

Berkshire Archæological Society

1921.

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F.R.S.L., Barkham Rectory, Wokingham.

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H. T. MORLEY, ESQ., Leicester House, King's Road, Reading.

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Headquarters of the Society:

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, READING.

Names and Addresses of Members.

1921.

*Errors in these lists should be notified to J. Hautenville Cope,
Finchampstead Place, Berks.*

Adams, Marcus, Blagrove Street, Reading.

Adkin, C. D., Wantage, Berks.

Akers, H., Manor House, Black Bourton, near Clanfield, Oxon.

Aldenham, the Rt. Hon. Baron, Clifton Hampden, Oxon.

Ames, Miss K., Underwood, Henley.

Anderson, W. F. C., Hermit's Hill, Burghfield, Berks.

Astley, Reginald B., Compton House, Compton Beauchamp,
near Shrivenham, Berks.

Attwood, Mrs. Charles, 10 Eldon Road, Reading.

Baily, Miss A., Cressex Lodge, Binfield, Bracknell.

Barker, E. J. P. Ross-, The School House, Abingdon.

Barnard, H. E., Littlewood, Maidenhead.

Barry, Sir Edward, Bart., Ockwells Manor, Bray, Berks.

Bartlett, E. H., 38 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1.

Beeton, H. B. Hammond, Checkendon, Oxon.

- Belcher, C. E., and Mrs. Belcher, Northcourt, Abingdon, Berks.
Bell, H., and Mrs. Bell, 109 Banbury Road, Oxford.
Benyon, J. H., Englefield, Berks.
Bevan, Rev. P. C., Quarry House, Headington.
Bird, Miss L., 164 Castle Hill, Reading.
Blandy, Captain, 2 Friar Street, Reading.
Blatch, H., 80 Bath Road, Reading.
Bowen, T., and Mrs. Bowen, Park Road, Abingdon.
Bowles, Brig.-Gen. H., Nuneham Courtney, near Oxford.
Bradbury, J. E., 57 Fairacres, Oxford.
Braithwaite, W. C., Castle House, Banbury.
Brennan, Rev. J. Ward, and Mrs. Brennan, The Rectory,
Pangbourne.
Broome, Major, c/o H. G. W. d'Almaine, Abingdon.
Brown, F. Gore-, K.C., Frilford, near Abingdon, Berks.
Bunce, J., and Mrs. Bunce, St. Austells, Maidenhead.
Butler, Miss M. K., Woolstone Lodge, Faringdon.
Broadbent, Colonel C. E., Fynesbury, Reading.
- Campbell, J. Cope, 78 Divinity Road, Oxford.
Campbell, Miss, The Palace, Hampton Court.
Carter, Kenneth, c/o Messrs. Bartlett and Carter, 105 High
Street, Oxford.
Carter, Mrs., 52 Bath Street, Abingdon.
Caswall, Miss K. E., Binfield Place, near Bracknell.
Challenor, H. S., and Mrs. Challenor, The Limes, Abingdon,
Berks.
Chapman, Rev. E. J., The Vicarage, Drayton, near Abingdon,
Berks.
Chisman, H. F. A., and Mrs. Chisman, Northfield, Maiden-
head, Berks.
Christopher, Mrs., Court Gardens, Goring, Oxon.
Church, Miss, Berkshire Club, Reading.
Clarke, H. T., Waste Court, Abingdon, Berks.
Clifton, J. H. Elliston, Town Clerk's Office, Wokingham, Berks.
Climenson, The Hon. Mrs., Shiplake Grange, Henley.
Cobb, Mrs., Oak House, Haughurst, Basingstoke.
Cockburn, G., and Mrs. Cockburn, Chaumont, 36 Redlands
Road, Reading.
Colyer, T. W., The Museum, Reading.

Connop, Miss, Sherwood, Bradfield, Berks.

Cook, W. R., and Mrs. Cook, Greycourt, Bath Road, Reading.

Cope, J. Hautenville, and Mrs. Cope, Finchampstead Place,
near Wokingham, Berks.

Cornish, Mrs., Craven Road, Reading.

Couldrey, F. K., 47 East St. Helen's, Abingdon.

Craig, Miss E. S., Blount's Court, near Reading.

Carter, Dean, St. Anthony's, Bradmore Road, Oxford.

Daft, E. Gordon, 38 Woodstock Road, Oxford.

d'Almaine, H. G. W., and Mrs. d'Almaine, The Square, Abingdon, Berks.

Dawson, S., and Mrs. Dawson, London County, Westminster
and Parr's Bank, Abingdon, Berks.

Deacon, Miss, North Street, Theale.

Ditchfield, The Rev. P. H., M.A., F.S.A., and Mrs. Ditchfield,
Barkham Rectory, Wokingham.

Dodgson, J. W., B.Sc., University College, Reading.

Duff, R. Fraser, J.P., and Miss Duff, Mount Warren, Mapledurham, Oxon.

Dunkin, F. S., 30 Stert Street, Abingdon, Berks.

Durham, Rev. C. R., 1 Southcote Road, Reading.

Eames, Mrs., Berwyn, Alexandra Road, Reading.

Edmundson, Major, Old Rectory, Goring, Oxon.

Eyston, Mrs., East Hendred House, Steventon, Berks.

Farquhar, Mrs., Shaw House, Newbury.

Fletcher, Mrs. Blandford, Northcourt, Abingdon.

Freeborn, H., Clifton Hampden, Abingdon, Berks.

Foley, Evelyn, Lady, Bradfield Hall, near Reading.

Fry, The Rev. C. E. M., St. Luke's Vicarage, Maidenhead.

Giffard, The Rev. A. W. G., Sparsholt Vicarage, near Wantage, Berks.

Godfrey, J. D., 59 Bostock Avenue, Abingdon, Berks.

Goreley, H. F., St. Margaret's Park Avenue, Wokingham,
Berks.

Gray, Frank, and Mrs. Gray, 50 New Inn Hall Street, Oxford.

Grundy, W. M., The School House, Abingdon, Berks.

- Hadow, Rev. C. A., Uffington Vicarage, nr. Faringdon, Berks.
 Halhed, Miss, Hollycot, Binfield.
 Hall, R. V., Borough Buildings, Abingdon, Berks.
 Hallam, H., 60 Kent Road, Swindon, Wilts.
 Halpin, A. N., 125 Castle Street, Reading.
 Harris, W. H., 38 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1.
 Haynes, W., and Mrs. Haynes, 11 Victoria Square, Reading.
 Hedges, F. R., Wallingford, Berks.
 Hedges, Mrs. F., Bishopstone, near Shrivenham, Berks.
 Heelas, Arthur, Oakleigh, Wokingham, Berks.
 Heelas, Mrs. Tyndale, Weston House, Wokingham.
 Henderson, Miss, Wonsley, Tilehurst.
 Hewett, H. J., and Mrs. Hewett, Long Wittenham, near Abingdon, Berks.
 Hewett, T. E., St. Mary's Hall, Reading.
 Hicks, Miss, Newholme, Alexandra Road, Reading.
 Hills, Gordon, A.R.I.B.A., Fircroft, Cookham Dean.
 Hissey, Miss, Warren Towers, Caversham.
 Hodgkin, S. H., and Mrs. Hodgkin, Old Southcote Lodge, Reading.
 Holden, Dr., Castle Street, Reading.
 Holden, Mrs. John, Goldwells, Newbury.
 Holmes, A., Oakhurst, Priest Hill, Caversham.
 Horton, J. W., Highlands, Spencer's Wood, Reading.
 Howard, A., 10 Clifford's Inn, London, E.C.
 Howard, The Rev. F. J., and Mrs. Howard, St. Luke's Vicarage, Reading.
 Humphreys, H. L., 187 Piccadilly, London, W.1.
 Hunt, T., Wellington College Station, Berks.
 Hurry, J. B., M.D., M.A., Westfield, Reading.
 Hutchinson, R. R., Priory Cottage, Wallingford, Berks.
 Halpin, A. N., 125 Castle Street, Reading.
- Jenkyn, Mrs. C. W. O., Broadlands, Caversham.
 Johnstone, E. Baird, The Cottage, Headington Hill, Oxford.
 Jones, Mrs. Harrison, Portland Place, Reading.
 Jones, Merle E., The Dog House Hotel, Frilford, Abingdon.
 Joyce, A. R., Springfield, Caversham.
 Jones, P. A., Heatherside, Wokingham.
 Jones, Arnold, Marlborough House, Bath Road, Reading.

Kent, T. R., 160 Friar Street, Reading.

Keyser, C. E., M.A., F.S.A., J.P., Mrs. Keyser, Miss M.
Keyser and Miss S. Keyser, Aldermaston Court, near
Reading.

Kirkley, Oswin J., Abbotsfield, Goring Heath, Oxon.

Knight, A. C., River Cottage, Wargrave, Berks.

Miss E. Cooper King, 20 Bulmershe Road, Reading.

Laffan, Major J. de Courcy, The Vicarage, Lower Basildon.

Lawes, Miss, Barras, Tilehurst.

Leader, F. J., Mazelands, Stanford Dingley, Berks.

Leggatt, Mrs. Fullbrook, 11 Eldon Square, Reading.

Littlewood, Mrs., Hillside, Bracknell.

Lund, H., Borough Accountant, Reading.

Lunn, E. T., Holmswood Villa, Gypsy Lane, Wokingham.

Macartney, M. E., F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A., Kennet Orley, Wool-
hampton, Berks.

Mackay, J. H., Caversham, Reading.

Manders, E., The Chase, Eversley, Hants.

Martin, Miss D. D., The Clock House, Abingdon.

Margetts, J. W., and Mrs. Margetts, The Square, Abingdon.

Marsh, H. S., 21 New Street, Reading.

Martin, P. J., and Mrs. Martin, Oriel House, Abingdon, Berks.

Massey, J. B., and Mrs. Massey, Chellaston, Coley Avenue.
Reading.

Massey, W. H., M.V.O., The Poplars, Twyford, Berks.

Moon, Sir Ernest, K.C., K.C.B., Braziers Park, Ipsden, Oxon.

Morland, W. Thornhill, Bath Street, Abingdon, Berks.

Morley, H. T., Mrs. Morley and Miss Morley, Leicester House,
King's Road, Reading.

Muncey, Rev. E. Howard, Wellington College.

Mundy, Miss Ada, The Old Manor, Shippon, Abingdon.

Murdoch, Mrs., Buckhurst, Wokingham.

Neale, Sir H. Vansittart, K.C.B., Bisham Abbey, Marlow.

Newhouse, The Rev. R. P., St. Laurence's Vicarage, Reading.

Noble, Heatley, Temple Combe, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.

- Owen, The Rev. A. E. Biscoe, The Rectory, Ufton Nervet, Reading.
- Palmer, Mrs. G. W., Marlston, Newbury.
- Parker, A. C. Hyde-, Ock Lea, Abingdon, Berks.
- Parsons, E., Tyhurst, Andover, Hants.
- Payne, Mrs. R. E., 17 Erleigh Road, Reading.
- Peacock, T. G., Holly Bush, Sulhamstead, Reading.
- Perkins, The Rev. C. E., Hinton Parva Rectory, Swindon, Wilts.
- Petrocokino, A., and Mrs. Petrocokino, Flowers Hill, Pangbourne, Berks.
- Poore, Mrs., Wheatlands Farm, Finchampstead, Berks.
- Pope, E. B., Chalkpit, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.
- Powell, Dr. C. M., and Miss Mary Powell, Eastfield, Caversham, Oxon.
- Pott, The Rev. P., Woodbury, Farley Hill, Reading.
- Pountney, Mrs., 82 London Road, Reading.
- Preston, A. E., and Mrs. Preston, Whitefield, Park Crescent, Abingdon, Berks.
- Preston, Mrs. L., Farley Hill, Reading.
- Pryce, C. A., Abingdon, Berks.
- Rain, J. D., West House, Grovelands Road, Reading.
- Radford, A., Bradfield Hall, Berks.
- Reade, Herbert, V., C.B., Ipsden, near Wallingford, Berks.
- Rendall, Rev. S. H., Sutton Courtney, Abingdon.
- Reynolds, F., School Lodge, Abingdon.
- Reynolds, Mrs. H., The Gables, Abingdon, Berks.
- Riddlesdell, Rev. W. S., Bray Vicarage, Bray, Berks.
- Rippon, C., Springfield, Abingdon, Berks.
- Rotch, C. D., Reform Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.
- Rudd, W. A., The School House, Abingdon, Berks.
- Ryan, Mrs., Tilehurst, Berks.
- Reading Architects, C. B. Willcocks, F.R.I.B.A., 11 Friar Street, Reading.
- Saligman, C. E., Court Leys, Toot Baldon, Oxford.
- Salwey, The Rev. H., St. John Lodge, Crowthorne, Berks.
- Sandys, Miss J. C. E., 30 East St. Helen's Street, Abingdon, Berks.

Sarjeant, Mrs., 150 Friar Street, Reading.

Scott, C. R., and Mrs. Scott, East St. Helen's Street, Abingdon, Berks.

Shepherd, G. W., Glyndwr, Park Crescent, Abingdon, Berks.

Shepherd, Miss V. M., White Lodge, Foxcombe Hill, near Oxford.

Shippam, Mrs., 9 Erleigh Road, Reading.

Short, W. H., and Mrs. Short, 78 London Road, Reading.

Shrubsole, Mrs., 40 Craven Road, Reading.

Skurray, T., and Mrs. Skurray, Summerfield, Wootton Road, Abingdon, Berks.

Smith, G. W., Barclay's Bank, Reading.

Smith, Miss Cooper, Tilehurst Rectory, Reading.

Smith, Miss M. E. Monk, Ravenwood, Wokingham.

Spokes, Miss M., 25 Chester Terrace, Regent's Park, N.

Stannard, E. J., 56 Carlisle Mansions, Westminster, S.W.1.

Stapleton, Major A. F. St. Clair, Wokingham.

Stevens, H., The White House, Eynsham, Oxon.

Stevenson, Miss, Winchester House, Southern Hill, Reading.

Stilwell, J. P., Hillfield, Yateley, Hants.

Stubbs, The Rev. W. Lucas, The Vicarage, Bishopstone, Shrivenham, Berks.

Strong, Miss, 112 Oxford Road, Reading.

Sutton, Miss, 112 Oxford Road, Reading.

Sutton, A. W., F.L.S., 9 Upper Phillimore Gardens, London, W.8.

Sutton, Leonard G., Hillside, Reading.

Tatham, M. T., Northcourt, Abingdon, Berks.

Taunt, H. W., Cowley Road, Oxford.

Toogood, The Rev. C., Warfield Vicarage, near Bracknell, Berks.

Townsend, Thomas, Belmont, Park Road, Abingdon, Berks.

Treacher, Ll., F.G.S., Somercroft, Twyford, Berks.

Trollope, Mrs., Ruscombe, Twyford, Berks.

Tuke, The Rev. Magee W., Westfield, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

Townsend, James, M.A., St. John's Road, Abingdon.

Underhill, F. W., and Miss Underhill, Elmdene, Maidenhead.

Ure, P. N., University College, Reading.

- Valpy, Miss, 8 Eldon Road, Reading.
- Varder, W., 51 Bath Street, Abingdon, Berks.
- Wait, Mrs. Vincent, 45 Eastern Avenue, Reading.
- Walsh, A., 116 St. Aldate's, Oxford.
- Ward, Rev. F. B., Wittenham Rectory, Abingdon.
- Watts, E., 27 Castle Crescent, Reading.
- Waldron, Miss, Moultsford, Coley Avenue, Reading.
- Walker, J. W., 22 Crauford Rise, Maidenhead.
- Walker, J. W., F.S.A., O.B.E., The Grange, East Hagbourne, Berks.
- Walter, Miss, Goldwells, Newbury, Berks.
- Watts, Dr. H., Haddon Close, near Wallingford, Berks.
- Wedderburn, Miss, Thickthorns, Wokingham, Berks.
- Wedderburn, Mrs., Wakefield, Twyford, Berks.
- Wenn, J. H. H., 240 Iffley Road, Oxford.
- West, A. T., Major, and Mrs. West, Barcot Manor, Faringdon, Berks.
- Westbury, C. N., Radley Road, Abingdon, Berks.
- Whalley, E. J., 7 Crescent Road, Wokingham, Berks.
- White, Brig.-Gen. E. D., Westfield, Purley, Reading.
- Whitham, The Rev. Canon A. R., Culham College, Abingdon.
- Williams, H. G., Kingscote, Wokingham, Berks.
- Williams, Mrs. F. E., 4 Bath Road, Reading.
- Williams, W. Carleton, Mrs. Williams and Miss Williams, Broomgrove, Goring.
- Williams, J. G., Hailey, Ipsden, Oxon.
- Williams, P., The Malt House, East Woodhay.
- Willcocks, C. B., Willstead, Caversham, Oxon.
- Windsor, The Very Rev. the Dean of, The Deanery, Windsor.
- Winter, F., Denmark Road, Reading.
- Wright, C. O., and Mrs. Wright, 40 Bath Street, Abingdon, Berks.
- Wright, F., University College, Reading.
- Wright, H., 24 East Street, Reading.
- Wyfold, Lord, Wyfold Court, Reading.
- Ystwith, The Lady, Sandhurst Lodge, near Wokingham, Berks.
- Yould, A., Sturges Road, Wokingham.

ANNUAL MEETING, 1921.

The Annual Meeting of this Society was held in the History Room of University College, Reading, on Wednesday, April 6th. The President, Mr. Charles E. Keyser, F.S.A., was in the chair, and there was a large attendance of members and their friends.

The President reported on the efforts that were being made to preserve the tower of Southcote Manor House, which Mr. Smith, who had bought the materials of the house, had consented to leave standing for the consideration of £50. Mr. Keyser undertook to write to Mr. Blagrove and try to persuade him to allow the tower to remain.

The Rev. P. H. Ditchfield then read the following report :—

ANNUAL REPORT, 1920—1921.

In presenting the report for the past year's working the Committee beg to state that considerable activity has been shown in the various departments of the Society's labours, and that its condition may be considered to be fairly satisfactory. There has been an increase in the number of members, and several responsibilities have been entrusted to the Society which are somewhat outside its usual curriculum. Foremost amongst these is the acceptance of the invitation of the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies by the Society to inaugurate the congress which is to be held in June next in Reading. The Secretary has had much correspondence with the officers of the Union in London, enlisted the sympathy and support of the Mayor of Reading, and arranged a meeting at the Town Hall which several delegates from London attended. Subsequent meetings have been held under the auspices of the Mayor; committees have been appointed, which are now energetically working with the assistance of Mr. Arman, O.B.E., who has kindly undertaken the onerous duties of Hon. Secretary. In all probability the congress will be a great success.

One of the most important events of the year was the historic pageant held in June last in the ruins of Reading's ancient Abbey, so ably inaugurated and successfully arranged

and managed by the then Mayor, Dr. Abram, and by Mrs. Abram, assisted by hundreds of willing helpers, and written by your Hon. Secretary. The pageant was a great and stupendous success, and will long live in the memories of those who witnessed it or took part in the proceedings. The celebration of the octocentenary of the foundation of Reading Abbey, which will occur on Saturday, June 18th, has been occupying the attention of your Committee. As the Corporation did not see their way to arrange and finance this interesting event, they have requested the Society to undertake the affair, and the Committee has been invited by the Mayor to meet other representative gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood to discuss the matter. A meeting has taken place, when it was resolved to carry out the project. According to the estimate of the Hon. Architect some £200 will be required, for which subscriptions are requested.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE SOCIETY.

The Committee desires to express the gratitude of the Society to the Principal and Council of University College, Reading, for the permission granted to them to use the History Room for the Society's lectures, and for the other excellent accommodation provided for the members. The Society considers itself most fortunate in having this service granted to it, and is grateful for the hospitality afforded to it by the College.

MEETINGS AND LECTURES.

The usual number of meetings and lectures have been held during the past year. At the last Annual Meeting, on May 5th, Professor Stenton delivered an important and valuable lecture on 'Some Problems in the Early History of Reading.' This was delivered only from notes, and your Committee would urge upon the author the advantage of publishing it, if possible, in the *Journal*.

On October 12th the President gave one of his valuable lectures on Berkshire Churches, illustrated by a fine series of lantern slides, specially prepared for the occasion. The churches described this year were those of Welford, East and West Shefford, Eastgarston and Lambourn.

On November 26th, Mr. A. H. Blake, by the kind invitation of Miss Baily, lectured on 'Samuel Pepys as an Antiquary and Collector,' illustrated by lantern slides.

On January 20th, Mr. Petrocokino gave a lecture on 'The Old Temples and Old Gardens of Cashmere,' illustrated by slides taken from the lecturer's own photographs.

On February 2nd Mr. Miles, M.V.O., delivered an illustrated lecture on 'The Historic Stones of Windsor Castle.'

On March 8th Mrs. Cope was prevented by illness from giving her lecture on 'Wales and its Rulers,' but her husband, Mr. Cope, kindly acted as her substitute and delivered the lecture in her stead.

EXCURSIONS.

Two excursions have been made during the season. The first was a two-days' excursion to Salisbury, Stonehenge and Old Sarum, when the members were fortunate enough to have as their guide Mr. Frank Stevens, F.S.A., Curator of the Museum. The second excursion was to Lambourn and the Lambourn Valley, under the direction of the President and Mr. Walter Money, F.S.A. The thanks of the Society are especially due to Mrs. Sperling for so kindly entertaining the members to tea at Donnington Castle House, and also to the other ladies and gentlemen who did a like service on the occasion of the lectures. These included the following: At the last Annual Meeting, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Duff, the President and Mrs. Keyser, Miss Baily, Mr. and Mrs. Petrocokino, Mrs. Wedderburn and Mrs. Jenkyns, and Mrs. Holden and Miss Walter.

THE ABINGDON BRANCH.

Under the inspiration of Mr. d'Almaine, Town Clerk of the Borough, and Mr. C. O. Wright, the Abingdon Branch has shown great activity in arranging lectures and excursions. One of the latter, attended by your Secretary, was made to Weyland's Smithey under the leadership of Mr. Reginald Smith, F.S.A., of the British Museum, and to the barn and Church of Great Coxwell, which were described by your Secretary. Good arrangements are being made for excursions during the coming summer. Very important excavation work

had been done during the past year by Mr. d'Almaine, aided by Mr. Reginald Smith, Mr. Peers and other experts at Weyland's Smithey, and some valuable results had been obtained. These were reported on at a recent meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, and it is hoped that a full account may shortly be given in the *Journal*. All Berkshire antiquaries owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. d'Almaine for his zealous labours.

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

The foundation of a Berkshire Branch of this important body must be noted by the Society. Papers by leading historians have been read before the Association, which aims at drawing together all branches of teachers, the masters of great schools such as Eton and Wellington, uniting with the teachers in elementary schools in spreading the knowledge of history. Your Secretary has promised to conduct a party of the members to Wallingford on June 25th, when it is hoped that the members of the Society may be invited to join with them in exploring the antiquities of that ancient town.

THE READING ARCHITECTS' SOCIETY.

The Society welcomes most cordially the formation of the Association of Reading Architects under the able and active secretaryship of Mr. Willcocks. It is entirely a professional Association. Mr. Willcocks approached the Society with a view of active co-operation, and terms were agreed upon whereby the members could participate in the Society's meetings and excursions. In former times the Society, with a view of encouraging architectural students, gave prizes for measured architectural drawings, and it was suggested that this custom might be revived.

THE PRESERVATION OF SOUTHCOTE HOUSE.

Efforts were made recently to prevent the destruction of this ancient manor house of the Blagrave family, as it was one of the few remaining old buildings in the town of Reading, and had many interesting associations. It was suggested that your Society should be responsible in raising a sum for its

purchase. The Mayor took a great interest in endeavouring to save it and called several meetings together for the purpose, but the demands of the owner were so large and the amount of money that would have been required to make the house habitable so great that it was felt that the proposition was hopeless, and the idea had to be abandoned.

A SURVEY OF THE CHURCH PLATE OF BERKSHIRE.

The work of the Society has been greatly strengthened by the arrival amongst us of a distinguished antiquary, Mr. J. W. Walker, F.S.A., formerly Secretary of the Yorkshire Archæological Society, whom we welcome most cordially. He has come to reside at East Hagbourne, and he contemplates undertaking the excellent work of cataloguing the church plate of the county. It is nearly thirty years ago since the project was first started. Your Secretary had then two offers from gentlemen interested in the subject, Mr. Arthur Dasent, son of the late Sir George Dasent, and Mr. Gardner, Vicar of Fawley. He, therefore, divided the county into East and West Berkshire, Mr. Dasent taking the former, and Mr. Gardner the latter. Unfortunately Mr. Dasent's notes were burnt in the fire that occurred in his father's house, and Mr. Gardner died long before he had completed his task. Some of these notes were published in the *Journal*, but the work was quite incomplete, and now Mr. Walker is prepared to undertake the work entirely *de novo*. He expects that it will take five years to complete. He has already obtained the approval of the Bishop, who trusts that all the clergy in the county will assist Mr. Walker in carrying out this heavy, important and self-imposed labour.

THE BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON ARCHÆOLOGICAL JOURNAL.

The official organ of the Society, the *Journal*, is now published by the Society, and it is hoped that the Members appreciate the privilege of receiving the numbers entirely free of charge. Some delay has been caused in its issue under the many difficulties of printing and publishing at the present time. But the Members receive their two numbers a year, and these

are rendered extremely valuable by the large number of fine illustrations generously presented by the President. These will always make the *Journal* a valuable possession.

The editors take the advantage of this report to express the hope that members of the Berkshire Archæological Society will contribute articles dealing with the many antiquities of the county.

HONORARY TREASURER.

Since the last Annual Meeting, as Mr. Rowland Kent was unable to accept the office of Treasurer, the Society has been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. H. T. Morley, who has entered upon his duties with much energy and zeal. He has ably attended to the finances of the Society, which are on a satisfactory footing, and your Secretary is grateful to him for his assistance in carrying on the work of the Society, which does not become less burdensome as the years speed on. The members will assist the Treasurer greatly by the regular payment of subscriptions.

POSITION OF THE SOCIETY.

The number of members is at present 269. The balance-sheet shows a balance in hand of £58. In conclusion, your Committee is of opinion that the Society has never been in a more prosperous condition, and that it is actively fulfilling the objects for which it was founded. This year is the jubilee of its reconstruction. According to the tradition of our elders it was originally known as the Berkshire Ashmolean Society, founded in 1840, which had for its President the Earl of Abingdon, Vice-President, the Marquis of Downshire, John Bligh Monck (director), and Thomas Noon Talfourd, Philip Pusey, M.P., &c., as its Council. It was reconstituted in 1871 under the management of the principal architects of the town, afterwards strenuously supported by the Rev. J. M. Guilding, and your Secretary has held that office for 34 years. It is fitting that some celebration should be made of this jubilee year, and your Committee would be glad to receive some suggestions as to the form this should take. Perhaps a commemorative gathering could be arranged for the autumn, a

medal struck, or some other plan devised for the due celebration of a not insignificant event. Commending this to the careful consideration of the members, the Committee bring this report to a close.

The report was received and adopted, and also the report of the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. T. Morley. Mr. Ditchfield then proposed the re-election of Mr. Keyser as President of the Society. He said that no Society could have a better President. Mr. Keyser took the greatest interest in its welfare, devoting much of his valuable time to its gatherings, giving lectures, enriching the *Journal* with his articles and costly plates, and discharging the duties of his office thoroughly and well. This was seconded by Mrs. Holden and carried with applause.

Lord Aldenham's name was added to the list of Vice-Patrons, and those of Messrs. J. W. Walker, F.S.A., J. Hautenvillę Cope and C. B. Willcocks to the Committee. The President proposed in flattering terms the re-election of Mr. Ditchfield as Hon. Secretary, who had for so long been the mainstay of the Society, and had kept it going for 34 years. He hoped that Mr. Ditchfield would continue to hold the office for another 34 years. Mr. Rain seconded, and the election was carried by acclamation. Mr. Morley was re-elected Hon. Treasurer.

The President then delivered a very interesting lecture on 'A Trip Down the Rhone from Lyons to Marseilles,' illustrated by a charming series of lantern views. Mr. d'Almaine proposed a vote of thanks to him for the lecture, and a similar vote was recorded to Miss Cooper-Smith and Miss Hissey for kindly entertaining the Society to tea at the close of the meeting.

BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Statement of Accounts, January to July, 1920.

RECEIPTS.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance, Dec. 31st, 1919, Barclay's Bank	37 12 3	
Cash with Hon. Treasurer	10 5 5½	
Interest on Deposit A/c		
Subscriptions	47 17 8½	
	8 10	
	51 19 0	

£100 5 6½

EXPENDITURE.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Printing, General	13 10 5
Subscription to—		
University College	3 3 0
Caretaker	10 6
S.E. Union Scientific Society	10 0
Clerical Assistance	4 3 6
Hire of Lantern	10 0
Postages	1 5 0
Balance at Bank	12 5½
		80 4 2

£100 5 6½

July to December, 1920.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance, Barclay's Bank	80 4 2	Printing, General	10 16 4
Subscriptions	38 18 0	" Journal	51 11 3
Interest on Deposit A/c	10 1		
By payments for—		Hire of Lantern	62 7 7
Salisbury Excursion	86 10 6	Subscriptions—	1 10 0
Lambourne Excursion	27 18 6	Congress, Archæological Society,	
		and 200 reports	1 15 0
Received for Teas—	114 9 0	To C. R. Peers, Esq., for excava-	
Miss Valpy and Mrs. Attwood	1 3 4	tions at Weyland Smith's Cave	5 0 0
C. E. Keyser, Esq.	2 18 8		
W. Carleton Williams, Esq.	1 3 4	Buttery, University College, for Teas	6 15 0
R. F. Duff, Esq.	1 3 4	Expenses, Abingdon Branch	9 18 8
		Cheque Book	5 3 8
A. E. Preston, Esq., donation for printing	6 8 8	Expenses for Excursion—	10 0
Credit on 25 Cheques	6 7 6	To Salisbury	76 5 6
	4 2	To Lambourne	24 15 0
			101 0 6
		Postages, &c.	19 9
		Balance at Barclay's Bank	58 8 11
		Cash with Hon. Treasurer	7 6
			58 16 5
			<u>£247 1 7</u>

Audited and found correct,

H. T. MORLEY, Hon. Treasurer.

T. ROWLAND KENT, Hon. Auditor,

March 29th, 1921.

4 Cross Street, Reading.