

Communications should be sent to:

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In this number of the Bulletin we include, in addition to our usual lists of accessions, an account of the material available in local collections relating to the peopling of East London. We are grateful to the Librarians and Archivists who have furnished us with information, often, as will be seen, in considerable detail. The Editor would welcome any additions to this account of which readers may be able to inform him.

A. RECENT ACQUISITIONS

MSS.

Bethnal Green:

Deed of mortgage (£500) 1876, Holloway to Goodman, Twig Folly Bridge.

Indenture of apprenticeship 1819, Goodie to Beale, silk weaver.

Poplar:

29 deeds dated 1552-1801, relating to the 'Coach & Horses' public house, Bow Road, the earliest an indenture, 30 Sept. 1552, conveying the property from Robert Ruddle of Stratford at the Bowe to John Mercer of Whitechapel. The tavern was then known as the 'St. John's Head'. In the early 1600s, its name was changed to the 'Black Boy', and in 1708-9 to 'Coach & Horses'. Demolished in the 1939-45 war.

10 deeds, 1874-6, relating to the 'Somerset Arms', Tetley Street, Bromley, formerly 'East London Brewery Tap'.

Probate of will dated 26 Mar. 1804 of John Perkins, victualler, who kept the 'Two Blue Posts and West India Dock Tavern' in the hamlet of Poplar and Blackwall.

East Ham:

East Ham Rate books 1904-52.

Original correspondence relating to London, Tilbury and Southend Railway.

West Ham:

1861 Census - enumerators' returns for West Ham (microfilm).

Shoreditch:

Records of St. Leonard's Shoreditch (transferred from the records of the Boards of Guardians, London County Record Office).

Photographs, prints and drawings

East Ham:

Photographs and engineering drawings relating to London, Tilbury and Southend Railway.

Poplar:

Millwall and West India Docks, part of Bromley and all the Bow area - 10 aerial photographs 1963.

Shoreditch:

Shoreditch, 1900 to the present day. 700 photographs from LCC photographic library, showing churches, theatres, streets and modern flats.

McDonald's Music Hall, Hoxton. Programme c.1865 (photocopy).
Photographs taken during performance, 2 Nov.1963.

Miscellaneous

The Passmore Edwards Museum has completed its survey of Roman roads into London from the east, i.e. Dunmow and Colchester, and their alignments have been identified. The Museum is now engaged on a restoration and micro-filming of the complete tithe redemption survey of West Ham 1853-4.

Institute of Community Studies, Bethnal Green. This late seventeenth-century building has a well in the basement, probably of the sixteenth century, belonging to an earlier house on the site.

West Ham Central Library has published Notes on the West Ham Parish Schools, 1723-1873, to mark the opening of the West Ham Church Schools, 14 Feb. 1964.

Shoreditch Public Libraries have published Shakespeare came to Shoreditch, by W. H. C. Moreton, Borough Librarian, in response to many enquiries about the Elizabethan theatres built in the borough. An exhibition on this theme was held at the Central Library, 18 Apr. - 2 May 1964. The London and Middlesex Archeological Society Bulletin reports that theatre and players make an appearance in the records of the Sessions of the Peace (Middlesex County Record Office). More information about these theatres is contained in Irwin Smith's Shakespeare's Globe Playhouse, 1963, Peter Owen.

Bethnal Green Central Library assisted in producing the Hackney Gazette centenary issue.

B. THE PEOPLING OF EAST LONDON

An exhibition on The Growth of London will be held at the Victoria and Albert Museum, 17 July to 30 August, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with material from an extremely wide range of sources.

I. RECORD OFFICES, LIBRARIES, ETC.

London County Council: County Hall

Record Office

Material comprises records of predecessors of the LCC, and those deposited as gifts or loans by individuals or bodies.

Records of the numerous predecessors of the LCC, excluding Boards of Guardians, are described in detail in first part of Guide to Records in the London County Record Office (LCC 1962). They consist of two groups: 'works' and 'social'. The first is of bodies connected with execution of structural improvements, drainage, and supervision of building in the metropolitan area: the seven local commissions of sewers (including Tower Hamlets and Poplar), later amalgamated into the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers; the Metropolitan Buildings Office; and the Metropolitan Board of Works, which assimilated the functions of smaller bodies such as the bridge companies. The second group includes the Metropolitan Asylums Board, the Sick Asylums Districts (including Poplar & Stepney), and the London School Board. Together, the records of these bodies depict graphically the living and working conditions of the communities of East London, and the response of the authorities to them and to the effects of overcrowding, unemployment and foreign immigration.

Records of the Boards of Guardians have not yet been fully listed, but can be produced for students. They mostly date from 1834, showing the implementation of nineteenth-century legislation concerning poor relief and social welfare. Also miscellaneous eighteenth-century records of overseers of the poor and of workhouses. Numerous short series of records of the administration of the Guardians in late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including workhouses and infirmaries.

Deposits:

Copy memorials of the Middlesex Deeds Registry, 1709-1938 (several thousand volumes). Invaluable for tracing descent of property in Middlesex, including greater part of the County of London.

Associations and charities. Information relating to hospitals, asylums, etc., may be found among records of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London (ref. A/KE).

Business records, including gas undertakings.

Deeds: Council deeds deposited by LCC Legal and Parliamentary department; include Stepney deeds, eighteenth to twentieth centuries. Other deeds deposited by B.R.A. - card indexes of personal and place names compiled from them are kept in the Search Room. Most date from the nineteenth century. Also miscellaneous documents and deeds not deposited by B.R.A. (general ref.0) include East London material. The Harben Bequest is an artificial collection of early deeds, containing a small number of seventeenth and eighteenth-century deeds relating to East London. A catalogue with a topographical index is shelved in the Search Room.

Consistory Court of London records - probate, deposition books, vicars-generals' books and supplementary volumes of court proceedings - furnish much religious and social information for sixteenth to eighteenth centuries (ref. DL/C/1-582). (See A. J. Camp, Wills and their Whereabouts, 1963).

Estate papers.

Manorial records.

Parish archives.

Prints and Drawings, Maps and Photographs

Room B.66 (WAT 5000 ext.255), 9.15 a.m. to 5.15 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. (Ring up to ask whether material is available.) Photographs loaned for one month; prints, drawings and maps only loaned to institutional bodies.

Print Collection (including drawings), covers London and Middlesex, and parts of Surrey, Kent and Essex. 20,000 items, constantly added to, including portraits, cartoons, playbills, posters, admission tickets, theatre and concert programmes. No printed catalogue or subject index. Arranged topographically by boroughs, and districts within boroughs. Staff can help best if visitors state precisely what interests them. Photostat copies can be obtained of most items. Full-size photocopies of the Visscher (1616) and Buck (1749) general views of London, 21/- and 23/-.

London Maps. Over 6,000 items. Main categories: London General, Environs, Boroughs, Ordnance Survey. Items filed chronologically. Many general plans as well as those of specific areas. After 1800, often possible to date a particular development within five or ten years. Plans of Commissioners of Sewers very useful in tracing development. Tower Hamlets Commissioners, ten volumes of plans 1801-1848.

Photograph Library. Over 100,000 items, principally a record of the Council's work, including housing estates, schools and open spaces. Growing collection of buildings of architectural or historical interest. Whiffen collection of glass negatives valuable for East London, especially Poplar (typescript list). Copies of most items may be obtained, 3/4d. full plate. Nearly all are copyright, and written application must be made to the Librarian and Archivist before publishing such photographs.

The Guildhall Library, City of London

This Library has an extensive collection of maps, prints and drawings, in addition to its MSS collections which include parish archives. East London material includes a few satirical prints and topographical views in Stepney and adjoining boroughs from c.1750.

The Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, E.15.

The Museum collections contain a good deal of relevant material, both solid objects and literature. By actual archeological finds and by inference therefrom a picture has been built up of the pattern of Romano-British settlement in East London. From maps and chance finds the same can be done for the medieval settlement pattern. The Museum is most willing to assist researchers (MAR 4545, ext.376).

Poplar Central Library, Brunswick Road, E.14.

This Library has a collection of 136 maps relating to London. It also possesses important collections of photographs - the Whiffen, 1,465 items illustrating people, places and events over the last half-century; and the Graphic Record - 900 items supplementing the former.

II. SPECIFIC ITEMS

MSS.

Parish Records

- All Saints, Buxton St., Stepney, 1840-1957, LCC, P 93/ALL 1/1-11.
Christ Church, Jamaica St., register of preachers and offertories only, 1877-92, LCC, P 93/CTC 3/1.
Christ Church, Spitalfields, 1729-1902, LCC, P 93/CTC 1/1-192.
Christ Church, Watney St., 1842-1947, LCC, P 93/CTC 2/1-31.
St. Andrew, Bethnal Green, 1843-1946, LCC, P 72/AND/1 and 33.
St. Botolph without Aldgate (for manor of East Smithfield), late 16th to early 19th century. Guildhall.
St. Clare, Hanbury St., 1875-1914, LCC, P 93/CLA/1-3.
St. Dunstan, Stepney, 1710-1898, LCC, P 93/DUN/1-254. Marriages of inhabitants of Bethnal Green, 1568-1719. Bethnal Green Library.
St. Faith, Shandy St., 1891-1937, LCC, P 93/FAI/1-19.
St. George in the East, Cannon Street Road, 1729-1901, LCC, P 93/GEO/1-85.
St. James the Great, Bethnal Green Road, 1844-1899, LCC, P 72/JSG/1-67.
St. John, Halley St., 1853-1955, LCC, P 93/JNI/1-66.
St. John Evangelist, Golding St., 1869-1948, LCC, P 93/JNE 1/1-13.
St. Jude, Old Bethnal Green Road, 1846-1951, LCC, P 72/JUD/1-50.
St. Jude, Whitechapel, 1848-1923, LCC, P 93/JUD/1-15.
St. Katherine by the Tower, 16th to 20th centuries. Guildhall.
St. Leonard, Shoreditch, Registers, 1558-1910; Civil records 1745-1860. Guildhall.
St. Luke, Burdett Road, 1869-1958, LCC, P 93/LUK/1-12.
St. Mark, Old Street, banns and marriages 1872-1947. Guildhall.
St. Mary, Spital Square (Sir George Wheler's Chapel), 1733-1911, LCC, P 93/MRY 2/1-LS.
St. Mary, Whitechapel, 1558-1940, LCC, P 93/MRY 1/1-217.
St. Matthew, Bethnal Green, settlement and examination books, 1818-1833, LCC, P 72/MTW/1-5.
St. Matthew, Pell St., 1859-1891, LCC, P 93/MTW 1/1-4.
St. Matthew, Salmon Lane, 1871-1947, LCC, P 93/MTW 2/1-75.
St. Paul, Bow Common, 1858-1938, LCC, P 93/PAU/1-49.
St. Peter, Hoxton Square, baptisms 1870-1919. Guildhall.
St. Thomas, Arbour Square, 1840-1940, LCC, P 93/TMS/41-77.

Civil Records

- Tower Hamlets: Land tax assessments 1717-1923. Guildhall.
Commissioners of Sewers. LCC Record Office.
Bethnal Green: (at Bethnal Green Central Library). Apprenticeship deeds; trust deed (copy) of Bethnal Green poor's land 1889; warrant issued to constable of Bednall Green 1643.
East Ham: (at East Ham Central Library). Poor law rate books, 1809-34, 1836, 1841-8, 1862-5. Borough rate books 1904-52.
Medical Officer of Health reports 1896 to date.
Shoreditch: (at Shoreditch Central Library). Poor law rate books, 1844-94; earlier ledgers at Guildhall and LCC Record Office.
Land tax assessments 1745-1825; earlier assessments at Guildhall.
Deeds: conveyances of land or dwellings in Shoreditch from 1548.

Manorial Records

- Stepney Manor, including Court Baron Rolls and Books, homage book, enfranchisement book, quit rent books, and miscellaneous deeds from 1651 to 1926. LCC, M 93/1-515.

Estate Papers

- Spencer Phillips: Stepney deeds from 1691. LCC, E/PHI/1-456.
John Bacon: numerous sites in Bethnal Green and Whitechapel, 1765-1885. LCC, E/BN/1-10, 78-172.
Rodney: includes copy of Stepney Manor Court Roll relating to the "Three Kings", Whitechapel, 1709. LCC, E/RY/1.

- Samuel Henry Wilson: includes deeds of Free Trade and Universal Steam Wharf, Stepney, 1875. LCC, E/WS/20-22.
- William Cotton (later Bow Common estate): includes plans, inventories and deeds, early 18th to 20th centuries. LCC, E/COT/1-1569.
- Windham Bowyer: includes deeds of Stepney Rents and other sites in Bethnal Green, 18th and 19th centuries. LCC, E/WB/1-16.

Council Deeds

- Stepney 18th to 20th centuries, including deeds of Trinity Alms-houses. LCC, C/93/1-1568.

Business Records

- Messrs. H. & C. Warner, stationers of Whitechapel. LCC, B/WNR/1-5.
- Ratcliff Gas, Light & Coke Company, incorporating East London Gas Light Company, 1823-75, including deeds dating from 1729. LCC, B/WNG/2695-2927.

Miscellaneous

- Spitalfields Great Synagogue, Brick Lane. LCC, A/SGS/1-36.

Prints and drawings, etc.

- Guildhall - views in East London from c. 1750, and satirical prints.
- LCC Print Collection includes: STEPNEY Watercolours by F. Adcock, E. A. Phipson (Fort St. and Hanbury St., 1914), Schnebbellie (two monuments in St. Mary, Whitechapel), T. Hosmer Shepherd (views of galleries yards of King's Arms and Red Lion and Spread Eagle, Whitechapel), and J. T. Wilson (four inns in Mile End Road, 1870-5). Engravings: most of the standard engravings. News-cuttings (John Burns collection), including 1737 advertisement for the bagnio in Lemon Street, Goodman's Fields, 'the most commodious Place in England for the Exercise of Bathing, Swimming, or learning to swim, unexpos'd to Danger, or the Sight of any one'. POPLAR: Architects' plans and elevations for alteration of St. Mary, Bow 1848. Copies of most of the standard engravings. PLAYBILLS: Royal Brunswick Theatre, opening night, 25th Feb. 1828 (the Theatre collapsed three days later).
- Bethnal Green Library: Palestine Place and Chapel (engravings). French Protestant Hospital, Victoria Park (plan and engravings 1866).

Photographs

- LCC Whiffen Collection includes ballon ascent from Poplar recreation ground 1892, dismissed policemen returning uniforms during police strike 1919, and ceremony of handing out 'farthing bundles' at Fenn Street Settlement.

Maps (see RECORD OFFICES & LIBRARIES notes).

- London: 1737 Vertue based on Aggas 1560 (facsimile, Shoreditch)
1746 Rocque (Shoreditch, Bethnal Green).
1797 Stockdale (Bethnal Green).
1799 Horwood (Shoreditch).
- Bethnal Green (at Central Library):
1652 Survey, map compiled from, by G. F. Vale.
1847. Gavin; 1872 and 1885 Ordnance Survey.
1755 Spitalfields, from Strype's edition of Stow.
Maps showing distribution of weavers' houses.
- Poplar: Bromley Hall Estate 1761-2 (LCC).
Poplar Library's collection includes plans of 1841, 1860, 1885 and 1900; and plans of an intended ferry from Isle of Dogs to Wood Wharf, Greenwich 1811.
- Shoreditch: 1745 Chassereau (Shoreditch).
- Stepney, parish of: 1703 Gascoigne (facsimiles at Poplar and Bethnal Green).
- Tower Hamlets: 1843 Beek (Poplar); 1833 large scale plan for Commissioners of Sewers, marking most buildings of importance (LCC).

Books

London

- Besant, W. London in the Nineteenth Century. 1909. (E.H.)
London North of the Thames. 1911. (E.H.)
Stuart London. (Sh.)
Tudor London. (Sh.)
- Booth, C. Life and Labour of the People in London. 1902-3. (B.G.)
- George, M. D. London Life in the Eighteenth Century. 1925. (B.G.)
- L.C.C. Survey of London. (in progress) (Sh.)
- Loftie, W. J. History of London. 1884. (B.G.)
- Lysons, D. Environs of London. 1796. (B.G.)
- Maitland, W. History of London. (B.G.)
- Malcolm, J. P. Londinium Redivivum. 1803-7. (B.G.)
- Mayhew, H. London Labour and the London Poor. 1851. (B.G.)
ibid., ed. P. Quennell, 1949 (B.G.)
- New Survey of London Life and Labour. 1930-5. (B.G., E.H.)
- Stow, J. Survey of London. 4 editions 1598-1908 at Bethnal Green,
2 editions at Shoreditch.

East London

- Allgood, H.G.C. Stray leaves from the past of our village. 1894.
(With MSS additions) (B.G.)
- Besant, W. East London. 1903. (B.G.)
- Cowper, B. H. Descriptive, historical and statistical account of Millwall,
commonly called the Isle of Dogs. 1853. (Poplar)
- Dunstan, J. History of the Parish of Bromley St. Leonard. 1862. (Poplar)
- Ellis, H. History and Antiquities of the parish of St. Leonard,
Shoreditch. 1798. (Sh.)
- Fry, K. East and West Ham. 1888. (E.H.)
- Hill, G. W. &
Frere, W. H. Memorials of Stepney Parish. 1890-1. (B.G.)
- O'Leary, J. G. History of Bethnal Green. 1929. (B.G.)
- Rainbird, W. S. A view of common man. 1948. (E.H.)
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. East London. 1930. (B.G.)
- Robinson, W. History of the Parish of Hackney. 1842-3. (B.G.)
- Rose, M. The East End of London. 1951. (B.G., E.H.)
- Sabin, A. K. Old Bethnal Green and the story of the Silk Industry.
1928. (B.G.)
- Scott, T. E. Poplar in Days Gone by. (TS. 1910) (Poplar)
- Sinclair, R. East London. 1950. (B.G., E.H.)
- Simmons, A. History of the Parish of All Saints Poplar. 1870. (Poplar)
- Smith, H. Ll. History of East London. 1939. (B.G.)
- Stokes, A. East Ham: From Village to County Borough.
3rd edn. 1933. (E.H.)
- Snaith, S. Flashbacks; glimpses into the past of Bethnal Green.
1949. (B.G.)
- Vale, G. F. Old Bethnal Green. 1934. (B.G.)

Articles, Pamphlets, etc.

Bethnal Green Central Library:

Act for Confirmation of Copyhold estates and customes of diverse Copyholders of the Mannors of Stepney and Hackney. n.d.

The Free customs, benefits and priviledges of the copy-hold tenants of the Manors of Stepney and Hackney. 1675.

Survey of 'Hamblett of Bethnall Greene' 1652. Transliteration.

Articles and cuttings on Aldgate House, houses facing 'The Green', Dog Row, Bishop's Hall, Bishop Bonner, Lord Wentworth, Bonner's Fields, Bethnall House or Kirby Castle.

Gilbert, W. 'The Huguenot Colony in Bethnal Green', article, 15 August, 1874.

French Protestant Hospital, Victoria Park, Charter and byelaws 1876.

Gibson, A. V. B. 'Huguenot Weavers' Houses in Spitalfields', East London Papers, April 1958.

Miscellaneous material relating to silk weavers.

The Builder, Illustrated London News, cuttings on living conditions, chiefly 1863.

Act to make ... Bethnal Green ... a separate and distinct parish, and for erecting a parish church therein. 1743.
