

Mosaic

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ROMAN ARMY

THE ERMINE STREET GUARD is a society devoted to the practical study of the armour, arms and equipment of the Roman Army. Not only are the reconstructions produced in as authentic fashion as possible in the nearest appropriate material: mild steel, brass, leather, etc, but also displays and other exercises are undertaken to test their practical availability. The research aspect has thrown up a number of interesting and novel points, for example, experiments have shown that a *groma* (see Cover Picture) can measure both right angles and angles of 45°.

Displays are given at museums and archaeological sites associated with the Roman period — in 1979, at Cirencester, Colchester, Lincoln, the Lunt, Housesteads, Vindolanda and Kingscote. In addition to drill demonstrations, two types of catapult are fired and static displays illustrate other equipment such as entrenching tools and the marching pack. The displays not only have the purpose of breathing life into the subject of the Roman Army for school parties, etc but also help to finance the society's activities.

The Guard is always looking for new members who are willing to take part in displays and to help make the various items of equipment. For those who find that they can not partake in the practical aspects but nevertheless wish to have links with the society, Associate Membership is available — the subscription of £3 includes the quarterly bulletin, *Exercitus*, which contains the results of research, discussions of projects, letters, a diary of events, etc. Enquiries to Chris Haines, Oakland Farm, Dog Lane, Witcombe, Glos (045-282 2235) or Nicholas Farrant, 7 Coalecroft Road, London S.W.15 (01-788 0015).

HAMPTON COURT KITCHENS REOPENED

WORK COSTING £50,000 to restore the Great Kitchens at Hampton Court has been completed by the Department of the Environment. The Great Kitchens, probably built by Cardinal Wolsey in 1513, are the finest surviving Tudor examples of their kind in the country. For the first time since the work began in 1978, visitors will be able to see the Great Kitchens as they would have looked in the 1530s when Henry VIII extended them to provide extra fireplaces.

The Kitchens consisted of special preparations areas, such as the Saucery, storage spaces and various serving hatches which facilitated service to both ends of the Great Hall. In addition, there was accommodation for the large number of servants.

In recent years, various grace and favour apartments have been closed — many of the larger ones being too costly to heat and maintain. The recent works have provided the opportunity of taking down Lady Baden Powell's apartments to reveal the original features of the Kitchen. Marks on the wall have been left to show various changes of function since the construction of the Kitchens. All evidence of historic value has, as far as possible, been left.

Other work undertaken by the Department includes the consolidation of plasterwork, the restoration of the fireplaces, the construction of a new door in the Tudor style hung on the original pins, and the cleaning and treating of the roof.

Opening times will be the same as for the Palace as a whole — 0930 to 1700 hours during weekdays and 1400 to 1700 hours on Sundays. Entrance can be gained off Base Court by way of the Serving Corridor.

DUROLITUM DISCOVERED?

THE WEST ESSEX Archaeological Group have been excavating for several years at Little London, where the Roman road from London to Dunmow crosses the River Roding (TQ 456 963). Previous excavations sought to establish the exact line of this road, the linking feature of a Roman settlement first noted in gravel digging during the 18th century. Subsequent excavations exposed a hut circle and several ditches; a very extensive cemetery beside the road, parts of which had been clearly demarcated by gullies cut into the natural gravl, finds here included an intact timber framed well the upper part of which is undergoing preservation at the Passmore Edwards Museum; a further series of hard standings parallel to the road together with a late large post hole enclosure were uncovered.

The 1979 excavation on the river side of the road disclosed a small pond beside the road, next to which at an angle of 45° was a double ditched side road leading to a well metalled courtyard, beyond which was a large fire pit the heat from which was led via a hypocaust to a flint building, (flints interspersed with string courses of tile) rectangular and containing passages for hot air flow. This probable corn drier had partly collapsed into a later ditch dug to connect the side road ditch. The heated air was diverted into a substantial semi-circular flint structure, the hypocaust being rebuilt and extended at this time, the end of which has yet to be found. Pottery from these sites range from 50 to 400 AD. The excavation is to be continued during August 1980 and the posed question is whether the site is *Durolitum*. No sign of walled enclosure has been found and extensive surveys, by air, field and resistivity, have not indicated any such enclosure. A large part of the site has, unfortunately, been destroyed over the past 200 years by gravel working.

AWARDS FOR LOCAL GROUPS

OF THE NINE AWARDS made this year from the Lloyds Bank fund for independent archaeologists, two have gone to groups in the London area. The Orpington and District Archaeological Society were given £100 to purchase a stereomicroscope for the study of inclusions in pottery, and the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society £50 for foliograph pens and drawing board. Congratulations to all concerned. Other local societies might like to note this Fund as a possible source of finance.

DUA TO MOVE

THE WELL-KNOWN archaeological address of 71 Basinghall Street will soon be no more, as the Department of Urban Archaeology's lease on these premises will not be renewed when it expires early in 1981. The Department will move into the main Museum of London building, where space is being found by a reorganisation of the basement.