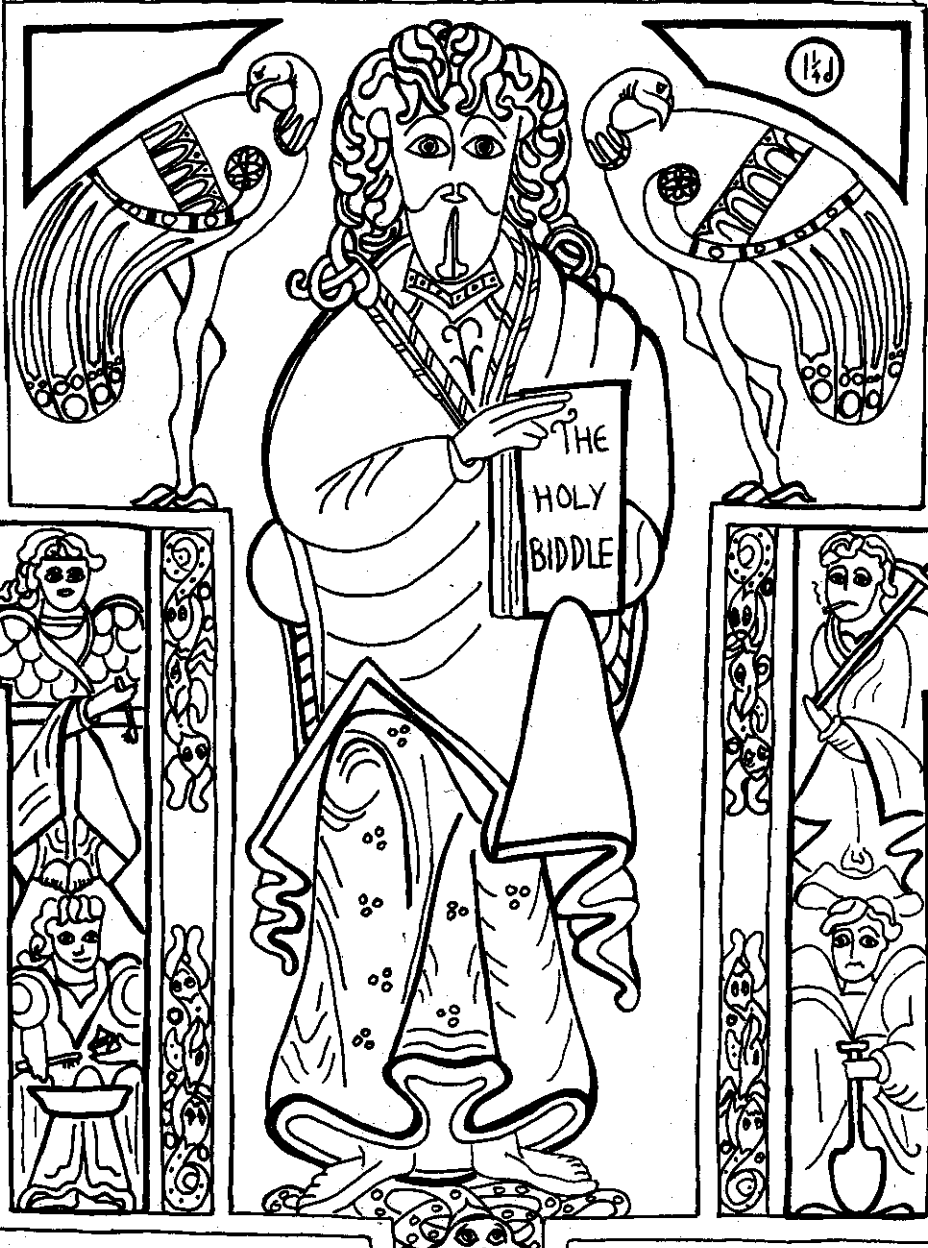
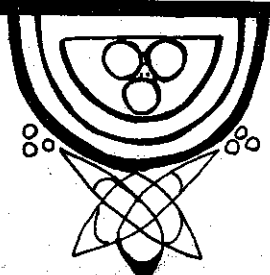


THE
 EERLY
 RISSPER



OLD UNCLE
 TOM HOBLEY AND HILL



IN WHICH WE REVEAL ALL

Tuesday 4th. was Diggers Questions Day in Gillet House: it was decided that the next batch of questions would be collected in the Skinners on Wednesday 26th., so do bring your constructive inquiring minds along. As for our last collection, here followeth the answers.

Yes, 10 grades are excessive for a unit of 30 people, but all will change, including job specifications, on 1/4/75- April Fools Day. As from now, all new recruits will indulge in an initial trial period at a lowish station, thereafter being regraded accordingly. Much was said about the moving of Bonhill to the Library: Mr. Heditch was called upon to update us. It appears that the DUA have been recommended for the 9,000 sq. ft. 'neath the Library (shared with 2 other bodies) and we await Town Clerk development. The London Docks Scheme (more next month) still holds the brightest long term hope. As we suggested, the possibility of purchasing a T.L. style pump will be seriously considered, Graham has found us a bonny weethodolite and a van is in hand. Sites are to get information boards, as repeatedly requested by us since WW 4, starting with the GPO. The clocking-in system will remain however- times must not be falsified- but, given suitable notice or doctors certificates, paid time off could be given for medical reasons in some cases. Our surprise rise was the result of the CUA personally persuading the DOE to improve our lot: he has also provided warmed huts to sit in, Poly Span to dig in, site phones and loos: cant be bad. Other points raised were that we'll keep the Guildhall Viking Dragon as the DUA motif (grunts of approval) and anyone thinking of writing a book on London archaeology must tell Brian first. Dont forget the much advertised LAMAS lectures on March 22nd: tickets available now. We are not to pester Ruth, who is an absolute marvel, about our pay forms and we must try to get them right. The problems of candidates and topics for the £500 Rescue scholarship were argued to no avail (any takers?). A greater interchange of jobs twixt site and Bonhill is to be encouraged. Your New Digging Hours are: 9 to 5, tea breaks at 10.45 and 3.15, lunch 12.45 to 1.30, as from Friday.

Details of 1975's DOE grant should be finalised by the first week in March: as soon as its known, a meeting will be called for all staff to discuss contracts, new sites, etc. Suffice it to say that digs in the Billingsgate area are very likely (at the expense of TL75b tho') : their priority was unanimously undisputed. Good news indeed, and negotiations are under way to allow our friends from COLAS (Alan was elected Chairman midst booze and butties on the 17th.) to dig the Cass College Site under the supervision of a DUA ASS -apply now.

All in all, an action packed match, the return being on March 4th., same time same place, and we'll leave you with this thought from Our Brian: "Are we, as Archaeologists, going to have the xgr ground cut from under our feet?"

And Now, From the LIASON OFFICER:

UNION DUES...I MEAN NEWS.

Michael Kennedy: bachelor, and A.S.T.M.S. national officer is now dealing kth with archaeologists and their problems. We, as a union are trying to solve the ever present problem of what sort of N.H.I. stamp we should be paying etc. and what exactly is taxable from our earnings. This means that the legal research group at A.S.T.M.S. are doing their thing in order to get some sort of coherent statement out of the D.H.S.S. and the Inland Revenue. We are also looking into the administration of archaeology in Scandinavia and West Germany: just for comparative annalysis. We may be able to work out where we are going wrong. A leaflet -- yes, more propaganda, -- will be rolling off the press soon, so, do the right thing and help make your own working conditions better.

You know where to contact me..... do it.

Love,

Hilary.

Sadly, Hugh and Ralph have girded up their respective loins and gone forth to dwell amongst their fellow curatorials in Kenny Palace 937-9816. The CUA, well pleased with recent time-keeping is on the steering committee of the British Archaeological Institution, so, all you intending Students, ABAs and MRAs, direct your questions that-a-way. John, whose lecture on the Matrix received a standing ovation through lack of chairs, is now in charge of matching briefs currently in the North Forum, Angel Court and Scotland. A much bedrugged Hilary, in a state of delirious agony, underwent a 2½ hour operation at Guys Dental Hosp. to have her stumps drawn, and returned, toothless but paralysed, to do heroic battle with Seal House. The said item is well up to schedule, and will conclude on March 22nd. A manual on report writing- matrix, periods, phases etc- is being prepared. Elizabeth Eames (Brit Mus) will finish her report on the tiles she lifted from Seal House (WW 11) soon, after consultation with Salanhil's technicolour plan. Trevor B. de Mille is now assisted by Julia, who enjoys a good fence, Graham is scaling photographic heights, Tony is as helpful and Knowledgeable as ever, ~~and~~ while Bill Joyce and Annæ continue to behave themselves, in spite of the never-ending flood of boots from Baynards. George represented the DUA at the Underwater Archaeology Conference in Charleston, ~~and~~ S.A., and Mr. Ellis (babysitters please ring 671-0762) would love to hear from any other old ladies whose hubbies found nickel-plated teaspoons in the garden. Vanessa is back from an enjoyable stay at Bonhill- she was genuinely sorry to leave- and describes herself as a pink wobbly blancmange. Ruth no longer does the garbage, following an horrific and horrendous damn close run thing with the disposal unit, and Diana, when a phone caller asked to see our slipware, refused permission, cos we were the Guildhall Museum, and we dont do knit wear. Our Charles' epic performance on the 9 o'clock News so thrilled BBC Welsh Whales, that they produced a whole programme on the boyo from Swansea who made good, provisionally titled: "How green is my Hill"...

TRIGGERS WHISPER

First, on a regretably serious note, mention must be made of the sad incident on Sunday, when a body was discovered in the flooded area of TL 74A. The police presume he fell in and drowned while drunk. Naturally enough made an unpleasant impression on Trig but not on the hardened forces of the Law, who referred to it as "the Fatal down the hole".

Here is the rest of the news: the dig continues with renewed fire come rain or shine, cos we got a Poly Span wot keeps the rain off, if you ignore the torrents that flood in under the sides. Most people are called Mark these days: Max One is into Plastix n Matrix Two is into motor bikes, and Three is going to excavate Afganistan in the Spring. Other new faces belong to Kay, American Ellen, who saw us in the New York Times and popped over to lend a trowel, Helen and Isabell. John John became a Professional and will show you his Rizlas if you ask him nicely, though Dave still rolls his own. Chrissie will gratefully receive any contributions to her Gas Bill, and Jackie and Gustav, child prodigies, starred in Spanish TV's mamoth production "El Trig", featuring Miss Piggybank on the half strung grid frame. During a recent deluge, Sue went to bonhill, and was never seen again, and horoscopes continue to reveal all: J.M., for example, is willing and eager, like a good little Aires, though not ass physically alluring as we Sagittarians. Pete pops in occasionally to roars of abuse, while walls appear everywhere even if they do look like drains in section.

MEANWHILE BACK IN THE BARNYARD

Phans of the BBC News were blessed with panoramic views of freelance archaeologists exposing all sorts of things on Jan 10th., but the Naticnal Press covered it next day. We refer of course to the Herculean Hendeavours of the Baynards Castle dig, which concluded several times this month. Some interesting Czechoslovakian coin evidence was eaten, many Roman piles were noted for their weight rather than their graffiti, and Gerges Caff was patronised till they put their prices up. John and Peter almost got backfilled (thank God they had their helmets on) and two of Laings Donkey Jackets joined the carnival atmosphere for a publicity film. Talking of films, Trevers pix of the Wall looked most impressive at TTB's Institute lecture- suddenly, everything seemed worthwhile.

St. Valentines day is here again, and Alan received a "Roses are Red, Violets are Blue" card t'other day from some of his many admirers. Wine women and song flowed, Jan baked a cake and the Birthday Boy got a full set of Beethoven symphonies, a listening trumpet and a packet of Settlers. Brian has also promised him a present of 6 Poly Spans, which, with the recent aquisition of tables chairs phires and phones to the huts, loos and pit-head baths, must lighten like's labourious load not a little. However, the rain in Spain falls mainly on the DUA, and a new trench was opened whilst the main area dried out, revealing a hearth of non-committal date. When the big one was cleaned up, the goodies gushed forth. Dark Age and Late Saxon pottery (Mike Rhodes should know), Winchester ware and the biggest Stamford handle ever found in our little City. Merry (Shut The Bloody Door) was as thrilled as anyone with her new treasures: the excitement mounts. Tom, who varnished his desk, is thrilled with his new context sheets, Penny would like a kitten- no reasonable offer refused- and chatters to German born Mike in his native tongue for hours, Sals gonna draw the GPO in Glorious Garffi Colour, and John Stone is back on the bottle. New boys are Robert from Cambridge who excavated the Fleet Line, and none other than that most welcome commuter from Nothampton, old friend Andy Boddors. Silvios has been abandoned by the tea breakers for St Martins Snack Bar- Des ordered 13 ~~SR~~. S.Rs one day- while dinners are now devoured in Capocinos. Barbie, who has many fans including an upper echelon of COLAS, has been the victim of foul rumours, since she ~~was~~ ~~caught~~ and Seedy Woods were caught laying out the grid.

BONHILL BANTER

Mike has now lost the other half of his staff: not only has Sue DoE'ed, but Anne Clarke, Greek National Dancer extraordinaire departs on Phriday: their sunshine will no longer lighten the gloom of Colditz, neither shall those wonderful yellow wellies (Anne has 3, a left, a right and a dont know) be seen again: they leave with our love and tears. Artist Antony Dufort's services have been abruptly curtailed too- still, he prefers drawing females to finds anyway. Louise (Arco Pudding Champion) Miller lives to eat again, and Linda Hall of the Mermaid and Harp Lane was begged by Mike to return, and is an expert on C17th. Gloucester pharm houses.

Meanwhile, downstairs in Peter's Palace, sickness reigned: Ricardo is still unrecovered, Judi endures an enforced absence, and Pamela grows daily more concerned with the health of Howard, her stable mate. Mr. Pell, who shared schools with a Poet Laureate, Norman Shrapnell, Issac Newton and Nicholas Parsons, is phading phast, not to mention noisely, and still suffers from terrible outbreaks of limerix. Oh well, as Mr. Robertson said; "some of my best friends were bin men."

EXPAND YOUR HEAD DEPARTMENT

JAN. 17th to MARCH 2nd; BRIT. MUS: Exhibition of Greek-Illyrian from Yugoslavian cemeteries c. 500 B.C.

FEB. 22nd: Central Hall, Westminster: Richard Leakey on Lake Rudolph. Tickets £1.00

MARCH 22nd: The well publicised LAMAS round up of London Archaeology: DUA display, CUA lecture- be there.

ARCH. SOC. at the INSTITUTE: Mondays at 7.30 for free

FEB 7th: Chris Taylor, RCHM, Total Archaeology, History and Landscapes

MARCH 3rd: Place Name Studies and Archaeology.

MARCH 18th: Brian Philp: Rescue In Kent, 1974.

THE Other London Archaeologists:

More Romans turned up on R.A. Canhans site at Brentford, where they'd left a road behind: SAEC and Bow are producing pits and ditches: earthenware kilns are being lifted at Woolwich by the Brit Mus: Dereck and Geoff have bottomed out the Wakefield Ditch at the Tower, and the M.25 stalwarts, not content with 2 bronze age settlements, early Iron Age structures and a Roman Farm, are currently investigating flint scatters and other prehistoric sites next the Thames.

NEW CEA ADDRESS FOLKS: 7 MARYLEBONE ROAD LONDON N.W.1. 486-1527.

SMALL PHINDS

*** GONE, BUT NOT PHORGOTTEN: Amanda, Jamie Geoff and Lee were at Bonnie and Clydes Hollywood Spectacular, along with the beautifully adorned DUA and the Bride of Frankenstein. 180 seconds of that all-time classic "TRIGORAMA" was at last put on general release, and revived memories of many a merry moment. Paulo is at present at 25, Balkerne Lane, Colchester, Essex, and sends his love and reapplications to the DUA. Howard Murray is doing nothing at the moment, following his return from brewing whisky in Trondheim. Fellow Scot Andy McAnic is at present peddling pintas to a thirsty nation, and Frances was seen giving an entertaining evening class on the Palaeolithic in a shed in Fulham. Guess who sent the following all the way from Mexico via aereo: "El tiempo aqui esta muy bueno, en la dia esta 80+F., pero en la noche (porque esta invierno ahora) esta 35-40F. Haste luego, amigos. Peter-I say- Taylor starred in Benny Green's story of London (Thames T.V. Tues. 4th.), a programme in which the Celts lived in the Bronze Age, the River rose 12' since Roman Times, and Olaf, of St. Olaf fame, joined the opposition. Val, of NFW and elsewhere, is not the only one applying for the post of Field Officer for Surrey, if recent rumours are to be believed..

*** The much heralded match betwixt quote Charlie Hills mob unquote and the Institute didnt. We'll try again on the 15th.

*** Does anybody know of someone in the London Museum who'd be interested in a fully documented series of 600- 700 photos of the City's Wren churches, taken just after the war by Edward Bishop, the famous painter? Contact him at 6, East Heath Road, NW3: 435 1496.

*** At the recent meeting held at Bristol University on Rescue for 1975- 80, several important points were made to the invited audience including the CUA. The increasing harmony between Rescue and the DoE was gratefully noted, stress was laid on the role of the museums for conservation, storage etc, and also upon the somewhat overshadowed importance of processing and publication. Units will in future be judged on the quality and quantity of their publications- Custom House 73 is out now as a DUA off-print-and, with inflation attacking archaeology on all sides, the DoE will be looking very closely at the cost-effectiveness of all units at all levels.

*** KULTURE KORNER: Meanwhile, in a well-known West End cinema, Andy B, Anne & Vanessa didnt bother to stay to see "The Language of Love" a Swedish educational film, but Sal and John John had to drag Des out.

*** Hot From The Horses Mouth: "The DoE sought and obtained confirmation from the Chief Inspector of Taxes branch of the Inland Revenue that Subsistence Allowances paid to Volunteers on excavations were not taxable." If fees are too low to be taxed, and Subs. are not taxable at all, then we are also exempted from paying our Class 11 Stamp, as the amount of our earnings (taxable pay) is low enough to exempt us from that too, provided we are prepared to forgo our pension rights.

*** Institute Party: St. Vals Day, FEB 4th.: DRINK

*** While we're on the subject of holiday, Alfred the Great says that, by Law, we should have: "12 days at Xmas, and the day on which Christ overcame the Devil (FEB 15), the anniversary of St. Gregory (MARCH 12), 7 days at Easter and 7 days after, and one day at the Feast of St. Peter & St Paul (JUNE 25), and in harvest time, the whole week before the Feast of St Mary (AUG 15) and one day at the Feast of All Saints (NOV 1), and the four wednesdays in the four Ember Weeks are to be given to all Slaves..."

(The Laws of Alfred, ENG. HIST. DOCS p380)

*** Wots small, Welsh and punctual?....A leek with an alarm clock.

*** David Browne is Not digging Hardwick (WW 19), but watch out for "Practice & Principals of Archaeology" by D.B. with pix by T. Hurst, Teach Yourself Books @ £1.25, as from July 14th.

*** Thanx to Hilary & Merry for the crossword, Barbie for the cover Diana for printing, Charlotte for typewriter etc, etc. Please continue to forward unsubstantiated libel to: The Editor, Whispering Heights, 10 Offord Rd, London N1., or call us direct on "Dictate-a-smear", WW OPEN LINE, on 01-609 2760.

*** TOP OF THE POPS: Luntun John is back at No.1 with "Time is on my site", while Cross Rhodes, the One-Man Band, is at No.2 with his "Where Have All The Young Girls Gone?". "Raining In My Hut" the revived 45 by Muddy Holly drops into the No.3 slot, and the new entry at No.4 is "Gimme Shelter" by Steeleye & the Poly Spans.