

LIVERPOOL MECHANICS' INSTITUTION

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TOKEN No. 349

LIPA is established in the building of the Liverpool Institute High School, which had evolved out of the Liverpool Mechanics' Institution. The "LIVERPOOL MECHANICS' INSTITUTION" had, in 1832, become the popular name of The Liverpool "Mechanics' School of Arts", founded in 1825.

The LIFE MEMBERSHIP No. 349 was purchased by JAMES BLAKE Esq. in 1833/1834 for the sum of 10 GUINEAS in response to an appeal made by the President of the Mechanics' Institution on 11 September 1833 at their annual general meeting, calling for additional subscriptions to a fund for the building of a new School. A fund for the school had been established on 15 October 1832, and following the September appeal, a special Building Fund was set up and a Building Committee, established in December 1833, headed by some very impressive names.

The Mechanics' school, in 1833, was then operating on the rented upper floor of the Union News Room at the corner of Slater Street and Duke Street, but had outgrown the available space, and required new premises. The Liverpool Town Corporation granted to the Mechanics' Institution the piece of ground at the top of Mount St, which had originally been intended for a new Liverpool Observatory; the land was granted under favourable payment conditions, and a sum of £7,000 for the new building then needed to be raised.

JAMES BLAKE was an established Soap-maker in Liverpool, living in Great George Square. He was 74 years of age when he purchased his Life Membership.

The subscriptions resulting from the appeal allowed the foundation stone of the new building to be laid by the Right Honourable Henry Lord Brougham & Vaux in 1835.

The foundation stone that he laid had an inscribed brass plate, covering an aperture in which was deposited a glass bottle holding documents. The inscription on the brass plate read:

"THIS FIRST STONE of an Edifice to be erected for a MECHANICS' INSTITUTION, was laid on the 20th day of July MDCCCXXXV, in the Sixth Year of the Reign of his MAJESTY WILLIAM IVth, by the RIGHT HON. HENRY LORD BROUGHAM & VAUX. The Subscription for its erection was opened on 15th day October 1832."

The new building was opened in September 1837, for hosting the week long 7th Annual Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held in Liverpool that year, with over 3000 participants.

On the Friday, 15 September 1837, the official opening ceremony was held for the new building.

The Mechanics' Institution schools re-opened on 8 January 1838 in the new building, for giving regular daily lessons to its Pupils.

James Blake Esq passed away at his home in Great George Square on 5 April 1844, age 85.



MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.

THE SCHOOLS attached to the MECHANICS' INSTITUTION will be OPENED on MONDAY next, the 8th instant, under the Superintendence of the following Masters:—

HIGH SCHOOL.

- ENGLISH DEPARTMENT.—Mr. Francis Harrison Rankin, Principal.
- MATHEMATICAL AND COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT.—Mr. William Creuzo, B. A., St. John's College, Cambridge, Principal.
- PHILOSOPHICAL DEPARTMENT.—Mr. Montagu Lyon Philips, Principal.
- CLASSICAL DEPARTMENT.—Mr. John Price, M.A., St. John's College, Cambridge, (now of Bristol College,) Principal.
- FRENCH DEPARTMENT.—Mons. Theodore Eugene Suliot, of Paris, A.M. Glasgow College, Principal.
- WRITING DEPARTMENT.—Mr. Charles J. Smith.
- DRAWING DEPARTMENT.—Mr. Charles Harber.
- GERMAN DEPARTMENT.—Mr. H. G. Migault.
- ITALIAN DEPARTMENT.—Mr. Grimaldi.

LOWER SCHOOL.

This School is designed for the Sons of those whose means are too limited for the more expensive Education of the High School. Rev. Robert M'Pherson, A.M., King's College, Aberdeen, Head Master.

- Rev. J. Rutherford, Edinburgh, Second Master.
- Mr. Thos. Emerson, Third Master.

To the constant instruction of the above Masters will be added the occasional services of the Drawing, French, Mathematical, and Philosophical Masters of the High School.

EVENING SCHOOL.

- Under the Superintendence of the following Masters:
- ARITHMETIC AND MATHEMATICS.—Mr. Elliot, Mr. Gorrard, and Mr. H. Carpenter.
 - MECHANICAL DRAWING.—Mr. M'Pherson.
 - ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING.—Mr. Cooper.
 - LANDSCAPE DRAWING AND PERSPECTIVE.—Mr. Pugh.
 - FIGURE DRAWING AND MODELLING.—Mr. Seddon.
 - ORNAMENTAL PAINTING AND DRAWING.—Mr. Bishop, A.L.A.
 - NAVIGATION AND NAUTICAL ASTRONOMY.—Mr. Creuzo, B.A.
 - GEOGRAPHY AND MECHANICAL ARTS.—Rev. R. M'Pherson, A.M.
 - NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.—Mr. M. L. Philips.
 - CHEMISTRY.—Mr. John Wilson.
 - FRENCH.—Mons. Theodore Eugene Suliot, A.M.

Terms, and such further information as may be required, can be obtained by applying to the Secretary at the Institution.

ROBT. KANE, Esq., M.D. M.R.I.A. Dublin, commenced a Course of Eight Lectures on CHEMISTRY, on Wednesday last, the 3d instant.

JOHN EPPS, Esq. M. D. London, Lecturer on Materia Medica will commence a course of Popular Lectures on PHYSIOLOGY, on Wednesday, the 31st instant

The Directors of the Mechanics' Institution are desirous of receiving TENDERS for ERECTING a GYMNASIUM, FITTING UP the MUSEUM, and other Work. The Plans and Specification may be seen on application to Mr. J. A. PIERON, Architect, Warren-street.

Tenders, sealed, and addressed to the Secretary, must be left at the Institution on or before Saturday next, the 6th instant.

WANTED, for the EVENING SCHOOL, a Person capable of TEACHING MECHANICAL DRAWING. A liberal Salary will be given to a Person fully qualified.—None else need apply.

The Directors acknowledge the receipt of the following DONATIONS to the Fund for Building the New Institution:—

- From Christopher Rawdon, Esq..... £100
 - The Misses Yates 50
- A Contribution of Ten Guineas, or upwards, to "The Building Fund," constitutes the Contributor a Member for Life of the Institution.

JOHN S. RADCLIFF, Secretary.