



Newsletter

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The independent voice for
archives in the Capital

From the Chairman

This Newsletter is being sent out earlier than usual due to our volunteer editor's travel schedule, and this enables me both to wish all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year simultaneously!

Since the September issue we have continued with our programme of seminars, held the second successful AfL Practical session, this one on Genealogy resources at the ever supportive LMA, and held our conference at LMA too. Reports of the conference and an extraordinary meeting which AfL was pleased to support, on the physicist, Silvanus Philips Thompson are to be found in this issue. All these events showed just how much archives are relied upon to investigate and offer explanations for social, economic and personal matters.

The intent of Archives for London is to promote archives and advocate their use and the AfL events held in 2016 certainly stand up to scrutiny in that regard. AfL will be investing in more of the same, with as much élan and pride next year!

AfL Conference 14th October 2016

What links together 2 major conflagrations 300 years apart? Archives of course! This is how the presenters at the AfL Conference *Evolution from the Embers* skilfully brought to life the events of the Great Fire of London in 1666 and WWII 1939-1945, and particularly the Blitz. There was a huge range of documentation shown, forming the background of discoveries of the events and certain of their aspects revealed in the talks. Londoner's responses to the events and the rebuilding of London were key issues. Social economic and political issues were also highlighted. The Fire and Blitz sessions cleverly mirrored each other as far as Geoff Pick the organiser could arrange it.

Maps featured in both sections; poring over them is a fascinating and time absorbing occupation, and Vanessa Harding gave us the benefit of her extensive knowledge of their interpretation for the period around the Great Fire, they were evidence of changes to the landscape and responses to the catastrophe.

Less of the same will however be found in the website and branding, which is being upgraded. For this hard work we have to thank Roger Cohen and Siân Wynn Jones. Siân has been at the forefront of our communications strategy for many years, but is leaving London for exciting new prospects abroad. We are very sorry to see her go, and are immensely grateful for the work she has put in to AfL. Siân recently put out a call for volunteers to assist with communications; do contact me if you feel you would like to find out more about this and perhaps join us in communicating AfL's work.

We will keep you posted as to the new website as things happen. We are all impatient to see the outcomes, but this is a considered process, and also a large undertaking for volunteers, who want work carefully to present the best results for one of the major parts of AfL's communications strategy – so watch this space!

On behalf of the Board and the All Hands volunteers, thank you for your support for AfL and we all look forward to seeing you in 2017. Season's Greetings.

Anne Barrett *Chairman* Archives for London

Put alongside the Hearth Tax Assessments and other property and financial and insurance documents, a full picture of the period pre and post the Fire emerges. Laurence Ward used a different type of map, the London County Council bomb damage maps of WWII to show us the devastation wreaked by the bombs, incendiary devices and the 'first ballistic missiles', the flying bombs, the V1/V2 rockets. Again, relevant documents from, for example, the London Civil Defence Region the District Surveyors Association and insurance claims, describe how the physical clearance of destroyed property was organised. Photographs were also used a first-hand source of almost instant information capture – something not available in 1666.

Stephen Porter used many images of plans and documents to inform about the response to the Fire, including the many property disputes, the motivation for which was revealed in these documents as being legal and financial.

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Silvanus Philips Thompson Day 16th September 2016 'A many sided crystal'

A unique workshop to mark the centenary of the death of scientist Silvanus Philips Thompson (1851-1916) to investigate his historical significance and directions for future research.

This unique workshop was co-hosted by Imperial College London, University of Leeds, The Institution of Engineering and Technology, British Society for the History of Science and Archives for London.

The scene was set by the first talk by Graeme Gooday (University of Leeds), "Silvanus Phillips Thompson: Polymath, Authority and Critic": The challenges to understanding Silvanus P. Thompson's highly influential life and work are manifold: there seem to be as many facets of it to map as there are apparent puzzles to resolve. It was emphasised by Mat Paskins (University of Aberystwyth), discussing Silvanus Thompson's Working Worlds: Hannah Gay and Anne Barrett have argued that Silvanus Phillips Thompson was 'a generalist who did not allow himself to play the game of scientific advancement in any narrowly defined way'. The other worlds SPT inhabited as a Quaker and a scientist were explored by Matt Stanley (New York University) in "The Quaker Silvanus Thompson, Scientist and 'Sincere Friend.'" in which 'Thompson's extensive writings help us understand what he saw to be the important elements in the interactions between science and religion.' One of SPT's great interests was illuminated by Steve Pumfrey (University of Lancaster),

[*Evolution from the Embers* continued from page 1]

Rebuilding plans were also under review and a source of dispute. Robert Hooke, in the role of Chief Surveyor to the City of London and Chief Assistant to Christopher Wren, envisioned the rebuilding of the City and designing the Monument as a memorial to the fire.

Felicity Henderson concentrated on Robert Hooke's involvement in the aftermath of the Fire using his diaries which record his life and work as a scientist and polymath, London was described as being Hooke's 'other laboratory.'

Although not an individual's laboratory during the Blitz, Darren Bryant showed the diversity of experience across London through archival material. He discussed how history has made the war a uniform experience, whereas the documentation

"Thompson on Gilbert's De Magnete: the Trials of the Translator", and another aspect of SPT's talents was revealed by Geoffrey Cantor (University of Leeds & UCL), "Thompson, Biographer". (SPT wrote the Life of Lord Kelvin, William Thomson, physicist and engineer). An intangible dimension was entered into by Annie Jamieson (National Media Museum), "There is Light that our Eyes Will never See": Silvanus Thompson and the Photography of the Invisible" an exploration of aspects of light including X-rays. On a more tangible note, Stathis Arapostathis (University of Athens) and Anna Guagnini (University of Bologna), enlightened in their paper "The Dilemma of a Professor: Beat Them or Join Them – or else? Silvanus P. Thompson and the Business of Electricity". Whilst Thompson was ever keen to highlight the contribution of scientific research in the advancement of the electrical science and industry, he was far from being a 'reluctant' entrepreneurial scientist-engineer. The paper is based on archival sources, technical journals, patent specifications and published material of his work. Archival material being central to all these papers, Anne Barrett (Imperial College, London) & Anne Locker (Institution of Engineering & Technology), gave illustrated talks on their archival holdings of SPT material: "The Thompson Archives". A Round table discussion on Thompson's historical significance and directions for future research was fruitful, and it was agreed that a very satisfying day was had by all concerned.

Anne Barrett
Chairman Archives for London

shows how varied it was across London. The archives include those of London County Council, local council records, the Fire Brigade Incident reports and photographs.

The re-planning of London after WWII was explored by Peter Larkham, using many reports – around 250 between 1940 and 1952 - by local planners and boroughs, many of which suggested a clean sweep and complete rebuilding for a modern era, though as we know this was not to be the case, for a multitude of reasons.

This brief run through the day's presentations cannot do justice to the wealth of archival material and the breadth of information extracted from them and imparted by the speakers, nor to the enthusiasm they engendered in the audience.

Major Accessions to Repositories in 2015 Relating to London

Barking and Dagenham Archives, Becontree Avenue, Dagenham, RM8 3HT

Alfred Frederick Joseph Chorley (fl 1931-1959), charter mayor: papers and photographs and other records 1931-1959 (ACQ2015/024)

Benjamin Lack (fl 1908-1938), Honourable Secretary of Barking Labour Party: papers and photographs rel to Barking Labour Party 1908-1938 (ACQ2015/004)

Norman Ernest Martin (1939-1998), mechanical engineer: papers and correspondence 1938-1998 (ACQ2015/047)

Vera Merritt (1906-1979): scrapbooks concerning the history of the Girl Guide Movement and activities of the 1st Riverside District Rangers Company 1906-1979 (ACQ2015/027)

Meredith Myears (fl 2015): digital photographs of the visit of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh to Chadwell Heath Community Library (16 July 2015), taken by Meredith Myears 2015 (ACQ2015/035)

Harold Wand (1909-1991), local historian and president of the Barking and District Historical Society: papers and corresp incl letters from Colonel A E Loftus c1930-1995 (ACQ2015/028/BD 352)

Porter Glennly Ltd, estate agents, Grays: records and papers rel to business and family 1728-1931 (BD 349)

Becontree Swimming Club: corresp, diaries, papers, registers and photographs 1989-1999 (ACQ2015/054)

Chadwell Heath Townswomen's Guild: minutes, scrapbooks, attendance register and other records 1943-2015 (ACQ2015/039)

Dagenham Rotary Club: minutes, corresp and other records 1937-1987 (ACQ2015/012)

Mobile Museum: material rel to housing estates in Barking and Dagenham 2000-2015 (ACQ2015/051)

Valence House Museum: records incl reports and plans rel to the redevelopment of Valence House Museum 2007-2010 (ACQ2015/056)

Photographs of the construction of houses on the Becontree Estate c 1925-1932 (ACQ2015/023)

Eastbury Manor House: visitors' books 1977-2012 (ACQ2015/002)

Bexley Local Studies, Townley Road, DA6 7HJ

Longlands Primary School, Bexley: log books, registers and photographs 1905-2015 (LAXLGL)

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Bexleyheath: corresp, registers and photos 1965-2012 (LAXSTM)

Willesden Green Library, 95 High Road, NW10 2SF

Hugo Powell (1919-2014), sculptor: microcassettes containing oral history of sculptor Hugo Powell, sketches and press cutting relating to the 1948 Olympics victory plaques c1948-1996 (A16/2015; A18/2015)

Willesden General Hospital: collection contains in-patient and staff registers, and minute books of various committees 1895-1971 (A3/2015)

Personal letters (50) between husband and wife (Dolly and Bert) written just before and during First World War c1912-1915 (A1/2015)

Bromley Historic Collections, Library, BR1 1EX

Bromley and Downham Old Boys' Club: records incl minutes and promotional material c1955-1983 (Accession 2015/017)

Chiswick Library Local Studies, Dukess Avenue, W4 2AB

Anne Naysmith (1937-2015), concert pianist and "Car Lady of Chiswick": books of condolence 2015 (HALS/ARC367)

Montagu Sharpe (1856-1942), King's Counsel, antiquarian, author and local historian: hand-drawn, printed and annotated maps 1900-1925 (HALS/ARC390)

Brentford and Chiswick Borough Council: Borough Charter Day photographs 1932 (HALS/ARC397)

Chiswick Lodge Hospital: material collected for booklet on history of the hospital 1911- 2004 (HALS/ARC371)

City of Westminster Archives Centre, 10 St Ann's Street, SW1P 2DE

Currey & Co LLP, solicitors, London: corresp, letter books and other records 1839-1920 (2843)

Grosvenor Estates Ltd, property agents: additional deeds and lease plans 1894-2010 (2853)

All Saints Church, Ennismore Gardens, Knightsbridge: additional service registers, preachers books, etc 1849-1939 (2861)

Queen's Gardens Association, Bayswater: additional minutes, financial and administrative records 1940-2011 (2834)

Queen's Westminster Rifles: muster roll 1891 (2857)

St Clement Danes Holborn Estate Charity: minutes, corresp and almshouse records 1879-2002 (2851)

St Clement Danes parish, Westminster: additional records 1868-2013 (2824)

St Mary-le-Strand parish, Westminster: additional records 1726-2009 (2825)

St Peter's Church, Eaton Square, Westminster: additional records 1877-1936 (2832)

Westminster Bridge: minutes, accounts and other records c1737-1868 (2841)

Reece family, pharmacists, Piccadilly: legal case papers c1970-2000 (2849)

Dorset History Centre, Bridport Road, Dorchester, DT1 1RP

Anthony Jolliffe (b 1938), Lord Mayor of London: cuttings and invitations 1971-1980 (D- SAJ)

Ealing Local History Centre, 103 Ealing Broadway, W5 5JY

Acton Community Forum: minutes 1999-2014 (443)

Ealing Philanthropic Institution: minutes, accounts and reports 1881-2008 (437)

Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive, 39 London Road, EN2 6DS

Hunsden family of Enfield: family papers 1657-1921 (MA3)

Irene Bridgeman (1927-2002): autograph book, with pictures and messages, and handwritten cookbook 1942-1945 (EA4)

Broomfield House Owners Association: administrative records c1930-1950

Ediswan Reunion Association: material incl photographs, minutes, lists of members rel to the Association 1932-1993 (MA6)

Enfield Urban District Council: documents, maps and plans relating to property and land sales 1820-1931 (HD3)

St George's Rambling Society: photo albums and minute books 1921-1925 (HB1)

Collection of documents, maps and plans relating to the development of land for housing in Edmonton, mostly rel to land acquisitions by Edmonton Freehold Land and Builders Society Ltd 1850-1938 (HA3)

Air Training Corps 85 (Enfield and Southgate) Squadron: documents and photographs rel to Air Training Corps 85 (Enfield and Southgate) Squadron 1939 (HC3)

Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford, CM2 6YT

Carden & Godfrey, architects, London: plans and papers 1954-1980 (A14218)

Hackney Archives Department, Dalston Lane, E8 3BQ

Denis Dunbar Gibbs (1927-2015), physician: photographs and papers, incl photos of Abney Park Cemetery, East End pubs, and large photos of Dr Gibbs' Wildlife in a Hackney Garden exhibition c1980-1989 (2015/05)

Abney Park Cemetery Co Ltd: large-scale plans of the cemetery, showing burials (2015/13)

Art House Foundation: research work for creation of artwork displayed at Hackney Archives 2014 (2015/09)

Clissold Residents' Association: records of the Association incl minutes, correspondence, membership details c1972-2000 (2015/08; 2015/18)

Discover Hackney Partnership, community project: records incl minutes, publicity and planning documents 2006-2013 (2015/11)

Hackney City Farm: material incl minutes, publicity, records rel to the farm's creation, plans, photographs and corresp c1985-2015 (2015/23)

Hackney Learning Trust: records incl minutes, reports, project work and corresp 2002-2012 (2015/21)

Laburnum Boat Club: records of an HLF project 'Regent's Canal Through the Ages' 2014 (2015/03)

Hillingdon Local Studies, Central Library, Uxbridge, UB8 1HD

Charles Daniel Miller (fl 1938-1990), sailor: records incl ration card, unemployment book, handwritten biographical details and itinerary of ports visited during service c1938-1990 (ADB. 15.38, ADB 15.39)

Lowe and Shawyer Nursery, Uxbridge: records incl financial papers, corresp and company history 1906-1962 (ADB.15.24)

Hounslow Library Local Studies Service, Treaty Centre, High Street TW3 1ES

Hounslow Soroptimists: scrapbooks 1943-1994 (HALS/ARC370)

Need and Taylor's Educational Charity, Brentford: minute book 1856-1959 (HALS/ARC380)

Air raid damage in the district of Feltham incident records 1940-1941 (HALS/ARC365)

Islington Local History Centre, 245 St John St, EC1V 4NB

Copenhagen Youth Project: records incl finance, administration, fundraising, projects and photographs 2000-2010 (S/CYP)

Kent History and Library Centre, James Whatman Way, Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

Whatman family, papermakers, of Vinters: records of Whatman Paper Mill, Springfield, incl of H Reeve Angel & Co, paper merchants, London 19th-20th cent (KHLC-2015/59)

Kingston History Centre, High Street, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT1 1EU

Kingston-upon-Thames Borough Council: education and school committee files 1999-2007 (KT344)

Thames Ditton Skittle Club: records of the Thames Ditton Skittle Club 1897-1972 (KX600)

Lambeth Archives, 52 Knatchbull Road, SE5 9QY

Fisher family: personal papers rel to Sidney E and Mary Alice Fisher incl Sidney Fisher's First World War military documents c1900-1980 (ARC/2015/10)

Michael David Trace (1937-2006), photographer: negative series of Lambeth photographic survey c1970-1987 (ARC/2015/13)

Belgrave Hospital for Children, Clapham: records incl correspondence, photographs and ephemera 1898-1987 (IV/322)

Brixton Hill Methodist Church: marriage and baptism registers, minutes of leaders meetings and Sunday school minutes 1825-1979 (ARC/2015/03)

Duckie: HLF supported project, incl interviews with Paul O'Grady and others associated with the Royal Vauxhall Tavern 2014 (ARC/2015/01)

Lambeth Metropolitan Borough Council: seals 1914-1970 (ARC/2015/20/2)

Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults (MENCAP), Lambeth branch: records incl minutes, accounts and photographs 1953-2014 (ARC/2015/8)

Oral history recordings of reminiscences of the Lacamo Dance Hall building, Streatham and its subsequent businesses including "The Cat's Whiskers Club", "The Studio", "The Ritzy" and "Caesar's Nighclub" 2014-2015 (ARC/2015/21)

London Borough of Sutton: Central Library, St Nicholas Way, SM1 1EA

Friends of Honeywood Museum: accounts, minutes, newsletters and marketing 1990-2014 (Acc 921)

Holy Trinity Church, Wallington: parish registers 1868-2012 (Acc 918)

London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, EC1R 0HB

Cyril Ewart Lionel Grant (1919-2010), Guyanese actor, musician, writer and poet: additional papers rel to World War Two c1940-2010 (B15/041, B15/163)

Sir Stephen White (d 1678), grocer and alderman: financial and legal letters, papers and deeds rel to Irish plantations in East Meath 1654-1677 (B15/118)

Fulham Bridge Co: records (transferred from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives) 1729-1865 (DD/0119,DD/0301)

Hammersmith & City Railway Co: deeds, plans and papers (transferred from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives) 1859-1938 (DD/1081)

Hammersmith Bridge Co: minutes, corresp, shares, contracts, specifications, deeds, etc (transferred from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives) 1756-1888 (DD/0008, DD/0478)

Frederick Huth & Co, merchants and merchant bankers, London: additional letters, certificates and notes rel to banking, especially in South America 1811-1875 (CLC/B/087)

JD Langton & Passmore, solicitors, London: partners' minutes and agreements, financial and client records incl records of predecessor Whale & Wates and George

Fulham Bridge Co: records (transferred from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives) 1729-1865 (DD/0119,DD/0301)

Hammersmith & City Railway Co: deeds, plans and papers (transferred from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives) 1859-1938 (DD/1081)

Hammersmith Bridge Co: minutes, corresp, shares, contracts, specifications, deeds, etc (transferred from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives) 1756-1888 (DD/0008, DD/0478)

Frederick Huth & Co, merchants and merchant bankers, London: additional letters, certificates and notes rel to banking, especially in South America 1811-1875 (CLC/B/087)

JD Langton & Passmore, solicitors, London: partners' minutes and agreements, financial and client records incl records of predecessor Whale & Wates and George Whale of Woolwich and successor firm of Stoneham Langton & Passmore c1799-2000 (B15/054)

James Lock & Co Ltd, hatters, London: additional partnership agreements, corresp, stock book, premises deeds, photographs, printed material, history research, advertisements and artwork c1732-1998 (B/LK)

Maxwell Stamp plc, economic consultants, London: Head Office files rel to African projects, records of the Lusaka and Nairobi offices c1965-1975 (B15/094)

Rotax Ltd, manufacturer of automotive electrical equipment, Willesden: private ledger 1956-1972 (LMA/4677)

Turner & Debenham, solicitors, St Albans: papers of the firm, Thompson family and other families and clients, mainly deeds rel to City of London properties (British Records Association deposit BRA 2951 Thompson and Debenham) 1402-1911 (B15/122)

Andrew Weir & Co Ltd, shipowners and managers: directors and agm minutes, share registers, scrapbook incl posters and brochures, company magazines, photographs and drawings of directors and ships, incl records of the Bank Line Ltd, United Baltic Corporation Ltd and other Andrew Weir Group companies 20th cent (B15/149)

All Saints Church, Highgate: records 1864-2004 (DRO/196)

Association of Lloyd's Members (ALM Ltd): Troubled Syndicates and other files c1983-2000 (B15/095)

Broadway Congregational Friendly Society, Hammersmith: records (transferred from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives) 1905-1938 (DD/0045)

Central Committee of the Anglican Church in Belgium: official circulars from Belgian Ministry of Justice, appointments of clergy and corresp rel to residence and work permits, Belgian royal decrees rel to individual chaplaincies 1887-2005 (B15/064)

Christ Church parish, Cockfosters: registers 1839-1937 (DRO/171)

Christians in Finance: minutes, annual accounts, scrapbooks, newsletters, photographs 1888-2013 (B15/181)

Coleman Street Ward Club, social club, London: minutes, membership records, etc 1929-2005 (B15/172)

Conference of Local Authorities Owning Electricity Undertakings in Greater London: minutes, agendas, reports, printed bills and memos, general and reorganisation of electricity distribution files 1917-1948

(B15/014)

Fulham Palace Road Congregational Church: records (transferred from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives) 1906-1985 (LMA/4116)

Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue: records (transferred from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives) 1890-2001 (DD/1097)

Hammersmith Methodist Circuit: records (transferred from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives) 1811-1974 (DD/0370)

Holy Trinity Church, Florence: additional records 1820-1963 (CLC/369)

Jewish Historical Society of England: minutes, financial records, corresp, etc 1897-2012 (B15/185)

Livability, Christian disability charity: records of the Shaftesbury Society, Ragged School Union, John Grooms and Finsbury Mission 1840-1990 (B15/171)

London Natural History Society: additional records 1937-2015 (B15/034)

Metropolitan Water Board: additional records 19th-20th cent (ACC/2558)

Munster Park Methodist Church, Fulham: records (transferred from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives) 1880-1995 (DD/0976)

National Neighbourhood Watch Association: minutes and papers 1997-2004 (B15/019)

Oaklands Congregational Church and Askew Road Methodist Church, Hammersmith: records (transferred from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives) 1856-1987 (DD/0713)

Richard Reeve's Foundation, educational charity, London: minutes, cash books, committee papers, etc 1673-2011 (B15/079)

Society of Merchants Trading to the Continent: minutes, members' attendance and lists incl card index, wine ledgers, etc 1803-1993 (B15/168)

St Paul parish, Hammersmith: records incl registers (transferred from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives) c1629-1999 (DD/0071, DD/0746, DD/818)

Tavistock and Portman National Health Service Trust: additional files 1927-2007 (B15/111)

Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant: minutes and papers 2011-2012 (B15/003)

Toynbee Hall, the Universities settlement in East London: additional minutes and financial records 1888-2005 (LMA/4683)

Walham Green and Fulham Methodist Circuit: records (transferred from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives) 1802-1972 (DD/0344,DD/0368)

Warsaw Anglican Chaplaincy: records 1910-2010 (B15/063)

Worshipful Company of Masons: additional records 1809-1996 (CLC/L/MB)

Fulham manor records incl court minutes (transferred from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives) 1804-1932 (DD/0014, DD/0015, DD/332)

Museum of Croydon, Katharine Street, CR9 1ET
Moors family of Croydon: family papers 1919-2014 (AR1120)

Croydon Area Gay Society: records incl administrative documents and newsletters 1971-2014 (AR1113)

Croydon Performing Arts Festival: records incl financial records, annual general meeting minutes, programmes, syllabuses and photographs 1924-2014 (AR1118)

Croydon Players: scrapbook and letters belonging to Barry and Grace Robinson, co-founders of the Players 1923-1969 (AR1100)

South Norwood United Reformed Church: church records incl registers, commemoration books, service sheets and photographs 1857-2014 (FR2/14)

Spring Park Floral Group: records of the group's activities incl photographs, programmes and committee minutes 1961-1983 (AR1123)

Redbridge Archives, Central Library, Clements Road, Ilford, IG1 1EA

Walter John Chambers (1880-1971), Ilford Postman: autobiography, incl and account of his work as a postman in Ilford 1880-1970 (319)

Elizabeth Jane Craig (1869-1958), chairwoman of the Ilford Women's Association (1910-1914): documents incl photographs, letters and certificates 1900-1958 (305)

Beryl Elsie Staples (1929-2014), Ilford resident: personal papers 1936-1962 (312)

Ilford Operatic and Dramatic Society: records incl photographs, news cuttings, programmes, posters, tickets, flyers 1919-2015 (320)

London Borough of Redbridge: photos of members of Ilford Urban District Council c1900-1920 (301)

Newbury Park Synagogue: records incl photographs, newspaper cuttings, programmes 1968-2014 (316)

Southwark Archive, 211 Borough High Street, SE1 1JA

John Constable (b 1952), poet and dramatist: personal papers incl records rel to Crossbones Burial Ground 1984-2015 (2015/18)

Philip Polglaze (fl 1980-1999), photographer: images of Peckham 1980-1999 (2015/30)

Southwark Pensioners' Action Group: records 2001-2004 (2015/36)

Ernest Parker, soldier: letters (digital copies) to members of his family from Bermondsey while on active service in Greece in World War One 1916-1918 (2015/19)

Lakanal House, Sceaux Gardens estate, Camberwell: condolence books for victims of fire 2009-2010 (2915/5)

Tower Hamlets Archives, 277 Bancroft Road, E1 4DQ

Ronald Lewis (b 1928), resident of Tower Hamlets: oral history interview rel to his early memories of childhood games, local characters and shops on Ford Street and his account of being evacuated twice from the area in World War Two 2015 (O/IND/4)

Hellen Martin: oral history interview with the granddaughter of the photographer William Thomas Whiffin 2015 (O/IND/3)

Leon Rogers (b 1940), resident of Tower Hamlets: oral history interview 2015 (O/IND/2)

John Veness, managing director of Sneath Group Holdings: oral history interview 2015 (O/SNT/2)

William T Whiffin (1878-1957), photographer: records c1910-1979 (TH/9503)

Coverdale and Ebenezer Congregational Church, Shadwell: records 1827-1965 (TH/9508)

West Sussex Record Office, 3 Orchard Street, Chichester, PO19 1DD

Letters from Robert Holmes of Petworth to Richard Wishaw, attorney, of Staple Inn 1750-1751 (17951)

Historic England Archive, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2EH

Cecil Victor Shadbolt (1859-1892), balloon photographer: lantern slide collection mainly of South London, incl aerial views 1882-1892 (CVS01)

Parliamentary Archives, Houses of Parliament, SW1A 0PW

Charles Barry (1823-1900), architect: personal papers incl corresp with A W N Pugin, pamphlets rel to the Pugin-Barry controversy and papers rel to other projects incl the laying out of Trafalgar Square 1844-1940 (BAR/31)

Edward Middleton Barry (1830-1880), architect: watercolour drawings rel to the construction of the Palace of Westminster c1865 (HAR/4)

John Hardman & Co Ltd, artists in stained glass: working drawings by John Hardman Powell rel to the construction of the Palace of Westminster c1855 (HAR/4)

Palace of Westminster Munitions Unit: scrapbook and files containing photographs, newspaper clippings, forms, production figures and drawings 1940-1957 (WMU)

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, TW9 3AE

Lord Chamberlain of the Household: plans of Cambridge Cottage, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew c1905 (QX 15-0022)

Tate Gallery Archive, Millbank, SW1P 4RG

Rachel Whiteread (b 1963), artist: maquettes or 'try-outs' for the artist's Unilever commission for the Turbine Hall, Tate Modern 2005-2006 (TGA 20151/2)

Lawrence O'Hana Gallery, London: records 2003-2005 (TGA 201519)

Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, EC2M 4QH

Photo-Reportage Ltd: negatives taken for in-house staff magazines published in London and Essex 1965-1998 (PHOTO-REPORTAGE)

Hampstead Humanist Society: minutes, papers and accounts 1922-2015 (HHS)

North Paddington Community Darkroom: exhibition panels, photographs, slides and audio tapes 1979-1998 (NPCD)

Palestine Solidarity Campaign, London branch: records 1983-2003 (PSC)

River Christian Centre: records rel to activities in Canning Town incl a/v material, newsletters, photographs and slides 1950s-1999 (RCC)

Black Cultural Archives, 1 Windrush Square, Brixton, SW2 1EF

Brixton Art Gallery: papers, pamphlets and ephemera 1985-2011 (AC2015/46)

Efiba Arts and African Cultural Development: oral history project with community activists rel to the development of multiculturalism in Haringey from 1968 to 2014 2015 (AC2015/47)

Elimu Mas Band: oral history project rel to the band's history performing at Notting Hill Carnival since 1981 2014 (AC2015/40)

Labour History Archive and Study Centre, Spinningfields, Manchester, M3 3ER

Primrose Hill Labour Party, London: attendance register 1950-1958 (1444)

Royal London Hospital Archives, 9 Prescott Street, E1 8PR

Thomas Beville Peacock (1812-1882), physician to the London Chest Hospital: pamphlet and printed book collections, private journals 1746-1881 (RLHPP/PEA)
Barts NHS Group: microfilmed patient case notes and associated indexes for The Royal London Hospital, The London Chest Hospital, Mile End Hospital, Bethnal Green Hospital and St Bartholomew's Hospital c1948-2000 (RLHLH/M; RLHLC/M; RLHME/M; RLHBG/M; SBHB/MR)

Forest Healthcare NHS Trust: board minutes and agenda papers (copies) 1991-1997 (RLHFH/A/3)
London Chest Hospital: operations registers 1956-2008 (RLHLC/M/1)

Newham University Hospital: maternity and obstetrical registers 1975-2004 (RLHFG/M; RLHNG/M)

Royal London Hospital: Institute of Pathology reports and registers 1949-2004 (RLHPI)

Royal London Hospital, Dermatology Department: records incl papers rel to survey of lupus vulgaris patients and case files of patients of Dr J H Sequiera c 1900-1959 (RLHLH/DER)

Royal London Hospital League of Nurses: records incl corresp re foundation, membership lists, minutes, accounts and private papers of Miss McPherson 1931-2007 (RLHLN)

Waltham Forest Health Authority: hospital post mortem records 1977-1983 (RLHLA)

Whipps Cross Hospital: death and mortuary registers 1979-2014 (RLHWX/M)

St Bartholomew's Hospital Archives and Museum, West Smithfield, EC1A 7BE

J? Costale (fl 1814-1815), surgical student: MS notes from the second course of surgical lectures delivered by John Abernethy at St Bartholomew's Hospital c1814-1815 (SBHG2015/03)

Margaret Helene Jackson (fl 1940-1949), student nurse: training notes c1940-1949 (SBHG2015/06)

Metropolitan Hospital, Hackney: operation and mortuary registers 1960-1983 (SBHT2015/03)

St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School, London: photographs of doctors and medical students incl images of men serving in Boer? War c1880-1905 (SBHT2015/09)

St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, Medical Photography Department photographs of patients, staff and events c1900-1995 (SBHT2015/10)

St Bartholomew's Hospital, London: histology and assorted mortuary and post mortem registers 1992-2004 (SBHT2015/13)

Survey of tenants occupying property confiscated from the former Priory of St Bartholomew 1561 (SBHG2015/23)

Wellcome Library, 183 Euston Road, NW1 2BE

Wellcome Historical Medical Museum: photographs of exhibits for travelling international exhibitions and London museum 1935-1939 (WA/HMM/EX/L)

Kingston University Archives, Penrhyn Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT1 2EE

Kingston University: degree ceremony programmes for Kingston University and its predecessor bodies c1950-2010 (KUAS161)

Kingston University: records of Kingston College of Technology (later Kingston Polytechnic) Geology Society, incl minute books, registers of attendance at

meetings and newsletters c1951-1970 (KUAS163)

Goldsmiths Library: Special Collections and Archives, New Cross, SE14 6NW

William Loring (1865-1915), first Warden of Goldsmiths' College: personal corresp and papers, chiefly rel to the First World War 1905-1916 (LOR)

The Other Cinema, London, major distributor of radical film in the UK: records c1960-1999 (TOC)

King's College Archives, Room 302 Strand Building, WC2R 2LS

Nicandros Bouras (fl 1976-2014), professor of psychiatry: papers 1976-2014 (Acc 3181)

Vicente Soto (1919-2001), novelist and translator: corresp, drafts and notes rel to his life and work as a Spanish writer in exile in London 1945-2001 (Acc 3219)

University of Reading: Special Collections, Redlands Road, Reading, RG1 5EX

Peek Frean & Co Ltd, biscuit manufacturers, London: papers of Donald Alfred Clark rel to his work at Peek Frean, incl PF Assorted, journal of the Peek Frean Club, of which he was editor c1960-1969 (MS 5548).

Museum of London and Smithfield

In case you have missed it, the Museum of London is planning a move to Smithfield. It will be taking over three buildings on the west side of the former market site, which are the former General Market which fronts Farringdon Street, the Annexe and the small Engine House behind it. There is web page prepared by the museum at www.museumoflondon.org.uk/discover/transforming-smithfield-market, which has a great deal of information about the history of the buildings (it is worth a visit for the background information it contains).

The web site makes no mention of when the move will take place: it does make it clear that the existing buildings are in need of quite a bit of 'TLC' to bring them back to their former Victorian glory as they have been neglected, rain has seeped in, causing rust. It will then need fitting out to act as a museum space, and finally the content will be moved in. *London Archaeologist* also reports the move, adding it will complete in 2022.

The present buildings were designed by Sir Horace Jones, and the web site describes him as: "the architect behind Tower Bridge, Billingsgate Market and Leadenhall Market", adding that "The first building completed was the Meat Market in the 1860s. Then followed the Poultry Market in 1875, the General Market in 1883 and finally the Fish Market in 1887".

The railway was already running underneath the site, and Phoenix columns were used. They take their name from the Phoenix Iron Company in the USA, who made them, and are built of from sections riveted together. They were strong, fire resistant and, importantly for the site, could withstand vibration.

Of course the actual market is much older. The road leading up to it from Farringdon station is called Cowcross Street, and takes its name from the days when the live cattle taken up to the market had to get across the river Fleet than ran along the line of Farringdon Street. The nearby Turnmill Street is mentioned by Stow, and probably refers to the mills that were turned by the water tumbling down to the Thames.

Sewerage and health

The London Society hosted a morning of talks for the 125th anniversary of Joseph Bazalgette's death (1819-1891). He was chief engineer of the Metropolitan Board of Works member and will be remembered for his work on London's sewers.

For many years water was extracted from the Thames for drinking: one Peter Morice is documented as installing a water wheel at the north end of London Bridge and distributing water from there, but little is known as his installation was destroyed in 1666. All this was to change ...

In the mid 1840s, possibly for reasons of health, it was ordered that domestic cesspits in London should be closed and that waste should be discharged into the Thames. This was a big mistake: the Thames through London is tidal, so the sewage, instead of being swept out to sea, simply floated up and down on the tide. Soon after there were outbreaks of cholera, put down to 'miasma', the smell, which was thought to transmit the disease, and which gave rise to the 'Great Stink' of London in 1858. Cholera had frequent, if small-scale, outbreaks from 1832 to 1866: it required the work of John Snow at the pump at Broad Street in Soho to establish transmission through polluted water as the true cause — he did this work in 1854, although it was not accepted as the true explanation of the cause at the time. (A modern edition of Snow's work can be found online at www.deltaomega.org/documents/snowfin.pdf, and www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow/Snow_Laura_Ball.pdf has an assessment and bibliography.)

Bazalgette's contribution was to plan a set of sewers that ran across London, moving the waste to two points on the Thames, in the south at Crossness and in the north at near Barking. To aid the flow, the sewers had a gradient of some 2 inches/mile, and this gradient exceeded the fall in the level of the Thames, so that by the time the sewers reached the outfalls they were well below the level of the river, hence the need for pumping stations to bring the sewage up to river level, where it was discharged, but still untreated in the 1850s; it needed another 50 years for treatment works to be built. The pumping station at Crossness is occasionally open to the public (visit www.crossness.org.uk: from the pictures, it looks like a wonderful piece of Victorian engineering). The Embankment is a result of digging for the sewers that run along the edge of the Thames.

The expansion of Victorian London meant that the night-soil men, who had collected the content of domestic cess-pits and took it out the laystalls on the edge of London, had further to travel, and could not function. The increased use of the flushing toilet (associated with Mr. Crapper, but not his invention, similar devices had been known for over 100 years), increased the amount of waste water that was being discharged. Both these changes increased the amount of material that found its way to the river.

To close, I cannot resist repeating the quote that was put up by one of the contributors, from Deuteronomy 23:13 (in the classic King James version) "And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy weapon; and it shall be, when thou wilt ease thyself abroad, thou shalt dig therewith, and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee".

Savoy Chapel

The name Savoy, used for the area of London between the Strand and the river, is now probably most famous for the hotel of the same name located there.

The name derives from Peter of Savoy, uncle of Eleanor of Provence, wife of Henry III (recall that Savoy and Provence and both S.E. France). Peter was part of the entourage that came over to England with Eleanor in 1236: he was made earl of Richmond in 1241 and was granted an estate that ran, in modern terms, from the Savoy Hotel in the west, to Temple (just beyond the present tube station) in the east. Here he started building the Savoy Palace in 1263, having spent much of the intervening time travelling between England and France. The entourage that Eleanor brought with her was not generally popular with English people at the time, (too many French!) and this may explain why they were given land half way between the city and the seat of government in Westminster on land sloping down to the Thames.

Tucked away in this area is the chapel, in full called The Queens Chapel of St John the Baptist in the Precinct of the Savoy, but more normally just The Queens Chapel of the Savoy. To find it from the Strand go down Savoy Place, take the second right, Savoy Hill, the chapel is on the right. The area has quite a history.

The first that we hear of after the establishment of the site is that it was ruined in the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, and remained ruinous until about 1505. In that year Henry VII decided to build a hospital here for 100 'poor and needy' men, which he grated an endowment. It did not open until 1512, when Henry VIII was king, only the chapel of the previous building being re-used. However, in his reforms following 1535 Henry closed it down again, and cancelled the endowment. Mary Tudor reopened it, but did not restore the endowment. The site became a barracks during the civil war, which no doubt did it no good at all. As a royal peculiar it was outside legal jurisdiction and became a haunt of unruly elements (to put it mildly). However, a plan from 1736 shows the site with a water-gate on the Thames, running past where Waterloo Bridge now stand (it was not then built) up to Somerset House. The area contained gardens, houses, barracks, a prison, a church and cemetery (unused since 1853), so was very mixed. Today services still take place there, and you can get married.

Sadly for a building of this age and history, unaffected by the fire of 1666, the chapel suffered a serious fire in 1864, which left only the wall standing. The chapel was the only part that had been left standing after a major redevelopment of the site c1820. So over the whole site what we see today is Victorian or later.

It is the chapel of the Royal Victorian order, an order of 5 grades paralleling those of MBE to GBE, established by Queen Victoria. However, it was George VI who decided to link the chapel with the order. The honour is in the personal gift of the Sovereign: awards are posted in the official Gazette, which shows many awards to members of the royal household, notably on retirement. The actual awards are often made at Windsor, as the space at the Savoy is limited

The chapel is open for most of the year, but closed when the Queen is at Balmoral (August—September): if you are passing do make a visit to an area of peace.

Royal Caledonian school

The editor has just completed an LMA project to make a name index of the pupils at the Royal Caledonian School.

The school was founded in 1819. Its first location was in Hatton Garden, but it moved from there to what was at the time called Copenhagen Fields: The edition of Greenwood's map of London, dated 1827 (online at users.bathspa.ac.uk/greenwood) shows the school on the east side of Battlebridge Road, amongst open fields with a view across to Copenhagen House. The presence of the school caused Battlebridge Road to be renamed Caledonian Road, the name it has today. By the time of Bacon's 1888 map the area had been completely built up, but the school is still there, with a building marked 'model prison' immediately to its south (this is now HMP Pentonville). The school moved to Bushey, in Hertfordshire, in 1903, where it remained for 90 years: the site was sold, as the trustees thought they could make better provisions with the money raised.

So what was the school? It was set up to provide support for children of 'indigent Scottish' parents. For a child to be eligible for admission he (or she) should have at least one parent born in Scotland, although in one case at east they appear to have accepted a child on the basis of Scottish grandparents.

Initially the school took only boys, but it was soon expanded to take both boys and girls. The notes on the application form (from which the index has been compiled) say that girls will be housed to age 16 and then put to domestic service; boys are housed to age 14, but there is no note as to what they are expected then to do. The surviving records are for admissions from the 1860s onwards, with the years of the 20th century most strongly represented.

The forms have the date of birth and of baptism of the child, and usually the date of entry is recorded, or can be estimated from the correspondence on file, so that age at entry is known. Typically this is about 7 or 8, but some were as old as 11, and a couple of entries, where several children of the same family were admitted together, the youngest may be just 4 or 5. In some cases the information supplied would enable quite a bit of the candidate's family tree to be compiled.

The forms are concerned with admission, and the date at which the children left is not recorded, although it can sometimes be inferred where there is correspondence on the file, and it seems that boys sometimes stayed to a higher age than the 14 specified on the sheets. Some of the records are nothing more than the application forms, whilst others have extensive correspondence and notes made by the staff. In some cases extra sheets record misdemeanours, and worse, committed by the children; one file contains a boy's diary in which he wrote a very explicit record of his sexual activity, for which he was removed from the school. Little did he know when he wrote it that it would become an item of archival interest!

Some of the pupils got in contact after leaving, for example to request a copy of their files, and the letters suggest that pupils were happy there and have good memories of their time. These letters also reveal how pupils spread, some letters coming from the USA or Australia, although many remained in England.

Secret Underground London

There is a vast amount underground in London: the very word Underground is, for many of us synonymous, with London Transport railways. And there are all the pipes used by the utility companies to bring us our gas, water, electricity, telephones, and to take waste away.

But there is more, and it was the subject of a talk given by Nick Catford, who has also produced a book (from which I have taken my title). Quite a bit of what is there is either secret or is unused, occasionally open at open house events, or the like weekends, if safe (a lot fails health and safety requirements).

To start with the obvious, there are bits of the Underground that are not in use. If you stare out of the window at the appropriate place (Piccadilly Line north from Kings Cross) you will catch a glimpse of York Road, and Brompton Road (same line) was at one time easily spotted above ground from the purple semi-circular arches that characterise so many LU stations. Wood Lane on the Central line is another. Some became control rooms, but modern technology means far fewer of those are now needed, and many closed. Rerouting lines to make better interchanges when the Victoria Line was built (e.g. at Euston) has left stubs.

Tube stations were used during the war as air-raid shelters, and some disused parts of the network were adapted. Some new shelters were built, and some of these, newly lit and spruced up, are repositories for record storage for city companies: their depth makes for a relatively constant environment without too much need for air-conditioning. Documents now lie where once people slept. Post-war expansion of the telephone network needed more switchgear, which could be conveniently housed in these conditions.

New shelters were made around the edge of London (e.g. Hendon, Blackheath, Eltham, Hackney, where there was more open space to create them), and these survive: one was used as a mushroom farm.

An attempt was made to provide Cabinet war-rooms at Dollis Hill, but Churchill is said not to have liked them and persisted in using the better-known facility behind Whitehall (see my report in [Newsletter 30](#)).

From 1812 there was a gas-works in Horseferry Road: it ceased operating in 1875, and left gasholders, later demolished leaving deep pits, which in 1941 became the premises of the Air Ministry, and at one time housed over 2,000 staff.

Although they no longer use it, the tunnels for the GPO railway which ran from Paddington to Liverpool Street via Mount Pleasant, all still exist.

The London Hydraulic Power Company was founded in 1871, and supplied water at high pressure to its customers: this was used to operate machinery, for example the curtains at the Royal Opera House were at one time raised and lowered by his means. If the pipes burst or cracked, the high-pressure of the escaping water caused havoc.

The Thames Barrier, built to protect upstream London from exceptionally high tides that could work their way up the river and cause flooding, has modern and safe set of tunnels through which the river can be crossed.

Other underground spaces mentioned are catacombs, and chalk and sand mines for building materials. It's all beneath your feet!

SEMINAR REPORTS

The Red Hot Army

Stephen Spencer spoke about the Salvation Army at the September meeting. His talk was covered both the history of the army and the material it holds.

William Booth, the founder, was born in Nottingham in 1829. He came to London in 1849 where he got work as a pawnbroker. He joined the Methodists, with whom he travelled to several parts of the country, but incurring the displeasure of the Methodist hierarchy, he became an independent evangelist. Back in the East End of London in 1865 he was heard by some missioners, who invited him to speak, and here he found his vocation. With his wife Catherine he started The Christian Revival Society, later renamed The Christian Mission. They worked with the poor of the area, trying to set up soup kitchens to help the needy: he did not turn his back on alcoholics, criminals or prostitutes. The name Salvation Army emerged in 1878, and with it the idea of 'officers' those who helped run the Army, names of ranks taken from the 'real' army. Apart from himself as General, Booth did not intend any significance in the ranking.

At a time when the established church was seen as rather aloof, the Army set out with a deliberately popular style, with the brass bands that still exists today, and preaching in a popular idiom to attract an audience, which brought hostility from the formal church. The temperance movement associated with the army also brought hostility, both from publicans and brewers, both fearing loss of business. When salvationists went to middle-class resorts like Hastings and Eastbourne, the bands marching on the sea-front were seen as threatening, where there were clashes with a rival group called the Skeleton Army.

Acting with the journalist and reformer W.T. Stead, they found a trade in child prostitution in London's underworld, and trade that was seemingly known about but ignored to protect the trade's wealthy clientele. This was publicised in magazines with names Babylon and Pall Mall Gazette, and an outcome as the raising of the age of consent from 14 to 16 (in 1885).

Booth died in 1912, and thousands turned out for his funeral in London.

The Salvation Army has a 'heritage centre' near Denmark Hill, where they collect material not just from the UK, but from around the world, as the movement now operates in 120 countries. Citadels (as they call the buildings from which they operate) maintain their own records, but if a citadel closes, the records are taken by the heritage centre; they collect records from overseas, so they are in several languages.

The Army's main regular publication is a magazine called The War Cry, of which the archives hold a back run, and recent issues can be read on-line.

Sadly, a lot of material was lost due to bombing in WW2, and an archive was started only around 1970, so much early material is lost.

The salvation army's own catalogue (pdf) can be accessed via this [link](#), and national archives have compiled a list of holdings which is accessible online at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra/lists/GB-2133-SA.htm.

The Somme One Hundred Years On: A View from the Archives of the National Army Museum

Dr Alistair Massie, Head of Research and Academic Access at the National Army Museum, Chelsea, gave an insight into the records of the museum related to the Battle of the Somme.

The National Army Museum is fortunate to have a significant collection of personal papers of individuals who fought or were witnesses at the Battle of the Somme, so the Museum is one of the key places for study on the Somme.

Through these records it is possible to track how the battle advanced, and in particular to how individuals reacted to the onslaught. The records of commanders such as Haig and Rawlinson reveal the optimism of the generals; before the battle began, Rawlinson was confident that the British artillery bombardment of June 1916 had destroyed the enemy defences, but unfortunately miscalculations forced British infantry to walk into German gunfire with little hope of breaking through. Rawlinson's papers also provide details of his lack of faith in the military prowess of civilian soldiers who had joined via conscription.

The NAM also hold a copy of the message sent by General Aylmer Hunter-Weston, to the men of VIII Corps on 4 July, 1916, whose divisions suffered some of the heaviest casualties during the first days of the offensive. Hunter-Weston refused to be brow-beaten, enjoining the men: 'We have got to stick it out and go on hammering'.

As well as generals, the NAM holds records of soldiers further down the chain of command, such as the personal diaries of Gunner Alfred Rose and of Major Eric Hall. The diaries of Siegfried Sassoon, as second lieutenant of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, reveal trench maps and his notes on instructing non-commissioned officers (NCOs), which included recommendations to 'speak slowly' and to use simple language!

The Battle of the Somme was notable for the first use of the tank, in September 1916. Known as 'heavy machine guns', they were slow and cumbersome and difficult to manoeuvre. By October, the weather had turned and morale was low; a diary entry from this time is indicative of the general feeling: 'Everybody seems to expect to die'. Men went into battle carrying kits consisting of half their own bodyweight, and communications were inadequate; sadly casualties were extremely high. Despite these set-backs, by the end of the battle in November 1916, the British army had made significant advances into enemy territory.

According to its web site, the NAM is in the process of consolidating its holdings (some of which were held at Stevenage). However, in the interim, the web site holds some interesting images. One of these is a message written by Lt-General Hunter-Weston sent on 4th July, which refers to 'brilliant success' on the day, is apsite f the fact (noted by the NAMs comment) that they failed to capture any of their main objectives. This did little for his reputation which had been damaged during the Gallipoli campaign of 1915 when he was referred to by the troops under his command as 'The Butcher of Helles' due to his disregard for their welfare and ill-conceived battle plans.

MEETING REPORTS

Town Boy Ledgers Archives of Westminster School

For the October seminar Elizabeth Wells, archivist at Westminster School, spoke about the Town Boy Ledgers of the school.

First a bit of history to provide some context. Westminster School has a long history, having been founded in the 14th century with links to the Benedictine Abbey at Westminster. It became a King's School following the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 1540s and was re-founded by Elizabeth I in 1560. The latter event established a school of 40 scholars, and permitted further pupils to be admitted as 'Town Boys'. The town boys are day pupils, the scholars board.

At some time around 1819 the Town Boys started keeping records of what they were up to, and these are the ledgers: they were written entirely by the boys, by a pupil elected as 'Prince of the Town Boys', although of course this boy changed over the years. The records were initially written on one side of the page, the facing side being used to add comments at a later date. There was no oversight to the content by a master of the school, so they are and 'unexpurgated' pupil view.

When Elizabeth Wells went to the school, the ledgers had not been used for many years and were in a poor state. The school obtained a grant from the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust to get the volumes conserved so that they could be used by pupils and researchers, and now provide an interesting historical resource.

The last ledger that the school holds reaches the period after the war, so the ledgers span some 150 years. They provide a rarely recorded perspective upon education at the time, and include references to national events as seen through the eyes of the pupils. The boys collected of £208-11s for the widows of Waterloo.

Amongst the items mentioned included battles between the town boys and the scholars, and a favourite sport of 'ditch-leaping' in the area of Tothill Fields, where one of the branches of the Tyburn found its way to the Thames. (This may have best been done after the consumption of some liquor.) This had to be stopped after 1830 due to the increasing foulness of the adjacent river, at that time little better than an open sewer.

There was a regular football match between the school and Charterhouse School (the latter still based in London), and a claim was made that the schools defined the rules of the modern game: football has a long history in England and there are other sources contending this.

The headmaster appointed in 1819, just after the time the ledgers start was one Dr Goodenough: he flogged one of the boys for a misdemeanour, and later found himself being hissed at in protest by the boys.

The food was often poor: the ledgers have a reference to 'broshiering', a word that caused puzzlement when first met, until but turned out to be a reference to over-eating the poor food, a 'frolic' that led to the death of fifth form pupil L.J. Parry, following which Goodenough banned it from taking place.

The school is also putting transcripts online, they can be seen at townboyledger.westminster.org.uk/. Some of the transcribing is being done by the boys themselves.

Rambert Archives

During the Annual November closure at LMA, AfL decamps to another location for the November meeting. This year it was to the offices of the Ballet Rambert in Upper Ground.

Upper Ground, with its continuations, is the road that runs parallel to the Thames passing the back of the Festival Hall complex, the National Theatre, ITV's television centre and on to Tate Modern and the Globe. The London Eye is nearby and the 'attractions' of County Hall: they all make his an area with an emphasis on entertainment. It seems an appropriate place for Rambert to be based.

The company takes its name from Marie Rambert: she was a Polish dancer who came to England in 1914, and established a ballet school in 1926, so 90 years old this year. The school was based in Notting Hill Gate until 1982. This seems to have been a landmark year for Rambert: Marie Rambert died, the company moved to the south bank, and there was a change of emphasis, away from classical ballet towards contemporary dance, with which the company is now associated, although this move did mean that the lost some dancers who preferred to go to the Royal Ballet and other classical dance companies. It was also the year there was a serious start to archival collecting.

Rambert has teamed up with the National Theatre (NT), South Bank Centre (SBC), Globe and Royal Academy of Dance to create a single archive of performance. The archive is very visual: costumes, including some superbly grotesque masks which were on display, backed up by photographs. Modern video recording enables complete performances to be captured too, and the archive is happy for people to come in to view the recordings (having first booked). And there are programmes and posters.

Each dance has a 'bible': this is a book in which everything is recorded, to enable the dance to be recreated in exactly the same way at a later date. It was interesting to hear that some designers love to leaf through an archive of the way an event has been presented before to see what good ideas they can pick up (and this applies equally to the Rambert's own dance archive and to plays at the NT), whilst others like to approach 'fresh' and will not look at anything until they have a formulated their take on the dance or play.

There is also a business archive for contracts and so on, but that it less well catalogued and, unsurprisingly, engenders less outside interest.

The National Theatre has started displaying items from its archive in a small display in the 1st floor of the Lyttleton foyer: this is open at ant time that the building is open, and the NT has undertaken (as part of an English Heritage grant award) to mount 6 displays a year, so it is worth going back from time to time. The displays include videos of performance extracts with headphone for sound.

There are a number of web sites: for Rambert start at www.rambert.org.uk, for the NT archive www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/about-the-national-theatre/archive. The [SBC archive](#) was only started in the 1990s, but has acquired some items back to the Festival of Britain (which gave the main hall its name) in 1951.



AfL Events: Seminars

The following seminars are planned: please check your monthly email or the web site for last minute changes.

- 12 January *Kenel Club: The Accidental Digital Asset Manage* with Heidi Hudson
 2 February *Barnardos Archives* with Martine King
 2 March *Bank of England Archives and Business Archives Council* with Mike Anson
 6 April *London Fog: the History of the Pea-Souper* with Dr Christine Corton

Collage

The LMA's online picture gallery called Collage has undergone a make-over. It now contains a much larger number of images, some 250,000 they claim, and the images have been tagged to make searching easier. The collection is strongest in photographic images from the late C19 through to 1970, but is weaker on recent images. Earlier periods are represented by reproductions of paintings. Pictures can also be downloaded, but downloaded images have a 'Collage' watermark on them (as they always did). Visit collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk

This newsletter

As the list of accessions in this newsletter is quite long, and that list was itself held over from the September newsletter, the amount of space left has meant that a couple of items have been held over; these include a write-up of Caroline Shenton's December seminar. This has made it possible for the editor to finalise it in December rather than January, something he was very happy to do as he is taking a 3-week Christmas holiday somewhere warm, and did not want the to have to rush it out on return. The next newsletter will be out as usual in May (d.v.).

Back page smile

I could not resist this. Alan Crosby of BALH reports in the most recent issue of BALH news that the erstwhile church of St Ignatius in Preston has been rededicated as the church of St Alphonsa, who was a Franciscan nun from Kerala, the first Indian female saint, canonised in 2008. It is now the Cathedral Church of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain. The first bishop of the See of Circumscription, whose seat this is, is Dr. Fr. Joseph Srampickal, who is also Vice-rector of the Collegio de Propaganda Fide in Rome. Wonderful terminology. My thanks to Alan Crosby for permission to use his article, Copyright remains with BALH.

According to this [website](#), the college for the propagation of the faith set up under Gregory XV and completed under his successor, Urban VIII, who was pontiff from 1623 to 1644. The website is in Italian, so I may have got this wrong!

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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