

## Slave sale in Roman London

A writing tablet excavated on the No. 1 Poultry site in 1996 has been revealed to be the only Roman deed of sale for a slave ever to have been discovered in Britain. It reads:

*'Vegetus, assistant slave of Montanus the slave of the August Emperor, has bought the girl Fortunata, by nationality a Diablintian (from near Jublains in France), for 600 denarii. She is warranted healthy and not liable to run away. . .'*

This legal document dates to around AD 80-120, and reveals a complex hierarchy of slaves: Vegetus had himself been bought by another imperial slave, Montanus who, in his turn, was owned by a slave called Secundus, taking over his job when his master was promoted. They are the first imperial slaves to be explicitly named in Britain, and provide evidence that by this date London had become the capital of the province.

## London Walks with English Heritage

A programme of historic walks in London has been announced by English Heritage. *Monument Walks*, which start from Wellington Arch, Hyde Park Corner, cost £7 for adults, £5 for members and £6 for concessions. They can be booked on (020) 7930 2726. Walks at Kenwood House cost £3.50 for adults, £2.50 for members and concessions and £1.50 for children, and can be booked on (020) 8348 1286. For a diary or all English Heritage events, call 0870 333 1181, or visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk).

## New website sources for local history

The Buildings Exploratory has announced the launch of the *Brickfields* website, which illustrates the growth of London from Roman times to the present day, using Hackney as a focal point. It compliments the Building Exploratory's exhibition space and makes its resources accessible to a wider audience. The site is [www.brickfield.org.uk](http://www.brickfield.org.uk).

The National Archives will launch on 30 July a new website giving online access to documents which trace the history of migration from Irish, Jewish, Caribbean and South Asian communities to this country. The site, *Moving Here*, can be found at [www.movinghere.org.uk](http://www.movinghere.org.uk).

A new History of London mailing list, called H-London, has recently been announced. It is a

multidisciplinary mailing list for scholars, students, researchers and serious travellers working on various facets of the history of London. To subscribe, send an email to [admin@historyoflondon](mailto:admin@historyoflondon)

with this information: name, email address, your location in the world, institutional affiliation (if relevant), publications (if relevant), and brief description of your interest in the history of London.

## Wessex in London

Wessex Archaeology, known in our region for its work at Fenchurch Street, Heathrow Terminal 5 and elsewhere, has formalised its presence by opening an office in London. Their address is: Unit 701, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY, tel. (020) 7953 7494, email [london-info@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:london-info@wessexarch.co.uk).

## London: the green city

The latest issue (no. 2) of English Heritage's magazine *Changing London* contains articles on those aspects that make London one of the greenest cities in the world – its garden squares, its urban forests and the Thames landscape. Copies can be obtained from 0870 333 1181.

## Brian Spencer

We announce with regret the death in April of Brian Spencer. From 1953 Brian worked at the Museum of London in Kensington Palace, where he organised the *Chaucer's London* exhibition in 1972, and was acting Director of the London Museum for a while before the amalgamation that formed the Museum of London.

He retired from the Museum of London as Keeper of the Medieval Department 15 years ago, but continued his research into the subject he had made very much his own, medieval pilgrim badges, and published the volume on *Pilgrim Souvenirs and Secular Badges* in the *Medieval Finds from Excavations in London* series.

## John Hurst

John Hurst, the doyen of British medieval pottery studies, also died in April. Some readers may have fond memories of his courses in medieval pottery at Goldsmiths College in the 1970s.