

ARCHAEOLOGY IN WEST LONDON

LONDON MUSEUM excavations in Brentford High Street have revealed some fairly substantial traces of Romano-British settlement. A ditch some 4 metres wide has been found and contains much 4th century material and appears to have been dug across the line of a late 1st century ditch. It is hoped to open up a very much wider area in the near future. The site is threatened by housing redevelopment, and a very large working force will be needed.

The work at Brentford is largely carried out by members of the West London Archaeological Field Group who undertake building site watching in certain London Boroughs as a London Museum project. The site inspection scheme is difficult to organise at the best of times, but becomes very much more so during an excavation. Those who should be watching sites are needed on the excavation, so that site watching is drastically reduced. Yet the whole object of watching sites is to discover archaeological sites which will be excavated before destruction. At present, digging is carried out on Fridays and Sundays in the hope that those keen enough will carry out building site visits (and shopping) on Saturdays. If you can help with either the excavation or the watching of building sites, please contact Roy Canham, The London Museum, Kensington Palace, London W.8 (937-9816).

NEW DIRECTOR AT GUILDHALL MUSEUM

COMING FROM the Bristol City Museum Mr. Max Hebditch is to become director of the Guildhall Museum on the 1st May; he was formerly Curator of Agriculture and Social History and previous to that Assistant Curator of Archaeology at Bristol. Mr. Hebditch will succeed Mr. Norman Cook.

PORCELAIN FACTORY AT CHELSEA

CHELSEA is an area of London which has fascinated art historians for many years, as the site of one of the earliest and best known English porcelain manufactories founded in 1745. This factory is fairly well documented, since there are letters, advertisements and entries in rate-books to prove its existence in Lawrence Street, Chelsea, during the period 1745 to 1784.

Mr. John Casson, the owner of 15 Lawrence Street, was having alterations made to the house when the workmen began to unearth large quantities of porcelain fragments, among them the greater part of a helmet-shaped ewer and three fragments of a rare boar's head tureen. Fortunately his daughter, Mrs. Pocock, called in the Ceramics Dept. at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and they were kindly allowed to put down an exploratory trench in the garden. The excavation was supervised by John Mallett and Dorothy Griffiths, assisted by a few volunteers.

A small trench 10ft. by 4½ft. was made and at a depth of 3ft. a level pink layer was found which extended over part of the trench. This pink layer contained fragments of Chelsea porcelain of the late Red Anchor (1756-58), Gold Anchor (1758-69) and Chelsea-Derby (1770-84) periods. Also found in association with these fragments were portions of the kiln-brick and quantities of kiln furniture. The layer seems to date from after the demolition of the factory around 1784.

The W. end of the trench had been disturbed by a 19th century rubbish-pit, and the north edge of the pink area cut through by the foundation-trench of a late 18th cen-

tury brick and tile drain which led in to a circular brick cesspit in the N.W. corner of the trench.

No pieces dating from pre-1755 were discovered, thus confirming the evidence of the Chelsea rate-books, that this part of the site was not occupied by the factory in its earliest years. The excavation report will appear in the *Transactions* of the English Ceramic Circle.

ACTIVITY IN KINGSTON

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES Archaeological Society has just completed a small exploratory excavation at an Iron Age, Roman and medieval site at Old Malden (TQ 213662). The existence of early occupation was confirmed in an area to the south of Mr. L. W. Carpenter's work of the late 1940's. Features consisting mainly of silted hollows in the clay were extremely difficult to interpret and finds of pottery and animal bone were fragmentary, but a clay bank possibly of Iron Age or Roman date may mark the southern limit of the site. More excavation is planned there if the pressing demands of Kingston town centre sites permit.

The Society is simultaneously fighting a conservation battle to preserve a Listed Grade II building in Kingston. Picton House, an 18th century building with fine plaster ceilings, panelling and fireplaces, situated in a key position in the Conservation Area, Kingston Old Town. The Society campaigned successfully for its listing early in 1970, and has continued to fight its proposed demolition by Kingston Corporation by means of publicity in the local and national press and the organisation of a public petition. The final outcome, however, is still uncertain.

MUSEUM CHARGES

LORD TREVELYAN, chairman of the Trustees of the British Museum, said in a recent debate on the matter in the Lords, "Museums are both attractions for the general public and tourists, and education and research institutions. I consider that the visits for education purposes should be exempt from charges . . . I believe we should exempt members of societies which exist to promote the interests of a museum or gallery, or museums in general."

Let us hope that, not only the British Museum, but all other museums will accept as suitable qualification the membership of an archaeological or historical society.

THE FULHAM POTTERY

AFTER ALMOST 300 years of continuous production, the Fulham Pottery is scheduled for demolition and redevelopment in June. The existing kiln will be retained. The owners of the site are allowing members of the recently formed Fulham and Hammersmith Archaeological Group to carry out a survey and an excavation, directed by V. R. Christophers. This work offers a unique opportunity to anyone interested. Finds on the site should include specimens of Dwight's 17th century stonewares and J. C. Bailey's little known wares of the 19th century. Surveying and preliminary excavation on work is being undertaken all week-ends until Saturday 3 April, when there will be a 10-day full-time dig. Please contact Keith Whitehouse, 56 Tamworth Street, S.W.6.

CONGRATULATIONS to GLIAS on winning the first prize of £250 in the B.B.C.'s annual "Chronicle," Industrial Archaeology competition.