

Friends of West Norwood Cemetery



NEWSLETTER NO 9: JANUARY 1992

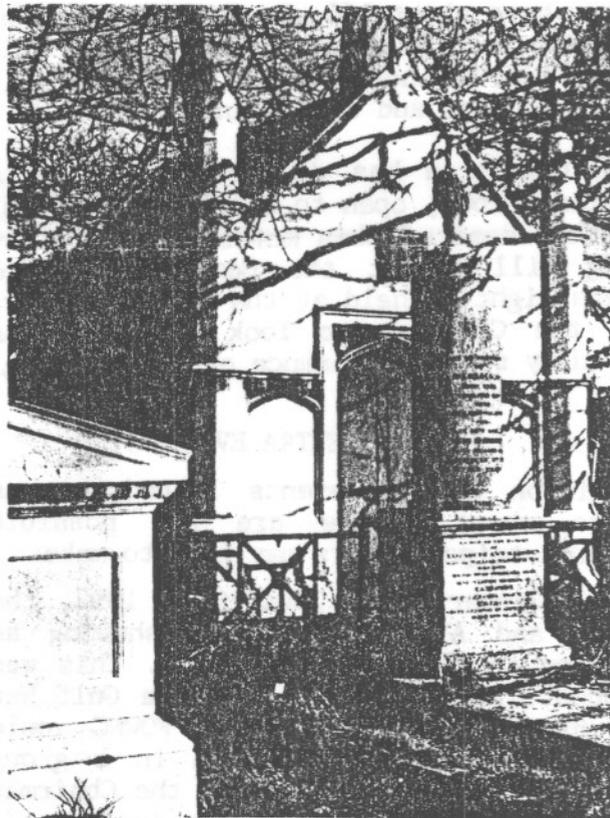
LECTURE-RECITAL:

MUSIC AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE

On Thursday 5th March, we are holding for the first time an event to commemorate some of the musicians and music heard at the Crystal Palace. Among those buried at Norwood are Sir August Manns, Director of Music and Conductor of the Crystal Palace Orchestra for nearly fifty years; his successor, the composer Walter Hedgcock; and another composer, and founder of the Royal Choral Society, Sir Joseph Barnby. Also buried there is the singer Katie Lamer, daughter of Joseph Lamer. Some people think that Joseph invented the waltz, but that Johann Strauss took all the credit. Is this true? The plot thickens...

This lecture-recital on the life of Manns and his contemporaries, will be given by Leon Conrad, narrator and pianist, and Elisabeth Stirling, mezzo-soprano. It will be held at the Queens Hotel, 122 Church Road, Upper Norwood SE19. (Hotel at junction with Fitzroy Gardens: entrance at north end.) It is being organised jointly with the Crystal Palace Foundation.

Tickets cost £3 for non-members and £2.50 for members of FOWNC or the CPF. They can be bought in advance from Eric Price, CPF, 84 Anerley Road, Crystal Palace SE19 2AH (tel: 081-778 2173). They will also be available at the door, subject to availability. The bar opens at 7 pm; the concert starts at 8 pm. Come and meet us before the show!



THE STEVENSON MAUSOLEUM

The fallen and loose corner columns on this tomb have now been restored, thanks to the grant from the Heritage of London Trust. The last remaining foliated cross from one corner has been kept back for conservation.

The above photo taken in 1971 is the only known one which shows the railings which stood around the tomb, and the vase which used to stand on the Marsden column in front. Both disappeared before 1974.

CEMETERY OPENING HOURS

A reminder that the opening hours are:
April to October: 8-6 weekdays, 10-6 weekends
November to March: 8-4 weekdays, 10-4 weekends

FOWNC OFFICERS

Chairman and Newsletter Editor: Nicholas Reed, 26 Hichisson Road, SE15 3AL; tel: 071-732 7778. Vice-Chairman and Publications Officer: Bob Flanagan, 79 Durban Road, SE27 9RW; tel: 081-670 3265. Hon Treasurer: David Comber, 170 Knights Hill, SE27 OSR; tel: 081-761 3996. Membership Sec: Rosemary Comber, to whom the £2 Annual Subscription can be sent.

First Meeting: Sunday 26th January 1992, 2.30 pm, at the Combers: 170 Knights Hill, West Norwood SE27. NB: This does not appear in the List of Events, so please put this in in your diary now, if you are interested!

Our normal Committee Meetings have so much business to get through, it is difficult to get time to update people about the latest discoveries. Yet we are constantly finding new books or other material (see for example the Bessemer book reviewed elsewhere). We also now have about 150 photographs taken by Eric Smith more than a decade ago (as well as his 30 or so notebooks), which are well worth looking at and discussing.

So the Committee has decided to set up a Historical Group, open to all FOWNC members, to discuss some of this material. The first meeting will be at the Combers'. Future meetings might be held at the Minet Library, or at the Cemetery to look at new tombs revealed by recent clearance of undergrowth.

EXTRA EVENTS

In addition to the events listed on our separate sheet, there are two possible additional trips members may like to make.

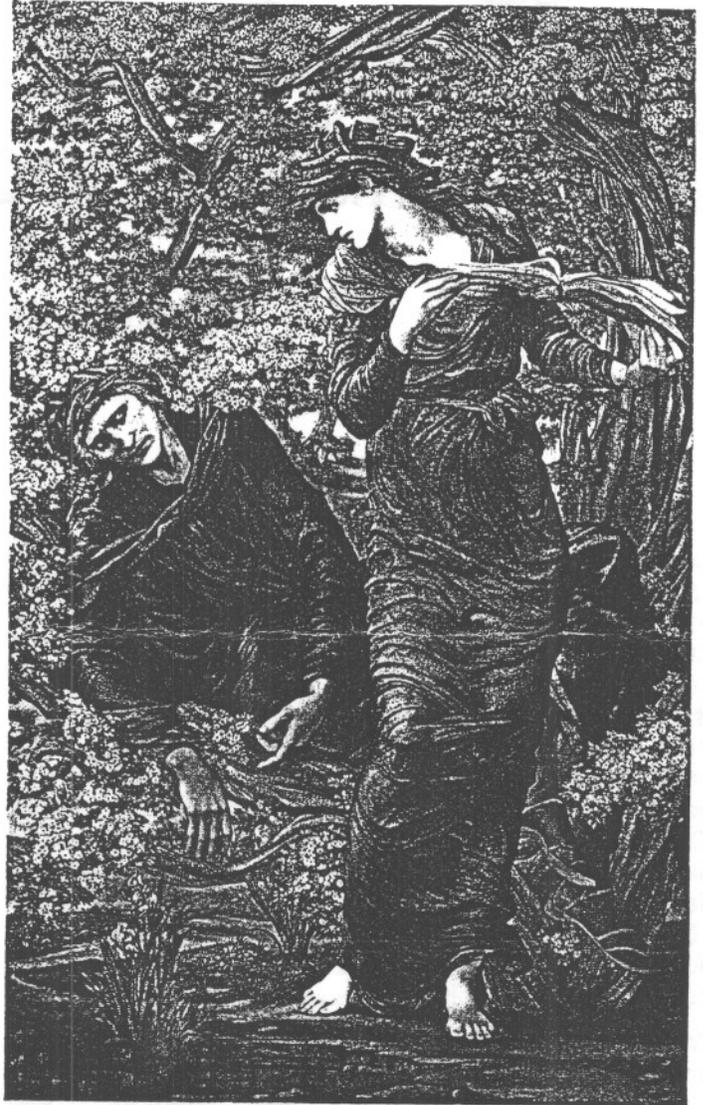
From 8th January till 22nd March 1992, the Victoria and Albert Museum is showing an Exhibition on "The Art of Death". This was postponed from last year, when the Gulf War broke out. If some members of FOWNC would like to visit this Exhibition in a group with other members, please ring the Chairman at 071-732 7778. If enough are interested, we can discuss a possible date.

Another possible trip is to the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery and Museum in Bedford. Among their very fine but little known collection, is a whole room dedicated to the architect William Burges (buried at Norwood in Square 36), including most of the furniture and decoration from his bedroom, originally in Melbury Road, Kensington. It should be possible to reach Bedford direct from West Norwood by train, using the Thameslink. Again, contact the Chairman if interested.

FOWNC MEMBERSHIP INCREASES

At the beginning of January 1992, we had 162 members; the majority of our members living in South London.

Meanwhile, a reminder that subscriptions are due on 1st January: the Annual Membership is £2. Ring Rosemary on 081-761 3996 if you need to check if you've paid.



"The Beguiling of Merlin", by Edward Burne-Jones c. 1875. Lady Lever Art Gallery, Port Sunlight, Liverpool. Marie Cassavetti served as the model for Nimue, trapping Merlin in a hawthorn-tree (see also page 3). We now sell this postcard for 30p.

LAMBETH ORCHESTRA

The orchestra's last concert was given at St. Luke's on 14th December. Once again, a very high standard was achieved, particularly in Sibelius' Third Symphony.

Their next concert on 15th February includes Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony: details in the brochure enclosed.

SIR HENRY BESSEMER, FRS

We have just acquired copies of Sir Henry's autobiography, which was reprinted in 1989. With 380 pages and 47 plates, it costs £16.95 from our Publications Officer.

FOWNC Publications List - January 1992

| £ | Books |
|---------|---|
| 4.95 | Brookwood Necropolis Railway (review October 91) |
| 5.00 | Browning Society Notes (Brownings in S London) |
| 0.75* | Cemetery Tour: Crystal Palace People (by Jill Dudman) |
| 0.75* | Cemetery Tour: Science, Engineering and Medicine (by Jill Dudman) |
| 5.95 | Clapham (by Eric Smith) |
| 9.00 | Clapham Saints & Sinners (by Eric Smith - review this month) |
| 9.95 | Craces (ed Megan Aldrich - review October 91) |
| 9.95** | David Roberts (exhibition catalogue - review October 91) |
| 3.00 | Doulton Story |
| 3.25 | Forgotten Spurgeon |
| 3.00 | Henry Doulton |
| 0.10* | Hiram Maxim |
| 2.95 | Industry and Enterprise in Bromley (NEW - review this month) |
| 3.95 | John Ruskin's Camberwell |
| 1.00 | Kingswood (Lawson Johnston) |
| 5.00*** | Lambeth Stoneware (Doulton) |
| 2.50 | Memorials by Artists (general interest) |
| 3.99 | Murder at the Priory (Charles Bravo) |
| 10.95 | Phoenix Suburb (by Alan Warwick - NEW - reprint of edition 2) |
| 6.50 | Spurgeon |
| 1.00 | Story of Minton |
| 8.95 | Story of Norwood (by JB Wilson) |
| 2.95 | Trail of the Iguanodon (Mantell) |
| 2.25 | West Norwood Cemetery (Guide by Geoffrey Manning) |

* Photocopied item

** Reduced, not to be restocked

*** Out of print, last few copies

Cards (30 p): Bessemer Converter, Crystal Palace: Monsters, Maxim Flying Machine (both featured August 91), Lierre (David Roberts, see feature this month), William Burges Bed-head (large card 50 p), William Wyon (featured August 91), **NEW** The Beguiling of Merlin (E Burne-Jones, model Maria Cassavetti, see August 91 newsletter)

All the above available from: RJ Flanagan, 79 Durban Road, London SE27 9RW or at FOWNC meetings. (N.B. Postage is not included in the above prices).

MARIE CASSAVETTI AND THE SOUTH LONDON ART GALLERY

Philip Attwood's talk to us in October proved full of unexpected information about Marie and her connections with South London. We look forward to the biography which he says is in preparation. Marie lies in the Greek Cemetery, and we hope to see inside the enormous Ralli chapel there, in our special tour on 1st March.

Marie was a friend of the pre-Raphaelite Burne-Jones: we now have postcards of one of his paintings for which she was the model. It was his wife Georgiana who lay behind the establishment of the South London Art Gallery, as a free gallery for the people of South London. She set it up with a local man, William Rossiter, as its first Director. Nicola Smith, from Southwark Local Studies Library, has located his gravestone, in Camberwell Old Cemetery, and it was designed by Burne-Jones himself!

The Gallery recently had an important (but little publicised) exhibition of some of the pre-Raphaelite paintings in its collection, as well as other historic paintings of South London. They are considering having more such exhibitions. Anyone interested should complete the form below and send it to the Gallery: the more people express an interest, the more likely it is to happen!

ART GALLERY MEMBERSHIP

Why not join the mailing list to receive regular up-to-date information on exhibitions and workshops of your interest.

Simply fill in the details on the form and drop in by hand or send by post to:

Membership
South London Art Gallery
65 Peckham Road
London SE5 8UH

Please tick your areas of interest

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 19th Century British Art | <input type="checkbox"/> | Local History | <input type="checkbox"/> | Workshops | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20th Century British Art | <input type="checkbox"/> | Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> | Educational Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Contemporary Art | <input type="checkbox"/> | Children's Art | <input type="checkbox"/> | Gallery Talks & Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local Artists | <input type="checkbox"/> | Women's Art | <input type="checkbox"/> | Private Views | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please write in CAPITALS

Surname _____ Forename/s _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Daytime Tel _____ If you can display posters _____

Publications News - Bob Flanagan

Members might like to know that the painting by David Roberts featured on the postcard we stock (Lierre: interior of S. Gommaire, 1850) was painted for his close friend and patron, Elhanen Bicknell, who now lies beside him in the cemetery. The painting was bought for 1370 guineas at the sale of the Bicknell collection at Christie, Manson & Woods in 1863 by Wells for the Marquis of Hertford and is now in the Wallace Collection. By way of comparison the well-known Turner "Wreckers: Coast of Northumberland, steam boat assisting ship off shore" (now in the Paul Mellon collection at Yale) fetched 1890 guineas at this record-breaking sale.

(P.S. We now have only 4 copies of the David Roberts 1986 Exhibition catalogue reviewed in the last newsletter, reduced to £9.95).



Book Review: Clapham Saints and Sinners by Eric E F Smith (78 A4 pages, The Clapham Press, 1987, £9.00).

We owe much of our present knowledge of the cemetery to the efforts of the late Eric Smith (see Newsletter 7, August 1991). This volume was produced to mark his retirement as Hon. Secretary of the Clapham Antiquarian Society after 50 years service and brings together many notes from their Occasional Sheets. Although inevitably centered on life in Clapham, many of those featured in the book and/or members of their immediate families made their final journey to the South Metropolitan Cemetery as the following list shows (E&OE!):

George Cattermole: Artist
 Thomas Cubitt: Builder
 Sir William Cubitt: Civil engineer
 John Doulton: Potter
 William Edgar: Retailer
 John Peter Gassiot: Wine merchant
 and scientist
 John William Grover: Civil engineer
 James Thomas Knowles (snr):
 Architect
 Katti Lanner (Mrs Geraldini):
 Ballet dancer

Moses Merryweather: Fire engine
 manufacturer
 Edward Mappin: Cutler
 Sir William Napier: Soldier and
 historian
 Charles Pearson: Promoter of the
 "Metropolitan"
 Mrs. Charles Pearson: Artist
 John Thornton: Civil servant
 Eliza Thornton: Novelist
 John Wild: Wine merchant

Book Review: Industry and Enterprise. Bromley Borough Local History No. 9. (64 pages, many monochrome illustrations, Bromley Borough Local History Society, ?1991, £2.85).

This booklet consists of 13 essays on aspects of Bromley's industrial history and contains much of general interest (articles on Graham Farish, the St Mary Cray Paper Mills, the Farnborough Aviation Works, the People Who Made Penge, and the Orpington Car (!), for example). But what has all this to do with the cemetery? Well, some of you may have noticed the splendid Muirhead obelisk along the "Doulton Path", just in front of the Cuming family vault. A fascinating article entitled "Alexander Muirhead: the boy who asked too many questions" by Patricia Knowlden in turn answers many of our unspoken questions about the Muirheads. In summary, Alexander, following in his father's footsteps, became an electrical engineer of note and is credited with inventing the system of duplexing signals on telegraph cables (nowadays multiplexing). Alexander was also a pioneer of wireless telegraphy, his early patents with Oliver Lodge being bought by one Guglielmo Marconi. Muirhead received many honours and was elected FRS in 1904. He died in 1920 and lies in the aforementioned family vault.

I would be interested to hear of any further connections with the cemetery in either of the above publications.