



AAI&S Millennium Conference and AGM 2000



Delegates at the Annual Conference in September

photo: Ann Searight

This year's Conference was held in London, a city which I've always regarded with a certain amount of reserve. (This probably dates back to childhood day-trips, which left an impression of (a) the excessive size of everything, and (b) the near impossibility of anyone finding you again if once you got lost. However, it seems to have shrunk slightly, and I didn't get lost once.)

Accommodation was provided at the University College's Ramsay Hall, a conveniently compact setting for the talks, excellent meals and one extremely large bar. As usual, this latter provided the focus for much of the discussion and activity of the weekend – in fact, it could have provided even more had it obtained a 24-hour licence, but it's probably as well it didn't.

The weekend's programme of talks was both varied and of very good quality. Giving a string of names and inadequate précis is poor thanks to the participants and so, with due apologies,

I'll just pick out a few items from an impressive list. I think that everyone found Richard Neave's account of his work in facial reconstruction an absorbing experience: so much so that no-one even noticed – much less complained about – a lengthy overrun. Other highlights of the weekend were: Judith Dobie's lively account of her struggles with the Beasts of Bolsover, and the process of reconstructing these wonderfully vigorous figures. Hazel Martingell's addiction to lithic artifacts, and the minutiae of this absorbing specialization. When you add the many other contributions – on small finds from London, on pottery from Ireland, on cities in Central Asia and so many others, you have the breadth and depth of interest that a professional Conference should have. In fact, this kind of experience – getting an insight into other areas of our very varied profession – is one of the most valuable parts of attending these weekends.

For outside interest, a visit had been arranged on Friday to the Museum of

London to view an ambitious new project; a reconstruction of a part of the artisan's area in Roman Londinium. This walk-through display – with buildings and rooms of oak beams and plasterwork, reconstructed tools and artifacts, even the Lady of the House being enacted with great vigour by a professional actress – was an intriguing experiment and one which, on the whole, seems to be working well. It certainly provided material for a good discussion at the seminar afterwards, at which Francis Grew from the Museum of London gave us the background to the setting-up of the project.

On Saturday, however, we had what was probably *the* highlight of the weekend: a boat-trip on the Thames. (I suspect that many of our members found themselves enjoying this even more than they had thought they would.) We embarked on a large motor-boat, moored just under the London Eye, and surged off downstream while being regaled with one of the most inventive – not to say

Conference 2000 – (continued from front page)

idiosyncratic – commentaries on the various sights floating past that I would wish to hear. Slightly marred, perhaps, by the commentator's obvious view that public spending on the arts would be amply covered by an annual flag day, but otherwise inspired. This passed the time very agreeably through the City of London, although one had to agree with the commentator that there is now very little to say about the former Docklands – a huge expanse of highly expensive conversions and development, but which seems strangely uncentred and meaningless.

We disembarked near the Cutty Sark, and spent a properly instructive few hours in the National Maritime Museum. I cannot remember when I was last there – certainly not since it has been so extensively redisplayed; and I could easily have spent most of the weekend just seeing this location. It did bring home to me how difficult it seems to be to make time for this kind of experience, and how the Conference can provide an opportunity – if only once a year – to redress some of the balance.

By the end of the Sunday we had enjoyed a full and varied weekend, but of course had only covered a fraction of the potential archaeological venues and experiences that London can offer. I think that we could certainly consider holding conferences in the capital again, probably in the not too distant future.

All credit for this year's venture must go to the organizers, Ann Searight and Barbara Hurman, who did so much to make this conference work. As well as an excellent programme and venue, the cost this year had been kept to a very affordable level. It was very encouraging to see such a high attendance, and for those who couldn't make it – try it next year! For the opportunity to meet other professionals, to hear what's happening with their work and share your own experience, and just for a good weekend - it's well worth while.

John Hodgson

NEW COUNCIL

At the AGM at this year's Conference in London, a large number of Council members stood down, some new personnel joined the ranks and the remainder was slightly re-shuffled.

On the way out

Rob Read has come to the end of his period of office as Chairman, and did not wish to stand again as a full Council member. He will, however, be remaining as a co-opted member to attend meetings of the Archaeological Training Forum and to report back on these.

Eddie Lyons has stepped down as Membership Officer and from Council, and Mike Pringle has stood down as Publicity Officer, although he will still be dealing with the Association's website. David Williams resigned from Council earlier in the year, and Richard Sheppard and John Hodgson stood down by rota as they were the two longest-serving officers.

Paul Hughes and Mike Middleton have both decided to resign from Council before completing their terms.

Coming In

Jo Bacon was proposed by John Hodgson and seconded by Jane Russell; Julia Woods was proposed as Student Representative to Council by Ros Smith and seconded by Melanie Steiner. John Hodgson and Richard Sheppard agreed to stand again and were re-elected. No further nominations being put forward, the new Council is a slimmed-down version, with only eight of the eleven possible places filled. They are:

CHAIR:	John Hodgson
SECRETARY:	Jo Bacon
TREASURER:	Deirdre Crone
MEMBERSHIP:	Steve Allen
ASSESSMENTS:	Jane Russell
NEWSLETTER:	Lesley Collett
TECHNICAL PAPERS:	Andrew Dutton
JOURNAL:	Richard Sheppard

Co-opted Members of Council:

ATF Rep.:	Rob Read
Webmaster:	Mike Pringle

Student Rep.:	Julia Woods
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With such a small Council we are stretched to fill all the necessary posts, and would welcome volunteers to become co-opted members, particularly to take on the roles of Publications, Publicity and Training Officers, or to help out in any way. Please contact Central Mailing if you are willing to help.

Introducing Joanna K. F. Bacon - our new Secretary

'I graduated in Archaeology from Reading University in 1978, and having had some drawings published whilst still a student decided to become an archaeological illustrator. I worked for various Units from Bristol to Lincolnshire to East Sussex, and for Mucking post-excavation where I met my husband Malcolm Archer. In 1984 I got a period appointment as a research assistant/illustrator for Dr. Ian Stead in the Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities at the British Museum, where I stayed until the birth of our son in 1989. Since then I have gained full membership of AAI&S (in 1990), passed my driving test (though I don't now have a car), produced two more children, and been working from home doing freelance illustration the traditional way in pen-and-ink.'

Bournemouth 2001?

No venue or organizers having been suggested for next year's Conference, John Hodgson and Jane Russell have agreed to arrange a conference in **Bournemouth** for (tentatively) the weekend of 31st August - 2nd September 2001.

This will be the sixth time in seven years that the conference is held in South-East England, so members elsewhere will be glad to hear that volunteers have come forward to organise conferences in **York** and **North Wales** for 2002 and 2003.

Council would be very happy to hear from potential organizers in those areas we have not yet visited – such as Cumbria, West Yorkshire, South Wales, Suffolk, Ireland....

Jobs Notice Service

AAI&S is hoping to raise awareness of its Jobs Notice Service in the future by directly leafletting potential employers.

If you would like to register for the Service, which aims to provide our members with direct-mail information about job opportunities, please send your **name** and **postal address**, together with details of the kind of jobs you are interested in (eg. full-time or freelance, illustration or survey, any particular specialisations) to:

The Membership Secretary,
AAI&S,
c/o University of Exeter,
Dept. of Archaeology,
Laver Building,
North Park Road,
Exeter, EX4 4QE

This service is **free to members**.

If you are aware of any vacancies in your organization, please let us know, and inform your employer of the **AAI&S' Job Notice Service**.

ASSESSMENTS

A request goes out to all Licentiate members to consider applying for assessment for **FULL MEMBERSHIP**. By the time this newsletter is circulated, the assessment arranged for Saturday 25th November will have enough applicants, but for those who might be disappointed at missing this one, I will be arranging the next meeting for late April / early May 2001.

By now I hope that the whole AAI&S membership will have received the Draft Proposals for the changes being made to the assessment procedure. The assessments will be more broadly based, encompassing traditional methods as well as the new technologies being used in the production of illustrations, and will therefore reflect the wide spectrum of expertise being used today. The Association does include surveyors, although few appear to have applied for full membership in the past - so all those shy surveyors out there - please take up the challenge!

In the past the successful candidates were asked to provide a couple of examples of their work for the AAI&S Journal and this is something that we would like to encourage today. These could take the form of either good quality hard copies, or in a publishable format on disk. A short biographical note from the candidate would also show how people get into archaeological illustration, their experiences and the type of work they do. This would be of interest to the whole membership, demonstrating the range and quality of work that is being assessed, whilst hopefully encouraging more candidates to go for assessment.

*Jane Russell
Assessments Officer*

Silica Gel Warning

Illustrators who handle finds stored with the **self-indicating** type of silica gel should be aware that this has been re-classified as a health hazard.

Self-indicating silica gel is the type which turns from deep blue (dry) to pink (damp). The most hazardous component of this type of silica gel is the colour-changing moisture indicator, cobalt chloride, a potential carcinogen (by inhalation) and also a skin and respiratory system sensitiser. Cobalt is an EEC List II substance for control of dangerous substances in the aquatic environment, and must not be allowed to contaminate soil and water. Gloves, lab coat and an effective dust mask (FFP2 or FFP3) should be worn.

Cobalt chloride is NOT present in the clear or white types of silica gel. Use only the type of silica gel which is uncoloured, ready packed in paper bags; there is no cobalt chloride in this, and dust generation is kept to an absolute minimum.

If you do come across the self-indicating type, put on a good-quality face-mask before handling; double-wrap in polythene bags, and mark both clearly with:
HAZARDOUS WASTE - COBALT CHLORIDE WITH SILICA GEL.

Keep in a secure place until it can be disposed of - **DO NOT PUT IT THE RUBBISH WITH DOMESTIC/SITE WASTE.**

*Information provided by James Hales, Collections and Conservation Assistant,
Institute of Archaeology*

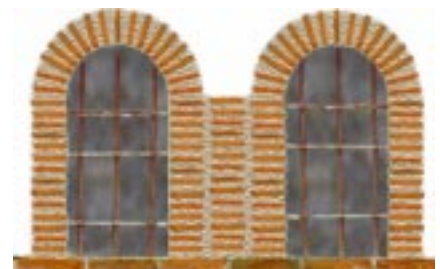
Rebuilding Silchester

Margaret Mathews explores the possibilities of producing digital reconstructions. This item is based on a presentation which Margaret gave at the Annual Conference in September.

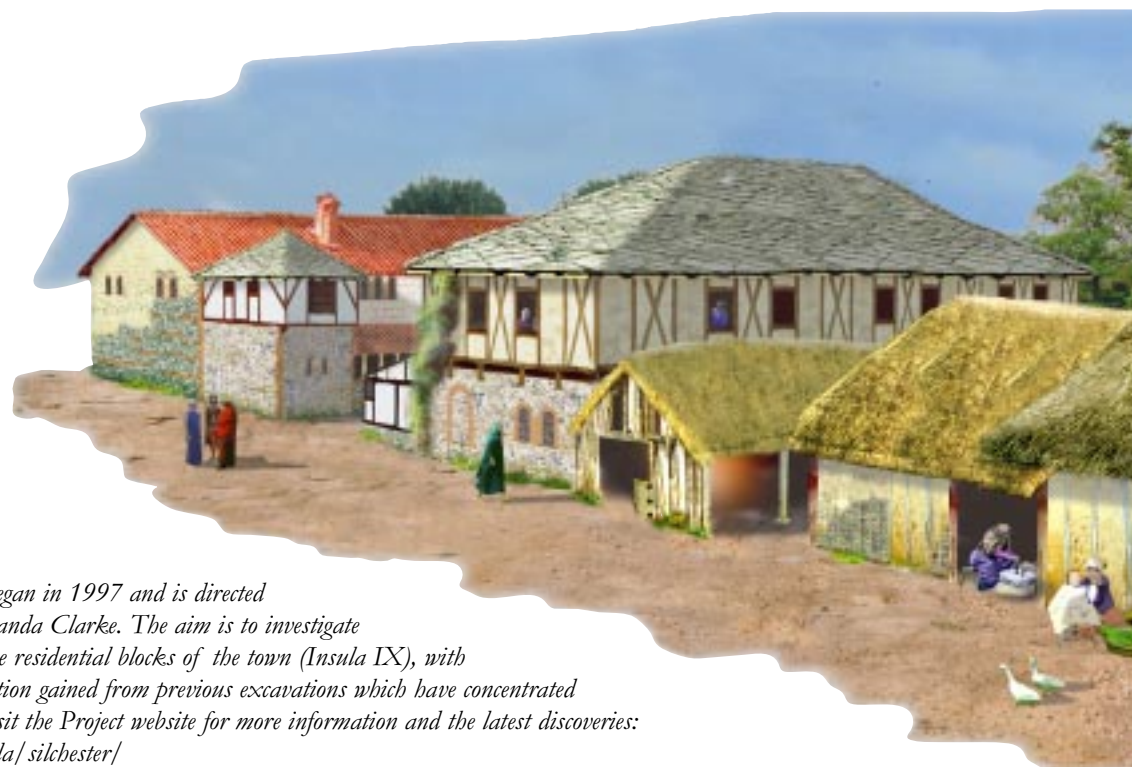
For the last four years the Archaeology Department at Reading has been involved in excavating part of one of the *insulae* at Silchester. I have been involved in producing display and publicity material for the public and this year was asked to produce an artistic reconstruction of the late Roman street frontage in the area of the excavation. I decided to try creating the illustration digitally, as a photomontage in Adobe Photoshop.



1. First, I collected raw material in the form of photographs of a variety of architectural styles that might prove useful, like this flint and brick wall at Singleton. Most stone buildings at Silchester were built of flint.



2. From the source photos I created a 'collection' of architectural elements by copying and cloning. A few bricks were used to make this window which is based on a late Roman excavated example from Meonstoke in Hampshire. The grille was added from another photo, and 'mortar' created using a standard Photoshop filter.



The Silchester 'Town Life' Project began in 1997 and is directed by Professor Mike Fulford and Amanda Clarke. The aim is to investigate in detail the larger part of one of the residential blocks of the town (Insula IX), with a view to complementing the information gained from previous excavations which have concentrated on public buildings and defences. Visit the Project website for more information and the latest discoveries: <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/AcaDepts/la/silchester/>

3. The flint wall, the window and other similar elements were combined in a scaled elevation based on our excavated evidence. These facades were saved as separate files and can be re-used in other illustrations. The interpretation of this building is that an existing, substantial, stone-built house was 'improved' at a later date by the addition of two, rather flimsy, towers on the facade. I tried to suggest this phasing by using different source walls and giving the older part a flaking coat of render.



4. A whole series of elevations were combined and skewed into perspective to create this street scene (*below*). At this period there is evidence to suggest that although some of the buildings were of stone, others, at the north end of the street, were much humbler timber buildings with evidence for metal working workshops. I used evidence from other excavations and research to augment the evidence from our excavations and tried to suggest the potential variety of interpretations of building and roofing styles. Finally, I added some figures and animals, culled from a variety of sources, and gave the scene some light and shade. The Roman soldier appeared on site with a film crew one day and was snapped, chatting to the potwashers!

The illustration had to be finished in a hurry, so that we had something to show visitors to the excavation. I know there are some things which might invite quibbles, particularly from Romanists, and this season's work has already suggested new interpretations of the mass of postholes at the north end. The great advantage of this method of producing a digital reconstruction like this, however, is that it can be edited and the different elements can be combined in new ways.

Margaret Mathews
m.mathews@reading.ac.uk



Outgoing Treasurer's Report: 1993 - 2000

Having finally relinquished control of the chequebook after eight years as the Association's Treasurer, I thought it only appropriate to write a brief 'end of term' report. Below is a table summarising the Accounts since 1993, followed by some of the conclusions that I have derived from the figures over that period.

Income / Expenditure over last 8 years:

INCOME	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
Subscriptions	3867	3554	4054	3937	3947	3427	3504	2810
Technical Papers	787	1582	1133	686	968	484	75	90
Conference	4186	4230	557*	3415	3331	3705	3085	3440
Other	54	75	0	10	5	45	35	0
EXPENDITURE	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
Printing	1556	2736	3318	786	387	697	551	406
Journal	0	0	0	0	1200	0	1540	930
Technical Papers	0	115	1035	0	2295	0	731	0
Travel	1182	798	826	848	608	296	683	351
Postage	519	373	530	568	529	441	583	245
Committee various	0	3	75	0	230	64	147	0
Assessments	0	125	20	110	58	104	357	0
Other	700	858	752	357	181	132	340	465
Conference	941**	3804	577*	3814	2658	3404	2837	3468
YEARLY BALANCE	+3491	+629	-1389	+1565	+105	+2523	-1070	+475

Conference figures are shown for each specific year, not spread over successive years as is usual in Audit Account figures.

* Conference finances in 1998 largely managed by Leicester University Finance Department.

** Further expenses still to be paid

Our overall balance at the previous Audit in November 1999 was about £4500 and this will probably reach about £5000 this November, once the London Conference expenses have been paid. This figure has grown from one of about £2000 in 1993. Allowing for a safety net of £2000-2500 which should be retained permanently in our current account, this leaves a similar amount for the printing of one or two new technical papers and the Journal in the forthcoming year.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: The Association's finances are heavily dependent on membership fees, with a total that now hovers in the region of £3500-4000 per annum. Subscription rates were last increased in 1994 and in an era of low inflation have remained stable since. This I believe has helped us to retain a membership of about 200 over recent years, despite the retirement of some people from the profession and the changing conditions under which remaining members now have to work.

If this is considered alongside a total figure of about 524 names over the 20 plus years of the Association's existence, then this shows a remarkable retention of members. We need to guard against complacency though, as a fair proportion of new members fail to stay with us on any long-term basis and this may pose problems for the future. This can be demonstrated by dividing the figures in the Treasurer's Membership Book chronologically into two halves:

- Members 1-353 (joined 1978-91) with 101 names paid up or one year's arrears
- Members 354-524 (joined 1992-2000), i.e 170 names, with 87 paid up or one year's arrears

These figures show retention figures of about 30% and 50% respectively, when a greater discrepancy might be expected. We retain a lot of older members, many of whom pay by Banker's Order (making the Treasurer's job a lot easier, I should say); newer, younger members show a distinct reluctance to commit

themselves to this arrangement. This is compounded by the failure of many members to renew their subscriptions when they become due in November, the start of our financial year. One of the bugbears of the job is having to send out later reminders to people and deal with the dribble of cheques as they eventually appear. I would ask for the sake of the incoming Treasurer that more members take out Banker's Orders and lighten the load a little.

TECHNICAL PAPERS: The income from Technical Papers has probably peaked at the 1999 figure, an amount largely deriving from a publicity drive through IFA. The lack of new publications on offer accounts for our declining sales and we must await new ones for the situation to change. Although our last Journal was published in 1996 and the last Technical Paper in 1998, our printing and stationery expenditure continues to be a significant sum. Recent figures include design for the new 'corporate image', for new stationery, leaflets and for the redesigned and colour illustrated Newsletter. We now need to provide new publications.

CONFERENCE: Conferences are not intended to make money, but generally manage to come out in credit and not incur losses. They have unwittingly contributed £1000 (40%) to the increase in the end-of-year balance over the last 7-8 years.

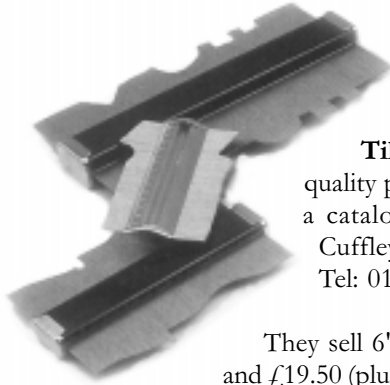
THE FUTURE

The accounts indicate a fairly stable picture over the last few years, but there is now little slack in the annual figures to pay for major publications (Journal and Technical Paper) on an annual basis. The surplus that we have accumulated is because of their absence in the last few years. This will now be available for proposed new publications and once they have appeared we may have to consider increasing subscription rates to maintain the momentum.

Richard Sheppard
30/10/2000

NOTICEBOARD

News, notes and queries from our members



Profile Gauges

Sue Holden writes:

Tilgear is a mail order company selling good quality profile gauges at reasonable prices. Write for a catalogue to: Bridge House, 69 Station Road, Cuffley, Hertfordshire, England, EN6 4TG
Tel: 01707 873434

They sell 6", 8" and 12" profile gauges at £3.95, £9.75 and £19.50 (plus VAT) respectively. I bought a 12" one which is very useful for those larger items; it can be slightly unwieldy but, used with care, looks to be very useful. (If you receive a catalogue and the gauges are not featured, phone and ask.)

Calling all university-based illustrators

If there is anybody out there working in a university archaeology department I would be interested to hear from you. I already know Margaret Matthews from Reading, Sean Goddard and Mike Rouillard from Exeter, but it would be great to hear from a few more bods slaving away in those ivory towers!

So please don't be shy; contact me with details about the work that you undertake, whether it be in illustration, or teaching the subject to students. It would be good to exchange ideas or have a good moan if it's been that sort of day.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Debbie Miles-Williams,
Archaeological Illustrator,
School of Archaeological Studies,
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester.
LE1 2RH.

Telephone:- 0116-2525251
E-mail:-deb@leicester.ac.uk

Draughting film

I have been using Kernow, double matt draughting film, 0.002" thickness for a long time now to ink up final drawings for publication. But it's time to discover any acceptable alternatives. I am particularly interested to know if you can purchase pads of say A3 or A4 size (less wastage, particularly with student practicals).

Please e-mail me at:
deb@leicester.ac.uk, telephone:- 0116-2525251 or reply
to this newsletter with ideas.

Debbie Miles-Williams

AutoCAD to PDF

Here is a method for exporting good quality images from AutoCAD into Desktop Publishing packages. There are several methods in printing to plot files. You will need to use a PostScript print driver for printing to the file. I have had success using HP5000 NPS print driver, but not using the Adobe print driver at this stage of the process; it may be possible to enhance work by altering some of the settings on the print driver. It is also worth noting some of the settings at this stage in the

conversion may affect the end result. It is best to print to file at the highest quality; I have not discovered any difference downloading to softfont on printer settings, however I believe this may affect editing in the desktop publishing packages. I generally leave the settings as font substitution - normal; resolution 1200; truetype-substitute with device font. Then print to file saving as filename.**prn**. AutoCAD automatically places the .plt extension on this file, I have then just erased the .plt extension.

1. I have also been able to do this process purely by saving with the filename.**plt** extension.

2. You or your publisher will need Acrobat Distiller; adjust the job options to your requirements on the settings on the pull down list. Then drag and drop the filename.**prn** or filename.**plt** onto Acrobat distiller, this then converts the drawing to a **.pdf** format which can be read and imported into desktop publishing packages. The drawings will appear as vector images and can also be edited in these packages. Experiment with the settings in Acrobat Distiller; some settings will allow fonts to convert with good quality, some will prevent this.

I have found that although the prints are of good quality using the local printer, adding the Adobe Postscript driver and printing through the HP5000 +NPS gives a much higher resolution.

NB: Beware when using AutoCAD pen settings. I have produced drawings using extremely refined pen settings; point .020 is the finest line I have achieved on the Hp5000 +NPS, anything beneath this setting appears to be the same thickness. This is when the highest resolution of the postscript printer is 1200. There are subtle differences when the printer resolutions are at 3600, giving a refinement down to at least .010 the setting of .020 becomes too fine and the pen size needs to be adjusted to .050. It is worthwhile creating a test page for the refinement settings.

Malcolm Dickson

Equipment for Illustrators and Surveyors

Not long after becoming involved in amateur archaeology, more than 15 years ago, I perceived that there were many activities within practical archaeology which would benefit from the use of aids or devices to make things quicker or easier (or both). These could be either modifications of existing items or completely new devices, specifically designed for the purpose.

I am, by profession a mechanical design engineer, with experience in widely diverse fields, which has given me plenty of sources to draw on for solutions to the requirements I have identified. Accordingly, I have both modified, and designed and made, numerous pieces of equipment over a period of years. These have ranged from the simplest drawing or excavating aids up to a variable speed/variable displacement motorised piston pump for blowing an experimental iron-smelting furnace.

Up to the present, manufacturing has been on a modest scale, some items not going beyond a single prototype, others proceeding to production of small batches which have been sold by word of mouth and personal contact.

In September, at the AAI&S conference, I gave a short presentation of some of the items I have designed and developed, with the object of advertising those I now have available and finding out what other things people would like to see available. Response was good, both at the conference and consequently. Following this, your editor has asked me to make this introduction of myself and what I am doing.

Below are short descriptions of what I currently offer. Please contact me directly for more detailed information and prices, or to discuss any needs or suggestions.

Pot diameter sheets. For determination of diameter and % vessel equivalent from rim fragment. (30 or 50cm max. diam.)

Pot diameter template set. For determination of internal or external diameter from body fragment. (30 cm max diam.)

Profile tracer. For drawing the projected outline of an object e.g. a flint. Maximum height 10cm (A 15cm height model should be available in the near future).

Various **photographic scales:** smallest, 1 and 2cm, for macro photography, largest 50cm, for site photography. All in protective containers/tubes.

One metre square, wood/aluminium **planning frame** with adjustable, 50cm legs.

Roger Miles,

RM Design, 21 Upper Culver Road, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 4EE

Tel: 01727 865735

rogmiles@compuserve.com

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Editor welcomes contributions from members and non-members on any remotely relevant subject. We can cope with most formats, and welcome contributions on disk (CD, Zip or standard floppy) or by e-mail (to lesley@stanshawe.demon.co.uk). Hard copy is acceptable for shorter articles. Drawings or graphics of any kind are particularly welcome: *high quality* clean photocopies, camera-ready artwork or digital format.

Deadline for next issue: **16th February 2001**

Newsletter Editor: **Lesley Collett** MAAIS

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JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

are looking for an **illustrator** to complete publication drawings of c. 88 sherds/vessels from a 18th century dump of pottery probably cleared out from a single household: including Chinese porcelain, Staffordshire White salt-glazed stoneware, Pancheons, teapots, teabowls, cups, saucers, plates, chamber pots, tankards, ointment pots, jugs, etc. Full list can be supplied.

Estimate of time/cost needed.

Deadline – preferably end November 2000 but this could be negotiable.

Please contact
Melanie Hall MIFA,
Post- Excavation Manager,
Thames Valley Archaeological
Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road,
Reading, Berkshire,
Tel: 0118 9260552,
e-mail: mel@tvas.co.uk?

CONTACT:

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