

# Mosaic

## ROMAN WOODWORK FROM WEST LONDON

EXCAVATION OF A LARGE waterlogged Roman feature on a multi-period gravel site at Sipson, in the London Borough of Hillingdon (centred TQ 078 783), has revealed a group of wooden objects of particular interest (see *LA Spring 1985*, for general information about the site). These include part of a ladder of coppiced oak, with two surviving split oak rungs and mortice-holes for a further three; an oak fence-plank (?) with a decorative, spear-shaped terminal; part of the seat (?) or a rough three-legged stool; a series of pointed birch stakes, and a perforated fishing-net float (?) of alder. In addition, three more substantial timbers – all of oak – may represent structural members from a timber-framed building. These last include part of a wall base-plate over 1.50m (5ft) in length.

Lying within the NE corner of a small rectilinear enclosure, the feature in which the woodwork was deposited is probably best interpreted as a large oval gravel quarry or borrow-pit measuring 13m x 11m x 3.70m deep (43ft x 36ft x 12ft deep). The majority of the timbers were recovered from the lowest metre (3ft) or so of fill, and were associated with a few sherds of probably 2nd century. More precise dates may be provided by dendrochronology.

Acknowledgement must be made to the gravel company, Henry Streeter (Sand & Ballast) Ltd., for allowing the excavation to take place, and for generously providing a grant enabling the wood to be drawn and photographed. Thanks are also due to a number of colleagues at the Museum of London for their help with this find; they include Jon Bailey, Trevor Brigham, Helen Ganiaris, Gustav Milne and Ian Tyers.

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS PROCEDURES AND IDENTIFICATION MANUALS

A SERIES of illustrated A4 manuals has been produced by the Museum of London's Department of Urban Archaeology to aid Finds Assistants in the processing and identification of excavated finds. Although designed for internal use, they may be of much wider interest. The *Finds Procedures Manual* (123 pp) covers all aspects of finds processing and report writing. The others deal with the identification of Roman Glass (10 pp), ceramic building materials (10 pp), medieval and post-medieval bricks (6 pp), Roman, Saxon and medieval shoes (24 pp), clay tobacco pipes (8 pp). All are available at cost price. Further details are available from Jo Groves, Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London, London Wall, LONDON, EC2Y 5HN. Tel. (01) 600 3699 ext. 249.

## HUGUENOT EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM OF LONDON

THIS EXHIBITION will be the first to focus on the Huguenots and the contribution they made to the life of London since they fled from France as refugees in the late 17th centuries. It will coincide with the tercentenary of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, by which Louis XIV deprived the Huguenots, the French Protestant followers of John Calvin, of their right to freedom of worship. To escape persecution some 40,000 of them fled to England; many settled in London and, with their creative skills and instinct for hard work, set up new industries and injected new life into the capital.

The exhibition will high-light the human story behind this great influx of people, focussing on individuals and the legacy of institutions and artefacts which they created. For the first time, a wide range of material relating to the Huguenots in London and in England over 300 years will be gathered together from many leading public and private collections.

## CONGRESS OF INDEPENDENT ARCHAEOLOGISTS

THE FIRST CONGRESS of Independent Archaeologists will be held at Wolfson College, Cambridge, on the weekend of 21-22 September 1985 (see *Diary* for details). The theme of the Congress is *Doubling the Output of Archaeology*: the aim is to double the output of archaeology over the next ten years by putting the independent sector to work.

The independent sector has not kept pace with the expansion of state-funded archaeology over the past twelve or so years, and appears to be declining. It is the aim of the Congress to reverse this decline, and do for the independent sector what *Rescue* did for the state sector.

A key aspect of the Congress will be the so-called *Leisure revolution*: the shorter working week, longer holidays and earlier retirement are offering increasing opportunities for the amateur archaeologist, and the organisers want to see how people are already making use of this greater leisure to do archaeology, and how archaeology should market itself to attract these people more. It is hoped that all local societies will send a representative to the Congress.

The Congress will not be confined to independent archaeologists: one of the great glories of British archaeology has always been the close collaboration between "amateur" and "professional", and one of the aims of the Congress will be to see how the two can best work together so as to maximise the overall output of archaeology in Britain.

## JOHN COTTLE RETIRES

A FAMILIAR AND WELCOME face at archaeological conferences and meetings in the London area for many years has been that of John Cottle, President of the Dulwich College Archaeological Society. He retires this year, and we wish him a happy and fruitful retirement.

## THE ECCLESIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE SOCIETY AIMS to study the arts, architecture and liturgy of the Christian Church through meetings, tours and publications; to seek to preserve churches which the Society considers worthy of retention; and to promote seemly church building today. A newsletter is issued to members three times a year and monographs by members are published regularly. Members normally receive two a year as returns of their subscription. Public lecture, usually illustrated by slides, are given between October and April in St. Andrew's Courthouse, 7 St. Andrew Street, Holborn Circus, E.C.4. Tours of groups of churches in London are arranged between Michaelmas and Easter, and coach tours of churches in the southern counties monthly between May and September.

Membership is open to individuals and institutions. Application for membership should be made to the Hon. Membership Secretary, J. B. Henman, Esq., 6 Nadir Court, Blake Hall Road, Wanstead, London, E11 2QE, from whom details of subscription rates can be obtained.