

Editorial

For this volume of *Britannia* the blue pencil passed from the hand of Professor Malcolm Todd to that of a new editor. Professor Todd has served his five-year *militia* with distinction, and his departure coincides appropriately with the appearance of *Britannia* Monograph 11, edited by him and surveying the development of Romano-British studies since 1960. (It is reviewed below by Professor Richard Bradley (p. 393).) Dr Lynn Pitts, formerly Editorial Assistant to *Britannia*, now has a wider role as Publications Secretary responsible for both journals of the Society. Editors may come and go, but none could operate effectively without Dr Pitts' sub-editorial savoir faire and concentrated toil.

Two major articles appear between these covers on recent excavations of two of the principal monuments of Roman London, the basilica and the waterfront, written by members of the Department of Urban Archaeology of the Museum of London. As befits the leading city of Roman Britain, London enjoys the services of what many will regard as two of the leading archaeological units in the country, both in terms of the importance of their discoveries and the quality (and prompt appearance) of their excavation reports. In particular Brian Hopley's success over the years in raising developer funding for the DUA's programme has been remarkable. Now, change is in the air, initiated by English Heritage, who propose to restrict the activities of the Department of Urban Archaeology and the Department of Greater London Archaeology. The deliberations continue: but is it too much to hope that English Heritage will after all heed the maxim: 'If it is working well, leave it alone'?

On a less controversial note, English Heritage has made it known – and it deserves to be repeated here – that after March 1993 grants will no longer be made as of right to subsidise the printing costs of reports on DoE-funded excavations completed before 1973. Post-excavation funds to support the writing of such reports have already been cut off (March 1990); but if excavators and authors soldier on, relying on their own resources, their applications for publication grants may be entertained even after March 1993, but on a competitive basis. The Editor of *Britannia* welcomes the assurance that the shutters have not been brought down on high-quality work in the pipeline.