

MOLAS LIBRARY



**DUA
NEWSLETTER**

OCTOBER 1990



INTRODUCTION

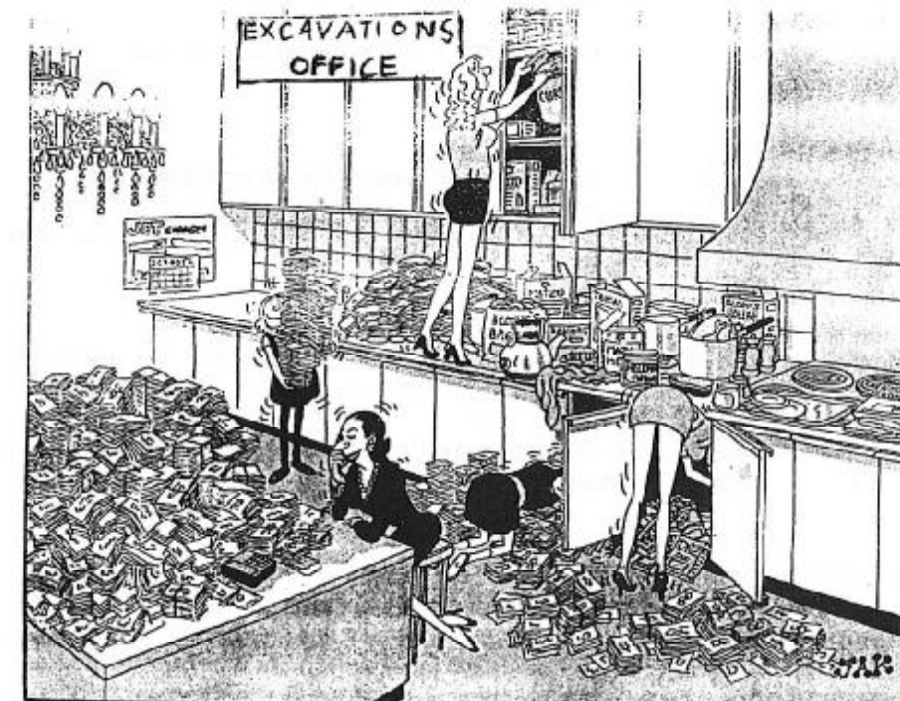
This may very well be the last DUA newsletter (tears of joy?). With so many people finding themselves with unlimited time now to pull on their boots, we tried to shift the emphasis of the newsletter away from archaeology - to no avail.

STAFF NEWS
Layoffs

A. Gammon	S. Jones	T. Dawson	G. Martin	M. Inzani
A. Swinger	J. Manning-Press	S. Holt	M. Hinton	P. Potter

Redundancies

S. Pope	T. Ellis	A. Douglas	A. Dick
J. Durup	J. Fletcher	C. Mamwell	A. Watkins
R. Edmondson	G. Oulton	M. Fabrizi	I. Harrison
O. Belle	D. Dobson	R. Waller	P. Thrale
J. Oetgen	M. Buchanan	F. Pitt	C. Hughes
N. Hamilton	J. Stone	J. Mullis	E. Howe
E. Rolighed	N. Hall	M. McKenzie	D. Wicks
S. Poole	S. Shaw	R. Sermon	P. White
I. Marsden	Jenny Hill	A. Lawrence	B. Brodie
		N. Roycroft	



"Don't worry Max, we've already found four and a half million, and we haven't even looked in Finds yet"

JOBS**WEST YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE****Planning Archaeologist** (14,160- 16,476)

With wide-ranging experience of archaeological implications surveys and evaluations; heritage interpretation and presentation; and planning legislation. Experience of documentary research an advantage. Driving licence essential. 12 month contract (renewable).

Field Archaeologist (9,795- 12,345)

With extensive excavation, survey, and post-excavation experience, and the ability to manage and motivate a small team. Driving licence essential. 6 month contract (renewable).

Details from: J.D.Hedges, County Archaeologist, 14 St.John's North, Wakefield, WF1 3QA (tel.0924-296791)

Closing date: Oct.12

ENGLISH HERITAGE**Personal Secretary** (13,500)

For the newly appointed Personnel Director, a well organised secretary with first class secretarial skills including audio and word processing experience to provide strong administrative support. Applicants should be articulate, confident and with good interpersonal skills who will enjoy the challenge of working on their own initiative. The post will offer the opportunity to work within the Personnel Department as well as some reception duties.

Benefits will include a non-contributory pension with life cover, an interest free season ticket loan, a flexi-time system, and a free family pass to all our properties.

Detailed C.V. to: Miss Joanne Mayers, 6th Floor, 18 Gt. Marlborough St., London W1V 1AF

Closing date: Oct. 19

Editor (Cur E) (14,454- 18,572)

You need to be: educated to degree level, have proven editorial skills, an interest in the preparation and production of publicity material, and also preferably some knowledge of the use of computers for direct typesetting and desk-top publishing. A knowledge of or an interest in archaeology is desirable but not essential.

Editorial Assistant (Cur F) (11,657- 15,571)

Temporary editorial assistant, duties to assist with editorial and other branch work. Editorial and organisational skills and some knowledge of computers is essential.

Information about and applications for editorial posts: Emma Wood, Personnel Management, 6th Floor, 18 Gt. Marlborough St., London W1V 1AF (tel. 071-973 3878)

Closing date: Oct. 26

Monuments Protection Programme**Archaeological Fieldworkers** - up to 12,223p.a.

We are looking for four field-workers who, working from home, will prepare recommendations for the protection of ancient monuments under Scheduled Monument legislation. You will visit and inform owner/occupiers of these archaeological sites, of the reasons for and implications of protection. The posts will cover Wilts, Hants, Dorset, Surrey, Sussex, and Kent and two posts in Herts, Beds, Cambs, Essex, and Greater London. The appointment will be for an initial period of three years.

You will normally have a degree or equivalent in archaeology or a related subject, practical experience of field survey and a working knowledge of British field monuments. A general knowledge of current agricultural practices is highly desirable and you will need to be physically fit and possess a current driving licence. Familiarity with computer operation is desirable.

Information and application form: Emma Wood, Personnel Management, 6th Floor, 18 Great Marlborough Street, London W1V 1AF (tel.071-465 4999 or 071-973 3878).

Closing date: Oct.12

News From Conservation

After the excitement of having our work and suitcase run over last month at the Fleet Valley, our on-site work this month has hopefully been less disastrous. We gave instructions to the developers on how to rebury the scheduled wall there using our old favourites, TERRAM and sand. This will hopefully be carried out soon. We must hold the all-comers record now for reburying sites. If anyone is interested in having more information on this, please let me know.

Much time was spent working on finds for the Carter Lane developer display and the one day show in the foyer of the new building on the Boys School site. In addition a group of developers, Buro Four, were given an extensive tour of the lab. They were particularly interested in finds from St. Mary Axe, but turned out to have had dealings with several other sites, both DUA and DGLA. Their obvious enthusiasm and their many questions were very encouraging.

At long last one of the Conservation Department's pet projects really has got off the ground. It was decided to convert a store in the Museum carpark into a wet wood treatment area a long time ago, but we have only just managed to get 'vacant possession'. Minor building works are being carried out at the moment and we hope to set up tanks in the next few weeks. It will be good to start clearing our storage tanks and to have some conserved wood to put on show.

Some DUA finds will be going on show in the Museum's exhibition on jewellery, 'Treasures and Trinkets', due to open early next year. This won't just be 'goodies'; it will also include metalworking waste from the Boys School site which Dana Goodburn Brown has been studying as part of her research.

A much smaller but very important wooden find came into its own with the publication of an article by Helen Ganiaris on the study, analysis and conservation of the Throgmorton writing tablet in 'The Conservator', the main British conservation journal.

We are pleased to have a conservator from Colombia working with us for October, Juanita Saenz. At home she specialises in Pre-Columbian gold artefacts; she is with us to gain experience with our somewhat more mundane but aesthetically challenging leather and iron.

Kate Starling

Training News

At the August Section Heads meeting the Training Co-ordinator presented a report reviewing training in the light of the Melrose report on the Museum's needs (Melrose is a training consultant). It was generally agreed by Section Heads that training policies for sections would be the responsibility of the Section Head, and implemented by them through each section having its own budget. It was proposed and agreed in principle, therefore, that the training committee, in its present form, be dissolved.

The last meeting of the present Training Committee was held on Tuesday 9th October, but in the light of financial problems it was not able to authorise any of the applications. In the interim, all applications are to be sent to John Schofield for consideration, on the understanding that there exists a strong case for support despite financial restrictions.

COMPUTER KNOW-HOW FROM ZOE TOMLINSON

Sorting Text.

[Esc] [Library] [Autosort]

Step One.

1. Move the cursor to the top left of the column of text you want to sort.
2. Press <Shift> <F6> to turn the column select on.
3. Move the cursor down to highlight the whole column.

Step two.

1. Press [Esc] to activate menu.
2. Choose the [Library] command.
3. Choose the [Autosort] command.
4. If your text is alphanumeric (characters) select the alphanumeric option (this is the default option) and use the tab key to select the next option, use the space bar to select ascending or descending order.

If you want a numeric sort choose the numeric option.

5. Press <Return>.

Your text will now be sorted.

This command allows you to sort columns of information or tables into ascending, descending, alphabetical or numerical order.

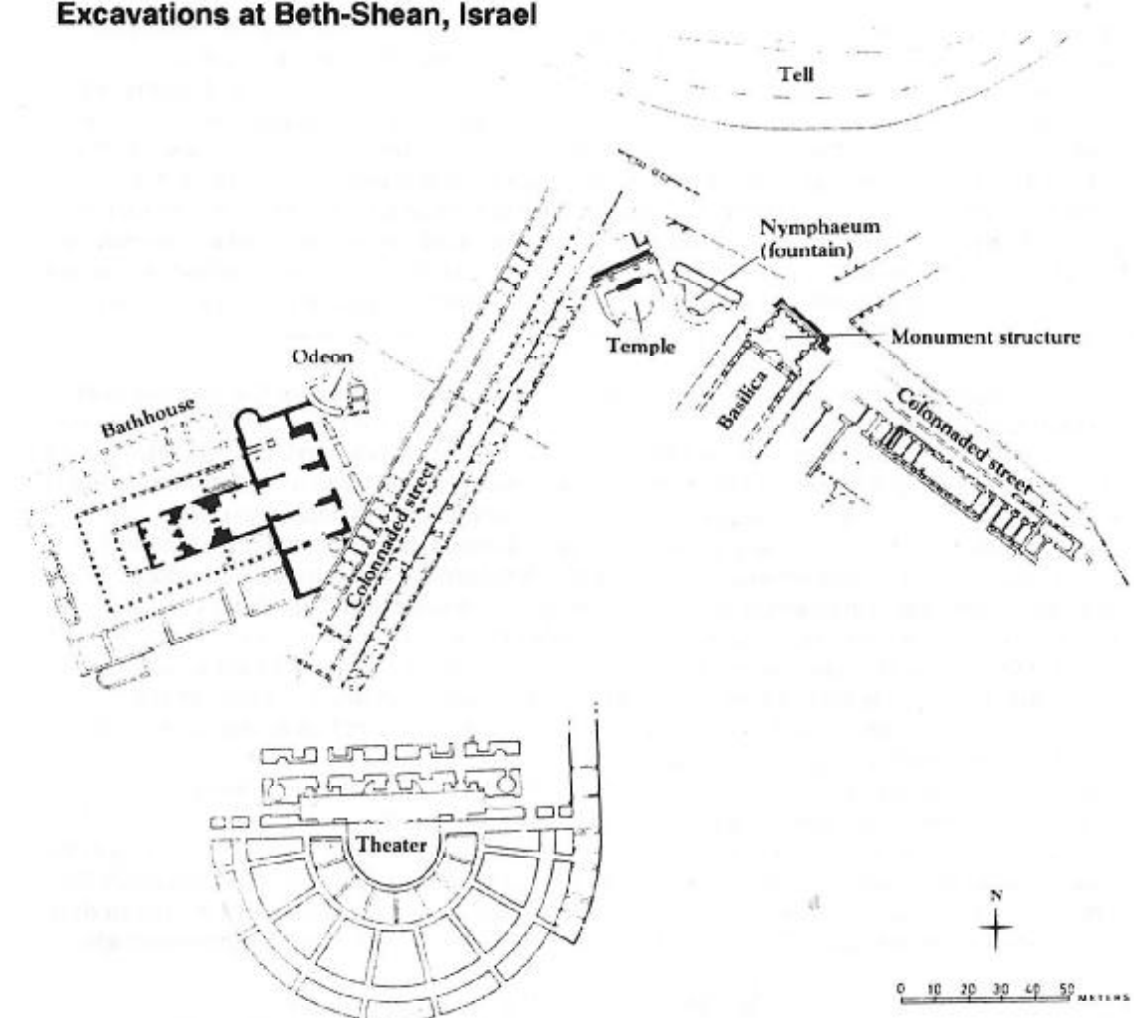
ISRAEL: STATE OF THE ART Oct.10-Nov.29 BARBICAN CENTRE

The biggest single event devoted to the culture of Israel ever mounted in England: Music from the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra; "Chagall to Kitaj", an exhibition bringing together some of the greatest artists of the 20th Century; over 50 years of Israeli cinema; theatre; photography-Capa and Bar Am's "no frills" record of the evolution of a state; literature; craft and design; science; and archaeology.....

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEMINAR

Cinema 2 Sunday Oct.14 3p.m. Tickets 2.50

Excavations at Beth-Shean, Israel



The site of Beth-Shean, near the Jordan river, is currently the largest and one of the most spectacular excavations in Israel. Occupation begins in the Neolithic, and during the Iron Age it was a Philistine city. In the Hellenistic period the town moved down from the tell site, and it then went through various phases of Roman, Byzantine and Arab reconstructions. The site has many Roman monuments, including both a theatre (above) and an amphitheatre.

The principal excavator, Professor Yoram Tsafrir, will be giving a lecture about the site.

Green Chris Reports:

WHAT PRICE THE APPLICATION OF ARCHAEOLOGY?

British Archaeology is in a mess. It has expanded enormously in the last decade but in a very imbalanced way and on a very insecure basis. Enormous sums have been spent on urban excavations in major cities while small towns, villages and the countryside have often been ignored. Just visit the countryside and see the fresh chalk on the southern uplands as another swathe is cut through the rural sites - so much for monument protection. Observe small town shopping centres or dormitory housing estates spring up in villages with nor or minimal archaeological surveillance - so much for preservation of the record for the study of urban origins.

The work that has been done has been through necessity carried out where the developer money can be obtained and against the background of English Heritage abrogating responsibility for even the shadow of a National Antiquities Service. Just as this Country is the only one in Europe to have no local authority for its capital city so it is the only one to have no National Archaeological Service that gives a comprehensive coverage to the regions. As it is, in the late 80's a system has been allowed to develop which is totally dependent on the vagaries of the economy with no continuity of academic research or of educative service to the public. The present economic downturn, impending recession, call it what you will, should be an opportunity for research, publication and new means to explain the results to the public, not a time of redundancies and the bankruptcy of Units. But then I suppose that is all one can expect under Thatcherism, and its archaeological progeny, English Heritage.

One depressing result of developer dependent archaeology is that despite the successes of co-operation with the generous and enlightened firms there can still be published articles such as that in Chartered Surveyor Weekly (3/5/90). It was clearly intended to be provocative but if it represented widespread views in the construction industry then it augurs badly for the future of co-operation or dependency. I quote 'British obsession with history costs and often wastes developers money. Last year archaeological investigations cost at least 50 million. Much of this was spent on turning up trivia which added nothing to historical knowledge'. The article then goes on to emphasise the great costs of archaeology, the disruption and delay to building and the trivial results. Indeed policy holders in one Assurance company could, it was claimed, challenge the use of funds for such ends. Two more topical quotes. 'Often the developer is left not knowing whether this sum is a true representation of likely cost or simply a contribution to archaeology in general' - Of Vintners Place - a contribution of 80,000 was made and the support works cost another 200,000. However 'no new discovery was made a nothing will remain visible to the public'. I know it's unfair, it's a polemic and anyway who ensured that nothing will remain visible? Who buried Dominant House and threatened the Rose with destruction? Of course, the write was implicitly calling for cheap, cowboy archaeology courtesy of the Wainwright system, or alternatively the abandonment of sites, avoiding the hindrance of any archaeological presence. No doubt they will shortly obtain their desired result, courtesy of organisations funded by English Heritage.

So, what has this to do with Green issues? Simply that we 'undersell' the archaeological 'product', to use current jargon. We under-estimate the value of our work and do not explain or exploit the results in the context of today. In a way the Chartered Surveyor article is right - we often do not seem to produce much and do not explain its wider significance. In the search for objectivity we lose the wider interpretation. One recent DUA employee considered that by joining a City firm they were joining the 'Real World', whereas I would see much business activity as highly artificial and irrelevant to the serious issues of the present and future and, conversely, archaeology as addressing higher priorities.

There is a growing awareness of the Past as a valuable resource and the Green-word is beginning to appear in the titles of archaeological papers. Phrases alluding to learning from history, or looking at the present a perspective in of centuries crop up in the unlikely places. Here are a few recent examples. At a meeting about the Gulf Crises Tony Benn repeated the old phrase 'if you don't know where you come from you don't know where you're going' but of course he was talking in terms of post-medieval politics. Sara Parkin of the Greens has stated before now that the party has 'a perspective of their centuries' but at this meeting concentrated on the ecological pressures, mainly competition for water supply, that recently fuelled border conflict in the Middle East. For me that begged the questions as to why fertile land and water supplied were so rare now in that region. The answer, surely, is millenia of erosive agriculture, over hunting and the consequent (?) warfare that seems to have plagued the region.

This was rather the point that was made by Clive Ponting at the British Association Meeting in August (Yes, he of Belgrano fame, now a researcher at University College, Swansea). He spoke on "historical perspectives on the environmental crises", his main thesis being that in early civilisations poor agricultural methods allowed population growth in the short term but then left them stranded without a secure food supply as the lands degraded. "In the end the unwanted and unexpected side effects of what at first appeared to be solutions to environmental difficulties became problems themselves". They . . . destroyed the environment they relied on and therefore their social structure. This is exactly what I believe and it is pleasing to see some one saying it at such a gathering as the BA but, once again, poor old Archaeology is not mentioned, not given credit, not pointed up as the real objective source of the data. The examples quoted by Ponting seem to be derived from the material, Archaeological record not the conscious, Historical sources. I wonder how many of our colleagues were present or how many spoke at this important annual conference?

The arguments put forward by Ponting may be hotly contested as very subjective interpretations of the record but objective archaeological data could at least be summoned as a check or corroboration, or the source of improved ideas on Human Influence on the environment. He has at least shown that Archaeological data is useful that it could be brought into the debate of present-day issues. We are not divorced from our Past, we have to contend with its aftermath. Or, the Past is not a foreign country, to paraphrase L.P. Hartley.

What I suggest is the application of Archaeology; if we have Applied Physics then why not Applied Archaeology? This could cover such topics as Climatic and volcanic activities as registered in the archaeological sequence, Early Agriculture, its impact on the ecosystem and past methods including those that might be revived today, and Past Populations, studying the incidence of disease, environmental influences of early cultures on their populations and the contentious issue of racial groupings and mixings of peoples.

The study of past technologies could cover those appropriate 'low-tech' system that they could usefully be revived but also provide a warning of the perils of unregulated industries, the pollution of the past, the damage of primitive mining but could also point up the use of renewable, biodegradable materials. The study of recent industrial activities has commercial possibilities and an important factor in present rehabilitation of derelict lands.

I could continue but there is more here than simply the marketing of the Past as 'Cultural Heritage Resource Management' or whatever the present jargon is. The problem is people might not like what they hear, the Past would cease to be an easy escape route from the problems of today but there is, apart from the warnings, also some good buried amongst the bones, waiting to be disinterred: there is also a message of hope.

This is a long way from the practicalities of developer-dependent Archaeology but it is to state

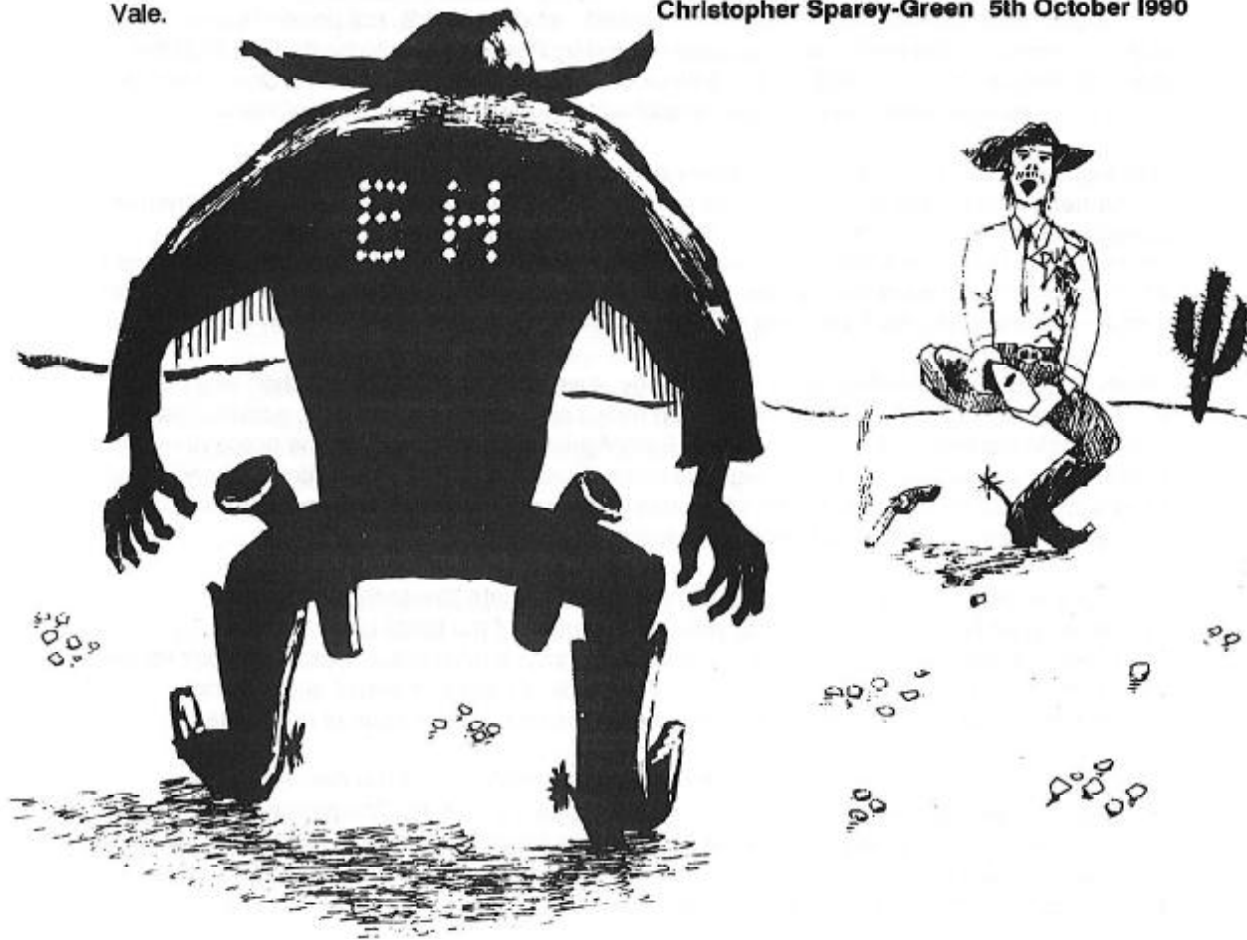
that the end-product of dirt archaeology is not trivial but could and should play its part in improving the human lot. The results could and must be applied to argue for a sensible sustainable future. Such an archaeology is not going to be attractive to business people who think a future is something you trade in or the hard nosed developer whose main concern is the cost in terms of time and money in satisfying the archaeological conditions put on a planning approval. Any future presentations to developers could hardly emphasise what City excavations tell us of the wholesale forest clearance of the Roman period and its impact on environment when the firms are probably heavily investing in clearing the remaining tropical woodland. . Would a firm fund future work or research publications if we were to dwell on the awful living conditions of Romano-British artisans, or Saxon and Medieval leather workers, and how these same conditions are now imposed on the Third World by the investment policies of City Banks? Unless there is change in government, and a rare adherence to stated policies once elected, there is un-likely to be a revival of state funded archaeology; just look at the recent White Paper to see what priority the Thatcher regime gives even to their conception of 'Heritage', its so short on ideas and policy that even the rhetoric is non-existent.

Applied Archaeology would have to find some enlightened research bodies or an adventurous University. Applied Archaeology could not depend on developers, but then can any Archaeology?

Si monumentum requiris, curcumpice.

Vale.

Christopher Sparey-Green 5th October 1990



Dick Whittington

P
r
e
s
e
n
t
s



A DUA extravaganza

PARTY

At Plasterers Hall
On Friday 12th October 1990
From 4.30pm onwards....

THIS MONTH'S STARSIGN: LIBRA Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Libra is undeniably a sign for the stars, numbering in their midst Alvin Stardust, Evel Knievel, and Barbara Castle. The DUA is/was littered with Librans, no department could pull itself through the day without their sense of justice, charm, diplomacy, unshakeable sense of balance, and inability to make up their minds. Rysz, Liz, Stef, Martin, Cathy, Jim, Angela, Mary, Sheraton, Tim, Andy, Sean, Juanita, Shahina, Sarah, and many others this is your month. Happy birthday.

Billingsgate Bath House Sprouts Mushrooms

Both Jeremy and Ron have refused to comment, but reports are circulating that the Roman timbers at BBH are sprouting Ink Caps, be they shaggy or common nobody's saying. Both are edible, though avoid alcohol if you go eating common ink caps. Shaggy ink caps on the other hand have a very delicate flavour that benefits from a touch of garlic. Those lucky enough to be working on the bath house can take advantage of the following recipe from Roger Phillips' 'Wild Food'.

Baked Egg and Ink Caps (serves 2-4)

6 ink caps
4 eggs
1 clove garlic
Pepper and salt
Butter

Clean and chop the ink caps, discarding the stems, and fry for two minutes in butter. (I've never got past this stage). Butter four cocotte dishes, add an egg to each and then top with the half cooked mushrooms. Flavour with pepper and salt and a tiny squeeze of fresh garlic on each. Bake in a pre-heated, hot oven 200c (400f mark 6). The ink caps reduce a lot on cooking so this sort of dish, where you add them as flavouring to eggs or something else is ideal.

There are hundreds of edible varieties of mushroom around at this time of year, well recommended are: Wood Blewits (my favourite, but sadly often a favourite of maggots); Giant Puff-balls, fried in egg and bread-crumbs; Parasols; Boletus; and Chicken in the Woods, for the beautiful gold of its colour.

Recommended reading? Roger Phillips, he knows.

BILLINGSGATE BATH HOUSE MONTHLY REPORT

The Bath House

The foundations of the *Frigidarium* walls were exposed where Victorian drains had cut away the upper courses. Investigation of these exposed areas revealed that some reconstruction of the foundations had occurred in recent times. This reconstruction has been dismantled by Nimbus leaving only that which is demonstrably original.

The North Wing

The recording of this area is now complete.

The East Wing

The North-Western corner of Room 4 and the southern part of the corridor linking Room 3 have been recorded.

Finds Report

The finds (excluding timbers) and soil samples have been transferred to the museum. These finds remain the property of the Corporation of London and may return to the site for display.

A man from Aberdeen and his wife called in on their way to Pompeii.
So long and thanks for all the fish.

WOZZECK

by Alban Berg after the play by Georg Buchner

The production plays it straight. It is refreshing to be without goose-steps or black-shirts in a drama about the illusion of personal power. The set is constructed largely of corrugated iron and splits into a balcony and a stage with windows and doors let into the front-drop. This allows each episode to claim its own space, which enforces the sense of separate character vignettes.

The music is marvellous and it is played with assurance and understanding. Berg demands tremendous vocal range and technical expertise from his singers: this case rises to the challenge. Donald Maxwell seems slightly dubious about the lower notes of Wozzeck's part, but this is to quibble at fine singing performance and a masterly portrayal of character.

Wozzeck is a well-meaning, inoffensive, slightly ineffectual man overtaken by events in the world at large and within his own head; an individual impotent in the face of Fate. The portents of disaster in scene 2 are all musical, no snazzy, superfluous stage-effects for the ENO- and they are superfluous, the music alone is enough to turn your stomach over and wring. Like Hamlet's ghost, they send our hero mad (or not). Berg's madness is no raving lunacy, but a Freudian neurosis with the relativity of Pirandello.

I still don't understand Marie. She is Wozzeck's mistress and basically wants a good time. How she falls for the Drum Major, who is this production is a 100% repulsive, fat, bearded, brutal, slob is beyond me. If she likes violence how did she end up with Wozzeck in the first place? To play Marie's infidelity for passion rather than money is a mistake. Cash is more convincing.

Marie dies in a state of grace, having pleaded for mercy at the tale of Mary Magdalene, which is her son's bedtime story. Wozzeck dies of Melancholia. Each are cocooned in a state of suspended equilibrium, whether this be Nirvana or the wait for Judgement. The children suffer, but go on, incidentally proving Maxwell-Davies' notion that there is nothing inherently more difficult about 7:4 than 4:4.

This is a wonderful opera and I enjoyed it enormously. There are performances at the Coliseum in St. Martin's Lane on 4th, 10th, 12th, 17th, 19th and 25th October at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are 10 standby at the door (you'll get in). Go and see it!

Alex Bayliss



The River Merchant's Wife: A Letter

While my hair was still cut short across my forehead
I played about the front gate, pulling flowers.
You came by on bamboo stilts, playing horse,
You walked about my seat, playing with blue plums.
And we went on living in the same village of Chokan;
Two small people, without dislike or suspicion.

At fourteen I married My Lord you.
I never laughed, being bashful.
Lowering my head, I looked at the wall.
Called to, a thousand times, I never looked back.

At fifteen I stopped scowling,
I desired my dust to be mingled with yours
Forever and forever and forever.
Why should I climb the look-out?

At sixteen you departed,
You went into far Ku-to-en, by the river of swirling eddies,
And you have been gone five months.
The monkeys make sorrowful noise overhead.

You dragged your feet when you went out.
By the gate now, the moss is grown, the different mosses,
Too deep to clear them away!
The leaves fall early this autumn, in wind.
The paired butterflies are already yellow with August
Over the grass in the West garden;
They hurt me. I grow older.
If you are coming down through the narrows of the river Kiang,
Please let me know beforehand,
And I will come out to meet you
As far as Cho-fu-Sa.

E.P.



100 Museum of London archaeologists laid off

By NICHOLAS WATT AND SIMON TAIT

ARCHAEOLOGISTS who made such important recent discoveries in London as the Rose playhouse and Huggin Hill baths are to lose their jobs as the Museum of London sheds at least a quarter of its 400 archaeological staff.

They are victims of a slump in the construction industry, which has sponsored most of their work, and there are warnings of further cuts in

London and in other parts of the country. Harvey Sheldon, the museum's greater London archaeology officer, said 100 jobs were to be phased out over the next month on a "last in, first out" basis.

"It is a desperately sad situation for the archaeologists now out of work. We operate on tight budgets and are reacting to the cancellation of many projects in the last few weeks," he said.

English Heritage has encouraged

planning authorities to ask developers to fund excavations on important sites before construction work. The authorities cannot force developers to fund archaeologists, although they can refuse planning permission if no money has been set aside.

The present round of redundancies will not mean a halt to existing excavations but hopes of investigating a number of potentially important sites have been dashed, including a Roman settlement in Brentford and the 13th-century monastic community at Spitalfields. Richard Morris, the research officer of the Council for British Archaeology, said: "The job losses are an inevitable but regrettable consequence of a system that ties archaeology to the market."

"The planning system is geared to giving permission and the government is hell-bent on establishing a voluntary system of funding. A good system is breaking up and expertise is being lost."

Museum to lose 100 jobs

THE Museum of London is to lose at least a quarter of its 400 staff of archaeologists because of the crisis in the property industry, writes Mira Bar-Hillel.

In recent years archaeology in London has been almost entirely funded by property developers who gave the museum time and money to carry out excavations before construction work took place.

But now virtually no new developments are being started in London. The museum's archaeology officer for Greater London, Harvey Sheldon, said today: "We cannot keep so many people on when the work isn't there. We'll probably have to deal with the problem on a 'last in, first out' basis."

English Heritage said it was setting up an archaeological advisory services on a borough by borough basis which would create jobs.

Shake-up 'threat to London past'

LONDON MPs were meeting English Heritage today to hear its reasons for introducing radical new arrangements for archeology in London.

Three MPs were due to demand an explanation from Jenny Page, Chief Executive of English Heritage. The organisation is the Government's adviser on archaeology and the statutory protector of ancient monuments.

English Heritage plans to phase out annual grants totalling £460,000 to the Museum of London and the Passmore Edwards Museum over the next three years, and to transfer the money to a budget for individual projects.

It wants to up its own planning section to vet the 90,000 applications made in London each year for sites of possible archaeological importance, and plans to introduce "competitive tendering" for archaeological work in London.

The proposals come after two public debates last year. The Government intervened after a public outcry to save the Shakespearean Rose Theatre, and one of northern Europe's finest private Roman bath houses was lost to public display and partly destroyed at Huggin Hill Baths.

Both English Heritage and the Museum of London claim the incidents were the fault of the other.

English Heritage claims its changes would prevent such incidents from happening again.

The Museum of London says the plans are being suggested out of spite, and would end 20 years of pioneering work and an unparalleled archaeological service.

"They would cripple our operation," said Harvey Sheldon, head of the Department of Greater London Archaeology, which investigates sites in 23 boroughs outside the City.

"They are talking about taking away the money on which all else depends—the

by Geraint Smith

money that houses our service, and drives it. Without that, there is no service."

A spokesman for English Heritage described the reaction as "hysterical."

"There is no question of this being the end of archaeology in London," he said.

"The service needs to be changed to prevent mistakes like those of last year from occurring again."

Barbican guide

Pentagram, a design consultancy firm, has been hired by the Corporation of London at a cost of £210,000 to suggest improvements to the Barbican Centre. A Pentagram spokesman said the firm hoped to help people find their way around the centre more easily.

Building slump hits archaeologists

HUMAN as well as mechanical diggers could be brought to a halt as the slump in London's construction industry goes on. Archaeologists are the latest victims of the building recession, writes Helen Hague.

The Museum of London wants to sack 120 of its 300 archaeologists. It plans to shed 49 jobs and will not renew 71 short-term contracts. Archaeologists have been in demand during London's construction boom because so much of the capital's history has been uncovered.

The Museum of London monitors planning applications in the capital and keeps an "archaeological constraints" map. This is available to developers to check for themselves whether the land they are bidding for is archaeologically sensitive.

It is in their best interests to do so as soon as possible. Costs can soar if their diggers hit an important part of London's buried heritage, because they have to stop work on the site while archaeologists examine it.

Now, as new development work

slows to a trickle, the archaeologists face the dole queue. Their union, the Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists, will put the case for saving the jobs at a special meeting of the museum's governors on Thursday.

Ian Findlay, the union's national heritage officer, said the slowdown in new building could provide "a golden opportunity to spend more time looking at London's hidden history".

Many of those who stand to lose their jobs are exploring opportunities in ruin-rich Italy.

The archaeologists are digging in . . .

THE CAPITAL'S archaeologists, discoverers of the Rose, the Globe and much more of the city's hidden past, are not taking the sudden laying-off of 120 of their number at the Museum of London lying down. They are not well paid (about £12,000 a year) and have a low profile. "Tell people there are 100 archaeologists in the country and they would be surprised," said one London supervisor. But the mass lay-off, attributed by the museum to the building slump, has angered them. Today their union, the Institution of Professional Managers and Specialists, confronts museum governors to question the sackings and the way digs are funded.

The Museum of London acknowledges the fragility of its financing. "The slump simply underlines the need for proper core funding," says Harvey Sheldon, archaeology officer for Greater London. "In 1983 public funding met 80 per cent of our establishment costs. Now it pays for only half."

English Heritage, the core funder, plans to phase out its annual grant to the museum and use the money to fund individual projects.

Football Round-up

Northside Jonny reporting

In the most exciting season since Arsenal last won something, the North London giants find themselves 8 points clear at the top having played 3 games fewer than their nearest rivals Crystal Palace. Once again the Merseyside clubs are engaged in sad battle to avoid relegation, while Manchester United have had their Euro ambitions smartly curtailed by Welsh juggernauts Wrexham.

In the lower divisions Brentford have improved their promotion chances with a 3-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur.

Chelsea don't even get mentioned in this article.

A Galloping Music Poll

- 1 In League with Satan Glen Medeiros
 2 Itsy Bity Tinsy Winsy Yellow Polka Dot Ninja Turtle Sonic Yoof
 3 I'm a Leprechaun... I really am ...honest! The Waterboyz
 4 Happy Days are here Again The Leonard Cohen Story

Sorry to see Bad Beach's 'Fishy Wishy Tail Tails in the Sea' slipping out of the charts.

Stop Press:

Entire site file index faxed to unknown destination in France as Dave Dobson takes the controls - should have been Basildon.

HE'S NOT MY LOVE CHILD CLAIMS GARY NELSON

Gary Nelson, Albions golden boy, today denied that there is any truth in the rumour that he is David Coldwell's father. The striking resemblance between the two has got tongues wagging and the question arose, 'is David, Gary's love child.'

Nelson, who spoke exclusively with Gulls Ear, told us, 'I'm nearly 30 and Dave's 19, work it out for yourselves.' A school friend of Gary's, Tony Blanch informed us that at the age of 10 Gary was only interested in football and that he didn't start dating girls on a serious basis until he was at least fourteen. Once again, Gulls Ear, first again to squash pathetic little stories that have a rather boring habit of circulating around the Goldstone.
