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# **Temple of Mithras Oral History Archive (MITHRAS)**

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Catalogued by Nicky Hilton, July 2016**

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**Name of Creator:** Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA)

**Extent:** 3 digital folders

**Administrative/Biographical History:** The Temple of Mithras 60th Anniversary project was a joint venture between Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) and Bloomberg, a financial software, data, and media company based in the USA.

The Temple of Mithras was first uncovered by enemy bombing in the Second World War, with a full excavation taking place in 1954 under the direction of archaeologist Professor William Frances Grimes. The excavation began on 18 September and uncovered some of the finest Roman sculptures ever found in Britain. An extension on the dig was supported by Winston Churchill and widespread media coverage captured the imagination for the public. Hundreds of thousands of people flocked to the site to watch the archaeologists at work. Queues of people were reported to have lined the streets during what was to be the last fortnight of the excavation.

In 2010, Bloomberg were preparing to build new premises on the site of the Temple and commissioned an oral history project with MOLA to coincide with the 60th anniversary of Grimes' dig.

The aim of the project was to collect the stories and experiences of some of the visitors to the site during those final two weeks in 1954. The intention was to learn how the archaeological discovery affected those who saw it and what exactly they recalled seeing at the time, as well as to gain practical details about their visit.

**Custodial History:** Deposited at Bishopsgate Institute by Clare Coyne, Oral Historian, on behalf of Museum of London Archaeology on 21 July 2016.

**Scope and Content:** Digital oral histories and supporting documents created as part of the Museum of London Archaeology and Bloomberg's 'Temple of Mithras 60th Anniversary Project' to commemorate the 1954 excavation of the site, (2014-2015). Includes three sections:

- Oral history project
- Audio montages and poems
- The 1954 excavation

**System of Arrangement:** The Temple of Mithras Oral History Project Archive is arranged in the following three sections:

MITHRAS/1 Oral History Project  
MITHRAS/2 Audio Montages and Poems  
MITHRAS/3 The 1954 Excavation

**Language/scripts of material:** English

**Access conditions:** OPEN

**Copying conditions:** Copyright assigned to Bishopsgate Institute.

**Finding Aids:** Copy of hand list available in Library Reading Room.

**Rules and Conventions:** Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

# Archive Catalogue

## **MITHRAS Temple of Mithras Oral History Project 2014-2015**

Digital oral histories and supporting documents created as part of the Museum of London Archaeology and Bloomberg's 'Temple of Mithras 60th Anniversary Project' to commemorate the 1954 excavation of the site, (2014-2015). Includes three sections:

- Oral history project
- Audio montages and poems
- The 1954 excavation

**OPEN**

## **MITHRAS/1 Oral History Project 2014-2015**

Digital oral histories, summaries, and portraits of participants in the Temple of Mithras 60th Anniversary Oral History Project.

Commemorating the first archaeological excavation of the Roman temple in London in 1954, the participants recall their visit to the site and the excitement generated by the dig, (17 July 2014 - 2 February 2015).

**OPEN**

## **MITHRAS/1/1 Tony Brighton 2014**

Oral history of Tony Brighton regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (17 July 2014).

**OPEN**

## **MITHRAS/1/2 Noreen Kent 2014**

Oral history of Noreen Kent regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (22 July 2014).

**OPEN**

## **MITHRAS/1/3 John Shepherd 2014**

Oral history of John Shepherd regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras,

London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (23 July 2014).  
**OPEN**

**MITHRAS/1/4 Stephen Greenway 2014**

Oral history of Stephen Greenway regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (25 July 2014).  
**OPEN**

**MITHRAS/1/5 Jill Hall 2014**

Oral history of Jill Hall regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (11 August 2014).  
**OPEN**

**MITHRAS/1/6 Martin Baker 2014**

Oral history of Martin Baker regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (17 September 2014).  
**OPEN**

**MITHRAS/1/7 Sandra Morgan 2014**

Oral history of Sandra Morgan regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (29 September 2014).  
**OPEN**

**MITHRAS/1/8 Dudley Ginn 2014**

Oral history of Dudley Ginn regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (30 September 2014).  
**OPEN**

**MITHRAS/1/9 Helen Mawson 2014**

Oral history of Helen Mawson regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying

summary and portrait, (3 October 2014).

**OPEN**

**MITHRAS/1/10 Barry Watson 2014**

Oral history of Barry Watson regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (3 October 2014).

**OPEN**

**MITHRAS/1/11 Margaret Hazard 2014**

Oral history of Margaret Hazard regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (15 October 2014).

**OPEN**

**MITHRAS/1/12 Pat Evans 2014**

Oral history of Pat Evans regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (16 October 2014).

**OPEN**

**MITHRAS/1/13 Ken Thrower 2014**

Oral history of Ken Thrower regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (17 October 2014).

**OPEN**

**MITHRAS/1/14 Ian Silverton 2014**

Oral history of Ian Silverton regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (21 October 2014).

**OPEN**

**MITHRAS/1/15 Ron Hammond 2014**

Oral history of Ron Hammond regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (21 October 2014).

**OPEN**

<b>MITHRAS/1/16</b>	<b>Diana von Rooyen</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<p>Oral history of Diana von Rooyen regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (23 October 2014).</p> <p><b>OPEN</b></p>	
<b>MITHRAS/1/17</b>	<b>Mary West</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<p>Oral history of Mary West regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (27 October 2014).</p> <p><b>OPEN</b></p>	
<b>MITHRAS/1/18</b>	<b>Tony Worley</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<p>Oral history of Tony Worley regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (29 October 2014).</p> <p><b>OPEN</b></p>	
<b>MITHRAS/1/19</b>	<b>Gerald Michaels</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<p>Oral history of Gerald Michaels regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (29 October 2014).</p> <p><b>OPEN</b></p>	
<b>MITHRAS/1/20</b>	<b>Helen Mitcham</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<p>Oral history of Helen Mitcham regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (5 November 2014).</p> <p><b>OPEN</b></p>	
<b>MITHRAS/1/21</b>	<b>Lisa Benjamin</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<p>Oral history of Lisa Benjamin regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (10 November 2014).</p> <p><b>OPEN</b></p>	



<b>MITHRAS/1/22</b>	<b>Molly Grimes</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<p>Oral history of Molly Grimes regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (12 November 2014).  <b>OPEN</b></p>	
<b>MITHRAS/1/23</b>	<b>Ron Hartnell</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<p>Oral history of Ron Hartnell regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (20 November 2014).  <b>OPEN</b></p>	
<b>MITHRAS/1/24</b>	<b>Peter Marsden</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<p>Oral history of Peter Marsden regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (24 November 2014).  <b>OPEN</b></p>	
<b>MITHRAS/1/25</b>	<b>Martin Biddle</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<p>Oral history of Martin Biddle regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (2 December 2014).  <b>OPEN</b></p>	
<b>MITHRAS/1/26</b>	<b>Mary Harris</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<p>Oral history of Mary Harris regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (5 December 2014).  <b>OPEN</b></p>	
<b>MITHRAS/1/27</b>	<b>Mike Hodgson</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<p>Oral history of Mike Hodgson regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (11 December 2014).  <b>OPEN</b></p>	

**MITHRAS/1/28 Dorothy Morris**

**2015**

Oral history of Dorothy Morris regarding the excavation of the Roman Temple of Mithras, London, 1954. Includes an accompanying summary and portrait, (17 February 2015).

**OPEN**

**MITHRAS/2 Audio Montages and Poems 2015**

Audio montages drawn from the 28 oral history interviews to highlight overarching themes of the project, (2015) Includes:

- The story of event: Miracle among rubble
- Living, playing, working in post-war London and the Temple
- Grimes the man and discovering the Temple
- Meaning of archaeology and visit to the site
- Nodding terms and Mithras head and a plunge in the Walbrook

**OPEN**

**MITHRAS/2/1 Audio Montages 2015**

Audio montages drawn from the 28 oral history interviews to highlight overarching themes of the project, (2015) Includes:

- The story of event: Miracle among rubble
- Living, playing, working in post-war London and the Temple
- Grimes the man and discovering the Temple
- Meaning of archaeology and visit to the site
- Nodding terms and Mithras head and a plunge in the Walbrook

**OPEN**

**MITHRAS/2/2 Project Poems 2015**

Poems reflecting on the excavation of the Temple of Mithras, London, (2003-2015).

Includes:

- 'Quick to Save, Quick to Help', Dan Simpson, (c.2015)
- 'Queueing for the sun in Walbrook' Ursula Askham Fanthorpe, (c.2003)

**OPEN**

<b>MITHRAS/3</b>	<b>The 1954 Excavation</b>	<b>2015</b>
	Digital photographs and scans of material contemporary to the 1954 excavation of the Temple of Mithras, London, collected as part of the 60th Anniversary Project, (c.2014-2015). <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>MITHRAS/3/1</b>	<b>Newspaper Cuttings</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>
	Reproductions of contemporary newspaper articles regarding the excavation of the Temple of Mithras, London, in 1954, (c.2015) <b>OPEN</b>	
<b>MITHRAS/3/2</b>	<b>Photographs and Letters</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>
	Reproductions of contemporary photographs and letters regarding the excavation of the Temple of Mithras, London, in 1954, (c.2015) <b>OPEN</b>	