

MARGARET TIMS

1919 – 2004



The **BRENTHAM PRESS** published over 50 works in a wide range of subjects, including:

Literary & artistic creation, English literature and poetry, Ethics, History and criticism, Existentialism, Art, Feminism, Landscape design, Philosophy, Prophecies in literature, Social & moral questions.

Margaret's aunt, Edith Mayo, lived at 137 Fowlers Walk from some time in the 1920s. It appears that Margaret moved in to look after Edith before her death in 1951. Margaret (known to some friends as Peggy) continued to live there with her mother Violet, who died in 1967. She moved to St Albans in the 1980s.

Margaret was born in Lancashire to Wilfred Earnest and Violet Mary Tims née Wolfe), both school teachers. Wilfred taught languages and was described as an “evangelist” in the 1911 census. They had four children: Margaret and her three younger brothers.

Margaret became the secretary and research assistant to the distinguished architectural scholar Sir Nikolaus Pevsner. She is often referred to in memoirs about him and he credited her with valuable help. This was during the period he wrote his great 46 volume series *The Buildings of England*. Much of the historical information in the entry about Brentham originated from Margaret's booklet: *Ealing Tenants Ltd. pioneers of co-partnership*. Sir Nikolaus gave the Brentham Society a talk on William Morris.

Well informed about architecture and its conservation Margaret played an active and significant part in the formation of the Brentham Society and its quest for conservation area protection. She was a member of the first BS committee and the first Brentham Conservation Area Advisory Panel, appearing in the early film made about Brentham. She is remembered with affection as a quiet and reserved personality.

Margaret established the BRENTHAM PRESS in 1974. The list of titles provides an illustration of her cultural interests. Among them are poetry collections by Brentham residents Daphne Gloag and Peter Williamson.

After she moved to St Albans she became a member of VER POETS, a society founded by her friend May Badham. Margaret continued to publish under the Brentham Press imprint until shortly before her death in 2004.