

MOLAS LIBRARY

NEWS

October 1989
No. 13

DUA ARCHIVE COPY

INTRODUCTION

A lecture and display was put on for the Corporation of London this month, describing the results of the Whittington Avenue, Fenchurch Street, Guildhall House and Yard sites that they have funded. Thankyou to everyone who was involved in producing this: it appears that it has been greatly appreciated by those who attended.

STAFF**Resignations**

Charlie Johns
Patrick Hunter

Appointments

Jerry Youle - Senior Archaeologist: 145-6 Leadenhall Street
Tony Mackinder - Senior Archaeologist: 40 Queen Street/Skinners Lane
Susan Banks - Archaeological Draughtsperson: Leadenhall Court
Simon Pope - Finds/Site Liaison Supervisor
Morag Colquhoun/Jo Stevenson - Senior Archaeologists: Thames Exchange post-
excavation
Caroline Pathy-Barker (DGLA) - Assistant Excavations Officer

Vacancies

DGLA Senior Archaeologist: 38-46 Albert Embankment
Closing date 4th October

Assistant Director, Lancaster University Archaeology Unit -
Further details from Excavations Office
Closing date 6th October

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING EXCAVATIONS AND WATCHING BRIEFS
TODAY'S DATE: 26 Sep. 1989

		September				October				November				December				January 1990						
		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	5
America Square	TN				6	8	8	8	8	8														
Artillery Lane 4-10	TN					2	2								10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Barnard's Inn WB	EN	2																						
Billingsgate Bathhouse	ST						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bishopsgate 41-63	EN																							
Bishopsgate/Spital Square	RE																					12	12	12
Bow Churchyard 5	HE										10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Bush Lane 28	ST						1	3	3															
Cannon Street 38	TN														6	6	6	6						
Dominant House	HB	2	2	2	2																			
Eastcheap 30-40	EN								1	7	7	7	7	7	7									
Gresham Street 52	EN		2																					
Gt. St. Thomas Apostle 13	RE									10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10							
Guildhall Yard	JM														6	6	6	6	6	6				
Houndsditch 58-60	EN	7	7	6	6																			
Leadenhall 145-146	HB					10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10										
Leadenhall 34-35	TN	10	10	10	10	10	10																	
Leadenhall 78-79	HB					10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10											
Pinners Hall	TN													12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Queen St/Skinners Lane 40	TN					8	8	8	8	8	8													
Savage Gardens 25	HB						3	3	3															
St. Mary Axe 25-43	RE	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Vintry	EN/RE	2	2	2	2	4	2																	
W. Smithfield/Giltspur St	TN	10	12	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15							
Wardrobe Court	ST																							
SUB-TOTAL REQUIRED		45	47	47	61	69	82	70	71	71	75	75	75	87	89	82	82	67	51	51	45	57	47	35
FLEET VALLEY	RE																							
Car Parks Area C2																								
Car Parks Area D																								
Car Parks Area E																								
Car Parks Area F																								
Car Parks Area H																								
Newcastle Close						3	3	3																
Pilgrim Street		10	12	12																				
Shafts BT wb			3	3	3	3	3																	
Shakespeare's Feast																								
2/Ludgate Cellars 2		12	12	12	12	12																		
6/Old Seacoal Lane																								
7/Mother Bunch's 1		10	10	8	8	16	24	24	24															
7/Mother Bunch's 2							16	24	24	24	24	24	24											
8/Fleet Lane A																								
8/Fleet Lane B																								
8/Holborn Viaduct		3	3																					
PC and APC		2	2	2	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		37	42	37	28	36	48	50	50	26	26	26	26	26	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL No. STAFF REQUIRED		82	89	84	89	105	130	120	121	97	101	101	101	113	91	84	84	67	51	51	45	57	47	35
TOTAL No. STAFF AVAILABLE		85	85	83	87	86	86	90	91	92	92	92	92	93	92	92	92	0	106	106	106	106	106	106
+OVERSTAFFED; -=UNDER		3	-4	-1	-2	-19	-44	-30	-30	-5	-9	-9	-9	-20	1	8	8	-67	55	55	61	49	59	71

TRAINING NEWS

The next Training Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 17th October at 10.00am. All applications should reach me by 1.00pm on Friday 15th October!

Interim payments from the training vote were made to:

Dominique de Moulins } a conference on archaeological sciences
Josie Murray } at Bradford

Alison Hawkins Association of Archaeological Illustrators & Surveyors conference, Exeter

Jill Barnard Ethnographic Conservation Colloquium, Museum of Mankind

Mark Green The Association for Geographic Information conference Birmingham

IN HOUSE TRAINING

On Thursday 31st August Liz Shepherd, Jaqui Keily, Naomi Crowley and Roberta Tomber presented a training session to the staff of St Mary Axe on clay and timber buildings and their associated finds.

On Friday 29th September a seminar was held for staff at Giltspur Street on excavating and recording Roman cemeteries - led by Ken Whittiker, Josie Murray, Helen Jones and Frances Pritchard with further contributions from Andrew Westman, Jan Scrivener, Dave Bentley and the staff themselves.

Finally, don't forget the seminar on Monday 9th October on the DUA Publication Programme, at 4.00pm in Education C.

Susan Greenwood

FINDS DEPARTMENT

Fleet Valley has produced some of the most interesting finds this month including two wooden medieval pattens made from a light, soft wood probably poplar or willow. They are both complete although one is broken and were recovered from the fill of a medieval barrel well. The soles are hinged with leather in two parts and straps which would have held the foot in the patten still survive. They have been preserved in such good condition that fine tool marks are visible upon them.

Amongst the ceramic finds this month is a complete late 17th century/early 18th century Staffordshire flatware dish from Giltspur Street. It has a combed brown and white slip (which looks like the top of a bakewell tart!).

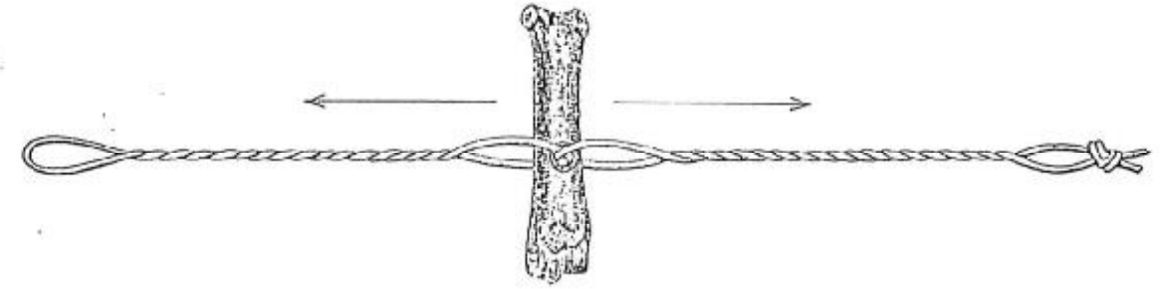
A Post medieval tin glazed ware button has been found at 8-11 The Crescent (CRT 89). It is unusual because tin glazed buttons are rare and also because the interesting depiction of the lady displayed seems to be anatomically impossible!



Two interesting bone objects have come from 1-4 Giltspur Street (WES 89) - a late post medieval bone syringe and Houndsditch (HSD 89) - a medieval bone tuning peg.

The number of outstanding finds has been small this month, but more exciting information that has been discovered about finds reported in last month's issue can be revealed:

A viking bone buzz disk has been positively identified from GAG 87. This is a rather unassuming cattle ankle bone with a hole in the centre. Two strings were attached through the hole and the bone was whirled around to produce a noise.



The rather gruesome fettered leg that was reported in the last newsletter to be Post Medieval is now thought to be Roman.

The Thames Exchange 'Novgrad' spoons are now on display in the Medieval Gallery of the Museum.

The Kingston wear jug with zoomorphic head has now been illustrated and the rams head can clearly be seen.



More information about the lamp from Dominant House: A mould made Firmalampe of *Loeschcke* type 1xb. It has a theatrical mask of a slave upon it and is probably Flavian in date.

DISPLAYS

Fiona and Maria produced a display of finds in the Museum foyer for a multi-developer presentation to the Corporation of London. The sites included were Guildhall House, Whittington Avenue and 1-7 Fenchurch Street.

PEOPLE

Simon Pope has joined the department as Site/Finds liaison supervisor.

Jane has spent two weeks working in the conservation laboratory and has helped in the processes of freeze drying leather and conserving glass.

Maria has attended the 'Science in Archaeology' conference at Bradford University whilst Douglas participated at the International Symposium on Archaeometallurgy at Ameliowka in Poland.

Ruth Waller

Finds Research and Illustration

StaffCeramics

Heads of Department: Roberta Tomber
 Roman: Barbara Davies, Jo Groves, Robin Symonds (from February 1990)
 Post-Roman: Jacqui Pearce, Julie Edwards, Lucy Bown James Robinson
Building Materials: Ian Betts (supervisor), Naomi Crowley, Jackie Keilly, Sue Pringle

Small Finds

Deputy Finds Officer: Geoff Egan
 Researchers: Frances Pritchard, Lynne Keys, Douglas Moir

Illustration

Head of Department: Anne Jenner
 Illustrators: Nigel Harris, Sue Mitford, Gill Hale, Dianne O'Carroll (Pageant Illustrator)

Finds Research and Illustration form two separate departments but are housed together on Level One of the Museum and liaise closely for the purposes of publication. Our work can be roughly divided into current sites and long-term HBMC funded research projects. Consequently, a monthly update of our activities is not necessarily very informative and this entry is intended to give some idea of who we are and what we're doing.

POTTERY

Current Site Work

This work primarily entails on-site dating and identification. To achieve this site visits are made on a regular basis by a number of staff. Jo Groves and James Robinson are available to provide on-site date ranges for Roman and Post Roman pottery respectively, whilst Naomi Crowley, Jackie Keilly and Sue Pringle provide on-site dating of building materials and advice on sampling and related problems. Other members of the department are willing to answer specific enquiries on an informal basis and can be contacted on Extension 276 or 246.

In addition to this work we participate in training sessions for the field section, such as the recent seminar on "Clay and Timber Buildings".

Publication Projects

A number of HBMC funded projects are underway, in varying degrees of completion.

The Romanists are involved in a series of publications. East and West of Walbrook are field section projects with contributions on dating and structural evidence from Roman pottery (Barbara Davies) and building materials (Ian Betts and Naomi Crowley). The Leadenhall Court project entails a similar degree of collaboration for much the same end and Jo Groves is currently working on the pottery. Leadenhall will also be looked at more closely from a finds point of view, and Naomi Crowley is already working on the building materials.

Another important aspect of Roman pottery research has been the compilation of Roman Corpora. Barbara Davies has recently been completing the *Early Roman Corpus* which will be published next year, covering early Roman pottery from 50-150 A.D. Work on late Roman pottery is about to be resumed in the new year with the appointment of Robin Symonds to replace Beth Richardson. He and Roberta Tomber will be working on a late Roman Corpus.

The main project of Post Roman ceramics is the publication of a post medieval corpus to follow the work already completed on medieval pottery. Jacqui Pearce is researching Border wares of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, whilst Julie Edwards is concentrating primarily on the Tin Glaze wares and Lucy Bown, joining the department in October, will begin work on Redwares. Julie and Lucy are also working on joint projects with the field section relating to the Early Church in London and Medieval Tenements.

SMALL FINDS

Small Finds activity is concentrated on the publication series *Medieval Finds from Excavations in London*. Geoff Egan has been working intensively on volume three of the series, *Dress Accessories*. Frances Pritchard has also worked on this volume, but is principally involved in volume four, *Textiles and Clothing*.

Other volumes in this series include one on *Horse Fittings* which is being written by John Clark (Medieval Department) and for which Lynne Keys has completed some work on medieval horse shoes. Her main contribution will be to the ongoing *Medieval Household* volume. Douglas Moir meanwhile is currently specialising in a later period, working on the HBMC funded Cutler Street/Post-medieval Pits Project.

ILLUSTRATION

One of the Illustration Department's most recent and pressing occupations has been work connected with the *Dress Accessories* project. At present Anne Jenner, Sue Mitford and Nigel Harris are working with Geoff on layout and pasting-up. Anne is also involved in pottery illustration for the Tin Glaze wares and in illustrations for Leadenhall Court. Gill Hale is working on current finds from the Fleet Valley, whilst Diane O'Carroll has been recently appointed as Pageant Illustrator to work on drawings of finds chosen for exhibition.

The Illustration Department as a whole is involved in a number of joint projects with the curatorial departments for future publications on pilgrim badges, horse fittings and the medieval house.

James Robinson

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

This month has been very busy for the department. The wet wood tank was checked and the TEX88 Viking Mast Partner was added. A visit was made to Portsmouth to look at the Billingsgate timbers being conserved for the Pageant.

Some nice gilded Copper alloy objects have been treated for the Corporation Sites Reception on 25th September. Dana Goodburn Brown and Kate Starling put on a conservation display for the evening.

More lifting has taken place on site; yet more barrel wells from Fleet Valley. Also, a copper alloy vessel from Giltspur Street was lifted from a truncated grave. The vessel was extremely fragile and fragmentary. It will be X-rayed to try and ascertain the shape and who knows, maybe find some fine grave goods! On 29th September, Helen Jones participated in a training seminar for the Giltspur Street site on Roman cemeteries and the conservation aspects of lifting burials remains.

Interest is still flooding in for the Great Tower Street Glass Beaker. Several experts have taken a look and after a visit to the British Museum, it appears to be unique with no known parallels. The inscription is apparently in a Venetian dialect that has not yet been translated.

We have now completed the refurbishment of the conservation store. The stock of non-chemical laboratory material has been put back, which means the shelves are completely full.

Visitors to the lab this month have included 18 curatorial staff from several countries on a British Council course that was organised by Suzanne Kenne. Kate Starling gave them a Lab. tour and a talk on the management of archaeological conservation. Mr. Murray-Flutter from the Royal Armouries came to collect several leather archer's bracers which were conserved for them. Two archaeologists from Leningrad were briefly shown the freeze-drying machine and were very interested in our methods of conserving wood, as they were used to well preserved wood that had been naturally freeze-dried in Siberia!
America bound

The next few weeks will see the grand rendezvous in Boston. Helen Ganiaris is already there on home leave. Dana Goodburn Brown will be going to do some Ph. D. research at M.I.T. (plus a family birthday party). Kate Starling will shortly join her on holiday for a week. We believe Penny Maconnoran will also be there. Finally Rob Pyaton will actually be working in Wishington, lecturing on the Summer Schools programme. Jill Barnard will also be on holiday, leaving Helen Jones, Rose Johnson and Dave Carrington to man the fort!

Jill Barnard

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

TECUMSEHS WINNING STREAK CONTINUES

Despite a shortage of women players and fading daylight, the London Tecumsehs have stormed into a commanding one game winning streak lead. Unfortunately the sudden end to the season has left them with little chance for further glory.

Things on the batting side are, however, looking up and with 11 home runs hit in the last three games you have to look up to find the ball. The consistent hitting of Damian 'Daisy' DeRosa, with 15 RBIs hit in the last month, has together with the reliable batting trio of Dick, Niall and Pete made the team look even more offensive than usual.

With an end of season team batting average of .828 the real improvement has been seen in the base hitting ability of all players. Those with maximum improvement can be identified as Jane, Julie, Naomi and Craig. Tilly's 'good-eye' continues to provide that all important first pitch walk.

The only grain of criticism that can be laid against the door of the Tecumseh's tepee is their totally appalling fielding, any team that can allow an average of 5 un-earned runs on an average 7 errors needs a better attitude, not to mention a serious spell of coaching, we are approaching professional services for increased discipline!

Come on Tecumsehs, pull your defensive game together and who knows what victories might lay ahead next season, probably just the most unusual name award, but as they say, *"put the ball in play and anything can happen!"*.

LAST MONTH'S GAMES

TECUMSEHS..... 11	TECUMSEHS..... 19	TECUMSEHS.....26
PHILLIPS..... 11	RANDOM HITTERS..... 7	CAMPLAN COUGARS.....26

CONFERENCE REPORTS

THE AGM OF THE IFA

On the 16th of September the AGM of the Institute of Field Archaeologists took place at Birmingham University. The meeting was attended by a total of 34 members or some 5% of the total membership, so the view of the vast majority of members on the decisions made is unknown, simply because they did not bother to turn up. Two issues discussed during the AGM were of general interest.

Firstly, it was agreed to create a new class of membership - a Practitioner, this will be an intermediate grade between the two existing classes of corporate members of the IFA - associate and full member. The entry requirements for this class of membership will be -

1. An honours degree in archaeology (or equivalent relevant qualification), plus at least six months continuous and appropriate experience in field archaeology.
2. An honours degree (or equivalent qualification) in a non-relevant subject e.g. beach tennis studies, plus at least 12 months continuous and appropriate experience in field archaeology or at least 18 months intermittent involvement in field archaeology.
3. Documented achievement in field archaeology for at least two years.

Any membership inquiries should be sent to the IFA Minerals Engineering Building, Univ. of Birmingham, PO box 363, Birmingham, B15 2TT.

CONTRACT ARCHAEOLOGY

Secondly, perhaps prompted by a certain degree of self interest on the part of some IFA members attempted to get the recommendations of the IFA Contract Archaeology Committee made into IFA policy. Fortunately this resolution was amended to allow further assessment of the recommendations over the next 12 months, before IFA policy on this matter is decided. Hopefully at the next AGM more members will turn up to give their views on this matter.

One of these recommendations is that work should be only undertaken when a written contract has been agreed - which is already the norm in the majority of archaeological units. However the document agrees with the idea of competitive tendering for rescue excavations. These recommendations could

involve some sweeping changes to both the structure of British Archaeology and its funding.

Naturally competitive tendering would be welcomed by many property developers and their archaeological consultants as a way of reducing costs. There is obviously a great danger that cost or price will be the most important selection criteria in awarding tenders, as is normally the case when a County or City Council services are given to private tender.

It is possible that competitive tendering will lower professional standards (which paradoxically the IFA is pledged to uphold) turn excavations into watching briefs, lower wages and reduce standards of site safety. One worrying example of tendering was described by Andrew Lawson, Director of the Wessex Unit. His unit currently have a tender to excavate a small Roman town in advance of development. The archaeological budget will only allow 10% of the threatened area to be excavated! What would have happened to Huggin Hill baths if the site had been given to the unit offering the cheapest tender? However Jonathon C. Drake of Southampton City Museums explained that in competitive tendering price should not be the main criteria for selecting tenders. The proposed IFA system would work like this - all tenders or research designs for an excavations should be first assessed on academic and archaeological merit; then the cheapest one chosen (?).

Bruce Watson and Kevin Wooldridge.

FROM OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Abu Salabikh, Iraq

It is surprisingly easy to find yourself somewhere bizarre like Iraq. One day I signed by name at the bottom of an application form and promptly forgot about it. Months later I was sent an airline ticket to Baghdad, some information about AIDS an emphatic warning that soldiers should be obeyed at all times and a request that I should bring with me 3 months supply of toilet roll.

And so in February 1988 I found myself sitting in the Baghdad headquarters of the British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq, sipping tea and making small talk with a group of newly arrived archaeologists. Just as I was commenting upon how peaceful Iraq seemed for a country at war, something loud and dangerous whooshed and whistled over our

heads. There was a loud bang and a long slow rumble. The Expedition cat disappeared under the coffee table and the windows shook violently. An Iranian missile had just landed and The War of the Cities was starting again. We decided it was time to leave town.

The next morning we loaded the Landrover up with rice, olive oil, arak and tomato sauce. At a time when the British Embassy was advising everyone to leave the country we began to drive deeper into its heart.

We were aiming for Abu Salabikh, literally 'the father of pottery sherds', the remnants of a Sumerian town abandoned 4500 years ago. Abu Salabikh would have been a pretty average, non descript sort of place. It was one of many similar towns located on the massive flood plain of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, once known as the Fertile Crescent.

The landscape is no longer fertile. As we drove down the Baghdad-Basrah highway we passed through a flat and arid country. An endless expanse of brown mud shimmered in the heat haze. In places the ground was mottled grey-white with saline deposits, the legacy of thousands of years of over cultivation and inadequate drainage. The flatness was disrupted only by drainage canals, isolated mudbrick farms and large shallow marshy ponds.

The monotony of the journey was occasionally broken by crashed juggernauts and by flocks of sheep and goats herded down the fast lane by groups of small children. We passed a

large crowd of people standing round a coach lying on its side by the road. Its roof had been squashed flat. Periodically groups of black cloaked women trooped mournfully across the road. Many of them were bent double with huge bundles of twigs strapped to their backs. After three hours of driving the highway gave out to a dirt track and an hour later we arrived at Abu Salabikh, a low brown mound dissected by a drainage canal. Our dig house lay on the outer slopes of the mound. A modern village lay a few hundred metres away. It was called 'The village of the whirlwind'.

By the end of our first day in the middle of nowhere, we had cleared out the dig house, erected a ragged line of ex-army tents to sleep in, dug two toilet pits, reclaimed the dig fridge (curiously brandnamed Arcelik) from the local village headman's house, and clubbed to death a small family of rats. The rats had grown sleek and strong on a diet of vitamin pills foolishly left behind by the previous team. During the winter they had occupied themselves by eating and urinating upon the tents.

Within a day most of our work had been undone. It began to rain heavily and steadily. Water began to pour off the Sumerian mound. The ground turned to sticky mud. The wind grew strong and gusty, guy ropes began to twang and snake and rotten canvas billowed and tore. Tents slipped their pegs and sailed away, writhing masses of mud splattered canvas. Our beds lay exposed to the rain. For a while we floundered about hopelessly banging in pegs and making repairs with bits of rope. Eventually we

gave up and retired to the dig house, where we sat cold, wet and miserable, drinking cocoa and arak and playing interminable games of backgammon. The radio gave out news about the war. Things seemed pretty bad. I wished I'd stayed at home.

The Sumerians were important. They invented cities, writing, literature, monumental architecture, the wheel and bureaucracy. They lived in mudbrick houses in densely packed organic towns. In an attempt to impose themselves on a relentlessly flat landscape, they built huge stepped temples called ziggurats. Modern Iraq is scattered with the physical remnants of Sumerian civilisation. After centuries the remains are not impressive. Often there is little more than a low hummock of slumped earth.



And the work? This was never easy. The ground was dry, the sun was hot. When it was windy a sandblasting duststorm was raised, obscuring the sun and turning the sky brown. And when the wind died the flies came out.

The flies were perhaps the biggest problem. Mosquitoes sucked our blood, house flies spread riotous epidemics of food poisoning and swarms of black midges followed us as we trudged around. The flies seemed to breed vigorously in the toilet pits. In the heat of the day the toilet pits were unapproachable, surrounded by an exclusion zone of flies and smell. In fact a visit at any time was fraught with hazards. At dusk mosquitoes ate our genitals and at night we ran the risk of stumbling over a camel thorn and falling in head first.

The toilet pits contributed to our general ill health. Avoiding illness was impossible. At the end of every day Mohammed the cook cleaned his feet in the washing up bowl. I was forever removing decomposing lizards from the drinking water tanks.

The excavation lasted three months, from Spring until early Summer. Many random memories are still fresh in my mind. The pack of jackals that ran through the camp at night and howled to each other across the silty wastes, the deserted breeze block reconstruction of ancient Babylon, the extraordinary attacks of food poisoning and the graves filled with the crumbling remains of people who died a very long time ago. And was it worth it? Am I glad I went? I suppose so.

Jerry Youle

LETTERS/COMMENT

Research Design and Excavation Strategies: Response to John Schofield and Tony Dyson.

In the last issue of the newsletter (No. 12, pp. 3-4) John Schofield, largely paraphrasing Tony Dyson, outlined the DUA policy on excavation strategies and an "overall archaeological research strategy in the City". I feel that there are several serious problems with this policy mostly based on very basic misconceptions about what is a research strategy and its relation to excavation strategies.

If I were to accept their definition of a research strategy as "a list of academic priorities", I would have to agree with almost all the points made. However, a research strategy is not, or should not, be simply a list of "academic" priorities. This constitutes a very simplistic and naive concept of the role of a research strategy.

The role of the DUA is not to provide the academic community with the necessary resources for its latest fads, nor is it to flit about from problem orientation to problem orientation to the exclusion of sites which don't happen to match the flavour of the month. Neither is it the role of a research strategy to foster either of these programmes.

In fact, there are two strategies incorporated in the policy (and all archaeological research); an excavation strategy, which would include sampling and assessment strategies and would exist in general and site specific versions, and the publication, or research, strategy. The role of an excavation strategy is to make explicit what we already do -- namely, the definition and justification of the criteria by which we review the implications of each site, and by which we assess changing objectives on site. No site is dug to the degree that any one of us would like, compromises must always be made in a rescue situation and variable criteria are brought to bear for these decisions. We use just such criteria implicitly or by informal agreement on every site we dig. However, there is regularity in these decisions, or should be, and these regularities must be stated and justified openly. The role of an excavation strategy is to make these both explicit and accessible. Accessible to all archaeologists, mostly our own, for the open debate of these criteria.

In addition to an excavation strategy as a formal definition and justification of our excavation, sampling and assessment practices, is a research strategy which should define our research goals in terms of our publication programme. For largely the same reasons, we should make explicit our criteria and goals for publication and research in the City. These two strategies are not necessarily separate, and this is the basis of John's and Tony's fears. The aspect of a research strategy that defines the criteria for synthetic research can determine the sampling

and data recovery (site selection), since both are results of strategies (Patrik 1985). However, this does not have to be the case, and in the City should not be the case.

I fully agree with John and Tony that we do not know "all the important questions", not should we unduly limit "our own or other's preconceptions" (DUA Newsletter No. 12, pg. 4). However, this presupposes that we do not do just this, to a degree, through our general and site specific excavation, sampling and assessment strategies. In fact, all data collection, no matter how wide ranging, is limited by assumed questions and preconceptions (Roskams 1988, Renfrew 1989, Patrik 1985, Barrett 1989). The fact that we dig by contexts rather than spits is not because we excavate "without regard for current issues in archaeological research", but because we do.

There is a further assumption that the link between the criteria for an excavation strategy, and a research strategy is necessarily one way -- research goals imposing on excavation strategies. Though such a link must, and does, exist, it should not be a link where research goals determine excavation strategies. The results of the excavation and subsequent assessment must determine to a large extent the research goals, but both must consider other criteria in their definition.

The DUA publication programme should be, and increasingly is being, coupled to explicit and justified sampling and assessment programmes and their results (the Level III archive is just such an assessment). However, the criteria by which necessary resources are determined for sites and by which the objectives are re-assessed during excavation (excavation strategies) are unstated and ill-defined. There should be an ongoing debate in relation to a documented policy as to the assessment of broad implications for excavation, the effectiveness of the sampling and assessment programmes, and the viability of ongoing research.

The real problem with the DUA policy as stated is that the existing criteria are hidden behind an over-simplification of the practice of the DUA -- "to excavate worthy deposits where available without regard for current issues in archaeological research" (DUA Newsletter No. 12, pg. 3). What needs to be stated is what we define as 'worthy deposits' and with regard to what? Also, how the excavation and assessment we undertake influences our ongoing research and what the goals of this research are.

These criteria exist and are in use, implicitly or through the agreed conventions of the few. What I am calling for is a democratisation of these practices -- bring our excavation, sampling and assessment strategy, and publication strategy out into the open for all to see and critique. Allow these separate strategies to come into appropriate relation with each other for greater justification of the policies and practice of the DUA. Bring together these separate and unrelating policies into the document they should constitute - the DUA Research Strategy.

Barrett, J. 1988. Fields of discourse: reconstituting a social archaeology. *Critique of Anthropology*, 7:5-16

Patrik, L.E. 1985. Is there an archaeological record? *Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory*, 8:27-62

Renfrew, A.C. 1989. Comments on archaeology into the 1990's, *Norwegian Archaeological Review*, 22:33-41

Roskams, S. 1988. Giving meaning to the past: political perspectives in archaeology. In Bintlif, J. (ed.). *Extracting meaning from the past*. Oxbow Books, Oxford, pp. 65-68.

Robin Boast

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Ron Fortt is now contactable via a message pager:

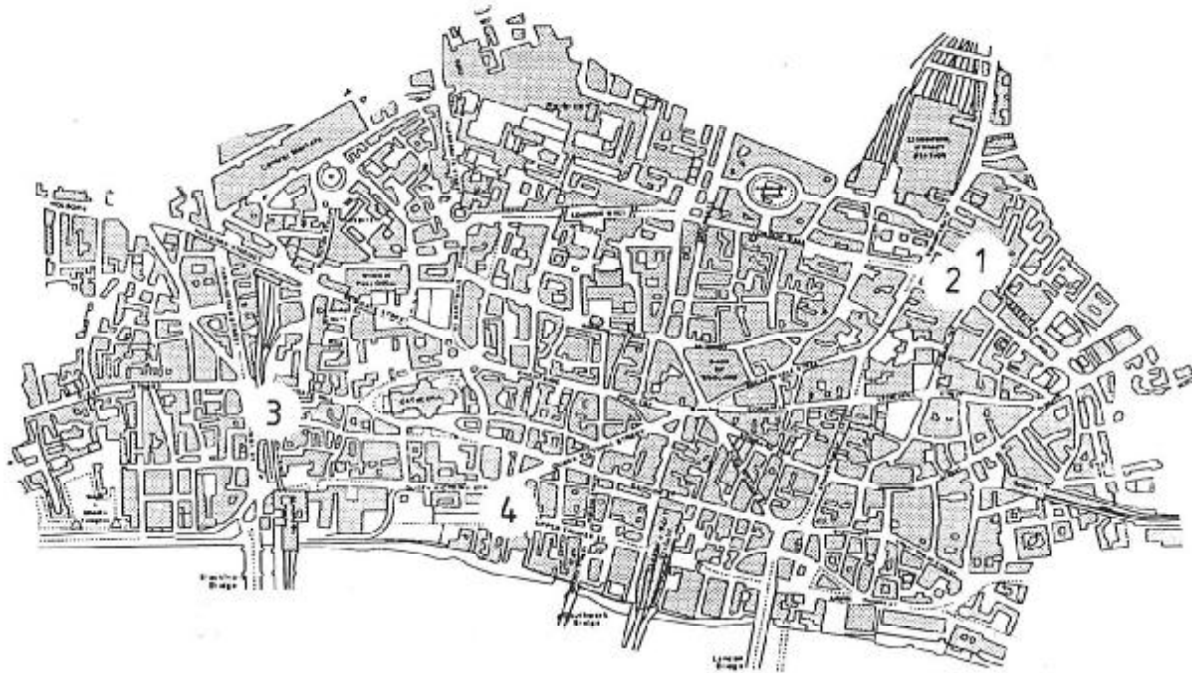
ring 528-9001 or 0523-523523 and quote pager No. 810102 and leave your message/request.

This is far more likely to reach him than a message left in the Excavations Office.

Prize for the best message left so far has to go to.....

"CAN FLEET BALLET HAVE LARGE AND SMALL HALOGEN LIGHT BULBS."

DUA EXCAVATION NEWS



Summaries of sites for September 1989

1. 25-51 St. Mary Axe, 9 St. Helen's Place

The first phase of excavation has been completed. This revealed Roman and medieval quarry pits beneath the medieval domestic refuge pits and a section of the precinct wall of St Helen's Priory was also recorded. On the second phase of excavation, chalk walls were revealed probably representing a basement of a structure within the precinct of St. Helen's Priory, and further west near the eastern end of St. Helen's church, part of a disturbed human skull emerged during initial cleaning. A series of cesspits has been observed to the east, containing some Roman wall plaster. Finds of interest have included a piece of post-medieval leather rope and two post-medieval ivory knife handles, and a medieval bone bodkin.

2. 58-60 Houndsditch

A damaged section of the Roman city wall 5.30m long survives at the southern end of the site, and is due to be preserved in situ.

The bottom of the Roman V shaped city ditch survived over part of the site and 7 Roman burials were found, some cut into its backfill. The medieval city ditch and several re-cuts were excavated, and the remains of several horses and dogs were found in the ditch silts. Finds have included waste bone from bead making, a leather shoe and an unusual find of a bone tuning peg for some sort of stringed instrument, which is apparently quite rare.

3. Fleet Valley Project

In Ludgate Circus a Roman tile and ragstone surface was uncovered at -0.25m OD, over which lay a large timber bridge abutment (spot dated 1050-1150). A possible Plague pit and a considerable medieval wall are being excavated in two of the contractors' trial pits. An 11m stretch of the medieval City wall was recorded prior to destruction. Much worked stone was recovered from the debris. The substantial remains of a large post-medieval building (Scotch Hall?) were uncovered south of Apothecary Street. A fire-damaged timber framed and plastered wall in the interior of the Fleet prison was found collapsed onto a flagstone floor.

4. Dominant House

The watching brief revealed a large north-south stone retaining wall, running south from the previously observed buttress for 10 metres. It defined an external area to its east, next to the western apse, and there appears to have also been an open area to the west of the wall. A brief excavation was carried out producing more structural information and a further furnace area, and this area was then wrapped in Terram and backfilled.

PRESS CUTTINGS

THE GUARDIAN
Thursday September 14 1989

Parting shot

BULL HN Information Systems is to raise its 11-storey London headquarters building by 10 metres following the discovery of a dinosaur footprint in the basement, according to a press release.

"Compared with the recent challenge of promoting the new worldwide image of Bull, lifting the HQ on to four "concrete stilts should frankly be an absolute doddle," commented T. Rex of the company's Farewell Drink Up Division (FDUD).

Yes, it's a joke perpetrated by two people who left the Bull press office last Friday. The remaining staff seem less than wholly amused ("We suggest you bin it"), but given Bull-headed notepaper, the temptation to send out a load of bull must have been irresistible.

6/9/89

£16m Carter Lane project begins

THE CITY RECORDER 9

WORK has started on MEPC Developments' £16 million project at 69 Carter Lane EC4. The new 299,000 sq ft building will replace a four-storey office and light industrial complex.

The project, which is expected to take 18 months to complete and had full B1 planning consent, comprises basement, ground and four upper floors constructed on a corner site within the Ludgate Hill Conservation Area.

One of the starting points of the design, by architects Michael Squire Associates, was that the entrance hall should link through to a view of nearby St Ann's churchyard. This is achieved with a double height space at the end of the hall, thus avoiding gloomy "dead-end" entrance halls.

The building's facades, of yellow brick with blue brick and natural stone dressings and large metal windows, reinterpret the local Victorian warehouse idiom in a modern manner, and the fourth floor is a fully glazed "penthouse" storey with a slate roof.

The high-specification office has VAV air-conditioning and full access raised floors throughout.

MEPC has a long leasehold interest in the site from the Goldsmiths' Company and has instructed Dron & Wright and Frank Durrant Westmore & Reeves to market the building to a single occupier. McLaughlin & Harvey have been awarded the £5.5 million construction contract.

● Following an £80,000 archaeological investigation carried out by the Museum of London and sponsored by MEPC, the foundations of a party wall with Ireland yard garden revealed a massive stone-built wall over 13 metres long - believed to be the east wall of the Blackfriars Priory Chapter House. This wall was demolished during the late 17th or 18th century. An intact medieval window and masonry from the north wall of the Provincial's Hall and Ireland yard, that have stood here for some 700 years, will be preserved and displayed within the new building.

This means that one of the newest buildings in Blackfriars will contain one of the oldest in situ windows in the City.

Provincial's Hall formed part of the Dominican Priory (known as Blackfriars), dissolved in 1538.

This lack of information on the number and distribution of historic buildings is matched by an inability to manage the development of listed building controls. The pace of the past decade of change as they affect different groups of buildings makes it difficult to use effectively the resources available, because the most valuable building types are not targeted.

But even with the limited power of the Secretary of State, it is difficult to control the exercise of listed building applications. The great majority of listed building applications are acceptable in principle but need careful revision in detail. Consider London there is no machinery for achieving this.

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Thursday, September 6, 1989

THE CITY RECORDER

2nd century finds from London Wall Roman Londoners

EXCAVATIONS at London Wall have yielded an impressive range and quantity of objects representing many aspects of life in Roman London.

Items of ceramic, bone, glass, copper and iron were recovered while waterlogged deposits also ensured the preservation of more sensitive organic materials such as wood and leather.

Most numerous in quantity are the fragments of pottery - mainly of 2nd century date - from a huge assortment of both home-produced and imported kitchen and table wares.

One small locally made beaker survives intact while another semi-complete sooted cooking pot contained the skeleton of a chicken, the absence of any butchery marks suggests that it had been placed intact into the pot.

A farther kitchen jar has a heavy build-up of limescale indicating that it was used to boil hard water.

INTEREST

Amphorae were the standard containers used to transport liquids and foodstuffs throughout the Roman Empire and abundant amphorae fragments of many different origins have been found on London Wall. Of special interest is an Italian wine-bearing example with a painted Greek inscription which has been deciphered as

Theo?rou, this name may represent the owner of the goods or the estate on which the wine was produced. The "watertight" pitch lining of this amphora still survives.

Of exceptional interest is an unique metal-decorated bowl of blackish coloured London ware. The rim and body of this vessel have been embellished with strips of tin and it is unlikely that any parallels for metal-applied decoration exist on other types of Roman pottery in Britain. This style of pottery is dated to AD70-120. It is intended to send the vessel to a specialist for further investigation.

Other household vessels used by Roman Londoners in the 2nd century include many fragmented glasswares such as flagons, cups, bowls and the more utilitarian bottles. Among the wooden items to survive in the waterlogged conditions are a well-tuned bowl and a ladle. Two stone mortars used for grinding include one which is made from a Mediterranean marble.

Among the numerous personal items are bone hairpins with lathe-turned heads, an ivory bracelet, several decorative copper-alloy mounts (probably originally attached to leather belts or garments) and a copper ligula or scoop used to extract cosmetics from long-necked bottles.

A very large number of men's, women's and children's leather shoes have been recovered including hob-nailed shoes, sandals and soft one-piece moccasins.

Commercial activities in Roman London are suggested by the presence of iron and copper styli or writing implements as well as by an enamelled leaf-shaped seal box of copper alloy which would have originally contained a blob of wax that held together the bindings of a writing tablet or package.

Over 40 copper-alloy coins were also found and these will eventually prove a valuable aid to dating the sequence of activity on the site.

LEATHER

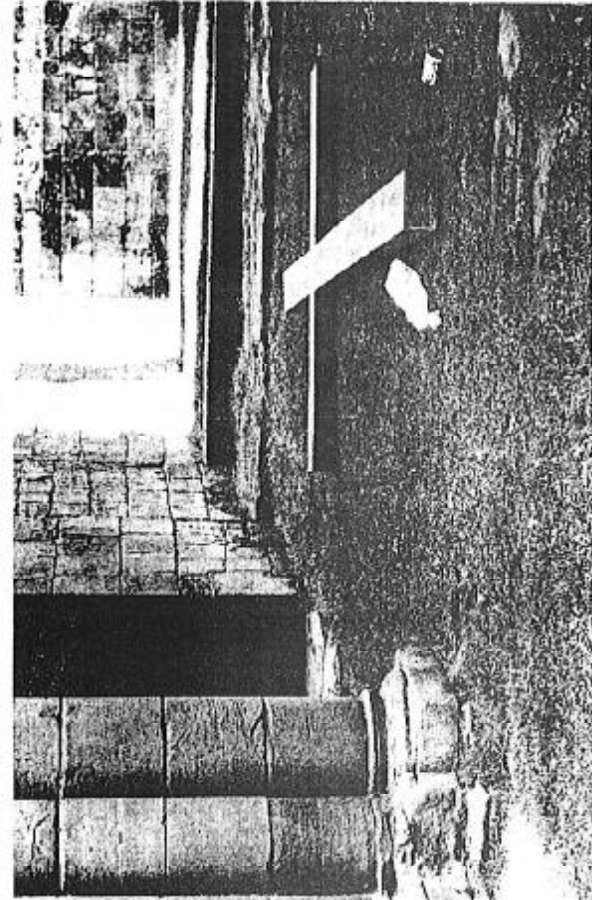
The most striking evidence for industrial activity comes from the black dumps of the Wallbrook. A vast quantity of leather waste, principally from shoemaking, has been collected. This is the largest single dump of such material ever retrieved from Roman levels in the City.

Quantification and study of this waste should shed light on the range of footwear styles being produced at this time as well as techniques of manufacture and species from identification of skins and hides. It is likely that this discarded leather originated in a nearby workshop.

DIVERSIONS

Failing to protect and cherish the English heritage

A quango established to safeguard and promote historical sites is proving a monumental disappointment, maintains John Martin Robinson



The morning after, debris on the grounds of historic Furness Abbey, Cumbria, after an English Heritage promotion

ENGLISH HERITAGE, created to provide "the most powerful and creative stimulus to improved preservation and presentation" of historic buildings, has failed to live up to expectations.

The quango, set up under the National Heritage Act in 1983 after a 1982 Department of the Environment consultation paper *The Way Forward* recommended the "fusion of some of the existing heritage bodies into a single executive and advisory agency, to provide a more integrated package of museums and historic buildings".

It was originally the brain child of Michael Heseltine, when he was Secretary of State for the Environment. He saw it as a way of reducing the size of the over-sized department by merging the various bodies into a more integrated and dynamic national heritage agency.

The amalgamated agency came into operation in April 1984, responsible for most of the Government's historic buildings, monuments, historic sites and historic parks and gardens, as well as the historic buildings and historic sites which are not under the control of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, a separate body.

As for grants, there is a strong argument in the present economic climate for concentrating public hands on the repair of historic churches. The most efficient use of public money is to allocate a lump sum to the Council for the Care of Churches (Church of England) and the Historic Churches Preservation Trust (other denominations) for distribution.

The London Division, with its traditions based in local government, would be better off as an independent body. The London Borough of Westminster's Historic Buildings Unit, which has proved false.

London is represented by 32 individual Grade I listed buildings in England is more like a million.

This lack of information on the number and distribution of historic buildings is matched by an inability to manage the development of listed building controls. The pace of the past decade of change as they affect different groups of buildings makes it difficult to use effectively the resources available, because the most valuable building types are not targeted.

But even with the limited power of the Secretary of State, it is difficult to control the exercise of listed building applications. The great majority of listed building applications are acceptable in principle but need careful revision in detail. Consider London there is no machinery for achieving this.

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any authentic door or window joinery left. English Heritage has done nothing to tackle the deleterious effects of "summer affluence". It could and should have taken a more active role in local planning (cheap guidance leaflets and devising watertight standard conditions for listed buildings).

The lack of grip resulting from increased emphasis on detailed knowledge about historic buildings in the country has not been reflected in the English Heritage's record.

English Heritage has not even compiled accurate figures of the numbers of listed buildings in England. It frequently states that there are "about half a million" listed buildings in England, but this is based on listed entries rather than on listed entries rather than on listed entries rather than on listed entries.

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Memorandum

DATE 21 September 1989 FROM CELINA FOX,
TO ALL MEMBERS OF STAFF ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

THE SEARCH FOR IDENTITY

We are currently investigating how we can improve our corporate identity. One basic problem we face is how to suggest in our name, The Museum of London, what we are and what we do. We are essentially, I hope we all agree, a Museum devoted to the history of one of the world's greatest cities. How can this best be conveyed in a logo?

I should be most grateful if you would kindly send me your suggestions by 6th October as to:

- a) a motif (e.g. Berlin has a bear, Cumbria County Council has an outline of hills, The Science Museum has an equation)
- b) a slogan

which convey our identity and can be incorporated by a professional designer in future marketing initiatives. I shall arrange for the results to be displayed in the Board Room with a comments book.

The inventor(s) of any suggestions which are employed will receive a bottle of champagne!

Very many thanks in advance.
CF

UNIVERSITY OF YORK
MICKLEGATE HOUSE, MICKLEGATE
YORK, YO1 1JZ
Telephone (0904) 636731/2
Telex 57933 YORKUL Fax (0904) 433433

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Archaeological Development Officer:
A. J. R. Wood
Direct line (0904) 652272

PROGRAMME - WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS: September - December 1989

We are developing short, practical updating workshops and seminars in a wide variety of subjects for archaeologists and related professions, as well as more traditional courses in archaeology with a wider appeal. Many of them are arranged in conjunction with other organisations, and we aim to draw on the best expertise currently available. Each workshop is built around the needs of participants, with contributions kept short and programmes informal. There is always plenty of opportunity for discussion and active participation is encouraged. We aim to ensure that everyone goes away with new knowledge, ideas or skills that are directly relevant to their work.

Saturday 7th October
IDENTIFYING AND INTERPRETING
COINS AND TOKENS
Fee: £15
Venue: Yorkshire Museum

Friday 24th November
DRAWING ARTEFACTS
Fee: £25 Venue: Micklegate House

Tuesday 17th October
SOILS FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGIST
Fee: £40 Venue: Biology Dept.,
University of York

Friday 1st December
WATCHING BRIEFS
Fee: £25 Venue: Micklegate House

Thursday 27th October
TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING FOR
ARCHAEOLOGISTS
Fee: £25 Venue: King's Manor

Saturday 2nd December
HISTORIC BUILDINGS - WHAT MAKES THEM
IMPORTANT?
Fee: £25 Venue: King's Manor

Friday 28th October
SITES & MONUMENTS RECORDS: DESIGN,
STRUCTURE & USES
Fee: £25 Venue: King's Manor

Monday 4th December
LEVEL IV REPORTS & DESK-TOP PUBLISHING
Fee: £25 Venue: West Yorkshire
Archaeological Service, Wakefield

Thursday 16th - Friday 17th November
COMPUTER GRAPHICS IN ARCHAEOLOGY
Fee: £50 Venue: Micklegate House

Friday 15th December
PRESENTING ARCHAEOLOGY: THE MEDIUM
& THE MESSAGE
Fee: £25 Venue: King's Manor

Further Details from S. Umapathy, Professional Studies Secretary, at the above address. Fee: In case of hardship, please write giving details to the Archaeological Development Officer. (All such letters will be treated in confidence.)

CORK JAZZ FESTIVAL
FRI 27th- MON 30th OCT

*If you are interested
there are 20 accommodation places
available through the
University College Cork
Student Union*

*TRAVEL: air fare approx£80 -£90 return
ferry£45 return*

*Anyone interested in going
(even if you wish to find your own accommodation)
should contact Dave McEwan-Cox
at Burdett House: 329-0786*