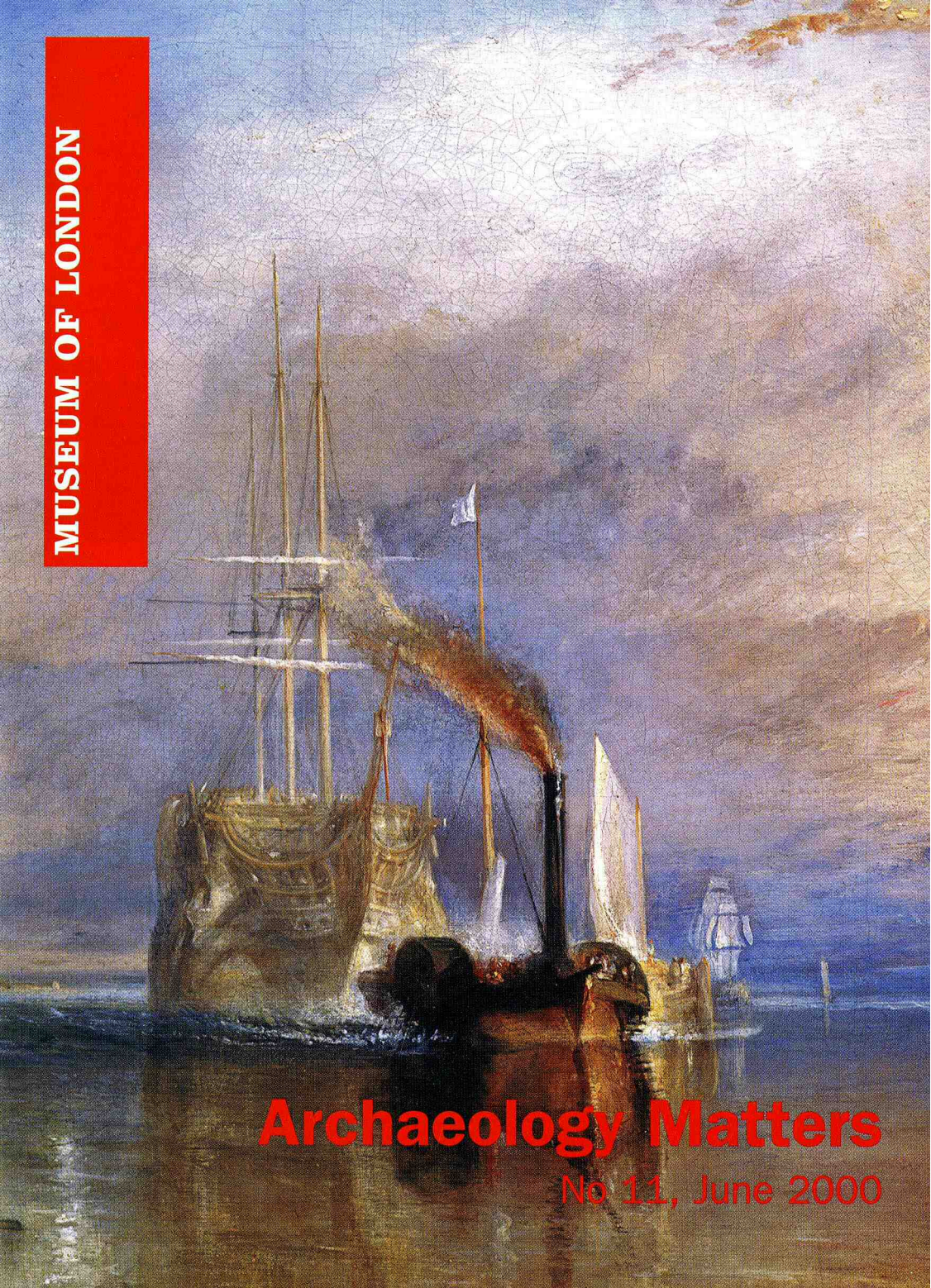


MUSEUM OF LONDON

A painting of a steamship and a sailing ship on the water. The steamship is in the foreground, emitting a large plume of white smoke. The sailing ship is behind it, and another smaller sailing ship is visible in the distance. The sky is a mix of blue and white, and the water is dark and reflective.

Archaeology Matters

No 11, June 2000

Southwark Stories

When HMS *Téméraire* – *The 'Fighting Téméraire'* of Turner's painting – was finally broken up in 1838, it was at a dock in Rotherhithe owned by one John Beatson. Last month, the opportunity came to examine archaeologically the south end of that dock, where it backs onto Rotherhithe Street. Massive timber bracing behind the dock wall was exposed (see picture), much of it constructed from old ship's timbers of a type that would have been in plentiful supply in a shipbreaker's yard.

This excavation is the latest in a series of digs in the Borough of Southwark that now numbers hundreds, and which dates from the formation of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee in 1962. Many of the sites are illustrated in a new full-colour 46-page booklet, *Below Southwark: the archaeological story*. And what a story it is! Beginning with prehistoric hunter-gatherers on the Old Kent Road; exploring the richly decorated buildings of the Roman settlement, then the royal palaces and religious houses

of medieval times; cruising through the entertainments of Tudor Bankside and skirting the squalour of 18th-century industry; the story terminates with Victorian canals and railways – the landscape we recognise today.

Throughout the book there emerges a particular sense of place and of the practicalities of life. Used tobacco pipes tossed from overhanging houses into the stream at Jacob's Island – 'the filthiest, the strangest' of localities, as Dickens described it in *Oliver Twist*. The skeleton of a man – murdered or ritually killed? – thrown down a well amid a tumble of pottery. Scores scratched deep in the subsoil by prehistoric farmers ploughing fields near the river's edge. What relics, one wonders, are we today leaving for future archaeologists to find?

Below Southwark: the archaeological story
is available from the Museum of London shop,
price £4.95

Francis Grew, Museum of London
Derek Seeley, MoLAS



Crook's Farm, Tottenham

Tottenham has changed a lot over 500 years, but evidence about the past can still be found surprisingly close to the surface. While crowds cheer the local football team, the name of the ground – White Hart Lane – is an evocative reminder of the time when King Henry VIII used to hunt deer here. Nearby stands a fine Elizabethan manor house, Bruce Castle, which Henry visited in 1516. Recently, in preparation for a housing development scheme in Moselle Place, another Tudor property has been excavated. This was known as Crook's Farm and, to judge from the moulded plaster that has been discovered (see picture), it became a building of some pretensions during the 17th century.

The property began as a small-scale farmhouse, constructed in the late 15th or early 16th centuries. It sat on chalk rubble foundations and was probably largely timber framed, although the dig did reveal some ragstone buttressing that would have stood above ground level. Considerable alterations

were made during the 17th century, including the addition of a substantial new wing to the south. This contained a cellar, a fine semi-circular tile hearth and a brick pavement. The house appears on a map of 1619, shown with a red tiled roof and partly surrounded by a moat. It belonged at that time to one Sir Edward Barkham.

The cellar was found to have been filled with building rubble, including large quantities of moulded plaster dating to the early part of the 17th century. The mouldings are of extremely high quality, featuring floral and faunal motifs, and there are fragments of classical-style panelling and a ceiling boss. The two finest pieces are figurative, perhaps deriving from an elaborate overmantle.

After undergoing further structural alterations, the house was finally demolished early in the 19th century.

Photograph: Ed Baker/AOC

*Tony Howe
AOC Archaeology*

The Ralph Merrifield Award 1999/2000

Each year the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society makes an award in memory of the immense contribution made to London archaeology by the late Ralph Merrifield, former Deputy Director of the Museum of London. The award is announced each year at the Society's Archaeological Conference and is presented by Lysbeth Merrifield, Ralph's widow.

This year, as two nominees tied for first place, there were joint recipients. The winners were Rose Bailey of the City of London Archaeological Society and Geoffrey Gillam of the Enfield Archaeological Society. Both are long-standing amateur archaeologists. Geoffrey is particularly associated with the founding and development of the Enfield Archaeological Society, and has researched and written widely both as a local archaeologist and historian. The award was given specifically for his recent work on the

history and archaeology of Forty Hall (see picture). This culminated in an exhibition in the museum there.

Rose has been involved in London archaeology since the 1970s, beginning as a volunteer on Southwark sites. She received her award for leading a successful initiative to secure Government monies that will assist COLAS record areas of archaeological concern on the north bank of the Thames – part of the Thames Foreshore Survey.

For further information about the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, please write to the Secretary, c/o The Museum of London, LONDON EC2Y 5HN or visit the Society's website: <http://www.lamas.org.uk/>

*Harvey Sheldon
Archaeological Research Committee,
London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*

Photograph: Enfield Archaeological Society





Elizabethan theatre-goers knew the area beneath the stage as 'The Underworld': a shadowy realm inhabited by the ghost of Hamlet's father, evil spirits and monsters. Present-day visitors to the reconstructed Globe can enter a rather different underworld, for an extensive new exhibition has opened here, describing Elizabethan stagecraft and the reconstruction project itself. There is also a display about Elizabethan Bankside, created by the Museum of London – one of a series of 'Outsights' that are being introduced to busy public areas in order to bring the Museum's collections to a wider audience.

Bankside was not unacquainted with the low life. Alongside gaming pieces and bowling balls, are shown several huge mastiff skulls unearthed in nearby Bear Gardens – a vivid reminder of the cruel bear-baiting pits for which the area was renowned. Taverns abounded, and so it is no surprise to find on display several of the stoneware mugs in which 'Lambeth Ale' was customarily served. One mug carries a medallion depicting a tipsy

inn-keeper who swings an ale-pot in each hand. Elsewhere are remains of the clothing of the time. A pair of children's shoes, a massive leather mitten – surely worn by a blacksmith or other local craftsman – and a sleeveless leather jerkin with intricate openwork decoration. The jerkin would have been worn over a doublet in a contrasting colour and might have served as comfortable body-warmer during a chilly afternoon in the yard at the Globe.

The exhibition concludes in a fitting manner, with a sherd from a tankard made in 1579, when Shakespeare was just 15 years old. It shows Apollo, Calliope and the Muses. Without doubt, the god of music and the immortal sources of poetic inspiration can still be heard on the world-stage above.

Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition, 21 New Globe Walk, SE1 9DT, is open 9.00 – 12.00 (May – September); 10.00 – 18.00 (October – April)

*Francis Grew
Museum of London*

Saxon Croydon

Just south of the high-rise retail and commercial centre of Croydon, within the upper Wandle valley, the ground gently rises from west to east. This was the spot that the early Saxon inhabitants, 1500 years ago, chose to be their burial ground.

The cemetery was first identified at the end of the 19th century, but important new discoveries have been made this year. A dig covering about 60m by 20m, financed by Frogmore Developments Limited, has revealed a series of 5th- to 7th-century burials, accompanied by a rich and varied array of grave goods. Parts of 39 inhumation graves have been recorded – all but three aligned east-west – though, owing to the soil conditions, very little of the skeletons themselves survives. There is also one certain cremation burial, together with possible remains of two others.

The grave goods include 17 blades or knives; three swords; five spearheads; eight shield

bosses; eight buckles; two strings of beads (one of amber, the other of glass); five pairs of brooches (four pairs disc-shaped, the other lozenge-shaped); four sets of copper alloy tweezers; and two wooden objects, probably boxes. Small fragments of textile also survive. All these items had been placed carefully within the graves, or had been worn by the deceased when buried.

The significance of the cemetery lies in its early date – finds of 5th-century burials are extremely rare in the London region – and in the strategic importance of its position. Might the site have been occupied by a Saxon community supported by troops with Roman military experience? Detailed analysis of the grave goods, and comparison with cemeteries outside London, may help us answer this question.

*John Dillon
Wessex Archaeology*

Photograph: Wessex Archaeology



The Origins of Lundenwic ?



Over the last decade we have learned much about the Middle Saxon trading settlement of *Lundenwic*, which lies underneath Covent Garden. The origins of the settlement remain unclear, however. Until recently the earliest finds were a rich burial under the church of St Martins-in-the Fields, recorded in the 18th-century, and other scattered late 6th-/early 7th-century finds from more recent excavations, notably a saucer brooch from the Royal Opera House site (see picture; excavations by the Museum of London Archaeology Service).

The discovery of a few sherds of Early Saxon pottery at the west end of Long Acre, just a short distance to the north of St Martins-in-the-Fields (excavations by AOC Archaeology), is thus of great interest. It shows that the first Saxon activity in the area may have been some 100 years earlier than formerly thought. This pottery includes a sherd of bone-tempered ware, an unusual fabric type which has recently been identified on 5th-to

6th-century settlement sites at Hammersmith, Harmondsworth, Hanwell and Kingston. These sites were all located by tributaries of the Thames, and it is likely that the Covent Garden site also lies close to a former watercourse. Other notable finds of this period include a bone comb and lead weights from Hammersmith, for which there are parallels at Hanwell and in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Essex.

By studying the pottery and other finds, therefore, we are beginning to identify a series of sites that together form a broad pattern of Early Saxon occupation stretching along the north side of the Thames from the estuary to Oxfordshire. It remains to be seen whether the same trends may be identified in Surrey.

The bone comb and lead weights from Hammersmith are on display, with others from nearby Hanwell, in the Museum of London Saxon Gallery.

*Lyn Blackmore
Museum of London Specialist Services*

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAYS**Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 July**

Find out about the Museum of London's archaeological work by taking part in the weekend's activities.

Saturday 22 July**Meet the Experts** 11.00am - 1.00pm & 2.00pm - 5.00pm**Guided Tour: Visit an archaeological excavation in the City of London** AB

Tour leaves the Museum of London at 10.00am, 12.30pm & 3.30pm

Duration: 90mins (120mins with guided walk)

Fee: £3.00 (no concessions) Numbers limited to 40 people per tour

The 10.00am tour on each day will include a special guided walk.**All other tours will include transport by bus.****Ready, steady, dig** OA 11.00am & 2.00pm Duration: 50mins**Roman pottery making** OA 12.00pm & 3.00pm Duration: 60mins**Fun on the Foreshore...** AB 10.30am Duration: 90mins

Fee: Adults £3.00 Children £2.00 Numbers limited to 25 people

Lecture: 'Carry on Londinium' 1.00pm Duration: 60mins**Sunday 23 July****Meet the Experts** 1.30pm - 5.00pm**Guided Tour: Visit an archaeological excavation in the City of London** AB

Tour leaves the Museum of London at 10.00am, 12.30pm & 3.30pm

Duration: 90mins (120mins with guided walk)

Fee: £3.00 (no concessions) Numbers limited to 40 people per tour

The 10.00am tour on each day will include a special guided walk.**All other tours will include transport by bus.****Walk: The Thames foreshore** AB

Tour leaves the Museum of London at 11.00am Duration: 120mins

Fee: Adults £3.00 (no concessions)

Numbers limited to 25 people (adults and older children only)

Workshop: Under the Microscope OA 1.00pm, 2.30pm & 4.00pm**Storytelling: Lifting the Lid** 1.30pm & 3.00pm Duration: 30mins**Lecture: 'Carry on Londinium'** 1.00pm Duration: 60mins**The Eastern Cemetery of Roman London: Excavations 1983-1990***Bruno Barber and David Bowsher*

This is the first large study of the people of *Londinium* based on data from modern cemetery excavations. It is essential reading for all those with an interest in Roman Britain or the history of London

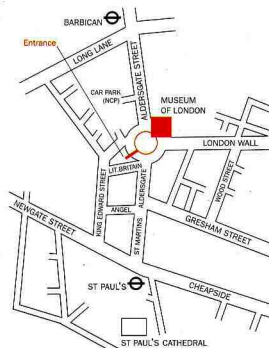
MoLAS Monograph 4 ISBN: 1 901992 09 8 £30

Publications are available from the Museum of London shop (tel 020 7814 5600) or from MoLAS at Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB (tel 020 7410 2200)

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If you would like to receive *Archaeology Matters* regularly, please call 020 7814 5730.

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For more information on the Museum of London Friends and The Collectorate please call 020 7814 5507.

Unless otherwise stated admission to National Archaeology Days' events is free WITH a Museum admission ticket which is valid for one year (£5.00 adults, children free).

AB Advanced booking required
OA Tickets on arrival

For bookings or for a full list of events please phone the Museum's Booking Department on 020 7814 5777