

Books

Water and Wind Power, by Martin Watts. *Shire Publications*, 2000. 136 pp., 104 illus., bib., index. £7.99.

I CAN ONLY describe this as a delightful book representing great value for money. Those familiar with the past output of Shire Publications in the many small books on a very wide range of subject areas will be pleased to see that they now seem to be going into more depth, but without leaving the easy-reading and clear illustration style that have made them, for many, the first port of call to get an introduction to a new area.

The book is clearly written, it has a good number of black and white photographs and line drawings, and seems to cover nearly every aspect of the subject one can think of, from a consideration of the earliest forms of wind and water use to the latest electricity generating wind and water turbines. En route (the contents are presented in a chronological development of the technology) we are treated to interesting and informative discussions of medieval mills, post-medieval developments, the great boom with industrialisation, the 19th- and 20th-century use of wind and water power, with glimpses into the future. The final chapter presents a brief note on preservation, and is followed by a useful glossary, a useful-looking selection of further reading, and a list of places to visit.

It is difficult to find anything to criticise, considering the market this work is aimed at, except perhaps that it should be made clear that it is essentially a work about British examples, but there is plenty within this to interest anyone with only a passing interest in the subject. The obvious enthusiasm and extensive knowledge of the author, coupled with the good quality of printing and presentation, and very reasonable price make this a book that is hard to resist.

Martin Bridge

Disease and History, by F. T. Cartwright and M. Biddiss. *Sutton Publishing*, 2000. 230pp., 11 pl., bib., index. £20.

THIS IS the second edition of a book which first appeared in 1972. According to the blurb on the dust jacket the authors draw 'upon little-known evidence ... [and] explore the impact of diseases on

the processes of history'. If only. What the authors actually present is a history of a small number of important infectious diseases, haemophilia and they conclude with a discussion of mass hysteria. These accounts are written for a lay audience but they certainly do not draw upon 'little-known' evidence. Indeed, the evidence which they do draw on is in the main very well known and for the most part has been in the public domain for a very long time. There are very few references to work published in the last decade and none at all to papers published in learned journals. There is also scant reference to palaeopathological studies which have cast much light on at least two of the diseases which Cartwright and Biddiss discuss, that is, syphilis and tuberculosis.

The chapter on syphilis is concerned to some extent with the 'mystery of syphilis', that is, they mull over the old argument as to its origins -- did it or did it not come from America? The authors state that syphilis has not been found in any skeletal remains radio-carbon dated to before the 16th century. And while this may technically be true, skeletons with lesions caused by treponemal infection have been found in Europe, in some cases dating back to Roman times¹. The real mystery now is what caused it to increase in virulence in the 15th century, since there seems little doubt that the physicians of the day did become aware of a 'new' epidemic which coincided with the return of Columbus and his sailors to port.

One of the controversies about tuberculosis is whether it had its origins in the bovine form of the disease. This was considered to be the case for many years, and although Cartwright and Biddiss do discuss the connection between the two, but only in the context of the fact that infection with the bovine form confers immunity from the human form, they do not consider its origins. There is now a considerable body of evidence from palaeopathological studies -- notably from the analysis of ancient DNA -- that the human form of the disease is of great antiquity and it now seems unlikely that it is derived from the bovine form².

This book presents a useful introduction to the history of some diseases; it would have been more useful had the authors considered diseases which are of more current relevance, albeit they too have

1. O Dutour, G Pálfi, J Bérata and J-P Bon *L'origine de la syphilis en Europe*, Editions Eurance, no date.

2. G Pálfi, O Dutour, J Deák and I Hutás (eds) *Tuberculosis past and present* (1999).

a long history. Chapters on cardio-vascular disease and on malignant disease, for example, would make it a more rounded account.

Tony Waldron

Lambeth Palace: a history of the Archbishops of Canterbury and their Houses, by Tim Tatton-Brown. *SPCK London*, 2000. 116 pp, 104 illus, bib, index. £17.50.

Whitehall Palace: an architectural history of the royal apartments, 1240-1690, by Simon Thurley. *Yale University Press in association with Historic Royal Palaces*, 1999. 185 pp, 171 illus, end notes, index. £50.

MEDIEVAL LONDON was not just a major mercantile port, it was also a centre of conspicuous wealth and power, both royal and episcopal. The two important books reviewed here consider that element of London's complex morphology with their masterly studies of the palaces at Lambeth and at Whitehall. It comes as no surprise that the story of the Archbishop of Canterbury's residence in Lambeth is related to the development of the larger royal palace at Whitehall, on the opposite bank of the Thames.

To take the Surrey shore first: Tim Tatton-Brown's book is a splendid essay on the history of Lambeth Palace, based on the documentary evidence supplemented by recent archaeological investigations. The site is best known to Londoners for its gatehouse, built for Archbishop Morton in c. 1495, and usually closed to the public. However, this year the whole complex has been open for visitors, with Tim's book celebrating that welcome event. The Archbishops of Canterbury have had an interest in the site from at least the 1090s, although it did not become their prime London residence until 1197. The story of its subsequent development is carefully pieced together, from its 13th-century expansion, its later modernisations, its adaptation as a prison following the execution of William Laud during the Commonwealth (1645-60) through to its major 'restoration' by Edward Blore (who demolished over half of the surviving medieval and Tudor buildings in 1829) and beyond, even reminding us that the palace was hit no less than four times during the Blitz of 1940-1, and then by a VI flying bomb in 1944.

This study does not just concern itself with a single building, but ranges widely over the other palaces used by the archbishop and also provides an excellent summary history of the rather chequered careers of the archbishops themselves; some died rich, some died in (relative) poverty, others

were executed. As their needs and demands changed, so to did the palaces they owned, built or had confiscated. Thus a series of ten chapters guides the reader through a stimulating history of Lambeth palace set firmly in its wider architectural, social and political context. There is new material here too, for example, the detailed reconstruction drawings compiled by John Bowen (pp 109-112) of the palace in c. 1829, showing the multi-period complex as it was on the eve of its demolition. The book contains many more illustrations, many in colour, with plans of the complex at various stages of development.

Strangely, the one plan that is not included is that of the complex today, but that may be found in the other volume to be reviewed (fig 20). This is Simon Thurley's sumptuous, large-format production on Whitehall Palace, from its origins in the 13th century as York Place, the London residence of the Archbishop of York, to its development as the principal residence of the monarch from 1529 to 1698. This study is a major contribution to London's archaeological literature, dealing as it does with a series of extensive rescue excavations conducted by the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments on the eastern part of the site from 1937 to 1969. The results of that work by George Chettle, John Harvey, Arnold Taylor, John Charlton, Alan Cook and Peter Curnow among others, is presented here in a broadly narrative form in which the archaeological data are closely integrated with the rich documentary sources. As with the Lambeth Palace volume, this is not just an architectural essay, but a wider study of the social and political context within which the palace must be viewed.

The report is arranged in nine main sections, the first covering the circumstances of the excavations and the quality and fate of the site records (a familiar resonance here for the reviewer fresh from working on Professor Grime's post-war archive), followed by eight chronological chapters, the first two of which cover the history of York Place up to and including the massive expansion undertaken for Thomas Wolsey, before his fall from grace in c. 1530. It was the form of that palace which broadly dictated the subsequent development of the complex by the Tudor and Stuart monarchs; indeed, in spite of many £1,000s of lavish rebuilding and extension, detailed in chapters 3 to 8, the nucleus of Wolsey's buildings can still be traced on the plan of 1698. There are four appendices dealing with small finds recovered from excavations, most notably some armorial stove tiles, and with the mason's marks recorded on the river walls associated with the palace. Indeed, it was the size, scope and date of

Mosaic

Noviomagus revealed?

THE BROMLEY Archaeological Group and the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit have recently announced the discovery of a 'lost' Roman town at West Wickham in the London Borough of Bromley (*Kent Archaeol Rev* no. 141 (2000) 2-4). The site was originally located in 1966 during a large-scale programme of field survey and excavation. Further work in 1976 and 1998 has confirmed the site as extending over at least 15 acres, producing over 5000 pieces of pottery and 30 coins, as well as quernstones and building material.

The site has been equated with the Roman town of *Noviomagus*, on the grounds that the Antonine Itinerary stated that *Noviomagus* was 10 miles from London and that *Vagniacae* (Springhead, near Gravesend), was 28 miles from London. These distances fit if the route from London to Springhead was *via* West Wickham, as the direct distance is only 18 miles. Evidence for a previously unknown Roman road from West Wickham to Springhead has been found at both ends in the 1960s and at Fordcroft, by the crossing of the River Cray, in 1988.

A settlement at this location would fit very well with the known pattern of settlements at this distance around London, such as Ewell, Brentford, Crayford and Staines. On the other hand, the description of the site as a 'town' may be optimistic. The quantity of finds is small compared to even one site at, say, Ewell, which is now usually defined as a 'roadside settlement' in contrast to its original description as a 'small town'.

Barking on view

ON THE OTHER side of the Thames, excavations at Barking Abbey featured prominently in the Barking Abbey River Festival in September. Archaeologists from English Heritage have been taking place in the Church and Cloister area, as well as in

the Heath Street area to the south, where there should be outbuildings of the medieval abbey, and possibly even the original Saxon abbey. The aim is to provide the information needed to ensure better management of the site in the future.

Tom Blagg

WE ANNOUNCE with regret the death of Tom Blagg on 11 August. Tom Blagg had come late to Archaeology, having read History at Keble College, Oxford, and trained and briefly practised as a solicitor in Newark. His London PhD was supervised by the late Donald Strong, and was eagerly awaited by scholars long before its eventual submission. His main research interest was in the techniques of Roman monumental sculpture, in which he had an international reputation. His specialist reports extended to sites in Italy, Malta, Bulgaria and Petra, but he never lost a strong interest in London and the Southeast as well. His report on Stonework from the Roman Riverside Wall for the Museum of London appeared in 1980; and the fascicule of the *Corpus Signorum* on the stoneworking of Southeastern England was well advanced at his death.

Tom will be remembered not only for his impeccably scrupulous scholarship, but as a warm, humane and many-sided personality. He was a pivotal figure in the new Kent degree programme in Classical and Archaeological Studies. He also had an abiding interest in music, especially opera, and in ballet; and he was the only archaeologist known to me to possess a higher degree in choreographical studies. He was a very loyal, civilised and polished colleague; and the uncertainties of his mercifully brief illness did nothing to lower his spirits. He died the day after his fifty-eighth birthday, a distinguished and memorable presence and a delight to all who knew him.

Graham Anderson

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the remarkable range of masonry river walls, stairs and jetties which provided the largest surprise on first reading this report, for here was a major waterfront site with very precisely-dated features which had not previously been published in any detail. Perhaps one of the few criticisms of this particular report is that it did not use the crucial altitudinal data recorded by the excavators on the river walls, foreshores and stairs to plot the evidence for the level of high and low tide in the relevant periods.

As for the design and layout of the developing complex, this is thoughtfully considered, with, for example, a series of diagrams presented showing how the use of rooms altered, reflecting not just the private use of the palace but also changing levels of access afforded by the monarch. The merits of the overall architectural schemes represented by the surviving prints, paintings, plans and archaeological data are carefully weighed and, according to the excavator, found wanting: what-

ever its size and charms may have been, Whitehall apparently failed to match the great Baroque palaces of Europe.

Although the Great Fire which destroyed so much of the City in 1666 was arrested before it reached Whitehall, later 17th-century fires in 1691 and 1698 finally destroyed the palace. As Thurley points out, this forced the court to move to St James', physically separating the crown from the neighbouring offices of state, such as the Treasury, which remained (and remain) where they had been. The balance of power changed as access to the monarch changed, as the internal design of palaces changed. The name *Whitehall* is now associated with the government bureaucracy whose office now cover the site of the eponymous palace, the archaeological, architectural and political development of which has now been most elegantly presented.

All in all, a major waterfront excavation with a rather interesting palace complex attached.

Gustav Milne