

Keston Roman Villa published

IN SEPTEMBER 1991 the first report covering 11 years of excavation (1978-88) at Lower Warbank, Keston, was published. This major hard-back volume (313 pp., 25 pl., 938 drawn objects, 200 plans and sections), the sixth in the Kent Monograph Series, was financially supported by *English Heritage*. It covers the prehistoric settlements, including important Iron Age sites, the evolution from a Romano-British farmstead to a substantial Roman villa estate and post-Roman settlement. The site and its publication is a major contribution to archaeological studies and research in the south-east.

The book was launched at a ceremony on 22nd September, when Roger Simms MP and Cllr. Richard Foister, representing the London Borough of Bromley, accepted special presentation copies.

New light on an old controversy

A TROJAN/ITALIC cup found over seventy years ago on the Thames foreshore at Barn Elms, near Hammersmith, has been a source of controversy. If a genuine find, it would be intriguing evidence of late prehistoric contact with Classical Mediterranean civilisation. However, doubt has been cast on its provenance because it was reported to have been found undamaged in hard gravel until exposed by a disturbance due to a boat being drawn up the shore¹.

Fresh light has unexpectedly been shed on this discovery by, of all things, a study of fossil and sub-fossil insects. The author reports the discovery of a new Quaternary deposit, the Barn Elms Peat Bed which, apart from containing many remains of sub-fossil insects, may also have held the cup. The Bed underlies the gravel surface to the foreshore, which, the author notes, is readily cut by the keels of boats which are occasionally drawn over it today².

1. I Noel Hume *Treasure in the Thames* (1956) 49-51.
2. E A Jarzembowski 'The Geological Age of Insects' *London Naturalist* 70 (1991) 29-34.

More evidence for the Globe Theatre

Further archaeological evaluations were carried in October 1991 at Anchor Terrace, believed to be the site of the Globe Theatre. Anchor Terrace is a grade II listed building and the remains of the Globe have been scheduled as an ancient monument. The new work, undertaken by the Museum of London and financed by Hanson plc, the owners of the site, was to obtain information about the nature of the foundations of Anchor Terrace.

The investigations showed that the listed building, which was built in 1834, rests on a concrete raft foundation. Beneath it was found a pier base of grey mortar with fragments of brick, set into the surrounding grey clay. Its method of construction suggests that it was part of the Globe Theatre, and it lies exactly on a predicted line of the inner wall of the theatre. A trade token dating to 1580-1630 was also recovered from the immediate vicinity.

Mesolithic site published

A LONG-AWAITED report has appeared on the HADAS excavations of the mesolithic site on Hampstead Heath West, 1976-1981; the later four years of excavation await a further report. A TL date gives 7641±900 years to a relatively early mesolithic knapping site.

The tool assemblage recovered from among over 60,000 worked flints resembles Broxbourne 102, with micropoints, microburins, and mesolithic-type scrapers. Refitting of flakes and scores

suggests a working site of flint brought from nearby. Absence of signs of substantial settlement suggests repeated seasonal occupations. No faunal remains have survived the acid soil. A nearby spring and bog yielded plant and insect remains; seed, pollen, and soil analyses contribute to the specialist study of "five thousand years of change" on Hampstead Heath, and specialist interest lies in Maureen Girling's discovery of the elm beetle *Scolitus* at 20cm below the horizon of the elm decline. Two hundred and fifty members contributed to the excavations and subsequent research by this amateur society. There is a permanent exhibition at Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead.

1. Excavations at the Mesolithic Site on West Heath, Hampstead 1976-1981. Investigations by members of the Hendon and District Archaeological Society, edited by Desmond Collins and Daphne Lorimer. BAR British Series 217 (1989) £13.

Brigid Grafton Green

BRIGID GRAFTON GREEN died in September 1991. Many archaeologists have known her as an outstanding member of HADAS, which she helped to establish as a force in amateur archaeology. With an Oxford degree in English and Logic, extra-mural diplomas in Archaeology and Local History, experience in journalism, exhibition tenns and *cordon bleu* cooking, and as archivist for Hampstead Garden Suburb, she brought to archaeology skills in excavation and research. She negotiated and supported excavations, exhibitions, publications and a newsletter that was wide-ranging and punctual. Her loss will continue to be felt most keenly by her many friends and colleagues.

More about moats

FURTHER TO recent Mosaic comments on moats (Autumn 1991) comes the discovery by the Museum of London and of the buried western arm of the Finchley moat. This is now revealed as a U-shaped moat, instead of the previously truncated L-shape. There is no sign as yet of the 13th century manor house.

Jean Snelling

More leaflets on London's Museums

The London Museums Service has just published two more leaflets in its *What to see in London's Museums* series. The first, *Where the Action is in London's Museums*, features twelve museums in London which use interactive displays, models and videos to explain how things work. It should appeal particularly to families with children. The second, *London's Museums of Health and Medicine*, shows where to find out about many aspects of medical care, from dentistry to surgery, and to discover the famous personalities of medical history.

Both leaflets are available free from libraries, tourist information centres and museums in London.

Model of the Rose Theatre

A MODEL OF the Rose Theatre, based on evidence excavated by Museum of London archaeologists in 1988-89, forms the centrepiece of a new permanent display, *Tudor and Stuart Theatres*, at the Museum of London. Also on display are a selection of artefacts from the site, including the inscribed gold 'Rose' ring, coins and fragments of money boxes, oak shingles from the stage roof, ceramic stove tiles, jewellery and leather shoes. This display is the first to be sponsored by the Museum's Corporate Membership Scheme.

Happy anniversary

THIS MARCH is the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Thames Basin Archaeological Observers Group, an event which marked the beginning of the growth of archaeological activity in London.