



BRITISH
BRICK
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INFORMATION

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Members of the BAA may elect to join its Brick Section and, as such, will be eligible for affiliation to the British Brick Society. They should inform the Hon Secretary of the BBS of their address so that they can be included in the membership list.

INFORMATION 40

EDITORIAL

It was good to read in the journal Building (11 July 1986) that the Quality Brickwork Award first presented earlier this year is to be repeated in 1987. One hopes, indeed, that the Award will continue in subsequent years too. It is a worthy acknowledgement of the rôle of the actual builders involved in the project. These often remain as anonymous as the musicians in an orchestra; but just as the most sensitive conductor cannot bring out of his orchestra more than their individual talents allow them to put into a performance, so too the architect's final presentation to the public is in part determined by the individual craft skills of those who are called upon to execute his design. The co-sponsors of the Award are the journal Building and the Brick Development Association - to which indeed our own Society is so much indebted for help and support. The 1986 competition, according to the BDA's Brick News (10 June 1986), attracted seventy-three entries; these were judged on a regional basis by the Guild of Bricklayers and the eleven regional winners were then judged by a panel of four - Messrs George Atkinson, Peter Allars, Basil Stanford and David Burnell. All eleven regional winners are described and beautifully illustrated in a supplement to Building (30 May 1986). The judges were unanimous in awarding the prize

to the Chapter House at St Albans Cathedral in Hertfordshire, designed by Whitfield Partners for the Cathedral Council and built by Harry Neal Ltd of London using orange/red handmade bricks from the Bovingdon Brickworks, also in Hertfordshire. The bricklayer was Jim Gunner and the project was completed in December 1984.

* * * * *

Thanks are once again due to Michael Hammett for impeccable arrangements for the A.G.M. held at Hampton Court Palace on 21 June; also to our retiring Chairman, Tim Tatton-Brown, not only for his efficient chairing of the meeting but also for an admirably clear conducted tour of the Tudor parts of the Palace. In my previous editorial I thanked Tim for his work for the Society over the past few years. At that time I did not know that Mrs Marie Laurance, our Membership Secretary, would also be standing down. Marie has worked hard over the past few years and I know that all members will join me in offering our grateful thanks. All members should have received a copy of the minutes of the A.G.M., and will therefore be aware that Michael Hammett will be combining his work as Honorary Secretary with that of Membership Secretary and maintaining liaison with the Brick Development Association; this arrangement will allow much of the administrative work to be kept together. He has, however, passed over the work of handling inquiries to the newly created Enquiries Secretary, David Kennett. Ann Los was re-elected as Bibliographer and Publications Officer, Maurice Exwood as Auditor, and Martin Hammond as Treasurer. Last, and certainly least, T.P. Smith was re-elected as Editor and elected as Chairman. Next year's A.G.M., it was agreed, would be held at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, if possible on the third Saturday in June, which has proved convenient and popular over recent years.

* * * * *

A new venture this year was the Autumn Meeting, held at the Rudgwick Brickworks, Sussex and at Farnham, Surrey. Although I missed the first session, I was glad to meet members at Farnham Castle and to be taken, with them, around the town and to the museum, where there was a fine display relating to the recently excavated tile kiln just outside the town ditch. Thanks are due not only to our secretary, Michael Hammett, but also to Valerie Shelton-Bunn, Maurice Exwood, and Eddie Godsil for arranging and conducting the visits. It is hoped to arrange further regional meetings of this kind in various parts of the country.

* * * * *

A few items submitted for inclusion in Information of late have been in a form not readily adapted to publication and have consequently involved the editor in virtually writing up other people's notes. In some cases he has not bothered! May I ask contributors - of whom I hope we shall continue to have many - to organise their material in more or less the form in which they wish it to be published. It may well be altered by the editor, but, for example, personal letters to a third party from which the editor has to extract what is relevant are not really acceptable; neither are disorganised notes written in haste. May I, as politely as possible, ask for members' co-operation on this matter?

Terence Paul Smith
Editor

Who wants Information?

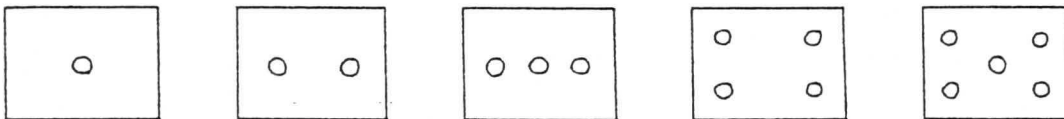
The final page of this issue of Information contains details of the 1987 subscription, payable by all those who not members of the Brick Section of the British Archaeological Association, together with a form to return and a section for your own records. If we can keep our records up to date then we can save the wastage of sending Information to those who are no longer interested in membership. Therefore, we are asking all members to return the cut-off slip, accompanied by a cheque/postal order for £3 where appropriate. (Members of the Brick Section of B.A.A. are requested to return the form, filled in appropriately, so that we know that no separate subscription is to be expected.)

Terence Paul Smith
Chairman

Michael Hammett
Hon. Secretary

Brick Marks. In two recent issues of Information there has been mention of brickmarks of various sorts. Martin Hammond's note on cat paw marks (Information 38, February 1986, 17-18) is of particular interest: I have three examples of bricks with cat paw marks, all of them on a stretcher face (Harley Code: LT face). Other bricks show arrangements of finger marks, clearly deliberate rather than accidental - see figure below. All are on the header face (Harley Code: BT face) and were presumably added for counting purposes. All the bricks mentioned in this note so far are of similar type and fabric: a red to light red colour, a medium soft and sandy texture with some large stones measuring up to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (18 mm.) diameter; the bricks have no frogs. They measure $8\frac{3}{4}$ -9 by $4-4\frac{1}{4}$ by $2\frac{5}{8}$ - $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches (223-230 by 103-109 by 67-70 mm.). They may have been made at the Blundeston brickworks near Lowestoft, Suffolk (NGR: TM 516975), and are estimated to date from the late eighteenth or the early nineteenth century.

Another brick, with many finger marks all over, comes from an interior wall of a small, late eighteenth-century cottage at 3 Blacksmiths Lane, Lound, Suffolk (NGR: TM 505991). It measures $8\frac{5}{8}$ by $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches (219 by 114 by 60 mm.), and has a salmon colour and a soft fragile texture with some stones up to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (13 mm.) diameter. It is not known where it was made.



M.G.Reeder

BRICKMAKING - A SEASONAL AND DUAL OCCUPATION

W. Ann Los

The editorial in Information 38¹ discussed the seasonal nature of brickmaking and the other occupations which were followed by the brickmakers, together with a special note of the peculiarities of certain areas. The dual economy practised by the brickmaker has long interested me, so perhaps I too may be permitted some remarks on the subject as it concerns my own area of the East Riding together with a glance across the River Humber at Lincolnshire.

The seasonal nature of brickmaking has long been accepted throughout the country.² The winter frosts were used to help prepare the clay, and the drying process was entirely dependent on the weather.³ Nathaniel Lloyd and Jane Wight, both learned historians in relation to brick, emphasise the seasonal nature of the work.⁴ Molly Beswick has examined brickmakers' accounts for the Weald and I have examined a similar account for the East Riding, and both show the seasonal nature of the work.⁵ Richard Grasby, writing to the Honorable Charles Langdale on 31 March 1836 as the representative of seven brickmakers from Newport, adjacent to the Market Weighton Canal, used in his letter the clause 'As our brickmaking season is about to begin...'.⁶ A consequence of the seasonal nature of the work was the dual economy. In rural areas the most compatible occupation was farming, but in the city and town the most common other occupation was building and its numerous associated trades. The exceptions to these broad generalisations are perhaps the most interesting and sometimes the most amusing.

It is not always easy to identify the actual brickmaker since brickmaking was not a highly respected occupation; hence brickmakers often described themselves by their other occupation. Molly Beswick found in Sussex that 'Brickmaking does not seem to have been an activity of which they were particularly proud, and they preferred to describe themselves ... as farmers or yeomen.'⁷ The industrial spy, Svedenstierna, visited England in 1802-3, observed brickmaking in both Birmingham and Hull, and recorded that '...only invalids, women and children were engaged in the work.'⁸ George Smith gives accounts of life in brickyards between 1830 and 1870, including his own experiences in a brickyard at the age of eight. He claims that parents did not hesitate to 'doom their children to an occupation entailing premature loss of strength; a life of ignorance, vice and imprudence.'⁹ A similar low opinion of the brickmaker was held by Alfred Crossley, a brickmaker from the North Yorkshire Moors who went to the U.S.A. to work. He said that brickyards were 'hot beds of vice and immorality, and nurseries of crime' in the period before 1880.¹⁰ Thus it may be said that for some time the occupation of brickmaking was not one to be proud of.

In the city of Hull the brickmaker was usually linked to the builder and his associated trades. The Riddell family were architects, builders, and brickmakers in Saville Street in 1791; in 1803 Thomas Riddell was the brickmaker in Prospect Street whilst in 1810 Edward Riddell remained in Saville Street as the builder.¹¹ In 1826 John and Frank Appleyard made bricks in Stepney Lane as well as operating as joiners and builders in Waterhouse Lane.¹² In 1831 George Jackson senior was a brickmaker at Wilmington and in Dansom Lane as well as a builder at 7 Prince Street, whilst George Jackson junior was an

architect at 8 Prince Street. George Kay, also in 1831, made bricks at Hessle on the outskirts of the town, but worked as a plumber and glazier from 50 Blanket Row in the heart of the old town.¹³ The brick- and tilemakers of Hull had other occupations associated with the building trade for this same period, such as a Roman cement dealer, joiner, blue slate dealer, lime burner, lime merchant, bricklayer, and surveyor.¹⁴ As late as 1911 George Eckles was renowned as a builder in Hull as well as a brickmaker on the outskirts of the town at Hessle (Humber-side Brick Company Hessle Limited) and across the River Humber at Barton-on-Humber (The Barton Patent Brick and Tile Company Limited).¹⁵ At the Alpha Works in Main Street, Hull, Edward Good and Sons Ltd acted as saw millers and builders' merchants as well as brick- and tilemakers and waggon builders and wheelwrights. Their brickyards were at Barton-on-Humber and at Burton-on-Stather, across the Humber in Lincolnshire (fig.1). James Barraclough, based at Northern Chambers Queen Street, Hull acted as a forwarding agent, as a coal, sand, and gravel merchant, as a wharfinger, and as a keel, sloop, and lighter owner as well as a brick- and tilemaker (fig.2).

An unusual alternative combination was the case of Edward Rushworth, who was a brickmaker on the outskirts of the city at Hull Bank, as well as a solicitor, attorney, and notary in Scale Lane.¹⁶ My favourite is Leonard West and family. Leonard, then William, then Robert operated a brick- and tileyard from Holderness Road, but in the city centre in Silver Street Leonard was a tea and cocoa dealer (fig.3).¹⁷

In the rural areas farming or farm labouring was the predominant

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Fig. 1

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Fig. 2

secondary occupation. The parish registers for the villages around Newport that I have examined contain several examples of this. Joseph Brittain was both a farmer and a brickmaker, and William Bowler and John Button are recorded as both brickmakers and labourers.¹⁸ Young Cooper at Thirsk was a brickmaker and a farmer; at Burton Pidsea, a small village in Holderness (fig.4), Edward Baxter was not only a brickmaker and a yeoman farmer but a corn-miller as well;¹⁹ at Beverley, Josiah Crathorne and Sons were corn-millers as well as brickmakers in Grovehill.²⁰ In 1788 at Newport on the Market Weighton Canal, John Craven rented from the local farmer Peter Moss, six acres of land for grass, barn, stable, outbuildings, yard, the Turk's Head Inn, and the other piece of land used as a brickyard - thus he was a farmer, brickmaker, and innkeeper.²¹ (It is of passing interest to note that he was the son of a brickmaker from Stanley and his wife was the daughter of another brickmaker, also from Stanley.)²² Richard Grasby is also recorded in Newport records as brickmaker, farmer, coalmerchant, boat-owner, and spokesman for the brickmakers capable of writing a three-sided foolscap letter to a member of the local gentry.²³ At Driffield in 1855 William Tuner Clark was a farmer and a brick- and tilemaker as well as a lime-burner.²⁴ In common with other gentry in the East Riding, the Sykes family of Sledmere had large estates which they farmed and a brickyard at Garton, but I do not think that they would like to be described as a farmer and brickmaker. The local schoolteacher, Alfred Watts, managed their yard and Robert Smith actually made the bricks in the 1870s.²⁵

The more unusual combinations of occupations may also be found in

the rural areas. Anthony Atkinson was a brickmaker in Beverley, the deputy registrar, and the agent for the Norwich Union Life and Fire Insurance Society.²⁶ William John Chadwick from Frodingham was a brickmaker, coal merchant, and registrar; John Jones of Filey was a brickmaker and a fishing tackle merchant;²⁷ and William Mitchell was a brickmaker and a tobacconist in Malton.²⁸ At Patrington in Holderness the Marshall family used the same site for a brickworks and for a flax mill, installing a 12 h.p. steam engine in 1848. Richard Marshall styled himself farmer and brickmaker, with John Curtis the manager of the brickyard in 1901. At Ferriby, on the banks of the Humber, Johnson Ducker was a coal merchant as well as a brick- and tilemaker with other yards at Melton, Brough, and Barrow Haven.²⁹ My favourite is John Cherry, who was a brickmaker on his own at Hornsea, and then in partner-

ship he was responsible for the famous Wade and Cherry tiles. In the 1880s he started experimenting with pumps, no doubt to drain his own flooded clay pit. The Cherry family still exists today, manufacturing pumps by the side of Beverley, and the old flooded clay pit of their brickworks is now part of the well known Pottery complex.³⁰

Across the River Humber in Lincolnshire, the situation was similar. Samuel Holmes was a brickmaker and farmer in Osbournby, whilst Isaac Good combined the same two occupations with that of an oyster-catcher at Cleethorpes. Richard Read, in common with several others, combined the jobs of brickmaker, coal merchant, and innkeeper. In Market Rasen, J.J. and A. Clarke were spirit merchants, tallow chandlers, and brickmakers, whilst Richard Westland was a brickmaker at Freiston and a wine merchant at Boston. William Stubley was a corn-miller, corn merchant, and a brick- and tilemaker at Billingham. The prize for the

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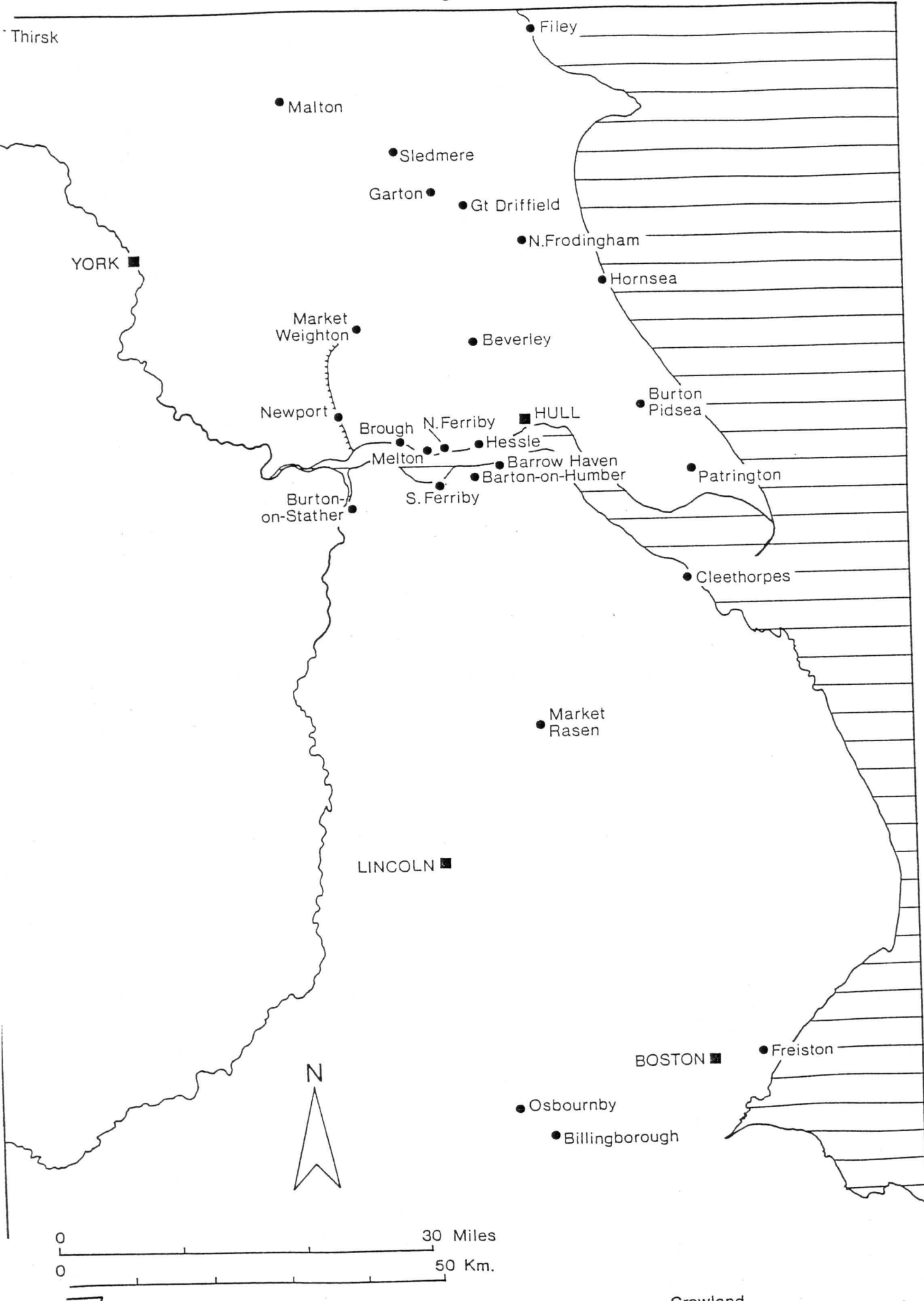
C. BAS STOCK BRICKS.....	30s.	1000 Cash.
Superior DRAIN TILES.....	26s.	ditto.
Machine-made ditto.....	25s.	ditto.

(One Interest.)

Fig.3

more unusual goes to Joseph Marfleet of Crowland, who was a grocer, bank agent, insurance agent, as well as a brick- and tilemaker.³¹ John Frank's family had yards in the South Ferriby area for making bricks, and they operated their own sloop to deliver their products as well as to fetch their own coal.³² Stuart Holme, writing on brickmaking in Lincolnshire, refers to seasonal work and to the extra hands taken on in the summer months. They were called 'loose handers' at the brick-yards in the summer, and in the winter went to work in the malt kilns or the chemical works where there was a demand for labour.³³

The early nineteenth-century situation may be summed up in the words of A. and A. Butler writing about brickmaking in Suffolk in particular but about the 'brickearth' districts in general: '...a farmer would erect a primitive brick kiln to make his own bricks and then sell the surplus production as a side line; a labourer might use his rights of commonage to do the same on the common land in his parish to gain a useful addition to his income, his wife and children often helping him.'³⁴ A firsthand account from the man on the scene



completes the picture, although I am afraid it is not from my own area: 'This farmer used to have bricks made in the summer and my father was set to make them, he having learnt his trade when young. In fact, my family for generations were brick makers as well as agricultural labourers.... I was just man enough to wheel away eight bricks at a time. The summer ended, I helped to feed the bullocks. In the spring of 1858 I again went into the brickfield, and during the following winter was set cleaning turnips.'³⁵(The map at fig.4 shows the location of places mentioned in the text. In connexion with this paper see also Query 1 on p. . TPS.)

Notes and References

1. Editorial, BBS Information 38, February 1986, 1-2.
2. A.B.Searle, Clays and Clay Products, 1915, p.41.
3. E.Dobson and A.B.Searle, Bricks and Tiles, 1921 ed., pp.43-6; M.D.P.Hammond, Bricks and Brickmaking, 1981, pp.5, 19.
4. N.Lloyd, A History of English Brickwork, 1925, re-issued 1983, pp.34-5; J.Wight, Brick Building in England from the Middle Ages to 1550, 1972, p.39.
5. M.Beswick, 'The Country Brickmakers of the Weald', BBS Information, 30, May 1983, 9-10.
6. H(umberside) C(ounty) R(ecord) O(ffice) (Beverley), DDMW 7/176.
7. M.Beswick, Brick and Tile - a Village Industry, 1980, p.7.
8. E.V.Svedenstierna, trans. E.L.Dellow, Svedenstierna's Tour of Great Britain 1802-1803, 1973, pp.102, 87.
9. G.Smith, The Cry of the Children from the Brickyards of England, 1871, p.11.
10. A.Crossley, Bricks and Brickmaking, USA, 1889, p.15.
11. Hull Directory, 1791; Battle Directory of Hull, 1803 and 1810.
12. White's Directory of Hull, 1826.
13. White's Directory of Hull, 1831.
14. Directories for 1791, 1803, 1806, 1810, 1817, 1821, 1823, 1826, and 1831.
15. The British Clayworker, July 1911, 77.
16. White's Directory, 1826.
17. Hull Directories for 1843-63.
18. HCRO, PE 35/3, PE 35/4, PE 150/7.
19. White's Directory for 1840, 1846, and 1851.
20. White's Directory, 1867.
21. HCRO, QDT 2/12, DDMW 76/7.
22. HCRO, PE 35/3.
23. HCRO, DDMW 7/176.
24. Melville's Directory, 1855.
25. Hull University Archives, DDSY 101/77, DDSY 98/86.
26. White's Directory, 1831; Melville's Directory, 1855.
27. Hull and Yorkshire Times, 12 December 1972, 21 July 1972.
28. Kelly's Directory, North and East Riding, 1901.

29. Kelly's Directories, 1901-1911.
30. K.A.MacMahon, Beverley, p.71.
31. White's Directory, 1826 and 1856.
32. Personal memories of John Frank, recounted to the author in 1980.
33. S.Holm, booklet published in the 1960s at Scunthorpe Museum.
34. A. and A.Butler, Somerleyton Brickfields, 1980, p.1.
35. Sir George Edwards, From Crow Scaring to Westminster, 1922, p.25.

...AND MORE OF THE SAME

On the topic of dual occupations of brickmakers, Alan Hulme gave me at, the A.G.M. in June, a photocopy of a form of receipt (reproduced below), issued by Peter Wareing of Banks - probably the Banks which lies about 4 miles (6 km) north-east of Southport, Lancs. As the date section of the form shows, the forms were printed in the 1870s, although, in fact, they continued to be used beyond that time. Peter Wareing, it will be noted, combined the businesses of brickmaker and grocer.

TPS

BANKS,

.....187

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Just Fine!

In a fairly recent issue of Building (18 July 1986), 'Hansom' has picked up a report that a man in East Java has been fined four thousand bricks for committing adultery with his neighbour's wife. Dr Hollestelle, in her De Steenbakkerij in de Nederlanden tot omstreeks 1560, 2nd ed. 1976, has recorded the use of bricks for fines in the medieval Netherlands. In 1492, for example, a man was fined ten thousand bricks for insulting the burgomasters in Amsterdam. Perhaps, then, the Javan offender got off rather lightly with his four thousand bricks!

TPS

BEAUDESERT HALL, STAFFORDSHIRE

David H. Kennett

Partly because of its demolition in the 1930s, Beaudesert Hall in Staffordshire is one of the great unknown early brick houses of the Midlands. The tenurial history is simple. The site had been a palace of the Bishops of Lichfield. In 1546 Henry VIII granted it to his Secretary of State, Sir William Paget, later the first Lord Paget of Beaudesert. The site remained the property of the Pagets. Later members of the family became Earls of Uxbridge, and in the early nineteenth century their title changed to Marquis of Anglesey; the first marquis lost a leg at the Battle of Waterloo.

The building history of the site is equally simple. The mediæval bishops had a palace; the Pagets built a great house. From the bishops' palace a fragment of the great hall survives, with three late Perpendicular windows. This house was replaced, not by Sir William Paget, who died in 1568, but by his son, Thomas, the second Lord Paget. Incomplete building accounts for the years 1575-6 are in the William Salt Library, Stafford. Beaudesert was a great brick house, built on the episcopal manor house. The principal façade, facing north-east, had four storeys, including a semi-basement, except in the centrally placed porch-tower. The façade was essentially of E-plan form; however, both outer wings were two bays wide and these bays were of different widths. The outermost bays had centrally placed two-light windows on each floor; these bays projected by 2 ft (60 cm) from the inner bay of each outer wing. The inner bays were wider than their outer neighbours and had centrally placed three-light windows on the first, third, and fourth stages; the window on the second stage had five lights. There was a single window of three lights on the inner return face of the wing.

In the recessed centre, the porch was placed with three bays either side. Fenestration differed: the windows on the outermost bays were of two lights, those on the inner two bays were of three lights. The porch had an arched entry beneath a central window giving light to the third stage. This major window was of four lights and had two transoms (in contrast to the single light of all the other known windows). There was a pediment above. On the fourth stage there was a three-light window, also with a single transom. There was an elaborate shaped gable capped by a pediment above the porch. The porch top continued the substantial brick parapet of the whole house.

The interior of the house contained fifty hearths in 1665, at which time it was occupied by Sir Brian Broughton.

The feature of the house that has received most attention is the long gallery, which survived intact until the demolition of the house in 1932 and the years following. The gallery stretched the full width of the spine of the house and occupied the third stage. The major window in the porch also lighted this room, and on this floor the porch had three-light side windows. These were set against the main outer wall of the house. Like the major window, the sills of the side windows were level with the floor of the long gallery. At the south-east end of the long gallery was a four-light window with the sill raised above floor-level. The room had panelled walls and a fine plasterwork ceiling.

cont./

The late Sir Nikolaus Pevsner commented that the demolition of Beaudesert, 'the splendid mansion of Thomas Lord Paget', was 'a grievous loss to Staffordshire architecture'; he might have added to our knowledge of Elizabethan brick houses. These notes have been put together from various secondary sources¹ in order to draw attention to the house and to elicit further information.

Note

1. N.Pevsner, The Buildings of England: Staffordshire, 1974, p.67; H.Thorold, Staffordshire, 1978, p.125; R.Strong et al., The Destruction of the Country House, 1974, p.16 with pl.27 (façade) and pl.253 (long gallery); S.H.A.Burne, 'Staffordshire Hearth Tax', Staffordshire Historical Collections, 1978, 78 (list of large houses); R.Plot, The Natural History of Staffordshire, 1686, pl.8 (the house as in the late seventeenth century) is reproduced in S.Shaw, The History of Staffordshire, 1806, reprinted 1969, as an extra unnumbered plate; M.Airs, The Making of the English Country House, 1500-1640, 1975, uses the surviving carpenter's bills, now Stafford, the William Salt Library, documents D1734/3/4/101 and D1734/3/4/143-4. Note written 25 June 1986. My interest in Beaudesert was stimulated by the hearth tax references. I have not seen the house.

An Arch Kiln at Baumber, Lincolnshire

(I have received the following letter from Mrs Anne Fawcett of The Anchorage, Lakeside, Baumber, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 5NW, to whom any replies or inquiries should be addressed. I am grateful, as I know other members will be, to Mrs Fawcett for drawing this matter to our attention. TPS)

... Perhaps the readers of Information might like to know of a project being undertaken in Lincolnshire.

I have on my land the remains of a nineteenth-century ARCH KILN, a comparatively rare form of Scotch Kiln (Brickmaking). In 1985 I successfully applied for its listing as a Historic Building, and since then I have aimed to restore it, rather than preserve it as it now stands.

I am thrilled that I am able to say that work has now commenced. Mr Martin Hammond, author of Bricks and Brickmaking, has been our technical advisor, the local council have been encouraging, and Manpower Services C.E.A. have provided the workforce, who commenced site clearance on 21 July 1986.

Upon completion of restoration I plan to mount a display of information, and any equipment available, to provide an insight into the rudimentary techniques involved in the production of bricks in nineteenth-century Lincolnshire.

This display and the building would then be available for viewing by appointment. I would appreciate any offers of help or advice that your members can offer this project. Should anyone wish to view the work in progress, then if they contact me I shall be pleased to arrange this for them....

... Baumber is situated on the A158 (6 miles west of Horncastle) [TF 2174 - TPS]. Adjoining the site of the kiln we have an area for touring caravans. We can also provide self-catering accommodation should anyone require this.

THE QUALITY OF BRICKS

Michael Reeder

Martin Hammond's experience of having pampments 'curl at the corners, like stale sandwiches'¹ is the common lot of all who try to make any tile-like objects out of wet clay.² With small numbers of objects we may devise many labour-intensive methods to overcome the uneven drying, which is the cause of this. For large-scale production the remedy is less obvious, and has more to do with social aspirations and organisation than with technology.

Ever since man began using fired-clay domestic wares thirteen thousand or more years ago, he had had to find a naturally suitable clay or else to spend considerable time and effort blending, or 'grogging', a clay to his requirements by premixing with suitable sand, ground-up fired clay, or rock. This both stiffens the clay and allows it to be handled immediately after the shaping process, and also provides a more open textured and quicker-drying material. Grogged clay is also better able to cope with thermal shocks and is much less likely to distort during firing.

Not until the Romans brought their organisational ability to this country could the industry be expanded to enable fired-clay building materials to be widely used. Roman bricks/tiles that I have examined at St Albans, Herts. and at Burgh Castle, Norfolk are very well made, correctly fired, and of very even texture. The Romans seem to have had the organisational ability and the motivation either to use any locally available superficial clay deposits and mix them with additives or to prospect for and excavate more suitable brickearths and then transport the bricks/tiles to the building site. These bricks/tiles were used very economically in walls for tying together naturally occurring local flints. This suggests that the production of bricks/tiles stretched even their resources and that these products were therefore of high value.

It seems that soon after the end of the Roman Occupation this ability or need to organise large-scale clay workings disappeared from Britain. The popular myth of an English 'Dark Age', devoid of brick-making, stretching from the end of the Roman Occupation down to after the Norman Conquest, is slowly being demolished, and I have no doubt that small-scale, isolated, and intermittent brick/tile production continued throughout this period. Currently, our earliest authenticated English brick buildings are at Little Coggleshall Abbey in Essex, dated c.1180 to the 1220s; as is well known, they are built of excellent bricks, very similar in their precision, finish, texture, and even firing, to the Roman products. As such, they are very much the exception in my experience, for the typical East Anglian brick of the next few hundred years is a crude item, made I suspect from any type of earth that would hold together.

Many, perhaps most, buildings of the medieval period were built of unfired bricks, now classed as clay lump. Looking at surviving clay lump of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries reveals a very wide variation in composition. An analysis by J.M.Proctor³ of samples from three villages shows a clay content of from 5% to 17%, intermiates from 4% to 20%, sand from 4% to 53%, pebbles from 0% to 10%.

and chalk from 0% to 87%. Is it unreasonable, then, to suggest that the easiest solution would have been that the subsoil of the building site would be inspected, and if it would bind together and stay well together when dry then the building would be made of clay lump, and if the subsoil would accept firing then bricks were made?⁴ Those bricks dating from the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries typically have so many faults that their survival is a surprise. They appear usually to have been made in a frame⁵ on a bed of reeds or straw; they have sagged, curled, twisted, and cracked during drying, the firing is very uneven, and further distortions have taken place.

Whatever organisational ability did exist certainly was not used to produce bricks to a standard quality. No doubt a few prestige buildings built entirely of brick did receive special materials. The very rough bricks can be seen in small numbers in the external rubble and flint fabric of most East Anglian churches. They appear to be randomly scattered or to form bonding courses, to frame openings such as putlock-holes, or as patches of repair work. Probably the majority form the core of flint-faced walls or are rendered to imitate stone features. These brick-cored walls can be seen very clearly at the partly ruined church at Walberswick, Suffolk, built between c.1480 and 1493. In these walls I have measured very pale underfired bricks at c.10 by 5 by 2 inches through to dark overfired samples at c.9 by 4 by 1½ inches. These are bricks which, though crude, can be identified. Many lesser fired examples are disintegrating and other charred vitrified lumps are too distorted to be measured.

Not until the eighteenth century did organisational ability revive sufficiently to provide once again bricks of Roman quality for general use. Even then, however, poor quality bricks continued to be used sometimes: I have come across many late nineteenth-century and possibly early twentieth-century bricks which have such large stones in them that they have either split in the firing or have been so underfired, in order to avoid splitting, that they have no weather resistance and little load-bearing capability. This is not really surprising, for although mixing of clay had probably become mechanised by c.1700, the man- or horse-powered pug-mills could not have coped efficiently with difficult materials. At least one Suffolk brickyard was still mixing all its clay for brickmaking by horse-power until 1953.

Today, to obtain a standard quality brick we are prepared to put all our eggs into very few production baskets and then to accept the social and economic penalties of transporting high-bulk, low-value items over long distances. We therefore invest heavily at a few production sites and have almost eliminated the drying problem by using costly machinery to pressure-mould from low-moisture clay.

References

1. T.P.Smith, 'Two Dutch Bricks with Animal Footprints', BBS Information, 37, November 1985, 11; M.D.P.Hammond, 'Brick Moulding and Animal Footprints', BBS Information, 38, February 1986, 17-18.
2. L.S.Harley, 'A Typology of Brick: with Numerical Coding of Brick Characteristics', Journal of the British Archaeological Association, 38, 1974, 63-87. In this paper a definition of a brick is proposed according to its dimensions: if $\frac{L + B}{T} = <8$ then the item is a brick; if >8 then it is a tile.
3. J.M.Proctor, East Anglian Cottages, Providence Press, 1979.

4. R.J. and P.E.Firman, 'A Geological Approach to the Study of Medieval Bricks', Mercian Geologist, 2, 3, 1967, 299-318. In this paper the Firmans conclude that only the top few feet of superficial deposits were used.
5. M.G.Reeder, 'An Early Brickmaking Site', BBS Information, 19, November 1979; M.G.Reeder, 'More Bricks from the Marshes', BBS Information, 22, November 1980; M.G.Reeder, 'The Size of a Brick', BBS Information, 29, February 1983, and 'The Size of a Brick Part II', BBS Information, 30, May 1983.

SOUTH COVE BRICKWORKS

Audrey Butler

(The following account of the South Cove Brickworks in Suffolk is based on a letter which was received by the Society in September of last year. In being passed from person to person it became 'buried' for a while. We offer our apologies to Mrs Butler for the year's delay in publishing her material. TPS)

Members of the British Brick Society may be interested to know that South Cove Brickworks (formerly popularly known as Cove Bottom Works), Frostenden, Wangford, Suffolk, which closed down about ten years ago after a long history of making handmade bricks, re-opened in 1985.

When it closed a decade or so ago, the East Anglian section of the British Brick Society went round the works, my husband and myself included, and enthusiasts such as Geoffrey Hines did a lot of kiln measuring and the like.

Someone tried to re-open the works a few years ago, built a modern oil-fired kiln which never worked, and subsequently gave the whole thing up.

Now two local men, a Mr Terry Mudd and his brother-in-law, are trying to make a go of it with the old, coke-fired kiln (which must be Victorian). They are making handmade bricks to order. Last year they had their first firing in the old kiln, and we were invited to watch - a fascinating experience!

I mentioned the Society to Mr Mudd. I know he would be interested in any details that members of the Society have relating to the brickworks - the measurements, etc. made a decade ago, and anything else. He can be contacted at: South Cove Brickworks, Frostenden, Wangford, Suffolk.

I am sure that he would welcome interested visitors by appointment. The two young men are working very hard, so their time is limited. But it is most heartening to see an old brickworks resurrected and the old artefacts, buildings, etc. being used. They deserve all the encouragement they can get!

PUBLICATIONS

The Society holds copies of the following publications:

1. The Story of Brick. This is an illustrated history of brick and its geological setting, from Proto-Neolithic Jericho to the present day, written anonymously by eight of our members. There are about a thousand words and two photographs in each part, and the presentation is in eleven parts, each on a single-fold glossy card, 295 by 120 mm. They are published by Harrison Mayer Ltd.

Part I. Geology: Romans - Tudors	Part II: Geology: Elizabeth I - II
Part III: Pisé - Adobe - Brick	Part IV: Greece - Rome - Britain
Part V: European Beginnings	Part VI: Mediaeval England to 1400
Part VII: England 1400-1480	Part VIII: 1480-1660 in East Anglia
Part IX: Bricks for the Masses: 1630-1730	Part X: Handicraft to Factory
Part XI: Observing and Recording	

£1.50 including postage or £1 if collected at meetings

2. R.J. and P.E. Firman, 'A Geological Approach to the Study of Medieval Bricks', Mercian Geologist, 2, 3, 1967, 299-318.

This article contains ten small photographs, a map, and a time-chart to show ranges of hues in some dated medieval bricks. The text deals with the examination of medieval bricks from East Anglia, the Midlands, and Lincolnshire, which have been examined using standard geological techniques. The petrography, colour, and internal structure provide evidence of the sources of raw materials and methods of manufacture. The significance of the geographical distribution of superficial deposits. The problem of dating brick is explored.

£2 including postage or £1.50 if collected at meetings

3. J. Hollestelle, 'Soil-Marks of Late Medieval Brick Clamps at Wijk bij Duurstede', Berichten van de Rijksdienst voor het Oudheidkundig Bodemonderzoek, 24, 1974, 185-9.

A short four-page article containing a map, three diagrams, two photographs of soil-marks, and an excellent photograph of three men firing a clamp of bricks on their farm near Vreden in West Germany.

£1 including postage or 75p if collected at meetings

4. Brick Information Sheets. This is a set of fourteen sheets of A4 thin card, black on one side with white drawings and white on the other side with a variety of topics of information. The sheets are published by the National Federation of Clay Industries. The drawings illustrate the following topics:

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Squares and Closers | 2. Squints and Radials | 3. Plinths |
| 4. Splays and Angles | 5 & 6. Bullnose | 7. Copings |
| 8 - 12. Brick Bonds | 13. Thermal Insulation | 14. Mortars
and Jointing |

50p including postage or 25p if collected at meetings

All items may be obtained by post from: W.A.Los, Peran, 30 Plaxton Bridge, Woodmansey, Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 0RT. Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to the British Brick Society. A self-addressed adhesive label would be appreciated.

W. Ann Los

BRICK-LINED TOMBS

David H. Kennett

In Information 37 the present writer drew attention to a note in the journal Norfolk Archaeology on the investigation of the grave of Sir Hugh Hastings at Elsing Church, Norfolk.¹ Sir Hugh had died in 1347 and his coffin was placed in a brick-lined chamber. A visit to north Buckinghamshire in 1985 included the church at Lillingstone Dayrell. Dedicated to St Nicholas, this church has a nave whose eastern and western walls are dated c.1100, a mid-thirteenth-century west tower, a late thirteenth-century south aisle, a chancel of fourteenth-century date, and a fifteenth-century south porch. There is also a nineteenth-century north aisle and north chapel and a modern vestry.

The church contains several monuments, amongst them a late seventeenth-century tomb slab, on the north side of the sanctuary, with the inscription: 'Under this Marble Stone in a coffin of Cedar Wood intombed in brick lyeth the body of Mrs Frances Wilkes,,,'. This instance, like that of Sir Hugh Hastings, may be an isolated one. Lillingstone Dayrell is in an area where stone is the regular building material. A new rectory was built of stone and tile in 1717; the farmhouse adjacent to the church is stone-built, as are the cottages on the road from Buckingham to Towcester.

Some interesting questions are suggested by this tomb. That the inscription records 'intombed in brick' suggests that in 1674 it was still unusual for a brick-lined tomb to be constructed in the area. Sir Hugh Hastings in 1347 in Norfolk was a man of the highest status, and his tomb, with its sumptuous brass, reflects his position as a royal official. Frances Wilkes was the daughter of Peter Dayrell of Lillingstone Dayrell, merely the local landowner's favoured daughter who had been brought home for burial. Her husband, Matthew Wilkes, of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, belonged to a minor land-owning and legal family. But vis-à-vis the local community at Lillingstone Dayrell she would have been held in high regard. What seems a little unusual is that she was not buried in the vault beneath the chancel

which the Dayrells possessed, the entrance to which is clearly marked on a floor-stone to the west of Paul Dayrell's tomb-chest.

It would be a worthwhile project for members of the British Brick Society to collect examples of brick-lined tombs in various parts of the country to discover whether there is any agreement as to their inception outside of isolated individual early examples like that of Sir Hugh Hastings. It would also be valuable - though in the nature of the case this will often be impossible - to know what the bricks are like - their size, texture, colour - and whether they differ from bricks in general use in the locality at the time of the tomb. Brick-lined tombs are precisely dated examples of brickwork. Similarly, information could be collected about the bond used and about the mortar employed.

Note

1. D.H.Kennett and T.P.Smith, 'Brick-Lined Tombs', BBS Information, 37, November 1985, 18-19, citing B.Hooper et al., 'The Grave of Sir Hugh de Hastings, Elsing', Norfolk Archaeology, 39, part 1, 1984, 88-99.

QUERIES

LOCAL BRICKMAKERS

From W. Ann Los

The editorial to Information 38 (as well as raising the matter of dual occupations which is discussed in an article earlier in this issue) mentions time and change in the brickyards. When did the typically local brickmaker vanish? I am working in the area of the East Riding on the idea that his rise and fall is linked to the demands made by enclosure, but I would be interested to hear from anyone else who has done research from census returns and parish registers that show the origins of brickyards. Replies to: Mrs W. Ann Los, 'Peran', 30 Plaxton Bridge, Woodmansey, Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 0RT.

'WORMHOLES'

From Jane A. Wight

I would be grateful for members' comments on 'wormholes' in antique bricks. I think I have seen occasional ones in medieval or Tudor bricks, but the present query is prompted by a veritable pin-cushion of a brick fragment. It was found in a garden to the west of the City Hall in Norwich, just beyond the line of the fourteenth-century city walls. There can be no proof, but its appearance is just that of bricks surviving in the remains of the flint rubble walls and towers, where they had various functions including the vaulting of ceilings and the supporting of parapet walks. The fragment is pinky-red, not fully puddled, and the remnants of three faces (top, bottom, and one side) are criss-crossed with straw marks. The strike marks are apparent but very faint, along with one of those depressed edges resulting from moulding that Dr R. Firman has discussed in Information 31, November

1983. There are also numerous 'wormholes', ranging from very small to pinhole size. They are at different angles and of varying lengths - including one which passes right through the full thickness of the brick, approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. (4 cm.). From the cleanness of the holes (no rubbing or abrasion), from their small size (shrunk), and from the little 'kick-up' of material at some edges, it appears that the brick was very green when pierced. Or is it that some or all of the creatures were in the material and sliced off in the making of the brick? But there seem to be no drag marks, which one might expect from bodies alive or dead in that case. Replies to: Miss Jane A. Wight, 91 Bury Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 2DL.



GAUGED BRICKWORK

From G. C. J. Lynch

(The following inquiry has been passed to me after a delay; it was received by the Society in September 1985. Our apologies to Mr Lynch. I hope any information that may be passed to him will not be too late. TPS.) Currently I am putting the finishing touches to a book that I am writing on Gauged Brickwork. I should be extremely grateful for any information on the manufacture of the special 'rubbing' bricks from the various regions of England. I would also greatly appreciate any archive photographs on any aspect of gauged work from brick manufacture, cutting, moulding and setting by the bricklayers, to carving in situ as was very common up to the First World War. Any details would be greatly appreciated. Replies to: Mr G.C.J. Lynch, Cert.Ed., L.C.G., M.G.B., The High Street, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, Milton Keynes MK43 0DG.



ANTIPODEAN FROGS

From W. J. Harris

Any information on the following brand marks would be much appreciated:

ALLISONS PATENT	Cream	Firebrick	
I.H.R. & C ^o (Stamped)	Cream	Firebrick	
DAVISON & TOOLEY/ CHEQUER BRICK / = PATENT No.746	On reverse	Dark brown, speckled	Special shaped firebrick
ENFIELD } GARRETT }	Double frogged and double branded	Red building bricks	

It has been suggested that the last two may have been made in Australia under contract to English brickmakers. Replies to: W. J. Harris, 4A Cannon Hill Crescent, Christchurch 8, New Zealand.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ON NEXT PAGE!