

MOLAS LIBRARY

THE MUSEUM OF  
LONDON

DUA

letter  
News

ISSUE No. 5

February 1989

## INTRODUCTION

This issue of the Newsletter has started to incorporate some of the suggestions made in the questionnaire, in particular with the introduction of a letters section and the start of a regular article 'From our Foreign Correspondent'. Contributions for the former are welcome about any DUA related issue, and articles have been agreed for the latter up to the July issue.

The cartoon below has been offered for a caption competition. One suggested caption is:

'There must be an easier way of getting the dendro-samples to the Museum.'

All entries to the Excavations Office for the March Newsletter. First (and only) prize – a year's free subscription to the Newsletter!



**FEBRUARY DIARY**

Wednesday 1st February  
 Italy : The Roman Past of Modern Europe.  
 Tim Cornell (Ancient History, UCL).  
 Room 412, Institute of Archaeology 4.30pm

Friday 3rd February  
 Waterfront Excavation at Thames Exchange.  
 Gustav Milne.  
 Lecture Theatre 1.10pm

Monday 6th February  
 Modern Trends in Museum Management.  
 Max Hebditch (Staff Forum)  
 Education Room C. 12.30pm

Friday 10th February  
 Current Work at Whittington Avenue.  
 Gary Brown and Brian Pye.  
 Lecture Theatre. 1.10pm

Saturday 11th February  
 Day School about London in 1189.  
 (part of the 800th Anniversary of the Mayoralty of London)  
 10am to 4.15pm.  
 Further details from the Education Department.

Wednesday 15th February  
 France , The Roman Past of Modern Europe.  
 Tony King (King Alfred's College, Winchester)  
 Room 412, Institute of Archaeology. 4.30pm

Monday 27th February  
 'Why People Don't Visit Museums'.  
 Nick Meriman.(Staff Forum)  
 Education Room C. 12.30pm

**SITE MANUAL**

The interim manual has been reprinted and copies are available from Andrew Westman in the Excavations Office.

**NEW STAFF**

New staff appointed this month as Archaeologists grade 3 are:  
 Steven Allen  
 Bill Sillar  
 Andy Mudd  
 Patrick Hunter  
 Roy Davies

and at grade 4:  
 Frances Chaloner  
 Mike Copper  
 Shahina Farid  
 Jennifer Lee  
 Jeremy Youle (since promoted to grade 5)

Staff transferred from DGLA are:

Ruth Edmonson  
 Liz Howe  
 Dave Robinson  
 Martin Buchanan  
 Jeanette Holt  
 Patsy Phillips  
 Andrew Letch  
 Tracy Wilson  
 John Reilly  
 Ben Brodie

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

Caroline Mammwell has been appointed Senior Archaeologist for 168-170 Bishopsgate, which is already underway.

Kevin Woolridge has been appointed as the second Senior Archaeologist at Dominant House.

Paul Potter has been appointed as Senior Archaeologist for Eldon Street.

Jerry Youle has been appointed as Senior Archaeologist for Ormond House.

## JOB VACANCIES

2 Senior Archaeologists –  
 22-25 Austin Friars. 3 month contracts. Closing date for applications – 1pm Tuesday 14th February for interviews on Thursday 16th February. Further details from the Excavations Office.

Publications Officer –  
 9 month contract to assist the Publications Officer in the management and production of DUA publications. Further details available from John Schofield. Closing date for applications Monday 13 February for the contract to start in March 1989.

Post-excavation work for English Heritage –  
 a 2 month contract is being offered by English Heritage to help sort and catalogue archaeological archives from watching briefs and recording on English Heritage properties in the Midlands area, and to assess the need for further archive work. The post will be based at 25 Saville Row, London W1 and salary will be £8100/annum + inner London weighting. Enquiries should be made directly to Mr B Morley, English Heritage, Room 204, 25 Saville Row, London W1 (734 6010 x684)

## CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

A variety of material has been conserved in the past month. A group of leather shoes from BOY 86, many of which have moss stuffing, has been freeze dried. Three very fine silver coins from WHO 88 have been cleaned and identified by the Medieval Department as dating to the reign of Henry VIII. A group of textile fragments from BOY 86 have been cleaned and dried, and post-medieval vessel glass from LBT 86 has been conserved.

You may have noticed and perhaps wondered at the small red metal cabin in the Museum car park. This is the Conservation Department's new flammable and hazardous chemical store. It is constructed of welded steel and is virtually 'vandal-proof'. We hope to move the chemicals into this store sometime this month.

## FINDS DEPARTMENT



An impressive array of finds continue to be discovered at Thames Exchange. Finds from the New Year include the decorated stems for two pewter spoons with figures perched at their ends (illustrated), three balances and a near-complete red-painted pot. These are all objects of the early medieval period and the spoons can be paralleled by several found at Novgorod.

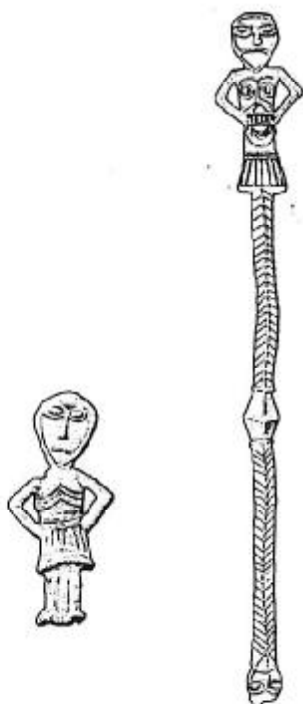
The watching brief at Mincing Lane produced a complete bone plaque adorned with the incised design of a winged lion; it belongs probably to the early 14th century (illustrated).

With the completion of excavations at 158-164 Bishopsgate finds from that site have been brought to the Museum. The skeletons of at least two horses have been recovered as well as a complete London-type ware conical drinking jug, of the late thirteenth or early fourteenth century.

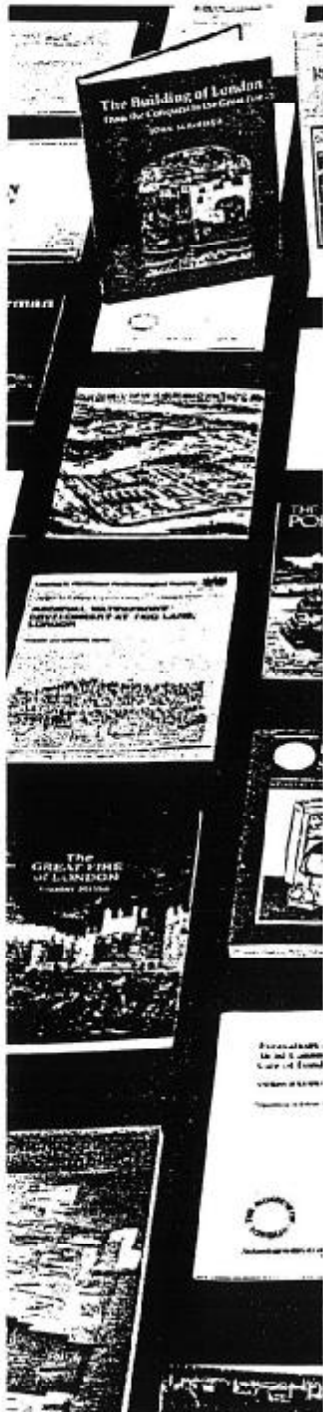
Finds from Whittington Avenue include a pressed glass head from a glass jug with a representation of Medusa or a maenad upon it, (illustrated) and a (visually less spectacular) quantity of Roman roof mortar with tile impressions. Part of a shale bracelet came from the north side of Cannon Street Station.

Alan Gammon has been actively metal-detecting spoil from Thames Exchange taken to the off-site retrieval dump at Woolwich, and working also on site at Whittington Avenue. He will be training members of the Field Section in metal-detecting at Vintry House in the near future.

Ian Riddler



## Current Issues in ARCHIVE AND PUBLICATION : 2



'Archaeology reaches those parts of the past that other sources cannot illuminate'

(Paul Clack and Susan Haselgrove, 1981)

### What should we be publishing, and where?

The DUA is currently producing, or intends to produce, several kinds of reports, manuals and studies. The main programme is that funded by HBMC, running between 1984 and 1991, and a requested extension to end of 1993. The department also publishes other research; interim articles on sites and other work in progress; developer-funded books on specific sites; several manuals on techniques; and proposed projects include an annual review of the DUA's work and publications arising out of the Thames Pageant. In this second article I would like to explain some of the main current concerns.

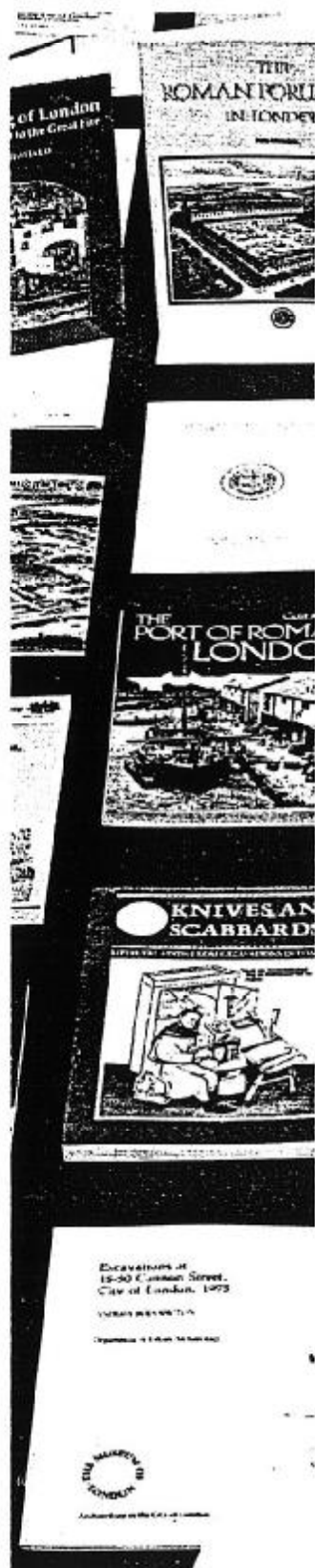
#### 1. The DUA Publication Programme 1984-1991

During 1982-3 the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission (then the Department of the Environment) asked the Museum to design a publication programme for the sites excavated in 1973-82, along with continuation of an existing programme to write up the more important sites, particularly of the 1960s and early 70s, which preceded the setting up of the DUA. This programme was initially to last five years, but it quickly became clear that the enormous resources required were better spread over seven years (April 1984 to March 1991).

Although this HBMC Publication Programme brought with it many new decisions, our existing publication policy had already been in force for some time. We had decided, for instance, that in contrast to the units in York, Lincoln and, later, Canterbury, we would not publish in one monograph series, but would publish our reports wherever seemed suitable.

A second basic policy decision has been that since the archive exists in the background to be consulted, it is inappropriate (as well as expensive) to publish a site as one vertical story. It is much more interesting to publish thematic reports on topics spreading over several, or many, sites: the Roman waterfront, sites within the Greyfriars' precinct, medieval parish churches, and *corpora* of pottery or artefact types. Here we are in some way similar to the publication series at York and Lincoln, for their idea is to form topics, but by the gradual publication of fascicules or parts.

During 1983-4, the DUA selected the most noteworthy aspects of its investigations of 1973-80; in certain cases more recent sites of



exceptional merit have been allowed in by displacement of less significant material (which stays at archive level, and is always there for the researcher). Forty-six themes were eventually stretched on a framework of fourteen major topics covering the City's archaeology (Table 1).

Table 1: titles of projects in HBMC Publication Programme (with publication or completion dates in brackets)

### 1. Prehistory: London before the Romans

1. Pre-Roman physical geography (computerised maps)

### 2. Roman London: inside the walls

2. Roman gazetteer: sites discovered after 1964 (continuing the gazetteer in Ralph Merrifield's Roman City of London, 1968)
3. Early Roman development of London West of the Walbrook (sites 1975-80) (1989-90)
4. Early Roman development of London West of the Walbrook (sites excavated 1933-70) (several articles in Trans LAMAS)
5. Excavations in the lower Walbrook valley 1933-60 (to be split into two articles for Trans LAMAS, 1988-9)
6. The upper Walbrook valley in the Roman period (1989)
7. The Roman forum of London - (i) discoveries before 1985 (HMSO, 1987); (ii) Excavations at Leadenhall Court 1984-6 (1990-1)
- 8/9. Roman development East of the Walbrook (1989-90)
10. Monumental works in the south-west part of Roman London (1989-90)
11. First and second-century pottery from sites west of the Walbrook (1990)

### 3. The Roman waterfront area

12. The Roman bridgehead area (published as The Port of Roman London, 1985); during the research for this project spinoff projects have included Dated Roman Glass Assemblages (now archived), Ornamental Stonework from Roman London (1986) and Late Roman pottery (1991)
13. The Roman waterfront at New Fresh Wharf (1986)
14. The Roman quay at Billingsgate and other sites (1989)

### 4. The Roman defences

15. Excavations on the Roman defences of London 1974-82 (to remain in archive)

### 5. Roman cemeteries and suburbs

No publication planned in the present programme (but several relevant excavations have been undertaken by the DGLA)





Excavations at  
30 Cannon Street,  
London, 1973

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

1974

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

1974

## 6. Saxon London

16. Saxon and early medieval vernacular buildings in London (now Aspects of Saxo-Norman London I (1989))
17. Pits and property development in the 10th to 12th centuries
18. Late Saxon and early medieval pottery in London: a dated type series
19. Plant use and ecology in early medieval London (projects 17-19 now Aspects of Saxo-Norman London II (1990))
20. Saxon and early medieval textiles from London (1984)

## 7. Medieval London, c 1100-1500

21. Post-Roman gazetteer of sites (at present in archive)
22. Medieval buildings and property development in the area of Cheapside (1989)

## 8. Medieval finds

23. Medieval pottery in London: a dated type series. This is to be published in several parts:
  1. Mill Green Ware (1982)
  2. London-type Ware (1985)
  3. Hertfordshire Ware (1983)
  4. Surrey Wares (1988)
  5. Minor English Wares
  6. Medieval Imports
  7. Review of Saxon and Medieval Pottery in London (1985)
24. Textiles from the City of London, 12th-16th centuries (to be published in series with Project 25 as Medieval Dress:1, 1989-90)
25. Metalwork and smallfinds from dated medieval contexts in the City of London. Like project 23, this is to be published in several parts:
  1. Knives and scabbards (1987)
  2. Medieval Dress 2: Shoes and Pattens (1988)
  3. Medieval Dress 3: Dress Accessories (1989)
  4. Coins, jettons, tokens; pilgrim souvenirs; horse furniture (1990)
  5. Coins (1991)
  6. Medieval house fittings (1992)
  7. Medieval trade and industries (1993)

## 9. The medieval waterfront, 900-1600

26. Saxon embankments and the early medieval port of London (1989-90)
27. Medieval waterfront properties and their development (1991+)
28. The church on the waterfront: St Botolph Wharf and St Botolph Billingsgate (1991+)
29. Medieval reclamation in London: the structures (1990)
- 30/31. The site of Baynard's Castle (1428), and the archaeology of the Castle itself (postponed)

## 10. Parish churches

32. The early church in London (1991)
33. Moulded stones and church architecture in London (archived only)

## 11. Religious houses

34. Holy Trinity Priory, Aldgate (1992-3)
35. Archaeological evidence for changes in land use associated with the arrival of the Greyfriars in London (1992+; faunal evidence from a well published 1985)

## 12. Medieval cemeteries, skeletal studies

36. The cemetery of St Nicholas Shambles (1988)
37. The burials at St Botolph Billingsgate (archive; to be published if possible with burials from Broadgate)

## 13. Post-medieval archaeology of London

38. The Archaeology of the Great Fire of London, 1666 (1985)
39. Post-Fire replanning on the waterfront (1992+)
40. Cutler Street: late medieval and early modern suburban development (1992+). This has changed character somewhat into a series of post-medieval finds corpora: pottery (1990), clay pipes (1990-1) and smallfinds (1992).
41. The Aldgate potter (1990)

## 14. The Past Environment of London

In 1984 several broad themes (projects 42-6) were outlined, but these have been by the revised publication programme of the new GL Environmental Archaeology Service.

These publications will appear in four main series: Special Papers of the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society, CBA Research Reports (notably East of, West of, Upper Walbrook, Early Roman pottery and perhaps SW Roman London), HMSO medieval and post-medieval finds series and occasional HMSO larger excavation reports (at present only the two volumes on the Forum, but the Guildhall amphitheatre is another attractive possibility). As the publications booklet (available in February) also shows, we have a formidable offprint series of medium-sized and smaller reports.

At present HBMC funding lasts only until April 1991, but the level of funding has been such that the number of person-years asked for, and agreed, in 1983 will only be spent if a tail-off programme equivalent to one further year, spread over two years, is allowed beyond April 1991. This request is currently being considered by HBMC.



## 2. Future publications

This ambitious programme only goes some way towards adequate publication of all the department's discoveries and research. There are notable gaps, for instance a topographical synthesis on Late Roman London or an archaeological assessment of London in the 16th and 17th centuries. There are currently two schools of thought about how we should proceed.

The first point of view holds that the publication programme is now becoming established, the publications are appearing, and the right balance and range has at last been struck. Recent excavations have thrown up material suggesting many new or unaddressed topics: for example Roman smallfinds, the Walbrook mouth, the Blackfriars, the Fleet valley, the post-Roman defences, the suburbs. Funding for these projects will have to be sought from developers, tenants of office blocks and HBMC.

The second argument is that the subsequent programme should be radically different in character. This involves:

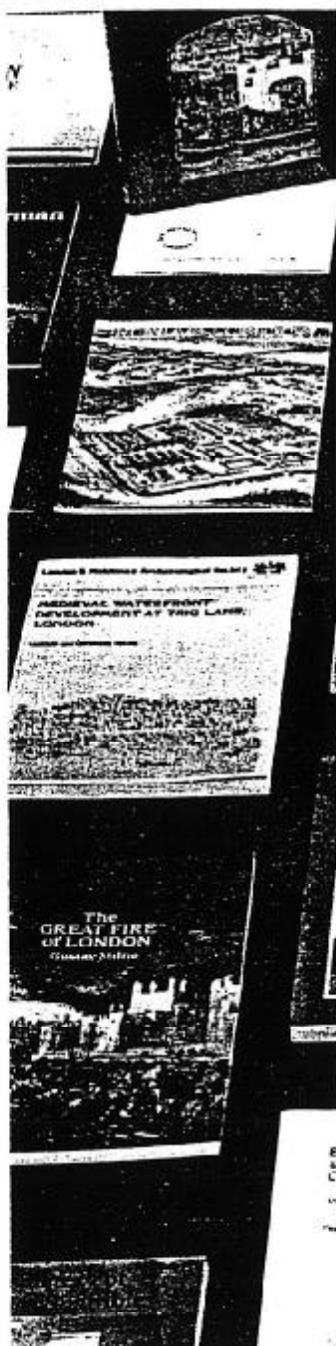
- (a) streamlining site level 3 reports
- (b) keeping publication projects, if possible, to 1 year's duration, for better management and quicker publication
- (c) effort should be placed in the production of site sequences for publication, i.e. the discussion/conclusions section of the level 3 site report and analogous finds and environmental level 3 reports, illustrated by the site 1:100 phase drawings. When appropriate several sites might be placed together and called area-studies (e.g. Blackfriars, amphitheatre) with a linking section of text; but they would still be multi-period reports.

The protagonists of this view point out that the archaeological record we are producing is more composed of sequences than comprehensive plans at any one period, thus requiring this change in basic publication practice. The themes come later and profit from the previous publication of the main relevant sequences – they will be much shorter publications than hitherto.

So far this proposal has received only lukewarm welcome from the Finds and Environmental Sections. Both sections are fully committed to existing (funded) research programmes, and cannot contemplate large-scale expansion in the near future even if money were made available. A similar problem affects the Drawing Office; recently-announced plans for refurbishment of the museum offices on the north side of the building are not sympathetic to expansion of level 3 drawing facilities, which is greatly needed even at the basic level of illustrating the level 3 reports now coming through.

What was agreed, as a start, was that if possible there should be an experiment with a small number of sites of differing characteristics. These sites should have, to begin the experiment, a level 3 report and drawings, spot-dates and finds appraisal.

It is certainly the case that these reports (called Recent Archaeological Reports for convenience) will require hefty funding for their



John Schofield

publication. One possibility is that the department should begin its own publication series; or that a commercial publisher should take it on (this is apparently possible, if sales can be guaranteed from abroad). But in general we will be targeting the occupiers of excavated sites, especially banks, for funds; the DUA should plan for a time when HBMC funds constitute a minor part of funding, as in other units.

### 3. Other publications

What else should we be doing? Two areas have been identified. The first is the documentation of our methodology in urban archaeology. The DUA was the proving-ground for the evolution of single-context planning; we have extensively debated and refined our recording systems for the last 12 years. Craig Spence is now revising the Site Manual, and a handbook of urban archaeology may result from the background work.

Secondly, as a product of John Maloney's re-organisation of the Excavations Office, we are now in a better position to win funding from developers and to get them, slowly but surely, to fund publications. Here two types of project are coming on stream: an annual review of excavations and other work by the Department, which will demonstrate that archaeology has a place as of right in the city's redevelopments; and a series of developer-funded books on specific sites. Three have so far appeared in recent years (the latest, on Dick Bluer's Sunlight Wharf site, is just out) and several others are in the pipeline. The prospect of having such glossy reports will hopefully be a stimulus to developers or their clients to provide funds to complete level 3 reports when money has run out, as well as a physical token of good co-operation.

I have not had space to describe dissemination of the archive information, or the use of computer graphics; or our potential work in education. I'll come back to these topics in the near future. I would like to end by emphasising that writing is as much part of the archaeologist's job as is digging or studying finds. I would encourage any member of staff who can to try his or her hand; even after the demise of the magazine Popular Archaeology, there are many opportunities for writing short interim articles for the archaeological and general public. A supervisor of any medium or large site should if possible produce such an article during their post-excavation period. Explaining London's archaeology is not the sole prerogative of those on the publication programme; you can play your part. If you want to discuss how to go about it, drop me a note. We have some good material here and the world wants to know about it.

## NEW STAFF INTERVIEWS

In September 1988 Simon O'Connor Thompson had a conversation with Malcolm McKenzie in which Malcolm voiced his impressions, concerns and criticisms relating to his experience of working for the DUA. Simon decided that it would be useful if those working in the Excavations Office interviewed all the Archaeologists with less than 2 years service. The purpose of these interviews was to hear the views of new staff on their experience of working in the DUA. Their criticisms of the Section, the Department and the Museum and their suggestions, especially for the training programme. Nearly 70 people were interviewed between October 1988 and January 1989. They were divided into groups alphabetically amongst the following:

Simon O'Connor Thompson	Sue Riviere
Marie Nally	Andrew Westman
Taryn Nixon	Susan Greenwood
Rob Ellis	

Some of the most frequently raised points are summarised below.

### Recording

Many people commented that they received very little feedback from Senior Archaeologists after their records were submitted for checking. Some people commented that checking was often not up to date or that they were unaware of whether it went on or not. The introduction to timber recording at Thames Exchange was mentioned as good. The lack of finds information or context sheet was criticised, but prompts were considered a good idea.

### Guidance and Consultation on Site

New staff generally seemed to pick up recording procedures from more experienced staff members. Some sites, such as Gutter Lane, were mentioned as having too many inexperienced staff, especially for a site where contractors were present. People generally seemed to feel that they were consulted about the strategy for the area in which they were working but often were unaware of what was going on (in any detail) on other parts of the site. Site tours where each person spoke about their area, such as at Dominant House Phase I, were considered a good idea. More organised site tours so that staff could visit the sites were suggested.

Some men felt that they were too often relegated to the role of "heavy shifters". Several people commented that there was not always a fair distribution of tasks on site and that people should be allowed to carry through a job from beginning to end rather than repeatedly to one part of it.

### Background Information

Most Senior Archaeologists seemed to supply background information on the history and archaeology of the area of their sites. Carter Lane, St. Bartholomew's Crypt and Barnards Inn were mentioned in particular. In the latter case, this seemed to enhance the interest of a site where the actual excavation process was perhaps not the most interesting.

**Health and Safety**

Cannon Street Station was the site most frequently mentioned. Noise and fumes, as well as other poor working conditions, were a problem. Coleman Street and Thames Exchange also had health and safety problems. Noise, access routes and methods of spoil removal were also problems on other sites. Many people commented that sites where we do not have sole occupation inevitably have more health and safety problems. Some people were not aware of the health and safety visits made by our consultant, Jim Allen, or did not feel that they were effective.

**Welfare**

Poor facilities were mentioned on several sites. Crowded huts, lighting problems, and inadequate water supply at Cannon Street; no loos on site at Little Britain, Queen Street, and New Broad Street; crowded huts at New Broad Street, no hut of our own at Queen Street and poor facilities at St. Bartholomew's Crypt, were all mentioned. Smoking in tea huts was considered a problem by some. Accommodation and facilities clearly were factors that had a great impact on site morale.

**Setting Up of Excavations**

Most people seemed unaware of which Excavations Officer had negotiated a particular site. Some sites were mentioned for not having enough time, such as Gutter Lane, or for being especially difficult pre-demo, such as Finsbury Circus. Generally, people seemed to be aware of deadlines and did not feel there was too much pressure, although there was usually a big push toward the end of sites, with more overtime worked. Generally, people commented on problems where the DUA did not have sole occupation and problems on pre-demo sites (lighting, supporting the building, tying together the trenches when writing up).

**Tools and Equipment**

Ron Fort was widely praised for the great improvement in this area. Some people commented that DUA staff did not take proper care of equipment. Small tools and drawing equipment are in constant shortage. People suggested that more small helmets and helmets with attachable ear defenders are needed, as well as more gloves. Lighting and hoists (ours or contractors) were often problematic.

**Liaison with other Sections**

The frequent lack of finds assistants on sites was considered a problem, and some people felt there was not a clear finds retrieval policy. Environmental collection policy still seemed to be a matter of general confusion. Liaison with other Sections was generally seen as the Senior Archaeologist's responsibility. Several people suggested that finds and environmental training should be more site specific.

**Museum**

Many people were unaware of procedures for taking annual leave or reporting sickness.

Some people commented that they did not know their way around the Museum, who to go to for what, etc.

Short term contracts were frequently mentioned as a problem which affected morale.

### **Training**

This is discussed separately by Susan Greenwood.

This is a generalized and subjective summary of the notes taken during each of the interviews. These notes were circulated amongst us, with our action column which designated the appropriate person to follow where necessary. The process of doing the interviews was time consuming but considered worthwhile by those in the Excavations Office who participated. The procedures Manual should answer many of the questions raised. Susan Greenwood will be following up on problems and suggestions through the Training Programme.

We are presently considering whether these interviews should be an on-going process in view of the likelihood of further recruitment and transfers from the DGLA in 1989. Whether or not you participated, your comments on whether the interviews were worthwhile and any suggestions you have on how they might be more constructive are welcome and can be made by contacting me in writing to the Newsletter.

**Marie Nally**

## **TRAINING AND NEW STAFF INTERVIEWS**

Training issues were raised directly or indirectly in most people's new staff interviews. Issues discussed were training past, present and future, subject areas, and the way training is presented.

Previous training sessions were both praised and criticised. Induction training was pitched too low for some whereas others felt it was helpful. This was designed to be a catch-all to bring new staff to a comparable level. Subjects covered were generally felt to be useful although they were often not directly applicable to site work. Praise and criticism for individual topics tended to cancel each other out. Monday morning was an unpopular time, some sessions were felt to be too long, the classroom format was criticised and where tours of other sections were involved there were often felt to be too many people.

In future most training will involve smaller groups in a workshop or seminar environment, or a one to one job instruction, such as metal detecting training and surveying.

Where possible and appropriate, training will be based on site. An example of this would be timber training for staff on a waterfront site.

Although individual needs varied popular suggestions for future in house training included: the recording system, finds and environmental retrieval policy, soils, and computing.

Those of you who requested first aid or construction industry skills training will be informed and considered as the need for trained people arises.

I shall try to deal with individual requests where possible. Please contact me if you wish to comment further on training in the department.

**Susan Greenwood**



# TAG 88

## SUMMARY REPORT ON THE THEORETICAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE 1988 [1]

Ten staff from the DUA attended the conference which was held in Sheffield between 13th–15th December 1988. Over the three days 12 symposia were presented ranging from archaeological theory to new approaches to coinage. Whilst the papers themselves often took a highly theoretical approach to their subject matter the following debate tended to concentrate on the practical relevance of such theory to the study/profession of archaeology.

On the first day three sessions were attended. The first was entitled *Theoretical Approaches in Museums* and had a central theme the way archaeological information in museums is presented with a bias towards the more socially advantaged groups of society. The fact was emphasised by Nick Merriman's work, which demonstrated that museums are predominantly visited by such social groups [2]. It would therefore clearly appear that the policy behind the presentation of archaeology and history in museums is directly conditioned by the attitudes and values of both museum workers and funding bodies. The apparent surprise expressed by museum workers at the lack of attendance at such institutions by those of lower social status simply highlighted that the public image of our past is created without any real appreciation of both past and present society. One suggestion to overcome this bias was that museums should move away from simple historical narrative towards the presentation of the past using the techniques of the social sciences.

An interesting topic to emerge from the second session, *A Matter of Life and Death*, was the concept of palaeo-psychology. In particular why humans, even at an early stage in their development, survived to have a post-reproductive life (ie. old age). Once indication of psychological change which might be directly manifested in the archaeological record, and of relevance to London, would be, for example, the effect of the Roman invasion of the native British population.

It was unfortunate that discussion in the session on *Gender Archaeology* became pre-occupied with current sexual politics in the archaeological profession which, although an important issue, remained, as ever, unresolved. Earlier papers had raised the necessity of including an appreciation of gender in all archaeological theory and analysis as an essential aid to understanding the past.

It was evident that any move Towards Critical Histories of Archaeology could only be achieved by understanding how much our discipline as a whole remains influenced by past attitudes. One of the most interesting papers of this session reviewed the life and work of General Pitt-Rivers, with reference to his underlying political motivation. It would appear that the primary basis for the development of his theories and methods was to impose his views of racial superiority and the preservation of social hierarchy. Both in his archaeological and anthropological classifications, ranging from a study of the development of the boomerang to his writing, such as "Human beings can be separated, in much the same fashion as the creatures of the animal kingdom, thus the northern European races can be likened to the mammals and birds, the negroid races can be likened to the reptiles and fish and the American Indians and Australians appearing much like the insects or molluscs", he clearly demonstrates his racist perceptions. At Cranbourne Chase, he lured the public into his museum with offers of free entertainment such as a brass band dressed in medieval costume, where he attempted to indoctrinate them with his reactionary views of society.

A later paper traced the development of the archaeological excavation report over the last 200 years, from its origin in informal letters to the impersonal technical reports of today. A return to the earlier flavour of debate and argument was proposed by the introduction of the opinions of individual excavators regardless of whether they were accepted by the author or not.

A symposium entitled The Other Side of the Coin had nothing new to offer in terms of numismatics. It seems that this remains a very separate area of study with respect to all other fields of archaeology.

The ideas within the session entitled Archaeological Theory, Who Sets the Agenda? can be applied to the work of the DUA in as much as we need a framework within which to carry out post-excavation analysis. The central theme was post-processualism ('procussual' being a means of explaining the past in terms of processes not restricted by place or time—'post-processual' adding the dimension of time). In the resultant discussion, which centred on a debate of the theory, the stance taken by the speakers was totally negative and at times degenerated to the level of personal insult. Until there is agreement within the academic world about the relationship of such theoretical issues to the practice of archaeology, there would seem to be little to be gained by pursuing the argument further at present.

In summary, the session Ethnicity, Language and Material Culture concerned itself with highlighting the ethnic and cultural biases which archaeologists either consciously or sub-consciously apply to their presentation of archaeological data. It was clearly demonstrated that certain 'political' groupings of the past, eg 19th century white supremacists or 20th century Nazis, had interpreted archaeological information in such a way as to legitimise their values. How today's archaeologists could prevent their own contemporary values influencing their interpretations was not answered. Maybe

the only answer is to always be aware that such influences do exist and that any interpretation will be more subjective than it might at first appear.

The session entitled Structure, Agency and Power Relations was designed to follow the session on archaeological theory with a number of examples of theory in action. The first half of the session suffered seriously from post-party vagueness. Many of the following papers raised more questions than they answered. One paper in particular, by Robert Lowe, was universally acclaimed. This imaginatively compared the Luscaux swimming deer cave paintings to both Leonardo da Vinci's composition studies and New York subway car graffiti. Whether either comparison has any validity is doubtful but it was at least a novel approach.

Method and Theory: On the Frontier contained an interesting paper entitled 'The Curious case of the Detective with the High IQ', IQ turning out to be 'inference quality' – a means of determining the solvability of crime or historical problems (ie a link between archaeology and criminology). The police apparently work on a points system, with the CID being brought in to work on more difficult cases, the time at which they are brought in being decided by the number of IQ points a crime has. The problem with this system is that your average PC is likely to undervalue the IQ for a case because they will then be able to retain control of the investigation, even though not qualified to solve it. The parallel with archaeologists who undertake research/publication projects that they have an interest in, (ie it was their site), but are not qualified to do, is obvious.

Archaeology and the Heritage Industry. A number of interesting papers were presented under the above title, several eg erosion of standing monuments and rural landscape studies were not directly relevant to us as urban archaeologists, the rest of the papers were. The morning session tended to concentrate on the question of 'whose heritage – presented by whom?' The afternoon session moved on to highlight the fact that archaeologists should be becoming more involved in heritage presentation and that the current movement of archaeologists away from this field is particularly bad because it will result in the public being presented with an uninformed and biased interpretation of the past. This will inevitably be reflected in the value of archaeology in the public perception. Peter Fowler, organiser of one of Britain's few 'Heritage Management' courses, showed just how serious the situation had become by blatantly stating that archaeologists have no part to play in heritage interpretation. (His favourite 'heritage' centre is apparently Disneyland). One hopes that the vital issues raised in this session have been seriously considered by those responsible for designing the Thamesis Exhibition.

[1] Copies of the full reports from all those who attended the conference can be obtained from Susan Greenwood in the Excavations Office.

[2] Nick Merrimen will be presenting the results of his work in the new Staff Forum series on 27th. February, at 12.30, in education room C.

## THE DEVELOPMENT BOOM AND DUA STAFFING LEVELS

The effect of the October 1986 de-regulation of the stock market on redevelopment in the City began to result in an expanded need for rescue excavations by October 1987. In 1988, the DUA undertook 45 excavations and watching briefs. Throughout the year, over 70 members of Field Section II carried out excavation work on site.

In August 1988 the Director of the Museum of London, Max Hebditch, told the *New Civil Engineer*: "At the end of the day archaeology is not a safe career for the future and it will not be possible for all the people we have now to be working in archaeology for the rest of their lives. Beyond the boom, the level of employment will fall." Whether archaeology is more than rescue excavation and what the possibilities are for careers in archive and publication work is another question. But how long will the present boom last?

Throughout the period January to June 1988, the projected programme of work showed a peak which remained 2 – 4 months ahead. From June to November 1988, the projected peak shrank and drew closer. In December 1988 and January 1989 the programme showed a shortfall of work in the month immediately following and a tailing off thereafter. In the event, we never reached the peak or the shortfall. Since October 1987 we have had 3 significant periods of overstaffing: April 1988 (end of Gutter Lane, Cloak Lane and 85 London Wall), November 1988 (shutdown of Cannon Street Station), and January 1989 (delayed start of several sites). From February 1989 onwards, the largest proportion of our currently programmed work is the Fleet Valley project.

On 27 October 1988, in an interview with Peter Rees, planning officer for the City of London, *Construction News* reported:

"There are now about 2,400,000 sq m of development space approved, about to start or under construction. Last year the City gave planning consent for more than a million sq m of development and the net increase in space this represents is over half this figure. The City is well on its way to achieving its aim of providing almost two million sq m more of space – an increase in above ground area of about one third. The stockmarket crash seems to have had little discernible effect on demand."

On 20 January 1989, *Building* magazine reported:

"Signs that the building boom is peaking and will decline in two years emerged this week through figures released by the RIBA.

.....new commissions between July and October declined in all categories from the second quarter, and further falls are forecast.....RIBA statistics forecast office design work in 1989 will drop by 15%, which reflect the deterrent effect high interest rates are starting to have on speculative property development.....During the third quarter, the workload continued its move outside London and the South East, with a 27% fall in new commissions in London."

Marie Nally

## LETTERS PAGE

As well as the effects of the stock market and interest rate fluctuations on redevelopment in the City, the workload in the DGLA and the relative length of service of their members of staff effects the employment prospects for short term contract staff in the DUA. Since October 1987, 29 DGLA staff members have transferred to the DUA. No DUA staff have transferred to the DGLA since 1984.

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my dissatisfaction with the general staff meeting on Health and Safety held on 10 January 1989. Specifically:

Why was discussion curtailed? Although I think the problems of Cannon Street Station have been fully discussed throughout the Section, I am not convinced that the larger issues have been resolved. I thought this meeting was to be an open forum for the discussion of Health and Safety. I did not see the point of cutting off discussion so that a video with no apparent relevance to the topic of discussion could be shown without any introduction.

Why was there a two month hiatus between the IPCS – Excavations Office meeting of 4 november 1988 and the General staff meeting? Jim Allen's checklist for negotiations was received by fax on 30 November 1988. If any additions or amendments were made by John Maloney or Brian Hobley, I have yet to see them.

I had understood from the meeting with IPCS that John Maloney and Brian Hobley were to produce a checklist of who is responsible for what. I have not seen such a list.

Brian Hobley referred in his speech to revisions to the Health and Safety Policy, with the implication that Assistant Excavation Officers and Project Co-ordinators and others would have specific designated responsibilities. I have not seen a draft of the revised Health and Safety Policy.

Brian Hobley also referred in his speech to new health and safety clauses being introduced into contracts. I have yet to see a draft of the model contract which includes these clauses. A variety of health and safety clauses are being appended to contracts by the negotiating officers without any co-ordination. Sites are still commencing work without contracts or letters of intent. In some cases this is because we have been pressured to commence work by the clients when they have not actually returned the contract to us (e.g. 158-164 Bishopsgate) and in some cases it is because the contract has been held up on our side, by ourselves or the City solicitors.

I am raising these points here because I would like to raise the awareness of my colleagues to the fact that there are frustrations at my level of responsibility. There has recently been a great deal

of discussion of a 'them and us' situation. Like other members of management such as Senior Archaeologists and Project Co-ordinators, I feel that in my position I have a great deal of responsibility without any real control.

In the 10 years of intermittent association which I have had with the DUA, the direction of change in the Field Section has usually been from the bottom up. For example, a point which Brian Hopley did not make in his speech, St. John Holt were initially retained as health and safety consultants at the suggestion of Simon O'Connor Thompson when he was a grade 3 member of staff.

Marie Nally

# THE BOOK OF JOB

## Chapter 1

- i. Eiram rose up, exceeding troubled and wrathful, in the land of the Dua, and sought out the ne-wsl-etter and verbally smote, hip and thigh, the Cua and Eo.
- ii. And lo, then there was weeping and gnashing of teeth for the effort and time that apparently considered as naught.
- iii. For behold, even the Cra-ig, he of the multitudinous sons and daughters of the tribe of the Ipcs, had deemed himself content, for the present.
- iv. But lo, in the book of St. John (Holt version), the wise man Al-len took counsel and gave comfort : " the wheels grind slow, yea, sometimes exceedingly slow but the attainment of paradise is not easily gained".
- v. The chosen one of Eiram was honoured as a prophet, the saint of yore, and he did go forth and project himself and so he did manage.
- vi. Then did the two Johns recall the old testament and how they had striven and laboured mightily, even with the first generation of Ipcs, to set down the tablets of stone the poli-cy to protect their brethren, yea, even to clothe them. But this was not remembered.
- vii. Verily then, were the Hob-lites themselves riven, or so did the rumour multiply throughout the desert of the land of the Dua, like unto a plague of locusts.
- viii. And them-and-us was transformed into the them-and-them-and-us-and-us-and-on-and-on, and thus was the pot stirred and further ferment was created.

Here endth the lesson ?

## FROM OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT ...members of the DUA abroad

It became a custom in the 18th century for young English gentlemen to polish their education in classical civilisation by a Grand Tour of Italy, a country not only favoured with a superabundance of historical monuments, ancient cities and beautiful landscapes, but also most hospitable inhabitants, splendid food and drink, and sunny summers. The same things naturally appeal to modern archaeologists from the greyer fringes of Europe. Since the 1970s, members of the DUA have intermittently established virtual outposts in Milan, Luni, Ferrara and Rome, on urban sites with the sort of stratification that is admirably suited to the DUA's methods of excavation and recording. Italian colleagues, at least, have admired the application of *il metodo inglese*: stratigraphic excavation and scrupulous single-context recording by everyone in the trench.

The Italian authorities control rights to excavate extremely closely, as is common practice nearly everywhere but in Britain. They seem to be happier allowing foreigners to dig anything rather than the classical parts of their country's patrimony. So these days, in one of the subtler points of difference from the Grand Tour of old, the English archaeological 'working visitor' in Italy tends to be concerned directly with prehistoric or medieval rather than with classical civilisation.

Another contrast with our usual work in the City of London has been the opportunity to work in the Italian countryside. Several of the DUA's staff have participated recently in an area survey at Farfa, and excavations of a bronze age site at Gubbio, both in Umbria in central Italy, and surveys and excavations in Veneto and Friuli, in the north-eastern corner of the peninsula.

Last summer, Dick Bluer, Mark Samuel, Brona Langton and I laboured on a wooded hill at Forgaria in Friuli, in a strategic zone where routes across the Alps meet the north Italian plain. These were the routes taken by, among many others, the Longobards, bejewelled warrior horsemen, post-classical invaders, who then settled, turned Christian and formed kingdoms, giving their name, for example, to Lombardy. Documentary evidence is plentiful for places, people and events. We were in the position of trying by archaeological means to identify some of the places named in early medieval texts. Our hill was undoubtedly fortified, recurrently, but by whom, exactly when and, if it were possible to tell, why? Was it one of the Longobards' strongholds?

We were working as part of a team, mostly Italian but with one or two other nationalities represented, under the auspices of the Universities of Bologna and Udine. However, local initiative plays

a large, and sometimes idiosyncratic, role in these investigations. In our case, a local savant had explored documents, and the hillside, and published enthusiastic conclusions. Others had read his work and then entered the field on their own account, digging lots of well-placed holes, writing nothing, keeping everything of value. Called clandestini or, even more alarmingly, abusivi, they are the bane of Italian archaeology.

Completely different were the members of the regional branch of the Society for the Study of Castles in Italy, a count, many architects, local school teachers and others, who had sponsored archaeological survey and necessarily limited excavation of likely places, including our hilltop. Local involvement and interest were very important to this effort, and not only for essential financing. An explicit aim was greater understanding of the history of their own locality by its modern inhabitants. Perhaps this was a deliberate, positive response to the devastation of their region by earthquake a dozen years ago, the results of which were plain to see everywhere. Many of the survivors had emigrated; traditional farming methods and their way of life were suddenly changed, cows were no longer pastured on the high hillslopes, terraced fields below were left to revert to woodland, sweet chestnut trees went unharvested; nearly every building in sight was brand new.

Techniques of survey, and stratigraphic excavation, planning, recording and finds recovery, are only part of the story. Another aim of local research was a complete history of the total environment; in which this latter trauma would surely figure with sad prominence.

My enjoyment of previous campaigns of excavation, on a nearby castellated hilltop, Montereale Valcellina, was enlivened by the fact that the village under the hill was on the historical map for another reason. In the 16th century, the miller in this village was denounced to the Inquisition as a heretic, and the records of his interrogation provide vivid evidence of late medieval popular religious belief, as well as of one individual's free-thinking speculation. Perhaps these grass-roots cosmologies were incompatible with the development of the early modern state, on either side of that century's religious divide, for they were forcibly suppressed and no more heard of until now. Ironically, it was the agency of their destruction that proved to be simultaneously the means of recording them; a process rather reminiscent of archaeology, except, I assume, that the historical benefit to us was unintended. The story of the miller, Menocchio, appears in English translation in The cheese and the worms, by Carlo Ginsberg. A fairly unexceptional account of these excavations appeared last year in the relevant Italian journal, Archeologia Medievale.



## FORTHCOMING PROJECTS

### **Sugar Quay**

The developers at Sugar Quay House have applied for planning permission for extensive refurbishments; These will possibly necessitate some sort of sub-slab works. The present building was put up in 1973 and was the first ever DUA site. It is likely that there will still be archaeological deposits surviving beneath the existing building.....

### **Wardrobe Court**

Development at this site has been postponed yet again, this time till July 1989. In the meantime we have been offered 1000' of office accommodation. A three mark excavation is pencilled in post-demolition but some limited work may take place pre-demo during the next 5 months.

### **Blackfriars - Holborn**

Negotiations are still on-going between the developers British Rail/Rosehough Stanhope, the City Corporation and the Museum. Matters are complicated by the fact the freehold of that well known watering hole the Queens Head and land slightly further to the north, are owned by two breweries (Charringtons being one of them), who only the City are presently dealing with. The possible scale of DUA operations on this project is enormous and there is difficulty in knowing when to gear up as their deadlines keep slipping. If RSD do not reach certain agreements with the Corporation, then Burdett House will be demolished in the last two weeks of February; if they do reach agreement, then it will not be demolished - on current knowledge - till July/August.

### **Vintry House**

The first part of this, 68 Upper Thames Street is under excavation. However the fate of the rest of this development is unclear. Vintry House - once the office of Speyhawk Cannonbridge Developments - is being demolished at the moment but the whole archaeological and construction programme is being re-assessed. The main problem is that the engineers from Ove Arups wants to test a new slab at +4.0m O.D. (which is c 2.0m above the top of the existing archaeology) before any excavation (archaeological or otherwise) takes place. This, he argues, is necessary for the structural stability of the surrounding buildings as well as the piled perimeter wall of the site.

It has been pointed out to the contractors that this would be totally unacceptable and that they will have to think again. In these negotiations we have been making use of our own "consultant" engineer, Peter Banford-Baker which has proved extremely useful.

### **Billingsgate Bath House**

A report is currently being produced by James Clare of the Corporation's Building Services Department on the options for the presentation of the Roman ruins once they have been conserved. This will be submitted to Committee in early summer.

## SUMMARIES OF CURRENT EXCAVATIONS

### 1. 68 Upper Thames Street

The excavation is located to the south of Upper Thames Street and to the west of Southwark Bridge. It is anticipated that there will be a sequence of Saxon and Roman foreshore structures, but currently work is concentrated on recording a series of medieval chalk foundations, surfaces and wood lined pits, which are laid out on land reclaimed from the River Thames during the late Roman and medieval periods.

### 2. 168–170 Bishopsgate

The site lies opposite Liverpool Street Station in Bishopsgate, and is located outside the line of the Roman and medieval city walls. It is within an area known to be part of a Roman cemetery. Initial clearance of the site has revealed Victorian drains and rubbish pits as well as a medieval chalk and ragstone foundation aligned north–south, which may relate to walls excavated on an adjacent site earlier in the year.

### 3. Cannon Street Station

#### South side

The watching brief to the south of Upper Thames Street, and beneath the arches supporting Cannon Street Station continue to reveal waterfront dumps probably from within the area identified in historical records as the garden associated with the medieval Hanseatic buildings. Large quantities of timbers, mainly from the foundations for medieval walls have been observed, some of which appear to be reused octagonal columns.

#### North side

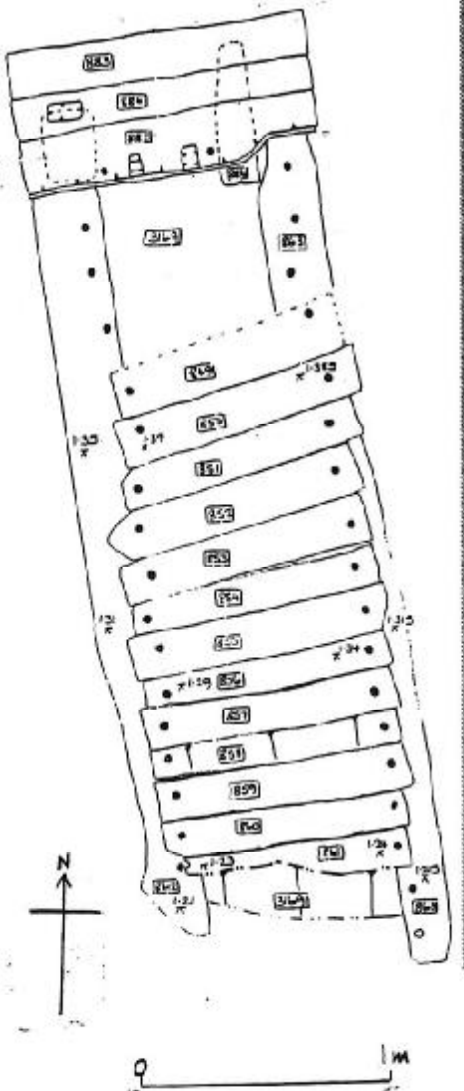
The excavation to the north of Upper Thames Street was completed in January, with work concentrating on the earliest Roman sequence of dump deposits and a substantial timber drain incorporated into the 1st century timber revetment. The revetment was aligned north–south and formed the east side of the mouth of the River Walbrook.

### 4. 15–17 Eldon Street

The site lies to the north of the Roman city wall, in an area which was probably always wet or in need of controlled drainage. The area became marshy in the later Roman period when the construction of the city wall impeded drainage to the south. The area was also used as a Roman cemetery for both cremations and inhumations, although no burials have yet been recorded on site. Initial clearance of the site has revealed humic marsh deposits.

### 5. Thames Exchange

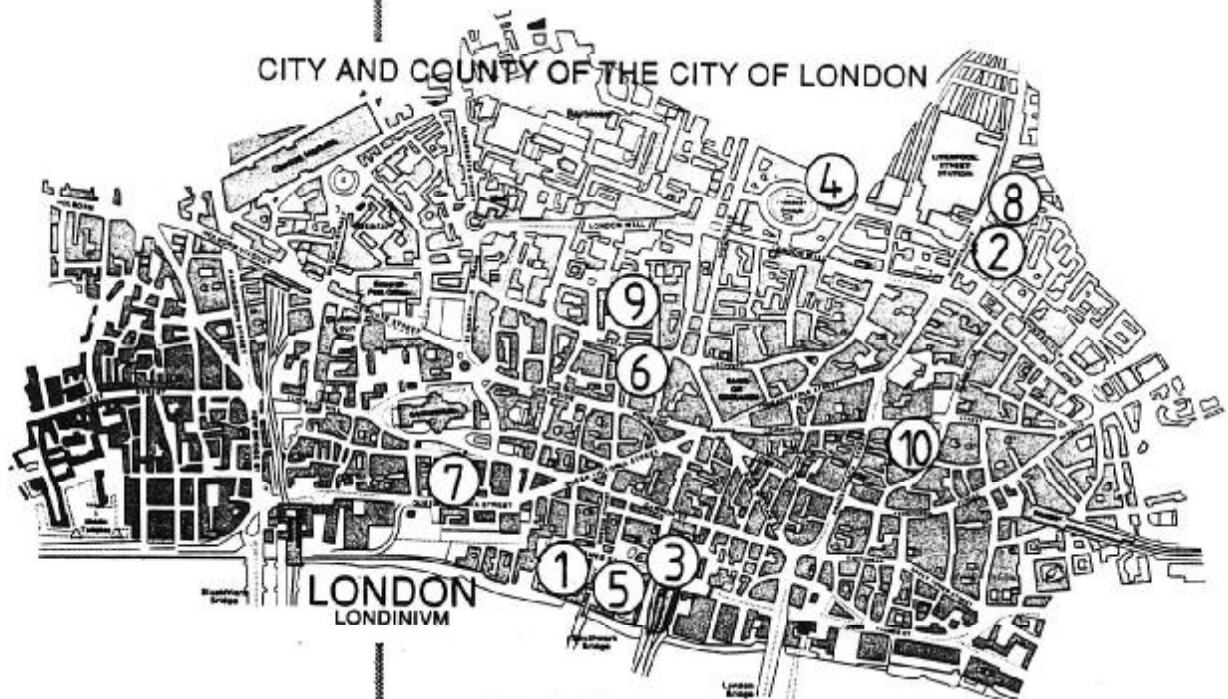
Located on the north bank of the Thames, to the east of Southwark Bridge, the site lies close to the confluence of the rivers Thames and Walbrook. Within the controlled excavation area two phases of wattle fencing have been recorded. These would have retained dumped deposits and represent the evidence for the earliest phase of Saxon embankment. During bulk reduction across the remainder of the site, a 3.5m length of early medieval, north–south aligned timber pathway was revealed, with evidence for a post and wattle wall to the east and a hearth, indicating a second building to the



west. The pathway lay directly on foreshore material which had accumulated in an inlet formed by two earlier north-south revetments retaining the second phase of Saxon embankment. This access route must represent the earliest evidence for the Lane which became known as College Hill.

#### 6. 52 Gresham Street

The site lies to the south of Gresham Street, and immediately to the south of the Roman amphitheatre. A limited amount of recording has taken place so far, but with medieval foundations and post-medieval superstructure probably necessitating a full standing building survey.



#### 7. Dominant House

The main excavation area on the site of the Huggin Hill Baths is now underway with initial clearance of Victorian and modern intrusive features. Several brick and stone-lined pits have been removed as well as several medieval chalk foundations, as yet of uncertain date. Work has begun on the removing of a dumping sequence which seals the bath building, and monumental walls are beginning to protrude at various locations.

#### 8. 158-164 Bishopsgate

The site lies to the north of the line of the Roman and medieval city walls, and the present phase of work was completed in January. The excavation uncovered a large Roman quarry pit and a sequence of Roman and medieval rubbish pits. A 16th to 17th century ditch was also excavated.

#### 9. Guildhall Yard

no report received

#### 10. 1-7 Whittington Avenue

no report received

## RECENT PRESS COVERAGE

## Saxon homes found in the City

THE well-preserved remains of two Saxon wooden buildings have been unearthed by archeologists in the City of London. They are the best-preserved wooden structures of their period found in the City, **David Keys** writes.

Constructed in the tenth or eleventh century, they were probably houses with views over the Thames. They would have been

located adjacent to the market held on the river's foreshore.

Only the bottom course of the buildings' walls — double lines of posts with planks wedged between them — has survived.

The area, 30 metres west of an old wharf known as the Dowgate, was almost certainly involved in the early wine trade.

The dig has been taking place

adjacent to Upper Thames Street. Tenth and eleventh century finds unearthed include knives, belt buckles, spoons, a lead weight, pottery, and a set of delicate hand balances. The excavation has been supervised by Gustav Milne, Chrissie Milne and Jo Stevenson, Museum of London archaeologists, with the assistance of Taylor Woodrow.

THE CITY RECORDER Thursday, January 26, 1989

## 10th-century market finds at riverside dig

A TIMBER and plank alleyway and parts of two timber buildings dating back to the 10th - 12th centuries have been uncovered by archaeologists from the Museum of London on the excavation of a massive waterfront site near Southwark Bridge.

The excavation, which is being funded by the Japanese developer Kumagai Gumi, has already revealed clay, timber and earthen embankments raised along the north bank of the Thames in the 10th to 12th centuries, and the newly discovered buildings would have been contemporary with

them, lying directly over the earliest embankment.

The wall of one of the buildings comprised a double line of posts driven into the ground with planks set on edge between them. On the floor of the other building was a hearth.

Running down to the river between the buildings was a 2.5 metre length of a timber and plank alleyway, only 1.2 metres wide but consisting of 13 oak planks, each of which had been skilfully riven or split from a large tree without the use of a saw. The planks were pegged to the joists with willow dowels, many of

which are still in place.

In the 10th to 12th century London was served by a beach market, where traders from England and abroad sold their produce to Londoners direct from boats drawn up on the riverside. The newly uncovered buildings are the first of that date and type to be discovered in London.

They were spotted in the course of the contractor's earth-moving operations. Taylor Woodrow staff managing the contract rearranged the busy works programme at short notice to give the archaeologists time to record their discoveries.

THE INDEPENDENT Monday 23 January 1989

# Unlikely alliance amid the rubble

Property developers in London have formed a special partnership with archeologists in a team effort aimed at preserving the city's history. There are benefits all round for everyone, as JEFF HAYWARD reports.

THE history of early Roman and Saxon London is being dramatically re-created because of a most unlikely alliance between archeologists and property developers.

More than 70 archeological digs have recently been completed in and around central London in what has become an unprecedented deluge into the city's early history.

Labelled "The Big Dig", a further 300 or so site excavations are being planned as over half of all the professional archeologists in Britain have decried the British have decried it is all because of "The Big Dig" when London's financial markets were deregulated two years ago.

Since then the financial sector has gone through such a dramatic boom that much of the major city has had to be redeveloped to accommodate hi-tech office towers.

"But instead of the property developers just clearing the sites without much thought to the history that lay under their feet, they had reached a unique partnership with the archeologists who have been allowed to excavate and document the cleared sites before building work starts. And in many cases the developers have even funded the dig.

So far the results have been quite dramatic. Prehistoric plough marks have been found near London Bridge in a site near London's oldest extant site on the South Bank over 4000 years old.

The old picture of the city of London has had to be revised with discoveries to the remains of a major amphitheatre, a large medieval Guildhall, a major temple complex beyond the old Roman walls and a perfectly preserved wooden warehouse south of the Thames.

The Roman settlement of London, which began about 50AD, is now understood to have been much larger than was originally believed.

Previous assumptions about London during the middle-Saxon Dark Ages have also had to be revised.

During this period spanning

Green Fleet Street and Dorset Street.

This Saxon town, known as "Lundenwic" was thriving by the late 7th Century, covered an area of up to one square mile and had a population of more than 10,000.

It wasn't till the advent of Viking marauders in the 9th Century that the Saxons moved on to the site of the old Roman city.

Probably the most sensational find has been the remains of a large Roman amphitheatre. In 1987 archeologists stumbled across this long curved wall and the excavations revealed a whole complex of structures, including a chapel on the site of the Guildhall.

The remains have been unearthed on the site of the former Guildhall Art Gallery, erected in 1886 on the east side of the Guildhall yard.

The building was bombed in 1941 and in the shell a temporary art gallery was operated till it was demolished in July 1967. Its discovery has filled a large gap in the known street plan of Roman London.

All this has come about because of a code of practice drawn up in 1986 six months before the financial markets were deregulated, by the British Property Federation and the Standing Conference of Archeological Unit Managers.

The agreement laid down that archeologists would be allowed on to cleared development sites. A specified period to excavate the area and document finds before developers could proceed with building.

With fast-track building techniques now existing building timescales by up to a third, it has been necessary for archeologists to get in quickly.

"Some archeologists would be appalled at what we ignore but we may have to be off a site in a few weeks and we don't have the time to excavate everything," a dig manager says.

"What we are doing is rescue archeology," says Gavin Egan of the Museum of London. "In a ideal world everything would be



THE REMAINS of the curved wall of a Roman bath house built about 70AD, terraced into a hillside overlooking the Thames.

preserved, but we are here to record what we can before it is destroyed."

A bonus side of the accord is that many of the developers are financing the digs themselves, some to the tune of a million pounds at a time.

So far over 29 million (£242 million) has been spent on excavations and work worth a further 23 million (£248.5 million) is under way.

With up to 70 per cent of the financial district destined for re-development in the next 10 years the number of dig sites is growing rapidly.

Not the whole climate has changed.

Not only are the developers spending millions of pounds on backing the excavations, but some developers are incorporating the discoveries into their building designs or putting them in layer displays.

A recent find of a 12th Century Norman arch has been put on display in the entranceway of a new development by developer Sprinkawk Plc.

In return for this help, the archeologists have had to shelve their traditional arguments toward developers and accept the realities of the marketplace and the timescales it imposes.

The Department of Urban Ar-

chaeology is now working closely with the developers to keep the code high on everyone's list.

"There have already been 1400 offers of financial help and there seems absolutely no reason why the City Corporation should not immediately plan an exciting development which would go some way to restoring the constructive activities of the past."

What they are pressing for, however, is funds for a large centre to that artefacts and displays can be put on permanent exhibition for the public.

There is also a move to have the remains of the Roman