

both houses. Again the alley came out into the light at this point, the only difference from Cox's Quay being that here the subsidiary buildings were thinner to allow for the stairwell down into J2.

Building C came into the hand of the Vintners in 1439, and they or their tenants must have developed it into Building J. It is possible that the change in the cellars — from vaulted cellars, probably with earth floors, to cellars probably flat-ceilinged, brick floored and in one case with wooden staging — reflects a change to specialised trading. Certainly the Great Fire, which started in Pudding Lane, the northern extension of Rothersgate, at a house some 100m north of the site, was aided in its spreading by the spirits in the wharfside warehouses along this part of Thames Street.

Buildings K and L (fig. 1) are roughly late or post medieval in date. Building K survived only as a fragment of brick walling and a probable brick floor on the site of Building A, east of Rothersgate, in Area III. Building L was found immediately under the basement in Area II. It comprised a wall of coursed rubble in mortar down the eastern side of the alley (later Gaunt's Quay), which has been inferred for the underlying Building E, perhaps with a doorway onto the alley. The EW wall of E was demolished and a new wall, with a hearth, built EW about 2.6m to the south. This probably also had a doorway in it, and being 0.6m wide may have been the back of the main house, since it lines up roughly with the walls of H and J for which a similar function has been suggested. The hearth indicates a primary stack, presumably connecting two cellars. The room to the north contained a floor of plain tiles in yellow and green glazes and bricks. At the south baulk another wall was seen

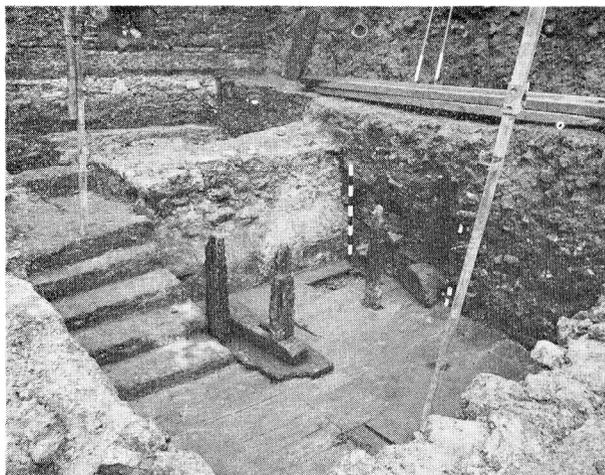


Fig. 8: Building J: cellar J2 with burnt staging, filled with debris of the Great Fires.

which is probably part of Building L, indicating that the alley widened by that point (perhaps akin to the widening of Hammond's Quay in Building J). Demolition by fire, undated, was strongly suggested.

Thus the Great Fire can be blamed for the destruction of Building J, probably of H, and probably (by inference) of the other buildings standing at the time at the foot of Pudding Lane, Buildings F, G, K and L. It is hoped that future excavation on or near the site will uncover the succession of quays which corresponded with, and could perhaps illuminate, the changing circumstances prompting the rebuilds and re-arrangement of tenements from their establishment in the 12th century to their violent demise in 1666.

Local Societies — amendments

The sixth list of amendments to the list of local societies published in Vol. 2 no. 9 is as follows:

The Eltham Society: Sec. Mrs. S. Simmons, 29 Red Lion Lane, Shooters Hill, S.E.18.

Lewisham Local History Society: joint Secs. Miss I. M. B. Dyer, 80 Ermine Road, S.E.13 and D. J. Dalton, 10a Sydenham Park, S.E. 26 4EQ.

Pinner and Hatch End Local History and Archaeology Group: Sec. E. Hayden, 21 Cecil Park, Pinner.

Thameside Archaeological Group: Acting Sec. Valerie Smith, 19 Shrubbery Road, Gravesend, Kent.

West Essex Archaeological Group: Sec. D. F. Cousins, 102 Malford Grove, South Woodford, E.18 2DQ.

A.G.M. of the London Archaeologist

The eighth A.G.M. was held on the 20th May in the Lecture Theatre of the Museum of London. The following officers were elected:—Editor, Clive Orton; Assistant Editors, Rhoda Edwards and Beth Richardson; Secretary, Nesta Caiger; Advertising and Promotion, Betsey Kentish; Subscriptions, Sally Petchey; Managing Editor, Nicholas Farrant — and the auditors were re-elected. Representatives to serve on the Publication Committee were elected from the Museum of London and the following societies: Barnet, City of London, Greenwich and Lewisham, S.L.A.E.C. and West London. Following the close of business, Ralph Merrifield spoke on "The Museum of London and its Role in London's Archaeology".