

## ACQUISITIONS, 1926.

MAHOGANY CABINET, containing very fine collection of FLINT IMPLEMENTS, mostly from the neighbourhood of Grimes Graves and Icklingham, together with, the many GEOLOGICAL MAPS and REPRINTS OF PAPERS read by the late Dr. W. A. Sturge, and others, on Archaeological and Geological subjects.—Bequest from Mrs. W. A. Sturge.

DISC OF LIMOGES, ENAMEL, 13th Century, 2½ inches diameter (half figure of Christ with book in left hand, right held up in blessing), found in a house at Newton Longville. Is said to have belonged to old Monastery there, and is mentioned in Historical Monuments Commissioners' Report, Vol. II., p. 216. These discs are very uncommon, and are thought to have been used as decoration of book covers or cases containing church property.—Presented by Exor. of late Mr. T. Powell.

SCREEN, given by Mr. Weller, was mentioned in last report, although given during 1926.

**Coins, &c.**

17th CENTURY TRADE TOKEN, Francis Anderton, Stony Stratford (Purchased). This was one of the few needed to make our collection complete.

DENARIUS OF MARCUS AURELIUS, found at Creslow (Mr. W. Brazier).

SILVER PENNY, WILLIAM 1st, and 3rd BRASS OF CONSTANTINUS, found at Stone (Lady Smyth).

3rd BRASS OF CONSTANTINE II., found at Chesham (Anonymous).

**Library.**

"THE MANOR AND PARISH RECORDS OF MEDMENHAM" (Mr. C. Disraeli).

PARCHMENT MAP OF NEWTON LONGVILLE (Exors. of late T. Powell).

THE TEMPLE MEMOIRS (Col. J. A. and H. M. Temple).

"BIRDS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE," (Dr. E. Hartert). MS.

INDEX TO AYLESBURY PARISH REGISTERS, 1653-1700 (E. Hollis).

MONUMENTAL BRASSES OF BRITISH ISLES (Purchased).

**Miscellaneous.**

ALBINO VARIETY OF COMMON SHREW. *Sorex araneus*. Caught at Grendon Underwood, November 1926 (Mrs. Golby).

PEREGRINE FALCON. *Falco peregrinus*. Killed at Haddenham, March, 1926 (Mr. F. J. Palmer).

PAIR OF COCK'S-HEAD HINGES, 16th or early 17th Century, from a door in Great Missenden (Mr. Cox).

BRONZE STANDARD QUARTER-PINT MEASURE (Wine Blekheley Bucks), (Exors of late T. Powell).

## ANNUAL EXCURSION

The meeting which took place on the 23rd June was enjoyed in beautiful weather, and, although the reduction of train services might have been expected to have an adverse effect on attendances, the number of members and friends present was about 100. Among those there were Sir James and Lady Berry, Lady Stopford, Sir George and Lady Dunbar, Major Coningsby and Mrs. Disraeli, Mr. W. Bradbrooke, Capt. and Mrs. Ivor Stewart-Liberty, Major S. S. Timmis, Dr. L. H. and Miss West, Mr. F. W. Reader, Mrs. J. T. and Miss Harrison, Miss F. Gurney, Mr. H. Stevens, Miss Tatham, Mrs. Robinson, Miss Ashwell, Mr. and Mrs. F. Bull, Mr. M. Fletcher, Mr. C. Plaistowe, Mr. F. W. Raffety, Mr. P. Rowe, Mr. R. H. Trench, Mr. W. H. Williams, Mrs. J. H. Coales, Miss Pratley, Rev. R. Bale, Rev. F. W. Bennett, Rev. R. Hughes, Mr. G. Eland, Major S. S. and Mrs. Flower, Mrs. Donald Stewart, Mrs. Baker, Mr. Ambrose Heal, Mr. F. Skull, Mr. P. C. Skull, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Wilkins, Miss Nicholls, Mr. and Mrs. A. Macdonald, Miss Gregory, Dr. S. J. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Biegel, Misses A. D. and K. S. Grinnell, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Walton, Dr. and Mrs. H. Rose, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. E. Corner, Mr. T. Thurlow, Mrs. G. R. Crouch, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hollis, Miss M. Grenfell, Major L. W. Kentish, Mr. W. J. Welford, Lt.-Colonel J. Wyness, etc

### DENHAM PLACE

The first house visited was Denham Place. As the Society had never been to Denham before this very fine house was unfamiliar to many of those present. A short paper was read before members entered the house, and passed through the fine suite of reception rooms. It was as follows:—"We here met to-day by kind permission of Mr. Fothergill at a truly remarkable house; not to trouble you with the early manorial history we may start with Sir Edmund Peckham, Master of the Mint, and holder of many offices, who acquired the manor and built a house here about 1541. He is commemorated by the fine altar tomb and effigies in the Church. Upon Sir Geo. Peckham's death (1596), it was bought by Wm. Bowyer, whose successor, Sir William Bowyer, built Denham Court, and sold the house here to Sir Roger Hill (1673). From that time until 1688 Sir Roger lived in the old house, he then began the building of this one, and took his time about it in so leisurely a way that it was under construction through most of the reign of William III (1688—1702). Sir Roger Hill was son of a distinguished lawyer, a Baron of the Exchequer under the Commonwealth. The total cost of building in the money of the day was £5,549. Sir Roger's granddaughter, and ultimate heiress, married Lewis Way, a Director of the reconstructed South Sea Company, and a Governor of Guy's Hospital. His grandson, Benjamin Way II., made several unfortunate alterations about 1830. Thus he it is who is responsible for the thin glazing-bars in the windows, for re-moving a wrought-iron balustrade from the mansard roof, and for doing away with the alternately semi-circular and pointed pediments to the dormer windows. Externally you will observe the clever use of bricks, with dressings and quoins of rubbed brick and the pleasing wooden modillion cornice carrying the eaves. Internally, the Chapel contains early 16th century wood-work, said to have been brought from Somerset, where the Hills had property. The linen panelling and bench-ends are very noticeable. The gallery front above the ante-chapel has an

elaborate carving of the Grinling Gibbons type contemporary with the house. The north window is filled with good armorial glass of the Hill pedigree. The ceiling of the gallery is dated 1692. The Tapestry Room, hung with Flemish tapestries depicting the Golden Fleece, has a coved frieze decorated in high relief and representing landscapes, etc., dated 1692. The Drawing Room ceiling represents music and sports; the frieze in this case depicts hunting, fishing, etc. Both ceilings are the work of Dutchmen, probably."

#### THE SAVOY

The party then moved to the Savoy, in the same parish, and there the following paper was read:—"In the 12th century the Abbey of Westminster, owned Denham. One portion passed into the hands of the Durdents, and in 1327 Thomas Durdent settled the manor of Denham Durdent (so-called for the first time) upon himself for life, and then to his son. It is possible that the house we are looking at was actually built to a great extent by him; the original hall, with remains of an aisle on the E. side, belong-ing to that date. The solar wing, to the S.—now the drawing-room — belongs to the latter part of the 14th century. Late in the 15th century this, wing was lengthened towards the E. by adding the present entrance hall. The N.E. wing (' the study ') was built probably a little later than the solar. The upper floor was inserted in the great hall in the middle of the 16th century, when the central chimney-stack was built. The N. Wing was then possibly remodelled, and the staircase in the angle with the main block made. The present staircase beyond the entrance hall is of early 17th century. Before considering the interior of this wonderful relic of the past we will conclude its history. The tenure of the Durdents, after a reign of 360 years, came to an end with the flight of two Thomas Durdents, father and son, in 1511, upon a charge of murder—they were pardoned in 1516, and may have regained some of their property, but this manor was pur-chased to form part of the endowment by Henry VII. of the Savoy, or Hospital of the Savoy, in the old palace of Peter, Count of Savoy, London. There were a master, 4 chaplains, and 100 poor persons. Upon the suppression of the Savoy in 1553 it was granted by the King for the endowment of St. Thomas's Hospital, and that Hospital held it until 1874, when the estate was sold to General Goodlake. The decease of his widow a few years ago has placed it in the hands of the present owner."

Members then passed inside the house, and were deeply interested in the numerous timbers which form the evidence of its 14th and 15th century construction. The mural paintings in an upstairs room, dated 1606, attracted considerable attention. When going through the various rooms Mr. Morten, whose, family had been tenants at the Savoy for nearly 200 years, was good enough to escort the members, and give them information. The proper pronunciation of the name of the house is "Savvy."

#### A VISIT TO SHARDELOES

Members then entered their cars and drove to Amersham, where they lunched at the Crown Hotel. At the conclusion of that meal they strolled in the town, admiring the Market place, Alms-houses, and other buildings (not forgetting No. 47, High Street, whence came the 15th century screen recently presented to the Museum by Mr. G. Weller). They then entered their cars and drove to Shardeloes, where a short paper was read, as follows:—"According to Professors Mawer and Stenton's recently published book on 'Place-names of Bucks,' the name of Shardeloes is to be

traced to the entry in the Close Rolls of 1333, where Adam de Shardelowe appears as owner. This Adam is thought to have come from Shardlow in Derbyshire. Omitting some of the earliest manorial owners, we find that in the reign of Henry VI. Shardeloes was held by Hy. Brudenell, Lord of Raans. Later it was possessed by the Cheneys, and afterwards by William Tothill, a clerk in Chancery in the time of Elizabeth. By his marriage with Catherine Denham he had the astonishing family of 33 children, but no son succeeded, and the eldest daughter, Joan, married Francis Drake, a courtier of James I., who came from the Devonshire Drakes of Ashe. The eldest son acquired the manor of Amersham in 1665, after being made a baronet in 1641. He was the founder of the Almshouses, which we passed just now, and his nephew and heir, a knight, not a baronet, built the Market House. The house in which he lived stood approximately on the same site as the present house, though nearer the top of the hill. An old print of this house (in which Wm. Tothill received Queen Elizabeth) is reproduced in the Records' (I. 339). It shows a house built round a courtyard, with three gables in the front, flanked by a long range of buildings on the N.W. The present house was built in 1759—1761 by Robert Adam immediately after his return from Italy, and it is said to be his earliest work. That reason alone would lend it great importance in these days, when the art of the famous brothers is so highly appreciated; but the particular interest of Shardeloes lies in the fact that it has undergone so very little change in the 165 years of its existence. We shall find ceilings, fireplaces, doorways, dado rails, and many other fittings much as Adam left them; further, the very wall decorations remain. In the Library we shall see beneath the ceiling a series of panels with shaded paintings of white on green, which have all the appearance of Wedgwood cameos on a great scale. We shall find furniture worthy of the house, and altogether can promise ourselves a remarkable treat in beholding a house conceived and executed in the grand manner, so nicely proportioned that it has the air of domestic repose which could never have existed in the chilly stateliness of Stowe, for example, Lipscomb, who was more distinguished for diligence than for taste, tells us (III. 156) that 'the house is more remarkable, interiorly for convenience, spaciousness, and comfort than for its decorations.' He adds: 'The building forms a very striking object from the road; and, without claiming the epithet of magnificent, is justly entitled to be considered a very handsome and appropriate abode for one of the higher classes of the English gentry.'

The party was then taken through the chief reception rooms by Mrs. Drake, who very kindly gave information about the interesting contents of this stately but most comfortable house. In the drawing-room the pictures of Queen Elizabeth, Mary, Queen of Scots, Sir Francis Drake, and others, attracted much attention. The wonderful wall and ceiling decorations in the dining-room were admired; and the beautiful little boudoir, with its coved ceiling, excited admiration.

#### WELCOME AT THE LEE

After leaving Shardeloes the large party drove to The Lee, where they were hospitably entertained by Captain and Mrs. Ivor Stewart-Liberty. After tea members walked round the beautiful grounds, which appeared in perfection, or crossed the Green to see the little 13th century Church, which is no longer used for Divine Service.

So concluded a day which was voted by all to have unusual attractions, from the variety of the houses visited.