

Mosaic

New museum in Hackney

The new Hackney Museum, which opened on 22 April, takes a radically new approach to local history. Located in an area with which very few residents have long-standing family connections, it explores a tradition of immigration stretching back over 1000 years. This interweaves local history with world history in a unique way.

The new displays reveal the diversity of the area's past through a range of interviews, images, and objects. Some illustrate the forces that have driven people to leave their homes, while others show the opportunities people have to make a living and start new lives. They are funded through a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Hackney Museum's new building, the Technology and Learning Centre, has been funded through the Private Finance Initiative (the first local authority museum to be so funded).

For more details contact: Hackney Museum, Hackney Technology and Learning Centre, 1 Reading Lane, Hackney, London E8 1GQ, tel. (020) 8356 3500, email cadler@hackney.gov.uk.

New Prehistory Gallery at the British Museum

A new gallery *Prehistory: Objects of Power*, opened at the British Museum on 28 March. It illustrates the varied ways in which prehistoric objects, both the mundane and the exceptional, could be involved in the exercise of power and control from the earliest times until the end of the European Bronze Age (800 BC). The ceremonial gold cape from Mold (north-east Wales) has been specially restored for this display.

Porcelain factory rediscovered

Excavations in Hanworth Road, Hounslow, in February 2002 have revealed a massive deposit of porcelain from the little-known Isleworth Pottery, dumped into a large quarry pit from which the Pottery had been digging clay for many years. The factory was opened about 1757 by Joseph Shore, and made fine pottery and porcelain for the rest of the century. It relocated to Hanworth Road in 1830, and must have moved the whole dump of porcelain there at some time.

The Museum of London Specialist Services are working closely with the English Ceramic Circle to analyse this collection (which fills 40 large sacks), which is set to place the Isleworth Pottery firmly on the ceramic map.

(Source: *Archaeology Matters*, no. 17, March 2002)

Resources from Resource

Resource (the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries) has announced plans to develop *Cornucopia*, its online database of UK museum collections. *Cornucopia* (which can be found at <http://www.cornucopia.org.uk>) already contains detailed descriptions for 450 museum collections in the South West and West Midland Area Museum Council regions. Information will be added from a range of new sources, including Area Museum Council surveying projects, and new links to other collections databases will be added. A pilot project will extend the scope of *Cornucopia* to include information about library and archive collections in the UK.

Original Hendon

The *Origins of Hendon* project, a collaboration between Birkbeck College and the Hendon & District Archaeological Society (see LA 9, no. 10, 266), will shortly complete its first year. This year's work suggests that the sites at Church End Farm and Church Terrace began in the 16th century, and flourished in the 17th and 18th centuries. An unsolved puzzle is the presence of several ceramic 'bird pots', which are very rare elsewhere.

A second phase of work will start in the Autumn. Anyone interested should contact Jacqui Pearce on (020) 8203 4506 (evenings) or by email at jpearce@museumoflondon.org.uk.

New Young Archaeologists' Club

The first inner London branch of the national Young Archaeologists' Club opened recently at the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC), Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, N1. A wide variety of activities is planned, from visits to the Thames foreshore to object handling sessions. Membership is open to children from 9 to 16 who live in central London.

The London Search Room

The London Search Room of the National Monuments Record (NMR) offers a service to those interested in the buildings, street life, social history and topography of Greater London, with a large collection of photographs, drawings and written information. It is open at 55 Blandford Street, W1U 7HN, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays to Fridays. For information tel. (020) 7208 8200; www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr.