

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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