

SURREY RECORDS

The Guildford Muniment Room

The new Muniment Room at the Castle Arch, the erection of which was made possible through the generosity of a private donor in 1928, was formally approved in 1930 by the Master of the Rolls as a place of deposit for manorial records. It has been built in accordance with the standards recognized by archive authorities for a fireproof and properly ventilated repository and is now fully equipped with shelving for the storage of manorial and other records relating to the county. The arrangement and cataloguing of its contents are being carried out by Honorary Officers appointed by the Museum Committee, who act in consultation with two Honorary Advisors nominated by the Surrey Record Society, the present Advisors being both Assistant Keepers of the Public Records. Arrangements for access to and inspection of the documents at convenient times can be made with the Honorary Officers.

In addition to the considerable number of Surrey records which the Society already possessed and which have now been placed in the muniment room, a large number of new accessions have been made since the project of the room was started. These include about 1,100 deeds relating to Witley and the neighbourhood and about 200 from the collection of Sir Robert Clayton relating to many different parishes in Surrey purchased by the Surrey Archæological Society. Chief amongst the presented documents is a large and very valuable collection from Mr. Leigh-Bennett of Chertsey. This contains court rolls of Thorpe in addition to many deeds and documents relating to places in Surrey and elsewhere and dating from the early thirteenth century. Other presentations include some boxes of court rolls and other records of Surrey manors from a solicitor's office which have been sent by the British Record Society, and a box of miscellaneous papers from Mr. Reginald Bray of Shere.

It is hoped that all owners of manorial or family records of Surrey interest will consider the possibility of depositing them

either as gifts or on more or less permanent loan in the Guildford muniment room, where all conditions as to their safe custody can now be satisfied. Preliminary inquiries should be addressed to the Honorary Archivist at the Castle Arch.

Surrey Record Society

In connection with the subject of Surrey records the attention of members of the Archæological Society, especially of those who have recently joined, may perhaps be called here to the work of the Surrey Record Society. This Society was founded in 1913 for the purpose of printing records relating to the county and has already issued over thirty numbers or parts dealing with a variety of classes of documents. Amongst its completed volumes may be mentioned those containing the Muster Rolls from the MSS. at Loseley, Surrey Wills in the Archdeaconry Court (2 volumes), Surrey Apprenticeships, 1711-1731, the Surrey Pipe Roll of 1295, the Court Rolls of Carshalton, and the Parish Registers of Wimbledon, Abinger, Wotton and Oakwood. Works in progress and partly issued include the Chertsey Cartularies, Taxation Returns and, probably most important of all to the general student, the series of Guides to Surrey Records which have been the subject of very favourable comment in the historical press. Guides already issued have been to records relating to the county in the Public Record Office, to the records of Parishes and Boroughs, to the Court Rolls and to the records of Schools and other Endowed Institutions: and a section dealing with Sessions Records is about to appear. In most of these the Society has worked in collaboration with the Surrey County Council.

The headquarters of the Society are now at the Castle Arch, Guildford, and the annual subscription is one pound. Inquiries respecting the Society should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary.