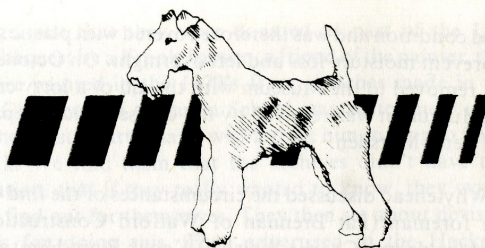


THE TERRIER



THE NEWSLETTER OF HACKNEY ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT

No. 9

December 1987

NOTES AND NEWS

Michelle Moore, who was our Search Room Assistant for a year, has left us to take up a permanent post in the Personnel Section of the Housing Directorate. Michelle put in a lot of useful work for us and she will be greatly missed. We wish her well.

Hackney Archives Department has never known such a year for staff changes! We have lost three and gained two since June.

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The saga of the air-conditioning goes on. It has now been extended to the search room, but we found the atmosphere was still very stuffy. Investigation showed that the mechanism for drawing fresh air into the system was not working We hope this will be rectified soon.

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The Safety Officer has just visited us, and has told us we must take down the posters and notices we were displaying on our staircase. Apparently they could cause a fire to spread up the stairs, thus impeding access in an emergency.

We hope to be able to get some perspex and fix it to the wall, in which case we will be able to display notices behind it. Meanwhile we apologise to all those whose posters and notices we can no longer display, and to all our users for the bare, bleak appearance of our staircase!

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Colm Kerrigan, the editor of *East London Record*, has produced a bumper Tenth Anniversary Issue. It includes an article by John Light on the Shoreditch cabinet making firm of C & R Light Ltd. The company's catalogue offered an enormous range of furniture, in addition to 'perambulators, folding perambulators, portable water closets and invalid's carrying chair'. The firm was based in the heart of Shoreditch's furniture industry, Curtain Road.

Other articles include 'The Rise and Fall of the Bow and Bromley Institute', 'Transport East of London Bridge after 1825' and 'Childhood memories of Bethnal Green'. *East*

London Record is available from Hackney Archives Department and from libraries in Hackney and Tower Hamlets, price £1.50. Please add 30p for p&p if ordering by post.

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In the last issue, the date when the article on the Lawrences was published in *Christian Life and Unitarian Herald* should have read 1897, not 1887. Sorry!

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The cold climate of financial cutbacks has already started to affect Hackney Archives Department; the Council has withdrawn all overtime payments. The Archives staff used to be paid overtime for covering when another member of staff was on leave or sick. Now that overtime has been discontinued there will inevitably be some closures on Monday evenings, and possibly at other times. We will try to keep these to a minimum.

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Now the good news. We have got our word processor at last, (and possibly just in time). It will save an enormous amount of time in the production of leaflets and standard letters, and the Annual Report. It will also help to produce *The Terrier* - that is, if we have the money to produce *The Terrier*.....

Jean Wait
Editor

A SAXON BOAT FOUND IN HACKNEY

The Department of Greater London Archaeology received a telephone call at 5 pm on 1st October from Hackney Council District Surveyors office. A wooden boat had been found an hour earlier during excavations for an adventure playground at the south end of Big Hill, E5 (Hackney) adjacent to the River Lea and Springfield Park, map reference TQ34958750.

D. Whipp and R. Whytehead attended the site the same evening and met Colin Jackson (who reported the find) and Paul Whitehouse both of the District Surveyors Department. The boat had been removed from the ground with a mechanical excavator and lay on the side of the trench. It was in apparently

all the remaining Jobsons in the phone directory. The Hackney Archives Department holds 22 of Frank Jobson's paintings of the Lea as well as the four of the Regent's Canal. I am ambitious for them to be displayed (hopefully at Hackney's new museum) and would like to be able to supply more biographical information about this remarkable Hackney artist.

In the course of their local history work the children have been able to find mistakes in recorded information. When children in Burbage School were working on the Gainsborough Studio, I supplied the class with a filmography from *Films and Filming*, which we rather naively used as a bible. We were eventually faced with contradictions between our oral testimony and the filmography. We were able to solve the problem by checking with notes on the back of the original photographs held by the National Film Archives and locating contemporary news articles. We discovered that there were indeed mistakes in the filmography.

At the end of every school year I help the children draw their work together in some way so that it can be passed on to other people. Hackney school children have produced two exhibitions that circulated in local libraries; Laburnum and Sebright schools have contributed to Exploring Living Memory exhibitions. The children at Laburnum School published a booklet (in 200 copies) *Changes along the canal*, telling the history of the canal in their neighbourhood. Burbage school produced a tape/slide show about the Gainsborough Film Studio, which can be loaned to schools.

When possible, the children and I present a copy of what they have done to the Hackney Archives Department, both finished products and the raw materials in the form of interviews recorded on audio or video tape. Representatives from the class bring these offerings to the Archives where Jean Watt receives them most graciously and takes the children through the Archives explaining its function.

I am very grateful to CHUG for making it possible for me to work with children in this way. While I was in the process of putting together a teaching pack for Hackney schools, I discovered that British Waterways Board was planning to produce a pack about the Regent's Canal and CHUG decided that it would be best for us to join forces with them. This pack has been completed and was tested in schools last spring. It is now undergoing final revisions and should be ready by spring this year. (A copy will be available at the Hackney Archives Department for anyone interested). The pack contains maps, photographs and copies of archive material on a number of different topics relating to the Regent's Canal and should be very helpful to teachers. CHUG, however, feels that research should not end with the publication of the pack, that the pack should be treated as a base of knowledge from which to work. There is still much to discover about the Regent's Canal through Hackney, and CHUG would like to encourage children to continue their good work as local historians.

Marcia Thompson

ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

By the end of this financial year, we hope that Hackney Archives will have been made accessible for people with disabilities. We are going to construct a ramp down from Downham Road into the basement. The ramp will be non-slip, will have adequate handrails and will be colour contrasted so that people with visual disabilities will find it easier to negotiate. We are also going to improve the lighting in this area. The back entrance doors and the doors to the toilet and the microfilm room will be widened for wheelchair access, and easier door-handles will be fitted. The toilet will be converted so that it is accessible for wheelchair users.

The work is being carried out with a grant from the Access to Leisure Project. This is an Urban Programme funded project within Hackney Council's Leisure Services Directorate, the aim of which is to improve access for people with disabilities to all leisure facilities in Hackney. The project is directed by a group of people with disabilities from the local community; this group assesses the various leisure buildings which apply for funding to be made accessible. Many projects have already been funded including Chat's Palace, The Rio, Central Baths and the Hackney Empire.

The project has just produced a photographic exhibition (with accompanying taped commentary) which shows their work and discusses the issues involved. The exhibition will be touring the Borough in the New Year.

If you want to find out more about the project, please contact the project workers, Sally Brooks and Paul McDonnell, on 739 8275, at Shoreditch Town Hall, 380 Old Street, EC1V 9LT.

Sally Brooks

Access to Leisure

GRECIAN THEATRE PLAYBILL APPEAL

Many thanks to all Friends who have already contributed to the appeal to buy the set of posters and programmes for the Grecian Theatre. So far we have raised enough to 'put a deposit' on the collection, thanks in particular to generous donations from the British Music Hall Society and from Charringtons, who own the present Eagle pub.

The sellers have also lent eleven of the items to the Archives Department to be displayed, and you can see them in the exhibition lobby there. One is reproduced overleaf. The collection offered for sale consists of 366 items altogether, a mouthwatering prospect.

Obviously the balance of the payment still has to be raised, so further donations will be very welcome. They should be made payable to Friends of Hackney Archives and sent to the Department.

Isobel Watson

VICTORIAN PANTOMIMES

The pantomime advertised in the playbill overleaf was typical of the mid-nineteenth century. It already contained ingredients we recognise today, such as the male Dame and the topical and local references. But it still included the harlequinade and the transformation scene.

The subject of the pantomime at this time was not a traditional fairy tale, but an original story. This however would be very much along folk-tale lines with such characters as the innocent village maiden, the wicked (often upper-class) villain and the honest country lad. The plot would always show Virtue Rewarded and Villainy Punished - again following the folk-tale model.

In the harlequinade the main characters were changed into Harlequin, Columbine, Pantaloon and Clown for the second part of the performance. This harlequinade was the original pantomime; the story began as an introduction to it and gradually became more important, pushing the harlequinade to the end of the performance and eventually ousting it altogether. The process might have happened more quickly but for the popularity of Joseph Grimaldi, who made Clown rather than Harlequin the main character. The actors wore huge masks called 'big heads' for the first part of the performance (the 'opening') to conceal their harlequinade makeup which was revealed in the second part.



A contemporary illustration of some of the special effects in a Conquest pantomime, Grim Goblin. The monkey is being projected from a 'star trap', a very hazardous special effect. The octopus (note the trick eye) holds a portrait of the man inside it. George Conquest - who was also the monkey, the dwarf and the human cannonball.

ROYAL GRECIAN SALOON

Licensed by the Lord Chamberlain. Proprietor Mr. THOMAS ROUSE, City Road.

Continuous and successful career of the **Comic Pantomime!** the attraction of which is truly unprecedented. Thunders of applause nightly greet the representation of England's mighty Trophy, (now approaching completion for the **WORLD'S FAIR!**) the

HYDE PARK CRYSTAL PALACE.

Auber's popular Opera, in 2 Acts, the **DUC D'OLONNE**, will be acted on **SATURDAY**.

TUESDAY, January 28th, 1851. A BALL.

A Benefit in aid of the Philanthropic Fund of Courts Cambrian 2219, and Foresters' Hope 1410, of the Ancient Order of **FORESTERS**. Only appearance of Mr. **BUCKLAND**.

Donizetti's Opera, in 2 Acts, called the

Daughter of the Regiment

Felix, the young Duke of Crackenthorp, disguised as a Tyrolese Peasant Mr. C. HORN
Bombard Pingot, a bluff old Serjeant of the 21st Regiment (1st time) Mr. P. CORRI
Hortensius, Steward to the Marchioness Mr. EATON O'DONNELL
George Batteur, Drummer of the 21st Regiment Mr. KERRIDGE
Georgette, (La Vivandiere) the Daughter of the Regiment Miss JULIA HARLAND
The Marchioness of Birkenfield Miss JOHNSTONE
The Duchess of Crackenthorp Miss E. CRISP

After which, the Farce, called

LOVERS' QUARRELS.

Don Carlos Mr. R. PHILLIPS
Sancho Mr. BUCKLAND, his only appearance
Lopez Mr. EATON O'DONNELL
Leonora Miss KATE DESMOND Jacintha .. Miss M. A. CRISP

The Performances will conclude with, 29th time, an entirely new **Comic Pantomime**, called

HARLEQUIN AND THE CRYSTAL PALACE of 1851

Or the Demon of Ignorance and the Fairy of Industry!

The Scenery by Mr. MUIR. The Music by Mr. ISAACSON. The Opening of the Pantomime written by C. ALTON, Esq. The Comic Business by M. ROCHEZ. The Dresses by Mr. H. EAD. The Dances, Tableaux, &c. by Madlle LUIZA & Mr. G. MASKELL. The Tricks, Transformations, &c. by Mr. COPPING.
Squire Huddlemuddle, of Huddlemuddle Hall, Hertfordshire..... } **M. SAFFRENI**
afterwards **Pantaloen**..... }
Robert Trefoil, a young Farmer..afterwards **Harlequin**.. **Mr. G. MASKELL**
Beadle Mr. ROBERTS
Ignorance, the Enemy to Mankind.. **Mr. COLLETT**
Sloth, Poverty, & Vice, his familiars .. Messrs. KERRIDGE, MELVIN, & HYNES
Mischief, a fiendish **Sprite**, hatched by Ignorance **Herr KENIG**
Dame Scuttlefill afterwards **Clown** **M. ROCHEZ**
Nimminipimminytwisteeefstee, Little Clownce...a Chip of the Old Block.. Master ROCHEZ
Blanche.....afterwards **Columbine**..... **Mademoiselle LUIZA**
Honeydrop:..the Fairy of the Bee Bower of Industry Miss KATE DESMOND
Abeille her confidant Miss GUNNISS
Miella, Neverstill, Active, See-clear, and Fidget, ...Fairies of the Bee Bower.... Misses E. GUNNISS
E. CRISP, MORGAN, B. MORGAN, MACARTHY, BRUNTON, ROCHEZ, &c. Fiends, Fairies, &c.

Scene 1--A Village in Hertfordshire.

Village Fete and Wedding.. Curiosity and obstinacy.. not the "Happiest day of my life".. The honeymoon we'll pass in London, with permission.. And Blanche shall see the Hyde Park Exhibition.

Sc. 2--Chamber in Squire Huddlemiddle's House

Vexation--disapprobation--irritation--and combination--Ignorance creates Mischief!

Sc. 3--ENTRANCE to the ABODE of IGNORANCE

A Storm brewing--the lovers in jeopardy--the trap laid, and the youthful pair caught by Ignorance.

Sc. 4--The Fairy Bee Bower of Industry

The Industrious Fays all busy--Dance of Fairies--Pas de Deux by the Misses GUNNISS

Scene 5--INTERIOR of the ABODE of IGNORANCE

All may compete! all, e'en from East to West, | For Emulation is a worthy game--
And Nations will decide whose Arts are best; | Behold the Monument of Britain's fame!

The Crystal Palace for the Exhibition of 1851

Tableau.....GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.....More Scheming by Ignorance.

Scene 6---A VIEW IN HERTFORDSHIRE

SCENE 7--THE FAIRY'S DWELLING!

Mischief at work again--All hope seems lost, but Industry triumphs over Ignorance. | For twelve long months I can protect you still,--"And curb this cruel Devil of his will."--(SHAKSPERE).

Scene 8--"THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT."

Pas Person.....MR. G. MASKELL and Madlle. LUIZA.

Jack of all trades, master of none--dandy distresses--the Meerchaum and the Meer-aham--a cheese not a cheashire--Prize cutlery from Sheffield--a knife well wet will cut--a small knife from a great cheese--tricks extraordinary--musical instruments for the Grand Exhibition--a new method of exhibiting specimens....the kicking horse--oh, you swindler--the envious clown--I'll have an exhibition of my own--what do think of that!--

"The rival exhibition, in a state of inanition, | Not being in good condition, 'cuts its stick' without permission."

Scene 9....Lodging House for Foreign Visitors to the Exhibition of 1851.

The Crystal Waltz Mr. G. MASKELL and Madlle. LUIZA.

Great accommodation (apparently)--vast preparations for expected foreigners--Miss Sprightly quite lively--Miss Quick very sharp--Clown and Pantaloon engaged as waiters--"won't we have a swindle"--look out--Monsieur De la Haute-poulencrenillecoautrie is announced--"Polly-voo fransay? We! we we!"--Mounseer frightened at the high prices--satisfied at last--Arrival of Baron Schauterzinchymiskyoykymasibblaky, attended by his chasseur Colonel Kckmstjjackj and his valet Johan Bbarrijbedfissie with Barones Blasforunenketerhausenonderwakerhaus--the bill of fare--plenty to choose from--bring all in--prices extremely reasonable--Lodging 6 guineas a week, Bread and Cheese 5s., Bed £1. per night, Glass of Sherry, 1s. 6d., Dinner with Soup £2. Boots cleaned 2s. 6d., Loan of Clothes Erush 1s. 6d., and every other article equally cheap.--N.B. Pap for Babies 2s. a bason--Clown swindles the visitors, who are "taken in and done for"...riots and quarrels, murder! Fire, robbery and bobbery.

Scene 10--EAST WALL OF ST. LUKE'S WORKHOUSE

The Balmoral Fling.....MR. G. MASKELL and Madlle. LUIZA

Clown looks out for squalls...his new method of giving charity...a plaister without pain..Clown's peculiar use of Bottles..new method of drawing corks--how to drink when thirsty--Porter without a head--rather too much head..Clown prefers "Seager and Evans's."--Infantine precocity..the young Clown imitating his "Papa"--Spinning plates and nothing to eat...with grand and sudden change to a Popular Advertisement!

Scene 11--BIRD CATCHERS and DOG FANCIERS

The Grecian Polka MR. G. MASKELL and Madlle. LUIZA

Mr. Supplyall, (that fancy them, with) Monkeys, Dogs, Cats, Rats, and Mice for the Grand Exhibition..all animals to be paid for before their sagacity is proved....Monkey and Pantaloon can't agree.....Animal's sagacity..wonderful parrot from "nobody knows where" ..hallo, who stole the dog? ..who could a tale (tail) unfold..high and lofty jump--there they go, here they come..no they don't...yes they do...how then..when I now!

Scene 12---MISCHIEF'S TRAP!

Very like an end--the pair in jeopardy--time's up--saved in the nick of time--and discovery of the

Magnificent Building for the Exhibition of all Nations! Emblems of the United Kingdom, and God bless the Queen!

To-morrow, Wednesday, January 29--The Drama of the KING'S WAGER. With, 1st time, a Farce, called the BED ROOM WINDOW. And, 30th time, the New Comic Pantomime.

A Concert each night in the Hall of Nations.

No Return Checks will be given after Nine o'clock.

Doors open at Six, begin at a quarter before Seven o'clock.

Admission,--One Shilling. Ladies & Juveniles, 6d. Half-price at Nine o'clock, 6d.

This Evening, Balcony 1s. each extra--Stalls 6d. Private Boxes can be had on application.

Leader and Composer Mr. ISAACSON. Prompter Mr. ROBERTS

Stage Manager Mr. R. PHILLIPS

Acting Manager Mr. CAMPELL

All applications respecting the Bills to be made to Mr. Wright.

W. Hornblower Printer to the Establishment, Wilderness Row, Coe well Street.

Note that three separate pieces were performed on the same evening in the Grecian Saloon, not to mention the concert in the 'Hall of Nations' elsewhere in the grounds of the Eagle. This multiple offering was standard practice in the theatres of the time, as was the 'half price at 9 o'clock' concession.