

Big T Incorporated Proudly Presents

HOBLEY'S HEROES T.M.

JAN issue THREE
1976

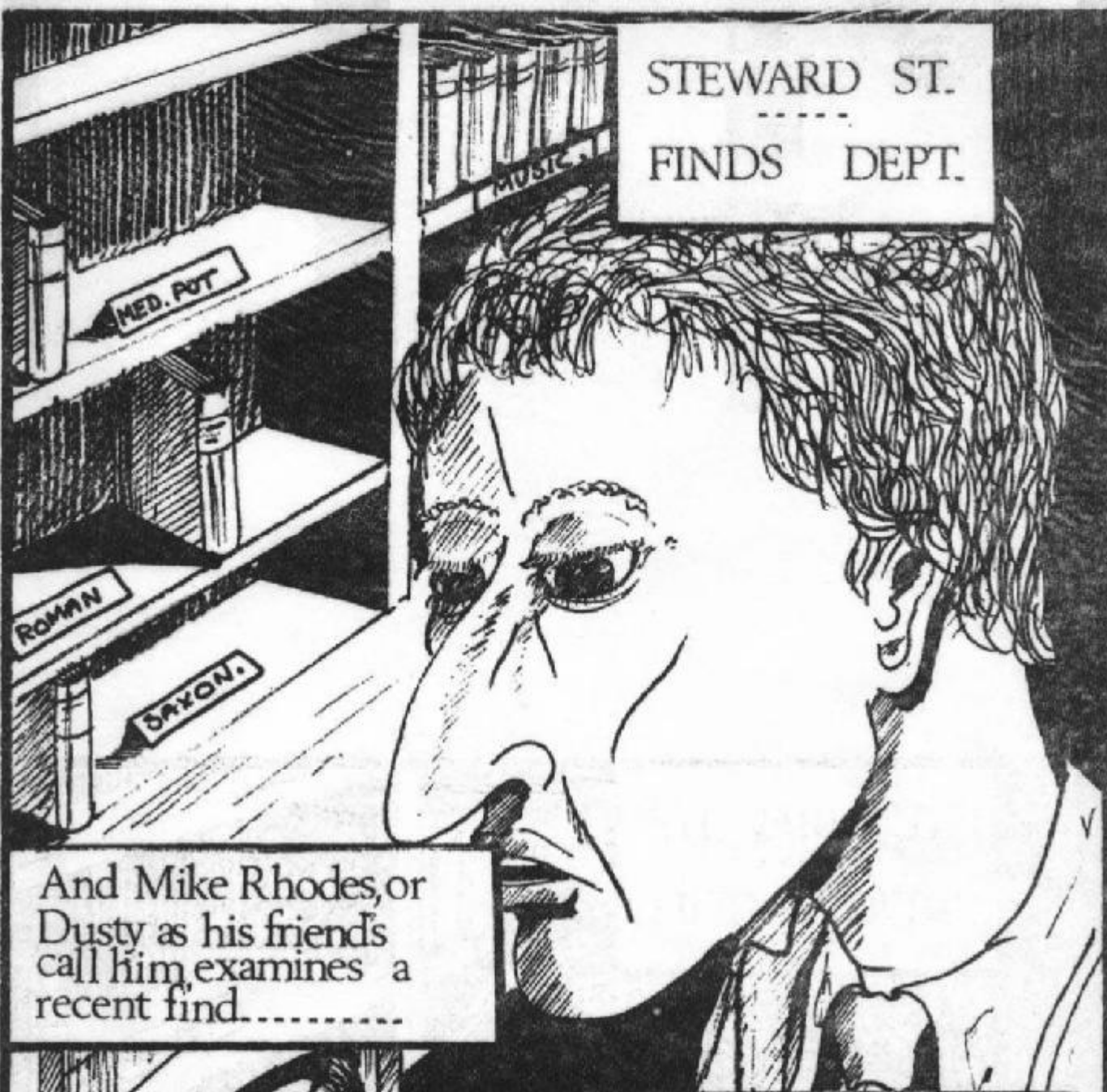
INSIDE...
The Coming of the
CONTROLLER



10p.

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR
SPECIAL**


M.E.H.



STEWARD ST.

FINDS DEPT.

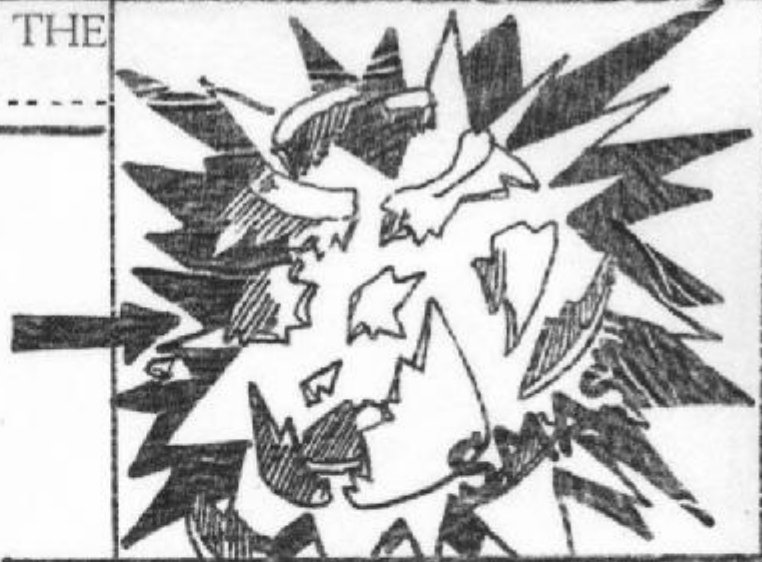
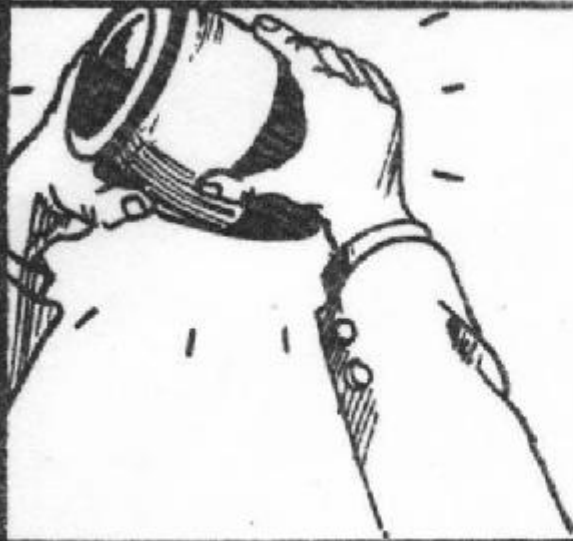
And Mike Rhodes, or
Dusty as his friends
call him, examines a
recent find.....



..Which brings us to the
title of our new 3-part
mind-blowing story so
read on comrade.....

ALL RHODES
LEAD TO ROME

SUDDENLY MIKE RAISED THE
POT ABOVE HIS HEAD.....

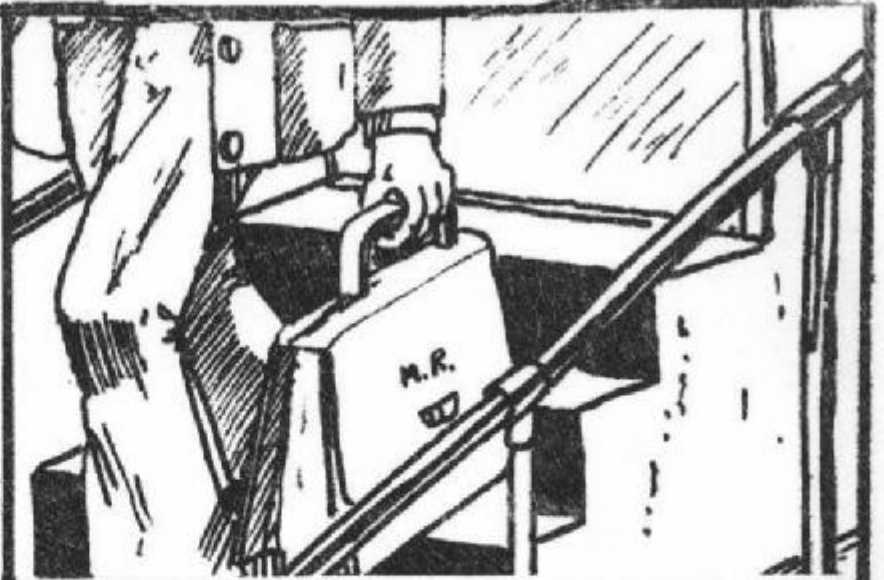


AND HURLED IT DOWNWARDS

LIKE A MADMAN HE BEGINS TO DESTROY
EVERY FIND IN THE ROOM, SHOWING TOTAL
DISREGARD FOR ALL ARTIFACTS.....



MIKE RHODES
LEFT STEWARD ST.
LEAVING A PATH
OF DESTRUCTION,
NOW HE THOUGHT
OF BONHILL AND
THE ROMAN STONES



MEANWHILE.....A STRANGE FIGURE
WATCHES MIKE'S PROGRESS WITH GREAT
INTEREST.....

THE
CONTROLLER.



GO MY
MINDLESS
PUPPET GO
AND DESTROY!

THE BASEMENT, BONHILL, AND TREVOR HURST, SITE AND UNIT PHOTOGRAPHER IS WORKING ON THE ROMAN STONES. A QUIET MAN, HAPPY AT HIS WORK !!!

HOW GOES IT TREVOR.?

OH, IT'S A SNAP, SNAP, SNAPPY, DAY, TOORA - LOORA - LOORI AY!

WE PLOD ON!

THE DOOR CREAKS OPEN AND MIKE RHODES, OUR MAN WITH A MISSION. ENTERS, AND YOU CAN BE SURE THAT HIS MISSION IS SOON TO BECOME VERY OBVIOUS.....

CONTINUED AFTER NEWS PAGES.....



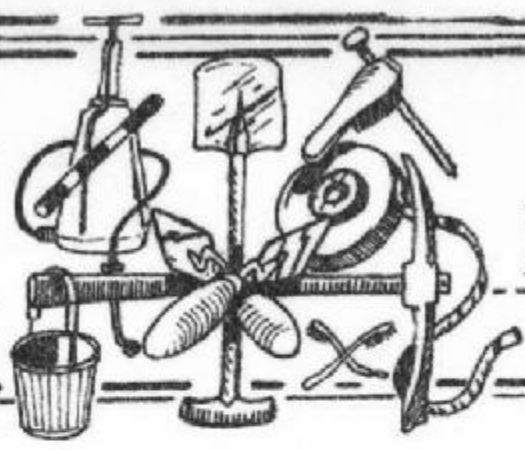


NEWS NEWS

NEWS

H.H.

H.H.



Inside Leg.

As the father of London Archaeology, I naturally retrieve a copy of the minutes of the DUA's monthly meeting. Looking back over the year, like the Ringerike Wolf which is our symbol, I notice some interesting resolutions that never quite made it.
Basinghall St. HQ.

"...the Old Library stack has been allocated to the Museum..."
 (February, 1975)

"Bonhill St is to be phased out; in time the new HQ can be inspected..."
 (March)

"we will not be actually moving in permanently until - probably - September/October"
 (May)

"the estimate is subject to cut-back due to contractors' rising costs..."
 A (November)

"It is certain that Bonhill will be used by the DUA until next April at the earliest..." (August)

Contracts

"All contracted staff must be superannuated..." (December, 1974)

"with the coming of permanent, full time employment..." (February)

"increased establishment will probably be operational from 1st. June, the present vesting date..."
 (February)

"The Director is to see the Establishment Officer on the question of contracts tomorrow..." (May)

"The position of contracted staff is still to be resolved..."
 (August)

"this is still in progress..."
 (November)

"No further advance on this front."
 (December)

I suggest we adopt these as New Years resolutions for.....1985.

It is nice to know, in these difficult times, that other Museums are not as miserly as the Museum of London. The British Museum has recently put scaffolding all round the main hall, at a cost of £30,000, just to gild a few stars on the ceiling.
 Charles Roach-Smith.

A message from Mark.

Welcome to H.H. Christmas Special, and as promised this issue heralds the arrival of 'The Controller', the first in a long line of coming villains. One or two more surprises lie in wait within these pages, like our FREE Calender (a gift to treasure) and the introduction of our new 'Villains Preview Pin - up Page', designed to provide you with a glimpse of characters appearing in forthcoming stories. Finally I would like to leave you with this thought:

Instead of having Turkey with this years Christmas dinner, why not buy a pigs-head, complete with eyes, so it can see you through the week.

M.E.H

Cannon Street.

The site lies between Cannon St. and St. Thomas Apostle Street. Following a trial trench by Charles Hill, it was decided to strip and excavate as large an area as could be tackled in 23 days. In the event we managed to expose all that was threatened, except for the area under the access ramp.

Trench D was abandoned after stripping and removal of modern sewers, because the disturbance was heavy and only pits showed when this area was cleaned.

All the features in the other three areas were excavated, except for one pit which was not investigated and five pits which were not bottomed. These features are summarised below, 1-6 are assumed to be drains, though this does not exclude the possibility of any of them being for water supply. N.B..a) No levels survived, only cut features.

b) The area was stripped down to natural, (brickearth & gravel) by JCB, also, Trench 'C' natural was cut into and disturbance there was heavy.

1)

See sketch (A).

The structure consisted of a wood-lined channel to take the water, above which the sides were revetted with planks supported by driven stakes. No evidence was found of an overlap between the drain channel and its revetment. The bottom plank of the channel was levelled into position using small slats of wood placed on the bottom of the construction trench and backfilling level with the top of these. The plank rested on this slat and backfill, but as with elsewhere in the structure, there is no evidence of nails being used for fixing

For the most part the wood from the drain was removed before the trench was backfilled, except for part of the channel at the north end. Here the planks were 0.03-0.5m. thick, the channel was 0.42m. wide and surviving 0.45m. deep.

No evidence of any cover was found. The revetting suggests that the drain may have been open. Maximum surviving depth of construction trench, 1.45m. Later than (3), no relationship to (2).

2)

Whilst the drain had been totally removed at the north end, its revetting stakes could be traced. At the south end, the drain itself survived to a depth of 0.52m. Its structure is shown in sketch, (B), again the revetting suggests it may have been an open structure; later than (3).

3)

The drain itself only appears 4m. from the north edge of the excavation. But again the revetting stakes indicate that its origin is somewhere in the north of the site. In trench B the drain turns abruptly east. Whilst post-holes for revetting stakes were present, there was no evidence of a wood lining, which is odd because the drain had clearly silted up. Earlier than (1) and 2.

4)

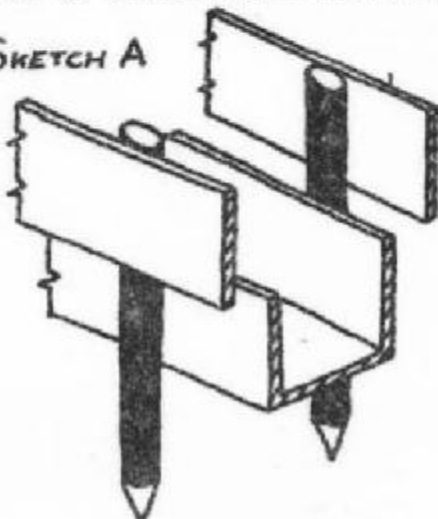
Flowing S.E. this shallow drain only survived 0.22m. deep maximum. Evidence of timber lining on the bottom and S.W. side was discovered though there was no evidence of timber.

5)

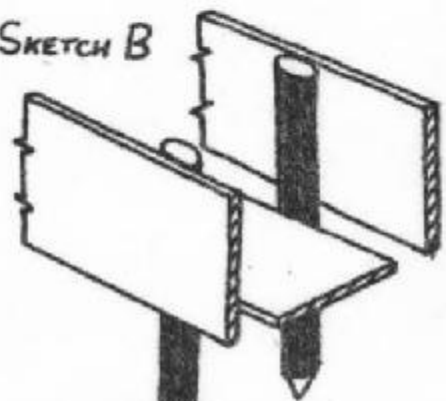
Parallel and close to (4), there is another rather unevenly cut drain which provided no evidence of timber.

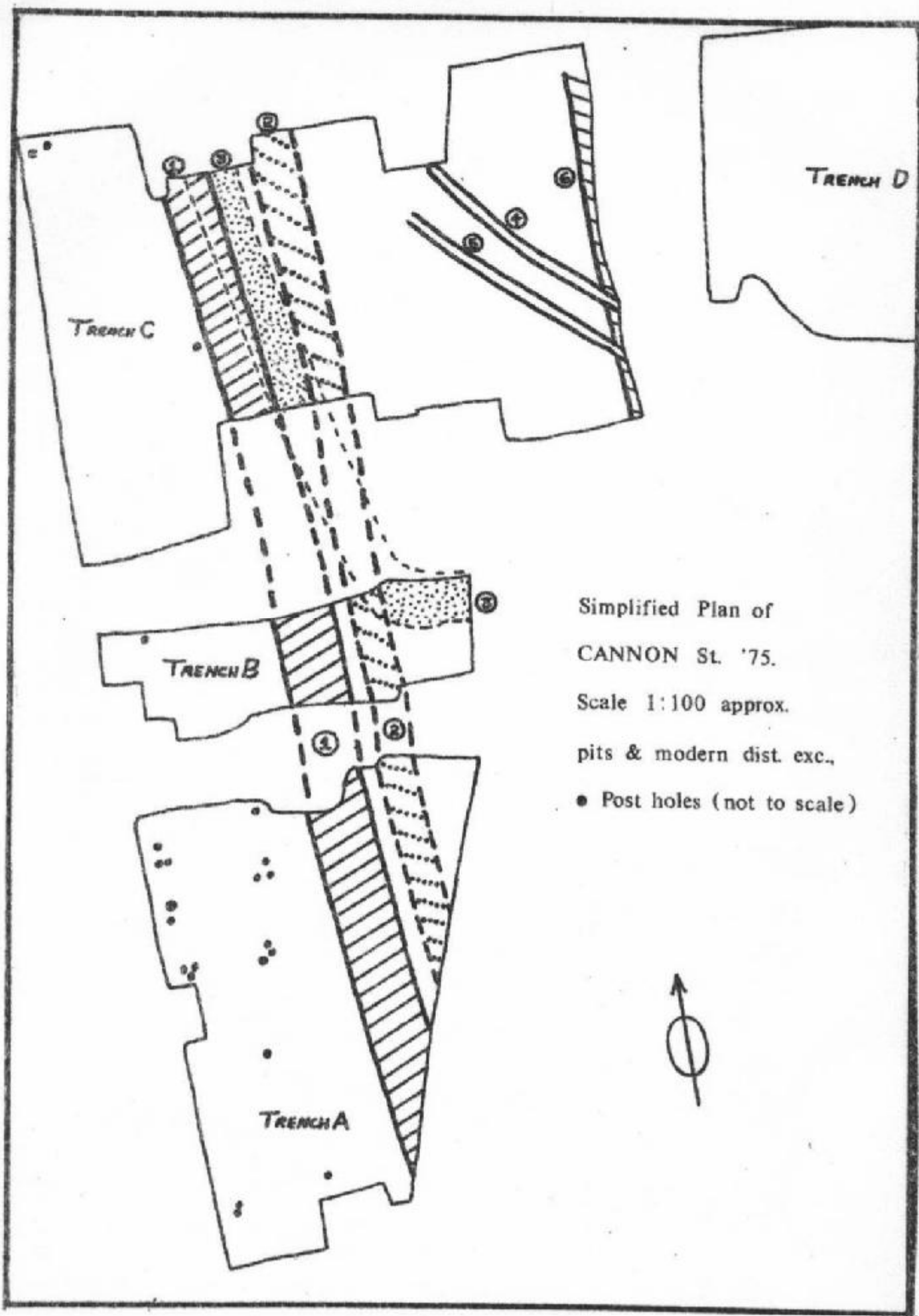
PTO.

SKETCH A



SKETCH B





Simplified Plan of
CANNON St. '75.

Scale 1:100 approx.

pits & modern dist. exc.,

● Post holes (not to scale)

continued

6).

A ditch running south, earlier in date than (4) (and ? (5)) maximum surviving depth 0.99m.

The only other evidence of structures is a group of post-holes to the west of (1). These most probably represent a building, though its relationship to the drains is not known.

In date, all the features, except for one or two later pits are Roman.

That the site was completed almost on time was mainly due to three factors:

1).

The hard work and skilled digging by COLAS and other volunteers, including three night shifts.

2).

The attitude of the developers (Compass Securities) and the Architect (Alec Shickle - The Mithras Man) who basically said, 'You can't have longer than December 1st. But we'll give you what you need to finish on time'. Thus, JCB, Lorry, gas flood-lights and polythene arrived promptly and gratis!

3)

Simplicity. Although the features had some complexities in themselves, the density of features was low, and there were no floor levels etc. to cope with. If the site had been like the GPO, or others, we wouldn't have got past the first trench.

Andy Boddington.

GPO

As the excavations being carried out on the GPO site are complex and varied, the archaeological evidence has been split into a series of articles for the 'Hercules'. This article will deal with the church of St. Nicholas Shambles, which is located at the Newgate end of the site.

As we have had to leave a strip of land 50ft. wide at the southern end of the site, this has limited the amount of church available for excavation. This situation is due to the presence of two underground tube lines, which run E - W below this strip of land. We have, however, excavated the northern third of the church, plus a large proportion of the cemetery.

Although the church is first referred to in 1187, the excavation to date has only located a church structure dating from the 14th. to 16th. centuries. These structures do contain, however, re-used material from an earlier church.

The evidence so far revealed for the late church, would suggest that there were three phases of construction.

Phase one, shows the piled-arch foundations which carried the walls of the nave to the west, and the

smaller chancel at the east end of the church. For the second phase, an extension northwards of the chancel wall was carried out, after the old wall had been demolished. This new wall of the Chancel was aligned with that of the nave wall, so that the church was rectangular in plan.

One of the piled foundations for the phase two chancel, contained two large fragments of a tomb slab with a diamond pattern carved in relief on their surfaces. This stone slab and other worked stone found during the excavation, have been examined by Dr. Gilyard Beer, formerly of the Ancient Monuments division of the Ministry of Works, who has dated them to 12th century probably when the church was founded.

Phase three was the addition of a small crypt or vestry attached to, and extending northwards from the new chancel wall.

At the dissolution of the Monasteries the large conventual church of Greyfriars, which is just to the west of the GPO site, was converted into a parish church and St. Nicholas Shambles was demolished in 1547.

Alan Thompson.

Hobley's Heroes Christmas Special!



'They are not just material for dedicated amateurs wielding tooth brushes; anyone with an enquiring eye can see and admire them.'

These are words from the booklet - London's Industrial Archaeology. Early Industrial Relics in and around London. This little 'Gem' tells you where to see these relics, and a little about them. But beware! They just happen to be a long tube ride away from each other. Very Crafty.

B.F.N.

Now the Cannon Street rescue excavation has finished, praise must be given to all concerned. Not only Andy, Ken, Trevor, Barbie, Paulo, Gustav & Dick, but to the 20 or 30 COLAS members, whose work proved invaluable in finishing the site on schedule.

Thank You, COLAS!

The other day when I went to the museum offices to collect the photographic gear, I had the first viewing - in little under a year - of some artifacts that had been excavated on a DUA site.

Couldn't there be a showcase for us diggers to view some of these specimens at least once, after conservation? After all we do spend over thirty hours a week digging them up!

Graffiti

"The Guardian" requested 'tasteful examples of graffiti' for one of their columns.

These are a few of their replies. We hope you will find them amusing

"Oedipus come home; all is forgiven - Mother."

And the response?

"Over my dead body" - Father.

"Back in a minute - Godot."

"The grave of Karl Marx is just another Communist plot."

"Abstinence is the thin end of the pledge."

"Matriculation makes you blind."

"A bit of violence never hurt anyone."

"Support Womens Lib-make him sleep in the wet patch."

Wed-day, Birth-day, Die-day

When you celebrate the New-Year 1976, think of Merry and Arnie, its their 1st. anniversary.

..Congratulations..

Belated birthday wishes to Paulo: 15th. December.

Sorry we forgot you last issue!!

Happy birthday GPO site.

'One' this month.

Happy birthday my Dad and Great Grandmother. 9th. Jan.

Happy birthday Hilary and Trevors Mum. 18th. Jan.

Happy birthday Merrys' Mum. 20th. Jan.

Happy birthday to Alan T. 30th. Jan.

Happy birthday Cathy M. It's a secret.

Happy birthday Hilarys' Mum. 24th. Dec.



Few people are more pathetic and banal than a conjuror who has just revealed how his tricks work. At popular request, I've been asked to do the same out of the same reasonable curiosity and, very probably, with the same net results. But at least it should reduce the chances of being accused of slight of hand.

Since space is limited, I'm going to stick to one particular query, namely how is an excavated site identified and traced back in the records? The first thing is to consult Harbans Dictionary of London, which is absolutely invaluable. It took Harbon a lifetime to compile and although it needs much updating (it was published in 1918) and street-name derivations should always be checked in Ekwall's Street-names, it is still an extremely useful body of notes and references. For example it can often help identify a modern tenement or part of a street with a much older tenement with a distinctive name which is easy to check out in the index-

es of records. Also, it is always worth referring to John Stow's Survey of London (the Kingsford edition, please note, which has a decent index and map), and to Ogilby's map of 1676-7 which is the first surveyed plan of the City. Now if as a result of these preliminaries, the site turns out to be on a street corner, next to a church, or to a parish boundary, or to a well-known property with a long renowned history - or even part of such a property - for example, the G.P.O. sites relationship to the Grey - Friars and to St. Nicholas makes life easier in this respect) - the going should be straight - forward. But if none of these is the case - if, as happens at least as often, the site is somewhere in the middle of a long row of properties far from any distinctive landmarks, then the going gets rougher.

Straightforward or otherwise, the next stage is to work on the Husting Rolls,.....

Tony Dyson

Dictionary of Colas.

As can be seen COLAS greeted the light of day with a certain amount of confusion. To complicate matters it was night at the time. To add further to the confusion and to prove they weren't chauvinist pigs the men allowed a lady chairman to be elected for the first year. Just to show how gullible they were they did the same again for the second year. By the end of that time they had learned a lot, and elected a man. Just to prove how long-suffering they are, they've re-elected the same person ever since.

In the year 1972-3 following fiascos at Baynards Castle and Milk Street, the executive committee set up an excavation Committee and devolved all authority for all aspects of practical archaeology onto its chairman the field officer. (Again the first was a woman.)

There then followed a series of attempts to re-organise the by now dis-illusioned and dispirited members into a functioning team again. Despite major setbacks and two near disasters at Africa House late

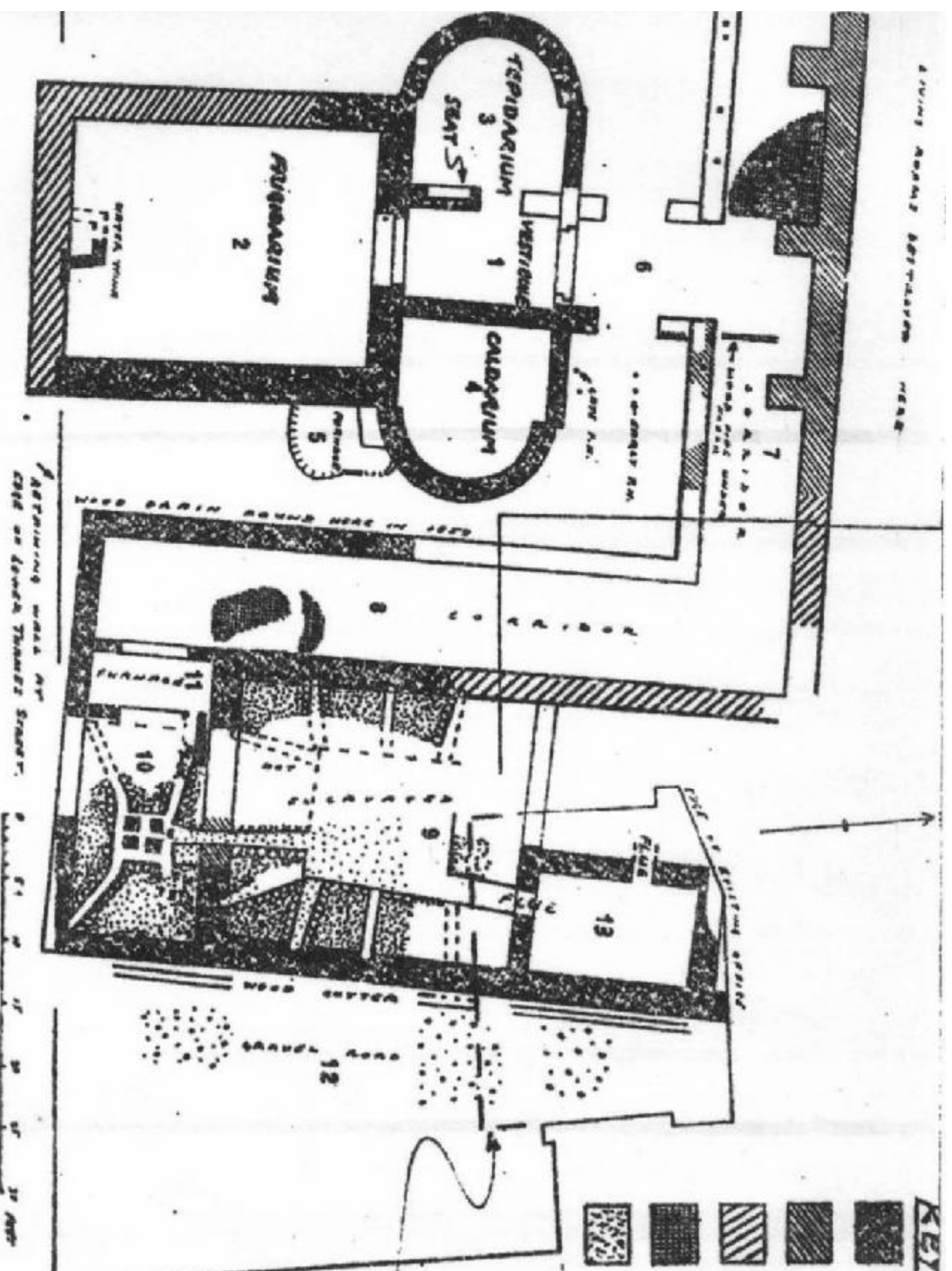
in 1973, this task has been stuck to and, thanks to the perseverance of Pip Thompson and the availability of a site of their own for part of this year, a good team is beginning to take shape.

In the past two years, with the DUA providing constantly available sites, more volunteers than ever have joined archaeology in the City. Many have proved totally gullible, and COLAS has reported record figures for membership (however, stories of vast numbers of beautiful blondes and increases of subscriptions remain fantasies of the treasure hunters designs.)

This Christmas COLAS will celebrate the 89th year before its centenary. With archaeology in the City reputedly ending in twenty years time, I would be very interested to know what the Chairman will rise to toast, as he looks into the second hundred years of the society's history.

The much postponed but now imminent excavations at Spitalfields?

Des Woods



Aspirating wall not
cut on level Thicket Street.

WOOD BATH FOUND HERE IN 1820

- KEY:**
- WALLS VISIBLE 1975
 - FOUNDATIONS RECORDED 1970
 - WALLS RECORDED DURING 1940 CAMPAIGN
 - TESSELATED FLOORS
 - BLOCKS OF MASONRY

NORTH OF THIS AREA
AREA AT PRESENT BEING
EXCAVATED

BILLINGSGATE ROMAN TOWN HOUSE AND BATHS, 1975.

Billingsgate Roman Town House and Baths.

The north and east wings of the domestic building survived less well although in the east wing the hypocaust systems are impressive. The bath-house (see plan- 1,2,3,4, 5.) lies within the courtyard formed by the L-shape of the domestic building (7,8,9,10 & 11). The fact of having a private bath-house (as the Billingsgate example must have been because of its small scale) incorporated with a substantial domestic building over-looking the river some 800yds. east of the Governors Palace, marks out its owner as being a person of consequence. Coins and pottery found in the lowest levels point to the Billingsgate complex as having been built about A.D.200.

As Peter Marsden put it, "The house is particularly important not only because of its good state of preservation, which allows us to study a dwelling in the Roman city in detail for the first time, but also because it was occupied to a very late date, possibly as late as A.D. 450-about half a century after the withdrawal of Roman troops from Britain".

In the furnace (11) some 250 bronze coins were found, the latest identifiable date represented being A. D.395, and at the southern end of the corridor(8) some 50 coins were found in association with pottery sherds of types not previously recognised in London as being of such late date. The most significant single find, however, was that of a large sherd of an eastern Mediterranean amphora dateable to A.D 450/475, found under a layer of ash in the furnace (11), which suggests that at this very late date the hypocaust system of room 10 at least was still in use, and further (as no Saxon Pottery was found at this level), that the occupants of the house were "Romans" who directly or indirectly still had tra-

ding contacts with the eastern mediterranean. Peter Marsden has asserted, "It seems likely, therefore, that on this site we have a stratified series of pottery forms, both British and imported, covering almost the whole of the 5th. century A.D. indicating that the Roman culture was continued in London long after the collapse of the Empire."

When the "1968 excavation" had finished the site was backfilled, with sand to allow the contractors to proceed to construct the present building around the Roman remains (which by this time had been scheduled as an Ancient Monument). The brief of the present excavators is two-fold, namely, to supervise the removal of the sand (which has now been virtually completed) and to excavate the remaining major area of archaeological interest (as indicated on the plan). The ground plan of room 13 is now quite clear and we are at present investigating the little Roman strata that survived in the central area. Roman and post-Roman deposition were in the main robbed out in the central area by a large pit (evidently dug to quarry stone from the Roman building), in the upper fill of which the latest identifiable sherds of pottery date to the 11th/12th centuries.

However, up against the west wall of "the existing offices" there is a baulk immediately above and beyond the west wall of 13 which does not appear to have suffered thorough robbing. Soon we hope to be able to turn our attention to this and it will be interesting to see if it yields anything in the way of evidence for the elusive "Dark Age" period of the City's history.

Eventually, the whole of the Roman complex at Billingsgate will be permanently opened to the general public.

John Maloney.



HH

Angel Court, Walbrook. 1974.

The story of Angel Court still continues. Originally dug in the early months of 1974, following as it did, hard on equally unhappy experiences at New Fresh Wharf, boded ill for the standards of the embryonic London Unit. Fortunately since then, work and research has developed differently. The site was directed by Mark Guterres, that enfant terrible of the early unit history.

The aim of the excavation was primarily to locate the stream-bed of the Walbrook, and to corroborate and substantiate the evidence of Professor Grime's Bucklerbury House section of 1953 which convincingly elucidated for the first time the stratigraphic sequence of the Walbrook stream-bed. Sadly we didn't locate this main stream, which most probably runs beneath Throgmorton Avenue, slightly to the north of the controlled excavation. However, we did excavate certain revetting and other structural timbers, which seemed to line the edge of a small streamlet or gully, which drained this area of the upper Walbrook Valley. Our excavations did confirm the evidence preliminarily published by Professor Grimes in 1968 showing the evolution of silting due to flooding, and the compensatory gravel dumping utilised to raise the stream bank. We recorded five layers of both gravel dumping and flood plain silt. Watching briefs all over the large redevelopment site of Angel Court were maintained.

Since the excavation ended at the beginning of April 1974 work on the report has been dormant (until September of this year), except for a small report, prepared by Guterres, of the main trench after the excavation had terminated. Mike Rhodes and his assistants have been concerned with the task of preparing the finds reports, while I have been at work on the site report.

The state of play at the moment is as follows - the archival report of the controlled excavation and of the watching briefs is completed. Sections and the plans are being drawn out now, while work still outstanding, is concerned with deciding what to publish and then extracting it from the archival report.

The report was originally scheduled for the 1976 Journal of LAMAS, but due to the extremely difficult conditions under which the finds section have been labouring, this date may have to be put back a year. In my own opinion, the sooner the spectre of Angel Court, Walbrook is laid to rest, the better!

Ricardo.

Loath though I am to write for this repulsive wrag, I'd like to mention the exhibition London as it might have been, at Guildhall until the end of December. It's free to get in and you can hire my old catalogue. The exhibition is of unused designs for London buildings - predominantly bridges and sewers, but never mind that - and is very exciting, although a bit flat chested and two dimensional. One hundred and seventy drawings show mad schemes for a funeral pyramid, royal palaces, skyscrapers - one reject scheme was subsequently sold to New York as the Empire state Building. My favourite is a proposal of 1943 that Tower Bridge, then sinking, should be redesigned as twin office blocks. There are some rather nice footbridges, alas, never built, for Bank, and Thames tunnels which look like the opening scene from Dr. Zhivago. I was surprised to notice that the Basinghall St HQ was not included as the supreme pipe-dream of the century.

John Schofield.

HH



New Fresh Wharf and St. Magnus.

The New Wharf trench, known as New Fresh Wharf areas I (post-Roman) and areas II (Roman) was opened in Dec. 1973, followed by St. Magnus, now called New Fresh Wharf area III, in April 1975. The site is situated between Billingsgate Fish Market car park and the church of St. Magnus the Martyr, just south of Lower Thames Street.

In area II the back of the Roman waterfront was found consisting of closely spaced vertical posts with planks set on edge behind. This seems to have formed the retaining wall for the river bank and may have been used as an earlier waterfront. At approximately 4.20m. in front of this, the late second century quay-front was built. 23m. of quay-front was found in total.

The answers to the problems of construction of this waterfront were found in area III, where the front of the quay was fully excavated. Short piles averaging 1m in height were driven into the foreshore and 'cradling' timbers running north/south were laid with a notched joint to take the sill-beam and the superimposed baulks of the quayfront. The distance between each cradle varies and the only criterion for their position is that they were a short distance from the end of each sill-beam. The sill-beams were butt-jointed to each other, and supported at least 3 if not 4 timber baulks, held in position by false-tenons. If there were 4 timber baulks on top of the sill-beam as at Xanton** this would bring the height of the waterfront to approx. +1.50m. O.D.

A general pattern has emerged of groups of horizontal beams lying at right angles and dove-tailed to the quay-front, but the arrangement differs in each area. In area III there are no vertical piles at the extreme east end of the trench but rows of horizontals with the low-

est one scarf-jointed to a brace which slopes down to join the quayfront. There is then a group of four pairs of verticals immediately behind the quayfront in east/west alignment, each pair being about 1m. apart. Horizontal timbers are notch jointed and nailed to opposing sides of these pairs of verticals. In area II the vertical piles were arranged in groups of four in staggered pairs, in north/south alignment, with the horizontal beams notch jointed and nailed to opposing sides of the verticals. These groups were 2 to 3 metres from the quayfront with an interval of 2.30m. between each group. The purpose of the horizontals seems to be to tie-back the quayfront to the quay-back and to hold the vertical piles in position. The group of piles in area III may have supported the bridge but it is more likely to be associated with a quayside feature, possibly a crane. The piles in area II probably supported a building.

The quantity of Samian and other pottery suggests a maximum period of use in the late 2nd. and 3rd. centuries. At Custom House⁺⁺ beams had already collapsed and been covered by silt in the 4th. century, but at New Fresh Wharf the collapsed beams are covered by Mid-Saxon silting. These silts also contain Dark Age pot which could be random but might possibly indicate that the waterfront was in use then. It was at least still standing in the Mid Saxon period when the robbers of the time made extensive use of the Roman structures for their own riverside creation.

**

H. von. Petrikovitz. 1952. Bonner Jahrbucher p.152. fig 20.

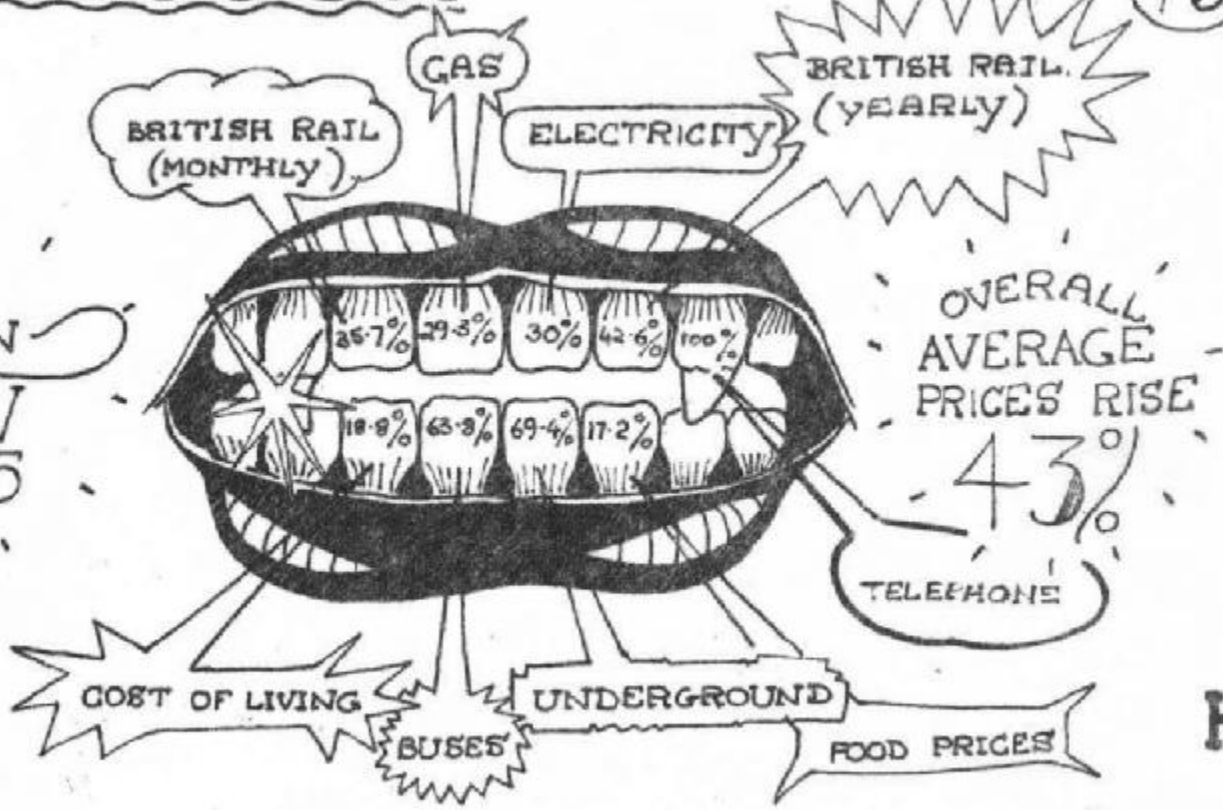
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T. Tatton-Brown. 1974. fig 25.

PRICE RISE INDEX

75

JAN
NOV
1975



HH

THAT SHOULD WIPE THE SMILE OFF YOUR FACE!

Throughout the history of archaeology it has been a general assumption that people who work in this 'very romantic' business do it for love, and not money. Generally speaking it's true, but there comes a time when they have to face up to the fact that we cannot live on fresh air.

To show how much our pound is worth in December, 1975, against January, '75, we have compiled a diagram showing increases that will affect all of us.

N.B.
£30.00. (Before tax) in January, is now worth, approx, £20.49.

An advertisement on the tube....,
'At 18 I earn over £2,300. per year as a traffic Warden.'

Phone now ! 01-230-2400.

Football Crazy.

Match report on the Brian Hobley Testimonial, played at The Lunt Stadium, Cov.

By our man on the gravel terrace
E.I. Addyman.

The match started well for the DUA with Wilcox making penetrating thrusts down the left before the referee, Mr. H. Cleere, after consulting the linesman, ordered him to get off his bicycle. Hill, the DUA's Welsh international midfield generalissimo, argued and was booked for calling the referee a bastion.

The home side were soon behind through an own goal when Rhodes the DUA keeper and boutique owner, on loan from Bayern Pingsdorf, was beaten by a viciously swerving header from Thompson, playing without his glasses or his teeth, and a little confused. Within ten minutes Carter, Evans, Belzoni and Woolley had all scored hat tricks.

The DUA's best chance came when Milne. C. drew the entire St. Arch's defence by batting her eyelashes. Kent chested the ball down, not an easy task, as she had been tightly marked, she had three men on her

DUA. nil. St. Archaeologists. 27.

throughout the match. Garfi, a one million lire close season signing from Atletico, Stamford Brook, was well tackled by Schliemann (he never lets a day go by...)

The match was abandoned after twenty minutes because of the state of the pitch. Boddington and Dash the DUA fullbacks had been digging uncontrollably in the centre-circle from soon after kick off.

B. Hobley, the DUA team management services consultant, said he would be asking his board to make money available to expand the first team squad, and provide win bonus contracts.

Harrison had done a half-lap of honour before he realised he was on the losing side.

John Malony & Derek Gadd.

Mr. Martin Biddle (God to you)
wrote a little something
you could do too.
When you take out skeletons
use a shovel and pick,
for research excavation
it would do the trick.
Well, word got to Alan
at the monthly meet',
"faster my lad, we mustn't
be beat."
But Alan after thinking
replied from the heart,
"I did as you suggested,
from the very start."

Letter from Dover

A cold, wet mist creeps up from the oily channel and a fog horn begins to mutter amongst the squabbling seagulls and the crashing gear-changes of juggernauts as they thunder over the safely-buried remains of Dover's fort of the Classis Britannica - evidence of a past battle won by the tenacity of Brian Philp and the calloused palms and thick skins of his Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit, more familiarly known as the CIB. A few yards away, behind an advert for a sexy brand of Rum, yellow helmets can be seen bobbing along greasy boards behind wheelbarrows in the maze of tread-boards, ladders, lights, labels, buckets, planks, muddy polythene, seagull droppings, greasy acrows and occasional puddles that would make Dover feel like home to any urban archaeologist. And beneath the helmets are the smeared faces of the 'heavies', those peculiar people who take a strange and masochistic delight in digging in the worst possible conditions at the fastest possible speed, giving up normal life with a monkish relish and leaving mortgages, clothes, women, money and similar worldly delights outside the barbed-wire and yellow and black 'keep out' notices. Answering only to the vigorous ringing of a bell and a loud cry of "Tea!" these pale and shuffling creatures keep up a seven-day routine around the dark and massive heap of corrugated iron and flapping polythene that contains the nearest thing we've got to Pompeii - Dover's 'Painted House'. The two rooms of brilliant wall-plaster, with their columns, arcades, dados, twisting plants, sprays of flowers, dancing figures, fronds, bunches of fruit and channel hypocaust rest quietly enough inside their cocoon, disturbed only by the muffled footsteps of someone up above recording the temperature, but meanwhile in the CIB's hectic centre at Dover Castle, in innumerable council meetings and committees and in the media, a fight to save the Painted House continues.

To show everyone just what was at stake, we dug the Painted House up again this summer (it was discovered in 1971) and so great was the response, from the thousands of visitors, from the press, from local councillors, from the establishment and from those who have become 'Friends of the Painted House' (which cost them a fiver each) that after a good deal of cliff-hanging the Painted House Fund, administered by a trust, is only £18,000 short of the sum needed to conserve the building and preserve it, open to the public, inside a purpose-built structure which could open in early 1977. Here we will be able to show the results of five years work on this huge site - the two Roman forts, the town houses, the Neolithic and Iron Age settlements, the Saxon town, the Medieval walled settlement with its church of cathedral proportions and much more.

The Unit, though based at Dover, manages to combine urban and rural rescue work, which is going on continuously all over Kent. These scattered digs may not be noticed by passers-by as they always take place in pouring rain. And of course a team works on at Dover Castle on all the familiar 'indoor jobs', though, as is the system in the CIB, they frequently find themselves ankle-deep in mud and clutching a pickaxe instead of the more familiar Rotring. But meanwhile the mist swirls round the Mobile Units, the kettle splutters in the tea hut and an anonymous heavy-booted figure clumps past the spoil heaps into the murk.....

Ralph Mills. CIB.

COLAS Calendar

SATURDAY
13th Dec. COLAS CHRISTMAS SOCIAL: At the Westminster Arms, Page Street, S.W.1.
Starting at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY
16th Jan. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

FRIDAY
20th Feb. LECTURE: "Excavation of a Saxon Barrow on Banstead Common"
By David Price-Williams Ph.D. Doctor Price-Williams is currently involved with excavations in the Western Negev Desert. Banstead is a little nearer home.

FRIDAY
19th March. LECTURE: "Netherton up to Date" By Jon Fairbrother. The finds from and the future hopes of the COLAS 'site in the country'.

FRIDAY
16th April. LECTURE: "Theatres" By Madeline Wilson. Mrs Wilson will trace the development of this form of entertainment from the dancing floors of the ancient Peloponnes to the Chichester New.

FRIDAY
21st May. LECTURE: "Fossils of London" By J.F.Potter Ph.D., B.Sc., F.G.S., M.I.Biol. The Principal of the Farnborough College of Technology will describe London's fossils and where to find them.

FRIDAY
18th June LECTURE: "The Medieval Cottage" By Adrian Gibson. This talk will probably contain some very useful studies appertaining to dating timber buildings.

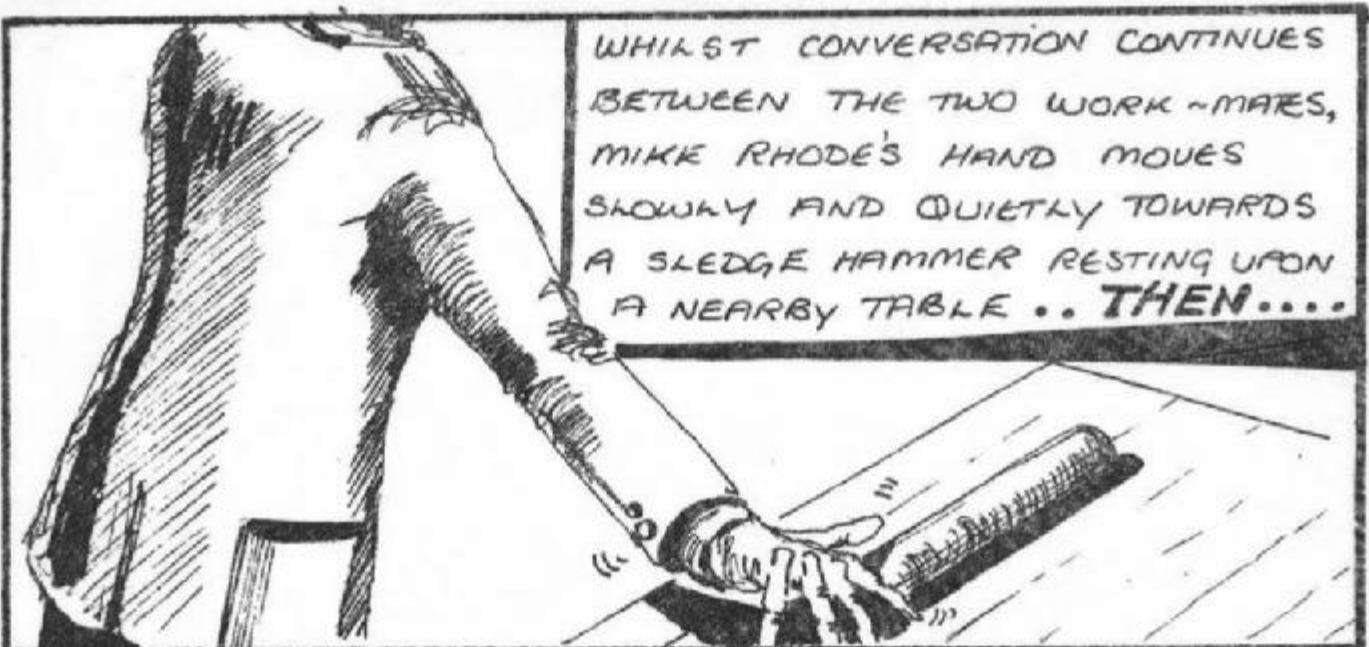
FRIDAY
16th July. To be confirmed.

FRIDAY
20th Aug. MEMBERS' EVENING Members' chance to give their own talk and/or show a dozen of their own slides.

Unless otherwise stated, all monthly meetings take place in the Hall of the Guild Church of St. Katharine Cree, No. 84, Leadenhall Street. Meetings start at 7 p.m. prompt and doors open at 6.30.

Lectures last for about an hour, followed by questions and Society business, with coffee and informal chat after. Visitors are welcome.

WHILST CONVERSATION CONTINUES
BETWEEN THE TWO WORK-MATES,
MIKE RHODE'S HAND MOVES
SLOWLY AND QUIETLY TOWARDS
A SLEDGE HAMMER RESTING UPON
A NEARBY TABLE .. **THEN....**

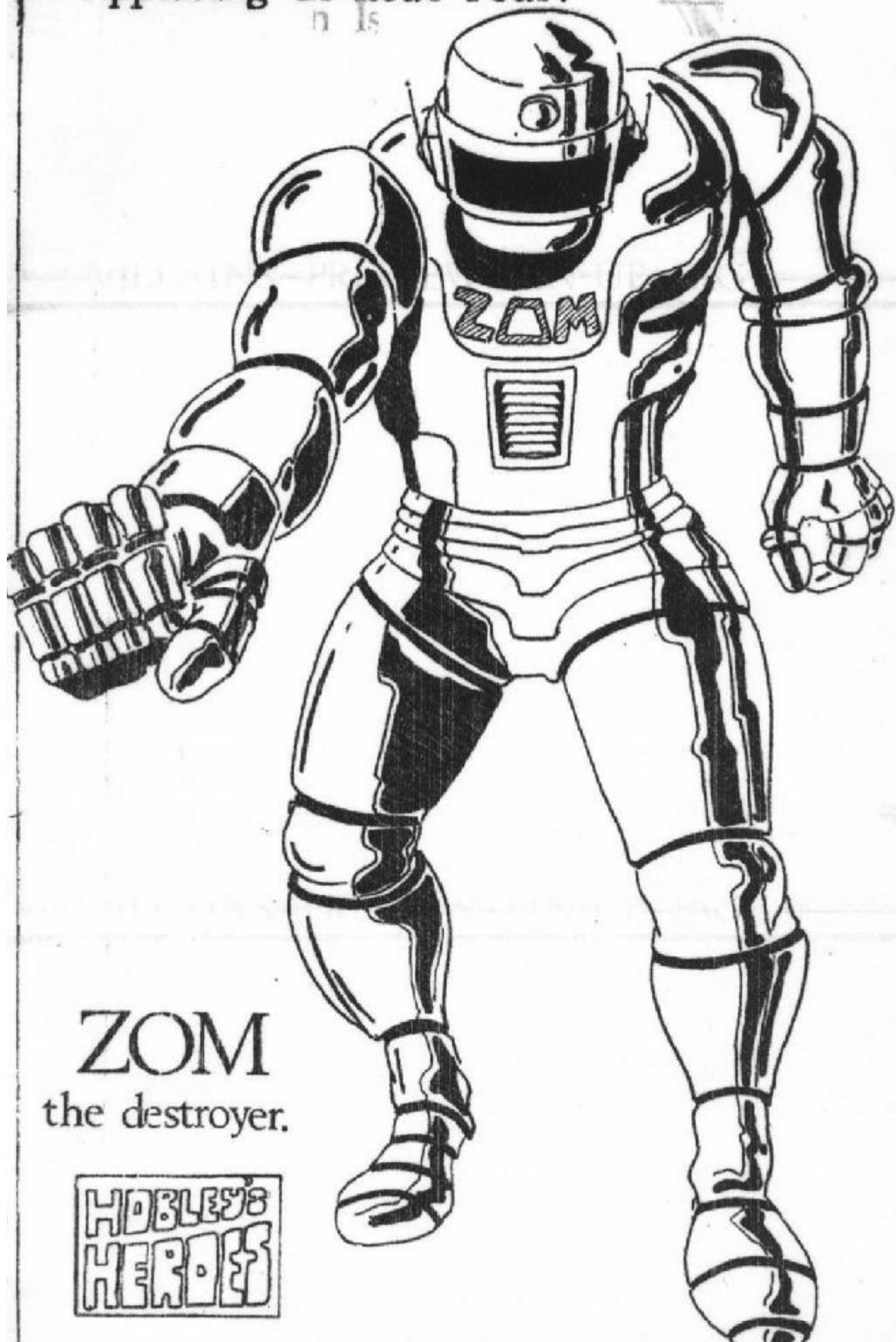


OUT OF MY
WAY HURST,
MY TASK HERE
MUST NOT BE
THWARTED!

WHAT IN
GOD'S NAME
ARE YOU
DOING, MAN!



Appearing in Issue Four.



ZOM
the destroyer.

**HOBLEY'S
HEROES**