

Berkshire Architectural Records Committee.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.

THIS second Annual Report of the Berkshire Architectural Records Committee covers the period from January 1st to December 31st, 1942.

During the year the Executive Committee held 5 meetings and the following records were obtained :—

<i>Ecclesiastical Buildings.</i>	<i>No. of different views, etc.</i>	<i>Total No. of prints, etc.</i>
Photographs	669	1349
Church Guides and Histories ..	4	5
Measured drawings	3	6
	<hr/> 676	<hr/> 1360
<i>Secular Buildings.</i>		
Photographs	568	1118
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ..	1244	2478
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Negatives	682	
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The number of photographs received—1237—was less than the 1395 photographs obtained last year ; as, however, the photographs obtained in 1941 included over 300 from existing negatives and few such photographs were received in 1942, more new photographs have been sent in by our helpers this year than last. In addition to those received, over 700 other photographs have been taken since the formation of the Committee of which prints will come in later.

During 1942 considerably more photographs of secular buildings were received and there was a good increase in the number of negatives deposited, as during the previous year only 136 negatives had been sent in, apart from the three Collections given to the Committee.

Since the formation of the Committee 79 helpers have undertaken to take photographs, or otherwise assist in obtaining records, but 23 have had to resign, owing to their having joined H.M. Forces, left the district, or for other reasons, and at the end of last year the helpers numbered 56, an increase of 13 in the year. Additional photographic helpers are still required, especially in the South-West of the county. It is hoped that all who can do so will assist, as much remains to be done, not only in completing the church records, but also in connection with the large number of secular buildings which should be photographed. Offers to organize work in different parts of the county will be of great assistance.

Materials are still difficult to obtain, but the National Buildings Record has made arrangements whereby materials are available for the use of recognized Architectural Records Committees.

During the past year National Buildings Record photographers have taken views of a number of Berkshire buildings. It is hoped to get prints of these negatives shortly.

In September a very successful Exhibition was held at the Art Gallery at Reading of photographs taken by the Committee's helpers and the National Buildings Record, and of measured drawings. The Exhibition was originated and organized by Mr. A. T. Clarke. It was visited by about 1,000 people each week and aroused considerable interest in the work of the Committee.

During the year Mr. E. A. Ketteringham gave two lantern lectures on photographic recording. The slides, which were specially prepared to show how record photographs should be taken, Mr. Ketteringham will be pleased to lend to anyone who would like to use them for lecture purposes.

An illustrated letter on the Exhibition was published in "Country Life" in October and letters on the work of the Committee have appeared in "The Field" and several other Journals.

With regard to the depositories to which the records are sent. It was originally arranged to keep the local copies of the ecclesiastical records at Oxford, as that city is the ecclesiastical centre of the Diocese. As there is now a Bishop of Reading and it will be more convenient to keep these records in Berkshire, it has been decided to do so and the Berkshire County Council has kindly allowed the photographs to be deposited at the Shire Hall, Reading, where the local collection of photographs of secular buildings is also kept. The second copies of all ecclesiastical photographs are sent to the Central Council for the Care of Churches for inclusion in its National Collection and the second copies of all secular photographs to the Courtauld Institute of Art. All negatives are sent to Reading Museum, for inclusion in its valuable collection of local negatives.

A Constitution for the Committee has been drawn up recently, copies of which have been sent to all members of the General Committee and helpers.

With reference to finance. As will be seen from the accounts, the sum of £47 2s. 4d. was received in donations, etc., including a small balance brought forward from the previous year, and £37 16s. 2½d. was paid out in expenses, leaving a balance at the end of the year of £9 6s. 1½d. Most of this balance, however, will be required to pay for prints of some 700 photographs of which the Committee hopes to obtain the loan of the negatives shortly and funds will be required also to pay for materials for helpers, etc. It is hoped that the Committee will receive sufficient financial support to enable it to carry on successfully the important work it has undertaken.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity of thanking the different Societies and helpers to whose assistance in various ways the success of the work is due :—

Miss Beach, for the continued help she has given in indexing and looking out the negatives in the Berkshire Archaeological Society's Collection.

Mr. Clarke, for his work in connection with the Exhibition at the Art Gallery.

Mr. Padley, for indexing the Taunt Negatives, and

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Auditor, Hon. Secretary and members of the Executive Committee.

The Committee also wishes to express its gratitude to all the helpers who have taken photographs, or in other ways furthered the work, and so ensured such a satisfactory result.