

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

DURING THE YEAR

1920.

THE Seventy-Second Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Bridgwater on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 20th, 21st and 22nd.

There was a good attendance at the Annual General Meeting, which took place in St. Mary's Parish Hall, beginning at 11 o'clock. The chair was taken by the retiring President, Mr. HENRY BALFOUR, F.S.A., F.R.G.S., and he was supported by Mr. A. Hamilton Thompson, F.S.A. (*President-Elect*), the Rev. Dr. Armitage Robinson, Dean of Wells (*Vice-President*), the Rev. Dr. S. J. M. Price (*Chairman of Council*), Messrs. Charles Tite and Henry Symonds (*Hon. Secretaries*), and Mr. H. St. George Gray (*Assistant-Secretary and Curator*).

The Annual Report.

Mr. HENRY SYMONDS, one of the Hon. Secretaries, read the Annual Report, which was as follows:—

“In presenting the seventy-second annual report, the Council wishes to state that since the last report 132 new names have been added to the list of members. The largest number previously elected in one year was 108 at the time of the Society's Diamond Jubilee. Losses caused by death and resignation for the year 1919–20 have been 51. The net gain has been 81. The total membership at date is 1015,

against 936 at the time of the annual meeting last year. This establishes a record of which the Society may well feel proud, and the membership has become nearly doubled during the present century.

“The Society records with much regret the following losses by death during the past year (the dates in brackets indicate the time of the member’s election):—

“The Rt. Hon. the Viscount Portman, of Bryanston House, Blandford, joined the Society in 1876, and succeeded the Earl of Cork and Orrery as Patron in 1904. He died on 16th October, at the advanced age of 90 years.

“Dr. F. J. Haverfield, F.B.A., F.S.A., Camden Professor of Ancient History in the University of Oxford and Fellow of Brasenose College, an authoritative exponent of Romano-British history, died on 1st October. He was President of the Society at the 1918 meeting, when he delivered an address on ‘The Character of the Roman Empire as seen in West Somerset.’ But his greatest work for this county was the comprehensive chapter on ‘Romano-British Somerset,’ covering 166 pages of the *Victoria County History*.

“Sir Edmund H. Elton, Bart., of Clevedon Court, who died on 17th July, aged 74 years, was President of the Society at the Clevedon Meeting in 1881, and from 1896 till the time of his death a Vice-President. He was the originator and designer of the famous Elton Ware, for which he was awarded numerous national and international medals.¹

“Mr. Emanuel Green, F.S.A., one of the Honorary Secretaries from 1881 to 1887, Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey, Bart., K.C.B., author of a ‘History of part of West Somerset,’ the Rev. E. S. Marshall, F.L.S., President of the Botanical Section, and the Rev. Preb. F. Hancock, F.S.A., author of four volumes dealing with Selworthy, Minehead, Dunster and Wiveliscombe, obituary notices of all of whom were published in 1919.²

“Mr. W. A. E. Ussher, an Honorary Life Member of the Society, who joined the Geological Survey in 1868, died on

1. *Proceedings*, LVI, ii, 31–37.

2. *Proceedings*, LXV, 97–110.

19th March. His name will always be associated with the Devonian, Carboniferous and New Red rocks of Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, upon which he wrote several valuable memoirs for the Geological Survey, the Geological Society, and the publications of our Society and the Devonshire Association. In 1914 he was awarded the Murchison Medal of the Geological Society.

“Mr. H. N. Davies, F.G.S. (1904), died at Weston-super-Mare on 6th February, where he had watched its growth from a village to a flourishing town. He was a keen antiquary, naturalist and collector, and was specially interested in the vicissitudes through which Worlebury Camp has passed.

“Mr. A. J. Monday (1882), a familiar figure at the Society's headquarters, who died on 4th April. He had a considerable knowledge of genealogy and local history, and in these studies proved very helpful to many of our members. He wrote some papers for our *Proceedings*, and compiled a scarce work entitled ‘History of the Yea Family.’

“The Society has also lost by death: Lt.-Col. Linley Blathwayt (1891), who wrote all the chapters on Insects, except Lepidoptera, in the *Victoria County History*; Mr. W. B. Broadmead, of Enmore Castle (1889), a Trustee of the Society since 1911; Mr. S. H. Dening (1903); Mr. Henry Derham (1887); Dr. Arthur R. Graham (1906), local secretary for Somerton; Mr. James Hollis (1909); Mr. Stanley Hutton (1910); Colonel Hendley Kirkwood (1902); Mr. Walter Meade-King (1866); Mr. F. Harris Mitchell (1902), at one time local secretary for Chard; Mrs. Wm. Morris (1918); Mr. C. H. Spencer Perceval (1889), a donor to the Library; Mr. W. R. Phelps, of Montacute (1890); the Hon. H. B. T. Strangways (1906), of Shapwick, premier of South Australia, 1868–70; and Mr. H. Gribble Turner (1890), of Staplegrove.

“In June last the Rev. F. W. Weaver, F.S.A., resigned his position as one of the Honorary Secretaries, which he had held for a period of twenty-four years. During the first twenty years he was also Editor of the *Proceedings*,—a longer term of office than any previous record, which covered practically the whole of the third series. For several years he acted also as Excursion Secretary; and in 1913 he became a Vice-

President. The Council received his resignation as Secretary with much regret, and expressed to him its deep sense of the value of his services covering such a long period.

“Owing to Mr. Weaver’s resignation Mr. Charles Tite became the only remaining Honorary Secretary of the Society, and Mr. Henry Symonds, F.S.A., has been appointed by the Council to fill the vacancy.

“Although Mr. H. J. Badcock did not become a member of the Society till 1872, he was appointed one of the Hon. Treasurers in 1860, and has now occupied that position for a record period of sixty years. He was also appointed one of the Trustees in 1872. The Council has pleasure in nominating him as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society.

“The balance in hand on the Society’s General Account at the end of 1918 was £11 8s. 1d.; and this balance was slightly increased to £14 13s. 10d. at the end of 1919, but in neither year was the whole cost of the volume of *Proceedings* included in the accounts. In connection with finance it should also be stated that, owing to labour difficulties and the high cost of material, very little has been done in the way of repairs and painting of the buildings during the past few years.

“The insurance of the buildings and their contents has been considerably increased during the year.

“The total expenses attending the issue of Vol. LXV of the *Proceedings* for 1919 are not yet known, but the amount will not fall far short of £210.¹ The new volume, although nearly fifty pages larger than the previous one, is still somewhat smaller than the average volume issued during the present century. The new volume would not have been so well illustrated but for the generosity of the donors of plates, acknowledged in the preface of the book.

“Your attention will be drawn at this Meeting to the proposed Amendments of the Rules of the Society, recently drawn up by the Council, and distributed to all the members. The chief alterations concern the financial position; for the ever-growing work of the Society and the upkeep of head-

1. The actual cost was found later to be £202 1s. 3d.

quarters cannot be carried on efficiently and adequately, having regard to the important position of the Society, without a larger income bearing some comparison to the rise in prices affecting all departments of your work.

“At the Wellington Meeting in 1912 it was suggested that many members might be disposed to assist the finances of the Society by giving an increased annual subscription beyond the minimum of 10s. 6d.: the response was on the whole gratifying, and considerably helped to meet the increasing needs of the Society and the maintenance of the Museum and Library.

“In reference to the obituary notice of Dr. J. Wigglesworth, President of the Ornithological Section, published in the *Proceedings* for 1919, the Council wishes to report that his bequest was received last Easter, and the specimens and books form valuable additions to the Museum¹ and Library.

“The most important addition to the collection of manuscripts is the donation recently made by Lt.-Colonel Sir Charles W. Miles, Bart., consisting of court rolls, etc., having reference chiefly to Abbot's Leigh, North Somerset, dating from 1308 to 1693.

“Mrs. Bagehot has presented a manuscript by the late Mr. Walter Bagehot,—part of an essay on William Pitt the younger, of which only portions have been published. A number of Somerset deeds have been added to the collections by Mr. Arthur W. Marks and Mr. Henry Symonds.

“In speaking of local manuscripts, mention might here be made of the valuable Glastonbury manuscript lately discovered in the binding of a rate-book at West Pennard. It consists of four folios of a poem in Anglo-Norman 12-syllable verse on the Saints—SS. Patrick, Benignus and Bridget—connected with Glastonbury. The date of the writing is of the XIII Century, according to Mr. Robin Flower, of the British Museum, who is offering a paper on the subject to the Society of Antiquaries.

“A good run of the early volumes of *The Journal of Botany*

1. The other additions to the Museum during the past year have been well up to the average, and are described in the Curator's Report in this volume.

was presented by the late Mr. C. H. Spencer Perceval. Owing to the initiative of Mr. H. Stuart Thompson and the generosity of members and friends of the Botanical Section, this set has been completed up to date.

“The Serel collection of Somerset documents has been sorted by Mr. H. Symonds, and arranged with the Society’s general collection; and a continuation of the work of cataloguing the deeds is in progress.

“During the summer of 1919 and the late spring of this year, the excavations at Glastonbury Abbey have been continued under the direction of Mr. F. Bligh Bond. The results of last year’s work have already been published in the *Proceedings*, and the later work has consisted of an examination of the eastern end of the ‘Loretto’ Chapel. The excavations were closed temporarily on July 3rd. The Fund is badly in need of subscriptions for continuing the work.

“Since the War the Society has not had any other archaeological excavations in hand, but the Speleological Society of Bristol University has been engaged upon the examination of a cavern near Dolebury Camp on Mendip.

“It is gratifying to know that Messrs. C. and J. Clark, Ltd., have given Ivythorn Hill and Wood, overlooking Street and covering 46 acres, to the National Trust.

“The Natural History Sections of the Society have had a successful year’s work. The membership of the Ornithological Section has increased, and the Rev. F. L. Blathwayt has succeeded the late Dr. Wiglesworth as President and chief Recorder. Its work has grown owing to the acquisitions previously referred to. A large number of the bird cases have been renovated. Since the death of the President (the Rev. E. S. Marshall) the work of the Botanical Section has been directed by a committee, and the growth of the herbarium continues. The Entomological Section has also been doing useful work, and some of the cabinets in the Museum have been re-arranged through the Section’s instrumentality. On July 15th steps were taken to form a Microscopical Section of the Society, when a meeting for the purpose was held at Taunton Castle. Members of the Society may join any or all these Sections at an annual subscription of 2s. 6d. each.

“The Museum was visited by 8760 persons last year, including 1635 visits from members. In 1918 the total number was 7313, when there were 1120 visits from members.

“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, Dr. H. Downes, Mr. Sebastian Evans and Colonel E. St. C. Pemberton, all of whom are willing to act again.

“In conclusion, the Council wishes to express its thanks to Mr. H. St. George Gray for having drafted this Report.”

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the adoption of the Report, said it showed very definite signs of great activity within the Society. He thought that they could claim that their Society was probably the most active and progressive in the provinces, but to maintain its high position it seemed necessary to increase the subscription. Recommendations would be brought forward for the adjustment of their finances, and he did not think any one who contemplated joining the Society under the new conditions need be afraid of not receiving corresponding benefits.

MR. SEBASTIAN EVANS seconded, and the Report was adopted unanimously.

Finances.

The Rev. Dr. S. J. M. PRICE, in the absence of the Hon. Treasurers (Messrs. H. J. Badcock and R. C. Boyle), presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 1919, and proposed its adoption. It showed that the total income for 1919 had been £822 6s. 10d., leaving a balance in hand of £14 13s. 10d. The speaker, however, pointed out that of an estimated cost of £200 for the *Proceedings* for 1919, only £50 had been paid at the end of that year. The Council was considering the advisability of issuing an appeal in the autumn, urging the present members of the Society to increase their annual subscription.

Mr. C. TITE, in seconding, said that at the present time the work of the Society and the proper upkeep of its headquarters, the Museum and Library, were much hampered from the want of funds.

The adoption of the accounts was then carried.

Annual Accounts of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

XVIII

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1919. (GENERAL ACCOUNT).

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance at Bank, 31st Dec., 1918	...		11 8 1	By General Printing and Stationery	...	3 11 10	
„ Members' Subscriptions 1918	...	3 13 6		„ Fuel and Light	...	41 4 8	
„ „ „ 1919	...	535 12 0		„ Repairs to Buildings	...	19 2 2	
„ „ „ 1920	...	6 6 0		„ Repairs and Renewals of Furnishings	...	6 0 5	
		—	545 11 6	„ General Postages and Telegrams	...	11 19 4	
„ Entrance Fees	...		38 6 6	„ Insurances	...	25 16 9	
„ Donations—General	...	1 5 0		„ Rates and Taxes	...	102 8 7	
To Illustrations Fund, "Proceedings," 1918	...	23 13 9		„ Petty Expenses	...	8 17 8	
		—	24 18 9	„ Sundry Payments	...	1 19 2	
„ Museum Receipts	...		131 14 5	„ Rent of Yard	...	2 0 0	
„ Publications and Parchments	...		42 18 7	„ Watermain Wayleave	...	0 1 0	
„ Rents	...		29 12 0	„ Assistant-Secretary and Curator's Salary	...	250 0 0	
„ Dividends—New Zealand 4% Stock (Book Account)	...	4 6 0		„ Wages of Staff	...	114 1 0	
5% War Loan Bond	...	3 10 0		„ Accountant's Charges	...	5 5 0	
		—	7 16 0	„ "Proceedings," 1918 (including £23 13s. 9d. subscribed to Illustrations Fund)	...	152 0 4	
„ Transfer from Woodward Fund	...	0 10 0		„ "Proceedings," 1919 (on account)	...	*50 0 0	
„ „ „ Capital Account, Interest on Deposit	...	0 7 7					202 0 4
		—	0 17 7	„ Subscriptions to Societies	...	5 9 0	
„ Sundries	...		0 11 6	„ Museum Specimens	...	2 12 6	
		—		„ Books and Bookbinding	...	15 5 5	
		—		„ Annual Meeting	...	1 6 3	
		—		„ Balance at Bank	...	—	24 13 2
		—					14 13 10
		—	£833 14 11				£833 14 11

Seventy-second Annual Meeting.

* The total cost to the Society of the "Proceedings," Vol. LXV, for 1919, was £202 1s. 3d., of which only £50 had been paid on 31 December, 1919.

Audited and found correct. 20th January, 1920.

A. C. MOLE & CO., *Incorporated Accountants, Taunton.*
H. J. BADCOCK, } *Hon. Treasurers.*
R. C. BOYLE, }

WOODWARD FUND, 1919.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Transfer to General Account,			0 10 0	By Balance from 1918			158 15 11
„ Balance			162 7 0	„ Interest for Year			4 1 1
			£162 17 0				£162 17 0
				„ Balance of Fund to 1919			162 7 0

CAPITAL ACCOUNT (LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES).

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Transfer to General Account			0 7 7	By Balance, 1918—Deposit at Bank ...	29 15 10		
„ Balance—£100 5% War Loan Bond (1929-47) ...	95	2	9	„ „ „ £100 5% War Loan Bond ...	95	2	9
„ „ On Deposit at Bank	30	3	0	„ Interest (Bank)			124 18 7
			125 5 9				0 14 9
			£125 13 4				£125 13 4

BOOK FUND.

By Balance from 1918 (New Zealand 4% Inscribed Stock) ... £107 11 4

GENERAL STATEMENT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Deposit at Parr's Bank (Woodward Fund) ...	162	7	0	By Balance, Woodward Fund			162 7 0
„ „ „ „ (Capital Account)	30	3	0	„ Capital Account			125 5 9
			192 10 0	„ Book Fund			107 11 4
„ Balance on General Account			14 13 10	„ Balance on General Account			14 13 10
			207 3 10				
„ New Zealand 4% Stock at cost			107 11 4				
„ 5% War Loan Bond (£100) at cost			95 2 9				
			£409 17 11				£409 17 11

Audited and found correct, 20th January, 1920.

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

The New President.

Mr. H. BALFOUR proposed the election of Mr. A. Hamilton Thompson, F.S.A., as President of the Society for the ensuing year. He was a Vice-President of the Royal Archæological Institute, and in his knowledge of ecclesiastical architecture he had few equals.

The Rev. G. W. SAUNDERS seconded the motion, which was adopted with acclamation.

The new PRESIDENT said he felt it a great honour to be elected to the position they wished him to occupy. He was proud to be a native of Bristol, and all his early associations had been connected with the borders of Gloucestershire and Somerset.

Election of Officers.

The Rev. W. E. CATLOW, local secretary for Bridgwater, before moving the below-mentioned resolution, cordially welcomed, on behalf of the Local Committee,¹ the members of the Society to the ancient borough of Bridgwater, and hoped the meeting would prove a great success. He then proposed, That the Officers of the Society be re-elected, including the four outgoing members of the Council, *viz.*, Mr. H. J. Badcock, Colonel Pemberton, Dr. H. Downes, and Mr. Sebastian Evans; also the election of the Rt. Hon. Viscount Portman as Patron of the Society, Mr. Henry Balfour and Mr. H. J. Badcock as Vice-Presidents; Mr. Henry Symonds as an Hon. Secretary, and Mr. N. G. Hadden as Local Secretary for Porlock.

Dr. G. NORMAN seconded the motion, which was carried.

Increase of Annual Subscription.

The PRESIDENT submitted the following resolution to the meeting:—(1) That the Amendments of the Rules of the

1. The Local Committee consisted of:—The Mayor of Bridgwater (Alderman S. Berry), the Rev. Preb. J. J. Langham, the Rev. C. E. Pike, Capt. R. D. R. Troup, and Messrs. H. Corder, T. Bruce Dilks, F. H. Gould, H. M. B. Ker, W. H. Kitch, M. E. Page, T. Perrens, and H. Slater; and the Rev. W. E. Catlow (*Secretary*).

Society as circulated among all the Members be hereby approved and adopted, and that the same shall take effect on the passing of this resolution. (2) That the Council may, if they think fit, remit the entrance fee in the case of a public library or society which receives the volume of *Proceedings*, but does not otherwise participate in the privileges of membership.

On the proposition of Mr. H. SYMONDS, seconded by the Rev. F. J. MONTGOMERY, this resolution was adopted (subject to a few verbal alterations resolved upon at this meeting and included below).

The following Amendments of the RULES of the SOCIETY (printed in the *Proceedings*, Vol. LVIII, 1912, pt. ii, pp. 201-203) were, in accordance with Rule XX, sent out to all the Members of the Society with the programme of the Annual Meeting, 1920 :—

II.—*Insert after Societies*, “and Natural History Sections.” *Delete*, “not more than.”

III.—*For* “Honorary Treasurers and Honorary Auditors” *read* “and Honorary Treasurers.”

VI.—*After* “Auditors of the Society” *insert* “who shall be appointed at an Annual General Meeting.” *Delete* “The yearly balance . . . Meeting.”

VII.—*For* “annually” *read* “for such period as they shall think fit.”

XIV.—*The first sentence to read*, “Candidates for membership shall be nominated by two Members and the election determined by open voting at a Council Meeting,” etc.

XV.—*Delete the whole Rule and read*, “Members elected after the 20th July, 1920, shall pay an entrance fee of 10s. 6d. and an annual subscription of not less than 21s., and members of their families resident in the same house shall pay not less than 10s. 6d. annually, but such resident members shall not receive a free copy of the Society's *Proceedings*. Members elected before the 20th July, 1920, shall pay an annual subscription of not less than 10s. 6d., and members of their families resident in the same house shall pay not less than 7s. 6d., but such resident members shall not receive a free copy of the Society's *Proceedings*. The fee for Life Membership shall not be less than Fifteen Guineas.”

XVI.—*Between* “attainments” *and* “persons” *insert* “or benefactors to the Society. Such.”

XVII.—*Delete the whole Rule and read*, “On election every new Member shall be notified thereof by the Assistant-Secretary, who shall at the same time send a copy of the Rules and Bye-laws of the Society. No Member shall participate in any of the benefits of the

Society until the entrance fee and appropriate annual subscription or the fee for life membership have been paid. Every Life Member, every Member elected before 20th July, 1920, and paying a subscription of not less than 10s. 6d., every Member elected after that date and paying a subscription of not less than 21s., and every Honorary Member, shall receive a free copy of the *Proceedings* relative to each year of membership. All subscriptions subsequent to those paid on admission shall be payable on the 1st January in each year. Any member intending to withdraw from the Society shall give notice to that effect to the Assistant-Secretary on or before December 31st, failing which such Member shall pay the subscription for the ensuing year."

[*The new Rules and Bye-Laws of the Society are printed at the end of this volume*].

Somerset Record Society.

The Rev. A. J. HOOK (*Secretary*) made a statement with regard to the Somerset Record Society, which was behindhand with the annual publication of its volumes. Sir H. Maxwell Lyte's collection of Records illustrative of the history of the Honour of Dunster was in the press at the present time; and it was hoped that another volume of Quarter Sessions Records would soon be taken in hand. The Society was very short of members and funds.

The Dean of Wells bore testimony to the value of the Society from the historical point of view.

The Presidential Address.

The President, Mr. A. HAMILTON THOMPSON, M.A., F.S.A., then delivered his address on "Medieval Building Documents, and what we learn from them," which is printed as the first paper in Part II.

Thanks were accorded the President for his address, on the proposition of the Dean of Wells, seconded by Mr. C. H. Bothamley.

At the close of the meeting the members adjourned for luncheon at the Royal Clarence Hotel.