

GROUND

MAGAZINE.

UNDER

THE

DUA
STAFF
NEWS

No. 2.

JAN.

HAPPY

NEW

YEAR

ALL

MONTHLY MEETING

DECEMBER



MATTERS AROUSING.

Several items of interest to mention here:

The most important date of the month is 10th. Feb. We are getting a visit from Brian Davison, The Inspector of Ancient Monuments for our area. He has always taken a very active stand on our behalf with the DoE. so let's show him it's all been worthwhile.

Mike Roads has been given light.

The DUA are to have their very own visitors book, this will act as a security check - perhaps we will be able to swap autographs with the Museum - as all non-DUA staff will be obliged to sign it upon entering the building.

JCP's will in future be eligible for sick pay, subject to the usual conditions: phone in before 10am., Dr's. note after three days.

With the contracted staff vacancies now five or six, BH. has asked the Museum for the go ahead to fill them. He is concerned because the contracted staff are depleting rapidly, and feels that there are JCP's. with enough experience to be offered a permanent position under him.

KEY QUESTION.

Within seven days every lock, with the exception of desk drawers, should have a duplicate housed at the basement. If a key is removed from the locker - it's on BH's wall - a proxy card must be filled in and the key returned as soon as possible. Keyholders for the locker are: Tony Dyson, Brian Hopley and Diana Twells.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES?

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that all personnel within the DUA structure are not required to note their starting and finishing times. However, it was acknowledged by all that should anybody take unfair

advantage of this system they will be seriously reprimanded, or even asked to leave!

STAFF RETORTS.

Tony Dyson has finished the report on the Seal House documentary evidence.

It was mentioned at this point that the DoE had lost all the 1975 excavation summaries and so we are excluded from that years round up .

George Wilcox has finished a report on 'Exotic Roman Plants from the City'. Samian wasn't the only pot in Britannia!

STREET WALKING.

The Forum South East archive report is now at the typing stage and Harp Lane is producing information and is being dug on Sundays by Pip Thomson and COLAS. while Esta tries to sort out the records for the main dig in '74. Paulo is working on the archive report for Greyfriars which should be finished by the end of January.

Charles Hill, Field Officer, brought up the question of excavation priorities and wondered who was the person responsible for them, it was replied that a committee might be useful.

PIPE DREAMS?

Alan has finished the first draft of his Aldgate report. He is now ready to start on the finds, he expressed a desire to do a clay pipe bore hole analysis, Mike Roads thought this would be of no value and a waste of time: he spent one year measuring 2mls. of holes and did not prove anything. Mr. Merrifield thought that it was not out of the question.

LOST AND FOUND.

Mike Rhodes reported that Pam White was now helping Chris Green, and commended Chris for his talk on Roman pottery. (hear,hear!). He is also concerned at the shortage of space in the basement and suggested work should start on preparing the Rotundar (the round building on the circle, under the Museum), this will require atleast four people: Lez and three others off site. With seeming reluctance he also mentioning the need for more staff as the flow of finds from THE site, plus plus his accumulated backlog exceeds the output of his finds assistants; 640 finds were accessioned last month. It was suggested by Mike that the Finds Dept. should be found its own premises when the laughter died down,
cont'd over.

M.M. anon.

Mr. Merrifield replied that he did not agree, and thought that the depts. within the Unit should be kept as close as possible.

STAFF SWAPPING.

B.H. supported the principal of staff between sections, and added that section heads should encourage their staff to spend a week or so learning another aspect of the Departments work. (Who's going to be CIA for a week?).

NEXT MEETING 1st. FEB.

***** **NEWS** *****

Is a virgin Roman site, two months and £10,000 your kind of fantasy? If so, then ARCHAEOPOLY - the new archaeological simulation game - is for you. In a few hours, you can spend money like water, crash a JCB into an empty cellar, or sack all your supervisors, and still live to tell the tale. It is already being played by an evening class - the winner was a retired bank manager - and early in the new year there will be a three-way match between the DUA, Southwark and the Inner London Units. Irene Shwab has already promised to wipe the floor with allcomers (is that a promise?) Clive (I'll be controlling the weather) Orton would like volunteers for the DUA team: anyone else who wants to watch, throw rocks, fall down cellars, etc. will be welcome. Date to be announced shortly!

Topless Pompeii!

THE ERUPTION of Vesuvius could hardly have caused more of a stir than this topless dress that burst into ICI's staid showroom today, writes Suzy Menkes. Designer John Bates was presenting his Pompeii look, inspired by the mammoth Pompeii exhibition which opens at the Royal Academy on Saturday.

The dress, a column of draped white fabric, cut under the bosom, worn by model Lavinia, is called

Britomartis—the name of a virginal Cretan goddess.

Other dresses with classical names included Ariadne (whoses claim to fame was using a long thread to escape from the Labyrinth), a slinky dress held together briefly at the hips with a slender thong, and Thisbe (who jumped out of her dress when confronted by a lion), whose namesake today was a decorous, pleated evening gown.



Evening Standard: Graham Wood

LETTERS

Our Ricardo left the Unit last year to travel the world; he sent us the news from North Africa earlier last year, and now, to make us even more envious, we have received a letter from Afghanistan.

Kabul. 16th. December. 1976.

Dear Boys and Gals,
Greetings from Central Asia.

Our season (10 weeks) down at Old Qandahar has just finished and we are waiting here now for our 'plane back to London. I shall be back for Xmas.

The site has been extremely interesting this season. Most of the time I was working in a wined Buddhist monastic complex, but to start with I opened up a trench right up against the one intact face of the massive citadel, which dominates the site. The whole site is fortified, including along the mountain ridge which was behind the Old City, (the modern city of Qandahar lies a few kms. to the north-east; removed there after Nadir Shar blew the old city to pieces in 1738). This initial trench at the citadel produced some very surprising results. Originally we had assumed on account of its monumentality, that the citadel, in its earliest phases would be placed would be placed in the Ghaznavid Period (C10th./C11th or C12th.). However, the wall which we uncovered is now dated on the pottery by analogy with the site of Mondigak to the late Iron Age- perhaps C2nd. BC. This was a great turn up for the books as you can imagine!

From here my next assignment was about 600ft. higher and a half a mile away. On one of the mountain spurs above the site is a Buddhist monastic complex - obviously prior to the introduction of Islam in the C8th., and similarly after the C1st., when Buddhism was introduced. The complex is made up of a stupa (Buddhist monumental memorial mound- perhaps with a reliquary inside it), a "shrine worn" surrounded by a vaulted ambulatory, and a later Islamic alta between the two Buddhist alters. The shrine

room is still turning up late Islamic pottery, reflecting the time when the Safarid fortifications incorporated the Buddhist alter. However, at the stupa we have uncovered some very fine white stucco work. The stupa was built on a square base and above this went three concentric drums, surmounted by a dome and a spire. These latter two are now gone, but we have vestiges of the three drums and the square surviving. Up against the lowest drum we have uncovered a beautiful frieze of lotus leaves and petals. Above this horizontal frieze was a series of pilasters. The whole ensemble, a very tasty piece. Tentative dating puts it in C1st.AD. A lot more work is to be done next year. This is only reconnaissance.

See you, Love Richard.

Ricardo is now back with us until the end of March so if you have any questions about his site whiz up to the basement one lunchtime.

IN BRIEF

It looks as though the section of Roman City wall that Geoff Parnell found in the Tower is to be extended and laid out for all to see: didn't he do well?

Robbie Bell was last seen digging up Haunts.

Dave Fine has stopped baking Sheffield's bread- doesn't he need the dough?- and Graham Fairclough, Ludgate ditch digger, is now an Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments!

CRITICAL VIEWERS GUIDE:

Following the recent CHRONICLE tribute to Sir.Mortimer and last months HORIZON on Winchester's Round Table- with Biddle,Rahtz, Hewitt and all - the Beeb excelling themselves with next Thursday's presentation of things Archaeological: 6½ momentous minutes devoted to the dig at Trig Lane. Should take Blue Peter to the top of the IBA ratings.....

NEWS FLASH NEWS FLASH NEWS FLASH

B.H. now been given authority to fill G.A. vacancies!

BASEMENT TAPES

In this and fifthcoming issues we hope to bring you news of DUA excavations now in the infamous "post-excavation" stages, plus a few words to take the mystery out of someones history, of what people like about a site, do at H.Q., or say of the DUA.

This month concerns NFW.74, alias St.Magnus 75, alias Bridgehead 76, dug by Gerald Clewley, and later John Schofield, alias Louise B. (for birthday girl?) Miller. The finds are being processed by Mike Roads, alias Clive Orton, with the help of Louise B.Miller.

Our roving reporter is happy to tell you that Louise has recently finished the text for NFW/St.Magnus and after a few adjustments when she recieves the dendro' report it will be ready for the press. At the moment though she is helping with the processing of the excavations pottery, it's hoped that this will be finished by June 1978 and the complete report will be published later that year.

Although the pre-Norman bridge was not located, and resources were limited, do not despair! It turns out that the buildings to be erected there are to take full advantage of the warehouse foundations still in situ, the few piles that are necessary will only be going to a depth of 1m. above datum, thus preserving any archaeology in that area for a future generation.

by R. ZIMMERMAN.



CLOTHING AN ISSUE?

Thanks to John Maloney we seem to be in the final stages of the negotiations for our clothing allowance. Monday the 10th. saw a decision by the staff concerned (atleast some of them!) that should clinch it for us: WE VOTED FOR MILLETS!

Everybody seemed quite cheerful with the arrangements:

- The sum agreed upon will not come in the form of cash, we will have to get an order/chit from the Museum.
- The clothes are to only be foul weather gear: boots, anorak, jeans, thermawear.
- Subject to the Museum we will purchase all our items from Millets in Oxford Street.

It all seems very reasonable and I think our thanks should be given to John M. for his tenacious approach on our behalf.

B.B.H.

We are shocked to hear of the criminal delay which the re-opening of the Billingsgate Bath House has been subjected to. The structure which had been excavated initially By Peter Marsden in the 60's has been preserved almost intact beneath a modern office re-development and was to have been opened to the public this year. Holy Mithras! There is little enough standing evidence for Londons' Medieval, let alone Imperial past, which renders this delay - attributed to Government cut-backs - all the more scandalous. The importance of this monument to Londoners need no further stressing: its importance to three members of the great British public way back in 1969 is probably less well known. While on a Sunday afternoon walk around the City these three office workers chanced upon the excavation and were promptly fired with enthusiasm for Archaeology, no prizes for guessing who they are: they all now live in Islington and dig Trig Lane for the DUA. Surely another reason for not delaying the opening a moment longer!

GPO NEWS

The old year, now a vague collection of memories, equations, traumas and happiness, always seems to be hugely different to the new year, and I suppose that to most people in most jobs the old year is the concern of the historian and the far-future archaeologist to resurrect at some future date. However, it feels a lot different on the GPO site. New Year's eve brought, not a New Year, but an earlier phase to operate on.

If a New Year is most peoples idea of a change, then the GPO New Year began in October. The now well-published movement of our personnel to the basement, watching briefs and into further-education coincided with the introduction of several JCP's and a new site supervisor to the site. By November the line-up was:

S.S. : Steve.
G.A.'s.: Merry and Andy.
JCP's.: (of atleast 5 mths. standing) Esta, Alison and myself.
New JCP's.: Orpah, Melvyn, David, Graham, Peter G., Peter and Clare.
Last but not least, two volunteers from USA Barbara and Lisa.

It hardly needs me to say that a degree of confusion reigned for the first three weeks. A lot of hard work was put in by the more experienced members to help those new to the rigours of strict recording, to understand site problems and the necessity for teamwork.

Cold October became a colder and wetter November a number of photographic cleans on the exposed brick-earth sills, associated floor makeups and destruction layer, were delayed by light, the occasional deluge and evenings arriving to quickly. Confidence and morale remained high despite the unkindness of Mother Nature. But the weather combined with human frailty to produce flu' outbreaks at sporadic intervals. Because no sick pay was available and because most JCP's. live in digs, to be off sick would mean a heavy financial burden. Archaeology suffered from the rain, the light, the cold and the cold.

December froze the ground, but not the hearts. By this time, Melvyn was assisting Angus in floatation work. The backlog of material is very large demanding not only storage space but "office-like" conditions. Angus and Melvyn constructed the "Flat" room and so a new structure and type was added to the complexion of the GPO site.

On site, the earth was revealing its long kept secret, and the brickearth sills were at last beginning to show a good ground pattern. Possible structural forms will appear shortly in the monthly report. Appropriately, the sills were finally removed on the 31st. of December. 1976.

All of us here look forward to the future and wish all of our associates a Happy New Year.

ROD



The next two issues of 'UNDERGROUND' will include a film revue by Melvyn Fryer, this months is "The Chainsaw Massacre". Any resemblance to Angus and the two days he spent at Trig taking dendro' samples is co-incident.

This much maligned film, feared and shunned because of its unnatural violence, by ordinary folk in the States, and by the Censors Board in this country, has been revered by a cult following in the USA, and by the Sex Pistols here.

The story concerns a group of colourless youths on an afternoon drive, who fall foul of a psychopathic family who proceed to butcher them, during the last hour of the film. Yet "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" shouldn't be labelled as just another violent terror movie, its accusations of violence are considerably over played, because most of the violence is created in the minds of the viewers, through a combination of situation and mounting tension. The sheer pace of the film, from opening subtitles, to the culminating chase sequence (a cinema classic) drive the tension to an almost frenzic level.

Through its course the camera work soars through the consciousness like a comet, bright, burning and terrifying, reaching its peak in the study of a terror stricken girl, faced with the elements of slaughter.

In short "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre", sets a new precedent in the terror movie, embodying fast moving tension, and flowing camera work, with an eye to the detail of terror.

MELVYN

GREYFRIARS.

Mr. P. Herbert, known to his friends as Paulo and to London Transport as "Paul Webster, one of the Cities team of treasure hunters", has been watching the Christchurch Greyfriars site while L.T. put a ventilator shaft in. Four years ago, Tony Johnson - of Bush Lane, Shadwell and Cardiff fame - examined another part of the site, and, based on the results of these excavations and documentary research, the following sequence of activity can be suggested.

1. ROMAN.

Both Tony and Paul found evidence of Roman occupation, but while the former was not allowed to excavate these levels, the latter did not have the time to complete his examination. However, the clay walls, floor and burnt daub dumps are more than reminiscent of the GPO C1st and C2nd. sequence, but with the addition of a more substantial concrete floor some six to seven cms. thick, indicative of a higher class of house owner than Steve's.

2. Pre C14th.

No stratified Saxons were found overlying the Roman deposits as the area appears to have been left open and undeveloped from the C2nd to the C12th. However occupation levels datable were found sealed by the foundations of the massive stone built chancel of the Greyfriars church begun in 1306. Both Tony and Paul have evidence of chalk walls, and it tempting to assume they are of the same phase. Tony has suggested that his walls " .. were probably demolished immediately prior to the construction of the Medieval church", and if this is the case, they must represent the remains of the Greyfriars C13th. settlement.

Nine Franciscan friars - followers of St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) - arrived from Italy in 1224, penniless, barefooted and wearing only tattered grey habits. Five stayed at Canterbury while the others went on to London. Such was their impact that within 10 months of their arrival they were given the plot of land between Stinking Lane (King Edward Street) and Newgate St, in the summer of 1225. Various benefactors constructed a church, chapter house, dormer, refectory, infirmary and study shortly afterwards. The popularity of their order was enormous, and by 1243 over 80 friars were in residence - perhaps in Ton

in Tony and Paul's houses.

3. 1306-1538.

By 1306, Queen Margaret, second wife of Edward I, had made financial provision for the construction of a massive new church to be built on this site. A length of 300ft., a breadth of 89ft. and a height of 64ft. made this the largest Franciscan church in England. It was floored with tiles and Purbeck marble slabs, and excavation has shown that the structure was supported on sprung arched foundations. Before the Dissolution, Queen Margaret, as above, foundress of the church, Queen Isabel, wife of Edward II, Joan, Queen of Scots, daughter of Edward II, Princess Isabel, daughter of Edward III, plus over 700 people of noble birth were buried here.

4. 1538-1666.

The church was closed down and surrendered to Henry VIII in 1538 and became a store house. But, following parochial re-organisation in 1547 the choir was subsequently re-opened as the parish church of Christchurch replacing St. Nicholas Shambles and St. Ewens.

5. 1666-1940.

The church although damaged, was not destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, and all the debris seems to have been cleared ready for restoration within a few years. However, Wren decided to re-design and rebuild the eastern end and promptly pulled the Medieval walls down to foundation height, forming a massive rubble raft 2m. thick on top of which the new edifice was constructed. This continued in use, with the addition of brick vaults, lead coffins etc. until 1940 when it suffered terribly during the Blitz.

6. Post Blitz.

The ruin was subsequently consolidated and the interior was laid out as a garden until London Transport began their underground activity.

References: Stow's "Survey"; Bell's "Great Fire of London"; Harbens "Dictionary of London"; LAMAS. Vol.25 and personal communication from Mr. Webster.

OMEGA

Apologies to the good folk who, because of the haste in getting out the first issue, either had their names spelt wrongly, namely: DAVE PARFITT, PAM WHITE and LOUISE B. MILLER. Or omitted altogether: VIVIAN A and PENNY M. additions to the Roads empire, and CRISPIN JONES late of the GPO and occasionally on time to assist TREVOR (CECIL B.) HURST at H.Q.

by R. ZIMMERMAN.