

CITY OF LONDON

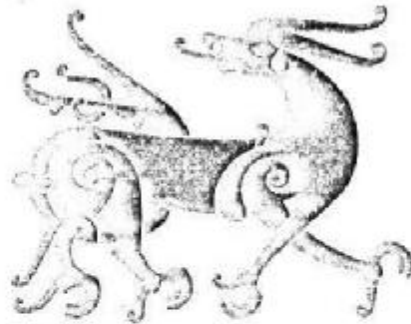
GROUND MAGAZINE.

UNDER

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROGRAMME

THE

DUA
STAFF
NEWS



No. 7.

july

THE
ONLY

GRACECHURCH STREET TUNNEL AND FISH STREET TRENCH TRENCH STENCH

As you all know by now, what in fact has been discovered under Gracechurch Street is a pink swimming pool- which is why I wear a safety helmet so as to avoid injuring myself when I dive in at the shallow end (only six inches deep, remember?) John and I have found the wooden crane rather difficult to operate in such confined spaces.....

Since your correspondent last wrote; the Forum/Basilica stretch of the tunnel has largely been completed. Early in June saw the connection between shafts 3 and 4, a particularly unpleasant stretch for the tunnelers, who had to contend with up to two feet of water in one stretch. I chickened out, on the pretext of getting married, leaving John Maloney to put on his waterwings and swim through to become the first submarine, sub-urban archaeologist. The last stretch of shaft 3 proved rewarding in that one section of the Basilican wall was revealed, standing to a height of nearly 2m. Unfortunately, rain stopped play and the one remaining wall proved impossible to locate under mud and water, although its likely position was known from the records. North from shaft 4 to Bishopsgate was largely unknown territory, due to lack of recorded evidence. All that can be said here is that there were far fewer features and only the occasional robbed out trench, which points to little of importance in the area beyond the Basilica.

Meanwhile, back in shaft 5 something stirred.... Shaft 5 started just below the original shaft 1 (now filled in) and continued down to Eastcheap, beyond which an open cut was to carry the pipes down to Monument. So far, this relatively short length of tunnel has produced a complex of walls, atleast two phases of Roman and one probably Medieval, all crossing the tunnel roughly along a north-south axis. The hoped-for road along the alignment of Eastcheap has not materialised, though traces of road makeup has been noted. My hopes were raised as the tunnel neared Monument tube and one could hear trains entering and leaving the station quite distinctly! At last, a cheap way home, and no queuing at the escalators.....

Come the end of June and fine weather, the tunnellers must have

decided to leave the roof off down Fish Street to improve their pallid complexions. From this point down to the Monument, the trench averaged about 2m deep and revealed several wall sections of 16th, 17th Century origin and one later, probably C18th. A massive stretch of Medieval wall may give some indication of the earlier street frontage, as none of the wall sections extended beyond the east side of the trench.

Simultaneously as the Fish Street Trench was being cut, another tunnel was being driven west from Shaft 6, immediately at the foot of the Monument, along lower Thames Street as far as King William Street, where it would join up with existing cables. To date, though, this tunnel has been barren; ie. unproductive, unprofitable, dull, void of vital germs, lack of interest, arid (see Shorter English Dictionary on Historical Principles). Most likely this is because its course is to close to the old street frontage and much of the debris seems to be that of the old cellars and basements (sorry about the Roman Bridgehead, John but we did try.....)

And now, for you numerological freaks; in the seventh month of 1977, the seventh shaft. This again starts from the triangular traffic island at the bottom of Gracechurch Street just above Eastcheap, near the former entrance to Shafts 1 and 5 (now both filled with GPO pipes and cement. It looks like our old friend Boudicca was around this area, judging by thick layers of burnt daub already revealed. It also looks as though if the tunnellers defiate too far to the left, we shall almost certainly find ourselves in the post med. gardrobes- which should give the City Recorder plenty of scope for news....

Rumours that PVRM has accepted a lucrative offer from the GPO are unfounded; the reason he was seen emerging from the entrance to shaft 5 wearing an alien red helmet was to guard against the possibility of a bathing machine falling on top of his head- or one of those dangerous circular shower contraptions found in Gracechurch Street. Avoid the latter.

PEDRO

TRIP TO TUNISIA

In March I went on a package holiday to Tunisia. I flew from London to Tunis Airport, where I met the guide and the party sorted itself into some semblance of order. The guide showed us to our vehicle—a Bedford lorry with an ordinary chassis and a 'bus'-type cabin on the back. Since the tour was based on camping the truck carried several hundred pounds of tents, Calor gas stoves, pots, pans, etc. But no Elsan so our usual technique was to leave a little something in the bush.

We camped the first night outside Tunis and had a quick visit next morning. We then drove 100 miles to Dougga, a Roman town that was friendly to Rome during the 3rd Punic war and therefore escaped devastation. The only Punic building is a mausoleum of the 3rd or 2nd centuries, about fourteen metres high.

Unfortunately we had an Arab 'Guide' though he was unable to spoil our visit. First we saw the Amphitheater where the colonades and proscenium arches are still intact. Then to the Capitol, through an interesting area of shops and houses. The Capitol still has its colonades, roof, etc. intact and stands about eighteen metres high. Inside was a colossal carved head and some inscribed stones, one saying "Omrus Fortunas". We then walked to the ruined Brothel past an ancient Romano-Punic pointer which was—let us say, ethnic in its qualities. Outside the Brothel was a communal loo for eighteen persons. The holes were so close there could have been no privacy. Was it English reserve, or the rain which stopped our party from actually using it?

We re-entered the truck and drove 35 miles before camping the night. Next day was almost all driving, we were going southwards through semi-desert. The evening was spent under some spectacular rock-strewn hills.

Next day we reached Algeria in the afternoon. We camped for the night and next day drove on a good road which passed through sand dunes to El Oued, a small unimportant town. By the evening we had crossed back

into Tunisia. One man announced, for Lent he'd be giving up Algeria'.

After a drive of 300 miles we arrived in the Isle of Djerba, which guide books say is the Land of the Lotus Eaters. But I saw them discharging untreated sewage straight into the sea. After a stay of one and a half days we drove north to Kairouan where the chief mosque has over 300 pillars formerly used Roman and Byzantine buildings.

We camped outside Kairouan and next day drove into the hills surrounding the Roman City of Thuburbo Majus. In this Northern part of Tunisia the scenery is much more European and greener.

Thuburbo rose to greatness as a Colony for Army veterans in the 2nd and 3rd. centuries AD. It was lavishly provided with Baths, temples and a fine Capitol, now unfortunately ruined and roofless. There were two magnificent baths—winter and summer—each of several thousand square feet, but now completely roofless. One temple had a huge basement which must have been used for water storage as a stone on the ground floor had rope burns. It was common practice here as the Mosque at Kairouan had the same feature.

Next day we drove to Tunis and in the morning drove to nearby Carthage. First we visited the Baths of Hadrian. Only the basement and ground floor remain but a Corinthian Capitol four feet high must have stood on a column 40 or 50 feet high. The vault of the roof must have been higher still. Besides the usual Frigidium, Tepidium and Chauldarium the baths also contained studies and other public rooms.

The guide rushed us through some more Roman remains — the Amphitheatre and Pave des Villas d 'l' Odeon (which could have done with several hours) and finally to the Roman Cisterns. These had great tunnel vaults of mortared rubble and tile bricks. We missed the Punic Harbors where Steve is now excavating.

After staying overnight in a Tunis Hotel we got up early for our flight home.

SIMON

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.

UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS.

Despite the heat, holidays and hum-drum, work carries on regardless at the basement/HQ- Trevor spent a week or so preparing an exhibit for the Greenwich Dendroche Conference and it was (of course) a great success; it's now on show in the reception area and well worth a lunchtime visit. If you do pop up don't expect to see Diana, she will probably be playing tennis at the City of London Girls School in the Barbican: if you fancy playing with her give her a phone and book a court: we are all eligible and it's free! Downstairs, Vivienne (another tennis freak) is on the cataloguing racket with Clare, while Angela and Helen mark time, marking pot. Lucky Penny is on holiday in Ireland (getting some fresh Eire?)

Our Des, sorry, our rich Des (envy, envy) is back with us for at least three months and is working on the drawings for Forum SE inbetween Ken dashing back and forth to Milk Street. Back upstairs.... Tony has had to make a temporary halt on Trig Lane work while he concentrates on Milk Street.

Mike (Bootsie) Rhodes is working with Chris and Clive sorting out the Museums reserve collection of pot, and when done, it will be available to reesearchers and stoo dents to paroose. Chris when not there is working on the Cannon Street pot and investigating Roman tiles. Dave P. (when not on the tiles) is drawing leather, Louise is writing about leather and Pamela and Sarah are going hell for leather drawing Greywares. Miss Vanessa and MRS. Barbie are doing big things with small finds.

• Have you got something to say? Have you been anywhere interesting? Do you have any favourite cartoons? There are many ways you can help "UNDERGROUND" so why not write a little something, or cut out a funny cartoon. It's quite interesting putting this newsletter together, so pick up a pen today. Don't let YOUR publication down. It needs you!!!

Prepared by Jon-Jon.

Thank You to the contributors and people have suggested ideas for this months issue.

GPO

Monday was a bad day for David S. he'd been recieving bad news after bad news, then to cap it all, a bird managed to relieve (polite) itself on his arm at the end of the day. However, work on site has been going reasonably well, we have more or less removed all the greenstone walls of Bull Head Croust (previously thought to be church vaults- clunk!) and will soon be on the church levels. Merry and Mac (vol) are investigating the graves on site, and though they are having a hard time finding the cuts are making no bones about enjoying the sun. Sylvia (vol) has been helping dismantle the walls, cleaning the foundation trenches and has now started some planning. Simon is working on Milk Street pot washing, and Geoff and Jane are washing earth- all good clean fun!

LEAVE ENTITLEMENT FOR JCP STAFF.

All JCP staff are entitled to 18 days annual leave- for 12 months service, at 1½ days per month, to be calculated from the date of commencement of service.

Leave may be taken after six months service or before at the CUA's discretion.

If leave is taken in advance of entitlement, salary will be deducted accordingly on leaving before the 12 months service is complete.

Copy of memo dated 19th. July. '77.

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be!
(Lord Raglan Loo wall)





Can you think of a caption for this cartoon? If so pop it in the GPO tray (with your name) at the basement. There are no prizes but all replies will be printed next month. So please have a go!!

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 short-cuts 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

MILK STREET

Unfortunately news from here is a bit short this issue, my fault but if I'm forgiven for the delay between copies Rod will write a more detailed article next time.

Work here is mainly concentrated on the Saxon levels and pits. The Roman Road has been re-excavated, photographed and drawn and has proved very interesting. The Saxon levels being worked are moving on quite nicely and Steve is confident that the site will be finished on time.

At the south end of the site work on a Medieval house is going along steadily; working here are Chrissie, Chris, Dereck (when not drawing Forum SE) and John S. when he's not at Hen Domen.

Thieves got into the site last weekend and helped themselves to a couple of radios and a pocket calculator, oddly they didn't take some money that was on the table in the hut. Also at the w/end the site had a visit from the BBC who were recording for a programme to be on the air this Sunday, Melvyn gave them a brief run down on the art of surveying. Rumours that Sainsbury's want to photograph the site as part of their advertising campaign are quite unfounded.

RUMBLES

One night in 1325/6 John Toly, a servant of Henry de Gysors, was standing naked at the window of his solar in Vintry, peeing out into the street, when he accidentally fell out and was killed when he hit the pavement. In 1337 a skinner stood at the head of a stair, "drunk, naked and alone" as the Coroners Inquest was told, when he keeled over and fell head first to the ground and died.

These case in the Coroners Rolls are interesting, not because people got drunk then as they do now, but because buildings and wharves are occasionally mentioned. Toly's solar was 30ft. high, which must have been on the second floor: a three-storey building is quite important.

Strangely, from these reports of death there is the impression that life itself was full of incident. Richard Le Rakiere (muck-raker) was sitting on a latrine when the planks gave way, he fell in and was drowned. In Cheapside near Milk St in 1300, a piece of wood used for drying saddles fell off a house and brained a passer-by. In 1339, outside Woolworth's nearby, a 7 year old beggar called John le Stolars was squatting in the street "relieving nature" when a watercart ran over him. The driver jumped off and fled.

The inquests are all sad. Pigs, if they belonged to the hospital of St. Antholin, were allowed to roam the streets; unfortunately one strayed into a shop where a month old girl was lying in her cradle and bit her on the head, from which she quickly died.

And finally, two for students of waterfronts. In 1336 a ship, the St. Marie Cogge, was beached at a wharf at low tide; since when a seaman who got drunk, decided to climb the mast and fell off, the jury decided the ship was not moving at the time and it was his own stupid fault. And the award for idiocy goes to Richard de Wrotham, who walked one Saturday evening on a wharf near Billingsgate, "the water of the Thames being full and flooding the said wharf", walked of the end and was drowned.

JACK STRAW

TELEVISION: CHOICE OF THE WEEK.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Double our Money | - Hughie Maloney |
| Arabian Nights | - Steve Felini |
| Take your Pick | - Michael Hobley |
| A Man for all Seasons | - Paul Schofield |
| The Mummy (1977) | - Cathy Karloff |
| Vital Statistics(x) | - Clive Orton. |

STORIES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE?

- Tunnel of Love by Grace Church.
- GPO Site through 3000 years.
- Greenwich Dendro Conference: for timber lovers.
- Why I was paid overtime - Andy B.
- From Hen Domen with Love.
- A cross word from Jim.

BOOK REVIEW

The latest publication in the 'Shire Archaeology' series was slipped into the MLK 76 tray last week and my instant reaction (that at best could be called apathy) was 'Wot 'ave we got this time?' barbotines for beginners', 'Dendro for Duffers' or 'Everything you wanted to know about trowels but were afraid to ask'.

Well no, I was delighted to find a well prented booklet 'Recent Excavations by M.E.A.G.E. by Dr. Gerald Andalf. MEAGRE, as you may know, are the Middle Earth Archaeological Group for Research Excavations and this booklet is a comprehensive, brief account of their work from 1973-5.

Dr. Andalf has written a surprisingly non-academic introduction to the problems of Shire history and archaeology, the methods used by his team and the results of their labours. The first part gives a lucid and unbiased account of the general history of the Shire. In particular it weaves a pleasant course through the controversial subject of the inhabitants of the Shire and the conflicting historical evidence for the anthropology of the Shires tribes and their customs.

Part two is a survey of the excavations directed by Dr. Andalf and Mr. F. Baggins. MA. The drawings and reconstructions are particularly noteworthy combining attention to detail and clarity, qualities often lacking in many archaeological journals. The choice of photographs is excellent; chosen, it seems, to complement the text at the most crucial points.

The final part is an interim attempt to corrolate the often contradicting evidence available at the end of 1975 excavations. Despite Dr. S. Arumans attempt to discredit much of the work in the history of the Shire- 'The Red Book of Wilmarch' Dr. Andalf and his colleagues have almost conclusively proved that the Hobbits were a dwarf race and not as Dr. Aruman suggests an 'invention of scribes to explain certain anomalies in the text.'

In general, except for a few type setting errors that marr the quality of the production, Dr. Andalf's book is an excellent guide to the past work of MEAGRE. I must say I'm looking forward to a more detailed report from the unit, till then this is a good introduction to the whole subject of "Tolkeins World".

LEZ

COMPILED BY JIM SMITH OF FINDS.

ANSWERS TO ISSUE SIX.

P	L	E	I	A	S	T	O	C	E	N	E	U	R	N
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Another crossword by Jim in the next issue.

THE CITY No.6.

"One of the most significant changes has been the attitude of the archaeologist. He is now far more professional....."

"Any hint that demolition could reveal an interesting site, and the museum goes into action in a way which would do credit to any commercial organisation."

Sunday Telegraph.
26th. June. 1977.

OMEGA

Since issue six many events have taken place: marriages, a birth, a few people leaving, a few resignations and Mike Rhodes 27th birthday.

It's all been happening for our Barbie and Sal; first they got their selves married, then Sal decided to try for a job in Hertford and got that, and now they've gone and got themselves a gottage in the country with the use of a goat and a gow. Joining Sal will be Charles, after a three week stint at Hen Domen he'll be heading for Hertford to be Assist. Director. We should be seeing quite a lot of him though as he will be spending as many Saturdays as poss. in the Guildhall Library working on the Ludgate Report- Friday nights will be spent at the Red Lion working on a few pints.

Andy B. on the other hand will be working at home on his reports under a special scheme for ex-employees. He hopes to get a place in a University next year to obtain a degree in Archaeology, in the meantime he is reported as hoping to get a job as an electrician, to enable him to save some money.

Another marriage recently was George and Liz; at the moment on their way to Afghanistan via., Switzerland, Italy and Crete, to mention but a few of the suitably romantic countries for a newly wed couple to visit. When George returns he will be working at the Institute under a DOE contract, but his main task will be working on DUA seeds, etc. And talking of seeds, congratulations to daddy John and mummy Cathy on the birth of their daughter, Anna. With Johns beard and Cathy's brains she must go far. But not as far as Melvyn (yet anyway) he's off to Iran on 30th. July, stopping off in Greece, as part of a post-graduate course hes starting in Sept/Oct. But do not despair you will be seeing more of him when he returns, he is going to run the DUA film club at 50, Courthope Road for us. (To be announced). Two others to leave us soon are Dave S. and Orpha. David is off to Sheffield Univ. in October, between leaving us at the end of the month and then he hopes to work on a few sites around the country. Orpha will be the first

JCP to leave because her year will be up, fortunately she's managed to get a place at Birkbeck College to do two year post-graduate diploma in Western European Archaeology.

As we know, most things happen in three's, in this case it's three marriages; congratulations Peter D and wife.

Welcome to Jenny, Trevors new assistant and of course to all the other new comers, unfortunately I only know the Fludes.

Sad farewells to Alison of Milk St, the Finds Assistant on site is now Miss Moody Janice.

Good news about Geoff and Esta getting places on the Oxford Course- Geoff is sponsored by the Unit, Esta by the DOE.

Lez is having a digging holiday in France, Gustav and Charlotte are at Wharram Percy and Alan and John S are at Hen Domen keeping an eye on Chas.

Jackie Harrison- ex Trig Lane- is spending a month at Canterbury working on St. Augustines place under the supervision of Humphry Woods. After, she's off to Holland and then she is hoping to go to Trondheim, best of luck.

Congratulations to John M., Charlotte W. H. and Penny M. on their promotion. The same goes for the interviewing panel for what seems to be a fair assessment. Lets hope promotion will not be promised in future unless it's certain, after all it not only causes ill feeling but more promotion interviews!

If you are bored reading this lot why not help me on the next issue. One persons views, wit and typing errors are not a good idea, so don't delay, write today!

Are you free on the 5th. August? I hope so as there is a party at my place, it's on a Friday, you can stay as long as you want and there is plenty of sleeping room. Please come along, I'll feel a bit spare sitting surrounded with booze all on my own. Directions will be given to everyone soon. PS. There will be lots of grub: sausages, pineapple and tons of jelly! Yummy, Yummy.