

GEORGE STEAD VEITCH, M.A., LITT.D.

Died 23 June, 1943.

GEORGE STEAD VEITCH, Andrew Geddes and John Rankin Professor of Modern History in the University of Liverpool, was a member of this Society from 1919 to 1933.

The eldest son of Robert Veitch, a former minister of Crescent Congregational Chapel, Liverpool, he was born at Rochdale in November, 1885, and was educated at the Collegiate School, the Liverpool Institute, the Sorbonne, Paris, and the Liverpool University, where he graduated with first-class honours in history in 1906. The rest of his life he spent at the University where his pupils held him in great esteem as Fellow, lecturer and professor. He took endless trouble to help students in all their difficulties, and they repaid him with a wealth of devotion not often equalled. He was Secretary of the Liverpool University Extension Board, and did much work on University Committees and as a member of the Joint Matriculation Board of the Northern Universities. In addition, he was external examiner to several other universities, including the University of Oxford.

Though his early books were devoted to national and international history, Dr. Veitch took a great interest in local history and contributed many articles and reviews on this subject to the *Liverpool Daily Post*. The following papers were read by him to this Society :—

“ Huskisson’s representation of Liverpool ” (1927, in Vol. 80).

“ William Huskisson and some Controverted Elections ” (1927, in Vol. 80).

“ Mr. Serjeant Spankie ” (1930, Vol. 82).

“ Joseph Sandars ” (1931, not published).

“ England in the Seven Years’ War—Sidelights from an old newspaper ” (1931, not published).

In 1907–8 he arranged and catalogued the records of Quarter Sessions for the County of Lancaster. His first published book, *The Genesis of Parliamentary Reform*, 1913, gained him his Litt.D., the first awarded by the Liverpool University.

Other publications were :—

Empire and Democracy 1837-1913. (1914).

Thomas Raffles of Liverpool. Reprinted from the Transactions of the Congregational Historical Society. (1924).

History of the British People 1815-1914. (1925).

Huskisson and Liverpool. (1929).

The Struggle for the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. (1930).

"William Huskisson and the Controverted Elections at Liskeard in 1802 and 1804" (In *Royal Historical Transactions*, Ser. 4, v 13). (1930).

"The Early English Radicals." (In *Social and Political Ideas of the Revolutionary Era*.) (1931).

STRAY NOTES.

THE INTERIORS OF TWO OLD LIVERPOOL THEATRES.—The two documents dealt with in this communication were discovered at the offices of the Liverpool Gas Company during a paper salvage "campaign" in 1942. They are schedules of the gas-lights installed at the Olympic Circus in Christian Street and the Theatre Royal in Williamson Square, and are respectively dated 8 December, 1817, and 24 July, 1824.

The parts of the theatres mentioned in the schedules are as follows :—

OLYMPIC CIRCUS.¹

Audience	Fly Dressing Room
Float ²	Gal. of Fly
Stage	Wardrobe
Box Saloon ³	Office
Back of Stage	Dressing room
Under stage	Stables
Green room	Box Lobby
First dressing room	Lobbys
Small do.	Property room
Stair case	Scene room
Upper dressing room	Street

¹ Opened in 1789 as a "Circus, Repository and Livery Stables." It received the name "Olympic Circus" in 1805. In 1808 it "was altered and greatly improved" under the supervision of John Foster, Senior, the Borough Surveyor, who built the first Athenæum Newsroom (Broadbent, *Annals of the Liverpool Stage*).

After many vicissitudes under various names the Circus, as the Adelphi Picture Palace, was destroyed by fire on 12 April, 1921.

² An old name for footlights. For an amusing episode concerning the float gas-lights at this theatre, see Broadbent, p. 204.

³ This apartment is almost certainly the "handsome ante-room or lounge" installed at the 1808 alterations (*Billinge's Advertiser*, 5 December, 1808).