

SURREY ARCHÆOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS 1854-1954

BY

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THE Society's first object, as set forth in the Rules approved at the inaugural meeting held on May 12, 1854, reads as follows:

"To collect and publish the best information on the Ancient Arts and Monuments of the County; including Primeval Antiquities; Architecture, Civil, Ecclesiastical and Military; Sculpture; Paintings on Walls, Wood or Glass; Civil History and Antiquities, comprising Manors, Manorial Rights, Privileges and Customs; Heraldry and Genealogy; Costume, Numismatics; Ecclesiastical History and Endowments, and Charitable Foundations, Records, etc., and all other matters usually comprised under the head of Archæology."

With some modifications in the phrasing, the Society's first object remains the same to this day, and the row of volumes comprising the *Collections* bears witness to the fact that the Society has faithfully discharged this, its foremost duty, the careful and faithful transcription of essential knowledge. It is a record of which the Society may justly be proud.

Though the study of archæology was of respectable antiquity in the days when the Society was founded, it was a very long way from being the exact science into which it has since developed. The value of the early volumes in the series was assessed in careful phrases by the compilers of the first General Index to the *Collections*. "Written during a period in which the science of Archæology has seen its most remarkable development," they stated, "the papers contained in these twenty volumes are necessarily of very varying interest and value. Many of them, especially in the earlier volumes, are purely tentative in character. Others, . . . particularly in the later volumes, embody the results of sound research and well-advanced knowledge."

The first two volumes in the series were issued in parts,

subsequently bound together, and the first volume bears the publication date 1858, the second 1864. Volume III, dated 1865, was the first entire volume to be issued in one year, and the Council, with the cautious proviso that it was not making any distinct pledge to the members, then expressed the hope that a volume would be published annually in the future. This confidence was misplaced, as the next volume bears the date 1869—"a longer time than was at first anticipated, but the Council considered it desirable to liquidate all claims on the funds of the Society before contracting new liabilities." Generally speaking the ideal of a volume a year has never been abandoned, but, to other difficulties, the effects of two world wars during the Society's lifetime have been too far-reaching to enable any such hopes to materialize. If, however, to the fifty-three volumes of the *Collections* so far published be added the sum of the special volumes which have been issued from time to time, the two General Index volumes and a number of other publications, the total output for the century is not unimpressive.

Returning to the earlier volumes, mention should be made of two contributions of considerable value. Volume IV (1869) is more than half-filled with the transcription of the Inventories of Church Goods in the reign of Edward VI, communicated by Mr. J. R. Daniel-Tyssen and, running serially through these volumes is the transcription, edited by Dr. J. J. Howard, of the Heralds' Visitation of Surrey made in the year 1623, illustrated with heraldic drawings and extensive genealogical tables. This ran through the volumes from No. II onwards and was eventually completed, with the assistance of Mr. Mill Stephenson, in the volume published in 1895. A tribute should also be paid to the excellence of the drawings in these early volumes, particularly of the high standard of the colour reproductions, of which there were at this time quite a considerable number. Special mention should also be made of the excellence of the heraldic drawings illustrating an article in Volume II by Mr. W. H. Hart and Dr. J. J. Howard entitled "Genealogical and Heraldic Memoranda relating to the County of Surrey."

From 1883 onwards a marked difference may be noted in the general nature of the contributions. They become larger and more factual, though, generally speaking, rather less attention is paid to the illustrations. The plan of collecting small items

together under a general heading of "Notes" had been essayed in Volume III, but this feature did not occur again in the *Collections* until 1899, after which it became a regular part of each volume.

The volume for 1891 is notable in that it contains Mr. Mill Stephenson's first contribution, on the subject of Surrey Brasses, and as well the first instalment of a Survey of the Church Plate of the County by the Rev. T. S. Cooper. The latter was completed in Volume XVI (1901) and was subsequently issued as a hand list. During the same period appeared the first serious contributions to the pre-history of the County, with articles in Volume XI (1893) by Mr. Frank Lasham on Palæolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age Man in Surrey. Transcriptions of Surrey Wills, by Mr. F. A. Crisp, are also included at this time, a series which Miss Ethel Stokes continued in later volumes.

Two volumes meriting special mention were published about this time. In 1894 the Society issued, as Extra Volume No. 1, under the title *Pedes Finium* the Surrey Fines from 1195 to 1509. These were extracted and edited by Mr. F. B. Lewis. In 1946 the series of extracts was continued, to cover the years 1509 to 1558, by the Surrey Record Society, to whose province it obviously now belongs. The earlier undertaking, though at this date it is not immune from criticism both as to editorial method and accuracy, merits praise in that it broke fresh ground in the field of the archæology of the County and drew attention to the need for much more devotion to this particular field of research. In 1905 the Society issued, as the volume for the year 1904, Mr. Harold Brakspear's work on Waverley Abbey, a volume which combines with a report on the excavations, conducted on the site by members of the Society between 1898 and 1903, a detailed description of the character and uses of the various buildings of which the ruins formed a part. It is well illustrated with plans and photographs, including a colour print.

During the first decade of the present century the volumes issued contain much valuable material. There are exhaustive contributions on the Churches of the County by Mr. P. M. Johnston, Mr. G. C. Druce and others, by Mr. Ralph Nevill on the domestic architecture, on Records by Mr. M. S. Giuseppi, Mr. R. A. Roberts and Mr. A. Ridley Bax; and Mr. Mill Stephenson and Mr. H. E. Malden frequently contributed.

In the volume for 1912 appeared the first instalment of Mr.

Stephenson's Hand-List of Surrey Brasses. The same issue contains an Editorial Note by Mr. (now Sir Hilary) Jenkinson giving a survey of the work which had so far been done and of what should be undertaken. Reference is therein made to the publication in that year of the General Survey of Surrey Antiquities, a pioneer work in this field, the importance of which, at this date, can hardly be over-estimated. Particular credit is due to the Society for having been the first of its kind to undertake such a work. The note also indicates the desirability of forming the Surrey Record Society, for the publication of transcripts and abstracts from the larger Records relating to the County, and surveys the work which had so far been effected in the way of publication of Surrey Records.

During the War years 1914 to 1918 it was found possible to continue publication of an annual volume without a break, the Council expressing its belief (in Volume XIX, 1916) that though some activities (such as the Excursions) must necessarily remain in abeyance, this part of its work could be usefully continued. During the actual years of war the standards of printing and paper remained at their customary high levels, but some falling off in these respects is noticeable in the years immediately following. Between 1919 and 1930 the volumes were issued in paper covers, cloth bindings being unobtainable at the beginning of the period, and the practice was continued in the following years as a measure of economy. A gap of three years between the publication of Volumes XXXIV (1921) and XXXV (1924) is accounted for as being due to difficulties arising from the war, and in 1926 it was found desirable to revert to the Society's earlier practice and issue each volume in two yearly parts.

In 1920 appeared the last instalment of Mr. Stephenson's Hand List of Surrey Brasses; the complete work was shortly afterwards published separately in a limited edition. The Society, it was reported in 1921, had then dealt definitely with at least three topics of archæological interest, the Brasses, the Edwardian Inventories of Church Goods and the Church Plate of the County, besides the issue of the Schedule of Antiquities, and had given at least so much support as had enabled a Special Society to be founded for the publication of Documents. In contemplation was work upon the Place Names of the County, upon Bronze Age Finds and upon Stained Glass.

The programme was faithfully carried out. In Volume XXXV (1924) appeared Dr. Eric Gardner's hand list of Bronze Age remains. In Volumes XXXVI (1925) and XXXVII (1926 and 1927) appeared articles on Surrey place names by Mr. Arthur Bonner—whose main work in this connection is, of course, contained in the Surrey volume of the Place Names Society's publications. The special volume on the Stained and Painted Glass of the County was issued in 1930. This volume, edited by Mr. F. C. Eeles and illustrated by Dr. A. V. Peatling, was planned as a memorial to the latter and therefore bears his name only on the title page. It should, however, be recorded how much the volume owes to the labour of Mr. Eeles, who was almost entirely responsible for the text as printed. The volume contains eighteen plates, including ten in colour, and six drawings in the text. Dr. Peatling's original drawings are now in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Up to 1926 the Editorial duties in respect of the volumes of the *Collections* had been carried out by the successive Honorary Secretaries of the Society, but in that year a change was made and an Honorary Editor (Mrs. Dorothy Grenside) was appointed, to prepare, with the assistance of a small committee, the issues for the press. Mrs. Grenside was responsible for Volumes XXXVII and XXXVIII and resigned in 1930. Volume XXXIX was seen through the press by Miss M. Giuseppi, who was appointed Honorary Editor in the following year and continued to edit the volumes until 1941 with some assistance towards the end of this period by the present writer. During this period the standard of the *Collections* was well maintained and further special publications were produced. These comprised the reproduction of Rocque's Map of Surrey in 1931 and the Survey of the Pre-history of the Farnham District in 1939.

The Farnham volume, an exhaustive and comprehensive work and a notable contribution to scientific archaeology, was written in three sections by Dr. K. P. Oakley, Mr. W. F. Rankine and Mr. A. W. G. Lowther respectively, and includes a report on the Long Barrow at Badshot by Mr. Alexander Keiller and Mr. Stuart Piggott. It is extensively illustrated and contains a number of folding maps and plans. Editing was in the hands of Mr. Lowther, assisted by Miss Giuseppi.

The increase in attention to pre-history which the publication of this volume indicates was fore-shadowed during the decade

previous to its publication by a number of articles in the *Collections*, the most regular contributors in this field being Mr. W. F. Rankine and Dr. Wilfrid Hooper, whose article on Pigmy Flint Industries (in Vol. XLI, 1933) is mentioned by Mr. Rankine in his article on Mesolithic Research in Surrey in Volume LII (1952) as being the first important contribution to the literature of this subject so far as Surrey is concerned. Among regular contributors on other subjects during the period were Mr. Mill Stephenson, Mr. P. M. Johnston, Sir Henry Lambert, Dr. W. E. St. L. Finny, Mr. I. D. Margary, Mr. A. W. G. Lowther, Mr. R. G. Goodchild and Mr. R. N. Bloxam.

Mention should also be made of a series of articles by the Society's President, the Earl of Onslow, on such subjects as the Pictures at Clandon Park, Hunting, Racing and the Road in Surrey, which did much to enhance the enjoyment of the volumes by those members of the Society whose interest in antiquity and in the history of their County is rather more general than particular. This is a field which yields good dividends in the form of increased membership and interest, but which Editors find hard to reconcile with the competing claims upon the space available by the specialists in various fields.

The second General Index, covering Volumes XXI to XXXVII was issued in 1934. It was prepared on the same principles as those laid down for the previous General Index and was carried out by Mr. S. Lugar, with some assistance from the Editor of the previous volume, Mr. M. S. Giuseppi. Mr. Mill Stephenson was again responsible for the classified list of illustrations. The time would seem to be approaching when the question of a third General Index volume should receive attention.

The effects of the Second War upon the publications of learned societies generally were felt immediately and to a far greater extent than had been the case in the first War, and conditions for publication are even at this date still far from easy. Great credit is due to those who have edited the volumes produced during this period. Mr. Bernard Rackham undertook to edit Volume XLVIII, and as well edited Volume XLIX (1947). Mr. W. F. Rankine was responsible for Volumes L and LI, produced in 1949 and 1950 respectively, and Volume LII, issued for the years 1950 and 1951, appeared in 1952; it was edited by Dr. Richard Offor.

Dr. Wilfrid Hooper's history of Reigate, entitled "Reigate, its Story through the Ages" was issued in December 1945 in place of an ordinary volume in the *Collections*. It tells the story of Reigate and the site of the town from prehistoric to modern times in a scholarly manner, and is written in a clear and readable style which makes it appeal as much to the general reader as to the specialist.

In the volumes covering this period has appeared an addition to the series of collected information relating to the County, in the articles by Mr. H. W. Pointer entitled "Coats of Arms in Surrey Churches." Despite all the difficulties attendant upon publication the six volumes which cover the period 1942 to 1952 continue to maintain the accepted high level of the *Collections*. The standard of scholarship in the contributions is as high as ever, but if a critical note may be intruded into what is designed only as a general survey, it would seem that more attention might be given to ensure that the execution of drawings reproduced in the text approximates rather more nearly to the high standards in this respect set a century ago.