

Mosaic

And now the Globe!

THIS YEAR'S remarkable run of archaeological discoveries in London continues with the finding of remains of the *Globe* theatre by the Museum of London's Department of Greater London Archaeology. The exploratory excavation of the Anchor Terrace car park, to the east of Anchor Terrace in the north-west corner of the former Courage Brewery, Park Street, SE1, was sponsored by Hanson Trust, the site's owners.

The area in which the *Globe* has been revealed lies in the north-west corner of the site, and is about 10m × 6m (33ft × 20ft). To the north and south of this area the archaeological strata have been destroyed by modern intrusions. The surviving walls form the eastern part of the theatre, most of which lies beyond the edge of excavation, under Anchor Terrace.

The remains consist of three wall foundations, the middle wall being about 3m (10ft) in length and made from chalk blocks with associated timber stakes. It is likely to be part of the first Globe Theatre. The outermost brick foundation of the theatre lies 2m (6ft) to the east of the chalk. An area of gravel metalling lying outside this possible represents an external surface. A more substantial brick foundation lies 4m (13ft) to the west of the chalk; it is 1m (3ft) in length and has been largely robbed out. A layer of crushed hazelnuts may be associated with it, and together they may represent part of the second phase of the theatre.

The site has long been considered, on documentary evidence, to be the most likely location of the Globe Theatre. It was built in 1599, the third such theatre on Bankside, after the *Rose* (1587) and the *Swan* (1596). The builder was a carpenter, Peter Streete, using timbers from the theatre which had been built in Shoreditch in 1576 by the Burbage family, and dismantled in 1598. Little was known about the shape of the *Globe*, although it was described as "this wooden O" in the prologue to Shakespeare's *Henry V*.

The Globe soon became one of the most popular theatres of the day. Many leading dramatists wrote works especially for it; Ben Jonson, Thomas Dekker and above all William Shakespeare. The Globe saw the first performances of his great tragedies including *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Lear* and *Macbeth* with Richard Burbage in the title roles. The first Globe caught fire and burned down following the discharge of a cannon during the first performance of Shakespeare's *Henry VIII* on 29 June 1613.

The Globe was rebuilt in 1614 at a cost of £1,400; the builder is unknown. Shakespeare produced no new plays of his own but the new theatre thrived with works by Beaumont & Fletcher, Heywood, Middleton and Webster amongst others. The second Globe was built on the foundations of the first; it is presumed to have been similar but certainly had external stair towers and a stage projecting from the south-west. It was finally pulled down in 1644 on Cromwell's orders.

Simon McCudden

(As we go to press, we hear that Hanson Trust has offered £250,000 towards the cost of proper excavation of the site. The future of Anchor Terrace, under which most of the theatre lies, and itself a listed building, remains in doubt.)

Re-use of foundations at Waltham Abbey

FOUR OF THE five churches at Waltham were of stone; the first church was a ground-standing timber building. The first stone church, the one to which Tovi brought the Holy Cross, was of Brixworth type with side chambers of *porticus* and a rectangular chancel with some simple east end not yet established; this church had substantial mortared rubble foundations which were used in the two successive re-builds. The second stone church was that of

the secular college established by Harold and dedicated c 1060. Transepts were now first built which needed new foundations but much of the rest of Harold's church seems to have been built on the earlier foundations which therefore determined the transverse dimensions of the church and probably the form of the east end.

The third stone church, being the second Collegiate church of c 1090-1150, used foundations of the first and second stone churches although the new two-bay chancel and the seven-bay apse and ambulatory needed new foundations as did the three added chapels around the ambulatory. The nave of this church stands today with the width and form being dependent on those of the first and second stone churches.

The fourth stone church, the Augustinian extensions of 1177-1242, begun by Henry II, involved extending from the east end of the third stone church. It used new foundations just outside the chancel of the previous church. Where the new central nave wall crossed the earlier side chapel, the foundations passed from new, old, new, old to new.

This re-use of foundations by successive builders should be no surprise for it accounts for the relatively narrow width of the standing Romanesque nave of the second Collegiate church.

Peter Huggins

Water threat to kiln site

WORK IS to start soon on the Three Valleys Water Pipeline, around the edge of north-west London. The planned route in the north of the London Borough of Barnet has been changed slightly, bringing it even closer to the scheduled kiln site of *Sulloniacae* (Brockley Hill). John Mills of the DGLA is forming a liaison committee of archaeologically interested societies on the route, to try to ensure that advantage is taken of this enormous 'trial trench' round north-west London.

News from Hendon

RALPH Merrifield has accepted the invitation of the Hendon and District Archaeological Society to become its President. The Society's forthcoming publication on the history and archaeology of the London Borough of Barnet, *A Place in Time*, was launched on 16 November.

HADAS committee has stated its policy on metal detectors; i.e. to encourage their use under suitable archaeological supervision in appropriate situations. Use has since been made of metal detectors on excavations, and a metal detecting group may be formed if sufficient members are interested.

With the assistance of a Lloyds bank grant, HADAS has acquired a small computer and a printer. This is proving its usefulness in production of the monthly newsletter, for library cataloguing, and for keeping membership and archaeological records.

Transformation at the Cuming Museum

THE CUMING Museum at 155-157 Walworth Road, SE17, is currently working to limited opening hours – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays to Saturdays only. These hours, which are expected to continue until the autumn of 1990, will enable the preparation of new displays, a programme of temporary exhibitions and a special service for schools. The new Keeper of the Museum, Caroline Ellis, intends to make it more interesting and exciting, as well as to display more of the many recent finds from Southwark.

Congratulations

OUR HEARTIEST congratulations go to Ralph Merrifield who was recently awarded an honorary degree of D.Litt. by the University of London.