Archaeology in Lincolnshire: Looking Back Over 60 Years

F. T. Baker, OBE, MA, FSA, FMA.

It is a great honour to take part in this series of celebrity lectures to mark 21 centuries of Lincoln’s history.

It so happens that I have been in contact with Lincoln archaeology for just sixty years. It was during the period in the 1920s, when interest in Lincolnshire archaeology began to emerge, that I was drawn into the net. This may give the impression that I am part of antiquity! But time has gone very very quickly, and when I recall that I was appointed as a junior at the museum in 1927, it seems but yesterday. I clearly remember waiting impatiently at the door for the caretaker to arrive with the key of the museum to let me in. My appetite for archaeology had been whetted in 1924. I then stood on my first archaeological site in Lincoln to which I shall refer later. It was a great experience for me and came by chance. I was born in 1911, the son of a Lincoln architect. My father, Fred Baker always kept his eye on development sites, and took me to see some impressive archaeological remains (I was then only thirteen) that had been revealed by excavation for Boots new shop at the corner of High Street and Clasketgate (Fig. 1). Our first reaction was ‘what a loss to Lincoln!’ Here was a major archaeological site. Builders were digging with pick and shovel—in those days there was no machinery—archaeological levels were going right, left and centre and all that was left to be seen on the site were tremendous monumental walls and tile arches and I remember saying to my father; ‘Surely these are not going to disappear?’ And Father looked at me and said ‘We shall be lucky if one of them is saved in the basement of the shop’. What an opportunity was missed but archaeology was only in its infancy and systematic excavation unknown in Lincoln.

Prior to that some records had been made of important discoveries. The Mechanics Institute had assembled a collection in their museum. The Dean and Chapter had given

Fig. 1 280-81 High Street, Lincoln. View looking east, prior to construction of Boots the Chemists building in 1924. The portion of the Roman hypocaust on the left hand side of the picture is still preserved in the ‘Roman Ruin’ restaurant which now occupies the site. (Photo courtesy City and County Museum, Lincoln)
a home to important archaeological discoveries made in and around Lincoln. Some had been published in official journals, some highly important antiquities had gone to the British Museum never to return, except for special exhibitions like the one we are now putting on.

Arthur Trollope and E. J. Willson were active in Lincoln. Generally, however, there was little recognition of the potential of archaeology, in Lincoln or Lincolnshire. Lincolnshire had been described by eminent archaeologists as a ‘No Mans Land’ and Sir Cyril Fox, described it to me as ‘an archaeological desert’. In size we are an immense county, situated between counties such as Yorkshire to the north, rich in archaeology, where the bowers on the Yorkshire Wolds were being systematically worked and excavated by Canon Greenwell; Derbyshire to the west, where the Batemans were busy digging in the 19th century, mainly on prehistoric sites, and to the south lay the rich archaeological region of East Anglia, with its galaxy of distinguished prehistorians and Romanists to work on these sites. It is striking that Lincolnshire should stand out as largely unknown territory. The material must be here but the archaeologists were few in number. C. W. Phillips, writing in The Lincolnshire Historian in the spring of 1948 noted ‘Until 1930, Lincolnshire was a standing problem to those who wished to consider any aspect of the county’s early history as a whole. For all its size and economic importance, the county presented more or less a blank face on most distribution maps.’

Now I must pay passing tribute to some who had worked earlier and show that the County had not been entirely neglected. Stukeley visited us in the early 18th century and produced in his Itinerarium Curiosum several references to Lincoln and to Lincolnshire. He was of course a Holbeck man and part of his professional and clerical life was spent in Boston and in Grantham, so he had a passing interest in the county.

The Spalding Gentlemen’s Society, which was founded in 1712, brought together scholars in many disciplines and there were some antiquaries listed among their members, and there are architectural notes appearing in their minutes which have so recently been published by the Lincoln Record Society—minute books of inestimable value in countless fields of study.

One of the highlights which we can claim for Lincolnshire is Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society, who lived at Revesby Abbey and who himself was no mean archaeologist. The Crags of Threecingham should be mentioned: John Craig in the 19th century assembled a rich collection of archaeological material and W. A. Craig, his son, inherited the collection. I knew him well and he used to visit the Museum regularly to chat about local discoveries. He was an Honorary Treasurer of the Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Society which was founded in 1844. W. A. Craig was an archaeologist of the early type—mainly a collector of material.

1848 was a great year in Lincolnshire archaeology. The Royal Archaeological Institute met in London. That was a watershed in archaeological research, and the publication issued after the meeting—Memoirs of the County and City of Lincoln 1850—is still a standard work of reference and a marvellous compendium of archaeological notes and records are contained in it.

1850 saw the beginning, obviously as a result of this 1848 meeting, of the Reports and Papers of the Associated Societies, and there are archaeological notes contained within that splendid journal. Clergy with knowledge and leisure, men like Edward Trollope, archdeacon of Sleaford, who published in 1877 Sleaford and the Wapentakes of Flaxwell and Aswardham was an archaeologist recording Lincolnshire finds and discoveries. My mind goes back immediately to conversations with dear old Miss Stuchby of Kirkby Laythorpe whom I knew quite well and who had memories of Archdeacon Edward Trollope and talked a lot about his work in the Sleaford neighbourhood. A keen local historian Precentor Venables in Lincoln also had an eye for archaeology and we owe a lot to his notes and records and the accumulated Dean and Chapter collection. In 1888 Lincolnshire Notes and Queries came on the scene and again archaeology found a place for record within that publication.

But the 20th century saw the major growth in archaeological studies. First I would like to mention 1906, the year when the Lincoln City Council decided to establish the City and County Museum in the Greyfriars, Lincoln, with Arthur Smith of Grimsby as its first curator. He remained curator until 1934, when on his retirement I took over from him. At last Lincoln had a focal point for the assembly of archaeological material and records, with a full-time curator. What a task! I remember Arthur telling me that when he arrived to take up his appointment he was horrified to be shown a building what looked to him like a desk and his brief was to proceed to bring together archaeological and natural history material suitable for a museum. The Committee wisely called it the City and County Museum. For the first time scholars had a point of reference in Lincoln to which they could go in the hope of having some of their queries answered and donors generously supported the venture with their gifts.

In 1910, the Lincoln Record Society started publishing and Canon C. W. Foster’s scholarly work in the documentary field was another watershed in the County.

In the twenties, my mind goes to one or two interesting and eminent men: Charles Carter of Louth, one of the prime movers in the Louth Antiquarian, Naturalist and Literary Society, was absorbed in his hobbies: geology, archaeology and conchology. I used to talk with him about archaeology as he hammered nails in shoes in his cobbler’s shop in Louth, for he was a cobbler by trade but a real authority on his hobbies. A truly remarkable man. Leslie Armstrong of Sheffield came across to Scunthorpe. He was famous of course for his excavations of the Upper Palaeolithic at Creswell Crags and he soon began to work in the Scunthorpe neighbourhood and find upper palaeolithic implements and microliths. He was a friend of Mrs Rudkin, who is our doyen archaeologist in the county, and they frequently came down to the Museum to talk about other possible Upper Palaeolithic and Microlithic sites in the county.

Archaeology was commanding more attention. Things were beginning to wake up. Henry Preston at Grantham—he was the Waterworks engineer—was a keen archaeologist and historian and started Grantham Museum as its honorary curator. Harold Dudley at Scunthorpe—no keener man ever applied his mind to archaeological studies—was energetically collecting material that led to his writing books on the archaeology of the northwest of Lincolnshire. He too formed a museum—and secured eventually the use of the Maternity Home which was vacant and turned it into a museum—what more appropriate place than that! Many happy hours I spent with him in the field and in the discussion on Scunthorpe topics.

Then in 1927, one F. T. Baker officially arrived on the scene, appointed the first junior assistant at the City and County Museum for the handsome sum of 10s a week. Otherwise, Tom Baker would have been a school teacher. That was his career as mapped out, but there was a lot of unemployment and teacher’s jobs were just not to be found, and he was advised to look elsewhere. The decision to appoint a junior at Lincoln Museum was the result of merging libraries, museum and the newly built Usher Gallery. I was
chosen out of six applicants for the job as I think I was the only one who understood the language! My hobbies were natural history, archaeology, geology, local history and so on, and as a result of my father’s influence, I was encouraged to follow them up in my school days. I was at the Municipal Technical School, renamed the City School. At school I had the good fortune to come under Oswald Jones, later Canon Oswald Jones of St Mark’s church in Lincoln, who taught history in the school from the point of view of local history. Knowing I was an architect’s son he said, ‘I want you to draw a plan of Roman Lincoln’. So I said, ‘Well, I will do my best—where do I start?” He said, ‘Here’s a book, work on that! It was Dr E. ManselSymmond’s Lincoln: a historical and topographical account of the City, a very fine one-volume history of Lincoln. In the introductory chapters there is a careful description of Roman Lincoln with close details of discoveries that had occurred and from that I was able to draw the first plan of Roman Lincoln, which I used as a base plan for subsequent amended plans in later years. I regret to say that the original, which was kept with my school books, was eaten by mice in 1959, when we moved home and was placed in the garage with other books instead of remaining in the house!

In 1927, the year of my arrival at the museum, C. W. Phillips, who is in his 80’s and still takes a lively interest in Lincolnshire archaeology was then at Cambridge, a research archaeologist. Having completed his degree in 1922, he had strong leanings to archaeology and was given a grant to enable him to do an archaeological survey of this archæological desert called Lincolnshire. This was inspired by O.G.S. Crawford of the Ordnance Survey. Phillips visited Lincoln regularly for research from 1929 onwards. He first worked in the City Library. In the County, he surveyed the fields, and soon visited Mrs E. H. Rudkin many times at Rose Cottage at Willoughton, often staying weeks with her and her mother and father making Willoughton his base. C. W. P. came into the Museum to see Arthur Smith and me and talk about Lincolnshire archaeology. He stood about 6’3” and I felt very diminutive at 5’6”. I used to look up at C. W. P. who put his arm on the 6ft tall cases in the museum and chat about finds he had made and produced specimens to study. He would spread them out with his O.S. maps on the cases for discussion. I owe an awful lot to Charles Phillips and I pay tribute to him as the most distinguished archæologist who has applied his whole mind to the subject in Lincolnshire in modern times.

In 1934 I was given full charge of the museum, Arthur Smith having retired and my salary was bumped up to £2 12s 6d a week. It was then that I started with Phillips on a scheme of records. He provided 6” maps of the County for the museum and we began to put things down as he had started with his master maps and for the first time in the museum we had what we could call—not in modern terms, but in 1934 terms—an archaeological record. 6” maps with sites marked on them and notes in the margin relating to the discoveries that had been made on identified fields—at that particular spot—including major monuments such as the Roman walls of Caistor and Horncastle and so on. Local 6” Ordnance Survey maps were returned to Southamptom at regular intervals for records to be transferred to the master maps.

When preparing for Museum qualifications in the 1930’s I had the good fortune to take geology at Nottingham University and come under the influence of Professor H. H. Swinnerton, who was not only a geologist but also a very astute archaeologist. He had a great love for Lincolnshire and spent his holidays on the coast. Incidentally in his later years, after he had retired as Professor of Geology and Geography, he became the Curator of the Nottingham University Museum and devoted a lot of time to archaeology. At that time we went down to the coast and I received, under his guidance, my initiation into the stratigraphy and archaeology of the Lincolnshire coast lines. I was taught the different levels by simple boring techniques. For the first time we were able to produce sections of the Lincolnshire coastline showing archaeological horizons that were used in future research and recorded post-glacial changes showing that the level between sea and land had changed erratically over the period. Different levels of pollen were located and listed and the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods were identified. From this base Bronze Age and Early Iron Age horizons were plotted and this formed the basis for a lot of work that was done by researchers in the fenland areas. Diagrams were produced from the pollen samples that were taken. Every species of tree pollen is different under the microscope and percentages of different trees can be assembled at different levels. The top peat, the salt marsh clay and the lower peat show varying percentages of trees. This was a basic introduction to coastal archaeology which came in very useful later in the work on the salt industry of the Lincolnshire coast.

A vivid memory of C. W. Phillips’ work in the 1930’s was a comment he made—‘You know, the first thing that I have to do is to identify all the long barrows in Lincolnshire as far as is possible and get them down on to the base maps’. [The whole survey was completed and published in Archaeological Journal in 1932] This led to the excavation of one of the two Giant’s Hill Long Barrows at Skendley; the first major field excavation in the County which was published in Archaeologia in 1936. The Giant’s Hills at Skendley became famous as a place of pilgrimage and more recently (1976/7) the second one has been excavated.

Giant’s Hill No. 1 was an exciting dig, opening up for the first time in Lincolnshire one of these great Neolithic burial mounds that had now been for the first time mapped. A long barrow varies from 100 feet to 250 feet in length and 50-60 feet in width. After erosion it may stand up to 10 feet in height. It was a communal burial mound and excavation showed the revetments and ditches and the positions of the hurling and postholes that formed the structure of the barrow. Nine burials were identified at Skendley comprising the remains of young adults of both sexes, possibly a single family group.

Another interesting point of discussion for a long time was the question of the occurrence of Lower Palaeolithic flint implements in Lincolnshire. In the stores of the British Museum—and it is surprising what you can find in museum stores—there was a palaeolith clearly labelled ‘Skellingthorpe, Lincolnshire’. Charles Phillips said ‘Well, there is no reason why it should not be Skellingthorpe, Lincs.’ I said ‘But surely it must have come there with ballast for the railway construction. It can’t be in its original position as deposited.’ He said ‘Why not?’ We both agreed that gravel was worked at Skellingthorpe and the implement could have been incorporated into the river gravels water-borne from some site far removed from Lincolnshire. We wondered if it might be a forerunner of things to come and for a long time there remained the possibility that Lower Palaeolithic implements would in fact turn up in Lincolnshire. For the answer we had to wait for the post-war deep ploughing. In the late 1940’s farmers were urged to plough deeper to get better crops and as a result the sub-soil was disturbed and magnificent hand axes turned up at Ruskington Fen and Holton Beckering. This astonished archaeologists but clearly pointed to Lincolnshire as a possible site for Lower Palaeolithic implements. It was always considered that it was too cold up here in the mid-Acheulian period but it has now been proved conclusively that Lincolnshire was on the fringe of Lower Palaeolithic man’s penetration north. I shall always remember the
Ruskington implement resting on my desk in 1952 when Mrs Rudkin came in and saw it, picked it up, handled it and fondled it, and said 'Did this really come from Ruskington Fen?' I said 'It really came from Ruskington Fen. It was ploughed up on the surface of the gravel where it had been deposited and dropped by man, not carried by waterborne gravel.' 'Well then', she said, 'if that came from Ruskington Fen then I will find one.' It took just two years before she came into the Museum with a beam all over her face and a very fine, even finer example, of a Lower Palaeolithic axe from Atterby Carrs which is still in the museum collection. She was never to be beaten! Subsequently other examples were discovered to confirm the story.

Another story from the 1930's relates to an old farmer in Lincoln High Street coming up to me and putting my shoulder and saying 'You do a bit with archaeology, don't you?' 'Yes', I said. 'Well, he said, 'What about this?' And he put his hand in his pocket and produced a handful of red and white Roman tesserae. I said 'Where on earth did you get these from?' He said 'Potter Hill, Nortin Disney'. So I got on my Rudge Whitworth bike and out I went down the Fosseway to Potter Hill, the location was known as Abbey Field. There, within a few hours, it was clear that a Roman villa had occupied the site and with the help of a farm labourer, I uncovered the first Roman pavement that it had been my good fortune to encounter. Later it was decided to excavate the site and the Ministry of Public Building and Works financed the excavation under the direction of Adrian Oswald, who happily is still living in retirement. It was a marvellous villa defended by a system of ditches and showing the standard complex of rooms. It was published in the Antiquaries Journal in 1937 (xvi, pp. 138-178).

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites were now beginning to turn up almost every month, and about the county people were bringing flint implements of the Neolithic and Bronze Age into the Museum. As a result of press publicity it was quite astonishing the interest that was shown in archaeology. People had been unaware of its appeal. Farmers in particular had been working the fields without taking any notice of pottery and other signs of human activity. Now archaeology was beginning to spread its tentacles and the press were anxious to give it publicity. Small scale exhibitions were arranged at Agricultural Shows and people were urged to bring in their discoveries to the local museums. Occasionally, exciting things like a splendid Bronze Age flint sickle was brought to the Scunthorpe museum for examination. Very fine daggers of the Early Bronze Age beaker period came to me from Osogby, near Market Rasen. It was exciting to see for the first time beaker daggers from Lincolnshire but more important they were brought in by a farmer who had picked up the message and kept his eyes open whilst ploughing. I had a display of archaeological objects for a time in the Corn Exchange at Lincoln and the farmers, as they went to buy and sell their corn, would pick up and handle these artefacts and they would remark 'Oh, we've seen things like that! Yes, we've got things like that on the farm!' 'Well, I'd say, 'bring them into the museum and let us get them recorded'. Some were later produced not only for record but as permanent objects in the collection and a trio of beaker daggers, deposited by Mr C. Sharp of Osogby, were found as he turned round looking behind him on his tractor. He was ploughing the field to a slightly greater depth than it had been ploughed before. Again I recall the excitement in the 1940's when six gold staters were recovered for Cleethorpes. They had been found in 1851 but recovered by Mr Leonard W. Pye who was Borough Surveyor of Cleethorpes. Now in retirement, he used to come into Lincoln for meetings of the Lindsey County Council and on many occasions popped along to the museum and had a chat. As a result one got an awful lot of information about discoveries in the Grimsby neighbourhood and along the Cleethorpes foreshore and the Humber. One day he came in with a handful of gold staters that had been found in the Cleethorpes area and it was an amazing moment to examine these coins, handle them, and have the opportunity to photograph them. And then of course they went away to Cleethorpes, but subsequently they returned because he generously left with much of his collection to Lincoln because Lincoln had been so good to him and he felt that he had been rather neglected in Grimsby and Cleethorpes, where the message to establish a museum has not been heeded.

The foundation stone of archaeological studies was laid when 'The Present State of Archaeology in Lincolnshire' was published by C. W. Phillips in the Archaeological Journal in 1933 and 1934. That is the base study from which all subsequent archaeological work has been built up in Lincolnshire. The intervention of World War II (1939-1945) set the clock back in the archaeological field. One or two emergency excavations were undertaken in the county by the Ministry of Public Works. However, in 1945 the Lincoln Archaeological Research Committee was formed. 'A project for the excavation of Roman Lincoln' was compiled and devised by Professor (later Sir) Ian Richmond and formed the blueprint of all the work that followed. Some excavations were undertaken in the county. For example, the uncovering of a single-tree boat at Short Ferry created great interest. It was found by a German prisoner of war. Unfortunately, in his enthusiasm to expose it he dug out the interior, otherwise more about its last cargo would have been recorded. But Hugh Thompson, then Keeper of the Lincoln Museum, excavated the boat and organised a long and difficult process of lifting, transporting to Lincoln and drying it out before going into the museum collection. It was 24 feet in length and had a stern board. The last cargo the boat carried was a load of silver birch but beyond that we could not go. Pollen analysis of the peat in which it rested gave a date at the beginning of the Iron Age. Of 25 boats which had then been recorded for Lincolnshire, no less than 18 came from the middle Witham. This presented an entirely new conservation programme so far as the Museum was concerned. Here was a boat buried in wet peat and obviously if we were going to recover it, it must be a long process and one which would need some technical skill. Advice was taken and eventually the boat was lifted. We secured the help of the RAF with a low loader, and with a number of volunteers eventually managed to put 24 ft of soggy boat on to the low loader and then the problem was — where do we put it in the museum? In the end we found it fitted into the Library yard and it was deposited there in a timber-framed cradle in which the boat rested for months embedded in oak tanbark which we begged from the Races Committee! The tanbark was put down on the roads where the racecourse crossed the public highway. It was soaked away for 12 months, gradually the water content was lowered by hygrometer checks in the bark so that the oak of the boat dried out slowly and did not twist. Eventually it was exposed to the air and prepared for the Museum. After about eighteen months it was introduced into the Museum. Again a special cradle was built and problems of getting it into the Greyfriars were almost greater than getting it into the Library yard! There it was eventually put to bed and rests until this day.

Another new study which was started in the fifties was the recording of deserted medieval villages. Hugh Thompson working with Maurice Beresford, John Hurst and others recorded many Lincolnshire examples. In fact, Hugh bought a house at Riselholme close to the ancient village and after survey started to excavate. The site is alongside the Riselholme lake, the main road and crofts can be discerned from air photographs and working with these Hugh broke new ground.
in Lincolnshire with these excavations. He produced a fine plan and illustrated report in *Medieval Archaeology*, (1960), 95-108.

Writing in *The Lincolnshire Historian* in 1948, C. W. Phillips commented the publication of *Archaeological Notes*, based on records held at the Museum, as the most significant step that could be taken to systematise archaeological record in the county. They were ultimately compiled by the Keeper of the Museum and local correspondents and published each year in *Architectural and Archaeological Societies Reports and Papers* (later in the *Journal of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*). This was the most accessible source of reference. The series started in 1952/3 and continued unbroken to 1974 when it was replaced by in-depth reviews of selected sites and important finds.

About the same time in the late 1940's another star came on the horizon in the form of Geoffrey Taylor of Salmonby who was an enthusiastic member of the LARC. He was 'bitten with the bug' and started on his own farm, Wallow Camp Farm, Salmonby, to do archaeological research. I don't think that any other farmer has contributed more to the archaeology of Lincolnshire than Geoffrey Taylor. He is now living in Bradford, I hear from him every Christmas, but the astonishing things he turned up on that farm, quite amazed us. He found artefacts from the microlithic period through to the Roman settlement, particularly material of the Bronze Age. Finally, he excavated a barrow at Stainsby and in it found a beautiful Early Bronze Age beaker. Many beakers in Lincolnshire had been unearthed by casual digging but here was one that had come from a controlled archaeological excavation within a barrow. That again was history so far as this county was concerned, although many barrows had been dug in Norfolk, Yorkshire and Derbyshire in the 19th century none had been studied in Lincolnshire, apart from a group of eight round barrows on Broughton Common in 1850. (*Archaeological Journal*, 1851.)

Now then Lincoln! Some limited attempts to start excavation had been made in the 1930's. A Roman pottery kiln on the site of the Technical College was studied in 1932. This was the first time there had been an opportunity in the city to look at a kiln. It was very curious in that it was rectangular with flue-pipes in each corner. It was a through-draught kiln with mortaria as its only product. The pottery was still stacked inside the kiln and each pot bore the name of the potter Vitalis stamped on the rim. This created a lot of interest as it was the first time a potter's stamp had been associated with ware produced in the city. They were no doubt for Lincoln markets. Other waste pots were found on the site but no further kilns.

1938 saw the publication of *Roman Lincoln* by F. T. Baker. The work originated as a lecture delivered to the Lincoln Branch of the Historical Association which was produced as an illustrated booklet. This did much to stimulate interest in the subject in schools and Adult Education classes.

In 1945-6 with the formation of Lincoln Archaeological Research Committee, excavations began on the military fortress of Lincoln. These were directed by Graham Webster, a member of the City Engineer's staff. First on the Westgate site where a section of the V-shaped ditch and its timber palisade were located and the great posthole of a tower!

We had the greatest luck on this site to make one of the most revolutionary discoveries which had so far been made in Lincoln and indeed in eastern England for we came upon the military defences of the legionary fortress of the 1st Century. In our first report to the LARC, full credit to Ian Richmond, who stood on a site in Westgate and with an air of authority, which I shall never forget, looked at the Castle and its West sallyport and said 'well, the Roman West Gate is buried beneath the Castle bank. I guess that if you dig on this site (Westgate School, due for building development) you have the chance first to find the Roman wall, secondly to locate the rampart and I shall be surprised if you do not find the legionary defences beneath the Roman wall. Possibly we shall get a complete section across the military defences of Roman Lincoln for the first time!' Well this elated the members of the LARC because they were a new team. The excavation started and sure enough the first thing we found was the base of the Roman wall, denuded almost out of existence and eroded away; behind it about 9 inches of the Roman rampart and then, as we were trowel-drawn down, a series of postholes appeared which at first sight seemed to be pre-Roman because they were arranged at random. As the dig went on we were conscious of the fact that in front of these random postholes was a line of regular postholes—square holes placed at roughly 5 ft intervals—which immediately suggested a timber palisade, no doubt the front of the military fortress and the excitement steadily rose and the excavation attracted more and more excavators. The press publicity helped us a great deal to raise small grants of money which were needed for various simple pieces of equipment. The ultimate result of that dig, now the present Westgate School, was that we located the palisade, the rampart, the V-shaped ditch of the legionary fortress with its gully in the bottom, completely filled and fortunately containing some datable pottery. For the first time we had a section across the legionary defences. But there was a bonus to that because at a point along the V-shaped ditch we discovered an enormous posthole, dug through the side of the ditch and clearly of later date. This turned out to be the base post of a great timber tower which had been built at a later stage to strengthen the defences. Naturally speculation went round... How old was this, how soon did they have to modify their defences, was this the Boucicault Rising or was this work put in hand following the retreat of the IXth legion to Lincoln? Clearly it was later, though by how many years it was impossible to say, but this provided the first scoop in the history of the LARC, a marvellous discovery. From there, round the NW corner, we moved to another site which was awaiting development and soon was added a section through the back of the defences behind the north wall in North Row. The colonia defences in their full depth were sectioned on that site. They had largely gone on the Westgate site.

At North Row the carbonized timbers laid down as a foundation on which to build the rampart showed up very clearly and the postholes for the timber palisade and the addition, buildings that had been let into the rampart—whether they were of military significance or just cooking houses associated with barracks blocks we were not able to determine—but it was a great moment and it completed the excavation of the NW corner of the fortress which was our triumph and 'launching pad' as an ARC. That of course led us to say immediately—‘Well, we've got it on the west, we've got it on the north, can we find it on the east?’ Here we were given permission by the late Dr Gervas Wells-Cole to dig in his garden in East Bight to see whether we could find the same sort of evidence on the east which we had found on the west and the north. That was a very interesting excavation for without reservation he allowed us to dig through his rosesbeds, remove his footpaths and generally make a mess of his garden, provided we returned it to its previous condition—which we did—and we were rewarded by a first-class section through the east defences. This site gave us yet another bonus in that we could see how the Romans dismantled the timbers of the legionary fortress and built a town wall in front of them. The first glimpse of the early phases of the town wall came to light in that section and it was clear that it was built in at least two different periods. Obviously they had used more than one labour force to build the lower
courses and then returned to raise the wall. There were two distinct types of masonry possibly built by different teams of masons. We could date the work as near as the pottery would allow us, to the beginning of the 2nd century AD. In other words, we were moving into the colonia period, a period after the military phase, when the Roman IXth legion had been moved up to York in AD 71 and Lincoln was to become a town of importance. The walls were most likely built shortly after the date of the colonia known to be at the end of the first century in the reign of Domitian. So it was quite an exciting two or three years for those involved at the beginning.

But that was not all, because while we were concentrating on defences, we realized that there were other aspects of Roman Lincoln which needed thought and attention and it was at that time, in the 1947-1948 period, that the Swanpool pottery kilns began to become evident from a wider scatter of pottery collected on the fields, leading to the discovery of the kiln sites and later to the excavation of some of them. It was found that they were producing the late 3rd-4th century cooking-pots and dishes so typical of much of the Lincoln pottery, indeed one might almost say Lincoln pottery itself, and following that a kiln in Rookery Lane was examined. Lincoln soon became noted for its work on the defences and the pottery kilns of the later colonia. News spread and led the team outside Lincoln to pottery kilns producing large quantities of pottery at South Carlton, just north of the City, obviously in the territorium of the colonia and no doubt for local markets. These kilns produced plates, bowls, flagons and mortaria. The mortaria were quite interesting because some were stamped with the name of the potter Vorulas and his stamp appears as far north as Newstead, another bore the stamp of a man named Cric, Cric-f (ficti "made it") and he too was traceable to the Wall and the north. So here just north of Lincoln at South Carlton we had pottery kilns - a pottery industry I guess, if we could dig all the fields - supplying pottery not only for the local markets but for those as far north as Hadrian’s Wall.

In the city itself we were digging on Flaxengate, the first time any excavation had taken place in that area. Trenches that produced enormous medieval waste pits and a retaining wall on the hillside which excited us as we believed that we had the first Roman retaining wall. However, pottery evidence later proved it to be medieval. We did, however find some interesting marbles that had been used in a very elaborate and expensive Roman building, somewhere on the site of the Danesgate car park and small glass mosaics that had come from a panel, possibly from the wall of a Roman house with decorative motifs making the room splendid and attractive and I have no doubt that they were supported with paintings because there was an abundance of painted wall plaster. Flaxengate, although full of “baggy” old medieval pits and other obstructions, gave promise as a site that was worth further examination from the point of view of Roman development in that part of the extended town. Housing on the hill-slope was clearly indicated.

The next excitement, arising out of the committee’s activities, became well known outside of Lincoln - completely outside of Lincoln in that it was supervised by the late Dr. H. L. Barker, who was then a member of our committee, travelled all the way from Ilkeston to Lincoln to attend lectures, and take part in the digging. He was MOH for Ilkeston. Dr. Barker had the bright idea that we might investigate an Anglo-Saxon cemetery that had come to light in 1947 at South Elkington near Louth. It was on the farm of one of our members Mr. R. Stubbs. So we packed our bags and moved from Lincoln to South Elkington for 1947/48 and sure enough the sherds of pottery that had been found on the fields were indicators of an enormous Saxon cemetery. This was a nice change from looking at Roman things. We were finding urns – decorated hand-made urns containing cremated remains, horribly squashed because they had been under a layer of heavy stones from the boulder clay. Dr. Barker, with all his medical skill, devised a method of bandaging these urns, just as you would bandage a head which had been badly damaged in a motor crash. (Fig. 2) So the bandages were fixed with the urns still in the ground and gradually lifted to swathe them completely in bandages before transferring them to Lincoln. Volunteers were eventually found to unwind the bandages gently, wash the pieces and restore the pottery in the museum workshop. The South Elkington excavation was quite interesting in that it produced an entirely new technique - I don’t know if it has been repeated elsewhere - to recover compressed urns in this way.

So that was another sideline in the 1947 period. We came back then to Lincoln and felt, having had a look at the defences of the upper town, it was high time we looked at the defences of the lower town. At that time the Medical Officer of Health occupied Beaumont Manor backing on to the line of the extended Roman west wall. In the grounds there was a tennis court which had been used by NALGO at one time but was rapidly being neglected. Application was made to the Health Committee to seek permission to put a section in the tennis court to study the extended colonia defences. The colonia extended down the hill almost to the line of the river, in fact to the line of the present Stonebow. That excavation was very largely supervised by the late Norman Booth. Norman Booth was one of the keen volunteer archaeologists who came out of the first group, trained and fully equipped to undertake the supervision of an excavation. Norman passed on his enthusiasm to his son who now has a degree in archaeology and is supervising sites in Graham
Webster’s Wroxeter area. So the LARC traditions go on through Paul Booth in the Shrewsbury area of the West Midlands.

Beaumont Fee was quite an interesting section because it backed up to what later was to be known as the lower West Gate, which was found during the building of City Hall in the 1970’s. Beaumont Fee brings back happy memories of two young men then living in Lincoln. David Wilson, now Sir David Wilson, Director of the British Museum, dug with us on that site during his holidays. His father was superintendent Methodist minister and founder of The Avenue. David says, ‘I got my first smell of real dirt archaeology with the Lincoln Archaeological Research Committee in those Lincoln days.’ Another, then articled solicitor to the Lincoln Town Clerk, Jim Swaffield (now Sir James Swaffield) was projected down a hole at the end of the section to prove the position of the back of the Roman wall! These human links form an interesting by-product of the story of the development of the committee in the 1948-50 period.

In 1949 we had an interesting link county-wise with Scunthorpe. The Museum in Lincoln had always been named the City and County Museum and the Curator of the Museum had been expected to keep a close watch on what was going on in the county. In pursuing that part of my responsibility I made one of my dearest and greatest friends in archaeology—Harold Dudley, the Museum’s Curator. He was a man who had started life as a musician; played the organ at Burton Stather church, taught music in the daytime to make a little money, and spent all his spare time as a geologist and archaeologist working in the Scunthorpe region. He assembled a collection which became the Scunthorpe museum and the Corporation there was so impressed with the results that he obtained and the material that came from his interests that eventually they provided a worthy museum in the building that was formerly the Maternity Home at Scunthorpe. They decided that a small room he had in the town was quite inadequate, and they would give him more space and money for his project. Harold was absolutely “over the moon” about this, for he now had an official museum, not just a room with a collection in it, and he was given the post of Curator of the Scunthorpe Museum. So he played his organ at weekends, did his little bit of music-teaching, but his heart was completely in the museum. 1949 was the year that saw the publication of his book *Early days in North-west Lincolnshire*. That book to me is quite remarkable in that it gives an account of the patient researches and collecting in and around Scunthorpe undertaken by one dedicated man over a life-time. A labour of love that led ultimately to the establishment of a statutory museum financed by the local authority. It shows the debt we owe to many of those men in the early 20th century who were still working voluntarily and at the same time had in mind a statutory museum service. I shall always remember Christmas, 1949 when Harold Dudley’s *Early Days in North-West Lincolnshire* was launched at a ceremony in Scunthorpe.

Now let us return again to Lincoln. It so happened—and again the LARC was blessed with good fortune—that the Lincolnshire Handicap celebrated its centenary in 1949 and one of the things the Race Committee decided to do was to extend the unsaddling enclosure of the Lincoln Racecourse and so the workmen started to dig postholes for the purpose. At that time the Commons Warden a man named J. W. Bingham, had been to some of our lectures at the WEA and had developed an interest in archaeology. When the workmen were busy on the unsaddling enclosure he was wideawake enough to recognize that some of the things they were throwing up out of the hole looked strangely like the wall of a pottery kiln. Of course he immediately contacted the museum and reported the find and work was halted for the time being until we had assembled the forces to have a look at it and, sure enough it was a pottery kiln. It was the combustion chamber of the kiln and the post had gone right through it. So high-level consultation took place. We could not suspend the race meeting while the excavation was undertaken but it was agreed that at least a record should be made, the hole filled in, the unsaddling enclosure completed, the grass turf laid down and we made a condition that subject to the Committee’s agreement we should be allowed eventually to excavate this kiln site and any other kilns which might be located. So it came about that the Racecourse kiln, which became quite famous in its day, was excavated. The work was done by a study group of archaeologists based at the college under the expert direction of Dr Philip Corder, a man who knew more about pottery kilns than any other in British archaeology. An exciting course was completed and a brilliant excavation done. Drawings and photographs were made; many boxes of pottery recovered. Pottery of all types, urns and platters and domestic vessels in the main from the kiln with a cross-cross pattern scored on them. A publication was issued as a separate pamphlet to mark the result of a successful summer school. A few weeks before the war broke out Philip and his students reminisced about the side of their lives. Great credit should go to the College for pioneering an unusual Summer School in 1950.

Following that we were wondering what the programme of the LARC should be when there burst upon us a tremendous opportunity, again arising from a Corporation development. This time it was the building of the Ermine Estate West in 1950. Sewer trenches were dug at the Nettleham Road side and for the first time in living memory, we had sight of the Roman aqueduct in situ. One of the mechanical diggers went straight through, absolutely straight through, the aqueduct pipeline. One of the workmen patted me on the back in the Cornhill at Lincoln and said ‘I think you should come up to the Ermine Estate—we have found an old ‘draain’ and I’d like you to see it!’ I went up immediately and the old ‘draain’ was the aqueduct and from that there sprung three years of work, using machines as well as the usual trowel and spade technique in tracing the aqueduct across the fields to its source. There was the devastating hiatus when we lost it completely and dug for probably half a mile without any results whatsoever and we almost despaired. We had in fact given up, and then there was the good fortune of the friendship with the pilot of a Lancaster bomber based at the Scampton RAF station. I said to him ‘Now look, whenever you fly over this area, keep an eye on this field because somewhere this aqueduct will reappear. It is not going on in a straight line, but we don’t know where it’s going! One night, late on, down at the office, the telephone rang and he said, ‘I’ve seen what you are looking for!’ And so I said ‘Well, what is that?’ He said ‘I’ve seen a white line across the field where you lost the aqueduct—it’s turning towards Nettleham Low Fields and the Roaring Meg and it I think will take you to the source.’ ‘Well,’ I said, ‘Did you get a camera on board?’ and he said there was no camera on the plane. So I rang up the CO forthwith. I convinced him it was a matter of the highest importance (because one normally had to go through the Air Ministry in London) and the CO accepted it and said ‘If it is as important as that and Lincoln is the only place in Roman Britain that was supplied with water under pressure by a specially built aqueduct I can justify putting up a Lancaster bomber’. This he did the next day, equipped with a camera and photographer and they produced a marvellous mosaic of photographs showing the line of the pipe and the pipes leading to the spring at the Roaring Meg. We did not know they were piers then but excavation soon proved it. This was the first of the College’s Roman Bucyrus excavator been used on an archaeological site.
in Lincoln. It led us to the source of the supply and detailed excavation started again. What had happened was that the farmer Mr. North had become so annoyed that he decided to pull the pipe out of the ground to avoid breaking his ploughs. All he left was a ghost trench of the aqueduct until it reached the piers which were in the next field and left undisturbed. So that occupied four years of excavation time and it proved very exciting. We still need to know a lot more.

To lift water 70/80 feet to Lincoln is no mean task. Work can still go on, but at the source end we feel we have arrived at more or less the answer. There was a larger limestone pumping station but, nothing remained. In the field we found the ‘Meg’ two rings show on an aerial photograph which I have in my file. The prehistorians claim them as round barrows, some archaeologists in the Romano-British section would like to feel they were water towers; geologists think a solution process is the cause but only an excavation in that field will ultimately solve the problem. This leaves still more work to be done at the source of the aqueduct, before the full story is known. In recent years the late Ken Wood and a small dedicated team investigated the possibility of booster stations along Nettleham Road nearer to Lincoln. This may well be the answer. Their patient work also revealed a road to the aqueduct and a reservoir behind the Lincoln north wall.

So we jump from the racecourse kiln to the aqueduct and then back again to kilns. A friend of mine who had large gravelpits on Hykeham Road, said ‘I’d like you to come and look at some pottery’. The gravel was going through a screen at the pit and the pottery was being discovered by men examining it. It turned out to be rustic ware which was a rather nicely decorated ware of the 1st century AD and I said ‘Well, if it is here, if it is coming through with the gravel there must be kilns’. And so again we looked at the area of the Apex Gravel Co’s excavation and found there, for the first time, kilns producing this 1st century rustic, or rusticated, ware, simply decorated by withdrawing the clay from the pot with the fingers and giving a very attractive form of decoration. So another sally into the pottery kiln field which enabled Hugh Thompson who was still with us in Lincoln, to produce a paper on the rustic ware of Roman Britain, a paper which is still a standard reference work for anyone dealing with that particular group of pottery.

The final years of the 1950’s were times of tremendous activity in archaeology in the county and in Lincoln. In fact, Hugh Thompson, writing in 1954 in Archaeological Notes, described it as annus mirabilis. The Short Ferry boat started it off, then in 1953 there was the great East coast flood, when the tide broke through on the coast and exposed riches in the archaeological field that we never thought we should see. The coast was scoured and levels were exposed which gave us information on such things as settlements, salterns, the old drainage systems, the field systems, showing that there was agriculture extending out to mid-tide level, and so on. A lot of time was spent working on the east coast archaeology and particularly on the various periods of salt production. Several of the salterns were excavated at mid-tide level. Mrs Rudkin and Professor Swinnerton were again eager participants in the work.

But in the city in 1953, emergency excavations had to be undertaken in High Street just north of the Stonebow on the site of what was to be Meaker’s shop (Nos. 292/3). For the first time a Roman fountain was located, beautifully constructed in stone and brick; octagonal in plan. Excellent sections of the font were examined and ultimately— with the help of the contractor— two-thirds of it was removed from the site and is still stored in a hut in the Usher Gallery ground awaiting the day when it may be possible to re-build it in some public place in the city. It should be possible to put some water through it and make quite an attractive feature. This raises an interesting point, because the public fountains must have been supplied by water under pressure coming down the hill either from independent springs on the hillside or in some way linked to a branch of the aqueduct that has been noted on the east. The aqueduct system may have been serving not only the upper city for water supplies to the public baths and used for flushing the sewers, but also providing, through branch systems, water to the public fountains in the lower city.

In the mid-1950s attention was again focussed on Lincoln. A small court of houses was demolished north of the Newport Gate in 1954. This gave opportunity to excavate an external tower, fronting the Roman gate, to the north-west. It had been modified but was still used in the medieval period. Following this, alterations within No. 26/27 Steep Hill in 1956 enabled limited excavations to reveal part of what seemed to be the drum-tower of the south gate. This was quite exciting as this gate had always been a bit of a problem and was assumed to be a single carriageway gate, but after looking at heavy machinery in the shop opposite, (No. 44) thought turned to a gate with side-passages. This view was later modified to one opening in view of the steep hillside situation.

In 1954, the OPO telephone exchange was built in Broadgate and we encountered for the first time evidence of a Roman wharf—shipping coming up the Witham and arriving in Lincoln was assembled in a wharf east of Broadgate. The great dressed limestone blocks bore marks of the water levels in the wharf at different periods of the year. The date, as far as we could judge, would be about AD 120. It was, therefore, a development that preceded the extension of the walls down the hillside in the first quarter of the 3rd century AD.

Then as a matter of pure research it was decided in 1955/58 to look at the southern defences of the upper Roman colonia and through the co-operation of the late Canon A. M. Cook, the subdean, who allowed us to put in a deep section in the subdeanery garden, this work commenced. As a complement to that section the Diocesan authorities allowed two deep sections to be dug in the Bishop’s Palace. Both were in the bank on the north side of the medieval palace. These sections were deeper than anything we had before tackled in Lincoln, and were quite dramatic. The late Sir Mortimer Wheeler, when he came to give a lecture in Lincoln, visited the site and I well remember him standing at the sections and raising both hands above his head remarking ‘Good God, Baker, Jericho!’ He had just come back from The British School at Jerusalem where Kathleen Kenyon was digging her great sections into the tell at Jericho. It was a wonder we did not bury our Field Supervisor more than once because we had very little timbering in those days and very little money to spend on it. We were naturally anxious to get the full story of the southern defences and in fact we proved that the Ordnance Survey map was wrong—the south Roman wall did not run on a line coincident with the Close wall but was some feet south of it—and in addition the sections also proved that there was a ditch dug on the south from the fortress period which was widened in the colonia period. Most people assumed that with the steep hillside there would be no need for a defensive ditch.

So these were quite exciting days, digging in the Palace and the old subdeanery and obtaining evidence which necessitated redrawing the Ordnance Survey maps to get the south Roman wall on the right line.

Cottesford Place, James Street, was the next site for exploration. It was to be developed for housing and the Committee
thought that one day a site would arise giving access to a public building of the Roman *colonia*. When Cottesford Place was cleared in 1957 and the fine 18th Century house demolished, the site qualified for a grant which was available from the Ministry. This was the first time we had enjoyed substantial financial assistance and the dig there proved that Lincoln had a magnificent public building built direct on to the cleared limestone. Unfortunately, the fortress levels had gone; we did not find any evidence of the early military period, but the bath building was substantial with walls 14 ft thick, and we were lucky enough not only to locate the stoke-holes but to get many of the rooms of the public baths some with tessellated floors and to find a series of shopsfronting on to a street running east-west through the middle of the public building. One expects that there is still more of the public baths to be found. Indeed pavements were found when Bailgate Methodist chapel was built and it may be that the public bath building or an important neighbour extends under the site of the chapel. That was another fruitful period and Dennis Petch, who was supervising the excavations, has still to write that site up in detail. Among many discoveries was found a series of tiles each bearing a succession of stamps: LV/LA, LV/LB, LV/LE, LV/LF, and so on, indicating that they were made in small series in the kilns to produce the tiles for the building. Public works contractors! However, all that has still to be studied in the future.

From 1956 onwards finds in the Anglo-Saxon period occupied a lot of time. Accidental discoveries made in the field led to the excavation of quite a number of significant Anglo-Saxon sites, this time in the county. In 1956, the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Fauxby was discovered and the excavation was undertaken by Sonia Chadwick who was then curator of the Scunthorpe Museum, later to marry Professor Christopher Hawkes, and recently that site has been published in full and quite an interesting account of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery brought together. Almost simultaneously with that—and it is strange how these things happen—finds were made on Loveden Hill, near Hough on the Hill. Dr Kenneth Fennell, a member of the Lincoln Committee started the excavations there which were later continued by Nigel Kerr, who has recently come back to the county. Extraordinary discoveries were made including large numbers of inhumation and cremation burials, magnificent bronze finds, among them two bronze hanging bowls which are on exhibition in the Museum. As if that was not enough, Saxon discoveries were turned up at Tetford Hill in 1958 and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery was found at Burscough in the south of the county in the 1960's. It is curious how one thing starts off another, and I suppose archaeologists tend to look for Anglo-Saxon evidence once discoveries are brought to their notice and the result is a 'flush' or a 'rush' of sites in one period.

But back again to the Roman period. In 1958 I got on to the front page of the *Daily Mirror* in connection with the partial destruction of a Roman bastion at Caistor. Caistor is a walled town with some impressive bastions one of which was reasonably complete, and through some misunderstanding of the situation a builder was allowed to chop away the front of the bastion and I was alerted at the Museum by Miss Joan Gibbons and immediately telephoned the Ministry, who stopped the work. I dashed out to Caistor and the story was leaked to the *Daily Mirror*. On the front page the following day the heading, which I still have in my cutting book—"Tom Baker stops Mrs Cooper building a wash house at Caistor!" The excavation of the bastion was later undertaken and Mrs Cooper's wash house rested. Happily she got her wash house and the knowledge of Caistor was extended because it gave rise to other archaeologists in 1959/60 concentrating their interest on this interesting site, particularly Philip Rahz, who was then an assistant in the Ministry of Works, who came to do some digging in Caistor on threatened sites to see if it was possible to recover the complete plan of Caistor as a Roman town and secure some dating evidence. It had been surveyed as far as evidence would allow by Dr Philip Corder in 1946.

In the 1960's Nottingham University switched its attention to Ancaster so that we had the co-operation for the first time of the University on two major sites in the county, one in the north at Dragonby and one in the south at Ancaster. Seasonal excavations sponsored by the University took place in Lincolnshire for the first time in the history of local archaeological studies. This was significant for the County as progress in this way was much more rapid and easy to coordinate and indeed provided skilled archaeologists at the two points in particular, and others as they came along. It was a revival and extension of the link that began with Professor H. H. Swinnerton.

The next significant thing in the county of course was the concentration of the forces of Nottingham University on the site at Dragonby, near Scunthorpe. For a quarter of a century we had hoped someone would dig at Dragonby and I remember talking to Harold Dudley about this and expressing the hope that an archaeological excavation might some day be mounted there. Well it was eventually undertaken and under the direction of Jeffrey May, this pre-Roman Iron Age site was fully excavated in the period 1963-74.

Scattered discoveries in the county that come to mind include another little 'rush' of Roman lead tanks. In 1960 a lead tank was found at Welsey near the Welsey village which was recorded. The interesting thing about this was that the lead tank had a chiro-monogram on it together with a group of figures preparing for baptism. The Christian monogram indicated that it was a font, a tank, for the preparation of candidates for baptism into the church. It was a further sidelight on a subject introduced by the discovery in Sussex some years before of a similar object. Here in Lincolnshire we were able to pursue this with additional discoveries at Bishop Norton, at East Stoke in Nottinghamshire and at Hundon near Caistor. The latter was a discovery that had been made in 1910 but the significance of it had not been recognised until other lead tanks were unearthed.

I suppose the sixties were highlighted in Lincoln by the wreck of Newport Arch. In May 1964, Newport Arch was disastrously broken down by a lorry travelling from the Humber to Cardiff with an enormous refrigerator mounted on it full of fish fingers of all things! The driver must have either gone to sleep or lost his way and attempted to drive the lorry through Newport Arch, bringing down the whole of the arch on to his lorry and with the vehicle lodged beneath it he came to a full stop. Naturally the police were alerted, I was alerted, the City Engineer was alerted and the Ministry were alerted. News spread and it seemed the whole city concentrated on this disaster! Thousands of people assembled on that Whit Monday in May 1964 to see this extraordinary sight of a lorry jammed underneath the arch and the arch sitting on the lorry. What were we to do next? The answer of course was to demolish the arch and rebuild it. Eventually negotiations were undertaken; the arch was demolished stone by stone. We had a good photograph taken from the centre of the road some years before which was projected, detailed drawings were produced and the City Engineer along with advice from the Supervisor of the Works Department of the Ministry of Works, and the local museum started to rebuild Newport Arch from the stone immediately at pavement level on the west side. The east side had moved forward but was braced back into position. The concentration on the work was such that the arch was reopened to traffic on August Bank Holiday of the same year. Incidentally, the most valuable contribution to that work was made by a man named
Mr W. Parker, a skilled mason who had retired from the Corporation but in view of the importance of the job came out of retirement to help build the Arch and a lot of the credit for the marvellous relaying of the stonework goes to him and the technical advice made available through the labs of the Ministry of Works. So again archaeology produced its excitement though not quite in the right way!

Later in the sixties the city thought of acquiring a City Hall and it was to be placed in The Park. Again excavation must be undertaken there because the line of the extended west Roman wall went right through the site. Grants were again available from the Ministry. The crowning point of that excavation was the discovery not only of fine sections of the 4th century thickened wall, but to our amazement the location of an entirely new gate to Roman Lincoln. Now we had always assumed that there was a gate of the lower walled town under West Parade, but here south of West Parade was another gate clearly built in the 4th century and constructed of reused material. A lot of the stones had elaborate decoration and some of the cornice pieces indicated that the stonework had come from an important public building, the nature of their decoration suggested from the demolition of a Roman temple. A temple is recorded under Ruddock's shop in High Street where we know there are records of inscriptions to Mercury and Apollo from a temple in the 4th century. Christianity was growing in the city and it is likely that the stones from the temple were used to build a gate with square towers. The link between this lower west gate and the Brayford Pool is likely and its presence indicates that Lincoln was a significant commercial centre in the 4th Century.

Previous excavations in the south-east corner and south-west corners of the city had shown very few buildings and it may be assumed that with the wharf on the south-east and the gate into the south-west, the larger part of the lower part of Roman Lincoln was devoted to a trading and market area with access to the waterways, the river on the one side and the pool on the west side.

In 1972 the major step was taken to put Lincoln archaeology on to a permanent and full-time basis. All the work that I have been talking about up to now had been done by keen volunteers on a shoestring of money—supplemented by little dribs and drabs made available from the Ministry; donations, small grants from the Lincoln Corporation, and so on. People worked on their evenings off when they could spare time and at weekends. All very significant, interesting, exciting, but leading ultimately, if the objective was to be brought to a satisfactory conclusion, to the employment of skilled and academically trained people for the first time and to be in a position to exploit the complete potential of rescue and research in archaeology in the City. In 1972 the Lincoln Archaeological Trust was formed to make possible the employment of full-time excavators, and the archaeology of Lincoln, which had been so fascinating on a part-time voluntary basis, now launched into an entirely new phase of its history. Not only Lincoln of course but the County too came into the picture, and trained archaeologists for the first time started to dig in Sleaford, in the Fens and in the north of the county, on a full-time basis. A laboratory was established, a thing which had been desperately needed throughout the years because material found had been conserved in a very elementary way—you remember the story of the finding of the dugout boat and the way we felt our way to conserving it. Well, now in the seventies for the first time Lincoln could boast of a laboratory with a full-time conservator and a full-time administrator was introduced into the system to control the business side of the work. Regular publication of results was planned and resulted in the present excellent series of fascicles on Lincoln Archaeology.

So the sixty years look-back into the Archaeology of Lincoln has been exciting, interesting, stimulating and involving so many people. It has been enjoyable work. The thing that strikes me is the hundreds of people who have been involved through voluntary work, through weekend schools, simple training of one sort or another, general organisation and routine. Now I'm afraid the whole work is largely concentrated in the hands of a very few skilled, very able, full-time professional archaeologists. I count it a privilege to have been at the spearhead in the county for this exciting and demanding period of development which led in 1972 to an entirely new chapter in the history of archaeological studies. The future of archaeology in Lincolnshire is bright and my wish is that the exciting days of voluntary work may continue to lead to still more fruitful days as more money and more expertise, particularly technical expertise, is applied to the work and the discoveries that are made. The next 60 years will see revolutionary changes in method as the new technologies are applied to archaeological studies. The aim must, however, remain the same to place on record the most exact account of human settlement and growth of this historic city and county that is possible with the resources available.

Notes
1 Transcript of the lecture delivered in the Shuttleworth Hall, Old Palace, Lincoln on 23 February 1984, in association with the major exhibition Lincoln Comes of Age: 21 Centuries of Living History.
2 Mrs Redkin died in September 1984 (ed).