

Commentary

by Gromaticus

Education, education, education

THE PROVISION of archaeological education in London has moved up a gear this year, with the introduction of three exciting new courses. First, the study of London itself is highlighted by University College London Institute of Archaeology's new MA in London Archaeology, organised in association with the Museum of London. Before I sound too enthusiastic, I must point out that I have been appointed to co-ordinate this programme, which will enable Londoners and others to study the archaeology of a city to a depth not previously available. As well as period-based courses covering Prehistoric London and Roman and Medieval London respectively, there is a 'core course' dealing with current issues in London's archaeology, from planning to public display, which are tackled by a series of visiting speakers. Students will also have to undertake a 20-day placement, probably at the Museum of London's London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre, which is due to open shortly, and to prepare a 10,000 word dissertation on a London-based topic. The course duration is normally one year, but it can be taken part-time over two years.

Birkbeck College, which for many years has been responsible for the popular and successful Certificate and Diploma course in Archaeology, has launched an MA in Archaeology, specifically aimed at the part-time market, and based on weekend core courses and week-long modules. This is an in-depth study of the process of archaeology, from prospection to publication, with modules on additional topics such as experimental archaeology and the presentation of sites and monuments.

Another interesting development is *The Origins of Hendon* project, a collaboration between Birkbeck College and Hendon & District Archaeological Society. The aim is to write up the excavations carried out by HADAS at Church Terrace, Hendon in 1974. Harvey Sheldon, who is both the MA Co-ordinator at Birkbeck College and the new president of HADAS, has recruited three professional archaeologists as tutors, to deal with the vast amount of Roman to post-medieval material that came from the excavation. The long-term aim is to publish the report in the *LAMAS Transactions*. This is an initiative that may well be of interest to other local societies with publication back-logs.

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A voice for London

THE POSSIBILITY of setting up a CBA Group for London has been discussed for a long time with little visible signs of progress, but the need for a single voice to speak for London's archaeology remains. The Standing Conference on London Archaeology (see *LA* 9, no. 7 (2000) 185-7) was set up to try to represent all archaeologists in London, but it has not achieved the wide support that had been hoped. The latest suggestion is for an umbrella organisation for London which would be part of the CBA family (called perhaps the *Council for London Archaeology*), but which would not weaken the existing CBA groups (South-East and Mid-Anglia).

Meanwhile, steps are being taken to revitalise the network of local liaison committees, which were set up to provide fora for reviewing archaeological work in London, but which have declined for several years. SCOLA and MoLAS have jointly suggested the creation of a *London Archaeological Forum* to replace the old system of liaison committees, with the aims of: providing a forum for discussing matters relating to archaeology in London and for disseminating information about projects in a timely manner; to ensure that archaeological knowledge does not become fragmented; to enable those responsible for planning for archaeology to have regular contact with feedback from those undertaking projects, interested societies and local authorities; and to improve contact between archaeological contracting organisations. (source: SCOLA Summer 2001 Newsletter)

Fieldwork Round-up

THE FIELDWORK and Publication Round-up for 2000 is being circulated with this issue. Please contact the Subscriptions Secretary if you have not received your copy. Our thanks go to Cath Maloney for the Fieldwork Round-up, and Isabel Holroyd and Gustav Milne for the Publication section. Please let us know if there are any omissions.