dam, der in Glaubensdingen meist toleranten Stadt der Welt, die von anderwärts verfolgten Spiritualisten, Chiliasten und Schwärmern des Barockzeitalters den Namen Eleutheropolis erhalten hat.

Von allen diesen Zusammenhängen, Erwartungen und Begebenheiten des Barockzeitalters handelt mein Buch. Ich glaube, mit ihm ein bisher ungeschriebenes Kapitel der europäischen Religions- und Geistesgeschichte verfasst zu haben.

Erlangen

HANS JOACHIM SCHOEPS

THE NEW MITHRAIC TEMPLE IN LONDON

Since the great work of Franz Cumont about the monuments and the inscriptions of the mithraic cult the documents of the persian mysteries in most countries have largely increased in number 1). The cult having been spread by legions and merchants new finds have especially come to light in the castella or in the merchant-towns 2).

In the autumn of 1954 by accidental circumstances a new Mithraeum was discovered in the ancient Londinium. Its ruins have been saved by the enthusiasm of the London public and by the immediate publication of the chief results by Dr W. F. Grimes, the keeper of the London Museum 3).

The temple is situated in the centre of the town along the Eastern bank of Walbrook 4), a small off-branch of the Thames, and in the


4) In 1889 three other monuments were found which probably belong to the same Mithraeum; they are now in the London Museum:

a) Relief with Mithras as bullkiller surrounded by the signs of the zodiac (CIMRM, I Nos 810-811).

b) Bonus Eventus (CIMRM, I No 812).

c) Torse of a reclining Oceanus (CIMRM, I No 813).
immediate neighbourhood of the Mansion House and Bank, a place which also in antiquity was a centre of commerce. The Mithraists who in the middle of the second century A.D. founded this community, have in accordance with an old tradition built the sanctuary in the neighbourhood of running water, against the established custom the temple was overground, certainly on account of the danger of inundation. The building is larger than the other Mithraeaca in England, but smaller than a number of Mithraic temples in Italy itself. Originally it had the following aspect: the entrance was at the Eastern side, some steps lead to a lower central aisle. On either side seven columns divide the temple in three parts. It is not impossible that this number of seven columns has connection with the seven planets and thus with the seven degrees of initiation. But this is not very probable because in a later period the columns were removed. The side-parts are occupied by elevated benches with timbered floors. A fragment of black leather with gold-leaf ornament points to a couch, on which during the ceremonies the members of the community were lying down. The central aisle runs to a raised semicircular apse which on the outside is sustained by heavy buttresses.

In a later period, probably in the fourth century A.D., the floor of the central aisle was brought to the same level as that of the apse; by the removal of the columns it must have become necessary for the sanctuary to be re-roofed. During these operations the floor was partly reinforced by burying several sculptures of Mithraeum I. Some of them were made in Italian marbles and almost certainly sculptured there and then brought to London over the Thames.

5) Porphyrius, De Antro Nymph., V; cf. M. J. Vermaseren, The Cult of Mithras in Rome, Nijmegen 1951, 52; in the Mithraeum there was also a water-pit.
6) In England only the Mithraeum in Rudchester is larger: L. 24 mtrs; London: L. 18 mtrs, Br. 7 mtrs; Carrawburgh: L. 13 mtrs; Housesteads: L. 14 mtrs; Colchester: L. 13 mtrs.
7) They were not standing as the reconstruction in ILN 9 Oct. 1954, 594 shows.
8) There are only few Mithraea with an apse: cf. the Rudchester Mithraeum with an asymmetrically planned external narthex (JRS XLIV, 1954, 88). The Sacello delle Tre Navate in Ostia has a great resemblance with the London sanctuary, but no mithraic finds have been done there (Becatti, Mitreï di Ostia, 69ff). It dates from the middle of the second cent. A.D. and has as well as that in Dura-Europos (in its third phase) columns. It seems to me that in Ostia the windows contradict a Mithraeum.