

# REPORTS OF THE SOCIETY'S MEETINGS

## LECTURES.

The following meetings were held at the Bishopsgate Institute.

1947

- Mar. 28 Our programme for writing the History of Middlesex. W. McBeath Marcham.
- Oct. 9 British Coal Mining and the London Coal Trade during seven centuries. Cdr. G. Bridgmore Brown, M.B.E., R.D., R.N.R.
- Nov. 7 Old London Customs. Albert C. Dabbs, F.S.A.
- Dec. 12 A photographic Tour of some old Spanish buildings. T. A. N. Henderson, F.S.A.

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- Jan. 16 Wealden Ironworking, its sites and the products. Edward Yates, F.S.A.
- Feb. 27 Annual General Meeting and Exhibition. Address by Chairman of Council and Hon. Editor, Major N. G. Brett-James, M.A., B.Litt., F.S.A.
- Mar. 19 Roman London, with special reference to recent excavations. W. F. Grimes, M.A., F.S.A.
- April 15 Sutton Hoo Ship Burial. C. W. Phillips, M.A., F.S.A.
- Oct. 8 "Grub Street." W. Kent, F.S.A.
- Nov. 12 Early Maps of Southall. G. M. Bark, M.A., LL.B., F.S.A.
- Dec. 10 London in the 18th Century. C. H. Gerred, B.A., F.R. Econ. Soc.

## VISITS.

1947

- April 19 BRENTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY. LAYTON COLLECTION. Conducted by the Librarian, Miss Florence Green.

This is considered to be one of the finest collections in the county. It includes a remarkably fine series of objects from the Thames, pottery vessels, palæolithic instruments and Bronze Age weapons.

- May 17 SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM. Conducted by the Curator, John Summerson, F.S.A.

Fortunately the building suffered little damage during the war and the exhibits remain unharmed. Among the many items of interest special attention should be reserved for the paintings by Hogarth and the architectural drawings of Robert Adam, Wren, and Kent.

- June 28 ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL. Conducted by the Dean's verger.

Opportunity was given to inspect the war damage and visit parts of the Cathedral not usually accessible to the general public.

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- July 17 FULHAM PALACE: the Hall, Chapel, Porteus Library, exterior of buildings and grounds. Conducted by the Bishop's chaplain.

This visit was held during the mid-week for the benefit of members who find the Saturday meetings an inconvenient arrangement.

- Sept. 20 COLLEGE OF ARMS. Conducted by A. J. Toppin, M.V.O., F.S.A., York Herald.

An exceptionally large number attended this meeting. The various duties attached to the College of Arms were explained and the display of documents in the Library gave rise to an informal discussion which aroused the keenest interest.

- Oct. 25 INSTITUTE OF ARCHÆOLOGY. Conducted by Prof. V. G. Childe-D.Litt., V.P.S.A.

This was the first official visit of the Society to the Institute of Archæology which was established in 1937 as an instructional centre and training ground for students in archæological technique. The work of the Institute was explained by Prof. Childe, and Miss K. M. Kenyon, M.A., F.S.A., described the Palestine Collection. Afterwards members were invited to attend a lecture given under the auspices of the Prehistoric Society.

- Nov. 15 LINCOLN'S INN. Conducted by Sir Gerald Hurst, K.C., Bencher and former Treasurer.

After an interesting discourse on the history of Lincoln's Inn Sir Gerald Hurst conducted the party round the various buildings and described its many treasures. The Library contains over 60,000 volumes and is the largest collection of law books in the country.

- Dec. 6 FOUNDLING HOSPITAL MUSEUM AND PICTURE GALLERY. Conducted by Miss Brooks.

The Hospital was transferred to Berkhamstead in 1926 and the present offices and Picture Gallery were erected in Bloomsbury in 1936. The pictures, relics, and works of art are here displayed in an admirable setting, and the names of Raphael, Hogarth, Gainsborough, Claude, Canaletto, Handel and Dickens testify to the versatility of this collection.

At the conclusion of the visit Mr. Kent kindly conducted a short tour comprising some of the interesting houses in the neighbourhood.

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- Jan. 10 PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE. Conducted by R. L. Atkinson, M.C., M.A., F.S.A.

The party assembled in the Library and heard an interesting account of the history of the building and its present purpose. Here are concentrated about three-quarters of the national archives—while the ever growing overflow is found a home in the jail at Canterbury! After the lecture the party dispersed to the Museum to inspect the various treasures therein displayed.

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- Feb. 7 CHELSEA ROYAL HOSPITAL. Conducted by C. G. T. Dean, Captain of Invalids.

The introductory discourse was given in the Council Chamber, whereupon the party divided to be escorted round the buildings by in-Pensioner guides. The tour included the Hall, Chapel, Kitchen, men's quarters and cemetery. The Infirmary was, unfortunately, totally destroyed by enemy action.

- Mar. 6 WALTHAM ABBEY. Conducted by Rev. A. V. G. Cleall, M.A., R.D.

The Abbey Church is all that remains of the Abbey surrendered to Henry VIII in 1540. This is the traditional burial place of King Harold and is one of the finest Norman buildings in the country. The monastic buildings have disappeared except a small vaulted chamber in the Abbey Gardens and part of the Gateway. The Vicar described the Church in its past and present glory and explained some of the interesting relics in the Museum.

- April 17 ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, WEST DRAYTON. Conducted by A. H. Cox, Esq.

Although the fabric has been twice restored the church still contains much of archæological interest. The font and double piscina merit attention and the pre-Reformation chalice and paten, now on loan to the Victoria and Albert Museum, are the oldest church plate in Middlesex. At the conclusion of the visit the Rev. L. E. Prout, M.A., kindly invited the party to tea at the Vicarage.

- May 8 HISTORIC RICHMOND. Conducted by Miss M. S. Johnston, F.G.S., F.R.G.S.

The itinerary included the Green, Maids of Honour Row, the Old Palace, Cholmondeley Walk, St. Mary Magdalene Church, the old almshouses and the view from Richmond Hill. Tea was afterwards taken in the Terrace Gardens.

- June 12 WESTMINSTER ABBEY. Conducted by Lawrence E. Tanner, M.V.O., M.A., F.S.A.

Mr. Tanner received the party in the Jerusalem Chamber and after a brief account of its historical associations conducted members through Dean's Court, the Cloisters, the garden of the Monks' Infirmary, parts of Westminster School and the Muniment Room and Library. The devastation due to the war was a melancholy sight, but the major part of the Abbey has fortunately escaped serious damage.

- June 26 WHOLE-DAY EXCURSION TO GUILDFORD.

The party travelled by motor coach and visited the following places of interest:—

St. Mary's Church. Described by Rev. A. L. Gardiner, M.A.

Guildford Museum. Described by Miss E. M. Dance, M.A., Ph.D.

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Library of the Surrey Archæological Society. Described by Miss D. M. Sumner.

Guildford Castle. Described by Dr. W. B. Billinghamurst, M.A.

Guildhall. Described by Bernard Rackham, C.B., F.S.A.

Abbot's Hospital. Described by The Master, Mr. E. G. Wale.

St. Nicolas' Church, Loseley Chapel. Described by Dr. Billinghamurst.

The thanks of the Society are due to the ladies and gentlemen mentioned above for their services as honorary guides and the Council of the Surrey Archæological Society for their cordial co-operation.

July 24 A SHORT TOUR OF ROMAN LONDON. Conducted by W. F. Grimes, M.A., F.S.A.

This tour included the bastion underneath the vestry of All Hallows on the Wall Church, the portion in the Cripplegate area recently exposed by bombing and the bastion in the General Post Office.

Sept. 11 CLERKENWELL. Conducted by W. Kent, F.S.A.

The party assembled in St. James' Church, where Mr. Kent recounted the history of the church and neighbourhood. Afterwards members visited the Clerks' Well, Newcastle Place, the Green and St. John's Gate.

Oct. 9 HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT. Conducted by the President, the Rt. Hon. Lord Nathan of Churt.

This visit included Westminster Hall, the House of Lords, the Library, Dining Rooms and many parts of the Palace of Westminster not usually shown to the public. The vote of thanks to Lord Nathan was proposed by Major Brett-James and carried with acclamation.

Nov. 6 OLD BATTERSEA HOUSE. Conducted by Mrs. Stirling.

The house was built in 1699 and contains a superb oak staircase, original panelling and fine mantlepieces. In 1931 the building was restored by Mr. and Mrs. Stirling, who have placed within, their unique collection of de Morgan pictures and pottery and some fine examples of period furniture. The house is now scheduled as a National Monument as a work of architectural, historic and artistic interest.

Dec. 4 COAL EXCHANGE, ETC.

This visit was arranged to celebrate the centenary of the discovery of the Roman Hypocaust under the Coal Exchange. Afterwards the party inspected the Roman and Saxon work in the crypt of All Hallows Barking by the Tower, and finally proceeded to 42, Trinity Square, where the Roman Wall was described by the Rev. J. P. P. Gorton.