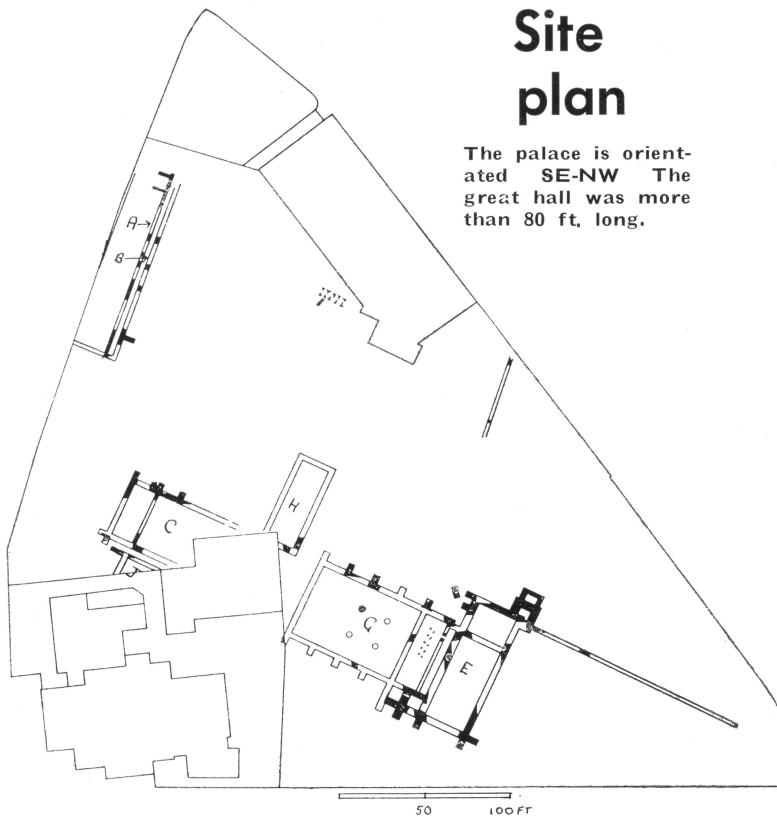


RIGHT: The excavations in the summer of 1966, in the area (E), looking across to (G). This winter's excavations will be within the yard of St. Anselm's church, (bottom left hand corner of the site plan). Readers who wish to participate in the excavation should contact Graham Dawson on the site on Saturday 2nd, Sunday 7th and 8th of December and on the following Sundays for a month or so. This will take place from 10 a.m. until dusk. Further information available from Graham Dawson, Cuming Museum, Walworth Road, S.E.17 (Tel: ROD 3324).



Site plan

The palace is orientated SE-NW. The great hall was more than 80 ft. long.



KENNINGTON CHRONOLOGY

- 1086 Domesday survey:
Kennington held by Teodric the goldsmith.
- 1316 The Earl of Warrennes granted the manor of Kennington to Edward II.
- 1337 Edward III granted the manor to his son, Edward the Black Prince.
- 1346-62 The Black Prince's palace was built.
- 1376 Black Prince died
- c.1380-
- 1420 Richard II, Henry IV and Henry V all used Kennington as a residence.
- 1531 Henry VIII ordered the demolition of the old palace.
- 1661 Kennington was leased to the Clayton family.
- 1834
- 1876 The last Kennington manor house was demolished.
- 1965 Commencement of excavations.

Black Prince's Palace at Kennington

PRELIMINARY REPORT

EXCAVATIONS on the site of the Royal Palace at Kennington were carried out by Southwark Archaeological Excavations Committee and the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society for sixteen months between October 1965 and February 1967, with the encouragement of the landowners, the Duchy of Cornwall, previous to a large scale building development. Further exploration of the site is now being carried on by Graham Dawson, the director.

The importance of this site lies in the fact that it is one of very few medieval palaces to have been excavated, and that owing to its royal ownership, it is extensively documented in the public records. It was also a difficult site to excavate, as it embodied the worst feature of London sites, such as concrete foundations, cellars and builders' depredations from the 18th century onwards. In view of this, credit for the plan drawing that emerged should be given to the director's persistence and the support of his supervisors.

It is hoped that a full history of the palace will be published as a part of forthcoming work by Mr. Dawson. The palace had a history of Royal occupation for almost two hundred years. The manor of Kennington was granted by the De Warrennes, Earls of Surrey, to Edward II in 1316, at which time a fairly important manor house must have already existed. After various grants by Edward II to his favourites, the manor was returned to Edward III, who bestowed it upon his eldest son Edward, the Black Prince, who was also Duke of Cornwall. Between 1346 and 1362 a palace was built which seems to have included a hall with service rooms, a large number of chambers, bakehouse, chapels, stable and gardens. The palace was often occupied from this time by the reigning monarch, and accounts exist of lavish entertainments held there. In 1531 Henry VIII ordered that the palace should be demolished and the material used for building the palace of Whitehall.

The manor remained a part of the Duchy of

Cornwall estates and still is today, although a series of leases were granted of the site of the palace. A manor house of brick was built there in Tudor times, the stable of the palace being converted into a barn. The manor was leased to various people, including the Dutch ambassador, as a desirable residence near London. In 1775 the leaseholder was granted the right to sub-let and during the next forty years the site was developed for housing. In 1876 the manor house was finally demolished.

From finds made on the site, five periods of occupation can be traced. Only one piece of evidence was found dating from pre-13th century, the skeleton of a young woman, lying NNE-SSW showing it to have been an irregular burial.

From the period 13th to early 14th centuries, when a manor house must have existed, there were again few finds. A ditch and some post-holes which did not make the plan of a building were found, also some pottery.

King's chamber

From the period of the existence of the palace, c.1340 - 1531, parts of six buildings belonging to the palace built by the Black Prince were found. The most important was the Hall (G on plan) which was about 82ft. by 50ft. It was built completely of stone, probably chalk-faced with greensand and with window and door mouldings, many of which were found, also in greensand.

It had an undercroft floored with rammed chalk and roofed with a stone vault supported by pillars, the base of one of these being found still in position. The main room would have been at first-floor level and the undercroft served as a store room. Its one end was cut off by a partition wall, built partly of brick, probably imported from the Low Countries. At its west end was the **KING'S OR PRINCE'S CHAMBER** also built of stone. Its foundations are so massive that they probably supported a two-storey building, especially at the southern

Black Prince's Palace

(Continued from previous page)

end, which was partitioned off to serve as a "parlour" and possibly also as a private chapel. At its south-west corner was a tower which had been converted into a garderobe tower and a very small lean-to added.

This building was also floored with rammed chalk which may have served as the basis for a tiled floor since a few fragments of tiles were found. The roofs of both these buildings may have been of lead, but all the others were tiled. These include two Subsidiary Chamber Blocks (C and H) which were half-timbered on stone foundations with the walls made of lath and daub. One of them (C) had rammed chalk floors and one end partitioned off to form an inner chamber. Very little of (J) was found but it was obviously an important building, probably completed in stone and orientated N-S. It is surprisingly near (C) which might suggest that they are of different dates. The other building found was a long out-building, perhaps the stables of the palace (B). It is over 100ft. and about 30ft.

It was half-timbered on stone foundations though these were not solidly built as those of the chamber blocks. It was probably roofed with tiles and it is possible that its roof was supported by a central row of posts, and it may be that it was originally part of the preceding manor house and was merely renovated by the Black Prince's builders. The amount of pottery and general domestic rubbish from the palace occupation period was extremely small, probably because the standard of cleanliness was high and the rubbish was carted away from the site. It did include six jettons, which are counters used for doing calculations.

After the palace was demolished in 1531, two small brick manor houses were built of which the basement of one was found. On the site of (B), the famous Long Barn was built, which seems to have re-used one of the walls of (B), a great deal of which was found. These manor houses were demolished about 1750 and the barn in 1795.

A large amount of 18th century delftware and stoneware kiln-waste was found probably used to dry out the farmyard behind the barn where most of it was discovered.

The site is now covered by flats built by the Duchy of Cornwall, and the new trenches will be dug in the yard at the back of St. Anselm's Church.

17th C

By IAIN C. THOMSOM

IN THE years immediately following the Civil War, the sturdily independent English trader was presented with an untenable economic situation — a chronic shortage of small change. In the absence of an official solution, his response was to issue his own in the form of token coins.

Since the Conquest there had been recurring dearth of small change which had been alleviated by the circulation of foreign coins and had often provoked a spate of tradesmen's tokens. These early issues never gained great impetus, remaining crude and unsophisticated throughout the relatively short periods in which they were issued. However, in the 17th century, several important factors aggravated the situation to such an extent that tokens were regularly issued for more than two decades and circulated widely.

In usurping the irregularly paid cottage industries, early mechanization laid the basis of a new spending class with low but regular wages. The tradesmen were determined to gain this custom in their struggle to restore trade after the chaos of the war, but were frustrated by the indifference of the Commonwealth government. Thus, some traders decided that an issue of tokens would provide a reliable supply of small change.

3,700 varieties

By putting their name and address on their tokens they began unwittingly a system of advertising the full value of which was realised only in the second decade of the issue. However, the most important immediate factors in determining the increased issue of tokens were abuses of the Royal prerogative to coin, especially by delegation under James I and Charles I. The situation was so bad that the people of the country only awaited a chance to rectify it by their own hands.

The Civil War had delayed plans for a proposed Regal minor-coinage to replace the recently suppressed official tokens which had been so fraudulently passed under the delegations to coin. The execution of Charles I in 1648 brought to an end the Royal prerogative and provided traders with the chance to act.

The opportunity was not lost on the shopkeepers, tradesmen and inn-keepers who to-