



## Berkshire Archæological Society.

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### *ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORT.*

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THE Annual Meeting took place on April 28th, at the Abbey Gate, Reading. In the absence of the President (Mr. C. E. Keyser) the chair was taken by the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, who referred to the numerous losses the Society had sustained by the deaths of prominent members. He then presented the Annual Report and said that his colleague, Mr. J. Hautenville Cope, who could not be present that day owing to being one of the actors in the Oxford Pageant, had very kindly written the report.

The adoption of the report was carried unanimously.

The report of the Hon. Treasurer and the annual balance sheet were then read and adopted.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Chairman proposed the re-election of the President, Mr. C. E. Keyser, F.S.A., which was carried with acclamation. The Vice-Presidents were re-elected, and the Rev. A. R. Price, Mr. A. Petrocokino and Prof. Williams were elected to the Committee. In proposing the re-election of the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield as hon. sec., Mr. T. H. White remarked on their good fortune in having a secretary who gave so much time to the Society. Speaking for all the members, he trusted that it would be many years before they would have to choose another secretary. This was carried unanimously. Mr. E. Ravenscroft was re-elected hon. treasurer, with thanks for the trouble he was taking for their benefit in a somewhat difficult position, and the Rev. Morris Williams was re-elected hon. librarian.

A lecture was then given by Professor Stenton, of University College, on "The Road System of Mediæval England." Basing his remarks mainly on ancient maps and road-books the lecturer briefly described some of the chief lines of traffic across the country in the 13th and 14th centuries, comparing their directions with those of the then largely abandoned Roman roads. He also referred to the computed mileages of the maps and the influence which the position of bridges over the larger rivers had in determining the direction of

the main roads between the towns. Mr. L. L. Treacher proposed and Mr. R. F. Duff seconded a hearty vote of thanks to Prof. Stenton for his lecture, and the Chairman said he hoped it would be published in some form in which they could study it more at leisure.

Tea was provided by Mrs. F. E. Williams.

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## *ANNUAL REPORT, 1913-14.*

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The Committee has the honour to present the Report for the past year.

### LECTURES.

Following its usual practice the Society has held a "winter session," when lectures dealing not only with the history and antiquities of the County were given, but also on subjects of wide and varied interest. The increased attendance of members and their friends at the lectures proves how much these are appreciated. The Society owes a debt of gratitude not only to those who were so kind as to lecture, but also to their Secretary for arranging so interesting a series. The Berkshire Archæological Society is one of the few local archæological societies which hold "winter sessions."

Following the Annual Meeting of May 2nd, 1913, the Secretary gave a most interesting lecture on "The Inns of Court and Chancery."

The first lecture of the "winter session" was on November 7th, when Mr. Cope lectured on "Winchester." The lecture was illustrated by an excellent set of lantern slides, lent for the occasion by the kind courtesy of the Corporation of the City of Winchester.

On November 24th, Mr. Arthur Sutton, who is a Vice-President of the Society, gave a most interesting lecture entitled "My Camel Ride from Suez to Mount Sinai." The pictures exhibited on the screen were taken by Mr. Sutton during his Eastern tour. The lecturer, who has frequently visited Palestine and other Eastern countries mentioned in sacred history, is an authority on the topography and antiquities of the Holy Land and on other places in the neighbourhood of the latter country. The Society is therefore very grateful to him for having given such a graphic description of his last visit to "Bible Lands."

On January 3rd, 1914, an opportunity was offered to our Society—of which many members availed themselves—to meet their former treasurer, Mr. W. Ravenscroft, F.S.A., who delighted his audience

with a clever lecture on "The testimony of Catacomb Exploration to the Christian Faith in Rome."

On February 20th, 1914, we were visited by Mr. Dale, F.S.A., F.G.S., Secretary of the Hampshire Field Club and Archæological Society, who from his wide range of local knowledge delighted his audience with an account of "Pre-historic Hampshire." The Berkshire Society enjoyed meeting the Secretary of the neighbouring Hampshire Society. His lecture was much appreciated by those who heard it, and the Society is much indebted to Mr. Dale, who is one of the best known authorities on geology, for his charming lecture.

On March 6th, 1914, Mr. Lee of Bradfield College, who has made a study of Stonehenge and similar stone circles, gave a most excellent lecture on "Stonehenge and other Megalithic Remains in Great Britain."

On March 26th, 1914, the sixth lecture of the current winter session was given by the President of our Society "On the Churches of Stanford-in-the-Vale, Hatford and Shellingford, and the Chapels of Goosey and Baulking." The attendance as usual was large, which testifies to the appreciation with which Mr. Keyser's lectures are always heard. This lecture, like the former ones given by our President, was accompanied by a series of most beautiful lantern slides. These were especially prepared by Messrs. Walton Adams of Reading, under Mr. Keyser's personal supervision.

The final lecture of this session will be given after the Annual Meeting, April 28th, 1914, by Professor F. M. Stenton, of University College, Reading, on "The Road System of Mediæval England."

At the conclusion of each lecture tea was provided by the following ladies and gentlemen, and the best thanks of the Society are due to them for their kind hospitality, viz : The President and Mrs. Keyser, Mr. and Mrs. Chisman, the Misses Deacon, Miss Waldron, Mr. and Mrs. Duff, Mr. and Mrs. Petrocokino and Mrs. F. E. Williams.

#### EXCURSIONS.

During the year under review three excursions took place, the first being a "two-day excursion" on June 23rd and 24th, to Warwick and the neighbourhood. This was the third such excursion the Society has organised, and following former precedents it was held in conjunction with the Newbury Field Club. The popu-

larity of these excursions is shown by the very large number who participate in them; on this occasion the party numbered 52. During the stay in Warwick the Woolpack Hotel was the Society's headquarters. On the first day, St. Mary's Church and the Beauchamp Chapel were visited, where the Vicar the Rev. Allan Williams and Alderman Kemp received the party, and after a few words of welcome conducted them round the building. Leaving the Church, the historic Castle of Warwick, which contains such a vast collection of art treasures, was seen. The Society was entertained to tea by Revd. Allan Williams, after which the party were shown round the Leicester Hospital by the master, the Rev. Canon Toovey, and on the same afternoon some members of the Society visited the Museum. In the evening the Mayor gave a reception at which the maces belonging to the Corporation were exhibited and Alderman Kemp showed the "Black Book of Warwick," the first charter of incorporation granted by Philip and Mary and Henry Fisher's diary. Next day an expedition was made to Stoneleigh Abbey, the seat of Lord Leigh, Stoneleigh Church, Kenilworth Castle and Kenilworth Church, and Guy's Cliff, the residence of Lord Algernon Percy. Pleasing recollections of this excursion to Warwick will long be retained by those who were so fortunate as to participate in it. The Society tender their best thanks to all those who, either by providing hospitality, or by allowing their residences to be seen, so greatly helped to make this excursion so very successful.

On July 21st the Society, in conjunction with the Newbury Field Club, visited West Hanney, Lyford, Charney Bassett, and Stanford-in-the-Vale, when the Churches at these various places were all described by the President. The pages of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal contain a full description of these buildings from Mr. Keyser's able pen.

The last excursion of the season was to Waltham St. Lawrence, Shottesbrook, White Waltham and Haines Hill. At the first-mentioned place the Church was described by our President; at Shottesbrooke House the Society was welcomed by the owner, Mr. Guy Oswald Smith, a paper dealing with the history of the house and parish was read by the Secretary, and the details of Shottesbrook Church were explained by the President, as were those of White Waltham. At Haines Hill the party received a hearty welcome from Captain Godsall, the owner of this fine place, and a paper giving the history of the house was read by Mr. Ditchfield.

## PUBLICATIONS.

This year the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal reaches its twentieth year of publication. During this year its readers are indebted to our President for his very able study of Berkshire Churches, and also for the illustrations which accompany the letterpress. During the past year two parish histories have appeared in this Journal, viz., Sandhurst, by Captain Kempthorne, R.A.M.C., and that of Beenham by the well-known writer Miss Sharp, of Ufton Court. Other articles of interest are: "Manor Courts," by the Rev. Canon Oldfield, D.D.; "Berks Feet of Fines," transcribed by Mr. Acton Pile; "Churchwarden's Accounts of St. Mary's, Thame," transcribed by Mr. Patterson Ellis; "A Memoir of the late Mr. James Parker," by Mr. Sollas, Professor of Geology, Oxford University. Old members of the Society will recall to mind how greatly they are indebted to Mr. Parker for much kind assistance when the Society was started. Other contributors, viz., the Rev. F. T. Wethered and the Rev. J. E. Field, have sent short articles, for which they are thanked. Several correspondents have availed themselves of the Notes and Queries column, by which means much interesting information on Berkshire antiquities has been forthcoming.

Mr. Cope, who for the past two years has been associated with Mr. Ditchfield in the editorship of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal, has been recently appointed editor of the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archæological Society, and also one of that club's local secretaries. All members of the Berks Society will wish him well in this new appointment. Mr. Cope will, however, still continue joint editor with Mr. Ditchfield of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal.

## OBITUARY.

Since our last annual meeting death has removed the following from our list: Dr. Fairbank, F.S.A., the Rev. H. Gwilliam, the Right Hon. G. W. Palmer, Mr. Martin John Sutton, Mr. J. T. Strange, Mr. S. Wheeler, Mr. J. G. Wyly, Mr. W. Keep, and Mr. E. Margrett. All these will be much missed from our meetings. They all took an especial interest in the work of the Society and in the history and antiquities of the County.

## MEMBERS.

During the past year 17 members joined, while 5 have resigned,

the total number of subscribers being 140. From this Report it will be seen that the Society has not spent an idle year. By the lectures given during the Winter Session it has been able to spread a great deal of information connected not only with the antiquities of our County, but on antiquarian subjects generally. The excursions have been the means of introducing to the members many places of interest which probably they would not otherwise have seen. The large number of members who have attended the recent lectures and who have taken part in the summer excursions prove a keen interest in the work of the Society, and that there are many within the County who are anxious to obtain a knowledge of its history and antiquities. All members are asked to make known the Berkshire Archæological Society to their friends and help to obtain new members and to enlist fresh subscribers to the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal, remembering that the financial support given helps to keep the Society and the Journal up to the very high standard to which both have now arrived.

The Hon. Treasurer reports as follows :—"The balance sheet is not satisfactory. More members are urgently needed. The cash in hand on Dec. 31st, 1913, was 12s. 3d. There are liabilities outstanding of about £42. Our rent, rates and taxes cost us about £30 per year. Besides this charge there is that of the caretaker, lighting, fuel, etc., which amounts to about another £20, in addition to which there are printing expenses and hire of the lantern. The subscriptions for 1912-13 came to £35 4s. 6d. We need nearly double the number of members to place the Society in a satisfactory position."



## Treasurer's Report for Annual Meeting, April 28th, 1914.

### CASH STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1913.

Receipts.		1913.		£ s. d.	
Cash in hand, January 1st, 1913	...	5	12	2	
By Subscriptions for 1912 ...	...	2	15	6	
" " 1913 ...	...	32	9	0	
Hire of Rooms for 1912 ...	...	2	0	0	
" " 1913 ...	...	18	15	0	
		<hr/>		£61	11 8

Expenses.		1913.		£ s. d.	
Paid Caretaker ...	...	8	17	11½	
Wood, Coal and Gas Accounts ...	...	8	15	10	
Rents, Rates and Taxes ...	...	22	13	0	
Cost of Lectures, Lanterns, etc. ...	...	5	9	1½	
Postage, Carriage of Parcels, Telegrams, etc.		4	3	0	
Printing, Advertising and Treasurer's Exps.		10	19	6	
Cash in hand, December 31st, 1913	...	0	13	3	
		<hr/>		£61	11 8

**Audited and Correct**

W. R. MORRIS,

22, The Forbury, Reading.

April 27th, 1914.