

tradition persisted; however there is as yet no archaeological evidence to bridge a very wide time-gap, the first Christian foundation on the site appearing to date from the mid-9th century.

#### Later features

All that survived were a pit (Fig. 2, pit 3) of uncertain date, cutting the edge of the well, and the foundations of two chalk walls of unknown date, one of which had been extensively robbed in or after

the 16th century.

**Acknowledgements:** A full list must await final publication, but thanks must be given here to the Provost of Southwark Cathedral, the Very Rev. Harold Frankham, for inviting us to excavate; to the Cathedral Stonemason, Tom Adamson, for much valuable assistance, and to those staff of S.L.A.E.C. who worked on the excavation, notably Eric Ferratti, Robin Densem and Peter Hinton.

## Dr. Gerald Dunning

JOHN DONNE wrote "Any man's death diminishes me". For those of us who lack a poet's sensibility or are perhaps less "involved in Mankind", this sense of personal diminishment, like the loss of some part of one's own personality, is felt mainly for losses within our most intimate circle of friends and for the departure of certain rare spirits outside it. Gerald Dunning was one of these, and I suspect that all of his enormous circle of archaeological acquaintances—who were inevitably also his good friends, however seldom they met him—have felt this sense of diminishment at the news of his death.

His outstanding characteristics were great scholarship and great kindness—and the combination is less common than one would wish. His erudition and expertise were always at the disposal of the humblest enquirer, without any trace of patronage or of that possessiveness which is the besetting sin of scholars.

He is best known as the great pioneer in the study of medieval pottery, in which for years he had the field to himself. As an Inspector of Ancient Monuments he had the opportunity to examine many assemblages of finds from excavations, and he had a photographic memory. His instinct for research led him to investigate the study collections of museums, and his visits invariably brought new enlightenment to their curators. He also pursued many lesser byways of knowledge—querns and quern-stones, chimney-pots and roofing materials were among his special interests. The breadth of his knowledge was perhaps best demonstrated in discussions at the Society of Antiquaries, in which he often made notable—and usually humorous—

contributions on subjects that were remote from his particular studies.

Readers of this journal have a special interest in another field in which Gerald was a notable pioneer. He was employed by the Society of Antiquaries from 1929 to 1934 as an investigation of excavations in the City of London, under the general supervision of Mortimer Wheeler, then Director of the London Museum. His role was to visit builders' excavations, and to glean such scraps of knowledge as could be obtained by limited archaeological excavation, whenever it became possible, usually during the workmen's lunch-hours. It was frustrating work in the old tradition of single-handed archaeological rescue in the City, that began with Roach Smith and ended (we hope) with Peter Marsden. Gerald made a notable contribution by recovering what is still the best dating evidence for the great basilica, and set the pattern for his later work by supplementing his observations in the field by research in museums. His studies of burnt levels on site and of burnt samian in museum collections led to the identification of two great fires of Roman London, Boudiccan and Hadrianic, with important implications for the growth of the Roman City.

Gerald had recently been collaborating with Peter Marsden in sorting out the earlier evidence relating to the basilica and forum, and Peter had the brilliant idea of recording on tape his pioneer memories of archaeology in the City. It is sad that this intention was frustrated by Gerald's death. It would have been good to have had that deep chuckle recorded for posterity.

RALPH MERRIFIELD

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