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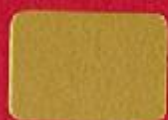
THE MUSEUM OF
LONDON

DUA

letter
News

ISSUE No. 7

April 1989



DUA ARCHIVE COPY

INTRODUCTION

Contributions to the Newsletter are still being volunteered in a steady stream, but, despite the strong request within the questionnaire, there are no letters for the 'letters page'. Any opinions, thoughts, grouses or light hearted contributions will be included unedited, as long as they are signed.

The copy deadline for the May issue of the Newsletter will be the end of the day on Thursday 27 April 1989.



A MESSAGE FROM BRIAN HOBLEY

Brian Hobley, Chief Urban Archaeologist, is taking early retirement and will be leaving the Department at the end of March 1989. He leaves this message for all DUA staff -

'I wish all staff good luck and fortune in their careers and work in the DUA. I shall badly miss the stimulus of working together with all staff, as well as the challenge of meeting the many rescue demands of archaeology in the City - my prime objective since December 1973 when I started.'



NEW STAFF

The following staff joined the Department in March at Grade 3 -

Tim Carpenter
Mark Dymond
Tim Neighbour
Jonathan Rees
Kit Watson
David Hollar
Erica Saracino

and at Grade 4 -

Caoimhe O'Brien
Simon McCudden

Staff transferred from DGLA -

Jennifer Hill
Michael Tunnicliffe
Mark Atkinson

The following will join in April at Grade 3 -

Simon Jeffrey
Damian Grady
Luke Fagan
David McEwan-Cox
John Hudswell
R Pilling

Transferred from DGLA in April -

D Cooper

Staff transferred from Environmental -

Martin Bates

Resignations in March -

Nick Churchill
Kim Cronk
Tracy Wilson
Nick Shepherd

Contract terminated -

Roy Davies

Transferred to DGLA finds -

Patsy Philips

**STAFF
APPOINTMENTS**

Jeremy Oetgen has been appointed to co-supervise excavations at 158-164 Bishopsgate with Simon Poole.

Kieron Tyler has been appointed to work on the GPO post-excavation.

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING EXCAVATIONS AND WATCHING BRIEFS 1989

TODAY'S DATE:

30/3/89

April

May

June

July

NAME OF SITE		April					May					June				July			
		3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31
America Square	JH/TN								10	10	10	10	10	10					
Guildhall Yard	JH					*													
Dominant House	HB	23	23	23	23	23	20	20	20										
Thames Exchange	JH	5	5	5	5	5													
10 Friar St	TN	10	10	10	10	10													
Cannon Street Station	ST		4		6	14	14	14	11	11									
Cutlers Court	RE																		
Vintry	RE																		
8-11 Crescent	TN										10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
168-170 Bishopsgate wb	MN																		
7-11 Moorgate wb	MN																		
22-25 Austin Friars	TN	5	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	10	5								
Ludgate Car Parks Area A	RE	10	10	10	10	10													
Ludgate Car Parks Area B	RE																		
Ludgate Car Parks Area C2	RE																		
Ludgate Car Parks Area D	RE																		
Ludgate Car Parks Area E	RE																		
Ludgate Car Parks Area F	RE																		
Ludgate Car Parks Area H	RE																		
Ludgate Car Parks Area J	RE										8	8	8						
Ludgate Shafts 2B wb	RE		3	3	3														
Ludgate Shafts 4A	RE	4																	
Ludgate Shafts 4B	RE								4	4	4								
Fleet Valley Section 2	RE	13	13	13	13	7	7	21	14	14	14	14	14						
Fleet Valley Section 3/AS	RE	4	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8								
Fleet Valley Section 3/BB	RE	11	15	20	20	12	12	12	12	12									
Fleet Valley Section 3/BH	RE					4	4	4	4	4	4	8	8	4	4	4	4	4	
Fleet Valley Section 4/E	RE																		
Fleet Valley Section 6/LA	RE																		
Fleet Valley Section 6/O1	RE					10	10	10	10	10	10	10							
Fleet Valley Section 6/O2	RE																		
Fleet Valley Section 7A	RE											10	10	10	10	10	10		
Fleet Valley Section 7B	RE											10	10	10	10	10	10		
Fleet Valley Section 7C	RE											10	10	10	10	10	10		
Fleet Valley Section 7D	RE																	10	
Fleet Valley Section 7E	RE																		
Fleet Valley Section 7/FL	RE					10	10	10	10	10	10	10							
Fleet Valley Section 8A	RE												15	15	15	15	15	15	
Fleet Valley Section 8B	RE												15	15	15	15	15	15	
Fleet Valley Section 8/HV	RE																		
21-37 Mincing Lane	MN																		
52 Gresham Street	MN	2																	
158-164 Bishopsgate	MN	3	8	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
6-8 Bouverie Street wb	TN																		
12-15 Finsbury Circus wb	TN																		
23-26 St. Dunstan's Hill	TN						5	5	5	5	5								
8T Bishopsgate	HB				2	2													
8T Blomfield Street	HB																		
1-4 Great Tower St	TN								14	14	14	14	14	14	14				
78 - 79 Leadenhall	HB													10	10	10	10	10	
34 - 35 Leadenhall	MN											*							
41-63 Bishopsgate	MN	10																	
52 - 62 London Wall	HB	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	16	
Ormond House	TN																		
Innholders Hall	HB				3	3	3												
1-3 Castle Court	ST				*														
Harrow Place	HB																		
55 Basinghall St	TN				6	6	6	6		2	2								
25 Savage Gardens	HB					3	3	3	3										
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF REQUIRED		105	116	117	135	153	128	139	147	138	107	109	145	127	119	105	105	106	
TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF AVAILABLE		118	130	127	131	132	131	130	129	126	125	124	124	124					

APRIL DIARY

- ▶ **Friday 7th April**
Developer Presentation for Little Britain.
Dave Lakin and Ian Greig will give a short talk to staff in the Boardroom at 4.30pm.
PLEASE NOTE that very few staff are now attending a separate presentation since it was moved from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. If few people attend on this date then we may consider ceasing to do a staff viewing altogether.

- ▶ **Monday 10th April**
Staff Forum - John Clark. 'Why plan for Disaster?' (work on a Museum of London disaster plan) 12.30pm Ed. Room C.

- ▶ **Thursday 13th April**
1.30pm Staff site visit to Dominant House

DUA STAFF ANNUAL REVIEW - 6.30pm Lecture Theatre
All DUA staff are invited to a review of the work of the DUA in the past year.
Brian Holey will summarise the year and John Maloney will talk about some of the main excavations.
There will then be a buffet and drinks in the Museum Entrance Hall.
This occasion will also be the Departmental leaving party for Brian Holey.

- ▶ **Thursday 20th April**
Developer Presentation for 2 Seething Lane
There will be a staff viewing in the boardroom at 4.30pm and Sarah Gibson will give a short illustrated talk.

- ▶ **Thursday 27th April**
1.30pm Staff site visit to Dominant House

- ▶ **Friday 28th April**
Developer Presentation for Cayzer House
There will be a staff viewing in the boardroom at 4.30pm and Vicky Ridgeway will give a short illustrated talk.

TRAINING

The training committee met on 28th February and approved the following funding from the training vote.

IFA89 3-5 April Birmingham.

Steve Allen
Robin Boast
James Drummond Murray
Bill Sillar
Zoe Tomlinson
Ruth Waller
Tim Williams

York University Workshops

(a) How do we get funding for archaeological projects

Rob Ellis
Simon O'Connor Thompson
John Maloney

(b) Drawing Plans and Sections

Susan Banks
Majella Egan
Tracy Wellman
Hester White

(c) Recording and interpreting Brick and Tile

Naomi Crowley
Jackie Keily
Susan Pringle

(d) Presenting Archaeology to the Public

Julie Carr
Tracy Wellman

(e) Archaeological Database and Design Management

Robin Boast
Natalie Tobert
Tim Williams

SCAUM - British Property Federation Conference

Hal Bishop
Rob Ellis
John Maloney
Marie Nally
Taryn Nixon
Simon O'Connor Thompson
Angus Stephenson.

FINDS REPORT

The last week of frantic activity at Thames Exchange yielded several stunning finds. Not the least is the negroid headed wooden scoop from the Roman foreshore. Not only is this wooden sculpture unique in London but it could be of great significance world wide, we have yet to discover its wood type, and thus whether it may have been carved in Africa. On Tuesday a pewter ring was found incised with Anglo-Saxon Runes; the first three Runes are the first three letters of the Runic alphabet, however the remainder have yet to be identified. On Wednesday a small Roman mother goddess type figurine about 15cm high floated through the pali Radice wall (that which is meant to keep the Thames out of the site - tee hee). This figure is similar to one found at Toulon sur Allier; a highly stylised woman sitting in a high backed cane chair suckling a child. Our mother goddess has, however, lost her head. Late on Friday afternoon a set of pan pipes were found in the Roman foreshore sealing the Roman quay. The set of four pipes, carved out of the same piece of wood, may represent the remains of a set of seven pipes, a more usual number in the pan pipe set. One side is decorated with concentric circles. A gold necklace with glass beads of green, amber and white, was also retrieved from the foreshore.

At Ludgate Car Parks Area A a complete green glazed water ewer was recovered from a 1m 40cm deep wooden barrel which had been dug into the ground. This extremely well preserved wooden barrel is to be lifted for conservation. The same site has also produced a two pronged bone handled Georgian fork and a silver denarius of Constantine. Area 2 Fleet Valley has produced a bronze disc decorated with a lion; this may be a guild's seal, or a commemorative item given to guilds.

Dominant House, apart from producing mountains of building material, has the only in situ ceramic water pipe yet to be found in London. Also found on the site were several box flue tiles, some Roman lamps and some good quality 1st century glass.

At London Wall a possible stone template mould for tin has been found in a context whose pottery date would suggest a use prior to 200 AD. The site has also produced the 19th bone spoon from Roman London together with a palaeolithic tool of Acheulian type.

Various members of finds section visited the Courage Brewery sieving project on 23rd March and discussed both its importance and continued use within field, finds and environmental departments. The most recent noteworthy individual find has been a small amber Roman intaglio with a horse and a fish motif.

Alex Moore

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Objects Treated in Lab

BOY86 textile fragments;
 TEX88 composite (metal/leather) objects;
 SUN86 and BOY86 wood objects;
 LBT86 glass, copper alloy brooch and gilded stud, as well as a Saxo-Norman pot for a developer display.

The pot had been block lifted, as it was cracked and fragile, but near complete. It was found upside down, in a pit, dug into a brickearth floor containing the pot alone. The contents of the pot were excavated in the lab., while sticking together the loose fragments. The base had fallen to pieces, resting near the rim level; therefore, the contents reflected only the context above the floor. Alas, no hoard or any other discernible feature was found within - quite mysterious really.

Several notable objects from TEX88 have recently come into the lab: a small ring with runes (the inscription is being moulded, to be sent off for translation by specialists), a Roman gold bracelet/necklace with glass beads, wood pan pipes and the 'African' scoop (covered in the press and BBC radio Africa). The wood objects are about to undergo an acetone/rosin treatment and should be on view for a major TEX developer display on April 17th.

Objects Attended to in the Field

March was a quiet month so far as lifting objects off site was concerned; although at the time of press a novel technique is being applied to the lifting of a medieval barrel well on Ludgate Hill watch this space for news on how it proceeds.

Lectures given and Press/Radio Interviews

Dana Goodburn Brown gave 2 lectures and practical demonstrations to Institute of Archaeology conservation students at Birkbeck College on the Scanning Electron Microscope and its analytical facilities.

Rose Johnson and Robert Payton were 'on the air' on G.L.R. 'Tim's about'.

Suzanne Keene and Kate Starling were interviewed for an article in The Times Careers column.

Dana was interviewed by BBC radio Africa on the treatment of the TEX88 wooden scoop.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

A new member of staff will be joining the Environmental Department in the week beginning 3 April and he is Nigel Nayling. Nigel will be employed as a dendrochronologist and will work on current DUA material so that we can speed up our output of dating.

One interesting aspect of recent work has been the potential for investigating the sediments at Vintry House and in particular those associated with what is commonly called the 'Saxon bank'. Field examination and description of these silty clay sediments gave the impression that they had been deposited under fluvial conditions and were not likely to have been dumped by people. An analysis of the textural, magnetic and biological properties of samples taken through the sequences is currently being undertaken and will hope to determine the environment of deposition and possibly add a new interpretation to these features.

Another area where much interest has been focused is on the processing at the Courage Brewery site in Southwark. This was set up in January of this year as a joint environmental, field and finds venture, and our aim has been to bulk sieve material, initially from the waterfront excavations (TEX, LYD, VRY) for finds and environmental material. The reasoning behind this was that we have very few assemblages of animal bone and pottery where we can use the material for statistical analysis due to the biases inherent in the method of collection. Therefore bulk samples of between 200 and 500 litres were taken from the reclamation dumps and foreshore deposits, between revetments datable through dendrochronology, and sieved to 8 mm and 4 mm. No finds or environmental material were removed prior to the sample being taken and as a result we now have representative samples of animal bone and pottery, plus other small finds, from contexts where a known volume of material has been taken and everything larger than 4 mm collected.

In order to process this material rapidly a cement mixer, the very one in the photo, has been adapted by cutting out the internal paddles and replacing them with rubber tubing. This machine is then used to break up the samples, but not the finds! The resultant slurry is passed through the sieves and the finds and environmental material collected. From the material we have recovered so far it is evident that there is a more diverse range of pottery fragments and animal bone than that which has been hand collected from the same contexts on site. However this does not mean you should all stop hand collecting material in preference to bulk samples, for the former does provide invaluable information both in its own right and as a complement to the bulk sieving.

The most notable single items recently recovered by sieving all come from the drain fill associated with the revetment at Cannon Street. These have included an intaglio, comb fragments and an interesting worked bone which Finds are currently looking at.

James Rackham

**SOME REALLY
QUITE THRILLING
NEWS FROM THE
OLD WORLD OF
WOOD.**

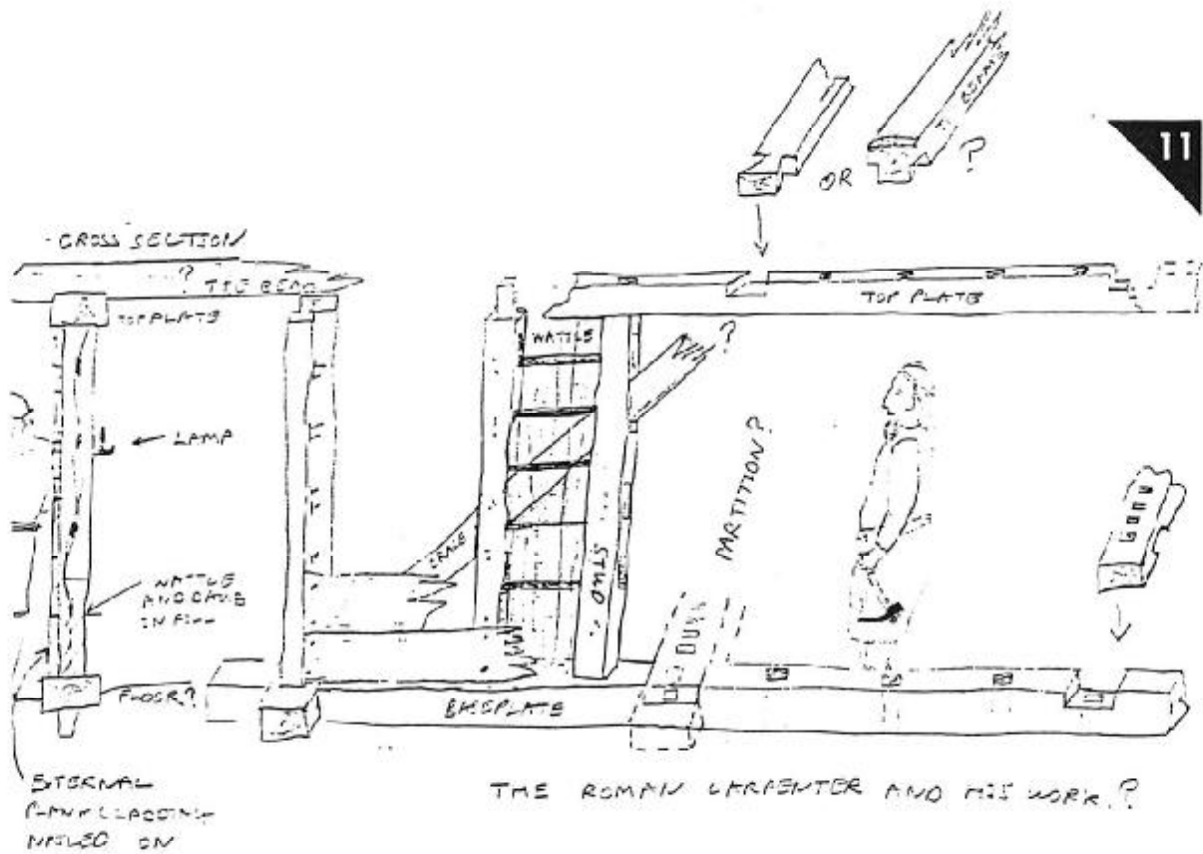
On 23 March an open day was held at Courages to show DUA staff how the bulk sieving operation works. Following a meeting with Environmental, Field and Finds personnel to discuss the relative merits and future direction of the project, the site was open for any interested to visit. The most impressive turn out (the only turn out!!) came from the Fleet Valley Project where the total field team arrived en masse. Thanks for this go to Bill McCann who appreciates the value of the exercise. For those of you who did not see the memo or felt there was not any merit in the exercise (a rather sad and misguided stance) we will be repeating the exercise in the future.

A final point of interest is the fine collection of desiccated birds recovered from the chimney at 52 Gresham Street. Many thanks to Tony Mackinder for drawing attention to them, even if he wouldn't pick them up. Once the flesh is removed they can be added to the reference collection - any volunteers?

London, Lundenwic, and Londinium have all yielded up to our department's probing trowels some enlightening relics of early woodworking. Our team struggles against heavy odds to wrest the faint footprints of axe, adze and twybill from the cold ground. The silhouettes of the wood workers of yore are still faint but every day's toil makes their outlines firmer. [Some of you will ken the pun others can chisel it out of me when next our paths cross].

Of Londinium, I feel we are now, through the intrepid efforts of the LYDdites able to say much more. The skills of the carpenters, whether free or enslaved, were fossilised under the iron road at Cannon Street. They had built a house of middling fineness of youthful oaks and earth, this they did join together with mortise and tenon and halvings and capped the walls with beams held fast with fair lap dovetails. Britannia's mists and storms did attack the tan soil between the timbers, so they contrived to cut wide planks and nail them over. The buildings so made as my sketch does reveal, stood for many years and their gloomy interiors were lighted with oil lamps slung from the slender wall studs. A careless ancient did let the lamps burn fiercely so they did scorch some of the said studs in the form of their flames.

The rude carpenters of Lundenwic would not know all the tools of their ancient guild fathers, for one carpenter, while the rotten empire did die, hid all the saws that Londinium's carpenters have used. It was not for many hundreds of years that those saws were found again and they could leave their scratchy signature. That scratchy toil the rude Saxon and Dane did not know, but he hath knowledge from before history of how to make all things of wood using but few tools and libraries of unwritten skill. The rays that weaken but also beautify our native oaks were used by the rude but wiley Saxon to make boats, houses, and MILLS. The earth itself speaks volumes of this skill and sometimes belches forth the tools that were once held in the house and stem smiths hands. The axe and auger from the Thames Exchange, are just as they were lost by their Saxon owner. The ubiquitous wattle fenced in all and with mighty staves of oak might keep the wild Danes at bay. But several boats were



wrecked fit no longer to ride the Thames' playful waves, just a few of their black oak bones did survive for us to ponder on. But of the nails which did bind them together there can be found many in Vintry: one must picture there, as at the New fresh Wharf, the "beach workshop" mingling with the beach markets.

To make a bank against which the boats could berth the townsfolk did simply cut many crooked trees that grew like weeds inside the reef of the old Latin walls of Londinium and clothed them with a mantle of sticky clay. Richard the malter and co found them there and even found one of the posts used to hold the boats against the tide.

Did one of the sons of the merchants who went to Lundenwic come back many years later and bring in a great barrel of pine, fish or wine known now as retsina? Whoever did bring that barrel there truly shocked the coopers of Norman times as in England they knew riven oak and beech but not the knobby pine. Still they would have seen the marks of tools they knew as they knew their own hands, the foreign cooper used drawshave flat and hollow and must have used a great plane too. He must also have ridden that coopers nag the shaving horse, to hold still the staves long as he was tall.

At Ludgate only a few years after I write wells will be needed. They will be made round and of brick, but in their bottom course a true circle of oak will they use. It being curved and so much like part of a ship a shipwright will be asked to fashion it. He will use the crooked compass oak and hold all rigid with treenails neatly made and tightened with wedges. The carpenters may laugh at his strong and laborous work saying "why don't you use the Norway pine and new nails like us?" But the ruddy shipwright replies "my guild uses oak no spongy pine except in decks where we leave it only a few years, as you see at the school for boys across the Fleet where the ground is being made solid with beams from gallant ships".

Damian Goodburn

PUBLICATIONS OUTSIDE THE HBMC PROGRAMME.

Having spent some time over the last few weeks attempting to define what the department's approach to publication outside of the HBMC programme is, and consequently finding out what my job is about, I think it might be useful to summarise for everyone the range of non-HBMC publication work.

INTERIM REPORTS

Not publications as such but they can act as a link between the excavation itself and the production of a 'glossy' type publication. On a more practical note every site from now on will produce an interim report, primarily for the benefit of the sites developers. Such interims will summarise the main findings of the excavation in five or six pages. It is hoped that the production of these can be streamlined so that they will take up very little of the available post-excavation time.

GLOSSY BOOKS

This includes such books as *The Garden House* (Throgmorton Avenue), *St. Paul's Vista*, (Sunlight Wharf) and in preparation a book on the Birchin Lane site. Another four or five such books are in the pipeline. One of the biggest problems with such projects is obtaining sufficient funding to justify the amount of work involved. This problem has largely been resolved by obtaining additional print runs (paid for by the sponsor) for sale in the Museum Shop. For example a thousand copies of *The Garden House* book were 'donated' to the DUA and have sold well in the shop with all proceeds going to the City of London Archaeological Trust Fund. So not only are such books useful in fostering good relations with developers but they can actually generate some additional income towards archaeological rescue work.

ANNUAL REVIEW

Production of the 1988 Annual Review is now underway, this will summarise all the excavations of the year, in a popular style for consumption by the public, developers and other archaeologists. Further detail will be given on ten particular excavations which have been selected to show both the range of conditions we work in and give coverage to all periods. Short sections reviewing the work of the other sections of the department, (such as excavations office, finds, environmental, computing and publication etc.), will be included. Hopefully the Annual Review should be ready in July(?). (NB. As an appendix a list of all staff who worked for the department in 1988 will be included, if anyone has a personal reason for not wanting to be included could you let me know immediately).

TECHNIQUES MANUAL(S)

The production of the Site Manual is also underway, a rather smaller version of the draft is being prepared for printing, (again expect it in July?) The text will cover how to complete the context sheets and include some further notes on recording and excavating. It will run to about 50 pages, be A5 in size and may or may not use plastic paper (it depends on the cost). The material from the manual that is not used in this small 'on-site' version might form the basis of a further publication, in the mean time the information will be circulated, for use within the department, as a series of reference manuals.

ARTICLES FOR JOURNALS/MAGAZINES

Such publications as London Archaeologist, British Archaeology and other journals all provide a chance for members of the DUA to write general articles or 'site reports' (I'll come back to this later). Recently Damian Goodburn and Ian Riddler have contributed articles to London Archaeologist, as have a number of DGLA staff. We have also been invited to provide British Archaeology with one or more articles on current work in London, if ANYONE (you don't have to be a senior archaeologist) is interested in preparing such an article(s) please get in touch with me. If you are currently working on an article for any such journal could you let me know please.

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS

In other words the archive report (level III) summaries with the 1:100 interpretation drawings published, virtually as they stand, in a quarterly or bi-annual journal. Not much progress on this at the moment, although an increasing number of archive reports are now being prepared in a suitable manner for inclusion. If this goes ahead soon it will provide an 'academic' outlet for the publication of individual site sequences, possibly with some element of finds and environmental input. Is this a good or not so good idea? If you have an opinion on this let me know.

New areas for non-HBMC publication work lie mainly in the direction of sponsored papers, pamphlets and books. Whilst at the moment such work tends to be site/excavation orientated I'd be pleased to hear from anyone who has any ideas about non-site orientated topics and/or suitable sponsors. You can contact me at Bridge House (329 0825).

Craig Spence

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*       in-the-Finds-Section
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FROM OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT ...members of the DUA abroad

Nicopolis Ad Istrum, Bulgaria.

Nicopolis Ad Istrum is located in northern Bulgaria, 15km north of Veliko Turnovo and c.40km south of the River Danube. The city was a Trajanic foundation on the Greek model and its prosperity during the 2nd and early 3rd centuries is shown by the many large-scale building programmes.

Literary evidence from numerous sources shows that Nicopolis suffered heavily during the Gothic invasions of the 3rd century; that in 347-8 Goths under Ulfila were settled in the city's territory; that the city was besieged by the Goths just before the catastrophic defeat of Valens at the Battle of Adrianople in 378; and that the city made a pact with the Goths contrary to the orders of the emperor Theodosius the Great.

A bishopric is attested for Nicopolis in 458 and 518, it benefited from Justinian's programme of refortification and, as late as 598, the city is mentioned in connection with the campaigns of Comentiolus, general of the Byzantine emperor, Maurice Tiberius. Soon after, the exact date is not known, the city was abandoned perhaps in favour of the naturally defended site of Veliko Turnovo to the south.

The site is still isolated and apart from some possible Hunnic activity there has been little or no intense post-Roman occupation. The Roman structures have suffered from frequent and, at times, systematic robbing. The stone walls and the stone foundations of the mud-brick buildings in the nearby village of Nikiup are largely composed of material robbed from Nicopolis. As recently as the mid-20th century, stone from the city was used to build the abutments for a nearby railway bridge. This activity has had one important advantage for the archaeologist. The robber trenches and upcast from them have survived and produce a detailed plan of the early city (Fig.1).

The Bulgarian/British project

In 1984 an agreement was signed between the University of Nottingham and the Institute of Archaeology, Sofia, under the auspices of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the British Academy, providing for archaeological collaboration. Among many other arrangements, this included a five-year programme of excavation and research by a British team on the site of Nicopolis Ad Istrum. The main intention of the British team was to examine the layout and history of the late Roman Nicopolis thus contributing to our understanding of late Roman urbanism

Dr. Andrew Poulter, Nottingham, the Director of the project, had previously suggested that the so-called castellum attached to the south-east side of the Roman city's defences was the site of the late Roman city. It was constructed after the abandonment of the

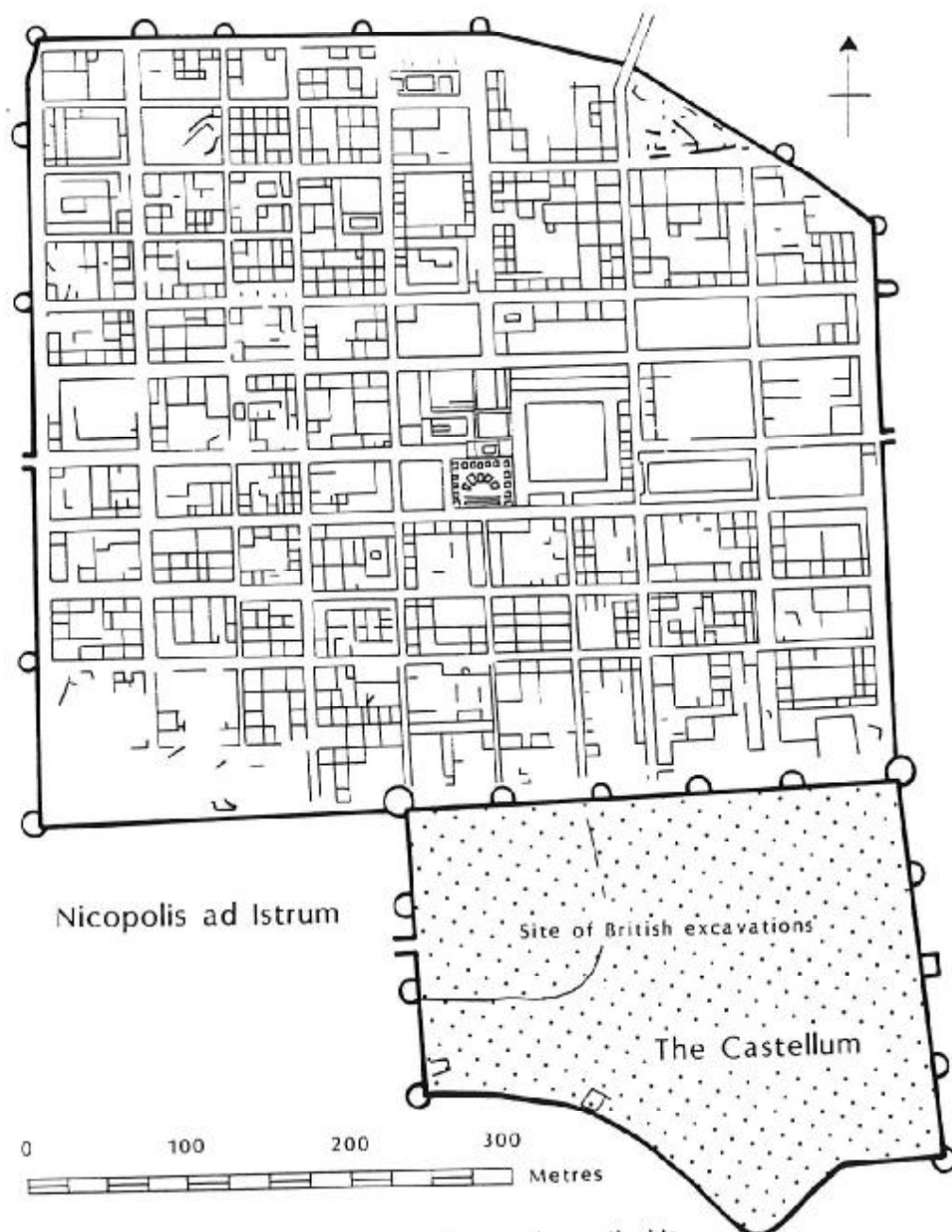


Fig.1 Nicopolis Ad Istrum and the castellum on the south side.
(drawn from aerial photographs)

early city's defences, possibly as early as the late 3rd century. This 5.7 ha annex became the focus of the British team's interest while a Bulgarian team continued their work on the site of the early city.

The first British team in 1985 included just five members but this number has now been increased, with the agreement of the Bulgarian authorities, to 18. As with other projects abroad of this sort it is not possible to remove the finds or environmental residues from the country and only copies of Level II documentation can be removed. As a result specialists (eg. in ceramics, glass, coins, human and animal bone and plant remains) are included in the team to prepare level III reports on processed material.

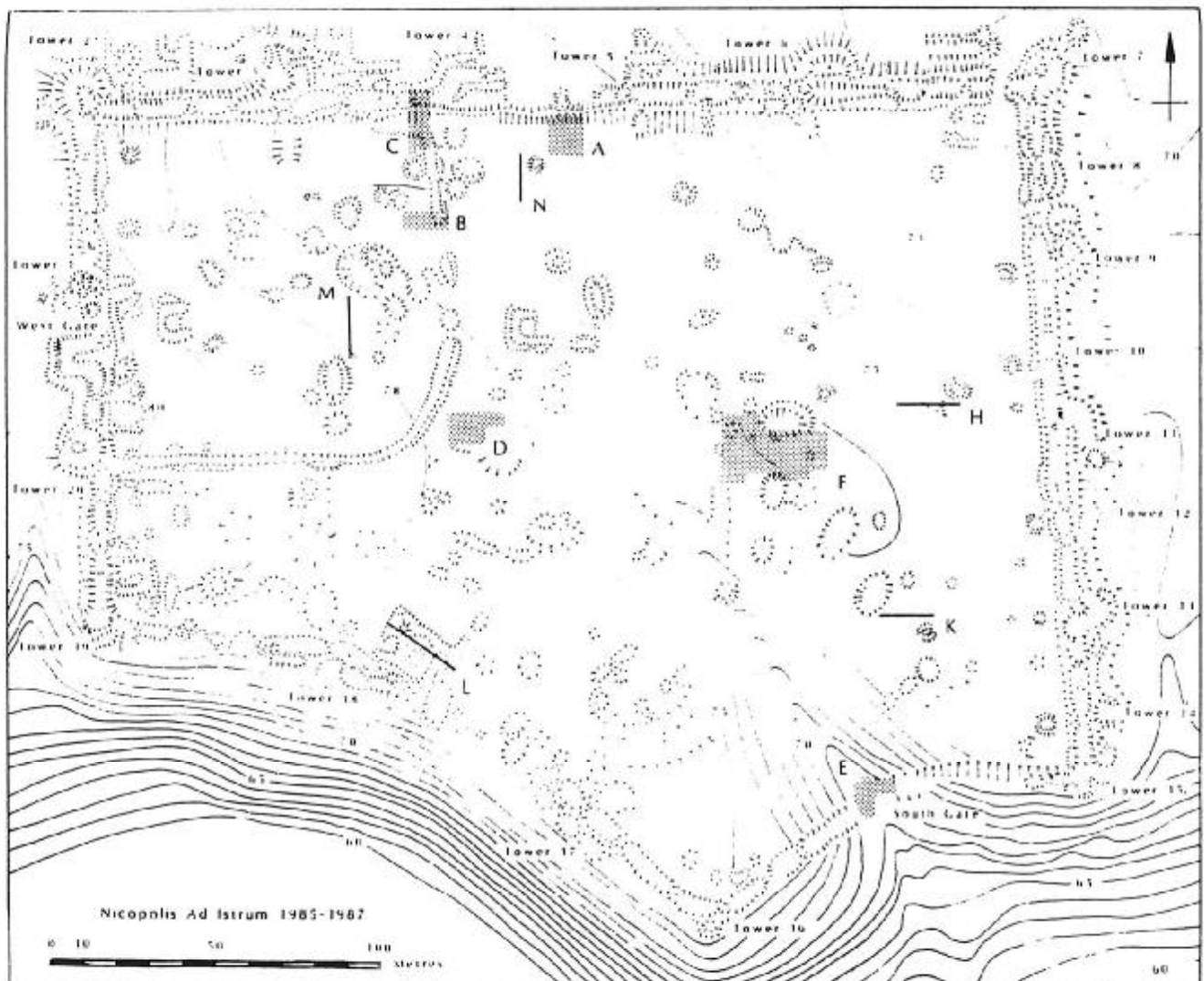
The excavation team is complemented by university students (of many and varied disciplines) from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland and Russia. Although language problems and lethargy often occur (the latter being generally the result of discomfort in the hot and humid weather - the temperature is frequently in the high 30's C. and touched 46°C. in 1987) this system has worked remarkably well.

The excavations: 1985-1988

The castellum was attached to the south side of the early city on a plateau, cut by a natural nw-se gully. The plateau continues to the east and west but on the south side a steep scarp slope, leading down to the River Rositsa, enhanced the castellum's defences.

The programme of excavation and research has included a total physical survey of the defences, interior and margins of the castellum and geophysical surveys (total resistivity and selected magnetometer) of the interior and immediate exterior of the city. The efficiency of the stone-robbing provided a clear impression of the defences (Fig.2). The main gate, on the west side, appears to have

Fig.2 Plan of castellum showing robber trenches. Letters indicate areas examined by British team.



been a rectangular structure approached by a causeway. Twenty towers, projecting c.15m from the curtain wall, were regularly spaced c.50m apart on the west, north and east sides. As was expected, fewer towers were located on the south side.

The absence of regular plans of robbed buildings in the castellum suggested that the structures there might have been of mud-brick. The resistivity survey (Fig.3) showed many anomalies which were thought to be the foundations of buildings and, at an early stage, excavation confirmed these to be the foundations for mud-brick superstructures. Illustrated are a range of rooms, possibly workshops of the late 5th or early 6th century (Fig.2, D; Fig. 4).

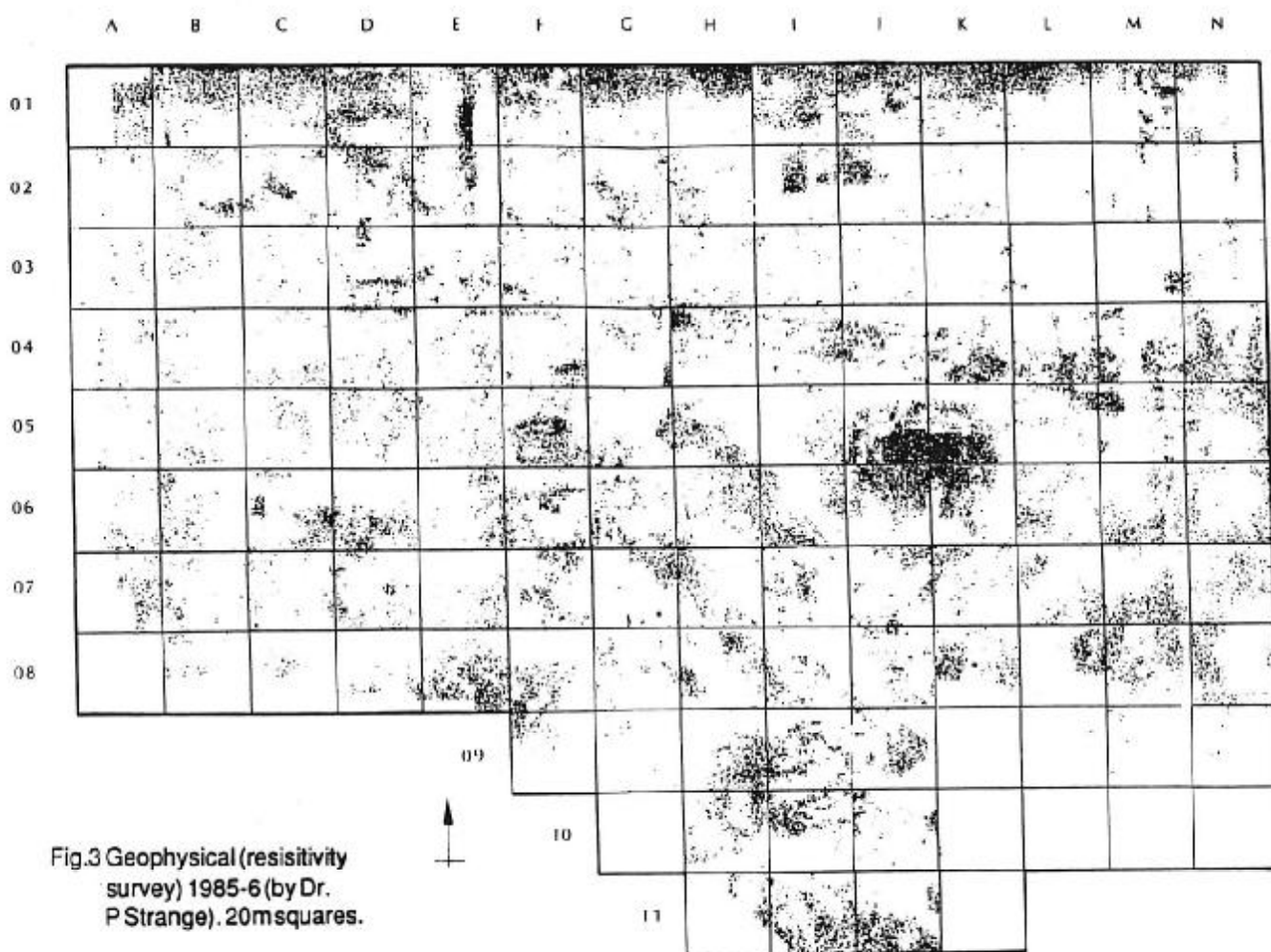


Fig.3 Geophysical (resistivity survey) 1985-6 (by Dr. P Strange). 20msquares.

Three areas across the defences and one across a road have been examined. Two areas on the north located the main south gate of the early city, and the road passing through it, and a large defensive ditch, at least 7m wide and 3m deep running parallel to the early city fortifications (Fig.2, A,B and C; and Fig.5). Occupation of 4th to 6th centuries has been identified but consists mainly of external surfaces and re-building and alteration of the castellum's northern

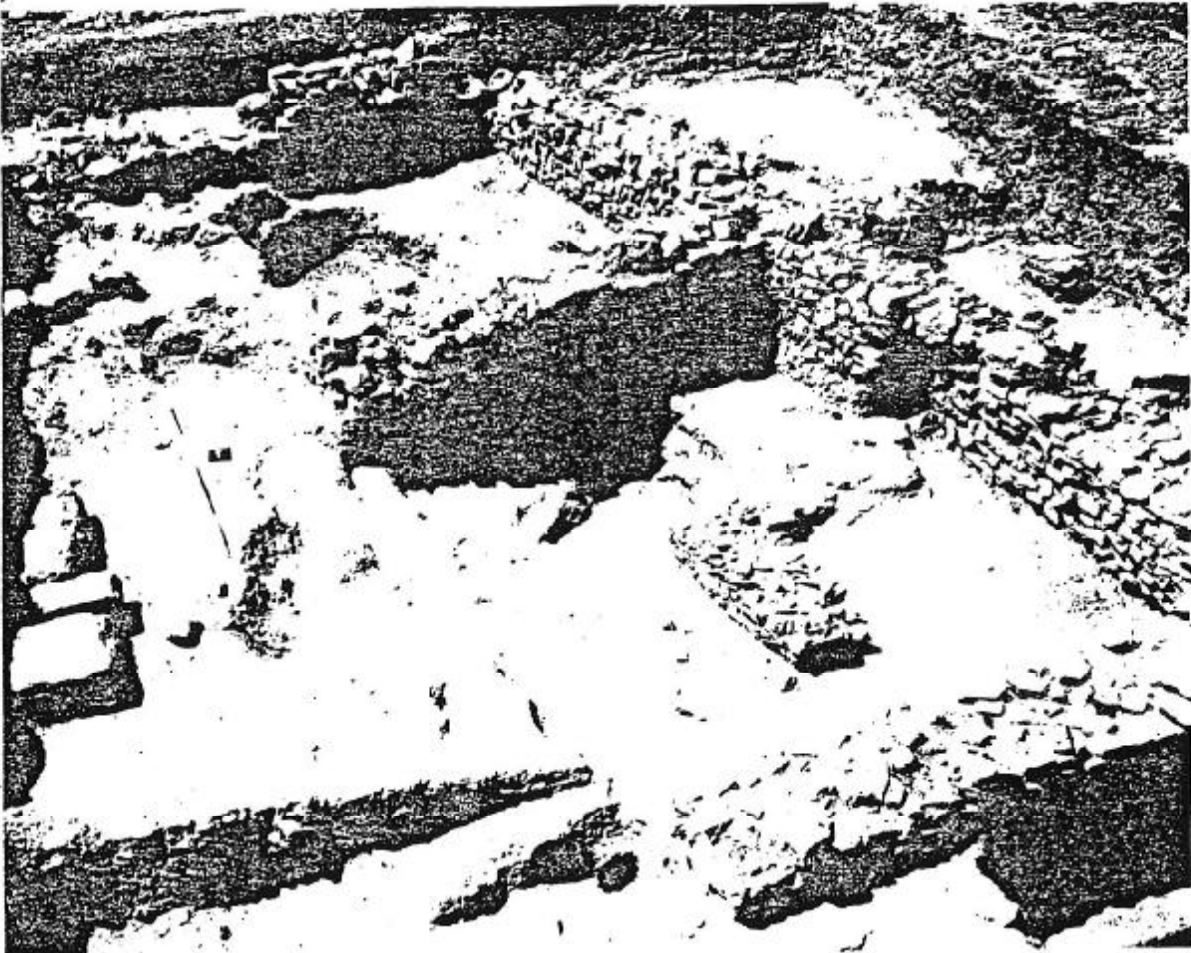


Fig.4 Byzantine workshops, looking north-west, in 1987.

defences. On the south side (Fig.2, E), at the south end of the gully, a gateway through the late Roman wall circuit is in the course of excavation. Elements of the structure survive to 2m high.

Within the castellum areas which showed as negative or positive anomalies in the resistivity survey have been examined. Three examples of the latter have revealed; a. in the centre of the site to the immediate east of the gully, the remains of a large Christian basilica church, heavily robbed but still retaining much of its tiled floor (Fig.2, F; Fig.6); b. a smaller church to its immediate south-east (Fig.2, K); and c. on the south side, west of the gully, a large

Fig.6 The tile floor of the large basilica from the west.





Fig.5 Aerial view of the castellum's northern defences from the west showing robber trenches in the early city. The white rectangle (site office) on the right is c.8m long.

building of unknown function (Fig.2, L). All these structures date from the 4th to 6th centuries and all were destroyed by fire (but not necessarily at the same time). Much of the vaulted roof of the latter building collapsed during its destruction sealing the floors and the contents of the rooms below.

Post-Roman/Byzantine occupation has been sparse. Possible Hunnic grubenhausen have been found cutting the floor of the large basilica, one small 19th century house has been recorded and numerous fragments of 16th to 19th century pottery and Turkish

pipes have come from the upcast banks of the robber trenches and the slumps into them.

Postscript

1989 is to be the last excavation year of the current project. Since 1984, two more years have been added onto the original five to allow for post-excavation work to be completed (in Britain and Bulgaria). In all, a total of 32 British archaeologists from units and universities around Britain have worked in Nicopolis including Ian Blair, Nick Churchill, Ian Greig, Agnes Shepherd, Liz Shepherd and John Shepherd of the DUA and Julian Bowsher, Gavin Evans, Richenda Goffin and Louise Egan of the DGLA. This year the number of members on the team will be increased to 20. Of these at least 8 will be visiting Bulgaria for the first time.

As part of the agreement, Bulgarian archaeologists have been funded to stay in Britain, visit and examine the nation's monuments and museum collections, discuss methods with their British colleagues throughout the country and pursue their individual research. So far at least 8 have had the (rare) opportunity to come to Britain. At least 3 will visit in 1989/90, more in the two remaining years of the project.

John Shepherd

SHAKESPEARE' WARS OF THE ROSES PLAYS AT THE OLD VIC - A REVIEW.

English political history is guilty of having provided more boring and tedious examination syllabuses than any other topic. However with history it is often the writer rather than the events that are boring. An excellent example of this occurrence is the period of strife and dynastic dispute between the houses of Lancaster and York during the late 14th and 15th centuries, often called the Wars of the Roses. To me the political history of this period is an exciting tale of ambition, conflict, intrigue, love and war - all the ingredients of many modern film scripts. William Shakespeare during the 16th century realised that there was lots of drama in this period of history and used the events of the reigns of 6 successive kings - Richard I (1377-1399), Henry IV (1399-1413), Henry V (1413-1422), Henry VI (1422-1461), Edward IV (1461-1483) and Richard III (1483-1485) as the basis of a sequence of 8 plays.

This spring Michael Bogdanov and Michael Pennington have directed a season of these plays at the Old Vic. They abridged the 3 plays of Henry VI into 2, which resulted in a fast moving plot - with a change of scene every 5 or 10 minutes.

The presentation of these 7 plays as a cycle or season is an excellent idea as only then can each play be appreciated as a

chapter in a major work. This style of production also has a number of advantages such as one actor being able to play a character in successive plays. The importance of viewing the plays as a historical sequence was entirely lost on a Guardian critic (6/2/89) who wrote - "underneath its modish skin Bogdanov's Henry V is a right reactionary royal show". While no one would deny that Henry V is strongly nationalistic and patriotic and that this is not to everyone's taste, it is not fair to criticise Bogdanov for sticking to the script - or he could not have called the play Henry V. Subsequently the Guardian in another unfavourable review (13/2/89), did acknowledge that the individual plays were part of a historical sequence. A point which could have been easily discovered by reading the programme.

Within, the framework of Shakespeare's scripts Bogdanov set out using the sets and costumes to make a very personal and in my opinion successful interpretation of the plays. The actors in Richard II all wore Regency dress and to represent the chronology of the plays, ended with everyone wearing modern dress in Richard III. Despite this change it was still very easy to identify everyone's status, for instance statesmen in frock coats or generals in scarlet tunics or battle dress. The soldier's uniforms did not rigidly conform with this chronology. The army of Henry V at Harfleur and Agincourt were clad in modern combat jackets and carried automatic rifles, so looked rather like characters from the Falklands War. In battle they were accompanied by sounds of helicopters and machine gun fire. Their French opponents wore Napoleonic style cavalry uniforms and carried dress swords. Was this contract intentional to emphasis the superiority of the English weaponry - the long bow, which allowed the smaller army to win the battle?

Another very personal interpretation by Bogdanov was the Kentish rebel and pretender to the throne Jack Cade in Henry VI (house of York), who dressed as a punk and led an army of lager louts. Any man who had a slogan "from a jack to a king" obviously had gone to the best advertising agency in Kent.

The final scene of Richard III was the triumphant new king Henry VII addressing the nation from a television studio with a speech of peace and reconciliation. I thought that he sounded rather like a modern politician who had just won a rigged election, conveniently overlooking the fact that he had just invaded England, slaughtered Richard III, then claimed the throne by right of conquest. However Shakespeare was doubtless well aware that Elizabeth I - one of his patrons would not wish to see her grand-father portrayed in anything but a favourable light. This point perhaps prompted Shakespeare to portray Richard III as deformed in both mind and body, when there is no historical evidence that Richard was a hunch-back and had a withered arm.

One wonders how the characters were portrayed in Shakespeare's day, doubtless those actors playing the fools and drunks made the audience laugh as they still do today. Shakespeare's success as a play-wright surely stems not so much from his choice of subject, but his great vocabulary and understanding of human nature, which has made his plays immortal.

SEVEN GO MAD IN SOUTHWARK

Ian, Damian, Jon, James, Richard, Paul and Hugh did not know what to do. 'Let's play football' said James. 'Good idea' said Richard. 'Let's play those bounders from the Museum of London.' 'Yes and this time we'll give them a good thrashing' said Ian.

So our brave heroes gathered in Southwark on the evening of the 22 March. 'Bags play in goal' said Jon. 'I'll be the one to kick the ball into the net' said Damian.

The game kicked off. The Museum of London scored. 'You rotters' said Paul, 'Come on DUA. Casuals play up, play up and play the game'. With a display of Total football not even vaguely similar to the great Dutch team of the seventies the Casuals swarmed down the pitch. Jon rolled the ball to Richard, Richard passed to Ian, Ian passed to Paul, Paul passed to James, James passed to Damian and Damian kicked the ball into the net. 'Hooray' they all said.

The Museum of London scored. Damian kicked the ball into the net. The Museum of London scored. Damian kicked the ball into the net. 'I say you fellows' said Hugh, who had got lost and only turned up half way through, 'Can I play too?' 'Alright' they said, 'but hurry up.'

Then just for a change Paul kicked the ball into the net but then Damian kicked the ball into the net (again!). The Museum of London scored and then a big man came along and told them to stop playing as it was someone else's turn now. (Final score: DUA Casuals 5 - Museum of London 4).

'Hurrah! We won' they all said together. 'Let us go and refresh ourselves with lashings of ginger beer.' So off they went but only after arranging another game on May 3.

CURRENT AND FORTHCOMING PROJECTS

Fleet Valley

The Fleet Valley project has got going in earnest with excavations taking place under the viaduct.

In order to help assess the archaeological potential a radar survey - as recently used at York and, I believe, featured on Tomorrow's World - is going to be undertaken in the near future. It is also intended to buy a motorised augur so that core samples can be taken both to indicate potential and to record deposits that cannot otherwise be safely reached.

25 St Mary Axe

The site has considerable interest in that it is partly within the precinct of St Helens - the boundary runs through the site and it is quite possible that Victorian walls along its length incorporate medieval masonry, and partly within the parish of St Mary Axe which was burnt down in the Great Fire and not rebuilt. It is thought that preceding St Helens there was a Saxon church. Test pits carried out last year revealed skeletons and because of the presence of these three churches more can be expected. The test pits also showed a good Roman sequence.

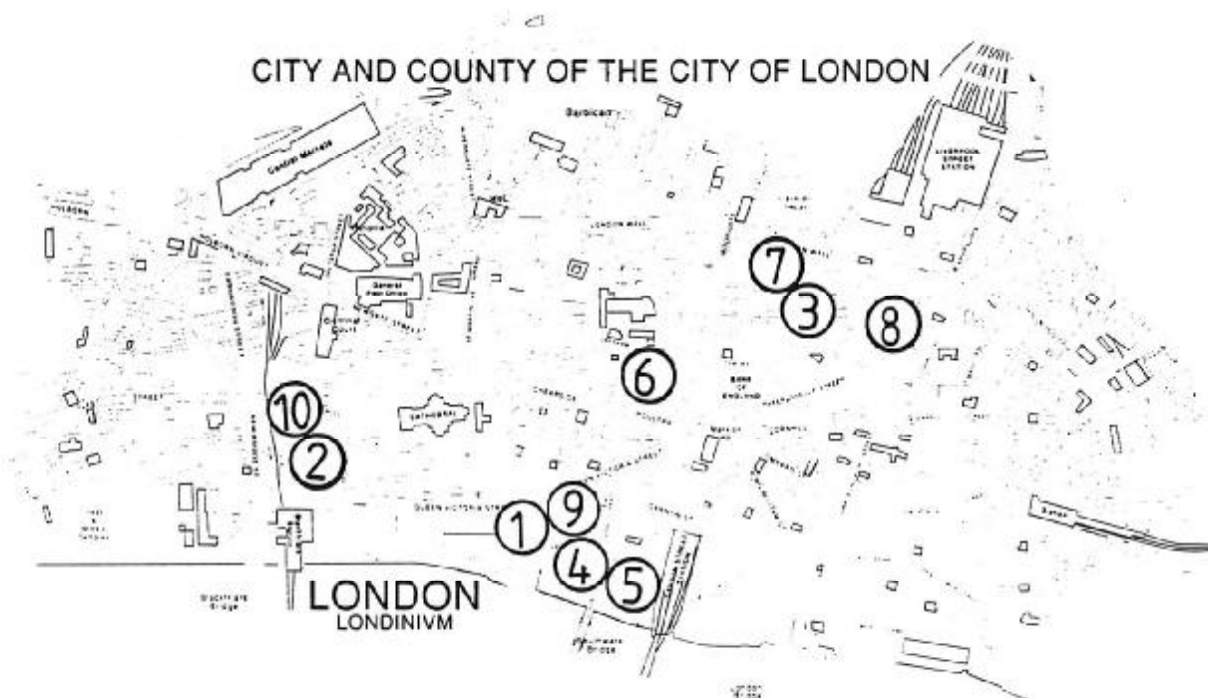
Further test pits are proposed and it is expected that excavation will take place later this year.

Castle Court/Bengal Court

This minute site tucked behind Birch Lane was due to have started in April. The development had involved underpinning much of the site but in view of the exceptionally high costs of these works related to the size of the site the project has been indefinitely postponed.

In an article in the City Recorder entitled 'Why the new City will be more than a Square Mile' Simon Mitchell of Strettons outlined how he saw development happening in the next ten years or so and outlined three potential developments - (1) the site of the former British Rail Bishopsgate Goods Yard which is currently for sale; (2) the Spitalfields fruit and vegetable market complex which is already scheduled for a £500 million redevelopment and (3) the Truman brewery in east Spitalfields. He also feels that in London with redevelopment of these major sites there would be infill development of the remaining immediate East End.

All of these developments come within the current DGLA area.



SUMMARIES OF CURRENT SITES

1. Dominant House

Excavations are being carried out on the site of the Roman Huggin Hill baths. A late Roman sequence of clay and timber buildings and an underlying industrial sequence have been uncovered. The buildings, with at least two room areas and a corridor were probably low status domestic residences. The industrial sequence indicated a variety of light industry with a number of small hearths and a very fine tile-lined kiln with associated ash sweepings, iron, copper and glass slag. Opus signinum and tesserae may also have been made within the area.

Preceding the industrial phase was a sequence of large dump deposits and large quantities of destruction debris from the bath

complex. On clearing this away large areas of the baths building and a complex sequence of rebuilds have started to come to light. A 3 metre high retaining wall forms a terrace wall retaining the natural hillside. To the south the phases of rooms include a large central heated room with an apsidal frontage on the riverfront, a large apse facing west, an integral heated room with a possible apse to the east and a furnace to the north. The central room once contained a fine mosaic, most of which was robbed in the late Roman period. Approximately 100 pilae standing to various heights survive as do chimneys, drain pipes, and furnace flues. Work is now starting on recording the features and unravelling the complex sequence.

2. 10 Friar Street

The site overlies the eastern end of the Dominican Priory (Blackfriars) church choir, built c 1279. Within the party wall with 5-7 Ireland Yard, the external buttresses and northern face for the north wall of a 13th century vaulted cellar below the south Dorter have been uncovered. The masonry stands 2 metres high and contains a number of ashlar features including a chamfered plinth, a drip stone moulding and part of a window. Little of the church foundations have been exposed, but a number of post-medieval foundations and a large granitic mill wheel were probably part of the 'Tobacco Manufactory'.

3. 22-25 Austin Friars

The site lies within the area of the valley of the Walbrook stream. Two timber-lined wells and another unidentified timber-lined feature have been excavated, although much work has been concentrated on clay dumping which overlies the Walbrook deposits. Large quantities of painted plaster have been recovered as well as a complete Roman pot. The site lies within the precinct of Austin Friars although as yet no related features have been identified.

4. 68 Upper Thames Street

The site lies to the west of Southwark Bridge on the north bank of the Thames and the excavation was completed in March. A sequence of Saxon land reclamation, quays and associated surfaces has been established, interspersed with silt banks, organic clumps, wattle and brushwood rafts and foreshore flood deposits. Above the timber of the late Roman quay lay a deposit up to one metre thick of naturally lain river silts, indicating that the river may have slowed, allowing substantial deposition on the banks of the river.

5. Thames Exchange

The controlled excavation of the site at Thames Exchange was completed in March, although an extensive watching brief will continue. The remainder of the revetted Saxon embankment was removed and from amongst the timbers the remains of three Saxon ships were recovered, including articulated planking, a rib and part of a keel. Beneath the Saxon foreshores were the remains of a Roman landing stage constructed as an open-work structure but with the timber decking subsequently removed. Beneath the landing stage a unique wooden scoop with a carved 'negroid-like' head on the handle was recovered. Other finds have included a

complete Roman oil lamp, a set of pan pipes and a ring with runic inscription.

6. 52 Gresham Street

The site lies at the junction of Gresham Street and Ironmonger Lane, both of which are documented from Medieval sources. Several medieval pits have been excavated and produced a shale plate, iron hinges and a large quantity of tessera and marble.

7. 52-62 London Wall

The site lies within the area of the Walbrook Valley. Severe truncation in two of the originally planned trenches has allowed three new trenches to be broken out. Two of these lie over the projected line of a road in an area in which Pitt-Rivers observed timber structures in 1866. Metalled surfaces with associated timber-lined drains and gullies in this area suggest that the road runs NNE to SSW through the whole of the site, and approximately 7 metres wide. In the north-west of the site below the marshy silts, Roman clay and timber buildings with associated external courtyard and pathways align with the road. The final area seems to consist largely of intercutting industrial pits and dumps possibly associated with leather working.

8. 41-63 Bishopsgate

No report received

9. Ormond House

No report received

10. Fleet Valley

No report received

Roman relic shows early link with black Africa

RECENT PRESS COVERAGE

THE INDEPENDENT
Saturday 25 March 1989

Remains of five Saxon boats found in London

THE MOST important collection of Saxon boat remains discovered in Britain since the early 1970s has been unearthed in London.

Dating from the ninth to tenth centuries, the remains of five vessels have been found 15 feet below street level near Queen Street in the City. The discoveries are important because they shed new light on aspects of early English maritime technology.

The 1,000-year-old boat remains include part of the decorated prow of a Saxon or possibly Viking ship — the only such item found in England. The prow has two holes in it through which rigging ropes passed.

There are more than 20 complete and partially complete overlapping oak planks from a 50ft trading vessel. The ship's rivets — iron nails driven through wooden pegs — are of particular interest. Only one other example of this construction technique is known in Britain.

The discovery also includes a dozen complete or fragmentary overlapping wide oak planks, fastened together with 50 willow pegs, forming part of a second medium-sized trading vessel. The thin end of each peg was split and expanded through the insertion of a small oak wedge. As a sealant between the hull's overlapping planks, the shipbuilders used wedges of moss, which have also survived.

Other features are a 15ft length of oak keel — still attached by rivets to fragments of planking — from a 45ft trading vessel, probably capable of carrying seven tons of cargo, and a curved oak rib, possibly from a 20ft fishing vessel.

The discoveries have been made by Museum of London teams, under the direction of Gus Milne and Dick Malt, both archaeologists. The analysis of the boat remains has been undertaken by Damian Goodburn, the museum's timber specialist.



The 1,900-year-old spoon handle sculpture found at Southwark Bridge.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS in London have discovered a unique 1,900-year-old wooden sculpture of a negro head.

The carving — found 15 feet below street level at the northern end of Southwark Bridge — is important because, when taken together with past finds and historical evidence, it suggests that at least some cultural or other contact existed between black Africa and Roman Britain.

Only 3.3 centimetres high, the head acts as a handle decoration at the top of a serving spoon. Carved in the latter part of the first century AD, the spoon — unearthed in an excavation directed by Gus Milne, a Museum of London archaeologist — was perfectly preserved because it lay for almost two millennia in waterlogged conditions within the north bank of the Thames.

Romano-British historical information and archaeological discoveries of black African relevance are rare — but there are a few remarkable examples.

It is known, for instance, that there was an African regiment

By David Keys
Archaeology Correspondent

based at Hadrian's Wall — and that, although most of its members were Berbers, some may well have been negroes from the southern fringes of the Roman province of Mauritania.

The regiment — known as the *Numerus Maurorum Aurelianorum* (the Aurelian Unit of the Moors) — was probably established in around AD 170 by the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius, and is known to have arrived in Britain by the middle of the third century. The 500-strong unit was based for some time at a Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall at Burgh-by-Sands near Carlisle.

Certainly a negro Roman soldier based near Carlisle features in an incident recounted by a Roman historian.

According to an imperial biography, the Roman emperor — Septimius Severus — crossing Hadrian's Wall on his return from a war in Scotland, was approached by a black African sol-

dier. This incident occurred just a few months before Severus's death at York in AD 211, and was regarded by him as a bad omen.

The soldier held out "a garland of cypress branches" (an object with funereal implications) and is said to have shouted "You have been all things. You have conquered all things. Now victorious emperor, be a god". Since emperors were often deified after they died, the compliment was backhanded, to say the least.

From the other end of Hadrian's Wall — South Shields — comes a further reference to an African who lived in Roman Britain. A tombstone — complete with a relief of the deceased — now in the Roman Fort Museum, South Shields, reads: "To the spirits of the departed and of Victor, aged 20, a Moor by race, the freed slave of Numerianus."

Other images of Africans have also been unearthed at several other Roman sites — two in Wales and one in London — which further suggests that people in Roman Britain were aware of the existence of the negro race.