

## EXCAVATION AT CROSSWALL

THE DEPARTMENT of Urban Archaeology is currently carrying out excavations at 8-10 Crosswall, a site that is astride the line of the Roman wall and situated between Aldgate and the Tower. The north-south party wall on the site is known to be aligned on the Roman wall for much of its length, and in 1906 on the other side of this wall a 12m (40ft) length of the internal face of the Roman wall was discovered at 1, Crutched Friars, and subsequently a part of it was preserved in the Directors' dining room of the new building which was called Roman Wall House. In view of this, there was the possibility of finding more of the wall on the Crosswall site and in this respect the first hour spent on site was most rewarding: some of the mortar rendering from the Victorian basement wall was removed and underneath the external face of the Roman wall was revealed. A week of hard work with hammers and chisels has shown that the Victorians incorporated a section of the wall some 8m (25ft) long and 3m (10ft) high (see cover photograph). The wall stands intact from the plinth to the bottom tile of the third course of tiles and there is evidence of numerous repairs. It is probable that the plinth and first course of ragstone survive for a further 10m (33ft) to the south of the upstanding section. The foundation of a previously unrecorded bastion has been discovered at the north end of the Roman wall. It is rectangular, projects 5.7m (18ft) from the wall and is 6.7m (24ft) wide. It is presumed to be Roman, and a piece of stonework from the superstructure contains part of a Roman inscription and may have come from a re-used tombstone. The architects (Joseph & Partners) from the start have had a sympathetic and constructive attitude towards the archaeological potential of the site. They not only readily agreed that the wall and bastion should be preserved within the new building but have modified the original scheme to make them the central feature of the restaurant part of the next complex, with a public viewing gallery above.

## NEW EXHIBITION AT THE LIVESEY MUSEUM

ALTHOUGH usually thought of as a local museum, the Livesey Museum is well worth a visit whether you live in its catchment area or not. The policy of changing the entire display twice a year means that there is always something new to see, and the current exhibition "Southwark and the Thames" (see Diary) should prove attractive to many Londoners.

Archaeologists will be drawn to the displays on "Roman Thames", with its model of 1st century Southwark and excavated finds, and on "Industries linked to the Thames", which presents the evidence for the famous Southwark delftware industry, as well as the lesser known glass, tanning and brewing industries.

Transport, of course, must be well represented in any exhibition about the Thames. Here we see not only transport along the Thames (the Thames watermen and the perils of "shooting" London Bridge), over the Thames (the history of London and Tower Bridges) and under the Thames (Brunel's Thames Tunnel and its engine house in Rotherhithe), but also the growth and decline of London's up-river docks, especially the Surrey Docks, from 1614 to the present day.

There is a fine balance between the pleasures and perils of this life, with Southwark's theatres and Thames re-floods and unemployment on the other. The two meet in the horrific "Princess Alice" disaster of 1878, in which gattas and paddle steamers on the one hand, and fires, 640 people were killed.

Finally, a glimpse into the future. Will the "Discovery" and her museum one day re-vitalise north Southwark? Will fishermen again stand where today only mudlarkers dare to tread? Visit this exhibition and decide for yourself.

## EXCAVATIONS AT ST. BARTS. HOSPITAL

IN MARCH 1979 the Department of Urban Archaeology investigated an area within the precincts of St. Bartholomews Hospital known to have been part of a Roman burial ground. Evidence was found of late 2nd to 4th century burials, and also of a 1st to 2nd century building lying beneath the burials. The site is located north of the City Wall of c. 200, and the building is one of the first examples of a Roman suburban structure in London. Although the site was of limited extent, evidence suggests that this building represents at least three phases of activity. Several gravel and brickearth occupation surfaces dated to the 1st and early 2nd centuries were bounded by major and minor brickearth sills aligned east-west. A 2nd century *opus signinum* floor covered part of these internal surfaces. A destruction phase involving the digging of pits, removal of the building debris and the partial sealing of the area followed. The area was not intensively used for burials. However 16 east-west aligned inhumations were located and the existence of a further 6 indicated, in residual deposits, within a 29 sq. m. (300 sq. ft) area. The distribution of age-range, sex and cause of death suggests a civilian graveyard, and dating evidence from coins and pottery indicate late 2nd to mid 4th centuries, a range consistent with the Roman practice of inhumation. Fragments of iron nails surrounding some skeletons suggest the use of wooden coffins. Of note was one grave, a female inhumation containing a small bronze bell and a series of simply-decorated bronze armlets apparently placed on her chest. Several burials cut through the earlier structural deposits. One such was the grave of a two year old child set in the *opus signinum* floor. The entire area of burial-deposits was sealed by dark earth.

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## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT THE MUSEUM OF LONDON

FOLLOWING the success of last year's waterfronts conference in conjunction with the Council for British Archaeology, is mounting a major international conference on ference (see L.A. Vol. 3, No. 11, 308), the Museum of "Roman Urban Defences in the North-West Provinces" over the weekend 21-23 March. Recent work in London (see above) will be related to evidence from elsewhere in Britain, as well as France, Germany, Spain and Pannonia, and there will be studies on specialist topics, such as the re-use of monumental masonry. It is hoped that the proceedings will be published by the CBA in its Research Report series.