



Newsletter

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Welcome to the Spring edition of our Newsletter.

May is a very special month for AfL with our conference, but for another reason for two of our stalwart members, Sarah Hale of the Board, and Louise Pichel of the Forum: they are both to be married! We wish them both well and thank them for their continuing hard work. Sarah has been assisting with our conference again this year, and Louise manages AfL's website, editing swiftly and efficiently and with Siân Wynn-Jones, Vice Chairman and Communications Director is helping us plan and develop a stronger online presence. Newly recruited to assist with publicity is Megan Dunmall who is taking over from Julie Makinson who is expecting the happy event of the arrival of baby Makinson in early summer. Many thanks to Julie for her work over the years, and all good wishes for her new family life.

Another new Forum member, who deserves acknowledgement is Frances Pattman as she assisted Siân with AfL's presence at Who Do You Think You Are? Live in February. At this three day event we recruited 14 new members, thanks to our volunteers assiduous attention to the visitors to the stand.

World War One commemoration has been pervasive in the cultural sector events calendar this year, as you will have noted. AfL decided we needed to demonstrate the value of London's archives to this commemoration, and is taking a broad view of Decades of Change, as I mentioned in the January Newsletter. Our concentration will be on the home front, and support for the troops and how life was affected irrevocably in the conference entitled The Endlessly Significant Tale. This has been organised by King's College Archives, which has a rich background in the period and military archives. Both half day conference sessions are in May: the 7th and the 21st, and you may still be able to book for the second of them. By

way of introduction to WWI commemorations our May seminar is 'The thin red streak: the histories of The Times' War Correspondents'.

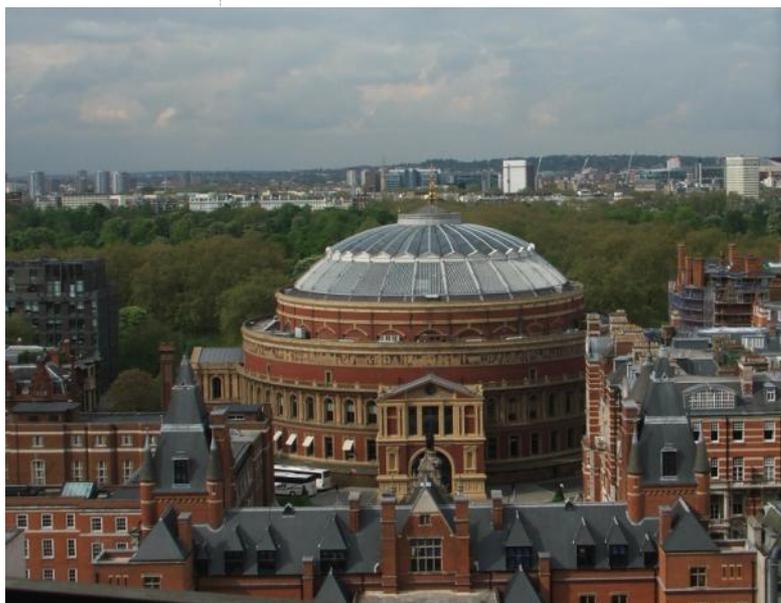
Membership renewal forms have just been sent out and I would like to welcome you all back for another exciting year of AfL events, including our summer soirée in June and events in our Through the Door project in conjunction with Poet in the City. The seven Poets have already been into the partner Archives and are at work on their archives-inspired poems. These will be showcased at various events over the next few months, culminating in a prestige meeting in November at the British Library. A joint web presence for Through the Door is being developed by AfL and Poet in the City, so keep an eye for updates on your email inbox and AfL's own website, Facebook and Twitter.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at AfL events and once again thank all those involved with us.

Anne Barrett

Chairman, Archives for London, April 2014

The image below has nothing to do with Anne's piece above: you will not need to be told it is the Royal Albert Hall, but I doubt if you have seen it from the top of the Queens Tower at Imperial College, where this picture was taken. See the visit report on the next page.



The independent voice for archives in the Capital

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WW1

As our chairman mentions on the front page, this newsletter comes out shortly before the 100th anniversary of the declaration of war that started the conflict we call World War 1.

I am sure many members will already be aware of this, but I think this bears repeating. The National Archives obviously hold the largest collection of information about the war, including many log books and diaries of operational units. They have started a 'crowd-sourcing' project in which members of the public are being invited to transcribe and index the diaries. As the National Archives' web site says, the information contained in these diaries is of far greater interest 100 years on than the writers at the time would ever have guessed as they penned their records.

Of course family histories were written at the time, but there was not the enormous interest that is represented by 'Who Do You Think You Are' and the smaller family history fairs that are put on by many county societies throughout the year. In those days you were only interested in your family's origins if you had a title in the family!

One and a half million pages and have been digitized and put on-line. They record day to day activities, and where names are mentioned you may be able to trace what a member of your family was doing, and that in some detail. However, the diaries are operational records of the units, and do not necessarily record the activities of the members of the 'squads'. The records so far on-line are the infantry divisions in France and Belgium. Nevertheless, I am sure members with a bit of time on their hands, and prepared to transcribe, will find some fascinating insights ... and if you have not got time at the moment I am sure the project will still be running in the autumn when shorter and colder days make sitting in front of your PC a much more attractive option.

For the war diary project visit: www.operationwardiary.org/, for any other information about the national archives holdings, use their search facility at discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/SearchUI

AfL Visit

Imperial College Queens Tower

On a slightly cloudy day towards the end of April, a group of 8 AfL members met at Imperial college to see, and climb, the Queens Tower, the only structure that survived the rebuilding of the 1960's. It now stands, looking slightly forlorn, in the

middle of the square, as can be seen from the editor's picture below.

The construction dates from Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, whence the name. It was originally the central tower of the Imperial Institute, a building that ran parallel to Imperial Institute Road, and which had towers at both ends as well as centrally.

The whole area is sometimes called Albertopolis: the Albert Hall lies immediately to the north of the square, and the Victoria and Albert Museum to the south. Albert's enthusiasm for the project was largely responsible for this part of London becoming the 'cultural' centre that it now is.

One climbs the tower in easy stages. The lowest steps are surrounded by terracotta medallions of famous scientists: Priestley, Davy, Gay-Lussac, and a couple, like Jacob Berzelius, whom I have to confess I had not met before. Further up signs of the erstwhile utility of the tower, a massive framework that supported a large water tank, although the tank has been removed, Next is a magnificent bell-frame housing 10 bells, which are still rung on royal anniversaries. Sadly the windows at the highest level, the ones just below the dome in my picture are obscured with plastic and it is almost impossible to see out, let alone take a picture: but at the next level down the windows just have grilles, so one can look out and get some magnificent views: this part of London has not been obscured with the high-rise blocks that so dominate the sky-line of the city, and we could make out the tower of crystal palace, the arch over Wembley, Big Ben (or more correctly the Elizabeth Tower), and the Shard.



Obituary: Ian George Murray

Ian Murray was Haringey's first archivist, serving from 1966 until he took early retirement in 1988. He was subsequently part-time archivist at the Barbers Company from 1989-2007 and the Inner Temple from 1989-1997. Ian was made a Freeman of the Barbers Company in 1997.

At Bruce Castle, Ian ordered and catalogued the collections, including the extensive manorial records. At the Inner Temple, he rescued the archives from a range of damp basements into much improved storage, introduced a conservation programme and listed the collections. Ian's index of admissions to the Inner Temple was later digitised for their website.

At the time of Ian's appointment, the Barber's Company's archives were deposited in Guildhall Library and Ian managed their transfer. Ian adapted the Guildhall Library catalogue, listed the vast range of photographs and secondary sources, transcribed the early Court minutes and accounts and in parallel with his work at Inner Temple, created an Index of Freemen, with the dates of admission. With a past Master, Ian transcribed the Company's constitutional records.

Ian was also active in collecting records. At Haringey he worked to bring in the records of black and ethnic minority communities – seen as especially important in the aftermath of the Broadwater Farm Estate riots. Ian may well be among the first archivists in UK mainstream archives to have been active in this area. At Bruce Castle he contributed to museum exhibitions and ran evening classes on local history. While at the Barbers produced his own palaeography course for City liverymen, aspiring and fellow archivists.

Ian was one of the founders of the Hornsey Historical Society in 1971. He wrote for their newsletter, contributed to evening classes and his book *Haringey before Our Time*, was published by the Society in 1993. Ian was the Society's first Chairman, serving from 1971-1974, edited the first five Quarterly Bulletins and was elected a Vice President in 1976. Ian also was active in the Friends of Hornsey Church Tower, producing a short history of St Mary Hornsey for them. Ian's other published works included *Victorian and Edwardian Middlesex in Old Photographs* (1977) and notes for the Godfrey Ordnance Survey series.

Ian was one of those who attended the inaugural meeting of the Greater London Archives Network in 1982 and gave sterling service as GLAN's only Treasurer until GLAN was dissolved in 2005.

All Ian's former colleagues have said that Ian was respected and liked by all who came into contact with him. What survives of archivists is the work they do to enable others to use the collections – but the helpful and supportive archivist leaves a glow with those who he has helped – and Ian was just such a man..

Ian George Murray, archivist and local historian. Born 28 January 1937. Married 1963, two daughters. Died Horsham, East Sussex 13 January 2013.

David Mander

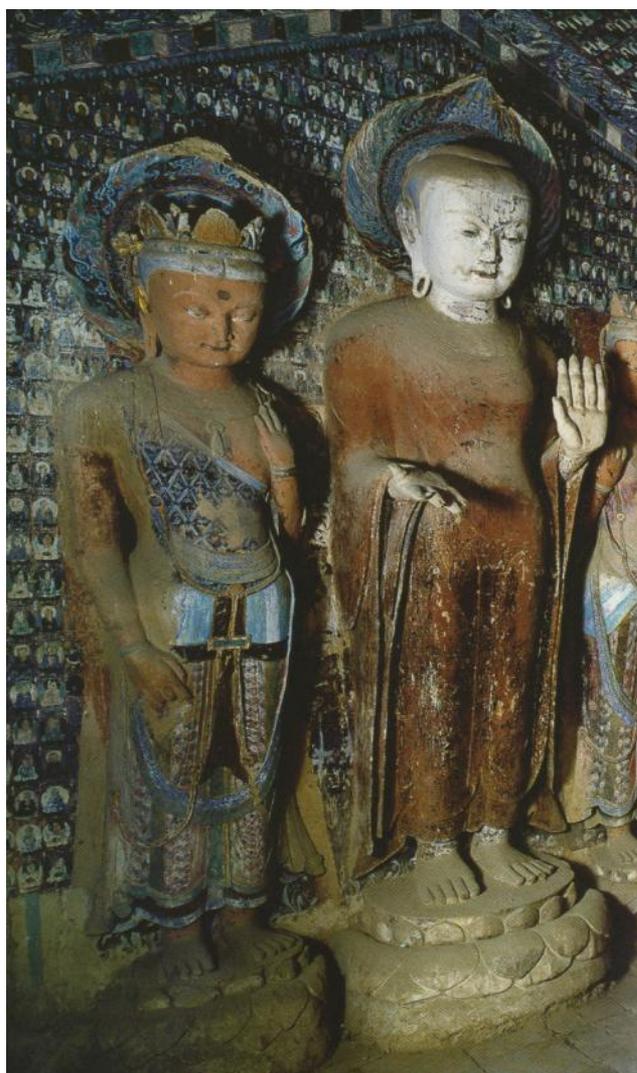
Dunhuang

A meeting organised by the International Dunhuang Project was held at the British Library last month. Located almost in the centre of China, Dunhuang is important for the scrolls that were found in the Mogao caves some 100 years ago by Irwin Stein.

We now know that the caves were first occupied in the 4th century by Buddhist monks: they became known to travellers, and the caves were painted, often with numerous Buddha images, and statues of the Buddha were carved. The site is at a junction of the major east-west silk routes north and south of the Taklamakan desert. With the decline of overland trade routes and the rise of sea trading, the site was forgotten, and the sand of the desert drifted in to the lower caves, fortunately providing dry conditions in which their valuable manuscripts were preserved until their re-discovery. The so-called 'library' cave, cave 17, may have been deliberately walled up in the C11: when re-opened, it was found to contain MSS which date back 500 years from that time.

Stein brought back many MSS from the caves, with the result that the British Library now hold a magnificent collection of Buddhist scriptures.

Image: Avalokiteshvara (left) and Amitabha Buddha from Mogao cave 427, dated c.950.



LAMAS Spring Conference

LAMAS (the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society) held a one-day conference at The Museum of London on 22 March last past. The morning session was a set of presentations of recent work by MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) and PCA (Pre-construct Archaeology) on work at several locations: (1) Mardyke Estate in Rainham, where Roman ruins have been found, (2) excavations on the east of the line of the Walbrook, where skulls and Roman grave goods have been found, probably washed down from a cemetery further north, together with 'hippo-sandals' described as essentially tie-on horse-shoes. (3) London Bridge station, an ancient site but much disturbed by the building of the railway buildings. A cess pit was also found here, described as terrible to excavate because of the smell, it contained chamber pots with the residues still evident, also a cribbage board, and seeds for medicinal use. (4) a mausoleum near the site of the Abbey of St Clare, possibly a burial place for 'high status' Roman citizens.

The afternoon session was of great interest, as the title was *Areas of Entertainment in Tudor and Jacobean London*: the earliest date mentioned was 1576, the last 1642, so it included the period of Shakespeare's activity in London and the life of Marlow.

Of those two dates, 1576 is the date of construction of the one of the earliest documented theatres, the Red Lion, whilst 1642 was the date when Parliament ordered the closure of the theatres at the start of that troubled period of English history, the Civil War and Cromwell's rule. Some of the buildings survived longer,

Working backwards I will start with Andrew Gurr, author of *Playgoing in Shakespeare's London*, who gave the last talk of the day (speaking for substantially more than his allocated 30 minutes), giving an excellent summary. My ramblings here are based on his talk.

I had not realised that from quite early on there were both indoor and outdoor theatres. The indoor theatres had a smaller capacity, typically about 600, all seated. The outdoor theatres can be visualised from the reconstructed Globe, held 4 to 5 times as many people either standing in the 'arena', or seated in the galleries that surrounded it.

The outdoor theatres were all located outside the city walls, many in Southwark where they could be easily reached using the only foot crossing of the river, London Bridge, but some, like the Red Lion in Whitechapel, outside the city walls on the N.E. edge of London. The south bank was the home of several recreations, the bishop of Winchester owned land here, and Afl members will not need to be reminded that the Southwark prostitutes were commonly called 'Winchester geese'. The 'clink' prison was also here.

Some of the buildings were used for bull and bear baiting, and two of these can be found clearly marked, together with kennels housing the dogs, on the so-called 'Agas' map of London, (reprinted by the London Topographical Society, pubⁿ no 122) where the map is dated to the 1560s. The buildings are roughly circular and suggest the appearance of early theatres: this map shows no theatres as such. In 1620 there was a court case in which one John Taylor, then aged 70, gave

evidence of 4 places for bull and bear baiting, and it is thought there was a fifth. The oldest was at Masons Stairs, which was located not far from the south end of today's Millennium Bridge. A Venetian visitor of 1562 recorded entry was 1^d down, and 2^d in the stands.

It is believed that performances of plays may have taken place in these or similar buildings: there are references to actors disliking the bull-shit (literally) that littered the ring. As the bears stood 7ft tall and tossed the dogs that baited them into the audience, the latter were behind the palisade around the ring, or better is the galleries, but even here you could get spattered with blood. There is a record that in January 1583 a building collapsed, possibly its timbers had rotted: the galleries fell in on those standing underneath them around the ring: 300 people in an audience of 1000, were hurt, and 5 died.

After the Red Lion the next theatre was at Newington Butts (1575-94), followed by the building known as 'The Theatre' (1576-97), itself replaced by the Fortune (1600-42). At Blackfriars where there were two indoor theatres, the first from 1576 to 1581 and the second 1596-1642. The earlier was on the site of the monastery where the trial of Henry VIII's first wife, Catherine of Aragon, had taken place: it had also been a courtiers' theatre where private performances took place.

The usury act of 1571 limited the interest that could be charged to 10%: this encouraged commercial ventures by making money more easily available, and 5 theatres started up in the following decade.

Andrew mentioned Paul's (1575-1608), an indoor theatre close to the cathedral, whence its name, The Curtain (1577-1622) said to take an audience of at least 2000 people. The Rose (1587-1604) originally with 14 sides and 72ft diameter, then extended after it was built with by moving the stage back 6ft to create more space. The Globe (1599-1642) with 16-20 sides: it burnt down in 1613 but was rebuilt. The Fortune (1600-42) burnt down at midnight destroying all the script books that were housed there, a great loss to the company: it was rebuilt in brick. The Hope (1614-54) on Bankside, also used as a baiting house. The last three, all indoor theatres, were the Cockpit (1617-65) was also known as the Phoenix as it was rebuilt after it burnt down: a second Cockpit, the Cockpit at Court (1631-65), was designed by Inigo Jones and was located near modern Downing Street, and Salisbury Court (1629-42), was on the south side of Fleet Street. A theatre called the Whitefriars was near this last, but it lasted only 5 years and little is known about it.

In May 1594, for 6 years, playhouses were licensed by the Privy Council, and there were just two companies, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, which was Shakespeare's company, and the Lord Admiral's, which was Marlow's.

The groundlings, referred to contemptuously by Hamlet as "the groundlings, who for the most part are capable of nothing but inexplicable dumbshows and noise". You got in for 1d, which when a day's wage was about 1s. You went to hear a play, not to see it, the best seats were those on the stage, or the stage boxes immediately to the side. If you listen to Shakespeare on the radio, you realise that everything is in the words.

The booksellers

Members who frequent LMA to come to A&L seminars, or research, may have seen copies of the *Clerkenwell Post* that are sometimes in the mezzanine area. In a recent copy I saw an article about the bookstalls that used to line Farringdon Road. I hope I am not the only A&L member who remembers them, and indeed used to pause to browse and pick up the odd volume.

Philippa Lewis (www.philippalewis.com), who wrote the piece, has kindly allowed me to quote from it ...

In that dimly remembered time before the Internet and websites like Alibris enabled you to buy a desirable volume from the shelf of a second-hand book shop in Salford, St Ives or the Shetland Islands, it was off to Farringdon Road that bibliophiles went on a Saturday. For Farringdon Road was famous for its bookstalls. They were piled with the "flotsam of literature" as a 1926 volume entitled *Wonderful London* stated, with an "appearance of extreme impermanence". The London stalls seem to have first materialized around 1869, shortly after Farringdon Road was completed, enlivening and filling the space in front of the blank wall backing onto the railway line, south of Cowcross Street.

One of the original dealers was James Dabbs, "a very intelligent man who started in the hot chestnut line" (W. Roberts, *The Book-Hunter in London*, 1895) and was well known for his stock of the several thousand books he displayed daily on four or five barrows. Dabbs's starting price was two books for a penny; he claimed that he made the greatest profit from theological titles.

The market was thriving up until the second world war. In *The Street Markets of London* (1938), the author Mary Benedetta describes the scene thus: "the same little group stands there side by side for hours, searching, reading, their eyes appraising all the different qualities of each volume. The rain drips on their shoulders off the canvas roof, soaking them to the skin, but they never notice. Time means nothing to them. It is forgotten. They are all under the spell – the romance and glamour of old books."

There are tales of great finds, of rare books and first editions. C. A. Prance wrote in 1964: "from the barrows I have almost completed my set of *The Yellow Book*". Original Byron letters fell out of a book bought by a New Zealand dealer. Even the earliest printed books dating from the mid-16th century could be found. Hilary and Mary Evans would frequently visit on Saturdays in the 1960s and '70s scouring the stalls for images for their famous commercial picture library, which in turn were reproduced by the publishers of Bloomsbury and newspapers of Fleet Street.

By the mid-1990s the bookstalls had shrunk to a handful, all run by George Jeffery, the third generation of his family to trade there. When opening up in the morning, he would slowly peel back the tarpaulin, tantalizing the customers and causing fierce competition among them: but when Jeffrey died in 1994 and the council raised the rent for the pitch, his son called it a day – and so ended book-trading in Farringdon Road.

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WW1 Appeals

The National Archives have put on-line, and for free, records of the military tribunals that dealt with appeals against military service from men living in Middlesex: they are at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/middlesex-military-service-appeal-tribunal.htm. From here I downloaded the file MH_47_62_3.pdf, containing the records of Percy Jackson. I had no other reason to choose this name than that he has my surname, but the records were fascinating.

The earliest record of him in the downloaded tribunal records was on 28 Feb 1916, when he was age 32 and living at 2 Bedford Road, West Green, Tottenham. He was classified medically as 'unfit C3': the classifications went from A1, the fittest, to C3, the latter "the lowest grade for men who were totally unsuitable for combat training, fit only for clerical and other sedentary jobs". This is perhaps unsurprising as the records also state Percy suffered from 'organic valvular disease of the heart, and tuberculosis; although aged 34 he weighed only 6st. 12lbs. It said he worked as a singing tutor, which was suitable for his health, and had about 35 pupils: and he was paying back a 'student grant' from the academy where he trained (but which was not identified): in one of his appeal letters he says that his loss of income from being conscripted would result in severe financial problems and he would be unable to keep up the payments.

The next item on the file is 2 years later, 23 Jan 1918, when he is living at 6 Grove Park, West Green, Tottenham, although he was previously at 93 West Green road, Tottenham, so has had three addresses. From this we learn that he is unmarried, his birthday is 10 Aug, age last birthday (which would have been 10 Aug 1917) 34, so he was born 10/8/1883. He works both for the LCC at the school attendance office in Hoxton, for which he is paid £2 pw., and as a teacher of singing and pianoforte (which brings in £3 to £3-10s pw). However, the records include a letter from Stoke Newington Police station stating that he is Special constable no. 0068162 at St. Anns Road police station, joined on 20 Sept 1917, and his work is described as 'efficient'.

It seems he was still considered liable for call-up on 1918, as another appeal was dismissed on 6 Feb 1918, but on 6 Mar 1918 exemption for 4 months was granted on condition of his continuing to work with the Special Constabulary. An application for renewal of certificate, to be heard 25 Sept 1918, was granted 25 Mar 1919, by which time of course the war was over, so these records close.

Having got this much I thought I would look a little further: I looked in the 1911 census, where I found one Percy Jackson, a 'Musical Student' (fits the singing and piano work) living at 39 Cranwich Road, Stamford Hill, but born in Birmingham. He is lodging with the McNab family, headed by a widow born in Wick,

The fascinating question all this throws up is why was a house in Tottenham occupied by a family from Scotland and a lodger from Birmingham: what had brought them all to London in the early 20th century?

New York Public Library Images

The library has put online a large collection of pictures from its collections. These include a large number of images relating to the UK. Putting in the term 'London' returned some 23,000 images, although some of these were of the American writer Jack London. As an example, a link to their copy of a map of London from 1667, with the area of the fire just a blank skeleton of streets, can be found [here](#). The collection also includes a map of 1815, before the Victorian expansion of London took off, and of course no railways. There is also a map from c1905. (I have not included the full URL as they are very long: if you are reading the paper copy of this, sorry, put 'NYPL images' into Google. Ed.)

LWM Family History Society

The London Westminster and Middlesex FHS held a conference and AGM at the LMA in February. There were two talks, by Kathy Chater and John Gandy. John Gandy's was a whirlwind tour entitled *Tithes and Taxes*, although he also touched on the history of the parish — did you know that most 'ancient' parishes had assumed the shape they have today by 1200? Some are older, being based on Anglo-Saxon townships, although the relationship between a *tunsceipe* and a parish was not a direct 1-1 link.

Of greater interest to AfL members was Kathy Chater's talk, *The London Labyrinth*. She spoke about the wealth of archival sources that lie within the old GLC area, claiming that London holds nearly 30% of those existing nationally, some 600 archives, and 1500 libraries. She divided them in to three groups, National, County, Local

Kathy also stressed the importance of being targeted: what do you want to know, what sources might hold the data, has it been published or is it available online (both possibly saving a visit). She also mentioned the problems of many researchers, especially non-professionals, either asking for a document only to realise that you have already seen it, or getting distracted by some fascinating incidental detail that does not contribute to the research aims. On a visit to a archive repository, know what document you want, and when you see it, record what you saw, its reference, when, where, and finally an outcome, especially if negative so that you know not to look again

Black Death

In newsletter 24, the May 2013 issue, I included a piece of the plague pits discovered during the excavations for CrossRail. Further work on the remains, as reported on the BBC news website, shows that plague bacteria were present in the teeth of the skeletons, confirming the cause of death, since once it struck the plague killed its victims within a few days at most. The work has also revealed further burials across Charterhouse Square and also the foundations of a building - possibly a chapel - and there are plans to conduct further excavations there.

Don Walker, of the Museum of London Archaeology says that the skeletons provide a rare opportunity to study the medieval population of London. Many of the skeletons appear to suffer signs of malnutrition and 16% had rickets. The poor diet meant that people had little natural resistance to an unknown disease, hence the

high death rate, which killed one third of the population nationally, and quite possibly over half in a crowded city like London, 40% grew up outside London, possibly as far north as Scotland - showing that 14th Century London attracted people from across Britain. The skeletons also show a high rate of back damage and strain indicating heavy manual labour.

It seems that burials occur at two levels, the lower being that associated with the 1348 outbreak, but the pit was reused later. The later skeletons from the 1400s had a high rate of upper body injury consistent with being involved in violent altercations.

Rose Theatre, Bankside

The Rose Theatre was a remarkable example of rescue archaeology when two thirds of the historic 16th Century theatre were excavated against the clock in 1989, prior to the redevelopment of the site

The Trust is preparing to make an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to excavate the rest of the Rose and then create a heritage attraction incorporating this Scheduled Ancient Monument which is a key part of British heritage.

The web site says: "When it was erected in 1587 the Rose was only the fifth purpose-built theatre in London, and the first on Bankside - an area already rich in other leisure attractions such as brothels, gaming dens and bull/bear-baiting arenas. The site chosen was near the Thames, on land relatively recently reclaimed from the river: the first firm reference to it occurs only in 1552, when it was described as a tenement with two gardens known as the Little Rose. In 1585 this was leased to Philip Henslowe, a shrewd local businessman and property developer, and in 1587 the theatre was built for him by the carpenter John Griggs. Relatively little of its history is recorded until 1592, when Henslowe started to use an account book he had inherited from his brother, and the year in which Henslowe's step-daughter married the well-known actor Edward Alleyn. Alleyn now associated himself with the fortunes of the Rose and would in 1619, after a highly successful career, found the College of God's Gift (now Dulwich College). Many of his and Henslowe's papers survive there, including 'Henslowe's Diary' (his account book). This not only gives details of his expenditure on the theatre building from 1592, but also of the plays subsequently staged there, of the audiences that they attracted, and even of props and costumes. Together the Dulwich papers constitute a uniquely rich resource for the study of the Elizabethan stage, enabling us to establish the history of the Rose in far greater detail than that of any contemporary playhouse. From them we know that its repertory included Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*, *Jew of Malta* and *Tamburlaine the Great*, Kyd's *Spanish Tragedy* and Shakespeare's *Henry VI part I* and *Titus Andronicus*. The Rose's success soon encouraged other theatres to be built on Bankside: the Swan in 1595 and the Globe in 1599. These rivals swiftly overtook the Rose. It appears to have fallen out of use by 1603 and had certainly been abandoned as a theatre by 1606. Soon it vanished from the map altogether."

The above from www.rosetheatre.org.uk/.

See also my report on the LAMAS spring conference.

VISIT REPORTS

Visit to Great Ormond Street Hospital

Courtesy of Nick Baldwin, archivist there, who is also a member of AfL and a regular attendee at our seminars, the February visit was to the museum and archive of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Unfortunately it seems the future of the collection is in question and the archive may well close later this year, so our visit may have been well timed.

The hospital dates from 1852, almost 100 years before the founding of the NHS: it is one of the oldest children's hospitals in Europe, although that in Paris from 1818 predates it. Before the hospital there were dispensaries from which medicine could be bought but nowhere that offered hospital accommodation. The museum and archives are housed across the road from the main building, and it was here that our visit started. This is a building that was once occupied by SPAB: it dates back to 1710 and was bought in 1990. Sadly the space for display of material occupies little more than a good-sized lounge, so it is mostly information on display boards, with a few early surgical instruments. Two of the founders of the hospital were Charles West (1816-98) who was the first physician when the hospital opened at 49 Great Ormond Street (not the current 49, the street has been renumbered) and William Jenner (1815-98) best known for his work on typhus and typhoid.

The hospital was supported by Charles Dickens, whose house, now a Dickens museum, in Doughty Street is not far away. Queen Victoria is known to have taken an interest, too,

First hospital was in Powis Place: of this only the chapel survives, but it is the jewel in the hospital building, with seats at the right height for small children, so a bit low for this group of visitors!

Many records up to 1914 (i.e. those open under the 100 year rule) have been put online at www.gharp.org. This site contains hospital records for these hospitals: Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Disease (originally in Queen Square Bloomsbury, later near Luton); Cromwell House, in Highgate Village, an early outpost of GOSH; Evelina Hospital, founded in Southwark, named after the wife of Baron Rothschild whose wife died in childbirth, and now at St Thomas's on the South Bank; Glasgow Children's Hospital, and Great Ormond Street Hospital itself. The site is primarily intended for those studying epidemiology and the history of disease, but it does recognise that people with family and local history interests may use it. If an ancestor in your family tree is known to have been a patient you may find something of their history here. For some of the patients case note are also online: fortunately these have been transcribed. Original images can also be viewed, but the combination of the notoriously bad handwriting of many doctors, and the use of medical terms unfamiliar to those outside the profession, makes the M/S images hard reading.

For access to this information you need to register and record an email address: when the editor tried the site a few days after the museum visit, although the site suggested that some information was available without registering, but I failed to achieve this.

Bishopsgate Institute

The March visit was to the Bishopsgate Institute, just across the road from Liverpool Street station. Our host was Steph Dicker, the archivist there. He talked about the collections and the history of the institute.

The institute was founded in 1893, and came about indirectly through the amalgamation of a number of London parishes. The web site says "Bishopsgate Institute was built using funds from charitable endowments made to the parish of St Botolph without Bishopsgate. These had been collected by the parish for over 500 years, but a scheme agreed by the Charity Commissioners in 1891, enabled these to be drawn together into one endowment. Reverend William Rogers (1819-1896), Rector of St Botolph's and a notable educational reformer and supporter of free libraries was instrumental in setting up the Institute and ensuring that the original charitable aims were met." It opened its doors 2 years later.

The small entry at 230 Bishopsgate gives little clue to the labyrinth behind. Our visit started in the hall opposite the main door, which at one time housed an organ, removed in 1972: if that were done today I think there would be a protest. In 1910 Shackleton gave a lecture here to some 350 people: it must have been a crush, modern health and safety limits the capacity to 250.

Behind the hall is the main reading room and reference library. This is a lovely light room, with a stained glass dome at one corner: this was damaged by a bomb in WW2, and again by the IRA bomb on 1993 that destroyed nearby St Ethelburga. In the early days of the institute the library leant books, but is now strictly for reference. There are 50,000 books available. Some are not on the open shelves, they must be requested. I stayed behind after the visit to read, and the items I requested were produced in less than 5 minutes.

The collections, all of which are held on-site, specialise in the history of London, and on what one might call 'left wing' *isms*: the Labour party, trade unionism, Communism, anti-imperialism, humanism, feminism, the co-operative movement. Although this does not seem to have been a deliberate collecting policy in the early days, it has now become a theme, and as a result the archives have collected the personal papers of a number of left-leaning politicians.

They hold a range of guide books to London: in the archive Steph showed us a guide to London for German visitors (in German) from c1910, and a recent guide in Chinese. These books now appear so frequently that the institute has had to cut back on its collecting policy for lack of space, and limits accessions to books in English.

Around the hall are dotted a number of meeting rooms, which are used for the numerous lectures and courses that the institute offers: here you can learn Mandarin Chinese, or how to write a good novel, or take yoga and pilates classes.

The library catalogue and details of all the courses can be found online at the website www.bishopsgate.org.uk. The library is open daily, except Sunday and Friday afternoon, 10am to 5:30pm

SEMINAR REPORTS**House Histories**

The April seminar was given by Melanie Backe-Hausen, who talked about tracing the history of houses in London, and their occupiers. Melanie is an independent researcher who delves into house histories on a commission basis. She said that there is a wide range of reasons why people are interested in their houses, and there is almost always something to tell. Amongst other things, you might want to know: when the house was built; what was there before; has it always been like this; have there been any interesting occupants, what did they do?

Investigating these topics involves looking at a range of separate sources and pulling them together. For London you may need to consult records at the National Archives, London specific records (mainly at the LMA), or the local records of the borough where the house is located. If the house or the area has been associated with a specific trade or industry, the records of that trade may shed light, if not on the house itself, on its background. Volumes like Victoria County history for Middlesex, and the Survey of London, although they tend to concentrate on the grander buildings rather than houses, may fill in the background. London has been mapped many times, from Roque in 1746 to detailed OS maps from the 1860's, and these may help define when an area was developed.

It is rather sad that with advent of the land registry it is no longer a requirement to keep the deeds for a house, beyond 15 years, and many an interesting document may have been lost simply because solicitors handling sales may have said "no longer need to keep those", and discarded them, without looking at the historical significance of the papers.

If a house had an 'interesting' occupant – for whatever reason, he may have been a philanthropist or a murderer — there may be personal papers or records of his life which can add colour to the history.

Melanie gave several examples of work she had undertaken: the records of the development of Compton Terrace in Highbury are at the LMA: this was the estate of the earls of Northampton, and was developed in 1803. Of course in many cases the land was let or sold to developers, but the estate papers will probably tell you to whom, and you can then see if the firm survives and whether its papers are accessible anywhere. Of course if it went out of business and nobody thought to preserve the records, it may be that nothing survives.

Melanie stressed the need, common to all research, to be methodical and work backwards. Streets get renamed and renumbered, so knowing a property's current address may not be helpful, if when it was built it had a different number on a different road-name: working backwards and looking at the area may help uncover such changes. Her example here was Brompton Road, but records of the renumbering, with a plan that showed the different properties, are at LMA.

Melanie has a web site at www.househistorian.co.uk.

Wear a toothbrush in your hat

The May seminar was given by Anne Jensen, archivist at News UK (formerly News International), who talked about the challenges faced by The Times' War Correspondents, who have covered some 150 years of The Times' reporting of hostilities.

A dramatic difference that became apparent is that in the early 1800s it could take weeks for a dispatch to reach the paper, whilst for the Iraq war in 2003 the Times sent an artist to paint scenes of the war, which he could then scan with a hand-held scanner using the power from the 'cigar-lighter' outlet of a car, and email the resulting image back to the office within an hour of finishing the work.

William Howard Russell was the correspondent in the Crimean War, present at the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava in 1854. He was appointed special correspondent and managed to get a report he wrote on 4th October 1854 published in the issue of the Times on 23rd of the same month. Some official correspondence took longer to get back to the Government, a source of annoyance to officialdom. Information about the battle was sent from Gallipoli across the Black sea to Varna, thence by messenger to Bucharest and Vienna from where it could be transmitted by cable to Paris and London. The paper was accused of giving encouragement to the enemy with its reports, but there were good outcomes, in particular the publicity may have helped recruiting campaigns.

In Africa, they had a correspondent at the siege of Khartoum in 1884, and at Ladysmith for the battle of Mafeking in 1899. My title is taken from the latter battle, when a toothbrush in the hat was a sign of the Times correspondent, and no-one else dared mimic or copy them. Anne mentioned the use of a heliograph, a method of sending Morse-coded messages using a mirror and flashes of sunlight. It was suitable for sunny climes, like South Africa, but probably eventually unreliable.

A few years later, the Times has a correspondent reporting the 1904-5 Russo-Japanese wars, although reporting was affected by censorship and restrictions placed on correspondents' movements, a theme which was to recur in the reporting of the Great War.

The great War (or World War I) was a time of difficult reporting, as correspondents never knew what would be censored and omitted from their reports. Messages from the front could be sent speedily via Paris and Boulogne, and from Dover to London by Courier, but the crossing of the channel slowed things down.

At the outbreak of World War 2, a certain Kim Philby was the Times war correspondent. Messages could be sent by phone, and a report written on 21st December 1939 was published on 27th, a considerable improvement on 30 years earlier. In an amusing touch Anne showed us an image of a claim for £100 Philby submitted for clothing lost at that time, and a reply of some 6 months later when £70 of it was approved.

SEMINAR REPORTS

The Fried Egg is a Triumph!

Jane Insley, formerly of the Science Museum, London, about museum dioramas at the January seminar.

The titular quote was the final sentence in a letter from a British Museum expert to the diorama maker Henry Broun-Morison, who had consulted him about details of Alexandrian life for a tiny model workshop he was building for the Science Museum. Henry was concerned to get every detail correct, down to the shapes of the rungs and handles of ladders, and the body shape of the cats. He demonstrated his seriousness as a model maker to his source by sticking a tiny plastic fried egg to the letter page; despite being written in the early 1960s, and kept in the museum's Documentation Centre ever since, the fried egg in question was still stuck to the page, and was the same size as the hole punched in the paper to tie it in the file.

Henry Broun-Morison was one of the coterie of diorama makers used by the museum from the 1930s onwards. The dioramas were models of landscapes or interior scenes, showing human activities or processes, similar to the habitat dioramas used in natural history museums for displaying stuffed specimens. Both types developed from forms of public spectacle flourishing in the 19th century, but have different histories despite both relying the production of a convincing background for the main exhibit. Henry's workshop was a fantastically detailed scene showing chemical apparatus and other laboratory clutter, in true perspective, like a doll's house; most of the nearly 100 dioramas at the museum were of the skewed perspective type, where the entire scene was modelled at variable scale in order to convince the eye of the beholder that they were looking into another world.

The Agriculture gallery and the Lower Wellcome medical galleries at the museum still use dioramas as a main exhibition technique. However, this form of peopled model is currently out of fashion and favour compared to the expectations of visitors living in our electronic age, and they may well soon be removed from show. In the meantime, it is timely to celebrate the skills involved in being able to create the smallest breakfast in the world.

Illustration below: Jane with a diorama

© The Science Museum



London's Pulse

The February seminar was a presentation by Jenn Phillips-Bacher, (Web Editor), Christy Henshaw, (Digitisation Programme Manager) and Ross Macfarlane, (Research Engagement Officer), on the records of London's MOHs – Medical Officers of Health – which the Wellcome Institute holds, and has put online at <http://wellcomelibrary.org/moh>. Jenn described the process by which the web site was developed over 2 years from mid-2011 to release in July 2013. For this write-up I feel the more interesting part is the actual records.

The records cover the period from 1848 to 1972. They cover 32 boroughs, and there are nearly 6000 reports (including some 580 supplied from the collections at the LMA) totalling some 275,000 pages. It needs to be mentioned that they do not contain any reports on any individual's wellness or otherwise: such names as do occur are the officials of the various boards and committees contributing to the reports.

On the history of the reports the web site says "The reports were produced each year by the MOH of a district and set out the work done by his public health and sanitary officers. The reports provided vital data on birth and death rates, infant mortality, incidence of infectious and other diseases, and a general statement on the health of the population." It goes on to mention such specifics as numbers visiting maternity and child welfare clinics, pints of free milk dispensed, venereal disease clinics, tubercular children attending open-air schools, and Poor Law infirmaries and municipal hospitals.

They also note that the reports were never fully standardised, varying both between different areas at the same time, and for the same place at different times, and in length from 120 to 30 pages.

The really great thing about the on-line presentation is that they can be searched for a word or phrase – putting 'Marylebone cholera' (without quotes) in the search box finds occurrences of either word, whilst "Marylebone cholera" (with the double quotes as shown) looks for just that phrase – neat. You can limit the search by modern borough (but not by the old pre-GLC boroughs), and to within a year range, should you be researching more locally. The reports contain large numbers of tables, and these can be downloaded separately in a range of formats, including 'csv' which can be opened by Excel, so that one can then use Excel's facilities for manipulating the data.

The reports will probably be of greatest interest to those with an interest in epidemiology in its broadest sense, as one can trace outbreaks of specific diseases. Putting the word measles into the search brought back the summary '989 results across 665 reports'. If I were to criticise the search facilities it would be to say that the searches throw up results in an apparently completely random order: reports for one district are not grouped together, and they are not in chronological order, either overall or within district.



AfL Events: Seminars and visits

The following visits are planned: please check your monthly email for last minute changes.

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|---------------|---|
| 29 May | Visit: Ascension day for Archivists - the Arts and Crafts at Holy Trinity Church Sloane Street. |
| 5 June | Seminar: The Lord Treasurer of Botany: Sir James Edward Smith and the Linnean Society, by Tom Kennett, Archivist and biographer. |
| 19 June | Visit: "The Borehole Walk" - a stroll round the environs of St Paul's, culminating at the Great Brass Plate in the centre of the church floor (services and other events permitting). |
| 3 July | Seminar: MCC archive at Lords, with Robert Curphey . |
| July / August | summer break, no visits planned, no August seminar. |
| September | The new season of events will start with a visit on 25th, please see your monthly email for details. |

AfL on the Internet

It's easy to keep up to date with AfL's activities: for the latest on our seminars, visits and special events, remember to follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/archives4london, and on Facebook we are at www.facebook.com/archives4london. There is also the website at www.archivesforlondon.org/ where you can find details of forthcoming seminars, and catch up with any recent newsletters you may have missed.

Editor's Jottings

Two Great War events have come to the Editor's attention. BALH (British Association for Local History) together with the IHR is organising a 2-day conference on 3rd/4th July under the title The Great War at home. This will take place Senate House, as with most IHR conferences. There appears to be a wealth of sessions, many running in parallel. Details can be found on the web site anglo-american.history.ac.uk . which quote as an early bird rate of £70 per day.

On a more popular level, the Essex Family History Society is organising a weekend conference at Basildon on the last weekend in August under the title "Dig for the Past Look to the Future" It covers a range of topics and is not exclusively devoted to family history. Details at home.btconnect.com/esfh/ (where you can also find the costs of attending)

Returning to BALH, a reminder the their ever informative Local History Day will be held on 7th July at 24 Stephenson Street. This street is tucked away in a corner on the north side of Euston Road, between the

station and Tottenham Court Road. I must admit I did not think the venue as pleasant as Friends House that BALH used for several years, but I guess like many other organisations they have had to pull their belts in and find somewhere less costly. They have, perhaps thinking it best left to others, avoided a Great War theme. There are usually stalls representing local history societies, this year a lecture on the impact of motoring on the 20th century, and a presentation on the York Cause Papers. Non-members may attend for £35, including a sandwich lunch, and tea and coffee.

And lastly back to the Great War, the Museum of London has an exhibition *Goodbye Piccadilly - from home front to Western front* running to March next year, which their web site www.ltmuseum.co.uk says "will reveal the untold story of London's Home Front during the First World War; how drivers took their buses to the Front to support the war effort, how women advanced into the transport workforce for the first time and how Londoners came under deadly attack from the air as total war came to the Capital."

The editor welcomes contributions to the Newsletter and letters for publication. Please send your contribution to: Peter Jackson, Archives for London, c/o London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB.

Or preferably by email to: newsletter@archivesforlondon.org

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