

THE SOCIETY'S COLLECTION OF ANTIQUITIES AND RECORDS

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LIKE most other societies of a similar nature, the Surrey Archæological Society has, from its earliest days, owned or received in trust objects of antiquarian interest and records, usually though not always bearing on the history of the county.

It is true that the first set of rules, drawn up in 1853 before the inaugural meeting in the following year, makes no specific provision for such collections as one of the objects of the Society, speaking only of collecting and publishing information, but it is nevertheless implicit in Rule XX, which defines the property of the Society as "books, casts and other articles." In fact, it was not until the rules were revised in 1949 that the collection of material, both museum objects and records, as well as of information about them, was officially pronounced one of the Society's aims.

The two collections have had a rather different history, and will therefore be treated separately; in both cases, however, their later history is so closely interwoven with that of the Guildford Museum and Muniment Room respectively that the story of their origin and development must find some place in a volume devoted to the Surrey Archæological Society.

The history of the Society's antiquarian collections falls into several clearly marked stages: the first period, up to the time when the Society's Headquarters were established at Guildford in 1898; the second, during which the Society was entirely responsible for the Museum at Castle Arch; the third, from 1911 to 1933, when the Society's property formed part of Guildford Museum, under the management of a committee composed of equal numbers from the Society and from the Borough Council; the fourth period, since 1933, when the Society's collections remain on loan in a Museum which is

now that of Guildford Corporation alone. In all these changes three strands of interest are clearly to be observed, with the emphasis sometimes on one, sometimes on another. They are the actual growth of the collections themselves, either by gift, loan, purchase or excavation; the successive attempts to find them suitable accommodation and the methods adopted for their care and preservation.

In the early days it was, naturally enough, the acquisition of objects which engrossed the attention of members. The very first were a terra-cotta ring found in Richmond Park and some coins (afterwards returned to the donor by mistake!) and a stone celt from Coombe Hill, Kingston, presented immediately after the first Annual General Meeting at Kingston in 1854.

A meeting of the Society was held at Chertsey in April 1855, and as the practice then was, local residents were invited to lend objects of antiquarian interest which were on view to members during the meeting and afterwards to the public. The Society profited from this to the extent of a number of books and museum objects, presented by the recently defunct Chertsey Literary and Scientific Institution and a few other gifts from residents of Chertsey. It is noticeable that in these first few years the local interest aroused by a meeting of the Society in any particular place usually brought accessions to the Society's Museum, as it was beginning to be called.

By the time of the second Annual General Meeting at Guildford in June 1855 the Council was able to congratulate members on the progress already made towards a Library and Museum, which included, besides the objects just mentioned, the collection, mainly Roman and Mediæval, formed by Mr. Joshua Butterworth and found chiefly in London and Southwark.

The first volume of the *Collections* contains a list of the contents of the Museum, up to about the middle of the year 1856. It includes the Chertsey and Butterworth collections, and a number of interesting individual finds, such as two fine 13th century jugs from Guildford. Archæologically speaking, the most interesting item is the fragments of Chertsey tiles, given by various members, but not apparently derived from the excavations supported by the Society. In fact, a collection of tiles belonging to the excavator was bought in 1858 for £3 3s. 0d.

The second strand of interest, the accommodation problem,

was already, even in these first few years, acute, as indeed it has remained practically ever since. It is sad to read, in the Annual Report for 1855, that the Council had to "postpone their acceptance of", *i.e.* refuse, the offer of architectural fragments from Bermondsey Abbey because of lack of space. All the Society's property was housed in the rooms of the Honorary Secretary, first at Notting Hill, then, until 1860, at Southampton Street, Covent Garden, then in the City and, from Michaelmas 1863, at Danes Inn. This arrangement was clearly not found satisfactory, and only three years later we find the first suggestion that the Society should delegate the care of its antiquities to others, in this case to the Directors of the Croydon Public Hall, where, so Mr. Wickham Flower reported, "an excellent museum had been established." The project fell through this time, but was revived at the end of 1871, with a change to the Croydon Literary and Scientific Institution. The moving spirit of this proposal was again Mr. Wickham Flower, who induced the Council to regard it as the first step towards a County Museum (the first time that such a project was actually put into words). A circular letter to the four hundred and eighteen members regarding the choice of place for the Museum brought only thirty-three replies (perhaps an indication of the interest taken in it by the rank and file!); twenty-four were in favour of Croydon, one of Southwark and eight of Guildford, where the Mechanics' Institute, backed by the Town Council, was willing to provide accommodation on the same terms as were offered at Croydon.

The arrangement, rightly described as "very advantageous" to the Society, was that the Directors of the Institution undertook to provide free accommodation for the Society's antiquities and for all subsequent antiquities found in the county, glass cases when necessary, free access to members at all reasonable times and to return the Society's property with subsequent additions when required. Besides this, the Society's collections were to be correctly catalogued and labelled by the curator.

The question of accommodation and care being thus settled, it was confidently hoped that there would be a rapid growth of the Museum, and the Annual Report for 1872 appealed to members to increase it by contributing from their private stores or from any discoveries that might be made.

These hopes were not realized. After a very promising start,

accessions had fallen off in a most disappointing way. From 1860 onwards, fewer and fewer accessions are recorded and even after the move to Croydon there was no revival either from members' "private stores" or from the many new discoveries being made at that time. It is in general remarkable that the products of excavations, even when paid for out of the Society's funds, seldom find their way into the Society's collections except after a very considerable time-lag, perhaps up to fifty years or so.

It may have been this lack of support which led to the revival of the whole idea of a County Museum, which was fully discussed at the Annual General Meeting of 1877, and an abortive attempt was made to secure the old Archbishopal Palace at Croydon for the purpose. Exactly when Guildford was first seriously considered as a home for the Society's Museum we do not know, but when Guildford Corporation bought the Castle and Bowling Green Estate in 1885, the Council of the Society lost no time in congratulating the Corporation on its purchase and intimating that if the Corporation would provide a suitable room or building the Society would consider moving its collection of antiquities to Guildford. Three years later, on the initiative of Mr. G. C. Williamson of Guildford, the move was approved in principle and the only reason why the actual removal was so long delayed (till 1898) was that the corner house at Castle Arch, which was considered far and away the most suitable of possible premises, did not fall vacant until then.

Meanwhile conditions at Croydon were far from satisfactory. Scarcely a single accession is recorded for the years 1872-90; the promised catalogue was not made; there are stories of broken glass and broken locks, culminating in a visit by the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Mill Stephenson, in 1892; he reported that he found the collections in a "deplorable condition," and remonstrated with the librarian, after which he was not surprised to receive notice to remove the Society's property. This he accordingly did and the Society's collection of antiquities was put into store until removed to Guildford six years later.

The terms of the Society's tenancy at Castle Arch do not strictly concern us here, except in so far that one of the conditions of the low rent (£12 per annum) was that the public should be admitted free on one morning or afternoon a week.

The internal alterations, for which the Society was responsible, were paid for out of what was called the "Museum Fund"—a sum of £273 being specially subscribed. The large room beneath the Library was fitted up with new glass cases and the exhibits were sent from the Croydon warehouse and arranged.

The Society's collection was thus now housed in the building which has been its home for fifty-five years, more than half the Society's total existence, having had six removals in the previous forty-five. Almost immediately, the stream of new accessions, gifts and loans, began to flow again, chiefly antiquities from South-west Surrey. Not every offer was accepted, however. In 1899, the Society declined some six hundred coins from the Guildford Working Men's Club, on the ground that they had not been found in Surrey and anyway many of them were forgeries. This is the first official declaration of the policy that exhibits should be restricted to those bearing on the county of Surrey, though its effect was somewhat spoiled by the acceptance, two months later, of some Roman glass from Rome. In the past, it is clear, Surrey exhibits had been preferred, but quite a lot of unrelated material was also accepted. For example, the early gift from the Chertsey Literary and Scientific Institution had included a stuffed alligator as well as genuinely local material, and a number of objects from New Zealand were accepted before 1860, while British antiquities from other parts of the country were freely added. From now on, however, in spite of occasional exceptions, the trend was to concentrate more and more on Surrey exhibits alone: all merely sensational offers, such as a double thumb in pickle, were severely discouraged.

For the first time the Society was running its own Museum, which was accessible to the public as well as to members and was freely used by them, at any rate on the free day. The new accessions were of general interest, consisting as they did very often of local finds, *e.g.*, mediæval pottery from Guildford High Street, Mr. Frank Lasham's fine collection of local flints and objects from the Chiddingfold Roman Villa (discovered in 1883). An important step forward was taken in 1903, when Mr. Frederick H. Elsley was appointed Librarian and Curator to the Society with an annual honorarium of £5. His duties were meant to be primarily in the Library, but now began his

association with the Museum which ended only with his death in 1944. Mr. Elsley's most useful characteristic was a remarkable visual memory, so that years afterwards he was able to give particulars of any of the very many exhibits which had come into the Museum in his time; in addition he was very well known in Guildford and the neighbourhood and did a great deal to popularize the Museum and its collections.

Another step with important consequences for the future was the Council's decision in 1905 to accept exhibits which, had there been a Town Museum in Guildford, might have found a home there, the idea being that a Town Museum might be formed at some time, distinct from the Society's collections. Probably the most noteworthy object which came in under this arrangement was the plaster figure of the White Hart, the old Inn sign, which is still such a familiar figure in Guildford Museum today.

For the time being, therefore, the Society had every reason to feel that its Museum was prospering, until 1907, when it received an offer which brought the old question of accommodation to the fore again in full force. Miss Gertrude Jekyll of Munstead (better known to a wider circle as a garden expert) offered the Society the whole of her very valuable collection of cottage furniture and utensils, acquired by her in South-west Surrey over a period of thirty years. If the Society had provided the necessary extra accommodation itself on the existing site, it would have been essential to have the premises on a long lease instead of a yearly tenancy, and, to obtain the sanction of the Local Government Board, a rent more nearly approximating to the actual annual value of the premises would have had to be charged, which would probably have been beyond the Society's capacity to pay. The problem was eventually solved by suggesting to the Town Council that they should erect a Museum building on the garden of the Castle Arch house, along Quarry Street, and that the Society would then place its collections therein. This suggestion was agreed to, with the difference that the additional building was erected, not out of the rates, but by the generosity of Mr. Ferdinand Smallpeice. Mr. Smallpeice was a member of a very old Guildford family, for generations closely connected with the Corporation, of which he was at that time an Alderman. Both Borough and Society have every cause to remember his name with gratitude,

not merely for his financial generosity on this occasion, but for long years of service to both.

It was not until February 1911 that the new building was ready for occupation, when the Mayor of Guildford took formal possession of it on behalf of Guildford Corporation. With the approval by the Town Council, in 1912, of the Rules of Management for the Museum, known as "The Guildford Borough and Surrey Archæological Society's Museum," the third stage in the history of the Society's antiquarian collections began.

The theory was that the Town provided the building and the Society most of the exhibits, though some of the existing exhibits already belonged to the Town and it was expected that more would accrue to it. Both parties were to make a financial contribution, the Town £25 and the Society, eventually, £15 yearly. The rest of the income was to come from admission fees and subscriptions. The management was to be in the hands of a committee, known as the Joint Committee, consisting of equal numbers from each party. It was also laid down that a register was to be compiled, showing what exhibits belonged to each party at the time of the opening of the new Museum, and what accrued to each from time to time. The free afternoons were increased to three (that being the requirement of the relevant Act of Parliament). Mr. Elsley continued as Curator, though his employer in this capacity was now the Joint Committee and not the Society.

The new building more than doubled the available accommodation; it had a modern appearance, was bright and light, with a large expanse of glass roof and fixed cases (known as cupboards) along one long side. The wood was teak, a wise provision for which one cannot be sufficiently grateful, as this wood is resistant to all insect pests and is probably the finest available for Museum purposes. Miss Jekyll's collection, part of which had meanwhile been on exhibition in Kingston Museum, was fully displayed, and, taking advantage of the increased space, Mr. G. C. Leveson-Gower placed his large collection of antiquities from Titsey in the Museum on loan. Other archæological additions came from the Iron Age pits at Leigh Hill, Cobham, the Roman Villa at Compton and the small hoard of Roman coins from Normandy. Apart from these, the years immediately following the erection of the new building brought no spectacular accessions, but a steady stream of small

articles, balanced by similar additions accruing to the Town Council. A letter to the local papers at the time of the opening once more laid down the principle that gifts and loans of archaeological and historical character would be welcome, but that Natural History could not be dealt with.

It was not long, however, before snags began to appear. In the very first summer Mr. Elsley reported that the glass roof made the new Museum building unbearably hot and blinds, not yet provided (1953!), were required. Then he discovered damp in the new cases, and cracks in the glass roof. After the first World War there was a suggestion that Guildford's War Memorial might take the form of a Public Library and Museum, in which the Society and its collections might find a home; this proposal was welcomed by the Society with the remark that the Castle Arch buildings, though picturesque, were damp and that in any case, the Society had "outgrown" them. Unfortunately for everyone, nothing came of this idea, and the disadvantages of the position, accentuated by the passage of thirty-five years, are an even more serious problem.

Another difficulty which soon made itself felt was that of finance. It was very soon obvious that a guaranteed income of only £40 yearly was quite inadequate, more particularly when costs began to rise during the war. It seems incredible, looking back, that anyone can have ventured on running a Museum on that basis, even with the most naïve ideas of what was required. The Society kept up its annual contribution of £15, with an occasional extra small sum for building repairs, and the Town was forced to come to the rescue by constantly increasing its contribution, until in 1924 it was paying £100 per annum and the rates as well.

Notwithstanding these somewhat unpromising circumstances, the years after the first World War saw work which greatly increased the value of the Society's collection of antiquities. In 1922 Miss O. M. Heath became one of the Society's representatives on the Joint Committee and the third strand of interest, the actual care of the exhibits, came to the fore. She at once began to take a lively interest in the Museum, obtained expert advice, rearranged the cases, found means of storing surplus material in the cellar, and—most important of all—compiled a register.

It will be remembered that one of the conditions of the

Society's deposit of its antiquities at Croydon in 1872 had been that the curator there was to make a catalogue. Yet it does not seem to have been done, for in 1881 Mr. Ivatts, the debt-collector employed by the Society to get the subscriptions, was commissioned to catalogue the exhibits at Croydon under the supervision of one of the Council members; this order was repeated in 1888 and 1889, but no such catalogue has ever been found among the Society's records. Even Mr. Mill Stephenson, whose methodical habits immediately tightened up the Society's procedure in so many ways, was only able to make a catalogue of the Library. After the move to Guildford, Mr. Elsley made a second Library catalogue, but still nothing was done for the Museum. More incomprehensible is the fact that, although the rules for the new Museum laid down that a register was to be made, no such register came into existence. Long discussions about the best way of compiling a register and/or catalogue were held in committee, and in June 1916 Mr. Elsley reported that the maps, plans, pictures, etc., had been catalogued, that the coins and tokens were in hand and that Mr. Lasham had made a complete list of the flints. Three months later the catalogue was said to be "nearly complete" and six months later the Secretary to the Joint Committee was instructed to enquire about the cost of printing. After that nothing further is heard about the cataloguing until 1925 when there was one in existence described as ready for typing. Neither the typescript nor any manuscript has in fact been found either among the Society's records or those of the Corporation. There is however a short typed list consisting of extracts from the Joint Committee Minutes on Accessions.

Thus it was that when, in 1922, Miss Heath started her truly Herculean task, at the instigation of Mr. Hilary Jenkinson, then Honorary Secretary of the Society, she found on the one hand a very large number of exhibits and on the other a number of entries in minute-books and reports, which somehow had to be correlated. Fortunately for the Society and for the Town too Miss Heath was able to draw on Mr. Elsley's phenomenal memory and obtain in nearly every instance the correct information about objects which had come in since 1903. Moreover, nearly all the exhibits were provided with labels, possibly the work of the curator at Croydon, or perhaps of some member of the Society's Council, when the

objects were at Danes Inn or when they were moved to Guildford. If it is now possible to have a roughly accurate idea of what the Society possesses, it is due almost entirely to Miss Heath's pioneer work, which also included the essential task of painting numbers on the objects to correspond with the catalogue, making future identification certain. It was also at Miss Heath's instigation that a number of irrelevant exhibits were disposed of; in spite of the declared policy that the Museum should be for objects of Surrey interest only, it had frequently happened that the Town Council and even the Society, on occasion, had accepted foreign weapons, Egyptian curios and other extraneous material, most of which was now removed from the Museum.

Towards the end of the 1920's the Society entered on a period of excavating activity, which began to swell the purely archaeological sections—most notably with the contents of the Saxon Cemetery on Guilddown, which were presented to the Society by the owners of the site with the proviso that they should not be removed from Guildford.

It was also at this time that the Town Council members of the Joint Committee, not unnaturally, began to feel that the existing arrangement was not fair to the Corporation, which bore practically the whole expense but had only a half share in the Museum. In consequence, negotiations were opened which ended in the Summer of 1933 in the conclusion of a new agreement between the Society and Guildford Corporation, and began the fourth, and still existing, stage in the history of the Society's antiquarian collections. On the face of it it is difficult to see what the Corporation gained by the new arrangement. The Museum was nominally transferred from the administration of the Joint Committee to that of the Town Council and the Town undertook the entire financial responsibility for it, engaging to provide adequately for accommodation, preservation and display of the exhibits. The Society retained its equal representation on the Museum Committee, and, in return, agreed to let its collections remain in the Museum on the same terms of yearly tenancy. In this precise form the agreement was short-lived, for only a few months later, in the autumn of 1933, a new Local Government Act came into force, having as one of its provisions the rule that any spending Committee of a Local Authority might have only one third of its members who were

not elected by the ratepayers. This, of course, immediately upset the Museum arrangement, and the Society was reluctantly forced to submit to the inevitable. In point of fact however, this change of status made remarkably little difference to the actual running of the Museum. Mr. Elsley continued as curator and as his salary was still only £25 he naturally had very little time to give to the day-to-day working of the Museum. Nor had the conception of a curator's function at Guildford ever included the full range of technical and professional duties. The arrangement of exhibits, for example, had been a hobby of other members of the Joint Committee, besides being one of Miss Heath's main activities. Consequently, after 1933, members of the Society, notably Mr. Humphry Nevill, still took an active share in Museum work, and when in 1937, the Corporation enlarged the Museum by taking in several more cottage rooms, it was again Mr. Nevill and the present Honorary Secretary of the Society, who rearranged and labelled the archaeological collections in the main room.

It was perhaps because of the extra space available in Guildford Museum that the Society's collections entered on another period of growth. The finds from the Roman Villa at Ashted, from excavations at Ewell, from the Farnham district, including the Badshot Lea Long Barrow and the famous Mesolithic dwellings, all came in at this time, some permanently, some on loan, together with those from most of the many other sites now being excavated with scientific thoroughness. Particularly valuable from a scientific point of view, though useless for display, are the many boxes of fragments from various sites discovered chiefly in Civil Defence work at the beginning of the 1939-45 war.

It was only after Mr. Elsley's death in 1944 that the full implication of the 1933 agreement became apparent; the Museum then became the responsibility of a full time Local Government Officer, first, as a temporary measure, of the Chief Librarian Miss M. D. Liggett, and in 1947 of the present curator Miss E. M. Dance. The administration was also transferred to a Committee known as "Library, Museum and Arts Committee," and a new agreement with Guildford Corporation was also negotiated, and signed in 1953.

This agreement reaffirms the Corporation's financial responsibility for the whole Museum, stressing the necessity for

preservation and display, and defines the Society's share in the administration in more general terms (one member on the present Committee, and full legal representation on any Committee or Sub-Committee dealing solely with the Museum). The Society in return, pledges itself to place in the Museum all the objects (except graphic matter) which accrued to it under its rules, and the notice required before the loan can be terminated is five years instead of one.

At present the emphasis is on the third strand of interest. The Society's antiquarian collections have not increased very noticeably since World War II, and the accommodation provided, which now includes a separate store, may be considered adequate, at least for the present. The curator's work consists largely in continuing and expanding Miss Heath's catalogue, in indexing and making readily accessible the material in store, in bringing the display more up to date (with the help of a Carnegie grant made to the Corporation), in arranging for repair and preservative treatment when necessary (inevitably a very gradual process), and trying to bring the Castle Arch building up to minimum Museum standards. It is hoped that the improvement in the heating system carried out in the autumn of 1953 will at least mitigate the effects of the dampness first complained of forty years previously.

When we turn to the Society's collection of records, we find a much less eventful and very different history. In the first place, for forty years or more there were no records to speak of, and in the first catalogue of the Library, compiled by Mr. Mill Stephenson and published in 1891, there are only thirteen entries under the heading "Manuscripts," and several of these were simply MSS. articles on some antiquarian subject, not really records at all.

The first document was an autograph letter of William Bray, given in the Society's first two years of life, but there was a singular reluctance on the part of members to add to this. Once or twice, it is true, the Society had the opportunity of purchasing ancient deeds, for example, some of Merton Abbey, or of the Carew family of Beddington, but it evidently did not do so.

After the removal to Guildford in 1898, things took a turn for the better and the Society's collection of records began to get away from its very slow start. In the first year it was noted that several deeds relating to the Chiddingfold glass

industry were on exhibition in the Museum (where are they now?). After that other Mediæval deeds were presented, and in November 1899 the Society received its first really important accession—Court Rolls of the Manor of Imber, offered as a parting gift by Mr. Julian Corbett on his resignation from the Society. When the second Library catalogue was published in 1906, some thirty items, including the Imber Court Rolls, were noted as belonging to the Society, while the Introduction stated that others had been deposited on loan and appealed for further deposits both of deeds and manorial records.

There are several possible reasons for this increased activity during the early years of this century: one is certainly the impetus given to accessions of all kinds by the establishment of more or less permanent headquarters at Guildford; another is the influence of Mr. Percy Woods, a new member with an enthusiasm for local records and an instinct for ferreting them out. The chief reason, however, is the fact that since 1897 the Honorary Secretary had been Mr. M. S. Giuseppi, who was on the staff of the Public Record Office and thus brought to his office not merely antiquarian enthusiasm but professional knowledge and practical experience.

Hitherto the Society's interest in manuscripts, whether they eventually came into the possession of the Society or not, had been in the individual document, bearing a rare seal or an important signature—in short, the usual dilettante attitude of the 19th century gentleman. From now on, the influence of Mr. Giuseppi and of his colleagues and successors in office, Mr. Hilary Jenkinson and Mr. R. L. Atkinson, was increasingly exerted to maintain the professional view of the importance of the series as a whole.

This view did not gain acceptance, nor was it acted on, all at once. For some years the isolated document continued to be the commonest accession; perhaps the first deposit of a really long series was that made by Lord Grantley in 1912, a large number of 17th and 18th century deeds relating to the Grantley property in Wonersh and Guildford.

By that time, of course, the new Museum building had been erected and the Society's documents found a temporary home in the safe there, once it had been sufficiently ventilated. At the same time Mr. Jenkinson persuaded the Museum Joint Committee to accept the idea that Guildford should be a

centre for the reception of Local Records and that a separate building, conforming to recognized standards, ought to be provided for them.

The following year, 1913, saw the foundation of the Surrey Record Society for the publication of Surrey material, but the Archæological Society was still the chief body concerned with the preservation of records; thanks largely to the skill and persistence with which Mr. Jenkinson never ceased to urge the cause during his tenure of the Secretaryship, the Society soon found itself with an unmanageably large collection, including, for example, the Lambert deeds, given in 1919.

Matters really came to a head when Lord Birkenhead's Law of Property Act was passed in 1922. By abolishing copyhold tenure, it made the keeping of manorial records unnecessary and gave rise to serious fears for their safety. Spurred on by these fears, and also by the need of better accommodation for the records it already possessed, the Society urged the Joint Committee and, through it, Guildford Corporation, to the course of action adumbrated in 1912. In 1927 the Town Council bought some garage premises next to the Museum in Quarry Street for £700, and an offer of £900 to build a Muniment Room on the site was received from a gentleman described as "an anonymous friend of Alderman Smallpeice."

During 1928, the Muniment Room was actually erected, under the same roof as the Museum, and also becoming, of course, the property of Guildford Corporation, which paid for the interior fittings. Its day-to-day administration was delegated to the Museum Joint Committee as a matter of convenience, but for the details of its management as also for advice on the actual construction, the Corporation turned to the Surrey Record Society—in other words to the two late Honorary Secretaries of the Archæological Society, Mr. Giuseppi and Mr. Jenkinson.

Having been built to professional specification, the Muniment Room is really suitable for its purpose, and is in fact the only one of the various sections of the Castle Arch building of which that can truthfully be said. Similarly, professional standards were laid down for the actual conduct of the Muniment Room; an Honorary Archivist, Mr. J. S. Purvis of Cranleigh School, a member of the Society and an experienced palæographer, was put in charge and undertook to teach

another Honorary Archivist, Miss D. M. King-Church. The building and its management were thus of the requisite standard to receive official recognition from the Master of the Rolls as a Manorial Repository (1930).

The professional aspect of the Muniment Room was not the only way in which it differed from the Museum. It was in no sense a Joint Muniment Room, as the Museum was a Joint Museum. The Society was able to deposit its documents on loan, as in the Museum, but the alternative was not to vest them in Guildford Corporation but in the Muniment Room trustees—the Mayor of Guildford and the Presidents of the Surrey Archæological and Surrey Record Societies.

As soon as the Muniment Room was ready for use, the Society's documents were put in it and Mr. Purvis began systematic cataloguing. The Society also paid for a certain amount of cataloguing to be done at the Public Record Office. Now that ample and good accommodation was available the Society launched forth and bought a number of collections, such as the large Carteret-Webb collection of deeds of the Witley neighbourhood (1929).

Parallel with the Society's deposits were equally large accessions deposited directly into the Muniment Room, and from time to time record agents were employed by Guildford Corporation to keep up with the work. Arrears, however, were bound to accumulate, more particularly during the war years, when deed boxes of documents rescued from salvage piled up, and less and less work could be done on them, Mr. Purvis having left the county and Miss King-Church being busy with war work.

This was the situation when, in 1946, two years after Mr. Elsley, Miss King-Church died suddenly. The Town Council then decided to make one appointment for both Museum and Muniment Room, so that the Curator already mentioned is also the Archivist, with the title Curator-Archivist.

This professional appointment led indirectly to a further change in the Society's method of dealing with documents. Until now records belonging to the Society and also those which it received in trust had automatically been placed in Guildford Muniment Room, although there are two other recognized repositories, at Croydon Public Library, and the County Council Record Office at Kingston.

As a matter of administrative convenience an agreement was made in 1950 between the Surrey County Council and Guildford Corporation, settling spheres of influence (East and West Surrey respectively) for the deposit of private records. The Society took cognizance of this arrangement and it is now usual for it to recommend the deposit of East Surrey documents at Kingston.

Up to the present (November 1953) no documents have been deposited in the County Record Office in the name of the Society, although several deposits have been negotiated through the Society's good offices, *e.g.*, the contents of the Slyfield Chest at Leatherhead Parish Church. One loan (the Barrow Green papers from Oxted) has been placed at Croydon in the same way.

At Guildford, however, the Society still has its own stamp for its own documents and has since the war secured a number of groups of records, of which the outstanding example is the long range of Manorial Records from Lord Onslow's fourteen manors in West Surrey.

Such is the story of the Society's collections of antiquities and records during the first hundred years of its existence. Taking the three strands of interest in turn, we may take stock of the present position and look forward a little into the future.

In both spheres the Society's collection is still growing. There is a small but steady trickle of gifts and loans of individual Museum objects, though it is noticeable that none of the excavations conducted since the war has yet produced the important accessions that might be expected. Similarly, isolated documents or small groups are added to the Society's record collection from time to time, though the large series, such as Lord Onslow's records mentioned above, are becoming rarer.

The accommodation of both antiquities and records may be considered satisfactory, but only for the immediate present. Any really large additions for the Museum in the next few years would make the display and storage space quite inadequate. If the Corporation should receive any large gifts in the near future that position would arise much sooner. As far as the Muniment Room is concerned, that position has all but been reached already. The Society's property, however, is perhaps less affected, because the large accessions are now for

the most part being made directly to the Muniment Room, and it is not very probable that documents belonging to, or on trust with, the Society will be crowded out. The provision of extra strong-room accommodation is now probably the most pressing of the urgent necessities in the Castle Arch building.

As far as care and preservation are concerned, progress can only be slow. Some years ago, with restrained understatement, Sir Hilary Jenkinson reported to Guildford Corporation that at Castle Arch there was one person (the Curator-Archivist) doing two persons' work, *i.e.*, that of Curator and Archivist. It is thus inevitable that at any given time either the Museum or the Muniment Room must be, or appear to be, neglected. With the improvement in heating it is to be hoped that no further deterioration will occur to the Society's exhibits in the Museum. Damage that has already occurred is being gradually made good by what is at present the only practicable means, namely farming out repairs and preservative treatment, usually to London University Institute of Archaeology. The necessary fumigation and minor repairs to documents are carried out on the premises. In both fields it is possible to keep more or less up to date with cataloguing current accessions, but there are still very large arrears to be made good in dealing with the Society's antiquarian collection, even though Miss Heath broke the back of the task thirty years ago.