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THE MUSEUM OF
LONDON

DUA

letter
News

ISSUE No. 9

June 1989

DUA ARCHIVECOPY

INTRODUCTION

As you will see, the Newsletter takes on a slightly new appearance this month. Changes will continue next month as the Excavations Office now has a computer with Desk Top Publishing and the Newsletter will be produced totally in-house. Our thanks must go to Paul Wootton for his help in using his own DTP equipment to produce the Newsletter to date, and, in anticipation, for his help in setting up DTP in the Excavations Office.

There are still no letters for the Letters Page. Does no-one have any opinions on anything?

NEW STAFF

Stefania Bavastro
Marie Louise Bowen

Transferred from DGLA - David Fell

Resignations in May
Andrew Letch
Kit Watson
Tony Tynan

Resignation in June
Marie Nally

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Francis Grew	- Publications Officer, Senior Archaeologist
Cathy Rosborough	- 1-4 Great Tower Street, Senior Archaeologist
Brona Langton	- 24 West Smithfield, Senior Archaeologist
Richard Sermon	- 8-11 Crescent, Senior Archaeologist
Nina Jaffa	- Archaeological Assistant to AEO (Press + PR)
Tim Ellis	- Assistant Project Coordinator, Fleet Valley

JOB VACANCIES

Surveying Assistant
- 4 month contract
Closing date 30th May.

Archaeologist
- Pageant Museum - 6 month contract
Closing date 2nd June.

Senior Archaeologist
- Albion House - 3 month contract
Closing date 31st May.

Senior Archaeologist DGLA
- Cowcross St - 1-2 month contract
Closing date 31st May.

Craig Spence has reached a formative stage on two of his publication projects, and has started two others. Most texts for the first DUA Annual Review (for 1988) are collected, and there should be a dummy design available by end of May. The new Site Manual is being costed; the text is finished. Craig now moves onto setting up a think-tank for the increased production of illustrated site summaries and, a smaller task but also important, the creation of an international mailing list for DUA publications. The international dimension has been largely lacking from our work.

Future plans for the DUA

General policy concerning the future character of the DUA, along with that of DGLA and the Environmental Archaeology Service (GLEAS), is currently being reviewed by the Director and Board of Governors. This revolves around three questions: (i) is there a limit to the amount of archaeological activity we can manage? (ii) what are the limits to the Museum's responsibilities to conserve and store the records and artefacts? (iii) should our policy of site selection be changed in light of answers to the first two questions?

Discussions of the way ahead are in progress, and little is as yet decided; but one decision of the Board is that the DUA, DGLA and GLEAS should be housed for the most part outside the Museum in a separate building. Estimates for the square footage required are being drawn up. Meanwhile, also, the post of Divisional Head of Archaeology to be in charge of this new division is being formulated.

Staff Meeting 6 June

The first of the new-style staff meetings will be held in the Museum at 10 a.m. on 6 June; assemble in my office but a larger venue will be found if necessary. The purpose of the staff meeting is to discuss issues affecting the whole department. It is not for general reporting of activities or sorting out difficulties between sections. The main item for discussion on 6 June will be the future plans for the DUA, as outlined above. Because I am away from 26 May to 2 June, any further agenda items should be proposed to me by 2 June. Only staff who wish to participate should attend; reporting from this meeting is done by minutes which are circulated. Participants also have to clear attendance at this meeting with their immediate superior. I would hope that these normal staff meetings (as opposed to the occasionally larger meetings for all staff) would be self-selecting to 20-30 people.

John Schofield

Monday 26 June

12.30 p.m. Education Department Room C: Rachel Hasted, Curator of the Bruce Castle Museum, Tottenham, will be talking at the Staff Forum on 'Representing ethnic minorities in London history'

FINDS DEPARTMENT



Austin Friars probably qualifies as the most interesting site of the month, as far as finds goes, having produced a variety of Roman objects. In addition to around fifty coins, copper jug lids and a large black burnished pot dated to the late 3rd or 4th century, a Venus figurine has been recovered, unfortunately broken off above the waist (illustrated). It is made of pipe clay and would originally have been around twenty centimetres high. Also from Austin Friars is a Roman copper phallic mount which is most likely to have been attached to a box.

On a more elevated level, 42-63 Bishopsgate has yielded an exquisite piece of early - mid 1st century green millefiore glass decorated with a yellow abstract design of swirls, stripes and dots. 158-164 Bishopsgate has produced a good example of a double sided simple wooden comb, which is probably late medieval in date.

Other outstanding finds this month have been sparse, however bulk sieving of Whittington Avenue samples appears to have been successful in retrieving smaller finds such as Roman bone pins and needles.

Also from Whittington Avenue, which continues to be processed up at the museum, there are some interesting pieces of samian depicting panels of shapes thought to be conifers, and either leaping hares or springing rabbits. As well as this there is a fairly rare piece of imitation stamped terra nigra ware of the 1st century.

Meanwhile for all those who have spent the last month wondering what the not indecipherable, but as then undeciphered painted inscription from London Wall said (mentioned in the April newsletter), there is now an answer. The fragments of Koan amphora were taken along to Professor Brian Sparks of Southampton University who has identified the inscription as being the genitive name Theou ?e rou.

Lastly regarding actual finds, a complete contrast to the Venus figurine from Austin Friars was recovered from Friar Street in the form of a brightly coloured 19th century statuette of Napoleon (also illustrated).

Apart from processing and report writing the finds department has been occupied with setting up several developer displays recently. At the end of April finds were on show for the developer presentation of Little Britain, Seething Lane and Saint Mary Axe. So far this month there has been a display for Fenchurch Street, and also an on site exhibition at Austin Friars.

The new temporary display case is now installed in the museum foyer and will mainly be used for exhibiting material from current DUA and DGLA sites. Presently it contains a range of the Roman



finds from Dominant House including decorated wall-plaster, lamps, official tile stamps, bone counters and a section of the ceramic water pipe.

Finally, Ruth Waller has been appointed Senior Finds Archaeologist attached to the Fleet Valley Project, and Douglas Moir who took six months unpaid leave has just passed his Diploma in Archaeological Sciences at Bradford University.

Fiona Pitt

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Barrel well (PWB 88)

The main highlight of the past month was the lifting, cleaning, recording, dismantling and packing of the Ludgate Hill early medieval barrel. This was thanks to the combined effort of the conservation department, the timber specialist, some of the Fleet Valley area A field staff, volunteers from the Finds department and a local crane driver. Overall - and especially as it was a first attempt at lifting something so large and fragile! - it was a great success, and attracted much attention. Cotton sheet bandages were wrapped around the barrel as it was excavated. It has been filled with polyurethane foam, with a scaffolding pole centrally embedded and projecting out. When fully excavated and supported (~1.7m deep), it was lifted using mainly the scaffold pole.; The pole was also useful for attaching rope, which was secured to a crane and lifted out of the excavation area.

Most of the hoops were too fragile to save and so it was decided to dismantle the barrel for ease of storage and conservation treatment. Each stave fragment was numbered and its position recorded for future reassembly in the new medieval gallery. We were pleased to discover carvings on either side of the bung hole during cleaning.

The barrel fragments are now at the museum and will shortly be put into long term wet storage.

NEW STAFF

The Fleet Valley is soon to have its own conservator; David Carrington has been appointed on a 1 year contract, to set up a lab, on site, and will start on June 1st.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Coins and objects for developer displays and priority dating. Work is progressing on the excavation and conservation of the Dominant House Saxon bone box, and we have been involved with the organisation of safely reburying the Huggin Hill bath complex.

Dana Goodburn Brown

DUA SPORTS NEWS

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB NEWS



As some people may be aware, there have been a number of sporting activities involving members of the D.U.A. such as the various football matches against Southwark and Lambeth, the Museum and South-West London section, and notices publicising the softball have now appeared. It has been suggested that the D.U.A. start a sports and social club to help provide equipment, help to arrange facilities, and organise events, both sporting and social. Provisional enquiries by Alan McKeown have obtained sponsorship from Robert Dyas for a softball team, with other possible sponsorship from Major Hire, Parkers and other firms we spend a lot with! A donation from the training vote has also been applied for.

Alan has also enquired as to whether the Corporation has any social facilities that we are eligible to use, and the Guildhall Sports Club have facilities ranging from a camera club to an athletics club to a rifle range (!) and have plans to install a fitness room with a small multigym in the near future. More details on these and the other facilities to be circulated as they become available. There is also a chance that the City of London Boys School swimming pool may become available for hire.

So if anybody has any ideas or queries about the sports and activities involved, there is a meeting to elect a committee and set the ball rolling on Thursday June 8th in Education Room C at the Museum at 5.00 pm. All people working for the Museum, D.U.A. or D.G.L.A. in either a full-time, part-time or voluntary capacity are welcome. Remember, we need ideas and suggestions from everybody to make it work.

Ritual and Cult practices in S/E London : a case study in group behaviour

I was most fortunate one day whilst peregrinating in that region of the great metropolis that is called South-Wark to encounter two tribes engaged in the great ritual Sokka. I had heard tales of this obscure practice still being performed but nothing had prepared me for the spectacle that unfolded before my eyes.

One tribe of nearly a dozen persons was dressed in red and presented a most warlike appearance whilst the others resembled a more motley crew but seemed clean limbed and had a noble disposition. The two tribes assembled on a verdant plain covered with strange markings, possibly runes, and with two light wooden portals which clearly had great mystical significance. The two tribes then received a round object from a man dressed in black whose authority and power was (usually) unquestioned. He was clearly a high priest and the round object some divine object for which the two tribes battled for possession and then, using only their feet, projected the divine object towards the portals. Each portal had a protector who defended his sacred charge with his hands, the one called Jon Butler being particularly proficient.

I was naturally inclined towards the tribe that seemed to be called The Casuals and were lead by the one called the Great Ores. Others of this talented and handsome tribe went by the appellations of Mike Copper, Jon Mullis, Paul Travis, Alan McKeown, and one whose name was very long and might have been Jamesdrummondmurrayhe kept falling over. Damian of the Rose also was in this tribe as was one called Hughge because he was tall and Ian Marsden who was not and one other whose name was Niall Hammond.

After the best part of an hour of much huffing and puffing and oaths and curses with the raucous support of some local peasants watching from the side neither portal had been breached and I departed to a nearby hostelry to take sustenance from several quarts of ale.

[Historical note: Final score - Southwark 5 D.U.A. Casuals 1]

C. Levi-Jeans



WANTED: SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATION

for Oxford In-Service student

Sarah Newns (Donovan), our next Oxford In-Service training student, is coming for 3 months on 3 July. She asks if she can negotiate for a room in a flat for Monday-Wednesday nights of each week during this period. Please help if you can - phone her direct on Trowbridge 3641 ext 2745.

THE GREATER LONDON SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) is a computerised database of elements of London's historic environment. The effort to establish such a database came in response to the growing demand for such information and in recognition of the fact that, unlike most counties in England and Wales, London had no central database which brought together that information. Work began in 1983 with a preliminary survey of all the available information sources. Late in 1984 staff were engaged to begin data collection and work began on the development of a computer system to store and make accessible that data. From the outset it was clear that the scale and complexity of the project demanded co-operation from a number of organisations. Today the workload is shared between the Museum of London (which has always played a major part in the project, and in fact employs most of the staff involved - 13 of a total 16), the Passmore Edwards Museum and the Kingston Heritage service, with the lead role (and responsibility for funding) being taken by English Heritage. The computer system employed is 'Adabas Natural' which runs on an IBM mainframe at County Hall on the South Bank. Access to the system is via a number of remote terminals at various locations; at the Museum of London (in the Library), at the SMR office in Southwark (Glasshill Street), at the DGLA's West London and North London headquarters (Brentford and Clerkenwell), at the offices of English Heritage London Division (Warwick Street, W1), at the Passmore Edwards Museum (Stock Street, Plaistow) and the Kingston Heritage Service (Richmond Road).

In 1990 our initial 5 year period of data compilation will end and by that time it is intended that good coverage will exist of all the archaeological sites and isolated finds in the 33 boroughs or cities of Greater London. (The very large record for the City of London will, though, take rather longer to complete.) Unlike many SMR's the GLSMR contains details not only of archaeology but also of London's historic buildings. Efforts to date have concentrated upon recording its 'listed' buildings (and other features) and again it is envisaged that compilation of this information will be completed next year (except in the case of Westminster which has some 10,000 listed entries!). Beyond that time, of course, there will be a need for the record to be constantly up-dated and enhanced, where necessary, and for a service to be provided to users. So far almost 40,000 records have been entered onto the database, a third of which relate to archaeology and the remainder to listed buildings. Each record consists of up to one hundred pieces of information about any 'item', whether a palaeolithic flint implement, a Roman bath house or an eighteenth-century terraced house. Details recorded include location (given in terms of address and NGR's), date or date range, description ('Type Term'), present form (eg 'earthwork'), nature of evidence (eg excavated site), together with a full set of references to published or unpublished works and to any relevant repositories (eg of finds from excavations). Searching and sorting of the data to answer enquiries can be done on various combinations of the majority of the data fields. In addition to the text record all items are mapped on overlay sheets at scales of 1:2500 (for the outer boroughs) or 1:1250 (inner London). (It is hoped that one day the GLSMR will employ a computerised mapping system.)

As stated, the record for the City of London will eventually be very large. Today the database for the City holds almost 1600 archaeological records (supported by over 3,000 bibliographic and archive references) and 600 listed building records. The archaeological records represent compilation work done mainly from the 'Merri-field' Roman Gazetteer, the Guildhall Museum excavation records and the Guildhall Museum/London Museum accession registers. Work is currently being done on the DUA's post-Roman Gazetteer (which should be complete by the end of this year). We shall then turn our attention to the DUA Field Section II's large (and ever-growing!) archive, and the details of the City's defences.

A limited service for answering enquiries is available at present, while data gathering remains our priority, but already enough use of the system has been made to show that it can be a valuable tool to many, whether archaeological field units, museums, local societies, planning authorities or academic researchers.

In case anybody wishes to know more about the SMR (or needs information from it) here is a list of those working on the project for the Museum of London:

At: 38 Glasshill Street, SE1 (tel: 928 0784)

Pete James SMR Officer (Archaeology)
 Sally Brooks SMR Assistant (Archaeology)
 - compiling SE London
 Nick Davis SMR Assistant (Archaeology)
 - compiling SW London
 Clare Grove SMR Assistant (Archaeology)
 - compiling N London
 Andrea Sinclair SMR Assistant (Archaeology)
 - compiling W London
 Debbie Walker SMR Assistant (Archaeology)
 - compiling Southwark and Lambeth

At: The Museum of London (600 3699)

Sue Cole SMR Assistant (Archaeology)
 - compiling the City (ext 251)
 Charlotte Harding DUA Survey Officer and p/t SMR enquiries
 co-ordinator re: the City (ext 281)

At: English Heritage London Division, Chesham House, 30 Warwick Street, W1 (tel: 734 8144)

Delcia Keate SMR Officer (Historic Buildings) (ext 29)
 Catherine Steeves SMR Assistant (Historic Buildings) (ext 9)
 Kate Stone SMR Assistant (Historic Buildings) (ext 11)
 Suzanne Waters SMR Assistant (Historic Buildings) (ext 9)
 David Gander SMR Map Co-ordinator (ext 11)

Pete James

Ancient Monuments in towns

These sessions were primarily concerned with the theory and practice of managing ancient monuments in towns and in particular with the scheduling of ancient monuments and the Areas of Archaeological Importance as set up in the 1979 Act.

Bill Startin, a principal Inspector of ancient monuments with English Heritage, emphasised that Scheduling is for monuments of national importance to be destroyed (eg in London) to make way for yet another office block that is not of national importance. He went on to say that A.A.I.s were not designed for preservation but to ensure that there is recording prior to destruction. This seems to be the use EH is putting scheduling to and not its true function to ensure the preservation of the monument. There seems little point having a monument protection programme if the existing monuments are not safe. If monuments are only being scheduled to ensure their recording prior to destruction then this is severely compromising the concept of a scheduled ancient monument. If these monuments are truly of national importance then there can be no justification in allowing their destruction purely because they stand in the way of a large profit for a property developer. They should be sacrosanct. [J.D-M personal rant].

Martin Biddle, chairman of the C.B.A.s Urban research committee emphasised the need for a long term policy, setting out a rank order of research priorities and relating threats in towns to them. He called for a more academic approach based on periods and themes. He said that commercial pressures for redevelopment should be resisted and that vast sums of money should not be enough to justify destruction if the destruction is too great. Preservation on paper really meant a controlled sacrifice and this was not an acceptable alternative. Martin Carver (University of York) agreed with the need to have a clear research design and his colleague Steve Roskams complained that too often towns were treated in isolation and not seen as the centre of a larger area. He went on to say that developer funding had led to urban units just providing Archaeological Services to reduce the inconvenience to developers and to forget academic research.

Dave Brinklow (Y.A.T.) outlined the problems of working within an A.A.I. which he said were that not enough time was allowed, there was no funding, it was difficult to fund watching briefs and they started with the concept of excavation not preservation. However both Keith Wade from Ipswich and Mike McCarthy from Carlisle felt their jobs would be easier if their towns were designated A.A.I.s. as time was then guaranteed and they would just have to negotiate money instead of both.

David Baker (Bedford C.C.) said that the general level of public consciousness about archaeology had to be raised as there was

little likelihood of new legislation. He emphasised that archaeology can not be left to market forces and the surpluses of developers to fund it.

The main conclusions of the sessions were:

- 1) The principle of scheduling was being compromised by E.H.
- 2) A.A.I.s were on balance worthwhile and should not be abandoned by EH but expanded.
- 3) The academic side of archaeology was in danger of being neglected and towns should try to establish research designs to include the country around the towns.
- 4) Not enough money!

James Drummond-Murray

PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY
Sites, finds and the law : The ethical and legal aspects of treasure hunting and site destruction.

The session set out the problems of treasure hunting on land and at sea. The speakers also covered the ethical and practical considerations of archaeologists working with metal detector users and sport divers.

The present legal protection of underwater sites and sites and finds on land were outlined.

It seems that the root of the problem for archaeologists in Great Britain is the concept of private property in English and Scottish law. It was suggested that we should be moving towards the protection given to sites in counties like Scandinavia which protect even undiscovered monuments and finds.

Metal detector user problems

Metal detecting as a remote sensing technique could be invaluable to archaeology. It is the misuse of them by some individuals which has given them a bad reputation.

Problems highlighted included

- a) Objects found and sold without the permission of the landowner. The provenance having been fabricated.
- b) The landowner having an arrangement for a split of profits with the finder.
- c) Objects offered for sale at one museum, bring re-offered at another museum with the provenance changed.

We shouldn't assume that detector users are stupid, some are very knowledgeable about archaeology. It seems that they are ill-informed and misdirected by their own popular press. They represent an important labour force in the discovery of new sites and need direction.

However we must remember that the discovery of a new site is not

Bob Williams

permission to excavate or plunder it. In Britain we have to be concerned with the loss of information and archaeologists must, if necessary, become politicians to keep the public concern for the heritage going. There must be full co-operation with the reputable groups, but it must also be remembered that even these have unscrupulous members.

MILTON KEYNES

This paper illustrated how the Milton Keynes archaeological unit reacted, used and actively encouraged metal detector users.

The original informal arrangements meant that licences were only issued to clubs and not to individuals. It was realised that only the mundane finds were being reported and many areas were being searched without permission.

Two years ago licences were replaced by a letter of recommendation in which the detector users agreed to report all finds and their positions in return for permission from the landowner.

Object lessons learnt by the Milton Keynes group:

- 1) Detector users feel that because they have found the object, they should own it. They can't grasp the idea that the finder does not own what they find and many of them have been collectors of antiquities for years.
- 2) There is a need for cataloguing and it must be done quickly and the detector user must be sent information/copy of catalogue quickly because they grow impatient when the objects disappear for long stretches of time and start to not hand things in again.
- 3) Public opinion seems to be on the side of the detector users, the old adage "finders keepers" being prevalent.
- 4) There is a need to encourage detector users to hand in their finds by showing them that the objects require conservation treatment.
- 5) We need some method of getting all metal detectors to retrieve, plot and properly record before it is too late.
- 6) It is wise to go out and meet the detector users in the field.

However a reminder was issued that this system worked in the Milton Keynes area because one large developing company owned 90% of the land.

Archaeology as a whole would be happier if landowners were not agreeable to any metal detector users going on their land.

There would have been a particularly interesting debate on the problems faced by underwater archaeologists because of marine sport divers. However the two representatives from salvage companies could not attend and were vitriolically lambasted for their destructive operations in the past.

Ruth Waller

NOTES ON GEOPHYSICAL PROSPECTING

While generally geophysical sensing methods are too crude to deal with the complexities of deeply stratified urban environments there were techniques which could have applications in London.

First and foremost is the radar system developed by Geospace and which produced spectacular results in York on the site of Septimius Severus Palace(?) / Forum(?). Using pulses of radar, images up to 8m in depth were achieved including through two metres of modern demolition rubble. These images, based on different colours for the different densities of the material through which the radar passed were so clear that this layman had little difficulty understanding them.

It is understood that this system has been used on the Fleet Valley project and the results are eagerly awaited. The potential is enormous - eg for site assessments and as the system could also be used to detect services and other obstructions the cost could be shared with the developers. Alternatively a research project could be considered with Geospace to enable them to develop and refine their technique and thus reduce the cost to the D.U.A.

A method developed by Chris Brooke, an independent consultant, could be of use for standing building surveys. His system is based on the use of highly specialised film emulsions sensitive to the electro-magnetic spectrum and developing these films in different ways. This can enable features [eg wall paintings] to be detected behind whitewash and different phases of construction to be highlighted.

Finally Richard Bailey from Newcastle expounded so convincingly on the merits and potential of dowsing that I recommend the D.U.A. hire a dowser immediately - the tools and equipment budget should be low!

TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF ARCHAEOLOGY - REMOTE SENSING.

For a session on technical aspects of archaeology it was ironic that the lecture which caused the most discussion was Richard Baileys (University of Newcastle upon Tyne) excellent and amusing report on the use of dowsing and church archaeology. The evidence was so well presented that even the most sceptical people sat up in their seats and took note. It seems that buried foundations and features could be detected accurately and non-destructively using this inexpensive technique. Many of the other techniques illustrated in the other sessions had equally spectacular results but at a much higher financial cost. The use of Radar to locate hidden features under concrete and the use of laser profiling on wood had particular relevance to work at the DUA. Another interesting and again non-destructive method of investigation was using various photo images of standing structures (such as infra red) to reveal hidden features, contours, paintings etc.

Many of the techniques discussed could also be seen along with demonstrations of other techniques relevant to archaeology which

Zoe Tomlinson

was a useful and positive aspect of the conference. These included many displays of computer equipment, such as systems for easy inputting of site context and finds data.

THE PLENARY SESSION

Chaired once again by Richard Hall, the plenary session began with something of a hiccup - the ground scanning radar demonstration organised by the Geotechnics group overrun by some twenty minutes. This resulted in a large number of delegates missing the first points made by Bill Finlayson, a Canadian Archaeologist. His review of a recent Canadian response to development funded excavation, involving the licensing of anyone who cared to excavate a site, a policy now fortunately discontinued, brought to general attention some of the serious problems faced by foreign field archaeologists.

A. Jones of the Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York, made the point that it was the IFA's role to set minimum standards for both site and finds work; yet such standards should not establish a uniform set of procedures which have to be applied to each and every site, regardless of the circumstances. Individual sites may only be capable of answering specific questions. This point was endorsed by Roger Mercer, who further emphasised that the Code of Conduct should be adequate to set the standards which archaeological work should achieve. However archaeologists should therefore spend more time on defining the objectives of their work, rather than establishing such absolutes.

David Breeze commented on the need to tighten up the often vague terminology used by archaeologists. Anyone who has memories of the wrangling over the definition of the term 'contractor' in the plenary session last year may appreciate the sentiment! The possible danger of such looseness in the terminology used was mentioned by Roger Mercer in the context of the legal obligations which archaeologists may have to meet.

Discussion then moved on to the problems of site preservation and Rescue archaeology. Steve Roskams pointed out that a rescue excavation should not be seen as a failure since by and large excavation is a controlled response to the destruction of a site (!) The quality of the deposits which are preserved need to be monitored and the best way to do this is through an excavation of a part of the site concerned. Bill Startin (HBMCE), used the example of the Somerset Levels Project to show how a research project can be integrated with development activities (ie Peat cutting) and the opportunities they afford.

No matter how many sites are preserved, archaeology depends on the excavation of sites for its progression and for the livelihood of most of its practitioners. Roger Mercer again suggested that the policy of in situ preservation, as enshrined in the code of conduct could well act as a disincentive to the Academic archaeologists which the IFA is currently concerned to recruit. Steve Roskams observed that there is a potential conflict between archaeology as

bedding layers, and some post-medieval walls - possibly relating to Wrencote House - an adjacent 18th century building, built in 1723. A Roman coin was found in "plough soil" in this trench.

Trench 3 This trench contained 1-2 metres of stratigraphy. A chalk-lined well and a late medieval structure were uncovered with possible standing walls. The later phase of this building comprised flint and mortar footings with chalk and reigate facing. Numerous floor layers were associated with this, with a hearth in an upper floor level.

The earlier phase consisted of flint and mortar footings with plastered walls, and associated floor layers. A copper alloy bowl was sealed in one of these layers.

Inside this structure was an earlier demolished structure and various demolition layers. This was a smaller building of flint and mortar construction with some reigate, also late medieval in date. A copper alloy tenterhook was found in one of the demolition layers, and much ceramic was retrieved from both structures.

3. 120 Borough High Street

The southern part of the site is currently being excavated where all the archaeological deposits have been truncated by modern cellaring. Work so far has involved excavating an early 17th century soakaway and 3 layers post-medieval pits. Pottery from one of these pits has been dated to the early 16th century. In the eastern part of this area the remaining Roman deposits consist of gravel spreads which are almost certainly the lower levels of the major Roman road running north to London Bridge. These deposits are divided from the western area by a linear feature containing a woodlined channel; immediately to the west of this feature lie several post holes. The western area contains a series of clay, silt and sand layers and pits containing domestic refuse as well as slag and hearth lining. A substantial layer containing a high percentage of slag and charcoal has been observed in the lower levels over most of the western area.

Future work is expected to include digging of all Roman deposits in the southern area of the site and the investigation of any underlying prehistoric features. The deposits to the north of this area will also be excavated providing a chance to reveal the upper layers of 'road' gravel.

4. Kings College Sports Ground, Mitcham

Trial trenching of this large (30 acre) site has revealed evidence for late bronze age occupation: ditches containing pottery fragments, bone and burnt flint, forming a field system.

A scatter of tile and pottery fragments of medieval date in Phase I (now completed) suggested med. occupation in the area, possibly associated with Merton Priory. Wall footings of flint/mortar construction were sampled for comparison with mortar samples from Merton Priory.

Work in May will concentrate on environmental sampling of the

prehistoric ditches in Phase II for evidence of diet, agriculture, domestic fauna etc.

5. Trys Site, Cowley Uxbridge

Try's site consists of 11 acres of moorland which in prehistoric times consisted of gravelly islands on the edge of peaty deposits beside a stream which may have been an earlier meander of the Fray's river. Flints appear to be later prehistoric (Neolithic?) but cleaning and identification has not been performed. The only feature on site consists of two parallel EW running rectilinear features one of which abruptly terminates with a small gap (50 cm) and continues. Several flint scatters are found within this fill.

There is no in-situ evidence of Roman or Medieval activity. What few medieval sherds of pottery exist is found in the water deposited topsoil and very mixed with post-medieval material in abundance, especially 18th - 20th century.

6. 7 Cowcross Street EC1

This site is located at the southern end of the precinct of the Priory of the Knights of St. John, Clerkenwell. Initially a 1 month evaluation project was undertaken to assess the extent of archaeological survival ahead of the redevelopment. The project was severely delayed by wrangles over car parking on part of the site. Demolition began at the start of April and it is envisaged that evaluation will continue in its wake with more detailed excavation on parts of the site.

To date, several medieval wall footings and Tudor features have been observed along with indications of inundations by the river Fleet which existed to the west of the site.

7. Manor Farm Harmondsworth

Excavation is within the Manor Farm Complex. Previous work has revealed evidence for early-mid Saxon + medieval settlement. Current work has already exposed part of a sunken floor building (early/middle). A medieval manor is known to be adjacent to the complex - hence the name.

There is also possibly a Roman villa site in the vicinity.

Finds recovered so far include a spindle whorl, triangular loomweight, and a complete foal skeleton.

8. Charter Quay, Kingston

Work has now been completed on the eastern end of site 5. Evaluation shows the presence of a complex of medieval hearths and kilns (use as yet unknown), with associated floor and courtyard surfaces - the latter frequently replaced on layers of burnt material (rake-out from the hearths/kilns). Numerous post-holes suggested temporary or semi-permanent buildings in the area.

Work has started on site 4 (Emms boatyard): early work indicates that the land surfaces slope towards the Thames with medieval infill/make-up.

9. Boots, 101-103 Sutton High Street

This involves the investigation of a 14th century flint and chalk-built wall standing to 2 metres, on a Medieval Street frontage, with associated foundations.

10. The "Rose" playhouse, Southwark, London S.E.1.

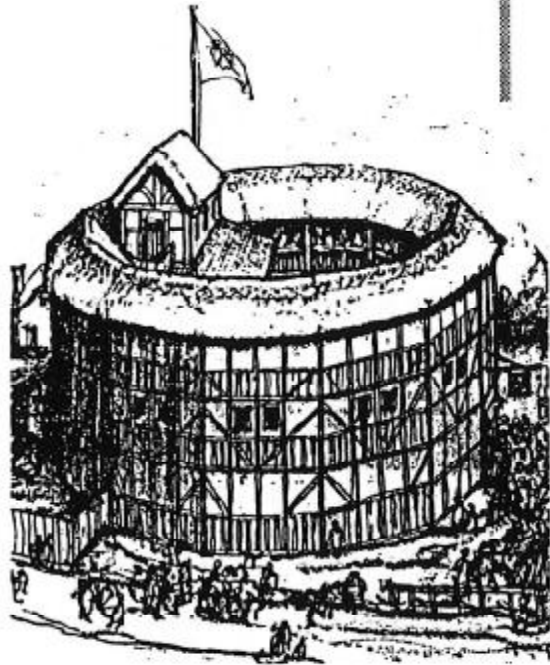
Excavations at 2-10 Southwark Bridge Road by the Museum of London's DGLA have shown that this is the site of the "Rose". It was the first of the four famous Tudor/Jacobean playhouses on London's south bank, and substantial remains of the theatre survive.

The "Rose" was built c. 1587 by the impresario Philip Henslowe. It was followed by the "Swan" (1595), the "Globe" (1599) and the "Hope" (1613). Most of Christopher Marlowe's plays were performed here: Edward Alleyn, the most famous actor of his day, later founder of Dulwich College, played the title roles in *Dr. Faustus* and *The Jew of Malta*. Works by leading playwrights such as Ben Jonson, Thomas Dekker and John Webster were performed here. Two of William Shakespeare's early plays received their first performance here - *Henry VI* in 1592 (in which Shakespeare himself may have appeared as a young actor with the Lord Strange's Company) and *Titus Andronicus*, the only one of Shakespeare's plays of which a contemporary illustration is known. The last known performance here was in 1603: it may have been demolished by c.1606, but this is uncertain.

Contemporary evidence for the appearance of these early playhouses is very limited and often conflicting: apart from unclear view in panoramas of London, a 1596 sketch of the interior of the "Swan", and accounts relating to the 1592 alterations to the "Rose" there is little other evidence. The site was therefore of great importance in its potential for providing the first evidence of what late Elizabethan theatres may have looked like.

Despite frequent subsequent redevelopment of the site, including a 1950's office block, survival of the remains of the "Rose" has surpassed expectations. The Elizabethan ground level was c. 2 metres below the modern street, and the theatre is seen to have been an irregular polygon in plan; the attached plan gives an idea of the structures which excavations have revealed so far; the discoveries of the last few days, however, have added to this and they are described below.

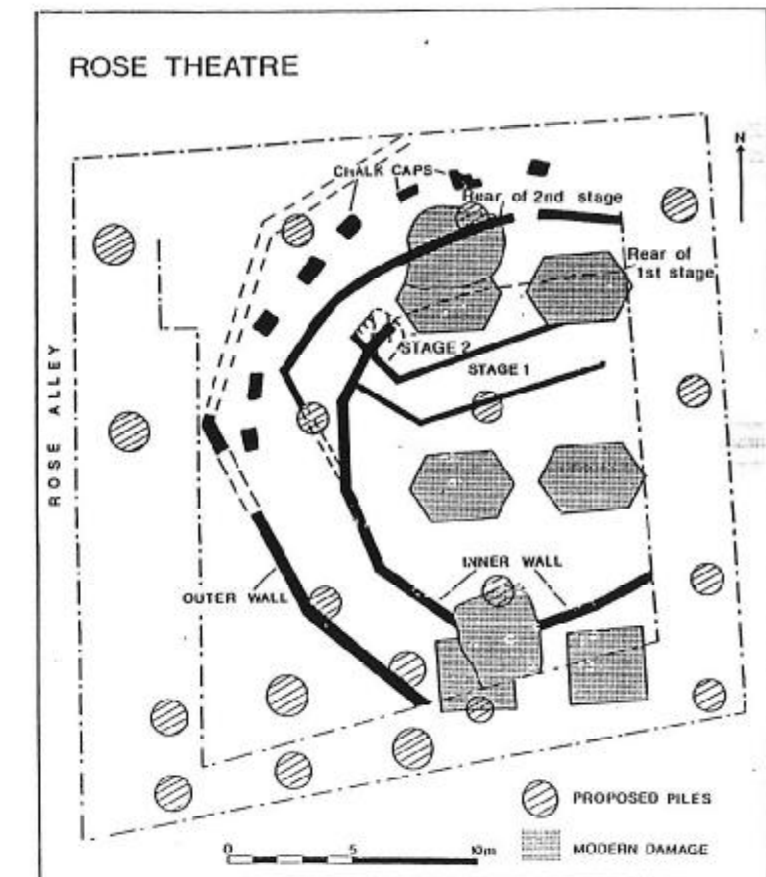
The theatre was small - the diameter of the inner 'yard' or 'pit' and stage area was perhaps no more than 13m. Its inner and outer walls were 3.5 metres apart, giving us the width of the galleries. A weathered strip around the edge of the yard shows that the eaves of the roof overhung the structure slightly. An extensive humic layer may represent the remains of thatch, and the demolition debris shows that the theatre - presumably timber framed - had lathe-and-plaster walls. The superstructure rested on a trench-built foundation of brick and chalk and was given extra stability, in the wet clayey subsoil, by a series of closely-spaced chalk-built piles. The 'yard' appears to have been floored, when the theatre was first built, with



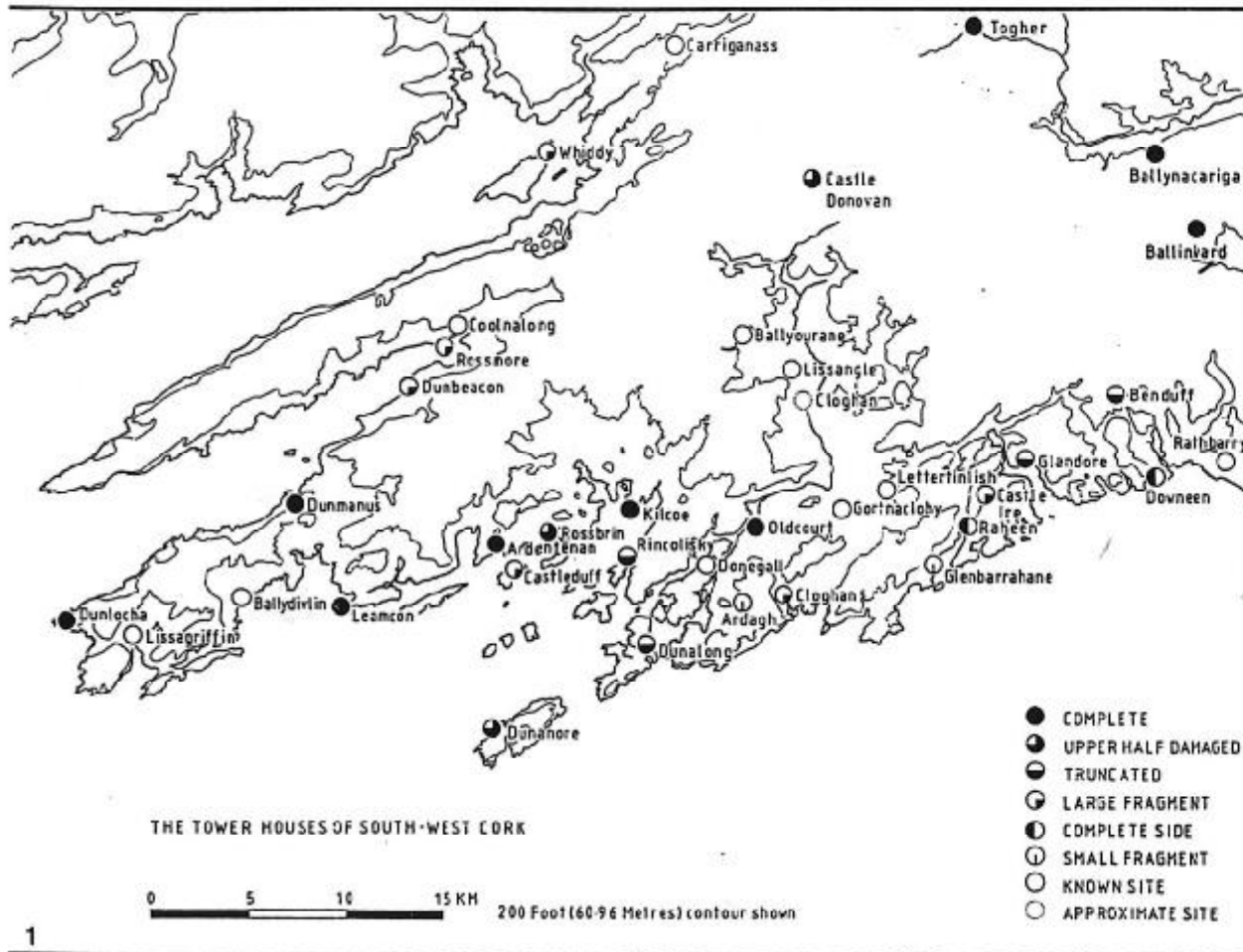
a layer of mortar on which spectators could stand; the southern half of this floor was level, but the northern half sloped down towards the stage.

It seems that at some point - perhaps at the time of the 1592 alteration - the front wall of the stage was demolished and the stage-front set back c. 3 metres, in order to accommodate a larger audience in the yard. The back of the stage, previously the inner circuit all of the theatre, was also moved back and was now formed by a new wall, intermediate between the inner and outer walls of the earlier arrangement. At the same time, a new outer wall was built for the northern half of the theatre, altering its external plan somewhat, and a new yard floor was laid, consisting of a solid layer of hazel-nut shells some 30 cm thick.

The Museum's excavations therefore seem to be finding the answer to one of the great questions of theatrical history what was the shape of the Elizabethan theatre, and the size of its stage? In fact, it seems that there was more than one shape - a first "phase", in which parallel inner and outer walls formed an irregular polygon; and a second "phase", when it was extended. This resulted in a yard and stage area with a plan almost of mushroom shape, and an exterior which was something like a closed horseshoe in plan. The stage seems to have been between 5 and 6 metres from front to back. All this information will be of the utmost importance in helping students of the early stage, and the acting profession itself, to understand how Shakespeare and his contemporaries intended their plays to be staged and viewed. It is to be hoped that these unique remains, representing the greatest period of world literature, can, even at this late date be imaginatively incorporated, without further damage, into any redevelopment scheme which takes place here.



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



THE TOWER-HOUSES OF SOUTHWEST IRELAND

When I was a child, my parents regularly took me on holiday to Ireland, or rather the extreme southwest corner of Cork. As a result, the area is imprinted on me as a second home.

Quite apart from being the most beautiful part of Ireland (western Europe?), the place is groaning with historical and archaeological sites; most of which have received little or no historic attention. My brothers, sister, cousins and other children all enjoyed visiting castles, as these were 'spooky', difficult to get to, and above all, they offered danger. I noticed that the door into the body of these towers was always at least 10 feet in the air (my first archaeological observation). In what was to become 'the Survey Region' (which selected itself, rather than being scientifically selected) the towers all had the following characteristics: an oblong plan with a marked 'bast batter' (sloping walls), a ground floor with no windows or one tiny loop; all had at least 3 floors and a maximum of 5. The windows increase, with height, in number and size and the floors were always reached from a stair in the thickness of the wall. Most had a massive barrel vault covering the second or third floor which formed the floor of the top chamber. This had the thinnest walls and the largest windows. A wall-walk, surrounded by parapets, ran around the top of the tower, and an elevated door gave access to the stair. It makes me shudder to think what we got up to.

In the summer of 1970, I had to prepare a summer thesis as schoolwork and still have some of the laughably crude plans that I prepared. The bug had caught me, and for several years after that, information continued to be accumulated, quite why is not clear. Guess, however, what my History of Art A level thesis was about; the same subject served me equally well in my Undergraduate dissertation. After I left university, the subject was finally abandoned, its usefulness finally at an end. Only after 6 years, did I realise that the topic of research was respectable. There is nothing that appeals to me less than unfinished work, and I thought at the time that it would be an easy matter to take all the accumulated plans and photographs, stir them up, add a few pinches of discussion and conclusion and emerge with an MPhil. Application was duly made and duly accepted to 'read for an MPhil qualification' at UCL. It turned out not to be quite such a straightforward matter.

In southwest Cork, the early medieval Irish lived in much the same manner as their Iron Age forbears, all domestic buildings being of timber. Virtually nothing is known about the houses but this does not rule out the possibility that they were quite sophisticated. All except the poorest lived in raths (round earthen forts). In 1842 (the date of the first Ordnance Survey), there were many hundreds of these forts forming an even cover, and standing almost within hailing distance of one another.

Although quite capable of building in stone, as the early medieval churches show, the Irish seem to have deliberately shunned such permanency; their economy was semi-nomadic. Cattle was the main source of food and the main means whereby wealth and prestige were expressed. Arable farming was of secondary importance, and large tracts of the Survey region (Figure 1) were still wooded at this date.

Against this essentially Iron Age background, the first tower-houses appear; apparently from nowhere. The MPhil was intended to throw some light on their development, as they varied in manner that suggested a typological development. It was hoped that study would reveal the 'daddy of them all'. This has not been the case; a typology has emerged (making it possible to say which tower-houses are early and which late) but even the earliest examples are 'fully-formed'. Where the original idea comes from remains a mystery.

No tower-houses are exactly alike, but many share identical 'features' while differing in others. It has proven possible to breakdown each tower-house into a series of 'special features' almost as if they were different models of car or stereo; there is every reason to think that the builders (and their clients) thought in the same way. Tower A may have only one garderobe and two-light window, while tower B has 2 garderobes and a three-light window; on the other hand, tower C might have the 2 garderobe option, lack the three-light window, but share a corner turret with tower D. As common sense would suggest, the closer 2 tower-houses were to each other, the more similar they will be. However, they will never be exactly the same, one will be 'superior' in some respect to the other. This is probably because it is copying the other one, while introducing some refinement.

One important reason why the tower-houses were built now becomes apparent, they were 'status symbols'. A study of the known social organisation that prevailed is making it possible to outline the probable series of events that led to the construction of a tower-house.

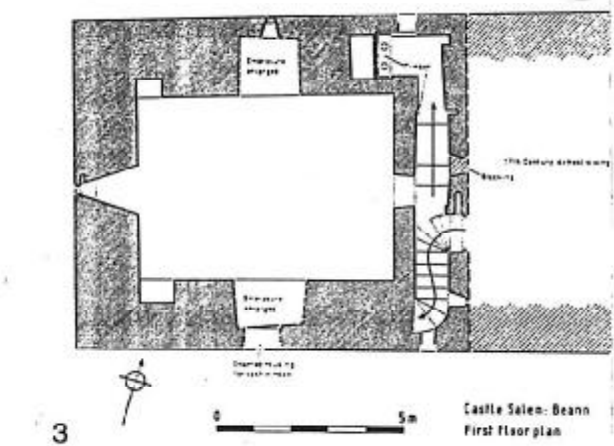
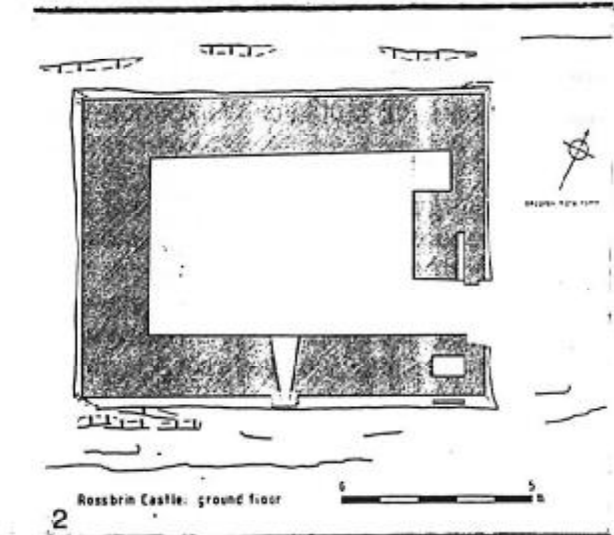
The pre-existing Society in the Survey Region was divided into 5 major clans; each clan was in its turn divided into many 'septs'. The leadership of the clan was however normally only selected from the most prestigious sept. Sometimes, the other septs remained under the firm control of the clan overlord; in other cases, the clan would fragment, and a major sept would become a clan in its own right. The more wealthy subordinate septs would sometimes successfully field a candidate for the Chieftainship. This post was not hereditary but passed to the 'tanist' or second, when the Chieftain died. He was normally the brother or son of the Chieftain, but he could not succeed without the popular approval of the clan. In practise, this meant that anyone who felt they could physically wrest power from the 'official' tanist was free to carry out the attempt. For were they to succeed, events would be taken as proving they were the true tanist selected by fate.

If a political map of the Survey Region in the Early Middle Ages could be made into a moving film, it would be as inconstant as a shifting kaleidoscope. This endless change had gone on since the Dark Ages. However, at some time in the 15th century, something began to change.

The map (Figure 1) shows how the majority of the tower-houses were concentrated on the coast. This part of Ireland is geographically as close to Spain and France as it is to England. Because it was outside the area controlled by the English Government, it enjoyed unrestricted trade with Europe. Besides this, the bays were exceptionally rich in fish and attracted large fishing fleets from northern Spain. Both these factors meant that the southwest littoral enjoyed wealth quite atypical of Ireland at large. One of the aims of this research is to highlight how trade and fishing dues were linked with a sudden wave of tower-house construction, an unprecedented expression of 'conspicuous consumption'.

Suddenly no Chieftain or head of a sept could afford to be without one of these new towers, especially if they wished to field candidates for the Chieftainship. For the first time a clear 'class distinction' (based on the possession of the towers divided) the leading septs from the main body of the clan.

The tower-houses along the coastline all seem to date from this 'wave'. They possess a remarkable uniformity in the form of their 'features' if not in their arrangement. All possess a 'two-level entrance' consisting of a large ground floor door giving access only to that floor (Figure 2) and a first-floor door that gave access to the staircase and the remainder of the building (Figure 3). This door was probably reached from a timber staircase that could be dismantled during threat of siege. The recurrence of exactly repeated 'features' (such as window mouldings and the dimensions of chambers) suggests that a single generation of masons (evidently free from clan loyalties) built these coastal tower-houses.



There must have been a deep-rooted prejudice against the idea of building permanent domestic structures in stone. However, once the first example appeared in the neighbourhood, the old inhibition suddenly gave way and a common rush was made to 'keep up with the Joneses'.

Status was only one of the tower-house's roles. They must have rapidly proved their worth. At first, it must have taken some heart-searching to move into the freshly completed tower-house. To be pinned down on one spot, and not to be able to move freely around

the domain was a great loss of flexibility. Gone were the days of settling down to eat and drink in the open air, wherever one chose, after a successful hunt or the extortion of provisions (according to minutely detailed custom) from a subordinate sept. The new tower-houses were not only warmer and drier, they protected property.

In the past, it was impracticable for a Chieftain to own much more than the clothes he wore; everything was 'loaned' from the main body of the clan for the duration of his life. However, once trade began to play an important role along the southwest coast, this ceased to be practicable. The development of the fisheries must have, at first, been an unsuspected windfall, but the coastal chieftains soon began to exact dues from the vessels, developing miniature navies to enforce this. 17th century accounts record the vast wealth that the O'Driscoll chieftain exacted in this way (his fleet included a 30 oar galley). Real wealth introduced new problems into the day-to-day existence of the Chieftain; it had to be guarded, and while the Chieftain was prepared to fight for the sake of prestige, he did not want to be a constant target for robbery. The tower-house was therefore built with wealth, to be a strong-box for it. The start of a self-perpetuating cycle of change can be detected.

The heads of the Clans in the Survey Region seem, by the mid-15th century to have had direct personal control of large incomes. There was no guarantee that the wealth would pass to the tanist of their choice. Meanwhile, money was proving itself useful. In the past a chieftain could not begrudge his worst enemy in the Clan succeeding him if that person stood to gain no more than prestige and responsibility from the post. However, wealth and luxury goods were another matter.

Having poured wealth into the building of a tower-house, the Chieftain was doubly concerned that the succession should pass to his chosen 'tanist'. These new strongholds (which must have been far more secure than the old raths) made this much more likely; control of such a stronghold made it very much more difficult to overthrow the new chieftain. Throughout the 16th century, successions became smoother and less eventful as a result. Direct successions by the Chieftain's son became the norm. By the late 16th century, many chieftains were surrendering the 'pobal' (the common property of the clan) to the Crown, who would regrant these the next day to them, and their 'Heyres and assigns'. There is no record of a clan rebelling or even objecting to such a decision, although it was sheer robbery, probably because it was simply making official a 'de-facto' situation. Life for the poor people of the clan would be entirely unaltered, and the more wealthy members probably found a secure tenantry preferable to the reshuffles that had gone on in the past, every time a Chieftain died.

The role the tower-houses played in altering an entire society can therefore be appreciated. By the beginning of the 17th century

(except in the matter of religion) the Irish landholders were becoming indistinguishable from the wealthy English settlers. At this date, buildings externally, much the same as those built 150 years earlier, were still being built. Internally, however, the cold stone vaults and bare stone walls had been replaced by timber, lath, plaster and panelling. In fact, they had all the 'mod cons' enjoyed by the English within their Jacobean Manor Houses. It was however important to maintain the tower-house look, in order to assert their ethnicity, which the Irish felt to be under threat.

Having said all this, I am still very far from proving it. My aim is to first produce a comprehensive regional survey, taking every tower-house into account, no matter how unphotogenic or ruinous. It was painfully obvious, earlier this year, that my 'database' was incomplete, and there was nothing for it but go there again. So this Easter, my parents had the unaccustomed pleasure of my company, just like the old days.

It was pure bliss to be in Ireland, after several months of south London. The surveying of tower-houses is really all an excuse for being in the open air, in remote and beautiful places. It is also an extreme contrast with the sort of archaeology we are all used to. In terms of recoverable information, these standing structures are hugely informative, considering the minimal resources I have to record and study them.

It may be that I am deluding myself as to the significance of my drawings and photographs, but the danger of this is still slight. Buildings of any period have a great benefit as a source of information, their form is intentional purposeful and exactly reflects the social requirements of the people they were built for. Nothing was varied without much planning and thought beforehand.

Mark Samuel



"Fresh Fields and Pastures New"

DUA member's experiences of working elsewhere in Britain

Before coming to the D.U.A. I worked as the supervisor of 1 of the 2 archaeological roving teams funded by the County Council and M.S.C. in Staffordshire. Our brief was to travel around the southern half of the county undertaking any archaeological work that had been negotiated for us by the county archaeologists and planning department.

Our lot was not the few weeks grasped from the developers on partially demolished sites in a dusty urban environment. We often found ourselves undertaking such wide ranging activities as surveying in the middle of a forest, perching on top of a scaffolding clad castle 130 feet above a vast tract of the Dove valley or excavating in the unused half of a village cemetery.

Equipment, personnel and tea-huts were carried with us when we moved from site to site. Staff were recruited from the local area and were collected each morning from various pick-up points around the town.

As it was a Community Programme project the 20 team members were part-time, untrained and had all previously been unemployed. There was a lot of emphasis on basic training in all kinds of techniques and opportunities for all staff to undertake a wide range of activities had to be created.

The time and large numbers of local volunteers and students available on a large summer excavation allowed different techniques to be used on different areas of the site, much thought to be put into each stage of the dig and for the careful recording, planning and retrieval of information.

The disadvantages to this sort of archaeology stemmed from lack of finances: little new equipment, lack of publication and no facilities for finds, environmental and conservation work.

A major project which the team worked on during my time with Staffordshire County Council was the excavation over three summer seasons of a Roman Fort at the New Cemetery, Church Lane, Rochester (SK 111395). The presence of the fort was shown by Dr. Graham Webster in 1961.

The excavation was under the direction of the Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit and the Staffordshire team worked alongside Unit members, other M.S.C. teams from Birmingham, students and local volunteers.

During the 1986 season, after the removal of medieval deposits, including two large pits forming the lower parts of grain processing ovens dated to the 13th and 14th centuries a Roman military barrack block was uncovered. The site had been neatly placed to



just cover the full width of the 10 metre block. The northern rooms had gravel surfaces and the others had clay floors. The cess-pit of a private latrine was attached to the northern end. It was over 2 metres deep and retained traces of its wooden lining in the form of charred planks. This barrack block was constructed in the late first century A.D. and was systematically dismantled in the second.

Between the northern end of the barrack and the rear face of the rampart there were 2 phases of a building which contained a number of hearths and large quantities of pottery which has been interpreted as a cookhouse. A clay rampart of 1 metre thickness lay at the northernmost end of the site.

Once the internal floors of the southern rooms were removed it was found that this block overlay 2 huge ditches, each up to 2 metres deep and 5 metres wide which had been backfilled with the same clay from which the ramparts of the 1st century defence had been constructed. These proved to be the defensive ditches of an earlier fort which was too large to have been a marching camp and may have indicated the presence of a Vexillation camp.

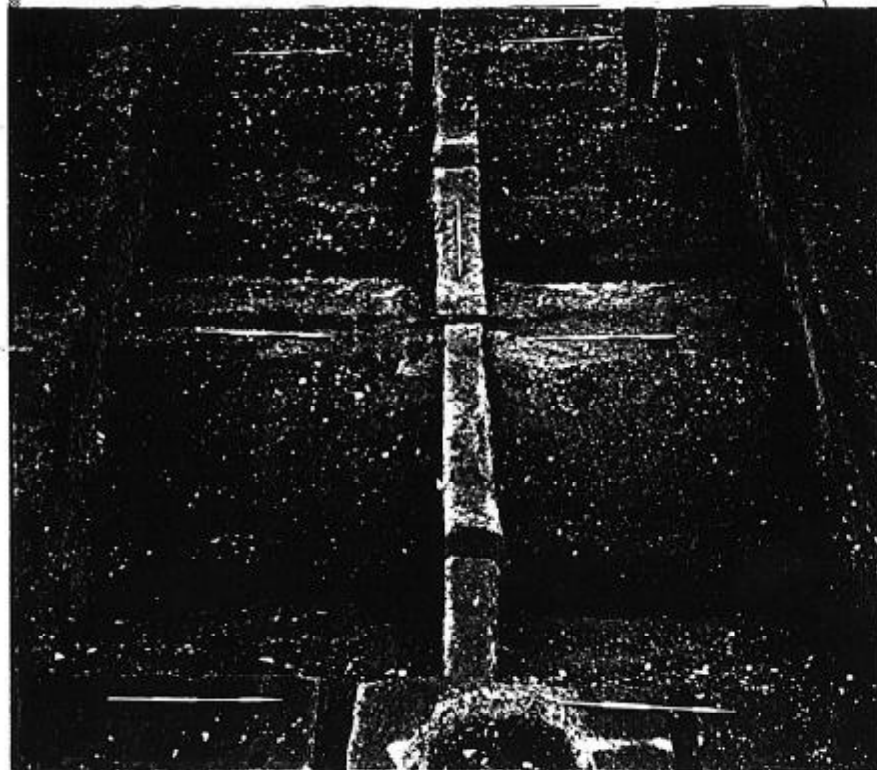
The recovery of several pieces of Roman military harness trappings from the later barrack block indicate the possible presence of cavalry.

During the 1987 excavations an even earlier fort was found - the remains of a turf rampart was discovered under the northern intervallum road of the late 1st century fort.

◀ Rochester New Cemetery site, 1986.

The beam trenches of the 1st century barrack block are visible with the cookhouse area to the north. Beyond this are the ramparts. 2 medieval corn-drying ovens cut through the south of the site.

▼ The 2 vexillation ditches with shovel trenches running along the bottom.



Ruth Waller

LIFE AND DEATH IN THE CITY

Archaeologists have long realised the value of studying urban cemeteries as these sites are literally the community in death. At the recent conference on "New Approaches to Towns" AD 100-1500 at Birmingham University a number of speakers discussed how beliefs and attitudes concerning the deceased have changed dramatically during the last 1500 years.

The most important change was the adoption of Christianity in north-west Europe, a process that began during the 4th century. Pagan Roman law forbade burial within town or city walls. Instead spaces were reserved for cemeteries outside the walls, often flanking the approach roads. In Roman London extensive cemeteries have been located to the north and east of the walled city. This exclusion from the city was not so much for reasons of hygiene, but fear of spiritual pollution.

The focus of Roman urban paganism was the temple within the basilica. However most people who attended services or festivals probably stood outside and rarely went inside the temple. In contrast Christianity required churches to hold large congregations, who attended frequently. The Christians also saw no need to bury objects with people and did not favour cremation. Their new beliefs meant that the body was regarded as the resting place of the soul only during life, so the fate of the corpse was less important to them than pagans, unless the deceased was recognised as a saint or holy person. Bede recorded how the first abbot of St. Augustine's Abbey Canterbury in 602 drowned while on business abroad and was simply buried like an ordinary person. However a heavenly light was seen over his grave, therefore he was recognised as a holy man and reinterred in a Boulogne city church "with the honours due to so great a man".

In Gaul it was not until the Carolingian period (751-987) that the practice of burying people with various objects such as pots or weapons finished as the result of christianization, when the existing large cemeteries often with stone tombs or sarcophagi - following the Roman tradition were replaced by new burial grounds around churches or chapels, where burials were often inserted in a haphazard manner, so many graves were intercut. This change can be interpreted as a deliberate move to bury people only on consecrated ground, instead of the former policy of allowing Christians and pagans to be buried cheek by jowl.

One totally new aspect of Christianity was the veneration of the bones of martyrs and saints and their burial within churches. For instance the church of St. Ambrose in Milan (built 379-386) contains the bones of St. Ambrose under the main altar, buried nearby are the remains of St. Gervase and St. Protasius. Other people sought to be buried near saints to benefit from their holiness and the prayers offered to them.

The concept of keeping relics within a city for veneration or even civic protection would have seemed shocking to pagan Romans. An 8th century poem in praise of Milan describes the massive city walls noting that "many saints rest in peace around its walls ... Oh how happy and blessed is the city of Milan which has merited such holy protectors, by whose prayers it has always stood unconquered and prosperous". In 1180 the holy shrine of St. Werbrega was carried around Chester and miraculously preserved the city from destruction by fire.

The adoption of Christianity also meant an end to the Roman practice of separating the dead from the living by allowing burial within cities. There are examples of inter-mural burial known from Exeter basilica and the forum at Lincoln, all are probably of 5th century date. However these examples could be seen as the casual reuse of derelict urban sites, rather than evidence of a change of attitudes. The date of the widespread adoption of inter-mural burial in English cities is uncertain. St. Augustine in circa 597 established a Cathedral within the centre of Canterbury and it is documented that by 1002 there was a cemetery around the Cathedral, yet many important people were buried outside the city at St. Augustine's Abbey during the Anglo-Saxon period.

By the 12th century the large English cities like London, Norwich or York were a patch-work of tiny parishes, perhaps serving as few as 50 households. Late 12th century London had some 110 parishes, plus a Cathedral, for a population of about 40,000 people - implying an average of only between 300-400 people per parish. The parish churches would be a social and religious focus for the community, where people often were baptised, married and finally buried. Some urban churches probably for reasons of space had no cemeteries. At Winchester until the 16th century most city residents were buried within the Cathedral cemetery.

The practice of burial within churches or overcrowded urban cemeteries only ceased during the 19th century in England for reasons of public health. The Burial Boards Act of 1852 resulted in the closure of many burial vaults and cemeteries. In London these old burial grounds were replaced by a number of suburban cemeteries such as Highgate, which with its complex vaults and tombs is reminiscent of the pagan Roman practices.

Bruce Watson



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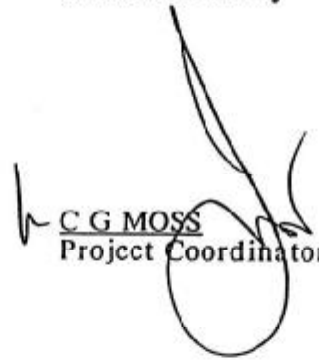
Tender Reference: L/CE/128C/100

5 May 1989

Dear Sirs

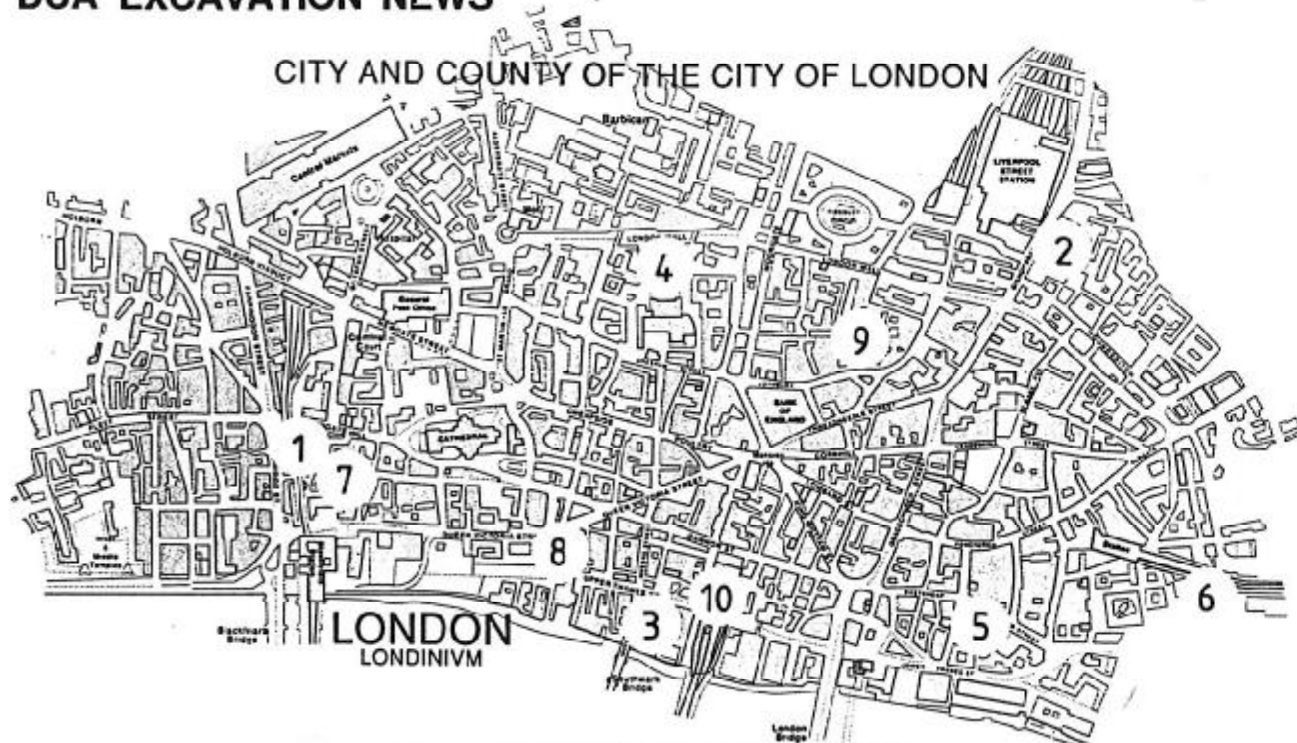
Thank you for your response to our invitation to tender for the above study. Following a thorough evaluation of all submitted tenders, this study has been awarded to Oxford Archaeological Unit. We thank you for your interest and participation.

Yours faithfully


C.G. MOSS
Project Coordinator

Channel Tunnel Rail Link Group
British Railways Board
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DUA EXCAVATION NEWS



Summaries of sites for May 1989

1. Fleet Valley

Delays, due to an agreement not yet being reached for terms of use of the car parks, has meant that some of the new proposed excavation areas have not yet come on stream. The car park area, completed during May, uncovered a north-south aligned 5 metre wide ditch. It was not clear where it was going or what its function may have been. Beneath the arches of the Viaduct an early medieval cemetery has been uncovered. Two further excavation trenches had to be abandoned due to water problems, but these may be returned to post-demolition. A further area may have produced some prehistoric levels, and another contained an undocumented deep sub-basement which may have been used as a bomb shelter. Notable finds have included a lead alloy Saxon brooch and a lead weapon mount with a rare runic inscription.

2. 158-164 Bishopsgate

The site lies 100 metres to the north of the line of the Roman and medieval city walls and 50 metres to the east of the line of Ermine Street. It is possible that Roman burials may be found on the site, although so far only the mixed silt and clay dumps which may be the top of Roman sequence, have been uncovered. Work so far has included recording a dark humic layer possibly associated with medieval agriculture, a few pits, a north-south running ditch and a series of rich organic deposits with well preserved timber fragments.

3. Innholders Hall

The site lies over the east bank of the former course of the river Walbrook and features associated with revetments for the east bank can be expected. A possible Roman wooden drain running

north-west to south-east has been uncovered and is currently under detailed examination. A medieval chalk-foundation with associated wooden piles has also been recorded and excavation should be completed at the end of May.

4.55 Basinghall Street

Phase 2 of the excavation is now underway and is located over the north eastern corner of the Roman Cripplegate fort, and the associated defensive ditch. The western edge of the fort ditch and the robbed out remains of the fort wall have been recorded, although in a very fragmentary state. They lie parallel to each other on a north east to south west alignment. Possibly contemporary with these is a further ditch following the same alignment containing a beam slot at the bottom. Medieval structures have included a chalk and flint rubble footing for a cellar and a medieval wall has been constructed directly over the robbed out remains of the fort wall.

5. 23-26 St Dunstons Hill

St Dunstons Hill lies in the eastern part of the city on a steep slope south to the river. Excavation comprised one north-south trench (15m by 4m). Due to the heavy degree of truncation only minimal survival in the form of several possible pit bases were present below the basement slab.

6. 8-11 The Crescent

The site lies immediately to the east of and outside the City wall. The Medieval wall here stands directly on the remains of the Roman wall, to a height of 7 metres above ground level. A section has been cut through the post-medieval deposits that have built up against the wall and so far this has revealed Roman masonry standing to a height of 1.50m.

7. 10 Friar Street

The site overlies the eastern end of the Dominican Priory church choir, built c. 1279. Site work prior to completion this month was largely confined to recording medieval wall foundations and standing masonry of the Northern wall of the Provincial's Hall and South Dorter. Since the end of excavation, it was also possible to record the rest of the Gothic window and an external buttress, whose small dimensions indicate that it was situated near to a door/window in the corner of the priory chapter house. Test pitting in the SW corner of site has revealed a substantial medieval ragstone wall with a blocked window - documentary evidence suggests this is an external eastern wall of the priory house. (Further test pitting has provided proof that the north wall of the Provincial's Hall and east wall of the Chapter House were built as one integral structure.)

8. Dominant House

Despite considerable time being spent on site dealing with media, VIP and other visitors detailed recording work of the monumental remains at Huggin Hill have continued. Over one weekend, and with the help of a specialist lighting contractor, all the general and detailed photography was carried out. No new features have been revealed in the past month, but the interpretation of the structural sequence has been refined. Alterations and changes in use of

certain features, such as the large aperture through the monumental block of masonry, which changed from a service corridor to a run for a drainage channel. The free standing arch over the drain may have served as a flying-buttress, and structural modifications to the heating system appear to be many and varied. It appears the structure may have gone out of use in the mid to late second century. The overall interpretation of the building still confounds the experts, as a conclusive feature representing a public baths has still not been identified. The roof must have been of tile and not vaulted or domed.

9. 22 Austin Friars

The site lies with the Roman and medieval city wall across the line of the main channel of the River Walbrook. High levels of preservation of timberwork have led to the uncovering of a complex Roman timber drainage system, and immediately to the east a large Roman building has been uncovered. All the floors appear to have been tessellated, with one room having two successive tessellated floors. A large masonry wall for a second Roman building, parallel with the first, has also been uncovered. This two contains tessellated floors. Finds from the site have included glass, styli and a figurine.

10. Cannon Street Station

Work continued in arch 13, in a trench 4m square. The trench contained a continuation of the north-south running early Roman revetment (1st century) seen in Arch 12, main trench, consisting of 3 stepped 600 x 400 mm oak beams set on piles driven into the foreshore. On top of this but apparently later lay a ragstone and tile wall of 2 different construction types, cut through dumps of demolition debris-type material. This wall was also c 600 mm thick, behind which lay a further series of dumps sealing the presumed continuation of the large N-S timber drain, which was also seen in Arch 12. The whole structure stood c 3 metres high and the pile would have gone straight through it. In the northwest corner of the trench a large Roman tile wall was also recorded but only in section; this one is hard to interpret. A new trench has been opened, measuring 8m by 8m, which contains a further waterfront, presumably early 3rd century.