

Secretary's Report 1980 Madam Chairman, the hurriedly composed nature of the following is in no way a reflection upon the carefully ordered content of the Society's programme these twelve months past, but rather an indicator of pressures brought to bear upon your Hon Secretary, currently impaled on the sharp end of archaeology in the field. Of this, more later.. Through the medium of the lecture programme, members have been transported to an Abbey at Thornholme, an Iron Age settlement and cemetery at Wetwang and a mystery medieval site at Beverley; have been led skilfully and comprehensively through a survey of Newcastle's history from the Romans to the present day; have flown over South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire to gaze down upon acres of Iron Age and Romano-British field systems; have witnessed the resurrection of a redundant church at Stainburn, near Otley; have been coaxed through the avenues of sober speculation to the heart of Avebury; have been dazzled by the splendours of pre-historic craftsmanship manifest in Wessex goldwork; and have shared in the technical expertise of the geophysicist in the search for archaeological sites. It is only to be hoped that the continually high quality of the lectures and the excellence of the speakers are not taken for granted, and that members will show their appreciation of the willingness of lecturers to address the Society by turning out in ever-increasing numbers to share their knowledge and experience at first hand.. In June, a coach laden with eager young and not so young E.R.A.S. tourists descended, with the precision we have come to expect from the organising skill of our Vice-chairman, upon the Lunt Roman fort at Baginton; Kenilworth Castle was reserved for afters, and the grounds and church of St. Nicholas Abbey, Kenilworth, an extra helping

for the over-indulgent. A thoroughly excellent day, as all participants will tell you. So have a care not to miss out on the forthcoming Simcock Special to Hadrian's Wall this June.. Eighty-one diners (is this a record?) just managed to stay on the right side of decency and decorum at the Annual Dinner, enticed by a little hint of ancient promise, I believe it was, but more likely by Donald Earl's lively talk on food in the Roman world, which always promised to complement the cuisine so neatly.. The Society continues to provide a first-rate service to the rest of the archaeological world, as well as to its own members, with the second publication, out last December, in the Hull Old Town Report Series, Brian Ayers' "Excavations at Chapel Lane Staith". The complete series, planned as a run of seven volumes altogether, promises to be no mean achievement of which the Society can be justly proud. Another volume will appear later this summer, making three consecutive years journal issues.. On the topic of publication, or at least something approximating to it, this year has seen the launching of ERAS News, a quarterly newsletter designed to stimulate communication and involve everyone at home and away in Society affairs. In this aim so far it has sadly proved to have fallen some considerable way short of expectation. With the exception of John Rumsby's Museum Notes, ERAS News has fashioned itself somewhat unavoidably out of the demented ravings of a professional archaeologist - lecture summaries excluded, I hope! The exhortation is, therefore, repeated yet again: Turn away from the debilitating glow beamed from Magnus Magnusson in colour! Be a contributor; write a letter; admit you own a metal detector; recommend a book; disagree! No news is most certainly not good news!.. Turning to another more serious matter, it is a sad duty to have to report the deaths of two senior members of the Society, Lord Halifax and Dr Fred Brooks, the former a staunch supporter of the E.R.A.S., the latter a co-founder and first Chairman of the Society in 1960. Much has already been written,

and no more will be added now. It is a personal view, but close to the mark, I suspect, that both would have preferred that their places be quickly taken by new supporters in the ranks of a prospering Society, rather than for any lengthy sentiments of remorse to be uttered at their passing.. A final word is reserved for archaeology itself. The prospect of excavation near Beverley Minster was announced at the last A.G.M., and work actually commenced last August, organised by the Humberside Archaeological Unit but principally manned by E.R.A.S. members at weekends, since which time the site has blossomed whilst Society interest has waned. The winter inevitably took its toll, but what of the past fortnight? Some of the best media coverage since the North Walls excavation in 1968 has brought graphically before the public a dramatic race-against-time rescue operation to excavate and record a wonderfully preserved medieval timber bridge across the moat of the Archbishops' of York manor at Hall Garth, Beverley. And yet only a tiny fraction of the membership of the Society, eight individuals in all, spread exceedingly thinly over a two-week period, have turned up to support the excavation, and - I shall say it - not a committee representative in sight. Even the golden opportunity of advertising the Society has been let slip - or would have been, had not a certain someone not a million miles from this Minute Book sprinkled E.R.A.S. leaflets liberally about the site. It may well be a wilful misconstruance of the design of the Secretary's Report, but this Hon Secretary, who unashamedly holds archaeology dear to his heart, whether it be at the professional or amateur level, cannot let pass the moment to project a thought forward, having duly dwelt upon the year past. Up, arise, you who will, and grasp the nettle. For if you expect archaeology to come to you rather than you to archaeology, this Society - Heaven forbid - will very soon be displaying not its face but its back to the East Riding and the richness of its archaeology. Make no mistake about it, the initiative is being lost; the age of the treasure hunter is upon us.

A.G.M. postscript Those who did not attend the A.G.M. in April will perhaps not be too surprised to learn now that the meeting agreed the proposed increases in the Society subscription. As of January 1st 1981, Ordinary membership will be £5.00, Student membership £3.00. The category of Associate membership has been dropped, and will be embraced by the new Family membership at £8.00. From January 1st, therefore, present Ordinary and Associate members (normally husband and wife) will be covered by the one Family membership subscription, which will also extend automatically to all other members of the family residing at the same address. It is greatly hoped that this will stimulate more interest amongst the younger age group in the Society, who are encouraged to take part by attending meetings if they wish and by participating in excavations and fieldwork. The increases are, of course, adopted reluctantly in the face of the current harsh economic realities. The subscription rates have in fact remained unchanged in spite of the prevailing trend of inflation, but increased postage costs, lecturers' expenses and meeting room costs in particular can no longer be ignored. The Committee hopes that the level of increase decided will render the subscription rate stable for some years to come, and that existing members will in addition recognise the recent increased output in publication, both journal and ERAS News, together with a slightly enlarged lecture programme as a bonus, and continue to support and enjoy the Society at the new rates. Please, please, if you are continuing to pay your subscription by Banker's Order, remember to make the necessary adjustment in good time.

Fieldwork study group The group has met together now on three occasions, each time in Wilberforce House, and has established a regular meeting pattern of the first Wednesday in every month for the exchange of ideas, laying of plans and plain good company. So far it comprises

a group of eleven members, and areas of interest are now more or less defined. But it is far from an exclusive club, and we are anxious to encourage as many other members as possible to participate. There really is no need to be reticent for assumed lack of knowledge or experience. This is the way to start - in a group whose members are feeling their way forward, steadily gaining confidence in the approaches to and systems of fieldwork, and building a basis of understanding so that later in the year we can sally forth into those areas with which we are becoming increasingly more familiar through map study, consultation of sites indices and general discussion. The group proudly boasts the following devotees: Roy Adams, Ray Cockburn, Peter Cottingham, Peter Halkon, Ray Ketch, Rosemary Major, Don and Marie Pattison, Phil Ward, Norman Trickey and Ben Whitwell.

Museum notes John Rumsby has been exceptionally diligent on behalf of ERAS News this month and submits the following three items:

Horticultural archaeology This is a note for those of you who have been mystified by the goings-on on the stretch of land in High Street between Wilberforce House and Chapel lane Staithe. Over the past year, and with the aid of Inner City Development grants, the City's Department of Leisure Services has been creating a Museum Garden. The plants will, where possible, be old-fashioned strains, labelled with their country of origin and date of introduction into this country (usually 18th century or before). There will be a pair of 17th century Knot Gardens, with dwarf hedges set in patterns and filled in by herbs. The choice of herbs and some of the other plants has been based on the plant remains found in our Editor's excavation at Sewer Lane. The site of the Chapel Lane Staithe excavations has been marked out by a camomil lawn and will have an explanatory board outlining the significance of the discoveries made there. A central feature of the garden will be a reflecting pool - an 18th century idea - incorporating a statue of

Minerva, the goddess of learning. This statue, and the two reclining figures flanking the gate opening onto High Street, were carved by the Hull sculptor, Thomas Earl (1810-76), whose tomb can still be seen in Springbank Cemetery. They originally stood on the parapet of the Royal Institution in Albion Street, which housed Hull's main museum until destroyed by enemy action in 1943. The garden is well provided with seats for those suffering from "museum feet", and a picnic area is planned. At the moment opening is restricted until the planting becomes established and proper staffing can be provided, but it should be possible to sample the garden's blossoming delights this summer. The entrance is normally from Wilberforce House garden.

Roman mosaics In December 1978 a small group of archaeologists and curators, meeting at the Yorkshire Museum, founded a new archaeological society. In an apparent attempt to enter the Guinness Book of Records as the Society with the Longest Name, it originally referred to itself as the Autonomous British Branch of the Association Internationale pour l'Etude de la Mosaïque Antique. Its title has now settled down to the Association for the Study and Preservation of Roman Mosaics (ASPRoM for short). The Association meets twice a year, and has about 50 members. It publishes an annual newsletter, Mosaic, which gives summaries of papers given at the meetings, as well as notes on newly-discovered mosaics, notice of works published, and any other news about Roman mosaics. As the holder of one of the largest collections of Romano-British mosaics in the country, Hull City Museums was naturally a founder-member of ASPRoM, and on 26th April I went to a meeting of the Association in Leicester.. The choice of venue was suggested by an exhibition at Leicester Polytechnic of paintings of mosaics by David Neal. Mr Neal is employed by the Department of the Environment, and has made a speciality over a number of years of the accurate colour reproduction of mosaics. In this he is a worthy successor to William Fowler and Samuel Lysons, with the accuracy as an added bonus. The

exhibition had as its centrepiece a breathtaking four-foot-square painting of the Woodchester pavement, the largest-known mosaic in the country. Yorkshire mosaics were well represented, including of course those from Rudston and Brantingham. Of particular local interest was a first draft of a reconstruction drawing of the famous missing mosaic from Brantingham, which in 1948 went missing, almost literally overnight, before it could be removed to the museum. This reconstruction has been made using photographs excavated from the Museum files.. After a morning viewing the exhibition, the afternoon session consisted of a number of papers on various topics, all linked by the theme of the prefabrication of mosaics and their removal, both in ancient times and modern. Peter Johnson started with an account of the Leicester mosaics, and was followed by David Johnston, from Southampton University, who suggested that mosaics in the ancient world were not always as immobile as we might think. He reminded us, for example, of the mosaic pavements on the state pleasure-barges from Lake Nemi in Italy, and of the story that Julius Caesar carried mosaic mats around as floors for his campaign tents to impress the natives! David Smith talked about a more recent removal, that of the famous Christian mosaic from Hinton St. Mary, Dorset, now on display in the British Museum. Lastly, our very own Terry Suthers told the story of a fish mosaic panel in the possession of Stoneyhurst College, posing the question of whether it is a genuine Roman work of the 1st century AD, of the type familiar from Pompeii, or an 18th century pastiche fobbed off on an English industrialist by a wily pope.. The day ended with a tour of the Jewry Wall Museum, which I can thoroughly recommend, not only for its fine collections, but also for the building itself, which is a rare example of a modern building fitting in well with an ancient site - in this case with the carefully laid-out site of Leicester's Roman predecessor (the "Jewry Wall" is in fact one wall of a bath building).. ASPRoM is open to both institutional and personal members, so if you are interested in joining,

write for details to : Mr Peter Johnson, (Hon Sec/Treasurer), Department of Archaeology, The University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 7RU.. The next meeting, in December, will be held in London. The meeting after that, in Spring/early Summer, will hopefully be in Hull.

Book notes As usual when April brings with it the new financial year, the museum sends off orders in all directions for those books we've been needing all the previous year. So here are some of those volumes that have so far arrived on my desk. (Why does it take so long for ordered books to be delivered?).. We start with the long-awaited first report on the massive excavation at Wharram Percy. "Excavation" hardly does justice to the breadth of the study being undertaken by Messrs Hurst and Beresford, which includes historical research and extensive fieldwork in all disciplines, as well as mere digging. Reports are planned at two-yearly intervals, and the material from the excavations will gradually be deposited in Hull Museums, although some will eventually be displayed in a site museum. Two other reports, on the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Bergh Apton and Spong Hill in Norfolk, have been acquired because the finds offer many parallels for finds from East Yorkshire cemeteries. These are not complete site reports, but interim presentations of the finds, to keep researchers happy until the appearance, still several years hence, of the definitive interpretation - a very useful idea.. Conference proceedings seem to be a very popular way of publishing "work in progress", although editing needs to be firm to prevent "old work rehashed" creeping in. We have acquired the British Archaeological Reports volume of a conference on the archaeology of Medieval Ships and Harbours in Northern Europe, which took place in Bremerhaven in 1979. Until comparatively recently, medieval ships were known only from illustrations in manuscripts and similar sources, but since the war archaeology has provided an increasing volume of actual ship remains, especially from Scandinavia and the Low Countries. Hull now has a well-published waterfront

site of its own - perhaps the Humberside Archaeological Unit could next oblige us with a Cog or a Hulk?.. Since so much of the work of the museum consists of identifying and caring for objects, we are always on the look-out for comprehensive corpora of particular categories of small finds. Last year we spent half our book allocation on J.N.L.Myres' corpus of Anglo-Saxon Pottery, and this year we have supplemented that enormous work with Vera Evison's book on Wheel-thrown Pottery in Anglo-Saxon Graves. Visitors to our rather neglected Anglo-Saxon displays may recollect the fine wheel-thrown roulette-decorated urn from Driffield. Rather more recent pottery is covered by Peter Farmer's re-assessment of Scarborough ware, which he has bravely had privately printed. It is an excellent little publication covering every aspect from kiln sites to rim forms to the symbolism of knight jugs. One of the most difficult - and therefore most neglected - of artifacts, the glass bead, has now received a detailed study by Margaret Guido, produced to the usual high standard of the Society of Antiquaries.. An increasing number of Anglo-Saxon coins, particularly the early Sceatta and Styca series, are being brought to the museum by "treasure hunters" for identification, so we have purchased the British Museum's catalogue of Anglo-Saxon coins. Hardly a new work, this was first published in 1887, but was reprinted in 1970, and remains a basic work of reference. On a humbler note, the museum's collection of numismatic "oddities" contains many public house checks, produced during the 19th century partly as small change ("to be spent on the same day as received"), and partly as advertisement. Most of these checks, of brass, were made at Birmingham, and we have therefore acquired Birmingham Museum's publication, the only work devoted to these interesting "coins". Incidentally, we try to keep this aspect of our collection up to date, and have recently acquired, via the donations box at the Ferens Art Gallery, a fruit machine token!.. Readers may recall my grumble in the last issue of the Newsletter that the museum could not afford to purchase the Viking Artefacts catalogue produced as a spin-off from the British

Museum's Viking Exhibition. Well, it obviously pays to advertise, since we have now been given a copy. The donor has asked to remain anonymous, but I would like to thank him, on behalf of the museum, for his most generous gift. The book will be of great benefit both to the museum staff and to other users of the museum library.. Perhaps this is the place to remind the Society's members that they are welcome to consult books in the museum library, although it is not normally possible to borrow books, since they are in constant use. It is also advisable to telephone me for an appointment first, as I am not always in my office.. Books discussed were:

V.I.Evison, Wheel-Thrown Pottery in Anglo-Saxon Graves (R.A.I. 1979); P.G.Farmer, An Introduction to Scarborough Ware and a Re-assessment of Knight Jugs (Privately printed 1979); J.Graham-Campbell, Viking Artefacts: A Select Catalogue (B.M. 1980); B.Greene and A.Rogerson, The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Bergh Apton, Norfolk: Catalogue (E.Anglian Archaeology No.7 1978); M.Guido, The Glass Beads of the Prehistoric and Roman Periods in Britain and Ireland (Soc. of Antiquaries 1978); R.N.P.Hawkins, Public House Checks of Birmingham and Smethwick (Birmingham Museum 1978); C.Hills, The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elham (E.Anglian Archaeology No.6 1977); J.G.Hurst(ed.), Wharram: Vol 1: Domestic Settlement 1: Areas 10 and 6 (Soc. Med. Arch. Monograph No.8 1979); C.Keary and H.Grueber, English Coins in the British Museum: Anglo-Saxon 2 vols. (Seaby 1887, reprinted 1970); S.McGrail, Medieval Ships and Harbours in Northern Europe (B.A.R. No.S66 1979).

J.H.R.

Rudston published While we are on the subject of books, here is one that the museum won't be long in acquiring, and even without having set eyes on it yet myself is almost certainly one to be recommended. The Yorkshire Archaeological Society have followed up their Archaeology of Malton and Norton monograph, ^{with} Ian Stead's Rudston Roman Villa, the definitive report of the excavations undertaken from 1962 to 1972 which includes a reappraisal

of the work done on the site in the 1930s. There are specialist contributions on the mosaics, the well, the pottery and the environmental evidence. The publication is priced at £8.50 plus 70p postage, and is available from The Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Claremont, Clarendon Road, Leeds, LS2 9NZ. (For the over-cautious, we might manage a review in the next newsletter!)

From our Viking correspondent Peter Halkon kindly reports on Dark Age

doings at the Ingleborough Community Centre on 10th May...

Being of Viking descent and an enthusiast on the subject, I decided to attend the one-day conference on Saxon and Viking in the North at Ingleton, which was advertised in the last ERAS News. My trip proved fruitful and interesting - beautiful countryside, clement weather and a good hostelry nearby were added bonuses.. The conference was kicked off (an appropriate term considering activities at Wembley that day) by Professor Leslie Alcock, who gave a talk entitled "Early historic fortifications in North Britain". Using the Annals of Ulster and evidence based on recent excavations at Dunollaigh, Dunotter and a reappraisal of those at Dunadd, Professor Alcock postulated that these forts were not reoccupations of Iron Age Hill forts but new strategic defences built to combat invaders during this period of turmoil. Accounts of the sacking of the forts in the documentary sources correlated nicely with traces of burning and demolished fortifications revealed in excavation.. Those who visited the Viking Exhibition and saw the famous Middleton cross would have been very interested to hear Mr James Lang give an excellent account of how the large group of Viking Age, or more correctly Anglo/Scandinavian, was constructed. After very careful comparison and precise measurement Mr Lang has identified many similarities in some of the sculptures. The work of one sculptor has been identified in different areas of the Viking Kingdom of York. Knot work on a coped grave slab at St. Mary's Castlegate, York, proved to be ident-

ical in measurement to a cross shaft at Sinnington. On the crosses at Cundall and Masham a template was used to plan out identical dragons. Templates were used also to carve birds, interlace designs and even the Middleton Viking. Sculptures at Sockburn and Brompton also had identical elements. Mr Lang also pointed out that the crosses were not as crude as their present condition suggests, but were covered with gesso and then painted. Traces of pigment have been found on some of the crosses.. Theories about dating have changed radically as well. It is possible that the sculptures were all constructed within quite a narrow period by several workshops and itinerant sculptors.. The next lecture was presented by Richard Hall, the director of the Coppergate excavation. Recent finds on this remarkable site include more Viking Age houses dated by coins, glass beads, Rhineland pottery and quernstone fragments, a lead coin die pattern, a saddle bow decorated with silver inlay, a Pictish style penannular brooch and a reliquary pouch made of silk.. The conference was concluded by Dr John Hunter and gave an account of Viking expansion westwards to the Orkneys, Shetlands, Iceland, Greenland and Vinland. He explained how the colonies were founded and why, due to climatic changes, they collapsed. Life in 12th century Greenland, for example, became almost impossible. The average height of the population was reduced to five feet, and women became incapable of bearing children. Excavations at Birsay and Buckquoy revealed similar evidence for less drastic changes which altered Viking life style. In describing life in the Orkneys during the Viking Age, Dr Hunter delighted lovers of the traditional Viking image with tales of rapine and pillage.. The papers were all presented well with excellent slides complementing each other well and giving a vivid impression of life in the Viking North.

P.H.

Excursion aversion? Saturday June 14th, long anticipated, was very nearly not the date of this year's Society excursion after all. With only two weeks to go, cancellation of the outing

to Vindolanda and the Roman Wall seemed imminent when it was apparent that the coach would be less than half filled - so poor had been the response in spite of Keith Simcock's diligent efforts in providing a most attractive package, and by popular demand too!! Perhaps someone would care to venture the reason why, particularly since there are those who will inevitably be thinking twice before taking on the not inconsiderable burden of organising a similar event next year, unless support is assured. Happily for those who had already booked, a smaller coach was available as a replacement for the one originally chartered, a few extra takers were found and the excursion went ahead. Jean Dawes tells you now what you all missed!

Twenty seven members boarded a coach in the grey clamminess of a most atypical June morning and set forth for points wild and northern. As we progressed along the way, chosen for its picturesque grandeur of fell and moor, through Teesdale, over the roof of England to Alston and down into the valley of the South Tyne, the weather closed in and became decidedly wetter. The Hyperborean conditions stimulated the imagination to evoke the emotions of some Roman soldier reared in warmer lands who was posted to the Wall, the end of the earth, and had in addition to his other troubles to tramp his way through such wild and inhospitable regions.. Chesterholm, Vindolanda, was reached at lunchtime, and after lunch was eaten in the bus there was a concerted dash through the rain across the excavated parts of the fort and civilian settlement to the site museum. Vindolanda, one of the early Stanegate forts lying some little way south of the Wall, had a large civilian settlement with it. Many important finds have been made there in recent years, domestic rubbish, chance losses, even old letters preserved in the wet conditions. Many of these are displayed in the museum, which has recently been extended and now includes a life-size diorama, with descriptive sound-track, of a frontier kitchen. Of the individual items on display it is perhaps the personal rubbish which brings home the reality of life in this northern outpost of the Roman Empire. There are the broken combs, worn footwear, including several

children's shoes, patched and repatched fragments of leather jackets, lost hairpins and needles, and the ubiquitous broken pots.. Viewing of the exposed buildings was kept to a minimum due to the relentless downpour and a proposed visit to Housesteads cancelled and replaced by Corbridge. First however we were carried in the bus along the road which runs near and nearly parallel to the Roman Wall, seeing glimpses of its tumbled grey stones from time to time and having good extensive views of ditch and vallum, to the great cavalry fort of Chesters, or Cilurnum. Here Peter Armstrong valiantly undertook a short guided tour of the ruins, pointing out to members the essential details of layout of the great establishment and its accompanying comprehensive bath house suite. Addicts in the party continued over the field to view the footings of the Roman bridge over the North Tyne before dripping damply into the museum after their fellows. This museum, for those who do not know it, is remarkable for the quantities of Roman inscriptions on display, mainly on building fragments and altars.. As a final visit of the day we went to Corbridge, Corstopitum, where the Roman army had a great central store depot for supplying the various garrisons. Here were exposed the outlines, floors and walls of temples, workshops and two vast and impressive granaries with raised floors for grain storage. An air of grandeur as well as functional efficiency was still evident in the remains of columns and immaculately dressed large ashlar wall blocks. Again a site museum exists to display some of the excavated material.. The day was completed by a visit to a Hexham hostelry where a real fire to sit or stand and dry by, followed by a pleasant high tea rounded off our excursion to Northumberland.. I am sure that all participating travellers would join me in thanking our Vice-chairman, Keith Simcock, for his original inspiration, his efficient planning, checking and paperwork, and his cheerful handling of the multitude of small decisions on the day. I am sure that if weather was arrangeable, he would have organised that with equal success, and I would like to associate my-

self with him in his wish that members enjoyed their visit and will explore some of the archaeological treasures of that area further as they find the opportunity.

J.D.D.

Normandy weekend An Oxford-based organisation called Archaeological Education is advertising a short study tour of Normandy and the Bayeux Tapestry led by Trevor Rowley between the 11th and 14th September. The tour, it says, is designed to allow students to visit the principal museums and medieval sites in the Cherbourg peninsula and south-western Normandy during a long weekend. The main excursion will be to Bayeux and its Tapestry; in addition a number of other important medieval cities, monasteries and castles will be included, including Caen and Rouen. The cost is £80. For booking contact Miss Shirley Hermon, Rewley House, 3-7 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA.

Book notes - Stop Press or pages 8 to 10 revisited!

John Rumsby, overcoming his innate modesty, he assures me, feels he should not omit to mention a new publication by Hull Museums, called The Romans in East Yorkshire. The booklet gives a popular summary of the Roman occupation of the area, and is illustrated by objects in the Museum's collection. It is obtainable from the Archaeological and Transport Museum, High Street, Hull, price 35p (postage extra).. On a closely related topic, The Place-Names of Roman Britain by A.L.F. Rivet and Colin Smith is a book at bedtime if ever there was one - not that it sends you to sleep, you understand, quite the reverse,- but at £50 you'll be staying in nights for a while! Such prices must put the authors on the spot, more so perhaps in this case when Batsford's blurb writers have plumbed new depths of inanity by sandwiching a turgid promotional text between the self-evident claim that "this book will stand as the definitive account of the place-names of Roman Britain" and the mindless declaration that "the book will be invaluable to all those concerned with the place-names of Roman Britain.." I should

hope so too, especially at £50. Keep pumping them out at 35p, John!

E.R.A.S. exhibits itself The Committee has accepted an invitation from the Beverley and District Lions Club to take part in a Hobbies and Leisures Exhibition to be held at the Memorial Hall, Beverley, on Saturday 20th September. It is obviously a good opportunity for the Society to advertise itself and we shall be hoping to put on a good show. If any members would like to lend a hand in putting something together for the event, all assistance would be gratefully received. It would also be very useful to gather together as much illustrative material as possible, such as photographs of Society digs, newspaper clippings, etc. Does anyone have a long run of membership cards? A display of twenty years of Society lecture programmes would be a museum exhibit in its own right! Please contact your Hon. Sec. with offers and suggestions. It would be most appreciated also if a few volunteers would man the stand for the odd hour - the day is from 10am to 5pm.

Last call for Sunday digging Unless something happens pretty soon, the opportunity for members to work on site at Beverley will pass, conceivably not to return. Society involvement in the Beverley excavations remains disappointingly small - a good Sunday turn-out these days is four members, hardly worth opening the site up for, with every due respect to the regulars who continue to do sterling work, and who enjoy (I think) taking part. A regular, by the way, is easily recognised these days. A perpetual look of bewilderment gives them away. They can't understand where everyone else is! Come on, smooth our furrowed brows! Put archaeology back into the East Riding Archaeological Society!