

# A Description of the Memorial Building

## THE PORTION OCCUPIED BY THE INSTITUTE

The exterior of the building is of grey Cornish granite, decorated with bronze pateras incorporating the Institute's crest, and relieved with Portland stone mullions and bronze window frames. The Institute's entrance is in Mark Lane, the outer doors being in panelled walnut, the inner ones of armoured glass. Immediately inside to the left is the foundation stone laid by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., on 16th November 1955, and to the right is the stone commemorating the opening of the building by Admiral of the Fleet the Earl Mountbatten of Burma, K.G., P.C., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., D.S.O., on 25th September 1957.

The colour scheme throughout the public spaces is red and green against a general background of cream and white marble and the rich brown tones of the various woods. Contemporary styles of lighting have been employed in great variety to suit the design and purpose of the different rooms, stairways and vestibules. The general impression in all parts of the building is of space and light.

The floor is of Travertine marble, and walnut panels form the main walls. On the ground floor is the cloakroom and the entrance to the lift which serves the Institute's portion of the building only.

There is an excellent room at ground level, thirty feet long and lit by windows on two sides, for the members of the staff who deal with addressing, printing, duplicating and the stationery stocks.

The rear wall of the circular staircase is covered with green Venetian glass mosaic as also are the pillars which stand at the four corners of the open well down to the ground floor entrance that forms the central feature of the main vestibule on the first floor. The floor is of marble and wood and the wall surfaces in the main are of walnut panelling. From this foyer access is obtained to the Lecture Hall, the Council Chamber, the Committee Room and the Members' Lounge, which has been named the Alfred Robertson Room in recognition of Mr. Alfred Robertson's thirty-seven years of service to the Institute as Honorary Treasurer and of his contribution to the Memorial Building as Chairman of the Building Committee.

The Lecture Hall, with a sculptured feature at the back of the rostrum portraying elements of marine engineering, has on each side of the stage large plastered panels, one of which is designed as the screen for projecting illustrations. The columns at the side of the hall are faced on the front with green tinos marble which is incised with a diamond decoration, part of which is filled with gold leaf. The sides of these columns are faced with fluted walnut. Between the columns the plain wall surfaces are panelled with walnut. On one side large French doors open out on to a paved terrace. The back wall beneath the balcony is faced with crimson leather. The balcony front is panelled with eucalyptus veneer, whilst the rear wall of the balcony is panelled with macassar ebony.

The floor throughout is oak. The hall is ventilated by a plenum system. Cinema-type chairs in crimson leather are being provided. Projectors have been bought to show lantern slides of several sizes and ciné films, together with an epidiascope. Two lecterns have been provided out of a subscription made by members of Council and of the Papers and Transactions Committee at the time of the death of Mr. A. F. C. Timpson, M.B.E., in October 1950, in memory of his long service on the Papers and Transactions Committee, of which he was Chairman for twenty-two years.

The Council room has a large boat-shaped table in walnut to seat thirty-four, which is the main feature of this room. One wall is faced with elm and macassar ebony veneer and another is papered with a charcoal wallpaper; the other two walls are mainly windows which are fitted with Venetian blinds and concealed fluorescent lighting.

The Committee Room, which is placed between the Members' Lounge and the Council Chamber, has a walnut table, green leather chairs and lights shaded in red and white. The table has been presented by Mr. G. T. Marriner (Member) "In proud memory of over 700 gallant officers and men, consisting of a very large proportion of the engine room department and including all the engineer officers, who lost their lives in H.M.S. *Gloucester*, sunk during the Battle of Crete, 21st May 1941".

The Alfred Robertson Room is completely carpeted with a deep green carpet with simple gold and white motifs. One wall is panelled with walnut and one has charcoal coloured wallpaper; there are large windows in the other two walls and these have curtains that match the wallpaper. The bronze tablet in memory of the engine room staff of the s.s. *Titanic* has been brought from the entrance hall of the old building and placed here. Standard lamps, easy chairs and writing desks, and a television set presented by Mr. H. A. J. Silley, complete this room.

On the second floor is the Library, which is approached through a door set in a glazed screen. There are large windows on two walls protected by Venetian blinds, the space below the windows being fitted with radiator casings and bookshelves. The remaining wall surfaces are lined with bookshelves from floor to ceiling and there are two other bookcase fittings adjacent to columns in the centre of the room. The woodwork throughout is in walnut.

The Secretary's office and the entrance to the Lecture Hall balcony are on the second floor. The general office and individual offices for senior members of the staff are on the third floor.

The caretaker's flat is at the top of the tower, the fifteenth storey. A garage, with an entrance in London Street, has been provided in the basement; this space is also a radiation-proof shelter.

## THE PORTION OCCUPIED BY TENANTS

The seven storeys of the front portion of the building and the ten storeys above the Institute's premises in the tower, to which entrances are provided in Fenchurch Street and London Street, are let to the following tenants:

	Floor		Floor
Henry Brian and Company	6th	H. Muehlstein and Co. (London), Ltd.	6th
R. and H. Green and Silley Weir, Ltd.	8th-13th	Orion Insurance Co., Ltd.	3rd and 5th
O. Gross and Sons, Ltd.	7th	Sir William Reardon Smith and Sons, Ltd.	4th
N. Hingley and Sons, Ltd.	6th	The Steamship Mutual Underwriting Association, Ltd.	7th
Legal and General Assurance Society, Ltd.	Ground, 1st and 2nd	Thermotank, Ltd.	6th
Meux's Brewery Co., Ltd.	Ground		



## The Memorial Building



*The Memorial Building, showing the entrance in Mark Lane*



*The Memorial Building*



*The Lecture Hall*



*The Memorial Building*



*The Entrance Hall*



*The foyer on the first floor*



*The Memorial Building*



*The Council Chamber*



*The Alfred Robertson Room: Members' Lounge*



*The Memorial Building*



*Reception Hall leading to the General Office*



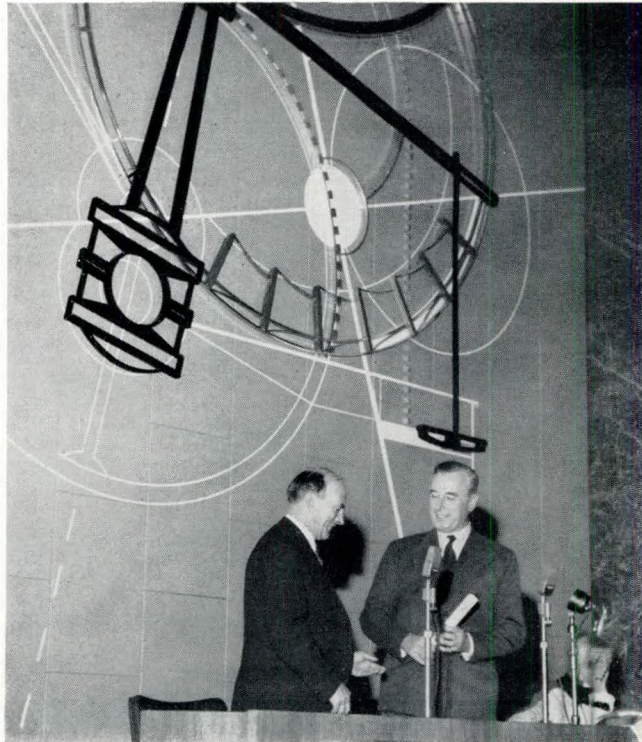
*The General Office*



*The Opening Ceremony*



*(From left to right): Admiral Clemitson, Lord Mounbatten, Sir Ronald Garrett, The Lord Bishop of London (behind), and Mr. Silley*



*Lord Mounbatten receiving his certificate of Honorary Membership from Admiral Clemitson*



*The Opening Ceremony*



*Lord Mountbatten unveiling the Memorial Book*



*Lord and Lady Mountbatten with Sir Ronald Garrett*



*The Opening Ceremony*



*Sir Donald Anderson (Past President) with Mr. Silley*



*Mrs. Alfred Robertson with Mr. A. Logan, O.B.E. (Vice-President), Mr. A. D. W. Robertson, and Mr. E. A. Beldam (Honorary Life Member)*