



WSD^e St Paul's ob 19 June 1707

Fig. 7: Dated gold mourning ring (not to scale) and other wooden objects at 1 : 4 from the stone lined pit. Drawings: S Khan

cottage block nos. 47/51 South Street, next to our first site no. 41, has been retained in the new development, and revealed during its renovation many internal features of the mid to late 17th century (wood panelling and some early wallpaper). A number of samples of 17th century wallpapers have been recovered from houses in Epsom in the last few years¹² and this again reflects the prosperity of the town at this time and its contact with contemporary modes and fashion. It was only in the second half of the 17th century that the use of wallpaper squares became more widespread. The front elevation of this block also showed, after

removal of the 19th century rendering, long-and-short Reigate stone quoins in one corner. This is a feature of many larger brick buildings in the town of this date.

Recent renovation of no. 8 Chalk Lane has shown this house to be part of a substantial timber-framed building of 17th century date.¹³ Early features in its carpentry (riding crucks forming the bays of the roof timbers and moulded window frames blocked up in the front wall) would seem to indicate a date in the 1670s or 1680s. The house was obviously in occupation long enough for rubbish to have accumulated at the rear by the early 18th century. One pit fortuitously discovered during drain laying operations contained clay pipes, wine bottles and a nearly complete Staffordshire slipware posset pot signed J. Simpson, all of about 1700.

I must thank Norman Nail and Ian West of the Society for help with the excavation and advice on the buildings of Epsom and all those other members who helped excavate and backfill. The salvage work on the South Street development site was undertaken almost singlehandedly by Sean Khan and Valerie Griffiths of Bourne Hall Museum, Ewell where the vast quantity of material now resides. They were able to visit the site so frequently and at short notice (often in poor weather) that we were fairly certain to have plotted nearly every feature of significance during building operations. The co-operation of Messrs. Bredero (UK) and especially their Mr. Van Dyke in allowing full facilities for this work is gratefully acknowledged. My thanks are also due to Dr. Lehmann of the society for his explanation of much of the documentary background.

12. 'Early English Wallpapers', Jean Hamilton, *Connoisseur* (July 1977), 201/6.

13. *Pers. comm.* I J West.

Letter

PLANNING FRAMES

I WAS INTERESTED to read Mr Adkins' account of the manufacture of drawing frames. It occurred to me that readers of *the London Archaeologist* might be interested to know of an engineer in the London region who will produce welded tubular steel drawing frames for £7.50 each. These have been made to my own design for my excavation in Cornwall.

They are not much heavier than a wooden frame, much more durable and have the added advantage of being 1m externally enabling use into corners of a site. As they have welded corners they are not, of course, collapsable, but conversely they are easy to clean and it is impossible for earth to get into the tubular body.

The frames are drilled for stringing not in the centre but 5mm from the edge and thus are more easily used on stony surfaces, strings are c.20cm off the ground. My own frames are strung with stainless steel wire, although this is at some extra cost (about £3.00), and problems of string tension etc are eliminated. I am told that other stringing materials would be available if required for a lesser cost (string at about £1.50) but even the most expensive version of the strung frame (c £10.50 each) compares favourably with the do-it-yourself "Adkins' model" frame which would cost £12 each, plus valuable site time and effort.

If anyone is interested I shall be happy to pass on their enquiry to the manufacturer.

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