

THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

EIGHTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT, 1940

YOUR Committee have to report that the Society, though unable to complete its programme for 1940, succeeded in carrying out a large portion of it. Its most lasting achievement was the production of a really good part of *Transactions*, which was distributed to members in January, 1941. This contains the final instalment of the late Provost of Eton's Catalogue of the Library of Leicester Abbey, most learnedly edited by Professor Hamilton Thompson; a scholarly and very readable paper by Dr. Hoskins; and an instructive note on the fine old glass at Twycross church by Mr. Albert Herbert. The Society is much indebted to the three contributors, by whose generous and capable efforts the high standard of the previous eighteen years' annual publications was fully maintained. Two lectures of outstanding interest were delivered in the earlier part of the year, and the Annual Meeting was duly held; but circumstances prevented the holding of General Meetings in the autumn and winter. The Committee met regularly at the usual intervals and found that there was plenty of business for them to transact. Much to the regret of everybody concerned, it was felt to be necessary, in view of the European situation, to forgo the two very attractive summer outings that had been planned by Dr. Hoskins and the Excursions Committee. Speaking generally, however, the Society may be said to have held its own and to have done a considerable amount of useful work in an exceptionally difficult and distracting period.

The following new members were elected in the course of the year:—

In April:—Mrs. A. A. Adcock, 95 Roman Road, Birstall,
Leicester

Mrs. L. Allen, 8 Grosvenor Crescent, Stoneygate
Rise, Leicester

In June:—The Rev. Dr. T. H. Ross, 39 Ashfield Road,
Leicester

Mr. W. Palmer, 98 Ratcliffe Road, Sileby,
Loughborough

Four members resigned, and the Society has to regret the loss by death of the Duke of Rutland (Patron), Mr. Ralph W. Bedingfield (Honorary Excursion Secretary), Mr. Leonard Fosbrooke (Honorary Local Secretary for the Ashby-de-la-Zouch district), Miss Adderly, Colonel J. E. Sarson, Major Serjeantson and Mr. G. C. Turner.

Mr. Ralph W. Bedingfield, A.R.I.B.A.

MR. Ralph W. Bedingfield, who had been in failing health since the winter of 1938, died at Kirby Muxloe on the 22nd of January, 1940. The Society, which he joined some twenty-five years ago, was represented at the funeral by Mr. Walter Brand, Mr. Albert Herbert, and Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Skillington.

For the first ten years of his membership, Mr. Bedingfield did not attract any particular attention; throughout the remaining fifteen, he was recognised as one of the Society's most capable leaders and executants. The change was brought about by Mr. Walter Brand, who in 1924 was asked to undertake the office of Honorary Excursion Secretary, in succession to Canon Winckley. Mr. Brand said that he would do his best, if the Committee would nominate Mr. Bedingfield to work with him as his equal colleague. The condition was accepted, and the two friends were in due course elected Joint Honorary Secretaries. During their long and happy collaboration, Messrs. Brand and Bedingfield, with the help of the Excursions sub-committee, planned and conducted at least thirty highly successful outings, which were greatly enjoyed by all who took part in them and contributed in no small measure to the Society's healthy development.

Mr. Bedingfield possessed all the qualities that go to make a first-rate organiser and conductor of archaeological excursions, and it would be quite impossible to overestimate the value of his continuous efforts to maintain and increase the Society's usefulness and prosperity. This needs to be said; because his innate unpretentiousness, his youthful spirit, his easy-going sociability and his constant sense of fun tended to obscure the vital importance of the work that he did so well. The Society never had a more loyal and conscientious supporter than Ralph Bedingfield, or one with a better title to be remembered with affection and respect.—S.H.S.

Transactions

THE first part of volume xxi of the Society's *Transactions* was issued to members about three weeks after the end of the year. Its contents are :—

- i.—*Catalogue of the Library of Leicester Abbey*, by Montague Rhodes James, O.M., D.Litt., F.B.A., F.S.A., late Provost of Eton College, Sections i (concluded), ii, iii and iv, edited by A. Hamilton Thompson, C.B.E., D.Litt., F.B.A., F.S.A.
- ii.—*The Leicestershire Country Parson in the Sixteenth Century*, by W. G. Hoskins, M.Sc. (Econ.), Ph.D., with photographic illustrations.
- iii.—*Old Glass in Twycross Church*, by Albert Herbert, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., with drawings by the author and a photographic illustration.

The completion of Dr. James's important Abbey Catalogue, edited with consummate ability and thoroughness, is bound to enhance the Society's reputation in the world of scholarship, and several letters of congratulation upon the all-round satisfactoriness of the part have been received from members. Perhaps the most encouraging comments upon the contributions of Mr. Herbert and Dr. Hoskins are those of our President, who found the note on the Twycross glass most interesting and very much appreciated Dr. Hoskins's paper, which "seems to me excellent work; it is fortunate to have somebody who is capable of writing on such points with authority. I also liked the illustrations very much." All the illustrations, except Mr. Herbert's drawings, are from photographs taken by Mr. F. L. Attenborough, Principal of Leicester University College, and Mrs. S. H. Skillington.

Lectures

THE two following lectures were delivered to members and their friends in the first quarter of the year :—

29th January :—*The Place of the Channel Islands in English History*, by Dr. J. Le Patourel.

11th March :—*Some Points in the History of Leicester Abbey*, by Professor A. Hamilton Thompson.

Owing to the extreme severity of the weather, the January meeting, of which the Provost of Leicester was chairman, was

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not so well attended as it no doubt would have been if the conditions had been more favourable. The audience, however, made up in enthusiasm what it lacked in numbers; for Dr. Le Patourel had an apparently inexhaustible knowledge of his subject, and supplemented his lecture by giving full and ready answers to the many questions that were put to him at the end of it.

The March meeting, arranged jointly by the Archaeological Society and the Leicester branch of the Historical Association, was held in the evening at the County Rooms, Leicester, where a large and appreciative company assembled in good time. Sir Robert Martin occupied the chair. Professor Hamilton Thompson's learned and vivacious address more than fulfilled the expectations of his old friends and disciples, and was a revelation to those who had not heard him before.

Notes on Meetings

At the Annual General Meeting, held on the 1st of April and presided over by Sir Robert Martin, the Provost of Leicester and Mr. Colin D. B. Ellis were elected members of the Committee; the Provost was also made a Vice-President of the Society. Mr. J. Bruce Galloway was appointed Honorary Local Secretary for the Loughborough district, and Mrs. S. H. Skillington was elected a member of the Excursions Committee, which she had been informally assisting for some time. All the serving officers of the Society, and the members of the Committee and sub-committees, were re-elected *en bloc*. At a subsequent meeting, the Rev. D. A. Adams, of Twyford, was appointed Honorary Local Secretary for the Melton Mowbray district.

At a Committee Meeting held on the 24th of June, Mr. Skillington explained why the Excursions Committee had felt it to be right to cancel the excursion planned for the 6th of that month, and said that he thought it would be best not to proceed with the arrangements for the second summer excursion, which was to have been conducted by Professor Hamilton Thompson. The Committee agreed to this and empowered the General Purposes Committee to decide what, if any, General Meetings, with lectures, should be held in the autumn and winter. In the event, a combination of difficulties prevented the holding of any General Meetings during the darker months. The Society will resume its

full activities at the earliest possible date; the Committee will continue to meet in any circumstances. Professor Hamilton Thompson hopes to come to Leicester this summer, to conduct the excursion originally fixed for last July, and the programme arranged for the 6th of last June will be carried out as soon as circumstances permit.

**THE LEICESTERSHIRE
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

RECEIPTS

	£	s.	d.
To Balance forward on Research Fund Account ...	50	0	0
„ Subscriptions and donations	236	5	0
„ Interest on £101 5s. 4d. Leicester 3 per cent. Stock less Tax	1	16	4
„ Interest on £250 0s. 0d. Leicester 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Stock less Tax	7	2	6
„ Interest on £150 0s. 0d. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Conversion Loan less Tax	3	0	6
„ Interest on £300 0s. 0d. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. War Loan Gross	10	10	0
„ Income Tax reclaimed 1939/40	8	11	4
„ Sale of £100 0s. 0d. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. War Stock ...	98	13	3
„ Balance overdrawn	39	17	3

£455 16 2

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
for the Year ending 31st December, 1940.

xxv.

		PAYMENTS			
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
By	Balance overdrawn	...	...	135	2 8
	„ Subscriptions :				
	„ Archaeological Congress	...	...	1	0 0
	„ Canterbury and York Society	...	...	1	1 0
	„ English Place Name Society	...	...	0	15 0
	„ British Record Society	...	...	1	11 6
	„ Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings	...	...	1	1 0
	„ Council for the Preservation of Rural England	...	...	1	1 0
					6 9 6
	„ Printing <i>Transactions</i>	...	...	194	14 5
	„ Printing and Stationery	...	...	12	16 6
	„ Honorarium to Assistant Secretary	...	...	25	0 0
	„ Rent	...	...	12	7 6
	„ Postages and Sundry Expenses	...	...	11	14 9
	„ Lecturers' Expenses and Lantern	...	...	1	3 4
	„ Fire Insurance	...	...	1	17 6
	„ Books Purchased	...	...	1	17 6
	„ Bank Interest and Charges	...	...	2	12 6
	„ Balance in hand on Research Fund Account	...	...	50	0 0

£455 16 2

xxvii.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FUND
for the Year ending 31st December, 1940.

	£	s.	d.
By Balance in Hand	148	2	11

£148 2 11

31st December, 1940.

	£	s.	d.
By £1,250 $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. War Loan (Value £1,287)	1,293	11	5
„ £400 $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Leicester Stock 1945/55 (Value £410)	395	1	0
„ Cash at Bank	148	2	11
„ Cash in the hands of the Leicestershire Archaeological Society	50	0	0
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>		
	£1,886	15	4
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>		

I have examined the Funds Account dated December 31, 1940, and the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending December 31, 1940, and certify such accounts to be in accordance with the Books and Vouchers of the Trustees of the Research Fund. I have satisfied myself that the Scrip of the above Investments is in the possession of the Bank.

G. KEITH THOMSON
Honorary Auditor

**THE LEICESTERSHIRE
FUNDS ACCOUNT**

		£	s.	d.
General Reserve Fund (Value £815 0s. 0d.)	...	784	4	10
Excursion Secretary's Account	... ..	11	7	4
		795	12	2
<i>Less</i> : Hon. Treasurer's Account	39	17	3

£755 14 11

SELWYN PARKINSON, A.C.A.
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

xxix.

31st December, 1940.

	£	s.	d.
£101 5 4 Leicester Corporation 3 per cent. Stock (Value £95)	101	5	4
£250 0 0 Leicester Corporation 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Stock 1945/55 (Value £256)	246	2	9
£150 0 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Conversion Loan 1961 (Value £155)	121	4	9
£300 0 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. War Loan (Value £309) ...	315	12	0
Cash at Bank:—Excursion Account	11	7	4
	<hr/>		
	795	12	2
Less: Bank Overdraft	39	17	3

£755 14 11

I have examined the Funds Account dated December 31, 1940, and the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending December 31, 1940, and certify such accounts to be in accordance with the Books and Vouchers of the Society. I have satisfied myself that the Scrip of the above Investments is in the possession of the Bank.

G. KEITH THOMSON

Honorary Auditor

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1940-41

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- Jones, C. W., Esq., Crafers,
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- Kendall, G. E., Esq., O.B.E.,
F.R.I.B.A., Pinfold, Lammias
Lane, Esher, Surrey
- King, Rev. W. A., Garats Hay,
Loughborough
- Kingdom, Thomas, Esq., M.A.,
Wyggeston Boys' School,
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- Lane, J. D., Esq., 118 Leicester Road,
Loughborough
- Leavesley, A. H., Esq., Ratcliffe
Lodge, Ratcliffe Road, Leicester
- Leavesley, Mrs. A. H., Ratcliffe
Lodge, Ratcliffe Road, Leicester
- Leicester Museum and Art Gallery,
per Trevor Thomas, Esq.,
Director
- Leicester Society of Architects, per
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- Leicester, The Right Rev. the Lord
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- Librarian, The, University College,
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 Minnesota University Library, Minneapolis, Minn., U.S.A.
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 Morley, Frederick H., Esq., 154 New Walk, Leicester
 Musson, Miss F. K., Rooftree Cottage, Hoby, near Leicester
- New England Historic and Genealogical Society, 9 Ashburton Place, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.
 New York Public Library, U.S.A. c/o Stevens & Brown, Ltd., 28-30 Little Russell Street, London, W.C.1
 Newberry (The) Library, Chicago, U.S.A. c/o Stevens & Brown, Ltd., 28-30 Little Russell Street, London, W.C.1
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Countess Wear, Exeter
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Burton Walks, Loughborough
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Birstall, Leicester
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Manor, Sutton Bonington,
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- Thomson, Mrs. G. Keith,
The Mount, Anstey, Leicester
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Green Street, Leicester
- Thornley, W. W., Esq., Bowling
Green Street, Leicester
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Buckminster Park, Grantham
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- Viccars, Mrs. Arnold, The Homestead,
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- Wells, E. E., Esq., Kegworth,
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- Wilford, W. E., Esq., 28 Charles St.,
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- Wilshere, H. O., Esq., Greenways,
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- Wykes, Miss Veronica, Town End
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Leicester
- Young, Mrs. W. G. R., Kimcote
Rectory, Lutterworth

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Except when notice is given to the contrary, General Meetings are held at the Church House, St. Martin's East, Leicester, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The Committee meet, at the same time of the day, in the Society's room at the Guildhall (Old Town Hall), Leicester. For one hour before each meeting, whether General or of the Committee, the Society's room is open for the convenience of members who wish to consult or borrow books in the Library.

SOCIETIES IN UNION FOR THE INTERCHANGE OF PUBLICATIONS

Birmingham Archæological Society, Cambridge Antiquarian Society, Derbyshire Archæological and Natural History Society, Kent Archæological Society, Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Society, Shropshire Archæological Society, Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History, Surrey Archæological Society, The Society of Antiquaries, The North Staffordshire Field Club, The Thoresby Society, The Thoroton Society (Notts.), Yorkshire Archæological Society, Essex Archæological Society, Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archæological Society, Lincolnshire Archæological Society.

RULES

1.—The Society shall be called “THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.”

2.—The objects of the Society shall be, to promote the study of Ecclesiastical Architecture, General Antiquities, and the Restoration of Mutilated Architectural Remains within the County; and to furnish suggestions, so far as may be within its province, for improving the character of Ecclesiastical Edifices, and for preserving all ancient remains which the Committee may consider of value and importance.

3.—The Society shall be composed of a Patron, a President, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurer, Auditor, and Honorary and Ordinary Members.

4.—The Patron, President and Vice-Presidents shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Society, and their election shall be subject to their payment of the Annual Subscription.

5. The Members of the Society shall be entitled to propose new Members, either by letter or personally, to be elected at the Committee Meetings; the Honorary Members shall be ladies or gentlemen who have either rendered signal service to the Society, or are specially learned in the subjects the study of which it is formed to encourage, and shall be nominated by the Committee at one of their Meetings, and proposed for election only at the Annual General Meeting of the Members to be held in March of each year.

6.—Each Member shall pay an annual subscription of One Pound, to be due in advance on the 1st of January every year. No Member whose subscription is more than two months overdue shall be entitled to vote until every subscription has been paid. Any Member wishing to resign must give one month's notice of his intention, and this notice should be sent to one of the Society's Secretaries before the end of November. If any subscribing Member is found to be more than two years in arrear, his or her name shall, after due warning, be removed from the list of Members of the Society.

7. The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee composed of the Secretaries, Local Secretaries, Treasurer, and twenty Members, all of whom shall be elected annually; five Members of the Committee to form a quorum.

8.—The Meetings of the Members shall be held on the last Monday of every alternate month; one of such Meetings to be held in the month of March to be considered the Annual General Meeting, at which the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts be presented and the Officers and Committee for the year be elected, and such new Rules or alterations in the Rules proposed and made as may be thought necessary: provided always that due notice of such new Rules or alterations in Rules be given by circular to each Member of the Society at least seven days before the Annual Meeting. In addition to the Bi-Monthly Meetings—so including the Annual Meeting—Public Meetings for the reading of Papers, &c., may be held as provided for under Rule 12.

9.—The Committee shall have power to fill up vacancies in their number, and also in the vacancies of officers of the Society.

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10.—The Committee shall elect each year a Chairman, at the first meeting after the Annual Meeting, and shall have power to appoint from year to year such Sub-Committees as appear to be advisable.

11.—The Members of the Committee in any neighbourhood may associate other Members of the Society with themselves, and form Committees for Local Purposes in communication with the Central Committee.

12.—The Public Meetings of the Society shall be holden at such times and places as shall be appointed by the Committee.

13.—The Committee meet at the times and places which they may themselves appoint.

14.—The Secretaries shall be required, on the requisition of five Members of the Committee, to call a Special Meeting of the Society.

15.—Donations of Architectural and Antiquarian Books, Plans, &c., may be received. The Committee shall be empowered to make purchases and procure casts and drawings, which shall be under the charge of the Secretaries.

16.—When the Committee shall consider any Paper, not including accounts of Excursions, which may have been read before the Society, worthy of its being printed at its expense, they shall request the author to furnish a copy, and shall decide upon the number of copies to be printed, provided always that the number be sufficient to supply each Member with one copy, and the author with twenty-five copies. All other questions relating to the publishing Plans and Papers and illustrating them with engravings, shall be decided by the Editorial Secretary, subject to the approval of the Committee.

17.—The Committee may every year publish, or join with other Architectural and Archæological Societies in publishing, for circulation among the Members, Transactions to contain descriptions and Papers connected with the objects of the Society.

18.—On application being made to any Member of the Committee, or to the Committee collectively, for the advice of the Society in the restoration of any Church, a Sub-Committee shall be appointed (of which the Incumbent or Resident Minister shall be one) to visit the Church and submit a report in writing to the General Committee.

19.—All Plans for the building, enlargement, or restoration of churches, schools, or ancient buildings, &c., sent for inspection of the Committee, be placed in the hands of one of the Secretaries of the Society, at least fourteen days before the Committee Meeting, for the Secretary to prepare a special report thereon.

20.—The Committee shall have power at any Meeting to make grants towards the objects of the Society, provided that if such grant—other than that for carrying out the objects contemplated in Rules 16 and 17—exceed £5, notice to be given in the circular or advertisement calling the Meeting.