

# Books

**The Archaeology of London**, by Ralph Merrifield. *Heinemann Educational Books*. 93pp, 45 figs. £2.50

THIS book — one of the 'Regional Archaeologies' series — adequately fulfills the publishers' intention to provide an "authoritative introduction" to the history of the London Region from the Lower Palaeolithic period to the post-Roman "Dark Age."

Ralph Merrifield treats the subject chronologically and shows how a combination of excavations and chance finds have contributed to our knowledge of the developing settlement. The text is written clearly, but without over-simplification and the accompanying drawings are well produced. Appended is a descriptive guide to many of the field monuments and structures worth visiting in the London area.

The book certainly can be recommended to anyone beginning in archaeology and to the general reader who wants to see the threads of the region's early history drawn together. Obviously in this short introduction (74 pages excluding the guide section) it was only possible to treat most subjects briefly: it would therefore have been useful for students of all sorts if specific references had been included.

HARVEY SHELDON

**Five Artefact Studies**. Editor: Ivor Noel Hume. *Colonial Williamsburg Occasional Papers in Archaeology* 1. 116pp, 61 figs. \$7.95

THIS FIRST volume of a series of papers from Virginia reflects the importance of post-medieval studies in our erstwhile colonies.

Without the problems of four hundred years of Roman occupation to distract them the Williamsburg Department of Archaeology has, since 1928 been studying its 18th century, and later develop-

ment, and very creditable results have been obtained.

This book is a series of five short studies, one on a well-group of around 1725 (including Bristol Delft and Fulham type stoneware), and specialist studies on shoe buckles, bayonets, window glass and horse-shoes. With the possible exception of bayonets all these items turn up on London post-medieval sites regularly, and this work provides a useful source of closely dated examples, the like of which is not to be found in this country.

One hopes that similar works will appear from English sites, and perhaps when as much relevance is attached to our own post-medieval studies as the Americans do to their 'historical' archaeology then volumes such as this will become commonplace.

GALE CANVIN

**The Villas of Roman Britain**. Compiled by David and Pauline Jones. *Jackdaw Publications*. 90p.

THIS is a series of eight wall displays illustrating various aspects of life in a villa. The posters, which are presented in a pouch folder cover such topics as the four principal schools of mosaicists, evidence of religion, dedicatory inscriptions and a typical villa (Chedworth). Although primarily aimed at the younger archaeologist this series makes an interesting and enjoyable display.

GALE CANVIN

**The Pyramids of Egypt** by I. E. S. Edwards. *Pelican paperback*. 319pp, 32 plates, 57 text drawings. £1.20

THIS revised edition of Dr. Edwards 1947 text is one of the clearest and most readable works on the subject available today. Gromaticus would be interested in the surveying instruments used to lay out the pyramids, as detailed in chapter seven.

GALE CANVIN

## Letters

### THE STRAND 'ROMAN' BATH

READERS of Carol Colbear's interesting article on the Strand Lane bath might like to know of a story about Prof. Grimes that was current in archaeological circles in London in the late '40s. Grimes, not then a professor, I think, had been asked to visit the pronounce on the bath in question.

The site visit duly took place and Grimes is reported to have said — after a reflective pause — "Well, there might be a Roman bath underneath it." A judgement that the owners were not noticeably eager to publicise.

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## Local Societies

The second list of amendments to the list of local societies published in Vol. 2, No. 9, is as follows:

**City of London Archaeological Society**; Sec. Miss A. Gallagher, 13 Princess Court, 115 Hartfield Road, S.W.19.

**Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey)**; Sec. D. Fowler, 29 Kingsbridge Road, Morden, Surrey.

**Kent Defence Research Group**; Sec. D. R. Barnes, 24 Walters Road, Hoo, Rochester, Kent. ME3 9JR.

**Thames Archaeological Group**; Sec. Mrs. P. M. Jacob, 13 Spencer Street, Gravesend, Kent. DA11 0PT.