

## THE CHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### ANNUAL REPORT 1969

The Council presents its report below for the year ending 31st December 1969.

#### 1. *Officers and Council*

At the Annual General Meeting held on 12th April 1969, the following officials were elected for the ensuing year :

Chairman :	Miss A. F. Estelle Dyke, M.C.S.P.
Vice-Chairman :	Mr. J. D. Seys Llewellyn, M.A.
Hon. Secretary :	Dr. R. T. Ackroyd, PH.D., D.ENG.
Hon. Assistant Secretary for Excavations :	Mr. D. F. Petch, B.A., F.S.A., A.M.A.
Hon. Assistant Secretary for Membership :	Mr. J. T. Driver, B.LITT., M.A.
Hon. Treasurer :	Mr. J. S. Collicutt
Hon. Editor :	Mrs. E. K. Berry, M.A.
Hon. Librarian :	Mr. P. D. Pocklington, F.L.A.
Hon. Secretary to the Trustees of St. John's House :	Mr. D. A. Nicholls
Two Members of Council :	Mr. J. T. Driver, B.LITT., M.A. Mr. G. Burkinshaw, O.B.E.

#### 2. *Election of Representatives*

The following Representatives were elected :

Civic Amenities Committee :	Mrs. G. M. Jones, J.P. Mr. B. C. Redwood, M.A.
Group 5 Council for British Archaeology :	Mr. D. F. Petch, B.A., F.S.A., A.M.A. Mr. K. E. Jermy, M.A., A.R.HIST.S.

#### 3. *Lectures*

The following lectures were given :

4 January 1969	—Archaeological Evidence of the Vikings in Northern England. Dr. D. M. Wilson, M.A., F.S.A.
8 March 1969	—Thomas Brock, A Chester Candlestick Maker. Mr. R. Sherlock, B.A., F.S.A.
15 March 1969	—15th Century Cheshire. Mr. J. T. Driver, B.A., B.LITT.
8 November 1969	—Chester Elections 1784-1826. A Study of Elec- toral and Social History. Dr. O'Gorman, B.A.

- 15 November 1969 —The Railways of Chester.  
Mr. K. D. Holt, B.A.
- 6 December 1969 —The Massie Lecture—Excavations at Bath.  
Prof. B. W. Cunliffe, M.A., PH.D., F.S.A.

#### 4. *Excursions*

In May 1969, Mr. K. E. Jermy, M.A., showed members some of the Roman roads of Cheshire he had investigated. Members appreciated this field work follow-up of his recent lecture to the Society.

Early in August 1969, Mr. F. H. Thompson, M.C., M.A., F.S.A., showed members the progress that had been made with the excavation of the Amphitheatre since the time he had vacated the Curatorship of the Grosvenor Museum.

Late in August 1969, members were invited by Lt. Col. J. P. Leicester-Warren, T.D., to see Tabley House and Chapel. After tea, members were shown around Knutsford by the Knutsford Society.

#### 5. *Old Market Hall Excavations*

Given a rather inadequate period of six weeks, Mr. J. V. H. Eames uncovered a further part of the elliptical building lying west of the *praetorium*, and also identified the building on its south side as a bath-building. In a further period of work later in the summer Mr. Eames was able to explore the bath-building further.

From 14th July 1969 to 28th February 1970, excavations directed by Mr. D. F. Petch for the Grosvenor Museum uncovered the northern side of the *principia* (headquarters building) from the *sacellum* to the north-west corner. In all five rooms were partially uncovered, that nearest to the *sacellum* being an ancillary shrine. Only the later floor levels survived a drastic reconstruction of probably early third-century date.

#### 6. *Goss Street Excavations: First Cohort Barracks*

Work also continued on the site of the Assay Office in Goss Street, where Mr. G. M. R. Davies directed excavations for the Grosvenor Museum. Two barracks separated by an 18-foot alley were partially excavated, and the timber-built barracks were found to be of two distinct phases of construction. The north end of the eastern of these two barracks was uncovered on the Old Market Hall site, together with the north end of the barrack, partially excavated by Professor Richmond and Dr. Webster in 1947. The latter was found to face westwards, and not to the east as previously supposed: it was separated by a 15-foot gap from the next barrack, which also faced west, and was only 20 feet wide. The eastern of the barracks on the Goss Street site therefore presumably equates with the narrow 18-foot wide buildings defined in the Crook Street excavations, 1963.

#### 7. *Library*

The year saw no change in the pattern of use of the Society's library from that of recent years. The number of members who borrowed books was 19, compared

with 23 during 1968; the number of volumes loaned, 116, is three more than in the previous year.

Plans mentioned in the 1968 Annual Report designed to improve both security and storage arrangements were put into effect during the year under review. The complete collection of manuscripts was transferred to the safe keeping of the City Archivist and a number of volumes of little-used and mainly foreign periodicals moved to the Grosvenor Museum. By such measures not only has the security of many unique items in the library been ensured, but room has been made for the book and pamphlet collection to be more easily displayed. It is also hoped that by transferring the manuscripts to the City Record Office some positive benefit from the use made of these may ensue. Our best thanks are due to Mrs. Berry and Mr. Petch for their ready co-operation in these matters.

A reduction in the amount of money available for rebinding of books in the City's public libraries had repercussions for the Society's library and it was only possible to have some 20 volumes rebound (at a cost of £25 7s. 11d.) during 1969.

#### 8. *Journal*

During the year, Volume 54 of the *Journal* was issued to members. It contained reports by Mr. F. H. Thompson on excavations in Bolland's Court, Chester, 1954 and 1959; at Castle Hill, Oldcastle near Malpas, 1957; at Woolworth's, Chester, 1959; and at two Chester building sites, 1960; an article by Dorothy Sylvester on the parish and township in Cheshire and N.E. Wales; and an article by D. Nuttall on the history of printing in Chester.

#### 9. *Membership*

During the past year the Society has gained some 10 full members, two associate members and one institutional member (Clemson University, U.S.A.).

At the present moment some 48 American and Canadian universities are being approached as potential institutional members.

Although the rise in new members has been a little disappointing, yet the Society has increased its membership for two years running and if it can maintain this growth during the next two or three years it should then be in a reasonably happy position in this respect.

The Council thanks those members who have so kindly passed on to Mr. J. T. Driver the names of possible new members. The Council hopes that every member of the Society will encourage friends or relations to join.

#### 10. *Council*

The Council met during the year to consider Summer Outings, Winter Lectures, Membership, the *Journal*, and the Insall Report.

The Council was prominent in the formation of a joint committee of learned, professional and business societies to discuss the implementation of the Insall Report with the City Council. This joint committee, suggested by the Chester

Society, Council for the Preservation of Rural England, has been ably served by Mr. J. D. Seys Llewellyn and Mr. J. T. Driver.

The Council considered revisions of the rules for Life Membership. The new rules appeared in the calendar for 1969-70.

11. *Obituary*

At the October Council Meeting, Mr. J. D. Seys Llewellyn expressed the regret and deep sense of loss that all members felt on the passing of their devoted Chairman, Miss Estelle Dyke. The Society was most conscious of the great services that Miss Dyke had rendered as a Member of Council for many years, as an author of several learned articles, and for the last years as the first Lady Chairman of the Society.

THE CHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT 1970

The Council presents its Report below for the year ending 31st December 1970.

1. *Officers and Council*

At the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 4th April 1970, at 2.30 p.m. in the Grosvenor Museum, the following officials were elected:

Chairman:	Mr. J. D. Seys Llewellyn, M.A.
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. G. Burkinshaw, O.B.E.
Hon. Secretary:	Dr. R. T. Ackroyd, PH.D., D.ENG.
Hon. Assistant Secretary for Excavations:	Mr. D. F. Petch, B.A., F.S.A., A.M.A.
Hon. Assistant Secretary for Membership:	Mr. J. T. Driver, B.LITT., M.A.
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. J. S. Collicutt
Hon. Editor:	Mrs. E. K. Berry, M.A.
Hon. Librarian:	Mr. P. D. Pecklington, F.L.A.
Hon. Curator:	Mr. D. F. Petch, B.A., F.S.A., A.M.A.
Members of Council:	Mrs. G.M. Jones, J.P., Dr. R. W. Attwood, M.D., CH.B., Mr. E. M. Hawes, Mr. M. Bevan-Evans, M.A., F.S.A.

2. *Election of Representatives*

The following representatives were elected:

Civic Amenities Committee:	Mrs. G. M. Jones, J.P. Mr. B. C. Redwood, M.A.
Group 5 Council for British Archaeology:	Mr. D. F. Petch, B.A., F.S.A., A.M.A. Mr. K. E. Jermy, M.A., A.R.HIST.S.

3. *Lectures*

The following lectures were given:

10 January 1970	—The Elliptical Building—A Chester Enigma. Mr. J. V. H. Eames, M.A., F.S.A.
7 February 1970	—Some Aspects of Roman and British Architecture. Professor D. Strong, M.A., PH.D., F.S.A.
14 March 1970	—Old Market Hall Excavations. Mr. D. F. Petch, B.A., F.S.A., A.M.A., Curator, The Grosvenor Museum, and Hon. Curator to the Society.
12 September 1970	—The Centenary of the Education Act. Mr. C. D. Rogers, B.A., Didsbury College of Education.
3 October 1970	—Dieulacres Abbey. Mr. M. J. C. Fisher, M.A., Head of the History Department, King Edward VI Grammar School, Stafford.

- 14 November 1970 —William Aldersley and the Annals of Chester.  
Mr. D. M. Woodward, M.A., University of Hull.
- 12 December 1970 —The Massie Public Lecture.—The Way Ahead  
(Observations of the Chester Pilot Study in  
Conservation).  
Mr. Donald W. Insall, F.R.I.B.A.

Our President, the Lord Bishop of Chester, Dr. Gerald Ellison was in the Chair. After the meeting the Society entertained the Mayor and Mayoress, The Sheriff, Councillors and Principal Officers of the City and County to tea at the Bear and Billet.

#### 4. *Excursions*

In May Mr. J. T. Driver took members on a tour of Dorfold Hall, Acton Church, and Nantwich Church, concluding with tea at Church's Mansion.

In June the Secretary took members to see the recent excavations at Valle Crucis Abbey and visited the aqueduct at Fron Cysyllte. (This tour was arranged in conjunction with the lecture, given on the 9th January 1970, to the Society, by Dr. L. A. S. Butler, M.A., PH.D., F.S.A., of the University of Leeds.)

In July Mr. B. C. Redwood showed members round Halls and Churches of the English Maelor.

In September Mrs. E. K. Berry took members on a visit to Cholmondeley Chapel and Woodhey Chapel, concluding with tea at Church's Mansion in Nantwich.

In September the Secretary took members to see the excavations at Middlewich, which have been undertaken by Mr. Bestwick and were the subject of a lecture to the Society on the 13th March 1970.

#### 5. *Excavations in 1970*

Four excavations were undertaken during the year: apart from the Curator, those concerned with the supervision of various stages of this work were Mrs. Caroline Davies (née Young), Mrs. Betty Brotherton-Ratcliffe, Miss Margaret Moffat, G. M. R. Davies, T. E. Ward and D. J. Robinson. Mr. K. Jermy gave valued assistance with the work at Eaton Hall.

#### *Goss Street:*

Work continued during the year in advance of proposed redevelopment. Two further trenches on an east-west alignment were excavated, the larger of these covering the full width of the site. It confirmed the existence of two barracks on a north-south alignment separated by an alley of the usual width, and added the knowledge that behind the western of these there was another barrack facing east. The second trench was dug at the northern end of the site, and although rather badly disturbed provided further useful information on the barracks and the alley between them.

The north-west corner of a centurion's house was located to the south of the eastern barrack, and the north wall of the adjacent centurion's house was also revealed to the west of this. Should the opportunity arise it is highly desirable that further work be done on the plan of these buildings.

*St. John Street :*

Four exploratory trenches were dug in advance of work on an extension to the Telephone Exchange. The unexpectedly deep overburden was found to conceal an extensive area of sandstone surfacing reminiscent of the supposed parade-ground surfacing revealed east of Frodsham Street in 1966. Sealed beneath the surface was the trench for a Roman culvert which was apparently left unfinished. The surfacing ran out towards the east side of the site where it was replaced by spreads of make-up. Another culvert trench was located, similar in appearance to the first, but on a different alignment, and also a V-shaped gully. The absence of clear signs of structure, apart from the uncompleted drainage system, suggested that continued exploration would be unprofitable, although observation will be maintained on the construction works.

*Eaton Hall :*

Members of an Extra-Mural class under the Curator worked throughout the year from mid-April on the location of the Roman road line north of Garden Lodge. Three distinct periods of construction of the road were identified. The Roman road was proved to be virtually identical in alignment with the old carriage road, with its accompanying avenue of trees.

*Inner Ring Road :*

A watching brief has also been maintained on the Inner Ring Road works. Only one rather nebulous area of Roman cobbling was located, and it would seem that the civil settlement did not extend very far north of Foregate Street. However, a considerable amount of material was recovered, including an amphora sherd with a painted inscription, and a fine Roman auxiliary cavalry 'horse-brass'.

*6. Journal*

During the year Volume 55 of the *Journal* was issued to members. It contained an introductory article by D. F. Petch on the Praetorium at Deva and an article by V. Nutton on the altar of a Greek doctor, Antiochus, found on the site, an article by D. F. Petch on earth moving machines and their employment on archaeological excavations, an article by J. McN. Dodgson on place-names and street-names at Chester, and an article by H. Robinson on Cheshire river navigations with special reference to the River Dee.

Offprints of some of these articles are still available and enquiries should be addressed to the Honorary Editor.

*7. Library*

The number of volumes borrowed from the Society's library rose to 146, an increase of 30 over 1969. This is somewhat surprising since the number of members using the collection dropped from 19 in 1969 to 16 during the year under review.

Owing to the continuing difficult financial situation, it was not possible to have any items bound during 1970.

*8. Obituary*

The Society has lost through the death of the Ven. R. V. H. Burne, M.A., F.S.A., lately the Dean of Chester Cathedral, a pillar of the Society for many years. A full obituary notice will appear in the next issue of the *Journal*.

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1969

1968	Receipts			1969		1968	Payments			1969	
	£	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
	Subscriptions	434	3 10			1	Rent of Lecture Room	1	0 0		
	Arrears	11	5 0				Printing & Stationery	42	11 0		
351	Advances	5	5 0				John Sherratt & Son				
				450	13 10	948	Ltd.—Journal	481	15 7	524	6 7
29	Journal Sales			27	2 6		<i>Postages</i>				
29	Sales of Roman Stones						Hon. Treasurer	8	0 0		
	Catalogue			14	15 2		Hon. Editor	8	17 6		
4	Receipts from Outings						Hon. Secretary	3	10 5		
22	Sundry Receipts				12 2	46	J. T. Driver Esq.	2	6 9	22	14 8
	Donations			15	15 0						
	<i>Grants</i>						1	Insurance of Library			
	Council of British						10	Subscriptions to Kindred			
	Archaeology	133	19 0				Societies			16	0 0
	Ministry of Public						6	Donations			
	Works	145	4 10	279	3 10		9	Purchases of Sundry Books		11	6
							5	Sundry Items		4	5 0
591	Deficit on year							Lecturers Expenses		12	2 0
								Deficit on Visits and Outings		1	11 9
								Non Recurring Items			
								Surplus for year		205	11 0
1026				788	2 6	1026				788	2 6

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1969

		£	s. d.	£	s. d.		Library at Insurance Value	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
	Accumulated Fund			656	6 5					500	0 0
	F. H. Crossley Bequest	500	0 0				<i>Balance at Bank</i>				
	Interest	12	18 1				Current Account	361	17 5		
				512	18 1		Deposit Account	512	18 1	874	15 6
	Surplus on year			205	11 0						
				1374	15 6					1374	15 6

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

HARMOOD BANNER & CO.,  
Chartered Accountants  
Hon. Auditors

Chester  
5th March, 1970



## THE CHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## EXCAVATION ACCOUNT—YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1969

<i>Receipts</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
Ministry of Public Works ... ..	2100 0 0
Chester Corporation ... ..	1900 0 0
	<u>4000 0 0</u>
Balance at Bank 31.12.1968 ... ..	684 5 1
Surplus for the year ... ..	28 5 7
Balance at Bank 31.12.1969 ... ..	<u>712 10 8</u>

<i>Payments</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
Sundry Expenses in connection with Excavations at the Town Hall, Chester ... ..	3971 14 5
Surplus for the year ... ..	28 5 7
	<u>4000 0 0</u>

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

HARMOOD BANNER & Co.,  
Chartered Accountants  
Hon. Auditors

Chester  
5th March, 1970

## THE CHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY RE ST. JOHN'S HOUSE

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY, 1970

<i>Receipts</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
Bank Interest ... ..	93 3 8
Investment Interest ... ..	155 16 6
Repayment of Income Tax ... ..	52 2 5
	<u>301 2 7</u>
Balance 31.1.1969 ... ..	1541 19 8
Surplus for the year ... ..	301 2 7
Balance 31.1.1970 ... ..	<u>1843 2 3</u>

<i>Payments</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
Balance Carried Down ... ..	301 2 7
	<u>301 2 7</u>

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

HARMOOD BANNER & Co.,  
Chartered Accountants  
Hon. Auditors

Chester  
5th March, 1970



## EXCAVATIONS ACCOUNT—YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1970

<i>Receipts</i>		<i>Payments</i>	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Ministry of Public Works ... ..	1,000 0 0	Sundry Expenses in connection with Excavations at Chester ... ..	1,319 0 6
Chester Corporation ... ..	750 0 0	Surplus for the year ... ..	430 19 6
	<u>£1750 0 0</u>		<u>£1750 0 0</u>
Balance at Bank 31.12.69 ... ..	712 10 8	We have examined the above Receipts and Pay- ments Account with the Vouchers and Bank Statements and in our opinion it is recorded correctly.	
Surplus on year ... ..	430 19 6		
	<u>£1143 10 2</u>		
Balance at Bank 31.12.70 ... ..			

HARMOOD BANNER & Co.,  
Chartered Accountants  
Hon. Auditors

Chester  
8th March, 1971

re ST. JOHN'S HOUSE

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR

ENDED 31st JANUARY, 1971

<i>Receipts</i>		<i>Payments</i>	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Bank Interest ... ..	104 6 8	Balance carried down ... ..	391 7 11
Investment Interest ... ..	233 16 9		<u>£391 7 11</u>
Repayment of Income Tax ... ..	53 4 6	We have examined the above Statement of the Receipts and Payments together with the Bank Books and find it to be correctly recorded.	
	<u>£391 7 11</u>		
Balance at 31.1.70 ... ..	1,843 2 3		
Surplus for year ... ..	391 7 11		
	<u>£2234 10 2</u>		
Balance at 31.1.71 ... ..			

HARMOOD BANNER & Co.,  
Chartered Accountants  
Hon. Auditors

Chester  
8th March, 1971

