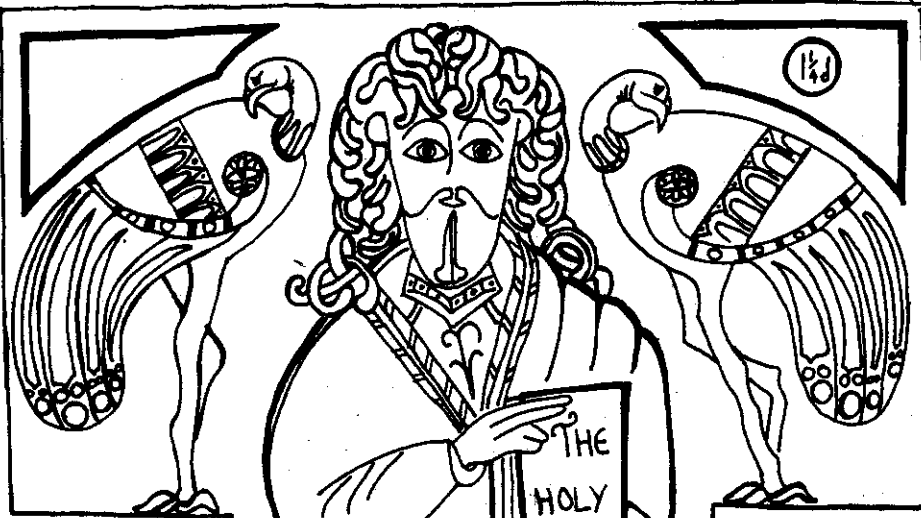


THE
 EERLY
 RISSER



OLD UNCLE
 TOM HOBLEY
 AND HILL



IN WHICH WE INTRODUCE A NEW HOLE

John Scofield is to lead the team of diggers who will pick up vital East-West and North-South sections on the brand new St. Magnus site, not a million miles from NFW. This area, which is known to be an archaeological gold mine, should yield positive or negative bridge head evidence as well as, hopefully, some definitive waterfront chronology in this commercially hyper-active area. Alas, time is not on John's side, but the skilful use of plant coupled with the expertise and experience of his team could produce unique and exciting results.

YER ACTUAL MONTHLY MEETING

"We..shall always assemble once a month, if we can and have leisure ..and take note how our agreement is being observed." -Ordinance of the Bishops and Reeves of London, VI Athelstan (924-939).

The progress of the NFW development was discussed first, and John expounded his plan for tackling the new site to the East of St. Magnus church (where we said it should be) instead of to the South (where we said it shouldn't be). There is also a later possibility of a salvage operation in the St. Botolphs (!) area, but the north side of L. Thames St. will only be done if the time n' dime situation improves. The publication programme is rolling on, and an elite Think Tank to bash out priorities was set up. The recent ~~contract~~ contract proposals are as yet still unresolved.: much further negotiation is envisaged. The CUA is determined to have the best team in Britain this time next year, "even if I have to sack the whole bl**dy lot of you and start again," he added jokingly, and the new system of selection is already under way: only four out of ten applicants are selected for interview, preference is given to experienced long-termers and applications are pouring in at the rate of 20+ a week. Site Supervisors are requested to keep Chas informed as to the progress of their diggers, and diggers are requested to give as much notice of hols or impending departures as they can. Staff may unburden themselves on the CUA if they suffer from "exceptional personal problems or work grievances". Diggers Questions appeared sixth on the agenda, and it was agreed that it would be promoted if possible in the future. Trig may be dug seven days a week, given two or more responsible souls, "an element of Flexi-Time" is to be allowed on site. Mike Rhodes will come to view our pots and dispense his wisdom ~~fx~~ for those with hears to ear, but warned of the dangers of boredom: work on a fabric type series was already on the cards, but 'tis a long long job. Site tours are a-cumen in again, the new site shall be called St. Magnus ("which it may well be if the church falls over" quipped J.S.), and all staff will get a quick butchers at our new home. All those interested in being up and coming Trevors should see the real thing after hours for a chat: he is only to pleased to help anyone whose really interested in archaeological photography. The new sample cards are pink, special finds are blue, don't forget Mark's birthday on ~~March 15th~~ April 15th, and the next one will be on 6th. May.

The WEEKLY WHISPER wishes to thank all who have contributed in any way to this edition, especially Barbie Diana and Charlotte. All news etc to the usual address: Whispering Heights: 10 Offord Road, London N.1 IDL.

THE BAYNARDS SAGA chapter XXXIV

According to the CUA at the LAMAS conference, "one memorable afternoon, Chas was drawn by some strange instinct" to check out Baynards. Infact, the 'strange instinct' was John John's vigilance, and the result was a huge portion of fallen wall, complete with decorated stones, which were drawn, and subsequently disappeared or were damaged by the specialist firm called in to remove them. Messers Maloney and Ellis then wiled away many a cold day site watching, culminating in the successful Easter Weekend, by courtesy of those helpful Laing machines. The brief for this escapade was to locate and asses the connection betwixt walls and waterfronts. A stone rafted wall-footing and the residue of a potentially medieval pile retained structure were located, photographed and drawn. Medievalists might like to know that "If any be taken" in Robert Fitzwalter's sokemanry (he was the owner of B.C., died 1305)"his judgment shall not be published till he come into the of the said Robert, and in his liberty...if he have deserved death by Treason, he to be tied to a post in the Thames at a good wharf where boats are fastened, two ebbings and two flowings of the water". (Stow, Pg 60).

With the invaluable aid of hindsight, one cannot help but question the validity of last summers lengthy excursions in Upper Thames St., compared with the impressive speed information has been obtained from the 3 more recent investigations, in spite of the disbelieving attentions of Women Police Constables, and the use of Dick (£ 1.9m high) as a level.

THERE IS A BONHILL FAR AWAY...

Now Winter is here to stay, and 4 fires eventually arrived, fitted by skilled craftsmen with round-pin plugs to fit the square-hole sockets Howard rectified things, got into a Union dispute, but that was later resolved. 3 out of the 4 fires then worked quite well when they weren't fusing, so it was left to the ever-reliable Mr. Robertson, who ~~is~~ did a really marvellous job on the wiring, to bring peace and warmth to Bonhill. Peter Marsden is digging up the Amsterjam whilst Chronicle films him, bearing in mind that "mud keeps timbers, but makes worms sniffy". Mimi, who swears in french, came from Canada via the Institute, Veronica is also new, and well known in the caff around the corner, but what, you may well arsk, has Howard got, that the Min of Ag Fish & Food havent? Pam, back from her recent fall down the lift shaft, found a beak in her chocolate egg, which was described by a Senior Finds Supervisor as "quite a tweet". Judis germs are best, and she and Her Howard are doing the matrimonial thing on 21st of June. Hilary likes carbowax and Bells for breakfast and was excused her Insurance stamps. ~~EX~~ Mike Rhodes' jaw siezes up whenever the tension gets to much, and his brief case was found to float when it fell in the boat tank- the Munsell Colour Chart also sort of slipped therein, and does it matter if its run a bit?

DIPLOMA AROMA

We are indebted to Miss Miller for observing the CBA/BIB meeting on March 18th., at which much discussion took place. The pressing need for the CBA Educational Committee to organise a Field Diploma for field archaeologists was accepted and a 12 man working party under leading light Graham Webster was set up to get it together. It is envisaged that various certificates will be awarded for competence in such subjects as Methods of Excavation, Use of Documentary Sources, Artefact Studies, Written Work, Plans Photography etc., etc. The Aquisition of a certain number of certificates would then lead to the Dip. being awarded to the lucky person. Minimum age 16, degreed students would be credited for any work covered by their BA, but there is NO minimum academic standard required for would be entrants to the scheme, and all individuals should be 'assessed personally'. The "aim is to produce high quality workers" to "maintain professional standards in field archaeology", a laudable, not to mention essential, goal. We await the report to the CBA Executive in May with high hopes and great interest.

MUSE NEWS

The BIG ONE: the Guildhall Library basement has finally been liberated by Dads Underground Army (DUA) and this extensive territory acquired in our recent lebensraum campaign should be occupied by about June. Tony holds the reins of power whilst Brian (a Rescue and CBA Urban Committee member) conferences on European Towns. Like the man said, "You work better when I'm not here". Hugh Chapman is saving up for an SE 23 post mark, and came to see how things really was last Thursday. And while we're on the subject of the LAMAS Transactions, George has done his thing for August, a very important article on the tidal nature of Old Phather Thames and associated probs, which makes a change from publishing in the journal of Anatolian Studies. Diana is not spelt Dianna or Dianne, and likes to get her oar in awl the time. Trevor would like all interested Happy Snappers to note the following: firstly, RPS & CBA's "Photography in British Archaeology" on 19/5/75 at the Institute all day. £1 includes tea, coffee, G. Daniel, P. Rahtz and D. Neal, and much, much more. Secondly, the RPS Archaeological Group Conference at Wicken Bonhunt, Essex, 16-18th. May. For further details, consult Muse noticeboard.

THE FUTURE OF LONDONS POST chapter IV

The combined grey matters of Alan, Des, Andy and Tom- not to mention the muscles of their loyal legions, - are resolving the complexities of the pitted (you can call me Eric) Northern Region. Their ranks have been swelled by that ever youthful vetran Mr. Blurton, making a triumphant return to the field, Flasher Ken from Philpshire, Simon Bartlett M.Sc., and, following a short stay at Crewe Junction, the Poly Spans, which arrived clipless. Graham mountaineers wherever he can, John Stone will be older on April 8th, and so will Barbie on the 18th. - anyone who'd like to join her merry throng for a birthday eat-in will be welcome to do so on Fursday the Theventeenf. Bobs crazy about loo paper, Sal went to see a lady about a horse, Merry is not really married to the 34 year old who beat Amdy up. Penny sadly left for Dunleer, Co. Louth, Ireland: she will be missed by us all, even Tom (who has new green boots), whom she locked in the loo. Another important event in the water closet was communication by a Master P. to a Miss B., who later emerged flushed, and finally, during a recent musical discourse on the merits of the St. Mathew's Passion, Ricardo declared "Well darlings, I must go to the John this year".

DIAL-A-TRIG ON 01-236 1946

The removal of the baulk between areas A and B has begun, plans for the North-East passage have been laid, and the C16th is being dealt with stratagraphically, not to mention fast. Morale on the most important site in the Western Hemispere is understandably high, although Dave Walker has retired to "The Flat, Orchard Cottage, Leigh, Cricklade, Wilts"., to strip 75 acres of Late Saxon town, including a possible "Roman or Saxon dock". Ardent readers of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle will no doubt recall that Cnut left 160 ships there in 1016 when he "crossed the Thames into Mercia at Cricklade". Mark II was also taken from us, clutching his farewell book "How to say Oh Boo, you drivelling senile oaf, and other insults in 5 languages" in his hand. Chrissie holidayed in Paris dans la niege, whilst Jane dwelt in Dorset with the measles. John John got Georges flotation unit to play with when he was not constructing the Great Easton Walkways, and cats became very popular, especially with Jackie and Dave, though Mark prefers sharks. Among the high calibre of experienced newcomers, we welcome Val and Dick of NFW, Shadwell and many other places fame, Steve, who's dug up lots of Romans, and Roland, who, though but 14, has dug on at least TEN other sites.

STOP PRESS: reports have just reached us that Randy Iley has been spotted in the Trig Lane area, but the police have appealed to the public to stay calm.

*** The LAMAS Conference on the 22nd March introduced us to the glories of Shadwell, the efficiency of Mr. Hinchcliffe, the very soft dulcet tones of Joanna Bird, a gravel surface in Staines and and what supervisor tells me is a kiln (but we'd like a second opinion on that) from Woolwich. It also starred our very own CUA who lectured on "Trig Lane and other Waterfront Sites" such as Ludgate, Angel Court etc, beginning with a short digression on such topics as the Power Structure in the DUA, how '12 or more' sites were dug in 1974, how much hard work we'd done, and last but not least, that Seal House was dug by um next slide please.

*** If you happen to be looking over the new Med. Room in the B.M. on your day off, the following selection of lectures may also be worth a go: 10th: 1.15 pm; Roman Britain. 17th: 1.15pm; Everyday life in Roman Britain. 18th: 3.00pm; Heathery Burn- a Bronze Age Cave Dwelling 25th: 3.00pm; Farming in the Iron Age.

*** Harry, who pulled many a Diggers pint in the Skinners has finally opted for the Barking Gas Board.

*** Cassablanca: Humphrey Woods and his fine Colas team are still at it: the drawings are by the multi-coloured Miss Scammell and Augustus footprints are in perpetual evidence.

*** PARTY TIME!!! Chrissie has kindly agreed to allow an unlimited number of archaeologists and other assorted bottle bearing alcoholix into her flat at 249 Caledonian Road Islington N.1 on Phriday 18th of April to celebrate the many wonderful things which have come to pass. Nearest Tube: Kings X-Buses: 14,17,168,221,259,263.

*** MUSEUMS of the WORLD no. 1: Undercroft, Yorkminster: (10p for students) A unique and absorbing museum constructed around the multi period structures preserved in situ therein. High spot ~~xxxxxx~~: Plate 77, featuring an early phase of our dearly beloved Mark Harrison.

*** FLAT SEASON: Diggers Delight: vacancies in mixed flat, Muswell Hill, July to October: Ring Kathy or Mark on 883 9861. July ONLY: large room in desirable Islington:, ring Charlotte, 226 2386.

*** On Friday 21st March a magazine calling itself "The Real Weekly Whisper" was circulated ananonymously in some quarters of the DUA. The gross intrusion upon our copyright and reputation was not of our doing.

*** August sees the general release of the film "Carry ON Behind" in which a team of students lead by their eccentric Professor of Archaeology (Kenneth Williams) and his ~~XX~~ A.S.S. (Elke Sommers) dig the remains of a Roman town underneath a caravan site with "typically hilarious results" (Evening News).

*** Advocates of the joys of country digging might like to know that our comrades at the Institute spent their Easter "dying of cold on top of ~~aagressix~~ robbed and grossly disturbed Bronze Age Barrow".

*** John Stow, 'Fee'd chronicler and citizen of London' "died of the stone colic, being four score years of age" on the 6th. April 1605, 370 years ago this week.

*** March was a jolly good month for press coverage, wot with Private Eye's "Social Contract- The Search Goes On" cover, (Peter swears he found it in section the following saturday); the City Press showing how the HUA "Dig, chart and record all their discoveries" (13/3/75), and all that heart warming stuff in the Times (10/3/75) about "tedious and unrewarding tasks". The article went on to describe Bridget as an easily pleased woman, which, when the young lady read it in the ~~xxx~~ crowded Common Room, caused her to go bright red and exclaim, "Bugger me!"

*** TOP OF THE POPS

That lovable little long-haired lover from Seal House, ~~XXX~~ Jonny Schosmond is at No. 1 with "Get Me To The Chuch On Time". At No.2 we have the Bonhill Operatic Society and "Your Tiny Hand Is Frozen", while the Baynards City Rollers are back in the charts yet again with "This Could Be The Last Time". Watch out for Queen's "Killer Spray" which could have a big impact on many sections of the community.