

Books

A Map of the City of London by John Ogilby, with **London Surveyed . . . An Explanation** by John Ogilby and William Morgan (London 1677) reprinted with introductory notes by Ralph Hyde, *Harry Margary in association with Guildhall Library*, London, 1976 (bound £9, in leather £18, in separate sheets £6; **London Surveyed** £3.50 extra, all plus postage).

THE Ogilby survey of 1677 is a document of prime historical and archaeological importance: it is in effect the closest we have to an accurate representation of the late medieval city of London, drawn to a scale of 100 feet to the inch. The important word is "accurate" because, unlike the numerous 16th and early 17th century views and even Hollar's beautiful but incomplete *Great Map* of 1661-6, it was firmly based upon measurement and sightings taken on the ground.

But how accurate did that make it? In his "introductory notes" (an excessively modest term for what is in fact a comprehensive and searching discussion of the historical and cartographical background of the map) Ralph Hyde compares it with three near contemporary plans of different portions of the city and concludes that "the number of buildings shown in the main streets is likely to be correct, that the ground plans of these buildings may also be correctly depicted, and that the information given in (*sic*) alleys and courts tends to be less dependable and in some cases diagrammatic." Now current archaeological and documentary work, over areas roughly comparable in size with these map samples, would suggest very similar conclusions: there is a notable tendency for medieval tenement lines to correspond with Ogilby's information. Indeed it may not even be too rash to regard the 1677 map as essentially a map of late medieval London — with due allowance for natural and planned development.

Mr Hyde explains that while the map bears Ogilby's name his role was more that of a publisher: the actual surveying and drawing was undertaken by William Leybourn, assisted by John Holwell and Gregory King. Work began in 1672 and continued until 1674. Ogilby died that September, and his step-grandson, William Morgan, finally issued the twenty sheets, together with the small *Explanation* volume which he compiled for the purpose, in January 1677. Perhaps the chief value of the original *Explanation*, lacking the simplified and corrected index — in the modern sense — provided here by John Fisher, is its

record of street and building names of which many receive their first mention here. This is a very welcome incidental, just as on the map the earliest depiction of ward and parish boundaries is an incidental of great value.

The present reprint is based on the GLC copy of the original (judged to be less subject to shrinking or stretching than the British Library copy used for the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society reprint of 1895). The quality of printing in the new edition is an improvement, as should be expected: differences in shading, as between buildings and gardens, are more apparent and the general effect is lighter and cleaner. In particular, the divisions between properties forming part of a "terrace" or block stand out more distinctly from the dense hatching used to denote buildings.

TONY DYSON

Earth Magic by Francis Hitching. *Cassell*, London 1976. 224pp £4.50.

THIS BOOK is divided into two parts, effectively split between the discipline of archaeology and the indiscipline of the lunatic fringe, except that ley-lines are included with the former. Hitching first presents a reasonable summary of 'megalithic archaeology' although he tends to accept as proven theories which should certainly be approached with caution, and occasionally misunderstands the evidence. Thus he is confused about causewayed camps (18 and 143); no "prehistorian" would "claim to be able to trace precisely straight lines that pass over the marks and relics of prehistoric times" (19); stratigraphy does not really involve "geological strata" (37); and the latest ideas about 'megalithic astronomy' (70-87) are accepted without question. Yet what was the *point* of the supposed megalithic yard? How can anyone say that Avebury was "set out with an accuracy approaching 1 in 1000" (72) when half of the stones are missing? Even if Stonehenge *could* be used to predict obscure astrological phenomena this is not proof that it was so used.

Hitching next accepts at least some ley-lines as "proven" (104). There is little point in discussing this problem, as Professor Atkinson's experience (104) makes clear. The lines are still drawn through churches (always, of course, on ancient sacred sites) and through moats (only "pre-Roman moats" (157) if you are a purist!) The appendix (183-4) is unconvincing.

Serious archaeologists will probably find that the

second part of the book is not to be beaten as a guide to the lunatic fringe. Much is made of strange forces supposedly given off by various standing stones. Several theories are distinctly amusing, like the so-called zodiacs allegedly marked out by hedge-lines and earthworks around Glastonbury. There is supposed to be one at Kingston-upon-Thames (163)! Poor Glastonbury certainly attracts cranks: apparently the Abbey has "the same internal geometry" as Stonehenge (178) and it stands on a pagan shrine (141). The folk-lore section is equally unconvincing—of course there are legends about stone circles. What *is* worth noting is that there are none about ley-lines. (Even the name is a modern mis-use of 'lea'.)

Hitching's megalithic power grid of ley-lines connecting standing stones and stone circles and the mysterious forces they possess will convince few, although it is skilfully presented. Note the spuriously logical progression of ideas suggested by the order of the book, and the general facade of fair-mindedness. Yet the sequence is often: a) theory, b) the archaeologist's answer, c) the theorist's reply. The further response is not suggested: probably 'the archaeologist' will have given up in despair!

One final thought: perhaps we could harness Hitching's mysterious forces to protect our archaeological sites from attack by unprincipled treasure hunters armed with metal detectors—at least one such has recorded that he was deterred from "doing a burial mound" by an odd feeling of being watched. (Sunday Times, 3rd October, 1976, colour magazine, p.34). Or was an inspector of ancient monuments hidden nearby, hoping for the evidence to bring our rusty and totally inadequate antiquities legislation creaking into action???

DAVID BIRD

Research Volume of the Surrey Archaeological Society No. 3. *Surrey Archaeological Society*. 1976. Issued free to members, otherwise £2.50 including postage. Individual offprints available from S.A.S., Castle Arch, Guildford. Prices on application.

THIS is an A4 size paperbound volume with 111 pages, well illustrated with line drawings and photographs, and containing five papers. The first looks at the archaeological implications of gravel extraction in North-West Surrey and South-West Middlesex. This work extends the two Unit sponsored studies of the Upper and Middle Thames, to the gravel areas of the Thames, Lower Wey and Lower Mole within administrative Surrey. The information is presented as a gazetteer and in ten maps based on commercial air survey. The area is one under considerable pressure for change by London, and to gravel extraction must be added the needs of reservoirs, roads and housing development.

Archaeological needs, planning information and priorities are correlated with the next step seen as field walking and investigation.

Montague Close Excavations 1969-73: Part 1, is concerned with a general survey of the results of excavation in Southwark, between the church of St. Saviour and London Bridge. Here, in a most unprepossessing location squashed between the back side of the Cathedral and huge basemented warehouses, the excavation of a sunless narrow street, underlined with service pipes, paid off. Through hard work Graham Dawson and his team had the good fortune to locate, not just the predictable medieval monastic relics, but a Roman road and several large permanent tin-glaze earthenware manufacturing kilns of the 17th century. The remains of the latter are here presented as plans, which clearly show the large size of these monuments to a newly imported ceramic industry. The evidence for the Roman road is also given in plan and section. In the whole this paper gives a general survey and foresees publication of the detailed evidence, such as the 17th century ceramic material, being produced in parts as processing progress permits.

The second excavation report in this volume records the work in 1972 at one of the four barrows, known as Galley Hills, on Banstead Downs. Irritatingly a site plan is not provided (which is worse than having a badly drawn one, as in Montague Close). James Barfoot and David Price Williams demonstrate that the barrow is Saxon, with a primary warrior burial partly intact, and figure the objects found. The particularly interesting remains of wool textiles and leather are reported on by Elizabeth Crowfoot. An historical disturbance in the mound and burial is seen as a gallows, and burials associated with this are discussed.

The final two papers concern Mesolithic industries. G. Gabel describes an assemblage of struck flint, collected some years ago from St. Catherine's Hills Guildford, and sold to the British Museum in 1902. The material is described, drawn, and placed in the context of the Surrey Lower Greensand. Geological conditions and patination of the flints is discussed and it is concluded that the calcareous nature of the Bargate Beds, within the Lower Greensand, is responsible. A valuable location map of sites is added. In the second, shorter paper, Mrs. E. L. Machin describes and illustrates the Mesolithic industry excavated at Weston Wood, Albury.

I am left wondering what the difference is, except size, between *Surrey Collections* and a *Surrey Research Volume*! However that is, I will have a bibliographical moan about the title of this Surrey back up series to *Collections*. I have on the table as I

write *Research Papers of the Surrey Archaeological Society No 3*, published in 1951. This earlier series reached at least four part before sleeping. Even given the change of emphasis in the title of the new series, surely it would have been sensible to continue the earlier numbering of volumes. As it is, we have two similarly titled S.A.S. research papers, and to add to confusion each No. 3 contains papers on the Mesolithic (1951 was Leakey on Abinger Common), Be-ware.

JOHN ASHDOWN

Money, Milk and Milestones. Edited by Brigid Grafton Green for Hendon and District Archaeological Society. Price 35 pence from Hon. Sec., 88 Temple Fortune Lane, NW11 7TX.

THIS Occasional Paper No. 3 is an intriguing miscellany of items from the Society's Monthly Newsletters of the last five years and is a further demonstration of the interdependence of local history and archaeology. George Ingram's "Story of a Hendon Fortune" gives a racy account of the family connections of a gentleman who was "probably Britain's first self-made millionaire." His grave is in the churchyard of Hendon St. Mary. William Morris writes on an "Anonymous" pillar box in Golders Green Road, and Daphne Lorimer on the old Whetstone Fire Station then a later item on "Dairy By-gones" from Totteridge which inspired Percy Reboul to the realisation that "archaeology is essentially about people" so that he contributes a longer note on "Bringing Round the Milk." Raymond Lowe has brief notes on "Trade Tokens" and Brigid Grafton Green on "College Farm, Finchley," a medieval survival which became a Model Dairy and lasted until 1974! Our old friend Ted Sammes has an imaginative and informative article on "Milestones" and finally Paddy Musgrove writes on "Hedges in History". It is a highly diversified collection of brief contributions all of which are of live interest beyond the immediate locality and may suggest to other Societies that their *obiter dicta* are worthy of perpetuation on a similar selective basis.

E. LIONEL FEREDAY

Archaeology of the Boat, by Basil Greenhill, *Adam and Charles Black*, 1976. 320 pp., 213 plates and figures. Hardback £7.50.

MR. GREENHILL, director of the National Maritime Museum, essays to provide a simple popular handbook on the archaeology of the boat against the situation where scientific study has only just begun and knowledge is fragmentary. The insularity of the boatbuilder and user, together with the polyphyletic origins of most boat types, demands extensive ethnological study to gain a sound background, and the author leans heavily on this aspect. In this tripartite

book "General Theory" and "The Four Roots of Boatbuilding" are dealt with first, and in the second half "Aspects of Evolution . . ." with substantial chapter contributions by two specialists complete the work.

The structure of the book is unhelpful to the tyro, the author while stating that there is no standard English terminology promptly loses this reader by using terms neither explained in the text nor given in the brief glossary. An early brief but fully illustrated chapter on generalised structural terms combined with the paragraphs given on the nature of dynamic stresses in vessels would have been useful. The architecture weakens as the book progresses and while Morrison's chapter on "The Classical Tradition" is pertinent, McGrail's contribution on Viking boatbuilding in fact deals mostly with the general technology of timber, and this aspect should also have appeared early in the book. The authors' filling of Part Three tends to become padded and repetitious, with the invention of spurious "chapters". While there is plentiful photographic illustration, more drawings specifically done for the text are needed. The reference/bibliography system does not accord with scientific practice and no book reference is ever given in full despite the needless repetition in the system.

The many ways in which boats are or were built and the attitude of mind that went with them is made apparent, and Greenhill's re-appraisal of classification into shell and skeleton structure is perceptive. However there seems to be no clear picture of who the book is aimed at, but it is certainly not the general archaeologist. No hymn of praise, ancient or modern, can be sung for this book, and alas the green hill is far away.

ROY EDWARDS

Also received

Victorian Jubilees, edited by Edward Sammes. *Occasional Paper No. 4 of Hendon and District Archaeological Society*. 48 pp., seven of which are given to illustrations, those of medals being particularly effective. The cover drawing shows an interesting stoneware jug by Doulton of Lambeth for the Golden Jubilee of 1887. Price 65p post free from Jeremy Clynes, 66 Hampstead Way, London NW11 7XX.

ITS TOPICALITY will not be questioned but some of the comparisons and contrasts with one's own local events and reactions this year may prove surprising. Without doubt its introductory notes, as well as revealing sidelights on daily life ninety years ago, especially in matters of cost, make it an inexpensive souvenir to add to one's local brochure.

E. LIONEL FEREDAY