

# BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## Report of the Council for the Year 1958

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Zoology Theatre at Reading University on Saturday, 19th 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 27th April, 1957, were confirmed. The Council's Report and Statement of Accounts for 1957 were adopted. On the proposition of Mr. C. B. Willcocks, 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 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.  
W. A. SMALLCOMBE, B.Sc.

### *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 Secretary:*

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

### *Field Work Secretary:*

T. L. GWATKIN, 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:*

C. J. HAYWARD, ESQ., F.C.A.

## COUNCIL

In accordance with Rule 5, the following members retired and were re-elected:—

MISS E. CARLETON-WILLIAMS  
MRS. M. CLARK  
MRS. M. A. COTTON  
SIR F. GRILLE  
MR. LE SUEUR  
MR. W. J. BARKUS  
MR. S. COLLIER

MEMBERSHIP	<i>Honorary</i>	<i>Ordinary</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Total</i>
Dec. 31, 1957	7	443	—	—	450
Dec. 31, 1958	—	35	13	27 ( <i>less</i> )	5
	7	478	13	27	445

The deaths of the following have been recorded with regret:—  
Mrs. C. Ashburner (1952); W. J. Beattie (1936); Alderman A. F. Clark (1949); Mrs. Clarkson (1956); Brian Dodds (1952); Mrs. I. Gerrard (1930); Sir Frederick L. Grille (1950); Miss K. H. Macaulay (1949); Mrs. Ricardo (1956); W. J. Roberts (1940); Leonard Russell (1936); Miss P. M. Vansittart-Neale (1949); Miss E. A. Vignoles (1932).

A note on the achievements of some of these late members will be found at the end of this Report.

## PROGRESS OF THE SOCIETY

We can again report that all our Meetings and Excursions continued to receive the full support of our members. Attendances continued to be most satisfactory and there has been a slight increase in the number of new members.

The attention of the Council has continued to be occupied in endeavours to deal with many enquiries concerning the restoration and preserving of buildings in the County, and with some measure of success. A special Appeal for funds was launched with the support of the Mayor of Reading (Alderman T. W. Smart), and subscriptions were received by the end of the year totalling some £36, this money to be used at the discretion of the Council for urgent cases. In our efforts we have had the support of a number of other Societies, including the Council for British Archæology, the C.P.R.E. and the S.P.A.B. The 9th Regional Group of the Council for British Archæology made representations to prevent damage to Fitzharrys Mount, Abingdon, Alfred's Castle and the Silchester Amphitheatre. Following this, through the efforts of our Vice-President, Mr. P. S. Spokes, the Ministry scheduled the following as Ancient Monuments: (82) Barrow n. of the Ridgeway, Hodcott Down; (83) Grimsditch, section on Aston Upthorpe Down; (86) Scutchamore Knob, East Hendred; (87) Castle Mound at Fitzharrys, Abingdon; (88) Barn at Longworth House (hospital); (89) Alfred's Castle, Ashbury; (91) Ditch at Boydon Hole Farm, Lambourn; (93) Barrow at Farncombe Down, Lambourn. From Abingdon information was received in May of the discovery of human skeletons on the site of the new cattle market in Stert St. The site had been part of the Abbey precincts and was thought to be part of an old burial ground. Mr. S. A. Warner reported the finding of human remains at Pearith's, near Didcot, also the renovation of the Cruk Cottage, in Manor Road, Didcot. In June our attention was drawn to the threat to demolish Braywick House, Bray. Mr. C. B. Willcocks drew up a Report on the condition of the house and gave evidence on behalf of the Society at the Public Enquiry held at Maidenhead on 12th June. As a result of this Enquiry, the Ministry refused permission to demolish the house. In December we were concerned with the fate of an old house at West Hagbourne which as yet is not a listed building. The County Planning Officer was interested in the matter, and as a result we have

every expectation that the building will be saved. We can also report a similar happy state of affairs in connection with the preservation of the Half-Way House on the Bath Road at Welford, the building having now been renovated by the owners. Following the evidence given at the Enquiry before the Berkshire Quarter Sessions Appeals on the Rights of Way over Crown Lands in East Berkshire, judgement was received in February declaring that the ancient road known as "The Devil's Highway" was a public right of way by prescription. In October the stones discovered in 1924 during the demolition of the old Caversham Bridge and preserved at the instance of the Society (See our Journal, Vol. XLII (1938) p. 5) were re-used by the Catholic community at Caversham and built into a new shrine. East Shefford Church and the Fettiplace monuments therein have occupied much attention, we were pleased to note that the hole in the south wall of the building was repaired during the year, the church was visited by the Bishop of Reading and the ancient glass which has been in our custody since 1952 is now in the hands of an expert for restoration. Following Mrs. Howse's lecture, concern was felt at the rapid deterioration of the 15th century stone shields on the south porch of Stanford-in-the-Vale church, and remedies are being sought to preserve them. In Reading we have been interested in the Vachell buildings, Hosier Street, the Oracle Gates, the Gazebo at Caversham Court, and the proposal to demolish Greyfriars Vicarage in Friar St. The Society will be represented at the Public Enquiry on the latter building to be held in January, 1959. Further efforts have been made to save the last Marcham dovecot (see our 1957 Report); 41 The Market Place, Wantage, has been demolished, but the National Buildings Record have full details of the building.

#### MUSEUM AT WANTAGE

Several members interested themselves in this proposal and your Hon. Secretary visited the Clerk to the Wantage Urban District Council in April at the instance of Mr. Fullalove. The Museum was opened formally on 13th November, Mr. T. L. Gwatkin gave an Address, Mrs. M. Clark representing the Society. The Chairman of the Committee paid tribute to the help received from Reading Museum. Amongst the objects preserved is the set of wheelwright's tools which were in the Sparsholt Exhibition (see below).

#### RESEARCH GROUP

The proposal to form this Group which would combine the efforts of our Society, the Newbury Field Club, Reading Museum and other interested bodies was proposed in March. Mrs. Cotton was appointed Chairman of the Group and an inaugural meeting was held at Newbury Museum on 7th June. Afterwards a visit was paid to the excavations on the Mesolithic site at Thatcham under the direction of Mr. J. Wymer. Research was also undertaken during the year at Cookham on a Roman site, directed by Miss Levy. Air photography revealed extensive Roman foundations at Cox Green (which had been noted many years ago by our member the late Major P. D. R. Williams-Hunt). Arrangements are well forward to excavate this site in 1959. The Group has produced its own interim Reports, which include an account of Alfred's Castle, Ashbury, written by Mrs. Cotton.

#### BERKSHIRE COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

The County Archivist has produced the 10th Annual Report which reveals an interesting comparison between the state and working of the Record Office at the present time with that shown in the 1st Report in September, 1949. The quantity of records received has been most encouraging and the quality and type of research now carried on in the office is of a very high standard. Research is now regularly undertaken by students reading for post-graduate degrees in British, European and American Universities. Our Society has been interested in the Record Office from the first suggestions for its foundation. This year the Berkshire Architectural Records Committee completed the handing over of some 5,000 records to the Office, most of the photographs having been taken during the

period of the late war. Mr. C. B. Willcocks as Secretary of the Architectural Records Committee has compiled a complete list of all photos, giving subject, size, date when taken and name of photographer, and it is intended that a copy of this Index shall be deposited in the Record Office with the collection.

#### THE LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

In their Annual Report, the Committee comment on the great interest which continues to be taken in local history. During the year 14 records were sent in which included further details of Sunninghill Wells, the former St. Edmund's Chapel at Reading, discoveries at Earley Manor and 160 Friar Street, Reading, and a list of the monumental inscriptions in Warfield churchyard. The number of approved records in now 815.

#### FOLKLORE

The Department of English at London University requested our help in compiling information relating to the folklore of Berkshire Trees. This was circularised to our members, and as a result we were informed that the Department had more information than they could deal with for the time being. The *Reading Mercury* published a paragraph on the Survey on 24th May, mentioning several famous Berkshire examples.

#### OTHER EXCAVATION AND RESEARCH IN THE COUNTY

Mr. Brian Hope-Taylor, Consultant to the Ministry of Works, commenced his final season at Kingsbury, Old Windsor, from 31st March until June. We must now await the publication of the results of his labours, which were instigated by the Society in 1952. Many of the finds, which included pre-historic material, the Saxon water-mill and the 13th century "Grange" site have been of outstanding importance. In January, Mr. Hope-Taylor exhibited a small selection of recent "finds" at the half-yearly Meeting of the Council for British Archaeology in Burlington House, these included an 11th century sword guard of Scandinavian origin.

Mr. Boon conducted a 5th season's excavation at Silchester on behalf of the Silchester Committee. This year he continued investigation of the hidden inner defences, from 15th–30th September.

Mrs. Chitty reports:—In excavating a cesspit for a new dwelling at Upton, Berkshire, on the property of Mr. and Mrs. Knights in September, 1957, a skeleton was discovered with a shield boss and knife which was reported to the Police. The finds were deposited in the Ashmolean Museum. This undeniably Saxon burial linking with others at Blewburton Hill, near Blewbury and at Harwell, suggests that settlements fore-running those villages were begun at a relatively early date.

#### HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS

Sir Owen Morshead received the G.C.B. in the Birthday Honours and retired from the Royal Library as Royal Librarian Emeritus. Mr. R. Mackworth-Young has been appointed Royal Librarian at Windsor Castle in his place and is now a member of our Society.

Professor H. L. Hawkins was President of the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies Congress at Reading University in April, when Mrs. M. A. Cotton gave an address to the archaeological section and Mrs. M. Clark conducted a party round Reading Abbey.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mrs. Cotton contributed to Vol. XXXVIII of *The Archaeological Journal* (July–October, 1958) with an Appendix to *The Camp Du Charlat* (pp. 218–222). Other publications from Mrs. Cotton are listed in the Library additions. Mr. G. C. Boon also contributed to this issue of the *Archaeological Journal* with a note on a Roman pastrycook's mould from Silchester.

The Rev. E. Walker and Mr. A. G. Shirreff with Mr. A. Vaughan-Williams were associated in an exhibition at Sparsholt for 6 days in May. Much interesting material relating to the parish and local history was shown and a complete list of the exhibits was deposited in the Records of the Local History Committee. Amongst the contributions of our President, Sir Frank Stenton, has been a chapter on "*The Roads of the Gough Map*" to a publication issued on behalf of the Bodleian Library and the Royal Geographical Society of the oldest British Map, known as *The Gough Map*.

Mr. Connah directing the Newbury Grammar School Archæological Society was active in helping with the excavations at Thatcham and elsewhere. Several of the monuments in west Berkshire which have been scheduled during the year were surveyed by his Society, and their reports led to the recommendation of the Ancient Monuments Secretary, Mr. P. S. Spokes, that action should be taken for their protection.

Mr. F. Sharpe has completed a history of the Wokingham Bell Foundry which we hope in due course to publish. Your Hon. Secretary, associated with Mr. and Mrs. Bond and others, successfully organised the 8th Guildhall Exhibition at Windsor.

Lt.-Col. C. N. Rivers-Moore was married on 8th April. Members subscribed for a VHF radio set as a present and sent a congratulatory telegram.

#### FINANCE

This year has been a difficult one and the accounts again reflect the Society's endeavours to meet rising costs out of a static income. On the advice of our Hon. Auditor, certain items, shown previously in the general accounts, now appear in the Journal Fund Account. The new procedure will give a clearer picture of this important aspect of our activities.

For the first time, the Berkshire Historic Buildings Fund, which derives its income from donations, appears in the accounts. Transfers have been made to the Journal Fund against the cost of Vol. 58 and to the Excavation Fund in anticipation of a contribution being made towards the cost of examining the Cox Green Roman site.

We record with gratitude the help of those members whose support of the Congress and excursions has enabled a surplus to be transferred from the Excursion Account and we thank all those who have made generous donations to the funds.

#### ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

1. *14th Annual Report of The Friends of Abingdon.*
2. *Report to 31st December, 1957, The Society of The Friends of St. George's and The Descendants of The Knights of the Garter.*
3. *Council for British Archaeology, Report No. 8. Year ended 30th June, 1957.*
4. *Museum of English Rural Life, Report, 1957.*
5. *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society. Vol. 19, Part 3, 1958.*
6. *Northampton Antiquarian Society, Reports and Papers, Vol. LXI during the years 1955 and 1956.*
7. *Local Collection Catalogue of Books and Maps Relating to Berkshire. Reading Public Libraries, Reading, 1958.*
8. *Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society. Proceedings during the year 1956-1957. Vols. 101 and 102.*
9. *Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society. Coleoptera of Somerset by W. A. Wilson, F.R.E.S.*
10. *Excavations at Clausentum, Southampton 1951-1954 by M. A. Cotton and P. W. Gathercole, (H.M. Stationery Office).*
11. *Early Iron Age Earthworks in Jersey by M. A. Cotton. (Extracted from the Bulletin of the Soc. Jersiaise, 1958. Vol. 17, Pt. II).*

12. *Acts of Parliament*. Some notes on the Original Acts, by M. F. Bond from *Archives*, Vol. III. No. 20, 1958.
13. *The Abingdon Corporation Plate* by Aurthur E. Preston, edited by Agnes C. Baker, U.O.P., 1958.
14. *An Archaeology of South East England* by Gordon J. Copley, Phoenix House, London.
15. *The Archaeology of Wessex* by L. V. Grinsell. Methuen, 1958.
16. *Alguneas Cancoes Indegenos De Marracuerre (Mocambique)* (with English Summary). N. Santos Jnr., 1957.
17. *O "Marombo" Ou "Malambo"*. J. N. dos Santos Junior, (with English Summary), 1958.
18. *O Castro De Carvalhelhos*. J. R. dos Santos Junior, 1957.
19. *Grupos Sanguineos Ein Pretos De Mocambique*. J. R. dos Santos Junior and A. F. Isidero, (with English Summary), 1958.
20. *Handbook of Scientific and Learned Societies of Great Britain* compiled by The British Council, H. Allen and Unwin, 1958.
21. *26th Report of the British Records Association*.
22. *A Description of Binfield Heath and the Surrounding District* by Reginald W. Ford, Reading, 1958.
23. *Town and Country Planning Act, 1947*. Sec. 30. List of Buildings of special Architectural and Historic interest. P. 5019. No. 2. Rural District of Faringdon.

Nos. 11 and 14 presented by Mrs. Cotton; Nos. 16-19 by the Inst. de Antropologia de Universidade do Porto.

Nos. 13 and 15 by the publishers. No. 22 by Miss M. Swadling.

Nos. 5, 6, 8 and 9 by exchange. No. 12 presented by M. F. Bond.

#### PUBLICATIONS

Vol. 56 of *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal* was issued in June and was well received. There has been a steady demand for off-prints and back numbers of the Journal during the year. The Council for British Archaeology made a grant of £75 to the Society towards the publication of Mr. A. E. Collins' paper on "*Final Report on the Excavations at Blewburton Hill*." Sir Owen Morshead gave a special donation of £40 towards the publication of his paper on "*The Prisoners of Windsor Castle*".

#### COUNCIL

Mr. W. J. Barkus has retired from the Council at his own request and the following were co-opted during the year: Mr. H. H. Coghlan, Mr. A. J. Neobard, Mr. J. Wymer and Dr. C. F. Slade.

#### DELEGATES FROM THE SOCIETY

We were represented at the London meetings of the Council for British Archaeology and the Oxford meetings of the 9th Regional Group, the 26th Congress of the British Records Association, the Watlington House Committee, and the Council for Visual Education.

#### HOSPITALITY

We continue to record our thanks to the Vice-Chancellor and Council of Reading University for their permission to use the University Buildings for our meetings, and to Miss A. Bailly for hospitality after the Annual General Meeting; to Mrs. G. Holden for hospitality after the meeting on 11th October and to Mrs. Cotton during the Excursion on 4th June.

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

The Friends have had a successful year, continuing their usual activities. Three lectures were held, in March Mr. M. R. E. Gough spoke on "Newly discovered mosaics from Crete and Turkey"; in November Mr. W. O. Hart gave

a talk on "New Towns." In December Councillor J. Jones gave a stimulating and controversial talk on "The Future of Abingdon". A Garden Party was held in the gardens of the Abbey Buildings on 14th June, the afternoon proved to be one of the few fine days of the summer, and was enjoyed by many visitors. In July a party of 29 went on an excursion to Fairford, Gloucester and Cheltenham. In November the Friends co-operated with the Borough Council in displaying in the County Hall an Exhibition on "Subtopia", sponsored by the Royal Institute of British Architects. During the season the Unicorn Theatre presented a programme of drama and music including "She Stoops to Conquer", "Loves Labour's Lost", "Samson Agonistes", "The Cherry Orchard", and concerts by the Nathalie Dolmetsch Consort of Viols and Dr. Sydney Watson's players and singers. During the year the Oxford University Press published the late Mr. Preston's book on *The Abingdon Corporation Plate* which Miss Agnes Baker had edited.

## LECTURES

The following Meetings were held during the year and our thanks are due to the Lecturers for their pains on our behalf:—

- 18th Jan. *The Age and Environment of Swanscombe Man*, by J. Wymer.  
*The Saxon Cemetery at Kintbury*, by D. B. Connah, M.A.
- 15th Feb. *The Monuments of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle*, by Mrs. Shelagh M. Bond, M.A.
- 15th Mar. *Subtopia*, by Andor Gomme, M.A. (This Meeting was combined with the Annual Meeting of the Local History Committee).
- 19th April *Annual General Meeting of the Society*; Sir Frank Stenton gave as his Presidential Address an account of *Reading Before the Normans*.
- 11th Oct. *Stanford-in-the-Vale*, a portrait of a Berkshire Village, illustrated with coloured slides by Mrs. Violet Howse.
- 8th Nov. *Recent Archæological Exploration in Baluchistan*, by Miss B. de Cardi, B.A., F.S.A.
- 6th Dec. *Wallingford Castle in King Stephen's Reign*, by Dr. C. F. Slade.

## EXCURSIONS

- 20th May Romsey and Beaulieu Abbeys, arranged by Miss Swadling.
- 4th June Bisham Church, Winter Hill, Cookham Village and Church, (Stanley Spencer Exhibition), Waltham St. Lawrence, Weycock Hill and Borlases, where Mrs. M. A. Cotton very kindly entertained members to tea.
- 9th–13th June Annual Congress of the Society held at Avon College, Stoke Prior, Worcestershire. (See separate Report attached).
- 24th July Stonehenge, Cranbourne Chase, Pitt-Rivers Museum and St. Giles' House, Wimborne St. Giles, arranged by Miss Swadling.
- 21st Aug. Winchester College, Cathedral, City Museum and Hospital of St. Cross, arranged with the assistance of Mr. W. Pulsford.
- 18th Sept. Appleton, Ducklington, Witney, Swinbrook, Burford Church and houses, arranged by Mr. P. S. Spokes.

## OBITUARIES

CAPT. R. J. BEATTIE of Maryland, Bray, died on 17th April, aged 74. He joined our Society in 1936, taking an active part in excursions, and he was interested in the antiquities of his village. A former Chairman of Bray Parish Council, he sponsored the restoration of the Bray Lych Gate; he was also a member of the County Council and Churchwarden of Bray Church.

ALDERMAN A. F. CLARK had a long record of public service in Reading, being a member of the Town Council for 39 years and Mayor of the Borough 1950–1.

He served on a great number of local committees, being Chairman of the Management Committee of Watlington House, and honorary solicitor to our Society which he had joined in 1949.

SIR FREDERICK LOUIS GRILLE died on 9th October. A former Chief Justice of the Indian province of Nagpur, he was the last European Chief Justice to the Central Provinces from which office he retired in 1948. He joined our society in 1950, being elected to our Council in 1954. He took special interest in our efforts in preserving monuments, and established a useful working liaison for us with the County Agricultural Committee. (See *The Times*, 15th October, 1958).

W. J. ROBERTS, Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, died at Chichester on 29th November, aged 84. He came to Reading as a young man to Lovejoy's bookshop in London Street, afterwards becoming associated with Sir Jesse Boot in the formation of Boot's Library and later with Sir Oswald Stoll. He became, during his years at Reading, a lifelong admirer of Mary Mitford, and he wrote a standard book on her life and friendships. He also wrote many Guide books and articles including a Guide to Burpham in Sussex which had a very wide appeal. As a lecturer he was always in demand; on several occasions he spoke to our Society and he illustrated his talks with his own photographs, which were always of very high quality. In his retirement he lived at Worthing, but he came back to Reading for a time in 1940 when he joined the Society. He was an excellent correspondent and at the time of his passing he had been engaged on his memoirs of George Lovejoy.

MISS P. M. VANSITTART-NEALE died at Bisham Grange on 8th January. She was the elder daughter of the late Sir Henry and Lady Vansittart-Neale, and until 1946, spent most of her life in the family home, the historic Bisham Abbey. In 1946, the Abbey was leased in memory of her two nephews to the Central Council for Physical Research who founded a National Recreation Centre there. Miss Vansittart-Neale continued to take the closest interest in the Abbey and she joined the Society in 1949 at the instigation of the late Mr. R. J. Bloomfield.

MR. BRIAN M. DODDS of Cookham Dean had lived in the district for 18 years and had taken a great interest in the history of Cookham. Working in co-operation with the Berkshire Record Office, he had made a collection of original documents, many of which had been lost to the neighbourhood for a long time. With his wife, he was associated with many other local activities, and he was for a time Chairman of the Cookham R.D.C.

#### Congress in Worcestershire, 9th-13th June, 1958.

With headquarters at Avoncroft College, near Bromsgrove, the 1958 Congress was attended by some 40 members. Setting out from Reading the first halt was made at Broadway Old Church. Passing through Bredon, a brief visit was made to the Evesham churches and to the Bell tower of the former great Abbey. Birdsmoreton Court, a perfect example of a moated manor house was next on the itinerary, where the adjacent church and gardens were seen. At Avoncroft College we received a very warm welcome from the Principal, Mr. G. Gregg and his brother, the Warden. We found a telegram of good wishes awaiting us from Col. Rivers-Moore and a letter from our Secretary.

The following morning we made a circuitous way through towns of the Black Country to West Bromwich, where the ancient moated manor house is being literally carved out of the tenements which have for so many years engulfed it. Mr. James Roberts, the architect, explained the work of reconstruction, and we were greatly impressed by the task of restoration which had been undertaken by the civic authority. After this we had time for a visit to Aston Hall, a fine Jacobean mansion now in possession of Birmingham Corporation. It contains fine furniture, pictures from the city collections, a magnificent staircase and the Long Gallery. After lunch at Avoncroft, we visited Harrington Hall, near Kidderminster, one of the most complete examples of Roman Catholic strongholds, now carefully restored and in the possession of the Catholic Archdiocese

of Birmingham. It has a warren of secret hiding places, and some fine Renaissance wall paintings. From here we travelled through pleasant Worcester and Hereford villages to Lower Brockhampton Hall which is in an isolated situation, reached by winding byeways at the foot of a deep valley. This interesting example of "black and white" moated manor house with detached gatehouse is a smaller edition of Stokesay. After a brief visit to Bromyard we returned to Avoncroft where, after dinner we were invited to visit Lady Vernon's home, Hanbury Hall, noted for its ceilings painted by Sir James Thornhill.

On Wednesday we set out for Stokesay Castle, one of the finest examples of a moated and fortified manor; dating from the 12th and 13th centuries. Unfortunately the day was misty and wonderful views over Wenlock Edge were obscured. At Ludlow we visited the castle, St. Laurence's church and the Reader's House. We next saw Eye Manor built in 1680, a fine Carolean house, noted for its plaster ceilings. A few miles onward and we had reached Leominster Priory, for many of us the chief place of pilgrimage in our whole expedition. Leominster was once a cell of Reading Abbey, but very little remains of the monastic buildings and part of the church was demolished at the Suppression. The 13th century nave, north aisle and lower stage of the tower still form part of the present building which has later additions, and forms a stately priory church, an echo of the splendour which must have existed at the mother church in Reading.

Thursday morning was spent at Hereford Cathedral, where Mr. F. C. Morgan was our guide. Special attention was paid to the chained library and the College of the Vicars Choral. In the afternoon we visited Brinsop Court, a moated building containing fine work of the 14th century, the main hall has an elaborate roof of the period. More pleasant lanes brought us to Weobley which has many medieval houses, then Dinmore Manor, from the 12th century for 400 years a headquarters of the Knights Hospitallers. The house is well situated on a ridge, in lovely gardens, but has been restored with more zeal than discretion. Friday found us setting out on our homeward journey, spending the morning at Worcester where we saw the Cathedral, also Greyfriars. This was a timber framed house built in 1450 by the Franciscans. Now carefully restored and used as a residence it was thought by many to have been the loveliest of all the houses visited during our tour. After lunch we passed through the Lenchies to Stratford-on-Avon through which we drove slowly in order to revive memories, then came the last stage of our return journey to Reading.

From the above brief description it will be seen that apart from visits to two cathedrals and Leominster Priory, our chief interest lay in moated houses and in this we were greatly assisted by our member Dr. Margaret Kaines-Thomas, who introduced us to Stokesay through slides; Mr. Gregg obtained slides of Leominster Priory which were also greatly appreciated.

Miss Bentall gave readings from "*A Shropshire Lad*", A. E. Housman having lived at Stoke Prior for some years. Mention must also be made of the warm interest in our party by the Principal and Warden of the College who accompanied us on some of our expeditions, and arranged evening talks and visits for us. It is with great regret that we have since learned of the death of Mr. George Gregg, a pioneer in the foundation of Adult Colleges, and particularly as applied to agriculture. Tribute must also be given to all who conducted us round the many places visited; seldom have we had such efficient guides.

M. M. SWADLING.



## Excavation Fund Account, 1958

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance of Fund at 1st January, 1958 ..	3 12 4	Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1958 ..	14 2 4
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account ..	10 10 0		
	<u>£14 2 4</u>		<u>£14 2 4</u>

## Excursion Account, 1958

EXCURSIONS:			
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Romsey and Beaulieu ..	4 7 6	Printing and Stationery ..	7 15 0
Cookham, Waltham St. Lawrence ..	6 1 6	Postages and Telephone ..	6 17 0
Wimborne St. Giles ..	12 3	Excursion Secretary's Travelling Expenses ..	4 0 0
Winchester ..	4 7 6	Cheque Book ..	4 2
Burford ..	5 16 0	Contribution to General Account ..	15 15 0
		Balance at 31st December, 1958 ..	1 12 3
Congress: Worcestershire ..	21 4 9		
Excess of Expenditure over Income ..	9 2 9		
	<u>5 15 11</u>		
	<u>£36 3 5</u>		<u>£36 3 5</u>

## Journal Fund Account, 1958

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance of Fund at 1st January, 1958 ..	400 0 0	Printing Volume 56 of Journal for 1958 ..	304 0 0
Grant (Council for British Archaeology) ..	60 0 0	Printing Offprints, Volume 56 ..	34 15 0
Donations ..	42 2 0	Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1958 (reserved for printing Volume 57) ..	400 0 0
Sale of Journals ..	18 10 0		
Transfer from General Account ..	218 3 0		
	<u>£738 15 0</u>		<u>£738 15 0</u>

## Berkshire Historic Building Fund, 1958

	INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Donations .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Bank Interest received .. .. .	..	..	..	..
	36	11 6		37 7 8
	16	2		
	<u>£37 7 8</u>		<u>£37 7 8</u>	

Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1958

## Balance Sheet at 31st December, 1958

	CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1957			1957	
400 Journal Fund Balance .. .. .	..	..	Cash at Bank:	
4 Excavation Fund Balance .. .. .	..	..	Thames Valley Trustee Savings	340 19 9
— Berks. Historic Building Fund Balance .. .. .	..	..	Bank .. .. .	..
— Excursion Account Balance .. .. .	..	..	Barclays Bank Ltd. Current	103 11 10
General Fund:			Account .. .. .	..
As at 1st January, 1958 .. .. .	454	16 0	Barclays Bank Ltd. Deposit	..
Add:			Account .. .. .	140 0 0
Excess of Income over			Barclays Bank Ltd. Excursion	..
Expenditure—			Account .. .. .	1 12 3
General Account .. .. .	11	6 2	569 (Berks. Historic Building Fund)	37 7 8
	466	2 2		
Less:				
Excess of Expenditure over			100 Defence Bonds (2½%) at cost ..	623 11 6
Income—			£200 British Electricity 4½% Guaranteed	100 0 0
Excursion Account .. .. .	5	15 11	190 Stock 1967–1969 at cost .. .. .	189 17 0
	460	6 3		
	<u>£913 8 6</u>			<u>£913 8 6</u>

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

48, MARKET PLACE,  
READING,  
BERKS.  
24th March, 1959.

(Signed) C. J. Hayward & Co.,  
Chartered Accountants.