

Books

London's Local History, ed. P. Marcan. *Public Library Resources Series*, no. 1, 1983. 62pp. £7.90 including p&p from Peter Marcan Publications, 31 Rowloff Road, High Wycombe, Bucks.

AS AN "ANNOTATED CATALOGUE of publications and resources issued by ... local authorities, local historical and archaeological societies, amenity societies and community publishing projects" since c 1960, this book contains much of significance for those who are researching local history in London. Its intended audience is, however, unclear, and the introduction implies that it is as much a local librarian's *vade mecum* as a tool for the amateur. In this section some valid comments are made about the inconsistent coverage of both local archives and local societies across Greater London.

The appearance of the book is marred by virtue of its being printed direct from a poor typescript, with many spelling mistakes and addenda. These do detract from its impact, and the format is very confused, even allowing for the need to compress several thousand entries into the smallest possible space. Given the stated intention to update and correct the catalogue, it is a pity that advantage was not taken of modern word-processing equipment in preparing the text, which would not only have produced a much better format, but also made any revisions a simple task.

The basic structure of the book is a borough-by-borough listing of (i) local history collections and museums, (ii) local societies (without contact addresses), and (iii) lists of publications, both books and other printed material, published since the early 1960s. The varied lengths of the entries highlight just how much of Greater London is still without effective local history coverage, both professional and amateur.

A major drawback from the local historian's point of view is that the lists of publications give no indication whether or not an item is still in print. Many items with limited print runs will long since have ceased to be available, even if they can still be consulted in local history collections. An asterisk indicating those out-of-print would have been a useful addition. It would also seem preferable to have listed all the archives and museums, and other, more general collections given on the last couple of pages, together at the beginning, followed by the lists of publications.

The entry for the London Borough of Wandsworth (pp. 58-9) may serve as an example of the

treatment throughout the book. This gives a list of all publications, by the Council, the Wandsworth Historical Society and the Putney Society, in a single list, by author. Even though it gives details of some works produced by the first of these as recently as 1983, it does not give a full picture of the W.H.S. *Wandsworth Papers* series, the last two of which were produced as long ago as 1980 and 1981. It is this kind of thing which limits the effectiveness of the catalogue. Below the bibliography, there is a selective contents list for the *Wandsworth Historian*, allegedly of *major* articles, although the criteria for selection are not clear, and some quite brief notes seem to have been included.

Lack of first-hand knowledge of other areas precludes this reviewer from further analyses, although it implies that careful checking will be needed by users of the catalogue not familiar with the area or the subject.

To conclude, Mr. Marcan has brought a good idea to fruition and thereby put local historians in London in his debt. It is unfortunate that it has been published without having obtained complete details, and in a rather poor format. It is hoped that second and later editions will be able to rectify these deficiencies and enhance the value of the work. (Perhaps a circular letter to local societies would solve the problem?)

KEITH BAILEY

London Illustrated Geological Walks, by Eric Robinson. *Scottish Academic Press*, 1984. 98 pp., many figs., bibliog., glossary. £4.95.

GEOLOGICAL WALKS through the streets of our towns and cities, in which building stones are identified and interesting geological features are discussed, are becoming increasingly popular. This is the latest in a series of independently researched and published guides and describes five walks in the City of London. It is easily the most expensively produced of all the guides but it is so full of errors and inconsistencies and it is written in so long-winded a style that it is difficult, if not impossible, to recommend.

For example, the identification of the granites of Devon and Cornwall is a shambles. No attempt is made to describe the feldspars correctly or to relate their size to the various quarrying areas. A building stone which is here identified as Bodmin granite could equally well have come from the Carnmenellis (Penryn) mass and *vice versa*, and the giant feldspar

granite is always referred to as Lamorna (Lands End) granite when it is indistinguishable from similar granites of St. Austell and Dartmoor. Some idea of the confusion is given by Building 10, Walk 4, where the stone is described as 'the distinctive Lamorna granite from Lands End'. Unfortunately this is a typical example of Bodmin/Carmenellis granite and could not possibly have come from the Lamorna quarries or anywhere else on Lands End.

Scottish granites receive similar treatment. According to the guide, both Rubislaw and Kemnay granites are present in the facade of Building 26, Walk 3, yet close examination reveals just one granite – the Kemnay. And where are the Kemnay granite panels of Building 12, Walk 5? I can find only syenites from Norway and Sweden.

Some of the marble identifications are equally suspect. The interior of Building 11, Walk 5 'could be Pavonazzo or a Calacatta Marble from the general region of Carrara in the northern Appenines'. This is a somewhat risible description of good old English alabaster from the East Midlands. In Building 38, Walk 3, one looks in vain for 'the white quartzite in small, flat pieces, broken across with conchoidal fracture'. There is no such fracture because there is no quartzite: the slabs are marble! And where is the Purbeck Marble 'with its small gastropods which crowd the beds' in front of St. Paul's? I see only limestones from the Middle (not Upper) Purbeck which, as one might expect, are full of bivalve shells with not a gastropod in sight.

Errors are not confined to geology. The limestones of the landing in front of St. Paul's are not from the island of Öland but are from Brunflo, about 700km (400 miles) to the north on the Swedish mainland; and Portoro Marble (Building 2, Walk 4) is certainly not 'from the Siena district of Appenine Italy' but from Portovenere in the Gulf of La Spezia where Shelley drowned in 1822. Typographical errors are relatively few – for this relief much thanks! One rather amusing example is seen on page 30 where what presumably should read 'rudist coral' appears as 'robust coral'.

Readers of this Journal will be disappointed at the cursory and largely inaccurate account of the Mithraic Temple (Building 12, Walk 3). The walling stone is identified correctly as Kentish Ragstone (though I believe most of the stone is the more sandy Hassock); but the rounded column bases are surely of Portland Stone; and the dark brown/black siliceous blocks are Greensand chert not flint. And why are the dressed blocks of Barnack Stone at the southern end and the shelly Purbeck limestones which substitute for the original wood of the well ignored? All are clearly visible even from behind the barrier.

The above are just some of the more obvious errors taken at random: there are many more.

This is a very poor and regrettable effort. It is even more regrettable that it is published to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Geologists' Association, perhaps the most respected group of its kind in the world. If this is the way they intend to mark any future celebrations then I have some news for them: the Visigoths are at the Gates!

MARTYN OWEN

Ethics and Values in Archaeology, (ed.) Ernestene L. Green. *Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.*, 1984. 301 pp., index, bibliog., price not given.

THE LARGE INCREASE in archaeological funding, both public and private, that occurred in the 1970s, has greatly widened the scope for debate about archaeological ethics. Until then the archaeologist's prime responsibilities were to the archaeological record and to his colleagues, and his main ethical concerns lay in the fields of underhand dealing in antiquities, plagiarism, indiscriminant excavation and non-publication. Today, although all these problems are still with us, life is much more complicated. The spending of public and developers' money on rescue archaeology raises new questions of accountability, and the striving of archaeology towards professional status raises the fundamental question "who is the archaeologist's client?"

This book brings together the views of some two dozen American archaeologists on the ethical questions which concern them most. Some topics are perhaps more relevant to the USA than the UK – for example the delicate issue of work on Native American sites, especially burials, although even here only the sensitivity of the York Archaeological Trust over its Jewbury cemetery excavation prevented a major dispute. The pragmatic English are perhaps less concerned with the conflict between research design and rescue archaeology than the more theoretical Americans. On the whole, though, many of the problems are common to both countries, as anyone who has compared the Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Archaeologists (USA) with the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (UK) will realise.

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This is then a book for the thinking archaeologist to read, if not perhaps to buy. The jargon may be unfamiliar and the cultural and legal backgrounds are different, but we are "sisters under the skin", and what itches in the USA will need scratching here sooner or later. There are no cut-and-dried answers, but the questions need some thought.

CLIVE ORTON

Cross Channel Trade Between Gaul and Britain in the Pre-Roman Iron Age eds. S. Macready & F. H. Thompson. *Society of Antiquaries Occasional Paper (New Series) IV*, 1984. *Thames & Hudson* vii & 114pp, 4 pl., 25 figs. £12.00.

THE SEVEN PAPERS in this volume were originally presented at a one-day research seminar at the Society of Antiquaries in May 1982. They include the work of scholars working on both sides of the Channel, and are both descriptive and more broadly synthetic.

The introductory paper by Cunliffe (pp. 3-23) summarises the changing pattern of cross-Channel contact from the early first century A.D. until the eve of the Roman conquest, and complements the contributions by Galliou (pp. 24-36) and Langouet (pp. 67-77) on more detailed aspects of trade through Armorica. Galliou's work includes a particularly fine discussion of the trans-Gaulish amphora trade in the first century B.C. with much useful detail (including some statistics) from Brittany. Amphorae also form the core of a succinct paper by Peacock (pp. 37-42), partly a reassessment of his rightly famous 1971 paper on amphorae in pre-Roman Britain. The simple title of the present work (*Amphorae in Iron Age Britain*) belies the wide scope of the contents. As with many of the papers in the volume, its relevance extends into the Roman period. The brief discussion of the ubiquitous Dressel 20 olive oil amphora of Baetica, due to be expanded elsewhere, is particularly revealing. The proportion of British amphora imports taken by the Dressel 20 type seems to increase throughout the first and second centuries A.D., and it is suggested that '... the conquest and development of Roman Britain had virtually no impact on the composition of cargoes arriving in the country.' Similar patterns may be observed in the behaviour of other classes of imports, such as samian, and with this in mind the arrival of Roman power on this side of the channel takes on a somewhat different complexion to that traditionally ascribed.

The remaining three papers are somewhat different in character. Duval's discussion of Gaulish regional groupings (pp. 78-91) is wider in both geographical and chronological scope than the preceding. It does not concentrate on purely cross-

Channel problems but rather the cultural background against which they should be viewed, and includes a useful summary of the 'Marnian problem' from a French perspective. The paper by Nash (pp. 92-107) discusses the processes underlying cross-Channel contacts and draws heavily on anthropological models, although they are not specifically referenced. Nash suggests that trade and exchange along the two principal axes of contact, Armorica/S. W. Britain and Belgica/S. E. Britain, was driven by contrasting social systems, namely 'purely agrarian' and 'warrior agrarian' respectively. The differences ran deep, and affected relationships within the two areas and those with the encroaching power of Rome. The voracious demands of the Mediterranean world for slaves and mercenaries are suggested as the engines powering the exchange system whose effects were felt as strongly in Britain as elsewhere. Although ideas of the type presented here are not to everyone's taste they are clearly developed in this article - it is perhaps disappointing that no methods of testing their consequences against the relevant archaeological data are suggested, for the gulf between this and some of the other papers in the volume cannot fail to be noticed.

Although metalwork does not feature very strongly in most of the papers in this volume it forms the basis of that by Stead (pp. 43-66). For the London reader this may be the most relevant, for many of the objects discussed take their traditional names from local sites. The list of items covered reads like a rôle-call of famous pieces of Iron Age metalwork, but Stead's own words sum up the general flavour of the results, '... this paper has been rather negative and sceptical, in destroying imports rather than creating them'. The description of how the 'Brentford horn-cap' came to acquire that provenance is particularly instructive, and should serve as a warning to those wishing to place any great faith in the older collections or our local and national museums without a great deal of care.

So, what is new in this collection? Much of the French material has not previously been discussed in English and if it prompts readers to pursue the originals it will have served a useful function. The gap between the study of the pre-Roman and the Roman periods is breaking down and we can begin to see the social and economic background against which early Roman trading posts such as Londinium were set. Parallels between the two eras must of course be drawn with care however, and one may perhaps doubt Giot's assertion in his introductory comments to the present volume that total samian imports to Britain amounted to no more than 'a few boat-loads' (p. 2) - the topic deserves better than this.

PAUL TYERS

Roman Bath discovered, by Barry Cunliffe. *Routledge & Kegan Paul*, 1984. 232pp.

THE PUBLICATION of narrative descriptions of major excavations is very welcome, for they tell the story to a much wider non-specialist readership. Particularly so in this case, where several sessions of investigation have taken place, Barry Cunliffe has summarised present knowledge in an excellent book that is difficult to stop reading.

However, due to the familiarity of the author with the locality and his subject, a number of references are made to modern streets without indicating their position in the drawings. It would have eased understanding if the street names had been inserted in the general plan comparing the modern roads with the Roman features.

Similarly, the insertion of the streets on the excellent drawings, i.e. Figs. 95, 96, 101 & 102, would have helped the reader to identify the locations more easily.

Nevertheless, a very well written and presented book which well complements the definitive work.

MARSDEN ANDERSON

Courts of the Manors of Bandon and Beddington 1498-1552, translated by H. M. Gowans, edited by M. Wilks and J. Bray. *London Borough of Sutton Libraries and Arts Services*, 1983. xxxviii + 92pp., £7.00.

THIS WORK COMPRISES the Latin text and an English translation of the only surviving court roll of Bandon Manor, in the Parish of Beddington, Surrey. Clearly a great deal of hard work and expertise has gone into the volume, as a glance at the Latin text with its numerous abbreviations makes clear. Publication of documents is always welcome, but this reviewer found himself doubting whether the effort and expense had been worthwhile in this case. It is a peculiarly uninformative court roll, particularly on topographical matters. Most of the information could well have been presented in a condensed form, and anyone needing the Latin could reasonably be expected to consult the original document. The excellent discussion in the introduction as to precisely where Bandon lay seems to me the most valuable part of the work, and the description of manorial procedure is also useful.

DORIAN GERHOLD

Excavations & Post-Excavation Work

City, by Museum of London, Department of Urban Archaeology. A series of long term excavations. Enquiries to DUA, Museum of London, London Wall, E.C.2 (01-600 3699).

Croydon & District. Processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collection every Tuesday throughout the year. Archaeological reference collection of fabric types, domestic animal bones, clay tobacco pipes and glass ware also available for comparative work. Hon. Curator, Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society Ltd., Museum Building, Croydon Biology Centre, Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey. (01-660 3841 or 22 43727).

Hammersmith & Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Processing of material from Sandford Manor and Fulham High Street. Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham Palace Road, S.W.6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, S.W.6. (01-731 0338).

Inner and North London Boroughs, by the Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology (Inner/North London). Several rescue sites in various areas. (01-242 6620).

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

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

South-West London Boroughs, by Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology (South-West London). Excavations and processing. Enquiries to Scott McCracken, St. Luke's House, Sandycombe Road, Kew. (01-940 5989).

Southwark and Lambeth, by Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology (Southwark and Lambeth). Several sites from the Roman period onwards. Enquiries to Derek Seeley, Port Medical Centre, English Grounds, Morgan's Lane, SE1 2HT. (01-407 1989).

Surrey, by Surrey Archaeological Unit. Enquiries to David Bird, County Archaeological Officer, Planning Department, County Hall, Kingston, Surrey. (01-546 1050 x3665).

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

West London Boroughs, by West London Archaeological-Field Group. Enquiries to 273A Brentford High Street, Brentford, Middlesex. (01-560 3880).

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 field work. The Calendar gives details of extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The annual subscription is £5.50 post-free, which should be made payable to C.B.A., 112 Kennington Road, S.E. 11. (01-582 0494).