

# The Proceedings of the Bucks Architectural and Archaeological Society

FOR THE YEAR 1919.

## ANNUAL EXCURSION.

This took place on July 10th, High Wycombe and West Wycombe being visited as reported in the *Bucks Herald*, July 12, 1919

The Church of All Saints\* came first, and Mr. R. S. Downs acted as guide. A visit was next made to the remains of the ancient Hospital of St. John in Easton Street, which dates from A.D. 1175†. The 13th century Chapel, of which only a portion of the north wall remains, was formerly used as the Grammar School. Luncheon was served at the Red Lion Hotel; afterwards a move was made to West Wycombe House, to which the party was admitted by the kind permission of Sir John Lindsay Dashwood, Bart., and the tenant, A. W. Gilmour, Esq. The best account of this house and grounds known to the writer is that in *Country Life* of Jan 1st, 1916, where it is also admirably illustrated. To come down to the time when the Dashwoods first became connected with West Wycombe: Thomas Lewis, Alderman of London, granted it in 1698 to his brothers-in-law, Sir Samuel and Sir Francis Dashwood. The latter, who became the owner, was born 1658, and created first baronet in 1707, but it was a successor, who became baronet in 1762 and was created Baron le Despenser, who left his mark so much on house, church and grounds as we see them to-day. He re-built the church on the hill, and, judging by the numerous temples, etc., in the grounds, he must have had the building fever almost as strongly as his distant neighbour at Stowe. Indeed, it would seem that he made a real attempt to emulate Stowe‡ on a smaller scale, in the way of artificial water, temples, grottoes, and other garden buildings. Thus we find, amongst buildings which still survive, "Daphne's Temple," a sheltered seat, the more ambitious "Island Temple," the "Temple of the four winds," the "Great Archway and Cockpit." The "Saw Mill" was of three blocks of symmetrical design.

Of the four fronts of the mansion the north is the most satisfactory, because it is not overdone with colonnades like the other three. The house has the disadvantage of standing on a northern slope, but the undulating and beautifully timbered park gives a great charm. Lord le Despenser only followed the fashion of the time in seeking for stateliness rather than comfort; a house with an entrance in all four fronts may be stately, but can hardly be comfortable. The great hall is divided into three sections by columns with the famous mahogany staircase at the western end. The handsome saloon has been used as the dining-room, but is a long way from the kitchen. †

\* Records IX., 7, 13, 19, 27, etc.

† Records IX., 310.

‡ Records X., 51.

§ Vitruvius Brit. vol v., 1771, gives a plan and elevation of the house bearing the unknown name of Donowell.

The strange so-called Mausoleum in the churchyard on the opposite hill was due to a legacy left by George, Lord Doddington, whose diary is so often quoted for its detail of the first years of the reign of George III. This is a great erection unenclosed of hexagonal form, of which each side is decorated with four attached columns of the Tuscan order supporting a complete entablature and parapet with vases, each side having a central archway with smaller openings between the other columns. The frieze is inscribed, "To George Doddington, Baron de Melcombe Regis." It is more a very ambitious and monumental screen than a mausoleum, and encloses several family memorials.

#### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Was held at the Museum, Nov. 27th, 1919. Mr. W. Niven presided over rather a small attendance. The Honorary Secretary presented the annual report, which showed that 6,660 people, exclusive of children, visited the Museum during the year. In 1914 there were 326 members of this Society, and the income was less than £150. At present there were 270 members and the income about £120, while expenses had doubled. The maintenance of the Museum alone, with the strictest economy, cost £150 per annum; so that it was only the generosity of a few of our more enthusiastic members which saved us from a state of insolvency. The Society, to be able to pay its own way, required a membership of at least 500.

The Curator reported that during the year 180 gifts for the Museum were received. Of 200 trade tokens known to have been issued the Society now held 191.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President: The Earl of Rosbery. Vice-Presidents: Lord Boston, Viscount Hambledon, Bishops of Oxford and Buckingham, Mr. Disraeli, Mr. A. H. Cocks, Mr. J. Elliman, Lady Smyth, Mr. J. Berry, with the addition of Lady Liberty. The Council were re-elected, adding Rev. V. L. Whitechurch and Capt. Stewart Liberty. Mr. F. W. Pixley was elected hon. treasurer on the resignation of Mr. C. G. Watkins, who was thanked for his services.

Both of the Society's representatives attended the Congress of Archaeological Societies held in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Nov. 28, 1919. The Council recorded its deep sense of the loss which archaeology has suffered by the death of Sir William Hope.

A plea was made by Dr. Philip Norman for greater care of the few remaining fine examples of the older country cottage.

W. N.

## ACQUISITIONS TO MUSEUM, 1917-19.

The following are the more important items from the Curator's Reports:—

RAT (albino) *Mus decumanus*=*Epimys norvegicus*, (Barrett-Hamilton, from Berkenhout), caught in Aylesbury (Police-Sergt. Fennimore).

"BROADSHEET," 1642. A declaration, etc., for defence against Papists and others gathered at Brill (Col. the Hon. T. Fremantle).

"PARISH REGISTER OF SWANBOURNE" (Lord Cottesloe).  
18th Century TRADE TOKENS, Aylesbury and Chesham, Boyne 2, 18, and 19 (Mr. W. Foat).

EGG OF REDSHANK, *Totanus totanus*, found near Aylesbury 27th April, 1917 (Mr. E. Hollis).

"LIFE OF JOHN WILKES," H. Bleackley, 1917 (the Author).  
PARCEL OF POSTERS used in Bucks during the War (Recruiting, Food Economy, etc.), (Major Hooker).

POLECAT, *Putorius putorius*, killed by donor near Aylesbury Cemetery, 1892 (Mr. C. Wise).

POLL BOOKS, Aylesbury, 1848 and 1868 (Mr. W. Crouch).

PARCHMENT DEEDS relating to the Chapel at St. Leonard's, Bucks, dating from 1507 to 1638 (ditto).

17th Cent. TRADE TOKENS, Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Fenny Stratford, Little Horwood, Olney, Boyne 10, 20, 65, 66, 73, 109, 111 (Mr. W. Bradbrook).

ELL MEASURE used by cloth weavers at Stewkley (Rev. R. B. Dickson).

RÊTESSE and other ROMAN REMAINS from villa at Foscott, near Buckingham (Exors. of late J. T. Harrison).

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT, ENCLOSURE OF COMMON LANDS, Newport Pagnell, Stoke Mandeville, Oakley, Wing, Thornborough, Great Woolston, Drayton Parslow, Prince's Risborough, Walton (Mr. F. D. Mackinnon, K.C.).

Large Collection of BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FOSSILS, 7 Museum TABLE CASES, and a number of British and Foreign MINERALS and FOSSILS from the collection of the late Dr. Lee, of Hartwell (Mrs. Philip Lee).

PART OF ROMAN QUERN, Sandpit, Stone (Dr. T. G. Parrott).

10 BUCKS ENGRAVINGS (Mr. A. E. Holloway).

"RECORDS of 2ND BUCKS BATTALION" (Capt. I. Stewart-Liberty).

FRAGMENTS OF POTTERY, mostly British, from embankment of Boddington Hill Camp, Wendover (Capt. R. L. Graham).

BUNDLE OF POLICE WAR NOTICES (Major Otway Mayne).

IMPRESSION OF GREAT SEAL OF QUEEN VICTORIA (Mr. W. Crouch).

IRON CANNON BALL and IRON BULLET, Aylesbury (ditto).

"READING ABBEY," from the author, J. B. Harvey, M.A., M.D., 1901.

24 ENGRAVINGS, Bucks Views (Mr. A. E. Holloway).

GAS MASK (Mr. A. Wright).

ARAB BABY'S BONNET, from Sharaban, 58 miles N. of Baghdad; 2 blue glazed ARAB BUTTONS; glass EAR DROP (Mr. C. V. Daniels).

COLLECTION OF MINERALS, chiefly American (Mr. E. T. McCarthy).

IRON CANDLESTICK (Mr. J. Slade).

O. and B. L.I. CHRONICLE, 1914 (Lieut.-Colonel Mockler-Ferryman).

M.S. TRANSCRIPTS OF REGISTERS: Winslow, 1560—1715; N. Crawley, 1558—1731; Little Horwood, 1568—1837; Granborough, 1538—1695; Hillesden, 1594—1753; Newport Pagnell, 1558—1812; Buckingham, 1699—1812 (Rev. R. Ussher).

REPRINT from *Bucks Adventurer*, Leckhampstead Register, 1558—1812, with MS. additions to end of 1836 (ditto).

REPRINT, Register of Buckingham, 1561—1797 (ditto).

SCRAP BOOK containing newspaper cuttings referring to: Brackley (Northants), Steeple Claydon, Maids' Moreton, and Leckhampstead (Bucks) (ditto).

PASSPORT of Capt. S. P. Humphreys, 1802 (Mr. W. Foat).

AYLESBURY TOKEN, 1796 (Boyne ?), (Miss Grinnell).

BRONZE MEDAL and SHAREHOLDER'S TICKET for opening of Aylesbury Railway, 1839 (ditto).

PRINCESS MARY'S BOX, XMAS CARDS and PENCIL CASE (presented to all troops serving at Xmas, 1914 (Local War Museums Association).

MODEL FOR HALF-SOVEREIGN, dug up in Aylesbury (Supt. Pollard).

PLASTER CAST of Dagger of reindeer horn, with carving of reindeer as handle, original found at La Madelaine, France (Major S. S. Flower).

PLASTER CAST of barbed bone harpoon head (ditto).

Ditto, fragment of mammoth ivory with incised drawing of Mammoth, ditto (ditto).

"NOTES FROM THE ANNALS OF AKELEY," from the author (Rev. J. M. Turner).

FRAGMENTS OF ROMAN POTTERY from villa excavated at Bledlow in 1918, by the donor (Mr. C. O. Skilbeck).

12 BOXES containing fossils collected by the late Professor Sir W. H. Flower (Major S. S. Flower).

"HARTWELL LAW CATALOGUE," presentation copy from author to Admiral Smyth (ditto).

MAP OF BUCKS, by Bryant, 1825 (Mr. A. J. Whitworth).

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE of Art Treasures in Imperial Museum in the East Palace, Korea (Mr. E. T. McCarthy).

M.S. TRANSCRIPTS OF REGISTERS: Lillingstone Dayrell 1588—1810; Shenley, 1653—1812; Thornborough, 1602—1812; Shalstone, 1538—1812; Stowe, 1568—1836; Chetwode, 1583—1812; Stewkley (following on from printed transcript), 1648—1796; Beachampton, 1628—1757 (Rev. R. Ussher).

17th CENT. TOKEN, "Thomas Collings in Eaton," 59 Boyne (Mr. W. Foat).

"TOOLS and WEAPONS," by Professor W. Flinders Petrie, 1917 (Lady Smyth).

Collection of BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FOSSILS (Miss M. E. Tapping).

SHEARS and CLIPPERS used in Silk Mill formerly at Waddesdon (Mrs. Ewers).

Curious BRASS RULE, used in the School established by Edmd. Burke at Penn in 1796 for the sons of victims of the French Revolution (Lady Rose).

Collection of GLASS and POTTERY from Cyprus (Mr. J. C. E. Bridge).

"CHENIES CHURCH and MONUMENTS," by Adeline Duchess of Bedford, 1901 (ditto).