

# BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## Report of the Council for 1964

1. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Zoology Lecture Theatre at Reading University on Saturday 25th April, 1964. The President, Mrs M. A. Cotton, occupied the Chair. The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 1963, having been circulated, were adopted by unanimous consent. Proposed by Dr Margaret Kaines-Thomas and seconded by Dr Slade, Mrs M. A. Cotton was re-elected President by acclamation. The Vice-Presidents were re-elected on the proposition of Dr Fletcher; the Editorial Committee was proposed by Mr Connah who made mention of the exertions of Mr Wymer, who had been largely responsible for producing two issues of the journal in one year. The President proposed Miss Swadling as Honorary Excursion Secretary with a tribute to the magnificent work put into this very popular and useful side of our activities. The Honorary Secretary was also proposed from the Chair and re-elected. Mr Wymer proposed the re-election of Mr Gafford as Honorary Treasurer; Miss Robinson proposed the re-election of Mrs Feeney as Schools Liaison Officer and Mr A. J. Wilson the re-election of Mr C. J. Hayward as Honorary Auditor. For the Council Mrs Jacob proposed the re-election of Mr Connah due to retire under Rule 5, also the election of Mr J. K. Major to fill a vacancy.

The following alteration to the rules, having been published, was proposed from the Chair and adopted:

Rule 6 to be altered to read as follows:

The minimum annual subscription (due January 1st) shall be £1 10s. od. per member to include the Journal as issued. Two members residing at the same address may pay a joint subscription of £2 5s. od. per annum which shall include the delivery of one copy of the Journal. New members joining during the last three months of the Society's year may pay 7s. 6d. if they do not desire the current year's Journal, for which they would pay a full contribution. Educational establishments who join as Corporate members may pay £2 2s. od. which will include one copy of the Journal and entitle four members of the institution to attend any Meeting of the Society. A member of the Council will be appointed liaison officer for Corporate members to arrange such special meetings of the Society in different parts of the County as these members may desire. All monies received shall be applied to furthering the

objects of the Society, and no portion of such monies shall be paid to any member of the Society other than that the Council may approve the payment of out-of-pocket expenses actually incurred in the service of the Society.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th April, 1963, having been circulated, were adopted. Several new members were declared elected.

The President then delivered her Annual Address. (see Section 12).

2. SPECIAL RESOLUTION At the Meeting in Abingdon School Hall on Saturday 14th March, the following Resolution from the Chair was carried with applause:

"That the Council and Members of the combined Societies offer their Loyal Duty to Her Majesty The Queen, our Royal Patron and to His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, and tender their congratulations on the birth of the Prince".

The following reply was graciously sent to our President from Buckingham Palace, (dated 17th March, 1964):

"Dear Madam, I am commanded to convey to you and those associated with you the sincere thanks of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh for your kind message of congratulations on the birth of their son. Yours sincerely, (signed) M. E. Adeane."

3. MEMBERSHIP	<i>Honorary</i>	<i>Corporate</i>	
31 Dec. 1963	9	6	
31 Dec. 1964	—	4	
	9	10	
	—	—	
<i>Ordinary</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Total</i>
532	—	—	547
22	8	16	+
—	—	—	—
554	8	16	549
—	—	—	—

The deaths of the following are noted with regret: Mrs H. Barrett (1962); Mr L. Chater (1960); Mr S. Collier (1936); Mr T. Kendall (1960); Mr C. H. Moore (1959); Major T. Reay (1957); Mr H. Sinclair (1950); Mr S. A. Skinner (1938).

## BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A note on some of these late members appears under Section 14.

4. **PROGRESS OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE SOCIETY AND COUNTY** The increase in membership noted in our last Report has been maintained, but we would still like to add to our numbers. The Corporate membership scheme for schools has proved very successful and extra Meetings outside Reading were well attended. Our other Meetings, Congress and Excursions have all been excellently supported, several of our lectures during the year have broken new ground, and those of local interest will, in due course, be published in the Journal. Our many active members have taken part in the excavations arranged by the Research Group. This has been a great help to the organisers and, we are sure, of great benefit to those who were so occupied.

The year's field work may be summarised as follows:

*Mesolithic*: Mr Wymer and Mr Froom investigated a late site on the banks of the Kennet at Welford. The remains indicated an occupation later than Thatcham with some unusual implements of the period. (27th July-14th August)

*Neolithic*: The major effort was put into the Lam-bourn Seven Barrows Long Barrow which was a rescue dig under the auspices of the Ministry of Works. Mr Wymer directed: the side ditches were investigated and at the end of the period, a burial was discovered in the north-eastern end. (14th August-10th September)

*Medieval*: Dr Slade, with the University and Reading Museum, carried out some investigations at the Abbey Mill, Reading, while demolition of the 19th century building was in progress. Later some heavy digging was undertaken in the St Lawrence's Hall car park, close to the 'Abbey Wall'.

Mrs Pike with Miss Dillaway discovered and excavated a series of medieval pottery kilns at Camley, Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead. This was a rescue dig on a building site, and great credit is due to these ladies and their helpers for their vigilance and the rapidity with which they carried out this investigation.

*General*: Investigation was continued at the Bray gravel pits, resulting in many more varied finds being rescued and reported.

Mr D. B. Connah with the St Bartholomew's Grammar School Archaeological Society continued their clearing operation at Hamstead Marshall with the intention of lifting and preserving one of the kilns.

Outside the Society, reports have been received of excavation at the Neolithic habitation site at Abingdon in May by Mr Avery in connection with the Ashmolean Museum. Mr Harding of the Oxford

University Institute of Archaeology carried out extensive excavation at the Noah's Ark site, Frilford.

It is in the recording of small finds that we have noticed a considerable increase in recent years, as the Archaeological Notes in our Journal show. Hardly a week passes without one or another of the County newspapers reporting some new find in their columns, and the interest many of our members show in bringing this information to the notice of the proper authorities is gratifying.

**INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY** Following Mr Major's research on the remaining Berkshire Watermills, published in Vol. 61 of the Journal, Mr Copesey has undertaken a record of Berkshire milestones.

**EARTHWORKS, MONUMENTS AND BUILDINGS** The Council has been consulted and in many instances taken the initiative with regard to the condition of earthworks at Uffington Castle, Inkpen Long Barrow, Spencer's Farm Maidenhead and a moated enclosure at Midgham. Buildings have been dealt with at Abingdon, Blewbury, Bulmershe, Childrey, Coleshill, East Hendred, Finchampstead, Grove, Longcot, South Moreton, Newbury, Sparsholt, Stevenon, Wallingford, Wantage, West Hanney, White Waltham and Wokingham. A useful Memorandum was received covering buildings at New Windsor, and some suggestions were made for a like project at Wokingham which is being undertaken by the local Civic Society.

The continued delay by the authorities in deciding the route across Berkshire for the M4 Motorway has been most frustrating, and has been of great inconvenience to the Research Group who wish to plan field work in advance of the building of this road. On the subject of roads, some note has been made on the preservation of part of Old Street. We have had some correspondence in connection with the control of finds following the operations of skin-divers on the bed of the Thames.

5. **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. Our depleted Bank balances now earn very little interest and although the expense of a complete volume of the Journal has not been incurred in 1964, nevertheless provision has had to be made towards the cost of Volume 61.

Despite these adverse factors, it has been possible to replace the grants made to the Excavation Fund and to strengthen the Berkshire Historic Buildings Fund.

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

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1964

6. **ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS COMMITTEE** During 1964 the Committee received 32 photographs of Berkshire buildings, of which duplicate copies were deposited at the National Buildings Record. They included views of 4, Market Place, Abingdon, taken at the request of the Berkshire County Council before this interesting Georgian house was demolished; 19 photos of the medieval White Hart Inn, Fyfield, taken by Mr P. S. Spokes during its restoration; also photos of Bannisters at Finchampstead, Grove Post Office and West Cottage, West Hanney, etc. It is hoped to obtain photographs of all Listed Buildings and groups of interesting old cottages etc. in the County, but more help is urgently required if all are to be adequately recorded. Members willing to assist in this valuable work should advise Mr C. B. Willcocks of 47 St Peter's Avenue, Caversham, who will give further information.

7. **EXHIBITIONS** Our publications and information about the Society were shown at the 20th International Geographical Congress in the hall of the Royal Geographical Society, London, during July. Mr Bond, your Hon. Secretary and others assisted in the arrangement of the 14th Exhibition in Windsor Guildhall. A special exhibit dealt with the quatercentenary celebrations of the birth of Shakespeare.

8. **DONATIONS FROM THE SOCIETY** The Council made a donation towards the proposed memorial arch to be constructed at Abingdon Abbey in memory of our former vice-president, the late Mr W. H. Godfrey. Reading University Library accepted our gift of some twenty volumes of the Transactions of the Essex Field Club.

9. **PUBLICATIONS** The final part of Mr F. Sharpe's work on *The Church Bells of Berkshire* was issued as a supplement to Vol. 61 of the Journal in November. This completes a great undertaking which has been some 25 years on the way. Mr Sharpe is to be congratulated on his achievement, for during the period mentioned he has published elsewhere many accounts of bells from the Channel Islands to remote Welsh counties. Other publications by our members are noted in our Library accessions (Section 15).

10. As in former years, we have continued active representation at the London and Oxford meetings of the Council for British Archaeology. This included a Conference on Industrial Archaeology in London on 18th March and on the Policy of Research at Luton on November 7th. A Meeting to deal with local Regional Research was presided over by Mrs Cotton at Reading Town Hall on October 3rd.

11. **HONOURS** Our congratulations go to Miss M. M. Swadling, elected a Fellow of the Society of Anti-

quaries on January 9th and to Mr W. J. Smith (County Archivist) elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

### 12. LECTURES

- 11 Jan. READING Dr J. J. Wilkes of Manchester University. *Roman Yugoslavia*.
- 15 Feb. READING Messrs J. J. Wymer and W. H. Manning. *Discoveries and Excavation in Berkshire during 1963*.
- 27 Feb. WANTAGE Meeting of Corporate Members at the Icknield Secondary Modern School. Mr T. L. Gwatkin. *Digging up the Past in Berkshire*.
- 14 Mar. ABINGDON A joint meeting with the Friends of Abingdon and Corporate Members was held at Abingdon School, by kind permission of the Headmaster. Mr P. S. Spokes and Dr J. M. Fletcher gave a joint lecture on *Some Medieval Buildings in North Berkshire and their Significance*.
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- 21 Nov. Miss Joan M. Harding on *A Late Bronze Age Homestead in Weston Wood, Albury, Surrey*.
- 5 Dec. Mr J. Kenneth Major on *Berkshire Water-mills*.

### EXCURSIONS

- 6-10 April ANNUAL CONGRESS of the Society in East Kent. Director, Miss M. M. Swadling. The headquarters were in Canterbury. (See separate report in Section 16).
- 27 May Schools Excursion arranged by Mrs G. M. Feeney to White Horse Hill and Wayland's Smithy etc., with assistance from Mr J. J. Wymer.
- 11 June Stourhead and Amesbury, arranged by Miss M. M. Swadling.
- 27 June Hamstead Marshall excavations and Littlecote Manor, arranged by Miss M. M. Swadling, with assistance from Mr D. B. Connah.
- 15 July Eaton Hastings, Inglesham, Buscot Park and Fairford, arranged by Miss M. M. Swadling.

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- 1 Sept. Stratford-on-Avon, arranged in connection with the Shakespeare quatercentenary celebrations, directed by Miss M. M. Swadling.
- 5 Sept. East Garston and Sparsholt churches with the excavations at Seven Barrows, Lambourn, arranged by Miss Swadling with assistance from the Rev. E. Walker and Mr J. J. Wymer.

13. **HOSPITALITY** The Council would express their thanks to the Vice-Chancellor and Council of Reading University for use of University premises for Meetings; to the Director of Reading Museum for accommodation at special Meetings; the Headmasters of Abingdon School and Icknield School, Wantage for similar facilities, and to many who helped at the Congress and Excursions.

14. **OBITUARIES:** STANLEY COLLIER of Knowl Hill died on November 8th. He joined the Society in 1936 at the instigation of the late F. J. Bloomfield following the Roman excavations at Canhurst Farm close to his home. He was a serving member of our Council at the time of his decease and was an authority on the antiquities and countryside of his village. He performed many services in organising excursions and at our Annual Congresses, and will be greatly missed.

TOM KENDALL, a native of Windsor, died at his Holyport home on April 16th. His house had then recently been Listed as a Building of Architectural interest under the Town and Country Planning Act. An artist and musician, he had for many years been Chairman of the Windsor Art Society and one of the organisers of their annual exhibitions. He had a great knowledge and interest in local history which had been freely given to the Windsor Guildhall Exhibition since its foundation. He designed displays and backgrounds to many of the exhibits and was most generous with his time and assistance.

C. H. MOORE died at Hayes on 3rd April; an Accountant and Church organist, he was a member of the Royal Archaeological Society and the Wiltshire and Buckinghamshire Societies. In addition he was a leader of the antiquarian branch of the Hayes and Harlington Society and Chairman of the Ecclesiological Society. Since joining our Society he had been a frequent correspondent on matters relating to our churches and their history.

### 15. ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Books and pamphlets by gift:

1. *Catalogue of the Records of Parliament*. Memo No. 29 from M. F. Bond Esq.
2. *House of Lords Record Office Memoranda*. Memo No. 30 from M. F. Bond Esq.
3. *The Stones of the Mont de la Ville Passage Grave, Jersey*, by A. E. Mourant, M.A. *The re-erection*

*of the two fallen stones in the Passage Grave at Park Place, Wargrave*, by J. J. Wymer Esq.  
*Petrological Notes on the Mont de la Ville* by A. C. Bishop (from *Bulletin Soc. Jersaise*, 1963. Vol. 18, pt. 3. The Museum, Jersey, C.I. 1963) From J. J. Wymer Esq.

4. *Archaeological Newsletter*, Vol. 17. No. 10. March 1964. (contains an account of the excavations of the Romano-British Kilns at Hamstead Marshall, Berks, by D. B. Connah.) From D. B. Connah Esq.
5. *Hansard House of Lords Official Report*, 10th March, 1964. (Contains a question on Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest.) From M. F. Bond Esq.
6. *The Churches of All Saints' and St. Mark's, Binfield*, a guide by Mrs Jacob. From Mrs Jacob.
7. *The Church of St. Peter, Wootton, Berkshire*, a guide by Mrs G. Lambrick. From Mrs Lambrick.
8. *Donnington Castle*, Ministry of Works Guide by Dr Margaret Wood, H.M.S.O. 1964. From Dr Wood.
9. *Buckinghamshire County Council, Report of the County Museum*, 1 April, 1960 to 31 March, 1963. From the Bucks County Museum.
10. *The Church Bells of Guernsey, Alderney and Sark*, by Frederick Sharpe, 1964. From F. Sharpe Esq.

Periodicals etc. by exchange:

11. *Report of the S.P.A.B.* 84th and 85th year, 1961 and 1962.
12. *Proc. Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Soc.* 1962-3, Vol. 107, 1963.
13. *Records of Bucks*, Vol. 17, part 3, 1963.
14. *Northamptonshire Archaeological Society. Report for 1963.*
15. *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Arch. Society*, Vol. 21, No. 1, 1963.
16. *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Vol. 1, pt 3 (3rd series), 1964.
17. *A Pedro Bosch Gimpera*, by Santos Junior, Mexico, 1963.
18. *As Graviuras Litotripticas De Ridevides (Vilarica)* by J. R. dos Santos Jnr, Porto, 1963.
19. *Trabalhos de Antropologia e Etnologia*, Vol. 19, fasc. 2. Porto, 1963. (contains an illustrated account of rock carvings at Ridevides, a pottery works, flat bronze axes from Agro Velho, Montalegre.)
20. *O Centro Oleiro da Flor da Rosa*, by A. Isidoro, Porto, 1963.
22. *Escavacoes no Castro de Carvalhalhos*, by J. R. dos Santos Jnr, 1963. (illustrations of Roman coins and pennanular brooches.)

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1964

23. *Esbosco Arqueologico do concelho do Crato*, by A. Isidoro.
  21. *Escavacoes no Castro de S. Vicente (Barroso)*, by J. R. dos Santos Jnr, 1963.
- By purchase:
24. *C.B.A. Current and forthcoming Offprints*, Nos 32 & 33, 1964.
  25. *C.B.A. Archaeological Bibliography for Gt. Britain and Ireland*, 1961.
  26. *C.B.A. Report No. 13*, for the year ended 30th June, 1963.
  27. *St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, Report of the Society of the Friends of St. George's and the Descendants of the Knights of the Garter*, 1963. Vol. IV, No. 4 (contains: Gerald Wellesley, a Victorian Dean & Domestic Chaplain, by G. Battiscombe; A newly discovered well in the Deanery, Windsor Castle, by M. F. Bond; The Return of the Church Commissioners' documents to Windsor, by Shelagh Bond.)
  28. *The origin of Southampton*, by L. A. Burgess, Leicester University, Occasional Papers, No. 16.

### CANTERBURY CONGRESS

April 6-10, 1964

Some forty members took part in our Canterbury pilgrimage, leaving Reading on the morning of April 6th. Our first visit in Kent was to Ospringe, a famous resting place for pilgrims, where still stands the ancient Maison Dieu, now used as a museum. This hospice for travellers was originally founded by Henry II, and in it he reserved a Camera Regis for his own use when journeying to Canterbury or Dover. After a brief journey up Water Lane to the Church we set out through Faversham and Harbledown and soon the towers of Canterbury came into view down a straight stretch of road. Passing on the right the ancient Church of St Dunstan, where pilgrims under penance would don a hair shirt, as was done by Henry II, we arrived at the West Gate and divided for our hotels.

The next morning we visited the Cathedral under excellent guidance which added much to our appreciation and enjoyment of the magnificent building. In the afternoon we set out for Dover Castle and

St Mary's-in-Castro Church, one of the oldest churches in England, adjoining the Roman Pharos, a beacon which guided vessels across the Channel from Gaul. Passing Deal, Sandwich and Pegwell Bay we took tea at Margate after which we saw Minster Church, considered one of the finest in the County. It dates in part from the 11th century and nearby are the ruins of Minster Abbey, another 7th century foundation. Our last call of the day was to Reculver where the ruins of the Roman fort are watched over by the twin towers of St Mary's Church—preserved because of their value as a navigational landmark when the rest of the building was demolished.

On Wednesday we spent a pleasant morning at Sissinghurst Castle, home of the late V. Sackville West, afterwards making our way to the 13th century Hever Castle, now carefully restored. With a brief visit to the interesting church at the gates we travelled on to Penshurst Place. Here we saw the Great Hall, dating from 1340 and the rest of the mainly Elizabethan mansion and its contents of notable portraits and fine furniture. Thursday was spent in Canterbury with visits to the Royal museum, the Roman Pavement and to the West Gate where a collection of arms and armour are housed in the upper rooms dating from the 14th century. Later we saw St Augustine's Abbey, the church of St Pancras, and St Martin's Church, afterwards proceeding to the far-famed little Norman church at Barfreston adorned with much elaborate carving, and to Patricbourne Church also with fine Norman features.

On Friday came the homeward journey which started with Maidstone where, under the guidance of the Museum Curator, Mr L. R. A. Grove (formerly of Reading), we explored the collection of carriages housed in the ancient Archbishop's Stables, and then the general museum most pleasantly housed in a fine 16th century manor. Lunch followed at Chatham with fine views of the Thames shipping, and then *via* Rochester and West Malling we found our way to Ightham Mote, one of the most complete specimens of a moated manor house in the country. This was the last visit of the tour, and we were soon approaching home ground and Reading after a varied and interesting journey. Some members declared it to have been the best Congress ever; others deplored the lack of impressive 'scenery' as compared with other years' activities.

Quot homines, tot sententiae.

M.M.S.

# BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1964

	1963	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1963										
35 Printing and Stationery—General	423	40	1	0				422	10	0
26 Postages and Telephone .. ..	15	23	6	5				26	1	0
— Purchase of Publications .. ..			8	6						
<i>Subscriptions Paid:</i>										
S.P.A.B. .. ..		1	1	0				4	10	0
Friends of St George, Windsor			10	0						
English Place-Name Society ..		1	5	0						
Friends of Reading University ..		5	5	0						
British Records Association ..		1	10	0						
Berkshire Local History Committee .. ..		2	2	0						
Friends of Abingdon .. ..		2	2	0						
C.B.A.—9th Regional Group ..				5	0					
C.B.A. .. ..		3	15	0						
19		17	15	0						
20 Lecturer's Expenses .. ..		17	7	0				13	10	0
5 Working Projector .. ..		2	5	0				3	10	5
20 Rent of Room—Watlington House		25	0	0						
3 Insurance .. ..		2	18	7				28	4	6
4 Gratuities .. ..		4	0	0						
3 Auditor's Fee .. ..		3	3	0				1	12	0
1 Cheque Book .. ..			10	0						
2 Depreciation—Typewriter ..		2	7	6						
11 Grant to Berkshire Architectural Records .. ..										
<i>Transfer to Fund Accounts:</i>										
15 Berkshire Historic Buildings Fund .. ..		5	0	0						
25 Excavation Fund .. ..		30	0	0						
		35	0	0						
<i>Journal:</i>										
261 Cost of Printing Supplement to Vol. 61 .. ..		118	15	6						
150 Provision for future Printing ..		200	0	0						
— Excess of Income over Expenditure		2	10	5						
£600		£495	7	11				£495	7	11

	£	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		£	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Sale of Journals..	..	110	12	10	..	..	..
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account ..	..	5	0	0	..	4	18
Total	..	115	12	10	..	118	156
							—
Printing—Volume 61 (Supplement) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Volume 61 (Extra copies) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Reproduction Fee ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Purchase of Old Journals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Postages and Telephone Calls..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
							—
		£	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		£	<i>s.</i>
		122	17	2		122	172

## Berkshire Historic Buildings Fund 1964

Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1964	£	s.	d.
..	89	14	0
Balance of Fund at 1st January, 1964..	..	..	..
Bank Interest received..	..	..	..
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	..	5	0
	£89	14	0

Balance Sheet as on 31st December, 1964

[illegible]

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

22 CROSS STREET, READING  
16th March, 1965

**C. J. HAYWARD & Co.**  
*Chartered Accountants*



## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1964

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- By purchase:
24. *C.B.A. Current and forthcoming Offprints*, Nos 32 & 33, 1964.
  25. *C.B.A. Archaeological Bibliography for Gt. Britain and Ireland*, 1961.
  26. *C.B.A. Report No. 13*, for the year ended 30th June, 1963.
  27. *St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, Report of the Society of the Friends of St. George's and the Descendants of the Knights of the Garter*, 1963. Vol. IV, No. 4 (contains: Gerald Wellesley, a Victorian Dean & Domestic Chaplain, by G. Battiscombe; A newly discovered well in the Deanery, Windsor Castle, by M. F. Bond; The Return of the Church Commissioners' documents to Windsor, by Shelagh Bond.)
  28. *The origin of Southampton*, by L. A. Burgess, Leicester University, Occasional Papers, No. 16.

### CANTERBURY CONGRESS

April 6-10, 1964

Some forty members took part in our Canterbury pilgrimage, leaving Reading on the morning of April 6th. Our first visit in Kent was to Ospringe, a famous resting place for pilgrims, where still stands the ancient Maison Dieu, now used as a museum. This hospice for travellers was originally founded by Henry II, and in it he reserved a Camera Regis for his own use when journeying to Canterbury or Dover. After a brief journey up Water Lane to the Church we set out through Faversham and Harbledown and soon the towers of Canterbury came into view down a straight stretch of road. Passing on the right the ancient Church of St Dunstan, where pilgrims under penance would don a hair shirt, as was done by Henry II, we arrived at the West Gate and divided for our hotels.

The next morning we visited the Cathedral under excellent guidance which added much to our appreciation and enjoyment of the magnificent building. In the afternoon we set out for Dover Castle and

St Mary's-in-Castro Church, one of the oldest churches in England, adjoining the Roman Pharos, a beacon which guided vessels across the Channel from Gaul. Passing Deal, Sandwich and Pegwell Bay we took tea at Margate after which we saw Minster Church, considered one of the finest in the County. It dates in part from the 11th century and nearby are the ruins of Minster Abbey, another 7th century foundation. Our last call of the day was to Reculver where the ruins of the Roman fort are watched over by the twin towers of St Mary's Church—preserved because of their value as a navigational landmark when the rest of the building was demolished.

On Wednesday we spent a pleasant morning at Sissinghurst Castle, home of the late V. Sackville West, afterwards making our way to the 13th century Hever Castle, now carefully restored. With a brief visit to the interesting church at the gates we travelled on to Penshurst Place. Here we saw the Great Hall, dating from 1340 and the rest of the mainly Elizabethan mansion and its contents of notable portraits and fine furniture. Thursday was spent in Canterbury with visits to the Royal museum, the Roman Pavement and to the West Gate where a collection of arms and armour are housed in the upper rooms dating from the 14th century. Later we saw St Augustine's Abbey, the church of St Pancras, and St Martin's Church, afterwards proceeding to the far-famed little Norman church at Barfreston adorned with much elaborate carving, and to Patricbourne Church also with fine Norman features.

On Friday came the homeward journey which started with Maidstone where, under the guidance of the Museum Curator, Mr L. R. A. Grove (formerly of Reading), we explored the collection of carriages housed in the ancient Archbishop's Stables, and then the general museum most pleasantly housed in a fine 16th century manor. Lunch followed at Chatham with fine views of the Thames shipping, and then *via* Rochester and West Malling we found our way to Ightham Mote, one of the most complete specimens of a moated manor house in the country. This was the last visit of the tour, and we were soon approaching home ground and Reading after a varied and interesting journey. Some members declared it to have been the best Congress ever; others deplored the lack of impressive 'scenery' as compared with other years' activities.

Quot homines, tot sententiae.

M.M.S.