

GALLERIES WHICH THEY CALL  
THE ROWS



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On only two previous occasions has an entire issue of the *Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society* been devoted to a particular subject. In 1924 the Society published as Volume 25 Canon Rupert H. Morris' work on *The Siege of Chester 1643-1646*; and in 1966 Canon Maurice H. Ridgway's *Chester Goldsmiths from Early Times to 1726* was published as Volume 53. Normally the *Journal* contains a variety of articles reflecting all aspects of the Society's interests. However, a national Festival of Architecture was held in 1984 and as one of the local contributions to the Festival, the Chester Archaeological Society organised a one day conference, choosing an appropriate theme, the Rows of Chester, subject of fierce debate in the Society in the 1890s and again in the 1950s. Six papers were presented at the conference; they stimulated great interest and discussion and whilst the central problem of the origin of the Rows remains unsolved, their development from the Norman period was illustrated from a variety of sources. At its meeting on 13 November 1984 the Society's Council therefore decided that as a permanent record of the Society's contribution to the Festival of Architecture, Volume 67 of the *Journal* should be devoted to the Rows.

Four of the authors of papers published in this volume, Miss Kennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. Strickland and Mr. Ward, were also responsible as officers of Chester City Council for producing an exhibition entitled 'Galleries which they call the Rows' at the Chester Heritage Centre during the summer of 1984. The title of the exhibition, taken from William Smith's description written in the 1580s, has been adopted for this *Journal*: both the exhibition and the present volume demonstrate how the disciplines of archaeology, architecture and history can be brought together to illuminate the history of a unique feature of Chester's heritage.

The Society wishes to express its gratitude to Cheshire County Council and to the St. John's House Trust for generous contributions towards the cost of producing this volume.

Annette M. Kennett  
B. E. Harris  
T. J. Strickland

#### ABBREVIATIONS

<i>J.C.A.S.</i>	<i>Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society</i>
<i>R.S.L.C.</i>	Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire
<i>R. H. Morris, Chester</i>	<i>R. H. Morris, Chester in the Plantagenet and Tudor Reigns, [1894]</i>

*Authors of papers are responsible for statements or opinions  
which they express*

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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