

Notes

SCHEME FOR RECORDING THE FOLK-LORE OF PREHISTORIC REMAINS

It has been decided, by the council of the Folk-lore Society and with the support of the Prehistoric Society, to prepare and publish as complete a collection as possible of items relating to the folk-lore of prehistoric monuments and implements in England. The co-operation of members of the Somerset Archæological Society is invited to help to make this collection as full and accurate as possible.

The enquiry includes the folk-lore of megaliths, barrows, hill-forts, and other earthworks, and also includes the folk-lore of Celtic fields and strip-lynchets. It also covers stone axes, arrow-heads, holed stones, and other implements and ornaments.

A more detailed outline of the scheme, with provisional classification and questionnaire and bibliography, appears in *Folk-lore* for December 1939. I shall be happy to supply intending helpers with a copy of this memorandum and shall be glad to hear from anyone interested.

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CAMERTON EXCAVATIONS

THE object of the excavations that began on 13 March and were carried on for four weeks, was to continue the examination of the Roman House IV and of Tumulus II which was close to it.

House IV was found to have been paved with large slabs of white lias stone. Several coins found alongside the outer face

of the east side of the building, were in the builders' debris which had been levelled during, or immediately after the construction. They were coins of Tetricus, Allectus and Claudius Gothicus, and it would seem therefore that the building was put up in the latter half of the third century. The south end of the house was built over the long-forgotten ditch that surrounds Tumulus II.

The ditch surrounding Tumulus II was located by taking two complete sections across the barrow. The northern section showed a great depth of Roman and Belgic debris overlying the barrow and ditch. The southern part of the foundations of the house was placed in this debris, and in the layer they occupied were found a British coin and part of a Belgic amphora.

The southern section of the barrow showed that both it, and the virgin rock beneath, had been quarried into by the Romans, who had later filled the hole with rubbish. Among other things found in it was a coin of Valerian, A.D. 253-258. This coin fairly agrees in date with those found by the side of House IV, and it would seem probable that the barrow was quarried into and somewhat levelled at the time this house was built, the quarried material being used for levelling purposes. Quantities of it were found made into a hard surface round the outside of the building.

The eastern section of the barrow, produced among the Roman material several pieces of Samian ware showing potters' names, and the western section, another British coin and a fine bronze brooch of the first century. Writing recently about this brooch and the work at Camerton, Dr. Mortimer Wheeler, Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries, says 'There can be few archæological sites in England which combine features of such varied interest as Camerton . . . the very complexity of the site, bringing differing cultures into stratigraphical contact with one another, adds materially to the interest . . . I can imagine no more proper objective for careful and continued excavation, than the area you have begun to explore.'

ETHELBERT HORNE

ROYAL ARMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN SOMERSET CHURCHES

Additional Notes and Amendments

Englishcombe.

House, Windsor. A shield of arms painted by the present rector (Rev. E. J. Rowe), placed over chancel-arch, nave face. Correct in all details, being quarterly, England 1 and 4, Scotland 2, and Ireland 3.

Hardington.

House, Stuart. *Site*, nave face, w. tower-arch. *Material*, wood, lozenge-shaped. *Size*, sides c. 2 ft. long. *Shield*, correct, save Scotland, whose fleurs-de-lis are f., not f.c.f. *Helmet*, gold with six gold bars. *Mantling*, red, doubled green, not ermine. *Crown*, two-arched. *Crest*, lion correct, but not crowned. *Supporters*, dext. lion acc. and with two-arched crown; sin. unicorn's tail-ends to right of body. *Badges*, dext. a red rose; sin. a white rose; no thistle visible. *Motto*, Dieu et mon droit. *Initials*, C.R. in old English characters, which is very unusual. *Date*, 1640 in lower angle. Condition excellent.

Timsbury.

Royal arms have now been removed from ringing-chamber of tower and placed in front of w. gallery in nave.

Wilton, Taunton.

House, Hanover, dated 1787. *Site*, over s. door. *Material*, carved wood mounted on black-board. *Size*, c. 4 ft. sq. *Shield*, acc. for period, viz. 1 England imp. Scotland, 2 France (modern), 3 Ireland, 4 Hanover. *Helmet*, gold, with five gold bars. *Mantling*, gold, doubled gold. *Crown*, two-arched, red-lined. *Crest*, lion gold, but without crown. *Supporters*, dext. lion gold, teeth white, claws gold, crown two-arched; unicorn, brown garnished gold, chain-ends to left and is broken short. *Mottoes*, garter acc. and scroll (Dieu, etc.). Between 'Dieu et' and 'mon droit' are '17 R. Culverwell 87'. *Badges*, dext. red rose; sin. green thistle.

E. FAWCETT

Notice of Book

SUPPLEMENT TO COLLINSON'S HISTORY OF SOMERSET: Extracts from Locke's Survey, with a short Biography, by F. Madeline Ward, M.A., 175 pp., illustrated, 4to.; Barnicotts Ltd., The Wessex Press, Taunton, 1939; price 25s. in cloth, 18s. 6d. in paper; postage 9d. extra.

The late Miss Easton of Rumwell, who died in 1934, had inherited an important manuscript Survey of Somerset. This survey, which had never been published, was purchased by the Somerset Archaeological Society after her death. It was compiled by Richard Locke, who was born 6 June 1737 and died in October 1806. In the past it had been consulted frequently by local historians.

Locke was well known as a land-surveyor, a pioneer in new methods of agriculture, and as an antiquary. His introduction to himself in the preface to the Survey is worth quoting:—“ My name, Sir, is Locke—I reside at Highbridge House in Burnham—was born and bred in that parish and have lived 50 years in it as a practical agriculturist farming my own estate and occasionally surveying and purchasing of lands on Commission ”. For many years, he had hoped to publish a pocket historical guide to the county. What he had in mind was not unlike the *Little Guides* of the present day. But most of the material he intended to use was incorporated in Collinson's *History of Somerset*, which appeared in 1791, and for some time he dropped the idea of bringing out his book. However, towards the end of his life, he recast his notes, using Collinson's *History* as a basis, but correcting many minor errors and adding further information. The result of Locke's labours was contained in the MS. preserved at Rumwell. The 'survey' has now been collated with Collinson by Miss Ward, and her notes of Locke's additions and corrections to the *History of Somerset* have been published. Miss Ward has written a life of Richard Locke, and an account of his activities as a practical agriculturist, and in connection with the Burnham Society; she has also given us a chapter on his literary work.

It has been made clear that Locke, who came of the same family as the philosopher, possessed a notable personality. He founded the Burnham Society and was its President for twenty-five years in succession. The Society held monthly meetings and combined the

functions of a debating society and of a benefit club. Membership was open to all men of the parishes of Burnham, Huntspill, East Brent, South Brent and Mark. The subjects discussed ranged from the pre-existence of souls to the growing of willows to provide shoots from which traps could be made for use in the local salmon fishery. The Society relieved the sick and lent sums of money free of interest to distressed members.

The preface, from which a quotation has been given above, throws much light on the character of Locke and his methods of working. For instance, he tells us that 'when I had been measuring the length and breadth of the Churches, I have been taken for a french spy, and the dropping a line and plummet from the Tower to ascertain its height hath been construed into high Treason against the Church. My counting the number of Bells must be with a view of melting them into canon upon a french invasion. Nay my facetious Landlord has been known to look significant at his wife as seemingly asking her opinion upon the propriety of answering my questions'.

In this new supplement to Collinson, we have a very valuable addition to the number of volumes essential to the study of parochial history in Somerset, as well as a record of an interesting personality who, clearly, had great influence in the neighbourhood of Burnham during the late eighteenth century.