



Members' Magazine
WEALD AND DOWNLAND
OPEN AIR MUSEUM



The Illustrated London News Museum of the Year Trophy.
A porcelain sculpture by Henry Moore called "Moonhead".

C O N T E N T S

Page 2. Museum Report
Page 8. The Austrian Open Air Museum
Page 11. Friends' News

Cover Illustration - "Moonhead"

The Porcelain sculpture illustrated on the cover is the Museum's trophy as winner of the Illustrated London News and National Heritage "Museum of the Year" scheme. The trophy is retained by the Museum for one year.

MUSEUM REPORT

New Chairman of the Open Air Museum Council of Management

Mr. Geoffrey Godber was elected Chairman of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum Council of Management at the Annual Meeting on October 1st.

He replaces Mr. James Farmer who has been Chairman since the Museum's beginning.

Mr. Godber, who lives in Singleton and has been a member of the Management Council for some years, was Clerk to the West Sussex County Council for many years and was latterly Chief Executive before retiring in April this year. The Museum will greatly value his considerable experience.

Friends and volunteers alike will wish to acknowledge the immense contribution Mr. Farmer has made towards the foundation of a sound and viable museum. He was one of the first people to give his wholehearted support to Mr. Armstrong's proposals for the establishment of an Open Air Museum.

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Part time Assistant Research Director

I am pleased to welcome a newcomer to the part time staff of the Museum. The Council of Management have appointed Richard Harris to the post of Assistant Research Director. Mr. Harris, who has been involved with the Avoncroft Museum and trained at the Architectural Association, has followed a particular interest in vernacular architecture and will assist Mr. Armstrong. He will be responsible for the plannings of certain projects that require more detailed research such as Boarhunt Cottage and Sole Street. He will also assist Mr. Armstrong in all aspects of his work for the Museum. We look forward to a fruitful association.

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Sunday Evening Talks

The Sunday evening talks arranged during the summer season and given on a variety of vernacular architecture and local history topics have not been at all well supported, although those people who did attend thoroughly enjoyed them. An average of about 10 people an evening came to the talks.

If Friends or Volunteers have any suggestions of a more suitable time for the talks or any other points to make about the idea, perhaps they would like to raise them at the Friends A.G.M. or write to the Museum office, so that future programmes can be organised to ensure higher attendance.

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Sending the Newsletter

On behalf of the volunteers who parcelled up the last newsletter I would like to apologise to those people who did not receive the additional sheets of information.

The task of parcelling up 1,500 envelopes is an arduous one and we are always most grateful for the help we get with this job.

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Pendean Farmhouse

Roger Champion has now completed the major part of his work on Pendean. The huge chimney will now be constructed and the tile and brick floor laid. Following this the upper floor will be completed, the doors constructed, after which the outside paths and hedges will be established. The building will be open to the public next season.

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Watersfield Stable

The re-erection of the main frame of the stable has been complete for some weeks. Anthony Simmons has now completed the repair of the roof timbers which will be re-erected in the near future. It then remains to tile the roof and weather-board the frame. It is, however, unlikely that the wheelwright's equipment will be established in the building in time for next season. However, during the summer we hope to complete the project.

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Windpump from Pevensey

Peter Stenning has completed the rebuilding of the windpump; the sails are now on and add a new dimension in the landscape. Stan Waite is now working on the reconditioning of the pumps. The water will circulate from the upper to the lower pond through a shallow ditch, which will also double as an overflow for the upper pond.

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Crawley Upper Hall

The Crawley Upper Hall, which is to be converted to become the Museum Library on the first floor, is the next building to be undertaken by Roger Champion. This important jettied upper hall, is to be re-erected on the north side of the Titchfield Market Hall. To the east, with a small twitten between, will be the Horsham shop. Both ends of the Crawley Hall are missing and will be replaced by a very simple

modern extension, covered in a material sympathetic to the building. These will contain the stairs and services necessary to its use as a properly equipped modern library. The detailed plans for this building have not yet been prepared, however plans will be published with the next newsletter. After the moving of the workshop, mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, Mr. Champion will start work on the repair of this building.

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Lurgashall Mill and Lake Construction

During the summer the dismantling of the mill walls and the reinstatement of the bank were completed. Geoff Kent and John Friar, helped by student labour, worked for eight weeks on this difficult project. Over 100 tons of stone had to be raised to the top of the dam, and loaded onto the lorry. The mortar between the stone was in places surprisingly hard and required careful separation from the stone. All important stones have been marked and drawn and will be replaced in the same position from which they came, in the same way that we dismantled timber buildings. When the foundations of the mill were lifted it was found that the main structure had been built on a substantial timber raft, the main beams and boards of which survived. A quantity of bloomery slag was also found, and it is thought possible that the mill stood on the site of a hammer mill. Many of the well dressed larger stones, forming part of the wheel pit, were found to have been reset at sometime and may well come from an earlier structure.

The Museum is not in a position to conduct an excavation of the site. However, careful drawings have been made of all that has been removed. The remaining layers have been covered, and it would be possible for them to be uncovered should it ever be possible for an excavation to be conducted.

Paul Simons, a final year student at the Architectural Association has prepared the detailed drawings with which the building will be reconstructed. Geoff Kent has also made numerous detailed notes of special features in the stonework and has undertaken the numbering of the stones. His next task on the project will be to sort the stones and to rebuild, and it is hoped that Geoff and John will be able to commence this operation before the end of the year. The foundations of the mill will be constructed by an outside contractor. Tenders for this work were invited earlier in the year, and R. J. Winnicott's have been instructed to put the work in hand during October.

From these remarks it will be realised that the Museum is about to start one of its most ambitious projects. It is not the most important building to be dealt with, but certainly it is going to be the most lengthy reconstruction scheme.

As part of this scheme the completion of the lakes will now be undertaken. The earth-moving is now complete and the next

stage will be for a soft layer of clay and sand to be spread over the whole surface of the upper lake. This is to prevent puncture of the polythene lining which will be laid and then covered with 12 inches of soil. Mr. Berry of Howard Humphreys & Sons has very generously prepared a report on the stability of the embankments. This was felt to be a necessary step before we entered into the next stage, and Mr. Berry, a senior engineer in the field of reservoir construction, has given us the go ahead with minor modifications. We are very grateful for Mr. Berry's help in this matter.

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The Woodlands

The woodland areas of the Museum are one of the major amenities of the site. There are, however, a number of major problems to be faced in these areas. In the past the management of these areas was intended to provide good shooting and pleasant amenities. The silvicultural considerations were far from paramount. As a result action that might have been taken to thin the plantation now about 120 years old, was not taken and we are now faced with large areas of mature beech that has grown thin and tall.

Some of you will remember the result of last year's September gale that brought down a large acreage of tall beech just to the south of the Museum, as well as bringing down a number of trees within the Museum. The problem of the mature beech is further exaggerated by Beech Bark Disease which has spread through the woodland as well as further exposure to wind. Damage to standing trees by felling and windblow cause wounds which allow the easy entry of the fungus *Nectria Coccinea*. The cycle of this fungul disease is also associated with an insect specific to beech, *Cryptococcus Fagi* which damages the bark of the tree. The effect of this damage is to upset the tree's vascular system causing the trunk to snap off at about three to five metres, a symptom known as 'beech snap'; in other cases the beech simply dies.

In other areas the problem faced is less dramatic but equally serious. Many of the trees are over mature and require replacement. This is especially true of the parkland clumps, many of which in other parts of the estate have completely disappeared, while some on the Museum site are in a very poor condition. In other areas we have the common problem of Dutch Elm Disease, which requires no elaboration.

As a result of these problems a detailed report has been prepared and an agreed plan of action will be decided upon. The intention is to instigate a major replanting scheme starting this autumn, and to begin the reestablishment of those areas which are in the greatest danger. It is very important to be aware that the artificial landscape we are so used to is not permanent, and to realise that the planting we undertake will not be mature for us to enjoy. It will be just as essential for future generations to take steps to change and therefore secure the woodland for the future.

Members who are interested in this matter are welcome to see the full report in the Office at any convenient time.

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Selsey Wagon Shed

Scouts from the 4th Portsmouth troupe have been working on re-erecting the frame of the early 19th century wagon shed from Selsey dismantled by the Museum in 1974.

The Scouts, under the direction of their Group Scout Leader, Laurance Kent, son of the Museum's master bricklayer, Geoff Kent, have undertaken the building as one of the Coca Cola Heritage Awards for youth projects - being run all over the country to mark the European Architectural Heritage Year.

Nine Scouts have helped with the building, sorting through the timbers, repairing where necessary under the advice of the Museum's craftsmen, making the oak pegs and building brick piers on which the 3 part structure stands.

After starting the work in April this year, they have recently reared the frame into position and begun reconstructing the roof. The Scouts will be doing all work on the building except for the thatching, which, as a highly exacting job will be done by a professional firm.

The Scouts' work will be reviewed by an independent assessor who will report to the Coca Cola Heritage Award board, who may decide to make an award for the project.

The wagon shed, which will eventually house some of the Museum's carts will be complete for next season and will form the third building in the small complex at the north end of the site, joining the forge and the Watersfield Stable.

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Volunteer Projects this Winter

This winter there will be a great need to get together bands of volunteers to help with various maintenance and landscaping jobs on the Museum site in preparation for the 1976 season.

High on the list of priorities is path laying and maintenance. Existing paths need some attention and repair and some new paths in the Pendean area of the site are planned. Volunteer help is vital to establish these routes and so help protect the grass from erosion.

Tree planting in accordance with the Museum's new landscape management plan will also be fast and furious this winter. The Museum wants to put into action the contents of the plan and therefore anybody who is handy with a spade will be most welcome.

The third task, which must be completed before winter sets in, is the clearing and stacking of bricks belonging to the early brick house dismantled at Lavant this year. These bricks are at present in piles at the top of the car park but must be stacked to prevent frost breaking them up.

Anyone who would like to help with these very necessary tasks should get in touch with Pam West at Bognor 4030.

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The Security of the Museum

During the last two years the Museum has suffered three incidents causing damage, all occurring during the night. As members know, the director is now resident on site and therefore is in a position to keep an eye on the site to some extent. However, additional steps will be taken to improve the security. So far, we have been lucky that no major incident has occurred. In this connection members are asked not to come to the site after 6.00 pm. Some members enjoy a walk through the Museum in the evening, however it is not easy to differentiate between a friend and a foe from a distance. In addition, in the very near future, security precautions could make such entry rather embarrassing! Camping will also only be possible to a very limited extent. It is appreciated that this tightening up of access to the site is regrettable, but I am sure members will understand that the security of the exhibits is of paramount importance.

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Honorary Surveyor to the Museum

In recognition of the professional services given to the Museum since it's foundation, the Council of Management have appointed George Newell as Honorary Surveyor to the Museum.

The survey undertaken by Mr. Newell, has been the basis for much of the planning done by the Buildings and Sites Committee. The Council is extremely grateful to Mr. Newell for this help.

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The Austrian Open Air Museum, Near Graz

Following the series of reports on Open Air Museums in Europe, we reproduce the following paper by Professor Potter, who is Director of the Austrian Open Air Museum, near Graz. -

THE AUSTRIAN OPEN-AIR MUSEUM IN STÜBING, NEAR GRAZ

For centuries peasant culture, with the farmhouse as its core, imprinted itself on the face of our landscape. Economic developments, and above all the advance of technology and industrialization, have now for decades been taking hold of our husbandry and have led to changes which are bringing new agricultural forms and methods in their wake. To these changes the old peasants farmsteads, the old implements and finally also the old style of peasant life have fallen victim irretrievably. As a result of the recognition of this fact the first open-air museums were constructed in Scandinavia at the end of the nineteenth century. The oldest of these is the "Skansen" in Stockholm. The task of these open-air museum is to transplant examples of the old peasant architecture in their entirety into a closed area in order to preserve them for posterity under the protection of a museum. Side by side with this scientific task there is the pictorial task of rendering the culture and history of the peasantry accessible to a wide public.

The transference of those objects which are valuable from the point of view of cultural history is effected as follows: whole farmsteads are carefully drawn and photographed where they stand, each section of the building is marked, and finally the farmstead is removed piece by piece. After removal to the site of the museum and after careful and laborious restoration of every single part the buildings are reconstructed. In order to enable visitors to gain a complete visible impression of the old domestic culture and methods of work all the objects, dwellinghouses as well as farm-buildings, are equipped with the requisite furniture and implements. It is only in this way that visitors can be shown how people lived, cooked and worked on these farms.

Realization of the irresistible decay of the old peasant civilization led in 1962 to the founding of the Austrian Open-Air Museum in Stübing, the task of which was to create an open-air museum for the whole of Austria. The museum is run on the basis of an association which stands outside the sphere of public administration. It has been possible up to the present time to reconstruct some fifty specimens, the purpose of which is to offer visitors a cultural cross-section of the Austrian landscape. The special feature of the Austrian Open-Air Museum is to be sought above all in the fact that the farms are constructed in close accord with the landscape on an estate which is still completely isolated and unspoilt.

The Austrian Open-Air Museum has been constructed in accordance with the contours of the museum estate and with the east-west extension of Austria. Thus the visitor starts his tour in the most easterly province, Burgenland, and proceeds thence via the eastern alpine provinces of Styria and Carinthia to the Danubian area, makes acquaintance, in the alpine provinces of western Austria, with the popular farmsteads from Salzburg and the Tyrol, and ends his tour with the "Bregenzwälderhaus" in Vorarlberg. In the Burgenland group of buildings there stands a "Berglerhouse" from Neustift, near Güssing. In this small building, which is elongated and protected by a thatched roof, there is a livingroom, a kitchen - this is the so-called open

or "smoke" kitchen - a bedroom, a stall and a barn, all united under one roof. Next to the "Berglerhouse" there stands a clock-tower from Schallendorf, near St. Michael in Burgenland. The "Kitting" from Unterschützen is characterized by its coating of clay; it dates from 1771 and its task was to take in provisions. Next to the "Kitting" stands a barn from St. Nikolaus, near Güssing, which is carpentered in typical old-time native fashion. This barn was constructed "airily" on purpose to ensure continuous airing of the stocks of hay. Opposite the Burgenland group of buildings there stand a mill and a pounder from Winkl-Boden in Upper Styria. Here corn was ground into meal or linseed pounded in the stamper in order to make it subsequently into linseed oil. A small side-valley leads to the right of the main path to a small charcoal-burners hut such as served formerly as accommodation for the charcoal-burner during his work on the charcoal pile. Behind this stands a lumberman's hut, carpentered in genuine native fashion, from the Bärenschützklamm, near Mixnitz. It served as a dwelling-place for the lumbermen during their work in the woods. Directly beside the main path there stands a peasant's sawmill, from the Kindthalgraben in the valley of the Mürz, which affords the visitor a most impressive picture of how on farms too, in former times, there was a knowledge of how to saw wood at home with the simplest devices. Along the main path we now reach, by the brook on the left, a cornmill and to the right, directly beside the path, a braker's hut. Here the flax was braked. Flax or linseed is the material for the manufacture of house linen. A few steps further on there stands to the right of the path a peasant's forge dating from 1703, which once again presents a picture of how well the peasant, in days gone by, knew how to perform these forge-works himself. Opposite the forge there stands a cart shed in which various vehicles were kept. We now reach the "Sallegger Moar" group-farm from Sallegg, near Birkfeld in north-eastern Styria. This farmstead consists of the dwelling, the principal room of which is a chimneyless room, for which reason we also call this type of house a "smoke-room house". In the records in the Styrian provincial archives the beginnings of this building can be traced back to 1409. The dwelling received its present form in 1775. This dwelling-house is surrounded by a stable-building with a watering-place for cattle, two corn-chests and a beehut. In front of the dwelling-house there lies a peasant's garden, in which herbs, flowers and vegetables were planted. This farmstead is crowned by a chapel, which was formerly located in the Brandlucken, near Weiz, that is to say, in the same parish as that in which the dwelling-house originated. Opposite the group-farm there stands a wayside shrine, and the path leads past this to the single farm (Ein Hof), commonly known as "Säuerling", from Einach on the Mur in the upper valley of the Mur near the border between the provinces of Styria and Salzburg. Here the residential quarters and the stall are united under one roof, for which reason we also call this type of farmstead an "Ein Hof". Next to it there stands a corn-chest, and behind, on the slope, a hay-hut. To the south of the main path, opposite the "Sallegger Moar" group-farm, we find the vineyard house from Tieschen, near Radkersburg. It dates from 1564 and illustrates very clearly the old type of block building and board construction. Here there is a room which served as a dwelling-place when one was working in the vineyard. In the central section of the house there stands a wine-press and the wine-casks were stored in two cellars. There

now follows, to the south of the main path, the Laaren farmstead from the Sölk valley, a side-valley of the Styrian valley of the Enns. This is a "pair-farm", that is to say, the residential quarters and the stall form a pair, which however is supplemented by a corn-chest. The dwelling-house, again, is a "smoke-room house", that is to say, the main living-room of the house is a chimneyless room. The path now leads to the Carinthian ring-farm. We find this type of farmstead in the area of the upper Gurk and in the Nock area of Carinthia. It is surely the most noteworthy type of a farm, from the point of view of housebuilding, in the province of Carinthia. To the residential section of this farmstead there belongs a dwelling-house, again with a "smoke-room" and a corn-chest. The Farming section is constituted by two massive sheds grouped around the farmyard in such a way that together with the well-hut and a stable they enclose the yard. Furthermore both sheds are placed on the slope in such a way that one can drive into both the threshing-floor and the room under the roof. Continuing to follow the path we reach the square-farm (Vierkanter) from St. Ulrich, near Steyr in Upper Austria. This is a typical specimen of Danubian architecture. Here the residential quarters and the farmbuilding are grouped around the farmyard in such a way that they surround the latter and melt into a uniform building with four wings. The special feature of this four-square construction is a sgraffito on the ground floor and a piece of so-called Roman masonry in the upper storey of the residential quarters. We now again follow the main path and reach the Tyrolese group of buildings. On our way we pass the cornmill from Schnals in South Tyrol. On the south side of the path there stands the Wegleithof from St. Walburg in the Ulten valley in South Tyrol.

This farmstead is supplemented by the thatched-roof barn from Voran and the corn-chest from the valley of the Jaufen. To the north of the path stands the Hanslerhof from Alpbach. This is a building of elaborate perfection which is to be seen everywhere in Alpbach to this day. This Hanslerhof, again, is a single-farm (Einhof) in which the residential sections are united under one roof. Here a small side-path leads northward past a bathing-room, which roughly corresponds to the Finnish sauna, to a fodderstall from Alpbach. Behind it stands an alpine hut (Almhütte) from the Durlaboden, near Gerlos. The main path leads on westwards and brings us to the "smoke-house" from Siezenheim in the province of Salzburg. The first report on the origin of this house comes from a cadastral register dating from 1631. The special feature of the "smoke-house" is the fact that the smoke from the chimneyless open fireplace escaped through the clefts in the roof. This "smoke-house", too, is an "Einhof", in which the residential and farming sections are united under one roof. Our tour terminates at the Bregenzerwälderhaus from Schwarzenberg in Vorarlberg, a particularly fine specimen of peasant domestic architecture. In recent times this type of house has enjoyed great popularity, as it was the birth-place of Angelika Kauffmann, the painter, and was illustrated on the 100-shilling note. Several buildings are still stored on the estate of the Austrian Open-Air Museum, awaiting reconstruction. In about ten years' time the Austrian Open-Air Museum will be completed.

The Museum of the Year Award

It must have been deeply gratifying to all Friends and Volunteers to learn on 1st July that the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum had been chosen by National Heritage and The Illustrated London News as the winner of "The Museum of the Year Award, 1975". One of the nicest features of this award is that one year it can be given for a project costing over one million pounds (last year's winner was Lord Montagu's sumptuous new Motor Museum) and the next to a scheme costing only three or four thousand pounds.

The Award was given to the Museum specifically for the Hambrook Barn and its Introductory Display as an exceptionally imaginative and well-designed scheme. It will be remembered that Roger Champion repaired and re-erected the Barn while Chris Zeuner and Roy Armstrong, with the help of a designer and the South East Area Museums' Service, devised and executed the display. The award also reflected the judges' more general feeling that the Museum was outstanding in its service to the public.

At a most enjoyable lunch at the Vintners' Hall, Chris Zeuner received the award from the American Ambassador in the presence of all the leading Museum officials in the country. The Award itself is a piece of ceramic sculpture, "Moon Head" by Henry Moore which the Museum keeps for the coming year. The Museum also received a cheque for £2,000. The Volunteer Stewards must take special pleasure in the award as it is their personal service to the public which creates a unique atmosphere at the Museum, an atmosphere which certainly influenced the judges in their final choice.

Recent Donations to the Museum

This year, the Friends have made two gifts to the Museum. The first for £4,000 is to pay for the cost of removing the Museum workshops from their present site behind Bayleaf to a new and in every way satisfactory site in the railway cutting where buildings awaiting re-erection are stored. The removal of the workshops will greatly improve the surroundings of Bayleaf and help to establish the proper character of the Farm yard enclosed by the two cattle sheds.

Secondly, the Friends have given money to enable the Museum to employ an extra craftsman; the most effective way of hastening the re-erection of more buildings. This was done at a time when the Museum itself could not afford extra wages despite the fact that an exceptionally useful craftsman was available. This extra help is proving invaluable in all the brick and stone work involved with Pendean and Lurgashall Mill.

This year the Museum has received two of the largest donations yet given to us. First we received £5,000 from the Drapers' Company to go towards the erection of the Crawley Hall, the upper floor of which will provide accommodation for a much-needed library and study centre which immediately will house Roy Armstrong's enormous collection of slides, a unique documentation of vernacular architecture, which he is most generously giving to the Museum.

Secondly, we have recently received a gift of £15,000 from the Monument Trust for the re-erection of further buildings. This money has not yet been allocated but is likely to help with the building of Lurgashall Mill together with part of the costs of the Crawley Hall. The Museum is deeply grateful to both these benefactors and the money is particularly welcome at a time when we face more ambitious and expensive projects than ever before.

Summer Party at the Museum

It is rapidly becoming a pleasant tradition for the Friends to hold some kind of social occasion at the Museum in mid-summer. On Saturday, 12th July, a buffet supper centred on Bayleaf which comfortably accommodated some 200 guests. As always on such occasions, the party brought Bayleaf to life in a memorable way an effect heightened by the delightful singing of the Ladyholt Singers. Wine flowed, a delicious supper was provided by the kindness of Pam West, Diana Zeuner, Heather Jackson and Marion Maxwell and obviously everyone very much enjoyed the occasion. Without doubt a similar party will be organised next summer.

Craft Exhibition at the Museum

Once again, led by Mr. Sam Faranoff, The Guild of Sussex Craftsmen mounted an exhibition of their work at the Museum in early July. This was their third exhibition at the Museum considerably larger than the previous ones, partly because more craftsmen are being involved and partly as one of the exhibitions mounted to celebrate Chichester Cathedral's 900th anniversary.

Without doubt the general quality of the exhibition greatly increased this year. Some outstanding craftsmen and women exhibited for the first time bringing with them a greater variety of work of particularly high standard, while the work of established exhibitors seemed more imaginative and original than on previous occasions. The range of the exhibition was extremely diverse this year with fine calligraphy and charming woodcuts rubbing shoulders with more robust crafts such as pottery and hand-made furniture.

The exhibition was extremely well-attended and brought a new section of the public to the Museum. We are most grateful to Mr. Faranoff and his fellow **craftworkers** and it now seems certain that the exhibition will be a regular fixture in the Museum's calendar.

Circulation of the Members' Magazine

With the circulation of the Members' Magazine, several different and ever-changing address lists have to be used. Because of this a few people receive more than one copy of the magazine. This may seem extravagant but in fact, it would cost far more in secretarial time to correlate all the lists than the present additional expenditure on postage. Everything reasonable is being done to prevent duplication but it is suggested that those people who receive extra copies might use them in recruiting new members by passing on spare magazines to friends and neighbours.

Distribution of the Magazine to Family and Corporate Members

Certain family members of the Friends have suggested that it is unfair that they only receive one copy of the magazine in return for their subscription of £3.00, while Corporate Members paying the same subscription receive three copies. We would ask all members to appreciate that the production and circulation of the magazine becomes more expensive with each issue. The Friends' Committee have considered this point and feel that in fact, one copy is adequate for family sharing while Corporate Members may wish to distribute the magazine among a large staff. We hope family members will not consider this unreasonable.