

# Oxford Ladies' Archæological and Brass-Rubbing Society

YEAR 1920—1921.

## *President.*

Miss SWANN, Walton Manor.

## *Committee.*

President .....	Miss SWANN.
Hon. Treasurer .....	Miss LUCY SWANN.
Hon. Librarian.....	Mrs. WHITMARSH.
Hon. Secretaries .....	Miss STONE.
	Miss POYNTER.
Members of Committee .....	Mrs. ODGERS.
	Mrs. MACINTOSH.
	Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
	Miss SPENCER THOMSON.

THE Society this year completes its twenty-sixth year; it continues to flourish, and keeps up its full complement of members. Meetings have been held and papers of much interest read at them.

Mr. C. E. Keyser, F.S.A., very kindly again lectured to the Society in the large hall at The Three Feathers, his subject being 'Churches in Gloucestershire.' The photographs he showed of these by lantern slides were very beautiful; most of them had been taken by Mr. Taunt. After the meeting, Miss Hulbert entertained the large party to tea.

On February 4th Miss F. Ward gave a paper in St. Rognvald's Lecture Room on 'Belgium since the War.' As she had only just returned from visiting this country, she was able to describe from personal experience the state in which it had been left after the terrible years of war, and she exhibited many sketches, paintings and postcard views of the places which are now of the highest historic interest, and as she also showed paintings of these places, which she had made previous

to 1914, her audience realised what awful destruction had taken place, and what damage has been done to many beautiful buildings.

On February 26th Mr. and Mrs. Macintosh kindly invited the Society to Holywell House to listen to a paper by Mrs. Margoliouth describing her stay in Gwalior, Lahore, and Cashmere. She had made many sketches in these places, which she showed, as well as some exquisite specimens of native work and many other curious and interesting objects of Oriental workmanship. Mr. and Mrs. Macintosh most hospitably entertained the very large party to tea after the meeting.

On June 1st Miss Poynter read a paper on 'A Fixed Easter.'

On June 11th a large party of members and their friends went by motor conveyance to Yarnton. They were received at the Church by Mr. H. A. Evans (author of *Highways and Byways*). He gave them a history of Yarnton from the 12th century, showing how closely it had been connected with the great Abbey of Eynsham. He then pointed out the many objects of interest in the church, and especially the Spencer aisle, with its monuments. The Manor of Yarnton came into the possession of the Spencers in 1584, and the present tower was built by Sir Thomas Spencer in 1611, and in that year the Spencer aisle was begun. He also gave a peal of six bells.

In the Spencer aisle is placed the original Norman font rescued some years ago from an adjoining farmyard. The Perpendicular font now in use, which is of octagonal shape, was brought from St. Michael's Church, Oxford, and was given to Yarnton by William Fletcher, Alderman of Oxford. He was not a native of Yarnton, but had spent his early boyhood there, and had a very great affection for the place. He bestowed many valuable gifts on the church, amongst others some beautiful alabaster slabs on which are sculptured scriptural subjects—Our Saviour in the Lap of the Virgin, The Offering of the Wise Men, The Betrayal with a Kiss, and The Bearing of the Cross. These now form a reredos. They are apparently of 15th century work. It is known that Alderman Fletcher gave more than four of these alabaster panels, but the others have disappeared. Alderman Fletcher is buried at the west end of the church; there is a handsome brass to his

memory, showing his effigy in his alderman's gown and with the inscription :—

'Yarnton my childhood's home do thou receive  
My parting gift—my dust to thee I leave.'

WILLIAM FLETCHER  
of Oxford  
1826

Aged 87 years.

On the anniversary of his death the great bell is tolled eighty-seven times in memory of him.

In the churchyard are the remains of a curious early cross. Mr. J. H. Parker, in his *Architectural Guide to the Neighbourhood of Oxford*, says it 'may be cited in further evidence of the ancient connexion between this church and the Abbey of Eynsham, for at Eynsham there is a cross of the same form and character, and sculptured much in the same manner. Between the crosses at Eynsham and Yarnton there were within the memory of man others at and near Cassington (Cassington, like Yarnton, having formerly been a *Capella* and afterwards a *Cicaria* of Eynsham Abbey) at each of which crosses, on solemn processions, the abbot and monks were wont to perform the appointed services.' This account was published in 1846.

After leaving the church the party was most kindly received and entertained at tea by Mrs. Franklin at the Manor House, and were allowed to walk through the large rooms full of beautiful old tapestries, pictures, books and plate, &c., and to visit the gardens, gay and bright with flowers, in spite of the cold wet summer we have had.

## Index to Hurst Parish Marriage Register, 1585—1607 and 1633—1812

(MEN'S NAMES ONLY)

*Transcribed by Llewellyn Treacher*

Abery, Ric., 1792.

Absolom, Ed., 1705; Ed., 1728; Jno., 1742; Ed., 1763;

Humphry, 1765; Jno., 1773; Humphry, 1783; Ric., 1795.

Adams, Raffe, 1585.