

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Report of the Council for 1967

1. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Zoology Lecture Theatre at Reading University on 22nd April, 1967. The Chair was occupied by Dr C. F. Slade. The Annual Report and Accounts for 1966 having been circulated were adopted. On the proposition of Mr P. Crampton, seconded by Mr Willcocks, Dr Slade was unanimously re-elected President for the coming year. The Vice-Presidents were re-elected with these additions: Miss M. M. Swadling, F.L.A., F.S.A., having served on the Council for many years, filling many offices including those of Secretary, Treasurer, Excursion and Congress Secretaries, now retiring from the Council, Mr H. J. C. Neobard, O.B.E. having been an active Council member for many years, rendering great service to the Society, now retires. The motion proposing these nominations was carried with applause. The other officers were re-elected. For the Council the Rev. S. E. Chavasse and Mr Neobard retired, and did not seek re-election. Dr J. M. Fletcher, Mr W. J. Smith, Mr H. W. Copsey, Mr Leslie O. Hunter and Mr P. H. Crampton due to retire, were re-elected Miss E. Few and Mrs Shorland with Mr Luke Over, having been nominated, were elected to fill vacancies.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 23rd April, 1966, having been circulated, were adopted and signed. Three new members were elected to the Society. The President, Dr C. F. Slade then gave an illustrated address on *The Borough of Reading in the early 19th century*. (See also Section 9).

2. MEMBERSHIP

Hon.	Corporate	Ordinary	Deaths	Total
8	13	465	5	481

It is with regret that we have to record the deaths of the following:

Sir John Cockcroft (1947); Miss J. M. Ellis (1955); Mr H. M. Sale (1959); Dr Staines-Read (1946) and Sir Frank Stenton (1947). A note on some of these late members is to be found in section 12.

3. THE SOCIETY. Our membership and activities have been maintained, the attendance at Meetings and Excursions being very satisfactory. Mrs Slade organised a Congress in Pembrokeshire: the party under the leadership of Dr Slade spent a most interesting five days among the further Welsh

antiquities (see report in section 14). The Society sustained a very serious loss by the death of Sir Frank Stenton.

4. FIELDWORK AND EXCAVATIONS. The Berkshire Field Research Group issue from time to time their own Bulletin of local activities. Mr Crampton investigated a bottle-shaped enclosure on Aston Upthorpe Down, finding a sherd of Bronze Age pottery, but the monument appeared to date from the last quarter of the 1st century B.C. Investigations were made on the line of the Roman Road at Wantage and some further work was carried out by Dr Slade on part of the Reading Abbey site.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY. Mr Kenneth Major has continued to investigate many passing local industries, including a light railway at Buscot Park; Colliers Brickworks; Reading and the Berkshire and Wiltshire Canal. Further records were made on dovecotes and milestones.

5. EXHIBITIONS. Mrs Shorland organised an exhibition of items relating to the History of Warfield from July 5-8th in the Brownlow Memorial Hall. Your Hon. Secretary organised the 17th Windsor Guildhall Exhibition and assisted in arranging a small display in the village hall at Hurley on 2nd December when the model of Hurley Priory constructed by the late Col. Rivers-Moore was on show.

6. PRESERVATION OF BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS. The Council continue to deal with a very large number of cases in the county and are able to report some success in the preservation of part of the Stable Block at Sterlings in Wantage; No. 2 Bath Road, Reading; 53-59 Peach Street, Wokingham; and Barns at Inkpen. Advice has been given on many proposed alterations; the Bracknell Development Corporation have agreed to protect a large barrow at Easthampstead situated on land which is being developed.

With assistance from Dr J. M. Fletcher, the Society has been able to co-operate in many matters of conservation with C.P.R.E. and proposals are now under discussion to make a large area of the Downland in the County with that adjacent in Wiltshire and North Hampshire an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It may take some time to achieve this objective.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1967

7. FINANCE. The year has brought a decline in our income from subscriptions and donations, but the continued economies in the Society's operations and help of the majority whose subscriptions are paid without repeated reminders, has resulted in reductions in expenses compared with the year before. A handsome surplus which appeared from the Excursion Account was largely due to two factors: the group attending the Congress was of a size to be accommodated in a single coach, and the illness of the professional guide, whose place was taken at short notice by our President, saved a fee for services. Substantial provision has been made for two issues of the Journal which are likely to be published in quick succession.

8. PERSONALIA AND OTHER SOCIETIES. Our distinguished Honorary Member, Professor H. L. Hawkins, D.Sc., F.R.S. celebrated his 80th birthday in June. The congratulations and good wishes of members were conveyed to the Professor who replied in his inimitable style. Mr J. J. Wymer, former archaeologist to Reading Museum, has been appointed a Research Associate in the Department of Anatomy at the University of Chicago; he has continued his investigations into sites inhabited by Paleolithic man in South Africa. Dr J. M. Fletcher delivered the address at the Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Branch of the C.P.R.E. at Welford Park on 6th May. The Walter Godfrey Memorial Arch was unveiled in the Abbey Remains at Abingdon, arranged by our Associate Society, the Friends of Abingdon on 23rd September; Sir Mortimer Wheeler gave an address on this occasion. The Society of Antiquaries of London held a Soiree in their rooms at Burlington House on 12th October to celebrate their 250th anniversary: this was attended by our President, Hon. Secretary and other members and included a great gathering of distinguished Fellows and guests.

9. LECTURES

7th January

Mr Nicholas Brooks on *Two Years' Excavations at Wallingford Castle*.

11th February

Mr E. Clive Rouse, M.B.E., F.S.A., the authority on medieval wall paintings, on *Windsor Castle* and recent restorations at *Padworth* and *Aldermaston Churches*.

18th March

Combined meeting with the Local History Committee, Dr J. M. Fletcher, F.S.A. on *Steventon and Sir Hugh Calveley*.

22nd April

Annual General Meeting of the Society. Presidential address by Dr C. F. Slade on the *Borough of Reading in the early 19th century*.

21st October

Mr C. N. Gowing, M.A., F.M.A. on *Deserted Medieval Villages in Buckinghamshire*.

11th November

Mr Peter Marr on *The Music of Reading Abbey* illustrated with tape recordings made by Mr R. J. Lee.

9th December

Mr Henry Trivick, R.B.A. on *The Appreciation of Monumental Brasses*.

10. EXCURSIONS

17th May

To Porchester Castle, Portsmouth and *The Victory*.

14th June

To Cirencester and the Roman Villa at Chedworth.

7th July

Warfield Church and Exhibition and Hurst Church.

27th July

Winchester Museum, Cathedral and Excavations.

11-15th September

Congress in Pembrokeshire.

The Excursions and Congress were arranged by Mrs Slade.

11. HOSPITALITY. We continue to be indebted to the Vice-Chancellor and Council of Reading University for accommodation at meetings, the Director of Reading Museum for accommodation at Council Meetings, and to the many members and others who have assisted at these meetings and excursions.

12. OBITUARIES

Sir Frank Stenton, former Vice-Chancellor of Reading University and President of our Society, 1948-1960, died on 15th September. A special memoir written by Dr C. F. Slade will appear in Vol. 63 of our Journal, and obituaries were published in *The Times* of 18th September and the *Reading Mercury* on 23rd September.

Sir John Cockcroft, O.M., C.B.E., F.R.S., Master of Churchill College, Cambridge and Vice-President of our Society from 1948 died suddenly on 18th September. With his colleague, E. J. Walton, he demonstrated the first splitting of the atom at Cambridge in 1932; he was at the A.E.R.E., Harwell from 1946-1958 when we saw a great deal of him both at our meetings and during the excavations at Blewburton Hill in 1948. We were honoured that he preserved his connection with us after moving to Cambridge. Notices appeared in *The Times*, 19th September and *Reading Mercury*, 23rd September.

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Dr T. Staines-Read of Henley-on-Thames, brother-in-law of the late Col. C. N. Rivers-Moore died aged 75 on 21st September. He had practised as a doctor in Henley for over 33 years and had interested himself in many local Societies including the original Henley Field Club of which he was at one time President. He was associated with the excavations at Ladye Place and always attended our meetings and excursions when his medical commitments allowed.

Mr Harold Sale died on 18th March aged 76. For over 23 years geologist to the Burmah Oil Company, he was one of the first oil prospectors to visit Nepal. Retiring in 1936, he lived at Atherstone in Warwickshire where he took a keen interest in local history and helped to form an archaeological society and field club. He was a fellow of the Geologists Association and joined our Society mainly to attend our excursions and Congresses when he became very well known to many of our members.

13. ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Books and Pamphlets by gift:

1. *The Political papers of Herbert 1st Viscount Samuel*. House of Lords Record Office Memoranda No. 35. (1966).
2. *Report for 1966*. House of Lords Record Office Memorandum No. 36.
3. *The Financial Administration and Records of the Parliament Office, 1824 to 1868*. House of Lords Record Office Memorandum No. 37. All presented by M. F. Bond, Esq.
4. *Stanford-in-the-Vale, Parish Record Part 4* by Violet M. Howse.
5. *Stanford-in-the-Vale, Parish Record Part 5* by Violet M. Howse. Both presented by Mrs Violet M. Howse.
6. *The Parish of Warfield and Easthampstead which includes old Bracknell*, compiled by Eileen Shorland (Lampport Gilbert 1967). Presented by Mrs. Shorland.
7. *The Medieval Constables of Windsor Castle* by Shelagh Bond. (Reprinted from *The English Historical Review*, No. CCCXXIII. April, 1967). Presented by Mrs Bond.
8. *Two Roman Villas at Francolise, Prov Caserta, Interim Report on Excavations 1962-64*. By P. V. Blanckenhagen, M. A. Cotton and J. B. Ward-Perkins. Reprinted from the papers of the British School at Rome. Vol. XXXIII (New Series) Vol. XX 1965. Presented by Mrs M. A. Cotton.
9. *Notes on a Stone Pestle found in the River Severn below Fords, West Shropshire*. By Lily F. Chitty. Reprinted from *Trans. Shropshire Arch. Soc.* Vol. LVII, Part III (1964).
10. *Irish Bronze Axes assigned to the Guilsfield Hoard Montgomeryshire*, by Lily F. Chitty. Reprinted

from *Arch. Cambrensis* 1965. Both presented by Miss Lily F. Chitty.

11. *A Mesolithic Site on Ipling Common, Sussex, England*, by P. A. M. Keef, J. J. Wymer and G. W. Dimbleby. Reprinted from the *Proc. of the Prehistoric Soc. for 1965*, Vol. XXXI. Presented by J. J. Wymer, Esq.
12. *Military Field Kitchens of the Eighteenth Century*, by Ivan D. Margary. Reprinted from *Sussex Arch. Collections* Vol. CIII, 1965. Presented by Mr I. D. Margary.
13. *Finch Brothers' Foundry, Sticklepath, Okehampton Devon* by J. Kenneth Major. *Industrial Archaeology in Bedfordshire*, Bedford County Council, 1967. Presented by J. Kenneth Major.
14. *Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Annual Report 1967*. Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Berkshire Branch. Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1966.
15. *Royal County of Berkshire, 19th Annual Report of the County Archivist, 1966-67*.
16. *L'Angoissant Probleme du Devernissage des Tableaux Anciens*. Texte Extrait du Cahier V de L'Academie Anquetin Neuilly-sur-Seine (France).

By exchange:

17. *Records of Buckinghamshire*. Vol. XVIII, Part 1, 1966.
18. *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*, Vol. LX, January 1967 to December 1967.
19. *Proceedings of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club for 1965*. Vol. XXXIV. Part IV. Ditto, Vol. XXXV, Part 1, 1966.
20. *Papers and proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society*, Vol. XXIII, Part II, 1965.
21. *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, Vol. 21, Part 3, 1967.
22. *Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*, Proceedings during 1965-66, Vol. 110, 1966.
23. *Romisch-Germanische Kommission des Deutschen Archaeologischen Instituts 46-47 Bericht der Romisch-Germanischen Kommission 1965-1966*.
24. *Trabalhos de Antropologia E Etnologia*, Vol. XX. Fasc. 1-2 Porto, 1965-1966.
25. *Miscellaneous Papers*:
Escavacoes em dolmenes do concelho do Grato (Alto Alentejo) por Agostinho Farinha Isidoro;
Rocha Peixoto como cientista no ambito da Etnografia e da Antropologia por J. R. Dos Santos Junior.
Duas Companhas de escavacoes no Castro Carvalhelhos, por J. R. Santos Junior.
Dois 'Fornos do povo' em Tras-os-Montes, por J. R. Dos Santos Junior.

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Contribuicao para o estudo da arqueologia do concelho de alter do chao (Alta Alentejo) por Agostinho Isidoro.
(All published at Porto, 1966).

26. *Dedalo Revista de Arte e Arqueologia*. Museu de Arte e Arqueologia da Universidade de São Paulo. São Paulo, Brasil 1965.

By Purchase:

27. *Friends of Abingdon 22nd Annual Report*, May 1965–April 1966. *Friends of Abingdon 23rd Annual Report*, May 1965–April 1967.
28. *The History of Ashbury, Part 1, Archaeology* by David and Edna Disbury, January, 1966.
29. *The British Records Association*, 35th Report of the Council 1966–67.
30. *Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings*, Report for the 86th to the 88th year, 1963–1965.
31. *Council for British Archaeology*, Report No. 17 for the year ended June 30th, 1967. Current and Forthcoming Off-Prints, Nos. 36–39. Archaeological Bibliography for Great Britain and Ireland, 1965.

14. THE PEMBROKESHIRE CONGRESS AT HAVERFORD-WEST. 11–15TH SEPTEMBER.

The party consisting of some 40 members and friends, led by Dr Slade, travelled by coach from Reading via Swindon and Gloucester to Monmouth. Here a halt was made for lunch. Proceeding to Abergavenny the next halt was at Llandovery for tea at Castle Hotel. Haverfordwest was reached as darkness fell and the party split between two hotels, meeting for the evening meal at the New Hall Hotel. Tuesday, 12th September started brightly with the fascinating journey to St. David's by Roch Castle—18 miles and 19 hills. At the Cathedral an excellent account of the building was given by Canon Davies. The Bishop's Palace and College were looked over and after lunch the coach moved out to St. David's Head. Here Dr Slade led a section of the party to the rocky outcrop to see a fine Cromlech, Iron Age earthworks and Field Systems. The next move was to Longhouses to see another magnificent megalith. Proceeding by Abercastle, the small harbour and ancient warehouses could be seen from the coach, the next halt being at Mathry, a hill-top village of great antiquity. The houses group round the church which has an inscribed pillar of c. 500 A.D. The return journey to Haverford was memorable with a sunset on the rocks of Great Treffgarne making a splendid picture. Wednesday was another fine day with the coach journeying to Carew Castle and Cross, thence to Pembroke, the largest and strongest of the Welsh Castles. After lunch a move was made to Lamphey Palace where we made history, being the

first coach to pass down the very narrow lane to the ruins.

Our route after this place was along the ridgeway with views on either side including Manorbier Castle to Panally Church, the place long ventured as the birthplace of St. Teilo. Tea was taken at Tenby where there was ample time to explore the fine walls, ancient church, and merchants' houses, and take a breath of sea air. Thursday was another field expedition, our coach running by narrow lanes to Henry's Motte and ancient church of St. Brynach where we considered this saint's legend, then to St. Bernard's Well and a fine stone circle with remains of an avenue of standing stones close by. We were now in very wild country among the Prescelly Hills which rise to over 1500 feet. Our picnic lunch was taken under their shadow; after this many of the party followed Dr Slade over difficult ground to the outcrop of the ridge. Here is the spotted diorite or 'Blue Stone' from whence came some of the smaller stones of Stonehenge. We found the rock very hard to break but most of the party returned with some souvenir fragments. The journey continued through more fine scenery to Nevern Church also dedicated to St. Brynach. It has a strong Norman Tower and a number of Saxon inscribed stones, the oldest bearing VITALIANI EMERETO. Time did not allow more than a glimpse of the mountain road to the great megalithic burial chamber at Pentre Ifan, for tea called us to Fishguard where, at the Royal Oak Inn, we saw the treaty site which followed the last 'invasion' of English soil in 1797. Our driver made a short detour on the way home so that we could enjoy the evening light across Dinas and Strumble Head.

On Friday we had to start our journey home with thanks to our good hosts at the New Hall and Pembroke Hotels who had contributed so much to our comfort and pleasure. Taking another route, we journeyed through mining valleys to Cardiff where we halted for lunch and took the opportunity to see numerous fine buildings in the town centre including the restored Castle. Crossing the new Severn Bridge was a novelty to many, a halt for tea being made at Chipping Sodbury, a small place with a wide market street and interesting stone buildings. A quick run down the old Bath Road through Chippenham completed the excursion. All the arrangements for our lodging and comfort at Haverford were made by Mrs Slade with seeming tireless efficiency; the weather contributed also to what was an almost entirely out-of-door programme; finally a word of praise is due to our drivers who tackled a difficult and long route with every care for our safety. Dr Slade produced a handbook of notes and descriptions of the places visited which was distributed to all members of the party.

F.M.U.

Berkshire Historic Buildings Fund

Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1967	£	s.	d.			
..	121	13	6	..	..	..
Balance of fund 1st January, 1967	..	..	..	..	106	13 6
Bank Interest received	..	..	..	..	5	0 0
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	..	..	..	..	10	0 0
					£121	13 6

[illegible]

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

222 CROSS STREET, READING
1st April, 1968

C. J. HAYWARD & Co.
Chartered Accountants