Report of the Council for 1968

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Zoology Lecture Theatre at Reading University on 20th April, 1968. Dr Slade occupied the Chair. The Annual Report and Accounts for 1967 were proposed and adopted. Mr Gwatkin then proposed the re-election of Dr Slade as President and referred to the Society's good fortune in having such an energetic archaeologist at its head. The motion was seconded by Mr Kaines-Thomas and carried. The other officials of the Society were reelected. Under Rule 5, Mr Major and Mr Connah retired from the Council but offered themselves for re-election: in addition the following new Council members were proposed and elected to fill vacancies: Dr H. H. Pike, Dr B. R. Kemp, Mr R. A. Rutland. Miss A. Green and Mr C. C. Stanley (to represent the Middle Thames Arch. Society). The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd April, 1967, having been circulated, were adopted. One new member was elected to the Society. Dr Slade then gave his Presidential Address (see Section 8).

2. Membership

Hon. Corporate Ordinary Deaths Total 7 12 450 8 469 It is with regret that we have to record the deaths of the following:

Mrs Bentall (1933); Mr P. Crampton (1958); Mr E. W. Dormer, F.R.Hist.S. (1930); Mr Samuel Gurney (1920); Professor H. L. Hawkins, F.R.S. (1925); Mr J. O. Johnstone (1955); Mrs Gabrielle Lambrick, M.A., F.R.Hist.S. (1962); Capt. H. E. K. Wakefield (1951); Memoirs on some of these late members are to be found in Section 11).

- 3. The Society. Our activities have continued unabated and although overall there has been a slight drop in membership, 35 new members were elected during the year. Attendance at Meetings and Excursions continues to be most satisfactory. Mrs Slade is to be congratulated in organising many excellent excursions, also the Congress which was held at York in September (Section 13).
- 4. FIELDWORK AND EXCAVATION. The Berkshire Field Research Bulletin No. 7, contains brief reports on the following investigations carried out during the year in which many of our members took part: Wawcott (SU 407674), Mesolithic site; Wash Common, Newbury (SU 450658), a possible Neolithic ceremonial site; Cookham (SU 885841), Roman site; The Tithe Farm (SU 485963), Roman site, Abingdon; Wallingford Castle (SU 608898), Saxon and Medieval; Spencer's Farm moated site at Maidenhead (Third Season).

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY. 1968 has seen the change from an informal group of workers to a formal Society affiliated to the Berkshire Archaeological Society; at the end of the year there was a membership of 16. The few keen workers are very active in the county and some six projects are at present in progress ranging from a first survey of Newbury: the Berkshire and Wilts Canal, Bucklebury Foundry and associated foundry works; further developments at Buscot Park; the Maltings and Wharf at Abingdon; and a survey of the Pinkneys Green Brickworks. In May members participated in a highly successful Conference presented by Group 9 Industrial Archaeologists and in July Mr Kenneth Major spoke on the subject to the Abingdon Society, also in November he talked to the University Archaeological Society. A Course on the subject has been in progress at the University in conjunction with the W.E.A. This has tended to deal with more live exhibits than the usual processes of fieldwork.

- 5. Preservation of Buildings and Monuments. A large number of cases continue to be reported to the Council and some success can be mentioned in the following: No. 2 High Street, Abingdon (facade); Keeps Cottage, Ascot; Oveys Farmhouse Cookham; Cottages on the Green, East Hanney; Tarbay Farmhouse, Dedworth, Windsor; 21–23 High Street, Windsor; Upton Manor farmhouse. We had to agree to the demolitions at Hardwell Manor farmhouse, Compton Beauchamp, 25 Cheap Street, Newbury and 1 St. Leonards Square, Wallingford. In spite of much effort by our Council and several members who put in reports and attended inquiries, etc., the demolition of the barn at 23 Manor Road, S. Hinksey and the memorials at the Congregational Chapel, High Street, Bracknell, proceeded. Advice has been given as in former years to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the County Planning Authority and others in respect of many other Berkshire buildings and a large number of plans and proposed alterations were submitted to us. Our Council member, Dr J. M. Fletcher has been Chairman of the Berkshire Branch of the C.P.R.E. during the year and we have had a close association with him on very many matters.
- 6. FINANCE. The Society has benefitted by an increase in income from subscriptions and investments and a welcome contribution has come from excursions and the Congress, although the latter was predictably less than the exceptional gain which was mentioned in last year's Report. The cost of Volume 62 of the Journal was met from funds put aside for the purpose and the depletion of the Reserve made

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1968

good in anticipation of the early appearance of the next issue.

The rise in postal charge during 1968 is reflected in the accounts and there has been a considerable outlay on printing and stationery due to the necessity of replenishment of our stocks of letter-headings and membership application forms.

We are grateful to all members who have helped us to operate economically by prompt payment of subscriptions, by foregoing acknowledgements and especially by making direct donations to our funds.

7. PERSONAL AND OTHER SOCIEITES. Our Vice-President, Mr P. S. Spokes, after a term of office as a Sheriff of Oxfordshire, was nominated Lord Mayor of the City of Oxford. Sir John Wolfenden, also a Vice-President was appointed Director of the British Museum. Mr J. J. Wymer's long awaited book Lower Palaeolithic Archaeology in Britain was published by John Baker & Co. Many of our members contributed to other learned publications or helped to produce works on local history. Amongst these we would mention our Vice-President, Miss M. M. Swadling who has been responsible for a valuable series of articles on the history of her parish in The Country Neighbour. We are always glad to welcome visitors from other Societies; in June Dr Slade conducted a party from the Merton Historical Society over the remains of Reading Abbey.

8. LECTURES

6th January

Mr J. J. Wymer, F.S.A., on Hunters, Food Gatherers and Pastoralists in South Africa their Archaeological Remains.

17th February

Four papers on Industrial Archaeology, arranged by Mr Kenneth Major:

Mr John Gray on Buscot Park;

Mr David Banfield on The Berks and Wilts

Mr Cyril McCombe on The Bucklebury Foundry; Mr Kenneth Major on Colliers Brickworks, Reading.

23rd March

Combined meeting with the Local History Committee, Mr D. H. F. Farmer, F.S.A., on English Medieval Illumination.

20th April

Annual General Meeting of the Society. Presidential Address by Dr C. F. Slade on *Reading* in the early 18th Century.

26th October

Gabrielle Lambrick Memorial Lecture: Dr John Fletcher, F.S.A., on *Medieval Abingdon*.

16th November

Mr F. M. Underhill, F.S.A., on Windsor in the 19th Century followed by Mr J. E. McAuley on The Hospital at Windsor.

7th December

Dr Herbert Pike assisted by Mr R. C. Combley on The Excavations at Old Basing House.

Excursions

oth May

Half day visit to Fyfield, itinerary arranged by Mrs Feeney.

18th May

Whole day visit to Worth Church and the town of Lewes, Sussex.

19th June

Half day visit to Mapledurham House and Greys Court.

27th July

Whole day visit to South Cadbury and Glastonbury.

2-6th September

Congress at York. (See Report in Section 13). The excursions and congress were directed by Mrs Slade.

10. HOSPITALITY. For our meetings we continued to enjoy the privilege of a Lecture Theatre in Reading University, by courtesy of the Vice-Chancellor and Council. The Director of Reading Museum has afforded us a room for extra council meetings, and we have to thank members and others who have assisted at these meetings and on excursions.

11. OBITUARIES

Patrick Crampton died in the Royal Berkshire Hospital on 7th January, aged 54. A dental surgeon he had a life-long interest in archaeology and local history. In 1960 he journeyed with a donkey from the Marlborough Downs to Streatley and published an account of this in book form The Prehistoric Ridgeway—a journey in 1962; a 2nd edition of this very popular publication appeared in 1965. In 1963, following the discovery of the Moulsford Torc he carried out extensive excavations around the findspot. During the Congress of the Prehistoric Society at Reading in 1966, he led excursions to the downland area. Further investigations in this region followed and he travelled extensively abroad, devoting much attention to Irish megaliths. He was in continual demand as a lecturer and addressed the Society on several occasions. He conducted many W.E.A. classes taking a party from Reading to study Irish field monuments in July 1967. His final book on Stonehenge of the Kings was published in October, 1967, he served for many years on the Society's Council. (See Reading Mercury, 20th January, 1968).

Ernest W. Dormer, F.R.Hist.S., who died on 26th November, aged 85, was associated with the Society for nearly 40 years; he edited our Journal 1930–1937. A reference to the Local Collection Catalogue of

Reading Public Libraries will indicate his untiring industry in producing well written and highly informative works on local history; his Erleigh Court and its owners appeared as long ago as 1912. A large number of articles from his pen appeared in many of our Journals. For nearly 50 years he conducted a Notes and Queries column in the Reading Mercury, this was followed by a weekly contribution under the name of 'Mercurius', the last of these appeared only a week before his death. He was an indefatigable collector of antiques and was consulted far and wide as an exact authority. He had a particular partiality for Ming porcelain. (Reading Mercury, 30th November, 1968).

Samuel Gurney, who had been a member of the Society for 40 years, died at his house in Compton Regis on 6th July, aged 83. Coming from a Norfolk banking family, his father was John Gurney of Sprowston Hall and he was proud of his ancestor. Samuel Gurney, the founder Banker whose portrait hung on the wall of his study. Throughout his long life he was associated with the Anglo-Catholic movement and he did much to promote interest in the church and union with other denominations. He was a member for many years of the London Diocesan Society for the care of churches. He was an active member of our Society, doing much to restore and preserve in west Berkshire; he collected much material relating to his village and his presence at meetings and excursions in earlier years always resulted in interesting discussions; he was a most vigorous correspondent on a variety of subjects. He will long be remembered by the many who enjoyed his company and hospitality. (See The Times, 8th July, 1968).

Professor H. L. Hawkins, D.Sc., F.R.S., F.G.S., died 29th December, aged 81. Professor of Geology at Reading University 1920–1952, he was President of the Palaeontographical Society 1943–1966, a past President of the Cotteswold Field Club; and he was awarded the Leyell Medal of the Geological Society of London in 1940. Professor Hawkins had his boyhood interest in geological studies encouraged by the late Llewellyn Treacher and there is a photograph extant of the young Hawkins with Treacher on the Icknield Way. He joined our Society in the early 1920's, gave us many lectures and was a fascinating leader of local excursions with a minute knowledge of the countryside and an inexhaustible fund of anecdote and humour. (See The Times, 6th January, 1969).

Mrs Gabrielle Lambrick, M.A., F.R.Hist.S., died on 14th August. Her sudden passing was a great shock to many as she had agreed to deliver the first lecture of our winter session in October. This lecture was almost ready and was delivered in part by Dr J. M. Fletcher on 26th October (see Section 8). Mrs Lambrick was a graduate of Girton College and

taught history and economics at Sydenham High School from 1937-1939. Following this she had an extensive career as a financial Secretary to Lord Clitheroe during the war years; after marriage and coming to reside at Boar's Hill, Mrs Lambrick revived her historical studies and worked as editor to the projected publication of the Cartularies of Abingdon Abbey. A number of important articles appeared in Oxoniensia XXV and XXIX/XXX, the Journal of Ecclesiastical History XVII, the English Historical Review LXXXII and other papers are in the press. Extremely co-operative, Mrs Lambrick encouraged many in Abingdon to take an interest in the history of the Abbey and its manors, the unfinished editing of the Cartularies is being completed by Mr Paul Hyams and Mr Hilary Turner of Oxford University. (J.M.F., F.M.U.)

12. Additions to the Library

Books and pamphlets by gift:

- Wessex, by Peter Fowler. Regional Archaeologies, 1967, per Heinemann's Educational Books Ltd.
- 2. House of Lords Record Office Memoranda No. 38 (1968) per M. F. Bond, Esq.
- 3. Royal County of Berkshire, 20th Report of the County Archivist, 1968.
- 4. Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Berkshire Branch, Annual Report for 1967.
- 5. Goosey, a Parish Record, Part 2, 1968, by Mrs V. Howse.
- Journal of the Maidenhead and District Archaeological Society, Vol. 1, No. 3, October, 1967 (Mr L. Over).
- An 18th century sword by Thos. Shepherd of Dublin, by Col. C. Perceval Price and Wilfred A. Seaby. (By W. A. Seaby, Esq.)
- 8. A Century of Witness, the story of the Fifield Village Mission, 1867-1967 by Dr Norman Court.
- 9. Sindlesham Witness, the story of the Baptist church at Sindlesham, Berks. (1835-1968), compiled by Dr Norman Court. (From Dr N. Court).
- An inventory of Windmills in Northumberland and Durham by J. Kenneth Major. (From J. K. Major, Esq.).
- Radiocarbon Dating for Medieval Timber Buildings, by John Fletcher. (Reprint from Antiquity, Vol. 42, Sept. 1968). (From Dr John Fletcher).
- Denchworth through the Centuries, by Jasmine S. Howse. (From Miss J. S. Howse).

By exchange:

- 13. Records of Bucks, XVIII, Part 2, 1967.
- 14. Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society Vol. LXI, 1968.
- Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society,
 Vol. II (3rd series), Part 2, 1967.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1968

- 16. Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, Vol. 22, Part 1, 1968.
- 17. Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Proceedings, 1966-67, Vol. III.
- Surrey Archaeological Collections, Vol. LVIX, 1967.
 Surrey Archaeological Society, Annual Report, 1967.
- Trabalhos de Antropologia e Etnologia, Vol. XX—fasc. 3-4, Porto, Portugal, 1967/68.
- Um botilho trasmontano (extracted from fasc. 2, Vol. XIX of the above publication).
- Arte Tibetana, text by Nana de Craiova, Museu de Arte a Arqueologia da Universidade de São Paulo. January, 1968.
- Romische-Germanische Kormission Des Deutschen Archaeologischen Instituts 48 Bericht de Romisch Germanischen Kommission 1967. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter & Co., 1968).

By purchase:

- 23. Friends of Abingdon 24th Annual Report, May 1967-April 1968.
- 24. The History of Ashbury, Part 2. Early Medieval history and Field Names, by David and Edna Disbury. June, 1968.
- 25. British Records Association, 36th Annual Report of the Council, 1967-78.
- Council for British Archaeology, Report No. 18
 for the year ended June 30th, 1968. Current and
 forthcoming off-prints, Nos. 40 and 41. Archaeological Bibliography of Great Britain and
 Ireland, 1966. Archaeological Abstracts, Vol. 1,
 No. 1, April, 1968. Archaeological Abstracts,
 Vol. 1, No. 2, October, 1968.
- 27. Bulletin of Industrial Archaeology in CBA Group 9, No. 4 April 1968. Bulletin of Industrial Archaeology in CBA Group 9, No. 5, July, 1968.
- 28. 90th Anniversary, The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, (reproduced from Country Life, 6th March, 1967).
- Etoniana No. 119, 26th November, 1966.
 Etoniana No. 120, 25th November, 1967.
 Etoniana No. 121, 30th November, 1968.
- Berkshire Field Research Group Bulletin, No. 6, April 1968.
- 31. Report of the Society of the Friends of St. George's and the Descendants of the Knights of the Garter, Vol. IV, No. 8. 1st October, 1966 to 30th September, 1967.

13. THE CONGRESS AT YORK2nd-7th September, 1968

On Monday, and September, members of the Society with guests from the Newbury District Field Club started out under the leadership of Dr and Mrs Slade for Yorkshire. Although it was Bank Holiday, excellent progress was made, with much of the

journey taken over the M1 Motorway, which provided a place for lunch at the Leicester Forest Service area. The rest of the journey was equally fast and Langwith College, University of York was reached at 6 p.m. The University buildings are modern and can accommodate about 2,000 students, the residential parts are comfortably furnished and the catering was of a high standard; it was a pleasure to return from a day's sight-seeing to be looked after so well. This year, for the first time it was a 4-day Congress, two being spent in York city, and two on coach tours of the surrounding country. In each instance in York city the party split in two, one for walkers, the other for the not-so-active.

On Tuesday morning, Mrs Oldfield, of the York Archaeological Society guided the party round the City walls, including Micklegate and Monk Bars, and, via Lendal Bridge, Bootham Bar, finishing at the Angle Tower of the Roman fortress. In the afternoon Dr and Mrs Hutton, also members of the York Archaeological Society, took the party, starting from the Multiangular Tower, round the city centre, and included a visit to the reconstructed Guild Hall and city churches. This was an excellent introduction to York. We ended the first day at the Queen's Hotel for tea as guests of the York Archaeological Society, where we met a number of their members.

On Wednesday the coach went first to Kirk Hammerton with its lovely Saxon church and then to Knaresborough to visit the castle on the hill, the market and the church. From there the coach went to Markenfield Hall, a superb example of 14thcentury domestic architecture, although now empty and awaiting for its fate to be decided. A picnic lunch was taken under the trees nearby, then the party went to Fountains Abbey with its wonderful picturesque setting. The walking party started from Studley Roger, passing through Studley Royal Park, where, at a curve of the road, the Abbey ruins suddenly came into full view, the church rearing its beautiful tower to the sky, all mirrored in the water before it. After some time here, we travelled on over moorland to Barden Tower, where tea and a lovely view were both enjoyed. The return to York was via Bolton Abbey.

On Thursday we journeyed via Skelton to Coxwold, where Laurence Sterne was rector, a fitting visit in his centenary year. There was a small engraved portrait of him in the church vestry. This building has an unusual Georgian altar rail which extends outwards into the chancel to provide maximum room. We had set out in a thick mist, but it lifted while we were at Rievaulx Abbey so that we could enjoy these grand ruins bathed in sunshine. Picnic lunch was taken on Hutton Common which has a superb view over the Yorkshire countryside; next a brief halt was made to view the pre-Norman work at Lastingham church, the party then moved

on to the well-maintained Pickering Castle. Tea was taken at one of the county's most picturesque villages, Thornton-le-Dale and in the late afternoon we visited Ebberston Hall, a small Palladian house built in 1718: designed by Colin Campbell, it has all the features of a larger mansion. It lies in a break in the hills and once had a fine water garden, now much overgrown. The return to York was made via Stamfordbridge.

On Friday the Minster was visited which was having extensive repairs and so unfortunately could not be appreciated to its fullest extent. The Choir could not be viewed in its entirety owing to excavations and the noise from the machinery was considerable, at times drowning the voice of our guide; but the Chapter House was, as always, a haven of quiet. We then went on to the Treasurer's house and thence to King's Manor which is now owned by the University and was once the head-quarters of the Council of the North. In both places knowledgeable guides did much to increase our pleasure.

The afternoon was spent at Selby Abbey and the party then returned to York to visit the Castle

Museum, where the Curator, Mr Robert Patterson, one time an assistant at Reading Museum, met us and escorted us round personally. The 19th century street with its shops, silversmiths and glass makers, brought back nostalgic memories for some of the older members of the party. The fascinating and lengthy tour included the old prison and finally the water mill, actually grinding corn, the old machinery having been reconstructed and we were all given a small bag of flour to bring home.

The last evening Mr Lack and Miss Wright showed slides and told us about many other places in the locality we did not have the time to see.

Our journey home on Saturday was uneventful, indeed we broke all Congress records by arriving before the expected time. We were much indebted to Dr and Mrs Slade for their admirable arrangements for our interest and comfort; also to the York Archaeological Society whose member Mr Stewart Lack planned much of our route and who gave up most of the week to come with us, to regale us with fragments of his vast knowledge of local history and, in many places, to act as our guide.

M. A. JACOB

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1968

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Excavation Fund Account

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

22 Cross Street, Reading 10th April, 1969

C. J. HAYWARD & Co. Chartered Accountants