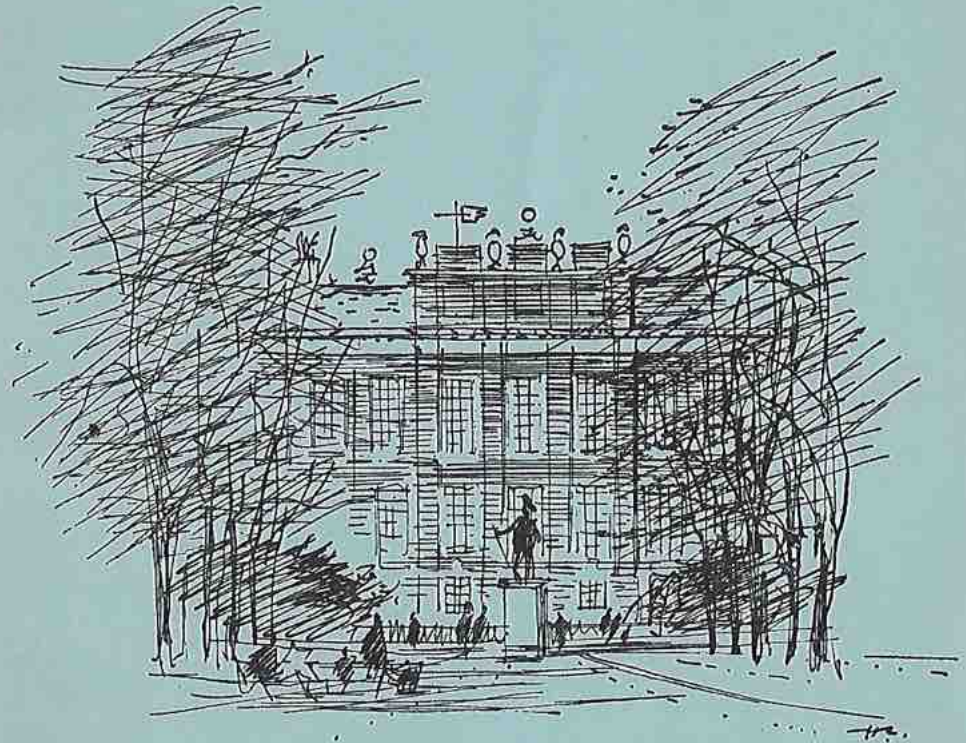


# THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY

18, KENSINGTON SQUARE,

LONDON, W.8

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ANNUAL REPORT,

1954

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# IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Tuesday, October 5th, at 6.0 p.m. in the Town Hall (see page 18).

The Annual Subscription to the Society is due on October 1st.

Members are reminded that if they covenant to pay their annual subscription for seven successive years, they are able very materially to benefit the Society, which will be permitted to recover from the Inland Revenue the (normal) tax which has been paid by a member in respect of the amount of his or her Annual Subscription to the Society.

Forms of subscription, banker's order and covenant will be found at the end of the Annual Report.

Further forms can be obtained from the Secretary, 18, Kensington Square, W.8.

September, 1954.

## THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY

### *President:*

THE LORD GORELL, C.B.E., M.C.

### *Vice-Presidents:*

THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF KENSINGTON  
SIR HAROLD KENYON, M.B.E., J.P.

### *Council:*

Miss Jean Alexander	William F. Grimes, Esq., V.P.S.A.
Miss Rachel Alexander	The Lord Harlech, K.G., G.C.M.G.
Hardy Amies, Esq.	The Hon. Mr. Justice Karminski
The Hon. Mr. Justice Barry	Oliver Messel, Esq.
John Carter, Esq.	Lady Norman, J.P.
The Marquess of Cholmondeley,	Duncan Oppenheim, Esq.
Ashley Dukes, Esq., F.R.S.L.	Dorothea, Lady Ponsonby
S. J. L. Egerton, Esq.	Miss Irene Scharrer
Miss Joan Evans, D.LITT., F.S.A.,	H. Clifford Smith, Esq., F.S.A.
Miss Rachel Ferguson	Prof. Arnold Toynbee, D.LITT.,
Sir William Russell Flint, R.A.,	Orlo Williams, Esq., C.B., M.C., D.C.L.
	Miss Irene Worth

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

#### *Chairman:*

H. Stephen Pasmore, Esq., M.B., B.S.(LOND.)

#### *Vice-Chairman:*

Sir Hugh Casson, R.D.I., F.R.I.B.A., F.S.I.A.

Geoffrey Agnew, Esq.	C. H. Gibbs-Smith, Esq., F.R.S.A.,
Sir Martyn Beckett, Bt., M.C.,	Keon Hughes, Esq., F.M.A.
C. G. Boxall, Esq.,	F. Gordon Roe, Esq., F.S.A.,
W. W. Begley, Esq., F.R.HIST.S.,	(Retired owing to ill health.)
W. G. Corfield, Esq.,	Hugh Shillito, Esq.

#### *Hon. Secretary:*

Mrs. G. Christiansen

#### *Hon. Treasurer:*

E. Noman-Butler, Esq.

*Hon. Auditors:* Messrs. Wright, Stevens & Lloyd



## CONSTITUTION

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NAME—The Society shall be called The Kensington Society.

OBJECTS—The objects of the Kensington Society are to preserve and improve the amenities of Kensington; by stimulating interest in its history and records, by protecting its buildings of beauty and historic interest, by preserving its open spaces from disfigurement and encroachment, and by encouraging good architecture in its future development.

MEMBERSHIP—Membership of the Society is open to all who agree with the objects, on payment of either:—

- A Life Subscription of ten guineas, or
- A minimum Annual Subscription of half-a-guinea.

COUNCIL OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—The Council shall consist of not more than thirty members. The Officers shall be the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer. The Executive Committee shall consist of not more than twelve members and the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer. The Executive Committee shall appoint the Council. They shall also elect the Officers annually. The Committee shall elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and have power to co-opt.

BANKERS—Martins Bank, Ltd., 208 Kensington High Street, W.8.

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*All communications to be addressed to:—*

THE HON. SECRETARY, MRS. G. CHRISTIANSEN,  
18 KENSINGTON SQUARE, W.8.  
Telephone: WESTern 0931.

## REPORT

THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY has pleasure in presenting this report which deals with the first year's work together with a Statement of Accounts for the year.

The Inaugural Meeting was held on Tuesday, 13th October, 1953, in the Town Hall. Dr. Stephen Pasmore, Chairman of the Executive Committee, gave a lecture entitled "The History of Kensington." Lord Gorell, C.B.E., M.C., President of the Society, was in the Chair. About 600 people attended the lecture.

There are now 474 members, 17 being Life Members.

During the year the following lectures and visits were arranged.

### AUTUMN, 1953.

- 22nd October Miss Irene Scharrer gave a piano recital.
- 29th October Mr. C. H. Gibbs-Smith, F.R.S.A., F.M.A., gave a lecture, "The Great Exhibition, 1851." Sir Harold Kenyon, M.B.E., J.P., was in the Chair.
- 5th November Sir Hugh Casson, R.D.I., F.R.I.B.A., F.S.I.A., gave a lecture, "New Buildings in Old Places." The Rt. Hon. Viscount Esher was in the Chair.
- 9th November Mr. Ashley Dukes, F.R.S.L., gave a lecture on "The Theatres of Old Kensington." Dr. Orlo Williams, C.B., M.C., D.C.L., was in the Chair.

*A summary of these lectures was given in Report No. 1 issued in March.*

### WINTER, 1954.

- 2nd February Professor A. E. Richardson, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., gave a lecture entitled "The Charm of Kensington." Mr. C. H. Gibbs-Smith, F.R.S.A., F.M.A., was in the Chair.
- 2nd March Mr. William Gaunt, M.A., gave a lecture on "Lord Leighton and his Times." Mr. W. W. Begley, F.R.Hist.S., L.R.I.B.A., was in the Chair.



- 6th April Mr. Martin Holmes, F.S.A., gave a lecture on "Kensington Palace."  
The Rev. W. M. Bell, A.K.C., B.D., was in the Chair.
- 4th May Mr. C. H. Gibbs-Smith, F.R.S.A., F.M.A., gave a lecture entitled "The Albert Memorial."  
Mr. Hugh Shillito was in the Chair.

*A summary of these lectures will be found on pages 15—18.*

### SUMMER VISITS, 1954

#### 21ST MAY. APSLEY HOUSE, HYDE PARK CORNER.

Members were met and conducted round by Mr. C. H. Gibbs-Smith, the Keeper of the Wellington Museum, who made the afternoon both interesting and amusing.

This famous residence was acquired by the Nation in 1947 and is under the direction of the Victoria and Albert Museum. By the generosity of the present Duke of Wellington the Museum houses many interesting relics and works of art originally belonging to the Iron Duke.

#### 28TH MAY. NORTH KENSINGTON TOUR.

This very interesting tour was arranged by Miss Rachel Alexander, assisted by Miss C. Reeve, Secretary of the Rowe Housing Trust; Miss Brown, Secretary of the Kensington Housing Trust; Miss J. Bunford, Deputy Chief Housing Officer of the Royal Borough of Kensington; and Mrs. Hyams, the Honorary Secretary of the North Kensington Community Centre in Dalgarno Gardens.

Arrangements were made to view some of the newly built flats on the Borough Council estate, also some of the older Kensington Housing Trust flats in Crosfield House. Mrs. Hyams showed the party over the Community Centre which has just been rebuilt after bombing. The tour included part of the Notting Dale area, originally known as the Kensington Potteries; part of the Golborne Ward and the Ladbroke estate. The latter is regarded as an outstanding example of Victorian Town Planning. The tour enabled members to see the old properties and how they are being replaced by large blocks of modern flats.

The opportunity of seeing the flats and the Community Centre was greatly appreciated by the members and we should like to record our thanks to all those who made the visit possible.

#### 12TH JUNE. THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

Members were shown over Lowther Lodge, the home of the Royal Geographical Society. Mrs. Middleton, who conducted the party round, gave an interesting account of the house and the contents.

The house was designed by Norman Shaw and was the home of the Rt. Hon. William Lowther for many years.

A large exhibition had been arranged of relics and mementoes of famous travellers, including a recent model of Mount Everest.

#### 15TH JUNE. HATFIELD HOUSE, HERTFORDSHIRE.

The party left Kensington Square at 11.30 a.m.

Hatfield House is one of the most notable Jacobean Houses in England. The history of this house actually begins about 1497, when Cardinal Morton, in the reign of Henry VII, finished building the Old Palace. The great hall of the Old Palace still stands to the west of the present house with its original 15th. century roof, and it was in this room that Queen Elizabeth I. held her first Council after she became Queen. The Old Palace is now used as a restaurant and it was here the members had lunch.

The house was started in 1602 by Sir Robert Cecil, 1st. Earl of Salisbury; it was built under the direction of Robert Lyminge and was completed in 1612. The great hall and state rooms contain contemporary decoration and important 16th. and 17th. century pictures.

#### 19TH JUNE. HOLLY LODGE AND MORAY LODGE.

Mr. W. G. Corfield was in charge and directed the party.

Holly Lodge, purchased by the London University, is now an integral part of what is known as Queen Elizabeth's College. Miss M. J. Sargeant, the Principal of the College, gave the members the history of the College and the association of Lord Macaulay with Holly Lodge from 1856 until his death in 1859.

Miss Sargeant reminded the members that the plaque on the house was the first to be fixed on any building by the L.C.C. Dr. Martin, Chief Architect of the L.C.C., kindly complied with our request for a model of the Comprehensive School, which is to be erected on the sites of Moray Lodge and Cam House, to be on view. Details of the scheme and the layout of the buildings were clearly explained by Mr. Hirsch and Mr. Kretchner of the L.C.C. Fortunately, Thorpe Lodge is to be retained as it is for use as a School Library and study rooms.

Moray Lodge was next visited. Interest in Holly Lodge and the new school left little time for Mr. Corfield to give a full history



of Moray Lodge and its former occupants. He, however, handed round old sale catalogues of the house, a number of photographs, originally given to him by Mrs. Gielgud, the daughter of Arthur J. Lewis and Kate Terry, but now in the possession of Mr. Geoffrey Harmsworth, who also lent a number of "Moray Minstrel" programmes. His sister, Miss Margaret Harmsworth, was present and was able to give an account of Moray Lodge when her father, Sir Leicester Harmsworth, and his family lived there.

#### 3RD JULY. AUBREY HOUSE.

The house and garden were opened to members of the Society by kind permission of the Misses Alexander. Unfortunately, it was a wet afternoon which resulted in comparatively few members visiting this lovely house.

Aubrey House is a Georgian country house in Notting Hill. A house existed on this site as far back as 1698. It was known successively as "The Villa at Notting Hill" (1762), "Notting Hill House" (1795), and "Aubrey House" (1859).

Aubrey House had an illustrious tenant in Lady Mary Coke, who lived there from 1767 to 1788. From her fortieth to her sixty-fifth year Lady Mary kept a diary; it was sent weekly to one or other of her sisters. This journal is full of local colour and has been printed covering the years 1766-1774.

William Cleverley Alexander bought the house in 1873.

During the First World War the house was used as a convalescent home and since then the Misses Alexander have converted the wings into flats, retaining the centre part for their own use.

William Alexander, in 1872, commissioned Whistler to paint his daughter's portrait—the now famous "Arrangement in Grey and Green." The house contains some beautiful pictures and furniture.

We are grateful to the Misses Alexander for opening their house for the benefit of the Society, for arranging tea, the proceeds of which were given to the Community Centre North Kensington Rebuilding Fund, and for labelling their pictures, furniture and other treasures which increased the interest of the visit enormously.

#### 10TH JULY. BROMPTON ORATORY.

Members were taken over the Brompton Oratory by Father Napier, who gave a most interesting account of the Church's history and treasures. The Oratory of St. Philip Neri was first set up in England by Cardinal Newman in 1848 at Birmingham. The London Oratory was founded in 1849 in King William Street, off the Strand, and then moved in 1853 to Brompton, where the present building was completed to the designs of Herbert Gribble in 1883.

The striking features of the Oratory, which was built in the style of the Italian Renaissance, are its magnificent proportions, its spaciousness, and the light effects achieved by the profusion of its coloured marbles. Other notable features are the fine baroque statues and the beautiful 17th. century Lady Altar from Brescia.

#### 14TH JULY. 18 STAFFORD TERRACE.

Mrs. Messel very much regretted having to cancel the visit of members to her house owing to the illness of her daughter. We trust by the time this report is in print that Lady Rosse will have completely recovered.

#### 24TH AUGUST. ABINGDON ABBEY AND RADLEY COLLEGE.

The visit to Abingdon will not have taken place before this report goes to print. We hope it will be the success we believe the other visits have been.

#### 6TH OCTOBER. WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Mr. Lawrence Tanner, M.V.O., V.P.S.A., Keeper of the Muniments and Library, has kindly consented to conduct members round the Abbey. Members wishing to go please apply to the Secretary for tickets.

The above lectures and visits do not represent the whole of the activities of the Society. The following are matters which have claimed the attention of the Society:

#### HOLLAND HOUSE.

Holland House was severely bombed in September and October of 1940, and the central block was virtually gutted. The West Wing was badly burnt, but the East Wing was largely untouched. In the hope of saving the East Wing of this famous and remarkable mansion with so brilliant a history, the Kensington Society asked for a deputation to be received by the L.C.C. It was urged that demolition should be delayed in the hope that a use might be found for the East Wing. After hearing the views of the Society, Mr. Fisk, Chairman of Town Planning, and Mr. Hayward, Leader of the L.C.C., said the Council had already considered all the suggestions put forward.

Following the Secretary's letter in "The Times" expressing the concern of the Society for the future of Holland House, Messrs. John Edgington and Company Limited approached the Society with a suggestion for the use of the East Wing. This was not acceptable to the L.C.C.

At a later date the Secretary of the Youth Hostel Association approached the Society with a proposal for the East Wing. The Youth Hostel was anxious to increase its hostel accommodation in



Central London to meet the needs of provincial members and Commonwealth and overseas visitors. Their plan is to base a hostel on the restored East Wing and to erect a new building on a site nearby. The Youth Hostel Association is to receive a grant from the King George VI. Memorial Fund and this will be used for the new building. The Association is endeavouring to raise the required amount for restoring the East Wing.

The L.C.C. has agreed to this plan and has promoted legislation to enable the plan to be carried through.

Members of the Executive Committee of the Kensington Society have visited the Holland House site frequently during the last few months, and are pleased to report that they are well satisfied with the care that is being exercised to preserve old Tudor bricks and various architectural features.

The Society has asked the L.C.C. for permission to see the plans of the new building and will make every endeavour to see that the siting and design of the new building is appropriate to the surroundings.

Other activities of the Society have been:

**MONUMENT OF SIR JOHN SOANE.** This unique monument, designed by Sir John Soane in the churchyard of St. Mary Abbots, has been repaired at the expense of the Society.

**NO. 1 PALACE GREEN.** The Society has received an assurance from the agents for the Commissioners of Crown Lands that the William Morris and Burne-Jones decoration in this house will not be removed without consultation with the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Kensington Society.

**EARLS TERRACE.** The Kensington Society has co-operated with the Edwardes Square Garden Committee in effecting alterations in the plans of the new flats built to fill the gap in Earls Terrace caused by bomb damage. As a result the front and back elevations have been brought into harmony with the rest of the Terrace.

The Society has supported the Edwardes Square Committee in their protest against the erection of forty lock-up garages at the rear of Nos. 1-25 Earls Terrace (north side of Edwardes Square). The erection of the garages would necessitate the felling of sixty trees, spoiling the amenities of this beauty spot of Kensington.

**BROAD WALK ELM TREES.** A letter was sent to the Ministry of Works asking for a reprieve for the remaining healthy elm trees, at the same time suggesting that the Broad Walk should be planted with partially grown trees. The Ministry was reminded that trees up to 30ft had been planted with success on the South Bank site of the Festival of Britain. It was, however, pointed out to the Society, by the Ministry, the difficulty in obtaining a large number of trees of such a size.

**THE OLD WESTMINSTER BOUNDARY MARK, YORK PLACE.** At the request of the Society the Ministry of Works has cleaned and painted this plaque.

**COURT ROLLS OF KENSINGTON.** The existence of the Court Rolls of Kensington was brought to the notice of the Kensington Borough Council by Mr. W. G. Corfield, a member of the Executive Committee of the Society. These have now been received by the Kensington Borough Council from the College of Arms and are in the safe keeping of the Public Library.

**CAMPDEN HILL PRESERVATION SOCIETY AND THE CAMPDEN HILL RESIDENTS FUND.** On the winding up of these two Societies their remaining funds were transferred to the Kensington Society's account. We are grateful for this support.

**MR. AUSTIN LEIGH** some years ago wrote a history of "Campden Hill and its Associations. This work was not published. He has kindly loaned the manuscript to the Society.

**FULHAM GRANGE.** The Kensington Society has been associated with the fight to save Fulham Grange.

Fulham Grange was built in 1713 and is rich in literary, artistic and historic associations. It is owned by the Fulham Borough Council. The Council proposes to demolish the Grange, to close the North End Crescent and build a road where the Grange now stands and flats in the grounds. This has been strongly opposed by the Fulham Historical Society and the Ratepayers' Association, which formed the Grange Preservation Society. Many other societies outside Fulham, including the London Society, have given their support.

A GREAT NUMBER OF LETTERS have been received by the Secretary with various suggestions. These have been carefully considered by the Executive Committee and, where it was felt desirable and possible, steps have been taken to comply with the requests.

The following are a selection of points from letters:

A request that we should seek the removal of the advertising hoardings opposite Earls Terrace.

That the Society should repair the John Soane Memorial.

Another member is anxious that the Dawson Memorial (1653), in the passageway of St. Mary Abbots' Church, should be preserved. Report will be found on page 12.

Several requests have been made for a lower subscription rate for students.



A request that the two figures of schoolchildren at the rear of the school in St. Mary Abbots' churchyard should be taken down and set in a position where they can be more easily seen.

A number of requests have been made for the old Westminster boundary mark to be cleaned and painted.

A protest was made about the removal of the asphalt from the pavement in Addison Road and the laying of paving stones. At the same time the writer requested that flowering trees should be planted.

Protest about the poor lighting behind Albert Hall.

A suggestion was received from a member that the lamp-posts in the Royal Borough should be painted a different colour to the present drab shade of green.

A complaint was made that the door leading into the passage of St. Mary Abbots' Church was often found locked.

A request was made that action should be taken to prevent the damage in Kensington Gardens to chairs and trees by gangs of boys in the "conker" season.

Many letters have been received from members concerned with the preservation of Holland House.

A request that the Morris and Burne-Jones decoration at 1 Palace Green should be preserved.

A member hoped the Society would be able to persuade the Ministry of Works to plant a row of quick-growing trees, to hide the view of the ugly building of the Coburg Court Hotel from the Broad Walk.

Many letters were received deploring the felling of the trees in the Broad Walk.

The Industrial development taking place in South End Village (south of Kensington Square) has caused a number of members concern.

Protests have been received from members about the use of Fletton bricks and corrugated iron in the Ministry of Works reconstruction work in South End Village.

A member has written a B.A. Honours thesis on the Historical Geography of the borough. He now hopes to complete a M.A. thesis on the Urban Geography of the borough; he has offered the Society copies of these works.

Members are reminded of the aims of the Society and are urged to inform the Secretary as soon as possible if they hear of any plans or proposals which conflict with the objects of the Society.

Christmas Cards will again be sold by the Society. There will be a wider choice and orders can be taken for special printing.

Members of the London Society visited Kensington Square and Edwardes Square on 4th May. Dr. Stephen Pasmore gave a short history of both squares.

The Kensington Society has paid an affiliation subscription to the London Society and the Central Council of Civic Societies.

#### OBITUARY NOTICES.

The Society records with sincere regret the death of the following members:

Sir Arthur Steuart Cochrane, K.C.V.O.; Mrs. Garrett; Miss Poole.

RESIGNATION. It is with regret that we have to report the resignation of Mr. F. Gordon Roe from the Executive Committee through ill-health.

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP.

A Photographic Group of the Kensington Society was formed on 29th June, 1954.

Members had been asked if they were interested in the formation of such a group. A number of members expressed their interest and a meeting was called by the Hon. Secretary at 18 Kensington Square on 29th June.

It was agreed to form a group and an enthusiastic Committee was appointed consisting of:

C. D. Betteridge, Esq., B.A.; Dr. Norman Wright; Mr. A. Whitmore and Mrs. Oliver Smith.

Mr. C. D. Betteridge, B.A., was unanimously elected Chairman and Mr. C. G. Boxall, Hon. Secretary.

The main object of the group is to make a photographic record of the Borough, its history, antiquity, natural features, architecture, industries, current activities and, in fact, everything that presents or interprets the life of the community.

The group will have regular meetings with occasional lectures and exhibitions of photographs.

It was agreed that the Kensington Public Library was the most convenient institution in which the photographs could be safely stored and used to the best advantage. There are many gaps in



the present collection of Local Records at the Public Library, and the group hopes to remedy this, thus helping to make a complete photographic survey of the Borough available for all time.

The annual subscription to the Kensington Society covers membership of the Photographic Group, and the Hon. Secretary will be pleased to hear from any members who are interested and would like to take part in this activity.

### LOCAL HISTORY GROUP.

Are you interested in the formation of a Local History Group?

Activities of the Society have indicated a widespread interest in the history of Kensington.

The main objects of the group would be to make an intensive study of some of the historical aspects of the Borough. The group would have regular meetings at not too frequent intervals. If you are interested, please notify the Hon. Secretary.

### WALL MONUMENT TO HENRY DAWSON, ST. MARY ABBOTS' CHURCHYARD, KENSINGTON.

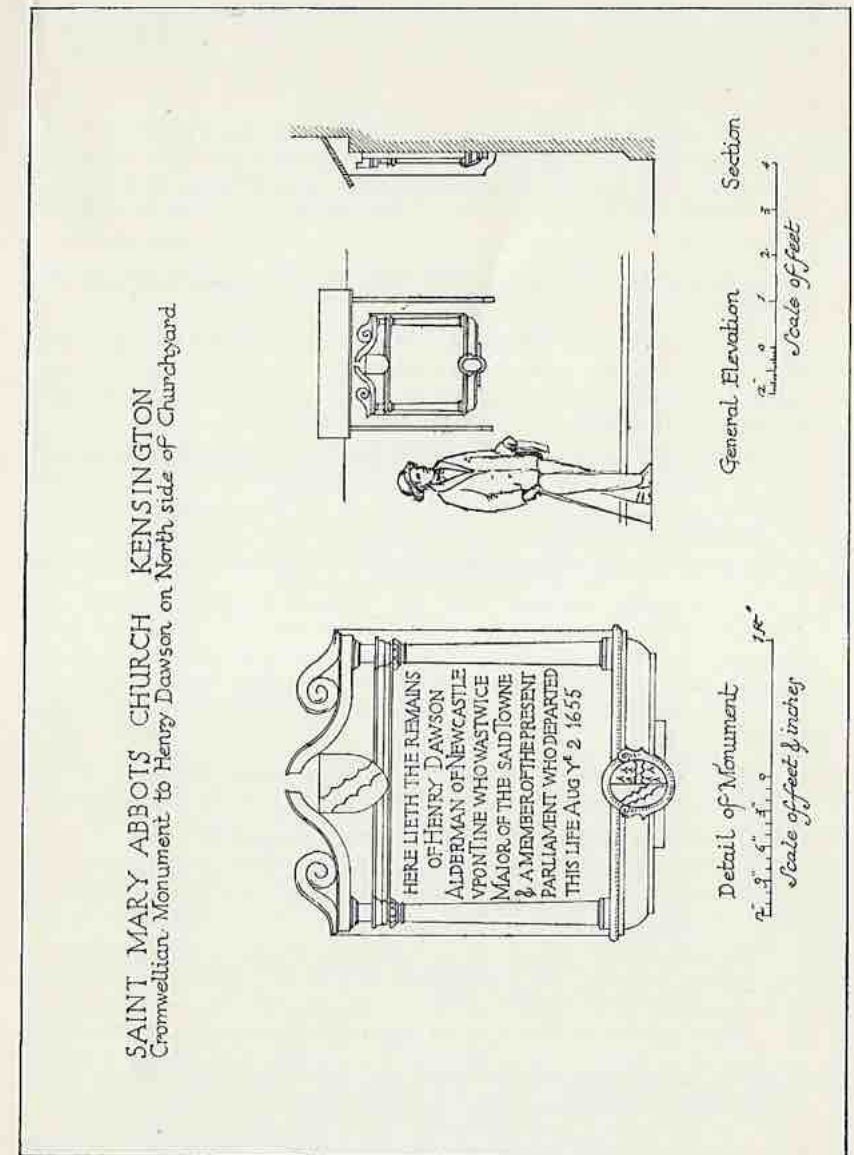
THE above monument, erected about 1655, is one of the few Cromwellian examples in the country and is typical of the period lying between the Jacobean and the fully matured Anglo-Classic.

It consists of a lettered panel enclosed between two Doric pilasters supporting an entablature surmounted by a roccoco pediment, the whole standing on a moulded shelf.

The inscription on the panel is as follows: "Here lieth the remains of Henry Dawson, Alderman of Newcastle on Tine who was Mayor of the said Towne and a member of the present Parliament who departed this life Aug. ye 2 1655" (it might be 1653).

There are also two coats of arms incorporated in the design. The upper, in the pediment, consists of a bend engrailed; the lower on the shelf is of the last, quartered with possibly those of his wife, which seems to be, on a field of ermine, a bar engrailed.

The monument, mentioned in the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (R.C.H.M.) in the Kensington Section of London West, is situated on the north wall of the passageway leading from Kensington Church Street to the churchyard on the north side of Saint Mary Abbots' Church. It is placed about 4ft. 6in. above the ground.





It might have been placed here when Sir George Gilbert Scott rebuilt the church about 1869, as it is definitely an internal wall memorial in design. The reason for thus placing it here is problematical. Perhaps it was on account of its connection with a member of an anti-church party or, on the other hand, in Sir G. G. Scott's opinion, it had no merit beyond history and not suitable for a Gothic edifice.

The present state of the monument is most unfortunate. Most of the architectural features are so merled away through exposure to weather that beyond its general outline it is difficult to decipher the original details, and on top of this various portions have been broken off.

The inscription panel, however, is still legible on closer inspection.

The monument is executed, I believe, in a marble and, judging from the worn parts, which are of a cold grey colour, I would say came from the Purbeck Quarries. The R.C.H.M. quotes the material as freestone, a very wide definition.

Where the marble is not eroded the black crystal-like incrustation is extremely bad, obliterating much detail as well as on the lettering on the panel. The incrustation on the panel has tended to make the lettering if anything clearer and more definite, yet at the same time it must be destroying the original cutting beneath.

It is most desirable that all this incrustation should be extremely carefully removed, but on the other hand I am very diffident in suggesting it be done to the lettering, feeling as I do that to do so the inscription might become less legible, and yet it should really be done to prevent further chemical action taking place.

After the removal of the incrustation, much of which could be safely carried out, its future preservation must be considered.

Two main lines of thought have been suggested:

- (1) Its removal from its present position and re-erection in the cloister leading from Kensington High Street to the South door of the Church.
- (2) To let it remain where it is now and protection against the elements provided.

With regard to No. 1, I do not think this course is necessary as it is in a poor state at present and hardly warrants such treatment and subsequent cost. The historical facts have already been noted, which can be handed down to future generations.

No. 2 is, to my mind, more suitable and to preserve it as long as possible I would suggest a small enclosing inexpensive penthouse in oak with copper roof be constructed around it as suggested in

the enclosed sketch. The object to be aimed at is to keep off the driving rain and throw it clear of the monument.

There will, however, be the trouble of the projection of the penthouse into an already narrow passage. I have shown this projection as six inches (6") and feel this would not intrude too much over the passageway.

At the same time, the monument after cleaning should be treated with some stone preservative, and after its effectiveness has worn off renewed if so desired by future generations.

11th August, 1954.

F. H. HEABY.

*It has been decided that the Kensington Society should be responsible for this work.*

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#### SUMMARY OF LECTURES GIVEN DURING THE WINTER, 1954.

PROFESSOR A. E. RICHARDSON, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.,

##### "THE CHARM OF KENSINGTON."

In his lecture Professor Richardson described the Royal Borough of Kensington as the most traditional quarter of the great Metropolis. Its associations with literature and the arts beginning with the reign of the Stuarts and extending to the present day. He said Kensington was specially favoured by the muses and, as most localities flourish by their growth, so the Royal Borough had become the cradling place of both art and science. This he attributed to the wisdom of the Commission of the 1851 Exhibition.

Unquestionably, the effect of Kensington Palace on the development of Kensington had been tremendous. Professor Richardson described Wren's work on the original Nottingham House during the reigns of William and Mary and Anne; he also described Kent's additions under the patronage of Queen Caroline and, through her, the influence of Decker and German Baroque on the decorations of the Throne Room.

Professor Richardson then described the growth of the Squares, beginning with Kensington Square and continuing with Brompton, Edwaredes, Campden Hill and Ladbroke Squares.

"Through three centuries," he said, "Kensington has been making its own character. It has developed buildings representa-



tive of the whole æsthetic scale of English architecture from the Stuarts down to the more eminent of the Victorian architects; chance has very largely determined the sites of the buildings, while their character has arisen from the tendencies prevalent at the time they were designed.

He deplored the disappearance of many of the old buildings, including Vanburgh's Charity School, Campden House and Holland House.

Professor Richardson urged Kensington to be worthy of its great traditions and to guard its heritage jealously.

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### "LORD LEIGHTON AND HIS TIMES."

LECTURE BY WILLIAM GAUNT, 2ND MARCH, 1954.

In the '70s and '80s of the last century a small group of fashionable artists earned fabulous incomes. It was the age of the "Merchant Princes" of painting in Mr. Gaunt's view, and he cited Millais, Herkomer and Alma Tadema as outstanding examples.

Frederic, Lord Leighton, the "Jupiter of the late Victorian Olympus," was, however, pre-eminent as a successful artist of the period. Strikingly handsome, versatile and a brilliant linguist, he was indeed an all-round man. Among other things, he was one of the first Volunteers and Whistler described him as "Lieutenant-Colonel of the Royal Academy and President of the Artists' Rifles."

Mr. Gaunt briefly described his family background, his education, artistic and academic, in the capitals of Europe, and his many interests and then, using slides, compared his pictures with those of contemporaries such as Watts, Tadema, Poynter and Albert Moore.

His fine draughtsmanship and the influence of "classic" art on his style were two points brought out by Mr. Gaunt. The latter he defined as "the search for perfection." The renewed interest in classical art at this time Mr. Gaunt considered to be due to the study of the Elgin Marbles, which had so recently arrived in England. This influence could be traced, not only in the choice of subjects, but also in the posing of figures and the arrangement of drapery.

Mr. Gaunt considered that, with the addition of Tadema, Poynter and Moore, the nineteenth Century Classical Revival could be attributed to the "Kensington School."

### KENSINGTON PALACE.

LECTURE BY MARTIN HOLMES, F.S.A., ON 6TH APRIL, 1954.

SUMMING up his account of Kensington Palace, Mr. Martin Holmes said it was noticeable how three Queens who had lived there (Mary II, Anne and Caroline of Anspach) had contributed to its development. He described its beginnings as a smallish house, built in the early 17th century for Sir George Coppin on the usual Jacobean plan, with a Great Hall and two wings, East and West, enclosing a courtyard. This, which later became Nottingham House, was bought by William III to provide a country residence whither he could escape from London smoke.

Mr. Holmes showed slides to illustrate the gradual growth of the Palace under Wren's direction. The design should be compared with the kind of palaces William knew in Holland rather than with Versailles. During William's absences, Queen Mary superintended the work, and when Queen Anne succeeded she also took much interest in the new Palace. The formal gardens were made under her direction and the Orangery was built, probably from designs by Wren and Vanbrugh jointly.

George I took more interest in Kensington Palace than had once been thought, but greater developments were made under his successor, George II, and his consort, Caroline of Anspach. At her request Kent was put to work on the interior, while outside the park was transformed by landscape gardening. To Queen Caroline was also due the rearrangement of the royal collections of pictures. Neither George III nor George IV lived in the Palace, and the Duchess of Kent was the next to make her mark there, re-hanging pictures and annexing a gallery from the State Apartments to make three "snug" rooms. Of all its inhabitants, her daughter, Queen Victoria, was perhaps by many people most associated with the Palace, as it was there that she received the news of her accession, but she left it in a few weeks' time for Buckingham Palace, and never lived at Kensington again.

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### THE ALBERT MEMORIAL.

LECTURE BY C. H. GIBBS-SMITH, F.R.S.A., F.M.A., ON 4TH MAY, 1954.

"HALF in jest and totally in earnest," to use an Irishism, was the way in which Mr. Gibbs-Smith proposed to treat his subject, for though some of the symbolism of the Albert Memorial now seemed almost comic, it was nevertheless a great monument, commemorating one of the greatest men of the last 100 years.



Mr. Gibbs-Smith described the original proposal in 1853 for a memorial to commemorate the Great Exhibition, or the Prince Consort, which resulted in a statue on a site in the Horticultural Society's Gardens, behind the present Albert Hall. But the present monument owed its existence to the spontaneous clamour for a memorial to the Prince Consort immediately after his death in 1861. Three resolutions were passed and a committee formed. The site chosen was the present one opposite the Albert Hall, and by 1862 about £60,000 had been raised by subscribers, to which Parliament further voted £50,000. In 1863, Sir Gilbert Scott's design, conceived partly as an Eleanor Cross and partly as a shrine, was chosen. (Queen Victoria had favoured an obelisk.) For ten years work was in progress on the site, beginning with the foundations 17 feet deep. In 1872 the hoarding was removed and the monument shown to the public.

As yet there was no statue. Marochetti, the chosen sculptor, had produced an unsatisfactory design and died while working on a second. Foley was then chosen and though he, too, died while the statue was being cast, it was finished from his designs and placed in position in 1876.

Mr. Gibbs-Smith illustrated his lecture by slides (for many of which he acknowledged his indebtedness to Mr. Boxall and the National Buildings record) and in showing these he enlarged on the sculpture surrounding the Memorial and its symbolism.

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### FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5TH—

The Annual General Meeting, 6 p.m. at the Town Hall, followed by a lecture by Mr. C. H. Gibbs-Smith, F.S.A., F.M.A., "Victorian Photography," and an exhibition of examples of work done by the Photographic Record Group.

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST—

At the Town Hall, 8 p.m., Mr. John Charlton, Inspector, Ministry of Works, will give a lecture entitled: "The Preservation of Ancient Monuments and Historical Buildings by the Ministry of Works."

Chairman: Sir Hugh Casson, R.D.I., F.R.I.B.A., F.S.I.A.

### Future Arrangements (continued)

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 6TH—

At the Town Hall, 8 p.m., Professor E. R. P. Vincent, C.B.E., Litt.D., D.Ph., will give a lecture entitled: "Some Italians at Holland House."

Chairman: Mr. I. Bulmer-Thomas.

#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND—

At Queen Elizabeth College, Campden Hill, 8 p.m., Miss Sargeaunt, Principal, Queen Elizabeth College, will give a lecture entitled: "Walter Crane, Illustrator of Children's Books."

Chairman: Mrs. Mary Stocks.

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH—

At Leighton House, 8.15 p.m. Mr. Colin Horsley will give a Piano Recital. There will be a silver collection.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 3RD—

At Leighton House, 8 p.m., Miss Helen Lowenthal will give a lecture entitled: "History of the English Garden."

Chairman: Dr. Stephen Pasmore.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH—

At Leighton House, 8 p.m., Mr. Stephen Ward will give a lecture entitled: "Thackeray in Kensington."

Chairman: Mr. J. A. Waley Cohen.

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 4TH—

At Queen Elizabeth College, Campden Hill, 8 p.m., Mr. James Pope-Hennessy will give a lecture entitled: "The History of Campden Hill."

Chairman: Mr. Charles Morgan.



# BALANCE SHEET for the year 1953-54.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Subscriptions—	£ s. d.	Coach Visits—	£ s. d.
Life Subscriptions ...	178 10 0	Net Cost of Coach Hire—Meals, etc. ...	5 8 3
Subscriptions for 1953/54 ...	295 6 6		
	473 16 6		
Other Receipts—		London Meetings—	
Campden Hill Preservation Society ...	20 7 2	Net Cost of Hire of Hall, Chairs, etc. ...	44 13 4
Campden Hill Residents' Fund ...	3 13 6	Printing, Typing and Stationery ...	176 0 2
Sale of Christmas Cards ...	17 8 0	Postages and Telephone Calls ...	51 1 3
Interest on Bank Deposit Account ...	1 1 11	Subscriptions ...	2 2 0
	42 10 7	Bank Charges ...	3 0 0
		Repairs to Sir John Soane's Monument ...	4 12 6
		Sundry Expenses ...	3 8 11
		Balance at 31st August, 1954, represented by—	
		Martins Bank Ltd.:	
		Deposit Account ...	£26 1 11
		Current Account ...	21 8 9
		Post Office Savings Bank ...	178 0 0
			226 0 8
			£516 7 1

NORFOLK HOUSE,  
LAURENCE POUNTNEY HILL,  
LONDON, E.C. 4.

31st August, 1954.

Certified correct.

WRIGHT, STEVENS & LLOYD,  
Chartered Accountants.

## COVENANT

TO THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY.

I, .....  
(name in full)

of .....  
(address)

HEREBY COVENANT with the KENSINGTON SOCIETY that for a period of seven years from the ..... day of ....., 19 ....., or during my life, whichever period shall be shorter, I will pay annually to the said Society such a sum as will after deduction of Income Tax leave in the hands of the Society a net sum of £..... (.....), such sum to be paid from my general fund of taxed income so that I shall receive no personal or private benefit in either of the said periods from the said sum or any part thereof.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this ..... day. Signed, Sealed and Delivered by the said

(Signature of Subscriber) .....

In the presence of

Signature .....

Address .....

Occupation .....

SEAL



THE HON. TREASURER, THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY,

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I wish to become a member of The Kensington Society. I  
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subscription, or, I enclose herewith the sum of £ : s. d.  
for Life Subscription.

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W.8, to the credit of the account of The Kensington Society, my  
subscription of £ : s. d., and continue the same on the  
1st of October annually until further notice.

Signature .....

Address .....

(Mr. or Mrs.) (Title) .....

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if they will fill in the Banker's Order. Cheques should be made  
payable to The Kensington Society.