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DUA  
letter  
News

ISSUE No. 4

January 1989

DUA ARCHIVE COPY

## INTRODUCTION

### HAPPY NEW YEAR to all readers of the Newsletter!

The questionnaire included with the December issue of the Newsletter has now been collected and collated. New ideas and changes will be incorporated within the February issue. The results are included in this issue.

## NEWSLETTER QUESTIONNAIRE

Closing date for completed questionnaires 14 December 1988.  
Analysed on 22 December 1988

34 replies out of 230 circulated - 14%

### 1. Do you like the Newsletter?

YES	- 31
NO	- 1
Not quite convinced	- 1
Indifferent	- 1

### 2. Content

Job Vacancies -	useful	- 29
	more detail	- 3
	less detail	- 1
	should be omitted	- 1
(would like jobs to be advertised further in advance)		
Personal news -	useful	- 15
	more detail	- 9
	less detail	- 6
	should be omitted	- 5
Cartoons/comps -	useful	- 12
	more detail	- 5
	less detail	- 1
	should be omitted	- 10
Current work in sections -	useful	- 24
	more detail	- 7
	less detail	- 1
	should be omitted	- 2
Other MoL Departments -	useful	- 26
	more detail	- 4
	less detail	- 2
	should be omitted	- 2
Events -	useful	- 27
	more detail	- 4
	less detail	- \
	should be omitted	- \

Feature articles -	useful	- 23
	more detail	- 6
	less detail	- \
	should be omitted	- 1
Organis. of sections -	useful	- 24
	more detail	- 2
	less detail	- 1
	should be omitted	- 4
Forthcoming sites -	useful	- 25
	more detail	- 7
	less detail	- \
	should be omitted	- 1
Site summaries -	useful	- 16
	more detail	- 6
	less detail	- 3
	should be omitted	- 8

(what about publication summaries)  
(more detail of DGLA sites)

### 3. Format

size -	suitable	- 32
	unsuitable	- 2

(should be smaller - A5 size)

binding -	suitable	- 25
	unsuitable	- 6

(suitable now that done with staples - 10)  
(1 preferred rings)

colour -	suitable	- 18
	unsuitable	- 5

(generally indifferent)

layout -	suitable	- 24
	unsuitable	- 6

(comments included very good, needs to be more consistent, very clear layout, dislike the symbols - particularly the finger symbol, like the symbols as helps to clarify it, could be more radical such as a fold out, needs to be kept simple to keep costs down, need to be more drawings and photos, margins too wide making a waste of paper, and several comments USE RECYCLED PAPER)

### 4. Other suggestions for inclusion

Letters page

Jobs outside London & abroad

Museum shop - book ordering procedure

Treasure Trove & the law

LAMAS & UCL lectures

Conferences & deadlines for applying

Accommodation

Profile of members of senior staff

For sale/wanted

Gossip column

Focus on one site per issue  
'Golden Oldie' featuring a past site  
Archaeologist of the month  
News from the publication programme  
History of London  
Overseas trips  
Site safety  
Rights of Corporation of London staff  
Alternative excavation guides  
Photographs from staff  
Contentious and discussive articles

#### **Conclusion**

Clearly the Newsletter is perceived as being a useful purveyor of information, and generally speaking the content and format presently being produced is popular. The most popular sections are clearly current work in DUA sections, other MoL Departments, forthcoming sites, feature articles and events. We shall continue to include these and expand them where possible. The format is acceptable, as long as it continues to be stapled, and we shall look into the possibility of using recycled paper.

Other items suggested for inclusion will be incorporated where appropriate, in particular from February there will be a letters page. This is open to anyone to write about any issue in the DUA or the Museum which you feel needs to be aired. It could include discussion of controversial issues or simply personal views i.e. what is wrong/right with contract archaeology?

A lot of the other suggestions can be included as feature articles, such as "from our foreign correspondent" about work abroad. Offers of articles will be willingly received, otherwise it will be necessary to request and chase up articles from individuals.

**JANUARY DIARY**

Tuesday 10

General DUA staff meeting about site safety  
A recording of the London Plus feature which was broadcast last August will also be shown.  
4pm Lecture Theatre.

Thursday 12

Boardroom presentation to the developers of 80 Coleman Street.  
DUA staff are invited to view the finds and hear a short talk about the site given by Tony Mackinder in the Boardroom at 4.30pm.

Friday 13

LECTURE : Current Excavations in the City  
- Simon O'Connor Thompson  
- 1.10pm Lecture Theatre.

Friday 20

LECTURE : Progress at Cannon Street Station  
- Angus Stephenson  
- 1.10pm Lecture Theatre.

Friday 27

LECTURE : The Trial Excavations at the Huggin Hill Roman Bath  
- Michael Shea  
- 1.10pm Lecture Theatre.

**Interviews with grade 3 - 4 + 2 staff with less than two years service**

The interviews with staff with less than two years service who joined prior to 1989 have almost all taken place. If you were unable to make your appointment, please re-arrange with the person who contacted you. If you were not contacted and should have been, please contact Marie Nally. There will be two articles in the February Newsletter on the outcome of these interviews - a general one by Marie Nally on points raised and how they have been or will be followed up and an article by Susan Greenwood specifically related to the discussion of training in these interviews.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Recent dendrochronological spot dates on timbers from sites currently under excavation have confirmed and refined the archaeology dating of some of the structures.

Samples from the Saxon embankment at Thames Exchange have given a date indicating felling of the oak timbers in the first half of the eleventh century, contemporary with similar structures at New Fresh Wharf, Billingsgate and Seal House.

Timbers from a Roman well at Garlick Hill suggest a felling range in the middle of the second century AD and a stake from the site at Angel Court has produced a felling date in the late 2nd century, 191 AD or a little later.

The bulk processing of soil for finds and environmental material from Thames Exchange and other DUA sites will begin this month. Three processing assistants have been appointed, funded by the environmental, field and finds sections, to wet seive samples from current excavations for finds, pottery, bone, etc. This will be taking place on the site of completed excavations at Courages in Southwark and our thanks are due to John Dillon (DGLA) for obtaining the OK for this operation to be set up on his site. This exercise will run for a trial period of three months after which it will be assessed. The processing uses a modified cement mixer to disaggregate the sediment and a purpose built sieving table with sieves of mesh size down to 1/2 millimetre to recover the finds.

Recent excavation at Whittington Avenue has uncovered an early Roman surface that was 'ploughed'. This is the first evidence of this kind in the city area and samples have been taken for micromorphological soil analysis, hopefully to identify the nature and duration of this activity. Further excavation may reveal more of the ploughed surface. The extensive middens and floor surfaces at this site have been intensively sampled but it will be some time before we can comment on how productive this exercise has been. The site has twice been used as a demonstration site for the DUA environmental induction courses.

The large archaeological project starting this month in the Fleet Valley and due to run for 14 months has funding for an 'on-site environmentalist'. This will be the first time we have been able to assign an Environmentalist to a single excavation project, in this case up to thirty trenches. Hopefully their presence on site will go a long way towards assisting the excavation staff in their sampling decisions and produce an interactive relationship beneficial to both sections.

## TRAINING

The trial work at Vintry House produced our first finds of big cats, lions and leopards, and bears. A number of skulls and jaws were recovered from probable 19th century layers and with a few fox bones suggest the presence of skins with heads, or the preparation of skins for the fur trade.

### Library Tours

Tours of the museum library have been arranged for DUA staff. If you would like to attend a tour, either sign one of the circulating lists or let me know in the Excavations Office.

Two groups of 12 will be shown round on the first Monday of every month, and the tours will last approximately 1 hour.

Elizabeth Hess will give a general tour and explain how to use the library.

In addition the following people will give a brief talk on their work:-

Audrey Adams	: Bibliographer London Archaeology
Sue Cole	: SMR Assistant
Dave Evans	: Records Officer
Cath Maloney	: Archives Officer

**Muck To Metal** : How archaeometallurgy helps the archaeologist.  
by Paul Travis, Tim Ellis and Dana Goodburn-Brown.

A one day workshop presented by the British Metallurgy Society.

The workshop set out to introduce archaeologists to modern archaeo-metallurgical techniques and to provide an insight into the problems archaeologists face dealing with metal artifacts and metal working on sites.

The morning was devoted to iron and the afternoon to copper and its alloys. In both sessions an introduction to smelting and manufacturing processes was followed by an explanation of available archaeo-metallurgical techniques. Whether some of the more advanced analytical techniques merited the time and cost involved was also discussed.

The workshop helped to put metallic finds on site into a broader context, showing the benefits of archaeo-metallurgy to the archaeologist and highlighting communication breakdown between the field and finds analysis. Some of the sessions required a fair amount of scientific knowledge and appeared to be aimed at finds and conservation staff. The problems of identification of slags and other evidence of metal workings on site was insufficiently covered and this could usefully be covered in future in-house training sessions.



**Training News**

No training has been organised for January due to the excavation workload for the month. Future sessions planned for February and March include 'Recording Test Pits' and 'Training Volunteers'.

I shall be attending a course in training and development at South West London College. This will help me understand training methods and enable me to design more effective future training sessions.

Hal Bishop, Bruce Watson and Dave Lakin attended the Archaeology of the Urban Monastery Conference at York.

Future conferences at the University of Oxford, Department for External Studies include:-

**Treasure and Splendor**

This explores metalworking skills in medieval England.  
11-12 February 1989.

**Place-Names and Landscape Studies.**

The study of Saxon topographical names.  
18-19 March 1989.

**The Archaeology of Cathedrals.**

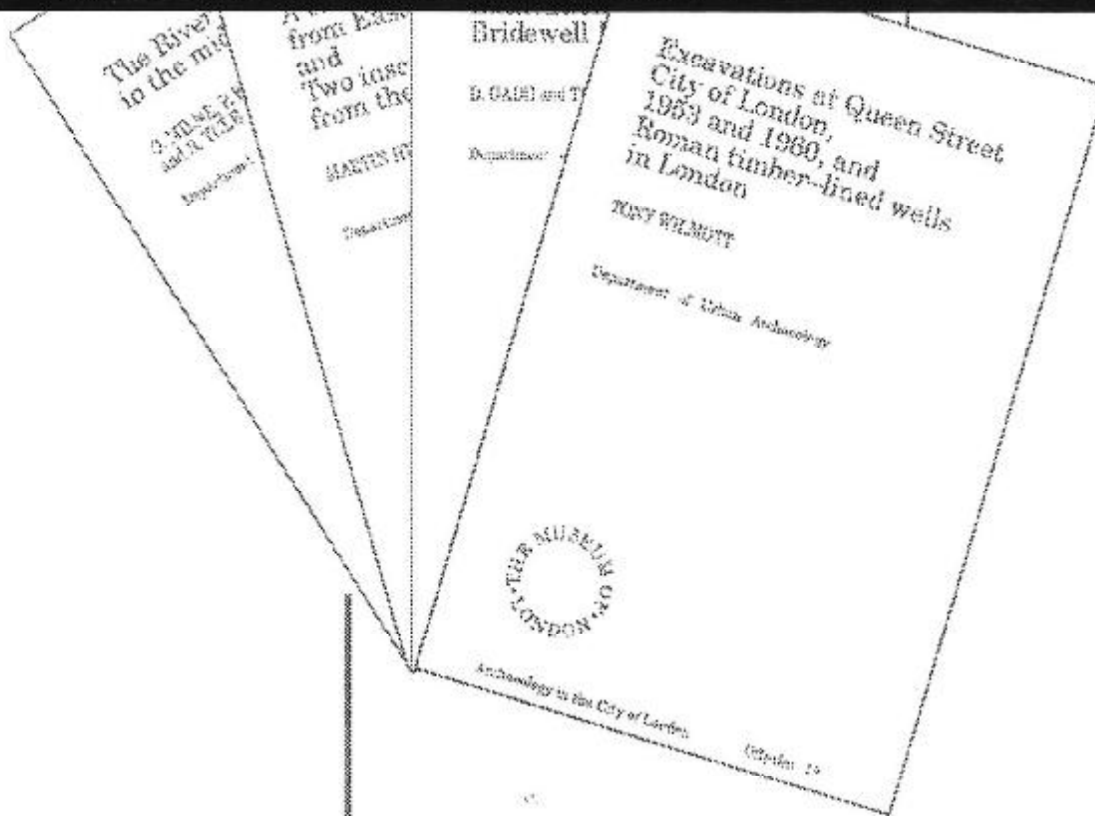
28-30 April 1989.

Further details are available from me in the Excavations Office.

**Susan Greenwood**



## Current issues in ARCHIVE AND PUBLICATION : 1



It has been said that the spade cannot lie, but it owes this merit in part to the fact that it cannot speak'  
(Philip Grierson, 1959)

In the past fifteen years the DUA has dug up a mountain of data and finds. What are we to do with it? Who wants or needs to know about it? To whom should we be projecting our results?

These are questions concerning the post-excavation and publication teams in the DUA, and it might be useful if in this and a succeeding article I outlined both the current practices for post-excavation and publication, listing the people involved, and putting forward some of the issues we are debating. Perhaps even more than excavation, this is an area of potential expansion and new ideas. I shall be dealing mainly with our work on the site side; others should speak for detailed finds and environmental work.

This first article is concerned with the archive, its compilation and explanation. To begin with, a brief outline:

LEVEL MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

I	Site and finds	Storage in Museums
II	Site and finds records	In museum or national archive
III	Full report	Publication in micro- or digital form
IV	Synthesis with supporting data	Journal report

Following the Frere Report (1975), site information can be viewed as being at four levels, from the physical evidence of the site - soil and finds - through basic factual recording to high level conclusions and speculations. Level I is the physical object of the site, usually destroyed; and the actual finds retrieved from it. Level II records include the context sheets or site notebooks, and the Harris matrix; the finds records at the same level include accession lists, photos and X-rays.

The level III structural archive report is the most extensive description of the layer by layer history of the site. Computers are now widely used in the writing of archive reports by wordprocessing, which would enable the reports to be indexed by machine if that were ever thought advisable. Programs to help analyse and present the site information in the report are being developed (see below), and computer graphics are now being employed by several units including ours in the drawing of archive report and publication illustrations. The level III archive reports will be the solid basis both of an archive and of the conventional level IV publication programme (articles, books and exhibitions). The published reports should be seen as the publicly visible tip of a pyramid, supported by a much larger archive at one remove from outright publication, but available in the Museum for consultation.

On the site side several people are supervising the compilation and adequate curation of level III reports: Andrew Westman (Museum, x310) and Liz Shepherd (Bridge House) ensure quality and consistency among the 70+ outstanding reports, and Cath Maloney (Museum, x251) keeps the Archive. David Bentley (Drawing Office, x208) is in charge of production of level III site drawings. We also have two manuals: the Archive Guide (1986) (available from me or Andrew) and, in preparation, the revised Archive Report Manual.

### Indexing the archive

Such a vast archive is however in danger of becoming impenetrable; mountains of paper and drawing film, and long hand-written indexes of information which may not be consistent from site to site.

Our first task is to understand the archive ourselves, both for our research and to improve site selection and management in the future. We need to develop systems to ask a range of questions of an archaeological archive, whether it is of site information or finds. Here are some of the questions that we hope, in time, to be able to answer:

1. Tell me all the examples you have of Roman shops in the 1st century AD, with their most recently-formulated dates.
2. Tell me all the parts of the Blackfriars precinct in which you have found friary buildings, their dates and details of how much survived in each case.
3. Can the original functions of early medieval pits be deduced from their shape and depth? For instance, did medieval bell-founders, tanners and dyers dig pits of different and recognisable shapes for their manufacturing purposes?

We propose to use computer programs which involve some element of indexing at three levels, carrying out three separate but related tasks.

1. **The Context Data Phasing program (CDP)**, written by Paul Tyers, has several functions. Firstly it is an aid to writing of consistent reports by storing the coded descriptions of site strata, down to a very fine level of detail: descriptions of individual timbers, walls or ditches, for instance, along with references to their plan and section numbers. The context numbers are the initial building-block of the whole recording system, and the key to both description of the context (its dimensions, shape etc) and the finds or samples which have been derived from it. The CDP program controls the inputting of this information to make it consistent, and then can arrange it in the stratigraphic phases proposed, after analysis of the site matrix by the supervisor. The program can also generate structured and grammatical text from these codewords, which enables the computer to assist in the writing of archive reports in a consistent manner; descriptions of chosen contexts can be called up and imported into text files. See Robin Boast or Tim Williams for further details.

2. **The Phasing Index** is then compiled, using its own inputting program. This produces an index in the following format:

Context, main group, sub-group, acronym.

The acronyms (as an example, B7rBu signifies Building 7 room 2 usage) are used to correlate finds and field data, assisting with the

analysis of finds assemblages and the dating of structural activities. Some of the terms represented by acronyms are:

Building, Grave, Pit, Road, Foreshore, Waterfront dump, Ditch, Skeleton.

They are descriptive terms, though clearly interpretation has started. At this level the distinction is made between internal and external, and between construction, use and disuse or demolition, since these can be archaeologically defined.

When this information is put in, the computer, which can already arrange contexts into stratigraphic groups with the CDP program, assigns these basic interpretation terms to each group. Thus an enquirer can know quickly that finds, or environmental material, from context 123 is from the first phase of use of Building 6.

The products or outcome of having this form of index are several:

(a) a research base which represents the vast mass of level III data is being prepared, from which level IV projects can be most efficiently conducted;

(b) the index aids the refinements to chronology which come after the spot-dates have been received from the finds section; thus the phasing is refined and improved.

(c) for the outside researcher or internal enquirer, the archive is indexed at a basic level.

Examples can be given of this last outcome. The index will be of descriptive data with the minimum of interpretation, which is the proper concern of the level III report: descriptions of buildings and objects, their spatial distribution, and their development over time. Interrogation routines can be constructed to answer questions such as number 3 at the head of this article, since the shape of pits is definable from the data put in via the CDP program. Here is another example:

Tell me all the cases you have of opus signinum in 1st-century Roman buildings (a) in floors, (b) as fragments in dump layers, which might have come from floors.

The Phasing Index produces lists of all 1st-century Roman buildings by looking up their currently-suggested dates. These are put in a file and by linking to the CDP program, the constituents of the contexts comprising construction of the buildings can be found. Thus a list of all 1st-century Roman buildings with floors of opus signinum can be produced. The list will be of stratigraphic groups within site reports. To provide the list of fragments from dump layers, i.e. in secondary contexts, the question is framed in such a way as to search those phases which are of use or disuse.

3. The Keyword Index (more properly perhaps, Interpretative Index) is still under discussion. It is intended primarily for searching through the research base at a slightly higher level; it will be the most

common level of entry for outside researchers and quite probably for many internal enquiries also. This introduces such words as Temple, Church, Priory, and Amphitheatre. What is needed here is the answer to the question, How many Temples have you excavated, and on what sites? Activities can also be indexed in this way: quarrying, pit-digging, industrial. These will be in the Keyword Index as quarries, pits and industrial structures. In this way we would hope to answer questions like number 1 at the head of this article.

As ever, nothing is as simple as it seems, and indexing far less so. Many, perhaps most, general enquiries will be of the 'how many examples from the whole city' variety - 'How many excavations have you conducted on medieval parish churches?' Or 'How many examples do you have of Welsh roofing slate before the 13th century?' There is a further type of question which is geographically specific: 'How many excavations have you conducted within the Blackfriars precinct?' or 'along Thames Street'. At the moment this can be most efficiently handled by a combination of maps of sites and a conventional indexing program called MACREX, used in books, indexing the text called the Archive Catalogue (latest edition 1987, to be updated). This index, which normally runs as follows:

Blackfriars,  
 burials within, 31  
 church, 31, 123  
 city wall extension, 154  
 cloistral range, 31  
 guest house, 31  
 Ladychapel, 123  
 Blackfriars Lane, 31

can also run, on the screen of a computer:

Blackfriars,  
 burials within, APO81  
 church, APO81, LBY85  
 city wall extension, NBS84  
 cloistral range, APO81  
 guest house, APO81  
 Ladychapel, LBY85  
 Blackfriars Lane, APO81

as a first indication of the sites involved. Further documentation in the archive, which could easily be computerised, tells the enquirer the state of documentation of the various relevant sites: whether they have archive reports and drawings, a finds appraisal, and whether research is already being conducted on the material. This general index is also an aid to the planning of publications; it can be appreciated that after several excavations of 1981-85, shown by the sitecodes in the above example, a publication on the Blackfriars in London may now be worthwhile. More of that in my second article, which will deal with ways of making the archive accessible, current publications and future directions, including computer graphics.

## THE MUSEUM OF LONDON RECORDS OFFICE

### **Managing Information**

The Museum is in the business of recording and interpreting London and life in London through the ages. It also cares for, stores and manages its collections.

It is the business of this Office to make sure that information which we gather on these subjects comes together sensibly and usefully across all departments, including DUA.

I am also responsible for developing and maintaining the Museum Archive, which includes the archaeological records generated by the DUA.

In general, the DUA lightens my workload by providing its own computing department and archive preparation staff, with whom I work closely.

### **London and Life in London from earliest times to the present day**

Staff of the Museum, particularly in the archaeological field departments, are continuously gleaning information about London topography, buildings, land-use and fabric; about important London people, businesses, trades, products, ways of life and traditions; about its economy and history.

Information will be recorded about objects; about their identification, description, classification, history of production, discovery, ownership and use; about why they are useful to an understanding of London or why we collected them.

Archaeologists take this information from the soil and associated finds. Museum curatorial staff gather it from research and from the background to our collections.

The job of the Records Officer is to make sure that systems, computerised and otherwise, are in place to record what is necessary and useful about the above, so that it can be built into a valuable, unified databank for the use of the Museum and the Public.

I liaise with the curatorial departments (namely prehistoric and Roman, medieval, tudor and stuart, modern, costume and textiles, paintings, prints and drawings and docklands/working history), the field departments (namely DUA, DGLA and Environmental), the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record and several external bodies to ensure that this information comes together.

Record forms are worked up with the relevant departments, computer systems are developed and made operational, manuals and printouts are provided, queries answered. Departments must then type in their own information, check and edit it.

David Evans  
Museum Records Officer

#### **Care , Storage and Management of Collections**

Many collections management activities are undertaken by the Museum, including conservation, analysis, x-ray, restoration, acquisition by gift, purchase or bequest, cataloguing, record photography, marking and labelling, storage and movement, valuation and audit, insurance, borrowing and loan, display and disposal etc etc.

I have to make sure that our collections management files and records are well-maintained and that systems are designed to be as free as possible from risk or excess bureaucracy.

I have to present a report to each Board of Governors meeting on accessions made to collections and forthcoming loans out.

#### **General Management of Records and Archives**

One of my responsibilities is to assist in the ordering and reduction of ALL forms of records produced by the Museum. This does not mean that I have the right to look at or dispose of all or any records, but departments need to agree programmes for keeping their records in order, and for depositing selected material within the Museum Archive.

The DUA is one such department, and its archaeological records are already largely maintained here within the Records Office.

#### **Current Work**

Particular current work includes development of information systems for new museum stores, development of our new central collections computing systems over the course of 1989, work on improving the care and funding of archaeological archives and a review of our systems for borrowing and loaning collections.



## FORTHCOMING PROJECTS

### **Cophall Avenue/London Wall**

This site is located over part of the Upper Walbrook Valley and excavations in 1987 at 10-12 Cophall Avenue indicated good survival of Roman deposits including a Roman road. What makes this a site of particular interest is the fact that it was in part investigated over a century ago by the celebrated General Augustus (Lane-Fox) Pitt Rivers. In 1866 he recorded many timbers on the site which he interpreted as the piles of stilt buildings from a lake village of prehistoric date. Such an interpretation was 'flavour of the month' due to contemporary discoveries of lake villages in Switzerland. It also made sense of the prehistoric word 'London' as being a part corruption of the celtic word Llyn (lake).

Current interpretation of the timbers is that they are probably remains of early Roman timber-frame buildings and drainage systems.

Any guesses for the 2089 interpretation?

The site is likely to be investigated during this year partly pre- and partly post- demolition. The client is 'Scottish Widows'.

### **Blackfriars/Holborn**

This project has (just about) started. There have been rumours in the past that BR wanted to increase the number of tracks from 2 to 4. This would have major implications for the project since it would literally mean going back to the drawing board. While Rosehaugh-Stanhope Development (RSD developers working in conjunction with BR denied any knowledge of this, the recent decision by BR to make Kings Cross their main Channel Tunnel rail terminal (presumably connecting via Blackfriars/Farringdon) may have some effect on this project.

### **River Plate House**

No, we are not due to be digging there again. Hammersons the client as at Dominant House, are reported to be selling the new property at a 'substantial price' to a Japanese company. Hammersons themselves are currently the subject of a bid by a Dutch company Rodamco.

### **Billingsgate Bath House**

The Corporation has approved the restoration of the Roman remains beneath the TSB in Lower Thames Street. It is likely that archaeological work will start in March which will involve excavation of parts of the (non masonry) remains, in conjunction with a conservation programme. It is hoped that eventually the baths will be opened to the public complete with exhibition, shop etc in c1992. The Corporation has earmarked funds for both excavation and publication.

## SUMMARIES OF CURRENT EXCAVATIONS

### **1. Dominant House**

Trial work on the site of the Huggin Hill Baths was completed in October 1988, and preparatory work for the main excavation has been underway since that date. The majority of the overburden and concrete slab have been removed and excavation commences in the second week of January. It is already clear that survival is as good in the new areas as it was within the trial areas. As well as the monumental remains of the public baths, it is anticipated that there will be a complete sequence from any antecedent to the bath complex, through to the late Roman re-use of the site, Saxon occupation and medieval and post-medieval usage.

### **2. 30-37 Mincing Lane**

The location of the watching brief at Mincing Lane is within the eastern part of Roman and medieval city. In the course of underpinning work and ground reduction a circular chalk lined well, probably 15th to 16th century in date and backfilled in the 18th century.

### **3. 69 Carter Lane/10 Friar Street**

The site is located over the eastern end of the Dominican Priory church. Currently, a watching brief is being carried out in advance of the main excavation, and the trenches examined in December lay within the area of the Prior's garden. These revealed a soil horizon with clear evidence of root and worm action and although it is undated, it is probable that it represents part of the Prior's garden.

### **4. 2 White Lion Court**

A watching brief was carried out in the course of a refurbishment of 2 White Lion Court. The site lies in the heart of the Roman and medieval city, just to the north of the Roman basilica. Excavation revealed the south-west corner of a late medieval chalk undercroft wall. It was standing over 2.9m high and extended beyond the excavation area. It probably dates to the 15th or 16th century, and was backfilled with decayed organic silts. The standing building is a late 18th century brick structure with a stucco facade and brick barrel vaulted cellars.

### **5. Guildhall Yard**

The area under excavation lies beneath Guildhall Yard, immediately to the west of the main excavation completed in 1988. Further areas of yard surfaces have been uncovered to the east of the medieval ragstone wall which may be part of the property of Balliol College known to have been located in this area. Occupation levels and bronze smelting activity have been investigated to the west of the wall. The site is due to be completed in January.

### **6. 46 St. Mary Axe**

The site lies in the north-east of the City, to the south of the Roman and medieval city wall. The excavation revealed a sequence of Roman gravel quarries, followed by systematic dumping during the medieval period, but with several 13th and 14th century rubbish pits, and 17th to 19th century brick features. The site was completed in December.

### 7. 1-7 Whittington Avenue

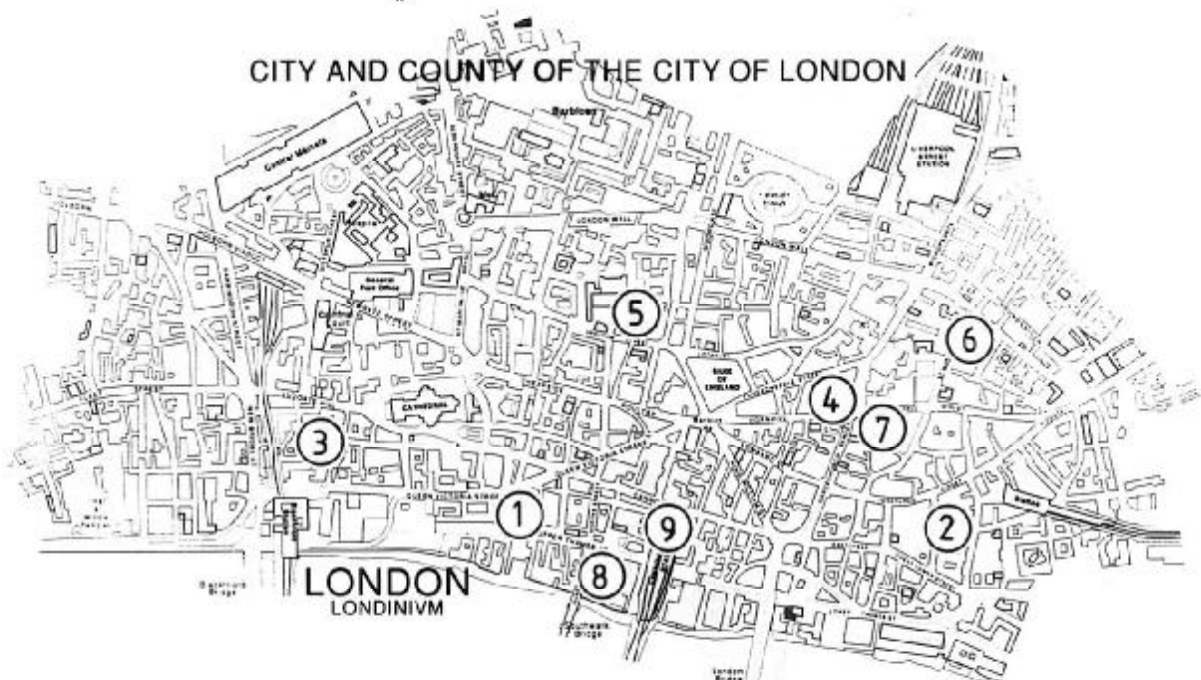
The excavation lies across the north-east corner of the second Roman basilica, Roman roads to the east and north of it and contemporary Roman buildings to the east of the roads. Several of the areas are within pre-basilican layers, with midden-type dumps sealing a finely graded 'soil' which might have been cultivated and possibly ploughed. A marking out ditch and further building phases are under excavation, as well as the gravels and associated water pipes with iron collars from the north-south road. In other areas further stretches of the basilica floor have been revealed, and further tessellated floors and painted plaster from the building to the east of the streets.

### 8. Thames Exchange

The site is situated to the east of Southwark Bridge, close to the confluence of the rivers Thames and Walbrook. A sequence of early medieval timber and clay stone-faced earth banks and timber revetments are under excavation, and the remains of the Roman quay, exposed during installation of the whaling beams and struts are being recorded. During the course of bulk reduction across the remainder of the site, an early medieval post and plank structure, aligned north-south has been recorded, as well as an earlier east-west revetment.

### 9. Cannon Street Station

The excavation beneath Cannon Street Station has revealed a very large late Roman building with a wall of ragstone and tiles, at least 25 metres long and built on top of several hundred densely packed timber piles. This was later than the north-south timber quay, revetting the east side of the mouth of the Walbrook, and supporting a gravel metalling to the east. Several timber lined and stone lined drains have been recorded as well as the two presumed apsidal buildings.



## RECENT PRESS COVERAGE

Cannon Street Station

# Cannon Street dig on show

**CURIOUS** commuters can now see what archaeologists have been up to beneath Cannon Street Station.

An exhibition and video display opened on the station's concourse yesterday, chronicling the excavations since they began back in October.

The dig is next to the site of a sumptuous Roman Governor's Palace first discovered in the 1960s. A team from the Museum of London

believe a curving wall and an external metalled surface between the building and the river, uncovered on the present site, may be part of the palace complex.

Immediately west of the walls, archaeologists have unexpectedly unearthed a well-preserved 1st century Roman waterfront.

At that time, the north bank of the Thames was beneath where Thames Street is today, and to the west of Can-

non Street Station ran the Walbrook River, which flowed from Moorfields into the Thames. The oak waterfront is 1.6 metres high, and experts believe Roman ships from all over the empire would have moored alongside it to off load their goods.

The exhibition will run until the end of January, and has been sponsored by the British Rail Property Board and developers Speyhawk.

THE CITY RECORDER

Wednesday, December 21, 1988

Thames Exchange

# Ancient warehouse found by riverside

**THE** well-preserved timber foundations of part of the earliest medieval warehouse yet found in London are currently being excavated by archaeologists from the Museum of London.

The site is on the north bank of the Thames near Southwark Bridge, on the Thames Exchange development. Earlier this year the excavation, funded by the Japanese developer Kumagai Gumi UK, uncovered a very well preserved 13th-century timber wine wharf. This lies

directly opposite the remains of the floor of a Roman warehouse on the south bank of the river.

The foundations of the north, south and west walls of the latest discovery consist of split beech logs beneath a packing of chalk and gravel, a construction technique previously unknown in London. The east wall is different; it consists of two large baseplates with a slot between them running the full 15-metre length of the building. This side of the structure may have been closed off with

planks at night but left open during the day to enable merchandise to be moved in and out.

The foundations sit on top of a massive Saxo-Norman clay and earth flood embankment, with a cobbled ramp running down on to the ancient Thames foreshore, giving direct access to the river. Here a beach market would have been held, at which merchandise was sold directly from the shops and boats pulled up on to the foreshore. The earliest reference to such a market in London dates back to the late 9th century,

in the time of Alfred the Great, in a charter concerning the landing place at neighbouring Queenhithe.

The warehouse is an example of the sort of facilities used in the ancient port of London, at a time when much of its overseas trade was in the hands of foreign merchants.

THE CITY RECORDER

Wednesday, December 14, 1988

**By David Keys**  
Archaeology Correspondent

■ London's earliest medieval warehouse has been unearthed by Museum of London archaeologists north-east of Southwark Bridge. The building, 15 metres long by 5 metres wide and probably dating from the 11th or 12th century, may have been built by Northern European, possibly Scandinavian, traders.

The excavation, directed by the archaeologist Gustav Milne, is funded by a Japanese property company, Kumagai Gumi UK Ltd.

THE INDEPENDENT

Saturday 10 December 1988

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 10 1988

# Race to record medieval site

ADRIAN BROCKS



An archaeologist working yesterday on the remains of a medieval warehouse discovered on the north bank of the

The remains of the earliest medieval warehouse building to have been discovered in London will be destroyed to make way for a car park, archaeologists from the Museum of London said yesterday (Emma Wilkins writes).

A team of 15 professional archaeologists was yesterday recording the site near Southwark bridge, on the north bank of the Thames, before construction starts at the end of January. The

warehouse, dating from the tenth or eleventh century, was probably built by French wine merchants, who used unusual construction techniques. The foundations consist of split beech logs, laid side by side, covered with a packing of chalk and gravel, over which huge oak logs were placed to form the floor.

The beech logs may have been used to stabilize the warehouse, which is built on subsiding land reclaimed from the

Thames. The water has saturated that it won't move them without

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# KULTUR WELT

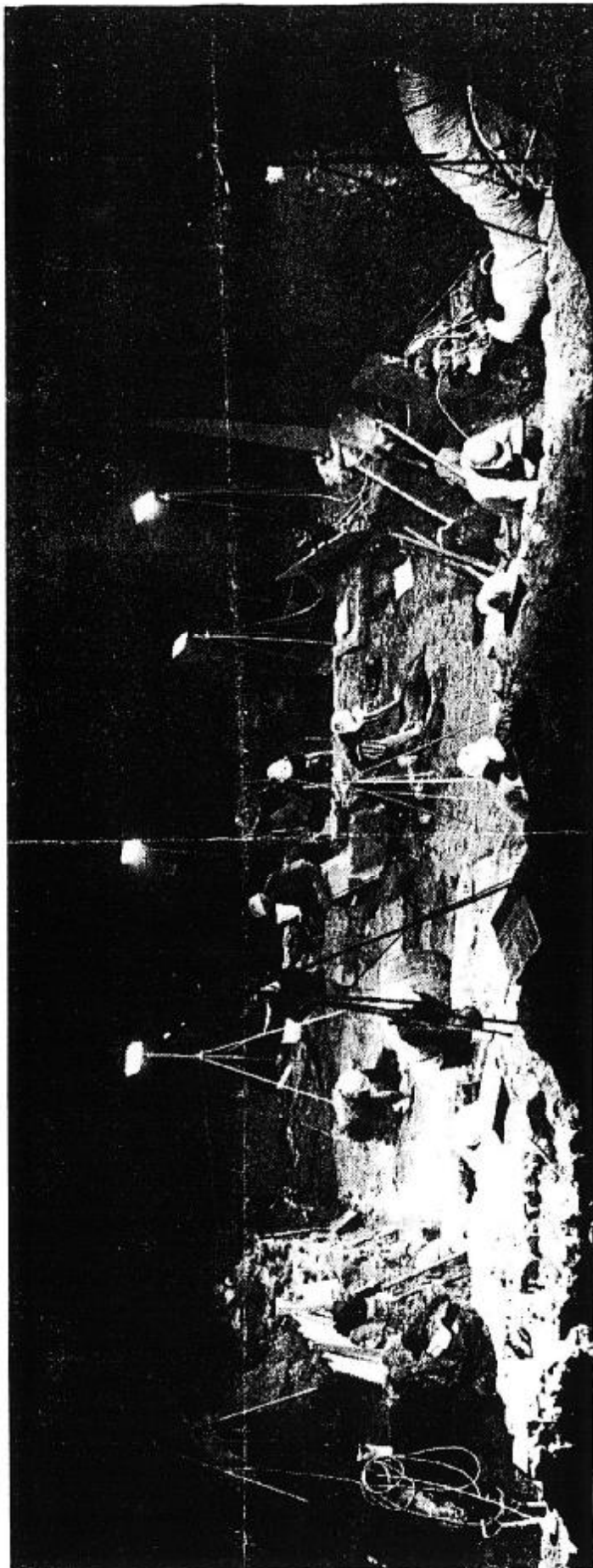


FOTO: DIE WELT

Welche ausgezeichneten Handelsbeziehungen zwischen England und Deutschland schon früh bestanden, zeigt der jüngste archäologische Fund in der Londoner City, der im Zuge des derzeit grassierenden Baufiebers zutage ge-

bracht wurde. Unter den Brücken des „Canon Street“-Bahnhofs entdeckte man jetzt die gut erhaltenen Fundamente einer zirka acht Meter breiten und 48 Meter langen deutschen Zunft Halle. Sie lag im geschäftigsten Teil der

Stadt, direkt am Ufer der Themse auf Bau-land, das man dem Fluß frisch abgewonnen hatte. Die um 1100 errichtete Halle diente als Winterquartier für die Kaufleute, als Lager- und Versammlungsraum.

# Wettlauf zwischen Schaufeln und Baggern

Die deutschen Kaufleute des 11. Jahrhunderts haben deutlich in ein großes, gut gebautes Gebäude mit dekorativen Aspekten investiert." So kommentiert der Archäologe Dick Elser das positive Klima der frühmittelalterlichen deutsch-britischen Zusammenarbeit. Bereits um das Jahr 1000 importierten hauptsächlich Kölner Kaufleute Wein, Metallwaren und Textilien nach London. 1175 verließ der englische König Heinrich II. besondere Handels-Privilegien, die auch den Import französischer Weine umfaßten.

Bei den jetzigen Ausgrabungen fand man auch das nahegelegene Haus von Arnold, Sohn des Theodmar. Bisher wußte man von der Existenz dieses Zunft-Vorsitzenden nur aus schriftlichen Quellen. Im späten 13. Jahrhundert erwarben Kaufleute der Hansa-Liga benachbarte Grundstücke. Erst 1853 wurde dieses als "Steel-yard" bekannte deutsche Viertel von den Städten Hamburg, Bremen und Lübeck an englische Bauunternehmer verkauft. Sieben Jahre später wurde hier die Cannon-Street-Station gebaut.

Als man jetzt auf dem südlichen Teil des Geländes mit Bauarbeiten für ein Bürogebäude begann, stieß man auf diese frühe deutsche Präsenz in London. Der Fund gehört zu den positiven Aspekten des derzeit beliebigen Baufiebers in der City. Schuld daran ist der "Big Bang". Das so getaufte Parlamentsgesetz brachte

im letzten Jahr nicht nur die bisherige Struktur des englischen Finanzwesens ins Wanken und öffnete der internationalen Konkurrenz verstärkt die Tore.

## Der "Big Bang" bringt Schätze ans Tageslicht

Der "Big Bang" bescherte auch der Londoner City, dieser teuersten Quartalle der Welt, ihren bisher größten archäologischen Boom. Das Bedürfnis nach computerbestückten Großraumbüros rief die Bauleute verstärkt auf den Plan. Viele Gebäude der sechziger Jahre werden planiert, um neuen Büroblocks Platz zu machen. Wegen des extrem kostspieligen Baugrunds geht man dabei zum erstenmal wieder weit in die Tiefe und deckt dabei als willkommene Nebenfolge, Schicht um Schicht Londons Vergangenheit auf.

Registrierte man im letzten Jahr innerhalb des Finanzzentrums zwischen der Bank von England und der St. Paul's Kathedrale 35 Ausgrabungen, so werden es bis Dezember rund 100 sein. Anfang der siebziger Jahre arbeiteten hier nur ein Dutzend Archäologen. Heute beschäftigt das "Museum von London" 110 professionelle Ausgräber. 90 Experten werten die Funde aus und katalogisieren sie.

Als 1955 Planieraupen auf die Überreste eines römischen Mithrastempels stießen, kam es - angeheizt

von ungewöhnlichem Publikumsinteresse - zur erbitterten Kontroverse zwischen Archäologen und Bauunternehmern. Man einigte sich schließlich, den Tempel vom Fundort abzutragen und 100 Meter weiter Stein um Stein wieder aufzubauen. Nach dieser zeitraubenden Übung aber versuchten die Baulöwen mit allen Kräften, sich die Archäologen von den Baustellen zu halten.

Mitlerweile gingen Firmen und Wissenschaftler indes eine gut funktionierende Ehe ein. Sobald Baupläne in der Finanzneile vorliegen, werden sie von Mitarbeiter der dem "Museum von London" angegliederten "Abteilung für urbane Archäologie" studiert. Zwischen Abbruch und Baubeginn erhalten sie Gelegenheit, die Bauplätze zu erforschen, die Funde auszuwerten und zu lagern. Einiges wenige nur wird im "Museum von London" ausgestellt. Alles andere wandert in Lagerhäuser. Auch die Kosten - in diesem Jahr rund drei Millionen Pfund - geben hauptsächlich zu Lasten der Baufirmen. Bei großen Projekten steuert die englische Organisation "British Heritage" Geld für Ausgrabungen und Publikationen bei.

Die Archäologen wiederum revidieren sich durch Einhaltung des Zeitplans. Der schwank zwischen einigen Wochen und mehreren Monaten und endet häufig mit einem Wettrennen zwischen den Schaufeln der Archäologen und einziehenden Bag-

gern. Wenn möglich arbeitet man inzwischen auch synchron und gräbt sich noch in die Vergangenheit, während bereits der neue Bürokomplex in den Himmel gezogen wird.

Nicht nur für die Teutonen investiert dabei die Firma Spwax in der Carnon-Street-Station Zeit und einen Etat von rund 250 000 Pfund. Im nördlichen Teil ihres Bauprogramms stieß man auf die Überreste eines römischen Palastes samt den Fundamenten eines 32 Meter langen Schwimmbades. Solchen Luxus kann man nur der Residenz des römischen Gouverneurs selbst zuschreiben.

## Wo Gladiatoren und Gaukler Römer ergötzen

Die römische Vergangenheit in "Londinium" liefert zweifellos auch die spektakulärsten Funde. Genau im heutigen Finanzzentrum hatten sie sich 47 n. Chr. angesiedelt. "Londinium" gehörte zwar zu den kleineren Juwelen in der Krone des Kaiserreiches, war aber offensichtlich mit allen architektonischen Wahrzeichen wohl ausgestattet. So fand man zu Füßen von Richard Rogers' umstrittenem Lloyd-Gebäude die Fundamente der größten römischen Basilika nördlich der Alpen.

Seit 100 Jahren spekulierete man, wo Londons Amphitheater, ohne das doch keine größere römische Pro-

vinzstadt auskam, lag. Jetzt endlich stieß man darauf, als die alte Kunstgalerie der Londoner "Guildhall" einem neuen Bürokomplex Platz machen sollte. Die Archäologen fanden erst eine mittelalterliche Kapelle, dann - kurz vor Ablauf der Ausgrabungsthist - das eigentliche römische Theater. Am gleichen Platz, wo Londons Bürgermeister mit gezeimtem dem Pomp Bankette feiert, amüsieren sich einst - weniger exklusiv und weitaus blutrünstiger - die Römer. Hier freute sich die damalige Bevölkerung von "Londinium", um die 30 000 Menschen soll sie betragen haben, über Gaukler und Jongleure, feuerte sie Gladiatoren an und ergötzte sich an der Jagd mit Netzen und Dreizack auf Eber und wilde Bären.

Bei dem jüngsten römischen Projekt konnten die Archäologen auf der Parkfläche eines Bürokomplexes bisher nur einige Probeausgrabungen machen. Dabei identifizierten sie ein zwischen 70 und 100 n. Chr. erbautes öffentliches Bad. Männer wie Frauen benutzten die terrassenförmig gestufte Anlage mit einem guten Blick auf die Themse. Kaiser Hadrian jedoch verbot sich das gemeinsame Vergnügen, und so wurden auch in "Londinium" an gleicher Stelle getrennte Badehäuser errichtet. Vor Weihnachten noch soll das Bürogebäude abgerissen werden. Dann beginnt wieder die Uhr für Londons Vergangenheit zu ticken.

HEIDI BÜRKLIN



