

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
DURING THE YEAR
1925

THE Seventy-seventh Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Langport on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 21st, 22nd and 23rd. It proved to be the largest meeting during the century, with the exception of the Glastonbury Meeting in 1902 and the Crewkerne Meeting in 1921.

There was an excellent attendance at the Annual General Meeting, which was held in the Town Hall. The chair was taken at 11.15 a.m. by the Right Hon. Henry Hobhouse (*senior Vice-President*), in the absence of the outgoing President, Professor W. J. Sollas, LL.D., F.R.S., and he was supported on the platform by Major M. F. Cely Trevilian, D.L. (*President-Elect and High Sheriff of Somerset*), the Very Rev. Dr. J. Armitage Robinson, Dean of Wells, and Prof. A. Hamilton Thompson (*Vice-Presidents*), Messrs. Charles Tite and Henry Symonds (*Hon. Secretaries*), the Rev. Preb. J. Hamlet (*Chairman of Council*), Mr. H. St. George Gray (*Asst.-Secretary, Curator and Excursion Secretary*), and members of the Local Committee.

Mr. HENRY HOBHOUSE, at the outset, addressed the members in very appropriate terms, on the general position and size of the Society, making allusion to some of the past-Presidents, including Mr. E. B. Cely Trevilian, father of the President-

Designate ; also on the keen interest taken in archæology to-day and the great work of protection which was going on both in respect to ancient buildings and other places of historic interest. He thought that such archæological societies as that of Somerset would always continue to flourish, as long as they could instruct and interest the rising generation.

The Annual Report

MR. HENRY SYMONDS, F.S.A., read the Annual Report, which was as follows :—

“ In presenting the seventy-seventh annual report, the Council wishes to state that since the last annual meeting 54 new names have been added to the list of members. Losses by death and resignation for the year 1924–25 have been 67, and the net loss is 13. The total membership at date is 1,050, against 1,063 at the Bristol Meeting last year.

“ Death has accounted for a large proportion of our losses, and the following names are here recorded with much regret :—

“ The Rev. C. S. Taylor, F.S.A. (1897),¹ the Society’s local secretary for Banwell for many years, but more particularly identified with the work of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society, and its editor for eighteen years and president in 1905 ; the Rev. C. H. Heale (1894), at one time a member of Council, and more recently local secretary for the North Quantocks ; Sir Prior Goldney, Bart. (1906), who presented to the Library the botanical books collected by Dr. R. C. A. Prior ; the Rev. H. A. Annesley (1913) ; Mr. Stanley Austin (1910) ; Mr. H. Cuthbert Barnard (1916) ; Mr. A. A. Chapman (1874) ; Dr. John Cleland, F.R.S. (1910) ; Mr. Samuel Dobree (1875) ; Mr. P. F. Sparke Evans (1920) ; Dr. H. Gervis, F.S.A. (1908) ; Sir F. Carruthers Gould (1915), the well-known cartoonist ; Mr. F. H. Gould (1918) ; Mrs. E. Hobhouse (1905), the centenarian widow of Bishop Hobhouse ; Mr. F. S. Hockaday (1918),² whose knowledge of the records of the diocese of Gloucester was profound ; Colonel T. Jermyn,

1. *Trans. Bris. and Glos. Arch. Soc.*, XLVI, 383-385.

2. *Ibid.*, 379-383.

an obituary notice of whom was given in the last volume ; the Rev. C. J. McConnell (1894) ; Mr. James C. Marshall (1899) ; Mr. W. R. Mitchell (1908) ; Capt. J. M. Pollock (1907) ; Miss A. Rogers (1923) ; Mr. Freeman Roper, F.L.S., of Forde Abbey (1908) ; Mr. R. G. Sommerville (1886) ; Dr. W. Stewart (1909), a local secretary for Wiveliscombe ; Major A. B. Trestrail (1908) ; Mr. R. T. Walter (1903) ; and Mr. T. H. R. Winwood (1888), formerly of Wellisford Manor, near Wellington.

“ There was a balance in hand of £18 16s. 6d. on the Society's General Account at the end of 1923 ; this increased to £40 0s. 1d. by the close of 1924. In neither case was the outstanding liability for printing taken into account.

“ The net expenses attending the issue of Vol. LXX of the *Proceedings* for 1924 (issued this year) amounted to £222 19s. 9d. Special thanks are due to Dr. A. C. Fryer for defraying the cost of the plates of monumental effigies in this as in previous volumes. In 1923 the volume with its 204 pages was one of the smallest of recent years. In the *Proceedings* for 1924 the number of pages is 262,—only ten less than the ‘ Bath ’ volume at the beginning of the war.

“ One of the chief acquisitions of the year is a yard, measuring about 70ft. by 20ft., on the south side of the Castle in the position of the inner moat. Negotiations for its purchase have been going on for several years. The freehold has now been acquired.

“ The repairs to the roof of the Castle mentioned in last year's report as costing nearly £50 have now been completed at a further cost of £15. An old and apparently dangerous ceiling in a first-floor room of the Castle House has been renewed, and some other minor repairs done in conjunction with the same.

“ Our Rule VII authorizes the Council to elect Local Secretaries ‘ for such period as they shall think fit.’ The Council is of opinion that Local Secretaries should be appointed for a definite period, as the elected members of Council are themselves appointed ; and it is proposed that all existing Local Secretaries continue in office until the Annual General Meeting in 1926, when they may be re-elected by the Council for a period of three years.

“The chief additions to the collection of MSS. have been given by the Society of Friends’ Somerset Charities. These deeds relate to Yatton, Long Sutton, Street and Glastonbury, and date from the fifteenth century. We have also received a parcel of early documents relating mainly to Taunton, North Petherton and Bridgwater from Mr. H. Byard Sheppard.

“To the Library Dr. R. L. Meade-King has presented twenty-one folio volumes of Crisp’s genealogical works, called the *Visitation of England and Wales*.

“In the Museum the purchase of two plate-glass mahogany cases necessitated the re-arrangement of the furniture in the Somerset Room. From the Duchy of Cornwall and the widow of Dr. R. H. Walter a further collection of Ham Hill antiquities has been received for exhibition with the specimens already housed at Taunton Castle from the same site.

“The Society has purchased a cabinet capable of holding 1,200 lantern slides, and it is hoped that members having good slides and especially those of local interest will help in augmenting the Society’s at present small collection. The intention, eventually, is to lend slides to members for lecturing purposes.

“Conspicuous in the work of the Society are the archaeological excavations carried out under its auspices, and chiefly by the donations kindly made by members and others.

“Since the last annual meeting there have been two periods of excavations at the Meare-Lake Village,—in September, 1924, and June of this year. Dr. Bulleid and Mr. St. George Gray are working on the lines of a systematic exploration of the western half of the village which they hope to complete. With regard to the eastern half it might be sufficient to ascertain on general lines its relation to the western half, with any variation in details of construction.

“Excavations have been made on a site, formerly used as a garden, within the bounds of the outer moat of Taunton Castle. Although no Saxon remains have yet been found, a very interesting stone-built well, square in section, a gateway, etc., have been discovered. A report will be issued in due course. Funds are solicited for a continuation of this work.

“Early in September it is proposed to continue the excava-

tions at Ham Hill, Stoke-under-Ham, for three weeks. Further evidence is required to establish beyond doubt the age of the ramparts on the northern spur.

“The Trustees of Glastonbury Abbey have expressed their willingness that the Society should resume excavations at the Abbey in conjunction with the Society of Antiquaries in 1926. The Antiquaries have arranged to appoint a director of the work, and your Council has appointed five members to a joint committee.

“Since the last annual meeting the scheduling of Somerset ancient monuments by the Office of Works has made much progress. The Rev. Father Horne is the correspondent of the sub-committee.

“Mr. F. C. Eeles has pointed out to the Council the desirability of continuing the compilation of a bibliography of Somerset churches which he has begun. We appeal for voluntary workers to carry this matter forward.

“As the new Law of Property Act, which takes effect on January 1st, 1926, abolishes copyhold tenure of land, the Council will be glad to correspond with those lords of Somerset manors, or their stewards, who are willing to deposit their ancient manorial records at the Society's headquarters at Taunton Castle.

“From the reports of the Society's Natural History Sections published in the *Proceedings*, it is seen that their activities and membership increase from year to year. The most striking feature of the work of the Bird Section is the issue of its report for 1924 in printer's type instead of in typewriting, with a map showing the ornithological districts.

“Taunton Castle was visited during 1924 by 8,302 persons, including 2,014 attendances from members. In 1923 the total was 8,909.

“In accordance with Rule II one-third of the elected members of the Council retire annually by rotation. Those retiring at this meeting are the Rev. A. J. Hook, the Rev. Father Horne, the Rev. G. W. Saunders and Major Cely Trevilian, and the three last-named have been nominated for re-election.”

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE, in moving the adoption of the report,

spoke in warm appreciation of the interesting address Mr. Hobhouse had given them. He also paid a tribute to the work of Mr. St. George Gray, particularly in relation to excavations. He hoped that somebody in Somerset would undertake the authorship of school text-books on local archæology.

Professor A. HAMILTON THOMPSON, D.LITT., in seconding the motion, urged the necessity of impressing upon the public that archæology was a study essential to the young. It was an important duty to find young people who would take an intelligent interest in these things.

The report was then adopted.

Finances

The Rev. Preb. J. HAMLET, in the absence of the Hon. Treasurers, presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year 1924, and proposed their adoption.

Mr. C. TITE seconded the proposition, which was carried.

Mr. ST. GEORGE GRAY appealed for funds to continue the excavations at Taunton Castle, and gave a concise account of the work which had already been carried out there.

Annual Accounts of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1924. (GENERAL ACCOUNT)

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance at Bank 31st December, 1923			18 16 6	By General Printing and Stationery			4 8 1
„ Members' Subscriptions 1923	21	1	6	„ Annual Meeting, Bristol...			0 12 6
„ „ 1924*	806	15	6	„ Fuel and Light			51 1 1
„ „ 1925	8	8	0	„ Repairs to Buildings			51 10 4
				„ Repairs and Renewals of Furnishings			5 14 0
				„ Extensions of Furnishings			85 13 6
Less Refund of Subscription overpaid, 1924	836	5	0	„ General Postages and Telegrams			10 6 10
				„ Insurances			29 13 8
„ Members' Entrance Fees			835 14 6	„ Rates and Taxes			74 6 1
„ Museum Receipts			24 14 0	„ Petty Expenses			8 3 2
„ Publications			117 11 10	„ Sundry Payments			2 5 0
„ Rents			11 18 5	„ Watermain Wayleave			0 1 0
„ Botanical Section (for purchase of Botanical Books)			29 4 3	„ Assist.-Secretary and Curator's Salary			300 0 0
„ Dividends - New Zealand 4% Stock (Book Account)			3 0 0	„ Wages of Staff			165 17 4
„ 5% War Loan Bond	4	6	0	„ Accountants' Charges			5 5 0
				„ Museum Specimens			0 3 0
				„ Books and Bookbinding			23 9 9
„ Miscellaneous Receipts			15 18 6	„ Subscriptions to other Societies			9 1 9
„ Transfer from Museum Cases Fund			1 9 6	„ Rent of Yard			3 7 8
„ „ „ Woodward Fund	64	0	0	„ Legal Expenses			0 10 6
„ „ „ Capital Account	22	8	6	„ Travelling Expenses			3 17 8
							835 7 11
			86 9 3	„ Taunton Castle Excavation Fund...			11 0 0
				„ Purchase of Yard adjoining Castle House			105 0 0
				„ "Proceedings," 1923†			153 8 9
				„ Balance at Bank, 31st December, 1924			40 0 1
			£1,144 16 9				£1,144 16 9

* During the year 484 subscriptions not exceeding half-a-guinea, and 549 subscriptions of larger amounts were received.

† This does not include blocks and money contributed by members to the Illustration Fund.

The total cost to the Society of the "Proceedings," Vol. LXX, for 1924, was £222 19s. 9d., of which nothing had been paid on 31st December, 1924.

Audited and found correct, 29th January, 1925.

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

H. J. BADCOCK,

GEORGE F. IRELAND,

} *Hon. Treasurers.*

Finances

XVII

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1924

WOODWARD FUND

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
To Transfer to General Account	22	8	6		By Balance from 1923	...	...	160	13	1		
„ Balance c/d	142	1	8		„ Interest for the Year	...	...	3	17	1		
			<u>164 10 2</u>								<u>164 10 2</u>			
							Balance b/d	...	...				£142 1 8

CAPITAL ACCOUNT (LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES)

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
To Transfer to General Account		0	0	9	By Balance from 1923:							
„ Balance c/d:							5% War Loan Bonds (£300) at cost	...	...	282	4	3	
5% War Loan Bonds (£300) at cost	282	4	3		„ Deposit at Bank	...	...	0	6	6		
Deposit at Bank	32	11	2					<u>282 10 9</u>				
			<u>314 15 5</u>				„ Bank Interest for Year	0	4	11		
							„ Life Membership Fees	32	0	6		
						£314 16 2				<u>314 16 2</u>				
							„ Balance b/d				£314 15 5	

BOOK FUND

By Balance from 1923 (New Zealand 4% Stock)	...	£107 11 4
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WIGLESWORTH FUND

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
To Balance c/d	21	0	9	By Balance from 1923	20	10	9
						„ Interest for Year	0	10	0
									<u>21 0 9</u>		
						Balance b/d	...	...			£21 0 9

MUSEUM CASES FUND

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
To Transfer to General Account	64	0	0	By Balance from 1923	...	...	63	16	0
To Balance c/d	0	16	3	„ Interest for Year	...	...	1	0	3
			<u>64 16 3</u>						<u>£64 16 3</u>		
						Balance b/d	...	...			16 3

GENERAL STATEMENT

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Deposits at Westminster Bank :							By Balances :						
Woodward Fund 	142	1	8				Woodward Fund 	142	1	8			
Capital Account 	32	11	2				Capital Account 	314	15	5			
Wiglesworth Fund 	21	0	9				Book Fund 	107	11	4			
Museum Cases Fund	0	16	3				Wiglesworth Fund 	21	0	9			
				196	9	10	Museum Cases Fund	0	16	3			
General Account (Current)				40	0	1		-----			586	5	5
New Zealand 4% Stock at cost				107	11	4	By General Current Account				40	0	1
5% War Loan Bonds at cost 				282	4	3							
				<u>£626</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>					<u>£626</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

Finances

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, ON DECEMBER 31st, 1924

HAM HILL EXCAVATION FUND

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	PAYMENTS.	£ s. d.
To Donations,* from April 9th, 1923, to Dec. 31st, 1924	... 84 11 0	By Wages and Insurance of Workmen	... 43 5 8
„ H. R. H. The Prince of Wales (Duchy of Cornwall)	... 5 0 0	„ Employers' Liability Insurance	... 0 16 3
„ Grant, Research Fund, Society of Antiquaries of London	... 10 0 0	„ Director (H. St. George Gray)—	
„ Excavation Box	... 0 3 6	Personal Expenses at Stoke-under-Ham	... 6 13 7
„ Bank Interest	... 0 10 2	Travelling Expenses	... 2 9 6
		„ Tools and Appliances (Purchase, Hire, Storage, Haulage, etc.)	... 2 3 8
		„ Printing Appeals and Stationery	... 1 16 0
		„ Postages (chiefly of Appeals) and Telegrams	... 1 4 9
		„ Photographs of Excavations	... 2 12 2
		„ Nightwatchman, Taunton	... 1 2 0
		„ Balance in hand, Dec. 31st, 1924	... 37 1 1
	£100 4 8		£100 4 8

* A full list of Donations to December 31st, 1925, is given at the end of Report II on the Excavations in Part II of this volume.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Director.*

MEARE LAKE VILLAGE EXCAVATION FUND

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	PAYMENTS.	£ s. d.
To Balance in hand, Dec. 31st, 1923	... 14 1 1	By Wages and Insurance of Workmen	... 52 2 8
„ Donations from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1924	... 43 14 6	„ Employers' Liability Insurance	... 1 7 0
„ Government Grant (per The Royal Society)	... 35 0 0	„ Travelling Expenses and Transport of Specimens	... 4 14 3
„ Grant, Research Fund, Society of Antiquaries of London	... 10 0 0	„ Compensation to Tenant	... 7 0 0
„ Gate Money	... 5 6 3	„ Joint Director (H. St. George Gray):	
		Personal Expenses at Meare	... 7 0 0
		Honorarium	... 10 0 0
		„ Photographs	... 0 19 0
		„ Postages, Telegrams, Cheques, etc.	... 0 7 8
		„ Tools and Appliances and Repairs to Plant	... 2 0 0
		„ Balance in hand, Dec. 31st, 1924	... 22 11 3
	£108 1 10		£108 1 10

JOHN MORLAND, *Hon. Treasurer.*

ARTHUR BULLEID, } *Joint Secretaries*
H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, } *and Directors.*

Audited and found correct, 29th January, 1925.

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

The New President

Mr. HENRY HOBHOUSE, in proposing the election of the new President, Major Cely Trevilian, said that he (the Major) had several claims to occupy the presidential chair. He certainly had an hereditary claim, as both his father and grandfather were antiquaries. The new President was, moreover, a well-known authority on the subject of "Pageantry," which would be the title of his presidential address.

The motion found several ready seconders, and was carried by acclamation. The President made an interesting reply, in acknowledgment.

Election of Officers

The Rev. H. D. LEWIS moved, and the Rev. J. W. PLAXTON seconded the resolution that the officers of the Society be re-elected, including three of the outgoing members of the Council, namely, the Rev. G. W. Saunders, the Rev. Father E. Horne, and Major Cely Trevilian.

This resolution was carried.

Somerset Record Society

The Rev. Father E. HORNE read the report of the Secretary, the Rev. Preb. T. F. PALMER, which was as follows :—

The Council had not yet quite succeeded in fulfilling its obligations by bringing the publication of its volumes up to date, but during 1924 it added "The Life of Bishop Kidder" to the series, for the year 1922. "The Accounts of the Chamberlains of the City of Bath," 1568—1602, were prepared for early issue in 1925 to cover the subscriptions for 1923. The volume of "Collectanea" for 1924 had received considerable attention, and the transcription of the Wills recently brought to light in the Bishop's Registry was begun, for the year 1925. The completion of these volumes during 1925 would bring the Society's publications up to date.

The demands for arrears of subscriptions to meet these