

THE SOCIETY

MEETINGS: A considerable number were arranged during the year. In March Dr. Oakley lectured on "Some Recent Prehistoric Discoveries in East Africa" to members in the Amersham area. At the Annual General Meeting at Aylesbury in May, Mr. F. W. Grimes gave a lecture, illustrated with slides, on "Roman London". In August the Society entertained, at the Museum, the International Geological Congress, the leader of which was Dr. Arkell, and later in the year another Meeting was arranged in Aylesbury, when the film "Beginnings of History" was shown.

In early July an interesting experiment was undertaken, with which the Society was closely concerned. The Education Committee of the County Council arranged that one of their week-end courses at the Adult Education College at Missenden Abbey should deal with local history and archaeology. The Society was responsible for arranging the speakers. The course lasted from Friday evening until Sunday midday, and the speakers included Mr. Markham, Mrs. Sansome, Mr. Perrins, Mr. Jenkins, and Dr. Morley Davies. This was a most happy experiment which should certainly be repeated; tribute must be paid to Mr. J. W. Dunnill, who was responsible not only for the administrative arrangements, but also for presiding at the meetings and doing his utmost to make the week-end a pleasant one for all those attending.

Dr. A. Morley Davies gave his lecture on the early history of Buckinghamshire, at Missenden Abbey, on Sunday, 4th July, 1948. Premising that, as a county, Buckinghamshire was a little over a thousand years old, he traced the successive human occupation of the region from prehistoric times down to the end of the Middle Ages, when the forcible depopulation of many parishes of North Bucks. took place. The only novel point made was in reference to the local tradition at Iver, that the Saxon church had been burned by the Danes. This tradition seems to telescope two events more than a century apart—the presence of Danish refugees from defeat at Farnham, within a mile of Iver church, in 893, and the burning of the church, probably not then built, of which evidence can still be seen.

A meeting was held, mainly for the benefit of members in the south of the County, in Gerrards Cross, on Saturday, 10th April, 1948, when Mr. E. CLIVE ROUSE, F.S.A., spoke on 'Some Buckinghamshire Wall paintings and their Meaning'. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides, and showed examples of wall painting, in which our County is unusually rich, at Chalfont St. Giles, Little Missenden, Little Kimble, Eton College, Little Hampden, Broughton, and elsewhere. The unusual *Morality* subjects at Broughton, Swanbourne, and Little Horwood, and their literary and sociological background, were especially mentioned.

The chair was taken by the Bishop of Buckingham, who welcomed a very large audience which filled the Masonic Hall. The experiment was made of throwing the meeting open to the public; and it is hoped that by this means interest in the antiquities of our County and in the work of our Society will be increased. A number of new members resulted from the meeting. If volunteers were forthcoming to act as Local Secretaries, it is felt that similar meetings, and perhaps local excursions in the summer, could be arranged in various places in our long and awkward County. Centres like Slough, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Bletchley might well prove suitable.

BLEDLOW CROSS: This well-known landmark on the Chiltern Hills had been obscured during the war years by a covering of brushwood faggots. Its surface had consequently become overgrown with moss and weeds, and was barely visible.

On 27th September, 1947, members of the Society living in the neighbourhood were invited to visit it and restore the surface to its original colour.

The President and twelve members and their friends responded, and equipped with rakes and hoes, they scraped the surface of the Cross down to the original chalk subsoil. A few small trees and bushes which were partly concealing the north-western arm were cut down, and the Cross has again become a visible feature of the landscape.

During 1948 Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Sheppard were appointed Resident Caretakers at the Museum: they now occupy a flat on the second floor.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

TO THE MUSEUM

Fossils from the Chalk Rock at Latimer, collected by F. A. Lea and K. P. Oakley, and listed by F. A. Lea in *Records of Bucks.*, XIII, 1939, p. 436. The bulk of this collection was given to the Museum in October, 1947.

Two Mammoth Tusks (site Ordnance Map 728, part 7) and Two Palstaves, Gravel Pit, Wendover. Donor: Sir Alan Barlow, Bart., G.C.B.

Truncheon, inscribed 'Slapton Bucks', and pair of Handcuffs. Donor: Mr. F. Butcher. Chair formerly used in Ivinghoe Brewery. Donor: Mr. E. J. Seabrook.

Painted Travelling Trunk, studded with tacks and inscribed 'E.H.1685'. Purchased B.A.S. and Mr. F. Gordon Roe, F.S.A.

Bell, inscribed 'Thomas Bartlett made me 1621'. This bell was formerly in the Turret Clock Tower of Weedon Lodge, and was known locally as 'Morin's Clock'. The clock was made by T. W. Field, Aylesbury, and was dated A.D. 1796. There is no evidence to suggest the site of the bell between 1621 and 1796. Donor: Mr. G. Paine.

Parrott Collection of Domestic Bygones. Donor: Bucks. County Planning Committee.

Seventeenth-century Pitcher found during excavations on site of the County Offices, Aylesbury, July 1929. Donor: Mr. E. T. Gurney.

Collection of Costumes and Queen Ann Embroideries. Donor: Mr. A. F. Sotheby.

Collection of Victorian Dresses. Donor: Miss H. Hubbard.

Glis glis (Fat Edible Dormouse), three specimens. Donors: Lady Barlow and Bucks Agricultural Committee.

Set of 6-in. maps of Buckinghamshire. Ordnance Survey (per Mr. C. W. Phillips).

2 Manual Fire-engines, Langley Park. Donor: Bucks County Planning Committee.

Iron-bound Coffers, Wing Church. Deposited by Wing Church Council, per Mr. A. Vere Woodman.

The following extracts from the Churchwardens' Accounts for 1538 may refer to the Coffers:

Item. To Nycolas Bukmaster for bordys for ye coffer	xs.
Item. for glue and nayls.	vijd.
Item. to ye Smyth for Iryn worke for ye coffer	ijs vijd.
Item. for makyng of the coffer	vijs vijd.

TO THE LIBRARY

Old Oak Furniture, by F. Roe. Donor: Mr. F. Gordon Roe, F.S.A.

Gulielma, wife of William Penn, by G. L. V. Hodgkin. Donor: the Authoress.

History of the Village of Lavendon, by Rev. R. N. Rendall. Donor: the Author.

Buckinghamshire County Handbook. Donor: The Town Clerk, Aylesbury.

TO THE MUNIMENT ROOM

Court Rolls and Court Books, Manor of Long Crendon, 1343 to 1872 (continuous); and Manor of Notley, 1780 to 1826. Deposited by Messrs. Lightfoot & Lowndes.

Court Books, Manor of Haddenham with Kingsey and Cuddington, 1650 to 1933. Deposited by Mr. W. L. T. Harvey.

Court Rolls, Manor of Whaddon and Nash, 1725 to 1738. Deposited by Mr. J. L. Coales.

Overseers' Account Book for Stony Stratford West Side, 1706 to 1748. Deposited by Mr. G. S. Pepler.

Microfilm of Waddesdon Parish Registers, Vol. I, 1538 to 1734. Given by Gen. J. R. Delafield, New York.

Subsidy Roll for Buckinghamshire, 1346. Given by Hertford County Record Office.

Twenty Aylesbury deeds, thirteenth to fifteenth centuries. Given by the Council of the Borough of St. Albans.

Collection of deeds relating to North-east Bucks, seventeenth to nineteenth centuries. Given per Bedford County Record Office.

Collections of miscellaneous deeds. Deposited per British Records Association.

Collection of deeds, papers and books from the late Mr. F. G. Gurney, given by Mr. E. T. Gurney. This valuable collection, which is not yet available to members, includes Notebooks on genealogical, historical, and heraldic subjects; pedigree notes on Bucks. families; Court Rolls and Books of the Manor of Ivinghoe, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; upwards of 100 Gurney deeds, thirteenth to seventeenth centuries; other miscellaneous deeds, and over forty Buckinghamshire books.

GENERAL ACCOUNT FOR THE

	<i>Receipts</i>	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grants :			
Buckinghamshire County Council		750 0 0	
Buckinghamshire Standing Joint Committee		100 0 0	
Liberty Trustees		50 0 0	
		900 0 0	
Members' subscriptions			420 13 3
Income Tax recovered on covenanted subscriptions.			62 1 3
Donations			15 10 6
Collected in box at Museum.			12 19 6
Research fees and sale of <i>Records</i>			22 1 1
			1,433 5 7
Ceely House rents			172 0 0
			1,605 5 7
Balance brought forward, 1st January, 1947 :			
Cash at Bank		461 15 1	
Cash in hand		4 11 4	
		466 6 5	
			£2,071 12 0

We have examined the accounts of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society and certify the Statement of Account to be a true and correct record.

F. A. BURCH }
C. O. PILGRIM } Honorary Auditors.

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1947

<i>Payments</i>	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries and wages and National Insurance contributions				504	18	2
Travelling expenses				17	1	2
Upkeep of Museum Building:						
Repairs	7	8	3			
Fuel, light, water, and cleaning	111	5	3			
Rates	8	1	6			
Insurance premiums	3	1	6			
				129	16	6
Printing and stationery				161	15	4
Postage and carriage				20	6	0
Books and documents, etc.				15	12	0
Telephone charges				13	1	2
Cheque books				1	10	0
Subscriptions:						
British Records Association	1	0	0			
Monumental Brass Society	1	10	0			
Museums Association	3	3	0			
South Eastern Union of Scientific Societies		7	6			
South Midlands Museums Federation		5	0			
				6	5	6
Hire of room and chairs, and refreshments				3	15	3
Miscellaneous expenses					6	0
				874	7	1
Ceely House:						
Mortgage interest	140	0	0			
Repairs	24	7	5			
Rates	8	0	10			
				172	8	3
				1,046	15	4
Transfer to Ceely House—Purchase and Adaptation Account—for repayment of interest-free loan				1,000	0	0
Balance carried forward, 31st December, 1947:						
Cash at Bank	22	10	1			
Cash in hand	2	6	7			
				24	16	8
				£2,071	12	0

W. F. SERBY, A.C.A.,
Honorary Treasurer.

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(Tel. 158)