The Story of London Maps (Continued)

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THE STORY OF LONDON MAPS.*

By LAURENCE GOMME.

The most delightful of all London maps is that of Van den Wyngaerde, the original drawing of which is in the Sutherland collection in the Bodleian library. Its actual date is uncertain. It shows the king's palace at Westminster as it was when Henry VIII. forsook it for Whitehall; the position of Bridewell is left blank; the tower of Holy Trinity, Aldgate, is shown standing; and the Cistercian Abbey of Eastminster is shown. Now, Bridewell was built by Henry VIII. in 1522; Holy Trinity was given by the king to Sir Thomas Audley in 1501, and at some time between this year and the year of his death, 1544, the Tower was pulled down by him; and the Abbey at Eastminster was destroyed in 1539. These dates suggest that the drawing was made, or perhaps begun, *tempore* Henry VIII., and not in its usual attributed date of 1550.

VAN DER WYNGAERDE'S MAP, FROM THE KING'S PALACE TO ST. GILES.

Among interesting features of the view, apart from the beautiful representation of London Bridge, is the view of Suffolk House, Southwark, a contemporary picture of a Tudor house. It was built by Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, and some of its dislodged remains

* Continued from p. 509.

WYNGAERDE'S MAP, SHOWING LONDON BRIDGE.

were uncovered in 1905-6 by the London County Council in running a road through the churchyard of St. George the Martyr.

The "Braun and Hogenburg" map, printed in the *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*, 1572, is exceedingly interesting. The arms of Elizabeth appear upon it, the costume of the figures shown in the interesting little street scene in the foreground is early Elizabethan, and the buildings westward of Temple Bar can be dated from history as early Elizabethan. For instance, Paget Place; this was known as Exeter House before the Reformation; as Paget Place after the Reformation, from William, Lord Paget, whose property it became; later as Leicester House, when Robert Dudley owned it; later still, as Essex House, when the unfortunate Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, lived there. St. Paul's is shown with the spire which was destroyed in 1561.

This map is to be dated, therefore, between 1558, the date of Elizabeth's accession, and 1561, at the time when Essex House (Leicester House) was known as Paget Place.

The famous Agas map has four special features:—

- (1) Bears the arms of James I.
- (2) The arms of Queen Elizabeth appear on the royal barge in the river.

Plan of London (circa 1560-1570) by Ralph Agas

Sheet 1

- (3) shows the amphitheatres as in "Braun and Hogenburg."

- (4) St. Paul's appears without the spire.

Therefore Mr. Ordish dates this map a little later than "Braun and

Hogenberg"—between 1561, when the spire was destroyed, and before the Earl of Leicester took Paget Place as his residence.

The first sheet of the London Topographical Society's reproduction of this map (showing the arms of James I., which must have been engraved upon the plate subsequently) affords an interesting view of the district known to us as the Seven Dials. We identify our present Oxford Street in "The Waye to Vxbridge," and we feel that we are on the road towards Hyde Park Corner when we leave the village of St. Giles and its church (the original of the existing one) and follow the direction given, "The Waye to Redinge." The map is curiously illustrated by figures of pedestrians, cattle, and women drying clothes.

Sheet 5 shows us Charing Cross, Whitehall, and Westminster; St. James's Park and Lambeth Palace appear on the further right and left of the picture. Kinges Streate existed until the other day. The name "Whitehall" does not appear, but we have (as in "Braun and Hogenburg") "the Courte." Parliament Street was scarcely a highway at that time. The way from Charing Cross is barred except for an opening that could scarcely have admitted a coach of any size, and the way is guarded at either end of the palace precinct by great gateways—the Holbein Gate towards Charing Cross, the King's Gate towards Westminster. The cockpit, a part of the site of which, Lord Welby tells us, is included in the buildings of the present Treasury, stands looking over the park, with the lake and a bridge, in correspondence with features familiar to us to-day. You will observe the swans in the river, which were of European celebrity as a feature of Elizabethan London.

Sheet 2 shows the continuation of the road from Uxbridge, which we call Oxford Street because it is the high-road to Oxford; it enters the map on the left-hand side just east of St. Giles in the Fields, continues along Holborn, crosses the Fleet river by Holborn bridge, and approaches Newgate. You see the territory of Lincoln's Inn is enclosed, and between Chancery Lane and Holborn Bars is Southampton House, the residence of Shakespeare's patron, the Earl of Southampton. On this wall here in Chancery Lane, Gerard the botanist at this time found growing the Whiteblowe or Whitelowe grasse, "the English Naile wort," as recorded in his 'Herball,' 1597. "It groweth plentifully," he says, "upon the backe wall in Chauncerie Lane, belonging to the Earle of Southampton, in the suburbs of London."

The line of the road to Theobald's—what we call Theobald's road to-day, formerly the King's way—intersects the sheet. It passes Clerkenwell, and on the right we see the buildings of the Hospital or Priory of St. John of Jerusalem, and the southern gateway, which still exists, is shown in St. John Street, leading from Smithfield as it does to-day. Cow Cross Street still exists, leading from the Smithfield

market. Shoe Lane, leading towards Fleet Street, is identifiable under the spelling "Schow Lane."

Sheet 6 shows the Strand, Temple Bar, and Fleet Street; the river, with the river-side palaces from Durham Place (where Sir Walter Raleigh lived) to Bridewell, once a royal palace, at this time a hospital, having been so constituted in the reign of Edward VI. On the south is Paris Garden, one of the pleasure resorts of Elizabethan London, and, according to the map, also apparently the home of strange animals.

Sheet 3 gives the line of Newgate Street and the Royal Exchange district, showing two conduits besides the great conduit of Cheapside,

THE BEAR GARDEN, THE GLOBE. VISSCHER'S VIEW OF LONDON, 1616.

with the large jars or pitchers standing in the roadway. The area between Moorgate and Lothbury is an open space. The wall is very distinctly drawn. Outside the wall in "More Fyeld" are more clothes drying, and a little to the north archers may be seen practising.

Sheet 7 comprises the St. Paul's area, showing on the south side the church of St. Saviour's.

The next map is that of Norden in 1593, representing London, as apart from Westminster. Gray's Inn Lane leads through the country to Hampstead. The village of Islington is isolated. The river of Wells, the source of the Fleet river, is delineated. The old spital, where the Easter spital sermons were preached from the pulpit cross, is marked.

The church of St. Botolph's, opposite Aldgate, is shown. The two Smithfields, east and west, are shown. The city walls are remarkably well defined. On the south side are Lambeth Marsh, Paris Garden, and on the Bank side the bear-house and the playhouse.

Norden's map of Westminster, separately printed, is also very interesting.

A very interesting view of old London Bridge is contained in the Pepysian library at Cambridge, and has been reprinted by Dr. Furnivall. In the group of buildings are St. Thomas's chapel on the left, Nonsuch house on the right; the cornmills further on the right, and the water-raising apparatus on the left.

A valuable view of London by Hondius in 1610 is given in Speed's 'Theatre of Great Britain.'

Visscher's view of London in 1616, a copy of the original edition of which is in the King's Library, British Museum, has been reproduced by the London Topographical Society. Sheet 1 shows us Whitehall; Sheet 2 St. Paul's Cathedral, the Bear Garden, and Globe, after it was rebuilt; Sheet 3 the Bridge; and Sheet 4 the Tower and St. Olaf.

The Faithorne and Newcourt map of 1658 brings us to the end of the Commonwealth period. Sheet 1 of the London Topographical Society's reproduction has an excellent engraving of Westminster Abbey and St. Giles; Sheet 5 shows Westminster and St. James's Palace and the river bend (Cockpit shown by itself, in shape like the other playhouses on the bankside); Sheet 2 shows the centre of the town with St. Paul's; Sheet 4 the river, the bridge, and Southwark; Sheet 3 shows the north-eastern part of the town, including the Tower, and, as an inset, a picture of St. Paul's, to correspond with that of Westminster Abbey as in the first sheet; Sheet 6 shows the river towards the foot of the Thames, with the shipping. One most interesting relic of the time, depicted by Faithorne's map, when the now densely populated district near Soho was in a quite rural condition, is still in existence. In Archer Street, facing the rear of the Lyric Theatre, stands a farmhouse (now occupied by a firm of upholsterers and art-fringe makers). This is said to be the farmhouse of Windmill Fields. These fields, like the present Great Windmill Street, derived their name from the windmill which is shown in Faithorne's map of London in 1658, and which probably stood near the junction of Great Windmill Street and Little Pulteney Street. The fields are alluded to in a printed proclamation quoted in Wheatley and Cunningham's 'London Past and Present' (vol. 3, pp. 526, 527) of April 7, 1871: "The fields, commonly called the Windmill Fields, Dog Fields, and the fields adjoining to So Hoe."

Porter's map of London (1660-1665) is the latest map before the Great Fire in 1666.

I now pass from the general maps by referring to the collection
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HOLLAR'S VIEW OF LONDON, 1647, SHOWS SOUTHWARKE, ST. PAUL'S, LONDON BRIDGE, THE EAST END OF LONDON, THE TOWER, AND THE RIVER.

the originals of which, by the kindness of the London County Council, I am able to exhibit to-night. They proceed in more or less regularity until they become annual from 1800. Many of these maps are of great beauty as specimens of the cartographer's art, and all of them reveal features of more than ordinary interest to Londoners.

THE FAITHORNE AND NEWCOURT MAP OF 1658.

Apart from the general maps are a whole series of special maps. Many of these are in the possession of the local authorities of London, and are of great value, though they are not always valued by their owners, even though they are owners as trustees of the public.

2 U 2

The map of Southwark in the Duchy of Lancaster records, and dated 1542, is, not only from its early date, but from the details it contains, one of the most interesting of these special maps. It has been reproduced in Rendle's 'Old Southwark.' This plan was probably made about the year 1542. It is quite out of scale, but affords, nevertheless, a good-enough indication of the true position of the buildings and objects it shows, while its rude representation of them in picture form gives it a peculiar interest. It covers the area from Winchester Yard on the west to Bermondsey Street on the east, and from the Thames on the north to Long Lane on the south. The greater portion of the map is devoted to the representation of the main thoroughfare through Southwark. Here, occupying prominent positions in the centre of the road, are shown the pillory, the well, and the bull-ring. On the east side of the way are the numerous inns for which Southwark was famous (the White Hart, the George, the Tabard, and others), the Gate of St. Thomas's Hospital, the Marshalsea, the King's Bench prison, and St. George's Church. On the west side the most prominent objects are St. Saviour's Church and the manorhouse, while a few inns and private houses, the court-house, and the market-place, are also represented. Along the course of what is now Tooley Street may be seen another pillory, together with a cage; and at the top of Bermondsey Street is Bermondsey Cross.

There exists a plan of Deptford, drawn in 1623, and containing memoranda by John Evelyn.

Another good example of local maps is the map of the manor of Old Paris Garden, in 1627. The map shows Copt Hall, the Mannor House (afterwards Holland's Leaguer), and an "Olde Playe House." The names of the tenants are given. Most of the houses are along Bankside. Paris Garden Stairs, Holy Ghost Stairs, and Stairs near the Barge House are shown. A portion of Winchester Parke is on the east, and The Princes Meddowes are on the west.

Hollar published a beautiful map of the western part of London, and only one copy, now in the British Museum, is known. It was drawn before the Great Fire. It is not a view, but a map with buildings delineated in isometrical projection. The dial in the centre of Covent Garden piazza is shown, and this was set up about 1668 or 1669. St. Giles Fields are unoccupied with buildings. A curious pyramidal tower, marked "Ye Waterhouse," just to the eastward of the landing stage known as Strand Bridge, and in front of Arundel House, is shown, and this is one of the works set up during the Protectorate for pumping the river water for public service. It was patented in 1655, and in all probability taken down in 1665, the year after an order was issued for its destruction by the king.

The London County Council possesses many beautiful maps and plans as originally drawn for its various predecessors, from whom it

inherited manuscripts and documents of surpassing interest. One of these is a finely executed plan of the Grosvenor estate in 1723, showing its area to be nearly co-extensive with the then newly formed

parish of St. George, Hanover Square. There are plans of other great London estates—of the parish of Paddington (1824), of St. Marylebone, Paddington, and St. Pancras, showing the estates within that area; of

the old Hippodrome and neighbourhood, showing Notten Barn farm, and Portobello farm; of the Great Western and North-Western railways in the London district, with Brunel's and Robert Stephenson's signatures; and of the new Houses of Parliament, signed by (Sir) Charles Barry.

Perhaps the most interesting, however, is a survey of the river Fleet made in 1817, showing the condition of the whole line of the stream from Hampstead to Holborn, and leading us back to a London of green fields and hedges, five-barred gates and trees, with an occasional cottage on the banks of the stream. From this beautiful plan I have selected four views. The first of these shows the Fleet river just after leaving Pond Street, Hampstead, the second at St. Chad's well, the third at Bagnigge Wells,

THE FLEET JUST AFTER LEAVING POND STREET, HAMPSTEAD.

and the fourth at Saffron Hill, where for the first time we get the presence of bricks and mortar.

The ancient streams of London have been gradually converted into sewers, and plans of them are still extant. Thus the King's Scholars' Pond sewer was so called because it emptied itself into the Thames at the King's Scholars' Pond (near the present Vauxhall Bridge), on "the great level extending from the Horse Ferry to Chelsey Mead." Incidentally it may be mentioned that during the reign of Queen Anne the name of the sewer was dutifully changed to Queen's Scholars' Pond sewer. Anciently it was known as the Tyburn brook, and later as the Aye brook, and flowed down the hill from Marylebone Fields, passing near the old village of Tyburn and across the Acton or Tyburn road (Oxford Street), and the present Brook Street, through Mayfair to the Stone Bridge, situated at the "dip" in modern Piccadilly. Passing under the bridge and the high-road to Kensington, it entered what is

now known as the Green Park. This was formerly St. James's Fields, until Charles II. enclosed them, and added the land thus enclosed to St.

THE FLEET AT ST. CHAD'S WELL.

THE FLEET NEAR BAGNIGGE WELLS.

James's Park, by which name the whole was known until a comparatively recent period. Large ponds were formed in the course of the

sewer in this part of the park. At the bottom of the hill the streamlet passed through the gardens of Goring or Arlington House, where Buckingham Palace now stands, and along by the "coach road to Chelsea"—the present Buckingham Palace Road—and what is now Vauxhall Bridge Road to the river. At different periods the stream was altered in various parts of its course, and gradually covered in and converted into an underground sewer.

There were other small tributaries of the Thames which became in course of time underground sewers. One was the Bayswater brook, or West Bourne, which became the important Ranelagh sewer, and part of which was utilized to form the Serpentine. A glance at the map of the original winding course of this stream will easily explain the origin of the name "Serpentine." Further west was the Counter's Creek, with its tributary the Stinking Ditch.

I think I have now shown how valuable these maps and plans are for London history. I first of all introduced you to maps drawn from archaeological and historical remains; then to very ancient historical remains still surviving on the later maps; and, finally to maps for the information they give of topographical features contemporary with their own dates. Before closing my paper, I wish to say one word as to the material which exists for filling up of gaps in the maps, or for extending the information they contain in many important particulars.

Thus, among the earliest documents belonging to the London County Council are the minutes of the Surrey Commission of Sewers, which commence in January, 1557-8. The next oldest collection of minutes is that of the Greenwich Commission, whose minutes range from 1625 to 1847; then the Poplar Commission, from 1629 to 1847; then the Westminster Commission, from 1659 to 1847; then the Tower Hamlets Commission, from 1702 to 1847; then the Holborn and Finsbury Commission, from 1716 to 1847; then the St. Katherine's Commission, from 1782 to 1841; and, lastly, the Metropolitan Commission, from 1847 to the formation of the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1855.

The value, as material for London history, of entries in these minute-books, may be realized from even a cursory perusal of some of the volumes. Witness the entry in the first volume of the minute-books of the Surrey and Kent Commission, 1557-1606 (left-hand page of folio 154)—

"1588. Henchley—Item, we present Phillip Henchley to pull upp all the pylls that stand in ye common sewer against the play-house to ye stopping of the water course, the which to be done by midsomer next uppon paine of x' yf it be undone. x' (done)."

There is little doubt that "Philip Henchley" is Philip Henslow, who in 1584 or 1585 purchased the land close by the southern end of

modern Southwark Bridge, on which stood the "Little Rose" play-house, and who rebuilt the theatre in 1586 or 1587.

In the minutes of the Westminster Commission for 1662 to 1666, p. 184, occurs the passage—

"Proposals for taking away the annoyances occasioned by the common sewer at Westminster.

"Westminster lies upon a great flat, and the highest part of the soil is next the bridge, upon Mill Bank. The highest spring tides flow six or seven feet higher than the low-water mark.

THE FLEET AT SAFFRON HILL.

"Westminster and the parks is annoyed by the filth of the common sewer, which is occasioned by the settlement of the soil of high waters and stopped . . . the filth of sundry drains running into it, with several houses of office upon it.

"For prevention of which it is proposed—That the pond reaching up to Sir Robert Pyes be made a receptacle of water at high tides, to be kept in till a low ebb by flood gates at the mill and a sluice at Sir Robert Pyes, which is to be drawn to let forth a source of water so oft as needs require to scower the sewer; that the sewer be made perfect from Sir Robert Pyes to Tuttle-street, by St. James's-parke wall, and cross King-street by the bowling ground at Whitehall, and so into the river of Thames."

The early topography of Westminster can be made out fairly well by such entries as these, especially when they are all before the student ready to be transferred to a map.

Again, in 1692, leave was given by the Westminster Commissioners to Elizabeth Campion, widow of Richard Campion, to continue a sewer formerly belonging to Coventry House (where Coventry Street now stands) for the drainage of thirty-four houses built by her late husband. A year later Richard Rider petitioned for leave to make sewers for his

new houses in Cranbourn Street. In 1705 the Duke of Bedford was allowed to lay the drainage for the houses to be built "on the scite of his late mansion-house," and similar leave was granted to the Duke of Argyll in 1735 for the drainage of the new buildings on the ground of his mansion-house in King Street. The petition is also recorded of John James, a builder, for sewers to drain new houses in the neighbourhood of Golden Square, probably the still-existing John Street and James Street. The Earl of Oxford in 1726 laid sewers for his new buildings in Marylebone Fields without leave of the Commissioners, and was promptly summoned. The jury appointed to inquire into matters of drainage reported (1678) that one Richard Frith had erected 257 houses in Soho Fields, and had laid out ground for 300 more, and that consequently the old sewer leading from the fields was liable to be flooded. "We questioned the said Frith whether he had authority to bring his water into the antient sewer, and he could give no account thereof." After due consultation Mr. Frith agreed to continue a sufficient "shore" from his own buildings at Soho down to the "White Horse Inne," and if necessary to contribute to the widening of the sewer in St. Martin's Lane near the "Ladie Seymour's house."

The pages of these minute-books bear frequent references to places which find little or no remembrance in the modern street nomenclature of London. The Cock and Pye Fields, *alias* Marsh Land, were adjacent to the Cock and Pye brew-house, in the parish of St. Giles-in-the-Fields. Mill Field or Kirkham Close is difficult to locate, but was probably west of the present Regent Street, perhaps on the site of Mill Street. The Pest field, where victims of the Great Plague were buried, was to the east of Carnaby Street. It was built upon in 1726. Some of the places mentioned are remembered only in the names of streets. Oliver's Mount Fields, mentioned in a description of the extent of Sir Richard Grosvenor's land, represents the site of one of Cromwell's abortive military forts, and are remembered by Mount Street. A reference to Newport Dead Wall recalls the site of Newport House, on which are Newport Street and Market Stand. Albemarle Ground was the site of Albemarle Street.

A series of presentments of the jury for work required about the sewers under the jurisdiction of the Westminster Commission of Sewers dates from 1668 to 1848; Holborn and Finsbury from 1683 to 1684; Surrey and Kent from 1746 to 1793; and St. Katherine from 1754 to 1821; and give important details in the topography of London, introducing us to the early condition of streets now in existence and to streets that have long since been destroyed. Each entry contains, besides the names of owners of property, the businesses carried on, important descriptions of streets, alleys, and roads. As examples of the entries, the following extracts are given from the presentments and

amercements of the eastern jury of the Surrey and Kent Commission :—

"1. *27th May, 1746*—We find that in the river of Thames opposite to and near Pepper Alley Stairs in the parishes of St. Olave and St. Saviour in Southwark . . . at a small distance from the banks of the said river there is a very great hole . . . and we find that the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London ought to fill up the said hole; we therefore present the Mayor . . . to make good the basement of the Thames bank . . . to be . . . done by 10th June next or forfeit . . . £500.

"3. *6th October, 1757*—We present Taylor Ayres, of the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey . . . to cast, cleanse, scower, and open to its antient wydth and depth the common sewer which runs across his rope-walk, near Cherry Garden-street . . . and the soil to carry away in order to give the water its free and usual current . . . to be . . . done by 2nd January next, or forfeit . . . 10s.

"4. *26th April, 1759*—We present . . . the Earl of Salisbury to repair about 8 rods of wharfing next the common sewer near Mill Pond Bridge at the bottom of West-lane in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey . . . in order to prevent any rubbish or soil from falling into the said common sewer, and annoying and obstructing the current of the water . . . to be . . . done by 24th June next, or forfeit for every rod then undone . . . 3s. 4d."

An equally important series of documents are the rate-books. The rate-books of the Westminster Commission range from 1695 to 1848; the Tower Hamlets Commission from 1703 to 1847; the Surrey and Kent Commission from 1723 to 1848; the Greenwich Commission from 1775 to 1808; the Holborn and Finsbury Commission from 1779 to 1848; and the Poplar Commission from 1825 to 1845.

The name of the occupier and the rateable value of the premises in each street are set out in addition to the rate levied, and the value of such material as this for the history of London is, of course, very great. It would be difficult to select extracts from the rate-books; but if the streets where practically little or no alteration in structure has taken place could have the valuations at quinquennial periods printed in the same manner as the valuation of St. James's Square has been printed in Mr. Dasent's history of that place, I think the results would prove acceptable to many people. In addition to this, the residences of celebrated persons can be noted and the chief centres of residential or industrial occupation traced out.

The nomenclature of many of the streets outside the city can be restored from these books. Shalligonaked Street appears in the Wapping rate in the year 1748; the Land of Promise, still the name of a Shore-ditch slum, was once the name of a field on the site. Southwark was remarkable for its oddities in the matter of street names. It contained Dirty Lane, Foul Lane, and Harrow Dunghill. Bandy Leg Walk was near the site of the present Great Guildford Street. Sol's Hole was a slum near Holyfield Street. Loving Edward's Lane led from Camberwell to Deptford, and appears in very recent maps. The west end of London had its strange street names, some of them well known by

their mention in old literature. Defoe mentions Knave's Acre (now Little Pulteney Street), which appears in the rate-books for many years, and is shown in Rocque's map in 1746. In the parish of St. Margaret's, Westminster, were Cabbage Lane, Powder Beef Court, Thieving Lane, Adam-a-Digging Yard, Codpiece Court, Hell (in the precincts of the former royal palace), and Petty France. Some of these are still in existence.

Some curious cases of corruptions in the names of streets may be noticed. Thus, St. Ermin's Hill, in Westminster, is a typical instance of the way in which the name of a street is altered in process of time. Its present name was doubtless the original one, but in the rate-books for the district it appears variously as Torman's Hill (1704), Dormor's Hill (1714), Dorman's Hill, and Torment Hill. The latter is the spelling in Rocque's map of 1746. Horwood's plan of London, published at the end of the century, reverts to the old correct name which is now always used on modern maps.

The courts and alleys forming the rookeries which have been swept away for successive improvements are all included in the various assessments here recorded. Some were pulled down at the formation of Regent Street, others to make room for Trafalgar Square, Victoria Street, Whitehall, the Strand improvements, and the new Law Courts. The names of many of them are interesting in showing their connection with the old aristocratic houses near which, or on the site of which, they were built. From the lists of inhabitants of streets at successive dates the spread of the town may be traced. At the Restoration the leaders of fashion congregated round Soho Square, or King Square as it was then called. When the St. Alban's estate was built on a few years later, many of the nobility migrated to St. James's Square and the neighbourhood. Early in the eighteenth century, Hanover Square, George Street, Conduit Street, etc., were built, and by 1723 many of the nobility had taken the new houses. Later on, Grosvenor Square and the adjacent streets became the scene of a fresh migration. Among the inhabitants of these quarters are many famous in history and literature. Sir Isaac Newton was rated in Little Jernyn Street at £80 a year in 1706. Dr. John Blow was assessed at £35 for his house in the sanctuary, Westminster, in 1703; Dr. Cypriannius for house in Wells Street at £16 (1710). Sir Godfrey Kneller lived in Great Queen Street in 1708; Mrs. Oldfield in Southampton Street in 1713; and Grinling Gibbons on the east side of Bow Street in 1718. The assessment for Villiers Street in 1725 contains the names of Philip Arbuthnot and Sir Richard Steel; that of Charles Street, Covent Garden, shows Colley Cibber to have lived on the west side in a house rated at £65 (1731). Later books show the names of Jacob Tonson, the bookseller in the Strand, assessed at £60; William Hogarth, in Leicester Fields (£45); Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Michael Rysbrach, and many others. On

the south side of Brook Street, in 1739, lived George Frederick Handel, rated at £20. His fame was apparently not then universal, for in 1735 he is entered as Frederick Handwell, Esq.

The maps of London may also be illustrated from one other important source, and that is the imprints of early printed books. An examination of the catalogue of early printed books in the British Museum, or of Mr. Hazlitt's 'Collections and Notes,' supply innumerable references to the dwelling-places of printers at different dates, and to get these collated and properly located would restore a seventeenth and eighteenth century London of surpassing interest. The work would be tedious and long, but I think the results would be worth the labour involved. Thus, taking the first twenty pages of Hazlitt's 'Collections and Notes,' we have the following names and centres of the bookselling business:—

Authority.	Date.	6. London Bridge.	7. Fleet Street.	8. Strand.	9. Ludgate Street.	10. Bishopsgate Street.
Hazlitt, i. p. 2	1685	T. Passinger				
" " 8	1664	C. Tyus				
" " 12	1690	J. Blase				
" " 2	1669		S. Speed.			
" " 6	1595		W. Mattes.			
" " 14	1571		Marshe			
" " 4	1660			W. Smith		
" " 18	1720			W. Bray		
" " 4	1678				J. Edwin	
" " 2	1701					J. Gwillim

Authority.	Date.	11. Charing Cross.	12. Smithfield.	13. Little Britain.	14. Britaines Burne.	15. St. Paul's Churchyard.
Hazlitt, i. p. 15		R. Wyer				
" " 16	1649		R. Ibbetson			
" " 18				J. Audley		
" " 1	1635				W. Sheares	
" " 1	1640					W. Morley
" " 6	1652					G. Calvert
" " 7	1665					R. Loundes
" " 7	1548					R. Jugge
" " 9	1590					E. White
" " 10	1617					Norton
" " 11	1661					J. Latham
" " 14	1686					H. Bon- wicke
" " 14	1551					J. Kyng
" " 17	1661					W. Miller
" " 19	1696					R. Welling- ton

Authority.	Date.	16. Warwick Lane.	17. Cornhill.	18. Chancery Lane.	19. Newgate.	20. Giltspur Street.
Hazlitt, i. p. 5	1698	R. Baldwin				
" " 6	1652		J. Grismond			
" " 10	1658		Farnham			
" " 6	1628			R. Hawkins		
" " 7	1659				T. Vere	
" " 7	1659					Gilbertson

Authority.	Date.	21. Poultry.	22. Lombard Street.	23. Westminster Hall.	24. Moorfields.	25. Ivy Lane.
Hazlitt, i. p. 8	1664	Godbid				
" " 9, 18	1588		Hackett			
" " 10	1691		Clark			
" " 10	1673			Hausmann		
" " 10	1671				Smelt	
" " 12	1633					R. Royston

Each of these names represents a quaint description of the house: "Imprinted at London in Fletestrete nere to S. Dunstons Church by Thomas Marshe;" "Imprinted at London by John Charlewood dwelling in Barbican at the signe of the Halfe Eagle and the Key;" and so on.

The same sort of evidence can be collected from old London directories, many of which are of the greatest interest. The earliest are little more than mere lists of merchants. That for 1677, in fact, simply professes to be "A collection of the names of the merchants living in and about the City of London; very usefull and necessary. Carefully collected for the benefit of all dealers that shall have occasion with any of them; directing them at the first sight of their name, to the place of their abode." No numbers are given. The entries take the form of "Mr. Ludlow, Bow Lane," or "Mr. Brabant in St. Swithin's Lane at a Packer's," "Thomas White at the Blew Anchor in Lumbard Street." The first directory containing the numbers of houses is the 'London Directory' for 1778, and Kent's directory for 1799 specifically states that it contains the "names and places of abode of the Directors of companies, persons in public business, merchants, and other traders . . . with the numbers as they are affixed to their houses, agreeable to the late Acts of Parliament." Johnstone's Commercial Guide and Street Directory for 1817 gives a *classification* of trades, etc.

There is one last aspect of London maps which will interest all Londoners. This is the collection of the information which shows the gradual growth of London. The earliest map of this kind known to

me is one which was published by the Royal Commission on water supply in 1869. This map shows extensions from 1560 to 1745, thence to 1818, thence to 1834, thence to 1867, and some few suburban extensions.

A better view of the growth of London, however, is to be obtained from the various Estate Acts, which were passed to enable entailed estates to be let for a term of years on lease. A few months before his all too early death, the late Mr. Charles Harrison, M.P., drew up a map from the great collection of private Estate Acts which he had acquired, and he gave this to me. It shows eight different extensions—from the city walls to 1658, from 1658 to 1668, thence to 1745, thence to 1799, thence to 1832, then the 1832 extension, next from 1832 to 1852, and finally from 1862 to 1887. Thus is shown the ever-widening area creeping along the highways, and gradually filling in until at last the monster city, as it is called, has become one vast extent of bricks and mortar with little, if any, architectural purpose or design, with unlovely houses in unlovely streets—a city spoiled of its natural beauty and delight by the unthinking hands of the modern Englishman.

The first extension is along the river-bank to Westminster on the north and Southwark on the south, showing the river to have been the principal highway of the city. The next extension, just after the Fire, is north of the city area towards Old Street. Three-quarters of a century later (1745) we get a great extension all round up to Hyde Park on the west, just north of Oxford Street, Theobald's Road, and Old Street on the north, to Whitechapel and Limehouse on the east. Another fifty years (1799) we have a further fringe of narrow dimensions penetrating to Knightsbridge on the west, creeping up Edgware Road, taking in the southern part of Marylebone, extending to Camden Town, adding to the 1745 extension in the east a narrow belt all round, and finally showing the first great extension in north Lambeth along the banks of the river. In 1832 the Regent's Park district on the north, a large district of Lambeth on the south, and a further extension of Bermondsey and Southwark are the principal features. Islington, St. Pancras, Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, and Mile End also filled up at this date, together with a little bit of Greenwich. In 1862 the great era of building set in, and all round the boundary of the 1832 limits we have great extensions. The next stage is 1887, which again shows an extension of the building area all round the map; and now twenty years later we have scarcely any boundary of London left, for building has gone on spreading into Kent, Surrey, Middlesex, and Essex at a pace which almost defies the cartographer.

I cannot, however, finish my all-too-imperfect account of the story of London maps on a dismal note. The streets along which we walk are historic spots. Great Englishmen and Englishwomen have trodden them for ages. I do not know whether a map of London appeals to

most people as it appeals to me. It conjures up all sorts of ideas, all sorts of romances, all sorts of desires. To take the map of a given date and walk through the streets it depicts, and to note the remains of the picturesque and the historic, is a delight which only those who have tried to accomplish it can understand. It makes one love strange routes and strange places. I always prefer to go through the crooked and now uninteresting Marylebone Lane to the straight lines of Baker Street and Wigmore Street. I love the courts out of St. James's Street, for through them Samuel Rogers led Fenimore Cooper to the theatre in order to avoid the throng and the mud of the streets. I delight in the narrow streets of the old city, where, on any Sunday, you may see quiet retired nooks containing houses with beautiful doorways and quite magnificent architecture. As an example, there are parallel to each other from Lower Thames Street to Eastcheap and little Tower Street three lanes, St. Mary-at-Hill, Love Lane, and Botolph Lane. They lie close together, a little paved alley, called Church Passage, connecting St. Mary-at-Hill with Love Lane; Botolph Alley leading from the latter into Botolph Lane, where stands the church of St. George, with which is united the Parish of St. Botolph, Billingsgate. In a courtyard that might well escape the passers-by, entered as it was through an archway of the most unassuming appearance, there stood only a short time since, an old and beautiful house. It was placed with its back to Love Lane, while the front looked out on a square paved with cobbles, and surrounded with buildings presumably much more modern than the mansion. The hall occupied the whole depth of the house; it was over 30 feet long, and nearly 20 wide. A double sweep of stone steps led up to the front door, and we could stand on the wide level flagging at the top and look over the iron rails, gazing round the quiet courtyard and peeping down at the big dog-kennel formed by leaving an opening under the steps; and the "dog-lick," hollowed out of solid stone pavement, ran below.* If this is a true description, the destruction of such a house is only a little less scandalous than the destruction of Crosby Hall.

Then there are the closed-in courts at the back of the Strand and in Holborn. These are not only the last relics of places where Samuel Johnson, Oliver Goldsmith, Garrick, Sheridan, and a host of others dwelt or congregated, but they are the still living survivals of old inns, the centres of London life for ages. Not only the side streets, but the backs of houses should receive attention. I always get to the backs of houses in old streets whenever I can, for one comes upon unexpected glimpses of the country aspect of London parishes—long, slanting red-tiled roofs, and buildings of much simple beauty. No one knows how much of old London is still left to us in these out-of-the-way

* Mrs. Riddell's 'Mitre Court.'

places. The maps of London will still lead us to them, or what remains of them, if we use the maps properly, and London, under their guidance, will assume some of its past glories, and present to its modern citizens a city to be proud of and to think about, as much on account of its picturesqueness as of its greatness.

Before the paper, the President: It seems hardly necessary to introduce the reader of the paper, as most of you probably live in London—at any rate, for part of the year—and must be very familiar with Mr. Gomme's name at the foot of our countless public notices. For he is the chief permanent official of that County Council—the greatest municipality in the world—under whose watchful care we live and move (in their tramcars) and carry on our avocations in comfort; while the County Council themselves perform their multifarious public work under conditions of discomfort which no other civilized capital would tolerate. But there are signs of a change in that respect, and when the Royal Geographical Society of the next century listens to a paper on London, there may be thrown on the screen a photograph of a County Hall not unworthy of the metropolis of the Empire.

Having necessarily to speak of the County Council in connection with Mr. Gomme, let me first add that we welcome here to-night a number of their members—including chairmen past, present, and future—and that I have received a letter from the very earliest and most famous of their chairmen—Lord Rosebery—explaining that he could not come, as the Prince of Wales is dining with him.

To the great body of the Fellows of our Society scattered over the globe, Mr. Gomme's name is known in a very different connection. We recognize him as one of the chief authorities in this country on folklore, upon which he has written very extensively. I believe that he founded the Folk Lore Society. Moreover, as an expert archaeologist and sociologist, he has produced many valuable contributions on that most interesting and important subject, "Village Communities," as also on Local Institutions generally and the principles of Local Government. I have not yet had the advantage of reading his latest work—published in 1907—on 'The Governance of London;' but I understand that it deals with the various forms of the local governments of London from the earliest times, and that in this work he has maintained and even surpassed the high level of his previous works.

When I first heard that Mr. Gomme might be induced to give us this paper, I hesitated for a moment between a keen recognition of the special interest of the subject and a doubt whether it was strictly geographical, or more fitting for the Historical Society. But that doubt was only momentary. For cartography is the very basis of geography; and we do occasionally indulge at these meetings in the luxury of historical geography. Moreover, we recognize that our science is not only essentially human in its ultimate aims, but that one of its most purely scientific branches deals objectively with the mutual interactions of mankind and their physical environment. The magnitude of London, its influence on the human race, and the way in which both the extent and the mode of its growth and the characteristics of its inhabitants have been determined by its geographical conditions, including of course in these its very peculiar climatic conditions, differentiate the story of its maps from ordinary local topography and local history.

Following the usual practice here, Mr. Gomme will deliver only such portions of his paper as are permitted by the limitations of our time and by the exhibition of explanatory photographs on the screen. His paper will, as usual, be published in full in the *Geographical Journal*. And I have no doubt that this complete paper, even without the advantage of pictorial representation which we to-night shall

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