

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-

ing which scheme of action to support. Until this problem is resolved, London's archaeology will muddle along and the full resources of the active societies in South London will not be put to the best use; as Mr. Barr states in his letter in the last issue, a unifying force is most urgently required.

The C.B.A. and the county societies must face up to this problem which can only be solved by discussion between the various bodies concerned. Dare I suggest that the Greater London Archaeological Society be formed and that Groups 10 and 11A combine to form a new united Group 10.

94 Hubert Grove,
S.W.9.

BRIAN BLOICE,
Secretary,
Southwark and Lambeth
Archaeological Society.

GROUP 10 AND THE LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST

I AM INTERESTED in Mr. Barr's suggestion that *The London Archaeologist* should extend its coverage to act as a unifying force. The suggestion is particularly interesting as coming apparently from the *soi disant* Hertfordshire Archaeological Society. It is indeed very gratifying to read that they are interested in unification.

The "society" which Mr. Barr represents is not, as far as I am aware, affiliated to the Council for British Archaeology nor to the Hertfordshire Archaeological Council, which represents all the other archaeological organisations both within the County and in Group 10.

I should like to remind Mr. Barr of the existence of the *Hertfordshire Archaeological Review*, and say that we would welcome his subscription.

I should further like to add that the interests of archaeology, if not those of Mr. Barr's organisation, are best served by co-operation between the existing publications and the societies which have the true interests of archaeology at heart.

The Lodge,
Lockleys, Welwyn,
Herts.

TONY ROOK,

Director, Lockleys Archaeological Society,
Co-editor, Hertfordshire Archaeological Review.

MR. BARR writes: Tony Rook has misread (or deliberately misunderstood) my letter. The lack of a strong and properly organised Group 10 does mean that there is little opportunity for real contact between active and interested people in the area as a whole. A regular, established and widely circulating magazine could well provide such contact. What better than the *L.A.*?

No criticism of Mr. Rook's quarterly "*Archaeological Review*" was intended. He kindly sent me a copy of the first issue several months ago and I look forward to seeing the long promised second one. Space was provided, at our suggestion, for selling his publication at our recent Pottery Symposium and he appeared very grateful for our "organisation" then!

With regard to the other points raised, Tony and I have discussed them endlessly. It is sufficient to say that his lengthy refusal to attend H.A.C. meetings strongly suggests that his current desire to co-operate and unify has not always been so strong as he would now have us believe.

C.B.A. GROUP 11A

I WAS PLEASED to read the number of replies in the last issue to my letter in No. 6. While I realise that many C.B.A. groups do a worthwhile job where no other similar organisation exists, my criticism of C.B.A. 11A is basically the same. One should surely judge an organisation by its

achievements such as Mr. Money and Mr. Harrison have attempted to list in their reply.

They have expanded the "afternoon of lectures" into three whole day conferences which is still a poor record of activity in five years of existence. It is quite wrong to say that regional conferences are beyond the scope of county bodies, as first class conferences have been held in both Kent and Surrey by such bodies. How does the C.B.A. 11A provide the link between local bodies and the central C.B.A. when the great majority of them are already members of the central body?

The word co-ordination is freely used in a number of fields including emergency work, industrial archaeology, and preservation and scheduling. What co-ordination has C.B.A. 11A done in Kent? Certainly nothing to do with emergency work which is adequately covered by the Council for Kentish Archaeology. What has C.B.A. 11A done on conservation and scheduling and on industrial archaeology? This seems to be trying to take credit for other people's work!

Where are the "detailed accounts" given in the C.B.A. annual report? These mainly consist of very brief notes on work done by others. It seems to me that C.B.A. 11A reacts more quickly to criticism than to the needs of archaeology.

2 South Park Hill Road,
South Croydon,
Surrey.

J. K. HORNE

MUSEUM RESERVE COLLECTIONS

MR. FARRAR, in his letter on the C.B.A. in Wessex which appeared in the summer "*London Archaeologist*," mentions the importance to archaeological groups of being able to see and handle assemblages of material "especially when so much is currently disappearing from museum display into reserve collections."

My advice is that people like Mr. Farrar's group who wish to see particular types of material at close quarters, should contact a museum in advance, and I am sure that in most cases this will give far more rewarding results than a visit as ordinary members of the public. Museums with archaeological collections EXPECT to be asked to produce material for visiting students to handle, and there is rarely any difficulty about this provided an appointment is made in advance. Every such museum has a great deal of material unused or unsuitable for display, although archaeologically significant, and it is generally easier for the staff to produce some of this from reserve collections than to dismantle displays: as a rule they can also supply relevant information which may not easily be obtained elsewhere about unpublished material and current work.

I hope this letter will draw the attention of your readers to the extensive archaeological collections at Guildford representing the historic county of Surrey at all periods. Despite very cramped conditions here, we do our best to meet the requirements of individual students or groups like Mr. Farrar's, and we welcome enquiries, since we regard these as one of the things a museum exists for. To conclude with a particular interest of my own, this museum now has a large collection of medieval and post-medieval Surrey ware from numerous kiln sites, and I should welcome the opportunity to exchange information with others interested in this material.

Guildford Museum,
Castle Arch,
Guildford,
Surrey.

FELIX HOLLING
Museum Assistant