



ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS, 1915-16.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

THE COUNCIL beg to submit their Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1916.

Six Sessional Meetings were held.

A Summer Excursion took place to Birkenhead Priory, Hulme Hall (Art Exhibition and Museum), Port Sunlight, and Bebington Church, on Wednesday, July 28th, 1915. Members and their friends left Chester (General) Railway Station by the 1-30 p.m. train for Birkenhead, where the Priory was inspected by kind permission of the Mayor and Corporation. Afterwards the party proceeded to Port Sunlight and Hulme Hall, where, by kind permission of Sir W. H. Lever, Bart., the fine and valuable collection of Wedgwood and Oriental China, Old Furniture representative of different periods, The Napoleon Room, Oil Paintings and Water Colours, etc., etc., were exhibited by Mr. Howard, the Curator. After Tea a visit was made to the Church of St. Andrew, Bebington, the Rector, the Ven. Archdeacon G. A. Forde, having kindly arranged for the Party to be conducted over the Church. The "Mayer" Museum, also in the vicinity, was open to the Members.

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. C. H. Minshull.

Volume XXI. of the Society's Journal was issued during the year.

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 annexed shews a deficit of £44 7s. 4d.

Under Rule 4 the following Members of the Council retire, but they are eligible for re-election:—Mr. J. E. Mayers, Mr. C. H. Minshull, Mr. W. W. Tasker, and Mr. Wm. Vernon, J.P.

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

In consequence of the difficulties in the Printing trade, scarcity of paper, and other matters caused by the European War, it has been decided to defer the publication of Volume XXII. of the Journal until the end of the year, when it is proposed to publish the proceedings of the two years 1915 and 1916.

In November last the Chester Corporation took over the buildings and control of the Grosvenor Museum under the terms of the scheme of transfer to that body. The Society still retains its Library, and is responsible for its collection of Antiquities, Roman Stones, &c.

The Reports of the Hon. Curator, Hon. Librarian, and Hon. Secretary are annexed.

THE HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

I have little to report for the year 1915-16. During the year there have been no excavations or building done, in the City, of any consequence so far as Archæology is concerned, with the exception of the "Customs House Tavern," Watergate Street, which has been practically rebuilt owing to the structure, erected in 1637, having given way and fallen into a dangerous condition.

This old house was certainly one of the best specimens of ancient timbered buildings in the City. On taking

down the old structure the timbers of the front and east side were all numbered, made good where required and replaced in their original position. The only difference is the addition of two small windows (in the second story) one on either side of the centre window, the latter of which was formerly flat, but is now a slightly projecting bay shape.

The thanks of all Archæologists are due to the owners, architect, and builder for carrying out the restoration in so careful a manner.

Another old Inn, "The Ring o' Bells," Foregate Street, has been taken down. This was of the common plain brick type, but is now being replaced in the half timbered style, the upper stories slightly overhanging one another. When preparing for the foundations, the workmen came across a quern, and the handle of an amphora on which a name was plainly inscribed. These were found about forty-five feet in rear of the parapet, and three feet below the surface. A number of thin grass bricks were also found in the structure of one wall.

It is pleasing to report that the Master, Warden, and members of the Beer Brewers' Company of the City Gilds have presented the Company's Charter, granted 16th September in the 10th year of the reign of Charles I. (1635), to this Society. The Company suggested that if on any special occasion their members wished to exhibit this record of their ancient authority it might be loaned to them for that purpose. This, on your behalf, I agreed to do on condition that a written request be signed by the Master and Warden.

The Charter is in a rather dirty state; attached to it are the broken remains of a large seal bearing an impression of Charles I.; all that remains of the inscription round it is the word "Carolus."

I would suggest that the Charter be cleaned, suitably framed, and exhibited in the Art Room of the Museum.

FRANK SIMPSON,

Hon. Sec.

THE HON. CURATOR'S REPORT.

It is probable that at no period since the formation of this Society has there been less material for the Annual Report of your Honorary Curator than in the present instance, and in view of the epoch changing events that have been taking place for nearly two years, this is by no means surprising.

When the full energies of every single individual are, or should be, devoted towards ensuring the success of a common cause there is little time to spare for interesting and valuable research work, and consequently your collections have not been enlarged. In addition to past gains brought about by research there has been little excavation work in the neighbourhood, and no discoveries have by this means come to light.

The present circumstances, however, will end sooner or later, and those whose energies are now for the time diverted into other channels will be able with clear consciences to follow up their old labours.

I, as your Curator, beg to take this opportunity of pointing out that there is an immense amount of work to be done in overhauling and setting in order the valuable collection you already possess. It is not the time to go into details, but it is not practicable for one or two individuals, however willing, to perform the work satisfactorily, and when normal conditions have been restored I hope that not only will each member of the Council undertake to place some section in order, but that other members of the Society will render similar assistance, so that your unique collection may be placed on a model basis.

J. H. E. BENNETT,

Hon. Curator.

THE HON. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

I beg to submit the following report:—

During the year the total number of readers reached

forty-two and the books consulted in the Library were chiefly those on Local History.

Seventeen volumes have been lent to members during the year under the Library rules.

Thirty-one volumes have been added to the Library, nine volumes being presented, and the remainder by purchase and exchange.

HORACE F. DAVIES,
Hon. Librarian.



THE CHESTER AND NORTH WALES ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SOCIETY.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st March, 1916.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
1915.	1916.	1915.	1916.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
100 16 0 Subscriptions	96 1 6	17 0 1 Deficit at 31st March, 1915, brought forward...	19 1 6
10 19 1 Dividend on London and North-Western Railway Stock £297, 4 per cent. ...	10 5 9	40 0 0 Grosvenor Museum Management Committee...	40 0 0
— Interest on East Indian Railway Debenture Stock £200 (part of year), 4½ per cent. ...	3 16 6	17 9 1 Printing, Postages, Stationery, and Insurance	18 18 6
2 1 0 Donations	1 1 0	3 18 4 Subscriptions to kindred Societies ...	3 12 4
1 2 6 Sale of Journals and Tickets	—	1 6 3 Purchase of Antiquarian objects and Books ...	—
232 3 1 Mrs. Jane Churton Bequest	—	72 3 0 Printing and Publishing Vol. XXI. of Journal	57 2 0
347 1 8	111 4 9	15 15 0 Secretary	15 15 0
19 1 6 Balance, Deficit forward to 1916-17 ...	44 7 4	1 1 0 Miscellaneous Expenses	1 2 9
£366 3 2	£155 12 1	Invested in East Indian Railway £200, 4½ per cent. Debenture Stock	—
		£366 3 2	£155 12 1

MAY 29TH, 1916—Audited with the Vouchers and found correct.

W. W. TASKER,

Hon. Auditor.