BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Report of the Council for the Year 1961

1. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Zoology Lecture Theatre at Reading University on Saturday, 22nd April, the retiring President, Sir Frank Stenton occupying the Chair supported by the Hon. Secretary. Sir Frank proposed the adoption of the Report and Accounts for 1960 which was agreed. Sir Frank then referred to his long association with the Society and the work which had interested him, also the support he had enjoyed from the Council and Officers of the Society. He proposed the election of Mrs. Aylwin Cotton as President for the ensuing year and then vacated the Chair which was taken by Mrs. Cotton. Mrs. Cotton paid a warm tribute to Sir Frank's great record of scholarship and mentioned the volume on ANGLO-SAXON COINS which was about to be published in his honour. The re-election of the Vice-Presidents then proceeded with the addition of Sir Frank Stenton, Sir John Wolfenden, the Hon. David Smith, and Dr. Margaret Kaines-Thomas. The other officers were re-elected, including the retiring members of the Council, Mr. Kaines-Thomas and Mr. P. Walne. The following were elected to fill vacancies on the Council:—Professor Walter Stiles, Miss M. V. Robinson, Mrs. G. Feeney, Mr. A. C. Vaughan-Williams, and Admiral E. W. Claxton.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 22nd April, 1960 were read and confirmed.

MEMBERSHIP	Hon	iorary	Ordinary
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31 Dec. 1	1961	I	47
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The death of the following members was noted with regret:—The Rt. Rev. Bishop Parham—Vice-President (1946); W. H. Godfrey, C.B.E., F.S.A.—Vice-President (1951); Mrs. H. E. Bragg (1930); Miss G. Harrison-Jones (1952); The Rev. R. A. Lowry (1939); Mrs. Martin (1948); Miss A. L. Miles (1948); Miss C. R. Rowe (1945); P. H. Sellwood (1948); T. H. Simpson (1947); D. J. Summersby (1953); S. A. Warner (1948). A note on some of these late members will be found at the end of this report.

2. PROGRESS OF THE SOCIETY: The year has been marked by some outstanding changes—the retirement of Sir Frank Stenton from the office of President, the election of our first woman President, Mrs. M. Aylwin Cotton, the alteration of the format of our Journal, the publication of which being long delayed,

is expected early in 1962, and a welcome increase in membership. Excavation and field work by members of the Research Group and others were undertaken at Thatcham (mesolithic site), at Moulsford—the finding place of the gold torc, Ufton Nervet—Iron Age occupation and the discovery of the Roman road from Silchester to Dorchester, and at Sonning-Dr. Slade and his students with assistance from Mr. D. B. Connah and the St. Bartholomew's Grammar School Archaeological Society, who also worked on Roman pottery kilns at Hampstead Marshall. The Silchester Excavation Committee re-opened the site of the supposed early Christian Church at Silchester under the direction of Professor Ian Richmond and Mr. G. C. Boon. Our Meetings and Excursions were again uniformly successful and well attended. Miss Swadling is once more to be congratulated for her splendid arrangements at the annual Congress of the Society held in South Suffolk and for the many varied journeys directed to places of interest during the summer months. The Council met before each ordinary meeting as well as on the oth September. Again very much of our time has of necessity been taken up with the fate of many ancient listed buildings in Reading, Wokingham, Newbury, Wantage, Windsor, and elsewhere. On December 7th, members of the Council, led by our President, met members of Reading Town Council to suggest some changes in the route of the Reading inner ring road in order that the preservation of No. 22, The Forbury might be considered. A final decision on this matter is still awaited. After many years of correspondence, we were successful in obtaining permission to move the Oracle Gates to Kendrick Girls School, and this operation was carried out at our sole expense on October 19th.

FINANCE: Despite the Society's contribution to the cost of excavations at Silchester and the donation which has enabled the Oracle Gates to be saved, both the Excavation Fund and the Berkshire Historic Buildings Fund have been strengthened. A substantial reserve has been created to meet the cost of the forthcoming volumes 58 and 59 of the Journal. These measures have been achieved in the face of rising costs by the earning of more interest on our Reserves, by making a surplus on the running of the Congress and Excursions, and by the exercise of the strictest economy in the conduct of our affairs. Many members have helped by foregoing receipts and by paying subscriptions promptly, thereby saving the not inconsiderable cost of postage and stationery, and their co-operation is greatly appreciated. A mention must here be made of the thrift and care which our Hon. Treasurer has exercised for many years, resulting in our Society remaining solvent at a time when many others have been hampered in their work by rising costs and stringencies of the times.

3. Additions to the library:

 Council for British Archaeology. Archaeological Bibliography of Gt. Britain & Ireland, 1959. The Wantage & District Official Guide. Presented by Dr. J. Fletcher.

Proceedings of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club, Vol. XXXIII, 1957-8. (By exchange).

Transactions of the London & Middx. Archaeological Society, Vol. 20, pt. 2 (1960). By exchange.

ditto. Vol. 20, pt. 3. (By exchange.)

Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain: Ed. by S. S. Frere, M.A., F.S.A., University Inst. of Archaeology, 1958. Presented by Mr. & Mrs. Kaines-Thomas.

Place Names of Yorkshire. By A. H. Smith, English Place Name Socy. Vols. 30, 31 & 32, pts. I, II &

III. (By subscription.)

Place Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire. Vols.

33, 34, & 35, 1961. (By subscription.)

Anglo-Saxon Coins. Studies presented to F. M. Stenton on the occasion of his 80th birthday, 17th May, 1960. Ed. R. H. Dolley, Methuen 1961. (By subscription.)

Guide to Church Langford. By Richard Norton.

By gift from the Author.

- Master John Atte Hall-John de Harewell, a Historical investigation, by John M. Fletcher, M.A., Ph.D., reprinted from "Harlequin" A.E.R.E., Harwell. Summer, 1961. Presented by the Author.
- Guide to the Parish Church of All Saints, Faringdon. Ed. P. S. Spokes, Abbey Press, Abingdon. Presented by D. W. Hampton, Esq.

S.P.A.B. Report of the Committee for the 81st to 83rd

years, 1958-60. (By subscription.)

Notes on the newly found torc at Moulsford: by Prof. C. Hawkes, (reprinted from Antiquity, No. 139). Presented by T. L. Gwatkin, Esq.

A History of the Parish Church of St. Giles, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks., by G. Adams Clarke, printed by Lamport Gilbert & Co. Reading, 1961. By purchase from the Author.

Somersetshire Arch. & N. History Society Proceedings, Vol. 105, 1960-1. (By exchange.)

Leicester University Dept. of English Local History:

- Occasional Papers, 1961. No. 14. The Clerk of the Peace in Caroline Somer-set: by Thos. G. Barnes, D.Phil. No. 15. Blackburnshire: a study in early Lancashire History, by R. B. Smith. (By purchase.
- 18. By gift from Mrs. M. Aylwin Cotton:

(i) Observations on the Classification of Hill-forts in Southern England: (reprinted from Problems of the Iron Age in S. Britain, 1958)—see No. 6 above.

(ii) Relationships between Iron Age Earthworks in France & Britain: (From Celticum—Supplement à Ogam. Tradition Celtique,

No. 73-75. Rennes 1961.)
(iii) Reading & Writing: From the Archaeological Newsletter, Vol. 7, No. 2, Aug. 1961.

- Report of the Society of the Friends of St. George's and the descendants of the Knights of the Garter: Vol. IV, No. 1, 1960. Contains amongst much interesting material, a paper on St. George by Canon J. A. Fisher, also Court and Chapel 1760-1873, pt. 1, by Olwen Hedley.
- 4. Publications: Faringdon Church Council have issued a further edition of their Church Guide

originally published for our Society under the direction of Mr. P. S. Spokes. It should be recalled that a series of church guides on a regular format to cover all Berkshire churches was proposed over 20 years ago, but only a few were issued owing to the outbreak of war and the difficulties Church Councils have suffered in the following years. The Faringdon Guide has however, been outstandingly successful and there is scope for other parishes to adopt the scheme. Mention has already been made of the forthcoming Journal Vol. 58. Beside the publications presented to our Library, our President has made the following contributions to other learned publications:

The Pre-Belgic Iron Age of Gloucestershire in Bagendon: a Belgic oppidum. By Elsie M.

Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Berkshire: Archaeological Newsletter. Vol. 6, No. 12, pp. 284–287

Bibliography & Notes for the Iron Age & Roman Periods in Gt. Britain for C.O.W.A. Reports (Series II.) British Isles (1961.)

A Matter of Time: a review. Arch. Newsletter.

Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 7-8.

Reading & Writing—book reviews: ditto. Vol. 7,

No. 1, pp. 13-15.

During 1961, Mrs Cotton was elected a Vice-President of the Prehistoric Society, a Vice-President of the Royal Archaeological Institute of Gt. Britain & Ireland and also a Corresponding Member of the Deutsches Archaeologischen Instituts.

- 5. Delegates from the society: We have continued to be represented in London and Oxford at the meetings of the Council for British Archaeology, on the Watlington House Committee, the Congress of the British Records Society and other Committees. On May 12th, your Hon. Secretary was a guest of the Civic Trust for the inauguration of the Windsor Project by H.M. The Queen, where the official luncheon was addressed by the Lord Lieutenant, the Hon. David Smith (Vice-President.) Mr. C. B. Willcocks (Vice-President), Miss Swadling, the Hon. Secretary and others attended the first Meeting of the Reading Civic Society at Reading Town Hall on September 28th, where an address was given by the Bishop of Reading (V-P.) We were also represented at the formal opening of Caesar's Camp Easthampstead amenity Area on May 12th. On June 25th Miss Swadling and others attended the dedication of a memorial stone to Jethro Tull in Basildon churchyard, and on September 9th your Hon. Secretary took part in the Jubillee celebrations of the First Aerial Post between Hendon and Windsor when a repeat of the flight was made by helicopter, a special display of stamps was shown in the Windsor Guildhall Exhibition and a commemoration dinner concluded a remarkable day.
- 6. Other reports: We have received the Annual Report of the Friends of Abingdon, our affiliated Society which again details the excellent work the Friends continue in the preservation and repair of Abingdon Abbey. Their work this year included the repair of the stone chimneys to the Checker building and this was visited by His Worship the Mayor of Windsor representing our institutional members,

Windsor Corporation, accompanied by your Hon. Secretary on October 4th. The first Report and programme of the Wantage Archaeological Group was received from Mrs. G. Naish. The Roman tombstone from Lepcis Magna, formerly at Virginia Water, which was "lost" for many years until "found" by your Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, has been presented by H.M. The Queen to Reading University, and some details of this will be published in Vol. 58 of our Journal.

7. HOSPITALITY: We must record our gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor and Council of Reading University for their continued permission to hold our meetings in the University buildings and to take refreshment afterwards in the Buttery. We are also indebted to the Director and Staff of Reading Museum for arranging a Meeting of our Council on September 9th.

8. Lectures:

21 Jan. Six Sons of Abingdon by J. M. Cobban, T.D., M.A., J.P.

11 Feb. Discoveries & Excavations in Berkshire, 1960, by John Wymer, A.M.A.

25 Mar. Stained Glass in the Oxford Diocese by Dr. A. Elliott. (This Meeting was combined with the Annual Meeting of the Local History Committee.)

22 April The Excavation of Robin Hood's Arbour, Maidenhead Thicket, 1960 by Mrs. Aylwin Cotton, O.B.E., M.B., B.S., F.S.A., President.

21 Oct. The Archaeology of Deserted Villages by James G. Hurst, M.A., F.S.A.

11 Nov. Berkshire Seals by Peter Walne, M.A., F.R.Hist.S.

9 Dec. The Craftsman Speaks by L. J. Mayes, F.L.A. (with tape-recordings.)

EXCURSIONS:

I-5 May Congress in S. Suffolk, (see separate Report.)

18 May Kew Palace and Hampton Court.

20 June Littlecote House, East Woodhay Church, Burghclere, Aldermaston and the Imp Stone.

I July Greenwich, The Queen's House & Royal Naval College, The "Cutty Sark" and St. Alfege's Church.

11 July Chastleton House, Broadwell & Kencott Churches via Charlbury and Witney.

30 Aug. Chawton, Alresford (birthplace of Mary Mitford), The Vyne, etc.

20 Sept. Luton Hoo, the Wernher Collection.

9. OBITUARIES:

The Rt. Rev. Bishop A. G. Parham, M.C., M.A., a Vice-President of the Society died on Jan. 8th. The Bishop will long be remembered for his interest in the work of the Society, he attended our Meetings regularly while he was Suffragan Bishop of Reading until 1954 when he retired to a charming house at Little Wittenham. We had seen him less frequently in recent years, but he continued membership and corresponded on various topics, not the least of which was the preservation of the ancient buildings of Reading. We recollect, from the numerous meetings at which he presided, the formation of the Berkshire Photographic

Records Committee at St. Mary's Church House on 10th December, 1940 when under Canon Parham as he was then, the Scheme had a most enthusiastic beginning during a time of great uncertainty and difficulty both at home and abroad. He was rector of Easthampstead from 1921–26, Vicar of St. Mary the Virgin, Reading 1926–46, and Rural Dean of Reading from 1934 and Bishop of Reading 1942–1954. (Reading Mercury and Daily Telegraph, 10th Jan. 1961)

WALTER H. GODFREY, C.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., died on Sept. 16th in his 81st year. He came to live at Steventon in 1951 after a lifetime of work in Sussex, and the restoration of many famous buildings particularly after the War, such as the Temple Church and Chelsea old church. During his last years with us, he devoted much of his time to restoring the buildings of Abingdon Abbey. His greatest work was with the National Buildings Record which he directed from 1941 until 1960 and for this he will always be remembered, but he played a leading part in a number of other organisations such as the London Topographical Society, the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), the Royal Archaeological Institute, and the Council for British Archaeology. He wrote many books on architecture, some of the best known being The Story of Architecture in England (Batsford); Our Building Inheritance (1944) and he edited many volumes of the London Survey Committee and wrote church guides and articles for the Sussex Archaeological Rociety. "Godfrey's knowledge and judgment as an antiquarian, an archaeologist and an historian were outstanding, and the study of ancient buildings owes as much to him as to anyone in his generation.'

The Times (18 Sept. 1961.)

Percy Hickson Sellwood died at Newbury on Oct. 3rd. He was Secretary of the Newbury Numismatic Society and Hon. Archivist to the Corporation of Newbury. In business as a watchmaker and jeweller, he had for many years opportunity and interest in coin collecting which he exploited to the full, and his collections of Roman, British silver and other varieties were exceedingly fine. He was most generous in making loans for exhibition purposes locally, and during the first ten years of the Windsor Guildhall Exhibition he loaned many fine series of medals, Roman sestertii and English Crown pieces which were admired by thousands of visitors to the Royal Borough. His collecting extended to other articles including Victoriana, newspapers, stamps and seal impressions. His work on the Newbury Archives was a labour of love which will be most difficult to continue without him, and was carried out with the thoroughness which characterised everything he attempted. He lectured to our Society on An Early British Coin from White Horse Hill. The Stuart hoard of gold coins from Lye Farm, Lambourn (21st Jan. 1950), and at Newbury on The Origin and early days of Newbury Cloth Hall (14th Dec. 1955), presenting our library with a typescript copy of this lecture, also some notes on The Waterside Chapel, Newbury (1961.) He was a most valued correspondent on many subjects especially coins and the ancient buildings of Newbury, and it is hoped that a small part of his collections will find a permanent home in Newbury Museum, also in Windsor Guildhall. Reading Mercury & Newbury Weekly News, (7 Oct. 1961.)

STAFFORD ALLEN WARNER: died on May 29th aged 81 at his home in Didcot, where he had lived for 36 years. A man of very wide interests, he contributed much to the town's community life and to its history by his researches which he carried out unceasingly until his last days. The son of an American Yardley Warner, a Quaker who founded Warnersville, a town for freed slaves in N. Carolina, Stafford Warner was born at Penybont, Radnorshire, and he told the story of his early life and his father's adventures in the biography "Yardley Warner, the Freedman's Friend" issued from the Wessex Press which he founded, publishing local pamphlets including a useful album of photographs relating to the neighbourhood of Didcot. Warner lectured to our Society on the history of Didcot and more than once assisted the organisation of our Excursions in his area. He was a most regular and valuable correspondent on all local history matters, and he collected a fine library of local books, manuscripts and newspaper cuttings to which he was constantly adding, some 160 of these were bequeathed by him to Didcot Library (Reading Mercury, 13 Jan. 1962.) It had been the custom of the writer of this note to pay at least one annual visit to Didcot for the past fourteen years to visit Mr. Warner and spend a few hours with him to see his latest books and other collections, the last being very shortly before his passing. His health was then failing, but his enthusiasm and conversation were not diminished.

CONGRESS IN SOUTH SUFFOLK,

May 1-5

directed by Miss M. M. Swadling

10. Our headquarters were the Swan Hotel, Lavenham, which could not accommodate all our numbers, some members staying at Long Melford and at Sudbury. The programme was arranged and the Congress directed by Miss Swadling assisted by Miss Masters, and some 41 members including Mrs. Aylwin Cotton (President) and the Hon. Secretary being present for part of the time. We were fortunate in having the expert guidance of Mr. Philip Dickinson, F.S.A., of Saffron Walden who accompanied the party for four days and lectured on the district on the evening of May 2nd. The first day's journey from Reading included the fine Norman building of Waltham Abbey, the wooden church at Greenstead-by-Ongar, Tilby Abbey, Thaxted and Saffron Walden.

May 2nd, after collecting our Party from various hotels we made for Colchester where our President, Mrs. Cotton awaited us. The Castle and Museum were visited under the direction of the Curator, Mr. M. R. Hull, who also accompanied us round the ruins of St. Botolph's Priory. A brief visit to the

Saxon church of Holy Trinity, was followed by lunch at The Cups Hotel. The afternoon was spent at St. Osyth's Priory, where we explored the ruins, set in delightful gardens, and were conducted round the restored 15th century gate-house by the owner, whose collection of Chinese jade and ceramics is happily displayed in this medieval setting. After a brief visit to the strange church, with its brick pillars, we returned to Colchester and tea, before making our way to Long Melford where we visited the magnificent perpendicular wool-merchants' church. The morning of May 3rd was spent in Constable's Country, visiting Dedham church, another fine cloth-merchants' benefaction, rebuilt in the 16th century and also Weavers' Corner, before making our way to the banks of the Stour and walking round Flatford Mill. Only a brief glimpse of East Bergholt church was possible, owing to road works in progress. After lunch we set out for Maldon, our chief objective being the 12th century Beeleigh Abbey, now the home of Mr. W. A. Foyle, where, in addition to the interesting old house we saw our host's extensive collection of illuminated MSS. and early printed books. On the way home, we had a brief view of Layer Marney Towers.

May 4th started rainy, and a damp beginning to the day was made at Bury St. Edmunds Abbey ruins with the churches of St. Mary and St. James and Moyses' Hall Museum. Mr. Dickinson was again on his home ground both at Bury, at the Collegiate Church of Denston and at Audley End House. The weather cleared a little allowing us to see the well preserved Norman Castle at Hedingham and the round church at Little Maplestead, but a heavy thunderstorm concluded the day and prevented some of the more venturesome of the party from paying a moonlight visit to Borley Rectory.

As a contrast, May 5th started brilliantly, the party assembled in Lavenham church which was seen to advantage, and the story of the building was told by the vicar, the Rev. Cotton. A tour was made of the village, and then a short journey by Essex roads to Coggeshall to see Paycocke's House and the church. After lunch at the White Hart, Braintree, a short business meeting of the Society was held during which new members were elected and presentations were made to Miss Swadling by Professor Stiles and to our driver for many years—Mr. John Bristow, who was unanimously elected an Honorary Member of the Society. The final visit of the day was to Ingatestone Hall, the home of the Petre family, now in part leased to the Essex County Council who display some of their own archives amongst the Petre family pictures and furniture. The return journey to Reading was made safely via Buckhurst Hill and the North Circular Road.

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1961

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Journal Fund Account 1961

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Berkshire Historic Buildings Fund Account 1961

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

48 Market Place, Reading, Berks. 15th March, 1962

C. J. HAYWARD & Co. Chartered Accountants.