

# THE COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

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[THE work of the Council is beginning to become known, but at a recent meeting of our own Council a member asked: "What is the C.B.A.?" Dr. Davey's note supplies the answer.]

The Council for British Archaeology was formed in 1944 under the chairmanship of the President of the Society of Antiquaries, as the central co-ordinating body of British archaeology. Since its inception it has been maintained by the assistance of the Carnegie Trust and archaeological societies and institutions, and has now received State recognition. Membership of the *Council* in addition to the chairman consists of three members from each national society entirely associated with British archaeology, two members from each major county archaeological society, and one member from each national society only partly connected with British archaeology, smaller county archaeological societies, local societies and local museums.

The functions of the Council are (i) to ensure the safeguarding of all kinds of archaeological material, and to urge the strengthening of existing measures for the care of ancient and historic buildings, monuments and antiquities; (ii) to stimulate an informed interest in the monuments and records of the past; (iii) to forward archaeological research and its publications; (iv) to promote the interchange of ideas on all aspects of archaeology; (v) to obtain recognition of archaeology in education; (vi) to organise the provision of financial assistance to supplement the resources of learned societies concerned with British archaeology.

The Council has offices at 74, Onslow Gardens, S.W.7, and its secretary is Mr. W. F. Grimes, Director of the London Museum. The Council hopes to produce a well illustrated account of the more important discoveries made each year. Last year "British Archaeology: a Booklet for Teachers" was published. Other publications of a purely scientific nature are contemplated.

The business of the Council is carried out by an *Executive Committee* consisting of the officers of the Council (*ex officio*), one representative of each Regional Group, and eight elected members.

The Council co-operates with *Regional Groups*, who have made themselves primarily responsible for dealing with local problems. For convenience of operation, England, Scotland and Wales have been divided into thirteen Regional Groups. Regional Group 10, under the chairmanship of Mr. D. A. J. Buxton, embraces the counties of London, Middlesex, Essex and Hertfordshire.

The functions of the Regional Groups are manifold and include (i) the encouragement of the preservation of antiquities and historic buildings in their area; (ii) the consideration of the effect on archaeology of the different aspects of reconstruction, rebuilding of bombed sites, town planning, road building, etc., and the enlistment of the sympathy of individual authorities, contractors and other bodies or persons concerned by suitable local publicity; (iii) the recording and reporting upon (a) ancient buildings or sites of known archaeological and historical importance in areas affected by bomb damage, or on sites threatened by any proposal of the central or local government, or by industrial or private schemes of development, (b) archaeological remains including individual objects which may be revealed unexpectedly in the course of building, ploughing, or other developments, e.g. gravel digging; (iv) the survey of historic records within their area and collaboration in regional archaeological surveys; (v) the fostering of interest in schools and elsewhere.

The following societies, museums and educational committees are at present represented on the London Regional Group, which meets quarterly: (a) Society of Antiquaries, Ecclesiological Society, London Society, London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, Essex Archaeological Society, East Herts Archaeological Society, St. Albans and Herts Architectural and Archaeological Society, Southend Antiquarian Society, Woodford and District Antiquarian Society, London Natural History Society, Welwyn Garden City Regional Survey Committee, and the Roman Essex Society; (b) Colchester and Essex Museum, Guildhall Museum, Letchworth Museum, London Museum, Saffron Walden Museum, and Verulamium Museum; (c) Essex County Education Committee, Hertfordshire Education Committee, London County Council Education Committee, and Middlesex County Education Committee.