

## ABSTRACTS OF ARTICLES

### Understanding the Heysham hogback: A tenth-century sculpted stone monument and its context

*Thor Ewing*

St Peter's church at Heysham contains a sandstone monument of the type known from its shape as a 'hogback'. These house-shaped Anglo-Viking sculptures were probably intended as grave-markers, and are thought to date to the first half of the tenth century. The Heysham hogback is covered on both sides by enigmatic figural carvings, which have always evaded interpretation. This article considers some of the explanations which have been offered for the carvings in the past, and argues that each side actually illustrates an episode from a cycle of legends preserved in the medieval Icelandic text *Völsunga saga*. It also considers the vexed question of whether this is a Christian or a pagan monument, examining the religious environment in which it was produced, and concluding that this hogback is best interpreted as a secular memorial.

### A new painting of Liverpool: *A Prospect of Liverpool about 1725* *Anthony Tibbles*

This article discusses a recent acquisition by National Museums Liverpool, which is probably the earliest representation of Liverpool's first dock, and of the newly-built Custom House. The artist remains unknown, although a number of itinerant artists were active in the north west in the early eighteenth century producing topographical work, particularly of country houses. The article compares the painting with other images of Liverpool from this era, and discusses the construction of the dock and waterfront buildings in that context.

**Thomas Fleetwood and the draining of Martin Mere***John Virgoe*

Thomas Eccleston of Scarisbrick Hall has usually been given the credit for draining Martin Mere, Lancashire, but the first serious attempt was made by Thomas Fleetwood in the last years of the seventeenth century. This paper re-assesses Fleetwood's pioneering efforts, against the background of marsh and fen-draining enterprises elsewhere in early-modern England. Although his technical abilities were considerable and he was successful in the short-term in creating and leasing out agricultural land, the great expense in draining the Mere left Fleetwood heavily in debt.

**Masters of tidology: The cultivation of the physical sciences  
in early Victorian Liverpool***Michael S. Reidy*

Liverpool was directly and innovatively involved in a particularly prominent type of science practiced in the early Victorian era: long term, large scale projects in physical astronomy. The practitioners of that science came from the lesser sorts in Liverpool society, the harbour masters and dock yard engineers, the tide table makers and Admiralty surveyors. This paper examines the involvement of these associate labourers, thereby linking the practice of science in early Victorian Liverpool to the commercial and maritime interests of the port. The strong collaboration among the Admiralty, the scientists, and these associate labourers in Liverpool demonstrates the wide and varied participation in science that ultimately represents the social and intellectual structure of early Victorian natural philosophy.

**Who's to pay? Cheshire attitudes towards paying for the  
cattle plague of 1865–1866***Stephen Matthews*

The outbreak of Cattle Plague (rinderpest) in 1865–66 struck Cheshire more seriously than any other county and the effect on its finances polarised local opinion. Some people supported the farming lobby's demand for compensation through taxation or from charity whilst others felt that farmers had no such right, either

because they were men of capital who were not true recipients of charitable aid, or because they had foolishly failed to insure their stock, or because the greater landlords ought to support them through their difficulties. The result was an unsatisfactory muddle with which no-one was happy and none of the issues was resolved, leading to sentiments and disputes still current today.

**'Friends of the Union': Liverpool, Ulster, and Home Rule,**

**1910-1914**

*Dan Jackson*

The campaign against Irish Home Rule in England has escaped the attention of most historians, yet the cause of 'Protestant Ulster' as it was portrayed did in fact have enormous resonance in those British cities that had long endured sectarian strife. The fierce grass roots reaction to Home Rule that occurred in Liverpool have been overlooked simply because of the contemporaneous advent of syndicalist strikes in that city and industrial unrest elsewhere, and it is well to remember that the political history of Edwardian Britain was not just about the forward march of organised labour. Utilising extensive press reportage, this article investigates the huge demonstrations of support that met Sir Edward Carson as he arrived on Merseyside in September 1912.

**Thomas Fulljames: An almost-forgotten Gloucestershire architect, and his work in Lancashire and Cheshire**

*Brian Carne & Martin J. Crossley Evans*

This article considers the Lancashire and Cheshire work of Thomas Fulljames, a Gloucestershire architect who married into the Kirkes family of Liverpool and Holker-in-Carmel, Furness. It surveys Fulljames's early career and the connections between the Kirkes family and the commercial development of Liverpool, before dealing in more detail with the architect's works in the North West. These were a new vicarage at Lancaster undertaken in 1847-49; a new church at Willaston (1849-55); and the Custom House Arcade, Liverpool (1856-57).

