



REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1923.

THE Council begs leave to submit its Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1923.

Sessional meetings have been held, at which the following papers were read :—

- 20th February*—Mr. F. H. Crossley, F.S.A., F.R.A.I.,—
“ Monumental Effigy Tombs in Cheshire to the end of the Mediæval Period ” (lantern slides).
- 6th March*—Professor R. Newstead, F.R.S.—
“ Some results of Roman diggings in Chester ” (exhibits and drawings).
- 13th March*—Mr. W. J. Williams, M.A.—
“ Mithraism in Chester ” with special reference to the so-called Minerva shrine in Edgar’s Field.
- 29th March*—Mr. Samuel Davies—
“ Frodsham Parish Church ” (lantern slides).
- 30th October*—Mrs. Paget, J.P.—
“ A Lilliputian Library.”
- 20th November*—Mr. F. H. Crossley—
“ Saxon Architecture and Art, 600 A.D. to 1050 A.D.” (lantern slides).
- 27th November*—Mr F. H. Crossley—
“ Romanesque in England, 1050 A.D. to 1180 A.D. (lantern slides).
- 11th December*—Mr. F. H. Crossley—
“ English Church Woodwork ” (lantern slides).

18th December—

(a) Mr. R. G. Collingwood, M.A., F.S.A., Fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford—

“ Jupiter Tanarus ” (a Roman altar from Chester, now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford). Illustrated by a full sized drawing of the stone.

(b) Mr O. G. Crawford, M.A., F.S.A., Archæology Officer, Ordnance Survey—

“ Archæology and Air-Photography ” (lantern slides).

Other meetings were also held during the year, which were partly of a social character and which were much appreciated, *viz.* :—

16th February—The Annual Conversazione held at the Refectory of the Cathedral. On this occasion a party of students from the College performed “ The Adoration of the Magi,” the eighth pageant from the Old Chester Plays. A short address introductory to the Play was given by Dr. J. C. Bridge, F.S.A., illustrated by lantern slides of old drawings. Incidental music for the Play was supplied by Miss Giles’ orchestra and members of the Cathedral Choir.

7th July—A Joint Excursion with the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, was arranged to Malpas Church.

4th August—Annual Summer Excursion by chars-a-banc to the Churches of Gwaunysgor, St. Asaph, and Tre-meirchion, to the old Celtic Cross “ Maen Chwyfan ” near Whitford, Henblas, the residence of the Misses Pennant and Mainwaring, and to Golden Grove, the residence of Frank Mortimer, Esq.

The following representatives of the Society have been selected to serve upon the Chester Public Library Committee :—Dr. J. C. Bridge, F.S.A., Mr. Frank Simpson, F.S.A., and Mr. C. H. Minshall.

The Council desire once more to place upon record their grateful sense of the public spirit of those who have presented various objects of interest to the Society’s collections.

The Hon. Treasurer’s Statement of Accounts annexed

shows a balance in hand of £159 10s. 11d. The financial condition of the Society can only be understood in relation to the printing of the *Journal*. The cost of Volume XXV (for 1923) would normally be included in the accounts, but though it is almost ready for publication, the cost of it is necessarily excluded. The Council are able to promise the publication of this Volume before Easter. It will consist of about 250 pages, and will give to Members the whole MS. which the late Canon Morris had written on "The Siege of Chester." The editing has been in the capable hands of Mr. Philip Lawson, A.R.I.B.A., Assistant Honorary Secretary of the Society, and the volume has been enriched by a careful introduction and some portraits and maps. Members will need no reminder of the indebtedness of the Society to the executors and surviving relatives of Canon Morris for their generous co-operation in the publishing of this MS.

Volume XXVI (for 1924) is also in the printers' hands. It will include a most valuable Catalogue of Roman Potters' Marks for Chester, made by Mr. A. G. K. Hayter, M.A., F.S.A. The Council of the Society are fortunate in having secured the willingness of Professor Newstead to see the Catalogue through the press. In the case of this Volume again, some delay is inevitable, as a large number of small blocks must be prepared giving the exact fac-similes of the Potters' Marks, for which ordinary type is unsatisfactory.

The Council desire to assure members that they are fully alive to the importance of issuing the *Journal* without avoidable delay. Happily for the sake of Archæology in general, many members pay their subscriptions regularly who live in the country or in distant towns; also many libraries subscribe. To such, attendance at the ordinary Lectures of the Society is impossible and the *Journal* is the only advantage which the subscription brings. It is therefore not inappropriate that the Council should at this time re-affirm their sense of the importance of publishing the *Journal* regularly.

The Reports (if any) of the Honorary Curator, the Honorary Librarian, the Honorary Editorial Secretary, and

the Honorary Secretary will be submitted to the Annual Meeting.

Under Rule 4, the following Members of the Council retire:—Councillor Phyllis Brown, M.A., J.P., Miss Clay, B.A., Mr. F. H. Crossley, F.S.A., and Mr. Frank Simpson, F.S.A. Councillor Phyllis Brown wishes to retire from the Council. The other three members are eligible for re-election.

Mr. Walter Conway and Mr. Alfred Ayrton as Honorary Auditors now retire. They are eligible for re-election.

The selling and breaking up of large estates which has been characterised the last three or four years will affect historical research in an unexpected manner. The strong rooms of Estate Offices have in the past contained countless deeds and historical papers bearing upon the title of property. Recent changes have led to the disposal of such collections of deeds—in the market or otherwise. Some large landowners have realised the importance of preserving deeds, and have offered them to the Archæological Societies and Public Libraries. It is pleasant to record the growth in the number of papers and deeds which are entrusted to this Society. The Library now includes not only the Earwaker Collection, but also the Aldersey Deeds, the Chetwode Deeds, the Papers of the late Judge W. Wynne Ffoulkes, and the Papers of the late Canon Morris.

The forthcoming change in the mode of legal conveyancing of property, which, it is understood, will render the accumulation of old deeds unnecessary for establishing a title to property, will no doubt release a vast number of deeds from various strong rooms. The Society will therefore be particularly gratified to learn that the Library of the Society is now equipped with a large Deed-chest, which will hold some thousands of papers. Much labour has already been expended by, and under the general guidance of, Mr. J. H. E. Bennett, F.S.A., to whom the Society offers warm thanks.

The Council sanctioned an expenditure of £10 for the purpose of excavating in front of the so-called Minerva

shrine in Edgar's Field, in order, if possible, to test the view put forward by Mr. W. J. Williams, M.A., that the shrine had a Mithraic significance. Professor Newstead agreed to take charge of the excavation, but no definite results were obtained.

A promise has been received from Mrs. Frater, daughter-in-law of the late Mr. Frater, Clerk of the Works during the restoration of the Cathedral under Dean Howson, that the papers of her husband relating to the restoration would be presented to the Society.

The Council of the Society was able, in May, 1923, to respond to the request of Sir Philip Baker-Wilbraham, Bart, Chancellor of the Diocese, and by means of an expert Committee to offer him a considered opinion regarding some proposed changes in the Parish Churches of Barthomley and Over.

The two Lectures by Mr. F. H. Crossley, F.S.A., in November, 1923, should be regarded as the first two of a series which will be continued in 1924 on the general understanding of the development through successive phases of Architecture. A keen desire has been expressed for some years for systematic guidance in this subject. It will be remembered that a Committee appointed in 1922 reported this development as eminently desirable. These Lectures, as indeed all Lectures arranged by the Society, have been thrown open free to the public.

The Council believe that the Society has fully maintained its position and has even widened its scope and usefulness during the past year. They are of the opinion that the public are increasingly appreciative of the aims and efforts of the Society, and they confidently appeal for the widest and most sympathetic support.



THE CHESTER AND NORTH WALES ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SOCIETY.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1st January to 31st December, 1923.

	£	s.	d.	P	A	Y	M	E	N	T	£	s.	d.
To Balance in hand from last Account	184	11	10										
" Subscriptions—Arrears	11	0	6										
" —For 1923	88	14	6										
" Dividend on London, Midland and Scottish Railway Consolidated 4% Guaranteed Stock, £297	99	15	0										
" Interest on East Indian Railway 4½% Debenture Stock 1935/55	8	19	8										
" Chester Corporation—Admission Fees for the Year ended 25th March, 1923	3	9	10										
" Donation from J. P. Rylands, Esq.	17	14	1										
" Chester Corporation for Lectures to Elementary School Children for year ended 25th March, 1923 (see <i>Contra</i>)	1	1	0										
" Miscellaneous	25	0	0										
" Balance in hand	0	10	8										
											£341	9	8
By Fire Insurance													
" One Years Rent to 25th December, 1923													
" Subscriptions to Kindred Societies													
" Printing, Stationery, and Postages													
" Purchase of Books													
" Advertising Lectures													
" Mr. A. Newstead for Lectures (<i>see Contra</i>)													
" Excavating in Edgar Park													
" Cupboard to store Old Deeds													
" Miscellaneous													
" Balance in hand													
											£341	9	8

We have examined the foregoing Statement of Receipts and Payments, with the Vouchers, and find it correctly recorded.

W. E. BROWN,
Hon. Treasurer.

ALFRED AYRTON,
WALTER CONWAY, }
Hon. Auditors.

18th JULY, 1924.