

# JOURNAL OF THE CHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## Editorial

The Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society will henceforth appear in this new format, and will be printed by an offset litho process. The reasons for these changes are not hard to find. In common with all learned societies, the Chester Archaeological Society has been affected by the rapid inflation in the cost of both paper and printing. The production of the Journal has always been the major item of expenditure for the Society, so the extent of inflation has placed a heavy burden on the Society's finances. Like many other local and national societies therefore, the Council of the Society decided to examine ways of reducing the cost of its publication, and ensure its long-term survival. The changes implemented in this volume are the result of the deliberations of the sub-committee set up for that purpose.

On this occasion of changes, it is worth examining the aims of the Journal. The publication of a journal has been an activity of the Society since its inception, and has made the Society well known beyond its own geographical area. The vast body of information contained in the past issues of the Journal has made it a most valuable publication for reference and research. The policy has always been to publish papers of a high academic standard, and this is the cornerstone of policy today. The title of the publication 'Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society' may however give a misleading impression of its scope. 'Chester' can in fact be interpreted as the area dominated historically by the County Palatine of Chester. Broadly, papers dealing with Cheshire and North Wales, with no rigid rules about old or new boundaries, are acceptable; this remains the area historically regarded as the Society's home ground. It should not be thought either that the Society restricts its interests to 'Archaeology' narrowly defined.

As the members are well aware from the Society's programme of lectures and excursions, and as a glance at the 'Contents' page of this volume makes clear, the interests of the society are much wider. Archaeology, History and Architecture have always been the three subjects that the Society has pursued. This remains the case. There must be many people at present outside the Society who do not realise the Society's full scope of activities and interests. Members of the Society have an opportunity to convey to potential new members this breadth of interest, and thus to strengthen the Society and its Journal.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of the people who have helped in the production of this volume. My fellow members of the publications sub-committee have been of great help to me and the support of the members and officers of the Council has been most valuable. The strength of the Journal depends ultimately however on the quality of papers submitted by the contributors, and we have been particularly fortunate in the standard of contributions received for this volume.

Patrick Greene, April 1976.

