

Incongruous though, the sight of a navy destroyer being built on the Thames in down town Chiswick (42) or the public exhumation of an Italian poet (45).

Like a Giles cartoon, the more you look, the more you see, but I feel that the standard of reproduction is not quite as good as in *Hounslow As It Was* but whether this is because of the printing process or lack of detail in the originals, one is denied the pleasure of discovery with a magnifying glass with some pictures, for which the publication loses one team point, but otherwise, thank you, and now, volume II?

MIKE COTTON

**Medieval Pottery**, by Jeremy Haslam. *Shire Archaeology Series*, 1978. 64pp, 29 figs, 8pl, £1.25. AMAZINGLY, this is the only comprehensive account of English pottery of the period 850-1500 A.D. available, and as such is greatly to be welcomed. Earlier works have been restricted in scope, either to a period, region or special viewpoint within the broad prospect of medieval pottery. After a brief introduction, four chapters cover Saxo-Norman pottery, Medieval pottery, Oxford and London, other regional types, and the author finishes with half a page about kilns, a list of museums with useful collections and a short reading list. One could quibble with details in places, but it is surprising how much up-to-date information has been packed into twenty pages.

Just over half the book is devoted to illustrations which, as Haslam himself suggests, are the real core of the book. Certainly we can see the characteristics of the principal types produced at the major centres throughout the period, even if we are still left with the problem of relating our miserable sherds to the whole pots shown here. Still, 500 whole pot drawings for £1.25 can't be bad, and this book will be invaluable to anyone with an interest in medieval pottery.

CLIVE ORTON

**A Guide to London's Churches**, by Mervyn Blatch. *Constable*. 434pp, 121 figs and 13 maps, £4.50.

THERE has long been a need for an up-to-date guide to London's churches, which was informative with plenty of illustrations and location maps, easy to use and easy on the pocket (small enough to go into one, and priced so as not to empty another). This vital combination of attractions has been admirably achieved by Mr Blatch in this excellent Constable guide, which I am sure will become a necessity to the ardent lover and explorer of our London churches. The book deals with the eleven inner London Boroughs formed in 1965, plus the Cities of London and Westminster, starting with the multitude of City churches and expanding into the other districts. Information on each church has a format similar in many respects to that found in the RCHM volume for London (the City) published in 1929, starting with the dedication and history, then moving on to exterior and interior interests, followed by information on furnishings, monuments and the churches associations, leading finally to the building's present day usage.

All the way through the information is presented in a light and popular manner, but with due regard to those folk who require architectural information or historical association; bearing in mind the limits imposed by the format of the book, and its very nature as a guide. Although Mr Blatch has not included every church from the various areas, he has presented a good cross-section of the buildings that can be seen and admired, and in doing so has highlighted them, and shown that not only are they places to worship in, but places to visit for their own sake, and above all to enjoy.

ALAN THOMPSON

## Current Journal

THE RECENTLY ISSUED Volume 12 of *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, sent to subscribers for 1978, contains Pryor and Blockley's detailed report on a *Seventeenth Century Kiln Site at Woolwich*. (*LA* Vol. 3, No. 6, 153). Membership enquiries to A. H. Storey, 62 Bynghams, Harlow, or offprint enquiries to F. Andrews, Glebe House, Thornley, Durham.

JOHN ASHDOWN

# Letters

## TOPOGRAPHY OF NORTH LAMBETH

IN A FOOTNOTE to their most interesting article on the topography of North Lambeth (*L.A.*, Spring 1979), Robin Densem and Andrew Doige state that the first documentary reference to Lambeth Marsh is from the post-medieval period. I would like to suggest that this is not strictly correct.

*Place-names of Surrey* (page 22) records that *Lambyth-marsh* is mentioned in a Foot of Fine of 1377. Furthermore, in the Lay Subsidy Return of 1332 (*Surrey Record Society, Surrey Taxation Returns*, 81), four taxpayers are

named under the heading *Mariscum Episcopa* which could be a further reference to the same settlement and, under the *Villata de Lamhuth' et Kenitone*, one *Seman de Marisco* is named.

There is, it seems, at least some documentary evidence to support Densem and Doige's proposal (fig. 1) that there was a medieval settlement of sorts at Lambeth Marsh.

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