

Abstract of Proceedings

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1957

The Council has the honour to submit its Report for the year ending 31st December, 1957.

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 3rd April 1957, the following officials were elected for the ensuing year:—

Chairman:	The Ven. Archdeacon R. V. H. Burne, M.A.
Hon. Secretary:	Mr. D. A. Nicholls
Hon. Asst. Secretary:	Mrs. V. Gibson
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. P. J. Hyland
Hon. Editor:	Alderman P. H. Lawson
Hon. Curator:	Mr. W. J. Williams
Hon. Librarian:	Mr. J. G. McPeake
Hon. Auditors:	Messrs. Walter Conway & Co.

The following members were re-elected to the Council:—

Mr. J. W. Clarke	Mr. G. B. Leach
Mr. F. Taylor	Mr. B. T. Williams

The Council takes great pleasure in welcoming Miss N. Powell who was unanimously elected to the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Charles Greenwood.

LECTURES AND OUTINGS.

Lectures and Outings were again very well attended this year and appear to have been greatly appreciated.

LECTURES.

9th January	Mr. J. T. Smith	Mediaeval Domestic Architecture
6th February	Mr. R. Sherlock	Church Candelabra
6th March	Prof. W. F. Grimes	The Temple of Mithras at Walbrook, London
3rd April	Mr. F. H. Thompson	1956 Excavations in Chester (following the Annual General Meeting)
2nd October	Dr. P. Corder	Great Casterton
6th November	Lt. Col. A. H. Burne	Offa's Dyke: A Military Commentary
4th December	Alderman P. H. Lawson	Old Houses of Chester

OUTINGS.

11th May	Hawarden Castle and Northop Church
15th June	Capesthorpe Hall
13th July	Mostyn Hall and Basingwerk Abbey
10th August	Speke Hall and the Lady Lever Art Gallery
7th September	Thurstaston Hall and Brimstage Tower

ST. JOHN'S HOUSE.

Tenancy of St. John's House was given up by the County Council in September 1957. At the request of the Trustees of the House three representatives of the Ministry of Works visited Chester on October 2nd to discuss with the Trustees the long-planned transfer of the property to the Ministry by Deed of Gift and the subsequent excavation and preservation of the Amphitheatre. A trial excavation has been conducted to determine the exact northern boundaries of the Amphitheatre and a necessary diversion of Little St. John Street is planned for the autumn of 1958. The Society has agreed to demolish St. John's House and leave the site ready for excavation by the Ministry of Works at the end of the year.

COUNCIL MEETINGS.

The Council met on three occasions; the principal matter discussed was that of St. John's House referred to above. In May a letter was sent by the Council to the Town Clerk expressing the Society's concern at the suggestion that the "Nine Houses" in Park Street might be demolished. The Society will have been gratified to learn that these houses are to be preserved.

EXCAVATIONS.

At the beginning of the year a Roman building first located in 1951 in the Infirmary Field was thoroughly explored. It measured 40 feet by 50 feet, divided by crosswalls to form six rooms, and was most probably an isolated small house built outside the western defences of the fortress. In March when the Old Light-Cake Shop at 16, Northgate Street was about to be incorporated into Quaintway's building a careful photographic and drawn record was made of the mediaeval cellars, probably 13th century, with their segmental arches at the rear. A timber framed wall containing the original wattle-and-daub infilling with traces of painted decoration was also exposed. In April further operations at a site in Nicholas Street made it possible to complete the plan of a rampart building on the western legionary defences and an interval tower 21½ft. by 17ft. at the rear of the wall was discovered. The last excavation was that of October to determine the northern boundary of the Amphitheatre.

LIBRARY.

The pattern of use of the Society's Library has been similar to that of recent years. Twenty-two members borrowed eighty volumes between them compared with eighty-eight volumes borrowed by eighteen members in 1956. It is a pity that more members do not take advantage of the facilities of this most useful collection. It may be helpful to inform new members that the Society's Library is housed in Chester Public Library, St. John Street, and is available, either for reference or borrowing during normal library hours.

There was no expenditure on rebinding during 1957.

MEMBERSHIP.

During the year thirty-four new members joined the Society. Twenty-four members died, resigned or were lost trace of. Membership at 31st December 1957, was 301, including 39 Libraries, 3 ex-Officio and 11 Associate members. This constituted a new record total.

ROMAN STONES CATALOGUE ACCOUNT
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For the year ended 31st December, 1957

RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
				£ s. d.			
			£ s. d.	Postages and Packing ... ..	...	...	£ s. d. 1 6 11
				Surplus on Year's Working	...	...	21 12 7
							<u>£22 19 6</u>
Sales Receipts	...	...	<u>22 19 6</u>				
Balance at Bank 31/12/56	...	...	36 11 11				
Add Surplus for Year	...	...	21 12 7				
Balance 31/12/57	...	...	<u>£58 4 6</u>				

NOTE.—The sum of £300 is owing to Chester Corporation in respect of a Loan.

We have examined the above account with the Bank Account and certify that it is in accordance therewith.

(Signed) WALTER CONWAY & CO.,
Chartered Accountants,
Old Bank Buildings, Chester.
Hon. Auditors.

Chester. 22nd February, 1958

ST. JOHN'S HOUSE ACCOUNT
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For year ended 31st January, 1958

RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
				1956			
				£ s. d.			
1956			1957	1956			1957
£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
506	Rents ... ..	...	399 3 9	7	Fire Insurance ... ..	...	7 4 0
80	Bank Interest ... ..	...	98 11 3		Property Owners Liability	...	
154	Investment Interest ... ..	...	184 4 4		Insurance ... ..	...	14 3
55	Repayment of Income Tax ... ..	...	54 16 10		Expenses: Meeting with	...	
212	Balance carried down	— — —	— — —		Ministry of Works	...	
					Representatives ... ..	...	15 7 6
				1,000	Stock Purchases ... ..	...
					Balance carried down	...	713 10 5
<u>£1,007</u>			<u>£736 16 2</u>	<u>£1,007</u>			<u>£736 16 2</u>
Balance 31/1/57	...	...	2,391 16 7				
Surplus for Year	...	...	713 10 5				
Balance at Bank 31/1/58	...	...	<u>£3,105 7 0</u>				

We have examined the above statement of Receipts and Expenditure, together with the Books, Vouchers and Bank Books, and find it to be correctly recorded.

(Signed) WALTER CONWAY & CO.,
Chartered Accountants,
Old Bank Buildings, Chester.
Hon. Auditors.

Chester. 22nd February, 1958

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For the year ended 31st December, 1957

RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS				
1956		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	1956	£	s. d.
	Subscriptions ...	251	11 6			1	Rent of Lecture Room ...	1 0 0
	Arrears ...	17	17 0			189	Printing and Stationery ...	193 7 9
232	Advance ...	12	1 3			4	Postages and Petty Cash	
				281	9 9		(Treasurer) ...	8 0 0
	Dividends:					12	ditto. (Secretary) ...	9 0 0
	British Transport					1	Fire Insurance—Library ...	10 0
	78/88 ...	5	10 8			1	Advertising ...	3 12 0
9	3½% War Stock ...	3	10 0				Cheque Book ...	4 0
				9	0 8	8	Subscriptions to Kindred Societies	6 8 0
17	Museum Sales ...						Back numbers "Cheshire Sheaf"	4 4 0
2	Journal Sales ...			10	19 1	14	Lecturer's Expenses	21 1 7
4	Repayment Income Tax ...			4	1 8	1	Gratuity Museum Attendant	1 0 0
5	Donations ...			5	12 6	2	Sundries ...	2 13 0
47	Sir Mortimer Wheeler's Lecture					7	Hire of Town Hall ...	
						3	Repairs to Duplicator ...	
						73	Surplus on Year ...	66 16 4
	<u>£316</u>			<u>£317</u>	<u>16 8</u>		<u>£316</u>	<u>£317</u>
	Balance 31/12/56 ...			175	3 1			
	Surplus ...			66	16 4			
	Balance 31/12/57 ...			<u>241</u>	<u>19 5</u>			

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st December 1957

1956	£		£	s. d.	1956	£		1957	£	s. d.
911	Accumulated Fund					Investments at Market Value				
	31/12/56 ...	963	15 1			31/12/57:				
72	Add surplus for year	66	16 4		218	£320 11s. 5d. British Transport				
				1,030	11 5	78/88 ...	195	10 11		
20	Deduct decrease in valuation					70	£100 3½% War Stock ...	63	0 0	
	stock ...			30	1 1	500	Library at Insurance Value ...	500	0 0	
						175	Balance at Lloyds Bank Ltd.	241	19 5	
	<u>£963</u>			<u>£1,000</u>	<u>10 4</u>		<u>£963</u>		<u>£1,000</u>	<u>10 4</u>

NOTE.—The Certificates for the above-mentioned Stocks are in the hands of Chester Corporation held against the loan of £300, to Roman Stone Catalogue Account.

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and the foregoing statement of Receipts and Payments and in our opinion it is correctly recorded.

(Signed) WALTER CONWAY & Co.,
Chartered Accountants,
Old Bank Buildings, Chester.
Hon. Auditors.

Chester. 22nd February, 1958.