

Mosaic

'Lend me your arms'

THE RUN OF outstanding finds from excavations in the City (see *Mosaic*, Spring 2001) continues with the discovery of a life-size hand and forearm from a gilded bronze Roman statue at 30 Gresham Street, EC2. Dating from the 1st century AD, the arm may have come from a statue of the Emperors Nero or Domitian, and have been destroyed by order from the Senate when they fell out of favour. It was excavated from a rubbish-filled ditch or water channel just south of the site of the Roman amphitheatre, where it may have been thrown as a votive offering or to destroy its symbolic power. Redundant statues were more often broken and melted down.

Previous finds were made in the 19th century, often in the vicinity of the Forum. The arm, along with other examples, is on display at the Museum of London, and will feature in a Time Team special program on Channel 4 during late autumn.

Queen's House at Greenwich re-opens

ENGLAND'S FIRST classical building, the 17th-century Queen's House in the grounds of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, re-opened to the public on 18 May, with galleries for the display and interpretation of art. Its purpose is to increase access to the National Maritime Museum's maritime art collection, to stimulate interest in art, and to encourage participation from visitors to Greenwich. The House's architecture, the famous people associated with it, and its place in the history of Greenwich, are illustrated in the ground-floor rooms. The first-floor galleries house *A Sea of Faces*, an exhibition of naval portraiture, which will be followed in 2002 by a further exhibition of paintings from the Museum's collections.

The House was commissioned by Anne of Denmark (wife of James I) in 1616 from Inigo Jones, as a place of private retreat and hospitality. Work stopped in 1618 when Anne became ill, and only started again in 1629; it was structurally completed in 1635. It was refitted by Charles II in 1662, and was used for Royal

'grace and favour' residential purposes throughout the 18th century. In 1805, George III granted it to the Royal Naval Asylum, and it eventually became part of the Royal Hospital School. Restoration to its 17th-century appearance has continued since the National Maritime Museum took it over in 1934.

The House is open seven days a week until 9 September and every weekend in September, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., admission £1, children and senior citizens free. For more information 'phone (020) 8312 6565 or visit www.nmm.ac.uk.

British Archaeological Awards 2000

PROJECTS FROM London did not feature highly in last year's Awards, with a score of only two runners-up. In the category for a major contribution to knowledge (the ICI Award), the Spitalfields excavation (see *LA* 9, no. 1 (1999)) was highly commended. Another highly commended project, but in a completely different theme, was the conversion of a 19th-century warehouse at Shepherdess Walk, N1, to a mix of commercial and residential units by the architects Buschow Henley (in the AIA Ironbridge Award for Adaptive re-use). Coincidentally, this is just round the corner from the Museum of London building at Eagle Wharf Road.

Antiquities Scheme continues to flourish

THE THIRD Annual Report on the Portable Antiquities Scheme (see *LA* 9, no. 6, 150), for 1999-2000, makes fascinating reading. The pilot scheme of eleven finds liaison officers, covering about half of England and all of Wales, has now been operating for a full year. A further 30,000 or more finds were logged, many with detailed locations which have been passed on to the local Sites and Monuments Records. A lottery bid by Resource: the council for Museums, Archives and Libraries, for three-year funding for a national network of finds liaison officers across England and Wales, was deferred pending an assessment of the work done so far. Details of some 18,000 finds and 2300 images will shortly be available at www.finds.org.uk.

Excavations and post-excavation work

City of London. Museum of London Archaeology Service, Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED (020 7410 2200).

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 Jim Davison, 28 Blenheim Park Road, South Croydon, CR2 6BB.

Greater London, by Museum of London Archaeology Service. Excavations and processing in all areas. General enquiries to MOLAS, Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED (020 7410 2200).

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, SE18 1JT (020 8855 3240).

Hammersmith & Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue

Group. Processing of material from the Borough. Tuesdays, 8.00 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 85 Rannoch Road, W6 9SX (020 7385 3723).

Kingston, by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society (KUTAS). Processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Thursday (10 a.m.) at the North Kingston Centre, Richmond Road, Kingston upon Thames KT2 5PE. Enquiries 020 8546 5386.

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).

Individual membership of the Council for British Archaeology includes 10 issues a year of British Archaeology, as well as the supplement CBA Briefing, which gives details of conferences, extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The individual subscription rate of £24 p.a. includes postage; payment should be sent to C.B.A., Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York, YO1 2UA (01904 671417).