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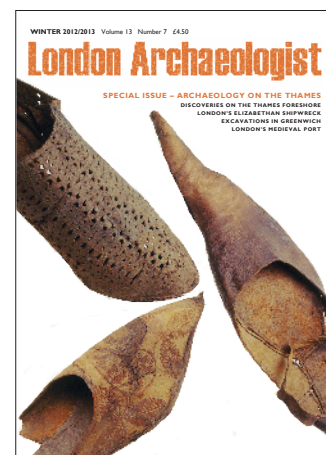
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Diary



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Three of the 417 medieval shoes found in 1972 in a dump on the site of Baynard's Castle (site code BC72), one of the three Thames-side Norman castles in the City. The shoe top left with openwork designs dates from the early 13th century, and the one bottom left with an engraved and scraped leaf pattern from the early 14th century. 'Poulaines' such as the example on the right, with long pointed toes stuffed with moss, were highly fashionable amongst the aristocracy in the 1380s and represented an unusually high percentage of the assemblage at Baynard's Castle, prompting speculation that they may have come from the castle itself, or from the nearby King's Wardrobe. The remarkable preservation of organic materials in anaerobic conditions so typical of waterfront sites provides exceptional evidence of medieval life and society for medieval London. This was one of the factors that prompted Gustav Milne to choose the entire medieval waterfront as his most significant site. See the profile by Becky Wallower on p 192.

Photographs: © Museum of London
Many of the finds recovered from the waterfront sites can be seen in the medieval galleries of the Museum of London.