

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
DURING THE YEAR
1907.

THE fifty-ninth annual meeting of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society was held at Shepton Mallet, on Tuesday, July 9th.

The Rt. Hon. H. HOBHOUSE, V.P., took the chair at the opening of the proceedings, and said that it was a very pleasing duty to introduce the new President, Mr. A. F. Somerville. He was a very old friend of his and no stranger to anybody present: he was certainly no stranger in that neighbourhood, and there was no one better fitted by his position and public work than Mr. Somerville to succeed his uncle, Mr. G. F. Luttrell, whom the Society welcomed as President last year. Mr. Somerville, he felt sure, was well qualified to describe all the attractions of that neighbourhood. It was more than twenty years ago since the Society met at Shepton Mallet. Then the Society had the advantage of the presence of Prof. E. A. Freeman and of many others who have since passed away. Mr. Hobhouse then proposed Mr. A. F. Somerville as President for 1907-8, and asked the Dean of Wells to be kind enough to second that proposition.

The DEAN OF WELLS, D.D., F.S.A., most heartily seconded the proposal, and remarked that no one could be more active in every good work than Mr. Somerville; the last thing

he had been most active in had been to help the Bishop to secure Glastonbury Abbey, through Mr. Jardine, and prevent its possession passing to anybody who might not have been a perfect guardian thereof.

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE then took the chair, and, having returned thanks for his election as President, called upon the Rev. F. W. WEAVER, F.S.A., Hon. Secretary, to read

The Annual Report,

which was as follows :—

“Your Committee present their fifty-ninth annual report. Since their last report sixty-two new names have been added to the list of members. The loss by deaths and resignations has been thirty-nine. Altogether the net gain has been twenty-three. The total membership of your Society at date is 693.

“The balance of your Society’s general account at the end of 1905 (your accounts being made up in each year to Dec. 31st) was £163 10s. 8d. against the Society. At the close of 1906 there was a deficit of £52 4s. 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. The total cost of Vol. LII (for 1906), including printing, illustrations and delivery, has been £113 16s. 10d. The thanks of the Society are due to Mr. Bligh Bond, F.R.I.B.A., the Rev. F. W. Weaver, F.S.A., Mr. Arthur Bulleid, F.S.A., and the Glastonbury Antiquarian Society, for their help in defraying the cost of some of the illustrations ; to the Editors of Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries, to the Royal Institute of British Architects and to the Anthropological Institute, for the loan of blocks ; and to Messrs. Bligh Bond, A. Bulleid, H. St. Geo. Gray, J. R. H. Weaver and Dr. F. J. Allen, for their photographs and drawings for the last volume.

In February, 1904, an appeal was issued for the purpose of raising a special fund of £600 to clear off outstanding liabilities

and to carry out urgent repairs. Up to the present time £460 8s. 6d. has been received, leaving a balance of £139 11s. 6d. before the £600 is realized. Next year your Society celebrates its Diamond Jubilee and an effort should be made to clear off the balance.

“In commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Society, your Committee are considering a scheme for annexing the apartments at present occupied by the Curator for the purpose of the extension of the Museum and Library; the necessity for more exhibition space for your Society’s valuable collections has been felt for the last few years and the matter, although repeatedly brought to the notice of your Committee, has been deferred from time to time owing to the lack of funds. Apart from this, your Curator has recently represented to your Committee that his present apartments are very inconvenient, cramped and insanitary for habitation, and he has appealed for more suitable accommodation. Your Committee have therefore decided to give the tenant of Castle House notice to quit on or before Lady Day next, in order that this house, adjoining the Castle proper, shall form a residence for the Curator. A sub-Committee has been appointed to consider the details of these matters.

“Turning to gifts to the Museum during the past year, the largest and one of great local interest is the series of forty-four pieces of ‘Elton Metallic and Lustre Ware’ presented by Sir Edmund Elton, Bart. It would be impossible in this report to mention all the objects by which the Museum has been enriched, but the following are some of the local items:—Miniature of Elizabeth Broadmead, of Wilton, Taunton, painted when she was 115 years of age; she appears to have been born in 1666 and died in 1784, thus attaining the great age of 118; she is known, when a girl of nineteen, to have walked in procession before the Duke of Monmouth on his entry into Taunton on June 18, 1685; this important gift was made by Miss M. Woodforde. A gold finger-ring of the late

XIV Century found at Somerton, presented by the late Mrs. Strong of that town; various Somerton items presented by Mr. E. W. Valentine; several antiquities found during the alterations at Stavordale Priory, given by Mr. F. G. Sage; Romano-British relics found in 1904 in Killings Knap Quarry, presented by the Rev. E. Horne and Mr. A. Bulleid; a two pound piece of George II, given by Mr. W. B. Winckworth; two interesting pairs of red-deer antlers from Exmoor, one pair particularly well developed, given by Mr. R. A. Sanders; two fine cases of natural history specimens presented by Mr. J. Vere Foster. Other interesting objects have been presented by the Rev. C. W. Whistler, Mr. H. Franklin, Mrs. Kettlewell, Mr. C. Tite, Mr. C. J. Lomax, and the Rev. S. E. V. Filleul.

“One of the largest donations to your Museum during the year was made this month by Mr. Hensleigh Walter, M.B., of Stoke-under-Ham. The objects consist of Late-Celtic relics found during the spring at ‘Ham Turn,’ Ham Hill; and Roman pottery, tiles, glass and frescoed plaster from a ‘villa’ near Bedmore Barn, Ham Hill, excavated by Mr. Walter recently.

“To the Library the following have been the chief presentations:—Further instalments of Somerset books from Mr. Charles Tite; Vol. II of the Wedmore Chronicle and several volumes of parish registers from the Rev. S. H. A. Hervey; MS. Register of the Archdeacon of Taunton’s Visitation for 1623, from Mr. W. A. Upham; Local Acts of Parliament, from Mr. E. W. Valentine; The Records of Romsey Abbey, from the Rev. Preb. J. Coleman. Amongst other donors to the Library the Rev. Dr. S. J. M. Price, the Rev. F. W. Weaver, Mr. T. W. Balch, the Rev. D. P. Alford, Mr. Hamilton Rogers, Mr. J. Brooking-Rowe, Mr. A. S. Macmillan, and H.M. Public Record Office, are perhaps the chief.

“Amongst the books acquired by purchase are Calthrop’s

'English Costume' (4 vols.), and Vol. I of the Victoria History of Somerset, of Devon, and of Cornwall. For the contents of the Somersetshire volume your Committee beg to refer to an able review by the Rev. J. Hamlet in the last volume of the *Proceedings*; and they gladly take this opportunity of congratulating the County on the commencement of a work which your Society has done so much to render possible, and with which the name of one of your Hon. Secretaries—the Rev. E. H. Bates—has been so closely associated.

"Your Society's sets of 'Archæologia' and 'Notes and Queries' are now approaching completion, and of the latter only a few volumes of the ninth and tenth series are now required. The cataloguing of the 'Charles Tite Collection of Somerset Books' has nearly been completed, and since the last annual meeting two large cases have been provided to take these books, at a cost of £46. The Rev. E. H. Bates has spent much time in book cataloguing.

"The presentation by Mr. W. B. Broadmead of about thirty-five varieties of Somerset 'club-brasses' last autumn formed the nucleus for a very large collection of these ceremonial staff-heads which has recently been acquired through the generosity of some of the members of your Society. Dr. T. Hopkins, of Burnham, having offered your Committee his large collection of these club pole-heads at a very moderate price, subscription lists were sent round and the appeal was so enthusiastically responded to that the collection was soon procured. Since then several new examples have been added, some by presentation.

"Considerably over three-quarters of the sets of collotypes of the Somerset Church Towers which were given to your Society last year in memory of Mr. R. P. Brereton have been sold. As soon as the stock is reduced to fifty sets only, your Committee has decided to raise the price to ten shillings. Thanks are due to the Rev. J. Hamlet for preparing the leaflets which accompany these prints. The proceeds resulting

from these sales, amounting to about £90, have been spent upon four handsome ebonized plate-glass cases for the Museum; one contains the 'Metallic Elton Ware;' another the series of Somersetshire Pottery of the XVII and XVIII Centuries; and two are to contain the collection of Somerset club-brasses. Colonel Bramble, in memory of his Presidency of the Society during 1905-6 (Weston-super-Mare meeting), has presented to your Museum a similar case to contain the coloured 'Elton Ware.' Inscribed tablets on these cases record the sources from which they were derived.

"One of the most interesting recent exhibits in your Museum is the collection of Pewter consisting of nearly two hundred pieces dating from the late XIV to the middle of the XIX Century, and collected for the most part between Bristol and Barnstaple. This collection has been lent by Mr. T. Charbonnier for a minimum period of five years, and it is probable that a catalogue of the series will be published.

"Closely following the acquisition (on loan) of the Church-stanton silver chalice and paten referred to in the last report, your Society has now obtained the custody of a silver chalice and paten, of the XVI and XVII Centuries respectively, belonging to Wheathill Church, near Somerton.

"Mr. Hensleigh Walter has presented to your Museum a memorial brass to his father, Walter Winter Walter, donor of the 'Walter Collection.'

"Cordial thanks are due to the Rev. D. P. Alford, a member of your Committee, for having written 'A Short History of Taunton Castle' which has been published as an illustrated guide-book (price 4d.)

"Your Committee note with great satisfaction that through the instrumentality of the Bishop of Bath and Wells and Mr. Ernest Jardine, Glastonbury Abbey has recently been secured, and they hope that all who are interested in its preservation will do their part to relieve the Bishop of all liability regarding the purchase money. They understand that about £18,000 has already been promised.

“Through the instrumentality of the Rev. J. Hamlet a complete set of your Society’s *Proceedings* has been obtained by presentation for the British School at Rome; and your Society now exchanges publications with them.

“One of the chief archæological discoveries in Somerset during the past year is the existence of a stone circle on Withypool Hill, Exmoor, not marked on the ordnance sheets. It has been surveyed by Mr. H. St. George Gray. Previously in your county stone circles were represented only by the famous Stanton Drew group.

“It having been brought to the notice of the owner, Sir C. T. D. Acland, Bart., that the inscribed ‘Caractacus stone,’ on Winsford Hill, Exmoor, is rapidly becoming defaced owing to weathering, he has promised to build a shelter for it on the spot.

“During May and a part of June your Curator, jointly with Mr. A. Bulleid, F.S.A., completed the long series of excavations at the Glastonbury Lake Village. Structurally the excavations this year were of great interest, but the number of objects found hardly came up to the average. A large quarto work on the whole subject, copiously illustrated, is in preparation, but its appearance must be somewhat delayed owing to the illustrating and the enormous amount of detail such a record entails. Intending subscribers should communicate with Mr. Gray; the price will probably exceed a guinea but it will be regulated according to the comprehensiveness of the book and the number of subscribers. A second grant of duplicate specimens from the Lake Village was made in 1906 by the Excavation Committee, both to your Museum and to the British Museum.

“A very fair response was made to the appeal issued on behalf of your Society and the Viking Club for funds for carrying out a careful exploration of Wick Barrow (better known locally as ‘Pixies’ Patch,’) near Stogursey. The excavations were carried out under the direction of Mr. H. St.

George Gray who was ably assisted by the Rev. C. W. Whistler (your Society's Local Secretary for Cannington), and Mr. Albany Major (Editor to the Viking Club). The work has not been completed, but an interim report has been issued to subscribers. The secondary interments so far uncovered date back to the early Bronze Age, and your Museum has already been enriched by an extremely fine flint knife-dagger and two well ornamented drinking-vessels found with the skeletons. The work will be resumed early in the autumn and further subscriptions towards the work are solicited.

"The excavations at Lansdown near Bath were continued early in May, and would be resumed in September.

"Quite recently a letter was received from Mr. Harvey Pridham offering to sell his collection of drawings of the Ancient Baptismal Fonts of Churches in Somerset to your Society for one hundred guineas. The collection consists of over 400 drawings, to scale, in eight large albums, all of which are fully described in the type-written book presented to your Society by the author, Mr. Pridham, in 1899. Your Committee were unanimous in their decision that these important drawings should be acquired at once, especially as negotiations were going on at the same time for their sale to a well known London society. Consequently these unique drawings have been retained by your Committee, and it is hoped that special donations will be forthcoming for this object, and so prevent your Society's finances from being further burdened.

"Your Museum was visited by 6889 persons during 1906, including 1248 visits from members, which showed a slight falling off in numbers as compared with the previous year. But the number of visitors during the first six months of 1907 is 21 per cent. in excess of the same months in the previous year.

"Your Society has to record with regret the loss by death of the following members :—

"Mr. Isaac Badcock, K.C. ; Mr. J. Ronald Clive, elected

1890 ; Mr. William Colfox, elected 1872, who at one time used frequently to attend the excursions ; Mr. G. A. Daniel, who was Local Secretary for Frome since 1893 ; Mr. Antony Gibbs, a life member, elected 1887 ; Mr. Herbert Heard, the compiler of a useful little book on the Charities of Shepton Mallet published in 1903 ; the Earl of Liverpool, F.S.A., a life member, elected 1885 ; Mr. Henry Pethick, of Weston-super-Mare ; Mr. G. Saunders, of Taunton, elected 1889 ; Mr. Arthur Steevens, of Taunton, a member since 1877 ; Mr. G. B. Sully, elected 1897 ; Mr. Clement Waldron, a member since 1876 ; and the Rev. T. W. Whale, a member since 1896, who attended several meetings including that at Minehead, and who wrote papers on the Exon Domesday, printed in Vols. XXXV and XXXVI of the *Devon Association*.

“ Mr. C. Noel Welman, who died at Minehead on June 7th, at the age of 92, although not a member at the time of his death was an original member of your Society ; and his name appears in the first list of vice-presidents in Vol. I of the *Proceedings*. Only last year he took an active part in the proceedings of the local committee formed to welcome your Society at Minehead.”

The Rt. Hon. H. HOBHOUSE, P.C., moved the adoption of the Report, and observed that it was most interesting and satisfactory. He remarked that during the past year the County Council had thought fit to adopt as their cognizance the golden dragon of Wessex ; that had been done acting upon the best advice of some members of that Society.

Mr. C. BURNELL, the Society's Local Secretary for Shepton Mallet, seconded the proposition that the Report be adopted. He heartily congratulated the Committee and Officers upon the large amount of work they were doing annually in conducting the multifarious affairs of the Society. On behalf of the local Natural History Society he much appreciated the compliment the parent Society had paid the town of Shepton Mallet in coming to hold its annual meeting there for the third time.

The adoption of the Report was then put to the meeting and carried.

Finances.

Mr. C. TITE, Hon. Secretary, in the absence of the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. H. J. Badcock), presented the annual statement of accounts, which was as follows:—

Treasurer's Account.

The Treasurer in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from January 1st to December 31st, 1906.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1906.		To Balance of former Account	163 10 8
By Members' Subscriptions, 1906 (649)	340 14 6	„ Secretarial and Printing Expenses, Minehead Meeting	8 5 7
„ Members' Entrance Fees, 1906 (54)	28 7 0	„ Grants for Excavations, etc.	2 0 0
„ Members' Subscriptions in arrear (5)	2 12 6	„ Repairs, Cases, etc.	60 15 6
„ Members' Subscriptions in advance (22)	11 11 0	„ Case, etc. (Brereton Fund)	25 9 6
„ Donation from Mr. H. H. P. Bouverie	2 9 6	„ Stationery, Printing, etc.	7 18 10
„ Somerset Church Towers (Brereton Fund)	75 0 0	„ Bookbinding	4 14 9
Balance of Assist.-Secretary's Account (Minehead Meeting)	5 10 8	„ Fuel and Gas	24 10 1
„ Museum Admission Fees	36 11 2	„ Purchase of Books	9 0 3
„ Library Fees	0 5 0	„ Purchase of Museum Specimens	3 7 0
„ Sale of Publications	17 11 0	„ Printing and Binding, Vol. 51	91 17 2
„ Sale of Photographs	1 1 0	„ Postage, Vol. 51	7 17 3
„ Old Table sold	0 15 0	„ Illustrations, etc., Vol. 52	12 14 4
„ Transferred from the <i>Castle Account</i> to the <i>General Fund</i> to meet part of the cost of New Cases and repairs	70 0 0	„ Norris Collection Guide Book	3 7 6
Balance	52 4 0	„ Curator's Salary	130 0 0
		„ Boy	16 10 9
		„ Temporary Assistance	4 19 3
		„ Night Watchman	3 16 6
		„ Petty Cash	7 13 0
		„ Postal Expenses	9 5 4
		„ Outdoor Work	0 9 0
		„ Subscriptions to Societies	7 1 6
		„ Fire Insurance	7 11 0
		„ Rates and Taxes	29 6 3
		„ Interest on Overdrawn Account	2 11 4
	<u>£644 12 4</u>	„ Balance brought down	£52 4 0

H. J. BADCOCK, Treasurer.

Jan. 14th, 1907. Examined and compared with the Vouchers and Pass Book, and found correct.

ALEX. HAMMETT, }
HOWARD MAYNARD, } Hon. Auditors

Taunton Castle Restoration Fund.

Balance Sheet of Income and Expenditure for the year 1906.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.				
1906.	£	s. d.		£	s. d.		
By Rent of Premises	56	2	8	To Balance of former Account...	19	6	7
„ Easement of Lights (Har- rison's Hotels)	0	1	6	„ Repairs to Castle & Property	19	10	3
„ the Donations to "Taunton Castle Restoration and Deficit Fund," recorded in the <i>Proceedings</i> , Vol. 52, pt. i, p. 94	13	12	0	„ Rates and Taxes	13	11	3
Balance	56	1	9	„ Fire Insurance	3	6	0
				„ Wayleave for Fire-main ...	0	1	0
				„ Transferred from the <i>Castle Account to the General Fund to meet part of the cost of New Cases and repairs</i>	70	0	0
				„ Interest on Overdrawn Ac- count	0	2	10
	<u>£125</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>		<u>£125</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>
				„ Balance brought down	£56	1	9

H. J. BADCOCK, Treasurer.

Jan. 14th, 1907. Audited and found correct.

ALEX. HAMMETT, }
HOWARD MAYNARD, } Hon. Auditors.

The REV. C. H. HEALE proposed the adoption of the accounts. He said that the work of the Society had been very ably carried forward at a comparatively small cost and for this we were indebted to the energetic work of the officers and to Mr. Gray. But the work of the Museum was very much hindered for want of adequate funds. It was hoped that during the next year better accommodation would be provided for the Curator and more space for Museum purposes.

Mr. H. C. WARRY seconded the adoption of the accounts, and stated that the Annual Report was one upon which the Society was to be congratulated.

The accounts were adopted.

Election of Officers and Members.

The REV. J. WORTHINGTON proposed the re-election of the Officers of the Society, with the addition of Mr. A. J. Hook as a member of the Committee, and the following as Local Secretaries of the Society:—Mr. E. A. Fry for London, Mr. C. E. Burnell for Shepton Mallet, Mr. H. W. Paget

Hoskyns for Crewkerne, Mr. E. Swanwick for Milverton, the Rev. C. W. Whistler for Cannington, the Rev. F. S. P. Seale for Burnham, the Rev. D. M. Ross for Langport, Mr. W. S. Clark for Street, the Rev. J. A. Dodd for Axbridge, and Mr. John Coles junr. for Frome. He tendered a hearty vote of thanks to the Officers for their services during the past year.

COLONEL H. KIRKWOOD, in seconding the resolution, said he thought it most desirable that they should have energetic men to carry on the work of the Society as local secretaries at various centres in the county.

The resolution was cordially agreed to.

The REV. E. H. BATES, Hon. Secretary, proposed the confirmation of the election by the Committee of 62 new members, remarking that before the end of the year the Society would probably number 700 supporters.

MR. W. S. CLARK seconded the proposition, and said that he thought the energy thrown into the general work of the Society by their Curator accounted a great deal for the progress made.

The motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Somerset Record Society.

The REV. E. H. BATES, Secretary, reported that the next volume would contain the civil business transacted at Quarter Sessions in the reign of James I. Besides the introduction there would be 357 pages of letterpress. It should be remembered that at this period the Court transacted the business now dealt with by the County Council and the District Councils, besides being the Court of Appeal from many lesser jurisdictions. They also took cognizance of offences which were left outside the ordinary law, as when a wife appealed to the Bench to make her husband return, or ordered Wyatt of Preston to be locked up in the House of Correction because "he is a very lewd and dangerous person not fitting to live at liberty for fear doing hurt and injury to the King's subjects."

The items relating to Shepton Mallet were interesting. A complaint was made to the Court that certain inhabitants of the town would not take their turn in watching the beacon on Mendip. In 1624 owing to the increase of crime in the county, and the distance of the House of Correction at Taunton and Ilchester, the Court ordered another House to be built at Shepton, which was done at the cost of £160 with £60 more "for the fitting and finishing of the same." The present gaol seems to be the representative of this House.