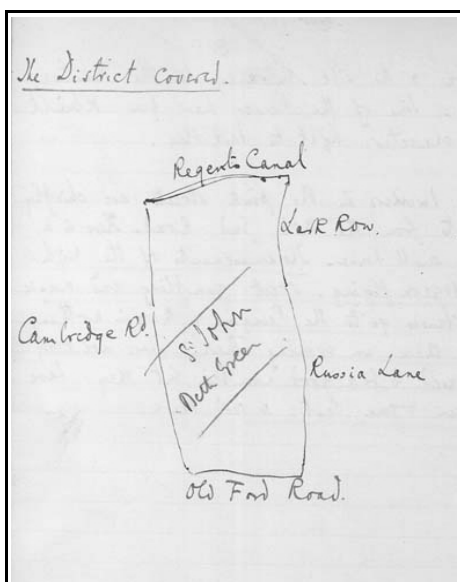


Bethnal Green Mystery Walk



Based closely on the route of a walk by Charles Booth, dated December 31st 1897: "A walk with Inspector Pearn round district bounded on the North by Regents Canal, on the East by Lark Row and Russia Lane, on the South by the Old Ford Road, and on the West by the Cambridge Rd". (These walks were published in Booth's 'Maps Descriptive of London Poverty 1898-1899'.) **Time: 25 Mins Approx.**

1. Start at the Gooden Gallery. Booth describes houses with, "windows broken, flush with the pavement, backs on the canal, wood and china clay wharves".
2. Cross Vyner Street into Mowlem Street: "a newish red church is on the East side". This seems still to be here (on the corner), but no longer used as a church.
3. Left into Bishops Way (was Bishops Road).

4. 1st right into Russia Lane.

5. 1st right into Parmiter Street: "2 storied houses, 2 families in each".

6. Left into Cambridge Heath Road. Continue past "Patriot Square on the West side. 3½ storied houses, quiet, respectable, working class".

7. Left into Old Ford Road: "mixed shops and dwellings, some factories, a starch works. St Margaret's House for ladies", (founded in 1889, it is still here. It is now the *St Margaret's House Settlement*).

8. On the left Peel Grove: "At a house at the SE side took place the 'Bethnal Green Mystery'; old lady discovered with her skull broken, murder suspected but no murderer forthcoming, police theory that she fell downstairs open verdict returned. It was suggested she had been followed into the house & murdered by a thief who wanted the rents she was supposed to be collecting. She was a property owner and lived upon the proceeds of 1 or 2 houses in the neighbourhood. This theory was disproved by a witness who knew her well and said she had not been out...Inspector Pearn had never seen such a filthy vermin infested house as hers". There are still some old buildings surviving here.

9. Continue along Old Ford Road. Left into Approach Road and then take the footpath on your left (turning by Allen McAuliffe House) into Russia Lane: "Very, rough, very poor, very noisy", said Pearn". (Once past the flats you should see an allotment on your left. You will also pass Edinburgh Close on your left after a couple of hundred yards.)

10. Continue to the end of Russia Lane and then left into Bishops Way.

11. Right into Mowlem Street.

12. Right into Wadeson Street: "also 2 storied, very poor especially at the SE end, the outsides of the houses have been done up dated 1889".

13. Left into Lark Row: "2 storied looks rather better than the other streets. A few thieves toing (sic) about here".

14. Left into Vyner Street. Return to Gooden Gallery. **End**.

Download this free document:
www.in-vacua.com/vyner_walk.html.
 Or contact Wayne Clements: vacua@btinternet.com

Acknowledgement: the *Charles Booth online Archive*:
http://booth.lse.ac.uk/static/a/5_3_1.html

