

51/17

Mayor  
Councillor Charles H. Hegerty, J.P.

TELEPHONE :  
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THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR,  
TOWN HALL, HACKNEY,  
LONDON, E8 1EA  
1st May 1971

The Worshipful the Mayor of Ostend,  
The Town Hall,  
Ostend,  
Belgium.

Dear Mr Mayor,

Members of the Clapton Institute Historical Society of this Borough will be visiting Ostend on the 7th May, and I have requested them to take this opportunity of bringing to you and the people of Ostend, our most cordial greetings from this London Borough of Hackney.

This visit of the Historical Society recalls a most interesting historical link with Ostend, and the bequest made by Thomas Sutton who died here in 1611. The terms of the will are given in a book written in 1737 entitled "The Historical Account of Thomas Sutton":

"I give the fishermen of Ostend in the Low Countries 100 pounds of lawful English money to be given and distributed amongst the poorest fishermen of that town. Or for want of competent number of them, to call in some other of that town to have a share of the said £100 by the discretion of the governor of that town and his assistants and the parson and Minister there for the time being, to be paid within one year of my decease."

Thomas Sutton made his fortune in the coalmines in Newcastle and came to London at about the age of fifty, bringing his wealth with him, loaded it is said, on two horses.

Later in life he became Master of the Ordnance to Queen Elizabeth I and fought in the Spanish Armada with his own ship. On his return, he built a house in this Borough in the district of Homerton, where he died in 1611. To-day a road called 'Sutton Place' commemorates his memory.

I am sure the members of the Historical Society would be interested to know whether there is a record of this bequest and distribution of money to the poorest fishermen made by Thomas Sutton.

Should you or any of your Societies be visiting London, we should be happy to welcome them here.

With kindest regards and all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Charles H. Hegerty*

MAYOR

