

# Mosaic

## A GOLDEN JUBILEE

WE JOIN WITH other friends in congratulating Arthur Trotman, Head of the Conservation Department at the Museum of London, on completing 50 years of service at the Museum and its predecessor, the London Museum. Since starting as a 'boy learner' in 1936, having been personally selected by Mortimer Wheeler, he has served under six Directors. In 1967 he took the *British Royal Family Collection* exhibition to Japan on behalf of the Museum, and was invited to take tea and discuss the exhibits with the Emperor of Japan.

## CITY EXCAVATIONS EXPOSED

IF YOU HAVE EVER needed to look up details of the many excavations carried out in the City since 1973, and have been daunted by the prospect of hunting through several years' *Excavation Round-up*, your life has been made easier by a new publication from the Department of Urban Archaeology. The *DUA Archive Catalogue* lists every site excavated or observed by the Department, giving a brief summary of the main findings, a reference to more detailed summary (usually in *the LA*), and a list of all reports, published and unpublished, dealing with aspects of the site. There is a rough index to help the reader to find sites quickly without needing to know the site code or year of excavation. This is a valuable mine of information, and regular updates are promised. It can be obtained *by post only* from the Museum of London shop, price £8.

## TWO MAJOR EXHIBITIONS

ANTICIPATION OF the World Archaeological Congress (see *Gromaticus* in Vol. 5, no. 5) has led British archaeologists to review their achievements of the past 40 years. The knowledge acquired in this period is being presented to the public, for the first time as a coherent whole, in the *Archaeology in Britain* exhibition which opens at the British Museum in July (see *Diary*). Among the highlights will be the first presentation to the general public of *Lindow Man*, the two thousand year old body found in 1984 in a peat bog in Cheshire, and a full scale reconstruction of a 3rd century BC chariot burial found in Humberside. The exhibition will also deal with topics such as the disposal of the prehistoric dead, the campaigns of the Roman army, medieval castles, monastic life and the construction of the great prehistoric monuments. Among the objects on display will be a section of prehistoric trackway from Somerset, the finest collection of Celtic gold torcs ever gathered together, medieval stained glass and manuscripts, and Christian silver vessels.

Alongside the exhibition will be an extensive programme for schools, focusing on sites and topics of interest to children. It is hoped that some sections of the display will be available later for loan to regional museums.

Three topics are not covered by this exhibition: Underwater Archaeology, Industrial Archaeology and the archaeology of London. The scale of work undertaken in and around London in the last 15 years is such that it could not be adequately dealt with as part of an exhibition, so the Museum of London will be mounting *Capital Gains! - archaeology in London 1971-86*, opening in September (see *Diary*). It will display many of the more exciting finds made by the Museum's Archaeological Departments, as well as the Social and Economic Study of London, based at the Museum.

With these two exhibitions as well as the LAMAS Regional Conference in October, it will be a very exciting autumn. Make sure you don't miss any of these events.

## IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES REWARDED

THE CHALDON-MERSTHAM area of the Upper Greensand in Surrey contains the most accessible, best preserved, most extensive and (now) the best surveyed subterranean stone quarries worked before the canal and railway eras in the country. There is some evidence that two of the eight stone quarries mentioned in the Domesday survey are incorporated in the network of galleries surveyed. Archival sources point to Chaldon and Merstham as the parishes of origin of much of the 'Reigate stone' used in the principal monuments of medieval London, and these quarries may accurately be described as London's medieval quarries. Although there was significant post-medieval quarrying, the Chaldon and Merstham quarries and quarry entrance areas have not been affected by the Victorian hearthstone mining (also in the Upper Greensand) which has so affected ancient quarry areas in other east Surrey parishes such as Godstone and Reigate.

What post-1800 quarrying there has been, in the Quarry Field and Quarry Dean area in Merstham, is of interest in its own right in its connections with the planning, operation, and fate of the Croydon, Merstham & Godstone Iron Railway, and the fortunes of Jolliffe & Banks, the pioneering civil engineering contractors.

The entire accessible extent of quarry galleries, amounting to about 16,000 sq.m (4 acres), has been surveyed by members of the Unit 2 Cave Research & Exploration, Subterranea Britannica and Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society. The surveying was made possible by the purchase of a compass and tapes with money from the Lloyds Bank Fund for Independent Archaeologists. A further grant this year has enabled some worn-out equipment to be replaced. A summary report (from which these notes have been composed) has been produced by the Industrial Studies Section of CNHSS, and reports on various aspects of the work have been published (see *Local Society Bookshop*).

## A NEW MUSEUM

WANDSWORTH'S NEW Museum Service opened its first exhibition to the public at the end of April. Housed in a rather grand panelled room which was built as a Committee Room for Putney Library in the 1890s, the display provided local people with an opportunity to see some of the material which will form the basis of the museum's collections. This includes some items which survive from the former Battersea Museum which existed in the 1920s, excavated material from Putney kindly lent by the Wandsworth Historical Society and an assortment of items with local connections which had previously been cared for by the borough's Local History Librarian.

For the first year or so museum visitors will be able to see a series of changing exhibitions, each covering a local topic and lasting two or three months. During this period the museum staff will be researching for the permanent exhibition on the history of the London Borough of Wandsworth which should be completed by the middle of 1987.

With only three staff and much preparatory work to do, the new Museum Service will only be able to offer limited opening hours for its temporary exhibitions. Party visits, arranged in advance by schools and other organisations, can be booked for other times. The Museum's summer exhibition, aimed primarily at local children, will be about Wandsworth children in the past, and will run throughout the school holidays from mid-July to September.

The Museum can be found at Putney Library in Disraeli Road, SW15 (01-871 7074), just round the corner from Putney Station (BR) and a short walk from East Putney (District Line): many buses stop in Putney High Street nearby. Admission is free.