

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1977

President, Officers, and Members of Council

At the Annual General Meeting on 12 March 1977 it was unanimously agreed to invite Earl Grosvenor to become President in succession to the Duke of Westminster. We are delighted that Earl Grosvenor has accepted the invitation. Mrs. A. G. Jones, J.P., was re elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

The other officers of the Council were duly confirmed or elected, together with four members to serve for the period 1977-80 and representatives to serve on the St. John's House Trust and on Group V of the Council for British Archaeology.

During the year the Council was represented on the Conservation Area Advisory Committee of the City and District of Chester and on the County Palatine of Chester Local History Committee of the Cheshire Community Council.

Lectures

12 January: Miss G. Lloyd-Morgan, B.A., Grosvenor Museum, Chester: '*Mundus Muliebris*: a survey of the mirror in classical antiquity'.

2 February: The John Lowe Lecture 1976-77: Dr. J. Mordaunt Crook, Reader in Architectural History, Bedford College, London: 'Thomas Harrison, architect, of Lancaster and Chester'.

12 March: The Annual General Meeting. After the business was concluded a talk was given to the Society by C. N. Moore, M.A., F.M.A., Curator of the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, on 'Recent Acquisitions'.

2 April: G. P. Higgins, M.A., Catholic High School, Chester: 'The Cheshire Militia from the Armada to the Civil War'.

12 October: The John Lowe Lecture 1977-78: Dr. Ann Birchall, Assistant Keeper, Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities, British Museum: 'The Story of H.M.S. Colossus and Hamilton's Greek Vases'.

12 November: P. H. W. Booth, M.A., Lecturer in History, Institute of Extension Studies, University of Liverpool: 'Farming for profit in the fourteenth century: the Cheshire estates of the earldom of Chester'.

3 December: The Massie Lecture: J. P. Greene, B.Sc., A.M.A., Archaeology and Museum Officer, Runcorn Development Corporation: 'The Archaeology of Norton Priory and its Estates'.

The Society was very happy to welcome its President, Earl Grosvenor, at the John Lowe Lectures in February and October, and the Mayor of Chester, Councillor Mrs. S. M. N. Garston, at the Massie Lecture.

Summer Excursions

A record number of members took part in the visits. On 7 May Mr. Redwood led a visit to Styal village and mill. Many members enjoyed nostalgia at the Tramways Museum at Crich, which was followed by a visit to Treak Cliff Cavern at Castleton, on 18 June. For the weekend excursion in July fifty two members returned to Hadrian's Wall to see the eastern half of the Roman defences, followed by a guided tour of Durham Cathedral. On 10 September Miss Kennett and Mr. Harrison led an expedition to Powys Castle and the Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway, and the programme ended on 22 October when the excavations at Norton Priory were visited.

The Society wishes to express its appreciation of the work done by Mr. G. R. Coppack, the Excursions Secretary, who organised the programme and conducted three of the visits, and to Mr. Harrison, Miss Kennett and Mr. Redwood for organising and guiding their respective tours.

The Journal

Volume 60 was published in September 1977 under the editorship of Mr. J. P. Greene.

Membership

The Society has 370 individual and 60 institutional members. The Council wishes to thank those members who have introduced their friends to the Society, whether directly or by bringing them on the excursions or to social events.

Industrial Archaeology Section

This section has the support of some forty members. During the year visits were arranged to the Sankey Canal and the Snailbeach lead mines. The Society has taken part in the Managing Committee of Bunbury Mill and is to play an active part in the restoration of Bridge Trafford Mill, where a display area will be allocated to the Society. Future plans include a number of visits and the collection of local archive material on the Bridge Trafford area.

Grosvenor Museum

A new lease between the City and the Society concerning the use of the Grosvenor Museum for lectures and other purposes has been agreed.

Constitution of the Society

Copies of the Constitution of the Society have been deposited at the Chester City Record Office, the Cheshire Record Office, and the Grosvenor Museum, and may be examined on request.

Social Events

A cheese and wine reception followed the John Lowe Lecture in February, when the Society collaborated with the Grosvenor Museum which was opening an exhibition on the work of Thomas Harrison. A buffet supper followed a lecture by Dr. B. E. Harris to celebrate the centenary of the publication of the first volume of J. P. Earwaker's *East Cheshire*, and an exhibition of Earwaker's Manuscripts was organised by the Chester City Record Office. The event was held in the newly decorated Council Chamber of the Town Hall on 4 November.

Obituaries

We have to record with regret the deaths of three members of the Society, Dr. W. McGee Morgan, Mrs. M. Grundy and Mr. W. H. Wright.

Library

The Library of the Chester Archaeological Society, a fine collection of approximately 6,700 items, is housed in the Chester City Record Office in the Town Hall. Members are reminded that access outside normal office hours may be obtained by prior arrangement with the City Archivist. Members have continued to make extensive use of the Library and 151 items were borrowed between 1 January and 31 December 1977. The system of entering books borrowed in a register has been replaced by a member ticket system. The Honorary Librarian is grateful to Mr. R. Benton of Chester Public Library for his help in establishing this system. The management of a library of this size involves a considerable amount of work. However, under the arrangement whereby the City Archivist is Honorary Librarian, the resources of the Record Office are able to be mobilised for the benefit of the Library. In return, the Library may be used, for reference only, by other users of the Record Office. The Honorary Librarian would like to record her thanks to Mr. S. Harrison and, from September 1977, Mr. J. Grisenthwaite (Assistant Archivist), Mr. S. T. Cooper (clerk), Mrs. E. L. Souter (shorthand typist), and Mr. P. Doran (repairer/bookbinder) for their help in administering and conserving the Library.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Society the Council would like to record its appreciation of the help it received throughout the year from the Curator, Mr. C. N. Moore, and his staff at the Grosvenor Museum.

The Council also wishes to express its thanks to the Honorary Auditors, Messrs. Deloitte and Company, for their work in auditing the Society's financial accounts.

*RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER 1977*

		1977	
		£	p
Subscriptions			930.37
Sale of Journals, Prints, etc.,			120.17
Sundry Receipts:			
Surplus on visits and outings			158.32
Grants			448.87
			£1,657.73
Rent of Lecture Room	14.00		
Printing, Stationery and Journals	3,312.66		
Postages:			
Secretary	76.23		
Membership Secretary	3.97		
Treasurer	8.53		
Events Secretary	11.53		
Others	9.47		
Subscriptions to Kindred Bodies	17.50		
Lecture Expenses	66.62		
Grants and Gratuities	5.00		
Subscriptions Refunded	4.25		
Insurances	—		
			3,529.76
Deficit for the year			£1,872.03

Re: ST. JOHNS HOUSE

*RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 1977*

		£	p
Bank Interest Received			54.09
Investment Income			765.75
			£819.84
<i>Represented by:</i>			
Balance at 31st January 1977		5,720.46	
<i>Add:</i> Surplus for the year		819.84	
			£6,540.30

Note:

Certain investments are held on behalf of St. Johns House Trustees which are only to be expended on excavation in connection with the ampitheatre and are not, therefore, included on the Society's Balance Sheet.

AUDITORS' REPORT

We have examined the above Statement of Receipts and Payments, together with the Bank Statements and find it to be correctly recorded.

16 Watergate Row,
Chester.
2nd February, 1978.

DELOITTE,
Chartered Accountants.

