

LEWES CASTLE: THE KEEP
Seen from the Council Chamber, Barbican House

Sussex Archaeological Society

A HISTORY OF THE SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY*

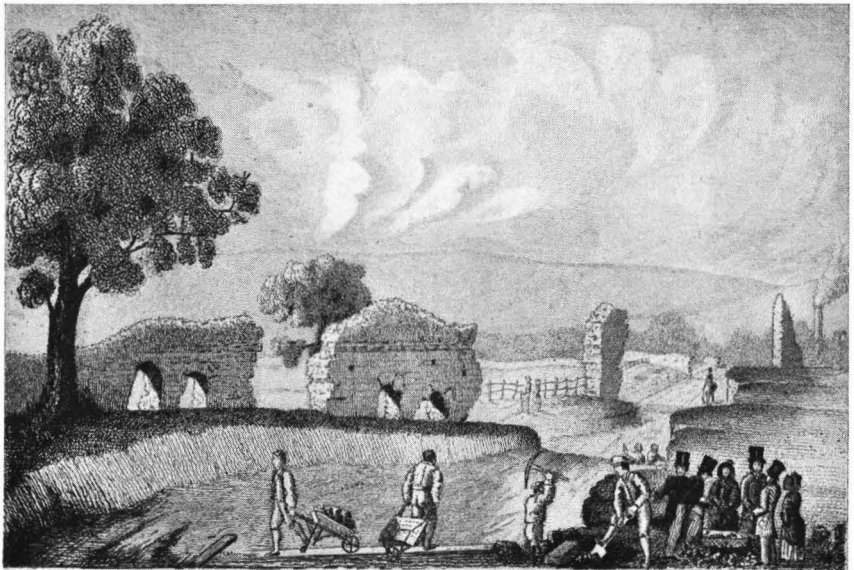
BY L. F. SALZMAN, F.S.A.

THE Sussex Archaeological Society might claim to have been founded by William de Warenne and his wife, the mysterious Gundred, who some 770 years earlier had founded the Cluniac Priory of Lewes. It was on 28 October 1845 that one of the workmen engaged on making the cutting for the railway from Brighton across the site of the priory 'pushed his shovel against something which was at first supposed to be a stone slab'. Fortunately Mr. C. Leeson Prince,¹ who was watching the excavations on the chance of relics of the priory being found, saw that the obstruction was a leaden object, which proved to be a cist. He had this carefully cleared and 'sent a messenger into Lewes to the well-known antiquaries, Mr. Mark Antony Lower and Mr. Figg, to request them to come down to the ruins at once'. Further search revealed a second cist.² One of the cists bore the name WILLELM', a name sufficiently common to have been unidentifiable had not the other been marked with the name GUNDRADA. The two cists had clearly been made at the same time, and, from their size and the irregular way in which the bones had been deposited, evidently for the reinterment of bodies which had originally been buried elsewhere. There could be no reasonable doubt that these were the remains of the founders of Lewes Priory.

* Thanks are due to Mr. F. Bentham Stevens for reading the manuscript of this article and making certain corrections and suggestions; and particularly to Lt.-Col. Thomas Sutton for his kindness and skill in taking most of the photographs with which it is illustrated.

¹ 'On the Discovery of the remains of William de Warenne and his wife, Gundrada': *S.A.C.* XL. 170-2.

² Mr. Prince (in 1896) was 'quite confident' that the first cist found was that of William; but contemporary accounts, e.g. by Mr. Lower and Dr. Mantell, say that it was that of Gundred.



W. E. Baxter, del.

*Discovery of the Remains of Gundrada & William de Warrenne,
at the Lewes Priory, October, 1845.*

These discoveries aroused more than local interest. The editor of *The Illustrated London News*, a paper which from its inception has displayed a praiseworthy interest in archaeological matters, commissioned R. H. Nibbs to do a series of drawings of the site and finds, which occupied a page of the issue for 8 November 1845, and himself paid a visit of inspection, with which he expressed himself 'much gratified'. Mr. Lower contributed detailed accounts of these and later discoveries to the British Archaeological Association on 19 November and on 13 January 1846, and these were printed in the first volume of their *Journal* (pp. 346-57). The immediate result of this interest was the raising of a fund to build a chapel in Southover Church for the burial of the bones and the preservation of the cists. That church already contained the fine carved twelfth-century tombstone of Gundred (contemporary with the cists), which had been rescued by Sir William Burrell in 1775 from Isfield Church, where it had served, reversed, as a memorial to Edward Shirley; so the lady's bones and her monument were once more brought together. To this fund the Directors of the Railway Company contributed £50, frankly 'with a business eye', as Mr. Lower put it, 'to create a new Lion for the fashionable loungers of Brighton—an excuse for their coming to Lewes'.

A secondary, but from our point of view more important, result is indicated in a letter of 11 May 1846 from M. A. Lower to W. H. Blaauw:¹

I have handed to Mr. Figg a rough idea of the projected Sussex Archl. Soc. to be forwarded to you. My rules &c. are based upon those of the prospectus of the St. Albans Architectural Society. If anything in them should appear useful in the way of suggestion I shall be much gratified. Several of my friends of the [British Archaeological] Association both here and in London are pleased with the proposition, and I have no doubt that we could start with a list of 100 members. As a preliminary step I would suggest the propriety of getting a circular printed at once, and sending it to all the nobility, clergy, and other persons likely to support the undertaking.

Accordingly a notice of the proposal to form a local

¹ As early as 24 March 1846 Blaauw had suggested to Lower the possibility of founding such a society.

Archaeological Society was printed in the *Sussex Advertiser* (26 May) and *Sussex Express* (30 May) and also circulated, persons interested being invited to communicate with Mr. M. A. Lower or Mr. W. Figg.

The first Minute Book of the Society records:

A Meeting took place at one o'clock on Thursday June 18th 1846 at the County Hall, Lewes, at which were present:—Sir Henry Shiffner, Bt., William Henry Blaauw, Esq., Robert Willis Blencowe, Esq., Col. Francis Davies, Warburton Davies, Esq., James Davies, Esq., Thomas Dicker, Esq., Mr. William Figg, Rev. Charles Gaunt, Mr. W. Harvey, Rev. Arthur Hussey, John Hoper, Esq., William Polhill Kell, Esq., Mr. Mark Antony Lower, Rev. Samuel Wood.

On the motion of Mr. Blaauw the chair was taken by Col. Davies with the unanimous consent of the Meeting.

It was then moved by Mr. Blaauw and seconded by Mr. W. Davies, that a Society be formed entitled the Sussex Archaeological Society, and that its objects should embrace whatever relates to the Civil or Ecclesiastical History, Topography, Ancient Buildings or Works of Art within the County, and for this purpose would invite communications on such subjects, especially from those Noblemen and Gentlemen who possess estates within the County, and who might materially assist the completion of the County History, now very imperfect, by the loan of ancient Documents relating to Estates, Manors, Wills, or Pedigrees, and of any other object generally connected with the Ancient History of Sussex.

That the Society shall endeavour to preserve the Memorials of past ages, and shall collect Manuscripts and Books, Drawings and Prints, Coins and Seals, or copies thereof, Rubbings of Brasses, Descriptive notices and plans of Churches, Castles, Mansions or other Buildings of Antiquarian interest, such collections to be preserved and made available for the purposes of the Society by publication or otherwise in such manner as may be hereafter decided at a General Meeting of the Members.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

And so the Society was born.

This was a period of great activity in the antiquarian world. The British Archaeological Association had been formed in December 1843 and a year later had split, with the generation of much heat, the seceding party, after claiming for a while to be 'the real Simon Pure', becoming the Archaeological Institute. As to local societies, the Gothic Revival and the establishment in 1839 of the Cambridge New Camden, or Ecclesiological, Society had caused an outbreak of Architectural Societies:

Oxford (1839), Bristol and West of England, Durham, Exeter, and the pleasingly entitled Lichfield Society for the Encouragement of Ecclesiastical Architecture (all 1841), Yorkshire (1842), Archdeaconry of Northampton (1844). Of local societies with wider antiquarian interests the oldest was the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-on-Tyne, founded in 1813, but its activities seem to have been sporadic, as by 1846 it had only published three volumes, and its interests were not strictly local, as they ranged as far from the Tyne as the Caucasus. The Cambridge Antiquarian Society, founded in 1840, was also academic rather than local, their early papers including one on Egyptian Magic. The Warwickshire Architectural and Natural History Society, dating from 1836, was a hybrid, and Sussex was only just anticipated by the St. Albans Architectural and Archaeological Society (on whose rules, as we have seen, our own were based) and the Norfolk Archaeological Society, both founded in 1845. Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire followed suit, both in 1847; the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire in 1848; Somerset in 1849; and Surrey in 1854. On 15 September 1857 the Committee of the Sussex Archaeological Society 'considered an intimation from some influential gentlemen of Kent respecting the proposed establishment of an Archaeological Society in Kent, and the expediency of uniting it with the Sussex Society. It was considered that, with every good wish towards the Kentish Society, and with the most friendly feeling and desire of offering assistance, it would be most to the advantage of both Societies to be independent of each other'; and four days later the Archaeological Society of Kent was formed, adopting as 'Resolution 4. That the Rules of the Sussex Society, having been tested by experience, be adopted by this Society.' And, although not so publicly expressed, it is clear from letters of Mr. George Bush Webb, the moving spirit in the formation of the Surrey Archaeological Society and its first Secretary, to Mr. Blaauw that the rules of that Society were also based on ours.

The original Rules of the Sussex Archaeological Society were as follows:

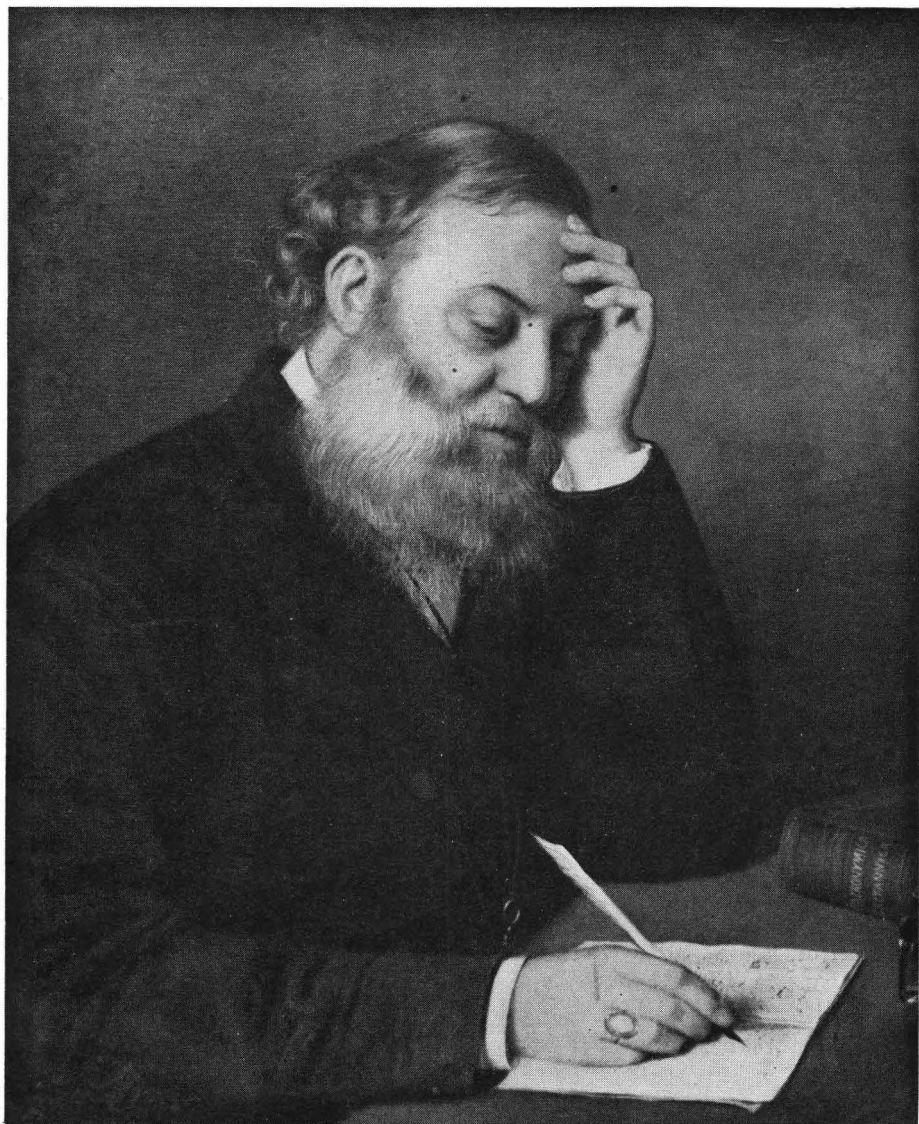
- (1) That the Society shall avoid all topics of religious or political controversy, and shall remain independent, though willing to co-operate with similar Societies by friendly communication.
- (2) That the Society shall consist of Members and Associates.
- (3) That candidates be proposed at a meeting of the Society or Committee of Management, and balloted for at the next meeting; one black ball in five to exclude.
- (4) That each member pay an annual subscription of ten shillings, due July 1st, or £5 in lieu thereof as a composition for life. Subscriptions to be paid at the Lewes Old Bank, or by Post-Office order, to Thomas Dicker, Esq., Treasurer, Lewes Old Bank, or to any of the local Secretaries.
- (5) That Members of either House of Parliament shall, on becoming Members of the Society, be placed on the list of Vice-Presidents, and also such other persons as the Society may determine.
- (6) That the affairs of the Society be conducted by a Committee of Management, to consist of a Patron, a President, Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, a Treasurer, and not less than twelve other Members, who shall be chosen at the General Annual Meeting; three Members of such Committee to form a Quorum.
- (7) That at every Meeting of the Society, or of the Committee, the resolutions of the majority present shall be binding, though all persons entitled to vote be not present.
- (8) That a General Meeting of the Society be held annually in July or August, as may be appointed by the Committee, at some place rendered interesting by its Antiquities or Historical Associations, in the Eastern and Western Divisions of the County alternately; such General Meeting to have power to make such alterations of the Rules as a majority may determine, on notice thereof being one month previously given to the Committee.
- (9) That a Special General Meeting may be summoned by the Secretaries on the requisition, in writing, of five members and either the Patron, President, or two Vice-Presidents, specifying the subject to be brought forward for decision at such Meeting, and such subject only to be then considered.
- (10) That the Committee have power to admit without ballot, on the nomination of two Members, any Lady who may be desirous of becoming a Member of the Society.
- (11) That the Committee have power to elect as an Associate of the Society, any person whose local office may enable him to promote the objects of the Society—such Associate not to pay any subscription, nor to have the right of voting in the affairs of the Society, and to be subject to re-election annually.

- (12) That the Committee be empowered to appoint any Member Local Secretary for the town or district where he may reside, in order to facilitate the collection of accurate information as to objects of local interest, and that such Local Secretaries be *ex officio* Members of the Committee.
- (13) That Meetings for the purpose of reading papers, the exhibition of antiquities, or the discussion of subjects connected therewith, be held at such times and places as the Committee may determine.
- (14) That the Secretaries shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Society to be communicated to the General Meeting, and, until other arrangements can be made, shall have the custody of any books, documents, or antiquities, which may be presented or lent to the Society.

Comparison of these Rules with those at present in force will show that, although many changes, modifications, and elaborations have been made to ensure greater efficiency or to meet altered circumstances, the basic principles have remained unaltered. The date for the payment of subscriptions was shifted to January in 1848, and the 'Associates' of Rules 2 and 11 became 'Honorary Members' in 1854, while a later and less gallant generation has insisted on subjecting ladies to the same ritual of election, and a theoretical ballot, as mere males. In 1860 an entrance fee of 10s. was introduced.

On the death of the first Patron, the Duke of Richmond, in 1860, no successor was elected, and although that office continued to figure in the Rules for the next four years it was then quietly dropped. In 1900 the Committee changed their title to Council. The Local Secretaries continued to be *ex officio* members of that body until 1906, but they do not appear ever to have attended, or to have been summoned to meetings, with the notable exception of Mr. W. Harvey, the Local Secretary for Lewes during the early years of the Society.

Rule 5, concerning Vice-Presidents, is very characteristic of the period, with its unwavering belief in the Nobility and Gentry. That distinguished antiquary Charles Roach Smith, indeed, protested in a letter to Blaauw: 'Remember all foreign Antiquarian Societies *only* make the most eminent antiquaries Vice-Presidents,



MARK ANTONY LOWER (1813-1876)
Editor of the *Collections* 1865-9
(From a painting in the possession of the Society)

and they would be horrified at your rule 5. You are leaning on broken reeds as far as regards your V.P.'s.' But his protests bore no fruit, and in 1857 the Society had forty Vice-Presidents, of whom thirteen were Peers (including the Bishops of Chichester and Oxford) and eleven Members of Parliament. The rule disappears after 1867 and later lists become shorter and contain a larger proportion of persons of some archaeological eminence. Not that such were lacking earlier: the first list of Vice-Presidents includes Sir Henry Ellis, of the British Museum, Albert Way, Hon. Secretary of the Archaeological Institute, John Britton, F.S.A. (and, *inter alia*, 'Chevalier of the Order of Merit of the Seven United Kingdoms of Germany'), and Dr. Gideon Mantell.

The public meeting of 18 June 1846, having founded the Sussex Archaeological Society, converted itself into the first Meeting of the Society. Mr. Blaauw was appointed Hon. Secretary, and the twelve members of the Committee elected were:

R. W. Blencowe	Rev. Leveson Vernon Harcourt
Rev. Heathcote Campion	Rev. Dr. Holland, Precentor of Chichester
Col. F. Davies	John Hoper
Frederick Dixon	Rev. Henry Latham
William Figg	Mark Antony Lower
Rev. C. Gaunt	Rev. W. Downes Willis

Among these the slightly flamboyant figure of MARK ANTONY LOWER stands out. He was at this time thirty-three, having been born on 14 July 1813 at Chiddingly, where his father Richard Lower was schoolmaster. Richard Lower was a man of considerable all-round attainments, a land-surveyor, draughtsman, and poet, or at least versifier, with a particular interest in the dialect of his native county, and something of a musician. Under his guidance Mark Antony, the youngest of his sons, early developed an ability for sketching and an interest in literature. At the age of seventeen he became assistant to his sister, who had a



ST. ANNE'S HOUSE (formerly) IN HIGH STREET, LEWES
(The home of M. A. Lower and, earlier, of John Rowe)

school at East Hoathly, and soon afterwards he set up for himself as a schoolmaster at Cade Street in Heathfield. While so employed he published—*Sussex: Being an Historical, Topographical, and General Description of every Rape, Hundred, River, Town, Borough, Parish, Village, Hamlet, Castle, Monastery, and Gentleman's Seat in that County*, with a map neatly executed by himself. The work, as might be expected from so youthful a production, hardly came up to the high-flown title and is chiefly noteworthy for its list of over 250 subscribers, so that it shows the general interest in such subjects in the county, and in particular in its author's mind. In the following year he moved to Alfriston, where he came in contact with John Dudeney, the Southdown shepherd who had himself become a schoolmaster and had founded the Philosophical Society at Lewes. About 1835 Lower moved to Lewes, where he set up a school in Lancaster Street. Some eighteen years later he moved to St. Anne's House, a fine old red brick house, once the home of John Rowe, the seventeenth-century antiquary who preserved for posterity so much valuable information about Lewes and its neighbourhood.¹ Naturally, as a schoolmaster Lower inculcated an interest in archaeology in his pupils, and on at least one occasion he adopted the 'practical' policy of that less amiable pedagogue Wackford Squeers. In a letter to Blaauw dated 5 June 1852 he writes:

Although archaeology forms no part of the *παιδεία* of my establishment I have to-day been teaching the 'young idea how to dig' barrows. Armed with pickaxes and shovels my pupils and I have partially excavated a barrow near the race-course. We found four skeletons under rather curious circumstances, one of which lay N. and S. and the others E. and West. Some *iron* studs in fragments of wood, apparently of a shield, seem to give these remains to the Saxon rather than the Celtic period. The barrow is within thirty or forty feet of the little one in which the British urn noticed in my 'Miscellaneous Antiquities' was found.

The digging of barrows, however, and prehistory in general were not among Lower's main interests; these

¹ See *The Book of John Rowe*, published by the Sussex Record Society, vol. xxiv. (1928).

lay in more 'human' regions. As early as 1842 he had published a volume on *English Surnames: Essays on Family Nomenclature, Historical, Etymological, and Humourous*, which went, with revision and enlargement, into a fourth edition, and a mass of correspondence that has survived shows the diligence and energy which he expended upon the work. It was this enthusiasm that was one of the most valuable of his qualities as a founder of the Society.

Lower was emphatically an 'amateur' archaeologist, both in the true sense of one following a study for mere love of it, and also in the derogatory sense of one whose love is apt to be blinded by the superficial aspects of a subject. His literary output was prodigious. Of the twenty-six volumes of the Society's *Collections* published during his life-time only one (vol. XXIII) was without at least one article from his pen and many contained four or five, as well as short notes. Covering as they did almost every branch of archaeology, they were naturally of very uneven merit: thus, his paper in vol. II 'On the Iron Works of Sussex' was valuable pioneer work on this important subject, whereas that on 'The Pelham Family' (vol. XXIV) was a singularly unfortunate piece of genealogical guesswork. He was happiest with subjects which lent themselves to a light touch, divagations and humour, and, having a facility for rhyming, liked to drop into verse. This habit was gently checked by Blaauw, to whom we find Lower writing on one occasion rather pathetically: 'With respect to the *verses*, I bow of course to your editorial decision. I introduced them in consequence of your own remark about the *leaden* character of one volume, and they had the warm approbation of two of our committee-men and several other persons whose opinions I took.'

Many of his own papers and some of those by other writers were illustrated by his own hand, for he was a competent draughtsman and also a neat calligrapher. Moreover, he was constant in attending meetings of the Committee and active in arranging, conducting, and addressing the Society's outings and General Meetings.

This enthusiasm, to which the Society owes so much, was not good for his school. Its numbers fell, his health deteriorated, and when his first wife, Mary Holman, whom he had married in 1838, died in 1867 he sold St. Anne's—which was subsequently pulled down and replaced by the building now occupied by the Y.M.C.A.—and retired to Seaford. There he married in 1870 Sarah Scrase, and shortly afterwards he left Sussex for London. His second wife died in 1875 and he himself on 22 March 1876.

WILLIAM HENRY BLAAUW was just twenty years older than Lower, having been born in London on 25 May 1793. He was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated as B.A. in 1813 and proceeded M.A. in 1815. At the time of the foundation of our Society, when he had been for some years established at Beechland, Newick, he was already known as the author of *The Barons' War*, published in 1844. This book, of which a second edition, revised from his own notes, was published in 1871, after his death, was a scholarly piece of work which still retains its place as a study of that period of English history. Blaauw, in fact, was a sound antiquary and historian, and as sole Editor of the first eight volumes of the Society's *Collections* set a high standard and left his mark on many articles besides those which he himself contributed. Of these latter some thirty appeared in the first eleven volumes, but during the last ten years before his death, which occurred on 26 April 1870, he wrote little more than occasional short notes. Apart from his literary work, his personality and tact as Hon. Secretary for the first ten years of its existence did much to set the infant Society firmly on its feet.

WILLIAM FIGG was a useful but comparatively inconspicuous member. He was born in 1799 and died in May 1865. As a surveyor he drew many maps and plans of properties in the neighbourhood of Lewes, which still exist, and prepared a large Map of Sussex (based apparently on that by Greenwood, 1829) which was published by Baxter in 1861. His contributions to the



WILLIAM HENRY BLAAUW (1793-1870)
First Hon. Secretary and Editor of the Society
(From a portrait by Mulready in the possession of the Society)

Collections were not numerous, the most notable being those on 'The Sufferings of the Quakers in Lewes' (vol. XVI) and 'Some Memorials of Old Lewes' (vol. XIII), but the work that he did for the Society behind the scenes was important.

These three, Lower, Blaauw, and Figg, seem to have constituted themselves a sort of, apparently, unofficial Executive Committee, and, with occasional help from William Harvey, the Local Secretary for Lewes, and R. W. Blencowe, practically ran the Society. The first meeting of the Committee, attended only by the triumvirate, was definitely stated to have been held 'at Mr. Figg's house' (58 High Street), and although later meetings are vaguely entered as 'at Lewes', it seems probable that this remained the headquarters during the first few years of the Society's existence. Committee Meetings were at first very frequent and at quite erratic intervals, sometimes two in one week, sometimes only one in a month; in November 1847 there were six such meetings, none attended by more than three members, and even the more formal meetings, held before Christmas and Midsummer, only produced an attendance of from six to eight persons. From the scanty minutes recorded it would seem that the business of these informal meetings was practically confined to the election of new members, but we may be sure that the discussions which took place at them had their due effects on the policy and progress of the Society.

This government by family party went on happily for some years, but at last, in 1852, we find Lower writing to Blaauw about murmurings of

the thin-skinned Brightonians—who expect all sorts of attentions and are jealous of the slightest neglect. . . . I happen to know that they fancy that two or three people at and about *Lewes* (there's the rub!) have the sole direction of affairs. Could we not conciliate all parties by adopting a rule of this sort—to hold a general Committee meeting on the first Tuesday in every quarter, at which all local secretaries should be entitled to attend, for conducting the affairs of the society? This would give them an opportunity of stating the wishes of their constituents upon any matter connected with the well-working of the body. I do not deny that matters have been very



WILLIAM FIGG (1799-1865)

(From a sketch in the possession of the Society)



WILLIAM HARVEY
First Local Secretary for Lewes

well conducted hitherto. The acting members of the Comm^{ee}. have brought to the cause so much zeal and ability (and not to praise 'our noble selves' too highly) have done the work so well that prosperity has attended their every movement hitherto. But the thing is hardly right in principle—any more than triumvirates or dictatorships—I do think that we should best consult the stability of our Society by at least giving all our officers an *opportunity* to attend our meetings.

A few days later he writes that he is glad that Blaauw approves the idea of quarterly meetings, and goes on: 'I think we ought to have an infusion of new and active blood into our Committee—of men who would take the trouble to work. Above one half of our members never attend.' Nothing, however, seems to have been done at this time, as in 1854 the Committee met once a fortnight and still consisted of the three or four local members.

In spite of Lower's satisfaction with the way in which he and his friends were running the show, the Society's affairs were far from being in good shape. So far as numbers went there was nothing to complain of: 90 members had been enrolled within three weeks of its foundation, and by the end of 1847 the membership had risen to 217. Of these no less than 65, or nearly a third, were clergymen, and only 24, or about a ninth, were women. Comparison with the latest list of members will show how greatly these proportions have changed. To show that quality as well as quantity was present, it may be added that of the 217, not counting the nobility, more than twenty have found places in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. A year later the roll was 287, and the Report for 1852 shows 555 members. Yet as early as the autumn of 1847 a member 'mildly observes that the Society is going as fast as possible to the Devil'—a singularly rapid *descensus Averno*, if true! The root of the evil lay in the organization, or rather disorganization, of Local Secretaries.

The original idea was that Local Secretaries should be liaison officers between the Committee and the members, and in particular that they should collect the subscrip-

tions from members in their districts. When the Society began to issue its annual volumes of *Collections* (a subject on which more will be said later) the Local Secretaries were made responsible for their distribution. Unfortunately no definite districts were assigned to the individual secretaries and there were constant complaints of the resulting confusion. After a strongly worded protest from Dr. Pickford of Brighton, Mr. Lower did draw up a scheme for the division of the members according to petty sessional districts, but no steps were taken to put the scheme into force. Complaints continued to come from the more conscientious Local Secretaries that Mr. A. has not paid his subscription; that Mr. B. says he has paid his direct to the Bank, or to the Hon. Secretary, or to some other Local Secretary; that they do not know whether Mr. C. is in their district or not; that they cannot supply the volumes for which members are clamouring; or that they have sent volumes to members who have already obtained them at the General Meeting—where there seem to have been dumps of volumes to which members helped themselves, a Local Secretary on one occasion taking twenty without even giving his name. Some were muddle-headed, one writing that he quite thought he had paid the subscriptions which he had received into the Bank, but that he was beginning to think that he ‘must have mistaken a payment on account of the Book-Hawking Society for one on account of the Archaeological Society’. Others were, to put it politely, casual, particularly in the matter of the volumes. In 1870 the Librarian, Mr. Joseph Cooper, F.S.A., requested Local Secretaries to return all volumes of the *Collections* which had not been required for distribution. He reported that he had received 173 volumes, but others had not been returned, and that presentation copies had been sent to several societies, editors of newspapers, and others, without the sanction of the Committee and for which the Society received no equivalent whatever. ‘In one case two volumes each of vol. 21 and preceding volumes have been sent to Judge Warren of

Massachusetts, one copy of each for his own use and the remainder for the use of the Massachusetts Historical Society. In addition to this the Local Secretary sending these has retained three copies for his own use.'

Some idea of the financial muddle resulting from this lack of system may be gathered from the fact that at the end of 1856 the arrears of subscriptions amounted to the almost incredible sum of nearly £400. It was not until the end of 1859 that a Finance Committee, consisting of Messrs. Harvey, Lucas, and Figg, was appointed. If it ever functioned, it was apparently allowed to lapse, and in June 1866 a Report was presented by the Society's auditors, the Rev. P. De Putron and J. C. Lucas, urging that subscriptions should be paid more promptly—there was then £73 outstanding—and stating that:

no Account books exist belonging to the Society and that no accounts are kept except such as can be gleaned laboriously from the Banker's Pass Book. Such a state of things could not be tolerated in any trading community, and it being most desirable that this important Society should be able at any moment to present to the members a correct financial statement, it is recommended that without loss of time Account Books be purchased for the entry and preservation of the pecuniary transactions of the Society and that it be considered the especial duty of the Clerk to keep these accounts and to submit all claims against the Society at every Committee Meeting.

They also recommended that the Committee, which had been meeting in June and December, should meet in future on the Thursdays next before every quarter-day. At the following September meeting it was agreed to elect a Finance Committee consisting of the two Secretaries and three members, who were to report to each meeting; Messrs. J. C. Lucas, W. Harvey, and the Rev. P. De Putron were elected. But in 1873 'attention was called to the irregular way in which the accounts were submitted to the meeting, not having been previously inspected by the Finance Committee'. In December 1876 it was agreed 'that as in the present financial state of the Society it is desirable that all arrears should be collected without loss of time Mr. Lucas be requested to call on Mr. — [a local Secre-

tary] to solicit immediate payment of the subscriptions in his hands, some of which seem to have been paid as long ago as 1870'. Following a resolution on 20 March 1879 for the proper presentation of a yearly balance-sheet duly certified by the auditors, the Society at last settled down to run its finances in a businesslike way.

From the inception of the Society an important part has been played by the General Meetings held at places of historic or archaeological interest. The first of these was held three weeks after the foundation of the Society, on 9 July 1846, at Pevensey and, in spite of the rain, seems to have given much pleasure to the hundred or so persons who attended. After dining in a tent, at 4 o'clock, the company listened to a paper by Mr. Lower on the history of Pevensey, by which time most had to leave for their trains; but a few stayed on to hear a paper which 'a Mr. McStuart, a visitor at Hastings',¹ offered to read. It was a period when practical jokes and facetious 'Comic Histories' were in vogue, and this young man, who 'looked like a gentleman but must have been not right in his mind', was a particularly lamentable specimen of joker. Lower afterwards wrote to Blaauw:

It was most fortunate that Stuart's paper was not read before the whole party. You are not perhaps aware that after we left, Mr. Curteis volunteered as V.P. to take the chair in order that members who remained might have an opportunity of hearing it. Stuart accordingly began his paper and proceeded in a most ridiculous manner to give a kind of travestie of the history of Pevensey castle, and when I quote the expressions 'red hot copper penny pieces', 'Edward the First's brother was drowned in gooseberry fool', 'William the Conqueror busied himself planting cabbages', you will not regret that our time was gone. The above with much more to the same purpose I have just heard from Mr. Harvey who was present. Mr. Curteis at last stopped the impertinent fool and ordered him to quit the booth, when he said he was very sorry Mr. C. hadn't brains enough to appreciate his paper; and it was not until some of the gentlemen talked of 'kicking' that he thought proper to depart.

There was another instance of the practical joke at the expense of the Society in 1848. At the General

¹ See extract from the diary of Mr. Herbert Barrett Curteis: *S.N.Q.* ix. 21-2.

Meeting held at Hastings in June of that year the exhibits included—‘A collection of Roman coins recently found in Pevensey Castle, including 58 silver ones, with fragment of a brass vessel supposed to have contained them.’ Lower read a paper on this find; but even at the time more cautious antiquaries seem to have had their doubts, and it was soon shown that the ‘find’ was fraudulent and that some, if not all, of the coins were forgeries. The perpetrator of the hoax was one Emary of Hastings, the namesake and probably distant connection of two respectable members of the Society. He was, according to Roach Smith, a notorious and prolific forger of Roman and Saxon coins and of such objects as ‘King Alfred’s seal’, but it is difficult to see what he could have gained by this hoax beyond the satisfaction which such practical jokers feel over making other people look foolish.

Such incidents, however, did not recur, and the meetings continued, particularly on the rather rare occasions when the weather was fine, to give pleasure and to provide entertainment, physical and intellectual, to the members. To us in these rationed days, eating our humble sandwiches on the bench of a beerless inn, the menus offered by the caterers for the dinner which, at any time between 3.30 and 5 o’clock, revived wearied members, sound almost as remote as Tudor banquets. And the members of those days were, or were supposed to be, intellectual gluttons also. At the Chichester meeting on 1 July 1847 six papers were read; at Hastings in June 1848 eight, and at Lewes in August 1848 seven were read and three others were held over for lack of time. Whether out of sympathy for the writers of the three unread or for the listeners to the seven read, it was resolved in September of that year to have quarterly meetings on the first Tuesdays in October, January, April, and July at Lewes and Brighton alternately ‘for the purpose of reading papers and discussion on them only’, and that in future only short papers should be read at the General Meeting, and that they should have relation to the place of meeting or to the objects ex-

hibited. The first of these quarterly meetings was held on the 3 October following at Brighton, when seven papers were read to an audience of thirteen members and one visitor. Subsequent meetings seem to have been very scantily attended and the scheme faded out.

Even without the reading of papers the General Meetings tended to be too ambitious; hurried alterations in the programme had often to be made; occasionally a member who had generously provided tea for the excursionists would find that they had had to dash on without visiting him. As Dr. Wellesley wrote in 1853: 'The excursions I presume are too romping and tearing to admit of stopping to look at what you go to see, and early dinners of course make everything a race, so after all it is of no great consequence to do more than keep things going at full trot.' And that there were many, particularly of what was in those days archly known as 'the fair sex', whose interest was somewhat frivolous was recognized. So we find Mr. Figg writing in 1856: 'The question was mooted last night in Committee whether it would not be very desirable to have a Band at Bodiam on the 10th of July—we seem to think without something of that sort it will be rather slow . . . as many persons would be present who care but little for the Architecture of an *Old Castle* and who would come to enjoy themselves and to see and be seen.' Well, why not? In the words of Mark Antony Lower:

. . . While the chronicle and the chartulary are by no means neglected, why should we obstinately repudiate picturesque scenes, the joyous expressions of kindly feeling, the wine and the venison,¹ and, above all, the benign influence of bright eyes and sunny faces which are ever the concomitants of our charming anniversary.

An innovation in the way of excursions occurred in June 1857, when twenty-two members of the Society paid a visit to Normandy and inspected the antiquities of Dieppe, Rouen, Caen, and Bayeux under the guidance of M. L'Abbé Cochet and Prof. Charma, both Honorary Members of the Sussex Archaeological Society.

¹ The occasional lordly gift of a haunch of venison lent, no doubt, a feudal splendour to the banquet, but was embarrassing to the caterer.



LEWES CASTLE: THE KEEP

While the Society was thus active in the field it was still without any definite home of its own. But at a Committee Meeting held on 30 October 1849 it was reported that a change in the tenancy of Lewes Castle was likely to occur shortly and it was resolved that: 'it would be highly desirable for the interest of the Society that it should become the tenant in such case, with a view to establishing a Museum there.' At the next General Meeting, held on 25 July 1850 at Herstmonceux, it was agreed that the Society should accept the offer of the tenancy of the Castle; and at a subsequent meeting at the Star Inn, Alfriston, on 16 October, the Secretary reported that the Society had taken a lease of Lewes Castle at £30, with liberty to pull down such of the modern buildings near the Castle Gateway as may not be required for the purposes of the Society.

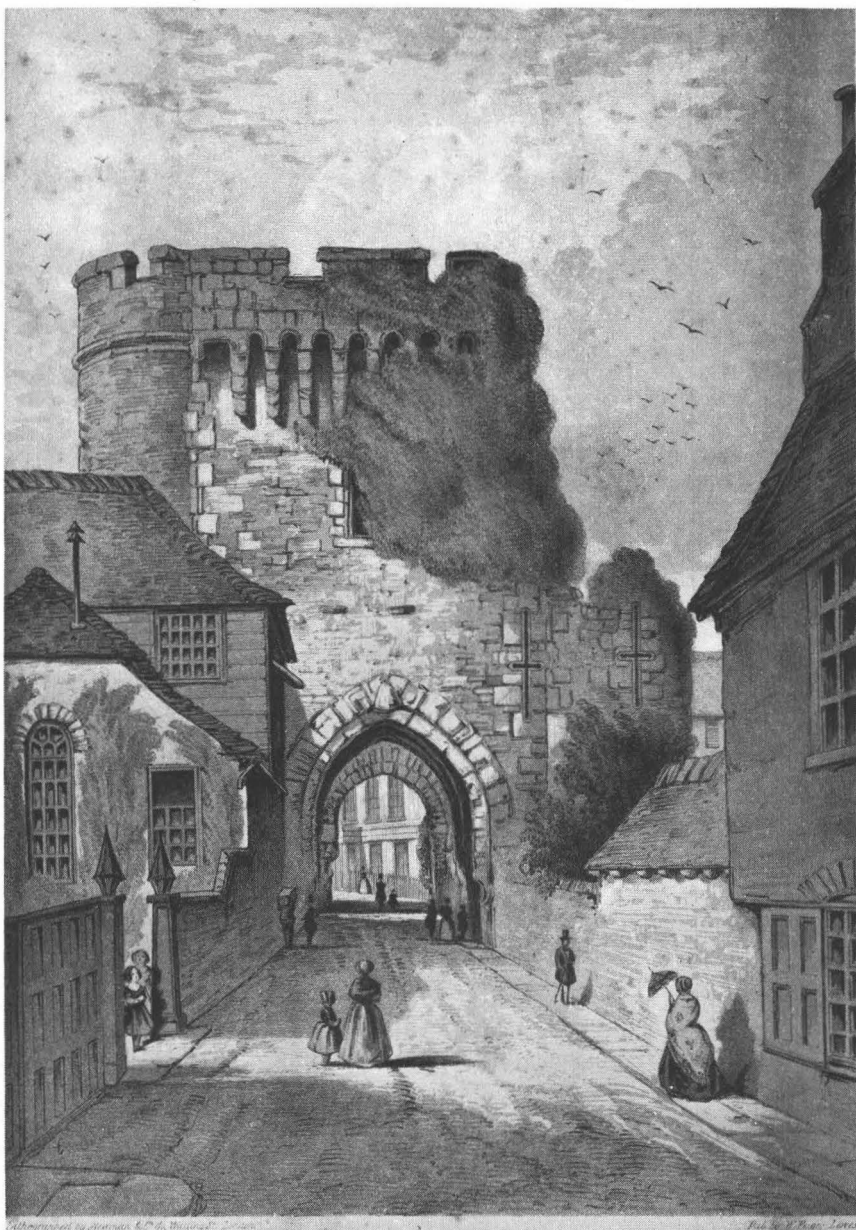
The buildings with which the present Gun Garden was cluttered up included a 'wareroom' or large shed, a room temporarily in the occupation of the Grammar School, and another which had been used for some years, rent free, by the Infant School. An *ex gratia* payment of £10 was voted to the Infant School as compensation for their ejection. The tenants of the Barbican were the Freemasons, and they at first stood out for substantial compensation but were not in a strong position, as they apparently owed arrears of rent for a good many years. A preliminary survey of the repairs necessary to the Castle buildings, especially the West Tower, produced an estimate of £135. 7s. 9d. As Mr. Davey, the tenant of the shed, offered £120 for the materials of the buildings, the Railway Company were under an obligation to pay compensation for having driven their tunnel under the Castle, and the lords of the Castle had contributed a substantial sum (which seems eventually to have been absorbed by repairs to the Barbican, which was in very bad condition), prospects looked highly satisfactory. But the estimates proved, as is the nature of the beasts, fallacious, and the ultimate cost of making needful repairs and obliterating the ravages of the late tenant, of whom a member wrote

as 'Mr. Attila FitzRoy and his Huns', came to about £300. A suggestion that the windows inserted in the towers when the Kemps converted the Keep into a sort of summer-house should be replaced by imitations of the original loop lights was negatived on the ground that this would render the place quite unfit for a museum.

Work began on the West Tower, which had been assigned as the quarters of the Warder, Sergeant Morgan. Mr. Davey seems also to have gone ahead with the pulling down of the buildings on the west side of the road but displayed a dilatoriness in removing the materials and tidying up the site that gave rise to many complaints. As late as 26 May 1852 Lower wrote to Blaauw informing him that the Committee had agreed to allow the Lewes Horticultural Society the use of the courtyard for their show on 14 and 15 July, and went on:

As a member of the floral committee I was present when Mr. Whitfield was directed to make application to the Sec. of the S.A. Soc. A whole flood of invective was poured out against our contractor, and a leading person present went so far as to say that he intended at the Whit Monday Town Meeting to propose a vote of censure upon *our Society!* Something must be done. Mr. Harvey and myself have been on the point of resigning our office as we cannot put our heads out of doors without being questioned and teased on the subject of Davey's delay. Now that we are pledged to let the floral committee have the ground we must be doubly firm on the subject.

Presumably the floral emergency bore fruit and the place was cleared, but apparently not very satisfactorily tidied up, as a year later, in April 1853, it was resolved 'that the Castle Yard be levelled and covered with turf, and the plaster from North side of wall be removed'. The Castle Yard later became known as 'the Gun Garden', from the presence of a Russian gun, a trophy of the Crimean War—but whether presented to the Society direct or dumped on them by the Town does not appear to be known. The Crimean War, however, benefited the Society, as a considerable number of Russian prisoners of war were brought to Lewes and many visitors from Brighton came to stare at them and,



LEWES CASTLE: THE BARBICAN

(Showing, on the left, the buildings removed when the Society acquired the tenancy)



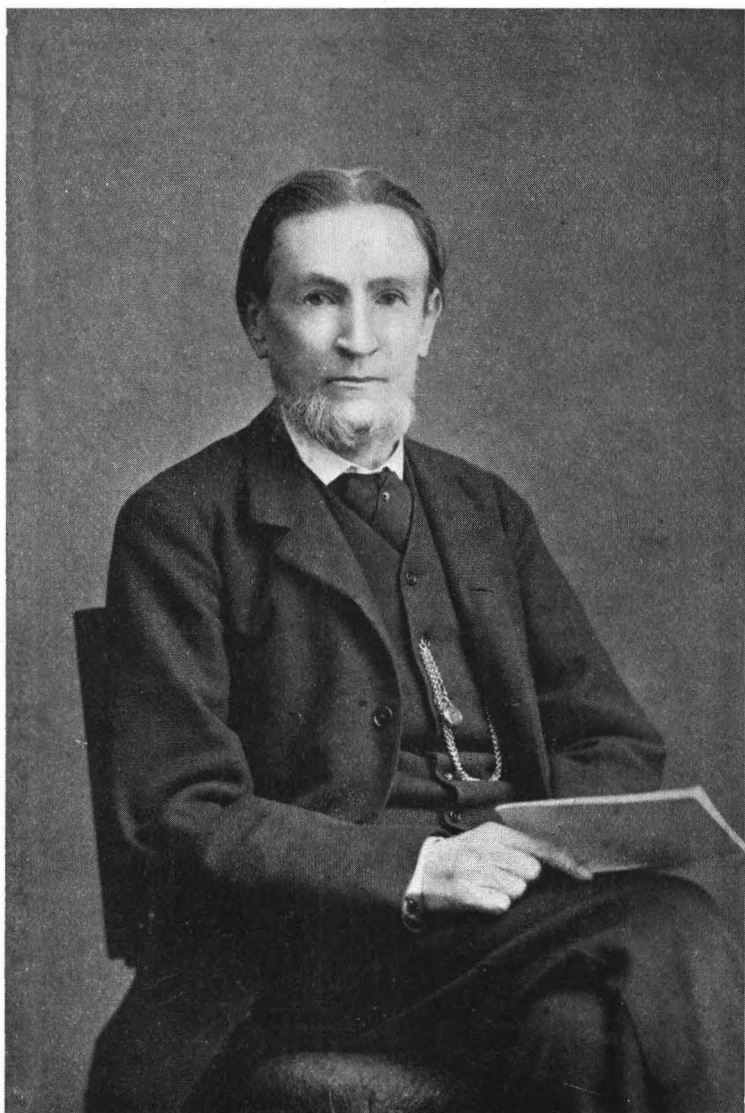
ROBERT WILLIS BLENCOWE (1791-1874)
Second Hon. Secretary of the Society

having satisfied their curiosity about these exhibits of a contemporary war, passed on to look at the relics of earlier warriors; so that in the autumn of 1854 the takings at the Castle on twenty-four successive days averaged 20s. Perhaps in recognition of this fact the Committee agreed to grant free admission to the Castle to the Finnish prisoners of war at Lewes, namely Major Gustaf Grahin and fifteen other officers. The popularity of the Castle with visitors is shown by the fact that between October 1850 and October 1856 as many as 25,148 persons came to see it, producing the substantial sum of £584. 19s. 3d.

In December 1852 it had been decided that 'it would be very expedient to fit up the lower story [of the Barbican] for the residence of the Warder and to place the Library and portions of the Museum in the upper room of the Gateway'. A good deal had to be done to make the place habitable, and it was not until October 1856 that a resolution was passed that the books and museum should be so shifted and that the Warder should in future reside in the Lower Gateway. The Warder promptly sent in his resignation; rather to the satisfaction of some of the Committee. Morgan (not to be confused with his namesake whose widow our older members will remember as caretaker) was of 'somewhat blunt' manners and evidently lacking in a proper appreciation of social distinctions, as a clerical member of the Society complained that he had disrespectfully left 'a visiting party of gentlemen (a nephew of a Peer and others) and ladies (of county families and others) . . . to attend to a member who (of shallow archaeological skill) was lionizing a party of tradespeople'.

In 1858 W. H. Blaauw resigned the Hon. Secretaryship and was succeeded by ROBERT WILLIS BLENCOWE, who was actually his senior, having been born at Stretton in Leicestershire in 1791.¹ Mr. Blencowe had married one of the daughters and co-heiresses of the Rev. Sir Henry Poole, Bart., and after a period of

¹ See obituary notice in *S.A.C.* xxvi.

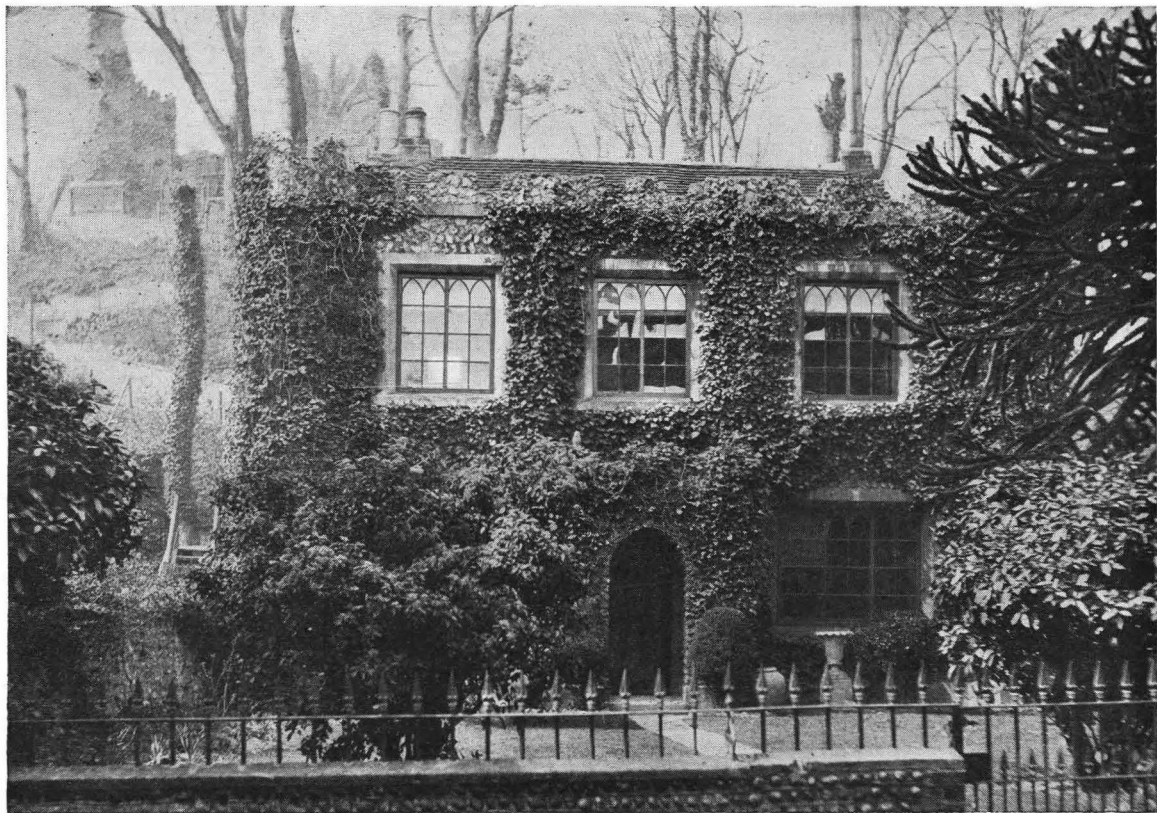


FRANCIS BARCHARD
Hon. Secretary, 1867-1894

residence in Tunbridge Wells had settled at the Hooke in Chailey in 1840, where he became a prominent and popular figure in the social and political life of the county. From the foundation of the Society he showed a keen interest in its welfare, and his contributions to its *Collections*, though not numerous, were valuable and particularly interesting from the human, social side of antiquity. With the exception of one article on 'Roman Remains at Hurstpierpoint and Danny' (*S.A.C.* XIV), they were all typical of this interest in humanity, including the Diaries of the Rev. Giles Moore, Timothy Burrell, Walter Gale, and the Wilson family, and a paper on Southdown Shepherds. He retired from office in 1865 and died on 23 January 1874 in his eighty-third year.

From 1861 onwards Mr. Blencowe had the assistance, as joint Secretary, of his neighbour the Rev. William Powell of Newick, who held office until his death on 28 January 1885. With him was associated from 1867 Francis Barchard, of Horsted Place, who continued in office until 1894, when he resigned. Both these members rendered valuable service to the Society but, though they each made gifts to the Library and Museum, neither contributed to its volumes.

For thirty years after its occupation of the Castle the history of the Society is uneventful. Its roll of members slowly increased, with occasional drops when the Council struck off a batch of the more persistent defaulters; its annual excursions grew in popularity, and were occasionally blessed with fine weather; and its reputation was maintained by its (almost) annual volumes; but there is little to record. The ruins of the Priory were leased to the Society in 1862, but the experiment proved financially disappointing and was abandoned after three years. In 1864 the first appointment of a Librarian and Curator was made, in the person of Mr. Robert Chapman, who was succeeded in the following year by Joseph Cooper, F.S.A. The Society had welcomed the Archaeological Institute at Chichester in 1853 when the members of that society explored West Sussex; and



CASTLE LODGE, LEWES, c. 1890

thirty years later, in 1883, they again welcomed them at Lewes. Similar friendly relations were established with the British Archaeological Association during their sessions at Lewes in 1866 and Brighton in 1885.

Meetings not only of the Council but also of the Society continued to be held in the Barbican, and the room was apparently regarded as an attractive place for meetings, as in 1869 the Monday Evening Club and the Lewes and East Sussex Natural History Society were allowed to continue their use of it, defraying necessary expenses, and its hospitality was also extended to the Lewes School of Art for their committee meetings. It was, however, becoming clear that the premises were too cramped, and the gift by H.M. Stationery Office in 1885 of 235 volumes of the Rolls Series of Chronicles, &c., emphasized that fact. Accordingly, in September of 1885 it was decided to hire Castle Lodge at a rent of £20, 'as it would afford great convenience to members visiting to consult the now very valuable library, which has hitherto been confined to the dark recesses of the Barbican, and also enable all the rooms in the Castle to be used as a Museum'. By the end of the year it was reported that the Library had been removed to a convenient room at Castle Lodge. Convenient it may have been, but excessively cold and damp it unfortunately proved to be. Still, it served its purpose, and the accommodation for the custodian, James Morgan, and his wife can hardly have been less pleasant than the lower room in the Barbican. The Society's meetings, however, continued to be held in the Barbican until 1893, when they were transferred to more genial quarters at the White Hart.

The acquisition of Castle Lodge and the ensuing improvement in the Library and Museum might be held to indicate a spirit of activity in the Society; but all its members were not satisfied with conditions. In the spring of 1888 an anonymous writer in the *Sussex Daily News* strongly attacked the conduct of its affairs. He maintained that control had passed into the hands of a clique; that members were deliberately not informed

of meetings, so that the Committee could re-elect themselves and exclude younger and more active men; that many of the Committee had done good work in the past but should now be promoted to the honourable obscurity of the Upper Chamber of Vice-Presidents; and that no efforts were made to enlarge the Society and recruit fresh members. As a result, the Hon. Secretary, Francis Barchard, who had held that office alone since the death of the Rev. William Powell in 1885, tendered his resignation but eventually agreed to carry on if he could have assistance, and the Rev. Prebendary Heathcote Campion and Mr. Henry Griffith, who was already Editor, were appointed joint Hon. Secretaries. Prebendary Campion had been on the Committee since the start of the Society and was in his seventy-fourth year; he died within six months of his appointment, and Messrs. Barchard and Griffith continued as colleagues until 1894. It is perhaps some justification for the charge of inefficiency in recruiting members for the Society that the membership in the latter year was 544, compared with 555 in 1852.

In 1896 the Society celebrated its Jubilee. On Thursday the 9th of July a dinner was held in the Pavilion, Brighton, at which the toast of 'The Society' was proposed by Mr. (later Sir) Charles Hercules Read, then Secretary and subsequently President of the Society of Antiquaries of London. It was replied to by the Rev. Chancellor W. D. Parish, who had in that year been appointed as the first definite Chairman of the Committee. The opportunity was taken to present an illuminated address to Mr. C. T. Phillips, who had resigned the office of Curator and Librarian, which he had held for seven years to the great benefit of the Society. On the following day members were taken on a tour round Lewes by Mr. Phillips, with the assistance of other antiquaries, W. St. John Hope explaining the architectural history of the Priory; and after dinner at the White Hart a conversazione was held at the Town Hall, where a loan exhibition of Sussex antiquities was on view. On the Saturday,

11 July, a large number of members were welcomed at Arundel Castle by the Duke of Norfolk. After lunch in the new Baron's Hall—the first function to be held there—the party went on to Parham, where the house and its treasures were shown, and tea provided, by Lord Zouche. The more energetic members of the party finished up with a visit to Amberley Castle.

The publicity gained by these celebrations acted as a stimulus to the growth of the Society, whose membership passed the 600 mark in 1899. The next year, 1900, was marked by further evidences of activity in the initiating of excavations on the site of Lewes Priory, which led to the uncovering of the remains of the remarkable Infirmary buildings, and in the formation of the Sussex Record Society. As early as 1877 the Editor, Mr. C. F. Trower, had suggested that the Society should turn its attention to printing complete series of records relating to the county.¹ His idea was that these should occupy part of the annual volume in place of the usual essays of colloquial or anecdotal interest, 'not as a general rule of a very high order of merit' (in which he might perhaps have included his own paper 'On the Archaeology of Sussex Cricket'). This scheme failed to obtain sufficient support; but now, in 1900, a daughter society was formed for the purpose of publishing such records, which are of primary importance to the student and serious historian but cannot, as a rule, be expected to appeal to the ordinary non-specialist members of the Archaeological Society. With the work of the Sussex Record Society we shall deal when we come to consider the publications of the parent society.

Other activities of the Society were the Exhibitions of Sussex Ironwork and Sussex Pottery held in 1901, and catalogued in volume XLVI of the *Collections*; and the formation in 1903 of a special section to undertake the Photographic Survey of the county. The idea of such a survey had been broached in 1898 but had not then come to anything. The chief mover in the scheme was Mr. J. C. Stenning, the Society's Hon. Photographer,

¹ *S.A.C.* xxvii. 1-2; xxviii. 1-10.

and the considerable amount of useful work that was carried out was almost entirely due to his efforts. During the next three years the Council could afford neither funds nor accommodation, and in 1906 the Survey accepted the hospitality of the Brighton Reference Library, where its collection of prints and negatives was deposited.

It was in 1903 that Mr. Charles Dawson,¹ F.S.A., bought Castle Lodge and gave the Society notice to quit by midsummer 1904. Mr. Dawson had been largely responsible for organizing the exhibitions of Ironwork and Pottery, and was a prominent member of the Society, though not on the Council, and the vendors seem to have believed that he was buying the house on behalf of the Society. The blow was entirely unexpected and naturally caused something like consternation. It was ultimately to prove highly beneficial to the Society, but for the moment the blessing was very thoroughly disguised.

Temporary accommodation for the Society's books, &c., was found in Messrs. Baxter's premises at 35 High Street, and thither the Council moved its headquarters. The first idea for providing permanent quarters was to build in the Gun Garden. This site proved to be held on a very complicated copyhold tenure, but arrangements were made for its enfranchisement, and plans for the proposed building were drawn up, at a total cost of some £80. There was, however, strong opposition to this proposal among the members, including some of the Council, led by Mr. C. E. Clayton. It was felt that the Society, having at the start of its tenancy of the Castle taken credit for clearing away the buildings in the Garden, could hardly justify its action in setting up another building there. Finally, at a special General Meeting held on 25 May 1906 the scheme was definitely rejected.

It was almost exactly a year later, on 6 May 1907, that it was agreed to buy Barbican House,² at the

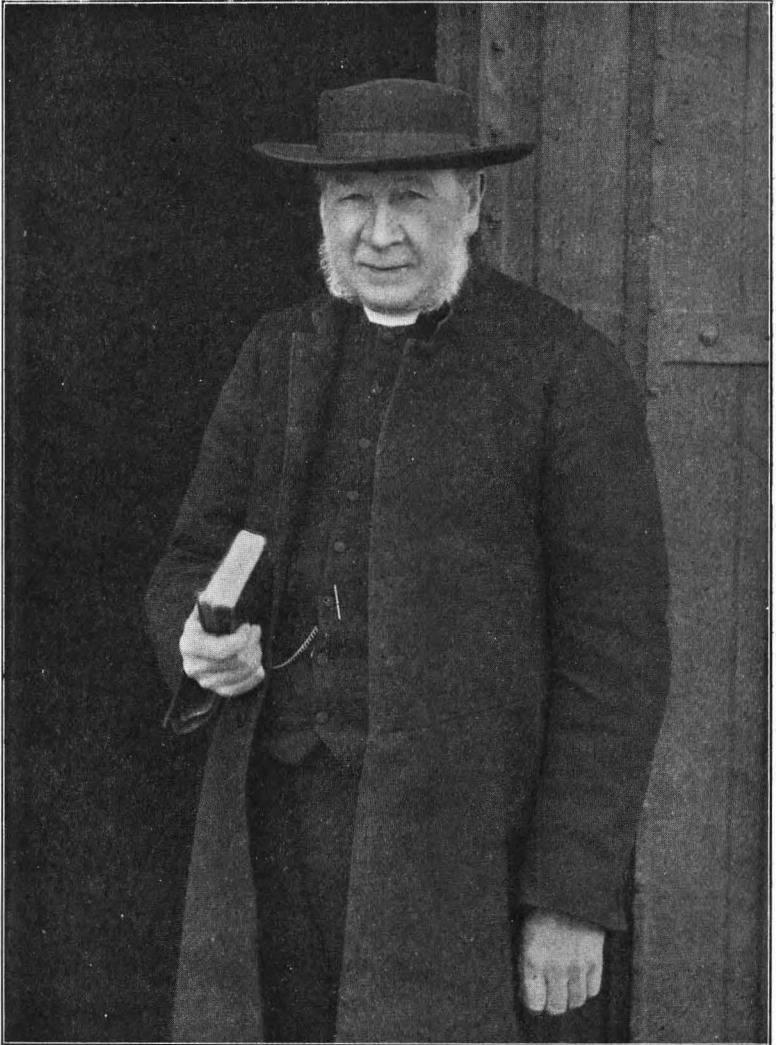
¹ His name was later given to the 'Pilt Down Man' (*Eoanthropus dawsoni*), the lowest known form of human being, with the discovery of whose remains he was associated.

² Described in *S.A.C.* LXXXII. 1-19.

corner of Castlegate and High Street, from Mr. Harry Willett for £2,300. This fine house, still retaining some sixteenth-century features, and probably medieval masonry in its basement, had been completely remodelled in the first half of the eighteenth century and formed a dignified and worthy headquarters for the Society, which had now 750 members; and its well-proportioned rooms and large windows made it as suitable for a Museum as can reasonably be expected of any house not built for such a purpose. On 17 June 1908 the new premises were formally opened with an inaugural luncheon at the Town Hall, Lewes, presided over by the Duke of Norfolk, President of the Society.

It is perhaps worth noting that in 1906 the Society lost the last of its original members by the death of the Rev. Sir George Shiffner. In the previous year Mr. H. Michell Whitley, owing to ill health and the fact that he was leaving the county, resigned the secretaryship, which he had held since 1897. In 1909 the Rev. Canon James Hughes Cooper, who had succeeded Chancellor Parish as Chairman of the Council in 1903, died.¹ His interest in archaeology had made itself evident in undergraduate days, when he was secretary of the Cambridge Architectural Society, and his connection with Sussex began on his ordination in 1855, when he acted as curate at Cuckfield for five years and at St. Paul's, Brighton, for another five years; it was, however, broken in 1865 by his presentation to the rectory of Tarporley in Cheshire, which he held for twenty-three years. In 1888 he returned to Cuckfield as vicar and became an active member of the Society, to whose volumes he contributed valuable articles on the Vicars and some of the leading families of Cuckfield, and on other subjects. He was succeeded as Chairman by Walter C. Renshaw, K.C.

Evidence of the standing of the Society may be seen in the fact that, after a vigorous protest had been made concerning certain destructive 'restoration' in a West Sussex church, the Bishop of Chichester wrote in 1908 promising that no faculty relating to an ancient church



THE REV. CANON J. H. COOPER
Chairman of the Council 1903-1909

fabric in Sussex should issue without the Society, through its Committee of Experts appointed in the previous September, being heard in the case. Although the present writer, who was a member of that Committee, has no knowledge of any faculty—or indeed any business of any kind—ever being submitted to it, it has been the custom in recent years for the Society to have a representative on the Advisory Committee on Faculties.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 23 March 1910 a Rule was passed by which any Local Association with a membership of not less than twenty, the main objects of which are similar to those of the Society, may be affiliated to the Society.¹ The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society at once took advantage of this, and its example was followed by the Bexhill Museum Association in 1920; the Worthing Archaeological Society in 1922; the Hastings Archaeological Society 1922 (ceased to function in 1929); the Littlehampton Natural History and Archaeological Circle in 1924; the Haverfield Society [Lancing College] in 1930; and the Eastbourne Natural History, Photographic and Archaeological Society in 1938. In this way the influence of the parent Society and an interest in its objects has become widespread throughout the county. Moreover, membership continued to increase; the 900 mark was passed in 1914 and it was anticipated that the 1,000 would soon be reached, when in August 1914 the First World War broke out.

The war inevitably curtailed the activities of the Society, cutting down its publications and practically eliminating the meetings which formed the chief social attraction of its constitution. It might have been expected that membership would have slumped disastrously, but members displayed an admirable loyalty and the conclusion of hostilities in November 1918 showed 794 still on the roll. During this period one picturesque figure disappeared with the death, on 17 December 1917, two days after her ninety-fifth birth-

¹ For conditions and effects of affiliation see Rules.



E. J. Bedford, F.R.P.S. Photo.

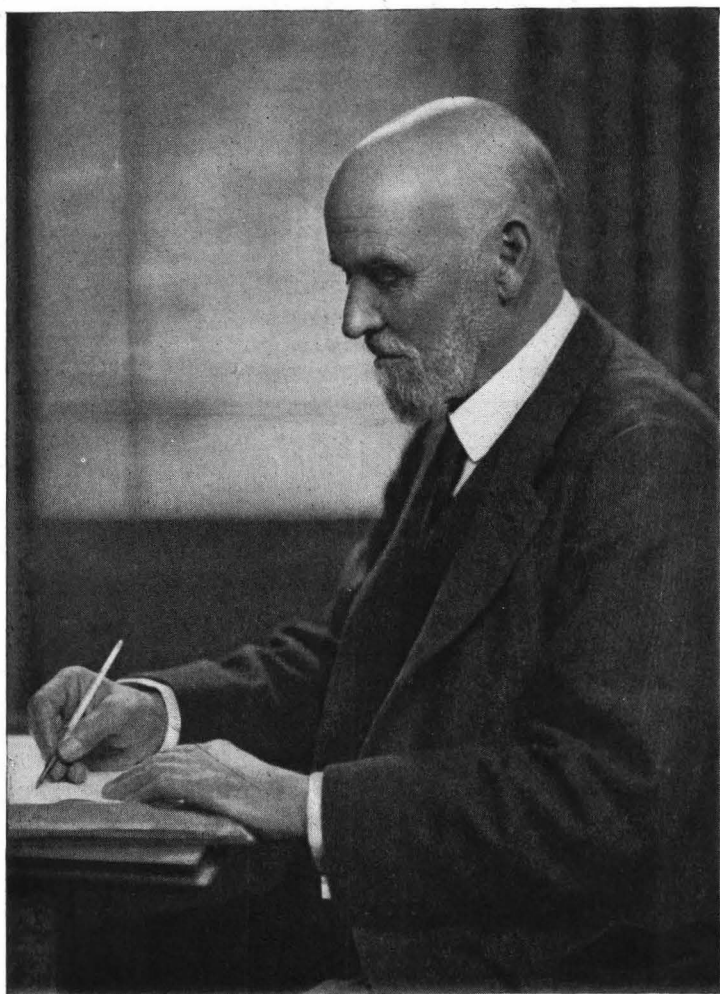
MRS. MORGAN (1822-1917)
Custodian of the Museum 1895-1914

day, of Mrs. Morgan. She had assisted her husband, James Morgan, from the time of his appointment as custodian in 1875 until his death, at the age of seventy-two, in 1895 and had herself acted as custodian from that time until 1914, when she was pensioned by the Society but retained her rooms and continued to give unofficial assistance to her successors, Mr. and Mrs. Haines, in displaying the treasures of her beloved Museum to visitors.

In 1919 Mr. W. C. Renshaw resigned the chairmanship of the Council and CHARLES THOMAS-STANFORD, F.S.A.,¹ and at that time M.P. for Brighton, was elected as Chairman. The choice proved greatly to the advantage of the Society. Thomas-Stanford became connected with Sussex through his marriage with the heiress of the family of Stanford (whose name he added to his own patronymic of Thomas), who had lived at Preston Manor since the middle of the eighteenth century, and he soon identified himself with the interests of the county and of Brighton, of which borough he was Mayor from 1910 to 1913. He was a scholar and a collector, particularly of early printed books, and had a fine library, the more important items of which he bequeathed to the National Library of Wales, the land of his fathers. Moreover, though his contributions to the *Sussex Archaeological Collections* were few, he published a considerable number of books and brochures, the most important being his excellent *Sussex in the Civil War* (1910); two small works dealt with *Wick* (in Hove), and *The Private Memorandums of William Roe of Withdean*; his other works included a novel and several books of travel. He also prepared for publication by the Sussex Record Society (vol. XXVII) an abstract of the *Court Rolls of Preston*. As a man he possessed great charm, combining efficiency with courtesy and generosity.

The outstanding example of Thomas-Stanford's generosity, so far as our Society is concerned, occurred in

¹ Obituary in *S.A.C.* LXXIII, pp. lxvi-lxxi. See also a privately printed memoir, by Sir A. O. Jennings.



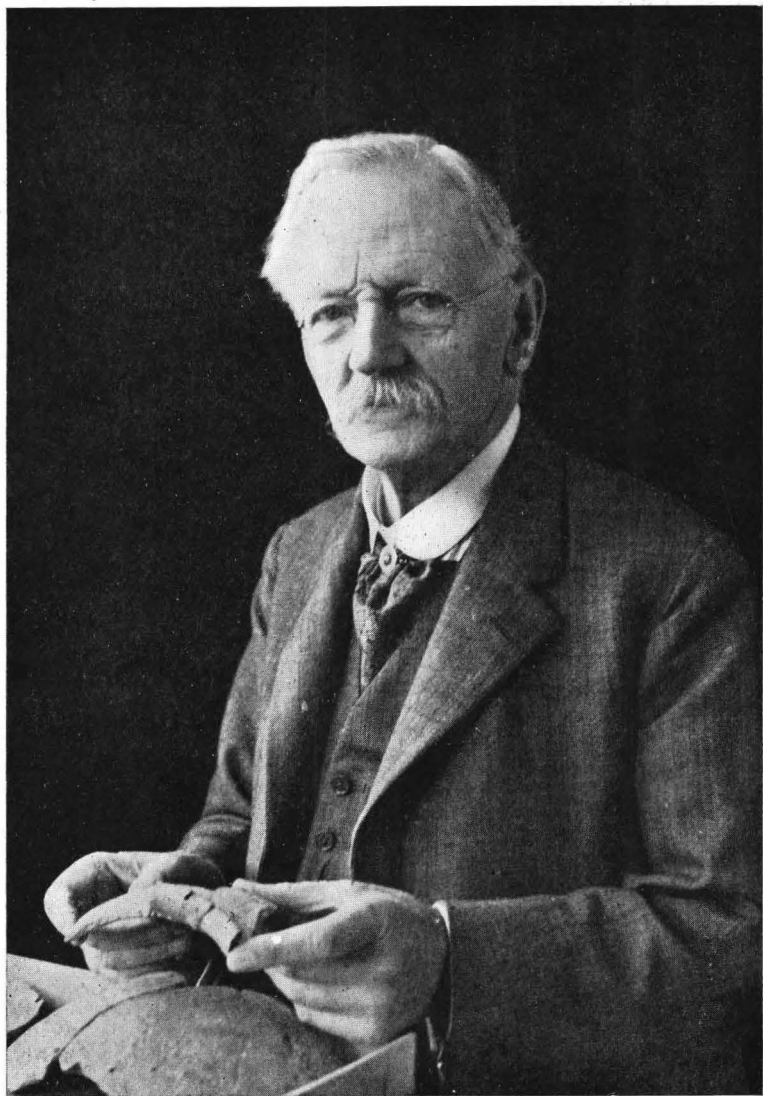
SIR CHARLES THOMAS-STANFORD, BART.
Chairman of the Council 1920-1929

1920. At this time there was a proposal before the Council to purchase Lewes Castle; the price agreed upon was £1,600 and the drafting of an appeal to raise the money was under discussion, when Thomas-Stanford wrote to say that he proposed to buy the copyhold of the Castle himself and present it to the Society. The proposal was gratefully accepted and on 10 May 1922 a luncheon, presided over by Lord Monk Bretton, was given at the White Hart, Lewes, in honour of Mr. Thomas-Stanford, who formally handed over the title-deeds, after which the company adjourned to the Keep to take possession of their historic property. Following on this acquisition came the formation of the Sussex Archaeological Trust,¹ the legal representative of the Society for the purpose of holding property, which was incorporated on 1 January 1925, with Thomas-Stanford as its first Chairman. That post and the chairmanship of the Council he resigned early in 1929. At the Annual Meeting in that year he was elected President of the Society, and it was in the same year that his many public services were recognized and he was created a baronet. At his death in 1932 Sir Charles left Preston Manor to the Corporation of Brighton to serve as a Museum, subject to the life interest of Lady Thomas-Stanford, who only survived him a few months, and he also made a substantial bequest to the Trust, of which an account will be found elsewhere.

When Sir Charles Thomas-Stanford resigned the chairmanship of the Council early in 1929, owing to ill health, Brigadier-General EDMUND GODFREY GODFREY-FAUSSETT, C.B., C.M.G., F.S.A.,² was elected in his place. His father had been Secretary of the Kent Archaeological Society, but he himself as a young man had spent much of his time, after his father's death, in Cuckfield, where his mother's father, Mr. Henry Woodcock, owned the Bolnore estate. During the War of 1914-18 he was stationed at Maresfield, living at

¹ For the history of the Trust and of the various properties vested in it see below, pp. 119-137.

² Obituary: *S.N.Q.* ix. 56-8.



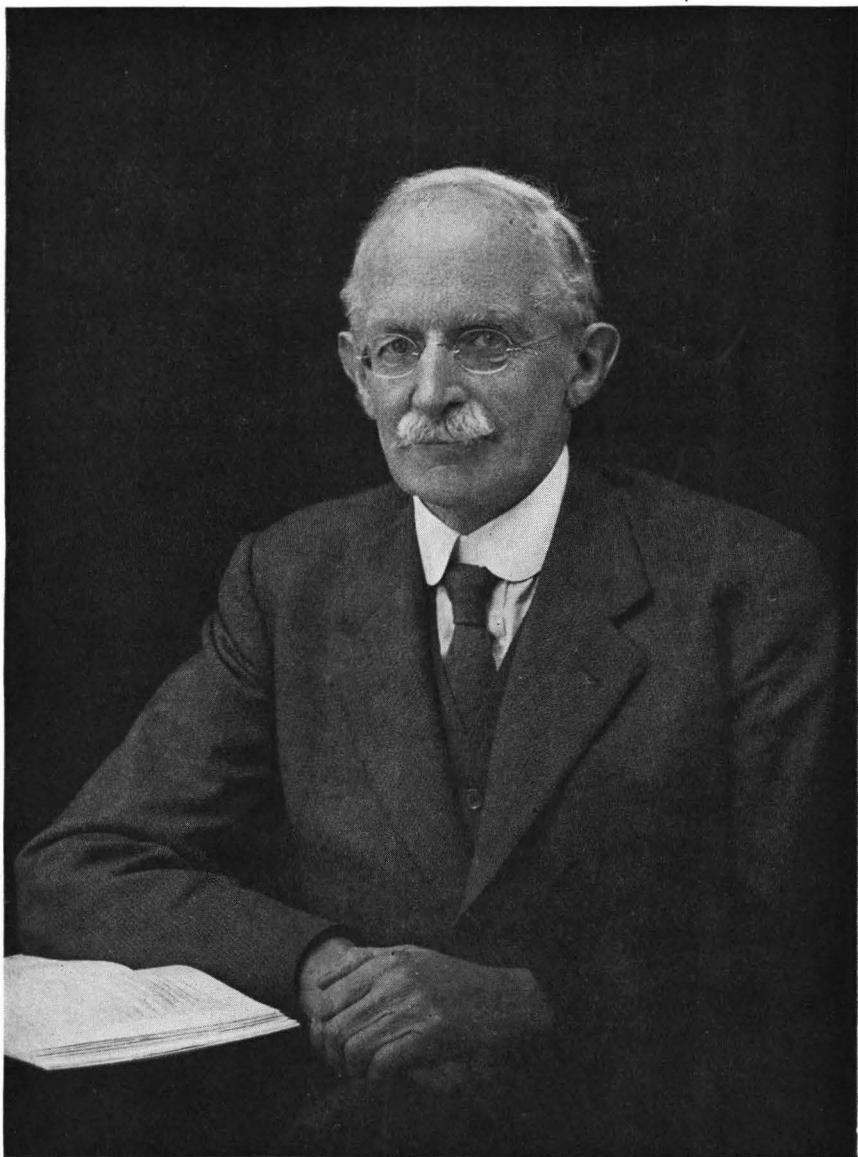
DR. ELIOT CURWEN, F.S.A.
Chairman of the Council 1942-1946

Marshall's Manor, and was in command of Maresfield Camp when it was broken up in 1922. He then retired from the Army and settled at Hadlow Down. During his long tenure of the chairmanship, thirteen years, his methodical mind and business-like outlook were of great value to the Council. In addition he undertook the laborious tasks of compiling a card index to all the names on the 6 in. Ordnance Map of Sussex (now in the Society's Library) and making the General Index to volumes LI to LXXV of the *Collections*. His archaeological interests were wide, but as a former Royal Engineer he was particularly attracted to the study of Roman and medieval roads and was planning to collect material for the elucidation of this subject in Sussex at the time of his death. This occurred, very suddenly, on 29 May 1942. He was succeeded by Dr. Eliot Curwen, F.S.A., the present Chairman, whose merits as a prehistorian are widely known, as his other merits are more intimately known to members of the Council.

By an alteration in the wording of the Rules in 1920 it was made possible for ladies to become members of the Council, and in the following year Miss Marion H. Cooper, the daughter of the former Chairman of the Council, was elected. Miss Harvey Smith¹ served on the Council from 1922 to 1925, and in the latter year Miss M. S. Holgate was elected, since which time ladies have continued to figure on that body. It may also be noted that in 1930 and 1931 the President of the Society was Lady Leonfield.

The year 1923 saw an unusual number of changes in the executive: Major Molineux, who had served as Hon. Treasurer for thirty years, having succeeded his father in that office in 1893, died; and his successor, Mr. F. B. Whitfield, also died in January 1924. Mr. W. E. Nicholson resigned the office of Hon. Secretary, which he had held since 1905. His long tenure of office was the more remarkable as his interests were botanical rather than archaeological, his fame as an expert on the subject of mosses being widespread; his services to the

¹ Granddaughter of William Harvey.



FRANK BENTHAM STEVENS, LL.B., F.S.A.
Hon. Financial Secretary 1924-1946

Society, particularly during the difficult period of its change of headquarters, were recognized by the presentation of a silver salver engraved with a suitable inscription. Messrs. Henry Cheal and John Patching, who had acted since 1917 as joint Hon. Curators and Librarians, also resigned, as also did Mr. W. W. Davey, who had served as Clerk for nineteen years. In the resulting reorganization the administrative work of the Secretary was divided into two departments, Mr. Frank Bentham Stevens becoming Hon. Financial Secretary, while the post of Hon. General Secretary was accepted by Mr. Hugh Chalmers, who also became Hon. Curator and Librarian. A similar division was made on the clerical side, Mr. Maurice G. Smith being appointed Finance Clerk and Miss C. M. Lucas Assistant Secretary, with general responsibility for the care of the Library and Museum. With the exception of Mr. Chalmers, whose devoted service to the Society was unhappily cut short by his early death in 1928, when his place as Hon. General Secretary was taken by Miss M. H. Cooper, all these appointments remained unchanged until 1945, to the advantage of the Society and the satisfaction of its members. In particular, it would be difficult to over-estimate the value of the services rendered to the Society by Mr. Stevens in the management of its financial and general interests. It was to the general regret of her colleagues and many friends that Miss Cooper, who had been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1945, found it necessary, for reasons of health, to resign in that year.

The eightieth anniversary of the Society was celebrated in 1926 by meetings on 18 June at Lewes and on 9 July at Eastbourne and Pevensey, and by the end of that year the membership had reached 1,200. Moreover the number of visitors to the Castle in that year was 14,189; and as most of them went up on to the top of the South Tower of the Keep it is not surprising that the leaden roof was found to be worn out and was replaced with one of concrete. Next year, 1927, peak figures were attained for visitors (over 15,000) and

members (1,288)—both possibly stimulated by the fact that on 28 April Her Majesty Queen Mary paid a visit to Barbican House.

At the General Meeting held on 20 March 1929 it was resolved that all members elected after that date should pay an annual subscription of £1. Notice of a motion to the same effect (except that clergy were to be half-price) had been given thirty-eight years earlier, but at the meeting on 19 March 1891 Mr. Henry Griffith, who was to have proposed the change, was absent and nothing more was heard of the motion. The raising of the subscription did not noticeably check the enlistment of new members, and on the whole the old members responded well to the request that they should voluntarily increase their subscriptions to the same amount. By way of a concession, a rule was passed in 1930 under which members of the family of a member, residing at the same address, could become Associates, paying only half the subscription but not receiving the Society's publications.

From time to time the Society's recognition of its moral responsibility for the preservation of the antiquities of the county has led to conflict with more utilitarian authorities. It is satisfactory to recall that in 1890, when the Ecclesiastical Commissioners had announced their intention of pulling down the medieval vicarage at Alfriston, a strong protest from the Council played its part in saving that interesting building, which in the end became the first building acquired by the recently founded National Trust. In 1927 the East Sussex Council proposed to demolish, for the erection of offices, Newcastle House, of which the fine façade was a delightful feature of Lewes High Street, and also to build against the Castle Wall in the garden of Castle Gate House. The Council, led by Mr. Walter H. Godfrey, protested vigorously, and the result was a rather unsatisfactory compromise: its scheme for building against the wall was dropped, and the Council, though they demolished Newcastle House, rebuilt an approximate facsimile of its façade. An attempt, in

1936, again led by Mr. Godfrey, with the support of the Council and of many residents of Lewes, to persuade the Borough Council to prevent the destruction of a singularly beautiful eighteenth-century shop-front on the other side of the High Street met with no success. The charming shop-windows themselves were temporarily rescued and set up at Hull, but the act of senseless vandalism was completed by enemy action, when they, with so much of Hull, were destroyed by bombs.¹ That Government Departments can be as blind to beauty as local authorities was shown in 1936, when Battle Rural District Council, opposing the mutilation of one of the finest old houses on the Green at Battle by the insertion of a modern shop-front, invoked and obtained the support of our Council but were overruled by the Ministry of Health. In quite recent years, however, the authorities have in many instances shown themselves more alive to the importance of preserving our ancient heritage of history and beauty, and those entrusted with schemes of planning for town or country districts have sought the collaboration of the Society, which has gladly been given. The Society has also been successful in promoting the scheduling as Ancient Monuments of many sites of historic and prehistoric interest.² In this connection it is of interest to note that at the General Meeting on 22 March 1877 a resolution was passed 'that Sir John Lubbock be requested to include Bignor Pavement in the schedule of his Bill now before Parliament for the preservation of Ancient Monuments'. The only other occasion on which the Society interested itself in a parliamentary Bill appears to have been five years earlier, in 1872, when the Rev. C. H. Champion moved 'that the thanks of the Sussex Archaeological Society be presented to his Grace the Duke of Richmond for moving the rejection of the 69th clause of the Ecclesiastical Courts and Registries Bill'. This was a clause

¹ Another particularly pleasing eighteenth-century shop-front, in North Street, fell a victim to German bombs, which otherwise, most fortunately, did no damage to objects of antiquarian interest in Lewes.

² A list of scheduled Ancient Monuments in Sussex is given below, pp. 138-140.

for the removal of parish registers from the custody of incumbents to a central depository¹—a question on which there would probably be less unanimity now.

The years of financial depression slightly affected the membership of the Society, which gradually fell to 1,153 in 1934; and in the following year falls of a more concrete and serious nature began to threaten its financial prosperity. First the flintwork of the Barbican was found to be in a dangerous condition, and extensive repairs had to be undertaken, involving the rebuilding of much of the east wall and the insertion of concrete floors and roof. Hardly were these completed when, on 31 December 1935, the Castle Mound, affected by exceptionally heavy rainfall, loosed an avalanche of chalk on its south-eastern edge. Examination showed that the action of former occupants of houses on the north side of High Street in extending their gardens by cutting back the Mound had weakened its structure, and the extensive works required to restore its stability and the safety of the Keep cost the Society £800. Following on this, stones began to fall from the inner, Norman, gateway, and another £365 had to be found for its repair. One good feature of this last task was the removal of the comparatively modern arch which had at some time been inserted to strengthen it, thus revealing the original Norman arch in its fine proportions. It is to the credit of the Society's financial managers and the generosity of the Pilgrim Trust, who made a grant of £400, and of Mr. I. D. Margary, who, in addition to other benefactions, gave £500, and of other members, that the outstanding debt of £1,565, incurred at the Castle and, earlier, at Wilmington Priory, was cleared off in 1937.

During these years several notable figures disappeared. In 1928 that formidable scholar J. Horace Round died. He had been an Honorary Member of the Society since 1896 and had contributed to its *Collections* a number of important articles dealing with pedigrees and the history of the first two centuries after the

¹ For this identification, which had eluded us in Hansard, we are indebted to the kindness of Mr. C. T. Clay, Librarian of the House of Lords.

Conquest, on which he was the outstanding authority, while elsewhere he had refought the Battle of Hastings and routed the followers of Professor E. A. Freeman, to whose brilliance as the historian of the Norman Conquest he had, however, paid due tribute. Our Honorary Members have never been numerous but they have included such distinguished antiquaries as John Britton, the Rev. J. Collingwood Bruce, Charles Roach Smith, Sir William St. John Hope, Sir Charles Hercules Read, Sir George Duckett, and Sir Alan Mawer. The year 1936 saw the deaths of P. M. Johnston, of whose work more will be said, Harold Sands, who had made a special study of English castles and had conducted excavations at Pevensey Castle; Viscountess Wolseley, who did much for the popularization of an interest in the antiquities of the county (particularly its ancient houses, on which she wrote many books and articles); and Rudyard Kipling, who had been a Vice-President of the Society since 1921. The name of Kipling may serve to remind us of the many persons of literary rather than antiquarian eminence who have been members of the Society, such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Wilfred Scawen Blunt, Hilaire Belloc, E. V. Lucas, E. V. Knox, Sheila Kaye-Smith, Mrs. Henry Dudeney, and Mrs. Meynell. It is in the combination of scholars with ordinary unspecialized members, whether they be or be not eminent in other walks of life, that the strength of such a body as the Sussex Archaeological Society must consist. It is not possible, and speaking as an editor I may say it is by no means desirable, that every member should be capable of producing learned articles on the archaeology or history of the county; it is important that he, or she, should be interested in that historic past, should endeavour to spread that interest, and, when occasion arises, should assist the Society in its object of preserving whatever is of interest, value, or significance for the study of a vanished or vanishing culture and mode of life.

Of the years of the Second World War we may say: 'Happy is the Society that has no history.' They were

years of anxiety; that Lewes, as an important railway junction, would be subject to heavy bombing raids seemed highly probable. It was, however, decided by the Council to carry on, keeping the Museums open, but removing certain fragile or irreplaceable exhibits to the Barbican, where they would be safe from anything but a direct hit. Access to the Keep was somewhat limited by the use of the South Tower as an Observer Post, but visitors to both Castle and Museum and Anne of Cleves were numerous, including many of the troops stationed in the neighbourhood. In the event Lewes escaped lightly and the Society's premises and collections came through unscathed. Of the membership it is difficult to speak precisely; so many were drawn into the Forces or scattered widely for other reasons that it was difficult to know who had left the Society, either permanently or temporarily; for—odd as it may seem to the reader—all members, even in normal times, do not invariably pay their subscriptions promptly on the 1st of January. However, all through the years of the war, new members continued to be elected and it is confidently hoped that the membership will at no distant time reach its pre-war strength, especially with the resumption of the Society's various activities. These had necessarily been curtailed and, although the Spring General Meetings were held as usual at Lewes and the opportunity was taken to visit places of interest in the town and to listen to papers on various archaeological subjects, the Summer Meetings had to be abandoned until 1945, when a successful meeting was held at Bramber and Shoreham. Moreover, owing to the paper shortage, the annual volumes of *Collections* had to become biennial and even so were much reduced in size. That they could appear even in this attenuated form was largely due to the consideration shown to the Society by the Paper Controller and the Printer to the University of Oxford.

Almost from its foundation the Society made a leading feature of its policy the publication of articles deal-

ing with all sides of the archaeology and history of the county. At a Committee Meeting on 12 January 1847 it was resolved 'to prepare and print occasional papers for distribution among the Members of the Society, to consist of such communications as have been brought before the Society'. In November of the same year it was agreed that the title of the proposed volume should be 'Sussex Archaeological Collections, illustrating the History and Antiquities of the County, published by the Sussex Archaeological Society'. It has never been embodied in the Rules that such a volume should be issued every year, but that has been a recognized part of the Society's policy—an ideal that, in spite of difficulties, notably the two World Wars, has resulted in the publication of eighty-four volumes of *Collections*, three General Indexes, and the special volume on the Sussex portion of Domesday Book.

The onerous and honorary post of Editor was first filled by W. H. Blaauw, already Hon. Secretary, who held it for ten years. His surviving correspondence shows the care and trouble that he took over the production of these volumes, which were received with general satisfaction and well-deserved praise. Of the first volume we find Blaauw writing to Lower that—'Mr. Dixon was able to carry the book to the Duke of Norfolk at Arundel and reports him "much pleased with it, and the Duchess so charmed that she read nothing else all the evening"'. Next year approval came from a less august but possibly more knowledgeable authority, Dr. Gideon Mantell, who writes to Blaauw:

The beautiful Vol. II just arrived, and which is a noble monument of your untiring exertion in this good cause. . . . I cannot tell you how much I admire this volume, the appearance of which is solely attributable to your talents and exertion. I am delighted with the extracts from the Lewes Priory MSS., the perusal has brought back many an agreeable reminiscence of my early days; the happiest hours of which were spent in solitary rambles in the 'Lords Place', hunting for 'painted tiles' and musing over the ruins of former ages.

Of this second volume Roach Smith wrote: 'The work is altogether one of the most creditable productions of the day and easily superior to most. There is a spirit

and vigour of character about it which promises endurance'. Later, in 1856, he writes: 'The Collections of your Society are, I think, the most legitimate and therefore the best of all English Societies, unless we except the "Archaeologia Æliana", which, however, does not appear so regularly as yours. The work does you and your colleagues much credit. The papers are all good, many of superior merit, and none worthless.' In the same year John Britton writes of 'regarding your provincial Archaeological Society *the best of the class*', and says: 'I am much pleased with vol. VIII which is *full* of good matter, calculated to satisfy the aged Archaeologist and excite the curiosity of and stimulate enquiry in the young student.'

When Blaauw resigned the editorship in 1859 he was succeeded by WILLIAM DURRANT COOPER. He was a member of a Sussex family established in the neighbourhood of Winchelsea at least as early as the seventeenth century and was himself born in Lewes on 10 January 1812. He was educated at Lewes Grammar School, and in a letter of 17 December 1861 to Lower, thanking him for a copy of the *St. Anne's House Magazine*, writes:

My own first scribbling began in a MS. Newspaper at the Lewes Grammar School called the 'Moonshine' from the circumstance that while disputing about or discussing the title of our future publication Figg's brother knocked over a small bottle of Schiedam which he had concealed in his desk, and the smugglers' name for the spirit was adopted for our non-alcoholic friend. This was followed up every Xmas by a MS. vol. of anecdotes and traditions: and so some 40 years ago many matters of local interest became fixed in my head.

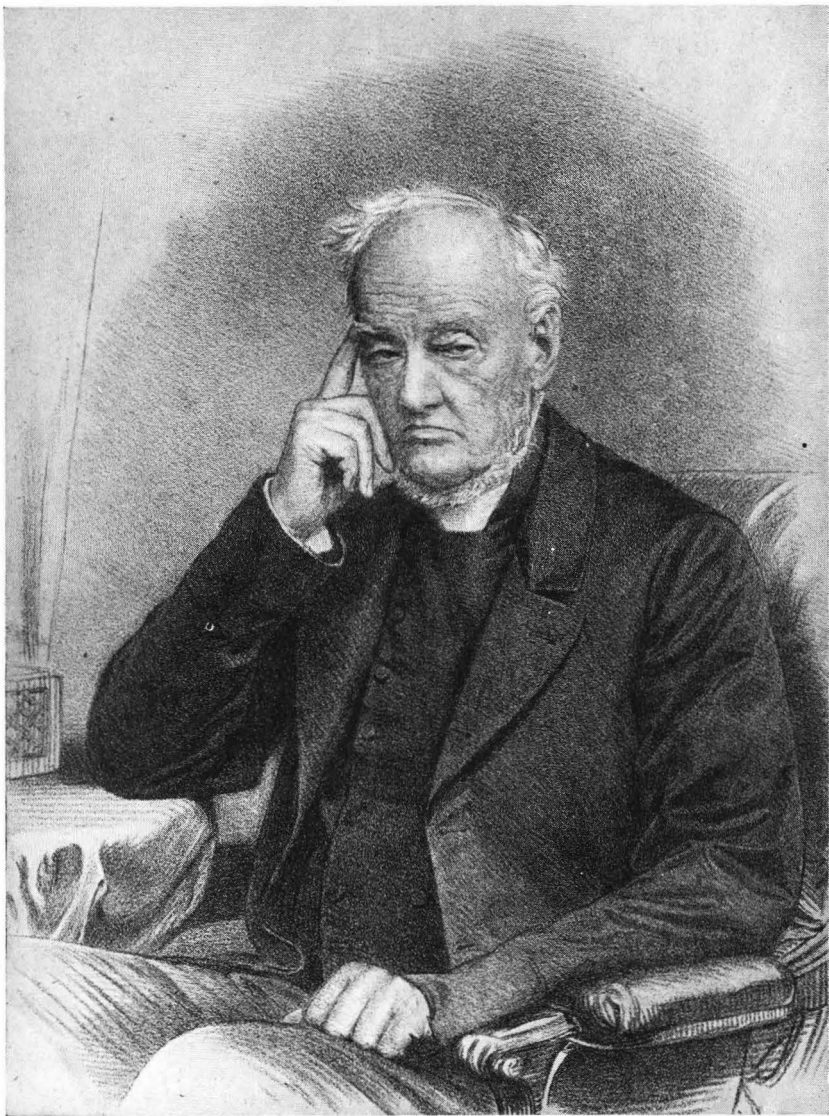
As he left school at the age of fifteen to be articled to his father, his taste for literature must have begun very early, and he certainly never lost it. In 1834 he contributed a lengthy supplement to Horsfield's *History of Sussex* on 'The Parliamentary History' of the county and boroughs—a remarkable piece of work for a young man of twenty-two. Two years later he issued a *Glossary of the Provincialisms in use in the County of Sussex*, a pioneer work on the dialect of the county. Next year he took up his permanent residence in London but

retained connection with Lewes on succeeding his uncle as steward of the Duke of Norfolk's Court Leet of Lewes. He was a voluminous writer of political articles and letters in the newspapers, and in 1850 he published his *History of Winchelsea*, still a standard work. In the Society's *Collections* every volume from II to XXV (except XI) contained at least one, and often three articles from his pen, as well as numerous minor Notes. In addition he contributed to the volumes of the Kent, Surrey, and London and Middlesex Archaeological Societies, the Camden, Percy, and Shakespeare Societies and *Archaeologia*.¹ On his retirement from the editorship he was presented with a silver salver, suitably engraved. His death occurred on 28 December 1875.

The first twelve volumes of the *Collections* were printed in London by J. Russell Smith and bound in green cloth; but in 1861 it was agreed that the next volume should be printed by Bacon of Lewes and bound in chocolate cloth. It was regarded as the first of a new series, and in fact the title-page of the next volume bears both the figure XIV and, in very small print, 'vol. II of second series' and this sub-title continued to appear until vol. XXV (N.S. XIII). Fortunately for those writers who have had to give references to back numbers, no one has ever taken any notice of this 'second Series' and probably few have even discovered its theoretical existence. The change seems to have been made without consulting Mr. Cooper, for whom, living in London, a London printer was a convenience, and a lack of consideration on the part of his colleagues for his demands upon his time appears to have been one of the motives that led him to resign in 1865.

It was then decided to offer Mark Antony Lower the post of 'Editor and Corresponding Secretary'. The latter title disappeared in course of time, but the present writer can testify, from thirty-five years' experience, that the correspondence has remained attached to the editorship. It was also resolved to pay a salary of £50. Both proposals had the support of Durrant Cooper,

¹ Obituary: *S.A.C.* xxvii. 117-132.



THE REV. EDWARD TURNER (1794-1872)

who sounded Lower on the subject and in June 1865 writes to him:

I was about to suggest . . . a competent paid secretary whose duty it would be to edit our vol. and I receive therefore with peculiar satisfaction your note, which will enable me to name you directly to have the offer or rather the request to accept the post. The Secretaryship is not done at all, and the Editorship cannot be without responsibility. . . . As for unpaid labor it is well enough for men with known or fixed incomes: but as Lord Brougham found with the Useful Knowledge Society and its Editors, men whose time is their living must use it to live: and so far from being opposed to paid secretaries I have always urged their appointment.

Lower's temperament was, unfortunately, not well suited to the time of financial stringency in which, as we have seen, the Society's affairs were at this time involved. The Auditors' Report of June 1866 says: 'So attractive is the Annual Volume, which so well sustains the reputation of the Society, that the auditors very much regret to have to suggest economy in the publication.' They go on to suggest a limit of 250 pages; the supervision of expenses of illustrations; and the appointment of an Editorial Committee 'to relieve Mr. Lower of the responsibility of selecting papers and determining illustrations'. Three years later the Finance Committee had to report a deficit, owing to the expense of vol. xx, and recommended that the next volume should be kept to 220 pages. There were, moreover, other causes of trouble between the Committee and the Editor, which may be left in obscurity, and in January 1870 Lower's resignation was accepted with an expression of regret, and he was voted a year's salary. The Rev. Edward Turner was asked to proceed with the publication of the *Collections* and in March of that year was appointed Editor.

EDWARD TURNER, a member of a family who owned Old Land in Keymer from 1546 until 1863, was born at Westmeston in 1794.¹ At the time of his appointment as Editor he was rector of Maresfield, as he had been since 1837, and one of the oldest members of the Society. He contributed articles to almost every one of the first

¹ Obituary: *S.A.C.* xxv. 213-19.

twenty-five volumes of *Collections*, ranging over a wide variety of subjects, including several on his own district of Maresfield, Ashdown Forest, and Uckfield. Lower had in 1870 dedicated to him his *Compendious History of Sussex*, which included a subject-index to the first twenty volumes of the *Collections*, arranged under parishes. His term of office was short, as he died on 28 January 1872, little more than a fortnight after he had resigned his living and moved to Lewes.

Under the next Editor, the Rev. W. de St. Croix, vicar of Glynde since 1844, the chief event was the publication in 1874 of the General Index to volumes I–XXV of the *Collections*. This was compiled by Henry Campkin, F.S.A., who in his introductory Note states that ‘a readable but at the same time a concise précis has been attempted of every contribution in the twenty-five volumes’. It is probable that no one has ever compiled an index which has satisfied everybody who had to consult it, and this is undoubtedly an extremely useful compilation. Unfortunately Mr. Campkin did not consider it necessary to index all the place and personal names that occur in the various articles. His selection of these was eclectic and arbitrary and a very large proportion—possibly something like half—of these are not indexed; in particular, names occurring in tabular pedigrees or in such lists as Subsidy Rolls or Monumental Inscriptions are ignored. This is all the more serious as the indexes to the individual volumes varied from poor to lamentable.

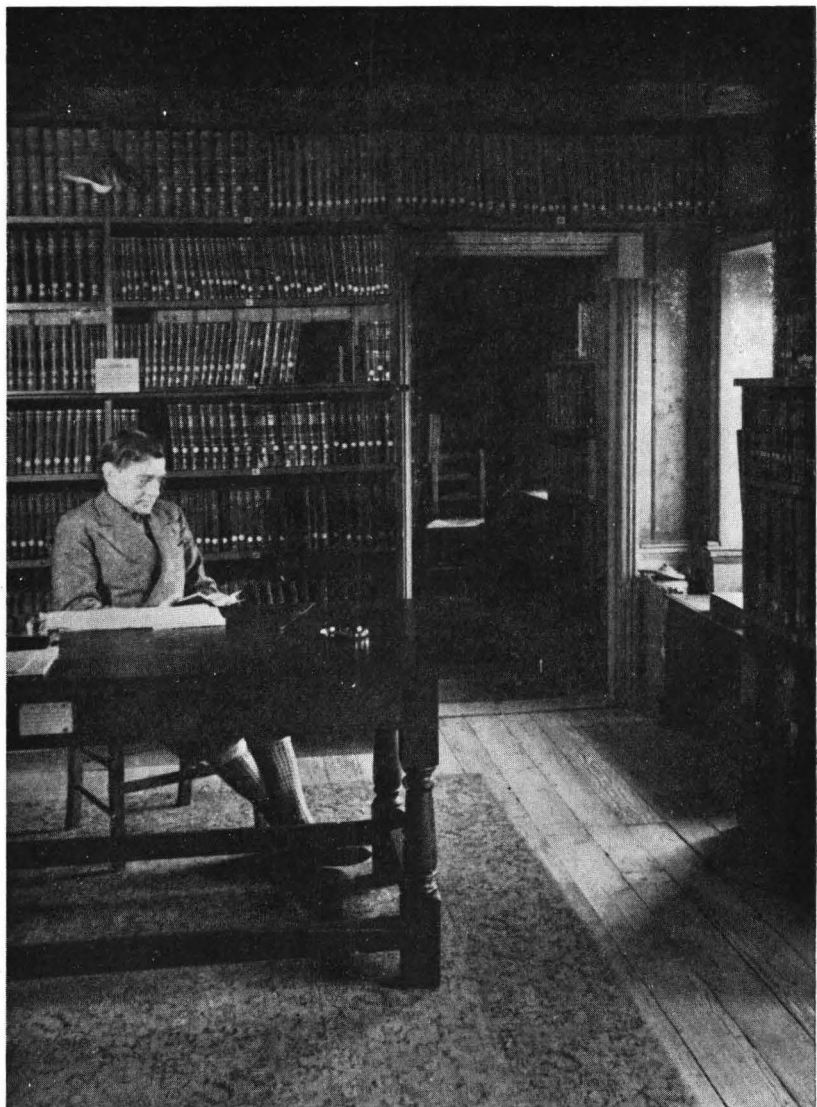
For reasons of health Mr. de St. Croix resigned in 1876 and Charles Francis Trower was appointed. He quarrelled with the Committee and resigned in 1880. The next two volumes (XXXI–XXXII) were produced by an Editorial Committee, of which Henry Griffith, F.S.A., acted as Hon. Secretary. Then for three years no volume of the *Collections* was issued, owing to the preparation and publication, in 1886, of the *Domesday of Sussex*. This contained a photozincographic facsimile of the Sussex portion of the Domesday Survey, obtained from H.M. Ordnance Survey; an expanded version of the Latin

text; and a translation, with identifications, notes and index. It was prepared by the Rev. Chancellor Parish and reflects credit on him and the Society, though, owing to the great advance in the scientific study of Domesday, for which our member, J. H. Round,¹ was mainly responsible, it has long been superseded by the translation and identifications printed in vol. I of the *Victoria County History of Sussex*, published in 1905.

In 1885 Mr. Henry Griffith became editor. During his tenure of the office an important innovation occurred in the first use of photographic reproduction for illustrating the *Collections*. Two plates of views of Ote Hall, Wivelsfield, in vol. xxxv (1887) bear the legend—'Photo-tint by J. Akerman', and in vol. xxxvi three plates are marked—'ink-photo, Sprague & Co. London.' At last, in the Society's Jubilee Year of 1896, vol. xl appeared with a number of illustrations in 'half-tone', the process which has, with technical improvements, continued in use. The use of a photographic method of reproducing line drawings came in at the same time. These changes greatly reduced the cost of illustrations, which in the earlier years, when they had to be cut in wood, engraved in copper, or imposed on lithographic stones, was very high; as an example, the cost of etching the four plates of Seals of the Cinque Ports for Lower's paper in the first volume was £24, and a woodcut which cost £2. 2s. in 1850 could have been reproduced eighty years later for about 7s. 6d. There was the additional advantage, in the case of a good draughtsman, of exact reproduction, which was not always achieved by the woodcutter, as may be gathered from letters, in varying tones of exasperation, which have survived.

From the Society's accounts it seems that, while Mr. Griffith did not receive the salary which had been paid to his predecessors since Lower's time, he was allowed £21 yearly for 'clerical assistance'. This rose to £50 in 1892, £75 in 1893, and £50 again in 1896 when he resigned and was succeeded by Mr. H. Michell Whitley,

¹ His first contribution to *S.A.C.*, printed in vol. xxx., was the singularly untypical one of 'An Index of Illustrations in *S.A.C.* vols. I-xxx.'



L. F. SALZMAN, F.S.A.
Hon. Editor 1909-1946

with whom the editorship became honorary. He continued to hold this office until 1904, but from 1899 the Rev. William Hudson, F.S.A., was associated with him. Mr. Hudson, who had recently settled in Eastbourne, had earned a reputation as an antiquary in Norfolk, having been responsible for the first volume of *The Records of Norwich* (1906) and for a classic work on *The Court Leet* published by the Selden Society in 1891. His contributions to our *Collections* were of a very high standard of scholarship, but far from being pedantically dull. They included two on the Hundred and Manors of Eastbourne (vols. XLII and XLVIII); one on the 'Assessment of the Hundreds to the King's Tax in 1334' (vol. L), which he followed up in 1910 by issuing in the Sussex Record Society (vol. x) transcripts of the Subsidy Rolls for the county in 1296, 1327, and 1332—a laborious piece of work of great value; and one on 'The Rolls of Wiston Manor' (vol. LIII). He resigned the editorship in 1908, having gone to live in London and pleading his advanced age, though he lived to be ninety-five, dying in 1931, and was still working on documents at the Public Record Office at the age of ninety-two without the aid of spectacles. He was, indeed, one of many instances in the history of the Society suggesting that—on the principle that 'He who drives fat oxen should himself be fat'—the study of antiquities tends to promote longevity of mind and body. Perhaps the most outstanding example of this was Mr. W. A. Raper of Battle, who joined the Society in 1872, served on the Council from 1877 to 1921 and rejoined it in 1935, dying in 1941 at the age of ninety-seven.

On the resignation of Mr. Hudson his place was taken by L. F. Salzman, of whom, being still editor and also the writer of this article, it is sufficient to recall the classic words of the notice traditionally hung over the piano in Wild West camps—'Do not shoot the pianist; he is doing his best.'

As already mentioned, the year 1900 saw the foundation of the specialized branch of the Archaeological Society, the Sussex Record Society. The leading figures

in its formation were the Rev. W. Hudson, who became first Literary Director, Lt.-Col. F. W. T. Attree, E. H. W. Dunkin, W. C. Renshaw, R. Garraway Rice, and L. F. Salzman. Of these, Attree and Rice were mainly interested in genealogies; both bequeathed to the Sussex Archaeological Society a large number of note-books, mostly containing genealogical notes from wills and similar sources, Garraway Rice also leaving a mass of excerpts from wills dealing with ecclesiastical matters, which have been edited by Mr. Walter H. Godfrey in the four volumes of *Sussex Wills* (*S.R.S.* XLI, XLII, XLIII, XLV), which form one of the most generally interesting publications of the Record Society.

EDWARD H. W. DUNKIN was the greatest of all collectors of Sussex material, far outstripping even Sir William Burrell, whose collections, made at the end of the eighteenth century, are in the British Museum and were the main source of Dallaway and Cartwright's *History of West Sussex*. Like Burrell he appears to have intended to compile a History of Sussex, and for that purpose he examined almost every imaginable record in the Public Record Office, the Bishop's and Dean's muniments at Chichester, the Probate Offices, and elsewhere. In particular he noted an enormous quantity of references to Sussex clergy. After his death, in 1915, 220 of his note-books were selected by the British Museum, and about an equal number are now in the Society's Library at Barbican House. Among other merits he had those of method, neatness, and legibility. To the *Sussex Archaeological Collections* he contributed little beyond 'The Ecclesiastical History of the Deanery of South Malling' (vol. XXVIII) and a useful calendar of Deeds in the Society's possession (vols. XXXVII-XXXIX); to the Record Society he contributed its first volume, the first of eight volumes of 'Marriage Licences'.

As the Sussex Record Society is so rapidly approaching its Jubilee it may perhaps be left to blow its own full trumpet solo, but by way of a preliminary fanfare we may point to its achievement of having, on a membership varying between 80 and 100, published in 46

years 46 volumes. This result has been partly achieved by the issue of eight volumes of Parish Registers (Angmering, Ardingly, Bolney, Cowfold, Cuckfield, East Grinstead, Glynde, and Horsham) at the expense of private members. The general series included Feet of Fines, complete to 1509 and for Manors and Advowsons from 1509 to 1835; the Chartulary of Lewes Priory; Post Mortem Inquisitions, 1485-1649; Customals of the Bishop's Manors in Sussex; Chichester Cathedral Chartulary; Chantry Records; Sussex Apprentices and Masters, 1710-1752; and The Book of John Rowe. Altogether the Record Society is a daughter of whom the Archaeological Society has every reason to be proud.

As early as 1857 the Rev. J. Collingwood Bruce wrote to Mark Antony Lower: 'I have just received the Sussex Arch. Collections. What a handsome volume! If you go on at this rate you will soon have swept Sussex clean of any subject of antiquarian investigation.' One need not take the latter remark from such a quarter too seriously, but persons with less knowledge of the inexhaustible riches of antiquarian research have frequently expressed surprise that the editors can still find subjects to fill the *Collections*. In fact the difficulty has more often been to find room for the material available. At a Committee Meeting on 27 September 1883 a suggestion was made for the occasional issue of 'a sort of Fly Sheet containing Notes, Queries and advertisements'. This was referred to the next meeting, but no more was heard of the suggestion for many years. At last, in July 1925, a definite proposal for the publication of a quarterly journal in addition to the *Collections* was referred to a committee. From the start of the series each volume of the *Collections* had contained, in addition to the full-length articles, a section of Notes and Queries. So far as the latter were concerned the necessary lapse of at least a year before any reply could appear was, to say the least of it, discouraging, and it was felt that such a quarterly issue would keep members more in touch with the Society and one another.

Accordingly the first number of *Sussex Notes and Queries* was issued in February 1926, under the honorary editorship of the Rev. W. Budgen. It speedily justified its existence, and an immense number of small, but by no means unimportant, points of antiquarian interest have been dealt with in the ten volumes so far issued. It also relieved pressure on the *Collections*, from which the section of Notes was finally eliminated in 1933. Mr. Budgen, having set *S.N.Q.* firmly on its feet, resigned the editorship at the end of 1929 and was succeeded by Miss M. S. Holgate.¹ For the next ten years Miss Holgate, who was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1933, devoted herself to the punctual production of this quarterly journal, at the same time attending regularly the Council Meetings of the Sussex Archaeological and Record Societies, in spite of the ill health which hampered her in later years. She also gave great assistance to the English Place-Name Society in the production of their two volumes on *The Place-Names of Sussex*, having an intimate knowledge in particular of the documentary history of her own district of Ardingly and Lindfield. On the death of Miss Holgate in May 1940 the editorship was undertaken by Arundell Esdaile, Litt.D., who has had the difficult task of maintaining the journal, etiolated by 'paper control' and delayed by the multiple bottlenecks that have restricted the flow of all kinds of printing.

It has been the policy of the Council to maintain the quality of its volumes from the point of view of production as well as of contents, and in 1929 an elaborate investigation into the most suitable class of paper to be used for the *Collections* was undertaken. A committee, consisting of Messrs. Arthur Beckett, A. F. Griffith, Nathaniel Lloyd, and the Hon. Editor, after consulting various experts, produced a Report which may be considered a classic on this subject (*S.A.C.* LXXI, pp. xlix-lix). Generally speaking, the result was to uphold the suitability of the paper already in use.

From 1861 to 1919 the Society's volumes had been

¹ Obituary: *S.N.Q.* VIII. 93-6.

printed at Lewes [G. P. Bacon 1861–1878; A. Rivington 1879–80; A. Wolff 1881–8; South Counties Press 1890; Farncombe and Co. 1892–1918; W. E. Baxter 1919]. In 1920, for various reasons, the printing was transferred to Messrs. Heffer and Son, of Cambridge, who continued to print for the Society until 1934. Since 1935 the *Collections* have been produced by the Oxford University Press, and the opportunity was taken with vol. 76 to make certain changes in the binding, including the substitution, on the spine, of Arabic numerals for Roman, and the addition of the year of publication.

As already mentioned, a General Index to the first twenty-five volumes had been compiled by Mr. Campkin. For volumes xxvi to L another General Index was produced by Mr. L. F. Salzman in 1914. This made no attempt to be 'readable'; on the other hand it aimed at being a complete index to all place and personal names and had a short separate index of subjects, and another of contributors. The third General Index for volumes LI to LXXV, issued in 1936, was compiled by Brig.-Gen. E. G. Godfrey-Faussett. It aimed at combining the completeness of the second with the illustrative nature of the first. It also indexed the contents of the four volumes of *Sussex Notes and Queries* which had then been issued, and is a monument to Godfrey-Faussett's industry. Included in the same volume was a 'Bibliographical Index to Archaeological Matter relating to Sussex appearing elsewhere than in the publications of the Sussex Archaeological Society', compiled by Dr. Eliot Curwen. In this the matter is sorted under seventeen main subject headings, many subdivided into from three to seven subsections, the whole constituting a very valuable guide to much elusive material.

In a brief survey of the contents of the Society's *Collections* one point that stands out is the very large number of members who have contributed to them. This has never been a 'one-man' society, and although, naturally, some members have been prolific, yet they have never monopolized the scene. In every one of the

first twenty-five volumes at least one new contributor appears, and often as many as four or five—not taking count of the short Notes and Queries. The full-length articles in these twenty-five volumes were contributed by 101 different persons; in the next twenty-five 89 new names are found, and the eighty-four volumes so far issued must represent the output of something between 250 and 300 members. If the Notes and contributions to *Sussex Notes and Queries* were included, the number could hardly fall much short of 500.

A detailed account of the contents of the eighty-four volumes of *Collections* so far published would be as wearisome to read as to compile; but it is worth while to consider briefly some of the features dealt with, as an indication of the scope of the Society's work. Place of honour may be given to the series of Diaries and Journals which throw so much light on the everyday life of ordinary people in Sussex from the seventeenth to the early nineteenth century. Chronologically these start with Giles Moore, rector of Horsted Keynes, 1655–79 (vol. I); then, Timothy Burrell, 1683–1714 (III), Thomas Marchant of Hurstpierpoint, 1714–28 (XXV), Walter Gale, schoolmaster of Mayfield, 1750 (IX). Best known is the Diary of Thomas Turner of East Hoathly, 1754–65 (XI), which has since been published separately, and of which the original is now in America. Later come John Baker of Horsham, 1771–7 (LII), and John Burgess of Ditching, 1775–1800 (XL). The Stapley Diaries (II, XVIII, XXIII) range over much of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and those of the Tompkins family (LXXI) from 1748 to 1814. In the same class may be put Spershott's invaluable Memoirs of Chichester during the eighteenth century (XXIX–XXX). Of other articles of 'human' interest may be mentioned Viscount Montague's 'Book of Orders', illustrative of life in the mansion of a great noble in the sixteenth century (VII); the thirteenth-century letters addressed to Bishop Ralph Neville by his steward (III); and the Correspondence of John Collier, of Hastings, 1727–56 (XLV).

For those more interested in genealogies than individuals there are pedigrees and accounts of the families, *inter alios*, of Alard, Apsley, Barttelot, Boorde, Bowyer, Braoze, Chaloner, Cheyney, Colepeper, Comber, Covert, Dacre, Fokinton, Hoo, Hussey, Keynes, Lewkenor, Michell, Michelbourne, Newton, Pellatt, Poynings, Ridge, Scrase, Springett, Stapley, Threel, Verrall, Warden, and Warenne. There are also many extracts from such sources as Subsidy Rolls and Lists of Gentry at various dates; names of those concerned in Jack Cade's Rising (xviii); Aliens at Rye, *temp.* Henry VIII (xix), and at Cuckfield and Lindfield in 1793 (xxxv); Compositions for Knighthood, *temp.* Charles I (xvi); Members of Parliament (xxx-xxxv); and Monumental Inscriptions in the churches and churchyards of twenty-five parishes. Attention may also be called to Mr. W. C. Renshaw's biographical excerpts from the Ecclesiastical Deposition Books (lvi), a valuable source of information not often used.

Mr. Renshaw also contributed an important article with biographical details of 'Some Clergy of the Archdeaconry of Lewes and South Malling Deanery' to volume lv. And in this connection we may note that in 1931 a scheme for a 'Clergy List for Sussex' was published in *Sussex Notes and Queries* (III. 248-50). Although very few members responded to the appeal then made for assistance, those few mostly displayed considerable energy, and the card index of clergy now, thanks mainly to the indefatigable industry of Mr. H. J. Glover, contains a very large number of entries. Mention may also be made of McKenzie Walcott's 'Bishops of Chichester from Stigand to Sherborne' (xxviii, xxix), W. D. Peckham's article on the Vicars Choral (lxxviii), and F. E. Sawyer's 'Proceedings of the Committee of Plundered Ministers' (xxx-xxxii, xxxvi). Nonconformity is represented chiefly by lists of Conventicles in 1669 and Licences for Meetings in 1672 (li), a long article on 'The Sufferings of the Quakers in Lewes' by William Figg (xvi), and one by Perceval Lucas on Quaker Registers (lv). While on matters ecclesiastical,

if Quakers will forgive their inclusion in that category, we may note a paper by the Rev. K. H. MacDermott on 'Sussex Church Music' (LX); also the early Churchwardens' Accounts of Arlington (LIV) and Cowfold (II), both of the fifteenth century; Rotherfield (XLI), Bolney (VI), and St. Andrew's and St. Michael's, Lewes (XLV), of the reign of Henry VIII; and those of West Tarring, beginning 1514, which were printed in *Sussex Notes and Queries* volumes III and IV. If any other pre-Reformation accounts exist, unrecorded, in the muniments of Sussex churches, the Editor will be glad to hear of them. An attempt to obtain a survey of the contents of parish church chests was made in 1901 by an appeal to members to make lists of these (XLIX), but, unfortunately, it met with practically no response. There is, however, hope that in the near future such a survey of the parochial muniments that have survived the ravages of time and 'salvage drives' may be undertaken by some central authority.

Several more or less complete surveys of various branches of archaeology have been published in the *Collections*. Thus in 1864 there was an article on 'The Church Bells of Sussex' (XVI) by Amherst Daniel Tyssen. This was remarkable for being the first survey of the bells in any county, and for being the subject of a long supplementary article (LVII) by the same writer just fifty years later. 'Monumental Brasses in Sussex Churches' were listed by the Rev. Edward Turner (XXIII) and have since been treated much more fully, with illustrations of all the brasses, inscriptions as well as figures, by Mrs. Davidson-Houston (LXXVI-LXXX). A valuable inventory of Church Plate in the diocese (LIII-LVI) was compiled by J. Edwin Couchman, who was for many years Chairman of the Bishop of Chichester's Advisory Committee on Faculties, and also rendered valuable service as Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Archaeological Society, whose Museum was enriched by the fine collection of pottery from the Roman Cemetery at Hassocks, the excavation of which he zealously supervised.

The prehistoric Barrows in the county were listed and classified by L. V. Grinsell (LXXV), and sepulchral monuments of considerably later date supplied the material for Brig.-Gen. Fane Lambarde's descriptions of 'Coats of Arms in Sussex Churches' (LXVII-LXXV). In 1900 a Committee, consisting of J. Lewis André, C. E. Keyser, P. M. Johnston, and the Society's Hon. Secretary, H. Michell Whitley, issued a Report on 'Mural Paintings in Sussex Churches' (XLIII), to which some additions were made in the following volume. Three other features of Sussex churches were dealt with: Fonts, by Lewis André (XLIV), Low Side Windows, by P. M. Johnston (XLI, XLII), and Axial Towers, by Walter H. Godfrey (LXXXI).

The three contributors just named have been responsible for a great improvement in the standard of the architectural articles in the *Collections*. In the first thirty volumes the papers on architectural subjects, with a few notable exceptions, were by antiquaries equipped with enthusiasm rather than technical knowledge, a fact particularly noticeable in the poor quality, or total absence, of plans of the buildings described. In these three we see the enthusiasm of their predecessors combined with a professional training as architects and a high quality of draughtsmanship. PHILIP MAINWARING JOHNSTON was a member of the Council, to which he was elected in 1900, for twenty years and a frequent contributor to the *Collections*, but it was even more as guide and lecturer at the Society's Summer Meetings that he was so well known to members. Even after pressure of business compelled him to resign from the Council in 1920, when he was made an Honorary Member, he still found time to assist the Society in this way, and in 1935, the year before his death, he described Clymping Church at one of these meetings. His enthusiasm occasionally led him astray; few antiquaries would now accept his 'confessional' theory to account for 'low side windows', and he had a tendency to date buildings more exactly by appearance than is possible without documentary evidence, and particularly to



PHILIP MAINWARING JOHNSTON, F.S.A.
Member of the Council 1900-1920

discern 'Saxon' features where they were not visible to more cautious observers. But, for all his little weaknesses, 'P. M. J.', as he was affectionately known, rendered good service to the Society and to the study of ecclesiastical architecture in the county. The Society is fortunate in having as his successor, alike as contributor and lecturer, Mr. Godfrey, whose abilities have been officially recognised by his appointment as the first Director of the National Buildings Record. One particular service which Mr. Godfrey has rendered is to draw attention, by a number of articles, to the importance of the domestic architecture, especially in the houses of the lesser gentry and yeoman class, in which Sussex is so remarkably rich. At the same time, he is also responsible for the series of Church Plans, uniform in scale and in hatching to indicate dates, of which seventy have already appeared in *Sussex Notes and Queries*, mostly contributed by himself or Mr. W. D. Peckham.

If an improvement is noticeable in the treatment of architectural subjects, this is still more obvious in the department of Prehistory. In the first fifty volumes of the *Collections* the references to prehistoric remains, apart from occasional notes of the find of urns, &c., are almost negligible. A paper on 'Valley Entrenchments at Beltout' (LV) by H. S. Toms in 1912, followed in 1916 by one on 'Some Earthworks of West Sussex' (LVIII) by Hadrian Allcroft, marked the beginning of the scientific study of the subject. These two authors contributed other papers on allied subjects, as did Dr. Grahame Clark, G. Holleyman, and others; but the reputation of the Society in this field has been mainly established by the series of articles contributed by Dr. Eliot Curwen and Dr. E. Cecil Curwen, most of which were illustrated by the late Robert Gurd, whose rendering of flints and pottery was truly remarkable. The extent to which it has been possible to reconstruct in plausible outline the story of the successive waves of settlement by early tribes in this country, mainly from such apparently insignificant objects as potsherds,

illustrates the importance of scientific observation, comparison, and deduction.

The Roman period attracted considerable attention from the first, and a number of rather desultory articles in that connection appear in the early volumes. The first serious excavation was undertaken by J. E. Price in the Camp and Cemetery at Seaford (XXXII); part of a cemetery outside the East Gate of Chichester was explored in 1895-6 (XLI) and, more fully, in 1934-7 (LXXX); and excavations made in 1906-7 within the Roman fortress of Pevensey were reported on by J. E. Ray and L. F. Salzman (LI, LII). Particularly active in this branch of research was S. E. Winbolt,¹ who investigated the Roman stations on the Stane Street at Alfoldean (LXIV, LXV) and Hardham (LXVIII), and the villas at Southwick (LXXIII) and Wiggonholt (LXXVIII, LXXXI) among other sites. Attention must also be drawn to the very important work being done by I. D. Margary in tracing the courses of the Roman Roads in Sussex (LXXIII seq.).

Two Saxon cemeteries are described in detail in the *Collections*. The first was found at Kingston by Lewes (XXXVIII), and its exploration was somewhat haphazard; the other, and more important, at Winton Street, Alfriston, was carefully excavated under the supervision of Mr. A. F. Griffith, who published a full account of the finds (LVI, LVII). In many ways the early Saxon period is the most obscure in our history, but some attempt to elucidate it has been made by Dr. A. E. Wilson in two papers: 'The End of Roman Sussex and the Early Saxon Settlements' (LXXXII) and 'Sussex, Kent, and the Continent in Early Saxon Times' (LXXXIII).

With the Norman Conquest Archaeology gives way to History and the tangible 'find' tends to become less important than the written document. One branch of history that attracted the early members of the Society was monastic history, so that the first twenty volumes contain accounts of almost all the religious establishments in the county, chiefly by Blaauw, the Rev. G. M.

¹ Obituary: *S.N.Q.* x (1944), 47-8.

Cooper, and the Rev. Edward Turner. Some of these include notices of the existing architectural remains, but it was left to a later generation to plan and describe these properly. A fine coloured plan of Lewes Priory was prepared by Harold Brakspear for W. St. John Hope's paper (XLIX), and a plan of the conventual buildings of Boxgrove Priory, so far as they can be deduced from rather scanty evidence, has been made by W. D. Peckham (LXI). Of the interesting group of small Augustinian houses Hardham (xviii), Michelham (Lxvii), and Shulbrede (XLIX) have been planned, but it is regrettable that P. M. Johnston made no report, and apparently left no notes, of Tortington Priory, which he excavated in 1910.

Among the more notable items of Economic History may be mentioned a paper on the Rolls of Wiston Manor by the Rev. William Hudson and Percy S. Godman (LIII, LIV), which is most illuminating on the subject of fourteenth-century agriculture. With this may be put Dr. R. A. Pelham's papers on 'The Agricultural Geography of the Chichester Estates in 1388' (Lxxviii), 'The Distribution of Sheep in the Fourteenth Century' (Lxxv), and 'The Historical Geography of Sussex' (Lxxii). For a later period there is Ernest Straker's 'Agricultural History in the Hundred of Hartfield' (Lxxvi), covering 1598-1934. Straker also contributed one or two articles on Iron Works, a subject on which his book *Wealden Iron* (1931) will always be a classic. An important article on 'Gun Founding at Heathfield in the xviiith Century' (Lxvii) was contributed by Herbert Blackman, who also wrote the history of 'The Gunpowder Works at Battle' (Lxix). The discovery of medieval pottery kilns at Ringmer was recorded by W. Martin (Xlv), as was a much richer find of kilns, pottery, and tiles at Rye by Leopold A. Vidler (Lxxiii, Lxxiv, Lxxvii), and the discovery in 1928 of a tile kiln at Shulbrede Priory led Lord Ponsonby to compile a valuable study of 'Monastic Paving Tiles' (Lxxv).

Enough, perhaps more than enough, has been said to give some idea of the range of subjects treated in the

thousand or so articles published in the *Collections* and to show that as these volumes have never been a 'one-man show', so they have never been a 'one-subject show'. If it is improbable that all the papers in any volume will appeal to all readers, it is reasonable to hope that any reader should find something to interest him, or her, in each volume. And what of the future? There are no signs of any shortage of materials, and if the Society is given the active support of its members there is no reason why its activities as a centre of research, with spade or pen, of preservation, in its museums, and of record, in its volumes, should not be increased as it emerges thankfully from the dark threats of war and enters upon its second century.