

MOLAS LIBRARY

NEWS

September 1989

No. 12



INTRODUCTION

This month has seen continued interest in various DUA sites, notably London Wall, by the Press, TV, and international radio; thanks to all those who helped in some way to make this a success.

Thank you also to those of you who returned the Newsletter questionnaire; the results were quite interesting with strong feeling both for and against most questions asked. 60% of the replies felt that it is a good idea to have their own copy, and that it does serve a useful purpose. Among the ideas for different articles to include, many of you requested "more controversial issues", humour, and topics covering theoretical archaeology; somebody said that it should cover the subjects that are *really* talked about on site - fine, write them and send them in. As sub-Editor, I *compile* the Newsletter, I don't *write* it, so *you* have to supply the goods. Point taken about tree-saving/paper-wasteage: see new layout.

Nina Jaffa

STAFF

Resignations

Jim Manning-Press
Mary Louise Bowen
Alan McKeown
Steve Kime
Erica Saracino
Fiona Kelly

Transfers from DGLA

Sheraton Shaw (Finds Archiving)
Patricia Price (Finds)
Alison Hawkins (Drawing Office)

Transfers to DGLA

Mark Samuel (Finds)

Appointments

Caroline Mamwell - Senior Archaeologist (58-60 Houndsditch)
Wendy Northcott - Senior Archaeologist Worked Stone Recording
Fiona Pitt - Senior Archaeologist Finds (25-41 St. Mary Axe)
Ruth Edmondson - Finds (Albion House)

Vacancies

Assistant Excavations Officer (Negotiations) - Grade 6-7
Applications by 8th September

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE CITY

We have begun a consultation process about the future directions the DUA can take. This consultation is open to every member of the department who wishes to make a contribution; usually in writing rather than by meetings. We have a very wide spectrum of experience in the DUA staff, and I wish to use it to best advantage. Whatever job you do, you can make your opinions known.

To be constructive, the debate has to be ordered and in stages reaching conclusions or proposals. Some things, like our legislative position and the pressure of site developments, are largely beyond our control. Other factors, like standards, are largely up to us. We can therefore propose immediate improvements or long-term objectives.

Those who wish to take part in this consultation should be aware of two documents:

1. The Director's **Future development of the field archaeology services of the Museum of London** (August 1989) which is forming the basis of discussion with HBMC. A copy available for xeroxing is with each DUA Section Head or the Excavations Office.

2. The **DUA strategic plan for 1989-1994**, currently in draft, which I am compiling. This document extends some of the provisions outlined in the Director's plan, and deals with specifically DUA developments. I hope to have copies available for discussion throughout the department by the end of September, when Section Heads have made their own contributions. But it does no harm to broach some of the issues here for you to think about.

The concerns of the plan are best summarised by the contents page, as follows:

Introduction (Primary and secondary archaeological objectives, functions for the Department, and assumptions behind the plan)

PUBLIC SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DUA (Heritage management, site assessment and negotiations; joint projects with the Corporation of the City of London; customer services: developers; education and public awareness; the Tower pageant; merchandising)

EXCAVATION STRATEGIES (Current strategies; recording standards and documentation; improvements in finds and data collection)

POST-EXCAVATION AND ARCHIVE (Site and finds archive compilation and

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING EXCAVATIONS

TODAY'S DATE: 31 Aug. 1989

NAME OF SITE		August			September				October					November				December				
		14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	
America Square	TN							8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8						
Dominant House	HB	2	2	2	2	2	2	2														
Thames Exchange	JM	2	2	2																		
Cannon Street Station	ST	11	5	5																		
25-43 St. Mary Axe	RE	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
8-11 Crescent	TN																					
158-164 Bishopsgate	HB	3	3																			
1-3 Pemberton Row wb	TN																					
78-79 Leadenhall	HB					1			10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10						
34-35 Leadenhall	TN	10	10	10	10	10	10															
41-53 Bishopsgate	EN																					
52-62 London Wall Phs II	HB	12	8	4																		
W. Smithfield/Giltspur St	TN		2	2	10	12	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
25 Savage Gardens	HB								3	3	3											
40 Queen St/Skinners Lane	TN							8	8	8	8	8	8									
Guildhall Yard	JM												6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
1 Threadneedle Street	TN																					
28 Bush Lane	ST					1	3	3														
145-146 Leadenhall	HB								10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Bishopsgate/Spital Square	RE											12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	
13 Gt. St. Thomas Apostle	RE														10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Barnard's Inn WB	EN			2	2																	
52 Gresham Street	EN						2															
5 Bow Churchyard	HB														10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
58-60 Houndsditch	EN		7	7	7	7	7	7														
Billingsgate Bathhouse	ST							1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
30-40 Eastcheap (TP)	EN		1	1																		
Vintry	EN/ST														20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
4-10 Artillery Lane (TP)	EN								2	2												
Vintners Hall (TP)	EN				2	2	2	2	2	2												
SUB-TOTAL REQUIRED		52	52	47	46	50	68	55	71	71	79	82	74	114	114	114	96	81	65	65	43	

Fleet Valley	RE																					
Car Parks Area C2																						
Car Parks Area D																						
Car Parks Area E																						
Car Parks Area F																						
Car Parks Area H																						
Pilgrim Street		4	4	8	10																	
Shafts BT wb		6	6																			
Shakespeare's Feast																						
2/Ludgate Cellars 2				9	12	12	12															
2/Booking Hall Bridge																						
3/Monty Christo																						
6/Old Seacoal Lane		11	8																			
7/Mother Bunch's 1			4	8	10	10	24	24	24	24	24	24										
7/Mother Bunch's 2								24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24							
8/Fleet Lane A		4																				
8/Fleet Lane B		4																				
8/Holborn Viaduct		4	3	3	3	3																
PC and APC		1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

SUB-TOTAL FLEET VALLEY REQUIRED		34	27	30	37	27	38	50	50	50	50	50	26	26	26	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF REQUIRED		86	79	77	83	77	106	105	121	121	129	132	100	140	140	116	98	83	67	67	45	
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF AVAILABLE		85	85	85	85	88	89	92	95	100	101	102	103	107	107	107	107	107	107	107	107	107
		-1	6	8	2	11	-17	-13	-26	-21	-28	-30	3	-33	-33	-9	9	24	40	40	62	2

curation; finds storage, conservation and study; responsibility for care of the finds and access to them; making the archive accessible to scholars)

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION (HBMC-funded publication programme; developer-funded books; other popular books; Leadenhall Court; the intention to publish level III summaries; publication programme after April 1991; publication outlets; co-operation with outside scholars and institutions)

Progress towards a unified archaeological division
 Practical considerations, e.g. premises
 Specific developments of individual sections in 1989-1994
 Possible areas of new activity.

These headings should cover all our work; so it may interest you to know what we intend!

Two of the most important issues at present are **contract archaeology** and **excavation strategies relating to academic priorities**. On the first, I had my say in the last newsletter, and working parties from IFA and IPCS (MoL) have pronounced. Who will speak in favour of contract archaeology? How would it work in London, if we allowed it?

On excavation strategies, Tony Dyson put into words what several of us feel, and the following paragraphs are now in the strategic plan:

The DUA's practice is to excavate worthy deposits where available without regard for current issues in archaeological research. Commentators (and we ourselves) have sometimes asked about the validity of having an overall archaeological research strategy in the City. The DUA sees several objections to such a strategy:

1. Practical objections. We have little choice over what sites become available for excavation, or when or in what order they are excavated. The funds, though often generous, are only roughly in line with the work to be done. On waterfront sites, for instance, there has never been enough money on any site to carry out a thorough investigation. Accordingly we review the broad implications of each emerging site (implications which are usually evident before excavation) along with the assessment of stratigraphical survival. The objectives on the site are constantly reviewed within the applicable constraints of time and money.

A second set of practical problems follows from any policy of site selection, which also means site rejection. The EO feel that developers would be quick to exploit a non-appearance on a site, and this would undermine our efforts to secure the sites we did want to excavate.

2. Conceptual objections. There is a danger that a list of academic priorities becomes a short list of clichés or banalities ('The Church', 'Trade', 'Defences'). Such a list encourages the delusion that we already know what all the important questions are before excavation; it also threatens to result in an excavation programme reflecting and limited by our own or others' preconceptions. We understand that administrators faced with inadequate budgets may seek to adduce 'academic' reasons for rejecting projects, but the availability of developer-funding means that this form of intellectual dishonesty can be rejected in the City.

I'd appreciate comments on that.

Thirdly, can there ever be a case for the DUA taking part in a research excavation in the City -- say, with reasonable funds from a charitable foundation -- and if so, where should it be? We have developed excavation, processing and conservation techniques primarily in rescue situations but they are now as good as techniques employed on research sites. Is there anything we lack? Or are research excavations inappropriate in the current circumstances in the City?

Discussions of these points can be forwarded either to this newsletter or to me if they are not for publication.

John Schofield

Training News

The Training Committee met on Tuesday 15th August & the following people had payment approved to attend conferences and courses:

Douglas Moir - International Symposium on Archaeometallurgy

Nina Jaffa - A Design/Desktop Publishing course

Maria Fabrizzi }

Nigel Nayling } A conference on archaeological science

Eric Norton }

Taryn Nixon }

Rob Ells }

Liz Shepherd }
Steve Allen } Urban Archaeology in the West Midlands

William Forde }
Fiona Pitt }
Jeremy Oetgen } 'Sacred and Profane'

Angus Stephenson }
Dave Sankey }
Tim Williams } XV LimesKongress: they are all presenting papers to the
Kongress

The next meeting will be on 17th October.

The series of computer seminars will finish on Monday 11 with Elizabeth Bavaquendo's on South American Death Sculptures.

Tim Williams and I are planning to run a series of monthly seminars on Monday afternoons on aspects of the DUA's work and urban archaeology elsewhere in the country and abroad. The proposed format will be a 20-30 minute talk followed by a chair led discussion.

Suggested topics so far include publication, aspects of archaeology and excavation in areas of the city and post-excavation methods.

Possible speakers from outside the Museum include Richard Reece from The Institute of Archaeology, Frank Brown from Leicester University and staff from other archaeological units in Britain.

As details are confirmed I will circulate information to all sites and work stations. Further suggestions will be welcomed.

I have the prospectus for Birkbeck College including details of the diploma and certificate courses in archaeology. There is an open day at Birkbeck College, 26 Russell Square on Monday 11 September from 9.00 am to 7.00 pm. Please contact Birkbeck on 636 8000 x 3833 for further details.

Susan Greenwood

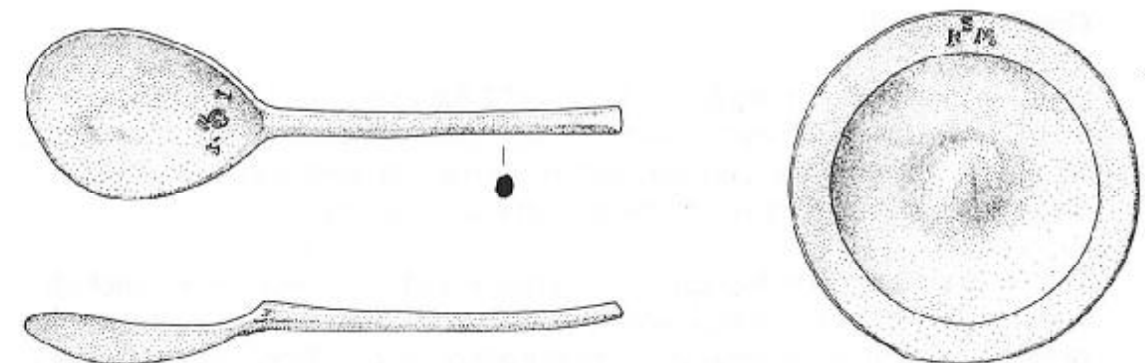
FINDS DEPARTMENT

August has been a busy month concerning new appointments within, and new recruits to the Finds Department. Fiona Pitt has been appointed Finds Supervisor for the St. Mary Axe site. New Finds Processors include Ruth Edmondson who started on the 14th August, also Patricia Price and Elizabeth Tough who have yet to start. Lastly (but not least), is Sheraton Shaw who started as Archive Assistant at the beginning of this month.

August has also witnessed the discovery of some interesting finds. From St. Mary Axe we have a section of an ornate jet bracelet, now with Conservation. Eldon Street produced a human leg bonewith leg-iron still intact! This was post-medieval in date. The top half of a Roman 'theatre mask' lamp was discovered amongst the general finds from Dominant House still being washed.

Rescued from the jaws of machinery by the watching brief at Thames Exchange were two very unusual timbers, both from the late Saxon bank. The first of these is a large trough of which the base and most of one of the long sides remain. Joints at its corners indicate that the trough was fixed to the ground, thus was not intended to be portable. Conservation has taken a sample from its interior in an attempt to analyse any residues which may remain. The second timber has been identified by Damian Goodburn as most probably a 'mast partner' - the timber which supported the mast at deck level. This mast partner appears to be made for a mast of about 45cm (18") in diameter - this is larger than any other similar timber-fitting known from Viking Age Europe. Our example also bears elaborate carvings!!!

Finally, Fleet Valley has produced two barrel-wells which were lifted by Conservation, and several interesting post-medieval finds including three sixteenth century 'slip-topped stem' spoons - two made of latten (one illustrated) and one possibly of pewter. Maker's and owner's marks are evident on the spoons as well as on two pewter dishes found (illustrated). Two ivory combs were also amongst the post-medieval finds retrieved.



At the tail end of July Nick Oakley staged a Developer's Display at London Wall which was apparently very successful - lots of food and drink consumed by all! Also well attended at London Wall, during August, was a press day with the theme of "How Green were the Romans", concentrating on the Romans' attitude towards their environment - mostly deduced through environmental evidence. This resulted in articles in some of the daily newspapers and also coverage by Thames News, the BBC and by LBC.

STOP PRESS: Find of the month must be the magnificent mountain of marrows discovered by Ian Riddler in his new back-garden!!! Anyone like marrows?

Jane Stone

CONSERVATION

Staff news

We are pleased to say that Dana Goodburn Brown has returned to work after sick leave following a car accident in which her knee was injured. She will not, however be fit enough for much site work for a while yet as her knee is still not up to full strength.

Jane Stone from the Finds Department is working with us for two weeks until September 8th. This is as part of a *quid pro quo* between the Finds and Conservation Departments, with Dana carrying out a project on Thames Exchange material for the Finds Department.

Objects treated

A selection of objects from Austin Friars (AST 87) has been treated for an MEPC developer publication. This includes an enamelled mount in the shape of a fish, a phallic ornament, an ivory comb, a silver coin in almost mint condition and a fine brooch. A replica of the brooch is to be made.

The Fleet Valley project has produced a quantity of composite objects including some post-medieval printing blocks of wood and lead. A collection of medieval pewter vessels that have come up are in such good condition that they require very little conservation attention - sadly for us!

Equipment

Our pride and joy at the moment is a shiny new airbrasive machine, to replace our (very) old one that is rapidly wearing out. The principle behind the machine is really the same as a sand blaster, except it uses a much softer powder (aluminium oxide) and is much more controllable. It is used for delicately cleaning the surfaces of objects. We will be using it mainly for iron, however, if even softer powders are used (eg glass beads or ground up cork), even paper and vellum can be cleaned in some circumstances. Its first major task will be a large number of medieval domestic objects for Project 25 of the HBMC programme.

Kate Starling

SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

There is now a sports/social club room at Burdett House, below the moulded stone room.

In there we have a **dart board** and in the first week of September we shall have a **pool table** as well.

This room is open from 4.30 p.m. for anyone who wants to come along (bring your own beer!)

If anyone has any further suggestions for the room, please contact Dave Cooper at Burdett House on 329 0786.

Softball

MUSEUM TEAM GET NEW NAME!

In a shock return to the origins of the game the Museum of London Softball team will in future be known as the **London TECUMSEHS**. The disgraced Tecumseh team, disbanded in 1878, have been much missed from the game and the Museum team hope to recall the glory days of such stars as Joe

Hornung and Harry Gorman. A spokesperson for the reformed Tecumsehs said "We will put the ball in play and see what happens".

The Tecumsehs are still playing in Regents Park every Monday evening and welcome anyone who wants to try out.

Results:

"Museum lose but there's hope for the future!!"

Museum 19 P & O Travel 26

In their first competitive game of the year the Museum were outclassed by a P & O team who clearly had a better understanding of the rules of the game. But it's not all gloom for the Museum team. Certain individual performances suggest that the Museum could be a very hard team to beat in future.

"Jessica almost Pooles it off!!"

Museum 19 Cononco Oil 20

In a closely fought encounter at Regents Park the Museum of London softball team came within a whisker of beating a team from Cononco Oil. After 6 innings the Museum trailed the much more experienced Cononco team by only a single run. Star of the night for the Museum was **Jessica "Pee wee" Poole** who gained three runs and was not out on a fourth innings.

"Museum team refuse South African invitation".

Museum 16 Guildhall 16

It's a shame that the two teams were not playing the same rules!!

Kevin Wooldridge

Sports and Social Club news from 1598

as reported by John Stow in his Survey of London

"Sports and Pastimes of old time used in this Citie

Let us now come to the sports and pastimes, seeing it is fit, that a Citie should not only be commodious and serious, but also merry and sportfull. Every yeere on Shrove-Tuesday the Schoole-boyes do bring Cockes of the game to their Master, and all the forenoone they delight themselves in Cockfighting. After dinner, all the youthes go into the fields to play at the ball.

The Ball is used by Noble-men and Gentlemen in Tennis courts, and by people of meaner sort in the open fields and streets.

The Schollers of every Schoole have their ball, or bastion, in their hands: the auncient and wealthy men of the Citie come forth on horsebacke, to see the sport of the young men, and to take part of the pleasure, in beholding their agility..

Every Fryday in Lent, a fresh company of young men comes into the field on horsebacke, and the best horse-men conduct the rest. Then march forth the Citizens sonnes, and other young men with disarmed launces and shields, and there they practise feates of warre."

When the great Fenne or Moore, which watereth the walls of the Citie on the north side, is frozen, many young men play upon the yce, some stryding as wide as they may, doe slide swiftly: others make themselves seates of yce, as great as Milstones. One sits downe, many (hand in hand) doe draw him, and one slipping on a sudden, all fall together. Some tye bones to their feete, and under their heeles, and shoving themselves by a little picked Staffe, doe slide as swiftly as a bird flyeth in the ayre, or an arrow out of a cross-bowe. Sometime two run together with Poles, and hitting one the other, either one or both doe fall, not without hurt: some break their armes, some their legges, but youth (desirous of glory in this sort) exerciseth itselfe thus against the time of warre."

FROM OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT...

Vijayanagara, India

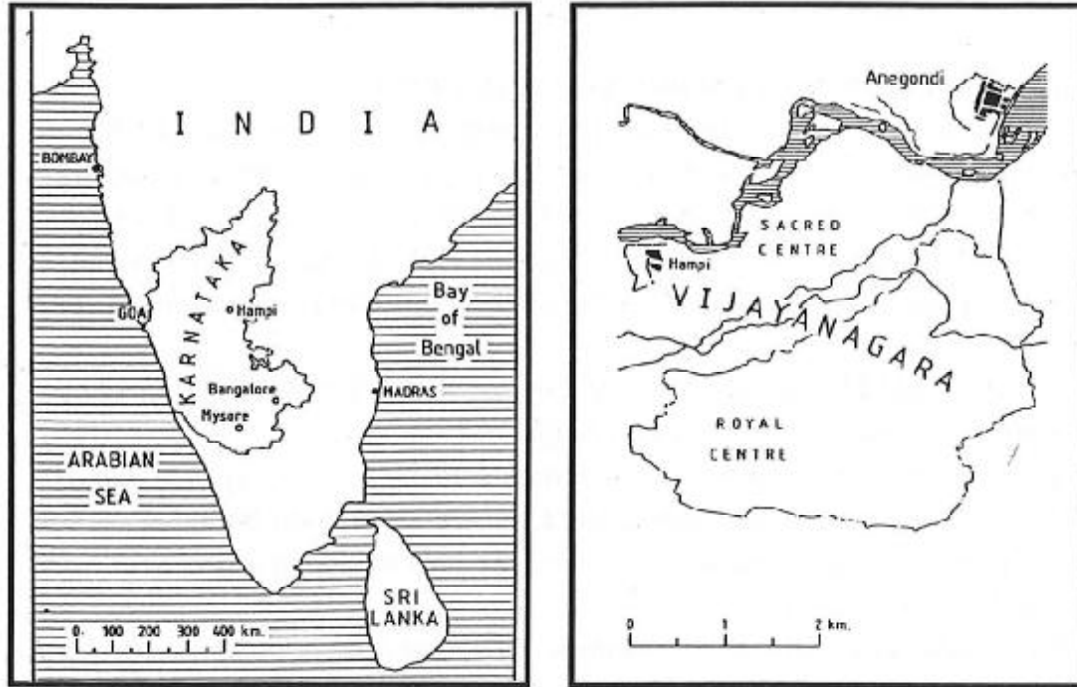


Fig. 1 South India

Fig. 2 Vijayanagara city ruins with Anegondi village

Vijayanagara was the great Southern Indian Hindu city which flourished during the 14th-16th centuries. Today, its impressive ruins are spread over more than 25 sq.km. Archaeological investigation of Vijayanagara has been undertaken annually since 1980 by an international team of archaeologists and architects. The project concentrates on techniques of "surface archaeology" by meticulously recording all visible data over a wide area, and is conceived as a complement to the excavations conducted in the Royal Centre of the site by two teams of Indian archaeologists.

In 1987 I began an ethnoarchaeological research project on architecture and the use of dwelling space in Anegondi, a village in Karnataka State Southern India which lies on the northern banks of the Tungabhadra River. To the south of the Tungabhadra lie the imperial ruins of the medieval Hindu capital Vijayanagara. When the capital was sacked in 1565 the royal families of Vijayanagara fled to the safety of Anegondi. Today, it has a population of approximately 3,000. The present royal family still reside in a 'palace' in the centre.

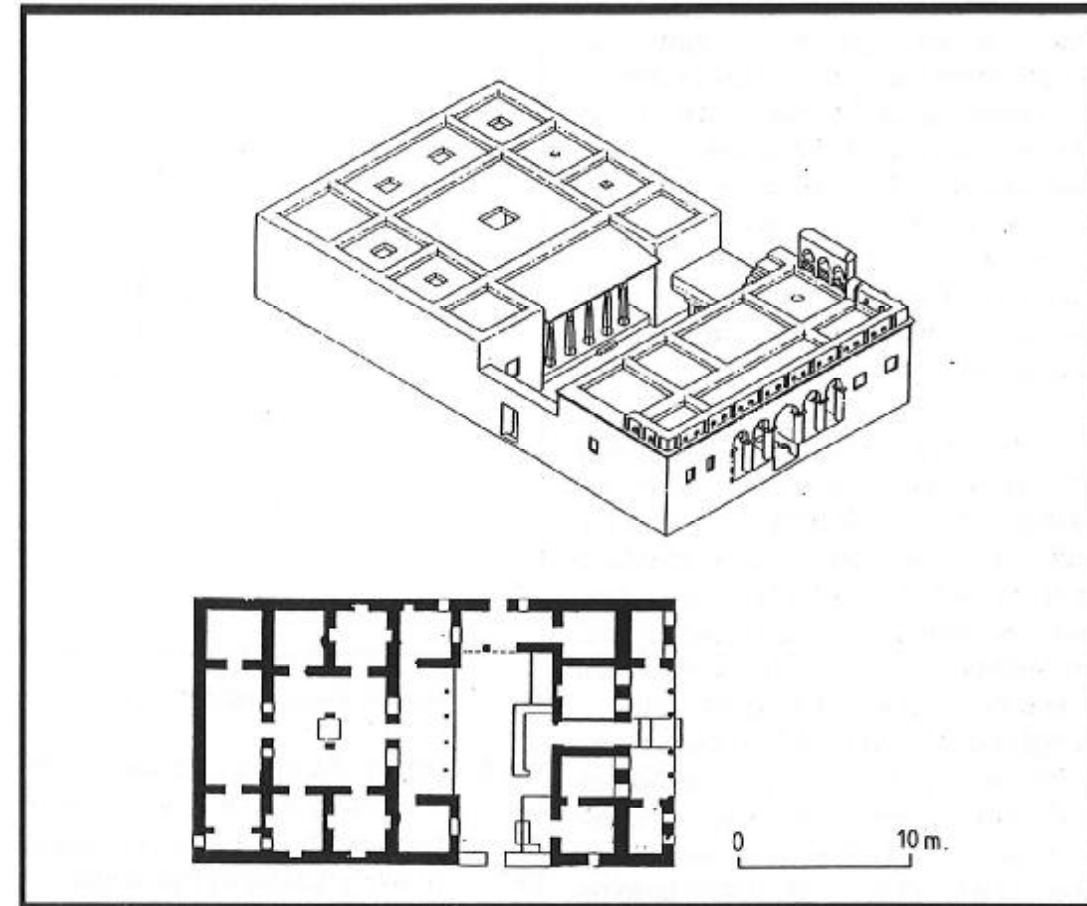


Fig. 3 Royal Residence, extended family

I had been asked to take part in the project by the directors who had heard about similar ethnographic research I had done in Sudan. However, when I arrived in India I knew little about the religion, language, or customs. I had to have permission from the village leaders in order to do the work. A guide took me to Anegondi, a journey of one and a half hours from Hampi where the archaeological team were staying. We followed a rocky path, high above the meandering deep blue Tungabhadra river, through cave-like passages between rounded granite boulders as high as double storey houses. We walked past abandoned temples with monkeys running wild through the elabo-

ately carved stone buildings. Eventually we reached the river crossing where we took a coracle, a small wicker boat with a single oarsman, which circled in the water in order to avoid the boulders beneath the surface.

Once in the village square we were led up to a group of elders drinking tea in the shade of a banyan tree. I was sent from one person to another, since no one could give me permission to go into anyone's house but their own. Due to a basic mistrust of Europeans and Hindu beliefs regarding contamination from other castes, the village people were very reluctant to allow me into their homes. Very few women spoke English.

Eventually two girls were found who could escort me from house to house. They were from a Christian family and so did not 'count' in the caste system, and therefore would not 'pollute' any dwellings they went in. As a sign of respect to my hosts I had to wear skirts that covered my ankles and leave my shoes at the threshold of each house visited.

The population of Anegondi are mostly Hindus with some Muslims. They are farmers who benefit from the stone irrigation channels built by the previous kings of Vijayanagara, and grow sugarcane, bananas, rice, coconut, and ground nut on the fertile black cotton soil that lies between the granite hills close to the Tungabhadra River. Many keep water buffalo and cows close to their homes and farms. Due to its fertility and resources Anegondi has often been fought over. Life is still very traditional: farming is not mechanised and fields are ploughed using draught animals. People fish by throwing out nets from round wicker coracles.

The project was conceived as part of the archaeological documentation of the ruined capital city of Vijayanagara: to provide comparative information by which the excavated dwellings could be better understood in terms of the function of the various rooms and courts, the status of the occupants, the techniques of construction, and the overall appearance of the structures.

Village dwellings vary from simple huts to elaborate royal residences and are mostly unaffected by modern practice. It was hoped that a study of these forms in the context of contemporary society

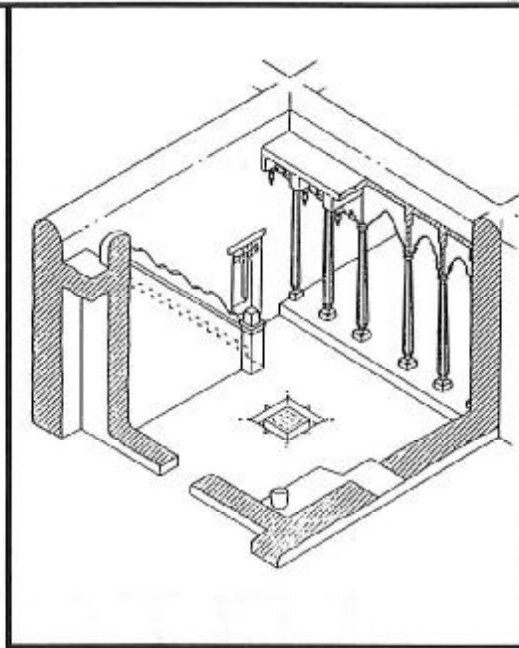


Fig. 4 Royal Residence, central courtyard

would help interpret the archaeological evidence of dwellings of the past society, and contribute to a more complete picture of everyday life in the royal centre of the Hindu capital Vijayanagara.

Two seasons of fieldwork have been conducted (January-February 1987 and 1988). With the aid of architects, data has been assembled from different dwellings in the community: those belonging to farm labourers, merchants, priests, and the royal families. Accurate measured plans have been produced locating all features within the house, and each dwelling located on an overall map of the village. Information about the occupants has been recorded and includes data on class, kinship, occupation, wealth, and religious beliefs. Particular attention has been paid to the relationship between the material form of houses and the social organisation of the residents, and the ways in which different rooms and household artefacts

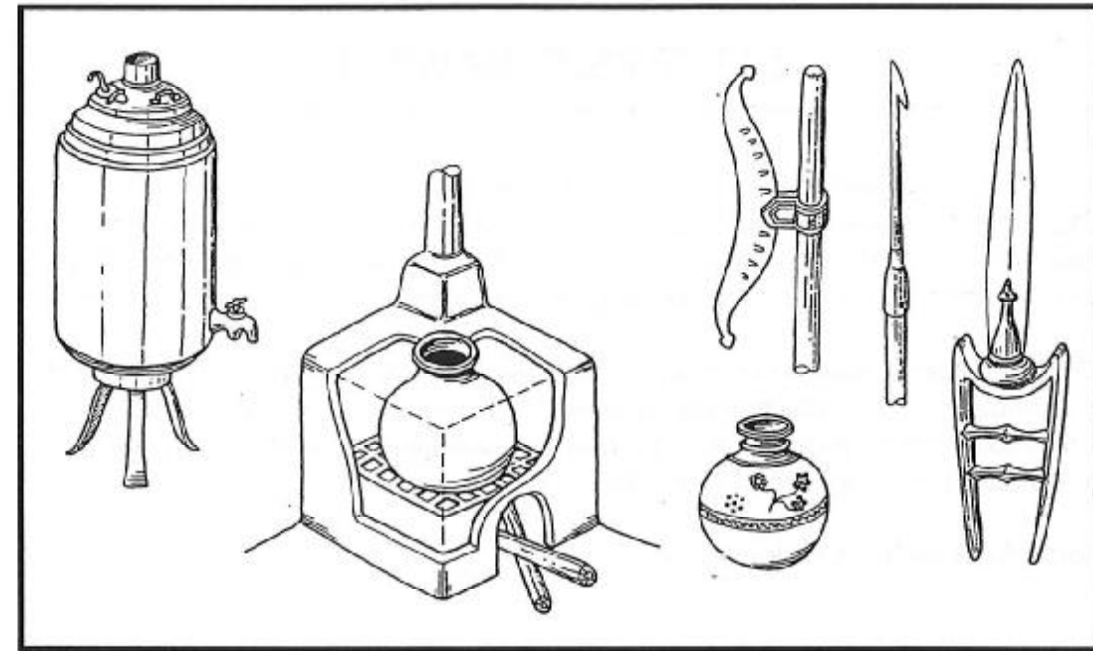


Fig. 5 Free-standing copper water heater
 Fig. 6 Enclosed copper water heater
 Fig. 7 Ceremonial axe, snake spear, dagger
 Plastic water-carrying pot

are used. Note was made of modifications introduced in response to social change: between the first and second year's fieldwork six houses underwent internal restructuring. In the third season dwellings will be checked against original drawings, and changes or modifications noted.

The findings are being applied to the recently excavated royal residences at Vijayanagara. As yet, the excavators have been unable to identify the different house types, the status of the occupants, or the functions of various rooms and courts. Since only the floors and foundations have been discovered, the overall appearance of these structures

remains unknown. Preliminary assessments of the dwellings suggest that there are many similarities between the new and old, particularly with floor plans, materials and construction methods.

Over the two seasons and with help from a team of architects more than fifty dwellings were recorded from all levels of village society. This project has centred on domestic dwellings; the public, military, and religious architecture of Anegondi has been surveyed elsewhere. During the third season a survey will be made of the more ephemeral small mud and wooden structures in the village square: the barbers, laundries, tailors, tea shops and banyan trees.

Natalie Tobert

LETTERS/COMMENT

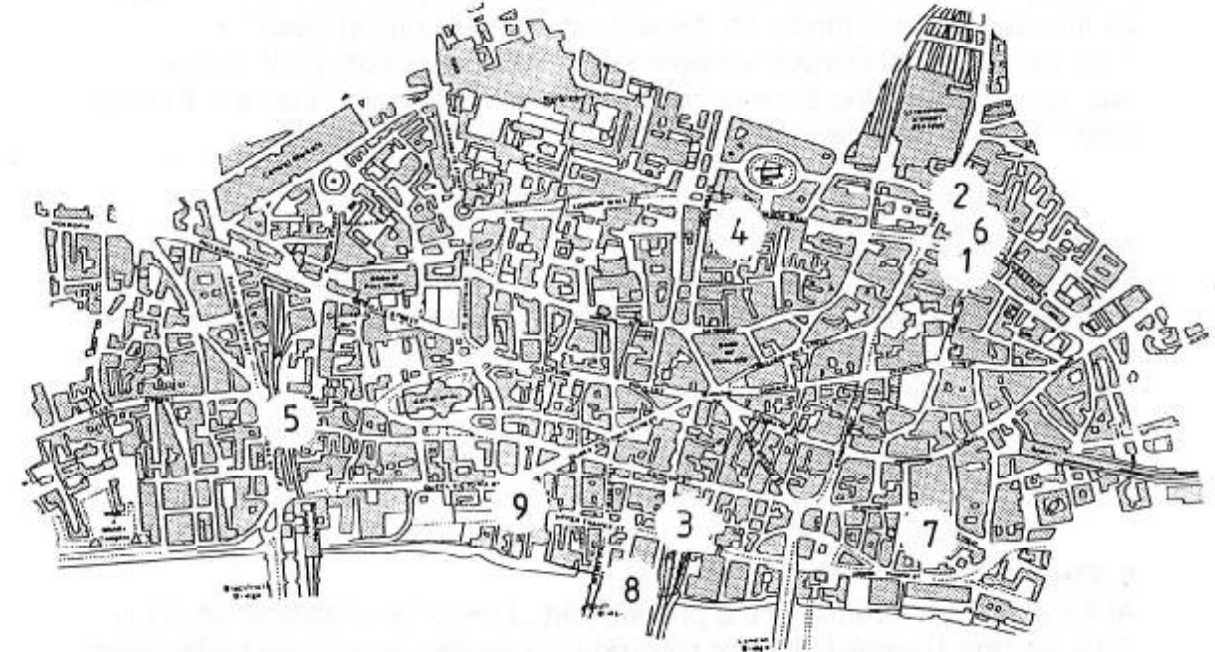
It has been suggested that a 'Pseud's Corner' (see Private Eye) be opened for DUA memos which plumb the depth of *Bulwer Lyttonesque* verbosity. If nothing else perhaps it will encourage a higher standard of literary composition within the Department. By common consensus, the following is submitted as a starter:

"Bereft of space, staff and money, it has been expected to meet the multifarious demands of these two gargantuan operations, like an overworked child required to tend the capricious whim of two children grown out of control."
(memo from Photographic, 1989/90)

John Hudswell (aka Dick Johns)

DUA EXCAVATION NEWS

Summaries of sites for August 1989



1. 58-60 Houndsditch

During the first week of excavation, part of the Roman city wall has been exposed on the south of the site, and four Roman burials have so far been revealed on the north of the site, located extra-murally. The city ditch is also anticipated on the north of the site.

2. 158-164 Bishopsgate

In the final area of excavation, 4 trial holes were dug. These revealed similar survival to other areas: Roman quarry pits rapidly backfilled and occasional medieval domestic rubbish pits. No medieval buildings survived but possible 17/18th century structures were found. The main finds this month have been a medieval pewter saucer provisionally dated to the 15th century. It is approximately 17cm in diameter and will be X-rayed to see if it has any decoration. Also a ceramic zoomorphic face has been recovered. It is of Kingston type ware, 1230-1350 and would originally have been part of a jug.

3. Cannon Street Station

In the final 3 weeks of excavation a trench was dug in the south-west corner of a 12th century single-aisled hall, associated with the Merchants of Cologne, to recover as complete a ground-plan as possible. A series of internal surfaces of mortar, crushed greensand and chalk were excavated, and as before, several small and one large hearth were recorded, the latter probably being a lime-kiln for the production of mortar for the walls of the forthcoming building.

Two post-and-wattle structures were seen in plan only, both north-south orientated i.e. revetting the east bank of the Walbrook rather than the Thames; they may have been associated with the Saxo-Norman foreshore.

4. 52-63 London Wall

The site lies across the Walbrook Valley, just within the Roman and medieval city walls. Work has continued on the building phases along the west bank of the Walbrook and to the west, in trenches truncated to a greater degree by the Victorian basements, several earlier ditches between the assumed line of the road and the river. These E-W ditches possibly represent a pre-building drainage and reclamation operation.

5. Fleet Valley

At the southern extremity of the project, part of the original confluence of the Fleet with the Thames has been recorded. Six partially articulated burials have been excavated in the same area together with medieval walls and a square stone-lined feature of unknown function. A ten metre stretch of the medieval city wall has been exposed at the western end of Pilgrim Street. Substantial ragstone walls have been located in the area of the perimeter around the Fleet prison together with deposits which may represent backfilling of the pre-seventeenth century moat. Dramatic changes in the OD levels on natural recorded towards the north of the Project support the early description of the Fleet Valley as being "ravine-like" in this area. Stream channels running down to the Fleet have been badly disturbed by a 19th century sewer.

Notable finds include pewter spoons and dishes, dating from the sixteenth century. Two barrel wells, a number of ivory objects and a complete copper vessel have also been recovered this month.

6. St Mary Axe

The floor slab was removed and machining revealed the medieval features to be mostly pits and some garden soil. The pits contained both domestic rubbish and contemporary building material: probably from St. Helen's Priory. Within a modern wall running along the medieval boundary between the parish of St. Helen's Bishopsgate and St. Mary Axe, a section of chalk wall was uncovered

with Tudor and later rebuilds. It is probably the precinct wall of St. Helen's Priory. Finds of note include several stamped Samian bases and a piece of worked jet (possibly part of a bracelet). Also ten worked wooden discs (of *liquium vitao*) were found in the backfill of a 17th century basement. So far their function has not been identified, except to say that they were probably 'industrial'.

7. Great Tower Street

To the north of the site, the foundations of a series of Roman buildings has been uncovered. These were truncated by rubbish pits containing large quantities of decorated wall plaster, roof and flue tile and first and early second century pottery. To the south was a series of rectangular rubbish pits which have produced twelfth and thirteenth century pottery. In the centre of the site were two medieval chalk-lined cess pits. Their size and construction suggests that they belonged to important medieval buildings. The southern part of the site contains a series of intercutting Roman, medieval and post-medieval cess and rubbish pits.

8. Thames Exchange

Since May, the watching brief has been recording the sequence of riverfront revetments and embankments which marked the successive stages in the reclamation of the north bank of the Thames from the 3rd to the 14th century. Activity was observed representing the rebuilding of a major inlet, and much information has been gleaned from the varied timber remains: these included part of a Saxon dugout trough and fragments of various Saxon boats, one of which may be among the largest known from north Europe.

9. Dominant House

The continued watching brief on the site has enabled the ground plan of the western apse to be completed and those of the retaining walls and the primary building phase to be added to. A sequence was also revealed through what may be a second furnace area. Observation will continue on this site through September.

PRESS CUTTINGS

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1989



Archaeologist Nick Oakley uncovers a Roman shoe at the London Wall site

Roman shoemaker workshop found on £55m office site

By R Barry O'Brien

ROMAN citizens of London in the first century AD had quite a taste for well-made shoes, according to archaeologists.

They have uncovered the remains of a shoe workshop at the site of an office development near London Wall, in the City.

"We have found an enormous quantity of small bits of leather left over after soles and uppers were cut from larger pieces," said Mr Duncan Lees of the Museum of London, who has been directing the excavation.

"The great quantity shows the workshop was throwing away the scraps. It is the biggest collection of leather waste for the production of Roman footwear ever found."

"The uppers were cut from two or three pieces of leather. Work still has to be done on the scraps to see what type of sandals they are for, but they seem to have been hob-nailed leather soles with sandal uppers."

As well as leather scraps, the archaeologists also found a large quantity of animal bones cut into small pieces, apparently for boiling down to make glue for use in shoe-making.

Mr Lees said the excavation had uncovered what appeared to have been a Roman industrial area in the valley of the Walbrook river, which in Roman times was a Thames tributary.

The site, on the corner of London Wall and Coptihall Avenue, was uncovered during the demolition of office buildings built in the 1870s.

Jones Lang Wootton is redeveloping the site in a £55 million project for the Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society which has paid for the six-month investigation.

Miss Josie Murray, site environmentalist, said the Museum of London would be analysing material found there to investigate the impact of the Romans on the local environment.

"Work in the past has shown that this area before the Romans arrived in London was very green, open and fairly marshy."

"Analysis of plant remains has shown that water cress and chickweed were growing in the Walbrook Valley."

"Before the Romans arrived it was a stable environment. The Romans started altering the drainage, digging things up, building houses, chopping down trees, creating a new environment."

"It was the first stage in the alteration of the environment which has continued to the present day."

● An enclosed cemetery dating from the first century BC, before the Roman invasion of Britain, has been uncovered on the site of a new by-pass for Maldon, Essex.

The discovery was made in an aerial survey which pinpointed cropmarks — an effective way of making archaeological finds during a dry summer.

Among finds from the site on display yesterday were fragments of what Mr Lees described as a unique piece of pottery decorated with tin. "In decoration has not been found in Roman Britain before," he said.

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Romans tried to tax London pollution

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

The Romans had such a bad environmental effect on London that the Emperor Vespasian put a special levy on one of the chief commodities in the main industry they introduced, according to evidence being uncovered by Museum of London archaeologists.

Digging in the Walbrook Valley in east London they have discovered that leather tanning became a big industry in the area soon after the Romans arrived in about AD 50, and that human urine was one of the main components of the process.

"It appears to have been collected from the public lavatories in Roman London, and the situation got so bad that it led to the emperor instituting a tax to limit the practice," Miss Sue Riviere, of the

museum, said. "Plainly green issues are not new, because it seems that the emperor's own brother, Titus, objected to the tax on the grounds that it offended public sensibilities."

The archaeologists have found that that was not the only example of the Roman pollution of London.

Plants that had thrived before the Romans' arrival ceased to flourish; animal remains showed that they suffered from a deteriorating atmosphere after about AD 50; cess pits increased dramatically in number from that date, often fouling the Walbrook and its tributaries; and vegetation was cleared, natural drainage interfered with and the waterways canalised, with plant and insect remains indicating that the water became stagnant and noxious. Animals

were also slaughtered in great numbers, their remains further polluting the river.

The museum's excavations at 52-63 London Wall show that the Walbrook Valley quickly became an industrial centre. The remains of a street and Roman wooden and clay buildings have been discovered, with wooden roadside drains.

The timbers have been so well preserved in the wet earth that it has been possible to date them to the earliest times of the Roman occupation.

The excavation, funded by Scottish Widows with development management by Jones Lang Wootton, has been under way since February, and lies across one of the Walbrook tributaries. The river ran from modern Hoxton to join the Thames west of Cannon Street station.

PRESS CUTTINGS

SUNDAY TIMES 14-8-89

Medieval man looked like an average office worker

by Mark Ellis

MEDIEVAL man, it can be revealed, was not short, fat and hairy, with warts on his face and a leering grin.

The picture of our forefathers, passed down through imperfect history books and impressionistic paintings, is entirely false, according to archaeologists at the Museum of London who are working on one of the biggest finds of skeletons from the period.

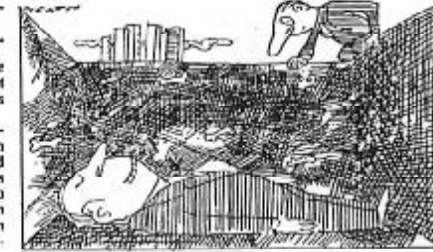
The typical medieval Briton was similar in stature to many of today's workers in City of London offices near the spot where hundreds of people were buried in mass graves during the bubonic plague in 1349.

Only his fuller mouth, a legacy of coarser foods needing prolonged chewing that stimulated jaw bone growth, would look rather strange to us. He did, however, have teeth largely free from decay.

The discovery of a cemetery from the time of the Black Death on the old Royal Mint site near the Tower of London two years ago has excited archaeologists, who say the find is more important than the collection of sailors' skeletons found on the Mary Rose, Henry VIII's flagship that sank in the Solent in 1545.

The cemetery gives the finest example of a cross-section of medieval British life, with rich, poor, young and old buried together within 18 months of the plague reaching London in September 1348. The archaeologists have found that our ancestors:

- Lived longer than is commonly believed for the period;
- Had fewer cases of arthritis than expected by bone specialists;
- Suffered fewer cases of bone fractures in falls, violence and at work;
- Had a diet of bread, meat,



fish, cheese and ale, with few signs of tooth decay.

Duncan Hawkins, one of three archaeologists who supervised the £1m dig, said: "It will provide a unique picture of medieval man. The general picture of medieval man is a cross between something out of Monty Python and the Holy Grail and a figure in a Bosch painting — pretty ugly."

The skeletons will be subjected to DNA tests to take genetic fingerprints from the bone for researchers working on sex and racial groupings. Oxygen isotope analysis will be taken to measure the carbons laid in the bones by various foods to determine diets.

osteologist at the Museum of London, is cataloguing the skeletons and taking measurements to assess whether the victims had broad faces, high foreheads, back problems or iron deficiencies.

She said: "This could demythologise the Middle Ages. We think of them as being fat, hairy and dying at 35. I think this is inaccurate."

Dr Tony Waldron, a consultant physician at St Mary's Hospital, west London, said half the skeletons he had seen showed signs of arthritis, but it affected people less than he had expected.

One of the most extraordinary finds is the case of the man who was stabbed in the back with a huge downward blow which embedded the knife-end in two vertebrae, narrowly missing the spinal cord. Amazingly, he survived, only to die in the plague a few years later.

The last of the 700 skeletons to be excavated was found with a hoard of 100 silver coins, but other wealthy victims of the plague were not so lucky. Many were stripped of virtually everything except their shrouds. Grave-diggers of the period, the archaeologists noted, could become very rich.

CATHOLIC HERALD, Friday, 25th August 1989

Dig reveals wealth of decadent Dominicans

EXCAVATIONS at the site of the 13th century Blackfriars Priory in London are revealing the prominent role played by the Dominican monastery in Britain's religious, literary and political history, archaeologists confirmed this week.

Founded in 1276, the monastery, whose remains are situated in the City near Blackfriars Bridge, played an unwitting part in England's separation from Rome nearly 300 years later. In 1529 it was the venue for a specially convened Papal court which refused to sanction Henry VIII's bid to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

Last April a group of Dominicans returned to the site for a visit at the invitation of Bruce Watson, leader of the excavations. They were the first members of the order to visit the site since the monastery was dissolved in the 1530s.

According to Mr Watson, although Blackfriars was founded by men eager to turn away from wealth and prestige, it soon lost its commitment to the simple life and followed other monastic orders down the road to decadence.

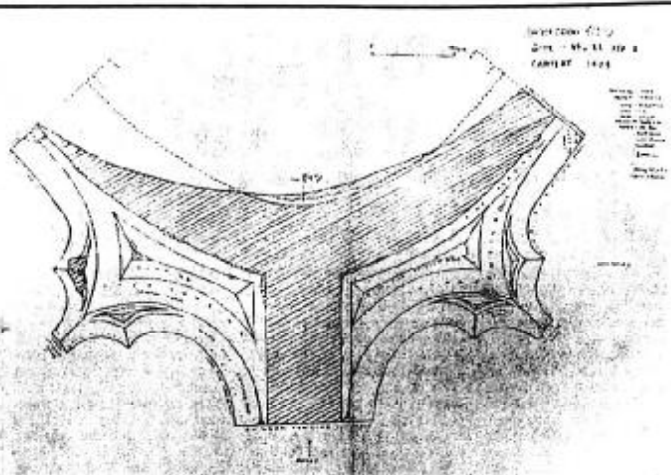
"Blackfriars was fit for a king. Archaeological evidence such as the Purbeck marble grave slabs of rich lay patrons and titles bearing the Dominican crest give an indication of this wealth," he said.

After the Reformation the monastery was transformed into a playhouse. Shakespearean academics claim *The Tempest* may have been written and performed there.

St Dominic's Priory in North London is closely involved in the excavation work. All the human remains which have been unearthed were returned by the Museum of London to be laid in Dominican soil at St Dominic's.



Archaeologists examining pieces of fifteenth-century window tracery which are among the latest discoveries from Blackfriars Monastery in the City of London. Photograph: Peter Macdonald



Detailed drawings are used in the reconstruction of window tracery at Blackfriars Priory

Wealthy past revealed at medieval monastery

By David Keys
Archaeology Correspondent

ARCHAEOLOGISTS are piecing together the remnants of one of Britain's most significant medieval monasteries, Blackfriars Priory in London.

Excavations led by Bruce Watson, of the Museum of London, have uncovered the remains of four of the 15 buildings of the Blackfriars complex.

The finds include parts of the priory's residence, the chapter house, the residence of the English provincial head of the Dominicans, and the vaults.

The archaeologists excavating in and around the priory complex have also found 300 pieces of worked stone, a third of which have moulded designs.

Every item is being drawn by a team of artists, and each piece of stone has to be sketched to a high degree of accuracy. The museum will keep all the decorated material, but most undecorated, though finely worked, blocks could end up as hard core.

Archaeologists will use the drawings to reconstruct what the priory may have looked like. Some pieces of window tracery are even being fitted together in their original form.

The priory was founded in 1276 and up until the early seventeenth century, the site was not subject to the control of the City

corporation, despite its position within the City walls.

It was because the city had no direct control over the Blackfriars complex that Richard Farrant, the Tudor impresario, chose it for his playhouse in 1576.

Farrant's playhouse continued until 1590 when it was closed by the government, which was not impressed by the political jokes for which it became famous.

Blackfriars Priory, run by the Dominican Order, was the venue for a Tudor parliament and where a papal court refused to accede to Henry VIII's request to divorce Catherine of Aragon.

It was Henry's failure to win his divorce case at Blackfriars that led to his break with the Roman Catholic church and to the establishment of the Church of England. It also led directly to the downfall of Cardinal Wolsey, one of the two papal representatives who tried the king's divorce case at Blackfriars.

England's first commercial indoor Tudor playhouse was established in 1576 in what had been the priory dining room, the remains of which, thought to be 20

yards to the south-east of the current excavation, may be investigated.

A parliament in 1523, the court which tried Henry's divorce case in 1528, and the Shakespearian Blackfriars Playhouse, were all housed in the priory's great hall.

The Blackfriars Playhouse and the company of actors who performed there were partly owned by William Shakespeare. One expert on Shakespearian literature, Professor Andrew Gurr, of the University of Reading, believes *The Tempest* may have been written for the Blackfriars playhouse and performed there.

Blackfriars was also connected with the poet William Langland, who in 1360 described the priory in his epic poem, *The Vision of William Concerning Piers the Plowman*.

The poem criticises the failure of the Dominicans to live up to their vows of poverty by describing the priory dining room as a "hall for a high king his household to harbour".

An indication of some of this medieval wealth, including painted tiles bearing the Dominican crest, is being unearthed. Other finds include the Purbeck marble grave slabs of rich lay patrons and the lavatories of the priors.

Dig unearths the dirt on Romans!

RECENT excavations at London Wall have shown environmental problems are not a phenomenon of the present and the Romans starting polluting the City nearly 2,000 years ago.

Major excavations at 52-63 London Wall, which lies across a tributary from the River Walbrook to the Thames, have revealed that the Romans began to turn it into an industrial area in AD 50.

When they arrived they cleared vegetation,

by ANTONIA HAMMOND

interfused with drainage and turned tributaries of the River Walbrook into canals.

On the west bank there was glass and leather manufacture. On the other side signs have been found of animal slaughtering and the extraction of marrow from the bones.

It is believed this led to a high level of pollution. Plant and insect remains show the water became stagnant and smelly.

Archaeological work has shown the river was clean until the Romans settled there.

Remains of ligs, bramble pits and human pottery eggs have shown that as well as polluting the river with their industry the Romans disposed of sewage into it. They also drank from the river.

Tanning and leather working was one of the main culprits for the pollution. Human urine was used to steep hides and pull cloth.

Emperor Vespasian was so worried about the effects of the use of urine he imposed a tax on its collection from public lavatories in a bid to reduce pollution.

Glass production would not have resulted in unpleasant wastes but it would have polluted the air from kilns and furnaces.

But the Romans were not totally oblivious to the effect they were having on the environment. Raw glass worked in the London site was made elsewhere and the Romans used imported materials. They even recycled glass.

The excavations are being paid for by Scottish Widows and the development management is by Jones Lang Wootton. The work began in February this year.