



Fig. 8: A straight joint separating the foundation of the south-west corner tower from the west crypt wall. (Photo: P. Marsden)

a north-south cross wing at the eastern end of the building, opening off the screens passage⁶.

In fact a careful and independent analysis of the west wall of the porch has revealed substantial traces of a wall overlying the early porch wall mentioned as part of phase 1. This later porch wall is

probably of 14th century date, and presumably was part of the cross wing. The wall lies on a slightly different alignment from the earlier wall, and its west face was constructed of ragstone and courses of squared knapped flints. This facing has only survived towards the south end of the wall, whereas at the north end, what presumably was its chalk and rubble core was found to be bonded into the lower part of the south wall of the western crypt. The crypt and porch walls were therefore contemporary constructions.

The courses of flint and ragstone are distinctive and somewhat similar to the mid-14th century construction of the city wall in St. Alphage Gardens and in Westminster Abbey,⁷ suggesting that here is architectural evidence for some of the construction work at Guildhall which is recorded in documentary records primarily during the 1330's⁸. Above the courses of flint and ragstone there occurred squared stone facing, apparently of the early 15th century building (phase 3).

The significance of this analysis of the development of Guildhall is that each stage reflects the growing aspirations and dignity of the self-governing authority of medieval London, from its inception during the 12th century. And also it shows not only that the development of Guildhall is far more complex than was imagined, but also that the achievement of John Croxton, Master Mason and Architect of Guildhall during the 15th century⁹, was, like his building (Fig. 7), clearly of outstanding dimension.

6. Barron, *op cit*, p.22.

7. W. F. Grimes, *The Excavation of Roman and Mediaeval London*, London, 1968, p.81, plates 25, 26.

8. Barron, *op cit*, p.21.

9. Barron, *op cit*, p.25.

Letters

PUBLICITY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

AS A PROFESSIONAL publicist and amateur archaeologist, it concerns me that on all the excavations I have worked there has been little or no appreciation of the publicity value of the activities. I have no doubt that many historians find the attentions of the media unsettling — if not repugnant — because of their tendency to trivialise information but I hope to persuade them that with the right approach the local press in particular can be exploited to their benefit. And publicity is essential. Public support for archaeological work is necessary if funds are to continue in times of economic difficulty. The simplest way to start is to send a press release, or even a letter, to local newspapers, T.V. and radio stations (c/o the News Editor) announcing the start of the excavation, informing them of the basic details. In many cases they will wish to send a reporter, so give a person to contact — and a telephone number. They should subsequently be notified of any finds likely to

be of broad interest — and if additional volunteers are required they should be advised also.

We should not be afraid to publicise volunteer help but look for an interesting 'angle': I once achieved several column inches about a relatively uninteresting site in a leading national daily newspaper by writing a short note to the Woman's Page Editor reporting on the work of volunteer housewives. In times of financial stringency, the value of unpaid volunteers can not be over emphasised, so an item for the noticeboard of all local colleges and senior schools asking for such aid can pay dividends. Schools should be invited to send parties to visit the site (and be shown around by an articulate guide).

If all these suggestions meet with disfavour, can I make a plea for one single but highly effective form of communication. Put up a notice where people who come to see what is happening can read it, giving *brief* details of the site and the work and welcoming volunteers: not only will this ensure that local people know what is happening, it will save you having to put up with those inane questions with which you are repeatedly pestered!

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