Fig. 1. A reconstruction (published in 1784) of the Castle based on early maps. The recent emergency excavation revealed the hexagonal corner tower and four of the adjoining turrets.

(Print: Guildhall Library)

BAYNARDS CASTLE

PETER MARSDEN

BAYNARDS CASTLE, a royal palace whose cliff-like walls rose out of the Thames east of Blackfriars, is to be the object of the Guildhall Museum's 1972 summer excavation.

The first castle was built by William the Conqueror just inside the south-west corner of the City defences, to be a counterpart to the Tower of London at the south-east. It was placed in the charge of Baynard, one of the Conqueror's followers. The Fitzwalter family acquired the castle during the early 12th century, and as a result the family held the hereditary office of Standard Bearer of the City,

one of the most important offices in medieval London.

The castle was rebuilt several times, the earliest following its destruction by King John due to the opposition of Robert Fitzwalter, who was forced to flee to France. He rebuilt the castle later, however, when he was pardoned by the King. In 1275 his descendant, another Robert Fitzwalter gave the castle site to the Archbishop of Canterbury for the foundation of the House and Church of the Dominicans from which Blackfriars takes its name. Fitz-Walter built a new castle on a riverside site east of

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Blackfriars, and it is this castle and its subsequent rebuildings which is to be investigated this summer.

The new castle was destroyed by fire in 1428 and was rebuilt by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester. It played its part in the Wars of the Roses, and Edward IV was proclaimed King there in 1461. According to Shakespeare's *Richard III,* it was in Baynard's Castle that the Duke of Buckingham offered the crown to Richard, then Duke of Gloucester.

Henry VII largely rebuilt the castle in 1487, and it was from there that Prince Henry, after his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, was conducted in great state to Westminster. Three of Henry's Queens lived in Baynards Castle for a time — Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and Ann of Cleves.

In 1553 Queen Mary was proclaimed by the Privy Council at the castle, and when her first parliament was held at Westminster, the Earl of Pembroke, Keeper of the Castle, proceeded to it followed by "2,000 horsemen in velvet coats, with their lances of gold and gold chains, besides sixty gentlemen in blue coats with his badge of the green dragon." Later the Earl entertained Queen Elizabeth to a banquet in the castle, followed by a fireworks display.

This rich and royal history was brought to a sudden end in the Great Fire of 1666, after which the castle was not rebuilt. One tower, however, survived in use until 1720.

There are no contemporary drawings of the castle except in general views of the City. It is clearly shown in Aga's map of 1560-70, and the tower

Fig. 3. Ogilby and Morgan's map of 1676.

(Guildhall Library)
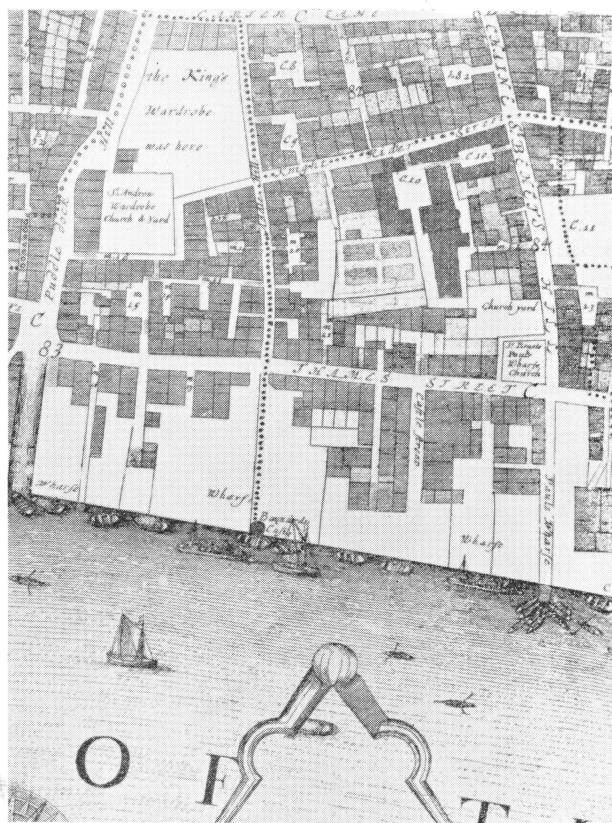
Fig. 2 Aga's map of 1560-70.

(Guildhall Library)

which survived the Great Fire is shown in Ogilby and Morgan's map of 1676. Apart from these and a few other views the layout of the castle is unknown. The excavation of the castle site during this coming summer will be the last chance to uncover these historic remains which next year will be destroyed by a massive rebuilding scheme.

Volunteers are needed for the excavation, and for the processing of finds during the period June-September. Similarly, more volunteers are also needed for a second major area excavation which will occur just inside Aldgate to establish details of the Roman city layout, and in particular to discover the reason for the angle in the City wall at Aldgate which may have been built around some significant building or group of buildings.

Digging will take place daily and everyone will be paid approximately at D. of E. rates. It is necessary, however, that all volunteers must attend for a minimum of four consecutive days in one week. If you would like to join these most interesting and extensive excavations, please write to Peter Marsden, Guildhall Museum, 55 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DT (Tel. 01-606 3030 ext. 745).