

# Books

**John Dwight's Fulham Pottery 1672-1978 A Collection of Documentary Sources.** Edited by Dennis Haselgrove and John Murray. *Ceram Hist II* (1979) £5.50 paperbound. Available from Publications Department, City Museum, Broad Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 4HS (postage extra).

AS ONE CANNOT review a compilation of this type and magnitude I will only attempt to describe its scope and offer an opinion. This is by far the largest volume of the *Journal of Ceramic History* to appear, with 284 pages including 30 illustrations. It is essentially a working document bringing together under one cover a large collection of different written sources, wide in scope and ranging from John Dwight's early life to the contemporary business at Fulham. The editors have prefaced their work with a concise but valuable introductory essay, setting the post-medieval ceramic industry at Fulham in a historic context, discussing Dwight's beginnings, the large scale production of stoneware from 1675, and the pottery's subsequent chequered history.

The volume's permanent value lies in its transcripts of the various primary sources for Dwight's life, ceramic ventures, and the later work of pottery making at Fulham. These sources are drawn from church registers, rate books, excise records, newspapers, directories, sale catalogues, letters, lawsuits, House of Lords records, the Privy Council and Royal Society minutes, and so on. Extensive notes fill out the facts. Examples must suffice here. Dwight's first patent of 1672 for the making of transparent earthenware; the agreements with the Glass Sellers Company of 1676 and 1677; Dwight's second patent of 1684; the complete photographic reproduction of Lady Schreiber's 1870 transcription of Dwight's now lost recipe book of 1689-1698; the Chancery lawsuits of 1693-1698; and Dwight's will of 1703: I especially value the inclusion of the 1695 Excise Duty list of named ceramic vessel types with prices. The later documents, which include late 19th century and early 20th century letters of real interest, are of quite a different character but comprise equally valuable illuminations of London's social and economic history.

The editors state "that their work presents as fully as possible the significant documentary sources at present known for Dwight's career and work, and the Pottery's history. At this stage the texts and other references must primarily speak for themselves." They certainly do that, and much more too. Their work is a quarry for London studies in gene-

ral. Appendices and a bibliography round off a splendid volume.

JOHN ASHDOWN

**Age of Spirituality: Late Antique and Early Christian Art, Third to Seventh Century.** Metropolitan Museum of New York. *Princeton University Press*. 735 pp., 793 figs., 16 in colour. \$45.

**Age of Spirituality: A Symposium.** ed. Kurt Weitzmann. *Princeton University Press*. 174 pp., 90 pl., £14.

THESE TWO EXCELLENTLY produced books mark the exhibition which was held in New York in 1977-8. The first is a luxurious catalogue with good pictures of each item on display and an authoritative note of description and bibliography; the second is a set of papers which record a symposium in which a rich collection of commentators were brought together to give the public some background fodder for thought. These papers, individually, and collectively, form an important addition to the literature of the centuries from 300 to 700 A.D. for they are at once comprehensive and accessible. One particularly pleasant feature of the Symposium volume is the way in which such distinguished scholars have responded to the invitation to think aloud on the given theme, and have published their thoughts in simple readable form. If you want to find your way into the Late Antique world, these are the books to guide you.

RICHARD REECE

**Exercitus** Summer 1980, Vol 1, No. 1. 40p.  
The Bulletin of the Ermine Street Guard.

ANYONE WHO (a) knows anything about the Roman army and (b) has seen the Ermine Street Guard, will know that, in the words of the late Russell Robinson, they are "serious minded fellows and not a bunch of kids playing Romans". As a group of young men dedicated to making — and using — authentic replicas of Roman arms and equipment, they frequently encounter problems both in methods of construction and of use, the existence of which the more academically-minded is often only dimly, if at all, aware. The solutions to these problems offered by the Guard may not always be the right ones but they will always have the merit of being possible answers — and proved to be so by the processes of trial and error. Their experiences and experiments they now share with a

wider public in *Exercitus*, the "Bulletin for practical research into the Roman Army" and its appearance will be welcomed by all students of that great institution.

The first issue itself contains the fascinating story of the origins of the Guard by its founder Chris Haines, who traces its metamorphosis from a group of irregulars recruited by the vicar of the Gloucestershire parishes of Witcombe and Bentham to perform at a local pageant, into the band of hard-bitten legionaries that we know today. It also includes a section on Latin Orders (with a useful reference to an article in *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* 54 (1961), the first instalment of study on the *scutum*, an instructive account of the problems involved in making and using chain mail — slightly heavier, author Michael Garlick concludes, than the *lorica segmentata*, but with distinct advantages, including making it easier for a Roman trumpeter to breathe deeply — so *that's* why *cornicines* are always shown wearing mail!! This simple example well shows the validity of the Guard's approach to their subject and whets our appetite for future issues.

People interested in becoming full members (Kit contribution £20 + annual subscription £3) or associate members (annual subscription £3 including *Exercitus*) should write to Chris Haines, Oakland Farm, Dog Lane, Witcombe, Glos. Subscription copies of the Bulletin are only available to members and associate members.

MARK HASSALL

**The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Archaeology**, ed. A. Sherratt. *Cambridge University Press*, 1980. 495 pp., many pl. + figs., bibliog., index. £18.50.

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED to know about archaeology and never dared ask' might be a suitable sub-title for this mammoth work. It is far more than the popular idea of an encyclopedia, which is often little more than an extended dictionary with a few pictures. Instead we have over sixty substantial essays by acknowledged experts in their fields, on topics ranging from 'Man and the primates' to 'The rise of temperate Europe' (in the middle ages) in date, and covering every part of the world. In addition, there are a number of essays on aspects of the development of modern archaeology. In a short review it is not possible to comment on individual essays, but in reading from my own rather limited viewpoint I did not detect any 'duds', although some contributions are obviously more controversial than others.

The book as a whole is a triumph of editing, illustration and publishing: knowing the difficulties of putting four or so articles together for each issue of *the L.A.*, I can appreciate the difficulty of co-

ordinating over sixty specialist authors. The illustrations are beautifully done — in some cases perhaps too beautifully, as design seems to triumph over content occasionally. But this is only a minor quibble.

To sum up, this is likely to remain a standard work of reference for the amateur for some time, and the extensive bibliographies will make it of value to the serious student for at least a few years.

CLIVE ORTON

**Those Were the Days** by P. Reboul. A collection of tales from and about the Borough of Barnet between the two World Wars. *Hendon and District Archaeological Society*. Illustrated. 48pp Price 95p.

IN THE MILL ON THE FLOSS George Eliot writes of 'the sunshine and the grass in far off years which still live in us.' *Those Were the Days* has captured some of the sunshine but also some of the shadow that still lives in the fifteen people whose memories it records. By means of sound recording Mr. Reboul has secured an interesting and readable addition to the industrial and social history of the Borough. Geographically the greater portion of the stories are from the Barnet and Whetstone area. The accounts range from dentist to nurse, from baker to brewer and also include an intriguing tunnel tiger. Their namelessness, though no doubt necessary, is tantalising. For any further aspirant into the field of oral history some useful advice is added.

F. M. GRAVATT

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## Also Received

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**People of the Lake**, by Richard Leakey and Roger Lewin. Penguin Books Ltd, 1981 (first published 1978). 234pp, 11 pl, index. £1.95.

THIS IS AN INTENSELY personal account of recent discoveries of hominid remains in East Africa, and their implications for the evolution of man. The style shows up most clearly in the illustrations, the majority of which show the author at work. Worth reading for its ideas, but it should not be taken as definitive and preferably not read in isolation.

CLIVE ORTON.

**London's Industrial Archaeology**: Number Two, 1980. Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society. Available from Tony Smith, 74 Lord Warwick Street, Woolwich, London, SE18 5QD. price £1.25 (plus 25p postage).

Contains articles on Commercial Road goods depot, history of gasholders, London steam engine builders, cast-iron cow-stalls and the London Small Arms Company. Maintains the high standard set issue Number One (see *L.A.* Vol. 3, No. 13, 362).