

Mosaic

THE CITY OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST FUND

THE Department of Urban Archaeology (City) of the Museum of London, under Brian Hobley, has gone a long way towards meeting the needs of archaeology in the City of London. The organisation has been described in these pages and elsewhere and several preliminary accounts of its findings have appeared. In addition a goal of prompt publication has been set and a number of reports have now appeared in the *Transactions* of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. The cost of the work is considerable.

The Museum of London gets a large grant for this purpose from the Department of the Environment for survey, excavation and post-excavation studies. The Museum itself, funded equally by the Department of Education and Science, the Greater London Council and the Corporation, provides headquarters staff, photographic and conservation services, accommodation and storage of the data recovered. Although these resources are vastly more than were formerly directed to the City, they are still inadequate to the task and no increase in finance from the public sector is likely in real terms in the foreseeable future.

The City of London Archaeological Trust Fund has been established under the auspices of the Corporation to fill the gap and provides a reserve to meet the unexpected. The Management Committee comprises, in addition to members of the Court of Common Council, representatives of the Museum of London, the Council for British Archaeology, the Institute of Archaeology of the University of London, and distinguished academics. Its President is Professor W. F. Grimes.

If you would like to contribute, please contact the Secretary, City of London Archaeological Trust, c/o

Museum of London, Gillett House, 55 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DT for details. £100,000 a year is needed — your help is vital!

EXCAVATION AT THE G.P.O. SITE

AT THE southern end of the site, the excavation has uncovered part of the church and churchyard of St. Nicholas Shambles, first referred to in 1187. Three distinct building phases for the church have so far been revealed. The churchyard was to the north and east of the church and from these areas many skeletons have been recovered which will be invaluable for studying burial patterns and physiology.

At the Dissolution the large conventual church of Grayfriars was converted into a parish church and St. Nicholas Shambles was demolished in 1547. Bull Head Court covered the internal area of the church by 1552 and the surrounding area was developed as tenements. The parsonage became the hall of the Butchers' Company until it was destroyed by the Great Fire of 1666. In medieval times this area of Newgate was one of London's principle meat markets (shambles).

Beneath the medieval church there is evidence of burnt wattle and daub, and the silhouettes of beam slots and post-holes, probably of 2nd century date. Cut into the brick-earth at the northern end of the site are remains of timber slots and post-holes of the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D. Evidence has also been found of early medieval floor and hearth levels plus cess and rubbish pits.

A small area of brickhearth in the north east corner of the excavation has produced fragments of a tripartite decorated collared urn of a type found in both settlement and burial contexts in southern Britain during the late Bronze Age. This pottery is the first prehistoric material to be found in situ in the City.

Letters continued

ally achieved locally and not nationally (except for clear and specific tasks). This does happen in many areas. The roles of "Rescue," the C.B.A. and the D. of E. should be to encourage archaeologists to do this. I do not rule out a national appeal by "Rescue" but if it raised £250,000, what would archaeologists do with it, and to whom should "Rescue" give it?

In these hard days I do not feel inclined to contribute or raise money for archaeology except for specific projects (like *The Future of London's Past*) of which I approve and will not do so unless, and until, archaeologists have shown firstly that they can spend money wisely, secondly that this money will not be used to the exclusion or detriment of the amateur and the vocational archaeologists, and thirdly that some legislation exists to stop pillaging of sites, which increases with every increase in archaeological activity.

Silver Birches,
High Molewood,
Hertford,
Herts.

ROBERT KILN

Mr. Tatton-Brown writes:

It is nice to be able to comment here briefly after Robert Kiln's interesting letter rather than after the diatribe "Rescue's" chairman published in the last issue.

I would however disagree strongly with his suggestion that "Rescue" was the group that forced Government

to substantially increase its grant to archaeology. The substantial increase was due to a change in attitude by government to the environment generally. This was taking place well before "Rescue" was set up.

On the other hand, I share his "grave disquiet" at the way some of this new-found capital is being spent, particularly by the £100,000 units. A letter in a recent issue of *Current Archaeology* (C.A. 48) by David Brear shows clearly how many people feel. The two replies in the following number also show that his comments strike home and are difficult to answer, the resulting replies were mainly long and boring "waffle."

It should be the role of all archaeologists (particularly the new DoE advisory committees) to see that all money and resources are wisely and efficiently used, and Robert Kiln's comments here should be noted by all so called, professional archaeologists (like myself!).

Finally I am afraid that I do not agree that legislation is the way to stop treasure hunters. New antiquities laws of this sort would be almost impossible to implement. The way to try to stop "treasure hunters" is by education and this should be the task of "Rescue" (as well as all local groups).

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