

Books

Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society Vol. 22, part 1 (1968). Editor: Lawrence S. Snell.—£2 2s.

Hertfordshire Archaeology Vol. 1 (1968) Editor: Gordon Moodey—Price £1 6s. 6d. (post free).

OF THE utmost importance to the progress of archaeological and local historical studies within the region are the five or six county journals or transactions issued to members of the main societies in the Home Counties. Today the publication of these is fraught with many problems, not least being rising printing costs and the falling value of subscriptions. However, at the present there must be more typed broadsheets and bulletins, or printed magazines and reviews in circulation than ever before.

At the same time the survival of the learned county journal is vital to the maintenance of high standards in fieldwork, excavation and historical research and the most ephemeral news sheet should contribute to the creation of a larger potential readership to the benefit of the senior societies, if value for money is given. It has been suggested elsewhere that it would be logical if county journals could combine on a regional basis and indeed Hertfordshire has shown the way in this on a small scale. It seems unlikely however, that at the present time such a policy will appear among the archaeological societies of the South East.

Since the first issue of *The London Archaeologist* two such county journals have appeared. One is the *Transactions* of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society (established 1855) and the other, the first volume of *Hertfordshire Archaeology* which merges the transactions of the St. Albans and Hertfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society (founded 1845) with the East Hertfordshire Archaeological Society (founded 1898). Part 1 of Volume 22 (new series) of the L.A.M.A.S. *Transactions* by appearing within twelve months of the previous annual part maintains the renewed vigour shown by

the previous volume. Well produced and printed, it is illustrated by plates and figures and ranges in scope from the Roman City of London to the Victorian Improved Industrial Dwellings Company. It also continues that important balance of archaeology and history that benefits a society incorporating the Middlesex Local History Council. Peter Marsden and the staff of Guildhall Museum provide further evidence of the considerable amount of rescue and fieldwork carried out in the City of London bringing the current summaries up to 1966. These provide the specialist with a key to the excavated groups available for study at Guildhall Museum, but stress the need for a London companion to Cunliffe's *Winchester Excavations* volume.

The archaeological observing and recording carried out by William Stukeley in the early 18th century, as illustrated by a number of drawings recently acquired by the London Museum, is discussed by Francis Celoria and Brian Spencer. Can the mysterious Copped Hall alias Fawkhall, Lambeth, really be a different building to Stukeley's house in Grove Street, Hackney? Notes on Newgate prison and the *Middlesex Bibliography* are followed by John Tarn's valuable paper on the Improved Industrial Dwellings Company. After a summary of the early attempts to provide housing for London's artizan classes, the achievements of Sydney Waterlow and his builder, Matthew Allen, in the sixties, seventies and eighties of the last century are explored. To us, as Tarn says, these are rather clumsy and grim buildings, but they were in their time considered able solutions to the problems of multi-storey self-contained housing. The inclusion of several floor plans of typical flats is an added advantage to the reader. One feature of the whole volume is the grouping of footnotes at the rear of articles. Could these not be at the foot of the page?

Hertfordshire Archaeology which appears after something of a gap in the area's publications, is a fine start to a new series. Intended to be issued at least once every two years, it has evolved as a linking of the publishing interests of the two major societies in the county. It also aims to be representative of the county as a whole and includes notes and reports from other active Hertfordshire groups. The resulting volume is handsome and spacious in appearance and is very well illustrated with photographs and line drawings. The contents are an excellent blend of excavation report, historical research, building studies and notes of discoveries.

John Morris's discussion of the date of the martyrdom of St. Alban and his conclusion that 22nd

The Summer Issue of
the London Archaeologist
will include articles by
BRIAN BLOICE on 17th/18th century Tin Glaze
Kiln Sites
JOHN CROSS on Conservation
PAUL CARTER on St. Katherine's Docks

June 209 fits the evidence, will excite much interest. The major excavation report is provided by Ild Anthony on the Belgic and Roman finds from just outside the main London gate of Verulamium. As was expected in such a position, burials and industrial activity predominated resulting in the presentation here of several useful pottery groups from the Roman kilns. The construction of the kilns themselves are however dismissed rather cursorily. Other excavations or excavated finds reported range from the Mesolithic through the Bronze Age, Belgic, Romano-British sites to the Medieval period. A drawn section of the Roman Ermine Street at Cheshunt is included. Further articles on the brasses of Furneaux Pelham; a study of the Peryent family; the building of St. Alban's Town Hall in 1829-31 and Thomas Fisher's topographical drawings of Hertfordshire, add interest to the volume. Notes on 16th

century cottages at Baldock (without a plan), a short but useful study of early 18th century decorative cut brick window arches and a graffiti of 1686 show that interest in vernacular building studies continues unabated in Hertfordshire. Derek Renn publishes a revised map of find spots of the 13th century thumb-pressed jugs in the area north of London. The volume concludes with the transactions of both major supporting societies. This excellent example of co-operation shows a regard for the economic climate of our times and as a result provides a bargain for out-of-county purchasers who wish to extend their knowledge of our region.

For copies of the publications write as appropriate to: Hon. Librarian, L.A.M.A.S., Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

Gordon Moodey, 27 West Street, Hertford.

JOHN ASHDOWN

Letters

BINDERS AND INDICES

LACKING a suitable instrument to collate material and to serve as an independent platform, local societies in the London region have tended for a long time to go their own way. I therefore welcome *The London Archaeologist* which seems to be filling the gap admirably.

I find storage something of a problem and wonder whether you will be making binders available; I even wrote to *Current Archaeology* some time ago on the same matter... not that I would want to suggest that my letter had any influence!

Another thing that I would like to see eventually is a good index for the magazine.

Should you decide to adopt my suggestions for a binder (presumably for twelve copies) and an index, would it also be possible after six copies to have a temporary index which could be discarded in due course?

STEPHEN SMITH

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Bexleyheath,
Kent.

The question of a binder will be investigated and an announcement made in the next issue. An index will be provided in due course but the question of a temporary one lies in the pending basket, which is not to say that it cannot be moved by fluence.—Ed.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

READERS will be interested to know that the inaugural meeting of the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society took place in the lecture hall of the Science Museum on December 1 last, and was attended by 130 people.

A long discussion on the need for a society dealing with I.A. in the region resulted in the setting up of a steering committee of eleven to formulate the policy of the society and report back to all those attending as soon as possible. Main themes in the discussion were the need for good communications, a setting up of a record of all work already

done. The need to establish close links with other organisations concerned with the area, but not dealing solely with I.A., i.e. the county archaeological societies, etc., and the need to stimulate people into becoming active, and making them aware of any local body dealing with the subject.

The steering committee has met twice so far, and has now agreed a constitution and general policy which will be put to those attending the inaugural meeting, and others interested in joining as soon as possible. It is hoped the meeting will be towards the end of March.

Everybody who attended the inaugural meeting, will be informed of the next one. If anyone would like to have any further information, would they please contact me.

PAUL CARTER

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Wembley,
Middlesex.

ROMAN GEMSTONES

I AM doing research into gemstones (both intaglios used in seal-rings, and brooch-cameos) from Roman sites in Britain. These display an astonishing variety of theme-portraits, gods, animals and scenes from daily life. A number have been excavated in London itself, and can be examined in the Guildhall, London and British Museums while a few have been found in Middlesex, for example at Enfield and Brockley Hill. Some of them are still set in rings of gold, silver, bronze or iron while others have lost their settings.

If any reader knows of such gems in private hands whether from London or elsewhere in the country, I would be delighted to hear about them. The results which have so far emerged from the study, are most encouraging and are throwing new light on the artistic taste of our Romano-British forebears.

MARTIN HENIG

Worcester College,
Oxford.

FORD FAMILY OF PIPEMAKERS

I WOULD be grateful for any information that your readers may have on the Ford family of pipemakers who lived in East London in the early 19th century. I should be particularly grateful to hear if any of the firm's pipe-making equipment has survived and if any descendants of the firm's employees are known. My letter to the *East*