

The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal

Berkshire Archæological Society
1922

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Hon. Treasurer:

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Editors, Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal:

THE REV. P. H. DITCHFIELD, M.A., F.S.A., and
J. HAUTENVILLE COPE, ESQ.

Local Secretaries:

Abingdon—H. G. W. D'ALMAINE, ESQ., F.S.A.
Wallingford—R. R. HUTCHINSON, ESQ.
South-East Berkshire—J. HAUTENVILLE COPE, ESQ.
Maidenhead—J. W. WALKER, ESQ.
East Hagbourne—J. W. WALKER, ESQ., F.S.A.
Hungerford—P. WILLIAMS, ESQ.

Headquarters of the Society:

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, READING.

THE Annual Meeting of the Society was held on April 22nd, 1922, at University College, Reading, the President, Mr. C. E. Keyser, F.S.A., in the chair, when the officers for the ensuing year were duly elected and warmly thanked for their services in the past. The President and the Honorary

Secretary were especially thanked for all the services they had rendered to the Society for many years.

The outstanding event in the Society's annals during the past year is the Jubilee Meeting held in the Art Gallery of the Municipal Buildings, Reading, on Saturday, December 3rd. The large attendance, the enthusiasm of the members and speakers, the loan exhibition of objects of antiquarian interest, the presentations that were made, will be fresh in the minds of the members. The proceedings are duly recorded in the Jubilee number of the Society's Journal, and need not here be repeated. One happy result of the Jubilee has been a large increase in the number of members, which now approximates to 400. The strength and value of the Society do not consist in large numbers, but in the activity, zeal and research work of the members, and on the resulting antiquarian knowledge which should spring from their industry and indefatigable exertions. Increased numbers, however, add to the responsibilities of the Council and officers, who will not fail to endeavour to discharge their duties to the best of their ability.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

By the kindness of the Principal and Council of Reading University College we are still allowed to make that college our headquarters, and are grateful to the authorities for their hospitality and kind consideration of our requirements. We regret that the College has not yet attained to the dignity of a University, and share with the Governors and Principal in their disappointment. We feel, however, that the rejection is by no means final, and that the founding of Reading University is only postponed.

WORK DURING THE PAST YEAR.

The Council is able to report that the usual number of lectures have been delivered and excursions made. After the last annual meeting on April 6th, 1921, a lecture was given by the President on 'A trip down the Rhone from Lyons to Marseilles,' illustrated by an excellent series of lantern slides.

On October 28th the President again favoured the Society by a beautifully illustrated lecture on the churches of Basildon,

Upton, Chilton, East Ilsley, and Beedon. On December 3rd the public meeting was held, when speeches were delivered by the President, the Mayor of Reading, the Lord-Lieutenant, Lord Wyfold, the Dean of Windsor, and a sketch of the history of the Society given by the Hon. Secretary. Presentations were made to the President and Hon. Secretary, and an address sent to H.R.H. the Princess Mary on the happy occasion of her marriage. On January 23rd, 1922, Mr. A. E. B. Barnard, F.S.A., lectured on 'The Avon from Source to Severn.'

On February 4th, Mr. J. W. Walker, F.S.A., gave an interesting lecture on the Cistercian Abbeys of Yorkshire, showing a very intimate knowledge of every part and detail, and illustrating his lecture by a fine series of views. On February 18th, Miss Carleton-Williams lectured on 'the Church and Priory of St. Mary's, Goring,' and on March 18th Mr. Arthur Gardiner, of Harrow, lectured on 'Alabaster Sculptures.'

Three excursions have been made during the summer:—
(1) In conjunction with the Historical Association to Wallingford, under the guidance of your Secretary, where the members were welcomed by the Mayor and Mayoress, an address given in the Town Hall on the history of the town, and visits paid to the Castle, and the churches. (2) A two-days excursion to North Oxfordshire, the party staying at the Randolph Hotel, Oxford, and motoring to Broughton Castle, Wroxton Abbey, Hanwell Castle, and other places. (3) To Checkenden, North and South Stoke, Ipsden and Goring. The thanks of the Society are due to the ladies and gentlemen who entertained the members on the occasions of lectures and excursions, *viz.*, Miss Cooper Smith and Miss Hissey, Mr. and Mrs. Keyser, Mr. and Mrs. Cope, Mrs. Fulbrook Leggatt and Mrs. Cornish, Professor and Mrs. Carleton-Williams on two occasions, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Cook, Lord Saye and Sele, and Lord North, who refreshed the excursionists at tea at the Banbury Cake Shop after their visit to Wroxton Abbey.

ABINGDON BRANCH.

This Branch, under the leadership of Mr. d'Almaine and Mr. Wright, has shown its usual activities. On April 15th, an excursion was made to Newbury, Donnington Castle, Shaw House, the Guildhall, also Enborne Church and Hampstead

Park. On May 18th, the members visited the Faringdon district, inspecting Badbury Hill, Coleshill House, Compton Beauchamp and Ashdown House, and were favoured with the presence of Mr. Guy Dawber, F.R.I.B.A., who described the houses. On July 20th Hungerford was visited, and Mr. Williams, of West Woodhay, described Inkpen Beacon, the Gibbro Long Barrow and Walbury Camp, and entertained the party to tea. On August 31st, the members visited Avebury, under the guidance of Mr. Balfour, F.S.A., and examined the prehistoric collections of the Rev. H. G. O. Kendall.

Two lectures were delivered during the winter session, the first by Mr. Leeds, F.S.A., on 'Some Material for a Local Museum,' and the second by Mr. Balfour on 'Primitive Currency and Money,' exhibiting the currency bars unearthed at Wayland's Smithy.

Too much praise cannot be given to the admirable work done by this branch. Efforts are being made to increase its membership, to found a Museum, to arrange excursions to Rollright Stones and Stonehenge, and to excavate the foundations of Abingdon Abbey, in connection with the Society of Antiquaries. £500 will be needed and subscriptions are solicited. We offer our cordial congratulations to Mr. A. E. Preston and Mr. d'Almaine on their election as F.S.A.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

The formation of this new Branch has been accomplished by the exertions of Mr. and Mrs. Cope, during the last three months, and now has 78 members. Several lectures and excursions are in progress of arrangement, including a lecture by Dr. Smith-Woodward, an excursion in conjunction with the Surrey Archæological Society and Farnham Field Club, to Farnham Castle, a joint meeting at Reading, with the former, and others. We wish the Branch that has been so happily inaugurated a successful career.

READING SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS.

Our Society is affiliated with the Reading Society of Architects, of which Mr. Willcocks is the active and energetic secretary, and which is a Branch of the Architectural Association of Berks, Bucks and Oxon. Its membership has increased from

44 to 83, and it has arranged to keep a record of measured drawings and illustrations of historical and interesting old buildings in Berkshire and surrounding districts. Prizes are offered for measured drawings of the buildings and photographs are to be taken of any old Reading buildings that are threatened with destruction. An Architectural Exhibition will be held in Reading in July. In all their efforts the Society take the keenest interest, and would gladly assist its labours in every possible way.

INVENTORY OF CHURCH PLATE.

Under the able management of Mr. J. W. Walker, F.S.A., good progress is being made with this inventory of Church Plate. The Society is fortunate in numbering amongst its members the former hon. secretary of the Yorkshire Archæological Society, and is grateful to him for so kindly undertaking this important piece of work.

INDEX OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL PAPERS IN THE BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON ARCHÆOLOGICAL JOURNAL.

It was resolved at a Council meeting, that an index of all the articles in our Journal should be prepared and published, and that Mr. Bunce, Assistant Librarian of the Public Library, should be asked to prepare such an index. This has been done and a complete card index has been prepared, containing all the references in the Journal, including also the 3 volumes of the Society's Journal published prior to 1894. The question has not yet been decided by the Council as to whether the whole index should be published, or only the names of the chief articles and authors; the Council would be glad of some guidance from the members. The Journal continues to be published and is presented gratis to every member who has paid his subscription. The Treasurer informs us that there are several members whose subscriptions for two years are not paid, and therefore will not receive the Journal until this little formality is duly executed.

CONGRESS OF SOUTH-EASTERN UNION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES AND OCTOCENTENARY OF READING ABBEY.

During the past year two events of importance took place under the fostering care of this Society. In June last there was

held the Congress of the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies, at Reading, and your Society acted as hosts on this occasion, under the presidency of Professor Poulton, the directorship of your secretary, and the secretaryship of Mr. Arman, O.B.E. It involved a large amount of labour and responsibility, the raising of a fund of about £117, the arranging of excursions and lectures, the entertainment of visitors and delegates, and we are glad to say, that in the opinion of our guests, it was in every way most successful.

The Octocentenary of Reading Abbey on June 18th, was another important event promoted by your Society. Dr. Hurry was the originator of the celebration. The Mayor of Reading, Mr. Denys Eggington, threw himself heartily into the scheme, and Mr. Morley acted as treasurer. Subscriptions were invited for the erection of a memorial tablet to be placed as near as possible to the site of the tomb of Henry I. Mr. Howell, the present Mayor, designed a finely executed tablet, which was unveiled by the Dean of Winchester. Two Episodes written by your secretary were performed in the Abbey ruins, and during tea in the Forbury Gardens a concert of old English music was given. It was a very memorable occasion, and the thanks of the Society are due to all who took part in the celebration.

The Society regrets extremely the great loss it has sustained by the death of the Bishop of Reading, Vice-Patron, who passed away at the advanced age of 94 years, and also the Archdeacon of Berkshire, Vice-President, who took a keen interest in the welfare of the Society and often attended its meetings. We have also to mourn the death of Mr. Stilwell, of Yateley, one of our oldest members, of Mr. Heatley Noble, of Temple Combe, Henley, and of Mr. Skurray, of Abingdon, and beg to offer to their relatives our sympathy and condolence.

In conclusion your Council would desire to congratulate the Society on the fresh opportunities which its enlargement and its largely increased membership affords. It is no longer a small community concentrated in and near Reading, but one that extends its influence throughout the county and even beyond the borders of Berkshire. It should not confine itself to arranging a series of lectures, however valuable they may be, and a few excursions of the picnic variety with a little archæological flavour added; but its members are urged to undertake some

definite piece of research work, to add to the knowledge of the archæology of the county, and promote the real objects for which the Society was founded more than fifty years ago.

The adoption of the Report was moved by the President, and ordered to be placed on the minutes.

The Treasurer, Mr. Morley, then presented his Balance Sheet, which showed that the finances of the Society were in a very satisfactory condition, and thanks were accorded to him for his able management of the funds. The election of officers for the ensuing year then took place. The Right Hon. Lord Wyfold and the Marquis of Downshire were added to the list of Vice-Patrons, and the Master of Wellington and the Lord Gerald Wellesley to be Vice-Presidents.

The re-election of Mr. Keyser as President was proposed by the Hon. Secretary in eulogistic terms, who stated how fortunate the Society were in having such a genial and excellent President, who took so keen an interest in the welfare of the Association, and who promoted in every way its success. This was carried by acclamation. The name of Sir John Rickman Godlee was added to the Council. The President proposed the re-election of the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield as hon. secretary, who had guided the affairs of the Society for very many years, and without whose exertions and able management it would never have continued to exist. This vote was seconded in generous terms by Mr. H. Wright, one of the oldest members. Mr. Morley was re-elected treasurer, Mr. Ditchfield and Mr. J. Hautenville Cope editors of this Journal, and the following local secretaries:—Mr. C. O. Wright (Abingdon), Mr. A. R. Hutchinson (Wallingford), Mr. J. H. Cope (South-East Berkshire), Mr. J. Wesley Walker (Maidenhead), Mr. J. W. Walker, F.S.A. (East Hagbourne), and Mr. P. Williams (Hungerford).

A very interesting lecture on 'Book Plates, during four centuries,' was then delivered by Mr. Morley, who exhibited a large number reproduced as lantern slides on the screen, while part of his large collection were hung in the Hall. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to him, and also to Miss Baily, of Binfield, who kindly entertained the members to tea at the close of the proceedings.

Statement of Accounts, 1921.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance, Dec. 31st, 1920, Barclays Bank	58	16	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Subscriptions	87	6	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
By payments for									
Wallingford Excursion	11	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
Banbury Excursion	62	8	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goring, &c. Excursion	14	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Received for Teas	88	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Miss Bailly	2	6	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
A Petrocokino, Esq.	1	6	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mrs. Wedderburn	1	6	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Misses Cooper-Smith & Hissey	1	6	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mrs. Holden & Miss Walter	1	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
C. E. Keyser, Esq.	1	15	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Affiliation Fee Reading Society of Architects	9	1	11	...	...	...	...	...	...
	3	3	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Printing, &c., General Journal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hire of Lantern	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Subscriptions:	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
University College	3	3	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Caretaker	10	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
S.E. Union Scientific Societies	10	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Society Protection Ancient Buildings	1	1	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Buttery, University College, for Teas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abingdon Branch	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Expenses for Excursions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
To Wallingford	9	16	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
To Banbury	64	3	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
To Goring, &c.	7	16	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
Reading Abbey Octocentenary	81	15	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
Postages, Stationery, &c.	4	12	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Balance at Barclays Bank	4	15	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cash with Hon. Treasurer	50	10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	5	19	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
	56	9	11	...	...	...	...	...	...
	£246	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...

H. T. MORLEY, HON. TREASURER.

Audited and found correct,

**T. ROWLAND KENT, HON. AUDITOR,
4 CROSS STREET**

March 30th, 1922.

4 CROSS STREET, READING.