

November 1642⁶¹; the Putney fort was demolished c 1845⁶².

That an inn standing on or near the (posited) site of Plautius' camp, through which Claudius and possibly his elephants passed, should be called *the Elephant* in the 16th and 17th centuries is a remarkable coincidence. As already suggested, it is credible that the reinforcing elephants arrived before Claudius, that one (or more) may have died there because of the bad weather, and that the beast was buried nearby. If this hypothetical carcass should have been exhumed in medieval or later times, then it should not be surprising to find a local hostelry named after it.

An alternative theory would be to see the inn named after the Indian elephant given to Elizabeth I by Henry IV of France⁶³. The reference of 1598 to the *Oliphant* inn (above) also states that it was "formerly known as the Red Hart". This change of name could arise as much from the arrival in London of the Tudor elephant as from the discovery of the bones of the hypothetical Roman beast around that time. Shakespeare's reference to the Elephant inn in the south suburbs can then be understood as a topical allusion in his play which is nominally set in the 'Kingdom of Illyria'.

It is perhaps worth noting that the identification of the elephant found by John Conyers near Battlebridge, Kings Cross c 1690 as a mammoth⁶⁴ is not proven. The question as to whether this animal could have been part of the Claudian army, could have taken part in the battle which took place after the crossing of the Thames and could have been

61. *Memorable Accidents* 15 Nov 1642.

62. C. J. Feret *Fulham Old and New* 1 (1900) 47-8.

63. Scullard *op cit* 280, n. 143.

64. R. Merrifield *The Archaeology of London* (1975) 3-4.

Letters

COMPUTER GRAPHICS

IN THEIR ARTICLE 'Hard Copy Graphics for Archaeologists' (*London Archaeol.*, 4, no. 2, Spring 1985), Alvey and Moffett state that A4 plotters are available for less than £1000. In fact, rapid developments in this area mean that the situation is far better. Among equipment now available are the following: (prices exclude VAT, and are based on the latest information that I have).

- (a) Penman. 3 pens, size at least A3. Cost £270-£300, depending on computer. (Made by Penman Products Ltd., tel. 0903 209081, telex 946240).
- (b) Parfitt Plotter. 1 pen, size A4. Cost £312. It is possible to buy a drill/router attachment which could be used to cut sheets of balsa wood, or other soft material, to make contour models. This would bring the price to £420. (Parfitt Electronics, 01-348 1973).

killed by the natives, as were the three elephants at Numantia (above), must remain a matter of conjecture.

Acknowledgments

The first half of this article, which was written at the Institute of Archaeology, formed part of a *Report* submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of B.A. of the University of London in 1985.

The chapter on 'Elephants' owes a substantial debt to the late Professor Scullard's *The Elephant in the Greek and Roman World*, while the discussion on the 'Elephant and Castle' has greatly benefitted from a folio of references on the name, which has been compiled by the staff of Southwark Reference Library (ref: P929.4).

Finally, I should like to thank Tim Price very much for preparing a new and close translation of the excerpt from Polyaeus; this appears to be the first new published translation since 1848.

Appendix

Polyaeus *Stratagems* VIII, 23, 5

A New Translation by Tim Price

Caesar, while in Britain, was trying to cross a large river, and the king of the Britons, Casoellaunus, along with many horsemen and chariots, was obstructing him. In Caesar's train was a very large elephant, a creature not previously seen by the Britons. He armed this with iron scales, and put a large tower upon it; then, having mounted archers and slingers on it, he ordered it to enter the stream. The Britons were struck with amazement on seeing a beast hitherto unseen and of extraordinary appearance. The effect on the horses hardly needs describing, when - even among the Greeks - horses flee at the sight of an elephant, even when it is unarmed; faced with a fully armed beast carrying a tower and discharging missiles and sling-shot, they could not bear even to look upon the sight. The Britons fled, horses, chariots and all, while the Romans, having terrified the enemy with a single animal, crossed the river unscathed.

- (c) Plotmaster. 2 pens, size to B4. Very high accuracy, and may also be used as a digitiser to enter drawings into the computer. Cost £489 - more expensive than other systems, but more accurate, and has dual role. A larger version will probably be available soon. (Linear Graphics, 0702 541664, telex 995701).
- (d) Plotmate. A4, 1 pen. For BBC micro £299, for other computers £399. (Linear Graphics, as above)

There may be extras, such as cables, and software (programs) providing graphics facilities are generally available at a reasonable price. It would be advisable to check that the machine you favour will work with your computer, though this is unlikely to be a problem.

One of the above machines can act as a digitiser, and be used to enter plans, etc. into the computer. A number of low cost digitiser systems are available, but before buying one make sure it is sufficiently accurate for your needs.

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