

MMT NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MAUSOLEA & MONUMENTS TRUST
N° 20

November 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A well-attended memorial service at St. Margaret's Westminster on October 6 demonstrated the esteem in which our late Chairman, the architectural historian Dr. Thomas Cocke, was held by friends and colleagues from every phase of his life and work. Learned, liked and respected, Thomas was an important figure in British church circles, and his death has knocked us all. If any trust can come to terms with mortality, it ought to be the MMT. We seek to carry on the good work of the late Jill and David Allibone, Sir Howard Colvin and Dr. Cocke through our endeavours.

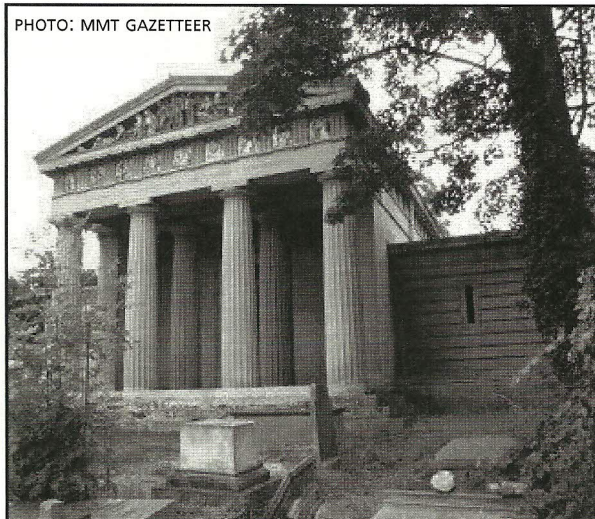
In November, a memorable evening was held in their memory at Malplaquet House, the home of our new patron, Tim Knox, Director of Sir John Soane's Museum, and landscape architect Todd Longstaffe-Gowan. We raised significant funds, and enjoyed ourselves greatly in this miraculous house of curiosities, a rare survival of a Georgian merchant's home in Stepney. We think that the shades of the departed would have appreciated it.

Not surprisingly, then, this has been a time of taking stock. Now in our fourteenth year, the Trust sometimes needs to review our activities and decide exactly what it is that we wish to do. Do we go on becoming a home of last resort for unloved mausolea? Should we think about looking after monuments too? Should we spend more of our energies helping others take the lead on projects? Should we work harder at events? (In that respect, it would be good to hear from members what sort of events they would value and attend.)

Our visit to West Norwood Cemetery on September 27 was really enjoyable, and we send our warmest thanks to Dr. Bob

The mortuary chapel built at West Norwood by Stephen and Marietta Ralli in memory of their son Augustus, who died at Eton from rheumatic fever at the age of 18; Grade 2 Listed, attributed to John Oldrid Scott (1841-1913).

PHOTO: MMT GAZETTEER



Flanagan, the cemetery's guardian angel and expert guide. A visit to the catacombs was particularly memorable.

New trustees have joined our ranks, bringing with them very useful experience and welcome vigour. Pat Thomas is a highly respected lawyer specializing in planning law; Piers Feltham is a barrister specializing in trust law (and a classical scholar); Hannah Parham works as a designator at English Heritage; and Edward Kitchen is now in English Heritage's London Region giving advice on planning matters in Westminster, having previously worked as the Victorian Society's churches officer. Edward and Hannah lower our average age considerably!

There remains much to do, but there is no shortage of interest in the state of our sepulchral heritage. Please let us know of additions to the excellent gazetteer, of subjects of concern, and of topics which we could share with others through the newsletter. In the meantime, our best wishes for Christmas and the new year. May it contain many happy hours among the tombs.

ROGER BOWDLER

VOLUNTEER HELP

The Secretary is extremely pleased to report that his plea at the AGM for volunteer office help did not fall on deaf ears. At the end of the meeting, Caroline Fuller expressed an interest. She and her husband, Peter, are now sharing this duty and are usually in the office on Wednesdays. We are delighted to have them join our ranks and thank them for donating their time to make this valuable contribution.

BEQUESTS

Over the past year, the Mausolea & Monuments trust has received substantial donations in lieu of flowers in memory of late members who valued and supported the Trust, as well as a generous bequest from a will.

We hope that those who can will remember us amongst other charities in their wills, and be remembered in turn for helping to preserve some of the country's most remarkable and splendid buildings.

A bequest to the Mausolea & Monuments Trust represents an extremely valuable gift to us, free of Inheritance Tax. The gift need not be large, but will always be carefully used and much appreciated.

The form that such a gift might take is set out below; please ask your solicitor to insert such a bequest in your testamentary provisions. You may specify a sum of money, or designate a proportion of your estate as a bequest.

SAMPLE FORM OF BEQUEST

*I bequeath a legacy of the sum of £
(for a pecuniary bequest), or ...% of the
residue of my estate (for a residuary
bequest) to the Mausolea & Monuments
Trust (Registered Charity N^o 1106634)
whose office is at 70 Cowcross Street,
London EC1M 6EJ, for its general purposes.
I declare that the receipt of the Secretary for
the time being of the said Trust shall be a
good and sufficient discharge to my
Executor in respect of such legacy.*

A VISIT TO MALPLAQUET HOUSE

The Battle of Malplaquet, fought in 1709 during the War of the Spanish Succession, is remembered to history as one of the bloodiest of that or any other European conflict, but there was no cause for alarm when members of the Mausolea & Monuments Trust attended an evening reception at Malplaquet House, Stepney, on November 12.

MMT Patron Tim Knox, Director of Sir John Soane's Museum, and landscape architect and historian Todd Longstaffe-Gowan kindly opened their home to the Trust as a memorial tribute to David Allibone, Sir Howard Colvin and Dr. Thomas Cocke (*MMT Newsletter* N° 18 & 19). The event was oversubscribed but Tim and Todd generously agreed to accommodate all those who applied. Members came from as far away as Devon, Cornwall, the Isle of Man and Israel – David Allibone's son-in-law extended his trip to London in order to join us.

Malplaquet House was built by 1742, at a time when many London merchants lived just to the east of the City. Its fortunes fell with the district's, and it sustained further damage during the Blitz. The site was in a perilous state when Tim and Todd took it on, in 1998, and began to restore both house and garden to a new magnificence.

Tim gave guests a brief run through the history of the house and its various owners – the descendent of one of them, Mr. Tim Charrington, was also present. The guests were then invited to wander through the rooms and appreciate the many beautiful and unusual objects and curiosities in the collection.

The Secretary sourced a range of delicious canapés, and wine was generously provided by Tim and Todd. They also offered copies of the book of the house at £10 per copy, donating the proceeds to the MMT. At the end of the evening, no one really wanted to leave! Enormous thanks are due to Tim and Todd for such splendid hospitality and generosity.

THE LOVELACE MAUSOLEUM

THE RESTORATION OF THE LOVELACE MAUSOLEUM ST. MARTIN'S CHURCHYARD, EAST HORSLEY, LEATHERHEAD, SURREY

Early in the 1870s, the first Lord Lovelace (William King, eldest son of Peter, 7th Lord King, Baron of Ockham) began to consider the construction of a mausoleum for himself and the second Lady Lovelace, following a steady progression of highly decorated Italianate style flint and brick buildings throughout East Horsley.

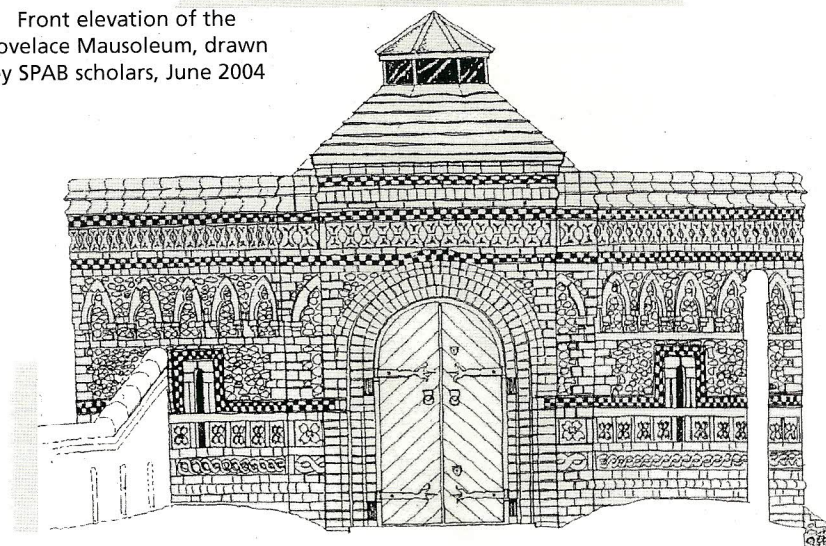
In this he was in tune with other mid-Victorian 'gentlefolk' building mausolea in country churchyards and urban garden cemeteries to establish a permanent place for themselves after the great adventure of life had been completed. [*Victorian Miniature*, MMT Newsletter N^o 19, recounts the colourful story behind the construction of the Boileau Mausoleum at Ketteringham, Norfolk.]

In some ways, this unique little building is a culmination of Lord Lovelace's structural and decorative ingenuity, which must have stretched the capabilities of his workforce close to the limits of their resourcefulness.

Initially, we were fortunate to have the services of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings' SPAB Scholars in 2004. They carried out a measured survey of the building which was sufficiently detailed to form the basis of working drawings in due course (*below and next page*).

Unravelling the nature of the construction in order to make sympathetic repairs, and to maintain the building's equilibrium, has been an interesting journey for

Front elevation of the Lovelace Mausoleum, drawn by SPAB scholars, June 2004



all concerned. The project has afforded new insights into working methods during an exciting period in the development of the village and its forebears.

Outwardly, the mausoleum appears to be constructed like many of the Lovelace buildings in the district, faced externally with flint and decorative brickwork applied or built into the structure as the work proceeded.

However, in this case, half of the building is below ground level, involving the use of retaining walls which rise from a square plan to contain two tombs on either side of a central access between the entrance door and what is believed to have been an exit door (long since bricked up but originally with steps up to ground level on the outside).

This square plan is vaulted across the corners with brick arches to become an octagon, which in turn rises to a sixteen-face vault in the front of a brick cone topped by a glazed timber lantern.

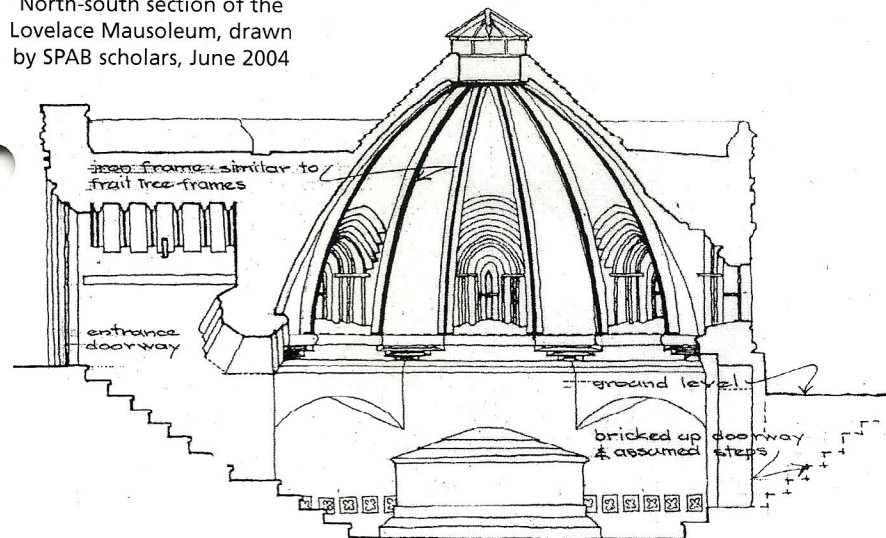
Here the construction departs from the conventional Lovelace methods, in that brick ribs are wired to a cage of iron ribs, forming the basic curved geometry of the cone, which then has laid upon it (but not bonded in to it) a half-brick thick cone.

This cone was covered with tiles, bedded into fairly hard sand and cement; however, it may not have been the original covering.

Although the iron frame for the brick vault is thought to be unique to this building, there are examples of similar frames, from a similar period, for training fruit trees at West Dean Gardens, near Chichester. They are constructed in an identical scale and nature, and may thus have been 'borrowed' from horticultural experience within the Lovelace estate for this purpose.

Between the cone and the parapet wall there was a flat roof with a perimeter gutter, discharging into a cast iron hopper head and rainwater pipe buried within the

North-south section of the Lovelace Mausoleum, drawn by SPAB scholars, June 2004



THE LOVELACES

William King-Noel, 1st Earl of Lovelace (1805-1893) was the eldest son of Peter King, 7th Lord King, Baron of Ockham. He succeeded in the barony in 1833 and was created Viscount Ockham and Earl of Lovelace in 1838.

The first Baron King (c.1669-1734), the son of a Exeter grocer and a cousin of the philosopher John Locke, rose through the law and Parliament to become Lord Chancellor in 1725. The family remained politically active: Lord Lovelace's brother, Peter John Locke King MP (1811-1885) was an influential reformer.

Lord Lovelace himself served as Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey from 1840 until his death, but his interests inclined toward science. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1841, and in 1835 married the talented mathematician Ada Augusta Byron (1815-1852), daughter of the poet Lord Byron through his brief marriage to Anne Isabella Milbanke. (The surname Noel, which Lord Lovelace adopted in 1860, relates through the Milbankes to the barony of Wentworth, which passed from Lady Byron to Ada's children.)

Ada died at the age of 36, leaving two sons and a daughter, and was buried beside the father she had never known, in St. Mary Magdalene, Hucknall, Nottingham. In 1865, Lord Lovelace married the widow Jane Crawford Jenkins, with whom he had one son. She, the second Lady Lovelace (d.1908), shares the mausoleum with him.

thickness of the wall. This was long since blocked by pine needles and other debris, probably rendered incapable of fulfilling its purpose at a very early stage.

When restoration work began, the roof was completely overgrown with brambles, ivy and other miscellaneous vegetation, including a well-rooted yew tree in the north-east corner. Upon removal of this material, two distinctly different roofs were revealed. The first roof covering was metal which had long since decayed (allowing the timber decking beneath to rot and collapse), all laid over an original asphalt roof through which the newer timber structure had been nailed.

Removal of these two roofs revealed a sodden lime-based fill between the base of the cone and the parapet, which was removed from a depth varying between six and eighteen inches (15 to 45 cm) before a serious assessment of the necessary works could be undertaken.

It was clear that this relatively fragile brick cone would impose a considerable outward thrust towards the parapet on all faces. Although an iron band was discovered built into the parapet fabric, it was felt that the fill between the two elements was adding a significant counterweight to resist this outward thrust. This fill – and, indeed, the whole fabric – was saturated and supporting a jungle of wild vegetation (including a healthy crop of blackberries), following many years of gradual decay.

It was decided therefore to remove and replace only two opposite bays of wet debris at a time, to ensure structural symmetry. This was achieved with a further lime-based material incorporating hydraulic lime, sand and crushed Therma-lite blocks, brought to an even surface

