

Mosaic

ARCHAEOLOGY AND MUSIC

THE LONDON Hydraulic Pumping Station on Shadwell Basin, Wapping, is one of many fine buildings left derelict by rapid industrial change. After standing empty for ten years, it has found a new occupier in the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. With the generous assistance of the London Docklands Development Corporation, the orchestra intends to convert the building into a music complex for musicians and music lovers alike. The centre will have first class recording and rehearsal studios as well as a range of public amenities, including a restaurant, museum, shop and a viewing gallery to enable the public to watch the musicians at work.

The cost of the Pumping Station project is £5 million, well beyond the immediate resources of the orchestra. An appeal has been launched by the Academy Concerts Society, who for every donation of £20 to the appeal will give the donor free membership of Academy Associates for one year, vouchers for discounts on Citicorp Concert tickets and a free record or compact disc. Donations should be sent to Academy Concerts Society, 109 Boundary Road, London NW8 0RG, or 'phone Sarah Coop (01-625 8698) for further details.

LLOYDS BANK AWARDS ANNOUNCED

THIS YEAR'S awards from the Lloyds Bank Fund for Independent Archaeologists were announced at an informal ceremony at the Society of Antiquaries on 18 March. London was represented by the Hendon & District Archaeological Society, who were awarded £125 towards the purchase of an Amstrad 1512 microcomputer. It will be used to speed up the publication of excavation reports, and to assist with the upkeep of membership records.

One of the individual awards was made to John Gower of Surrey Archaeological Society, for equipment needed in the production of a corpus of Romano-British shale and jet artefacts.

MARINE ARCHAEOLOGY COMES OF AGE

FOR MANY YEARS, archaeologists in general have regarded underwater archaeology (as it was usually called) with a mixture of hope and suspicion. Hope, because it clearly had great potential, at very least for providing closed groups of well-dated artefacts. Suspicion, because the value of such groups tended to attract the 'cowboys', to whom they were so much loot rather than historical evidence.

There have always, of course, been responsible archaeologists and others active in this field, and in 1982 an important step forward was taken with the formation of the Marine Archaeological Survey group (M.A.S.). Now that the group has 'gone public' as an educational trust with charitable status, and open to associate membership by the public, it seems appropriate to report on its activities.

The group was formed to promote the identification of archaeologically important sites in the maritime zone. Its team of archaeologists, historians, geophysicists, and electronics engineers, working on a voluntary basis, make use of the most advanced underwater survey equipment to search the sea-bed and pin-point detectable remains. The M.A.S. aims in the long term to establish a regional maritime site register, and to promote the identification, care and management of our underwater cultural heritage through publication, lecturing and exhibitions.

In 1983 the M.A.S. identified 98 significant contacts in just 7.5 sq. km (3 sq. miles) of sea-bed in the North Goodwin Sands. Scientific data were collected on two 18th century wrecks, and video records were made on 20th century wrecks in varying states of decay. Work in the Thames Estuary in 1985 located an 18th century ship's rudder, and recorded Roman and medieval pottery

fished up in the area. In 1986 surveying to the north of Margate Sands located 5 new wrecks to add to the marine site register. The M.A.S. also completed surveys on a 17th century wreck off Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, for the Solent Archaeological Survey team, and for a medieval wreck thought to date between the 8th and 12th centuries off Southwold in Suffolk for the National Maritime Museum. The M.A.S. continues to record archaeological data from the south-east coast of Britain. Recent study of material from a wreck in the Thames Estuary has established its identity as the English East Indiaman *Albion* wrecked off Long Sand in 1765. More survey work is being taken on this year.

The M.A.S. is now inviting sponsorship, individual support as Associate Member, donations and help with services or equipment. Associate membership costs £7.00 per year. For more information contact Mark Redknap, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY, or Fred Wall, 2 Cannon Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9SG.

RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY GRANT ANNOUNCED

THE TOTAL of grants for rescue archaeology in 1987/88 has been announced by English Heritage to be £7.09m including £0.1m transferred from the Department of Transport in its role as a developer. This represents an increase of about 5% over the previous year, i.e. about in line with inflation. Nationally, the bulk will go to post-excavation projects (£3.18m), with only 20 excavations proposed for funding at a cost of £0.39m. However there is a reserve of £0.75m for funding emergency excavations which arise in the course of the year.

A total of £1.36m is to be made available to the Greater London Archaeological Service, of which the bulk is again for post-excavation work, although there are grants for excavations at Bermondsey Abbey, two gravel sites in West London, and Woolwich Power Station. Post-excavation work on the important Jubilee Hall site (see *L.A.* 5, no. 6, 148-50) is at last to be funded, three years after the excavation.

A CENTRE FOR METROPOLITAN HISTORY

THE INSTITUTE of Historical Research, in collaboration with the Museum of London and other organisations is setting up a Centre for Metropolitan History. It is seeking funds for a programme of research into aspects of the history of London and other metropolises from the beginning to the 20th century, and for support of its information services.

A comprehensive bibliography of printed sources for London history to 1939 is already being compiled. The Social and Economic Study of Medieval London, which since 1979 has been working on a pioneering reconstruction of the medieval City, will form part of the Centre's activities. Research seminars on metropolitan history will include one beginning in October 1987 conducted by Derek Keene (Director of the Centre), Professor M. H. Port and others.

If you would like to know more about the Centre's activities and its plans for the future, please write to:

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Institute of Historical Research,
Senate House, Malet Street,
London, WC1E 7HU

Dr. D. J. Keene,
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150 London Wall,
London, EC2Y 5HN

HELP NEEDED

THE SOUTHWARK AND LAMBETH section of the Department of Greater London Archaeology (Museum of London) have recently taken on extra staff to work on the finds stored in their warehouse. If you would like to volunteer to help in this work (washing, marking, drawing, measuring, etc.) please 'phone the finds staff on (01) 407 1258.