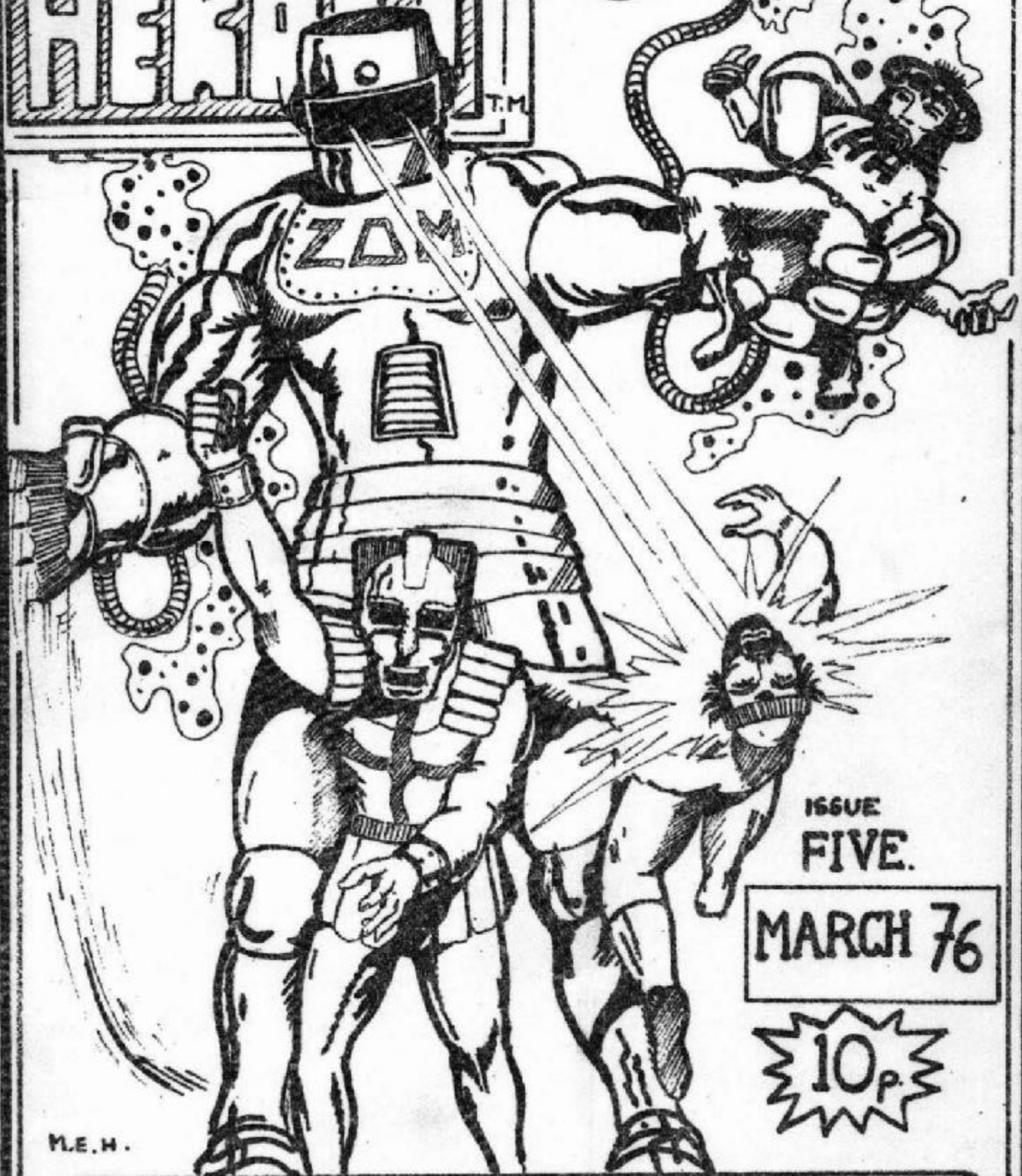


HOBBLES HERALD



ISSUE
FIVE.

MARCH 76

10^{P.}

THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MAG OF

FACT
&
FANTASY

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	Typing, mistakes, and layout.	

Wed-day, Birth-day, Die-day.

Congratulations to Alan T. and Mrs. Alan T. (Jan). On the 9th. March they will have been married 13 years also,

Congratulations to Debbie Coote and Stene Priddy, their two of Ken Dashes flat mates, and diggers in their own right. They are getting married on the 27th March. (Sat) 1976.



YOU STICK TO YOUR
SIDE OF THE RIVER AND I'LL
STICK TO MINE.

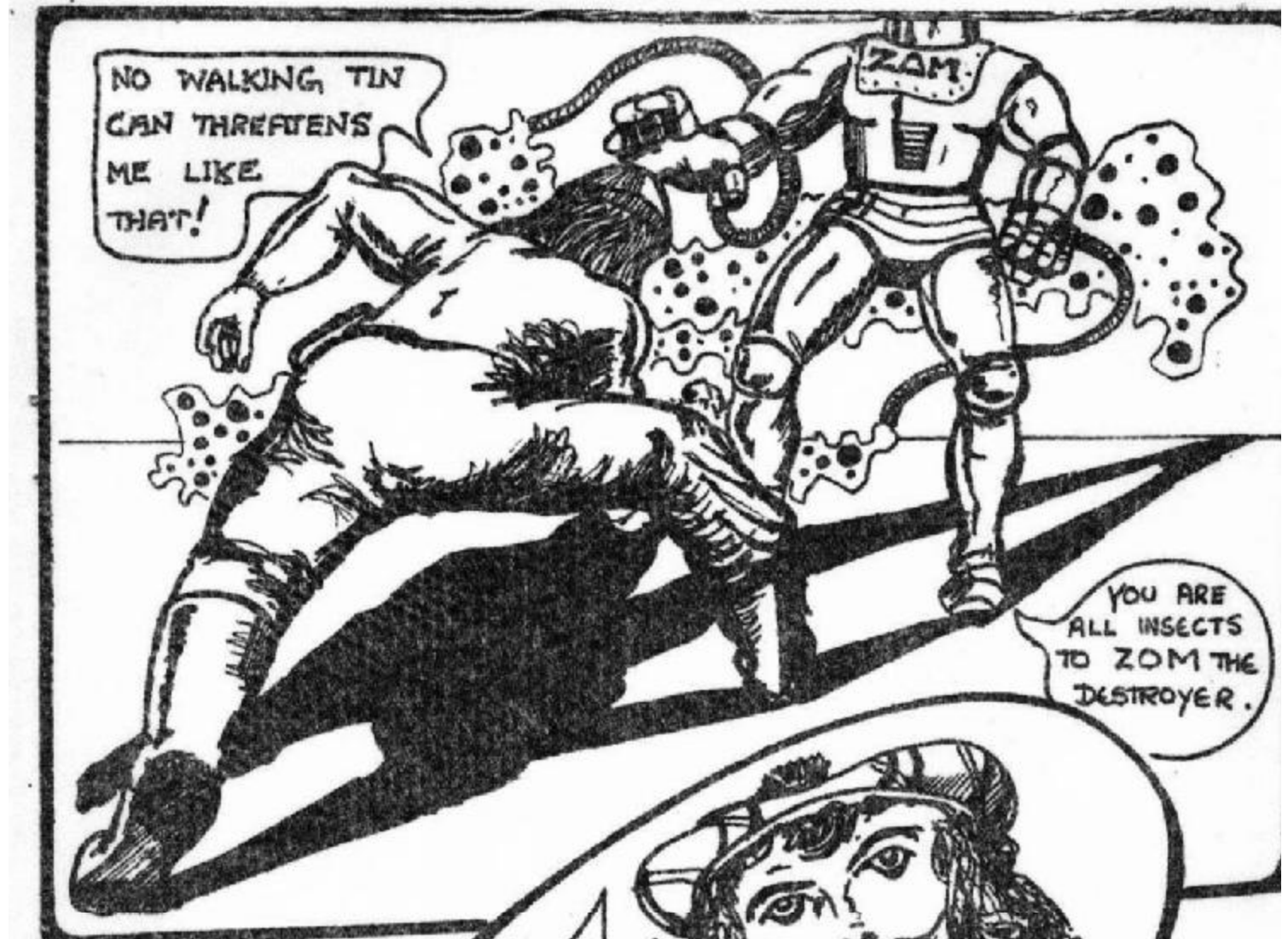
BATTLE ROYAL

THE FINAL PART OF OUR
FIST-CLENCHING SAGA.

ENJOY YOUR
FIRST GLIMPSE OF
ME HEROES, FOR IT
SHALL BE YOUR
LAST!


SO
BE
IT!

I DON'T KNOW WHO,
OR WHAT, YOU ARE, BUT WE
SHALL STOP YOU, EVEN IF IT
COSTS US OUR LIVES...

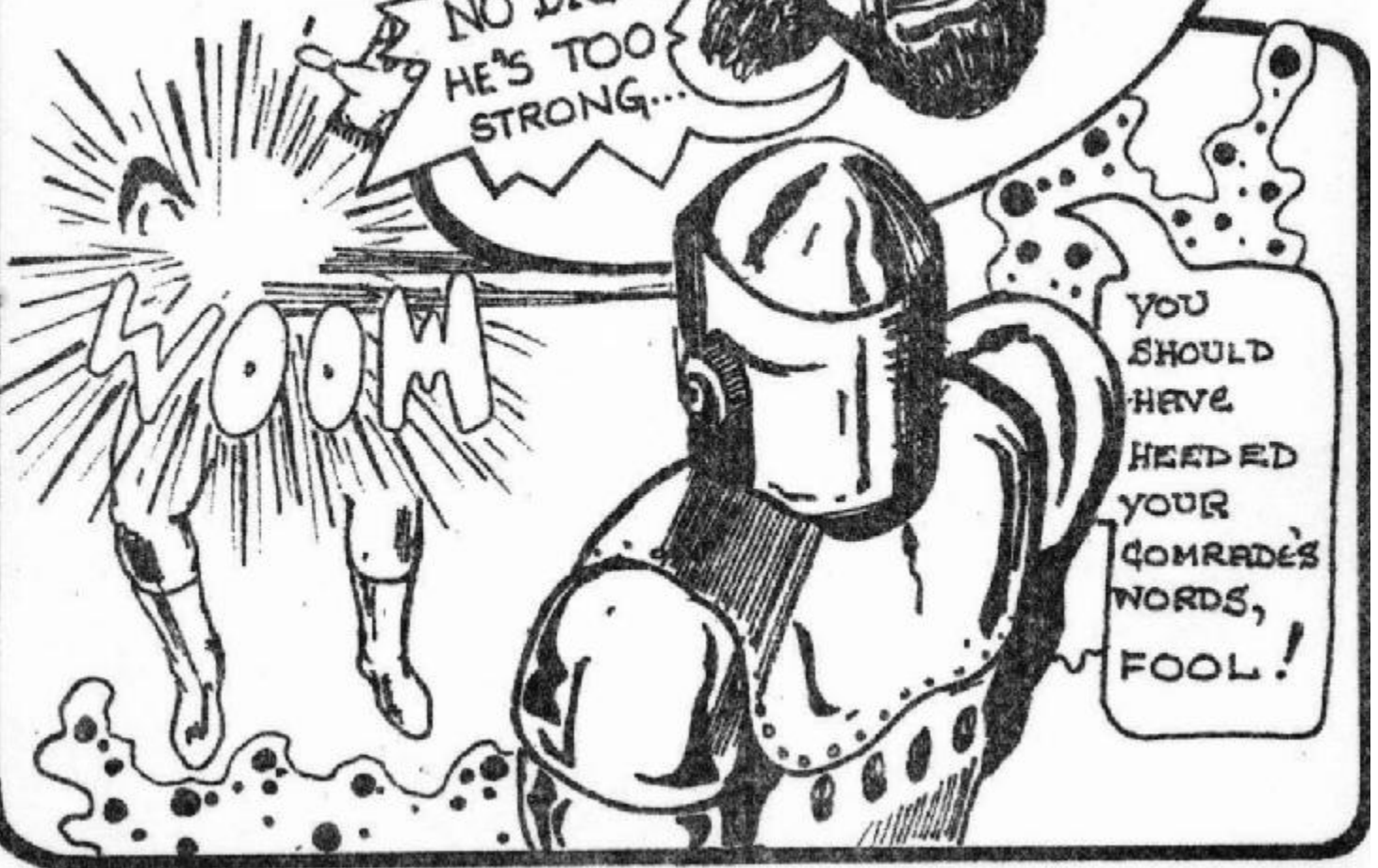


NO WALKING TIN
CAN THREATENS
ME LIKE
THAT!

YOU ARE
ALL INSECTS
TO ZOM THE
DESTROYER.




NO DICK
HE'S TOO
STRONG...



YOU
SHOULD
HAVE
HEEDED
YOUR
COMRADES'
WORDS,
FOOL!

WOOM



THEN ALAN TAKES
HIS TURN INTO BATTLE!

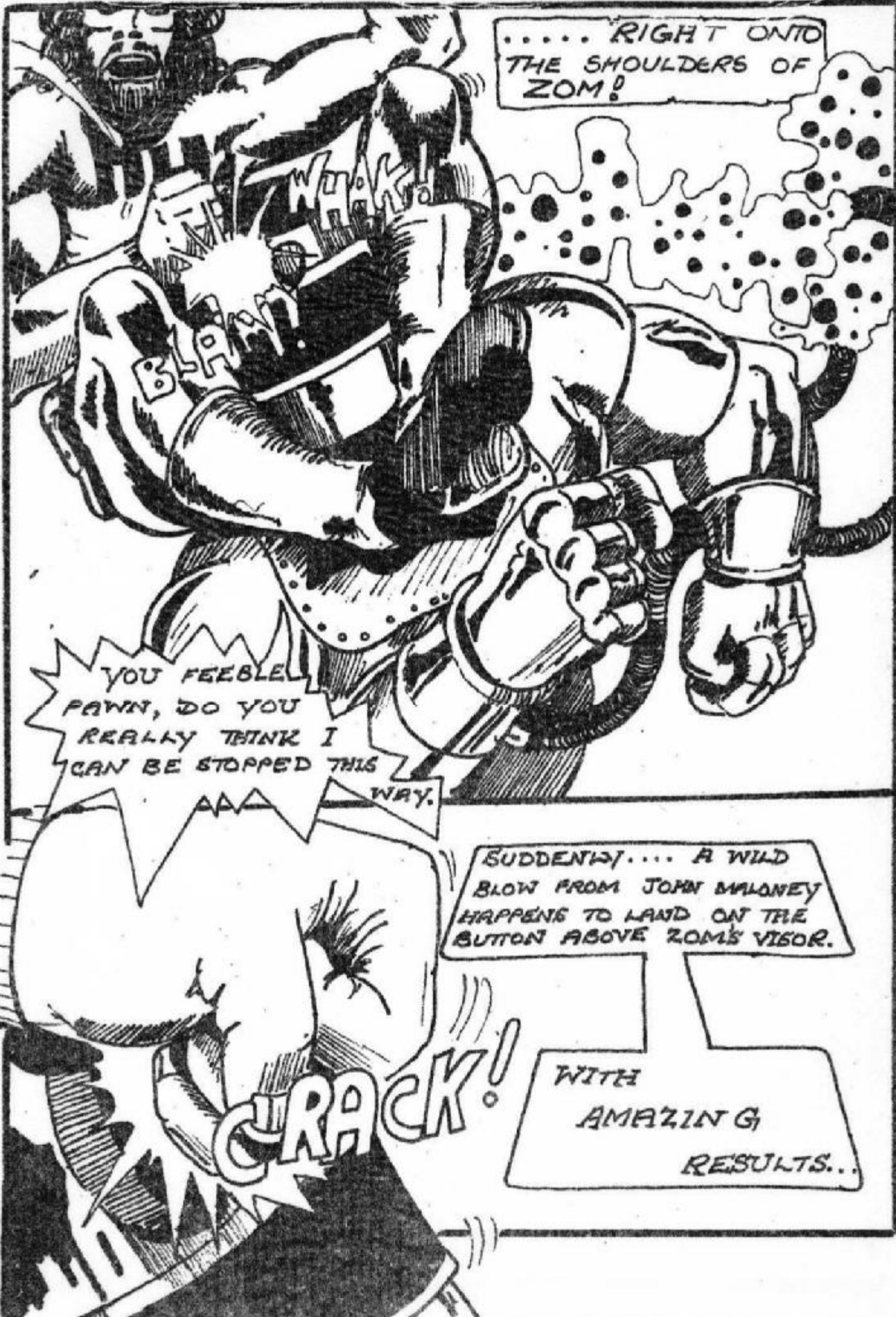
THESE PUNY
ATTACKS ARE
BEGINNING
TO BORE ME.

POW

THEY DON'T
DO VERY
MUCH FOR ME
EITHER!

WAM

MEANWHILE, AS ALAN
FIGHTS IN VAIN,
JOHN MALONEY MOVES
BEHIND THE METAL
MONSTER, AND WITH
CAT-LIKE AGILITY
LEAPS INTO ACTION.....



..... RIGHT ONTO
THE SHOULDERS OF
ZOM!

WHA!

YOU FEEBLE
PAWN, DO YOU
REALLY THINK I
CAN BE STOPPED THIS
WAY.

SUDDENLY.... A WILD
BLOW FROM JOHN MALONEY
HAPPENS TO LAND ON THE
BUTTON ABOVE ZOM'S VISOR.

WITH
AMAZING
RESULTS...

CRACK!

THE WHOLE OF ZOM'S MIGHTY BODY SHUDDERS,
CAUSING JOHN TO LOSE HIS BALANCE.



IDIOT!
YOU DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU HAVE
DONE?

MY CANCEL
BUTTON, MY
MEMORY IS
FADING
I...

GOT A
HEADACHE?
BIG BOY.

MEANWHILE.....



THE CONTROLLER HAS SEEN ALL, WITH A VERY ANGRY EYE

ALL MY PLANS RUINED, BUT DO NOT FEAR, ACCURSED HEROES

I SHALL RETURN AND GAIN MY REVENGE.

AND WHILE THE CREATOR OF ZOM NEARS PARANOIA THE HEROES NURSE THEIR BRUISES AND TALK.

WHAT CONTRACT.



THIS KIND OF WORK WASNT MENTIONED IN MY CONTRACT



PERHAPS WE SHOULD CLAIM DANGER MONEY!

NEXT MONTH, A BRAND-NEW STORY ENTITLED... THE FOX & THE FIELD OFFICER

A.S.T.M.S.

February has been a promising month so far, as regards the prospect of official recognition of ASTMS as the DUA Field Staffs union and progress towards a happy conclusion for our efforts to gain proper contracts.

At the February Monthly Meeting John Schofield announced that on the advice of Mike Kennedy of ASTMS the DUA Fd. Staff had elected a committee (comprising of himself, Mark Harrison and Alan Thompson) to deal with matters relating to the contracts for the Fd. Staff. The CUA welcomed this and said that the sooner a dialogue between management and staff started the better it would be for all concerned. J.A.S. requested that the committee be given the opportunity to see the draft contract as soon as possible to facilitate discussion at the next Monthly Meeting, and the CUA agreed. The CUA, in answer to a "Diggers Question", expressed the hope that the present staffing level would be maintained in 1976/7 but said that this ultimately depended upon the level of the DOE grant for the coming year, which would be known in 4-6 weeks. Further to this the CUA said that if the number of staff had to be cut, he would consult with the Fd. Staffs committee, and then any one involved would be notified at the earliest opportunity.

A request was made for a formal reply from Ray Collins to an earlier enquiry concerning the back payment of N.I. contributions between 6th. April

and 31st. December, 1975, and the CUA said that he would see to it. The CUA and Ralph Merrifield expressed their support of our endeavours to gain formal recognition of ASTMS as the Field Staffs union, and said that they would see Messrs. Hulme and Collins in this connection.

The same evening of the day of the Monthly Meeting (13th. Feb) the DUA Fd. Staff met with Mike Kennedy, and the main news item here was that M.K. had phoned Ray Collins and was informed that the latter had written to the Town Clerk regarding ASTMS application for official recognition as the union representing the DUA Fd. Staff - M.K. is hopeful that this proposal received the support of the Museum of London. The rest of the meeting was taken up with discussions regarding conditions, contracts, and salaries in other units, what the Field Staff would like to see in the forthcoming contracts, and current union policy on terms and conditions of employment.

Progress is definitely being made towards recognition of ASTMS by the corporation as the DUA Fd. Staffs official union, and towards a fair and secure basis of employment for the DUA archaeologists in the field. The month of March is crucial in the pursuit of the above aims, and it is very heartening to the Field Staff to have the full co-operation and support of Brian Hobley and Ralph Merrifield, and to both of them we say thank you.

HH. Union Correspondent.

CONFERENCE OF ACTION FOR RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGISTS

astms

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INSIDE LEG

The editor has told me that several readers have not seen the point of some of my wittier jokes and have even accused me of being snide and spiteful against certain persons. Humour is protean in its forms, and you cannot expect to please all the people all the time; nor, I suppose, can you expect all the readers to understand all the time. All my criticisms have been made in jest and the spitefulness or not is all in the readers own mind. For instance, jokes about the mature years of your leader stem from the fact that he has surrounded himself with a very dynamic young team, average age about 18, whose zest and dedication to duty will bring many laurels to the DUA in the coming years. The fact that he allows HH to appear at all is unique in British urban units, showing that the establishment is man enough to consider fruitful criticism - a situation not enjoyed in most other units. You are the best unit in the country, and will remain so while HH is allowed to continue. I suggest that offended readers expand their sense of humour, and assure them it is all meant in fun. For their benefit I will in future put a ** rating on each funny item, and !! rating on the more serious pieces, so that there will be no more confusion.

*! Economy tip No.1.! for the Museum of London: high ranking officers could journey between Basinghall St. and Kensington Palace by tube and not by taxi. The cost is about half and the time taken just as short.

* * *

*** Last week was not good for relations between S-S-S-Schofield J. and the boys in blue. On Wednesday he decided to take his recently excavated human skull, who answers to Bertrand, to his evening class (anything to swell the register). Outside Cannon St. railway station he was stopped by two plainclothes policemen, and asked to reveal the contents of his bag. "You're not going to believe this...." he began somewhat hesitantly.

Four days later he drove to Scotland in his fathers car and was booked for speeding in Dalkeith, Midlothian, ten miles short of his destination in Edinburgh. He was doing 46mph. in a 30-zone. While the constables were taking down his name and address he told them about the railway station and the skull.

They were not amused.

Toodle-oo.

Charles Roach-Smith

Your feature "Finders Keepers?" in the 6-12 December issue seems to join with the 'archaeologists' in smearing all people who own metal detectors.

It is a very small minority that raids archaeological sites. Even so, it is no excuse to rate even this small minority along with armed gangs who've systematically stripped Mayan remains from the jungle before archaeologists could reach them.' I would say that the archaeologists have had plenty of time to reach Roman remains in Britain.

I do not support the destruction of sites, but I would point out that while many sites are spoilt just as many are found that would not have been found but for the detector users.

G.J. Birch.

Radlett, Hertfordshire.

From the T.V. Times.

Eds. note...

If you would like to answer this letter, please write to H.H.

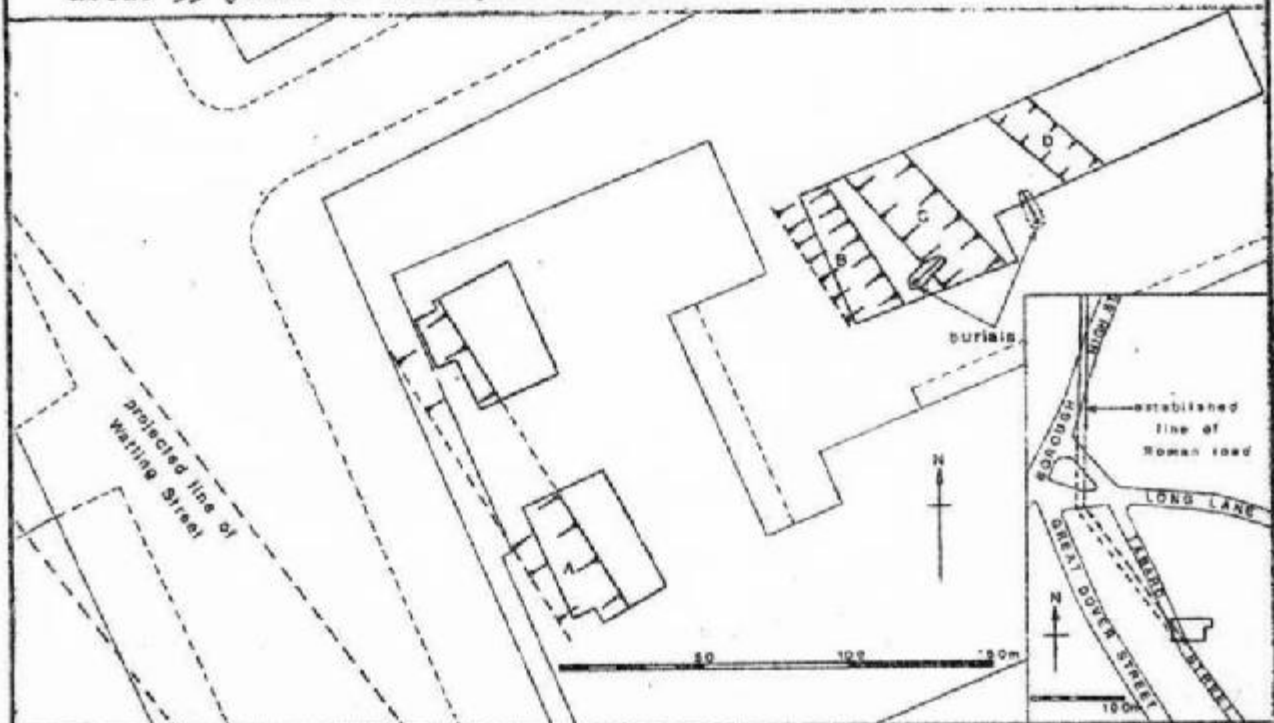
A Burial From Southwark.

Despite "Who-dun-it mystery 1,700 years old" (London Evening News) and "Who Dun It - Murder most foul!" (South East London Mercury) - this is our version of the facts.

An inhumation burial, probably of the later Roman period, was excavated in October 1975 during the current SAEC excavation at Chaucer House. (A second burial awaits excavation).

The site is about half a mile south of London Bridge. It lies just north-east of the projected line of Watling Street and south of the Roman settlement. Roman burials have been found in the area but only two archaeologically recorded- both 4th. century AD. inhumations at Swan Street (see forthcoming LAMAS/SAS research paper).

The Chaucer House inhumation was a rough and ready affair. The body, in an extended position, lay face down, atypical of Roman inhumation. The depth of the grave was only 25cms.- hardly deep enough for the skull to be covered. The graves small size necessitated slight flexing of the legs and the left arm was flexed with the hand wedged up against the side of the grave. There was no coffin and no grave goods. The burial, aligned NE-SW, is probably pagan. The evidence suggests a burial without ceremony- the body simply bundled into a shallow grave. Preliminary work on the skeleton by Robin Watt indicates the individual was female, aged about 35 years at death, and of small stature, about 4ft 9ins. tall.

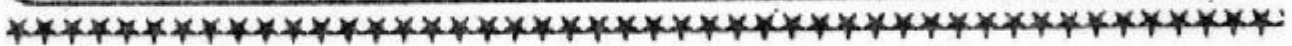


The burial is later than ditches A, B and C which were dug in the early Roman period, possibly for field drainage. The ditches had gone out of use by the later 2nd century AD. South-west of a later Roman ditch (D), i.e. over most of the excavated area, a paucity of finds suggests the commencement of a prolonged period of inactivity. Weathering of the early Roman levels occurred and it was into this layer that the grave was cut. Associated pottery was of later 2nd. century AD. date but the sherds may be residual.

continued next page

It is perhaps significant that both burials lie between the possible line of Watling Street and ditch D. North-east of this ditch there is a marked increase in finds of the 3rd. and 4th. centuries AD. Here, present evidence suggests some form of agricultural land usage continuing through the later Roman period. Although it is tempting to see the sparsely-used area to the south-west as a burial ground, ditch D could simply be a field boundary. If the excavated material is that of a pauper, as seems possible, the grave may have been dug on wasteland bordering the road rather than within the confines of a cemetery.

Brian Yule



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Archaeology and Documents.

The Husting Rolls.

Final part.

If one was searching for deeds relating to a named tenement, church or wharf, or to a nearby property- as outlined- it is simply a matter of picking out the references and following them up in the rolls. But if this isn't possible, then it is a question of looking at all the deeds in the parish concerned. The main advantage of this approach, to be philosophical about it, is that in time a useful collection of summaries of deeds by parish can be built up. Sometimes shortcuts can be taken by only looking at the deeds indexed by street within the parish, but usually the greater majority of properties in a parish front onto the street anyway.

With all the relevant deeds abstracted from the rolls, the next thing is to retire into seclusion, which is a bit of a joke in the city, but essential because this is where the fun really starts. Each deed normally mentions the names of the persons of whom the property is passing, and most have details added for further identification. The most usual is to name the next door neighbours on three sides

(the fourth commonly being the street) together with compass point. This is normally sufficient to reconstruct the relationships and tenures of the properties, but it is seldom that all the odd bits fit into the picture perfectly. There are often gaps or down-right contradictions but the basic pattern is obtainable. Whether the basic pattern is of archaeological significance can be another matter: measurements are probably rarer than 1 deed in 20, and it is much more often the case that the archaeology bails out the documentation. But this is bound to be the case, and on the whole, the larger the site, the bigger the potential contribution of the evidence. With the exception of certain categories of site (public buildings- eg. the wall and ditch at Ludgate, and Livery company property- eg. Trig Lane) the bigger the area the better - topics like The Waterfront, The Wallbrook, The Bridge and so on, because only on this scale can population densities or movements be adequately detected.

Tony Dyson

A letter from Hilary

Drawingboard by the Window.
The Storeroom,
Bedford Museum,
The Embankment,
Bedford,
Beds.
1st.Feb.1976.

Well,I'm at a loss for words,speechless,flabergasted,amazed,somewhat embarrassed,very grateful,and I can't really say thank you enough.However,(here comes the boring bit)I shall try.How-about,merci,beaucoup,gratzia,dankeshon,or if Jon-Jon has the letraset handy; $\pi \neq \int \pi \neq \int$. Seriously though,I really appreciate the gesture you have made for me,and you have succeeded in making me regret even more the fact that I no longer work with y'all.

Life is very quiet here in the B.M.(Midlands) but at least I'm earning and I'm still in Archaeology,which amazingly enough,pleases me greatly. St.Neots ware is abundant and my first task is to draw up a sort of type series. Extremely tedious but bloody good practise. The unit here is compact,eight people,two of whom are temporary. One site in progress all the year round-think it's R-B and somewhere north of here.

Well I think that's it as far as my thank you letter goes.I'll see you when I visit your B.M.

Keep Smiling,
Hilary.

Darts Match Report

Hitherto undisclosed reports have been revealed to the HH sports editor that Lord Kilannin was bitterly disappointed by the complete eclipsing of the Winter Olympics by one of the least publised but most passionately fought out competitive occasions of the century. The event I'm referring to of course is that which has had the eyes of the sporting world fixed hypnotically on a small and otherwise undistinguished pub,the Globe, Southwark,the scene in recent weeks of the titanic struggle between those officianos of the "Jim Pikes" the DUA and SAEC darts teams.

In the first week a small but determined vanguard consisting of Brian(Capt.),Derek,Mark and Louise braved the tortuous route through the back streets of Southwark,a latterday haunt of footpads and rogues,only to

suffer a "Custers Last Stand" of a defeat at the hands of the seemingly invincible SAEC. But the second week was a very different story, with the DUA turning out in numbers and like vengeful furies winning a victory marred only by the lack of a passing Norse saga writer to immortalise it in verse. The third week could have been scripted by Hitchcock, turning into a cliff hanging draw that was directly responsible for two cases of heart failure amongst the audience.And so the match stands poised to be resolved in future weeks unless an epidemic of scirosis of the liver or dart players elbow or other occupational hazards precludes it.

When asked for comments,the organisers Alan Grant and Brian Gilmour hicoughed and replied, " Mines a pint of Directors."

from Derek Gadd

Distributed by Deutsche Bundespost.

Hobley's Heroes.
c/o. Trig Lane,
Museum of London,
Basinghall St,
London,
E.C.2.

Room 57.
Axelspringer Hotel,
Schwanneurende,
American Sector,
West Berlin.

Dear Sir,

While on my way to research the likelihood of cosmic intervention in early Burundi civilisation I happened to visit the Medieval graveyard site of the GPO, Newgate St. and the obvious interpretation struck me like a blitzkrieg.

Note that all the skeletons have their heads to the west and the attitude of the bones is obviously one such as would be adopted if death were sudden. Evidently the skeletons have been uncovered in three distinct groupings.

Allow me if you will to carry you back some hundreds of years in time. An alien rocket is in orbit about our earth. Seeing it to be inhabited, the occupants obviously wish to communicate with the natives. They send down a reconnaissance party.

The landing of a space rocket in early Medieval London would no doubt have caused consternation among the inhabitants, who would have gathered to watch the descent. This would have been their undoing. For the violent rocket blast would have immediately killed the surrounding crowd. They would have fallen down simultaneously and been at once buried by the debris of soil thrown up as the rocket plume impinged upon the soil. The same would have happened to the next wave of people, who enraged at the demise of their comrades would have hurled stones at the rocket. This explains the incredible amount of stones I saw on the so called "ramp". The final wave of people, by now terrified, would have prayed to their God for deliverance and been buried in the process. As they were all facing east the obvious inference is that they were all Muslims.

I therefore urge that all skeletons be tested for radioactivity, that all excavators wear lead-lined clothing and that the ramp area be excavated for traces of charred or melted structures from the blast.

Yours Faithfully,

Erich von Daniken.

P.S.

With your permission I hope to include this information in my forthcoming book "Messages from the Stars", subtitled "Was God a Postman?"

Something to Sell, or Wanted? use H.H.

The archaeologist is digging up, not things, but people. Unless the bits and pieces with which he deals, be alive to him, unless he have himself the common touch, he had better seek out other disciplines for his exercise.

Sir Mortimer Wheeler.

C.O.L.A.S.

As many of you will know doubt know, I have been associated with the City of London Archaeological Society (COLAS), for many years. As its chairman over the past seven years I have seen the Society grow and mature, and its archaeological potential increase to a point where the DUA should be very aware of its existence. It has always been possible (for one reason or another), to praise the efforts of the membership in the society, but never more so than during these first years of the DUA work in the City. The main aim of the Soc. has always been to assist, wherever possible, with archaeological excavation within the square mile, and has been doing this with some success, since the foundation of the City of London Excavation Group (COLEG) in 1965.

Since the founding of the DUA, the society has played an important part in most excavations undertaken in the City, and on occasions has been the sole working force. Just before the advent of the DUA, the society worked on the Milk Street site under the direction of Nick Farrant, with members also working on the finds, which are housed in the Salt Tower (Tower of London). Plans and sections plus the documentary evidence have also been worked on by the society Membership.

After the completion of Milk Street, the society dealt with Africa House, and helped at NFW, along with Trig Lane, Triangle, and Seal House. Assistance was also given at the Minorities and Aldgate. Since the beginning of 1975 the society has provided help at the riverside wall at Baynards Castle, done a vast amount of work at Cannon St. and carried out its own excavations at Cass College under the direction of Des Woods. Also during 1975 excellent work was carried out on my site at the GPO, Newgate Street.

At the time of writing COLAS members are working on the Forum site in Fenchurch Street, at the weekends but are still providing a good working force for the GPO excavations as well, and I am sure that if the need arose, more people would be only too willing to spare time for all this important work.

I think the above account of the work done, and that in progress by the society is very impressive, and only hope that all this work is appreciated by the powers that be. For my own part, I would like to say many thanks to all society members who have assisted in the archaeological work in the City, and may you always be enthusiastic enough to continue your excellent work.

Alan Thompson

Last months answers	I	O	N	A	H	I	L	L
	C	E	O					M
	E	R	A	A	B	O		U
	H	A	A	L	B	S		
	C	O	A	R	S	E	W	A
	D	T	Y	Y				U
	E	H					N	M
	S	U	R				A	
	A	T	R	I	G		R	J
	S	U	C				D	O
H	A	T	S	H	R	P	S	
							U	
							T	

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GLEN.

It's a hard life for sherds these days. Untimely ripped from the soil (a phrase I pinched from a well-known archaeologist- guess who?), they are then subjected to a process of severe interrogation by the finds section, located in a remote hide-away known as Kensington Palace, before finally being allowed to spend the rest of their days quietly in polybags. In a sense, it's their own fault as they are remarkably reluctant to yield up the information that each possesses the answers to the vital questions "how old?", "where from?" and "what for?".

Techniques for asking the second question have been developing rapidly recently; they are based on accurate identification of the inclusions in the fabrics of the pottery - geological composition, size, shape, etc. a set form of questioning- (known in the jargon as an "algorithm")- and densed by Dr. Peacock at Southampton University- is used to identify the different types of inclusion.

The first stage of the examination is the traditional one of strong spot-light and hand-lens. This is not often successful because the broken edges of the sherd often develop a protective surface, so that the true nature of the inclusion cannot be seen. Stage two is therefore "to make a fresh break" usually with a small pair of pliers (ouch!) some archaeologists use a bottle opener, but this is banned as unnecessarily cruel. The freshly broken surface reveals the true nature of the sherd, and the interrogation can really start. Some of the questions are innocuous enough- "light or dark inclusions?" for instance, but some are extremely painful, like "do the inclusions fizz when touched with hydrochloric

We have ways of making you talk.

by

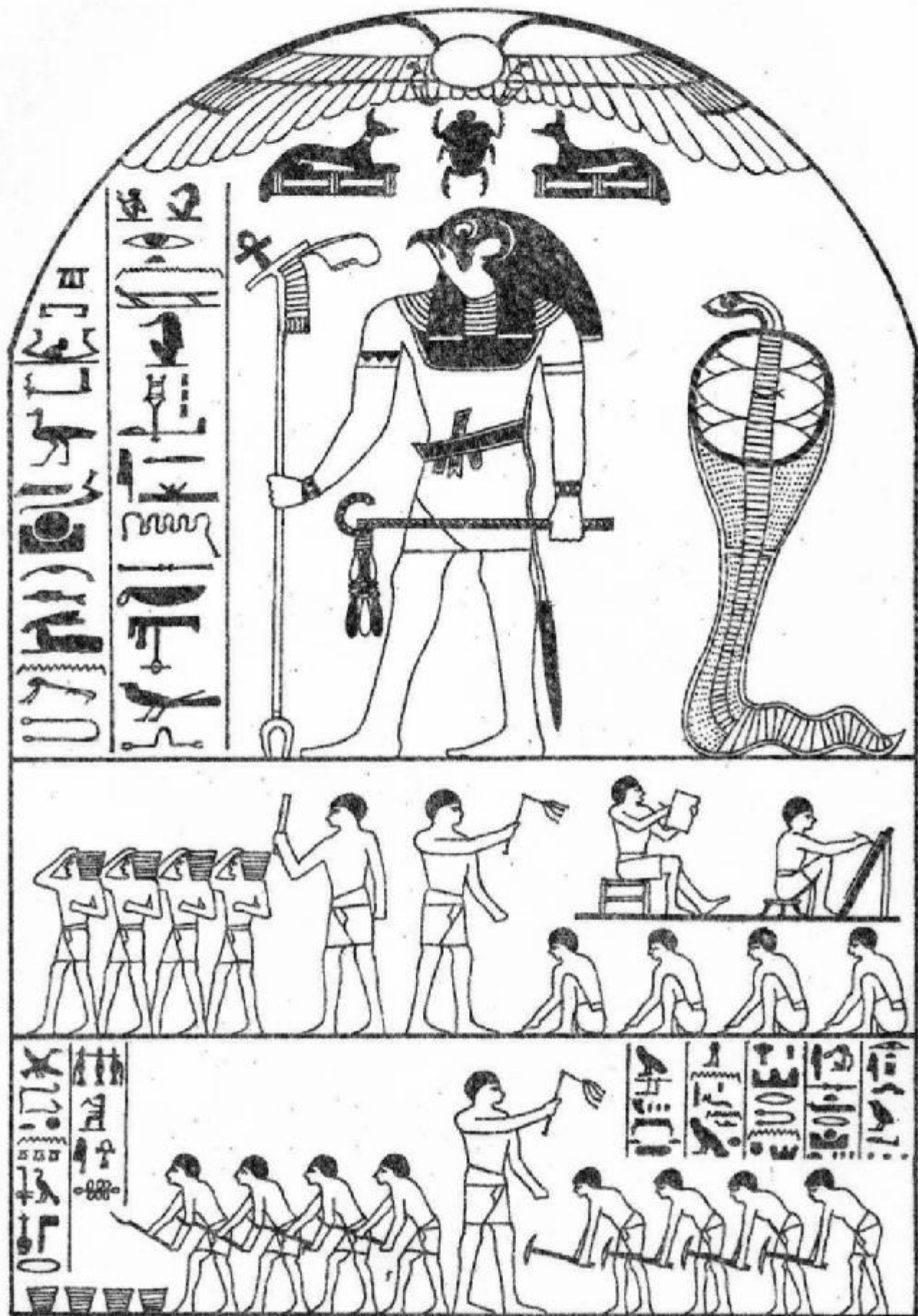
Clive Orton

acid?" (screams). In really difficult cases, an even nastier threat can be used- crushing a small sample of the sherd to powder to extract the inclusions for closer study. A whole armoury of more sophisticated techniques are available, at a price: thin sections, neutron activation analysis and so on.

The aim is to produce a clear and detailed description of the material of which pottery is made, for comparison with other contexts on the site, other local sites, and possible production centres. In time a body of data will be built up which will enable archaeologists to study properly the distribution of different types of pottery, and draw conclusions on (for example) trade and marketing.

Sometimes the sherds strike back - recently we identified (quite correctly) the inclusions of some hand-made black-burnished ware bowls as "metasediment". Excitement rose as we discovered that the nearest geological source of metasediment is in Dorset, that BBW is thought to have its origins in that area and..... whatever were they up to sending handmade pots from Dorset to London? But it was not to be - apparently the raw clay had been imperfectly "wedged", leaving little lumps (rather like the lumps in porridge). On firing, these lumps had been turned into metasediment.

THE WEEKLY WHISPER



OLD UNCLE TOM HOBLEY AND HILL

APPEARING IN ISSUE SEVEN.

HOBLEY'S
HEROES.
©



THE
JESTER