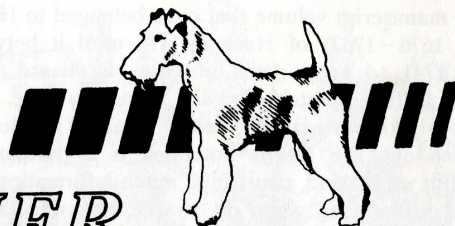


The  
**HACKNEY**  
**TERRIER**



THE FRIENDS OF HACKNEY ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER

No. 26

Spring 1992

### HOXTON HALL

For this year's annual general meeting and memorial lecture (*for details, see back page*), we are privileged to visit Hoxton Hall: a unique institution, and one of the gems of the borough.

The hall was built in 1863, on the site of a group of cowsheds in Wilkes Court, off Hoxton Street; its main entrance was sited not in the street, but in the court. The hall's promoter, James Mortimer, by trade a house-builder, had "the specific object of affording to the humbler classes an entertainment that shall combine instruction with amusement". An idea of the nature of Mortimer's concept of entertainment is given by the programme which inaugurated the auditorium: as well as glees sung by the Orpheus Quartet, and Professor Logrenia's "wonderful performing Russian Cat, learned Canary birds and White Mice", there was to be a series of talks about the great battles of the British Army from Hastings to Inkerman; and an account of the Prince of Wales's tour in the East accompanied by "magnificent dissolving views", "The Lives of Poor Men who have risen from the Ranks", or "Homes of the People, as they are and might be".

In spite of his concern for the comfort of the seating, the brilliancy of the lighting and the provision for his customers of "a drop of good beer", Mortimer's programme for edifying the masses does not seem to have been a great success, and in 1866 the hall was bought by James McDonald, manager of Collins's music hall in Islington, who altered it somewhat, and turned it into McDonald's Music Hall. This project was soon faced with stiff competition from the Theatre of Varieties in Pitfield Street, and after police complaints, it lost its licence, and closed, in 1872.

After several empty years, the theatre was bought in 1879 by W. I. Palmer, of Huntley and Palmer's biscuits, as a home for the Blue Ribbon Temperance movement which was brought from America by William Noble. By 1882,

according to one account, more than one million people had demonstrated their commitment to abstinence from alcohol by "taking the ribbon". After Palmer's death in 1893 the hall passed to the Bedford Institute, the foundation of the Quaker philanthropist Peter Bedford, who used it variously as mission premises, for men's and boys' clubs, temperance work, and the Girls' Guild of Good Life. Since the last war, the Institute has concentrated increasingly on educational and recreational work, especially through its old people's and drama groups. The building has been much altered over the years, but the charming small Hall itself is back in regular use as a auditorium, making it London's only 19th century music hall still in use.

Sources: Terence Goodfellow, *Hoxton Hall, a short history*; *The Era*, 7 November 1863; Kathleen Heasman, *Evangelists in Action*, 1962.

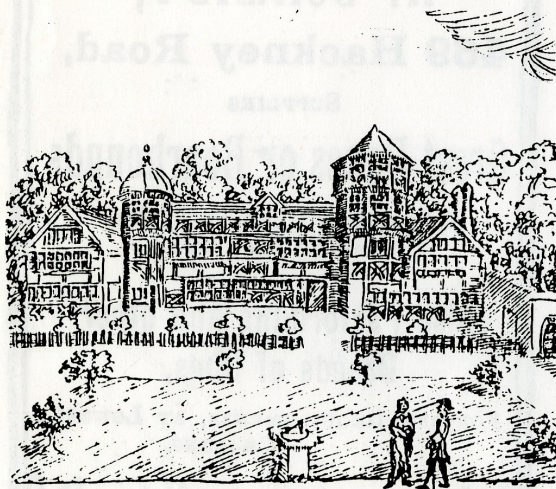
**H. SCHMIDT,**  
**469 Hackney Road,**  
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Breeds of Dogs.  
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CHARGES.

## JUSTICE IN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY HACKNEY

Tucked away on the shelves of the Greater London Record Office is a manuscript volume that once belonged to Henry Norris (c. 1676–1762) of Hackney. He used it between 1730 and 1741 to keep notes of cases he heard as a magistrate. Justicing notebooks are extremely rare, and this is the only known example for the whole of eighteenth century London. The Norris notebook is a particularly good example of its kind, containing much information not only about cases that went on to the general/quarter sessions or to the Old Bailey, but also about cases that were settled without further process and which would not otherwise appear in the records.

The survival of the notebook is remarkable in itself; even more remarkable is the survival in a completely separate collection of Hackney records (also deposited at the GLRO) of a virtually contemporaneous minute book of the Hackney petty sessions in which Henry Norris played a leading role. Taken together these two volumes provide us with a very full account of the work that justices were expected to undertake outside of sessions. It is probably the fullest picture that we are ever likely to obtain. Justicing notebooks, as I have already observed, are rare; the survival of a notebook together with a matching petty sessions book is, to the best of my knowledge, unique.

It is something of a bonus that the two documents also provide a vivid picture of life in early eighteenth century Hackney. Today, when Hackney has become a byword for the inner city and all its problems, it requires a considerable effort of imagination to envisage it as it was some 250 years ago. Then it was a fairly prosperous semi-suburban satellite of London – the sort of place that one dreamed of retiring to. To people accustomed to the brutality and squalor of Hanoverian London, life in Hackney must have seemed like rural bliss. Those living in the twentieth century, accustomed to constant complaints about rising crime and disorder, might be surprised to learn just how vicious eighteenth century rural bliss could be.



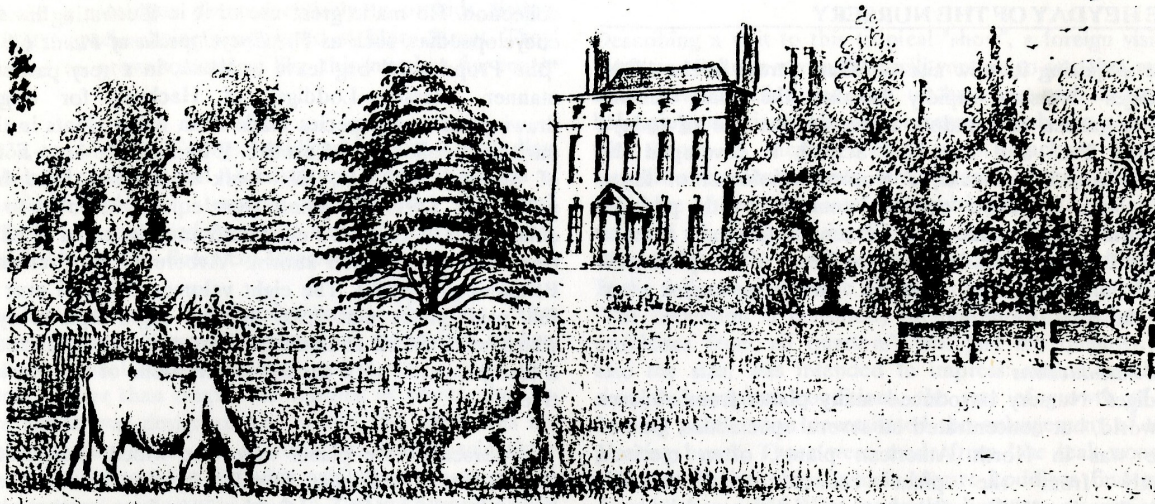
Norris's house, Grove Street, in 1725 (Museum of London)

The Norris notebook, which is overwhelmingly concerned with petty crime, amounts in effect to an unremitting catalogue of casual violence. Some 80 per cent of the entries concern crimes of assault and/or battery; the remainder, by and large, are cases of petty larceny, criminal damage, pilfering of crops, drunkenness and swearing. Many of the charges indicate that there were persistent local feuds, suggesting that there were high levels of tension and conflict in everyday life. Norris and his fellow justices clearly saw it as their duty to repress such quarrels, and actively discouraged recourse to the higher courts. We will never be sure whether the poor of Hackney welcomed or resented this attitude, but the very fact that feuds continued suggests that this kind of enforced dispute – resolution was often unsuccessful.

Major crime such as highway robbery figure only occasionally – partly of course because such crimes, then as now, are extremely difficult to solve. The few major crimes that are mentioned provide something of an insight into the operation of the contemporary "bloody code". It is, I think, well known that almost all convictions for serious crime in this period could attract a death sentence. In practice, however, more than half of those sentenced to death were able to use mitigating factors to obtain pardons or reprieves. One such was Francis Trumble who was convicted of highway robbery but who was pardoned, probably on grounds of mental instability.

The apparent severity of the law was also mitigated by decisions of juries, notably by what contemporaries called "pious perjury" and "partial verdicts". In a number of crimes, the sentence depended on the value of goods stolen. "Pious perjury" occurred when a jury downvalued the goods stolen in order to reduce the charge: thus Mary South, accused of stealing some £60 in cash, was found guilty, but the jury valued the coins (which included 33 gold guineas) at 39 shillings only – another shilling and it would have been a capital offence. A "partial verdict" occurred when the jury chose to ignore other factors that aggravated a crime into a capital offence. This was why the jury trying James Darlington for a theft after breaking and entering a dwelling house convicted him of theft only. By doing so, they saved him from the gallows.

The petty sessions volume offers a considerable contrast, in that it was overwhelmingly concerned with parochial administration – swearing in officials, taking settlement examinations, granting relief to necessitous individuals, binding out pauper apprentices, licensing alehouses. Much of this was fairly routine, but nevertheless there are some surprises. As might be expected, the justices were very concerned about protecting ratepayers from unnecessary expenditure, acting to punish those who would not maintain their families, and to identify the fathers of illegitimate children in order to secure maintenance agreements from them. But they were also quite willing to grant medium term relief to persons not settled in Hackney, although the parish was only obliged to grant short-term emergency relief. The granting of alehouse licences confirmed the long-held suspicion that justices regularly granted permissive licences at any time during the year. Later in the century the courts would hold that such "permissive" licences were illegal, and that licences



*The house that Norris built in 1729.*

could be granted only at the "Brewster sessions" held annually in September.

The pattern of settlement examinations is also extremely interesting. These were undertaken in order to assign individuals to the parish which would relieve them if they became indigent, and historians have usually assumed that they were intrinsically bound up with applications for poor relief. That assumption has recently been challenged, and my own preliminary analysis of Hackney material tends to confirm that one of the primary purposes of settlement examinations was to monitor migration.

Taken together, the two documents demonstrate just how much work justices were called upon to do out of sessions. At this time about half a dozen urban justices shouldered the greater part of the burden of judicial duties for the county of Middlesex, each returning a hundred or more recognisances a year (that is, bailing a hundred or more individuals to appear at the sessions to answer charges). Norris was far more typical of ordinary justices, in that he rarely returned more than four to six recognisances each year. Yet the notebook and petty sessions minutes show very clearly that even this apparently low level of activity meant that Norris was spending an enormous amount of time on justicing business. He was dealing with complaints of petty crime at least once a fortnight, sometimes twice a day. He was having to reserve a day a week just to deal with that peculiar piece of Carolingian legislation that required corpses to be interred in woollen shrouds. Roughly once a fortnight he would also attend the petty sessions.

I should perhaps add that he would be undertaking other judicial business that would not appear in either of the documents. He might have attended petty sessions meetings in neighbouring parishes; he certainly attended the Brewster sessions, the divisional sessions and the quarter/general sessions. On at least one occasion he was present at a trial at the Old Bailey. It seems to me likely

that this man was spending at least a day or two a week on this largely unrewarding (and frankly tedious) business.

So who was Henry Norris? We know that he was born *circa* 1676 into a family of City merchants that had become established in Hackney in the middle of the seventeenth century. Henry Norris was also a prosperous City merchant. In 1729 he had the family house in Grove Street (a rather splendid sixteenth century building which was probably in need of considerable repair) demolished in order to build a new one, in fashionable classical style, in its place. We know little of his personal life, though his will certainly suggests that he had few close personal friends.

He was what we now describe as upwardly mobile. This is not to suggest that Norris had ever been poor; as already stated, he came from a line of prosperous City merchants and was undoubtedly wealthy in his own right. Rather, this was a man determined to move from the upper middle classes to the ranks of the minor gentry. Once cannot help but wonder whether his interest in acting as a justice was not of a piece with his smart new house: a way of flaunting his social advancement. Whatever his motives, these documents make it clear that he wielded considerable power over the lives of ordinary people. They also suggest that he was a somewhat harsh and authoritarian individual who had little sympathy with the problems of the poor. By the standards of the contemporary elite, Norris conducted himself impeccably. I somehow doubt that the verdict of the poor of Hackney would have been quite so favourable.

**Ruth Paley**

*Justice in eighteenth century Hackney: the justicing notebook of Henry Norris and the Hackney petty sessions book, edited by Ruth Paley, will be published in the late spring/summer 1992 by the London Record Society. Copies will be available from Clifton Books, 34 Hamlet Court Road, Westcliffe on Sea, Essex SS0 7LX, at £20 plus post and packing.*

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## LODDIGES' NURSERY: Part 2: THE HEYDAY OF THE NURSERY

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After acquiring its new site on Mare Street in the 1780s, Loddiges' Nursery rapidly became the most famous nursery garden in London. Here, on the site of today's Hackney Free and Parochial School, it developed the world's largest hothouse; a tropical rainforest of ferns, palms and epiphytic orchids, complete with periodic rainstorms. The botanic garden extended for many acres to today's Loddiges Road, where the heart of its spiral walk ended after passing through Britain's largest and best – labelled arboretum.

### *Plant Introductions*

Loddiges' Nursery introduced many plants from all over the world, but concentrated on several specialities. One of these was in North American plants, often received directly from the plant collector and Quaker horticulturalist William Bartram.<sup>1</sup> Another speciality was in heathers from the Cape, some of which went straight to the Duke of Bedford at Woburn where England's specialist collection was grown; they flowered here in this country for the first time.<sup>2</sup> Many Chinese plants were also first introduced into the British nursery trade by Loddiges', particularly azaleas and camellias, and also, after 1816, the beautiful blue-flowered climbing wisteria, *Wisteria sinensis*.<sup>3</sup> One of the oldest wisterias in Hackney can be seen in summer flower on the south-facing wall of the tea terrace of Clissold House.

### *The Botanical Cabinet*

Between 1817 and 1834, George Loddiges used the enormous plant collection at the nursery to provide material for his lavishly illustrated book *The Botanical Cabinet*, a much sought after set of volumes based on an elaborate development of the Nursery's catalogues. Its layout was very simple: a full-colour plate of one of the plants in the nursery, with a facing page of brief text, naming its collector and explaining how the plant had arrived at the nursery. Sometimes there was also a little praise for the Almighty, who was clearly held responsible for these beautiful flowers. Two thousand of the nursery plants were described and illustrated in this unique fashion. Little or no attention has ever been paid to the notes which accompany each plate, but they would repay serious study since they furnish us with the best evidence we have of who supplied Loddiges' with rare plants. Private collectors such as Mr Barclay of Bury Hill, curators of botanic gardens, and colonialist collectors in tropical countries all made a contribution. With so many correspondents, individual letters may still survive. These correspondents ensured that Loddiges' held and propagated a vast stock of plants, many of which were first offered for general sale in their catalogue. Loddiges' 1826 catalogue was glowingly reviewed in the first volume of John Loudon's prestigious *Gardener's Magazine*. There were over 10,000 species and varieties being grown at the nursery, all for sale. As Loudon wrote, nothing like this was available elsewhere: "the most superficial observer will acknowledge the superiority of the Hackney garden".

### *The nursery in horticultural literature*

John Loudon was not slow to capitalise on this unique collection. He made great use of it in illustrating his epic encyclopaedias, such as *The Encyclopedia of Plants* (1829): "[the Proprietors] beg leave to thank, in a very particular manner, Messrs. Loddiges of Hackney for original drawings of many species made from living plants in their unrivalled collection of exotics. Without... the hot-houses of Messrs. Loddiges, this work could not have been produced." Loddiges' plants were equally essential to the completion of Loudon's mammoth encyclopaedia of all the trees and shrubs then known: "Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum" (1838). The eight volumes included over 364 full page plates and 2,500 smaller engravings, many of which were drawn at Loddiges' Nursery, and supported by a text peppered with explicit descriptions of the Hackney trees.<sup>4</sup>

The nursery's rare plants were also widely illustrated in *The Botanical Magazine*, founded by the famous Quaker horticulturalist, William Curtis. This is now the oldest botanical periodical in the world which is still being published. Its plates, including those of Loddiges' plants, are now widely traded in the second-hand antiquarian print trade. After Curtis' death, the magazine's new editor named a South African pea flower, the oxalis-leaved loddigesia *Loddigesia oxalidifolia*, in honour of Conrad Loddiges. Remarkably, the idea for honouring Conrad Loddiges in this way, and even the selection of which plant to choose, came from Carl Linnaeus, the great founder of the systematic method of naming species on which all science came to depend. Not that this was the only plant to have been named after Conrad Loddiges: The French botanist René Desfontaines added to the honour with *Crataegus loddigesiana*, the Mexican hawthorn.<sup>5</sup>

### *The Fern and Orchid crazes*

One of the more popular reasons for the widespread fame of Loddiges' Nursery was its founding role before the boom years of "The Victorian fern craze".<sup>6</sup> So popular did the fern craze become that "Botany Buns" collected ferns from the wild and hawked them from house to house, severely threatening some of the rarer species.

In 1825 Loddiges' fern nursery grew over a hundred exotic species, and a near monopoly of the fern trade at the critical period. Forty years later, when Kew published its learned text on ferns of the world, it credited the spread of fern cultivation to Loddiges Nursery alone!

Loddiges' Nursery was equally popular for its fine orchids, becoming the first British firm to cultivate tropical species successfully.<sup>11</sup> As the orchids began to flower in their Mare Street home, they were immediately illustrated for the *Botanical Cabinet* to capture the first-ever blooms of these plants in Britain.

Try as its rivals might to replicate Loddiges' "green fingers", failure was more common than success. Indeed, Sir Joseph Banks commented that England, in the first two decades of the nineteenth century, was in danger of becoming "the grave of tropical orchids".

Against this trend Loddiges' became successful with even more exotic and even epiphytic orchids. By 1839 it published a catalogue devoted entirely to orchids, listing over 1,600 species being propagated at Mare Street. They continued to grow something like this number for many years.

In 1837, to celebrate George Loddiges' success, Dr Lindley (on behalf of the Royal Horticultural Society) named a particularly splendid tropical orchid Mr Loddiges' *Acropera* (*Acropera loddigesii*). It was duly described and illustrated in Curtis's *Botanical Magazine*.

John Loudon gave Loddiges' Nursery the title "The Hackney Botanic Nursery". Others too, recognised its key role as a formal botanic garden, and it was around this purpose, rather than simply the vending of plants, that its entire layout was designed. The would-be client was no doubt duly impressed, but so too were visiting scientists; all were invited to take - in living exhibitions of everything from a tropical rainforest to an A to Z of every conceivable tree and rose bush.

#### *Hackney's Tropical Rainforest*

The highlight of the nursery was its tropical rainforest, or palm house. The palms were so unusual that in the very first volume of John Loudon's *Gardener's Magazine*, in 1826, three pages were devoted to listing all 120 species which grew inside, and identifying their origins in over thirty countries and states including St. Vincent, Brazil, Madagascar, Jamaica, Trinidad, Mauritius, Ceylon, Egypt, Gambia, and South Africa. Here they grew together as nowhere else in the world, in what John Loudon described as "the largest hothouse in the world", a structure some 80ft long, 60ft wide and 40ft high.<sup>13</sup> Inside this glass and iron



*Acropera loddigesii* (drawn by Christopher Chatfield)

paraboloid was an elegant stage 30 feet high from which to view the tropical plants.

Describing a visit to this tropical "show", a foreign visitor, Professor Schultz wrote, "We will venture to say, that much as we have travelled and seen, we have met with no stoves, belonging to prince, king or emperor, which can compare with those of Messrs. Loddiges, at Hackney for the magnificence, convenience, and elegance of their plan, and the value of their contents".<sup>7</sup> Enquiring as to the catalogue value of all the palms in 1829, Schultz was told they were worth £200,000! Yet still more palms were to be added, for in the following year *The Gardener's Magazine* noted that "The collection is constantly increasing by donations and purchases from all quarters". Not just the quantity, but also the size, was intended to impress: under Loddiges' simulated tropical conditions, the rate of growth of the existing palms soon necessitated the enlargement of their planting boxes. These were made from "the teak wood of old East Indian ships, which Messrs Loddiges find more durable than oak".<sup>8</sup> What made this hothouse so exotic was its tropical rainstorm. After visiting innumerable English nurseries, another foreign visitor doing "the English tour", Jacob Rinz, concluded that nowhere had compared with his tropical experience at Loddiges':

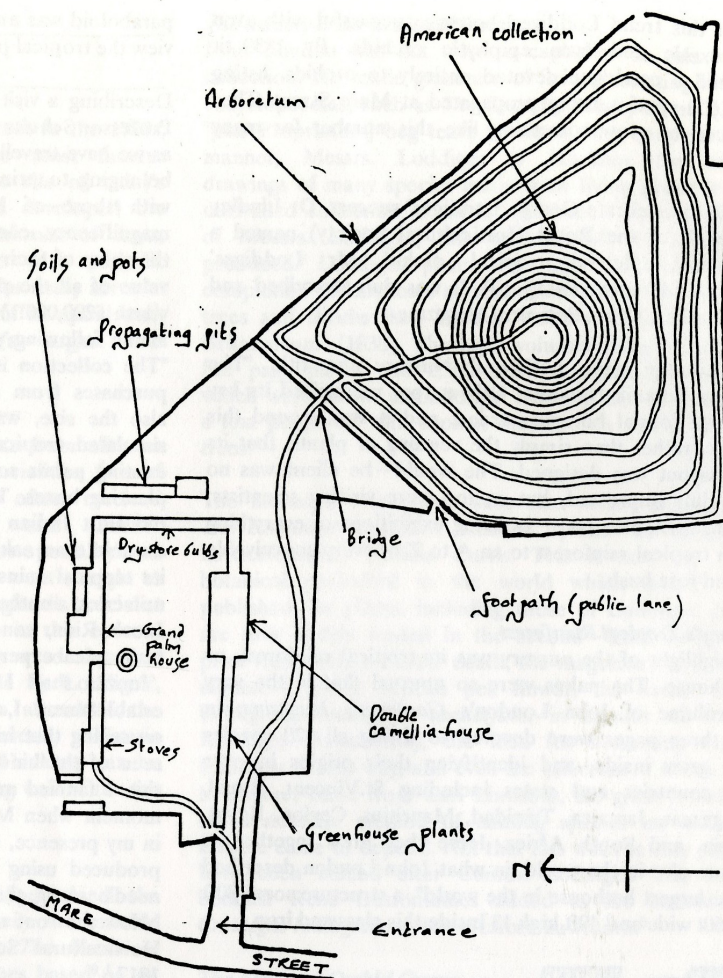
"never shall I forget the sensation produced by this establishment. I cannot describe the raptures I experienced on seeing that immense palm house. All that I had before seen of the kind appeared nothing to me compared with this. I fancied myself in the Brazils; and especially at that moment when Mr Loddiges had the kindness to produce, in my presence, a shower of artificial rain."<sup>9</sup> This had been produced using pipes which had been perforated with a needle along their length, the pipes running horizontally below the roof of the palm house. For this invention "The Horticultural Society" had voted Loddiges a medal in 1817.<sup>10</sup>

#### The Layout of the Hackney Botanic Nursery

Through its main entrance in Mare Street the visitor passed at once to a range of hot houses leading to the quite remarkable tropical rain storm in the Palm House, then past the Dry Stove House to the two Camellia Houses and on through innumerable other hothouses: "Besides [the tropical palm house], there are some twenty others, from one hundred and fifty to three hundred feet long, and greenhouses of various dimensions". All of these formed a square, in the centre of which were beds of herbaceous and potted plants for the visitor to buy. This layout was mapped for the second edition of John Loudon's *Encyclopedia of Gardening* (1834), and was faithfully reproduced after his death in the revised edition produced by Jane Loudon in 1850. The sheer size of these hothouses is difficult to imagine. One was so big it had to use John Loudon's newly invented iron - framed curvilinear glazing on a massive scale. It was 120 feet long, 23 feet wide and 18 feet high. In spite of the space, so perfect were the conditions, that shrubs such as the camellias began to take over their hothouses! By 1833 "the camellia - house... is a complete wood of this shrub, so much so that blackbirds have repeatedly built their nests and reared their young in it".<sup>11</sup> So luxuriant and diverse was the Hackney Botanic Garden that Jacob Rinz, having been told before his visit to Britain that Kew Gardens "contained the largest

The Loddiges nursery as mapped for Loudon's 1834 edition of the *Encyclopaedia of Gardening*.

The square enclosed by the hothouses was used for plant culture, potted plants for sale and rare American herbaceous plants. The arboretum walk crossed a public footpath by a bridge.



collection of any", was compelled to publish the seemingly obvious truth: "I would give the preference to those of Messrs. Loddiges... and every practical gardener will be of the same opinion."<sup>1 2</sup>

David Solman and Graham Douglas

#### Notes

- 1 *Botanical Cabinet*, vol 14, plate 1324; Ray Desmond, *A Celebration of Flowers* (1987); H. R. Fletcher, *The Story of the Royal Horticultural Society* (1969) p11.
- 2 Viz. *Hortus Ericaceus Woburnensis*. See *Botanical Cabinet* vol 11 (1825) plate 1027; Fletcher, *op. cit.* p11. William Hooker, *Schultes's Botanical Visit to England* (1830) notes that Prof. Schultes wrote in 1825 "One of the [Loddiges] houses, built after the newest plan, with convex windows, is stocked with nearly four hundred kinds of heath".
- 3 eg *Azalea sinensis* (1823), and *Camellia japonica* var *atrorubens* (1809). The first wisteria plants (discovered in the garden of Consequa, belonging to a Chinese merchant) arrived for propagation at Loddiges' Nursery in May 1816 and grew along the roof of the Camellia House. See Fletcher, *op. cit.* p.93 & Loudon, *Calls at London's Nurseries: The Hackney Botanic garden in the Gardener's Magazine* 1833.
- 4 Miles Hadfield, *Pioneers in Gardening*, n/d.

5 René Louiche Desfontaines (1750-1833) named the Mexican Hawthorn *C.loddigesiana* Desf. but it was a disputed taxonomic name. It was also named *C.mexicana*. Its current taxonomy identifies it as *C.pubescens* Steud (syn *C.stipulaceae* Loudon). It is shrubby in cultivation in Europe except when grafted onto common hawthorn.

6 "Fern raising might have been for far longer a recondite art, confined to curators, had the great firm of Hackney nurserymen Conrad Loddiges' and Sons not now been tempted to take up the torch." (David Allen, *The Victorian Fern Craze*, 1969).

7 William Hooker, *op. cit.*

8 John Loudon, *The Gardener's Magazine* (1830), vol 6 p. 378.

9 Jacob Rinz, *Remarks on various gardens about London...* in *The Gardener's Magazine*, (1829) vol 5 p 379.

10 For details of this imaginative system see G. Chadwick, *The Works of Sir Joseph Paxton*, (1961) p.77; Loudon, *Encyclopaedia of Gardening*, revised ed. 1850 p.625; *Transactions of the Horticultural Society*, vol. 3 p. 14 (1820), vol.4 p. 56 (1821).

11 Loudon, *The Gardener's Magazine*, vol. 9 p. 467 (1833).

12 Rinz, *op. cit.*

TO BE CONTINUED

## NEWS FROM HACKNEY ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT

### Record search service

April sees the introduction of the new search service to be offered to those who are unable to visit the archives in person, or who prefer to have a search done by somebody else. A leaflet and a search order form have been prepared, and the cost – £12 per hour, with a minimum fee of £6 – will include up to five photocopies or microprinter copies. Customers will be able to specify a maximum number of hours for which they wish to pay. Provided at least the minimum fee has been paid, the work will be undertaken and the customer notified of the final cost, on receipt of which the work will be despatched.

The new service brings a new face to Hackney. The contract for the service has been awarded to Lilian Gibbens, who has previously worked for Westminster. Lilian is a WEA tutor in genealogy, and chairs the library committee of the Society of Genealogists as well as the London and North Middlesex Family History Society. She is also on the executive committee of the Catholic Family History Society.

Of course, people are still encouraged to use the archives to search for themselves, and are free to employ their own record agent if they wish. Staff will from now on search records without charge only for those Hackney residents whose disabilities preclude them from coming in, or consulting sources, for themselves.

### Reprographic services

The Department has replaced the Archivist photocopier with a model which retains the same critical feature of low ultra violet light, but adds a facility for A3 size copies. Prices for photocopies and microprinter copies remain unchanged, as do (for the first time in some years) prices for photographs. Reproduction fees are set to rise, however, on account of inflation and last year's rise in VAT.

### Archive acquisitions

Once again the Friends have assisted in the purchase of items for the collection, notably with a group of papers relating to the Corbett family and their property round London Fields. The documents include an outline plan of the long-lost Arnold House, on the west side of Martello Street. Another deposit with a London Fields connection is the 1921 syllabus of the London Fields Adult School. The Friends have also purchased notes by M. A. Gliddon (William Robinson's research assistant) on Robinson's *History of Hackney*, these notes having been transcribed by G. A. Wrigley around the turn of the century.

### The Hackney Gazette, 1869–1882

With the typing up of Bettie Knott's magnum opus, a long-awaited project comes to fruition. During her period as a volunteer at the Department, Bettie produced an index to articles in the *Gazette* between these years. Articles on local government, health, housing, education, poverty, religion, law and order and everyday life are indexed under the respective headings, with a brief indication of the contents as well as the date and page


reference. The index will prove an invaluable source for anyone studying the late 19th century.

David Mander

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Alan Godfrey's latest Hackney offering is the 1893 map for central Hackney, now on sale from the Department, with notes by David Mander. This only leaves the Dalston map of 1894 to complete the set of six core Hackney maps in all three editions, and indeed this map too will be with us soon, with notes by Jenny Golden. (A small celebration is being planned – watch this space!) All the Godfrey edition maps are available at £1.50 each.

Elizabeth McKellar's superbly illustrated essay on *The German Hospital*, published by the Hackney Society, is also now available, at £3.75. It is also worth enquiring about the Abney Park Cemetery Trust's new book on Clissold Park, which will be available soon. It contains suggested walks and an area history, and has been written by our regular contributor David Solman.

Borough of  Hackney.

**FOOD SAVING CAMPAIGN**

**FIGHT THE SUBMARINE**  
IN YOUR HOMES.

**CONCERT and MEETING**  
AT THE  
KING'S HALL, HACKNEY PUBLIC BATHS,  
TUESDAY, 22nd MAY, 1917.

**CONCERT**  
BY THE  
**HILARITIES CONCERT PARTY.**

— MEETING —

To be Addressed by Prominent Speakers from the

CHAIRMAN:  
His Worship the Mayor (L. STANLEY JOHNSON, Esq., J.P.)

Doors open 7.15 p.m. Concert 7.45 p.m.

**ADMISSION FREE.** Children not Admitted.

CHAS. STRAKER & SONS, 14, PRINCE STREET, LONDON

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LECTURE

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This year we are privileged to be the guests of Hoxton Hall, 128a Hoxton Street. The time is 2.30 p.m., after which, at approximately 3. p.m., Ruth Paley will give this year's Stanley Tongue memorial lecture, **Intruding to live as a parishioner: the migrant poor in 18th century Hackney.**

New readers may not be familiar with the name of Stanley Tongue. He was the first Borough Archivist of the London borough of Hackney, from its formation in 1965 until his untimely death in 1982. When the Friends were formed in 1985, his many friends proposed that an annual lecture should be dedicated in his memory.

The business at the annual general meeting will be as usual to receive the accounts for 1991, and to elect the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and other committee members. Paid-up members who wish to stand for election as an officer or committee member are invited to get in touch with the Department.

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## THE HACKNEY WICK WALK

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This summer's walk, led by John Paton, an experienced guide, will feature previously-unexplored Hackney Wick. Meet outside the Tiger pub, at the eastern end of Wick Road, E9, on Sunday 12th July at 2.30 p.m.

**'THE TIGER'**  
Proprietor: W. E. REYNOLDS.  
**Wick Road, SOUTH HACKNEY.**  
Grand New Saloon Bar . . .  
First-Class Billiard Saloon  
All WINES & SPIRITS of the  
FINEST QUALITY.  WHITBREAD'S Noted  
MALT LIQUOR

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## MEMORABLE MEALS?

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Bill Manley writes:

"I have been asked to put together an Islington "food and drink" book, based on entries in *Islington Entertained*, and am looking for historical recipes. There aren't many folk about who had maidenhair fern with doorstep sandwiches at the Eagle, or eel pies at the Sluice House, or even bean feasts at Hornsey Wood - not to mention having the fish they caught in the Peerless Pool cooked for them on the spot (if that's what happened). Nor can many remember what the meat tasted like which Chabert the "Fire King" took into the ovens with him; but it's possible that some useful bits of gen have survived by word of mouth, or in old family diaries or notebooks. It's also just possible that some folk may recall some particular delicacy which had, at least in their eyes, or mouths, some local significance. I'm thinking of the World's Fairs at the Agricultural Hall, which went on right up to the war, and special do's at Sadlers Wells... some enterprising body may have produced a sweetmeat or fizzy drink with a name attached to it." Anyone who can help is asked to contact Bill c/o the Tower Theatre, Canonbury Place, N1.

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## NEW BOOKS IN THE ARCHIVES

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Since we last reported on book accessions to the collection (*Terrier 24*) it has continued to grow. Here, from a list compiled by Jean Wait before her departure, are some of the books newly acquired or catalogued.

Biographical material includes Isabel Bailey's *Pishey Thompson: Man Of The Two Worlds*, published by the History Of Boston Project, 1991. Thompson, a writer and bookseller, lived in Stoke Newington from 1846 to 1862. A.B. Webster's *Joshua Watson: the Story of a Layman 1771 - 1855* (S.P.C.K. 1954) is the biography of a founder of the S.P.C.K. who, with his brother John (rector of Hackney), was a member of the so-called "Hackney Phalanx", campaigning high churchmen. H. W. Stephenson's *Hackney College and William Hazlitt* (Lindsey Press, 1930) recalls that Hazlitt was a student at the college between 1793 and 1795. Recent reminiscences include *When We Were Kids On The Corner Of The Street*, (Hoxton Hall and Hackney Adult Education Institute, 1983) deals with memories of growing up in Hoxton (1902 - 1918); Finsbury Park (1920s - 30s); Poplar (1930s - 40s); Dalston (1940s). Willy Goldman's *East End My Cradle* (Faber 1988) recounts a Jewish childhood and youth in Stepney, c. 1914 - 1935.

Varied research aids include Clive Ayton's surname index to the 1871 census (piece number RG10 466, Haggerston West) which gives surnames and folio numbers, also a description of enumeration districts covered (16, 17 and 18). For the metropolitan borough of Shoreditch, there are lists of Mayors, Aldermen and Councillors, 1912 - 1937; these include details of wards and committees. There is also the annual abstract of Greater London statistics for 1988 - 89 compiled by the Population and Statistics Group. For junior school teaching, the London Wildlife Trust has produced Images of change in Hackney, a teacher's pack, which includes the Trust's report *Wildlife habitats in Hackney* and advice on sources for environmental studies.

The Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society have published their fourth volume of *London's Industrial Archaeology*, which includes Mr Cecil Sindall, textile trimming manufacturer of Dalston, recorded and transcribed by Dr Denis Smith. Amongst other societies' publications, the *Journal of the London Society* Nos 410 - 416 (1985 - 1988) includes, in no. 415, an article on Sutton House.

The Department has also extended its holdings of the *New survey of London life and labour* (1930). Vols III, VIII and IX were purchased and donated by the Friends of Hackney Archives.

An addition to the Department's growing collection of fiction set in the borough is Simon Nye's *Wideboy* (Viking Penguin, 1989).

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The *Hackney Terrier* is compiled by Wednesbury Wordsetters, London E1 for the Friends of Hackney Archives, Rose Lipman Library, De Beauvoir Road N1 5SQ (071 241 2886)