

Abstract of Proceedings

ANNUAL REPORT

The Council is pleased to submit its report for the year ending 31st December, 1960.

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL.

At the Annual General Meeting, held on 27th April, 1960, the following officials were elected for the ensuing year:—

Chairman:	The Venerable R. V. H. Burne, M.A., F.S.A.
Hon. Secretary:	Vacant.
Hon. Asst. Secretaries:	Mrs. V. Gibson and Miss N. Powell
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:—

Messrs. J. W. Clarke, J. D. Seys Llewelyn, F. Taylor and B. T. Williams.

LECTURES.

The following lectures were arranged, but unfortunately the one fixed for December had to be cancelled owing to fog.

6th January	Mr. R. Gwilliam	Chester Town Halls
4th February	Miss H. E. Boulton	Chester Royal Infirmary
2nd March	Mr. R. J. C. Atkinson	Stonehenge
6th April	Mr. M. W. Beresford	Town Plantations in Mediaeval Europe
27th April	Mr. F. H. Thompson,	Excavations in Chester, 1959 (following the Annual General Meeting)
5th October	Mr. J. W. Clarke	Eaton Hall
2nd November	The Ven R. V. H. Burne	Richard II and Cheshire
7th December	Miss J. Beck	Education in Cheshire in the late Seventeenth Century.

OUTINGS.

The following outings took place:—

14th May	Eaton Hall, Holt and Bruera
11th June	Ludlow and Stokesay (whole day)
9th July	Gt. Budworth, Tabley Hall, Knutsford and Lower Peover.
15th August	Huxley Hall, Beeston Castle
16th September	Old Houses in Lower Bridge Street, Chester.

COUNCIL MEETINGS.

The Council of the Society met twice. In addition to arranging the lecture and outings programmes the future of the Blue Bell was discussed and a letter sent to the two Ministries concerned.

LIBRARY.

There was a decrease in the use of the Society's library compared with the previous year. Fifteen readers borrowed 61 books between them compared with 91 books borrowed by 19 readers in 1959. These figures do not include the use of books on the premises.

Nine volumes were rebound by the Corporation at a cost of £7 13s. 9d. Further progress was made in accessioning individual volumes of sets. A list of parish registers in the Society's Library and the Public Library's local collection was compiled and duplicated; copies are available on request.

EXCAVATIONS.

1. During March and April, 1960, a watch was kept on the excavation of further basement accommodation beneath Browns of Chester Ltd. Traces of a Roman stone building of two periods were noted and one room had evidently been heated in the first period. Coins, brooches, pottery and glass (the last of high quality) were recovered, with a range of date from the late 1st to 4th century. It is doubtful if the plan of the building will ever be known but the position of the walls in relation to the general fortress plan suggests that they may belong to a tribune's house.
2. The long-awaited excavation of the Roman amphitheatre at Chester began in April 1960, under the auspices of the Ministry of Works. Two areas were dealt with during the year, the cellar under St. John's House, now demolished, and the line of the boundary wall between the Convent and the excavation site. In the cellar, the expected features of the stone amphitheatre—outer wall, concentric wall, and arena wall—were found, together with a pair of radial walls of a minor entrance. In addition, clear traces of an earlier timber-framed amphitheatre were found in the form of beam trenches for the foundation timbers.
3. For the third year running, a fortnight's summer school in archaeology was held in collaboration with Liverpool University during July and August, 1960. The students worked partly at the amphitheatre and partly on the Roman site at Heronbridge, where further work was done on the timber and stone buildings located in 1959.
4. During excavation for a new swimming-pool at Beech Hall School, Macclesfield, a Bronze Age burial was found, consisting of an inverted urn with partially cremated remains, subsequently identified as those of an adult female. It is impossible to say whether there was ever a barrow as the ground had been thoroughly levelled long since. The urn, now in the Grosvenor Museum, is an undecorated example of the overhanging rim type and can be dated to the Middle Bronze Age, perhaps *c.* 1200 B.C.

MEMBERSHIP.

During the year seven new members joined the Society. In calculating the total membership it has been assumed that anyone who has not paid a subscription for the last two years and has not replied to requests for payment no longer wishes to be considered a member. On this basis the total membership at 31st December, 1960, was 290.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

for the year ended 31st December, 1960

1959		RECEIPTS			1960			1959		PAYMENTS			1960			
£		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
	Subscriptions	267	1	0				1	Rent of Lecture Room ..					1	0	0
	In arrears	10	10	0				19	Printing and Stationery ..				749	18	0	
262	In advance	5	4	4					Postages etc.							
	Dividends								Hon. Treasurer	5	0	0				
	British Transport 1978/88 ..	5	17	10					Hon. Secretary	9	0	0				
9	3½% War Stock	3	10	0				10	Hon. Librarian	1	0	0				
													15	0	0	
6	Museum Sales ..				9	7	10	—	Hon. Editor's Expenses				3	9	6	
31	Journal and Catalogue Sales				8	16	0	—	Fire Insurance (Library)				10	0		
29	Repayment Income Tax ..				12	14	5	4	Advertising				1	8	0	
60	Grants and Donations ..				5	1	2	5	Subscriptions to Kindred Societies				5	5	6	
1	Surplus on Outings				5	10	7	14	Lecturers' Expenses				4	3	6	
—	Deficit for Year ..				457	4	8	2	Interest on Loan				3	16	6	
12	Balance Roman Stones a/c.							4	Sundries				1	19	0	
								351	Surplus for Year				—	—	—	
<u>£410</u>					<u>£786</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>£410</u>					<u>£786</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	
	Balance 31/12/59				615	5	11									
	Deficit for year				457	4	8									
	Balance at Bank 31/12/60				<u>£158</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>									

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st December, 1960

1959		1960			1959		1960							
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.				
1393	Accumulated Fund 31/12/59	1394	13	11				Investments at Market Value 31/12/60:—						
—	Less Deficit for year	457	4	8			214	£320 11 5 British Transport 1977/88	191	10	9			
					937	9	3	65	£100 3½% War Loan ..	59	2	6		
1	Less Decrease in valuations Stocks and Shares				28	14	9	500	Library at Insurance Value	500	0	0		
								615	Balance at Lloyds Bank Ltd.	158	5	11		
<u>£1394</u>					<u>£908</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>£1394</u>				<u>£908</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>6</u>

NOTE:—There is a private loan of £250 to the Society still outstanding.

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.,
Hon. Auditors.

Chester.
9th February, 1961.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

ST. JOHN'S HOUSE ACCOUNT
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
for the year ended 31st January, 1961

1959	RECEIPTS	1960	1959	PAYMENTS	1960
£		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
43	Bank Interest	81 9 11			
187	Investment Interest	189 1 2			
55	Repayment Income Tax	50 0 5	285	Balance carried down	320 11 6
		<u>£320 11 6</u>			<u>£320 11 6</u>
<u>£285</u>			<u>£285</u>		
	Balance 31/1/60	2347 14 10			
	Surplus for year	320 11 6			
	Balance 31/1/61	<u>£2668 6 4</u>			

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

(Signed) WALTER CONWAY & Co.,
Hon. Auditors.

Chester.
9th February, 1961.

EXCAVATIONS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS for year ended 31st December, 1960

RECEIPTS	£ s. d.	PAYMENTS	£ s. d.
1960 Balance brought forward	37 1 5	1960 Balance at Bank 31/12/60	37 1 5
	<u>£37 1 5</u>		<u>£37 1 5</u>

We have examined the above Account with the Bank Statements and in our opinion it is correctly recorded.

(Signed) WALTER CONWAY & Co.,
Hon. Auditors.

Chester.
9th February, 1961.