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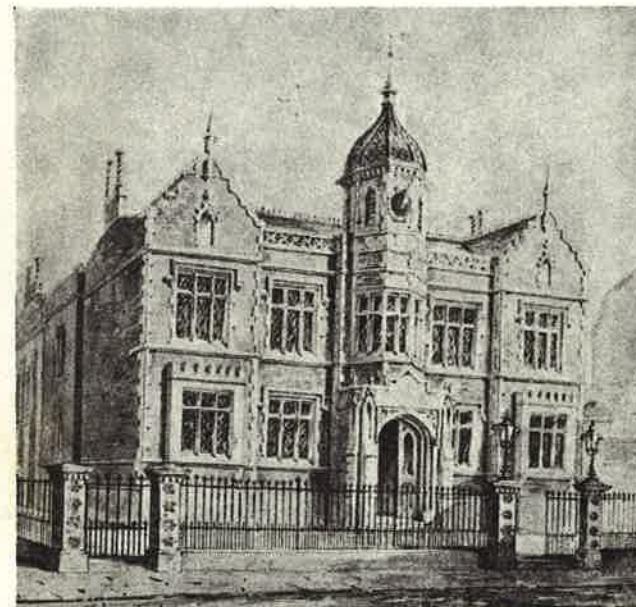


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THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY



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20th
Annual Report

1973-1974

THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY

20th Annual Report
1973-74

The Kensington Society

PATRON

H.R.H. PRINCESS ALICE, COUNTESS OF ATHLONE

PRESIDENT

THE RIGHT HON. LORD HURCOMB, G.C.B., K.B.E.

VICE-PRESIDENTS

THE DOWAGER MARCHIONESS OF CHOLMONDELEY

THE RT. REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF KENSINGTON

THE LADY STOCKS

COUNCIL

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Mr. Hardy Amies

The Rt. Hon. Lord Balfour of Inchrye, P.C., M.C.

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Lord Justice Karminski

Mr. Oliver Messel, C.B.E.

Lady Norman, J.P.

Sir Duncan Oppenheim

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN : MR. EDWARD SEELEY

VICE-CHAIRMAN: MR. IAN GRANT

Mr. Barnabas Brunner

Mrs. G. Christiansen

Mr. P. E. Clarke

Mr. G. F. Dearbergh

Mr. Ian Grant, F.R.I.B.A.

Mr. Keon Hughes

Mr. J. de Vere Hunt

Mr. John Maclay

Dr. Stephen Pasmore

Sir Allan Quartermaine, C.B.E., M.C.

Mr. Edward Seeley

The Lady Stocks

Mr. R. T. D. Wilmot

HON. TREASURER: Mr. Keon Hughes

HON. SECRETARY: Mrs. G. Christiansen

18 Kensington Square, W.8

AUDITORS: Messrs. Wright, Stevens & Lloyd

Annual General Meeting

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held in the Lecture Hall, Kensington Central Library on Wednesday, 16th May, 1973 at 6 p.m.

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The President, The Rt. Hon. Lord Hurcomb, GCB, KBE, was in the Chair, supported by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, The Lady Stocks.

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, previously approved by the Executive Committee and circulated to members in the Annual Report, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

Lady Stocks, in moving the adoption of the Report, said what a pleasure it was to have so readable a Report rather than merely receiving one. The adoption was seconded by Miss Blackie and carried unanimously.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Keon Hughes, presented the Audited Accounts which showed £20 in hand. It was suggested there should be more advertising in the Report to help defray the cost of production, and it was proposed by the Treasurer, seconded by Mr. Gandell, that life subscriptions be raised to £25 and agreed unanimously.

Miss Balian proposed and Miss Hurcomb seconded the re-election of the Officers and Executive Committee for a further twelve months, with the addition of a new nominee, Mr. John Maclay, who had agreed to deal with advertising in the Report.

Mr. Michael Bach asked what had happened since publication of the Report to de Vere Mews, 36 Victoria Road and the Air Terminal. The Hon. Secretary said the Report was very up to date and no further plan for the de Vere Gardens and Mews had been seen. Mr. Bach also asked if the Society intended to put forward any schemes for European Architectural Year 1975. Lady Stocks drew attention to an account of this in the Report.

The Meeting concluded, Mr. R. W. Robson-Smith, Chief Planning Architect, Greater London Council, gave a very comprehensive talk on 'The Pedestrianisation of Areas' illustrated by examples in 14 European and American cities of attempts to ameliorate the problem of traffic *versus* pedestrians, such as allotting space for walkers only, re-routing traffic and widening pavements. Kensington was represented in the survey. Lord Hurcomb thanked Mr. Robson-Smith and Mr. Parker for coming and giving their informative talk.

MEMBERSHIP

For the Society to continue its work effectively, it needs to recruit more members, since its subscriptions are its main source of income. Existing members are urged to introduce new ones to the Society. A membership form appears at the back of this Report and further copies can be had from the Honorary Secretary. Members who have not already done so, are recommended to execute deeds of covenant, which nearly doubles the subscription to the Society without any extra expense to the member. A Deed of Covenant form appears on page 47. The Committee very much hopes that members will make bequests in their Wills to the Society, to enable the Society to accumulate capital, so that a reasonable income may be assured, and so that the work of the Society can expand. Apart from some typing, for which we pay a nominal sum, the Society has no paid help. The time may come when we can no longer depend entirely on voluntary services.

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THE KENSINGTON & CHELSEA BOROUGH COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

As was stated in our last Report, the Council in 1972 established an Environment Advisory Committee with the following terms of reference:

1. To discuss long term development plans affecting the Borough;
2. To discuss the environmental implications of current Committee decisions with a view to making policy recommendations for their future guidance.

The Committee has met four times during the year and the Honorary Secretary has attended each meeting. In June the Society asked that Flyposting should be put on the Agenda. The Report from the Advisory Committee reads as follows:

FLYPOSTING

The Kensington Society have drawn to our attention the problem of flyposting, which is having a detrimental effect on the environment of the Royal Borough.

We understand that under existing legislation, any person owning land on which an unauthorised advertisement is displayed or whole goods etc. are advertised by such advertisements is guilty of an offence. However, it is a defence for that person to prove that the advertisement was displayed without his knowledge or consent. In practice therefore, it has been found that only proceedings against the actual person affixing the poster are likely to be successful.

We feel that this is a matter which should receive the attention of the Council's Enforcement Officers to supplement that action which is taken by the Police. In addition, the Chamber of Commerce representative on our Committee, has undertaken to draw the attention of his members to this problem and to invite their assistance in combating this undesirable practice.

MALBY S. CROFTON,
Chairman.

REFUSE AND LITTER

The Society has constantly, and by constantly I mean weekly and sometimes many times in a week, been in touch with the Council about the cleansing services in the Borough. We have frequently informed

the Council's Enforcement Officers of building materials deposited and left for days on the pavement or roadway. They have been very co-operative and the offending material has been moved without delay.

TREE PLANTING

A tree planting donation of £25 was given to the Kensington Borough Council for tree planting in Princes Place. In March this year two *Pyrus Salicifolia Pendula* were planted by the Society in Kensington Square Garden, commemorating the foundation of the Society in Kensington Square. These trees replaced a weeping ash which fell last year. A similar tree was given to the Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association for planting in their garden.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

There has been a considerable growth of residents' associations during the year—we welcome this development. A number of these associations have become corporate members of the Kensington Society, and we have included Reports from them on page 20. We hope members living in the areas concerned, will support their local associations; there are many things happening in the Borough which we deplore, but which, a Borough-wide organisation such as the Kensington Society has not the time or means to attend to. In these cases, as well as in local surveys etc., a local group we feel can bring more pressure and make a greater impact. We are glad to give them any support we can.

SUMMER AND WINTER SALES

A very successful Gourmet Sale was organised by Mrs. Arthur Foss in June. The Sale was held in the garden at 18 Kensington Square and Mr. Peter Bennett was the Auctioneer.

In December the Honorary Secretary held her usual Christmas Sale. The proceeds from both sales, after expenses, was £354.93. We are very grateful to Mrs. Foss, Mr. Bennett and to other members of the Society who helped to make these sales a success.

DONATIONS

We are grateful to members who have made donations to the Society during the year.

ADVERTISING

The advertising in this Report, organised by Mr. John Maclay, has helped enormously with the cost of producing the Report. We much appreciate the support given by advertisers. Prospective advertisers for our next Report should write to John Maclay, 40 Kensington Square, W.8.

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS

A number of photographs have been taken during the year, particularly

of buildings likely to be demolished, but also of conditions such as flyposting, litter problems and traffic conditions. We are grateful to members for their assistance. A photographic record can be much more forceful and have a greater impact than lengthy correspondence, when we are opposing certain conditions.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION AFFECTING CONSERVATION AREAS AND LISTED BUILDINGS

On January 25th 1974, Sir John Rodgers introduced the Town and Country Amenities Bill. Owing to the dissolution of parliament this now falls to the ground. However, as the Bill had the backing of all parties, we hope that it will be re-introduced.

The Bill incorporated many of the legislative reforms for which we have been pressing. In particular, Clause 1 concerned the requirement of consent for demolition of any building in a conservation area whether or not listed. Clause 2 dealt with the speeding up of the designation of conservation areas, with the power for the Secretary of State to designate and specify areas, within which local authorities would not be able to grant planning permission for demolition without reference to the Secretary of State.

Clause 3 dealt with proposals for the improvement of conservation areas. Clause 4 dealt with special power to restrain advertising where it diminishes the quality of environment. Other important clauses were discussed.

We hope to see this Bill before parliament again. In the Committee Stage we shall urge for the inclusion of a Clause dealing with (1) the change of use of local shops, (2) Music and Dancing licensing to be dealt with by local authorities instead of by County Councils.

The increase of boutiques, take-away food shops and 'so-called antique' unit shops have done much to destroy the amenity of Kensington.

THOMAS HOSMER SHEPHERD 1793-1862 EXHIBITION

It is a pity that this exhibition, arranged by the Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council and held in the Chelsea Library, was not more widely advertised. It was a unique exhibition showing part of the London topographical collection, built up by John Edward Gardner, it was purchased by the Council at Sothebys in 1923.

Mr. John Phillips, BA, Map Curator at the Greater London Record office, in his introduction to the catalogue of the exhibition writes "three factors combine to assure him (Thomas Hosmer Shepherd) an enduring place in London topography: his immense output, amounting to thousands of drawings, his proven accuracy in matters of detail and the precise dates which he inscribed on the majority of his drawings . . . their period flavour enhances, if anything, their value as a record of innumerable aspects of a vanished environment."

We have reproduced by kind permission of the Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council 3 pictures from the Exhibition and we have

asked the Acting Chief Librarian, Mr. Hudson, to consider repeating this exhibition at Leighton House, to enable Kensington residents to enjoy the collection.

THE WEST LONDON TRAFFIC STUDY

This report, prepared by officers of the GLC and of the Borough Councils of Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith and Wandsworth, examines the options open for resolving the longstanding conflict between the claims of traffic and the claims of the residential and shopping environment in the Western part of the Borough now that the West Cross Route has been abandoned. The report is inconclusive and points to the need for further study before a viable long term solution can be put forward; the decision on the siting of the Channel Tunnel terminal will also affect the viability of the various options so far considered. The Borough Council recommends that, for the time being at any rate, the line of the West Cross route be safeguarded so as to keep open the option for building a local relief road. In this, as in their call for further studies, the Society supports the Borough Council. The Society is also suggesting that whilst long term solutions continue to be debated some immediate steps should be taken by way of environmental management to protect the residential roads from the weight of through traffic now directed on to them.

CONSERVATION AREAS

The Society is glad to note that the Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council are reviewing the Conservation Areas with the possible intention of extending a number of areas. The proposals in the Kensington High Street area are as follows:

Kensington Square Conservation Area to extend the eastern boundary to include Kensington Court Place.

Edwardes Square and Scarsdale Conservation Area. Extension to include the west of Earls Court Road bounded by Pembroke Gardens, 150-160 Warwick Road, Warwick Gardens and Pembroke Road; also the east of Earls Court Road bounded by Cope Place, Abingdon Road and Adam & Eve Mews.

De Vere Conservation Area extension to include 1-25 Kensington Court, garages and mews, Prince of Wales Terrace and Cambridge Place.

Kensington Village Conservation Area extension to include 1-37 and 45-51 Hornton Street, Tor Gardens and 74-82 Campden Hill Road.

Pembridge Conservation Area. Proposed extension on the south-west corner would include Clanricarde Gardens and Linden Gardens, and on the south-east the area between the Pembridge and Ladbroke Estate Conservation Areas.

The Bolton Conservation Area Extension is mentioned in the Bolton Association's Report on page 20.

A selection of cases dealt with

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The number of applications referred to the Society by the Planning Department of the Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council are too numerous to list. They have been examined by Mr. Ian Grant, architectural adviser to the Society, by Mrs. Christiansen and other members of the Executive Committee. We again record that it has been of particular satisfaction that in a large number of cases our views have coincided with those of the Council and it has been our pleasure, on a number of occasions, to support the Council's views at Public Inquiries.

In all cases we have adopted an objective view bearing in mind the need for some of the proposed development. Our main concern has been and is to ensure that such development is not detrimental to amenity and is in keeping with the surrounding neighbourhood.

The National Theatre Site.—A suggestion was put forward to erect a monument to the victims of the Katyn massacre in the triangle opposite the above site. The Society thought this might prejudice the development of the site and suggested that St. Luke's Churchyard, Chelsea, might be a more suitable site. Tentative enquiries were made about the development of the National Theatre site by the erection of a Conservation Centre for the Wildlife Fund. The Society has asked the Council that the development on this important site should be a building of the very highest architectural merit and in scale with the surrounding buildings.

Channel Tunnel—London Passenger Terminal.—The Society has given careful consideration to the proposed siting of the terminal at White City and is of the opinion that it will have far reaching consequences. It is expected to generate a traffic flow of 20,000 vehicles a day in the North South direction of West London. The Society has written to the Secretary of State for the Environment stating its views that the siting of the terminal at White City will be an environmental disaster for the adjoining areas and asking that he will call in the plans (this would result in a public inquiry).

Site bounded by Cromwell Road, Gloucester Road, Courtfield Road and Ashburn Place, S.W.7.—There have been a number of schemes for the

redevelopment of this site, which have been opposed by the Society as an overdevelopment, in particular of office content. The current plan has recently been approved by the Council, subject to a number of conditions and to the direction of the Greater London Council. This scheme is the result of revision of an earlier scheme. The high building has been omitted, the pure office content has been reduced from 198,000 sq. ft. to 178,000 sq. ft. and the plot ratio reduced from 4:1 to 3.5:1. The Council held a public meeting in November and, as a result of comments made at this meeting, further conditions were imposed, restricting some car parking space and prohibiting the shop units proposed by the developer. In general it appeared that the scheme was acceptable.

114 *Cromwell Road*, 9-25 *Grenville Place*, 1-25 *Emperor's Gate*, 1-7 *McLeods Mews* and the adjacent railway cutting.—An application was made to the Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council to develop the above cleared site by 156,000 sq. ft. of offices, 68,000 sq. ft. of residential accommodation and 37,000 sq. ft. of special commercial and car parking use. The Society thought this was a gross overdevelopment of the site, showing no respect for the character or scale of the area, and strenuously opposed the application.

Queen's Gate.—The Royal College of Art applied for permission to demolish 25 Kensington Gore and 197-200 Queen's Gate. The Executive Committee was invited by Sir Hugh Casson and Mr. Cadbury Brown to discuss the proposed scheme. The College intended preserving the Norman Shaw house, 196 Queen's Gate, and, to build the new building in brick to harmonise with it and the other buildings in Kensington Gore. The Society decided to oppose the scheme to the Westminster City Council (this side of Queen's Gate is in the Westminster area) and to ask the Kensington Borough Council to support the Kensington Society's views. It was felt that Queen's Gate from the North was a street of predominantly stucco houses of considerable grandeur. The Westminster Council invited the Society to a meeting to discuss the scheme, and subsequently they refused planning permission. We understand that it is likely to be a subject of a public inquiry.

Tennis Courts, Holland Park.—The Greater London Council proposed to make four hard tennis courts at the Southern end of Holland Park, adjacent to the boundary wall of the Commonwealth Institute. The President, Lord Hurcomb, and the Hon. Secretary met Mr. Sebag Montefiore, the Chairman of the Greater London Council's Arts and Recreation Committee and officers of the Greater London Council on the site. It was subsequently agreed by the Greater London Council to reduce the number to two courts.

Gaumont Cinema.—An application was made to demolish this building. The Hon. Secretary, members of the Kensington Theatre

Council and members of the Kensington Borough Council met Sir Geoffrey Rippon, the Secretary of State for the Environment, and pressed for its preservation. Subsequently the Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council directed under Section 8 of the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act 1972 that the building should not be demolished and the Secretary of State confirmed this direction.

The Kensington Theatre Council was formed from a body of distinguished residents interested in the future of the building. They have recently had friendly talks with the Rank Organisation about the possibility of restoring the cinema to its original use as a theatre.

Biba Ltd., Kensington High Street.—The Society strongly opposed the application by the above firm for a licence for music and dancing to 2 a.m. including Sundays. Mr. Edward Seeley represented the Kensington Society, three other residents were represented by Counsel, and, approximately 70 residents opposing the licence, attended the hearing. The application was partly granted. An application for the renewal of the licence and for the licence to be extended to cover the use of the roof restaurant and the terrace is pending. The Society will again be represented at the hearing by Mr. Edward Seeley and will oppose the application.

24 *Aubrey Walk*.—Additional storey opposed by the Society. Planning permission has been given by the Council.

25/27 *Ovington Square*.—Application for additional storey and to convert the premises to provide 17 residential units opposed by the Society, who felt the design was not in sympathy with the Victorian character of the front elevations of the existing buildings.

101 *Gloucester Road, S.W.7*.—The Society has written to the Borough Council and to the Secretary of State for the Environment to spot list this building, which is a good example of a Victorian purpose-made butcher's shop. We have also written to the London Museum suggesting that the shop front should be removed and preserved in the new museum building.

36 *Victoria Road*.—Opposed application for redevelopment of this site by the erection of a three-floor and semi-basement building comprising two houses, a penthouse flat and two garages. Subsequently refused by the Council. A new plan to convert the house to two dwellings has recently been passed by the Council. This was not opposed by the Society.

27 *Campden Street*.—The Society supported the Campden Street Preservation Society in opposing an application for additional storey.

45 *Beauchamp Place*.—Opposed application for an additional storey for office use. It has since been refused planning permission.

13-14 *Lansdowne Walk*.—Application for infilling between these two houses was strongly opposed by the Society. This has now been refused planning permission.

1 *Gordon Place*.—Conversion of existing building to five self-contained units and erection of a six-storey rear extension. The Society opposed the application, the Council has refused planning permission.

185-187 *Brompton Road*, 60, 61, 62 *Beauchamp Place*, 20 *Ovington Mews*.—Application for building six floors—storage, shops, show-rooms, offices and six flats opposed by the Society.

66 *Campden Street*, 50 *Bedford Gardens* and 48 *Bedford Gardens*.—The Society supported the Campden Street Preservation Society in opposing the application to build two houses in these gardens.

Golly's Garage site, junction of Cromwell and Earls Court Road.—Application for planning permission for 13 storey hotel and a 10 storey office and residential block very strongly opposed by the Society as a gross overdevelopment of the site. Planning permission has since been refused.

299-315 *Fulham Road*.—The Society opposed the application for outline planning permission to develop this site for shopping showroom and office purposes. Planning permission has been refused.

A.B.C. Cinema, 142 *Fulham Road*.—Application for permission to convert into four cinemas, restaurant and squash courts opposed by the Society as having a detrimental effect on a residential area.

174-178 *Fulham Road* and 2 *Gilston Road*.—Application to develop for shopping, showroom and offices. Opposed by the Society and since refused planning permission by the Council.

Kensington Church Walk.—The Society has been concerned about the future of Church Walk and has made representation to the Council and to the Ministry of Environment. As we go to press we are glad to hear that the Council has made Church Walk subject to a Directive under Section 8 of the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act 1972.

POSTSCRIPT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In July 1973 B.I.B.A. Ltd. applied for an extension of the music and dancing licence for the 5th floor restaurant at the Derry and Toms building (capacity 900 persons) from midnight to 2 a.m. and for a licence on Sundays to midnight. The Society opposed this application on the grounds that the building is adjacent to residential areas, that a nuisance would be caused by car parking and by people arriving and

leaving and also because, having regard to its size, there would be a loss of amenity to the neighbourhood. The application was opposed by the Borough Council, several other amenity societies and by nearly 100 individual objectors. In spite of these objections and the fact that the applicant had no supporters the G.L.C., which is the licencing authority, granted the application.

At the end of the year, applications were made for the renewal of the licences for the restaurant and for licences for other parts of the 5th floor and for the roof garden restaurant till 2 a.m. for every day including Sundays. The Society again opposed the grant of the licences until that hour. It was particularly concerned about the possibility that noise from the roof garden would cause a nuisance to nearby residents. The G.L.C. granted licences for the 5th floor restaurant till 2 a.m. on Monday to Friday and on Saturday nights until the hour on Sunday to which liquor licences are available, for the roof garden restaurant until midnight and for both restaurants on Sundays until 5 p.m.

The Society is concerned at the apparent disregard by the G.L.C. of the strong representations made by it on behalf of the residents. So far, the restaurant has been used only to a limited extent and not beyond midnight and the roof garden restaurant has not been used by B.I.B.A. Ltd. at all and so the Society has been unable to bring direct evidence of nuisance although we consider that our fears are well-founded. The Borough Council informed the G.L.C. that it did not intend to object to the proposed licences and did not attend the second hearing. This was regrettable since, 9 months earlier, on the same facts, the Council had objected on the grounds that the grant of the licences would be detrimental to the neighbourhood. Not surprisingly, this was a matter for comment by the G.L.C. who also commented on the smaller number of individual objectors at the second hearing. Their absence was understandable; previously they had come in force and their views had apparently been disregarded and no doubt they felt that it was not worth coming again but the attendance of a strong body of objectors must help and we hope that if, in the light of experience, residents have reason to complain they will register objections with the G.L.C. (not merely with the Hon. Secretary of the Society) and attend the hearing when these licences again fall for renewal at the end of this year.

Meanwhile, if residents have cause to complain of noise from the roof garden they should get in touch with the G.L.C. (Miss Childs—tel: 633 4626) who have promised immediately to send round an inspector, and also send particulars to the Hon. Secretary.

Kensington High Street Development

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The Society's Annual Report for 1972-1973 referred to Borough Council's intention to produce and publish a further statement of policy and guidelines for future development in the area of Kensington High Street.

Unfortunately at the time of going to press its further statement is not available for comment although it is understood that a considerable amount of work has been done upon it.

It is to be hoped that the statement, when published, will be in terms which discourage developers from proposing widespread and large scale redevelopment in the area.

There may be little in the High Street itself which cries out for preservation on the grounds of architectural or historical interest or value but, adjoining it there are areas—residential and open space—which would be very much affected by high or bulky development and by any substantial change to uses which generate additional traffic and other activity at all hours of the day and night, or which tend to encourage traders to turn from the needs of local residents and to concentrate their attention on the custom of tourists, visitors and office workers who commute from far outside the area. A case for preservation might well be made on the basis that it is desirable to retain the present identity of the High Street, however imperfect, rather than lose it under a mass of the new but uninteresting architecture which makes it so difficult to distinguish one suburban high street from any other.

It is certainly possible to envisage redevelopment of parts of the High Street area in a way which would greatly improve it; but, whilst developers make extravagant claims that, to be 'economically viable', their developments must be tall or bulky or both and contain a large element of profitable office space, wholesale redevelopment could well produce the reverse of the desired improvements.

The principal projects going forward in the area remain, as last year, those on the sites of Pontings and on and near the Odeon. The Society's views on these are that the Pontings site is suited for a substantial development which could include offices, but that the Odeon site is not. New and revised planning proposals for both sites are awaited.

G. DEARBERGH

Other activities and future arrangements

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OTHER ACTIVITIES

H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone and Patron of the Kensington Society graciously received members at a Private Reception at the London Museum, Kensington Palace. By courtesy of the Trustees and Director arrangements were made for a private view of 'London in the Thirties' Exhibition. May 8th: A visit was made to Sissinghurst Castle. June 8th: The Lord Hurcomb, President of the Society, arranged for members to visit the Library at the House of Lords, where the Librarian, Mr. C. S. Dobson, had kindly arranged a display of documents and special books. Tea was taken in the Cholmondeley Room. June 14th: A very successful Gourmet Auction was organised by Mrs. Arthur Foss, and, took place in the garden at 18 Kensington Square. July 3rd: A visit to Squerrys Court, Westerham, on a day not normally open to the public. September 4th: A visit to the new Stock Exchange building which included a short film and a visit to the galleries where guides explained the scene on the Trading Floor. September 11th: A visit to The Vyne, Basingstoke, on a day not normally open to the public.

FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

MARCH 26th, 2.30 p.m. Visit to the Royal College of Organists, Kensington Gore, S.W.7 by kind permission of Mr. K. B. Lyndon who has also arranged for Miss Marsden Thomas, an Exhibitioner of the College and current holder of the Henry Richards prize for Organ Playing, to give a short recital.

APRIL 30th, 2 p.m. Visit to the Jewish Museum, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1. Mr. Phineas L. May will very kindly talk to members about the exhibits.

MAY 7th, 3 p.m. Visit to the Royal School of Needlework, 25 Princes Gate, S.W.7. The Director, Mr. David Lloyd, has kindly agreed to show members examples of work being undertaken by the School and give a short talk on the history of the Royal School of Needlework.

MAY 21st, 6 p.m. In the Orangery, Holland Park, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed at 6.30 p.m. by a talk by Mr. Simon Jenkins, Features Editor, '*Evening Standard*'. Subject: 'Does it Help to Protest?' Chairman, The Rt. Hon. Lord Hurcomb.

JUNE 22nd. A visit to Mersham-Le-Hatch, Kent. Mansion owned by Lord Brabourne and at present occupied by the Caldecote Community. Tea will be given at Swanton Mill by Mrs. Christiansen who has restored this water mill which is now working. Coach leaves Kensington Square at 1 p.m. Tickets £2.50.

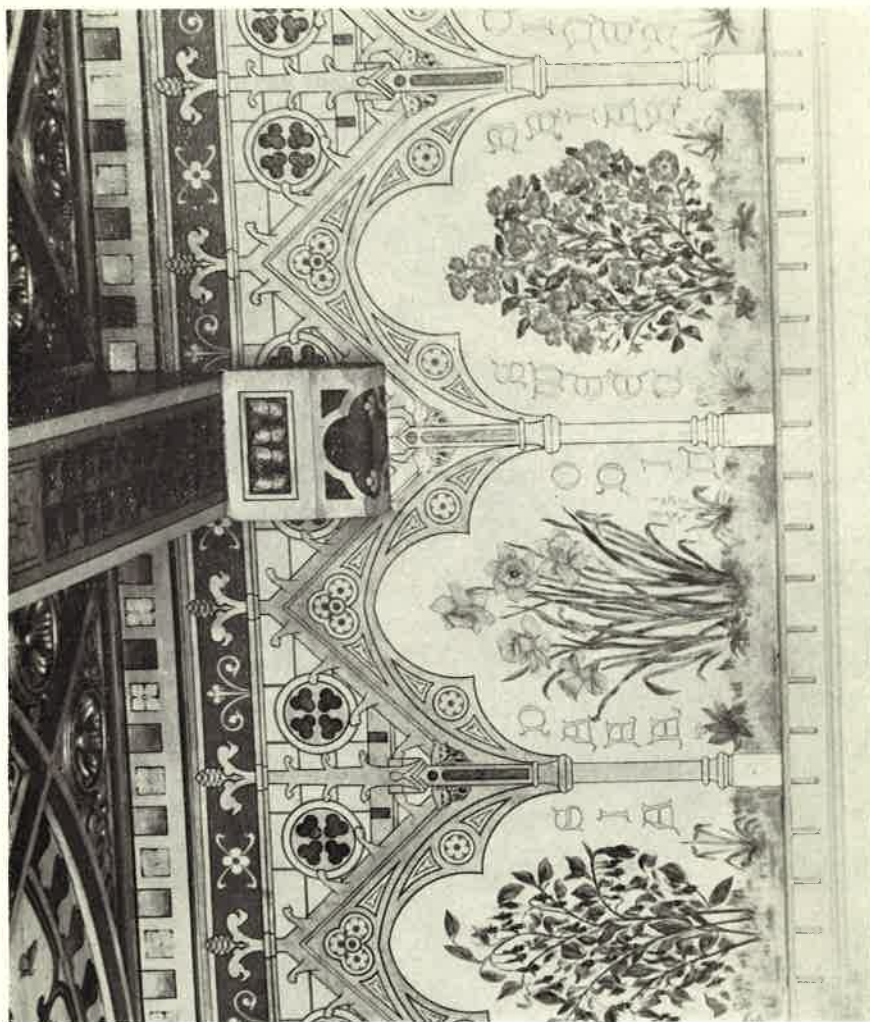
JULY 9th. Visit by kind permission of Mr. Paul Getty to Sutton Place, Guildford, not normally opened to the public. Coach leaves Kensington Square at 1.15 p.m. Tickets £2.50.

AUGUST 12th. Visit to the Royal Holloway College, Englefield Green. Some of the finest Victorian pictures can be seen in the Gallery. Coach leaves Kensington Square at 1.15 p.m. Tickets £2.50.

SEPTEMBER 2nd. Visit to The Royal Horticultural Society Gardens, Wisley. Coach leaves Kensington Square at 1.15 p.m. Tickets £2.50.



THE TOWER HOUSE



TOWER HOUSE
The 'Butterfly Room'

Tower House, Melbury Road

Kenneth Campbell of Campbell Smith & Co. Ltd.

We are pleased to have been invited to contribute this article on the practical work with which we have been involved during our restorations of the interior decorations to Tower House which we commenced in 1966.

The restoration has been of exceptional interest to our firm as the original decorations were carried out for William Burges by our Founder, Charles Campbell, between 1875 and 1880.

Until the early 1960's the house and interior had been in a remarkably intact state and the decorations well preserved.

A short period when the house was unoccupied proved disastrous as considerable damage was done by vandalism which necessitated the complete restoration. The house had long been considered of historic interest and when it was known that the original decorations were still in existence we were invited to restore our original work.

After sixteen years in the decorating trade, Charles Campbell founded the firm of Campbell and Smith in 1873. He had been trained in architecture and art by William Burges and Sir Edward Poynter, R.A., who carried out most of Burges's art work.

It was Burges's encouragement which prompted him to launch out on his own account as a decorator and the new firm was soon at work painting Burges's furniture and carrying out the practical work in accordance with his decorative designs. We were engaged extensively on the interior decorations in Cardiff Castle and Castel Coch (which are still in a wonderful state of preservation) and other residencies of the third Marquis of Bute who was a great patron of Burges and ourselves.

When Burges decided to build his own house in Kensington it was natural that we should be invited to take part in the decorations.

The present restoration of Tower House commenced in 1966 and has continued intermittently ever since. We are at present engaged in making and decorating an eight foot diameter circular table for the dining room. The elaborately painted top is our own reflection of the ceiling above, which Burges designed and had produced in stove enamel. The design has a central figure representing the sun god around which are eight circles containing representations of seven planets and the moon. Surrounding these are sun rays and twelve

circles with the signs of the Zodiac. The whole is set in a formal cloud design.

Our first efforts in the house were directed towards repairing the wanton damage to the carvings and decorations, such as remodelling and replacing the heads which had been broken off the little carved figures on the fireplace overmantel in the library. These figures represent the dispersal of the parts of speech at the time of the tower of Babel.

The doors to the extensive bookshelves and cupboards around the walls of the library, were originally painted with decorative motifs and figures representing twenty-six professions and trades in architecture, art and building—one for each letter of the alphabet. These had been badly damaged and many wrenched from their hinges and strewn on the floor. We removed all the doors and some of the drawers, repaired them and repainted the decorative designs as the lower halves of the doors. The figure paintings were cleaned, restored, touched up and revarnished.

One of the benches by the fireplace had disappeared. We made a new one to match the existing one with decoration and upholstery.

The ceiling panels were covered with paper which we carefully removed and exposed the idealised portraits of the founders of the different systems of theology and law. These were carefully cleaned and varnished for protection.

The Music Room, or Drawing Room has been the scene of a major restoration. The large painted frieze around the room, the theme of which was 'the tender passion of love' had been lost. This has been entirely repainted on canvas by our own designers in our studio and attached to the frieze.

The ceiling was not originally completed although full size drawings had been produced by Burges at some time or other. There is an old photograph of this in existence which shews the full size cartoons pinned to the ceiling. Based on this photograph and the wonderfully preserved drawings in the custody of the Royal Institute of British Architects we were able to paint this ceiling to the decorative scheme as Burges intended.

The walls had been decorated to the original scheme but were too badly damaged for restoration and were completely repainted. The treatment here is interesting in as much as the effect is of panelling with gilded panel moulds but is produced by means of painting the surface with a rich dark green and gold leaf lines to simulate panelling. A new long fixed settee has been installed with upholstered squabs which provides the only seating for this room. Burges indicated on his drawings some such seating arrangement and we have endeavoured to retain this character.

The painted doors each side of the fireplace are most beautiful and

it is thought that they were once the doors to a cabinet Burges designed for elsewhere.

The ceiling of the first floor landing, the panels of which had been painted on paper, has been carefully cleaned. The ribs, bosses and comice repainted. The masonry block effect formed of painted lines and motifs on the walls had been obliterated, and with the aid of the original drawings has been entirely reinstated. The walls to the ground floor hall and whole staircase have been repainted in this manner.

A concession to modern domestic convenience has been allowed by the formation of modern toilets, but with carefully chosen 'Victorian' fittings. An interesting part of these works is the bathroom adjoining the 'Butterfly' bedroom. This has been panelled in dark stained mahogany with gilded fillets to panel mouldings and incorporates a storage unit based on an apothecaries cupboard.

The front first floor bedroom, known as the 'Butterfly' bedroom had lost a most beautiful frieze of formalised flowers and this has been entirely replaced. The frieze with paintings of various wild flowers enclosed in gilded canopies was painted on canvas in our studio and then attached to the walls. The pattern of butterflies on the ceiling was carefully cleaned and the amusing little paintings of mice and frogs repainted on the sides of the beams.

The 'Mermaid' bedroom on the first floor rear, which was Burges's own bedroom, has had major restoration. The only sections left as original were the 'wave' frieze and the modelled figure of a mermaid to the chimney piece. Many of the convex mirrors and gilded rays set into the ceiling were remade and replaced in position.

The armoury situated next to the 'Mermaid' bedroom, which has a connecting door, was not decorated in any grand manner although we have now painted the beams and supporting brackets in a fashion sympathetic with the character of decoration throughout the house.

The upper floor of the house has two interesting chimney pieces. One illustrates Jack and the Beanstalk and the other has three monkeys juggling with a pattern of cords and tassels. Both these chimney pieces have been fully coloured and gilded in the manner carried throughout the house.

On this same floor a new room has now been created and takes the form of a 'walk-in' wardrobe. This has been constructed in a Gothic character and is fully decorated and gilded.

Reports from Local Societies

THE BOLTONS ASSOCIATION

The Association has been established for three years and the Executive Committee of the Association feel that 1973 has been a good year. Our membership stands at just over 220 and we hope to increase this during the current year. Additional areas have been added to the Boltons Conservation Area. These include Cavaye Place, Redcliffe Road and certain areas to the north and south of Old Brompton Road between the Boltons and Dove Mews.

We have strengthened our relationship with both Councillors and Officers of Kensington & Chelsea Borough Council. As an Association we are frequently being consulted by the Council, the applicants and local residents in the very early stages of planning applications. During the year we have investigated and commented on nearly 100 planning applications. We have started environmental studies and have been successful in our requests to the Council to bring virtually the entire area within full planning control.

There has been pressure from residents to persuade the Council to reduce through traffic from the Conservation Area and thereby reduce the risk of accidents, which at present occur all too frequently. A study group has been set up by the Association to discuss this problem and possible solutions with the Council.

The Annual General Meeting was held on March 27th, 1974. *Chairman:* Mrs. I. L. E. Austin-Smith. *Hon. Treasurer:* Lord Cardross. *Hon. Secretary:* Mrs. J. Wheeler. Telephone for the Association 734 6161.

CAMPDEN STREET PRESERVATION SOCIETY

The Society has completed ten years of existence and the tenth year has been its busiest. Of twelve planning applications affecting the Street only one has been granted in opposition to our wishes and the detrimental impact is not serious. Of the remainder, two have not yet come before the Planning Committee, three were granted subject to modifications which largely satisfied our criticisms, three contained no threat to our amenities and three were refused. In the case of one of the refusals (the important matter of 66 Campden Street) the developer appealed and the Inspector's findings have not yet been announced. This result is a reward for the vigorous participation of individual members and shows that it is worth while to protest when amenity is

threatened. Over the past decade there has developed a much more sympathetic response from the Authority to informed and constructive local criticism of proposals which could be damaging to this Conservation Area. Sub. 50p per household. *Hon. Secretary:* J. D. Williams, 51 Campden Street, W8 7ET, 01-727 5220.

EDWARDES SQUARE AND SCARSDALE ASSOCIATION

The Association has been active both on matters of concern only to the immediate conservation area and on others of more general interest.

Amongst the former we have been largely instrumental in having a section 8 preservation order put on part of a terrace in Abingdon Road threatened with re-development; we have organized a traffic count, carried out by pupils from Holland Park school in conjunction with the Council, of the Tara Hotel buses using residential streets and finally, and most important, the Council has just agreed to our suggestion that this Conservation Area should be enlarged. In fact we have almost doubled our size and hope to double the number of our members.

On less parochial issues our main energy has been directed to the Kensington High Street Study Group. Extremely useful meetings have been held between Association members, Council officers, developers and others interested in the future of the High Street. *Hon. Secretary:* Lady Brown, 3 Alma Terrace, W.8. 01-937 3779.

ONSLow NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Association has completed its first full year of operation. This has been a busy time. First and foremost we have benefited from the Council's policy of participation with local bodies. We have had the opportunity to comment upon town planning applications for our area and to discuss environmental problems with the officers of the Borough Planning Department. We are indebted to them for their interest and to the Planning Committee for encouraging this dialogue.

Our other activities have included detailed comment upon the Council's revised tree preservation schedule; the creation of a 'zone of mutual concern' covering the area between the two halves of the Conservation Area shared with the Thurloe and Egerton Association and including the important South Kensington Station site; the holding of the Association's first general meeting when a large attendance was enthralled by Mr. Ashley Barker's history of the 'listing of buildings up to the present day'; application is being made to the Department of the Environment for the 'listing' of further terraces in the area; the issue of two Newsletters to the members. A second meeting has had to be postponed because of the General Election.

There is still much to be done and more help is needed. Please contact the *Honorary Secretary*, H. R. Brady, Esq., 16 Selwood Terrace, London, SW7 3QG.

NORLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

This year we have felt it important to concentrate on the 'enhancement' aspects of conservation, by devising policies to anticipate change, rather than simply reacting to it.

Taking European Architectural Heritage Year as our cue, we have canvassed support for a radical facelift of Royal Crescent, including replacement of architectural features, uniform redecoration, replacement of railings round the gardens, and landscaping of the pavement on the garden side of the road. Enthusiasm has been widespread, though people are less thrilled with the idea of replacing the garden railings. But so far, the economic crisis has made people reluctant to finally commit themselves.

Secondly, we have made a survey of listed buildings in Norland, and prepared recommendations for the Council as to new listings, up-gradings and Section 8 Directions.

Thirdly, we have carried out a tree survey, and agreed with the Council where new trees should be planted in our streets. Further steps are now being taken with the Council—a survey and recommendations as to Tree Preservation Orders.

Meanwhile Rowe Housing Trust's ugly development in Princes Place is growing apace. A few months ago, we discovered the conditions of the planning consent concerning preparation and approval of tree planting plans had not been adhered to. Now plans are available, but the proposals will so overdevelop the site as to make significant tree planting impossible. We are nonetheless grateful to the Kensington Society for a contribution of £25 towards the cost of trees in Princes Place, and will do our utmost to see the Society gets value for money! *Chairman:* Clive Wilson, 52 St. James's Gardens, London, W.11. Telephone 01-603 3610.

THURLOE AND EGERTON ASSOCIATION

In January the Association adopted a formal constitution, appointed its President (Lord Ritchie of Dundee, P.C.) and officers and was registered as a Charity.

The area encompassed is the northern half of Conservation Area No. 1 running from Harrods to South Kensington Station and bounded on the north by Brompton Road/Cromwell Gardens and on the south by Walton Street and Pelham Street. The Association works closely with the Onslow Residents' Association in the southern half of the same Conservation Area, and is a corporate member of the West London Architectural Society. It supports an active local group within its area, The Ovington Residents' Committee. A new recruitment drive is under way and the Association would particularly welcome members who already belong to the Kensington Society.

All planning applications affecting the area are considered and the committee aims to maintain close contact with the Council. Matters of current concern include the old National Theatre site, the South Kensington Station site and the general problem of conversions and roof top additions, particularly in the 'red-brick' Egertons.

A complete photographic survey of the area has been carried out and will it is hoped be valuable as a record and as an aid in formulating forward planning policies in conjunction with the Council.

Tree preservation orders are under discussion with the Council and an effort is being made to tackle the constant problem of refuse and litter. Susan Walker, ARIBA, 95 Walton Street, S.W.3. 01-584 9020.

The History of Edwardes Square, Kensington

(Continued)

PAST PRESIDENTS

by H. Stephen Pasmore

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Based on a talk given to the Kensington Society on the 25th November 1955

On the 2nd July 1819 an Act of Parliament was passed for the maintenance of Edwardes Square, on which building had begun in 1811, and amongst the original twenty-two trustees appointed to administer the provisions of the Act were William à Beckett, Augustino Aglio, John Hanson and Daniel Sutton.

WILLIAM À BECKETT was a solicitor, an administrator and a reformer. He drafted the original constitution for the Square. He lived at 1 Leonard Place facing the High Street (now Leonard Court), and had his offices at 20 Broad Street, Golden Square. He was a captain in the Royal Westminster Volunteers, a body he had helped to reorganise to resist a possible Napoleonic invasion.

He had two sons who were to become eminent later, Sir William as Chief Justice of Victoria, and Gilbert Abbot as a journalist and popular comic writer on the original staff of *Punch*.

AUGUSTINO AGLIO was an artist, decorator and lithographer, who lived at 15 Edwardes Square from 1814 to 1820. Aglio came to England from Italy in 1803 to assist the architect, William Wilkins, R.A., in his production of a book about the antiquities of Sicily. Later Aglio was employed as a decorator of churches, of country mansions in England and Ireland, and of theatres, such as the Opera House and Drury Lane, and of buildings like the Pantheon in Oxford Street.

He had several books published including *Architectural Ornaments from the Antique*, and a collection of his lithographs of Trees.

JOHN HANSON was Byron's solicitor and had moved into the Square from Bloomsbury in 1816, having been a previous Kensington resident in 1797 when he bought the house in Earls Court which had belonged to the famous surgeon and anatomist, John Hunter, and where Byron used to stay during his holidays from Harrow School. Mr. Hanson first lived at 12 Edwardes Square West, now No. 37, and left the Square in 1820.

DANIEL SUTTON was a property dealer, who had sold his interests in his carpet manufacturing firm in Wilton, and had bought several houses in the Square.

Two other early residents must be mentioned, Mrs. Inchbald and Ugo Foscolo.

MRS. ELIZABETH INCHBALD, friend of the Kembles and of Mrs. Siddons, author of a well-known novel about a Catholic priest called *The Simple Story*, which Lytton Strachey described as being better than Fanny Burney's *Evelina* due to its restricted vision and interesting style; actress and playwright; editor of *The British Theatre*; described by William Godwin to Mrs. Shelley as a 'piquante mixture between a lady and a milkmaid' and by Charles Lamb to Allsopp as 'the only endurable clever women he had ever met'; wrote her friend Mrs. Opie in November 1816 'I am now once again living something like a lady; and on Earls Terrace, opposite Holland House, Kensington, where I hope you will call and see me, as usual, when you come to London'. Mrs. Inchbald was staying at No. 4 Earl's Terrace, which was run as a boarding house by a Miss Hodges. 'I have a hot joint every day at four,' wrote Mrs. Inchbald on another occasion, 'in company with five ladies, some a few years younger, and some my own age. Take warning by me, and do not come at dinner-time.' The next year Mrs. Inchbald moved to another boarding house in Leonard Place, and then on to Kensington House, a Catholic retreat, opposite the gateway to Kensington Palace, where she died in 1821. Mrs. Inchbald, who had been born in 1756 and been left a widow at the age of 26, achieved a great reputation in her day for her charm and beauty, her acting and her writing. Her biographer, James Boaden, wrote that she was 'a figure that could not be seen without some degree of astonishment for its loveliness—tall, slender, straight, of the purest complexion, and most beautiful features; her hair of a gold auburn, her eyes full at once of spirit and sweetness . . .' Mrs. Inchbald first appeared in a play at Covent Garden in 1780 after 9 years on the stage, and continued to act there for another 9 years. There is an amusing story told about her when she was rehearsing a play at Covent Garden, when the handsome Mr. Harris was the manager. Mrs. Inchbald called on Mr. Harris at his house in Knightsbridge to discuss her play, and after the discussion he made violent advances towards her. She seized him by the hair and pulled hard till he desisted. She then rushed out of his house to the green room at Covent Garden where she wildly told her story with that slight stammer from which she always suffered, 'Oh, if he had wo-worn a wig, I had been ru-ruined'. Mrs. Inchbald wrote 19 plays in all which were produced regularly at either Covent Garden or the Haymarket.

UGO FOSCOLO, a famous Italian patriot, scholar and poet lived in the Square from 1817 to 1818, having taken a room at No. 19. Foscolo, who long fought for the independence of Italy, had been a republican agitator in his youth in Venice and wrote an Ode to Napoleon when he invaded

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Italy, but had been bitterly disappointed later when the French handed over the government of Venice to the Austrians. Some 10 years later when the French power was collapsing, he was again agitating for independence in Italy, but decided to become an exile when the Austrians returned to Milan. When Foscolo reached England he was welcomed to the Holland House Circle where Lord Holland described him as one of the cleverest men he had ever seen. But Foscolo, who if contradicted at a dinner party was liable to get up from the table and stamp about the room with a knife in his hand, did not seem to enjoy the same confidence with Lady Holland. He was once heard to say that he would prefer to go to hell with his Lordship than to heaven with Lady Holland. His secretary, Mr. Hall, said it was dangerous to play a game of chess with him for 'if he were beaten he would throw the men about, and sometimes tear his long straggling hair, so as to leave much of it in his own hands'. Foscolo's reputation in this country did not last long, and his erratic nature led to his downfall. He died in poverty and obscurity in Chiswick in 1827.

ROBERT BLISS. Mention must be made of Robert Bliss, a retired bookseller from Oxford, who came to live with his wife at 22 Edwardes Square in 1832. His eldest daughter, Martha, had married Dr. William Crotch, the first Principal of the Royal Academy of Music, and a composer and talented amateur artist. Crotch's charming sketches of the Square, which can be seen in the archives of the Norfolk and Norwich Record Office in Norwich, must have been done after visiting his in-laws at No. 22.

THOMAS CARLYLE, essayist and historian, was never a resident of the Square, but his efforts to become a resident in 1834 must be recorded, for it may have been his influence that led to his friend Leigh Hunt, of Chelsea, becoming the Square's most illustrious resident 6 years later.

On the 17th May 1834, Carlyle then aged 39, wrote a long letter to his wife from his lodgings in Grays Inn Road. He had decided to leave his home at Craigenputtock in the south-west of Scotland to seek greater opportunities for his literary career in London, so he set out alone to look for a house in May in the mistaken belief that leases could only be negotiated once a year at Whitsun. His wife stayed behind to organise the packing.

'Dearest Heart', he wrote, 'Here I am once more seated, by this old rickety table, where you have so often sat looking over on me . . .'. He then describes his journey by steamboat down the Solway Firth to the Clarence Dock at Liverpool, and then how he mounted the old *Umpire* Coach at noontide on the Monday and bowled off towards London at one stretch. How he sat on the coachbox with the breeze on his right cheek and failed to protect himself with his brand new umbrella from the dirtiest little chill drizzle that began at midnight when passing through Warwickshire and turned to rain a little later on. And

how he entered the huge monstrosity of a London, thro' the Arch of Holloway, with a kind of defiance at two o'clock the following afternoon.

That same dirty evening he 'strode off to Bayswater' to see Mrs. Austin of Orme Square, 'a true Germanised spiritual screamikin', about finding a house in Kensington and was glad the one she had tried to secure for him at 4 Holland Street had fallen through. 'A dirty little crooked street . . . the whole district seemed to me confused, muddy, mournfully inferior to our ideas'. The next day Carlyle returned to Mrs. Austin's house in Bayswater and found the celebrated Mrs. Jamieson on the point of arriving. 'Would she have never arrived!' He eventually escaped and walked through Kensington Gardens towards Edwardes Square.

'Edward's Square (for so they pronounce it)' continued Carlyle, 'has a beautiful grass-square in the centre; houses small but neat . . . One house was to be let, in the worst place of the Square, rather dilapidated looking, but which would be thoroughly repaired; rent £35, fixtures included; four stories of the smallest dimensions (which I have measured since); two kitchens, dining room with folding doors, drawing-room above, back room (divided by a wall from this), where our big Bed might by possibility stand, for the height is 9 feet 7½ inches; upper storey 8 feet 1 inch high, which seems the despicable universal height of such houses here. Will you (lest I forget it again) measure our bed, I mean our own new Bed, and also one of the back-room ones, and see whether they can stand in such a height. I hope, they can. Almost all houses have in the back kitchen a set-boiler ("copper") for washing, that room being the "washing-house", an excellent kitchen-grate of the kind you talked of, and a dresser or dresserkin as we shall think it; these, with the grates, and so me other trifles (sometimes, they say even with bells!) constitute "the fixtures". It is reckoned a great point to get them included in the rent.' Carlyle added that he was not very enthusiastic about the house, but arranged to return the following evening to see George Cochrane, editor of the *Foreign Quarterly Review*, who lived in the Square and also the landlord of the house he had just seen.

He then made his 'sorrowful way thro' narrow hedge-lanes and cottages ornamental and cottages squalid; thro' Brompton, towards Chelsea and Cheyne Row where he found the Leigh Hunt household. Carlyle later got an omnibus to Temple Bar and 'came hirpling home'. Next morning he returned to Chelsea and then made his way back to Edwardes Square after dinner. He called at No. 39 where Cochrane lived and was invited in by his wife 'till he should return home from some "trustee meeting", where both he and the landlord were. She shewed me over her house which . . . looked really quite "a gem" . . . Cochrane staid long, and had to be sent for . . . He gave me a cup of tea and abundance of Scottish and English news; and, to my question, an affirmation that he was still disposed to part with his house. No

landlord for me, therefore! If I go to Edwardes Square, here is the spot for me. He kept me late, and I found no omnibus. Cheerful old Miles was sitting up for me, the weariedest of men. I had appointed to see Cochrane next day; and finally settle with him. I steeped my feet in cold water, smoked a pipe, and went to bed.

Next morning, Friday, I set out westward . . . thro' the Park to Edwardes Square; with the full purpose . . . to close with Cochrane; behold, however, Cochrane has taken a new thought, and cannot do it! His excuse too was reasonable; . . . What could I say? We got the old landlord, and went intently over the vacant house (see, our results above); and so, quite disappointed again, walked eastwards, turning in by Bayswater for a mutton-chop, and, word of consolation, on the strength of which I walked home to meet Mill about tea at seven.

You have thus, dear wife, my whole history since we parted. Was ever anything more confused? . . . I will keep looking out with all the muscular force I have (for it depends on that mainly); . . . Thus, dear Goodykin, have I filled you two of the longest sheets you ever read . . . And so God bless and keep thee! T. Carlyle.'

There is a postscript which ends—'News in abundance next time . . . Adieu, Dearest, Best.'

Carlyle had one further set back in Kensington the following year after he had found a house in Chelsea. He lent his manuscript of his first volume of the *French Revolution* to John Stuart Mill at 18 Kensington Square, where it was accidentally burnt so badly that he had to re-write the whole volume.

LEIGHT HUNT, essayist, poet, critic and reformer, lived at 32 Edwardes Square from 1840 to 1851, whilst his eldest son, Thornton, and his wife, and also his eldest daughter, Mrs. Gliddon, and her husband shared No. 45 from 1840 to 1842. Earlier in 1808 he had set up a weekly paper with his brother John which was called *The Examiner*, with the main objects of bringing about 'Reform in Parliament' and 'liberality of opinion in general'. As a result he was prosecuted for an article against Army flogging, but acquitted, and later sentenced with his brother to two years imprisonment for libelling the Prince Regent. In 1822 he joined Byron at Pisa and for a short while produced *The Liberal* magazine with him. He was a fine critic, and was the first to recognise the genius of Shelley and Keats by introducing their work to the public in *The Examiner*. He wrote many of his criticisms and much of his biography while living in the Square, but his charming book on Kensington *The Old Court Suburb*, with its references to the Square was not published till 1855.

Coventry Patmore, the poet, recalls an amusing visit as a young man to Leigh Hunt about 1841. 'I set off with a letter from my father . . . informing him of my ambition to see him. Arriving at his house, a very small one in a small square somewhere in the extreme West . . . I was informed that the poet was at home, and asked to sit down until he came to me. This he did after I had waited in the parlour at least two

hours, when the door was opened and a most picturesque gentleman, with hair flowing nearly to his shoulders, a beautiful velvet cloak and a Vandyke collar of lace about a foot deep, appeared, rubbing his hands and smiling ethereally, and saying without a word of preface or notice of my having waited so long, "This is a beautiful world, Mr. Patmore!" I was so struck by this remark that it eclipsed all memory of what occurred during the remainder of my visit.'

On the 16th July 1850 Leigh Hunt wrote from the Square to his daughter, Jacintha, 'Sunday last my parlour was illustrious with the visits of poets—Proctor, Browning and Mrs. Browning; and today I hope to spend an hour or so with Macaulay at Kensington'. Thackeray's daughter, Mrs. Ritchie, has described how Leigh Hunt could be seen at this time with his long wavy hair and picturesque cloak flung over one shoulder visiting Macaulay at Holly Lodge on Campden Hill or her father in Young Street.

Leigh Hunt moved to 2 Phillimore Terrace in Allen Street in 1851, but the association of this new house with the death from consumption at the age of 30 of his dearest son, Vincent, caused him to move a year later to Hammersmith.

EARLS TERRACE was the residence of several well-known literary figures, George Macdonald, George Du Maurier and Walter Pater living at various times at No. 12, and Sir Henry Newbolt at No. 23.

GEORGE MACDONALD, preacher, poet, novelist and writer of fairy stories, lived at No. 12 from 1863 to 1867. He expressed his religious convictions in his books. He was convinced that man did not exist in his own right, but was part of God's will. 'Freedom' he once wrote 'is the unclosing of the idea that lies at our root and is the vital power of our existence. The rose is the freedom of the rose tree'.

Macdonald had many interesting visitors to Earls Terrace, including Ruskin and the Rev. Charles L. Dodgson, or Lewis Carroll as he is better known. Lewis Carroll was a great friend of the family and once asked Macdonald's opinion of a story he had written called *Alice's Adventures Underground*. Macdonald suggested that his wife should try it out on the children, and it was received with such enthusiasm that it was voted that 'Uncle Dodgson' should publish it, which he did later under the title *Alice in Wonderland*. In December 1864 Lewis Carroll wrote this charming letter to one of the children, Mary Macdonald, aged 10.

My dear Mary,

I ought to have written you before to send you my thanks for the sonnet—do not suppose I didn't write, hundreds of times: the difficulty has been with the directing! I directed the letters so violently at first that they went far beyond the mark! some of them were picked up at the other end of Russia. Last week I made a very near shot, and actually succeeded in putting Earl's Terrace, Kensington, but I overdid the number and put 12,000 instead of 12. If you enquire at No. 12,000 I daresay they'll give it to you . . . I mean to come to town for a few days before Xmas, and will call for five minutes or so, some afternoon.

Your loving friend,
C. L. DODGSON.

GEORGE DU MAURIER, son of a French *émigré*, was an eminent illustrator of books and periodicals, and a caricaturist of the Victorian scene for *Punch*. He lived at 12 Earls Terrace from 1867 to 1870 and was a frequent visitor to Moray Lodge on Campden Hill where he obtained some of the setting for *Trilby*, his novel on student life in Paris. His younger son, Gerald, became an actor-manager, while his grand-daughter, Daphne, inherited his literary talents.

WALTER PATER, critic and humanist, author of *Studies in the History of the Renaissance*, *Imaginary Portraits*, *Appreciations*, and *Plato and Platonism*, and the novel *Marius the Epicurean*, lived with his two sisters at 12 Earls Terrace from 1886 to 1893, Pater believed in the doctrine of 'art for art's sake' and in the research for refined pleasure. He elaborated a fine prose style with many haunting phrases. 'Here is the head upon which all the ends of the world are come, and the eyelids are a little weary' he wrote of the *Mona Lisa*, and again 'She is older than the rocks among which she sits'. Pater's features seem to have been in sharp contrast to his thoughts, for Sir William Rothenstein, who lived close by at 1 Pembroke Cottages, described him as looking like a retired artillery officer, while George Moore after a visit to No. 12, referred to him as a very ugly man.

SIR HENRY NEWBOLT, barrister, author and poet, resided at 23 Earls Terrace from 1898 to 1901, having moved there from 14 Victoria Road, W.8. In his memoirs he writes of his house on the Terrace with its dignified Adam cornices and basket fire-places, and its well-proportioned rooms and ample dining room, and of the fine Square garden where he could sit in a deck chair and watch the wild geese flying northwards over London, or disturb in one quiet corner Andrew Bradley meditating on Shakespeare's heroines, and in another Henry Ford (that delightful illustrator of Andrew Lang's Fairy Books) making notes in his sketch book. Many dinner parties were held at his house to which the literary men of his day were invited. Sir Edward and Lady Grey, and Robert Bridges were among his guests. In a letter to Mr. Lane, written on the 25th February 1898 from Earls Terrace, and enclosing a ballad for publication Newbolt showed his scorn of the critics who compared him unfavourably with Rudyard Kipling. 'I am two or three years older than Kipling:' he wrote 'I knew these sea stories before he could read: I began to write years before he published: my subject is the past, his the present: my treatment is idealistic, his realistic.' . . . I wrote patriotic verse and fighting verse, and ballad verse, before anyone in Europe ever heard of Kipling.' . . . 'I understand that no one else since the "Recessional" may write a hymn or mention God. It seems that Kipling made Him too and took out a patent.'

ANDREW C. BRADLEY, formerly Professor of Poetry at Oxford and of English Literature at Glasgow, and a great friend of Gilbert Murray, resided at 9 Edwardes Square from 1902 to 1914, and helped to save

the Square in 1910 when he was serving on the Garden Committee. He delivered the Gifford Lectures on '*Ideals in Religion*' at Glasgow in 1907 and wrote *Shakespearean Tragedy* and *Oxford Lectures on Poetry*, which are still widely read. Bradley lived in awe of his father, the Rev. Charles Bradley, who was a distinguished member of that Evangelical movement known as *The Clapham Sect*, and used to escape from him as a child by slipping under the table. He also lived in awe of his famous elder brother, F. H. Bradley, who wrote extensively on ethics, logic and philosophy. No wonder he was known to suffer from a weak digestion.

GOLDSWORTHY LOWES DICKINSON was another resident like Walter Pater since he lived as a bachelor with his two sisters at 11 Edwardes Square from 1912 to 1918 during his vacations from Cambridge, where he was a don. Dickinson was an author, a political scientist, a philosopher and a humanist. He helped to promote the League of Nations. His books include *The Greek View of Life* and *The Meaning of Good*. He had many friends including E. M. Forster, Roger Fry and Rupert Brooke. On the 28th October 1914, Rupert Brooke, who was with the Anson Battalion at the Royal Naval Barracks, Chatham, wrote Dickinson 'I looked in at Edwardes Square one morning two or three days after I got back from the Antwerp affair. But you'd just gone to Cambridge. I hope you don't think me very reactionary and callous for taking up this function of England. There shouldn't be war—but what's to be done but fight Prussia? I've seen the half million refugees in the night outside Antwerp; and I want, more than before, to go on, till Prussia's destroyed. I wish everyone I knew were fighting.' Brooke's famous sonnet *The Soldier* beginning 'If I should die . . .' must have been written soon after this visit to the Square.

GILBERT KEITH CHESTERTON and his wife lived at 1 Edwardes Square for six months after their wedding in 1901.

NORMAN O'NEILL, a popular composer of his time, was related to the Callcotts, a musical and artistic family in Kensington Mall. On his marriage to Adine Ruckert he moved to 7 Edwardes Square, where he lived from 1899 to 1904 at the moderate rent of £80 a year. In 1903 his wife, Adine, became head music mistress at St. Paul's Girls School, and introduced Gustav Holst to the school where he was appointed choirmaster and musical director. In 1904 the O'Neills moved to 4 Pembroke Villas, where from 1907 onwards Delius was a frequent visitor. Sir Thomas Beecham was another caller, and it was O'Neill who witnessed the famous incident when Sir Thomas, wearing a thick overcoat, met him in Piccadilly and started to walk with him. It was a very hot day and Sir Thomas took off his coat, hailed a taxi, threw the coat inside, and told the driver to follow them while they continued their conversation.

THE EDWARDES SQUARE STUDIOS on the south side of the Square have been the homes of many artists and literary figures, such as the illustra-

tor HENRY J. FORD, the novelist MAY SINCLAIR, the playwright CLIFFORD BAX, and the artists CADOGAN COWPER and PIETRO ANNIGONE.

MAY SINCLAIR, who was living in the Studios in 1911, wrote her masterpiece, *Mary Olivier*, in 1919. This was one of the first English novels to explore the unconscious. In it May Sinclair traced the life of a talented child who was struggling for intellectual and spiritual independence in a late-Victorian middle-class family.

PIETRO ANNIGONE arrived from Italy in 1954 and rented a studio to undertake his commission to paint a portrait of the Queen. Unfortunately for the history of the Square and for those who waited patiently to see the Queen arrive, the first sitting was cancelled at the last minute and the decision made to have the portrait painted at Buckingham Palace.

Though an English Queen has not paid a visit to the Square, there have been Kings and Queens of other lands who have been seen driving up to the studio of COWAN DOBSON, the portrait painter, who lives at 62 South Edwardes Square. King George II of Greece, King Haakon VII of Norway in full naval uniform, Queen Faisal of Iraq accompanied by her young son who was to become King Faisal II, and the present King Olav V of Norway, have all sat at the feet of Cowan Dobson while he has tried to capture their likeness for all time.

A few years ago Pembroke Lodge with its large garden stood just behind Edwardes Square Studios, but it has now been demolished to make way for the houses comprising Pembroke Gardens Close.

BONAR LAW lived in this lodge from 1909 till the end of 1916 when he moved to Downing Street to take up his post as Chancellor of the Exchequer in Lloyd George's Coalition Government. He became Conservative Prime Minister in 1922. On leaving the Lodge, Bonar Law offered it to the War Office, who in March 1917 opened it as a small hospital for Officers. During the last war the Lodge became the home of the Free French, who thus reached the very gates of the Square, only to find themselves locked out because they were not entitled to a key. It is a curious fact that when the French have actually got into the Square, they have been promptly turned out again. For instance, on the 26th October 1905 it was noted in the Minute Books of the Garden Sub-Committee that in view of the numerous complaints received by the Committee regarding the noisy behaviour of certain persons introduced into the Square by the sons of Count de Soissons, it was resolved to call the Count's attention to the Bye-laws and to tell him that the Beadle had received their instructions to refuse these persons admission to the Square garden and to enforce the prescribed penalty if the Bye-law was infringed again. One or two American families have occupied houses in the Square, including No. 8 which was at one time the home of the naturalist and artist, Peter Scott, the son of the explorer, but they have behaved with the utmost decorum. So too have the Russians, whose invasion of the north side of the Square after the



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EAST SIDE ONSLOW SQUARE

war led to the complete occupation of the re-built middle section of Earls Terrace by the families of Russians attached to the Russian Embassy.

PEMBROKE GARDENS is to be found leading off the south-west corner of the Square and mention must be made of SAMUEL SMILES, a Scottish author, who lived at No. 8 from 1874 to 1904. Smiles is remembered for his life of George Stephenson and his popular book *Self-Help*.

PEMBROKE COTTAGES comprise two small houses off the south-east corner of the Square, opposite the Scarsdale Arms. SIR WILLIAM ROTHENSTEIN, the artist, lived at No. 1 from 1898 to 1902, and his son, Sir John, recently Director of the Tate Gallery, was born there. Sir William used the cottage at the back of his garden, now called *Pear Tree Cottage*, as his studio. On one occasion he lent his house to Augustus John and his sister, Gwen, and wanting to spend one night in London wired the Johns to expect him. When he arrived he found an empty grate and a collection of muddy shoes, while later in the evening John appeared, having climbed through a window, because he had mislaid his key. The Rothensteins agreed that as much as they loved the Johns the walls would have to be white-washed and the floors scrubbed before the house would be habitable again. On another occasion in 1899 the house was lent to Charles Conder, a decorative painter and lithographer.

LAURENCE HOUSMAN, brother of the scholar and poet, A. E. Housman, took over 1 Pembroke Cottages in 1902. Laurence Housman was an author and illustrator, and the writer of *Little Plays of St. Francis*. In his memoirs he recalls a small cane chair in his drawing room collapsing under the weight of G. K. Chesterton, followed a little while later by a knock on the door by Hilaire Belloc, who had come to remind Chesterton that he was to stand godfather to one of his children the following morning.

So much for the past residents. There must be many others who deserve mention and thanks for the part they have played in making Edwardes Square the charming place it is today.

Acknowledgements and References.

I am indebted to the Garden Committee of Edwardes Square for access to the records in their care, and to the Staff of the Kensington Reference Library for their help. Also to the National Library of Scotland for the letter of Thomas Carlyle, and to Mr. Tangye Lean for *The Napoleonists* (1970) which contains fuller biographies of some of the Square's residents. The letter to Mary Macdonald comes from *A Selection of Lewis Carroll's Letters to his Child-Friends* by Evelyn M. Hatch (1953). The letters of Mrs. Inchbald and Sir Henry Newbolt are in the author's possession. Space does not permit a fuller bibliography. The first part of *The History of Edwardes Square* appeared in the Annual Report of The Kensington Society 1970-1971.

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Statement of Accounts for the year 1973

THE KENSINGTON SOCIETY—STATEMENT OF

31.12.72	Income	£	£
845	Balances at 1st January, 1973	...	1,030·47
	Membership Subscriptions:		
142	Life	—
706	Annual ...	749·71	
		—	749·71
	Other Receipts:		
	Receipts from Sales ...	518·37	
	Deduct: Expenses of Sales, less Stock on Hand ...	163·44	
		—	354·93
208			354·93
28	Bank Deposit Interest ...	70·37	
	Income Tax recoverable on Covenanted Subscriptions ...	66·80	
204	Receipts for Visits ...	424·60	
66	Advertising in Annual Report ...	47·00	
225	Donations ...	235·00	
—	Sale of Annual Reports ...	98·45	
		—	1,297·15

KEON HUGHES, *Hon. Treasurer.*

£2,475

£3,077·33

We have prepared the above Accounts from the books and vouchers of the Society submitted to us and certify that it is correctly drawn up in accordance therewith. We have obtained verification of the balances at Bank at 31st December, 1973.

ACCOUNTS For the Year ended 31st DECEMBER, 1973

31.12.72	Expenses	£	£
	Printing, Typing, Stationery and Equipment ...	318·08	
125	Postage and Telephone ...	300·42	
231	Producing Annual Report ...	602·50	
475	Bank Charges ...	24·30	
11	Professional Charges ...	45·25	
72	Sundry Expenses ...	29·07	
34	Hire of Hall, Lectures, etc. ...	42·14	
—	Coach Visits, etc. ...	254·59	
178	Subscriptions to other Societies ...	8·15	
8	Donations ...	25·00	
6	Photographic Records ...	46·87	
17	Professional Fees for Public Enquiry ...	—	
82	Colville and Tavistock Area Conference ...	—	
143	Kensington High Street Development ...	—	
63	Typing Services ...	49·00	
—		—	1,745·37
1,445			1,745·37

Balances at 31st December, 1973:

At Bank—

Current Account ...	(16·45)
Deposit Account ...	1,396·68

1,380·23

Less: 1974 Subscriptions paid in advance ...	56·42
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1,323·81

Stock of Sale Articles ...	8·15
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1,030

1,331·96

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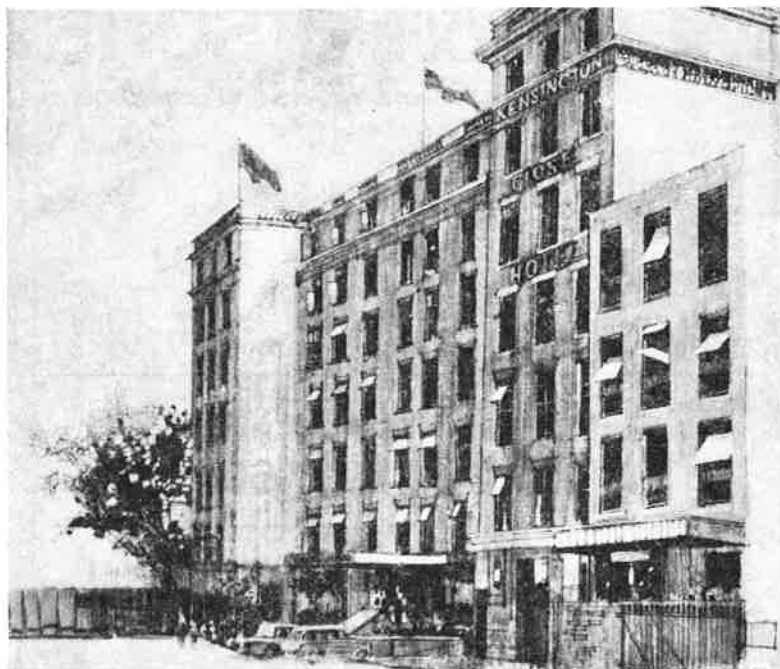
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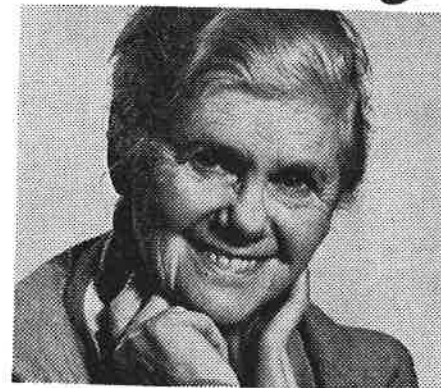


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