

Berkshire Architectural Records Committee.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.

THIS Third Annual Report of the Berkshire Architectural Records Committee covers the period from January 1st to December 31st, 1943.

During the year the Executive Committee held 4 meetings and the following records were obtained :—

<i>Ecclesiastical Buildings.</i>	<i>No. of different views.</i>	<i>Total no. of prints.</i>
Photographs	242	427
 <i>Secular Buildings.</i>		
Photographs	870	1461
Totals ..	1112	1888
Measured Drawings of Church Railings	3	
Negatives	337	

The number of photographs received—1,112—whilst less than the 1,237 photographs obtained last year, is very satisfactory in view of increasing difficulties in carrying out the work, owing to the calls on the time of many of the Committee's helpers. Several hundred other photographs were taken during the year, of which prints will be sent in later. It has not yet been found practicable to have prints made of many of the Taunt negatives.

During 1943 there was a considerable decrease in the number of photographs received of ecclesiastical buildings, owing chiefly to many of the more important churches having been recorded; 302 more photographs of secular buildings were received than last year. Included in the views obtained are a number of photographs taken by the National Buildings Record of Abingdon, Newbury, Reading and Wallingford. Those of Abingdon and Wallingford were taken for the Record by one of the Committee's helpers, Mr. P. S. Spokes, of Oxford.

Last year 9 new helpers undertook to take photographs for the Committee and 6 had to resign, owing to their having left the district, or for other reasons. The present number of helpers is 59, an increase of 3 in the year. Among the new helpers is Reading School Photographic Society, which has undertaken to cover Burghfield and Hurst for the Committee and has sent in some useful photographs of the former parish. The Society's

interest in our Committee is the result of a lecture on Photographic Recording, which was given to the School Society by one of our helpers, Mr. H. G. Hands, in January, 1943.

At the last Annual Meeting it was proposed that our helpers might combine to form a Photographic Society. It was suggested, however, that rather than form a new Society those interested should join the Reading Camera Club. This some of our helpers have done and the Camera Club is interested in our Committee and is furthering its work.

In March the Central Council for the Care of Churches arranged a broadcast on photographic recording and in May sent a very helpful and encouraging letter to all photographers throughout the country who had contributed towards its National Collection of Church photographs. In September Mr. J. W. Dodgson wrote a letter on the work of the Committee to the local papers, which, slightly amended, was sent by Mr. H. T. Morley to the members of the Berkshire Archaeological Society and resulted in several donations being received. Reference to the work of the Committee also has been made in the National Buildings Record Annual Report, the Diocesan Magazine, "The Architects' Journal" and "The Builder," etc.

With reference to finance ; as will be seen from the accounts, £40 7s. 7½d. was received last year, including the balance of £9 6s. 1½d. brought forward from the previous year, and £28 16s. 0d. has been paid in expenses, leaving a balance at the end of the year of £11 11s. 7½d. In addition, a special donation of £10 has been received from the Central Council for the Care of Churches, to be spent in photographing outlying churches difficult of access. It is hoped that the Committee will continue to receive sufficient funds to enable it to carry on successfully the important work it has undertaken.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity of again thanking the different Societies and helpers to whose assistance the success of the work is due, including the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Auditor, Hon. Secretary and members of the Executive Committee, and to express its gratitude to all the helpers who have taken photographs, given negatives, or in other ways furthered the work, and so ensured such a satisfactory result.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT.

THIS Fourth Annual Report of the Berkshire Architectural Records Committee covers the period from January 1st to December 31st, 1944.

Before dealing with the year's work, reference must be made to the great loss the Committee has sustained in the death of its Chairman, Mr. A. Thomas Loyd. He took the keenest interest in our work and was always ready to help from his wide experience. His valued guidance and kindly presence will be sadly missed.

During the year the Executive Committee held 4 meetings and the following records were obtained:—

<i>Ecclesiastical Buildings.</i>	<i>No. of different views.</i>	<i>Total no. of prints.</i>
Photographs	235	468
<i>Secula Buildings.</i>		
Photographs	250	473
Totals ..	485	941
Negatives	191	

It is regretted that there has been a considerable decrease in the number of photographs received during the past year. This probably is chiefly due to the practical cessation of bombing in the county which has to a considerable extent removed the incentive for taking the photographs, also most of the more important churches have been recorded. Enemy action, however, is not the only danger which threatens our old buildings; many of interest in the county have been destroyed in recent years by fire, decay, or on account of road widening, etc. Of a number of these buildings no records exist. It is hoped that before long a complete photographic record will be obtained of all old buildings in the county.

Interesting series of photographs have been received during the year from E. Billing, L. A. Ellwood, S. Gilford, T. E. G. Lewis, J. K. Merrett, R. S. Morrish, A. T. Records, C. E. Sexton, P. S. Spokes and H. G. Vaughan.

Last year 7 new helpers undertook to take photographs for the Committee and 5 had to resign, owing to their having left the district, or for other reasons. The present number of helpers is 61, an increase of 2 in the year. More helpers, however, are still required in some districts, as of 19 parishes no photographs of either ecclesiastical, or secular buildings, have been received. Offers of help to complete the survey of all buildings of interest over 100 years old in a parish are especially valuable.

The indexing and filing of the Taunt Collection of negatives comprising some 1,350 views, has been practically completed this year. The Committee is very grateful to Mr. Padley and Mr. Stoneman for the time they must have spent on this work and also to Mr. Smallcombe for filing and card-indexing the negatives, which are to be kept as a separate Collection.

During the year the Notes for Photographers having been exhausted, a new edition has been issued.

With regard to finance ; in 1944 £33 15s. 5½d. was received, including the balance of £11 11s. 7½d. brought forward from the previous year, and £20 4s. 1½d. was paid out in expenses, leaving a balance at the end of the year of £13 11s. 4d. In addition the Committee has the special Fund of £10 for recording the more inaccessible churches, which has not been drawn on.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity of thanking again the different Societies and helpers to whose assistance the success of the work is due, including the officials and members of the Executive Committee, and to express its gratitude to all the helpers who have taken photographs, given negatives, or in other ways furthered the work.