

Beverley Excavations The invitation to participate in excavations in Beverley put out at the A.G.M. and in the last newsletter was taken up by over twenty archaeological practitioners - skilled, semi-skilled and apprentice - seduced no doubt by promises of imminent action. Patience, of course, ever remains a virtue and after a four month lapse dormant diggers were finally given the opportunity to nibble their way through the undergrowth and knock a site into shape! Thus begins the tale of Lurk Lane, an everyday story of archaeology. After protracted negotiations the site adjacent to the Minster on its south side has been secured for a period of six months for excavation by the Humberside Joint Archaeological Committee. Not to dwell upon the conditions under which archaeological work has been allowed to proceed, the upshot is that only limited resources are available at present for the actual running of the work. By giving of their time therefore many members are already making a great contribution to the excavation. The site itself, you may recall, is poorly documented and is consequently something of an unknown quantity archaeologically speaking. But it is difficult to imagine such a location unoccupied in the medieval period. Excavation remains the one avenue of exploration open to reveal something of its history whatever that may be. At the moment judgment is reserved! The site is being worked six days a week (Saturdays I rest, shop or write newsletters!) and while members are welcome to assist at any time, E.R.A.S. excavation talent is very much on display on Sundays (9.30am start). Late in the season though it is with autumnal and wintry days ahead, the site is there and work proceeds.

The Lunt/Kenilworth Excursion Not a second chance to go, but a brief record

of a very successful day. If you do not know the Lunt Roman fort at Baginton, near Coventry, it is well worth the effort to make its acquaintance on your own. How much extra one can learn however from personal guidance, such as that provided on the day by Margaret Ryall, Coventry Museums' Field Archaeologist and one of the leading figures responsible for the excavation and reconstructions at the fort. Arguments rage in the archaeological world on the value of reconstructions, but here with the gyrus, the circular palisaded horse ring, is an example of a reconstruction which has added enormously to the study of this particular fort in providing palpable evidence of the nature of this unusual and at present unique feature of the Roman garrison in Britain. Without the close palings reset in their 1900 year old sockets, the clatter and reverberating echo from the centre of the ring could never have been fully realised. From the reconstruction alone it can be demonstrated how the din of battle could be simply recreated by one or two individuals in order to school horses for use in warfare, much as horses today are schooled by the police force to remain imperturbable in the midst of the barbarian ululations of Saturday afternoons! The site museum housed within the reconstructed granary is an excellent bonus on the site and amply demonstrates the thoughtfulness that has been applied to the reconstructions. The one omission however, quickly realised, are the fort latrines! (The explanation though is a simple one: scrounging through the final published report, it is apparent that they were not located and excavated. Cold comfort, so arrange your own visit accordingly - staff facilities may not always be afforded the passing visitor!!) As for Kenilworth, what can be said? The beautiful, warm, red sandstone spanning five centuries of building from the twelfth century AD is a delight to behold. Everyone on the outing explored at their own pace and sought out a favourite corner be it stables, herb garden or Leicester's Gatehouse. A certain unnamed lover of things sanitary insisted

upon a photographic record of herself hanging headlong from a garderobe chute! The result hasn't been seen, so the exposure may not have been right! There was more to the trip, but the veil is now drawn. In the last newsletter when the outing was still in prospect Keith Simcock was congratulated for putting such promising plans together. The thanks are now redoubled after the event which was so enjoyed by all present.

Museum Notes John Rumsby writes: During this summer a late Roman coin hoard was discovered by a farmer in a field near Barrow-on-Humber, South Humberside. Luckily Ben Whitwell of the Humberside Archaeological Unit was quickly on the scene, and a total of 193 coins were recovered. These coins are silver siliquae, in beautiful condition. They range in date from the issues of Constantius II (337-61) to Arcadius (383-408), and were probably deposited in the mid-390's. The largest number of any one reign was 48, of Valens (364-78), the unfortunate emperor killed by the Goths at the Battle of Adrianople. The hoard also includes three contemporary forgeries of Julian II (360-63), called the Apostate or the Philosopher, according to one's theological viewpoint. The Barrow hoard has been declared Treasure Trove and deposited with the British Museum who, having retained some of the coins, are putting the remainder on the market, giving local museums first refusal. At the moment Hull Museum, among others, is negotiating to purchase some of these fine coins, and hopefully they will be on display in late autumn. They will complement Hull's other late Roman silver hoard of over 200 siliquae and other denominations from South Ferriby (see Hull Museum Publications No. 188).

Reports Meeting Don't miss the start of the new lecture programme on September 26th. To explain for the benefit of new members, the Reports Meeting began life as a review of the season's excavations and field activities undertaken by or in close association with Society members. Less direct involve-

ment recently has led to a wider cast of the net and attempts are now made to familiarise the Society with the archaeology of our area, in so far as this feasible in the context of a single evening's meeting. This year the net is wide indeed and four contributions are promised, including two from North Lincs. (or S. Humberside if you must). John Dent will be bringing us up to date with recent events at the Iron Age cemetery, Wetwang, and other operations in his care; Peter Armstrong will review the early weeks of Lurk Lane, Beverley; the two south bank offerings are from Ben Whitwell who will reveal all concerning the discovery and significance of the Barrow coin hoard, and from Glyn Coppack who will outline the results of this season's excavations at Thornholme Priory. A varied evening of archaeology in store! With so much to include a prompt start is required: 7.30pm, Ferens Art Gallery, Sept. 26th.

An archaeological recession? Guardian readers may recall an article published in the issue of August 13th last. It was written by Dr. John Hunter, secretary of RESCUE and lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Bradford, and spelled out the implications for archaeology of the recent Government spending cuts. For those who missed it a resumé may not be out of place here, drawing as it does our attention to the recurring problem of under-financing in British archaeology. Dr. Hunter forcibly points out that Britain's famed archaeological heritage is so threatened by the cuts that it may be dealt a fatal blow. Motorways, urban renewal, mining and developed agricultural technologies have destroyed our past at an alarming rate. The Government, through its Ancient Monuments Inspectorate in D.o.E., has an obligation to preserve our heritage, but the Treasury allocation remains inadequate. From £0.5 million in 1972 to £2.8million in 1978/79 when inflation is taken into account represents little real growth in spending. Scotland's total funding from all sources this year is only £0.5million, and here the prospect is grim. Dr. Hunter has a word to say for

the professionals in the job: 1600 salaried people work full-time in archaeology, of which total less than 400 hold established posts. The rest must endure the uncertainty of renewable annual contracts. The moratorium on recruitment is particularly serious coming now at the period of most activity in the field. The phasing out of temporary employment schemes, which has added £1.2millions to the funding overall, will have a very serious effect upon output too. The 200 University graduates in archaeology stand little chance of employment in this climate. The cuts which will affect archaeology, says Dr. Hunter, will not be tempered by a proportional cut in the very threats which professional archaeologists are employed to meet. The prospective losses are now "phenomenal and irretrievable leaving a national asset totally wasted and a general public deprived of part of its inheritance". The permanence of that loss to our understanding of the past sets the plight of archaeology apart from the other arts where cancellations or deprivations do not drive as destructively to the core of the subject as they do in rescue archaeology. Will future generations, asks Dr. Hunter, level accusations of cultural vandalism against the political masters of today. (Actually Dr. Hunter is a little more specifically personal than that and cites Mrs. Thatcher as the object of our children's fury!) His parting words of foreboding are that the present measures run the "risk of producing a society without a memory".... Strong stuff indeed, and without putting too fine a point on the politics of the article there is a genuine cause for concern at the present time. The temporary employment schemes have indeed rescued rescue archaeology over the last few years and without them a shrinkage in operations is inevitable, and no one can fail to recognise the implications of a reduction in archaeological work which has never been able to keep adequate pace with the destruction of sites even at its most buoyant times. Local authorities will be even harder pressed now than ever to contribute financially to archaeology which will add to the problem overall. What to do? Society's like our own

should heed the warning and ought not be indolent at such a time. The direct involvement of the amateur in rescue archaeology has been maintained in many areas, and the associations between professional and amateur must be strengthened further for the good of archaeology as a whole, perhaps as Dr. Hunter might say for its very survival. E.R.A.S. members are by definition interested in archaeology. If that interest extends to real concern, then this should be voiced at every opportunity. Go forth and make a noise! (If you are interested in RESCUE, or the junior wing Young Rescue, details of membership may be had by writing to RESCUE, The British Archaeological Trust, 15a Bull Plain, Hertford, Herts., SG14 1DX.)

Books Recommended reading would have been a happier section heading but it seems that no one is prepared to admit to their personal reading practices. Information required please! The following therefore are really only titles, new and not so new, that you may like to know of. Comments are made as possible, but otherwise no promises are made regarding content or value. Routledge and Kegan Paul's Britain before the Conquest series will include this month John Wachter, The Coming of Rome (1979) at £7.50, covering the first two centuries of Roman rule. Other titles already published in the series are Lloyd Laing, Celtic Britain £6.95; Lloyd and Jennifer Laing, Anglo Saxon England £6.95; and forthcoming are Lloyd and Jennifer Laing, The Origins of Britain; and Stephen Johnson, Later Roman Britain. Two books which I can recommend for the newcomer (and indeed the not-so-newcomer) to archaeology are David Miles, An Introduction to Archaeology (1978) at £4.95 from Ward Lock, which is a really up to date general intro. very nicely written and produced (dust jacket design excepted!); and an old standby now in its fifth edition, new and revised, Eric Wood, Collins Field Guide to Archaeology in Britain (1979) at £6.50. Also nice to have are the neat and reasonably priced handbooks in the Shire Archaeology series, nine in all now:

Leslie Grinsell, Barrows in England and Wales £1.50; Aubrey Burl, Prehistoric Stone Circles £1.25; Richard Bagshawe, Roman Roads £1.50; David Johnston, Roman Villas £1.50; Nancy Langmaid, Prehistoric Pottery £1.25; Vivian Swan, Pottery in Roman Britain £1.25; David Kennett, Anglo Saxon Pottery £1.25; Jeremy Haslam, Medieval Pottery in Britain £1.25; Nancy Langmaid, Bronze Age Metalwork in England and Wales £1.00. They are available by post (include 25p for p&p) from Shire Publications, Cromwell House, Church Street, Princes Risborough, Aylesbury, Bucks. Another goody for the practical minded is Philip Barker, Techniques of Archaeological Excavation (1977) from Batsford at £8.95 hardback and £4.75 paperback. Clay pipes remain a perennial source of interest and fascination it seems and a new volume in the rapid-fire British Archaeological Reports Series, No. 63 (1979), is part 1 of "The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe", part 1 being "Britain: the Midlands and Eastern England" edited by Peter Davey. No less a figure than our very own Gareth Watkins, the Humberside Archaeological Unit's Pottery Researcher, is a contributor to this weighty volume with a Typology of Hull Pipes. Very informative he is too, providing a form and shape typology as well as a list of makers compiled from documentary sources. Local devotees of the subject will find this and the other articles essential reading and no one will fail to be intrigued by the scope of the study. £8.50 isn't cheap, but Christmas is coming! Available from B.A.R. 122 Banbury Road, Oxford, post free. Whilst on the subject of price, a facsimile volume of Samuel Buck's Yorkshire Sketchbook in limited edition is being prepared at £18 (plus £1.10 p&p) by Wakefield Historical Publications, c/o Seckar House, Seckar Lane, Wooley, Wakefield, W. Yorks. Over 200 sketches of town prospects including Beverley, Knaresborough, Leeds, Yarm, etc., drawn by this architectural draughtsman 250 years ago are prefaced by a "scholarly introduction by Dr. Ivan Hall", 424pp in all. Sounds a nice present. On approximately the same subject

and somewhat more available in price terms is J.R. Armstrong, Traditional Buildings - Accessible to the Public to be published on Sept. 27th 1979 by E.P. Publishing Ltd., East Ardsley, Wakefield, W. Yorks., at £4.95. The book is a guide to small, old - mainly medieval - cottages, farmhouses and communal buildings in England, Wales and Scotland which are easily visited. Two C.B.A. Research Reports which ought to interest many are R. Hall(ed.), "Viking Age York and the North", C.B.A. Research Report 27 (1978); and Alan Aberg(ed.), "Medieval Moated Sites", C.B.A. Research Report 17 (1978). Both at £6.00 are available from the Council for British Archaeology, 112 Kennington Road, London SE11 6RE. The National Maritime Museums Archaeological Series and Monographs may also be of interest: E.V. Wright, "The North Ferryboats", Monograph 23, at £2.00, for example, has local appeal. Lists are available from the Bookshop, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF. A new title sounding promising is P.H. Sawyer, From Roman Britain to Norman England (1979), a history paperback from Methuen at £4.95. Also written as a history rather than an archaeological appraisal is a nice ready new volume, H.H. Scullard, Roman Britain Outpost of the Empire (1979) from Thames and Hudson at £5.95. Many familiar old photos appear in it but it is pleasant to peruse and is full of information easily absorbed - a good history as one would expect from such a good historian. An excellent one for medievalists to look out for is Colin Platt, The English Medieval Town (1976), from Martin Secker and Warburg (cannot easily locate the price, but whatever it is it is worth every penny!) And finally for now a new one from the North-East, D.A. Spratt(ed.), The Archaeology of Cleveland (1979) published by the Middlesbrough Borough Council.

Books - an afterthought The aforementioned Archaeology of Cleveland title came to my notice in a way which has stimulated brain patterns. A copy was kindly sent by one of our memb-

ers, Mrs. Crowther, who lives in Guisborough. It was Mrs. Crowther who unwittingly provided the stimulus behind E.R.A.S. News in the first place by tentatively suggesting some time ago the distribution of lecture summaries for out of town members like herself. Unwittingly again perhaps she may have started something else! But this is up to you. With the active and willing cooperation of all members the Society could gather to itself a "library" of archaeological or site guide literature by donation. A kind of Adult Ed.-style Book Box. This, not, I hasten to add, an entirely new idea. A similar scheme operated once before under the aegis of Hull Museums. The collection envisaged could not obviously be comprehensive, but it might serve a useful purpose and provide a service particularly for younger members perhaps. A little quiet reflection may illuminate the possibilities. Contributions will be needed - not cash but books, pamphlets, guides (buy an extra one for E.R.A.S. next time you are at Mount Grace, Fountains, Chedworth or Vindolanda) - and the whole venture will need to be organised and coordinated by an Hon. Librarian. Any thoughts yourself on the matter? More of this in due course perhaps, but action, as in all things practical, is of the essence and with the giving season soon to be upon us, who would care to follow Mrs. Crowther's lead?

Vikings in London From February 14th to July 20th 1980 the British Museum will be staging an exhibition on The Vikings. Popularised so much recently by archaeological events in York this promises to be particularly well visited. A Society outing in prospect perhaps?

The Journal The forthcoming volume of the East Riding Archaeologist, No. 4, will be another of the Hull Old Town Reports, "Excavations in Chapel Lane Staith", by Brian Ayers et al. The manuscript is with the printers now and a publication date in October is anticipated.

Coppergate: an inside story There's more to excavation than careful paring with a trowel. Ask any volunteer, or better still witness these scenes of mechanical mayhem conjured by David Dawes, son of Jean, whose duties during his recent six weeks as a volunteer on the Coppergate site in York have that unmistakable ring of reality and first-hand experience ... "The Pump (required to keep a well clear) - start cranking the handle, five minutes later realise that machine isn't switched on. Rectify; pump starts working and proceeds to eject water from a leaky pipe. Stop pump and mop up mess. Spend day attempting to prevent oil leakages from contaminating samples wanted for radio-carbon dating. The Diesel Hoist - let the buckets down too fast and cable unwinds all over site. Stop for half an hour to rewind. Sit by the hoist to raise four buckets of spoil at a time from the excavation levels below. Transfer them to dumper truck. The Dumper Truck - these machines are a menace in wet weather. Having filled one up with spoil, have to go and find a staff member with a driving licence and beg him to come and empty it. Drives furiously up wet slippery dump. Attempts to tip load which has usually settled to the back refusing to budge. Wheels spray everyone with liquid mud. Secure services of other volunteers to sit on front edge and rock to and fro to effect tipping. Finally emptied, the dumper regularly refuses to back down the spoil heap. Stuck. Call site workers to assist with a push, cover them with a uniform deposit of slime. Not all is mud and despondency of course, a gilded pin found while wet sieving brightens the day. And discussions and comradeship which go with the tea breaks and summer evenings added to the enjoyment of working on this great Viking site!"

Pre-Conquest Yorkshire So titled is a weekend residential course at the Clifton Hotel, Scarborough, from Friday 12th Oct. to Sunday 14th Oct. 1979, arranged by the Department of

Adult Education, University of Hull, in association with the Historical Association (Hull Branch). In between eating and sleeping the lecture programme is "Pre-Conquest Settlement in Yorkshire" (Prof. P.H.Sawyer), "Anglo-Saxon Historians in Yorkshire" (Prof. R.Vaughan), "Anglo-Saxon Art in Yorkshire" (Dr. F.W.Brooks), "Place-Names in Anglo-Saxon Yorkshire" (Prof. M.F.Blake), and "The York Viking Kingdom" (Mr. A.L.Binns). Also included is a bus excursion to the Vale of Pickering. The all-inclusive charge is £25.00 and bookings should be in no later than 1st Oct. Application forms from: The Administrative Officer, Department of Adult Education, University of Hull, 195 Cottingham Road, Hull.

Know your limits Mrs Ann Alexander has written soliciting E.R.A.S. members' help in her research into parish, township, manor, etc., boundaries of Yorkshire. Working as she is with Jean Le Patourel and others I assume this is part of the Y.A.S. Parish Boundary Survey. Mrs Alexander would like to know of any printed or manuscript boundary descriptions of "more or less any date". If you think you can offer assistance in providing such information, you may care to contact Mrs Alexander directly - the address is 14 Moor Park Mount, Leeds 6.

York on the map again Wakefield Historical Publications are arranging an exhibition in York entitled "The Work of Christopher Saxton, Elizabethan Mapmaker" opening at the beginning of November for an unspecified period. The exhibition is to be held in the Minster Library, Deans Park (on the north side of the Minster), and admission Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm is free. The occasion is the 400th anniversary of the publication of Saxton's Atlas of English and Welsh counties, himself the first to survey and map them. More to the point perhaps is the simultaneous launching of W.H.P.'s new limited edition "Christopher Saxton: Elizabethan Mapmaker" (at £20 by the way, or £16 pre-publication order!) The exhibition will contain Saxton material,

gathered together for the first time, and will include a first edition 1572 Atlas and a number of later editions, manuscript maps and surveys, and other related material.

Archaeology pays! Did you know (Christopher Sexton didn't, and neither did I until a fortnight ago!) that the Archaeology Section of the National Monuments Record (the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments) will actually pay for measured surveys of buildings or sites submitted by local fieldworkers? The bad news (if the foregoing is the good) is that they only pay £2 per drawing. And in spite of what you may be thinking, the back of a matchbox variety are not the kind of site drawings the Commission has in mind! The standard of acceptability is high. But on reflection, who would be so base as to be drawn by the prospect of financial gain into risking permanent injury recording a derelict cruck frame, or being mercilessly buffeted by wind and hail striding over bumps in the landscape with measured tread? What if £2 will keep you in pencils for a whole week or serve as a down-payment on a bottle of ink? I should have thought the immortality afforded to one whose works are lodged in a national archive would be incentive enough! While on the topic of fieldwork - and it really is to be encouraged at Society level, for we can do much - those who have already indicated their interest in group fieldwork (through the channel of an earlier questionnaire) will be kept informed of plans for the winter. New members similarly anxious to be out and about tramping the fields and otherwise studying the East Riding landscape should contact the Hon. Secretary.