

## **Waltham Forest Archives**

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Walthamstow Town's Lecture Committee: minutes, accounts and correspondence

The Town's Lecture Committee grew out of a series of 'Popular Lectures' organised by the Walthamstow Librarian, George Edward Roebuck, in his first year of office in 1907 - 08. These lectures, held in the Newsroom of Central Library, attracted a total of 3,050 people and were funded from the sale of programmes. 10 lectures were held in the season 1908 - 09, but with the construction of the new Central Library, Walthamstow now possessed a new lecture hall. Roebuck urged the Library Association to form a lecture bureau, but his local difficulties concerning finance were resolved by the formation of a Lectures Committee, as a sub committee of the Libraries Committee. This consisted partly of councillors, and partly of local worthies and assumed financial responsibility. Roebuck acted as secretary to the Committee through its existence and it ran a lecture series until 1914 - 15, when lectures were terminated for the duration of World War I. University extension lectures seem to have continued unabated through the remainder of the War, but plans to revive the pre war Popular lecture series in 1920 were not revived, though the accounts suggest that a season for 1919 - 20 took place. University Extension lectures continued up to 1927.

The records in this list fall into two groups. The last volume of minutes and the accounts were already in the archive collection in 1977, one having been accessioned and the other listed by my predecessor. The remaining minutes and the files were discovered in what had been Roebuck's old office at Central Library on 21 September 1982. It was their discovery that resulted in this list.

The Pamphlet sequences include the handbill advertising the first series of lectures in 1909 and various handbills and programmes for the period 1907 - 14, as well as reports and programmes for 1912 - 13, and 1914 - 15.

The notes for this list were compiled from 'George Edward Roebuck: a critical study of his life and work' by C. Bostle, 1975. It seems from the footnotes that Bostle did not consult the files found in the library office.

Town's Lecture Committee

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|----|--|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Minutes, including preliminary meeting. Typescript in file.  | May 1909 - April 1911.      | 8332 / 1 |
| 2. | Minutes, and reports of proceedings. Committee now 'Walthamstow Voluntary Town's Lecture Committee'. Typescript exercise book. | August 1911 - February 1915 | 8332 / 2 |
| 3. | Minutes and reports of proceedings, To last meeting. Includes newspaper cutting of this last meeting. Bound vol.               | April 1915 - July 1922      | 4760     |
| 4. | Cash accounts. Lecture committee to 1915, Extension lectures 1910 - 28. Treasurer F.J.Hitchman.                                | 1909 - 1915 and 1910 - 1928 | 1077     |
| 5. | Correspondence file. Season 1909 - 1910. Includes rough accounts, programmes etc.  | 1909 - 1910                 | 8332 / 3 |
| 6. | Correspondence file, Season 1910 - 1911. Includes programmes and receipts, with accounts loose.                                | 1910 - 1911                 | 8332 / 4 |
| 7. | Correspondence file, Season 1911 - 1912. Includes programmes, receipts and accounts.   | 1911 - 1912                 | 8332 / 5 |

Walthamstow Town's Lecture Committee .... (cont'd)

Acc No

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| ✓ 8.  | Correspondence file. Season 1912 - 1913.<br>Includes receipts, payments and correspondence etc from the University of London concerning extension course lectures.  | 1912 - 1913 | 8332/6  |
| ✓ 9.  | Correspondence file, Season 1913 - 1914.<br>Includes receipts, programmes and lecture tickets.  | 1913 - 1914 | 8332/ 7 |
| ✓ 10. | Correspondence file, Season 1914 - 1915.<br>Includes receipts, printed accounts and bundle of misc. programmes from other areas, a book of subscribers (mss dated in front 1908), possibly for the lectures, and a time table for female junior library assistants, 1912. | 1914 - 1915 | 8332/ 8 |