

THE PENZANCE CONFERENCE, 1968

The 11th Annual Conference of the Society was held in Penzance from 5-8 April, 1968. The theme of the Conference was 'The early medieval period in the south-west'.

The Conference opened on 5 April at 8 p.m. with a lecture by Professor A. C. Thomas entitled 'Early Christian Cornwall'. After a welcome from the President of the Cornwall Archaeological Society and from the Mayor of Penzance, a reception was held in the Centenary Hall. On 6 April the Society heard lectures by Mr. A. D. Saunders on 'Medieval architecture in Cornwall' and Dr. C. A. Raleigh Radford on 'Tintagel and the early monasteries of the south-west'. In the afternoon the Society visited Madron Church and well-chapel, Old Lanyon, Chapel Jane and Towednack. On 7 April the Society made an excursion to north Cornwall, visiting Tintagel and the chapels of St. Endellion and St. Kew. On 8 April there was an excursion by rail to Truro and another to St. Michael's Mount.

The Society must record its gratitude to Professor A. C. Thomas and to Mr. P. A. S. Pool who acted as local secretaries for the Conference.

DAVID M. WILSON

HISTORIC TOWNS

The British Section of the Historical Atlas of Town Plans for Western Europe published the first volume of its projected atlas of historic towns on June 25th 1969. The volume has been produced by a committee, originally under the chairmanship of the late Sir Ian Richmond and now of Dr. W. A. Pantin, with Mrs. M. D. Lobel as secretary. Those who have had a chance to see this work in preparation will expect it to make a considerable impact, not only on the world of scholarship and among town planners and those involved in local government, but also as an educational instrument. This first volume deals with Banbury; Bristol; Caernarvon; Glasgow; Gloucester; Hereford; Nottingham; Reading; Salisbury. For each city there is, first, a map in full colour, at a scale of 1/2,500, of the town as it was in 1800 with appropriate conventions for medieval monuments and features, both vanished and surviving. Supporting monochrome maps, at a scale of 1/5,000, show special aspects of the development. The maps are of striking originality and beauty; their cartographic quality is unlike anything ever achieved in this country, and is certainly superior to that already produced by the parent body, the International Commission for the Study of the History of Towns. The maps are accompanied by an account, of between 9,000 and 18,000 words, of the topography and historical development of each town. Although these accounts are modest in scale, they are based on primary sources and, like the maps, break new ground in studies of urban origins.

The atlas will be of enormous value to archaeologists, historians, geographers and town planners. In the field of archaeology, it should help to focus an informed interest on research into urban problems. Work on further volumes, including one devoted entirely to London, is in hand, but the success of the project will depend in part on sales of the first volume. It is much to be hoped that the Committee will receive the kind of support it deserves. The Atlas may be ordered from Lovell Johns, Ltd. (Publishers), 101a Cowley Road, Cowley, Oxford., or from any bookseller, price £5 5s.