

# Oxford Ladies' Archaeological and Brass-Rubbing Society

YEARS 1923—1924.

*President :*

Miss SWANN, Walton Manor.

*Committee :*

President.....	Miss SWANN.
Hon. Treasurer.....	Miss LUCY SWANN.
Hon. Librarian .....	Mrs. WHITMARSH.
Hon. Secretaries .....	Miss STONE.
	Miss POYNTER.
Members of Committee .....	Miss WARD.
	Mrs. MACINTOSH.
	Miss HULBERT.
	Miss SPENCER THOMSON.
	Miss HURST.

THE Society this year completes its twenty-ninth year, and there has been no diminution in the number of its members. There were unfortunately no meetings held until February, owing to the very serious illness of the President, but since her recovery, there have been four meetings, all well attended and of much archeological interest.

On February 16th, Miss Spencer Thomson gave a paper on a recent visit she paid to the Dolomites, when she vividly described the scenery of the beautiful places, and of the various buildings she had seen.

On April 16th (1924) Miss Fanny Ward gave a lecture on Spain, in which country she had been travelling. She exhibited many beautiful pictures, photographs, and postcards of the various places she had visited, and there was a large attendance of members and friends who enjoyed her interesting paper.

On June 10th, Mr. J. Allen Shuffrey, B.W.S., gave a very pleasant and most useful lecture on 'Places of interest on the Oxford 'Bus Country Routes.'

There are so many places in the neighbourhood of Oxford of very great historical and archeological interest, which have hitherto been inaccessible to many persons, owing to the difficulty of reaching them, but now that the Oxford 'Bus Company has organised tours to many of these places, they can be visited with much ease and little expense. Mr. Shuffrey has made many beautiful drawings and paintings of historical buildings

and lovely scenery in our neighbourhood, and he most kindly exhibited these and gave much information about them. The Oxford 'Bus Company has recently issued a valuable little book, 'Country Services Guide,' in which some of Mr. Shuffrey's drawings have been reproduced and in which a good deal of archeological information is given.

On August 20th a meeting was held at the Town Hall, Oxford, by the kind invitation of the Mayor of Oxford (Councillor W. H. Perkins). He received the large party of members and their friends in the Mayor's Parlour, where, after welcoming them, he showed them the handsome wood carving of the mantelpiece, and some old china and the portraits of many of his predecessors, former Mayors of Oxford for many generations; these are now being arranged in chronological order. He then took them to the Council Chamber and then to the Committee Room, where all the municipal plate had been arranged specially for the inspection of the Society by Mr. B. H. Gosling, Keeper of the Town Hall and Mayor's Sergeant. He kindly described each piece, giving its date and the various circumstances by which the City had acquired it. The Grand Mace, which is by far the finest of all the Civic Maces in England, was greatly admired; it is 5 ft. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  in. in length, and bears the following inscription:

'This mace was made in the Mayoralty of John Lambe, Esq., anno regni Caroli 2, duo decimo, 1660-1.'

The Mayor's chain, a very handsome one, was presented in 1883-4 by Alderman James Hughes, J.P. He had held the office of Mayor three years! The Sheriff's chain, also a very beautiful piece of work, was given by Dr. George Claridge Druce, when Sheriff, to commemorate the opening of the new municipal buildings by His Majesty King Edward VII (then Prince of Wales) in 1897, and also to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

After viewing the many beautiful tankards, salt cellars, dishes, two small maces and the magnificent 'Grace Cup,' the party proceeded under the guidance of Mr. Gosling to view the Crypt under the City Buildings. After giving a hearty vote of thanks to the Mayor and Mr. Gosling, the large party had a merry tea all together at the 'Candied Friend' in Cornmarket Street.