

MOLAS LIBRARY

NEWS

FEBRUARY 1990
No. 17



INTRODUCTION

Thank-you to all those who answered the questionnaire, the results are reported below. Two boardroom presentations will take place this month, as usual they are open to all staff in the afternoon, see the Diary for details.

DIARY

Friday 2nd February, 1.10pm: The Roman Public Building at Huggin Hill, Pete Rowsome, in the Lecture theatre.

Monday 5th February, 12.30pm: All of us are disabled, aren't we?, Carolyn Keen (Disability Adviser, Museum and Gallery Commission) in Education, Room C.

Thursday 8th February, 12.30pm: London Wall Boardroom presentation, open to all staff between 3.00 and 4.00pm.

Friday 9th February, 1.10pm: Archaeology and Environmental Material from 52/63 London Wall, Duncan Lees, in the lecture theatre.

Saturday 10th February: Archaeology in the City of London, A Day School (Contact Education Department).

Friday 16th February, 1.10pm: Recent Finds from City Excavations, Geoff Eagan, in the lecture theatre.

Wednesday 28th February, 12.30pm: Vintry Boardroom presentation, open to all staff between 3.00pm and 4.00pm.

Monday 5th March, 12.30pm: Oral History Recording : Problems and Potential, in Education, Room C.

STAFF

Resigned

Martin Bates
Frances Chaloner
Andrea Hoffman
Bruno Mezec
Paul Potter

Contracts Terminated

Dave Cooper
Mike Windle

Transfers

Jeremy Robinson: to DGLA (SW)

Appointments

Paul Travis: SA Bush Lane
Caroline Mamwell: SA Wardrobe Place
Tina Murphy: Clerical Assistant, Excavations Office (to start 19th March)

*Apologies for some very strange typefaces in this copy:
fault of overworked printer*

JOBS

DJA Ceramics Technician, closing date 16th February
Museum of London Technician, closing date 15th February

Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit are looking for:

- 4 Assistant Site Supervisors
- 1 Finds Assistant
- 20 Field Technicians

to work on excavations of medieval villages, closing date: 12th February. Tel: (0908)312475.

Excavations in Rome

Two experienced trench Supervisors required to work on the excavations of a late Roman complex on the Palatine Hill, from May 20th to July 28th. Air fare, room and board, and token salary provided. Apply in writing, with CV, quoting telephone number to:

Eric Hostetter
 202 Bliss Drive
 Urbana, Illinois
 USA 61801

Excavations in Sweden

Six scholarships will be offered to advanced students in Viking or early Medieval archaeology, for periods of two months each (3 between May 7th - July 7th, and 3 between July 23rd - September 22nd). For further information contact:

Dr Helen Clarke
 Dept. of History (Medieval Archaeology)
 University College London
 Gower Street
 London WC1E 6BT
 Tel: 380 7087

Applications should be sent, by 15th February, to:

Dr Bjorn Ambrosiani
 Postaddress
 Box 5405
 S-11484 Stockholm

**ST ALBANS CITY
 AND DISTRICT COUNCIL
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 ILLUSTRATOR**

Required for a period of three months. £180 per week. Accommodation available.

Further details: Keeper of Field Archaeology, Kyngston House, Inkerman Road, St Albans.
 Telephone: (0272) 36282 or 66100. Ext. 2924.

**WORCESTER CATHEDRAL
 ASSISTANT ARCHAEOLOGIST**

An Archaeologist is required to assist the Consultant Archaeologist in all aspects of the archaeology of Worcester Cathedral and its precincts.

The person appointed will have a degree (or equivalent) in archaeology and relevant experience in field archaeology.

This is a full-time appointment with a starting salary of £8,967 per annum on a scale rising to £10,023 per annum.

Further details and application form (returnable no later than 28th February 1990) from the Steward, 16a College Green, Worcester WR1 2LH, Tel (0905) 28664.

		PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING PROJECTS																
31/ 1/1990		February				March				April								
		22	29	5	12	19	26	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23			
Artillery Lane 4-10	EN							3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			
Billingsgate Bathhouse	ST/CP	2	5	2	3	11	11	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1			
Bishopsgate 7-11	TN																	
Bishopsgate/Spital Square	RE	1	6	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12			
Bow Churchyard 5	HB			0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	10	10	10	10			
Brook's Wharf	HB												3	3	3			
Bull Wharf								3	3	3								
Bush Lane 28	ST/CP	4	6	4														
Cannon Street 3B	TN			3	3	3	3	3	3									
Cutlers Court	EN		2	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	10	10	10	10			
Gresham Street 50	CPB											4	4					
Gt.St.Thomas Apostle 1-3	EN							7	7	7	7							
Gt.St.Thomas Apostle 13-14	RE	15	10															
Guildhall Yard	JM																	
Holborn Viaduct 45-50	EN	2	2															
Leadenhall 78-79	HB	10	15	15	15	15	10					10	10	10	10			
Lime Street 20-21	EN							2	2	2	2							
Ludgate Hill 25-27	TN/CP	11	6	6														
Merchant Taylors Hall	TN					2	2											
Old Broad Street 90-94	HB							2	2	2								
Pinner's Hall	TN													12	12			
Pepys House	TN																	
Queen St/Skinners Lane 40	TN																	
Savage Gardens 25	HB												8	8	8			
St. Helens Bishopsgate	HB	2	2		2		2											
St. Mary Axe 25-43	RE	6	6	6	6	0	0	0	0	12	12	12	12	12	12			
Vintry	EN/RE	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			
W. Smithfield/Giltspur St.	TN	2	2															
Wardrobe Court	ST/CP		2					5										
Z MISC TEST PITS	ALL	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			
SUB-TOTAL REQUIRED		61	70	61	54	56	53	47	42	61	60	67	77	85	85			
FLEET VALLEY	RE																	
Car Parks Area C2																		
Car Parks Area D																		
Car Parks Area E																		
Car Parks Area F																		
Car Parks Area H																		
Monty Christo (G)																		
Section 3																		
Section 6																		
Section 7 12W		5																
Section 7 8W + 9W						10	10	5	5	5	5	5	5					
Duffers			16	16	16	16	16	16	10	10								
Madeira Vaults		5	4	4	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8					
Watching Brief				2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			
Stone recording		4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			
Timber Recording			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Blue Last																		
PC and APC		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			
SUB-TOTAL FLEET VALLEY REQUIRED		16	27	27	31	41	41	36	30	30	20	20	12	7	7			
TOTAL No. STAFF REQUIRED		77	97	88	85	97	94	83	72	91	80	87	89	92	92			
TOTAL No. STAFF AVAILABLE		103	104	101	102	102	102	103	103	102	103	102	102	102	103			
+OVERSTAFFED; - UNDER		26	7	13	17	5	8	20	31	11	23	15	13	10	11			
DATE		22	29	5	12	19	26	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23			
					February					March					April			

NEWS DIGEST

English Heritage

Discussions are in progress under the general heading of reviews of London archaeology, though the long-term proposals of English Heritage have not yet been made explicit. The two reviews agreed so far are to be welcomed: English Heritage-funded surveys on the character of London's archaeological resource and the present threats to it, and on the post-excavation backlog, in both cases of both departments; probably the former, and certainly the latter survey to be undertaken by Gill Andrews with MoL data-gathering and input.

I have not summarised the case against the EH proposals as promised last time because they have been admirably laid out by observers in the national press (see cuttings section); with the exception of *Chartered Surveyor Weekly*, whose announcement that the battle was over and English Heritage had won, circulated last week, was remarkably premature. To reiterate: there are no specific proposals on the table yet.

Integration

Various working parties are beavering away at possible co-alignment of procedures in the DUA and DGLA in the areas of planning and negotiation on the one hand, and post-excavation and publication on the other. We hope for reports and first suggestions during March and February respectively.

Sites of special archaeological importance

Last month I reported on the initiative to persuade the Corporation planners to designate, in some fashion, nine selected sites in the waterfront zone for special consideration during redevelopment; especially avoiding further basements if possible or insisting on the least damaging configurations of piles. This policy proposal was approved in principle by the Archaeology Advisory Committee of the Board of Governors on 12 January, and goes to the main Board as their recommendation. Meanwhile the draft proposal has been received favourably by planning officers, who are thinking about adding something like it to the Corporation's revision of its Local Plan (called the *Unitary Development Plan*, or UDP). An alternative possibility is to require all developers to submit an archaeological assessment of their site with their planning application (except on those sites declared sterile by the Museum). It will be up to the Corporation to decide the policy in this matter.

Competitive tendering

The Oxford unit have been active in Southwark, but have run into problems (see press cuttings). Now the Trust for Wessex Archaeology has put in a bid for one of our sites, Pinners' Hall. Forgive me for not putting all our tactics in print, but they are in for a hard time. I have advised TWA to withdraw from London bids because of the inherent local expertise of 450 archaeologists in the area, and secondly because one result will be otherwise reputable archaeologists slanging each other in public. A letter has gone from IFA members in the Museum to the chairman of IFA to object that the model of archaeological endeavour put forward by IFA, and adopted by English Heritage, is neither the norm nor defensible.

British Archaeological Awards

The British Archaeological Awards for 1990 were launched last week. There are 10 awards, sponsored by various parties, and we have in the past put forward one or two projects. We are eligible for four of them: the Virgin Group Award for the best presentation of an archaeological project to the public; the Thames TV award for the best sponsorship of archaeology (i.e. putting forward a developer); the Heritage in Britain award for the best project which secures the long-term preservation of a monument (this is sponsored by English Heritage, so both the Rose and Huggin Hill might be entered!); and possibly even the Ironbridge Award for the best adaptive re-use of a historic or industrial building. Applications close in June; any suggestions (serious ones, please) to me.

Channel Four

Channel Four TV are interested in several aspects of our work for inclusion in nationwide programmes in the autumn. They are launching a series on *News from Archaeology* (a product presumably of the heightened awareness of the last year). We hope to get a slot in one of these; and there may be a full-length documentary on us to follow. They are particularly interested in our innovations in technique, for instance the application of computer graphics (which go well on TV) to the reconstruction of past landscapes.

Get out your phrase-book

I want to turn our attention much more to work and colleagues in the rest of Europe. We now have 200 individuals and institutions world-wide on our mailing list; we have in the past trained archaeologists of many nationalities, and hope to continue. Two moves to be explored can be reported now. The European Commission has agreed to support the formation of a European Association of Urban History Teachers, which includes organisations like ours in the forefront of urban history research. Within the EC this will lead to participation of staff in exchanges within the Erasmus programme, which deals at present with student or research exchanges. In particular, a visitor during January was Nicola Terrenato, a research assistant to Andrea Carandini, professor of archaeology at the University of Pisa and promulgator of British methods in Rome, Volterra, Sette Finestre etc. We hope to re-establish our previous embryonic programme of exchanges involving MoL and Italian archaeologists. This might involve short-term teaching roles in Pisa.

Research and development

We are currently evaluating several new techniques in the field: radar-impulse scanning, experiments with latex moulds for site features, and possibly a more detailed level of sediment analysis on selected sites (this last to be evaluated by the Field and Environmental Sections). What we need, I suggest, is a working group or committee to oversee R&D throughout the DUA, and to administer a single budget allocated annually for that purpose. They would then have the difficult task of choosing between many attractive possibilities, and have the responsibility of thinking out the best ways for the whole DUA to go in new developments. They would recommend, authorise and run experiments. I would welcome any further thoughts on how this might be structured. What kinds of technical innovations or developments should we be getting into? Let me know.

John Schofield

FINDS SECTION

The New Year has seen some interesting finds discoveries, some of which have been made during post excavation finds processing in the Museum.

Alex and Tilly have begun to sort and access the metal finds from the Vintry site (VHA89) for a boardroom display at the end of February. Finds from the excavated area include several pilgrim badges and ampullae. The one illustrated below is a 13th century badge depicting John the Baptist. It was made in Amlens, where a severed head, said to be his, was kept as a relic. Feather and Arrow badges of allegiance have been identified, and a miniature toy cupboard of lead.



Spoil search in the coffer dam at Vintry, by the Thames Mudlarks, produced much 16th-17th century material not previously recovered from the City. The Museum now has an unprecedented number of cloth seals for research, which have so far provided evidence of cloth imports from East Anglia and evidence for five principle dyers in the area of the Vintry, including one depicting 3 cranes....

Substantial remains of a Prehistoric pot were found during the washing of a bag of 'general' bulk finds from the Giltspur Street site. It has been identified as a post- 'Deverel Rimbury' bucket urn (800-700 BC). There has been only one other comparable pot from a DUA site, from Bishopsgate (BIP88), however the Giltspur Street pot is from a more securely datable context, and thus may prove to be a very important find.

Having jumped from post Medieval to Prehistoric, a brief mention for all Romanists: The London Wall (LOW88) boardroom display will take place on the 8th February.

There appears to be more Saxon material than usual coming up from current DUA sites. The Great St Thomas Apostle site has now yielded a late Saxon horn pin beater; Albion House yielded a Saxon bone thread picker, while 78-79 Leadenhall, which started on 15th January has already revealed well preserved skeletons of late Saxon date....

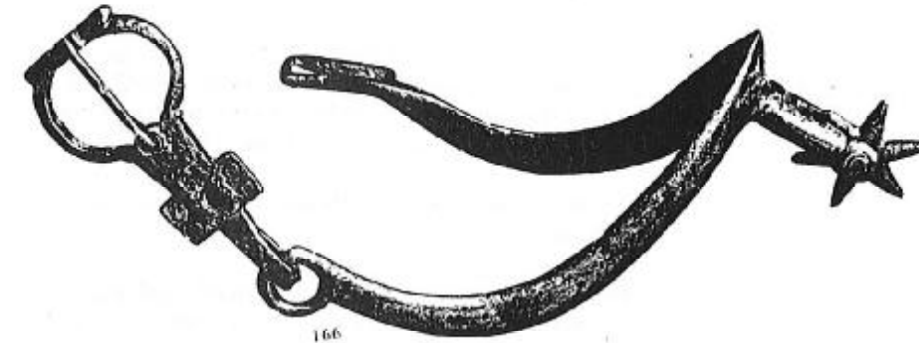
Two interesting pieces of graffiti have been found: from 145-146 Leadenhall a Roman pot sherd has 'S/N' scratched on it, and from Great St Thomas Apostle a post Medieval gin bottle fragment has 'M. SAMUAL DAVIS 1642' scratched on it.

The most recent phase of the Carter Lane site (PIC87) has produced a large complete Medieval London Type ware pot which is decorated with rampant stylised lions in relief. It was found in a cess pit with other complete vessels of the same period.

Fleet Valley Finds staff have completed their move out of Burdett House and can now be found in the portakabins on the adjacent site. Recent finds include a complete iron spur with two buckles attached, and a group of metal finds, including brooches, in various stages of completion which may indicate metal working/jewellery manufacture.

An Iron Spur from the Fleet Valley.

Although this spur has two buckles it is very similar to the Rowel spur shown below.



By the mid-14th century most spurs had rowels, but when they first appeared they were an important development. An early example is depicted on the heel of a mounted pilgrim on one of the Miracle windows in Trinity Chapel, Canterbury Cathedral, 1220-1230. The rowel spur shown below was found pre 1960 in the Walbrook area, London. It has been dated to c1240-1300. It is of copper alloy and gilt: spur body 9.5 cm, span 6.4 cm, rowel diam. 1.1 cm. It remains to be seen how similar the Fleet Valley spur is, once it has undergone conservation.

Finally the Finds Section would like to congratulate Emma and Perie who were married on the 18th January and wish them all the best for the future.

Simon Pope would like to thank all those who gave money for the Rumanian Relief Fund. He spent one day (10th January) in Bucharest distributing food and much needed medical supplies.... When told by the organiser to take a large amount of condoms Simon replied 'But I'm only going to be there for one day!' to which he received a frosty answer 'Not for you....'

Tilly Webb



The recent visit of prominent London-based archaeologist Dr Simon Poole to Indonesia has been commemorated with a special issue of postage stamps.

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

The new year saw two new additions to the archaeological conservation team, namely Virginia Neal (who replaces Helen Jones in the lab - Helen's now working in the Pageant office) and Katie Gardiner (who we are sharing with the Environmental and Finds department). Meanwhile Dave has moved out of Burdett House into a portakabin on site, only to find there is no electricity supply there!

The PEG tank in the lab was emptied this month, meaning that the 3 seater toilet seat and wagon axle from the Fleet Valley, stair fragments from Sunlight Wharf and a well from Garlic Hill, are now being frozen in preparation for freeze drying. Meanwhile Kate visited Portsmouth to see how our waterfronts are coming along;- they're now being freeze dried.

The only on-site block lifting this month was at Ludgate Hill where Virginia lifted two fragile but complete medieval ceramic vessels from a drain.

In the lab lots of Roman and medieval leather has been conserved from London Wall and Vintry Wharf; further work has been done on the jewellery lifted from Giltspur Street; and a variety of small finds from the Fleet Valley have been conserved. Work continues on preparing polychromed tin glazed ware and lead tokens for photography as part of the HBMC publication programme.

Rob spent a day in York earlier on this month giving advice on the conservation of some wooden writing tablets on which the writing was still visible. Dave and Virginia attended a wallpaintings case studies meeting, and Kate, Rob and Suzanne attended a waterlogged wood conference organised by WARP.

Dave Carrington

DRAWING OFFICE: Front of House

Who we are - Tracy Wellman (full-time) and Julie Carr (half-time).

Where you can find us - both of our desks are right at the back of the DUA Drawing Office in the Museum (x208).

What we do - we have 3 main areas of responsibility i.e. to promote the DUA and archaeology in general to both the public and to the DUA's sponsors, and also within the Department itself.

Most people come into contact with us when they come up here to do their test pit and interim reports. However, we are also involved in producing many other types of artwork that any member of staff can request.

How we can help you - we will produce:

- Site information boards and related hand-outs for the public (in conjunction with Press & PR).
- Slide artwork and panels for the lectures you give either at the Museum e.g. boardroom presentations, or elsewhere.
- Artwork for your articles in archaeological (or other) journals.

Please don't hesitate to commission us to do subject or site specific panels or slides, or to come and borrow already existing ones for your lectures. We even have a portable display unit. If you just need advice we are always willing to help.

Tracy and Julie

COMPUTING DEPARTMENT

Computer Training News.

The Training system is now up and running at Bridge House. Training courses, for the new systems, will be run from mid February and all users will be informed about these nearer the time. When courses are not being taught the system can be booked for other training uses. Two ideas so far are, for using the Typing Tutor program for users to learn how to type and for people to use for writing up projects and dissertations. People wishing to use the training system should firstly contact me and then book time on a terminal using the booking sheets in the training room.

VIDEO VIDEO VIDEO VIDEO VIDEO

CHIPS, CHIPS and more CHIPS!

On the 19th, 20th and 21st February the Computer Section will be showing a video about chips. Not the sort you put salt and vinegar on, but the kind that go inside computers. It's a very good video and pretty easy to understand. There will be a chance to ask questions after it is shown. Each department will be invited to watch the video over these three days and it will also act as an introduction to the 'hands-on' training sessions to be run in March. Look out for details.

DUA Computer Inventory.

Below is a copy of the DUA computer inventory. It is to give staff an indication of what computer equipment is located where and which operating systems the computers are running.

This inventory includes the Environmental Section, but does not include DGLA. To date we have 41 computers, 21 of which run Dos, 9 run Xenix, 3 run both Xenix and Dos, 4 run CPM and the rest run operating systems unique to the hardware, such as the Sun Sparc Station which runs the Sun operating system. We have a total of 34 terminals which are attached to the Xenix machines. We support a total of 3 digitisers, 2 plotters and 21 printers of which 3 are lazer printers and the rest are dot matrix printers.

Computer Equipment Inventory Department of Urban Archaeology			
LOCATION	Equipment	Model	Notes
Bardwell Box	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 310	Kenix
	Modem	COMEX QU37180	
	Printer	EPSON 802510	
	Terminal	WYSE 110	
Bridge House	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 325	Kenix
	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 310	Kenix/Dos
	Computer	EPSON 80-8	CM
	Computer	EPSON 80-10	CM
	Computer	EPSON 80-110	CM
	Computer	KAYD 386	Kenix
	Computer	SUN SPARK STATION	
	Computer	TANDON PER30	Dos
	Digitizer	TOP LOG2	
	Digitizer	HONEYWELL	
	Printer	EPSON PX-800	
	Printer	HP LASER 207	LP
	Printer	NICHOLINE 150	
Printer	HOLLAND DEVERE		
Terminal 101	WYSE 110		
Terminal 102	WYSE 85		
FEE	Computer	TANDON PC	Dos
	Computer	COMPAQ LTE286	Dos
	Computer	LEWIS 386	Kenix
FINDA Hall	Computer	AT386 VED	Kenix
	Computer	TANDON PER30	Dos
	Computer	TANDON PER30	Dos
	Printer	STAR LC-10	Dos
Printer	STAR LC-10	Dos	
Terminal 121	WYSE 85		
FINDA	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 200	Dos
	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 200	Dos
	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 100	Kenix
	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 100	Kenix
	Printer	EPSON 80-100A	LP
	Printer	HONEYWELL 8105	
	Terminal	WYSE 110	
	Terminal 141	WYSE 85	
FINDA Poc room	Computer	EMELTON SECRET CM	
	Printer	STAR 8110	Kenix
	Terminal 131	WYSE 85	
	Terminal	WYSE 110	
FINDA Trench	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 200	Dos
	Computer	TANDON PER30	Dos
	Printer	STAR LC-10	Dos
	Terminal	WYSE 85	
Terminal	WYSE 110		
FINDA Ditch	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 200	Dos
	Printer	STAR LC-10	Dos
FINDA SACAL	Computer	AMTAD PC 1510	Dos
	Computer	ATARI 1040 XT	
	Computer	ATARI 1040 ST	
	Computer	COMPAQ 386	Kenix
	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 100	Dos
	Hardware	COMPAQ	
	Printer	HP LASERJET 11 LP	LP
Terminal 131	WYSE 50		
Terminal	WYSE 110	FINDA room	
Excavation Office	Computer	AMTAD PC 1512 Dos	
	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 100 Dos	
	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 100	Dos
	Computer	TANDON PER30	Dos
	Computer	TANDON PER30	Dos
	Printer	AMTAD DS	
	Printer	DEC 810	
	Printer	QUME CRYSTAL	
Printer	STAR LC24-10		
Printer	STAR 1015		
FINDA House	Computer	ATARI 1040 ST	
	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 300	Kenix/Dos
	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 300	Dos
J.S. Office	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 310	Dos
	Printer	QUME 80100 21	LP
DVA Sec.	Computer	EPSON PCE	Dos
	Printer	QUME CRYSTAL	LP
Library	Computer	TANDON PC2	Dos
	Printer		
Drawing Office	Computer	DELL SYSTEM 200	Kenix/Dos
	Printer	STAR 1024-10	
Photog.	Computer	COMPAQ 386	Dos
	Printer	HP LASERJET 11 LP	

DUA Field Section Archive.

Below is a list of all the sites which have been archived by the computer section. These are sites which have been written on a computer and then the finished files have been given to us on a disk. The computer section then copies these files onto two tapes, one of which is stored in-house the other out of house. At the moment the original disks are also kept by us. We accept the files as they are and assume that all checking has already taken place. If you have any queries about this please contact Zoe Tomlinson at Ferroners House on 796 3040.

ant88	ban88	cwn87	hil84	lo76	neb87	ut74
apg86	cas75	dgh86	had89	lso88	nob73	wac88
arc81	cll86	duh88	ila88	lwa84	nwg85	woc87
atr85	cas88	eld89	ime83	mco87	orm88	wit86
auf88	cas88	eth84	ish88	mdx87	que88.gr188	wts86
bis82	eplos	fen83	...	mgt87	qvs85	
bln87	...	fib87	let84	mil72	slo82	
bop82	...	fmo85	lea84	mic86	son85	
bot86	...	fst85	im83	mse88	spc80	
				mya88	ssl84	

COMPUTER GRAPHICS -- some recent developments in the DUA.

Last summer the DUA devoted new resources to computer graphics. A Dell 386 with an A1 plotter was installed in Ferroners House, while at Bridge House a Sun Spark-station has been set up in the back-room. Both have A1 digitising pads and run the graphics package AutoCAD.

Obviously two machines could never cope with all the demands that the department might make, so a number of pilot schemes had to be chosen. Robin Boast, Dave Bentley and Andrew Westman compiled an initial list of projects, which were discussed at Senior Archaeologists in the Autumn. The main projects have dealt with Mark Green's work on site locations, including data capture from the Total Station, the work of the East of Walbrook publication project on topographic and chronological mapping of part of the Roman town, and drawing office efforts at computerising site plans and producing Level III drawings. Unfortunately trials on computerising all the 1:20 context plans from an excavation -- as much an aid to the interpretation of the site as a drawing tool -- have been delayed. However, this is expected to proceed shortly.

The emphasis of the current projects was to test the applications and limitations of the graphics system. The software, particularly AutoCAD, has an extremely powerful programming language, which allows tasks to be easily repeated and common standards, such as line-types, to be pre-set. Some of the projects were thus designed to establish these basic working tools. Other projects were concerned with the feasibility of using computer graphics to either speed-up current activities or to improve our ability to study complex archaeology. In addition, many of the projects have also been used to sort out basic problems with the configuration of the system; data transfers, backing-up, plotter calibration, etc.

In next month's Newsletter there will be a resume of the projects which have been undertaken thus far, with some preliminary assessment of their results. Many of the projects, whilst still at an early stage, may be of value to colleagues, and it is important, therefore, that regular information is provided concerning both the material being worked upon and how everyone can gain access to it. However, as much of the work cuts across the traditional boundaries between the various Sections responsibilities, and in the absence of any clearly co-ordinated post-excavation structure for the department as a whole, the dissemination of information -- and the ability for comment on

its creation and emphasis -- is somewhat ad hoc. Hopefully the Newsletter reports may go some way at least to informing staff of current work.

In support of this an Open Day will be held at Bridge House to demonstrate the graphics system and some of the projects currently being undertaken upon it. I also hope that it will provide an opportunity to discuss other ideas and applications.

OPEN DAY -- THURSDAY 15th FEBRUARY, THE BACK ROOM AT BRIDGE HOUSE.

Drop in anytime between 8.30am and 6.45pm.

Tin Williams.

TRAINING NEWS

There follows a copy of the training application guidelines. Please ensure that these are followed when applying for funding.

**In order to standardise applications to the training vote all applicants should submit the following to the training co-ordinator:*

1. A photocopy of the course details together with a letter stating their interest in the course, its relation to any previous studies they may have undertaken and the relevance of the course to their work for the department.
2. A breakdown of the costs involved; i.e. fees, travel and accommodation, including a total. The training vote does not normally pay for meals.
3. Written support from a supervisor, line manager or a colleague with specialist knowledge of the field of study.

NB When funding is approved for degrees or diplomas lasting for more than one year applications will be reviewed at the end of each year. A reference will be required from an academic supervisor.

Any time of work must be approved by the applicants line manager/section head.

The following information will also be taken into account.

1. Length of service.
2. Applications made to the training vote in the past two years - or five years in cases of support received for academic degrees.

If an application needs to be made between training committee meetings it should be addressed to the training co-ordinator for circulation to the training committee.

When funding is approved for a conference or other short academic courses a written report will be required.*

The training committee met on Tuesday 30th - results will be published in the next newsletter.

Tag reports will be circulated shortly to all site offices and out stations, if you would like your own copy please let me know.

Susan Greenwood

MA LONDON STUDIES- BIRKBECK COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

This post-graduate course is run jointly by the History and Geography Departments of Birkbeck College. The course lasts two years and is taught on a part-time basis of two evenings a week during the first year and one evening a week during the second year.

The first year comprises two parts; a 'core' course on the history of London from its Roman founding through the medieval City and 19th century expansion to the abolition of the GLC, and one of the following options:

1. The medieval city c.1200-1500
2. Housing, planning and social conditions c.1835-1955

(The 'core' course requires the submission of three 3,000 word essays on a range of topics). In the second year only one of the following optional courses is taken:

3. Social and economic life in early modern London c.1550-1700
4. The metropolitan region: current issues and recent development

Teaching is based on informal three hour lectures/discussion sessions for the 'core' course and three hour seminars for the optional courses. These sometimes involve the presentation of class papers and always involve a certain amount of background reading. The course is examined by two written exams taken in June of the second year and on the submission of a 10,000 word project dissertation.

A useful course for anyone who is keen to obtain a more advanced understanding of London's history, especially in terms of its complex social and economic structures and the development of both its fabric and population. Also an opportunity to develop skills of historical research and analysis. The course is run once every two years with the next start date in October 1990. If you're interested in applying contact the Registrar, (Birkbeck College, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HX), for a prospectus. My course fees have been met by the DUA Training Committee.

Craig Spence



YOUNG LAMAS

If archaeology is to continue and flourish, we need to harness the interest and enthusiasm of the young.

Young LAMAS is an active branch of the *London and Middlesex Archaeological Society* providing for children aged between 9 and 16. The youth section has been run by members of the Museum of London staff for over 10 years, and much assistance has been given by both members of the DUA and the DGLA in that time. Activities emphasise the practical, for example last year a group of children spent a particularly cold April day learning surveying methods. Outings are made to places of archaeological or local historical interest, last week a group made a (free!) visit to the Tower of London. Members also receive three newsletters a year, with reports on current archaeological work, and cartoons, reports etc. from members.

One recent and highly successful activity was a "Roman Day" in September last year. This was aimed at 5-10 year olds (possible future members), and 45 attended. A number of DUA and DGLA staff assisted in various capacities, during the day. Simon and Damian have lovely knees - and were excellent Ermine Street Guards. The children adopted Roman identities, ate Roman food - (sadly nobody touched Damian's liquamen provided for the occasion). After talks, gallery visits, handling sessions and craft work, the children divided into a variety of characters to perform a short presentation in the Fort Gate. The supposed clash between the Celts and Roman soldiers rather fizzled out as the 5 year old Celts cowered behind a Boudiccan Alex Moore. A soldier, frustrated by the lack of Celts to attack, did what damage he could to Alex with a cardboard sword. The presentation was, however, enlightening and great fun.



If you would like to provide an article for a future Lamas newsletter, assist or run an activity (looks good on the C.V.), or know of any children interested in joining - please contact one of the following:

Elizabeth Hess - Library and Documentation or tel. 938-5381
 Alex Moore - Finds Department, DUA
 Sheraton Shaw - Archive Assistant, DUA.

CONFERENCE REPORT

The XVth International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies:

Report back from 'delegate' Dave Sankey.....

Every 4 years, or so, the *Limeskongress* is held. This is a gathering of scholars (the collective noun for archaeologists and historians?) whose specialism is the frontier of the Roman Empire. This year it coincided with the Hadrians Wall "Pilgrimage" (*sic.*) and so both events were run back to back, many of the punters arriving at the congress footsore from traipsing round, gawping at one of our better known monuments. Thus some of the social cement that characterises these occasions, reinforced by the "delegate" designation, had already fallen on their shoulders by the time the museum's delegates arrived.

The Museum of London, in the person of Hugh Chapman, was ostensibly a participating institution. However Hugh's involvement continued at a higher level after he had left the museum so that whilst his personal profile, and presumably the Society of Antiquaries (of which he's general secretary), was quite high throughout proceedings; the museum's official input was limited to a hurriedly organised day's visit with a talk by John Maloney. Whilst this level of commitment entailed heroic effort at the last moment you couldn't help but observe that a more organised and concerted approach would have paid dividends. Particularly as fellow delegates included bigwigs like Sheppard Frere (report writer extraordinaire) and a little influence over competitive tendering and the role of HBMC would not have gone amiss.

The second prong of the Museum of London's intervention was the papers given at the congress by Tim Williams (Alectus's Palace etc.) and Angus Stephenson and myself (city defences). Unfortunately the talks followed Nick Fuentes' restructuring of the Saxon Shore so try as we might to appear controversial, our papers were the epitome of orthodoxy compared to his.

As in all conferences the standard of contributions varied enormously, particularly memorable were Margaret Roxan on the status of frontier women as can be derived from epigraphic evidence, Sebastian Sommer on the implications of the planning of strip buildings in military vici and Dr. Keppie's talk on the real poverty of frontier fort life in 18th century Scotland and America. It is significant that two of these were delivered by historians: the inter(multi?)disciplinary approach of the congress was its strong point.

As an aid to academic digestion lectures were interspersed with visits to sites, the British Museum etc. An afternoon in Dover proved to have significant pedagogic worth. Dover council treated us to dinner on condition that we listened to their side of the story on "the White Cliffs Experience" and "next stage of highly interpretative heritage centres" costing 14 million and "carefully" piling through a scheduled ancient monument. This work is being supervised by a fellow graduate of Sheffield University, Dave (silky wilky) Wilkinson, for the Oxford Unit. Chatting with David Miles, of said unit, I was given the assurance that any interest in London that the Oxford Unit might have was merely a way of "winding up John Schofield!" Then we went to the Painted House, an existing heritage presentation displaying a masonry building with a hypocaust and huge painted plaster walls. Here Brian Philp ("a town that destroys its past does not deserve a future") explained why the Kent Unit were not working on the present scheme, they were involved with an earlier version that had more limited objectives. After a visit to Lympne we returned to Dover, to be feted by a splendid buffet and mulled wine by English Heritage in their castle, where there is a magnificent Roman lighthouse. Here they are developing a "major tourist attraction" (yawn!). Larry Okamura, an Hawaiian friend

of Angus's, was genuinely gobsmacked by the lighthouse but his comment on the above was noteworthy, "We're used to third world countries squandering their patrimony for foreign exchange but to find Britain doing it is very sad."

The papers delivered by museum staff will be published in the proceedings should you like to read more. The congress will resume in Budapest, or was it Belgrade, in four years time. Anyone considering carrying the Museum's torch on that occasion should be working out their applications for a weekly return funded from the training vote now.

A NEW SEMINAR/LECTURE SERIES.

A new series of seminars and lectures is being planned for the spring/summer. They will be open to all DGLA, DUA and Museum staff. They will also be advertised at the Institute. Please feel free to invite anyone who may have a useful contribution to make.

The function of the seminars is not simply to inform, but to question and discuss. The topics planned range from narrative and particularist issues, such as Dark Earth, to more wide ranging theoretical discussions, such as urban space or archaeological rhetoric. It is also hoped that they can be used as a springboard to question current practise and future developments within the organisation.

Whilst it is hoped that the series will provide the basis for a number of interesting and stimulating discussions, their content and structure is also open to debate. There are no fixed ideas about their timing or structure, indeed I hope by altering both we may be able to attract more people to participate. At present it is envisaged that most of the meetings will be seminars; a 20-30 minute presentation, often by an external speaker, will be followed by a discussion. Where possible, informed discussants will also be invited. Some subjects, however, may be better served by a more formal lecture with questions.

Some of the forthcoming topics (a full list of those scheduled will be given next month) include: Richard Reece, who wrote in his book "My Roman Britain" that there has never been a decent publication on Roman towns; this maybe true, but what makes a good one?

Rob Young, from Leicester University, will start a discussion about politics in urban archaeology. Anthony Barham, from the Institute of Archaeology, to discuss archaeological sediments, as there seems to be some debate about formation processes!

Chris Evans, an ex-employee now at the University of Cambridge, has agreed to talk about the sampling strategies he applied to a complex Iron Age settlement, and what implications this may have for our methods of finds retrieval in the city.

On a more theoretical subject, Chris Tilley from Lampeter University has agreed to talk about archaeological rhetoric and its relevance to archaeological reporting.

Malcolm Cooper, from Hereford and Worcester, has been using the Carver stratigraphic diagram for some time and will present the case for its use in post-excavation analysis.

We also have two speakers on "spatial" issues; Pam Graves, from York Archaeological Trust, on the relationship between the internal organisation of churches and the local community, and Frank Brown, from the Open University, on medieval building plans and the social use of space.

Other topics include; public communication; an introduction to archaeological theory; IFA, is it any use and where is it going?; information technology and its effect upon our work practices; Senior Archaeologists on site - what is their role?; Dark earth studies, Brian Yules' recent survey of the evidence.

In all these cases discussants will be invited where possible; for example, soil scientists to the latter. It is hoped that the seminars will take place at roughly two week intervals. They will be advertised at all work places at least a week in advance, longer if speakers can be pinned down. However, a number of slots will be left free for current issues.

Most will be held in the Education department, initially starting at 4.30pm, although this will drift

later as daylight pushes back site finishing times. Tea and biscuits will be available from 4.15pm. There will be a number of open meetings to discuss the form, content and successfulness of the programme. The first, in fact, will be slightly in advance of the first seminar so as to discuss ideas for the next block, and to introduce topics worthy of immediate consideration. Please come along -- any bias in the programme is totally mine -- help me to make it more representative.

STEERING GROUP MEETING - OPEN TO EVERYONE:
Board Room 1.30pm Monday 19th February.

Tim Williams
Plaisters Hall 606-5985

PRESS RELEASE 31/1/1990

MUSEUM IN DOCKLANDS IN CRISIS

London's most exciting community-based museum project, launched in 1982 by the Museum of London, is facing closure. Collections of international significance tracing the 2000 year history of the world's greatest port and industrial centre are at risk.

Unless the London Docklands Development Corporation continues its support by providing revenue funding for the Museum in Docklands project from April 1990, the opportunity for a major cultural and tourist focus in Docklands will be lost.

Considerable resources and intensive efforts have already been devoted to the development of the Museum in Docklands.

The quality of the collections, the expertise of 11 staff, and the high standard of services already available to the public represent resources too valuable to be lost.

For the past eight years, the project has sought a permanent home to present the dramatic history of London's commerce and industry. Initiated and supported by the Museum of London, the project has until now received essential revenue grants from the LDDC. This has been part of their commendable policy to preserve the rich inheritance of the area and foster economic growth.

NEWSPAPER RECORD

FUNDING FOR MUSEUM IS PAST

Jobs peril in pull out

THE Museum in Docklands may have to close following a withdrawal of funding by the London Docklands Development Corporation.

The offspring of the Museum of London has been told its £234,000 a year grant from the Corporation will not be renewed in April (writes ZACHARY CHRON).

The museum and the LDDC have also failed to reach agreement on a £1.5 million proposal to give the Silvertown-based project a permanent site on the Isle of Dogs.

Museum keeper Chris Ellmers said: "Unless the LDDC continues to provide funding from April, the opportunity for a major cultural and tourist focus in Docklands will be lost."

Up to 11 jobs are at risk, including skilled curators and technicians employed at the museum's temporary workshop in a warehouse at Royal Victoria Dock.

Four jobs funded by the Museum of London will not be affected. "The LDDC are optimistically hoping these four people can maintain the collections," Mr Ellmers added.

A spokesman for the Corporation said the museum was warned last year the grant would be cut off.

"We just can't go on funding what is essentially a behind-the-scenes museum. They are doing essential work, but they must come up with a permanent site."

Museum chiefs have been negotiating with the LDDC and developers for a permanent site since 1982.

The museum favoured a 100,000 sq ft warehouse at Royal Victoria Dock but the LDDC have urged a site one quarter of the size in Port East, Isle of Dogs.

Mr Ellmers claims the museum agreed to Port East as a "springboard" location for a larger museum at the Royals.

Museum chiefs now fear the collection will have to be closed to the public.

Other museum services put at risk by the LDDC cut include:

• The visitor centre at the Royal Victoria Dock warehouse which attracts some 3,000 visitors a year.

• Museum on the Move, a mobile display which reached 6,000 schoolchildren last year.

• Local history projects throughout the East End, including a library and archive on the Isle of Dogs.

The Museum in Docklands was launched eight years ago to record the history of the docks and the people who worked in them.

It boasts the most comprehensive collection of port and industrial history in the world. Some 50,000 artefacts have already been collected, many rescued in the face of demolition contractors.

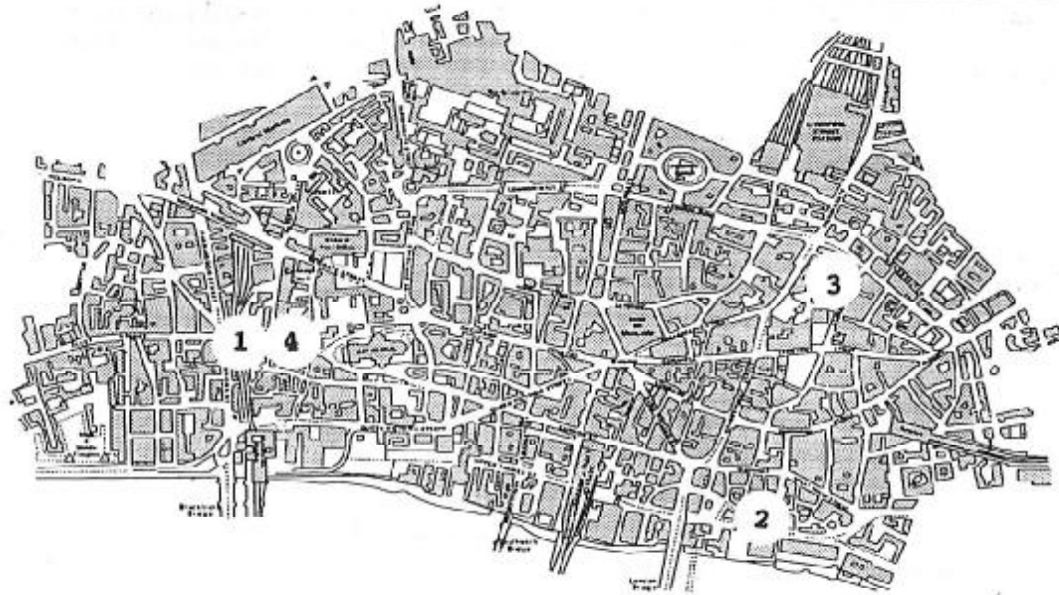
Commented Mr Ellmers: "It's been a struggle all the way. We have always had optimism. We are now reaching a point when that's no longer true."

Among those who could lose jobs are chief technician John Penn, from the Isle of Dogs, and technical assistant Jack Dupuy of East Ham, both aged 60.

Mr Dupuy said: "It's a shame. This was part of the country's heritage."

Mr Penn added: "It's terrible a project like this is going to the wall."

DUA EXCAVATIONS NEWS



Summaries of sites: January 1990

1. Fleet Valley Project

Excavations in Old Seacoal Lane arches finished in mid January. Two trenches remain to be excavated, following a new phase of demolition. The foundations of medieval and post-medieval walls abutting the perimeter wall of the Fleet Prison were found. Part of what may have been a skittle alley within the prison yard has also been excavated. A number of burials have been found to the east of Newcastle Close. These will be excavated following the final demolition of Madeira vaults. During pile probing in this area, part of a possible Roman ditch was recorded. Three trenches were opened in Duffers during the last week of the month. A large quantity of extremely well preserved metal objects have been recovered from waterlogged deposits in the Old Seacoal Lane area. Burdett House is due to be demolished in mid-February. Alternative excavation for all except the computer and senior archaeologists writing up has been provided on site.

2. Billingsgate Bath House

The reconstructed suspended floor of the hypocaust in the *Tepidarium* has been recorded. No further work is anticipated in this room. The walls of the *Caldarium* are being recorded prior to consolidation by conservators and the *Frigidarium's* tessellated floors are being recorded before being lifted and re-laid on damp-proof membrane. The portion of stratigraphy overlying part of the latter is being excavated and sampled *in toto* for wet sieving.

3. St Mary Axe

The main area of excavation, finished on the 5th January, revealed early medieval cess and domestic rubbish pits, a Roman gravel quarry pit; and a large section of the medieval and post-medieval eastern precinct wall of the priory of St Helen has been recorded and photographed. Work is now limited to three small areas to the south-west of the site which have revealed a series of medieval pits, a chalk wall foundation running parallel to and west of the chalk basement found earlier on in the excavations. The large pit (4m diameter, 2.5m deep) containing redeposited brickearth and large quantities of wall plaster is still being excavated.

4. 25/27 Ludgate Hill

Excavation to date has revealed an large east-west aligned v-shaped Norman ditch, interpreted as part of the south defences of the Norman fortress known as Montfichet's Tower. Dug into this ditch are a number of late medieval cess and rubbish pits, one of which contained a mass of decayed dung and straw (derived from stables?). A large rectangular chalk lined barrel vaulted cess or garderobe pit, of 14/16th century date, was found dug into the western side of the Norman ditch.

To the south of the Norman ditch, dug into natural are truncated features of all periods. Discoveries have included a circular well (Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon) and a number of medieval and post-medieval pits, one of which contained five near complete pots of 12/13th century date.



and where oh where are the other reports??



PRESS CUTTINGS

TUES 13-1-90

Archaeologists clash over right to work Roman site

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

A dispute has broken out among archaeologists over the trial excavation of a key Roman site in south London that may have implications for the whole of London's archaeology.

The Oxford Archaeology Unit began work this week on the site of a Roman public building at Redcross Way in Southwark, without the knowledge of Museum of London archaeologists who have been involved in the area since 1975 and have made important discoveries there.

There is concern that an outside unit could not approach a site with the same dedication and essential knowledge as a local one.

The area being investigated is part of what was a major Roman settlement centred on Borough High Street, which was self-sufficient and independent of Londinium.

An important Roman public building was found there in the 1970s, dated to AD74, and last year, the museum's department of greater London archaeology made further finds.

The Oxford unit had been invited by the developer, City Gate Estates, to make a preliminary assessment before a planning application for an office block is made. The dig, in two small holes going down about two metres, is expected to take two weeks.

Mr Harvey Sheldon, head of the Museum of London's department of greater London archaeology, said: "The site is greater than an acre in extent and a full and careful investigation in advance of redevelopment would certainly be expensive. If a building scheme was designed which did not put the archaeological deposits at risk this would be acceptable.

"Either you should excavate totally or develop a scheme

that leaves the archaeology untouched."

Mr David Miles, the director of the Oxford unit, said: "Archaeological units now have to compete for funding. Counties have archaeological officers who act as curators for the sites. They advise local authorities who ask for tenders from units such as ours.

"In London there is no county curator since the abolition of the GLC, and the

The conservation group Save Britain's Heritage is to appeal against a High Court decision to allow the developer Mr Peter Palumbo to go ahead with his £140 million scheme involving the demolition of eight listed buildings in the City of London (Christopher Warman writes). The scheme, on the Mappin and Webb site near Mansion House, has been the subject of two public inquiries. It was finally approved by Mr Nicholas Ridley, then Secretary of State for the Environment, last June. Save Britain's Heritage took the issue to the High Court in November but its objections were overruled.

Museum of London is effectively acting as both curator and contractor, and therefore potentially our rivals.

"We used to get 80 per cent of our funding from English Heritage, but the most recent figures are about 25 per cent, the rest having to come from private sources."

Mr Sheldon said: "If rescue archaeology is now to be seen as contracting services competing with each other, many of the advantages - local knowledge, local expertise and an open service in which the community is openly involved and benefits educationally - painfully gained over the last 15 years

may well be lost." The dispute comes as English Heritage, statutory adviser on England's archaeology to the Department of the Environment, is in the process of devising a strategy for London partly to obviate such disputes.

The lack of communication on the Redcross Way site is worrying English Heritage. Dr Geoffrey Wainwright, its chief archaeologist, said yesterday: "We would be deeply concerned if there was no proper communication between the Oxford unit and the museum.

"It's a problem which is the direct result of a lack of a strategic body in London to control matters."

He said English Heritage was in discussion with the museum on a strategic plan, one aim of which was to set up such a central body.

He said he was in no doubt that the Museum of London was the right body to conduct investigations in London.

The Society of Museum Archaeologists is concerned that competitive tendering means that the heritage underground is at risk from "potential cheap-jack sales of the site work with no arrangements made for what happens to the finds.

"It effectively means that the archaeology becomes like a car with all the bits taken out and left lying around," Mr Tim Schadla-Hall, the society's chairman, said.

"It means that the museums which have had a traditional role in safeguarding the archaeological heritage are being left out, and they are getting no information and are unable to make any plans for the areas they have responsibility for."

He said he had written to the Department of the Environment for "clarification" and would seek a meeting with English Heritage.

THOUSANDS of crucial records, many of them recorded by hand, have been inadvertently burnt by the Department of the Environment. The documents, belonging to English Heritage, the quarter responsible for the preservation of the nation's historic buildings, were in the custody of the department at its former warehouse at Hayes, Middlesex.

English Heritage officials have described the loss as "catastrophic" and the matter is now the subject of an urgent inquiry in an attempt to establish the precise implications. It has led also to a wholesale review of archive procedures at English Heritage aimed at ensuring such information does not ever occur again.

News of the destruction - involving a total of 12,000 files - came to light only when officials from English Heritage asked the DoE for the papers on a particular site, but to be told they had been destroyed.

Apparently the disaster resulted from a telephone conversation between a representative of English Heritage and a DoE official who described as "a very junior person whose name I do not know".

Mr Paul Gillingham, English Heritage's inspector of ancient monuments, writing about the matter in a staff newsletter, said: "One of the

most catastrophic events in our ancient monuments work in recent years has been the destruction of many thousands of files stored at Hayes. This involved the loss of an immense amount of information, mostly not recorded elsewhere, relating to past activities both local and national on ancient monuments throughout the country.

"Such data are vital to us in reaching informed and sustained decisions leading to the better management of the archaeological resources.

"We have looked in vain for some explanation of this tragic state of affairs together with the implications of this loss."

English Heritage was founded in April 1983 under the chairmanship of Lord Monaghan of Bessborough and now employs 1,800 staff - the majority civil servants rather than professionals in the architectural field.

Besides managing 400 monuments, previously cared for by the DoE, it is responsible for making grants to ancient monuments, historic buildings, conservation areas and rescue archaeology.

Ancient archives burnt after Whitehall clerk's blunder

No. 1493

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

JANUARY 7, 1990

PRICE 50P

by Nicholas Farrell

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EH wins the battle for historic London

The battle between English Heritage and the Museum of London over archaeology in London has been won by the former, without ever reaching a crisis point. The result could be fewer uncertainties for developers. Mira Bar-Hillel reports.

Following talks last month the museum has now accepted both English Heritage's new project-by-project funding package and its general approach to archaeology.

The result will be fewer damaging excavations and more identification, documentation and preservation of important remains for exploration by future generations.

Experts now hope that this agreement will pave the way for the publication of the long-awaited government circular on archaeology in London. This was promised by Virginia Bottomley in the wake of the Rose Theatre debacle and was to have come out in the autumn, but it has been bogged down at the draft stage.

Having taken on the strategic role in London's archaeology, English Heritage is already in the process of commissioning a survey and study, using the latest

technology, including Ground Impulse Radar, which allows potentially important remains to be identified and located with minimum excavation.

The study, which should take about a year to complete, will contain a map showing where important remains might be found. This document will play a vital role in preventing archaeological disasters when London's ambitious new rail and underground links are planned and constructed.

These important changes come at the end of a year of some of the most important archaeological discoveries of the decade, if not the century. Indeed it was the discovery of the Roman amphitheatre at the Guildhall, followed by the Rose Theatre and then Shakespeare's Globe on Bankside (which has not been scheduled as an Ancient Monument), which exposed the shortcomings of the previous system and made the changes necessary.

English Heritage wants binding agreements to be reached with developers before Rose-type rows break out - that is before planning permission is granted. It also wants to give London councils more resources and make them more

aware of powers they already have but seldom use. Developers are likely to welcome anything which will remove the present uncertainties.

'Guidance' given on Guildhall Yard gallery

The City Corporation's plans for an art gallery in the Guildhall Yard, incorporating a special split-level basement display of the remains of the Roman amphitheatre discovered in February 1988, were rejected by the environment secretary just before Christmas.

The corporation now has to go back to the drawing board, and the future of the most exciting archaeological discovery for decades may not be settled for another year at least.

The City wants to demolish Portland House, an undistinguished building east of the Guildhall, and the Old Library corridor, and replace them with a new building containing a double-height gallery.

The gallery was designed by architects Gilbert Scott with a double-height room especially for the display of *The Defeat of the Floating Batteries at Gibraltar*, an 18th-century painting by John Singleton Copely measuring some 28 ft by 18 ft. It has not been seen in public for almost 50 years and is part of the City's £40 million art collection.

The amphitheatre, where Roman gladiators were said to have entertained residents of Londinium, was discovered by a Museum of London team excavating in preparation for the gallery building. As a result of the discovery, a public inquiry was held in February.

The inquiry inspector has commended the architecture of the replacement building, which he agreed was 'monumental and interesting'. But he added that for that very reason it would 'substantially challenge and undermine the supremacy of the Guildhall and its porch' - which are Grade I listed - and therefore was unacceptable.

Of the Roman ruins, the inspector said it would be wrong 'to deprive the public of an opportunity to see the remains.'

The City is now expected to retain the archaeological presentation as part of its

revised plans for the art gallery, in spite of the cost which will run into millions of pounds.

The City's Guildhall Yard committee has agreed that the architects must take a fresh look at the scheme. In spite of their disappointment at the set-back, they were encouraged by the fact that in his decision the inspector took the unusual step of giving clear guidance as to what would be acceptable on the site: a building that was lower at the Guildhall-facing front, rising to a greater height towards the east.

City surveyor Ted Hartill said he would strongly recommend whole-hearted compliance with the minister's requirements.

New group to look after fine houses

Some of London's most important houses and their fine art collections, including the treasures of the Palace of Westminster, are coming under new management with the announcement last week of the formation of a new English Heritage Museum Group.

English Heritage has appointed Julius Bryant, a professional curator, to head the new group, which will be responsible for Kenwood House (Hampstead), Marble Hill House (Twickenham), Hangers House (Blackheath) and Chiswick House, and properties outside London.

The decision to set up the new group follows the recommendations of a working group under British Museum director Sir David Wilson in 1987, but implementation has been delayed by problems related to the abolition of the Greater London Council.

The new unit will not only manage and display priceless paintings, sculptures, rugs, tapestries, silver, gilt and porcelain, but will also research them with a view to restoring each house's original collections.

Bryant commented: 'This decision underlines the high priority placed by English Heritage on scholarship and curatorial standards in managing our collections.' The move contrasts with recent events at the Victoria and Albert Museum, where some curators and scholars have been dismissed and others have felt downgraded by an emphasis on administrators in key positions.



The Rose Theatre: EH wants binding agreements to be reached with developers

CHARTERED SURVEYOR WEEKLY 25 JANUARY 1990

John Schofield says: "This report is untrue and a correction is to be sent to Chartered Surveyors Weekly by English Heritage."

Roman bodies to be reburied

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

Remains at an important Roman site in London are being destroyed needlessly by archaeologists, the Museum of London alleged yesterday.

The remains of four Roman bodies, probably buried on the site at Southwark, south London, 1,500 years ago, were removed on Wednesday by the Oxford Archaeological Unit. However, they must be put back because the wrong burial licence was obtained from the Home Office.

Mr John Dillon, of the Southwark unit of the museum's department of greater London archaeology, said: "They should have got a licence which specifies that the remains should be studied. Instead, they have got one

which says the remains have to be reinterred, so that important evidence has been lost to us, at least for the time being.

"What makes it worse is that they are destroying the archaeology needlessly. We understand from the developer that there are no longer plans to develop this site down, but to refurbish, so that the remains could have lain undisturbed until there was time and money for a full and detailed excavation."

Mr Dillon worked on an adjacent site in Southwark Street in the early 1980s when a Roman public building was found among other important remains. "The trouble is that it is an extremely complicated area, with constant develop-

ment over four centuries by the Romans. You have to pick over it with the greatest care or you will miss or misinterpret important evidence."

It is understood that a complete skeleton and parts of four others were removed and that a big area of tessellated paving was also found in the excavation pit, which is 15ft by 12ft and about 6ft deep.

The Oxford unit was asked to conduct a two-week evaluation by the site owners, City Gate Estates, and are due off the site on Sunday after back-filling. The burial remains will be returned unexamined.

Mr George Lambrick, deputy director of the Oxford unit, said: "Burial licences are often very complicated docu-

ments, and it is normal that they should require that remains be reinterred. They will be put back, bagged and labelled, so that when the site is excavated in future the archaeologists will know exactly what they are".

Dr Geoffrey Wainwright, chief archaeologist for English Heritage, said: "It seems a most extraordinary way of carrying out a dig, and suggests that the proper initial research was not done."

The museum asked the Oxford unit to cease the investigation. Work stopped yesterday while Mr David Miles, director of the unit, met Mr Harvey Shelton, head of the museum unit.

Future of Roman finds still in doubt

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

Fourth-century Roman burial remains, including three skeletons, that were found last week in London are to be sent to the Museum of London for research, Mr David Miles, the director of the Oxford Archaeological Unit, said yesterday.

His statement allays fears that the finds — a complete skeleton and parts of three others dating, a piece of paving 50 square centimetres in size and a brooch — would have to be reinterred immediately. However, confusion persists as to their future.

Mr Miles, whose unit is carrying out the preliminary dig at the site in Redcross Way, Southwark, said Home Office officials and archaeologists from the museum had met last week and agreed that all the finds, and any more from the site, would go to the museum for study.

He had advised City Gate Estates, the developers of the site and therefore the owners of any finds, that the material should go to the museum.

However, Mr Harvey Shelton, head of the Museum of London's greater London archaeology department, said: "As far as I know, there is no agreement on the material coming to us."

"We would be prepared to take the finds, subject to the wishes of the developer and the local authority. But we haven't agreed to work on the human bones."

He said he had advised the Oxford unit to take advice

from the developers and the local authority as to what they wanted to do with the finds. "If they want them to come to the museum we will have to work out what the cost of archiving and retaining the material would be."

He added that he was relieved that the finds were to be examined and studied before reburial.

"Over the past few years, considerable evidence has come to light of late Roman burial within the previously built up settlement of Southwark. That they should be found on the site presently under investigation should have come as no surprise."

Mr Miles denied allegations by the museum's archaeologists that the evaluation dig at Redcross Way was causing needless damage to the archaeology.

"Because of the financial situation the developers have decided not to develop there for the time being but to refurbish existing buildings with a view to new building in about five years' time. But they would still need to know about the archaeology, and we need to be able to dig to the lowest levels to make a complete report. It is a great deal less damaging than a complete excavation."

"We have not been put under any pressure by the developers, and it's wrong for the museum's archaeologists to infer that we are being unnecessarily hasty."

Digging up London

From Dr Ralph Merrifield

Sir, The prospect of competitive tendering for archaeological excavation in London, discussed in your report of January 13, has disturbing implications. To substitute such a system for the service now administered by the Museum of London should surely be preceded by a consultative paper stating in detail the long-term aim and the steps by which it is to be achieved.

The present service, the continued funding of which was guaranteed by the Government when the GLC was abolished, has in-built advantages which cannot be relinquished lightly. It ensures the availability of archaeologists dedicated to building up knowledge of London's past, which they are assembling piecemeal from many sites.

In doing so they have acquired over the years an unrivalled experience of London's special problems, and know precisely the questions to be asked in exploring a new site. As London residents they should be more cost-effective than visiting archaeologists using expensive temporary accommodation.

Lack of commitment to London's history by transient archaeologists, who are likely to be less troublesome to developers in their initial demands and in pursuing a subsequent investigation, will result in minimal excavation and opportunities lost for ever.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH MERRIFIELD
(Chairman, Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee),
6-8 Cole Street, SE1.

January 17.

TIMES 19.1.90

Digging for loopholes

OTHER countries might take a relaxed view of a strike by archaeologists but France is being slowly brought to a halt. Huge projects like Euro-Disneyland, the Channel Tunnel rail-link and the new A16 auto-route between Paris and Troyes have been hit and hundreds of smaller building sites forced to suspend operations.

Archaeologists here have a legal right to inspect sites at the excavation stage and often work cannot continue until they give approval. Currently the archaeologists are in dispute with the Ministry of Culture over their terms of employment and have threatened to shut down the entire construction industry unless a new deal is offered.

Company chairmen are calling for emergency legislation to close the loophole. "It's a complete farce," said one.

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