

## THE MUSEUM

During 1970 and 1971 considerable work has been done on the collections, although much still remains to be sorted out. The work of identifying and labelling geological specimens has been completed, and the insect collections sorted, fumigated, labelled, put in checklist order and card indexed. The egg collection has also been re-labelled and card indexed, and some specimens added to it.

In the historical field a large collection of photographic plates, mainly taken by Taunt of Oxford about 1900, has been sorted and placed in individual envelopes. Racking has been installed in part of the first floor of the stable and most of the collection of pottery sherds transferred to it, where it is easily accessible. A start has been made on the production of a card index of the folk collection and to-date some 1,500 cards have been completed.

At short notice reports on archaeological sites in the Chilterns and in the River Ouse Green Belt were prepared, and at greater leisure one on the Vale of Aylesbury for the County Planning Department. This involved visiting a very large number of sites, which did however yield additional information about some. A start has been made on an examination of air photographs of the county, and a number of new sites, particularly of ring ditches and medieval sites, have been found.

Excavations were carried out by the museum staff on four sites referred to in The Records, three of them on behalf of the Milton Keynes Research Committee.

Amongst the exhibitions was one of Museum Purchases 1960-1970, opened by Earl Howe, Chairman of the County Education Committee, which showed all the purchases made during that period. Grendon Art—An Exhibition of Work produced at the Psychiatric Prison at Grendon Underwood, which was opened by Timothy Raison, the M.P. for Aylesbury, created much interest. The Museum also produced an exhibition on Stowe: The Gardens and Garden Buildings, which was shown at Stowe during the Game Fair and has since been in the Museum and the larger libraries in the County. This is the first of what is hoped will be a series of with me and to M. Farley for information on material in the County Museum. has from time to time had exhibitions by local artists, and Facsimiles of Monumental Brasses by Henry Trivick were shown, and also paintings by Alexander Jamieson, who lived at Weston Turville until his death in 1937. The Bucks Federation of Women's Institutes continued to hold an annual exhibition in the Museum, and a selection from the Buckinghamshire Art Society's Open Exhibition was also shown.

A number of interesting purchases have been made, including a model of a Bucks farm wagon and a Bucks farm cart made by Mr. David Wray of Little Gaddesden. A gold stater from the Whaddon Chase Hoard, a coin of Edward the Confessor minted in Aylesbury, and a watercolour of the Gardens at Stowe dated about 1760 were also bought.

Accessions are listed in the Annual Report for 1970-1971. Mention might be made of two comparatively early examples of costume which have been given—a pelisse of strawberry coloured silk dating from about 1800 in remarkably good condition, and a cambric day-dress of about 1820. A doll's house made in 1845 by a Long Crendon carpenter fills a major gap in the collection of toys.

C.N.G.