

The Berkshire Archæological Society.

Patron :

H.M. THE KING.

Report of the Council for the Year 1949.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held at the University of Reading on Saturday, 9th April, 1949, with the President, Sir Frank Stenton, in the Chair. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 3rd April, 1948, were read and approved. The Council's Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1948 were read and adopted.

The following honorary officers were duly elected :—

President : SIR FRANK STENTON, M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A.

Vice-Presidents : HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.
THE RT. REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD.
THE RT. REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF READING.
THE VERY REV. H. S. D. CRANAGE, F.S.A.
THE RT. HON. LORD ILIFFE OF YATTENDON.
SIR RALPH GLYN, M.P.
SIR JOHN COCKCROFT, C.B.E., F.R.S.
SIR EDWARD BARRY, Bart.
THE RT. WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF READING.
MISS A. BAILY, F.Z.S.
H. T. MORLEY, J.P., F.R.Hist.S.
COL. C. N. RIVERS-MOORE.
P. S. SPOKES, M.A., F.S.A.

Editor of the Society's Journal :

E. M. JOPE, M.A., F.S.A.

Librarian : S. H. HORROCKS, F.L.A.

Excursion Secretaries : COL. C. N. RIVERS-MOORE.
MISS M. M. SWADLING, F.L.A.

Field Work Secretary : A. E. P. COLLINS, B.A.

Secretary & Treasurer : F. M. UNDERHILL, F.S.A.

Assistant Secretary : MISS M. M. SWADLING, F.L.A.

Hon. Auditor : T. L. SKINNER.

COUNCIL.

In accordance with Rule 5, the following members retired and offered themselves for re-election : M. LE SUEUR, H. J. MORRISH. These members were re-elected. The following new members were elected to the Council : A. G. SHIRREFF, W. J. BARKUS and W. J. ROBERTS.

MEMBERSHIP.		<i>Life</i>	<i>Ordinary</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Resignations</i>	<i>Total</i>
31 Dec. 1948	.. ..	3	387	—	—	390
Gains & Losses during 1949	1	68	11	22	—	36
31 Dec. 1949	.. ..	4	455	11	22	426

OBITUARY.

We have to record with regret the deaths of the following : Sir Edward Barry, Baronet, who was, for over 50 years, a subscribing member to the Society and a vice-President. The Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge, Mrs. S. Coles, Mrs. H. Bean Hall, Mrs. Halley, Miss D. G. Halley, Mrs. H. C. Hardesty, The Rev. E. E. Hasluck, Miss M. Morison, Mrs. L. L. Norsworthy, F.R.Hist.S., Mr. A. Saxon-Snell.

FINANCE OF THE SOCIETY.

While we can record with satisfaction the increase in the membership and the wider interest taken in our work during the year, our accounts show a deficit of £5 15s. 9d. This is due to the unexpected extra cost of printing Vol. 50 of the Journal, and steps are being taken to avoid such a heavy expenditure on one issue in the future. The net cost for each copy of this Journal was over 16/-. It is considered, however, that the result was very well worth the extra expense, this issue being our 50th Volume. We have had an additional outlay also in fitting up a new room at Watlington House as a research room and store for our records and spare Journals, and the rent we pay for this accommodation has been increased. We have had to reduce our annual grant to the Excavation Fund to £25, but a most successful appeal was made to the general public by the Director of Reading Museum, and as a result, this side of our accounts closes the year with a substantial credit balance. It is regretted that 39 subscriptions from members remained unpaid at the end of the year, amounting to £32.

DONATIONS.

Thanks are due to the following who have given donations amounting to £14 10s. 0d. to the Society during the year.

List of Donations, 1949

Boro' of Reading (for Arch. Records Scheme)	..	..	4	4	0
Berks Society of Architects	..	..	3	3	0
The Duke of Wellington	..	..	1	1	0
Mrs. Dorothy Loyd	..	..	1	0	0
The Royal Library, Windsor	..	..	1	0	0
Mr. & Mrs. P. S. Spokes	..	..	1	0	0
Miss M. Tomkinson	..	..	1	0	0
Miss Margaret Spokes	..	..		10	0
Mrs. E. Holden	..	..		8	6
Miss K. Macaulay	..	..		8	6
Miss Hopkins	..	..		7	6
Mrs. Mole	..	..		7	6

£14 10 0

RESIGNATION OF MR. H. T. MORLEY AS HON. SECRETARY.

A successful appeal was issued for a testimonial to the retiring Hon. Secretary, resulting in the presentation of a cheque for £50 and a bound copy of Banister Fletcher's *History of Architecture* to Mr. Morley by Miss A. Baily at an Extraordinary General Meeting held at Watlington House on the 19th March.

PUBLICATIONS.

"*The Armorial Glass of the Oxford Diocese*" by E. A. Greening Lamborn was published for the Society by the Oxford University Press in July. This was made possible by a grant of £200 from the Pilgrim Trustees. This book has been well received and widely reviewed in various learned publications. At least one other County Society is contemplating the production of a work on similar lines. It is regretted, however, that the application for copies at a specially reduced rate for members of the Society was less than had been expected.

Vol. 50 of *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal* (1947) was issued in July, and there has been a steady demand for it and for off-prints of the various papers contained in it. No. 5 of *The Guides to Berkshire Churches—Faringdon Church*—has been issued under the Editorship of Mr. P. S. Spokes.

EDITORSHIP OF THE JOURNAL.

We offer our congratulation to Mr. E. M. Jope, our Hon. Editor 1948-49, upon his appointment to the lectureship in Archaeology at Queen's University, Belfast. An Editorial Committee has now been appointed consisting of Mr. P. S. Spokes, Mr. S. H. Horrocks and Miss M. M. Swadling. The material for Vol. 51 is at present in the printers' hands, and an Index is planned for the last 25 Volumes of the Journal. Owing to the financial deficit it has been found necessary to make Vol. 51 a double volume for 1948 and 1949. Unless the financial situation improves it may be necessary to issue a Journal every other year instead of annually as at present.

FIELD WORK.

The Third Season's work on Blewburton Hill was successfully completed in August under the direction of Mr. W. A. Smallcombe and Mr. A. E. P. Collins. The main entrance to the hill-fort was examined in detail and many human, animal and other remains were discovered. A full account will be given to the Society in February, 1950, and it is hoped that we may publish this in the Journal.

During the year, the Reading Museum staff carried out investigations on a Roman site at Altwood Bailey, Maidenhead; on a mound near Caesar's Camp, Easthampstead, and on a riverside site near Moultsford.

Mr. H. J. Morrish and Mr. D. B. Connah uncovered part of the late Saxon burial ground at Kintbury and later discovered a new Roman site in that parish, which they hope to explore in more detail during 1950.

Following the find of a hoard of Stuart gold coins at Lye Farm, Lambourn, Mr. P. H. Sellwood made further investigations on the site and recovered more coins. His description of this work, with an account of the hoard, will be published in Vol. 51 of The Journal.

Miss A. Mills excavated a portion of the Field system on Streatley Warren, and a brief account of this work is also being published in Vol. 51.

THE WOODEN EFFIGIES IN SPARSHOLT CHURCH.

Mr. A. G. Shirreff, a member of our Council, directed some efforts in the work of preserving these unique figures, towards which the Society subscribed £10. The work was carried out by Messrs. Elliott of Caversham, and it is hoped that as a result of the treatment they have received they will last for many centuries more. Mr. Shirreff and the Hon. Secretary visited the other wooden effigies in the County, at Englefield, Burghfield and Barkham, and except for the Burghfield figure, they report the others are in a good state. Recommendations have been made to the Burghfield Church Council for restoring the figures in their Church.

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGY.

A representative of the Council has attended meetings both of the Central Council in London and No. 9 Regional Group at Oxford. The Annual Meeting of the 9th Regional Group was held in Reading on 10th September, under the chairmanship of Col. C. N. Rivers-Moore.

COUNTY RECORDS.

A most successful start has been made with the new County Record Office under the direction of Mr. Felix Hull at the Shire Hall. A County Meeting was held in the University Hall on 19th October at which our President, Sir Frank Stenton spoke. An Exhibition of Berkshire Records was held after this Meeting.

BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE.

The Local History Recording Scheme held its Annual Meeting before our Meeting on 12th March; the Chairman, Mr. P. S. Spokes, presided. The Hon. Director, Mr. C. B. Willcocks, read the annual Report for 1948 and announced the change of name as above.

EXHIBITIONS.

In connection with the Report on the 1948 Excavations on Blewburton Hill, the Director of Reading Museum arranged a special exhibition of the finds in the Galleries of the Museum from January 1st-20th. An evening meeting was held in the Museum on January 13th, when the exhibits were demonstrated.

The Public Libraries Committee held a Local History Exhibition in the Art Gallery of Reading Museum from 4th to 16th April. The exhibits were arranged by Mr. S. H. Horrocks and Miss M. M. Swadling, and the display was opened by our President, Sir Frank Stenton.

The Windsor & Eton Society held an Exhibition of Bygone Windsor in Windsor Town Hall, from 18th-25th June. The selection of the exhibits was under the direction of our members, Mr. M. F. Bond and Miss M. Curtis and the exhibition was opened by Sir Owen Morshead, Librarian to H.M. The King.

The model of Hurley priory has been on view in the Reading Art Gallery during the Christmas holidays. This model has also been exhibited for ten days at Attingham Hall, Shrewsbury, where it was seen by all the schools of the district and by many others. Lectures on it were given by Col. Rivers-Moore.

WATLINGTON HOUSE ROOM.

Reference has already been made to the Society's new room. The records and spare Journals are now more accessible, and the sales of back numbers of the Journal during the year have been very satisfactory.

HOSPITALITY.

Our grateful thanks are due to the following members who have kindly provided tea after lectures:

Miss A. Baily (2)
Mrs. Dawson and Miss Field
Mrs. Treacher
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Barkus
The Mayor and Mayoress of Reading
The Misses I. G. & D. G. Halley

The Society is again greatly indebted to the Vice-Chancellor and Council of the University of Reading for provision of accommodation for the meetings of the Society.

LECTURES.

The following lectures have been delivered during the year:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Jan. 15th | <i>The Study of Architectural History.</i> Howard Colvin, M.A.
(Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford). |
| Feb. 19th | <i>Archaeology from the Air in the Thames Valley.</i> D. N. Riley, Esq. |
| Mar. 12th | <i>Lynchets.</i> Dr. C. S. Orwin, M.A., D.Litt. |
| Mar. 19th | <i>A Visit to Chartres and the Pre-Historic Paintings in the Lascaux Cave.</i> Mrs. E. Holden. |
| Apr. 9th | <i>Feudal Berkshire.</i> Sir Frank Stenton, M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A. |
| July 23rd | <i>The Second Season of Excavations on Blewburton Hill.</i> W. A. Smallcombe, B.Sc. (Director of Reading Museum) & A. E. P. Collins, B.A. |
| Oct. 8th | <i>Reading in the Sixteenth Century.</i> Miss M. Maplesden, M.A. |
| Nov. 12th | <i>Papers of the Aldworth-Neville Families of Stanlake and Billingbear.</i> Felix Hull, B.A. |
| Dec. 3rd | <i>Letcombe Bassett.</i> Frederick T. Barrett, O.B.E. |

EXCURSIONS, 1949.

- April 26th Swyncombe, Ewelme, Brightwell Baldwin, Stadhampton, Culham House and Dorchester Abbey.
- May 7th-19th Congress to Shrewsbury and District. (See special Report following).
- June 10th Hurst, Waltham St. Lawrence, Shottesbrook, White Waltham and Bray.
- July 12th Aldbourne, Upham House, Lydiard Tregoze, Kingston Lisle, Sparsholt, Letcombe Bassett.
- Aug. 20th Aston Tirrold, Aston Upthorpe, Blewburton Hill Excavations.
- Sept. 12th Langley (Bucks), Harmondsworth, Bedford, Hampton Court Palace, Old Windsor Church.

Congress held at Attingham Hall, Shrewsbury.

May 17 - 19, 1949.

The 1949 Congress was held in Shropshire, the headquarters being at Attingham Hall, near Shrewsbury; the seat of Lord Berwick, this mansion is now used as a residential adult college. Arriving at Shrewsbury by train, the party of some 45 members were met by Mr. L. C. Lloyd (Hon. Sec. of the Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club) and our member, Miss Lily Chitty, F.S.A. A tour of the town commenced with the Castle, a building held by Roger de Montgomery after the Conquest. The present building dates mainly from the time of Edward I, and having seen service in the Welsh wars and the Gt. Rebellion, it was converted into a private house for Sir Wm. Pulteney by Thomas Telford, in 1790. Restored in 1924, it was presented to the town, and is now used for municipal purposes. Opposite stands the old Grammar School, attended by Charles Darwin in 1809, and from here members made their way to the water gate, the only remaining town gate, now known as Traitor's Gate following the loss of the town to Parliament in Feb. 1645, the Roundheads having gained admission through it. A short walk to St. Mary's Church followed, a building dating mainly from the 12th century, now remarkable for its old glass. There is a Jesse window given by Sir John de Charlton (d. 1353) and notable glass brought from Cologne and Treves. After noticing Draper's Hall opposite this Church, Butcher's Row was inspected with its medieval shops, and then Grope Lane, a narrow passage with timbered buildings either side, on the woodwork of which were many carpenters' and masons' marks visible. The site of old St. Chad's Church was passed, then followed a walk along the remaining portion of the town wall to The Quarry and new St. Chad's, "one of the most nobly conceived buildings of the Georgian epoch." After tea, Rowley's museum was visited and a brief survey of Shropshire Bronze Age material was given by Miss Chitty.

The party then left by coach for Haughmond Abbey, an Augustinian foundation dating from 1135, now in the custody of the Office of Works, and members examined with much interest excavations in progress at the east end of the ruined Church. The Chapter House doorway and other features were also examined under the direction of Mr. Lloyd. Attingham Park was next reached, where, after supper, the Warden, Mr. G. L. Trevelyan, B.A., gave some account of the house. Built on to the face of Tern Hall, a Queen Anne mansion belonging to the Hill family, the present building was designed by George Stuart in 1785, 1790, with some later additions by Nash. A tour was made of some of the State Rooms rich with Empire furniture and Napoleonic traditions, and some music from Col. and Mrs. Rivers-Moore concluded the day.

Wednesday, May 18th was bright and sunny, a happy contrast to the overcast Midland sky which had greeted the arrival at Shrewsbury. A coach tour commenced with the site of the Roman city of Uriconium, where a short account of the finds was given, and the museums and ruins inspected. The next stop was at Much Wenlock Abbey where an account of the building written by our Vice-President, Dr. D. H. S. Cranage, was read. Founded by Roger de Montgomery between 1071 and 1086, it was intended for the Benedictine order, but it became affiliated to Cluny, and thus remained an alien priory until 1395. There is little left of the Church, which had been over 350 ft. in length, but the south transept and remains of monastic buildings on that side, including the Farmery Hall, now the residence of the owner, Mrs. Lewis Motley, are of great beauty. Time also allowed inspection of the parish church and Guildhall. The drive proceeded through Bridgnorth to Ludlow, where lunch was taken en charabanc.

Ludlow was the most important castle on the Welsh border, and as Sir Charles Oman has reminded us, alone amongst all English castles it has its own medieval romance surviving; "The Geste of Fulk Fitzwarine," a 12th century story, tells of an adventurous and knightly family. Whilst an account of the building was given by a local guide some of the party ascended the Keep; and inspection was made of the round Chapel and the ruins of the great Hall, where Milton's "Comus" was first performed in 1634. A walk through the narrow town streets brought the party to the Collegiate Church of St. Lawrence, the present magnificence of which dates from the prosperity of the Palmer's Guild in the time of Edward I. Ancient glass, the gift of Spofford, Bishop of Hereford, 1421/48, and the rich carving of the choir stalls and the misericord seats was noticed. After tea, the coach travelled to Stokesay Castle, a fortified manor house dating from 1290. The outstanding features of this now uninhabited building are its two towers, with the Great Hall between, and the Elizabethan black and white gate-house. The building had been spared much of the Welsh border troubles; it was, however, besieged and taken by the Shropshire Parliamentarians in 1645. Although "slighted" in 1647, it escaped the usual damage from this operation, and for a while given over to agricultural uses, is now maintained in private hands as an historic monument. The day concluded after supper at Attingham with an illustrated lecture on Medieval and Renaissance Architecture, by Mr. John Salmon, President of the Caradoc & Severn Valley Field Club, and an old friend of our Society. Following this a short business meeting was held at which several new members were elected to the Society.

Thursday, May 19th was occupied with a morning ride to Condover Park, a large Elizabethan mansion, formerly the seat of the Owen family, whose monuments, including one by Roubilliac, were seen in the nearby Church. The features of the house are mainly external, but there was some panelling restored in the 19th century; the building is now used as a home for blind children, and seems hardly suited for this purpose. A visit to Pitchford Hall followed, this large and picturesque black and white building was built early in the 16th century by Wm. Otley, Sheriff of the County whose family had owned the site since 1473. The house, shown by kind permission of Sir Charles Grant, had many striking late medieval rooms, family and other portraits, and the state bedroom still furnished as when Queen Victoria stayed there before her accession in 1832. In the grounds is a summer house of some age, built in a huge lime tree. After a hasty visit to the Church, which contains a great oak figure in chain armour, the effigy of one of the de Pitchfords, the party made the final call of the tour, Acton Burnell, another example of a fortified manor house, the existing structure having been built by Robt. Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells, at the end of the 13th century; it is now in the custody of the Office of Works. Close by is a late Georgian Hall, and the ruins of a barn, used by the Commons at the Parliament of Edward I in 1283. The Church with its plate-tracery

windows was visited, and afterwards return made to Attingham to take farewell of Mr. Trevelyan and his friendly Staff. The return journey was made to Reading by train, and the journey passed pleasantly with the mutual interchange by members of the experiences and impressions of the Congress, all being agreed in their praise of the skilful planning and able leadership of Col. and Mrs. Rivers-Moore.

Since going to press we have learned with
profound regret of the death of the Patron
of our Society

HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI

THE BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet. 31st December, 1949.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions received	..	202	3	3	By Balance of 1948 Balance Sheet	..	5	8	0
" Donations	..	14	10	0	" Balance of cost of printing Journal, Vol. 50	..	241	0	3
" Sale of Journals	..	34	5	6	" Printing & Stationery	..	40	9	9
" Dividend on 2½% Defence Bonds	..	2	10	0	" Postages & Telephone calls	..	19	18	5
" Interest on Deposit Accounts	..	6	13	2	" Books for Library	..	5	11	4
" Donations towards cost of Teas	..	29	6	6	" DONATIONS—	£ s. d.			
" Profit on Excursions	..	29	2	11	Windsor Parish Church	..	2	2	0
" Testimonial Fund	..	19	8		Sparsholt Effigies	..	10	0	0
" Transferred from Journal Reserve	..	120	0	0	English Place Name Society	..	15	0	
" Deficit on year's working	..	5	15	9	Regional Group 9	..	5	0	
					British Records	..	1	0	0
					S.E. Union Sc. Societies	..	15	0	
					Friends of Reading University	..	5	5	0
					Soc. for Prot. of Anc. Buildings	..	1	1	0
							21	3	0
					Excavation Fund	..	25	0	0
					Lecturer's Expenses	..	6	11	3
					Travelling Expenses	..	18	7	
					Rent at Watlington House	..	15	0	0
					Cost of Teas at Reading University	..	35	12	0
					Shelves & Fittings at Watlington House	..	15	6	9
					Gratuity	..	10	6	
					Insurance	..	2	5	0
					Working Lantern, etc.	..	3	0	0
					Balance Armorial Glass A/c.	..	7	1	11
					Cheque Book	..	10	0	
							£445	6	9

Examined and compared with all necessary
Books and Vouchers and found correct.
(Signed) T. L. SKINNER,
Hon Auditor.

£445 6 9

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1949.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS	
	from	£	s. d.		£ s. d.
Capital Reserve brought forward	1948	178	7 4	Balance of Dep. a/c. at Reading Savings Bank	154 5 5
Sheet	Balance of Current a/c. at Barclays Bank	40 12 6
Journal Fund brought forward	..	145	..	Balance of Excursion a/c.	3 6 8
Less withdrawals during year	..	120	..	Investment of 2½% Defence Bonds	100 0 0
	Balance of Receipts & Expenditure a/c. bt. down	5 15 9
Pilgrim Trust Fund brought forward	..	200	..		
Less withdrawals	..	200	..		
		
Investment in 2½% Defence Bonds	..	100	0 0		
Uncleared item	13 0		
		£304	0 4		£304 0 4

The H.T. Morley Testimonial Fund.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.	
	..	£	s. d.		£ s. d.
Donations received .. .. .	..	68	13 0	Postages	2 15 10
	..	..	..	Sundry Expenses	14 17 6
	..	..	..	Cheque to Mr. H. T. Morley	50 0 0
	..	..	..	Balance fwd. to Statement of Accounts	19 8 ..
		£68	13 0		£68 13 0

The Armorial Glass of The Oxford Diocese Fund.

	..	£	s. d.		£ s. d.
Received from The Pilgrim Trustees (bt. forward from Balance Sheet) .. .. .	..	200	0 0	To The Oxford University Press (by agreement)	200 0 0
Sales by The Society .. .. .	..	31	11 2	The Oxford University Press for Special copies	38 13 1
Deficit (carried forward to Statement) .. .. .	..	7	1 11		
		£238	13 1		£238 13 1

EXCAVATION FUND.
Statement of Receipts & Expenditure, 31st December, 1949.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
Brought forward from 1948 Statement	..	..	21	19	0	Use of Bulldozer	..	..	..
Donation from the Corporation of Reading	..	..	50	0	0	Transport	..	..	..
Donation from The Society	..	..	25	0	0	To Museum for Reprints & Photographs	..	..	..
Collecting Box on site	..	..	30	0	0	Cost of Food & sundry payments	..	..	..
Appeal by <i>Reading Standard</i>	..	..	30	0	6	Balance of Cash in hand	..	..	..
Other Donations	..	..	3	13	0				
Miscellaneous Receipts	..	..	3	7	1				
Sale of Reprints & Photographs	..	..	6	15	1				
			<hr/>						
			£170	14	8				
			<hr/>						
							£170	14	8
							<hr/>		

Report of the Council for the Year, 1950.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held at the University of Reading on Saturday, 15th April, 1950, with the President, Sir Frank Stenton, in the Chair. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 9th April, 1949, were read and confirmed. The Council's Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1949 were read and adopted.

The following honorary officers were duly elected :

President : SIR FRANK STENTON, M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A.

Vice-Presidents :

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON
THE RT. REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD
THE RT. REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF READING
THE VERY REV. H. S. D. CRANAGE, Litt.D., B.D., F.S.A.
THE RT. HON. LORD ILIFFE OF YATTENDON
SIR RALPH GLYN, M.P.
SIR JOHN COCKCROFT, C.B.E., F.R.S.
THE RT. WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF READING
MISS A. BAILY, F.Z.S.
H. T. MORLEY, Esq., J.P., F.R.Hist.S.
COL. C. N. RIVERS-MOORE
P. S. SPOKES, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.
SIR OWEN MORSHEAD, K.C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C.

Editorial Committee for the Society's Journal :

P. S. SPOKES, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.
S. H. HORROCKS, Esq., F.L.A.
MISS M. M. SWADLING, F.L.A.

Librarian : S. H. HORROCKS, Esq., F.L.A.

Excursion Secretaries :

COL. C. N. RIVERS-MOORE
MISS M. M. SWADLING, F.L.A.

Field Work Secretary :

A. E. P. COLLINS, Esq., B.A.

Secretary and Treasurer :

F. M. UNDERHILL, Esq., F.S.A.

Assistant Secretary :

MISS M. M. SWADLING, F.L.A.

Auditor : T. L. SKINNER, Esq.

Local Secretary for North Berks :

MISS AGNES BAKER, B.A.

Council : In accordance with Rule 5, the following members retired—
MRS. HOLDEN, MRS. RIVERS-MOORE and E. T. LONG, Esq. and they were re-elected. The following were proposed to the Council and elected: FELIX HULL, Esq., B.A., H. H. STEVENS, Esq., E. G. KAINES-THOMAS, Esq., and W. W. FRASER, Esq.

MEMBERSHIP.		<i>Honorary</i>	<i>Ordinary</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Total</i>
21st Dec., 1949	..	4	422	—	—	426
31st Dec., 1950	..	2	56	11	29	18
		—	—	—	—	—
		6	478	11	29	444
		—	—	—	—	—

OBITUARY.

It is with regret that we have to record the deaths of the following members : Mr. Victor Martin, Miss M. Abdy, Miss M. N. Greenville, Dr. E. Somerset, Sir Leslie Scott, Mr. H. Bean Hall, Miss E. Thomas, Mr. A. T. Lunn, Mr. J. W. Dodgson, Mrs. Chavasse, and Mrs. F. Hodgkin.

PROGRESS AND FINANCE.

The year has been marked by the continued increase in the interest taken by the public in archæology, and an improvement in our membership numbers. Meetings and Excursions, without exception, have been well attended, an average figure being 70/80 per meeting against 50/60 for 1949. The Meeting on November 11th had an attendance of over 100. The number attending Excursions has also been increasing, and some form of limitation may have to be used in the future for those who do not apply for their tickets early. The Society offers many attractions for a very moderate subscription, and although all members are entitled to attend ordinary Meetings, it is obvious that if the whole Society met at once, our meeting place would not accommodate them. It should, therefore, be mentioned to those who have contemplated resignation "because they cannot attend meetings," that this activity is a small part of the whole, the support of our aims by keeping members of the Council informed about archæological discoveries and monuments in need of care, by assistance in field work, by taking the Journal and helping financially are other ways in which members participate in our work.

There has been little improvement in the financial position, running expenses continue to increase and there would have been a serious deficit without the profit made on Excursions. It is to be noted that 28 subscriptions remain unpaid at the end of the year, amounting to £27. Eleven of these are overdue for 2 years, and their membership will be deemed as lapsed under Rule 7.

DONATIONS.

Thanks are due to the following who have given amounts totalling £20 18s. 9d. to the Society during the year:

<i>List of Donations, 1950</i>				£	s.	d.
Berks Society of Architects	..	..	..	4	4	0
A. C. Vachell, Esq.	..	..	..	2	10	0
Boro' of Reading	..	..	..	2	2	0
R. ff. Hasluck, Esq.	..	..	..	2	0	0
Mrs. Hodgson	..	..	..	1	1	0
Miss Monk-Smith	..	..	..	12	6	
Windsor & Eton Sc. Society (<i>per</i> Miss K. Sinclair)	..			11	3	
Miss M. Spokes	..	..	..	10	0	
The Duke of Wellington	..	..	..	8	6	
Mrs. E. Holden	..	..	..	8	6	
Miss E. A. Vignoles	..	..	..	8	6	
Mrs. Alexander	..	..	..	7	6	
H. Adams Clarke, Esq.	..	..	..	7	6	
H. Ferdinando, Esq.	..	..	..	7	6	
W. H. Hallam, Esq.	..	..	..	7	6	
Miss Hopkins	..	..	..	7	6	
Mrs. Dorothy Loyd	..	..	..	7	6	
Mrs. M. E. Murray	..	..	..	7	6	
Mr. & Mrs. H. Grayson	..	..	..	5	0	
Mr. & Mrs. P. S. Spokes	..	..	..	5	0	
Sundries	..	..	..	3	0	0
				£20 18 9		

GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY.

A gift of Berkshire prints was received from the Cambridge Antiquarian Society through their Secretary, Dr. G. H. S. Bushnell. Mrs. Dodgson presented a large collection of photographic negatives, slides and books relating to Berkshire from the library of the late Mr. J. W. Dodgson.

HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Our President celebrated his 70th birthday on May 17th, 1950, and retired from the Vice-Chancellorship of Reading University. To mark this occasion his friends arranged for the publication of *Hatton's Book of Seals*, and this fine book has been purchased for the Society's library. In recognition of his life-long studies in Tudor music, his books about the personalities of St. George's, Windsor, and to mark the occasion of his 80th birthday, Dr. Edmund H. Fellowes was elected an Honorary Member of the Society on November 11th. Miss Kathleen Sinclair was elected an Honorary Member in recognition of her work as Secretary of the now dissolved Windsor & Eton Scientific and Archæological Society, which was formerly affiliated to our Society.

Congratulations are offered to the Rev. F. P. Harton, B.D., Fellow of King's College, London, and Rector of Baulking, upon his appointment to the Deanery at Wells. To Mr. A. E. P. Collins, B.A., our Fieldwork Secretary, upon his appointment to an archæological post in Northern Ireland, and to Dr. Felix Hull (our County Archivist) on attaining his Doctorate.

LOCAL SECRETARY FOR NORTH BERKSHIRE.

The Society of the Friends of Abingdon became affiliated with us, and their Secretary, Miss Agnes Baker, B.A., was elected on April 15th to be Local Secretary for the Society in North Berkshire.

During the year, the Friends of Abingdon continued restoration work on the remains of Abingdon Abbey buildings. Partial cleaning of the roof of the medieval building between the Friends of Abingdon Office in Thames Street and the "Checker" has already shown what a fine structure it is. The Custodian will show visitors round between 10 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. (in summer or till dusk in winter), *except* Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings. (Admission 6d.).

THE WINDSOR & ETON SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

During the year this Society was finally wound-up, and the remaining balance of their funds handed to us. Miss K. Sinclair, their former Hon. Secretary, handed over the Society's Minute Books, dating from 1900 and these were deposited with our records for safe-keeping.

PUBLICATIONS.

At the end of the year Vol. 51 (for 1948/1949) of *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal* was issued, and has already received favourable comment in the County press. It has not been possible to issue any further Church Guides during the year, but there have been several enquiries, and it is to be hoped that further parishes will be published in 1951. There has been a continued demand for back numbers of the Journal and some 130 copies separately and in sets have been sold during the year.

FIELD-WORK AND RESEARCH.

No major excavation was undertaken in the County by the Society. A watch was kept on diggings at High Garden, Wantage, where a housing estate was laid out in the orchard and field, said to be the site of King Alfred's Palace and Fitz Warren's Manor House. A large amount of Roman pottery, some of 4th century date, was found in the topsoil during the digging of foundation trenches to 3 feet in depth. No trace of any building was seen in them or in a connexion trench, which went to 8 feet. An extended skeleton without grave goods was found in the topsoil, lying north and south.

Mr. D. B. Connah continued his investigation of the Roman site discovered at Kintbury last year, and with the help of Mrs. M. A. Cotton, a portion of foundation of a building, with a hypocaust and fragments of painted wall plaster were uncovered. This was visited by the Society on September 16th, and it is hoped that the excavation will continue in 1951.

Mr. P. P. Rhodes investigated the site of a Roman farmstead on Odstone Down during the Easter holidays. Evidence was obtained which added to the information he has produced about early Field Systems on the Berkshire Downs. Mr. Rhodes has now mapped many thousands of acres of these ancient cultivations for the Ordnance Survey. The results were most ably summarized in a lecture to the Society on December 9th.

Mr. Neville Hadcock, F.S.A. has completed the Map of Monastic Britain, the fruits of some 20 years' labour, and this has now been published on two sheets by the Ordnance Survey.

Mr. F. T. Barrett has published privately his Lecture on LETCOMBE BASSETT, which was given to the Society on December 3rd, 1949.

PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS, ETC.

During the year, the ruins of Donnington Castle were transferred to the Ancient Monuments section of the Ministry of Works. Delays occurred in the completion of the deed of gift, and further wanton damage was done to the surviving fragments of this historic building. The Council have drawn H.M. Inspector's attention to the necessity for the immediate protection of this monument.

It is to be regretted that the committee responsible for the re-erection of the Coombe Gibbet did not see their way to accepting the Society's request to erect this post clear of the Long Barrow (a scheduled ancient monument). This would have preserved undisturbed for future archæologists one of the few inviolate long barrows in the country. A similar disturbance to a scheduled ancient monument took place with a tree planting on the Churn Knob barrow. It is probable that this was carried out in ignorance of the importance of the mound, and it is to be hoped that with a wider knowledge of the County's antiquities, this kind of destruction of archæological evidence will not be repeated.

The Society were approached by the owner of Bill Hill near Wokingham to preserve a roadside memorial recording the construction of a road by private subscription in 1770. Representations were made to the County Council, who have now accepted the care of this monument.

It is with pleasure that we have noted the completion of the first part of the restoration of Windsor Parish Church, which was marked by a service attended by their Majesties the King and Queen on July 9th. Other restoration and repair has been recorded on the Churches of Lambourn, Tidmarsh and Shottesbrook. An appeal has been circulated for the repair of the Jewel Porch at Sunningwell Church, and repairs are also needed at Moulsoford Church, at Clewer, and at Bray.

DELEGATES FROM THE SOCIETY.

The Society has been represented at the meetings of the Central Council for Archæology at Burlington House, the 9th Regional Group at Oxford, the British Records Association Congress and the Berkshire Committee of the National Register of Archives.

HOSPITALITY.

Our most grateful thanks are due to the following members who have kindly given donations for the provision of tea after lectures: Miss Agnes Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Newman, Miss A. Baily, Mrs. Holden and Mr. Le Sueur, Mrs. Penyston and Miss Lockhart, and the Rev. W. E. and Mrs. McFarlane.

The Society continues to be indebted to the Vice-Chancellor and Council of Reading University for the provision of a lecture theatre for our meetings.

LECTURES.

The following lectures were delivered before the Society during the year:

- Jan. 21st *Nine Men's Morris & Other Sedentary Games*, by A. G. Sherriff Esq. *An Early British Coin from White Horse Hill & the Hoard of Stuart Gold Coins from Lye Farm, Lambourn* by P. H. Sellwood, Esq.
- Feb. 18th *The Third Season's Excavations on Blewburton Hill*, by W. A. Smallcombe, B.Sc. and A. E. P. Collins, B.A.
- Mar. 11th *The Restoration of Berkshire Churches in the 19th Century*, by Professor J. Simmons, M.A.
- Apr. 15th (Annual General Meeting)—*King Alfred*, a Presidential Address by Sir Frank Stenton, M.A., D.Litt.
- Oct. 7th *The Art of Pre-Historic Man*, by Professor C. H. O'Donoghue.
- Nov. 11th *The Early History of St. George's, Windsor*, by Miss M. Curtis, M.A.
- Dec. 9th *The Celtic Field Systems of Berkshire*, by P. P. Rhodes, Esq.

EXCURSIONS, 1950.

- May 12th Half-day visit to Bramshill House by kind permission of the Rt. Hon. Lord Brocket.
- May 22-25 Annual Congress at Attingham Hall, near Shrewsbury, with visits to Wolverhampton, Tong, Boscobel, Lilleshall Abbey, Chester, Chirk Castle, Wroxeter, Much Wenlock, Bridgenorth, Benthall Hall, Morville Hall, Buildwas Abbey, etc.
- June 13th Whole day visit to Blenheim Palace and Woodstock, etc.
- July 20th Whole day visit to Warfield, Winkfield, Runnymede, Eton College, Upton Church and Upton Court.
- Aug. 16th Whole day visit to Mayford village, Sutton Place, Loseley Park, Guildford Castle and Museum.
- Sept. 16th. Half-day visit to Kintbury Church and Roman Excavations, and Enborne Church.

Congress held at Attingham Hall, Shrewsbury.

May 22nd - 25th, 1950.

The headquarters of the 1950 Congress was once again Attingham Hall, Lord Berwick's Seat near Shrewsbury, now used as the Shropshire Residential College; but the itinerary was different from that followed in the 1949 Congress.

Some 40 members took part, the majority travelling by train to Wolverhampton, where a brief visit was paid to the Parish Church of St. Peter, a building mainly of 13th-15th century date, occupying the site of the 10th century Church. The choir stalls probably came from Lilleshall Abbey and there are monuments to Colonel Lane who assisted Charles II to escape after the Battle of Worcester (1651) and shared his hiding place at Boscobel.

After luncheon the party made for Tong Church, a fine example of early perpendicular, with central tower and low spire. The Golden Chapel on the south of the chancel has a fan-vaulted roof and contains many monuments of great beauty and interest. A fine cup of rock crystal, said to have been designed by Holbein, is among the Church plate.

All too soon we had to leave for Whiteladies Priory, the ruins of a house of Cistercian nuns, of late Norman foundation, which lies in the wooded district formerly known as Brewood Forest. A Norman wall of the chapel containing circular headed arches still exists, and remains of doorways also. Within the precincts are several burials with tombstones of the 17th and 18th centuries, including memorials to the Penderel family of Boscobel.

Through pleasant Shropshire lanes we then reached Boscobel, where the ancient and altered house is remarkable as being the hiding place of Charles II when he fled from the battle of Worcester, September 3rd, 1651, pursued by Cromwell. The hole in the garret where the king rested, and the arbour in the garden where he waited for news are still in existence, but the "royal oak" now shown probably grew from an acorn of the original in which he hid.

After tea we explored the beautiful remains of Lilleshall Abbey, a foundation for Augustinian canons founded in the middle of the 12th century. The Church measures 207 feet by 32 feet, and consists of a long aisleless nave of 5 bays, with a western tower, a central tower and transepts, with a chapel in each. On the N.E. are the foundations of an almost detached Lady Chapel. The remains of the vaulted sacristy, chapter house and other chambers still exist.

And now we made quickly for Attingham Hall, where a warm welcome awaited us from Mr. Trevelyan and his staff.

After dinner Mr. Graham Webster, F.S.A., the Curator of the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, talked to us on *Chester and its History*, and gave us much information, particularly relating to the Roman occupation.

Tuesday morning saw us all en route for Chester, with the exception of one lady who unfortunately missed the bus. Our first visit was to the Town Hall, to inspect the City Archives, which were described by the Archivist, Miss Broombridge.

We then toured the Cathedral of St. Werburgh, which is an example of a fairly complete monastic establishment, being of the Benedictine order under the Abbey of Bec. Few portions of the original building remain, but Early English work exists in the Lady Chapel and Chapter House. The choir is early decorated (geometrical) and the central tower, west front, upper parts of the nave and the S. transept are late Perpendicular (1485-90).

We afterwards paid a brief visit to the Rows and shops. The city presents features of later medieval architecture without parallel in this country, and which compare with surviving ancient German towns. The Rows are first mentioned in records of the 14th century, but the remains today are chiefly of the 16th and 17th century. Crypts of earlier buildings, however, remain in several places, and these are mainly of 13th century date.

After lunch, Mr. Graham Webster took us for an extended tour of the town walls of some 2 miles circuit, the only complete example of their kind in this country, not excepting York. They date mainly from the 14th century. Our tour of Chester ended at the Grosvenor Museum with its fine collection of Roman antiquities recalling the time when the Legions held the fortress. All too soon we left Chester and penetrated into Wales, taking tea at the Hand Hotel, Chirk, before visiting Chirk Castle, an Edwardian fortress of rectangular plan, with drum towers at the angles, erected in 1282 on the possible site of an earlier stronghold. It was remarkable how the Tudor and later inhabitants of this building had fitted a magnificent suite of rooms into the ancient fabric. Delighted with our brief trip into Wales, we made our way back to England and Attingham Hall.

In the evening, Mr. Trevelyan gave an interesting lecture on *Coalbrookdale, Iron Bridge, and the Industrial Revolution*.

On Wednesday morning we visited Wroxeter Church, which is mainly Norman with later additions, passing on our way the remains of the first Claudian fortress of Uriconium.

After a brief halt at the enchanting little market town of Much Wenlock, where we saw the Guildhall, we made our way to Benthall Church. Here, we were welcomed by Mrs. Benthall, who kindly conducted us over Benthall Hall, an Elizabethan building dating from 1535, and built by William Benthall on the site of an earlier mansion.

Our next call was at Bridgnorth, where we visited the Castle, built by Robert de Belesme, the third and last Norman Earl of Shrewsbury, who, although he had obtained his title from William Rufus, supported Robert of Normandy, and for this was outlawed and the castle besieged and taken by

Henry 1 (1102). The castle was destroyed in 1646, and there is little more than one leaning tower left. The walk round the ramparts gives magnificent views of the surrounding district.

After a picnic lunch, we left for Morville Hall and Church, and here the Rev. T. Stanton pointed out the many interesting features of this building of pre-Conquest origin. Formerly a cell of Shrewsbury Abbey, it was rebuilt by the monks in 1118. The tower has thick walls and flat buttresses; the nave and aisles are separated by round-headed arches, having transitional mouldings.

At this point we were tempted by the Vicar to stray from our set programme and mounted through winding lanes up to a picturesque spot in the hills behind Morville to visit Upton Cressett Church, and to get a glimpse of the old Hall, of Tudor brick, with its perfect gatehouse, formerly the seat of the Cressett family, and now used as farm buildings. Traces of the moat are still discernible. The Church of St. Michael is an ancient building of stone in the Norman-Early English styles; the nave separated from the chancel by a rich Norman arch of five orders; the chapel is the burial place of the Cressett family.

Descending into the valley, we made for Acton Round, where the ladies of the parish had arranged a very delectable tea for us.

After brief visits to Acton Round and Acton Eyre Churches, we set out on our return journey by way of Coalbrookdale, making a halt at Iron Bridge to view that interesting structure and its industrial surroundings.

The last visit of the day was to Buildwas Abbey, founded for the order of Savigny in 1135, and absorbed into the Cistercian order in 1148. The buildings are mainly of the 12th century, and consist of the shell of the church, the east range of the cloister (on the north side) and the Abbot's house. Of the Church there is no west door, the aisle walls have gone. It is a beautiful ruin, now extremely well cared for by the Office of Works.

After dinner, a pleasant social evening was spent; Col. and Mrs. Rivers-Moore contributed musical items consisting of duets for piano and saw. As usual, the Colonel's prowess in this direction was rapturously applauded. Miss Halley gave two songs in very pleasing style, and Miss Bental's sense of drama was particularly well expressed in her rendering of a series of Border ballads.

The next morning, we made a last tour of Attingham Hall and gardens, and paid a visit to Atcham Church at the Park Gates, which stands on the banks of the Severn and is a building of red stone in the Early English style.

After an early lunch and farewells to Mr. Trevelyan and his staff, we left for Shrewsbury, where we visited the Abbey Church of the Holy Cross, an edifice of red sandstone in the Norman, Early English and later styles; the lower stage of the tower is Norman and the superstructure decorated, and there are many interesting features including the west window, date ca. 1370 with its transitional decorated tracery, and the figure, probably of Edward III, in the canopy above the window.

Our congress was now over, and with many expressions of appreciation to the organisers, Col. and Mrs. Rivers-Moore, for the excellent programme they had arranged, the party entrained for Reading and for their various other destinations beyond.

BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Receipt & Expenditure Account, 1950.

RECEIPTS.		£.	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£.	s.	d.
To Subscriptions received	..	209	19	2	By <i>Debit</i> Balance forward from 1949 Account	..	5	15	9
" Donations received	..	20	18	9	Printing Journal Vol. 51 (Blocks)	..	20	5	6
" Sale of Journals	..	22	8	5	" To Journal Reserve for Vol. 51	..	180	0	0
" Dividend on 2½% Defence Bonds	..	2	10	0	" Printing & Stationery	..	30	12	8
" Deposit a/c. Interest	..	4	0	9	" Postages & Telephone Calls	..	22	17	7
" Donations towards cost of Teas	..	30	15	9	" Books for Library	..	4	12	3
" Net Profit from Excursion a/c.	..	42	10	0	" SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID—				
Deficit for year	..	15	0	5	Coomb Gibbet	..	5	0	
					British Records Association	..	1	0	0
					C.B.A. 9th Reg. Gp.	..	3	5	0
					Eng. Place Name Society	..	15	0	
					Berk Society of Architects	..	3	3	0
					S.E. Union of Sc. Societies	..	15	0	
					The Friends of St. George's	..	10	0	
					Sunningwell Church	..	10	6	
					Friends of Abingdon	..	1	1	0
					Friends of Reading University	..	5	5	0
							16	9	6
					Lecturer's Expenses & Lantern slides	..	6	18	7
					Travelling Expenses	..	15	0	0
					Rent of Room 12A Watlington House	..	35	9	9
					Cost of Teas, University Buttery	..	5	5	0
					Working Lantern	..	1	10	0
					Insurance	..	1	10	6
					Gratuities	..	1	10	6
					Sundries	..	9	8	
					Cheque Book	..	10	0	
							£348	3	3

Examined and compared with all necessary
books and vouchers and found correct.

(Signed) T. L. SKINNER,

Hon. Auditor.

