

Books

Ago, the new archaeological magazine. No. 1 May 1970. *The Archaeological Centre*, 50 Bradley Road, Bournemouth, Hants., monthly—annual subscription £3.

Essex Journal incorporating Essex Review Vol. 5 No. 1 January 1970 Phillimore & Co. Ltd., Shopwyke Hall, Chichester, Sussex for the *Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress*, quarterly—annual subscription £1.

Hertfordshire Archaeological Review No. 1 Spring 1970. *Hertfordshire Archaeological Council*; H.A.R., 102 Lemsford Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Herts., 2s., four issues for 8s.

Havering Historical Review No. 1 January 1970. *Hornchurch and District Historical Society*, 8 Kennet Close, Cranham, Essex, 3s.

A Short History of Coulsdon by U. Broadbent. *The Bourne Society*, 52 Buxton Lane, Caterham, Surrey, 3s.

Some Recent Advances—Symposium on Archaeology in Croydon 1970. *Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society*, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon. 7s.

Roman Samian Ware by B. R. Hartley, *H.A.S.* Print No. 1 S.B. Section, 96 Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield, Middx. 5/3d.

Glass in London by D. B. Harden — London Museum Exhibition Catalogue. *H.M.S.O.*, 2/6d.

Kensington Palace — a history and a guide by John Hayes. *H.M.S.O.* 5s.

THE PUBLICATION of archaeological and historical reviews, booklets and journals continues to grow and in this issue we note a number including four new series. The scope of their readership will vary considerably being local, county or national in coverage. Some have reached us for a notice, others have been discovered in local bookshops. The Editor is always grateful to hear of suitable publications.

First a new and expensive archaeological monthly with the remarkable title, *Ago*. Produced in offset-litho black and white in A4 size it has an annual subscription well in excess of county and national journals. *Ago* is certainly ambitious and its contents coverage appears to be world-wide. The Editorial suggests that it aims at a readership outside archaeology “the enormous numbers of ordinary people who visit South Cadbury, Silbury Hill and Fishbourne” and claims to have a different purpose to *Current Archaeology* “read only by subscribers quite deeply involved in archaeology.” So

we have a genuine attempt to interest and inform the general public. How does No. 1 measure up? This reader thought it rather dull. The drawings are clear, the subjects range from world prehistory, ancient mining in South Africa through pyramids, Roman villas to medieval stained glass and concludes with a short-hand selfhelp section. Hardly the material for the general public brought up on Purnell magazines.

Essex Journal is not new but is now published by Phillimore of Chichester in a completely redesigned format. This step taken by the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress must mark a turning point in Essex publication. Four issues are proposed a year and No. 1 offers over fifty pages of predominantly historical material but papers on archaeology of the county are promised in forthcoming numbers. The standard of the *Journal* is high with papers on family history and related buildings, 16th century almshouses, Havering Palace and a valuable report on Essex windmills. Congress is now the dominant party in Essex archaeology and it is no doubt to this *Journal* that we shall have to look for reports of current work. It also presumably means that the Essex Archaeological Society will find it even more difficult than at present to produce its *Transactions* regularly.

From Hertfordshire we welcome the new *Hertfordshire Archaeological Review* which fills the more traditional vacuum in county publication of the regular informative newsletter combined with short interim reports. Based on the successful *Kent Archaeological Review* and published by the Hertfordshire Archaeological Council, the *Review* should succeed in keeping the county in touch. The contents include the Roxmoor Roman Villa (with plan), Park Street Roman tile kiln and as befits a first number profiles on Herts people in the news.

Less ambitious and issued in a duplicated format is the *Havering History Review* No. 1. This provides a new London Borough with publishing focus and is concerned with local and wider Essex topics. This issue ranges from the impact of the railway on Hornchurch with papers on Wennington, Rainham Hall and the brick churches of Essex.

A Short History of Coulsdon by U. Broadbent is a very well written summary based on material being collected by the Bourne Society for a larger projected history. Well produced and perhaps significantly sponsored by Wates Ltd. the illustrations bring to our attention some of the vernacular build-

ings of Coulsdon as well as the church and documentary material. Croydon provides us with a valuable offprint *Some Recent Advances—Symposium on Archaeology in Croydon 1970* reprinted from the *Proceedings* of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society Volume 14. Recording papers presented in March 1970 as the Archaeological Section's contribution to the Society's Centenary celebrations the papers are of more than local interest. Appropriately reassessments are made of the Romano-British and Saxon finds of the past but current research projects are represented by an interim report on the prehistoric settlement on Croham Hurst and the recording of the Old Town area by observation and excavation.

The student of ceramics and Roman Britain will welcome the issuing in offprint form of Brian Hartley's chapter on Samian Ware (Terra Sigillata) from the revised edition of Collingwood and Richmond's *Archaeology of Roman Britain*. This provides a concise discussion of the origin, decoration, potters' stamps and forms of the glossy red pottery known as Samian ware; three text figures illustrate the main forms found in Britain. Used with the C.B.A. Research Report No. 6 *Romano-British Coarse Pottery—a students guide* (5/6d. post free from C.B.A., 8 St. Andrew's Place, N.W.1), every

digger can now have a basic knowledge of Romano-British pottery at hand.

From pottery to glass. It is very appropriate that Dr. Harden's retirement from the London Museum should be marked by an exhibition of glass found in London. The Museum has produced a small catalogue to accompany the display which lists over 320 items and has a concise introductory essay on London glass vessels. Sensibly priced at 2/6d. there are naturally few illustrations but the neat close printing makes it difficult to sketch in the margins. The exhibition remains open until 31st August.

While in Kensington Palace the opportunity to use John Hayes' new guide to the building and the State Apartments should be taken. *Kensington Palace—a history and a guide* is well illustrated with engravings, photographs and plans and the complex evolution and decoration of this often overlooked London palace is carefully explained.

JOHN ASHDOWN

Addendum to last issue

Landmarks of the City of London 1710-1822, a portfolio of eighteen engravings of the Guildhall Library—the publication price of 30s. was accidentally omitted from the review.

Geological Highlights of the West Country

A Nature Conservancy Handbook

W. A. Macfadyen MC, MA, ScD, PhD, FGS, FRGS.

Gives a detailed account of almost one hundred of the most interesting and important geological sites and caves in the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucester and Somerset. Each of these sites has been notified by the Nature Conservancy to the local authority as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Each site is described under such headings as topography, geological setting, tectonics, mineral species, and fossil flora and fauna. The author has sought to review the whole of the published literature on each site, and the comprehensive bibliography contains almost 500 references.

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