

chaeologists' academic knowledge of the site, and perhaps fails to appreciate that there is a very fine line between educating the public and actively campaigning, a position which the archaeologists could not be seen to adopt. The press contributed to the trivialisation of the Rose, sometimes using it as a weapon to attack actors who, not unnaturally, flocked to the Rose for a rare glimpse of the material history of their profession. The situation was a delicate one, the archaeological team being in effect just another contractor in a chain of on-site works leading from demolition to the construction of a new building. It was a difficult case and has been much discussed in legal journals as well as those devoted to archaeology and English literature.

The brief, archaeological/'political' chapters at the end of the book sit rather uneasily with the rest. Her attitude here could be considered a little naive. It is arguable whether any closer links with theatre academics who were, after all, among the active campaigners would have made any difference to the outcome for the Rose. She writes as if universal knowledge and understanding could have prevented disaster. The more cynical reader may well be less amazed at the characteristic sound of money talking.

Jo Udall

The Monastic Gatehouse and other types of portal of medieval religious houses, by Roland W. Morant. *The Book Guild*. 219 pp., 32 pl., 22 figs. £15.

THERE WERE over a thousand monastic establishments in Great Britain before the Dissolution. Over two hundred of their gateways remain in a variety of degrees of disrepair. They are widely scattered, visible signs of our medieval heritage, and yet this is the first time a study of them in their own right has been published, although many have been featured in general works on abbeys and priories or in specialised papers on specific sites.

In this book Roland Morant describes not only the variety that existed in these monastic entrances, but also shows how much there is left to see today. He investigates the position, structure and function, as well as decoration and embellishments of all the surviving monastic gatehouses in Britain.

Obviously the result of many years of painstaking research by a man with a special love of the medieval period, Roland Morant has managed to make his book thoroughly readable for both the serious historian and the general reader. He devotes the first chapters to the functions and types of gatehouse and other portals; their location in relation to the other buildings within the monastery; the historical development of portals and their structure; their design and ornamentation. These chapters are followed by an inventory which lists and describes all the remaining monastic portals in England, Scotland and Wales, classified according to their present material condition. The text is well illustrated with numerous photographs and some very detailed drawings.

Catriona Smith

Excavations and post-excavation work

City of London. Museum of London Archaeology Service, Number One, London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA (0171-972 9111).

Croydon & District. processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Tuesday throughout the year. Archaeological reference collection of fabric types, domestic animal bones, clay tobacco pipes and glass ware also available for comparative work. Enquiries to Mrs Muriel Shaw, 28 Lismore Road, South Croydon, CR2 7QA (0181-688 2720).

Greater London (except north-east and south-east London), by Museum of London Archaeology Service. Excavations and processing in all areas. General enquiries to MOLAS, Number One, London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA (0171-972 9111).

Borough of Greenwich. Cataloguing of excavated and other archaeological material, the majority from sites in the borough. For further information contact Greenwich Borough Museum, 232 Plumstead High Street, London SE18 1JT (0181-855 3240).

Hammersmith & Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Processing of material from Fulham Palace. Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham

Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, SW6 (0171-731 4498).

Kingston, by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. Rescue sites in the town centre. Enquiries to Kingston Heritage Centre, Fairfield Road, Kingston (0181-546 5386).

North-east London, by Passmore Edwards Museum. Enquiries to Pat Wilkinson, Newham Museum Service, Archaeology and Local History Centre, 31 Stock Street, E13 0BX (0181-472 4785).

Surrey, by Surrey County Archaeological Unit. Enquiries to Rob Poulton, Archaeological Unit Manager, Old Library Headquarters, 25 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1DE (01306-886 466).

Individual membership of the Council for British Archaeology includes 10 issues a year of British Archaeological News, as well as the supplement CBA Briefing, which gives details of conferences, extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The subscription of £18 p.a. includes postage, and should be sent to C.B.A., Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York, YO1 2UA (01904 671417).