

Mosaic

Award for the Cuming Museum

We congratulate the Cuming Museum in Southwark for its recent award of one of the National Heritage Museum of the Year Awards for 1992. The Cuming was the unanimous choice for the Shoe String Award for the Museum achieving the best results with limited resources, in its case the success of its recent face-lift. The judges enjoyed the museum's first major temporary exhibitions 'Poverty and Pleasure life in Victorian Southwark' and 'Treasure House Southwark's Cuming family and their collecting', and were particularly impressed by the outreach work and full children and adult education programmes set up by the Cuming. They noted both the five-fold increase in numbers of visitors and use by over half Southwark's schools in the first year of the 'new Cuming'.

Roman villa opened to the public

THE ROMAN villa at Crofton, Orpington (near Orpington station) was opened to the public on 21 September, after four years' work by the Kent Archaeological Unit and the Bromley and West Kent Archaeological Group. They completely excavated the villa in 1988-89 and returned in 1991-92 to participate in the construction of the cover-building and the setting-up of the displays. The cost of preservation, some £80,000, was provided by the London Borough of Bromley.

Some ten rooms of the central part of the villa, built of flints and tile and similar to Lullingstone, can now be seen. On view are traces of hypocausts in five rooms as well as traces of original concrete and tessellated floors. Display boards set out the history of the villa from its building in AD 120 to its final abandonment around AD 400, its accidental discovery in 1926 and later excavations. The site will be open from April to October each year, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Parties can visit by special arrangement on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There is a small admission charge. Further details can be obtained from the Kent Archaeological Unit (tel. 081 462 4737) or Bromley Museum (tel. 0689 873 826).

News of London Museums

There seems to be no end to new museums in London. Recent months have seen the opening of the Museum of Fulham Palace, the London Canal Museum and the Tea and Coffee Museum.

At Fulham Palace the main display, which is in the restored Bishop Howley's Dining room, is of the history of the palace itself. The Porteus Library has also been restored, but antiquarian books and suitable library furniture are being sought. Funding came from English Heritage and the Heritage of London Trust.

The London Canal Museum has opened in a former ice house on the Battlebridge Basin off the Regents Canal in Islington. It includes displays, films and educational material about the history of the canals and the lives of the people who lived and worked on them. One of the museum's main functions will be with school parties.

The last of our trio, the Tea and Coffee Museum, is part of the Butler's Wharf development on the south bank near Tower Bridge. It houses the Bramah Collection of pictures, silver and ceramics, and tells the social, economic and technological history since the mid-17th century. There is, of course, a coffee bar and tea room.

Several of London's established museums have recently been awarded grants from the Museums and Galleries Commission

Improvement Fund. The largest was of £150,000 made to the Horniman Museum for the redisplay of the musical instrument collection; the Geffrye Museum and the London Transport were awarded £50,000 each for refurbishment of galleries.

The Kew Bridge Steam Museum in Brentford has received £150,000 from English Heritage and the National Heritage Memorial Fund to restore the roof of its steam hall. Just down the road, the Musical Museum received £5,000 from the Carnegie Trust to restore some 5,000 paper music rolls.

At the Old Royal Observatory, Greenwich (part of the National Maritime Museum), a new exhibition, *Time and Space: John Harrison and the Search for Longitude*, the centrepiece of the redeveloped public displays, opens on 24 March. Marking the 300th anniversary of birth of John Harrison, inventor of the marine chronometer, it is being sponsored by *The Economist* as part of its 150th birthday celebrations.

The London Museums Service has produced *Ships and Seafarers in London's Museums*, the latest leaflet in its What to See series. It highlights museums with maritime collections, with a particular emphasis on the history of London's port and docks and the people who lived there. There are also several historic ships moored on the Thames. *Ships and Seafarers* is part of the National Curriculum for History, Key Stage 2, and this leaflet is ideal for teachers planning school visits. It is available free from museums, libraries and tourist information centres across London.

Seeing beneath the soil

A recent feature of archaeological organisation has been the emergence of independent organisations offering specialist services to archaeologists and othered concerned with below-ground objects (e.g. pipelines). One such is Stratascan, who offer geophysical techniques such as ground-penetrating radar as well as the more established resistivity and magnetometer surveys. They also offer topographic, contour and thermographic surveys, as well as photographic and measured surveys of historic buildings and monuments. The address is Stratascan, Tiltbridge Farm, Upper Hook Road, Upton upon Severn, Worcs WR8 0SA, tel. 0684 592266.

New light on John Dwight

RESEARCH INTO the life and work of John Dwight, the Fulham potter, has been very active in recent years. A significant addition to our knowledge has been the publication of *John Dwight's Fulham Pottery 1672 - 1978 A collection of Documentary Sources* (edited by Dennis Haselgrove and John Murray) by the City Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, in 1992 as a supplement to the *Journal of Ceramic History* vol. II (1979). Topics range from Dwight's early life and time at Oxford to 19th and 20th century products of the Fulham Pottery. This 70-page report will form a valuable springboard for future research.

Tebbutt Research Fund

THIS FUND was established as a tribute to the life and work of the late C. F. Tebbutt, OBE, FSA, and applications are invited, from individuals and groups, for grants towards research, including associated expenses, into the Wealden Iron Industry.

It is anticipated that approximately £200 will be available from the fund, and anyone interested should write a suitable letter of application giving details of themselves together with relevant information concerning the research envisaged.

Details should be sent not later than 31 March to Shiela Broomfield, 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9HD.