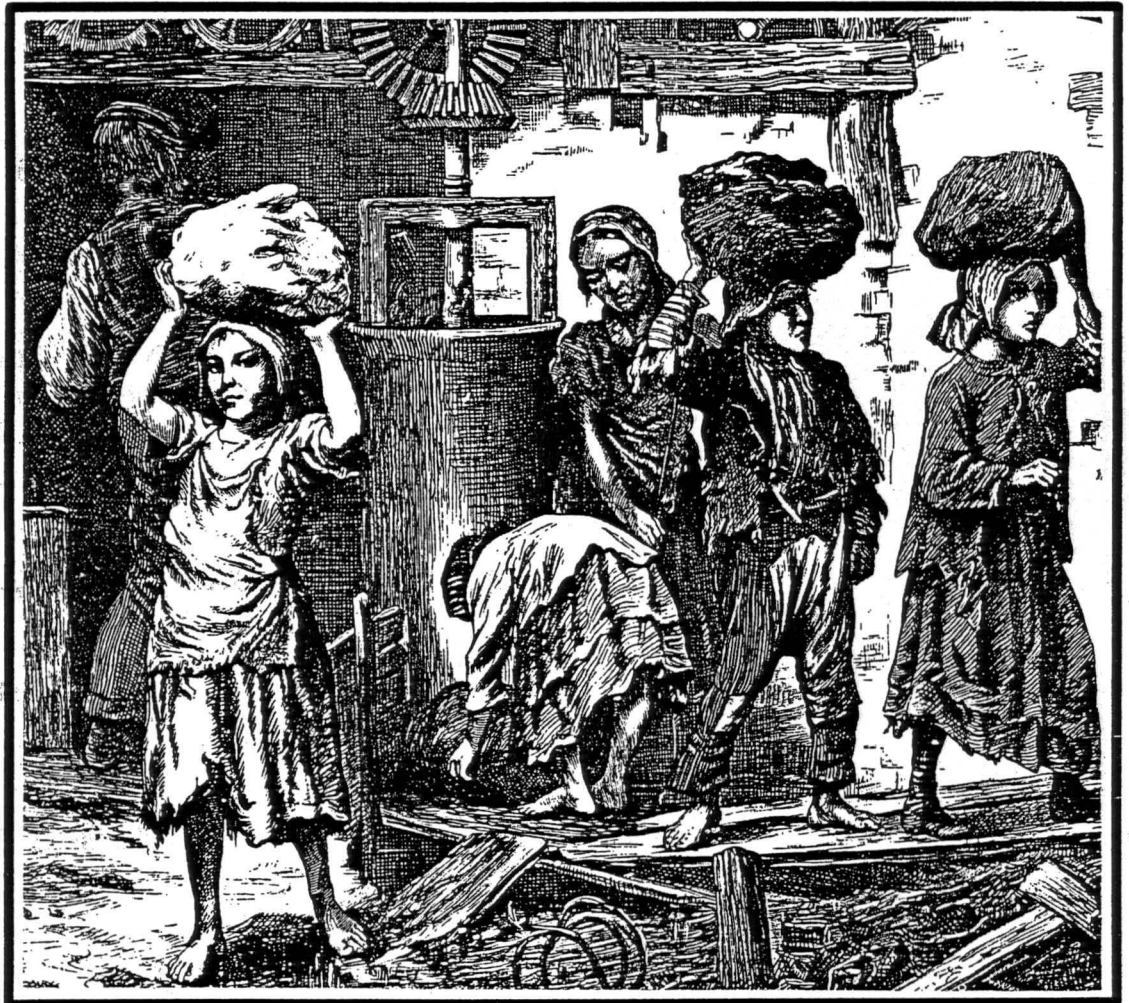


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BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY

INFORMATION 60

OCTOBER 1993



Editorial

This issue of Information was prepared during the Editor's sojourn in Bristol. The contents were those items available prior to his move from Great Yarmouth in April 1993.

The editor would like to enter a plea for contributions for future issues of Information, preferably by as wide a number of members as possible. Information exists to disseminate material from the members of the British Brick Society.

At present the only items in the folder were written by one person, and that happens to be the undersigned.

DAVID H. KENNETT

Editor, BBS Information

THANKS TO THE BRITISH BRICK
SOCIETY

West Yorkshire Police

Michael Benniman Sams was given four life sentences and four concurrent terms of 10 years imprisonment for offences of murder, kidnapping, and false imprisonment at Nottingham Crown Court on Thursday 8 July 1993.

The conviction was as a result of protracted enquiries over a two year period, during which we sought advice and assistance from many different sources.

I know that in the course of our investigations we were in contact with you. Your advice and assistance was greatly appreciated and, in its own way, gave strength to the Prosecution case.

Please accept my grateful thanks for the time and effort you gave to our enquiry and its successful conclusion.

ROBERT E, TAYLOR LLB (Hons)
Detective Superintendent

Members of the British Brick Society will recall a notice concerning an enquiry from the West Yorkshire Police. The illustration showed a paving brick with grooved surface designed to enhance the grip of the walker on frosty mornings; the surface also aided drainage. Such bricks were made in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and are still manufactured today.

BRICKS FOR ST PANCRAS: THE CRY OF THE BRICK CHILDREN

Alan Hulme

In Information 51 (December 1990), two books were reviewed: Good and Proper Materials: the Fabric of London since the Great Fire and Butterley Brick - 200 years in the making may be linked, albeit somewhat tenuously, by the extract printed at the end of this article from Sunday at Home, a Victorian magazine, (1).

Bricks of many types were brought from quite a wide area to London during the nineteenth century (2). For both the Butterley Brick Company and the Midland Railway Company, the building of the new London terminus of the Midland Railway at St Pancras was a status symbol (3).

However, the conditions under which the bricks were produced often leaves the modern observer aghast. It also seemed so to some contemporary commentators. George Smith of Coalville, Leicestershire, initially wrote 'Where the bricks come from' for the January 1871 issue of Sunday at Home. It was reprinted in the same author's Cry of the Children from the Brickyards of England (4). Smith wrote:

The new station at St Pancras deservedly commands the admiration of beholders. What skill in design, what cost, what labour has been bestowed on it. But what is there to see in a brick or brick walls? Well, you, good reader, most probably see bricks, and nothing else; I on the contrary see the fields where they were made, and those who made them. Early, very early in the morning, troops of children of various ages, ragged, thin, shoeless for the most part, hungry eyed, and in colour like the clay they work in, pass my window on their way to the kilns on the road to Charnwood Forest. These are the brickmakers, and they made the bricks which built St Pancras new station.

These bricks were transported a long way from the outskirts of London. The Charnwood Forest brickyards were well over a hundred miles from London (5).

A further reminder of the conditions under which the children worked in the brickyards is given by the poem which follows::

I saw a little brickyard boy
With body almost bare
What clothes he had were thin and torn
And matted was his hair
And such a little boy was he
In years, not more than three times three.

And yet for very little pay
He'd work so hard the livelong day
From six at morn, till seven or eight
His legs had tumbled 'neath the weight
of forty pounds of clay or more
And ah, poor land, his feet were sore.

No wonder either, for those feet
 A many miles had run
 With hurried speed, across the floors
 Beneath the burning sun
 No wonder at his silent tears
 His masters oaths ring in his ears.

And he could neither read or write
 Nor tell his ABC
 And he but little knew of God
 Who made the earth and sea
 Poor little slave on British soil
 So young in years, why dost thou toil.

Me thinks that thou shouldst go to school
 Till thou art stronger grown
 And learn to read, and count, and write
 Before thou leav'st thy home
 To labour here so long and long
 Ah, stay poor child, till thou art strong.

"I wish I could but Father drinks
 And beats poor Mother so
 And then he swears at me and says
 That I to work must go
 I wish sometimes that I were dead
 Only poor Mother has no bread".

"Poor child" said I and turned my head
 To hide the starting tears
 "God send a friend that will protect
 Thy young and tender years
 And thousands more as young as these
 From drink's dread curse and slavery".

George Smith devoted himself to the reform of the conditions under which the brickyard children were forced to work (6).

NOTES

1. Various Victorian magazines have references to brickmaking such as Sunday at Home. If someone has the time and the ready access to a collection it could be worth a search of a wide range to see what was written in the nineteenth century.
2. One item published on this is 'Stock brick from Stock', BBS Inf., 54 (Oct 1991).
3. The literature on St Pancras station and hotel is extensive, but not to hand.
4. G. Smith, Cry of the Children from the Brickyards of England, (4th ed., 1871), 71.
5. St Pancras to Leicester is 99 miles.
6. Paper received May 1991

THE WHITEHAVEN BRICK AND TILE COMPANY:
SOME PERSONAL REMININISENCES

My first association with the Whitehaven Brick and Tile Company came in late December 1943. It was when I walked through the brickyard on the outskirts of Whitehaven and entered an out building adjacent to one of the two chimneys.

The building was leased to the British Broadcasting Corporation and housed a Transmitter Hall, an office, and a small kitchen. The transmitter radiated the then B.B.C. 'Home Service' to the local community. At the start of World War Two, the B.B.C. had set up a chain of low powered transmitters throughout the country to radiate the 'Home Service', all working on the same frequency of 1474 KHz. 203.5 metres.

The reason for this move was to stop German aircraft direction finding and getting an accurate bearing on their position. (They could still direction find, but, of course, they would not know which transmitter they were tuned). The office was built as a makeshift studio, the output of which could be fed directly into the transmitter. It would have been used in that configuration had this country been invaded, when a local dignitary would have kept the public informed of events.

The main programme, the 'Home Service', was carried over specially equalised Post Office land lines. The one to the brickworks came from London via Carlisle where there was yet another transmitter.

The aerial for our transmitter was slung between the two brickworks' chimneys. This was the only outward sign that anything other than making bricks was afoot.

Today, the Whitehaven Brick and Tile Company has ceased to be. The building which housed the B.B.C. still exists, but a wall has been knocked out. It is now used as a makeshift garage for vehicle repairs.

The B.B.C. still transmit programmes like Radio 1 and Radio 2 from Whitehaven but the site is a quarter of a mile from its wartime base.

Incidentally, the wartime transmitter for the Blackpool area was housed in the Derby Baths complex.

JOHN CLARK

Poynton, Stockport

FOCUS ON DRAGONS

INTRODUCTION

Since the last discussion of dragons in Information 56 (July 1992) the editor has received a number of comments and listings. These are given below, together with two notices of negative evidence.

One item has been omitted. A member sent a notice of a dragon in Kingston-upon-Hull. Unfortunately this notice has been midlaid. Could the member please forward the location again.

GREAT BOOKHAM, SURREY: A FLIGHTLESS DRAGON

In Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey, there is a terracotta beast glowering down on the accident black spot in the middle of the village!

It is at the junction of Lower Road and Church Road (TQ 135546) on the gable of a small Victorian infill between two earlier flint and timber-framed ranges at right-angles, known as 'Wyvern House', once the 'King's Arms' public house.

The beast is very similar to that from the Railway Hotel, Aylesbury, illustrated in Information 56, p.11, except that the head droops and only one corner of the tile is notched.

This does raise a point about nomenclature. Both the Aylesbury and Bookham beasts are clearly four-legged but wingless. The OED defines dragons and wyverns as being winged, wyverns being the two-legged variety as Ron Martin pointed out in Information 56.

Perhaps we need another name - flightless dragon? salamander? Rupert's bouncer?

(Chinese dragons are wingless but seem to go in for rather a lot of legs!)

DEREK F. RENN

A PEMBROKESHIRE DRAGON

Ms P.M. Lambert and Mr G.J. Walder report a dragon finial on the gable of the 'Lord Kitchener' public house, Charles Street, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire.

TPS

A SUFFOLK DRAGON

Prospect House is an L-shaped timber-framed structure, painted pink, with a stretcher bond brick base (TM 306503) on the road from Aldeburgh to Woodbridge.

There is a porch in the angle between the two wings of the building. The dragon is perched over the porch.

Members saw this dragon from the bus at the end of the visit to Aldeburgh and Snape in September 1992.

PENNY BERRY

A DRAGON FROM YORK

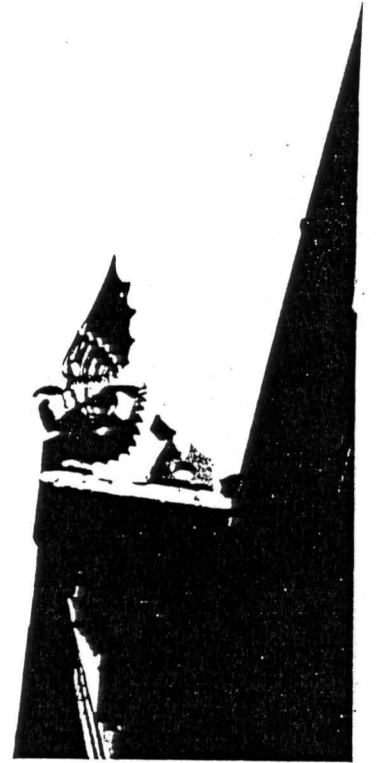
On the right is a photograph of a dragon finial on no 22 Pavement, York, a building which is dated 1894.

As of September 1992, this is the only dragon so far observed in York but I am keeping my eyes open.

A photograph of the dragon and ridge tiles of the gable appears overleaf.

Ms S. GARSIDE-NEVILLE

Fig. 1 Dragon from no 22 Pavement
York (detail)



NO DRAGONS ON A BRISTOL ESTATE

St Andrew's Park, Bristol was laid out in 1893: one of the houses on Maurice Road which fronts the park has this date carved into the lintel of the front door.

An extensive search of the area, bounded on the west by Gloucester Road, the south by Cromwell Road and the Bristol to Avonmouth railway line, and the north and east by Ashley Down Road, has been undertaken..

No dragons were observed on the roofs of the houses.

However, there are a number of houses with finials on the end of the ridge to a hipped roof. These include properties on Effingham Road, which are three-storeys with a dormer-lit attic. On Ashley Down Road, a terrace of properties built as shops, each with a hipped roof with what would be equivalent to the gable facing the road have a finial at both the front and the rear of the ridge. On Sefton Park Road, some terraced houses have hipped and half-hipped structures surmounting the bay windows. Some of these have finials on the junction of the ridge with the angles of the roof structure.

Most properties where the original tiles, or in some cases slates, survive have crested ridge tiles.

These observations may suggest that here at least, these fairly expensive properties were not a group which the architect sought to specify a dragon on the roof or the purchaser, or occupier, would have expected this embellishment in the 1890s.

A less extensive survey has been undertaken to the west of Gloucester Road in the Cotham and Redland areas of Bristol. To date no dragons have been observed there.

(To give some guide as to the cost of these houses, the 1993 price was around £80,000 for the terraced houses, rising to up to £130,000 for the three-storey semi-detached ones if still in single occupancy; those in Redland are priced slightly above these figures).

It does occur to me that dragons on buildings might be an accoutrement which was designed to pander to a certain trait of vulgarity in people. It is fine for the public house but not acceptable for the houses of the professional middle classes.

DHK

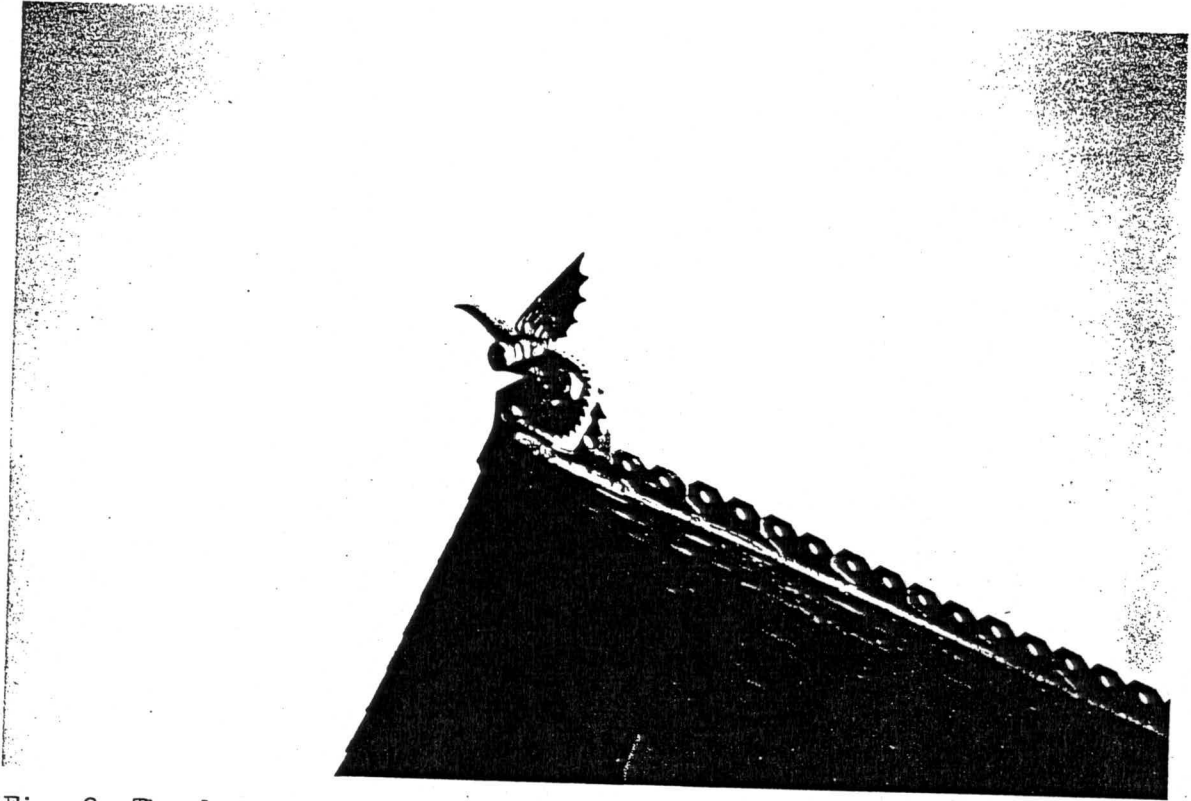


Fig. 2 The dragon from no 22 Pavement, York
The gable and the ridge tiles.
The dragon is in white fabric; the ridge tiles are in red fabric.

NO DRAGONS AFTER 1910?

Modern Building Record is a bound serial issued between 1910 and 1915. Volumes 3 (1912), 5 (1914), and 6 (1915) are held by the Library of the University of Bristol.

Each volume is arranged in two parts: non-residential building and houses. The houses part of each of the available volumes was specifically searched for any sign of a dragon.

No dragons were seen lurking on the roof of any of these houses thought to represent the best in design from the year's work.

The volumes also have advertisements. The roof tile advertisement of S.E. Collier of Reading, a known manufacturer of dragons makes no mention of the beasts.

The Builder for 1911 and 1912, two hefty, dusty volumes for each year, were recently exhumed from the basement of Bristol Central Library. Although architectural competitions rather than dragons was the point of interest, articles on brick were observed and references noted, but none of the buildings featured was noticed as having a dragon on the roof.

DHK

SOME DRAGONS - LITERARY AND OTHERWISE

T. P. Smith

Lately, I have been reading E.M. Forster's second novel, The Longest Journey, originally published in 1907. In it, I came across a reference to roof dragons, a topic in which several BBS members, including myself, have become interested recently. Part 2 of the novel, 'Sawston', is set at the fictional Sawston School, closely modelled on Tonbridge School, Kent, which Forster himself attended and where he was very unhappy. 'Dunwood House, 'the largest and most lucrative of the boarding-houses', stood almost opposite the main buildings - 'a red-brick villa, covered with creepers and crowned with terracotta dragons'. There is a later reference to 'the bow-windows, the cheap picturesque gables, the terracotta dragons clawing a dirty sky.'²

Since most of the fictional Sawston is based closely on the real Tonbridge, this sounded promising, and a visit to Tonbridge seemed desirable. However, the editor of the Penguin edition has done her fieldwork, and is able to inform us that 'Dunwood House bears some resemblance to Park House, which was built in 1867 ... then greatly expanded in 1891 and again enlarged in 1896...'. But, we are also told, not only has Forster changed the position of the building but he 'has also added the terracotta dragons'. The note continues: '(Such dragons are by no means common, but some splendid examples survive on Lower Sloane Street in London.)'³

So my dragon-hunt took place not in Tonbridge but in Lower Sloane Street, SW1, running south from Sloane Square. Along most of both sides of the street are long, high terraces of red brick houses with much terracotta ornamentation and elaborate gables. The west side culminates at its southern end in the large building of the Sloane Club. It is on this same side of the street that two terracotta dragons are to be seen. Both top pedimented 'Dutch' gables and so are not the roof-finial types attached to a ridge-tile. To judge from ground level, they are a good deal larger than the ridge-tile types.

That on no.14 stands on an octagonal base atop the pediment. It is crouching with its front feet resting on its sharply bent knees. Its back is upright, its head set downwards, and its mouth open. Its wings rise and are of the typical dragon type - 'like half-umbrellas - or like bat's wings,' as E. Nesbit describes them in 'The Last of the Dragons'.⁴

The adjoining house, no.12, has an exactly similar pediment and base, though no dragon. It seems certain that there was once a dragon here.

No.44 has a dragon on a diagonally-set square base atop the pediment. It too is crouching, but holds a blank shield in its front paws. Its head is rather higher than that at no.14, but, like that one, its mouth is open. The wings are not ribbed, but are more like angels' wings.

The gables of the other houses in the terrace, and on the opposite side of the street, are different in design and make it

unlikely that they ever held dragons. Terrace houses of basically similar type extend into the adjoining Sloane Gardens to the east, but there are no dragons.

The style of the red brick, terracotta-decorated houses is late Victorian Free Style, what Osbert Lancaster termed 'Pont Street Dutch'.⁵ They date, I suppose, from the 1880s.⁶

Notes and References

1. P.N.Furbank. E.M.Forster: a Life, vol.1, London, 1977, pp.42-4; or more briefly: F.King, E.M.Forster, London, 1978, pp.17-19.
2. E.M.Forster, The Longest Journey, ed. E.Heine, Harmondsworth, 1988, pp.147, 216.
3. Ibid., p.226, editor's note to p.147.
4. E.Nesbit, 'The Last of the Dragons', in The Last of the Dragons and Some Others, London 1972/Harmondsworth 1975, p.9.
5. O.Lancaster, A Cartoon History of Architecture, 2nd ed., London, 1975, p.104. The relevant 'Pevsner' does not mention the buildings; but for comparable houses: E.Jones and C.Woodward, A Guide to the Architecture of London, London, 1983, p.310, entries N23c, N24b.
6. A further dragon, similar to that at no.14 Lower Sloane Street, is at 20-22 Pont Street, SW1; pictured in I.Hessenberg, London in Detail, London, 1986 (originally The London Book, London, 1980), 108th unnumbered page (counting title page as 1). This whole area, around Sloane and Cadogan Squares, would be worth further searching.

Confusion Worse Confounded!

In the editorial, 'What's in a Name?' to Information 37, November 1985, I considered the fact that English Bond is more common than Flemish Bond in Flanders and Flemish Bond is more common in English brickwork than it is in Flemish brickwork. As if that were not confusing enough, from a perusal of a recent purchase - C.J.M. Schiebroek et al., Baksteen in Nederland: de Taal van het Metselwerk, Den Haag and De Steeg, 1991, pp.40-41 - it is clear that what the English call 'English Bond', the Dutch call 'Staand Verband' or 'Upright Bond'; the Dutch 'Engels Verband' or 'English Bond' refers to what the English call 'Flemish Garden-Wall Bond' or, alternatively, 'Sussex Bond', which is far more common in the Netherlands than it has ever been in England. Help!!!

T.P.Smith

REVIEW ARTICLE:
PARSONAGE AND TOWN HOUSE:
THE BRICK HOUSE IN GEORGIAN ENGLAND

David H. Kennett

Some books are a joy to handle. Richard Reid's The Georgian House and Its Details (1) is one such. It is well-produced in a square format but with the text confined to the inner two-thirds of the page. This allows the wide outer margin to be used for both captions and illustrations. There are colour and black-and-white photographs as well as small drawings which do not degenerate into scrappy scrawls rushed off at the last minute. A practising architect, Reid has made them attractive. His marginal photographs are enclosed within a lined border, again a pleasing touch in an age when good production is not so much understated as ignored.

Unhappily, for it detracts from the pleasure the book gives, no list of illustrations is provided. Perhaps it is this which leads to duplication in the choice of subjects in the colour photographs. Six houses are given two photographs. One is legitimate: the general view of a house at Achlian, Argyllshire, and a detail of its porch. But the other five are virtually identical shots. The brick house with stone quoins, 'The Lions', Bridgwater, was built by Benjamin Holloway, a carpenter and builder, in about 1730. It has a two-storied main block above a basement story, flanked by single-story pavilions, which are much less richly treated than the main part of the house. The entry is flanked by seated lions, giving the house its name, and while the photograph on page 125 has a sharper focus on the brickwork than that on page 21, one would surely have sufficed. The stone-faced Beaufort Square, Bath, designed by John Stratham between 1727 and 1736, is given both a black-and-white photograph on page 124 and a very good colour plate opposite page 31. Also in the historic county of Somerset, which went as far north as the River Avon and included Bath, is Shepton Mallet. A house faced in stucco appears twice: on page 48, and from the other way in a smaller print on page 51. Even with two photographs, the house may not be described in the text and I, for one, would have liked to know more about the Somerset houses quoted. Did John Stratham use brick for the party walls and the rear wall of the terrace shown?

Also on page 48, the house now occupied by Blaker, Son and Young, solicitors, on High Street, Lewes, Sussex, had been the subject of a detail of its doorcase, featured on page 47 at a smaller scale. Further west in Sussex, St Peter's Street, Chichester, appears as an eighteenth-century street on page 128 having been featured as terraced houses on page 52.

It would appear that editorial control was not exercised as tightly as it might have been. It is a feature of other recent works of architectural history that the colour plates, often chosen in-house by the publisher's staff, duplicate the black-and-white photographs, submitted with the text by the author (2)

Disclaiming to be an architectural historian, Richard Reid defines his subject and approach:

This book is a collection of essays based on the readings and travel sketches of a practising architect concerned with the relationship of building to architecture, a relationship made so poetic in 18th century England. Whilst fascinated by the larger Georgian houses, my particular concern here is with the smaller houses and cottages of the period, their construction and convenience, their furniture and fittings.

Thus there is not Holkham or Houghton among the new houses, nor the refaced and extended Woburn Abbey, where the part surviving after the demolitions of 1949 is essentially the stone and brick house of 1626 given a new face (3).

In Reid's work, photographs illustrate middle-sized brick houses: 'The Red House', Sevenoaks, Kent, of 1686; 'Fenton House', Hampstead, Middlesex, of 1693; the remodelling in 1720 of 'The Moot House', Downton, Wilts.; Iver Grove, Iver, Bucks., of 1722; the early-eighteenth-century Pickhill Hall, Sesswick, Denbs. (i.e. Clwyd); and Plasqwyn, Pentreath, Anglesey, of the century's middle decades.

The photographs of brick houses illustrate the book's geographical focus. Thus we are given several houses in Lewes and another selection from Chichester, of which some details have been given in this review article. Both towns have been allocated colour plates: a full page one shows the richness of brick contrasted with the rather weak-coloured stucco in Chichester. In Dorset, the author concentrates on Bridport and Blandford Forum. From the latter five-, four-, and three-bay houses are shown, but at no point does the text inform us of the fire which swept through the town in 1731, creating the stone buildings seen today. However, much is said about fires in London between 961 and 1264, partly as an introduction to comments about building regulations by legislation in the thirteenth century and after the Great Fire of 1666. The exposition of the various eighteenth-century building acts and codes is particularly well done; a comparable exercise, of even greater clarity, is that by BBS member, Lyndon F. Cave, in his The Smaller English House: Its History and Development (4).

Richard Reid has much to say on builders and speculators and on the survival of building firms from before 1800. There are interesting comments on the standards of bricklaying in the late 1660s and the 1670s. Equally pertinent are the comments on the use of labourers to build both internal walls and the inner skin while the skilled man did the facade. This cooperation is evident today. Watching a three-man team build a house extension over the past two months, I have been struck by seeing the carpenter of the trio hodding tiles, the tiler hodding bricks, and the bricklayer carrying door frames at a time when the appropriate skilled man was practising his trade.

Reid looks at the effects of the Window Tax of 1696 and the Brick Tax of 1784 (both incidentally repealed in 1851). It is unlikely that mathematical tiles are an attempt to avoid the latter: T.P. Smith has made some precipient comments on this in Information 58 (February 1993) (4a). Window blocking in new facades is more often symmetry than tax avoidance. Burgh Hall, Burgh Castle, Norf., had a recessed and blocked window on the ground floor of the south front, because there was a room division behind the place where symmetry decreed that a window should be (5). There is a fine house on Tilehouse Street, Hitchin, Herts., which has several blocked windows built into the north and east facades, but achieves the symmetry.

The photographs quoted also illustrate the geographical weakness of the book. Southern England and north Wales figure prominently. Reid offers comments on the Ironbridge area, but in the same county nothing on the houses of Broad Street, Ludlow, or St John's Hill, Shrewsbury (6). Similarly one of the essays considers 'Communications' but the houses and inns of flourishing coaching centres like Dunstable or Warwick on the Birmingham Road or Hatfield or Baldock on the Great North Road rate neither mention nor illustration. There are brick facades in all. A theme which this essay will take up again is to contrast eighteenth-century Dunstable with its neighbour, Luton. The former had wealth from coaching, and from returning sons who had made good in London; the latter had neither. Indeed, those who went to London did not return. Dunstable had early brick fronts. There are many of them, 'The Old Sugar Loaf' was brick from before 1700; houses with brick fronts and of brick are numerous from the early eighteenth century. In Luton, Daniel Brown II built a new house in 1748. It had a brick facade, not of the highest quality brickwork, either regards the bricks themselves or the bricklaying, but the walls both internally and to the rear were timber-framed, of a not especially high quality workmanship (7). Daniel Brown III re-assembled his father's property between 1773 and 1815; it comprised this house, another in Church Street, Luton, and a house with other property in Stopsley, a hamlet in Luton parish, as well as property in the Bedfordshire parish of Stanbridge. Daniel Brown II in 1773 left monetary bequests of £832; his son's personal estate was affirmed at under £4,000 in addition to monetary bequests of £4,500 in total. These two successful maltsters in a poor town did not live in a grand house. Indeed, there are few other brick facades and only one stuccoed house in Luton which pre-date 1800 (7a).

Warwick is also a county town. Amongst those with eighteenth-century brick facades and new building are Bury St Edmunds and Aylesbury. Both are ignored by Reid. This is a pity because the rich grain men of the county town of West Suffolk could afford the services of Robert Adam for their Town Hall and for their Atheneum. Lesser architects, often unknown, created the streets outside the grid laid down by Abbot Baldwin between 1065 and 1097. Red brick predominates for the earlier part of the eighteenth century. Gradually white is favoured and in the nineteenth-century suburb around St John's Church there are few red brick structures.

Lancashire is poorly represented in The Georgian House and Its Details. The rich trading city of Liverpool does not appear in the good index; once it had brick Georgian terraces to rival the stone ones of Bath. Neither is mention made by Reid of Winckley Square, Preston, a place of understated charm perhaps a rival to similarly unmentioned squares like 'The Buttlands', Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk. The buildings here do date to after 1800 but they show the interaction of market town and great house, in this case Holkham Hall. It is a topic which deserves further investigation (8).

The influence of the great house on the countryside and on the small town is not touched upon by Reid, except in relation to the parsonage, and then only as aristocratic patronage. Reid's two pages include an illustration of Penhurst, Kent, and the comments seem at variance with the historical evidence.

In the 1660s and 1670s, the parson rarely lived in a house of more than six hearths, probably not more than twelve rooms, perhaps as few as ten and certainly not as many as fifteen. Many had houses with as few as four or even three fireplaces. The evidence from Parsonage Terriers, utilised by the late Maurice Barley, shows brick to be rare in 1700, and this is irrespective of county: his evidence comes from Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire in the south midlands, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire in the north midlands (9).

In Bedfordshire, the number of parsonages rebuilt between 1702 and 1800 is minimal. The Victoria County History is complete for this county. It notes fewer than twenty rebuildings in the topographical accounts in volumes II and III (10), although the writers of the first decade of this century omit several noteworthy eighteenth-century structures. These include the rectory at Hulcote, which is faced in stucco, a rather nasty looking burnt orange stucco, and has a grand portico of four giant Corinthian columns with a steep pediment. Another parson builder was the man at Northill who put up a three-story, five-bay house within high red brick walls and adjacent to St Mary's church, a considerable contrast to the ironstone and Totternhoe clunch of the church. Here the advowson came into the hands of The Grocers' Company in 1660; the livery company wished to reward their appointee with a suitable house.

Among brick rectories, pride of place must go to the fine house of gauged brickwork across the street from the church dedicated to St John the Baptist at Eversholt. Church End Farmhouse, adjacent, is similarly of blue and red brick. Both were built by the Duke of Bedford after the enlargement of Woburn Park had taken in the former rectory and glebe farm: at Eversholt, the park wall is adjacent to the village cricket field which is the open space due north of the parish church. In Bedfordshire, this alone exemplifies Reid's point about parsons seeing a living endowed by an aristocrat as on a par with a college fellowship. He omits to mention that a college fellow could not marry, from either university, whereas a beneficed cleric could.

But the parson often built for himself. At Houghton Conquest, the rich, if eccentric, scholar Zachary Grey built the dwelling this writer once converted for a personal residence. Unfortunately, it is well beyond an impecunious schoolmaster's pocket: the present owner sports a Rolls-Royce, not a pair of feet.

Grey came in 1725, and immediately he built a five-bay house, with to the east a service wing. On the south side, it does have the almost perfect facade to the garden front, marred only as one piece of fenestration is a door rather than a high window on the ground floor.

In the same county, indeed in an adjacent parish, The Victoria County History describes the parsonage at Marston Moretain as of no great interest; some preference is given to a granary and a pigeon house on the grounds that both are built of brick with tiled roofs. In 1900, timber-framed houses were still in use as the rectory or vicarage house at Edworth, Renhold, and Sutton, although the last-named had 10 hearths in 1671. The former parsonage at Swineshead was also timber-framed; it was recently vacated in 1900. That at Tempsford was described as "Modern .. and preserves a wing of the older timber-built house"; fifteenth-century detail was noted in the roof.

There was more than one parsonage house where the brick facade was a front to a much older timber-framed house. That at Luton was demolished in 1907. The rectories at Campton and Lower Gravenhurst still stand.

Pertenhall Rectory is better-known. A three-story block was added to the front of the old timber-framed house in 1799. This is five bays wide, with a central pediment, and three bays deep. It was built for John King Martyn who followed his maternal grandfather as rector of Pertenhall, and was succeeded by his own father, Thomas Martyn, who remained there until his death at ninety in 1825; Thomas Martyn had also been Professor of Botany in the University of Cambridge since 1761. The Kings were substantial landowners in their own right: about half the parish was owned by them. They were well able to afford the impression of wealth created by their new frontage.

While admitting that many incumbents lived in rudimentary cottages with earth floors, Richard Reid does suggest that the parsonage house was often "a superior house" to the local farmhouse. If by "superior" he means brick-built, it is difficult to think of ten houses in Bedfordshire, out of 125 parishes, representing perhaps 110 livings.

Some of the parsonages mentioned are a brick facade to an older house. The same is true of the rare brick farmhouse of eighteenth-century date. Best-known is College Farmhouse, Great Barford, where an elegant red brick front, three storeys high was added to a much older timber-framed farmhouse. The College is Trinity, Cambridge, but this is a new owner emphasising the acquisition.

North Bedfordshire villages do not have brick farmhouses. A new house was required for Southfields Farm, Bolnhurst, following the Enclosure Award of 1778. It is mud walls; there are few timbers except for corner posts and very flimsy rafters; there is no brick. The comparison for this four-roomed house is with two-roomed cottages built around 1800 for farm labourers in Thurleigh, the next parish to the west.

Building work in the less prosperous areas of eighteenth-century England is patch and mend: Luton and Bolnhurst illustrate the tendency to skimp and save wherever possible. Brick, in village and small town, remained expensive.

An exception may be Leicestershire, with a small extension into southern Nottinghamshire. Members will recall the morning and lunchtime of the 1988 A.G.M. at Normanton-on-Soar with its three early-eighteenth-century brick farmhouses as well as the slightly earlier manor house, also of brick. West of this is Barsby, Leics., where in 1691 a new three-bay house was built with blue and red bricks in chequer pattern on the ground floor and a diaper of blue bricks in the red brick upper floor. The two storeys are divided by a purpose-moulded brick cornice. A house of 1701 in the same village has a cornice made from a pattern of uncut brick. South of Leicester, Foxton has several brick houses in the village street. The canal was the source of wealth here.

Coaching provided the money in Dunstable. In Woburn, a fire in 1724 meant much of the town had to be rebuilt and facades are in good quality red brick. But this is the town dependent on a country house. But in nearby Ampthill, also a town dependent on a country house, indeed it had two - Houghton House and Ampthill Park, there is much less brick. There are notable individual houses on the main streets. Church Street has Henry Holland's Avenue House, built for a brewer, John Morris. In a square south of the church are Dynevor House of 1725 and Brandeth House, of similar date. But most of Ampthill is not brick houses; it is brick facades to older timber-framed structures.

Brick building cost money in the eighteenth century. And perhaps what remains as one of the biggest subjects for anyone looking at Georgian brick to investigate is who between 1702 and 1800 could afford to build in brick?

Richard Reid gives one group: rich, urban dwellers in Chichester and Lewes. With 'The Lions', Bridgwater, he points to another client: the successful builder and carpenter building for himself. A rare parson, as these notes have suggested, is another client for the brick house. The successful man in a canalside town or village. Foxton, Leics., could be matched by Bewdley, Worcs., or Stourport-on-Severn, in the same county.

But there is one group whose houses have rarely been considered in works about Georgian brick: the rich men of Lancashire.

At present these are the remarks of an outsider (11). Liverpool and Preston have been mentioned above. But what of Bolton, Warrington, and Wigan: the architectural historians look rarely at the transformation of the old-established towns of the County Palatine.

Bolton deserves attention also for St George's church of 1794-96, whose north side, facing the street, looks like seven bays of a two-storied house with a pediment over the three central bays. Houses are not numerous, but those which survive suggest a former frequency: Great George Road, Back Street, and Wood Street for terraces, with individual houses in Mawdsey Street and Churchgate.

Warrington is famed for the Warrington Academy, where dissenters sent their sons to be educated to university standard between 1757 and 1783. The brick buildings from the original foundation survive in Bridge Street; the new premises of 1762 are in Academy Street. There are other Georgian houses in Winwick Street, Stanley Street and King Street.

Sir Nikolaus Pevsner makes the remark "Wigan is not a parvenu of the Industrial Revolution". It was essentially a small town in the eighteenth century (population 11,000 in 1801). But there are Georgian terraces in Dicconson Terrace and Upper Dicconson Street. There is a five-bay brick house in King Street, and Sir Nikolaus reports "a highly rewarding fragment of the Gas Works of 1822. Of the street range with lodges only a part is preserved, but the range behind with its pairs of short, powerful Tuscan columns and its lion on top will linger in one's memory". It sounds as well constructed as the exactly contemporary gas works in Warwick, (12).

By 1822, style had moved on from Georgian to Regency; within fifteen years the long Victorian years were to begin. Brick by 1837, or soon after, had become cheaper, and was used for mass housing.

Yet only a generation before this was not so. Only those with money could afford brick. And in the eighteenth century only a skin or a facade might be all the builder's client could afford, as with Daniel Brown II in Luton.

There are attempts to investigate the relationships between money and building in the eighteenth century; most, by economic, rather than architectural, historians tend to concentrate on the interaction with trade cycles (13). But it does remain to be asked: who were the clients for brick houses in Georgian England?

These notes have suggested tiny pointers to where answers may lie. It is not simply in the poetic relationship of building to architecture, but in cataloguing the structures and trying to find the documents which go with them (14, 15).

NOTES

1. R. Reid, The Georgian House and Its Details, (London: Bishopsgate Press, 1989), 256 pp., plates, figures; ISBN 0-900873-93-0, price £16-50. This article is essentially an extended review of Reid's book.
R. Reid has also written The Victorian House and Its Details, (London: Bishopsgate Press, 1987) 256 pp., plates, figures; ISBN 0-900873-84-1, price £17-50, but the volume is unknown to me.
2. R.W. Brunskill, Brick Building in Britain, (London: Victor Gollancz Ltd in association with Peter Crawley, 1990) has the same duplication. The comments reflect also personal experience of book covers (a colour photograph) being artificially chosen.
3. D.H. Kennett, 'The destruction of country houses: eighteenth-century Bedfordshire reconsidered', South Midlands Archaeology, 20 (1990), 13-16. As is made clear there, the comparison is made between an air photograph of 1949 (Cambridge University Collection) and the drawing of the house in the 1660s reproduced V.C.H. Beds., III (1912),
4. L.F. Cave, The Smaller English House: Its History and Development, (London: Robert Hale, 1981), esp. 104-116, 120-126, 185-188, 190-200.
- 4a. T.P. Smith, 'The Brick Tax and its Effects - Part II', BBS Inf., 58 (February 1993),
Cave, 1981, 205-206, appears to be another book which relates the use of Brick Tiles to the Brick Tax.
5. D.H. Kennett, 'The Brickwork of Burgh Hall, Burgh Castle, Suffolk', BBS Inf. 42 (May 1987), 11-12.
6. M. Moulder, Shropshire: a Shell Guide, (London: Faber and Faber, 19xx), xx, for illustrations.
7. D.H. Kennett and T.P. Smith, '"Bonners", 16 Park Square, Luton', Beds.Archaeol., 18 (1988), 81-85.
- 7a. W. Austin, A History of Luton and Its Hamlets, (two volumes, Newport, I.O.W., 1928) reproduces drawings by Thomas Fisher, made in 1820, of streets in Luton. These show clearly a paucity of brick facades. Most brick frontages in Luton post-date a flash flood of 1828.
8. D.H. Kennett, 'Country Houses and Market Towns: spheres of interaction in post-medieval Bedfordshire', South Midlands Archaeology, 21 (1991), 34-36, essays some preliminary thoughts, drawn in part from a draft chapter for D.H. Kennett, The Country House in the Landscape, a book which has yet to find a publisher.
9. M.W. Barley, The English Farmhouse and Cottage, (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1961), 255-257 with 273 and fig. 37 for Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, 78-95 with fig. 11 for Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.
Packing up in Great Yarmouth, in January 1993, I came across additional notes on parsonage houses in Bedfordshire. These I will be collating further.
10. V.C.H. Beds., II (1908) and V.C.H. Beds., III (1912) both give an account of the parsonage house extant in the village c.1900. The comments which follow are taken from this published source, and from personal fieldwork done in the 1970s.
11. The remarks rely on N. Pevsner, The Buildings of England: Lancashire 1 The Industrial and Commercial South, (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1969), 78-84 for Bolton, 411-418, esp. 415 and 416, for Warrington, and 423-430 for Wigan. The quotations on Wigan are ibid., 423 and 427 respectively.

12. The early gasworks is noted N. Pevsner, The Buildings of England: Warwickshire, (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1966), 462. It is illustrated in F. Brook, The West Midlands, (London: Batsford, 1977)
13. Notably J. Parry Lewis, Building Cycles and Britain's Growth, (London: Macmillan, 1965), *passim*, with the literature there cited. See also T.S. Ashton, Economic Fluctuations in England 1700-1800, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1959), esp. ch.4 'Building and Construction', pp.84-105, with a wider perspective. It is unfortunate that no scholar as yet has attempted a similar analysis for say 1800 to 1850.
14. Work on buildings and documents is often best achieved by cooperation between a building specialist and one skilled in reading and interpreting documents. See Kennett and Smith, 1988, for an example of this approach.
15. Paper written in the early part of 1990; revisions made during setting January 1993.

'REVIEW ARTICLE: ESTATE BRICKYARDS, ESTATE COTTAGES, 1700-1939'

SOME CORRIGENDA

The Ashburnham kiln was described by Kim Leslie as a Scotch kiln, not as stated by the reviewer as a Suffolk kiln. However, the kiln on the Ashburnham estate is in fact of the Wealden-type, which is a variant of the Suffolk kiln.

Ashburnham Place was damaged by fire earlier this century but the main part of the building was unaffected. It has now been extended (in a singularly unsympathetic style albeit in brick) and is used as a conference centre by the Ashburnham Christian Trust.

MOLLY BESWICK

An ancient East Suffolk memory tells me that the Gooch 'Lion' on Wrentham School and found on their estate cottages should be described more accurately as a talbot-dog. It appears, also, in cast iron, on the entrance gates to Benacre Park.

JANE WIGHT

The first of Mrs Beswick's points seems to have been a typing error, misreading her note to me; the second relied on N. Pevsner, The Buildings of England: Sussex for information about Ashburnham Park.

I defer to Jane Wight's superior local knowledge over the Gooch estate at Benacre and Wrentham.

DHK

TERRACOTTA AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY), SOUTH KENSINGTON

Despite the mass of Blanchards' terracotta from Bishop's Waltham, Hants., that was employed by Alfred Waterhouse for the Prudential Assurance buildings and elsewhere - including, surely, the old St Paul's School buildings in Hammersmith? - the source for the Natural History Museum in South Kensington was different.

The amazing two-colour mouldings and the sculptures there were supplied by Gibbs & Canning of Tamworth, Staffs.

JANE WIGHT

BOOK NOTICE

John E. Prentice, Geology of Construction Materials,
 London: Chapman & Hall, 1990 ISBN 0-412-29740-X
 xii + 202 pages, figures, plates price £17-95

The author, Emeritus Professor of Geology, University of London, notes that this book should be useful to both undergraduates and to young graduates working in the extractive industry, although it is not intended as a working handbook or reference source for those actively engaged in the industry. However, to planners and others who may not feel too familiar with the geological or technical aspects of construction materials, this book should also prove a useful and practical introduction. Much of the content is helpfully based on UK examples. As the author states:

It is my greatest hope that this book will, by showing connections between 'academic' geology and the needs of the extractive industry, do something to improve communication at all levels. Demands upon the construction industry will grow greater all the time; at the same time raw materials become scarcer. The proper use of our mineral resources can only be achieved if we use all our geological skills to ensure that they are used to the best advantage.

There are individual chapters on construction stone, coarse aggregate, fine aggregate, structural clay products, cement and concrete, and minor construction materials. The last-named includes gypsum and lightweight aggregates. Introductory information covers exploration, assessment, quarry design and management. The book includes definition and examples of terminology which, it may be surprising to learn, is still not universally known amongst those dealing with mineral planning: ACV, AIV, AAV, PSV, etc., are briefly and clearly dealt with in the chapter on coarse aggregates, and are related to different materials.

The book forms no 4 of a series, Topics in the Earth Sciences: others in the series include Radioactive Waste Disposal and Geology and Tectonics of Suspect Terranes. From the same publisher comes also Engineering Behaviour of Rocks by I.N. Farmer and Geology and Society by P.R. Coates. All these titles are available in paperback.

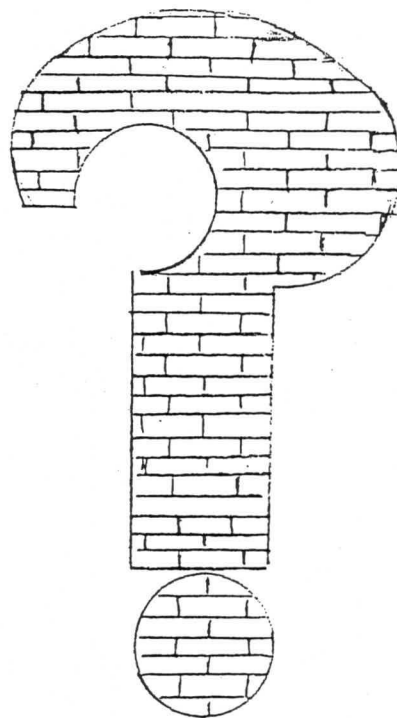
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Mineral Planning is edited by Milford Harrison and Steven Machin and is published from 2 The Greenways, Little Fencote, Northallerton, Yorkshire DL7 0TS Telephone 0609-748709.

Members of the British Brick Society will be most interested in Chapter Five of our member, John Prentice's book, 'Structural Clay Products. After an introduction there are sections on the brickmaking process, the constituents of brickclay, occurrence and distribution of brickmaking clays, major brickmaking clays - Britain and Western Europe, other areas, vitrified clay pipes, floor and wall tiles, and expanded clay. The chapter has fourteen figures. I particularly liked figure 5.1 with five different means of extracting the clay shown on one page. The text is very good: members should read it: the science is easier to read than most articles in New Scientist! I particularly liked the explanation of the colour of Accrington Reds, page 159, and that of Staffordshire Blue, page 160.

DHK

BRICK QUERY COLUMN



THE BRICK QUERY:
A SERVICE TO MEMBERS AND

From time to time the society receives queries about bricks, brickworks, and brick buildings. This column in Information is designed to facilitate the dissemination of information arising from queries whether in the form of enquiries or in the form of replies.

A new departure is to ask for family history information about brickmakers. The first two queries in this issue of Information concern this aspect of our subject.

PIMM - A BRICKWORKS IN KENT

A friend in Australia is tracing her family history and asks for information on Pimms Brickworks.

The belief is that a works in Kent, in the Tonbridge or Tunbridge Wells areas, making hand-made bricks was in active production when her great-grandfather, James Jabez Pimm (born 1834), emigrated to Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, in 1863.

MRS ROSEMARY TEMPLE

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CATCHPOLE - A BRICKMAKING FAMILY IN NORFOLK

BBS members Brian Pegden and Molly Beswick have been very helpful in directing a distant relation in her enquiries regarding her brickmaking ancestors, the Norman family in Sussex.

However, less success currently attends her enquiries into the other side of the family, the Catchpole family, who were brickmakers in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. Could any members please help.

Family history begins with Robert Catchpole (born c.1780, probably in Norfolk) and his son, James Catchpole (born c.1821 at Bunwell, Norfolk). Both are known to have been at Halesworth, Suffolk; Yoxford, Suffolk; Brome, near Bungay, Suffolk; and Grays, Essex.

A descendent, Eliza Catchpole, from the brickmaking family, married Alfred Pulford (1839-1902) who seems to have run a brickmaking firm near Beccles, Suffolk, from the 1870s onwards.

Any further information would be welcome.

PENNY BERRY

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Lower Road
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Telephone 0787-269724

YELLOW STOCK BRICKS WITH A RAISED CROWN IN THE FROG

The Waltham Abbey area has long been connected with the manufacture of government armaments . Yellow stock bricks with a raised crown in the frog have been found used in the construction of a First World War gun emplacement at Monkham's, Waltham Abbey, Essex (NGR TL/386024).

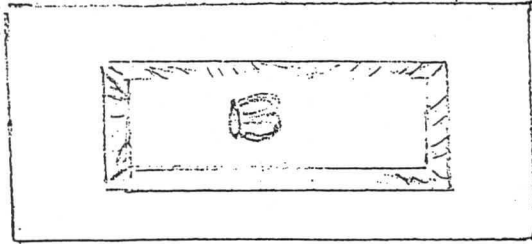


Fig. 1 Yellow stock brick with a crown in the frog used in the construction of a First World War gun emplacement at Waltham Abbey.

There are local brickworks at Waltham Abbey and in the surrounding area but to date no clues have been found as to the source of this seemingly unusual method of marking the frog.

MRS IRENE BUCHAN

129 Drysdale Avenue
Chingford
London E4 7PD

THE CROWN IN THE FROG

One possible reason for the crown in the frog of these yellow stock bricks is that they were made to government order.

If any member has access to the relevant government documents for the First World War period they might be able to assist Mrs Buchan by pointing her to references to material in the Public Record Office either at Chancery Lane or at Kew. It is possible, however, that such documents remain classified information under a seventy- or hundred-year rule, rather than the usual thirty-year rules about access.

DAVID H. KENNETT

FAIRCLOUGH - A BRICKMAKER IN ESSEX

I am seeking information on a journeyman brickmaker by the name of William Fairclough who had made bricks for the construction of the Colne Valley Railway between 1849 and 1863. Later he made all the bricks for the railway stations of the Tendring Hundred line. These were made between 1864 and 1867. He eventually had brickfields in Clacton and his son, also named William, carried on the business into the 1930s.

I would be grateful for any information that fellow members may have relating to William Fairclough, snr and jnr.

I am also aware of a Stripling Fairclough who had brickfields in Colchester.

BRIAN ESSAM

241 St Osyth Road
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Essex CO15 3HJ
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BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY:
FUTURE EVENTS

BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY

VISITS AND MEETINGS IN 1994

The society has arranged the following visits and meetings in 1994:

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------|
| 1 | Colliers Brickworks, Marks Tey, and Colchester | 23 April 1994 |
| 2 | Town walkabout: Bolton, Lancashire | 21 May 1994 |
| 3 | Annual General Meeting at Bristol
with visits in Somerset | 11 June 1994 |
| 4 | Pershore, Worcestershire | 24 September 1994 |

Details of the visits on 23 April and 21 May will be included in the February 1994 mailing.

BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY
ENQUIRIES SECRETARY

After a period in office of eight years, David H. Kennett has indicated a wish to stand down from the office of Enquiries Secretary to the British Brick Society at the 1994 Annual General Meeting.

Any member who is willing to take on the duties of Enquiries Secretary should indicate their willingness to do so to

Michael Hammett
Hon. Secretary, British Brick Society
9 Bailey Close, Lucas Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.