

**Report of the Curator of the  
Somerset County Museum for the Year ended  
September 30, 1918.**

THE progress in the Museum during the past twelvemonth has chiefly been of a general kind, calculated to increase the educational value, and, as the arrangement advances, to give greater facilities to the public for examining the specimens to good advantage, in spite of the fact that most of the cases are rapidly becoming overcrowded. Owing to the present high price of materials no new cases have been constructed for the Museum for three or four years past, but during that time there has been no falling off in the acquisition of specimens,—chiefly by gift.

Owing to the fact that the chief donations to the Museum and Library are included in the Annual Report of the Council of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, and as economy has to be exercised in printing and paper, this Report will not include so much detail as in some previous years.

The chief permanent additions to the collections during the year have been the antiquities found on Ham Hill, South Somerset, presented by the kindness of the collector, Dr. R. Hensleigh Walter, F.S.A., of Stoke-under-Ham, on the occasion of the Society's Annual Meeting on July 23rd, and more fully reported upon in another part of the volume of *Proceedings* for the year. The objects referred to have been added to the Walter Collection during recent years, but previously only as deposits on loan. With very few exceptions, the large collections of antiquities from Ham Hill, exhibited in the room on the upper floor of the Museum, are now the property of the Society.

The fine bronze sword found at Midsomer Norton in 1873, mentioned in the Report for 1917 as having been placed in the Museum on deposit by the Prior of Downside, has now been acquired by purchase. It is fully described in the list of Museum acquisitions. Another important piece of bronze is the knife-dagger found at the Battle Gore, Williton, which was formerly in the collection of the late Dr. Greenwell, on whose death it became the property of the Society.

Mr. T. Charbonnier has added a number of pieces to his collection of Pewter; and there have been some interesting additions to the Lace and Needlework Collections. Mrs. Barrett, of Moreton, has given some officer's uniform of the 2nd Somerset (Militia) Regiment, worn in the fifties of last century by the late Major W. Barrett.

Several Somerset birds have been acquired during the year, including Tengmalm's Owl and Red Grouse presented by Mr. C. L. F. Edwards. Last year it was reported that the relabelling of the collections of birds in separate cases had been completed. The general series of birds mounted on stands is now being dealt with in a similar manner.

This year has seen the completion of the cataloguing and ticketing of the Arthur Hull Collection, which formerly comprised the chief contents of the little museum at Chard. The Curator's full report on the collection was published in Vol. LXIII of the *Proceedings* of the Society, and has been reprinted as a Museum handbook; price 8*d.* (by post 9½*d.*).

Much of the Curator's time during the year has been occupied in the classification and arrangement of the Somerset and Bristol Trade Tokens of the XVIII and XIX Centuries, and the completion of similar work in connection with the XVII Century Tokens (specially mentioned in the 1915 Report). In this work the Curator has been assisted by Mdlle. L. Bastiaensen, the writer of the labels accompanying each type. The series of the XVIII and XIX Century Tokens have been made up from the former Museum collections, largely supplemented by the gifts of tokens made by Mr. Martin Gibbs and Mr. Charles Tite. There are of course several gaps in these series which we hope to fill in the course of time, and members and others are invited to look up any local tokens

they may have, and if possible allow the Curator to make a selection of any varieties required for the County Museum.

The ancient British coins have also been arranged, and a beginning has been made to classify and exhibit the series of Roman coins found in definite localities in the county.

The Curator has also brought together the Musical Instruments belonging to the Society, and he hopes to extend this collection when opportunities present themselves.

In the list of Library acquisitions it will be seen that printed books and manuscripts have come in freely during the year. The most important and useful purchase has been the set (322 sheets) of the 6-inch Ordnance Maps of Somerset.

The Botanical Section held its annual meeting at the Castle on February 28th, the Ornithological Section on March 1st, and the Entomological Section on March 23rd. The Taunton Field Club held conversaziones for lectures in the Museum on October 4th, 1917, and January 17th and February 28th, 1918.

The Somersetshire Archæological and Nat. Hist. Society consisted of 927 members at the end of July, 1918, including twelve life members and three honorary members.

The Museum was visited by 6110 persons in 1916, and 5891 in 1917. The visitors from January 1st to September 30th, 1918, have numbered 5609. The attendance in August was large, and was exceeded only in 1903, 1907, 1908, 1909 and 1910.

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