

Books

South East England by Ronald Jessup, *Thames & Hudson* 42s.

THIS VOLUME of the "Peoples & Places" series is concerned with the counties of Kent, Surrey and Sussex. The first chapter provides a useful topographical survey of the region, the rest deal with the conventional archaeological periods from Palaeolithic to Roman in chronological order. The Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods are briefly surveyed (the latter in some fourteen pages only) whilst the following chapters are subdivided according to aspects of the evidence—eg. Causewayed enclosures, Flint-mines, Foreign stone axes etc. The result is a highly compartmentalized treatment of a region as rich in theories of settlement pattern as in sites. A more strictly chronological survey, with presentation of the evidence well balanced by interpretation would, perhaps, be more acceptable. Research problems are hinted at rather than discussed, there is a painful lack of distribution maps, and some of the site plans could surely have been reworked to aid comprehension by the uninitiated.

The individual treatment of standing monuments will prove most useful both to the field worker and the layman, as will the grid-referenced list of "Sites to Visit." The chapter-by-chapter bibliography is valuable, whilst most of the plates are truly excellent.

The reader should be wary of *Bericus* (p.163). The name comes to us from the pages of Dio Cassius and has long been accepted as the Greek spelling of *Verica*, one of the sons of Commius, who is mentioned on the same page as a distinctly different person.

ROY CANHAM

Medieval London by Timothy Baker, *Cassell and Co. Ltd.*, 55s.

A YEAR AGO we noted the first two volumes in a new series of portraits of London beginning with Roman and Elizabethan London. These are now joined by Timothy Baker's rather longer volume on *Medieval London*. This covers the intervening years and forms an admirable companion to the discovery and exploration of the medieval city and suburbs now inextricably woven into modern London. The author, who is currently Editor of the *Victorian County History of Middlesex*, brings London's connections with the royal and political history of England alive with the personalities and events which moulded the capital the Tudors inherited. The walled city and fortress, the Southwark suburb and the westward expansion towards Westminster with its royal palace and centre of government receive treatment

as a single evolving urban unit. The Londoners themselves provide much of the material but their surviving secular and religious buildings and funeral monuments, together with the smaller finds of archaeology are used to bring home to the reader the successes and failings of a large medieval city.

From Saxon to Tudor London is a story of slow growth in institutions and fabric. Timothy Baker prove an excellent guide to the survivals of the former in the City of London and leads the reader carefully to the remains of the latter which have somehow survived Reformation, fires and modern greed. Uniformly produced with the previous volumes, there are some fifty carefully chosen illustrations and an Alan Sorrell aerial view on the jacket.

A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America by Ivor Noel Hume, *Knopf*, New York, \$10.00 (about 85s.).

FOR SOME TIME there has been a need for a book describing and collating the small finds common on post-medieval archaeological sites. The range of material can be considerable and much has only been discussed from the collector's angle. *A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America* by Ivor Noel Hume is therefore an important new source of information and comes from an author who is uniquely equipped to undertake such a work. Formerly on the staff of the Guildhall Museum, Ivor Noel Hume has worked for many years in Virginia and is Director of the Department of Archaeology at Colonel Williamsburg.

The title of the book could mislead as the coverage of the series of essays is restricted to objects dug up (or could be dug up) on British American sites of the 17th and 18th centuries and therefore covers many of the objects found on English sites of the same period. Neither is it a catalogue, but contains a distillation of knowledge and experience available in one place for the first time outside an archaeological report, and deserves a place for this reason on the book shelf next to the London Museum's *Medieval Catalogue*. Forty three categories are discussed from bayonets to wigcurlers. Weapons, ceramics from Britain and Europe, glass, coins and ironwork together with classes of objects such as bottles, lead tokens or drug jars are examined from the archaeologist's point of view prefaced by an introduction in the author's inimitable style. Illustrated with one hundred line and photographic plates within the text they usefully include a chronology of English glass wine bottles. There is no doubt that the volume should be in the hands of all excavators who cut

Two 1970 Titles

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through post-medieval levels. *A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America* may be obtained by post on invoice from The Publications Sales Desk, Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185, U.S.A.; the invoice may be presented to your bank who can provide a draft for payment.

A Walk through Keston. *West Kent Border Archaeological Group*, 1 Denmark Road, Bromley, Kent. 2s. Post Free.

Londinium. A practical guide to the visible remains of Roman London. *London Branch of the Classical Association*—obtainable from The Headmaster, Twickenham Grammar School, Waldegrave Park, Twickenham, Middlesex, 4s. (post free).

POCKET GUIDE books are an area where local societies can make a valuable contribution to the general spread of archaeological knowledge among their own communities. The West Kent Border Archaeological Group has brought out a handbook, *A Walk through Keston* with an excellent eye to the needs of an outer London borough. It describes a four mile local history trail from the Keston Ponds through Holwood Park with its mansion and Iron Age hillfort returning by the medieval church, the excavated Roman tombs and the 18th century post-mill. Access to some of these places is restricted and the text does not solve this problem adequately. The Group must be congratulated on this project which other local societies might copy with profit.

The London Branch of the Classical Association have tackled a rather more than local task with *Londinium. A practical guide to the visible remains of Roman London*. This little handbook is aimed at the party organiser as well as the single visitor to the relics of Roman London but covers much of the ground work anyone has to do before seeing the scattered fragments between the Tower and Fleet Street. It is illustrated with maps, a street plan and a plan of the Walbrook Mithraeum. A brief historical introduction prefaces four suggested half-day itineraries for visits with descriptions of the remains

and how to locate and gain access to them. This latter complication again emerges as the major problem when planning visits. Suggestions for museum visits and a bibliography are included. The method of printing has produced a few odd results and fourteen years have been taken off the life of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. However such small criticisms apart the handbook will satisfy a long felt need for such a publication and the Association is also to be congratulated on its forward looking policy.

Discovering London's Railway Stations by John Camp. *Shire Publications* 4/6d.

ONE of the more interesting publishing successes of recent years is the series of booklets published by Shire Publications of Tring, who now include archaeology in their lists. *London Railway Stations* is a recent addition to their *Discovering series*. The history, development and present position of the London termini and other large stations is well presented with many useful dates and will enliven the journey of the daily traveller as well as the industrial archaeologist. Some may even cross the concourse at Charing Cross quicker than before in case the roof repeats its performance of 1905. The booklet is illustrated with photographs and has an illuminating appendix of the passenger traffic figures.

Ealing College 1820-1970 by I. R. Dowse and H. Egan. *Ealing College* 6s.

THIS IS a short story of the various schools which have been linked with the name of Ealing College. The 60 page booklet will be of interest in west London as it includes a short essay by Miss E. Mercer, Archivist to the G.L.C., on the parish of Ealing in 1820. This captures the pre-suburban nature of Ealing but the following story shows the trials and successes of private education in the 19th and early 20th century now a very remote world. (Copies may be obtained for 6s. plus post from I. R. Dowse, 100 Fernbank Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex).

JOHN ASHDOWN

Letters

SOUTH BANK SOCIETIES

I WOULD LIKE to draw the attention of the C.B.A. organisers of Groups 10 and 11A to the sorry plight of the local societies immediately south of the Thames. If we look for a county society to support, we find that both Surrey and London & Middlesex societies claim to cover this part of Greater London with their respective activities. Consequently C.B.A. Group 11A which works through an amalgam of Surrey and Kent county societies, also covers the area up to the Thames. How-

ever, the area defined by the C.B.A. for Group 10 includes Greater London, Essex and Hertfordshire. Thus we have the anomalous situation, that a south London society has to be schizophrenic in supporting two county societies and two C.B.A. groups. A recent request that Group 11A define its area of operation, before it adopts a constitution at its A.G.M. later in this year, was met with a rejection and a ridiculous suggestion that this matter should not be discussed at Group level.

This present situation throws a considerable strain on a local society in having to send representatives to meetings of the four bodies and confusion when decid-