

Episode 56: **Hiding in City Centre: The Cheapside Hoard**

From the introduction: archaeological finds from the Crossrail / Elizabeth Line dig:



Left to right: A Tudor bowling ball found near Stepney Green, medieval ice skates made of carved bone, a cheeky Victorian chamber pot.



Cheapside circa 1900. Imagine... all of those people are walking right past a treasure trove. Public domain photo.



Navvies on the job. Photo credit: Helen Hughes, [The Victorian Web](http://TheVictorianWeb.com).



Can you imagine a pocket watch from 1610? This was crafted from one huge apple-sized emerald. From the [GIA site](http://GIA.com).

Just a few of the hundreds of spectacular jewels:



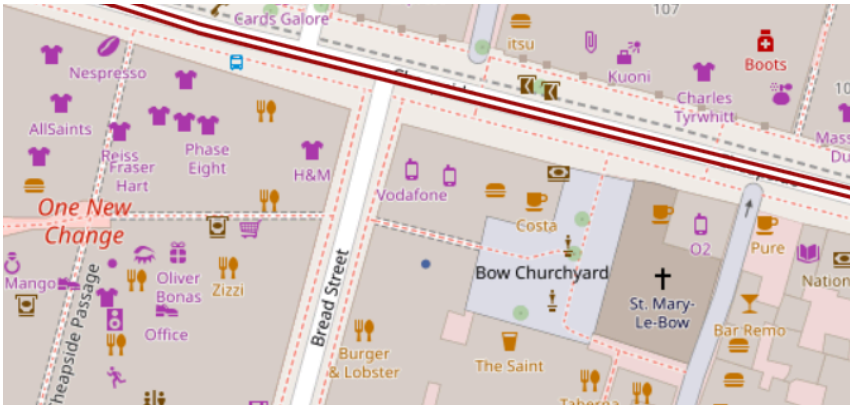
From [Vogue](#)..



From the Museum of London via Pinterest



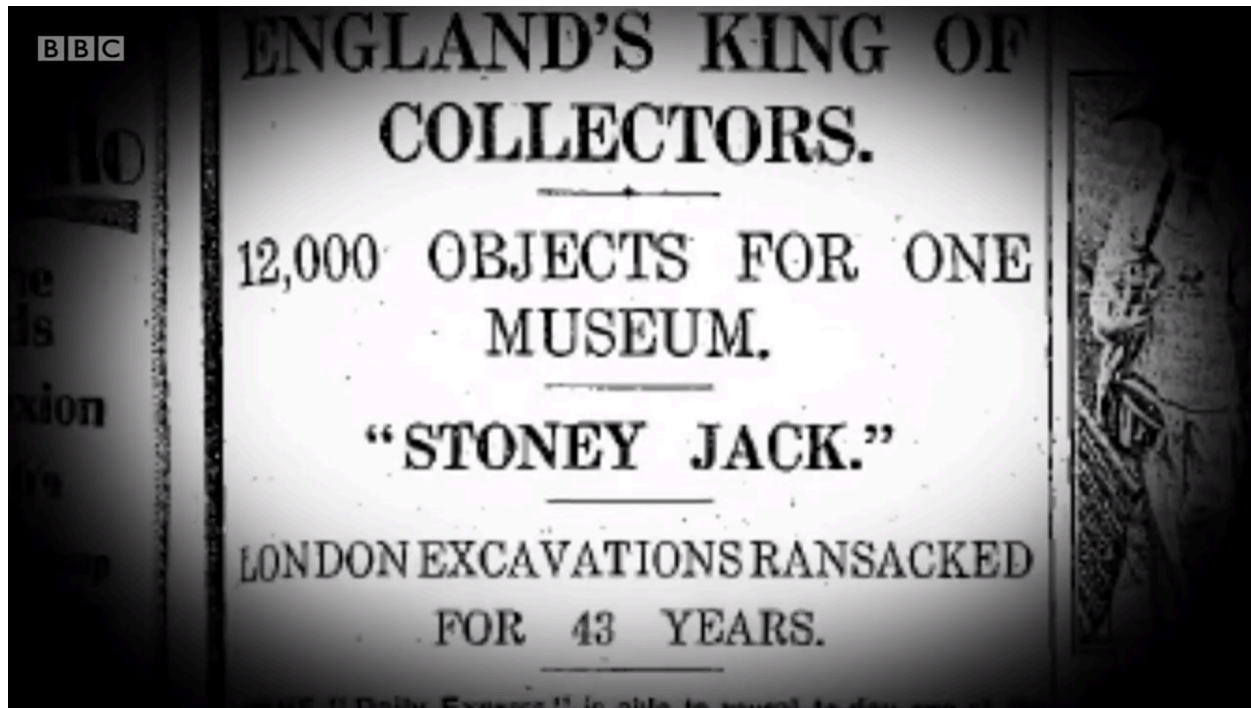
A close up view of Cheapside and specifically Goldsmiths' Row from pre-Great Fire [Agas map](#).
From the [Map of Early London website](#).



And the same area today.



George Fabian Lawrence, known to the navvies as "Stoney Jack." Image from Mike Dash's excellent article [*The Commoner Who Salvaged a King's Ransom*](#) in Smithsonian Magazine.



From the BBC, a 28 minute video, [The Hidden Jewels of the Cheapside Hoard](#).



See an interactive [map of British Hoards](#)



The Detectorists stars the show's creator, Mackenzie Crook, and Toby Jones.



Read Roald Dahl's story about *The Mildenhall Treasure* [HERE](#), or listen to it [HERE](#).



Kirsty Manning's *The Lost Jewels* is set against the backdrop of the Cheapside Hoard's discovery.

CITY HOARD.

TUDOR JEWELS BURIED IN CHEAPSIDE.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS.

By WALTER G. BELL.

The London Museum, magnificently housed at Lancaster House, St. James's, the most distinguished of the private palaces of the capital, has prepared a charming new catalogue, with plates in colour.

It deals with the **Cheapside hoard** of Elizabethan and Jacobean jewellery, one of the most surprising and valuable finds ever made in City soil.

During excavations where Alderman Sir Charles Wakefield's great business premises now stand at the Friday-street corner a navvy put his pick into the rotten timber of an old box that evidently had been buried. To his surprise objects of jewellery came tumbling out, and many others were loose in the soil that filled the box and extruded through its decayed sides.

Most of the hoard is now in the London Museum, and selected examples from it are to be seen at Guildhall, British Museum, and Victoria and Albert Museum. Dr. Mortimer Wheeler, the Keeper at Lancaster House, officially reticent, does not tell the whole story of this amazing find of artistic treasure. It is but a half-secret that the navvies privily took chunks of the richly bejewelled earth, wrapped in sacking, to Mr. G. F. Lawrence, who incidentally keeps an antique dealer's shop at Wandsworth. They emptied more from pockets and knotted handkerchiefs.

That was fortunate, for to Mr. Lawrence London owes the preservation of many more of its historical relics that have been dug up than I should care to count. But for his zeal they would have gone into the dumping pits and the roads. For some years he held the

An introduction to a lengthy article in London's Daily Telegraph, 17 July 1928

Additional resources

The Cheapside Hoard [Wikipedia entry](#)

[Museum of London Cheapside Hoard info page](#)

The [PAS - Portable Antiquities Scheme - site](#). Click on Database and then on "All artifacts and coins" to see the kinds of objects people are finding now.

[What Lies Beneath: Meet the Real Metal Detectorists](#) by Ella Braidwood in The Guardian

[How Detectorists Thrashed Archaeologists at Their Own Game](#) by Tracy Ramsden in The Telegraph

[Metal Detecting Laws and Regulations 2024](#), from Metal Detector Field Guide

And...

Our music is from the album Astral Gate, with permission of the artists, Lucas Perny and Miroslav Kollar.
Audio mixing by DJ Kensington.

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