

SOUTHALL LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWO

AUGUST 1962

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THE reception given to the first issue of our Newsletter was most encouraging, and certainly gives us adequate incentive to produce it as a regular feature. By far the most heartening signs are the receipt of two important contributions to local history kindly submitted by Dr. Hector Smith and Rex Sawyer Esq. Dr. Smith's article on Four Southall Will is to be found in this issue, and Mr. Sawyer's informative and entertaining article on Southall's first postman will appear in the December issue.

In our first issue we requested information regarding "the Mansion of Mrs. Lawes" and also Southall Place and we are indebted to Miss Scott who has written to us on these subjects, and her comments are found herein.

Now for the future. We are constantly reminded of the duty owed by the younger members of a community to its senior citizens, but we hear very little about the debt owing to the rising generation by the older and more experienced citizens. They do have a real duty to record local events that have happened during their lifetime, particularly in the period before the young ones came on the scene. It is especially important that they leave a record of such apparently minor events that do not get elsewhere recorded.

Your Committee did discuss the possibility of taking tape recordings of some of our older inhabitants, but the idea is not very practicable at the moment. This is where the members of a society such as ours can give sterling service to future local historians. We should very much like to suggest that members visit friends and relatives of the older and wiser generation and get them to talk of their early days in Southall. Write down the salient points, or perhaps better still, record their remarks verbatim, and send them in to the editor of the Newsletter for publication. This is a work to which the old axiom of "It's later than you think" applies very much indeed, and also the inclusion of such material will make the Newsletter of much greater value and interest.

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CHURCHYARD HISTORY

It has been mentioned before in our Society discussions that much useful work can be done by collecting tombstone inscriptions. The results would obviously be primarily of genealogical importance, but a good deal of local history can be gleaned from this source.

In Ireland, the subject was taken so seriously, that in the 1880's a society was formed with the formidable style of "The Society for the Preservation of the Monuments of the Dead". It was, of course, a matter of greater necessity and urgency in Ireland, as not only had most of the church records and inscriptions been destroyed during the Cromwellian occupation, but the climate of Ireland has a very erosive action on outdoor inscriptions.

A fascinating little pamphlet recently came our way, published anonymously, and undated, (circa 1820) entitled "CHURCH YARD GLEANINGS, OR A COLLECTION OF EPITAPHS AND MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS". Two of the epigraphs listed in the publication show that the occasion is not always treated too seriously:-

HERE SNUG IN GRAVE MY WIFE DOTH LIE  
NOW SHE'S AT REST AND SO AM I

and

ON MR. FOOTE  
HERE LIES ONE FOOTE, WHOSE DEATH MAY THOUSANDS SAVE  
FOR DEATH HAS NOW ONE FOOTE WITHIN THE GRAVE

Another, said to be in Twickenham Churchyard appeals to me:-

HERE LIE I  
KILL'D BY A SKY  
ROCKET IN MY EYE

Lastly a note to Mr. Jordan, if he cares to add this piece of minor literature to the library, he is most welcome to it. Members could then peruse it at their leisure.

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#### NOTES AND VIEWS

I am delighted to hear that one or two good articles are coming in for our Newsletter, but we do need those odd little bits of news. These are so easy to write, so please make this little effort. I am confident that any of our members could contribute fifty to a hundred words on a subject of local interest.

Since the last issue, we have held our annual outing, and what a splendid programme was planned, and what a let-down for the Committee. Only after a great deal of pleading did they manage to dispose of twenty eight seats, and over half of these were occupied by non-members. The ensuing financial loss was very nearly disastrous, and how frustrating to the Committee this must have been.

The next item is also of a doleful nature. It is with great regret that the secretary has received the resignation from the Committee of Michael Hilson. It is, however, with the greatest pleasure that we announce the reason for his action; he has won a well-deserved place at Nottingham University. The congratulations and good wishes of all of us go with him, and we feel that our loss is Nottingham's gain, but we can ill-afford to lose such hard worker.

Examinations prevented Michael from presenting his "CHARITIES" lecture in July, but he hopes to be able to deliver this when his timetable is settled. We hope for a date early in 1963.

The July Meeting, taking the form of a number of short talks by members, was interesting and entertaining and will bear repetition in the future. Programme secretary please note.

It is pleasant to hear that several people were disappointed that we did not exhibit at Southall Show this year. It's nice to know that you're missed. One cannot blame the Committee for withdrawing. The work invariably falls on the few and financially, inevitably it's a loss. But apart from this, the Committee felt that there was insufficient material to maintain the high standard set in previous years. It also happened that several Committee members were on holiday at the time.

Once again our society is acting as hosts at a Conference of West Middlesex Societies. This time the date is Monday October 1<sup>st</sup> 1962 and I am sure that the Committee could do with some assistance on that occasion, especially from a couple of ladies to help with the tea etc. so any volunteers will be gladly accepted. The theme of the Conference is mutual help and exchange of ideas between the Societies, and also, we hope, an exchange of speakers enabling our programme to be planned well in advance.

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#### NEW LIGHT ON FOUR SOUTHALL WILLS

From Somerset House photo-stat copies have been obtained of four Wills of the Sixteenth century, each containing matter of great Southall interest.

The earliest is the Will of Edward Cheseman who died in 1510. He made bequests to his several daughters, to Eleanor, wife of his son Robert, and to Robert himself, his only son, he left, among other things, his silver gilt cup

with the spout, and his manor and hereditaments of Southall. He left to the parish church of Norwood a silver chalice, and another to the church of St. Pancras. He further makes provision for the repair of the highway between his chapel at Brentford and "the lane end turning towards Sion". He asks to be buried in the Presbytery of the Blackfriars, next Ludgate, in London.

The Will of Robert Cheseman, (died 1547) is already known to the Southall Historical Society through a shortened version which has been in local circulation for some time. The full text, now available, reveals that Robert asked to be buried in Norwood parish church, near the picture of Our Lady, where his "tomb is newly made". He makes arrangements for a great burial feast, to which all comers are invited, and for distribution of alms to the poor of Southall and Hanwell "for a period of a year after his death". The "cup with the spout" is again mentioned in detail.

Alice Dacres, who appears to have been the second wife of Robert Cheseman, died in 1558. She was the daughter of Henry Dacres of Mayfield County Staffs, a Merchant Taylor and an alderman on Fleet Street in the City of London. In her Will she asks to be buried in her father's tomb in the church of St. Dunstan's-in-the-West near Ludgate. She disposed of no landed property, but made a number of bequests and left her residual estate to charity. She makes no mention of Ann Cheseman, (now Ann Chamberlain) but to her son-in-law Francis Chamberlain she leaves a gold ring.

Alice, Lady Dacre, widow of Gregory Fienes, 10th Lord Dacre, died in 1594 about three months after her husband. In her Will she disposes of a vast property in Chelsea and Yorkshire, in Kensington and Brompton, and in Hayes and Hayes Park in Middlesex. Dormanswell Southall, and Norcot she gives to Sampson Lennard, her brother-in-law, (but he has to pay to her executors £2000 if he wishes to take up the property) but for her manor of Norwood she makes special provision, leaving it to her executors for the purposes of her Will. Overseer of her Will is the great Lord Burleigh Queen Elizabeth's Treasurer.

Lady Dacre was not her husband's heir. A Royal Commission in the early years of the reign of James 1st settled that the heir of Gregory Fienes, 10<sup>th</sup> Lord Dacre, was his sister Margaret Lennard, who was duly awarded his lands and possessions, and who was declared to be Baroness Dacre. Her son became the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Dacre.

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### BOOKS

IT ALL STARTED WITH EUROPA by RICHARD ARMOUR.  
Hammond Hammond 12s.6d.

This is the perfect reading for those who are in danger of taking their history too seriously; it is gay, witty, and completely unreal. If the reader manages to learn any history from this book it will be his own fault.

The author's intention is to give his readers a short satirical account of the development of mankind in the Old World, (the author being an American). A very fair warning is issued on the title page where it is stated that the book "is an undigested history of Europe from prehistoric man to the present, proving that we remember best whatever is the least important".

As a sample of this author's style, the following extract from the chapter on Medieval Learning and literature is indicative; "One of the leading scholars was Tom S. Aquinas. Those who believed his theories were known as Tomists, those who weren't quite sure were called Doubting Tomists. Superficial students who only skimmed his works were referred to as Peeping Tomists".

As Mr. Jordan will most probably have only one copy in the library, I suggest an early reservation.

PUBLISHERS' REMAINDERS.

For the great majority of the reading public, the publishers' remainder is still something of an unknown quantity, and this seems to be a good opportunity to explain this animal.

Twice a year, in the spring and autumn, most publishers issue their new titles. In the case of larger publisher this could amount to thirty or forty new books, and as each title can have a printing of upwards of twenty thousand copies, warehouse space is a very acute problem. There is, in fact only one way out, to sell off some of the old titles at a reduced rate, or, to use the trade term, remainder them off.

Because a book is remaindered, it by no means follows that it is a bad book, merely that storage is very expensive, and it is our intention to watch for any outstanding remainders of historical interest and bring them to the attention of our members.

Two likely looking titles have recently appeared in the remainder lists, they are:—

IN THE STEPS OF THE ANGLO SAXONS by L. Houghton.

IN THE STEPS OF THE PILGRIMS by S. HEATH.

Both are modern attempts to follow the steps of our forefathers, the first giving an excellent idea how an historical itinerary can be planned with Anglo Saxon remains in view, and the second deals , with shrines etc. They are both down to 5s. from 12/6.

A remainder just released seems to be a most valuable addition to the historian's library. It is:-

ENGLTSH SCHOLARS, by DAVID DOUGLAS. 7/6 (25s)

One feels that the title of Prof. Douglas's book could more aptly be ENGLISH HISTORIANS OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> CENTURY. It was in the 17<sup>th</sup> century that the true importance of Early Eng. History was first realised.

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IT HAPPENED IN AUGUST.

August 3rd. 1886.

The School Board Election is over and the result of the Poll is:-

ELECTED

W.F. Thomas Southall Green  
G. Gibson Southall  
Rev. H. Mills Southall  
G. Gosney S. Green  
James Garland S. Green

C.N. Abbott Southall  
B.G. Hanson S'll Green  
Rev. J. Jackson S. Green  
Charles Perry S.Green

NOT ELECTED

A. Henderson Norwood  
J. Wark S. Green  
C. Mead Sou. Green  
J. Minter Southall.

Rev. R. Stubbs S. Green  
Gen. Nelson. Nor. Green  
G. Harper Sou. Green

August 10th.1886

#### HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY SCHOOL TREAT

On Friday last, the children of Holy Trinity Sunday Schools, Southall, were treated to a waggonette excursion to Osterley Park, where they had a splendid tea-feast.

August 10th.1887

The Southall Coffee Tavern with its numerous affiliated institutions has been swept away ( by fire), the respected proprietor practically ruined, and the property of several of the associations destroyed; the house adjoining westward also is gutted, and tottering walls alone mark the site of a prosperous institution for good. The Hanwell Fire Brigade with their splendid steamer were quickly on the spot, the fire meanwhile having been kept down with buckets of water, but the supply was not equal to the demand, and nothing could be done but watch the progress of the devouring fire.