

EAST LONDON HISTORY GROUP

BULLETIN

Number 1

September 1962

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The aim of this Bulletin is to provide those interested in East London History with a list of relevant additions to the libraries of the area, and with an indication of current research. It is hoped that it will appear twice a year. The Editor would welcome material for inclusion from individuals as well as organisations.

I ACQUISITIONS

Recent acquisitions by Public Libraries in East London include:

BETHNAL GREEN

- MSS., etc. H.G.C. Allgood. Additions to History of Bethnal Green.  
A. Morrison's novel, A Child of the Jago.  
S. Snaith. "George Frederick Vale". Memoir of a local historian.  
G.F. Vale. Additions to Old Bethnal Green.  
A. Hadley. "Penny Plain: the autobiography of a Bethnal Green Boy". (TS)  
"Bethnal Green: its literary and historical associations".  
"A little Athens in the slums: the story of the Bethnal Green (formerly Friends' Hall) Literary Society 1906-15".  
Friends' Hall Literary Society Magazine, misc. issues 1908-12.  
Bethnal Green Literary Society, Minutes 1908-16.

EAST HAM

- MSS., etc. The Wilson collection of material relating to the surface public transport system of East London, especially the old tramway network.

Published works. Essex Rivers and Stour Hydrological Survey.

Includes detailed description of Roding Catchment area.

Essex Recusant v. 3. A reference to secret printing press set up c. 1580 in East Ham by Frs. Campion and Parsons.

GUILDHALL

- Watercolours. Tower of London, and Mile End, in Chadwyck Healey collection of drawings by John Crowther.

HACKNEY

MSS., etc. 328 items from Town Clerk's archives, including:  
Hackney: Vestry Minutes 1581-1900.  
Trustees Board Minutes 1810-82.  
Trustees Road Repair Minutes 1748-58.  
Board of Works Minutes 1855-94.  
District Board of Works Minutes 1855-94.  
District Board of Works Committee Reports 1856-94.  
Workhouse accounts 1739-1803.  
Charity School Minutes 1714-1834.  
Turnpike Toll Book 1771-6.  
Turnpike Committees' Minutes and Reports 1783-1826.  
Parish Trust accounts 1764.  
Highways Board Minutes 1836-56.  
Parish Poor Apprentices, Register of, 1767-90.  
Poor Trustees Minutes, Index.

POPLAR

MSS., etc. James Towne. Sermons preached on May Day 1690-3, at the East India Co.'s Poplar Chapel.

"Compilation of English grammar rules for the use of scholars at Poplar House Academy" (John Stock's Academy) 1839.

SHOREDITCH

The Local Collection has been rehoused to give more space and easier access.

MSS., etc. Plan and typescript regarding site of Finsbury Market.

Published works. G. Hennessy, The Clergy of Shoreditch Churches (from Novum repertorium)

Photographs, etc. Some 50 illustrations of almshouses, churches and other buildings.

STEPNEY

Photographs, etc. A framed reproduction of an engraving of Mile End Toll Gate (removed 1 November 1866).

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II RESEARCH

Enquiries of particular interest handled by East London Libraries (particulars in brackets) recently, include those relating to:

ARCHITECTURAL

Columbia Market (Bethnal Green).  
184 Byron Avenue, East Ham. An elaborate interior in the grand manner (East Ham).  
St. Scholastica's Retreat, E.5. (Hackney).  
Hackney Terrace, Cassland Road (Hackney).

BIOGRAPHICAL

Baroness Burdett-Coutts (Bethnal Green).  
Sir William Fairbairn (Poplar).

GENEALOGICAL

Doree family - George wove velvet for Edward VII's coronation robes (Bethnal Green).  
Wade family (Poplar).

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THE EAST LONDON HISTORY GROUP

ACTIVITIES

During the 1961/2 session, meetings of the Group included a Members' Evening, which covered such topics as Roman roads and Hackney commons; and talks by Professor Bindoff on the History Department at Queen Mary College, Professor Fein on Victoria Park, and Mr. Cooney (of the Institute of Community Studies) describing social surveys in the East End. In March a visit was paid to Poplar Library, where Mr. Helicar described the local collection; and on June 19 a dinner at Queen Mary College in honour of Father Groser was followed by a visit to the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London.

The first meeting of the 1962/3 session will be on 26 September, when Mr. Wilkinson will speak on Law and Order in West Ham.

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POSTSCRIPT

On 14 June the three Hawksmoor churches in Stepney were the principal objects of an architectural walk through the old parish.

The Victorian Society organised a walk through Bethnal Green and Shoreditch, primarily to visit Victorian churches, on 14 July.

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COMING EVENTS

EAST LONDON HISTORY GROUP

- 26 September "Law and Order in East London".  
Mr. F. Wilkinson.
- 25 October Members' Evening.
- 29 November Annual General Meeting.  
(Speaker to be announced.)

These meetings will be held at Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, and each will commence at 6.30 p.m. Coffee and sandwiches will be available from 6.15 p.m.

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DIPLOMA IN LOCAL HISTORY

A University extension course in English History is to be given by members of the History Department of Queen Mary College, University of London, during the 1962-63 session. The course, consisting of twenty-four lectures (each followed by a discussion), will cover English History from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present day, and will include the growth of political institutions, religious trends, and economic and social developments. This series of lectures, though self-contained, forms the first year of a four-year course of part-time study for the University of London Diploma in Local History; but non-diploma students, who may wish to cover only part of this longer course, are welcome.

The fee for admission to the course is £1/10/-. The first meeting will be held at Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, E.1., at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 2 October 1962.

Further details may be obtained from:-

Miss A. Spink,  
Secretary,  
Department of History,  
Queen Mary College,  
Mile End Road,  
London, E.1.

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The East London History Group exists to encourage the study of the history of this district. Membership is open to anyone who is interested. The annual subscription is 2/6d. The Honorary Secretary is:-

Miss Sanson,  
Plaistow Public Library,  
North Street, E.13.

The Editor of this Bulletin is Mr. Michael Port, M.A., Queen Mary College,  
Mile End Road, E.1.

22/8/1962.