



The Berks, Bucks & Oxon  
Archæological Journal.

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P R E F A C E .

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**W**ITH this number the Twenty-first Volume of this Journal commences. It has, therefore, attained its majority, and is entitled to a few words of preface in order to express its gratitude to those Subscribers and Contributors who have supported it so liberally during its somewhat lengthy career. Archæological journals do not usually have a very long life, except those which are supported by large and flourishing Societies. They flourish for a time, and then wither away. It is, therefore, a matter of congratulation that the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal has continued to live, to be published regularly every quarter, and to contain matter that has been useful and interesting to antiquaries in the three Counties.

Few of the present generation of readers will remember its origin. Twenty-one years ago I was invited by the late Mr. James Parker, F.G.S., of Oxford, to meet at his house the Secretaries of various Archæological Societies connected with the three Counties at a Conference for the purpose of producing a Journal which would contain the Transactions of these Societies. It was arranged that they should contribute a certain sum every year and receive re-prints of their reports, and I was asked to act as Editor. During the

period that has elapsed some of these Societies have ceased to exist, while others have started their own publications, and the Berks Society is the only one that intermittently carries out its original agreement. Hence the financial burden has for many years fallen upon the Editor, of which he would gladly be relieved.

The Journal finds its way to America, South Africa, Sweden and other countries, and has proved useful in recording finds and discoveries and the researches of distinguished antiquaries. References to its pages are numerous in the Victoria County History of Berkshire. I desire to express my grateful thanks to my co-Editor, Mr. John Hautenville Cope, who for the last three years has very considerably lightened the labour of editing the Journal, and if it can be continued I trust that this pleasant association may be prolonged. Whatever success the Journal has obtained is due to those antiquaries and correspondents who have contributed to its pages, and especially to Mr. Charles E. Keyser, F.S.A., the President of the Society, for his splendid series of illustrated articles on the Architecture of Berkshire Churches, Norman Doorways in Oxfordshire and Bucks, etc. For several years he has generously contributed, at considerable cost, the fine illustrations for which we cannot be too grateful. It would require a long space to record the names of all those ladies and gentlemen to whom the Journal is indebted for valuable contributions, but the following may be especially mentioned: The Rev. J. E. Field, who has been a constant and valued contributor since its commencement; Mr. W. P. Ellis, for his Transcription of the Churchwardens' Accounts of Thame; Mrs. John Hautenville Cope, for her Transcriptions of Parish Registers; Mr. Walter Money, F.S.A., who has done so much for Berkshire Archæology; the Rev. H. Salter; Mr. Mill Stephenson, F.S.A.; the late Mr. W. Cozens; the Rev. A. J. Foster, for his Notes on Buckinghamshire; Mr. W. Hallam, for Notes on Berkshire Bells, etc.; Mr. N. Hone; Sir George Young, Bart.; the Rev. F. T. Wethered; Mr. Ll. Treacher; Lady Verney; Lady Russell; Mr. J. L. Acton Pile, for his Transcription of Feet of Fines; Mr. H. R. Wilton Hall; Canon Oldfield; Mr. H. J. Hewett; Mr. G. F. T. Sherwood; Viscount Dillon; and recently, Captain Kempthorne, R.A.M.C., for his excellent History of Sandhurst, and Miss Sharp, for that of Beenham.

Articles and records of antiquarian discovery will always be most acceptable, and are cordially invited by the Editors. We would remind our readers that the production of the Journal is costly, and

as old subscribers fall away we would ask new ones to come forward, and thus secure the continuance of its somewhat useful mission. As it is the official organ of the Berks Society it has a special claim upon the support of the members. It would add greatly to the interest of the Journal, and lighten the labours of the Editors, if correspondents could be found in all parts of the three Counties who would contribute notes on antiquarian discoveries in their immediate districts and send us articles or extracts from the local press. We would earnestly ask for volunteers.

This "coming-of-age" number is born in a time of especial difficulty amid the sounds of the booming of guns and the cries of the distress of nations. Ere this volume is completed may peace be restored to a distracted world, and the cause for which England is fighting triumph.

P. H. DITCHFIELD, EDITOR.

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THE LATE MR. WILLIAM COZENS.—A keen antiquary and an occasional contributor of interesting notes to this Journal passed away in the early morning of Tuesday, February 16th. He belonged to a Berkshire branch of an old yeoman family which was settled some centuries ago in the neighbourhood of Thame in Oxfordshire, and bore the variable name of Cozens or Curzon. William Cozens was born at Little Wittenham in 1839. Having lost his parents at an early age he made his home at Dorchester, and there he became greatly interested in the antiquities of the place, and especially in the coins which were found in large numbers in the fields and gardens. He was brought up to agricultural pursuits, but while still a young man he had a fall from his horse which caused serious injury to one knee, and instead of giving it the needful rest he was aroused by a cry of fire at a farm in the village and spent the night working hard at the fire engine. He became drenched with water and at the same time over-heated by the conflagration, and the injured limb was violently inflamed; but with his characteristic energy he went about with a crutch and would not spare himself, with the result that the other leg gave way, and from that time he lost the use of both, and was compelled for the remainder of his life to move about on a wheel-chair, taking also frequent drives in his pony-carriage. He made his home for several years at Bishop's Court, Dorchester, whence in 1893 he removed to Benson. Chess and his violin were his favourite recreations, and he was a great reader, though in recent years weakened eyesight allowed him to read but little. He had acquired a wide knowledge of history, both ancient and English, and was well informed about the antiquities of the country, and more especially about those of his own neighbourhood. He made a valuable collection of coins, including a series of those of the Roman Emperors, which he greatly prized, and which he has bequeathed to the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford.—J. E. FIELD.