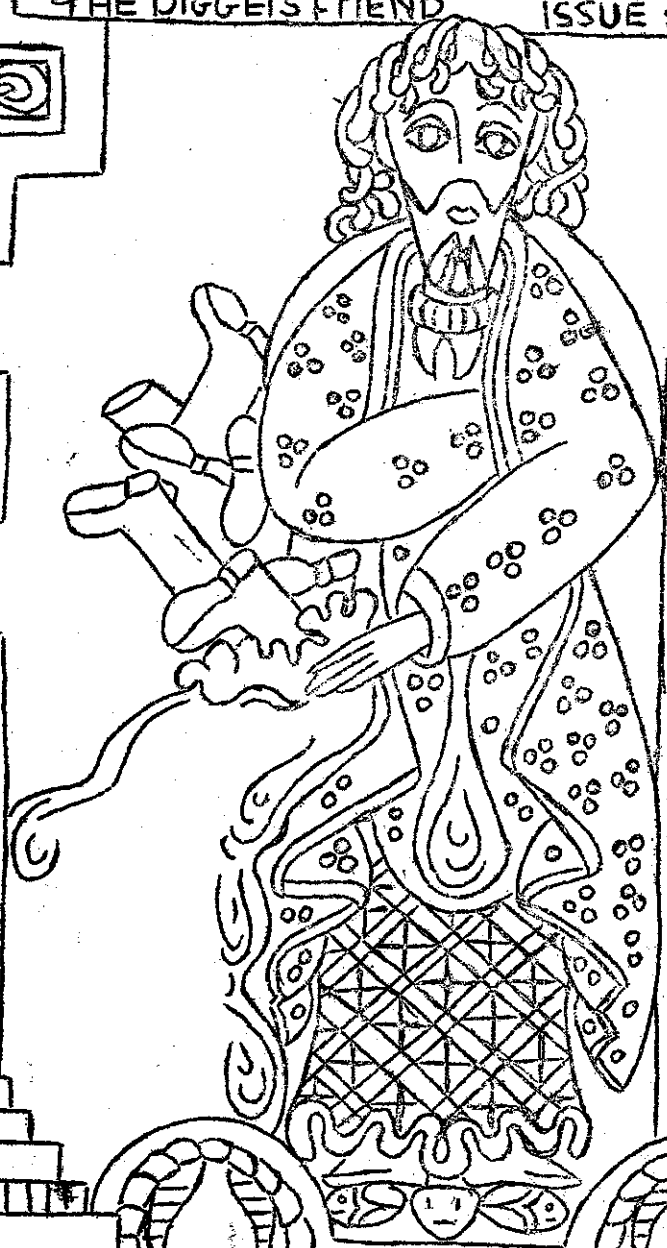


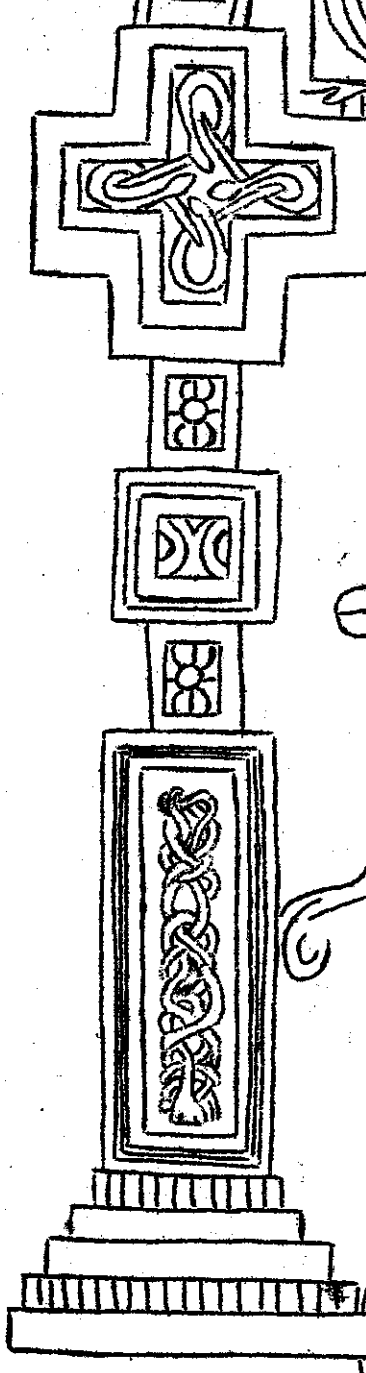
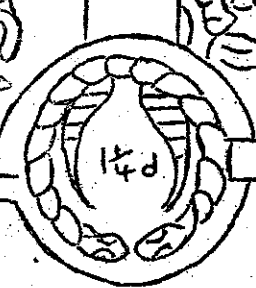
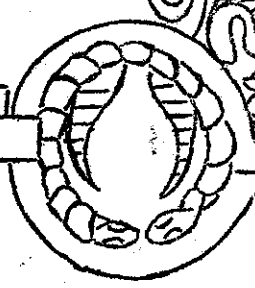


The  
GENTLE  
MISSE

THE DIGGERS FRIEND ISSUE: THE 18TH



Barre



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US

Once upon a grey December 3rd. in the year of our Lord 1973, four confused diggers were despatched with a wheelbarrow o'er flow-ing with a pick and shovel from the hallowed precincts of the Guildhall Muse to the Cripplegate fort site in Noble St., giving birth to the Department of Urban Archaeology on the way. Our first dig produce 3 trenches, (none of which have as yet been backfilled)\*\* the line of the intervallum road, some pretty pix for Prof. Grimes, and our first sighting of the CUA, who popped down to site whilst we indulged in tea and bread pudding in the local caff. Since that glorious day, we've discovered wharves, walls and Joe's No. 1 under the green boiler suited direction of Dr. Clewley; assorted Romans at Angel court, Triangle and Mermaid; herbaceous borders on the Triggurat mechanical breakdowns at Seal House; L.C 80 s at Aldgate; nothing at all at the Monument; bath houses at Billingsgate and basements bul-ging with bastions, not to mention Upper T. St., Harp Lane and St. Milldews, which we wont. Certainly a very ambitious year abundantly blessed with dentition problems clearly discernible with hindsight now, but regretably endetected by fairesight then. In spite of every-thing, thogh, we managed to do some very successful digging: our expertise and experience have been much increased, as have the coins in the coffers of the Skinners Arms

The editorial staff of the WW consider the workers of the DUA the finest specimens of humanity we've ever had the pleasure of shar-ing a pair of wellies with, and look foward to the New Improved Year with unbounded optimism and a small hangover. As John Lenon said to Frances only t'other day: " Its getting better all the time"

Un tres joyeux Noel et un equally tres bon nouveau anne au tout notre readers!!!

FROM THE LAND OF HOPE TO GLORY

606-3030 ex 2155

Chas-congratulations-Hill has taken up residence as our new Field Officer, and having devoted his first week to a much needed holiday in Pembrokeshire, is ready to provide the answers to all those acad-emic and archaeological questions you're all dying to ask. As he himself would the first to admit, he's intelligent, knowledgable, ex-perienced, easily approachable and very good looking. We are convin-ced that this long lost bastion of Barkerology can only raise our standards even higher, improve our communications, boost our morale, and buy me a drink...

DIGGERS DIARY

- DEC 3 ..DUA's Birthday
- DEC 6..Institute Party, Gordon Sq. W.C.I.
- DEC 7..PROPOSALS FOR A UNION FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS- Institute, 2.30.
- DEC 13: XMAS PARTY at 249 Caledonian Road N.I.
- DEC 14. YET ANOTHER PARTY at Hilary's: Euston for Wolverton.
- DEC 17 to 20.. CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS: Cardiff. Many subjects to be discussed and many speakers, including those renowned young archaeologists Schofield and Hobley; full prog-ram too vast to print here, but copies available on request.
- DEC 20. There now follows a short holiday. Normal service will be resumed on Monday 30th.
- DEC 31. We wish you a happily married Merry Meier.
- JAN 1..G?P.O.

Peace and Love to Y'all, not forgettin' Mus Lon, Saec, and them thar Hinchcliffites from yer lil ole WW  
c/o WHISPERING HEIGHTS, 10 OFFORD RD. ?LONDON N.1.IDL. 609 2760....

18/2

\*\* The C.U.A. comments: Professor Grimes wishes the D.U.A. to landscape this site and the profile of the Roman rampart seen in the trench sides is critical to this operation. Should we run out of current excavations Cripplegate will be restarted.

## MONTHLY MEETING WHISPER

The Dec. meeting was even more constructive than the Nov. one: it was held on the 1st. anniversary of the DUA, and as a gesture of real generosity to his staff—many of whom have worked for the Unit for most if not all that time—the CUA announced the Xmas Hols. Work stops on Friday evening 20th, and restarts on Monday 30th; of those days, Monday 23rd. to Friday 27th. will be FULLY PAID. New years Day will be worked as normal.. We doubt if anyone (save the Corporation) could find fault with such an agreeable arrangement..

Mr. Hill was duly welcomed as our new F.O. (hear hear), and his sphere of influence mapped out. It was agreed that there would be a degree of flexibility between his and Brian's functions, but basically having not forgotten to write Ludgate up, Charles will deal with all archaeological problems, whereas the CUA will deal with the admin. and expenditure problems, such as the rigid control of plant hire.. The selection of new sites, however, comes under dual consideration. ~~CHAS~~ Chas. also envisaged the improvement of the Observation Squad to watch the sites we are unable to dig, and Alan reminded us of COLAS' valuable work and potential in this region (as reported in WW 13).

The staff structure for next year was touched on, tho' not finalised: a contracted staff of approx. 25 Bonhill/ field workers is anticipated, and a call for a living wage of £35 pw to see us into April 1976 was greeted with cries of ~~jealousy~~ jealousy from Mr. Rhodes. Job specifications will be scrutinised before the final announcements are made in January. There followed a most encouraging discussion on "Training", at this point; the CUA showed no aversion to any Professional, Technical or Academic training schemes that would better us, and would actively support any digger who wished to take advantage of the many courses open to us in London, start seminars of his own if the demand were sufficient, and personally sponsor any external degree candidate who wished to approach Leicester or Birmingham, if they ~~were~~ were up to it. More later!!

A DUA handbook is to be compiled as a guide to the do's and don'ts of photographic, environmental and recording problems, as the CUA could not wait for all the answers to be published in "Teach Yourself Archaeology". The Annual Report is to be worked on and will be a financial and historical record of the First Year, containing constructive criticism, edited highlights and something from the "notorious" WW. Both the Party and Teach-in scheduled for Fri. 6th. are off (don't shoot the Social Sec, its anti social): for the former consult Diggers Diary, for the latter, try January.

Money is something on everybody's lips, if not in their pockets, and we're pleased to announce a £6,000 award from the DoE to do the GPO with, not to mention the £6,000 from the Postmen themselves. Fundraising has been none too grand this year; in fact it was only one grand. Still, Trevor has some exciting exhibition plans afoot.

Any Other Business raised the ugly problem of it being 8 mins to one, so the date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 6th. Jan. and we all lensed off to lunch.

This here article is merely a report on the gathering and be not the official minutes thereof: same should be consulted, should anyone want to know what really happened.

## TRIGGERS WHISPER

Horoscopes for all start the day of nicely, including McGemini, and while obeying instructions to work hard and keep warm, TL 74. A revealed more wooden secrets, while George "Ellis, has anyone got a fag?" Willcox saw to the dendro samples. John M. sports a Bonnie bonnet, Jackie has traded her red hat for white, Peter and John S. expose themselves twice daily, and Marks wellies were not as waterproof as they might be. Jane thinks the worst things in life are incest and folk dancing and Sue chattered on as usual.. The girls moved site huts and organised trips to the loo, while Mark found Eric swimming in the excavation, who was an eel. Following Chrissies (Happy 17th. to you) kind dosage of breadcrumbs, he became a dead eel, and was given a diesel-soaked blazing Viking burial in the sump.

THE HOBLIAC—a look into the future by Crystal Balls.

Job prospects bleak this month if you're American or Scottish and easily LEAD astray: emotionally an exciting time, especially if you live in Clapham: beware of the tall dark punctual stranger with the piercing soulful eyes.

## HAVE TROWEL: WILL TRAVEL

Dame Kathleen Kenyon (who dug in London once upon a time) Crown Prince Hassan and other important Jordanian dignitaries helicoptered onto a site in Jordan this summer to see what Svend Helms was doing to Jawa, a chalcolithic city site which was supplied with water by a dam over 5,000 years ago. The dam is 90% complete and could be rebuilt with modern sluice gates to provide the local Bedouin tribes with water to cultivate their potentially fertile land. Apart from this remarkable practical aspect of Svend's work, the town site is very important for 2 reasons: a) it has been totally untouched since it was deserted 4,000 years ago b) Martin O' C. and Graham T. were among this year's excavation team.

A massive palliaded Bronze Age settlement was recently excavated at Fiave, in Italy. Much of the huge wooden platform which extended over the water was in a superb state of preservation, including the vines lashing cross-members together. It was decided that the site should be preserved as a National Monument, but alas, just as at TL 74 A, the condition of the timbers deteriorated faster than first aid could be applied: there does not appear to be a practical, commercially viable method of saving Wooden Goodens in Italy, either. Still, if you fancy a change of scene this summer, try: B. BAGOLINI, MUSEO DI SCIENZE NATURALI, VIA ROSMINI, TRENTO, ITALY.

An interesting precedent: Carreras and I.C.I. contributed substantially to the cost of excavation in the town centre of Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, the first time in Ireland major industry has financed the excavation of sites not threatened by themselves.

## THE SEAL DEAL

As the phinal days of SH are numbered, extended, and numbered again, so the feverish activity intensifies: waterfronts come and go, as does Roman pot and Hobley nailed boots. Thanks to our good friend Tuff, Emily the Bronte Saurus arrived with working parts, and the mutilation and burial of an effigy of an unnamed Site Supervisor had no perceptible effect on John, apart from a tendency to mutter, "Why me?" Since joining SH, Barbie - who was asalted in Micks by saucy Des - has taken to drinking scotch, and as we're on the subject of famous artists, Julie drew pretty pix, - got engaged to Sergeant Troylet, and described SH as "indescribable!!". Hilary, on the other hand, like a true socialist, dines at Fortnum and Masons, whereas the Others settle for Audreys og Georges, depending on whether you like to be kept waiting a long time or a very long time. Merrill Anne Morgan one time Finds Assistant and American, has gone to the U. S. of A., but will return to 40 Oakcroft Rd. S.E.13 by 5 pm. on Dec 31st., having dropped in at Lewisham Registry Office to have and to hold one Arne Roy Meier. Well wishers very welcome, and we're all dying to know what she'll wear!! Ricardo likes tea wee, Penny potwashing, and Toss the Boss says that the best Sunday Times Foto is 20a, suggesting 11 x 20x18 and 2 x 12x10, a modest outlay of £3.54, and well worth it. We missed Sals birthday last month (sorry!) so dont forget Paulo's on the 16th. Dave rolls his own and Johns camera was liberated from the Invincible Cupboard, the shoreing was unsure, and Mrs. Rupert's Sunday Potwashers thought Miss Scammell lived in the site hut. While reading the agenda for the Conference of Young Archaeologists at Cardiff (Dec 17th. to 20th), Mr. Herbert pointed out that C. Brooks and J. Schofield were billed as "Problems of Urban Archaeology".

## POSTAL PROLOGUE

We have pleasure in announcing that as from Jan 1st., the GPO site will be doubly well supervised: not only will the co-directors be frank and earnest, they'll also be Charles and Alan. As a hint of goodies to come may we quote Victorian antiquarian Walter Thornbury, describing the adjoining land? "On the site of the General Post Office in the early days stood a collegiate church and sanctuary, founded by Withu, king of Kent, in 750....on clearing the site in ~~1811~~ 1818, there were then found 2 ranges of vaults, one of these being the crypt of St. Martins...a coin of Constantine and a stone coffin containing a skeleton: and in digging somewhat lower down, Roman remains were found in abundance".

TRIGS TWIGS: those remembering Trigs chunks of wicker work may like to know that an earthen dam with wickerwork facing was used to divert a stream on John Hurst's classic Wharram Percy site (25 seasons old!) Date for the construction was late C13th. early C14th.

SMALL PHINDS.....

\*\* OLD NEW FRESHERS : Mr. Boddington, accupunctured as always and penniless as usual, is working for the Norton Devpt Corp yet again, when hes not in the Skinners. Amanda came to see her little Brother in the Loud Mayors Show... That ~~one~~ <sup>time</sup> contributor to the WW and designer of the Triggurat Jamie Muir is now working for "Aquarius" : we wonder if he'll show the Trig Film thereon... Martin o'Jordan pot-washing in the Institute canteen... John Oppe spotted at the Royal Academy's Turner preview, as was, incidentally, Phillip Barker tho' he was conspicuously absent ~~sex~~ spiritually and physically, at NFW... Geoffery-F me G-Parnell, Lee, Derek and Kathy digging the Tower in style, 'neath a plastic roof, accompanied by a friendly canine.... Financial probs in Chicester sent Louise Miller back to the City- she 's famous for many things, including her appetite... Davy Jones -who has done wonderful things to Anne Edmonson- leaves the Old Country on Jan 2nd. for Mexico City via 'Frisco and San Diego, to dig 4 months of Spanish occupation with Prof Thos Charlow. He's promised to write her every day, and has given her a 3m. hand tape, 2 colt 45s and a recipe for Chile Con Carni as a keepsake.

\*\* Strong rumours that the lovely old Guildhall Library will be our new home.

\*\* CUA's recent lecture tour extended from Tamworth to Belfast.

\*\* Non DUA sponsored PARTY for medieavally-made-up digge~~s~~ and Bonhillians at 249 Caledonian Road Islington N.1. nearest station is Kings Cross- which is the home of Trigs Finds Assistant. A very happy Chrissie is proposed to all carolling Canterbury Talers who bring bottles of good cheer on FRIDAY 13th DEC.... Miss Hilary your fave rave liason officer, has also kindly thrown open her country cottage the evening after, viz the 14th., with many welcome surprises for the merry multitudes who make it to festive Milton Keynes- MORE DETAILS SOON!

\*\* Charlotte very kindly presented 4 toothbrushes to the DUA.

\*\* Pete Ellis minutes of the CBA "pay and conditions" meeting are circulating.

\*\* A great sadness hangs over BONHILL as Sue and Margaret are both DoEing, and Dwayne leaves on the 13th. to look after his aged mother over there and catch up on his skiing: all will be sorely missed. Anne has a lovely hat, Pam is surrounded by Surrey Ware, Mike lectures at LSE and Howard does not wish to be mentioned this week. Peter and Vanessa are getting into grubben Hauser, Anton draws things on Mondays, Lesley is heading Sealwards to help our Hilary and Judi is fine, apart from her hand, eye, back, ~~haaa~~ and bouts of migraine.

\*\* Anne and Joyce coping capably with the suitable cases for treatment in poor Bill Rector's continued absence..get well sooner!!

\*\* A PROBLEM PAGE appeared in the post t'other day- we quote: "Dear Auntie Septick, For 2 months now I have suffered an overwhelming desire to see an Ancient Monument in my lunch hour: is this natural? Signed, Worried of Clapham."

Auntie S: "Dear Worried, No!! Natural is fine sand and gravel.."

\*\* Hugh Chapman looks for Roman Altars in Clerkenwell coal cellars.

\*\* Trevor considers our standard of cleaning excellent- "under the circumstances"

\*\* Put \$9.95 in an envelope and mail to NOYES PRESS, Mill Road, Grand Avenue, Parkridge, NEW JERSEY 07656, U.S.A., and you'll get Ralph Merrifield's latest book on London Archaeology.

\*\* As John Maloney left Hope Bros one day, a tramp said to him: "Can I doss down there with you tonight?" We are unsure of his answer but understand that the gentleman was struck off John's Xmas card list

\*\* Thanks to all our contributors and assistants, especially Barbie (whose cover design's divine), Charlotte, Diana, Chrissie and Alison and of course our Oxford English Diktionery.

## no. 5: WE WISH YOU A MERRY MITHRAS

"By the gods!" exclaimed Terry loudly, gesticulating in the general direction of the calendar which hung on the wall over the breakfast table: "Its December again!"

"Pinch and a punch for the first of the month!" replied Tina Boppa ministering unto him while he stood temporarily transfixed, contemplating the flight of Father Time. His thoughtful gaze alighted on the XXV th. which he observed had been ringed in red, and he enquired as to the purpose of the decoration. Tina was taken back not a little by her better half's ignorance of the Roman way of life, for Terry, although a loyal Imperialist, was still a Gaul at heart, and intensely proud of it.

"Why, its Mithras Day silly!" explained his more Romanized companion: "You know.. presents.. pheasts.. orgies.. all that kind of thing".

"How typically classical: you cant even have a decent orgy without bringing religion into it: who is this Mithras anyway?"

"Why, hes the Sun god of a cult which originated in Persia," explained Tina helpfully, "and spread to Rome via Asia Minor. You just wouldn't believe all the mysterious rites which are performed in his name- its strictly for men only, which is why the religion is so popular with the Army."

"Hey, if its men only, how come you know all about it?"

Tina shrugged her shoulders and smiled sheepishly, adding that she never could resist a uniform.

Later that same day, whilst our Hero was walking between the kilns and the canteen, he observed some graffiti upon the courtyard wall which read: "Only XVIII Potting Days to Mithras". His keen eye recognised the stamp of Vitabix in the inscription, and so he sought out his trusty foreman, whom he located applying himself dutifully to a plate of boarburger chips and beans, which he diluted frequently with mouthfuls of red wine.

"Well if it isnt my favourite Elder and Better!" cried Vitabix enthusiastically, filling a Drag. 33 for Terry and sliding it expertly across the smooth mahogany table top: "Here's to the phestive season!"

"So, even my foreman is converted to Mithraism." mused Beatrix most celebrated craftsman, discharging the wine with resignation: "Tis a sad, sad thing- our Father's Father's teaching should last so long, till met by modern memories that are so short..."

"Old time boogie baby! Like when in de Roman Empire, do as the Roman Emperop do.. hey, hows about getting an officinae orgy together for the twenty fifth?"

The wine was good, and it had been some time since Mr. Sigillata had been to a really decent orgy: he was suddenly hit bt a wave of religious fervour. Leaping to his feet, he announced: "I shall declare Mithras Day a feasteday for all my potters: let every man bring an amphora and every woman a packed lunch! Eat, drink and be merry, for Mithras comes but once per annum!"

The canteen errupted into wild applause at this generous concession, and all agreed that Terry was the finest of fellows.

That evening, mighty plans were laid for the party.: "Everyone must go in phancy dress;" said Terry, fingering his toga thoughtfully, "something really outlandish.."

"How about a slip of woad?" offered Tina, but the suggestion was turned down on the grounds that woad was positively run of the mill at a Gaul's Ball. Tina tried again:

"O.K. - how about everybody going in drag?"

"Thats it by Thunder!" exploded Terry joyfully: "I'll go as a Drag.45"

"Oh, you are awful," laughed Tina, "but I like you!"

TERMINUSTOPS OF THE POPS:

Topically, the new number One is "The Hobley and the Ivy" by those famous Christmas Carollers, Ebenezer Scrooge and the Penny Pinchers. Jelly Roll Schofield and the Sax Maniacs are at No. 2 with "Frankie and Johnnie", whilst Andy McCanic has dropped to No. 3 with "Any Old Iron" c/w "Go Now". New entry at No. 4 is "Pictures of Lily" by Nikon Tina Turner, taken from the original soundtrack recording of Trevor B. de Mille's latest film. "H.P.4".