

NOTES AND QUERIES.

ROMAN COINS FOUND AT WESTMINSTER.—In the second week of August, 1928, some Roman bronze coins were unearthed in Westminster in the course of building operations. Several small excavations from 6 to 7 ft. in depth were made in an open flag-paved courtyard for the foundations of steel columns on the premises of Chandos Court Mansions at the middle of the triangular area enclosed between Caxton Street on the north, Palmer Street on the west, and Buckingham Gate on the south-west. The coins were recovered from the debris removed from a depth of about 6 ft. The workmen reported that the earth where the coins were found was so hard as scarcely to be penetrable by a pick. The following is a list of the coins with the identifications kindly made at the British Museum Department of Coins and Medals:—

- Tiberius, As, TR.P. xxxvii A.D. 35. Cf. Cohen 13.
 Nerva, Sestertius, A.D. 96–98. C. 37 or 38.
 Trajan, Sestertius, A.D. 116. C., 2nd edition, 39.
 Commodus, Dupondius, *circa* A.D. 179. C. 229.
 Commodus, Sestertius, A.D. 190. C. 295.
 Constantius I, Antioch, *circa* A.D. 296–305. C. 89.
 A. F. RAVENSHAW.

DR. WILLIAM MARTIN, M.A., LL.D., F.S.A.—The Society has sustained a very severe loss in the death, after a long illness, of Dr. Martin, who was Chairman of its Council and its Honorary Editor. He was a very competent scholar in Patent Law as well as in London Topography, and his wise guidance, genial temper and wide knowledge of London make it difficult, if not impossible, to fill his place. Our knowledge of London

maps, and their origin, history and comparative value, has been enormously helped by his researches; and his high standard of accuracy and his determination to admit nothing into the *Transactions*, which was not the outcome of original research, has left an example which it must be the aim and duty of every subsequent editor to copy. The Council has invited Major Norman G. Brett-James, M.A., B.Litt., F.S.A., to become editor of the *Transactions*, and he has consented to see the present issue through the press, and to do whatever time permits to forward the interests of the Society on the sound lines laid down by the late editor. He has had, in the preparation of this issue for the press, the valuable guidance of the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Harold Sands, F.S.A.

A full notice of Dr. Martin will appear in our next issue of *Transactions*.

ANTIQUARIAN AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETIES IN MIDDLESEX.—There are no doubt several societies of this kind which are not known to the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, and it would be helpful if a full list of such societies could be made. Amongst recent additions there is a Antiquarian Society at Edgware, which is taking a keen interest in preserving relics of old Edgware from the hands of the builder and in collecting data for a history of the village. A similar society has been started in Mill Hill, which has already done something to arouse public interest in the Manor and Parish of Hendon.

PARLIAMENTARY RECORDS.—A Committee has been appointed to report on materials available for a "record of the personnel and politics of past members of the House of Commons." The London and Middlesex Archæological Society has been asked by Colonel Josiah

Wedgwood, M.P., to co-operate. All members in possession of information likely to be useful should communicate with the *Honorary Editor*.

LOCAL RECORDS.—The British Record Society is trying to get people interested in such matters to see that discarded deeds, etc., are not dispersed. It is of interest to note that for London and Middlesex the proper repositories for such deeds authorised by the Master of the Rolls are the British Museum, the Society of Antiquaries and the Society of Genealogists.

A QUERY.—The Traffic Problem and the Building of New Bypass and Arterial Roads are subjects which provide food for discussion to-day. Sign posts and distances from town to town are being clarified, and the work of the Motor Societies is of great value in this respect. When were modern milestones first set up? In Peter Collinson's *Hortus Collinsonianus*, he states that those to Mill Hill were the earliest, and these date apparently from about 1751. Information on this interesting and important topic should be sent to the Editor.

ANNIVERSARY.—The 75th anniversary of the Foundation of the Society occurs next year, and every effort should be made to increase its usefulness, especially by a large increase of membership. All members are asked to interest likely subscribers in the work of the Society.

MEMBERS' NOTES AND QUERIES.—The Editor will be glad to receive from Members and others notes of archæological and antiquarian interest and queries concerning London and Middlesex for inclusion in the *Transactions* of the Society.

“SWAKELEYS,” NEAR ICKENHAM.—When the Society visited “Swakeleys” a year or so ago, part of the estate had already been sold for housing development, and there was a fear that, despite efforts made by the National Trust, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Uxbridge Rural District Council, this fine mansion—built in 1638 and perhaps the finest example of a Stuart Mansion extant in Middlesex—might suffer at the hands of the modern builder.

It was therefore with no small satisfaction that in March, 1929, antiquarians read an announcement in the press that the mansion and grounds had been acquired by the Foreign Office Sports Association for use as a club. Moreover, the Association has entered into an agreement with the National Trust providing for the permanent preservation of the architectural features of the mansion and the amenities of its surroundings.

G. B. B.

ASTOR HOUSE, VICTORIA EMBANKMENT.—In view of the Society’s visit to Astor House on 20th November, 1920, when its Tudor style of architecture and its magnificent internal decoration, though modern, were found of great interest, there will be general satisfaction at its acquisition by the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors as the Society’s permanent home and head offices.

Designed by the late John Loughborough Pearson, R.A. without regard to cost, and built in 1895 by William Waldorf Astor, afterwards first Viscount Astor, it was Lord Astor’s residence and estate office until his death in 1919. At the time of the Society’s visit the house was unoccupied. From 1922 until 1928 it was occupied by the Sun Life Insurance Company of Canada as offices. The Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors having now acquired the freehold, the property will suffer no further changes of ownership and will henceforth be known as “Incorporated Accountants Hall.”

G. B. B.