelyn's. Now Gus Milne, of the Museum of London staff, has produced a marvellous book with all kinds of details which will be new to most of us.

Although John Bedford produced a book - London's Burning - on a very similar plan in 1966, it contains only snippets from the sources that Milne gives us so generously, and its completely different selection of pictures serves to remind us how very rich are our sources for this period. In any case, the new book has the telling advantage of being able to draw on recent archaeological research on Fire sites in the City - of which more later.

Gus Milne deploys his documentary sources skilfully, intercutting the Pepys and Evelyn accounts with much less familiar descriptions by Edward Waterhouse and by Thomas Vincent, whose extraordinarily vivid turn of phrase is at last being made fully accessible to us. Other reports are also woven into Milne's story, bringing us a multidimensional account that is almost too harrowing. We can nearly smell the acrid smoke! Heightening the effect is an excellent selection of contemporary prints (many credited to our Chairman's collection), showing the huddled timber dwellings so tinder-ready, and the churches which somehow survived the devouring flames. Specially drawn maps by Chrissie Milne show the day by day increase of that dreadful 'bow with fire in it' (Vincent's phrase) which clutched the City for five days on end.

So detailed are the contemporary accounts that you wonder how Vincent and the rest managed to make their observations. How did they even know where they were in a City rapidly becoming unrecognizable with mountains of 'yet smoking rubbish' and the streets burning the soles of their shoes? Even on the river, says Pepys, 'you were almost burned with a shower of firedrops' and the noise was like 'a thousand iron chariots beating upon the stones' (Vincent again).

For anyone with an archaeological bent the best part of the book will be the chapter on the Museum's excavations on Fire sites, especially in Pudding Lane, very seat of the Fire. By the very nature of archaeological evidence it is not possible to be 100% certain that these are the Great Fire levels, but the dating evidence is very persuasive for somewhere in the 1660s. For me the photographs of blackened staves of pitch-barrels were particularly poignant: no wonder the Fire took such fierce and immediate hold, between the pitch and the boozy combustibles in the riverside warehouses.

The only possible defence against the spread of the Fire was to demolish buildings to make wide firebreaks, but the citizens were naturally obstructive about sacrificing their perfectly good houses; and it was three days before the authorities got the necessary grip on the situation to blow up buildings and withdraw the timbers well in advance of the Fire's progress. The miracle was that London rose again, and Gus Milne's account of the rebuilding shows how, after a slow start, rapid progress was made and fine new structural standards adhered to, now that the lesson had belatedly been learned.

This is a remarkable book which opens up all sorts of new visions, and new questions too. It is also well produced (though on pp 82-3 the proofreader was particularly dozy). Thank goodness there is an adequate index, but I would have liked a proper street map: the ones provided are too small, and unless you know the City like the back of your hand you will want your A to Z handy. Indeed, I found the London Topographical Society's A to Z of Elizabethan London provided the most evocative help! But whatever you do, get hold of this splendid book.

Cherry Lavell

OLD AND NEW LONDON FOR SALE

Frank Cole has a set of Thornbury/Walford's splendid book, in 6 volumes, *Old and New London* for sale. Proceeds go to a local church fund. The volumes are bound in buckram, quarter cloth with raised bands and leather labels. The price is £50, which is very reasonable as usually a set costs at least £80.

If any member is interested in buying this please contact him at 16 Thornton Dene, Beckenham, BR3 3ND. (He is away on holiday until July 26th so do not expect a reply before then!)

BRYCESON BROTHERS—ORGAN BUILDERS

Mr J.G. Davies has sent us some details about the firm of Bryceson Brothers, organ builders, mentioned in the March Newsletter.

Established 1796

At Thames Street, St Katherine's 1806

Later at 38 Long Acre (directories 1818/28)

At 5 Tottenham Court, New Road (dirs. 1838/57)

At 4 Stanhope Street (previously known as Brook Street) (directories 1870/80)

By 1890 at 10 Charlton Place, Islington Green

By 1900 at The Hall, Church Street, Islington Green

By 1909 at St Thomas's Hall, Gillespie Road, Highbury

By 1910 at 155a Marlborough Road, Upper Holloway having apparently been taken over by Alfred Kirkland of that address, who later dropped the Bryceson name from his advertisements.

By 1924 Kirkland appears to have been taken over by William Hill & Son and Norman and Beard Ltd at 372 York Road, N7. This well known firm of organ builders is still in business at 134 Crouch Hill, N8.

Bryceson Brothers began with barrel organs but went on to build more substantial instruments. The second generation Bryceson was the first builder to experiment with pneumatic action - in 1868.

At the 1867 Paris Exhibition they won a prize medal (did this result in the Dordogne contract mentioned in the Newsletter?) and they won a gold medal at the 1885 International Inventions Exhibitions for 'application and development of electric action to organ mechanisms'.

The only reference to Bryceson work possibly still extant in London that I have been able to discover is to pipework at Chiswick Parish church.

GOLD AND SILVER BEATERS IN CAMDEN

Basil Leverton sends his congratulations on the 100th edition of the Newsletter and also encloses two items reproduced here.

He recounts that these came into his possession when he was watching a jeweller friend of his repairing a brooch which needed a tiny speck of gold leaf to be added to cover a flaw. The interleaf sheet in the book of gold leaf he had was that advertising the firm of Geo. M. Whiley - the book was many years old. He had another one there for W.M. Wheatley & Sons of Devonshire Street, a road which ran from Theobalds Road to Queen Square. Whiley's premises were quite well known since they had a prominent stone sign outside with arm and hammer aloft.

GEO. M. WHILEY LTD.

Gold & Silver Beaters



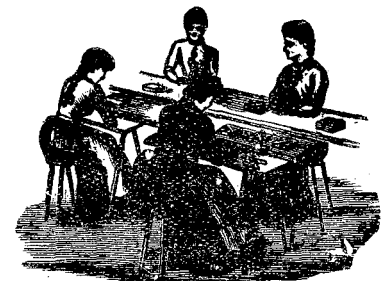
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**ALL SHADES
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Contractors to H.M. Government.

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Gold Leaf in all shades. Speciality Fine Gold do. for Glass Writers. Transfer Gold for outside Gilding. Bronze Powders in all Colours. Metal Leaf, Platinum, Aluminium, Oil Gold. Size, Burnish, Matt Tips. Cushions. &c. &c.

Membership Drive

Those members who were at the Annual Meeting will know that your officers are concerned at a downward trend in membership over the past year or so. We have no explanation for this but we are attempting to be more aggressive now in our publicity and membership recruiting.

It is very important to keep the membership at least in the 400s, otherwise some of our activities become uneconomic - including this Newsletter. We are inviting all members to take positive steps to try and enrol a new member into the Society and we urge you to take this invitation seriously. We enclose an enrolment form with this Newsletter.

If any members have any thoughts as to why there is a drift away of membership we should be happy to hear from you.

newsletter

No 103

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Sep 1987

The Great Fire of London —our September talk

Tues, 15th Sept, 7pm
St Magnus the Martyr Church,
Lower Thames Street, EC3

On Sunday, September 2nd 1666, late at night, a fire began in the premises of a baker in Pudding Lane near London Bridge. The fire consumed the place and then went on to adjacent buildings, many of them full of combustible materials used in the provision of ships. London was used to fires and took little notice of this one until it had got too far, and even then no firm direction materialised to prevent its disastrous spread. In any case, the equipment available to deal with such conflagrations was wholly inadequate.

The story is well known but still awe-inspiring, nevertheless, in its retelling. Gustav Milne, an archaeologist with the Museum of London, has recently published a paperback on the subject with an added ingredient - the evidence of the Fire still being unearthened today

Mr Milne gave this talk to a Seminar on Fires in London a few months ago and it was one of considerable quality, packed with interest and pictures and we are fortunate to have a repeat performance. For a change we have chosen a venue outside Camden - at a church very near to the old Pudding Lane site. We hope that many members will be intrigued enough to come the extra distance to hear what is an excellent talk. Copies of his book will be available at the meeting and he has kindly offered to sign copies bought.

The Church was rebuilt after the Fire by Wren. Its interior is described in the *The Waste Land* by T.S. Eliot as 'inexplicable splendour of Ionian white and gold'.

Londoners—As Seen by Artists

Tues, 13 October, 7.30pm
St Pancras Church Hall, Lancing Street, NW1

Many members will probably have seen the splendid exhibition at the Museum of London earlier this year called 'Londoners'. This showed various kinds of Londoners - crowds, artisans, society, tradesmen, criminals etc, depicted by artists up to the early part of this century. It was a fascinating retrospective and we are fortunate in having its originator, Celina Fox, to speak to us on the same subject together, one imagines, with a plethora of illustrations.

GOLDBEATERS AND KEATS HOUSE

Tina Gee thought we would like to know that the Whileys, who were featured in the last Newsletter, as goldbeaters in Whitfield Street, were the last tenants of Lawn Bank, Keats Grove and lived there from 1894 until 1921, when the house was purchased by public subscription. The original name of the house (Wentworth Place) was re-instated and the house was opened to the public as Keats House on 9 May 1925.

HENRY YEVELEY DISPLAYED

Henry Yeveley (d. 1400) was Richard II's master mason, and also bridgemaster of London Bridge. But he was more than a mason, for he was probably responsible for the design of the present Westminster Hall and he was also in charge of the King's works at Windsor Castle from 1360. Other works attributed to him include the naves of Westminster Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral.

Our President, Dr Ann Saunders, has mounted an exhibition of his life and works at (co-incidentally, in view of our September talk), the church of St Magnus the Martyr near London Bridge, where he was buried. This is on from 12-18th October (Mon 2-5, Tues-Sat 10-5, Sun 12.30-5). There are other events in connection with the exhibition and details of these may be obtained from Dorothy Barker (989 5485).

A Highgate-Oxfordshire Link

William Blake, not William Blake the poet, was a London merchant of the seventeenth century who founded the 'Ladies' Hospital', an abortive scheme c1680 for a boarding school for poor London children, using an old Highgate mansion, Dorchester House. Recently, while visiting Cogges church, near Woodstock, my eye was caught by some memorials on the north wall to a Blake family. These were to one William Blake whose date of death is given as 18th September in a year which the inscription renders unclearly, to his 'only wife' Sara who died on 17 April 1701, and to their only son Francis who died on 18 December 1681 aged 22. The memorial to William is in Latin, and the original mason, or a later one, has incised the figures MDCXOV for the date of death. The O is possibly a mistake for C or for CI, which would give respectively 1695 or 1694. Was this the Highgate William Blake who was a woollen draper in the City and, if the Survey of London, Vol. XVII, 1936 is correct, the founder of the Ladies' Hospital?

The Survey supplied a pedigree of the Blake family (pl48) and in each generation of the six shown there was a William Blake. The three earlier ones can be eliminated from the enquiry since they are known to have been deceased well before the late 1650s when the church memorial indicates William Blake's son must have been conceived. The 'Cogges' connection is given and explained in some detail; it arose in the fourth generation through inheritance on the mother's side. The church memorials are not mentioned, nor is the information on them otherwise recorded. The most likely candidate for the memorial would indeed appear to be the woollen draper, who is stated to have been 'Dead in 1694'. His father was Francis Blake of Highgate, who apparently died the same year.

Research done since the Survey was published would seem to show that the Cogges William Blake, whoever he was, was not the founder of the school. The late Sir James Brown took issue with the Survey and gave a lecture entitled 'The Ladies' Hospital', a masterpiece of narrative history, to the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution in the 1960s. The unpublished typescript and the accompanying notes on sources, both lodged in the Institution's archives, show the central figure to have been William Blake the vintner, an uncle of the woollen draper. This interpretation is accepted by the VCH of Middlesex, Vol. VI (1980).

The vintner's grandson, where the Survey pedigree stops, was also called William Blake. His dates and those of several others on the family tree remain to be filled. Can anyone settle the relationship of the William Blake commemorated in Cogges church to the founder of the Ladies' Hospital in Highgate?

Dr Joan Schwitzer

More Hampstead Notables

Mrs Devereux Pitt has concocted a list of Hampstead notables to add to the one published as an Appendix in John Richardson's Hampstead One Thousand. They are as follows:

ARTHUR WATTS, a well-known Punch artist in the 1920s, at Holly Place.

LEWIS BAUMER, another Punch artist in the 1930s, in Gardnor Mansions, Church Row.

RANDOLPH SCHWABE, artist and one-time head of the Slade School, at 20 Church Row.

LESLIE MOORE, architect, particularly of churches, at 18 Church Row.

DONALD TOWNER, painter who died in 1985, at 8 Church Row.

MAXWELL AYRTON, architect. His work included the Wembley Exhibition, and the Medical Research Council extension to Mount Vernon hospital, at 9 Church Row.

LADY RHONDDA, Editor of *Time and Tide*, in Frognal.

MADAME TAMARA KARSARVINA, ballerina, who died in the 1960s. At 108 Frognal.

GERALD ABRAHAM, musicologist, at 104 Frognal

SIR HAROLD GILLIES, surgeon, Frognal corner with Oak Hill Park.

W.J. BRODRICK, well-known London magistrate at 12 Frognal Gardens.

LORD PENTLAND, former Viceroy of India who died in the 1930s, at 18 Frognal Gardens.

HENRY V. ASHLEY, architect, (Mrs Devereux Pitt's father) who built the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, at 20 Frognal Gardens, which he also designed.

ANNE ZIEGLER AND WEBSTER BOOTH, both singers, at 102 Frognal.

ELENA GERHARDT, contralto who died during the 1960s, at Heath Drive.

PHYLLIS TATE, composer. She lived with her parents as a girl in Church Row.

SIR FRANK PEARCE, Head of the Royal College of Dental Surgery, 108 Frognal.

OSWALD MILNE, architect and Mayor of Hampstead. Lived in South End Road.

She also points out that Hugh Gaitskell lived at Frognal End, 18 Frognal Gardens and not, as in the book, at 18 Frognal End.

Book Review

George Scharf's London by Peter Jackson, pub. John Murray, £14.95, 154pp hardback.

I first came upon the work of George Scharf (1788-1860) when I found a print of some giraffes in London Zoo. I did not know then that this was his best-seller and that he also had a very large body of topographical work - work, moreover, that captured street life better than most. Quite often, topographical artists find themselves unable to depict convincing human beings using their finely-drawn buildings, but not in Scharf's case.

Furthermore, he was a Camden resident for much of his time in this country. He was born in Bavaria and went to Munich in his youth where he mastered the new technique of lithography - a skill which stood him in good stead in London to where he came in 1816. He lived first at 3 St Martin's Lane and from there he was married. He made his basic living by producing detailed lithographs for scientific and geological journals but he was, in his way, an early press photographer in recording such things as the demolition of much of St Martin's Lane, the fire which destroyed the Houses of Parliament etc.

In 1830 he moved to Francis Street off the Tottenham Court Road, in 1848 to 1 Torrington Square and in 1856 he went to 37 Preston Street - a narrow turning behind the church which is now a drama school in Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town.

Peter Jackson has assembled much of his London work into a splendid volume that should be on everybody's shopping list. It shows conclusively Scharf's ability to record detail and at the same time to combine it with movement and atmosphere. Unlike his contemporary (and better-known artist) T.H. Shepherd, Scharf was content to record the offbeat alleyways, the less grand and respectable parts of London and we are much in his debt for this.

This book will do much to ensure that Scharf's reputation is rescued from neglect. The author tells us that the bulk of his work was sold by his widow to the British Museum in 1862 and remained parcelled up in bundles, largely forgotten and uncatalogued until recently: one packet contained no less than 358 drawings!

The only portrait of the artist we know of was painted by himself, and even that has gone missing and just a photograph of it remains in the National Portrait Gallery. The irony is that the first secretary of the NPG, and one of its moving spirits, was

George Scharf's son and it is quite likely that the portrait was in his charge at his father's death!

John Richardson

See Docklands and be Amazed

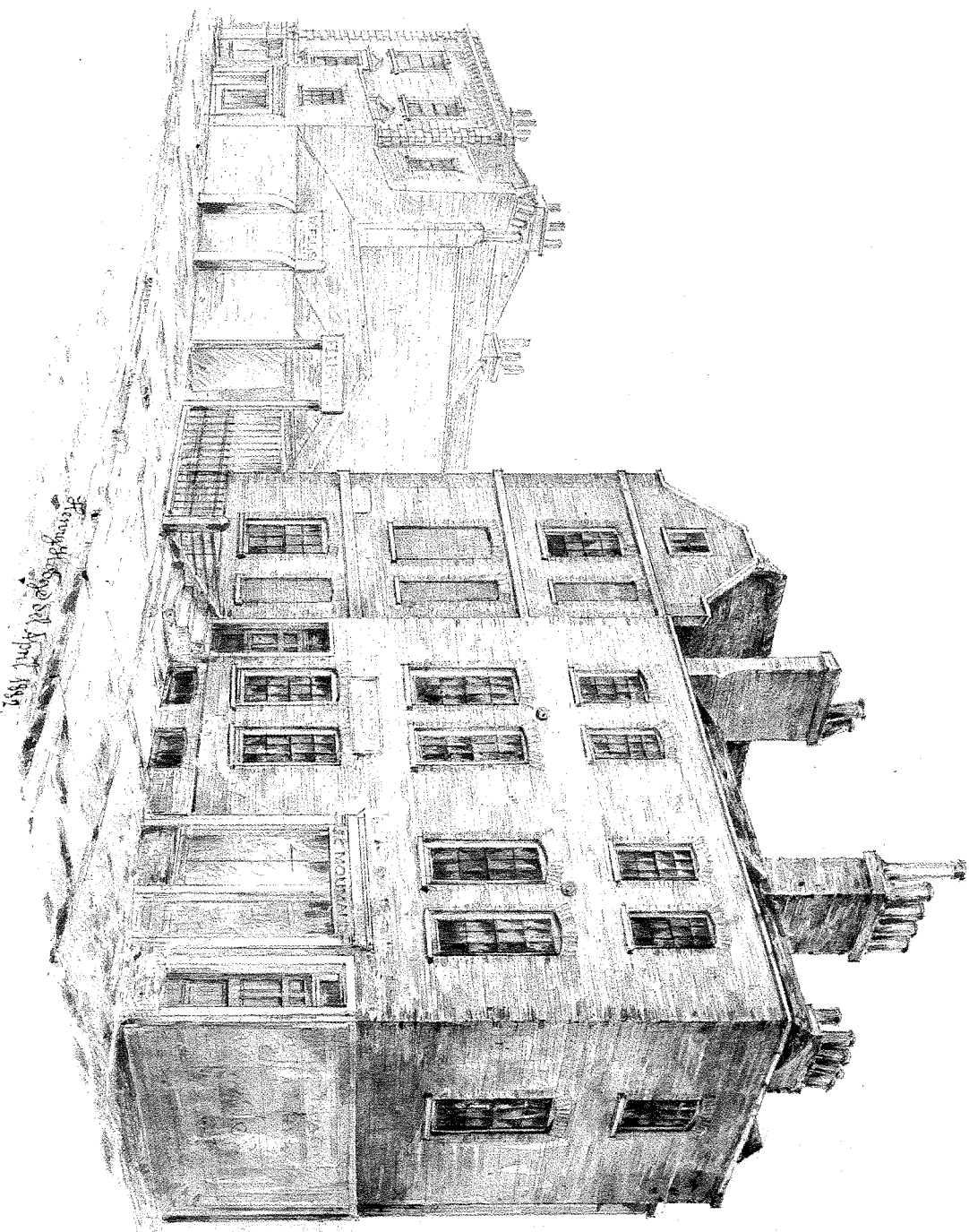
A trip round Dockland by car or boat is very rewarding at the moment. It is in a transition stage between dereliction and reformation and there is some very good modern architecture going up - much of which can be seen on a simple river trip down to Greenwich.

One old building stands, however, and that, surprisingly, is a church. This is St Mark's church, in North Woolwich Road. It is particularly interesting for a number of reasons. One is that it is being entirely renovated at vast expense at the same time as being surrounded by nothing except razed buildings and hideous motorways. The key to this apparently uneconomical restoration is that it is to be a Museum of Victorian life, especially that of the East End, using money supplied by the Docklands Corporation and Newham Council. It will draw heavily upon the collection of the Passmore Edwards Foundation. It is a handsome building of 1862, with a two-tone green and blue slate roof, two-tone (now cleaned) brickwork, and an unusual array of turrets and roof angles. Its architect was S.S. Teulon, some of whose buildings feature prominently in Camden. Well worth the car ride to see it at the moment.

FURNISHING THE WORLD AND THE LITTLE PALACES OF NORTH LONDON

Two exhibitions in London at the moment should be of particular interest to members. One is entitled *Little Palaces*, and this is at the Church Farm Museum at Hendon. It is a review of *The Suburban House in North London 1919-39*, together with much ephemera, and is, in effect, the story of the spread of population to the outer NW and N postal districts. It is mounted by the Middlesex Polytechnic and is on until 4th October.

At the Geffrye Museum is *Furnishing the World*, which covers the East London furniture trade from 1830-1980. Special features include a reconstruction of Nathan Rosenberg's workshop, and a video of Mr Rosenberg explaining how to make a 1950s cocktail cabinet! The exhibition continues until 3 January.



MONTPELIER PLACE KENTISH TOWN.

A Corner of Kentish Town

This is a previously unpublished view of Monte Video Place in Kentish Town drawn by Henry Hodge in 1882 not long before this row came down. The illustration has been kindly supplied by Peter Jackson from his vast private collection of London prints. It shows a group of buildings which are

portrayed also in the Kentish Town Panorama (London Topographical Society & London Borough of Camden publication 1986) on Plate 10 towards the right hand side of the picture. The only names visible on the Hodge drawing are W. Ellis and J.C. Mounand but nothing is known of their occupations.

newsletter

No 104

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Nov 1987

Reminiscences of Hampstead Magistrates

Wednesday, Nov 11th, 7.30pm
King of Bohemia, Hampstead High Street NW3

First of all, please note carefully the new venue for this talk. This alteration has been made necessary by the cut-backs Camden Council has been obliged to make. In the past the Society has enjoyed the generous support of Camden Council in its provision of meeting rooms, but, alas, this has now to end. At the moment, although the charges to be made by Camden for use of library halls are reasonable, there is as yet no guarantee in advance that library staff will be available on the night. In other words, members may arrive for a meeting only to find that the library is closed because staff are not on duty.

The Society is thus faced with finding new meeting places in the borough at a reasonable cost. We hope that the King of Bohemia will meet with your approval, but please let us know if you can recommend other places in Camden where the charges are low and the facilities good.

Our November talk consists of the reminiscences of John Heywood, former Chief Clerk to Hampstead Magistrates' Court for many years, who has spent most of his career in local court service. He will, we expect, provide some fascinating background information about an area of local life which most of us rarely see (and usually only then when we have to!). Last orders will definitely be called on time that night at the King of Bohemia.

THE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND TRANSPORT GROUP

The Camden Industrial Archaeology and Transport Group are still researching sites in the Kentish Town area. If you are interested in joining them please contact David Thomas at 36 Pearman Street, SE1 7RB

The Christmas Party

Friday, December 11th, 7pm
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

Last year, prior to the Christmas party, we had a symposium of 10-minute talks from members on a wide variety of subjects. This formula is to be repeated this year and we already have talks on Lord Alfred Douglas, Hampstead childhoods, and the Chalk Farm Tavern. However, Christopher Wade, who is arranging the evening, still needs a couple more speakers - preferably those who can talk on a Holborn or St Pancras subject. If you have a ten-minute talk please telephone him on 794 2752.

The party follows the talks. Refreshments, which include food and wine, will cost £3.50 per head, payable on the night. Friends of members are welcome as well.

SPAS AND GARDENS

This year's LAMAS Conference, already heavily booked, is on the subject of London Spas and Gardens. Two of the speakers will be familiar to members - Mollie Sands, who will be giving a perspective talk on the spas and gardens, and Christopher Wade who will be dealing specifically with Hampstead Wells.

The Conference will be held on Saturday, 28th November at 11am at the Museum of London. Tickets may be obtained from Miss P. Ching, 40 Shaef Way, Teddington, Middx at £2.50 each.

NEW MEMBERS

New members include Ms S. Ayres, Ms C. Balasz, Mrs L. Bosly, Mrs E. da Silva, Mr and Mrs J. Dartford, Miss L. Doey, Mr and Mrs A. Haden, Mrs S. James, P. Lister, Dr B. Lodge, Professor H. Loyn, Mr and Mrs G.R. Mackay, Ms H. McCarthy, D. Mann, D. Parkin, Ms M. Smith, Ms D. Waters.

MORE ON FITZJOHN'S AVENUE

In answer to Christopher Wade's enquiry in the July Newsletter, Christopher Ikin reports that the Frank Debenham who lived at 1 Fitzjohn's Avenue in the 1890s was, indeed, the store proprietor. He also thinks that it is likely that Lutyens did alter the house, since the architect and Debenham were both associated with the Hampstead Garden Trust.

BORDER HAPPENINGS

Members may like to know about some meetings of the societies on our borders. The **Islington Archaeology and History Society**, which meets at the Camden Head, Camden Passage, N1, have Neil Burton of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission talking on Georgian Town Gardens on Dec 9th, and on Jan 20th, Oliver Green of the London Transport Museum will be speaking on 125 Years of the London Underground. Both meetings begin at 8pm. Enquiries about membership should be made of Julia Toffolo (253 6644).

The **Hornsey Historical Society**, which meets at Hornsey Library, Haringey Park, N8 has Elizabeth Cunnington on 9th December talking on the Highgate Horticultural Society, and on Feb 10th Bob Ellis and Gareth Evans will be detailing the recent excavations at St Mary Spital. Meetings begin at 8pm.

BURGH HOUSE EVENTS

Burgh House have an exhibition, already on, called **Something Old, Something New...** Among the new pictures is a delightful view of the Vale of Health by Enid Dreyfus which has recently been presented to the Museum on long loan. A small exhibition has also been put together entitled **Early Man in Hampstead** which features the dig on the West Heath by the Hendon and District Archaeological Society. The excavation, which lasted for ten years from 1976, revealed a Mesolithic camp site near the Leg-o'-Mutton Pond, and that Dutch Elm disease was prevalent hereabouts at that time.

THE SOCIETY

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society. It is edited by John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N7, to whom all contributions should be sent. The Secretary of the Society is Jane Ramsay, c/o CHS, Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, NW3. The Treasurer is Chris Sanham, 44 Mansfield Road, NW3, and the Editor of the Review is Dr John Gage c/o Swiss Cottage Library as above.

THE OLD 'FIRE ENGINE'

The Curator of the Hampstead Museum, Christopher Wade, thanks all the kind members who reported that the 'old fire engine' outside the Hill House Restaurant was for sale. At first glance this red contraption looked quite impressive and the caption had an intriguing story about its heroic performance at a blazing caramel factory. At second glance, the 'engine' was found to be labelled Belsize Parish 1621 but was patently a not-very-old farm cart with bits of bathroom equipment attached. The late owner of this late restaurant (now being up-marketed) was evidently a bit of a joker.

OF MICE AND CATS

Helen Lefroy has been researching a journal of a rather restricted circulation, one feels, called **Pestology**. The issue of November 1922 (there were only two editions), reports that twelve cats installed by the Hampstead Guardians to combat the plague of mice in the Workhouse infirmary had been found to have got so wearied of a mouse diet that they had completely given up the struggle and were fraternising with the mice. The cats were on such friendly terms with the enemy that they were playing with them, and it was decided to employ a firm which would use 'vermin killer' instead.

RICHARD BISSELL PROSSER

Mr R.T. Smith of the West Drayton Local History Society is anxious to receive any material on a noted St Pancras antiquarian, Richard Prosser. The late Charles Lee wrote a comprehensive article on him for the Newsletter in October 1974, but if members come across his name in research and it is information not in Mr Lee's article, please contact Mr Smith at 36 Church Road, West Drayton, Middx.

LONDON HISTORY CENTRE FOUNDED

The Institute of Historical Research at the University of London is establishing a **Centre of Metropolitan History**. Its intention is to undertake original research into the society, economy, culture and fabric of London, to arrange seminars, and to provide an extensive bibliography. If you would like to know more about the Centre's activities and plans for the future please write to Miss H. Creaton at the Institute in Senate House, Malet Street, WC1.

Childhood in Gayton Road

Mrs J. Jarosy has kindly sent us some reminiscences of a relative of hers, Arthur Trilsbach, who died recently. He was born in Gayton Road in 1905 and lived there until he was twenty. He remembered the days when straw was laid down on the rough road when his mother was very ill so that traffic noise was reduced. He recorded too the itinerant muffin-seller with a loud bell, and a man selling cats'-meat from a basket. If you wanted the meat you could leave the money on the doorstep and he would put the meat on a skewer through the letterbox. The milk float sold milk in measures from churns.

Near New End School, which he attended, there was a Hampstead Dispensary. Treatment was free and available to poor or rich.

He played 'flicking' cigarette-cards with other boys. One game was to project the cards from the kerb to the coal shoot cover on the doorstep and the nearest card to the cover won the game and the owner took all the cards thrown. Another amusement was a local paper chase.

He wore 'Sunday clothes' on Sundays, and he dressed in these if, for example, he went to Whitestone Pond where the Hampstead Silver Band played. Along Spaniards Road there were hundreds of seats, mainly used by the Hampstead nannies and their charges.

Later on Mr Trilsbach joined the Boys' Brigade, which was organised by the Baptist Chapel. He went three nights a week, to drill, gymnastics and entertainments. His local group won the gymnastic award competed for at the Albert Hall each year.

To earn some pocket money he worked at a corner grocer's shop. Early in the morning he went round houses to take orders and in the evening, after school, he delivered them. If he was lucky he got paid twopence for that.

In World War I the local artillery used the Heath near Well Walk for practice and manoeuvres about twice a week. He remembers one dark night (lights were not allowed) when he was delivering at the Willow Road entrance to a Downshire Hill house, being suddenly lit up by the light from the explosion of a munitions factory at Poplar.

Desperate for work and money he walked off the street into a private nursing home near Whitestone Pond. His bravura paid off for he began work the next week in the servants' hall - there were seventeen

servants, doing odd jobs. He began at seven in the morning, finished by 8.30 and then ran down to Fleet Road School. After school he returned to the nursing home, saw to the boilers, and on Saturdays acted, in uniform, as an assistant to the Home's chauffeur.

The police at Hampstead police station then carried paraffin lamps strapped to their belts, and they wore dirty-looking oilskin caps.

SUBSCRIPTION CHANGE

Members are reminded that the AGM approved a resolution that in the financial year 1988-9 all classes of subscription to the Society shall be raised by £1.

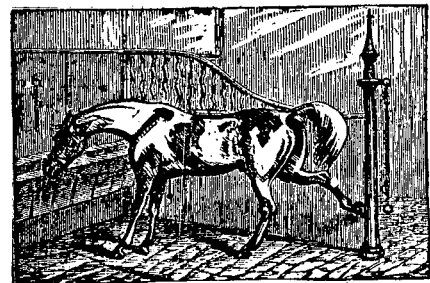
KINGDOM OF A HORSE

A reminder of past times, and no doubt of much interest to members of the Industrial Archaeology Group, is this advertisement (without a date) for a stable fitting manufacturer in Pancras Road. It comes from the collection of Peter Jackson.

ST. PANCRAS IRON WORK COMPANY,

ST. PANCRAS ROAD, LONDON, N.W.

PATENTEES AND MANUFACTURERS OF



Trade

Mark.

"EVER FIRM."

**STABLE FITTINGS,
STABLE PAVING,
DRAINAGE, VENTILATION, LIGHTING, &c.**

Experienced Persons sent to all parts of the Country to take particulars, receive instructions, and give Estimates for Fitting-up New Stables, or Re-Fitting, Re-Paving, &c., Old Stables.

Price 1s., or post free for 14 stamps,

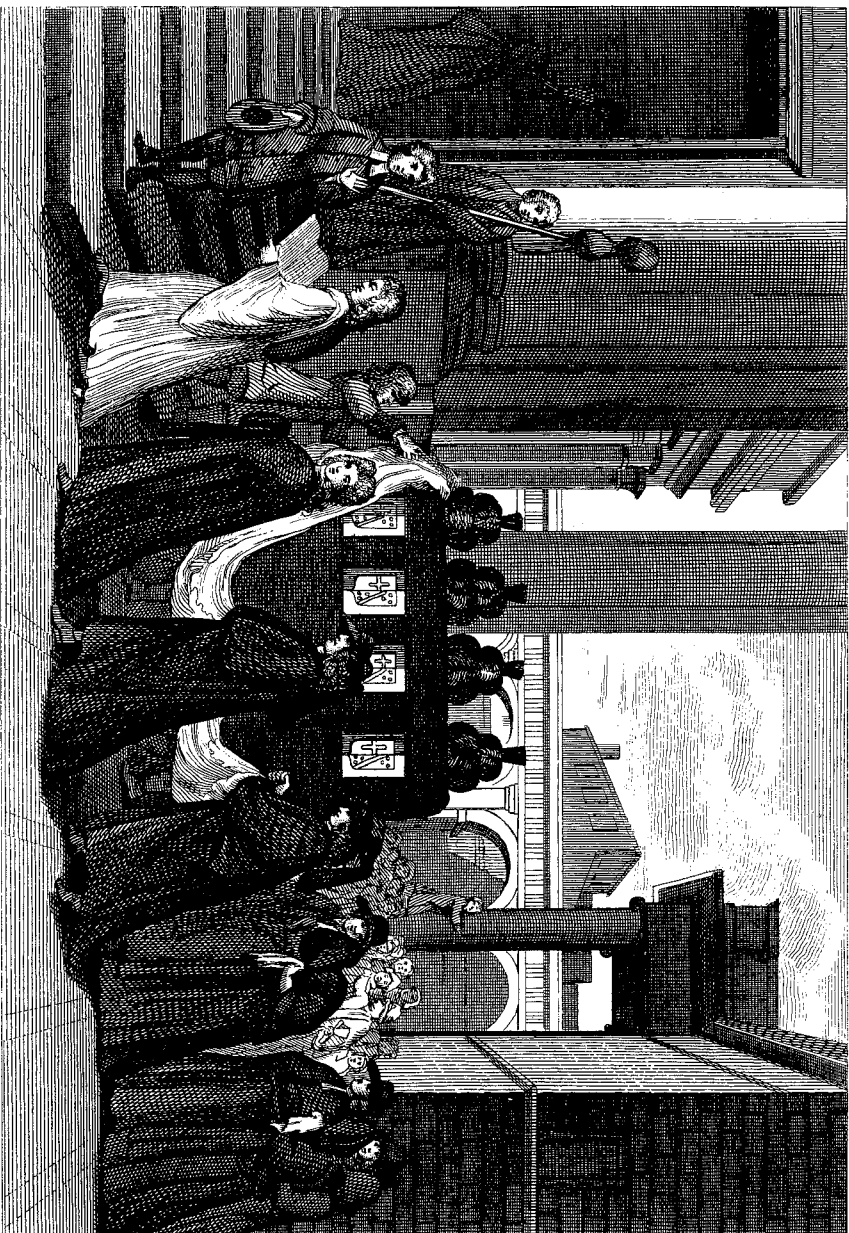
**ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF STABLE FITTINGS,
With 226 well-executed Engravings.**

Price 1s. 6d., or post free for 20 stamps,

**STABLES AND STABLE FITTINGS:
A Treatise on the Best Method of Fitting-up Stables.**

[450

FUNERAL TICKET.



*You are desired to accompany y^e Corps of
h^e late Drwelling in
on next at of the Clock in the Evening.
from*

Performed by Humphrey Drem Undertaker, in King-street Westminster.

Published by Longman, Brown, Green, & Co. No. 17, 1889.

An Invitation to a Mourning

This blank invitation to a Funeral was produced in 1809 and was, presumably, part of the stock in trade and services of the undertaker in Westminster. The publishers have used a drawing by Hogarth, depicting a rather grand affair.