

NEW LONDON MUSEUM EXHIBITION

ATTICS NOT trenches have revealed the evidence for an exhibition open until 30th April 1971, at the London Museum in Kensington Palace.

Designer Christopher Firmstone, whose *Charles Dickens* at the V. and A. earlier this year gave a wide view of Victorian life, now narrows his sights on one year—1870, one town—London, and one side of life—the pleasurable side, when work was over and there was time to go to the pub, take a trip down river or just stay at home and look at lantern slides. *Time Off in 1870* the exhibition is called—*Out and About in Victorian London*.

But some of the material for this exhibition has been hard to find. 1870 is not long enough ago yet for remains of it to have acquired the rarity that would put them on the market and into museum collections. The croquet mallets are still in the attic with the old picnic basket and sepia prints of grandma going up in a balloon.

The London Museum's show is a tribute to the amount of hard work that can go into an exhibition of leisure.

THE MANOR HOUSE, FINCHLEY

AMONG THEIR activities this year, the Hendon and District Archaeological Society have been investigating the history of the Manor House, Finchley.

Once belonging to the Bishop of London, its origins go back to the Saxon period. In the 13th century it was made into a sub-manor and tenanted, among several eminent men, by various early Mayors of London. In the 17th century it came into the hands of the Allan family, one of whose members built the present house in 1723. Since 1917 it has been a convent school for girls.

The earliest recorded description of the house and grounds dates from 1504, but its chief interest now lies in the curious moat system, shown in a plan of 1727, of which part still remains. The Society has surveyed this and has recently been carrying out a resistivity survey to ascertain the whereabouts of an inner moat in the grounds, which, after several unsuccessful attempts, it is now reasonably sure that it has been found. Further investigation, however, must be carried out to prove this, and this, with the permission of the Convent, it hopes to do in the near future.

ELECTRONIC METAL DETECTORS

IT IS EVIDENT from reports published in the national press that many of the users of these instruments are technically breaking the law and could be doing untold harm to archaeological sites they may be visiting. The present law allows treasure hunters to operate on any unscheduled site providing that they respect the law of treasure trove. It is difficult to see how this menace can be completely eradicated, but pressure must be applied at every opportunity on these archaeological privateers.

The C.B.A.'s proposed bill for protecting antiquities found in the earth, whatever its shortcoming, will surely help in the suppression of the menace.

CLAPHAM TRANSPORT MUSEUM

THE TRANSPORT MUSEUM has been given one last reprieve. The objectors to its transfer to York have until March next year to find an alternative site in London. Lord Eccles must have fully costed plans for a new, rail con-

nected site, and also evidence to show financial support for the running of such a project without Government aid. Mr. William Shelton, M.P. for Clapham, suggests that the ideal site would be alongside the new Covent Garden site at Nine Elms, where it would not only add to the attraction of the Thames side, but would be rail connected and have room to expand.

LEADEN TOKENS

AN INFORMATIVE article on "Leaden Tokens" by D. J. Turner appears in the 1969 Transactions of the Lewisham Local History Society. These tokens have been sadly neglected by numismatists and consequently are often disregarded on archaeological sites as unimportant and lacking in dating features.

The article illustrates the token in an evolutionary sequence and describes the possible dating of the sequence. Various types of tokens are then compared, including medieval, communion and hop tokens. Mr. Turner intends to publish a catalogue of these pieces would be interested to hear of any found on excavations or in collections.

DELFTWARE SEMINAR

DURING THE Morley College Ceramic Circle seminar on British tin-glazed earthenware in November, the increasing reliance of the ceramic historian on archaeological techniques in order to establish the date and source of wares was made clear. It was also evident that the methods of manufacture and organisation of factory life were of much interest, also the methods of documentary research.

Rhoda Edwards, assistant archivist at the London Borough of Lambeth spoke on selected topics from documentary research on the London delftware potteries to show how this has changed our ideas on the London industry. James Thorn spoke on the Lambeth kiln at Norfolk House, and Graham Dawson gave details of the discovery of two large kilns at Montague Close, Southwark.

One of the most fascinating talks of the weekend was that given by Alan Caiger-Smith, describing the methods he uses for the manufacture of tin-glazed earthenware at his pottery at Aldermaston.

Bristol, Liverpool, Scottish and Irish delftware were all discussed in other lectures, as was the use of dated pieces in establishing time scales for various shapes and decorations.

Morley College and the Ceramic Circle, especially the principal organisers, Jim Cox and Dorothy Griffiths, must be congratulated on their enterprise and enthusiasm, with which they planned, launched and successfully concluded the very ambitious programme of the seminar.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

DO YOU CARE ABOUT HISTORIC BUILDINGS? is an essential booklet for everyone interested in past environments. It describes many aspects of the subject, including grants, listing, conservation areas and individual buildings. It is illustrated by photographs and drawings, including cartoons by Osbert Lancaster. Buildings are shown before and after restoration to illustrate the work of the Greater London Council's Historic Buildings Section. The booklet can be obtained from the G.L.C. Information Centre, County Hall, S.E.1., price 10s.