

Berks Archæological and Architectural Society.

Patron:—H.M. THE QUEEN.
Offices:—THE ABBEY GATE, READING.

ANNUAL REPORT, FOR THE YEAR 1891.



Reading:

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY BY MESSRS. RIVERS AND SLAUGHTER,
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1892.

Contents.

	PAGE
LIST OF OFFICERS	1
LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS	2
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE	3
BALANCE SHEET OF SOCIETY	8
DO. OF QUARTERLY JOURNAL	9
MEETINGS, LECTURES, AND EXCURSIONS	10
LIFE MEMBERS	11
HONORARY MEMBERS	11
SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS	12
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	15
LADY MEMBERS	15

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Assistant Secretary :

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Architectural Referee :

S. SLINGSBY STALLWOOD, Esq.

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WINDSOR	(<i>Vacant.</i>)
WOKINGHAM	REV. J. T. BROWN.




Berks Archaeological and Architectural Society.



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR 1891.



F the year 1891 has not been so eventful as its predecessor, it has by no means been apathetic in the pursuit of those objects which our Society was intended to promote, and we may characterize it, on the whole, as a year of quiet and uninterrupted progress.

We cannot do better in this Report than pursue our usual course of reviewing :—(i.) The chief occurrences of the past year ; (ii.) Our financial position ; (iii.) General remarks and suggestions for future.

(I.) *With respect to the chief occurrences of the past year.*

The Society began the year with an Exhibition of the Monumental Brass Rubbings of Berkshire, which formed part of the fine collection of the Rev. J. E. Field, Rector of Benson. During the fortnight when the exhibition was gratuitously open to the public (according to our arrangement with the Town Council), 65 visitors inspected the collection.

On January 8th, a conversazione was held in the Town Hall, organised by the School of Science and Art, in

which the learned societies of Reading co-operated. A collection of Roman pottery from Silchester and of prints and drawings relating to Berkshire was exhibited by some of our members.

One of the most successful meetings of the Society was held, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. George William Palmer, at Elmhurst, on February 4th, when a valuable and interesting lecture was given by Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, M.A., Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, on the "Recent Excavations on the site of a Romano-British city at Silchester, and their bearing on civil life during the Roman occupation of Britain." The lecture was illustrated by maps, plans and drawings, and by an exhibition of objects recently discovered at Silchester. The visit of the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries to Reading was of considerable importance. He was able to throw light upon some obscure points in reference to the ruins of the ancient Abbey, especially with reference to the original site of the kitchen offices. His visit and lecture created a keen interest in the work that is being carried on at Silchester; and it was to the officers of the Berks Archæological Society that Mr. Hope first communicated the possibility of the location at Reading of the main portion of the Silchester collection. This idea was heartily taken up not only by the members of the Society, and by the Honorary Curator of the Museum, Dr. Stevens, but also by the Corporation of Reading. The proposal met with a favourable reception from His Grace the Duke of Wellington, the donor of the collection. The Corporation has provided ample accommodation for the objects which have been discovered, and through the kindness of the noble owner and of the Society of Antiquaries, Reading now possesses a most valuable treasure of Roman antiquities of which any town might be justly proud. By the skill and ability of Dr. Stevens most of the smaller objects have been arranged in the Museum, but there still remains a large number of Roman columns, capitals, etc., which will shortly be placed in position.

A general meeting was held in the Society's Rooms on March 11th, when the subject of discussion was "The Archæological Survey of Berks." A paper prepared by Miss Thoyts upon the subject was afterwards printed in the Society's Journal.

On July 29th an Excursion to Stoneleigh Abbey, Coventry and Kenilworth, which has for many years been contemplated, was successfully carried out. An account of the proceedings has already appeared in our Quarterly Journal, but the great assistance which the Society received from Mr. W. G. Fritton, F.S.A. on that occasion ought certainly to find a place in our annual report.

In conjunction with the Maidenhead and Taplow Field Club our Society visited Silchester on September 3rd, when a learned account of the recent works conducted by the Society of Antiquaries was given by Mr. M. Stephenson, F.S.A.

Last year it was decided to visit the principal towns in the County and to deliver public lectures in the Town Halls, in order to interest the inhabitants in the history of their respective localities. Wokingham and Wantage have already been visited, and this year we have added Maidenhead to the list. An afternoon meeting was held in the Maidenhead Town Hall on October 27th, when a very excellent lecture was delivered by Mr. James Rutland, F.G.S. The visitors were hospitably entertained by the local society, the Maidenhead Field Club.

It is satisfactory to the Officers of the Society that their suggestion with reference to the presentation of the Bust of the Hon. Curator of the Reading Museum to that Institution has been carried out; an admirable presentment of Dr. Stevens now adorns the scene of the labours of his later life, and records the appreciation which his fellow-townsmen feel on account of the valuable services which he has rendered to the town.

The Society continues to encourage the study of history

by offering prizes to the leading schools for historical essays.

We may notice also the Restoration of the Ancient Hospital of St. John Baptist, in Reading, as one of the memorable events of the year. The chief portions of this Hospital were converted into the Royal Grammar School of King Henry VII., in 1485, and subsequently into the Old Town Hall; but the *Dormitory* of the Hospital still survives as a relic of mediæval Reading. All its original features, so far as circumstances would permit, have been carefully preserved, and it will shortly be opened as a School of Science for the town.

The Quarterly Journal still maintains its place among the publications of other County Societies, and has proved itself to be a useful adjunct to the Society's work. It is hoped that its size may be increased by the addition of some pages, but this will of course depend upon the number of subscribers and on the amount of support which it receives from the members and friends of the Society.

(II.) *Financial Condition.*

The Balance Sheet for this year shews a debt to the Treasurer of £18 14s., being the amount expended over and above ordinary expenses, for purchase of gas stoves for warming the Society's rooms, and for supply of chairs for the Lecture Hall. Otherwise the financial condition of the Society remains unaltered, and the number of its members has sustained no diminution.

The Balance Sheet has been audited by Mr. J. Okey Taylor, and will be duly printed in the Society's Report. The balance sheet for the Quarterly Journal appears in a separate account.

(III.) *General Remarks.*

The Committee beg to announce that Mr. Ernest Wright has been appointed paid Assistant Secretary, as

the increase of the Society in numbers, and in the extent of its operations during the last few years, has entailed an amount of labour which could not be adequately discharged by the Hon. Officers.

We are glad to announce that the new Dean of Windsor has consented to take the place of his predecessor as Vice-President of the Society.

Among our Obituary Notices for the past year we must record, with unfeigned regret, the loss of the Rev. R. Rodolph Suffield, an accomplished scholar, distinguished equally for historical research and literary attainments; also of Mr. R. F. Hart, one of the oldest members of the Society, in whose proceedings he always took a warm interest.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

P. H. DITCHFIELD, *Hon. Secretary.*

J. M. GUILDING, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Berks Archaeological and Architectural Society.

BALANCE SHEET, 1891.

Dr.		Cr.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1891. To Balance brought forward	... 7 14 11	1891. By Furniture and Repairs	... 37 0 8
" Subscriptions	... 60 19 0	" Rates, Fuel, Light, and Care-	
" Rent received from Students'	...	taker	... 15 12 9
" Association	... 0 18 0	" Printing and Stationery	... 15 7 8
" Balance due to Treasurer	... 18 14 0	" Library Expenses	... 4 7 11
		" Prizes awarded	... 2 12 6
		" Miscellaneous Expenses, includ-	
		ing Lecturer's Fee and deficit	
		on Excursions	... 8 16 9
		" Clerical Assistance and Postage	... 4 7 8
			<u>£88 5 11</u>
	<u>£88 5 11</u>		

Audited and found correct, March 29th. 1892.

J. OKEY TAYLOR.

1891.

Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.
To Subscriptions	By Publishers' account for Printing and issuing	18 3 3
„ Amount received by Publishers for additional copies ...	5 6 6		
„ Balance—loss ...	6 10 9		
			<u>18 3 3</u>

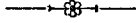
The Secretary will be pleased to receive the names of additional Subscribers. All applications for copies of the Journal should be addressed to him at the Society's Offices, ABBEY GATEWAY, READING. All Literary communications should be sent to the EDITOR, BARKHAM RECTORY, WOKINGHAM.

Meetings, Lectures and Excursions.

1891.

DATE.	DESCRIPTION.	SUBJECT OR PLACE.	LECTURER OR SPEAKERS.
Jan. 1st	Exhibition	Rubbings of Monumental Brasses. (On view to the public for a week)	
„ 8th	Exhibition	Science and Art Conversation at Town Hall. Roman Pottery from Silchester, Prints and Drawings	
Feb. 4th	Exhibition and Lecture	Recent excavations on site of the Romano-British City at Silchester	{ W. J. ST. JOHN HOPE, M.A.
Mar. 11th	Meeting	“The Archæological Survey of Berks”	
July 29th	Excursion	Stoneleigh Abbey, Coventry, Kenilworth Castle	{ Rev. P. H. DITCHFIELD W. F. BLANDY, Esq. Rev. J. M. GUILDING.
Sept. 3rd	Excursion	Silchester	W. G. FRITTON, Esq., F.S.A.
Oct. 27th	Excursion	Maidenhead	W. MILL STEPHENSON, Esq., F.S.A. JAS. RUTLAND, Esq., F.G.S.

Life Members.



HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.



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 BENYON, R., Englefield, Berks.
 BERKS, The Ven. the Archdeacon of, Sonning.
 BLAGRAVE, J. H., Calcot Park, Reading.
 BLANDY, W. F., Downshire Square, Reading.
 CONROY, Sir John, Bart., Balliol College, Oxford.
 HARGREAVES, John, Maiden Erlegh, Reading.
 HUNTER, Sir C. S., Bart., Mortimer Hill, Berks.
 PALMER, W. I., Hillside, Reading.
 PARKER, Jas., F.G.S., High Street, Oxford.
 ROCHESTER, The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of.
 STURGES, Rev. E., All Saints, Wokingham.
 WELLS, E., Wallingford, Berks.
 WICKHAM, Rev. E. C., Wellington College, Berks.
 YORK, The Very Rev. the Dean of.
 HIGFORD, Higford, Esq. Aldermaston Park, Berks.
 NORMANBY, The Marquis of.



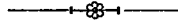
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KERRY, Rev. CHAS....	Upper Stondon Rectory, Shefford, Beds.
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NASH, WALTER M....	The Grange, Northwood, Middlesex.
MONEY, WALTER ...	Herborough House, Newbury.
FIELD, Rev. J. E. ...	Benson Vicarage, Wallingford.

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1892.



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