

EXTENSION OF MUSEUM  
AND  
MUNIMENT ROOM

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For some years the Society has been faced with the necessity to provide proper accommodation for the deeds which have passed, or are likely to pass into its custody as the guardian appointed by the Master of the Rolls under the Act of 1924.

The economic difficulties which delayed the issue of a formal appeal have, unfortunately, increased rather than diminished, but the need of action has become more imperative, and on 11 February a meeting was held at Eton College, at which our President took the chair and was supported by the Lord Lieutenant and the Chairman of the Council. Sir Frank MacKinnon, one of our members, made a speech in which he illustrated the value of various types of records to future ages.

Lord Cottesloe pleaded eloquently for the scheme, which Major Disraeli explained consisted in the provision of an underground strong-room, ventilated but proof against fire or damp, whilst above it the existing small yard at the back of the Museum would be roofed over so as to add nearly 50% to the existing exhibition space of the Museum, already much overcrowded and insufficient to display the Society's possessions to advantage.

At the same time as the Eton meeting an exhibition was opened in the Museum illustrative of the extremely varied types of muniments which we wished to preserve. This exhibition was based on documents in the Society's ownership, but was strengthened by the generosity of various members who loaned papers

of great value or interest. A catalogue of about 50 items was printed, but some items comprised many documents so that a dozen cases were easily filled. Two of the most remarkable were the Battle of Trafalgar letter, deposited by Lord Cottesloe, and the Boarstall Cartulary, lent by Major H. L. Aubrey-Fletcher.

The estimated cost of this much-needed addition to our Museum and of the muniment room is about £2,500; an appeal has been issued to the public to assist a cause which must interest both lovers of antiquities and lovers of our county, and every member who has not already responded to the appeal which he has received is urgently begged to make a contribution, large or small.