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ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the Berkshire Archæological Society, which was largely attended by the members of the Society, was held on Saturday, April 17th, at Reading University. The President, Mr. C. E. Keyser, F.S.A., occupied the chair.

After the reading of the Minutes of the last meeting, the President called upon the Hon. Secretary to read the Annual Report which was unanimously adopted.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. T. Morley, presented the Statement of Accounts and proposed its adoption, which was unanimously carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Hon. Secretary proposed the re-election of Mr. Keyser as President ; this was carried with acclamation. The President then proposed the re-election of the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer and of the Vice-Presidents, who were all unanimously re-elected. The Council were all re-elected and it was agreed to add the following gentlemen to the Council : Mr. R. R. Hutchinson, Major Laffan and Mr. P. Williams. Mr. Ditchfield and Mr. J. Hautenville Cope were once again elected as editors of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal, and the Hon. Local Secretaries were re-appointed. After the formal business of the Annual Meeting had been completed, Mrs. Cope gave a very interesting lecture on "Heraldry" and used a set of lantern slides to explain many of the points to which she desired to draw her audience's attention. A vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by Mr. P. Williams, seconded by Sir Edward Barry, Bart., F.S.A., and carried without dissent.

At the conclusion of the Meeting the Members of the Society were entertained to tea by Mr. H. G. Willink.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1925-26.

ON behalf of the Council the Hon. Secretary begs to present his Report of the Proceedings of the Society during the past year. No unusual events have occurred of much importance during its course, and no archæological discoveries have been made, or excavation work attempted. By lectures and excursions to places of historic interest the Society has endeavoured to spread the knowledge of the antiquities of the County and to promote the objects for which it was founded more than half a century ago.

In the first place we desire to offer to the Principal, Governors and Officials of Reading University College our cordial congratulations on its incorporation by Royal Charter, and on the College being raised to the dignity and status of a University. For many years the Society has been permitted to make its headquarters at the College, and has received at all times the kindest welcome. We trust that this pleasant association may be allowed to continue, and we wish that Reading University may enjoy a career of unbounded prosperity and success.

We desire to call attention to the completion of a great work by one of our members, Mr. J. W. Walker, F.S.A., who has personally visited every parish in the County and recorded the Church Plate possessed by each. This is a most valuable accomplishment, and arrangements will be made shortly for the publication of the work so thoroughly and laboriously compiled.

The passing away of the beloved Queen Alexandra, the mother of H.M. The King, our Patron, was marked by a letter of respectful sympathy and condolence sent to His Majesty, and the Secretary of State wrote to thank the Society for the loyal and dutiful message which had been laid before the King, who expressed his thanks for our sympathy.

The usual number of lectures and excursions has been made.

LECTURES.

At the last Annual Meeting, on April 25th, 1925, Mr. Llewelyn Treacher, F.G.S., lectured on 'Some Human Remains found near Marlow,' and Miss Lawes transported us to Egypt,

where she had taken part in excavation work under the superintendence of Professor Petrie, the great Egyptologist, who lent her some valuable slides for the occasion.

On October 31st the President lectured on architectural notes on the Churches of Kelmscott, Little Faringdon, Langford, Bradwell, Kencott and Broughton Pogges, illustrated by a large number of lantern slides specially taken for the occasion.

On November 21st Sir Aubrey Strahan, F.R.S., delivered a learned lecture on 'The Geology of the Thames Valley,' illustrated by maps and drawings.

On December 19th Mr. E. W. Dormer gave a valuable lecture on 'The Conservation of Local Portable Antiquities.'

On January 30th, 1926, Mr. E. Reginald Taylor, F.S.A., Hon. Secretary of the British Archæological Association, lectured on 'An Archæologist in Malta,' illustrated by slides.

On February 20th Mr. P. M. Johnston, F.S.A., was announced to lecture on 'Wall-paintings with special reference to examples of St. Christopher,' but he was prevented by illness from coming, and Dr. J. E. Morris gave a charming lecture on 'Historic Sites with their associations.'

On March 17th a very interesting lecture was given by Mr. G. C. Druce, F.S.A., Hon. Secretary of the Kent Archæological Society, on 'The Bestiary and its Influence on Architecture,' illustrated by slides made from his own photographs, which much delighted a large audience.

At this Annual Meeting Mr. Cope will lecture on 'Heraldry.'

The cordial thanks of the Society are due to these ladies and gentlemen for their valuable lectures, which, in interest, have scarcely been surpassed by any series of lectures which have been delivered during the long history of the Society. The grateful thanks of the Society are due to the ladies and gentlemen who have entertained the Society to tea on the occasion of the lectures. These are Miss Bailly, who acted as hostess on two occasions, Mrs. Ditchfield, the President and Mrs. Keyser, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Walker, Mr. Philip Williams, Mrs. Holden and Miss Walker, Mrs. Harrison-Jones and Mrs. Benton, and, at this meeting, Mr. Willink.

EXCURSIONS.

Two excursions have taken place during the year.

(i) On June 25th, when the Society visited Ockwells, Bray, by the kind invitation of Sir Edward Barry, Bart., and Hurley Place by the kind invitation of Major and Mrs. Rivers-Moore, who hospitably entertained the members to tea.

(ii) On August 20th and 21st the members made a tour into Buckinghamshire, staying the night at Aylesbury. Many members joined the excursion. The churches visited were described by the President and the historic houses by your Secretary. The Mayor of Aylesbury held a reception in the evening. Both excursions were most interesting and enjoyable, and were arranged by our Treasurer and Excursion Secretary, Mr. Morley.

THE JOURNAL.

The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal continues to be published, and it has been decided to transfer the publishing of it from Mr. Blackwell of Oxford to Messrs. Bradley of Reading, after the issue of the next number. It is presented gratis to every subscriber of 10/-.

THE LIBRARY.

The members may be unaware that the Society possesses a Library. Since the abandonment of Abbey Gate it has been housed at the College in a somewhat inconvenient place beneath the College Library, where it is of little use. The Council suggested that it should be loaned to the Public Library at Reading, but this the authorities of the Library have declined. They would accept the books as a gift, but not the bookcase. As the books are the property of the whole Society, the Council cannot dispose of them without the consent of the members. There are some valuable books. The future of the Library is still under the consideration of the Council. The Gates of the Oracle have been presented to the Museum, and a number of copies of the *Journal of the R.I.B.A.* have been given to the Berkshire Branch of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Architectural Association.

PRIZES FOR ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS.

These have been awarded to architectural students of the Berks Branch of the R.I.B.A. Mr. Willcocks, who manages this competition, is absent at Rome.

No other matter of importance has arisen during the past year. Owing to Mr. Morley's able management of the finances, our affairs are in a prosperous condition, showing a balance in hand of £239. Any suggestions from individual members with regard to the future work of the Society would be cordially welcomed by the Council, and offers of assistance in the way of reading papers at the meetings of the Society, superintending excavations, making fresh discoveries and researches, and contributing notes to the *Journal* would be of material assistance, and would greatly aid your officials in carrying out the duties which devolve upon our Association and in promoting the objects for which it was incorporated more than half a century ago.

STATEMENT OF

ACCOUNTS, 1925.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance from 1924	...	...	199	9	9	
Subscriptions	...	126	2	11		
Life Subscription	...	5	5	0		
			131	7	11	
Affiliation Fees:						
Reading Society of Architects	...	3	3	0		
Wallingford Literary Society	...	10	0			
			3	13	0	
For Teas:						
Mesdames Palmer and Foot	...	2	1	3		
Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Williams...	...	2	9	6		
Mesdames Cornish and Cabot	...	2	2	0		
Mrs. Ditchfield and Miss Bailly	...	1	15	3		
Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Keyser	...	2	15	6		
Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Walker	...	1	9	3		
Mr. Philip Williams	...	1	4	9		
			13	17	6	

Excursions:

Ockwells House, Cookham, &c.	...	33	12	6	
Buckinghamshire	...	53	16	0	
		87	8	6	
Balance from South Eastern Branch, per Col.					
Jeffreys	11	13	1
Bank Interest	1	11
Repaid on Prizes	1	0

Number of Members end of 1925 :
 237 at 10/- 82 at 5/-
 Subscriptions owing end of 1925 :
 31 at 10/- 12 at 5/-

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Printing, General	...	18	9	3		
" Journal	...	81	1	9		
			99	11	0	
Hire of Lantern	...	...	...	3	15	0
Subscriptions, &c.:						
University College	...	3	3	0		
Caretaker...	...	10	6			
S.E. Union Scientific Societies	...	15	0			
Society of Antiquaries	...	1	0	0		
" Reports	...	2	5	0		
			7	13	6	
Excursions:						
Cookham, &c.	...	27	8	0		
Buckinghamshire	...	49	9	10		
			76	17	10	
Buttery, University College, for Teas...	...	...	14	16	0	
Prizes for Measured Drawings	...	...	2	3	0	
Postages, Telegrams, &c. ...	...	...	...	3	2	9
Balance at Barclays Bank:						
On Deposit Account	...	200	0	0		
On Current Account	...	38	11	7		
In hands of Treasurer	...	1	2	0		
			239	13	7	
			£477	12	8	

H. T. MORLEY, *Hon. Treasurer.* January 27th, 1926.
 Audited and found correct,
 T. ROWLAND KENT, *Hon. Auditor,*
 4, CROSS STREET, READING.