

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

20 Chestnut Grove,  
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*

**London Advertiser** with this request has so far met no response.

**A**MONG the innumerable clay pipes found on 19th century North American sites are ones manufactured by the London firms of Ford. An interest in East London—where more than one of the firms of that name are known—led to the collection of information on these families.

Ford pipes have been found in both Canada and the United States—it is known that J. and T. Ford supplied pipes to the Hudson's Bay Company—and probably examples have turned up in Australia. It is hoped to publish a brief article on these finds at some future date. What follows represents mainly the results of searching London trade directories and visiting the sites of the workshops.

The earliest reference to a Ford pipemaker is to John Ford at 26 White Horse Street, Stepney, in 1823. It is likely that the number is a mistake for 36, which is that recorded in 1827 and from 1832 onwards.

This John Ford is last noted in 1835, and the next year Jesse and Thomas Ford are listed as pipemakers at number 36. Presumably they were sons of John; they continue to be listed up to and including 1875. (In 1867 houses in White Horse Street were renumbered, number 36 becoming 49).

In 1841 Jesse and Thomas took over the premises of another pipe-maker, Thomas Balme, at 15 Wentworth Place in the Mile End Road. Balme had worked there since at least 1817, though in 1824 and 1827 the number is given as 14. Jesse and Thomas are listed there until 1875: in 1852 the premises are called Eagle Passage and in 1853 14a Wentworth Place, which suggests, especially with Balme being occasionally listed at number 14, that these properties may have been united.

In 1863 Wentworth Place was incorporated into Mile End Road, numbers 1-18 of the former becoming the odd numbers 69-103 of the latter. Eagle Passage appears to have been the covered way between 14 and 15 Wentworth Place (95 and 97 Mile End Road) leading to a yard at the rear of the latter property, which property extended over the passage at second-floor level. It should not be confused with Eagle Place (since 1938 Eaglet Place) which was being demolished in April 1968 and which lay immediately east of the last house in Wentworth Place. 14 Wentworth Place was a public house called The Eagle—in view of the apparent connections between this property and the pipe-making factory, the Fords may have owned the tavern as well.

From 1876 to 1879 the Fords are not listed in the Mile End Road premises and during this period the White Horse Street premises appear under the ownership of Ford and Company, a title very occasionally used previously to describe Jesse and Thomas Ford. In 1879 a Thomas Ford is listed as working at 4 Church Row, Stepney (renamed that year Durham Row; the premises is now number 5). In 1880 a Thomas Ford is listed at both White Horse Street and Mile End Road until his final appearance in 1905, and at White Horse Street until 1909.

Apparently the late 1870's saw a reorganisation of the firm: the Thomas listed from 1880 (or 1879) may not be the Thomas of Jesse and Thomas, but a third generation, although it is possible that Jesse died or retired leaving Thomas the firm and that the firm continued to use Thomas's name even after he must have—bearing in mind he first appears in 1836—died by the late 19th century. (In 1938 the part of White Horse Street containing number 49 was named: the site of number 49 is now part of the Hamlet of Ratcliffe Church of England School playground).

97 Mile End Road was subsequently demolished and now, together with the site of Eagle Passage, forms the open lane between the Empire Cinema (on the site of the Eagle tavern and later the Paragon Theatre of Varieties) and Morry's hairdressing premises.

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Jesse and Thomas Ford are noted in the trade directories as exporters between 1856 and 1875, and Ford and Company in 1876 and 1877. Thomas Ford is similarly listed from 1880 until he closes in 1909.

Another John Ford appears as a pipe-maker in 1826 at 28 North Street, Pentonville, and is listed there until 1865. He is noted as an exporter between 1857 and 1865. His premises continued to be used for pipe-making until 1894. North Street became part of Northdown Street in 1906; the site of the premises is now part of a transport company's garage. What relation, if any, this John Ford was to the Stepney and Mile End Road Fords is not known, but they used identical marks (except that this John Ford had Pentonville on his while the other had Stepney)—see D. R. Atkinson 'Makers' Marks on Tobacco found in London' (part I) *Arch. News Letter*, 7 no. 8 (April 1962) 187. However, as Atkinson illustrates, makers' marks incorporating the London coat-of-arms are quite common (*loc. cit.* and *ibid.* 7 no. 11 (January/February 1965) 250).

A third John Ford, pipemaker, appears at 30 New Road, St. George's in the East, in 1830 and is listed there until 1833. His premises too are subsequently used by other pipemakers (cf Atkinson *ANL*, 7 no. 8 (April 1962) 187. This particular New Road—there is more than one of the name in the area—was what is now Cable Street, immediately east of Cannon Street Road. Number 30 lay between Swedenborg Square (then and until 1938 Princes Square) and Betts Street, an area at present—1968—being rebuilt.

A Samuel Ford, pipemaker, is recorded at Elephant Lane, Rotherhithe, from 1832 to 1834.

A Thomas William Ford appears as a pipemaker at 41 Cannon Street, Ratcliff Highway, in 1836. The number is changed to 45 in 1842, and Thomas William continues to be listed until 1852. In 1853 an S. W. Ford is listed for a single year as a pipe-maker at that address. Again, these premises continue to be used for pipe-making until 1892. Cannon Street was what is now the southernmost part of Cannon Street Road—between what is now Cable Street and The Highway; the latter was known as Ratcliff Highway until sometime between 1868 and 1875 when the name St. George's Road was given to much of what is now called The Highway.

In 1859 Cannon Street became part of Cannon Street Road, a name hitherto restricted to present-day Cannon Street Road between Cable Street and Commercial Road. This part together with what is still called New Road was formerly called New Road—this should not be confused with the New Road noted above which became part of Cable Street.

With the name change in 1859, 45 Cannon Street became 35 Cannon Street Road. The site is now the green expanse on the west side of the street.

Lastly, there is a John Ford, pipemaker, listed at Back Church Lane (no number given), Commercial Street, for the years 1839 and 1840. Most of this street is now warehouse premises, but some buildings possibly dating to this Ford's time still exist towards the northern end.

IAIN C. WALKER

## COUNTY ORGANISATIONS

### *List of Hon. Secretaries' Addresses*

Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress: 3 Parndon House, Valley Hill, Loughton, Essex.

Kent Archaeological Society: The Gate House, Lullingstone Castle, Eynsford, Kent.

Hertfordshire Archaeological Council: Verulamium Museum, St. Albans, Herts.

Hertfordshire Local History Council: 40 Datchworth Green, Knebworth, Herts.

London and Middlesex Archaeological Society: 49 Mayford Road, S.W.12.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Castle Arch, Guildford, Surrey.