paid by the tenant farmers and the payments from commuted labour services. Since direct agriculture based on the demesnes had been abandoned nearly a century before and the demesnes themselves had been put out to lease, there was no income from sales of arable produce. Income from the important lead mines in the area appears to have been accounted for separately by different officials. Comparison of the two accounts suggests that levels of income, at least from rents and farms, were broadly stable across the period. There was a tendency, however, by the fifteenth century for accounts to become formulaic, with one year's figures simply being copied from those of the year before, and it might be risky to take what we read here at face value. Thirteenth- and early fourteenth-century accounts are generally much fuller and more informative than those of the later Middle Ages. It is nonetheless useful to have these accounts in print at last, and students of northern society will be especially indebted to the editors for giving them access to the lists of fees and annuities charged on the lordship, a key source for the study of the Neville and Yorkist retinues.

Sutton, A F 2021. *The King's Work: the defence of the north under the Yorkist kings, 1471–85*. Richard III and Yorkist History Trust in association with Shaun Tyas, Donington

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doi:10.1017/S0003581524000209

London's Waterfront and its World, 1666–1800. By John Schofield and Stephen Freeth, with contributions by Ian M Betts, Lyn Blackmore, Julian Bowsher and Alan Pipe. 290mm. Pp xi + 285, 208 figs (col throughout), 35 tabs. Archaeopress, Oxford, 2023. ISBN 9781803276540. £50 (hbk). Available to download as an open access PDF from the Archaeopress website.

The City of London ceased to be an international port in the 1950s and subsequently many archaeological investigations have accompanied the redevelopment of its redundant warehouses and wharves. These investigations have revealed the development of the port facility over the centuries, starting with a Roman quay constructed in the mid-first century AD. The present volume is a 'sequel' to a previous one, which covered the development of the port from 1100 to 1666 (Schofield et al 2018; Schofield 2019); it is based on four waterfront excavations carried out between 1974 and 1984 by the Department of Urban Archaeology (DUA) of the Museum of London.

This volume is concerned with the post-Great Fire development of the port until the construction of downstream facilities, a trend that began with the creation of the West India Dock (opened in 1802). From this period, only two of these four investigations (Seal House and Billingsgate Lorry Park) produced significant structural remains (the foundations of brick-built residential properties), plus associated features such as cesspits and finds assemblages; at a third site, Swan Lane, a single cesspit only was discovered. A few of the associated finds, such as cowrie shells, which were probably intended as trade goods in Africa, represent evidence of participation in commerce. It is noteworthy that the assemblage of associated ceramics from the site of the largest investigation at Billingsgate Lorry Park included only a small percentage of imported continental and oriental wares (Chinese porcelain), which gradually increased over time. The archaeological content of this volume could have been supplemented by a more systematic review of the other relevant archaeological investigations and finds assemblages from the City and its environs, such as the 1982 DUA excavation at Rangoon Street of a significant portion of the foundations of the monumental 1796 East India Company tea and drugs warehouse (Bowler 1983, 17; Evans 1990, 646–8).

Interestingly, because of their antiquity, the four waterfront investigations on which this volume and its predecessor are based have now become part of the history of the City's archaeology. Two of these investigations (Seal House and Swan Lane) consisted of narrow longitudinal trenches intended to sample a tiny percentage of the site sequence, while at New Fresh Wharf the longitudinal trenches were wider. Only one of these investigations (Billingsgate Lorry Park 1982–3) included an open-area excavation (covering less than twenty per cent of the site footprint), so naturally this site revealed the most extensive evidence of post-Great Fire activity. On all four sites, after their partial excavation, the rest of the archaeological deposits were machined out during ground reduction, which was usually monitored by a watching brief. It is worth remembering that prior to 1972 there had been no controlled archaeological excavation of any part of the City's waterfront, so the fieldwork of the DUA represents a vast improvement on the previous arrangements. Previous fieldwork on the City's

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waterfront generally consisted of watching briefs carried out by a single field archaeologist, who attempted to retrieve finds and record deeply stratified archaeological deposits during ground reduction. This volume, like its predecessor, is a great testament to John Schofield's endeavours over many years, serving as a memorial to the skilled fieldwork that was often carried out in difficult circumstances by small teams of field archaeologists; furthermore, it is a stark reminder that a vast amount the City's maritime heritage of all periods has been destroyed without record, making what little survives a precious resource.

Because of the limited amount of archaeological data from the four study sites, much of the book is devoted to a detailed and extremely well-illustrated account, based on original documentary research, of the historical development of the port of London during the period under review. It seeks to reconstruct a vanished urban landscape and discusses various related topics such as the material culture of daily life during this period and the City's involvement in slavery. It is to be hoped that the list of thought-provoking research questions in Chapter 9 will encourage further research on the time when London became the centre of a global maritime empire.

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Schofield, J, Blackmore, L and Pearce, J, with Dyson, T 2018. *London's Waterfront 1100–1666: excavations in Thames Street, London, 1974–84*, Archaeopress, Oxford

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doi:10.1017/S0003581524000337

A Catalogue of Manuscripts in the College of Arms: Records, Volume 1. Record Manuscripts of the Tudor Visitations, Mainly Contained in the Series D–H. By ROBERT YORKE. 250mm. Pp lxv + 739, 32 col pls. College of Arms, London, 2023. ISBN 9780950698038. £60 (hbk).

The records of the visitations carried out by the heralds of the College of Arms have for centuries enjoyed wide recognition as the greatest source of genealogies of the more established levels of society in each county in early modern England. Ostensibly just a check on people's rights to bear their own arms, and thus a check on their ancestry (so as to verify their right to bear arms by inheritance), the visitation records rapidly grew into a vast body of genealogical material. They have the exceptional value that they represent a combination of information that was supplied by the families concerned and of checks and verifications (in so far as was possible) by the heralds themselves; from 1570 onwards they were signed off by the heads of the families concerned.

Of course, a few of these genealogies have errors: not all families were scrupulously honest about children that had been born out of wedlock and suchlike matters. Used with a degree of care, however, the visitation records are a wonderful historical resource. The principal barriers to their use have been quite different: the fact that they were not readily accessible, being among the more treasured possessions of the College of Arms, and that the various published editions of them were in many cases based on corrupt and potentially erroneous manuscript copies.

Robert Yorke's magnificent and definitive guide to the visitation records of Tudor England – that is to say, made between 1530 and 1603 – wholly supersedes all previous attempts to list these records. Manuscript by manuscript, he describes in minute detail every scrap of relevant visitational record held at the College of Arms, while not overlooking the few items that have strayed to other libraries and archives. More than this, he even names every family mentioned in every manuscript: his book is thus a guide to all the individual genealogies as well as a full and informative description of every individual visitation book.

In principle, every visitation's record was in two parts. Every herald who was commissioned to hold a visitation in a particular county would travel around it, hundred by hundred (in effect, town by town), having first summoned the heads of the families who claimed the right to bear arms to come and show their proof of such entitlement. He would draw up a rough pedigree, show this to the head of the family, and then – at lightning speed – make a fair copy and present this to the family's head for him to sign. The rough and fair copies, or at least the latter (generally called the office copy – originally meaning the copy to be kept in the Office or College of Arms), would after a short interval be

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