

# BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## Report of the Council for the Year 1957

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Zoology Theatre at Reading University on Saturday, 27th April, the President, Sir Frank Stenton being in the Chair, supported by Mr. Kaines-Thomas and the Hon. Secretary. The Minutes for the Annual General Meeting held 14th April, 1956, were confirmed. The Council's Report and Statement of Accounts for 1956 were adopted. On the proposition of Miss A. Bailey, seconded by Miss M. Curtis, Sir Frank Stenton was re-elected President. The following honorary officers for the year were then duly elected.

### *Vice-Presidents:*

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON, K.G.  
THE LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD  
THE RT. REV. BISHOP PARHAM  
THE VERY REV. H. S. D. CRANAGE, Litt.D., B.D., F.S.A.  
THE RT. HON. LORD ILIFFE OF YATTENDON  
SIR JOHN COCKCROFT, C.B.E., F.R.S.  
THE RT. WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF READING  
MISS A. BAILY, F.Z.S.  
COL. C. N. RIVERS-MOORE  
P. S. SPOKES, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.  
SIR OWEN MORSHEAD, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., M.A., M.C.  
MRS. E. HOLDEN  
C. B. WILLCOCKS, Esq., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.  
W. H. GODFREY, Esq., C.B.E., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.  
E. W. DORMER, Esq., F.R.Hist.S.

### *Editorial Committee:*

P. S. SPOKES, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.  
S. H. HORROCKS, Esq., F.L.A.  
MISS M. M. SWADLING, F.L.A.  
R. J. LEE, Esq., 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:*

W. A. SMALLCOMBE, Esq., B.Sc., F.M.A.

### *Secretary:*

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

### *Assistant Secretary:*

R. J. LEE, Esq., F.L.A.

### *Treasurer:*

J. G. GAFFORD, Esq., J.P.

### *Auditor:*

CECIL J. HAYWARD, Esq., F.C.A.

## COUNCIL

In accordance with Rule 5, the following members retired and were re-elected: MR. and MRS. KAINES-THOMAS and MR. P. WALNE.

MEMBERSHIP	<i>Honorary</i>	<i>Ordinary</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Total</i>
Dec. 31, 1956	7	449	—	—	456
Dec. 31, 1957	—	33	8	31 ( <i>less</i> )	6
	7	482	8	31	450

The deaths of the following have been recorded with regret:—Rev. W. S. Mahony (1944); Mr. W. W. Fraser (1947); Miss E. S. Wyly (1953); Miss Margaret Curtis (1949); Mr. F. G. Fedden (1925); Rev. D. H. S. Cranage (1946); Mr. F. J. Hoyle (1939) and Mr. R. Tootell (1955). Notes on the services which some of these late members had given to historical studies and to the Society will be found at the end of this Report.

## PROGRESS AND FINANCE

All our Meetings and Excursions have continued to receive enthusiastic support from our members. Attendances at Meetings, including the Annual General Meeting have been larger than usual, and the combined excursion with the Newbury Field Club to White Horse Hill and district to celebrate the centenary of the publication of Thos. Hughes' *Scouring of the White Horse* attracted much interest beyond the Society including a B.B.C. Broadcast. The arrangement made for this by the Hon. Excursion organisers and Mr. A. G. Shirreff deserve special mention. Mr. Boon continued his excavations at Silchester for a short season, and the Ministry of Works excavations at Kingsbury, Old Windsor, continued for several months until December, under the direction of Mr. Brian Hope-Taylor. The Annual Congress at Grantley Hall, near Ripon, was also a great success, the arrangements and direction being in the hands of Miss Swadling for the first time following the retirement of Col. Rivers-Moore. Tribute was paid to the work of Col. Rivers-Moore during his 30 years close association with the Society in directing Excursions, excavations and presiding at meetings, during our ordinary meeting of 14th December. We have endeavoured to rouse public interest in the preservation of monuments. The Reading Mercury and other local newspapers of 25th May printed a letter from the Society supporting the appeal for funds towards the restoration of the spirelets on St. Laurence's Church, Reading, and we were able to give some assistance following the publication of a letter in THE TIMES on 29th May from Mr. S. S. Frere which deplored the planting of trees on part of the Devil's Highway in east Berkshire. The existence of public rights of way or otherwise over this road and other rides and paths in the East-hampstead/Crowthorne region was the subject of an Enquiry before the Berkshire Quarter Sessions Appeals Committee from 16th–20th December, during which we were able to get together a considerable body of evidence for which several of our members living in that district were responsible. Your Hon. Secretary gave evidence before the Committee on 18th December. Buildings at Reading, Abingdon, Wantage, and Newbury have received attention in our Council Meetings, and we have had considerable correspondence with many authorities and individuals in these matters. Amongst the buildings should be mentioned the dovecote at Marcham, the last survivor of 7 in that parish, and the "Half-way House" on the Bath Road between Newbury and Hungerford. We were happy to see that Ministry of Works grants were forthcoming for preservation work at Faringdon old Town Hall and Twickenham House, Abingdon. On 22nd March, H.M. The Queen visited Reading with Prince Philip where they opened the new Faculty of Letters building at Whiteknights Park, Reading University. Our President and Lady Stenton had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty, as did Alderman and Mrs. Clark. The occasion was preceded by a Congregation in the Great Hall of Reading University which was attended by the President,

Hon. Secretary and many members of the Society. We were happy to send our best wishes to the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings which celebrated its 20th birthday. During the year several important books on matters relating to the Royal County's history were published, and these are noticed elsewhere.

#### FINANCE

The Accounts for 1957 indicate that despite the increased income derived from subscriptions (somewhat offset by a continued reduction in donations received) we were only able to meet our expenses by transferring from our reserve funds. We have, however, been promised a grant from the Council of British Archæology towards the publication of a paper by Sir Owen Morshead in Vol. 56 of our Journal which is now in course of production. By the exercise of economy the expenditure on General Printing and Stationery was held to approximately the same figure for the third successive year. Our Rent and postage rates have increased but it is hoped to counter the latter rise by taking full advantage of the Cheques Act, 1957. Once again we are indebted to those members whose support to the Congress and excursions has benefitted our income, and our thanks are due also to those who have generously made donations to our funds and to our Hon. Treasurer for his careful watch over our finances.

#### REPORT OF THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE FRIENDS OF ABINGDON

During the summer a complete architectural survey of the Abbey Buildings was carried out in order that a full estimate of necessary future repairs might be made. Four lectures were held during the year. In March, Mrs. C. Wrinch spoke on "Crusaders' Castles." In May, Mr. A. J. Brookes gave a talk entitled "A Visitor looks at Abingdon" illustrating with colour slides many of the town's architectural beauties and faults. In October, Mr. L. E. Jones, on behalf of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, gave a talk on the "Beauties of England's ancient Churches," and in December members were entertained by Mr. S. R. Benson, the Recorder of Abingdon who gave an interesting discourse on "Crime and Punishment." A visit to Hatfield House proved an enjoyable summer outing. During the summer months the Unicorn Theatre presented a varied programme, and a particularly enjoyable musical evening was given by players and singers under the direction of Dr. Sydney Watson. The Society has maintained liaison with the Borough Council on demolition and re-building plans and in particular the proposed re-development of St. Helen's Churchyard.

#### OTHER EVENTS DURING 1957

A combined meeting with the Newbury Field Club was held at White Horse Hill to commemorate the last great scouring of the Horse in 1857 as described by Thos. Hughes in his book, *THE SCOURING OF THE WHITE HORSE*, published in 1859. This was organised by Mr. A. G. Shirreff and talks were given by Mr. G. W. B. Huntingford on The Horse, Mr. H. H. Coghlan on Waylands Smithy, and Mr. Kaines-Thomas on Local Archæology. A wreath was laid on the memorial to Thos. Hughes in Uffington Church. Another wreath was laid on the Martin Atkins tomb at Sparsholt following a talk on The Victorian Antiquary by Mr. H. Case. The event was followed by our first Autumn meeting when Miss Kirkus spoke to us on Thos. Hughes. The Windsor Guildhall Exhibition completed its 7th season with special material added to commemorate the centenary of the Indian Mutiny showing local material loaned by our member Mrs. Wyndham and others.

Mr. D. B. Connah has been active with the Newbury Grammar School Archæological Society during the year, continuing the watch on Berkshire monuments. The destruction of a tumulus at Farncombe Down was reported, and they assisted in Roman excavations at Winchester and made some investigations of a newly discovered site at Woolton Hill also in Hampshire. Mr. W. A. Smallcombe retired from the Directorship of Reading Museum and was succeeded by our member Mr. T. L. Gwatkin to whom we offer our congratulations.

We are fortunate that Mr. Smallcombe will continue to reside in the district and we hope to enjoy the continued advice we have had from him which goes back very many years. The progress that Reading Museum has made and the research work in the neighbourhood which Mr. Smallcombe has sponsored have been frequently noticed in our earlier reports.

#### PUBLICATIONS

Vol. 55 of our JOURNAL was issued during the year and was well received by our subscribers. We were fortunate in obtaining a grant from the Council for British Archæology towards the publication of an important paper by our Vice-President Sir Owen Morshead which will be produced in Vol. 56 now in course of being printed. Our member Mr. M. F. Bond was instrumental in producing *The Manuscripts of St. George's Chapel*, edited by J. M. Dalton, K.C.V.O., C.M.G., LL.D., F.S.A., (Oxley & Son, Windsor, 1957, £4 4s.) a great work of reference and a key to the huge collection of material housed in the Castle aerary. The Dean & Canons of St. George's also published *The Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers of St. George's Chapel, Windsor*, edited by our former honorary member the late Canon Edmund H. Fellowes, C.H., M.V.O., M.A., Mus. Doc. & Elizabeth R. Poyser, M.A. (Oxley & Son, Windsor, 1957, £1 1s.). Sir Owen Morshead has issued a 2nd edition of his book *Windsor Castle* (Phaidon Press, 1957, price 15/-). Mr. George C. Boon published his valuable book *Roman Silchester* (Max Parrish, London, 25/-) which has received considerable attention from many quarters, as did *The Bayeux Tapestry* edited by our President, Sir Frank Stenton (Phaidon Press, London, 47/6d.) which was noticed in a leading article in *The Daily Telegraph*. Our member Mr. S. Allen Warner of Didcot published a biography of his father, *Yardley Warner, The Freedman's Friend* with an introduction by Janet Whitney (Wessex Press, Didcot, 1957, 25/-).

#### ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S COLLECTIONS. (other than those mentioned above).

*13th Annual Report of The Friends of Abingdon.*  
*Report to 31st Dec., 1956, The Society of the Friends of St. George's and the Descendants of The Knights of the Garter.*  
*Council for British Archæology, Report No. 7, year ended 30th June, 1957.*  
*Record Offices of Today* by M. F. Bond, O.B.E., M.A., F.S.A. (Bulletin of the Inst. of Historical Research, Vol. XXX, 1957).  
*The Formation of the Archives of Parliament, 1497-1691* by M. F. Bond, (*Journal of the Society of Archivists*, Vol. 1, No. 6, October, 1957).  
*The Early Charters of Essex, i. (Saxon Period) & ii. (Norman Period)* by C. Hart, (Leicester University Press Publications, 1957).  
*A History of Whiteknights* by Ernest Smith, O.B.E., B.Litt., M.A., B.Sc., (Published at the University of Reading, 22nd March, 1957).  
*Antropologia Di Mocambique*, Porto, 1956.  
*Traballos Di Antropologia e Etnologia*, Porto, Portugal, Vol. XV, 1955-57.  
*Town and Country Planning*, List No. P.4226 & 1540/11/A, relating to the County Borough of Reading.  
*Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society.* Vol. 19, pt. 2, 1957.

Further additions were made to our collection of Brass Rubbings through the energy of our former member the late Miss Margaret Curtis who completed a Catalogue of all our rubbings now stored at Watlington House.

#### DELEGATES FROM THE SOCIETY

We were represented at the London meeting of the Council for British Archæology and the Oxford Meetings of the 9th Regional Group. At the 25th Annual Conference of the British Records Association, 26th-27th November, Miss Swadling and Mrs. Clark again represented the Society.

## HOSPITALITY

We have again to record our sincere thanks to the Vice-Chancellor and Council of Reading University for their continued permission to use the University Buildings for our meetings, and to Miss A. Bailly for hospitality after the Annual General Meeting.

## LECTURES

The following Meetings were held during the year, and our thanks are due to the Lecturers for their trouble on our behalf.

- 12th Jan. *English Military Brasses* by R. A. U. Jennings, M.A., F.S.A.  
 23rd Feb. *Three Years Researches at Silchester, 1954-1956* by George C. Boon, M.A., F.S.A.  
 23rd Mar. *Timber Framed Buildings* by S. E. Rigold, B.A. (This meeting was combined with the Annual Meeting of the Local History Committee).  
 27th April Annual General Meeting of the Society, Sir Frank Stenton delivered a Presidential Address on *Roman Britain and Saxon England, The Problem of Continuity*.  
 18th July Summer Meeting combined with the Local History Society in the Abbey Gateway, with a visit to the Berkshire Record Office.  
 5th Oct. *Thomas Hughes*, a biographical study by Miss A. M. Kirkus, M.A.  
 9th Nov. *Beauty in English Churches* by Laurence E. Jones of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust.  
 14th Dec. Archaeological films presented by W. A. Smallcombe, B.Sc., F.M.A., *Building a Bronze Age House, Beginnings of History, Houses in History, Primitive Iron Smelting*.

## EXCURSIONS

- 23rd April Wilton House, Salisbury and Old Sarum.  
 27th-31st May Annual Congress of the Society at Grantley Hall, Near Ripon, Yorkshire (see separate Report attached).  
 18th June Berkeley Castle, Gloucestershire, with Malmesbury Abbey, etc.  
 10th July North Oxfordshire, visiting Rousham House, Burford and Minster Lovell.  
 15th August Central Buckinghamshire, visiting Ascott House, with Wing and Stewkley Churches.  
 27th Sept. White Horse Hill, with Uffington Church, Kingston Lisle (Thornhill House by permission of Mrs. McDougal and Mrs. Sneyd), Sparsholt.

## OBITUARIES

On 22nd October, there died our venerable Vice-President, the Rev. Dr. D. H. S. CRANAGE, Litt.D., B.D., F.S.A., in his 92nd year. The son of Dr. J. E. Cranage of Old Hall, Wellington, Salop, he was first curate of Little and Much Wenlock. He soon became known as an authority on architecture and antiquities and produced a magnificent volume on the churches of his native county. In 1927 he became Dean of Norwich where he remained for 17 years, devoting himself to the skilful restoration of the cathedral which celebrated the 800th anniversary of its foundation during his term of office. At one time a Vice-President of the Society of Antiquaries he served as Chairman of the Faculty Board of Fine Arts at Cambridge, and his expert knowledge was very valuable to the Central Council for the Care of Churches, of which he was Chairman from 1938 to 1953. Besides his work on Shropshire churches he published several other books, including his autobiography, *Not Only a Dean*, in 1952. He lived in retirement first at Winkfield when he joined our Society and then at Windsor where to the last he was often to be seen walking in the town and attending local functions. We remember him as a vivid lecturer and one who was always interested in our activities.

Miss MARGARET CURTIS was killed on 20th August when driving her car at South Mimms, Hertfordshire. A native of Lancashire, she had been 25 years headmistress at Windsor County Girls School, when on her retirement she became Secretary to the Friends of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, with a delightful residence in the Cloisters. With her friend, the late Miss M. Woodcock, she joined our Society in 1949 and soon became an active member of our Council. Miss Curtis delighted in excursions, and it was in planning one for the Windsor and Eton Society that she met with her fatal mishap. An expert in medieval history and architecture, we remember her brilliant exposition of St. George's Chapel, and many thousands of visitors must have enjoyed her conducted tours. She was interested in the history of costume, and from this to memorial brasses, on which she had devoted much time, cataloguing our collection of rubbings, a labour which was completed only shortly before her passing, and we have her index for our use stored in Watlington House. Miss Curtis was one of the founders with Mr. Maurice Bond of the Windsor Guildhall Exhibition, their joint display in 1949 leading to the more permanent arrangement opened by the Queen when Princess Elizabeth in May, 1951. The interest in this Exhibition was forthcoming every year as new displays were brought in; the setting out of cases, writing of labels and the handbook and the dressing of models occupying many hours. She had a clear grasp of historical detail of all kinds; the writer of this note recollects an instance last year when faced at the last moment with producing some biographical material about Clive of India and the battle of Plassey, Miss Curtis sat down in front of the display case and wrote out the necessary information in a few minutes, without any previous study. Miss Curtis had travelled widely in Europe and Scandinavia and was a mine of information on many subjects, but architecture was perhaps her greatest interest, especially that of Italy. One of her last visits was to Corsica, from which she returned full of enthusiasm about the megalithic monuments, the importance of which has only recently been recognised.

#### **YORKSHIRE CONGRESS, 1957. 27th-31st MAY.**

On a fine May morning, 40 members of the Society and their friends set out by coach and car on their journey to Yorkshire. The Congress Headquarters were at Grantley Hall, an Adult Training College near Ripon. With only a brief halt for lunch, Leeds was reached, the first visit of the tour being to Temple Newsam House, a Tudor-Jacobean mansion, birthplace of Lord Darnley, father of James I and now owned by the City of Leeds. It contains their rich collections of pictures, porcelain and furniture besides many original furnishings. On leaving here, mechanical trouble, which had been threatening our coach for many miles, developed still further and we finished our journey in another vehicle sent for us from Ripon. Next morning all was well, and after a brief talk from Mr. C. L. Rigg, warden of Grantley Hall, we travelled through the Yorkshire Dales by way of Masham in what is undoubtedly one of the finest scenic districts in the county. A stop was made at Jervaulx Abbey, which lies in a beautiful setting in private grounds. Although much has disappeared, the ruined buildings being long used as a quarry until 1805, much of this great Cistercian Abbey remains. Middleham was next reached, an ancient town on a steep hillside, the ruins of a castle over-shadow the town. Founded about 1190, this building became the stronghold of the Neville family, and notably of Richard Neville "The King-maker". Through his marriage to Anne Neville, Richard III became the owner, and after his death on Bosworth Field the castle was little used and was demolished with other strongholds in the Civil War. At Wensleydale we visited the church, full of interesting features, more particularly the medieval wall paintings, the carved screen from Easby Abbey and the stalls of the Ripon School of wood-carvers. After this came Castle Bolton, dominating the whole countryside; this is the country of the Scropes who built this 14th century structure, still one of the most picturesque of English Castles. The great interest here is the association with Mary Queen of Scots, for some time a prisoner, whose apartments can still be seen together with the Chapel and Dungeons and other rooms recently restored. The Castle was partly demolished by the Parliamentary Army after

Marston Moor. With reluctance we left this interesting spot to make our way through Richmond, most impressive in its situation on a rocky slope above the river Swale, into County Durham to visit Raby Castle. This is a magnificent pile of the 14th century with 18th century additions, set in an extensive and well-wooded park, long the seat of the Neville family. Our last call of the day was to the Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle, a 19th century building in the style of a French Renaissance Chateau. The art treasures from the collections of John Bowes and his wife are well known and now in the care of the Durham County Council. Back at Grantley we listened to an excellent illustrated lecture by Mr. K. J. Bonser, secretary of the Thoresby Society on Historic buildings in South Yorkshire.

Next morning we made for Fountains Abbey, almost adjoining our residence where we were conducted round by Mr. Rigg. After a brief visit to Fountains Hall, an attractive Renaissance house built from Abbey stones, we travelled to Markenfield Hall, a 14th century manor house, now a farm. The Hall is surrounded by a moat and retains many original features, making a noteworthy example of domestic architecture of the period. On the way to Harewood House we stopped for a few moments at Ripley Church to see the Weeping Cross in the churchyard, said to date from very early in the Christian era. There is no need to speak of the glories of Harewood, all know the Adam design and furnishings and the beautifully terraced gardens.

On our visit to Ripon Cathedral we were fortunate in having Canon Bartlett as our guide to the many features of interest—the Saxon crypt being the most outstanding. The carved stalls and misereres in the choir are unrivalled examples of the 15th century school of Ripon woodcarving, while in the Lady Chapel above the Chapter House now used as a library we saw the MS. Ripon Psalter of 1418. The Wakeman's house at Ripon, now a museum, dates from the 13th century and was the home of the last wakeman and first Mayor. On an evening visit to the city, we were received by the Mayor at the Town Hall, when the Corporation insignia, including the original Wakeman's Horn was on view. We were present at the ancient ceremony of sounding the Horn, which takes place every evening in the Market Place at 9 p.m.

Our last day of the tour had come, and we set off via Topcliffe for the Hambleton Hills, climbing up Sutton Bank and were rewarded at the top by one of the finest of Yorkshire views. We visited Helmsley Castle, set on an outcrop of rock. Here the Keep and west curtain wall date from the end of the 12th century. After this, we soon reached Rievaulx Abbey, founded as a Cistercian mission centre in 1131. In an unrivalled setting, this ruined abbey is one of the finest of English Gothic still surviving. In the afternoon we saw Castle Howard, designed by Vanbrugh, a notable example of a great house of the early 18th century. Here are fine collections of pictures, statuary and furniture, and a magnificent park. A stately home still in the possession of the Howard family. That evening we indulged in our accustomed social gathering, when talented members of the party gave of their best. It was felt by all that our stay at Grantly had been a great pleasure to us; it is a fine house set in extensive and picturesque grounds with the river Skell rushing through, dashing here and there down a waterfall.

An early start was made on Friday morning for the homeward journey. A brief stay was made at York to see the Minster and town walls. From York we started seriously on the homeward run of over 200 miles, passing through Selby to Bawtry, where we had lunch. There were no untoward incidents, except for taking on to our coach Col. Rivers-Moore and his party whose car had failed them at a point where fortunately we were able to aid them. Our days had been well filled, too crowded perhaps, but Yorkshire is a long way from home, and we were anxious not to miss the opportunity of seeing the best of a wide district.

M. M. SWADLING.





## Balance Sheet at 31st December, 1957

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Journal Fund Balance	.. ..	Cash at Bank:	
Excavation Fund Balance	.. ..	Thames Valley Trustee Savings Bank	328 5 1
General Fund:		Barclays Bank Ltd. Current Account	154 10 4
As at 1st January, 1957	318 13 4	Barclays Bank Ltd. Deposit Account	80 0 0
Add: Transfer from Journal Fund	145 0 0	Barclays Bank Ltd. Excursion Account	5 15 11
Excess of Income over Expenditure			
General Account	3 13 1	Defence Bonds (2½%) at cost	568 11 4
	467 6 5	£200 British Electricity 4½% Stock	100 0 0
Less Excess of Expenditure over		1967-1969 at cost	189 17 0
Income Excursion Account	12 10 5		
	454 16 0		
	£858 8 4		£858 8 4

22nd March, 1958.

We have examined the above Balance Sheet which is in agreement with the books and papers produced to us.

48, MARKET PLACE,  
READING,  
BERKS.(Signed) C. J. Hayward & Co.,  
Chartered Accountants.