

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
DURING THE YEAR
1917.

THE Sixty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Taunton on Tuesday, July 24th. Owing to the continuance of the War, the Council decided, as in 1915 and 1916, not to have any excursions, but arranged for a morning meeting to be held for business purposes only, without a presidential address.

A meeting of the Council was held at Taunton Castle at 11 a.m., and was followed by the Annual General Meeting, which took place in the same building, when there was a good attendance.

The Rev. Prebendary E. H. BATES HARBIN proposed that the president for 1916-17, the Dean of Wells, be invited to continue in office for another year, and this was seconded by Dr. G. NORMAN, of Bath, and carried unanimously.

Dr. J. ARMITAGE ROBINSON, F.S.A., Dean of Wells, in taking the chair thanked the Society for their kindness in re-electing him, and expressed his regret at the absence of the Rev. F. W. Weaver, F.S.A., one of the Hon. Secs. of the Society, owing to

continued illness. He said that no one had made a more distinct mark upon the literature of their Society than Mr. Weaver.

The Assistant-Secretary announced letters of apology for inability to attend from the Right Hon. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. H. J. Badcock (Hon. Treasurer), the Rev. Preb. F. Hancock, the Rev. C. H. Heale and others.

The Annual Report.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, Assistant-Secretary, read the Annual Report, which was as follows :—

“In presenting the sixty-ninth annual report, your Council wishes to state that since its last report 63 new names have been added to the list of members—the largest number added in one year since 1913–1914. Losses by death and resignation have been 44. The net gain has been 19. The total membership at date is 902 against 883 at the time of the annual meeting last year. Considering the times this is considered very satisfactory. The increase in members is largely due to the fact that your Council has provided the local secretaries with copies of a new circular setting forth the purposes and claims of the Society.

“Your Society records with much regret the following losses by death during the past year :—

“The Right Hon. Lord St. Audries, who died on June 4th, 1917, became a member in 1895, and was elected one of your trustees in the following year; in this office he continued up to the time of his death. When the Ornithological Section was formed in 1910, he became its first president.

“Sir Edward B. Tylor, D.C.L., F.R.S., the first Professor of Anthropology at Oxford, who died at Wellington on January 2nd, 1917, aged 84 years, did not join your Society till 1901, but he lectured at your conversaciones as early as 1865 and 1866. As ‘the father of anthropology’ and the author of *Primitive Culture* he will long be remembered.

“Your Society has also sustained the losses of (the dates indicate the time of the member's election):—Lieut.-Colonel W. H. Baxter (1913), who recently died on military service in India, Mr. C. A. Briggs (1910), the Archdeacon of Wells (the Ven. F. A. Brymer) (1909), Mr. H. E. Hippisley (1913), Mr. John Hotchkis (1911), Mrs. Ingram (1904), Mr. Wm. Kettlewell (1881) who was much interested in Somerset folk-songs and local customs, Mr. W. Sutcliffe Marsh (1913), Mr. John Ponsonby-Fane (1916), Mr. F. Sheldon (1909), Mr. George Sweetman, a well known antiquary at Wincanton (1902), Mr. Theo. Michell (1904), Mrs. C. R. Wason (1910), and the Rev. C. T. Wilson, F.R.G.S. (1912).

“The deficit on your Society's General Account at the end of 1915 was £100 19s. 8d. At the close of 1916 the deficit had been reduced to £73 2s. 7d. In neither case was the liability for the cost of the volume for the year then expired or on the other hand any unpaid subscriptions taken into account. This result has been achieved by strict economy, especially in the smaller items of upkeep; and it is all the more gratifying seeing that the price of nearly every commodity has increased so greatly.

“Independently of the General Account, your Society has a small Capital Account (from life membership fees) which, on December 31st last, amounted to £103 18s. 10d. (including an Exchequer Bond, £100), a Book Fund of £107 7s. 0d. (the interest on which is spent on new books), and a balance in hand on the Woodward Fund of £176 18s. 11d. (which in accordance with the bequest is used as required for special Museum and Library improvements).

“The expenses attending the issue of Volume LXII of the *Proceedings* (for 1916), including printing, illustrations and delivery, will be about £145. Each year since the War began, the cost of printing and paper has been increasing, and on that account your Society, like many others, has found it necessary to make some reduction in the size of its publications. The plates illustrating the second paper on the ‘Monumental Effigies in Somerset’ have been provided through the kindness of the author, Dr. A. C. Fryer, F.S.A. The new volume has been indexed by the Rev. Prebendary

E. H. Bates Harbin and Mr. H. St. George Gray, on the same lines as the previous volume. The matter of a general Index to the *Proceedings*, Vols. I to LX, is in abeyance for the present.

“Owing to the growth and importance of your collections your Council recently passed a resolution to the effect that the Museum should in future be known as the ‘Somerset County Museum.’

“The need for increased Museum space is greatly felt and many of the series in the cases are becoming very crowded. A careful selection is now-a-days made from the objects offered to the museum, but in spite of this necessary discrimination the accessions during the past year have been large.

“The cleaning, cataloguing and labelling of the Arthur Hull Collection, from Chard, which arrived at the end of 1915, has been continued at intervals during the year, but this work is not yet completed. The Franklin Collection, acquired by gift last year, as previously reported, has been re-ticketed. The labelling of the Bidgood Collection of Birds and other bird cases has been completed, and the localities have been indicated as far as possible. Some attention has been given to the geological specimens, the collections of early printed books and manuscripts have been labelled, and the arrangement of coins and medals continued as far as time has permitted. The classification of the hoard of Roman coins found at Yeovil last September has occupied a certain amount of the Curator’s time, and a full report on the subject has appeared in the Society’s *Proceedings* (Vol. LXII).

“Important donations have been made to your Museum by Mr. H. Martin Gibbs, of Barrow Court. Included amongst his gifts is a large collection of Somerset Trade Tokens of the XVII, XVIII and XIX Centuries, which combined with the fine collection presented by Mr. C. Tite last year and the series formerly owned by your Society, together form one of the most complete county collections in any Museum.

“Mr. Gibbs has also presented several pieces of Nailsea glass, and a fine series of specimens exemplifying the best period of the art of the locksmith.

“Through the instrumentality of Sir Hercules Read, of the

British Museum, your Society has acquired a number of antiquities which formed part of the collection of the late Lord Avebury (Sir John Lubbock). These specimens, given by the present Lord Avebury, consist of archaeological remains from the Dordogne and other parts of France, Denmark, Ireland and the Swiss Lakes, all of which are valuable for comparison with similar objects found in the West of England.

“Lady Tylor, of Wellington, has given a number of ethnographical specimens (including pottery), comprising part of the collection of the late Sir Edward Tylor ; but very naturally the greater part of his collection has found a home in the Pitt-Rivers Museum at Oxford.

“Mention should also be made of an interesting collection of lace bobbins and a collarette of Honiton lace presented by Miss R. H. Waddon, in memory of her sister, Miss F. A. Waddon ; a cast of the Piltdown skull presented by Dr. A. R. Graham ; a collection of photographs and papers brought together by Mr. J. Gillingham of Chard for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of his fellow-townsmen, John Stringfellow, the pioneer of flight and father of aviation ; local birds and birds’ eggs given by Dr. J. Wigglesworth, Mr. W. H. Rendell, Rear-Admiral Dare, Mr. E. Bryan Wood, the Rev. J. A. Smart, Mr. W. B. Broadmead and others ; and collections of Somerset plants added to the herbarium by the Rev. E. S. Marshall, Mr. H. Stuart Thompson, Miss M. A. G. Livett, etc.

“Among other donors to the Museum of several specimens are Miss M. E. Scott, the Rev. C. F. Metcalfe, Dr. A. Bulleid, Mr. C. Tite and Mr. J. C. M. Hall-Stephenson.

“Perhaps the most important object recently acquired for the County Museum is the chimney-piece of Ham Hill stone found in the wall of a house, now Boots (chemists) in North Street, Taunton, during alterations in April, 1916. Its date is *circa* 1475. The carved detail includes the merchant-mark used by the owner of the house, and demi-angels resembling the figures on the tower of St. Mary’s Church, Taunton (built 1488–1514). This chimney-piece has been deposited on loan by the Trustees of the Taunton Town Charities. (*See Frontispiece*).

“Turning to gifts made to the Library your Council has the pleasure to report several interesting additions. From Mr. Martin Gibbs have been received 94 rolls on vellum comprising the Ministers’ Accounts and Court Rolls of the Hundred, Borough and Manor of North Petherton, A.D. 1289–1432, together with a calendar compiled by Mr. Montague S. Giuseppi, F.S.A. This manor in early times belonged to the family of Erleigh, from which it passed to the Beaupines and subsequently to the Bluets, later holders being Edward Duke of Somerset and John Duke of Northumberland. Mr. Gibbs has also presented standard works on Trade Tokens of the XVII–XIX Centuries, and several handsomely bound art magazines.

“Through the instrumentality of the Rev. A. W. Stote, Miss Elmes has presented forty deeds, etc., having reference to North Somerset, and dating from A.D. 1593 to 1779. Mr. A. W. Marks has also given a large number of Somerset deeds.

“Mr. C. Tite, besides adding several volumes to his collection of Somerset books, has also presented twenty-one volumes of manuscript and printed notes having reference to the history of Wincanton and its immediate neighbourhood, compiled by the late Mr. G. Sweetman.

“The Rt. Hon. H. Hobhouse has deposited on loan fourteen note-books containing collections for a county history of Somerset, compiled by his grandfather who was keeper of the State Paper Office and Latin Secretary.

“The *Geographical Journal*, for the last twenty years, was given by the Rev. C. T. Wilson just before his death; and other printed books, etc., chiefly of local interest, have been contributed amongst others by:—The Rev. Preb. Hamlet, the Rev. J. D. C. Wickham, and Messrs. F. Bligh Bond, T. W. Cowan, J. E. Pritchard, J. Tazewell and H. S. Thompson.

“By drawing on the Woodward Fund it has been found possible to fill up many gaps in the series of Public Records and in the Historical Manuscripts Commission Reports.

“Your Society’s large files of bound Newspapers, published in Somerset and the West of England, have been sorted and re-arranged in cases devoted to them in the Great Hall. These cases have been divided by means of vertical divisions

and otherwise rendered more suitable for the systematic storage of these valuable local records. The collection includes local newspapers for every year (except 1801) from 1795 to the present time.

“Your Council cannot leave the subject of local literature without cordially congratulating Dr. Arthur Bulleid and Mr. H. St. George Gray, and others who collaborated with them, on the recent appearance of Volume II of their *magnum opus* on *The Glastonbury Lake Village*. They have had many difficulties to face in issuing the completion of this work during the War.

“The Natural History Sections of your Society have been actively engaged during the past year, but owing to the difficulties of travelling, excursions for the purpose of collecting have been less numerous. There has on this account, however, been no falling off in the number of additions to the Museum, as already reported. It was at the Wells Meeting in 1909 that Mr. A. E. Hudd, F.S.A., proposed the formation of these Sections to promote the study of different branches of natural history, and he and all the officers of the Sections are to be congratulated on the great success which has attended their efforts. The work they have already accomplished has not only given a stimulus to the study of a very important branch of your Society's many interests, but has developed, improved and increased the collections of local entomology, ornithology and botany in the County Museum. The work carried out by Mr. H. Slater (secretary) and Mr. Hudd (recorder) of the Entomological Section and the cabinet work done by Mr. H. Doidge and Mr. F. Milton has been of the first order. Equally successful has been the work of the members of the Botanical Section, who are fortunate in having such a well known botanist as the Rev. E. S. Marshall, F.L.S., as recorder, and such an active secretary as Mr. W. D. Miller. As frequently reported Mr. T. W. Cowan, F.L.S., has done most valuable work in connection with the Herbarium, which under his care is growing rapidly. Dr. J. Wigglesworth, as one of the recorders of the Ornithological Section, is ungrudgingly devoting a large amount of time in touring all parts of the county to make personal observations on bird

life, and this Section has done much in developing the bird collections in your Museum, and has spent a large proportion of its funds in taxidermy.

“The Bath Branch of your Society has published its thirteenth illustrated report, which contains a number of interesting notes on the archæology of the Bath district.

“Owing to the War, the excavations at Glastonbury Abbey were conducted on a comparatively small scale last summer. Digging has recently been carried out at Wincanton by Mr. W. Pountney to determine the position of Nathaniel Ireson’s delft ware potteries and to obtain shards for identification purposes. The results have not yet been published.

“Your Council has recently taken steps to form an Advisory Committee for Architectural Restorations (with the Rev. Prebendary E. H. Bates Harbin as chairman, and the Rev. G. W. Saunders as secretary). The objects of the committee are to advise any persons intending to restore, alter or add to an ancient building; to encourage the care and preservation of ancient buildings which are suffering from neglect; and to report to your Society upon any proposed restorations of ancient buildings which threaten to destroy their archæological value. The committee will have power to co-opt other members of your Society having local knowledge of any building under discussion.

“We take this opportunity of congratulating and thanking Sir C. Thomas Dyke Acland, Bart., for his forethought, public-spiritedness and generosity in combining with the National Trust to preserve for many generations to come some of the wildest and most beautiful portions of southern and eastern Exmoor.

“Your Museum was visited by 6110 persons last year, including 1485 visits from members. In 1915 the total number of visitors was 5496.

“In accordance with Rule II one-third of the elected members of the Council retire annually by rotation, but are eligible for re-election. Those retiring at this meeting are Mr. H. J. Badcock, the Rev. A. J. Hook, Colonel Pemberton and Dr. W. B. Winckworth, all of whom are willing to serve again.”

MR. A. F. SOMERVILLE, in moving the adoption of the report, said that their museum was worthy of its new name, and he was glad the Council had decided that it should be called the "Somerset County Museum." Their Curator had thrown his heart and soul into the work of the Society, and the Museum had more than justified its existence. He was much interested in the gifts made to the Museum by Mr. Martin Gibbs during the year.

The Rev. D. J. PRING seconded, and spoke of the thorough manner in which the Annual Report had been prepared during the last few years.

The report was unanimously adopted.

ADDENDUM.

The copy of Weaver's *Somerset Incumbents* in the Society's Library has been interleaved. The period covered by this valuable work extends from 1309 to 1730 ; but owing to the loss of several Episcopal registers there are many gaps in the series. Prebendary Bates Harbin has made a large number of corrections and additions to the earlier series ; and fifty parishes have been completed to the present time. Incumbents may obtain the additions relating to their own parishes by applying to the Assistant-Secretary ; and they are invited to forward additions from 1730, so that the interleaved copy may eventually become a full directory of the Clergy of the Diocese.

Finances.

The Rev. Preb. E. H. BATES HARBIN, as chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 1916, and proposed its adoption. He said that, with the exception of the Castle Lodge, the Society's property was in a satisfactory state of repair.

Mr. C. TITE, one of the Hon. Secs., seconded, and the adoption of the accounts was then carried.

Annual Accounts of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1916. (GENERAL ACCOUNT).

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Members' Subscriptions, 1915	...	...	4 14 6	By Overdraft at Bank, 31 Dec., 1915	...	...	£100 19 8
" " 1916	...	...	511 5 0	" General Printing and Stationery	...	4 18 4	
" " 1917	...	...	5 5 0	" Fuel and Light	...	28 16 3	
				" Repairs to Buildings	...	19 2 9	
" Members' Entrance Fees	...	...	521 4 6	" Repairs and Renewals of Furnishing	...	11 12 5	
" Life Membership Fee, £10 10s. 0d. (See Capital Account.)	...	...	20 9 6	" General Postages and Telegrams	...	9 11 3	
" General Donations	...	...	7 0 0	" Insurances	...	39 6 7	
" Museum Receipts	...	...	63 4 0	" Rates and Taxes	...	59 19 10	
" Publications	...	...	7 1 5	" Petty Expenses	...	6 7 9	
" Donations towards purchase of Franklin Coins	...	...	3 6 0	" Sundry Payments	...	2 12 3	
" Rents	...	...	29 7 6	" Watermain Wayleave	...	0 1 0	
" Donations towards Illustration Fund, Vol. LXI.	...	...	6 13 8	" Curator's Salary	...	200 0 0	
" Dividends on New Zealand 4% Stock (Book Account)	...	...	4 6 0	" Wages of Staff	...	80 3 2	
" Do. Exchequer Bond	...	...	2 19 0	" Accountant's Charges	...	5 5 0	
							467 16 7
" Transfers from Woodward Fund	...	...	7 5 0	" "Proceedings," Vol. LXI (including £6 13s. 8d. contra)...	...	...	149 5 0
" " Capital Account, Interest on	...	...	16 16 8	" Subscriptions to Societies	...	4 9 0	
" Deposit	...	...	1 19 0	" Museum Specimens	...	0 13 6	
" Sundries	...	...	0 14 0	" Books and Bookbinding (including Woodward Fund Purchases)...	...	30 5 11	
" Balance, being Overdraft at Bank	...	...	73 2 7	" Annual Meeting	...	4 14 2	
				" Extensions of Furnishings	...	0 0 0	
							40 2 7
							£758 3 10
			£758 3 10				

Audited and found correct.

January 12th, 1917.

A. C. MOLE & CO., Incorporated Accountants, Taunton.

H. J. BADCOCK, Hon. Treasurer.

WOODWARD FUND, 1916.

	£	s.	d.
To Transfer to General Account for Books ...	16	16	8
„ Balance ...	176	18	11
	<u>£193</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>

	£	s.	d.
By Balance from 1915 ...	189	2	1
„ Interest for Year ...	4	13	6
	<u>£193</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>
„ Balance of Fund to 1917 ...	176	18	11

CAPITAL ACCOUNT (LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES).

	£	s.	d.
To Transfer to Current Account ...	1	19	0
„ Balance, Invested in 5% Exchequer Bond ...	100	0	0
„ „ On Deposit at Bank ...	3	18	10
	<u>103</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>10</u>
	<u>£105</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>10</u>

	£	s.	d.
By Balance from 1915 ...	95	0	0
„ Life Membership Fee (Capt. Hamilton Leigh) ...	10	10	0
„ Interest for the Year ...	0	7	10
	<u>£105</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>10</u>
„ Balance to 1917 ...	103	18	10

BOOK FUND.

By Balance from 1915 (New Zealand 4% Inscribed Stock) ... £107 7 0

GENERAL STATEMENT.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Deposit at Parr's Bank (Woodward) ...	176	18	11			
„ „ „ „ (Capital) ...	3	18	10			
	<u>180</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>9</u>			
Less Overdraft as per General Account ...	73	2	7	107	15	2
To £107 11s. 4d, New Zealand 4% Stock at cost ...				107	7	0
„ 5% Exchequer Bond ...				100	0	0
„ Balance being deficiency on Special Funds, and being amount overdrawn on Receipts and Payments Account ...				73	2	7
	<u>£388</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>			

	£	s.	d.
By Balance, Woodward Fund ...	176	18	11
„ Capital Account ...	103	18	10
„ Book Fund ...	107	7	0
	<u>£388</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>

Andited and found correct, January 12th, 1917.

A. C. MOLE & CO., Incorporated Accountants, Taunton.

Election of New Members and Officers.

Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, the Assistant-Secretary, read the names of 63 new members, who had been provisionally elected by the Council since the last annual meeting.

The Rev. F. J. MONTGOMERY proposed, and Mr. T. W. COWAN seconded, that the election of the new members should be confirmed. The motion was carried.

The Rev. P. J. J. FEAR proposed the re-election of the officers of the Society, including the four outgoing members of the Council, viz., Mr. H. J. Badcock, the Rev. A. J. Hook, Colonel E. St. C. Pemberton and Dr. W. B. Winckworth; also the election of Mr. H. Martin Gibbs as a Vice-President of the Society, and the following as Local Secretaries:—the Rev. G. W. Saunders for Martock (*vice* Curry Rivel), Dr. J. Wigglesworth for Winscombe, the Rev. F. J. Montgomery for Milverton, and Dr. H. Downes for Chard and neighbourhood. The speaker said he regarded it as a great privilege to live in a town containing such a fine museum and library as their Society possessed.

Dr. W. STEWART, in seconding, said he thought they owed a great deal to their Curator for the excellent membership of their Society. His archæological field-work was well known beyond the borders of their county.

Somerset Record Society.

The Rev. Preb. E. H. BATES HARBIN gave a report of the Somerset Record Society, and stated that they had arranged to proceed with the register of Bishop Stafford, which they hoped to have ready in the autumn. This would form a valuable continuation of the series of registers of the Bishops of Bath and Wells. He was pleased to tell them that Sir H. C. Maxwell Lyte, K.C.B., Deputy-Keeper of the Public Records, had kindly placed his collections for the history of the Honour of Dunster in the hands of the society, and that would enable them to issue what would be practically a history of West Somerset.

With regard to *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, the Rev. F. W. Weaver had resigned the Somerset editorship, and had been succeeded by the Rev. G. W. Saunders, vicar of Martock. The speaker added that many things were brought to light by the publication of this magazine.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Bates Harbin for his report, and was glad to hear what he had said about *Notes and Queries*. He agreed that a publication of this kind was of considerable value, and he hoped the little publication would get more support in the future than in the past.

The Rev. Dr. S. J. M. PRICE proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Dean of Wells for presiding, and referred to his literary labours not only for Somerset, but more particularly in regard to Westminster.

Colonel E. ST. C. PEMBERTON seconded, and alluding to the need of additional space in the museum, said he thought that it would be a very difficult matter because of the ancient character of the building, which did not lend itself to additions.

The vote was heartily accorded, and the President responded.

Glastonbury Abbey Excavations.

OWING to the War and scarcity of manual labour, etc., the excavations have been temporarily discontinued this season, and the only work carried out on the ground has been the cutting of grass and clearing of weed.

Statement of Accounts, Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 1917.

GLASTONBURY ABBEY EXCAVATION FUND.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
By Balance of Former Account ..	43	14	8	To Labour Account, for Weeding and Weed Killer ..	1	0	4
„ Interest on Deposit Account, 1915 ..	1	8	11	„ Postages, etc. ..	0	2	0
„ Ditto, 1916.. ..	1	0	7	„ Balance in hand (Sept. 30, 1917) ..	45	1	10
	£46	4	2		£46	4	2

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Hon. Treasurer.*