



Exhibitional Evening



WELL-ATTENDED MEETING of the Society was held on Tuesday evening, January 21st, 1913, at the Grosvenor Museum. A varied and interesting exhibition, the idea of which had originated with the Mayor (Mr. H. B. Dutton), was made by a number of members, the objects including many local pictures and engravings and a collection of old Chester silver shewn by Messrs. Lowe, among which was a Chester Sheriff's pocket mace of 1766. The Society's collections were also on view both in the Museum and the Library.

At the outset, the Archdeacon of Chester gave some interesting particulars as to the work at present being done at the Cathedral, with special reference to the cloisters, upon which he has kindly undertaken to read a Paper in the Session of 1913-14.

The Mayor drew attention to the last report of the "Inspector of Ancient Monuments" and the description therein of "'The Gateway Tower,' formerly called 'Julius Cæsar's Tower,' and now erroneously called 'The Keep.'" The chief fault he found with the report was that the writers did not consult the Chester Archæological Society for information. They probably obtained it from a sergeant in charge, or perhaps from some old guide book, and he suggested that if in future the inspector was going to schedule any more monuments in relation to Chester, that Society would like to have some say upon it. After

referring to an account of Dr. Johnson's journey into North Wales in 1770, which contained a reference to Chester, the Mayor explained a series of Chester illustrations which were exhibited by Mr. G. F. Adams, chiefly depicting the fires at the old Exchange and at the Queen Hotel, and an interesting view of the bridge over the Dee just after the railway accident. He also gave details respecting interesting maps of the making of the Grosvenor Bridge, which shewed that originally it was intended that the road should be straight instead of at an angle as at present, the alteration being made in order to obtain good foundations for the bridge. He also called attention to some pictures which were interesting as being the work of the local artist, Musgrove. Some water colours belonging to Mr. W. W. Tasker shewing old buildings in Chester in the "forties" were pointed out; other silver from Messrs. Butt, who were the successors of Richard Richardson, famed for their church plate throughout North Wales; Randle Holme's *Academy of Armory*, said to be the first book printed in Chester; a spur, said to have been used at Rowton Moor; two pewter plates, which belonged to him (the Mayor); and a map of Chester, ^{NOT} dated 1750, which was interesting as shewing the old names of streets and the houses of the chief inhabitants.

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Mr. Frank Simpson drew attention to the subject of the better description of the Society's exhibits. He suggested that a descriptive label be attached to each exhibit, especially their collection of Roman inscribed and other stones. Those particulars would not only encourage interest, but be educational, and, he was sure, would be the means by which further gifts of local objects would be presented to the Society.

Prof. R. Newstead, referring to Mr. Simpson's suggestion, said it was decided when the Society first came into that building that the inscribed stones and other exhibits should not be labelled, but should each bear a number

corresponding to the number in the catalogue. The Society went to a great expense to publish an illustrated catalogue, and were anxious to sell as many copies as they could. That was the reason the monuments were not fully described.

Mr. James Hall made some observations on the contents of the Library, drawing attention to some of the rarer books. He remarked that the Society did not possess any original editions of the great master antiquaries, and their Library was a very local one.

Mr. W. W. Tasker explained his exhibits, which included the apprentice's biscuits, a relic of a ceremony formerly observed of breaking a biscuit over the head of a boy on entering his apprenticeship.

Mr. W. E. Brown described a Roman lamp and a Roman glass bead, which he had found in his garden.

Mr. Pelham Elphick exhibited and described a constable's staff used in the Chester Fenian Raid, a Roman vase, and an Elizabethan cup excavated in Foregate Street, a brass inkstand originally owned by Tom Hughes, the author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, and several drawings.

Mr. C. H. Minshull shewed some of Mr. Cox's sketches, representing some former phases of Chester's history, and other views.

Among several interesting objects shewn by Mr. Simpson, was an old clock by Joseph Smith, of Chester. Other contributors of exhibits included Mr. J. Barnett, Dr. Lees, and Alderman W. Vernon.

On behalf of the Society, the Archdeacon and Prof. Newstead thanked all who had contributed to the exhibition, and especially the Mayor.

Mr. Frank Simpson, F.S.A., Hon. Secretary, with the assistance of Mr. W. W. Tasker, was responsible for the collection and arrangement of the exhibits.