



CTHULHU BRITANNICA
LONDON

◀ CREDITS ▶

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This book is dedicated to our departed friend John Golden.

“Cfagh n cftagh n! May the Grim Mother embrace you.” We miss you old man.

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No offence to anyone living or dead or to the inhabitants of any of these places is intended. Just as these stories have formed the basis for local folklore, so they are being used here as the basis around which to spin tales about the ancient horrors from the imagination of H. P. Lovecraft and those who have expanded upon his visions.



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LONDON IN THE 1920S

• INTRODUCTION •

London is like nowhere else on Earth. That being the case, it is impossible for this book to do justice to the wealth of possibilities that London offers to imaginative Keepers and their players. Instead, we have attempted to outline the major features of the city and to provide keepers with resources and suggestions along the way. After all, a thing half seen is always that much more terrifying than something fully disclosed, and your own imagination will fill in the gaps for you far better than we ever could.

We've broken up *Cthulhu Britannica: London* into three volumes. The first, *An Investigator's Guide to London*, is written as a guidebook to London in the 1920s, when London was still the most influential city in the world. This first book contains little reference to the Cthulhu Mythos, but rather is intended as a comprehensive and detailed resource for players and as a reference work for Keepers. There is much within for investigators and Keepers to explore. We have tried to provide not only a guidebook of hotels and nightspots, and museums

and libraries, but also a guide to the time, the cultures and attitudes, and the opportunities for adventure provided by the city itself.

The second volume, *A Keeper's Guide to London*, considers the role of the Cthulhu Mythos, the occult, and the supernatural in the city. It represents a guide to 'Mythos London' and contains information on cults and cultists, potential allies and occult societies, as well as new items, magic and creatures. In addition, *A Keeper's Guide to London* contains descriptions of the ancient horrors that call London home in the 1920s and in the past, and a collection of Mythos threats.

Finally, the third volume, *Adventures in Mythos London*, contains three scenarios to allow you to jump right into some sinister adventures with little effort. Each scenario takes place in and around London and includes a host of colourful characters and intriguing situations.

And so, let the adventures begin...



• WELCOME TO LONDON •

“I naturally gravitated to London, that great cesspool into which all the loungers and idlers of the Empire are irresistibly drained.”

– Arthur Conan Doyle, *A Study in Scarlet*

“I long to go through the crowded streets of your mighty London, to be in the midst of the whirl and rush of humanity, to share its life, its change, its death, and all that makes it what it is.”

– Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

“It is difficult to speak adequately or justly of London. It is not a pleasant place; it is not agreeable, or cheerful, or easy, or exempt from reproach. It is only magnificent. [...] It is the biggest aggregation of human life – the most complete compendium of the world.”

– Henry James, *The Complete Notebooks of Henry James*

In the 1920s London (as defined by the administrative area of the County of London) stretches 14 miles east to west and ten miles north to south at its widest points, and covers an area of over 130 square miles. Within this area live almost four and a half million people.

As it stands, the city contains over 8000 streets and 650,000 buildings, including well over 2000 churches, 6500 hotels, inns and pubs, 20,000 shops and 18,000 factories and warehouses.

London in the 1920s is undoubtedly the largest, wealthiest and most powerful city in the world. The value of trade passing through the port of London in 1919 exceeded eight hundred million pounds; almost one tenth of the total value of all global trade. The profit from this trade is not wasted: from Whitehall and its departments, almost a third of the globe is governed under British rule and London’s schools prepare each generation to take up the reins of the Empire.

In fashionable hotels and tea-rooms the talk is of a renewal: the Great War is over, won at a terrible cost, and the new, monied young generation – the ‘Bright Young Things’ – party as hard as they can to forget their parents’ terrible conflict. In the meantime, the slums to the east and south fill with labourers from the countryside and from overseas to feed London’s insatiable need for workers.

A seething ocean of people travel through London every day on their way to work in commercial, industrial, and service positions in shops and pubs, rail yards and docks, and in the homes of the wealthy upper classes. Those who cannot work find themselves trapped in slums, terrorised by gangs and struggling to feed themselves and their families; lest they be fed upon by the dark creatures and darker forces inexorably drawn to the metropolis.

The area of Greater London (defined as the area over which the Metropolitan Police have authority) is larger still: over 700 square miles and with almost seven and a half million inhabitants. Within this area it is possible to find a huge variety of settings: in just twenty miles you can go from the very heart of commerce and government to the rural outskirts, where people are suspicious of strangers and in awe of motor cars, and you can pass through every imaginable social milieu in between.

London in the 1920s is remarkably multicultural: over 160,000 foreign nationals live here as well as an untold number of Imperial subjects, and they have brought with them not only the wealth and trade of half the world, but also their secrets.

As the heart of the British Empire, London is home to many strange spoils from the colonies and further afield: in private collections accumulated by travellers there sit fetishes of the Wendigo from the wilds of Canada; in unmarked crates in the basement of the British Museum are carvings of blasphemous things from the darkest depths of the jungles of Africa; and in the back rooms of shops and warehouses are hundreds of shrines to foreign gods, some older than the Earth itself.

In the Chinatown of Limehouse ancient, terrible rituals are carried out by ‘devil-men’ who claim to communicate with daemons, whilst on the docks Russian sailors from St

Petersburg and Kiev whisper fearfully of something half-seen that slithered wetly from their ship into the foggy London night as it docked.

Amongst the bright lights of the West End theatres, cults conspire to bring about the return of the Old Ones. On the rooftops of Soho, a misshapen figure that was once a man looks down hungrily on the throngs on the rain-slicked streets.

In the Anthropology department of the University of London a shipment of bones from Australia contains the remnants of something unknown and alien, something that whispers though dead, and eagerly awaits discovery. Unaware of all of this, of what lurks in the multiplicity of shadows, the city is alive with the activities and dreams of men and empire.

LONDON AND • THE GREAT WAR •

In the twenties, the First World War was known simply as ‘The World War’ or ‘The Great War’. It was one of the most massive conflicts ever inflicted upon the human race and had a huge impact on Britain. Around 15 million people had died across the world during its four years of conflict. This loss of life and the financial crisis born out of the war are without doubt two of the most important things to keep in mind during any campaign set in 1920s London. The war cost Britain terribly in terms of its manpower, resources, commerce and its confidence as a world power. The very identity of the United Kingdom was changed.

Currency in 1920s London

The system of coinage used in London in the 1920s was introduced by Henry II and used in Britain until decimalisation in 1971. Based on the weight of precious metals, a pound literally equalled in value a pound of sterling silver. The most common denominations were the shilling (twenty to a pound) and penny or pence (twelve to a shilling). Shillings were denoted with the letter ‘s’ and pence with the letter ‘d’.

Common Denomination

2 Farthings
2 Halfpence
2 Pence
3 Pence
6 Pence
12 Pence
2 Shillings
2 Shillings & 6 Pence
5 Shillings
10 Shillings
10 Shillings & 6 Pence
20 Shillings
21 Shillings

Equivalent

1 Halfpenny or Ha’penny
1 Penny (pl. Pence) or 1d
Tuppence or 2d
1 Thruppence (also ‘thrupenny bit’) or 3d
1 Sixpence (also ‘tanner’) or 6d
1 Shilling (also ‘bob’) or 1s
1 Florin (also ‘two bob piece’) or 2s
1 Half Crown or 2s/6d (‘two-and-six’)
1 Crown or 5s (‘five bob’)
1 Half Sovereign or 10s
1 Half Guinea or 10s/6d
1 Sovereign (also ‘pound’) or 20s
1 Guinea or 1g

When written out, denominations were separated by either a slash (/) or a dash (-), such as 11s/3d or 11s-3d. For amounts over a pound, an additional slash or dash was added, such as £1/11s/3d or £1-11s-3d.

Any characters introduced onto this stage will thus see and feel the upheaval brought about by the Great War. Toward the end of the decade, the troubles subside and the pain of loss is not so keenly felt, but between 1920 and 1930, London remains ever marked by upheaval.

THE DEATH TOLL

In terms of manpower, the actual cost was staggering. Around 885,000 British soldiers died between 1914 and 1918. When combined with British troops from the colonies the number rises to around 1.2 million. Percentage-wise, however, the impact of colonial deaths was much more profound upon those nations than the losses upon the British. For example, although the entire casualty numbers for Britain were much higher, the losses of 18,050 New Zealanders or 61,928 Australians had a much greater impact on those nations due to the small size of their populations.

This loss of life inevitably had a profound effect on the morale and the collective psyche of these nations. The loss of a generation caused irrevocable social change. The men who were fortunate enough to return from the front lines were often plagued by nightmares or suffered from shell shock, from which many would never recover.

Meanwhile at home not a single family was unaffected; virtually every man, woman, or child had lost someone close to them. As a nation, Britain was haunted by the ghosts of the lost, both figurative and possibly real, for decades after.

AFTERMATH

In the United Kingdom, over 1.6 million British servicemen returned home wounded. The cost and time required to rehabilitate them was one of the longest lasting legacies of the war. The dead were remembered across Britain in war memorials and honoured by the construction of the Cenotaph in London. All over the country in nearly every city, town and village, monuments and lists of the dead were put up to remind people of the sacrifice paid by men in uniform.

Across London, names and private memorials were erected in post offices, in train stations, and in and around churches. The lists of the dead were written out in a desperate desire to honour and remember loved ones and friends. The British

army's policy of placing soldiers from the same region, town or even workplace together (so-called 'Pals' regiments) meant that if a unit was wiped out, a neighbourhood or whole town might have collectively lost its husbands and sons.

In London, in the 1920s thousands of men bore the physical scars of the war. They returned having lost limbs, being burned or blinded, or bearing debilitating scars. The horrible effects of gas attacks, artillery bombardment, flamethrowers, and modern weaponry were daily on display. Many could not return to work and became a burden on their wives and families. Everywhere are painful reminders of the sheer savagery of the war.

While paranoia and thoughts of persecution commonly tax the weakened psyche of men recently returned from war, less studied are the night terrors relating to invasion, more particularly invasion from another world or dimension. Recent research undertaken by Anderson, Billings & Lake suggests a surprisingly large population of soldiers experience nightmares or lucid dreams relating to 'the opening of portals or doors' and horrible things issuing forth from dimensions or lands unknown.

– *A Catalogue Of Mental Traumas*, Carlton Press, 1929

British-born investigators may have served in the Great War themselves or supported the war effort to a greater or lesser degree. All investigators – British or foreign – working or visiting London will invariably find themselves interacting with war veterans (most men over the age of 25). Of these NPCs, a small percentage (perhaps 5%) will display signs of injury: scars, a limp, or possibly even body parts entirely missing. Many more will not show outward signs, but will be scarred psychologically or emotionally.

It is up to the Keeper to decide just how often a scarred veteran of the war appears within scenarios and campaigns, but serving in the trenches was a common experience shared by far too many.

ECONOMIC COSTS

The Great War had a very serious economic cost for Britain but not to the crippling point that would be experienced with the Second World War. The British economy was incredibly powerful before the war: it was the largest investor in overseas trade in the world previous to 1914. By 1918, however, it was seriously in debt; at one point interest payments on this debt alone took up over 40% of government expenditure.

The effect of this was a sharp rise in inflation but this reached a peak in 1920 and then steadily fell throughout the decade. Although Britain suffered economically in the short term (as witnessed by a sharp plunge in the value of the pound), it quickly recovered and by 1928 the economy had stabilised.

There had been some profound material losses – for example, as much as 40% of all British shipping had been sunk by German naval and U-boat attacks – but much of this had

been replaced by as early as 1918. So, whilst there had been damage to the British economy, it had rebounded with relative strength.

This leads many to wonder why there were so many unemployed workers in the 1920s. In fact, unemployment at the time often resulted from government intervention and mismanagement of market forces. For example, as part of their reparations to Britain and her allies, Germany had to supply coal for free. The concomitant devaluation of coal caused a massive depression in the British coal industry and was one of the contributing factors in the series of coal miners strikes of the early 1920s, culminating in the General Strike of 1926. During the 1920s, economic hardship as a result of unemployment is a common experience for many in London outside of the upper classes. Tramps, thieves, and other down-and-out NPCs will never be too far away as investigators walk London's streets.



SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

The very psychology of Britons was profoundly affected by the Great War, demonstrably changing the society they lived in. The biggest positive change was in the role of women. The campaign for female suffrage had been a massive cause of debate and even violence for the 50 years prior to the outbreak of hostilities. Bills to parliament as early as 1865, marches with thousands of women through the streets of London and growing women's organisations fighting for the right for women to vote had all failed to reach their goals. By 1905, the tactics of these women had grown increasingly radical and violent.

By 1914, the suffragettes were a powerful force in British domestic debates. At the outbreak of war, however, they

agreed to halt their protests for the duration of the war as a mark of solidarity and, in 1918, the government issued the first limited rights for women to vote. For most of the 1920s, only a minority of female Londoners were able to vote: they had to be over the age of 30, own a property of their own or be married to someone who owned a house, or have a university degree. It was not until 1928, after much more – and considerably more polite – campaigning that all women in Britain received the right to vote as equals to men.

A CHANGING LONDON

The Great War greatly affected and influenced Britain and London's artistic community. A whole generation of writers, poets, painters and historians arose who portrayed the

The Bodyguard

Sometime in the first decade of the 20th century, "a chap called Barrington" gave a demonstration of "Baritsu, or the Japanese system of wrestling" (Oxford University Sherlock Holmes Society, 1984) at Oxford University. 'Barrington' was actually Edward Barton-Wright, an English engineer who had lived in Japan for three years and learned Ju-jitsu whilst there. Upon his return in England in 1898 he had combined this with stick fighting and Savate to create a fighting style that he called Bartitsu and started running classes.

The classes proved popular in a small way (Conan Doyle heard about it and made Holmes an aficionado of the style in *The Adventure of the Empty Room* in 1903), especially with the more modern woman. Ju-jitsu's focus upon self-defence and using the weight of a heavier opponent against them appealed to women who wanted feel safer walking the sometimes dangerous streets of London. This appeal to a female audience had unexpected results.

The rise of the Suffragette movement in the first decade of the 20th century was marked by civil disorder and commotion as the movement adopted a confrontational strategy. Suffragette meetings and speeches would often be broken up by the police, and this resulted in group of thirty women trained in Bartitsu forming themselves into

"The Bodyguard" – an organisation devoted to protecting the Pankhursts and other Suffragette leaders. When police tried to break up rallies and arrest senior members of the movement, their efforts were severely hindered by a group of smartly dressed women trained in the martial arts.

As the Suffragette movement abandoned confrontation during the war and worked peacefully towards its goals afterwards, The Bodyguard were no longer needed. However, the former members, often respectable-looking middle-class women, are still about during the 1920s, and a mugger looking for an easy mark might receive an unexpected and painful shock from an underestimated victim.

Garrud, Edith, 1872-1971

An early devotee of Bartitsu, Edith began running classes for women and children in London in 1908, including classes specifically for suffragettes. In 1913 she became the trainer of The Bodyguard and began classes in secret locations. Although the group disbanded in 1919, Edith continued running Ju-jitsu and Bartitsu classes for women in London until 1925. She is also notable for being the star of the first martial arts film shot in England, "Jui-jitsu downs the footpads", in 1908.

terrible realities of war, highlighting the appalling waste of life and reacting against the folly of the old social order. This characterisation was not wholeheartedly accepted. Many soldiers writing from the trenches or who survived the war saw it as just and necessary, and there were genuine tensions between this old guard and the radical new artistic voices.

As time passed, an understanding of the sheer scale of death and more honest reporting of the horrors involved caused popular opinion to change, but most would still see the war as having been a necessary evil for many years afterwards.

This view of the war did not stop many – particularly among the lower and middle classes – from questioning the existing social order. Although the Great War was not the only catalyst for social change, the social divisions that resulted from both the war and the subsequent economic difficulties put strains on the old class system that had not existed before. London in the 1920s was at the centre of many of these strains and the changes they brought about: as a city it embraced new ideas, new political and religious beliefs, new fashions, new technologies and entertainments at a heady pace.

Post-war London is characterised by rapid socio-political and technological change, and the speed of change frightened as many as it excited: many feared changes to the old ways and reacted against them. At least as many people resisted innovation and change as embraced it.

1920s London is thus a setting of great change and makes the city such an intoxicating place to investigate. Social upheaval and the rapid spread of new ideas contribute to a febrile atmosphere where cultists can target gaps in social structures and individual beliefs, gaining footholds among the working and middle classes and the upper classes as well. Experimental ideas and new technologies ironically provide a fertile bed for the growth of ancient sorcery and the machinations of Elder Gods.

Throughout the 1920s, this creative mix of old and new allows for excitement, adventure, mystery, and terror in almost equal measure. It seems virtually anything is possible in London.

• CAPITAL OF EMPIRE •

“This great achievement reveals to us the whole Empire in little, containing within its grounds a vivid model of the architecture, art, and industry of all the races which come under the British Flag.”

– King George V, 23rd April, 1924

In the 1920s, London was the capital of the largest empire in human history. The British Empire stretched from the blue waters of the Pacific, across the Americas, included much of Africa, much of the Middle East, India and parts of China and Indochina, before ending with Australia and New Zealand.

In many ways the 1920s saw the true height of the British Empire, and while in the modern age it is fashionable to see it as beginning a slow decline, few in Britain saw it that way at the time. The Empire was strong and wealthy, and thanks to victory in the war its power was absolute. The Empire faced challenges and had issues to deal with, but these were perceived as merely temporary setbacks. Only as the decade crept forward did this perception change as the Empire was beset by problems, as difficulties created by the loss of an entire generation of young men made the administration and control of increasingly fractious colonies from a central power harder and harder.

A CHANGING WORLD

In the aftermath of the Great War much had changed. The confidence in European power structures, largely aristocratic in nature, had been badly damaged by the Great War, creating an uncertain political future. Within Britain the belief that the British Empire held the right to rule and civilise the entire world was shaken, whilst at the same time socialist ideas gained in popularity as the lower classes demanded a greater share in the fruits of victory.

Much as the war brought about a split in the Empire, the social fragmentation at home led to conflict. The after-effects of huge losses of life brought to light the difference in interests and attitudes between the young and old, between those new to power and those firmly established. This generational

divide could even be seen amongst the British royalty, where the King and his son, the Prince of Wales, became emblems for the different groups.

An up-and-coming and largely young, cynical and hedonistic 'flapper' generation, whom the elders saw as frivolous and wasteful, admired the Prince of Wales, whom they perceived as a fashionable, worldly wise and rather dashing role model. The older pre-war generations, on the other hand, were often more stoical and determined, possessed of an air of dogged determination to do their duty, and for them King George V was an exemplar: a hard-working, straightforward man happy with his stamp collection and his very proper and formal wife (his long-time mistress, Mrs Keppel, was not common knowledge).

AN IMPERIAL SPECTACLE: THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION

As the decade began, the sense of unity that had once seen cheering crowds line the streets at the news of some victory in some far-flung corner of the Empire 30 years earlier was replaced with a growing conflict on social and political fronts. London needed something to unite it once more, something to prevent what some saw as a growing disintegration of the old public order. The decision was made to hold a massive celebration of Empire and to bring London together as the re-invigorated centre of the world.

The British Empire Exhibition was conceived from the first as a means of reminding all Britons of just how great the nation and its territories were. In size and scope, this Imperial Exhibition would try to replicate the grandiose and spectacular Great Exhibition of 1851 held in Crystal Palace – it would be something that would stand as a beacon for a new era.

It was decided to build the Exhibition from scratch on a green field site to the north of London, and that not only would it be a showcase for goods and produce from throughout the Empire, but hopefully increase sales to and from Great Britain. The plans were ambitious: a huge swimming pool, a working recreation of a Great War battlefield, and the world's first bus station were all included in the designs. The building of the Empire exhibition began early in 1922 and the first part to be completed was the massive white Empire Stadium

surmounted by two domed concrete and steel towers. The Empire Stadium was finished in 1923 and immediately recognised as the best sports venue in the city.

Meanwhile the rest of the exhibition grounds slowly began to take shape around the stadium. Hundreds of buildings were constructed alongside a full-sized amusement park filled with the latest entertainments, lights and music, and an ornamental lake and a separate full reservoir over which a full replica of Old London Bridge was constructed. Architecturally one of the highlights of the Exhibition was on its focus on modern and 'new' building methods. Cast in the exciting new material 'concrete', the Exhibition buildings and structures stood out against the traditional buildings of London, making it even more of a striking spectacle.

ALL THE WORLD IN ONE PLACE

At the heart of the British Empire Exhibition were a series of 'native' buildings and locations meant to represent distinct parts of the Empire itself. These ranged from a small reproduction of the walled city of Zaria in Nigeria to a street of traditional Chinese shops based on one in Hong Kong. The East African section had a white-walled building (remarkably like, but not called, a mosque), while one of the great gates of Mandalay was recreated in teak at the Burmese exhibit. British locations were represented in their full glory as well, including a fully working model of a Welsh coal mine.

The Imperial and Commonwealth nations used the exhibition to sell goods of their own: the Australians, advertising their agricultural prowess, sold over 6 million apples from their pavilion and the Canadians created a life-size replica of the Prince of Wales made entirely out of butter and kept in a refrigerated room. Still odder and more fantastic creations were seen by the public as the diversity, and often peculiarity, of the British Empire was brought to life. Artefacts and items stranger still made their way into Britain on the back of the exhibition, and many never left.

When finally the Exhibition was ready to open in 1925, the whole project was riddled with debt and was being paid for on promises and hopes it would return a healthy profit. The opening ceremony was broadcast live on BBC radio worldwide and was the first time the people of the Empire heard their monarch's voice over the radio. The weather on the opening

day was miserable and wet, but the King carried on as though it were a sunny day and Sir Edward Elgar conducted a 3000-strong choir throughout the ceremonies.

RARE ARTEFACT STOLEN FROM EXHIBITION

LONDON – Police were called to Crystal Palace on Thursday night to investigate the theft of a peculiar African artefact from the Kenyan exhibition. The artefact, said to be a statuette of a lesser known pagan deity, was one of fifty such statuettes brought to the exhibition from Nairobi. Why the particular statuette was singled out remains a mystery, but the Kenyan delegates have expressed great concern and are currently working with Police to ensure that the artefact is safely returned.

Transport around the site was provided by small railways, including the unique ‘never-stop’ clockwork railway. Visitors were treated to a full Canadian Rodeo (which was attacked by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and ultimately ended up in court) and many other entertainments. They could see a huge three-part ‘Pageant of the Empire’ show, which celebrated not just historical events from British history but from many of the colonial nations. They could even have a go on an artificial Toboggan Ice Slide.

Despite its odd mixture of traditional British and exotic colonial elements – all cast in concrete – the Exhibition became a vast success. For two years running it was the most visited attraction in London.

THE CENTRE OF EMPIRE

Throughout the 1920s, London continued to see itself as the centre of the world. Technology helped greatly to reinvigorate the Empire as wireless transmissions and phonographic recordings carried the voices of the King and other civic leaders across the Empire, reaffirming the bond between Great Britain and her colonies. The growth of air travel allowed even the remotest colonies to feel linked to Britain

in a way not experienced before. On a darker note, flight and other military technologies kept British interests protected against uprisings and revolt.

Much of London’s strength throughout the 1920s comes from its position as the centre of Empire. For London scenarios, the fact that the city is the locus of Imperial trade and power can be used very effectively. Examples of all the world’s goods and peoples pass through the city, making it an excellent location for intrigue and conflict. That sense of being at the centre of things is crucial for those establishing a campaign within London. Events and decisions here can have an impact across the globe and clues encountered in London locations can take players to the very ends of the earth.

A chance meeting in a dark street in the East End may lead to the savannahs of Kenya, the frozen Canadian wastes, lost temples near the headwaters of the Indus, or some remote rocks in the heart of the Australian outback.

FOR THE IMAGINATIVE KEEPER

For the Call of Cthulhu Keeper, London during the 1920s is a fantastic resource. It is perfectly reasonable that peculiar, occult or unusual objects from anywhere in the world might be found here, the result of a century of exploration and conquest. People from every culture have their own enclaves and have brought with them religions new, old and pre-human. Those who lust for power or knowledge might easily be found in London as well.

Decisions made alongside the Thames reverberate around the globe and cultists who seek power in the real world are likely to find that their path leads them to London. Political, economic and military power all start here and their rewards – and those who would benefit from them – will be found in the clubs, meeting rooms, mansions and palaces of the greatest city on earth.



• BRITAIN IN THE TWENTIES • A DECADE OF GROWING TENSION

To the investigator from America or some other foreign nation, there are times when London seems almost at war with itself. The city, especially during the first half of the decade, seethes with barely contained tensions. If the characters come from London, or anywhere in Britain, they would recognise the causes of this growing socio-political tension instantly.

London in the 1920s is the principal stage of an ongoing melodrama of social change and class-based division between its citizens. Disparity between the social classes and the impact of immigrants and foreigners on London were the

two most significant tensions to impact the city throughout the decade. The widening divide between the working and upper classes introduced the most dramatic action to be seen in London, especially between 1923 and 1926, and presents Keepers with an anxiety-driven atmosphere in the city that would not be replicated again in the 20th century.

NATIONAL DISCONTENT

The whole of Britain would be touched by the unease and anger that accompanied a number of clashes between the classes beginning in 1920. In London itself the effects of this disquiet and aggression would be felt most keenly. In October 1920 a national miners' strike began which had an immediate and dramatic impact on the capital: during the strike, all non-essential lighting in London was shut off to save power. The bright lights of the West End went out and the streets of London grew dark; no doubt creating untold opportunities



for cultists and their inhuman masters, opportunities that enterprising Keepers might well take advantage of.

The effect of the coal miners' strike was strengthened by the actions of the 25,000 members of the London Commercial Transport Union, who agreed to join the strike in support of the miners. In days to follow, London's dock workers would also join the effort. The breakdown in shipping and transport led to widespread rationing – sugar became a highly prized commodity on the London black market. Hyde Park in the west of the city and Woodford Green in East London become emergency depots to allow for transport of food and milk into the city, all overseen by the police and the army. The strike went on until June 1922.

Throughout the two-year term of the strike tempers flared. London's white-collar middle class bore the brunt of the effects brought on by the strike and they became resentful of the working class. Across Britain unemployment soared to 2.2 million and many Londoners withdrew their support from the Labour party (the 'worker's party') in local elections. The upper class, though it did not suffer so keenly as the middle or lower classes, expressed its anger in the halls of power and in the gentlemen's clubs. Even after the end of the strike, a simmering sense of social injustice lingered.

UNIONS AND COMMUNISM

Less than a year later, in 1923, London was struck by another huge dock strike, again leading to shortages of food and luxuries in the shops. A week-long national rail strike followed later that year and residents saw the beginning of a painful trend. Throughout 1924 another series of dock strikes – the longest lasting six weeks – brought about more shortages and discomfort. Increasingly government and local authorities blamed the unrest on communists, suggesting that the agitation of the dock workers was being orchestrated and driven by communist radical provocateurs. These were not just idle comments and the government took the communist threat seriously.

Evidence was produced of Russian Bolshevik links with both the Irish Nationalists in Sinn Feinn and the Daily Herald, Britain's leading left-leaning newspaper. The Police raided the headquarters of the British Communist Party in London in 1924 and arrested several members for subversion.

The political tide later turned. The strong reaction against the Labour party in the 1921 local elections reversed and, in the 1925 London local elections, Labour took the majority of votes and became the most powerful party in the city. Politically London swung strongly and decisively to the left, to the dismay of many upper and middle class residents.

THE GENERAL STRIKE

The year 1926 saw the pressure between London's working class and middle and upper classes reach its zenith. The Trade Union Congress (TUC), again in support of a miner's strike, called a 'General Strike'. All across London the city's machinery fell silent as its workers put down their tools and took to the streets. On 4th May, 1926, the whole city came to a standstill.

Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin, backed by prominent Conservatives like Winston Churchill and Neville Chamberlain, took an unprecedented hard line against the striking workers. He ordered troops to be deployed across London in the event that the strikers should become violent. Armoured vehicles mounted with machine guns patrolled central London and the East End, and soldiers were stationed around the docks. The newly formed BBC carried calming messages from the Prime Minister, but it was clear that the government possessed a ruthless determination to resist being held hostage by the workers.

A call went out for volunteers to help staff essential services such as making the trains run, delivering food to shops, and unloading the docks. Army soldiers were put in place to deal with any strikers who sought to interfere with these 'Non-Union Temporary Workers'. With the newspapers effectively shut down, Winston Churchill personally took editorial control of an emergency newspaper entitled *The British Gazette*.

The call for volunteers brought London's middle class together: stock brokers, barristers, accountants, students, doctors and many other white collar workers adopted blue collar jobs, driving trains and buses, unloading ships and keeping essential services running.

This united response led the TUC to cancel the strike on 12th May, 1926. The hostility registered against the strike action in many ways signified the end of large scale class agitation in the

1920s. The last major actions of the political left in London in the twenties culminated in a series of violent clashes between Fascists and Communists in the normally sedate Hyde Park in June 1927.

Investigators in 1920s London are continually judged according to their class. Though class distinctions would be verbalised less often than in the more rigid Victorian era,

judgements would take the form of silent decisions and unspoken rules. A male investigator dressed in anything but a well-tailored suit, or a female investigator wearing anything other than a finely made dress, walking into the Ritz Hotel would draw considerable attention and elicit stares and whispers from the upper class clientèle. Similarly, a group of ladies and gentlemen strolling on the London docks would garner smirks and curses from surly, lower-class dockers.

British Fascism

The British Fascist movement was established in the late twenties and early thirties, mostly under the charismatic leadership of Oswald Mosley (6th Baronet of Ancoats). A popular movement originally based on the model of Italian Fascism rather than the greater extremes of Nazism, it called for a totalitarian government to be appointed rather than elected, and was enthusiastically supported by the Daily Mail newspaper. At its height in 1933 the British Union of Fascists had 50,000 members, and was a visible and vigorous part of the national debate.

By 1934 the movement was moving towards more fanatical views, including anti-Semitism, its actions were becoming more extreme and its membership was dropping. Its paramilitary wing, the 'blackshirts', were responsible for violent affrays with Jewish and communist groups (who, to be fair, had tried on several occasions to disrupt BUF meetings.) Things came to a head with the Battle of Cable Street: the BUF attempted to march through a Jewish area of the East End of London; 100,000 anti-fascist demonstrators turned out to repulse them, building roadblocks and barricades. 6000 police attempted to clear the route of the march, to allow 3000 BUF members in blackshirts to march. Mosley eventually agreed to cancel the demonstration: there had been 150 arrests and 175 injuries. Two days later Mosley flew to Germany, where he married his mistress Diana Guinness in the presence of Hitler and Goebbels.

Cable Street led to the passing of the 1936 Public Order Act, banning paramilitary organisations. Eventually the BUF became a proscribed organisation in 1940, and 740 members, including Mosley, were interned for the rest of WWII.

One other senior member of the British Union of Fascists is worth noting: Major-General J. F. C. Fuller, one of Mosley's closest allies, an enthusiastic supporter of Hitler, and a member of Aleister Crowley's inner circle, the mystical A. A. By the 1930s he had drifted away from Crowley's brand of occultism though he remained highly interested in the subject. One has to wonder what new dark forces he had found to follow, and how closely he tried to align them with the BUF, as Rudolph Hess was doing with the Nazi party in Germany at the same time.

The British Union of Fascists is a briefly powerful and popular political force, and at least some of its senior members are involved with dark forces. As the power of a cult-like group wanes it becomes increasingly desperate to find anything that will let it retain its status and influence, and would be an ideal target for another group seeking initiates who are perhaps more naïve than they should be.

The BUF was associated with violent incidents, targeting the businesses and homes of its adversaries, and so it is an ideal scapegoat if someone is looking to blame burglary, arson, violence or even murder on a very visible target. And skirmishes in the street between the BUF and its natural enemies can be used as useful distractions, obstacles or cover by a Keeper who needs to block a street or summon a few hundred policemen in a hurry.

Ultimately how much resentment or tension is on display in London is up to the Keeper. Certainly the socio-political tensions of the time can provide a colourful backdrop to the action or Keepers might want to bring them front-stage and make them a central part of London-based scenarios and campaigns.

REACTIONS AGAINST FOREIGNERS AND IMMIGRANTS

A second area where tensions ran high in London was the reaction to foreigners and immigrants within the city. Foreign investigators will inevitably encounter a degree of prejudice towards them. Typical reactions against immigrants and foreigners will range from quiet condescension to sneering and even threats of violence, varying from one circumstance to another. While Londoners are easily the most cosmopolitan of the British citizenry, this does not stop some reacting strongly to outsiders generally and to some nationalities particularly. American investigators, for example, might encounter NPCs who sneer upon hearing their accent.

The 1920s sees an increasing American influence on the British way of life, but not everyone in Britain was happy with the influx of American culture and ideas. Thus, a petty hostility towards Americans lingered throughout the decade, particularly amongst older Britons and the wealthy upper class. Canadians, Australians, and New Zealanders face less prejudice as they are, at least, part of the Empire, but even Commonwealth investigators might still face some antagonism and often be disparaged as ‘colonials’.

Depending on their country of origin, Europeans may be valued for the commerce they bring into London, simply tolerated, or openly antagonised. This is particularly true for German visitors or investigators. The scars of the Great War cut deep and curses and random comments such as “I lost good mates in the war!” might be directed pointedly at German investigators who make trouble in London streets. The majority of Londoners, however, will avoid confrontation with foreigners and immigrants, provided they don’t get too ‘bolshie’ (by upsetting the status quo) or openly offensive.

London, for all its experience with colonial and foreign immigrants, was often remarkably reactionary towards them. In May 1920, for example, London County Council banned

all foreigners from holding any council job. The justification given was that, in the face of high unemployment, British jobs should go to British workers. It was a highly popular move at the time and widely celebrated across the city, though obviously not among London immigrants. Of all the immigrant groups, the Irish had perhaps the toughest time in London throughout the decade.

Visible Minorities

Visible minorities in 1920s London – non-Caucasians or non-whites – were easy targets for antagonists. Africans, Asians and those from the Middle East were unable to hide among the populace in the way that Europeans or Americans might, and they often suffered the worst prejudice outside their own communities. The legacy of the 1905 Aliens Act meant that immigrants were seen as the primary cause of growing unemployment and deteriorating working conditions. Vocal attacks against immigrants were often led by the ruling elite and upper class but anti-foreigner and anti-Semitic feeling cut across class. Discrimination and harassment, sometimes severe, were a part of daily life for these visible minorities and would continue to be for decades to follow.

Ireland’s struggle for independence provides a violent backdrop to the 1920s with Anglo-Irish relations being strained worldwide as a result. The massive Irish community of London was, on the whole, trying to keep out of any trouble. Most London-based Irish men and women had come over to England to look for work and a better life, and distanced themselves from the fighting in Dublin. Inevitably, however, some conflict between Irish and British national groups did arise. In 1920, as the Irish War of Independence grew in savagery and violence and the British armed forces declared martial law in Dublin, Irish agitators could be found in pubs and bars around London, giving impassioned speeches to impressionable young men and women.

These were not the Irish-themed pubs found round the world in modern times, but often rundown community centres, where Irish labourers, dockers, and their families would congregate to have a drink away from the open anti-Irish

prejudice on London's streets. The depth of feeling on both sides of the fence would not change greatly as the decade wore on. Throughout the 1920s, it was not an uncommon sight to see signs in London restaurants and guest houses stating that "No Unemployed – No Dogs – No Irish" were allowed within. Tensions heated up several times throughout the 1920s as the Irish Republican Army (IRA) carried out a series of attacks in London, targeting the relatives of men serving in the Royal Irish Constabulary.

It is important to note that ignorance and prejudice are not limited to any particular class or group. Poor and rich alike often revelled in bigotry and the London public fractured

into different social and political tribes. Investigators are just as likely to encounter working class xenophobes and aristocratic snobs. Ultimately, the extent to which Keepers wish to introduce social and political tensions into their scenarios and campaigns is entirely up to them. Handled with sensitivity and put in context, accurate description of the prejudice suffered by foreigners and immigrants in London can help to darken or add gravitas to adventures, or can link to or provide motivation for allies or enemies.

Alternatively, the growing tensions throughout the 1920s can be related as part of a complex tapestry of attitudes and circumstances informing the action.

Using London Tensions as a Backdrop

London's social divisions and the resulting tension allows Keepers an opportunity to play off the socio-political strife of the 1920s. In essence, London itself can become a character in your scenarios and campaigns. The relationship between the investigators and the city is likely to change, shift, and develop: London and its ever-growing cast of characters is never static.

London is busy and vibrant and filled with NPCs, groups, and whole communities who influence and bring about social and political change. This tide of change and influence is difficult to predict and investigators might find themselves aided or hindered by popular sentiment and shifting cultures. Keepers wanting to reflect this volatile atmosphere might consider introducing modifiers to investigator's Credit Rating or social skills (such as Fast Talk or Persuade).

Depending on variables such as the investigator's background, differences in social class, and the area of London or particular context, Keepers might consider boosting or reducing social skills by +/-5%, respectively. If circumstances fit, Keepers might choose to alter a character's Credit Rating by as much as +/- 20-25%. For example, a toff or aristocrat might have a hard time bringing an unfriendly East End publican round to his way of thinking, suffering a hefty penalty to Persuade. Taking the same argument to a gentlemen's club, the same aristocrat might have his score raised by playing off his solidarity with his upper class chums.



WHERE TO SPEND YOUR HOLIDAY WHATEVER THE WEATHER

PALACE OF WESTMINSTER
The Palace of Westminster, the seat of the British Parliament, is one of the most famous buildings in London. It is situated on the south bank of the River Thames, and is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. The Palace is open to the public, and visitors can see the interior of the Houses of Parliament, the House of Lords, and the House of Commons. The Palace is also the site of the annual State Opening of Parliament, one of the most important events in the British calendar.



BRITISH MUSEUM
The British Museum is one of the largest and most important museums in the world. It is situated in Bloomsbury, in the north of London, and is open to the public. The Museum contains a vast collection of objects from all over the world, including ancient Egyptian mummies, Greek and Roman sculptures, and natural history specimens. The Museum is also a center for research and education, and is home to the British Library, one of the largest libraries in the world.



NATIONAL GALLERY
The National Gallery is one of the most important art museums in the world. It is situated in Trafalgar Square, in the center of London, and is open to the public. The Gallery contains a vast collection of European paintings, including works by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael. The Gallery is also a center for research and education, and is home to the National Gallery Library, one of the largest art libraries in the world.

THE ZOO
The London Zoo is one of the oldest and most important zoos in the world. It is situated in Regent's Park, in the north of London, and is open to the public. The Zoo contains a vast collection of animals from all over the world, including lions, tigers, and bears. The Zoo is also a center for research and education, and is home to the London Zoo Library, one of the largest zoology libraries in the world.



ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
St. Paul's Cathedral is one of the most important churches in London. It is situated in St. Paul's Churchyard, in the north of London, and is open to the public. The Cathedral is a masterpiece of Baroque architecture, and is famous for its large dome and its spire. The Cathedral is also a center for religious and cultural events, and is home to the St. Paul's Cathedral Library, one of the largest church libraries in the world.

REGENTS PARK
Regent's Park is one of the largest and most beautiful parks in London. It is situated in the north of London, and is open to the public. The Park contains a vast collection of trees and flowers, and is a popular place for walking and recreation. The Park is also home to the London Zoo, one of the oldest and most important zoos in the world.



VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM
The Victoria and Albert Museum is one of the largest and most important museums in the world. It is situated in South Kensington, in the south of London, and is open to the public. The Museum contains a vast collection of objects from all over the world, including ancient Egyptian mummies, Greek and Roman sculptures, and natural history specimens. The Museum is also a center for research and education, and is home to the Victoria and Albert Museum Library, one of the largest museum libraries in the world.



HYDE PARK & KENSINGTON GARDENS
Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens are two of the largest and most beautiful parks in London. They are situated in the west of London, and are open to the public. The parks contain a vast collection of trees and flowers, and are a popular place for walking and recreation. The parks are also home to the London Zoo, one of the oldest and most important zoos in the world.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY
Westminster Abbey is one of the most important churches in London. It is situated in Westminster, in the west of London, and is open to the public. The Abbey is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture, and is famous for its large nave and its choir. The Abbey is also a center for religious and cultural events, and is home to the Westminster Abbey Library, one of the largest church libraries in the world.



TOWER OF LONDON
The Tower of London is one of the most important castles in London. It is situated on the north bank of the River Thames, and is open to the public. The Tower is a masterpiece of Norman architecture, and is famous for its large towers and its walls. The Tower is also a center for religious and cultural events, and is home to the Tower of London Library, one of the largest castle libraries in the world.



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
The Natural History Museum is one of the largest and most important museums in the world. It is situated in South Kensington, in the south of London, and is open to the public. The Museum contains a vast collection of natural history specimens, including dinosaurs, mammals, and birds. The Museum is also a center for research and education, and is home to the Natural History Museum Library, one of the largest natural history libraries in the world.

HAMPSTEAD HEATH
Hampstead Heath is one of the largest and most beautiful heaths in London. It is situated in Hampstead, in the north of London, and is open to the public. The Heath contains a vast collection of trees and flowers, and is a popular place for walking and recreation. The Heath is also home to the Hampstead Heath Library, one of the largest heath libraries in the world.



LONDON MUSEUM
The London Museum is one of the largest and most important museums in the world. It is situated in the north of London, and is open to the public. The Museum contains a vast collection of objects from all over the world, including ancient Egyptian mummies, Greek and Roman sculptures, and natural history specimens. The Museum is also a center for research and education, and is home to the London Museum Library, one of the largest museum libraries in the world.

TATE GALLERY
The Tate Gallery is one of the most important art museums in the world. It is situated in St. James's Park, in the west of London, and is open to the public. The Gallery contains a vast collection of European paintings, including works by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael. The Gallery is also a center for research and education, and is home to the Tate Gallery Library, one of the largest art libraries in the world.



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THE TWENTIES

YEAR BY YEAR

1920

1920 saw the city continuing to deal with the aftermath of the Great War. Several important war memorials are built this year, including the Cenotaph, the statue of British nurse Edith Cavell (executed by the Germans in 1915 for helping prisoners of war escape). The Imperial War Museum is opened at Crystal Palace until a permanent home could be found for it.

The first outpatient clinic dealing in psychopathology opens in Malet Street near Tavistock Square. London watches with some interest as the nations of the world come to St James' Palace to form the League of Nations (a headquarters was set up in Geneva, although the United States declined to be involved) while at the same time the London County Council bans any "foreigner" holding any council job.

In July a British love of airplanes grows when a thrilling aerial derby is held over the streets of London.

In August the first ever night buses are introduced- allowing revellers an alternative to taking a cab after a night on the town. London's riotous nightlife contrasts very clearly with America's, which introduced prohibition this same year (as well as electing Warren G Harding as the 29th President of the United States).

In October a national miners' strike begins, creating fears of power cuts and food shortages. London's parks become emergency depots to allow the ferrying of food and milk into the city.

In March 800 ex-soldiers had been sent to Ireland to keep the peace (known as the 'Black and Tans', many suffered from psychological disorders after fighting in the trenches during the war and they actually made the situation worse), but terrorist killings continued unabated and in December martial law was declared in Ireland.

1921

The miners' strike that bedevilled the country in 1920 continued into this year. By April, coal was being rationed and special provisions were introduced to ensure food was supplied

around the city. The strike ends in June, much to everyone's relief, although British unemployment reaches 2 million.

1921 is an exceptionally warm and dry year; on 25th June it rains for the first time in 100 days.

The city sees the opening of the massive King George V docks, which are big enough to take the Mauritania. These are the last big docks built in London itself.

London policemen begin patrolling the streets on motorcycles for the first time.

The city is shocked when, in May, Irish nationalists carried out a series of attacks across the city, shooting, stabbing and beating up people who were related to men serving in the Royal Ulster Constabulary back in Ireland. Later that year an agreement is signed by Eamon de Valera, the leader of Sinn Féin, to create the Irish Free State with Dominion status.

London goes celebrity crazy when Charlie Chaplin returns to the city of his birth. His arrival causes massive crowds in Waterloo station and around his hotel in Piccadilly. London sees the birth of 'Cricklewood', its own film production area, as the Stoll Film Studios opens. The city, along with the rest of the world, falls in love with Rudolf Valentino starring in *The Sheikh*.

Rumours of miraculous powers follows Gandhi as he campaigns against the British in India.

1922

The start of 1922 sees a vicious influenza epidemic hit London; in January alone the death toll was running at 800 a week. This ends by late spring and once again London is baking in record heat throughout the summer.

Troubles with Irish terrorists continues unabated, with Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, gunned down by the IRA in Eaton Square on 22nd June.

The Liberal-Tory alliance that had ruled Britain falls and the once-popular David Lloyd George is deposed as Prime Minister. A November general election sees the Conservative Party win, with the Canadian-born Andrew Bonar Law becoming Prime Minister and the Liberal Party reduced to a rump. For the first time the left-wing Labour Party takes up the role as the main party of opposition.

In Ireland, the Irish Free State begins under President Arthur Griffith but political divides proved insurmountable and by August Ireland had degenerated into civil war, with Nationalist leader Michael Collins shot on 22nd August.

1922 sees London's first ever telephone exchange built and British Broadcasting Company (BBC) is formed, which begins regular 6pm radio news broadcasts to the nation from the 14th November.

The British Automobile Association passes 160,000 members, as the motor car continues to rise in popularity.

In literature, the poet TS Eliot publishes the seminal poem *The Waste Land* in the *Criterion* magazine, while in Paris Irish writer James Joyce publishes *Ulysses* (which is banned for its obscene language in both Britain and America).

Lastly, 1922 is a year remembered for a fascination with all things Egyptian. The adventures of British archaeologist Howard Carter and his discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamen grabs the public interest like little else. Over the next few years his discoveries excite and enthral the British public.

1923

As part of the complex that was to host the British Empire Festival in 1925, Wembley Stadium is completed.

The BBC expands its broadcasts with new shows such as *Women's Hour*.

London is rocked by a seven week-long dock strike (leading to produce rotting on the docks and violence as strike-breakers tried to move it).

Tory Prime Minister Bonar Law resigns after he was diagnosed with cancer. Stanley Baldwin, the new Prime Minister, calls a snap election in November which sees the Tories fail to win a majority. A Liberal-Labour alliance sees the left-wing Labour party take power in Britain only 24 years after it was formed.

British society is thrilled by the engagement and wedding of Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (later HRH Elizabeth the Queen Mother) and the Duke of York (later King George VI). A whirlwind romance, the engagement was announced in January and the wedding takes place in April.

1924

1924 sees the opening of the British Empire exhibition, the largest celebration of Empire ever seen in British history. 56 nations of the Empire takes part at an immense site in Wembley.

Woolworths opened their flagship store in Oxford Street.

In early January there is an 8-day rail strike, while in February a dockers strike closes all the ports in Britain, including London.

Trials of covered-top buses take place in London and are extremely popular. In March four small air companies merged to form Britain's first airline, Imperial Airways, based at Croydon airport.

The BBC broadcasts the first radio programmes for schools and children's education.

People worldwide followed gripping accounts of Howard Carter lifting the lid of Tutankhamen's sarcophagus.

The Labour government of Ramsey MacDonald falls after 11 months and another general election is called. The Conservatives are returned to power under Baldwin (who appoints Winston Churchill as Chancellor of the Exchequer).

In July at the Paris Olympic Games Britain is thrilled as Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell win gold in the 100 and 400 metres respectively (events later immortalised in the film *Chariots of Fire*).

E. M. Forster's *A Passage to India* is published to critical and commercial success.

1925

The first part of the Great West Road is opened by the King, opening up areas in Chiswick and Hounslow for new factories.

An eclipse of the sun over London in January is missed due to heavy clouds.

In May, the second season of the British Empire exhibition opens in Wembley.

Members of Parliament votes to make Daylight Saving permanent (leading to the clocks going back an hour in October and forward an hour in March).

The BBC surpasses 10 million listeners.

1925 is remembered for a scorching summer heatwave, the huge impact the new American dance craze “the Charleston” has in the clubs and dance halls, and Howard Carter’s continued discoveries in Tutankhamen’s tomb. The fascination with the past continues to grow this year with the discovery of the Roman ruins at Jemila, Algeria (described by the *Illustrated London News* as an “African Pompeii”), while Leakey’s British Museum Expedition to Tanganyika, which had set out to obtain the bones of a Gigantosaurus, also generates exciting headlines.

While the rest of Britain swings to the right politically, London goes the other way and the Labour Party dominated local council elections. A six week-long dock workers’ strike erupts in August and the police raid the HQ of the British Communist Party arresting several members for subversion. Eventually three leading members of the Communist Party, Thomas Bell, Ernest Cant and Willie Gallacher, are charged at Bow Street under the Incitement to Mutiny act of 1797.

PG Wodehouse’s second novel about Bertie Wooster, *Carry on Jeeves*, is published.

A growing number of people migrate from Britain to the Dominions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa in search of work and a better life.

Malcolm Campbell breaks the world land speed record in his car *Bluebird*, travelling at over 146 miles per hour.

1926

The 500,000th telephone is installed in Britain. To make sure the story got publicity it is installed in the Press Gallery of the House of Commons.

John Logie Baird, a Scottish electrical engineer, demonstrates a new device called television to an informal gathering of the Royal Institution.

The last horse auction in central London is held as Aldrige’s Horse Repository, in Upper St Martins Lane, closed.

On 9th February after 18 days of continuous rainfall, serious flooding takes place in the suburbs of London. Hundreds of houses are flooded out by the high waters of the Thames.



In March Alan Cobham was greeted by a huge crowd at Croydon airport after he returns from flying all the way to Cape Town and back again.

Possibly the most important single event in 1926 was the calling of the first ever general strike on 4th May. Prime Minister Baldwin, backed by Churchill and Chamberlain, takes a hard line against the unions. Troops are deployed across London to keep the peace. Armoured vehicles patrolled the streets and soldiers deployed to the docks. The strike is called off after nine days.

In August, London's first traffic lights are installed at Piccadilly Circus. August also sees the England cricket team regain the Ashes against Australia at the Oval after a gap of 14 years to scenes of wild celebration.

The Northern Line extension from Clapham Common to Morden opened; this included the world's longest tunnel.

On October 1st Alan Cobham lands his sea plane outside Westminster to complete his record 28,000 mile round trip to Australia and back. The year ends with the exciting news that Imperial Airways is to begin the first service from Croydon to India in the new year.

The Duchess of York gives birth to her first child, Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II).

Londoner T.E. Lawrence (better known as Lawrence of Arabia) publishes his account of the liberation of Arabia, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, for private circulation only.

1927

A grand refurbishment of Regent Street was finished and is opened in June by the King and Queen with massive crowds in attendance.

London, already addicted to brave pilots due to the adventures of Alan Cobham, goes wild when Charles Lindbergh flies into Croydon airport on 29th May after his transatlantic flight (after having visited Paris and Brussels). He is mobbed by an estimated 120,000 people.

A new influenza epidemic hit London- at its height in February up to 1000 victims a week die from it. Meanwhile strong gales and floods cause havoc across the city later that month.

The BBC sponsors the Proms concerts under Sir Henry Wood.

In June the city is aghast as violent clashes between fascists and communists take place in Hyde Park.

London's nightclubs embrace another new American type of music: jazz.



1927 ends as freezing blizzards gives it a White Christmas.

The first scheduled London-Delhi air service starts to much public excitement. The first talking picture, *The Jazz Singer*, starring Al Jolson hits London, and the German silent film *Metropolis* presents a dystopian view of the future.

1928

The year begins with an unseasonal surge in temperatures. A sudden thaw of the winter snow combined with a high tide results in the Thames bursting its banks and flooding central London. 14 people are drowned, including four members of the same family, and hundreds more are made homeless. The vaults of the palace of Westminster are flooded; the moat of the tower of London is suddenly full and there is extensive damage to the Tate Gallery (although the Turner collection is saved). The bad weather continues in February as strong gales causes deaths across Britain and serious damage in London.

The London County Council (LCC) embarks on two massive 'new' housing projects, huge estates in St Heller and Bacontree. The Black Cat Factory, London's largest cigarette making factory, opened in Mornington Crescent, matched by the fact that Britain was reported to have the highest rate of smokers per head of population.

Londoners turns up to cheer as the state-of-the-art steam train, *The Flying Scotsman*, set a new record for the London to Edinburgh trip (clocking over 70 mph) on 1st May. On June 11th, as a publicity stunt *The Flying Scotsman* races a plane from London to the Scottish capital, which the train narrowly wins.

On 2nd July the Equal Franchise Act gives all British women aged 21 or over the vote.

28th September sees Dr Alexander Fleming accidentally discover penicillin in his lab in St. Mary's Hospital in London, although he did not announce the discovery until 1929.

The first £1 and 10 shilling notes begin circulation in Britain.

Construction began on the R100 and R101 airships at Vickers works in Yorkshire.

The final volume of the Oxford English Dictionary (globally recognised as the definitive English dictionary) is published, completing decades of work.

The highly controversial novels *The Well of Loneliness* by Radclyffe Hall and *Lady Chatterley's Lover* by D.H. Lawrence are published, bringing the subjects of lesbianism and extra-marital sex, respectively, into public awareness in a shocking and frank manner.

1929

By 1929 Britain had about 1.6 million telephones, roughly 4 for every 100 people, and the first public telephone boxes (22 of them) are introduced.

A 5000 mile round trip airmail service opens up from Croydon, covering India, Egypt, Palestine and Iraq.

The general election in May of this year sees another Liberal-Labour alliance take power.

In June the first female cabinet minister, Margaret Bondfield, is appointed.

In July the police seizes a series of paintings by DH Lawrence from a gallery in Mayfair for being 'lewd'.

By September the Baird Company agrees to try experimental television broadcasts across London.

In October the city came to a standstill to gawp at the R101 Airship as it flew over London.

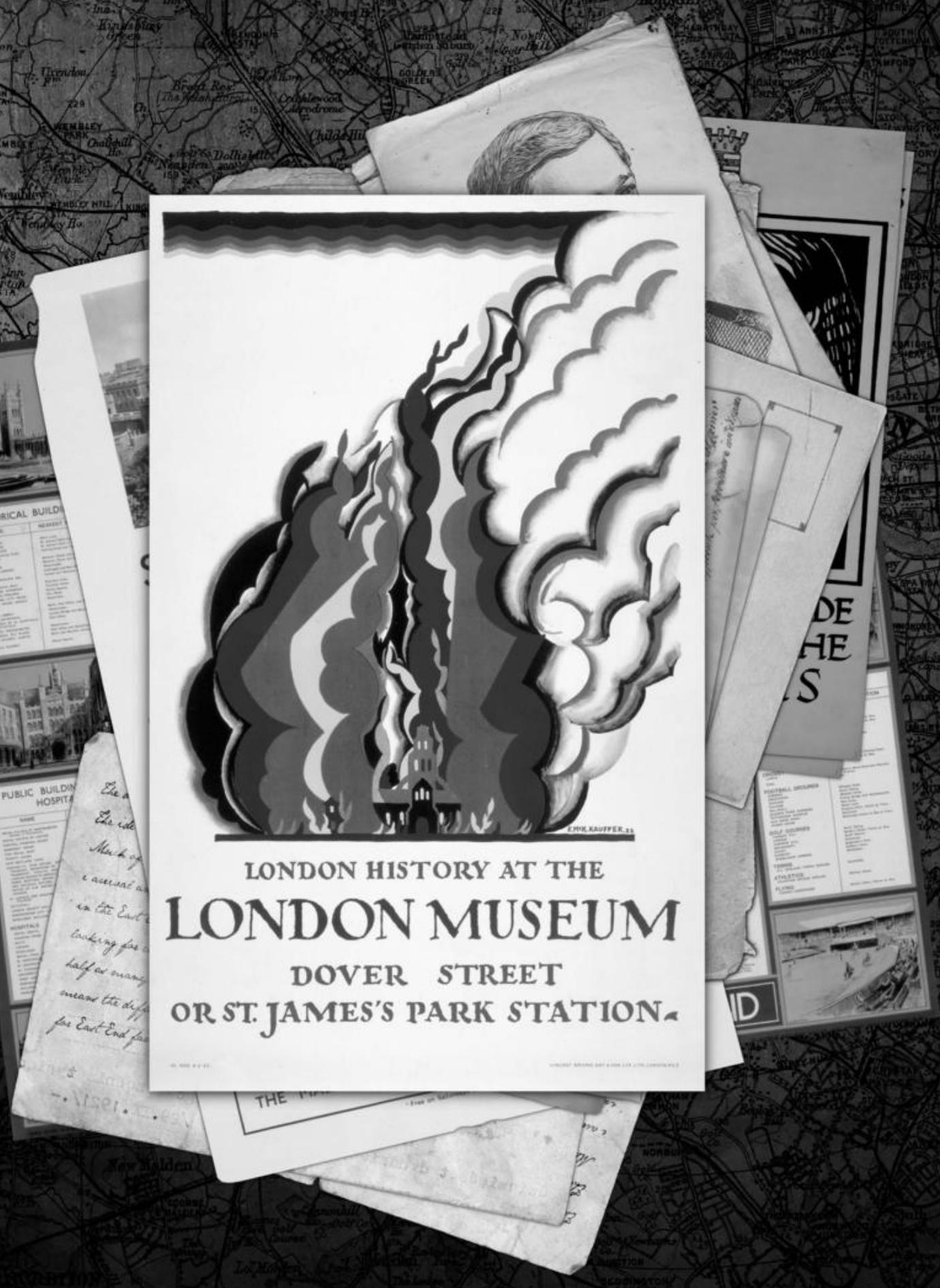
Two books describing the folly of the Great War are published this year – Robert Graves' *Goodbye to All That* and Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front*.

Four days after Black Thursday on Wall Street, the London Stock Market is hit by a crash causing massive economic problems. Prime Minister Ramsey MacDonald proposes a £42 million stimulus/public works package to revive the economy.

The storm clouds gathers for the new decade, heralded by massive storms and hurricane force winds, shaking the city that December.



LONDON HISTORY AT THE
LONDON MUSEUM
DOVER STREET
OR ST. JAMES'S PARK STATION.



GETTING TO LONDON

For the international traveller, the only realistic way of getting to Britain is by ship. Aside from a few short-hop commercial flights between London Terminal Aerodrome in Croydon and mainland Europe, international air travel is not available for most of the 1920s. The first commercial flights to and from India begin in 1927. Although there were no regularly scheduled, commercial transatlantic flights during the 1920s, investigators in a hurry might be able to get themselves on board one of the occasional Zeppelins that crosses the Atlantic in the latter part of the decade.

The British Government

Britain is a constitutional monarchy, which means that the head of state is the monarch (King George V during the 1920s), who is officially a figurehead. The real political power is vested in the directly elected House of Commons, which is both the executive and legislative branch of government – it makes laws and sees they are enforced.

There is also the House of Lords, a non-elected body composed of hereditary and life peers (those with titles) who act as a check on the power of the Commons. Legislation proposed by the Commons must be scrutinised by the Lords and can be amended or rejected before it is returned to the Commons to be voted into law. The Lords have no power to create legislation of their own.

The government is formed by the party with a majority in the Commons, and the Prime Minister (also known as the First Lord of the Treasury) is usually the leader of that party. Although members of the House of Lords may (and often are) appointed to government roles, Lords are not eligible for election.

Almost all non-natives of Britain are expected to show a valid passport upon entering the country; additionally, the passport must bear a current visa (cost 2s) which should be obtained from

the British Embassy, legation or consulate before the journey commences. The only exemptions to this rule are French, Spanish, Belgian and Dutch nationals. Arrival without a visa is grounds for immediate deportation to the port of origin.

BY BOAT FROM • NORTH AMERICA •

There are multiple shipping lines operating from the US to Britain, although almost no passenger liners actually dock in London itself. Travellers to London are more likely to arrive in Plymouth, Southampton or even Liverpool, and then catch a train the rest of the way. There are regular services between Britain and New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Montreal and Quebec. The voyage takes between five and nine days (depending on the weather) and will cost (first class) \$250-300, (second class) \$115-130 or (third class) \$80-90. First class accommodation is luxurious – as good as a fine hotel, whilst third class is steerage and will involve sleeping in bunks or hammocks and spending a lot of time below deck for the voyage.

The 1920s are the great era of romantic international travel and famous names ply the Atlantic, including the *Aquitania* and *Mauretania* of the Cunard Line (New York to Liverpool), the *Majestic* of the White Star Line (The largest and most luxurious liner afloat) (New York to Southampton), and the *Empress of Britain* of the Canadian to Pacific Line (Montreal & Quebec to Southampton).

The Blue Riband

The Blue Riband is awarded to the passenger ship making the fastest transatlantic voyage between the US and Britain. Until 1929 it is held by the *Mauretania* which averaged 26.3 knots for the entire journey in 1909. In 1929 the *Bremen* manages a remarkable 27.8 knots between London and New York.

• BY BOAT FROM CONTINENTAL EUROPE • AND ELSEWHERE

Frequent ferries run from most European ports to Britain, although once again few actually sail to and from London. However, it is easy to buy package tickets for the entire journey between London and most major European cities. Sample costs include: London to Paris £3 2s, London to Hamburg £4, London to Berlin £5 2s, and London to Copenhagen £9.

Passengers to and from major ports in the Empire can travel from London using the purpose-built Royal Albert Dock in North Woolwich. Here ocean-going liners regularly set sail for the civilised parts of the globe (i.e. the bits ruled by the British).

• BY RAIL •

The most common means of both getting to the capital and around the country outside of central London is the rail network. Before the Railways Act of 1921 there were dozens of rail companies, but in 1923 these are amalgamated into four – the Southern Railway, the Great Western Railway, the London, Midland & Scottish Railway, and the London &

North Eastern Railway. Trains offer either first or third class (no second). Third class is of perfectly acceptable quality, but only first class offers dining and sleeping cars. Both smoking and ‘Ladies Only’ coaches are provided on most services.

First class fares are charged at 2 1/2d per mile and third class at 1 1/2d per mile, so a first class ticket from the docks at Southampton to London will cost 34s.

MAJOR LONDON RAILWAY STATIONS

The major hub stations that investigators arriving by train from outside London or travelling to other parts of the country will likely use are as follows:

Waterloo: For trains to and from the south coast, including the Transatlantic and cross-channel ferry termini at Southampton and Bournemouth.

Fenchurch Street: For trains down the Thames to the East, especially for those arriving or departing from the liner docks at Tilbury.

St Pancras: The terminus for the Waverley Route, which runs from London to Edinburgh via Carlisle.

King’s Cross: The terminus of the Eastern Group lines, which cover East Anglia up to Cambridge and King’s Lynn, and



also journeys to Edinburgh, Aberdeen and further north via Doncaster and York begin here.

Euston: For trains to Liverpool, Glasgow and Edinburgh via Birmingham and Manchester, as well as the boat-train to Holyhead, for services to Ireland.

Marylebone: For trains to and from the Midlands and North West, including Sheffield, Rugby and Manchester.

Paddington: For services to the west and South West of England including Wales and Cornwall. The boat-train to Fishguard for ferries to Ireland also runs from Paddington.

Liverpool Street: Home of the Great Eastern Railway, which runs trains to and from the Eastern Counties (Norfolk and Suffolk) and also for the boat-train to Harwich for ferries to Holland, Belgium, Norway and Germany.

• BY AIR •

Croydon Airport began international flights in 1920 with flights to Paris, Amsterdam and Rotterdam, initially and flights to most of the world by 1924. Very occasionally in the

latter half of the 1920s, Britain's wealthy elite might board one of Zeppelin's new LZ 126 dirigibles destined for North America or Brazil. Air travel would remain an expensive option for decades to come, only beginning to seriously compete with land and sea travel after the Second World War.

Particularly wealthy and adventurous investigators will be pleased to know that it is possible to charter private taxi-planes from London Aerodrome. These fly at 100mph and charge 2s per mile for up to three passengers. They are usually available at short notice and can be ordered by wire or telegram to meet investigators disembarking from an incoming liner, for example, or anywhere else where there is room to land.

• UPON ARRIVAL •

Travellers from abroad must personally attend an examination of their luggage by a customs official and will be expected to declare any items that will incur an import duty; these items include tobacco, spirits, perfumes, and mechanical goods (such as scientific instruments, watches and clocks and cameras). Foreign reprints of books under British copyright will be confiscated. There are no restrictions to bringing in firearms unless the customs inspector decides otherwise (so

The London Fog

"The streets were so full of dense brown smoke that scarcely anything was to be seen... 'This is a London particular.' I had never heard of such a thing. 'A fog, miss,' said the young gentleman."

– Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*, 1853

Situated at the bottom of a river valley, and with hundreds of thousands of coal fires and steam engines putting out smoke and soot day and night, it is unsurprising that London's fogs – the 'pea soupers' – became famous. By the 1920s the fogs were no longer as bad as they had been during the 19th century, but historical records of the time show that after dark the fog at its worst could reduce visibility to less than a foot and at times it was so bad even ambulances and fire engines would not drive due to the danger of accidents. The effects of the fogs on the lungs are well known and feared, and many people carried simple breath masks made of handkerchiefs and cotton wool to protect their lungs from the effects of breathing the thick, sooty air. Often the fog was not so thick, but still sat as a yellowish-brown miasma over the city.

The fog can be as much of a character of London as any NPC or monster. It can sit over the city for days, choking transport and trade, and then blow away with the next breeze. It is simplicity itself for people to simply appear from or vanish into the fog with almost no warning. Keepers may want to give significant penalties for the use of skills like Spot and Listen (for the fog deadens sound) when a pea souper lies like a thick blanket over the city.

don't make him suspicious — and Americans attempting to bring in Thompson machine-guns will make him *very* suspicious). Animals are subject to quarantine restrictions (Britain is free of rabies, and aims to stay that way), and so must be placed in the care of a veterinarian for six months upon arrival in the country.

A special note: all non-British subjects must gain the approval of an immigration officer before they will be allowed into the country.

• THE ENGLISH WEATHER •

“There is still a superstition in England that summer is a time to look forward to.”

(The Spectator, February 1925)

The south of England is generally a pleasant and temperate part of the country where the daily weather can be changeable but extremes are rare. Weather reports are found in virtually all daily papers, but most people judge the weather by looking out their windows. Summers are warm, but not overly so (averaging 24° C), and winters are cool (rarely lower than -4° C), but heavy snow is a rarity and a topic of conversation for years to come.

The importance of the weather as a topic of conversation cannot be overlooked. Londoners often use the weather as an opportunity to engage in harmless banter. It is an impersonal and neutral subject, meaning you can chat to the person you have just met without giving away anything of yourself whilst also not giving offence by being taciturn.

• STAYING IN LONDON •

An investigator who does not own property in London has two options: to stay with friends, or to take rooms in a hotel or lodgings. London is well supplied with hotels and guest houses, which range in quality from the world-class to flophouses.

Foreigners staying in hotels, boarding houses and lodging houses must sign the register of aliens, which all such places must keep by law. If they stay in the UK for more than two

months they must register at the nearest police station to their place of residence, and they must inform the police if they move residence.

Despite the high volume of accommodation, London tends to fill up during the ‘Season’ (April to June), and an investigator hoping to stay in the city (certainly anywhere of acceptable quality) during this time would be well-advised to book in advance. Prices will also rise during the Season by up to 10%.

HIGH QUALITY HOTELS

The Two Best Hotels in London

The Ritz Hotel (on the corner of Piccadilly and Arlington St.) is widely regarded as one of the best hotels in the world - especially by the people who work there - and the prices reflect this with rooms starting at 30s a night and rising up to 126s a night for the best suite in the house.

The only serious competitor the Ritz has is the Savoy (on the Strand, overlooking the Thames), whose prices similarly reflect the prestige of the establishment - 30s for a room, up to 63s for a suite.

The Savoy

The Savoy Hotel is perhaps unique in being the only hotel founded on theatrical success, when the success of Gilbert & Sullivan's operettas inspired Richard D'Oyly Carte to build first the Savoy Theatre in 1881 and then a hotel to accommodate the audiences for the shows in 1891. From the start, the hotel was famous for service, luxury and food.

The hotel retained its theatrical and musical associations until the 1920s. The Savoy Havana Band was the first dance band to have a regular broadcast on the BBC from 1922 onwards from the hotel, and during the decade it was the hotel of choice for notables such as Rudy Vallee, Noel Coward, Dame Nellie Melba, and Sarah Bernhardt. Whilst staying at the hotel in 1923 Fred and Adele Astaire were persuaded to give an impromptu dancing performance on the roof for the benefit of the guests.

“My love, what have I done?”

In the early hours of the 10th July, 1923, one of the most infamous murders in London history took place at the Savoy hotel when ‘Prince’ Kamal Ali Fahmy, a notorious Egyptian playboy, was shot in the head three times by his Parisian wife of six months, Marguerite, a former dancing girl and courtesan ten years his senior.

Despite many seeing Marguerite as a gold digger, she was found not guilty of murder or manslaughter as a lengthy account of ‘sexual depravity’ on Ali Fahmy’s part was presented as mitigating circumstances at her trial by her lawyer, Marshall Hall (nicknamed ‘The Great Defender’ in respect of his skill at getting wealthy clients off in difficult cases), whilst Marguerite’s background was deliberately kept from the prosecution – a critical omission.

If Marguerite did kill Ali Fahmy for his fortune, she was disappointed – he died without leaving a will and she had no claim. Marguerite was later disgraced after pretending to have borne Ali Fahmy a child who would have had claim to his money – a falsehood that was easily disproved.

The Savoy is the home of the ‘Other Club’, a dining club founded by Winston Churchill in 1911 that met once a fortnight whilst Parliament was in session. The club members included many of the great and good of the era, including HG Wells, PG Wodehouse, Edwin Lutyens, Lord Beaverbrook and David Lloyd George.

The other dining tradition of the hotel is ‘Kaspar’, a carved wooden cat who, from 1926 onwards, joins the party every time thirteen sit down to dinner in order to prevent bad luck.

The Ritz (Piccadilly)

Cesar Ritz was fired as manager of the Savoy in 1899, and opened the Ritz Hotel in direct competition in 1906. Designed from inception to be superior in every way to the Savoy, the Ritz was the first hotel in Europe to have an en suite bathroom in every room, a ventilation system and double glazing!

The success of the Ritz was guaranteed – the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) said “Where Ritz goes, so do I”, and the rich and influential followed the Prince.

The crowned heads of Europe stayed at the hotel, as did many other famous guests during the 1920s, including Tallulah Bankhead, Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford, and Charlie Chaplin, who was so mobbed during his visit in 1921 that it took a cordon of 40 policemen to allow him to get through the door.



The Ritz was designed in the style of a Louis XIV French Chateau both inside and out and is the last word in luxury; people take tea in the Palm Court not only for the quality of the food on offer but also just to be seen doing so.

Other High Class Hotels

Other high-class establishments include the Berkeley (on the corner of Piccadilly and Berkeley St., rooms 25s), the Carlton (Haymarket and Pall Mall, rooms 35s), Claridges (on Brook St., rooms 30s) and the Piccadilly (Piccadilly Circus, rooms 25s, suite 50s). Browns, on Albemarle St, is the oldest 5-star hotel in the country, having opening in 1837. Dining at any of these establishments will cost an additional 8-15s per head.

Unlike most London accommodation, tipping is expected at these hotels and a rate of 10-15% is normal, split between the staff who serve the customer – the Head Waiter, the personal waiter, the porter, the chambermaid and the ‘boots’ (i.e. boot-cleaner).

AVERAGE QUALITY HOTELS

Average quality covers a variety of options; hotels, boarding and lodging houses, and apartments that may usually be rented for a minimum of three days. Central London has a wide variety of good quality hotels, such as the Langham, the Cadogan, the Hyde Park, the Cavendish and the Grosvenor Court, where accommodation may be had for between 10-20s per night may be had, and meals for between 3-5s. Teetotal investigators have the option of staying at one of several Temperance Hotels (largely located in Bloomsbury, near the British Museum), such as the Ivanhoe, the Kenilworth and the Tavistock View.

Should investigators wish to stay in private lodgings, it will not be difficult for them to find a house such as Mrs Teague’s, below.

Mrs Teague’s Guest House

Investigators who have friends in London or who have stayed there will have Mrs. Teague’s guest house recommended to them. After her husband and son were both killed during the war (neither of their bodies were ever found, a fact that haunts her to this day) she found herself in her big house in Hammersmith and, not wanting to move out of the only home she’d known for twenty years, went into the guest-house

business. Mrs Teague is particularly fond of academics and former soldiers as they remind her of ‘her boys’ (as she calls them) and will engage them in conversation as much as she can; she is a keen listener to any stories others might have to tell. She is a kind but strict woman who insists her rules be kept – no smoking or drinking in the house, no guests of the opposite sex in bedrooms and all lights out by ten – but in return is generous with both her time and cooking, which is excellent.

She has a big house on three floors with four guest bedrooms (but only one bathroom) – and she keeps the plug to ensure that ‘nobody overdoes it with the hot water’. Full room & board may be had for 35s per person, per week, laundry included.

POOR QUALITY HOTELS

Investigators in dire financial straits or wishing to stay out of sight of the police might find themselves staying in the very worst accommodation London has to offer. Short of sleeping rough, it is easy to find a flophouse for only 2-3d per night in one of the less pleasant areas of the city, such as that run by ‘Rat-Eye’ Charlie Tanner on the Wandsworth Road, below.

‘Rat-Eye’ Charlie’s Place

What was once apparently a pleasant Georgian house has been swallowed up by the advancing sprawl south of the river and, now in a state of dilapidation, has been turned in to a flophouse for itinerant workers and vagrants by a stocky man by the name of Rat-Eye Charlie.

Much of the interior has been ripped out, meaning that the house now only has four main rooms (two up, two down), each of which sleeps ten on low, grimy bunks with a small, guttering coal fire on one wall. Charlie himself lives and sleeps in a little office by the front door. He charges 2d per night per person (or 3d if they look like they can afford it), but really only cares about the money – so long as he gets paid he doesn’t care if fewer sleep there and four shillings will hire the entire building for the night (which sometimes happens, and Charlie doesn’t ask many questions about why or by whom). For the most part, Charlie’s guests are manual workers from the nearby Nine Elms railway yard and other small factories and breweries that dot the area.



Meiner Luten - post



HYDE PARK
THE MALL (BUCKINGHAM ST. JAMES'S PARK)

half as many as
mean the difference
for East End families

GETTING AROUND LONDON

• GUIDES •

Such is the size of London that newcomers might wish to engage a guide or assistant whilst in the city. The Corps of Commissionaires (419, The Strand) is comprised of “former servicemen of good character” (Baedeker’s, 1923) and act as trustworthy messengers, guides, interpreters and caretakers. The Veterans Corps (47 Bedford Square) is a similar organisation. Lady Guides are available from either Universal Aunts (181 Sloane Street) or Useful Women (48 Dover Square), who undertake “anything for anyone at any time”. They act as guides, chaperones, and interpreters, meet children and invalids at stations, arrange hospitality, go shopping, and provide typists and secretaries.

• BY TAXI •

Although romantically minded investigators who wish to emulate Sherlock Holmes can – with effort – still find a Hansom

cab in London during the 1920s, taxis have almost entirely superseded horse-drawn transport in the city centre with only four-wheeled luggage carriages (“growlers”) operating between major railway stations and hotels still regularly using real horsepower.

Cabs charge a tariff of a shilling for the first mile (or part thereof) and then 3d for every quarter of a mile or 2 1/2 minutes thereafter, whichever was less. A gratuity of at least 3d is expected. A meter showing the cost of the fare is displayed where easily visible to passengers.

London cabbies are expected to take ‘the Knowledge’, an exam of routes within London and important landmarks, roads and so on. This is a difficult test and can take up to two years to prepare for, and so they are amongst the best in the world at their trade and are very proud of this.

A typical cabbie is unlikely to have a Drive Automobile skill lower than 75%. Female taxi drivers are not uncommon, with the first lady taxi driver having been licensed in 1916.



• BY MOTOR CAR •

“Before a person receives a [driving] licence he should sign a statement embodying certain rules concerning carefulness and competency. The rest would be left to the man’s honour.”

– *The Committee on Regulation and Taxation of Vehicles, 1924*

Perhaps more than any other city in Britain, and arguably Europe, London and the motorcar fell in love, but the relationship was not an easy one. Indeed, investigations in London should be coloured by the fact that London rapidly became one of the most dangerous places on Earth because of the car.

The reason for this was simple: London’s roads had existed for centuries as natural thoroughfares through which pedestrian and horse-drawn traffic poured at a slow and steady pace and so the city had grown with neither wide roads nor any serious attempt at traffic regulation. This lack of regulation remained the case on London’s roads with the introduction of the automobile.

The first true legislation about cars was the Motor Car Act of 1903. This made it law that all drivers had to have a license to drive a car and that the car had to be registered with the local council. It also introduced the idea of ‘reckless driving’ but beyond that little if anything was done to regulate the way people drove, and later legislation was mostly to do with making sure excise duties on cars could be collected. A free-for-all emerged on London’s roads. In the post-war era the number of cars exploded and London became suddenly a city that had to cope with some serious traffic problems.

A MODERN HAZARD

It quickly emerged that the car had become a hazard. Hyde Park Corner became the busiest road junction in the world. There was no compulsory driving test so accidents were alarmingly frequent. At worst there were as many as three fatalities a day caused by accidents involving motor cars. Visitors and the unwary were advised not to attempt to cross certain roads and a raft of new and revolutionary measures were created in London to deal with the dangers posed by reckless automobile driving.

White lines down the middle of certain roads were introduced because drivers were often straying over to the wrong side; roundabouts were introduced into London first so as to prevent four-way head-on collisions, which were frequent at junctions, and traffic lights and a set series of hand gestures to be used by drivers to allow others know what they were doing ahead of time were also brought in.

Finally by 1929 driving tests were introduced to prevent any fool just getting behind the wheel of a car and driving off to cause merry havoc. Over the same period, parking became a nightmare; satirical cartoons informed Londoners that if they wished to park in London they would have to leave their car in Croydon.

Traffic as a Roleplaying Hazard

For Keepers, traffic conditions in London in the 1920s are there to be used as both background detail and also devices that can make any investigation more exciting. Investigators in a desperate race across town can find a sudden traffic jam that snarls them up for hours.

The car crash can also be used as a plot device – players may stumble upon a recent collision where a vehicle travelling to the British Library is found tipped over, several interesting books scattered across the road.

Since London is not laid out in the grid system American cities follow, American investigators especially may find her twisting streets and pedestrians that suddenly “appear out of nowhere” a real challenge. Unusually, Britain gives pedestrians the right of way over motor vehicles, and drivers need to be watchful for foot traffic that takes their right to the road as a given.

London was proud, however, of its love of the car; it saw itself as the centre of the European car industry. This feeling was not backed by the reality until 1926 when the cancellation of the Paris Car Show meant the London Car Show in Olympia became the premier event in Europe, and from then on London tried very hard to maintain its position as the place for new cars to be seen.

THE NEED FOR SPEED

With the speed limits imposed upon cars in 1903, it was decided to create a place where cars could “go as fast as they liked.” This led in 1907 to the creation of the world’s first purpose built banked race circuit, built just south of London in a place called Brooklands. This track (which inspired imitations across the world) was built with a track 100ft wide, 3.25 miles long, with banked corners at an angle of

up to 30 degrees and which could seat 287,000 spectators. It was made on the cheap with uncoated concrete, making it very bumpy as the years went by. Closed during the Great War, it was reopened after repairs to the surface in the 1920s and became the centre of British racing. Thousands would turn up to see cars race along at breakneck speed, culminating in the first few British Grand Prix being held there in 1926 and 1927.

British Automobiles

Britain had its own successful automobile industry, with several firms competing against one another for an expanding and lucrative market. Many of the cars and their companies are lost to history but, for Americans especially, British cars are a whole new series of companies to come to terms with. What follows is a short guide to the many types of cars investigators may encounter.

1920

The ABC – a cheap little car, popular at first but very prone to breakdown (£414).

The Blériot-Whippet – built in Surrey and produced until 1927, seen as somewhat fast and manoeuvrable (£300).

1921

The Austin 12 – a very successful medium sized car that was common for the entire decade (£550).

The Bentley 3 litre – weighing 4000 lbs, it had one of the most powerful engines ever made. It won the Le Mans 24 Hour race despite being nicknamed the “fastest lorry in the world.” (£1100).

1922

The Austin 7 – arguably the British Model T. Reasonably priced, dependable and very, very popular on the roads (£210).

1923

The Triumph 10/20 – not a best seller at all, but it is worth

noting as it was the first ever British car fitted with hydraulic brakes (£430).

1924

The Brough Superior SS80 motorcycle – known as “the Rolls-Royce of motorcycles” it is included as a suggestion to those investigators who really need to get places fast (£180).

The Sunbeam 3 litre – unveiled at the 1924 London Motor Show as a rival to the Bentley 3 litre, it was cheaper and – supposedly – faster (£1000).

1925

The Hillman 14 – cheaper than the then best-selling Austin 12 which it was created to rival (£345).

The Rolls-Royce Phantom – was introduced to replace the outdated Silver Ghost, the Phantom maintained Rolls-Royce’s reputation for the highest of quality and building the finest cars in the world (£1850).

1926

The Talbot 105 – the fastest four seater car ever to race at Brooklands (£795).

1928

The Morris Minor – Morris’ reply to the Austin 7. A small boxy car but dependable and cheap. Not to be mistaken for the later Morris Minor of the 1940s (£135).

Driving on the Left

American investigators will hopefully notice that the British drive on the left hand side of the road. The reason for this is simple, and is entirely the fault of London. London introduced the first ever 'traffic' regulations during the Middle Ages and applied them to one place: London Bridge. Old London bridge was the only way across the Thames (unless you went by boat) and could become somewhat congested. The majority of traffic across the bridge was pedestrian, but also included farmers driving herds of sheep or cattle to the London markets across the river and also mounted riders. It was decided as a sensible precaution that all traffic over London bridge would travel on the left. As London became more congested and more carriages were seen upon its streets, it was just seen as the easiest solution to allow that one traffic regulation to extend outwards across the city and eventually the whole of Britain.

CAR HIRE

Investigators wishing to drive for themselves can easily hire a motor car from most garages and livery stables, and cars can be hired by the hour, for the day, week or month, or by distance. Typical costs for a run-of-the-mill four-seater car will be: 2hrs or 10 miles (whichever is the greater) 17s, 5 hours or 50 miles, 4£ 5s, 12 hours or 100 miles, 6£ 5s, for a weekend, 12£, per week or 130 miles, 34£, or per month or 500 miles 130£. Larger or more luxurious cars will cost more.

A deposit will be required, although the driving test was not introduced until 1929 and so no license need be presented. Foreigners hiring a car may be required to leave their passport as surety.

• BY OMNIBUS •

London has an exemplary 'omnibus' or bus service with some 4000 buses crossing the city in every direction from 7am to midnight almost every day of the year, meaning that it is easy to travel almost anywhere by bus. With over

200 companies operating omnibuses independently, routes change frequently, but the London General Omnibus Co. provides free timetables that are available from most hotels and tourism offices as well as their own offices. Fares vary from 1d for the shortest journey to 2s 6d for a trip right across the city.

You Cad, Sir!

The slang term "Cad", meaning a low, brutish or rude person, derives from Victorian bus drivers and Conductors ("Caddies"), who were notoriously ill-mannered. However, investigators of a delicate disposition will be pleased to learn that by the 1920s things have changed and, according to *Baedeker*, buses "may be freely patronised by ladies".

• BY TRAM •

The London Tramways are a useful commuter system to bring people in from the outlying boroughs to the city centre, but no tramways run through either Westminster or the City. Due to the competition posed by the Underground and more versatile buses, by the start of the decade the London Tramways were losing money and despite a series of consolidations and takeovers during the 1920s, by 1929 the trams had begun to vanish. Trams were cheap – a standard ticket was only 2d, and had the advantage that smoking was banned in the enclosed main body.

• BY RAILWAY •

Within the bounds of Greater London there are over 700 miles of above-ground railway serving almost 600 stations, so investigators can be confident of finding a station within easy distance at most inhabited places in the metropolis. Like tickets on the major national lines, suburban lines are cheap, with third class tickets costing 1 1/2d per mile and first class costing 2 1/2d per mile. Approximately half the lines above ground are electrified, with the remainder running coal-powered locomotives.

There are several above-ground railway companies, but a ticket bought anywhere on the network can be used on any of these company lines without hindrance. However, the above ground and underground networks are distinct, and separate tickets must be purchased for journeys on each.

• BY UNDERGROUND •

The London Underground (colloquially known as the Tube) is a marvel of British engineering that interweaves beneath the streets of the city. In the post-war years the underground trains undergo a dramatic upgrade with the first air-operated doors improving the speed and comfort of the average journey. Older rolling stock with manual closed slam doors will still be found in the earlier 1920s.

The London Underground is divided into two categories, the earlier deep cut or sub-surface lines which include the Bakerloo, Metropolitan and Piccadilly lines and the newer deep lines including the Northern and Central lines. The original Victorian stations, such as Baker Street, are remarkable places filled with ornate green and white glazed

tiles and sooty brickwork, whilst the deep station tunnels are the rounded cream-white tunnels synonymous with the Tube name.

Passengers using the Tube will obtain a ticket and descend by wooden escalators to the platforms. Some deeper stations such as Covent Garden station, have a series of escalators that descend to its deep platforms.

By the 1920s, the Underground map existed in a form almost entirely recognisable to the modern traveller. Within central London, only the Victoria line (built 1969) was not present, meaning the Underground was the same quick, easy, frustrating and dirty means of travel it is today. The only major changes were line extensions into the new suburbs, which will be covered later in this the book.

The lines are fully electrified, with London Underground generating its own electricity at the “Chelsea Monster” – Lots Road power station. Travel on the Underground is cheap. The central line was known as “the tuppenny line” (although longer journeys cost 3d), and it is possible to travel anywhere on the network for only a few pennies.

Abandoned Tube Stations and Tunnels

It is not until the 1930s that many of London’s famed phantom tube stations arise from closures. There are still some tunnels and stations of note for investigators and Keepers that want to visit London’s subterranean world.

City Road

Closes in August 1922 due to poor passenger numbers and is mostly demolished with the exception of its ventilation tower.

Grove Road, Hammersmith

Grove Road was closed in 1906 due to poor passenger numbers. The station was mostly demolished.

King William Street, Near Bank

Closed in 1900 and its above ground entrance demolished, King William Street station’s platforms still remain. This station was the original terminus of the City & South London Railway.

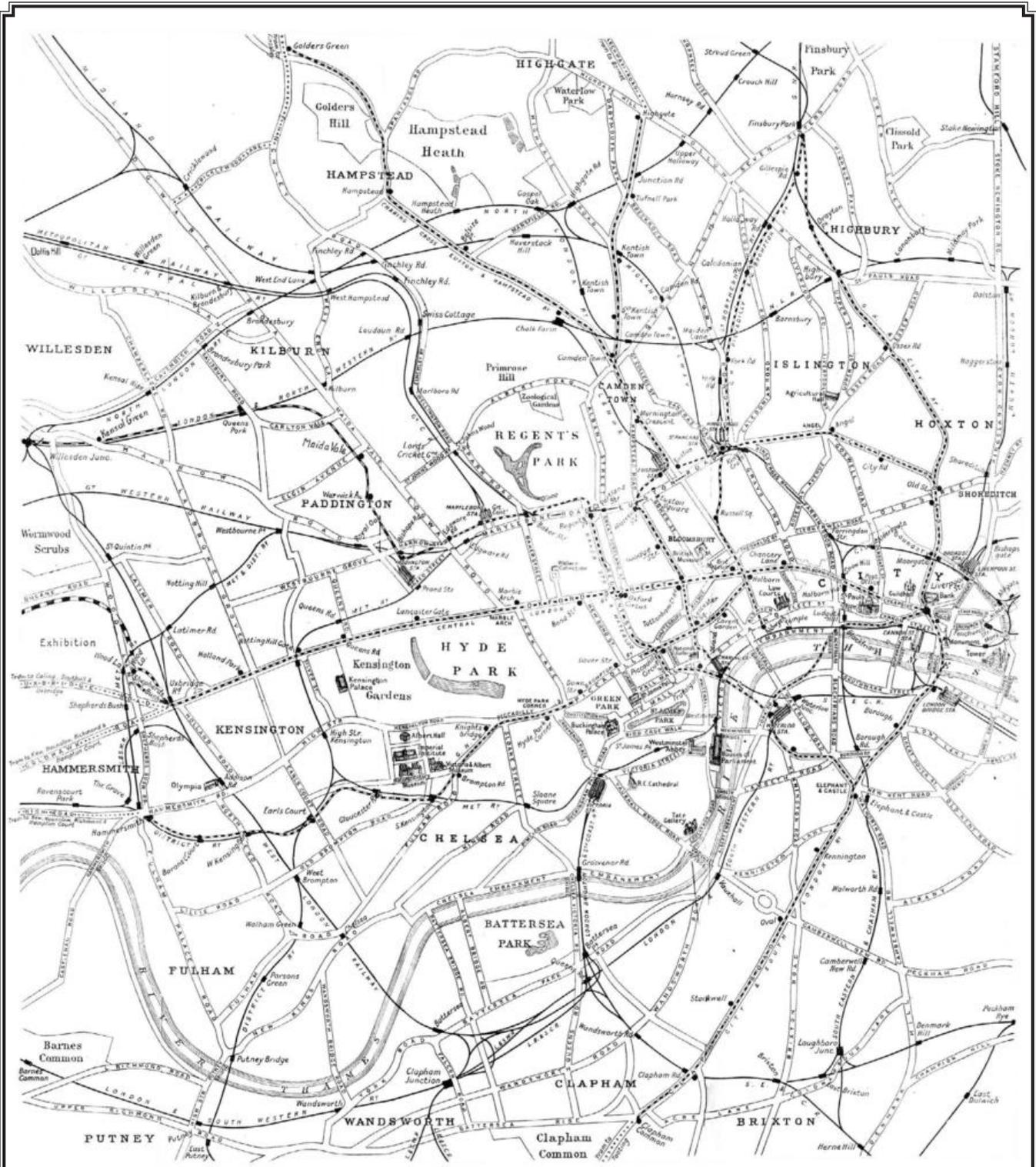
South Kentish Town

Closes in 1924 during a strike and mysteriously never opens its doors again. The abandoned station is the first of London’s ghost stations and, although closed, is never demolished.

Tower Subway

Tower Subway was the world’s first underground tube railway. Its enclosed carriages were a bone-jarring adventure that took passengers from the north bank near to the eventual site of Tower Bridge to Tooley Street on the other side of the Thames. Poor patronage meant its opening in August 1870 was a short one, with the line closing within a year.

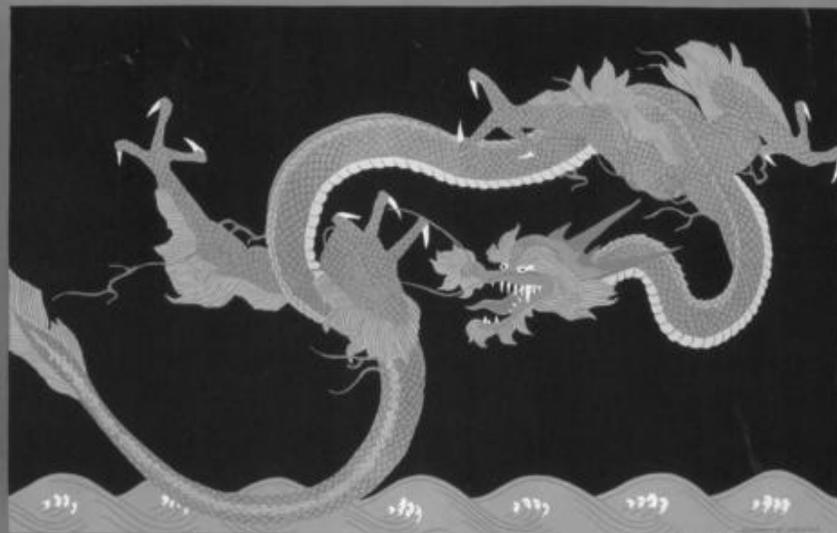
The tunnel briefly reopened as foot tunnels but these were rendered obsolete by the Tower Bridge Thames crossing in 1894, and so now it sits dark and unused beneath the river – but possibly not uninhabited.



RAILWAY MAP OF LONDON
 SHOWING AT A GLANCE ALL THE TUBE & OTHER RAILWAYS

Tube Railways & Stations 
 Other 

Scale  1 Mile



ADAPTED FROM A FIGURE ON A MODERN JAPANESE CLOISONNÉ ENAMEL VASE

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THE PEOPLE OF LONDON

The British are a nation preoccupied by their class system. It subtly permeates society, occupation, gender and politics. With origins in the feudal and aristocratic land owning past of the country but now challenged in the changing professional, industrial and global reach of the Empire. Class position in the 1920s is mainly stratified and static and its structure forms part of the social cohesion of the nation. Investigators should recognise that membership to a social class is one of rights and responsibilities. Those of wealth and means are obliged to act as paternal guardians of those less fortunate than themselves. Many take this very seriously, with philanthropy and charity – and being seen to be involved in such activities – an important part of acceptance by the upper classes.

• THE CLASS SYSTEM •

While these days it is very much misunderstood and oversimplified, the ‘class system’ is an important part of London life. It will be useful for players and Keepers to understand that while the world of the twenties was changing, the class system was very much in operation. It

allowed one to judge others and be judged by others in an instant. People were expected to act a certain way and there was a reassurance in this. Most people liked the fact there was a class system (and those who didn’t were probably radicals or, even worse, communists). For those playing American or other foreign investigators, the system will seem somewhat odd and filled with contradiction. What follows is nothing more than a rough guide to help Keepers and players alike portray how class influences every aspect of London’s social scene during the era.

THE UPPER CLASS

The upper class in London is much better represented than elsewhere in Britain- mostly because London is the centre of the nation and, while a province such as Yorkshire might have very few upper class residents spread out over a large area, they all flock to London for the social season, politics or leisure. The traditional upper class consists of the peerage, the gentry and major landowners from across the country. These people are often the wealthiest in Britain having inherited both money and position, and also with access to the best



education through private schools (confusingly called ‘public schools’). For centuries the upper classes had been the ‘ruling class’ of Britain, but the Great War and the rise of left-wing political movements has damaged their confidence.

On the whole the upper classes speak with what was known as a “U” dialect (see below) and their accent became known as the Received Pronunciation (think of the typical very posh, crisp British accent used by many an aristocratic villain – that is ‘received pronunciation’). There was no set single mindset for the upper class but common traits included a mixture of brutal honesty (this was the class who could say things without offending anyone who mattered), an entirely relaxed attitude towards money, and a natural assumption that others will do what you tell them to.

The exclusivity of the upper class is vigilantly maintained. Much of Britain’s power is held and controlled by this elite and, when necessary, it is exercised to counter any real or perceived menace. Individuals who threaten members of the upper class are often quickly bought off, run out of town, or simply disappear.

The Orders of Nobility

Knight

The lowest honour awarded, Knighthoods are not hereditary and Knights do not sit in the House of Lords. Knight Bachelor is the lowest order of Knighthood and may be awarded to anyone displaying notable service to the Empire. Above Knights Bachelor are several orders of Chivalry that are usually awarded to senior Military or Civil Service personnel. These include the Order of the Garter, the Order of the Bath, and the Order of St Michael and St George. A Knight is referred to as ‘Sir’ or ‘Dame’.

Baronet(ess)

A hereditary form of knighthood, a baronet is not a peer and so does not sit in the House of Lords. Baronets should be referred to as ‘Sir’ and a baronetess as ‘Lady’.

Baron(ess)

The lowest rank of peerage, a baron has the right to sit in the House of Lords. A Baron is referred to as “Lord” and a Baroness as “Lady”. The children of a Baron are referred to as “Honourable” (for example, “the honourable John Smith”).

Viscount(ess)

The next rank of the peerage, a Viscount would sit in the House of Lords. A Viscount(ess) would be referred to as “Lord” or “Lady”, or by appending their name or a place name to their title, for example: “the Viscount Hatfield” (for a place name) or “the Viscount Smith” (For a personal name).

Earl/Countess

The next most senior rank of peerage, Earls sit in the House of Lords. Traditionally a title given to a placeholder for the Monarch, it is usual for former Prime Ministers to be given an Earldom. Earls are referred to as “Lord” and Countesses as “Lady”, or like Viscounts by adding their title to either a place or their name.

Marquess/Marchioness

Marquesses sit in the House of Lords. Referred to as “My Lord Marquess” (or “Madam”), or “Your Lordship” (or “Your Ladyship”).

Duke/Duchess

The highest rank of the nobility outside royalty, Dukes sit in the House of Lords. Dukes and Duchesses are referred to as “Your Grace”, or “His(Her) Grace the Duke (Duchess) of [placename].” Some members of the Royal Family hold Dukedoms, such as George, younger son of George V, who holds the title of Duke of York. This is known as Royal Dukedom, and Royal Dukes do not sit in the House of Lords. Holding a peerage confers several privileges: not only may peers sit in the House of Lords, if arrested they may elect to be tried before other peers in either the High Stewards Court or the House of Lords itself. Peers are also excepted from citizens or civil arrest. At state occasions, peers have an order of precedence based first upon their title and then the antiquity of the award (although in practice things get a lot more complicated than that!).

Prince(ess)

If a Duke, referred to as “His (Her) Royal Highness, the Duke (Duchess) of [placename]”. If not a Duke, referred to as “His (Her) Royal Highness, Prince(ss) – “. Call “Your Royal Highness” and address as “Sir” or “Madam”.

King / Queen

Referred to as “the King’s Most Excellent Majesty”. If introduced, begin “Sire”, “May it Please your Majesty”, or “Lord – presents his duty to your Majesty.” Call him “Your Majesty.”

Correct forms of Address

There are rules to how people with titles should be addressed. As a general rule, the correct form would not be used between personal friends except on formal occasions. On informal occasions like parties, most non-royals will forego the use of titles thus:

Friend: "Look, it's the Duke of Norfolk! We were at school together. Let me introduce you. Michael, allow me to introduce Professor Wolf."
 Professor Wolf: "A pleasure, your Grace."
 Duke: "Oh, please... call me Michael."

Until a friendship is established, this sort of little social dance might have to be carried out several times, every time the two meet.

The more senior in terms of titles the person, the more seriously the use of correct form is observed. A knight or baronet who insists on being called "Sir" at every opportunity might well be held up as a pompous figure of fun, whilst failure to get it right with a duke can seriously impact upon how you are regarded in society.

If not friends, investigators who get terms of address wrong once will be gently and politely corrected. If they repeatedly get terms of address wrong (deliberately or not), it is unlikely anyone will get angry – they will simply never be invited back, and the rest of society will politely snub them as well because, well, having no manners is simply too, too dull, darling.

Ecclesiastical Titles

Bishop

Church of England bishops sit in the House of Lords (Lords Spiritual). A Bishop is referred to as "The Right Reverend Bishop of –" and called "My Lord Bishop" or "Your Lordship".

Archbishop

Church of England Archbishops also sit in the Lords. Referred to as "His Grace the Lord Archbishop of [placename]" and called "My Lord Archbishop" or "Your Grace".

THE MIDDLE CLASSES

Unlike the upper class, the British middle class sub-divide into many separate classifications. What follows is merely a simplification for the sake of space.

The Upper Middle Class

The upper middle class are the highly educated and wealthy professionals. These are the doctors, the barristers, the senior military officers, stockbrokers, senior civil servants and the lecturers of London. Typical members of the upper middle class also speak with the Received Pronunciation Accent and usually had been educated at a public or grammar school

and had attended university. It is to this group that cultural leadership of London fell to; their fashions dictated the idea of what was seen as 'profound' about the city and its culture.

Whereas most upper middle class residents of London are professionals, membership of a profession by others did not automatically include one in this group. It was best described as being more of an 'attitude'.

Those of the upper middle class are defined both by their family background and their behaviour. The classic British ideal of understatement in one's taste or behaviour are traditional indicators.

The Middle Class

Most of the London middle class are less highly educated than the upper middle class. Their accents are more based on local dialect (be it London or home county) and their children would be less likely to attend university. They are the small business owners, professional scientists and engineers, the administrators, the clerks, office workers and white collar workers of London. They are the ones who had the greatest concerns about the social unrest within the city during the early twenties and felt their aspirations threatened by change, as most sought to make a career and join the professions through qualification or wealth.

The Aspirational Middle Class ("Nouveau Riche")

With the rapid economic recovery and growth after the war, fortunes could be quickly made – such newly rich are the 'nouveau riche'. These are people who have come from poorer backgrounds but who have made themselves wealthy via various methods (often business, entrepreneurialism, success in a middle-class profession, or on occasion via the entertainment industry).

This group was constantly in flux and despite a common heritage they rarely had a unified code of behaviour. Some would retain the place, accent and mannerisms of their place of birth (be it the East End of London, or the valleys of South Wales). Others stridently try and ape the mannerisms of the upper middle class, or even the upper class, paying for their children to get the best private educations. Oddly enough, it is this effort to try too hard to integrate themselves with the upper classes that leads to the most disdain towards them being poured by those they seek to emulate – simply "they try too hard."

The Lower Middle Class

A large number of London's residents, the differences between lower middle and normal middle class is an area for debate. It is hard to describe exactly what to look for within this book, but for residents at the time the difference would have been spotted instantly.

The lower middle classes are white-collar professionals, but in occupations where opportunities for advancement are limited. Examples include highly skilled tradesmen and managers, schoolteachers, and junior clerical workers and clergy.

THE WORKING CLASS

Again split into various categories, the working classes of London throng through the streets of the giant city and make up the majority of the citizenry.

The Skilled Working Class

These are the skilled blue collar workers of London. During the twenties their numbers are decreasing but here are the ship builders, the master craftsmen, cabbies and the successful tradesmen of the city. They tend to be somewhat traditionalist and conservative (this is not suggesting they are not prone to bouts of social agitation, but on the whole they are quite conservative).

Whereas members of this class rarely have high social aspirations and may not value education as highly as others, the skilled working class usually take a professional pride in their work and often a member of this class may often have followed his father and grandfather into a trade. They have a niche as the elite of the working class and as such form, along with the typical middle class, the backbone of London's communities and its values.

More than Just an Accent...

The class system was not just represented by how you sounded or how you dressed, but the very words you used which denoted which class you belonged to. By the 1950s scholars had classified certain terms and words as U and NON-U dialects of the British language, which did more to denote class than accent did.

What follows are a few phrases saying the same thing but highlighting the difference between upper and lower/middle classed Britain. Keepers should note, the classification of U and Non-U speech did not happen until the fifties, so no investigator could read this and use it to pass themselves off as richer/poorer than they are.

Examples:

Upper Class: "I say, let's get there by bicycle."

Non-Upper Class: "Let's get there with our cycles."

U: "I must look dreadful in all this ichor. Does anyone have a looking-glass?"

Non-U: "I must look awful in this slime. Anyone have a mirror?"

U: "Well, he went to investigate the old church and came back two days later entirely mad."

Non-U: "Well, he went to take a peep in the old church and came back two days later completely mental"

The Unskilled Working Class

London's working class are the unskilled labourers and workers who do the many manual jobs within the city. Perhaps the most commonly held profession for this class is the London dock worker, but any casual or unskilled trade can be filled by a member of this class. The prevailing mindset of many here is as old as London itself. This is the dangerous mob of Victorian and even earlier versions of London.

Often volatile, aggressive and argumentative, this group is more likely to value a "punch up on a Saturday night after the pubs close" as not so much as a breakdown in law and order, more a good end to an evening. Most of these live in London's vast rows of squalid and not so squalid terraced housing and tend to be very community focused (the neighbourhood based around the local pub is often as much a source of identity and pride for these people as the whole idea of London as a city).

• WOMEN IN 1920S LONDON •

During the Great War women toiled in factories and offices in work that had been considered the domain of men, but with peace the men are home and those opportunities and responsibilities are gone. There are women's vocations such as nursing, teaching and the like, but many found themselves out of work and back to the life of a wife and mother. This was not necessarily unwelcome, but female investigators could have been given this taste of independence and had it taken away. Female investigators may well be members or supporters of one of the Women's Suffrage movements.

Male characters may need to consider their own attitudes to such matters. Working class males were very uncomfortable with women not knowing their place, and even if their own wives went out to factory work would often demand their pay. Gentlemen investigators may curse militant female upstarts, or they may be socialist intellectuals and much more supportive. At the same time, this was a time of massive worldwide change and upheaval for women's rights and freedoms as the austere morals and restrictions of the previous generation were thrown away. The perceived freedom of women in Soviet Russia and the glamorous lives of the New York party scene, Parisian coffee houses and Hollywood glamour all served to inform the opinions of women in Britain.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND WOMEN IN POLITICS

The 1918 Representation of the People Act was an astoundingly important piece of legislation for the British people as women were finally given the vote. Much of this had been due to the female labour force, which had kept the war effort going as the men went to fight. It was not the end of the struggle and the Women's Suffrage Movement still had much to do during the 1920s. The Representation of the People Act was a compromise that gave women a restricted right to vote. In fact, only women over the age of 30 who were householders, the wives of householders, occupiers of property with an annual rent of at least £5, and graduates of British universities could vote.

It was for the Suffragette movement's activists, spurred on by the firebrand Emily Pankhurst, to battle until the 1928 Representation of the People Act for all women to receive the vote was passed. Pankhurst died just before the bill was passed, and a statue was erected in her honour outside parliament the following year.

The Price of Suffrage

Female investigators may wish to consider whether they were part of the Suffrage movement, and if so whether they were peaceful protesters or more active. Those who were militant in the 1910s may have enjoyed a stint in Holloway, where hunger strikers were force-fed. The accounts of such brutal treatment of women was instrumental in changing public opinion against the government.

Women's Political Groups

Although women's political groups were not formed with the aim of women's suffrage, they did have two key effects. They showed women were competent in the political arena and as this became clear it brought the concept of female suffrage closer to acceptance.

The Primrose League

Founded in 1883, a Conservative ladies society that promoted social events in the community. Women of all social classes were able to become members, helping to break down class-

based segregation. Social interaction was improved between members, improving political literacy amongst poorer women and helping bring female voters to the polls.

At their height the league was able to pack the Royal Albert Hall for its annual Grand Habitation and enjoyed greater support than the trade union movement in its early years. By the 1920s it had around 650,000 members.

• THE BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS •

The aftermath of the Great War was, for those who could afford it, a great social whirl. The wealthy young, often too young to have fought, tore up the old rulebook and made the decade a long party in order to forget about their parents' terrible war – especially those young whose parents had died and left them with easy money.

The social constraints broke down for women most of all, and a generation of independent young women appeared.

This usually London-based set of rich and responsibility-free youngsters were known as the “bright young things” (if you were being polite). They threw parties and played games through the streets of London, and drank, danced, tried out drugs...and possibly other activities that might draw the attention of investigators.

ETHNIC MINORITIES • IN LONDON •

Compared with the melting pot of cities such as New York, London's population remains mainly British White. Even within the white population discrimination towards the Welsh and Irish was not uncommon. The city is beginning



to become heavily overpopulated in its poorest communities and racial tensions between the native East Enders and the swelling immigrant population is becoming a concern.

The immigrant population is based in London's East End. The overcrowded slums are home to some 39,117 Russians, 27,427 Germans and 15,429 Polish Russians among others. In 1905 The British government passed the Aliens Act and was Britain's first attempt to control immigration into the capital.

The Act sprang from a public perception of crisis and skulduggery in the East End, where overcrowding seemed to have got dramatically worse with the arrival of thousands of Russian and Polish Jews. This hotbed of working-class immigrants, which included Chinatown, made up less than 5% of London's population.

The Jewish population was falling and by the 1920s had dropped from the peak of over 300,000 to nearer 150,000 thanks to the Aliens Act. Immigrants often worked as casual labourers often gathering at a piece of East End wasteland mockingly called the 'Employment Exchange'. Tailors, cutter and pressers would gather with their tools on a Sunday to find a "guvnor" who would give them work for a week or a month. Working conditions were poor; one sweat shop in Hanbury Street had 18 workers crowded into a 20 by 12 foot room riddled with damp and particles of the weaver's wool polluting the air.

Whozit Rooms

Many of the East End buildings constructed in the early 1920s were built in response to growing demand for housing, often from ethnic minorities moving into London for work. For example, the Huguenot weavers who had made their way from Canterbury to the bustling streets of London often set up shop in the lofts of Brick Lane properties.

These top-floor workshops soon came to be known as "Whozit" rooms as, when clients came knocking on the downstairs door, the tailors shouted "Who is it?" out the top-floor window.

NEW AND MODIFIED • OCCUPATIONS •

ACADEMIC

"How easily do dreaming spires turn to nightmare vistas. A piece of embossed Etruscan tile caught between lamplight and shadow, an illuminated manuscript seen from an acute angle, the peculiar interweaving of silver and gold in a piece of 16th century talkari: each is enough to open doors best left sealed. The ivory tower is a prison not a refuge, an elevated cell from where such horrors that would blight the souls of lesser men can be glimpsed. There is much terror to be found in knowledge. The world teeters on the brink of an abyss. Burke knew what must be done: 'When bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will fall one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle.' We must act in concert against the formless and those dread spectres out of time."

The Academic has seen just enough to realise that the accepted wisdom of the world is merely a half-truth. Educated at a historically prestigious university – almost certainly Oxford or Cambridge – the Academic has devoted himself to a lifetime of scholarly pursuits. Whatever the Academic's discipline, his or her knowledge has reached a point where troubling possibilities and unsettling connections are apparent. By habit, the Academic is inquisitive; by nature, he or she is concerned with the fate of humanity. Academic investigators will have high EDU and INT. Their STR, CON and SIZ may be lower than average unless they play for one of their university's sports teams, most likely cricket. APP may also be low as the Academic's mind is rarely focused on personal appearance. Their POW may also have suffered from the hidden knowledge they may have gleaned.

Occupation Skills: Charm, History, Library Use, Other Language (Ancient: Latin or Greek), Other Language (Modern), one from Anthropology, Archaeology, Law, Psychoanalysis or from Science (one from Botany, Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Natural World, Palaeontology, Physics, Zoology, or other as appropriate to period), Persuade, Spot Hidden. An Academic's Credit Rating should be no more than 50%. Library Use should be no less than 60%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Accounting, Drive Auto, Etiquette, Listen, Occult, Swim, Throw.

Credit Rating: 20-50

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x4

AMATEUR CRACKSMAN

“Life amongst the bright young things can be so frightfully dull. The parties, the charades, the endless dances, all swirling by to music as vapid as the dancers themselves. And every one glittering with jewels and rank with wealth. Sheep. Pretty, baubled sheep. Yet how would the flock know its true place without a wolf in the fold, a cultured wolf who dresses like them, laughs with them, and wanders their estates and houses with winning smile and predatory eye?”

The Amateur Cracksman is, above all else, a gentleman, educated in a reputable public school, possibly with a degree from Oxford, Cambridge, or one of the London colleges (King’s, Imperial, or Birkbeck). He will be charming and connected. He may be a minor member of the aristocracy, the son of an earl or viscount, and he will be impeccably well-bred. He is also likely to conceal a rebellious streak that may have seen him ‘sent down’ from university or else expelled from his public school.

His chequered past, rarely disclosed and then only to impressionable young women with rich, disapproving fathers, has earned him many an invitation to society parties. The subsequent burglaries have never been adequately explained.

Investigators choosing a career as an Amateur Cracksman will have high DEX, APP, and STR, reflecting the physicality required to scale walls, their deftness in solving locks and combinations, and their impeccable grooming. Their EDU is likely to be higher than average.

Occupation Skills: Appraise, Charm, Climb, Etiquette, Listen, Locksmith, Spot Hidden, Stealth. An Amateur Crackman’s Credit Rating should be no less than 50%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Accounting, Art/Craft (Fashion Keys), Fighting (Boxing), Disguise, Fast Talk, Firearms (Handgun), Library Use, Psychology, Sleight of Hand.

Credit Rating: 50-99

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x2 + DEX x2

ARCHAEOLOGIST

“Layard uncovered the Library of Ashurbanipal, Schliemann paced the walls of Troy, Evans laid Knossos bare, Petrie found Israel. In every corner of the world, the Earth is giving up her secrets – but not easily and not without reluctance. Mysteries abound. What was the purpose of Stonehenge? What did the ancients intend for the Antikythera Mechanism? Does the Voynich manuscript offer a means to eternal life or something much, much worse? It seems that every new discovery is shadowed by deeper secrets, as if humanity were skating on the surface of a reality still unfathomable. The answers lie out there somewhere: under desert sands, or wreathed in sweltering jungle, or patient and benighted in timeless caverns, waiting, always waiting, to be revealed. And with that breakthrough will come fame and approbation, and, more importantly, secure funding for the next expedition. No more tugging one’s forelock to the Egypt Exploration Society, no going cap in hand to the British Archaeological Association, no interminable meetings with the Royal Archaeological Institute. One find, one scintillating discovery, and wealthy patrons will be queuing at the door.”



The Archaeologist is an adventurer, a tireless seeker after knowledge lost in time or shrouded in obscurity. He or she is drawn to the ancient and the abstruse. University educated, the Archaeologist will be both a scholar and a shrewd, persuasive diplomat aware of the politics of research funding. More at home in the field than in the committee rooms and studies of potential benefactors, he or she will possess a restless, inquisitive nature, an eagerness for travel, and an independent spirit.

Archaeologists will have high EDU, INT, and CON, reflecting their university background and their ability to travel widely with little detriment to their health. They may have high STR from time spent in the field. POW may be lower than average, depending upon the Archaeologist's experiences of ancient artefacts.

Occupation Skills: Archaeology, Climb, Charm, History, Occult, Other Language (Ancient), Library Use, Spot Hidden. An Archaeologist's Credit Rating should be no more than 40%. Archaeology should be no less than 80%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Bullwhip, Dodge, Drive Auto, Fast Talk, Fighting (Brawl), Firearms (Handgun), Intimidate, Other Language (Ancient), Other Language (Modern), Art and Craft (Photography), Ride, Survival.

Credit Rating: 20-40

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x4

ARCHIVIST

Man's inhumanity to man is only surpassed by his wanton destruction of all he has achieved. It began with the burning of the Library of Alexandria and continued unchecked down the centuries. Antioch gone. Ghazna sacked. The Tigris black with the ink of manuscripts hurled from Baghdad's House of Wisdom. Madrassah, Glasney, the Library of Congress, Leuven: all lost. Europe pillaged in the Great War. The war to end all wars! Wells was a fool. This great war of theirs was a prelude, the opening salvo in a conflagration that will burn decade after decade, piling atrocity upon atrocity. But beneath the roar of its guns, the screams of the fallen, a quiet war will be waged – not against great powers or principalities but against the tide of barbarism that rises to engulf all that civilised men hold dear. It will not be fought on battlefields or oceans, but in dusty rooms and musty archives. Its soldiers will be studious

men and women intent on preserving knowledge and beauty, dedicated to resisting the darkness. Things will fall apart, but the centre must be held. The rough beast must not, will not, reach Bethlehem.

The Archivist is a well-educated scholar of both manuscripts and humankind. He or she will be dedicated to the conservation of the artefacts of history. The recent global conflict will have honed the Archivist's sense of purpose and fired his or her determination to seek out documents in danger of theft or destruction, particularly when they may contain hidden truths that could jeopardise or safeguard the future. Long years spent studying the wisdom of the ages will have given the Archivist a sharp, analytical mind and an incisive understanding of the human condition. As a result, the Archivist may express an intimidating insightfulness into the motives and behaviour of others.

Although the Archivist's STR and CON are likely to be lower than average, INT and EDU will be formidable. POW might be also be lower than average as a result of exposure to manuscripts that describe occult practices and strange, inhuman rites.

Occupation Skills: Craft (Archival Preservation), History, Occult, Other Language (Ancient), Other Language (Modern), Library Use, Psychology, Spot Hidden. An Archivist's Credit Rating should be no more than 40%. Library Use should be no less than 60%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Accounting, Appraise, Archaeology, Intimidate, Other Language (Ancient).

Credit Rating: 9-40

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x4

ARISTOCRAT

"No. Look, you're not paying attention, old bean. One is an aristocrat if one is a member of the titled nobility. It's frightfully simple, really. We are all members of the nobility; Peers of the Realm, so to speak. Barons are inferior to Viscounts. Viscounts are inferior to Earls. Earls are inferior to Marquesses. Marquess are inferior to Dukes. And Baronets are inferior to everyone so pay them no mind. They're not members of the peerage. Pretenders, really. Only been around since 1612. Anyway, we are all of us subject to His Majesty the King. Starting at

the bottom, then: Earls, Viscounts and Barons are ‘Right Honourable’ and are styled ‘My Lord’; unless one is a Scottish Baron, in which case one is styled ‘the Baron of Somewhere or Other’. ‘Somewhere or Other’ being an example rather than a Scottish placename, you understand. Oh, you knew that, did you? My, how Marlborough must have improved since cousin Dicky was a boarder. The children of Viscounts and Barons are ‘Honourable’. The sons of Earls are ‘Honourable’ and their daughters ‘Ladies’. The eldest son bears his father’s second title, usually ‘Viscount’. Are you keeping up? A Marquess, or Marquis, is ‘Most Honourable’ and styled ‘My Lord Marquess’. His sons are ‘Lords’ and his daughters ‘Ladies’. His eldest son, like that of an Earl, takes his father’s second title. A Duke – now, this is important, so pay especial attention – is ‘Most Noble’ and styled ‘My Lord Duke’ and ‘Your Grace’. His sons are ‘Lords’, his daughters ‘Ladies’, and all are ‘Right Honourable’. Got that? Capital! Now, I must tell you about how these are situated within the Order of Precedence. I say, are you all right, old boy?”

In the post-war years the British aristocracy is in decline. A shift in importance from local to global economic power, the rise of wealthy industrialists throughout the late 19th century, and the growing international trade in agricultural produce all serve to displace the traditionally influential British landowner. Hence, the aristocracy finds itself in an unusual position in the 1920s. It still retains much of its cultural authority and regional political influence but it also recognises its dwindling financial status and security. Death Duties, introduced in 1894, rose to 40% in 1919, leaving some estates unable to pay government levies. Increased taxation also contributed to the aristocracy’s financial woes. Great country estates in Scotland, Ireland and Wales were being sold, broken up and dispersed from the 1870s, but the pace has increased in the immediate pre-war years. Tens of thousands of acres are sold in Scotland in the early 1920s alone. Before the Great War, 800 000 acres of land were auctioned in England. When demand for land declined, other assets – collieries, docks, art treasures and heirlooms – are sold instead. To be an aristocrat in the 1920s is therefore to experience both a sense of privilege and of loss, of entitlement and injustice. For some, the change is too great and they look to bring the entire world down with them. For others, finding a new place in a changed world leads them down dark avenues to become secret champions in hidden conflicts. Through experience, they come to realise there is more at stake than one’s country house and the Van Dyck collection.

Aristocrats will have a high EDU, though their INT might be significantly lower if the fellow is a bit of an ass. Depending on whether the player chooses a physically active Aristocrat or a rather more effete character, STR and CON could be higher or lower than average. POW is likely to be high to reflect the aristocracy’s self-confidence and natural arrogance despite any bruising its ego might have taken. APP will always be high to reflect immaculate attire and suave demeanour.

Occupation Skills: Accounting, Appraise, Charm, Drive Auto, Etiquette, Firearms (Rifle/Shotgun), History. An Aristocrat’s Credit Rating should be no less than 70%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Intimidate, Language (Latin), Language (Greek), Library Use, Pilot, Ride, Swim.

Credit Rating: 70-99

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x2 + APP x2

AUTHOR

“When Eliot wrote, ‘I will show you fear in a handful of dust’, he condemned the loss of personal, moral and spiritual values. Conrad, too, understood the heart of darkness that beats in this great city. Darkness and dust are what the Great War has bestowed. It has stunned the world and driven men into the arms of decadence or despair. Wells, that great mind, seems dumbstruck and preoccupied with matters too trifling to express, or else he rejects the future and turns his thoughts to the safety afforded by history. Lawrence has given way to gloom and fled the country. Forster is silent. New voices must be heard. Great themes are needed to galvanise a people, great words are required to renew the spirit, great visions must be articulated to remind the world of what promises the future holds. Inspiration must be sought at every turn: in this city, in its hidden arteries and its marble bones, in its palaces and poorhouses, in its squares and courts. The future must be dared; the past cannot be a model. ‘Books are for nothing but to inspire,’ wrote Emerson. A new generation must be inspired to reach out, shake off the dust, banish the darkness, and shape a new Golden Age.”

The Author is a writer of vision, educated at a reputable university, who aspires to move his or her reader with insight, wit, satire or literary brilliance. He or she writes honestly for

the betterment of humanity. To understand that humanity, the Author will walk in airy parks and cramped tenements; he or she will seek out the blessed and the depraved, the poor and the wealthy. Fear will not discourage the Author, nor the thought of madness lessen his or her resolve. The pen speaks best when it speaks honestly, no matter what awful truths it may reveal.



An Author will have high INT and above average EDU. STR, CON and SIZ may be average or below. POW may be above average to reflect the Author's open-minded, inquisitive nature. Alternatively, a lower POW may reflect the Author's inner turmoil at the state of the world.

Occupation Skills: Language (English), Fast Talk, History, Library Use, Listen, Persuade, Psychology, Science.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Charm, Disguise, Drive Auto, Etiquette, Firearms (Rifle), Language (Classical), Language (Modern European), Swim.

Credit Rating: 9-30

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x4

BRIGHT YOUNG THING

Bertie's gone, got hung up on the wire outside Ypres. Uncle Freddie? Drowned in a shellhole at Passchendaele. Cousin Victor? Gassed three days after joining his regiment. Even awfully witty Gerard, dead at Sambre with that poet-johnnie, Owen. If there is a lesson to be learned from all the horrid business of war, it is that life is brief, that the flight of even the most effervescent spirit is ephemeral. Those who have survived the frightful trial have a duty to the fallen: to jolly well revel in every moment of every day, to find pleasure without probity, to pursue life with the passion of a huntsman. Parties will be the order of the day: parties in shimmering white, Mozart parties, bath and bottle parties, all-nighters in fancy dress. And car races. Car races to the coast. And treasure hunts through the London gloom. No killjoys, no wet blankets, allowed. Let's Charleston to Chelsea and Black Bottom to Battersea.

Bright Young Things are the cream of London's well-educated young socialites. Entirely frivolous, these youthful aristocrats, artists, and middle class bohemians follow a hedonistic lifestyle, taking pleasure in shocking London's polite, conservative society. Though many are wealthy, so long as one went to the right school, one's jokes are witty and one's blood is blue – even by association with one's patron – it is possible to play a Bright Young Thing who is flat broke. One side effect of the class system is that it is always possible to find someone who wants the cachet of being seen with a toff enough to be willing to pay for it. The Bright Young Things do not like to think too much on the horrors of the past, yet that past dogs their wingtips and Louis heels. Best not to think about it unless one must; when the horror reaches forth and snuffs out a sparkling soul. The Bright Young Thing is rarely a willing investigator. Most commonly they are drawn into mysteries through the disappearance of a loved one or a friend. A sudden death or a suicide might motivate them to abandon their set, or else they might be drawn to accounts of forbidden rites and strange cults promising illicit pleasures to the jaded.

Bright Young Things with aristocratic backgrounds are likely to have below average INT but above-average APP to suggest their inherent attractiveness, style and dress. They will also show higher than average POW given their spirited nature and refusal to acknowledge the reality of any situation beyond its hedonistic possibilities. Their EDU will also be above average to reflect their expensive education at reputable public schools. An above-average CON will suggest their habitual high living

and tolerance for sleepless nights. Less wealthy Bright Young Things may have a lower EDU with a higher INT. Living in an alcohol-induced fug is likely to give a lower DEX.

Occupation Skills: Charm, Disguise, Drive Auto, Etiquette, Firearms (Shotgun), Language (European), Persuade, Swim. Credit Rating should be no less than 40%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Accounting, Appraise, Art/Craft (Any), Fast Talk, Psychology, Ride.

Credit Rating: 40-99

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x2 + APP x2

BRITISH BULLDOG

“War is hell,’ was Sherman’s opinion. Peace is worse. The inactivity, the banality of civilian life, the all-consuming ennui. This is no way for a man of action to live. The Bosche may have been roundly beaten, but old Blighty is still under threat, don’t you know? Anarchists, Communists, foreign agitators, the Yellow Peril. Shiel and Rohmer know what they’re talking about. No one should sit idly by while the country slides into immorality and chaos, decaying from within. The young are blinded by their hedonism; the old by their weariness and shallow optimism. It is only the sons of Empire, fresh from victory, who can stop the rot. To arms – and let the devil take our enemies.”

In *The Nights of London* (1926), M. V. Morton described London as ‘the most masculine city.’ The British Bulldog proves that claim. Most often a former army or navy officer, the British Bulldog will have served the Empire with little regard for personal safety. He is a gentleman, educated at a minor public school, with a modest income from an unremarkable family. His fondness for his social inferiors and their ways, developed in the trenches or the Western Desert, distinguishes him from his usual society. Any British Bulldog will have an imposing physical presence, a quick temper, and an unassailable loyalty to his companions and to his King and Country. Resourceful and tough, he will actively seek adventure and spare no mercy for those who oppose him. The classic example is Bulldog Drummond, who could not settle into civilian life after leaving the Army and sought instead a life of adventure.

British Bulldogs will have good STR, SIZ and CON scores, emphasising their robust physicality. Their DEX will be

average, though both EDU and INT may be lower since the British Bulldog relies more on his muscular vigour than his intellectual wits. POW is likely to be average.

Occupation Skills: Climb, Dodge, Drive Auto, Fighting (Brawl), Fighting (Boxing), Firearms (Handgun), Firearms (Rifle/Shotgun), Intimidate. A British Bulldog’s Credit Rating should be no more than 50%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Electrical Repair, First Aid, Mechanical Repair, Navigate, Operate Heavy Machinery, Ride, Swim, Sword (foil, rapier, heavy épée), Survival, Throw.

Credit Rating: 20-50

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x2 + either DEX x2 or STR x2

ENTERTAINER

“Did you see Irene Vanbrugh in *Mr Pym Passes By*? Marvellous. It was by some fella called Milne. No, I’ve not heard of him either, but Aunt Clara says he has something to do with moving pictures. No, they’ll never catch on. It’s too much of an American thing for the British. Not enough life in it. It’s live theatre or nothing for us, old boy. When I step out onto that stage, I know I have them in the palm of my hand. Tears? I can make them weep. Laughter? Gales of it with the tilt of my head and the swing of my cane. Intrigue? A sly look and a crooked eyebrow. But it’s the voice, you see. The voice is where the true power is. Rehearsals have been going swimmingly. You should come, old chap. Opening night’s Friday. The Lyric in Hammersmith. It’ll run and run. Mark my words.”

London is the vibrant, cosmopolitan heart of the British Empire and its pulse reverberates with all manner of distractions and entertainments. From the high culture of the West End theatres to the baser, bawdier stage antics of the East End music halls, London caters to all tastes. Nevertheless, the theatre is suffering in the 1920s from competition with radio and few plays run for more than a hundred performances. Out of work actors are not uncommon. Elsewhere, the music halls offer a startling range of performances. Singers, comics, male and female impersonators, stage magicians, and speciality acts can all be found filling the bills in music halls across the city. Spectacle is offered by variety palaces like the Hippodrome, which present aquatic acts in a 100,000-gallon water tank, and

the Coliseum, which could stage a re-enactment of a chariot race on a revolving stage. Hence, any investigator choosing the Entertainer as a profession has the opportunity for colourful, even eccentric, characterisation. Any investigator treading the boards will soon realise that while the London stage is a strange place, what occurs beneath it may be even stranger.

Entertainers will all have a high APP rating and an above average POW. STR, INT, CON and DEX values should be apportioned to reflect the Entertainer's act. If the Entertainer is a stage magician, for example, his or her DEX may be above average.

Occupation Skills: Art/Craft (Performance), Charm, Disguise, Fast Talk, Intimidate, Library Use, Persuade, Psychology. The Entertainer's Credit Rating will be no less than 50%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Art/Craft (Stage Illusions), Dodge, Etiquette, Firearms (Handgun), Jump, Locksmith, Occult, Science (Pyrotechnics), Sleight of Hand, Swim. An Entertainer's selection of personal interest skills will depend upon the nature of the act(s) the Investigator performs.

Credit Rating: 50-70

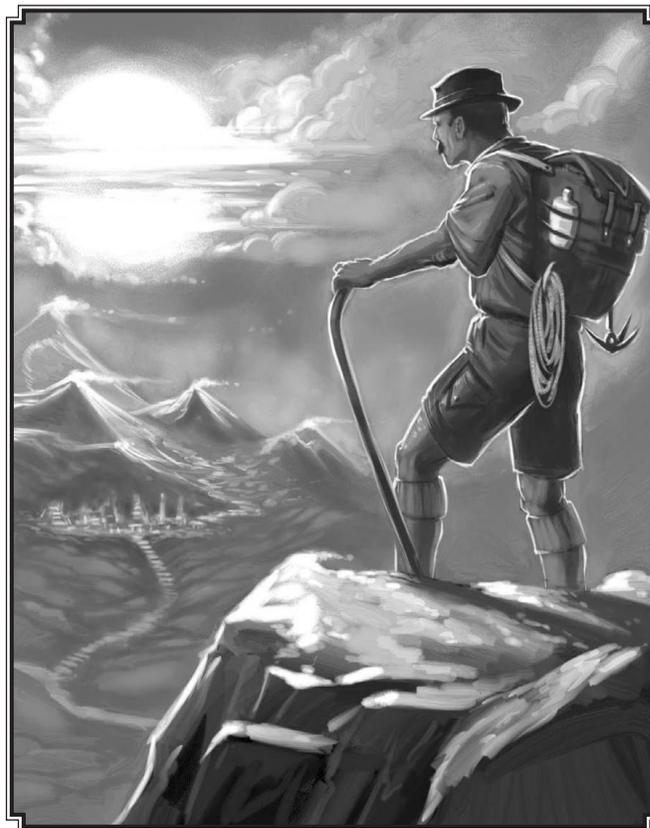
Occupation Skill Points: EDU x2 + APP x2

EXPLORER

"To walk in the lonely places of the world: that is what impels us; that is what drives us on. The great years of exploration lie behind us: the Nile, the North West Passage, the South Pole, all discovered, mapped, known – if one is to believe the newspapers. One day, perhaps, men will journey to the Moon as Mr Wells has postulated, or to Mars, or even beyond. Until that time, it befalls us to walk in the shadow of greater men – Burton, Bingham, Livingstone, Scott – to fill in the details of this great canvas of a world. What yet lies undiscovered in those lands now seen as tamed, or, indeed, in our great city as Mr. London's *The People of the Abyss revealed?*"

Fridtjof Nansen, Norwegian explorer, politician, diplomat and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in 1922, considered the story of Polar exploration as a 'mighty manifestation of the power of the Unknown over the mind of man.' In *The Last Secrets: The Final Mysteries of Exploration* (1923), John Buchan considered this true of all exploration. Even though to be an Explorer in the 1920s is to recognise that many of the

great journeys of discovery belong to previous centuries, the Unknown still issues its siren call. Everest beckons, the Turfan Depression is uncharted, New Guinea lies practically virgin, and the subterrene gives up its secrets only reluctantly. An intrepid Explorer may yet find distinction.



Explorers require high CON and will almost certainly express above average INT and STR. POW and EDU may be average to suggest that the Explorer is driven and less than preoccupied with formal learning. A rather weather-beaten appearance may force the Explorer's APP below average.

Occupation Skills: Anthropology, Climb, Firearms (Handgun), Firearms (Rifle/Shotgun), Language (any non-European), Navigate, Survival, Track. An Explorer's Credit Rating should be no more than 50%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Drive Auto, First Aid, History, Jump, Language (European), Language (up to three Non-European), Mechanical Repair, Natural World, Pilot.

Credit Rating: 9-50

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x2 + either DEX x2 or STR x2

GENTLEMAN

“We’re not all fools with too much breeding and too little sense, you know. Gadding about is all very well, but one can become bored with it all. Dancing the Charleston with a young gal in one’s arms is one thing, but one soon tires of cocktails and foxtrots and weekends in the country. The world is changed and anybody who can’t see it is a dashed nincompoop. Some of us have a sense of responsibility. We must preserve what is of greatest value: honesty, integrity, honour. These are what we fought for, dash it all, not for the chance to drink Hanky-Pankys and congratulate ourselves on how clever we are. You know old fellow, I might even find myself a job.”

The concept of the English Gentleman is rather paradoxical. One could consider oneself a Gentleman without being of aristocratic birth. Indeed, one born a Gentleman may not, in fact, be perceived as having behaved like a gentleman. Part of the ambiguity surrounding the notion derives from the fact that there is a distinction between the cultural meaning of the term and its moral implications. The essence of a Gentleman is summarised best by Cardinal John Henry Newman in *The Idea of a University* (1852): ‘It is well to be a gentleman, it is well to have a cultivated intellect, a delicate taste, a candid, equitable dispassionate mind, a noble and courteous bearing in the conduct of life.’

A strong moral compass, an enquiring mind and a chivalrous sensibility defines the Gentleman. Most frequently, he will have been privately educated at Charterhouse, Eton, Harrow or Westminster, and will have attended university, almost certainly Oxford or Cambridge. He is likely to be a sportsman, favouring cricket, polo or rugby. Independently wealthy, he will also be socially well connected and attract respect and deference from the lower classes. It is not uncommon for acquaintances to seek his guidance when they have erred socially or else become embroiled in matters beyond their control.

Gentlemen will have above-average APP and high POW, indicating their fashionable tailoring and either a well-balanced perception of the world or a partial dislocation from reality. Their DEX, honed on the rugger field, polo horse or cricket pitch, will be higher than average. Although EDU will also be above average, INT may be lower, depending on whether the player conceives the character as a blusterer of a suave man about town. STR, CON and SIZ can vary significantly.

Occupation Skills: Accounting, Appraise, Charm, Drive Auto, Etiquette, Firearms (Handgun), Firearms (Rifle/Shotgun), Persuade. A Gentleman’s Credit Rating should be no less than 60%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Fighting (Boxing), History, Language (Greek), Language (Latin), Law, Library Use, Pilot, Ride, Swim, Throw.

Credit Rating: 60-99

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x4

JOURNALIST

“Look, you know how this works. You tell me what you saw and I’ll work a little bit of my old magic. This ten bob note here will vanish from my hand and miraculously appear in yours. And you’ll be safe in the knowledge that you’re doing a service to King and country. No, you don’t have to say anything. Just nod. You’re certain it was Sir Nigel? And he was officiating the ceremony? Officiating? It means ‘in charge of’. I see. And this man, the victim: you didn’t recognise him? And you’re sure it wasn’t a put up job? He was definitely killed? Sacrificed, you say? And have you seen any of the robed men since – apart from Sir Nigel? Can you tell me where? What do you mean, ‘Behind me?!’”

Built on top of London’s largest underground river, Fleet Street is home to the thundering presses and scribbling journalists of the capital’s newspaper industry. Numerous titles are available on the newsstands. *The Times* is the pinnacle of literate reporting. *The Daily Mail*, launched originally as a newspaper by and for women in 1903, is now firmly under the control of men. Its blend of human-interest stories and news makes it the most popular daily picture paper. *The Spectator* is the widest-read weekly newspaper. Other titles include *The Evening News*, the *Daily Mirror* and *The Star*. Periodicals ranging from *Country Life* and *The Strand* to *Tit-Bits* and *The Author* cater for all tastes.

Journalists are as varied as the newspapers and periodicals themselves. Ada Elizabeth Chesterton, widow of G. K. Chesterton’s brother, Cecil, works for the *Daily Express* and established the Eastern European News Service. Her investigations into homelessness amongst women in the capital, during which she lived rough, sold matches and begged on the street, are published as *Darkest London* in 1926. By

contrast, Bernard Darwin, grandson of Charles, is a sports journalist reporting on golf for *The Times* and *Country Life*. At the sharper end of international reporting, Philip Graves exposes *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* as a racist fraud whilst working as a foreign correspondent for *The Times* in 1921. In addition, photojournalism is emerging in the mid- to late 1920s with the development of portable cameras like the Leica and Ermanox. With Sir Max Pemberton's London School of Journalism opening in 1919, the world readjusting and reconfiguring after the Great War, and obscure tendrils reaching out from the elder dark, there has never been a more exciting or dangerous time to be a journalist.

Journalists depend on high POW and INT values. The physical attributes are less significance compared to EDU and CON. APP will vary widely.

Occupation Skills: Charm, Fast Talk, History, Language (English), Library Use, Listen, Persuade, Psychology. A Journalist's Credit Rating should be no more than 40%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Disguise, Intimidate, Law, Locksmith, Art and Craft (Photography), Spot Hidden.

Credit Rating: 9-40

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x4

LAWYER

"The rope casts a long and perilous shadow over us all. Working to condemn a man to death is no easy task and it takes the stoutest of hearts not to flinch at the prospect of an innocent facing execution as the result of an error by the Defence or the Prosecuting Council. We must be forever vigilant, scrupulous and thorough. Justice must be done. It is a hard fact that in the wake of so much death some men and women deserve to die."

Practitioners of law in England and Wales belong to two separate groups: Solicitors and barristers. A solicitor is the first point of contact for most ordinary legal matters, including the making of wills and matters of probate, property transactions, divorce, and most business dealings. They cannot speak at the Bar – that part of a courtroom restricted to officials participating in a trial – and they are usually members of the Law Society. Barristers are members of the Bar Council, called from the Inns

of Court, four professional associations offering educational, social and financial support to barristers and students. The four Inns are The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple and The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn. Barristers provide highly specialised legal advice and represent their clients in higher courts, including the Court of Appeal. Barristers will almost certainly be of a higher social class than solicitors and are usually held in greater professional and social regard. At this time, barristers are involved in cases leading to capital punishment for murder. In England and Wales in the 1920s, 139 men and 2 women were executed by hanging. London executions were conducted at Pentonville and Wandsworth; Robert Orridge Baxter of Hertford was one of the principle executioners.

Lawyers will demonstrate high POW, INT and EDU. STR, CON and DEX are less significant. APP may be important for barristers intent on persuading jurors and will also reflect their high social status. SIZ is not significant for either solicitors or barristers.

Occupation Skills: Bargain, Fast Talk, Language (Latin), Law, Library Use, Listen, Persuade, Psychology. A solicitor's Credit Rating should be no more than 50%; a barrister's no less than 50%. Neither should have a Law rating of less than 70%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Accounting, Charm, Drive Auto, Etiquette, Firearms (Rifle/Shotgun), History, Language (Greek).

Credit Rating: 30-80 (see above)

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x4

POLICE OFFICER

"Sixteen million souls lost in the Great War: tinkers, tailors, soldiers, sailors, rich men, poor men, beggar men, but not enough tea leaves by anyone's reckoning. Seems like when decent men went off to fight, the thieves stayed at home and planned what they were going to half-inch next. And the murderers. They stayed put, too. It's not like there hasn't been enough killing already, neither. You'd have thought we'd all be sick of it, but no. That Florence Shore was whacked on the head on the Hastings train. Poor Jim Kelly got himself shot and killed in Acton trying to stop a safe-cracker. Harriet Buxton,

the landlady of the Cross Keys up in Chelsea, was done in for a brooch. It's like there's another war going on here sometimes. And then there's the really odd ones. That half-eaten fish-man found in the Fleet. A dozen priests in kaftans lying dead in that cellar in Mayfair. Gas the coroner said. I've seen men gassed. They looked nothing like that. And then there was Lady Elspeth Windover: a sane man doesn't want to dwell on what was done to her before she went. There's evil beggars out there. Ninepence short of a shilling, all of them. Still, mustn't grumble. Nobody's started shelling yet."

Police Officers in 1920s London belong either to the City of London Police, based at 26 Old Jewry, or the Metropolitan Police, whose headquarters is New Scotland Yard on the Embankment. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID), a plainclothes branch, operates out of the Yard. Accordingly, police officers may be uniformed Constables or Sergeants or non-uniformed Inspectors. Officers working within the CID will be detective constables, Detective Sergeants or Detective Inspectors. Police Officers of higher rank are likely to be trained in the use of a rifle or a pistol, but these will not be carried as a matter of routine. Police are issued a truncheon, or baton, as standard. Most truncheons are fifteen inches long, one and a half inches in diameter, and fashioned from rosewood, solid ebony or ebonised mahogany. Officers also carried handcuffs, many manufactured by Hiatt and Co. Ltd., Birmingham.

Investigators adopting the roles of Police Officers would benefit from high or above-average STR, CON, INT and POW given the likelihood of being embroiled in physical violence, mysteries and horrific crimes. SIZ and DEX may be above average. Constables are likely to have EDU values below average where their commanding officers will have average EDU scores or higher.

Occupation Skills: Fighting (Brawl), Club (Truncheon), Fighting (Boxing), Firearms (Rifle) or Firearms (Handgun for plainclothes officers), Intimidate, Law, Spot Hidden, Track. A Police Officer's Credit Rating should be no more than 40%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Disguise (plainclothes officers), First Aid, Climb, Listen, Locksmith, Psychology, Stealth, Throw.

Credit Rating: 20-40

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x2 + either DEX x2 or STR x2

RELIGIOUS OFFICIAL

"The Lord, in His infinite wisdom, chose to test our faith by setting our feet on a stony road, a road of tribulation that sorely tried our strength. But we have passed that test. We have passed through the fire and been delivered. We stand, now, men and women made anew. God stands with us. We must not falter in our solemn duty to safeguard the peace won for these isles at such terrible cost. We must be vigilant. We must stand against the oppressor and the abominate whether he lurks in the factory or the mill, whether he walks with the wretched or those that flourish, whether he is to be found amongst the exulted or amidst the worms of the earth. We have fought a war for the souls of men; they must not be corrupted by greed or by hedonism or by the foul practices of the flesh."

Although Britain is a predominantly Protestant country, there is a wide variety of different religions practised in the 1920s. The East End is home to a large Jewish community with shops, theatres and synagogues. Bhat Sikhs from the Punjab also make their home in the East End, though their first Gurdwara – Maharajah Bhupinder Singh Dharamsala – was established in Putney in 1911 before relocating to 79 Sinclair Road in Shepherds Bush two years later. A major conference of Quakers met in the city in 1920 and London's first mosque, the Fazl Mosque, opened in 1926. Accordingly, there is a range of religious officials at work in London. Celibate Catholic priests serve parishes in three archdioceses: Westminster, Southwark and Brentford. Protestant Vicars or Rectors, like their Catholic counterparts, are often the heart of their local community in both poor and affluent areas within the Dioceses of London or Southwark. Other Christian faiths present in the city include Episcopalians, Unitarians, Russian and Greek Orthodox. Rabbis, as much scholars and teachers of Hebrew history and culture as religious figures, are found in more than thirty synagogues across East London, including Spitalfields, Bethnal Green and Stepney. In any investigation, such religious officials will prove valuable intermediaries for their communities. In Christian parishes, there is a certain cultural cache in being on good terms with one's parish priest or vicar. Social encounters with more senior ecclesiastical figures – Bishops and Archbishops, for example – are only likely for upper class investigators.

Investigators who are also Religious Officials will have higher than average EDU and POW values given their religious studies and their faith. It would not be uncommon for a Catholic priest

to have high STR and CON values given the emphasis placed on physical activity in many seminaries. Religious Officials involved in sports like cricket may have DEX and CON scores that are also higher than average. In other characters, DEX and CON may be lower than average in favour of APP and INT scores.

Some Priests and Vicars may have First Aid skills due to serving as army chaplains assisting medical staff during the Great War.

Catholic Priest

Catholic priests often have a surprising range of Skills beyond their occupation skills as a result of their education at Catholic seminaries.

Occupation Skills: Accounting, Bargain, Intimidate, Language (Latin), Library Use, Occult, Persuade, Psychology. A Priest's Credit Rating cannot be higher than 40%.

Recommended Skills: Anthropology, Disguise, Fighting (Boxing), First Aid, History, Language (Greek), Law, Listen, Throw.

Muslim Imam

Imams speak Arabic and this does not count towards one of their skills.

Occupation Skills: Accounting, Bargain, Charm, History, Library Use, Listen, Persuade, Psychology. An Imam's Credit Rating cannot be higher than 40%.

Recommended Skills: Fast Talk, Language (Farsi), Science (Astronomy), Science (Cosmology), Science (Mathematics), Spot Hidden.

Protestant Vicar or Rector

Occupation Skills: Accounting, Bargain, Charm, Drive Auto, Library Use, Persuade, Psychology. A Vicar or Rector's Credit Rating is unlikely to be higher than 50%.

Recommended Skills: First Aid, History, Law, Language (Latin), Language (Greek), Listen, Throw.

Rabbi

Rabbis speak Hebrew and this does not count as one of their skills.

Occupation Skills: Accounting, Charm, History, Law, Library Use, Occult, Persuade, Psychology. A Rabbi's Credit Rating is unlikely to be higher than 40%.

Recommended Skills: Fighting (Boxing), Disguise, Fast Talk, Listen, Other Language (European), Other Language (Middle Eastern), Mechanical Repair.

Sikh Granthi

Granthis speak Punjabi and this does not count towards one of their skills.

Although not equivalent to a priest, a granthi is the principle religious official in the Sikh faith. The role of the granthi can be taken by any Sikh as granthis are not ordained in the way Christian officials are, for example. A granthi is, however, the custodian of the *Sri Guru Granth Sahib*, the Sikh holy book.

Occupation Skills: Accounting, Bargain, Charm, History, Law, Library Use, Persuade, Psychology. A Granthi's Credit Rating cannot be higher than 40%.

Recommended Skills: Fast Talk, Language (Hindu), Listen, Occult, Sword.

Credit Rating: 9-50

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x4

SLEUTH

"Pon my soul, this is a dashed queer business. How the devil was poor old Ponsonby strangled in a locked study? Look here. The only key's in his waistcoat pocket. That's why Everard had to break the door in. Every window's latched securely, too. There's not a cord or a tie back missin'. Sugden was on the front door the whole evenin' checking the guests' invitations. No unexpected arrivals, by his account. None of the staff saw any of 'em on the upstairs landin', which makes this even more peculiar. That big fellow with the face like a bruised beetroot... What's his name? Yes, that's it. Uncle Mortimer. Just back from the Congo, isn't he? What did he say to you, Barrymore? 'Bad ju-ju?' Stuff 'n' nonsense. If our murderer didn't enter through the door, or by the windows, then that leaves only one possible explanation, Barrymore. The fireplace. Mmm. Murder does lead us into some unexpected places..."

While America has the private eye or gumshoe, Britain has the Sleuth. Often a gentleman educated at one of England's leading public schools – Eton, Harrow, Winchester, Westminster, Rugby, Charterhouse – the Sleuth is often a suave and cultured sort with a private income who solves crimes out of an inherent sense of justice, intellectual curiosity, or simply from sheer boredom. Literary examples include E. C. Bentley's Philip Trent, Dorothy L. Sayers' Lord Peter Wimsey and Margery Allingham's Albert Campion. Other notable Sleuths are from very different backgrounds. G. K. Chesterton's Father Brown is a Roman Catholic priest, Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot is a Belgian expoliceman and Miss Jane Marple an elderly spinster from the village of St. Mary Mead. Individual temperaments also vary. Wimsey's humour, which conceals the nervous breakdown he experienced due to shell shock during the Great War, contrasts sharply with Gladys Mitchell's coldly reptilian Mrs Beatrice Adela Lestrangle Bradley, a brilliant woman who is a consultant psychologist for the Home Office. It is not uncommon for such Sleuths to have a sidekick or servant. Campion has the ex-burglar, Magersfontein Lugg, Wimsey is accompanied by his friend and employee Sergeant Mervyn Bunter, and Poirot is joined frequently by the former British Army officer Arthur Hastings. Such companions can be based on the Valet profile.

Sleuths tend to be independently wealthy (so a decent Credit Rating is essential) and rely more on their intelligence than strength to deduce the solutions to mysteries (so INT and EDU will take precedence over STR and DEX). Some literary Sleuths are also often of a nervous or diffident and so POW and SAN may well be lower than average.

Occupation Skills: Charm, Drive Auto, Intimidate, Law, Library Use, Listen, Persuade, Spot Hidden. A Sleuth's Credit Rating should be no less than 60%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Appraise, Fighting (Boxing), Etiquette, Firearms (Handgun), Locksmith, Psychology, Psychoanalysis, Ride, Sleight of Hand, Track.

Credit Rating: 60-99

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x4

SOLDIER

"London. The Smoke. A heaving, reeking press of humanity without purpose in poverty or in wealth. Selfishness and greed,

misery and despair. Hardly 'a fit country for heroes to live in', or for a man to find a renewed sense of self. Was it all worthwhile – the mud, the gunshots at dawn, the battlefields foul with the dead – for a homecoming to loved ones who could only stare or weep? Gone, the camaraderie. Lost, the duty to King and Country. Vanquished, the last great evil. Where now?"

The Soldier is a survivor. Returning from the hell of the Great War, he finds himself demobbed and unemployed or else forced into poorly-paid manual labour in London's factories. He is, perhaps, a little bitter and adrift amongst people whose preoccupations seem trivial to him. Psychologically scarred, he is looking for something, perhaps even a new war to wage against some tangible evil where brave men can unite and comradeship be found. He has been faced death and terror to emerge tempered like fine steel: strong, durable, stoic.

Given their military training and wartime experiences, Investigators with a soldiering background who came through the Great War unharmed will have above average STR, CON and DEX. These may be below average if, however, the Investigator sustained injuries, was gassed or experienced shell shock. APP will also depend upon any injuries received during wartime. With over 2.25 million wounds taken in combat by British Army forces, many ex-servicemen will bear the physical scars of their experiences.

Mental scars are less apparent but no less significant. As a consequence of the emotional affects of the Great War, all Soldier characters have a lower than average SAN. Officers will have a higher-than-average EDU values than enlisted men, reflecting their respective social backgrounds. INT is not tied to either rank or class origin.

Private, Corporal, Sergeant or NCO

Occupation Skills: Fighting (Brawl), Dodge, Firearms (Rifle/Shotgun), First Aid, Jump, Stealth, Survival, Throw. A Soldier's Credit Rating should be no more than 40%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Fighting (Boxing), Climb, Drive Auto, Electrical Repair, Firearms (Handgun), Listen, Mechanical Repair, Swim, Track.

Credit Rating: 9-40

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x2 + either DEX x2 or STR x2

Officer: Second Lieutenant to Captain

Occupation Skills: Dodge, Drive Auto, Firearms (Handgun), Intimidate, Jump, Navigate, Persuade, Sword (foil, rapier, heavy épée). An Officer's Credit Rating should be no less than 50%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Fighting (Boxing), Climb, Navigate, Psychology, Ride, Stealth, Swim, Survival, Throw.

Credit Rating: 50-70

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x2 + either DEX x2 or STR x2

SPIRITUALIST

"The dead crowd upon us. And there are so many now. So many. They expect too much of me. I cannot hear them. They all want to speak so dearly that their silence deafens me. The old. The young. The countless men in uniform. Thank heavens Sophia is there. Sophia, my spirit guide. She moves among them, you see. They talk to her and she can hear them. When she does, sometimes I can sense their whispering, like a soft breeze through grave-grass.



Sophia listens. She has a good soul. She takes their fears, their hopes, their frustrations, and she brings them to me. And then it is my turn to listen and to seek their living relatives. I reassure them: yes, your father is happy. No, he wasn't in any pain at the end. Your son misses you, too, but he is with his pals. Yes, they all went together. Your uncle asks me to tell you that the key is in the third drawer of the dresser. All the minutiae of life, communicated by the dead. All through little Sophia, bless her heart."

Spiritualists offer comfort by providing a means of communication between the living and the dead, usually for a fee. They are most often assisted in this by a 'spirit guide', an entity that can convey messages to and from the dead to the spiritualist, who acts as a medium. Although many are charlatans, some Spiritualists are sensitive to the presence and influence of the disembodied dead: ghosts, phantoms, poltergeists and so forth. Spiritualist investigators will each have their own rather fickle Spirit Guide.

Once the Spirit Guide is summoned and willing to communicate, the members of the séance can direct questions toward it through the Spiritualist, who now acts as a medium. All communication between the Spiritualist and the Spirit Guide is telepathic. There are none of the raps on wood, floating tables or spirit writing that indicate the chicanery typical of many charlatans. The Spirit Guide will either answer questions on subjects and situations of which it has knowledge, or redirect those questions to other spirits known to members of the séance. When answering questions itself, the Spirit Guide will not offer opinions or conjectures, nor will it respond to speculative questions. When communicating information from other spirits, usually friends, relatives or associates of the members of the séance, the Spirit Guide's responses will be more reliable if the person is recently dead. Nevertheless, the Spirit Guide's answers will always be slightly vague or elliptical. However, it may alert the members of the séance to certain facts they have overlooked, or to sources of information that may relate to the current investigation, particularly if it is communicating with a recently deceased investigator. The Spirit Guide may also direct them towards hauntings or spirit activity in the vicinity. In each case, the Spirit Guide's information will be shaped by its nature, experiences and understanding. Spirit Guides who are children will be quite unreliable since they will only understand events from a child's perspective.

Rules for Summoning and Communicating with Spirit Guides

In order to summon their Spirit Guide, Spiritualists need to convene a séance. For the séance to be effective, at least four people or 'sitters', including the Spiritualist, must form a circle seated around a table in a darkened room. Each sitter should join hands with those to either side of them. The summoning will only be effective if the sitters have a collective POW equal to or greater than 240 and at least two members of the séance, including the Spiritualist, make a successful POW roll.

When the Spiritualist convenes his or her first successful séance, the Spirit Guide is determined randomly on the table below. The result is the Spiritualist's permanent Spirit Guide.

Table 1: Types of Spirit Guide

% Roll	Spirit Guide
01-10	Old man
11-20	Murder victim, male or female, aged determined by Keeper
21-40	Girl, less than ten years old
41-60	Boy, less than ten years old
61-80	Shell-shocked soldier
81-90	Old woman
91-100	Well-known historical figure determined by the Keeper

When summoned, the Spirit Guide will materialise as an indistinct, ectoplasmic form resembling vaguely its

appearance in life. With the exception of the Spiritualist, any sitter witnessing the manifestation for the first time must make a Sanity check or lose 1 point of Sanity. The Spirit Guide cannot interact with the physical world, cause harm to the living, or initiate events.

In order to communicate with the Spirit Guide at each séance, the Spiritualist must make a hard POW check after the Spirit Guide has materialised. If the Spiritualist is successful, the Keeper should roll for the Spirit Guide's demeanour on the table below. If the Spiritualist is unsuccessful, the Spirit Guide issues a forlorn wail and disappears. It cannot be summoned again for 24 hours. At every summoning, the Keeper must determine the Spirit Guide's demeanour.

Table 2: Spirit Guide Demeanour

% Roll	Demeanour
0-10	Playful
11-20	Mournful
21-30	Angry
31-49	Confused
41-50	Sullen
51-60	Cheerful
61-70	Kind
71-80	Secretive
81-90	Frightened
91-100	Jealous

Old men and women who manifest as Spirit Guides may be prone to lengthy reminiscences or digressions. Shell-shocked soldiers can be preoccupied or vague. And the demeanour of all Spirit Guides is wholly unpredictable.

During the séance the Spirit Guide and its answers are always under control of the Keeper, who should avoid using the Spirit Guide as a *deus ex machina*. Communicating with Spirit Guides and other spirits should be by turns illuminating, misleading and frustrating. In order to simulate the privacy

of the exchanges between Spiritualist and Spirit Guide, the Keeper may wish to write down the Spirit Guide's answers and pass these to the Spiritualist.

Following a séance, the Spiritualist's POW and CON are halved for 24 hours as a consequence of the emotional and physical fatigue of communicating with the dead. Importantly, however, as a genuine medium, the Spiritualist will be more likely to detect fakery with greater accuracy amongst other practitioners.

Spiritualism in the 1920s

The central tenet of Spiritualism is that the spirits of the dead can be contacted by the living through the agency of a medium, someone attuned to the spirit world. Spiritualists also believe the afterlife to be a realm where the dead evolve beyond the living both morally and ethically because they are closer to God. Their position is different from that of Christians, however, since they do not believe that souls are eternally elevated to Heaven or condemned to Hell. Rather, they conceive of the afterlife as a series of hierarchical 'spheres' through which the spirit can ascend. Accordingly, Spiritualists advocate consulting the dead for guidance on earthly matters and for information regarding the nature of God and the spirit world. Spiritualists often rely upon a 'spirit guide', an amenable entity capable of providing assistance in interactions with the dead.

As a movement, Spiritualism originated in 1848 in Hydesville, New York in a prank played on their superstitious mother by two sisters, Margaret and Kate Fox. The two children produced mysterious rapping noises to convince their parents and others that they were receiving messages from the spirit world. Their fame grew and they were quickly accepted as mediums, holding séances privately and publicly. From this modest and prosaic beginning, Spiritualism became the most widespread paranormal phenomenon of the Victorian Age. Professional mediums were commonplace and when Margaret confessed to the sisters' fakery 40 years later, Spiritualism had its own popular momentum and worldwide appeal.

Throughout the 19th century, the conventions of Spiritualism accumulated. The 'medium' would go into a trance, 'spirits' would materialize, ghostly voices would be heard, and the dead would apparently speak directly to the members of the séance. The majority of these experiences were subsequently revealed as trickery achieved through accomplices, narrow megaphones, or ventriloquism. Mediums were regularly exposed as frauds. Such exposure did not, however, prevent Spiritualism from retaining its grip on the Victorian public. The growing prominence of Spiritualism and other paranormal phenomena led to the founding of The Society for Psychical Research in London

in 1882. The SPR attempted to bring the scientific method to bear on mesmerism, spiritualism, clairvoyance, thought-transference, and hauntings. The SPR investigated hundreds of cases, collecting masses of data under a range of committees.

The Literary Committee, responsible for gathering and collating historical and contemporary evidence, produced the first major report on psychical phenomena, *Phantasms of the Living* (+5% Occult) in 1886. *Census of Hallucinations* (+4 Occult) appeared in 1894 and Frederic Myers' *Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death* (+2 Occult) in 1903. The so-called 'Heroic Age' of psychical research came to an end with the passing of the SPR's founding members, Edmund Gurney (d. 1888), Henry Sidgwick (d. 1900) and Frederic Myers (d. 1901). Frank Podmore, the society's 'sceptic in chief', survived them all and proved adept in debunking much Spiritualism chicanery. His *The Newer Spiritualism* (+2 Occult), a history of mediumship that demonstrates his exacting methodology was published in 1910. However, despite the best efforts of the society's members, the study of psychical phenomenon was not accepted as a 'real' science and researchers found their subject dismissed as 'pseudo-science'. Accordingly, as the activities of the SPR continue, investigators are free to join the society, providing they maintain a rational perspective on the phenomena investigated. Superstitiousness and partisan opinions are not welcome.

Although Spiritualism was especially prevalent during the Victorian and Edwardian periods, it continued to gain popularity during the Great War. Between 1914 and 1919, the number of societies affiliated to the Spiritualists' National Union (SNU), which was registered as a company in 1901, more than doubled from 145 to 309. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, was one of the leading exponents of the idea and wrote widely on the subject, leading to his epithet 'the St Paul of Spiritualism'. Doyle published the *New Revelation* (+3 Occult) in 1918, *The Vital Message* (+4 Occult) in 1919 and *The History of Spiritualism* (+5 Occult) in 1926. In 1920 Arthur Findlay founded the Glasgow Society for Psychical Research,

Hewat and Barbara McKenzie formed the British College of Psychic Science, and the Rev. G. Vale Owen submitted a series of articles to the *Weekly Despatch*, reportedly produced through spirit-controlled writing. Persecuted by the Church of England, Owen subsequently resigned and published the five-volume *Life Beyond the Veil* (+6 Occult) (1921). Harry Price, who founded the National Laboratory of Psychical Research in 1923, further enhanced the public awareness of Spiritualism. Price was commonly embroiled in controversy since he both exposed fraudulent mediums and endorsed others. A colourful character, Price's activities were often reported in the press. It is likely that any investigators involved in examining psychic phenomena will encounter Price, who will prove an ambiguous, flamboyant ally at best.

The growth in popular interest in Spiritualism provoked disquiet amongst organised Christian religion. The Anglican Communion meeting for its sixth Lambeth Conference in 1920 condemned the practice, seeing 'grave dangers in the tendency to make a religion of spiritualism', which it characterised as a cult. The Catholic Church concurred, establishing the Catholic Crusade Against Spiritualism in 1926. This did not prevent the connection between Spiritualism and Christianity becoming further complicated, however. Geraldine Cummins, an Irish medium, published *The Spirits of Cleophas* (+1 Occult) in 1928. The text, which Cummins claimed was channelled

from the spirit of Cleophas, a follower of the apostle Paul, supports accounts in the Acts of the Apostles and the writings of St Paul. Accordingly, Spiritualist Investigators, or Investigators embarked on investigations into Spiritualism, may find themselves the subject of inquiry by various church groups, the Society for Psychical Research, or the police, particularly if séances are held for financial gain. If the Investigators are attempting to work in secret, such attention may not be welcome.

It is undeniable that faith in Spiritualism was inspired in part by wartime accounts of an angelic host appearing on the battlefield at Mons. Nevertheless, its growing popularity, particularly amongst the lower middle and working classes outside of London, was helped considerably as bereavement became a national, collective experience. With 700,000 British servicemen killed in the Great War and a further 250,000 deaths in Britain during the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic, few people escaped the loss of loved ones. In the 1920s, Spiritualism offers a source of hope, reassurance, and guidance for a population emerging from a protracted nightmare, surrounded by death and the memorialisation of death, and coming to terms with the implications of a new industrial age. Amidst all the chicanery, hoaxes and exploitation, Spiritualism provides both succour and danger. If one medium can genuinely open a door to the afterlife, what else might slip through? Keepers are invited to explore the possibilities.

In order to be a successful Spiritualist, the Investigator will need high POW, APP and CON. STR, DEX and SIZ may be average or below. INT and EDU are likely to be average or higher.

Occupation Skills: Accounting, Charm, Library Use, Listen, Occult, Persuade, Psychology, Science (Psychical Phenomenon). A Spiritualist's Credit Rating should be no more than 50%. The Science (Psychical Phenomenon) score should be no less than 60%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Drive Auto, Fast Talk, History, Language (Latin), Psychoanalysis, Spot Hidden.

Credit Rating: 9-50

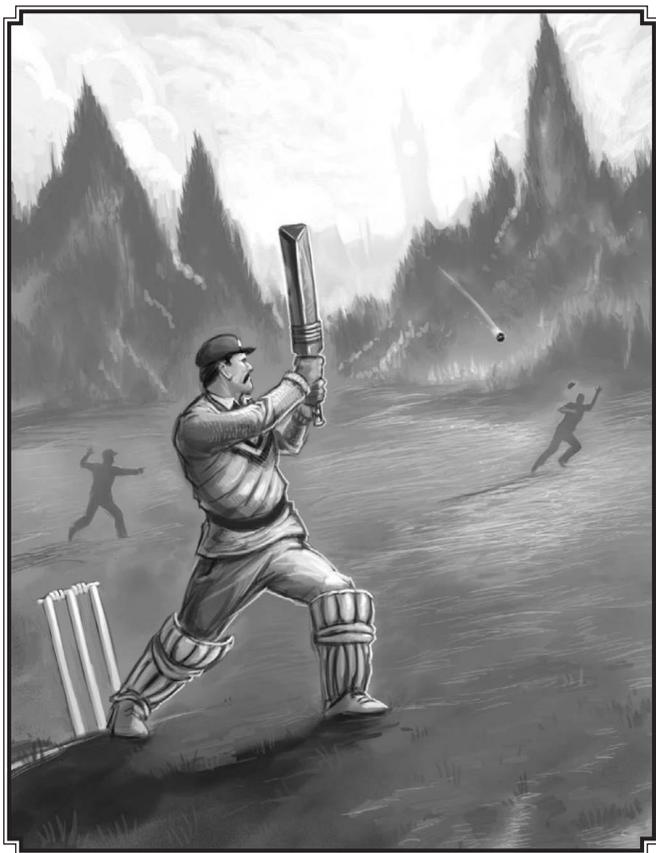
Occupation Skill Points: EDU x2 + either APP x2 or POW x2

SPORTSMAN AND -WOMAN

"Well, it was a maiden over at the point. Four googlies and a grubber that really foxed the chappie in the crease. Batsman didn't know what to expect next. Well, my next delivery was just superb, even if I do say so myself. A real Bart King angler. Perfect run up, too, but the bally man read it right. Caught it across the line. Lucky thing was: he scooped it. Got his bottom hand right under it. Well, it ended up short infield. Out with a dolly. Fabulous to watch, old boy. Absolutely fabulous."

The 1920s are a vibrant period in British sporting history. In the immediate post-war years, national pride, a sense of competitive fair play, and the media's valorisation of English men and women at their physical peak find expression in Britain's sportsmen and women. After the Great War

and amidst fears of declining national fitness, England's footballers, rugby players, cricketers, athletes, tennis players, jockeys and university rowing crews feature prominently in the popular consciousness. Newspapers, magazines and, later, radio broadcasts all contribute to the growing popularity of sportsmen and women.



The English Football League resumes in 1919 having been suspended in 1915 following the outbreak of the Great War. The first FA Cup Final in five years is won in 1920 by Aston Villa, who beat Huddersfield Town 1-0 at Stamford Bridge, the most modern stadium in the country. Three years later, England's legendary Empire Stadium, more commonly known as Wembley Stadium, is completed. It hosts all subsequent FA Cup Finals.

The first Olympic Games to be held after the war take place from April to September in Antwerp, and see Britain win gold medals in athletics, tennis, cycling, polo, hockey, water polo, boxing, sailing and tug-of-war. Not every British sporting venture is a success, however. Tennis yields mixed results. Kitty McKane Godfree does English women proud by winning

the Ladies Singles Championship in 1924 and 1926. England's men are less impressive. Not one Men's Singles Tennis Championship is won at Wimbledon throughout the 1920s. In cricket, England loses every match in a five Test series during their tour of Australia in 1920-21. Nevertheless, to be a sportsman or woman in the 1920s is to enjoy a degree of fame and popularity and, perhaps, even to draw some unwelcome attention from those eager to possess fine human specimens.

Sportsmen and women will have high STR, CON and DEX. They are likely to have above-average or average POW. EDU will vary with the sport practised, with rowing, rugby, polo, tennis and cricket players usually more highly educated than soccer teams. SIZ will also depend on the sport(s) played by the Sportsman. INT is independent of the sport.

Occupation Skills: Charm, Climb, Dodge, Jump, Listen, Psychology, Swim, Throw. A Sportsman or woman's Credit Rating should be no less than 50%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Fighting (Boxing), Drive Auto, Fighting (Wrestling), First Aid, Spot Hidden, Stealth.

Credit Rating: 50-99

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x2 + either DEX x2 or STR x2

TAXI MAN

"There's nothing quite like m' Beardmore. Rolls Royce of cabs, she is. 15.6 horses. Come all the way down from Scotland, she has. Everyone admires her. And you get all sorts in the back. There's been toffs aplenty. Some with their wives. Some with their lady-friends, if you get me meaning. Can always tell. They tip large when they want you to turn a blind eye. No, officer, didn't see nothing. A scandal, you say. Well I never. Then you get the newspaper men. Always rushing about, hot for a story. They should drive a cab. Get plenty of stories. Had a bloke in here last week. Looked like a bleedin' codfish and no mistake. There's a story in that, I bet. Sometimes, it's a young couple. Sometimes they're married. Sometimes they tip large. But it's after dark that things get really interesting. Things I've seen. Not just in the back of me cab, neither. This city has a secret life. I should know. Seen most of it. That's the joy of knowing the Smoke like the back of me hand. You know where the freaks are. See, there's two kinds of knowledge. There's 'the

Knowledge’ – that’s the ‘Knowledge of London’ to you – and that don’t come easy. Takes two to four years of hard graft. Before a driver can get his licence he needs to know all the streets in a six-mile radius of Charing Cross Station. There’s twenty-five thousand of them, if you want to know. Thank you very much, Sir Richard Mayne. Then, there’s the other knowledge, the knowledge you get from driving around day after day, night after night. Watchin’. Listenin’. Gives me the chills sometimes what I’ve seen. Some things just ain’t right. Some things need to be stopped. And I knows where to find them, don’t I?”

London cab drivers are living resources with an intimate knowledge of the city that is invaluable to any investigator. Their presence anywhere in the city is rarely questioned and, as such, they are ideal observers of London’s high and low-life. They are anonymous, trusted and rarely questioned. Their numbers are still comparatively low following the Great War, which saw many cabmen sent to the Front. After the Armistice, only the very sharpest of drivers have been able to acquire ‘the Knowledge’ quickly enough to be licensed by 1920, though their numbers will increase throughout the twenties, reaching a peak of around 8000. For many cabmen, including immigrants from the East End, the taxi offers freedom from poverty and exploitative working conditions and an opportunity to work for one’s self. Cabbies have the latitude to set their own hours and routines, which allow family men significant freedom compared to working life in London’s garment sweatshops and cigarette factories. Taxi men are likely to be drawn into investigations as a result of witnessing, or becoming embroiled in, strange events occurring in the London night.

Investigators who are Taxi Drivers can apportion values to STR, CON, POW, DEX, and APP as they see fit. INT should be above average, to reflect the skill required to acquire the Knowledge. EDU, however, will be below average indicating the difficulty of obtaining a good education as a member of the working class. Above average SIZ would not be an advantage driving a Beardmore.

Occupation Skills: Accounting, Drive Auto, Fighting (Brawl), Fast Talk, Firearms (Rifle), Intimidate, Mechanical Repair, Navigate. A Cabman’s Credit Rating should be no more than 40%. His Navigate skill should be no less than 60% and he receives a +10% bonus to all Navigate rolls within the city of London.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Charm, Electrical Repair, Listen, Operate Heavy Machinery, Persuade, Swim, Throw.

Credit Rating: 20-40

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x2 + DEX x2

VALET

“One can’t help but notice that even when the ‘idle rich’ are active, they seem to accomplish remarkably little. Not every gentleman’s the same, of course, but some are so clueless that they consider a white dinner jacket as appropriate evening attire. Image. One’s gentleman’s requires steering through life’s little complexities. He must be schooled, as it were, in matters of the heart – and the wallet. Vigilance must be maintained at all times. A hasty proposal, an unfortunate wager, or a scarlet cummerbund could ruin a gentleman’s reputation. They are so infernally well educated without being *intelligent*. I really don’t think many of them could cope alone. After all, keeping one’s social diary in order is often difficult when one has no notion of what day of the week it is.”

A Valet is his gentleman’s gentleman. He cooks, drives, organises and ensures that his master is turned out impeccably – and correctly – whatever the social function. Rivalry between Valets is not uncommon. Ensuring one’s gentleman is the most immaculate and the best cared for is often a mark of pride. Whilst such rivalries may manifest only in harmless competitiveness, it is not unknown for Valets to engage in minor acts of sabotage to ensure ‘their’ gentleman cuts the superior social dash. A disappearing cufflink box can be quite the catastrophe. Given their responsibilities, most Valets are usually unmarried and they may have served with, or without, their gentlemen as NCOs during the Great War.

A Valet must be unflappable, insightful, and skilled in diverse pursuits. Most importantly, he should be capable of rescuing his gentleman from the stickiest of situations by whatever means necessary: an inebriating cocktail, a sobering concoction, a gentle indicator toward a finer point of etiquette and, if necessary, a well-placed bullet or two from a service revolver. Gentlemen do have an unerring tendency to land themselves in trouble, often in the most bizarre of circumstances and, when nothing else will quite fit the bill, a Mark VI Webley has an eloquence all of its own.

Valets are a varied group. If they are ex-servicemen, their STR, CON, and DEX will be average or higher. All will have high INT and POW in order to 'motivate' their gentlemen. Their APP is likely to be average or below, particularly if they are of a pugilistic inclination. EDU and SIZ may be average or slightly below.

Occupation Skills: Accounting, Craft (Cooking), Drive Auto, Etiquette, Fast Talk, Firearms (Handgun), Firearms (Rifle/Shotgun), Mechanical Repair. A Valet's Credit Rating will not be higher than 40%.

Recommended Personal Interest Skills: Fighting (Boxing), Charm, Electrical Repair, First Aid, Listen, Ride, Stealth, Swim, Throw, Track.

Credit Rating: 20-40

Occupation Skill Points: EDU x2 + either DEX x2 or STR x2

• NEW AND MODIFIED SKILLS •

BOXING, ETIQUETTE, AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Fighting (Brawl): Boxing (05%)

Boxing is a formal sport governed by the Marquis of Queensbury rules. Although devised in 1865 by Welshman John Graham Chambers, the rules were endorsed by John Douglas, 9th Marquis of Queensbury, and published in 1867. They were adopted by the United States and Canada in 1889. Boxing is a trained specialism of the Brawl skill, denoting that the character has trained under the Marquess of Queensbury rules. As a result they will always enter physical combat with a sense of fair play. Whilst the skill remains the same in all aspects, having been trained in pugilism the character may benefit from these optional enhancements (at the Keeper's discretion):

- **Avoid Grapple:** When being grappled in a fighting manoeuvre, the character's Build is considered 1 higher, reflecting their speed and nimbleness.
- **Knockdown:** The first successful Extreme success will knock the target down and provide an opportunity to employ a strategy alternative to violence to resolve

the situation. The first Knockdown always disarms an opponent. The weapon is dropped rather than being seized by the attacker. Knockdowns always cause 1D4 hit points of damage plus the attacker's damage bonus. A character cannot act in the combat round in which he or she was knocked down.

- **On the Ropes:** every subsequent Hard success will cause further Knockdowns.
- **Knockout:** Knockouts occur on a critical roll of 01-05% or on the number of Knockdowns achieved, depending on the target's CON. Targets with a CON between 40-50% will be knocked out on a third Knockdown; targets with a CON between 51-70% will be knocked out on a fourth Knockdown; targets with a CON between 71-80% will be knocked out on a fifth Knockdown. Targets with a CON above 80% cannot be Knocked-out through a series of Knockdowns.

1920s Boxing

Boxing during the 1920s is internationally popular. Notable boxers of the period include American World Heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey, who dominates the sport from 1914 until 1923, World Lightweight Champion Benny Leonard, World Featherweight Champion Louis 'Kid' Kaplan, and World Flyweight Champion Pancho Villa. Successful British boxers include Teddy Baldock, Nipper Pat Daley, and Ted 'Kid' Lewis.

During the early 20th century, and as a result of Russian and Eastern European immigration between 1880 and 1914, many boxers emerge in Britain from the so-called 'Jewish' East End. Jewish participation in British boxing is significant both on the canvas and in the sport's promotion and management.

Etiquette (05%)

Understanding the norms, practices and relations existing within a society or social group or class and behaving accordingly marks one's understanding of etiquette. It is a measure of a character's capacity to read the requirements of a particular social situation and respond in a manner that is advantageous. Being skilled in Etiquette enables the character to blend in at functions, parties and civic events, and to gauge the correct manner in which to acknowledge, address and respond to one's social betters and one's inferiors.

Successful Etiquette rolls can be used, for example, to bluff one's way into upper class gatherings, to gain access to gentleman's clubs of which one is not a member, and to secure interviews with characters above one's station.

A successful Etiquette roll will also provide a bonus die to Charm, Fast Talk and Persuade. However, a failed Etiquette roll will confer a penalty die on subsequent Charm, Fast Talk and Persuade rolls to simulate an unpardonable faux pas.

Opposing skill/Difficulty level: See the Charm skill in the Call of Cthulhu rulebook.

Pushing Examples: Overly flattering the target; exaggerating one's own self-importance; intimating a social connection with the target.

Sample Consequences of failing a Pushed roll: The target takes offence and you are removed from the club; you cause a minor scandal; you are excluded from future social events.

Art and Craft (Photography) (05%)

The Art and Craft (Photography) skill indicates a character's ability to use both still and motion cameras, to develop exposed film correctly, and to produce prints of a quality that can be used as evidence in investigations or negotiations. The development of miniature cameras with high-speed lenses like the German-manufactured Ermanox (1924) and Leica (1925) enable characters to capture outdoor images using short exposure times and take photographs indoors with available light. Such cameras are also instrumental in the rise of photojournalism during the 1920s and influential on improvements in crime, sport and scientific photography.

Opposing skill/Difficulty level:

- Regular difficulty: Taking and developing a photograph of the subject.
- Hard difficulty: Taking a photograph in difficult conditions, such as on a particularly bright or dull day, in fading light or by torchlight, or when the subject is trying not to have his photograph taken.

Pushing Examples: Taking additional photographs, taking a photograph in a hurry, taking the time to properly light the subject or set the camera up on a stable platform.

Sample Consequences of failing a Pushed roll: The photograph is over-exposed and does not develop properly; the entire film is ruined; the subject is portrayed unflatteringly. If an insane investigator fails a pushed roll, he or she accidentally captures something otherworldly on the photograph, such as a ghost or some horror from beyond.

• NOTABLE PEOPLE • IN 1920S LONDON

Aitken, Willian Maxwell, 1st Baron Beaverbrook (1879-1964)

After making an early fortune in Canada, Aitken moved to London where he acquired both the London Evening Standard and the Daily and Sunday Express. By the 1920s he was the 'First Baron of Fleet Street', and one of the wealthiest and most influential men in England.

Alington, the Reverend Cyril (1872-1955)

Headmaster of Eton College from 1917-33. Renowned for being talented in almost everything he turned his hand to, Alington was an accomplished cricketer, classicist, composer and writer (he wrote more than 50 books), as well as being described as "extraordinarily handsome". He appeared on the cover of Time magazine in 1931.

Astor, Nancy (1875-1964)

The first female member of Parliament, for the Conservative party, Nancy was also one of the foremost society hostesses of her age and her dinner parties were known for the eclectic group of people she invited. Investigators with charm, manners and the wit to tell an interesting story might well find themselves asked along and seated next to some of the most famous people in Britain – a useful way for Keepers to introduce characters to high society.

Baldwin, Stanley (1867-1947)

Conservative Prime Minister from 1923-4, 1924-29 and again 1935-7.

Balfour, Arthur (1848-1930)

A major force in British politics, Balfour was Prime Minister between 1902-5. Although he left government in 1919, he returned as Lord President of the Council for the Conservative government of 1925-29.

Bankhead, Tallulah (1902-1968)

An American actress and bon vivant. In 1923, she made her debut on the London stage at Wyndham's Theatre. In London she was to appear in over a dozen plays in the next eight years including, most famously, *The Dancers*. She was famous not only as an actress but also for her many affairs. By the end of the decade, she was one of the West End's best-known and most notorious celebrities, perhaps best known for a show-stopping combination of performing a cartwheel at the drop of a hat and never wearing underwear.

**Buchan, John,
1st Baron Tweedsmuir (1875-1940)**

Famous writer and MP, John Buchan worked as a correspondent for *The Times* and as an intelligence officer for the army in France during the Great War. Later became an MP during the 1920s. His books, especially the adventures of Richard Hannay, are well worth reading for players wanting a feel for the era.

Chanel, Coco (1883-1971)

Probably the most famous fashion designer of her era, her style of loose-fitting clothing allowing ease of movement for women was the defining look of the postwar period of female emancipation. Moved to London in 1924 when she began an affair with the Duke of Westminster, which lasted until at least 1930. As a result of this, when streetlamps were introduced to the Duke's lands in Mayfair later in the decade they were decorated with the interlocking 'CC' Chanel logo.

Christie, Agatha (1890-1976)

Possibly the most famous writer of mysteries in the world, Christie's first novel was *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, printed in 1921. In 1926 she vanished for eleven days before being found in Buxton – she gave no explanation and her disappearance has never been solved. In the latter part of the decade she was involved in several archaeological digs in the middle east, where she met her second husband, Max Malloran. Her autobiographical book *Come, Tell Me How You Live* is recommended reading for any keeper wanting to run archaeological adventures in this period.

Churchill, Winston (1874-1965)

During the 1920s, Churchill was firstly Minister for war (1919 – 21) and then Chancellor of the Exchequer (1924 – 29). A mixture of bravery, wit, intelligence and oratorical power mixed with bouts of depression and rudeness, Churchill

remained popular with the British public if not with colleagues in Parliament. During the 1930's his support for Indian self-rule and support for Edward VIII saw him marginalised until the outbreak of World War 2.

Coward, Noel (1899-1973)

A noted playwright, composer, actor and wit, Coward opened his first London show (*I'll Leave it to You*) at the New Theatre in 1920 and achieved his first great success with *The Vortex* in 1924, which he wrote and played the lead in. He wrote and produced dozens of shows during the twenties and thirties, despite a collapse in 1926 resulting in him taking an extended rest-cure in Hawaii. His plays were often scandalous, dealing with free love and drug-taking amongst the wealthy.

Croft, Henry (1862-1930)

The original Pearly King, Croft took an East End tradition of sewing old buttons onto clothes and made himself an entire suit covered in them to draw attention to his charitable fundraising activities. The look caught on and organised pearly charitable societies sprang up throughout the district.

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan (1859-1930)

Easily the most famous writer of his day, best known for his creation Sherlock Holmes who he continued to write throughout his life (*The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* appeared in 1927). In later life Conan Doyle was involved in the spiritualist movement and was also fooled by the Cottingley fairies hoax.

Edward, Prince of Wales (1894-1972)

Later King Edward VIII. After serving in the War with bravery, Edward was popular with the British people and regarded as the most eligible bachelor in the world during the 1920s. A notorious womaniser, Edward finally caused a scandal and had to abdicate the throne in 1936 when he decided to marry Wallace Simpson, an American divorcee.

**Grosvenor, Hugh Richard Arthur,
2nd Duke of Westminster (1879-1953)**

Second richest man in Britain and the largest landowner in London (including large parts of Mayfair and Belgravia), Hugh ('Bendor' to friends and family) served with considerable distinction in Egypt during the Great War, receiving the DSO for bravery. During the late 1920s and 1930s he was associated with anti-Semitic groups like the Right Club.

Fields, Gracie (1878-1979)

One of the biggest stars of stage and screen in Britain in the twenties and thirties, Gracie appeared in stage revues from an early age and came to wide attention in *Mr Tower of London* in 1923, after which her career took off rapidly. Her persona of an ordinary working-class Northern Girl ensured her rapport with audiences, and her comic monologues and songs played to packed theatres and cinemas nationwide for much of the next two decades. She was the highest-paid entertainer in Britain during the depression. Her most famous song was 'Sally', which inspired a film (*Sally In Our Alley*) in 1931.

George V (1865-1936)

"His Majesty George V, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India". Changed his family name from Saxe-Coburg Gotha to Windsor during the Great War to avoid suspicions of German sympathies, as he was cousin of the Kaiser. During the 1920s King George played an active role in government, offering advice to Prime Ministers and calling them to account for what he saw as poor decisions.

Hitchcock, Alfred (1899-1980)

Entered the film industry at the age of 21 when he joined Islington Studios in 1920. Directed his first film in 1925, and by the age of 30 was probably the most important film director in England.

Joynson-Hicks, Sir William (1865-1932)

Often known as "Jix", Joynson-Hicks was Conservative Home Secretary between 1924 and 1929, in which position he used his powers to crack down on what he saw as the criminality, licentiousness and social decay of the 'roaring twenties', often directly ordering the police to raid nightclubs. He was a major supporter of the Equal Franchise Act that gave all women the vote in 1928, which ironically led to him losing his seat the next year as the votes of newly enfranchised women led to the election of a Labour government.

Macdonald, Ramsay (1866-1937)

Leader of the Labour party from 1922-31, and was Prime Minister in both 1924 and between 1929-35. A noted orator and pacifist, his support for the League of Nations was instrumental in the foundation of the organisation.

Maskelyne, Neville (1863 – 24) and Jasper (1902-73)

Son and grandson of the famous stage magician John Maskelyne, the two ran Maskelynes Theatre of Mystery in St George's Hall on Regent Street, which was the most popular and famous magic theatre in the country. The Maskelyne family claimed to trace their ancestry to Nevil Maskelyne, Astronomer Royal to the court of George III, although there is no evidence for this.

McManning, Edward "Eddie Manning" (1889-1931)

Described by Scotland Yard as "the dope king of London", Manning was born in Jamaica to a wealthy family and travelled to London to study. There he fell in with notorious drug dealer and madam Zenovia Iassonides. Manning was repeatedly arrested for drug, theft and firearms offences, but only ever received short sentences.

Meyrick, Kate (1875-1933)

Known as "The Queen of Nightclubs" or just "The Queen of Clubs", Kate came to London from Ireland in 1919 and became a successful nightclub owner and promoter for most of the 1920s. Owner of several nightclubs, her 43 Club at 43 Gerard St. was the most successful and notorious nightclub of roaring twenties London and allegedly the centre of the London cocaine trade. Kate was jailed in 1928 after it emerged she had been bribing policemen from the Vice Squad not to raid her clubs.

Mosley, Oswald (1896-1980)

After serving without distinction in the war, Mosley became a Member of Parliament for the Conservative Party in 1918 at the age of 21. He was quickly recognised for his remarkable public speaking and self-confidence, but fell out with the Conservatives and ran as an Independent in 1922 and 1923, retaining his seat both times. In 1924 he joined the Labour party and identified himself with the left wing. Lost his seat in 1924 but returned to Parliament as a Labour MP in 1926. He became a Minister in 1929 but resigned in 1930 after his 'Mosley Memorandum' on unemployment was rejected. After touring Europe he founded the British Union of Fascists in 1932 and became a vocal supporter of both Hitler and Mussolini, a move that proved the undoing of his political career several years later.

Norman, Sir Montagu (1871-1950)

An influential banker, and governor of the Bank of England between 1920 – 1944, Montagu was noted for his raffish

appearance and eccentric behaviour, as he was given to wearing a large hat and cape, was interested in Spiritualism and claimed to be able to walk through walls. As governor of the Bank of England, he once said that he did not read finance reports and simply ran the economy “on instinct”.

Novello, Ivor (1893-1951)

A popular singer, songwriter and actor, Novello rose to fame during the war and spent much of the 1920s pursuing a film career (including two films with Alfred Hitchcock). Secretly homosexual, his matinee idol looks made him a hit with women.

Olivier, Lawrence (1907-1989)

Widely regarded as the greatest English-speaking actor of the 20th century, Olivier’s career began as a bit-part actor with the Birmingham Repertory Theatre in 1926 but by 1927 he had progressed to playing Hamlet and Macbeth. His first London role was at the Apollo theatre in 1928 and his breakthrough role was in the 1930 production of Noel Coward’s *Private Lives*.

Spilsbury, Bernard (1877-1947)

The first great professional in the field of forensic pathology, Bernard Spilsbury rose to fame during the Crippen murder case in 1910 (in which he identified the victim as Crippen’s wife from a small piece of skin). He appeared for the prosecution in many famous cases during the 1920s, although his dogmatic belief in his own infallibility led him to make serious errors of judgement at times.

Swinburne, Nora (1902-2000)

Born Leonora Mary Johnson, Nora took to the stage at the age of 14 and in 1919 had her breakthrough role in *Tilly of Bloomsbury* at the Apollo Theatre, London. Regarded as one of the great beauties of her age, Nora was a regular on stage and screen (and at fashionable parties) throughout the twenties and thirties.

Lloyd George, David (1863-1945)

Member of Parliament and leader of the Liberal party, Lloyd George was Prime Minister from 1916-1922 and was for a

long time wildly popular for his leadership of the country during the war (one Conservative MP commented that “he can be dictator for life if he likes” in 1919). However, after it was revealed he had been selling knighthoods and peerages he lost the 1922 General Election due to fears he was trying to install a permanent power bloc in the House of Lords. Although he never again returned to power, he remained a major figure in British Politics until the 1930s.

Thorndyke, Sybil (1882-1976)

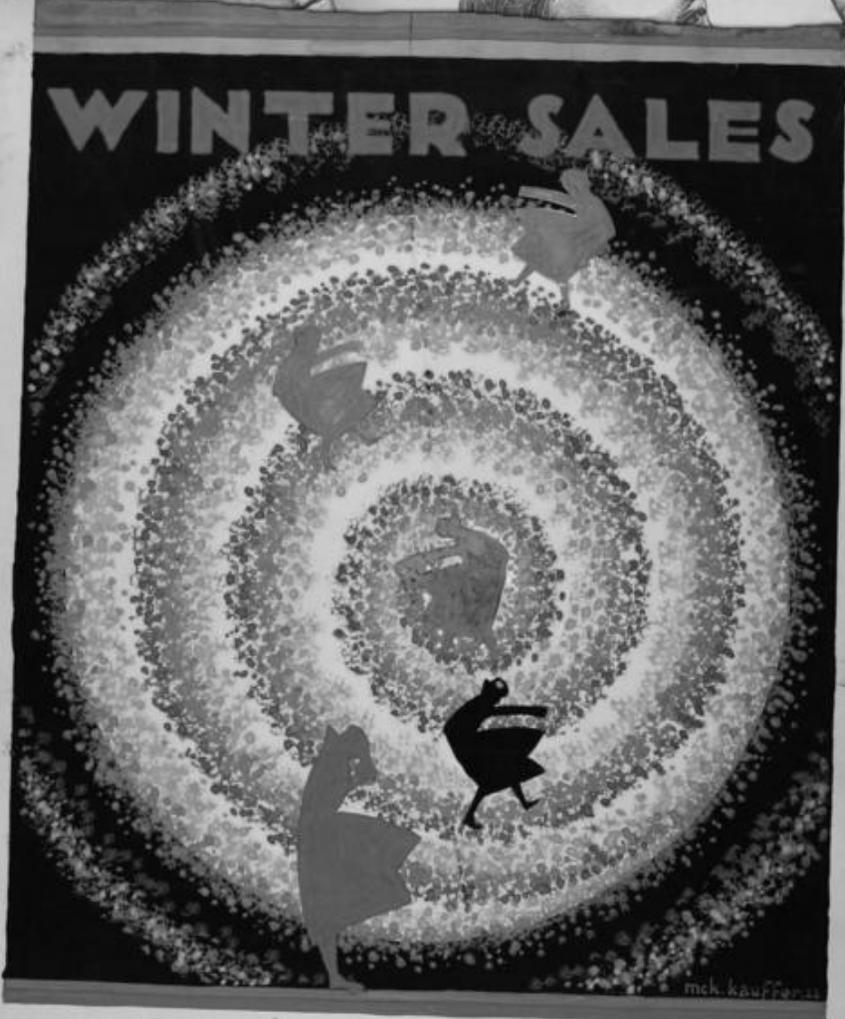
One of the leading classical and character actresses of the day, Thorndyke made regular appearances in serious drama and Shakespeare in both film and on the London stage. Left-wing and pacifistic in her opinions, when the General Strike of 1926 closed the theatre at which she was performing she still vocally supported the strikers. Despite her opinions she was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 1931.

Wodehouse, Pelham Grenville (‘Plum’) (1881-1975)

Prolific author, best known for the Jeeves & Wooster novels and short stories, Wodehouse was also a playwright and lyricist who was part author and writer of 15 plays and of 250 lyrics for some 30 musical comedies. He wrote the lyrics for *Show Boat* (1927) and the Gershwin musical *Rosalie* (1928), and collaborated on a musical version of *The Three Musketeers* (1928).

Woolf, Virginia (1882-1941)

One of the most celebrated English novelists, Woolf set up the Hogarth Press (with her husband, Leonard) and worked for the *Times Literary Supplement* as a critic. Her works included *To the Lighthouse*, *Orlando*, *Mrs Dalloway*, *A Room of One’s Own*, and *The Waves* amongst others. She was part of the Bloomsbury Group, a circle of intellectuals, writers and artists which included E. M. Forster, Lytton Strachey, Vita Sackville-West and John Maynard Keynes.



ARE
BEST REACHED BY THE
UNDERGROUND



HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

NAME	ADDRESS
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4



PUBLIC BUILDINGS
HOSPITALS

NAME	ADDRESS
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
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St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4

STREET NAME	ADDRESS
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
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St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4
St. Dunstons Church	15, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4



Circles are drawn at intervals of One Mile from Charing Cross Station

SHOPPING IN LONDON

“In a town like London there are always plenty of not quite certifiable lunatics walking the streets, and they tend to gravitate towards bookshops, because a bookshop is one of the few places where you can hang about for a long time without spending any money.”

– George Orwell, *Bookshop Memories*, 1936

• MONEY AND SHOPPING •

Britain in the 1920s still used its pre-decimal currency (it did not change until 1971), which was comprised of pounds, shillings and pence. There were twelve pennies to the shilling and twenty shillings to the pound.

Coins in circulation were copper – 1/4d (a farthing), 1/2d (ha’penny) and 1d (a penny), and silver – 3d (threepence or a thrupenny bit), 6d (sixpence), 2s 6d (a half crown) and 5d (a crown). Gold coinage had been officially withdrawn from circulation and although some gold sovereigns (£1) are still used they are rare. As a general rule for paper money, only £1 notes (quid) are in common circulation. £5 notes are rare enough for smaller shopkeepers to ask questions or ask for some form of identification before accepting them, and larger notes (£10, £50 and £100 notes all existed) are usually only used for major transactions.

One amount sometimes quoted is a ‘Guinea’ (Gn). This is one pound and one shilling and is often used by high-class and expensive shops and professionals like doctors and lawyers because 20 guineas is a nice round number but allows them to add that little bit extra onto their bill.

THE ECONOMY DURING THE 1920S

Despite the turmoil caused by the Great War, Britain was still the richest country in the world during the twenties, although the United States was catching up fast. The exchange rate between the pound and dollar dropped from \$4.86 to the pound in 1920 to \$4 in 1930. This largely reflected the growth of New York as

a financial sector – during the war many countries had been reluctant to trust London with their investments as they feared the risk of bombing or invasion from Europe and so transferred their holdings across the Atlantic, meaning the power of the US economy grew in comparison to the British.

However, American investigators relocating to London will still find themselves surprised how poor they feel – things that might cost them a dollar in New York could well cost ten shillings or a pound in London. Keepers might want to inflict a penalty on Credit Rating score of visitors to reflect this.

The British economy recovered well during the decade and the City of London maintained a pre-eminent position, although it was no longer immune to shocks caused by international forces. The withdrawal of American capital from London due to the Wall Street Crash in 1929 forced Britain to abandon the Gold Standard in 1931 and caused an economic crisis, leading to a depression in Britain during the 1930s.

• FASHION •

Though London was the heart of the Empire it was not the heart of fashion. Fashion trends and styles were still mostly drawn from Paris. The interconnected nature of the Empire and the growing ability of the world to pass information introduced a different way of shopping and following fashion.

Those who could would obtain tailored clothing made in the current style. Emerging middle class and more affluent blue-collared workers were able to buy facsimiles of fashionable styles ready-made off the peg for the first time. The poorer members of society dressed quite differently, often relying on hand-me-downs, second hand clothes from charity, and out of fashion hard-wearing woollen and cotton clothing.

Investigators are assumed to know how to dress in an appropriate way for their credit rating. Remember this was the decade of the bright young things and the flourish of colourful American fashions were felt for the first time. If an investigator

chooses not to dress appropriately, even scandalously, they may find interaction with others comes at a penalty assigned by the Keeper. Although Alastair Crowley, convinced he could turn himself invisible, once walked through the Café Royal wearing a mustard-yellow robe covered in magic symbols. When everyone politely ignored him, he took this as proof he could not be seen.

What's in a Hat?

A hat was a common sight on a gentleman of the time, and it often said a great deal about social class. The top hat was a sign of social standing and wealth. The bowler hat was often seen as the sign of the banker, the clerk or the manager and a common item of clothing for the middle class man. The working class man wore a flat cap, often to be doffed in the presence of his betters.

In the country, more relaxed cloth caps of fine tweeds were worn by all and the stuffiness of the city was left behind.

Town and Country

Formal dress, country wear and leisurewear had different rules. For instance, messing about on boats would be done in a white shirt, blazer and light trouser whilst a day at one of the big races would involve a Morning Suit.

Country dress was different again. Those who had the luxury of attending a Country Estate would wear tweeds, tailored if you could afford it, to mess about in the country air and enjoy the relaxing pursuits of riding, hunting, fishing and the inevitable engagement to a second cousin twice removed via a meddling aunt.

• NOTABLE LONDON SHOPS •

COCO CHANEL (MAYFAIR)

Female investigators wanting to wear high-quality couture whilst hunting cultists will have to rely upon imports from the great Parisian and Italian fashion houses until June 1927, when Coco Chanel opens her store in London's Mayfair.

FORTNUM & MASON (PICCADILLY)

Possibly the most famous provisioner in the world, Fortnum's was founded by William Fortnum and Hugh Mason in 1705 with money William had made from selling half-used candles acquired in his role as a footman at Buckingham Palace. Fortnum's supplies high-quality foodstuffs both from their shop and by shipping to anywhere in the world. During the 1920s, they had a department dedicated to 'Expeditions' and supplied hampers to the 1922 Everest expedition (which included 60 tins of quail in foie gras and four cases of champagne, which might explain why the expedition failed to climb the mountain) and also to Howard Carter's dig for Tutankhamen's tomb, where antiquities discovered were packed in Fortnum's champagne cases for safe-keeping.

HARRODS (ST JAMES)

Possibly the most famous department store in the world (and certainly the biggest store in London), Harrods famously claims to be able to supply anything legal (their motto is "Omnia Omnibus Ubique" – "All Things for All People, Everywhere") and during the 1920s this claim may well be true. The decade sees an era of rapid expansion for Harrods, including extensive refurbishment work and the introduction of new departments; including an 'aviation department', which could not only sell an aeroplane, but also the lessons to fly it and a hangar to put it in.

Patronised by the wealthy and fashionable, the store is extremely opulent. The exterior is designed to reflect a palace and covered with terracotta tiles and art nouveau windows, and the interior has many themed rooms, including an Egyptian room, a meat hall with marble floors and Victorian friezes, and a huge tea room. In 1927 Harrods and Selfridges had a bet for who could make the biggest profits; Harrods won, and after that date a solid silver replica of Harrods sits in a display case on the ground floor.

JAMES LOCK & CO. (ST JAMES)

Famously, a postcard from overseas addressed to ‘The best hatmakers in the world, London’ was promptly and unquestioningly delivered to the door of James Lock & Co of No. 6, St James. Established in 1676, Lock’s supplies all sorts of hats to the finer sort of people, from hunting and fishing wear, to formal hats and military dress.

JAMES PURDEY & SON (SOUTH AUDLEY ST)

Makers of the very finest shotguns, Purdey holds the Royal Warrant for supplying guns to King George V and his two sons (later Kings Edward VIII and George VI). Gentlemen investigators (and those who aspire to being gentlemen) would surely not shoot at blasphemous horrors from beyond with anything but a Purdey.

During the 1920s the shop is run by Athol Purdey and his sons (James and Tom, who had both been seriously injured in France during the war). Athol dies in 1929 and James and Tom take over the running of the shop.

LILYWHITES (PICCADILLY)

London’s premier sporting goods shop, Lilywhites was founded in 1863 and moved to prestigious premises on the corner of Piccadilly Circus in 1925. It sells the very finest in sports clothing and equipment at premium prices.

OXFORD STREET (MAYFAIR)

London’s main shopping destination for ordinary people, Oxford Street is lined from end to end on both sides with shops, stores and boutiques. In *The London Scene* (1931), Virginia Woolf describes it thus: “Oxford Street, it goes without saying, is not London’s most distinguished thoroughfare. In Oxford Street, there are too many bargains, too many sales; too many goods marked down to one and eleven three which last week were two and six. The buying and selling is blatant and raucous.”

SAVILLE ROW (MAYFAIR)

Famed worldwide as the home of the bespoke suit, Saville Row is a catch-all term for the finest tailoring in London. Although a number of fine tailors are not based on Saville Row

itself, everyone will know what is meant by the name. Male investigators who wish to set a certain dash in their tailoring can choose their tailors based upon the style of those they dress:

Anderson & Sheppard: Firm favourites with dapper Hollywood stars including Rudolph Valentino, Douglas Fairbanks Sr, Marlene Dietrich and Noel Coward.

Gieves: Based at No. 1 Saville Row, Gieves tailor military uniforms, including those of King George V, the Prince of Wales and the Dukes of York, Gloucester and Kent and the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, the closest Royal bodyguard.

Henry Poole & Co.: They claim to be the oldest tailor on Saville row, having opening in 1806. Create suits for royalty, and the shop displays Royal warrants from many crowned heads, including some that no longer exist by the 1920s including, amongst others, King Edward VII, the Crown Prince of Prussia, the King of the Belgians, the Khedive of Egypt, Tsar Alexander II of Russia, King Umberto I of Italy and the Emperor of Mexico. Emperor Hirohito of Japan ordered a ‘westernised suit’ from Henry Poole & Co. for his state visit to Britain in 1921.

H. Huntsman & Co.: Make bespoke hunting clothing.

Norton & Sons: Primarily a sporting tailor, Norton & Sons make “sharply cut clothing for rugged and robust gentlemen”, including Winston Churchill and Baron Manfred von Richthofen. Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter wear Norton & Son suits during their excavation of the Valley of the Kings.

SELFRIDGES (OXFORD ST)

London’s ‘other’ big store, Selfridges is only half the size of Harrods but extremely competitive. During the 1920s the store grows rapidly and doubles in size, and actively pursues Harrods customers. Investigators may find they can get the same service and goods at Selfridges as Harrods, at a lower price.

THE BURLINGTON ARCADE (MAYFAIR)

One of those places where the best people go to shop; the Burlington Arcade is Britain’s oldest shopping arcade, having

opened in 1819, and links Piccadilly to Burlington Gardens. It offers jewellers, antique dealers, tailors, even makers of chandeliers and more.

The Burlington Arcade also employs the world's smallest private police force, the Beadles, who wear frock coats and top hats and sit in large armchairs at each end of the arcade, strictly enforcing the arcade rules of no whistling, singing, playing of musical instruments, running, babies' prams, carrying of large parcels or opening of umbrellas.

WILLIAM EVANS (ST JAMES)

Gunsmiths. William Evans does not only supply shotguns, as Purdeys do, but also other firearms including hunting rifles (bolt-action only) and pistols, plus hunting clothing and equipment.

AUCTION HOUSES AND SALE ROOMS

Auction houses and salerooms abound in London, and visiting an auction is a popular entertainment for an afternoon even amongst those who never buy anything. The four most famous auction houses are Sotheby's (specialise in books, manuscripts and prints), Christie's (specialising in fine art), Bonhams (fine art and antiques) and Phillips, Son & Neale. A visit to an auction and the acquisition of an unusual antique or book is a common theme in Lovecraftian and similar literature, and the 1920s was a rich period for sales and acquisitions.

Thanks to the imposition of Death Duty in 1894 followed by the loss of many heirs to major estates in the war, the decade was an era that saw many collections broken up and sold. Antiques, books and artworks that had been privately held for centuries made their way onto the market – a ready-made source of stories and adventures for the imaginative Keeper.



Running the Auction

The following rules provide Keepers with a guide to running real-time auctions in *Call of Cthulhu*. In game terms, an auction can be imagined as being very similar to a duel, using Credit Rating and bluffing in place of weapons.

To run an auction, the Keeper should first make a note of how much disposable income each bidder has, and how much they are willing to spend on any particular item. The Keeper should also note the Credit Rating, Persuade and Psychology ratings of each participant.

Setting a Budget

The Keeper sets the budget for an auction on behalf of all the NPCs. The Investigators must declare their own budgets. A budget covers every lot at an auction – it is the maximum amount of disposable income that a character can spend, in total, over the course of the auction. This figure is usually based on a character's Credit Rating, and predetermined income and assets.

Regular Lots

Any character wishing to bid on more than one lot at auction must nominate an amount that they are willing to spend on a single lot. This figure is worked out by dividing the budget by the number of lots the character intends to bid on.

If a character loses an auction, they may recalculate this figure based on the remaining budget and the number of remaining lots.

Priority Lots

Each NPC and each participating investigator must specify a single priority lot from those on the auction list. This is an auction lot that they are willing to acquire at any cost. When the priority lot appears, the character is no longer restricted by their single lot budget.

Extending Credit

There may come a point near the end of the bidding when one or more parties has exhausted their budget, and seeks to extend their credit. They may do this by passing a Hard Credit Rating test, which cover them for the next bid.

Subsequent bids requires an Extreme Credit Rating check.

Investigators who extend their credit in this manner and win an item, but who subsequently find that they are unable to find the funds, suffer a –D6 penalty to their Credit Rating.

The Auction Sequence

To run an auction, the Keeper takes on the role of the auctioneer (if he has a gavel, now's the time to bring it out of the props box), and must also make tests on behalf of the bidding NPCs. For each lot up for sale, the auction overall follows a strict sequence:

- 1. Determine Opening Bid:** The opening bid starts the auction, and launches the first Auction Round.
- 2. Auction Rounds:** Each Auction Round follows its own sub-sequence, as detailed below.
- 3. Determine Winner:** The last man standing, with the highest bid, wins the lot!

Determine Opening Bid

The opening bid is necessary to start an auction, but the first person to bid betrays their weakness – they are showing the other bidders that they are eager to win the item.

The Keeper, as auctioneer, announces a starting price for the item, which is somewhere near the item's guide price. Every participant then makes a POW test to resist being the first to bid. If anyone fails, they instantly bid and match the amount requested by the auctioneer. If more than one person fails, the character with the lowest POW out of those participants bids first.

If everyone passes the POW test, the auctioneer drops the opening bid amount by up to 20% of the item's guide price. Another round of POW tests is called for, this time with a -10 penalty on the roll. This sequence continues until someone cracks – the POW penalty is increased by -10 for each round that no-one bids.

Finally, the character who makes the opening bid shows their hand early. They incur a -5 penalty on all Persuade

and Psychology tests they are required to make for the remainder of the auction.

Note that in the unlikely event that everyone passes their POW checks every round, the auctioneer will withdraw the item from sale when it reaches an opening value of less than 20% of its guide price. In this instance, any participating character that has the item listed as a priority lot must bid – if there is more than one such character, the one with the lowest POW automatically bids first (dice off if there are several qualifying characters).

Auction Rounds

After the opening bid is placed, the auction round proper begins. Every participant, in order of descending DEX, gets a turn to bid, or abstain from the round.

A character who abstains can, at the end of the round, nominate a single other character who has placed a bid, and observe them carefully with a Regular Psychology test, or a Hard Spot Hidden test. If passed, the Keeper is required to give that character some indication of how close the bidder is to reaching his or her budget limit. Something along the lines of ‘they looked nervous about that last bid’, or ‘they seem cool as a cucumber’.

Alternatively, a character who abstains can attempt to bluff their confidence. By passing a Regular Psychology test or a Hard Credit Rating test, they can give the appearance of cool no matter how they are feeling. This causes any character who tries to observe them to suffer a further -20 penalty on their Psychology or Spot Hidden rolls. A character who has tested to extend their credit may not attempt to bluff.

If everyone abstains in a round, then the auctioneer will begin the Determine Winner sequence, below. Assuming someone bids, the round ends and a new round begins.

Determine Winner

In a round where every bidder abstains from placing a bid, the auctioneer begins the sequence to sell the item. This takes the form of three quick-fire auction rounds, which the Keeper begins by announcing “Going once”; “Going twice”, and “For the third and last time...”

These rounds are run just like a normal auction round, except the Keeper must insist that each player announces his actions immediately. Any pause before declaring ‘bid’, ‘bluff’, ‘observe’, or ‘extend credit’ results in that investigator doing nothing. If, by the end of “For the third and last time...” everyone has abstained, then the gavel is brought down, and the Keeper announces the item sold to the current highest bidder.

Optional Rules

Leading the Bidding

If a particularly valuable item isn’t selling well (i.e. the price isn’t rising very quickly), then a virgin bid may suddenly be made from an unexpected quarter. This is actually a false bidder, placed in the audience by the auction house to bump the value of high-ticket items. The auction house will not resort to this underhand tactic often, and usually only if an item is barely meeting its guide price, or perhaps has a reserve on it that it is failing to reach.

A leading bid will always be the first bid in a round, taking everyone by surprise. This tactic offers the Keeper a nice side-plot, as the investigators later rush to discover the identity of the previously unnoticed bidder.

The Drop

If an investigator observes that a rival is close to their budget limit, then they can give the signal to another investigator to make a false bid, pushing the price up higher, putting ‘the drop’ on their rival. This is a risky business, as the price could end up beyond their own budget, or the second investigator could inadvertently buy the lot and have effectively bid against his colleague.

This tactic is effectively the same as leading the bidding, except that there is no restriction on when the bid can be made – the second investigator simply joins the auction round as a new bidder. Note that, as communication is severely restricted during bidding, this tactic should be agreed on before entering the auction room – this probably means that the investigators enter separately, and sit far apart.

OPEN AIR MARKETS

Many of London's medieval markets have survived the changes of the city and prosper in the 20th century. Alongside the great wholesale food markets that supply shops, large houses, hotels and restaurants and which include Covent Garden (still a working fruit-and-flower market until the 1970s), the meat market at Smithfield, the food markets at Spitalfields to the east of the City and Borough to the south, the flower market at Columbia Road in Islington, and Billingsgate Fish Market on the Thames, there are many others, more eclectic and less salubrious.

Open-air markets are unreliable by their nature. There is no guarantee that a trader will be there from one week to the next, and no way of knowing where their goods have come from. Buyers should beware before parting with much money for items of dubious or unknown provenance: they may not be what they seem.

A small number of London markets function under the ancient 'market overt' law: any goods bought or sold there between dawn and sunset, including stolen goods, become the legal property of the buyer. Caledonian Market, London's old cattle market in Islington, is the most famous market overt, and most of the illicit trading happens in the very early hours of the morning. Furniture, bric-a-brac, jewellery, books, paintings and antiques can all be had here, and if you find items for unexpectedly low prices then be warned they may be unexpectedly low quality.

Leadenhall Street Market stands at what was the epicentre of Roman London, selling food and more specialist items from specially built shops under a wrought-iron roof. Berwick Street

in Soho lies at the heart of London's rag trade and tailoring shops, and its stalls carry exotic fabrics and lace, odd offcuts and curious fashion items. Meanwhile to the west, Portobello Road Market hosts an eclectic mix of stalls amongst the fruit and veg, including a growing number of antiques traders.

• GOODS AND SERVICES • PRICE GUIDE

Shopping at Harrods

The prices that follow are those found in the 1929 Harrods catalogue. Keepers may be of a kindly nature and offer a reduced price for less reputable stores with a chance of failure for such obviously inferior products.

JEWELLERY DEPARTMENT

The finest diamonds from South African mines and gold from the colonies in a range of carats are available. Rings can be adjusted to your needs and engraved at your request, on site as you wait.

Wedding Ring, 22ct Gold, £0 60s 0d

Vanity Bag, 9ct gold, £37 0s 0d

Solid Gold Lip Salve Case, 9ct gold, £4 4s 0d

Solid Gold Cigarette case, £16 10s 0d

Gold Cufflinks, £0 17s 6d

9ct Gold Half Hunter Watch, £11 10s 0d

Folding Clock, £1 10s 0d

WELCOME TO LONDON, DEAR INVESTIGATORS!

There are many places to shop in London but the discerning shopper would choose one of our fine department stores such as Fortnum & Mason or the remarkable Harrods. Please feel free to browse our prices at your leisure and ask any of our department assistants for any help you should require.

If you wish, a copy of our catalogue can be provided to you. We deliver to most places in London, Kent and Essex by the following working day. If you wish to send our goods further afield to friend or family in the Empire or the Americas we ship weekly from our London warehouse. Most of our prices are in pounds, shilling and pence but as you would expect, for the discerning purchaser a few of our goods are in guineas.

CUTLERY DEPARTMENT

Although you are unlikely to need a spare fork, but a razor, fold away razor and pen knife are obviously necessary tools.

- Wilkinson's Men's Razor Kit, including 6 blades & stropp, £1 7s 6d
- Ladies Carmen Razor, £ 0 10s 6d
- Spare Blades for both £ 0 0s 6d
- Pocket Knife, £0 12s 6d
- Folding Fruit Knife, £ 0 8s 6d

"I'm sure that will come in handy."

The first portable, petrol-powered chainsaw was introduced by Festo in 1925, but was not widely available for sale. However, Andreas Stihl introduced the first mass-produced hand-held petrol-powered chainsaw in 1929, and his company began selling them shortly after. Should the investigators disturb a plague pit and bring the zombie hordes down upon Piccadilly, it might be necessary to test Harrod's legendary claim to be able to supply anything.

OPTICAL DEPARTMENT

Spectacles for reading, magnifiers, telescopes and compasses, all of them available to take away today.

- Tortoise Shell Spectacle Frame Glasses, £0 67s 6d
- Imitation Tortoise Shell Glasses, £ 0 37s 6d
- Gallery Oxford Gold Monocle, £ 0 21s 0d
- Silver Mounted Reading Glass 3ins, £0 33s 0d
- Triple Lenses Magnifier in Vulcanite, £ 0 3s 0d
- Telescope, £3 15s 0d
- Pocket Compass, with Gimbal, £2 5s 0d

PHOTOGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT

Harrods is proud to stock a wide variety of cameras, films and cines. We are happy to develop your photography for you or provide anything a budding photographer would need for their own darkroom. Harrods will develop film rolls within 24 hours and plates within 2 days at a cost of £0 2s 3d for a dozen shots.

- All Distance Ensign Box Camera, £1 5s 0d
- Ensign Speed Film Camera, £10 10s 0d
- Voigtländer roll film folding camera, £6 17s 6d
- Cine Kodak Model B, £25 0s 0d
- 100ft film, including development cost, £0 33s 0d
- Kodascope Model C projector, £18 0s 0d
- Kodak Film Developing Tank, £1 4s 0d
- Dark Room Lamps, £0 2s 6d
- Tripod, £0 8s 6d
- Kodak Film, £0 2s 6d

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

For any musician wishing to entertain their guests in the classical style, or perhaps modern jazz for the more adventurous gentleman?

- Steinway Miniature Grand, 276 guineas or 12 monthly payments of £26 11 6
- Clarinet, £1 5s 0d
- Portable Organ, £11 11s 0d
- Swanee Sax, £2 10s 0d
- Drum Set, £4 15s 0d

GRAMOPHONE DEPARTMENT

Should you wish to listen to the wondrous music of the halls or adventurous imports from the Americas we can serve your needs. May we also recommend you explore our range of wireless radios and enjoy the new and exciting BBC.

- Pixie Grippa portable Gramophone, £2 15s 0d
- Upright Grand Model Gramophone, £45 0s 0d
- 2 Valve Receiver Wireless, £6 0s 0d
- 4 Valve European range Wireless, £29 6s 0d

STATIONERY DEPARTMENT

Journals, pens and typewriters for your secretary, or son at university perhaps. I am afraid none of our typewriters come with a Mi-go typeface, sir.

- Drake Lever Filling Pen, £0 5s 6d
- Pocket Book, Leather Bound with Pencil, £ 0 38s 0d
- Remington Portable Typewriter, £12 10s 0d
- British Empire Standard Model Typewriter, £25 10s 0d

FANCY LEATHER DEPARTMENT

Made from cow hide, sir. More exotic leathers available on request.

Roomy Punch Shape Handbag, £ 0 40s 6d
Embroidered Pouchette, £0 45s 9d
Ladies Party Case, £ 0 73s 6d

TRUNK & DRESSING CASE DEPARTMENT

Travel well and travel in style with our range of cases. A full wardrobe case for your trip to the country and even camping equipment if you wanted to follow Mr Mosely to the seaside for the weekend.

'Pukka' Leather Suit Case, £0 82s 0d
'Pukka' Wardrobe Trunk, £14 5s 6d
Popular Motor Trunk, £7 7s 0d
'Oshkosh' Traveling Wardrobe trunk, £24 0s 0d
Attache Case, £0 16s 4d
Hat Case, £0 57s 6d
Cabin Bag, £0 55s 0d
Waterproof Holdall, £0 57s 0d
Document Case, £6 15s 0d
Man's Roll-Up Dressing Case, £0 65s 0d
Lady's Motor Case (Vanity case), £0 57s 6d

SADDLERY DEPARTMENT

A bullwhip, crop and flask for you sir, off to play polo? No sir, I have never heard of the Ghouls, are they an Indian team?

Polo Whip, £0 37s 6d
Hunting Flask, £0 50s 0d
Riding Crop, £ 0 35s 0d
Gentlemen's Riding Whip, £0 4s 6d

SPORTS & GAMES DEPARTMENTS

Shotgun, foldaway boat and a bow, you do look the outdoors type sir, yes the shotgun ammunition will work even if made damp sir. Why do you ask?

Stewarts's Famous Clubs, all clubs one price, £ 0 15s 6d
Cricket Bat, £ 0 25s 0d
Men's Hickory Bow, £0 38s 0d

12 Arrows, £0 5s 6d
Polo Stick, £0 9s 9d
Regulation Croquet Set, £4 10s 9d
Rowing Dinghy 5ft, £14 5s 0d
The Stowaway Folding Boat, £17 7s 0d
B.S.A. Shotgun, Ejector Model, £16 6s 0d
B.S.A. Air Rifle, £4 0s 0d
B.S.A. Air Pistol, £1 10s 0d
100 Shotgun Shells, £0 19s 6d

MOTOR ACCESSORIES AND CYCLES DEPARTMENT

A modern cycle for a ride around the park sir and a motorcycle for the weekend, wonderful choice. The Triumph is for the American lady you say? I am not surprised sir, not surprised at all.

Raleigh 3 speed Bike, £ 15 0s 0d
Acetylene Bike Lamp, £0 21s 0d
Norton 350 o.h.v Motorcycle, £68 0s 0d
Triumph 348 o.h.v Motorcycle £52 17s 6d

TURNERY DEPARTMENT

Camping equipment for the weekend sir, it will be a home from home. Could we offer you something from the famous 'X' brand?

Lunch & Tea Basket for six, £16 7s 6d
Senior Patrol Tent for four, £8 9s 3d
The 'X' Improved Compactum camping Bed, £0 58s 0d
The 'X' Folding Chair, £0 11s 6d
The 'X' Folding Table, £0 25s 0d
'Jaeger' Sleeping Bag, £ 0 80s 0d
The 'X' Combined Bath and Wash stands, £ 0 33s 0d

SAFE DEPOSIT SERVICE

Why run the risk of loss by fire, theft or cultist when you can be assured of absolute security in a Harrods safe deposit.

Deposit Box per annum, £ 2 5s 0d
Strong Room per annum, £30 0s 0d

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

A little illumination, gentlemen? No need for stumbling about in the dark.

Spotlight torch, £ 0 9s 6d

Portable Searchlight, £0 12s 6d

Electric Reading Light, £ 0 27s 6d

MOTOR HIRE DEPARTMENT

Harrods offers a comprehensive hire tariff, covering car hire in return for the writing of a monthly cheque. Weekly hire rates are £ 12 12s 8d and monthly are £ 63 0s 0d. A 30 horsepower Armstrong-Siddeley Saloon with driver at your service day or night for 70 guineas a month. If you prefer a daily rate, see below:

Daily Hire Rate

Hours	Miles	Cost
2	10	£1 1s 0d
3	30	£1 10s 0d
5	60	£2 12s 6d
10	100	£6 5s 0d
12	150	£8 2s 6d

MENSWEAR SECTION

Off the peg or made to measure, the choice is yours, sir. We follow all the styles; we even clean and press if you would like sir.

Mackintosh Coat, £0 42s 0d

Motor Cycling Suit, £0 52s 6d

Leather Motor Coat, £15 15s 0d

Chauffeurs' Outfit, £1 1s 0d

Dress Waistcoat, £0 30s 0d

Evening Dress Suit, 11 gn

Dinner Jacket Suit, 11 gn

Lounge Suits, 6 gn

Harris Tweeds, 8 gn

Morning Coat and Vest, 8 gn

Flannel Blazer Suit, £0 63s 0d

Dress Shirt, £ 0 10s 6d

Oxford Shirt, £1 5s 6d

Flannel Shirt, £0 15s 6d

Soft Shirt Collar, £0 1s 3d

Ven Heusen Stiff Collar, £0 18s 0d

Smoking Jacket, £0 63s 0d

Spats, £ 0 8s 6d

Smart Oxfords, £0 27s 6d

Dress Oxfords, £ 0 43s 0d

Curl Bowler, £0 25s 0d

Felt Hat, £ 0 25s 0d

'The Opera' Top Hat, £0 22s 6d

'The Anglesey' Silk Top Hat, £0 45s 0d



HAIRDRESSING SALONS

Ladies, has one too many hair-curling mishap done terrible damage to your hair? Worry not! Harrods has 47 cubicles offering expert hairdressing and a permanent wave par excellence! Gentlemen, I am afraid we do not offer an in-store service, however we recommend Geo F. Trumper on Curzon St. in Mayfair to you.

Bobbed Hair, 6 gn

Shingled Head, 3 gn

Full Head, 5 gn

Manicure £0 12 0

LADIES CLOTHING

We offer a range of off-the-peg for your staff, madam, and a selection of clothes and shoes for you from the fashion lines of Paris.

Simple Blouse £0 9s 8d
 Day frock £0 42s 0d
 Party frock £0 63s 0d
 Rain coat £0 23s 6d
 Pierrette coat £0 63s 0d
 Ladies hat £0 23s 6d
 Jodhpurs £0 39s 6d
 Riding coat £0 63s 6d
 Crepe Windsor Tie, £0 3s 11d
 Silk Slip, £0 12s 11d
 Printed Silk nightgown, £0 49s 8d
 Knickers & Camisole, £0 35s 6d
 Silk stockings, £0 14s 6d
 Lace lisele hose, £0 4s 11d
 Court Shoe in Black Satin, £0 21s 0d
 Silver Brocade with Spanish heel, £0 49s 6d
 Reindeer Fabric Gloves, £0 4s 11d
 French Fabric Gloves, £0 4s 6d
 Woollen Gauntlets, £0 10s 6d

WINE, LIQUOR & CIGARS DEPARTMENT

Ensure your wine cellar and humidor are ready for that unexpected guest by browsing our choice of our fine port, sherries, wine and cuban cigars.

Dow's Old Tawny Port, £0 66s 0d
 Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry, £0 14s 0d
 Moët & Chandon champagne, 1.4 bottle, £0 46s 0d
 Old Orkney Scotch, £0 12s 6d
 Gordon's Gin & Old Tom Gin, £0 12s 0d
 Harrods Australian Burgundy per dozen, £0 21s 0d
 Bolivar Cigars box of 25 Corona, £0 194s 0d
 Abdullah Egyptian Cigarettes per 100, £0 15s 4d
 Hyde Park Turkish Cigarettes per 100, £0 6s 0d
 Pera Russian Blend per 100, £0 11s 8d
 Dunhill Pipe and Case, £0 32s 0d

FUNERAL DEPARTMENT

Harrods is happy to provide and conduct funerals in town, country and abroad at a modest charge and with deepest sympathies for the loss of your loved ones to otherworldly horrors.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Harrods' other departments and restaurants are wonderful places to meet and chat. We have a large food hall for your staff to shop at while you enjoy lunch at the 'Georgian' Restaurant or something lighter at the Cafe and Soda Fountain.

Should you wish to see the sights while you are in town please pop into our Ticket Office where we can obtain tickets to the best shows in town.

Haute Couture and Off the Peg

Women's clothing for a lady of means was usually designed and made bespoke for the discerning lady. Materials including silks and lace were provided to talented seamstresses who followed the trends of the Paris Couture houses. Women in service may have clothes bought for them by their ladies or employers whilst those of more modest means would often sew their own clothes.

For a female investigator wishing to buy haute couture fashions, increase the below prices by 50%. Within the appropriate social situation wearing couture may give a 5% bonus on social checks. Wearing off-the-peg to a high society event may give a -10% penalty.



Meiner Karten

-POST

<p>HISTORICAL BUILDINGS</p> <p>1 ADELPHI 2 ALDWICH 3 SALHAMBRA 4 BRISTOL 5 APOLLO 6 COLISEUM 7 COMEDY 8 COVENT GARDEN 9 CRITTERDON 10 DALY'S 11 DRURY LANE 12 COFFINS 13 EMPIRE 14 GAILEY 15 GARRICK 16 GLOBE 17 HARMARKET 18 HIPPONOME 19 HURSTYS 20 ICE-EMPIRE 21 KINGSWAY 22 LITTLE</p>		<p>LOP HOUSE 23 LYCEUM 4 LYRIC 5 NEW 6 NEWFORD 7 OLD VIC 8 PALACE 9 PALLADIUM 10 PAVILION 1 PLAYHOUSE 2 POF WALE 3 PRINCE 3 QUEEN 5 ROYALTY 6 ST JAMES 7 ST MARTIN 8 SAVOY 9 SALA 40 SHAFTESBURY 1 STRAND 2 VALDEVILLE 3 WINTERG 4 WYNEHAMS 5</p>
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NIGHTLY UNDERGROUND CARNIVAL



Hyde Park
The Mall (BUCKINGHAM PALACE)

Free on Saturdays

TECHNOLOGY, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE NEWS

RADIO AND THE • BIRTH OF THE BBC •

Prior to 1922, the Post Office had a legal monopoly on all broadcasting which they licensed to private concerns. However, broadcasts by public and commercial users were limited after 1920 as the army complained their own communications were being interfered with. By 1922, private radio owners were complaining at this state of affairs and it was decided to create a new public broadcasting company. In May, a committee was formed of six major wireless broadcast companies and from this the British Broadcasting Company was born.

The BBC began broadcasting radio programmes on 14th November 1922. The service was founded as a compromise between the broadcasting free-for-all in the United States and the strictly state-controlled media of the Soviet Union, and so was editorially independent but funded by a government-administered license fee system levied on receiving equipment.

In the early days, broadcasts only began after 7pm but despite this the service grew rapidly and “listening in” to the radio became a widespread social pastime as people with radios would invite the neighbours round to listen to popular or important broadcasts. By 1924 the King was using the new service to make speeches to the nation (people without radios were served by special loudspeaker radio cars set up for the occasion), and after a new transmitting station was opened in Daventry in 1925 the entire nation could receive the BBC.

• COMMUNICATIONS •

TELEPHONES

The 1920s was a period of rapid expansion to the telephone network. In 1920, telephones were only commonly found in

the wealthiest of houses (Buckingham Palace itself had only four phone lines), the best hotels, and in dedicated telephone booths in clubs and exchange offices. By the end of the decade, you could expect to find a phone in most middle class homes and hotels of reasonable quality, and often for use in shops and pubs for a small payment. Calls placed from public phones cost 3d for 3 minutes (4d from railway stations) within London and 4d (5d stations) for long-distance (i.e. outside London) calls. Calls to Paris (6s) and Brussels (8s) are available from 1921 onwards. Transatlantic (London to New York only) phone calls became available in 1927.

The telephone system is based on local exchanges, and until 1927 to place a call the user had to ring the operator and request to be put through to the required number. After this date some exchanges begin to be automated, although this transition is a very slow process and most exchanges are still human-operated on 1930. Telephone numbers took the format of the exchange name plus a four-digit number, so investigators wishing to ring Buckingham Palace would ask for Victoria 6913, Winston Churchill will answer on Paddington 1003, and in case of emergency Scotland Yard is famously on Whitehall 1212. A full list of London exchanges is too long to reproduce here but can easily be found online.

A telephone directory is produced by the Post Office and widely distributed. Although the option to become ‘ex-directory’ had been introduced in 1888, few people took advantage of this meaning that the telephone number of almost anyone with a phone can be easily found.

TELEGRAMS

Telegrams may be sent within the UK for 1s per 12 words and for 1d per additional word. Telegrams sent on Sundays will be charged 6d extra. International telegrams are common, with sample tariffs being: Western Europe 2 1/2 d per word, Egypt 1s per word, the USA 9d per word, and Australia and China 3s

per word. Urgent messages (i.e. put to the front of the queue and carried by special messenger at the other end) can be sent for triple rates, and radio telegrams can be sent to most ships at sea for 1s 6d per word.

POST

Both the telephone network and the postal network are run by the same organisation, the General Post Office (GPO), and in the 1920s the postal system in the UK is famously quick and efficient – there are documented cases of someone putting a letter in the post in the City of London addressed to their home in the suburbs saying they were on their way home from work and the letter arriving before them!

Postal costs are cheap, with a stamp for an ordinary letter being 1d (rising to 1 1/2d later in the decade) both inside the UK and to the colonies and the USA by surface mail, and for additional weight for 1 or 1 1/2d per ounce. Other countries can be mailed for 3d per ounce. Express delivery letters can be sent by special messenger for an additional 6d per mile to the cost of postage. The GPO does not accept parcels weighing more than 11lbs; these must be sent by a special parcels company (see below). Air mail is available for letters to continental Europe, although not the USA. Post offices are very common, with one easily being found in walking distance throughout the city. Outside London, even the smallest village is likely to have one.

Most post offices will also allow letters and small parcels to be marked 'to be called for' and given to the addressee with some proof of identity. These will be held for two weeks (two months if from overseas) before being returned to the sender.

Parcels Companies

The Post Office does not accept parcels over 11lb in weight, and these may be sent by parcels companies like Pickfords of Great Tower St and Carter, Paterson & Co. of Goswell Road. Both these companies have a large network of pickup and drop-off points nationally, usually shops, hotels and inns (which will have a company notice in the window) or arranged for collection or delivery by telephone. Costs are low, with parcels up to 100lb costing as little as a few shillings to send. Most rail companies will also carry parcels for low rates, although they do not deliver at the other end and the package must be collected from the station.

Messengers

Uniformed messengers (especially messenger boys) are common in central London, and most large offices and hotels will keep one or two around all the time for tasks like running urgent communications, delivering letters, and finding taxis. Most of these will be employees of the District Messenger Company of St. Martins Lane, which also has several dozen branches throughout the city. Messengers can be hired by the half-mile (6d per) or by the hour (1s per hour, or 6s per day). Investigators will quickly learn that the speed and courtesy of their messenger is often directly proportional to the size of the tip.

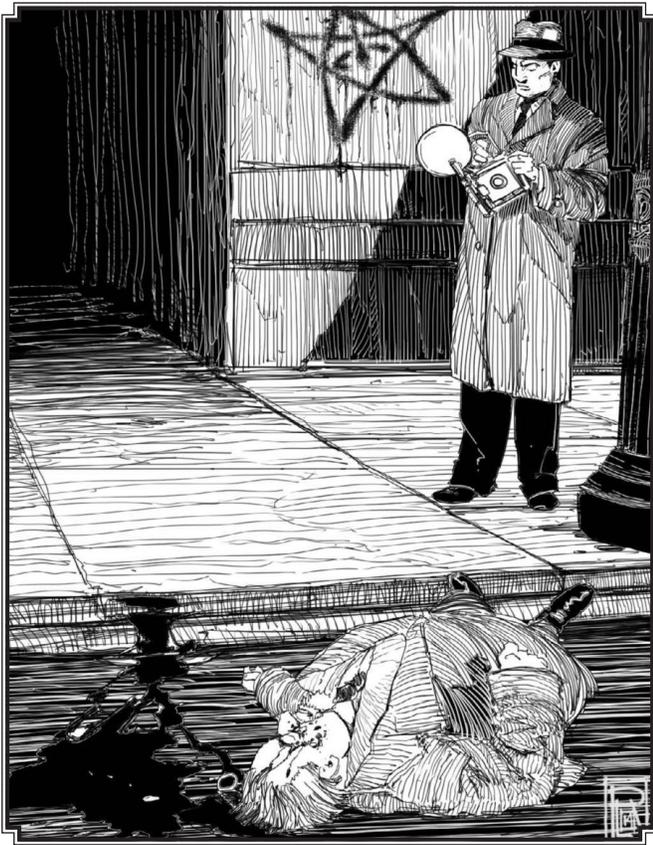
Tom McVie, age 14, Messenger boy

Tom's mother has always said she married his father because he looked so handsome in his army uniform, and as far as Tom is concerned the best thing about his job with the District Messenger Company is the smart uniform that comes with it – especially the little pillbox hat, which he thinks makes him look like a soldier in India like in the papers. He tries to impress girls as much as possible, and pretty female investigators – or male ones with a military background – will find him eager to please.

For other people, the efficiency of Tom's services depends on the size of tip he expects to receive, and people not tipping him a penny or so can expect to get a fair amount of cheek from him as well as slow deliveries.

A Note on Communications

For much of the 1920s communications are excellent if sometimes patchy. Although communications will usually reach their intended recipient in good time, in an era without universal telephone coverage it can sometimes be difficult to get a message to someone in a hurry. At times when speed is of the essence, a successful Know roll will often help the investigator to navigate the complexities of the system and get their message to its recipient quickly.



FLEET STREET AND • NEWSPAPERS •

FLEET STREET

Most famous as the spiritual home of the British Press, the headquarters of many of the major London and national newspapers are on Fleet St or its associated side streets. These are busiest between 9pm and midnight, when the morning editions of the papers are put together and roving reporters come in to file their stories. As a result, the area around Fleet St is one of the best in London to get a late (or early) drink and meal, as the papers work through the night. The term 'Fleet Street' is often used as a synonym for the new press, even in cases of papers that are not based there.

Named for the Fleet River (now a sewer beneath the street), Fleet Street also holds several other institutions of interest, including The Old Cheshire Cheese, a favourite of the journalistic trade and one of the most famous pubs in London. Built on the remains of the 14th century Whitefriars Monastery

(whose crypt is still used as a cellar bar), the pub maintains a number of original 18th century fittings on other floors. Fleet Street also holds Child & Co., one of the oldest and most prestigious private banks left in the city.

There are hundreds of newspapers and magazines produced in London. The major players are listed below.

THE LONDON GAZETTE

Not an ordinary newspaper and lacking a large circulation, *The London Gazette* is an official journal in which many public and statutory notices are carried, including insolvencies and bankruptcy notices, officerial promotions in the Army and Navy, the passage of bills through the British Parliament, and the granting of honours. As such the gazette can be a valuable source of information about the upper workings of society and state.

THE TIMES

Possibly the most famous newspaper in the world, *The Times* is highly respected during the 1920s although it was not immune to serious errors. In 1920, for example, it endorsed the legitimacy of The Protocols of the Elders of Zion and called the Jews "the world's greatest danger". It had to stage an embarrassing retraction when the documents were shown to be forgeries a year later. Unusually for a major newspaper, the first few pages of *The Times* hold classified advertising, and news reporting and book and theatre reviews are kept to the centre pages. In 1922 *The Times* is bought by John Jacob Astor, a relative by marriage of Lady Astor, the first female MP. The offices of *The Times* are on Queen Victoria St near Blackfriars Bridge.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

With a more technical reporting style than *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* grows strongly during the 1920s; the paper's principles are described as "We should report all striking events in science, so told that the intelligent public can understand what has happened and can see its bearing on our daily life and our future. The same principle should apply to all other events – to fashion, to new inventions, to new methods of conducting business", a style which appeals to an aspirational middle-class in a time of rapid scientific change and development.

THE LONDON EVENING STANDARD

The major afternoon paper of the city (most other newspapers were morning editions), *The Evening Standard* is popular due to its immediacy of reporting the daily news to homeward-bound commuters and the high quality of its coverage of international news and events.

THE DAILY HERALD

The only major newspaper that supports the left-wing Labour Party, *The Daily Herald* almost collapsed shortly after of the Great War when it was accused of accepting funds from Russian Communists, but is rescued by, and becomes the mouthpiece of, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) in 1922-1929.

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Not published in London but distributed nationally, *The News of the World* is a Sunday-only paper that is wildly popular amongst the literate working classes as a lurid scandal sheet. The paper gives much of its space to court reports of 'criminal conversation' (the technical term for adultery when cited in divorce cases), police and court reports of brothels, prostitutes and vice, gruesome descriptions of crimes, and reports of sporting events.

THE DAILY MAIL

Once a major force in British newspapers, *The Mail* lost over a million readers during the Great War due to its strident criticism of the army's senior command. During the 1920s, *The Mail* grew again and by the end of the decade had forged an alliance with Lord Beaverbrook's *Daily Express* to attack established political parties and together they formed the United Empire Party. *The Daily Mail* is traditionalist, pro-Empire, and pro-free trade, but also given to light-hearted stunts, like a national competition to invent a new type of hat. In 1924, *The Mail* printed the Zinoviev letter, a forgery that implied that British Communists were in league with Russia in planning a violent revolution. This leads directly to the defeat of the Labour Party in the 1924 general election and critically damages Anglo-Soviet relations for the rest of the decade.

Other common newspapers and magazines included: *The Empire News*, *The Daily Chronicle*, *The Daily Sketch*, *The Sporting Life*, *The Financial News* and the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

Adventure in the Classifieds

In both fiction and reality the classified columns of many newspapers were a common means of not only advertising jobs, but also people offering themselves for work; in 1920 Sapper's character Bulldog Drummond advertised his availability (and began a life of adventure) with an advert in *The Times* reading: "Demobilised officer, finding peace incredibly tedious, would welcome diversion. Legitimate, if possible; but crime, if of a comparatively humorous description, no objection. Excitement essential. Would be prepared to consider permanent job if suitably impressed by applicant for his services." In turn, this was parodied by PG Wodehouse in *Leave it to Psmith* (1923) in which Psmith advertises himself as: "Someone to manage your affairs? Someone to handle your business? Someone to walk your dog? Someone to assassinate your aunt? Psmith will do it! Crime not objected to."

In the real world, when Harry Price was looking for investigators to look into Borley Rectory, "the most haunted house in England" in 1937, he placed an advert in *The Times* reading:

"HAUNTED HOUSE. Responsible persons of leisure and intelligence, intrepid, critical, and unbiased, are invited to join rota of observers in a year's night and day investigation of alleged haunted house in Home Counties. Printed instructions supplied. Scientific training or ability to operate simple instruments an advantage. House situated in lonely hamlet, so own car is essential. Write Box H98, The Times EC4."

Such advertising is a ready-made introduction to adventure!



Meiner liebster
Hans
D

-POST CARD



OPEN WEEKDAYS
FROM 9.0 A.M.
ADMISSION 1!
(EXCEPT MONDAYS: 6^d)

BOOK TO
REGENT'S PARK
OR
CAMDEN TOWN
STATIONS

HYDE PARK

THE MALL (BUCKINGHAM
ST. JAMES'S PARK)

ENTERTAINMENT IN LONDON

• SPORTS •

From the pursuits of the wealthy such as the exclusive rowing and polo clubs of the south-west of London to the football teams that grew up from the East End docks and factories, Londoners love their sport. Precious green spaces among the swirling fogs and busy, shifting city are popular locations to spend a Saturday cheering on your team. This section covers the most important sports in London.

CRICKET

London has a long tradition of Cricket with the formal rules of the game being laid down by the London Cricket Club in the 18th Century. By the 1920s the London Cricket Club has become the Marylebone Cricket Club based in their St John's Woods ground of Lords and is the spiritual home of all things cricket.

Almost of equal importance is the Oval located in Kennington, and home to the first ever international cricket match with

the Australian side in 1868. Famous for the "Death of English Cricket", a term devised by The Sporting Times after England lost at home in 1882 to the Australians. To signify this the bails from the wickets were burned and their Ashes collected into a small urn. 'The Ashes' is played as a return match between England and Australia every 2-3 years. It is perhaps the greatest cricketing tourney of the age and a great event for lovers of sport.

Beyond the national scale cricket is played at the county level: Middlesex, Surrey Kent and Essex all field competitive teams. Cricket is a common pastime of the all classes and summer Sunday afternoons are often spent playing on the village green or in the park with bat and ball. Among the many sports in Britain it is one that tends to have the greatest support amongst the more affluent members of society.

FOOTBALL

Started as a public schoolboy sport, football evolved through the end of the 19th and early 20th century into Britain's favourite sport. Though rugby and cricket hold great sway,

Test Teams

Australia were the first foreign side to play cricket against England on British soil in the 1800s. They were followed by South Africa in 1907, the West Indies in 1928 and New Zealand in 1931. International Tests were a colourful spectacle and the 20,000-seater ground of the Oval was commonly full to capacity for each day of the match.

The Ashes

"I have always endeavoured to do my best for the side, and the few centuries that have come my way have been achieved in the hope of winning matches. My one idea when going into bat was to make runs for Australia."

– Don Bradman, 1930

Australia are the dominant force in world cricket for the entire decade, utilising a pair of fast bowlers (Jack Gregory and Ted McDonald) to tire and crush opposing batters. Between 1920 and 1925, England won only one game against Australia, before finally winning the Ashes back in 1926.

Things were a little more even until the arrival of Donald Bradman into the Australian side at the end of the decade, when he set an unbeaten world record scoring rate in the 1930 Ashes, utterly demolishing an overwhelmed England team.

Football Clubs

Below is a list of some of London's major footballing clubs. Football became part of the national identity during the post-war years and many new clubs sprang up. Beyond the big clubs there are many local sides who play in the amateur and semi professional leagues. Attendance at such events is a primarily male pursuit.

Club	Notes
Arsenal	London's first professional team based in Woolwich.
Chelsea	Based in the Chelsea district of west London.
Fulham	London's oldest football team.
West Ham	Born out of the ashes of the Thames Ironwork team in 1900.
Tottenham Hotspur	A north London team with a name taken from Shakespeare's Henry V.
Crystal Palace	Formed in 1905 by the builders of the Crystal Palace.
Queen's Park Rangers	Based in Shepherd's Bush the team famously used 20 grounds before settling there in 1917.
Charlton Athletic	Rivals to nearby Arsenal, they joined the football league in 1921.
Leyton Orient	Based in East London they famously had the first ever Royal visit to a game in 1921 when the Prince of Wales attended.
Millwall Athletic	The New Cross, South East London team were one of the many dock workers teams.

The Football Association (FA) Cup

The footballing event of the year, the FA Cup is held at the end of a season-long knock-out competition between all members of the Football Association. It took place at the Stamford Bridge ground in Chelsea until 1923, when it moved to the new Empire Stadium at Wembley.

Year	Winner	Result	Runner-up	Location
1920	Aston Villa	1-0	Huddersfield	Stamford Bridge
1921	Tottenham Hotspur	1-0	Wolverhampton Wanderers	Stamford Bridge
1922	Huddersfield Town	1-0	Preston North End	Stamford Bridge
1923	Bolton Wanderers	2-0	West Ham	Wembley
1924	Newcastle United	2-0	Aston Villa	Wembley
1925	Sheffield United	1-0	Cardiff City	Wembley
1926	Bolton Wanderers	1-0	Manchester	Wembley
1927	Cardiff City	1-0	Arsenal	Wembley
1928	Blackburn Rovers	3-1	Huddersfield	Wembley
1929	Bolton Wanderers	2-0	Portsmouth	Wembley
1930	Arsenal	2-0	Huddersfield	Wembley

the roar of the terraces and belief that every man who kicks a ball could win the cup made football the sport of the working man.

Football during the twenties is tribal and geographical; that is to say you support the team in the town or area you grew up in. The professional sportsman was on the rise but many teams are semi-pro or completely amateur, allowing a sporting investigator to save the world from the machinations of vile cultists on a Monday but still be able to turn out for United on Saturday.

HORSE RACING

Alexandra Park, an 80 hectare park in North London formed by Act of Parliament in 1900, is London's primary home of horse racing. The ornate Victorian grandstand and cast-iron railings are an impressive site and usually full to the gunnels when the annual London Cup is held. Kempton Park Racecourse is a horse racing track in Sunbury-on-Thames, Surrey, England, which is a western suburb of London 16 miles from the city centre. The other major horse racing grounds of England are found beyond the confines of London but as for the well-to-do Londoner they form such an important part of the social calendar they deserve mention as attractions.

GREYHOUND RACING

If horse racing is the occupation of the well-to-do gentleman, the greyhound race course is the working man's pleasure. Greyhound racing was an American sport that became popular in England in the 1920s. It attracts huge crowds from all social classes, although it is particularly popular with male working-class audiences because the tracks are in cities and therefore easy to get to, and meetings are held in the evenings after work.

At the peak of the sport's popularity, there were six greyhound stadiums in London. The jewel in the crown is Haringey Stadium which opens in 1927 and provides a 50,000-seat stadium floodlit for nighttime racing.

ROWING

To the South East of London the Thames becomes less of a working river and instead becomes a playground for the elite of London. Rowing is a popular pastime on the Thames with famous boating clubs such as Henley and Putney.

In 1879 the Metropolitan Rowing Association was founded by ten university and sporting rowing clubs, including the London Rowing Club, the Thames Rowing Club, and the

Notable Horse Races

Ascot

Ascot race course was founded in 1711 by Queen Anne and then protected by an 1813 Act of Parliament to ensure it stayed in public ownership, followed by the 1913 act that formed the Ascot Authority to manage the ground. The only race that takes place at the ground is the four day Royal Meeting in June attended by the reigning monarch. An important event on the social calendar when the men wear morning suit or dress uniform and their lady companions wear fine dresses and opulent hats. Ascot lies not far from Windsor Castle (see pg.167), to the west of London.

Folkestone

An easy train ride from Charing Cross, Folkestone holds no high-class or famous races, but is popular for a day at the races amongst the middle classes – and the poor, when they can afford it.

Epsom Downs

Epsom Downs is known for a dark footnote in British history when in 1913 the suffragette Emily Davison threw herself in front of King George V's horse Anmer, bringing him down. Davison was badly injured and died four days later.

The most important race held on Epsom downs is The Oaks, held annually in early June.

Kingston Rowing Club. Rowing is seen as an amateur sport and the Henley Regatta Rules specifically forbid the inclusion of professional team members.

The Boat Race

Perhaps the most famous event of the rowing season is the event generally known as "the Boat Race" where the two participants are not from London at all. On the last Saturday before Easter, Oxford (dark blue) and Cambridge (light blue) each enter a team of coxed eights who race about 4.5 miles from Putney to Mortlake. The race is an extremely popular spectacle and both sides of the river are lined with spectators for the length of the course.

RUGBY

"A game played by thugs and watched by gentlemen," as the joke goes. Rugby is a bone-jarring full-contact sport of tackles and scrummages said to have been developed by William Webb-Ellis in at 1823 at Rugby School. Two teams of fifteen men take to the ground in a game of tries, conversions and drop goals for a sport that often becomes physical and leaves experienced players with a trademark cauliflower ear and thick nose. London boasts several first-class teams, including

Blackheath, Harlequins, Richmond, Rosslyn Park, London Scottish, and the Wimbledon Hornets (reformed in 1927), who are all members of the Rugby Football Union (RFU). International games and the annual Oxford vs. Cambridge universities match are played at Twickenham, the home ground of the RFU.

TENNIS

Many of London's parks have tennis courts available for casual public use. Tennis sport grew in popularity during the 1920s thanks to the like of flamboyant players such as Suzanne Lenglen and coverage in the news. This popularity meant that many courts and clubs springs up in the new Metroland suburbs and becomes a focal point for the new communities. London's most famous club is the Lawn Tennis Association at Wimbledon which hosts the famous Wimbledon Championship each year. For more information on this, see the section on Wimbledon on pg.163.

• THEATRES AND CINEMAS •

THEATRELAND IN THE 1920S

The vast majority of theatres were based in and around the West End (hence the term going "up west") in an area that had become known as "Theatreland". The 1920s started as



an uncertain time for theatre in London. The Great War had already damaged the theatre industry before the Spanish flu epidemic of 1919, which claimed more lives than the war, forced half of London's theatres to close. But by 1920 things were looking up and London built its first two theatres since the conflict, the Fortune and the Vaudeville. Theatreland is bordered by The Strand to the south, Oxford Street to the north, Regent Street to the west and Kingsway to the east. The heart of the area was Shaftesbury Avenue, which has a number of the main London theatres on it as well as the Royal Opera House.

Theatre during the decade is nothing if not controversial. Maud Allan's performance in Wilde's *Salome* leads to accusations that she is a sexual degenerate, which Allan counters by suing for libel. Noël Coward's work begins to come to the fore, but often attracted the wrong type of attention with the censors of the Lord Chamberlain's office trying to ban it and audiences vocalising their dissatisfaction. At a time when the House of Commons is first welcoming female MPs, it is surprising to realise the furore caused by actresses with short hair smoking and drinking like men.

Among the performers making the London stage their own in the 1920s are Sybil Thorndike, Tallulah Bankhead and Edith Evans (see pg. 68). At the London Palladium, variety is becoming the taste of the decade, with shows such as *Rockets*, *Whirl of The World* and *Sky High* pulling in the crowds.

The Lord Chamberlain's Office and the Theatre

The Lord Chamberlain's Office has a significant role in British society in the 1920s as it was the official censor for virtually all theatre performed in Britain. All plays performed in public have to be approved and licensed by the Lord Chamberlain to protect public morals. Theatre owners are generally satisfied by the safety this arrangement gives them; so long as they present only licensed plays they are effectively immune from prosecution for any offence a play might cause.

However, there are campaigns by playwrights opposed to the Lord Chamberlain's powers. One way to circumvent them is to put on plays in Private Theatre Clubs which are members only and therefore not public performances. The Comptroller of the Lord Chamberlain's office in this period is the Honourable Colonel Sir George Crichton, GCVO DL.

NOTABLE THEATRES

Aldwych (Aldwych)

A large (1200 seats) and ornately decorated playhouse, the Aldwych was best known during the decade for being the home of the "Ben Travers Farces", which ran from 1925. It should be said that most theatres in London have a 'ghost' – the Aldwych ghost produces the scent of flowers, perfume and cigars around the building with no sign of where the smell comes from.

Alhambra (Leicester Square)

The Alhambra was a popular music-hall theatre, although by the 1920s cinema and radio had sent it into decline. As well as providing entertainment of a coarse sort, the theatre also has something of a reputation as a drinking den and a place where 'arrangements' can be reached between female performers and gentlemen with a bit of money.

The Comedy Theatre (Panton Street)

Despite the name, the Comedy Theatre gained its reputation for putting on a varied selection of shows, including operetta, musical theatre and serious performances.

The Dominion Theatre (Tottenham Court Road)

Constructed between 1928-29, the excavations, large building site and steel frame of the building might provide a suitably atmospheric setting for a showdown with cultists.

Drury Lane Theatre (Drury Lane)

More properly known as the Theatre Royal, this playhouse was for a long time the most important theatre in London. The current building was built in 1811, extensively internally remodelled in 1922, and now seats up to 2200. Said to be the most haunted theatre in London, ghosts include the clown Joseph Grimaldi (who helps nervous young actors), the 'man in grey' (a stylishly dressed 18th century nobleman said to be the ghost of a walled-up skeleton found in 1848), and the actor Charles Macklin (who haunts the spot where he murdered a fellow actor in 1735).

Haymarket Theatre (Suffolk St)

Dating from 1720, the Haymarket is one of the oldest playhouses still used in London. During the 1920s the theatre is best known for a run of *Peter Pan*, which began in 1920 and lasted for 399 performances.

London's Theatres

Name	Address	Telephone Number
Aldwych	Strand W.C.2	Temple Bar 6404
Alhambra	Leicester Square W.C.2	Gerrard 5064
Ambassadors	West St., Shaftesbury Ave., W.C 2	Temple Bar 1171
Coliseum	Charing Cross, W.C.2	Temple Bar 3161
Comedy	Panton Street, S.W.1	Gerrard 8978-9
Criterion	Piccadilly Circus, W.1	Gerrard 3844
Dominion	Tottenham Court Raod, W.1	Museum 2176
Duke of York's	St. Martin's Lane W.C.1	Temple Bar 5122-3
Embassy	Swiss Cottage	Primrose Hill 2211
Globe	Shaftesbury Avenue W.1	Gerrard 8724-5
Haymarket	Haymarket SW1	Whitehall 9832
Hippodrome	Cranbourne Street, WC2	Gerrard 0648
His Majesty's	Haymarket, SW1	Gerrard 0606
Kingsway	Great Queen Street, WC2	Holborn 4032
Little John Street	Adelphi, Strand, WC2	Temple Bar 6501-2
Lyric	Shaftesbury Avenue, W1	Gerrard 3683-7
New	St. Martin's Lane WC2	Temple Bar 3878
Old Vic	Waterloo Road	Hop 3424-5
Playhouse	Charing Cross, WC2	Whitehall 7774
Queen's	Shaftesbury Avenue W1	Gerrard 9437-8
Vaudeville	Strand WC2	Temple Bar 4871-2
Victoria Palace	Victoria Station SW	Victoria 5282-3
Wyndham's	Charing Cross Road WC2	Temple Bar 3028-9

CINEMAS IN LONDON

Cinema grew rapidly in popularity during the decade and easily replaced the Music Hall as the premier entertainment of the lower classes – many music halls converted to become cinemas in the face of demand, and investigators will find many cinema theatres are standing room only in the afternoon or evening if they arrive too late to get a seat.

Known as Cinematographical Theatres or more commonly 'Picture Palaces', establishments were often lavishly decorated to ape the great theatres and opera houses of the West End or the luxury accommodation of famous ocean liners.

Well-known cinemas include the Stoll Picture Theatre on Kingsway (a conversion from the London Opera House in 1916), the Cinema House on Oxford Street, the New Gallery

Kinema and the Polytechnic, both on Regent Street and the Coronet on Notting Hill Gate.

THE MUSIC HALL

The arrival of cinema and radio dealt a death-blow to the traditional music hall and the style of variety entertainment it offered. For the 19th and early 20th the music hall had provided cheap entertainment for the lower classes (a show might have a magician, a comedian or two, singers and musicians, a tumbling act, a psychic, several actors performing scenes from Shakespeare and a performing dog, for example) and they simply could not compete with the production quality and thrills offered by the movie studios. Many halls either convert to cinemas or try to survive by offering both movies and variety, but the writing was on the wall and by the end

of the decade very few music halls are left, and those that are will be run-down and seedy with performers on their uppers. A great setting for an adventure, in fact.

• GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS •

Every English gentleman belongs to a club, and many who aspire to being gentlemen join too if they can. A gentleman's club is a home-away-from-home in the centre of London where members can relax, mix with fellow members, stay in rooms provided, play cards and enjoy other gentlemanly pursuits, get a meal, read the papers and periodicals that all clubs of merit subscribed to, and also use the library and any other facilities.

The type of facilities available would vary greatly depending on the type of club, with some being more esoteric or academic and others highly specialised (you wouldn't go to the Alpine Club to try to read about politics, for example!).

They allow players whose characters are based on Upper and upper middle class professional background to have a pre-made base or sanctum in the heart of London as well as introducing another potential source of information and research to the player's arsenal.

Gentleman's clubs can be used in game to set a social scene, as a shorthand to flesh out the background of either an NPC or an investigator, and as a resource for information, allies and potentially a haven against the horrors out there.

The English club of the 1920s falls into one of three broad groups: those based on a shared interest or experience, those based on class, and those based on professional background.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

As such an important part of the social life of the upper classes, it is important to understand how clubs work. The original clubs were established in the West End of London. Even today, the area of St James's is still sometimes referred to as 'clubland'.

They evolved from the coffee houses of the 18th century, where the rich and powerful would meet to discuss stocks and shares.

Eventually the commercial aspects moved to the city and the stock exchange, and the social aspects migrated to clubs.

The clubs reached the zenith of their influence in the late 19th century, but were still both popular and influential establishments in the early 20th century and were an important part of society and an indicator of one's place in society – particularly amongst men.

In the 1920s, a more modern, relaxed type of gentleman's club sprang up for a younger membership in the area around Dover Street. There are very few equivalent clubs for women but they do exist, such as the Ladies' Institute and the Ladies' Athenaeum.

The first clubs (White's, Brook's, Boodle's) took their names from their owners and were the preserve of the aristocracy. As time went by, clubs were founded around interests such as arts (The Arts Club), political affiliation (The Liberal Club), academia (The Oxford & Cambridge), military service (The Army & Navy), motoring (The RAC), adventurous science (The Explorers' Club) and many more.

As clubs usually offer accommodation, it is common for country-based members to reside entirely in their club when they are in the city, and not unusual for new members just joined from university to live entirely at the club until they get married and set up a home.

JOINING A CLUB

To join a club, one must be nominated by an existing member and usually seconded in writing by up to six more. The club committee considers the application in secret and the applicant is informed of success or failure, but never the reasons. In some of the more exclusive clubs, a member putting forward a refused applicant may be expected to resign for nominating an unsuitable member.

As well as meeting the formal criteria for joining, an applicant must above all be 'clubbable'. A catch-all term, this usually means a combination of traits – sociable, possessed of a large supply of funny stories, willing to pay one's bar tab on time, holding the 'right' opinions, having gone to the right school, and so on. The importance of each trait (for example, a sociable, popular and funny but poor aristocrat would find little difficulty joining, and his bills may from time to time

be conveniently forgotten or paid by less funny but richer members) varies from club to club.

The Perfect Gentleman

“The perfect clubman is another word for the perfect gentleman. He never allows himself to show irritability to any one, he makes it a point to be courteous to a new member or an old member’s guest. He scrupulously observes the rules of the club, he discharges his card debts at the table, he pays his share always, with an instinctive horror of sponging, and lastly, he treats everyone with the same consideration which he expects – and demands – from them.”

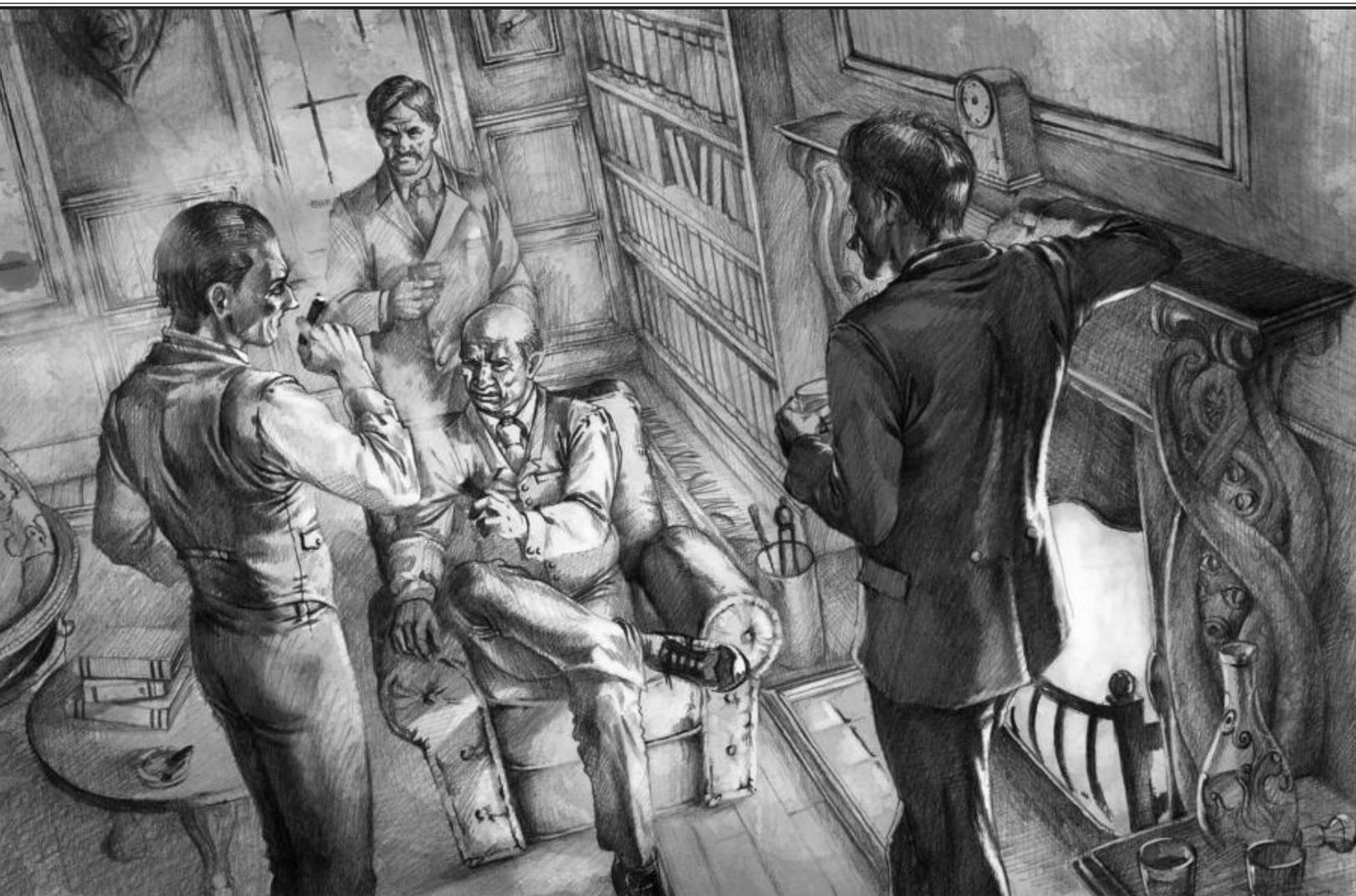
– Emily Post, *Etiquette*, 1922

WHICH CLUB TO JOIN

A man’s club was usually the centre of his social circle, and most people only joined one and stuck with it for life. There were no rules against joining multiple clubs, but those who did tended to be politicians, aristocrats and others who felt a need to cultivate as wide a circle of contacts as possible.

Almost all clubs of the era are heavily biased towards members, and non-members will be confined to specific, non-member areas of the club such as the lobby or a dining room set aside for members to meet outsiders. Non-members will not be allowed into the other areas other than by using force, stealth or subterfuge. The clubs have porters and beaules to deal with that sort of thing!

Although not common, a number of clubs of the 1920s – usually based around university or professional membership - offered reciprocal hospitality to other clubs’ members when abroad.



IMPORTANT CLUBS OF LONDON

Below you will find a brief description of a number of clubs of note. (Note: a fully fleshed out – but fictional – sample club is given in *A Keeper's Guide to London*)

The Athenaeum (107 Pall Mall)

This is the gentlemen's club for the more intellectually inclined man and is named after the ancient Roman Athenaeum, which was the Roman centre for the study of literature and science. Membership is drawn from the clergy, academia, science and literature as well as from old money and the aristocracy.

The Athenaeum Club of the twenties and thirties is seen to represent the peak of London's clubland for the public intellectual. In fact this attitude to membership was enshrined when the club was founded in the 1830s as, under Rule II, the club specifically admits men "... of distinguished eminence in Science, Literature, or the Arts, or for Public Service." This has given the club a diverse and broad intellectual base for its membership not found in other clubs in London.

The club house has seen the tread of such luminaries as Charles Darwin, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Charles Dickens, Joseph Conrad, Winston Churchill and Harry St. John Bridger Philby. Over the years numerous Prime Ministers, Cabinet Ministers, literary figures and church leaders have been members of the Athenaeum.

The club boasts a large and extensive library. The library, the finest club library in London, is housed in the drawing room and four additional rooms and is said to have over 60,000 volumes. One reason for this may well be that apart from judges and Bishops, all prospective members should have published a work of academic, professional or literary value. There are also dining rooms and lodgings for its members as well as a large and attractive garden in the heart of London.

Brook's (60 St James's Street)

The founders of Brooks (in 1764) included four dukes, which pretty much sums this club up. Many members were born to membership, and the membership comprises some of the greatest men in the land.

The club building, on the west side of St James's Street, was opened in 1778. It faces Boodle's across the street, whilst White's is just up the road. Brook's is nothing if not a haven

for tradition. The club serves meals (based primarily on the culinary experiences and expectations gained in the better sort of public school) and provides accommodation if needed. Brooks is perhaps most notorious for high-stakes gambling, usually at cards.

The Carlton Club (94 Pall Mall)

The club was founded in 1832 by Tory peers, MPs and gentlemen as a place to coordinate party activity after their defeat over the First Reform Act. It later played a major role in the transformation of the Tory party into its modern form as the Conservative Party.

The club has a library, dining room and strangers' dining room for members to dine with friends and colleagues. The library specialises in political and economic theory and histories as well as having the usual assortment of literature and subjects that would be of interest to the political mindset of its membership.

The epitome of a political club, the Carlton was for years the headquarters of the Conservative Party and membership is based on an affiliation with or an agreement with the aims of that party. On 19th October, 1922, the club was the venue of the "Carlton coup", in which Stanley Baldwin seized control of the Conservative Party and withdrew it from the coalition government, triggering an election.

Reform Club (104-105 Pall Mall)

Founded for and by the liberal political elite of the 19th century, its members were behind the 1832 Reform Act. Whilst members are usually considered the backbone of good society, the club is not without its quirks, hence Jules Verne using it as the setting where Phileas Fogg took his bet to travel around the world in 80 days.

It is considered to be one of the most liberal of the gentlemen's clubs but don't imagine that people can let standards drop – a chap still needs to be properly attired to seek entry. Facilities include billiards and cards rooms, dining, a bar and rooms for members to stay.

The club library holds more than 75,000 volumes with a focus on British and Imperial politics, economics, history and literature. There are special collections covering the history of India, London topography, and political reform.

Royal Automobile Club (89 Pall Mall)

Founded in 1897 “for the Protection, Encouragement and Development of Automobilmism”. It is one of the newest clubs but is also one of the grandest, with a clubhouse (the largest in London) on Pall Mall. The club is popular with a slightly younger and more sporty set than the more traditional clubs, offering as it does extensive sporting facilities including a huge swimming pool. Although the club doesn’t let standards slip (a gent wouldn’t) it does have a more relaxed dress code in a number of its bars whilst maintaining a full dress code for the cocktail bar and main restaurant.

Its raison d’être is the promotion and support of the automobile and all things pertaining thereof. In the 1920s this includes supporting motor racing (the RAC founded the famous TT races) and in 1926 the RAC is responsible for organising the first British Grand Prix motor race at Brooklands, Surrey.

Travellers Club (106 Pall Mall)

Founded in 1919, The Travellers Club has a very specific requirement for membership: Rule 6 of the club’s constitution states that “no person be considered eligible to the Travellers Club”, who shall not have travelled out of the British islands to a distance of at least 500 miles from London in a direct line”. The club was founded as a place where those who had travelled widely might meet fellow travellers and discuss plans, places and new expeditions and as a result it has many diplomats, ambassadors and members of the Imperial service as members, which sets the atmosphere of the club. It is an ideal place for an Investigator to seek people who know the dark corners of the earth.

Facilities include a smoking room, cocktail bar, a famous dining room and wine cellar, and an extensive library with a focus on travel, geography and other matters to interest the modern traveller.

Alpine Club (8 St Martin’s Place)

The Alpine Club describes itself as “a club of English gentlemen devoted to mountaineering, first of all in the Alps, members of which have successfully addressed themselves to attempts of the kind on loftier mountains”.

During the 1920s club presidents include the Himalaya pioneer and chemist J. Norman Collie, and Brigadier-General

Charles Granville Bruce, who led the third attempt on Everest and was a commander of the Ghurkhas. The clubhouse has a library specialising in guides and information for the intrepid climbers that make up its membership, as well as a collection of curios and memoirs presented by past members, and sponsored expeditions.

Oriental Club (18 Hanover Square)

The Oriental Club was founded to provide a London residence to visiting gentlemen employed in the affairs of the Empire in the Orient. Its original charter stated that:

“The qualifications for members of this club are, having been resident or employed in the public service of His Majesty, or the East-India Company, in any part of the East being officially connected with our Eastern Governments at home or abroad...

The British Empire in the East is now so extensive, and the persons connected with it so numerous, that the establishment of an institution where they may meet on a footing of social intercourse, seems particularly desirable. It is the chief object of the Oriental Club to promote that intercourse.”

The Oriental Club’s library was very impressive indeed. In 1927, R. A. Rye noted that library contained “... about 4,700 volumes, mostly on oriental subjects”.

Buck’s Club (18 Clifford Street)

Established in 1919, Buck’s club is most noted for two things: firstly as the inspiration of PG Wodehouse’s Drones Club, and secondly for the invention of the Buck’s Fizz cocktail in 1921. Founded by military officers after the war who wanted a club livelier than usually offered, the club has a large ‘American Cocktail Bar’ as its centre and, unusually, welcomes American members. As the founders were members of the Household Cavalry, the club has a tradition of recruiting members from that regiment.

Press Club (Wine Office Court, off Fleet Street)

Based entirely around the profession of reporting, it is perhaps unsurprising that the Press Club has a reputation for raucous behaviour amidst large quantities of food and drink. The club is of interest to investigators as it maintains contacts with press clubs around the world, provides facilities for both British and foreign reporters to contact their home base, and also help can be found to find press contacts.

American Club (95 Piccadilly)

As the American expatriate community in London grew, so did a need for a social centre, and the American Club came into being in 1918 to fill this need. Growing rapidly into a popular place to congregate, socialise, and feel a little bit of the New World in London, facilities include the usual bar, restaurant and rooms, plus also a regularly updated library of American periodicals and newspapers. The club is only open to men, with a separate American Women's Club on Old Brompton St.

NIGHTCLUBS AND • NIGHTLIFE •

By the turn of the 20th century, Soho and the West End was firmly established as the centre of nightlife, clubs, parties and enjoyment (and also the associated vice and criminal trades) in London. The Great War saw the introduction of the Defence of the Realm Act ('DORA'), which limited opening hours and the serving of alcohol, and which was not repealed after the war. This illegality created an air of illicit pleasure and decadence in London's nightclubs – and also led to a heavy criminal involvement as establishments appeared and disappeared with startling regularity and the police and club owners sparred over the drinking laws.

Once criminality was involved in the running of clubs, it was inevitable that other illegal activities would follow – drugs, gambling, prostitution and occasional gang fights (sometimes with the police) over turf are as much a part of the twenties nightclub scene as the latest jazz from America, boisterous parties, and drinking until the early hours by toffs out for a night on the town.

Going to nightclubs is a pastime for the wealthy. Drinks are expensive, most clubs insist on a strict dress code (usually black tie – lounge suits might be allowed, but only in the lower quality establishments) and entry fees are exorbitantly high. For example, the door charge for the Embassy Club on Upper Bond Street is £21 – well over £1000 in modern-day terms – and so the clientèle is extremely exclusive, with the patrons being the rich or those bankrolled by them.

Clubs vied with each other to offer new thrills to attract custom. Cocktails (seen as a degenerate vice before the war),

jazz and black musicians from America, innovative light shows, exotic décor, and even marijuana and cocaine all gained their first wide exposure to British society during the decade, with all the outcry, concerns about social decay, and police and criminal involvement you would expect. Whilst London might lack the organised mobsters of the American East Coast, it is not without its dangers.

The Club Book

The Vice Squad of the Metropolitan Police keeps what is called the 'Club Book'. This tome contains every nightclub, licensed and unlicensed, known to the police, and also notes on their patrons, associated hangers on, and details of any known criminals, drug dealers and prostitutes who frequent them as well. Any investigator with good police contacts would find the contents invaluable if trying to track down cultists (or criminals) who are involved in London's nightlife. At any time, the book contains details of anywhere between 2-300 clubs "within a mile of the statue of Eros in Leicester Square" (Robert Fabian, *London After Dark*, 1954)

NOTABLE NIGHTCLUBS OF LONDON

The 43 Club (Gerrard Street)

Owned by the redoubtable Kate Meyrick (see pg.67), and probably the most famous club of the era, the 43 was known for riotous parties held by the rich and famous behind closed doors. Repeatedly raided by the police, nobody important is ever apprehended on the premises due to a secret exit onto Newport Place. Tallulah Bankhead once described the 43 as "Useful for early breakfasts", before adding that she breakfasted at 10pm. After the club closed Kate Meyrick wrote a book – *The Secrets of the 43 Club* – in 1933.

The Hambone Club (Ham Yard)

Originally opened in 1922 as a cabaret club offering "special artistic entertainment", the Hambone becomes extremely popular not only with bohemians, artists and the 'alternative' crowd, but also with rich and powerful people who like to feel they are frequenting somewhere a bit risky.

Lambs' Club (Leicester Square)

Notable for having no stairs and only a lift to get in and out, Lambs' is popular due to the great difficulty of the police successfully raiding the place and catching any illegal activities. The lift contains a special button for the doorman to warn the bar area of any raid with plenty of time to hide illicit booze and drugs away and replace them with ginger ale.

Shim Sham Club (Wardour Street)

Advertising itself as "Harlem in London", the Shim Sham is a haven for ex-pat black American musicians and scandalously features such innovations as interracial dancing. Guests included Douglas Fairbanks when he visited London.

The Embassy Club (Old Bond Street)

The most expensive and exclusive club in London, the manager Luigi "knows everyone!". Patrons included the Prince of Wales (Later Edward VII) and his fast set with, after 1925, Wallis Simpson on his arm.

The Bag o' Nails (Kingly Street)

In terms of British music, possibly the most important club of the era. The most famous swing and jazz musicians from Britain and overseas rub shoulders on the rostrum whilst the great and good jive the night away on the dance floor.

The Gargoyle

(Meard Street, moved to Dean street in 1928)

Opened in 1925, the Gargoyle club was a drinking den for the artistic set with a large ballroom, bar, coffee room and drawing room; the club attracts a mixture of artists, politicians and the socially radical set. Visitors have included Fred Astaire.

The Café de Paris (Coventry Street)

Opened in 1923 and an immediate success due to the Prince of Wales being a regular guest. Louise Brooks performed at the club, bringing the Charleston dance craze to Britain in 1924.

NOTABLE PUBS OF LONDON

The London pub is an institution. Each pub is individual and has its own quirks, characters and clientèle often based on the area it is situated in. The public house was one of the working man's main sources of recreation and relaxation and by the

1920s, following on from the social changes brought on by the Great War, also increasingly a place for the working woman as well.

The London pub was a versatile place for men and women alike, capable and quick to adapt to changing times and needs. It could specialise to accommodate thieves and fences, prostitutes, the smart set, bohemians, gays, poets, actors and policemen and any combination of these and other groups that might come together.

The York Minster (Dean Street)

Known as the German Pub before 1914 and then the French pub post 1914 when it passed onto the ownership of Victor Berlemont, a Belgian. It became an icon of bohemian London and is possibly the most famous pub in the city. In the 1920s this is the place to be seen drinking heavily if you are an up-and-coming artist, writer or thinker who wanted everyone to know how bohemian you are.

The George Tavern (Borough High Street)

One of London's few remaining coaching inns, the George Tavern has been on the site since the 14th century and was rebuilt in 1676 after the Great Fire of London. Its wooden fronting and balconies are a snapshot of an older London with its main bar, a former coffee room that Dickens used to visit, and smaller Old Bar where the coachmen used to drink.

Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese (Fleet Street)

This traditional pub at the heart of Fleet Street has been open since 1667 and is accessed through a narrow alleyway. It is a hive of journalists and newsmen. Its narrow stairways and various small bars are reminiscent of the height of Victorian boozers filled with wooden drinking benches.

The Prospect of Whitby (Wapping)

A bar has been on this site since 1542 when it was known as the Devil's Tavern. In the 17th century it had a reputation as a hive of scum and villainy and a meeting place for smugglers and villains. One notorious customer was Judge Jeffreys, the Hanging Judge who ended the life of many notorious pirates. The building burnt down in the 18th century but was rebuilt and renamed the Prospect of Whitby, after a ship that was moored nearby. The main bar has a flagstone floor, the long bar counter is built on barrels and has a rare pewter top, whilst the bar pillars are made from sections of a ship's mast.

The Anchor (Bankside)

It was from this pub on the south side of the river that Samuel Pepys witnessed the Great Fire of London in 1666. The pub was rebuilt in the 1670s after a fire gutted it and it has been added to over several centuries creating a ramshackle maze of nooks and crannies among bare oak beams and creaky floorboards.

The Lamb (Lamb's Conduit Street)

Built in the 1720s and refurnished in the Victorian era to hold various saloon bars and stained glass windows, mahogany bars and brass fixtures and fittings. During the 1920s the Lamb is one of the meeting places of the artistic Bloomsbury Group.

THE LONDON SEASON

The Season is the highlight of the social year in London and, by extension, the Empire. The Season coincided with the sitting of Parliament, and grew over centuries from the simple fact that the great, the good and the wealthy of the kingdom would descend upon London during this period. By the 1920s it is more than a social gathering – it is an absolute must for anyone who is anyone to be seen at events and parties and, if they can afford it and have enough influence to attract guests, to hold their own.

Many members of the two Houses of Parliament attend events (except Labour members, who would be very lucky to be invited). The Season is also a chance for the children of marriageable age of the nobility and gentry to be launched into society. Women are formally introduced into society by presentation to the monarch at Court.

The Season begins with Easter and ends on 12th August. The Glorious 12th is the start of the grouse-shooting season and so landowners and gentry retire to their country homes for the shooting. The Season includes any number of major social events, such as those listed below, plus innumerable parties, dinners, balls and dances.

Who was invited to which event, and by whom, and even where they were seated at dinner parties is closely scrutinised to find out who is 'in', and who is out. Behind the veneer of polite smiles and brittle laughs, the social climbing is incredibly vicious, and friendships were destroyed forever over who did – and didn't – get an invite.

Getting Invited

An invitation to parties, balls and events during the Season is a sign of rank and privilege. London-based investigators with a Credit Rating of 70% or above can reasonably expect to be invited to at least some very enjoyable parties, and people will ask questions if they aren't seen at one or two of the important events. If they have strong ties to politics or a title but little wealth they may still receive invitations, especially if they look like a good marriage prospect.

Failure to attend for any reason other than illness can damage a person's credibility (and possibly Credit Rating) in society.

These events are attended by the cream of society and thus those of a lower social rank cannot expect access other than through the tradesman's entrance to deliver the goods.

Events of the London Season

The Proms

Founded by Robert Newman in 1895, the Promenade Concerts were intended to bring high culture and great music to those who would not normally attend such events by presenting them in an informal atmosphere, with low ticket prices and relaxed rules on eating, drinking and smoking during performances. Newman described his goal as: "I am going to run nightly concerts and train the public by easy stages. Popular at first, gradually raising the standard until I have created a public for classical and modern music."

By the 1920s the performed repertoire had grown to include popular classics as well as high-brow works and the event is taken over on Newman's death in 1927 by the BBC, who use the established season of concerts to begin broadcasting great music to the nation.

The Proms are one of the few major social events in London where the great and good and the lower orders rub shoulders,

and politicians, the wealthy and nobility who wish to feel the pulse of the people (or who are just slumming it in order to live a little dangerously) can often be found in normal seats in the audience.

Royal Academy Summer Exhibition

Held from June to August, the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy is open to any artist who submits works – the best works are selected for display from entrants irrespective of fame or wealth. Extremely popular with all levels of society, the sort of people who attend the Season will most likely be invited to private viewings organised by wealthy patrons of the arts. Keepers may care to include works similar to those painted by Richard Upton Pickman amongst the exhibition.

Royal Horticultural Society Great Spring Show

The most famous flower and horticultural show in the country, the Great Spring Show began in 1862 and by the 1920s was held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea for five days during May. Members of the society build little gardens to display their skill and any new or unusual plants; newly discovered species from around the Empire are popular exhibits.

It is a popular attraction for the wealthy and landed gentry, not just as a place to be seen but also to get new ideas for how to lay out gardens back at the country estate. Tea parties and

a Royal visit add to the air of refinement, although a Dark Young of Shub-Niggurath lurking in a display of Amazonian flora might spoil proceedings.

Trooping the Colour

Held every year on 3rd June (the official birthday of the King), the Trooping of the Colour is a pageant of the infantry regiments of the British army, who parade through Horse Guards on Whitehall accompanied by military bands. The King inspects the troops and takes the salute in person before being escorted back to Buckingham Palace up the Mall. Thousands line both the parade ground and the route of the march to watch the spectacle, celebrate the Empire, and catch a glimpse of the monarch.

The Garter Service

The Order of the Garter is the oldest order of chivalry in Britain and is the highest honour which can be bestowed (other than an hereditary peerage, or the Victoria and George Crosses). Membership of the Order is limited to the Monarch, the heir, and no more than 24 members. Every year on a Sunday in June the members parade through the grounds of Windsor Castle to the chapel for a dedicated service. Non members of the order attend this service by invitation only, and it is considered a great honour and sign of recognition by the King to get one.

The Boat Race

Perhaps the most famous event of the rowing season is the event generally known as “the Boat Race” between Oxford and Cambridge, and is described further on pg.90.

Henley Royal Regatta

Held from Monday to Sunday over the first weekend in June, the regatta is a series of rowing contests over a one mile course on the Thames at Henley between both individuals and crews who may not be professional rowers (a rule that is strictly – some say too strictly – observed by the stewards). Anyone can enter, so long as they meet the criteria of amateurism, and qualifying heats are held for days or weeks beforehand. The weekend culminates with the Grand Challenge Cup for Men’s Eights on the Sunday afternoon.



Spectators line both banks of the Thames to watch, although members of the Leander Club – who organise the event – get to watch from the members’ enclosure with a few select invited guests drawn from the cream of society. A strict dress code is required to be admitted either as a member or a guest.

Wimbledon

See the section on tennis on pg.90, and Wimbledon on pg.163.

The Lord’s Test

The summer season will often see a visiting test side from the Empire. The five-day Test at the MCC Lord’s ground is seen as the most important of the summer Tests at the home of Cricket. Members of the MCC (Marylebone Cricket Club) and their guests will watch from the Pavilion and take refreshments in the Long Room.

Putting on your Top Hat

If you get an invitation to an event during the Season, such as a private party or gallery showing, drinks at Henley or tea at Chelsea, don’t get the dress code wrong. At the very least, smart dress is required – black tie for evening events and smart (possibly even a tailcoat for gentlemen) during the day.

Invitees wishing to enter the Royal enclosure at Ascot without a hat will be turned away, and ladies wearing a skirt with a hemline above the knee will get a frosty reception almost anywhere.

Obviously, public displays of drunkenness, lewd behaviour or Great Old One-induced gibbering at any of the society or social season events is unacceptable. Investigators who get caught misbehaving at such events will probably be promptly expelled, and find that invitations to future private events become much less common.

The Lord Mayor’s Show

Dating to 1535, the Lord Mayors show is a great procession from Guildhall to the Royal Courts of Justice held to celebrate the election of a new Lord Mayor of London, whose first act in office must be to go to the Royal Courts and swear allegiance to the crown. He is accompanied on this trip by representatives of the livery companies of London and also a military parade of the Honourable Artillery Company and the Royal Fusiliers (with bayonets fixed).

Since it was founded the parade has become a great spectacle and many people hire rooms overlooking the route for the day, holding dinners and tea parties for select friends and anyone they wish to impress.

Débutantes

The unofficial but widely recognised beginning of the Season is the presentation of débutantes – young ladies of 16-18, usually straight from a school that taught skills like deportment, posture and small talk – to the monarch at court, known as ‘coming out’. The only way to be presented is to be vouched for by someone who has been presented in the past, so every year the group is highly exclusive.

Applications are made to the Lord Chamberlain on behalf of the débutante by their nominator, and if successful they would be summoned to attend court on a specific day. It was normal to wear a plain white dress for the presentation, possibly with a short train.

Once presented, débutantes are ‘launched into society’ by attending as many tea parties, balls, polo matches, events, gallery showings as their parents and concerned relatives can arrange, possibly even holding their own ‘coming out party’. The purpose for this whole procedure is to find the young lady an eligible and interested suitor, so any young, single and, preferably, wealthy (or landed) male investigators trailing cultists through London’s high society might find himself distracted by over-keen mothers desperate to introduce him to their daughter at inconvenient moments.



Meiner Partner -100



IN THE HEAT OF THE SUMMERS YOU WILL FIND ME COOL IN THE COLD OF THE WINTER FIND ME WARM COME DOWN UNDERGROUND YOU'VE BOUGHT YOUR TICKET?



YOUR HEALTH MAN I'M THINKING NO LONGER I WILL STICK IT FOR CHEAPNESS CLERITY WHAT ELSE CAN COME YOU ARE FED UP ABOVE FEED BELOW ON OUR REAR

HYDE PARK

THE MALL (BUCKINGHAM PALACE ST. JAMES'S PARK)

Free on Saturdays

LAW AND ORDER

It is almost inevitable that the daring investigator will at some point or another come across the long arm of the law, and whether they are friend or foe will depend a lot upon the candour, character and class of the investigator.

Policing in Britain changed irrevocably in 1919 with the findings of the Desborough Committee and the following Police Act. Much of what can be considered a modern police force came from the committee findings, which brought a standardisation of equipment and policy across Britain but did not go as far as setting up a single national police force. London was left still separated into two distinct bodies of Police. The Metropolitan Police, which deals with most of London, and the City of London Police, which police the City of London. The Corporation of London is the body that runs the City.

London's primary police force is the Metropolitan Police, which was founded in 1829. By the end of the 1920s the force stood at over twenty thousand officers. The force is subdivided into 23 separate divisions covering various areas of the city. Hampstead (S Division) was the largest of these, covering an area of over 80 miles with nearly 1000 officers, while Whitehall (A Division) is the smallest with a pitch of only 2 miles but nearly 700 officers to patrol it. Each division is headed by a superintendent who reports directly to the Chief Constable.

The 22 territorial divisions are each represented by a letter of the alphabet: A, Westminster; B, Chelsea; C, St James's (Mayfair and Soho); D, Marylebone; E, Holborn; F, Paddington; G, Finsbury; H, Whitechapel; J, Hackney, K, Bow; L, Lambeth; M, Southwark; N, Islington; P, Camberwell; R, Greenwich; S, Hampstead; T, Hammersmith, V, Wandsworth, W, Brixton; X, Kilburn; Y, Highgate; and Z Division (Croydon), which was added in 1921. Thames Division has no divisional letter, but the entirety of the London Thames is its "beat". Each division is divided into two or more sub-divisions, each with one or more police stations. The divisions are grouped into five districts. The one area that the Metropolitan Police District has always been excluded from is the City of London, which has its own entirely separate police force.

LONDON • METROPOLITAN POLICE •

The Metropolitan Police are under the control of the Police Commissioner, who answers in turn directly to the Home Secretary. The force has responsibility for policing the entire Greater London area with the exception of the City of London, whose police are covered below. During the 1920s, both Commissioners were veterans of the Great War with no experience of ordinary London lives. Officers joined at the rank of Constable and – until the reforms of Viscount Byng as Commissioner in 1930 – would receive promotion due to their years of service rather than merit or ability.

POLICE RESPONSIBILITIES

The post-war police are not just responsible for law enforcement; they are also used in political disputes. Due to fears over Bolshevism, gatherings and marches by the unemployed are often heavily dealt with. The most serious example of this behaviour is seen in 1926 during the General Strike. The police were responsible for ensuring food got through and that the volunteers running the transport system could operate in safety. As a result the police engendered enmity in certain parts of the London populace. They were not seen as impartial custodians of the law, but as enemies of the working classes.

A Police Constable's Day

Most policemen patrol on foot. The first beat begins at 5:45am with parade and instructions at their police station. The men then file off under their Sergeant for further briefings before going on patrols between 6am and 2pm. Two further beats divide the rest of the day and follow a similar pattern. This does make the change of the beats a known fact and the optimum time to perform illicit acts.

This pattern continues to the end of the decade, when Viscount Byng introduces a staggered and more random shift change.

Police Ranks

Constable

Rank and file officers forming the majority of beat-walking 'Bobbies'. Each constable's tunic collar displays their personal identification number and divisional letter, together known as their collar number. A Constable earns between £3 10s and £5 10s a week. Only about one fifth of London's Constables are actually Londoners, with the remainder recruited from mainly rural districts throughout the United Kingdom; the West Country is a favoured recruiting area.

Sergeant

The supervisory rank of Sergeant still finds the majority of their responsibilities in day-to-day policing, often involving shift and duty allocation for Constables. A Sergeant's rank is signified by three downwards pointing chevrons on each upper sleeve. A Sergeant earns around £400 per annum.

Station Sergeant

A Station Sergeant is usually the senior sergeant in a police station, but may also command a smaller station. He wears a crown above his chevrons. An equivalent rank is Clerk Sergeant, the chief clerk of each division.

Inspector

Inspectors are the most senior rank likely to perform day to day policing and even then their presence is likely only in serious cases or where members of high society are concerned. They would often be responsible for larger scale management of an entire duty shift though some were specialists in certain roles. Some smaller stations are commanded by Inspectors. Their badge of rank is a single pip on the epaulettes.

Sub-Divisional Inspector

The Sub-Divisional Inspector commands a sub-division and is responsible for his own police station and maybe one or more smaller stations commanded by Inspectors or Station Sergeants. His badge of rank is two pips on the epaulettes.

Chief Inspector

During the 1920s the rank of Chief Inspector becomes commonplace with every division having two Chief Inspectors by the early 1930s. They are senior assistants to the divisional Superintendent, one in charge of divisional administration and the other directly supervising the Sub-Divisional Inspectors. The badge of rank is a crown on the epaulettes.

Superintendent

Each division is commanded by a Superintendent overseeing the logistics of their patch and reporting directly to the District Chief Constable. The badge of rank is a crown above a pip on the epaulettes.

Chief Constable

Each of the five districts is commanded by a Chief Constable, with a sixth heading CID at Scotland Yard. Like other officers above the rank of Superintendent, only a handful have risen from the ranks, with the remainder being mostly recruited from retired military officers.

Commissioner

The Commissioner oversee the policing policy for the London Metropolitan Police. There were two Commissioners during the 1920s, and neither had served as police officers before appointment. They are supported by four Assistant Commissioners (one of whom also serves as Deputy Commissioner), each assisted by one or two Deputy Assistant Commissioners.

Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police

1920-1928

Brigadier-General Sir William Horwood

A former military officer and veteran of the Great War, he was appointed as Assistant Commissioner in 1918 and made Commissioner in 1920. He introduced female police officers and formed the serious crime unit known as "The Flying Squad" almost as soon as he took the post. He retires in 1928.

1928-1931

General Julian Byng, 1st Viscount Byng of Vimy

A former Governor-General of Canada and Great War veteran, Byng reforms the police in the wake of the corruption scandal surrounding Sergeant Goddard (see below). His reforms include introducing merit-based promotion, weeding out inefficient and dishonest officers and improving discipline for the rest. His management also sees a great increase in the number of police cars and police boxes, and a central radio control room.

• NEW SCOTLAND YARD •

An ornate brick building in the Italian Revival style, New Scotland Yard stands upon the Victoria Embankment. Home of the Criminal Investigation Department, Special Branch and the Flying Squad, it is the administrative centre to the Metropolitan Police. Investigators with links to the Metropolitan Police will know the building well.

One of the most famous unsolved murders of London history occurred here when, during the construction of the building during the 1880s, the limbless torso of a woman was found amongst the foundations. The woman was never identified, and the killer never caught.

Within Scotland Yard is the Lost Property Office, where any item mislaid on the Underground, in a taxi or on a bus tends to end up. Londoners are usually honest enough to hand in

things they find, and more than half of items reported lost are returned to their owners. Any item not claimed at the end of 3 months is given to the person who handed it in to dispose of as they will (a charge of 15% of the value is levied on the recipient).

THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) are plain-clothed detectives tasked with serious crimes such as murder. They are recruited from the uniformed ranks but must pass exams to show they possessed superior observational and deductive skills. Officers use the word 'Detective' before their rank to signify this distinction between uniformed police and CID.

Most crimes are investigated by the divisional CID, headed by the Divisional Detective Inspector (DDI), equivalent in rank to a uniformed Sub-Divisional Inspector. He heads a small team consisting of one or two Detective Inspectors, a First Class Detective Sergeant (the CID equivalent to a Station Sergeant) and a number of Detective Sergeants and Constables.

Each sub-division also has a small CID unit headed by a Detective Inspector or Detective Sergeant and answering to the DDI. The DDI answers both to his Divisional Superintendent and to the District Detective Superintendent.

For the most serious crimes and crimes that cross divisional boundaries, the Central Office Squad based at Scotland Yard is called in. Headed by a Chief Constable, this consists of about a dozen Detective Superintendents and Detective Chief Inspectors and a team of more junior officers, with the whole squad totalling about 60 men, all very experienced detectives. The top detectives of this squad can achieve something approaching star status in the eyes of the public.

THE FLYING SQUAD

Formed in 1919, the Central Robbery Squad was formed to actively crack down on thieves and pickpockets, especially violent ones. From its HQ at Scotland Yard, it can operate in both metropolitan Police and City of London authorities; the nickname 'the Flying Squad' is derived from its authority to cross operational boundaries without special permission.

Police Corruption

“There are certain thin portions of the veil of obscurity through which one may get unpleasant visions of the truth. Further than that one must not go. But there are those who know, among them the ... Home Secretary, whose knowledge is ... sealed by the official seal.”

– H.L. Adam, *CID: Behind The Scenes At Scotland Yard*, 1931

Sergeant George Goddard of the Metropolitan Police was arrested (as part of the same operation which arrested Kate Meyrick – see pg. 67) in November 1928 on the charge of Conspiracy to Pervert the course of Justice. After leading the raid on Kate Meyrick’s 43 club in 1922, Goddard had taken to receiving bribes in return for staying away from Soho’s nightlife. Prostitutes and nightclub and bar owners between them paid him over £100 a week to keep police attention away from their activities – it was reported that on bribe day (Tuesday), Soho’s prostitutes would form queues to pay him! When he was arrested, Goddard was found to have over £18,000 in cash (well in excess of £800,000 at today’s prices) under his bed. A difficult thing to explain on his policeman’s salary of £6 15s a week.

It is unthinkable that Goddard was one bad copper, and similar corruption was almost certainly common – in the wake of Goddard’s arrest and trial almost 10% of ‘C’ Division, which patrolled the Soho area, were reassigned or dismissed. However, nobody else was arrested and Goddard stated at his trial that he would keep quiet and “not take anyone else with me”. He was found guilty and sentenced to 18 months hard labour and a £2000 fine. The press reported the case as being an isolated incident, and emphasised the importance of the police investigating themselves in secrecy:

This sort of behaviour should not surprise investigators. Many street police take a lenient view of crimes that do not appear to cause anyone serious harm, like late-night drinking or prostitution, especially if helped along with a few banknotes. If caught doing something illegal but apparently harmless that can be passed off as a prank (such as climbing over a wall into a back garden), investigators might try to bribe a policeman by making both a Credit Rating and a Difficult Persuade roll, although failure will result in instant arrest and more serious charges being brought. Cultists are also happy to bribe the police. After all, a big house in Mayfair where pretty girls seem to go in in the early hours... that’s just a toff’s party, isn’t it? A tenner or two and a tot of whisky on a cold night can be enough to keep a constable at bay.

• THE CITY OF LONDON POLICE •

The City of London has had some form of policing since Roman time. With the City of London Police Act of 1842, its own police force was established as a separate entity to the Metropolitan Police, controlled by the Corporation of London and not the Home Office. The force headquarters in 26 Old Jewry has a strength of just over one thousand men, many of whom had served in the Great War. Their area of control covers areas such as Holborn, Fleet Street, Aldgate and

Liverpool Street as well as many of the major bridges such as Southwark and Tower Bridge and important locations such as the Bank of England and St Paul’s Cathedral. Their uniforms are similar to the Metropolitan police with two noticeable exceptions. Their duty bands are red and white and their buttons and badges are gold, not silver.

THE RIVER POLICE

The River Police are some 250 officers strong and based from a headquarters at Wapping New Stairs. Their jurisdiction extends from Chelsea Bridge to Dartford Creek, a winding

distance of around 21 miles of the Thames. The force is going through a period of modernisation with the first motor launch coming into service in 1910. Logistically the River Police are a division of the Metropolitan Police (Thames Division).

THE RAILWAY POLICE

Maintained by the railway companies, the Railway Police were responsible for the detection of crime and law enforcement on the railways of London and the South of England. Each company has a separate force controlled by a Chief of Police. From their origins as 'private' railway police their duties also involve acting as crossing keepers and locking and sealing train wagons.



POLICE UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT

The British police officer's uniform is a familiar image the world over and replicated throughout much of the Empire, consisting of a very dark blue high collared tunic with silver buttons. Sewn into the collar is the officer's number and divisional letter. Inspectors and above adds epaulettes to their

uniform to signify rank. Each officer wears a custodian helmet fashioned from cork with a cloth covering emblazoned with a badge, which for the Metropolitan Police carried a silver insignia based upon the Brunswick star. Officers of the rank of Inspector and above wear peaked caps and open-necked tunics with a collar and tie. Matching twill trousers and well-kept black boots complete the uniform. Capes or heavy wool overcoats are often worn in the cold wet, winter months. Constables and Sergeants wear a blue and white striped duty band around their left cuff when on duty.

The standard London police officer is armed only with a trusty truncheon which is a single wooden club around 15" in length (treat as per a nightstick). Other standard equipment carried in their duty belt includes their police notebook, a whistle and set of steel handcuffs.

The British have always held firm that policing is by consent, and although the bobby on the beat is accepted, the use of firearms is not. In exceptional circumstances policemen may be issued with pistols or even rifles, but this will be decided based upon the severity of the specific situation. Officers patrolling outlying areas of London, where crime is sometimes rampant, may, if they desire, draw revolvers to carry on night duty. It is extremely rare for these weapons to be fired.

POLICE TRANSPORT

Police cars only began appearing in the city at the start of the decade and there was no real motorised patrol until 1934. The majority of police travel by foot or by bicycle. Horse-mounted patrols and prisoner transport wagons are still commonplace.

POLICE COMMUNICATION

The radio network develops during the decade. Radio communications for motor-cars are demonstrated to the Metropolitan Police in 1920 and quickly adopted by the Flying Squad "For the capture of criminals, especially motor-bandits", but early equipment is specialised, bulky and delicate and it is not until 1931 that London gets an integrated radio control room. During 1929, blue police boxes appear throughout the city, all of which have a radio or a telephone connected to the nearest police station. Away from such technology, policemen will usually rely upon a whistle to signal the need for assistance to other police on the beat.

• THE ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM •

English law is the framework of the legal system in England & Wales and most Commonwealth countries. It should be noted that Scotland has a similar but different system. It is based on common law, where law is developed by judges through court decisions, known as precedent. These precedents bind future decisions, binding the court to follow the reasoning of the previous decision. These precedents can go back over many years and be quite convoluted allowing detailed arguments.

English law divides its statutes and precedence between criminal and civil cases: a criminal case is pursued by the Crown against an individual, whereas a civil case is made by a private individual against another.

Getting off the Hook

English Law is precedent based, and as a result obscure precedents of legal loopholes dog the justice system.

At the Keeper's discretion, a successful Law roll may allow an investigator to slip a charge on a technicality as they quote some obscure by-law or statute that invalidates a charge. The obscurity, the seriousness and scope of the crime will likely inflict a penalty.

CRIMINAL LAW

Criminal acts are broadly broken into two categories under English Law: summary and indictment. Summary crimes include petty offences, such as driving crimes, drunkenness or lewd behaviour. These offences will see a defendant face a petty sessional court. More serious crimes are known as indictable offences. Here the defendant will initially be bound to a magistrate who will examine the evidence and make the decision to pass it on to the Quarter Sessions or Assizes.

The fundamental difference between the two types of trial is that a Magistrate acts as the final arbiter of the case, based upon legal precedent. A Quarter Sessions or Assize trial is heard before a jury. It should be noted that it is an enshrined principle of English law that a defendant whose crime is to be heard before a magistrate can demand to be tried by a jury of his peers and escalate the crime. If the defendant is still found guilty Judges at the higher level are likely to impose a more serious sentence.

CIVIL LAW

The civil arm of the judiciary deals with matters such as contract, property and tort with origins in Roman legal frameworks. A civil case is one brought by a private citizen against another. It is often tried with a judge but rarely with a jury (defamation being an example of a jury-heard case). Damages and liabilities may be awarded against a successful pursuant in the case of finding in their favour but in the case of a spurious or unfounded claim the reverse may be the case.

The Magistrates' Association

Being a lay magistrate requires no formal qualifications beyond being of good character and sound judgement. Appointed by local authorities and town corporations, magistrates are often local landowners or dignitaries with little real legal knowledge, and in 1920 this led to the formation of the Magistrate's Association, which worked to help magistrates understand the law and its requirements.

Optional Occupation: Justice of the Peace

An investigator could play a Justice of the Peace. It was an important role that could also open other doors into groups such as the Freemasons or place them on the route to Knighthood or Parliament. A Justice of the Peace is likely male (women have only been allowed to sit since 1919), over 40 and of solid upper middle class British stock. Such characters should take Law as a skill selection as, although they were lay practitioners some knowledge was expected.

The body of civil law also forms the basis of good conduct in many other forms of British life including the buying of properties, trade and business.

ENGLISH LEGAL STRUCTURE

Petty Sessions

Petty sessions are presided over by a bench of two or more lay magistrates, often known as Justices of the Peace (JP), or (in Inner London) by a single legally qualified Police Magistrate. They hear minor criminal cases in a trial without jury.

If an investigator finds themselves arrested and charged, their first stop will be a trip from the Police Station Cells to the Court Cells, whereupon they will be 'brought up' to face judgement. A defendant is entitled to a solicitor; either one of their own or a court appointed one.

County Courts

County Courts are statutory courts that deal with civil proceedings. They are presided over by a County Court Judge. The judge will then stand as soul arbiter of the fact and law with no jury assistance. The majority of civil actions are brought in the county they occurred in.

Quarter Sessions

The Quarter Sessions are presided over by magistrates with a legally qualified chairman, who functions as a judge. They can try almost any offence except those that carry the death penalty or life imprisonment (apart from burglary, which they can try).

The other offences reserved for the assizes are bigamy, abduction, bribery, forgery and perjury. Despite their name, in London Quarter Sessions are held twice every month at the London Sessions House in Southwark and the Middlesex Guildhall in Westminster.

Assizes

Professional judges oversee the assizes. Investigators arrested for serious crimes outside London might have to wait several months in gaol for the next assizes to begin. London's assizes are held at the Central Criminal Court, commonly known as the Old Bailey. Several courts are held here at a time and they sit every month.

Court of Appeal & Court of Criminal Appeal

Established in 1876, the Court of Appeal is held at the Royal Courts of Justice, where anyone appealing against their sentence will have their case heard by senior professional judges and even, if the case is serious enough, the Law Lords. So long as the prisoner can find new points of law to argue and doesn't run out of money to pay for legal representation, an unlimited number of appeals can be made.

Lord Chief Justices of England

1913-1921 Rufus Isaacs, 1st Earl of Reading

A prosperous lawyer who made his name in the Bayliss vs. Coleridge libel suit of 1903. He entered Parliament as a Liberal MP for the Reading Constituency in 1904, which he held until 1913. Made Lord Chief Justice in 1913, he held the post until his retirement in 1921.

1921-22 Alfred Lawrence, 1st Baron Trevethin

Appointed Judge of the High Court of Justice in 1904, he held the post until 1921 when he was appointed Lord Chief Justice and raised to the peerage as Baron Trevethin. He only remained Lord Chief Justice for one year and was seen as a stopgap by Prime Minister Lloyd George.

Lawrence gave George an undated letter of resignation when we assumed the role. He apparently learned of his resignation whilst reading a newspaper on the train to London.

1922-1940 Gordon Hewart, 1st Baron Hewart (made Viscount after retirement)

Born in Bury, Lancashire, educated at University College Oxford and Liberal MP from 1913-1922. He was first raised Baron Hewart in 1922 and assumed the role of Lord Chief Justice. A vociferous proponent of the English Jury system he was also unafraid to hold its shortcomings to account, as illustrated by his quashing of William Wallace's murder conviction in 1931 on a lack of evidence.

He is credited as being the originator of the aphorism, "Not only must Justice be done, it must also be seen to be done."

• CRIME AND PUNISHMENT • IN LONDON

Though nowhere near as endemic or scandalous as distant Chicago, British crime was also not the gentle affair of middle class murder as made famous in the works of Agatha Christie. It was a diverse and dangerous business.

ORGANISED CRIME

The most famous gang of twenties London were the notorious Sabinis, an Anglo-Sicilian gangster clan. They committed burglaries, thefts, extortion and ran prostitution rings in the East End, as well as controlling gambling at racecourses throughout the south-east of England. Turf wars were a fact of life, especially in the prime territory of Holborn, Clerkenwell and Gray's Inn Road, where gangs, often formed amongst ethnic lines, proliferated. These battles rarely involved firearms, and were more likely to be fought with knives, clubs and straight razors.

This is not to say London was free from gun crime. Many soldiers returned from the Great War with their service weapons, one of which was the end of Henry Sabini on Great Bath Street in 1922. The police did little to deal with this issue. In fact some even protected the gangsters and did well because of it.

The second most dangerous gang were the Messinas; fellow Italians who ran a vice and gambling ring out of Soho (many of their prostitutes were women trafficked from the Middle East) that was also the heart of the cocaine trade in London.

The East End gangs did not make much headway into controlling the rich pickings of the nightclubs and illegal drinking and gambling dens of the West End. Instead, organised crime was rare in those areas, due to individual club owners paying off the police for their protection.

The largest problem in tackling the gangs was the lack of witnesses willing to testify against them. The class divide between the police and those that lived in the most deprived areas of London was a serious obstacle to obtaining convictions of those who preyed on or lived beside the vulnerable. The most famous of all of London's gang members – the Kray twins, who

ran the underworld during the 1950s and 60s – were later said that when they were children they wanted to emulate a notorious gangster called Billy Hill. Hero worship of successful and generous criminals was common in the East End, and provided another valuable protective layer around them.

Charles "Darby" Sabini, 1889 - 1958

The head of the Sabini family, Charles was born in Camden, North London, but is best known for his activities in the East End where his gang was based. At the peak of his power Sabini controlled an organisation estimated at over 300 in number, including hitmen specifically imported from Italy, plus, rumour has it, police, judges and politicians on his payroll. Sabini was the major player in most organised crime east of Charing Cross and often tried to expand until 1926, when he was declared bankrupt after losing a libel case he had brought when accused of being a criminal. He left London and took up residence in the Grand Hotel, Brighton, where he rebuilt his criminal network on the south coast.

PETTY CRIMINALS

Most crime in London during the twenties was the work of the individual. The 1927 *London Guide* warned visitors that "A favourite dodge of the light fingered fraternity is to join a crowd for one of the motor omnibuses. Standing on the steps as if about to enter, they work their will while the scrimmage for the buses ensue, and then hastily alight." "Beware of pickpockets" was a common warning sign on public transport and the wise investigator should be aware of men carrying overcoats across their right arm, a common trick to hide light-fingered activities.

Cars were increasingly used in crimes in which smash and grab robbers targeted jewellers, as was numberplate and vehicle theft. A notorious gang worked out of Brixton stealing cars from affluent Camberwell and Oval. This was also the age of the cat burglar such as Gussie Delaney who targeted the upper classes in Park Lane, Golders Green and Hampstead. Even with these petty crimes and the inevitable sensationalist press the crime rate was low during the decade.



CULTISTS

In his book *London after Dark*, Robert Fabian, a former Detective Superintendent of Scotland Yard, tells of a Satanic Temple he once raided. Based in a house divided into cheap flats on Lancaster Gate, he found:

“Down in a cellar is a small doorway... it leads through to the house whose walls adjoin it. The front door of this house faces onto an entirely different street. It is privately owned and from its cellar stairs go to ... a sliding door padded with black felt. Beyond this door is a temple to Satanism! ... you are suddenly in a large room, sickly with odours from two tall brass braziers. The room is lit by wick lamps that burn a dark green fat which smells abominably and seems to have some stupefying power ... At one end of the longroom is an altar, exactly as in a small church – except that the candles are black wax and the crucifix is head downwards. There are no seats. Around the walls are low divans. Alongside each burns a saucer of dried herbs. Symbols of wizardry are daubed on

cloths that completely cover the walls. Pentagrams and sigils are on the low ceiling. On the left of the altar is a black African idol [of] some heathen fertility rite. It is nearly five feet high, squat, and obscenely constructed. It is rubbed to a greasy polish by the ecstatic bare flesh of worshippers.”

Keepers may decide at their leisure precisely who – or what – was being worshipped at this temple.

IMPRISONMENT AND PUNISHMENT

Well, you have gone and done it now. Guilty as charged and in for a spot of punishment! What rotten luck, at least the following will give you an idea of what you can expect.

Fines

Crimes that saw you at the magistrates’ bench would often lead to a fine. The amount should reflect the seriousness of the crime but tended to be fixed and not on a sliding scale, drunken and lewd behaviour being two of the most common fines issued. A common assault (i.e. punching someone) as a first time offender might get you a fine of £5, or two weeks in the cells if you can’t pay.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment, usually the birch but occasionally the cat-o’-nine-tails, is still used. Violence in robbery, inappropriate conduct towards women and the like could theresult in an extremely painful punishment, as well as a jail term.

Optional Rule: Lashing Damage

A lashing is a painful and scary event. It renders 1 HP of damage per 10 lashes and without prompt and competent medical attention there is a 1% per lash chance of permanently costing a victim 1 CON point.

Imprisonment

So your investigator has gone and gotten themselves in trouble and they are going to do some time at His Majesty’s Pleasure. Vastly improved from the early Victorian horrors of Newgate, prisons are still dark and cold places.

Imprisonment would leave an investigator at His Majesty's Pleasure for a prescribed period of time, and escaping from the cold Victorian prisons of London would be an arduous job. It is far more likely the investigators, law-abiding chaps that they all are, will be visiting a wayward relative or arch enemy in such a place.

Note that the prisons in London only cater for those sentenced to a maximum of three years' imprisonment. Those sentenced to longer terms will be sent to one of the three convict prisons: Dartmoor in Devon, Maidstone in Kent or Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight.

Brixton

Opened in 1820, Brixton prison was originally designed to hold 175 male prisoners but often stored many more crammed into squalid cells. A dank and miserable Victorian hellhole.

Feltham

Feltham Borstal was established in 1910 for male offenders aged between 16 and 21 sentenced to up to three years' imprisonment. The British prison system separated young offenders from adult offenders in an attempt to 'drill the criminal out of them' while separating them from hardened adult criminals. Girls will be sent to England's only girls' borstal, at Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire. Young offenders sentenced to longer terms will be sent to separate youth wings of the convict prisons.

Holloway

In 1903 Holloway became a female only prison and its inmates included many famous suffragettes. It was also a gallows prison. Only one inmate was executed there during the 1920s: Edith Thompson is executed in 1923 for complicity in murder, which many believed to be a miscarriage of justice. Over 1 million people signed a petition calling for leniency in her case before her hanging, but to no avail. Holloway only caters for women sentenced to up to three years' imprisonment. Women sentenced to longer terms will be sent to Walton Gaol in Liverpool.

Pentonville

Located in Millbank and opened in 1816, Pentonville was the successor to the notorious Newgate Prison. Designed in a humane 'panopticon', style it is a prison for the most serious offenders in London. Since 1902 it has been the last stay for a condemned man on his way to the gallows.

Wormwood Scrubs

Located in the the Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, the prison was constructed entirely using convict labour.

Wandsworth

Located in the Borough of Wandsworth and built in 1851, the prison is the largest in London. Notoriously without toilets (which were removed for extra prisoner space) the prisoner is required to 'slop out' their cells of a morning. Wandsworth prison has been the site of numerous executions and corporal punishment. In 1930, prisoner James Spiers committed suicide in front of magistrates who were there to witness him receive 15 lashes for armed robbery.

Capital Crimes

After the penal and justice reforms of the 19th century, the death sentence is extinct in Britain except in cases of murder and treason. Gun-happy investigators should remember that there is no legal option for imprisonment in murder cases; the only possible sentence for a convicted murderer is death.

The Home Secretary can commute a death sentence to life imprisonment, but this is uncommon. Traditionally a judge about to pronounce the sentence will place a black cloth atop their wig before condemning the guilty person. Execution in Britain at the time is by hanging.



Meiner Luben

-POET

SOCRATES

AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM



by
UNDERGROUND

HISTORICAL BUILDING

NAME	ADDRESS
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PUBLIC BUILDING HOSPITAL

NAME	ADDRESS
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*The id
The id
Much of
e arrival
in the East
looking for
half or more
means the difference
for East-End families*

FOOTBALL GROUND

NAME	ADDRESS
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THE LONDON GUIDE

In this section we look at London and her attractions, her buildings, museums, churches, parks and something of its history. The aim of this section is to give the Keeper information about major landmarks that investigators might visit, and also buildings, locations, areas and their secrets that might prove useful in building adventures.

• THE CITIES AND COUNTY OF LONDON •

There are two cities of London: the ancient City of London guarded at each entry by its symbol of a Silver Dragon and the City of Westminster, the heart of Governance for Britain and her Empire. From there we travel north to St Pancras and the gateway to the north, or south to pretty Kensington and Chelsea.

London Boroughs

The county of London is divided into Metropolitan Boroughs. The London Government Act created 28 boroughs as sub-divisions of the County of London. They replaced vestries as the second tier of local government. They were the following:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. City of London | 11. Deptford | 20. Hampstead |
| 2. Westminster | 12. Lewisham | 21. St Marylebone |
| 3. Holborn | 13. Woolwich | 22. Paddington |
| 4. Finsbury | 14. Greenwich | 23. Kensington |
| 5. Shoreditch | 15. Poplar | 24. Hammersmith |
| 6. Bethnal Green | 16. Hackney | 25. Fulham |
| 7. Stepney | 17. Stoke Newington | 26. Wandsworth |
| 8. Bermondsey | 18. Islington | 27. Lambeth |
| 9. Southwark | 19. St Pancras | 28. Battersea |
| 10. Camberwell | | 29. Chelsea |

Beyond these boroughs of London is the commuter belt of leafy Surrey and the brand new Metroland Suburbs. The city is a vast and wonderful place and the following pages will allow you to discover something of its beauty and promise. The city guide has been divided into six sections: Central London, West London, North London, the East End and the Docklands, South-East London and South-West London, which form the main city areas. Also included is a section on the expanding city which explores the emerging new suburbs that will double the size of London between 1920 and 1930.

• CENTRAL LONDON •

THE CITY OF LONDON

The City of London is a city within a city; almost a separate city-state surrounded by the greater metropolitan area. Historically the original place called 'London', the rest of the metropolis has grown up outside its walls and adopted its name.

Traditionally, the City is the heart of the mercantile district, and for centuries has been where merchants and banks and actuaries have based themselves. For this reason, the City has a history of antagonism with the politicians and monarchy in Westminster; many times the King or Parliament has wanted the City's money, and many times the City has objected with, during the middle ages, at least one battle being fought between the City and Westminster. As a unified kingdom grew up around it, the City of London always maintained something of a unique position. As the mercantile and financial powerhouse that first financed the growth of a kingdom and now provides the capital for an empire, the City has the money – and Parliament has never wanted to risk killing the goose that lays the golden eggs by demanding too much of it.

Due to its unusual historical position, the City has a degree of independence that the rest of London does not have. The monarch must ask permission to enter its bounds, and the Lord Mayor enjoys special privileges and powers within the

walls. It has its own police force and courts, and is exempt from some laws passed by Westminster that apply to the rest of the country. For the heart of a modern metropolis, the City feels oddly old-fashioned. It retains much of its winding medieval street pattern, and is as full of ancient churches and graveyards as it is modern banks and insurers.

The Livery Companies

There are 78 livery companies in the City, these being the descendants of the medieval guilds that regulated and controlled trades. By the 1920s the companies have little formal power but they retain a lot of wealth, and membership of a company is an important step for an ambitious man looking to make a career in the City. The primary purpose of the companies by this time is social and charitable, plus plenty of opportunities for networking over a glass of something tasty from the company's cellar.

Most of the livery companies have names that reflect medieval professions like candlemakers, armourers and braziers, cordwainers, goldsmiths, saddlers and fishmongers. However, in 1926 the Worshipful Company of Master Mariners becomes the first new company to be formed in three hundred years.

Places of Interest

1. St Paul's Cathedral (Ludgate Hill)

The largest and most prominent church in London, seat of the Bishop of London and the 'parish church of the British Empire', the instantly recognisable St Paul's is by no means the first place of worship to have stood on this spot. Ludgate Hill, upon which it stands, has been a holy site for at least two thousand years, with at least two previous Christian churches having stood there and (legend has it) a Roman temple to Diana before them. What with the Romans being notorious appropriators of local sites, it is safe to assume that the top of the hill was used for religious purposes before even they arrived.

The present building is famously Christopher Wren's 'prayer in stone', built to replace the former St Paul's Cathedral that was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. Although the old cathedral was built solidly of stone and would otherwise have withstood the blaze, local booksellers had used the crypt for safe-keeping during the fire and when molten lead from the roof poured down the stairs, the highly flammable paper burned with a ferocity that cracked even the hardest stone. When Wren surveyed the site after the fire, the only surviving piece of inscription he found was the word 'resurgam' – "I shall rise again" – and in 1675 he placed this stone to mark the centre of the new dome he was building. The word also

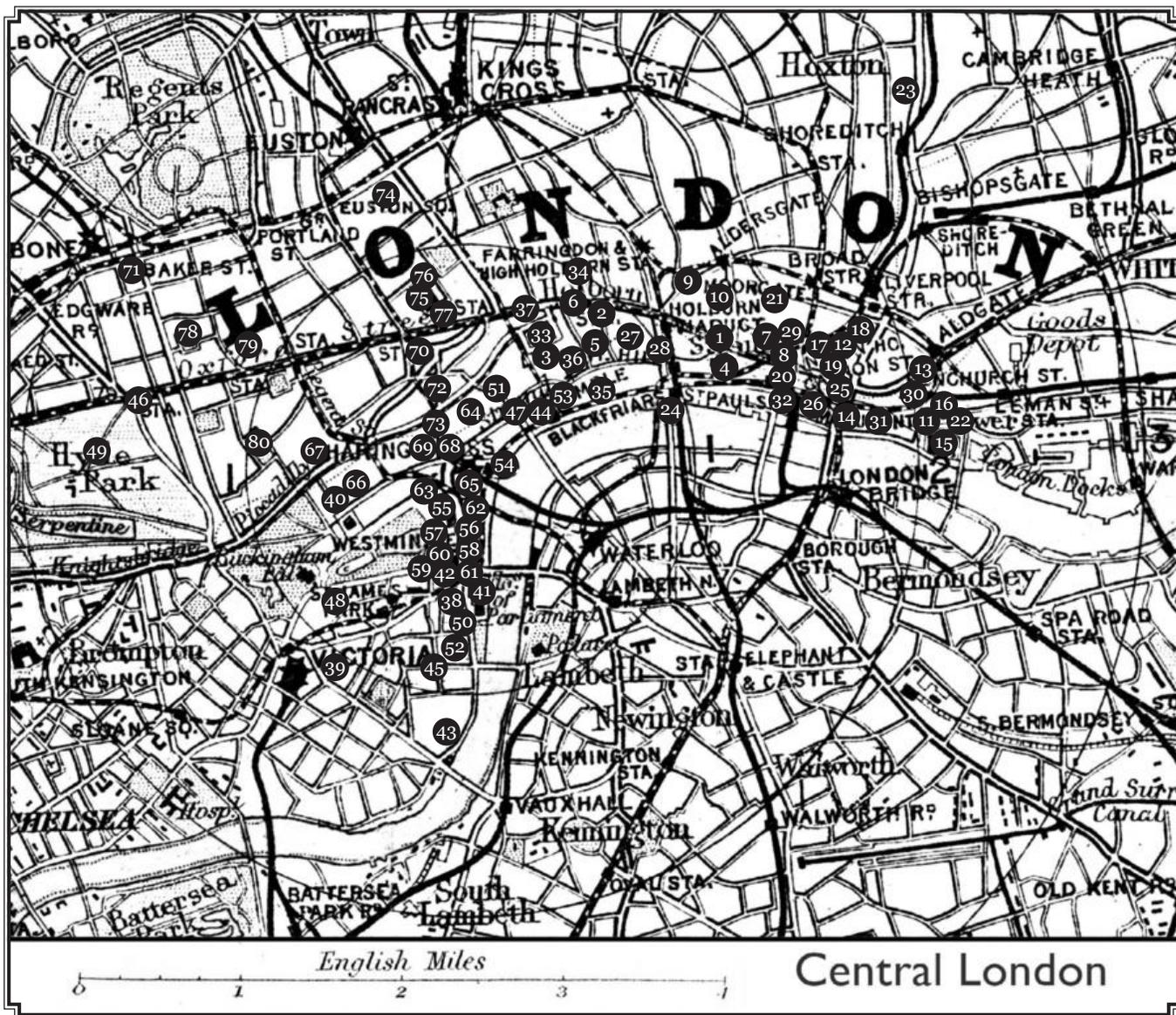


appears above the South Door, along with a carving of a phoenix rising from the flames. The cathedral took 35 years to build, and Wren lived just long enough – until 1713 – to see his son raised in a basket to place the last stone at the top of the dome of his masterpiece. He is buried in the crypt beneath a slab of black marble which bears the words “If you seek his monument, look around you.”

The cathedral itself is rich in history. The crypt (the largest in Europe) also holds the remains of numerous historical figures including Admiral Lord Nelson (whose coffin is made from the mainmast of l’Orient, flagship of the French fleet), Lord Wellington, Joshua Reynolds and JMW Turner. In

1912 fissures in the stonework of St Paul’s were discovered, prompting a major restoration project that lasts between 1923- 30. As a result of this, for much of the decade the cathedral has a covering of scaffolding – so if a cultist wants to climb to the top of the Dome and summon Cthugha, at least there will be plenty of handholds.

The main body of the cathedral is free to enter from 9am-6pm daily and may be toured at any time when church services are not taking place, although entry to the crypt costs 6d. 627 steps lead from the ground floor of the Cathedral to the Whispering Gallery around the base of the dome (6d to ascend), where the slightest whisper on one side of the gallery can be heard



on the other side, 112 feet away. From there, more steps lead to the Stone Gallery, which encircles the outer dome and then more (costing another 1d) to the Golden Gallery around the cupola and finally to the very top of the dome (yet another 1d) – the ball at the base of the cross.

The cathedral has long held the legend of a ghost called ‘Whistler’, a grey-haired old clergyman whose appearance is presaged by a sudden chill and a whistling that grows louder as he approaches. This ghost is always seen to walk the same route and vanish at the same place: into the wall of All Soul’s Chapel, later renamed the Kitchener Gallery. During the renovation work a hidden door was found at the exact point the ghost always vanished, leading into a secret stairway and room whose purpose was unknown and previously unsuspected.

St Paul’s contains a library (17,000 volumes) consisting mostly of theological and liturgical texts and Bibles. It is unlikely to contain any ancient works of Mythos interest as the old library was completely destroyed during the Great Fire. However, investigators are welcome to examine the contents for a small fee of 6d per day – library catalogues going back to 1313 did survive the fire and may also be viewed.

2. The Central Criminal Court (Ludgate Hill)

Better known as the Old Bailey, and known for the statue of Blind Justice that tops the dome. The Central Criminal Court is the main assizes court for trying crimes committed within the City and County of London, plus Middlesex and some parts of Essex, Kent and Sussex.

There are four courtrooms and, on the principle that justice should be open, members of the public are welcome to watch trials, although for popular cases an entry fee of between 1-5s will be charged on the door. For very notorious trials (such as the Crippen murder) the court was standing-room only and tickets were sold in advance for each day.

The Central Criminal Court stands upon the spot once occupied by Newgate Prison, where prisoners condemned to death in London were held between 1782-1902. Nearby is St Sepulchre Church, which would be the place from which condemned criminals received their final blessing on the way to the gallows at Tyburn.

3. Royal College of Surgeons (Lincoln’s Inn Fields)

Dating from the formation of the Guild of Surgeons in the City of London in 1368, the Royal College of Surgeons is the primary professional body and training organisation for surgeons throughout England and Wales. The building occupied by the college was built in 1833, but was heavily renovated during the twenties, including the addition of a subterranean vault to house the Army Medical Museum in 1921 and another in 1925 when another underground room was excavated to house the osteological collection.

The College is the home of the Hunter Museum of Anatomy, which Ward, Lock & co. describe in 1923 as “gruesome”. The collection includes anatomical curiosities, human and animal specimens, teaching models and surgical tools, as well as deformed skeletons, pickled fetuses and exhibitions of every sickness the flesh might succumb to. A place not for the faint of heart (or the low in SAN).

With 50,000 volumes, the Royal College of Surgeons library is ranked as the second most important medical library in Europe (after the Royal Society of Medicine). The library, concentrates upon medical science, and includes works on medical abnormalities and mysteries. The Royal College of Surgeons also contains an extensive anatomical museum. Access to both may be gained either by introduction by a member or on application to the college secretary. The library and museum are open Wednesday to Saturday, although ladies are only admitted on Friday and Saturday.

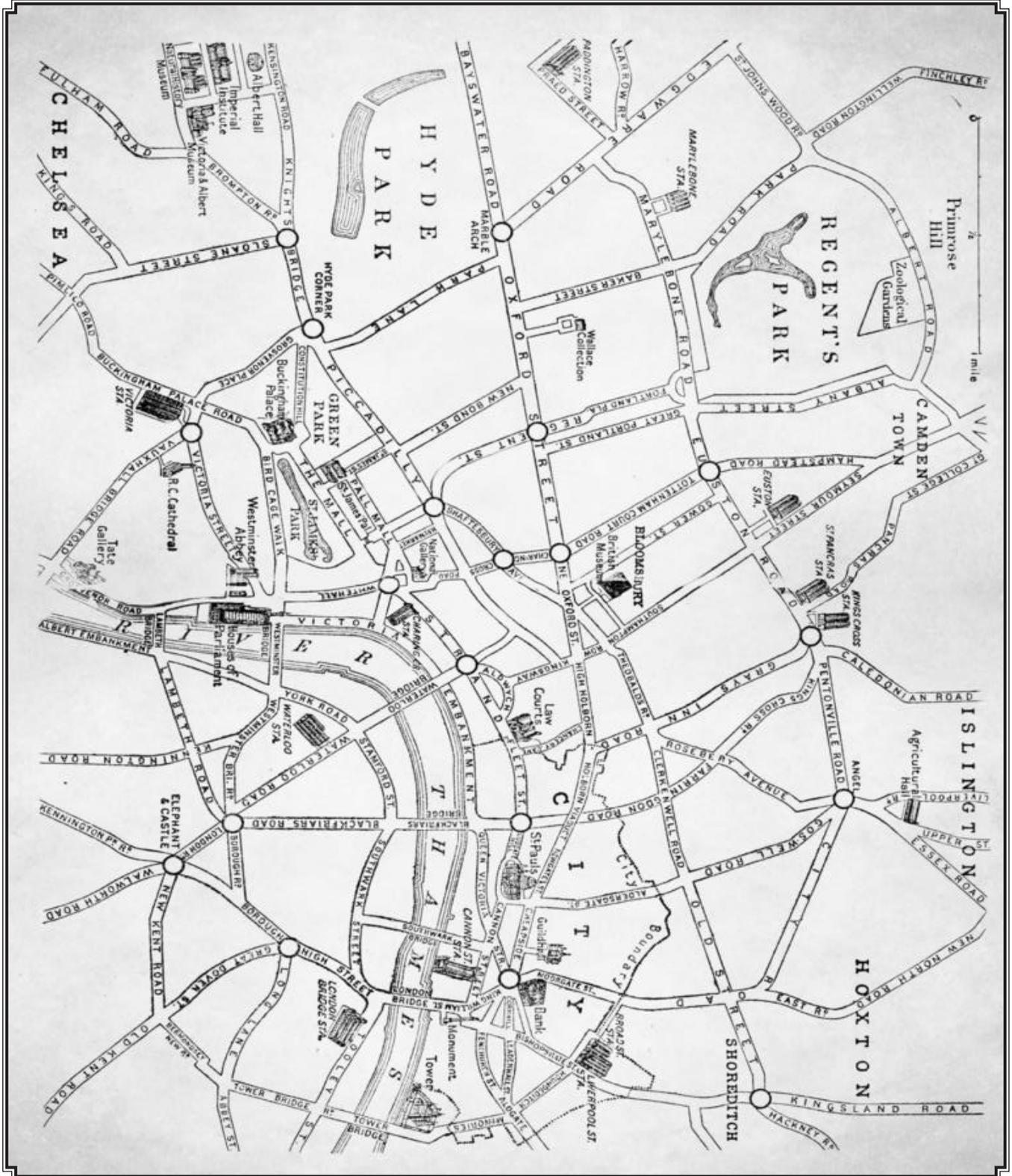
4. The Royal College of Arms (Queen Victoria St)

Given a grant of incorporation in 1454 by Richard III, the Royal College of Arms was created to formalise the possession, awarding and adjudication of right to bear a coat of arms. To achieve this a knowledge of history and ancestry – and an ability to research them – is essential and as time has passed the Royal College of Arms has become an important centre of expertise in genealogy.

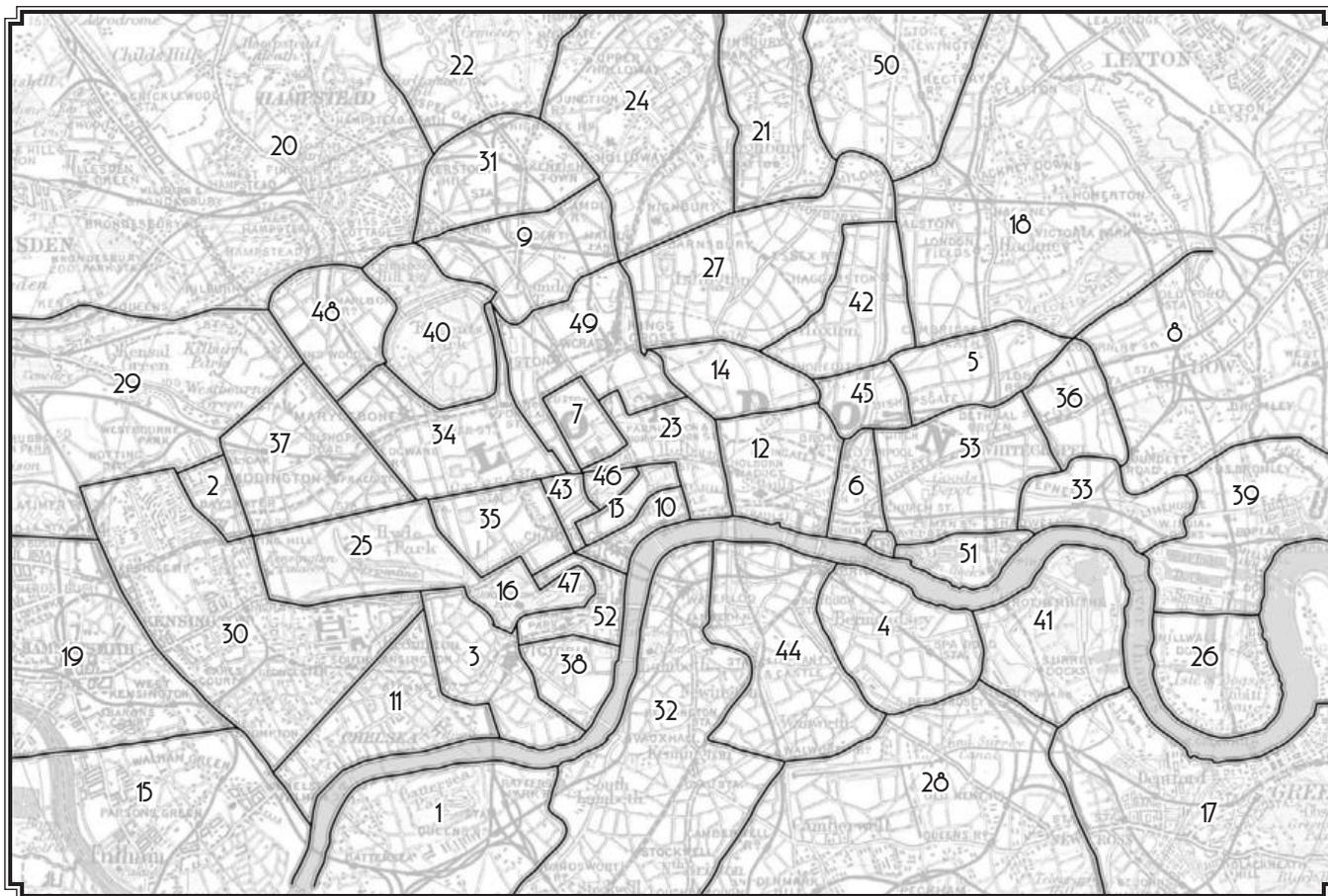
Non-members of the college are not allowed access to the college library; instead the college provides services for a fee and, although the London County Council library may hold the records of births, marriages and deaths, investigators who fail in their Library Use rolls would do well to hire a true expert in finding out precisely who is related to who, and how.

The City of London at a Glance

Showing the Principal Buildings, Chief Thoroughfares, Railway Termini etc.



Areas and Boroughs of London



- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Battersea | 19. Hammersmith | 37. Paddington |
| 2. Bayswater | 20. Hampstead | 38. Pimlico |
| 3. Belgravia | 21. Highbury | 39. Poplar and Canning Town |
| 4. Bermondsey | 22. Highgate | 40. Regent's Park |
| 5. Bethnal Green | 23. Holborn | 41. Rotherhithe |
| 6. Bishopsgate | 24. Holloway | 42. Shoreditch and Hoxton |
| 7. Bloomsbury | 25. Hyde Park | 43. Soho |
| 8. Bromley-by-Bow | 26. Isle of Dogs | 44. Southwark |
| 9. Camden Town | 27. Islington | 45. Spitalfields |
| 10. Charing Cross | 28. Kennington and Camberwell | 46. St. Giles |
| 11. Chelsea | 29. Kensal Green and Notting Hill | 47. St. James Park |
| 12. The City | 30. Kensington | 48. St. John's Wood |
| 13. Covent Garden | 31. Kentish Town | 49. St. Pancras |
| 14. Finchley | 32. Lambeth | 50. Stoke Newington |
| 15. Fulham | 33. Limehouse | 51. Wapping |
| 16. Green Park | 34. Marylebone | 52. Westminster |
| 17. Greenwich | 35. Mayfair | 53. Whitechapel |
| 18. Hackney | 36. Mile End | |

5. The Public Record Office (Chancery Lane)

The Public Record Office was established in 1838 to centralise the keeping of governmental and court archives which had previously been held in a variety of departments. The Office holds records of public business in England and Wales, including wills, census data, land deeds, legal documents and court records going back to the middle ages. The oldest public record is the Domesday Book dated 1086 although the Office holds some private records prior to that, the oldest being an Anglo-Saxon land deed dated 974. Admission is free, as is access to any document more recent than 1801. Earlier documents may be viewed upon payment of a fee.

6. The Patent Office (Chancery Lane)

The Patent Office is a department of the board of trade that issues letters of patent and registers trademarks and designs. Its library contains over 130,000 volumes of scientific and technical literature.

7. St Mary-le-Bow (Cheapside)

In the 14th century, the bells of St Mary-le-Bow would be rung to sound the city curfew, this being the origin of the legend that only those born within the sound of Bow bells could call themselves cockneys. The Court of Arches (named after the arches of the church) has met here since the 13th century. The Court is the highest Ecclesiastical Court in the Church of England.

8. St Stephen Walbrook (Walbrook)

Like many London churches, St Stephen Walbrook stands upon an ancient place of worship; a Roman temple to Mithras stood on the same site as early as the 2nd century AD. After the church that later stood here was destroyed in the Great Fire, it was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren, whose parish church it was – and it is widely considered not just to have been his dry run for the much larger St Paul's, but also its superior. The Italian sculptor Antonio Canova said of St Stephen Walbrook "We have nothing to match it in Rome", and Sir Nikolaus Pevsner lists it as, architecturally, one of the ten most important buildings in England.

9. St Bartholomew the Great (Smithfield)

St Bartholomew the Great is the second oldest church in London (after the chapel in the Tower of London), having been built in 1123 as part of a now-vanished hospital by Rahere, a courtier of Henry I who had been miraculously cured from

a sickness. On St Bartholomew's Day (24th August), sick people still visit the church in the hope of a similar miracle. Considering its age, it is unsurprising that St Bartholomew's is regarded as one of the most haunted churches in the city. Apparitions include a 'formless horror', which lurks in the porch and terrifies visitors, and the ghost of Rahere himself, who has apparently wandered the church ever since his tomb was disturbed in the middle of the 19th century.

10. St Bart's Hospital (Giltspur Street)

The hospital developed from the miraculous reputation of the nearby church, and St Bart's is recognised as the oldest hospital in Britain (although it is housed in new buildings dating from 1907). Originally supported by a monastery attached to the church, by the 1920s the hospital relies upon donations and endowments and treats about 60,000 cases a year. The attached medical school is widely regarded as the best in the country.

11. All Hallows-by-the-Tower (Byward Street)

It is easy to visit the Tower of London and miss the small church that stands nearby, but the church predates the Tower by almost 400 years and it still rests on the original Saxon foundations (although much of the rest of the church is 15th century). The church has a long maritime association as for hundreds of years it was the parish church of both the Custom House and the Navy Office and it contains many models of ships – tokens of thanks for safe passages and cargoes delivered down through the centuries. Also of interest are the church registers, which are a huge archive of historical records for the parish since the reign of Elizabeth I. The records include the wedding of 'Hanging Judge' Jeffreys in 1667, the burial of Archbishop Laud in 1644 (next to whose name in the book of burials can still be seen scrawled the word "traitor"), and in the same year the baptism of William Penn (founder of Pennsylvania).

During the 1920s All Hallows is home to one of the most famous ghosts in London, sometimes referred to as the Cat Lady. First seen in 1920 (when she appeared during choir practice), this ghost appears as an elderly lady in Victorian clothing and possessing eyes that (according to the choirmaster) "Burned with a strange radiance, and were fixed on my face as if searching for something." The lady appeared repeatedly during the twenties and thirties and got her name by the peculiar sound of scratching – like that of a cat trying to

get out through a door – whenever she vanished. Sometimes people actually saw a cat after she disappeared, despite the door being shut and no sign of an animal being found in the building after a subsequent search.

12. The London Stock Market (Throgmorton & Threadneedle Street)

An imposing red-brick building based on the Crystal Palace and over the road from the Bank of England, membership of the Stock Market costs 600 guineas and an annual subscription of 100 guineas. Non-members are strictly forbidden from entering. The market opens at 8am and closes at 4pm, and after-hours trading often takes place in pubs and offices in the nearby streets.

The activity of the stock market is carried out by two sorts of agents: stock jobbers and stockbrokers. Stock jobbers do

not deal with the public, but instead act as intermediaries between stockbrokers. Jobbers keep record books of trades and ownership of particular shares, and thereby create a market in those shares. Stockbrokers, on the other hand, act as intermediaries between jobbers' markets and the general public.

13. Lloyd's Register (Fenchurch Street)

Although it shares a name and some history with the more famous Lloyd's Insurance broking house (both were started in the same coffee shop), Lloyd's register has no other association with that institution. Lloyd's Register provides accurate classification of the seaworthiness of British and international merchant vessels to groups like insurance underwriters, shipowners and shipping agents. Lloyd's Register keeps a network of agents and ship surveyors worldwide and publishes an annual 'Register Book' containing details of every surveyed

The Great Crash of 1929

'You know it's time to sell when shoeshine boys give you stock tips. This bull market is over.'

– Attributed to Joseph Kennedy, January 1929

Immediately after the Great War, the markets were depressed, struggling to find foundation in the desolation left by the war. However, from 1920 through to the crash in 1929, the decade was marked by optimism and exuberance. By 1925 share prices had confidently rebounded from post-war lows and the value of stocks began to rise strongly. As these stocks rose, so did debt: people borrowed to purchase shares confident in the belief that the share prices would rise and they would be able to pay off what they borrowed. Over the course of the decade, the value of the London and New York stock markets rose more than ten times.

The start of 1929 showed a slowing of growth in the economy. In March, the New York stock market suffered jitters that were felt in London and American banks put \$25m (£6m) into the market to stabilise prices. But on 20th September, 1929, London financier Charles Hatry was arrested for fraud and forgery, and £25m (\$120m) worth of shares in his companies were frozen. The London market, which had been unstable for some days prior due to a tumble in grain prices, crashed as a result. This sent shock waves over the Atlantic and US confidence faltered. Initially the loss of confidence was slow, but as money started flowing out of the market the pace accelerated.

On 24th October, 1929, which would become known as Black Thursday, the New York stock exchange lost 11% of its value before stabilising. Further declines continued on following days. In London, 28th October saw massive market falls followed on 29th October – Black Tuesday – by another 12% fall in New York after a selling panic. The savings and investment accounts of companies, banks, and individuals were emptied out as debts were called in. Credit dried up and interest rates soared. Banks and companies failed, triggering a huge rise in unemployment and the beginning of the Great Depression. The roaring twenties were over.

ship (with a seaworthiness ranking). Investigators seeking details of the movements of a mysterious cargo could do far worse than begin their search here.

14. St Magnus the Martyr (Lower Thames Street)

Another church rebuilt after the Great Fire by Sir Christopher Wren, St Magnus' contains the tomb of Miles Coverdale, the publisher of the first Bible in English. Visitors to the church sometimes see a dark-haired figure in cassock and cowl near his tomb, and many people have reported a feeling of great sadness washing over them as they approach it. In 1922, the Fraternity of Our Lady de Salve Regina was reformed at St Magnus'. Originally formed in 1343 to sing the hymn Salve Regina, the fraternity was disbanded during the reformation. Investigators discovering a society 600 years old which exists solely to sing a single hymn in Latin may leap to all kinds of conclusions, correct or otherwise.

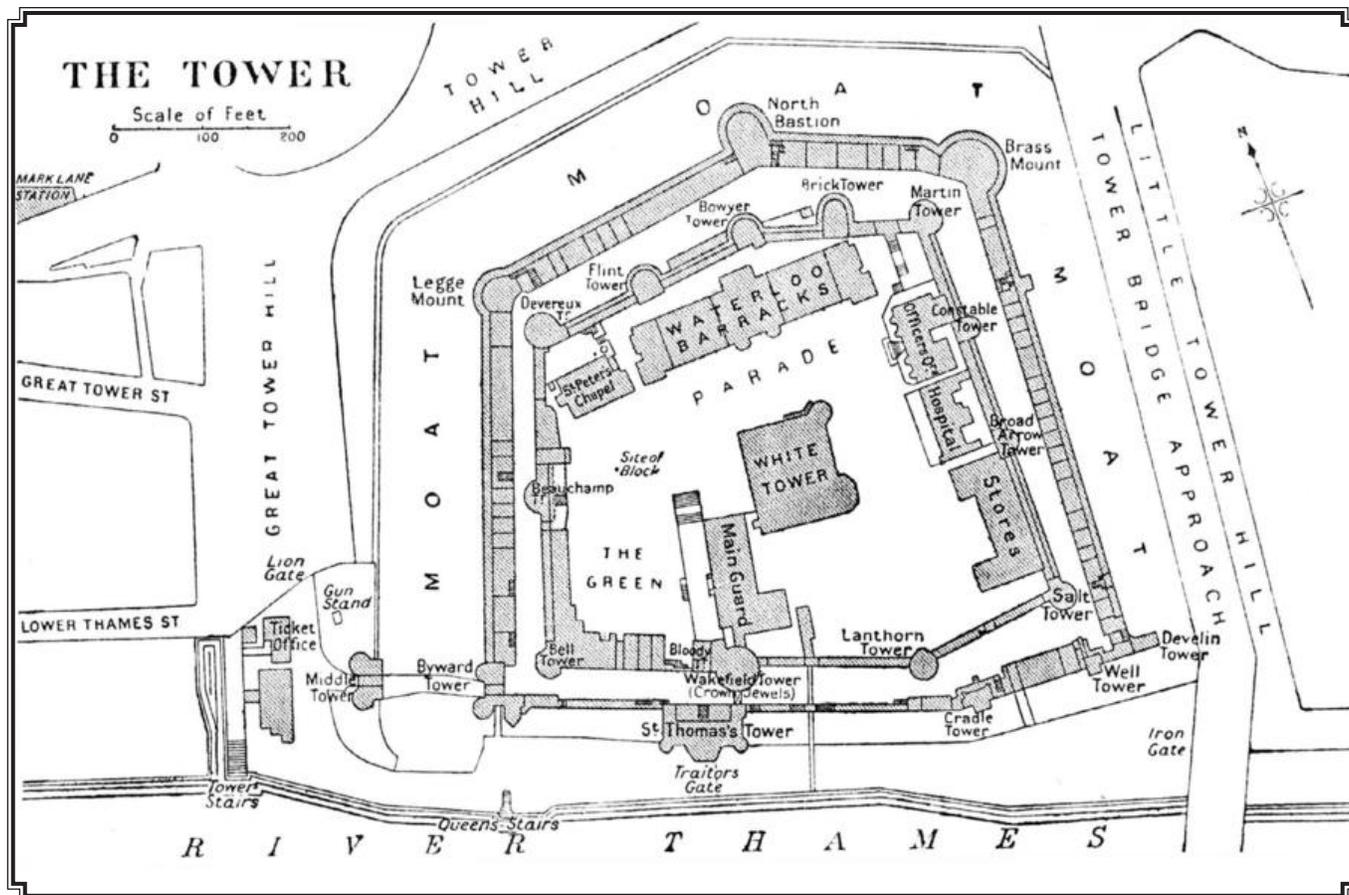
15. The Tower of London (City)

A prime defensive point on the river, a fort has stood on this spot for at least two thousand years from when Claudius built

one during his invasion of Britain. The fortress that currently stands was begun when Gundulf, Bishop of Rochester, built the White Tower for William the Conqueror to cow the citizens in his newly-acquired capital city.

It was a royal residence for hundreds of years (the last monarch to live in the tower was Charles II) and served as a prison and a garrison long after, although by the 1920s it is almost entirely a museum. Staffed by the Yeomen of the Guard (the famous 'Beefeaters', each of whom is a veteran soldier with a good record) the Tower is open to guests on weekdays from 10-5pm, and entry to the White Tower, the Bloody Tower and the Jewel House costs 6d each per adult.

The White Tower is the oldest part of the keep, and holds a large museum of arms and armour from all eras and of all types, including a massive suit of plate armour made for Henry VIII, the first shells dropped on London from a Zeppelin during the Great War and the beheading axe and block formerly used in state executions. In the wall to the basement of the Tower is a cell called 'Little Ease'; this cell is



too small to stand or sit and the prisoner could only crouch uncomfortably to await his end. Guy Fawkes, amongst others, awaited his end here.

The Bloody Tower – more properly known as the Garden Tower – got its name as early as the 16th century due to it being believed to be the place King Richard III murdered the two ‘little princes’ (Edward V and his brother) to secure the crown for himself. Other prisoners who wiled away their time in the Bloody Tower include Sir Walter Raleigh, Archbishop Cranmer, Robert Felton (assassin of the Duke of Buckingham) and ‘Hanging Judge’ Jeffreys (who presided over the infamous ‘bloody assizes’ that saw over 200 hanged), who died here, mad and screaming, in 1689.

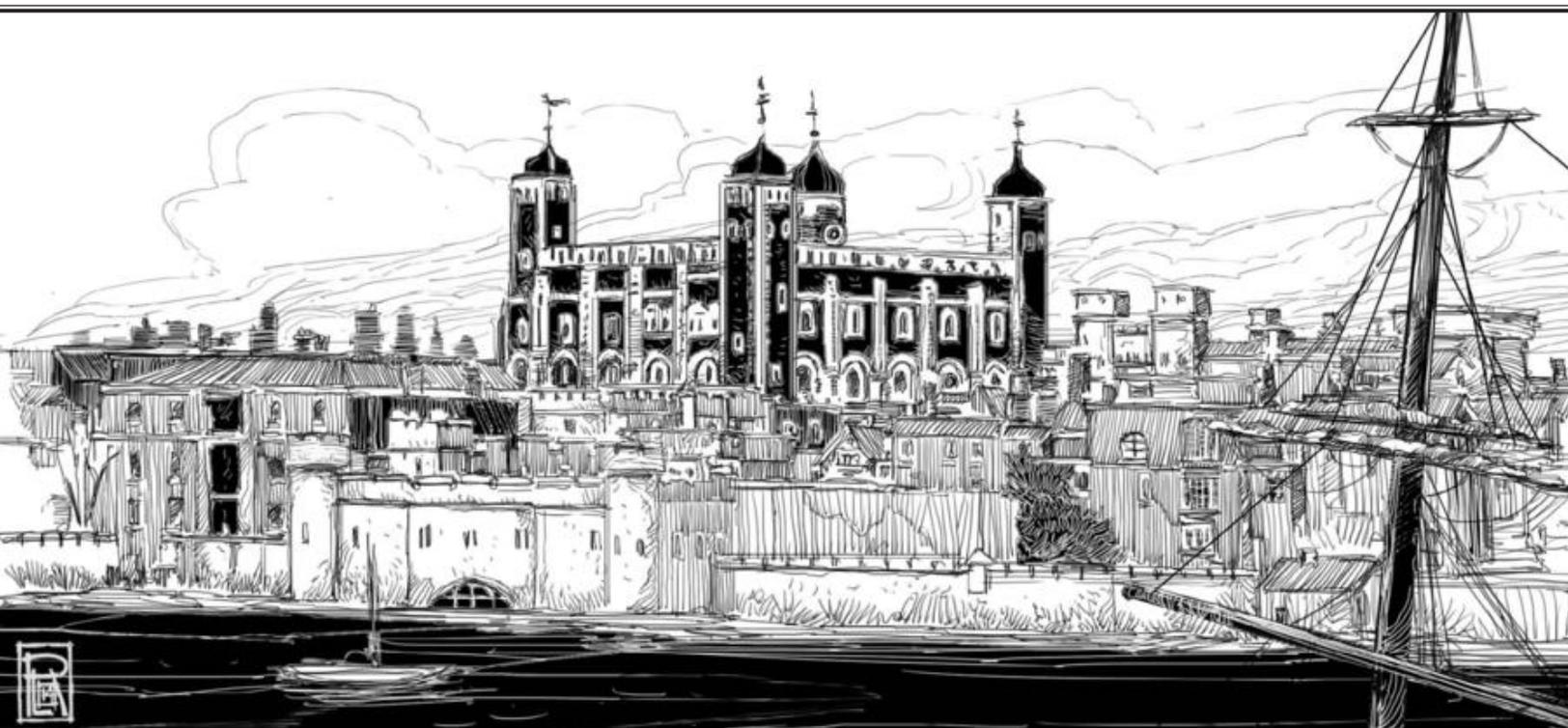
The Jewel House (also known as Wakefield Tower) holds the Crown Jewels under heavy guard. Amongst a fantastical collection of gold and silver plate and jewellery, these include the famous ‘Star of Africa’ (the largest cut diamond in the world), and the ‘Koh-i-Noor’, or ‘Mountain of Light’, another huge diamond. Believed cursed, Indian legend claims that the diamond is over 5000 years old and that only women and gods may own it safely – men who claim the Koh-i-Noor will suffer great misfortune.

As such an old place, the Tower contains its share of ghosts. The most famous is that of Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry

VIII, who was executed here in 1536. She has been seen several times leading a ghostly procession of lords and ladies into the church of St Peter ad Vincula. Another of Henry VIII’s victims, Catherine of Salisbury, refused to put her head on the block for execution and was pursued by the executioner and hacked to death. Her ghost has been seen reliving this grisly scene. The ghost of Catherine Howard, Henry’s fifth wife who he also had executed, has been seen running the hallways of the tower, screaming and pleading for mercy that will never come.

The Salt Tower, in the oldest part of the fortress, is one of the most haunted buildings; animals will not enter the tower and will not even approach it after dark. At least two guards have been attacked by something in the tower, with one being almost throttled to death. Finally, one odd ghost is what appears to be a beautiful woman wearing a veil, until examined and it is seen there is only a black void where her face should be.

The ravens of The Tower of London carry a legend that, if they leave, then London itself will fall. Interestingly, this tradition was started as a result of John Flamsteed, Astronomer Royal to King Charles II between 1675 and 1719, using the tower as an observatory and complaining to the King that the ravens were spoiling his view. Charles ordered the birds removed but was warned that if that happened the nation would fall, so



instead he ordered that there should never be fewer than six ravens in the Tower and had their wings clipped to ensure they didn't leave. Keepers may infer from this that Flamsteed had an ulterior motive and the stars cannot be right whilst the ravens remain...

16. Trinity House (City of London)

North of the Tower of London is Trinity House, headquarters of the Trinity Brethren, which controls lighthouses and buoys around the British Isles, plus licensing shipping pilots and controlling navigation in British Waters. It holds a substantial collection of artefacts, curios and histories of its trade, which might come in handy to investigators looking for unusual coastal occurrences.

17. Bank (City of London)

The five-way junction of Threadneedle Street, Cornhill, Princes Street, Poultry and King William Street is one of the busiest – and most important – junctions in the country. In 1923, Ward, Lock & Co.'s *London Guidebook* advised pedestrians trying to cross that “indecision is fatal at this spot”, and it takes “dexterity of no common order to get across the roadways in safety”, as the junction is used by an unending (and often uncontrolled) stream of traffic – almost a dozen buses a minute use this busy junction, with many more cars, horses and bicycles besides.

Fortunately for the pedestrian, a number of subways are provided in the centre of which sits Bank station. Facing onto the junction are three of the most important buildings in London: The Mansion House, The Royal Exchange and The Bank of England.

18. The Bank of England (Threadneedle Street)

Founded in 1647, the Bank of England is a private company during the 1920s (and until 1947) despite having tremendous control over the financial stability of the country and having exclusive rights to print banknotes and issue bullion. The bank is a huge but single-storey building occupying over four acres. To ensure security it has no external windows (interior light is provided by interior courts and light wells). Although members of the public can freely come and go in the public areas of the bank, access to private and secure areas is closely guarded and rarely granted. The vaults of the bank contain in excess of twenty million pounds in gold and are rumoured to extend at least six storeys below ground. The bank employs

dozens of security men, and at night it is also guarded by a detachment of armed soldiers from the Guards Regiment. Montagu Norman is Governor of the Bank of England for the entire decade.

The Bank of England has its own ghost, the Black Nun. The story goes that she was the sister of a worker at the Bank who was executed for murder. Psychologically unable or unwilling to accept that her brother was dead, she would return to the bank every day to ask for him, and continued doing so even after she was dead. The ghost has been seen through the building, and also in Bank underground station nearby.

19. The Royal Exchange (Threadneedle Street)

The Royal Exchange was founded in 1570 by Queen Elizabeth I as a central point for the administration of trade, and the flourishing in the City of London of banking and insurance and other transactions has grown from the impetus of this one place. The building (dating from 1838) that now stands here is no longer a major business hub and most of the time it is open to tourists – the ground floor has a number of excellent frescoes depicting important moments in British history.

Trade still takes place in the Royal Exchange; it is closed to all except traders between 3.30 and 4pm every day, and from 2-2.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The upper floor of the building holds the offices of Lloyd's of London, the famous insurers. Lloyd's is not a single company, but instead an association of independent insurance agents and companies who gather together in one place for ease of business. The records of Lloyd's provide one of the worlds foremost sources of information on global shipping and cargoes, if investigators can think of a way to penetrate this members-only institution.

20. The Mansion House (Bank)

The official residence of the Lord Mayor of London, this fine, porticoed building dates from 1753 and is sumptuously furnished and decorated throughout, although members of the public are only admitted by special permission or to civic and state events held there.

21. The Guildhall (Gresham Street)

The Guildhall was built in the 12th century to reflect the wealth and power of the merchant elite who effectively ran the City of London and whose influence rivalled that of the King. By the 1920s it is a setting for many important civic and social events

in the diary of the City, and is where the City of London Court sits with the Lord Mayor as chief magistrate of London. The Great Hall of the Guildhall is capable of seating a thousand people and is where the Lord Mayor holds an annual banquet on the 9th November, as well as holding public meetings on matters of “public or political interest”. At one end of the hall stand two carved wooden effigies, 14 ½ feet tall, of Gog and Magog, the legendary giants who serve and protect London.

Carved by Captain Richard Saunders in 1708, they are an intimidating sight. According to myth Gog-Magog were twin giants defeated by Brutus of Troy and bound in darkness; the victor then went on to found London. Other versions of the legend say that Gog and Magog were chained to the doors of his palace in London to act as porters. Gog and Magog are used by parents as bogeymen to keep their children in line. Walter Bell, in his *Unknown London* (1921) wrote:

“Every day I learnt, when the giants hear the clock strike twelve they come down to dinner. How anxious I was to be in Guildhall at that hour of noon, to see them clamber off their pedestals and stalk hungry away. In what gigantic cooking-pot was that gargantuan meal prepared? Where was it served?”

Investigators may not be as keen to find out where giants dine and what their main course will be.

The Guildhall also holds a museum dedicated to the City of London, which holds a large number of items either found in or related to the history of the City, and a library holding over 190,000 documents largely concerning the City, its history and famous inhabitants.

22. The Royal Mint (Tower Bridge Road)

It is here that both banknotes are printed and coinage is pressed. Although gold and silver money is not in common circulation, substantial quantities of precious metal coinage are still produced for trade purposes and plenty of both are usually to be found on the premises. Persons of larcenous intent are usually put off by the substantial guard presence at the mint, and the barracks of the City of London Fusiliers regiment just round the corner.

The public are allowed entry to the Royal Mint, but this has to be arranged with the director in writing at least 21 working days in advance, and with a good reason given.

23. Geffrye Museum (Shoreditch High Street)

A small museum of old furniture and woodwork situated in old (1714) almshouses. The collection includes some original pieces from St Pauls Cathedral by Grinling Gibbons and antique panelling and even staircases from across London. Keepers who have read the MR James’ story *The Stalls of Barchester Cathedral* might be inspired to create some spooky goings on in this old building.

24. Blackfriars Bridge (Blackfriars)

The bridges over the Thames all have reputation for being magnets for those wishing to commit suicide and ghost stories are associated with them. Blackfriars has a recurring ghost story of a tall woman in black who dashes herself off the bridge on foggy London nights.

25. St Clement’s Eastcheap Church (Clement’s Lane)

Its bells listed in the child’s nursery rhyme, St Clement’s Eastcheap has an irregular plan. The nave is approximately rectangular, but the south aisle is severely tapered. The ceiling is divided into panels, the centre one showing a large oval band of fruit and flowers.

The small churchyard to the rear of the building holds graves and tombstones whose inscriptions have been worn away by the elements and are long since lost. Who knows what bones lie beneath the ancient turf?

26. St Michael Paternoster Church (College Hill)

Rebuilt as a bequest from the will of the late Lord Mayor Richard Whittington, known as Dick Whittington in children’s pantomimes and fairy tales, he and his wife were buried here in a costly tomb. Damaged in the Great Fire, the church was rebuilt by Wren.

27. Hen & Chicken Yard (Fleet Street)

London legend tells that this is the location where Sweeney Todd dealt with the bodies from his grisly murders.

28. St Bride’s Church (Fleet Street)

The most recent version of the church was one of Wren’s designs and has the second highest of his spires. The close proximity to Fleet Street makes it the church for many journalists and press workers. The designer of the first tiered wedding cake claimed it was the spire that gave him the inspiration.

29. St Lawrence Jewry Church (Gresham Street)

Located next to the Guildhall, St Lawrence is another of the churches destroyed in the Great Fire and rebuilt by Christopher Wren. It is the official church of the City of London Corporation and each year since the 14th century the Spital Sermon is held here in early spring, which the Lord Mayor, Court of Aldermen and Court of Common Council attend.

30. St Olave's Church (Hart Street)

One of the few churches that survived the great fire, this small medieval church has stood since the 13th Century. According to church documents, and a plaque on the door, the children's pantomime character Mother Goose was buried here in September 1586. One of the graves in the churchyard is that of Mary Ramsay, who London legend holds was the person who introduced the Black Death to the city in 1665. The vault of the church is closed to visitors and new burials: it was filled with corpses in 1853.

31. Billingsgate Market (Thames Street)

London's primary fish market site on the north side of the Thames. See pg. 76 for more about the markets of London.

32. St James Garlickhythe Church (Garlic Hill)

Rebuilt after the great fire to Wren's design but finished by his student Nicholas Hawksmoor. Its odd name comes from the fact that garlic from France was sold nearby in the 13th Century. Visitors to the church can view a mummy, nicknamed Jimmy Garlick, kept in a cupboard at the back of the church (Keepers can find out more about Jimmy Garlick on pg. 49 of *A Keeper's Guide to London*).

LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS

The medieval history of London can be seen as a series of conflicts between two powers – the economic power of the merchant guilds and banks of the City of London, and the political power of the King and Parliament at Westminster. It was perhaps inevitable that the fields between the two cities should have become an enclave of those who were best able to profit from these conflicts: lawyers. The area around Lincoln's Inn and Holborn is the centre of the legal profession for not only London, but all of Britain, and not only are the Inns of Court situated here, but also numerous offices of solicitors, suppliers of gowns, wigs and legal books, pubs frequented by

barristers after a long day in court and also the Royal Courts of Justice. Whilst there are some residential homes, the area around Lincoln's Inn Fields is primarily a place of offices and work, and so can be surprisingly quiet and deserted on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Inns of Court

The Inns of Court are ancient bodies of lawyers that for six hundred years or more have had the power to call students of law to the Bar – that is, to qualify them to practice as barristers in court. Anybody wishing to become a barrister in England or Wales must enrol and qualify from one of the Inns. Called Inns because historically they were used as accommodation for students of law, they are now akin to a combination of college, club and trades union for the legal profession.

The Inns are not formally incorporated; instead they are entirely controlled by their senior members, who are called Masters of the Bench, or benchers. It is these senior members who decide when a student is sufficiently qualified and experienced to be called to the Bar. Almost nobody lives in the Inns in the early 20th century. By then nearly all the houses are used as 'chambers' – the offices of independent firms of barristers. At one time, there were almost twenty Inns of Court. By 1920 there are just four: Gray's Inn, Lincoln's Inn, and the Inner and Middle Temple.

33. Lincoln's Inn (Lincoln's Inn Fields)

Records at Lincoln's Inn go back to 1422, and evidence suggests it is older than that with the name probably deriving from Edward de Lacy, third Earl of Lincoln, who died in 1311. Lincoln's Inn comprises a number of attractive buildings built around three squares; buildings range from the medieval Great Hall (rebuilt in the early 19th century), a number of Georgian and Victorian terraced houses, and the Chapel.

The chapel dates from the 1620s, although there is considerable evidence of a building on the site (either a chapel or something else) for hundreds of years before that. Lincoln's Inn library is reputedly the oldest in London and holds many rare manuscripts.

Lincoln's Inn is haunted by a very strange ghost: ghost hunters in 1901 investigated tales of haunting and covered the floor with flour; they later discovered the prints of a huge bird

despite nothing having been seen. In 1913, two barristers, Charles Appleby and John Radlett, were found bloody and dead after being seen trying to fight off an unseen assailant in the same room of Lincoln's Inn.

34. Gray's Inn (South Square)

As a body devoted to the law, Gray's Inn probably dates from 1370 at the latest (and possibly as early as 1292), with the first records of students of Gray's becoming 'sergeants-at-law' being in 1388.

The three major buildings of Gray's Inn are the hall, which dates from 1556 and holds a wooden screen made from the timbers of a Spanish galleon captured during the reign of Elizabeth I, the chapel, which dates from 1689 (although a chapel stood on the site at least as early as 1315); and the library, which dates from 1555 and holds more than 30,000 books, including a number of rare early documents and printed works. The library is rebuilt and expanded in 1929.

35. The Temple (Middle Temple Lane)

Probably of greatest interest to investigators, The Temple gets its name from the Knights Templar, whose church it was. Originally built in 1185 when the Templars moved in, after their abolition in 1312 the site passed to the Knights Hospitaller who leased it to students of the law in 1346 – and they have been there ever since. Originally divided into three (Inner, Middle and Outer), only the Middle and Inner Temples survive as distinct Inns.

The Temple Church is one of the oldest buildings in London, having been built by the Templars and was consecrated by Heraclius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, in 1185. It contains original tiling bearing depictions of the Temple, the tombs of nine crusader knights, and a grim reminder of medieval life: a small cell with slit windows through which the choir may be seen.

Legend has it that Knights who broke their vows would be imprisoned here and starved to death whilst still being able to hear the chanting of daily services. The Middle and Inner Temple are divided by a narrow alley called Middle Temple Court. Inner and Middle Temple have their own halls and libraries, and both libraries are impressive repositories of law and history with over 130,000 documents between them.

36. The Royal Courts of Justice (Chancery Lane)

The Old Bailey is where criminal cases are tried in London and the Royal Courts of Justice are where all other cases, such as those of contract or family law, are heard. It is also home to the Court of Appeal where appealed cases are heard, and also to the Law Lords – the final authority of appeal in any legal battle and who are only referred to in the most extreme of cases. The Royal Courts of Justice are in a huge Victorian Gothic building dating from 1882.

37. Soane Museum (Lincoln's Inn Fields)

Founded by Sir John Soane, collector and architect (the British Museum was designed by him), his house was converted into a museum upon his death in 1837. Soane was a keen collector and the museum holds a wide variety of objects including a library holding 8000 books (mostly on architectural and antiquarian subjects) and thousands more architectural drawings from the 16th-19th century, including the original drawings of the Bank of England.

The museum also has a remarkable art collection (including the original Rake's Progress by Hogarth, and works by Turner, Raphael and Canaletto's View in Venice, on the Grand Canal), the Sarcophagus of Pharaoh Seti I (father of Ramesses the Great), and a considerable number of architectural examples and samples (often plaster casts of the originals) from across Europe.

The museum is open from March-August on Tuesday-Friday and in October and November on Thursday and Friday only. Access to the collection at other times may be had upon application.

THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER

In 1900 the Metropolitan Borough of Westminster was made a City in its own right. Like its neighbour the City of London, it is a city within a city. Westminster is quite literally the heart of the Empire. The fate of much of the globe is decided in the Palace of Westminster, more commonly known as the Houses of Parliament, and Buckingham Palace, the main residence of the King.

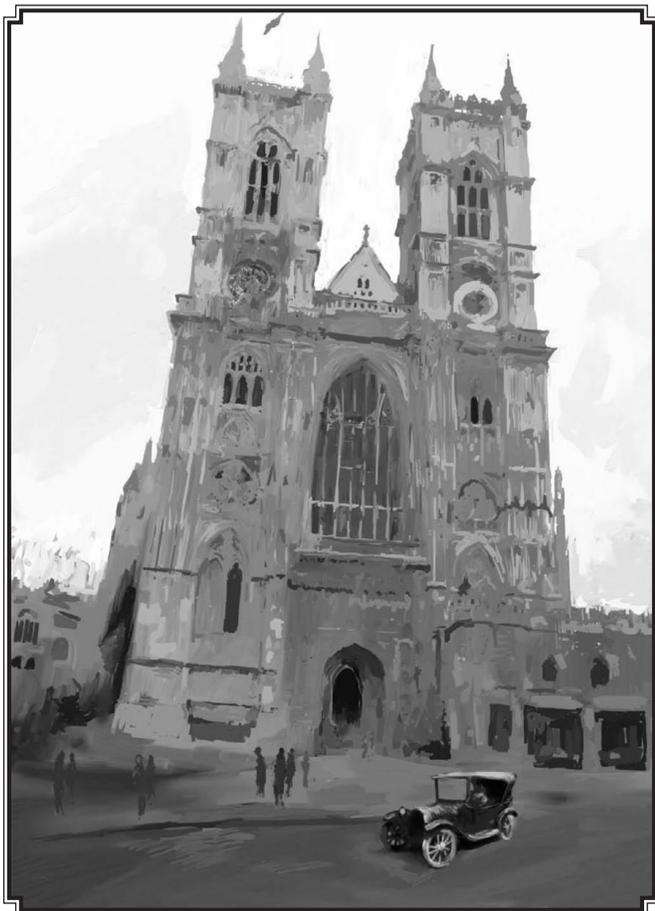
Unlike the City of London, the city of Westminster has no special powers and is part of the Greater London Authority.

Places of Interest

38. Westminster Abbey (Dean's Yard)

If Britain has a building that is filled with history then Westminster Abbey is it. The first abbey was built on this spot in AD620 by Sebert, King of the Saxons. A second abbey was raised by King Edward the Confessor who lived just long enough to see it completed before dying and being buried here in 1065.

A year later, William the Conqueror was crowned King in the Abbey, beginning the tradition that English Monarchs should be crowned there. The present building was begun in 1245 by Henry III who was determined to build a church to match the best that France had to offer.



The abbey has a large library which may be used for free but by appointment. It contains records of a thousand years worth of land and people associated with the Abbey, plus thousands of other books covering the history of London and the Church in Britain.

If St Paul's is the parish church of the Empire, then Westminster Abbey is its memorial chamber and its mausoleum. Over 3000 people have been interred within it, including 17 monarchs, and the abbey is the last resting place of a remarkable collection of other great Britons, including (amongst many others): Charles Darwin, Charles Dickens, Geoffrey Chaucer, Oliver Cromwell (although he was dug up and mutilated after the restoration), George Frederick Handel, Thomas Hardy (buried in 1928), Dr. Samuel Johnson, John Keats, Rudyard Kipling, Anne of Cleves, William Pitt the Elder, Lord Tennyson, Marshall Wade, William Wilberforce and Sir Isaac Newton, whose inscription reads "Here lies that which was mortal of Isaac Newton."

In the middle of the nave, near the west door, is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, who was interred on 11th November 1920. American investigators might wish to attend the service on 11th November 1921, when General Pershing attends to award the Unknown Soldier the Congressional Medal of Honour. It is said that when the abbey is quiet and nearly deserted the apparition of a young man in muddy British Army fatigues can be seen standing by the tomb, his head bowed. Indeed, in addition to the soldier the abbey is richly blessed with ghosts. The ghost known as Father Benedictus appears as a monk and is solid enough to have been mistaken for a real person; in 1900 he was seen wandering the building for some time before vanishing into a wall, and in 1932 he chatted amiably to a pair of American tourists before surprising them by simply disappearing. Other ghosts include John Bradshaw (who presided over the trial of Charles I) and the statue of John Pulteney (an 18th century MP) can sometimes be seen to turn the pages of the book it is holding.

Directly next to Westminster Abbey stands St Margaret's Church, which is the parish church for the Palace of Westminster and both the Commons and the Lords; many members of Parliament attend services here when Parliament is sitting. During the 1920s, St Margaret's is also a popular society church and a fashionable place to get married; Sit Oswald Mosley, Earl Mountbatten (Viceroy of India) and Winston Churchill were all married here.

39. Westminster Cathedral (Francis Street)

London's newest cathedral, Westminster Cathedral is a symbol of the increasing acceptance of Catholicism in Britain. Completed in 1903, Westminster Cathedral is a remarkable example of neo-

Byzantine architecture inspired by Istanbul's Hagia Sophia and St Mark's in Rome realised in bands of brick and Portland marble. The interior contains world class religious décor including marbles and mosaics. The stations of the cross are by sculptor Eric Gill, and were put into place in 1918.

40. The London Museum (Cleveland Row)

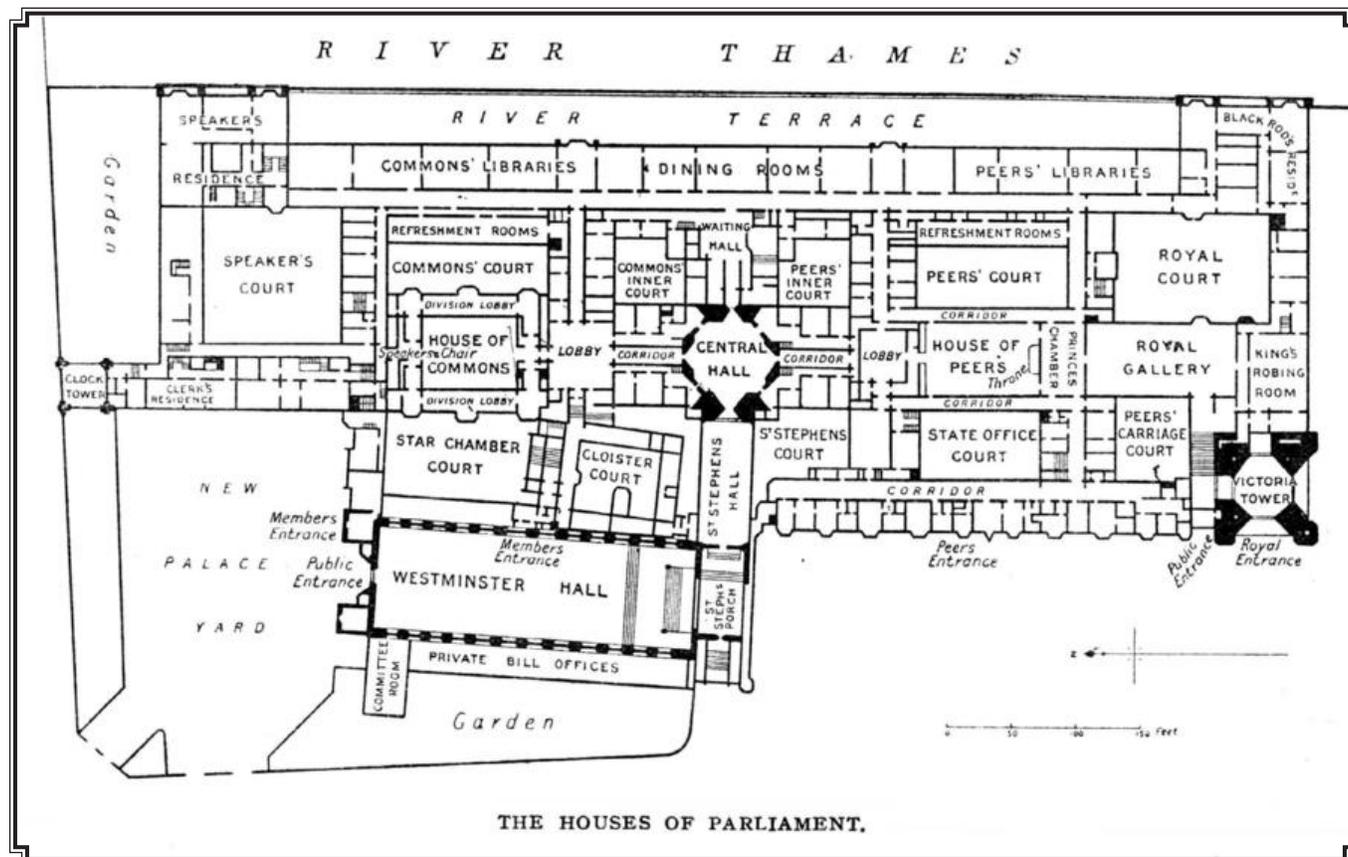
Founded to illustrate the history and antiquities of London, the London Museum is in Stafford House - a fine late Georgian town house. The collection of the museum is divided by room into periods of London's history from the Prehistoric, through Roman, Saxon, Medieval, Tudor, and 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Most, if not all, of the exhibits have been found in London and include a bronze-age shield from Walthamstow, a 3rd century Roman ship, Celtic and Viking weapons, a complete Saxon burial, gold and silver work, jewellery and religious artefacts from throughout history, and royal relics and clothing including the coronation robes of four monarchs. Also amongst the collection are historical records of the last dying speeches and confessions of executed criminals – useful when investigators need to know who a 17th century witch really did get her power from!

**Sir Robert Mortimer Wheeler
(1890–1976)**

Became the master of the Museum of London in 1926. Mortimer Wheeler was one of the most famous archaeologists of his day, with a populist and avuncular manner who passionately believed in engaging public support and interest in archaeology. Performed many major investigations in England and is best known for excavating Maiden Castle in Dorset, the largest Iron-Age hill fort in Europe.

41. The Palace of Westminster (Parliament Square)

Better known to most as the Houses of Parliament, the current building has stood since 1852 when it was rebuilt after a fire. The architect of the new building, Augustus Pugin, was confined to Bedlam Asylum and died after a sudden onset of madness shortly after the building was completed. A palace has stood on this spot for almost a thousand years,



and was the principal residence of the English monarchs until 1512. However, all that remains of the older building is Westminster Hall, parts of which date from the 11th century and was where, for centuries, the coronation of monarchs was celebrated after ceremonies were completed in nearby Westminster Abbey.

The palace is a massive building, with over 1200 rooms and over two miles of corridors. It contains the major legislative locations of Britain, including the houses of Commons and Lords, and also the private offices of MPs and peers. It also contains a huge library of Parliamentary records dating back to 1497. The most distinctive landmark of the Palace is the clock tower, which contains the famous bell, Big Ben.

The tower also contains cells for holding Members of Parliament who have offended the house. Legends persist of a secret passage into the Palace. When the Gunpowder conspirators – Guy Fawkes and his friends – were arrested in 1605, they admitted digging a tunnel into the cellars, but the tunnel has never been found. Members of the public wishing to gain legitimate access to Parliament can do so as tourists on Sundays and over the Easter holiday, or by being sponsored for entry by a sitting MP or peer at other times.

42. Parliament Square (Westminster)

To the north-west of the Palace of Westminster lies Parliament Square, a large open green space that contains statues of noted Parliamentarians including Prime Ministers Peel, Palmerston, Canning and Disraeli. In July 1920 a statue of Abraham Lincoln is unveiled on the north side of the square. Nearby stands a statue of Oliver Cromwell, which unlike every other statue surrounding Parliament, looks away from from the building.

43. The Tate Gallery (Grosvenor Road)

Houses the national collection of contemporary British Art, which means works from the 19th century and 20th century only. It stands on the site of the former Millbank Prison. In 1928 the Thames overflows its banks and floods the Tate.

44. Somerset House (The Strand)

Built in 1766, Somerset House is an imposing neoclassical building around a courtyard and is home to many of the principal records offices of the country, including that of the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths (which holds records of every one of those events in Britain for hundreds of

years) and the Probate Office, which maintains an index of all wills and holds records going back as far as 1382.

As a resource for investigators seeking unusual family trees and strange wills, there is nowhere to match Somerset House in the entire country and it is likely that this building will see more Library Use rolls made within it than any other.

Access to the records costs 1 shilling a day.

45. The Women's Library (Marsham Street)

The Women's Library is based in a converted public house in Marsham Street, Westminster. Its origin derives from the London National Society for Women's Suffrage, established in 1867, though the library was not formally organised until the 1920s, and the first Librarian, Vera Douie, was not appointed until 1st January 1926. At this time, it was called the Women's Service Library, in accordance with the name of the society which since the outbreak of the Great War had been called the London Society for Women's Service. Members of the society and library included writers such as Vera Brittain and Virginia Woolf, as well as politicians, most notably Eleanor Rathbone.

46. Tyburn (Edgware Road)

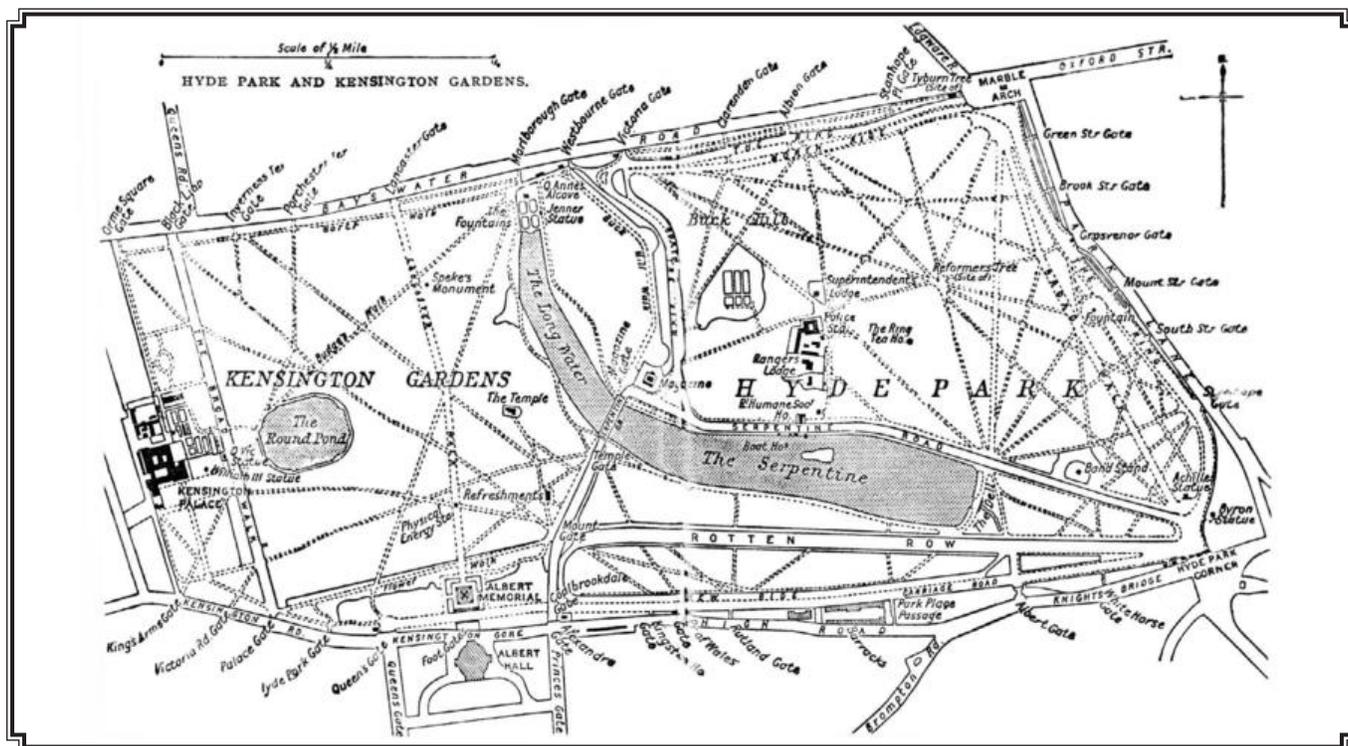
Former site of the infamous 'Tyburn Tree' where those sentenced to death in Newgate Prison came to be executed.

47. The Savoy Chapel (Savoy Hill)

Despite the name and location (directly behind the hotel of the same name), the this small chapel is not associated with the more famous hotel. Instead it is the sole remaining part of the Savoy Palace, one of the largest houses in Medieval London, the ruins of which were demolished in the 19th century. The Chapel is under the direct control of the monarch and is the official chapel of the Royal Victorian Order, which is one of the few honours left to the direct control of the Crown rather than being decided by Parliament. The membership of the order comprises those who have done direct service to the monarch, and their names and coat of arms are recorded on brass plaques on the pews.

48. St James's Park (Opp. Buckingham Palace)

The oldest of the Royal Parks and nearly 23 hectares in area, the park lies at the southern tip of St James. The park is framed by Horse Guards to the east, St James's Palace and the Mall to the north, and Buckingham Palace to the west.



49. Hyde Park

Once the home of the Crystal Palace (see pg. 40 of *A Keeper's Guide to London*), Hyde Park is the largest of London's Royal Parks. Nearly 350 acres in area, making for a grand open space in the heart of London. Visitors can enter the park through a grand fluted column gateway into a vast open space of waterways and lawns.

Of greatest interest within the park is the Serpentine Museum and gallery and the famous 'Speakers Corner', which for over a century has been a hub of free speech and protest. Marx, Lenin and Orwell have all spoken here and the corner has become the traditional starting location for mass protests in London with the suffragettes marching from here in recent years. Opposite Hyde Park Corner stands one of the grandest hotels in London, The Lanesborough.

50. The Royal College of St Peter in Westminster (Westminster Abbey)

Better known as the Westminster School, the college is located in a private square inside the walls of what was once the monastery attached to Westminster Abbey. One of the most famous (and best) public schools, numerous famous names have passed through her halls including Ben Jonson, Robert Hooke, Christopher Wren, John Locke, Jeremy Bentham and A. A. Milne.

51. Academy of Dancing (Wellington Street)

Formed in 1920 at a meeting in the Trocadero Restaurant, this organisation eventually became The Royal Academy of Dance in 1935, an internationally renowned school of ballet. Its headquarters are in the offices of Dancing Times magazine.

52. Smith Square (Westminster)

Smith Square is notable for St John's, Smith Square, the church in the middle of the square now used as a concert hall. The square is important politically, as it holds the headquarters of the Conservative Party and, in 1928, the Labour Party moves its headquarters to the square too.

53. Sion College (Victoria Embankment)

Incorporated in 1626, Sion College was founded by the will of the Reverend Thomas White (c. 1550-1624), Vicar of St Dunstan-in-the-West, Fleet Street, who left a bequest of £3000 to endow a college where the London clergy could meet and "maintain love in conversing together". By 1920, the college occupied an imposing Gothic building on the bank of the Thames, the top floors of which contain library stacks holding over 200,000 volumes. The library is available for use by London clergy, fellows, members and associates of the college, as well as members of London universities and libraries. The library is largely theological.

54. Cleopatra's Needle (Embankment)

A monument of the Pharaoh Thutmose III dating from around 1450BC, Cleopatra's Needle was gifted to London by Egypt after the Battle of the Nile. It was erected on the north bank of the Thames in 1878. It is both heavily weathered and shows damage from a German bomb that fell nearby in 1917. It is flanked by two bronze Sphinxes that bear the hieroglyphic inscription "The good god, Thuthmosis III given life."



WHITEHALL (WHITEHALL)

Running from Leicester Square to Parliament Square, Whitehall is the heart of government in both Britain and the Empire and holds the most important offices of the civil service which supports the elected government of Westminster.

The most important buildings on Whitehall include:

55. Admiralty House

The headquarters of the British Navy, and topped with an impressive display of wireless antennae for communicating with ships at sea.

56. The War Office

The headquarters of the British Army, a huge building with over 1000 rooms and 2.5 miles of corridors.

57. Horse Guards

A large Palladian building, now used as the command centre for all army regiments in London and Eastern England. An honour guard from the Household Cavalry are usually to be found in the parade grounds outside.

58. The Scottish Office (Dover House)

Once home to HRH Prince Frederick, the Duke of York, as well as the French ambassador, Dover House is now home to the Scottish Office, the department of government responsible for handling affairs north of the border. The building is unique amongst London mansions for its entrance hall in the form of a rotunda.

59. The Treasury

The headquarters of the government of the day, which holds the offices of both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

60. The Foreign Office (Includes Colonial & India offices)

A remarkable building of Portland Stone and white marble and crammed with many marble statues of notable dignitaries, the Foreign Office was built in 1873 after the British realised they'd conquered a third of the world and didn't have anywhere to run it from. The centrepiece is the Durbar Court, built from Italian marble in 1902 when the Princes of India came to swear fealty to the new King.

61. The Cenotaph

Erected in 1919 as a temporary monument to the dead of the Great War, the Cenotaph's simplicity caught the mood of the nation and it was kept permanently. A simple block of white stone with the words "The Glorious Dead" carved into it, it is a focus of a lot of emotional energy in the wake of the devastation of the war.

Any male investigator who passes the Cenotaph without raising his hat can expect a certain amount of disparaging comments from other passers-by.

62. Banqueting House

The only surviving part of the original Palace of Whitehall, Banqueting House holds the Royal United Services Museum, which contains relics of the British military and navy, including such curios as Cromwell's sword (what better for the go-getting young cultist-about-town who wants to behead the King?), Napoleon's furniture, a selection of prehistoric weapons found around Britain, and weapons from the Great War (some of which may still be active).

63. Admiralty Arch (The Mall)

A landmark building, the arch was built as a monument to Queen Victoria and completed in 1912. It holds the admiralty library, which comprises, as you would expect, an extensive collection of books on a naval theme.

THE WEST END

The term 'The West End' came into use during the 19th century to describe the area of London around Charing Cross which was nexus of the entertainment industry of clubs, dance-halls, nightclubs, cocktail bars, hotels, museums, galleries, cinemas, restaurants and theatres. It is not a precisely defined area, but it is widely agreed to encompass the area of Leicester Square, Piccadilly Circus, and Soho, and possibly Regent Street and even Covent Garden as well, depending on who you speak to.

Places of Interest**64. Covent Garden (Off the Strand)**

Home to the largest and most important fruit, vegetable and flower market in London, Covent Garden is a large square laid out in 1831 and surrounded by attractive buildings that house, amongst others, The National Sporting Club, The

Garrick Club, The Covent Garden Theatre (The Royal Opera House), and the church of St Paul (not to be confused with the cathedral of the same name).

Historically, Covent Garden has an association with petty crime, prostitution and hard drinking although by the 1920s the area, whilst lively, is safe and popular with tourists, especially whilst the market is in progress (6 am till 9 am daily except Sunday).

65. Royal Colonial Institute (Northumberland Avenue)

Established in 1868 with the intention of promoting the unity of Empire, the RCI was founded to "to establish a reading room and a library, in which recent and authentic intelligence upon colonial subjects may be constantly available". It contains over 140,000 volumes covering all aspects of Empire, including politics, geography, society, customs and exploration. Admission is freely available.

66. The London Library (St James' Square)

Founded in 1842 by Thomas Carlyle as a reaction to the restrictions on lending by most other libraries in London at the time, the London Library is by the 1920s the largest private lending library in the world with over 400,000 volumes. Membership is available for an annual subscription of 3£ 3s, with an entrance fee of 1£ 1s.

The library is principally concerned with the liberal arts and is unlikely to contain many tomes of interest to the Mythos scholar. However, many of the finer minds in London are members and it is a popular meeting place and forum for (quiet) discussion. In the 1920s members include TS Eliot, Rudyard Kipling and Rebecca West.

67. The Society of Antiquaries (Piccadilly)

The Society of Antiquaries was founded in 1707 by three interested amateurs in the Bear Tavern in the Strand and grew quickly to be granted a Royal Charter in 1751 for "the encouragement, advancement and furtherance of the study and knowledge of the antiquities and history of this and other countries". By the 1920s the society has hundreds of members, mostly archaeologists and historians (it is possible that any historian or archaeologist investigators may well be members) and is based in offices at Burlington House in Piccadilly, which it shares with The Royal Astronomical Society (handy for checking if the stars are right).

The society holds the UK's oldest and largest archaeological library with over 100,000 volumes dating back to the 17th century. Additionally, as the society was formed for the purpose of gathering and disseminating information often held in private hands, it holds an extensive collection of pictures (created for use in lectures and publications) of unique artefacts and historical oddities as well as a catalogue of their last-known owners.

In many cases the drawings are of objects which have since been lost and so are the only historical records of them. Finally, the society owns a museum collection of objects ranging from a Bronze Age Scottish shield to antique clocks and a large collection of oil paintings and portraits. Access to both the libraries and collections is freely available to members of the society, and by arrangement with the society secretary for non-members. The society is a remarkable resource for both Keepers and investigators, and further reading is encouraged.

68. St Martin-in-the-Fields (Trafalgar Square)

A church has stood upon this spot for at least 800 years with the first mention being in 1222. The present church was built between 1722-26 by James Gibbs and was for a long time the parish church to one of the most elegant, wealthy and populous parts of London. As a result of this it is estimated that over the centuries more than 70,000 people have been interred in its crypt and graveyard. In 1924 St Martin-in-the-Fields is the venue for the first ever broadcast of a religious service.

St Martin-in-the-Fields is the parish church for both the Royal Family and the Admiralty. Pews are kept reserved (but are rarely used) for both the King and the Prince of Wales. Queen Mary (wife of George V and mother to Edward VIII and George VI) regularly attends services there during the 1920s, whilst at night the church is often kept open as a shelter for the homeless.

69. The National Gallery (Trafalgar Square)

The North side of Trafalgar Square is completely dominated by the imposing edifice of the National Gallery. Founded in 1824, the building houses a large collection of European art. Behind it stands the National Portrait Gallery, which contains about 1900 portraits (including statues, busts and bronzes) of notables from around the world and throughout history.

70. St Giles-in-the-Fields

(High Street, off New Oxford Street)

Founded as a colony for lepers in 1118, the present building on the site was completed in 1734 after subsidence and damp in the walls of the previous church (caused by huge numbers of plague victims buried and rotting in the graveyard during the 1600s) made them unstable. It was at St Giles that the plague was first reported in 1665, and the quantity of victims buried in the churchyards of St Giles and nearby St Martin-in-the-Fields will undoubtedly make this an area of interest to cultists and wizards serving beings of pestilence, decay and death. In 1417, Sir John Oldcastle, a trusted ally of Henry V,



was convicted of heresy and was hanged and “burned, gallows and all, whilst still hanging” in the churchyard.

71. Madame Tussaud’s (Baker St)

Founded in 1802 by Marie Tussaud (who made wax death-masks of victims of the Great Terror during the French Revolution), Madame Tussaud’s is a collection of life-sized wax figures and tableaux of famous contemporary and historical figures. Madame Tussaud’s is possibly best known for the ‘Chamber of Horrors’, which contains the guillotine used to execute Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI, plus effigies of notorious criminals and crime scenes. A large collection of original wax death masks is lost when Madame Tussaud’s burns down on 15th May 1925, but the moulds cast from them survive, allowing the attraction to re-open in 1928.

72. Charing Cross Road (Charing Cross)

Although bookshops are to be found throughout the city, the Charing Cross Road and the surrounding streets are the centre of the book trade in London. Shops and dealers selling new, second-hand and antiquarian books are gathered together in several streets (although the Charing Cross Road is the most famous and probably the centre of the trade, the concentration of shops extends both into Covent Garden and also up towards the British Museum and Bloomsbury). Investigators who get into a gunfight with the cultist owners of a minor antiquarian bookshop should be warned that No. 82 Charing Cross Road is a Police Station.

73. Flicker Alley (Charing Cross)

Cecil Court, off the Charing Cross Road, is commonly known as ‘Flicker Alley’ as it was, for the first few decades of the 20th

century the centre of the British film industry. Although by the early 1920s most of the major film companies such as Gaumont had moved to more spacious premises on nearby Wardour Street, Flicker Alley retained its association with the film industry for much of the decade with smaller film companies, casting agents and equipment suppliers to the industry remaining on the street.

As the 1920s pass and more of the bigger film companies move out, the smaller ones get more disreputable and Flicker Alley gets a seedy reputation where, perhaps, the more desperate or unreliable inhabitants of the movie trade may be found. Due to the highly flammable nature of nitrate film used at the time, one interesting feature is that the basements of most of the buildings of the street (which had often been used for storing highly-flammable celluloid film) are heavily reinforced, insulated, and have strong steel doors – behind which all kinds of things may lurk unseen.

Soho

Soho sits to the north of Leicester Square and is perhaps the most bohemian area of London. Many of the major theatres are here, as are the offices of most of the major film companies (on Wardour Street). Soho is a centre for the immigrant communities of London, and many – possibly the majority – of residents are French, Italian, Swiss and other nationalities, as the variety of restaurants in the narrow streets testify. Pubs, nightclubs, and illicit dens for drugs and prostitution can also be found here.

Bloomsbury

North of Oxford Street and west of the Tottenham Court Road lies Bloomsbury, possibly the centre of intellectual activity in the city. Developed as a residential area for the well-to-do

Charing Cross Road Booksellers

Watkins Books at No. 21 Cecil Court, which specifically stocks books on the occult and esoteric. John Watkins, the owner, is a disciple of Madame Blavatsky and printed the first edition of her work, *The Secret Doctrine*, which was itself allegedly based upon writings in the *Book of Dzyan*. Keepers and investigators may make of this what they will.

E. Joseph at No. 48, a dedicated second-hand and antiquarian bookseller.

Marks & Co. at No. 84 (which bought George W. Davis in 1928)

George W. Davis at No. 106 (which has a specialisation in Freemasonry & the Occult and has an entire floor devoted to those subjects).

Foyles at No. 113-199, which sells both second-hand and new books

between the 17th-19th centuries, Bloomsbury is an attractive area with wide streets and a number of squares laid out around gardens. It houses a number of important buildings and organisations, including the British Museum (see below), University College and University college hospital (see the section on the University of London) and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), possibly the most famous theatre school in the world.

Being so central and having so many attractions, Bloomsbury has a great many hotels and lodging houses, the majority of which are pleasant and reasonably priced (for London). During the 1920s, Bloomsbury gave its name to the Bloomsbury Group, a circle of intellectuals, artists and writers who lived, worked and regularly met in the area and who set the tone for much of the intellectual and artistic debate in Britain at the time. Members of the group include writers Virginia Woolf and EM Forster, economist John Maynard Keynes and biographer and critic Lytton Strachey.

74. Dr Williams' Library (Gordon Square)

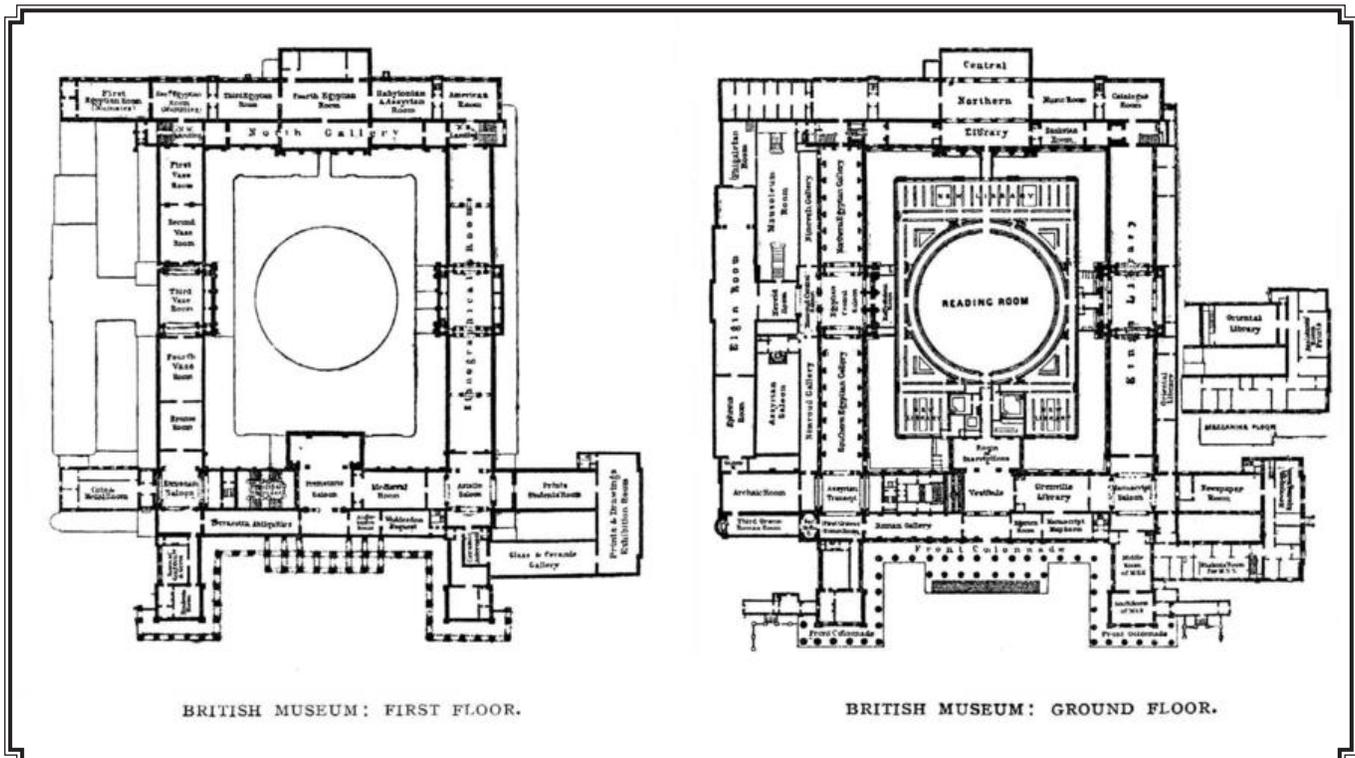
Established by the will of Dr. Daniel Williams, a leading nonconformist minister, when he died in c. 1715, Dr. Williams' library is one of the oldest libraries open to the

public in London. By the 1920s it was a major research library especially in the field of the history of theology, and contains over 300,000 documents from the entire history of printing ranging from curiosities to major works.

75. The British Museum (Museum Street)

Possibly the greatest museum in the world, the British Museum was established by Act of Parliament on 7th June, 1753 after naturalist and antiquarian Sir Hans Sloane left his entire collection of 71,000 items to the nation. The museum grew quickly, with a number of royal and private collections being donated (including George III's library in 1823, the Rosetta Stone in 1802, the Townley collection of sculpture in 1807 and the Parthenon (Elgin) Marbles in 1816), and by the mid-19th century it had outgrown its original site on Montagu Square and was rehoused in the present building in 1857.

Amongst much, much more, the museum contains world-class collections of Egyptian antiquities (including plenty of mummies and a copy of the Egyptian Book of the Dead); Assyrian, Greek and Roman sculpture, pottery and artefacts; African, Polynesian, and North and Mesoamerican tribal weapons, clothing, goods and art; British and Medieval



Antiquities; European Prehistoric and Iron-Age items; and Indian and Buddhist religious goods. During the early part of the decade a tank sits outside the museum as a war memorial.

British Museum Treasures

The Rosetta Stone – The most famous single item in the museum, this is a large slab of granite bearing an inscription of a decree by Ptolemy V in three languages: Greek, Demotic Egyptian and Hieroglyphics. Comparison of the three languages allowed Jean-Francois Champollion to complete the first successful translation of hieroglyphics in 1822.

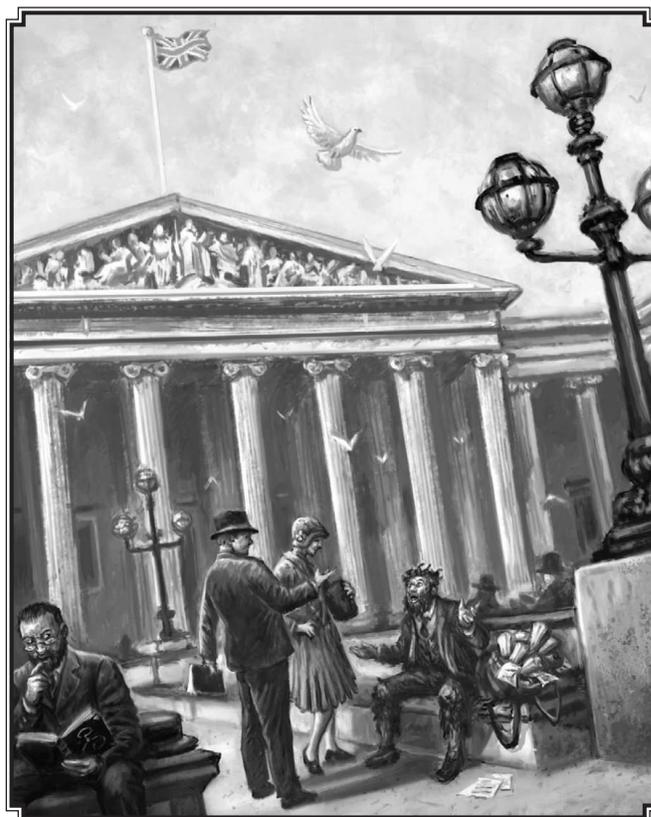
The Elgin Marbles – Originally forming a large part of the decorations from the Parthenon in Athens, these were bought by Lord Elgin, the British Ambassador to Constantinople, in 1801 and sold to the British government in 1816.

The Mausoleum – One of the Seven Wonders of the World, this is the monument erected to Mausolus, King of Caria, in 325BC. It has been reconstructed as accurately as possible, although exactitude is impossible.

The Portland Vase – A remarkable and exquisite example of early Roman glassware, dark blue with opaque reliefs in cut white glass. Dated to about 25BC, this is a priceless and irreplaceable piece so it will be a shame when an investigator fleeing rampaging mummies in the dark knocks it over and smashes it.

The magical paraphernalia of Dr John Dee – Dee was an Elizabethan astrologer and mystic, and among his collected paraphernalia is an adult human-sized Crystal Skull, believed to be Aztec.

As well as the public galleries, the museum holds an extensive collection in storage for research and cataloguing. It is thought that in the store-rooms and offices below the museum there are literally thousands of items which have never even been properly looked at, never mind identified or researched. Quite literally, anything could be down there.



Important staff in the museum: Sir Frederick Kenyon (Director & Chief Librarian), Mr AW Pollard (Printed books), Mr JP Gilson (Manuscripts), Dr. LD Barnett (Oriental printed books & manuscripts), Mr Campbell Dodson (Prints & Drawings), Sir Ernest Budge (Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities, perhaps most famous for his translation of the Book of the Dead), Mr AH Smith (Greek & Roman Antiquities), Mr. OM Dalton (British & Medieval Antiquities), Mr RL Hobson (Ceramics and Ethnography) and Mr GF Hill (Coins and Medals).

The museum employs hundreds of others, from researchers and archaeologists to curators, academics, guards, attendants and more. Furthermore, the museum is a major source of funding for archaeological expeditions worldwide. In the 1920s, it is involved in the excavation of the city of Ur in modern-day Iraq (where Agatha Christie met her husband Max Mallowan) and expeditions to the Valley of the Kings in Egypt (including Howard Carter's discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamen).

76. The British Library (Museum Street)

The British Museum also contains the British Library, which contains over 4,000,000 documents and in terms of size is rivalled only by the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. Copyright

Major Works in the British Museum Library

Codex Alexandrius – One of the oldest extant copies of the entire Bible, dated to the first half of the 5th century AD. Written on vellum.

Plato's Phaedo – A papyrus copy of Plato's *Phaedo*, found in Egypt and dated circa 250BC.

Gutenberg Bible – One of the earliest printed Bibles, most likely produced in Mainz in 1455 by Johannes Gutenberg.

Shakespeare's First Folio – Four copies of the Bard's First *Folio*, printed in 1623 by Isaac Jaggard and Edward Blount.

Ch'in T'ing Ku Tin Ku Shu Chi Cheng – Ch'en Meng Lei's massive encyclopedia is over 800,000 pages long in 745 volumes written over a period of almost 50 years between 1674-1723.

The Magna Carta – The Great Charter of the Liberties of England.

The Necronomicon – A complete copy of the German Edition of the Necronomicon is kept in the vaults.

Ordinary visitors to the library may not enter the reading room, but may be allowed to view it from the doorway at the discretion of the librarian. Persons wishing to use the library must write in application to the director, outlining the purpose of their visit and containing a reference from an upstanding member of the community. Applicants under 21 years of age are never accepted.

When a researcher is allowed into the reading room, they must fill in a form for the desired document(s), which will be procured from the archives by an attendant (10-20 minutes, may be hurried by a successful Library Use roll). Rumours persist that certain documents are kept in a 'locked room' and are never brought out. Depending on who you talk to, these documents include pornography, seditious literature, and medieval treatises on raising the devil and black magic.

law demands that a copy of every book published in United Kingdom must be sent to the Library, a privilege shared with the Bodleian Library in Oxford, Cambridge University Library, Trinity College in Dublin, the National Library of Wales and the Advocates Library in Edinburgh. The library contains a number of important collections, including the Cottonian Library, the Harleian Library and the King's Library, amongst which are the Lindisfarne Gospels and the oldest surviving English copy of Beowulf.

77. St George's Church (Bloomsbury Way)

One of the 50 churches commissioned in 1711, St George's was the last of the Nicholas Hawksmoor churches to be built. Hawksmoor sought to rival the splendour of the great European capitals with his church designs, but with St George's it is possible he overdid it. The church has a splendid portico and interior, but it is topped by an oversized steeple surrounded by statues of lions and unicorns and crested by a statue of King George I dressed up as a Roman emperor. Even at the time popular opinion felt this was over the top: Horace

Walpole said it was "A masterpiece of absurdity", and Charles Cockerell observed that "Hawksmoor was scarcely sober when he designed it."

Mayfair

Named for the old medieval May Fair held outside the Westminster City walls, Mayfair was developed as a fashionable (and usually expensive) residential area during the 18th and 19th centuries by a few wealthy landlords – the largest landowner in the area during the 1920s was the Duke of Westminster. Although it does not have the tourist attractions of the West End, many wealthy, titled and important people live in the area and jealously guard their privacy.

78. The Wallace Collection (Manchester Square)

The Wallace Collection was largely created by Sir Richard Wallace (1818-1890) and his ancestors the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Marquesses of Hertford, and given as a bequest to the British Nation by Lady Wallace upon her death in 1897. It is housed in what was the Wallace family home, Hertford House.

The collection is primarily of art, and includes works by Titian, Rembrandt and Velázquez plus its most famous work, Franz Hals' *The Laughing Cavalier*. There is also probably the finest collection of princely arms and armour in Britain, and Medieval and Renaissance objets d'art including bronze and glass works and Limoges enamels.

79. Wellcome Museum (Wigmore Street)

A relatively new museum, opened in 1913 by Henry Wellcome, the Wellcome Museum is dedicated to medicine in all its forms worldwide. The museum holds the Hall of Primitive Medicine (which includes shrunken heads, witch-doctors costumes, and African and South American magical fetishes, amulets and charms); the Hall of Statuary, which holds statues of gods associated with healing and medicine, as well as a selection of ancient Greek and Roman surgical and dentistry instruments; and the Gallery of Pictures, which includes both portraits of medical innovators, and also anatomical drawings; plus rooms dedicated to the history of chemistry, pharmacy and nursing, orthopaedics, ambulances and surgical appliances.

80. Berkeley Square (Mayfair)

One of the most exclusive addresses in London, Berkeley Square in Mayfair in the 1920s was best known for being the home of Winston Churchill and Bertie Wooster, and as the birthplace of the Princess (future Queen) Elizabeth on Bruton Street in 1923. 50 Berkeley Square has the dubious honour of being "the most haunted house in London", which during the 1880s was the subject of a long correspondence in *Notes and Queries* magazine. Legend has it that one room is haunted by something terrible that causes the death of anyone who tries to sleep in there, and when two homeless sailors broke into the empty house in the 1800s in the hope of somewhere to stay they were confronted by a "hideous, shapeless oozing mass" which pursued them downstairs. One escaped but the other was found dead, impaled on the railings outside. Even in the 20th century, mysterious 'ghost lights' are often seen in the windows of the house.

• WEST LONDON •

BRENT

Until the end of the 19th century the borough of Brent was a collection of villages, hamlets and farmland. It was the expansion of the rail network and a wave of housebuilding in the early 20th century that transformed it from small

rural communities into suburbia. As a result, the area is an odd juxtaposition of modern housing and new factories surrounding and sometimes incorporating old – occasionally very old – farming communities, with all the potential tensions this implies. Certainly, pockets of unwelcoming old country folk still sit in their pubs and eye with hostility any outsiders, whilst newly arrived professionals and commuters fail to understand or integrate with their new neighbours. If Keepers are looking for communities in London where people do not know their neighbours and the curtains twitch, the rows of commuter housing in Brent are good places to start.

Brent is a big area, and parts of it are important areas for factories and industry; areas like Cricklewood are effectively one huge industrial estate, and industries as diverse as motorcycle, aeroplane, washing-machine and radio manufacturers, Smiths Potato Crisps, dairy farming, McVities Biscuits, and mushroom growing can all be found in the borough. Many of the more industrialised areas have effectively become slums for their workforces by the 1920s. The British Empire Exhibition of 1924-25 takes place within the borough at Wembley and this led to another spurt of building housing and railways, and another rise in the population.

HAMMERSMITH

To the west of the City of Westminster, outside the old city walls and perhaps more importantly upwind and upriver from the two old cities, lie the suburbs of Hammersmith, Kensington and Chelsea. These were all once villages that the expanding sprawl of London has absorbed in its advance up the Thames valley, each of which were colonised during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries by wealthier Londoners seeking to escape the smell and squalor of the city whilst remaining in easy distance to the centre of power at court.

Although it still retains some pleasant old houses, Hammersmith is now a centre of commerce and entertainment and a major transport hub (The Old Oak Common railway depot is the largest railway depot in the country) for the west of the city, meaning that the area feels bustling and busy. The Kensington Road, which runs through both Hammersmith and Kensington, is an upmarket shopping street, and Hammersmith also contains Olympia, a huge glass-roofed exhibition hall covering over 9 acres, which is used for business exhibitions, military pageants, circuses and shows. Hammersmith contains many



major entertainment venues, including the Hammersmith Palais (opened in 1919, and an important venue in the new jazz scene), the Hammersmith Apollo and the Shepherds Bush Empire. The athletics ground at nearby White City was the venue for the 1908 Olympics, and during the 1920s is London's principal venue for both athletic meetings and greyhound racing (although, one assumes, not at the same time).

A reminder of Hammersmith's more genteel past, Hurlingham House (owned by the Hurlingham Club) is the headquarters for the sport of polo for the whole British Empire, and investigators who want to mingle with high society from all over the globe would do well to arrange for an invitation to one of the games played in the grounds.

KENSINGTON

Kensington was once known as the 'Court Suburb'. With Kensington Palace at its heart, the village of Kensington was where the Royal court would retire from London to the nearby countryside in times gone by and although those days are gone, the pleasant summer houses and an air of gentility remain. Surrounded though it is by the hustle and bustle of a modern city the streets are often quiet. Reminders of the wealth of the inhabitants are everywhere to be seen; especially the houses around Kensington Palace Gardens, which are some of the biggest and most expensive in the country. For example, Holland House, residence of Lord Ilchester, is the

largest private house and garden in central London, whilst Leighton House, which opened to the public in 1929, is on the outside a traditional British building but inside is a magnificent recreation of an Arab Palace.

1. The Natural History Museum (Exhibition Road)

More properly, this is the British Museum (Natural History) as it does not become independent until 1963. One of the three great museums in Kensington (the others being the Victoria & Albert and the Science Museum), the Natural History Museum was moved to its own building between 1881-3 after a century of being part of the British Museum. The museum holds millions of specimens, only a fraction of which are on display. The museum is on three floors, which are each divided into two wings; on the ground floor, the west wing holds recent zoology, and the east palaeontology and fossils. The first floor east wing holds lower mammals and the west wing is dedicated to minerals, and the second floor east wing holds a botanical gallery and west wing the upper mammals.

Extensive research facilities are available at the museum and access to specimens not on display is available by going through a similar vetting process to that of the British Library. Like the British Museum, the Natural History Museum is a major source of funding for scientific expeditions and exploration. During the 1920s major projects include Evelyn Cheesman's 10-year trip to the Galapagos and Pacific Islands which netted over 70,000 specimens, the Shackleton-Rowe Antarctic



expedition of 1920-22 (during which Ernest Shackleton died of a heart attack) and Sir George Wilkins' expedition to the Australian outback of 1923-25. Keepers may also care to include the Pabodie Expedition to the Antarctic of 1930-1 (*At the Mountains of Madness*) and the Peaslee expedition to Australia in 1934-5 (*The Shadow Out of Time*) on this list.

2. The Science Museum (Exhibition Road)

The second of the three great Kensington museums, the Science Museum houses permanent displays of flying machines (including, after 1925, Orville Wrights' first aeroplane), engines and machine tools, ships and their construction, clocks, electrical devices and other scientific wonders of intellectual or historical interest.

3. The Victoria & Albert Museum (Cromwell Road)

The last of the three Kensington museums, the V&A is a museum of decorative and applied art. The permanent exhibitions include European Medieval, Renaissance and modern sculpture, continental and English woodwork and furniture, (1400-1900), architecture, musical instruments, gold and silver work, ceramics, textiles and oil paintings. The gallery of casts of sculpture and architectural works includes a remarkable full-sized plaster cast of Trajan's Column. The jewels of the collection are the Raphael cartoons, drawn in 1516-17 as patterns for the Sistine Chapel. Attached to the V&A is an extensive museum of Indian design and art.

The Great Bed of Ware

One of the Victoria & Albert Museum's more unusual exhibits, this massive four-poster bed was made in the 1460s by Jonas Fosbrooke for King Edward IV. Legend has it that Jonas' spirit guards the bed and will violently attack anyone not of Royal blood who attempts to sleep in it.

4. Imperial Institute & Imperial War Museum (Exhibition Road)

The Imperial Institute is a wonderful, Victorian Gothic building constructed between 1888-1893 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria and to act as a celebration of the Empire and its trade. In a predictably British piece of planning, once the building was actually completed nobody knew what to

do with it. It varied between an exhibition space and a research institute for much of the next few decades, and by the 1920s houses the offices of the University of London (which it was much too small for – see pg. 168).

The Imperial War Museum was founded in 1917 as a record of war and sacrifice in Britain and her Empire, although the majority of exhibits are from the Great War. It opened in 1920 at the Crystal Palace in Sydenham Hill, and moved in 1924 to the Imperial Institute. The museum collection includes large numbers of ship guns (both real and life-sized models), listings of the 8000 ships that took part in the war, a seaplane and a Sopwith Scout biplane, a selection of bombs, depth charges and aeroplane machine guns and ammunition, plus a considerable amount of Army weaponry including artillery, guns and rifles, and bombs. The museum also holds models of major battlefields of the conflict both in Europe and Asia Minor, a bronze flag and wreath from the tomb of Saladin, and an enormous number of battle trophies and honours.

The museum also has a library, which may be examined on application; it contains maps, extensive records of the war and the men who fought in it, and over fifty thousand photographs.

5. The Royal Albert Hall (Kensington Gore)

The Royal Albert Hall was built in 1867-71 as a memorial to Queen Victoria's consort and to honour his wish for a "great hall of the people". The Hall is one of the largest in the world with seating for an audience of 8000 people and an orchestra of 1100. It is often used for musical concerts and political meetings. In 1930, the Spiritualist movement held a great meeting in the hall to commemorate the death of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

6. The Royal Geographical Society (Kensington Gore)

Housed in Lowther Lodge, The Royal Geographical Society was founded in 1830 as a dining club for gentlemen of like-minded interests. Over time the organisation became more serious and the Society was formalised in 1859 with the purpose of "the advancement of geographical science". The Society may well be of use to investigators due to its interest in and support of expeditions to distant, unexplored and interesting places. They were involved in the African expeditions of Livingstone and Stanley in the 19th century and the Arctic expeditions of Shackleton and Scott in the 20th (there is a small museum dedicated to Captain Scott on the ground floor of the society

headquarters). There is no reason why expeditions to the Plateau of Leng, the lost city of Irem, or even to distant Antarctica would not be supported. During the 1920s, the presidents of the society were Francis Younghusband, Lawrence Dundas, David Hogarth and Charles Close.

Colonel Fawcett and the Lost City of Z

The Lost City of Z is referenced in a document written in 1753 by a Portuguese explorer called Joao da Silva Guimaraes. He claimed to have visited a fantastical city deep in the heart of the Amazon, and when Colonel Percy Fawcett learned of this in the early 20th century he determined to set out to discover this city, which he believed would be the legendary El Dorado. Fawcett was an enthusiastic and experienced explorer of South America, having led several trips into the interior where he was amazed by the wildlife and flora he encountered whilst managing to stay on good terms with normally hostile Indians. After the Great War, an expedition was set up by the Royal Geographical Society, bankrolled by a group of city financiers calling themselves 'The Glove'. Fawcett travelled to Rio and set off up the Amazon. He was never seen again. Fawcett was declared dead by the society in 1927.

What happened to Fawcett? Should the society fund another expedition to find him, or his lost city? And who are 'The Glove' and what are their motivations? Perhaps the investigators will pursue these interesting questions.

Chelsea

If Kensington was where the Lords and Masters once lived, then Chelsea is where their servants and attendant industries dwelt. Although by no means as wealthy or extravagant as Kensington, Chelsea is still a pleasant and popular place to live, especially amongst the wealthy artistic and bohemian crowd who are 'slumming it' and want to feel close to the working man without actually having to go and live near them in the East End. The area has a rich artistic, scientific and literary heritage, having been home to such luminaries as Sir Isaac Newton, Sir Hans Sloane (founder of the British Museum), Dante Rossetti, James McNeil Whistler, Thomas Carlyle and many more.

Just by the river in Chelsea stands the Lots Road Power Station, which supplies electricity to London Underground. It is the largest power station in the world, and if anything were to happen to it the entire Underground network would simultaneously stop running and plunge into darkness. Why, anything might happen under such circumstances!

Harrow

Situated on a hill overlooking the Thames valley, Harrow is most famous for its school, which is second only to Eton College in the favour of the great and good of the Empire. Too far from the centre of power in Westminster or the City to be convenient for commuters or the really powerful, Harrow is a pleasant, leafy enclave of middle-class respectability coupled with outbursts of youthful high-jinks occasioned by local pupils.

Harrow School was founded in 1572 and still contains buildings as old as 1608; it has 600 pupils, all boys, who lodge with their schoolmasters around the town. The education given at the school is first rate and the roll-call of famous old boys includes Winston Churchill, Lord Byron and Prime Ministers Palmerston and Peel. A 19th century tradition amongst the boys of the school was a game called Jack o' Lantern, in which one boy would hide himself in the fields at night with a lamp and move from place to place, sometimes showing the light whilst up to twenty others would try to catch him. Investigators looking into spooky lights on Harrow Hill might well find themselves led astray by laughing schoolboys.

Other places of note in Harrow include St Mary's church, built in 1094, and Headstone Manor, a house dating back to 1310 which is reputedly haunted by, amongst others, ghostly monks, a disembodied crying baby, and poltergeists. The name Harrow derives from Gumeninga hergae, which loosely translates as "place of worship of the tribe of Gumenigae", and the hill the town stands on is reputed to have pagan holy site until as recently as AD900.

Paddington

7. St Mary's Hospital (Praed Street)

St Mary's Hospital was founded in 1845 and is the site of several great medical accomplishments. In 1874, CR Alder Wright synthesised heroin and Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin here in 1928.

8. Paddington Station (Eastbourne Terrace)

Designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Paddington is the gateway to the west of England and South Wales. The grand wrought iron rail shed is a marvel of Victorian engineering, and which was substantially enlarged in 1906-1915.

for accommodation prefer to head south into Bloomsbury or Westminster for their beds. Certainly, once away from the brightly-lit and police-patrolled surroundings of the stations, Camden at night is not a place for a gentleman unless he is looking for trouble, illegal vices, or both. The south of Camden sits close to the far more opulent Primrose Hill and Regent's Park, which holds the world-famous London Zoo.

• **NORTH LONDON** •

CAMDEN, HOLBORN & ST PANCRAS

North of Westminster sits the borough of Camden, described by Karl Baedeker in 1923 as "a shabby district". The further north one goes into Camden the more it is a poor and industrialised area, with factories, warehouses and plenty of low-grade housing; although King's Cross boasts the Great Northern Hotel and St Pancras the St Pancras Hotel (a spectacular Gothic masterpiece in red brick), many travellers looking

1. St George the Martyr (Queen Square)

St George the Martyr, Holborn is dedicated to St George. It carries the epithet "The Martyr" to distinguish it from nearby St George's, Bloomsbury, with which it shared a churchyard.

2. St Pancras Rail Station (Euston Road)

St Pancras railway station and the Midland Grand Hotel, which fronts the station, are two of the most magnificent pieces of railway architecture built by the Victorians. Dubbed "The cathedral of the railways", the station sends travellers off on



their journeys under huge eaves of red brick whilst the hotel, as well as being one of the best in London, has a wonderful Italian Gothic edifice.

3. King's Cross Rail Station (Euston Road)

The main station for Leeds, Doncaster, Newcastle, Edinburgh and points north, King's Cross is the home of the Great Northern Railway and its flagship service, The Flying Scotsman, which starts running in 1923. Popular legend has it that Boadicea, legendary warrior queen who defeated the Romans, was killed in the area and her grave lies under Platform 13.

4. Regent's Park

One of London's largest parks (473 acres), Regent's Park is a popular place for a stroll. It also holds the gardens and museum of the Royal Botanical Society, Bedford College (a women's only college, and part of the University of London) and, most notably, London Zoo, which houses a large collection of animals including hippopotamuses, bears, lions, monkeys, elephants and rhinoceroses, as well as lots of poisonous reptiles and insects. The zoo is also home to many other animals such as goats, deer, rabbits and ducks, which the Keeper is less likely

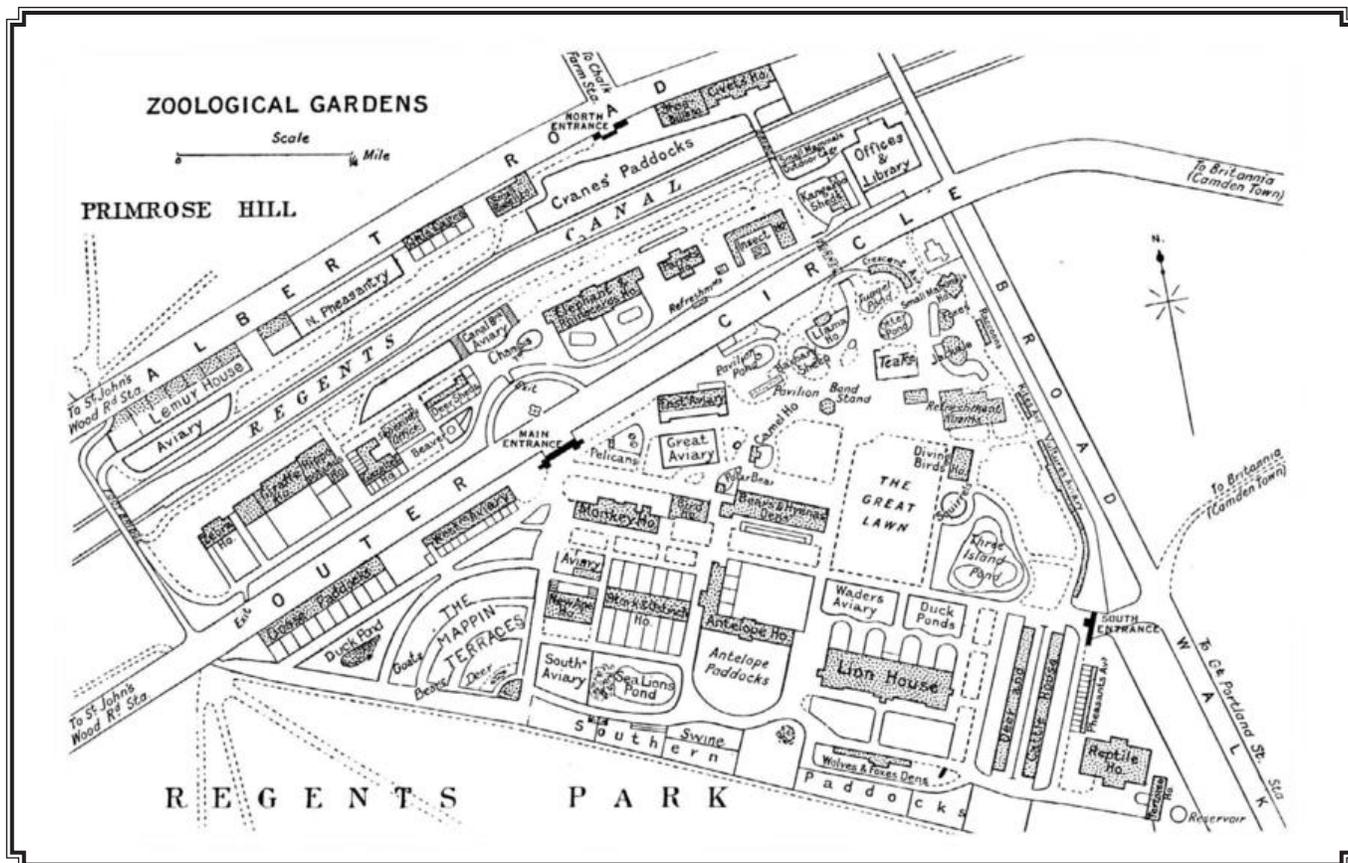
to be able to use to kill unfortunate investigators, but don't feel you have to restrict your imagination on our say-so.

ISLINGTON

In North London, bordering Camden, lies the borough of Islington. Once a fashionable address for the gentleman-about-town attracted by nearby fields and natural spa waters, the rapid urban sprawl of the 19th century transformed Islington into an area defined by factories and slums. Many streets are lined with houses that were once grand Georgian town houses but have now been subdivided into tenements and flats holding sometimes dozens of families to a building. Others are lined with Victorian workers terraces that are often little better. Attempts are being made to improve the area with rebuilding work, but progress is slow and in many quarters Islington still has a poor reputation and is a byword for urban deprivation.

HAMPSTEAD

Hampstead is an agreeably wealthy suburb of the metropolis, situated on a hill with some spectacular views overlooking



Westminster. Hampstead has long been associated with free thinkers and intellectuals, and during the 1920s it was associated with the avant garde artistic movement and émigrés fleeing the Russian Revolution. Residents during the decade included birth control pioneer Marie Stopes, HG Wells, photographer Cecil Beaton, Agatha Christie, ballerina Anna Pavlova and author Lytton Strachey.

Possibly the most famous part of Hampstead is the Heath, an expanse of largely wild parklands almost 500 acres in size. From being a haunt of highwaymen in the 1700s, by the 1920s the heath is a popular spot for day trippers from the lightless slums of the East end, Camden and Islington. Several large ponds on the heath are used for swimming, fishing and boating, and during the late 1920s at least two seals are found in them as well (see *A Keeper's Guide to London*, pg. 36). Local legend has it that Queen Boadicea is buried under an ancient mound on the Heath (Boadicea has several graves around London, you'll note).

5. Hampstead New College (Byng Place)

Built for training Congregational Ministers, the college holds a library of over 40,000 books largely of a theological nature.

6. Hampstead Tube Station (Hampstead High Road)

Notable for being the deepest station on the entire network.

7. Kenwood House (Hampstead Lane)

A large stately home overlooking the Heath, Kenwood house is owned by Lord Iveagh for much of the decade and donated to the nation upon his death in 1927. The house holds an

impressive collection of art, including works by Vermeer, Rembrandt, Gainsborough and Reynolds.

• THE EAST END • AND THE DOCKLANDS

“London is a modern Babylon...”

– Benjamin Disraeli, *Tancred*, 1847

The great metropolis was not just the heart of Britain, but the heart of the Empire. The grand London Docks were the pivot of world trade and their fluid workforce and population dotted the sprawling Docklands and its communities. The East End felt like a different city to the affluent city centre and west. Instead it was synonymous with poverty and squalor and yet the inhabitants felt an amazing pride in their own communities. In the opening decades of the 20th century, it was Dickensian in feel, with sooty narrow streets, poor facilities and squalid tenements overfilled with the desperate and poor at the mercy of their landlords and the temporary labour that was all many could get.

Hard work is part of everyday life for both the men and women of the area. Monday is washing day around the common street pumps, and gossip flows as freely as the soap and water. Families lived in a single room – often infested with vermin - and they often go hungry. The last resort is to go to a charity and accept food, something the pride of the working class man

You Ain't From Around 'Ere...

Well to-do investigators poking their noses into the affairs of the closed East End communities, especially areas such as the Isle of Dogs, will find a closed rank if they rub the proud and independent East Londoners up the wrong way. The East End lifestyle often means that children are looked after by neighbours as mothers worked in shifts. Doors are rarely locked and people come and go but everyone knows your business, which means that strangers asking questions will likely be greeted with suspicion and possibly hostility, and news of them doing so will travel quickly; it will likely be assumed such folk are police or some other form of unwelcome authority.

Children play in the street most evenings and bands of fascinated ragamuffins might blow that carefully engaged stakeout. There are almost no motorcars in the East End and the London Tube network does not connect to it so most travel was by foot, by river or by horse and cart. If your investigator has to drive his Bentley into Wapping be aware that this will get you very noticed very quickly.

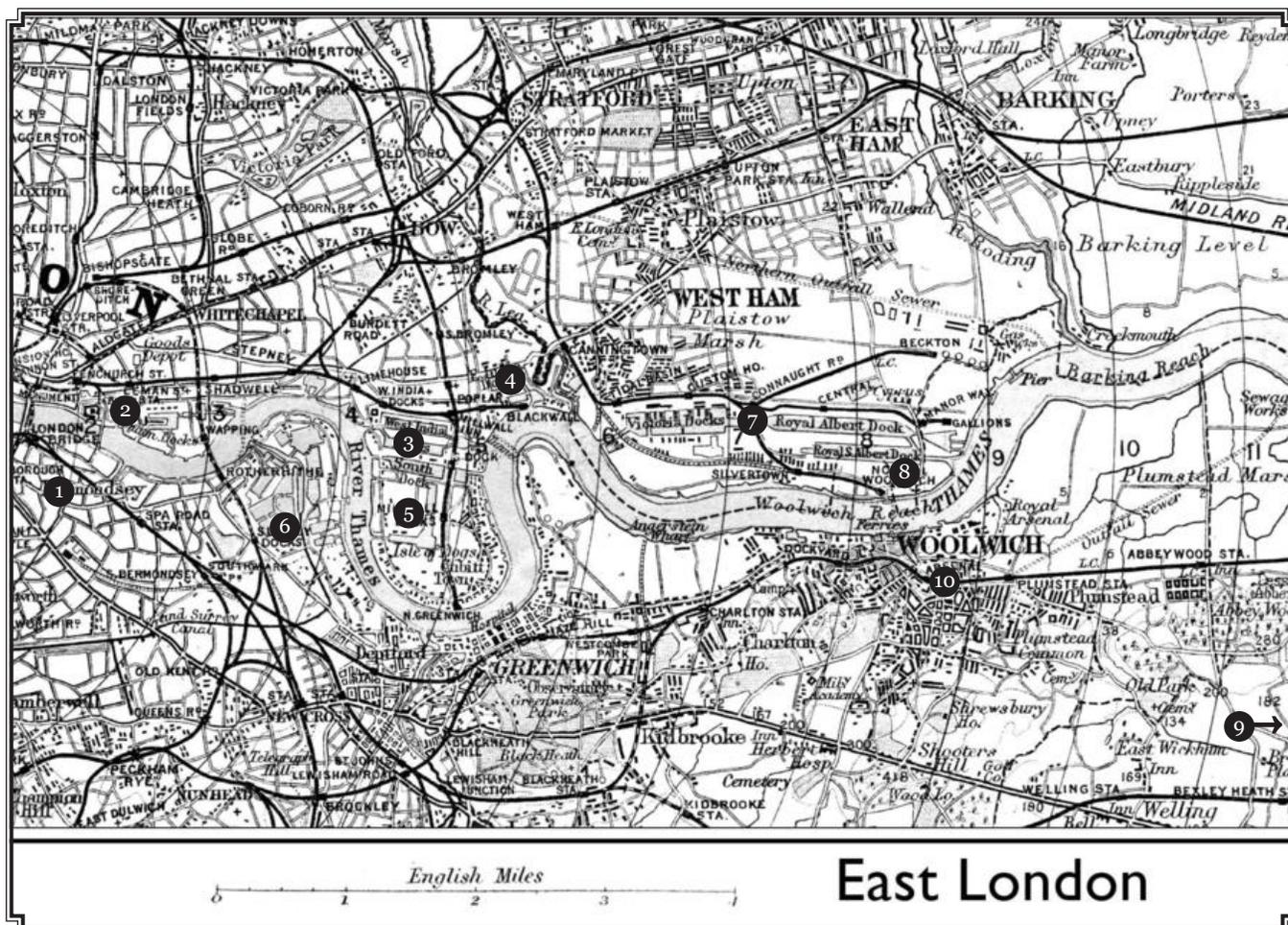
finds unpalatable. Drinking and the public house are the centre of life to many East End men and their communities. Alcohol, gambling and tobacco are the blight of many a household; a common fear of housewives was that their husbands would spend their wages in the pub or at the track rather than supporting their family. During the 1920s nearly 100,000 people depart the East End to the new Metroland suburbs or out to the new industrial areas into Essex and the mouth of the Thames in Tilbury.

Despite, or possibly because, of the poorness and deprivation, family and individual pride is very important to many residents, and keeping up appearances was paramount. A housewife with only a few pennies left might spend them on soap and use it to scrub her doorstep clean to show her neighbours she wasn't letting standards slip, and a man might take his best suit, shirt and shoes and even his false teeth(!) to a pawnbroker on Monday for a few coins, and then redeem them after being paid on Friday so he could go to the dancehall on Saturday

night looking his best before pawning them again on Monday. Patronising such proud people is a dangerous course, as high-handed do-gooders often found out to their cost.

The Great War took a terrible toll from the East End as during the war groups of friends were able to volunteer together and join as units, such as the East Ham Volunteer Regiment. Some streets in the area never saw a single man return.

Combined with the seamen of the area being away on long journeys it is an area dominated by women with menfolk sometimes not to be seen. The War did provide an economic boost to the East End, soaking up surplus labour and creating jobs with women working in jobs that were previously the preserve of men such as the armament factories of Woolwich. Even if it is poor, the British men and women of the East End are loyal and proud of their country. A visit by a member of royalty, usually to the docks, would see an enormous turnout, often in Sunday best.



Re-tasking an Economy

The war effort was heavily served by the East End. Before the war the clothing industry employed over 200,000 people whilst Bethnal Green and Shoreditch had over 1000 furniture makers. Many of these workers and this infrastructure was turned over to the war effort, with the wooden frames for the Royal Flying Corps and army uniforms made in the area. As the war effort wound down the economy of the Docklands began to dwindle. It continues to do so throughout the decade until a true diaspora occurs in the Depression.

The Angels of the East

Charitable organisations are an essential part of the East End social structure. The state provides little support, meaning that many rely on charity.

The Salvation Army

Though the East End is a difficult place to live in, it was not without help and guardian angels. William Booth founded what became the Salvation Army in the East End of London. His death in 1912 brought the East End to a standstill.

Doctor Barnardo's

The Barkingside Homes were the earliest of Doctor Barnardo's homes for children. He was a cherished figure in the East End and marches to celebrate his work and life – and to help raise money for the Army – occur regularly throughout the decade.

BERMONDSEY

Bermondsey is a strange borough with the well-to-do using its natural spa, whilst only a few miles down the road wharves and docks stretch into the massive Thames industrial complex. It is firmly believed that the area around St Saviour's Dock is one of the worst in London. This area, made famous by Dickens's *Oliver Twist*, is a mass of overcrowded and pestilential immigrant housing and the stinking smell of the tannery industry that is located there. Nearly 3 1/2 miles of warehouses dot the riverfront in an area known as Butler's Wharf, which was originally built in 1871 and since expanded to fill almost every nook and cranny of the riverfront.

Cockneys

To truly be a cockney you must have been born within the sound of Bow Bells, although it is often used to describe anyone of working class stock in the East End. Often 'cockneys' were actually costermongers (barrow boys) selling their wares in garish pearly garb as a way of gathering attention to their stalls. A common misapprehension is that cockneys use 'rhyming slang', a type of slang misused and poorly imitated the world over – in fact usually poorly imitated within the streets of London.

Real rhyming slang had actually fallen out of use by the 1920s, and only really existed in the music hall and popular writings about the East End for people who liked to read about places they would never visit.

1. St Mary Magdalen Church (Bermondsey St)

One of the oldest surviving churches in London, a place of worship has been on this site since the late 13th century. The original was demolished in 1680 as part of the redevelopment of the area after the Great Fire of London, but its Gothic arches stand to this day. Who knows what older tales of London are to be found in its deep catacombs?

LIMEHOUSE & CHINATOWN

Limehouse is filled with a transient population which included many citizens of the Empire. It holds the original Chinatown, and also saw other foreign faces including Indian engine men and West Indian sailors. The Chinese first began arriving in London in significant numbers with the tea trade in the early 19th century. As newcomers to the city they tended to stick together and stayed near where they arrived – near the docks, at Limehouse. By 1920, there was a thriving Chinese community of around 300 people spread over several streets in the area.

The media of the day give Limehouse a bad name; a place of wily orientals, drugs and a terrible fate awaiting any white woman who dares enter. In 1922 the *Empire News* warned that "mothers would be well advised to keep their daughters as far away as they can from Chinese laundries and other places where the yellow men congregate." Sax Rohmer had

created his 'devil doctor' Fu Manchu in 1913, and in 1926, Edgar Wallace creates his equivalent Fing Su. In 1927 Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot battles against another evil Chinese mastermind in *The Big Four*.

Nan, Chan "Brilliant Chang" (1887 - ?)

After the death of a young actress called Billie Carlton from an overdose of cocaine supplied by a Chinese dealer in 1919, the association between narcotics and the Chinese was firmly fixed in the minds of the London press. With the overdose of another actress – Frida Kempton – in 1922 after visiting Brilliant Chang they had a field day. Chang was a former sailor who, after arriving in London in 1919 had reinvented himself as a restaurateur, ladies man and drug dealer and had been the first person to open a Chinese restaurant in the West End; one called 'Shanghai' on Regent Street and another called the 'Palm Court Club' on Gerrard Street. After a series of police raids between 1922-24 Chang was finally caught with cocaine and arrested. Police said at the time they estimated he controlled 40% of the London drug trade. He is sentenced to 14 months in jail and then deported in 1926.

However, in reality, Limehouse is about as safe and law-abiding as anywhere in London at the time, although drugs (especially

opium and cocaine) and gambling are easily available if one knows who to ask. Stories of white women falling under the spell of diabolical foreigners are inspired by the fact that the Chinese population is mostly male (due to a ban on immigration by Chinese women) and so often marries local women or employs local prostitutes. The reality of the place is that in 1925, The superintendent of Limehouse police station reported the local Chinese as being of "Extremely good character".

WAPPING

Historically this was the execution dock, where thieves who were caught on the royal docks and pirates were hung by the gibbet and left until the tide had covered their heads three times. During the 19th century the area changed from a squalid and overcrowded rat run of small tenements into giant docks and wharves. Some venerable public houses are located in Wapping, including the Prospect of Whitby, one of the oldest riverside public houses, which has existed since the reign of Henry VIII. and is certainly one of the most famous public houses in London.

ROTHERHITHE

Located on a peninsula on the south bank of the Thames, facing Wapping and the Isle of Dogs on the north bank, Rotherhithe is connected to the rest of London by Brunel's Thames Tunnel – the first ever constructed to go under the Thames. An old



shipbuilding area, Rotherhithe was established in the Middle Ages and was famed for its high quality vessels. The rapid increase in ship size brought about by the use of iron coincided with an expansion of the docks on the Rotherhithe peninsula, but by the 1860s Rotherhithe shipyards were no longer able to compete for larger ships at the quality end of the market with Scotland, the Mersey or the Tyne. By the 1920s, only small-scale boatbuilding and repair remained.

Rotherhithe is also known as the initial departure point of the *Mayflower*, which sent the first English settlers to New England.

THE ISLE OF DOGS

Sometimes known as the Stepney Marshes, the Isle of Dogs is the south-west peninsula of London. It is the location of most of London's docks, including the West India, Millwall, East India and King George V docks, and is an interesting and secluded part of London full of many travelling foreigners, sailors and dockers. It is known by its inhabitants simply as "The Island".

In 1908 the Port of London Authority took control of the docks, and with locks on both sides of the peninsula it could be truly described as an Island. The Isle of Dogs is full of workers that make their living in the busy port, and the community is both extremely poor and very insular. Many women manage large families of children and elderly relatives while their spouses are working at sea. Old tenements, some of the worst of the old Victorian style, still stand on the Island though redevelopment and rebuilding is occurring. Its dirty narrow streets are a terrible fire hazard and a disaster waiting to happen should someone inadvertently summon Cthugha, for example.

A Lack of Modern Dentistry

In the absence of modern dentistry, fluoridated water and dental hygiene, and the ever-present danger of getting a painful tooth problem, many people took the easy way out and simply had all their teeth removed. A common wedding gift in poorer communities was to pay for the bride to have all her teeth extracted under anaesthetic and replaced with dentures, to save the happy couple future money worries for paying a dentist to treat toothaches and abscesses.

DOCKLANDS

"If there is anything more wonderful in London than dawn coming up over the tangled shipping of the docks, I would like to know it."

– H.V. Morton, *The Heart of London*, 1925

The grand Docks of London extend for 25 miles from Tilbury to Tower Bridge extend, heart of the Empire's great trade and engine of its wealth. It is the industrial hub of the city and a place where overseas investigators will likely begin and end their journeys in London. The Transatlantic steamers from America, Canada, Australia and the like arrive at the deep docks at Tilbury to crowds of waving well-wishers. Goods mundane and exotic make their way here from all over the world, including frozen cows from Canada, tea and spices from India and more. Who knows what has made its way in from the furthest savage reaches of the Empire and now sits in the private warehouses amongst the Surrey Yards?

In 1909 this entire chain of docks came under the control of the Port of London Authority, founded a year previously in 1908. The Authority covers all the enclosed docks covering 720 acres of water and nearly 35 miles of quayside.

The Four Corners of the Globe

People and creeds from the far corners of the globe can be found in Docklands. Crews from the Empire and other foreign powers are among those that patronise the hundreds of pubs and bars that dot the East End streets. Investigators may run into old friends or old enemies in the fogs which hang over the docks. Pubs and clubs in the area keep the seamen entertained. One common delicacy is Turtle Soup – large turtles shipped in, cut up and boiled into stews. Its pungent and heavy smell is not to everyone's liking!

London's Working Docks

The docks are a heaving and bustling hub where over 20,000 men work daily. The identity of London's East End is bound to the docks and dockworkers. Much of the manual work on the docks is casual and dependent upon tides and the arrival and departure of cargo shipping. Such was the level of

unemployment in the East End that on some days as many as 3000 men might turn up at the docks looking for casual work, typically loading and unloading ships, and of that number half as many might be turned away. A husband with a steady job at the docks often means the difference between survival and complete destitution for East End families.

The lack of stability in the labour market and the desperation that comes with it makes crime and corruption inevitable: closed-shop practices, with gangmasters demanding ‘fees’ for giving jobs, and petty theft are commonplace. On slow days, hundreds and hundreds of men might be found sitting at the dock gates, hoping that a ship will come in and offer some opportunity for work. The situation is no better for women. It is estimated that as many as 10% of the adult female population of London earn at least a part of their income from prostitution and a substantial number of these women found customers around the docks. As well as short-term assignations with sailors, it is common for longer ‘relationships’ to exist: for example, a sailor on leave or between ships could engage a woman to live as his ‘wife’ until he sailed off again. For an agreed fee, he would move in with her and she would not just sleep with him, but also cook, clean and provide laundry services.

To keep order in this chaos, the Port of London Authority maintains its own police force of 1000 officers, who man the entrance gates, patrolled the docks, and supervise loading, unloading, and storage in warehouses. On average, thousands of ships visit the Docklands every week, and they are assisted by hundreds of tugs, sailing boats, and lighters (small cargo transport boats used to bring ashore goods from ships too large to enter the dock proper).

2. London & St Katharine's Docks

On the north bank of the Thames just beyond Tower Bridge stands St Katharine's Docks. Opened in 1828 the docks are just on the quayside allowing rapid unloading. They are small and shallow by London dock standards and never the greatest of commercial successes. By the 1920s the London Docks of Wapping had been amalgamated into St Katharine's. The dock deals mainly with luxury goods, and large volumes of the tea and spice trade pass through this dock.

If your investigator is looking for an exotic herb for their mystical activities, the merchants of Mincing Lane are the people to talk to. The value of the goods transported through

St Katharine's Docks leads to the contents of warehouses used for storage and transit being described as “The world's greatest collection of portable wealth” by the Sainsbury Collection in 1930.

3. West India Docks

Comprising three major docks (each approximately half a mile long), the Import Dock, the Export Dock and the South Dock – the West India Docks lie at the top of the Isle of Dogs, cutting off the loop of the river.

4. East India Docks

North-east of the West India Docks, are the East India Docks. Where West India docks are usually used for foodstuffs and essentials, the East India Docks handle more exotic cargoes like spices, silks and dyes. Tea is a major part of the East India Dock's business.

5. Millwall Docks

The major grain dock of London, Millwall dock is noted for its floating cranes, which can be positioned between ships and barges to allow cargoes to be transferred directly between them without being unloaded onto the quayside. During the 1920s, extensive construction and remodelling work was carried out on Millwall Dock, including the excavation of a new channel to link them to the West India Docks. Perhaps amphibious passengers wanted to move between ships in the two docks without being seen.

6. Surrey Commercial Docks

The only docks on the south bank of the Thames, the Surrey Commercial Docks were originally built as whaling docks, but by the 1920s principally serve to receive shipments of timber from all over the world.

Last of her Kind

In 1921 the world's largest sail ship, *France II*, arrives at Surrey docks. Its tall mast and wooden hull are a reminder of times gone by as the 7500 ton ship rested in port as by this time most of London's visiting ships were metal steamers. By the end of the decade the age of sail was over and London's Docklands were covered in the soot and smoke of its successors, the coal and oil ages.

7. Royal Victoria and Albert Docks

Further east downriver, the Royal Victoria and Albert Docks are a huge complex covering more than 1100 acres, and from 1921 include the George V dock, which is the largest in the world. The Royal Victoria and Albert serve both the Transatlantic passenger steamers and larger cargo vessels. Vast quantities of both people and materials pass through these docks daily, and the river and quayside is lined with warehouses, granaries, flour mills, and even refrigerated storage for frozen meat (figures show that up to 1,350,000 frozen sheep can be stored on site at any one time). These docks are also used by the armed forces, and in 1926, two Royal Naval submarines moor in the King George V dock to run their generators and ensure the docks have an electricity supply during the general strike. Later, during the Shanghai uprising in 1927, the 7th Tank Corps loading their armoured vehicles for shipping here

To Undiscovered Lands

Explorer Ernest Shackleton left in 1921 on an Antarctic expedition to circumnavigate the polar continent in his ship the *Quest*. It departed from St Katharine's Dock but Shackleton did not survive the expedition, dying mysteriously of a heart attack en-route. What fate and terror did the hardy adventurer encounter in those cold and alien waters?

8. George V Docks

In North Woolwich on a cold January day in 1920, Lord Davenport floods the third of the great Royal docks of London with water for the first time. It is not until the following year that the docks were opened officially by their namesake King George V. Entered through the Gallions Reach lock, this is a modern dock with shipping and large passenger liners in mind. Well equipped with electric cranes and mechanical devices to aid the dockers, there are also extensive refrigeration facilities on site. As a result the main goods traded through the docks are fruit and vegetables, frozen meat and, later, bulk grain. The dock has three miles of quays, five railways and fourteen warehouses and is the heart of London's larder.

9. Tilbury Docks

The Tilbury Docks are some 25 miles downriver from the Tower of London and form the far end of the London Dock

System. Though beyond the confines of London, these docks are important as investigators are likely to arrive in the deep water docks that accepted the heaviest passenger liners of the day at the London Cruise Terminal. Due to demand, expansions and improvements of the docks and their facilities are carried out in 1921 and again in 1929, requiring extensive excavations and disturbing who-knows-what which had lain since time immemorial in the dank mud of the Thames. In 1920, the arrival of four camels and their handlers from Egypt causes a local sensation, and crowds gather to see the unusual beasts.

10. Woolwich or Royal Arsenal

The world's largest complex for the manufacture of weapons, over 100,000 people were employed here during the Great War and even during peacetime more than 10,000 show up every day to make things that go boom. The major establishments are the Army Ordnance Dept, the Navy Ordnance Dept, the Laboratory, the Gun Factory and the Carriage Factory. The site also holds barracks for the Royal Engineers, the Royal Army Service Corps, and the Royal Artillery Corps. Baedeker's drily observes that "Casual visitors are not admitted." Instead visitors must gain a written pass from the War Office to gain admission.

Butterfly Boats

As well as being the artery of trade, the Thames was also a major recreational resource for the city and big paddle steamers run pleasure excursions from the docks downriver to Southend, Margate and Ramsgate. These steamers are called "butterfly boats" by professional ocean sailors, both because their wide decks and shallow keels resemble outspread wings and also for their ephemeral nature unsuited to "proper" sailing. Some of these pleasure boats were extremely luxurious; the 'Eagle' steamers (the *Golden Eagle*, the *Crested Eagle* and the *Royal Eagle*) offered passengers silver service dining and cocktail bars. As foreign holidays become more available over the decade, many middle class families took to taking vacations at beach resorts on the Belgian and North French coasts. Mother and children might go for several weeks with father joining them for the weekend on the special "Husband" ferry steamers, which ran from Tilbury Docks on Friday evenings after work.

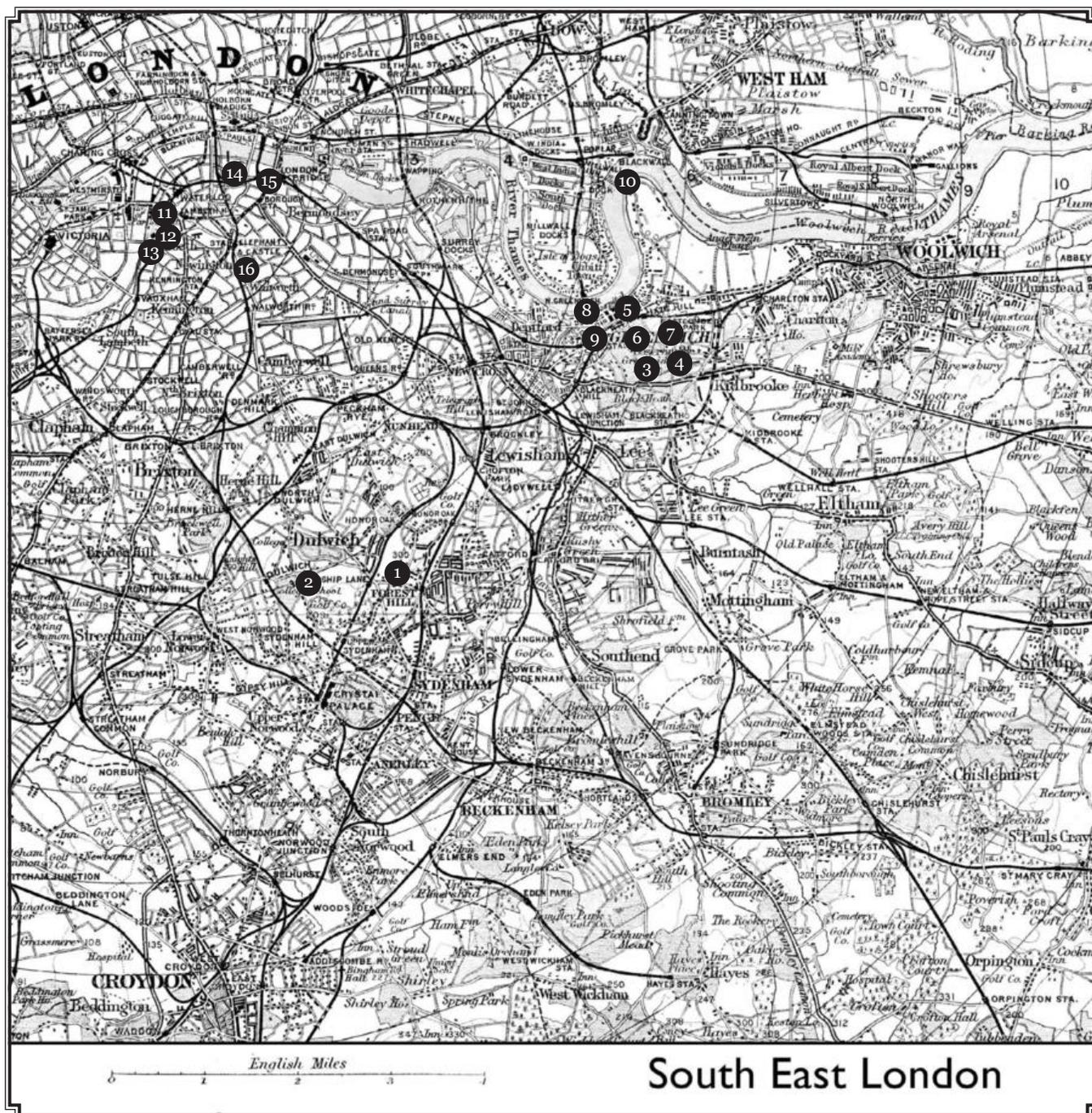
• SOUTH EAST LONDON •

DULWICH

Dulwich is an affluent area of South London located between Southwark and Lambeth. Dulwich Village contains the original shopping street and still contains nearly all of its original 18th and 19th century buildings.

1. Horniman Museum (London Road)

A small museum on the outskirts of London, The Horniman was founded in 1890 by Frederick Horniman, a wealthy tea-merchant who built the museum around his personal collection. It has only two wings, dedicated to Ethnology and Zoology respectively. Investigators may be interested in the Ethnology section, which covers war and the chase, domestic arts, music, decorative art, travel and transport, and magic



and religion from around the world. One unusual exhibit is a torture chair used by the Spanish Inquisition. In later years a ghost couple have often been seen on the terrace overlooking the museum gardens. Those who have seen them claim the ghosts are wearing 1920s dress; the man smartly dressed with slick hair and the woman in a bright red dress. Although no music can be heard, the two are often seen to be dancing. Who knows what events might have created such ghosts?

2. The Dulwich Gallery (Gallery Road)

Opening in 1817, the Dulwich Gallery is the oldest purpose-built art gallery in England, designed and built by Sir John Soane, whose most famous work is the Bank of England. The gallery has an impressive collection of Masters, including works by Rembrandt, Rubens and Raphael. Entry is free.

GREENWICH

A strange little borough that often feels like a separate part of London lost in the busy docks and bustle of the industrialised Thames. A former haunt of Kings and Queens (the area was especially favoured by Henry VIII), by the 1920s Greenwich was known as the home of Naval Education and the birthplace of modern navigation. It was here the secrets of longitude and latitude were discovered and here the officers of His Majesty's Navy are taught their craft.

3. Greenwich Park (King William Walk)

A former Royal hunting park and favourite of King Henry VIII, the 180 acre park is now a popular promenade with extensive

flower garden, a cricket pitch, bandstand and trees dating back to the 17th century. It's a steep walk to the top of the central hill upon which stands Flamsteed Royal Observatory and the meridian line. The view from the hill is quite remarkable and on a clear day the thousands of ships and the bustling docklands can be seen as far as Tower Bridge.

4. The Royal Observatory (Greenwich)

Atop the hill of Greenwich park is the imposing and beautiful Flamsteed House, home of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich. The Royal Observatory is based in Greenwich until 1924 when electrification of the railways affected the readings of the Magnetic and Meteorological Department and forced its move to Abinger in Surrey. Every day, 1pm is marked by the dropping of a large red ball on the roof of the observatory. This is to help ships to set their onboard clocks accurately before setting sail.

5. Royal Naval College (Greenwich)

Christopher Wren's riverfront masterpiece dominates the riverfront of Greenwich. Originally built as a hospital for naval servicemen it was also where Nelson lay in state before being taken up the Thames to his final resting place in St Paul's Cathedral. By the 1920s the hospital buildings have mostly been converted into a training school for naval officers. The complex also holds the Painted Hall – once the refectory – which is one of the most remarkable buildings in a city of the noteworthy, and the Royal Naval Museum, which contains substantial numbers of relics of famous naval officers and victories, including, seemingly, pretty much everything Lord Nelson owned in his life.



6. The Queen's House (Greenwich Park)

Built in 1617 by the famed architect Inigo Jones, this former Royal residence was home to Anne of Denmark (wife of James the First). Since 1892 it has been the heart of the Greenwich Hospital and the Royal Hospital School for Sons of Seamen, Britain's largest school of navigation and seamanship.

7. Vanbrugh Castle (Maze Hill)

Just to the east of the park is a rather astounding castle-like folly built in the style of the Bastille. The builder and owner of the folly, Sir John Vanbrugh, built it in mockery of the French prison where he had been imprisoned on charges of spying for the British during the 1680s.

8. The Greenwich Foot Tunnel (Greenwich Pier)

Running beneath the Thames between the Isle of Dogs and Greenwich is the 1200 foot long Greenwich Foot Tunnel. Capped at each end by a circular building with green domes holding a lift – and staircases for the fitter pedestrian – to the tunnel below. The lifts only run during daylight hours.

9. St Alfege's Church (Nelson Road)

Named after a former Archbishop of Canterbury who was allegedly martyred in Greenwich in 1012. The church was built on the site of his death in the 12th century and was destroyed by a storm in 1710. Rebuilt by Christopher Wren's apprentice Nicholas Hawksmoor in 1714 it incorporated the distinctive tower from the original church. Buried under the church is General James Wolfe, the hero of the Battle of Quebec. A stained glass window commemorates him. In 1929 a statue of Wolfe is placed in the Royal Park as a gift from the people of Canada.

10. The Blackwall Tunnel

Blackwall Tunnel passes under the Thames between Blackwall Point in East Greenwich south of the river and East India Dock Road on the north side. Opened in 1897, the tunnel is toll-free for both road traffic and pedestrians.

BLACKHEATH

Once a haunt of petty highwaymen preying on travellers leaving London, Blackheath is now a desirable middle class suburb centred on the privately owned Cator Estate. The name 'Blackheath' is believed to derive from the area having been used for many pits to bury plague victims in 1665.

LAMBETH

Inhabitation south of the river expanded much more slowly than on the north bank. The soil was marshy and damp and the crossings originally quite sparse. In the post war years, as expansion of the city moves forward with a gusto the modernisation of the old slum-filled borough gathers pace. Lambeth is a place of contradictions, with the heart of the Anglican Church in London on one part of the bank and poverty-stricken mudlarkers further down.

11. County Hall (Belvedere Road)

Even though it was not fully completed, from 1922 County Hall is the headquarters of the London County Council. The hall is the administrative centre of local government for the city and its environs, and as such is filled with offices for petty bureaucrats, well-meaning functionaries, elected councillors and every stratum of local government in between – over 2300 staff fill 900 rooms within this huge edifice. Building work continues for the rest of the decade and the hall is not finally completed until the late 1930s.

The County Hall also contains a substantial library, which is usually for use only by members of the council and their guests. It contains extensive information on the history and topography of London, as well as a huge collection of maps, prints, drawings and photographs of the city. The library shares space with the London County Records Office, which contains the collected records of births, marriages and deaths from for the county, as well as the archives of the London Schools Board and the Metropolitan Asylums board after 1926.

12. Lambeth Palace (Lambeth Palace Road)

The official residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lambeth Palace is situated almost directly opposite the Palace of Westminster on the other side of the river. The building dates from as early as the 1400s, and several buildings from the period survive, including and gatehouse, the chapel, and the Lollards Tower, which was once used as a prison and torture chamber.

The palace is also home to Lambeth Palace Library, the official library of the Archbishop of Canterbury and principal holder of records for the history of the Church of England. This contains a vast collection of material relating to ecclesiastical history, including archbishop's and bishop's archives and papers relating to various Anglican missionary and charitable societies.

The valuable collection of original manuscripts contains important material, some dating as far back as the 9th century.

The library's overall focus is on ecclesiastical history, but its rich collections are important for an impressive variety of topics, such as architecture, colonial history, local history and genealogy. The library contains over 4600 manuscripts and immense quantities of archives, dating from the 9th century to the present, amongst which are some 600 medieval manuscripts. Printed books in the Library number almost 200,000, including some 30,000 items printed before 1700. Many are unique, or are distinguished by their provenance or by special bindings.

13. St Mary-at-Lambeth (Lambeth Palace Road)

The adjacent parish church of St Mary-at-Lambeth was rebuilt around 1850, though the ancient monuments preserved give it an appearance of antiquity. Among them are tombs of some of the archbishops, including Richard Bancroft, overseer of the King James Bible.

SOUTHWARK

Southwark is the area of London immediately south of London Bridge. Often called 'the Borough' by its residents, to contrast it with the neighbouring City of London just over the river. The north of Southwark is bounded by the River Thames and holds London Bridge station, Southwark Cathedral and Borough Market. Borough High Street runs roughly north to south from London Bridge towards Elephant and Castle.

14. Bankside (Southwark)

Bankside is located on the southern bank of the River Thames, situated between Blackfriars Bridge to the west and London Bridge to the east. Here can be found a short row of Georgian houses, which include Cardinal Cap Alley and the residence of the Dean of Southwark Cathedral.

15. Southwark Cathedral (Winchester Walk, Nr London Bridge Station)

More properly known as the Cathedral Church of St Saviour and St Mary Overie, Southwark Cathedral was founded in the 7th century as a nunnery and features dating from 1220 are still a part of the fabric of the building. During rebuilding work in the 19th century, the remains of a Roman villa were found underneath the Cathedral, once again indicating a succession

of uses for the site millennia old. Aside from its antiquity, the cathedral is most notable for long being the parish church of the South Bank, the home of the great playhouses, stews and bear pits during the Tudor period. Edmund Shakespeare (younger brother to William) is buried in an unmarked grave in the cemetery, and the church proper is filled with memorials and tombs of great writers and actors.

Back from the Dead

According to legend Southwark Cathedral was founded by Mary Overie, the daughter of a wealthy ferryman named John Over. In the days when there was no bridge over the Thames, John Over became extremely wealthy as a ferryman – unfortunately he was also a miser. One day he hit upon the idea of faking his own death, the idea being that his household would be plunged into mourning and fast for a day, thereby saving him the expense of paying for a day's food for his family and servants. Unfortunately, when the news of his death was announced, his family and servants instead broke into celebrations, causing John to leap from his deathbed in fury. One of his servants, seeing the corpse leap up, was so terrified he seized an oar and struck John, this time killing him for real. When Mary's betrothed heard the news he set off as fast as he could to see her in the hope of a rich inheritance. However, such was his haste he fell from his horse and was killed. Mary, facing the death of both her father and betrothed in a single day, became a nun – and used her father's fortune to found what was to become the church that would bear her name.

16. Cuming Museum (Walworth Road)

The Cuming Museum of paintings and antiquities is a small museum situated in Southwark Central Library on the Walworth Road. It is based on the private collection of the Cuming family and was bequeathed to the people of the parish of St Mary Newington by Henry Cuming in 1906. It is mostly dedicated to the history and arts of South London and contains some nice examples of prehistoric, ancient and medieval objects, covering religion and superstitions. Despite it being a small museum, Henry Cuming was vice-president of the British Archaeology Association and his interests were very wide ranging (including the history of mistletoe, and

superstitions surrounding fingernails, amongst many, many others) so amongst the thousands of objects to do with the ordinary lives of South London people it is not inconceivable that undiscovered curiosities lurk.

• SOUTH WEST LONDON •

BARNES

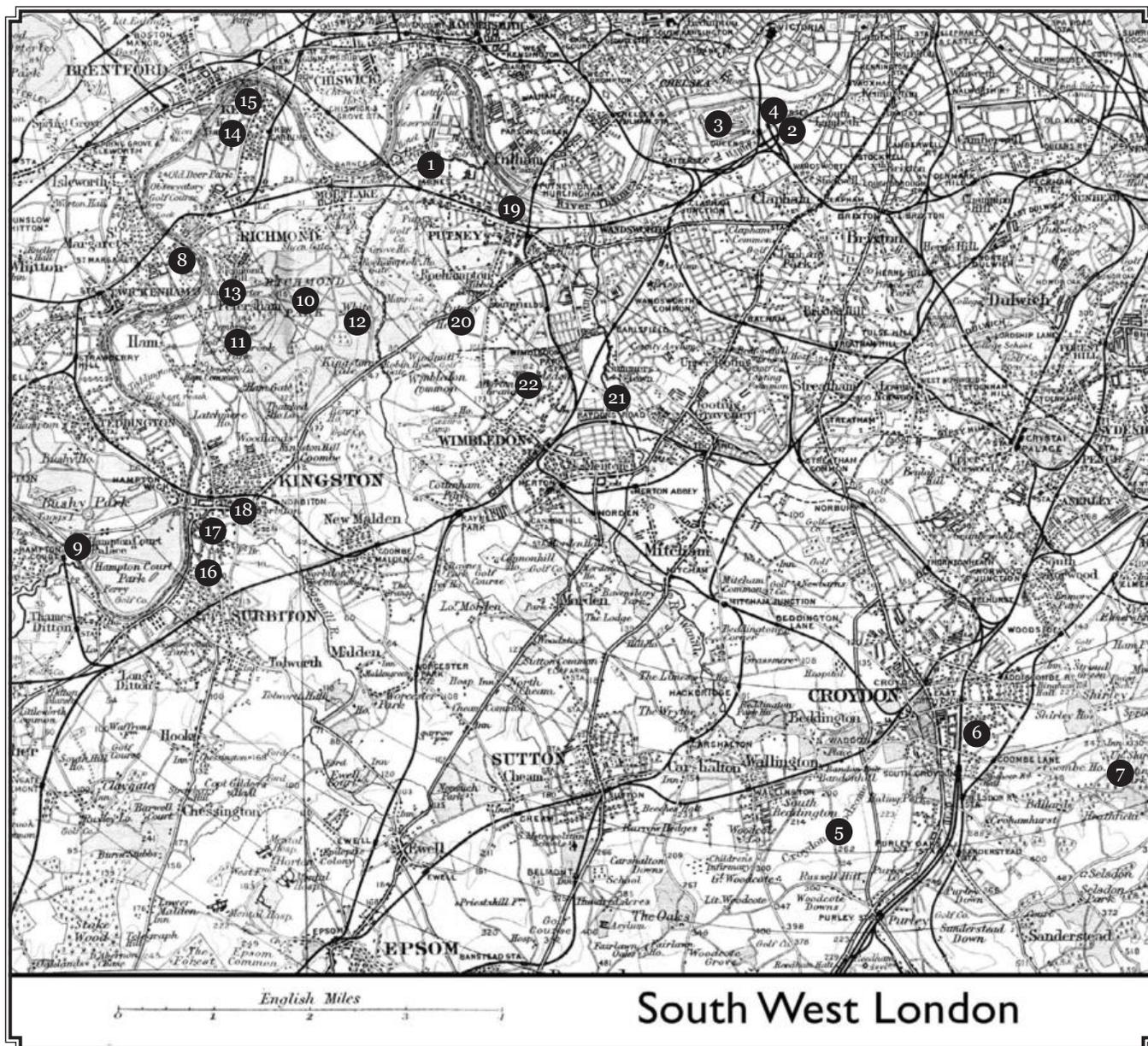
Served by a station in the middle of Barnes common, Barnes is noted for its delightful 18th and 19th century housing that forms the core of the community.

1. St Mary's Church (Church Road)

Dating originally from the 12th century, the church is best known for the grave of Edward Rose (1653), which is thickly planted with tangled rose bushes, as per his last request. Why he might have wished to discourage people from disturbing his grave is a question for investigators to answer.

BATTERSEA

One of the last sections of the Thames as a working river is Battersea. The area holds many factories as well as the huge Nine Elms shunting yards (the largest rail freight depot in south



London) and untold rows of Victorian terraced workers houses. Some parts of Battersea are actually below the high water level of the river, which is only kept back by an embankment. As a result the area is particularly susceptible to the pea soup smogs and fogs which bedevil the city. On a still, cold winter's night a blanket of fog descends over this area which is as bad as that seen anywhere. Not only is it impossible to keep anything clean in this cloud of soot and damp air, but vision is impaired and sound is distorted. Under such circumstances Battersea can be a disconcerting place. It is normal for anyone from Battersea who makes any money to move away as quickly as possible, often to the much fresher air at the top of nearby Lavender Hill.

2. Battersea Dogs Home (Nine Elms Lane)

Battersea Dogs Home is Britain's oldest and most famous home for dogs and cats. It was established in Holloway in 1860 by Mrs Mary Tealby. The home moved to Battersea in 1871 opposite Battersea Park. It has been under Royal Patronage since Queen Victoria.

3. Battersea Park

Opened in 1858 the park is some 200 acres in size and is formed of reclaimed marshland. It, like many other parks in London, has municipal playing fields, small boating lakes and leafy walks.

4. Battersea Power Station (Kirtling Street)

Battersea Power Station is a famous London landmark whose building was begun in 1929. The first stage of construction is a huge steel frame, which would be ideal for a wizard wanting to attract bolts of lightning.

CROYDON

A large market town to the south of London, as the city expands Croydon is turning into a commuter suburb rather than a separate entity. Since the war the name of Croydon has held the promise of glamour and romance. The reason is the presence of Croydon Airport: the stepping-off point to Europe and the world for those who can afford air travel, the hub of the Empire's air mail services, and the start or finish of many heroic long-distance flights. Although the wealth of the airport and commuters are improving the area rapidly, the town is still extremely poor in some areas and Victorian tenements filled with the families of factory workers and the unemployed make the back streets of some areas dangerous for the unwary wanderer.

5. Croydon Airport (Wallington)

Built on airfields used in the Great War, Croydon was expanded and opened as the "Air-port of London" for all international flights to the city in 1920. Regular passenger and mail flights to Paris, Amsterdam and Rotterdam were available upon opening, and flights to Berlin began in 1923. After 1924, services expanded rapidly to cover direct or connecting flights to most of the world.

Facilities include a hotel (although most airlines will arrange for London-based passengers to be driven direct from the city for a small charge), an arrivals and customs building, a lighthouse, and a fuel tank with a capacity of over 10,000 gallons, which, although unlikely to mix well with fire vampires, would likely prove an efficacious cure for many other monsters and most cultists.

6. Croydon Palace (Old Palace Road)

Occupied by the Sisters of the Church (an all-female Anglican order similar to Catholic nuns), the palace was, for 500 years the summer residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury before being sold in the mid-19th century. By the 1920s, the Sisters use it as both a girls school and a training college for aspirants to their order.

7. Addington Palace (Gravel Hill)

Once a home for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Addington Palace was sold on, turned into a private mansion and, in 1897 ended up on the hands of a Mr English, a diamond merchant from South Africa of uncertain origin. Mr English died of mysterious causes during the Great War, and the house was turned into a fever hospital until 1930.

RICHMOND

Richmond is a delightfully green and airy suburb after the grimy smoke and fogs of London. Built on a hill overlooking the Thames, Richmond is home to Richmond Park and (formerly) one of London's great palaces. Sportsmen and people just wanting some fresh air flock to Richmond on the railway to row on the Thames, or to play games, run or just walk through the park.

8. Richmond Palace (Richmond)

Once one of the Royal Palaces of London, Richmond was built in 1501 by Henry VII but 1920 little remains beyond some ruins, a couple of houses and an impressive gatehouse.

The palace was mostly demolished for building materials after the execution of Charles I, but in its day it was home to famous figures such as Cardinal Wolsey and Henry VIII, and stories of ghosts amongst the ruins still cling to the place.

9. Hampton Court Palace (Hampton Court Road)

Built for Cardinal Wolsey, Hampton Court Palace was ‘presented’ as a gift to Henry VIII as Wolsey fell from favour at court – a massive, lavish gift to be sure, but it did not save him. Occupied by a succession of monarchs, Hampton Court was a favourite of King William of Orange, who expanded and rebuilt it substantially from the original Tudor Building, giving the palace two distinct characters: the old and the new.

The palace has been open to the public since Queen Victoria moved out in 1838, and no members of the Royal Family have lived there since, although the building is still fully staffed by members of the Royal household; more than 50 staff members still live inside the palace.

The Hampton Court Ghosts

Jane Seymour died in Hampton Court after giving birth to Henry’s heir and son. It is said her ghost can be seen walking from the Queen’s apartments dressed in white and carrying a candle. Catherine Howard had a less noble end as she was beheaded. It is said that her ghost re-enacts her attempt to escape the guards who had come to arrest her. She ran to the chapel where Henry was praying and pleaded for a clemency the King refused to grant.

It is not just Royal ghosts that haunt the palace. In 1830 a member of staff resident in the grace and favour apartments claimed to be disturbed by the sounds of constant whirring and the grumblings of an old woman. Close to their room was found a secret room that had been bricked up for centuries. Inside was found an old spinning wheel, which through constant use had worn the wooden floor away. The room known as “Wolsey’s Closet” is commonly said to have a “strange atmosphere”. Many visitors, including a professional psychic investigator, have reported seeing a dog in the room. Several have described the room as “evil”.

10. Richmond Park (Richmond)

Originally enclosed by Charles I, Richmond Park is almost 8 miles around and is home to large herds of deer that roam freely. The park is extremely popular with Londoners, and at weekends and holidays is usually filled with walkers and cyclists, and amenities such as swimming pools, two golf courses, athletics, football and rugby fields and several picnicking lawns are provided for their use.

11. Pembroke Lodge (Richmond Park)

Inside Richmond Park stands Pembroke lodge a wonderful Georgian building named after and given to the Countess of Pembroke, Elizabeth Herbert, by King George III. Since Queen Victoria’s reign it has been a house to numerous fine dignitaries and artists including Dickens, Bertram Russell, Longfellow and Tennyson.

12. White Lodge (Richmond Park)

Built as a hunting lodge for King George II, the lodge was used for the honeymoon of the Duke of York (the future George VI) in 1923.

13. The Star and Garter Hospital (Richmond Park)

Once a popular hotel (called the Star and Garter), this building was taken over during the Great War and used as a military hospital, a purpose which it continues to serve during the 1920s.

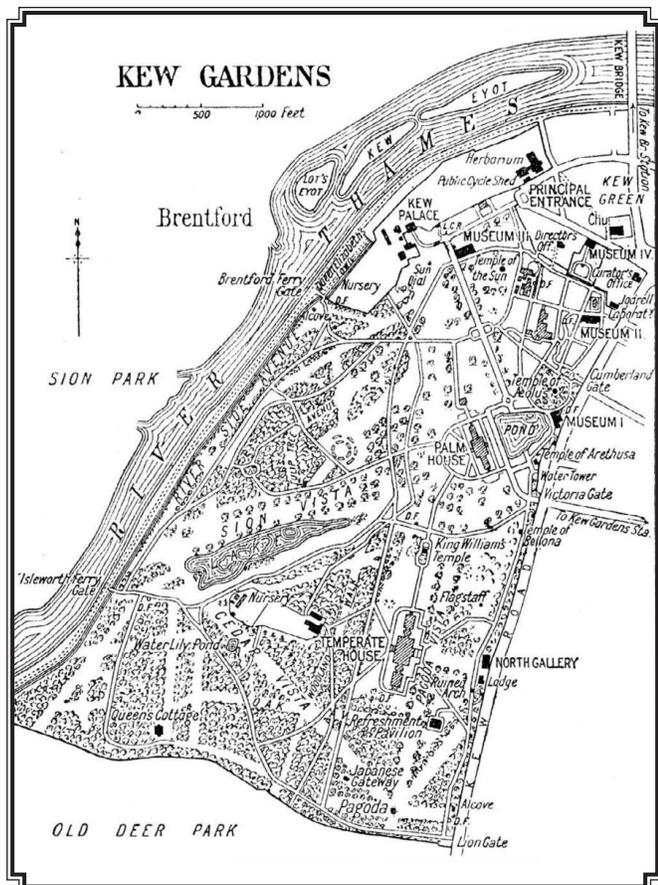
KEW

Most of Kew was developed in the late 19th century following the arrival of the District Line of the Underground, and is characterised by large detached or semi-detached houses.

14. Kew Gardens (Kew Road)

A combination of parkland and museum, the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew cover 288 acres and comprise mostly open gardens, woodland and glasshouses. The outdoor areas are divided into two main sections: the botanic gardens and the arboretum. The arboretum holds a huge collection of over 5000 species of trees and shrubs, as well as a replica Chinese pagoda and Japanese temple gate, and several greenhouses dedicated to replicating Himalayan and Mexican environments. The botanic gardens hold an extensive collection of lower-growing plants, including a garden of medicinal plants, ponds devoted to water lillies, flowerbeds, and exhibitions of commercial

plants from around the world. The Botanic Garden also holds several glasshouses, including the huge Palm House which is kept at a steady 80 degrees Fahrenheit.



From Across the Empire

The garden at Kew is the largest botanical collection in the world. From far-flung corners of the empire strange plants, some beautiful, some deadly, can be found. Among the most astounding achievements is the successful cultivation of rubber trees outside the tropics. If the investigators need to identify a strange plant or have a peculiar native venom examined this is the place to come, as, if the experts here cannot help it is likely that nobody can!

15. Kew Palace (Kew Gardens)

A large red-brick Georgian House, this was a favourite residence of King George III, and is now a museum dedicated to relics of him and his family. The 1923 edition of Baedeker's describes the museum as "uninteresting", which says it all, really.

KINGSTON UPON THAMES

An ancient settlement on the south bank of the Thames, Kingston was a place of major importance to the Anglo-Saxons, who crowned at least nine of their kings there (hence the name). In contemporary terms, Kingston is perhaps most notable as the birthplace of British modern air dominance when, in 1912, aircraft manufacture began here when the Sopwith Aviation Company started production of the Sopwith Camel biplane.



The main town in the borough, Kingston upon Thames, has existed on the banks of the river since time immemorial, and many Roman relics have been found in the surrounding areas.

16. St Raphael's Roman Catholic Church (Portsmouth Road)

A small church in the Italian style, the building sits incongruously with solid red-brick suburbia. The church is most noted for Royal weddings of the exiled French nobility, including that of Princess Helene of Orleans (great granddaughter of King Louis Phillipe) in 1895.

17. All Saints Church (Market Place)

A church has stood on this spot for over a thousand years, with some foundations of the very earliest still visible in the walls. Although largely renovated by the Victorians, All Saints still contains many features from the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries.

18. Lovekyn Chapel (London Road)

The oldest surviving chantry chapel in the country, Lovekyn Chapel was built in 1309.

PUTNEY

Nestled along the south bank of the Thames is the wealthy borough of Putney, some five miles upriver from Charing Cross. Here the bustle and dirt of the working Thames gives way to the Thames of leisure and, since the late 19th century, Putney has been the heart of rowing in London. Clubs in the area include the London Rowing Club (the most exclusive, and which can boast royalty as members), the Thames Rowing Club, the Imperial College Boat Club and the Vesta Rowing Club. Putney Bridge is also the starting point for the Oxford vs. Cambridge Boat Race (see pg.90).

19. St Mary's Church (Putney High Street)

Most famous for the 'Putney Debates' of 1647, in which the victorious Parliamentarian army debated how to reconstitute the country and government in the wake of the English Civil War. Much of the church was rebuilt by the Victorians, but the parish retains a substantial historical collection about the event.

20. Putney Heath

A large area of parkland that forms part of a continuous arc of public recreation land with Wimbledon Common to the south and Richmond Park to the West.

WIMBLEDON

Best known for the famous tennis tournament, Wimbledon is a pleasant, mostly residential suburb. An Iron Age hill fort on the common overlooks the town, and thanks to its pleasant situation away from the smoke of the city a number of large homes have been built for the wealthy over the years, such as Cannizaro House (owned by the splendidly monikered Admiral the Hon. Sir Reginald Aylmer Ranfurly Plunkett-Erle-Drax, KCB, DSO, JP, DL, no less), Wimbledon House, and Eagle House (one of the finest surviving Jacobean Houses in the country).

21. Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium (Plough Lane)

Wimbledon is an important home to the working man's pastime, greyhound racing (see pg.89 for more on this sport). In 1928 motorcycle speedway racing began at Wimbledon Stadium with a local team, the Dons.

22. The All England Lawn Tennis Club (Wimbledon Park Road)

A private members club, also known as the All-England, from 1922 the world championship of tennis on grass is held at the grounds; prior to this date it was held at smaller grounds at Worple Road. Investigators can watch matches for a fee of 3s 6d. Although tickets are available to all, getting good seats for important matches is easier if one is a member of the club or invited by a member. Many invitations are given out as part of The Season (see pg.99). The headquarters of the Lawn Tennis Association is at 49 Queen Victoria Street in the City.

Lenglen, Suzanne (1899-1938)

Lenglen shocked the British tennis establishment – and spectators – at Wimbledon in 1920 by playing bare-armed and with skirts above the knee whilst taking the time to sip brandy and re-touch her make-up between sets. She won Wimbledon every year between 1919-23 and again in 1925 (including setting an unbeaten record for fastest victory in the final in 1922), and her popularity forced the club to move to larger grounds in 1922.

Crowds jostle to see what she is wearing for matches, even laying bets on what colour her headband will be.

• EXPANDING LONDON •

METROLAND

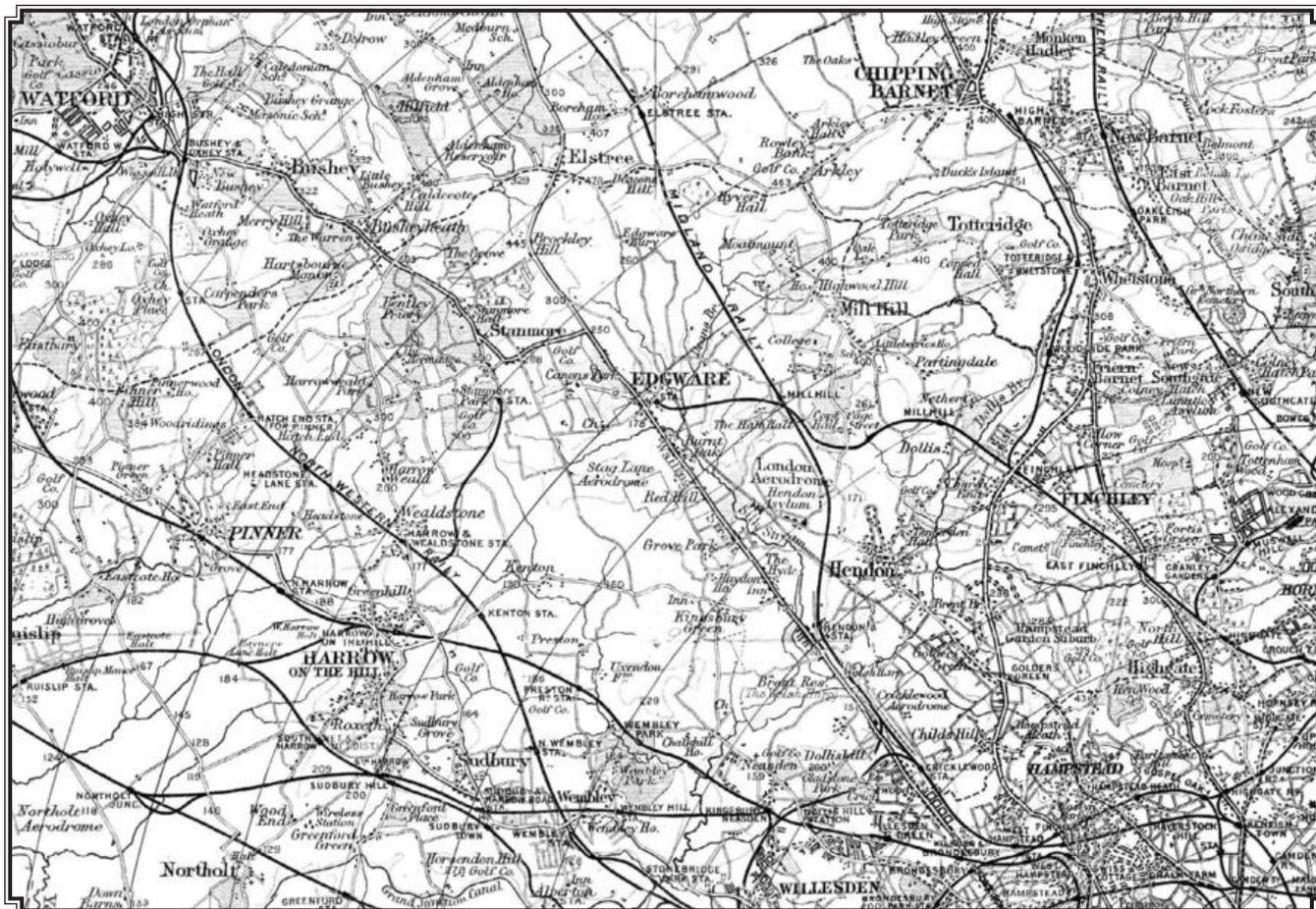
The expansion of London in the first years of the 20th century were one of the most remarkable events in the city's history. The 1921 census saw a new population high of over seven and a half million living within the boundaries of Greater London. By the 1931 census the population was just over 8 million, which represented over a sixth of the population of Great Britain. To put it in proportion, London grew by the size of Birmingham's population during the decade.

The rise in population was mirrored by physical spread. By the end of the decade the city had nearly doubled in area. The suburbs in Middlesex grew rapidly and were added to the description of 'London', with many moving from the smoggy and dirty air of the city to the clean air of the new estates. Between the Edwardian era and 1930, London nearly doubled in area. This almost unconstrained growth brought as many

problems as benefits. Uncontrolled growth and lack of regard for traffic or the local communities that were engulfed by this expansion would eventually give rise to the concept of the 'Green Belt' – areas of countryside preserved to create open, green spaces between developments -during the 1930s.

When I was a Lad!

An investigator who grew up in London will have fond memories of the Sunday School annual trip to the countryside. Organised trips were sent from West London, often sponsored by local traders, to exotic locations such as Ruislip and Eastcote. By 1920 this had become quite structured with a large covered area on the Field End Road in Eastcote able to hold over 4000 people for tea, donkey-rides and a wonderful escape from the City.



As men returned from the Great War it was seen as the responsibility of society to give these heroes good new homes as a reward for their service and duty. The squalid conditions and vast overcrowding of the East End made this one of the topics of the day and the great suburbs of London, often referenced to as 'Metroland', were born.

Many forces made this possible; not least the aggressive extension of the London Underground network driven by Lord Ashfield and Frank Pick after the war. Pushing the Metropolitan line east and north, a wave of housebuilding followed in its wake. The demand was assured with young married couples happy to move from the smog of London to the home of their dreams. As vast new housing estates spread out, newspapers and Underground stations were covered with impressive adverts vaunting the benefits of the suburban life in a brave new world of clean air, green spaces, mortgages, a baby boom, and the Underground's smart new trains. Many of those who served in the Great War were unwilling to go back to their old lives in the slums of the industrial cities. The slogan "a land fit for heroes" slipped off the tongue of every politician, and owning a new home was seen as a part of the reward for service by many.

THE EDGWARE EXTENSION

The Tube extension from Golders Green to Edgware got underway in the early years of the decade, extending through Brent, Hendon, Collindale and Burnt Oak where stations open in 1924. The smart new Underground services are a great success. Many made their fortune buying up land ahead of the extension ready for building, such as George Cross who was responsible for the developmental of much of Edgware. He commented, "[I moulded] that slice of London in any way I pleased; planning roads as I would, naming them as I fancied." Planning laws are almost non-existent and local councils and committees rarely intervene. Imagine, then, what a student of the Old Ones could do here? New communities are springing up where nobody knows their neighbours – the perfect hiding place. Hidden secrets and lurking terrors could be anywhere in Metroland. After all, when everyone is a stranger, who will notice what is strange?

By 1926, Hendon and Edgware have spread over the empty hills and fields with shops, Post Offices, schools and hospitals being built. Chain stores owned by aspiring entrepreneurs like

F. W. Woolworth, J Sainsbury and Montague Burton appear on the new High Streets, creating shopping precincts at the centres of these new communities.

THE SURREY SUBURBS

In the early years of the decade the City and South London railway (renamed the Northern Line in 1927) was rebuilt for electric trains and extended south. This took longer than expected and encountered many issues, including an underground reservoir at Tooting Broadway and a severe winter in 1924-25. However by the end of 1926 the rolling stock is delivered and the line begins to operate. Once again, as commuting into town is made quick and easy by the transport connection, new developments for a new and aspirational sort of resident sprang up in the old communities.

UXBRIDGE

The Metropolitan line extension to the north-west of London had occurred before the Great War but post-war growth in population in the area meant further extension was needed. This began with a new station on the existing line called Hillingdon in 1923. At Rayners Lane near Harrow, the development of the Swakeleys estate of new, high-class housing led to a partnership between the developers and the underground as the building company paid for siding and extensions to improve the existing station and provide a more suitable level of service in 1924.

Swakeleys House (Ickenham)

An attractive 17th century manor house, Swakeleys was named for the Swakeley family none of them ever lived there. The house and estates were built for the mayor of London, Sir Edmund Wright, in 1640, and changed hands many times over the centuries until much of the estate was sold in 1922 for development. The house is sold again in 1924 to Humphrey Talbot, who let it to the Foreign Office on the condition he could remain living there in flats on the first floor.

COUNTRY HOMES AND ESTATES

Before the rapid extension of the underground network in the early part of the decade London's shape had changed little in a hundred years, yet by 1924 new estates were appearing in previously empty fields, and the British Empire Exhibition and the Empire Stadium at Wembley are firmly established.

As well as those mentioned above, residential estates had appeared in Northwick Park, Pinner, Rickmansworth, Amersham, Rayners Lane, Eastcote, Ruislip and Hillingdon. Many of these estates are controlled by the Metropolitan Railway Country Estates Limited whose board consists of several of the directors of the Metropolitan Railway Company. Great fortunes were made from the proceeds, and there is considerable unhappiness at the way the directors of the railway companies had used their position to enrich themselves.

The skilled working class and blue collar workers were able, through mortgages, to afford a home of their own in new modern estates away from the crowded and smoggy London inner city. This is a massive shift in lifestyle and aspiration for the average working man. As they move out of industrialised areas immigrants moved in behind them. West Indians,

Russian Jewish exiles, wartime émigrés and others fill the dirty old tenements of the East End and the cycle begins anew.

A Sample of Country Estates

Chalk Hill, Wembley Park – Adjacent to Wembley Park Station houses can be bought for as little as £700 with a £25 deposit.

Eastcote Hill, Eastcote – Detached, semi detached or bungalows can be bought, with a price of only £975.

Weller Estate, Amersham – A 78 acre estate is under development with detached and semi-detached houses available from only £875.

Stepping Back into History

As London expands it steps into its own history. Old settlements, abandoned camps and ancient villages are swallowed whole into the beast's belly. Metroland has its fair share of antiquities and historical associations. To the west of the new suburbs, the crests of the Chiltern Hills show the remains of many older British settlements. One of the finest examples of these is at Cholesbury, where the old parish church still stands or Great Missenden where the traces of a mysterious earthwork known as Grimm's Dyke has puzzled local historians. Who was Grimm? And what did he build this dyke to protect himself against?

In Amersham, a fine old church, cobble-paved streets and quaint inns hark back to older days. The Town Hall was built in 1682 at the expense of Sir William Drake, to whom the picturesque Almshouses are also due. Much of the town was owned by the Drake family of Shardloes House, but they sell their interests in the early part of the decade. Why now? What do they need the money for?

In Chalfont and Latimer, John Milton took refuge in half-timbered cottage from the plague in London and wrote part of *Paradise Regained*. What was it about the plague-riddled town that inspired and informed his vision of the hereafter?

In Ruislip, a 13th century church stands. In its tower is a curiously carved oak bread-cupboard, which holds loaves for Sunday distribution, installed in compliance with the benefaction of Jeremiah Bright made in 1697. Who was Jeremiah? Is there a reason he particularly wanted this cabinet used to feed the local congregation every Sunday for centuries after his death?

In Pinner, a church erected in the reign of Edward III bears a fine crenellated tower upon which stands a wooden cross and a table dedicated to Whitehead, Poet Laureate to George III. Why is this table there? What poems did he write, and to whom, that inspired an offertory table?

In Wendover, an ancient Whiteleaf Cross is cut into the chalk of Whiteleaf Hill and commemorates a battle fought here against the Danes. Nearby is Chequers, the official county residence of the British Prime Minister, which includes the remains of a small Norman keep. What lies below the keep? And does the Prime Minister suffer from peculiar nightmares when he sleeps above the ancient, mouldering stonework that lies beneath his house?

• ROYAL PALACES • AND BARRACKS

BUCKINGHAM PALACE AND ASSOCIATED BARRACKS (THE MALL)

The official residence of the monarch, Buckingham Palace was built in 1703 and bought by George III in 1763. No part of it is open to the public and access is only available by direct invitation – something unlikely to happen unless investigators are either very rich, titled, or both. People trying to force entry to Buckingham Palace might be deterred by the Wellington Barracks, directly across the road. This is home to the Foot Guards regiments, and at any given time a battalion of highly trained and armed men will be in residence. It is from these barracks that the famous ‘changing of the guard’ procession comes.

If this isn’t enough to put people off trying to break into the palace, half a mile down the road at the Chelsea Barracks a further battalion of Scots, Grenadier or Coldstream Guards is always to be found. Finally, three quarters of a mile away on the south side of Hyde Park are Kensington Barracks where the Household Cavalry are quartered – another thousand or so soldiers, just in case anybody trying to see the King without permission still hasn’t taken the hint.

Legend has it that Buckingham Palace is built on the site of a medieval religious priory, and every Christmas day the ghost of a monk bound in chains is to be found moaning and clanking about on the terrace overlooking the gardens.

ST JAMES’S PALACE (MARLBOROUGH ROAD)

Built for Henry VIII, St James’s Palace was the residence of the monarch until King William III formally moved to Buckingham Palace. During the 1920s, St James’s Palace is the home of Prince George (later George VII), who moves out after he marries in 1923, and Edward, Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII).

Over the road from St James’s Palace is the Chapel Royal, whose services are often attended by members of the Royal Family; members of the public may attend services, but tickets are needed.

KENSINGTON PALACE (KENSINGTON GARDENS)

A comparatively minor palace, Kensington was bought by William III as a country escape from the grime of London, and was subsequently used as apartments, usually for minor Royals. Thanks to intervention by Parliament to prevent dilapidation the state apartments became a museum in the late 19th century, meaning that the palace is an odd mix in the twenties – still a home to several minor members of the royal family, but also parts of the building used as a museum and exhibition space. This is probably the closest ordinary humanity can get to royalty in the 1920s, as Princesses Louise, Alice and Beatrice live here in a series of apartments called “Princess’ Court.”

WINDSOR CASTLE (WINDSOR)

The other official London residence of the monarch, Windsor Castle was founded by William the Conqueror (it is on an excellent defensive spot just outside London) and has been lived in and altered by almost every King or Queen of England since.

Much of the palace is open to the public except when the King is in residence – a rare event, as George V does not much like Windsor and only stays there for Ascot and occasional weekends. Notable features within the castle include the Round Tower, built by Henry II who claimed to have found the remains of Arthur and Guinevere at Glastonbury in 1190, St George’s Chapel, which was built by Henry VIII and contains the remains of four kings (George III, George IV, Edward VIII and William IV, as well as several other Royals), the Albert Memorial Chapel, which was also built by Henry VIII but was extensively (and expensively) redecorated by Queen Victoria in memory of her husband, and the State Apartments, which are used to accommodate visiting foreign rulers.

The castle has its own private parkland – the Home Park – which is bordered on three sides by the Thames. This contains Frogmore House, Queen Victoria’s favourite retreat, and the Royal Mausoleum, where she and her husband are buried.

In 1921 a secret flight of stairs was discovered in one of the towers, leading to a hidden sally port in the wall.

As with Buckingham Palace, the Guards regiments also watch over Windsor Castle. The Victoria Barracks no more than half

a mile away can quickly supply several thousand armed men at the slightest indication that something with tentacles is trying to devour His Majesty.

Being such an old place, Windsor Castle is filled with ghosts. There are too many to list here, but include those of Henry VIII (who must divide his haunting time between here and Hampton Court Palace) Elizabeth I, and Herne the Hunter, who has been seen leading his pack over the Home Park.

• THE UNIVERSITY • OF LONDON

“We have the most wonderful aggregation of institutions making up this university to be found anywhere in the world.”

– Sir Gregory Foster, *The University of London*, 1922

The University of London, despite not having the fame of institutions of learning such as Oxford or Cambridge, is far and away the largest university in Britain. During the 1920s it never has fewer than 10,000 students enrolled, either in one of its constituent London colleges or in distance learning modules administered globally. It is possible to sit degrees accredited by the University of London in cities throughout the Empire, from Accra to Melbourne to Vancouver.

Even within London, the University is surprisingly diverse. It is a federal body, administered from offices in the Imperial Institute, Kensington (see pg.144) but comprising literally dozens of separate schools, colleges and institutes scattered throughout the city. The faculties of the university often divide their teaching amongst a number of different schools, meaning that it is possible for two people studying for the same degree in the same year at the university never to meet each other or even to be aware of the other’s existence.

The University of London was the first university in Britain to allow female students to graduate (in 1878). Oxford did not follow suit until 1920 and Cambridge until 1923. As such, any graduate female investigators will almost certainly be from here alumni.

This decentralised, federal structure leads to some interesting problems; firstly, the offices at the Imperial Institute (the

university moves to a new, purpose-built site in Bloomsbury in 1929) are too small to provide enough space for the administration of a body of its size; investigators looking for information at its administrative hub will often find cramped bureaucratic chaos. Second, the federal structure of the university is new, having only been created in 1900, and there remains considerable rivalry between the many parts of the organisation that had previously been independent, competing bodies of learning. Thirdly, the decentralised nature of the university means that Londoners themselves are often unaware of the nature, size, or even location of many colleges or even of the university itself. In 1919, Sir William Beveridge, Director of the London School of Economics, asked a cabbie to take him to the headquarters of the university. “The cab driver, when I asked for the University of London, looked blank.” he later reported. “As I explained, a light broke upon him. ‘Oh!’ he said. ‘You mean the place near the Royal School of Needlework!’”

MAJOR COLLEGES

There are six major, multi disciplinary teaching institutions in the university. These are:

King’s College (The Strand, Central London)

University College (UCL) (University Street, Bloomsbury)

Queen Mary College (Based in Mile End, East London)

Royal Holloway (situated in a wonderfully flamboyant Victorian edifice in Egham)

Birkbeck College (Malet St, London)

Goldsmith’s College (St Donatts Road, New Cross)

Each of these colleges was formerly an independent college or university in its own right and provides teaching in a wide range of subjects with largely excellent facilities and resources.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS

The university also holds ten medical schools for most of the decade (rising to eleven in 1929), which are attached to the following hospitals:

Charing Cross Hospital, King’s College Hospital, London Hospital, St Bart’s, St George’s Hospital, St Mary’s Hospital, St Thomas’ Hospital, University College Hospital, the London School of Medicine for Women, and Westminster Hospital. The London School of Tropical Medicine is opened in 1929.

OTHER PARTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

The university includes many other schools and colleges which are often subject or purpose specific. There are too many to list here, but a selection of the main ones are listed below:

London School of Economics, The Royal College of Science, The Institute of Verminology, Central Technical College (teaches engineering), Wye College (agriculture), Bedford College (all female), Royal School of Mines, six theological colleges (all protestant of various denominations: Hackney College, New College, Regent's Park College, Wesleyan College, Cheshunt College and St John's Hall, Highbury).

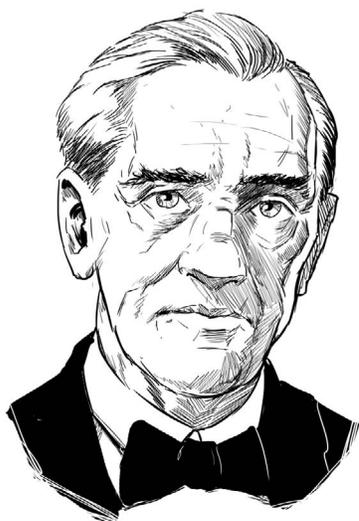
The Institute of Historical Research

Founded in a series of temporary huts (where it inevitably remains for many years) on Malet Street in 1921, the Institute rapidly rose to become an international authority in its field. It is independent of any of the internal schools or colleges of the university and instead answers directly to the central body at the Imperial Institute.

NOTABLE UNIVERSITY ACADEMICS

Fleming, Alexander (1881-1951)

Held a research and lecturing role at St Mary's Hospital, Fleming rose to fame due to his discovery of lysozyme in 1923 and then Penicillin in 1928, for which he later won the Nobel Prize.



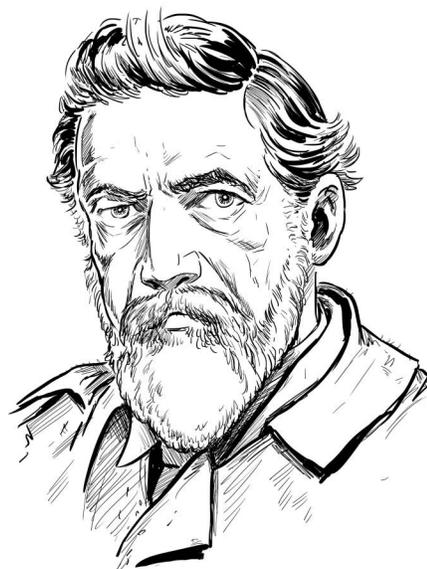
Foster, Sir Gregory (1866-1931)

Provost of University College from 1906-29 and Vice Chancellor of the University from 1928-30. It was Foster who eventually ensured the construction of a new central building for the University in Bloomsbury and the move from the Imperial Institute in 1929.



Petrie, Sir William Flinders (1853-1942)

A hugely influential archaeologist, Petrie held the Edwards chair of Egyptian Archaeology and Philology at UCL from 1913-33. He performed the first scientific survey of the pyramids, and performed further investigations at Tanis, Sehel, Fayum, Luxor and Amarna. He owned a large collection of Egyptian and Levantine antiquities, which he donated to found a museum upon his death.



Pollard, Professor Albert Frederick (1869-1948)

Professor of Constitutional History at UCL and an expert on Tudor history, Pollard was the founder of the Institute for Historical Research and also a key member of the Historical Association.

**Seton-Watson, Robert William (1879-1951)**

Established the School of Slavonic Studies at King's College in 1915 and held the Chair of Central European History until 1945. Seton-Watson was instrumental in the breakup of Austria-Hungary and the creation of Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia after the end of the Great War.

**Wells, Herbert George (1886-1946)**

Called the “Father of Science Fiction”, Wells wrote many famous novels, including *The Time Machine*, *The Island of Dr Moreau*, *Things to Come*, *War of the Worlds*, and *The Invisible Man*. A graduate of the University, Wells retained close ties, both standing for election as MP for the university in 1928 and using his fame and influence to support the institution.

**Wilson, Dr. Charles (1882-1977)**

Dean of St Mary's Medical school from 1920-1945, and most famous for becoming Winston Churchill's personal physician.



• HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS • OF LONDON

HEALTH AND PSYCHIATRIC CARE IN 1920S LONDON

Due to a combination of two major factors, the 1920s were a period of rapid change, consolidation and improvement in the provision of both medical and psychiatric care in London. Firstly, the return of thousands of men with both physical and mental injuries from the Great War had resulted in pre-war, largely local healthcare management being stretched to breaking point, and centralised coordination was increasingly needed to cope with the strain.

Secondly, rapid advances in both medical science (especially in surgery and pharmacology) and mental health meant that new practices were needed to care for the afflicted. As a result of this, new organisations, record-keeping methods and institutions are instigated and opened during the decade and Keepers with an eye to historical accuracy will need to keep track.

HEALTHCARE AND HOSPITALS

Before the Great War, healthcare was effectively a three-tier system: there were private hospitals for those who could afford to pay for them either by subscription (effectively health insurance) or directly upon need. There were voluntary hospitals, which were charities and supported by voluntary contributions (hence 'voluntary hospital'). These would, theoretically, treat anyone, although their resources were often limited, and were used for practice by new doctors who often were more interested in making a name for themselves by treating unusual or unique cases than run-of-the-mill illness. And, for the truly poor and destitute, there was the workhouse.

In 1920 there were more than 70 different hospitals in London – ranging from convalescent homes ('lying-in' hospitals) to dedicated lunatic asylums – and the legal administration of these organisations was overseen by almost half a dozen different bodies, ranging from local authorities to universities, churches and dedicated local health boards. Confusion of responsibility in such a system was rife, and it was easy for both people and medical records to slip through the cracks.

Diseases and Illness in the 1920s

Without antibiotics, many illnesses and infections considered easily treated today were dangerous and often fatal. Tuberculosis (consumption) and diphtheria were especially feared as both could be transmitted by the breath of an infected individual and would prove inevitably fatal without immediate and long-term care. People with infections would often be treated in sanatoriums, not only to give them better access to specialist medical help, but also to separate them from the general public and prevent them spreading their disease.

Tuberculosis especially is a common disease, and it is not unusual to see people on public transport covering their mouth and nose with a handkerchief to try to avoid catching anything. Other diseases which have largely vanished from London include those of the very poor and malnourished like polio and rickets. The children of the slums of the East End are prone to such ailments, and charitable and council organisations pay to send children to summer holiday camps to ensure they get enough sunshine, fresh air and exercise in an attempt to prevent rather than cure.

Lacking a reliable method for treating infections, it is imperative to treat open wounds quickly. It is a rare house that does not have a bottle of antiseptic and a jar of Vaseline (petroleum jelly) to clean and cover any cut as fast as possible. Without prompt treatment, the danger of blood poisoning or a wound turning septic (and possibly requiring amputation) is ever-present.

The war had required a great deal more central administration of health to cope with the strains on the system, and this led to the formation of the Department of Health in 1919 headed by Dr Christopher Addison, the purpose of which was to centralise and streamline the management of healthcare, which is what it slowly did over the next decade.

By the late 1920s record-keeping is much improved throughout the system, there are clearer chains of authority and responsibility, and fewer organisations involved in the running of hospitals.

In 1929 there are 76 medical and psychiatric hospitals in the capital and all are transferred to the direct control of the London County Council by the Local Government Act.

PSYCHIATRIC CARE

Before the Great War there were two major schools in psychiatric care in the UK. Firstly, there was the very Victorian idea that insanity was due to some form of hereditary moral weakness and treatments for this largely involved patients being locked up and then subjected to either improving teachings and skills training in the hope the patient might become a better human being, or confinement and ruthless discipline with little hope of improvement or a cure. Secondly there was the Freudian psychiatric method, which was rapidly growing in popularity (especially in private practice, where the wealthy could talk about their problems at great length and expense), and largely taught that insanities were caused by childhood influences, and often were related to sex.

The credibility of both these schools was dealt a serious blow by the undeniable fact that thousands of men of previously good moral character returned from the front with serious psychiatric problems caused by the awful situations and hellish conditions of war.

This led to welcome – albeit slow – developments. Both the British Psychoanalytical Society and the Medical Section of the British Psychological Society were established in 1920, and both had a strong interest in finding out both causes and cures for mental problems. At the same time, the Tavistock Clinic at 1, Tavistock Square in central London was founded as a charitable institution by Dr Hugh Crichton-Miller, a neurologist who had done pioneering work with shell-shocked men in the war and had become convinced of the need to open a clinic to offer similar services to civilians of limited means. The clinic quickly became internationally recognised as a pioneering centre for new theories and treatments in mental health.

It is important to note that although privately and charitably run practices and retreats for people with mental problems did exist, there is no provision for voluntary mental health treatment within the public sector until 1923. Before this time, entry to a mental institution was a legal process and a person could only be committed to a mental hospital by a magistrate or judge upon medical advice. It was not until the Maudsley

Hospital opened in Denmark Hill, South London (with an Act of Parliament allowing people to voluntarily enter a mental institution) in 1923 that people could actually choose to be treated without paying for it privately. Investigators looking for psychiatric help without paying for it in London will likely end up at the Maudsley after this date. Treatment at the Maudsley is largely good and professional.

For the most part, though, public and charitable psychiatric institutions remained effectively prisons for the incarceration of the insane for most of the decade. Victorian beliefs in the importance of biology and hereditary in insanity remain common. Female investigators who find themselves confined to an institution will likely find their situation even worse than their male colleagues – both the legal and psychiatric professions still largely view women as both more prone to mental weaknesses and disturbances, and less to criminal and anti-social behaviour than men, meaning that a female investigator in an asylum is as likely to find her fellows are petty criminals, prostitutes and single mothers as people with actual mental illnesses.

People confined to an institution at the public expense will mostly be treated firmly but kindly, although any attempt at curing them will be a matter of luck rather than policy. In order to ensure a peaceful environment they are likely to be physically restrained or regularly medicated if they show any signs of distress or unhappiness at their incarceration, and long-term patients may even be chemically sterilised to prevent them passing their insanity onto the next generation. Peaceful patients will usually be incarcerated for not more than one year; after this, if they show signs of recovery they will be returned to friends and family and become outpatients. If they do not show signs of recovery they may well be deemed incurable cases and spend the rest of their days being transferred between sanatoriums, hospitals, prisons and workhouses.

The rapid development of the psychiatric profession, plus the appearance of ‘fashionable’ therapy amongst the bored and neurotic means that it is not difficult to find a private psychiatric care, but also that quacks, charlatans and the just plain wrong have to be identified and avoided. For example, the “Bed and Stuffing” cure for depression involved the patient being confined to bed and almost constantly fed – this being based on the assumption that “Fat people are always happy”. Keepers are invited to create other therapies that sound persuasive but have little or no actual psychiatric value.

Examples of Private Psychiatric Practitioners

Dr Alexander Richardson, age 41, Consulting Psychiatric Doctor

Dr Richardson runs a professional office just off Harley Street in central London. He has an excellent reputation, and his fees are commensurately high (3£ per hour). As a younger man, Dr Richardson worked in an army hospital in the Low Countries and whilst there he developed an interest in treating the pale, silent men who were brought in suffering from shell shock. After the end of the war, Dr Richardson set up in private practice and continues to study and research mental disorders. He completely rejects the idea that mental illnesses have any biological basis whatsoever and insists that they can be treated by social and environmental cures – a change of scene and the talking cure are often all that is needed to achieve remarkable results.

Richardson is convinced that any mental breakdown can be traced to a single specific incident that has overloaded in the mind (when dealing with investigators, he will probably be right), and will attempt to seek this “mental crux” (as he calls it) and help the patient come to terms with it. In instances where no crux can be found, he will believe that the patient is either deliberately withholding or subconsciously refusing to face it, and he will grow increasingly insistent in his search.

Dr Richardson will not believe any stories investigators might tell about a bleak uncaring universe and tentacled horrors from beyond – instead he will believe that these stories are simply rationalisations of another, real event that they are hiding from.

Dr Clive Grant, age 63, Doctor of Psychiatric Medicine

Dr Grant runs a fashionable private clinic in a large red-brick Victorian villa in Hampstead that can accommodate up to 15 people at once in private rooms with their own bathrooms. Dr. Grant is firmly convinced of a biological cause to all mental illnesses, which he puts down to a pollution of the blood. His researches have demonstrated that the sweat of lunatics contains small amounts of psychoactive agents which he believes are the cause of all their problems, and to overcome it he prescribes his patented ‘sweating cure’ to purge the body of these pollutants.

The cure involves a rigorous regime of brisk exercise designed to work up a sweat to carry any poisons out of the body, coupled with a strictly vegetarian diet designed to prevent any new toxins getting in. In extreme cases, Dr Grant will administer strong emetics and laxatives to ‘clear out the system’, and even blood transfusions from healthy people.

Dr Grant is extremely well-regarded by the middle and upper classes, for whose neurotic and understimulated members the benefits of plenty of exercise and a healthy diet are quick to make them feel much better, and investigators who move in such circles are likely to hear a great many recommendations for his clinic and its miracle cures. For investigators recovering from unmentionable horrors, however, Dr Grant’s methods (and their £3 (plus extras) per day, minimum one week cost) are expensive but unlikely to make things any better.

OTHER IMPORTANT ORGANISATIONS IN HEALTHCARE

The Metropolitan Asylums Board (MAB)

The Asylums Board was a body formed in 1867 and dedicated to the treatment and care of the poor and destitute who had no other source of medical care, and as such ran both asylums for those described as “lunatics, idiots and imbeciles” and more than a dozen medical hospitals for the general populace. At its

formation, the MAB took the sick and insane out of a number of workhouses (see below) and rehoused them in hospitals and asylums in order that workhouses could become institutions solely for the physically healthy but indigent.

Mental asylums run by the board are the Leavesden Mental Hospital in Hertfordshire, Caterham Mental Hospital in Surrey, and the North Western Hospital in Hampstead. The North Western Hospital was also used as a general hospital

for polio, smallpox and iron-lung patients. Although facilities in the hospitals was often good for the time (including Turkish Baths, Massage Rooms and schools), discipline was strict and often cruel by modern standards. During the 1920s the three asylums can hold up to 6,000 patients between them at any time and over 24,000 patients pass through them over the decade. However, investigators confined to one of these hospitals have little chance of improvement: of the 24,000 patients, the asylum board described only 1500 as 'cured' in that time. The MAB also runs a number of colonies of severely educationally subnormal children and adults dedicated to teaching them a trade. The largest of these is Darenth Hospital in Dartford, which holds 560 people. The MAB is legally brought under the control of London County Council in 1925 and full control is transferred by 1930.

Workhouses

Workhouses were created by the Workhouse Act of 1714 and, despite their stated intention of accommodating the poor and teaching them a trade, they were more a method of putting

the destitute, insane and sick somewhere out of the way where decent folk wouldn't have to look at them. Once you were in a workhouse you were not allowed out until the board in charge of the house decided you could support yourself. In 1913 the word 'workhouse' was replaced by the term 'poor law institution', however, the majority of people still used the old term. After the formation of the MAB, workhouses effectively became prisons for those who had not the means to provide for themselves, and were regarded in great fear by the poor.

Workhouses are usually administered by Boards of Guardians, which, by the 1920s, have mostly been amalgamated into Poor Law Unions. London has three of these: Kent (which runs houses in Greenwich, Woolwich and Lewisham), Middlesex (which runs 33 houses across the main metropolitan area), and Surrey (which runs eight houses across South London).

The workhouses are officially abolished in a series of Acts of Parliament between 1925-7, and many become ordinary



hospitals; as with the MAB, they are brought under the control of the London County Council in 1930. Additionally, the London School Districts runs workhouses for poor children which teach orphans and abandoned children a trade.

NOTABLE HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS

Bethlem Royal Hospital (Southwark)

If there is a name that has come to exemplify madness, it is Bethlem Hospital – “Bedlam” itself. The priory of St Mary of Bethlem was first opened in Bishopsgate in 1274, became a hospital by Royal Warrant in 1375 and began caring for mentally ill patients two years later – assuming that chaining people up and whipping or ducking them in water when they objected counts as ‘care’. By 1500, more than 30 patients were confined to the hospital, and a contemporary writer said that the noise of their suffering was “so hideous, so great; that they are more able to drive a man that hath his wits rather out of them”. Harmless patients – called “God’s Minstrels” for their habit of wandering in a daze - were allowed to wander the streets, identified by a tag on their arm. Violent and uncontrollable patients were chained to a wall and quite probably never released – one man was not let out of his chains once in fourteen years.

Little changed in the next two hundred years until in 1673 the hospital was moved to a new building at Moorfields. It was the first purpose-built hospital for the insane in the British Isles. The door was guarded by two statues depicting “Raving and Melancholy Madness”, the two classes of inmates. It was at this time that the practice of charging visitors to watch the lunatics started. In 1852 a parliamentary report criticised the appalling conditions which patients were kept in at Bethlem and, as a result in 1863, the hospital was split and the criminally insane were moved to Broadmoor Hospital for the Criminally Insane in Berkshire, leaving only those confined to an institution for care or their own safety in Bethlem.

The hospital had moved from Moorfields to buildings in Southwark in the early 19th century, but little had changed in therapeutic practices in 500 years. It was not until the late 19th century that warders were slowly replaced by nurses and treatments beyond constraint were tried. Much of the 19th and early 20th century growth in provision for mental patients who could pay for treatment at other hospitals was driven by the fear of being confined to Bedlam.

By the 1920s, Bethlem is a relatively progressive institution – so long as patients are peaceful they stay in wards that are pleasant and comfortable and there are large gardens for the patients to use. Entertainments are laid on, including regular patient’s dances and even a theatrical group. Despite these welcome advances, the hospital contains within it the memory of more than half a millennium of insanity and despair.

The Foundling Hospital (Covent Garden)

The Foundling Hospital was founded in 1739 to tackle one of the great social problems in London in the 18th century: the abandoning of children by women who could not care for them. The hospital became a centre of philanthropic work in the city for almost two hundred years until it is finally closed in 1926.

During this period thousands of children passed through the doors of the hospital, where they were raised and taught a trade; girls were educated to enter domestic service and boys were taught a trade or raised to join the army. Although some of the inhabitants of the hospital were truly orphans, many of them were voluntarily given up by mothers who simply had no way of caring for their child and could not bear to watch them starve. These mothers would leave a keepsake with the baby in the hope that they would one day be able to return and claim their child, and the hospital kept them all: in the archive are hundreds of notes, scraps of cloth, pieces of coloured wood and more; every one a pathetic reminder of an abandoned child, with all the emotional weight that carries.

The Royal Hospital (Chelsea)

The Royal Hospital was founded in 1682 by Charles II to care for former soldiers who were too old or maimed to provide for themselves, and it continues in that function today. 300 pensioners live at the hospital, all of them retired military men, and their distinctive blue or scarlet uniforms are immediately recognisable around London. The hospital was damaged by enemy bombing in 1918, and reconstruction work continues until 1923.

Harley Street

In the same way that Saville Row has become synonymous with the best of tailoring, Harley Street is where to go to find the very best private doctors. Specialists in every ailment (physical and mental) investigators can endure can be found around Harley Street, offering excellent treatment at a price to match.

The Plague of Rats

Rats had long been identified as a major carrier of disease and destroyers of food, especially in places like the slums of the East End. As a result of this, property owners were under a legal obligation to destroy rats on their property, and every year local authorities organise a 'Rat Week' to promote and encourage vermin destruction. Rat Week involves organised local groups making a systematic attempt to kill rats wherever they were to be found, and investigators involved in such events might well turn up horrors like those in *The Rats in the Walls*.

• GRAVEYARDS OF LONDON •

One of the greatest challenges to maintaining the health of the public in a city as populous and compact as London is what to do with the bodies. For most of the history of the city, people were buried in church graveyards, but at times this provision was simply not enough – an estimated third of the population of the city died (between 60-70,000 people) during the great plague year of 1665, and huge pits were dug all over the city, with major ones now lying under Liverpool Street Station, Golden Square and Bunhill (Bone Hill) Fields.

As the city grew rapidly during the 19th century (the population more than doubled between 1800-1850) church cemeteries were no longer sufficient to hold huge numbers of corpses every year. Between 1854-1874 an estimated 50,000 people died every year in Greater London alone. As a result, in 1832 parliament passed an Act allowing for the creation of seven huge privately owned cemeteries around London, these being Kensall Green (1832), West Norwood (1837), Highgate (1839), Nunhead (1840), Brompton (1840), Abney Park (1840) and Tower Hamlets (1841). Rather than the cramped churchyards of central London, these were large and laid out like pleasant country parks with attractive chapels and ornamentation, the sort of place where people might aspire to be buried.

With the morbid Victorian obsession with death and a growing middle class, these expensive and above all exclusive cemeteries became the fashionable place to be buried and also to show off the wealth of the family, so impressive funerary architecture was common. Angels and crosses, objects showing off the profession of the interred (like a palette for an artist or swords for a soldier), classical Roman urns, wreaths, obelisks, columns, statuary and more all were carved from stone and marble onto ornamented tombs. By the end of the 19th century the private cemeteries were a Gothic wonderland of Victorian sepulchral architecture.

This obsession with death finally passed with first the death of Queen Victoria and then the Great War – the sheer numbers of dead took the fashion out of ostentatious mourning. Funerals



during the 1920s are far more sedate affairs. However, with a population over 7.5 million, over 150,000 people die every year and they need to go somewhere. London's many churchyards – and the private cemeteries – are still busy. In all, there are over a hundred places of interment in the city. The most famous of the cemeteries is Highgate, which by the 1920s is a site of overgrowth, mournful splendour – and also reputedly one of the most haunted places in London, where rumours of vampires and black magic still cling to.

No matter where you step within London, it is almost a certainty that someone will have been buried there at some point. The digging of the underground, unearthing long-forgotten plague pits and cutting the foundations of any building is almost certain to turn up a few bones. In the Middle Ages, possible plague and smallpox victims were buried in lead-lined coffins to prevent further infection; nowadays archaeologists know well enough not to open them as both the Black Death and smallpox can remain contagious for centuries after the deaths of their host – something for unwary investigators to watch out for. The finding of a long-forgotten graveyard during construction works could easily provide a fine jumping-off point for an adventure.

• THE RIVER THAMES •

“I have seen [The Thames] in the rising light of the cheerful dawn; I have seen it awakening to the day's work when hammers begin to speak, cranes to bow, and ships to pass in fine procession; I have seen it at high noon when the sun has made a silver lane of laughter cross the river to invite my footsteps; I have seen it at that strange hour between dusk and the deeper darkness when the light that never was on sea or land shines here; I have seen it when the darkness falls, making the warehouses opposite take on a devilish blackness, at the same time giving them an appearance of enormous height as of cliffs standing on the coast of hell; I have seen it at the midnight hours in its dark beauty and deadly silence.”

– J.S. Collis, 1927

The Thames is not an especially large river. Not even the largest river in England, if it were in the United States it wouldn't be in

the top hundred by size. Despite this it retains an importance and an emotional resonance far beyond its size or boundaries.

The Thames rises near Cirencester in Gloucestershire in an area that is believed to be one of the oldest consistently inhabited in the British Isles, with neolithic sites being plentiful nearby. As a result, the upper reaches of the Thames are filled with history, myth and legend. The town of Kemble near the source is described as having been the site of “peculiar sacrificial rites” (Hall, 1859), whilst local legends tell of a dragon slain by Guy of Warwick at Cricklade. Dragons appear endemic to the Thames – Viking carvings of them are to be found at Somerford Keynes, and then there is the silver dragon symbol of the City of London itself. Who can say what influence the Lloigor exerted here in the earliest of times? The ghost of the murdered mistress of Henry, Earl of Lancaster is said to walk the river at Kempsford. Up and down the river, old stories tell that maidens would bathe in its waters to make themselves fertile; but to which gods did they attribute this fertility? When the old London Bridge was torn down, a carved head of Bacchus was found in the foundations suggesting bacchanalian rites associated with the river to promote this fertility, rather than the Christian Saints Mary and Birinus who later came to be associated with the river.

Since time immemorial, the river has exerted a power over those who live by its side: to placate the power of the Thames, people have been throwing objects (especially weapons and money) into its waters for tens thousands of years. Undoubtedly, London owes its very existence to the river. Until the introduction of the railways, the river was the primary thoroughfare for trade, travel and communications for the entire region, and important towns grew up to control, protect and exploit strategic locations; the City of London stands atop pre-Roman settlements, the Roman city of Londinium, and William the Conqueror's capital at the highest easily navigable point of the river for seagoing vessels. As late as the 1920s the highest point of the Thames used for industry with important trading links to the rest of the world directly via the river was at Battersea. Meanwhile, it is no coincidence that the important Anglo-Saxon settlement at Kingston grew up at roughly the same point Julius Caesar bridged the river 500 years earlier; without access to advanced bridge-building methods and lots of labour, Kingston was the lowest place on the Thames where a crossing can easily be built.

Above London, the Thames is attractive and used more for pleasure than industry. Time has swept away the pollution

from the industrial revolution and whilst farmers, mills and breweries may draw water from it, the water is mostly clean and it is used for rowing, fishing and swimming, and the banks for walkers and cyclists. Sport shooting on the banks of the Thames was banned by Act of Parliament in 1894, so birds proliferate. Outside of the towns, large houses, parks and farmlands front the river.

Below London, the character of the river changes as the effluent – human, animal and industrial – of the greatest city in the world empties into the river in a volume that Bazalgette’s sewer system has slowed, but by no means stopped. Despite all efforts, the pollution here means that for 30 miles the Thames is a dead river – no fish are to be found from central London down as far as Dartford in Kent.

What the river is crammed with is shipping of all sorts – pleasure boats and yachts, as well as steamers, cargo ships, liners, wherries, tugs and more. Every day an average of over 1000 boats and ships (not including smaller vessels) may be counted passing up and downriver from the top of the Royal Observatory at Greenwich. As well as the cargo vessels, many of these boats are pleasure cruisers – boats on the Thames are not subject to the same licensing laws as pubs, clubs and bars on dry land and so late-night steamboat excursions downriver and back again are common, with jazz bands and dancing on the deck and a riotous bar below.

Within London itself John Dee lived by the river at Mortlake, which comes from the Latin *Mortuus Lacus*, or ‘dead channel’, whilst the Houses of Parliament further down were built facing onto the river so the building could never be surrounded by a crowd and members of Parliament could escape by boat. Other than those whose work directly relates to the river, most Londoners do not really notice the Thames. At most it is a pleasant backdrop to a walk along the Embankment or an impediment to be quickly crossed by bridge, ferry or tunnel on the way to something more important. Rivermen see themselves as a breed apart, and have their own pubs and customs. Penetrating this world of water and boatmen is a hard job even for the professionals of the River Police. How will investigators manage?

THE SEWERS AND LOST • RIVERS OF LONDON •

Like most old cities, London grew beyond the ability of its rivers to carry away effluent. This reached its worst during the ‘Great Stink’ of 1858, when a hot summer led to unusually sluggish river flow. Coupled with ever-growing levels of untreated sewage being washed into the river, the resulting smell was so powerful the city almost came to a standstill, as those who could fled to the country. In response to this Parliament appointed Joseph Bazalgette to build a new network of sewers. Between



1859-65 more than 13,000 miles of sewers were built, of which more than 450 miles were 'main sewers' – tunnels big enough for grown men to walk through, sometimes several abreast.

As a river valley, the Thames once had a number of tributary rivers that flowed into it. As London grew these were slowly built around or over, buried or culverted, or simply became convenient natural sewers and waste disposal systems. As part of Bazalgette's system, these rivers were incorporated into the new sewers; built into brick tunnels, the ancient rivers of London still run but now are diverted to carry away the waste of the city hidden from human eyes – and in these great brick tunnels other things may lurk. Some of the better known of these 'lost rivers' include:

The Effra: Once one of the largest of London's rivers, the entire length of the Effra is now a sewer running from Norwood Park through Brixton and Vauxhall. Several times during the 1920s the Effra burst from its sewers during heavy rains, forcing the council to enlarge its tunnels.

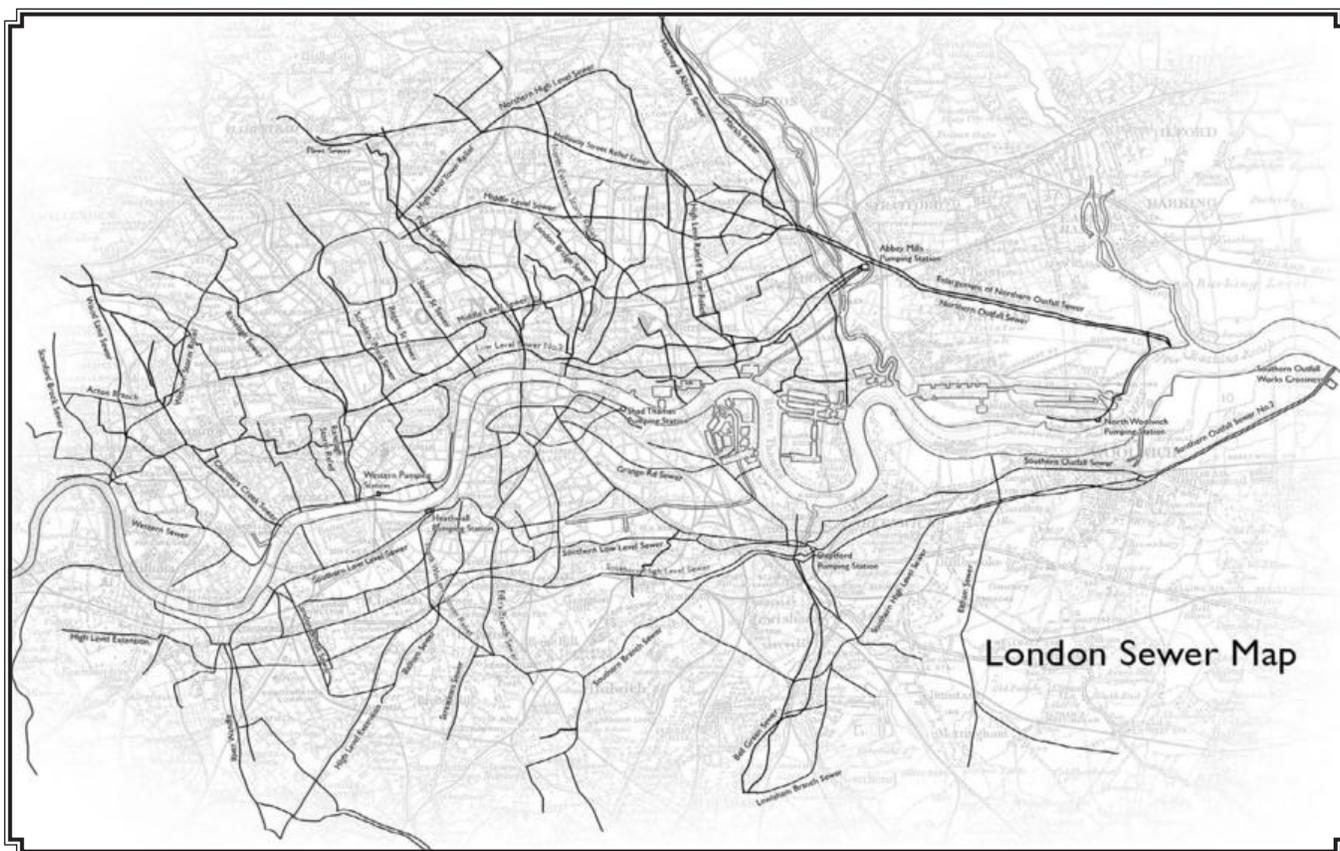
The Fleet: Probably the most famous of the lost rivers, the Fleet rises in Hampstead Heath, the water stained a reddish

pink by minerals in the soil (the Romans built shrines and accorded it magic powers on the basis of this).

The Fleet became the most notorious open sewer of medieval and later London. By 1920 the river has been entirely buried and vanishes into tunnels shortly after it leaves the Heath: the tunnels run all the way to the Thames, where they discharge from an arch under Blackfriars bridge.

The Westbourne: Also rising in Hampstead, the waters were also reputed to have healing properties and made the area a fashionable spa in the 18th and 19th centuries. Although largely buried, the Westbourne feeds the Serpentine in Hyde Park and passes over the platforms and lines at Sloane Square Underground station in a huge pipe. If anything were to happen to the pipe, the consequences at the station could be severe.

The Tyburn: Rising in Primrose Hill, the river is carried by culverts and bridges before vanishing underground at Regent's Park. The Keeper should note that the tunnels carrying the Tyburn pass directly beneath Buckingham Palace before emptying into the Thames at Vauxhall Bridge.



AFTERWORD

If you overlay maps of London from 1880, 1920 and 2012 with the richest and poorest streets marked, some things will jump out at you. First is just how little the street plan of the city has changed, and second just how little the population demographics have changed. Despite a century and more of population migration, substantial devastation caused by the Luftwaffe, and decades of well-meaning governmental social policies, if you live on Maroon Street in the East End today it is likely you will be one of the poorest people in the city just as your predecessors were a hundred years ago.

The street plans of much of the inner city have changed little in even longer. Despite having burned to the ground in 1666, ambitious plans to build a new city were scrapped and the medieval street plan quickly reappeared. When you start considering a city in these terms, you start to feel that a city isn't just a collection of buildings where people live and work and play and learn – you start thinking that a city is a machine, and that one of the things that machine does is store history and ideas

This persistence of ideas in a place is at the heart of the Cthulhu Mythos. Ancient horrors linger in one place to affect the lives of those who live there centuries after they are forgotten. When Lovecraft wrote of witch-horrors in New England, they were only a few hundred years old. London is ten times older. What hides unremembered beneath her streets to blight the lives of her unwary inhabitants? What ideas have been ground into the streets and houses – into the very bones of the city itself? What histories perpetuate themselves through the city's geography and result in the rich and poor living in the same streets century after century, even though the original streets and houses have long since been swept away? Do houses full of cultists stand now on the site where two thousand years ago warlocks cavorted? Do horrid modern temples now sit atop ruins of ancient Roman sacrificial grounds? And even now do ancient gods stir in the bloody soil beneath the capital of the world, raised from their slumbers by the smell of global power which is the very life force of the city?

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