

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS IN SOUTHWARK AND BERMONDSEY, 1961

BY PETER R. V. MARSDEN
Guildhall Museum

ROMAN

Joiner Street, Bermondsey

An excavation in a bombed cellar revealed the surface of the Roman marsh into which a drainage ditch, containing mid-2nd-century pottery, had been dug. In a silt layer containing material of the late 2nd century were found fragments of pottery crucibles with traces of gold adhering to their inner surfaces, together with two balls of blue frit and a piece of a tube of white pipe-clay, presumably a goldsmith's blow-pipe.

18-20 Southwark Street, Southwark

Excavations revealed a wattle-and-daub building which had been destroyed by fire, and in the debris was found a quantity of mid-1st century pottery. Two barrel-wells (one containing pottery of the late 1st-century), a late 1st-century drainage ditch, and an area of gravel metalling containing a few late 1st century sherds were also found. The timber from the barrels has been identified as possibly native to southern Spain.

Park Street, Southwark

On this site a peaty deposit containing Roman sherds has been found overlying the original Roman marsh surface, while above the peat a silt layer indicating flooding from the Thames contained scattered sherds of the late 2nd century.

SOME 17th-CENTURY FINDS FROM CRIPPLEGATE

Mr. K. D. Hore, of Sanderstead, reports that in 1956 he and Mr. R. I. Little exposed a section on one of the bombed sites between Fore Street and the City wall, behind what is now Cripplegate House (national grid reference, 324816).

Part of a small cauldron was found, together with a leather shoe, and clay pipes dating these finds to the end of the 17th century. A complete base of Rhenish ware was also found on one of the slopes of what was apparently part of the City ditch. The cauldron is now in the possession of Mr. Little, and the remaining finds are in the hands of Mr. Hore.