

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

In the afternoon Dr. Ford delivered his Address entitled "Butterflies and Moths in Scientific Research". At the conclusion of the Address Mr. Vivian-Neal, who took the Chair, called upon Mr. H. F. Scott Stokes to propose a vote of thanks to the President. Members and their friends, who had formed his audience, were then entertained to tea by Dr. Ford, the catering arrangements being in the capable hands of Mrs. Sansome.

The text of the Presidential Address is printed on pp. 28-42 of this Volume.

CORRIGENDUM

At the foot of page 11, Vol. 103, for "Mr. Marsh" read "Mr. Naish".

LECTURES

1959

- September 26th "Field Work and Documents in Local History".  
Dr. W. G. Hoskins, F.R.HIST.S.
- October 24th "Coinage as Evidence of History".  
Dr. C. H. V. Sutherland, M.A., D.LITT.
- November 14th "The Lake Villages of Somerset".  
Mr. H. St. George Gray, O.B.E., M.A., F.S.A.
- December 5th "The Architectural History of Cleeve Abbey in  
the 13th and 15th Centuries".  
Mr. R. Gilyard-Bear, M.A., F.S.A.

1960

- March 19th "The Tudor Attitude to Marriage".  
Professor Joel Hurstfield.

EXCURSIONS, 1959

Three summer excursions were arranged during the year:

(i) On 27th June the Society toured the Minehead district, stopping first at Crowcombe Church (*Proc. S.A.S.* 54, i, 59). Here Mr. Vivian-Neal gave an account of the Manor of Crowcombe and the families connected therewith, and the Rector (Rev. P. Birkett) described the Church itself. A brief visit was paid to the Church House nearby (54, i, 65) and the coach stopped near Williton Secondary Modern

School, so that Mr. H. St. George Gray might say a few words about the Battlegore site (77, ii, 7).

The Vicar of St. Decuman's, Watchet, (Rev. A. Simon) welcomed the party to this fine Church (54, i, 73; 77, i, 62). Mr. Vivian-Neal gave a talk on its architecture and monuments, and on the great family of Wyndham, so closely connected with it.

At Cleeve Abbey (35, ii, 83; 52, ii, 1; 77, ii, 37), Mr. Bryan Little made some interesting comparisons between the buildings here and at other monastic sites. He also compared the tracery of the late Perpendicular windows of the Refectory with that in the windows of the South Aisle at Crowcombe.

After a picnic lunch at Horner Water, Mr. Little conducted the party round Porlock Church (35, i, 25; 52, i, 28; 77, i, 48).

The excursion ended with a visit to Combe Sydenham Hall at Monksilver (54, i, 87), where members were kindly shown the house by Mr. and Mrs. Campbell Voullaire.

(ii) On 25th July forty-five members visited the Wincanton area, stopping first at West Camel (36, i, 40 and ii, 70; 59, i, 34). Here the Rector (Rev. M. P. Ralph-Bowman) gave a talk on the small Church, with its early 14th century features and fine Norman font. At Queen Camel Church (36, i, 43; 59, i, 32), Judge Armstrong described the building, famous for its bells, its Devon-type rood-screen, and its chancel roof with supporting angels and many bosses; on some of these bosses are carved animals from the Bestiary (83, ii, 89).

On the top of South Cadbury Camp in the shade of a great thorn tree, members ate their lunch and listened while Mr. St. George Gray talked on the history and significance of this mighty Iron Age fort. His fascinating talk included folklore, allusions to ancient Camelot, the fortress of King Arthur, and descriptions of the late Celtic and Roman finds, made by Mr. Gray during his excavations there in 1913. Mrs. Harfield followed with an interesting account of some of the more recent finds from the site (59, ii, i; 99, 106).

At North Cadbury, where the Church and the Court House, standing together, make such a splendid scene, Mr. Bryan Little first described the magnificent 15th century Church (36, i, 54; 59, i, 42) and then brought members to the Court (81, i, 20), where they were welcomed by the Hon. Lady Langman. The house with its wholly

Elizabethan north front and its 18th century south front was much admired, and particular interest was taken in the late 16th century heraldic glass (36, ii, 137).

Again under the guidance of Mr. Little the party visited Bruton Church (79, ii, 1), famous for its unusual 18th century chancel with Rococo decoration. They then walked by the old Abbey wall and over the Packhorse Bridge to Sexey's Hospital (79, i, 72), where they were greeted by the Master, Prebendary Morgan. Mr. Little gave a talk on this ancient foundation, to which Preb. Morgan added some comments.

(iii) The three-day excursion was based on Salisbury and visits were paid to the following places:

*Sept. 8th.* Wilton House, to see the magnificent rooms, the painted ceilings, and the treasures—pictures, furnishings and china—gathered together there by the Earls of Pembroke.

Salisbury Cathedral, where members were conducted through the buildings after they were closed to the public, by the Succentor (Rev. K. Wedgewood).

*Sept. 9th.* Old Sarum. Here Mr. R. S. Simms, who represents the Ministry of Works on the Council of the Society, explained the lay-out of the medieval town, cathedral and castle.

At Stonehenge Mr. Simms gave members the latest theories about this puzzling ritual monument.

Avebury, which Mr. Simms described as the type-site of "henge" monuments. From its great surrounding bank, over 3500 years ago, the people would watch the ceremonies being performed within the circle.

Avebury Church, Museum and Manor were also visited.

*Sept. 10th.* Christchurch Priory and Castle (Hants.). These were described by Mr. S. E. Rigold of the Ministry of Works.

Knowlton Earthworks (Dorset), a small "henge" monument with a ruined Church in the middle of one of the circles.

Fiddleford Hall. This is a 14th century manor house, now a farm, The splendid original Hall roof, with wind-braces forming circles, can still be seen. (*S. & D. N. & Q.* Vol. 27, p. 1).

At both these last two sites the party was conducted by Sir Robert Hall.