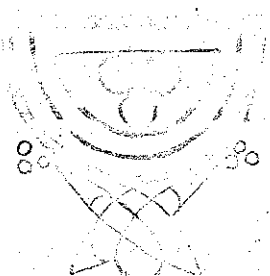


OLD UICLE TOM HOLY AND HILL



IN WHICH WE PROPOSE TWO NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

We feel sure that "RESCUE" needs little introduction to our readers: it is the organisation which revolutionised British archaeology since its formation in 1971, and its achievements are too many to list here. Suffice it to say that the DoE money for excavation and post-excavation work rose from £210,000 in 1971 to £1,063,000 in 1974, and of course the DUA itself was set up only after the publication of the "Future of London's Past" by RESCUE in 1973. Surprisingly enough, several of our diggers are not members of this worthiest of worthy institutions but should they choose to turn over a new leaf, application forms are available from: RESCUE, 25a The Tything, WORCESTER.

And for only £2 per annum, you too could join the organisation with Charles Hill on the Committee.

The British Archaeological Branch of A.S.T.M.S. (no, not the Antediluvian Society for the Treatment of Mouldering Sarcophagi as reported in WW 4) was democratically voted into being on Saturday, December 7th. with the election of a pro tem National Executive, the Secretary being none other than our very own Liaison Officer, Hilary Kent. A letter has already been written to the DoE asking them to open negotiations with ASTMS on the national standardisation of pay. The aims of our union are to exert pressure on the Govt. to improve conditions, job security and pay for archaeologists: there is NO repeat NO intention of setting up a closed shop situation, and strikes blacklegging etc, are likewise NOT under consideration. ASTMS will work purely as a pressure group to improve the lot of archaeologists which will be for the greater benefit of Archaeology as a whole: they are a strong and resourceful body who will do all they can to implement the improvements that we would like to see: to have their backing would cost each member £0.85 per month, the price of a pint a week. The benefits which we will receive in return will depend entirely on A) your support, and B) what you tell Hilary you'd like to see done.

RESCUE makes the public aware of the rapidly accelerating destruction of our archaeological heritage, presses for improved legislation and demands increased funds for effective field-work, excavation and publication: ASTMS's brief is to ensure that the conditions of archaeological workers are also improved: both organisations work for us and for Archaeology: both require our active support: YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE!!!

LEWISHAM LOVERS DO THE RIGHT THING!

On the 31st. of December Merry married Mr. Meier, and lived happily ever after. She looked a picture in her brown velvet jacket checked skirt, yellow roses and wellington boots while the groom sported his usual trousers and a welsh woollen tie: the best man was clad in denim, and the matron of honour in white. Avoiding several pubs en route, the party reached the suitably sanctified rooms at 8.10, and were joined in Holy Deadlock by a red toupee who liked Gilbert and Sullivan. Then followed a 1 1/2 hour champagne drinking session, punctuated by scallops cooked by the blushing bride under Hilar's instructions, and the opening of the lovely presents which were just what she'd always wanted (hic). A pink quilt, single bed-size, a picture of an electric skillet, 3 lovely archaeology books - many thanks to y'all!! - and a signed copy of the history of the Morgan Family from Gren. This hard cover first edition contains much vital information, including the story of Charles Hill Morgan, who, as you all know, invented the paper bag machine.

We are sure that all our readers join with the WW in wishing the young couple every success with their tax dodge!

ARCHAEOLOGISTS POSTED TO THE G.P.O.

Alan (slave-driver) Thompson is back in the field and has surrounded himself with an army of all-stars to dig a trial trench on the GPO site, which, if it proves to be as rich as it is anticipated, will become the principal area excavation of the DUA when TL74b naturals out. Des Woods is the Co-ordinator, and is back to his old form of beating Barbie up, John Stone is Camp Commandant, Merry Senior Finds Assistant, Graham the Officer with Special Responsibility for Note-books and Photographic Scales, Sal is the Official Draughtsman, Thos, who had a new hat and an abcess for Hogmanay, is the Leveller-in-Chief, John B. the Volunteer Reserve and Barbie and Penny are General Dogsboddy. Discoveries include an American restaurant run by Greeks called the Watergate (hamboigers not recommended) and Silvio's 1/2m. long chocolate eclairs. The site huts are shared with Mc. Teenyweeny & Smallmen, who are very nice, and construction work continues, as bottoms are put in the loos. Best of luck with the new site, chaps and sorry to hear about the Tea List Whisper: 1st. Day- Barbie went, and forgot to get anything for herself: 2nd. Day- Penny went, and forgot the food: 3rd. Day- John went, and forgot the money. Worst of all, Alan forgot to put his own name on the rota.

P.S. According to "The Future of Lon's Past" P.60, no. 49, present land surface is at +17.7 O.D., Roman land surface at +12,12 O.D. Archaeological potential (possible): Roman-early cemetery, occupation. Saxon- occupation. Med.-"site of shambles to south".....

The TRIGGERS WHISPER

Since we last took a look at Trig, many things have happened, such as the Brigadier, Mark QE 2, Wynn, who is older than he was on the 5th. and a lot of Poly Span. The latter was specially imported from Eboracum and fell on Mark (heavy breathing) Harrison's

little head, and can he have his helmet back please. His cranium was only a little bit broken, and Jackie, who worried herself into a fit of giggles, certified that the brain damage was no more than usual. Following the unsavoury rolling of Mr. Stone just before Xmas, we are pleased to observe that infinite wisdom and mercy prevailed. John "Meanie" Maloney discovered the consequence of putting plastic mugs of coffee on oil-stoves, Sue worked well, Jane drew her first section while Chrissie and Jackie tried some Town Planning. Penny reading tea-scopes, Dave initiated an Honours List, Pete Ellis gave up smoking and Mr. Dam Busters Anonymous started taking the New York Times, following Trig's appearance therein.

The GUILDHALL GOSSIP

Meanwhile back at 55, Basinghall St., London EC2 V 5DT, Diana and Ruth both enjoyed their Xmas, the former remarked that nothing publishable happened, while the latter regretted the lack of anything unpublishable. The re-bearded Sal, on the other hand, was presented with Eric, the lady he sleeps with: both are doing fine. John S, who is also hopelessly in love, assured us that he was the most interesting speaker at the Conf. for Y. A.s, and Trevor had lots of new bits of cardboard ages ago. The good news for everyone especially Anne and Joyce in the Lab is that Bill Rector is back in business, and very nice too. George, on the other hand, was last heard of ~~in~~ swigging Southern Comfort in the Governors Mansion, Columbia, S.C., and Brian has taken to wearing jeans.

The EC 75 WHISPER

Under the watchful eyes of Peters M & E the joys of wall-chasing continue: new diggers responded to the clarion call to save the Romans'neath Baynard's last week-end, and didn't they do well? Also there was Charles (the 1st?) and some regulars. Some 30m of dog article wall 3m wide was unearthed reviving theories on that much gnawed bone of contention, the River Wall. Many came to see this thing which had come to pass, including Mr. Londinium in person, our very own Ralph Merrifield. Even the Piccolo thought it wonderful.

The THINK TANK WHISPER

Several people were present for this month's summit, which was delayed whilst Wroman Wruins were discovered. Tony Dyson took the official minutes and the WW the unofficial minutes which follow hereafter. If anyone has an environmentally project they would like work done on, be it diet, disease or dendrochronological we now have 7 expert brains to pick in the London area as the DUA SAEC Fortress House and Hinchcliffesville will pool facilities and expertise wherever possible.. And while we're on the subject of H'ville, the Creme de la Creme will descend upon the North London Unit's new HQ (just off the map) on 17th. All requests for lectures must be vetted by the CUA, all notepads etc. to be ordered in bulk and not from Woolies, and all members of staff wishing to leave MUST give at least one weeks notice, unlike you-know-who, who didnt. (Black Mark). Most important item discussed was the Publication Programme- dependent on poor, understaffed Colditz oops I mean Bon Hill's ability to process the odds and sods that get into the Finds trays from time to time. Customs House is out now, in LAMAS³ X- well done Tim- this will be followed by: 1975- St, Milldews, Roman Palace; 1976-N.F.W.XTriangle, (Angel Court?):1977- Ludgate, Trig, (Angel Court?): 1978- Mins, Seal Ho: 1979- Bath House, Harp Lane: 1980- Baynards. Mr. Rhodes put the case for improving Bonhill (and ∴ the speed of publication) yet again: of all the many and complex problems we've got, they've got the worst. The solution is, of course, being worked on. Any Site Supervisor whose final report is not in a fit state for publication wont get his name under the ~~xxxx~~ title- site note books are ~~xxxx~~ NOT publishable reports, so there Rick. And to end on a more cheerful note: a handsome series of off-prints of DUA digs will appear as soon as they are ready for Mr. Chapman's Big Blue Book. Oh yes, see you all on the 4th. of Feb.

SANS AUDREYS, SANS GEORGES, SANS EVERYTHING...

And shall the shrill cry of "SKIP!" be heard no more in the land? For behold, the fate of Seal Ho. is sealed: how are the mighty backfilled. 7 months after the 40m trench was opened a depth of 6.25m 'neath the craggy concrete was attained, 4 frontages exposed and the entire shoring system salvaged. Paul Haircut Herbert sadly departed: Dave the Drott did his thing whilst huts were dismantled, concrete swept, fences built and fires raged.. Hilary, Merry, John S. and Sal still live with the memories in the ~~XXXX~~ Muse, everyboby else taking up residence at the GPO, but for pain-racked Ricardo in Bonhill, King David of Trig, and Lesley, who disappeared without trace. Tuff's models will be long cherished, as will the many memories, both merry and muddy, we shared 'twixt WWS 6 and 19.

The GOLDITZ STORY

This is a tale of noblest heroism inside the vast grim prison which spelt Living Death to all confined within its deadly dungeons: of the sadism of the Unter-Fuehrer, Herman Rhodes: of the daring escape of Dwayne and Margaret, and of gruesome torture. Torture such as the cutting off of the sugar ration, and forcing ailing Ricardo x and Judy to stick tons of Surrey Ware together. In retaliation, a sabotage crew was set up- Sue blew the dreaded X ray machine, x and upstairs loes were smashed, flooding all the floors(Even Herr Unter Fuehrer himselfg got his mop out). Meanwhile, in Room 404 (Oh no, not Room 404) the Admiral von Der Fleet, Peter Schikelgrubenhauer forced Private Pell (V.C. & Mars Bar) to copy out the plans of Der Roman Buckingham Palace, including the findspots of the famous corgi bones, bronze polo stick and the C2nd. CDE. Only Squadron Leader Brian "Biggles" Hopley could get them out of that mess: But he would have to act soon, before they perished, or started to recite limericks endlessly: WOULD HE BE IN TIME?

DEAR AUNTIE SEPTICK,

ever since I stopped wearing my helmet, massive chunks of Poly Span keep falling on my head, and I live in constant fear of being redrawn from the excavation. SIGNED, Dizzy of Shortlands

Auntie Septick: "Well boy-o, how many times do I have to tell you that..."

SMALL PHINDS

*** WHERE ARE THEY NOW?— The Search For The Stars Of Yesteryear.. Readers of the early issues of WW will still recall the delights of Carolines super songs: the pen from which those evergreen hits flowed is now applied to archaeological topics at New Hall Cantab; its illustrious cover is doing very well, and proved it with her presence in London this week* Good news also from Nick Freidin, who not only escaped from Colditz (WW II), but from the French Army as well* and is now Keeble Collegeing in Oxenforde* Geoff Egan alive and well when last seen in Dillions* Nick (of Nick and Calaway ~~xxx~~ fame) transferred from Archaeology to the Chase Manhattan Bank, ~~for~~ for an undisclosed fee.* David Browne lecturing in Marxist Archaeology at Cambridge while digging a quote sea of mud with £600 and a new shovel unquote.* Both Bibas and the Piccolo blessed with the ever cheerfull presence of Gerald Clewley who temporarily forsook the hurly burly of Margate for a spot of Xmas shopping* And for those who wish to recall Trig in its heyday, GREAT NEWS: Jamie Muir will be showing the oh so long awaited film of the Site of the Seventies, shot on location in Upper Thames Street last summer, ~~sta~~ starring practically everybody who was anybody in that Golden Era: so dont phorget—Phriday Jan. 24th.: HOLLYWOOD HITS 12a CHURCH ROAD, SHORTLANDS. Come as a be-bottled Philm Star of your Choice: BE THERE!!

*** Your hunt for a 3" WHS stops at Beck & Ryan, Tottenham Court Rd., opposite Habitats, if you've £1.20 and a jean pocket to spare.

*** According to Catherine Johns, who knows about these things, a samian sherd from New St. long accepted as one of the few Arretine frags. from London was shown to be from a Dechelette 75 bowl made in Lezoux, late C2nd, early C3rd, and cannot therefore be used in the controversy about the ~~extant~~ existence of pre conquest Londinium; the large vase from Cornhill probably emanates from the same workshop. See Brit. Mus. Quart. 37, 1973, 151-4.

*** TALLY HO CORNER: Jane and Barbie would love to hear from anyone interested in horse riding— only the well-groomed need reply.

*** Will the Unit ever invest in site notice boards? Of the 13 digs dug by the DUA to date, only 1 indulged itself in publicity, and that was sponsored by Rescue. Dont we need Public Support any more? (WW5 & WW 6).

*** Orgy time is nearly over— last chance Chez Harrisons on 24th- December was certainly busy with the Seal House Finals, toasts to the newly betrothed; fancy dress at the Chrissie Party, with Dwayne Thos and Sal excelling, Hilarys Rustic Riot and Dwayne's Pharewell to Clapham the nite after, and the ~~INS~~ Institute Do, with noted for the DUA's bopping and Georges brush with the law for riding 2 on a bike while totally destroyed. Oh well, only 349 digging days to Christmas...

*** Grimes Graves currently living in the B.M.

*** What chance for us? In 1866 General Pitt-Rivers recorded the excavation of pile structures in the Valley of the Walbrook "without fully understanding them" (The Roman City of London, Merrifield, p.4)

*** Hilary Kent will have a Happy Birthday under the table at the Skinners on Friday 17th; all most cordially invited to join her!!

*** Did you know that a boat with oars and anchors was found by workmen removing a wall by the river bank in the former Roman town of Verulamium? It was apparently made of oak, was nailed and had pitched timbers, and indicated that ships could once reach Verulamium by river. The discovery was made by by Abbot Ealdred in the 11th. (Int. J. Naut Archaeol, 2, 1973, 177-9).

*** ~~Our~~ Our amazing cover was drawn by the Brilliant Miss Barbie: to her, and to all other reporters and assistants (especially Diana) many thanks. Other offers of help or malicious gossip to: The Editor, Whispering Heights, 10 Offord Rd, LONDON N.1. CE 6CQ 2766

*** TOP OF THE POPS: The new entry "Mr Postman" by Alan Stardust and Telephone Bill shoots straight to No. 1, displacing Bill Hobley and the Comets with "Work around the Clock".. And from Lowisham, friends, (I mean it most sincerely) opportunity knocks for the Rocking ~~MS~~ ~~MS~~, straight into No. 3 with "Now That I've Small Found You". Up to No. 5 with the title track from the latest album is Alton Ellis and Elsie Mighty with "Goodbye Yellow Brick Wall".