

Mosaic

ROY CANHAM LEAVES LONDON

AFTER EIGHT years Roy Canham is to leave his post at the London Museum to become Field Archaeological Officer for Wiltshire from the 1st January. During his stay in London he has worked hard to develop the archaeological coverage of his Museum and of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. His field work covered much of Greater London but the majority of his excavations have been on rescue sites in west London with the West London Archaeological Field Group which he founded. The report on the Group's work at Brentford, Shepperton and London Airport will be published in 1975 by H.M.S.O.; two volumes are already printed while the third is in the process of being completed.

With Alison Laws, his Museum colleague, he has shouldered much of the administrative burden behind the LAMAS Archaeological Research and Borough Secretaries' Committees; the most widely known aspect of this has been the run of very successful annual Conferences of London Archaeologists.

The series of excavations since the late 1960s on the Roman settlements at Staines and Old Ford owe much to his initiative. He was also very largely responsible for the foundation of the LAMAS Inner London Unit.

KILNS FOUND AT WOOLWICH

WITH ADMIRABLE timing, at the same time as Rhoda Edwards' excellent book *London Potters circa 1570-1710* is published, two apparently 17th century kilns have been discovered during an excavation at Woolwich Old Ferry Approach this autumn. The dig, which was sponsored jointly by the London Borough of Greenwich and the Department of the Environment, was expected to produce information about medieval Woolwich. Instead the team, led by Alice Pandrich, uncovered a previously unsuspected pottery complex.

The later of the two kilns discovered is a round twin-flued construction producing unglazed and lead-glazed red earthenware. The earlier one appears to be unique: a novel stoneware kiln, producing bellarmines and other salt-glazed pots and apparently pre-dating Dwight. (This kiln is to be preserved and incorporated in the new building on the site.) A clay pit, clay lined and wood revetted, and deposits of wasters precede both kilns and suggest an earlier kiln or kilns to the west of the excavated area.

The implications have yet to be fully assessed: for example, the form of the bellarmines appears to contradict some of the previously held rules-of-thumb dividing imported from English stoneware. It is hoped there will be feed-back from other sites, particularly City sites, providing closer dating than has been possible at present.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON TEAM

A GRANT has been made available by the Department of the Environment to finance a project in S.W. London: Surrey Archaeological Society is administering a full-time team operating in the Boroughs of Wandsworth, Merton and Kingston. Appointments to date are — Gale Canvin as Field Officer, and Caroline Evans as Research Assistant; a third member a Senior Field Officer, will be appointed in the near future.

The preparation of situation reports for the boroughs of Wandsworth and Merton constitutes the first objectives of the Team (A report has already been presented to the Borough of Kingston by Kingston-upon-Thames

Archaeological Society). These reports will contain a synthesis of archaeological potential with future urban redevelopment plans, to enable long term policies to be formulated for rescue excavations. Much of the archaeological information has already been collected by the local societies.

It is hoped that when the archaeological potential of the area is readily available in map form, arguments for the preservation of selected sites may be put forward with greater force, and could possibly be incorporated in future redevelopment plans.

The Team has accepted the kind offer of temporary accommodation at the Brentford offices of the West London Archaeological Field Group made by Roy Canham of the London Museum.

AN ENLIGHTENED VICTORIAN VIEW

IN RECENT years much attention has been paid to the difficulties encountered when archaeological material is found on a development site. A member of Wandsworth Historical Society has recently come across a lease (1887) for the area adjoining the (then) new approaches to Putney Bridge; the site was sold by the Metropolitan Board of Works. One condition is interesting:

Any relic article or thing whatsoever of antiquity rarity or value which may be found or discovered in or upon or under any part of the land or in or upon any remains of former building lately standing thereon shall belong and be delivered to the Board and immediately upon finding or discovery of any such relic article or thing the intended lessee shall give notice thereof to the said architect and shall suspend all works which might cause damage or injury to such relic article or thing until the Board shall have been enabled to remove the same and the said architect shall be entitled to give all such directions as he may think necessary for the preservation and removal of such relic article or thing and the intended lessee shall observe and perform all directions given by the said architect as aforesaid.

It is not known whether these conditions were standard when the Metropolitan Board of Works disposed of land, or whether they were put in where a site might possibly contain items of archaeological interest; it is also not known whether anything was found on the site, although in the last decade Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman material has been found nearby.

THE DEATH OF PHILIP SUGGETT

PERHAPS best known for his series of excavations at Brockley Hill, Philip Suggett was tragically killed in a road accident in the beginning of November. He was Director of Excavations of the North Middlesex Archaeological Research Committee from 1951-59 and apart from Brockley Hill he also excavated at Stanmore and Pinner Green (Grim's Ditch).

Philip Suggett's work at Brockley Hill in the early 1950's encouraged others to carry out excavations elsewhere in the London region; many of his (then) young helpers are now leading archaeologists.

TESSERAE

Chairman of LAMAS Archaeological Research Committee — is now Harvey Sheldon who has taken over from Roy Canham.

The new Field Research Officer — for the current excavations of Guildhall Museum's D.U.A. is Charles Hill *vice* David Browne.