

# Books

**Archaeology**, by Clare Goff, *Visual Books—Macdonald Educational* (1973), 48pp. £1.

AIMED CHIEFLY at the school market, Visual Books, as their name implies are largely pictorial, each subject—ranging from *The Human Body* to *Exploring Space*—is divided into chapters, each occupying a double page spread with about 400 words of text and plenty of colourful well-captioned illustrations. The disadvantages as well as advantages of this pleasant but rather restrictive format appear in *Archaeology*, one of the most recent in the series. Chapters run from 'A prehistoric deep-freeze in Siberia' to 'Dating the past' and 'Work on a dig.' Unfortunately the chapters seem to follow no logical sequence, while fitting each on to two pages leads to compression and omission (try describing C14 dating in 80 words) with sometimes bewildering results. The attempt to cover the whole of world archaeology in 48 pages was bound to run into such problems, but it is good to find as much emphasis placed on the methods of archaeology as on its more spectacular discoveries, though a good selection of the latter do appear—the book is up-to-date enough to include the Chinese tombs and Baynard's Castle! Urban rescue archaeology rates a chapter, as does industrial archaeology.

The drawings include reconstructions and some fine cut-away views of buildings and sites, not always as easy to interpret as they might be. The mummies and miscellaneous corpses, and the blood flowing

down the steps of the Temple of Huitzilopochtli will be popular with a young readership!

There are four pages of 'projects,' which include brass-rubbing and surveying, and a section on what to do next; the address of Young Rescue is given, and excavation directors and museum curators will have to consider how to make use of the enthusiasm that could result from reading books like this. A glossary—very necessary—and exhaustive index complete a book that can be recommended to any reader of *the London Archaeologist* looking for a birthday present (probably for an 11th to 13th birthday) for a young relative they wish to bring up in the faith.

JOHN CLARK

I SHOULD like to note the issue in paperback of Francis Klingender's **Art and the Industrial Revolution** by Granada Paladin at 75p. Originally published in 1947 and for long out of print, until revised by Arthur Elton in 1968, this new pocket edition is very welcome. I would imagine that this perceptive analysis of technological changes in the 18th and 19th century Britain, as illustrated by the work of contemporary artists, interests many. The 120 plates provide a valuable compact catalogue of painted or engraved views of early industrial Britain. In my copy the titles to plates 83 and 92 are confusingly misplaced.

JOHN ASHDOWN

## Excavations

**CITY**, by Guildhall Museum, Department of Urban Archaeology. A series of long-term rescue excavations. Enquiries to Brian Hopley, Chief Urban Archaeologist, Guildhall Museum, 55 Basinghall Street, E.C.2. (01-606 3030, ext. 2747).

**ACTON**, by Gale Sieveking and Richard Burleigh for the British Museum. An important Palaeolithic site at Haberdashers' School, Creffield Road, W.3, from 2-30 September. Volunteers' enquiries to Gale Sieveking, Dept. of Prehistoric and Roman Antiquities, British Museum, W.C.1.

**BRENTFORD**, by the West London Archaeological Field Group. July 6-September. 9.30-5.30 Sunday to Friday. At the rear of 232 Brentford High Street (junction with St. Paul's Road.) Experience not necessary. This site is adjacent to a site excavated 1970-1972. Enquiries to Roy Canham, London Museum, Kensington, W8 (01-937 9816.)

**CHIGWELL**, by West Essex Archaeological Field Group. Roman site at Gravel Lane, Chigwell. Digging for two weeks from 31 August. Enquiries to Mr. F. R. Clark, 62 Waltham Road, Woodford Green, Essex. (01-504 4984).

Full-time work is also taking place along the route of the proposed M11 in the Redbridge—Chigwell—Theydon Bois area all summer. Enquiries to the M11 Field Officer, Mr. T. Betts, 3 The Green, Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex (01-504 6708).

**EGHAM**, by Surrey Archaeological Society Motorway Rescue Group. Two sites at Thorpe Lea Nurseries, one Bronze Age, one Roman. Digging every day; enquiries to Bernard Johnson, SAEC, Montague Chambers, Montague Close, S.E.1 (01-407 1989).

**FULHAM**, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Site at junction of Fulham Palace Road and Fulham Road directed by Keith Whitehouse. The site includes a section of the moat surrounding Fulham Palace. Week-ends. Enquiries to 56 Tamworth Street, S.W.6. (01-385 6038).

**HENDON**, by Hendon and District Archaeological Society. Various sites on the development area at Church End, Hendon, will be dug throughout the summer. Enquiries to Mrs. Bridget Grafton-Green, 88 Temple Fortune Lane, N.W.11 (01-455 9050).

(continued on p.179)

absence of bricks, use of oyster shell) suggests a date earlier than 1630. Further, it was succeeded by another river wall of which only a stub remained, before the present river wall was built c1852.

Another feature not mentioned was an undercover dock contemporary with the 1852 river wall but subsequently abandoned. It seems strange that Dollman's suggestion that this area was garden and outside the Priory should be repeated when this is based on little evidence (probably the extent of surviving Priory buildings in c1800) and when we know there were buildings in this area (*S.L.A.S. Newsletter* No. 33 July 1973). No evidence was apparently obtained as to the date of the drain (see fig. 2) but from its method of construction and its position, it is not unlikely that it is the Reredorter drain of the Priory of St. Mary Overie.

40 Station Road,  
Orpington, Kent

Dr. G. J. DAWSON

1. Subsequent work has shown that the bridge approach lies a little to the east so that the feature concerned must be on the west side of the road, not the east.

Judith Plouviez writes concerning 'Roman Southwark':

I am flattered by the close attention Dr. Dawson has given my article. Of the 23 points he raises, four relate to errors on my part, viz.—

1. Site 3 in the *Gazeteer* should have read fragments of tesserae rather than "tessellated pavement."
2. On the map Site 28 should have been coded for evidence of Roman buildings.
3. The two conversions of imperial into metric measurement should be as Dr. Dawson mentions in his fourth paragraph.

For the remainder of the points I was only able to work on the information available to me, mainly in the form of interim reports. A number of Dr. Dawson's points, which depend on evidence from sites directed by him, are at variance with the interims he has so far published. With regard to 'inaccuracies' on the location of sites, the distribution map was based, as stated in the article, on the similar map published by Dr. Dawson in *SAEC Ten Years Work* (1972).

None of Dr. Dawson's points affect the substance of

the article in any way except those concerning high-water level and the Roman bridge. I still see no reason why the former should not have been at least 1.20m O.D. in the early 1st century A.D. The position of the latter was not discussed in detail since it has already given rise to interminable argument largely based on insufficient evidence. Current excavations seem to be remedying this situation.

*The London Archaeologist*, which is a magazine that succeeds in providing readable accounts of archaeological information, is not in my view a suitable place for lengthy detailed argument on all of Dr. Dawson's points. I have therefore sent him a full answer prepared with the help of my former colleagues at SAEC; copies of this paper may be obtained by those interested in the minutiae of Southwark archaeology from SAEC Office, Montague Chambers, Montague Close, S.E.1.

On behalf of his colleagues concerned with the article Harvey Sheldon writes on the 'Excavations at New Hibernia Wharf':

Two points made by Dr. Dawson involve interpretation and require a reply. The first relates to the river wall. The tin-glazed plate came from within its core: no trace of a structural repair, inside which it may have been contained, was apparent. It is, of course possible that we failed to see one, and perhaps future excavations elsewhere through the wall will demonstrate more convincingly the period of its construction. In the meantime I suggest that the usual archaeological convention is followed: a date of some time after 1630, therefore, seems a fair one to put forward.

The second is the claim by Dr. Dawson of evidence from our excavation which might indicate that the (presumably Roman) bridge approach lay on the site. Dr. Dawson gives no details of this evidence, but I believe that he is referring to the gravel layer, seen in the south section on top of the silt, and which is numbered 3 in fig 2. It was clear from that section that this band of unconsolidated gravel was less than a metre wide, cut by a Roman pit to the east, and bounded by another feature—in all probability Roman—to the west. There is no more reason now than during the excavation to assume that this patch of gravel is related to the bridge approach, and still less—in the light of Alan Graham's recent work (see p.176) — to assume that the bridge approach crossed our site.

*Excavations (continued from p.177)*

**HOOK**, by Martin Dean for Kingston-upon-Thames Museum. The Grapsome, a possible medieval moated site on the Esher by-pass. Week-ends only. Enquiries to Marion Smith at Kingston Museum. (01-546 8905).

**NORTHOLT**, by Northolt Archaeological and Historical Research Group. Work is continuing on the Saxon and medieval site. Saturdays 1-5 p.m. Sundays 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Enquiries to Bob Lancaster, Gunnersbury Park Museum, W.3. (01-922 2247).

**FUTNEY**, by Wandsworth Historical Society. Site off the Upper Richmond Road, behind the Police Station, directed by Pat and Joan Loobey. It is expected that the north/south Roman road will be picked up. Most week-ends. Enquiries to 157 Longcliffe House, Arndale Walk, S.W.18. (01-874 9369).

**SOUTHWARK**, by Southwark Archaeological Excavation Committee. A site at 1-7 St. Thomas's Street. Full-time during June. Enquiries to SAEC Office, Montague Chambers, Montague Close, S.E.1. (01-407 1989).

**STAINES**, by London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. A site off Staines High Street, on the outer defences of the Roman settlement. Every day from mid-June. Enquiries to Kevin Crouch (01-560 3880 day) or (09328-62874 evening).

*The Council for British Archaeology produces a monthly Calendar of Excavations from March to September, with a final issue in January summarising the main results of fieldwork. The Calendar gives details of extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The annual subscription is 80p post-free, which should be made payable to C.B.A., 8 St. Andrew's Place, N.W.1.*