

THE MUSEUM

The Museum was able to purchase two volumes containing 105 drawings of Stowe done in 1805, 1807 and 1809 by C. Nattes, and this forms one of the most important acquisitions ever made by the Museum. They form the most detailed study of any garden in the country and provide a very full picture of Stowe at a time when no guides were being produced. The purchase was made with the aid of grants from the Victoria and Albert Museum and the National Heritage Memorial Fund and generous contributions from three Old Stoics.

A temporary exhibition on the small brickyards of Buckinghamshire was held in July. This was based on work done as part of a STEP project in 1979 but with more research undertaken by Rosemary Ewles and Andrew Pike. It was designed to show the distribution of brickworks and the range of products made. Apart from examples of bricks, tiles and drainage pipes, there were photographs of brickworks in operation and of men working in them. The exhibition enabled the Museum to add considerably to its collection of material relating to brickyards. *A Gazetteer of Buckinghamshire Brickyards 1800 – 1980* was published to complement the exhibition.

Although no pure archaeological excavations took place during the year, the discovery of an important Pleistocene site at the Pitstone Cement Works led to subsequent excavations under the auspices of the Museum. The finds form the first stratified material of the period from this county and in addition to mammoth, the bones and teeth of bear, giant species of lion, horse, bovid and rhino have been found. This important group of fossils has kindly been given by the Tunnel Cement Company to the Museum and scientific work is being undertaken on microfauna and organic remains.