

MOLAS LIBRARY

NEWS

December 1989
No. 15



INTRODUCTION

Considerable interest has been shown this month in the Annual Archaeology lecture given by John Maloney, by both developers and press. Over 160 developers attended the lecture, and to judge by some of the comments were suitably impressed by both what John had to say, and by the impressive finds display and exhibition. Press coverage included an item on Thames News, articles in the Financial Times, Guardian, Estates Times, Building and others. In particular the proposal that the City should have a "depths" policy regulating basements caused a flurry of interest.

Thanks must go to all of the people involved with setting up the Annual Lecture, Finds Display, Exhibition, and Annual Review including, Security and all other staff.

Unfortunately only 6 members of staff turned up for the re-run of the lecture on Monday 20th November so it did not take place. If there is sufficient interest by staff for John to give the lecture again, he is prepared to do so, but only if there is a larger turn-out. It may be re-arranged for a lunchtime. Please pass requests to hear the lecture to John so that he can gauge interest.

A Reception was held on Wednesday 22nd November for MEPC who have funded seven recent excavations and one current. Over 250 representatives from MEPC, their associates and the Museum were present and no expense was spared! (MEPC were paying). The fairy lights around the entrance door caused some bemused comments, but once the champagne started flowing everyone seemed happy. A 20 page brochure was produced summarising the history of the seven sites; archaeology, historical background and maps through to the new building. John Schofield gave a presentation about the sites in the Lecture Theatre. A comprehensive finds display and exhibition was widely commented on for its impressive nature, and thanks must go to everyone who put an enormous effort into setting up in just one hour!!

Both the Annual Lecture and the MEPC Reception have produced considerable goodwill and a greater appreciation of the work of the Department amongst some key personnel in the Construction Industry. The efforts put into both have been well worthwhile.

Sue Rivière

Presentation for the Annual Lecture 1989

A BIG THANK YOU TO

Ken Steedman, Frank Meddens, Craig Spence, Dave Lakin, Ian Greig, Dick Bluer, Ian Blair, David Dunlop, Drew Shottliff, Dave Sankey, Julian Hill, Jeremy Oetgen, Hal Bishop, Gary Brown, James Drummond-Murray, Aeden Woodger, Alex Bayliss, Bruce Watson, Tony Thomas, Kevin Wooldridge, Vicky Ridgeway, Lis Dyson, Robin Brown, Sarah Gibson, Tony Mackinder, Pete Rowsome, Mike Shea, Portia Askew, Caroline Mamwell, Douglas Hart, Mark Burch, Mark Hinman, Jerry Youle, Ron Harris, Julian Ayre, Richard Sermon, Naomi Crowley, Damian Goodburn, Ian Betts, Alex Moore, Melanie Connell, John Shepherd, Dominique de Matins, Jenny Hall for your help and advice at both long and short notice.

AND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO....

Gill Hale, Josephine Brown, Hester White, Ian Riddler, Jan Scrivener, Sue Wookey, Maggie Cox and all in the Drawing Office for putting up with the mess and stress.

Tracy & Julie.

DIARY

8 December - 1.10pm

Lecture Theatre

The British Museum - Sir David Wilson

12 December - 1.10pm

Lecture Theatre

The Natural History Museum - Neil Chalmers

13 December - 8pm to 2am

Sports and Social Club - CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tickets £4 from Taryn Nixon, Naomi Crowley, Dav Davies, Kevin Gosling and Liz Shepherd.

15 December - 1.10pm

Lecture Theatre

The Hornimam Museum - David Boston

STAFF

New Staff

Helene Larsson

Surindar Mann

Timothy Longman

Adrian Powell

Gerry Martin

John Milne

Johanna Lawson

Paula McCarroll

Paul Garwood

Appointments

Sarah Jones - 78-79 Leadenhall

Chris Goode - 78-79 Leadenhall

Al Green - Assistant Finds Officer

JOBS

Senior Conservator

Closing date Friday 8th December 1989

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING		21/11/1989		December					January 1990				February				March		
		20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	5	12	
America Square	TN	3	1															3	3
Artillery Lane 4-10	EN																	1	1
Billingsgate Bathhouse	ST	2	2	2	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1
Bishopsgate/Spital Square	RE			2	6	6		6	8	12	12	12	10	10	10	10		10	10
Bow Churchyard 5	HB																	15	15
Brook's Wharf	HB																		
Cannon Street 38	TN									3	3	3	3	3	3				
Coleman St. 64-66	EN							10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10			10	10
Eastcheap 30-40	EN	7	7	7															
Gt. St. Thomas Apostle 13	RE	4	10	10	10	10	0	0	10	10	10					4	4	4	
Guildhall Yard	JH																		
Holborn Viaduct 45-50	EN	2	2	2															
Leadenhall 145-146	HB	10	10	10	10	10													
Leadenhall 34-35	TN	2	2	2	2														
Leadenhall 78-79	HB			4	4	4		10	13	13	13	13	13	10	10	10		10	10
Line Street 20-21	EN																	10	10
Pinners Hall	TN														12	12		12	12
Queen St/Skinners Lane 40	TN	1	1																
Savage Gardens 25	HB												8	8	8	8		8	8
St. Mary Axe 25-43	RE	12	12	12	12	12	0	0	0	0	12	12	12	12	12	12		12	12
Vintry	EN/R	6	6	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		2	2
W. Smithfield/Giltspur St.	TN	18	18	18	18	18												10	10
Wardrobe Court	ST																	10	10
Z HISC TEST PITS	ALL	2	4	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		2	2
SUB-TOTAL REQUIRED		69	75	77	67	65	2	31	46	53	53	55	73	70	92	93		111	99
FLEET VALLEY	RE																		
Car Parks Area C2																			
Car Parks Area D																			
Car Parks Area E																			
Car Parks Area F																			
Car Parks Area H																			
Section 7 6W + 7W																			
Section 7 9W + 10W		10	10																
Section 7 11W + 12W		10	10	10															
Section 7 11E		5	5	5	5	5	0	5	5	5									
Section 7 9E + 10E			10	10	10	10	0	10	10	10	10								
Section 7 8E + 8W			10	10	10	10													
Section 7 13E + 13W			10	10	10	10	0	10	10	10	10	10							
Madeira Vaults								16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16				
Watching Brief																			
Timber/Stone recording																			
Blue Last																			
PC and APC		2	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		2	2
SUB-TOTAL FLEET VALLEY REQUIRED		37	47	47	37	37	0	53	43	43	38	28	18	18	18	2		2	2
TOTAL No. STAFF REQUIRED		106	122	124	104	102	2	84	89	96	91	83	91	88	110	95		113	101
TOTAL No. STAFF AVAILABLE		106	111	112	111	110	0	112	112	112	112	116	116	116	116	116		116	116
+ = OVERSTAFFED; - = UNDER		0	-11	-12	7	8	-2	28	23	16	21	33	25	28	6	21		3	15
DATE		20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		5	12
		December						January 1990				February				March			

NEWS DIGEST

This summary covers several issues which have been discussed by Section Heads and other groups over the past few months, to bring you up to date.

Competitive tendering

We understand that the Oxford Archaeological Unit has been engaged by developers to dig two sites in Southwark. David Miles, head of the OAU, has asked the Museum about curation of the finds, and has been referred to the borough of Southwark, who may have a view about which Museum (i.e. MoL or local museum) should house them. Miles, normally a careful person, will I suppose not have budgeted yet for finds work or finds curation; we must leave it to the DGLA and the Director to play this one. If there are long-term consequences for the DUA of this incursion into DGLA territory (see next, **English Heritage**) then I shall be raising it with the Director. Officers of the DGLA and DUA are to meet shortly to discuss the situation.

English Heritage

The DUA's relations with English Heritage have stayed at about the same level since restoration of goodwill (or at least statements of positions) meetings in September. Our bid for post-ex in 1990-1 is being processed and the splendid *Annual Review for 1988* will reach the mustier parts of Fortress House. English Heritage have said that bids for post-ex funds after March 1991 will be judged on their national merits, which is fair enough. EH meanwhile put out a press release in mid-November about their 're-organisation' of London archaeology. This seemed to be primarily a dig at the DGLA and a veiled intention to progressively reduce the core funding of DGLA from next year. On Friday 24th November, Jennifer Page assured the Director that this would not be the case.

The amphitheatre site

Meanwhile the DoE inspector has reported to the Secretary of State following the public enquiry into the Corporation's plans for a building over the Roman amphitheatre on the Guildhall Art Gallery site. The inspector, and the Secretary of State, have refused all planning permissions for the building on architectural grounds, mostly to do with its bulk against the existing Guildhall porch. The archaeology is recognised as an important factor, but nothing definite is said about it as permission has been refused. Side-issues of great interest here are

English Heritage's stated intention to schedule the remains if permission was refused, which is now the case; and whether English Heritage will fund work towards publication, as they would have made publication a condition of permission if given. Watch this (oval) space.

Covenants for excavation

Several developers in recent times have asked that they should covenant the grant for excavation, in the belief that this was tax-deductible. Due to great efforts, mostly by Taryn Nixon of the EO, we now have our first two covenants in place for the sites at 34-35 Leadenhall Street and Giltspur Street. But what a palaver! The excavation grant is split into four annual payments of 25%. But our costs are mostly in the first year, on excavation and finds processing. So we are given an interest-free loan which happens to be the exact sum of the eventual covenant. Actually we are only given 75% of the loan because we can claim 25% back from the Inland Revenue. Because this will not be instantaneous, we charge the developers the cost of our borrowing this 25% from our bankers, the Corporation. Still with me? The Finance Office have to move 25% of the money from a loan account to a covenant account (the latter, though not necessarily the former, specific to each site for which a covenant is in place) on the anniversary of the original covenant for three successive years. You bet we are charging a fee for this. We have yet to hear from the Inland Revenue about whether they will go along with such arrangements, so we would rather not get into further covenants until we know.

London Archaeological Reports

On 9 November Francis Grew presented his budgetary requirements to Section Heads, and this was approved. I have since allocated money for the start-up work in this financial year and would hope to finance the proper beginning of **LAR** during next year. Even though we cannot spend all the HBMC post-ex money in this year, due to the required staff being totally committed, we have decided to go ahead with **LAR** development as part of our package to developers (see **Competitive tendering** above). We are going to win on quality of product, which includes publication of site sequences and associated interim research. I also hope to suggest to developers that their spare money is just as well placed into scholarly **LAR**-writing as into interim glossy publications.

John Schofield

FORTHCOMING PROJECTS

Vintry

Work on the Vintry site has begun as a watching brief which currently mainly involves the recovery of artefacts from spoil (c. 1500 cubic metres) dug out of the modern foreshore. This operation is fraught with problems, the site management contractors, Laings, seem to be unclear as to how long we can have to do the metal-detecting of the spoil on site. At the moment they are insisting that we complete this work by the end of November, though other members of their staff are saying that they do not need the area until the end of March. It is essential that as far as possible the material is examined before it leaves site. The cowboy element of the metal-detecting fraternity are extremely keen to get their hands on the stuff since it quite probably contains artefacts, worth tens of thousands of pounds. Already five metal-detecting people have got on the site by pretending to be MoL staff and have then had to be ejected by the site Security staff. Once the material leaves the site it goes to a tip at Beckton. Here it is likely to be prone to investigation from any one, and many valuable (historically and intrinsically) artefacts will end up in private hands or on the market.

Black Swan House

More archaeology survives underneath Black Swan House than had been pre-supposed, though the exact extent of survival is not yet known. A major excavation is to take place in late 1990 or spring 1991.

Bull Wharf

The site next door to Vintry to the west, Bull Wharf, is also due to come up sometime during 1990. This is owned by Hudson Bay Company. The southern part was developed in 1980, but is now functionally redundant - the fur trade having moved out - and is apparently not suitable for conversion to offices. During the 1979-80 re-development only a meagre watching-brief was kept on this site and no provision was made for retrieving finds. As a result the metal-detecting crew followed the muck down to the tip in the docklands and subsequently sold some of the finds they recovered to the Museum; others were sold on the open-market. A lot of artefacts and information was lost.

Paternoster Square

Interest is focusing on Paternoster Square - recently bought by Greycoats for a mere 100

million 'discount' from 'Organizacion Cisneros' - and No. 1 Poultry. The hearing, enforced by 'Save' is due to commence at the beginning of this month. No timetable for either of these sites has been set but is unlikely to be before 1991.

Simon O'Connor Thompson

CONFERENCE REPORT

Report to Training Committee on

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES CONFERENCE : University of Bradford

September 20-22 1989

Attended by : Maria Fabrizi

Dominique de Moulins

Josie Murray

Nigel Nayling

The aim of the conference is to give people who are currently conducting research in the field of archaeological science a forum for presentation and discussion. It also allows those not directly involved with research projects, such as field archaeologists, an opportunity to become aware of the work that is being undertaken and to discuss the implications of this for their own work and for archaeology in general.

The conference was divided into the following sessions :

The Physical and chemical analysis of inorganic material

Archaeological Excrement workshop.

Remote Sensing

The Analysis of animal and plant products and residues.

The Study of Human Remains

plus a series of poster displays.

A breakdown of the programmes and their associated abstracts is held by Susan Greenwood in the Excavation Office should anyone wish to pursue any one point further. The four people who attended are also prepared to answer any questions about the conference.

1. The Physical and Chemical Analysis of Inorganic Materials.

12 papers were given in this session on a variety of topics. Some reflected London interests, such as Dr. M. Hughes of the British Museum Research Laboratory updated information on his analyses of Spanish medieval tin glazed pottery. The project had begun with Alan Vince, when he worked at the Museum. The particular interest had been in how to provenance some of the Spanish lustrewares turning up in urban excavations. Neutron activation analysis separated them easily into groups, whereas thin section work was problematic.

Mike Heyworth's paper on Roman glassworking was partly concerned with finds from Moorgate. Interesting observations were made about the colouring of Roman glass. For instance he thought that in the absence of deliberately added pigments or decolourants, it would be unlikely that the glassmaker could control the final product. This would lead to a range of blue-green tints, as commonly found in 'natural' vessel and window glass in London.

An evening paper by Margaret Sax concerned cylinder seals from Western Asia. A major project in the British Museum is involved with analysing 2000 seals from the fourth millennium B.C. to about 400 B.C. A variety of methods were used: some completely non-destructive and others using extremely tiny samples. Materials seemed to be chosen by availability but also to some extent by colour.

2. Archaeometallurgy and Mining.

Processes in precious metalworking - J. Bayley

An exciting paper pointing to archaeological evidence for melting, cupellation, and parting of precious metals. These processes leave wastes which are sometimes difficult to recognise. However, some theory, some chemistry and the occasional documentary reference led to apparent breakthroughs. Metal melting is done under reducing conditions, so the advice is to look for crucibles in the reduce-fired state (i.e. greyish clay). Ingot moulds are relatively easy to recognise.

By contrast, cupellation is carried out under oxidising conditions. Lead is used to purify silver, and can also be used to test the purity of silver. Ceramic cupels are quite common, and can take the form of small flattish dishes. Bone processes, look for unusually heavy ceramics of bright colours. Look for slagged surfaces with the reds (and other colours) of lead compounds.

Greenish deposits may result from the removal of copper impurities from silver or gold. Walls of ceramic vessels occasionally show specks of gold or corroded silver. Some of this evidence seems to reflect the 'parting' process - obtaining pure gold from silver gold alloys.

A paper on gold bracteates in Anglo-Saxon Kent by Chris Arnold made a few interesting points about objects formed by die-stamping, and of the deposition of precious metal objects in graves. Papers were also given on Anglo-Saxon English brooch alloys and manufacture, and on post medieval silver from Germany.

3. Dating.

Disappointingly, the planned Dating and Statistics Workshop was cancelled at a late stage. This left Mike Baillie as the only dendrochronologist speaker. Comparisons of now dated prehistoric tree-ring sequences with related radiocarbon dates reinforced the problems with stated levels of precision of C14 dates also seen in the recent interlaboratory comparisons. Given the present level of disquiet, Bob Olet of the Harwell Lab argued the case for full quality assurance in C14 labs, both to allay users fears and also to encourage usage of recognised techniques of quality control. This debate is likely to continue at the forthcoming Using Radiocarbon symposium (November 13th).

Three papers outlined research into the utilisation of photostimulated luminescence (PSL) as a potential dating technique. In contrast to traditional thermoluminescence, PSL may prove useful in dating unfired materials such as marine/fluvial sediments. Present research at the Durham facility is testing the technique on sediments with interspersed peat strata capable of dating by C14. Given the interest of the Environmental Dept. in elucidating the nature, date and topography of riverside sediments, any progress in this field could prove significant.

The linkage (through chemical analyses) of tephra within archaeological deposits to dated volcanic eruptions is now being examined in Scotland, with initially encouraging results. The development of another independent, absolute dating technique with applications to UK archaeology can only improve chronological integrity.

4. Archaeological Excrement Workshop.

The workshop was aimed at bringing together a wide range of researchers who are interested in aspects of ancient excrement. Of the 25 people who attended, specialisms covered plant and animal macro and micro fossils. Although the subject matter of this workshop caused much turning up of noses to other attendants of the conference it is important to

recognise the value of archaeological excrement in providing direct evidence of diet. This is often in the form of readily identifiable plant and animal parts (small bones of fish and bird, seeds, chaff fragments, straw) and also of the not too easily recognisable bits such as plant tissue, phytoliths, pollen and parasites.

Archaeological excrement is found in a range of contexts but most prominently in cesspits. It can take the form of preserved faeces, known as coprolites, or as mineralised concretions. It is also recovered from mummified and waterlogged bodies.

Methods of recovery and quantification were discussed. The central concern, however, was identification of the most difficult material. Research into cereal bran is a special concern of Camilla Dickinson from Glasgow. Sue Wales from the Institute of Archaeology and from North-East London Polytechnic specialises in chemical analysis of coprolites and is working on identifying soft plant parts. Tim Holden of the Institute of Archaeology studies human guts contents and has been working on the Lindow man amongst others. He is pioneering non-destructive methods of investigation. Alix Powers from Sheffield studies phytoliths and is attempting to distinguish types of refuse. We also heard about David Robinson's work in Denmark on Viking and medieval faecal material characterised by a dense, homogeneous, plastic, greasy appearance containing large quantities of bran and fragments of arable weed seeds and moss.

The workshop was followed by a laboratory session where we were able to see examples of the material discussed above.

5. The Analysis of Animal and Plant Products and Residues.

The session on animal and plant remains included a talk by R. Janaway on site formation based on a modern project consisting in observing the accumulation of material on a derelict farm. The project is monitored by the Archform group. Miranda Armour-Chelu presented the results of an experiment on the amount of movements undergone by small bones through earthworm activity. This was an indoor experiment which consisted in placing a column of sediments including a known species of earthworm in a glass container and observing and measuring movements of small objects and bones down the section. Sue Wales talked about an experiment aimed at ascertaining the presence of waxes in coprolites. A group of students is fed known quantities of bees' wax and the results are analysed chemically. She found that wax can be identified and that there is an archaeological potential for such analyses.

As in previous conferences, the use of infra-red spectroscopy and chromatography to charac-

terise organic residues attracted several papers. Continuing research at Cardiff indicates the potential of such an approach for analysing material from a variety of sources concentrating on the identification of birch-bark and pine tars through the presence of their degradation products. There would appear to be the potential to identify residues to genus if not species level. Less sophisticated techniques being pursued at the conservation laboratories of York Archaeological Trust seem able to differentiate wood tars from mineral tars in waterlogged residues. A paper from the Polytechnic of East London on the analysis of caulking and luting surviving of ships timbers was cancelled although it is hoped that samples from the Museum of London may be analysed as part of this research project.

6. The Study of Human Remains

Charlotte Roberts (University of Bradford) started the session with an overview of the scientific methods used in the study of human remains in archaeology, in particular looking at physical and chemical methods of analysis of bone. This latter theme was continued by other speakers such as L. Bell who was looking at how pre mortem changes to the bone structure are reflected and/or continued in the post mortem state. The topic of soft tissue rehydration and its archaeological and forensic implications was tackled by Niel Garland who has spent much time finding an appropriate technique.

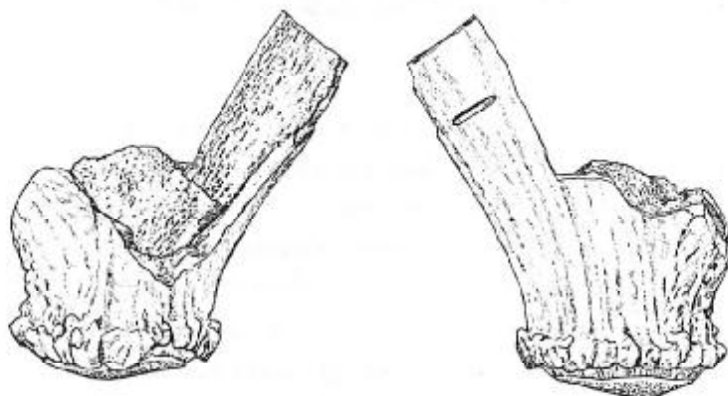
Keith Manchester and Charlotte Roberts presented a paper on tuberculosis in antiquity. In non plague years, 25% of deaths recorded in London's Bills of Mortality were due to consumption. Even with few cases possibly misdiagnosed, consumption, or tuberculosis (TB) was a leading cause of death in seventeenth century London. However examination of medieval skeletons has revealed only about 4% of TB cases. These were identified by destructive bone lesions, especially in the vertebrae. The outcome of this is that the methods for identification of TB in skeletal material have not been sensitive enough, until now. Recent research has been directed at extending the diagnostic criteria for TB in antiquity. Techniques have included microradiography and examination of bone lesions using a scanning electron microscope.

Margaret Cox's paper on scars of parturition (those brought about by childbirth) was based on skeletal material from the excavations at Christchurch Spitalfields. 94 females were examined where parity status was known from reconstructed obstetric histories. In this sample, the 'scars' were not specifically associated with childbirth and you could not tell how many children each of the women had borne. The usual absence of 'scars' in women under about twenty years old was thought to be due to the fact that they wouldn't have been subjected to ovarian hormones during the menstrual cycle. The variation in the sample of women over about twenty years old could reflect differing hormone levels between individuals.

FINDS SECTION

This month saw the Finds Section involved in setting up the display for the Annual Developers Lecture. This took place on the 13th November. Finds and Environmental Items were arranged in themes which included Death and Disease, Trade, Industry, Dress, Leisure, and Domestic Life. The reaction from the developers was very favourable, and a huge debt of thanks goes to everyone who helped to make the evening such a success.

Three weeks ago an unusual statue was unearthed at a building site opposite the present St. Mary Axe site. The builders had recognised one of the archaeologists, and thought that the statue would be of interest. It is a female figure, but unfortunately is missing most of the head, lower legs, and one arm. Preliminary research allows for the possibility of the statue being Roman in origin; however, the depiction of the hair is stylistically non-Roman. The statue has been passed to the Conservation Department where it will undergo cleaning.



Bone waste from the Fleet Valley

145-146 Leadenhall has produced some high quality Roman finds; there has been a large quantity of painted wall plaster, and many small black and white tesserae. The latter seem to have come from a very fine mosaic. Good quality glass is also evident from the site, and fragments of an aryballos have been recovered.

By far the most exciting finds this month have come from the Giltspur Street site. Three items, all grave related, were lifted: the first was a hobnail boot; the second a large soil matrix containing an earring and a bracelet; the third was another soil block containing fragmented copper items.

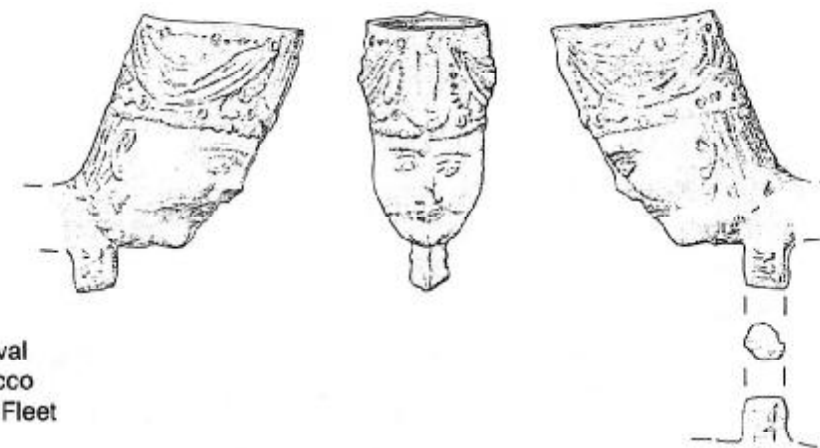
The Fleet Valley Project continues to produce very interesting finds; this month has seen a wooden sundial recovered during bulk sieving of the contents of a drain. Initial investigation has revealed red and black pigments in its decoration. The form of the 'four' allows dating from the late 16th to early 17th centuries.

The site also produced the most interesting smell of the month; this came from a complete Roman pot with a curious residue; theories abound concerning the odour, and range from Paco Rabanne pour L'Homme to diluted diesel fuel. This item has been sent for analysis as nobody 'nose' of what it really smells.

Giltspur Street has also produced a large collection of Roman extramural burials, eighty plus bodies have been uncovered opposite St. Bartholomew's Hospital. One of these appears to have had mongoloid features, whilst another was found to have been wearing a finger ring.

STOP PRESS: prehistoric pottery, associated with truncated pits cut into the natural subsoil, has been recovered in the north of the Giltspur Street site.

A chalk-lined well has been found at Eastcheap, and has produced a lot of post-medieval pottery.



A post-medieval ceramic tobacco pipe from the Fleet Valley.

Well that about wraps it up for the site news, now for a couple of conversational pieces.

The Finds Section welcomes the return of Tilly from the Pageant office, where she has been hard at work for the past four months. On her return she assisted in the finds display for the Annual Developers Lecture, and will shortly return to on-site finds processing at the Great St. Thomas the Apostle site.

The final item concerns the ever changing personality of Ian Riddler: following an uncontrollable outburst in the finds room he has officially adopted Scottish nationality. He now wishes to be known as Ian McRiddler, and would appreciate any recipes for cooking Haggis. What a wee bonny lad!!

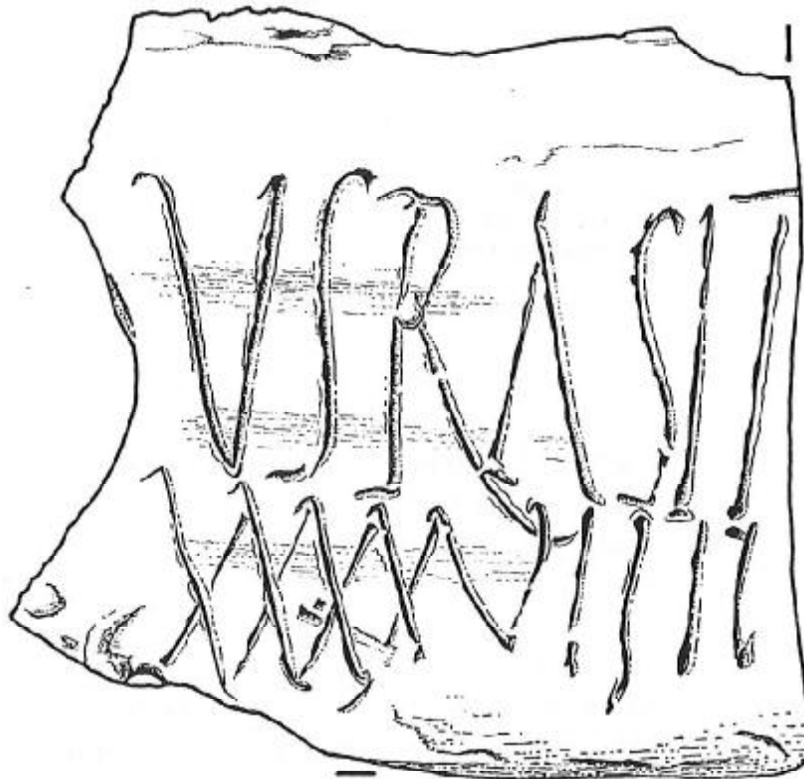
Nick Oakley.

GRAFFITI FROM DOMINANT HOUSE

During the processing and recording of the Dominant House (DMT88) building material at the Guildhall Yard site, a very interesting fragment has emerged. This is half of one side of a box flue tile which has graffiti scratched across its surface, next to the remains of a circular vent. The side with the vent cut in is normally left plain. The message is as follows, the letters *USRASIT* with the Roman numerals *XXXVIII* below the letters. The graffiti has been looked at by Ernest Black and he has supplied the following information.

US are presumably the last letters of a name (*US* being the nominative singular ending of a masculine noun). The rest of the name probably lying on the other side of the vent. *RASIT* is the perfect tense of the verb *RADO* (infinitive *RADERE*), which means to scratch, scrape, shave, or smooth. The object of *RASIT* was also probably written on the other side of the vent, and may have been something like *TUBULOS* (box tiles). These words together with the Roman numerals would give the following message: "... *us rasit (tubulos)* *XXXVIII*" or "...us has scored (scratched) 49 (box tiles)".

The message would appear to have been incised with the same implement used to add the scored keying found on other box flue tiles from DMT88. This would imply that the job of scoring was a separate job, done by someone other than the tiler himself. In addition, the fact that the vent does not appear to have removed any of the letters indicates that the vent was cut away before the tile was scored. It is possible that the cutting of the vents and the scoring were done by the same person.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT**

This month has seen the arrival of three new staff to the environmental section: Alison Rutherford has been appointed to work with Josie and William on current D.U.A. material in the Museum. Sharon Parfitt has moved from bulk sieving to process the samples from the Fleet Valley, where she will be based for the time being. John Stewart has been appointed to take her place alongside Andrae and Perie, bulk sieving in Southwark.

Sue MacLoughlin (lecturer and human pathologist), and students, from Guys Hospital are examining the human bone from Giltspur Street and shall be writing reports on them, which is useful for us in our current state of Human Osteologistlessness.

The section has recently prepared two displays, one for the Annual Lecture and the other for the M.E.P.C., both of which saw the successful integration of Environmental and Finds material.

William Forde

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

November has been yet another busy month for the conservation department. We have taken part in three displays in the Museum foyer; one for the annual archaeology lecture, one for MEPC, and one for the City Corporation.

Several objects have been block lifted on site this month including some hobnail boots, two unidentified copper alloy objects, and a rather nice selection of Roman jewellery (including five bracelets, a ring, some ear-rings(?), some tweezers (?) and nail cleaners (?), all apparently held in some kind of organic container, from Giltspur Street; an as yet unidentified iron object from St. Mary Axe; and a Roman copper alloy vessel from 145 Leadenhall. In fact one corner of the laboratory is being rapidly taken over by blocks of soil wrapped up in scotchcast bandages and plaster!

From the Fleet Valley project this month we have a pewter tankard with an inscription on it - which is not yet completely legible; and a splendid wooden pocket sundial - on which two different colours of pigment (black and red) have been identified so far.

Two particularly nice finds from Austin Friars have been conserved; an almost complete Roman shale bowl and a lead-filled copper alloy intricately detailed lion headed fitting.

The main social even of the month has been Helen Jones' marriage to Jeremy Oetgen, on the 18th. This of course, was a good excuse for us all to go out for a slap up meal (and a fair amount to drink!)

Enjoy a Day Out

TOILETS for hire, self-towing, for special occasions. Hillstock Services, Swainsthorpe 470462.



Museum of London

Sports and Social Club

☆☆☆ CHRISTMAS PARTY☆☆☆

Wednesday 13th December

< 8 - 2am >

at the Town & Country Club 2:

Highbury Corner, nr Highbury/Islington tube

Free Food!

Tickets £4

LETTERS PAGE

Was I the only person to be surprised by the recent advertisements for senior management posts in the Museum? (Assistant director public services and Head of Administrative services.) Are we really in competition with the commercial world for these staff? Would £16,000 - £20,000 attract no competent applicants? We are, after all, only a small organisation (whatever we might like to call ourselves), with a few hundred employees and a budget of around 10m. The only reason these posts might require these salaries is because of the already unrealistic management salary scales in the Museum. I'm, not suggesting that the lower echelons should necessarily get paid more (although the rates paid to secretarial staff in the Museum would not be considered professional in many quarters): rather I am suggesting that we could do without inflated salaries for inflated jobs.

If we are to carry the Museum forward we must be cost effective; these posts surely cannot be described in those terms. Our administrative and management costs must be in line with the rest of the staff structure. We will increasingly be asked to be 'competitive', and while I abhor the direction that may take British archaeology, I see no point in burdening the organisation with such high salary posts. We can get competent people for less than this; let us look at a few other posts offered in the Guardian Public Appointments:-

Running a day care centre for the mentally handicapped in Tower Hamlets: 11,385 - 13,389 (health and social services always were lousy weren't they?)

College Administrator in Hillingdon: £20,991 - £22,884 (more closely comparable, although running a somewhat larger organisation, but the vastly lower salary; must be because it is in education).

Well how about this then -- Islington Health Authority, Unit General Manager for Acute Services: £31,000, but note, responsible for 2,500 staff and an annual budget of £45m.

Now I don't care if that is the Health service -- somewhere, something stinks.

Tim Williams.

SITE SUMMARIES - NOVEMBER



1. St. Mary-at-Hill

The church of St. Mary-at-Hill was first documented in 1177 and was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, subsequently rebuilt by Wren during 1670-76. Recent excavation of the north wall has revealed that elements of the medieval church remained standing after the Great Fire and were incorporated into the Wren church. The church consists of an aisled nave/chancel with a brick-built west wall and tower added in 1787-88. A magnificent domed roof was added by James Savage in 1826 and altered in 1843-49. The entire roof structure was destroyed by fire on 10th May 1988.

Three boreholes have been made around the church in advance of further clearance and consolidation work. The staircase leading down to a late 17th century burial vault has been discovered although no burials are visible. They may have been removed in the 19th century. A sequence of up to 3 metres of archaeology survives beneath the stone flags in other areas.

2. Billingsgate Bath House

The Roman Bath building was first uncovered in the 1840's during the construc-

tion of the Coal Exchange which formerly stood on the site. The bath-house was further investigated by Peter Marsden and others during re-development in the 1960-70's and the remains have since been preserved in the basement of the existing building.

The current project is part of a programme of conservation to restore the monument to the condition in which it was found in the 1960's and it is then proposed to open it to public view. The Museum of London is present on the site to record the remains as conservation proceeds and to advise on archaeological matters. In addition a limited excavation of undisturbed stratigraphy may be carried out.

3. 25-31 St. Mary Axe

Work this month has completed the excavation of the medieval cess and rubbish pits. Other pits and a series of dumps have contained large quantities of Roman painted wall plaster. To the north of the site a succession of skeletons are under excavation, apparently from within a large pit. These appear to be *in situ* although there has been some slumping into an earlier feature following a settling of the ground.

4. 30-40 Eastcheap

Four rubbish pits of Roman date, and possibly the structural outline of two buildings have been uncovered to date. Much of the remainder of the site has been covered with three brick cess pits, a brick drain, a possible brick ice-house and brick walls. A chalk-lined well, repaired and capped with bricks has been excavated to a depth of 3 metres.

5. Fleet Valley

No report received

6. 1-4 Giltspur Street

One hundred and nine Roman skeletons have now been excavated, predominantly aligned east-west or north-south. Several cemetery features have been recorded, notably pits, a hearth and an east-west aligned channel or gully. The conservation department have lifted what appears to be a box containing a number of bracelets, earrings and other as yet unidentified objects.

7. **145-146 Leadenhall Street**

The site lies immediately to the north of the Roman Basilica and earlier excavations and observations have uncovered residential timber framed buildings from at least AD 70, giving way to more substantial masonry buildings in the late first century. The excavation has uncovered at least two phases of Roman structures, with brickearth floors and a couple of hearths. Most of the site is covered with medieval pits and these have been under excavation during November.

8. **America Square**

The Roman City Wall has been the focus of interest on the site, and the thirty metres of it which will be displayed in the new office building have now been fully recorded down to natural ballast on the external face and along much of the internal face. All archaeological work is now completed.

ESTATES TIMES, November 17, 1989

Limit proposed on the depth of City schemes

By Giles Barrie

CITY planners are considering proposals by the Museum of London to limit destruction of historical remains.

The plan is to include a 'depths policy' in the City's new unitary development plan which would restrict ground disturbance in 'critical' areas and prevent further damage to archaeological remains.

Developers would get constraint maps setting out archaeological sites which should not be disturbed and sites which should not be redeveloped below their existing basements.

John Maloney, principal excavations officer in the

department of urban archaeology at the Museum of London, said: "This measure could give us real strength and we would ensure that all buildings are designed to have minimum impact on remains."

Maloney said that one of the main reasons for the new policy was damage caused by developers forced to optimise plot ratio with deep basements because of the St Paul's heights restriction adopted by the City seven years ago.

"It's ironic that one conservation policy should have the reverse effect on another good cause," he said.

"The difference is that if a building is too high it will eventually be reduced to the

right level. Archaeology is ruined for all time."

If a 'depths policy' is introduced schemes could be sandwiched between the heights and basement restrictions, limiting redevelopment across the City.

But some areas would be protected more than others, particularly those where little new development has taken place such as around Cornhill, Leadenhall Street and Fenchurch Street, Cannon Street and Gracechurch Street and south of Thames Street towards the river.

James Tuckey, managing director of MEPC, which has worked with the Museum of London on major schemes at

London Wall and Finsbury Circus, welcomed any policy which would decrease developers' uncertainty about historical finds.

Tuckey, however, doubted the viability of a plan to chart archaeology beneath the whole City.

He said: "Rather than concentrating on developers perhaps the Museum of London should consider damage being caused by raising ground water and all the tunnelling involved in new underground links."

City planning officer Peter Rees said that the idea of a 'depths policy' was being considered although the City's most pressing problem is its infrastructure.

PRESS COVERAGE

FINANCIAL TIMES TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14 1989

Museum seeks curbs on City building

By Paul Cheeseright, Property Correspondent

PROPERTY developers in important archaeological areas of the City of London should be subject to controls on how deep they can dig the foundations of new buildings, according to the Museum of London.

The museum has become

increasingly anxious about the fate of the City's Roman ruins, 75 per cent of which have been destroyed. It is having talks with City planners about a possible depths policy.

The Department of Environment will shortly publish new

guidelines on planning controls for sites of archaeological importance. These will probably include powers for local planners to reject planning applications on sites of archaeological importance, whether or not the sites are listed.

Building 17 November 1989

Ban deep basements, say City archaeologists

DEEP BASEMENTS in new buildings may be banned in the City of London if draft proposals by archaeologists are adopted by the City Corporation, writes *Martin Spring*. The proposed depth restrictions come just months after height restrictions around St Paul's Cathedral were extended by former

environment secretary Nicholas Ridley.

The depth proposals were put forward this week in the Museum of London's annual archaeology lecture, given by John Maloney, the museum's principal excavations officer.

The reaction from an audience of top London developers "was not unfavourable", claimed Maloney. Last year the museum

investigated 54 archaeological sites within the City's Square Mile - four times the number investigated two years earlier.

The area concerning Maloney most is the riverside tract of land south of Thames Street, nearly all of which has been, or is about to be, destroyed, he claimed. The main threat, he argued, is the St Paul's height restriction policy, which forces developers to excavate deep basements to maximise lettable floor area.

Maloney proposes that deep basements be restricted in certain areas of prime archaeological deposits. "The justification is that a selective proportion of the small part of the archaeological heritage that remains, be safeguarded for

future generations," he said.

Discussions are already underway between the Museum of London and the City Corporation, with a view to incorporating depth constraint maps into the City's statutory unitary development plan, to be published by 1991. Maloney stresses that only a small percentage of City land "well within single figures" would be subjected to depth restrictions.

Developers would be prohibited from sinking basements lower than existing ones. "If piled foundations, rather than a concrete raft, are essential, then we would try to agree a perimeter configuration of piles that would avoid the centre of the site," said Maloney.

CHARTERED SURVEYOR WEEKLY 23 NOVEMBER 1989

City Corporation rejects museum's depths policy

The Corporation of London has turned down a suggestion from the Museum of London that it should adopt a 'depths policy' to protect archaeological remains on City redevelopment sites.

The idea came from a lecture by John Maloney, principal excavations officer at the museum. He claimed that nearly all the deposits south of Thames Street had been

destroyed or were about to be destroyed.

"It is ironic that the existence of the St Paul's heights restriction policy has been claimed by developers as an imperative to having deep basements in order to optimise the plot ratios, despite the expense and civil engineering problems," said Maloney.

However, Christopher Mitchell, chairman of the corporation's planning and communications committee, said on Monday of this week that existing policies afforded proper protection.

"No formal proposal for a depths policy has been received from the Museum of London, and if it were, it is extremely unlikely that it would be accepted," he said.

THE CITY RECORDER

Thursday, November 23, 1989

Museum wants better plans for digs

THE MUSEUM of London is pressing for further improvements in archaeological services in Greater London - a view shared by English Heritage.

Early last year and again last August the Museum submitted plans to English Heritage, stressing in particular the need to provide better information for planning purposes and to secure a proper record of all sites threatened with redevelopment.

Under the arrangements set up by the Government following the abolition of the GLC, English Heritage is given additional funds to support the Museum in providing archaeological services in London.

The Museum has received English Heritage's comments on the plans and these will be considered by the board of governors today (Thursday).

"As the organisation with the greatest experience in archaeology in Greater London, the Museum views with considerable concern any attempt to pre-empt the conclusions of the strategic archaeological plan which English Heritage proposes to commission, particularly with regard to the financial implications for developers," said a Museum statement.

Historic clues 'lost in city' development'

Paul Brown

SHORT sighted government policy on the free market economy has accelerated the destruction of archaeological deposits in the historic cores of towns and cities, according to Mr John Maloney, principal excavations officer of the Department of Urban Archaeology at the Museum of London.

Giving the museum's annual lecture yesterday, Mr Maloney said the city's "big bang" had led to a vast increase in redevelopment. Before big bang archaeologists investigated an average of 10 to 14 sites a year in central London but in 1987 it was 27, and last year 54.

In the Square Mile alone last year there were 250 staff involved in archaeology and £3 million had come from developers.

Over the past decade central government under various guises had increasingly withdrawn from funding rescue excavations and expected developers to meet the costs on the premise that the polluter pays.

Although English Heritage preferred the remains to be left intact, if they were to be disturbed or removed the developer was to bear the cost of recording the remains.

While this policy had shown short term benefits all round — the Government reducing funding, archaeologists receiving funding, and the developer ensuring minimum delay — the long term effects were the destruction of important deposits.

Mr Maloney said that a change in policy was needed. He supported moves towards insisting that an archaeological assessment should accompany applications for planning permission.

This would insure against delays caused by unexpected discoveries.

Some 25 per cent of the city's archaeological sites remained and there was pressure that some at least should be saved.

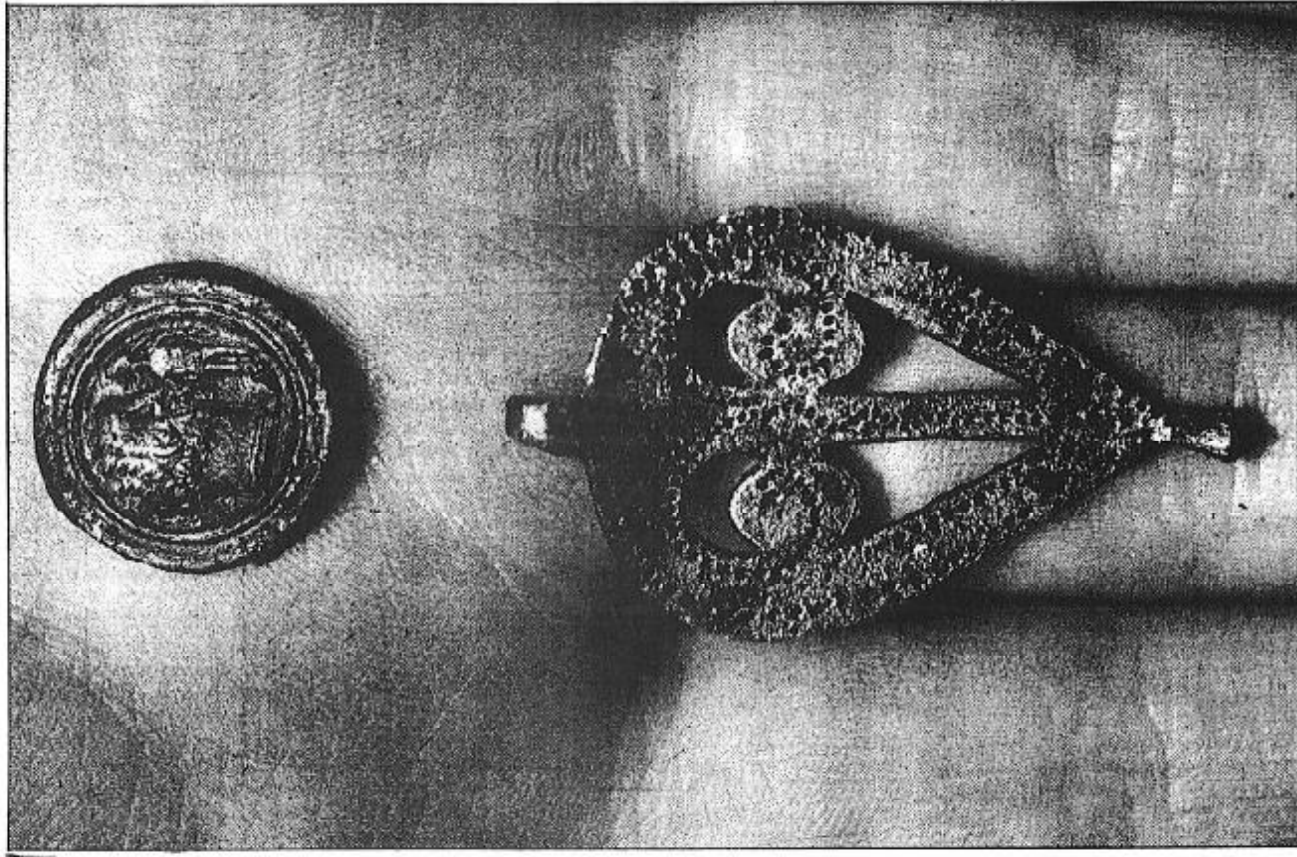
Informal discussions had begun to limit the depth to which building could go in order to limit ground disturbance in critical areas.

Constraint maps indicating areas of prime archaeological deposits which are to be safeguarded should be drawn up and made available to developers.

The justification for this was to preserve some sites for the future. With advances in technology it was inevitable that future generations would get more information from the same data.

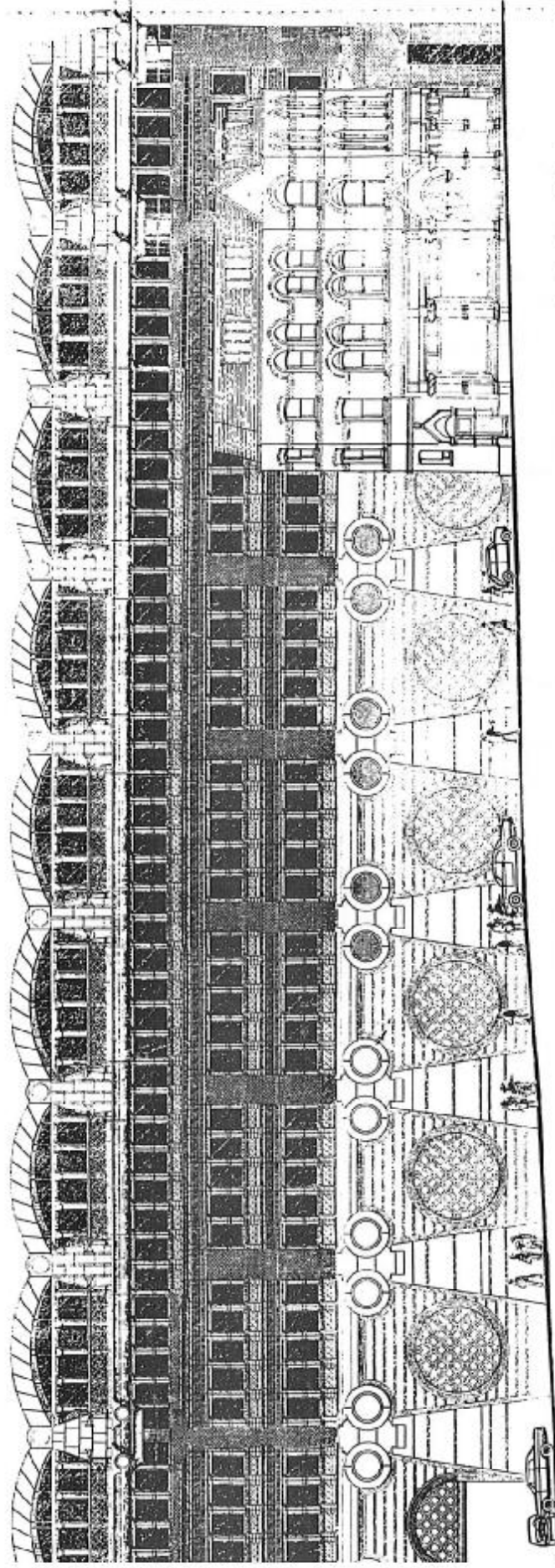
Already new techniques such as impulse radar scanning transformed site assessments. For instance on a site in the Fleet valley the museum was able to identify individual skeletons that lay beneath an intact concrete slab.

Accurate non-destructive techniques like this led archaeologists to call for a slow-down in the rate of destruction of sites. The day may not be far away when for research purposes it was no longer necessary to dig. However, rescue excavations would be with us for a long time yet.



Roman reminder... a military pendant which was one of the items discovered in the City during excavations created by the vast increase in redevelopment PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW SILLITOE

THE SUNDAY TIMES 19 NOVEMBER 1989



'Cosmological' showpiece: John Outram's 300ft-long multi-coloured building, the most eccentric of five designs to be submitted to City of London planners by Rosehaugh Stanhope next month.

Technicolor landmark for the City

A NEW landmark for London is to be unveiled as the showpiece of a development at the heart of the City — an eccentric, 300ft-long multi-coloured building.

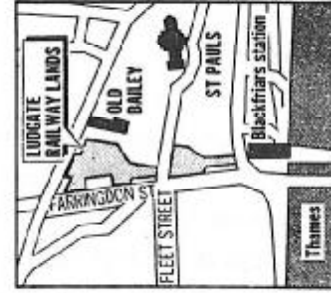
The offices, by maverick architect John Outram, will straddle the railway at Blackfriars. It is part of the £500m "Ludgate Project", to be built on top of a new sunken railway line from Blackfriars to Holborn Viaduct.

Enormous columns, stone pyramids, striped brickwork, brightly coloured steel and concrete decoration, and a green vaulted roof are the

main features in a style Outram has christened "cosmological". It is the most radical of five buildings to be submitted next month to City of London planners by Rosehaugh Stanhope, the joint company of developers Godfrey Bradman and Stuart Lipton.

The others are a large stone and glass block by architects RHWL just north of Outram's, and three modernist buildings by American architect SOM around a square on top of a new station, St Paul's Thameslink.

The station, already being built, is due to open next



absorbent foundations, will be built on top of the sunken line. The railway bridge across the foot of Ludgate Hill, now

blocking views of St Paul's Cathedral from Ludgate Circus, will also vanish.

Outram's building is his first big project. He is known for his unusual country houses, factories and warehouses, and a celebrated pumping station on the Isle of Dogs. Although widely admired, he is thought to put off more conventional clients with his eccentric theories.

"I see the building as riding above the railway line, perched on the columns like an ark that's landed on mountain-tops," Outram said. "It's an ancient symbol." The

building is understood to have been approved by the Royal Fine Art Commission.

The development marks a significant change for Rosehaugh Stanhope, the consortium behind London's biggest developments, such as the £3 billion King's Cross regeneration scheme and the huge Broadgate project around Liverpool Street station.

Half the Viaduct has already been demolished to make way for the new sunken railway. This has allowed the Museum of London to undertake one of its largest archaeological digs.

Post-excavation blues...

The layers go up and the foundations go down.....
Gnashing of teeth, stamping of feet, beating of breasts,
Snorting and snarling....Mad bull in a china shop,
Mad dog in a coffee house.
Formation of deposits, naming of parts.
First yer builds yer building, yer building goes up.
Night, day, summer dawn, wintry sunset, snow melt,
Pelting rain, morning mist, smoke, cockcrow, bedbugs.
Dogs barking, dogs pissing against corners, dogs sleeping
in the sun. Horse dung, flies, waspsnests in the eaves.
Swallows twittering in midsummer, steaming thatch,
Freezing wind, icicles, dead leaves everywhere.
And I never mentioned humans.
Fire! Clamour in the night, flames, smoke, no shelter
Or time to rebuild anyway.
So pull down the old, uproot, dismast.
Nothing else to do but level the site up with
All the rubble, rubbish, debris, muck, cinders, ash
And lost last day's takings or holiday best.
So dozens of buildings go up and come down,
Each one raised up a little, on the accumulation of predecessors.
But yer buildings get bigger -
Dig a cellar.
Mysteriously mixed ancestors briefly breathe again,
Exposed in a savage section, for a moment.
Alliterative destruction, redistribution, dispersal.
Dig deeper foundations, build higher
Higher, higher, deeper, bigger, vaster, money, money,
Tube trains, sewers, bank vaults, telephones, car parks,
Gas electric, water, wired-in, wired-up,
Machine city, speed of light threnody
(Still no humans).

Anon.
