

## TOMBSTONE FOUND AT CROSSWALL

THE CONSTRUCTION of the new building on the Crosswall site having been completed, the Roman wall and bastion (tower) foundation — preserved as a feature of the redevelopment — were recently freed of their protective coverings (see MOSAIC, Vol. 3, No. 16). The elevation of the wall (10ft. high x 27ft. long) was prepared for a photogrammetric record to be made courtesy of the City University, and the bastion foundation was prepared for conservation. The latter work involved the examination of some monumental stones on top of the foundation which turned out to be the remains of an inscribed Roman tombstone (see front cover). It had been set up to a young girl, Marciana, who had died aged ten, by a (?) relation who bore the name Aurelius. There seems to be a secondary inscription to an unknown person, another (?) relative, which from its style would appear to have been done at the same time as the first. The tombstone was probably set up after c. AD 212 when the *Constitutio Antoniniana* extended citizenship to all — consequently, many people were called Marcus Aurelius in honour of the Emperor Caracalla. The form of the dedication, MEMORIAE (PERPE) TUITATI 'To the everlasting memory of . . .', is unusual and not another example is known from Britain.

The top of the tombstone is virtually complete, and in a semi-circular niche there is a stylized bust of a female figure (presumably Marciana) wearing a gathered robe with her hair drawn back. Fortunately, an inscribed fragment of stone found displaced during the excavations in 1980 is evidently from the same monument. All the fragments are presently being concerned and restored, and the architects are keen that the reassembled tombstone be displayed near to the wall and bastion.

## STUDY TOURS

THE DEPARTMENT of Adult Education at the University of Southampton has recently told us of three study tours which it is organising and which may be of interest to readers of the London Archaeologist. They are:—

A. HEROD'S KINGDOM. Easter 1983. Tutors: David and Pamela Johnston. This visit to Israel will concentrate on the culture, architecture and frontier security of one of the eastern frontier provinces of the Roman Empire. Although this is not a devotional pilgrimage, a subsidiary theme will be the early Christian Church.

B. MEXICO. Summer 1983. Tutor: Nick Saunders. Details available later.

C. THE PAINTED CAVES OF THE DORDOGNE. Early July 1983. Tutor: Clive Gamble. This study tour will visit the famous painted cave sites of S.W. France. These sites represent some of the most spectacular achievements of palaeolithic societies and provide important evidence for the study of religion and ritual 16,000 years ago.

If you would like to be on the Circulation List for any of these, you should write to D. E. Johnston, Department of Adult Education, The University, Southampton SO9 5NH. You will then receive occasional circulars and pro-

gress reports and finally a detailed prospectus with application form (in advance of general advertising of the tour). Under this system, you are not committed until you received the application form.

## MUSEUM RE-OPENS

THE EPPING FOREST District Museum at 39/41 Sun Street, Waltham Abbey (formerly the Waltham Abbey Museum) re-opened on 6 November 1981. It is open from 2-5 p.m. on Fridays to Mondays, and from 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays. Wednesdays and Thursdays are reserved for booked parties, e.g. from schools. Admission is free.

## CURTAINS

"CURTAINS!!! or a New Life for Old Theatres" was the title of a travelling exhibition at the Museum of London from 5 March to 18 April, and of a book published on the opening date by John Offord Publications Ltd of Eastbourne (tel 0323 37841 or 638945). Priced at £5.95, it has 250 pages and over 200 photographs, many in colour. It breaks new ground in that for the first time a complete inventory and gazetteer has been prepared of all surviving pre-1914 theatres in Britain, whether complete or fragmentary. It records that 83% of the 1000 Grands, Alhambras, Empires and Theatres Royal which flourished between 1900 and 1914 have been destroyed or irretrievably altered, most of the damage having been done in the last 30 years. Less than a tenth of this marvellous heritage of often fantastic temples of entertainment which once enlivened every High Street are still in use as theatres.

The CURTAINS!!! team has, over five years, sought out all that remains of Britain's theatre heritage. The theatres have been graded according to a carefully evolved 3,2 or 1 star system. The research has been extended from theatres to music halls, circus theatres, Kursaals and pier theatres of the pre-1914 eras. Maps have been prepared to show they are distributed around Great Britain. Those fragments of old theatres that are of archaeological interest only are described, the demolition in each town listed with dates of demolition and the span of theatrical life recorded. The work of theatre architects has been crosschecked and analysed. Photographs have been taken or obtained of every fine theatre, the interior wherever possible.

In London alone there are fifteen significant forgotten theatres. The less well known include those given over to Bingo — the Hackney Empire and the Grand, Clapham Junction; those that are closed — the Playhouse, Charing Cross, the Alexandra Palace Theatre and Wilton's; one that is a car auction room in Dalston; a temporary ballroom — the Lyceum off the Strand; another that is now a bar in a west London hotel and one extraordinary private 19th century theatre in a hospital near Richmond.

The Exhibition was presented at the Museum of London by the CURTAINS!!! Committee and SAVE Britain's Heritage with financial assistance from the Arts Council of Great Britain, the Ernest Cook Trust and the Chase Charity.