

# GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

## NEWSLETTER

### FOREWORD BY CHAIRMAN

Those of our members who occasionally glance at the gutter press may have noticed that one weekly was kind enough to award "The Gibraltar Heritage Society" - they couldn't even get our name right - the "Useless Eustace Award" for 1998.

I am quite sure that none of our members can have taken this seriously, but it provides an opportunity to list our achievements over the past year. Much of our work is done quietly behind the scenes, and has to remain confidential - we do not go in for extravagant claims, spurious "revelations" and self-important communiques - but we can lay claim to a series of solid achievements in the preservation of our heritage.

#### HERITAGE SITES:

**Parson's Lodge** has been reopened to the public, thanks to the hard work and devotion of one of our members, Alan Lieb.

**The City Hall**, the external façade of which was recently restored on the initiative of the Trust, is now having a much-needed restoration of the interior. This is being done by the Trust with financial support from the Government, the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society and other generous donors.

**Nun's Well** is soon to be cleaned up, restored and opened to visitors. There will be a tea-room on the site, and should prove to be a useful tourist attraction.

**Witham's Road Cemetery**, where many important residents of Gibraltar in the 19th century are buried, has been restored and cleaned up by the Trust, with generous help from MOD.

**The City Walls** were the subject of a detailed report from the Trust to Government, and we are pleased that work in clearing and beautifying has already started. These walls are our largest and most prominent historical monument, and properly enhanced, can add much to the attractiveness of Gibraltar as a tourist destination.

**King's Bastion**, the restoration of which has for a long time been recommended by the Trust, is now being cleaned up by Government, and we can look forward to further refurbishment and restoration of this site in the future.



SPRING 1999

**The excavations at Casemates**, which were the subject of a particularly stupid attack in the above mentioned paper, have now been completed. They have revealed a Moorish "atarazana" or galley-house which is unique world-wide, and on the Trust's recommendation, the Government are arranging for part of it to be covered over by a transparent canopy for display to visitors, with suitable interpretation boards, and a small display room of the finds made during the excavation. It will thus form a fitting introduction to the new Gibraltar Museum premises at Casemates Barracks.

**The Moorish Castle complex** is an important but sadly neglected part of our heritage, and the Gibraltar Heritage Trust is at the forefront of plans to develop this area.

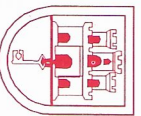
Many of the "behind-the-scenes" activities of the Trust cannot be divulged at present for reasons of confidentiality. The Trust has been consulted by the Heritage Minister on a new **Heritage Bill** which will strengthen its powers to ensure that our Heritage is preserved, and sits on the Government's **Heritage Commission**, as well as the **Development and Planning Commission**, which has the power to stop developments which are harmful to Heritage. We don't win them all, to be sure, but if we weren't there Gibraltar would lose the lot! The Trust is also represented on the Ministry of Culture's **Millennium Committee**, and has proposed, among other suggestions, to erect a statue to the **Evacuation**, paid for out of Trust funds, if a suitable site is granted.

1998 saw many of the Trust's usual activities carried out successfully. In particular, the **Open Painting Competition** had an unprecedentedly large entry, and the artists, together with many non-painting visitors, had an unusual opportunity to enjoy the Mount gardens.

These are just some of the activities of the Heritage Trust, whose Board members continue to work tirelessly to preserve the heritage of Gibraltar for future generations.

We feel sure that all members will agree that we should return the "Useless Eustace Award" to the kind donor, who clearly deserves it far more than we do.

One final thought: A British Prime Minister once said, talking of the Press: "Power without responsibility, the prerogative of the courtesan throughout the ages!". All of us in Gibraltar can be grateful that the periodical in question, though it is totally lacking in responsibility, is equally lacking in power, and so can hardly be compared to an influential courtesan, but rather to a far humbler member of the same profession.



## BOOK REVIEWS

by Sam G Benady

**Gibraltar, by R Montgomery Martin**, is the latest in a series of reprints of important works on Gibraltar produced by Gibraltar Books.

The book reproduces the section on Gibraltar in Martin's encyclopaedic **History of the British Colonies**, first published in 1835, and includes a biographical note about the author by Anthony Seymour. Montgomery Martin was one of the many individualists - some might say eccentrics - which Britain produced in the 19th Century, and this section thus makes interesting reading.

The historical section relies heavily on Drinkwater's **History of the Great Siege**, but the later sections, on natural history, health, sanitation, the weather and commerce, are invaluable for anyone interested in life in Gibraltar in the early nineteenth century.

The section on health was contributed by Dr Gillkrest, the Principal Medical Officer of the garrison, and deals, among other things, with the epidemics of yellow fever which afflicted Gibraltar in the first part of the century.

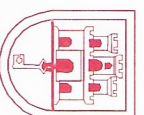
A fan of the Duke of Kent, Martin devotes 18 pages to his hero's time as Governor, and includes a brief biography, as well as the long-drawn-out saga of the Duke's unsuccessful attempts to clear his name.

Martin's final comment on Gibraltar is worth quoting:

**The foregoing details sufficiently illustrate the importance of Gibraltar to Great Britain, whether it is to be viewed politically or commercially: by British valour it has been acquired, and by British statesmanship preserved. May the day be far distant when treachery or dissension at home shall cause this noble fortress - the protector of our flag, honour and trade in the Mediterranean, to be neglected or contemned; for upwards of a century it has been a part and parcel of our oceanic Empire, enabling us the better to hold our footing in the Eastern part of Europe, and to wield with effect the destinies of the world.**

We need a Martin today speaking for us in the UK! It should be added that he was by no means an imperialist, and was strongly in favour of self-government in the Colonies.

The book is available in bookshops in Gibraltar, at £13.95.



## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 1999

Thursday 4th March at 8pm

“AN INTRODUCTION TO HERALDRY: What is it, What is it not?”

A talk by Mr Richard Penner von Kader. Lecture Room, John Mackintosh Hall

Saturday 17th April at 10.30am

TOUR OF THE STREETS OF GIBRALTAR

Led by Mr Richard Garcia - Meet at The Piazza

Saturday 15th May - 10am to 5pm

10th ANNUAL HERITAGE OPEN AIR ART COMPETITION

Theme: The Alameda Botanical Gardens.

Meet at The Cottage for Registration, Rules, etc

Tuesday 18th to Friday 21st May

ANNUAL HERITAGE PAINTING EXHIBITION

Entries for “The Alameda Gardens” Art Competition will be on display. John Mackintosh Hall - Lower Exhibition Room

Thursday 20th May at 9pm

HISTORY OF ROWING IN GIBRALTAR

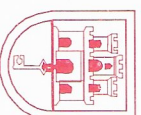
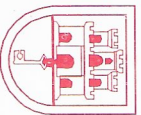
A talk by Mr Lionel Gomez. Venue - the Mediterranean Rowing Club, Europort Road

**The Postal History of Gibraltar:** by **Richard Garcia and Edward B Proud** is the fruit of many years of research into the subject by a Gibraltar author who is well known for his encyclopaedic knowledge, and his English collaborator. It is a lavish production, and is profusely illustrated with black and white reproductions of prints and postcards of Gibraltar in bygone days; it is a shame that some of the prints have not reproduced well.

The subject matter has been thoroughly researched, and much of the information is of great interest to non-specialists, as it reveals much of the day-to-day problems of life in Gibraltar in the 18th and 19th centuries. Some of the later lists and statistics, although they make for dry reading, must be of immense interest to the postal historian and philatelist. This is not a book to read through in one sitting, but to dip into time and time again for fresh insights into our past.

One would like to have learnt more of some of the characters (and characters many of them were!) who people the pages. Take Miss Margaret Creswell: she was postmistress for 30 years (and it must have been almost unprecedented in Victorian times for a woman to be in charge of a Government Department). How old was she when she started? What did she do when she retired? What of other members of her family? It would have added an extra dimension to this book if more human interest had been injected into its pages.

But this is mere carping. This is an excellent book which is destined to become the bible of the Gibraltar collector. It is published by Postal History Publications, and is on sale at £45 at bookshops in Gibraltar.



Wednesday 9th June at 8pm

"ONE ASPECT OF THE EFFECTS OF THE PENINSULAR WAR ON  
GIBRALTAR"

A talk by His Lordship the Bishop Rt Rev Charles Caruana - John Mackintosh  
Hall, Charles Hunt Room

Thursday 10th June at 8pm

"EXPLORING OUR DEEPEST HERITAGE - In the Beginning....."

A talk by Dr Clive Finlayson - John Mackintosh Hall (Charles Hunt Room)

Thursday 24th June at 7pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Garrison Library. There will be pre-meeting drinks as from 6.30pm

Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th September

Calpe '99 Conference - "GIBRALTAR, THE STRAIT AND al-ANDALUS,  
711AD to 1492"

*(Further details to be announced)*

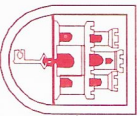
Saturday 18th September at 2pm

Tunnels' Tour

Led by Mr Tino Vallejo. Meet at Maida Vale. Will exit at Princess  
Caroline's Battery. Please bring sensible shoes, a torch and £1 for Insurance. All  
those interested must book at Trust's Office (Wellington Front, Tel 42844).  
Maximum 30 persons.

Saturday 16th October- 10am to 3.30pm

Flat Bastion Magazine - Open Day - Organised by Mr Freddie Gomez



"Where Have All The Flowers Gone.....?"

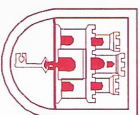
I ended my walk at South Barracks lamenting the fact that concrete has replaced  
so  
many open spaces where once wild flowers and trees flourished. Brympton and  
Buena Vista had provided sad examples of this. Consequently the presence of the  
trees on the periphery of the former South Barracks parade-ground was a welcome  
sight. It was reassuring to see the great eucalyptus tree which dominates it, the row  
of young plane trees struggling without enough water, and the sturdy yet gracious  
pepper tree with its mass of evergreen, feathery leaves; all nature's indispensable  
gifts without which we ourselves cannot survive.

Whilst I was taking a second look at the brown fruiting heads on the largest plane  
tree in the square, a friend suddenly appeared on the scene. We exchanged views  
about trees and their uses, and she promised to give me a copy of an anonymous  
inscription found on one in Portugal. Here it is then, by courtesy of Mrs Cynthia  
Richman, hopefully serving to enrich the pages of this Newsletter, as the trees have  
also helped to endow South Barracks with its special quality.

'Ye who pass by and would raise your hand against me,  
harken ere you harm me.  
I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights,  
the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun,  
and my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you journey on.  
I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your table,  
the bed on which you lie, and the timber that builds your boat.  
I am the handle of your hoe,  
the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle,  
the shell of your coffin.  
I am the bread of kindness and the flower of beauty.  
Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer: harm me not!'

.....nor debase my roots with your rubbish!

Majorie Hoare  
15 February 1999



## LIST OF TRUSTEES

ALMEDA	Mr Alexis (Chairman) 37 Irish Town	Tel: 75705
BENADY	Dr Sam Woodlands, Buena Vista Road	Tel: 74433
CANESSA	Mr Eric 501 Trafalgar House, Rosia Road	Tel: 72172
CORTES	Dr John JP 8/8 Buena Vista	Tel: 76818
GALLIANO	Mr Paco OBE (Hon Life Trustee) 8 Bishop Rapallo Ramp	Tel: 74907
GUERRERO	Lt Col Eddie OBE JP 'E' Devil's Gap, Upper Rock	Tel: 72509
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LANGDON	Mr John 17a St Bernard's Road	Tel: 73890
ROSADO	Mr Joseph ED (Vice-Chairman) 2 North Pavilion Road, South Barracks Parade	Tel: 42303
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TORRES	Mrs Doris 4D Malvasia, Vineyards	Tel: 70716
VALLEJO	Mr Tito FRGS 24 Rosia Dale	Tel: 71871
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SOIZA	Mrs Brenda (Secretary) 6 Chusan House	Tel: 42844

