

Coronation decorations

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HISTORIC LONDON. History of London Wall.

The observant visitor no less than the permanent resident who strolls through the streets of London will notice, here and there, affixed to the walls, some blue-and-white tablets on which are recorded data of historical interest. These commemorative wall-plaques mark the spots where famous men once dwelt, where historic buildings stood, where history was made. Some of the old buildings have disappeared; no fewer than fifty City churches, for example, have vanished, many of them destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666.

Of Roman and Saxon London few traces remain, but around the streets and squares of the town, particularly in the City districts, numerous reminders of London's fascinating past, ranging over hundreds of years, are to be found.

Throughout the centuries London has attracted great and distinguished men. Their dwelling places may today be identified by means of the tablets which the City Corporation and other civic bodies have caused to be put up. Thus we are shown where lived Dick Whittington, four times Lord Mayor of London, Dr. Johnson who said "The man who is tired of London is tired of life", Thackeray, Carlyle, and hundreds more, statesmen soldiers and sailors, scientists, artists, writers and poets, churchmen and so forth, all of whom have in some way contributed to the history of London.

A complete list of these commemorative plaques has been compiled by Elenor May Day and published in the form of a small book (90 pages) by J. L. Wortman & Co., 15, Black Friars Lane, London, E.C.4. Price 7/6 nett.

Apart from a few brief but well-written introductory notes by the compiler, the book is strictly factual and meant to be a guide to the wanderer in London. The information it contains is expertly classified and catalogued according to dates, localities and names. Some thirty black-and-white drawings by Alec Campbell adorn the little volume.

It is an interesting and well prepared work and should be a most useful reference book for use of the historically-minded.

J.J.F.S.

CORONATION DECORATIONS.

John Redfern, "Daily Express" Staff Reporter writes in the issue of May 30th, 1953, as follows: "I set out in the fairyland that is now Coronation London to find the winner of the Coronation Stakes. And I now name the winner: The City.

She could have been no favourite at the start, but, oh, how she gallops ahead of all the others in the decoration revel. Just one word in her ear, some of the best decorations have been put up by foreign firms.

Three marks (my top award) to the Swiss Bank Corporation, at the corner of Gresham Street and Coleman Street.

From its dark stone float the flags of 22 Swiss cantons. The flags are interesting — and brilliant. A normally undistinguished building is made notable. Lower down, window boxes give a softer note."

Heartiest congratulations. (Ed.)

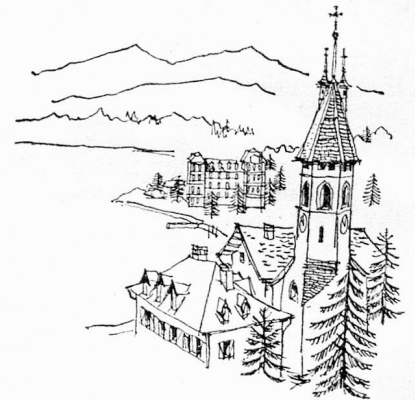
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