

# METEOR

The 1972 British Science Fiction Convention Newszine

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con-site  
special

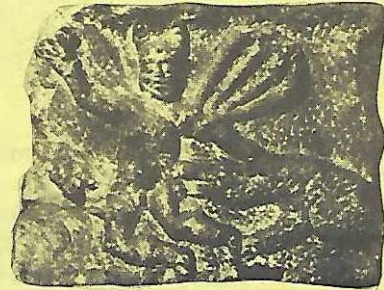
## CHESSMANCON!

Ignore all rumours! The site for the next EasterCon has been finalised. Your Con Committee has certainly scoured the far corners of the Earth (well, the north of England) to seek out the ideal convention locale, and has secured The Blossoms Hotel, Chester for the Easter weekend 1972.



Situated by the Eastgate, within easy walking distance of all main points of interest in the city.

The Blossoms can provide you with a chance to relax in the comfort you would expect in one of the north's finest hotels.



FROM A ROMAN TOMB with a relief of ACTAEON changing into a stag and being devoured by his dogs.  
(Size 30" x 24" x 10")

Central heating and telephones in all bedrooms, two-thirds with private bathrooms. Executive Suites. First class cuisine and fine cellar, Buttery bar and Restaurant.

The Blossoms is a first rate, four star hotel, with terms in close approximation to last years Worcester convention. We are currently negotiating final prices but have been offered accomodation in the region of £4.20 per day for Bed, Breakfast and Dinner per person.

# Chester

**A**LMOST two thousand years have passed since the Twentieth Roman Legion chose as the site for its fortress a low sandstone hill at the head of the estuary of the River Dee, and named it Deva. This was the beginning of Chester, in the seventies of the first century A.D., and for the greater part of the Roman occupation it remained the headquarters of one of the three legions guarding Britain. During this time its character was mainly military, but there grew up outside its walls a prosperous community of merchants and tradesmen whose ranks were swollen, no doubt, by retired soldiers. The exact day when the legion left Chester and the local inhabitants had to organise resistance to the Saxons and Scots as best they might is not known; it was probably before the early fifth century. It is likely that the site of the fortress remained deserted until the early tenth century. In about 615 a battle was fought close to it, and resulted in a victory for Aethelfrith, the pagan King of Northumbria, over a Welsh army. Probably the site was still derelict in 893, when a Danish army spent the summer here, and it was probably this latter event which prompted Ethelred and Ethelfleda of Mercia to "restore" the City from its ruinous condition in 907. In late

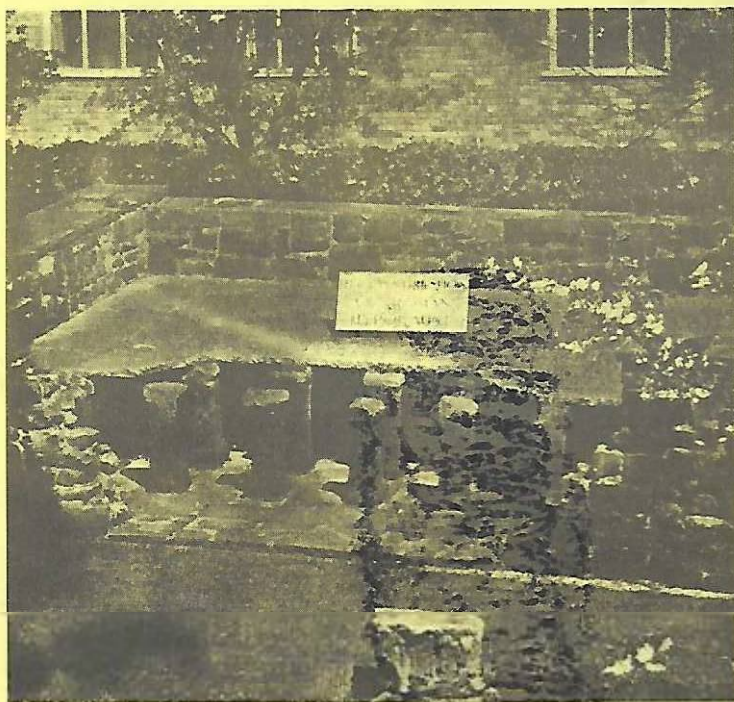
Saxon times it was a place of consequence with its own mint, and not until four years after the Battle of Hastings did the City submit to Norman rule. The early Norman earls of Chester were very powerful and the thirteenth century showed the emergence of the County as a Palatinate in which the earls enjoyed powers almost equal to those of the King.

The thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries were perhaps the time of Chester's greatest glory; its port had become the most important in the north-west, its ships trading with Ireland, Scotland, France, Spain and the Low Countries, and the City itself was the base for many a warlike royal expedition into Wales. The last of the Norman earls died in 1237 and the earldom was subsequently annexed to the Crown. Since 1254 (with the exception of a brief period 1264-5 when Simon de Montfort was Earl) the earldom has always been conferred on the eldest son of the reigning sovereign — Prince of Wales — Earl of Chester.

## *The Walls, Gates and Towers*

CHESTER is the only city in England that still possesses its walls perfect in their entire circuit of two miles and remains today a splendid example of a fortified mediæval town. From the raised rampart-walk fine views of the City and the surrounding country

Roman Hypocaust



BRIDGE STREET, c.1830 From a drawing by G. Pickering

## NOVACON

Will be held at the IMPERIAL HOTEL, Birmingham  
Nov 13-14 1971. Guest-of-Honour is James White,  
and 50p to the Chairman, Vernon Brown at:-

Pharmacy Department  
University of Ashton  
Gosta Green  
Birmingham B4 7ET

brings all the info!

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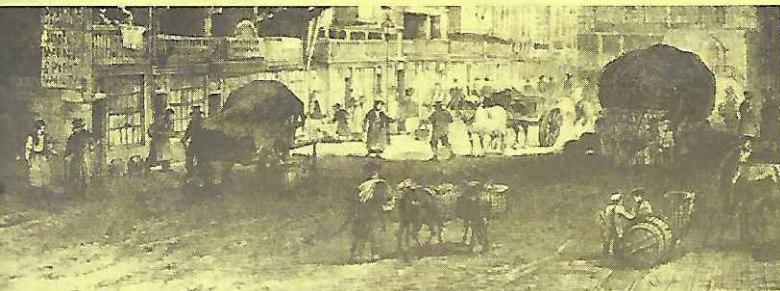
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are obtained. The earliest defences of the Roman fortress consisted of a turf rampart about twenty feet thick and about sixteen feet high; like the buildings of the interior its gates would have been timber-built. Conversion of the fortress to a permanent base in the years after A.D. 102 resulted in the construction of four stone gates and twenty-six stone towers, and a stone curtain wall in front of the old rampart joining these.

The present City Wall follows the line of the Roman defences on the north and east sides of the City from St. Martin's Gate to the New Gate, and still contains substantial portions of Roman work. The west and south defences of the fortress were later destroyed and the Walls were extended in both these directions to take in a larger area, including the Castle. This extension has been variously attributed to the Romans and the Saxons, but it more probably took place in the late 12th or early 13th century, although towers were certainly being built in the later-thirteenth and fourteenth century. The visitor should remember that in the Middle Ages the Walls possessed several towers, principally on the east side, which have since been destroyed, and that the gateways were then imposing structures defended by towers and equipped with portcullises and draw-bridges. Those who have visited Conway or Caernarvon will be able to picture the appearance of the Mediæval defences.



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The Old King's Head in Lower Bridge St.



## PROGRAMME

Ideas for the Con programme have been emerging thick and fast from the Con Com and Charles Partington is sifting through the ideas to colate the final programme. However, we are still open for ideas from the folk out there, after all, it's YOUR Con, we are only around to see it runs as well as can be expected, we need your ideas for 'different' types of programme items.

## AUCTIONS

Auction material is, as always, urgently needed. The Delta Group's club-room is being used to store the stuff as it comes in, so dig up all your old SF material and parcel it up for ChessmanCon. Send anything you can spare to:-

Delta Film Group  
(Auction Material)  
81, Marlborough Road,  
Salford, M8 7DT.

## AD RATES

Ad space in both the programme booklet and Meteor is available at the rate of £2.50 for fans and £5.00 to professional or trade organisations. Pro-rata space down to 1/2 page minimum. Classified ads are free to all Members of ChessmanCon. Remember that METEOR goes out to over 500 fans of SF and Fantasy.

## SLANCON?

New membership cards will be issued to those of you who have cards for SlanCon as soon as they are ready.

## SHOOT THE TYPIST!

This issue of METEOR is badly typed by Harry Nadler on a machine that insists on including little black marks around each character. Please don't blame the printers!

Orion Press

### CHESSMANCONCOM

CHAIRMAN Anthony F. Edwards

VICE CHAIRMAN Harry Nadler

TREASURER Bill Burns

PROGRAMME Charles Partington

HOTEL LIASON Norman Shorrock

ART SHOW Dave Brittan

ART CONSULTANT Eddie Jones

50p to Tony Edwards brings you all the con newsletters (4 to come) plus the programme booklet, and is deductable from the attendance fee

4, Admel Square, Hulme, Manchester, M15 6EN

## Register NOW!