



ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1925.

THE Council begs leave to submit its Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1925.

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

24th February—Mr. F. H. Crossley, F.S.A., F.R.A.I.—

“ How to look at a Parish Church : the Fabric ” (lantern slides).

10th March (Annual Meeting)—Canon R. A. Thomas, M.A., F.S.A.—

“ The History of Vallé Crucis Abbey ” (lantern slides).

31st March—Mr. C. W. Baty, M.A.—

“ The Meeting of Celtic and Roman Elements in Romano-British Civilisation ” (lantern slides).

7th April—Mr. T. E. Jones, B.A.—

“ Shipping : Ancient and Modern ” (lantern slides).

27th October—Mr. W. J. Williams, M.A.—

“ Novæsium and Deva, the twin fortresses of the XXth Legion ” (lantern slides and diagrams.)

17th November—Mr. G. M. Flood, B.Sc.—

“ Ancient Waterworks ” (lantern slides).

15th December—Mr. H. Higgins, M.A.—

“ A Study of the Pre-Norman Forts of Wales ” (maps, sketches, and diagrams).

Meetings of a social character were held as follows :—

3rd February—The Annual Conversazione, on which occasion Dr. J. C. Bridge, M.A., F.S.A., lectured on “ Mediæval Musical Instruments from contemporary

Carvings" illustrating his remarks with lantern slides kindly lent by Mr. F. H. Crossley. Various exhibits of local Architectural, Archæological and Historic interest kindly lent by members were also on view.

20th June.—Annual Excursion by charrs-a-banc to the Churches of Acton, Nantwich and Wrenbury, under the guidance of the respective incumbents; to Dorfold Hall and gardens by kind permission of Henry Tollemache, Esq., J.P., who conducted the party; and to Combermere Abbey and gardens by kind permission of Sir Kenneth Crossley, Bart.

A course of twelve lantern lectures by Mr. F. H. Crossley, F.S.A., F.R.A.I., comprising a systematic study of Saxon, Romanesque and Gothic Architecture in this country has been arranged by the Council in conjunction with the Chester Branch of the Workers' Educational Association. Five of these lectures were delivered during the period under review.

The Society has suffered a loss by the departure from Chester early in the year, of Dr. J. C. Bridge, M.A., F.S.A., following upon his appointment as Chairman of Trinity College, London. In presenting him at the Annual Conversation with the gift of an old silver cup, suitably inscribed, the Chairman, Archdeacon Paige Cox, and Mr. Henry Taylor, M.A., F.S.A., referred in feeling terms to his long association with the City and the Cathedral, and with this Society in particular, to his many learned contributions to the Journal, and to his valuable services on the Council both as a Member and as Chairman. Dr. Bridge announced his intention of leaving his MSS. to the Society, and later, presented the Society with the life-like portrait bust which now stands in the Library.

Mr. H. T. Dutton, M.A., Mr. C. H. Minshull, and Mr. Frank Simpson, F.S.A., were elected to serve upon the Chester Public Library Committee.

The Council desire once more to place on record their grateful sense of the public spirit of those who have presented MSS., Deeds and objects of interest to the Society's Collections.

The Honorary Treasurer's Statement of Accounts annexed shows a debit balance of £30 2s. 6d.

The Society's Journal has been brought up to date by the publication during the year of Parts I and II of Vol. XXVI for 1924 and 1925 respectively. Part I contains the "Catalogue of Roman Potters' Marks found in Chester," by Mr. A. G. K. Hayter, M.A., F.S.A., a paper on "The Trade of Chester in the Reigns of the three Edwards," by Mr. H. J. Hewitt, M.A., and a "Report on Mediæval Oak Coffins found at Nantwich," by Mr. F. Simpson, F.S.A. Part II contains papers on "Chester Castle, A.D. 907-1925," by Mr. F. Simpson, F.S.A., "The Commonplace Book of John Crewe of Utkinton, c. 1640-50," by Mr. P. H. Lawson, F.S.A., and "Jupiter Tanarus," by Mr. R. G. Collingwood, M.A. The Editorial Committee have under consideration the selection of papers to be printed in Volume XXVII (for 1926) and the paper on "Communications and Transport in Mediæval Cheshire" by Mr. H. J. Hewitt, M.A., is already in the printers' hands.

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:—Mr. W. Cullimore, M.A., LL.B., Mr. H. T. Dutton, M.A., Mr. W. H. Humphreys, M.A., LL.B., and Mr. C. H. Minshull, who, with the exception of Mr. W. H. Humphreys, are eligible for re-election.

Arrangements are being made for the forthcoming congress of the British Archæological Association at Chester in June, 1926, and a local Committee has been formed with Professor R. Newstead, F.R.S., and Mr. P. H. Lawson, F.S.A., as Honorary Secretaries. Members of this Society may attend the Excursions upon payment of the Congress Fee. Admission to the evening lectures will be free.

As in previous years, guides have been provided to conduct parties round the City, and many archaeological inquiries have been dealt with. In addition, in response to

a request from the Master of the Rolls, under whose supervision a register of Manors in England and Wales is being compiled, a sub-Committee of the Council is actively engaged in collecting information in regard to Cheshire Manors and their records.

The statement of the aims and objects of the Society referred to in the last Report, has been widely circulated among the principal residents of the city and county and will, we hope, have a gratifying result.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1926.

THE Council begs leave to submit its Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1926.

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

12th January—The Annual Conversazione—Miss M. V. Taylor, M.A., F.S.A.—

“Everyday Life in Roman Gaul” (lantern slides).

Various exhibits kindly lent by members were on view, including the Thomas Hughes Roman and Mediæval Collections, explained by Professor R. Newstead, F.R.S.

16th February—Professor R. Newstead, F.R.S.—

“The Results of further Diggings in the Deanery Field” (exhibits and lantern slides).

15th March—Mr. Willoughby Gardner, F.S.A.—

“The Excavations at Dinorben in Kinnel Park, Abergele,” shewing life in a Welsh hill-village in the fourth century, A.D. (lantern slides).

19th October—Lt.-Col. A. T. Powell, M.A.—

“Early British Trackways in Cheshire” (drawings and diagrams).

23rd November—Professor R. Newstead, F.R.S.—

“The Recent Excavations at Hilbre” (places and sections)

Canon R. A. Thomas, F.S.A.—

“ Basingwerk Abbey; one or two problems.”

Mr. P. H. Lawson, F.S.A.—

“ Roman and Mediæval Eastgate Street ” (plans and diagrams).

14th December—Mr. R. Stewart-Brown, M.A., F.S.A.—

“ The Hospital of St. John the Baptist, outside the Northgate of Chester.

Mr. H. T. Dutton, M.A., Mr. C. H. Minshull, and Mr. Frank Simpson, F.S.A., were re-elected to serve on the Chester Public Library Committee.

The Council desire once more to record their grateful appreciation of the public spirit of those who have presented MSS., Deeds, and objects of interest to the Society's collections, and in particular to refer to the accession of MSS. from the “ Thomas Hughes Collection ” kindly presented by Mr. T. Cann Hughes, F.S.A., and to the generous gift by Mr. H. F. Brown, LL.B., J.P., of the Roman and Mediæval finds discovered on the site of Messrs. Brown and Co's extensions in St. Michael Street. In this connection the thanks of the Society and of all Archæologists are due to Professor R. Newstead, F.R.S., for his unremitting labour in recovering these finds during the progress of the excavations, when important architectural remains of further portions of the large Roman Building found in 1863 and 1909-10 were also discovered. The Society is also indebted to Mr. J. H. E. Bennett, F.S.A., for his kindness in devoting a great amount of time and skill in the sorting and disposal of the Combermere Deeds acknowledged in a previous Report. No less than twenty-five parcels of Cheshire Deeds have been enveloped and filed in our collections, others relating to the Welsh possessions of the Salusburys have been deposited at the National Library of Wales, and a small collection of National interest at the British Museum.

The Honorary Treasurer's Statement of Accounts annexed shews a balance in hand of £50 10s. 4d.

Part 1 of Vol. XXVII of the Society's Journal has been published and issued to members during the year. This

contains papers on "The 13th Century Crypt, Bridge Street, Chester," and "The Royal Oak Inn, Chester," by Mr. Frank Simpson, F.S.A., and "Communications and Transport in Mediæval Cheshire," by Mr. H. J. Hewitt, M.A., Ph.D. It is hoped that a full account of Professor Newstead's more recent discoveries will shortly be in the printers' hands for publication in Part 2 of this volume, the Journal for 1927.

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, and are eligible for re-election:—Messrs. F. H. Crossley, F.S.A., R. H. Linaker, F.S.A., Frank Simpson, F.S.A., and C. J. Vincent, M.A.

The Hon. Auditors, Messrs. Alfred Ayrton and Walter Conway, F.C.A., also retire and are eligible for re-election.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the Walls and Gates of the City have now been scheduled for preservation as ancient monuments. In this respect the Council have held a watching brief for the preservation of the ancient Newgate and the right of way through the same, in connection with the proposed new thoroughfare through the walls at the Newgate, and it is a pleasure to report that the Chester Improvement Committee have allowed the Council to remain in close touch with them in regard to the scheme. A Schedule of ancient buildings in the city worthy of preservation is also under consideration.

The British Archæological Association held its 83rd Congress at Chester from June 28th to July 3rd, the local arrangements for which were made by a Committee presided over by the Chairman of our Council. A full programme of lectures, visits and excursions to buildings and places of historical and archæological interest in the city and county and the neighbouring counties of North Wales was drawn up and proved a useful handbook for a thoroughly enjoyable and successful Congress. In view of these arrangements, the Society's usual summer excursion was not held.

The increasing demand for guides to conduct the members of various Conventions and parties of visitors round the City has been supplied as in previous years.

The Council has to report the receipt of a bequest of £50, made by Mrs. Stolterfoth, an old member whose death they regret to record. This bequest has come at a most opportune time and the Council have with much gratitude added it to the funds of the Society.

During the year under review the Council has been compelled to accept the resignation of the Honorary Editorial Secretary, the Rev. F. G. Slater, M.A. His editorial work commenced with Part 2 of Volume XIX, and it has ended with part 1 of Volume XXVII. He takes his place in a great succession, for with Volume XVIII in 1911, the editorial work of Rev. F. Sanders came to an end. The late Archdeacon Barber was so good as to act for the intervening period, and to edit Part 1 of Volume XIX. In accepting Mr. Slater's resignation, as they did with very great regret, the Council gave themselves the pleasure of inviting Mr. Slater to accept Honorary Membership of the Society, and they also communicated to him their high appreciation of the able, unselfish and distinguished service which he has through many years rendered to the Society.

The date of writing this report is sufficiently late to admit a reference to the much lamented death of Mr. Henry Taylor, M.A., F.S.A. In no ordinary or ambiguous sense he was the Father of the Society, eminent in the world of Archæology and Historical Research, and possessed of wonderful gifts which made him a supreme leader and a veritable doyen among archæologists. The wide range of his interests and his prodigious memory enabled him on countless occasions to add in a valuable manner to the discussions and to the vitality of the Society. He left an ineffaceable mark upon the study of Archæology, not merely in this City and county, but beyond in Flintshire and North Wales. The Council recognises that in Mr. Henry Taylor the Society has lost one who enjoyed an outstanding reputation, and who brought to the Society a special distinction. We record his loss with deep sorrow.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1927.

THE Council begs leave to submit its Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1927.

Sessional Meetings and Social Gatherings were held as follows :—

8th February—Annual Conversazione. Prof. R. Newstead, F.R.S., on “ The Antiquities found on the site of Messrs. Brown & Co.’s new buildings in S. Michael Street ” (lantern slides). Collection of finds and other exhibits.

15th February—Mr. Cyril Fox, Ph.D., F.S.A.—

“ Archæological Problems in North Wales.”

22nd February—Annual General Meeting.

15th March—Lt.-Commander J. H. Craine, R.N.R. (Ret.)—

“The Ancient Rivalry between Chester and Liverpool.”

9th May—Mr. P. H. Lawson, F.S.A.—

“The Georgian Architecture of Chester ” (lantern slides). Joint meeting with Ancient Monuments Society.

20th July—Annual Summer Excursion to Dunham Massey Hall, at the invitation of the Earl of Stamford. Visits were also paid to the churches of Rostherne, Bowdon, Old Warburton and Grappenhall, and to Baguley Hall.

18th October—Mr. R. H. Linaker, F.S.A.—

“ The Astons of Aston Hall, near Frodsham.”

15th November—Prof. R. Newstead, F.R.S.—

“ Recent Finds in Edgar’s Field ” (illustrations and exhibits).

20th December—Mr. H. T. Dutton, M.A.—

“ Chester Elections before 1832 ” (lantern slides).

Reference was made in the last report to the great loss the Society sustained by the death of Mr. Henry Taylor, M.A., F.S.A., early in the year. The Council also regrets to report the deaths of three of its members: Rev. L. M. Farrall, M.A., Mr. John Rogers, and Mr. W. W. Tasker.

Mr. H. T. Dutton, M.A., Mr. C. H. Minshull, and Mr. Frank Simpson, F.S.A., were re-elected to serve on the

Chester Public Library Committee.

The Council desire once more to record their grateful appreciation of the public spirit of those who have presented MSS., Deeds, and objects of interest to the Society's collections, and in particular to refer to the loan by Mrs. Farrall of material for a history of Holy Trinity Church, compiled by the late Rev. L. M. Farrall, M.A., together with a selection of his Cheshire books.

The Hon. Treasurer's statement of accounts annexed shows that there will be a further sum due to the Printers on completion of the Journal for 1927. In this respect attention is drawn to the necessity of increasing the membership of the Society; without additional revenue, its work of publication must inevitably be retarded. Members are therefore urged to exert their influence in this direction. Those desirous of compounding for Life Membership may now do so on the following scale:—

Age 61 years and upwards—Five guineas.

Age 41 years and upwards—Seven guineas.

Under 41 years—Ten guineas.

Part 2 of Vol. XXVII of the Society's Journal for the year under review is in the press and will shortly be issued to members. It will contain Professor Newstead's overdue papers on the Roman Discoveries in Chester, records of first rate importance to archæological research in this country, together with Mr. Lawson's schedule and plans of the principle Roman finds and sites to date.

The Council has decided to publish the Diary of George Booth of Chester, and Katherine Howard, of Boughton, 1704-1764, contributed by the Rev. G. P. Crawford, M.A., his short paper on the Proby family in Chester and Ireland, and Mr. Simpson's "Chester Worthies," as the first part of Vol. XXVIII, the issue for 1928, the MSS. of which are ready for the press, and it is hoped to proceed with the printing at once in order to ensure publication in the current year. The editorial work is in the hands of our Chairman, who has kindly stepped into the breach and undertaken to act pending the election of an Hon. Editorial Secretary.

The Reports (if any) of the Hon. Curator, the Hon. Librarian, the Hon. Editorial Secretary and the Hon. Secretary will be submitted to the Annual Meeting.

Under Rule 4 the following members of the Council retire and are eligible for re-election :—Messrs. J. H. E. Bennett, F.S.A., Samuel Davies, F.R.I.B.A., Hastwell Grayson, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., and G. W. Haswell, F.S.A.

The Hon. Auditors, Messrs. Alfred Ayrtton and Walter Conway, F.C.A., also retire and are eligible for re-election.

With a view to promoting greater interest in the Society in Cheshire and North Wales the Council decided to increase the number of patrons and has pleasure in reporting that the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Stamford, and His Grace the Archbishop of Wales have consented to become patrons in addition to His Grace the Duke of Westminster, G.C.V.O., D.S.O.

Upon instructions from the last Annual General Meeting the Council has taken stock of back numbers of the Journal and has revised and reduced many of the prices. A discount of 25 per cent is offered to libraries and members, and a further discount of 25 per cent, when several volumes or parts are applied for. It is hoped that advantage will be taken of this opportunity to make up sets. The revised prices will appear on the back of the forthcoming Journal.

On May 9th the Ancient Monuments Society (Manchester) held its Annual Meeting at the Refectory, the local arrangements being carried out by this Society. Members and friends were conducted to places of archæological and historic interest in the city, and were entertained by the Mayor and Mayoress at the Town Hall. In the evening a joint meeting was held at the Grosvenor Museum.

By the kindness of Mr. H. F. Brown, an opportunity was afforded to excavate in S. Michael Street, when the conjectured junction of the extension of the side wall of the colonnaded building (found in 1863) with the return wall (found on Messrs. Brown's premises in 1926) was exposed to view. The excavation for a sewer across Edgar's Field, Handbridge, by the Corporation in October, also threw addi-

tional light on the Roman occupation of Chester. Professor Newstead's accounts of these interesting and important discoveries will appear in the forthcoming Journal.

The Council is pleased to report that a General Committee composed of representatives of this Society, the Haverfield Bequest Committee, Liverpool and Manchester Universities and the Municipal and local Educational Authorities has been formed for the purpose of carrying out further excavations in the Deanery Field under the direction of Professor Newstead. The Haverfield Bequest Committee has made a generous grant of £75 towards the expense and an Appeal is being circulated. It is hoped that members will respond freely to this appeal. Striking discoveries are being made at York and Caerleon-on-Usk, and it is felt that Chester, the site of the earliest of the three permanent Legionary Fortresses in Britain, should not lag behind in the work of research into this very important period of its history.



THE CHESTER AND NORTH WALES ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SOCIETY.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1st January to 31st December, 1925.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s. d.
To Balance in hand from last Account	53	0 5
Subscriptions—Arrears	8	18 6
—For 1925	100	16 0
—One Life Membership	10	10 0
Dividends on London, Midland and Scottish Railway Consolidated 4% Guaranteed Stock, £297	120	4 6
Interest on East Indian Railway 4½% Debenture Stock 1935/55, £100	9	5 6
Chester Corporation—Admission Fees to Grosvenor Museum for Year ended 25th March, 1925	3	12 0
Chester Corporation for Lectures (<i>see Contra</i>)	14	16 0
Donation from the Cheshire Regiment towards cost of Journal	25	0 0
Sale of Books	10	0 0
	6	17 6
	<u>£242</u>	<u>15 11</u>

There is a Balance of £30 2s. 6d. due to the Printers.

We have examined the above Statement of Receipts and Payments with the Vouchers, and have found it to be a correct record.

Audited 17th March, 1926.
W. E. BROWN,
Hon. Treasurer.

PAYMENTS.

	£	s. d.
By Fire Insurance	...	...
One Years Rent to 25th December, 1925	...	...
Subscriptions to Kindred Societies and Reports from same	...	...
Printing (including the Journal, Parts 1 and 2, Vol. 26) Stationery, and Postages	...	...
Mr. Alfred Newstead for Lectures (<i>see Contra</i>)	25	0 0
Donation towards Restoration work at Holy Trinity Church, Chester	...	...
Miscellaneous expenses	...	...
	<u>£242</u>	<u>15 11</u>

ALFRED AYRTON, }
WALTER CONWAY, } *Hon. Auditors.*

THE CHESTER AND NORTH WALES ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SOCIETY.

Statement of Receipts and Payments from 1st January, 1926, to 31st December, 1926.

	£	s.	d.
RECEIPTS.			
To Subscriptions—Arrears.....	6	16	6
For 1926	94	10	0
Dividends on London, Midland & Scottish Railway Consolidated 4% Guaranteed Stock £297.....	101	6	6
Interest on East Indian Railway 4½% Debenture Stock, 1935-55 £100	9	10	0
Chester Corporation (Admission Fees for Year ended 25th March, 1926).....	3	12	0
Chester Corporation for Lectures (<i>see Contra</i>)	15	8	7
Legacy from the late Mrs. Stolterfoth.....	25	0	0
Sale of Books	50	0	0
Miscellaneous Receipts	5	12	4
	0	10	6
	£210	19	11
PAYMENTS.			
By Fire Insurance	0	10	0
One Year's Rent to 25th Dec., 1926	40	0	0
Subscriptions to Kindred Societies.....	5	8	6
Printing, including Part I. of Vol. XXVII. of the Journal, Stationery, and Postages. Also in- cluding Balance of Printing Account, £30 2s. 6d., left over from 1925	81	1	1
Advertising Lectures	1	1	0
Mr. A. Newstead for Lectures to Elementary School Children (<i>see Contra</i>)	25	0	0
Payment for Book	0	6	6
Miscellaneous Expenses	7	2	6
Balance in hand	160	9	7
	£210	19	11

We have examined the above Statement of Receipts and Payments with the Vouchers, and have found it to be a correct record.

Audited 1st March, 1927.

W. E. BROWN,
Hon. Treasurer.

ALFRED AYTON, }
WALTER CONWAY, }
Hon. Auditors.

THE CHESTER AND NORTH WALES ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SOCIETY.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1st January to 31st December, 1927.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
To Balance in hand from last Account	50	10	4	By Fire Insurance			0 10 0
" Subscriptions—Arrears	6	6	0	" One Year's Rent to 31st December, 1927			40 0 0
" " —For 1927	86	17	3	" Subscriptions to Kindred Societies			3 17 0
" Dividend on London, Midland and Scottish Railway Consolidated 4% Guaranteed Stock, £297	93	3	3	" Printing, Stationery, and Postages (including £107 2s. 5d. towards cost of Part 2, Vol. 27, of the Society's Journal			123 5 0
" Interest on East Indian Railway 4½% Debenture Stock, 1935-55. £100	3	12	0	" Mr. A. Newstead for Lectures to Elementary School Children (<i>see Contra</i>)			25 0 0
" Chester Corporation Admission Fees to Grosvenor Museum for year ended 25th March, 1927	18	4	5	" Advertising Lecture, Fee to Lecturer, and Expenses			2 6 8
" Chester Corporation for Lectures (<i>see Contra</i>)	25	0	0	" Miscellaneous Expenses			5 10 4
" Miscellaneous Receipts	0	9	0				£200 9 0
£200 9 0							£200 9 0

W. E. BROWN,
Hon. Treasurer.