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**ISSN number**

0024-5984

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

£16 post free UK or Europe, £25 rest of world, for four issues per year

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**London Archaeologist**

is published quarterly by the  
London Archaeologist Association  
44 Tantallon Road  
London  
SW12 8DG

Registered charity number 262851

**Printed by**

Charlesworth Group  
Wakefield

**Website**

[www.londonarchaeologist.org.uk](http://www.londonarchaeologist.org.uk)



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Epigraphist Roger Tomlin has one of the rarest jobs in the country, but one that contributes significantly to the archaeological record. Becky Wallower visited him in Oxford to probe both his work and the results of a major project for MOLA.

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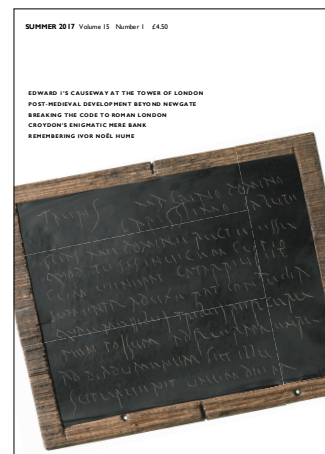
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**Front cover**

This reproduction of a Roman stylus writing tablet gives a vivid impression of how one of the 405 such tablets recovered from the Bloomberg site on the Walbrook in the City of London may have appeared. Reconstructed photographically by Andy Chopping at MOLA, the image incorporates the drawn/traced interpretation of the inscription by epigraphist Roger Tomlin. This is overlain on a photo of blackened beeswax from Andy's own hive, which is merged into the photograph of tablet 29.

The interpretation can be read as: *Taurus to Macrinus his dearest lord, greetings. Know that I am well, Lord, which I hope you are in your turn. When Catarrus had come and had taken the beasts of burden away, investments which I cannot replace in three months. Yesterday I was at (the house of) Diadumenus, but he (Catarrus) arrived unexpectedly for a single day...*

Roger Tomlin's work as an epigraphist, and in particular in interpreting the Bloomberg writing tablets, is discussed in the **Just the job** feature by Becky Wallower on p18.

Cover image

Andy Chopping © MOLA