

THE SOCIETY

OFFICIAL OPENING OF CEELY HOUSE EXTENSION

The extension of the Museum to include Ceely House was made possible by a Pilgrim Trust grant of £5,000, and on the 10th July of this year the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Crawford, G.B.E., Trustee of the Pilgrim Trust, opened the new rooms. In his speech he expressed pleasure at the new displays and said that the Aylesbury Museum was performing its proper function in concentrating on local material. Provincial museums, he said, should always concern themselves with local history and once they stepped outside this sphere and tried to emulate the national museums they lost their charm and value. He concluded by saying that he could return to his fellow Trustees and tell them that the money had been well spent.

The President of the Society appealed to all members to introduce two new members each, within the near future, so that the Society funds could be increased. He said that although the County Council had relieved the Society of much of its financial responsibilities so far as the running of the Museum was concerned, a much greater membership was still necessary if the Society were to perform its proper duties of publication and excavation.

Canon R. F. Bale, M.A., F.S.A., proposed a vote of thanks to the Earl of Crawford, after which a tape across the entrance into the new rooms was cut and the new displays inspected.

The first floor of Ceely House has been converted into an Art Gallery in which the "Recording Britain" series of water-colours is at present on show. New

acquisitions will no doubt extend the collections, and temporary exhibitions will be held from time to time. There are also two enclosed rooms which it is hoped to set out as complete "period" rooms when suitable material is available. For the time being the Louis XVIII exhibits and a collection of wood carving are displayed in them. Between these the old medieval roof timber work and gable-end—evidence of the fifteenth-century house which once occupied the site—have been left exposed and form an exhibit which is as interesting as it is rare.

On the ground floor a display presenting County history from prehistoric times has been arranged, and this continues through to the old part of the Museum where, amongst exhibits from more modern times are agricultural implements used before the advent of machinery.

The large hall which was used for the opening ceremony is to house the geological natural history, and craft collections. Six new cases, towards the cost of which a Carnegie grant is to be obtained, have been used, but several more are needed if full use is to be made of the available display space.

The displays have been deliberately designed to attract, interest, and inform the ordinary visitor, and in due course when the new arrangements are complete the store rooms will be systematically organised so that the expert may readily find and compare specimens.

The amount of alteration and decoration involved in the recent work of extension has meant that the Museum staff have been confronted with the task of complete reorganisation. This is necessarily a slow process, but the steady increase in attendance figures would seem to justify the attempt to give Buckinghamshire a museum worthy of its history.

T. A. H.

GENERAL

Mr. R. C. Sansome, F.S.A.(Scot.), Curator, resigned in April, 1953, to take up an appointment as Curator of the County Museum, Taunton.

The County Museum Joint Committee, after some deliberation, decided to ask Mr. T. A. Hume, B.A., A.M.A., who came to Bucks as Schools Museum Officer in 1952, to take over the Curatorship in an Honorary capacity, as a temporary arrangement and a temporary assistant, Miss R. Austin, was appointed to help him in his dual capacity.

The rearrangement of the displays in the whole Museum, necessary as a result of the extensions which have now been completed, is proceeding, and when the main display has been reorganised it is intended to concentrate on rearranging the important reserve material and make it available to specialists and students.

The alterations and extensions made possible by the Pilgrim Trust grant of £5,000 were carried out under the instructions and supervision of the late Mr. E. A. L. Martyn, F.R.I.B.A., who unfortunately has been denied the pleasure of seeing the new displays in the setting which was the result of his careful planning. To bring the condition of decoration of the old part of the Museum up to the standard of the new extensions, the County Museum Joint Committee arranged for the repair and repainting of the old parts.

A small display of the work of the late Miss E. Turnham has been on show, and two exhibitions—"Italian Renaissance Decorative Arts" and "Post-War British Housing Designs"—have been held.

THE MUNIMENT ROOM

Accessions during 1952 and 1953 include:

(a) *Manorial Records*

Chesham, Court Book, 1690-5.

Haddenham, Books of Court Fees, 1820-46, 1893-1931, Book of Fines and Heriots, 1817-70.

Halton, Court Rolls, 1400-1723.

Iver, Court Rolls, 1333-77, 1594-6, 1654-5; Rentals and Surveys, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. These were deposited by the Marquess of Anglesey and were not included in the material used by Ward and Block for their History of Iver, 1933.

Langley Marish, Court Books, 1687-1937.

Marlow, Survey, 1555; Woodward's accounts, 1583-6.

Princess Risborough, Customs of the Manor, 1653-83.

Taplow, Court Books, 1763-1925.

Upton-cum-Chalvey, Court Rolls, 1618-1758; Court Books, 1649-1935; Survey, 1604; Terriers, 1780, 1854; Plans, 1773, 1822; Rentals, nineteenth century.

High Wycombe, Notes from the Court Rolls for the Manor of Temple Wycombe, Edw. II to Geo. II.

West Wycombe, Court Rolls, 1615-1722; Court Books, 1722-1850.

(b) *Non-Manorial Records*

Burnham, 13 grants, 1310-1491 in antique leather box.

Hanslope, fifteenth and sixteenth-century deeds relating to "Sewardes" in Bullington End, supplementary to Deeds deposited last year.

Halton, Evidences of title and terriers of Thomas Gurney, with pedigree and notes on his family, compiled about 1476.

Description of Halton Church and projected repairs, nineteenth century.

Iver, Langley Marish, and Horton, 26 deeds; Great and Little Marlow, and Medmenham, 29 deeds; all deposited by the Marquess of Anglesey, from the "Paget Muniments". The earliest Iver Deeds, a grant (n.d.) and its confirmation (1242) have two defective equestrian seals, one with the arms of the Earl of Cornwall, and the other early Deeds have good seals.

Lillingstone Dayrell, Prints and drawings of the old Manor House and Rectory; illuminated Grant of Arms to Richard Darell, 1556; illustrated extracts from pedigree of Dayrell family from thirteenth to eighteenth centuries.

Certificate of Burial in Woollen, Stoke Mandeville, 1770.

Photostat of Grant by Henry de Blois confirming grant by William Gifford to the Nunnery at Ivinghoe, c. 1150.

Original Insurance Policy taken out with the Sun Fire Office on No. 7 Church Street, Aylesbury (later Ceeley House) in 1891.

PARISH REGISTERS

The registers of the following parishes, beginning in the years indicated, have been deposited with the Society for safe custody.

Aston Clinton, 1560.

Bierton, 1560.

Cublington, 1566.

Drayton Beauchamp, 1538.

Dunton, 1576.

Grove, 1689.

Hartwell, 1553.

Hoggeston, 1547.

Great Horwood, 1600.

Hulcott, 1539.

Stone, 1538.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

LOANS

- | | | |
|---------|---|--|
| 4/1953 | 2nd Century Roman Pot | Deposited on permanent loan by Mr. D. Arnold, Grandborough |
| 56/1953 | 13th Century jug, Green Glaze
Figures in relief | Lent by Mr. W. G. Arthur,
Oak Green School, Aylesbury |
| | 13th Century pot—Grey Ware. | |
| 24/1954 | Embroidered Boy's dress. Silk Hat
and Cloak. Baby's clothes, etc.
Belonging to the present Earl of
Buckinghamshire | Lent by the
Earl of Buckinghamshire |

GIFTS

- | | | |
|---------|--|---|
| 1/1953 | 19th Century Valentine Bookmarker | Presented by Mr. Balls,
31 Abbots Road, Aylesbury |
| 2/1953 | 19th Century Pestle and Mortar | |
| 3/1953 | 19th Century Brass Mincing Machine | Presented by Mr. W. T. Philbey,
Kingsbury, Aylesbury |
| 5/1953 | 2 18th Century Iron Horse Shoes | Presented by Mr. Cameron of the
County Health Department |
| 6/1953 | Hedgerley excavation finds | Presented by Dr. K. Oakley |
| 7/1953 | Brill Kiln excavation finds | Presented by Mr. E. M. Jope |
| 12/1953 | 2 Roman Pots from R.A.F. Station, | Secretary of State for Air |
| 13/1953 | Halton. Fragments of other pots and | |
| 14/1953 | sections of human vertebræ | |
| 15/1953 | | |
| 16/1953 | | |
| 17/1953 | Print of Stewkley Church 1784 | Col. Guy R. Crouch, Aylesbury |
| 18/1953 | Horn Lantern, 18th Century | Col. O. Viney, Aylesbury |
| 24/1953 | 22 19th Century fashion plates and
drawings of costume in history | Miss R. K. Evans, West Furlong,
Hurstpierpoint, Sussex |
| 25/1953 | 19th Century hand-embroidered
chemise | Miss Hedges,
Woodlands, Erith, Hants |
| 26/1953 | Stonemason's trial piece (Mediæval)
from Newton Longville | Mr. J. Massey, Water Depart-
ment, Bletchley U.D.C. |
| 28/1953 | Puddingstone specimen | Dr. Morley Davies,
101 Station Road, Amersham |
| 29/1953 | Bowlatch (18th Century) from house
in Kingsbury | Mr. W. T. Philbey,
3 Kingsbury, Aylesbury |
| 55/1953 | Water colour of Great Kimble by the
late Sidney McKenzie Litten | Mrs. Doris Spencer,
Ivy Cottage, Little Kimble |
| 3/1954 | Cinerary Urn and Vessel—Bronze
Age from Tyingham | Mr. M. König,
La Vauracque, Sark |
| 5/1954 | Boy's Tuck Box 1810 | |
| 6/1954 | Costume Accessories 19th Century | Miss Wood, West Furlong,
Hurstpierpoint, Sussex |
| 7/1954 | 2 Dresses of Empire Period and
accessories | |

4/1954	45 lantern slides of costume. Greek 12th-19th Centuries	Miss R. K. Evans, West Furlong, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex
4b/1954	Collection of Fashion Drawings by Donor	
4c/1954	28 postcards 13th Century and 16th-19th Century costume	
4d/1954	17 sheets of mounted Costume Drawings and Postcards	
11/1954	7 Paleolithic tools, Burnham	Mr. D. H. Littlehales, Orchard Bungalow, Lent Rise, Burnham
12/1954	14 Neolithic tools, Datchet	
13/1954	2 Paleolithic tools, Gerrards Cross	
14/1954	1 Paleolithic tool, Iver	
15/1954	Part of Bronze Rapier. Part of Bronze Palstave, lump of unworked Bronze	
19/1954	Print of Ludgershall Church, 1884	Deaconess M. May, End Cottage, Kingswood
20/1954	Greetings cards. 1868-72. Christmas, New Year, Valentine, Easter	Professor P. A. Buxton, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
21/1954	Part of Neolithic Axe. Cumbrian stone from Whiteleaf, Icknield Way. Sherds of Iron Age "A" Pottery from Chinnor/Bledlow	Mrs. A. Young, Manor Cottage, Bledlow
23/1954	19th Century green glass bottle for aerated water	Mr. George, Electricity Board
<i>Purchases</i>		
9/1953	Water Colour Stewkley Church, 1822	Purchased for £12
10/1953	Water Colour Stewkley Church, 1828	Purchased for £12

Although the prolonged work of alteration and decoration has caused considerable congestion in the Museum, work has been begun on a new display and during the year there have been temporary exhibitions which have proved interesting to visitors—Italian Renaissance Art; Post-War British Housing Design; and a small display of the late Miss Turnham's lace.

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1953/4

The Society's membership now stands at 525 with 27 affiliated societies and schools. Seventeen new members have been elected during the year.

Several prominent members have died during the year and obituaries are reported separately.

The Council has held three meetings, the chief item discussed being the difficulty of efficiently carrying on the Society's functions under present financial arrangements and due consideration is being given to this matter.

The Natural History Section has continued its customary activity and including the initiation of the combined lecture with the Chiltern Club has held five indoor and five outdoor meetings. One which was particularly successful consisted of a visit to see a Bodger at work in the Hampden woods.

T. A. H.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. June 13th, 1953, at the Museum.

Speaker: Mr. Ivor Bulmer Thomas, of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust.

Afterwards, slides of notable Buckinghamshire Churches were shown by Mr. E. A. L. Martyn and described by Mr. E. Clive Rouse. The Bishop of Buckingham spoke of the desirability of forming a Buckinghamshire branch of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust.

OUTINGS, ETC.: On July 11th. Members visited Wing and Stewkley Churches, conducted by Mr. Woodman, had lunch at Linslade, and visited Willen and Milton Keynes Churches, guided by Mr. Martyn, who gave a most informative talk on the successive styles of Church architecture to be seen in the Churches of North Buckinghamshire. Some members also went to see the wall paintings at Broughton Church, conducted by Miss Cecily Baker.

On November 5th Miss Kathleen Kenyon, Director of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, gave a valuable lecture on "Excavations at Jericho", with slides, including those showing the early portrait heads of painted clay-filled skulls (the only Bronze-Age sculptures ever found).

On January 28th, 1954, Mr. Woodman talked on "Buckinghamshire Families," particularly those living in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, whose lives are known from Wills, Court Rolls and other records.

Support from members for these activities was disappointing, and unless it is increased in the future they may have to be discontinued.

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