



Number 70

January 2019

Our New Membership Scheme

Our new membership subscription arrangements have come into effect from the beginning of this month. These arrangements are administered by Turpin Distribution for Liverpool University Press on behalf of the Society.

A new benefit for members is free online access to digital copies of our journal articles for the last ten years, and we have received a number of supportive emails about this (especially from students). We are also receiving more submissions of articles for *Transactions* which suggests that the new digital platform along with the university-focused advertising that LUP/HSLC is undertaking is proving attractive.

All existing members should have received full instructions from LUP on how to pay subscriptions for 2019 onwards but if you have any queries do contact our Membership Secretary, Dr Janet Hollinshead, via membership@hslc.org.uk

If you have not yet done so, could we encourage you to renew/join as soon as possible. Unfortunately we will not be able to send out the 2019 volume of *Transactions* unless your membership subscription has been paid up to date at the new rate of £20.

Arline Wilson, President

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Annual General Meeting, March 2019

This is to remind you that this year's AGM will be held at 2pm on Wednesday, 13 March 2019 in the top floor meeting room of Liverpool Central Library. We always welcome suggestions for the furtherance of the aims of the Society and would particularly encourage members to put themselves forward for election to our Council, thereby helping the Society to develop and flourish. At the AGM the Council's annual report and accounts will be presented and the committee and officers for the coming year elected, this should not take long and will be followed by Dr Nick Foggo's talk on The Perils of 18th Century Press Proprietorship – so do come along!



REPORT ON OUR SEPTEMBER LECTURE

Liverpool's Links with Jamaica in 1756: A Micro History (26 September 2018)

Dr Sheryllyne Haggerty's talk was based on a rare set of letters held at the National Archives in London, part of the High Court of Admiralty collection. They were all written in September and October 1756 and were sent on the snow (a two-masted vessel) *Europa* from Jamaica to various ports in Britain. Taken as a prize of war, the *Europa's* letters were never delivered. They are an important source because Liverpool had just taken over as Britain's most important outpost, Jamaica was Britain's most important sugar colony, and the Seven Years' War had been declared in May of that year.

Dr Haggerty framed her talk around four themes; Trade and Commerce; Plantation Life; War; and Daily Life. Trade and Commerce first dealt with the slave trade. However, it was pointed out that the letters were all from the wrong time of year for slave sales (they peaked in January), there was not as much evidence as there might have been given that Liverpool was the leading slave trade port at this time. Indeed, a letter sent to Richard Nicholas & Co. of Liverpool noted that sales had been bad, and that only £50 of the total sales of 202 enslaved persons worth £7608,8s,6d had been paid so far (42 had been lost on the 'middle passage'). Dr Haggerty noted that there was limited evidence of Liverpool merchants having direct links with Plantation Life. This was not unusual; despite the large amounts owing to Liverpool merchants from planters for enslaved persons and other goods, Liverpool merchants eschewed plantation ownership as too problematic a business venture. The only links for 1756 were John O'Kill, a Liverpool timber merchant, who acted as an attorney for Marmaduke Hilton, mortgager of a Jamaica estate. Although the Seven Years' War had been declared in May, evidence of the conflict is evidence from earlier in the year. In March and April the Liverpool Council offered a bounty of £3 per man to sign up on His Majesty's Naval vessels, in an effort to demonstrate their loyalty to the King. However, many sailors preferred to jump ship in Jamaica and sign on to a commercial privateering vessel. For example, Edward Magnar deserted a slave trade vessel in Jamaica and joined the *Shoreham Man* of War. He would receive no wages, but hoped to gain '£50 a man' in prizes – nearly a year's wages for the risk. Another letter from an ordinary sailor gives us an insight into the Daily Life and loves and losses of ordinary seafarers sailing from Liverpool. Edward Fraizer wrote to his sister in Ireland, trying to reach his wife in Liverpool. He wrote that he hoped she had been to Liverpool to try and find her. However, perhaps the most evocative quote from him was, 'Dr Sister I feeds my Self With the Thoughts of spending Some of my Day In mirth and Plesure[sic] In Liverpool Which Please God Will Be Some Time In January.' Dr Haggerty noted that she felt privileged to be able to read these more personal letters, which gave an insight into an important moment in time, in the histories of both Jamaica and Liverpool.



This image of a contemporary street scene in Kingston, Jamaica is courtesy of <http://www.slaveryimages.org/>

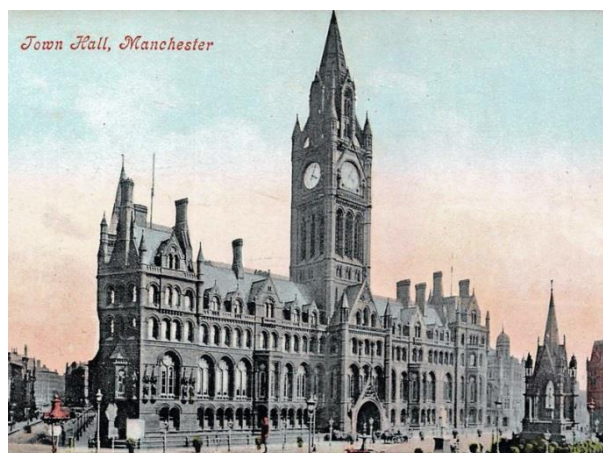
Transactions Back Issues

Dr Anthony Gilbertson is offering some back volumes of our *Transactions*. These comprise volumes 140-162 (inclusive) in hardback dating from 1991 to 2103, together with the index from 1848-2000 plus volumes 163 from 2014 and 166 from 2017.

Dr Gilbertson lives in Liverpool area and is open to enquiries and offers for the volumes. You can contact him either by email Tonygilbertson1@gmail.com or phone 0151 428 5745.

REPORT ON OUR OCTOBER LECTURE

The Man Who Built the Town Hall: Abel Heywood, Manchester's Victorian Mayor (17 October 2018)



From hothead radical to city father: Joanna Williams lecture provided a fascinating insight) into the life and work of Abel Heywood (1810-1893).

In 1819, Heywood's widowed mother arrived in Manchester in search of work. The family settled in Angel Meadow – an area notorious for crime, vice, overcrowding and disease. Aged nine, he attended Bennett Street Sunday School before finding work in a warehouse where his leadership skills were quickly apparent. By the age of fourteen, he was an overseer of 60 boys while continuing his education at the newly founded Mechanics Institution. He went into business as a publisher/bookseller, becoming the biggest wholesaler of radical publications in the North. In 1832 he was gaoled for selling the radical journal *Poor Man's Guardian* for a penny without paying the stamp tax. This defence of a free press remained a source of pride to the end of his life. His business prospered and in 1847 his firm began printing wallpaper and he branched out into other areas of manufacture. Always a radical, Heywood was a Chartist leader and in 1841 was elected treasurer of the National Charter Association. His belief in municipal Chartism led him to stand for Council in 1843, becoming an alderman ten years later. He served on numerous committees and strove to improve conditions in the Manchester slums. Describing himself as a 'Radical Liberal', Heywood was twice Mayor but failed in his two attempts to enter Parliament. It is likely that his radicalism and working class background went against him and also the fact that his expenditure was less than a quarter of the other candidates.

A major achievement was guiding Manchester Town Hall to completion. Before its opening in 1877, he had coped with numerous disputes not least over the name. After 50 years of service the 'Father of the Council' was presented with a commemorative scroll and in 1891 he became a Freeman of the City of Manchester, only the third person to receive the honour, the first from a working class background.

In her conclusion, Joanna Williams surmised that Manchester Town Hall's Great Abel Bell, inscribed with Tennyson's words 'ring out the false, ring in the true' would have delighted him.

Further reading

Joanna M. Williams, *Manchester's Radical Mayor: Abel Heywood, The Man Who Built the Town Hall* (The History Press, 2017).

Transactions 2019/2020

The Society is pleased to announce that *Transactions* 2019 (volume 168) is on schedule and that paper copies will be dispatched to members by mid-September 2019 at the latest. The journal will be simultaneously released electronically and available to members through the new LUP-Transactions webpage. The 2019 edition is now, in effect, full, and any articles submitted after the end of January 2019 will be considered, in the first instance, for the 2020 edition.

Transactions welcomes the submission of articles and books for review throughout the year. However, please be aware that any articles or books for review need to be submitted by 1 November of the year prior to publication. This is in order to allow sufficient time for the editor, editorial board, peer-reviewers, and authors, to review and revise manuscripts before 'accepted' copies of articles are agreed by the editor in the April/May of the year of publication. A lengthy process of typesetting, editorial and author proofs then follows before publication and dispatch. In short, putting *Transactions* together is a slow and laborious process that takes many months!

I am always willing to discuss potential ideas for articles and it is also very helpful if I have an idea of future articles to expect. Please feel free to email me at editor@hslc.org.uk

Bertie Dockerill, *Transactions* Editor

Our Future Programme

These meetings will take place in Liverpool Central Library (top floor meeting room)

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Wednesday 13 February at 2 pm

Dr Zachary Kingdon, Curator, Africa collection, World Museum, Liverpool

Cultural flows between Liverpool and West Africa in the early colonial period

Wednesday 13 March at 2 pm

AGM followed by

Dr Nick Foggo, Honorary Fellow at the University of Liverpool
The Perils of Press Proprietorship in 18th Century Liverpool



We are also delighted to announce that our April meeting will be held jointly with the Regional Heritage Centre of Lancaster University at Whalley Abbey on Friday, 5 April, on the subject of Medieval Lancashire. Full details to follow on our website www.hslc.org.uk and facebook group, including the programme, cost and how to book.

Additional Book Suggestions

Members will be aware that *Transactions* 2018 contained 10 book reviews. The 2019 edition will contain a similar number. Unfortunately, the Society cannot review all of the books that it receives either because of space considerations or because their scope is significantly greater than the two historic counties of Lancashire and Cheshire. Nevertheless, such books may still be of interest to members and friends. There is just space in this Newsletter to let members know of two such works.

The first, *English Medieval Church Towers: The Northern Province* by W.E. David Ryan (published by Boydell Press, 2018) presents readers with a glorious watercolour print of every medieval church tower still standing from Ancroft (Northumberland) in the north to Stanford on Soar (Nottinghamshire) via Easington (Yorkshire) in the east and Dearham (Cumbria in the west). Each watercolour, be it of St Andrews, Leyland, or St Mary's, Nether Alderley, is accompanied by text based upon that from the National Heritage List for England. Whether used as a guide for church tours locally or further afield, or merely perused for the beautiful illustrations, we are sure that members will enjoy this book.

The second, *Municipal Dreams: The rise and fall of Council Housing* by John Boughton (published by Verso, 2018), offers a brief tour of the development, decline, and (potential) re-birth of council housing across the nation. Though it is not always as detailed as members of HSLC might like, it provides a solid account of, amongst others, Manchester's Hulme Crescent and Wythenshawe Estates, as well as Liverpool's pioneering nineteenth-century role in the development of council housing.

Join/continue membership of **The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire** - enjoy the benefits of our annual *Transactions*, lectures, events and access to our extensive library and more! The annual subscription for individuals resident in the UK is £20 - fixed until 2024.

Find out more at <https://online.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/loi/transactions#>

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