

however London had always been considered to be a *vicus Augustanus*, then the new name would be more a change of emphasis than something entirely new.

Further evidence for the status of late Roman London can be found in the document known as the *Notitia Dignitatum* or list of dignitaries. The list of the officials in Britain are named in book six towards the end of the document and London is not among the names. Instead London is named right at the beginning of the document in book two which names the *comes sacrarum largitionum*, the counts of the sacred expenditures among whom in Britain is the *praepositus thesaurorum Augustensium*, the person in charge of the treasury at London. Once again London lies outside the main structure of Roman Britain as the seat of the treasury. Indeed it has even been suggested that the buildings excavated at the Tower of London could have been the stronghold of the imperial treasury.

One other item should also be briefly recorded, is that mysterious earthwork known as Grim's Dyke which runs round north-west London from Pinner to Brockley Hill, delimiting the area between villa country and non-villa country. Was this a delimitation of the extent of the imperial domain?

I would suggest therefore that Roman London from beginning to end was imperial domain, owned by the Emperors as their private property. It was founded as a piece of property speculation which was hugely successful and remained hugely profitable. Indeed as a result of this it would have been difficult for any emperor to regularise the situation because London was a source of money, and every emperor needed money — particularly when it came from a private and hidden source.

What I now need to know is the situation in other Roman provinces: how far are other capital cities special and different from normal cities? Already a cursory glance suggests that in some capitals there may be a special part of the town devoted to imperial matters: at Trier for instance, the imperial baths appear to be in the diametrically opposite quarter to the civic centre. Similarly at Merida in Spain there appears to be a separate area for the imperial functions. One day soon, I will abandon my work and take off for six months, and travel round Europe visiting the capitals of all the provinces to try to see how they worked. In the meantime, I would be glad to hear from any readers of the *London Archaeologist* who can help me over this!

Excavations and post-excavation work

City of London. Enquiries to Museum of London Archaeology Service, Number One, London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA (0171-972 9111).

Croydon & District, processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Tuesday throughout the year. Archaeological reference collection of fabric types, domestic animal bones, clay tobacco pipes and glass ware also available for comparative work. Enquiries to Mrs Muriel Shaw, 28 Lismore Road, South Croydon, CR2 7QA (0181-688 2720).

Greater London (except north-east and south-east London), by Museum of London Archaeology Service. Excavations and processing in all areas. General enquiries to MOLAS, Number One, London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA (0171-972 9111).

Borough of Greenwich. Cataloguing of excavated and other archaeological material, the majority from sites in the borough. For further information contact Greenwich Borough Museum, 232 Plumstead High Street, London SE18 1JT (0181-855 3240).

Hammersmith & Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Processing of material from Fulham Palace. Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, SW6 (0171-731 4498).

Kingston, by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. Rescue sites in the town centre. Enquiries to Kingston Heritage Centre, Fairfield Road, Kingston (0181-546 5386).

North-east London, by Passmore Edwards Museum. Enquiries to Pat Wilkinson, Newham Museum Service, Archaeology and Local History Centre, 31 Stock Street, E13 0BX (0181-472 4785).

Surrey, by Surrey County Archaeological Unit. Enquiries to Rob Poulton, Archaeological Unit Manager, Old Library Headquarters, 25 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1DE (01306-886 466).

Vauxhall Pottery, by Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. Processing of excavated material continues three nights a week. Enquiries to S.L.A.S., c/o Cuming Museum, 155 Walworth Road, SE17 (0171-703 3324).

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