



EAST LONDON HISTORY SOCIETY
BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

It is regretted that this is the last Quarterly Bulletin to be issued. Appeals for contributions have been made from time to time without success and the burden has for a number of years devolved upon one person. A news-sheet will be issued from time to time, and possibly lectures, articles etc. The thanks of the Society are due to Mr. Tongue and his colleagues at Hackney who have duplicated the Bulletin since its inception, and who took over at intervals, also to Mr. Sainsbury of Newham Library who dipped into his reserves of articles on Newham to help keep things going.

I could not let this Bulletin pass without paying a tribute to Mr. C.S. Truman who made substantial contributions of material in the early days. A semi-autobiography appears in this issue, with best wishes to "Sammy" who did so much to get the Society off the ground and was its Chairman for some years. It was a pleasure to see him at the Annual General Meeting and I hope to see him there for many years to come.

Those who could not attend the Annual General Meeting but would like a copy of the Annual Report and/or the Accounts, should apply to the Secretary. At the A.G.M. the Membership Secretary, Miss J. Lenham, of 39 Harbinger Road, Millwall, E.14. was elected Treasurer, and members should send subscriptions to her. We are grateful to Mrs. E. Thomas who carried out the duties of Treasurer so well for so long.

The Inner London Archaeological Unit is now installed at Imex House, 42 Theobalds Road, W.C.1. Any member becoming aware of any matter of archaeological interest should telephone Graham Black or one of his colleagues at 242 6620.

An enquiry has been made regarding the BALCH and DAVEY families known to be in the Poplar High Street/Chrisp Street vicinity in 1862. Any member having knowledge of these families should communicate with Mr. French (36 Parkland Road, Woodford Green, Essex).

The book "Bricks and Mortar" published by the Borough of Tower Hamlets is a bargain at 60 p. It has excellent photographs of buildings in Tower Hamlets from Roman times to date. Copies can be obtained at any Tower Hamlets Libraries. Series of photographs are published by each of the three Libraries within the Society's area. They are all excellent copies and form the basis of an interesting East London collection. Why not start off with a set from your local Library?

References have frequently been made in the Bulletin to East London's boat-building industry. Perhaps one day someone will write a book on this (boat-building deals with small non-ocean going craft, and is quite different from ship-building). The building of boats, which was a thriving business at Blackwall and Ratcliff a hundred years ago, has now almost disappeared, but down in Shadwell along the Highway, opposite Free Trade Wharf, there is a boat-building "shed" in the old Nicholas Gibson School. This is a branch of the Lansbury Adult Education Institute where people, young and old, are not only taught boat-building by experts but are actually engaged in building their own craft.

Miss Rothstein's illustrated talk on "Spitalfields Silks" on the 25th November was greatly appreciated. Her wide knowledge of the subject and very able presentation was an inspiration to us all. Congratulations too to the Tower Hamlets Central Library for the excellent Exhibition they arranged on this subject. Few people know that the Spitalfields Weavers were known for other pursuits. Arthur Armitage wrote in an essay early in the 19th Century: "The Spitalfields Weaver is, by hereditary predilection, a pigeon-fancier. Let his family be ever so numerous, his privations ever so great, he must have a pigeon-trap on the roof of his domicile, where twice a day at dinner and tea-time, for 10 minutes, he exhibits the capabilities of his highly trained covey of pouters, tumblers, dragons, Jacobins and carriers." A.H.F.

OLD FORD BOARD SCHOOL, ATLEY ROAD.

Early in 1976, the children of George Lansbury Primary School will move from their present building in Atley Road, Old Ford, and move into more modern premises in nearby Roman Road. Their departure will bring to an end more than 100 years of elementary education in the Atley Road building. The future of the building is uncertain, although for some time it will continue to serve as an Annexe to Bow Boys' Secondary School. While a history of the School would probably tell a lot about the growth and development of Old Ford over the last 100 years, in this short piece I look only at the origin and early days of the School.

A print of Old Ford Lane by Wick Lane dated 1847 testifies to the fact that this area was among the last in Tower Hamlets to lose its rural appearance. Place names on nineteenth century maps confirm the presence of many local industries: Tenter Ground, Rope Walk, Tan Yard, Dye Road Lane, Sounding Alley, etc. With the advent of factories and the North Western and Dock Junction Railway (with a station at Old Ford - it has none today) urbanization was inevitable. By 1872 the School Board for London saw the need for a school for over 800 pupils to serve the needs of the eastern part of Old Ford, that is, the part between the railway and the River Lea.

A tender for £5,987 was accepted from J.H.Tarrant for the erection of the school in Atley Road (maps up to 1872 show the road as being named "Sounding Alley"). The land was bought from Christ's Hospital, Old Ford, for £1,000, with a further payment of £50 to the Home in the East Reformatory, Old Ford, who had a leasehold interest in part of the land (Board Minutes 21/2/1872). Increasing population prompted the Board to buy more land for an expansion of the School (Minutes 10/6/1874). At the same Meeting it was agreed

'to asphalt the playground to prevent stone throwing'

The School premises, incidentally, adjoin the site of what was known as King John's Palace, the subject of Mr.Hellicar's article in Number 28 of this Bulletin.

The School was divided into three Departments, Boys, Girls, and Infants, with each Department functioning as a separate school. The early log books for the Boys' and Girls' School have not survived, but the first log book for the Infants is in the G.L.C. Record Office at County Hall. It records that the School opened on the 28th July 1873 - within a few months of the opening of the Board's first purpose-built school in Old Street, Whitechapel. The headmistress was a Miss Jones, on a salary of £90 per annum, assisted by one teacher and four pupil teachers. As attendances on some days were as high as 300, it is amazing how they managed. The log book contains little about what was taught in the School, or how it was taught, although it is recorded that a Board Inspector :

'visited and thoroughly examined the School and left satisfied with the work, and observing that he wished every school was as well taught'
(11/12/1874)

The standard was maintained, for just over a year later, another Board Inspector is quoted as saying -

'This School is ably conducted in every respect' (15/1/1876)

If there is little about what is taught there is even less about individual children. One longs to hear what they were like, what their interests were (besides throwing stones!). The most we hear about them is their absences - through measles, whooping cough, sore feet, and, at this tender age, truancy.

What we do get in the log book, perhaps predictably, is a lot about the Staff, especially the problems they present to the Head. Take this entry about a 5th year pupil-teacher. She was probably around 18 or 19 years of age, as it was possible to become indentured as young as 13 or 14. -

"Severely reprimanded Emma Brierley for an inclination to insubordination when asked to sing to the children. I threatened both her and the other teachers with report to the Board, if any attempt, however slight, ever occurred again" (12/12/1873).

No such report seems to have been needed, for within a few months Miss Brierley secured an appointment as a qualified teacher at the nearby Olga Street School.

Another entry records that the father of Jane Munn, also a pupil teacher, came to the School

'to make a complaint to the Board, because his daughter Jane is required to change the school pence, which duty is not mentioned in her indentures and is degrading to her' (1/10/1875)

As she was shortly transferred to another Board school in Burdett Road nothing came of the matter.

Another pupil-teacher at the School, Ellen Williams, was not so fortunate

"Ellen Williams, both disobedient and rude in the afternoon, when required to cleanse the ink-wells. Upon her refusing to do this the mistress sent her home, where she is to remain until the Managers' determination can be ascertained" (20/7/1876)

They appear to have decided that a pupil-teacher should indeed clean ink-wells :

"School visited on Tuesday afternoon by Mrs.W.Williams who desired to know the decision of Managers concerning the disobedience of Ellen Williams. Received a letter from R.P.Drew, Esq. to the effect that Ellen's service would expire March 14th 1877 which I forwarded to her the same morning September 14th" (15/9/1876).

C. Kerrigan, M.A.

SAMUEL PEPYS & EAST LONDON

Oct.7.1665 : "Did Business, though not much, at the Office; because of the horrible crowd and lamentable moan of the poor seamen that lie starving in the streets for lack of money. Which do trouble and perplex me to the heart; and more at noon when we were to go through them, for then above a whole hundred of them followed us; some cursing, some swearing, and some praying to us."

June 14.1667 : "Indeed the hearts as well as the affections of the seamen are turned away; and in the open streets in Wapping, and up and down, the wives have cried publicly 'This comes of your not paying our husbands; and now your work is undone or done by hands that understand it not.' And Sir W.Batten told me that he was himself affronted with a woman, in language of this kind, on Tower Hill publicly yesterday; and we are fain to bear it, and to keep one at the office door to let no idle people in, for fear of firing of the office and doing us mischief."

August 8. 1666. "To Bow, to my lady Pooly's; and there I found a noble supper. . . And so home in two coaches (Mr.Batelier and his sister Mary and my wife and I in one, and Mercer alone in the other); and after being examined at Allgate, whether we were husbands or wives, home. So to bed, mighty sleepy, but with much pleasure. Reeves lying at my house; and mighty proud I am (and ought to be thankful to God Almighty) that I am able to have a spare bed for my friends."

September 7. 1666. (following the Great Fire) "A Proclamation is come out for markets to be kept at Leadenhall and Mile End Greene, and several other places about the Town; and Tower Hill and all churches to be set open to receive poor people."

CHARLES S. TRUMAN

I saw the light somewhere in Whitechapel in the year 1892, and was attending St. Jude's School before the close of the century. My earliest school recollection is the solemn announcement of the death of Queen Victoria. "Queen Victoria died on 22nd January 1901, and now Edward, Prince of Wales, is King of Great Britain and Ireland, and Emperor of India."

Schooldays at St. Jude's brought me into contact with Mary Hughes, who was living with the Rev. and Mrs. Ernest Carter (her sister) at the adjoining Vicarage; also with Canon Barnett, then residing at Toynbee Hall. Indeed, at the age of twelve I was shaken by the hand at his "Farewell Party". St. Jude's School, I learned later, was a favoured "Social Laboratory" for the residents of "Toynbee", and from this close connection we benefitted in many ways. Being next-door neighbours, so to speak, the School was adopted by the Toynbee residents, and they helped considerably in developing the social amenities of the School; The Children's Country Holidays Fund, Care Committee, Boot Club, and particularly, with the Old Scholars' Club. From the Toynbee connection came Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Johnson, who made a long and memorable contribution to the life of the East End. It will be noticed, as I continue this narrative, how much these wholesome influences affected my later development.

I was fortunate in staying on at school until the age of fifteen, and after a vagrant period as 'office-boy', 'news-boy' and 'dental-apprentice', I qualified eventually as an elementary schoolmaster in 1914! This, of course, was a crucial year. No job, and the outbreak of war with Germany. Although I had considerable experience of social work - I had served my Old Scholars Club as an active member of Committee since my last year at school - I knew nothing of politics and was conscious of no partisan loyalty. The outbreak of War, however, forced an immediate interest and I took up a 'Correspondence Course' in Politics, with Ruskin College, Oxford; from which study I emerged a strong believer in the cause of Socialism and, so far as the immediate issue was concerned, a convinced anti-War man.

Consequently, I joined the Independent Labour Party and offered my personal assistance in propagating the ideals and social attitudes of that Party. My recently acquired knowledge of politics was very exciting; in the existing situation my enthusiasm knew no bounds, and this environment was destined to involve me in many unexpected activities. I took to the street corner and addressed public meetings at all the regular "pitches" on Mile End Waste - Fulborne Street, Sidney Street, Cressy Place (Stepney Green) and Victoria Park on May Day (with Clement Attlee as Chairman). The United Ladies Tailors Union enrolled me as an Honorary Member and appointed me their representative on the London Trades Council. Here, I was voted on to the Executive Committee, and later, became closely involved in the London Police strike (1919) and in the 'hold-up' of shipping arms from London Dock to Poland in the "Nine Days Council of Action" activities in 1920. Already I had been asked to join the Stepney Labour Party, Mile End Division, as Propaganda Secretary. I became Chairman in 1924 and was able to render energetic assistance in securing the election of John Scurr as first Labour M.P. for that constituency.

The Trade Union experience I am most tempted to recall is that with the Cigarette Makers Trade Union. The workers of an East End firm, makers of a much-advertised cigarette, determined to go on strike in protest against the underpayment of the women members of their Union. This involved a call-out of workers in a number of London factories, including the makers of some famous brands of cigarettes, at that time almost exclusively hand-made. To wage the struggle, the Union had rented premises in Whitechapel and here the strikers established their own factory. The time was most opportune for so bold a venture as supplies of tobacco were limited because of the prevailing submarine menace, and a consequent huge demand amongst war-workers at home, as well as from those on active service abroad.

Naturally, as the Organising Secretary of the Union, I was called upon to help in this enterprise, which I did by investing my small savings and in making appeals to Labour and Socialist organisations for urgent help and co-operation. This involved many attendances at meetings of workers and other sympathisers, in order to state a case and to introduce samples for immediate purchase! In this connection, also, a meeting held in a Shoreditch factory is worthy of remembrance. With a company of some half-dozen delegates representing the strikers, employees of the firm, we were confronted by a similar number of employers in the Board-Room of a palatial Headquarters. After the formal preliminaries of introduction, we were invited to sit at a magnificent Round Table and offered a continuous supply of top-quality cigarettes - there were no drinks! As speaker for the strikers I stated their case. This at first, was not answered directly; but a discursive round-the-table conversation was skilfully engineered - with the utmost charm and silky courtesy - round the working conditions prevailing in the cigarette factories abroad, particularly with the capital cities of Italy, Germany and France; a theme of common interest, as each of my Union colleagues had such Continental experience and was ingeniously led into a nostalgic reminiscence - evoked by the free hospitality of the palatial surroundings and affected warmth of personal interest.

After repeated attempts on my part to intervene and recall the purpose of our meeting, the Chairman condescended to take up the issue! He agreed that our charge was true! Their women employees, mostly girls, were receiving the sixpence less per thousand cigarettes than if they were working elsewhere, but they were enjoying the amenity of working under much more advantageous conditions, veritably in a "Palace of Industry", for example, and this I quote:-

"Our girls have to travel by Workmen's train from outlying districts - of London - hence they arrive here before the normal opening time. Instead of standing about in the street, the girls come here for rest and shelter. They have the benefit of waiting under cover with extensive views from the verandah windows on the top floor of the factory"!

My retort that this sort of accommodation was being met by the reduced wages paid to the workers was not appreciated; and finally, the meeting was ended by the employers' declaration that they could not afford to meet the Union's demands as their business was being conducted at a loss! We reported this reply to the workers that evening, and called for a meeting for the following day. At this follow-up meeting, held on the factory premises, I was able to report that I had spent the morning examining the current Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Company at Somerset House, and found that the Balance and Profit for the year was returned as standing at £60,000! On the following morning, the General Secretary of the Union, who had so far played no part in the negotiations, received a letter from the employers asking for the Officials of the Union to a meeting that day, but without the attendance of Mr. Truman who was only a Schoolmaster, and could serve no useful function as a Trade Union negotiator!

Meanwhile, the business venture of the Cigarette Makers Trade Union was reaching considerable proportions. Trade Union support throughout the country - and particularly from Clydeside, where the workers of Parkhead Forge placed a single order of huge dimension, called for some re-organisation. I was persuaded to give up my unsatisfactory teaching job and appointed Business Manager, with responsibility for Publicity, correspondence, despatch of orders, and the necessary book-keeping. We advertised our enterprise in Socialist and Trade Union journals, stating the case for the strike, drawing attention to our business venture and to our speciality brands of cigarettes, namely, "STRIKE" and "UNITY".

The War situation was at its height, and Mr. Lloyd-George was having trouble with the Clyde workers over production. Our advertisement evidently caught the attention of Whitehall and we were visited at the shop by a Home Office official, who wished me to explain why we had given such names to our brand of cigarettes. My explanation,

fortunately, was accepted - at least no known action was taken.

The publicity campaign evoked other notable reactions. Two newspapers were advertising our claim for sympathetic support; the "Daily Herald" and "The Cambridge Magazine". We had taken up paid space in each of these journals to publicise our cause for being in business. It happened that the employers on whose premises the Strike originated were also advertising their cigarette brands in these journals and at the same time took care to reply to our case (with a veiled threat - so we learned later - to withdraw their full-page displayed advertisement from future issues!) This action had its effect on "The Herald" whose course it was to publish our news account of the Strike, together with an immediate rejoinder from the employing firm, casting doubt on the truth of our statement and thereby destroying the appeal of our advertisement! The Cambridge Editor (C.K.Ogden) paid a personal visit to the factory, had a long conversation on the premises, ascertained the facts, published his report - and lost the employer's valuable advertisement.

"That ain't the Mayor, that's only the bl-----g chemist wot lives round the corner"! This was the whispered message which reached the ears of Oscar Tobin when, as chief citizen of the Borough, he attended a local school celebration of Empire Day. Just as the outbreak of War had confronted me with Socialism, so it was that Oscar Tobin brought me into local politics. A man of great charm, keen intelligence, wide political experience and abounding energy, he might easily claim to have laid the broad foundation of Labour political activity throughout the Metropolitan Borough of Stepney, and engineered the famous local government victory of 1919, which was crowned with the election of Clem Attlee as first Labour Mayor of the Borough.

"The chemist's shop round the corner" (adjacent to the surgery of Dr. Harry Roberts, another famous local figure), was the powerhouse for Party propoganda and activity; here the "midwives" of the Labour Party met, argued, planned their Labour politics, tactics, stratagems, and final victories - and behind all these efforts was the masterly mind of Oscar Tobin. Faithful lieutenants, one recalls Dan and Lily Frankel, Solly Levene, Bert Tobin, Ethel Watts, Jack Edwards, Alfred Kershaw, all these should be remembered - but, towering above all - Oscar Tobin! Those were the days when propoganda activity was at the street corner, and on the doorstep. I remember very clearly a team of three enthusiasts setting out each Friday evening for the "Island" site (at the corner of Bancroft Road and Moody Street) - the husband carrying a platform, the wife burdened with pamphlets and other saleable literature, and the speaker, carrying on for a considerable time to fleeting passers-by - and this was the unflinching, regular, unpaid, routine activity in those early days.

I recall, too, the now legendary story of how difficult it was in the local elections of 1919 to collect candidates for the different Wards: overcome only by an organised raid on the local public houses and prevailing on members of the Dockers Trade Union to accept nominations. In the St. George's-in-the-East Division, this initiative proved a one hundred per cent success; and continued successfully to this very day! In the Mild End Parliamentary Division I remember very clearly the greatest difficulty in getting a candidate to fight the 1924 election. Direct approaches were made to R.H.Tawney, J.J.Mallon, and Harold Laski, all without success (Tawney sick, Mallon lined up for Cardiff or Harrow and Laski, in characteristic mood, struggling to strike a balance between Westminster and the London School of Economics, wisely choosing L.S.E.) sent a charming letter of refusal. John Scurr accepted the invitation and became first Labour M.P. for the Stepney Division of Mile End.

The Mile End election had brought to light motives and practices amongst my colleagues which I could not approve. The era of accompanying popularity and power had let loose personal ambitions which I could not suffer; they were so opposed to the basic ideals which had brought me into the Movement. I attended the Annual Party Meeting and said so: I also said I could see no useful purpose in accepting nomination for Chairmanship!

The vision which now drew me was to prepare young people for the civic

responsibilities they must eventually bear. Training for the proper practice of civic responsibility, its aims and objects, responsibilities and duties, as well as its privileges, had to be appreciated; the right values had to be acquired or learned at the school age in order that they might be rightly practised in adulthood. I knew this was possible through my experiences of the great power for responsible service of an entirely voluntary kind practised in the Old Scholars Club Movement, with which I had become associated long before I entered the field of local politics.

"Training for Participant Citizenship" - this was the theme which gave rise to the "Talks to Young People" on Aspects of Citizenship which I planned and carried out for the Stepney Public Libraries Committee during the year 1926-1931. Meanwhile, I had returned to Teaching and fell under the spell of Charles T. Smith whose scheme of teaching World History at the Robert Montefiore School, set me off on a fascinating study for the University Diploma on this subject. Out of this further exciting phase of activity, I reached what is now my abiding interest - The teaching of Local History as a Stimulus and Preparation for Civic Pride, Social Responsibility and Participant Citizenship.

C.S. Truman. (c. 1969).

BOOK REVIEWS

Centerprise Trust have published a further volume of photographs. The first was "A Hackney Camera" 1883-1918, and this success has been repeated with "A Second Look" - a photographic record of a walk through Hackney in the 1890's and today; it is published by Centerprise Trust, 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8. and the cost is 95p. There are fiftythree double photographs, one of "then" and one of "now", and each of the old views is helpfully captioned. A map of the area identifies the site of each photograph and thus enables the reader to conduct his, or her, own walk-about. A further map shows the area as it was in the 1870's and appears to derive from the School Board for London.

Further to the north west, on the very edge of the Borough, the Reverend W. Glyn Lewis, Vicar of St. John the Evangelist, Brownswood Park, N.4. has written the history of the church and neighbourhood in celebration of the centenary, 1874-1974. Standing south of Seven Sisters Road, but a stone's throw from Finsbury Park, St. John's is one of the churches which one is always surprised to find within the Deanery of Hackney. The architect was F. Waller, and the author has unfolded a truly absorbing tale of a church that was perhaps built in the wrong place at the wrong time, but one which through six incumbents has for over one hundred years served the local community with courage and with faith.

S.C.T.

"The East End of London" - Millicent Rose, 1951, reprinted 1973. Portway Reprints £3.00. A welcome reprint of one of the best general histories of East London, at a reasonable price. A human book with many quotations which bring it to life, from Mayhew for instance. The reprint is well produced, except perhaps for a slight greyness in the illustrations.

"London in maps" - Philippa Glanville. The Connoisseur. 1972. £15.00 A beautifully produced book, very well illustrated with 69 reproductions of maps, many in colour. The standard of reproduction is very high. The price I fear is very high also, but it is good value for money.

The text covers the history of London map-making, map selling, and map printing, and it is followed by the reproductions, with notes on each. It covers London in general. Inevitably, the central area of the City and Westminster gets most attention, but a number of maps on East London are included, for instance "An actual survey of the Hamlet of Lime-House" by Joel Gascoyne, 1703, and the Isle of Dogs from 'London and Westminster' by John Fairburn, 1802. Anyone interested in old maps will enjoy reading this, but it is a pity that the price is so high that few will be able to buy it.

A history of the County of Essex, Volume VI edited by W.R.Powell (Victoria County Histories). O.U.P. 1973. £20.00

This volume of the V.C.H. of Essex covers most of 'Metropolitan Essex' - East and West Ham, Leyton, Walthamstow, Wanstead and Woodford. West Ham, the first to be developed of these former Essex villages, gets the lion's share of the space - 140 large pages. The topics covered are so wide that very little would seem to have been excluded - the growth of cinemas, for instance, postal services and markets. In spite of the apparently generous amount of space, in most cases information has to be compressed, and there is not much room for the interesting detail. However, it does cover the local history of the area in a much more systematic and complete way than ever before, and anyone interested in it, must at least look at it in the library - I fear the price makes it impossible for most to buy it. The illustrations, though not very numerous, are well chosen, and there are also useful maps and plans, for instance showing the dates of development of various building estates in the area.

"Rescue Archaeology" - Rahtz, Philip A., ed. Penguin. 1974. 90p.

A series of articles on various aspects of the subject - the threat to known and unknown archaeological sites by the pace and scale of modern development - examples of individual digs - techniques such as aerial surveys - the problems of particular areas etc. There is a section on "How you can get involved" and anyone interested in archaeology will find it worthwhile reading, though it does not deal with East London, or indeed very much with London.

A.J.C.S.

NEWS FROM HACKNEY

The long awaited removal to more spacious and purpose built premises in De Beauvoir Town is now imminent and the signs are that we may be "on the move" during January, 1976. Our address will then be:-

Archives Department,
 London Borough of Hackney,
 Rose Lipman Library,
 De Beauvoir Road, N.1. (Telephone:- 01-249-3669)

where we shall welcome old and new friends to the May Meeting of the East London History Society.

One of the happier events of recent times has been the (re)discovery of several early sewer plans in a recent deposit of records by the Borough Design Engineer. Of these, the most exciting is a plan of Hackney Parish dated 1823 by William Merrington and a series of nine boundary plans mostly of 1848, corrected to 1872. That which depicts the Boundary between Hackney and St.Mary Stratford-le-Bow, shows and names factories, traces the source of Hackney Brook, and shows inset a copy plan of 1806 with the respective acreages. It bears the signatures of the Churchwardens of both Parishes at that date. A similar plan delineates the boundary between Hackney and Bethnal Green Parishes (1848 etc) and this lists and describes also the boundary markers. There is an inserted plan of Bethnal Green Workhouse, 1895.

S.C.Tongue.

REMAINING PROGRAMME 1975/76

All members should endeavour to attend the Meetings on the 21st January and 19th February. Indeed this year's Programme has been very much an East London Programme, all the speakers being involved in work in East London. Those who did not attend Mr.Tildesley's talk on the 10th December, which was well illustrated, missed a great treat. The Meeting on the 18th March will concentrate on excavations in East London and we hope to have the expert assistance of the Inner London Archaeological Unit. Wine and cheese will be provided, and much of the evening will be informal. Just walk round and ask your questions! A Happy 1976 to all members.