

MoLAS 97

THE MUSEUM of London Archaeology Service has just produced its fourth annual report, MoLAS 97, giving a lavishly illustrated account of its year's activities. Worth having for its excellent colour photography, this report gives summaries of the main sites of the year, as well as accounts of finds work and reconstructions. More of a surprise may be MoLAS' overseas activities: participation in several EU-funded projects, as well as institutional links with Portugal and personal links around the Mediterranean and as far east as Abu Dhabi. It is very good to see collaboration on projects which require consistent recording across several countries, such as the distribution of Lezoux samian ware.

The 'doctor's grave' at the British Museum

THE EARLIEST known surgical kit from Britain is currently on display at the British Museum (see *Diary*). The kit comprises thirteen instruments, including scalpels, forceps, sharp and blunt retractors, needles, a probe and a surgical saw. They would have enabled a wide range of surgical interventions, from the treatment of fractures or varicose veins to tonsillectomy and fine eye surgery. They were found in the so-called 'doctor's grave' at Stanway, near Colchester, which dates to the AD 50s. Displayed alongside the instruments, and from the same grave, are a complete board game, with its 26 blue and white glass counters set out ready to play, a set of long metal rods, and an array of fine pottery and metal vessels which would have been originally filled with food and drink for the afterlife.

Museum of Mankind closes

THE MUSEUM of Mankind, home to the British Museum's Department of Ethnography, closed permanently at the end of 1997. The Departmental Library will remain open by prior arrangement for those with special requirements that cannot be met elsewhere, and an educational programme, for pre-booked parties using the handling collections, will also be maintained.

New permanent galleries are being prepared within the British Museum, and the new *British Museum Study Centre*, which the Ethnography Department will share with the Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities, is being created nearby in the former GPO sorting office in New Oxford Street. It will bring together the entire ethnographic collections, some of which have been stored elsewhere since the 1960s.

A new niche museum in London

JUST AS WE have large supermarkets, small corner shops and specialist 'niche' shops, so we can divide museums into large multi-purpose museums, small local ones and, increasingly, 'niche' museums dealing with very specialised subjects. A good example is the proposed Museum of Type and Communication in Stockwell, which, it is hoped, will open in 1999 as a showcase of the art and craft of typography from the 16th to the 21st century. Its first important acquisition was the complete engineering archive of the metal division of the Monotype Corporation, the firm which invented the first machinery for composing and casting metal type. For further information contact Val Seddon, Output Communications, tel. (0171) 240 3499.

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 any aspect of the Wealden Iron Industry.

It is anticipated that approximately £100 plus will be available from the fund and any interested person should write a suitable form of application giving details of themselves together with relevant information concerning the research envisaged. Applications should be sent not later than 31 March 1998 to Shiela Broomfield, 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HD.

Excavations and post-excavation work

City of London. Museum of London Archaeology Service, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB (0171-410 2200).

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 Jim Davison, 28 Blenheim Park Road, South Croydon, CR2 6BB.

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, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB (0171-410 2200).

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).

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 Archaeology, 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 individual subscription rate of £20 p.a. includes postage; payment should be sent to C.B.A., Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York, YO1 2UA (01904 671417).