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Notes on Historical Archaeology

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NOTES ON HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

edited by

Iain C. Walker

Publications of Interest

Those who saw the film presented by Edward Heite during his paper "Site Layout and Recording" at the 1971 Spring Symposium of our Council will recognize the sort of work typified by much of the text and some of the illustrations in Hester A. Davis's article "Is there a Future for the Past?" in the October 1971 issue of *Archaeology* (vol. 24, no. 4, pp. 300-6). This article is a timely reminder that there may indeed easily be no future for the past— and therefore rather little future for archaeologists, a disconcerting thought— unless a continual and intensified campaign at local and national levels is waged against remorseless and spiralling deprivations of sites by pot-hunters and elected representatives alike.

* * *

One of the rarest ceramics found in North American excavations must be Donyatt (or Donyat) sgraffito-ware from south Somerset in England, for only one piece has been identified so far— from a Williamsburg context of ca. 1765 (I. Noel Hume, *Here Lies Virginia* (1963) 286 and *A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America* (1969) 105, 107 fig. 29 bottom right). It is therefore perhaps slightly artificial to recommend to readers the excellent eight-page first progress report on current research and excavation at Donyatt and elsewhere in the West Country, the *Donyatt Research Group 1970 Interim Report: Excavations at Donyatt and Nether Stowey* (Hobbs the printers, Southampton) by R. Coleman-Smith and T. Pearson; but where one fragment is known others may still exist and this article is a useful and modern reference.

Further, its format and presentation should be commended to local groups in North America who wish to provide accounts of their work in a professional manner without that greatest of professional bugbears, the timelag problem (in some cases of publication approaching an heirloom problem). The authors' stated aim in "publishing each site excavated at the earliest possible date, whilst [intending] to publish a final volume later," which might also be a policy widely followed elsewhere in the field. Copies are available from R. Coleman-Smith, 8 Saxholm Dale, Southampton SO1 7HA, England— they cost 15p (3s in the old British currency); send a money-order for 25p (\$.65) to cover postage and money-order handling charge.

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Some of those subscribing to *Northeast Historical Archaeology* may be

interested in subscribing, or in getting departmental, school, etc., libraries to subscribe, to the national British journal in the equivalent field to historical archaeology on this continent, *Post-Medieval Archaeology*. This is an excellent publication both in content and format and in this writer's opinion markedly superior in both departments to the national journal in North America, *Historical Archaeology*.

Like that journal, it first appeared in 1967; papers published so far which are particularly relevant to work in North America include this writer's "Statistical Methods for dating Clay Pipes" in vol. 1 (which has now been superseded by L. H. Hanson, Jr.'s "Kaolin Pipe Stems: Boring in on a Fallacy" in *The Conference on Historic Site Archaeology Papers 1969*, vol. 4 (1971) 2-15); "An 18th-Century Urban Estate at Louisbourg in New France" by H. Sutermeister in vol. 2; "The Literature of Post-Medieval Pottery" by R. J. Charleston and Dorothy M. Griffiths in vol. 3; and "Some East Anglian Prototypes for Early Timber Houses" by C. A. Hewett also in vol. 3; as well as several notes in various issues by I. Noel Hume, Audrey Noel Hume, B. L. Fontana, and Mavis Bimson. Relevant papers in future issues include "17th-Century Timber-Framed Building of Witham, Essex" by M. Wadhams; "The Burnett Collection of 'Delftware' Found in Southwark" by I. Noel Hume; "The Longton Hall Porcelain Factory: An Excavation Report" by H. Tait and J. Cherry; "Evidence of American Trade from West Country Port Books" by W. E. Minchinton; and "John Dwight at Whitehaven and Fulham: A Documentary Study" by Lorna Wetherill and Rhoda Edwards. There are also excellent surveys of current fieldwork and relevant periodical literature. Subscription is \$6.00 (\$9.00 for joint membership, \$6.00 for institutional membership, and \$3.50 for student membership) and the Honorary Treasurer is J. H. Ashdown, 14 Princes Street, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England.

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At the risk of sounding unacceptably pro-British one may also recommend subscription to the Council for British Archaeology publications if readers still have any money for subscribing to those most expensive archaeological tools, professional publications. For 5.50 pounds (\$14.50) one can obtain a "consolidated subscription" and receive all of the following publications: the annual *Report* (very useful to those involved in scheduling and protection of sites); the *Calendar of Excavations* (monthly from March to September inclusive— lists of excavations, courses, lectures); the *Calendar of Excavations: Summaries* (annual); the *Archaeological Site Index to Radiocarbon Dates for Great Britain and Ireland* (annually, semi-annually if enough dates appear); *British Archaeological Abstracts* (semi-annually); *Current and Forthcoming Offprints on Archaeology in Great Britain and Ireland* (semi-annual— extremely useful); and *Archaeological Bibliography for Great Britain & Ireland* (annual— elaborately cross-referenced and again, extremely useful). All these parts can be subscribed to separately (for an extra charge they can be air-

mailed), and everything from palaeolithic to post-medieval is covered— the *Bibliography* for 1969, the latest so far issued, lists almost 800 articles covering archaeology and related topics. For details write Council for British Archaeology, 8 St. Andrew's Place, London N.W.1, England. Someday, perhaps there will be as comprehensive and scholarly a coverage of North American archaeology.

Conferences

The Post-Medieval Archaeology Society's March 1972 Conference in The Netherlands originally set for this March and referred to in these pages in the last issue of *Northeast Historical Archaeology* has been postponed a year; those interested should contact K. J. Barton, F.S.A., F.M.A., Southsea Castle, Clarence Esplanade, Southsea, Hampshire, England. The March 1972 PMA Conference is on fortifications, that in October 1972 on urban archaeology— those interested in these fields may wish to obtain a programme even if they will not be attending in order to note papers of interest to their field. Again, write K. J. Barton, who will also be able to supply addresses of conference participants for interested inquirers.