

Head of the London Archaeology Service appointed

THE MUSEUM of London has announced the appointment of Dr. Peter Chowne as the first head of the new integrated Museum of London Archaeology Service, from 2nd December. Dr. Chowne was formerly Deputy Director of the Trust for Wessex Archaeology, and came to archaeology in 1975 after a career in industry. Four appointments at the next level in the new hierarchy have also been made: Business and Administration (Stephen Andrews), Operations (Taryn Nixon), Publication (Dr. John Schofield) and Special Services -- i.e. finds, environmental evidence and photography -- (Peter Hinton). Posts at the next level are being advertised and interviewed internally and we should soon have a good idea of the structure and personnel of the new organisation.

An Apse for the Dean

A PLAN of the pre-Conquest churches at Waltham Abbey was included in the Summer 1991 issue of this journal (p. 294). A final small trench excavated in September showed that there was in addition a very small eastern apse in the eastern wall of the continuous transept of Church 3 built by Harold. Above ground it could have measured only about 5ft (1.5m) across, and is thought likely to have been designed to accommodate the chair of the Dean of Harold's secular college, with the main altar being free-standing somewhere to the west. This final small excavation has answered the last question likely to be asked of Harold's church and its predecessors this millennium. It leaves the position of his tomb and of the Holy Cross for the next.

New buildings for the National Maritime Museum

THE NATIONAL Maritime Museum has announced a plan, costing £37m and to take ten years to fully implement, to 'create a modern museum for the 21st century'. The plans, which will increase gallery space by about one third, are intended to increase the number of visitors by improving their experience at the Museum, and also to improve the operation of the Museum itself. Within a programme of large-scale refurbishment across the whole Museum, major developments proposed are the remodelling of the central space (the Neptune Hall) as a new main entrance, and the construction of a new Collections

Support Centre and reserve collection building beneath the north lawn, next to the Queen's House.

Rotherhithe Heritage Museum opens

THE NEW Rotherhithe Heritage Museum, housed in the former Lavender Pond Pumphouse, was opened on 7th November. It displays a collection of finds made on the local foreshore by Mr. Ron Goode over a period of ten years, including prehistoric and Roman finds, coins, jewellery, cannon balls and clay pipes. The Museum is open from 1 - 5 p.m. Wednesdays to Saturdays; admission is £1.50 (concessions £1) and the address is Lavender Road, Rotherhithe Street SE16 1DZ (tel. 071 231 2976).

Developer fined

THE OWNERS of part of the scheduled Ancient Monument site of Winchester Palace have been fined £75,000 by the Inner London Crown Court for excavating their basement without scheduled monument consent. A passer-by noticed archaeological material in a skip when J. O. Sims Ltd. were excavating the basement of their warehouse and reported it to *English Heritage*. Medieval and Roman layers, possibly including parts of tessellated floors, had been destroyed. *English Heritage* pressed for a prosecution which, despite a plea of ignorance that the basement was in a scheduled area, was successful. This is the highest fine yet imposed for a breach of Ancient Monument legislation. We congratulate *English Heritage* on their determination and hope that developers will take note.

Tebbutt Research Fund

THIS FUND was established as a tribute to the life and work of the late C. F. Tebbutt, OBE, FSA, and applications are invited, from individuals and groups, for grants towards research into the Wealden Iron Industry.

It is anticipated that about £200 will be available from the fund, and anyone interested should write a suitable letter of application giving details of themselves together with relevant information concerning the research envisaged.

Details should be sent to the Hon. Secretary of the Wealden Iron Research Group, Mrs. Shiela Broomfield, 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HD.

Continued from previous page

One must be careful here not to confuse natural economic growth of London with the establishment of the *wic* or the minting, or indeed the circulation, of coinage. Very little is known concerning settlement layout and architecture, and we are very far from being able to attempt estimates of population densities or, indeed, from practising any form of cliometrics, usually one of the satisfying features of archaeology when compared to the methods of traditional historical research.

Though London and Naples must have seemed further apart than a two-hour flight makes them seem now, it is interesting to recall that in the later 7th century the North African cleric Hadrianus was first abbot of the monastery of Nirida (near Naples) and later abbot of St. Augustine's, Canterbury (fairly near London!), succeeding Benedict Biscop. Indeed, even archaeology suggests that in the second half of the first millennium old northern European and Mediterranean urban sites were not always, figuratively speaking, so far from each

other, sharing events likewise discernable in the archaeology of myriad other old Roman urban settlements. The ubiquity of "dark earth" deposits in the urban settlements that continued through the early middle ages tells a common European-wide story and indicates subsistence-level survival against a background of widespread demographic decline, resulting from the international economic recessions from late antiquity, plagues, wars, etc. Some old Roman towns had enough strength to stay above water, some floundered and others drowned.

The model presented by Alan Vince, embodying the work of teams of archaeologists for well over a decade, is both intriguing and convincing. Representing such an evanescent period of London's history through fragile remains, it is obligatory reading, not only for those who are interested in the history and archaeology of the period, but also for those who have responsibility for the planning and development of Britain's capital. We have lost a lot of the past, though Vince shows us that, even through the collection of minute evidence, we may still have much to recover.