

Commentary

By GROMATICUS

Joint Publication

THE NEWS that the London & Middlesex and Surrey archaeological societies are considering a joint publication of some of the Roman and medieval sites in Southwark which have been excavated by the SAEC Unit, is to be welcomed. The politics of South Bank archaeology are somewhat confusing but this proposed co-operative step forward has great merit.

It would seem illogical to publish the early archaeology of Southwark, which was very much a suburb of the Roman and medieval City, in a separate journal from that containing results from the City itself, each journal having different spheres of circulation. This notion of a joint publication for archaeological work in Southwark would mean that members of LAMAS will not be deprived of finding out about what has happened in the South Bank suburb, while SAS members will continue to receive reports from "the ancient county of Surrey up to the Thames". This seems a very satisfactory solution. As a collorary there are one or two other riparian areas of intensive excavation, for example Putney, where a similar publication policy could be applied.

Of course there are a few problems in a joint publication but these when viewed in an objective manner, do not seem to be very material. Additionally there is another benefit in as much that such a venture will produce a much wider circulation and therefore reduce not only the cost of each copy

of the journal but also the cost which either one society would have had to bear alone.

It is hoped that the difficulties over the Southwark publication will be resolved both to the satisfaction of the two societies and to the gain of archaeology in London.

Round-up

With the publication of the fourth annual Round-up of Excavations one trend is becoming clear: when a new unit is first established, there is a fairly rapid build-up in the numbers of excavations which it undertakes. This early burst of energy is then tempered and effort is redirected towards the very commendable object of publication. A consequence of this is that the number of sites excavated falls to a lower level which then tends to be maintained.

After citing eight London Boroughs being 'left out in the cold' for at least three years, it is pleasing to see that some of them have featured in this issue; still omitted are Barking, Hillingdon, Kensington and Chelsea, Richmond and Waltham Forest. However, the appointment of an archaeological field officer in the Passmore Edwards Museum for the boroughs east of the River Lea will take care of the first and last, the Inner London Archaeological Unit is planning an excavation in Kensington and Chelsea, while the formation of a Historical and Archaeological Section of the Richmond Society promises well there.

Alas, poor neglected Hillingdon!

Annual Lecture and General Meeting

THE ANNUAL meeting will take place at 6.30 p.m. on Friday, 21st May, in the Concert Hall of the City Literary Institute, Stukeley Street, off Drury Lane.

This year the lecture (open to the public) will be "Recent Developments in the Archaeology of London" by Harvey Sheldon, the Archaeological Officer for Greater London (outside the City). He will deal not only with excavations and other field-work but also such aspects as the organisations of units, the funding of archaeological activities and the role of the amateur.

Prior to the lecture the annual report and accounts will be presented. The proceedings will

include the election of officers and also the election to the Publication Committee of the six local society representatives whose nominations should be made in writing not less than 14 days before the A.G.M. to the Chairman, Montague Chambers, Montague Close, S.E.1.

Local societies are invited to send one representative with voting powers to the A.G.M.; individual subscribers to the magazine and their friends will also be welcome to attend.

Dependent upon some forthcoming events it will probably be necessary to make a few amendments to the Constitution with regard to the title and duties of some of the officers.