

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
SOMERSET ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND  
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
DURING THE YEAR  
1944

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THE Ninety-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Taunton Castle on Tuesday, 18 July. The morning meeting was held in the Wyndham Hall. The chair was taken by the Very Rev. R. H. Malden, B.D., Dean of Wells, who had been invited by the Council to accept the presidency for a second year. He was supported by Mr. A. W. Vivian-Neal, M.C., F.S.A. (*Chairman of Council*), Major F. M. E. Kennedy, C.B. (*Hon. Secretary*), and Mr. H. St. George Gray, F.S.A. (*Asst.-Secretary, Curator and Librarian*).

### The Annual Report

MR. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, Asst.-Secretary, read the Annual Report, which was as follows :—

‘ IN presenting the ninety-sixth annual report the Council wishes to state that since the last meeting 46 new names have been added to the list of members and associates, as against 33 in the previous year. Losses by death during the year have amounted to 26, as far as can be ascertained, and there have been some resignations. The membership to-day is in the region of 840, but owing to War conditions, and to being out-of-touch with some of our members, it is impossible to give the exact number in this report.

‘ The Society has sustained the loss by death of the following members during the period under review : Mr. E. G. C. Chapman (1923), Mrs. R. S. Churchill (1935), Mr. H. C. Colthurst (1930), Mr. Herbert Druitt (1931), author of a work on monu-

mental brasses, Lt.-Cmdr. C. E. Evans, R.N.V.R., of Nailsea Court (1907), Mrs. Robert Gordon (1936), Mr. John Grubb (1902), the Rt. Rev. G. A. Hollis, Bishop of Taunton (1936), Mrs. W. S. Holt (1927), Colonel J. Hamilton Leigh (1916), a life member of the Society, the Hon. W. B. Lindley (1915), Mr. E. Quekett Louch (1904), Mr. John Madge (1903), Mr. A. W. Oke, F.S.A. (1910), a life member, Mr. A. Organ (1930), Lt.-Col. G. S. Pollard, M.R.C.S. (1917), Mr. J. Harger Pye (1922), the Rev. W. T. Reeder (1902), formerly a member of Council, the Rev. Preb. D. M. Ross (1903), Sir Herbert Thompson, Bart., D.LITT. (1934), the well-known Demotic scholar, Mr. G. B. Wardell-Yerburgh (1941), Mr. C. H. Waterworth (1933), Mr. J. A. Watson, LL.D. (1938), Dr. E. H. Willock (1923), Mr. F. A. Wilshire (1920), and Miss M. Wynter (1914).

‘ In this place it should also be recorded that Mr. H. B. Walters, late Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities in the British Museum, died on 24 April. He was the author of “The Church Bells of Somerset”, which, in manuscript, is in the possession of our Society. Later, it is hoped to publish this work with its many illustrations.

‘ In a former report the Council regretted to have to note the loss of two members of the regular staff in 1940, and a third was called away in 1943. This has entailed temporary adjustments and part-time assistance. Maintenance is therefore difficult, but fortunately it has been possible to keep the Museum and Library open continuously.

‘ Owing to War conditions and the employment of a fire-watcher the Society’s receipts do not fully provide for the necessary expenditure, but the deficit has been met by the profits on the letting of the Wyndham Hall, which is still being much used by outside organizations and for auction sales of property.

‘ Vol. lxxxix of the *Proceedings* for 1943 has been issued.<sup>1</sup> Its comparatively small size is not due to lack of material for publication, but owing to the regulations of the Paper Controller now operating. However, the papers published are on a variety of subjects. It is regretted that the Botanical Report for 1943 and the List of Members had to be omitted ;

<sup>1</sup> The total cost to the Society of *Proceedings*, lxxxix, amounts to £167 10s. 9d.

the former was issued separately for the Section, and there are still some copies available for anybody specially interested.

‘ One of the largest acquisitions of recent years is the gift of Miss Rosamund J. Veasey, which came to the Somerset County Museum from Fiddington last winter, when the donor left to take up residence in Kent. The collections consist of early Victorian bygones, folk material, illustrated children’s and other books, glass, and some furniture. Objects claiming urgent attention in the way of repair and preservation have already been dealt with, but the cataloguing of the specimens has not yet been completed. Miss Veasey has been elected an honorary life member of the Society.

‘ The dolls’ and children’s department has had additions, notably of china dinner and tea services.

‘ It is common knowledge that the Museum owns an excellent collection of horse-brasses. Many of these are to be figured by Mr. H. L. Richards, of Sutton Coldfield, who has already issued well illustrated booklets on the subject.

‘ A large part of the collection of foreign footgear stored at Taunton Castle has now been transferred to Manchester University Museum, where their series of boots and shoes is being developed and expanded.

‘ Additions to the Library have been up to the average. To the Society’s collection of copies of Somerset Parish Registers has been added a complete transcript of those of Orchard Portman by Lady Adams. Mr. E. Y. Knight, son of the late F. H. Knight (a former postmaster of Taunton) has given the Society his father’s bound manuscript volumes on the records of the Knight family of Yarcombe (E. Devon) and some Somerset parishes.

‘ We note with pleasure that the freedom of the City of Wells was conferred upon Mr. H. E. Balch, F.S.A., in April last, in recognition of his services to Wells, and especially in regard to his outstanding work in the caverns of Mendip, and as honorary curator of the Wells Museum, which owes its original formation and development to him. In that capacity he has now held office for 51 years. Mr. Balch was elected an honorary life member of the Somerset Archæological Society in 1924.

‘ Damage to the famous long-barrow at Stoney Littleton, Wellow, a scheduled monument, has been repaired by

H.M. Office of Works. At Knowle, in the parish of Bawdrip, further discoveries of Roman remains have been made, and a part of the site is now being examined. The Ordnance Survey has set up a triangulation pillar on Glastonbury Tor; the excavation of the hole for this purpose was watched in case any ancient remains might have been met with. The Tithe Barn at Preston Plucknett, damaged early in the war by enemy action, is undergoing proper repair. It should be noted also that the ruined chapel on Burrow Mump lost at least two of its pinnacles in the recent heavy thunderstorm; excavations of considerable interest were conducted on this site in 1939, and steps are now being taken for the protection of this place.

‘ Since our last meeting considerable advance has been made in the formation of a Council for British Archæology. In fact it may now be said to be fully constituted, although little of a practical nature on a large scale can be done with regard to the examination of damaged cities, such as London, Canterbury and Exeter, until public funds are available and local details are properly planned. But the Council, with its period panels, extending down at least to the seventeenth century, and its experts on allied subjects, has much more than archæological excavation to occupy its attention, and the organization is to cover all branches of archæological research. Great Britain has been divided into Regional Groups, and No. 13 comprises the counties of Gloucestershire, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. Each group appoints three representatives to attend the general Council, and each group also elects local representatives to meet from time to time in their own territory. It will be desirable that all archæological and kindred societies be concerned with this new organization, which will have great responsibilities to face from now onwards.

‘ With regard to the Nature Reserves Investigation Committee it was reported last year that our Society had elected representatives to join the sub-committee for the South-Western counties. A meeting of all the representatives for the area was held at Bristol University in January and their detailed report, with marked maps, has now passed into the hands of the central body in London for consideration in conjunction with other parts of the country.

'The Botanical Section of the Society held its field-days during the 1943 season, and the Ornithological Section published its separate report for the year. On 15 October Mr. Eric Hosking, the well-known ornithologist, lectured on "Nature in the Wild" in the Wyndham Hall to the Bird Section, the Taunton Field Club and local members of the Parent Society. His fine lantern slides were much appreciated.

'Taunton Castle was visited by over forty members of the West Somerset Branch of the Society on 26 April.

'During 1943 Taunton Castle was visited by 14,221 persons including 1,360 members. This shows a 32 per cent. increase over any other year, the largest previously being 10,736 persons in 1942. The attendance so far for 1944 is again large, in fact 5 per cent. higher than for the corresponding months in 1943; and it is found that the opportunity of seeing the museum and buildings is much appreciated both by the forces and by the general public, the flow of which is constantly changing'.

On the proposition of Sir Alexander Rodger, seconded by Major F. M. E. Kennedy, the adoption of the Report was carried unanimously.

## Finances

### LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS

TO THE SOCIETY'S

### Publication and Illustration Fund

SINCE the LIST PUBLISHED IN 'PROCEEDINGS', VOL. LXXXVII (1941), p. 5.

	£	s.	d.
Bulleid, Dr. A. . . . .	1	5	0
Field, Rev. H. E. . . . .	8	8	0
Goodchild, John . . . . .		10	6
Somerville family (Dinder) . . . . .	2	0	0
Ward Perkins, Major J. B. . . . .		10	0

Mr. ARTHUR E. EASTWOOD, Chairman of Finance, presented the Accounts of the Society for 1943, and they were formally adopted. They have already been printed in *Proceedings*, vol. LXXXIX.

## Election of Members and Officers

At the beginning of the Meeting twelve candidates were elected members of the Society (nine ordinary, three associates) ; three candidates also were re-elected. These names have been recorded in the Minute book.

Mr. A. W. Vivian-Neal, Honorary Editor, Major F. M. E. Kennedy, Honorary Secretary, Mr. F. L. England, Honorary Treasurer, and Dr. A. Bulleid, Vice-President, were re-elected.

In the Council of fifteen there were five vacancies. Mr. C. E. Burnell, Sir William Savage, and Dr. W. B. Winckworth were re-elected, and Lt.-Col. E. Bray, O.B.E., and Mr. T. D. Tremlett, F.S.A., were elected.

## Somerset Record Society

The Report was read by Mr. Vivian-Neal. It may be summarized as follows :

The chief work of the year has been the preparation of volume 57 for 1942, which consists of a third volume of *Collectanea*. Canon Doble has contributed an article on St. Indract and St. Dominic ; Father Aelred Watkin an account of the ' *Quinque Personae* ' of the Cathedral, based on notes prepared by Prebendary Saunders ; Father Aelred has also contributed a catalogue of the Horner MSS. at Mells ; and Mr. Bruce Dilks a Calendar of the Brymore and Steyning MSS., held by the Corporation of Bridgwater.

Thanks to the kindness of the Marquess of Bath, the Society has been enabled to borrow the Great Chartulary of Glastonbury. This is now being transcribed and edited by Father Aelred. An examination of the MS. shows that two volumes will be required to treat it adequately. Part of the MS. is concerned with estates in Dorset and Wilts, and application is being made to those two counties to contribute to the expense of publication. Arrangements will be made to enable those who are interested in these volumes to become temporary members subscribing at two guineas.