

## D.O.E. DIGS IN LONDON

BESIDES SUPPORTING several rescue excavations in London, the Department of the Environment is also directly investigating three sites. Brian Davison will be trial trenching on the site of the Royal Mint at Tower Hill early in 1972. It is hoped to uncover remains of the Cistercian Abbey of St. Mary de Grace which occupied the site from 1350 to 1539. After this the Royal Navy Victualling yard stood there from 1562 to 1784, with the Mint buildings being erected in 1806-11.

Small scale excavations are taking place on the site of the Hall of the Bishop of Winchester's London Palace in Southwark. The work is being carried out by Peter Curnow in advance of the restoration of the surviving walls and 14th century window Rose Window.

Finally, Professor Grimes is directing exploratory excavations on the site of the 11th century Abbey in Bermondsey. Other remains of the Abbey were excavated by him after the last war.

## CAMDEN'S ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

A SYMPOSIUM on Urban Archaeology and Aspects of the Archaeology and History of Camden was held by Camden History Society at Holborn Library, Theobalds Road on the 6-7 November. The stated aims of the Symposium were three: discussion of the role of urban archaeology and its many problems; a review of some aspects of Camden's history and archaeology against the background of such discussion and lastly to find further direction for the Society's researches.

The chairman, Miss Caroline Neuburg, who is archaeology group leader of Camden History Society, said in her summing up that the stated aims had been achieved and that a further one had been realised: that of getting members of a local society to undertake some research and to talk about it. She also felt that a good background to urban archaeology had been presented and that members' work on Day 2 had shown a combination of archaeological and historical studies of a fascinating kind.

It is hoped to publish the proceedings of the Symposium and it would help an accurate estimate of the demand for the publication, if anyone interested, would write to Miss C. Neuburg, 34A Redbourne Avenue, N.3.

## SEMINAR ON LONDON PORCELAINS

THE SECOND weekend Seminar organised by the Morley College Ceramic Circle was recently held on "London Porcelains." About 150 people attended on each of the two days to hear a number of leading experts talk on the London wares, including those from the principal factories of Chelsea and Bow. Two recent excavations were described, one on the site of the Chelsea factory by Miss D. Griffiths, the other on the suspected site of the factory at Bow by Dr. Redstone. Other speakers contributing to this extremely stimulating weekend were Mrs. B. E. Adams, Miss M. Benson, Mr. R. J. Charleston, Miss K. Foster, Mr. J. V. G. Mallet and Mr. G. H. Tait.

## THE DEATH OF C. E. VULLIAMY

BEST KNOWN generally for his biographical and satirical books C. E. Vulliamy, who died on the 4th September at the age of 82, was the author of *The Archaeology of London and Middlesex*. This book, published in 1930, was

one of series of county archaeologies and has not yet been adequately replaced. Vulliamy brought together all the known facts with an impartial mind which even today makes it worthwhile for London archaeologists to have his *Archaeology* on their bookshelves.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN 1970

NINETY-ONE archaeological sites threatened by destruction in the United Kingdom were directly investigated by the Department of the Environment during 1970. In addition the Department made 69 grants to local or county excavation committees, museums and extra-mural departments towards the cost of similar emergency excavations. These bodies were mainly concerned with areas of urban development overlying medieval and Roman towns, such as Alcester, Bath, Birmingham, Bristol, Chelmsford, Chester, Chichester, Cirencester, Colchester, Dorchester, Gloucester, King's Lynn, London, Malton, Northampton, Nottingham, Oxford, Portsmouth, Stamford, Stratford-on-Avon, Winchester, Worcester and York.

Details of these and other investigations are contained in the annual report "Archaeological Excavations 1970" published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, price 50p. The report is illustrated.

A number of important prehistoric sites were among those investigated during the year. These included two examples of a hitherto rare type of site, the Beaker settlement, which were excavated at Colchester and at Willington in the Trent Valley.

Fresh information about the Iron Age came from a number of sites. Of these the most unusual was a large complex at Garton Slack in Yorkshire, where Late Iron Age enclosures had carved chalk figurines stratified in the ditches. A pit on the same site contained a set of blacksmith's tools, including a pair of tongs.

Major contributions have been made to our knowledge of military affairs and civil settlements in Roman Britain. At Kelvedon in Essex what may be a marching camp of Claudius' opening campaign has been located. The report also contains details of investigations into Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, monastic and castle sites and medieval villages.

## ROMAN FORTIFICATIONS AT DOVER

THE LEVEL of a new road under construction in Dover is now to be raised higher than was originally planned and so allow almost all the remains of the recently discovered Roman fortifications to be preserved.

Announcing this, Mr. Julian Amery, Minister for Housing and Construction, said he and his colleague Mr. Graham Page, Minister for Local Government and Development, were anxious that as much as possible of this important archaeological find should be preserved. Further engineering investigations were, therefore, carried out while the roadworks were delayed to allow extra time for recording the find.

The western (northbound) carriageway of the new road will now be raised by 5ft. 9ins. and the eastern (southbound) carriageway by 3ft. 9ins. Although the gradients will be steeper than usual on trunk roads, the effect of these changes will not be particularly noticeable.

The excavations, made possible by the re-routing of the A.20 to take through traffic away from the centre of Dover, have uncovered the foundations of a 3rd Century Roman/Saxon shore fort as well as those of its 2nd Century predecessor.