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ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the Society was held on Saturday, April 30th, when the President, Mr. C. E. Keyser, F.S.A., took the Chair.

The Annual Report and Treasurer's Statement of Accounts were presented and adopted, and the Council and Officers chosen for the ensuing year.

After the usual routine business had been concluded, Mr. J. E. Morris, D.Litt., gave a lecture on "Norman Castles," illustrated by a series of slides, some of which were prepared from photographs which he had taken.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1926-27.

THE Council and Hon. Secretary have the honour to present their Annual Report for the year 1926-7.

The Society has been able in spite of strikes and labour troubles to carry out its usual programme without let or hindrance, holding its meetings and excursions to places of historic interest. It has not been able to undertake any excavation work, and the Council would welcome any proposal from members, or offers of assistance in regard to superintending such work in case any such opportunity should present itself.

The Society desires to express its cordial congratulations to the University of Reading on having attained that high distinction for which the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and other gentlemen have striven so constantly and perseveringly for several years past. In spite of discouragements they continued to press the claims of the College, and obtained their reward in the granting of the Charter and in the birth of the new University. We also beg to thank the University for permitting the Society to use its buildings as our headquarters for the holding of our meetings and for the storing of our books as aforetime.

MEETINGS AND EXCURSIONS.

At the last Annual Meeting on April 17th, 1926, a learned lecture was delivered by Mrs. Cope on 'Heraldry,' of which subject she has made a close study. On October 27th the President delivered one of his excellent lectures on the churches of Berkshire and neighbouring counties, under the title of 'Architectural Notes on the Churches of Shinfield, Arborfield, Barkham, Finchampstead and Yateley,' the lecture being illustrated by a charming series of lantern slides specially prepared for the occasion. The clergy and other inhabitants of the villages whose shrines had been described were present and expressed their grateful thanks to the President for his lecture.

On November 20th Mrs. Holden delivered her extraordinarily interesting lecture on her travels with the International Congress of Archæological Societies through Syria, Palestine, and

Transjordanian, illustrated by a valuable series of lantern slides, which was greatly appreciated by all the members who were privileged to hear it.

On December 18th Mr. Dodgson gave a valuable lecture on Conques, one of the prominent places of mediæval pilgrimage in France, illustrated by some splendid slides, and Mr. Maryon, of Reading University, further described some of the artistic treasures of the French town.

On January 29th, 1927, the Society was privileged to hear again a lecture from Mr. P. M. Johnston, F.S.A., on 'Mural Paintings in Churches, especially of the Martyrdom of St. Thomas of Canterbury,' illustrated by a large number of lantern slides and cartoons of wall-paintings.

On February 26th Mr. J. W. Walker, F.S.A., lectured on 'The Recent Excavations of the Priory of St. Mary Magdalene of Monk Bretton, Yorkshire.' Mr. Walker had been engaged on the excavations for three years and his account of his work was especially interesting to the members.

On March 26th Major C. Noel Rivers-Moore gave an important lecture on a somewhat neglected subject in the study of architecture, namely, 'Dovecotes,' which was greatly appreciated by a large audience.

During the summer two excursions were held.

(i) On June 10th the Society visited Old Windsor and Eton College, where they were welcomed by the Provost, Dr. James, who conducted the party round the College and entertained them to tea in the College Hall.

(ii) On September 3rd and 4th the Society spent two days at Guildford and its neighbourhood, staying the night at the Lion Hotel. The members visited all the churches and historic buildings in the town and neighbourhood, including the interesting mansions of Lowsley Park and Sutton Place described by your Hon. Secretary. The Mayor and Mayoress entertained the company to a Reception in the Town Hall and arranged an exhibition of Municipal Plate, in which Guildford is especially rich.

The Society owes a great debt of gratitude to those ladies and gentlemen who have kindly entertained the members to tea on the occasion of lectures or excursions. These include the following: Mr. Willink, the President and Mrs. Keyser, Mrs. Holden and Miss Walker, Mr. and Miss Jebb of Bucklebury, Miss Baily of Binfield, Miss Amphlett of Eversley, Mrs. Ditchfield and Miss Mary Monk-Smith, Dr. James, Provost of Eton, and, at the close of this present meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Morley. The Society is most grateful to those ladies and gentlemen who have been good enough to act as hosts and hostesses, and also to the ladies and gentlemen who have delivered lectures before the Society, whose names have already been recorded, and to your Hon. Excursion Secretary for his admirable arrangements.

PUBLICATIONS.

The great work by Mr. J. W. Walker, F.S.A., on the Church Plate of Berkshire has been accomplished. The author has visited every parish in the County, examined, taken notes and weighed every piece of Church Plate in Berkshire, assisted by one of his daughters. It has been a gigantic undertaking. The volume is now in print and ready for issue. It is rather disappointing to learn that the number of subscribers is lamentably small, and, although the author did not anticipate any profit to be derived from the book, we fear the loss will be considerable unless more subscribers can be obtained. Your Society voted £20 for the cost of the prospectus, and has subscribed for two copies.

Mr. Walker has produced another book, an account of the valuable work he accomplished in excavating the Priory of St. Mary Magdalene of Monk Bretton, Yorkshire. He has also written the history of the Priory which entailed much research, and we know not which has been the heaviest work, the excavating the buried walls or the digging out monastic records.

We must congratulate my colleague, Mr. John Hautenville Cope, on his appointment as Editor and Secretary of the Oxfordshire Record Society. The first volume since his appointment

has been issued. *The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal* continues to be published, two parts each year. Amongst other valuable papers that are appearing are those of Dr. Grundy's 'Berkshire Charters.' Mr. H. T. Morley has issued a useful little guide to Bray Church.

Another member of our Society has written a very charming book on her travels in Spain. The author is Miss Carleton Williams, who has been travelling in Castille, and her book is entitled 'The Lure of Castille,' a book that will attract many readers. Another volume by your Hon. Secretary has been added to his list of books, one entitled 'The Story of the City Companies of London.'

THE LOCAL HISTORY RECORDING SCHEME

founded under the auspices of the Society by the Director, Mr. C. B. Willcocks, F.R.I.B.A., continues to flourish. A satisfactory report was read at the March meeting; many valuable records have been obtained; its finances have been placed on a sound basis, and its future is assured.

THE LIBRARY.

The location of the Library has been causing some anxiety to the Council. At present the books are stored in a dark place beneath the Library of the University, where reading and study is impossible. At last by the kindness of Mr. Sacret a room has been secured within the University buildings, which will be available for members. The thanks of the Society are due to Mr. Morley, Mr. Dodgson and Mr. Sacret for the trouble they have taken in regard to this matter, and to the Authorities of the University for the housing of the volumes.

OBITUARY.

During the year the Society has lost the services of Mr. A. Petrocokino with deep regret. He was a personal friend of many of our members, had been a member of the Council for many years, and had lectured on two occasions, recording his travels in Peru amongst the ruins of the Incas, and during the war in Cashmere.

Another loss has been the passing of the veteran antiquary, Mr. Walter Money, F.S.A., who has done so much in the study of the antiquities of Berkshire, especially in the neighbourhood of Newbury. A memoir by your Secretary has appeared in the *Journal*. We have also to regret the death of Lady Ystwyth of Sandhurst Lodge, who was a Life Member, Mr. Henry Wright, an old member who used constantly to attend our meetings, and Mrs. Shrubsole, the widow of a learned antiquary, Mr. Shrubsole, who had written much on Pre-history ; Mrs. Shrubsole often attended our meetings and frequently entertained the members to tea.

[Since this report was in the 'press,' the Society has with very great regret to record the death of Professor Carleton Williams, who had been for many years a member of our Council. Before settling at Goring, Mr. Williams held the position of Professor of Chemistry at Sheffield University. After resigning his professorship he purchased a house at Goring and took a great interest in local antiquities. Mr. Williams as well as his wife and daughter were constant attendants at our meetings and excursions, and his genial presence will be much missed by his colleagues. Besides serving on our Council he was also a member of the Council of the British Archæological Association and was a very regular attendant at its meetings and conferences. Our sympathies go out to his widow and daughter.]

PRIZES FOR ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS.

These have been awarded as in previous years for the encouragement of students, under the management of Mr. Willcocks. Five drawings were submitted to the judges. The first prize was awarded to J. W. Turner, and the second to R. P. Walden.

THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE SOCIETY.

The Report of the Hon. Treasurer, who so ably manages our finances, has been published. This shows that, in spite of the large cost incurred by the publishing of the *Journal* and presenting it free to the members, there is a balance in hand of £32 10s. 2d.

The number of members is 323. This shows a decrease since last year, but that is caused by striking off the names of those who, in spite of the numerous applications of our Treasurer, have not paid their subscriptions. It is earnestly requested that subscriptions should be paid at the beginning of each year in January or by Banker's Order.

Since this report was read I desire to add the following important architectural events. We should express our cordial congratulations to the Dean of Windsor on his accomplishment of a great work: the saving of one of the most notable triumphs of Perpendicular Architecture in the kingdom, the noble Chapel of St. George at Windsor. But for the Dean's exertions, his raising of a vast sum of money and his own personal sacrifice, this splendid Chapel, which ranks with that of King's College, Cambridge, and Henry VII's Chapel at Westminster, might have fallen. All lovers of architecture owe the Dean, his architects and assistants a profound debt of gratitude.

The other item is a record of destruction—the taking down of the beautiful bridge at Abingdon, a magnificent Fourteenth Century structure, the last of the old Thames Bridges. Mr. Preston, Mr. d'Almaine and other antiquarians at Abingdon did their best to save the bridge, but their efforts were in vain, and we have to deplore a great loss.

Your Secretary was invited by the Mayor of Abingdon to join a Committee to consider the repair of the County Hall in that town. He attended a meeting presided over by the Earl of Abingdon to inaugurate the work which has now been accomplished.

Nothing further needs to be recorded in this Report. We should be glad to welcome any offers of help from the members in the way of personal effort in research work, in giving lectures or contributing to the *Journal*, and thus promoting the objects for which Society was founded, and for which it still exists.

P. H. DITCHFIELD,
Hon. Secretary.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1926.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance from 1925	...	39 13 7	Printing, General	...	...
Subscriptions ...	...	126 19 8	" Journal:	...	...
Reading Society of Architects (1925 and 1926)	...	6 6 0	B. Blackwell ...	174 6 10	
Oxford Ladies Brass Rubbing Society	...	1 5 0	Bradley & Son, Ltd.	63 19 3	
For Teas:					238 6 1
Mrs. Holden and Miss Walter	1 2 9		Hire of Lantern ...	...	...
Miss Bailly	1 14 0		Subscriptions:	...	...
Mrs. Benton and Mrs. Harrison-Jones	1 13 2		Reading University	...	3 3 0
Mr. H. G. Willink	2 7 6		Caretakers	...	10 6
Mr. and Mrs. Keyser	2 18 9		Local History Recording Scheme,	...	...
Mrs. Holden	2 9 0		two years...	...	4 4 0
Mr. and Miss Jebb	1 17 9		Ditto, donation	...	3 3 0
		14 2 11	Place Name Society	...	15 0
Excursions:			S.E. Union Scientific Societies	...	15 0
Eton, Bray, &c.	31 8 6		Expenses for Lecturers	...	12 10 6
Guildford, &c.	54 17 6		Buttery (University) for Teas	...	1 19 6
		86 6 0	Excursions:	...	14 3 0
1 Journal	...	3 0	Eton, Bray, &c.	...	22 17 1
Repaid on Prizes	...	9 0	Guildford, &c.	...	53 2 11
Interest on Deposit Account	...	3 7 4			76 0 0
		278 12 6	Prizes for Measured Drawings	...	3 12 0
		120 0 0	Postages, &c. ...	...	2 18 9
From Deposit Account	...		Balance in hand	...	32 10 2
		£398 12 6			£398 12 6

Members 323.

On Deposit at Messrs. Barclays Bank	CAPITAL.
On Current Account	...

H. T. MORLEY, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Audited and found correct,

T. ROWLAND KENT, Hon. Auditor,

April 8th, 1927.

4, CROSS STREET, READING.