

Books

The Dark Ages. The Atlas of World History: Part 3.

by Colin and Sarah McEvedy. *Rupert Hart-Davis Educational Publications*. £1.80.

JUST OVER TEN YEARS AGO Penguin Books brought out in paper-back, Colin McEvedy's *Atlas of Medieval History*. As a contrast to traditional historical atlases this presented a series of clear black and white maps on a blue base, designed to illustrate the continuous chronological evolution of the European and Mediterranean states between A.D. 362 and 1478. Not so much a work of reference, but a picture chart to be read right through.

This clarity of map presentation is now embodied in a more ambitious series by Colin and Sarah McEvedy under the general title *The Atlas of World History* for the Granada group. Produced in large format with coloured linen board covers, the series will have eight parts. Each map, or group of maps links a page of text with drawings and photographs, photographs. As such, the series is directed straight at the school-room and should be excellent for that purpose, but will also be useful to anyone unfamiliar with the political geography of the periods.

The Dark Ages which forms the third of the series, covers the years 400 - 1000 and ranges in scope over the Old World between the British Isles and China with a short glance at Central America. The remaking of Western Europe and the emergence of the Christian states, the migrations of Hun and Turk, the expansion of the Arabs, the complexity of China and the Scandinavian explorations for plunder and trade, are some of the subjects drawn upon. The major advantage of this new series of some thirty maps is that, while clarity has not been lost, information and detail has been increased, and visually punched out by the use of colour printing. Each map tends to be related to an event, town or region and the material used is well chosen to create interest; for example, the use of Scandinavian ship material ably brings out the folk movements and raids shown on the maps. Following the same theme, the map showing the Viking raids prior to 888 has a particularly clear presentation of Norse and Danish influence.

JOHN ASHDOWN

London Signs. By Bryant Lillywhite. *George Allen and Unwin*. £8.50 net.

THIS WEIGHTY TOME of nearly 700 pages has an attractive jacket depicting a variety of signs against a background of the old Middle Row, Holborn, which was demolished in 1867. It is basically a

complete catalogue of known tavern, coffee-house and other street signs of traders and is clearly the result of almost numberless man-hours of devoted research. Originally devised as an index to the nineteen quarto volumes in manuscript bequeathed to the Corporation of London for use at the Guildhall Library, it will have a special appeal to the happy few who are in a position to work on that unpublished manuscript. This is severely limiting and the rather high price may keep it out of the reach of many who would like it for a more general reference. They will doubtless seek to have it acquired by their Public Libraries and the libraries of their Local History and Archaeological Societies.

Yet the "Introduction" is a masterpiece of scholarly compression which suggests that Mr. Lillywhite has material for a more slender volume on the subject with rather more about "fire marks" and something on the parish boundary marks which one has noticed are the quarry of many amateur makers of transparencies exploring the effective possibilities of their telescopic lenses! Even in his four-page note of "Acknowledgements" the author has interwoven valuable pointers for those seeking out the topography and local social and economic history of the area "within twelve miles of that Capital" which roughly defines the scope of the present work. This and a single entry for each sign with his explanatory notes and far more coloured plates of the quality of the hand-coloured drawings on the acket could make a magnificent book at a price within the personal reach of many of us. One has been specially impressed by the copious references to records and the unique collation of the study of signs with that of traders' tokens.

E. LIONEL FEREDAY

First Aid for Finds. Compiled by David Leigh and others. *Rescue publication Number one. Rescue and Southampton University*. 50p post-free from 25a The Tything, Worcester.

THIS LITTLE 40 page booklet is exactly what the title implies. Basic advice on the treatment of archaeological finds when taken from their preserved environment, and stored before conservation treatment begins. Therefore do not expect a description of conservation techniques as such, but the best methods of how to avoid destruction of objects, so that the conservator has a chance to work on them. The text includes general advice, methods of sampling and covers most materials and conditions that will be encountered. The main text runs on the right hand page with hints and suppliers added, as appropriate,

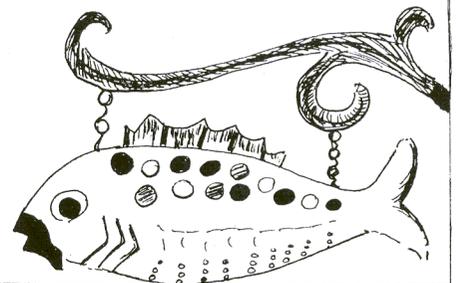
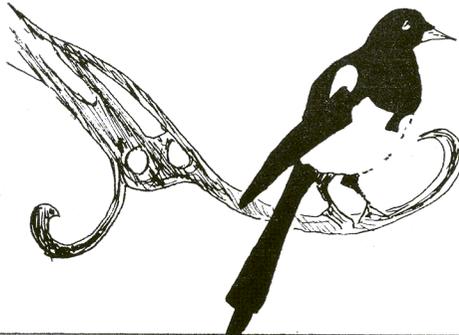
LONDON SIGNS

Bryant Lillywhite

London has lost most of the colourful and intriguing signs, which used to adorn every shop, tavern and company house, to modern lettering and neon signs. But they are not lost completely. Here is a speedy reference guide to signs of every description which gives an account of their origins and meaning. It constitutes a very valuable record of an important and fascinating part of London's past.

£8.50 Illustrated

George Allen & Unwin



on the left hand. A list of artifact conservators and departments willing to give advice is included. The pages are un-numbered, an index or contents is not included and the pages are loose in the spine. Perhaps not very important unless you drop them which is what I did. Basic for the excavator, get it.

JOHN ASHDOWN

The History and Antiquities of the Parish of Wimbledon, Surrey. By William A. Bartlett. Republished by S. R. Publishers Ltd. £2.50.

SINCE REPRINTS of histories and guides can be disappointing, particularly in the quality of their illustrations, it is pleasing to find this re-issue of William A. Bartlett's *History and Antiquities of Wimbledon*, mentions the growth of Wimbledon following the coming of the railway and gives some insight into the character of Rev. Bartlett.

PHILIP WHITBOURN

International Journal of Nautical Archaeology Volume I (1972). Editor: Joan du Plat-Taylor. Available from *Seminar Press*, 24 Oval Road, N.W.1. £2.70. Published for the *Council for Nautical Archaeology*.

I SHOULD MENTION the first number of this new archaeological annual, which aims to record the world-wide activity of diving archaeologists and to publish in the English language the results of their work. The *Journal* has 250 pages, four main papers and a large number of shorter communications. It is certainly a must for anyone interested in historic ships or post-medieval and earlier artifact material.

JOHN ASHDOWN

Introducing Archaeology. By Magnus Magnusson. *Bodley Head*. £1.95.

THE FAMILIAR VOICE of the "Chronicle" compere rings through this volume of popular guidance to major excavations with suave avuncular clarity. One is so frequently asked to recommend a single book by way of "introduction" to archaeology and there are so many candidates in the field that one feels a little grudging in hesitating to select the perfect initiation. Frankly at least one critic thinks the perfect introduction has yet to be made.

Magnus Magnusson has cast a wide net and it would be difficult to indicate any serious omission of topic. It is sound introductory work coloured inevitably in this year by a full treatment of Tutankhamun. Yet one delights to note that Sutton Hoo, Camelot, and Fishbourne each has major space. Sir Flinders Petrie also has three pages which pay him a well-deserved tribute suggesting that he had

for more than sixty years all the urgency of the contemporary pillars of "Rescue."

There are nine pages of attractive colour plates with well-chosen line drawings and black and white photographs at nearly every double-page spread. The total effect is excellent and real value for money.

E. LIONEL FEREDAY

RECENT JOURNALS

Archaeologia Cantiana Volume 86 (1971) issued to members of Kent Archaeological Society. Editor: A. P. Detsicas.

THIS VOLUME issued at the end of April has some 270 pages (prefaced by 60-odd pages of general guff) and contains twelve papers and a number of shorter notes. The London archaeologist should note Stuart Rigold's excavation report on Eynsford Castle, in the Darent Valley, with its sequence of medieval pottery fabrics from West Kent, and the publication of a number of post-medieval vessels from Gravesend. Particularly valuable for the architectural observer is D. Stephenson's discussion of the late 18th and 19th century cast iron balcony railings found in Kent. As this mass-produced iron work is also found all over South East England his remarks on its origins are of more than local value.

Other papers record the excavations at Quarry Hill Camp, near Loose and discuss the significance of the Belgic occupation, and report the work during 1970 on the Eccles Villa. The articles on the investigation of Cobb's Hall, Aldington, a small Tudor house, the description of St. Peter's Church, Canterbury and of the painted window glass at Cranbrook and Lullingstone discuss standing buildings. Documentary history is not neglected and there are papers on coastal recession near Reculver, a reinterpretation of the 1588 Loseley list of Wealden ironworks and further 17th century elections.

The regrettable destruction of the well house and horse engine built for Charles Dickens at Gadshill Place (surely of more than average significance) is recorded with excellent drawings of the mechanism provided by J. E. L. Caiger. Such is Kentish archaeology that the important recent excavation work at Dover is not mentioned in the round-up of work undertaken during the year 1971.

The latest number of Post-Medieval Archaeology is Volume five (issued for 1971) and this contains two papers of direct interest to Londoners. Lorna Weatherill and Rhoda Edwards discuss illuminating documentary evidence for the manufacture of stonewares in Fulham and tin-glazed earthenwares in Southwark and Lambeth during the second half of

the 17th century. This evidence, in the form of letters and descriptive notes, records the details of pottery making made available to an estate in Cumberland when seeking practical advice from London potteries, including Dwigths' at Fulham. The descriptions of the methods used at Fulham and at Lambeth, together with the author's commentaries on the London potteries, are a useful interim statement on the growing volume of knowledge of one of London's once major industries.

The excavation report of the finding of two 18th century pottery kilns and associated pottery groups, during the construction of a new garage complex for the Metropolitan Police in Lambeth, is noteworthy as the publication of a major piece of rescue undertaken by the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society in 1968.

This is a basic paper for its period, which describes finds of tin-glazed earthenware manufacture in South London, the kilns found at Norfolk House, the distinctive kiln furniture and attempts a classification of vessel shapes. There is a series of excellent illustrations and a full discussion of the 18th century Lambeth industry as revealed by the excavation.

The other papers in this volume include the excavation of a group of Yorkshire pottery kilns, 17th century house construction in Essex and the second part of Stephen Moorhouse's paper on the finds from Basing House, near Basingstoke (1540-1645). This part describes the non-ceramic artifacts, including objects of iron, bronze, leather, wood and glass, and will be a very useful guide to further sources to anyone working on material of this period. Offprint of these papers are available through the C.B.A. Offprint scheme or in the case of Norfolk House kiln report from S.L.A.S.

Post-Medieval Archaeology is available on subscription and as back numbers at £2.10 each. (Details from 53 Bainton Road, Oxford).

JOHN ASHDOWN

Excavations at Greenwich Palace 1970-1971. By Philip Dixon. *Greenwich and Lewisham Antiquarian Society*. 50p. (post-free) from the Hon. Editor, G. & L.A.S., 42 Mycenae Road, S.E.3.

PHILIP DIXON, and his supporting society, are to be congratulated for having provided an interim report of the excavation of the Tudor Palace at Greenwich undertaken during 1970 and 1971. This takes the form of a 24 page booklet describing the work achieved, a summary of the excavators' preliminary conclusions linked with a brief outline of the site's history. The text is well supported by plans and illustrations of the excavations in progress. Finds are not discussed. This work was

not a complete excavation of the site area available but a detailed examination of the towered riverside block, together with a more limited look at the courtyard buildings beyond. The achievement is however substantial and allows a clear idea of the physical aspects of the early Tudor palace to be gained and set beside the documentary and pictorial evidence. The brick Great Tower shown in de Wyn-gaerde's riverside view was completely uncovered and a towered riverside plan revealed that reminds of the more recently exposed Baynard's Castle. Under the Tudor buildings an earlier 14th and 15th Century Manor house was discovered, this building was demolished circa 1500 for Henry's palace, itself to be removed in 1661-5 to make way for Charles II grand architectural projects. I trust that many of our readers will support this publication venture.

JOHN ASHDOWN

MISCELLANY

Greenwich is now of course best known as the home of the National Maritime Museum which maintains an excellent bookstall, with a wide range of books and colour prints (of excellent value) related to shipping. The museum has produced two well designed booklets during 1972, that have given me a lot of pleasure. Both are written by Peter Norton. *Figureheads* (40p) discusses this neglected form of folk art to illustrate the museum's collection of figureheads mounted in the reconstructed Neptune Hall. Many of the items at Greenwich are illustrated in colour but others now lost or surviving elsewhere are included to provide an inexpensive introduction to the subject. *State Barges* (30p) describes the river barges now at Greenwich which include the magnificent Prince Frederick's barge (William Kent 1732), the 17th century Queen Mary's Shallop and the navy barges. These are discussed (with regretfully some rather blurred photographs) with other state barges from London, Venice and around the world. It would be nice to see a similar booklet on the paddle tug Reliant now the centre piece of the Neptune Hall.

The world of remainder books is always a strange one, but will often produce bargains. He who hesitates over a high price is not always lost! Of particular interest at present is W. F. Grimes' *The Excavation of Roman and Mediaeval London*, originally £3.15 now offered at £1.60 (try B.S.C Bookshop, Maiden Lane, Strand). In the same context Robert Charleston's *World Ceramics*, originally £6.30 is now available in many shops at £2.50, and thereby now forms an inexpensive and extensively illustrated introduction to the history of pottery and porcelains.

JOHN ASHDOWN