21 Tavistock Place, St Pancras — 1908

In May 1908 Vladimir Ilyich Lenin arrives back in London carrying a written recommendation from Joseph J. Terrett in support of a request for entry into the British Museum Library. Sadly, on being unable to find a Joseph J. Terrett at the address provided on the reference, the museum’s admissions officer declines the recommendation and Lenin is forced to secure a second reference from Iskra printing-pal Harry Quelch (founding member of the Communist Party of Great Britain). This new recommendation is accepted and Lenin is issued with a three-month pass to the library. During his stay he writes to Camille Huysmans, a German-educated Belgian and member of the Belgische Werkliedenpartij (Belgian Labour Party). As of yet I have been unable to find the name of the property owner in May 1908. Kate Lee and Joseph Jenner appear at 22 and 23 Tavistock Place, whilst Emily Biller was at No.24.

At 21 Tavistock Place in 1911, some three years after Lenin’s stay in London was Russian barber, Bert Barnett and his family. This is quite amusing, as on earlier trips, Lenin and his companions in London had been meeting under the banner of ‘Foreign Barbers of London’, a pseudonym for the Bolsheviks most likely derived from similar working men’s associations active in Whitechapel’s at this time (Traitors Within, Herbert Fitch, 1933).
In the absence of a definite match for the property in 1908, I looked to earlier censuses and found French resident, Albin Audibert (b.1868) and his wife Adonia (b.1868) running a lodging house at 21 Tavistock Place in 1901. This is interesting, as subsequent to his stay at 21 Tavistock Place in 1908, Lenin relocates to the Panthéon district of Paris. In Paris Lenin meets Inessa Armand, radical feminist Bolshevik married to Alexander Armand, son of a fabulously wealthy Russian textile merchant who had set up Sunday Schools for peasant children (an idea taken up by exiles in London’s East End a few years later). Lenin’s first address in Paris is 24 rue Beaunier. It’s curious also to note that Lenin, a talented law-graduate was now within a short walk of Professor Audibert’s Faculte de Droit de L’Universite (law faculty) at place du Panthéon. Another famous Audibert was Auguste Audibert, editor of the earlier La Radical and La Caricature, the latter published in the wake of France’s July Revolution; contributors included Balzac. But as we don’t know for sure if Albin Auditbert was at 21 Tavistock at the time of Lenin’s visit in 1908, what follows may be little more than coincidence.

- Between 1901 & 1911 the Audibert’s move their lodging business from 21 Tavistock Place to 7 Tottenham Court Road. The house has seven guest rooms and is next door to a pub and a fish restaurant. The road and its pubs features in prominently in Lenin folklore.

- The public house next door to the Audiberts was the Blue Posts tavern managed by William Perry and his wife Florence. William Thomas Fletcher Brown, a 57 year old law clerk living in St John at Hackney, appears as Perry’s partner on property records and lives just a few minutes around the corner from Lenin’s friend Theodore Rothstein at Clapton Square.
In 1930 an Annie MacDonald Buckman left £500 and the residue of her property to Albin Auditbert’s son Raymond Audibert (Gloucester Journal, 22.11.1930).

Annie Buckman was the wife of painter/engraver Edwin Buckman. Edwin had been tutor to Princess Alexandra, aunt of Kaiser Wilhelm II (see also: E. Buckman Dispensary in the East End of London 1871)

- Curiously in 1896 Edwin Buckman’s cousin, Katherine Julia Buckman was initiated into the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn at its Isis-Urania temple. The order, popular with left-wing radicals, had been greatly inspired by Russian philosopher (and suspected agent) Helena Blavatsky. During this same period the Golden Dawn had its London headquarters at 62 Oakley Square, just a few hundred yards away from Lenin’s 1911 address, 6 Oakley Square.
you may also like reading:

**Lenin @ 6 Oakley Square, St Pancras — 1911**


**Lenin @ 30 Holford Square, St Pancras/Clerkenwell — 1902**


**Lenin @ 16 Percy Street, St Pancras/Clerkenwell — 1905**

May 13, 1908 Lenin letter to the British Museum written from 21 Tavistock Place

To The Director
of the British Museum.

I am writing by profession. I have sent to the British Museum from Geneva, where I am usually living, two of my revision books (my pen-name is Djer). I came now in London in order to study comparatively new English and new German philosophy. I enclose a written recommendation from a
Plaque: Lenin - Tavistock Place
Erection date: 30/11/2012
https://www.londonremembers.com/memorials/lenin-tavistock-place
21 Tavistock Place, 1901 Census – French Subject

Albin Audibert 21 Tavistock Place 1901
Oakley Square Map, 1917
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Father's Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Manufacturer</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>Head of Household</td>
<td>Audibert</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7 Tottenham Court Road</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Audibert
Postal Address: 7 Tottenham Court Road
Mrs. A. M. Buckman, Cheltenham

Mrs. Annie Macdonald Buckman, of Rosehurst, Cheltenham, who died on October 3rd last, wife of Mr. Edwin Buckman, left gross estate of the value of £11,656 19s. 9d., with net personalty £11,541 5s. 10d. Messrs. Coutts and Co. are the executors.

Testatrix left £50 and £100 a year to her husband, £2,000 to her niece Emily Scanlan, £1,000 each to James Edward Nicholls and his son James, £1,500 to James Fraser Nicholls, £500 each to Barbara Astor, Florence Audibert, Odette Bost, Raymond Audibert and Guineveve Audibert, and the residue of her property between Raymond Audibert and James Fraser Nicholls.

Raymond Audibert-Buckman, Gloucester Journal, 22 November 1930
HOSPITAL CASES

LOCAL WILLS

BRIMSCOMBE MAN LEAVES £28,000

Mr. Philip Bridges, of York Street, Brimcombe, who is the owner of the famous horse, the Rambler, leaves £28,000 to his widow, Mrs. Bridges. The horse, which is valued at £15,000, is to be sold by auction to the highest bidder. Mr. Bridges also leaves £3,000 to his daughter, Miss Bridges, and £2,000 to his son, Mr. Bridges, Jr.

In a Deep Glen in Scotland

IN A DEEP GLEN IN SCOTLAND

There was about 1800 worth of timber on the ground and on stall, and the farmer had no means of getting it out by regular methods. It was impossible to get seven men together for more than a day, and then they were not able to get it through all conditions. A powerful breeze in the wind stirs the leaves a foot or more, but their height is only 3 years. This is the farmer's story, but it is not a well-known fact.

Under the tree... a powerful breeze stirs the leaves a foot or more, but their height is only 3 years. This is the farmer's story, but it is not a well-known fact.

Christmas Fare

For the Public Assistance Inmates

Christmas Fare is being prepared for the public assistance inmates. The Christmas menu includes roasted turkey, cranberry sauce, and a special Christmas pudding. The fare will be served on Christmas Day, December 25th.

Teeswater Funeral

MRS. J. A. SAUNDERS

December 22nd

Teeswater. A brief ceremony took place in the Crematorium, and the remains were interred at the cemetery. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Jones, and the remains were taken to the church.

Teeswater Funeral

WILLIAM JONES

December 22nd

Teeswater. A brief ceremony took place in the Crematorium, and the remains were interred at the cemetery. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Jones, and the remains were taken to the church.

Teeswater Funeral

Mrs. A. W. SAUNDERS

December 22nd

Teeswater. A brief ceremony took place in the Crematorium, and the remains were interred at the cemetery. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Jones, and the remains were taken to the church.

County Billiards Championship

OPENING MATCH AT DURSLEY

A match for the county billiards championship was played on the table in the Railway Hotel, Dursley. The match was contested by the Dursley team and the City of Bristol team. The Dursley team won the match by a score of 3-2.

Boys Charged at Teignmouth

MONEY MISSED FROM AN OFFICE

CAMBERLEY. Three boys, aged 14, 15, and 16, were charged at Teignmouth with the theft of £500 from an office. The boys were found in possession of the money, which was missing from the office.

Workers Educational Association

A special meeting of the Workers Educational Association was held at the Local Hall. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Jones, who spoke on the importance of education for workers.

Cost of Living

All items of expense are rising. The price of bread has gone up 10%, and the price of meat has gone up 5%.

M.P.'s Hunting Accident

A member of the local hunting club was seriously injured in a hunting accident. The member was riding a horse, and was thrown to the ground when the horse stumbled over a log. The member was taken to the hospital, but the injury is not considered serious.

Contrast the Local Fire

There have been several fires in the town. The local fire service has been called out to all of them.

Colleagues at Sanders

We have received a letter from Mr. Brown, our colleague at Sanders. He reports that the business is doing well, and that the staff are all happy.