

PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE ROYAL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

Wednesday, 3rd February, 1915.

Sir Henry H. Howorth K.C.I.E. D.C.L. F.R.S. F.S.A. President, in the Chair.

Mr. Aymer Vallance, M.A. F.S.A. read a paper on Reims, with many lantern illustrations.

In the discussion that followed there spoke Mr. P. M. Johnston and the Chairman.

Mr. Johnston said that the deplorable destruction of ancient buildings, not in Reims only but over a great part of western Europe, would some day present problems in restoration on an unparalleled scale.

With regard to two sculptures on the great north transept portal of the cathedral church, statues of the blessed Virgin Mary and St. Elizabeth, discussed by Mr. Vallance, he was inclined to regard them as original, and not as substitutions, although he admitted that they showed the inspiration of classical art.

The Chairman observed that, although no praise was too great for the sculpture, he could not help feeling that the façade of the church was over-decorated and had lost the simplicity of outline of an earlier date, such as in the churches of Saint-Denis and Amiens.

He was inclined to disagree with the view expressed by Mr. Johnston. In regard to the two exceptional figures, in his opinion the statues were so good that if they occurred in Italy they might almost be the work of Pisani, so characteristic was the drapery. Possibly the inspiration was not even Christian, and he hazarded the opinion that the St. Elizabeth at any rate might be a vestal copied after the discoveries in Rome by Sixtus V.

Wednesday, 3rd March, 1915.

Sir Henry H. Howorth, President, in the Chair.

Mr. G. C. Druce, F.S.A. read a paper on the Sciapod and other abnormal human forms in English church architecture, with numerous lantern illustrations. The paper will be printed in the *Journal*.

In the discussion there spoke Sir William St. John Hope, Messrs. C. E. Keyser, P. M. Johnston, the Rev. H. F. Westlake, Miss Garbett and the Chairman.

Sir William St. John Hope referred to one of the manuscript illustrations thrown on the screen which showed a pair of shears in the hands of a woman, and said that this confirmed his view that on grave slabs, such as the one seen last year at Dale abbey, Derbyshire, shears were a feminine symbol.

Mr. Westlake pointed out that the confusion frequently found between

text and illustrations in the mediaeval bestiaris was due to the fact that the scribe and the artist were usually different people.

Mr. Johnston thought that the 'savage man' of the Suffolk and Norfolk fonts probably represented the 'natural man' of Biblical symbolism, and expressed the hope that in course of time Mr. Druce's researches would be collected to form a book.

The Chairman suggested that a study of the geographical habitats ascribed to these strange monsters in the bestiaris would prove an interesting line of enquiry.

Wednesday, 31st March, 1915.

Sir Henry H. Howorth, President, in the Chair.

Mr. Ian C. Hannah read a paper on some Irish religious houses, and exhibited a series of black and white sketches. The paper will be printed in the *Journal*.

In the discussion there spoke the Chairman and Sir William St. John Hope.

The latter observed that Irish religious houses were evidently very different from any to be found elsewhere; save for a few scattered articles, very little about them had appeared in print, and he hoped that Mr. Hannah would pursue his researches.

The detached chapels of Celtic monasteries were paralleled at Elmham. In the Gilbertine house at Watton there was a central partition-wall between the sections of the church devoted to men and women, quite similar to that described by Cogitosus as existing in St. Bride's church at Kildare. He was inclined to think that the huge development of transepts was for the benefit of lay congregations; it was, of course, paralleled at Chester.

The narrow tower arches and lay rood-lofts blocking up the space between chancel and nave of so many Irish friaries were a very curious feature. At Wymondham the parochial nave was divided from the monastic chancel by an even more complete barrier, a solid wall pierced by a door on each side of the altar.

The Chairman spoke of the debt which England owes to the church of Ireland in its earliest days, when it became the mother of the Northumbrian church and the inspirer of the art of Lindisfarne, and emphasised the great poverty of Ireland all through the middle ages.

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Wednesday. 5th May, 1915.

Sir Henry H. Howorth, K.C.I.E. D.C.L. F.R.S. F.S.A. President, in the Chair.

Mr. A. Hadrian Allcroft, M.A. read a paper entitled 'Some new light on Roman roads in Sussex,' illustrated by plans and diagrams.

The paper will be printed in the *Journal*.

In the discussion there spoke the Chairman, Prof. W. Boyd Dawkins, and Sir William St. John Hope.

Prof. Boyd Dawkins said the paper was very welcome because of its local interest. The outstanding feature of prehistoric Sussex was the dense population of the Downs as compared with the uninhabited and impassable forest of the Weald. In the planning of their road-system in Britain the evidence proved that the Romans made use of the earlier trackways. Their general direction was retained but they were straightened, and the principle of point-to-point lines was adopted.

Sir William St. John Hope expressed surprise that no trace existed of a Roman road either to Chantonbury Ring or to Pevensey.

The Chairman agreed in the main with certain criticisms of Stukeley made by Mr. Allcroft; but though fanciful and inaccurate, he felt that Stukeley's merits as a pioneer were often overlooked.

Wednesday, 2nd June, 1915.

Sir Henry H. Howorth, President, in the Chair.

Mr. C. H. Bothamley, M.Sc. read a paper on Carcassonne, the Cité and the Basse-ville, with numerous lantern-illustrations.

It is hoped that this paper will be printed in the *Journal*.

In the discussion there spoke Sir William St. John Hope and the Chairman.

Sir William St. John Hope remarked that Viollet-le-Duc had not 'restored' away quite so much of Carcassonne as might be supposed, but that the work carried out since his time was in a great measure purely conjectural. The mediaeval scheme of fortification seemed to have required the lowering of the ground below the inner line of walls, an alteration which exposed the foundations of the Roman masonry and necessitated their being underpinned. This, he thought, accounted for the apparent superimposition in places of Roman walling above work of a later period.

The Chairman emphasised the continuous history of Carcassonne from the earliest times. Some of the stone-work at the foot of the walls seemed to him almost megalithic in character, and if that were so it would be con-

temporary with the pre-Roman walls of Saguntum in Spain ; as Catalonia at one time embraced Carcassonne, this view did not seem so improbable as it appeared at first sight. He also drew an appropriate comparison between Carcassonne and the Swiss town of Morat, a wonderful example of late mediaeval fortification which had no doubt influenced the nineteenth-century restorers of Carcassonne.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Wednesday, 30th June, 1915.

The summer meeting having been cancelled this year owing to the war, the usual annual general meeting for the transaction of ordinary business was held in London, Sir Henry H. Howorth, President, in the Chair.

The report of the Council being taken as read, and the accounts for the year 1914 having been presented, the Chairman proposed and Sir William Martin Conway seconded the adoption of both, which was carried unanimously. The report and accounts will be printed at the end of the current volume.

The Chairman expressed the Council's regret that it had not been found possible to hold a summer meeting at Norwich as had been intended. Not only was it felt that at so critical a time few members would wish to attend it, but the difficulty of making arrangements in advance for accommodation in trains and motor-cars had proved an insuperable obstacle.

The formal business having been concluded, Prof. G. Baldwin Brown read a paper entitled 'Was the Anglo-Saxon an artist?' with many lantern-illustrations. It is hoped that the paper may be printed in the *Journal*.

The Chairman and Mr. W. W. Watts joined in the discussion that followed the paper.

PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE
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Wednesday, 3rd November, 1915.

Sir Henry H. Howorth, K.C.I.E. D.C.L. F.R.S. F.S.A. President, in the Chair.

Mr. A. Hamilton Thompson, M.A. F.S.A. read a paper on the will of Master William Doune, archdeacon of Leicester, which is printed at page 233 of the *Journal*.

In the discussion there spoke Archdeacon Hutton, Mr. L. M. May, Mr. R. Garraway Rice, Mr. H. D. Ellis and the Chairman.

Mr. May drew attention to the testator's attempts to create successive limited interests in his bequests of books. Such a practice was unknown to the common law, as an action for detinue would not lie, and so far as he knew no provision for such dispositions was to be found in the canon law.

Mr. Rice thought it impossible to say with certainty that the testator possessed no real property. In the middle ages it was the practice to dispose of land by a will and to bequeath personalty by testament, the two having gradually become merged into one instrument before the middle of the seventeenth century.

Wednesday, 1st December, 1915.

Sir Henry H. Howorth, President, in the Chair.

Mr. Ian C. Hannah, M.A. read a paper on Irish Cathedrals, with lantern illustrations.

This paper is printed in the *Journal* at page 343.