

# The Berkshire Archæological Journal

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## Editorial Note.

IN the following pages will be found an important contribution by Mr. Arthur E. Preston, F.S.A., on "The Fourteenth-Century Painted Ceiling at St. Helen's Church, Abingdon." A notice by Dr. Tancred Borenius of this remarkable series of paintings has already appeared in the pages of the *Burlington Magazine*\*; but at the request of the Editor of the *Berkshire Archæological Journal*, Mr. Preston has kindly consented to deal with the subject himself in a form which will have a more intimate appeal to those who are interested in the archæology of the Royal County.

While the existence of this painted ceiling has been known to many, the article that follows will reveal the fact that Abingdon has a treasure of very great price which has not hitherto received the expert attention and notice it deserves. As the extracts from the article by Dr. Borenius will show, panel pictures dating from the late 14th century, and of indubitably English origin, are notoriously rare, and the recovery of this long series of pictures is therefore of the greatest national importance.

In expressing his thanks to Mr. Preston for his most able contribution the Editor of this Journal would wish to add an observation by Dr. Borenius which for obvious reasons could not

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find a place in the pages that follow, but which it is very desirable should not be omitted here : " The whole enterprise of reclaiming this remarkable work was due to the initiative of Mr. Arthur E. Preston, F.S.A., of Abingdon, whose unrivalled mastery of the local historical material has also enabled him to throw most welcome light on the genesis of the scheme of artistic decoration here carried out." The members of the Berkshire Archæological Society will assuredly wish to subscribe to this appreciation of all that Mr. Preston has done for archæology in general and the history of Abingdon in particular.

ERNEST W. DORMER.