

size and shape to No. 5 found in a 14th century undisturbed stratum.<sup>7</sup>

In illuminated manuscripts similar jugs and bottles are shown in use, for example in the Luttrell Psalter, painted c.1340, depicting the preparation of food in the kitchen (No. 7) where the jug and bottle are considered by some to represent a cruet.

To consider the numismatic implication of the Friday Street coins — pennies issued by Henry III were of the "short cross" series before 1247, after which they were replaced by the "long cross" pennies. In the early years of Edward I's reign between 1272 and 1278, pennies were still issued with a HENRICUS legend. After 1279 a new style of coinage was issued by Edward I, which was adopted by later monarchs. The continuous reigns of Edwards I-III produced a large series of pennies which only differ by slight variations of the king's portrait, his crown and the lettering used. Roach Smith's descriptions of the pennies only indicate their reigns, rather than their time in circulation. This may be indicated only by coin hoards found in the British Isles.<sup>8</sup> Henry III pennies of the "long

7. T. Borenius and J. Charlton, "Clarendon Palace: an interim report," *Antiq. J.* 16 (1936) 76-7 fig. 5.

cross" series were found associated with pennies of Edward I and II at Boyton, Carsphairn, Newport and York in hoards deposited after 1307 and between the years c. 1320-30. It is also associated with pennies of Edwards I-III in the Beaumont hoard deposited c. 1360 and in the Montrave hoard deposited c. 1356, which contained Henry III pennies of the "short cross" series. The HENRICUS pennies produced by Edward I are as yet not represented in coin hoards but Edward I-III pennies are found with coins of Henry VI in the Diss, Dungarvan, Forgandenny, Guisborough and Hampshire coin hoards, deposited c. 1428 until after 1471?

To form a conclusion, the numismatic evidence suggests that the Friday Street jug and bottle have a date margin of 1279-1360. This is based on the last date of circulation of Henry III pennies and the first minting of Edward I's new style of coinage.

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8. J. D. A. Thompson, *Inventory of British Coin Hoards* (1956).

## Excavations at Christ Church, Newgate

THE EXCAVATIONS were recently undertaken inside the shell of Wren's church of Christ Church, Newgate Street, gutted in the blitz, to uncover something of its complex history before the eastern end is demolished to make way for a new road. Wren's building replaced the great church erected under royal patronage in the early 14th century by the Franciscans, or Grey Friars; after Henry VIII dissolved the friary, the church was used as a warehouse for several years before being reinstated in 1547, robbed of its fine monuments, to serve as a parish church, until it was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666.

The excavations, directed by Tony Johnson for Guildhall Museum, have shown that Wren economised by using the foundations of the medieval church to support the rather smaller new building and employing in his own work a great deal of stone salvaged from the ruins.

Wren's rebuilding, during which the floor-level was raised considerably, was not the first alteration; the original floor had been torn up and replaced with plain tiles in the early 17th century, while crude arches had been inserted between the great octagonal foundations of the medieval columns, perhaps to support the base of the gallery added in 1628.

Gone also were the medieval tombs, which would have included that of Queen Margaret — wife of Edward I—who in about 1301 bought this land, part of which, the excavation showed, was occupied at the time by a heap of rubbish 8-10 feet high, and presented it to the Friars to build their church on.

The excavation has now ended, having been confined to the area and depth directly affected by road development, for the Open Space planned for the rest of the area will preserve not only the remains of Wren's church above ground, but those of the Grey Friars' church below ground.