

LISTS OF CITY OF LONDON INHABITANTS

Sources within CLRO and elsewhere relating to lists of inhabitants in the City of London are summarised below.

17th - 19th CENTURY TAX ASSESSMENTS

CLRO holds tax assessments, mostly for the City of London, covering the 17th to the early 19th centuries. Most of the assessments date between 1673 and 1698. The taxes for which assessments exist include poll, hearth, land, window, tithe, marriage, birth and burial taxes.

The Corporation's financial officer, the Chamberlain of London, acted as Government agent for the collection of many national taxes in London in the 17th and 18th centuries. The taxes, authorised by Acts of Parliament, were collected in the City's wards or parishes and the money was then transferred to the Exchequer in bulk payments. Sometimes, the Chamberlain acted as treasurer for an area larger than the City of London, and so CLRO also has a few assessments for parishes in Westminster and Middlesex, and a very few other places in surrounding counties.

Depending on the tax, most assessments were made by ward, some by parish. Information can vary between different assessments. The sparsest information can be merely lists of householders' names, sometimes without even street names or precinct divisions within the parish or ward. However, some assessments, such as the poll tax, required all inhabitants of each house to be listed. Again, the least detailed of these assessments might name only the head of the household, together with "wife, 5 children, maidservant, lodger", but others do name each occupant, together with their position in the household. Some assessments include trades or occupations, but most do not.

One of the most informative assessments is that for the tax on births, marriages and burials, and annual dues on bachelors over 25 years of age and on childless widowers, more commonly known as the 1695 Marriage Assessment. It is one of the few tax assessments in CLRO to have been indexed for personal names. CLRO has a typescript of the index of the *London Inhabitants Without* [i.e. outside] *the Walls*. The rest of the index has been published as *London Inhabitants Within the Walls 1695* with an introduction by D.V. Glass (London Record Society Publications, Volume 2, 1966). Assessments for 17 parishes do not survive, but an attempt to fill the gap from other tax assessments of the period, is published and indexed in "A Supplement to the London Inhabitants List of 1695 Compiled by Staff at Guildhall Library" in *Guildhall Studies in London History* Vol. 2, Nos. 2 (Part 1: surnames beginning A-M) and 3 (Part 2: surnames beginning N-Z, plus index of trades) (April and October 1976).

Most of the rest of CLRO's assessments are not name indexed. There is, however, a computer print-out index to names and trades in various CLRO assessments around 1700 in *The Economic and Social Structure of the City of London c 1700* a PhD thesis presented by James MB Alexander (LSE, 1989), a copy of which is held for reference purposes only by CLRO. We regret that it is not possible to provide photocopies from this thesis.

The **Manuscripts Section of Guildhall Library** (Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EJ, telephone 020 7332 1863, fax 020 7600 3384, e-mail manuscripts.guildhall@corpoflondon.gov.uk, website: <http://ihr.sas.ac.uk/gh/>).

also holds a considerable number of tax assessments for the City of London. All the assessments held by Guildhall Library and CLRO are listed together and published in *London Rate Assessments and Inhabitants Lists in Guildhall Library and the Corporation of London Records Office* (2nd edition, published by the Library Committee of the Corporation of London, 1968: currently out of print, but reference copies in CLRO and Guildhall Library).

RATE BOOKS AND VALUATION LISTS

The collection of rates in the City of London before 1908 was done by the wards and parishes, not the Corporation of London, and so CLRO has no rate books at all before 1908. Ward and parish records, including pre-1908 rate books, for the City are held by the Manuscripts Section of Guildhall Library (address above), and they are also listed in *London Rate Assessments and Inhabitants Lists...*

However, CLRO does hold City rate books 1908-1985 (with gaps). They are closed for 30 years, although rate books within the closure period may be consulted by city ratepayers or their representatives for their own entries only on proof of identity. Appointments must be made at least 24 hours in advance to see any of the rate books, as we cannot always gain access to their storage area at short notice.

Valuation lists, which include most of the same information as the rate books, but which have no closure period, are also kept by CLRO 1862-1956 (with gaps).

REGISTERS OF ELECTORS

City of London Parliamentary electoral registers are held by CLRO 1840, 1872-date (with a few gaps) and by Guildhall Library 1832-date (with fewer gaps).

Persons entitled to vote in municipal elections in the City were recorded on the ward list or register. Both CLRO and Guildhall Library have copies of ward registers 1950-date, whilst in addition CLRO has registers for a few wards 1946/47-1948/49. CLRO also holds some poll books 1712-1823 (with gaps) recording how electors voted at particular elections before secret ballots became the usual form of voting. Poll books for the City of London held at CLRO and elsewhere are listed in *Poll Books c1696-1872: A Directory to Holdings in Great Britain* edited by Jeremy Gibson and Colin Rogers (Federation of Family History Societies, 3rd edition, 1994).

Liverymen of the City Livery Companies (the successors of the medieval trade and craft guilds) are entitled to vote for the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs (and other officers too, historically) in Common Hall, and are listed in the Common Hall Registers. CLRO and Guildhall Library both have copies of Common Hall Registers 1887/88-date (1940/41 missing).

CENSUS RETURNS AND TRADE DIRECTORIES

CLRO has no census returns, nor any trade or Post Office directories. Guildhall Library has microform census returns for the City of London, whilst those for the whole country 1841-1891 are available on microform at the **Family Records Centre** (1 Myddleton Street, London EC1R 1UW, census enquiries: telephone 020 8392 5300, minicom 020 8392 5308, fax 020 8392 5307, PRO website <http://www.pro.gov.uk/>). Guildhall Library also has an excellent collection

of trade and Post Office directories for both the City and Greater London, and for many provincial towns and cities as well.

See also *Lists of Londoners* by Jeremy Gibson and Heather Creaton (2nd edition, FFHS with CMH, 1997).

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