

- which could be interpreted as Aesculapio RIB, and recent inspection by the author, Hedley Swain and Dr Ralph Jackson of the British Museum, show the last letter as a convincing R, not P. The cast in the Greenwich Borough Museum may be the source of the confusion, as the letter there appears more P-like.
17. M. J. T. Lewis *Temples in Roman Britain* (1966) 126.
 18. B. Platts 'A Lost City of South London' *Country Life* (1969) 1236-38.
 19. Many previously reported finds, some of which appeared on early OS maps, have proven to be post-medieval objects or the result of confusion. Recent unpublished excavations in Greenwich have only produced stray fragments of Roman pottery (J. Watson and J. M. C. Bowsher, *pers. comm.*).
 20. H. Sheldon and B. Yule 'Excavations in Greenwich Park 1978-9' *London Archaeol* 3, no 12 (1979) 311-317.
 21. Time Team *Evaluation of a Roman Site in the Royal Park at Greenwich: Project Design* (unpublished 1999); see also H. Swain and H. Sheldon 'Roman Greenwich' *Current Archaeol* 14, no 167, 440; H. Swain and H. Sheldon 'Romans in Greenwich' *Minerva* 11, 3, 6.
 22. Hassall, who examined four fragments, including the two stamped ones, concludes that the pieces almost certainly fit together, although flaked edges make the join imperfect. R. S. O. Tomlin and M. W. C. Hassall 'Inscriptions' *Britannia* 31 (2000) 439-446.
 23. The surviving archive at Greenwich Borough Museum was examined by the author and Sue Pringle. The collection was last catalogued when it was accessioned after the amalgamation of boroughs in 1964 (Beverley Burford, *pers. comm.*). Large quantities of pottery appear to be missing. Apart from the coins, none of the material from the 1978/9 excavation was available for inspection at the time of writing as it was in storage outside London during the refurbishment of the archive. Only the coins have been assessed by specialists.
 24. S. Pringle *Assessment of the ceramic building material and painted wall plaster from Greenwich Park (GMA99)* unpublished MoLSS specialist report, 2001.
 25. *Op cit* fn 3. The bricks in the Plumstead Museum are labelled as tile, accounting for Webster's assertion that "exceptionally heavy roofing tiles" were found.
 26. *Op cit* fn 17, 43.
 27. The only use *in situ* in London is as *pilae* in the hypocaust at 15-30 Southwark Street. (S. Pringle, *pers. comm.*).
 28. S. Pringle, *pers. comm.*
 29. S. Pringle *Greenwich Park Building Materials* unpublished MoLSS specialist report, 2001.
 30. RIB inscription 39B is 2-3mm thinner than 39A and C, closer to the thickness of the uninscribed fragments in the archive. A total of four inscriptions in fact accords with Jones' description in his 1902 address (*op cit*, fn 5). All the fragments in the British Museum except RIB 37 are of Carrara marble (S Pringle, *pers. comm.*).
 31. G. de la Bédoyère *Companion to Roman Britain* (1999) 182; accepted as feasible by Hassall *op cit* fn 22.
 32. RIB 1092; H. Sheldon, *pers. comm.*
 33. I. M. Betts 'Procuratorial Tile Stamps from London' *Britannia* 26 (1995) 207-229.
 34. Martin Millett cautions against the association of PPBR tiles as a marker of public buildings as sometimes buildings have been presumed to be public by virtue of the presence of stamped tiles (M Millett, *pers. comm.*).
 35. S. Pringle, *pers. comm.*
 36. *Op cit* fn 33.

Books

Discovering London for Families

Peter Matthews

Shire Publications, 2001

128 pages, maps and many colourful illustrations, index. £9.99 paperback

Many guides to London have been published through the years, so what has *London for Families* got to offer? Its introduction offers guidance on how to get around by public transport, itemises the main shopping and eating

areas, and gives details of tourist information centres. This is followed by a detailed listing of major events, including daily routines such as the Changing of the Guard and the Ceremony of the Keys, and annual events such as the Chinese New Year, the Boat Race, the London Marathon, Trooping the Colour and the Lord Mayor's Show.

A brief history of London is given, starting with the establishment of Roman *Londonium* and the development of the Saxon settlement, and

continuing through the medieval period to modern London with its blend of the old and the new.

The main body of the book is made up of chapters giving detailed descriptions of the best-known attractions, such as Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament, and a multiplicity of lesser-known ones. Major and minor museums are all covered (including the author's Museum of London), and walks around Whitehall, the City and the South Bank are suggested: details of places to visit along the route are given, and maps are included to help visitors to find their way. Central London does not enjoy a monopoly however, and visitors are encouraged to broaden their horizons by venturing out to see the Cutty Sark, National Maritime Museum and Royal Observatory at Greenwich; the gardens at Kew; the palace and maze at Hampton Court, and the castle at Windsor.

Each chapter is comprehensively informative and includes context-related panels giving details of addresses, telephone and fax numbers, web sites, opening hours, public transport links, and whether or not an entry charge is made.

In short, while there are many guides to London, *London for Families* is unique in its combination of a scholarly approach to the history, context and significance of the areas and buildings it describes, while offering particularly practical guidance on how and when to gain access to them. It is not a catchpenny tourist guide, but is one with academic integrity for the visitor who wishes to be genuinely better informed.

It is an absolute cornucopia of useful and interesting information for visitors, teachers and enlightened parents, but in order for it to be most effective, it should ideally be read before arriving in London.

Richard Gilpin

In Search of London

H. V. Morton

Methuen & Co. Ltd., 2001 (first published 1951)
440 pages, map, index. £9.99 paperback

First published in 1951, this book is by a travel writer now best remembered for his journeys in the steps of Christ and St Paul. Morton focusses on the City, Westminster and a few other parts of London likely to be visited by tourists.

Blending personal observation, reminiscence and history, this non-scholarly work can still nonetheless be enjoyed for its readability and period charm. *LA* readers are most likely to be engaged by his affectionate and uncritical portrait of the antiquities dealer G. F. Lawrence. In the 1920s and 1930s 'Stony Jack' purchased archaeological finds from navvies working in the City, often without the landowners' knowledge. Many found their way to the London Museum, to the irritation of the Guildhall Museum, who thought the City was their territory. Whatever his faults, Lawrence inspired the young Morton with a fascination with the past that never left him.

Rose Baillie

Letter

Please rest assured that the "already Byzantine nature of London Archaeology" will not be further complicated by the arrival of the portable antiquities scheme in the capital (as discussed by Gromaticus in the last issue). A half-time post will be created by the scheme that will be based in the Museum of London's Department of Early London History. This is totally appropriate as that department of the Museum has for many years been liaising with, and recording the finds of, the Society of Thames Mudlarks who detect along the Thames foreshore. A valuable research database has already been developed, as described in *LA* 9, no. 5. The new post will allow us to be far more proactive in working with metal detector users, on the foreshore and elsewhere in Greater London.

To try to reassure you on another point, the coordination you suggest is needed to "make the most of these disparate sources of information" when trying to discover new sites, is also under way. The creation of the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) at the Museum of London has created a key resource in understanding London's past. As you state, the other major source of information is the GLSMR. The two should complement each other, and talks are under way between the Museum and English Heritage to link these two key resources for London archaeology.

Hedley Swain
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Museum of London*