

# Books

**Animal-Powered Engines**, by J. Kenneth Major. *Batsford*, 1978. 168pp., 110 illus., £5.95.

KENNETH MAJOR'S work is, as far as is known, the first book-length study of animal-powered engines to appear. As such it is welcome, and forms a valuable addition to the so-called "second generation" of books on industrial archaeology. These are books covering a particular subject in some detail, in contrast to the "first generation" of regional surveys and field guides (still incomplete for the British Isles).

I applaud Mr. Major's book for two further reasons. Firstly, it embodies his approach to practical fieldwork that he explained so well in *Fieldwork in Industrial Archaeology*, reviewed in *L.A.* Vol. 3, No. 1. His drawings are splendid, with frequent isometrics that illustrate a machine's operation so much better than traditional plans and elevations. Secondly, he has not confined himself to this country, choosing instead to adopt an international scope. This must now be recognised as the best approach for such studies. It places English developments in context, since most countries faced similar problems in the early stages of industrialisation, among the most obvious being the need for power.

It is easy to think of the "triumvirate" of wind, water, and steam as dominant in this respect. Kenneth Major shows, rightly, that animal power (including the labours of men) both pre-dated these sources, and played an important role up to recent times. He cites Ecclesiastes (12.6) and illustrates the *mola asinorum* (asses' mill) excavated at Pompeii as early evidence. In later chapters, he traces the diverse uses of animal power in all its aspects, not forgetting the infamous treadmills of Pentonville, Wandsworth, and other prisons, which remained in use until the late 19th century.

The world-wide gazetteer that concludes the book covers in reality Europe, South Africa, and North America — a limitation imposed I feel by lack of knowledge of other countries, rather than by absence of surviving remains in these lands. Later editions will, I hope, remedy this.

I have not yet mentioned the way in which Mr Major combines documentary and physical evidence to illustrate his subject, but I should, because it is exemplary. I can think only of that pioneering classic in industrial studies — Robert T. Clough's *Lead Smelting Mills of the Yorkshire Dales* — as excelling in this respect.

I allow myself only one quibble, and that con-

cerns the sparsity of gazetteer entries for Northumbrian "gingangs," or horse-powered agricultural engines. Their distinctive sheds, usually circular or octagonal, still survives in abundance, and I am surprised that Kenneth Major does not give greater prominence to the studies by Stafford Linsey and others here.

Nothing comes cheap, but at £5.95 this book is excellent value, both *per se* and as an example for anyone of how to write up a specialised subject. Any archaeologist engaged on such a study should read this book. He will gain thereby.

MICHAEL BUSSELL

**English Brickwork**, by Ronald Brunskill and Alec Clifton-Taylor. *Ward Lock*, 1977. 160pp, 151 illus., £6.95.

IN THEIR INTRODUCTION, the authors state that this book is "designed specifically to aid the observation of good brick buildings of every period and to stimulate, it is hoped, an even greater appreciation of them".

That is an objective I support whole-heartedly, and one which this book should go a long way to achieving. Alec Clifton-Taylor is an eminent architectural historian, whose *Pattern of English Building* has been rightly acclaimed. Professor Brunskill has made major contributions to the study of vernacular architecture. Between them they have assembled a valuable guide to English brickwork.

Unlike John Woodforde in *Bricks to Build a House* (reviewed in *L.A.* Vol 3 No 2), the authors give little attention to brickmaking or brickworkers, concentrating on the use of the finished article in building. Alec Clifton-Taylor contributes a good general historical study of brickwork in England. This is followed by a glossary of brick terms. Many of these are illustrated by pleasant and helpful thumbnail sketches or small photographs. The latter are disappointing, as they often attempt to show in shades of grey what really needs colour to be worthwhile. And some 18 of the 58 pictures in this section are either lit or printed so poorly that they add nothing to the written description.

Things get better in the third section, a photographic survey of English brickwork from the Middle Ages to today. London is well represented, and it is good to see industrial and commercial buildings given due notice. The book ends with two appendices (one — on the cavity wall — is a useful essay on this aspect of building construction; the other offers advice and a procedure for

recording brickwork), and a bibliography whose brevity is a telling comment on the neglect of its subject by writers in the past.

This is a useful book, marred only by some bad illustrations which could surely have been better done at the price.

MICHAEL BUSSELL

**Elusive Treasure: The Story of Early Archaeologists in the Americas**, by Brian Fagan. *Macdonald and Jane's*, 1977. 384pp, 172 illus. and pl., £7.95.

THE FIRST QUESTIONS to ask about any book are why and for whom was the book written. Fagan states in his "Author's Note" and "Preface" that *Elusive Treasure* was written "to distil a narrative from the enormous body of literature on the major controversies of American archaeology from the time of the conquistadors to about 1900" (xiii); "as a synthesis of the early history of archaeology in America for the lay person" (x). The book does this; and Fagan's extensive use of quotations can be said to give the book some of the flavour of the period described. The numerous illustrations and plates (172 of them), including period and modern photographs, drawings and maps, also give the reader a vivid conception of attitudes towards the American Indian's past, as they evolved and were recorded.

The book is *not* written in a way that would satisfy the academic demands of a university course; nor does it outline clearly and easily the scientific paradigms which an historian of science would see in the subject matter. Instead, the development of attitudes to America's Indian past and of the methods used to investigate that past are treated in a narrative that simulates these developments: sometimes gradual, sometimes rapid, often chaotic, religious, zionist, adventurous, mercenary, or organised and systematic in the scientific spirit of the day.

The greatest merit of the book comes in the "Conclusion." In this chapter Fagan brings forth perhaps the two most important factors in the development of American Archaeology up to 1900: that the spirit of scientific enquiry has won the day over wild religious and other speculations on America's Indians, by careful and systematic examination of the archaeological materials and ethnographic data; and, even more important in a present day context, that it is *not* only today that increasingly conservation-minded public and academic groups have been striving to preserve America's Indian past; conservation of monuments and materials began in the eighteenth century and continued throughout the nineteenth.

The book has two faults worth bringing to the

reader's notice. The first is the book's price of £7.95. Fagan has stated that the book is intended for the layman; surely the ordinary person would prefer a cheap paperback edition to such an expensive hardcover one (note that the Ancient History Book Club edition is available to members at £4.95). The second fault is a thoroughly inadequate index, given the size of the book (384 pages). For example, Fagan records the very important fact that the Reverend Manasseh Cutler of Massachusetts "anticipated that science of dendrochronology (*sic*), or tree ring chronology, by at least a century" (94) when he speculated at the end of the eighteenth century that counting the rings of a tree growing on an Indian mound would give the latest possible date when the mound could have been built. *None* of the key words in Fagan's quotation is an entry in the index except "Cutler". There is no entry for "dendrochronology", nor for "tree ring dating", nor for "chronology"; not even for "dating"! In fact, the index contains little more than personal and place names.

DAVID JONES

**The Worthies of Waltham: History of the Town Through the Lives of the People; Volume 1.** *Waltham Abbey Historical Society*. 23pp text plus 8pp illus. Price 90p post free from R. C. Gray, 64 Honey Lane, Waltham Abbey, Essex, EN9 3BS.

AFTER THE outstanding successes in the archaeological field, most memorably in the "Rescue" Competition at the Museum of London last year with its subsequent B.B.C. TV programme, this Society here shows its versatility by producing a comprehensive look at biographies of local notables who flourished in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries, after which there was a decline in monastic chronicling. These sections remind us how frequently and extensively the Abbot of a great monastery carried out commissions both for King and Pope outside his Abbey and its locality. Indeed it is often not realised that the major Abbots were summoned to Parliament ("House of Lords" in modern terms) with the Bishops and secular Peers.

Moreover many of the other "Worthies" in this volume were closely involved in national affairs, including those of the 16th century and later. As a royal foundation (twice!) and only a day's journey from London, Waltham Abbey was a popular place for Kings of England to stay, but there are many other links with London. The Abbott's town house in St. Mary-at-Hill, where he could stay during sessions of Parliament at Westminster or of Convocation at Lambeth, is mentioned in Dinah Dean's article on Thomas Tallis (1510-1585) and was the subject of a monograph in an early volume of *Archaeologia*. The

College founded by Harold at one time owned the tolls of Aldgate and there must be many other links in the City records. For example, in the 1250s there was a dispute between some of the citizens and the Abbey (Abbot Simon of Soham) concerning tolls in Waltham market.

One has noted only two small misprints: on p.11, 1223 for 1222, and on p.15 the final para. should begin "Henry III had married Eleanor of Provence . . .". Yet the inadequacy of the cover seems a serious blemish; it is far from clear and does not convey the standard of scholarship reached in a work presenting so much varied and important material very readably in print for the first time and excellently illustrated.

E. LIONEL FEREDAY

## Also received

**Excavations at Bishopstone**, by Martin Bell. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 155 (1977). 320pp. 111 figs., 21 pl. Price £5.60 (bound), £4.10 (unbound) from Sussex Archaeological Society, Barbican House, High Street, Lewes, East Sussex (reductions for members of S.A.S. and for personal collection).

A CLASSIC REPORT on a major multi-period site near Seaford. Excavation produced evidence of Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages together with Romano-British and Saxon settlement, including a sixth century Saxon cemetery. Worth buying for the evidence it contains on any of these periods, or simply as a model of a modern excavation report.

**Excavations on the site of the Northgate Brewery Chester 1974-5**, by S. Ward and T. J. Strickland. *Grosvenor Museum Chester*, 1978. 32pp. plus 16 figs. and 12 pl. 1.25 or £1.50 by post.

A REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION of a Roman an Centurion's Quarters and Barrack. Useful for students of Roman military buildings, but with a minimal finds report.

**The Roman Inscriptions in the Grosvenor Museum, Chester**, reprinted from *The Roman Inscriptions of Britain* by R. G. Collingwood and R. P. Wright (1965), with addenda by G. Lloyd Morgan and D. J. Robinson. *Grosvenor Museum, Chester*, 1978. 48pp. Price 75p or 90p by post.

A BOOK for the specialist. It is difficult to see what market it will have outside Chester.

CLIVE ORTON

# Excavations & Post-Excavation work

**City**, by Museum of London. Department of Urban Archaeology. A series of long term excavations. Enquiries to Brian Hobley, Chief Urban Archaeologist, DUA, 71 Basinghall Street, E.C.2. (01-606 1933/4/5). For information on post-excavation work, contact Penny MacConnoran at this address.

**Brentford**, by West London Archaeological Field Group. Excavation and processing. Enquiries to Alison Parnum, 71-72 Brentford High Street, Brentford, Middlesex. 01-560 3880).

**Fulham**, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Sandford Manor, Rewell Street (New Kings Road), S.W.6. Excavation work in grounds of 17th century house, traceable back to at least 14th century, hopefully will find medieval and earlier occupation. Enquiries to Excavation Director, C. E. Oliver, 18 Albany Court, Ashburnham Road, Ham, Richmond, Surrey. (01-948 2633 or 661 1421) or K. Whitehouse.

**Hammersmith**, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. All types of work and finds: prehistoric, Roman, medieval and later. Tuesdays, 7.30 - 10 p.m., 2 Clancarty Road, S.W.6. Contact: K. Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, S.W.6 3AA (01-731 0338).

**Inner London Boroughs**, by the Inner London Unit. Several rescue site in various areas. Enquiries to Irene Schwab (01-242 6620).

**Kingston**, by Kingston-upon-Thames Archaeological Society. Rescue sites in the town centre. Enquiries to Marion Smith, Kingston Museum, Fairfield Road, Kingston (01-546 5386).

**North-East Greater London**, by Passmore Edwards Museum. Enquiries to Pat Wilkinson, Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, E.15. (01-534 4545).

**Putney**, by Wandsworth Historical Society. Two acre site at junction of Felsham Road and High Street lies on Roman and medieval settlements. Alternate weekends. Enquiries to Nicholas Farrant, 7 Coalecroft Road, S.W.15. (01-788 0015).

**Southwark**, by Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee. Several sites from the Roman period onwards. Enquiries to Harvey Sheldon, S.L.A.E.C., Port Medical Centre, English Grounds, Morgan's Lane, S.E.1 2HT. (01-407 1989).

**Surrey**, by Surrey Archaeological Society. Enquiries to David Bird, Field Officer, S.A.S., Castle Arch, Guildford, Surrey. (0483-32454).

**Vauxhall Pottery**, by Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. Excavation at weekends only. Processing of excavated material continues three nights a week. All enquiries to S.L.A.S., c/o Cuming Museum, 155 Walworth Road, S.E.17. (01-703 3324).

## GENERAL EXCAVATIONS

*The Council for British Archaeology produces a monthly Calendar of Excavations from March to September, with an extra issue in November and a final issue in January summarising the main results of fieldwork. The Calendar gives details of extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The annual subscription is £3.00 post-free, which should be made payable to C.B.A., 112 Kennington Road, S.E.11.*