



ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS 1913-14

ANNUAL EXCURSION

THE Annual Excursion, which was held on July 13th, 1914, differed from most of its predecessors in the fact that it was confined to one place, the town of Shrewsbury. Attention was mainly devoted to old houses, some of them situated in courts and alleys, which afforded an insight into the ancient history of the place, whilst the Castle and Town Walls gave evidence of the importance attached in early days to the town as a stronghold. Among other places visited were the famous old Grammar School; St. Mary's Church with its fine collection of stained glass, both English and Flemish; and the noble half-timber Council House, where the old Court of the Marches used to meet. Mr. H. E. Forrest, Hon. Secretary of the Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club, proved an able guide, and was cordially thanked for his kindness. At luncheon, thirteen new members were proposed by the Archdeacon of Chester, and duly elected.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

THE Council beg to submit their Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1914.

Six Meetings have been held during the year.

With regard to the contemplated transfer from the Public Record Office of the Records of the County Palatine

of Chester and Flint, referred to in the proceedings of the Society, Vol. XIX., Part II., a Bill was brought into Parliament with the view to removing the records from the Public Record Office to Wales. Protests were duly made by the Cheshire County Council, the Chester Corporation, and this Society, with the result that the promoters of the Bill agreed to certain clauses being inserted which would protect the transfer of the Chester and Flint Records, and allow them to remain as they are now in the Public Record Office. The Bill ultimately was dropped at the end of the Session. Another Bill, with similar objects but without the protecting clauses, is, however, now before Parliament. The Cheshire County Council are again opposing the Bill, with the assistance of the local M.P.'s, in order to obtain the insertion in the Bill of the protective clauses promised last Session. The Society is assisting the County Council with this in view.

The Annual Summer Excursion took place on Thursday, 17th July, 1913, to Congleton and Little Moreton Hall.

The following representatives of the Society have been elected upon the Chester Public Library Committee:—The Lord Bishop of Chester, Mr. Frank Simpson, F.S.A., and Mr. James Hall.

Part II. of Volume XIX. of the Society's Journal was issued during the year.

The following have been appointed to represent this Society's upon the Grosvenor Museum Management Committee:—Ven. Archdeacon Barber, M.A., F.S.A., Professor J. C. Bridge, M.A., F.S.A., Mr. Henry Taylor, F.S.A., Mr. Frank Simpson, F.S.A., Mr. H. B. Dutton, and Mr. G. W. Haswell.

Mr. J. H. E. Bennett has been appointed Honorary Curator in the place of Professor Robert Newstead, F.R.S., resigned.

The Council desire to express warm thanks to the donors of various objects of interest during the year.

The Hon. Treasurer's Statement of Accounts is annexed, from which it will be seen that there is a deficit of £17 os. 1d.

Under Rule 4, the following Members of the Council retire, but they are eligible for re-election:—Mr. W. E. Brown, Mr. H. B. Dutton, Mr. J. T. Golder, and Mr. T. Alfred Williams. There is also a vacancy on the Council through the retirement of Mr. J. Sheriff Roberts.

The Hon. Auditors, Mr. A. G. Ayrton and Mr. W. W. Tasker, also retire, and are eligible for re-election.

THE HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1914

I have pleasure in submitting the following particulars:—

May 21st.—At the request of the Council I visited Llangollen, and interviewed Mrs. Wilson at Plas Newydd, in regard to the stem of the old Chester Cross. Mrs. Wilson kindly promised to consider the request of the Archæological Council, that the stem might be presented to the Society, so that the cross could be re-erected in the City. At a later date, Mrs. Wilson informed me that if the house was sold, the stem should come back to Chester.

In July last, one of the oldest and most interesting of the half-timbered buildings in the City, known as "Conway's," near the Cross, was pulled down. The premises were rebuilt and merged in those of Messrs. Richard Jones & Sons, adjoining.

January 18th.—A letter was received from the London County Council, asking for information in regard to a cottage called "The Abbey," at Runcorn, about to be pulled down, and described as the oldest cottage in England. If such was the case, they wished to purchase and re-erect it at the Crystal Palace. At the request of this Council I visited Runcorn Wednesday, January 21st, and found there was no truth in the report, the cottage

being a seventeenth or early eighteenth century fisherman's cottage. This was communicated to Sir Lawrence Gomme, Clerk to the London County Council, who replied that the particulars sent confirmed information he had received from other sources, and expressed his thanks to this Council for the trouble it had taken in the matter.

January 26th.—Whilst the workmen were engaged in laying a new sewer at the west end of Grey Friars, and connecting drains from some adjoining stables, they came across a stone grave in which was a skeleton. At the foot of this were three other skeletons. The top of the grave was two feet eight inches below the road surface. Several pieces of Roman tile and a quantity of odd pieces of mediæval church tiles were found on the site. These have been presented to this Society by the owner, Captain Rasbotham, Malpas, and are now on view in the Archæological Room.

February 13th.—Whilst preparing the site for reconstruction of the premises, lately occupied by Messrs. Garnett in Bridge Street Row, the workmen came across some pilæ, which had formed part of a hypocaust. I photographed the site, and took various measurements before anything was disturbed. At the request of this Council, and by kind permission of the owner, Mrs. Royle, Hough Green House, Chester, and the contractors, Messrs. McLellan Bros., who gave every assistance possible, the adjoining ground was opened, but with the exception of two pillars no further discovery was made. This find will give additional interest to the adjacent Roman remains discovered in 1910, a plan of which is due to the Society, but has not yet been received.

The work of restoration is still in progress at the Cathedral. The Cloisters, which were in so bad a state, might have been lost to us had not the work been taken in hand promptly. This is now completed and the

Cloisters made safe for years to come. The east end of the Refectory has been restored, the large window opened out and tracery inserted, which will shortly be filled with stained glass. The work at the Refectory is now at a standstill, but it is hoped that subscriptions will come in so that the work may be resumed, and the restoration of the building completed. Work is now in progress at the Bishop's Chapel. It is only now the walls are cleared of plaster, and parts of the floor removed, that one can fully appreciate the dangerous condition this Chapel was in. While the work of restoration has been in progress, I have visited there several times a week, kept a full detailed account of the work, and taken about forty photographs. I take this opportunity of acknowledging my indebtedness to the Dean and Chapter, and the foreman in charge of the work (Mr. Hopkins), for giving me every help and assistance. I would also say that the work is being executed in a first-class manner, care is taken to preserve all the old masonry possible, and not as is often the case, to see how much new could take its place. It may not be generally known, that enquiries from kindred Societies reach me frequently, and are proof of the general interest taken in local excavations and research work.

FRANK SIMPSON, F.S.A.,

Hon. Secretary.

THE HON. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1914

I have pleasure in submitting the following particulars:—

During the past year the total number of readers, according to the Visitors' Book, amounts to forty, and the total number of books and MSS. consulted in the library reaches fifty-one. Of these, forty-one were on local history; and on eleven occasions the Earwaker MS. collections have been referred to. Twenty-seven volumes

have been lent during the year to six members, under the Library Rule, and have been (with the exception of four recently taken out) duly returned. No loss is to be reported.

In regard to additions to the presses, it may here be mentioned that fifty-four volumes have been added to the Society's Library during the past year.

The Society was pleased to receive, on January 28th, a manuscript book of "Deeds and Records relating to the Swetenham family, written *c.* 1636." It had been lent some years ago to the Secretary of the Liverpool University School of Palæography; and having been misplaced was found and returned to our Society, and has been placed in Cabinet 20, Drawer B.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

- "Archæologia Cambrenis," Vol. XIII., Parts 2, 3 and 4, 1913.
 Airy, W., Ancient Weights of Britain. *Donor*, the Author, 1913.
 Cambridge, Proceedings of the Antiquarian Society, Vols. XLIV., XLV., 1913.
 Cheshire Sheaf, Third Series, Vols. V., VI., VII., VIII., IX., 1903, 1906, 1909-10, 1912 (purchased).
 Chester and North Wales Archæological and Historical Society, Journal of, Vol. XIX., Part II., 1913 (2 copies).
 Chester, A Concise History of the City and County of, published by Poole, 1791. *Donor*, The Ven. Archdeacon Barber, M.A., F.S.A.
 Essex, Archæological Society of, Vol. XIII., Parts II. and III., 1913; Vol. II., Part I., 1913.
 Flintshire Historical Society, Proceedings of, No. 3, 1913. *Donor*, Henry Taylor, Esq., F.S.A.
 Fornvännen Meddelanden Frau. K. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets, Akademien, 1912.
 Frodsham, Parish Registers of, Baptisms and Burials, 1558-1812. (Purchased). 1912.
 Index Library, Parts 131-133, 1913.
 Ireland, Royal Society of Antiquaries of, Vol. XLIII., 1913.
 Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society:—
 Lancashire and Halton Wills (1793-1812) (66), 1913.
 The Moore Family of Bank hall (67), 1913.
 Ledger Book of Vale Royal Abbey (68), 1914.

- Lincoln, York, Worcester and Leicester, Architectural Societies of, Vol. XXXI., Part II., 1912.
- London, Old Drinking Glasses of, by Francis Buckley, 1913. *Donor*, The Author.
- London, Royal Society of Antiquaries of, Vol. XXV., 1912-13.
- Margidunum Roman Camp of, near Bingham, Notts. Additional Notes upon the Samian Ware by Dr. T. Davies Pryce, 1911. *Donor* G. H. Wallis.
- Margidunum, A Roman Fortified Post on the Fosseway, by Dr. T. Davies Pryce, 1912. *Donor*, The Author.
- Messiah, an Oratorio, As it is to be performed in the Broad Isle of the Cathedral, in the City of Chester, Set to Music by Handel, printed by J. Monk, Chester, 1786. *Donor*, Professor J. C. Bridge.
- Montgomeryshire and its Borders, Collection Historical and Archaeological relating to, Part LXXIII., 1913.
- Rome, British School at, Vol. VI., 1913.
- Sandbach, Tracing of a plan of Sandbach Church from an original, c 1780. *Donor*, J. Paul Rylands, Esq., F.S.A.
- Scotland, Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, Vol. XLVII., 1912-13.
- Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Vol. III., Parts I. and II., 1913.
- Smithsonian Institution, Annual Reports, 1911-13.
- Surrey Archæological Collections, Vol. XXVI., 1913.
- Thoresby Society, Vols. XXI., XXII., Part I., 1912.
- Wales and Shorthand, by R. H. G. Smallwood, 1912. *Donor*, The Author.
- Webster, T., Three Tracings of Pencil Drawings of Chester by. *Donor*, Mr. Roger Oldham.
- Yorkshire Archæological Journal, Parts 87 and 88, 1913.

JAMES HALL,

Hon. Librarian.



Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st March, 1914.

MAY 15th, 1914—Audited and found correct.

W. W. TASKER,
ALFRED AYRTON.

Vol. XX, is not included in these Accounts.